

Seasonal

Publication of the Lakes of the Four Seasons Property Owners Association December 2020

LOFS Volunteer Fire Force holding 13th annual Food Drive December 5

Due to the rising number of Covid cases, we want to keep both you, and our emergency responders as safe as possible. With that being said, our traditional food drive collection process has been changed.

We are going to have a drop off at Station 3500 (745 W 275 S in Hebron, IN 46341) and 3600 (10645 Randolph Street in Winfield)

areas identified so you can drop off your donations for Lake or Porter County.

You can mail a check to 745 W 275 S Hebron, IN 46341 or use Paypal if you want to make a monetary donation for 'Stop Drop & Donate'. Paypal: Fundrasing@lofsfire.com. Please put in the comments: STOP DROP DONATE.

Donations will benefit food pantries in Lake and Porter Counties, and NWI

No Child Hungry, which provides food to families in the communities the fire department serves.

"This has been a hard year for a lot of families. This event lets us make a direct positive impact on people in our communities who need a little extra help this holiday season," said Chief Jeff Kish. "There are a lot of ways to donate – from home, or at one of our stations. We hope everyone in our community

finds a way to join us and help stock our local pantries during this difficult time."

If you would like to help serve your community, the Lakes of the Four Seasons Volunteer Fire Force is currently recruiting new and experienced volunteer firefighters. For information about how to apply, visit www.VolunteerFireIN.org



LOFS Lions Club

Children's Christmas Party and Lions news for December 2020

Santa returns to the Lakehouse on December 6 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. for a meet-and-greet with all the good boys and girls of LOFS. This fun and free

event will have children follow Peppermint Candy Lane just outside the Lakehouse to meet Santa and his elves. Naughty or Nice, each child will get a small gift from Santa and all pictures are free.

Santa will be wearing a clear face shield—the jolly

elf has to be ready to make that round the world trip on Christmas Eve! Face coverings are required at this event for ages 2 and up.

The Lions recommend that guests with very young children come at about 2 p.m. when the line to meet Santa has thinned out a little. Our goal is to allow children to meet Santa and give him their Christmas wishes in a safe, happy environment.

Information on this (still)

fun event is on the Lions and LOFS Facebook pages and flyers at our LOFS restaurants and local businesses. You can also email or call our chair, Jackie Katz, at lofsliions@aol.com or 219-776-3541.

Thanks again to the LOFS and Winfield community for all your support during this challenging year. We've been able to hold a number of events that have enabled us to donate to local food banks, women's shelters, and support sight and hearing needs within our community.

The Lions have also given out college scholarships to four LOFS high school students, provided dictionaries and ear buds to the elementary schools and held the annual (and socially distanced) Fourth of July parade. The Lions appreciate the opportunity the community gives us to follow our motto, 'We Serve'.



Announcing the 2020 Children's Christmas Event:

A Meet and Greet with SANTA!

A fun and free outdoor event sponsored by the LOFS Lions

Sunday, December 6, 2020 from 1:30pm to 2:30 pm

Bundle Up and Meet Santa and his Elves at

The North Pole, aka the Lakehouse Entrance

Bring Your Camera for that Special Picture with

the Jolly Old Elf, Himself!

All Children will receive a Gift from Santa and His Helpers

Santa will have on a clear face shield for safety

Reminder, this is an outdoor event!

Questions??? Guests may call 219 776-3541 (Jackie, Chairperson), email lofsliions@aol.com or guests can speak with any Lions Member.



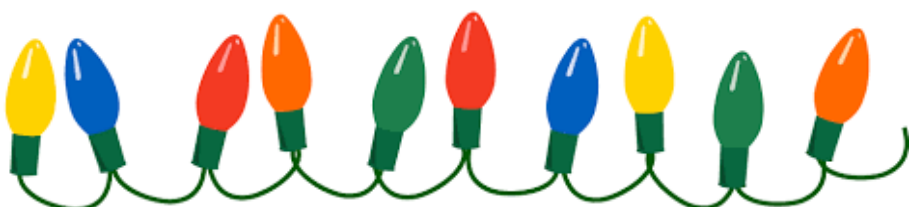
LOFS residents, get ready for the annual HOME HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST 2020

- All LOFS homes are eligible.
- Exterior decorations only will be judged.
- All holiday adornments (any religious persuasion) will be considered.
- Judging will be underway beginning Friday, December 11th and conclude Saturday, December 18th!
- The judges' decisions are final.

- **First Prize:** \$100 LOFS gift certificate
- **Second Prize:** \$75 LOFS gift certificate
- **Third Prize:** \$50 LOFS gift certificate
- **Fourth Prize:** \$25 LOFS gift certificate

Prizes will be awarded prior to Christmas Eve. Winners will also receive their own "15 Minutes of Fame". The prize-winning homes will be featured in the Seasonal.

* If you would like to nominate a home you think deserves consideration please call the POA Office at 988-2581 by noon on Monday, December 11th



Santa is Coming

to the Lakes of the Four Seasons!
December 3

Seasons Lakehouse Parking Lot

Drop off your letters to Santa and get a treat from the giant candy chute.

4-7 PM

Sponsored by
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POA Community Manager

The POA Board of Directors will hold a regular POA meeting on Monday, December 14 with the presentation of the 2021-22 preliminary budget to follow afterwards. The meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Seasons Lakehouse ballroom. The second meeting with the proposed budget will be presented on January 11, 2021 with the approval of the budget on January 25, 2021. The Board encourages residents' input, so they can assure that the upcoming year is supported for the needs of

the community. Seating will be limited for social distancing and face coverings are required per the Lake and Porter County Health Departments.

The POA Board of Directors amends policy on Trash & Recycling Containers

Residents may place their trash and recycling containers out for collection at 4 p.m. the day before their scheduled collection day year-round.

Residents will still be responsible for pulling in the collected containers no later than midnight on the same



Rick Cleveland

day of collection.

Furthermore, while we do appreciate the social media posts of people wanting to recycle and or give away property belonging to them, it will still be a violation of community rules to place those items at the roadside on any day outside of normal collection times.

any damages to mailboxes or stands that are already in disrepair.

Vehicles must not be parked on or along roadways and cul-de-sacs. The Operations Department needs as much open area as possible to place the snow and to maneuver through the narrow roadways.

Homeowners may want to mark their driveways with 3 to 4-foot high posts. This will aid the snowplow operator from pushing snow into the driveway when cleaning off cul-de-sacs or from damaging road berms.

Please do not put snow from your driveway into the streets. Frozen snow piles, when hit with the plow could force plow trucks into oncoming traffic. Place the snow on the left side of your driveway as you face it (downstream of road traffic).

Operations & Maintenance Department

By Roy Green,
Operations Director
LOFS Snow Removal Procedures

The Lakes of the Four Seasons Operations Department wants residents to be cautious and prepared during the winter season. Here are the snow removal procedures you should follow:

- Yield the right of way to the plow and salt trucks for your safety and the operator's safety.
- Plow and salt trucks are used when the conditions deem it necessary. The Public Safety Department is to contact the on-call maintenance personnel of bad road conditions during off hours between the hours of 4 p.m. and 7:30 a.m. weekdays, weekends, and

holidays.

- Plowing will continue until midnight and begin again at 4 a.m. on weekdays.

Priorities

- Front Entrance, N.L.S.D., 117th Ave. Automated Entrance, Kingsway Dr., W.L.S.D., Porter County Automated Entrance, Four Seasons Parkway.
- Forest Lane, Sunnyslope Dr., E.L.S.D., Green Valley Dr., Hidden Valley Dr.
- All remaining roads.
- Cul-de-sacs, Seasons Lakehouse parking lots and 19th Hole parking lots.
- Seasons Lakehouse sidewalks and 19th Hole sidewalks.

The Lakes of the Four Seasons Operations Department and employees will not be held responsible for

POA Board of Directors

Board sets public POA budget meetings

The Lakes of the Four Seasons Board of Directors will hold two Public Hearings on the proposed community budget for the year 2021-2022.

The first budget meeting to present a preliminary budget

to LOFS residents will be on Monday, December 14 in the Seasons Lakehouse Ballroom following a regular public meeting that begins at 7:30 p.m. The Board will have a second meeting on Monday, January 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Seasons

normal collection time is if a storm event has knocked branches off of your tree. If you do have branches needing collection after a storm event, please contact the Operations Department at 219-988-4461.

You must contact a contractor to remove your branches or trees from your property for all other reasons. You also have the option to bring your branches to the Operations facility at 3861 Kingsway Drive during normal operating hours.

The Operations Department has been marking the roadway curves and critical areas with painted stakes before the ground freezes so they can efficiently plow the

roads, cul-de-sacs and parking lots in case of snow. The trucks will be prepared and awaiting our first big snow. I would like to remind residents to please not push or blow snow onto the roads as this only creates a dangerous situation for those driving.

Please stay off of the ice and please keep an eye on anyone that you may see walking around or on the ice, including animals. Please contact the Public Safety department to inform them when you see anyone walking on the ice.

The POA office will be closed December 24, 25, 31, and January 1 for the holidays and will reopen on Monday, January 4, 2021.

Happy Holidays!

Lakehouse Ballroom to present the proposed budget.

The 2021-2022 budget is set to be approved at the regularly scheduled Board meeting on Monday, January 25. The POA Board is interested in hearing residents' concerns for the coming year's budget and encourages residents to attend these informative meetings.

Seating will be limited for social distancing and face coverings are required.

Speeders Beware!

We deeply value the safety and well-being of all LOFS residents and guests!

Speeding throughout the community will not be tolerated.

The speed limit for all of the roads inside the Lakes of the Four Seasons is 20 miles per hour unless otherwise posted.



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Visit LOFS Web Site at www.lofs.org

LOFS Facebook Page - Lakes of the Four Seasons Information

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Golf course to remain open throughout the winter months

By Doug Weiss,
Golf Course Superintendent

The golf course will remain open throughout the winter months under the following conditions.

1. No golf can be played before 10 a.m.

2. Carts on paths only, no passing, no exceptions.

3. Superintendent can close the course on any day deemed too soft to play.

These rules took effect November 16 and will last until spring.

I would like all who enjoy the game to play throughout the year. However if the rules cannot be followed by our members the course will be closed until spring.

19th Hole Golf Simulator lets you practice and enjoy the game all winter

It's raining or snowing outside and you're unable to go golfing? We feature an indoor golf simulator room that is open to the public in the lower level of the 19th Hole.

The simulator will be available during 19th Hole restaurant hours. Special arrangements can be made at other times if needed. Call the 19th Hole at 219-988-2282 for reservations. Fees for use of the room will be \$24 per hour for weekdays and \$28 per hour on weekends. We can accommodate up to two people at a time.

Play at any one of up to 15 premier or Chicago area golf courses, or fine tune your game at the simulated driving range to dial in your yardages anytime of the day while staying out of the elements!



A few more Fundraisers are recognized

Four names from the Fundraisers were inadvertently left out of the Volunteer of the Year article last month. Congratulations need to also be given to Jessica Crane, Susan Turner, Kathy Velgos, and Cathy Waitkus. Pictured from left to right are Shannon Benko, Iris Varlan, Sandi Scalise, Wendy VanDenburgh, Jessica Dempsey, and Lori O'Malley.

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JUST LISTED/UNDER CONTRACT

- 2 Bedroom 1.5 Bath
- Townhome in Ellendale Farm
- 2 Car Attached Finished Garage
- Large Side Yard
- Ellendale Farm

PENDING

- Under Construction. 30 days to Complete
- 2 Story Townhome in Ellendale Farm
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David Taylor is the finest realtor my husband and I have ever worked with to sell our residences. (He was our realtor for the sale of two condominiums previously.) Most important to us is his high level of integrity, honesty, dedication to our individual situation and needs and commitment to selling our home.

David was the consummate professional during all phases of this very difficult endeavor (we had a large, expensive home/estate to sell when the Covid Virus hit our area). He was positive and worked tirelessly, directing his Century 21 team with multiple showings, open houses, creative marketing strategies, etc.

David Taylor handled ALL aspects of this sale and transactions. He kept our stress level to a minimum and we are very grateful to him. David Taylor went above and beyond being our realtor for the sale of our home.

He was always punctual, kept all time commitments, even involved his family to meet our needs (for food, shopping, cleaning, organizing, moving). There were NO details that were unimportant to David.

David Taylor was very clear in explaining all details of the process to us. He was patient, thorough and very kind! He also displayed a warm sense of humor and compassion for us during this time. Our home would have sold/closed within 45-90 days except for the Covid Virus. But David never lost hope or commitment and continued his excellent dedication to our family and us!

This is why we would recommend David Taylor as the finest realtor and person we have ever known. ~ **Dr Nicolas and Kathleen Sanez**

Crown Point, Indiana

Call for info 219-306-7812
david.taylor@century21.com

Food Bank of NWI provides for thousands of families in Lake and Porter Counties

The Food Bank of Northwest Indiana is preparing for its "Hope For The Holidays" initiative during November and December. Joined by several local community partners, the Food Bank is planning to provide holiday meals to thousands of families, and address the increased need for food assistance during this time of year.

"As Northwest Indiana continues to react to the impact the COVID-19 crisis has had on our community, the holidays bring a different set of challenges for individuals and families who are already struggling to make ends meet. We hope that by providing a holiday meal, some of the stress of the season is relieved," said Victor A. Garcia, president & CEO of the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana. "We are extremely grateful to our sponsors, donors, community partners, and volunteers who make these special

distributions possible."

Two local community partners have teamed up with the Food Bank to help support the capacity needed to support the increased number of families who are relying on food assistance. Premier Partner Strack & Van Til is launching a two-month "Checkout Challenge" to benefit the hunger relief efforts of the Food Bank. Customers at all 19 stores have the opportunity to round up their grocery bill, donating the spare change to the organization.

"Strack & Van Til and Town & Country are honored to be supporting the Food Bank of NWI again this holiday season through the Check Out Challenge", said Jeff Strack, president & CEO of Strack & Van Til. "With the support of our customers, it is our goal to provide over a Half-Million meals to the NWI community this season. Your extra change can quickly add up to making a big difference for our neighbors this season".

Local Civic Leaders, Tom Sourlis and Sue Eleuterio are also lending support to help the Food Bank meet the increased demand during this time. The couple is matching all donations up to \$100,000 to provide a total of more than a half million meals.

"With the holidays coming up, we are grateful to the Food Bank of NWI for helping to make sure that our neighbors have enough food in these challenging times", said Tom Sourlis & Sue Eleuterio.

The Half-Million Meal Match campaign runs through December 31, allowing donors to double the impact of a single gift. Contributions are being accepted at: www.foodbanknwi.org/halfmillionmealmatch.

"We are overwhelmed by the show of support from our Premier Partner Strack & Van Til, and the generosity of Tom & Sue. Both have been extremely sensitive to the needs of our neighbors during the pandemic and are going above and beyond to support our work in the community", said Garcia. "Their partnership during such a critical time allows us to do more than we normally could through Hope For The Holidays. With all the things that families are contending with, we hope that food will be the least of their worries," said Garcia.

For the full list of "Hope For The Holidays" food distributions and initiatives, visit www.foodbanknwi.org/HopeForTheHolidays.

SEASONS Lakehouse

RESTAURANT & PUB

December Specials

Wednesday: Beer Battered Jumbo Shrimp & Perch Platter with Broccoli Crown Mornay \$21
House White Wine \$5

Thursday: Pork Piccata with Angel Hair Pasta tossed in a Lemon Caper Butter Sauce \$15
Mistletoe Spritzer \$4

Friday: Filet Mignon topped with Lobster Stuffing & Hollandaise \$28
Peppermint Stick Martini \$6

Saturday: Texas BBQ Platter (Let's Bring Summer Back) Pulled Pork, Baby Back Ribs, Smoked Brisket with Mac & Cheese & Rolls \$19
'Merica Mule \$5

Sunday: Open 10am-1pm Breakfast Menu
Mimosa \$4 & Bloody Marys' \$5

Seasons Lakehouse will be closed December 21-25 & January 1st

Events Closed to the Public:

December 31st New Year's Eve Party NWI No Child Hungry (COVID restrictions permitting)



Call in or check us out on Facebook for our daily specials!

Text CLUB to 36000 to receive special promotional deals and updates on coming events!

CALL 988-2582

HOURS: Wed-Thurs 4pm-9pm; Fri-Sat 4pm-10pm, Sun 10am-1pm (Closed Mon. & Tues.)

Email Contact: Lakehouse@lofs.org



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**Tuesday- \$2 Fish Tacos,
\$3 Margaritas & Cuervo Shots**

**Wednesday- \$10 Chicken Fried Steak,
\$6 Tall Calls**

**Thursday- \$14 Beef Tips,
\$6 Mules**

**Friday- \$12 Shrimp or Fish Dinner
\$2 Domestic Bottles**

Saturday- \$10 Pasta Night, \$6 Flavored Vodkas

**Sunday- \$13 Half Slab Ribs, \$20 Full Slab
\$13 Buckets, \$20 Pizza, Wings & Pitcher Beer**

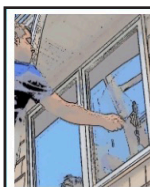
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Tuesday – Saturday 11 am – 9 pm**

Text LOFS to 36000 to join the text club and receive special promotional deals & updates on coming events.

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The 19th Hole will be closed on Thanksgiving Day

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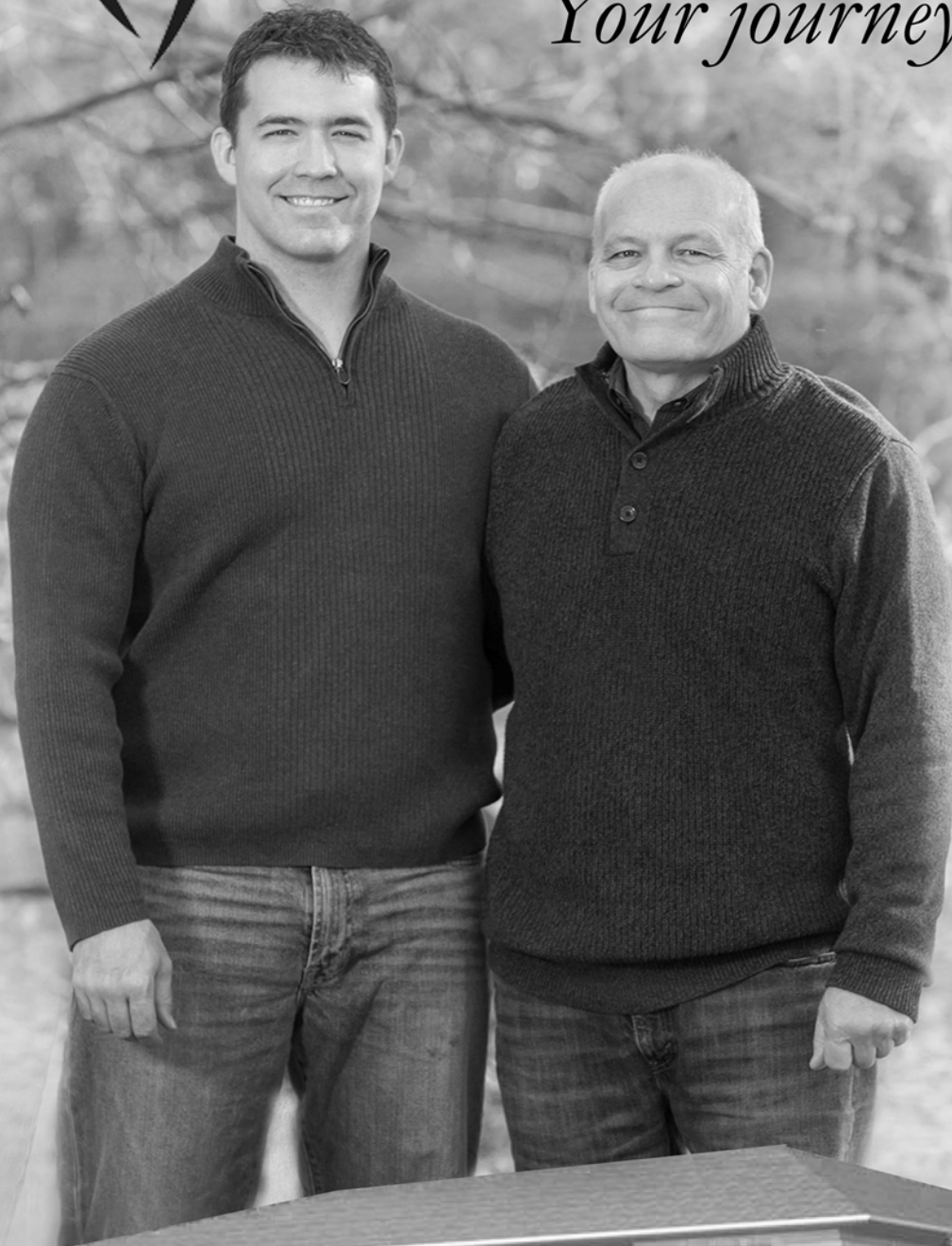
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Across the street from Lakes of the Four Seasons

Old books sometimes reveal interesting finds about our Region

By Walt Pluchinsky, LOFS Historical Society (Part 1 of 3)



Somewhere in the Good Book, there is the passage “Seek and Ye shall find”. Well, this old writer found some very interesting things as he was seeking information about the history of our area.

It seems that the book ‘Counties of Porter and Lake’, edited by W. A. Goodsend and published in 1882, and found in the Valparaiso library, contains some rather interesting tid-

bits. The book describes early life in Porter and Winfield Townships and the biographies of some early citizens, and it will lead to a multi-part series of stories, much of which will be taken verbatim from the book.

We start first with Porter Township, simply because it was formed in 1837, six years before Winfield Township. At first it was known as Fish Lake Township, which name it took from a lake then known as Fish Lake. This lake is now known as Lake Eliza. The citizens did not like the name and proceeded to circulate a petition to have the name changed. The petition was presented

to the Board of County Commissioners in June 1841. The prayers of the petitioners were answered, and the name of Porter was applied to the Township, taken from the county named after Commodore David Porter.

An early election in the Township was held in the house of Alpheus French on Monday, December 3, 1838 for the purpose of electing one Representative. A total of 18 men voted, including two Frames, a Dinwiddie, two Hurlburts, a Campbell, and a McCoy. It was reported that “We the undersigned Judges and Clerks of Elections do certify that Benjamin McCarty had 15

votes for Representative and George Cline three votes for the same office; signed by Johnathon Hough, H. M. Wilson, Clerks; S. Campbell, Inspector, and William Frakes, and Alpheus French, Judges.”

In the years 1834 and 1835, a number of settlers came to Porter Township, including Newton and William Frame, Samuel and Isaac Campbell, Elder and Ora French, Jacob Wolf, and David Hurlburt. Others before 1838 included Edmund, Hazard, and Benjamin Sheffield, William Nichols, Morris Carman, Ezra Reeves, and P. A. Porter. Doctor Levi Cass came in 1840; H. Bates came in 1841.

Others with names of Bartel, Hough, Hatch, Shreve, and Wellman came shortly after. Elder French, a Baptist minister, was the first preacher in the township. Besides those mentioned above, others with last names of Robinson, Fleming, Gates, Dye, Jones, Cobb, and Service settled in the township. From 1840 to 1850, immigration was slow but steady. It was mentioned that a large portion of the present population (1882) were descendants of the first settlers.

The experiences of the early settlers of the township with the Indians was about the same as that of the surrounding country.

The Indians were friendly and made little trouble. The township was chiefly prairie, and it was not frequented as much by Indians as were places where there was more woodland. It was not uncommon to see herds of deer containing from 30 to 50 animals. These were gradually thinned out as the settlements increased, until they disappeared completely.

The next part of this series will describe some early events in Porter Township, such as a wolf hunt, Indian mounds, and early schools and churches. Some of these may be contrary to some information previously reported.

‘NWI No Child Hungry’ benefit scheduled for December 31 at Seasons Lakehouse

The charity’s mission is simple: they provide local students who don’t have enough food on the weekends with non-perishable kid friendly sacked meals throughout the school year.

According to recent statistics, 41,161 students in Lake County (2nd in the state) and 9,999 students in Porter County (11th in the state) received free or reduced lunches. For many children, the meals they eat at school are the only ones they will receive that week.

The Buddy Bag program through NWI No Child Hungry provides participating children with prepacked bags containing kid friendly nonperishable breakfast, lunch, snacks and dinner to feed them throughout the weekend.

NWI No Child Hungry is currently working with Porter Lakes Elementary, Boone Grove Elementary, Boone Grove Middle School, Boone Grove High School, Winfield and Jerry Ross Elementary. In addition to these schools they recently began serving Hebron Schools and will continue to grow and expand as they are able to.

Now more than ever, the community is needed to support and grow this wonderful program!

Sponsorship Opportunities

- Platinum sponsors- \$1000+ will receive two tickets to the event and acknowledgement through a life-size cardboard cutout and signage highlighting their sponsorship.
- Gold Sponsors- \$500+ will receive 1 ticket to the

event and acknowledgement through a life-size cardboard cutout highlighting their sponsorship.

- Silver Sponsors- \$250+ will receive acknowledgement through a 3 ft. cardboard cutout highlighting their sponsorship.
- Bronze Sponsors- \$100+ will receive acknowledgement through a tabletop sign highlighting their sponsorship.

All that donate, regardless of the amount, will be recognized in the event



program as well as on a banner, which will be displayed at the event. If you are not interested in making a monetary contribution, please consider donating a bottle of wine or spirits or a restaurant gift card valued at \$25+.

All donations are tax deductible.

Contact Us

- Danielle Lenson, Event Host
House to Home NWI
219-779-0487
danielle.lenson@gmail.com
- Ryan Dulla, Event Host
Midwest Marine
219-310-5433
midwestmarineseawall@yahoo.com
- Gretchen Mercer
NWI No Child Hungry
nwinochildhungry@gmail.com



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100% of proceeds will benefit NWI No Child Hungry



INDOT scholarships available for civil engineering students

The Indiana Department of Transportation is offering civil engineering students scholarships of up to \$3,125 per semester, and paid employment during summer breaks and upon graduation.

Students must be accepted or enrolled full time in one of Indiana’s Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology certified civil engineering programs. Eligible programs include Purdue University, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Purdue University Fort Wayne, University of Southern Indiana, Trine University, Purdue University Northwest, University of Evansville, University of Notre Dame, and Valparaiso University.

Students must be accepted or enrolled full time in one of Indiana’s certified civil engineering schools and apply using the form at www.INDOTScholarship.IN.gov. Applications for the 2021-22 school year must be submitted by December 31, 2020.

INDOT’s scholarship program uses federal funds to offer \$3,125 per semester or \$2,083 per trimester for up to five years of post-secondary civil engineering education. Scholarship funds can be applied to educational expenses, fees and books. In return, recipients will work for INDOT in full-time, paid positions during their summer breaks and upon graduation.

Students must be accepted or enrolled full time in one of Indiana’s Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology certified civil engineering programs. Eligible programs include Purdue University, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Purdue University Fort Wayne, University of Southern Indiana, Trine University, Purdue University Northwest, University of Evansville, University of Notre Dame, and Valparaiso University.

Learn more about the INDOT Engineer Scholarship program and the application process at www.INDOTScholarship.IN.gov.

Students or parents with questions may contact Talent Development Manager Adam Beasley at ABeasley2@indot.in.gov or 317-234-7930.

POA - December 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Brunch 10am-1pm @ Seasons Lakehouse every Sunday		1	2 Lions Meeting 6 pm @ Seasons Lakehouse	3 REMC Bringing Santa to Lower Parking Lot @ Seasons Lakehouse Between 4—7 pm	4	5 Fire Force Taking Donations from 9 am—2 pm Free N Fun Bar Bingo @ 19th Hole 7-9 pm
6 Lions Hosting Santa Meet & Greet from 1:30—2:30 pm at the Seasons Lakehouse	7	8	9 Lions Meeting 6 pm @ Seasons Lakehouse	10	11	12 Free N Fun Bar Bingo @ 19th Hole 7-9 pm
13	14 POA Public Board Meeting @ 7:30 pm with Budget Presentation to follow	15	16	17 Keen- Agers Luncheon Noon @ Seasons Lakehouse (Depending on COVID Restrictions)	18	19 Free N Fun Bar Bingo @ 19th Hole 7-9 pm
20	21	22	23 Lions Meeting 6 pm @ Seasons Lakehouse	24 Christmas Eve POA Office & Restaurants Closed for the Holiday	25 Christmas POA Office & Restaurants Closed for the Holiday	26 Free N Fun Bar Bingo @ 19th Hole 7-9 pm
27	28	29	30 Seasons Lakehouse Closed for Private Event (Depending on COVID Restrictions)	31 POA Office Closed		POA Office Hours Monday to Friday 9 am— 4 pm

Public Safety
Department

By Craig Philp,
Public Safety Director

With the cold weather slowly making its way in, we need to start being even more careful around the community's bodies of water. Soon we will start seeing the ice form and of course people chancing the thickness to fish, skate, or just to walk on. I know by now some of you are tired of reading about ice / cold water safety since it is something I write about on a yearly basis. However, seeing how I have been involved in a few ice rescues during

my time with this department as well as during my time on the LOFS Fire Department, I know and have seen the dangers firsthand.

It's a horrible feeling when you have to respond to a call knowing there is a high chance it could end in tragedy, and the overwhelming thought of "if you had just gotten there a little sooner" maybe it could have ended differently. Maybe if they had just listened or read this article days prior it wouldn't have happened at all. Those are just some of the thoughts

that some rescuers might have stuck in their heads, I know it's some of the thoughts I personally have had to deal with each year.

So, what do we know about ice strength? Well it depends on the thickness, snow coverage, water depth, water flow, and temperature change. Now think about these and think about our lakes. I'm not going to give examples of each with our lakes, but think about the snow coverage on our lakes, the depths of our lakes, and just how often mother nature changes our temperatures from one extreme to another and you should get the point.

We know that snow acts like an insulation blanket when on top of the ice and can impede its formation.

We know that just because its cold out does not mean the ice is thicker since wind can actually affect its growth. A light wind might speed up the growth of ice while a heavy wind can slow it down. An example, during heavy winds you will see those holes in the ice stay open and that wind could actually be getting under the ice and causing it to thaw or decay from below.

Since we can have days in the winter that go from 10°F on one day to 40°F on the next you would expect to see slush appear. Well that slush also appears on lakes which means the water is no longer freezing from below.

These are just three examples of what we see yearly and they are all screaming

about the dysfunctionality of Northwest Indiana's weather, so why chance it?

But, despite my dislike for people being on the ice I know its unavoidable; so each year you will have to read what you should do if you or someone you are with falls in to the cold icy water.

One of the most important things is remembering that you should NEVER go out on to a body of ice alone, but if you do self-rescue may be your only chance.

Hopefully, you are with someone who has already called 911 and who will also be there to "coach" you on what to do or is able to reach you safely; but if that is not the case then you NEED to do the following.

First turn back to where

you fell in from. Place your elbows on the ice and extend your arms out onto the ice while at the same time pulling and kicking your legs like a frog as hard as they can to get their body on top and out of the water.

Once out, stay in a laid down position so as to keep your body weight evenly distributed along the ice. Start to roll away from the open water back the way you came or where you believe the ice will be thick enough to stand up and exit the iced over area.

From there get somewhere warm, a car or nearby home and remove the wet clothing so you can get your body temp back up.

Remember that the only absolute in ice safety is staying off of it.

Wanted: Hunters to help feed hungry Hoosiers

More than ever, families are struggling to buy groceries. Food banks, pantries, and soup kitchens continue to work to protect the most vulnerable and under-served in our communities. We have no doubt that these hunger relief agencies continue to face increased demand during these uncertain times. Low-income families and the elderly are most at-risk. With schools closing and job disruptions causing loss of wages, and seniors isolated in their homes, many are ex-

periencing shortages in their food budgets.

Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry would like to remind all hunters and landowners about our deer donation program. After you've filled your freezer, help feed those in need in your area by donating to Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry's 'Meat' the Need initiative. Just take your deer in to your local, participating meat processor and tell them you would like to donate it to Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry. There is no charge

to you.

Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry partners with 85 meat processors statewide and encourages the donation of large game and livestock to our program, raises financial support to pay processing fees on these donations, and gives this nutritious meat to local hunger relief agencies.

"We envision communities in which everyone has access to nutritious food – a basic human right. Thanks to all of our donors and support-

ers over the past ten years, we have been able to pay for the processing of over 1.7 million pounds of donated deer and livestock – providing 6.8 million meals!" stated Deb Treesh, Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry executive director.

For more information on this program, its services, to locate local participating meat processors, or to find out how you can help, visit www.HoosiersFeedingtheHungry.org.

Virtual astronauts to begin preparation for a simulated trip to Mars

Martian Mission Captain's Log #1: Stardate 54358 November 2020.


Next March and May the Family Folklore Foundation will offer simulated trips to Mars at the Challenger Learning Center. They will make a documentary about the experiences available online and at local venues.

This is a call out to anyone who would like to participate as astronauts in our simulated Mars mission. Welcome, people


of all ages, to The Third and Fourth Rock from the Sun mission. During the world pandemic the Family Folklore Foundation, Inc., (www.famfolkfound.org) is preparing you, our virtual participants, for a simulated trip to Mars at the Challenger Learning Center next spring.

Before the blast off, the crew must learn about the geology of the Earth and Mars, and ourselves. Future

(See *Virtual* Pg. 8)



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(Virtual from Pg. 7)

astronauts will learn the physical, educational, and social training required by the International Space Station. We will also search websites to learn and do activities about the fascinating geology of Indiana and Mars.

By next Spring you will be ready to put on space suits for the mission to Mars at the Challenger Learning Center in Hammond. Come aboard and learn about each other and our beautiful universe.

Challenge #1: 'Who Am I? Poster'. See yourself now

and in the future by making a poster board of your life.

- Make a collage or poster of pictures that represent your interests, talents, and values, your family, and your physical, educational, and social goals. The goal is to be astronauts in spirit.
- Use a science board or

construction paper or digitally to create your poster. You can add objects, such as a feather if you like birds or a patch if you like to quilt.

• If you put your poster on the refrigerator or by your desk, it will energize and inspire you.

- Future astronauts, you can show your poster by attaching a picture of it to an email to me at famfolkfound@gmail.com.
 - Keep your eyes open for Captain's Log #2: Stranger in a Strange Land.
- Visit the Family Folklore Foundation, Inc. at www.famfolkfound.org.

famfolkfound.org. It offers learning experiences to people of all ages. This project is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, Indiana Arts Commission, and South Shore Arts as well as other donors.

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Beautifully updated through out! This home sits on a large cul de sac lot with Crown Point Schools! Features include refinished dark hardwood floors & staircase with wrought iron spindles & oak railings. Open concept Living room with stone surround fireplace open to Kitchen/dining area. Kitchen has newer white slow-close Cabinets, breakfast island, subway tile, Granite countertops, SS appliances & walkout to big deck overlooking giant backyard w/ firepit. **\$242,000**



LAKE HOLIDAY HOME! This is a rare find-New Construction-6 bedroom, 3.5 bath home. It is an Open concept with 1.5-story Main Floor Master. Cathedral ceiling living room sliders opening to the deck & a fabulous lake view. Master walks out to deck & Lake, the en-suite has HUGE walk-in closet, separate Tile shower & double sinks! Main floor finished laundry **\$600,000**



Prime Crown Point Building site w/ CP Schools. Great quiet setting with Mature trees on 179 deep lot on Lake county side of Lake of the Four Seasons. This lot is just 300' away from Lake Holiday with lake easement access just around the corner. No adjoining neighbors behind. This lot has open easement area behind it to the outside of the community. Come and experience the vacation lifestyle every day with access to all the amenities that LOFS has to offer. **\$39,895**



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Thinking of buying or selling? You could be NEXT on our list of pending sales!


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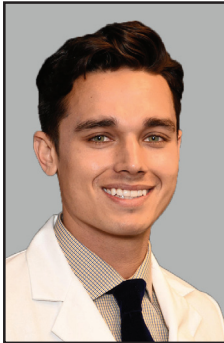
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Dempsey-Myers

Engagement ANNOUNCED


Alesha Dempsey, daughter of Trish Dempsey and the late William Dempsey, and Jay Myers, son of Katie and Ray Myers and the late Annette Myers, are engaged!


Jay proposed to Alesha in the Lakes of the Four Seasons at Sandy Beach along a lit path he created near the lake at sunset on September 27, 2020. Jay picked this sentimental location for the proposal as they have enjoyed walking together from Jay's house to the beach to watch the sunset many evenings.

Jay and Alesha met at Porter Lakes Elementary School in first grade. They attended school together from first to twelfth grade, both graduating from Boone Grove High School.

They lost touch for nearly a decade after graduating and re-kindled a friendship that progressed to more after reconnecting via mutual friends. They are grateful that life has brought them back together again all these years later for what was meant to be.

Alesha graduated with her doctorate from Valparaiso University and is a nurse practitioner and professor. Jay is a graduate of Ivy Tech and a millwright for a local steel mill. They are looking forward to getting married at the Seasons Lakehouse in 2022.





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