

Farewell to Phil

It is with a heavy heart that I dedicate this week's column to Phil Swanson who passed away last week. Most readers probably know that Phil was the State's longest serving Town Manager, that he wore many hats in the community, and that he was fully committed to his job and to the Town and Village of Woodstock. Some but not all may know that Phil was one of the longest serving volunteer instructors for the Woodstock Ski Runners' Friday Learn to Ski Program which I managed between 2010 and 2014. Regardless of the weather or what confronted him in the office on a Friday afternoon, Phil showed up, and took out his group of young skiers admonishing them to ignore the weather and enjoy an afternoon of skiing.

Phil prior to his illness was a frequent visitor to our office, always with a joke or funny story at the ready. He was an excellent mentor giving me advice on the best course of action relating to our tenancy in the building. When we had issues with heating, cooling or plumbing Phil would take me around with the service technicians so that I could learn to trouble shoot on my own. When we bumped heads, we'd respectfully step back and look for a resolution to both our liking.

Lastly, Phil had an uncanny ability to receive complaints from hostile, grumpy, or whiny residents with a calm, measured response. My mother was one such complainer hollering at Phil to plow the shared driveway practically before the snow stopped falling. After one such tussle Phil sent over a lovely bouquet of flowers, which we all hoped would instill in her gratitude and patience.

Yes, our hearts are heavy. I'll miss seeing Phil drive by in the truck always waiving at me on my runs, or stopping to chat when we were the only folks working in the building on a weekend or early in the morning. I'll miss the bow ties under the brightly colored jackets he wore when working out with his crew. I'll miss the twinkle in his eye before heading out for a curling match, or a round of golf. I'll miss our friendship and Pentangle will miss his unwavering support for the organization.

Out and About

It appears our string of excellent weather will continue this Friday, for our fourth [*Music by the River*](#) concert featuring the dynamic father-son duo [Ken & Brad Kolodner](#).

Together they weave together a captivating soundscape on hammered dulcimer, banjo and fiddles pushing the boundaries of the Old-Time tradition into uncharted territory. Regarded as one of the most influential hammered dulcimer players and Old-Time fiddlers in North America, Baltimore's Ken Kolodner has joined forces with his son Brad Kolodner, a rising star in the clawhammer banjo world. Together, they infuse their own brand of driving, innovative, tasteful and unique interpretations of traditional and original fiddle tunes and songs. They perform tight and musical arrangements of original and traditional old-time music with a "creative curiosity that lets all listeners know that a passion for traditional music yet thrives in every generation.

Concerts begin at 5:30 and are free and open to the public with donations gratefully accepted!

On the Big Stage:

Says You! is coming to Woodstock

We still have tickets for the popular [Says You!](#) live show coming to our [Town Hall Theatre](#) on Saturday, July 27. This nationally acclaimed show airs weekly in the United States on public radio stations and is well-known by VPR listeners. Richard Sher created the show in 1996 with the guiding philosophy: "It's not important to KNOW the answers: it's important to LIKE the answers."

The performance begins at 7:30pm and includes two shows to air nationally on public radio. For those of you who would like to start the laughs rolling a little earlier, there is a special Q and A at 6:30 pm with the cast and crew. Tickets for pre-show are \$45 with limited seats right in front of cast, regular reserved seats are \$35.

On the Big Screen:

Pavarotti

This documentary by filmmaker Ron Howard examines the life and career of famed opera tenor Luciano Pavarotti. The film includes never-before-seen footage, concert performances and intimate interviews.

Show Times

[Friday, July 26, 2019 at 7:30 pm](#)

NO MOVIE SATURDAY, JULY 27

[Sunday, July 28, 2019 at 7:30 pm](#)

[Monday, July 29, 2019 at 7:30 pm](#)

Up next: [Toy Story 4](#)