

# Park View Village

*Newsletter – Vol. 6, No. 2*

March-April, 2016



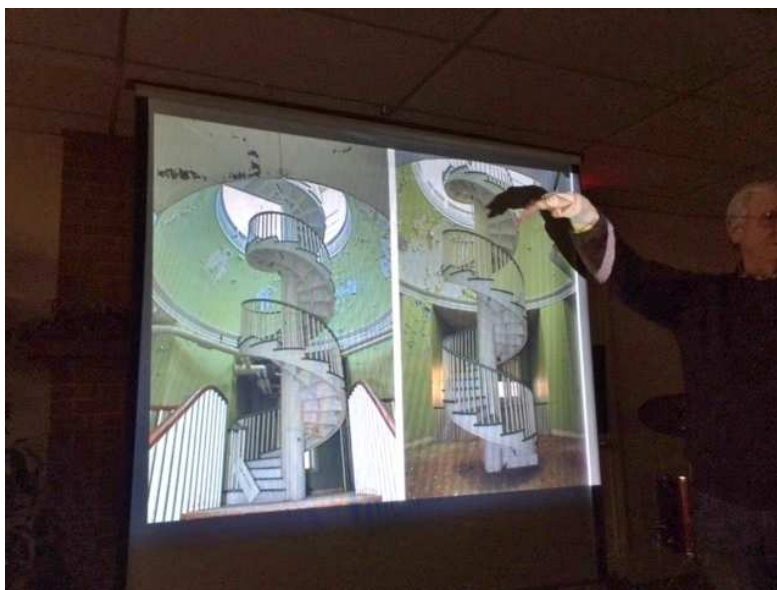
PVV

## **PROGRAM CALENDAR**

### ***How To Live And Die In Your Own Home:***

#### ***One Family's Experience -- April 6***

Presenters Ramona Stahl, David Cowardin and Sonya Eberly, family of our dear former member, Viola Stahl, will tell the story of their 15 years of making it possible for Viola, although wheelchair-bound, to live happily in her own home. -- Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Park View Mennonite Church Fireplace Room.



***In February, Greg Versen treated us to his exclusive photos and some history of the former "Western Lunatic Asylum." Story and more pictures are on page 3.***

## **BOARD PRESIDENT UPDATE**

In this season I am reminded of spring and Easter. While this time of year is focused on renewal and emerging new life, it is helpful to remember how dormant and inactive

much of nature is during the winter months. The season of winter reminds me that not all of life is springtime. Through illness, accidents, and death we are reminded of the importance of family, friends, and neighbors who help share these experiences and provide encouragement and support.

While not a presentation on seasons of the year, I am excited about our upcoming April 6 program, "How to Live and Die...One Family Experience". We will learn from members of the Viola Stahl family as they share about their experiences supporting Viola. Over the years, I note numerous individuals and families making intentional plans to provide late life support for their family elders. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn from another family.

John Spicher, a board member, is updating the vendor list for use by Park View Village members. (See below.) When house maintenance or other assistance is needed it is very helpful to have a list of businesses that have done excellent work for other members. Thanks John for working on this project.

We are happy that PVV has joined the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce (thanks to the efforts of Paul Yoder). See [www.hrchamber.org](http://www.hrchamber.org).

Thanks to all for joining Park View Village.

*Keith Gnagey, President*



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### **VENDOR SPOTLIGHT: LAWN SERVICE**

If you are looking for professional full lawn service and are ready to turn all or part of your lawn chores over to service providers who share your love for your plants, several PVV members have a name to offer.

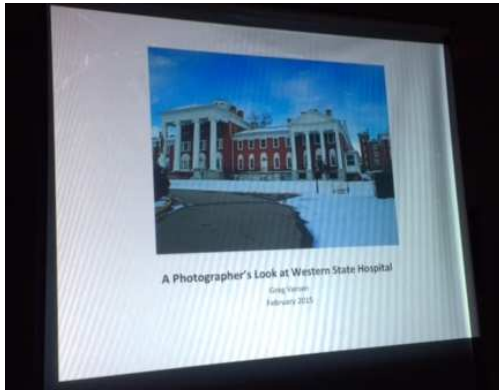
Four Seasons Landscaping and Lawn Care is known to provide quality service for a reasonable price. Their manager, Leon Heatwole, will be happy to discuss options such as, mowing, pruning, mulching, weed and pest control and new installations, all of which may further beautify your lawn. Leon may be contacted at 540-476-5621 or [fsic@comcast.net](mailto:fsic@comcast.net). – *John Spicher*

**Also: The BruCrew**, a popular service with PVV members, is up and running for Spring. "We're ready to rake, weed, mulch, trim, mow, paint, clean gutters, move, and whatever else you can think of," says Bryce Yoder (interim manager while proprietor Jordan Leaman is overseas for the semester). Get details and fill out a request at <http://vabrucrew.com>, or contact Bryce at [540-830-1553](tel:540-830-1553).

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### ***A note on thrifty adventuring***

For only \$10/person, those 62 and older may obtain a lifetime pass good for more than 2,000 National Parks and other federal recreation sites. Available by mail, or at park sites including our Shenandoah National Park entrances. Enjoy Nature this Spring – and beyond! <http://www.nps.gov/elro/planyourvisit/intagency-senior-pass.htm>.



**“Western Lunatic Asylum”** – one of several former names for the Staunton institution, opened in 1828, that is now Western State Hospital – was the title that the noted local photographer and retired JMU social work professor Greg Versen gave for his presentation to fellow-PVV members and guests in February. Greg narrated the hospital’s development under 1830s-1870s director Dr. Francis Stribling, who implemented a “moral therapeutic” vision in a park-like setting; its contrasting years (1905-43) under director Joseph DeJarnette, who implemented forced sterilization and let the institution’s function decline to mere “warehousing,” with restraints, lobotomies and electroshock frequently used; WSH’s relocation and downsizing, c. 1975, followed by the original site’s use as a prison until 2003; and the years it stood vacant.

Greg took advantage of an opportunity to explore and photograph the then-deserted grounds and graceful, though crumbling, antebellum architecture. His photos included “The Noisy” (at upper right), where the lower tower housed patients who became loud,

and the cemetery (lower left) where 2,800 are buried. Greg said seeing the mostly nameless graves “had a profound effect on me.” (He reported that the hospital, which once housed more than 3,000, has only a population “in the hundreds” in its current location. The historic asylum has been converted to condominiums.)

Several persons attending, as well as Greg, had once worked in psychiatric hospitals. A lively discussion compared past institutional abuses with the more recent neglect and homelessness accompanying deinstitutionalization for the mentally ill.

– Article and photos (including photos of Greg Versen’s slides) by Chris Edwards.

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## MOVIES

**PVV movie nights** continue through Spring at 7pm at the Heatwole home theater:

**April 8 – “Wild Strawberries”** (the Ingmar Bergman classic about aging and life)

**May 6 – “About Schmidt”** (Jack Nicholson’s character is adrift following retirement and the death of his wife.) (Details and registration: <http://parkviewvillageva.org/>.)

**“Across Cultures” film series** at Eastern Mennonite Seminary: Free films at 7 pm Wednesdays through April 20. *King: A Filmed Record, Montgomery to Memphis; Bidder; A Day Without a Mexican.* Details: <http://www.emu.edu/interfaith/course-offerings/>.

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## THE PARK VIEW VILLAGE BOARD

Evelyn Driver – Vice President  
Keith Gnagey – President  
Nancy Gunden – Treasurer  
Peggy Landis – Program Committee  
Robin McNallie – Program Committee  
John Spicher – Vendor Services Chair  
Clara Yoder – Secretary  
Paul Yoder – Member Recruitment

**To contact Park View Village:**  
**540-705-0432**  
<http://parkviewvillageva.org/>

**Deadline is May 16 for submissions to the May-June issue of PVV’s bimonthly newsletter. Send items to Chris Edwards, editor, 434-0457; [chrisedwardshburg@gmail.com](mailto:chrisedwardshburg@gmail.com).**



**Happy birthday, PVV members!**

### April

Keith & Linda Gnagey, Glenn Kauffman, Rhonda Kraus, Anne Miller, Earlynn Miller

### May

David Alleman, Ed Bontrager, Marijke Kyler, Clifford Lind, Virginia Spicher, Claytie Spillman, Marvin Stutzman