

Home decorating winners announced; LOFS was aglow with holiday lights and decorations

By LOFS Fundraising Committee

With the Holidays now behind us and a New Year upon us, we hope you had a chance to drive through the community and enjoy all the beautiful light displays. Our community, with Mother Nature on our side, sure made for some awesome light displays!

Greeting everyone coming home as well as visitors, our front gate display did not disappoint. If driving the roads of the community, one could experience all the beautiful houses adorned with lights and decorations, our Seasons Lakehouse decorated, both inside and out, and end your

evening with the display of lights set to music at the Seasons Lakehouse. We send out a big "thank you" to the Nix Family & our Operations Department for this annual outdoor beauty; and to the House & Garden Club for adorning the inside with its holiday splendor.

The Fundraising Committee had an enjoyable week taking in the beauty of our community's hard work. Thank you to all who participated this holiday season; we only wish we could have given a prize to all.

We wish each of you a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!



1st Place: 4128 Augusta, home of Andrew and Kathryn Vlachos



2nd Place: 3290 Windy Hill Road, home of David Leluga and Family



3rd Place: 2331 Drop Anchor Drive, home of William and Julia Bock



4th Place: 1444 Brandywine Road, home of Glenn and Stacy Evans

House & Garden

Crooner George Carl encouraged his audience to sing loud enough to be heard at the 19th Hole, and sing loud they did! Rounding out a fun-filled afternoon, Garden Club member Gloria Carl's husband of 54 years entertained with music everyone loved including the song he and Gloria danced to for the very first time when they were in 10th grade.

The Seasons Lakehouse ballroom, decorated each year by Club members, looked beautiful and sparkled a little bit more than usual thanks to table decorations created by Jo Ellen Simoni as well as the members holiday garb. Compliments to the Lakehouse chef and wait

staff for an absolutely delicious lunch.

The 2018-19 officers were installed: Nancy Beck, president; Mary Grveles, vice president; Roxanne Myers, secretary; and Beverly Bashia, treasurer.

Thanks to outgoing officers Patricia German, Carol Jeslis, Sandy Hostetter, and Mary Cavallini.

We're looking forward to the New Year and new members! Please consider joining. Meetings are at noon on the last Tuesday of each month in the Seasons Lakehouse ballroom. For information call Nancy Beck at 219-789-5974 or Bev Bashia at 219- 988-2773.



JoEllen Simoni, Rita Flynn, and Roxanne Myers



George and Gloria Carl



Officers Roxanne Myers, Nancy Beck, Beverly Bashia, and Mary Grveles

SPECIAL MEETING OF LOFS POA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Presentation of 2018-19 Proposed Budget
Monday, January 8
at 7:30 PM
LOFS Seasons Lakehouse Ballroom

LOFS 2018-19 Preliminary Budget Summary; presentation scheduled for Monday, January 8

This Preliminary Budget was developed by the Board of Directors with input from the community and the POA Management Team. This budget was developed by considering past experience, expected increases or decreases in cost or consumption, and a long-term vision for the community.

The Preliminary budget has forecast revenues of \$4,746,061.89.

The largest portion of the revenue, \$3,568,770.00 or approximately 75.19% of the total revenue comes from the annual assessment. The assessment level falls within the Internal Revenue

Service guidelines for an income tax exempt private community. Revenue from all other sources amounts to \$1,177,291.89. Operating expenses, equipment purchases, capital improvements, and debt service equates to a budget of \$4,746,061.89 for the preliminary 2018-19 budget.

POA dues are proposed to be increased by \$15.

The following is a summary of the Preliminary 2018-19 POA Budget. Major increases and decreases in certain line items that are proposed to take place are explained.

Total cost of labor including taxes, insurance and benefits makes up approximately

45% of the total budget. Out of that, salaries and wages make up 36% of the total budget. Salaried wages have been increased by \$17,000. Total hourly wages have been increased by \$105,460.50 for added employees in the Operations, Lakes, Building Maintenance, and Public Safety Departments. This also covers an increase in added duties and an increase in hours worked in the Golf Services Department and an increase in pay for Officers and Dispatchers in the Public Safety Department with more competitive wages. Total wages for overtime hours were decreased by \$9,000.

Although health insurance costs were decreased by \$28,000 for this current year, it was increased by \$22,000 for next year due to an increase in rates and full-time employees taking insurance.

Total fuel, oil & grease costs will decrease by \$11,300.

The telephone line item which includes voice, video and data will be decreased by \$12,450 due to an agreement we will have with NITCO beginning towards the middle of next year. All POA buildings will be on a common network.

General & Administration
This department processes

2018/19 Preliminary Budget	
Capital Expenditures	
Playground Equipment	\$65,000.00
Drainage	\$131,000.00
Paving	\$300,000.00
Website & Accounting System	\$30,515.00
Pool Filter Sand Change	\$10,000.00
Big Bass Lake Boat Launch	\$40,000.00
Concrete Ditches behind Dam C	\$22,000.00
Sonar Treatment	\$23,000.00
Seasons Lakehouse Kitchen HVAC	\$26,815.00
Cart Path Paving	\$15,000.00
Replace Timbers #1	\$2,500.00
Bunker Project	\$2,500.00
Restrooms at Cleveland Park	\$20,000.00
Restroom on Golf Course	\$20,000.00
Bridge Repairs	\$1,500.00
Total Capital Expenditures	\$709,830
Equipment Purchases	
Aerator Compressors	\$20,000
Total Equipment Purchases	\$20,000
Total Capital & Equipment	\$729,830

all transactions for the community including the preparation of paperwork for the sale of properties and the sale

of all amenity purchases. The office staff details, computes and files every purchase that (See Budget on Pg. 10)

POA Community Manager

Goodbye 2017! I hope all of you had a great time over the holidays and I hope all of us have an incredible 2018.

A special thanks to all of the residents in LOFS who decorated throughout the community and making the holiday season more enjoyable for everyone.

Once again the House and Garden Club did a great job with their annual decorating of the Lakehouse for the holiday season. Thanks to our Operations Department for installing the decorations and lights at the entrances of the community and for installing the light show at the Lakehouse area along with Bruce and Jill Nix.

Wintertime Reminders

Winter is here and I would like to remind residents of a few things that would help

the maintenance staff. 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.

Please do not park vehicles along the roadways and don't drive around the community during snowstorms unless it's absolutely necessary.

Snowmobiles are not allowed to be operated on LOFS streets, parks, lakes, or on the golf course. See Motorized Vehicle Resolution under POA Policies, "Roads, Vehicles, Decals and Signs on the LOFS website at www.lofs.org

2018 - 2019 Budget

As we exit 2017 and enter 2018, the Board of Directors and the Department



Rick Cleveland

Managers have been working on the 2018-19 budget. The Preliminary Budget was presented on December 11. We will present the proposed budget on January 8 at 7:30 p.m. at in the Ballroom of the Seasons Lakehouse. The Board will approve the 2018-19 budget at the regularly scheduled board meeting on Monday, January 22, 2018. This issue of the Seasonal has an outline of the Preliminary Budget.

LOFS Fire Auxiliary

"Stop, Drop, & Donate" thanks community for generosity

On Saturday, December 9, the Lake of Four Seasons Fire Department & Auxiliary rode through our Lake and Porter County complexes making enough noise to rouse people to the needs of those less fortunate this holi-

day season. Your response was totally amazing. Not only did we fill two trucks with food donations, but we also collected about \$2,400.

These monies will be shared with the Porter County Trustee's office, which works with the official food bank at Salem Methodist and the Winfield

County Trustee's office and Holy Spirit Church. It will help provide the special holiday baskets that are annually distributed and help restock these pantries.

If by chance, you missed us, then please feel free to drop your donations at any of these locations. It warms our hearts to know that we live with such wonderful people who are willing to share their good fortunes with others at what could be a difficult time of year for some.

Next Keenagers meeting February 15

The Keen-Agers will return on February 15, 2018, to The Seasons Lakehouse. Please contact President, Renate Sahulcik at 219-689-

3408 or willrenate@yahoo.com for Club information.

Thanks to all the Members and the Lakehouse staff for a fabulous 2017. Hoping all

had a Merry Christmas and wishing everyone a Happy New Year!

LAKES OF THE FOUR SEASONS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

1048 North Lake Shore Drive - Crown Point, IN 46307

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Operations Department

By Roy Green,
Director of Operations

The Operations Department has been very busy this fall collecting leaves and the branches that have fallen during the heavy winds. We have collected several tons of leaves again this fall and we want to thank all of the residents for doing such a good job placing the leaves next to the road.

We will begin our spring collection in April. Our vacs have been cleaned and put away for the winter and the dump trucks have been fitted with the plows and salters.

Please be aware of the plows this winter. Also, if it happens to snow on the night before your garbage is to be picked up, please put your cans at the end of your driveway and not in the street. Even though the plows have already made a pass by your house, we may make more passes removing the snow to get the roads widened.

Check your mailboxes and make sure they are not rusting out on the bottom. The Operations Department will not be held responsible for any damage to deteriorated mailboxes. If we do happen to hit your mailbox, please call the Operations Department at 219-988-4461 and report it.

We will come out to inspect it to determine if it was our fault or someone else that damaged it. Our drivers are instructed to report any damage to mailboxes at the end of their shift.

There are several people who walk at night; if you do please wear some type of reflective clothing or carry a flash light so that the plow drivers can spot you on the road. If walking your dog, make sure it is on a close leash; dogs have a tendency to want to attack the plow trucks.

You may continue to bring electronics or white goods that you want to dispose of to the Operations facility throughout the winter months. The containers for these items are clearly marked and easy to access so you can pull right up and drop them off. Our hours of operation are Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We will not be open on Saturdays or Sundays during the winter months unless we happen to be here plowing snow or salting the roadways.

The Operations Department hopes everyone had a happy holiday season and wishes all a great New Year. We are looking forward to serving the community again next year with the many projects that we have planned for 2018.

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Public Safety Department

By Craig Philp,
Public Safety Director

It is hard to believe that we have already come to the end of year 2017. We all know that "New Year's Eve is one of the most celebrated nights of the year and the Public Safety Department wants to remind everyone to be safe and to not drink and drive.

Remember during this New Year's to have a designated sober driver if you plan on drinking. No one wants to

start 2018 off by accidentally hurting themselves or worse yet someone else over a few drinks.

We all know that officers are out that day in greater numbers to help prevent accidents and intoxicated people from driving; so why take the chance on being that person, and going to jail or to a hospital?

There are more options open to those celebrating when you find yourself with-

out a ride or sober enough to drive. For example, the companies Uber or Lyft could be used to help get you home safely. If you plan to be in the Chicago area this year, checkout the site www.by-myDD.com for information on sober drivers that can help you and your vehicle make it home safely.

Of course, there is always a price for your actions whether it's paying someone to get you home safely or the ultimate price when you decide to drive yourself after a night of drinking. The question is: which can you really afford?

For the kids in the area I have one simple thing to say to you this New Year's

"DON'T DRINK, it's against the law!"

We hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and wish everyone Happy Holiday's!

Yard Stakes

I have noticed while driving around the community that there is someone removing or breaking the wooden stakes put in by the Operations Department. These stakes are there for a reason, which is to help the Operations crew know where the edge of the road is when clearing off the snow.

We as residents should also remember they are a helpful tool for us when out driving in heavy snowfall. The reflec-

tive tape placed on the tops of these can help you to know where the edge of the road is so you too don't drive off an unplowed street.

Please, if you see someone strike or purposely remove and damage these stakes, notify this department so we can try to make contact with the person involved to correct the issue.

School Bus "Stop Arm"

It is hard to believe that I have to remind people that when a school bus stop arm is extended it means "STOP". We are still getting complaints on adults and juvenile drivers seen disregarding these stop arms. Those who are caught seem to have the

same excuse "I was in a hurry" or "I didn't see it", neither of which is good.

Bus companies have been informed to contact local police departments and provide them with the video and vehicle information on those found to be violating this law. Please understand if you are the one doing this, you are placing the children getting on and off the busses in danger. You being in a hurry or just simply choosing to disregard that stop sign could be during the same time a child is blindly walking across the street to his or her home or running to the bus so they don't miss it.

Lakes Department

By Mike Talley, MS4
Department

More Than Just a Yard, Ecological Landscaping

Each yard occupies only a small piece of the entire community, but collectively they add up to a sizeable component of the landscape. How homeowners choose to maintain their yards can have a huge effect on the quality of the larger environment. It is important to think about and consider adopting ecologically-sustainable yard designs

and maintenance practices. Remember, every little bit counts.

Every year we anxiously await the spring and summer months, looking forward to spending more time outdoors. Our yards become an extension of our home, where we cook, play, and relax. During these cold winter months, consider that taking only one or two ecologically-sound steps in the design and maintenance of your yard can help the surrounding environ-

ment.

Key Principles of Ecological Landscaping

There are several principles that provide the general guidance for ecological landscaping. These principles can be applied in any number of ways, from taking a few easy steps to a complete redesign of a yard or landscape. These principles can be used alone or in combination to create the ideal yard a homeowner be looking for.

While the use of all the principles would create the most productive ecological landscape, following any of these principles will help build an ecological landscape that integrates itself with the surrounding environment.

A. Maintain as much as possible the pre-existing landscape, including soil, rocks, native vegetation, and contours during new construction.

B. Integrate landscape components with surrounding natural vegetation to rejoin the native habitat.

C. Retain buffers of natural vegetation to any surface bordering a water body.

D. Identify and remove non-native invasive plants, where possible.

E. Choose native plants for landscaping.

F. Use plants that are appropriate for the soil type, moisture content, and climate conditions of the area.

G. Use water-efficient/

drought-tolerant plantings.

H. Ensure proper soil characteristics so that soils hold water and contribute appropriate nutrients.

I. Provide a variety of plant species of different height levels – grasses, flowers, shrubs, and trees – to provide food, hiding places, and nesting sites for different wildlife species.

J. Use integrated pest management approaches that minimize the use of pesticides to control weeds and pests.

K. Use compost and other natural products for fertilizer and mulching needs, which will feed the plants and the soil.

Protecting the environment

has never been more important, and it can start right in your own eco-friendly backyard. Incorporating eco-friendly design and maintenance into your landscaping will not only help to save the environment, but will also provide a beautiful, inviting yard that is simple to maintain. Incorporate these tips into your landscape design and soon you will be enjoying a low-maintenance yard that also just happens to make the world a little bit greener.

For other eco-friendly ideas and a list of plant life native to Indiana check out The Indiana Wildlife Federation's website at www.indianawildlife.org/wildlife/native-plants.

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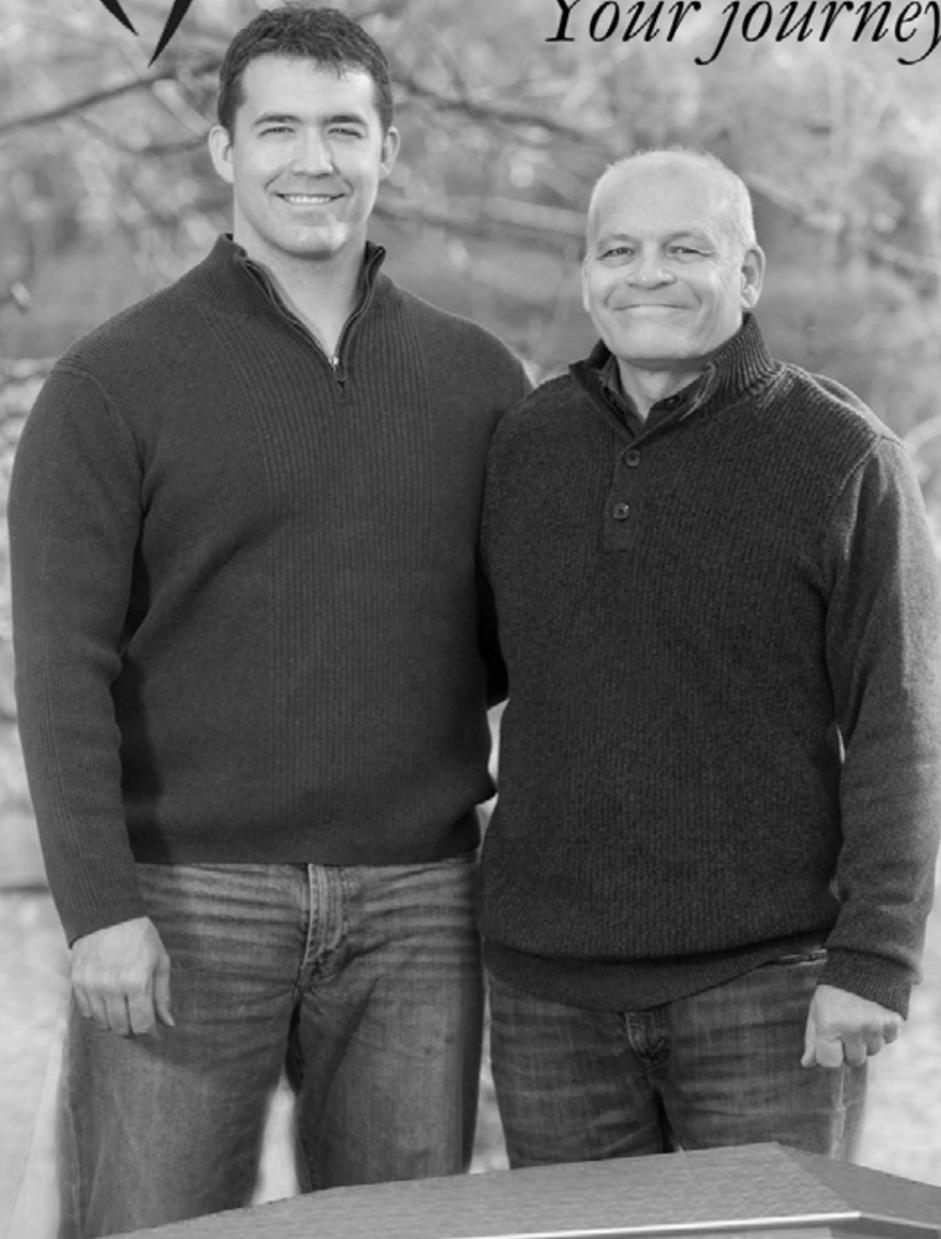
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Across the street from Lakes of the Four Seasons

Kick off your 2018 with a night of laughs on January 12

The LOFS Fundraising Committee will be hosting their first Comedy Night of the new year on Friday, January 12, at the Seasons Lakehouse. Reserve your seats now by calling or texting Wendy at 219-309-9530. Seating is limited and tickets are already selling, so prepayment is being requested to guarantee your place.

Tickets are \$15 per person with the show starting at 9 p.m. If you plan on dining at

the LOFS Lakehouse before the show, reservations are recommended and can be made by calling 219-988-2582.

Kicking off the evening will be our featured performer, Midwest-based comedian Jamie Fritz. Jamie has sharpened her comedic craft in St. Louis area clubs and local independent shows. Her honesty allows Jamie to relate to audiences of all genders and ages. Let her make you laugh while she takes you on a jour-

ney through her dating and family life. Jamie is a must see who won't disappoint.

Steve Iott will take to the stage as our headliner, a Midwestern funny man from Michigan. No stranger to either television or the concert stage, Steve has appeared on A & E, Comedy Central, and has opened shows for Steven Wright, Chicago, and Bill Maher. Steve does comedy without the aid of props, mirrors, or camera tricks. A

unique stand-up comedian, Steve blends the bizarre with his personal foibles to form an original style of one-liners. This combination of odd thoughts and observations proves "Steve is looking at life through the reflection of a big metal spoon."

This evening will surely bring a night of fun and laughs for everyone to enjoy. Come join us for some laughs and kick off 2018 with these two Midwestern favorites.



Jamie Fritz



Steve Iott

Happy New Year from all of us at the



Hole Grille

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JANUARY 20TH - ACOUSTICALLY SPEAKING

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WEDNESDAY: Chicken & Waffles \$8, Domestic Bottles \$2.25, Tall Calls \$6

THURSDAY: Chef's Choice Chicken, Beef or Turkey Pot Pie \$8, Large Thin Crust Cheese Pizza \$10, Tall Drafts \$2, Tall Wells \$5

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The New Year, as celebrated around the world

By Emma Vandenburg, Junior Reporter



Civilizations around the world have been celebrating the start of each New Year for at least four thousand years. Today, most New Year's festivities begin on December 31, New Year's Eve, the last day of the Gregorian calendar, and continue into the early hours of January 1, New Year's Day. Common traditions include attending parties, eating special New Year's foods, making resolutions for the New Year, and watching fireworks displays.

If you do a little research you will come to know that whether it's the western or the eastern part of the world, New Year is celebrated with equal enthusiasm everywhere.

However, as the year in the calendar marks a transition, the various New Year traditions and customs followed during the period remain as it is. Here's a list of some of the interesting ways to celebrate the New Year across the globe:

England: The English custom for welcoming New Year is full of hospitality and warmth. They believe that the first guest for the year would bring fortune for them.

He should be a male, should

enter through the front door and bear some traditional gifts like loaf for the kitchen, drink for the head of the family and coal to light the fire, otherwise he is not allowed. They believe that these bring good luck throughout the year.

Denmark: In Denmark, residents keep a pile of dishes, all broken, in front of the door. For this they save old dishes and people usually throw these on the friends' doors during New Year. This symbolizes friendship and brotherhood and they believe the one with maximum dishes outside, has the most friends. Some Danish are found to leap some chairs during midnight.

China: The Chinese have a unique way of celebrating New Year, where every front door of a house is painted in red which symbolizes happiness and good fortune. They hide all the knives for the day so that no one cuts oneself, because that may actually cut the entire family good luck for the coming year. However, that doesn't make any difference to the feast they have during that time.

Brazilians believe that lentils signify wealth and prosperity. So they serve food items made up of the legume like soup or rice on the New Year. On New Year's Eve, the priestesses dress up in blue and white for an auspicious ceremony celebrated for the water goddess. Also, a sacrificial boat filled with jewelry, candles and flowers from the beach of Rio de Janeiro is pushed to the ocean that brings health, wealth and happiness for them.

Austria: Austrians find good

luck charm in Suckling pigs. They serve it on the dinner table with edible pigs and the peppermint ice creams are served as desserts for fortune.

Germany: They pour molten lead into cold water and the shape that is taken after, predicts the future. Heart shapes

symbolize marriage whereas round shapes denote good luck; anchor shapes tell that you need help however a cross signifies someone's sad demise.

Belgium: They call the New Year eve as Saint Sylvester Eve. They believe in throwing family parties, where everyone kisses, exchanges fortune greetings, and raises

toasts to welcome the New Year in their own manner. Children usually save money to buy decorations so they can write and gift New Year greetings to elders.

However you celebrate the New Year, may it include kindness, happiness, and good fortune.

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Sunday, March 11, 2018 11:30 to 2pm at the LOFS Lakehouse

Featuring from Beauty and the Beast: **Belle!**
Special Guests: **Snow White and Jasmine**

And...for the first time, the Princesses will be joined by their Princes:
Prince Charming, Prince Adam (the Beast) and Aladdin!

Lunch and Desserts fit for Royalty will be served.

Be our Guest!

To get tickets:

Tickets are on sale at Lions meetings Jan 3rd, 10th and 24th from 6pm to 8pm at the Lake House

For mail or other pickup times, guests may also call 219 776-3541 (Jackie, Chairperson) or

Guests can speak with any Lions Member

Tickets \$25.00 per attendee

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IDHS encourages residents to be aware of ice safety this winter

With the arrival of winter, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is reminding Hoosiers to be cautious when spending time near bodies of water and ice.

It is impossible to judge the strength of ice over a body of water by its appearance, thickness, daily temperature or snow cover alone. Ice strength is dependent on a number of factors, including water depth under the ice, water area size, water chemistry, currents and load distribution on the ice.

Below are important reminders for ice covered bodies of water:

Are ice conditions safe? Walking on an ice-covered body of water is not safe unless there are more than four inches of solid, clear ice. Cars and trucks should never be driven on an ice-covered body of water. Snowmobiles and ATVs require at least five inches of solid, clear ice for travel. Some bodies of water include aerations systems, which create areas of water with no ice and weakened ice

beyond the opening of the body of water. Check water access for indications of an operating aeration system.

If going on an ice-covered body of water is necessary, here's what to do: there is no ice that is safe ice. Always prepare as if the ice is unsafe. Be with an experienced professional who is trained in ice rescue. Never go near ice alone. When entering the ice, have one person stay on shore while the other enters.

If more than one person must walk on the ice, travel

a fair distance apart on the ice to create a lesser chance of the ice breaking due to weight. This will also prevent both people from falling in the same break on the ice.

What to wear on the ice: Carry a pair of ice picks tied together with a few yards of strong cord that can be used for self-rescue. Be sure they have wooden handles so if they are dropped they will float rather than sink. Always wear life jackets when near any bodies of water, even when they are covered in ice.

Wear layers of non-cotton clothing, gloves and a hat. If someone falls in, layers may provide some additional buoyancy with trapped air. Non-cotton material will not

absorb as much water and will dry out more quickly.

For more cold weather safety information, visit www.getprepared.in.gov.

Lion's Club

The Lions had a busy 2017 and served at a number of events in December. The Lions will be holding new community events in the spring.

The annual Children's Christmas party on December 10 was a big success featuring entertainment, crafts, snacks and of course, Santa and his elves. This is a free event that the Lions sponsor for the LOFS and surrounding community and is always a big hit with the children in the community.

The Lions also stepped up and delivered Christmas gifts to children in needy families the weekend of December 15. Our club motto: "We serve" was evident in the generosity provided by the Lions to these families.

The Princess Brunch returns on March 11 and this year, expect to see not only Belle and her prince, but Jasmine and the rascal Aladdin, and Snow White and Prince Charming. A brunch fit for a queen will be served and there will be plenty of opportunities to get that perfect royal portrait.

The Princess Brunch is a fundraiser that supports sight and hearing projects including Leader Dog training. So, ready your tiara, stick out that pinky when you sip your drink, and join us for the brunch from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 11. Be our guest!

Tickets can be purchased in a number of ways: During Lions meetings on January 3, 10 and 24 from 6 p.m.

to 8 p.m. at the Seasons Lakehouse. For tickets by mail, contact Chairperson Jackie at 219-776-3541 or via e-mail at lofslions@aol.com.

You can also select other pick up dates and times by contacting Jackie at the above phone or email. Tickets are \$25 per attendee and include a gift bag, lunch, desserts and fun with our characters.

The Easter Egg hunt is a free event on Saturday, March 31 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Meet the Easter Bunny and join in the egg hunt in this annual fun (and very fast!) event on the Seasons Lakehouse lawn.

The annual Pork Chop dinner is Sunday, April 15 at the Seasons Lakehouse from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Enjoy a home cooked meal and a nice social outing. Tickets will go on sale in March of 2018.

The Lions appreciate the support shown by the LOFS

Community. Your support enables our group to support sight and hearing projects in the local community and in the state of Indiana. Our group also provides hats and gloves for local schools, collects for cancer research, helps fund local food banks and provides glasses to those in need within the community. The group also runs the annual Fourth of July Parade.

Interested in volunteering? Join the Lions, a group with a 100-year history of public service. Contact our membership chair, Linda Kroner at lkroner1159@comcast.net for more information.

You can also contact the Lions about any of our events at lofslions@aol.com or Jackie at 219 776-3541.

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Obituary ~

Donald C. "Don" Samburg

Donald C. "Don" Samburg, age 61 of Winfield, passed away November 27, 2017. Don was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. He was a dedicated philanthropist, who was passionate in giving his time, talents, and treasures to the Winfield community. Don was an avid golfer, sportsman, and a talented athlete. Don was a leader within the energy industry, and he received a degree in mechanical

engineering from Bradley University. He will be missed beyond measure. He was preceded in death by his parents- Paul and Joan. Don is survived by his loving wife- Leslie; daughter- Donna (Phillip) Prentice; step-children- T.J. (Shannon) Korzeniewski, Ben Korzeniewski, Katie (Brad) Moorehead, and Joey Korzeniewski; grand-children- Oliver and Alessandra Prentice, Blaire and Rori Moorehead; future

granddaughter- Jayden Korzeniewski; brothers- Paul (Vikki) and David (Renee) Samburg; nephew- Jeff (Kelly) Samburg; niece- Quinn Samburg; faithful companion- Samson; and countless friends, too numerous to mention. A memorial visitation took place on Friday, December 1, 2017, from 3 p.m. until time of memorial service at 7 p.m. at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, IN. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to



St. Jude House, St. Joseph's Carmelite Home, or The Center for Possibilities. www.burnsfuneral.com



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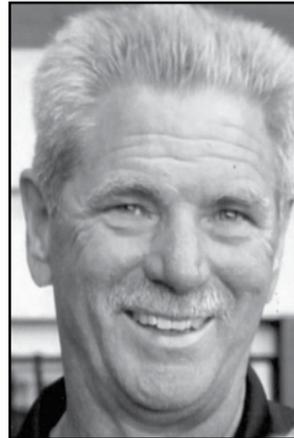
Obituary ~

Roger Dean Rister

Roger Dean Rister, age 57 of Crown Point, (LOFS) formerly of Gary passed away suddenly at home on November 27, 2017. He was a graduate of Merrillville High School, Class of 1978. Roger received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Safety and Safety Management from Indiana State University. He was presently employed as a Safety Manager for Parson's Corporation in Chicago. Roger was an OSHA 30 instructor and had numerous other safety certifications. Roger was an usher at Holy

Spirit Church in Winfield. He was a member of the LOFS Golf Club, was a Chicago sports fan, and coached many youth sports leagues for his children. Roger was a loving husband, father, grandfather, son, and brother. He was preceded in death by his father- Jack Rister in 2003; in-laws- John and Harriet Zygmunt. Roger is survived by his wife of 31 years- MaryAnn "Ziggy" (nee Zygmunt); daughter- Stephanie (Evan) Burns of Westfield, IN; son- Matthew "The Boy" Rister (fiancé Emily LaMere) of

Indianapolis; grandson- Charlie Burns; mother- Wilma Rister of LOFS; sister- Patti (Larry) Ahrendt of FL; brother- Greg (Annie) Rister of Linden IN; brother-in-law- Tom Zygmunt of Merrillville. Friends visited with Roger's family at Burns Funeral Home 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, IN on Friday, December 1, 2017 from 2-8 p.m. Funeral service began with prayers at 9:15 a.m. from Burns on Saturday, December 2, 2017, proceeded to Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 7667 E. 109th Ave,



Crown Point for a 10 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial. Rev.Thomas Mischler officiated. Interment Chapel Lawn Cemetery. www.burnsfuneral.com

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History of the Porter Township schools

By Walt Pluchinsky,
LOFS Historical Society

Last month's article described the history of the schools of Winfield Township, and we now turn our attention to the development of the Porter Township school system.

In 1837-38, the first school in the township is believed to be the one taught by a Mrs. Humphrey in her home. One by one, school houses were built as the population increased. An 1876 plat-map of Porter Township, Porter County, clearly shows 11 school houses, identified as SD No.'s 1 to 11 (presumably the "SD" means "school district"), all rather spread out over the area. Districts merged, and in the school year 1911-12, there were eight district schools and a three-year high school at Boone Grove.

Projecting a few of the

1876 plat-map locations to the present road numbering system, several schools were at familiar current landmarks. SD No. 2 was located on the SW corner of CR100S and State Route 2, on the J. Smith farm, now occupied by a house. SD No. 3 was located at the SW corner of CR500W and CR100S, on the R. Quinn property, now an open grain field. SD No. 11 was located on the SW corner of CR550S and CR350W, on the Adolphus House property, now in the town of Boone Grove.

All of the other school buildings were on farm properties. The school nearest to the present day Lakes Of the Four Seasons most likely was SD No. 8, located on the L. Cass property, at what is now the south side of CR250S where CR675W ends.

A detailed record of the schools in the township was

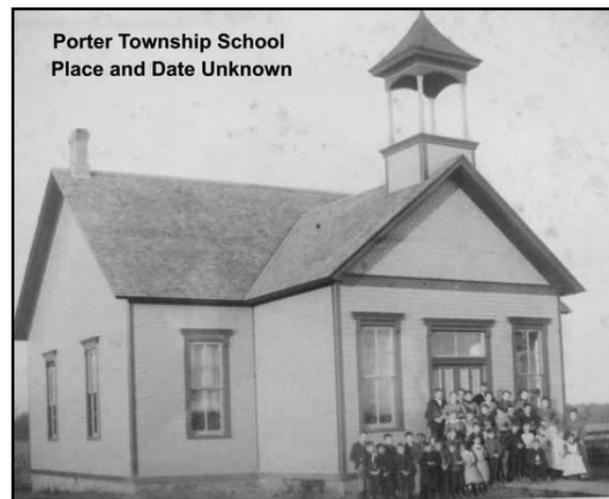
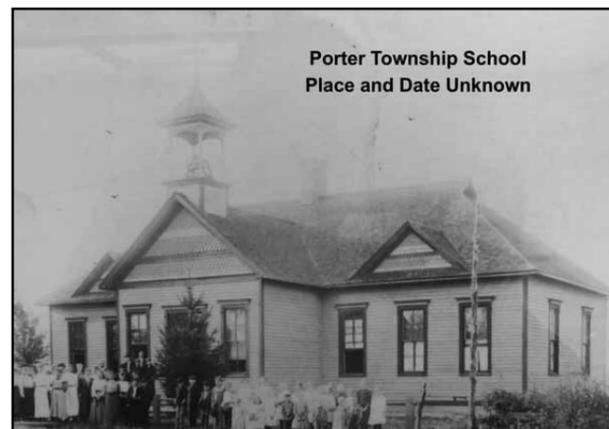
written by an Annabelle Wacholz in 1933, which describes 16 school houses, including the ones described above. No doubt, new schools replaced some old ones. She reported the school terms as two months in the fall, three months in the winter, and two months in the spring. School began at 9 a.m. with recess at 10:10 a.m. Lunch hour was from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., and a second recess started at 2:30 p.m. Dismissal was at 4 p.m.

Subjects included history, grammar, writing, spelling, reading, and arithmetic. Classes took place mostly in one-room schoolhouses, with benches and desks around the outer edge of the room, with a stove in the middle. Of interest is the fact that the transition from horse-drawn buses to motorized busses was made in October, 1924, but there were times when horses were reactivated due

to bad roads, poor weather, and other emergencies.

Old records reveal a high school in Boone Grove in 1899, where the three graduates were Thomas Mason, Amy Dye, and Charles Quinn. The Class of 1900 had two graduates, and the Class of 1901 had five. Although the site of the early high school is unknown, a newer Porter Township High School, currently the elementary and middle school, was constructed in 1931.

Four schools now serve the district. Boone Grove High School, built in 1995, has 504 students; and the Middle School, grades 6 to 8, has 334 students. The Boone Grove Elementary School serves 183 students in grades 4 and 5; while the Porter Lakes Elementary School, built in 1977, has 369 students in grades K to 3.



(Budget from Pg. 1)

is made by each department and handles the collection of POA dues.

- This department funds the Property and Liability insurance expense line item. This amount has increased by just under \$5,000. Accounting Services has been decreased by \$1,700; those dollars have been transferred to the Payroll line item. Bad Debt Expense was decreased \$20,000 due to fewer write-offs forecasted for next year. The Summer Concert line item has been increased by \$2,000 for increased cost of bands and to add two more concerts.

- License & Fees will be increased by \$16,000 for the new accounting and website licensing. Payroll services will be increased by \$5,000 for the added documentation requirements and the transfer from the accounting services line item.

- We are proposing a new Website, Point of Sales & Accounting System; the initial cost for the software and setup will be \$30,515. The designated amounts for the annual licensing costs have been applied to each of the departments. This system will improve efficiency and marketing and we will have the possibility of lowering certain wages in the near future.

Operations Department

This department is responsible for maintaining the parks including all ball fields, green spaces and roads. They also provide leaf and branch collections.

- Fertilizer, Seed & Chemicals were increased by \$3,000 for the mosquito fogging chemical. We received

positive feedback because of this past summer's fogging.

- Repairs & Maintenance has been decreased by \$6,000 because we have new equipment with fewer break downs.

- We have increased the drainage budget from \$100,000 to \$125,000. We will continue working on drainage issues throughout the community and replacing the deteriorating culverts under the roadways. We will also begin addressing the areas of concern that were surveyed & engineered this year.

- The budget for Road Paving will remain at \$300,000.

- We have budgeted \$65,000 for the replacement of the Playground at Sandy Beach.

- We are proposing a five-year loan with an annual payment of \$10,500 for the purchase of a Mini Excavator that will be used by all of the maintenance departments.

Building Maintenance Department

This department is responsible for maintaining all of the POA owned buildings.

- The Maintenance Contracts line item was increased by \$4,000 for the increase in the cleaning costs of the 19th Hole & the Seasons Lakehouse buildings throughout the year.

- Capital Improvements for the Building Maintenance Department includes \$26,815 to replace the HVAC units in the Seasons Lakehouse kitchen including ductwork, \$20,000 to turn the old concession stand at Cleveland Park into restrooms, and \$20,000 to construct another restroom on the golf course.

Lakes

This department is responsible for monitoring the lakes and their watersheds. It is also responsible for patrolling the lakes during the boating season to make sure boaters are operating in a safe manner.

- Engineering will be decreased by \$10,000. This amount will still allow for the monitoring of the work that was completed last season and will also cover the cost of the engineering firm to manage the construction of the new boat launch for Big Bass Lake.

- Lake Chemicals will be increased by \$10,000. The Lakes Director is fully-licensed to treat the lakes.

- \$45,000 has been removed from the Maintenance Contracts line item since the Lakes Director will be applying chemicals.

- Equipment Purchases for this department includes \$20,000 for aerator compressors.

- Capital Improvements include \$22,000 for replacing the concrete ditches behind Dam C, \$40,000 for a new boat launch for Big Bass Lake & \$23,000 for a Sonar treatment on Lake Holiday and Lake on the Green for evasive nuisance weeds.

Public Safety

This department is responsible for twenty-four hour, seven days per week radio dispatch, gate control, cc video monitoring, security patrol and emergency response.

- Insurance for this department has increased by \$12,200 because of issues going on around the nation.

Golf Maintenance

This department is responsible for maintaining an 18 hole golf course and several landscapes throughout the course and around the Pro Shop.

- Capital Improvements include \$6,000 for drainage, \$2,500 to replace the timbers on number one, \$1,500 for bridge repairs, \$2,500 for bunker projects and \$15,000 for cart path paving.

- We are proposing a five-year loan with an annual payment of \$7,300 for the purchase of a Tee Mower.

Golf Services

- Dues & Subscriptions increased \$1,000 to take into account new secondary members and the anticipation that the annual USGA dues will go up this season per person.

- Rentals increased just over \$1,800 for the annual tax on the rental carts.

- We are projecting a net revenue of \$16,250 in Golf Merchandise, which is an increase of \$750.

Pool

- Pool chemicals have been increased by \$3,000 due to past experience. This is all dependent on weather and the amount of swimmers we have.

- The sand is due to be changed in the large filter at a cost of \$10,000.

Food & Beverage

- The combined projected net income proposed for the 2018-19 Food & Beverage department is \$19,484.05.

Since we will have a surplus of cash at the end of this fiscal year due to the collection of past dues and the breaking of contiguous lots, we will be purchasing several pieces of Equipment and paying for some Capital Improvements with cash at a cost of approximately \$181,024.

Those items include computer equipment for the General Administration department; a 4x4 Gator; a heavy equipment trailer and a small trailer to haul and store the tents for the Operations Department; parking blocks at Sandy Beach; new pool heater, pipe replacement and a new water heater for the showers for the Pool; an application boat, float bags, hydraulic lift pontoon trailer and a computer for the Lakes Department; replacement of the stairs at the 19th Hole; replacement of the stairs and a section of sidewalk at the Seasons Lakehouse; and a rubber

LOFS POA 2018/19 Debt Service	Yearly Payment	Maturity
4x4 Truck	\$5,795	10/1/2019
Construction & Equipment loan	\$56,323	4/1/2020
Construction & Equipment loan	\$78,500	3/1/2020
Construction & Equipment loan	\$45,293.88	3/1/2020
Dumptruck	\$12,216	4/1/2022
Mini Excavator (New)	\$10,500	3/1/2024
Tee Mower (New)	\$7,300	3/1/2024
Total payments	\$215,927.88	

LOFS POA 2018/19 Leases	Yearly Payment
Copiers (4)	\$8,300.00
Mowers (4)- Golf Course Dept.	\$32,800.00
Total payments	\$41,100.00

LOFS POA Revenue & Expense

Revenue	2018/19
Assesments	\$3,568,770.00
Boats & Docks	\$205,050.00
Pool	\$47,125.00
Golf	\$414,057.84
Golf Merchandise	\$16,250.00
All other	\$494,809.05
Total revenue	\$4,746,061.89

Expense	2018/19
Wages	\$1,691,396.00
Employee taxes and benefits	\$489,789.39
Repairs and maintenance	\$512,325.00
Insurance	\$201,300.00
Engineering	\$60,000.00
Fert.,Seed& Chemicals	\$98,000.00
Rentals	\$45,943.00
Utilities & Fuel	218,006.62
Taxes,legal,accounting & fees	\$214,194.00
Other	\$163,250.00
Reserve	\$65,000.00
Capital & Equipment	\$729,830.00
Debt service	\$215,927.88
Lease purchase	\$41,100.00
Total expense	\$4,746,061.89

membrane over the portico at the Seasons Lakehouse; a reel & bed knife grinder, automatic irrigation equipment; and a zero-turn mower for the Golf Maintenance department; fixtures for the slatwall display units for the Pro Shop; and a golf simulator will be installed downstairs at the 19th Hole to help increase revenue.

Remember this is a

Preliminary Budget and is subject to change as updated proposals become available. *The proposed budget will be presented on January 8, 2018, at 7:30 p.m. The 2018-19 final budget is set for approval at the regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting on January 22, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.*

Porter County Gardening Show photography contest has a January 19 deadline

It is time to get photographs ready for the 2018 PCMGGA Gardening Show Photography Contest. Entries will be displayed at the 15th Annual Gardening Show from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday January 27, at the Porter County Expo Center located at 215 East Division Road in Valparaiso.

Photographs may be mailed to Purdue University Cooperative Extension, Suite 301, 155 Indiana Avenue, Valparaiso, Indiana, 46383 or delivered on weekdays between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. All entries must be received on or before January 19, 2018.

Limit of three (3) photographs per person. Categories are gardens in all seasons; flowers alone; plants in black and white; foliage; field of flowers; bugs and insects in the garden; butterflies in the garden; birds in the garden; wildlife in the garden; fungus in the garden; fruits and vegetables in the garden; and repurposed garden art.

Photographs will be judged on composition, use of color and aesthetic value. First place in each category receives a \$100 prize. Best of Show receives a \$100 gift card donated by Gary Camera of Merrillville and custom framing of their winning photo by The Great

Frame Up of Valparaiso.

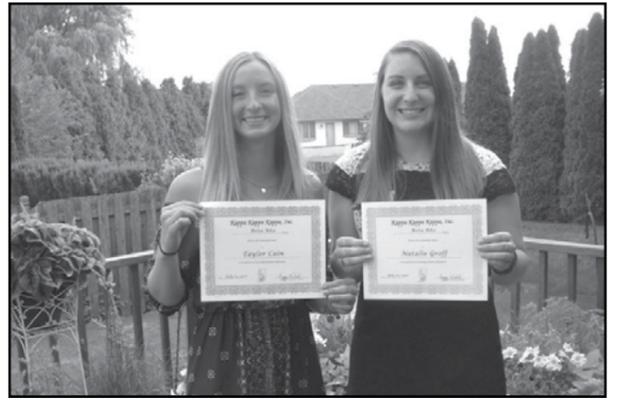
All first place and best of show photos will be displayed during the month of February at the Great Frame Up in Valparaiso. Decisions of the judges are final. All photographs are to be 8" x 10" and mounted on a 8" x 10" mounting board. No framed or matted photographs will be accepted, nor photographs with people in them. Name, address, telephone number, and entry category must be printed legibly on the back of each photograph submitted. For more details visit www.pcgarden.info/gardening-show/photo-contest

CP, Boone Grove students receive \$5,000 scholarships; Beta Rho chapter seeks new candidates

The Beta Rho chapter of Tri Kappa is seeking candidates for their local scholarship awards. To be eligible, an applicant must have graduated from Crown Point, Andean, Boone Grove, Merrillville or one of the Gary High Schools and be a sophomore or higher level student enrolled full-time in an accredited college.

Interested candidates must have a 3.7 minimum GPA and demonstrate potential within their chosen career fields. Additional state scholarships are available in the areas of academics, fine arts and music.

The deadline for submit-



Two local residents. Taylor Cain (left), a graduate of Boone Grove High School, and Natalie Groff, of Crown Point High School, both received \$5,000 scholarships from the Beta Rho chapter of Tri Kappa. Taylor completed application at waluk@netnitco.net or 219-888-3639 for further information. Contact Peggy Waluk at waluk@netnitco.net.

Lake County Master Gardeners offers scholarship program for 2017-18 academic year

The Lake County Master Gardeners have announced that they are continuing their scholarship program for the 2017-18 academic year. Scholarships will be awarded to undergraduate college and university students who are residents of Lake County, IN. In addition to the majors of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, majors of Forestry, Botany (Horticulture Equivalent), Plant Pathology, Agricultural Education, and Entomology are eligible as well. Other majors that benefit consumer gardening may be considered if the applicant provides a

one paragraph description of how they will use their major to promote the objectives of the Master Gardeners.

The application deadline is April 2, 2018. Application forms are available by calling the Purdue Extension-Lake County Office at 219-755-3240.

The scholarships are funded by donations made to the Lake County Master Gardener Association in support of the annual Plant Sale, Garden Walk, Symposium, and from donations from generous donors such as the NW Indiana Beekeepers Association.

Listen and learn at on Wednesdays at Gibson Woods County Park

Gibson Woods is hosting weekly gatherings to help birders of all skill levels hone their auditory skills. 'Name that Tune' takes place weekly on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Learn what distinguishes a sparrow's song from a finch's, and get familiar with the peck-pecking of the woodpecker. No previ-

ous skills are required, just an enthusiasm to learn more about birds and birding.

These events are free, but register at www.lake-countyparks.com so that we know how many future birdcall experts to expect. Gibson Woods Nature Preserve is located at 6201 Parrish Avenue in Hammond.

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POA Office Hours Monday thru Friday 9 am - 4 pm	1 Happy New Year !! 19th Hole Open 2- 9pm	2	3 Lions Meeting 6 pm @ Seasons Lakehouse	4	5	6
7	8 POA Public Budget Presentation 7:30 pm @ Seasons Lakehouse	9	10 Lions Meeting 6 pm @ Seasons Lakehouse	11	12 Comedy Night Hosted by The Fundraising Committee 9 pm @ Seasons Lakehouse	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 POA Public Meeting 7:30 pm @ Seasons Lakehouse	23	24 Lions Meeting 6 pm @ Seasons Lakehouse	25	26	27
28	29	30 House & Garden Club Luncheon 11:30 am @ Seasons Lakehouse	31			

LOFS' Tree of Lights: The History behind LOFS 'Flag Pole Christmas Tree'

By Sally Lugo

In January 1995, former Seasonal staffer Ann Marie Campbell told the story behind LOFS' 'Flag Pole Christmas Tree' and a very special LOFS volunteer, Milt Bonich.

Although Milt is no longer with us, having passed away in 2009, Milt's tradition continues. Today it is our LOFS Maintenance crew who inherited the tradition of lighting up our "tree of lights" as they have numerous other traditions originally performed by LOFS volunteers. Therefore, this January 2018 "A Look Back on LOFS History," is dedicated to our LOFS Maintenance Crew for all the work they do and the traditions they carry on.

Below is Ann's original article appearing in the January 1995 Seasonal. Enjoy!

Volunteer Milt Bonich – 1995 – Tree of Lights, a Labor of Love – By Ann Marie Campbell

The 30-foot high, 1,200 bulb "tree" of lights that greets residents and visitors at the gate of LOFS is the gift of one community minded individual.

Milt Bonich has been contributing this labor of love to the community since 1986. And if you've ever seen him atop his ladder on a cold and blustery December day stringing those luminaries, you can better appreciate the generosity of that contribution.

The job, on a good weather day, takes Milt in excess of five



hours. And with the exception of once or twice it's been a one-man project.

The 62-year-old retiree is an electrician and has been a "flagpole man" since 1974. A neighbor who admired the flagpole tree that Milt had erected on his own property on Shoreline Road, asked him to create another "tree of lights" for the entire community.

The House and Garden Club paid the freight for the materials that year; since, donations of the strings of large lamps have come from neighbors and friends. Milt cuts and splices to make the strings fit properly.

One year, as Milt recalls, "I'd been working seven days a week, twelve hours a day and hadn't had time to put up the tree. Security Chief George Thomason paid me a

visit because he thought I was sick. It seems he had been getting a lot of calls from people wanting to know why the tree wasn't up yet."

This year, Milt received a call from a resident the week after Thanksgiving. Milt was asked if he could possibly erect the holiday symbol in time for a big Christmas party at the clubhouse that a lot of out-of-towners should be attending. Milt, who admits he can't say no to anyone, had the tree completed by December 1st.

So, when you enter the community during the holiday season and are treated to the colorful glow that helps keep The Grinch away from LOFS, you can thank Milt. He is a living embodiment of the spirit of the season.




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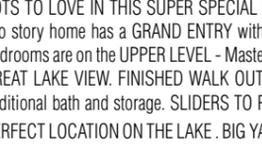


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