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## HIGHLIGHTS

### *Amberwood Golf & Country Club (AVGCC) is in the news!*

Check out the stories in the [Community Voice, Stittville Central](#), and watch the [CTV news coverage](#) on the popularity of pickleball, and don’t miss this month’s edition of the Stittville [Go Local](#) page for your 15% discount coupon on pro-shop merchandise, and a free appetizer at ALE with the purchase of \$25. or more. Still not sure what AVGCC has to offer? Check out the digitized brochure of [AVGCC’s key offerings](#).

### *Patios will open on Friday, June 11th!*

[ALE’s](#) will open on Friday at 11:00 a.m. for outdoor dining. Starting June 20th, they will open at 9:00 a.m. Reservations are recommended. Call (613) 831-2442.

### *New Memorial Fountain*



Amberwood has a new memorial fountain. Late in May an anonymous donor dropped off a fountain along with a note that read: *“This memorial fountain is being delivered to the Amberwood Village Golf & Country Club for the enjoyment of the golfers and diners in memory of Jerry Bedard, Brenda Worthing-Jones, and Cecile Julien.”* Anyone interested in making a small donation to add the name of a recent loved one to the plaque is welcome to do so.



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## ALE NEWS - ANNOUNCING THE DEPARTURE OF SARAH ST. MICHAEL, GM OF ALE

*Submitted by Elizabeth Stoqua, AVRA Board member*



Amberwood Lounge and Eatery (ALE) renewed a five-year contract with Amberwood Village Golf & Country Club last month and they are here to stay. However, their co-owner and General Manager, Sarah St. Michael, has recently announced her departure. Sarah has been managing ALE for the past six years and it is thanks to her passion and enthusiasm that they were the winners of this year's Capital Wedding Award in the Micro Wedding Reception Venue category. ALE has struggled like all other restaurants during COVID, but they were committed to staying viable and they did so by pivoting their onsite eatery to online take-out. They also introduced a vegan menu, a Sunday prime-rib special and date night combos, all to please their customer base and stay afloat. Thanks to the people of this community, all of these innovations have held them in good stead.

There has been no decision yet from the ALE management team as to who will replace Sarah, but rest assured that Ben (Assistant General Manager), James (Co-Owner) and Jason (Executive Chef), will be staying on. I believe I speak on behalf of everyone who has had the pleasure of working with Sarah or being served by her that we will miss her greatly. If you wish to send Sarah a message, you can reach her at [sarah.stmicheal.ale@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.stmicheal.ale@gmail.com). Sarah shared the following message with the AVRA community:

*"It is with a heavy heart that I am announcing my departure from ALE on July 31, 2021. My partner has been offered an excellent career opportunity that involves moving out of Ottawa and we felt it was the best decision for our family unit to relocate. I love ALE and have been a part of its operations since day one. While COVID19 has been an incredibly challenging situation to navigate through, it has only made our operations at ALE stronger. Combined with the beautiful renovations that are taking place at Amberwood Golf Club and the renewed sense of excitement in Amberwood Village, the future looks only bright for ALE and Amberwood Golf Club. As we get back to a real sense of normalcy, I have no doubt that ALE's success will continue to grow.*

*I look forward to working with Ben (assistant AGM) and James to train/retrain our service staff for dining operations until my departure. My number one priority upon ALE's patio reopening is the restaurant side of our operations. One of the silver linings of COVID19 is that we have had more time than ever to prepare for summertime operations. I have no doubt that it will be a great summer for ALE.*

*I have enjoyed working with the members of the Amberwood Village Recreation Association over the years and meeting the Club members. I would like to thank the community for your ongoing support to ALE and please know that I will miss you all."*

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## BOARD NEWS

### *Business Plan*

*Submitted by Joseph Elchakieh, AVRA Board Director*

The Board's main objectives for 2021 are to:

- Close on the deal on the sale of the Trailway lots;
- Start and finish the refurbishing of the irrigation system, the pool and the racquetball courts;
- Secure a long-term contracts with J.F. Sabourin (we just renewed a five year contract with ALE!); and
- Meet revenue projections for 2021, keeping in mind the unpredictability of COVID restrictions.

Years 2020 and 2021 have been anomalies and we can't, as a business, operate based on the financial results of these years. But we are now in a better position to collect data relative to our customers. We are putting in place a system to allow us to communicate more effectively with our current and future customers, and we also plan to target specific customers within a 10km to 15km radius of Amberwood. This will put us in a position to bring back current customers and attract new ones. We will of course measure our success and adjust as market conditions change. Our current clients are mostly baby boomers, so we will be targeting generation Y, young families, and millennials. We will be utilizing social media to market and advertise, including such platforms as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, because they are effective to reach our target markets and they are cost effective.

### *Reserve Fund Study*

IRC, the engineering company hired to do the reserve fund study, began their work on May 13<sup>th</sup> with a walkabout of the facilities accompanied by our board members (Bernie Ashe and Robert Lloyd-Rees). IRC's report will be delivered to the board on July 31<sup>st</sup> (a slight delay due to COVID). The results of this study will inform the proposed annual fee structure for AVRA members.

### *Strategic Plan and Branding*

AVRA Board Vice-President Marius Felix and Robin Richardson continue to work on the strategic plan for the club. Robin is gathering data so we can better define our best strategy moving forward.

Marius has begun working on a maintenance register, which will identify our upkeep and maintenance needs on a month-by-month basis. This will prevent small and manageable needs from becoming bigger challenges because they won't be overlooked and left to further deteriorate. Part of this plan will be to identify what needs to be completed professionally and what AVRA can manage internally with our volunteer team. The purpose is to maintain what is becoming an even more wonderful club and save AVRA funds that could be better directed to other areas of the organization.

### *New Administrator for TMSI*

Greg Teale, who has been working with TMSI for a few years now, is taking over for Darlene Sorrill. Greg will be working closely with Katharine Usher-Vollett (Club GM), Terry Wright (AVRA Treasurer) and TMSI CA Gary Burns.



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## PROJECTS

We are all very excited that the province has opened golf courses and racquet sports as we're sure you are too! However, as you might have expected, the latest lockdown has impacted the timelines for our major projects, as well as those for the programs and clinics at the Club.

### *Irrigation system*

*Submitted by Ralph Milligan, AVRA Board Director*

We made some progress on the irrigation installation during the lockdown, but the wet conditions and the large number of rocks uncovered along hole #2 did slow things down. Holes 2, 3 and 6 are complete. We have also completed the 4-inch and 6 inch-mains, and the 3-inch along holes 8 and 9. All the other holes except for 1 have tee, green, and/or fairway completed. While each hole is being worked on, we will be verticutting, top dressing greens, and aerating fairways. Water has been connected so Mark Hyne, golf course Superintendent, can water greens 2 and 8 using the new pump and control panel. The other greens are watered using a portable pumping system. Despite rotating hole closures, we have been able to provide at least 8 holes of golf and green fees have been adjusted accordingly. Click [here](#) to view the work in progress. Check out how the pipe is installed 14" deep by pulling it underground!

We will be offering an irrigation discount for all green fees at \$18.00 + tax Monday thru Friday during the remainder of the irrigation install. Marshalls will be onsite to guide our guests, but we suggest you also visit the [Amberwood Village Golf & Country Club](#) Facebook page for daily updates.

### *Pool refurbishment -*

*Submitted by Bernie Ashe, AVRA Board Director*

The pool work is progressing nicely. The concrete was poured in the last week of May and we can now see the scope of a deck that is 35% larger than the old one. It looks great! Soon they will build a ramp with rails from the clubhouse to the pool deck to accommodate the difference in elevation. The pool furniture and shade structures are expected to arrive the week of June 7<sup>th</sup>, and the new fence will be installed later that week. There has been a slight delay in the delivery of the pool coping and tiles because of COVID, but a July 1<sup>st</sup> opening is still a real possibility. The new pool membrane needs several days of dry weather to be applied. Assuming normal weather conditions for June, we are hopeful to stay on schedule. This new date has had no impact on swimming lessons, but we did have to cancel the first week of camp scheduled to begin June 28<sup>th</sup> and we must start the Aquafit classes the first week in July.



If you have not had a chance to view the new designs, please visit our website by clicking [here](#). Please direct any feedback or comments [to info@amberwoodvillage.ca](mailto:info@amberwoodvillage.ca).

### *Court resurfacing*

Courts Canada was unable to do any work during the lockdown, but they were able to reschedule our refurbishing project to the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week in June. Weather permitting, they will complete the work by June 28<sup>th</sup>. The club will contact members a few days before the work commences to let them know about court availability.

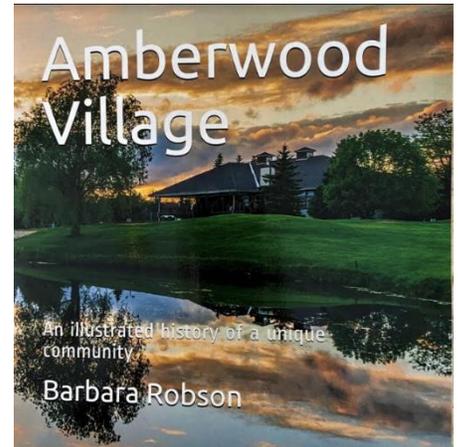
## *Sale of the Trailway lots*

The sale of the Trailway lots to Inverness homes closed on May 14<sup>th</sup>. We do not have a schedule for construction from Inverness Homes as yet, but we will share that information as soon as we have it. Click [here](#) to check out the design.

## *Fundraising*

*Submitted by Christine Adam-Carr, AVRA Board Secretary*

Local author Barbara Robson has published her new book, *Amberwood Village: an Illustrated History*, providing a new look at our dramatic past and giving a trifecta of benefits to our club. The 90-page book, sprinkled with old photos and new images by local photographer John Edkins, presents AVRA members with a clear and visual record of more than four decades of our collective history. Between battles by generals, two major fires, a flood, lawsuits and two threats of club closure, there has been no shortage of narrow escapes for the golf club at the heart of our community. The book also gives all Stittsville residents a glimpse of just how unique this community is, having grown from the vision of developer Jack Johannsen who donated the club to Amberwood residents for \$1.



Barbara Robson is an award-winning journalist and novelist who moved to Amberwood eight years ago. Sales of her book will help fund special projects at the newly energized club, and we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to Barbara for her generous offer to donate the proceeds from sales of the book to AVRA.

*“Researching, writing and producing the book was a labour of love,”* Barbara said. *“My hope is that it will lead even more people to appreciate what a treasure we have here, to enjoy it, and to help preserve it.”*

The first two orders are now sold out, but additional orders are set to arrive in a few weeks. Meanwhile, copies of the book are available for \$20 at the Pro Shop or by contacting [avra.board.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:avra.board.secretary@gmail.com). Multiple orders can also be placed with Friends of Amberwood, [friendsofamberwood@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofamberwood@gmail.com).

## *Sales of furniture and surplus equipment*

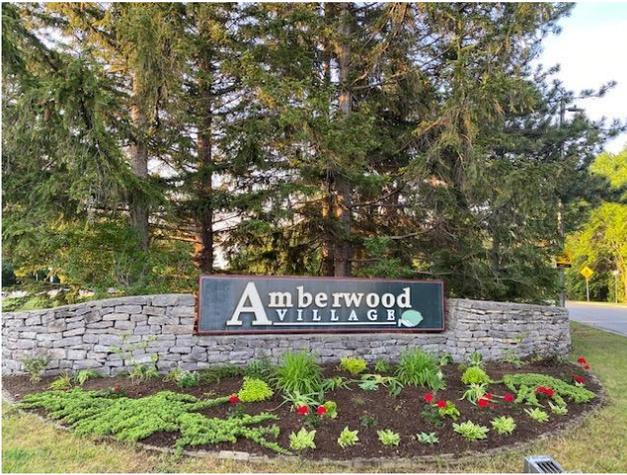
Furniture and surplus equipment sales have been on hold due to the stay-at-home order but will start up again soon through Kijiji and FB Marketplace. The next round of items includes: couches and loveseat, lamps, a 55” flatscreen TV, a metal cabinet, white shelving, wine glasses, white dishes, candlesticks. Please contact [avra.board.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:avra.board.secretary@gmail.com) for pricing and pictures.

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## **VOLUNTEERS**

The stairs, railings and patio at the back of the Clubhouse look brand new. A big thank you to Marius and Andrea Felix, Bob Davis, Christine Adam-Carr and Hendry Kanters for working on this project.





Thanks to Heather Ouimet and Karen Yabsley for rejuvenating the flower bed at the front entrance of Amberwood Village.

### *Amberwood Village Garden Club*

There is an active gardening club on a plot of land, under the Hydro easement between Innesbrook Court and Bay Hill/Arbor Ridge. AVRA and CCC172 were the original sponsors, with Jack Johanssen installing the taps. Now, the group is now led by its own volunteer group, with Tom Clifford and Bert Donnelly as the co-presidents. The land is owned by the two adjoining condo corporations but falls within the Hydro easement. With the onset of the COVID restrictions, gardening interest took off, and there are now 30 plots in use.

A nominal fee is charged for use of the plots to cover the cost of water, which currently is provided by Condo Corp #272. Regular newsletters keep the group informed and include a virtual gardening workshop series for gardening tips. Efforts to keep the area attractive include the planting of flowers along one edge of each plot.

To obtain your own plot, you must reside in one of the 11 condo corporation units, in Amberwood Village. Please contact Bert Donnelly at [patbertdonnelly@aol.com](mailto:patbertdonnelly@aol.com), if you would like to join the club.

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## CLUB NEWS

### *Club Marshals*

The club is grateful to have so many volunteer marshals, including: Gerry Lafleur, Paul Ross, Marius Felix, Patrick Stoqua, Paul Casagrande, Don Guillemette, Bob Irvine, Gary Kurlicki, Rick Weller, John Thomsen, Nick Kouri, Allen Brownlee, Ian Macleod, Ted Hill, and Dave and Linda Short.

### *Pickleball /Tennis*

Update from Ottawa Health - Tennis courts are now open for doubles play providing social distancing is maintained. Pickleball however is currently only open for singles play until further notice. Reservations must be made in advance by contacting the Pro shop at 613-836-2581, ext. 303.

### *Summer Camps*

TMSI is hosting all the young campers in 2021. Activities for children ages 4-12 will include: swimming, archery, soccer, basketball, ball hockey, volleyball, dodgeball, water games, and more. The camps are currently full. Click [here](#) to place your child's name on the waiting list.

### *Pool*

The pool is expected to open on July 1st and, based on Ottawa Health's guidelines for COVID 19 compliance, we are required to restrict the number of people in the pool at any one time. Once the pool opens you will be required to reserve your swim time. The online booking system will be made available the last week in June so that members can reserve seven days in advance.



### *Swimming lessons*

Swimming lessons (ten 30-minute sessions) will be offered to ages four and up from July 5<sup>th</sup> through August 20<sup>th</sup>. Children's classes follow the Red Cross Swim Kids program, and swim level will be assessed onsite if you are unsure of your child's level. We are currently waiting for Ottawa Public Health to provide us with guidelines on the number of people allowed in the pool at any one time. Once we have that information, we will be in a better position to advertise available spots for the lessons.

Click [here](#) to register for lessons.

### *Social events, programs and clinics*

The programs and clinics were all postponed due to the lockdown and the plans for a Canada Day event had to be shelved due to the restriction on the number of people allowed in outdoor gatherings. Please visit <http://www.amberwood.ca> on June 11th for the new and clinic dates.

### *Club Memberships*

You can purchase your membership at the pro shop or by contacting Katherine Usher-Vollett directly by phone (613-836-2581) or email ([kvollett@tmsiottawa.com](mailto:kvollett@tmsiottawa.com)). New this year are the all-inclusive family membership and the swim and paddle membership. Click [here](#) to view the 2021 membership pricing. Remember, you don't have to be a member to play at Amberwood. We offer drop-in rates for all activities (tennis, pickleball, swimming, and golf).

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## **MESSAGES FROM THE CLUB CAPTAINS**

*Submitted by Linda Short, pool captain*

Your pool captains this year are Charlotte Gencher and Linda Short. Both are anxious for the season to start in our wonderful new pool area. We are excited to welcome back Joy Halverson who will be leading the Monday/Wednesday/Friday aquafit classes, and Marta Wood who will lead the Tuesday/Thursday group. Both of those classes filled up very quickly since we are all needing to get back in shape. Lane swimming will also be popular this year! Once restrictions are eased, you can look forward to food and beverages by the pool provided by ALE. More poolside activities will be announced in future newsletters and also on the notice board in the activity room. We can be reached at [lindashort4@gmail.com](mailto:lindashort4@gmail.com) and [cgencher@gmail.com](mailto:cgencher@gmail.com)

*Submitted by Yvon Tarte, pickleball captain*

COVID restrictions allowing only singles play have seriously hampered our ability to enjoy pickleball at Amberwood. Hopefully these restrictions will be lifted before the end of June. Our online booking system is not yet operational. For the foreseeable future, members will have to book courts through the pro shop either in person or by phone.

We hope that our new courts will be available for play by the end of the month.



*Submitted by Tom Woodward, golf captain*

Hello everyone, I am a Club co-captain for golf at Amberwood GC and I'd like to tell you about our Men's League. We get together every Thursday morning with tee times starting at 8:00 a.m. It's a lot of fun! Every week we have a 50-50 draw; and a chance to win the "Secret Birdie Hole" pot. The "Skills Competition" using handicaps gives anyone a chance to win. When COVID protocols allow, we'll have one shotgun start per month, followed by a lunch get-together on the patio at ALE. Besides our Thursday mornings, if you enjoy some friendly competition, we also organize Match Play throughout the summer. If you are interested in joining our Men's League, please contact me via email at [audrey.tommy@gmail.com](mailto:audrey.tommy@gmail.com).

*Submitted by Roberta Tarte and Joanne Milligan, golf Co-captains*

Roberta Tarte and Joanne Milligan are co-captains of the Ladies' League this season. The league had its first day of golf on Tuesday June 1st. We don't yet know when we'll be allowed indoors, but we can plan once more people are vaccinated and restrictions are loosened over the next few months. We are keeping our fingers crossed that in the months to come, restrictions will be lifted sufficiently so that we can socialize safely, and even plan for an event or two later in the season. We've been really looking forward to this season. It's been a difficult time for everyone but the light at the end of the tunnel will have the added advantage of shining on our fairways and greens. If you're interested in the Ladies' League, we can be reached at [roberta.tarte@bell.net](mailto:roberta.tarte@bell.net) and [milliganjoanne001@yahoo.ca](mailto:milliganjoanne001@yahoo.ca).

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## AVRA MEMBERS' CORNER

We would like to welcome Craig and Ann McNaughton, Chris and Elizabeth Verberne, and Mary and Nigel Lever to AVRA.

Congratulations to Marci Buchanan, one of the original Amberwood Village residents, for winning Stittsville's senior of the year volunteer award.

Last month's challenge was, *What activities took place in the Annex before it was rented out to businesses?*

Pat Stoqua recalls his wife Elizabeth taught aerobics in the Annex to both Amberwood members and non members throughout the year. Also, in support of the annual Amberwood fundraiser for Multiple Sclerosis, Pat organized a casino night in the Annex the evening of the golf tournament. Ottawa Rough Rider players, alumni, and cheerleaders were recruited to deal blackjack, spin roulette wheels, etc. The event sold out and raised a significant donation for MS.

This month' challenge is:

Name all the restaurants that occupied 54 Springbrook Drive prior to ALE ([click here to submit your answer](#)).

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## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

If you have a specific topic you would like covered, please send us an email at [Info@amberwoodvillage.ca](mailto:Info@amberwoodvillage.ca) and we will include it in the next issue of *Amberwood Insider*.

### ***Subscribe to our newsletter!***

Click [here](#) to sign up for our monthly newsletter. You do not have to be an AVRA member or a resident of Amberwood Village to subscribe.

Stay up to date with us on [Facebook!](#)

