



Seasonal

Publication of the Lakes of the Four Seasons Property Owners Association November 2018

Wally Baran announces the Baran Family Prairie Park is now officially open at park dedication



Photo by Katherine Brei

Pictured left to right are Jeremiah Davis, Caleigh Davis, Walter Baran, Dawn Baran holding Eliza Davis, Melody Baran, Lance Baran, Angie Baran, Taylor Baran, and Chelsea Viers.

On Saturday, October 20, the Baran Family Prairie Park dedication took place on Country Club Drive. Sponsored by the Historical Society of LOFS, there were

four generations of Barans in attendance: Walter Baran, daughter Dawn Baran, son and daughter-in-law Lance and Angie Baran, daughter Melody Baran, grandson

Taylor Baran along with his girlfriend, Chelsea Viers, granddaughter Caleigh Davis along with her husband, Jeremiah and great granddaughter Eliza Davis.

Lot P-78, donated by the Baran Family, is nearly one quarter acre and can be used as a walk-in park by kids and families in the community to enjoy. A huge thank you to

Walter Baran and family for their generosity and community spirit!

Photos Courtesy of Volunteer Seasonal Photographer, Katherine Brei



Photo by Katherine Brei

Historical Society members with Baran Family at park dedication



Photo by Katherine Brei

Rick Cleveland and Rich Sullivan installing the Baran Family Park sign donated by the Historical Society of LOFS.

Comedy Night on November 16 as LOFS Fundraisers join hands with the G.A.P food pantry

The LOFS Fundraising Committee will be hosting a fun evening of laughs and of giving back. Mark your calendars, Friday, November 16. Reserve your seats now by calling or texting: Wendy at 219-309-9530.

Seating is limited and tickets will go fast! Reminder--Prepayment is required to guarantee your seat. Tickets are \$15 per person with the show starting at 9 p.m.

If you plan on dining at the Seasons Lakehouse before the show, reservations are recommended and can be made by calling 219-988-2582.

The Fundraising Committee is joining hands with

the G.A.P Food Pantry. Please help those less fortunate by bringing a donation (canned or boxed food) to the November Comedy Night. A list of suggestions will be found on our LOFS Fundraisers FB page. Contributing to this great cause will enter you into a drawing for a chance of three sets of FREE Comedy Night tickets. Thanking you in advance for your support; it is because of people like you that the G.A.P. Food Pantry is able to serve others in their time of need.

Kicking off the evening will be our Feature Performer, Jamie Campbell. You may recognize Jamie from numer-

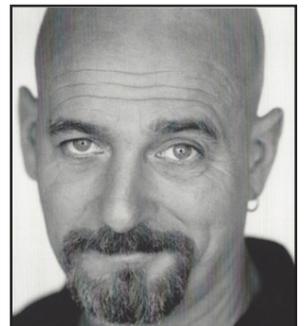
ous television commercials or his appearance on NBC's Chicago Fire and Pop TV's Hollywood Darlings. His debut comedy album, Tell Me You're Proud of Me, debuted as number 1 on Amazon's comedy charts. In Chicago, where he began his career, he was named the city's "Best Stand-Up Comedian" by the Chicago Reader. During his career, he has shared the stage or worked on projects with countless legendary names in comedy and entertainment, including Hannibal Buress, Cameron Esposito, Alicia Keys, and Dana Carvey to name a few. Dubbed "Quick wit and inventive riffing...uplifting humor and big laughs"

by the ChicagoNow, Jamie is sure to bring a great kick off to the evening.

Headlining the evening, Bryan Cork, is one of the hottest comics touring the country today. He tours from Vegas to Buffalo, from Portland to Miami, and every godforsaken spot in-between. Catch a glimpse of Bryan on his CD, The Godforsaken Tour, on his website, www.bryancork.com! Before entering the comedy scene, Bryan spent 15yrs as an actor. The bizarre path his life has taken left him well suited to comedy. He was married and divorced from a demon. He still wakes up at night in a cold sweat. Stranger yet,



Jamie Campbell



Bryan Cork

in his life as an actor, he did appearances as the Amazing Spider-Man. Bryan has been bitten, kicked, and vomited on by children across three different continents. This all adds a unique perspective to his show. Some see his comedy as dark and twisted, Bryan

prefers to think of himself as misunderstood. So, buckle up, it could get a little weird!

Don't miss out on the fun. Join us for some laughs and a night that won't disappoint. Don't forget your food donation!

LOFS Fire Department begins 50th anniversary celebration with calendar, t-shirt

The Lake of the Four Seasons Fire Department will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary next year. In honor of the 50 years of service and dedication that this department has shown our community, we have issued a 2019 calendar.

It traces its history and membership since November 17, 1969, when a group of eighteen concerned LOFS residents met at the 19th Hole and began the Volunteer Fire Force.

Jack Gendelman lent the department \$500 to purchase the first fire truck: a 1942 Ford Pumper from the Dolton Fire Department in Illinois. The men joined the Indiana Volunteer Firemen's Association and began to

operate under their first set of by-laws. We've come a long way and would like to share our progress with you. Calendars will be available for a minimum donation of \$10 and you can contact Cathy at 219-746-6827 or cwaitk@aol.com to reserve your copy.

We will also make available our 50th Anniversary T-shirts that will range in

price from \$15-\$20 and cover children sizes from S-XL and adult sizes from S-XXL. For shirts, please contact Christine at 219-789-6015. They will make excellent gifts for the holidays. Just a reminder that 'Stop, Drop, and Donate' will be held on Saturday, December 1, to collect food and monetary donations for our local food pantries.



POA Community Manager Annual Report

I believe this has been one of the busiest and most demanding years for each and every department. I knew it would be an overwhelming year with the budgeting of the new accounting and reporting system. There were many details that had to be

in place before the initial install of the system. We had several webex trainings with the company and a couple of days of live training when the system went on line in the POA office during the height of the dues season. It was a monumental task and we are still learning new things about the system every day. Now that we have had a season to work with the new system I'm very happy we made the decision to get into the 21st century.

Not only did the General Administration Department have to install and learn a whole new system but they continued to serve the residents through the POA Office. The office staff prepared paperwork for the sale of properties which we had a record number of residents moving from one property to another inside LOFS.

We also had a record season of contiguous lots breaking. The staff computed the sale of all amenity purchases such as stickers for vehicles, boats, golf carts and dog park tags. The office staff also detailed, computed and filed every purchase that was made by each department. They answered countless numbers of incoming phone calls; sometimes for



Rick Cleveland

the County and State and the occasional non-resident as well. They are always willing to answer questions or to do their best to find an answer for you.

We continue to work with the POA attorneys on the collection of delinquent dues and other important POA matters. At this time there are only 11 vacant properties that we are having maintained; that's 5 less than last year and 10 less than the prior year. That's great news.

This year we had to treat the nuisance weeds with a whole lake treatment just as we have done in the past; every few years. Nuisance weed growth was noticed last year and the decision was made then to budget for it. This is the only way we can manage the nuisance weeds to allow the native plants to grow. Due to this treatment the golf course was unable to be watered from the beginning of May until the first week of

June. Doing so would have killed the turf. If we don't do these treatments every few years, the lake would be choked up with an abundance of nuisance weeds and algae that we would have to apply chemicals to all season long. Not only would we be unable to enjoy the lake for fishing and water sports but we wouldn't be able to water the golf course.

The golf course did have some issues with dead spots around the greens and hopefully we won't have the same issue next year. The earlier we can get water on the course the better it is for root growth; especially during hot humid days or drought conditions. There were several courses in the region that didn't fare as well as ours; we should count ourselves very lucky.

Again this year we fogged the community for mosquitoes and we received numerous compliments for doing so. We also worked with the health department and allowed them to do a survey of the mosquito population within the community and I am happy to report that they did not find any mosquitoes that carried any infectious diseases.

The Operations and Building Maintenance departments, our largest and

most active departments continue with their daily maintenance of the common areas and POA buildings and structures as well as many new projects. Both departments had a very active season. As usual, the crew did a great job setting up and cleaning up after the concerts and the 4th of July event and the mowing and trimming of the parks and common areas.

The Food and Beverage department did not hit the budget when the fiscal year ended on February 28, 2018. I am hopeful that with new management and new ideas we will see an increase in service, quality, and in turn revenues moving forward. We must continue making changes when necessary to keep the quality of food and service at a high standard. It is important that we think about future improvements to the buildings inside and out to improve service and keep patrons coming back for more.

The Public Safety department continues with their day to day activities of checking in guests, patrolling the community, answering calls 24/7 and responding to emergencies. This year our covenant inspector performed a weekly inspection of all properties within the community. In that time the following cita-

tions were mailed to property owners in the form of a warning letter: Total issued 441; 201 for trash cans that were visible from a street, lake, or the golf course. 58 for yards being in disrepair; which included high grass, weeds and trash. 131 for the house being in disrepair; which included mold stains, siding and roof issues.

Most citations were corrected after receiving the first warning letter. 35 required an additional warning letter, and of those; 12 required an additional written citation with a fine. 3 were given a time line to contact a contractor, start work and have the work completed. 1 of those has not met the given timeframe and is still continuing to receive fines.

During the next couple of months, the Department Managers, Board of Directors, and I will be working on the 2019-20 budget. The department directors and I will be getting estimates for the various projects and equipment purchases so we can put budget numbers together and, as always, we will do our best to get reasonable prices.

I would like to thank all of the employees of Lakes of the Four Seasons and the POA Board of Directors for their hard work and dedication over the past year.

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1048 North Lake Shore Drive - Crown Point, IN 46307

219-988-2581 - Telephone • 219-988-3840 Fax

Visit LOFS Web Site at www.lofs.org

LOFS Facebook Page - Lakes of the Four Seasons Information

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tim Swallers PRESIDENT • bdlight@yahoo.com

Brad Zupan VICE PRESIDENT • extremekartsbybrad@gmail.com

Lori DuPratt SECRETARY • lduprattpoa@yahoo.com

Jay Robison TREASURER • jrobison14@comcast.net

Herb Rogers ASSISTANT SEC./TREAS. • herbertrogers@comcast.net

COMMUNITY MANAGER Rick Cleveland • cmgr@lofs.org

POA OFFICE STAFF

Cheryl Parker ACCOUNTANT/ BILLING • cparker@lofs.org

Caryn Whitehead ASSISTANT to the COMMUNITY MANAGER • cwhitehead@lofs.org

Ashley Korzeniewski front desk at POA Office • akorzeniewski@lofs.org

DEPARTMENT STAFF

Roy Green OPERATIONS DIRECTOR • lofsoperation@gmail.com • 988-4461

Ryan Grady LAKES DIRECTOR/LAKES PATROL • 988-4722 • lofslakes1@gmail.com

Mike Talley MS4 COORDINATOR/ COVENANT INSPECTOR • lofslakes2@gmail.com • 988-3654

Kurt Whitehead BUILDING INSPECTOR • 988-2581

Doug Weiss GOLF MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT • 988-3104 • dougw@netnitco.net

Paul Boris DIRECTOR OF GOLF • 988-2201 • golfpro@lofsc.org

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT • 988-2111

Craig Philp PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR • 988-2111 • psd@lofs.org

Brad Nieman POOL MANAGER • 988-4185 • lofspool@gmail.com

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Ramiro Jimenez SEASONS LAKEHOUSE MANAGER • 988-2582 • Lakehouse@lofs.org

Wanda McAlvey 19th HOLE GRILLE MANAGER • 988-2282 • restmgr@lofs.org

POA ATTORNEYS

Ted Fitzgerald • ted_0919@yahoo.com

Brian Less • 8339 Wicker Ave. St. John, IN 46373 • 219-627-9000 • brian@brianelesslaw.com

SEASONAL EDITOR

Mike Kucic, Region Communications, Inc.

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Lions Club Annual Report

By Jackie Katz

The Lions had a productive and fulfilling year as we move into our second century of service as an organization. We continue to follow our organization's motto: We Serve.

The Lions performed a number of community projects, including donating over \$6,000 to local food banks, holding an annual Christmas Party and Easter Egg Hunt for the children in our community, donating Christmas gifts to needy families and running the annual Fourth of July Parade.

Supporting our community and the state of Indiana, the Lions also donate to sight and hearing projects, cancer research and provide glasses or hearing aids to those who request them. The Lions donate dictionaries, ear buds and other items that our local grade schools need or request every fall.

The Princess Brunch returned to the Lakehouse this year, featuring Disney princesses and princes entertaining our guests. The event had great food from our Lakehouse, a candy buffet

and was capped off by crowning a new "Queen by the Lake" in LOFS.

To do all of these events and projects requires fund raising, and our steak fundraiser this year was a big hit in the community. The Lions sell cases and half cases of steaks twice a year, which are also the main dish in our annual steak fry.

We held a polar plunge late this winter featuring a large number of brave souls who ran into icy water outside of the pool house. This year we added a mascot, the Polar Penguin, who posed with our guests and plungers for a "cool" picture. The polar plunge was supported by the board and a number of other local groups and businesses,

making it the most successful plunge to date.

The Lions held their annual pork chop dinner, golf outing, White Cane Day, and candy day. The Lions also worked jointly with a number of community groups and businesses at the annual Health Fair at Jerry Ross school, which was held this

year on October 20.

The House and Garden Club and the Lions had a joint event, holding the Cocktails and Canvas painting event in September. Cocktails and Canvas had a featured artist teaching our guests the joys of painting landscapes. Our two groups hope to repeat this event again in the spring.

Whew! The Lions had a busy year. We are always looking for new members to join our group; we work hard but have fun as well.

Thank you to all of the community who generously support our events and donate to Lions causes. See you at our next outing!

2019-20 LOFS directories in process

The LOFS Fundraising Committee is joining forces with the LOFS Fire Auxiliary to produce the new LOFS Directory for 2019-20.

This will result in all residents, current on their dues, to receive a free copy. We will publish landline numbers, cell phone numbers, and email addresses. If you have previously been listed or are listed in area phone books, we will carry over your numbers. If you have given up your landline or would like to replace

it with your cell number(s) or email address(es), you will need to contact Cathy Waitkus at 219-746-6827 or cwaitk@aol.com.

Also, if you are new to our community, call and add your current information. Please notify us though if you prefer no listing or just your address listed. The directory has pertinent info with numbers on schools, hospitals, churches, newspapers, utilities, local government contacts, LOFS clubs, and

of course, many merchants who will be providing these directories for you with their ads. Merchants who have previously advertised will be contacted during November to review their ads.

If you have a business, and would like to appear in the LOFS directory, please contact us for details. It's a great way to get your business in front of over 2,600 homes! The new edition will be available March 1, 2019, and will provide two full years of service.

Boat Storage in LOFS

The LOFS POA has an outdoor storage area capable of storing 50 boats and/ or boat trailers for LOFS property owners only. Please contact the POA office at 219-988-2581 for more information.

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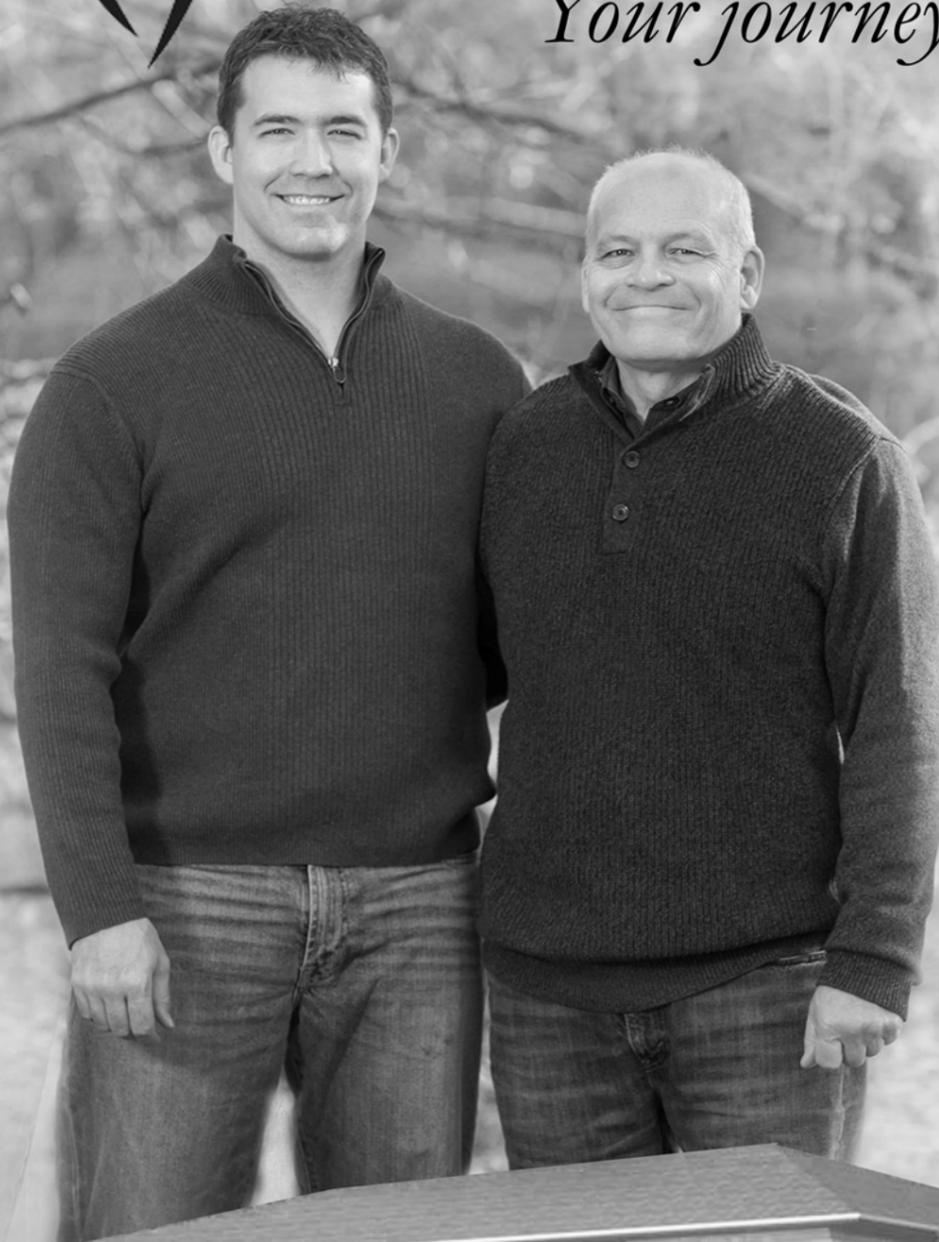
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Lakes Department Annual Report

By Ryan Grady,
Lakes Director

The Lakes Department had another good year, setting and reaching many of our goals. Lake Patrol did a great job assisting boaters and helping with all of our Lake projects.

We started off the year like we always do, fixing public access fishing docks and rental docks around the community. We upgraded the public fishing docks and now all of them have benches. This upcoming year, I will be requesting that some of our rental docks (that are not in

the best shape) get replaced. This will cut down on the constant maintenance we do and be safer for the renters.

We purchased and installed four (4) new aerator compressor boxes for Big Bass Lake and one (1) for Lake on the Green as the other compressors were over 15 years old.

We purchased some new boats this year.

- An Application boat for doing the Lake treatments and we installed the pump, tank, and hoses.

- Lake Patrol Pontoon for Lake Holiday

- Pontoon trailer with a hydraulic lift

With help from the Fishing Club and the LEA, we installed a fish food dispenser at Walt's Pond, which is a big hit with the kids. Next year we will be stocking some tagged fish in Walt's Pond. Anyone 17 and under that catches a tagged fish can win a prize. We also installed a new volleyball net with permanent posts at the Lakehouse beach and received a lot of good feedback on that.

In June we did our annual goose trap and relocate. We rounded up 63 geese from Big Bass Lake and relocated them to Willow Sough Fish and Wildlife Area where they were released safely.

Next year our main focus will be on surveying lake

sediment and taking the necessary steps to clean the lakes up from years of runoff and the accumulation of leaves.

I would like to end by

thanking Rick Cleveland for all of his help throughout the year and the POA Board of directors for giving us the funds to go in the right di-

rection with these projects. I look forward to next year being as successful as this past year.

Girl Scouts Annual Report

LOFS Girl Scout Troop 35135 is proud to support and to be supported by our community. We are a multi-level troop ranging from Daisies to Cadets (age 5 to 12). The Girl Scouts this year held many community service events; thanks to the POA Board and maintenance crew.

Those events included a food drive for our local food pantries, and serving hot chocolate from the trailer

during the dancing lights at the Seasons Lakehouse. We held two blood drives with the help of the LOFS life-guarders. We collected 52 units of blood, which is enough blood to save 145 lives. There was such a great response we unfortunately had to turn people away. The American Red Cross was amazed at the turn out; a normal drive brings in about 30 to 40 units.

Our Cadet is working to-

ward her Silver Award and our Brownies are working toward their Bronze Award. The Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards are the highest awards a Girl Scout can earn. What does 2019 hold in store for us? The troop is beginning to plan their community service projects and we know that our POA Board and community will support us.

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This Month in LOFS History

THE LIONS CLUB & LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND

(Leader Dog Do's, Don'ts and Don Tul)

By Sally Lugo

One of LOFS oldest service organizations is LOFS Lions Club having organized in 1976 and receiving their Charter November 20, 1977.

LOFS Lions support a variety of service projects, including **Leader Dog for the Blind**. One of LOFS Lions newest members is former Board of Director, Don Tul who recently received his own Leader Dog, Kody.

"The experience of bonding with a Leader Dog absolutely blew my mind," Don shared when talking about his newfound independence and experiences while at **Leader Dogs for the Blind** training school located in Rochester Hills, Michigan. Leader Dog was founded in 1939 by Lions Club members, Charles Nutting, Don Schuur and S.A. Dodge.

"**Becoming one as a team with your dog,**" as Don stated has it challenges. And just one of those challenges can be those of us who are sighted. "There were a lot of rules to follow once we got home," shared Don. Don is the only one who can feed, water and pick up after his Leader Dog. They work daily in Lions Park walking around the trail twice. "I'll tell Kody to find the back gate or the stairs to my house. We do go outside the community to do sidewalk training and we go to Valpo square or Crown Point so he stays sharp on all his skills. I've had him in the mall, in restaurants, everywhere I pretty much go he goes." Don said continuing "But sometimes you wouldn't bring a guide dog where he had no purpose... like walking me into a restaurant a couple feet when I'm with friends and having to lay under a table for an hour and a half. There's nothing really for him to do and most importantly I don't have to worry about him. *Some people know how to react around a guide dog when they're in harness which means they are working.* But when people make eye contact with him and smile that distracts him a little bit. So I might be trying to walk one way or stepping off a curb but if you're distracting him that can become a dangerous situation. Or if he's expected to lie by my feet and you start hugging on him potentially the next time he sees you he'll get excited while he's suppose to be working." Leader Dog will tell you it's really best to ignore a working dog. If the dog becomes easily distracted by others while working providing independence to his owner... that can be a detriment for the dog to finalize his training!

Eighteen-month old Kody is still basically in training with Don for the next year. The first year is critical to becoming a "Perfect Unit" as Don phrased for Leader Dog to release ownership of Kody to Don. The cost of raising and training a Leader Dog is around \$42,000! There have been a myriad of volunteers and donated monies just to get Kody to where he is now. **So what can we do to help! A LOT! This leads us to the Do's and Don'ts on Don's list.**

DO...

- ✓ Identify yourself before approaching a guide dog and his handler.
- ✓ Ask if you can pet a guide dog, especially while in "harness" working.
- ✓ Ignore the dog especially if you don't know what to do.
- ✓ Be respectful of the handlers request not to pet or approach their dog.
- ✓ Teach your children how to be respectful and act around guide dogs and their handlers.

DO NOT ... All of the below could potentially lead to distractions that would cause harm to both the dog and his handler.

- X Engage the dog visually or distract the guide dog by smiling, etc.
- X Feed or Pet a guide dog, especially when the dog is in harness working.
- X Introduce your pet or bring them near a guide dog. The handler while training his guide dog (especially the first year) does not want his guide dog to learn other dogs can mean "playtime." Also service dogs attacked or injured by another animal can later become too scared to work and they would then be retired out of service.
- X Ever argue or persist in asking to pet the dog. A guide dog at his owner's feet may look like they are not working, but they are always working in as much as their owner's safety is first and foremost.

If you would like to learn more about the Lions, Leader Dog, or consider donating and volunteering; visit: <https://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/lakesfourseasonsin/> or <https://www.leaderdog.org/>



Former LOFS Lions Club President, John Keener Jr. (left) accepts the Charter from former District Governor, Harold Welkie (right). November 20 1977.



Don & Kody at Leader Dogs training school in Rochester Hills, Michigan



Walking at Lions Park

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FUN IN THE SUN COMING SPRING 2019!

The LOFS Fundraising Committee is proud to announce the completion of our pool project! If you have not had a chance, take a sneak peek at some of the enhancements. We have added colorful murals, created by Cher Barber, owner of Wicked Twist of Fate in Merrillville, with one of the murals dedicated to one of our founders, Anita Melton. Also, adding to the enhancements are colorful painted doors; front, back and stairway landscaping; as well as water splash signage. In addition, industrial gutters, landscaping lighting, new shading flags, umbrellas, and a huge outdoor colorful clock to finish off the look. Look for our "Total Reveal" in the Spring 2019 when the community can see and appreciate the NEW LOOK. Have a great Fall/ Holiday Season!

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WHAT IS ELDER LAW?

(Read on, even if you do not consider yourself an "elder".)

Dear Lakes of the Four Seasons residents:

My name is Brian E. Less and for almost 20 years I have been an attorney working with your Property Owners Association. However, today I am sending an open letter to Four Seasons residents regarding Elder Law. I'm doing this because people just don't understand and, quite frankly, I am tired of watching good people fail to talk to anyone who knows what they are talking about... until it's too late.

SO WHAT IS ELDER LAW? First, get over the word "Elder" because everyone can and does use these services. If you are too "young", consider your parents or grandparents. *Elder Law* includes any type of planning which takes into account the financial impact of life's pivotal moments. Estate Planning, Guardianships, Nursing home Asset Protection Planning, Medicaid Crisis and Pre-need planning, can all help you preserve and protect assets for your heirs at pivotal and crisis times. The following are just a few examples of what Elder Law includes and what to look for:

ESTATE PLANNING...WILLS and TRUSTS: The plan is to live forever, right? However, assuming you are NOT immortal, you need a real plan. *Everyone* needs a plan, even if you are not an *elder*. This can be as simple as a Will which provides for your spouse and children (and grandchildren), and anyone else including charities or churches. If you have small children your Will can state who you want to be Guardian if the worst should happen. Trusts can be used to make certain that if your spouse, children or grandchildren require special needs, inheritances do not adversely effect any government benefits they are receiving. There are many types of trusts (so many it can be confusing) and they can be used very effectively for estate preservation and to protect assets, even from creditors in certain situations. Along with a Will or a Trust, most lawyers will (or should) offer a General Power of Attorney, Health Care Representative Appointment, and Living Will. Every person should have each of these documents to be prepared and the documents should last for many, many years without needing to be updated.

ASSET PROTECTION: Think of this as what you do in a crisis when a loved one requires long term care. There are several situations that everyone can recognize. These should be viewed as "red flag" moments requiring an Elder Law attorney:

FIRST: a Husband and Wife, and after many months of one spouse doing the caretaking at home, the other spouse needs to move into a long term care facility. Normally, after a hospital visit Medicare will pay for 100 days of rehabilitation. Use this time wisely. Using the right combination of asset protection planning can preserve assets and may avoid having to private pay when Medicare runs out. FYI...a local Crown Point hospital now charges an average of over \$8,400 per month for private pay nursing care. That is typical for Northwest Indiana. If you didn't have to pay it yourself, would you pay it anyway? Most people would say no. That's where an Elder Law attorney can help.

SECOND: I call this the "Aunt Janet" scenario. A single person needs to transition to a long term care facility. The facility may tell the family to "spend down" her assets by private paying and sell her house. Once the money is gone the facility will fill out the paperwork to obtain Medicaid benefits. STOP! There are several legal strategies which can work to help protect assets, even in these circumstances. The facility will most likely not tell you about them and in many cases their staff doesn't know about them. Even if you are in the middle of a spenddown an Elder Law attorney can help. The best advice I can give is don't work these issues yourself unless you have consulted an attorney.

ELDER LAW Attorneys help people in these pivotal and crisis moments, and can also use legal planning techniques to protect assets in advance of the need for care . If you know anyone in these circumstances, have them call any competent Elder Law attorney. Of course, anyone who needs additional information or services is welcome to contact my office at 219-627-9000 or visit my website at www.BrianELessLaw.com. My consultations for Wills, Trusts, and Asset Protection cases are always free.

Very truly yours,

Brian E. Less
Law Office of Brian E. Less, PC
8339 Wicker Ave.
St. John, IN 46373
219-627-9000
Main@BrianELessLaw.com





Meet your 2018-19 POA Board of Directors

The Lakes of the Four Seasons 2018-19 POA Board of Directors. Pictured from left to right are Tim Swallers, Herb Rogers, Lori DuPratt, Jay Robison, and Brad Zupan.



Thomason recognized for 40 years of service to community

George Thomason was recognized at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 13, 2018 for his 40 years of employment.



Joe Scalise honored as Volunteer of the Year

Joe Scalise was recognized as Volunteer of the Year at the POA Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 13, 2018 for volunteering his time helping out at the Summer Concert Series.

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November Specials...

- Wednesday**- Chicken Florentine \$16.00
Kids 12 Years and Under Eat for .99 Cents from Kids Menu with Purchase of Adult Meal. One Child Per Adult.
 - Thursday**- Homestyle Buffet \$16.00 • Half Price Glass of House Wine
 - Friday**- Lake Perch Dinner \$21.00 • Garlic Shrimp Appetizer \$10.00 for 6 Pieces
 - Saturday**- T-bone Steak Served with Twice Baked Potato \$32.00
 - Sunday**- Brunch Adults \$16.00, Kids 12 and Under \$8.00
Mimosa \$4.00 • Bloody Mary \$5.00 • Loaded Bloody Mary \$8.00
-
- Thursday, November 8th** - Dueling Pianos 7pm-10pm, \$15.00 Per Person.
Reservations Only. Limited seating
 - Friday, November 16th** - Comedy Night - Prime Rib Buffet \$35
 - Thursday, November 22nd** - Thanksgiving Brunch 12pm-2pm
Adults \$25, Kids 12 and Under \$13, Kids 5 and Under Free. Reservations only
 - Wednesday, November 28th** - Customer Appreciation Night
Well Drinks \$2.00
Chef's Choice Free Appetizers



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CALL 988-2582 HOURS: Wed-Thurs 4pm-9pm; Fri-Sat 4pm-10pm; Sun. 10am-2pm (Closed Mon. & Tues.)
Email Contact: Lakehouse@lofs.org Bar may remain open longer than posted.



Employees of the Year recognized by POA

John Yothment (pictured left, Building Maintenance Department) and Steve Shaefer (pictured right, Lakes Department) were recognized as Employees of the Year at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 13, 2018.

A fatal train wreck in Hebron defied the imagination

By Walt Pluchinsky,
LOFS
Historical Society



Some residents of The Four Seasons do not realize that at one time there were three railroads that once traversed our area, and remnants of the old roadbeds and bridges are visible to the astute observer today. Inevitably, with railroads, accidents do happen, and it may be hard to imagine that a significant train wreck occurred near Hebron, let alone realizing that a railroad went through the town at one time.

there was a head-on collision between two trains traveling on the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad (later The Pennsylvania Railroad) at 6:15 a.m., approximately one-half mile east of Hebron. A New York-to-Chicago passenger train was traveling in two sections, a common occurrence at the time, and an eastbound freight train had taken to a siding to wait for the passenger trains to pass. After the first section of the west bound passenger train passed, the engineer of the freight train pulled out of the siding and had apparently

On October 18, 1903, (See Train Pg. 13)



November Entertainment

- 11/3- Solo Acoustic: Terry Klema 8 -11pm
- 11/10- Live Band: Soul Shine 8 -11pm
- 11/17- Live Duo: John & Megan 8 -11pm
- 11/24- Live Band: Night Shift 8 -11pm

CHEF'S SPECIALS

- Monday**- 50 Cent Wings (dine-in only), \$6 Domestic Pitchers
- Tuesday**- \$8 Meatloaf Dinner, \$2 Select IPA bottles
- Wednesday**- \$10 Pasta Night, \$3 House Wines
- Thursday**- \$8 Chicken Pot Pie, \$2 Domestic Drafts
- Friday**- \$12 AYCE Shrimp or Cod (dine-in only), \$2 Domestic Bottles
- Saturday**- \$13 Half Slab of Ribs - \$20 Full Slab, \$3 Flavored Vodkas
- Sunday**- \$5 Appetizers-See Menu Selections, \$13 Domestic Buckets

HOURS: Mon 3pm-9pm, Tues-Thurs: 11am-9pm, Friday-Saturday: 11am-10pm, Sunday: 11am-9pm
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LISA BECK

For State Representative

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- Born and raised in Crown Point, Indiana
- Attended St. Mary's School in Crown Point
- Attended Andrean High School, and Boone Grove High School
- Married for 37 years to Vernon Beck
- Daughters, Natalie and Katie, son-in-law Zack Bryan



- Purdue University, Majored in Accounting
- Valparaiso University School of Law, Law Degree



- Nine years as a Lake County Deputy Prosecutor
- Six Years in Private Law Practice



- Junior Achievement, Volunteer
- NWI Volunteer Lawyers, Inc., Volunteer Attorney
- Northwest Indiana Supporting Women, Founder



- Tech Credit Union, Board Member
- Dunes Learning Center, Board Member
- Porter County Inns of Court, President



LISA BECK

For State Representative House District 19

219-741-8140 www.LisaBeckForStateRep.com

LOFS Fundraising Committee Annual Report

The LOFS Fundraising Committee, formed in 2001, just completed its 17th year fundraising for our community. Our committee this past year was composed of four hardworking individuals and a few helpers, on occasion, who volunteer their time to fundraise and put back into the community in the form of community enhancements.

We would like to thank the community for their continued support in all of our fundraising endeavors this past year. Funds were raised through our much-loved Comedy Nights; selling glow merchandise, candy and popcorn at the summer concerts, and

our popular Spring Fashion show-luncheon.

Through these events this past year we were able to add just over \$9,000 to our total with over \$184,000 raised year to date since inception in 2001!

We are very proud to announce the completion of our pool project. If you have not had a chance, take a look at the great enhancements. We have added colorful murals, one of which was dedicated to one of our founders, Anita Melton. Also adding to the enhancements are colorful painted doors, front and back, and stairway landscaping, as well as, splash water

signage. We are in the process of adding new lighting and gutters to the building as well. Look for an article in the November Seasonal for pics and more information. We plan to have a big opening highlighting the new pool look to include our new shading flags, umbrellas, and colorful outdoor clock. This project could not have been completed without the help of our Community Manager, Maintenance team, and the support of the community, so **THANK YOU TO ALL!**

We have also helped with the purchase of a new stage for our Lakehouse to use for their events as well as for our use for comedy events and style show.

We have come a long way from our first donation of emergency equipment for the security boat.

In order to showcase these projects and inform the community, we are developing a LOFS Fundraising plaque to highlight all of our projects completed since 2001 and will have it displayed and available to view on the LOFS website, our FB page and displayed near the POA Office.

We have great plans for our next year. A couple projects slotted for completion are enhancements for the entrance to the new maintenance area, assisting the Lakehouse with enhancements to their website, and developing a new community directory. More detail coming. In addition, we are working with our community manager to determine additional projects, so stay tuned.

Our new 2018-19 fundraising year kicked off with our

first of four Comedy Nights to be held on October 19. We will be back November 16 with our second show and finally ring in the New Year with shows in January and February. We are currently working and shopping for our Spring 2019 Style Show Luncheon that is planned for April 2019.

Lastly, as a committee, we are excited to be judging the Holiday Light displays again this year, throughout the community. We will have some great prizes in many categories, so watch your Seasonal for details. Remember, nominate your neighbors or...nominate yourself!

We are a great group of "fun" ladies...and are always looking for new members who would like to join us in our efforts. For additional information on committee

events, to join our committee or to give feedback, you can find us on Facebook @ Lofs fundrasiers or visit us on the community website @ lofs.org.

We would like to take this time to give a special thank you to our Community Manager, Rick Cleveland, and his staff as well as our POA Board Members for always supporting our fundraising efforts and events. A thank you to Ramiro Jimenez and his Lakehouse staff, Kim White for her landscaping expertise, and to Roy Green and his maintenance crew for always assisting us with whatever we need. We appreciate all of you! Last but not least a **BIG THANK YOU TO OUR** community for continuing to support our efforts!

Operations Department Annual Report

By Roy Green,

Director of Operations

2017-18 brought a lot of changes to the Maintenance Departments. We started last November with leaf collection and were able for the first time to use our new "Mini-Vac" that we purchased in the summer of 2017. It worked out great, being able to do cul-de-sacs easier and quicker than the large vacs; allowing them to stay on the main roads.

In November, we set up "The Christmas Light Show" on the Lakehouse lawn, which was a big hit again, thanks to Bruce and Jill Nix. This year we are re-lighting the shows "Globe Trees", thanks to Brad Zupan for making us the centers of the trees out of steel. It will be a fantastic show again this year, so come out and enjoy it. It will run from Thanksgiving until January 2.

Then the snow came in December. We used our three

new plow trucks and had our new salt barn filled. It made it easier than in the past year when we had the salt at the Golf Maintenance area. The trucks did a great job and were able to keep the LOFS roads clear and safe for travel, especially on Christmas Eve.

January we were busy with snow plowing and inside projects to get ready for spring and summer.

February was cold and nasty out again keeping the roads clear from snow and ice were our main concerns. My crew did a great job all winter long and even pulled some all-nighters, which two of them turned into 36 hours of snow plowing.

March brought in the LOFS "New Year". We were able to go out and purchase the items that were approved in the budget. We purchased a new trailer for our tents that you see at the 19th Hole and Lakehouse for many of

the golf outings and special events throughout the spring and summer.

We purchased a "mini-excavator" and a trailer for it. We also acquired a new 4x4 gator that helped us all spring and summer long. We did a lot of painting in March. We painted the Lakehouse Ballroom, the pool's "Teen Center" and the new "Golf Simulator" room at the 19th Hole. We removed all the drop ceiling, light fixtures and moved some heating ducts around. We hope the simulator room will get a lot of use this fall and winter this year, and years to come. We helped Paul with the construction of his "Pro Shop".

The weather finally broke and we were able to finish taking down the Christmas display. We had a few pavilions that sustained some damage during the winter storms needing repair. We pulled the snow stakes and we were ready for spring.

April turned nice so we were able to take the plows off the trucks and store them away for the summer. We installed electric at all the pavilions at Sandy Beach

and Lions Park, opened bathrooms on both the golf course and at the beaches. We installed the tennis court nets and wind screens, moved all the summer furniture to the restaurants and picnic tables to the parks, helped with installing the new heater at the pool and started leaf collection along with mowing and trimming over 250 acres of common areas and parks and prepared the Baseball and Soccer fields for play.

In May we cleaned and filled the pool, removed the old sand from the filter and installed new. We prepared for our new park on Country Club Drive, by removing stumps and grading the land. Then we seeded and straw matted the park, which has filled in very nicely. We would like to thank the Baran Family for the donation of the land to build the park, which will be named "The Baran Family Prairie Park". We also collected branches for the entire month.

June got us going with the Summer Concert season. On Thursdays we would set up for the concerts by bringing over 40 trash cans and plac-

ing them on the Lakehouse lawn and upper parking lot, bring in the fundraiser trailer and set that up with the electrical hook ups, we put up the tent for the Lakehouse Restaurant to serve food, put up the backdrop banner, put out the collection banners and brought the extra port-a-john, cleaned the pool bathrooms and put extra trash cans inside the Lakehouse.

On Friday mornings we would take it all down and police the whole area. Then store things away for next week! Also, in June we removed the old playground equipment from Sandy beach park. Unfortunately, there was a mix up with the manufacturer. They sent us the wrong play set and we had to wait for the right one to be shipped. So, in the meantime we painted the existing swing set and installed new swings, and also installed a new "Wheelchair Swing" at Sandy Beach and Lions park.

July started off with a bang. Fourth of July was on a Wednesday this year, which meant setting up for that on Tuesday, emptied trash cans all day long on Wednesday,

took it all down on Thursday morning and then set up for the concert Thursday afternoon, and took it down and cleaned up again on Friday. So, you can tell that was a busy week with just that let alone in-between we still had to mow, trim and maintain the parks. During that week the playground showed up. The following Monday we started installing the playground set. It was the first time any of us had installed anything like that, so it took some time getting used to, but we got it done and it looks great.

August gave us a little breather.... And we got caught up on a bunch of little odds and ends jobs. We cleaned up around the shop and got the chippers ready to go out in September.

September, we started chipping. Along with getting ready for winter, checking out the plows and salters. Getting the leaf vacs ready to roll.

I would like to thank the POA Board and Rick for all the help that they have given me in the past year and a huge Thank You to my crew!

WGA Annual Report

By Liz Sturgeon,
WGA President

The WGA was established in Lakes of the Four Seasons in 1969. The organization has continued to foster an interest in golf among the women in our community through fellowship and friendly competition, since its inception.

During the 2018 season we had fifty-two paid members that are able to participate in our weekend sponsored events. For an additional fee, there were 38 ladies who joined the Thursday morning league; 29 for 18-holes and 9 for 9-holes.

The WGA sponsored events were: The Get Acquainted Scramble, which

we haven't played in the last decade due to inclement weather, a 2 Best Ball of 3, The Memorial Cup, The Steeplechase, which is a spectator event where everyone is invited to come watch the ladies compete and battle their nerves in front of a large gallery, and the 100-Yard Scramble.

Our Lake vs. Porter Shootout was again replaced with another spectator event called The Clash of the Titans which partnered ten WGA members with their Men's Golf Association (MGA) counterparts in a match play format. It is the only event on the calendar in which the two associations play together.

We had an exceptional Guest Day Invitational in June, with 103 ladies participating in the day's activities. Our Field Day ended the calendar year with many of our former members in attendance. Participants dressed their best for dinner at our Season's Lakehouse, as this year's theme was "Beauty and the Beast!"

Our 2018 golf season ended on Saturday, October 6, with our awards banquet pizza luncheon and the election of the 2019 WGA Board of Directors.

The elected officers are:

- President: Liz Sturgeon
- 1st Vice President: Nikki Streit
- 2nd Vice President (18 Holes): Phyllis Wayco
- 2nd Vice President (9 Holes): Linda Pasternak & Mary Parra
- Secretary: Peggy Greenya

- Treasurer: Kim Brownlee
- Rules Director: Mitzi Lavender
- Constitution Director: Sherrie Mathews
- Handicap Director: Sandi Nicol

Involvement in community is an important goal of the WGA, and is achieved by lending our support to the various activities within our boundaries. Each year our members staff the registration table for the Lion's Club Annual Golf Outing, and we host a few fundraising events throughout the season. A 50/50 Raffle was drawn after the 4th of July parade by the Lakehouse which generated a total of \$858.01. Our summer concert parking concession on June 28th netted \$682.00 and our Garage Sale profited \$202.02!

Our fundraising has allowed the WGA to donate

\$2,500 to the golf course cart path paving, \$200 to the Winfield Food Pantry, \$50 to the "Salute to Our Heroes" Fundraiser, and \$867.16 for additional rock that was added to the giant LOFS rock garden behind #10 green. The WGA was endowed \$1,000 from the Janet Allen Legacy Foundation to fund a scholarship to a previous Junior Golf Program participant. This year's scholarship essay winner was Zach Hedge, who is currently attending Purdue University.

For an organization with such a small membership, the WGA certainly has accomplished a lot despite their size. Thank you to all of the Event Chairman and their committees for an exciting season.

The WGA officers and members wish to express our thanks to Director of

Golf - Paul Boris; Golf Assistant - Tyler Nicol; Golf Maintenance Superintendent - Doug Weiss; 19th Hole Manager - Wanda McAlvey; and Season's Lakehouse Manager - Ramiro Jimenez for their efforts during our events and league play. Additional thanks to POA Manager - Rick Cleveland and his staff for their continued assistance throughout the year. Without the ongoing support we receive for our events and projects from ALL of the LOFS departments, we would not be able to reach our goals of contributing to this wonderful community.

BUY LOCAL

Seasons Soccer Annual Report

By Brei Depew, Soccer President

Season's Soccer is a proud club based in the LOFS subdivision. Our program has been busy helping the youth in the LOFS/Winfield area expand on their soccer skills. Our club provides an excellent environment for our players to enjoy the game of soccer, learn basic fundamentals and create an atmosphere of good sportsmanship.

Our in-house program is for boys and girls ages 4 to 10. All games are played on Saturday mornings with a tournament at the conclusion of each season for the U8 and U11 age groups. Currently there are 215 in-house soccer players divided into U6, U8, and U11 age divisions.

There are also a limited number of travel teams for boys and girls ages 8 to 19. All travel games are played in the Northwest Indiana Soccer League, which is a competitive environment for our players to enjoy the game of soccer at a higher level and improve their individual skills. Currently there are 105 rostered travel soccer players.

The overriding goal of the Seasons Soccer club is to build both individual and team skills, while providing a healthy, recreational activity for all team members. We offer spring and fall leagues for our in-house and travel teams.

Supporting our local area is one of Season's Soccer's objectives. We have worked

with the local school corporations to donate certificates to be used in their fundraising efforts as well as various other foundations. The Board of Directors participates in the summer concert program in LOFS by handling the parking for one of the concerts each year to help raise funds for the club. The children in the club also participate in the annual 4th of July Parade each year.

All of these efforts have helped fund our ability to provide a wonderful environment with clean fields, a concession stand area, and healthy learning environment promoting youth soccer and good sportsmanship in the LOFS/Winfield Area.

Season's Soccer would like to thank the LOFS and surrounding community for all of your support. We will see you all out on the soccer fields!

Public Safety Department Annual Report

By Craig Philp, Director of Public Safety

The biggest issues that the Public Safety Department has been dealing with this past year has been people speeding and disregarding stop signs throughout the community. Traffic enforcement has always been a major challenge for this department due to the amount of areas in which complaint calls are coming from. With only two officers scheduled on any given day or shift, it is hard for us to try and be everywhere needed.

We continue to work with property owners on other issues such as unmaintained properties, long grass, no address numbers on homes and mailboxes, and notifications

of these issues have been sent out.

By now everyone is well aware of the newly added stop signs within the community. Members of my department and I looked over the community and recommended to the Board of Directors for new placement or the position change of stop signs on our roadways. You will see that the areas in which they were placed are long stretches of roadways that not only allow for excessive speed to occur, but were also areas of constant complaints called in.

Statistical information from September 2, 2017 through September 10, 2018

- Assist outside departments 2017 – 102
- Assist outside departments 2018 – 55
- Decreased by – 47
- Assisting Residents (i.e. Lockouts / Well-being, other) - 183
- Ems / Fire calls 2017 – 299
- Ems / Fire calls 2018 – 335
- Increased by – 36
- Covenant Violations 2017 – 828
- Covenant Violations 2018 – 795
- Decreased by - 33
- OWI 2017 - 36
- OWI 2018 - 60
- Increase by - 24
- Traffic Stops / Other 2017 - 1118
- Traffic Stops / Other 2018 - 1642
- Increased by - 443
- Speeding - 587
- Stop Sign Violation - 547
- All other (conduct, disorderly, berm parking, other) - 508

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House & Garden Club Annual Report

By Nancy Beck, Club President

The Four Seasons House and Garden Club is celebrating our 49th year this year!!!! That is quite an accomplishment for any club, wouldn't you say? Needless to say, we have already started planning our 50 Year Anniversary Gala which will be next May at the Seasons Lakehouse!

Ladies, please consider joining our Club as we continue to do great works and give back to our wonderful Lakes of the Four Seasons Community.

We currently have 55 ladies listed on our roster and are always looking for new members. As president this year, I, Nancy Beck, designed a new logo which was voted on and approved by our club members so that we could have more of a presence in the region and accomplish branding in our use of new Member Business Cards, Stickers for Marketing purposes, a new

banner for trade shows and the Summer Concert Series, as well as a new "Yard-of-the-Month" sign. We continue to make our presence & community works known on our www.lofs.org webpage, a new Facebook page, stories and photos on the LOFS Insider, and articles in the Seasonal-all written by our FABULOUS Marketing/Publicity Chair Girl Mary Cavallini.

Speaking of "Yard-of-the-Month," I am excited to say that bringing that program back again this year has created quite a stir! Those who were chosen felt almost like "celebrities" because of the tremendous response and excitement from all of our great neighbors in the Seasons. Thank you to Committee Members Mary Cavallini, Linda Koblack, and Pat Jelonek for their volunteer time to scour and tour the neighborhood, vote, interview the owners, and then ceremonially, present the fa-

mous "Yard of the Month" sign for "planting in" in the winners' yard. The winners' names were put up on the marquees at the front, side, and back entrances so that is how the winners got to be so popular. Stay tuned to next year when we will run the contest again. You have one year to do what you have to do to be in the "Winners Circle" for that one.

We had many changes in the Garden Club this year. I conducted a member survey in January to get feedback and input in order to listen to more of what our ladies wanted in a meeting and made many changes accordingly. The majority of members wanted to get back to "grass roots" of what our House and Garden Club is about, so therefore, we had more meals provided by the Seasons Lakehouse, tied our meeting themes to our menu, as well as including interesting speakers on topics such as "Growing & Care of Roses," a St. Patrick's Day Party where we learned more about growing shamrocks, we had a longtime professional florist come in to review "How to grow Easter

Flowers-Tulips, Hyacinths, and Easter Lilies," we had a very fun and engaging "Run for the Roses High Tea" along with a horse racing game played by the members, a "Professional Closet Organizer" came in to give us tips on decluttering our closets, a Master Gardener came to speak about planting and growing flowers all around our area, we had our usual fun summertime July Bash followed by a new Hawaiian Luau at the 19th Hole Bar & Grill, and followed up with a "Fall Harvest" themed meeting where a Master Gardener came to speak on Growing Mums and Fall flowers too.

As you can see, we have lots of variation in our programming-all while we try to have fun and learn something at the same time.

As for the beautification of our Seasons Lakehouse project for the year, we donated money so that Lakehouse Manager Ramiro Jimenez could purchase and plant 12 beautiful cobalt blue flower pots that were placed on the Patio to enhance and beautify it so all boaters and guests could enjoy them too.

We also paid for lighting to

our 3 wood and stained glass sculptures that were placed in our Garden Club Memorial Garden near Walt's Pond at the 19th Hole Bar & Grill this year. Please notice the arrangement whenever you drive by.

We hosted the July 12 concert by welcoming LOFS guests and had a very profitable evening soliciting donations from our residents and their guests.

We just finished up our Mum Sale and I have to say, these were some of the LARGEST and most BEAUTIFUL Mums I have ever seen.

A couple of months ago, we even had an auction where certain members donated gently used or new accessories-it was a sure hit with our own JoEllen Simoni auctioning off our "wares". Great fun and profits were had and made by all. In November, we will once again decorate the Seasons Lakehouse for the holidays, so we hope all of you can stop in and patronize our Lakehouse Restaurant with its delicious offerings and wonderful atmosphere.

In closing, our sole purpose of our club is to offer

a socializing opportunity to our members and to continue to give back by "further beautifying our community." The Four Seasons House and Garden Club actually started almost 50 years ago with some of the residents being what were called "The Weeders and Feeders" of our newly formed development. Over these almost 50 years, LOFS has grown to having more than 110 beds and gardens which are now attended to by two paid employees -- Kim White and Timburley Ecklund. We hope that all residents and their guests will continue to appreciate the more than \$130,000 that we have donated over the years.

We would like to take a minute in this report to personally thank each and every one of our residents, the POA Board, and Rick Cleveland, Community Manager, for your continued support so we can continue to do what we love best-give back and beautify our community all the while we are making friends and forming relationships with each other!!

Keenagers Annual Report

By Renate Sahulcik, Club President

The Keen-Agers is a social club for the 50 and older crowd. In addition to their monthly meetings at the Seasons Lakehouse, except for January, they enjoy day trips such as a boat ride on The Spirit of Chicago, gambling &

shopping at the Four Winds casino in Michigan, plus their Diamond Tour bus vacation every September, this year it was Nashville, TN. New trips and activities are planned throughout the year.

They are a non-profit club but the members donate to the Winfield Pantry every Holiday season. They have

13 successful fundraisers to their credit, a sexy calendar, delicious cookbook, and 'Hanging with a Hunk' with our very own Rick Cleveland bringing in \$400.

This year they participated in the concert parking, bringing in \$1,265. The Annual August Auction gets better every year with new merchandise for sale, \$900 was added to their balance which helps finance their trips and activities. Stay tuned for a live Telethon being planned for 2019.

Yearly membership dues

are still \$25 and the monthly luncheon cost is still \$15, which includes a tip. The Seasonal reports their latest info and updates. Their ad is in the LOFS 2017-18 phone directory. The new and improved website at www.lofs.org has updated news and photos from the club.

Their Board consists of President, Renate Sahulcik; Vice-President plus Travel & Entertainment Director Jeanette Stolarz; Treasurer and Food Director, Pete Maloy; and Secretary, Vileda

Maloy. Bernadette Bailey is the Caller Director and Sue Kalinowski is the Casino Director. All the Keen-Agers contribute to the club's popularity and success.

The Keen-Ager Club is 40 plus years young and over 80 active members strong and growing. Interested people are asked to please call Renate at 219-689-3408

or e-mail her at willrenate@yahoo.com to get more club details or to make a future reservation to attend or join.

Thanks to the POA Board and Community Manager Rick Cleveland for the use of the Lakehouse and all the Lakehouse staff, under the management of Ramiro Jimenez for "Keeping up with the Keen-Agers".

Keenagers

The Keen-Agers will have their Thanksgiving meeting on November 15 at the Seasons Lakehouse. The bar opens at noon with a delicious lunch being served at 1:00. Entertainment is scheduled for 2; after a short meeting adjournment will be around 3 p.m.

The Club is open to anyone 50 and over, regardless

of residency. Besides the third Thursday of the month meetings except for January, the Club goes on a Chicago Boat ride, gambles and shops at a Michigan casino, and enjoys a Diamond Tour Bus trip every September. This year it was Nashville, Tennessee.; the trip was awesome and they all got back on time in one piece! Branson, Missouri in 2019?

The yearly Membership Fee which was due in October is \$25 and the monthly luncheon cost is \$15 which includes a tip. With the success of their 13 plus fundraisers they get help with financing all their fun trips and activities.

The Seasonal reports all their latest news, visit their page at the www.lofs.org website, and check out their ad in the LOFS phonebook. Contact Renate at 219-689-3408 or e-mail her at willrenate@yahoo.com to get all their info and updates or to

make a future reservation to attend or join.

Thanks to Manager Rick Cleveland and all the Lakehouse staff under Ramiro Jimenez for "Keeping up with the Keen-Agers".

- President, Renate Sahulcik
- Vice-President, Travel & Entertainment Director, Jeanette Stolarz
- Treasurer and Food Director, Pete Maloy
- Secretary, Vileda Maloy
- Caller Director, Bernadette Bailey
- Casino Director, Sue Kalinowski

This Board continues to help property owners make their annual assessments such as offering quarterly payment plans, half payment plans and accepting payments by credit cards. At the end of last year we had 53 property owners that did not make any payment of their dues.

Our office staff and attorney continue to communicate to those who are delinquent and work on getting their assessments paid in full.

On occasion when this does not happen the POA is forced to file liens and or foreclosures. This is necessary to help protect the association's property values including your homes.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the employees of LOFS for all the work they do for the community. I want to thank my fellow Board members for their service. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Board Treasurer.

By Sally Lugo, Chairperson

The Historical Society of LOFS has had another successful year with strong active membership and activities. Throughout the year we have focused on maintaining the history of LOFS with one major project, a "Time Capsule" that has now been given to the Community Manager for safekeeping. The Community Manager has been asked to install this Time Capsule in an undisclosed place for its protection. The Time Capsule will be opened May 26, 2041. The 75th Anniversary of Hoosier Marine Properties (May 26, 1966) closing on various owners of real estate properties and birth of "Lakes of the Four Seasons!"

Throughout the year the Historical Society of LOFS provided presentations to the community on various historical events or happenings. To name a few, we've taken a Historical Train Ride, visited the LaPorte's Historical Society Museum, attended Antique Auto Shows, and most recently hosted a

Cemetery Tour on local historical cemeteries. Lastly, we hosted our 2nd Annual 4th of July Photo Contest and provide a picture gallery in our current foyer of the Seasons Lakehouse of various events.

As we are a "Sanctioned Committee" of the POA we respectively submit our annual resignation of officers: Sally Lugo, Chairperson; Nancy Porter, Secretary; and Colette Perez, Treasurer.

We further request approval for the following officers to be affirmed by the POA Board of Directors for the new POA Fiscal Year.

- Chairperson: Sally Lugo
- Secretary: Nancy Porter
- Treasurer: Colette Perez
- Task Master: Eileen Ryan (who will act as back up, or co-chair, secretary, and treasurer when needed.)

The above officers were unanimously voted upon at our October 4, 2018 meeting by members of the Historical Society of LOFS who were present. (All members received notification of the opportunity to run for office and vote via e-mail.)

Treasurer Annual Report

By Don Tul, POA Treasurer

This report covers our fiscal year, which ended February 28, 2018.

For the year, our total revenue was \$5,443,899 vs. the prior year of \$5,431,993. Our total expenses were \$5,190,274 vs. prior year of \$5,166,565. Our combined total fund balance, or equity,

increased from \$5,198,710 in 2017 to \$5,451,944 year over year.

We ended the year with unrestricted cash of \$868,115 vs. \$937,494 prior year. The decrease of unrestricted cash was primarily due to using more cash to pay for equipment and capital improvement projects.

Golf Services Annual Report

By Paul Boris,
Director of Golf

I would like to begin by thanking my staff for another tremendous season of service to the golfing community and our department goals for the year. This year saw a slight restructure with our staffing from past years and included the involvement of college student interns interested in developing their skills in the field of business and sports business management. This was a first try at developing a more central summer internship focus and has helped us recognize how we can develop and innovate in a new way, which I believe will bring a noticeable increase to the professionalism and strength to the services that Golf Services Department can provide to the community now and into the future. Finally, a special thanks and a great start to his career here at Lakes of the Four Season goes to community born Tyler Nicol returning to the community as 1st Assistant Golf Professional and developing in his new role within the golf community as Player Development Specialist.

The golf course continues to see a rise in incoming resident golfers to the community from outside the local area year after year. This has led to steady increases to membership population, total rounds played and pay to play rounds over a five-year period which we again expect to continue as properties in the community continue to change hands and younger generations of families relocate into Lakes of the Four Seasons. While this golf season continued the trend of warmer than av-

erage temperatures, and for our direct area over most of the season drier than average rainfall amounts, this led to a balanced year overall in total rounds played and pay to play revenues from year to year. Studying the trend, it seemed the daytime oppressive heat and humidity the Region experienced between the hottest hours of the day 12:00pm to 5:00pm significantly reduced tee-times booked during a large stretch of days in late June through the month of July during this summer. This is a typical pattern seen generally in many southern state golf facilities that sit inland from the Gulf of Mexico away from the gulf breeze and it has the same effect on play on many golf courses in that area of the country. We expect this pattern of heat and combined humidity in the peak of summer to continue in future years and have a plan of action for 2019 to increase traffic to the golf course during these periods in future seasons when we experience this weather.

By the numbers for this season, green fee revenue overall has been steady year over year and we expect to fall right into our projected numbers by year's end in pay to play rounds of golf. Golf membership revenues this year are up for a second consecutive year and four out of the last five seasons. This season saw a total of 13 new adult residents to the community join the golf for a total of 42 new adult members overall equating to a net increase of 12 adult members from 2017 and an increase of over \$15,000 above projected membership revenue for

the budget year. This trend of new members has begun to take hold on the activities within the golf community as we have seen major spikes in member league participation and a new energy amongst the membership as young members have begun to mix with old members and a new energy has begun to take shape which has energized the competition levels of events and programs from weekly activities to weekend events. This 'lightning in a bottle' is exactly what we had hoped to accomplish to prime the engine for serious growth as we turned a corner in the community's history a couple of years ago.

Total golf membership numbers are again on the rise for a second consecutive year and for the fourth out of the last five years at the golf course. Total adult golfing members has increased to 293, up 11 from last season and had it not been for a few health issues that set back a handful of members from participating this season as they recovered from unexpected surgeries in early to late spring the membership would currently sit around 300 strong.

Total junior golf memberships are on the rise as well and our junior golf academy has begun to grow to numbers that we have not seen since the early stages of the Tiger Woods era of golf enthusiasm and youth growth of the game back in the late 90s and early 00s. This is an exciting sign for the future of the golfing community as we see more and more younger families transition into the community with golf and their children at the forefront, this will continue to be a focal point of growth that we plan to target in future seasons.

The growth of the game has become a major focus for the Golf Services Department as we see more and more

families and opportunities for potential growth migrating into the community every year. This is the principal reason why the golf services department has hired an assistant golf professional with the desire and background to help spearhead these growth initiatives as they will be a primary driver of financial growth within the next decade or more of future golf community.

The following is a report on the growth of the game for this season from my Head Assistant Professional and Player Development Specialist, Tyler Nicol:

"Overall for my first year my number one goal was developing a presence and establishing programs within the golf community designed to grow both golfer skill and increase golfer involvement at the golf course. I feel this year has been a very successful start to an exciting opportunity here at Lakes of the Four Seasons. For the year to this point, I've given over 140 individual private lessons through the spring and summer period and will continue to work on programs as we enter the winter months leveraging our capability to work throughout the winter and especially early spring on new avenues that the club lacked the capability to provide in years past with our new technologies. I consider this season as just a jumping off point to get a framework started and have begun to develop a structure to the programs I have provided and would also like to deliver soon to the golf community. A primary area that I will be working at will be establishing a plan for more open clinics for beginners early into the 2019 calendar year and work closely with the Women's and Men's Golf Associations in how we can work together to strengthen enrollment and growth for beginners to the game. I have

plans on getting established with the Titleist Performance Institute to develop myself and build a program that includes drills and exercises that golfers from beginner and advanced can do to achieve better results and a longer lifespan out of their golf games by working on the body to improve distance, flexibility and coordination".

"What I am most excited for this year is our LOFS Junior Golf Academy, which was 75 children strong this season and the biggest it has been since the late 90s. This is certainly one of the biggest stand-alone programs in the region for junior golfers and has begun to draw attention from a wider and wider area. As a product of this program myself growing up in the community, I feel honored and a sense of duty to do everything in my power to help advance the Junior Program to new heights and pass along my experiences, helping to mold the next generation of golfers for years to come. This curriculum does far more for kids than give them a social outlet for life and life skills, but it also has a strong presence in building character among these children at an early age; it certainly did for me, and I hope to pass this along to every junior that comes across my programs as they grow into adulthood."

"Thanks for a great year one, and I look forward to providing the next stage of my plans for the golfing community early in 2019."

Projects for the year were primarily in the offseason with the complete redesign and remodel of the golf shop over last winter which ran right up to the opening day of this year's budget on March 1. On top of the destruction and reconstruction of the golf shop, we had a complete overhaul of our point of sale software and inventory system which kept us extremely

busy for the spring trying to perfect the ins and outs and train staff with the new programs.

Now that the season is winding down, my focus will be to maximize the capabilities of our new website and learn every aspect of our new software's potential to communicate and integrate daily, weekly and monthly activities into the system to streamline and bring a new life to how we as a club and a community can interact and communicate throughout the year and market to the region around us. We will also be picking up where we left off on the construction list to wrap up the last stretch that we weren't capable of finishing before the doors opened for the season this spring.

On a final note, a special thanks to WGA President Liz Sturgeon and the Women's Golf Association Board, as well as, MGA President Jim Ford and the Men's Golf Board for their support to the golf course and other programs such as the youth scholarship programs we've work to establish over the years. I look forward to working closely with all incoming board members for both boards shortly as we begin working on plans for the upcoming 2019 golf season events calendar during this off-season.

As always, I would like to thank the LOFS community, its residents, the golfing community, Rick Cleveland and the POA Board for the support they have given my staff and I this year. I look forward to the challenges in store and the opportunities for success going into the 2019 season as we plan to introduce new features and programs. I'd like to wish everyone a safe and happy upcoming holiday season and safe travels to all snowbirds of the community.

(Train from Pg. 8)

forgotten that the second section had not yet arrived.

Both trains were running under a full head of steam, resulting in a spectacular collision, as seen in the accompanying photograph. All of the crewmen, except for Engineer Truman of the passenger train, leaped from their trains prior to impact. Truman and a tramp named Chester Stanley found in the wreckage were seriously hurt and taken to a hospital in Logansport for treatment, but both men later died. Engineer Ira Ford of the freight train sustained severe injuries to both legs from leaping from his locomotive. Some accounts of this collision state that a second tramp was instantly killed by flying pieces of wreckage and was later found in the cleanup. The tramp was never identified.

Again, being hard to

imagine in this day and age, a fatal train wreck also occurred on the Chicago and Erie Railroad (later The Erie-Lackawanna) east of Boone Grove.

On October 11, 1887, a tail end collision happened at a water tank about half way between Boone Grove and Kouts. A fast eastbound freight train loaded with dressed meat took a side track at Boone Grove to allow a passenger train going in the same direction to pass. The passenger train's engine had mechanical problems and had trouble when stopping at a water tank, and part of the last car extended onto the main track. The conductor of this train ordered a red light displayed at the rear of the train. As the freight train had clearance to proceed, the warning light was not seen by the engineer of the freight train due to heavy fog.



As a result, the freight train crashed into the rear coach of the passenger train, killing eleven people and injuring a score more.

These two wrecks are pale in comparison to the most severe train wreck in northwest Indiana, which had been well published in local media this past summer, the hundredth anniversary of the event. On June 22, 1918, between Gary and Hammond, a 26-

car circus train had made an emergency stop and partially entered a siding, but several back cars of the circus train remained on the main line. The engineer of a following empty troop train missed warning signals set by the circus train and plowed into the last four sleeper cars of the circus train, resulting in 86 fatalities and 127 injuries.



SAVE THE DATE -
NOVEMBER 8, 2018
SEASON'S LAKEHOUSE
BALLROOM 4:30 P.M.
Open to the Public
LOFS Historical Society
Member Larry Carson
Presents his Antique & Historical
Revolutionary War Gun Collection.
Listen to Larry share his knowledge on
Revolutionary and Civil historical antique
guns and other interesting information
regarding his personal gun collection.

19th Hole Annual Report

By Wanda McAlvey,
Manager

I want to thank everyone involved for the opportunity to work at the 19th Hole. This is a great community. The 19th Hole has great potential because of the support of the people who live and work here.

This past year has brought challenges to the business due to a turnover in management. With that said: The employees who worked here during that time have really risen above to make things work. So, there is a very strong core foundation of employees to help build and grow the business.

With golf season coming to an end, I am focusing on building for the fall and winter. The key components are consistency and execution. Some of the short-term things planned now are:

- A new menu. The new menu is not only to help generate new business, but

also to help stream line the process in the kitchen for quicker execution to the dining room.

- Live entertainment every Saturday night. I am currently booked through the end of November.
- Buzztime Trivia tournaments began on Wednesday nights at the end of September.
- I want to keep current specials running throughout the end of the year to create consistency. They are driven towards walk-in business and getting the guest to stay a little longer for cocktails. They have been very successful, and I have gotten great feedback.

Some long-term goals for next year:

- This building has a wealth of space. I would like to see about establishing a revenue center downstairs. This would require some interior renovation.
- The exterior needs to be

Obituary ~ Alec P. Graham

Alec P. Graham, age 28 of Kouts, formerly of LOFS, passed away on October 10, 2018. He was a graduate of Boone Grove HS, class of 2008. He was a journeyman electrician and a member of IBEW Local 531. He was preceded in death by his father-David Graham. Alec is survived by his wife-Ashley (nee Garner) son-Zaiden Graham; mother-Dawn Bailey; brother-Mickey Graham.; parents

in law- Chuck and Rita Garner; grandmother-Barbara J. Bailey. Friends visited with Alec's family on Sunday, October 14, 2018 from 1-4 p.m. followed by a Celebration of Life at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, IN. Services concluded at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to a scholarship fund for Alec's son, Zaiden. www.burnsfuneral.com

November POA Calendar

- Saturday, November 3 - 19th Hole Entertainment: Solo Acoustic, Terry Klema 8pm -11pm.
- Tuesday, November 6 – Midterm Elections. The Seasons Lakehouse will be used as a polling center. The POA office will be closed.
- Wednesday, November 7 – Lions Meeting at the Seasons Lakehouse at 7pm.
- Thursday, November 8 – Seasons Lakehouse Entertainment: Dueling Pianos 7pm-10pm.
- Thursday, November 8 – Historical Society Meeting at the Seasons Lakehouse at 4:30PM.
- Saturday, November 10 - 19th Hole Entertainment: Live Band, Soul Shine 8pm -11pm.
- Tuesday, November 13 – Fishing Club Meeting Downstairs at the 19th Hole at 7pm.
- Wednesday, November 14 – Lions Meeting at the Seasons Lakehouse at 7pm.
- Thursday, November 15 - The Keen-Agers Thanksgiving meeting at Noon at the Seasons Lakehouse.
- Friday, November 16 – Comedy Night at the Seasons Lakehouse at 9pm.
- Saturday, November 17 - 19th Hole Entertainment: Live Duo, John & Megan 8pm -11pm.
- Saturday, November 24 - 19th Hole Entertainment: Live Band: Night Shift 8pm -11pm.
- Thursday, November 22 - Thanksgiving Brunch at the Seasons Lakehouse 12pm-2pm.
- Wednesday, November 28 - Customer Appreciation Night at the Seasons Lakehouse 4pm- 9pm.
- Wednesday, November 28 – Lions Meeting at the Seasons Lakehouse at 7pm.

Painted. This is already in the process. In addition, we need to have a logo or sign put on the street side. I have heard discussions that many people who live here don't even know that there is a bar and restaurant that is open to the public. They think we are just for golfers only. So a sign with the logo and a statement such as "open to the public" may help to generate new business from the community.

- Eventually I would like to see enough new business so we can forgo the loss of business hours in the fall and winter.
- By next summer, I would also like to have an area excavated for bocce ball.
- There is a wealth of revenue to be made outside as well. We need to install a POS monitor in the pavilion so we can serve patrons outside more consistently. Our access from the restaurant to the pavilion is a bit awkward. So it's always been expected that the guest has to come in for their own food and cocktails. If we wait on them instead-they will spend more and come more often.
- Saturdays and Sundays in the summer should run a

Obituary ~ Leslie Kirschner

We have lost a huge piece of our hearts, and cannot believe we must share this news. Leslie Kirschner, devoted wife, loving mother and doting Gramma, passed away unexpectedly as a result of an emergency medical situation on Saturday, October 6, 2018. She was surrounded by the family who loves her so much as she met her Creator. Leslie leaves behind her husband of 37 years, Don, and her 3 children, Kristin (Luke), Megan (Max) and Chad (Denise). Gramma will now be the most amazing guardian angel to her 14 grandchildren, Ben, Yaviel, Audrey, Madison, Issie, Aiden, Morgan, Rasija, Grant, Andrew, Thor, Miles, Ella and Asher. She is also survived by her mother, Irene, and 5 brothers and sisters. Meeting her above are her grandparents and father, Joe. As difficult as this is, we choose to remember Leslie in life rather than death. A woman who could recall ridiculously specific events from 50 years ago but had no clue what she had for dinner the previous night. A woman who was so stubborn that it didn't matter if the words, 'The Sky is Blue' were actually written in the sky; if she thought the sky was orange, the damned sky was orange. A woman who put on a really good show that she was a hard-nosed badass, but who would crumble at the sight of those she loved hurting. A woman who would tell anyone she met that her life truly started once her first grandchild was born, and who spent hours of her days com-



Historical Society Spooktacular family fun night pumpkin carving contest

Pictures of the pumpkin carving contest held on Friday, October 19. Pictured in the photo on the left are Eileen Ryan, Emma Vandenburg, Kaitlyn Balcer, Dawn Shepard, Abby Ecklund, and Kelly Ryan. Pictured in the photo on the right are Emma Vandenburg – Most Creative; Kaitlyn Balcer – Most Funniest; and Abby Ecklund – Best Kids Entry for 10 & Under.

beer cart consistently. This is a huge opportunity to sell food and drinks right on the course. Of course, we would need to purchase a vendor cart.

Regarding financials: Again, due to management turnover, numbers have been all over the board for this year. I hope to get food cost and labor under control as we move into the new year. I plan on accomplishing this by:

- Monitoring food cost by doing consistent truck or-

menting on Facebook posts, talking on the phone and learning how to use technology to keep in constant contact with the grandkids she loved so much. A woman whose strength over not just the past few years of failing health, but over a lifetime, was surmounted only by her will and determination to ensure that her family was loved and care for in every way possible. A woman who made her family proud, a woman who we will miss dearly, every second of every day for the rest of our lives. We are so grateful that your strength pulled you through the darkness so many times, and know that, this time, the light on the other side was what you needed to fully heal. As per her wishes, Leslie's remains will be cremated and we will find a way to sneak some of her into Wrigley Field one day so that she can watch her beloved Cubbies as she rests eternally. Details to come soon on a celebration of life that will take place at her daughter's home in the coming weeks. We ask that you keep our family in your thoughts and prayers, but most importantly, we ask that you love one another. www.burnsfuneral.com

ders, watching portion control, and following consistent standards to avoid remakes and comps.

- Making effective schedules and monitoring clock out times.

- Continued training for all staff. Training creates awareness and a smoother flow for the business. This results in less errors and service issues. These errors can be costly.

Seasons Lakehouse Annual Report

By Ramiro Jimenez,
Restaurant Manager

With a watchful eye on the staff, the relationship of team members has accepted change with great enthusiasm.

Over the course of nine months, professionalism to one another and with the customers, has made their work environment enjoyable. Our efforts are appreciated, and due to high demands, the planning to proceed has made me more confident it will be successful and a more profitable business.

Plan of Action:

- Existing employees would be well knowledgeable of their job duties
- Consistency of cleanliness and organization in each department
- Create an ambiance of class and style that will want customers to come back and recognize an experience of great customer service
- Update the Banquet Event Menu
- Give residents the WOW effect when coming into the property
- Food cost is maintain occur-

ring to budget

- Labor costs kept accordingly to business levels

Extended plan of actions:

- Banquets
- Better advertisement—post updated photos to website and Facebook
- Extend Customer Service
- Educate and train employees in Banquet Department
- Banquet Menu Updated
- Food change to create a more inviting atmosphere and to be able to accommodate and provide choices and for prices to reflect those changes
- Enhance Practices
- I will continue to establish a work environment of integrity, self-worth, respect and work alongside with my team members.
- Intended Group
- Lakehouse members will see how establishing a firm foundation, consistency, and time to make something better. With acceptance, maintaining return business from friends, family, residents, and recommendations WILL BE PROFITABLE.

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Certified Carbon Monoxide Analyst
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Located inside Lakes of the Four Seasons

1054 Sunnyslope Drive

219-988-2282

Young LOFS athletes bring home martial arts gold

Two LOFS athletes, Kanyon McCormick, age 9, and Nathan DuPratt, also age 9, partnered up in August in Reno, Nevada, to bring home gold medals in the team kumite (fighting) event.

The boys, along with an additional athlete – ‘Winston from Wisconsin’ – fought their way through five other novice teams to bring home gold medals in Reno.

This was McCormick’s second time in as many years as a gold medalist in team kumite in Reno. His first was the prior year in South Carolina, and he left their state with two gold medals, in Kumite, Team Kumite, as well as a bronze medal in

Kata.

McCormick and DuPratt partnered with each other in the Homann Karate Do in the Crown Point gym quite extensively, helping both athletes improve their speed and fighting skills on a daily basis. Both boys love to compete on the competition team at Homann. Both boys are currently tied and ranked 3rd in the newly formed AJKL League (American Junior Karate League).

McCormick’s resume includes being a two-time USANKF National Karate Champion, and a two time Illinois State Champion (Illinois Shotokan Katate Club) 2017 and 2018, as



Kanyon McCormick, Colin Brown, and Nathan Guaran

well as numerous medals and awards from around the Midwest.

DuPratt’s resume includes being the 2018 USANKF National Team Kumite

Champion, as well as the Illinois State Champion (ISKC) 2018, and numerous other medals around the Midwest.



Kanyon McCormick, Nathan DuPratt, and ‘Winston from Wisconsin’

WGA

WGA League for September

Phyllis Wayco presented the following for the 18 hole golfers:

- September 13, 2018 – Game called Odd Holes Minus 1/2 of HDCP; 1st Place Linda Peterson; 2nd Place Sharon Strbjak; 3rd Place Kim Brownlee; Chip Ins: Rita Morin #18; Linda Peterson #17; Birds: Maureen Wideman #17
- September 20, 2018 – Game called Criss-Cross Minus 1/2 HDCP; 1st Place Sandi Nicol; 2nd Place Diane Greaney; 3rd Place Mitzi Levander; Chip Ins: Sandi Nicol #16
- September 27, 2018 – Game called Even Steven (Even Holes Minus 1/2 HDCP); 1st Place Carol Larson; 2nd Place Nadean Hartman;

Phyllis Wayco presented the following for the 9 hole golfers:

- September 13, 2018 – Game called Secret Hole; A Flight – Barb Wood; B Flight – Linda Pasternak
 - September 20, 2018 – Game called Tee to Green; A Flight – Mary Healy; B Flight – Linda Pasternak
- End of the Year Awards RINGERS:**
- 9 hole League 1st Place Linda Pasternak; 2nd Place – Mary Parra & Kathy Sanez
 - 18 hole League 1st Place Nadean Hartman & Mo Wideman; 2nd Place Carol Larson; 3rd Place Carmen Dulhanty & Mitzi Levander
- MATCH PLAY**
- 9 hole League Linda Pasternak
 - 18 hole League Individual Tonia Skees
 - Partners Diane Greaney & Jeana Laras
- LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP**
- 18 hole League –
 - Championship Flight Sandi Nicol
 - A Flight Joni Bucci
 - B Flight Diane Greaney
 - C Flight Nadean Hartman

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

- 9 hole League \
 - A Flight Barb Wood
 - B Flight Linda Pasternak
- STEEPLE CHASE**
- Tonia Skees
- CHIPPER OF THE YEAR**
- 18 hole League Nadean Hartman
- PUTTER OF THE YEAR**
- 9 hole League Lori DuPratt & Barb Wood
 - 18 hole League Sandi Nicol
- MOST IMPROVED**
- 18 hole League Kim Brownlee
 - 9 hole League Linda Pasternak
- GRACE FOLEY AWARD**
- Jeana Karas

The WGA Board of Directors for 2019 are as follows:

- President – Liz Sturgeon
- 1st Vice President – Nikki Streit
- 2nd Vice President 18 hole – Phyllis Wayco
- 2nd Vice President 9 hole – Mary Parra & Linda Pasternak
- Secretary – Peggy Greenya
- Treasurer – Kim Brownlee
- Handicap Chair – Sandi Nicole
- Constitution – Sherry Matthews
- Rule Director – Mitzi Levander



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Fire Force Annual Report

By Jason Gikas, Fire Chief, and Bob Greaney

The Lakes of the Four Seasons Volunteer Fire Force was founded in 1969 and has been proudly serving the Lakes of the Four Seasons Community and other surrounding communities. In 2019, we will proudly be celebrating our 50th Anniversary! Chief Jason Gikas and myself, a fellow LOFS resident and LOFSVFF Board President, Bob Greaney are pleased to report the following:

Since our founding, we have provided fire and emergency responses and in 1999, we added 24/7 Advanced Life Support Medical services as part of our mission to better serve the residents and families during an emergency. We provide our services from two fire stations, supplemented by 32 volunteers and a 24/7 paid EMS staff to an estimated 15,000+ residents and cover approximately 30+ square mile area straddling two counties. When we began, we only had maybe a handful of calls for service per year, while this year, we are on track to respond to a record breaking 1200+ calls for service.

In addition to Fire and EMS Services, we provide many additional services that benefit our residents:

- We host annual fire prevention week education to our local schools.
- Host fire station/safety house tours
- Certify LOFS Public Safety and other community members with American Heart Association CPR/AED training
- Lead the 4th of July fireworks parade
- Provide Fire Protection for our POA 4th of July fireworks with LOFS Public Safety
- Provide Fire Inspections and request fire investigations
- Train with the use of real-world scenarios to keep our members in a constant state of readiness

In addition to all of these services, our fire station near Cleveland Park was

built with a back-up generator and kitchen facilities to be utilized as a community shelter during the event of a large storm or winter storm. Just as we did a few years ago after one such storm.

All of these services are provided by dedicated volunteers who provided countless hours of training and service to their community. Many of these volunteers live inside The Lakes of the Four Seasons.

In November of 2017, as Lake Co E-911 had transitioned to consolidated dispatch, we also transitioned to a "Dual Dispatch" system. After 18 years of being dispatched by Porter County for all calls for service, regardless of county, we are now dispatch by Lake and Porter Counties E-911 centers for our respective service areas. This brought a new challenge as Lake Co had moved to a digital 7/800Mhz radio service from the conventional VHF frequencies. Porter County will be following within the next 6-8 months. With the digital frequencies, our members were no longer able to listen to vital updates while responding to emergencies without carrying a several thousand-dollar portable radio. To resolve this issue, we have begun to transition to digital dual band pagers, that can listen to the digital frequencies and conventional VHF frequencies. This now allows our members to hear these vital updates while they are enroute to the station.

In early 2018 former Fire Chief Jeremy Campbell resigned and Assistant Chief Jason Gikas assumed the Chief role. We are fortunate to have someone with Jason's background with cadet, firefighter, officer, and assistant Chief experience and education ready to assume command. Chief Gikas grew up in LOFS and has been a member of the department since 1994. We appreciate the service of retired Chief Campbell.

To provide you with some figures, here is the year to date call volume from inside

our subdivision:

- Lake Co: 213 Calls for Service
- Porter Co: 155 Calls for Service
- Grand Total: 368 Call for services inside our subdivision

However, we still provide Fire and EMS services to our community members outside of the gates, anytime they have an emergency in our service area.

Our financial support pays for things such as: Payroll, Apparatus, Insurance, Equipment, Maintenance, Utilities and Facilities. Some of the financial support comes from:

- LOFS Fire Auxiliary Fundraisers:
 - Crazy Bunco (Last event 137 players)
 - 5K Run/Walk and Open house added this previous May
 - Annual Pancake breakfast
 - New 2019 50th Anniversary Calendars and LOFS Phone books
- LOFSVFF Fundraisers:
 - Annual Gala
 - Annual Golf Outing (Held here on our own golf course)
 - Various Boot drives (Concert Collection and 4th of July)

Additionally, we are supplemented by three governmental agencies:

- West Porter FPD
 - Winfield Township
 - Town of Winfield
- Our annual budget is approximately \$800,000 with the largest expense being:
- 24/7 Advanced Life Support Staff
 - Facility & Apparatus Loan Payments
 - Maintenance and insurance

However, surrounding Local Government provides only approximately 65% of our income.

Previously through 2010 and as far back as I can remember, the POA had graciously provided \$25,000 in additional funding to support our continued mission of fire/ems services and public education. Most recently, with additional POA Board funding of \$15,000, we were able to purchase protective gear for our members and in 2017 we were aided with \$15,000 towards purchasing a Lucas Automated CPR machine and additional fire equipment.

We need your continued fi-

Lori DuPratt, Tim Swallers, and Herb Rogers have been elected to take office.

The election committee would like to thank Rick Cleveland and the POA office staff for their help throughout the election process.

We would like to thank the following members of the Election Committee for volunteering their time: Beverly Bashia, Sharron Blue, Linda Mason, Beverly Nowicki, Lori O'Malley, Carol Thorsen, Cindy Weiss, and Barb Wood.



LOFS Fire Department serves 500 breakfasts

The annual Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Lakes of the Four Seasons Fire Department & Auxiliary served over 500 breakfasts on Sunday, October 14, at the LOFS station. Every year we seem to draw a few more regulars to our delicious breakfast of pancakes and sausage. Many were delighted at our addition of blueberry pancakes with blueberry syrup. Quite a few left with tasty purchases from the Pop-Up Market set up by Rise 'N Roll Amish Bakery. There were also many beautifully painted faces on the children that attended. We not only thank our staff for their hard work in setting up and serving this event; but we need to thank our sponsors: IHOP, Kodiak Cakes, Jewel Foods, Gordon Food Service, Strack & Van Til, Family Express, Costco, Four Seasons Facepaint/Chicago Chic Facepaint, and Cracker Barrel. Please watch for the many activities planned for our 50th Anniversary year 2019.

financial support to supplement our income to better provide these continued Fire and EMS Services and community education. While the LOFSVFF Board and its membership are mindful of our expenses, we also recognize the need to further supplement our EMS services by adding additional EMS Staff as our call volume continues to rise significantly each and every year.

On the Porter County Side of LOFS, we rely on WPTFPD for government support for fire protection, however we do not receive any additional

funding for EMS services, because Porter County EMS funding still goes to Porter EMS. We have engaged with Porter County Government to resolve the issue; but it is still an ongoing discussion with Porter County and they foresee pulling all support for ambulances. We provide 3 Advanced Life Support Ambulances, that require a part-time paid Paramedic and EMT to staff, regular vehicle maintenance and medical supplies in order to respond to our community when needed.

In 2017-18, with a letter of

support from the LOFS POA, The WPTFPD and LOFSVFF, we were able to acquire a used 95' E-One Platform Aerial to better meet the growing needs our communities. With the addition of this apparatus, we are much better suited to defend certain LOFS buildings as:

- Townhomes and condos
- Seasons Lakehouse and 19th Hole Grill
- Any fire scene where an aerial is needed
- A High rescue situation, such as from a tree or building

Election Committee Annual Report

On August 10, 2733 ballots were mailed to all property owners of record. Due to an error, new ballots were mailed out on August 20.

On Wednesday September 12, polls were closed at 9 a.m. During the afternoon, our committee sorted and verified each ballot. They were then counted at 7 p.m.

Out of the 850 ballots cast,

19 were undeliverable; 12 were invalid; 98 were duplicates; and 1 was delinquent. 87 were placed in the ballot box.

720 eligible ballots were counted. Of the 1906 total votes cast: Lori DuPratt received 469; Tim Swallers 436; Herb Rogers 366; Don Tul, 323; and Tim Rachoy, 312.

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Beautifully Updated BASS LAKE RANCH with finished basement. Pristine setting on big mature wooded lot overlooking the island of Bass Lake! Open concept home with Cathedral ceilings, Plank laminate flooring, Quartz Counter tops, New over sized cabinets with crown molding and so much more. **JUST REDUCED! \$359,900**

Home is located on a BIG LOT with CROWN POINT SCHOOLS. Main level is total OPEN CONCEPT with VAULTED CEILINGS, SKYLIGHTS, DARK KITCHEN CABINETS, SS APPLIANCES, glass backsplash, under cabinet lighting and HARDWOOD Floors. SLIDERS TO BIG DECK overlooking yard. ALL 3 bedrooms are GOOD SIZE and on main level, ceiling fans, full wall closets FULL UPDATED BATH on this level. FURNACE, AC, HWH 4 years old, Water softener rented. LOTS OF SPACE AND WELL CARED FOR HOME **NEW LOWER PRICE! \$239,600**

SUPER GOLF COURSE HOME You'll love the views and yard of this GREAT 2 STORY home. Originally a 4 bedroom home, the owners changed 2 of the main level bedrooms into a recroom which could easily be changed back to make bedrooms. Home now has recroom and living room on main level along with kitchen, dining room and laundry room. This home is located across the street from Lake Holiday backing up to the fairway of hole #8 of golf course. **JUST REDUCED! \$184,897**

BEAUTIFUL Updated kitchen, BIG LIVING ROOM w/ stone fireplace, GREAT SUNROOM W/ AWESOME LAKE VIEWS, LOFT OVERLOOKING MAIN FLOOR and updated baths! Enter to GREAT ROOM with vaulted WOOD ceilings, 2 story stacked stone fireplace, Laminate hardwood floors and GRAND LAKE VIEWS! FABULOUS NEW KITCHEN with premium cabinets, granite counter tops, breakfast bar, granite back splash, slate floor and SS appliances. **\$469,900**

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