



# VALLEY FORGE TOWERS SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



The VFTS Newsletter for News, Reminders, Tidbits and Updates

Mike Samuels, President

Kathy Neary, Editor

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## ***Blasted Water Emergency***

In the early morning hours of February 9, an aging water pipe broke and flooded our basement causing a water shut off in all three residential buildings and requiring emergency repair.

Council had some “damned if you do and damned if you don’t” decisions to make regarding the method and frequency of communications. We decided to use the blast email first and wait until 10 a.m. to use the Public Address system. One change we will make is to train more people to update the power point on channel 1978, so that can be another source for information.

Proving the truth of Murphy’s Law (what can go wrong will go wrong), there was an odd quirk in the blast email system. We sent emails to 195 addresses by 8 a.m. and twice more during the day. Some residents reported not receiving them for hours. It took Microsoft 12 hours to send “undeliverable” messages for 15 addresses, yet when the message was resent to those same addresses, they went right through.

Kathy Neary sends the messages from the VFTsouth.com domain. There are many tech savvy residents here. If anyone knows how to correct this anomaly, please reach out to Kathy at [kathyn@vftsouth.com](mailto:kathyn@vftsouth.com).

If you have an address to add to the blast list, contact Kathy.

A little household hint – fill a gallon jug or 2 liter bottle with tap water and store it away. Heaven forbid we have repeat incidences but if we do, least you will have some water on hand for coffee or quick wash ups.

Special thanks to our staff who were on site for 16 hours that day.

## ***Screen Time!***

In case you are new to VFTS or just forgot, included in our condo fee is the Xfinity X1 platform with WiFi and high speed Internet. It will also include High Definition, 2 non DVR boxes and packaged premium channels. Call 1-800-934-6489 and remind them that ours is a bulk account.

## *Spiffing Up at VFTS*

☸ Preventive maintenance will begin in March. In the past, maintenance staff visited each unit to check the HVAC system and change filters. Management is expanding the checklist this year to include examination of any possible leak sites, such as under sinks, washer hoses and water tanks.

☸ Balcony carpet removal became a second thought over the winter but they **MUST** be removed immediately. You can paint the balcony floor or lay down drainage compatible tiles. Every time it storms and the carpets become heavy with water, it damages the balcony causing cracks and water filtration. Our maintenance staff can be hired for \$50 an hour to remove and dispose of the carpets/astro turf. (Get a bargain, that fee is likely to go up soon)

☸ **Editorial Comment** – As editor, I am embarrassed to have to report this again... The trash rooms are a mess. Signs are clearly posted. All trash must be securely bagged. Boxes must be broken down and flattened. Recycled containers must be washed out. Don't leave open garbage in the trash room. Residents have complained and asked Council to install CCTV cameras and we are considering it.

## *Covid...finally some good news*

With reduced numbers of Omicron cases, the CDC guidelines no longer mandate masks indoors for vaccinated people. The unvaccinated and people with health issues are still recommended to wear masks. We follow the CDC guidelines when setting policy.

**Thank you** to all of the residents and guests who honored requests to ride the elevator alone. Please continue this considerate practice.

## *Best Wishes*

Housekeeper Julius Williams is retiring as of March 1. We thank Julius for his service and wish him a happy and healthy retirement in North Carolina.



May your heart be light and happy, may  
your smile be big and wide, and may your  
pockets always have a coin or two inside! Irish

Proverb

