

**LAKENGREN
PROPERTY OWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.
BOARD OF
TRUSTEES -
Regular Open
Meeting November
10, 2008**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at the Lodge. Present: President Paul Ellison, Vice-President Gerald Estes, Secretary Gladys Preston, Treasurer Tom Pohlbel, Asst. Treasurer Bill Holtman, Amy Gilbert, Rick McMahan, Judy Thaxton and Rod Suman. Also present were Manager Kevin Thorpe, Board Recorder Daphne Brunett and 15 guests. Absent: Office Manager Tammy Moore.

08-11-285 Gerald Estes made the motion to approve the October 27, 2008 Board minutes. Rod Suman seconded. Motion approved.

LWA Report: Terry Parks reported the LPOA walk-through of the new LWA facility was held on November 3rd with approximately 15 people there. The only real issue with the office building is the four outside doors. They had to be manufactured after the hardware was completed and the hardware was late getting to the door makers. The finished doors may not be in place until mid December. Some soffit trim around the arch by the front door and some stone work at the front of the building needs to be completed on the outside. On the inside, the cabinets have been installed in the lunch room and the LWA hallway. The metal doors have been installed and primed. The plumbing for the toilets, sinks, and drinking fountain is in the works. The lowered ceiling is complete and the final coat of paint on the walls will be completed by the end of this week. Once the pain is finished, the carpet will be installed, with completion scheduled by November 20th. During the computer move to the new office, the LWA office may be closed. During any closed office period, the current drop box at

199 Lakengren Drive will remain in use. Between December 4th - 12th, the phone system will be transferred to the new building. The plan is for the LWA office to be open for business on Monday, December 15th, however, the LWA will not open the new office until the outside doors are finished. The LWA will notify the LPOA when the move is complete and the LPOA may move in at any time after that notification.

Manager's Report: Kevin Thorpe noted an offer for the S-10 pickup was made. Also, the Veteran's Memorial silhouette is ready to be put up at the front entrance. A contract for the Lodge restaurant has been signed with Bear's and they hope to be open the first part of December.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy Review Committee...Daphne Brunett reported the new Table of Contents for the Policy Manual is completed and the next meeting will be December 2nd.

Viking Editorial Committee...Gerald Spaeth noted the deadline is November 22nd.

Safety Committee...Gerald Estes reported there will not be a meeting this month. The Soup and Sandwich Supper was a success. So far, \$3,310.00 has been deposited for the walk path.

Activities & Entertainment Committee...Bill Holtman introduced Alma Warner who talked about the upcoming teen Guitar Hero night at the Lodge November 15th from 7:00-11:00 pm.

OLD BUSINESS

1) The Board referred the Mule policy to the Policy Review Committee to be integrated into the Vehicle Rules and Regulations.

2) It was noted the Deaton's driveway will not be done this fall. Prep work is to be done and the Manager is to be kept informed of progress.

NEW BUSINESS

1) A revision to the Watercraft Rules to ban Wake Boats was discussed at length. The Board referred the issue to John Bentley, the Safety Committee and

the Lakes & Marine Committee for further review.

2) It was noted there is no real definition of a "Member in Good Standing" in the Code of Regulations. The Board referred this issue to the Policy Review Committee for input.

3) Revision to the Door to Door Solicitation policy

08-11-286 Rick McMahan made the motion to remove the paragraph about the office providing No Solicitation signs from the Door to Door Solicitation policy. Amy Gilbert seconded. Motion approved.

4) An additional ballot counter was needed.

08-11-287 Gerald Estes made the motion to approve Judy Thaxton as a ballot counter for the Nomination/Election committee. Bill Holtman seconded. Motion approved.

5) It was decided to have the regular meeting as scheduled on November 24th.

RECOGNITION AND HEARING OF VISITORS

John Bentley announced there will be Safe Boating Classes scheduled in January. There was the question of where the classes should be held, with the possibility of holding them in the new building.

08-11-288 Gladys Preston made the motion to approve John Bentley as a ballot counter for the Nomination/Election committee. Rod Suman seconded. Motion approved.

There was a question about individuals blowing leaves into the lake. This is not allowed and should be reported to the Manager. The issue was referred to the Policy Review Committee to come up with a policy on leaf clean-up.

Dan McElwee will give the Gasper Township Trustees a copy of the new LPOA Junk Vehicle Policy.

08-11-289 Gladys Preston made the motion to approve the New Membership. Amy Gilbert seconded. Motion approved.

08-11-290 Judy Thaxton made the motion to adjourn. Gerald Estes seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

**LAKENGREN
PROPERTY OWNERS
ASSOCIATION INC.
BOARD OF
TRUSTEES -
Regular Open
Meeting
November 24, 2004**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at the Lodge.

Present: President Paul Ellison (arrived late), Vice-President Gerald Estes, Secretary Gladys Preston, Treasurer Tom Pohlbel, Amy Gilbert, Rick McMahan, Judy Thaxton and Rod Suman. Also present were Manager Kevin Thorpe, Board Recorder Daphne Brunett and 6 guests. Absent: Bill Holtman and Office Manager Tammy Moore.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Tom Pohlbel gave the Treasurer's Report as follows:

2007 Carry Over Balance of \$2,338.19 (\$1,524.47 transferred to Designated Road Fund); Operating Fund \$233,893.19; Designated Lodge/Building Deposit Account \$8,516.72; Lake Improvements Fund \$149,613.39; Road Improvements Fund \$8,195.41; Capital Improvements Fund \$36,751.59; Emergency Reserve Fund \$116,788.21. Accounts Receivable Report as of 11/21/08: 2007 & Previous \$49,258.73;; 2008 Delinquent Dues, Assessments, Late Fees, Mowing and Defaulted Payment Plans \$35,415.45 and 2008 Payment Plans & New Member Balances \$54,051.32.

08-11-291 Gladys Preston made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report subject to audit. Amy Gilbert seconded. Motion approved.

08-11-292 Judy Thaxton made the motion to approve the November 10, 2008 Regular Open Board minutes as corrected. Tom Pohlbel seconded. Motion approved.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Kevin Thorpe stated the lake is lowering at a normal rate. The dredge was brought to the Maintenance barn for service and it was determined there are engine problems that will require a professional mechanic to work on it. The Board directed Kevin to find a mechanic and get an hourly rate cost for the repairs, then call the Board members before proceeding. Mr. Thorpe also noted the leaf pickup is near completion for this year. He has been getting engineering estimates for the Marina Building. The snow plows and trucks are ready for the winter. Bob Coveney is looking for parts to change the lights at the front entrance. The veteran's memorial silhouette is now at the front entrance.

08-11-293 Tom Pohlbel made the motion to accept the Kramer Association bid for the Marina Building. Gladys Preston seconded. Motion approved.

**VIKING
DEADLINES
2009**

January 16
February 20
March 20
April 17
May 15
June 19
July 17
August 21
September 18
October 16
November 20
December 18

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy Review Committee...The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 2nd.

Viking Editorial Committee...The paper is at the printers.

Building Committee...The committee is processing 2 or 3 permits per week.

Safety Committee...Donations of \$120.00 were received this month to-

wards the walking path. Activities & Entertainment Committee...Guitar Hero night was a success. There will be a Teen Dance with a DJ on December 19th from 7 pm to 11 pm. A "Winter Carnival" is being Planned for January. Ideas for indoor carnival-type games are needed. Food will be served. The Mardi Gras Party is tentatively scheduled for February 21st and January 24th will be a Chili Cook-Off.

OLD BUSINESS
The contract for the Lakengren Lodge restaurant has been signed. A tentative opening date of January 2nd was announced.

NEW BUSINESS
08-11-294 Amy Gilbert made the motion to formally approve the Door to Door Solicitation Policy as presented. Gladys Preston seconded. Motion approved.

RECOGNITION & HEARING OF VISITORS
Alma Warner asked if it was true the Preble County

SEE NEXT PAGE...

LPOA BOARD MEMBERS

Paul EllisonPresident
Gerald EstesVice President
Randy BlachTreasurer
Bill HoltmanAsst. Treasurer
Judy ThaxtonSecretary
Amy GilbertMember
Rick McMahanMember
Rodney SumanMember
John KanzlemarMember

LAKENGREN PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

22 Lakengren Drive
Eaton, OH 45320
Office Phone 456-3173
Fax Number 456-9671
Web site-lakengrenpoa.org
Viking E-mail-lakepoa@lakengrenpoa.net

SPECIAL NUMBERS
Security: 456 2646
Marina: 456-5072
Maintenance Barn: 456-3359
LWA email address: alakengrenwater@woh.rr.com
LWA web site address: lakengrenh2o.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building Committee-Jerry Spaeth
Road Committee-Gary Ketron
Dams Committee-Gary Ketron
Lakes Management/Marine Committee-Marty Burnett
Safety Committee-Gerald Estes
Webmaster-Barry Clutter
Policy Review Committee-Daphne Brunett
Financial Planning Committee-Vacant
Election/Nomination Committee-Vacant

LAKENGREN WATER AUTHORITY TRUSTEES:
Terry Parks, Chairman
Tom Pierce, Secretary
Roger Riga, Treasurer
Gary Wagner, Operations Manager
24 Lakengren Drive - 456-4455
Viking Editorial Committee
Janet Davis,
John Keefe, Jerry Spaeth

**TO ADVERTISE IN THE VIKING
CALL SALES REPRESENTATIVE - 937-839-4733**

*Girton-Schmidt-Boucher
Funeral Home*



DONALD E. BOUCHER
REBECCA BOUCHER
RON R. GARD
Funeral Directors

226 West Main Street
Eaton, OH 45320
(937) 456-3333

Sheriff's Dept. was being cut down to just two patrol officers. She was told announcements on the actual cuts will be made later.

Rick McMahan noted the Veteran's Day Dinner was a success with 60 people, 40 of which were veterans. He thanked Tony McGuire and Dan McElwee for the excellent roast that was served.

08-11-295 Rod Suman made the motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the LWA Trustee selection. Rick McMahan seconded. Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:15 pm. It was noted no action will be taken until the January meeting.

08-11-296 Rod Suman made the motion to adjourn to Regular Session at 8:40 pm. Rick McMahan seconded. Meeting returned to Regular Session.

08-11-297 Rod Suman made the motion to adjourn. Rick McMahan seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

LWA OFFICE UPGRADE

The LWA has moved into the new office building and opened for business on Monday, December 22, 2008.

Payment for water/sewer bills will now be accepted at the new building. Customers may pay at the payment window inside the building or may use the drop box located on the south side of the front doors, at the front of the building.

Customers who mail in their payments should use our new address to pay their bills. Payments should be sent to: LWA, 24 Lakengren Drive, Eaton, OH 45320.

Our mailed bills will continue to have the old 209 Lakengren Drive return address on them for a few

months. The LWA is using all of its old printed bills with the old address on them before ordering new bills with our current address in order to save some money. Please keep this in mind when you receive your bills in the mail and prepare your payments in the months to come.

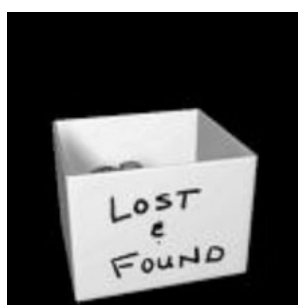
OPEN HOUSE FOR THE NEW OFFICE IS SET

The LWA Board of Trustees has set the Open House for the new LWA Office Building for Sunday, January 18, 2009, from 2-5 PM. The LWA Trustees and LPOA representatives, as well as other representatives from the organizations making the new office possible will be there for this event. Refreshments will be served.

If the weather forces a cancellation of the Open House, the alternative date is Sunday, February 8, 2009, from 2-5 PM.

Come and join us as we celebrate the completion of this new community resource.

The LWA Board of Trustees and its employees hope that your Christmas and New Year's celebrations were joyous.



Found

In the early part of December, a child's brown purse was left at the Children's Santa Party. Please call 456-3173 to inquire or stop by the "new" LPOA office to identify the contents..

In Remembrance of Gladys Preston



We

note with sadness the loss of Gladys Preston. Gladys was a respected and valued member of the Lakengren community and of the LPOA Board of Trustees. She served the community as a member of the LPOA Board of Trustees, as Secretary of the Board, as member of the Safety Committee, the Policy Review Committee and as Chair of the Elections and Nominations Committee.

Her contributions were invaluable and many. Her willingness to speak her mind was well known. Although she usually accompanied her comments with a smile so that the recipient and the listeners knew that she meant only the best. This contribution on the Board was invaluable as it often helped her fellow board members to focus on the central point of the issue and to be more productive in our discussions.

She took her job as a member of the Policy Review Committee very seri-

ously and made

sure that she knew the rules and policies of the Association. Members of the Board, as well as chairs of the committees, often turned to Gladys to find the correct way to accomplish something. She also insisted that words in the rules and policies be spelled correctly and that correct grammar be used. She often expressed frustration that her fellow board members were not as well acquainted with the Policy Manual of the Association as she thought they should be. During my term as President, Gladys as the Secretary sat next to me during meetings. Her comments were invaluable as she helped me to keep the meetings running smoothly. Although at times those comments threatened to disrupt the meeting as they were often very funny.

Despite her battle with C.O.P.D she continued to serve the community in these roles. She was always ready to lend a helping hand. She made financial contributions to the many projects in Lakengren. She was always ready to volunteer her time when a committee needed her.

Gladys was dedicated to the improvement of Lakengren. Even though her term on the Board was ending she informed me on the Friday before her passing that she would still attend meetings and she would "make sure that you guys did the right thing in the right way." Her judgment, counsel and wit will be missed. On behalf of the Lakengren Community, I say thank you Gladys.

Submitted by Paul Ellison, President, LPOA

It's a Matter of Security

by Ginger Adams

It's time to wrap up another year and get 2008 under our belts. This year has been nothing short of a roller coaster ride most of the time for those of us in Security. We've had our share of vandalism, 4-wheeler accidents, kids on the ice, dog complaints, suspicious vehicles, suspicious person complaints, gate violations, run-a-way teens, "be-on-the-lookout" calls, "do not admit" requests, and I could go on and on. But the truth is, we love our job and our community and look forward to everyday. We try to give the best "customer service" that we can. We're not perfect, but we have a job to do and we do the best we can.

There are a few things that you, the property owner, can do to help us a little. When you call the guardhouse and get the answering machine, (because we're on another call) please speak clearly and concisely. It is very hard to decipher some of the calls we get. The soft spoken, or mumbled messages because you're in a hurry, are especially difficult to understand. In reporting situations to the guard on duty, it is important to have all the facts before you call. It slows down the response time if we don't have all the information we need to get you help. And be accurate. Exaggerations don't do anyone any good. When reporting a suspicious vehicle, whether they are hanging around your house or your neighbors, or they've breached one of the back gates, it is

helpful to have a description of the vehicle and the license plate number if you can get it. We can run the plate number and find out who it is. Also, when requesting that an item be put on the lighted sign in the front entrance, please check with the LPOA office first. We can only post messages that have been approved by the office, or have been printed in the Viking calendar of events.

It seems like winter lasts forever sometimes, but before you know it, spring will be here and activities will resume in full force. This glimmer of hope brings about an early warning/recommendation about water craft rules. If you are a boater under the age of 27, you must successfully complete a Boaters Education Course to operate a boat over 10 horsepower on Lakengren's lake. Violations of State and LPOA watercraft rules are the responsibility of the boat OWNER even if the operator is a family member or guest and whether or not the OWNER is present at the time. Bringing this to your attention now gives you plenty of time in the next couple of months to take the boaters course if you need to.

If you have an idea for information that you would like to see addressed in this article, please don't hesitate to let me know. You can call me at home, 456-1926, or leave a message at the guardhouse. I would love to hear from you. The Security Department staff would like to wish everyone a safe and happy New Year.

WANTED HOMES THAT NEED ROOFING

A select number of homeowners in Lakengren and the surrounding areas will be given the opportunity to have a lifetime Erie Metal Roofing System.

If your home qualifies to install the look of our **NEW Metal Shingle Roof**, we will definitely make it worth your while.

We will offer you fabulous pricing and access to our special low interest unsecured bank financing.

An Erie Metal Roofing System will provide your home with unsurpassed "Beauty and Lasting Protection"!

Don't miss this opportunity to save!

CALL TODAY TO SEE IF YOUR HOME QUALIFIES!

1-800-952-3743

email: roofing@eriemetalroofs.com

www.ErieMetalRoofs.com

Copyright © 2007 Erie Metal Roofing

www.strangesboatshop.com

STRANGE'S BOATSHOP

Sales, Service & Accessories

Avoid the Boat Show Crowd

CHECK OUT OUR NEW BOATS!

509 S. Barron St.
St. Rt. 127 S.
Eaton, Ohio

1-937-456-5835

Evinrude Outboards
Johnson Outboards
Jet Drives
Mercruiser

Lakengren Election and Board Members

Since the vote tally for the LPOA Board of Trustees was so close, a recount was requested. The result of the recount indicated a tie between Randy Blaich and Tony McGuire. McGuire conceded making Randy Blaich the third elected board member. Please note the two ballot issues were defeated.

At the December 12 board meeting, the new members were sworn in by Board Vice President Gerald Estes. The new board then elected officers as follows: Paul Ellison, President; Gerald Estes, Vice President; Judy Thaxton, Secretary; Randy Blaich, Treasurer, and Bill Holtman, Assistant Treasurer.

The remaining Board of Trustees are: Amy Gilbert, John Kanzlemar, Rick McMahan, and Rodney Suman.



Paul Ellison



Amy Gilbert



Rodney Suman



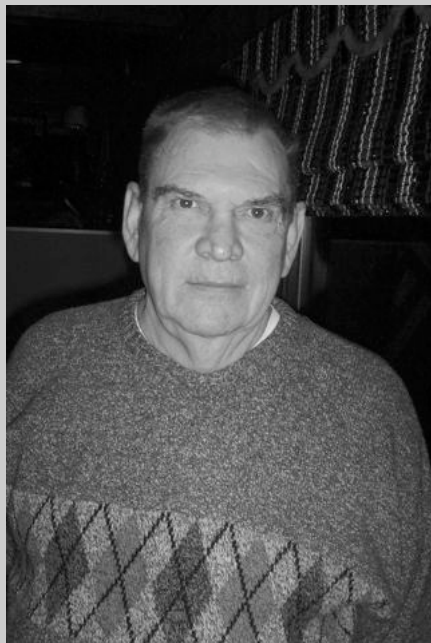
Rick McMahan



Judy Thaxton



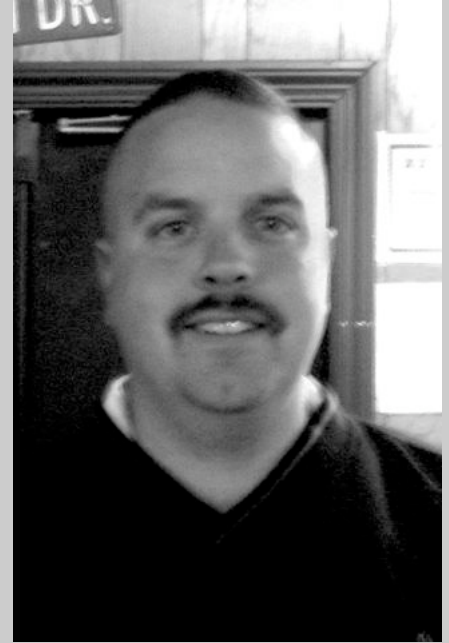
Bill Holtman



Gerald Estes



John Kanzlemar



Randy Blaich

LAKENGREN PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION

With reference to the tallying of ballots for three Board of Trustee Members & proposed revision to the Lakengren Code of Regulations & permanent \$60.00 Road Improvements Assessment Increase, this is to certify that the members of the Elections Committee counted each ballot embossed with the Corporate Seal of Lakengren Property Owners Association, Inc. and returned in an OFFICIAL BALLOT envelope to the LPOA Office by 4:30 p.m., Friday, November 24, 2008 on Monday, December 1, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

The official ballot count is as follows:

Board Member Candidate Name	# of Votes Received
PAUL ELLISON	234
GLADYS PRESTON	134
HELEN J. FISHER	132
ALMA WARNER	87
RANDY BLAICH	153
RONALD "TONY" MCGUIRE	155
JOHN KANZLEMAR	156
WRITE-IN	
<i>several</i>	
WRITE-IN	

BALLOT TO VOTE TO REPEAL & REPLACE LANGUAGE IN ARTICLE IV, SECTION 13, ITEM A. FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT REGARDING STICKER FEES:

FOR THE PROPOSED LANGUAGE CHANGE	151
AGAINST THE PROPOSED LANGUAGE CHANGE	290
Disqualified Ballots	7
TOTAL BALLOTS RECEIVED	462

BALLOT TO VOTE TO APPROVE PERMANENT \$60.00 ROAD ASSESSMENT INCREASE:

FOR THE ROAD ASSESSMENT	156
AGAINST THE ROAD ASSESSMENT	294
Disqualified Ballots	7
TOTAL BALLOTS RECEIVED	462

I, the undersigned Elections Committee Chairman, affirm that the official ballot count as recorded above is true and correct.

Gladys Preston
Gladys Preston, Chairman
Nomination/Election Committee

Activities

&

Entertainment

News

By Bill Holtman

B-r-r-r, it's cold outside. But don't let the winter hum-drum get you down. Come join the A & E Committee for the first-ever Winter Carnival in Lakengren. That's right, no need to wait for summertime to have a good time. This will be a blast for young and old alike.

Picture a circus-like theme with games, prizes, face painting and balloon animal making, food, popcorn, and lots of snacks. A raffle and did I mention GAMES? More fun than you can throw a snowball at.

So, don't miss this stellar event right here in Lakengren at the Valhalla Lodge. Mark your calender and reserve the date. Saturday, January 31 from 1 to 5 p.m. Don't miss this one.

Attention Adults

Just a reminder next month, the Second Annual Mardi Gras Party, Saturday, February 21 from 8 to midnight. Watch the Viking for details. This event was a huge success last year and everyone had a wonderful time...

AK CONSTRUCTION



- New Homes
 - Room Additions
- We Build On Your Lot Or Ours

937-298-7182



Barnes
Funeral Homes, Inc.
"One Name, One Family,
Over One Hundred Years of Service, Because We Care"
www.barnesfuneralhome.com
Eaton, Camden, Lewisburg, New Paris,
Eldorado, Ohio



Who will hold the Title
of Lakengren chili Master
hosted by the Lakengren Social Club

FIRST ANNUAL
Lakengren
Chili
Cook Off

Jan 24
2 pm
Free Entry
4 quart minimum
At the Lodge
Free Chili for all Spectators
Turn in your entry form at
office by Jan 17
Judging by Fire Dept
Can you set them on Fire

Alma 336-5256 For Info Tony 533-7882




Do you have
what it takes!

Bring your
own drink

**Get
Cookin**



Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Return
to
office

CLC CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE





The Children's Party and Open House held on December 13 was a huge success. The kids and adults enjoyed all of the activities.

The Magic Acts by Larry McMechan and his granddaughter, Shayna Reed, were greeted with laughter and wonder by the big crowd. Larry and Shayna performed card, rope, and scarf tricks. The disappearing milk and mirror tricks were enjoyed by the kids and parents alike. The funniest part of the show was the bandana (banana) from the Acme Magic Company. Watching Larry fold the banana was nearly impossible. Shayna's technique with the live birds was unbelievable. Many Lakengren children helped out with each act. Special thanks go to Andrew Gaydosh who sponsored the magic show.

Santa Claus was joyously received by the children. He listened to their many wishes and passed out candy canes. There were a lot of pictures taken for all the friends and relatives.

The adult karaoke was the finale of the Open House. Amy Gilbert brought out her new karaoke equipment including a spotlighted, spinning mirrored globe. Amy's karaoke business is just kicking off and she calls it Lakeside Entertainment. The party goes were in a festive mood and had a really fun time.





Face Painting

By Stephanie

Parties, Reunions
& Corporate Events

583-5105

CROWELL

Since 1951 **Plumbing**

Total Plumbing Service

Electric Sewer Service
Water Heaters

Well Pumps
Water Softners


937-456-4951

TOLL FREE 1-866-899-8298


117 S. Barron St. Eaton








Making the right connections.



We get your computer solution right the first time.

Sales,
Service,
and Support



Serving Preble County for over 10 years

Eaton Computer Services
1843 North Barron Street
Eaton, Ohio 45320

937-456-4332

www.eatoncomputer.com

Bird Food Basics On A Budget

By Jo Ann Hoffman

If you are reading this article, I assume you have some interest in feeding the birds, maybe you even have a bird feeder or two in your yard, so I won't go into why birds need human help this time of the year or even how to feed them since you probably already are. Instead, we will look at what to feed them. Bird seed and suet are the food du jour. Grocery, department, and discount stores stock a wide variety of bird food. Knowing which birds eat what may help you decide what to purchase and may even help save you some money in these troubled economic times.

Birds, like people, are finicky eaters. They won't eat just any seed. As a result, most stores sell mixtures of seed in hopes of pleasing all birds. Unfortunately, a lot of the seed goes to waste in such mixtures. Check the label before buying. What may appear a bargain may not actually be one. For example, the ingredients in the Somers Deluxe Wild Bird Food mix reads: Milo, Oil Sunflower, White Millet, Wheat, Stripe Sunflower, Safflower, Grit, Peanut Pieces, Soy Oil. Notice that the first and therefore most prevalent ingredient is Milo. The mix actually includes both red and white milo. They are the small, round, hard red and white seeds. Unfortunately, birds in Ohio don't eat milo. Red milo IS a favorite food of some California and Arizona birds, but if they are not coming to your table, why buy it? Besides, milo is a heavy seed, especially when compared to the much lighter-weight black oil sunflower seed. Because bird seed is sold by weight; i.e., so many pounds for so much money, don't waste your money on seed or suet mixes that include red milo, wheat, oats, flax, or buckwheat seeds. Birds in Ohio don't eat them.

Birds here do eat black oil sunflower seed. In fact, black oil sunflower seed is the all-time favorite food of the largest variety of birds according to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology in Ithaca, NY. These seeds ARE worth buying. Black oil sunflower seeds are small with thin shells that make it easy for birds with small beaks to crack and eat the meat. Plus the kernels have a high fat content which provides birds lots of energy.

A 50-pound bag of Somers Deluxe (with the top ingredient red milo) sells for \$19.13 or 38 cents per pound at Keller Feed in Brookville. A 50-pound bag of black oil sunflower seed at Keller's sells for \$25.86 or 52 cents per pound. Even though the bag of black oil sunflower seed costs more, since the shells of the black oil sunflower seed are so thin and light and there is no red milo, wheat, or grit adding useless weight, there is actually more edible food per pound with the black oil sunflower making it the more cost effective choice. Chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, finches, Cardinals, sparrows, Blue Jays and woodpeckers all like to eat black oil sunflower seed.

Striped sunflower seeds are much larger and have thicker shells. Small birds have difficulty cracking them open to get to the meat, so striped sunflower seeds cater to larger birds with strong bills, like Blue Jays and grousebeaks to the exclusion of the smaller birds. If you want both large and small birds, buy black oil sunflower seeds, not the heavier shelled (more useless weight) striped seeds as the Blue Jays and grousebeaks eat both.

Sunflower hearts or hulled sunflower seeds are any sunflower seed with the shell completely removed, like the snacking sunflower seeds we eat. Removing the shells costs time and money making sunflower hearts much more expensive to purchase than either black oil or striped. The only reason to buy these kernels is for your own benefit, not for the birds. So-called "patio mixes" or "no mess" mixes include seeds with no shells or grit (bits of stems and leaves) to collect under the feeder. If you are willing to use a broom occasionally to sweep the patio, forego the "patio mixes," buy the black oil sunflower seed and your bird food will cost half as much.

All the birds that eat sunflower seeds will perch to eat (arboreal feeders) so put sunflower seeds in hanging or pole feeders, not on the ground. White proso millet seed, a small white seed with pointed ends (not to be confused with the larger rounder white milo seed) is another good, cost effective seed. It is preferred by our winter birds that feed only on the ground, like Mourning Doves, Juncos and Towhees. Cardinals and sparrows are less finicky than most other birds. They perch to eat sunflower and also ground feed eating millet. By the way, Starlings do not like white millet! Of course, they aren't here in winter, but come spring, reduce your sunflower seed and increase your millet until the Starlings find a house with more appetizing fare.

Corn is another "seed" found in some mixes. Pigeons, turkeys, pheasant, and quail love whole kernel corn. If you have these birds in your area, it is a

good buy. If not, don't. Blue Jays and doves will also eat whole kernel corn, but since Blue Jays prefer sunflower and doves prefer millet, there is no need to get whole kernel corn just for them. Cracked corn, being smaller than the whole kernel corn, is eaten by more birds such as finches and sparrows, but again, they all prefer millet or sunflower. Corn is plentiful here and relatively inexpensive, but the downside to corn of any kind is it attracts squirrels. Once squirrels find your feeder, there will be no corn or seed of any kind left for the birds. Squirrels eat a lot and they "squirrel away" in hidden caches what they can't eat. They can empty a full feeder in two hours. Protecting your bird food from squirrels is a topic for another day! For now, I would advise not serving the birds any corn or bird seed mix with corn or peanuts if there are any squirrels living in a half mile radius.

It is not that corn or striped sunflower seed are bad for the birds, just unnecessary and can have negative side effects that white proso millet and black oil sunflower seeds do not.

Safflower seed is the number one favorite food of Cardinals, it's also liked by doves and native sparrows and get this, disliked by English (House) Sparrows, Starlings and squirrels. If you already have problems with English Sparrows, Starlings or squirrels, you can convert to feeding all safflower seed and nothing but safflower seed, so help you God, for one whole winter to send the pests somewhere else. It is much more expensive than white millet and black oil sunflower seeds which is okay if you don't have a bird food budget, but if you do, it's really only necessary if you want to dissuade unwanted guests.

Many of you are familiar with Nyjer, the so called thistle seed used in finch feeders. These tiny black seeds are not related to our native thistle plant although the finches do eat the native seeds too. Nyjer seed is so expensive it is called "black gold" and is not included in mixes. It is always sold separately and used only in special feeders with very small feeding holes to prevent spillage. Goldfinches, House Finches, Purple Finches and Pine Siskins will congregate on finch feeders filled with Nyjer seed. They will also eat black oil sunflower seed in perch feeders so why spend the money for Nyjer?

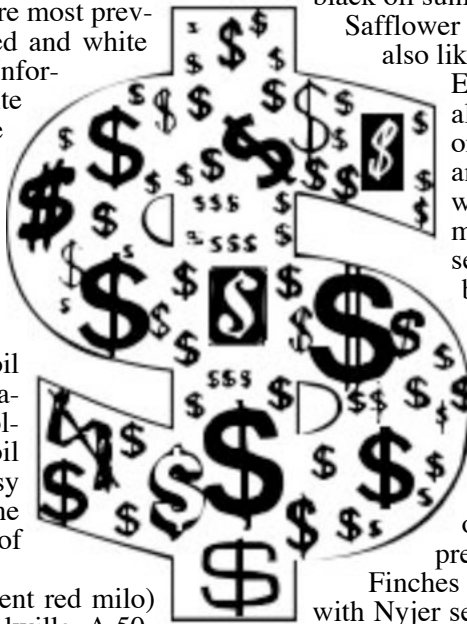
To summarize what mixed seed to purchase while on a bird food budget, my advice is not to buy a mix at all. Buy black oil sunflower seed and put it in a perch-type feeder for the arboreal feeding birds; Buy white proso millet seed and put it on a table feeder or right on the ground for ground-feeding birds; don't buy milo, wheat, oats, flax or buckwheat seed unless the mix is feeding birds in California or Arizona; Only buy safflower seed for one winter and put it in all feeders if you have House Sparrow, Starling or squirrel problems; and only buy Nyjer seed, striped sunflower; sunflower hearts, hulled sunflower, corn or peanuts if you are not concerned with cost.

The other type of winter bird food is suet. My mom used to save and then render beef and bacon grease, mix in some sunflower seeds, and freeze it until winter for homemade suet cakes for the birds. Not many folks today save beef and bacon grease, much less render it! It is too much work for a product that will melt, drip, and leave a greasy mess on the first warm day. Store-bought suet cakes are cheap, dripless and just as good for the birds. They normally sell individually for \$1.89 per cake or at Ace Hardware for \$1.00 each in a package of 8 for \$7.99 which is not bad considering each cake lasts for several weeks. I have also seen them on sale at Menards for 79 cents each and at Tractor Supply in bulk, 10 for \$5.

Chickadees, titmice and nuthatches all go for an occasional suet snack, but the number one reason to provide suet is for the woodpeckers. Downy, Hairy, Red-bellied, and Pileated Woodpeckers all come to eat suet in winter when the protein they need and usually get from insects is so scarce. Woodpeckers prefer to feed on tree trunks where they can use their tails for balance so if you have a tree with a low limb, wrap the suet cage chain around that branch and snug it up against the trunk of the tree. If not, don't worry, you can just hang the suet from the side or perch of a hanging feeder. Don't put suet on the ground where mammalian varmints can get to it though!

Whether high tech or homemade, inexpensive or specialty, whatever and however you prefer, as long as you provide food, birds will come. Your reward will be cheery chirps to break the silence of cold air, bright colors on grey winter days, and a warm heart knowing you have helped a fellow member of Planet Earth survive the winter.

Happy Birding!





Heuberger Plays Lead



Lakengren resident Brenna Heuberger, 13-year-old daughter of Dr. Barbara Heuberger, played the lead role of Marie (aka Clara) in Richmond Civic Theater's December production of "The Story of the Nutcracker," a play by Michele L. Vacca based on the fairy tale ballet by Pytor I. Tchaikovsky and the story "The Nutcracker and The Mouse King" by E.T.A. Hoffmann and Alexandre Dumas. Singing and dancing her way into the Land of Pleasant Dreams where she meets the Sugar Plum Fairy, Queen of the Land of Sweets, Brenna was the star of the show.

The RCT actually presented a pair of Christmas classics. "The Story of the Nutcracker" was the first half of the program. "Amahl and the Night Visitors," a musical by Gian Carlo Menotti, was the second half of the program. Jo Ann Hoffman of Valhalla Cove played violin in the pit orchestra for Amahl while Brenna also played the part of a peasant girl in the Amahl chorus and dance scene.

*The tooth,
the whole tooth
nuttin' but the tooth*

It was a dreary, cloudy grey December day as I sat in my dentist's office. It looked like it could snow. Soon I was encouraged to enter into the inter-sanctum of the office complex and pointed to a blue plastic covered reclining chair.

As I slid into the chair's contour, I was greeted by an attractive blue covered technician, who planned to give my pearly whites a once over with picks and emery wheels.

I was now in the lair of the famous Dr. Craig, DDS.

For years we've enjoyed those television shows of famous physicians, doctors, ER, Grey's Anatomy, and James Bond-like characters. I have always wondered why there's never been a hero dentist-until now!

Now I was there, experiencing the exploits of a true dental hero - Doctor Craig, the Tooth Extractor.

As I lay back in the chair, a television glided over head, giving me the visual exploits of sports heroes on ESPN. I knew that the Dentist Hero was in the building saving molars, yanking teeth, capping bicuspid. or just smoozing his patients.

While everyone in there knew him to be the mild manner dentist, I was able to learn he was in secret "Toothman," defender against plaque, fighter of gum rot, the cavity's biggest enemy.

With hundreds of television channels, and so many programs, it made me wonder why no one has ever made a hero out of a local dentist. He is on the firing lines of so many terrible sounding problems occurring in the mandibles of innocent Americans. He's a molar magician and the gingivitis killer giant. This man fights tooth and nail for the what lies in the mouth of us all. I sat in the chair after the efficient technician cleaned and polished my choppers and began to sense my impending contact with the "man.!"

"He'll be with you soon," she said.

My mind went blank.

My legs began to tremble.

My brain went wild.

I thought "what if he's a Republican!"

And all I could think of was "Drill Baby, Drill"!!!!

I'm sure that was why my blood pressure was elevated. Why I perspired a lot and wanted to get up and run away. But I believe I was stuck to the blue chair with a dab of fix-odent. I looked around for a string of floss to make my get away but it was too late, Toothman made his appearance.

He loomed over me and I knew I was in for it! Sturdy fingers pried open my clenched mouth, bright lights violated my lips. A spy light fastened on his forehead peered with an erie blue light into my open cavity and all my teeth were exposed to his beady gaze.

Who was this man who passed himself off as a bicuspid expert? He had to be a secret spy who would fight tooth and nail for the red, white and blue! He would stand in the teeth of a wind for good and the American way? As a secret agent he sinks his teeth into his job and defends his country against evil enemy agents and slimy terrorists!

Having been reclining in the contoured blue chair, relaxing, listening to the mesmerizing voices on Sports Channel apparently I had fallen into a nice sleep.

I was awakened by a gentle touch on my shoulder and there was Craig, DDS. Not a sleuth from CSI, nor Without a Trace, nor an FBI agent seeking to right the wrong of the country; just a mild mannered Clark Kent kinda guy. A businessman, husband and father of a bunch of kids! And as a kid I reminded of the saying learned in school "brush your teeth twice a day and see 'Toothman' twice a year."

And as I left my appointment I forgot to ask him if he didn't think it was unfair that there was no program on television memorializing the heroic hometown dentist, who works tirelessly against all odds and who in each episode will get out of each predicament by the skin of someone's teeth!

jmk

Card Scores

Dec 5 - PINOCHLE - 1st Jim Parks, 2nd Sue Pohlbel, 3rd Virginia Wehrly, 4th Joanne Parks

Dec 12 - DOUBLE DECK BID EUCHRE - 1st Elsie Burkle, 2nd Zellia Worley, 3rd Marilyn Sliver, 4th Tom Pohlbel, 5th Tom Carr, 6th Brandon Carr

No cards were played on the last two Fridays of December due to the holidays. The Card Club officers hopes everyone had a Merry Christmas. Regular card club nights will begin again on January 2, 2009.



Bubbles

Clown Around With Bubbles

- Ballons
- Animals
- Face Painting
- Fairs
- Birthdays
- School Parties

Call 336-2950

Bass Club Year End Awards

During the Annual Awards Dinner for the Lakengren Bass Club, the following announcements were made: Angler of the Year was Justin Taylor, Second Place was Brian King, Third Place was Dean Rogers, Fourth Place was Todd Davis, and Fifth Place was Jeff Bowling.

Big Bass went to Brian King for 4.22 lb.

Heavyweight Catch of the Year of 11.22 lb. went to Todd Davis.

Club Member of the Year was Bruce Clark.

Classic Winner for 17.98 lb. to Pete Jones.

Junior Angler of the Year went to Ryan Bowling...

Women's Club Year in Review

By Connie Moore

September 3, 2007, Field Trip to Greenville to the Garst Museum. Lunch at Montage Restaurant.

October 2, 2007, Lutherfest. Speaker was Elsie Burkle. Elsie spent 14 days in Germany with group, where they visited historical sites learning about Martin Lu-

ther's life.

November 7, 2007, Speaker was Melinda Allen of the Preble County YMCA. She demonstrated body flexing and exercises to tone different muscle groups.

December 5, 2007, Annual Christmas Carry-in Luncheon and Silent Auction.

March 5, 2008, Speaker was Sherry Downs, who talked about the benefits of using herbs, special oils, and herbal teas. Demonstrated Reflexology Massage on feet. April 2, 2008, Mystery Theatre Luncheon. A cast of characters was chosen and the group solved the mystery of who murdered Hal Capbone. A special luncheon was prepared for all the guests.

May 7, 2008, Field Trip to Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park in Hamilton, Ohio. Lunch following at the Riverbank Cafe.

June 4, 2008, A special afternoon was enjoyed at the Spring Valley Bed & Breakfast for lunch and installation of officers.

July 2, 2008, Betty Darst from the Ohio Humanities Speakers Bureau performed a living biography of First Lady Lucy Webb Hayes. A step back in time.

August 6, 2008, Annual carry-in picnic lunch at Carole Moore's home with pontoon boat rides prior to lunch



VIEW FROM THE STATEHOUSE

Looking Ahead to the Challenges in the 128th General Assembly

As the legislature puts the finishing touches on the 127th General Assembly, we begin to look forward to the new challenges facing us in the new year. While I will be saddened to see many of my colleagues leave the house due to term limits, it will be exciting to meet the incoming class of new legislators and begin to build successful working relationships.

While it is unfortunate that legislators routinely come and go due to the enforcement of term limits, one theme that must remain constant if we are to be successful against the coming challenges is the willingness for both Republicans and Democrats to work together in a bipartisan manner for the benefit of Ohio. Ohio faces serious economic challenges, and I look forward to working with all of my colleagues to try and create meaningful solutions to the challenges our great state faces.

One of the first orders of business for the new General Assembly will be working on Ohio's biennial budget. Worked on every odd numbered year, Ohio's two year operating budget for 2010-2011 will be a major issue that must be appropriately addressed by the legislature and governor. By law, Ohio is required to pass a balanced budget, and this means that there will be a lot of very tough decisions and choices that will need to be made. Economic downturn and the loss of jobs means that the revenue Ohio was expecting to take in will likely fall short of the projected numbers. I am confident that we in the legislature will have a measured and structured approach to these challenges and look forward to working with the Governor on these issues.

Another area I look forward to tackling is regulatory reform. As the vice-chairman of the Regulatory Reform Task Force, I traveled around the state hearing testimony on various regulatory flaws and burdens. Through my travels and the testimony of numerous witnesses, it became very clear that action was needed to improve our business climate and create jobs. I am excited about the opportunities that this task force helped to create, and am confident we will do a good job of promoting Ohio as an attractive workplace while protecting Ohio families, workers and the environment.

I have really enjoyed the great privilege and responsibility of serving as your state representative. From my family to yours, and I want to wish all a very happy and safe holiday season.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the budget process, regulatory reform or any other state related matter. You can reach my office at (614) 466-6344 or write me, state Representative Jim Zehringer, at 77 S. High St. Columbus, OH 43215.

Eaton National Bank & Trust Co.

A FULL SERVICE BANK



MEMBER **FDIC**

www.enbbank.com

4269 State Rt. 732

Next To Farmers Market

937-456-6900

HOURS
MON. - THURS. 8:00 - 5:00
FRI. 8:00 - 6:00
SAT. CLOSED
LOBBY AND DRIVE THRU

BE SMART
Take a
Boating Course!



ABOUT BOATING SAFELY COURSE

**Where: NEW LWA BUILDING
AT MAIN ENTRANCE OF LAKENGREN**

When: JANUARY 19, 20, 21, 2009

Time: 7:00pm to 10:00pm each night

THREE SESSIONS NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE COURSE

Book Fees: \$15.00.

Course includes Ohio Boating Certification

**PHONE: JOHN BENTLEY, U.S.C.G. AUX.
937-456-4031 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
CLASS SIZE LIMITED TO 25 STUDENTS.**



Call **Kathy Posey** today to schedule a **FREE MEAL** and a **TOUR** of our beautiful campus

501 Lexington Rd
Eaton, OH 45320
(937)456-9535
Toll Free (866)456-9535

The Greenbriar
SENIOR LIVING CAMPUS

Setting the Standard for Excellence in Health Care

Women's Club News

By Carole Moore

The Lakengren Women's Club met Dec. 3, 2008 at the Lodge for their annual Christmas Carry in Lunch and silent auction for charity. Twenty four members were present. Hostesses for the meeting were Jeannie

Stoner, Jean Armour, Sue Pohlbel, and Phyllis White.

Guest Daryl Michael from the Preble County Educational Service Center spoke on his interest in birds and the bird counting day of December 16 in Preble County. Each member was given a sheet to tally birds seen that day. This project is sponsored by The National Audubon Society.

Donations from members of cookies, brownies, candy, and finger food for the Lakengren Christmas Party for children will be needed. Take to the Lodge at 5 p.m. on December 13.

Thank you notes for contributions to the Preble County Library fund and the Lakengren walking path were read.

Each member brought an item for the silent auction. The \$155 from the auction will be split between the Food Bank and the Lakengren activities and entertainment committee.

There will be no meetings in January and February. The next meeting will be March 4, 2009 at the Lodge at 1 p.m. It will be the "Antique Road Show" by Bob Roach, auctioneer. Each member can bring one item for him to appraise. Hostesses will be Connie Moore and Rosemary Smith. Devotions will be by Cecelia Deneau.



Lingle
REAL ESTATE

Spouses-Selling-Houses
Your Home
Guaranteed To Sell
Richard and Jocelyn Ross
Licensed in Indiana and Ohio
Lingle Real Estate

Toll Free: 1-800-473-0072
ext 334 or 365
Direct: 1-765-962-1489
ext 334 or 365
Cell: Jocelyn: 765-277-2529
Cell: Richard: 765-277-2530
email: r.ross56@yahoo.com
Fax: 765-935-1726

www.lakengrenohio.com

Jan. & Feb. Calendar of Events

Activities at the lodge unless otherwise noted

Pinochle and Euchre Friday at 7 p.m.

BP/Glucose screenings at the Fire Station

- Dec 29-Jan 2 LPOA Office closed
- Jan 3 Bass Club Mtg 9:30 a.m.
- Jan 3 Dragons Hold'em 7 p.m. @ lodge
- Jan 5 LPOA office opens at 22 Lakengren Dr.
- Jan 8 Dragons Mtg 7:30 p.m.
- Jan 12 LPOA Board Mtg 7 p.m.
- Jan 15 Safety Committee 5 p.m.
- Jan 15 Social Club Mtg 6:30 p.m. @ lodge
- Jan 16 Viking deadline for February
- Jan 18 LWA Open house @ New Office 2 - 5 p.m.
- Jan 19-21 Boating Safety Course @ New Office 7 - 10 p.m.
- Jan 24 Chili Cook-off @ Lodge - 2 p.m.
- Jan 26 LPOA Board Mtg 7 p.m.
- Jan 31 Winter Carnival 1 to 5 p.m. @ lodge
- Feb 1 Super Bowl Sunday
- Feb 7 Bass Club Mtg 9:30 a.m.
- Feb 7 Dragons Hold'em 7 p.m. @ lodge
- Feb 8 Rain date for LWA Open House
- Feb 9 LPOA Board Mtg 7 p.m.
- Feb 12 Dragons Mtg 7:30 p.m.
- Feb 17 Garden Club 7 p.m.
- Feb 19 Safety Committee 5 p.m.
- Feb 20 Viking deadline for March
- Feb 21 Adult Mardi Gras Party 8 to midnight
- Feb 23 LPOA Board Mtg 7 p.m.



Food **Face Painting**

Lakengren Winter

CARNIVAL

Fun **Games**

Prizes **Popcorn**

*B-R-R-R its cold outside
Come into the Fun!*

Valhalla Lodge

January 31st

1:00-5:00 pm

**Come Join the A&E Commitee
for Lakengrens first winter Carnival**



Pizza & Subs
POWERHOUSE

Dine In **Carry Out**

312 W. CENTRAL AVE.
CAMDEN
CORNER OF RT. 725 & 127

Delicious Food Prepared For You!

(937) 452-3504

TRY OUR PICK-UP WINDOW