THE STORY BEHIND...
THIS FAMOUS SYMBOL

In WWII, ‘Kilroy was here’ was a popular icon, seen all over the European and Pacific theaters. But at the time, very little was known about this fabled symbol or if there ever was a real Kilroy.

By Dwight Esau
Staff Reporter

Gather ‘round, Sun Citians, and I’ll tell you a tale from World War II.

If you were a GI in the early forties, you no doubt remember one of the war’s most famous phrases – Kilroy was Here. The Kilroy legend quickly became cross-cultural and global.

Back home when you were a kid, you walked by a public building or school, and you probably saw painted letters, Kilroy was Here. Maybe you or your buddies put them there.

Kilroy was everywhere. The logo has showed up on the top of Mt. Everest, the Statue of Liberty, on the underside of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, and scrawled in the dust on the moon. It’s been seen on monuments in national parks and historical sites throughout the world.

One story has it that German intelligence officials found the phrase on captured American equipment. This supposedly led Adolf Hitler to conclude that Kilroy was the code name of a high-level Allied spy.

In 1945, a Florida newspaper published a report that a Sgt. Francis J. Kilroy Jr., wrote “Kilroy will be here next week” on a barracks bulletin board at an air base, while ill with the flu. This according to Wikipedia.

And here’s one that may top them all. At the Potsdam Conference involving President Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and Joseph Stalin in 1945, it was rumored that Stalin found “Kilroy was Here” scrawled on a VIP bathroom wall, prompting him to ask his aides who Kilroy was.

But who was Kilroy? Where did this legend start? Was it an offbeat corporate America ad campaign? Was it a Hollywood movie director’s hot flash? Was there ever a real Kilroy?

The Sun Day has talked to a number of Sun City residents about their Kilroy memories or activities. Most of them recalled seeing or hearing about the phrase when they were growing up, but none of them had any knowledge about the origin of the quirky phenomenon.

Until one day late last year. Dennis Quinn, a friend of this writer, sent an email that he got from a website called, “America Comes Alive! It’s answer to the question about a real Kilroy is an emphatic, “Yes, there definitely was a real Kilroy.”

It involved a man named James J. Kilroy (1902-1962) who lived in Quincy, Massachusetts. Kilroy worked at the shipyard in Quincy. It seems that the yard’s staff decided to increase production to turn out as many ships as possible for the war effort.

Kilroy worked as an inspector. One of his tasks was to check the rivets that were involved in holding the ship together.

Kilroy counted the blocks of rivets and used a waxy chalk to leave a checkmark on the area that he had approved. Riveters were paid on a piecework basis, with their pay calculated by the rivet. After Kilroy left for the day, the workers sometimes erased his mark so that the inspector on the next shift would count their work for a second time, thus increasing their pay.

Pretty soon, supervisors noticed that the count of ship parts seemed below what it should be. Kilroy was asked to look into the matter, and he realized someone must have been tampering with his check marks. He decided to try to maintain his marking system with an addition: he left his check mark but began to leave “Kilroy was here” in oversized letters to make the tampering more difficult. Later, he added the sketch of the fellow peering over the fence.

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Kelly Make
Editor’s Note: What follows was written by the 15-year-old-niece of a Sun City resident. In keeping with Memorial Day, we thought this would be an apt message and proof that, since it was penned by a young woman, our Chief’s continue to hold strong through the generations. It’s also a simple yet important reminder of the history of our freedom and what it means to be ‘free.’

“My Responsibility to America”, as Winston Churchill once said, “The price of greatness is responsibility.” America is a great country and citizens cannot rely on others to take the role of responsibility on for them. I believe that my responsibilities to America include understanding the past - how America became a great country, the meaning of the American flag, and what it means to respect the people who fought for this wonderful country.

Understanding the history of America is one of my responsibilities because I should know what the people living in this country had to go through to make it what it is today for me. The Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and the Vietnam War are only some of the many events in history that make America what it is today. The Revolutionary War installed our Declaration of Independence. The result of the Civil War created new amendments that dealt with the scourge of slavery. The result of the Vietnam War was that Congress fixed the complications of foreign policy. Without these three events for me today would most likely be very different. The history of America affects me and it is my responsibility to understand where we came from.

Another one of my responsibilities is understanding the meaning of the flag, and with this understanding comes respect. Many people don’t know what the colors or the stars and stripes of the flag represent. I believe that as an American citizen it is my duty to know what these colors and symbols mean. The red represents bravery, the white represents innocence, and the blue represents justice. The stars represent the fifty states in America and the stripes represent the thirteen original colonies. For me personally, when I see the flag, it reminds me of all the men and women who fought for our country and it is an honor to stand and respect it. Today some people are forgetting how important it is to show respect for the flag and are using it as a target to voice their objections to the unjust behavior of some.

But I believe that if you live in America then it is your responsibility to stand and honor the flag because you are benefiting from all the liberties America has to offer. You won’t be able to find many other countries like America that has so many freedoms. The only way to get and keep these freedoms is to fight for them, which leads to my final responsibility: respecting our veterans and the men and women who continue to fight for our freedoms. I think that this is my most important responsibility because I owe the existence and preservation of freedoms to these veterans. Without these men and women I might not have all the freedoms I have today. I might not be able to get an education, I might not be able to vote in the future, or even get a job. I am able to live the way I am living today because of the selfless veterans who were willing to volunteer their time and put themselves in harm’s way for America. The only way to get these freedoms are to fight for them, and that is exactly what these people did and continue to do. During the Revolutionary War, men fought for their independence. During the Civil War, men fought for equality. And during the Vietnam War, men fought to stop the spread of communism. Veterans deserve my respect and the respect from all American citizens. I can conclude that my responsibilities to America are understanding America’s history, knowing what the American flag represents, and respecting the men and women who have served and continue to serve this country. America is the greatest country in the world, but there are many responsibilities that come with greatness.

Kaitlyn Owen
Niece of Sun City resident
Diane Naples

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Normally, all inspection marks would have been covered when the ship was painted before launch. But because of the urgency of the war, ships began leaving the coast without a final coat of paint, with “Kilroy was here” marked in various locations. Servicemen everywhere began seeing the signature and drawing, but they hadn’t a clue as to the meaning behind it.

As they say today in social media, “Kilroy was here” went viral worldwide.

After the war, the public became curious about the origin of the story. In 1946, the American Transit Association sponsored a radio contest to identify the true Kilroy. A real trolley car was offered as the prize. About 40 men reportedly stepped forward with stories stating that they were the Kilroy on which the legend was based.

But James J. Kilroy of Quincy had the most compelling story, and he produced co-workers and friends who knew of his inspector activities at the shipyard. He was awarded the trolley car. His story has become the most widely accepted explanation about the “real Kilroy.”

When he died in 1962, his obituary was published in the New York Times. Eventually, according to America Comes Alive, “Kilroy was here” was written in two locations on the World War II memorial in Washington D.C.

During World War II, movie newsreels often portrayed Kilroy was here messages from far-flung destinations where American servicemen were serving.

“I saw newsreels showing Kilroy signs on tanks and on buildings in European towns,” said Burt Nevler, a resident of Sun City’s Neighborhood 26. “I remember laughing at one message that said, ‘Kilroy is coming, watch out.’ I heard about the contest and the trolley car, but mostly I just remember that the Kilroy phrase kept cropping up everywhere, around the world.”

Mike Seymour from Neighborhood 15 also remembers the phenomenon.

“I remember seeing the phrase everywhere when I was growing up,” she said. “I saw it on movie cartoons, on fences and windows, But I never knew who Kilroy was.”

Finally, the Sun Day has a question: was Rosie one of those riveters?
ROUTE 47 CORRIDOR CONTINUES EXPANSION

HUNTLEY - Huntley’s Route 47 corridor continues to be a popular place for developers and businesses.

Two projects – a Panera Bread restaurant and a luxury senior apartments facility – are in various stages of review by village officials.

Hamra Enterprises, representing Panera, presented conceptual plans to the village board and plan commission earlier this spring. They describe a 7,500 square-foot multi-tenant Panera Bread restaurant with a drive-through totaling 4,200 square feet, and a 3,300 retail tenant space. It would be located at the south-east corner of Route 47 and Kreutzer Road in the Huntley Grove Commercial Subdivision in front of Walmart.

The proposed building design consists of two different colors of brick with aluminum awnings over some of the windows and doorways, plus an outdoor seating area for Panera.

“The conceptual plans were well received by the commission and board, and the next step is the formal development review process,” said Margo Griffin, Huntley’s business development coordinator. She added that Hamra representatives hope to start construction later this year and open in 2018.

Resort Lifestyle Communities (RLC) has recently received village board approval for its Huntley Springs luxury senior apartment building on a 9.7-acre site on the eastern extension of Powers Road behind Culver’s restaurant.

Touted as all-inclusive “cruise ship living” for adults 55 and over, the pet-friendly development will offer on-demand dining, a coffee bar/pub, concierge services, a 150-seat theater, library, billiards, fitness center, lounge, valet parking, shuttle transportation, and more.

These developments will add to Huntley’s already strong reputation as a healthcare and senior living mecca. In addition to Sun City, the largest active adult community in the Chicago area, recently opening and expanding in Huntley are Centegra’s 128-bed hospital, Heritage Woods assisted living and memory care complex on Regency Square Road. Under construction are Alden’s Huntley Springs healthcare complex on Regency Square, and Advocate Sherman Hospital’s immediate care center at Route 47 and I-90.

Griffin also said last week that the village continues to market the Route 47 corridor to hotel developers, and has received inquiries.
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TR KERTH
Columnist

So much anger.
So much venom.
So much disrespect.

And at the heart of it all are the American media outlets, which both feed from and generate all the bad blood between us. The axe-swinging comes from all sides, and let the chips fall where they may: Colbert, Hannity, New York Times, Breitbart, CNN, Fox, SNL, Glenn Beck...

And once the media’s chips have fallen and taken root, it’s futile to turn off the TV or trash the papers and magazines in hopes of escaping their suffocating tangle of barbed brambles. Because it’s there at the nephew’s graduation party, or that long-awaited dinner party with your old school-chums. The poison has infected your cousin, your brother-in-law, your niece—maybe even your wife or husband.

They’ve all gone crazy with their anger, venom and disrespect, and they just won’t listen to reason.

And no appeal or complaint to the media will ever make it stop feeding the fire. Arguing with the press is like wrestling with a pig: You both get dirty, and the pig likes it.

But it doesn’t have to be like this. Americans don’t have to be ablaze with anger, steeped in venom, or clothed in disrespect.

There are other nations that air their political and economic issues on TV, radio or newspapers, and whose citizens respond with joyous smiles and unanimous applause.

Nations like North Korea.

You’ve seen the images, haven’t you? The Supreme Leader speaks, and tens of thousands of rapturous faces smile, their hands clapping rapidly, conspicuously, held high in front of their faces so there can be no mistaking their firm assent and approval.

And there is not a single frown to be seen, not a single poster of dissent, not a single smarmy T-shirt in the crowd.

Just those smiling, upraised faces, with those furiously clapping hands in front of them.

Faces filled with so much joy.

So much benevolence.

So much respect.

Yeah, let’s call it that: Joy. Benevolence. Respect.

And for a North Korean, the government doesn’t stop at the rally. Long after the soldiers have high-kicked past like Rockettes marching to Radio City Music Hall, long after the missile caissons have lumbered over the horizon, every citizen will return home to a smiling house. There will be no brother-in-law, no niece, no wife or husband to harass the mellow of the patriotic rally.

Everybody you meet in public or at home will think the same joyous, benevolent, respectful thoughts about the Supreme Leader and his government—because…well, there isn’t any other way to think, is there? Who has ever heard of any other way to think?

Oh, you may hear a rumor now and then about that strange son of your co-worker, that boy who started saying unthinkable things. But you will never meet the boy—or at least, not more than once. And then maybe you won’t see your co-worker anymore, either.

And you won’t remind anybody that there was once such a boy and such a co-worker, because to do so would be to imply that there is some other way to think or to do things.

And that too would be unthinkable, because look at all the happiness around you in your unified, unbroken culture. And happiness is what everybody wants, isn’t it? Why would anybody be so foolish as to think unhappy, unpopular thoughts?

We could have that here in America. We really could. And all it would take is to eliminate disturbing, contradictory opinions in our media — on TV, on the radio, on the Internet or in print. You would never hear an angry, venomous or disrespectful word on any of them.

And — in time — you wouldn’t hear such words at the nephew’s graduation party, or the Mother’s Day get-together, or that long-awaited dinner party with your old school-chums. They would go silent.

Or they would go away.

And there would be no news source to tell you where or why they went.

That’s all it would take — the elimination of our frustrating free media.

In fact, that’s the only thing that could get the job done, because — literally — the only thing standing between you and the bliss of a North Korea-like society is our free and open media outlets, eager-eyed watchdogs as filled with anger, venom and disrespect as they may be.

Sometimes they bark at the wrong things. But sometimes they don’t.

Because somewhere buried deep within that anger, venom and disrespect — somewhere... somewhere... is the truth. It may take a frustrating lifetime of digging to find it, and you may never find it fully, and even if you do you may never convince any other American that you have found it more clearly than they have.

But this angry, dysfunction-al, maddening American system is based on the belief that you and I are willing, capable and mature enough to find it. Or at least to keep trying.

Is that system that let me come to you today and tell you this truth.

Or — if you don’t believe what I’ve told you is the truth that same system will let you come here tomorrow to tell me how wrong I am, even if you want to be angry, venomous and disrespectful about it.

Either way, it’s there somewhere in that swirling, maddening maelstrom we call the media: The Truth.

And the truth — or at least the honest, vexing, unfettered quest for it — shall keep us free.

• Author, musician and storyteller TR Kerth is a retired teacher who has lived in Sun City Huntley since 2003. Contact him at trkerth@yahoo.com. Can’t wait for your next visit to Planet Kerth? Then get TR’s book, “Revenge of the Sardines.” available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other online book distributors.
The Klehm Arboretum, located in Rockford, is a local treasure for all types of gardeners. Their 155 acres is filled with beautiful flowers, shrubs, and trees. One of their premier events, The Garden Fair, occurs June 3-4.

For this article, I have asked Jim Wojtowicz to give us some insight about not only Klehm Arboretum itself, but also about their annual Garden Fair Weekend.

Jim, what types of gardens does the arboretum feature?

An arboretum is really a museum of woody plants. ‘Woody plants” can most easily be described as trees and shrubs. Since the arboretum used to be a plant nursery, a wide variety of trees and shrubs already existed on the property, and these have been carefully added to over the years. Over 500 species of woody plants are labeled. In addition to the arboretum, our ‘Botanic Garden’ features six demonstration garden areas, such as The Butterfly Garden, The Herb Garden, The Bird Garden and Daylily Garden to name a few. The area around our Clarcor Pavilion also features more intricately landscape spaces. Klehm also boasts an ornamental grass garden, pre-historic garden and Hosta Garden. In our Olson’s Children’s Garden you will also find an alphabet and rainbow garden. Of course, the summer months also bring a variety of annual flowering plantings in beds, containers and hanging baskets that visitors really seem to enjoy.

Are tours of the garden available? Yes, you need to schedule them in advance…groups of 10 can be accommodated.

When are the operating hours of the Klehm Arboretum?

The arboretum is open 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. every day from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The rest of the year we open from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. and close on Sundays in December, January, and February.

It is my understanding the Garden Fair is one of the Arboretum’s most popular events. What does it include?

Over 100 vendors selling everything from potted annual and perennial flowers to ornamental trees and shrubs, to herbs and succulents. Garden art, garden furniture, garden tools, vintage decor, antique items, and some fine art are also included. There will be soaps and lotions, jewelry, clothing, pet products, as well as all kinds of professional people to get ideas from. There will also be a food court, live entertainment on the Fountain Garden Stage and a petting zoo for the kids.

How is this year’s event different from those in the past?

Just bigger and better with more variety of vendors. Also, this will be the second year we are hosting on Saturday and Sunday only…for many years the fair started on Friday.

Is there food available for purchase at the fair?

Yes, a food court will be set up in our fountain garden area with a variety of vendors as well as a beer/wine vendor (Prairie Street Brew House).

Is any live entertainment planned?

Yes, we have live music most of the day on both days…again, entertainment will be in the fountain garden with picnic tables available to use as seating for your food and beverage purchases or just to hang out.

What are the dates and hours?

Saturday, June 3 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, June 4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

How much does it cost to attend the event?

$8 at the gate or $5 in advance if you purchase tickets at local nurseries, greenhouses, florists, and other retail outlets…watch for posters. Pre-sale tickets will also be available online and at the Klehm Visitor Center. Members and kids 12 and under are FREE.

For more information please check out their website www.Klehm.org. You may also call them at 815-965-8146.

All’s fair at the Arboretum: an interview with Wojtowicz
Setting the Avocado record straight

By Joanie Koplos
For the Sun Day

A tropical fruit that grows on trees, native to South America and dating back to Inca Indian times, the avocado requires a tropical climate for growth. If temperatures fall below freezing for only one day, its tree will die. As a result, U.S. avocados are grown in the states of California and Florida. But the big producer is Mexico, where five times as many fruit are grown than in our country. Like bananas, avocados grow to full size on their trees, but don’t ripen until picked. Shipped at 40 degrees in refrigerated containers, the ripening process of the green and hard fruit is arrested until placed on your kitchen counters for about a week. If you are desirous of a few of the fruit to ripen slower, don’t forget to refrigerate them.

But here is the huge surprise: Avocado consumption in our country has recently skyrocketed! According to AT THE LAKE/Geneva Lakes Magazine (Spring/2017), “In 1960, Americans consumed about 1/4 pound of avocados per year…By 2010, consumption increased to over 3 pounds per year and today, it’s over 6 pounds per person per year!” In fact, Bill Turner added that Americans consume over 4 billion avocados, at the cost of $1 a person, making this a highly successful food industry!

This success story comes on the heels of the knowledge that avocados are indeed a “superfood.” The magazine mentions several nutritious details:

1. The fruit contains monounsaturated (good) oils, which help lower LDL cholesterol production, thus aiding in the body’s absorption of tons of vitamins and minerals.

2. Avocados are a terrific source of potassium, which is used as a regulator of body systems, especially the heart. The fruit contains 50 percent more potassium than bananas per equalizing the two fruits’ individual weights.

3. Though often mistakenly regarded as high in calories, this isn’t entirely true; a whole avocado contains only about 250 calories, with one tablespoon of the fruit having only 23 calories.

Choose to eat the delicious avocado as the major ingredient in the ever-popular guacamole dip, or add it sliced on sandwiches or diced in salad form. There are an abundance of summer tasty recipes from which to choose. Just check your favorite published or non-published magazine, periodical, or computer source. You might even share a recipe with family and friends. But remember, the basic rule for serving avocado in any of its forms is to buy and serve it fresh!
Cheese acquired by Kraft from the Monroe Cheese Company. The name “Velveeta” is intended to connote a velvety smooth edible product.

Smoothness and melting ability are promoted as its properties that result by reincorporating the whey with the curd.

Jun 3, 1972 - “Hot Rod Lincoln,” by Commander Cody & His Lost Planet Airmen hits #9. “Have you heard the story of the hot rod race? Where the Fords and the Lincolns were setting the pace? My pappy said ‘Son you’re gonna drive me to drinkin’ / If you don’t stop driving that hot rod Lincoln.”

Jun 4, 1949 - “Cavalcade of Stars” debuts (DuMont); Jackie Gleason made host in 1950. A sketch called to “Honeymooners” later became a series.

Jun 5, 1991 - Lesbian priest Elizabeth Carl ordained in Episcopal Church. This is a very progressive Protestant Church.

Jun 6, 1960 - Roy Orbison releases “Only the Lonely.” How many Sun City residents, teenagers back then, felt the song was written for THEM?

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Sheldon Clark’s Creative Corner

What can you do with the Sun Day after reading it?

If you’re feeling especially artistic, you can use the pages of the Sun Day to draw on with charcoal and incorporate the print and photos into your next ‘masterpiece!’

Submit ideas to: 847-658-6090 or mycommunity@mysundaynews.com
the incorrect information.

Setting the water heater temperature

Question: How to I correctly set the water heater temperature? I believe it should be set around 120 degrees.

Answer: Years ago the recommended hot water temperature was 140°F, but that was only for the dishwasher for proper disinfection and cleaning. Today’s dishwashers pre-heat the water to the proper temperature, so this high temperature is no longer needed.

According to the US Department of Energy, a temperature of 120 degrees at the tap is adequate for most household chores with a minimal danger of scalding and maximal energy efficiency. You can measure this by turning on a hot water tap and running the water until you are getting hot water. Fill a glass with this water and put a thermometer into the water to measure the temperature. A cooking thermometer will work for this. If the water is too cool, turn the temperature control knob on your water heater one notch hotter. Measure the temperature again after four or more hours. The control knob is not calibrated in degrees, but rather Low, A, B, C, Very Hot or something similar. On my water heater I get 120°F water with a setting of ‘B’.

When the temperature at the tap is 120°F, the temperature in the tank will be about 130°F, which is enough to prevent bacterial growth. If your water heater is now set to 140°F, note that you can save 3% to 5% of the energy consumption for each 10°F you lower the temperature.

If you are expecting a houseful of guests, you can increase the capacity of your water heater by turning the temperature up one or two notches. With the water temperature hotter, you will mix less hot water with the cold thus assuring everyone a hot shower.

Be prepared to replace your water heater after 10 to 15 years. They usually fail by leaking water through a hole formed by corrosion in the bottom of the tank. When your water heater reaches that 10-15 year window, you should check it at least once a week as the initial leak will usually be small but the leak will get larger as the corrosion advances. When replacing your water heater, always replace the expansion tank, as these tanks seldom last even as long as the water heater.

*If you have suggestions for future tips or have questions about maintenance around your home submit them to ask.the.woodchucks@gmail.com

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Our Ask An Angel correspondent is Arlene Petersen, Life Care Navigation Specialist in the area of senior home care.

How is dementia different from Alzheimer’s? Aren’t they the same thing?

A Dementia and Alzheimer’s are often considered to be the same thing. However, they are not. Dementia is not a disease but rather an “umbrella” term that encompasses several diseases, which may impair cognitive thinking and memory. It is easy to use these terms interchangeably. But let’s look at the difference between these terms. The National Institute on Aging (NIA) defines Dementia as having loss of cognitive functioning to the extent that it interferes with a person’s daily life and activities. Some forms of dementia can be treated and possibly reversed. Alzheimer’s, the most common form of dementia, is a disease that affects the memory and falls under the umbrella of dementia. So, there are many types of dementia, which we won’t list here, but know that Alzheimer’s is a progressive disease and there is no cure for it. Diligent research by many organizations and scientists is ongoing, in search of a way to conquer this disease. There is medication available to help ease some of its symptoms, and a conversation with a qualified physician will shed some light on those options. It is important to work with a skilled doctor who can navigate through the various forms of dementia. A proper diagnosis is very important so that a care plan that works for everyone can be implemented. If you suspect that this disease is affecting you or a loved one, your doctor can perform a cognition test. Caring for someone affected can be challenging, and learning about the disease will empower families to care for loved ones with dignity and compassion.
SUN CITY - At the Sun City Association board workshop on May 10, the agenda topics were concealed weapon carry rules, election candidate guidelines, tennis courts resurfacing, and Wildflower Lake’s shoreline.

Here are sound bite-style summaries of actions taken on these four subjects:

- The board “clarified” the rules for concealed carry of weapons, to apply to all common area facilities, both outdoor and indoor. This includes all activity buildings, swimming pools at both lodges, and recreational areas such as Eakin Field, bocce ball and tennis/pickleball courts, hiking trails, and neighborhood parks.

- As part of approving the new Election Procedures Manual, the board amended the candidate guidelines regarding positions CAM board members cannot hold while serving on the board, from advisory committees only, to positions on the two councils – Charter Club Presidents Council and the Neighborhood Advisory Council. CAM board members may, however, simultaneously hold charter club offices and be neighborhood reps. Gene Harrison, new chairman of the Election Advisory Committee, represented the committee in this discussion.

- After several months of waiting, the board announced that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has provided the necessary permits for the placement of fines (crushed rock) in the shoreline area on the east side (closest to Del Webb Boulevard) of Wildflower Lake. The next phase is Village of Huntley approval, which is expected soon. Then, Hay & Associates will develop an implementation plan, according to Deanna Loughran, executive director. The work is expected to be completed this summer.

- The board approved a $15,600 contract with an area firm to fill cracks and resurface tennis courts 5, 6, and 7 in Tall Oaks Center. This work is expected to be completed in the next several weeks. The board worked with the Facility Advisory Committee to develop this project.

- In another maintenance project, Deanna Loughran and Sandy Mis, chairman of the Sew ’n Sews Club’s renovations committee, clarified information published by the Sun Day regarding the renovations being carried out in the Sewing Room of Prairie Lodge. On April 12, the board authorized the spending of $14,800 to purchase one new long arm sewing machine used in the creation of blankets, and two new standard Bernina sewing machines. Details of upgrades to the room’s cabinets and furnishings will be announced later, Mis said.

The board’s agenda for the May 10 meeting also included discussions of amendments to Sun City’s operating rules and regulations and room reservation guidelines.

The next regular board meeting will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 24, in Drendel Ballroom.
Jim and Nancy do not disclose the fact that they will review a restaurant before they attend, ensuring their reviews are unbiased and uninfluenced by their position with the Sun Day.

There’s an expression that has been around forever, namely, “You can run, but you can’t hide.” For the last 20 years, Galati’s Hideaway has moved from three different locations in Cary. They ran, but they couldn’t hide from the Dining Duo!

Galati’s really is a hideaway. We headed out armed with the mini-mobile GPS, Siri, and Nancy (who doesn’t believe either one of them), and after many “discussions” and wrong turns, we finally arrived at the hideaway.

We expected to see a storefront restaurant; instead what we saw was a ginormous contemporary building. The interior is divided into three sections. Go to the door on the right and you’ll enter into a bar the size of Rookies. Go up the staircase and you’ve entered the banquet room. Head left and you will enter their dining room.

Walking into the dining area, don’t expect much glitz and glamor, but they do have a beautiful fireplace. The rest of the room resembles a big dining hall.

While we were munching on the warm loaf of bread with olive oil and cheese, Nancy came up with a novel idea for an appetizer. Instead of the usual calamari or bruschetta, she suggested we order their Shopped Salad to share. This was a variety of select greens, chunks of Italian meats and cheeses, tomatoes, onions, cucumbers, and olives. Of course, she requested their creamy garlic dressing instead of the creamy Italian that it normally comes with. Remember, if you both have it, you both stink alike...

The waiter arrived with two overflowing plates of salad and said he split it up for us in the kitchen. We then realized this was an entree size salad, but didn’t expect it to be this large for that price. Every item in the salad was proportionately chopped to perfection.

All entrees come with either soup or salad. Since we went with the Chopped Salad for an appetizer, we decided on soup. Nancy had chicken noodle, and I had French onion and ordered it baked with cheese for a $1 up-charge. Nancy received a huge bowl of soup and I got a large crock of soup, and they both were delicious.

Jim went with something he never saw in an Italian restaurant before. He chose the Stuffed Peppers ($11.95), which was one of each, red, yellow, and green bell peppers stuffed with rice, ground beef, and baked with mozzarella, and topped with meat sauce. When it arrived, our eyes bugged out at the portion size and presentation. It not only looked good, it tasted wonderful. Jim could only eat just one pepper.

Nancy had to try the Meat Lasagna ($11.95), which was lasagna layered with beef and cheese, baked to perfection, and served with meat sauce. The waiter said it wouldn’t look like a normal piece of lasagna since it spreads out on the plate. Nancy was served a platter filled edge-to-edge with lasagna. It was awesome with all the meat sauce and cheese that snapped back at her.

Jim finally met his match, thanks to my brilliant salad idea. He didn’t have room for dessert, poor baby. He even turned down a salted caramel brownie with a pretzel crust!!!

Dining Duo “Believe it or Not”: Our bill was $42.10, mmmgaaagg.

Jim’s take: I can’t wait to go back to try other items on their menu. Next time nix the salad, I’m going for the brownie!

Nancy’s take: I want to go back and try their Aglio e Olio (olive oil and garlic sauce) on any one of their pasta’s since the creamy garlic dressing was so garlicky and yummy. I’m getting the salad, forget the dessert next time!!!

Have comments or restaurant suggestions for the Dining Duo? Send them an email at thediningduo@gmail.com
Tough choices (sometimes) abound when trying to pick a movie worth seeing and writing about. You, dear reader, stay home until there is a film you want to see. I don’t have that option, as my column deadline comes every two weeks, like it or not. I worked hard to narrow the choices and ended up with two possible picks. One was the new Alien movie. Since I still haven’t recovered from the horrors of the original one (1977) by far the scarriest movie I have ever seen, I moved on to the 4th sequel of Pirates of the Caribbean. I did see the original (2003) and enjoyed it. I was further motivated by an internet post I read, which gave nine carefully laid out reasons to see this film. One of the reasons was, “if you saw the first one and liked it, you will love this one.”

After seeing it, I can give you ninety-nine reasons not to go. I will admit there were a number of folks in the theater who were obviously enjoying it. The previous editions were famous for their “tongue-in-cheek” approach to the never-ending action, regardless of the level of seriousness, always looking for a laugh. This sequel is no exception, there were a cluster of folks laughing it up at the appropriate times, and when the movie was over a smattering of applause. I can (almost) guarantee you none of them were from Sun City.

If you’ve never seen one of these this is not the time to start. Many of the characters are carried over from the previous stories, trying to figure out who and what will stretch your imagination too far. Johnny Depp stars again as Captain Jack Sparrow, the (usually) drunken pirate who is being chased around the seas by everyone he has ever crossed, and there are plenty of them. With one or two possible exceptions the acting is terrible, the dialogue almost meaningless, and the storyline minimal. Even the background music is overbearing and at times tends to drown out the discourse. There is, of course, plenty of action and the special effects are almost too much.

If you do decide to try this one on for size, and go without grandchildren or at least a millennial or two, you will NEED MY PERMISSION. You’ll be much better off walking the track at the fitness center, which I do most mornings.

A further note of caution. I went into the heart of the city to see Paris can Wait, starring Diane Lane, one of my favorite actresses. One write up suggested it was reminiscent of Under the Tuscan Sun, a solid four-star movie also starring Diane Lane. The only redeeming value in this disaster is the title. Yes, Paris can wait, hopefully long enough to avoid the suburban theaters, where it hasn’t made an appearance yet, and with any luck won’t. We walked out after one tedious hour of nothingness, and if you do see it, don’t tell me the ending, I could care less.
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