

**LAKENGREN  
PROPERTY OWNERS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.  
BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES -  
Regular Open  
Meeting  
November 9, 2009**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at the LWA Meeting Room. Present: President Paul Ellison, Secretary Judy Thaxton, Treasurer Randy Blaich, Asst. Treasurer Bill Holtman, Amy Gilbert, Rick McMahan, John Kanzlemer and Rod Suman. Also present were Manager Kevin Thorpe, Office Manager Tammy Moore, Board Recorder Daphne Brunett and 12 visitors. Absent: Vice-President Gerald Estes.

President's Remarks: Mr. Ellison thanked everyone for passing the Police Levy and a particular thanks to Dan McElwee and Gerald Estes for their help.

09-11-168 Rick McMahan made the motion to approve the October 26, 2009 Board minutes with the correction of a typo. John Kanzlemer seconded. Motion approved.

LWA Report: Terry Parks reported that Camden and the LWA have been asked to submit proposals to handle leachate from the Preble County Landfill. A careful study has been done to determine the affect on LWA's system. No timeline has been set to know whether the LWA proposal will be accepted.

Manager's Report: Kevin thanked everyone involved with the passage of the Police Levy for Lakengren. This should help us all with the vandalism and other issues we have had. Leaf pickup continues, but the crew cannot keep up with the amount of leaves. They have been out to Longman Road as well as inside Lakengren and plan to go back again. The Board recommended that Kevin check on the costs for a second leaf vac.

He has been getting prices on bathroom partitions for the Pool. Prices should be in for the next meeting. The red dump truck is being sand blasted. There was rust around the taillights and also a couple of rust holes in the bed. Although the wet/dry issue didn't pass,

thanks are due to all those who were involved.

To add 8 feet to the new meeting area at the Marina adds \$8,650 to the overall costs of the building. The small porch roof over the double doors is \$750.00. Taller windows will add some to the costs also for a total of about \$9,400.00. That would bring total building costs for the Marina restrooms and meeting room to approximately \$48,832.37.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**  
Policy Review Committee-Daphne Brunett reported a meeting is planned for December 8th.

Dams/Roads Committees-John Kanzlemer noted he is trying to get a meeting scheduled in either December or January.

Viking Editorial Committee-Janet Davis noted November 20th is the deadline for the December issue.

Building Committee-Jerry Spaeth requested approval for new committee member Jim Parks.

Safety Committee-Deron McElDowney noted the committee will meet on November 29th at 5:00 pm.

**OLD BUSINESS**  
The Marina restrooms/meeting room project was discussed. Randy Blaich gave financial figures on how the project could be done. He also noted the potential for income. The Board discussed Lodge rental versus the Marina building rental.

09-11-169 Judy Thaxton made the motion to build the Marina Restrooms according to the original proposal, with the addition of an 8 foot extension, porch and windows. Randy Blaich seconded. Motion approved.

09-11-170 Randy Blaich made the motion to approve the Financial Planning Committee members of: Tom Pohlabel, Joe Taylor, Mark Shoetinger, Robert Myers, Paul Meyer and Don Moore. Amy Gilbert seconded. Motion approved.

09-11-171 Randy Blaich made the motion to approve Jim Parks as a member of the Building Committee. Rod Suman seconded. Motion approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**  
Paul Ellison noted that with the passage of the Police Levy, discussions will begin on how to put it into action.

With the defeat of the Gas-per 2 wet issue, a decision will have to be made as to what to do next.

Judy Thaxton asked why the LPOA doesn't operate the restaurant instead of leasing it out. Various reasons were noted by other Board members.

09-11-172 Randy Blaich made the motion to approve the New Memberships. Amy Gilbert seconded. Motion approved.

09-11-173 Randy Blaich made the motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Rod Suman seconded. Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:30 pm.

09-11-174 \_\_\_\_\_ made the motion to adjourn to Regular Session. \_\_\_\_\_ seconded. Meeting adjourned to Regular Session at \_\_\_\_\_

09-11-175 \_\_\_\_\_ made the motion to adjourn. \_\_\_\_\_ seconded. Meeting adjourned at \_\_\_\_\_

**LAKENGREN  
PROPERTY OWNERS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.  
BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES -  
Regular Open  
Meeting November  
23, 2009**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm in the LWA Meeting Room. Present: President Paul Ellison, Vice-President Gerald Estes, Secretary Judy Thaxton, Treasurer Randy Blaich, Rick McMahan, and Rod Suman. Also present were Manager Kevin Thorpe and an audience of property owners. Absent: John Kanzlemer, Office Manager Tammy Moore and Board Recorder Daphne Brunett.

09-11-176 Rick McMahan made the motion to move to Executive Session to discuss the LWA trustee selection, and the procedures regulating the selection in the future. Amy Gilbert seconded. Meeting adjourned to Executive session at 7:05 pm.

09-11-177 Randy Blaich made the motion to return to regular session. Rod Suman seconded. Meeting returned to regular session at 7:30 pm.

09-11-178 Randy Blaich made the motion to approve the November 9, 2009 Regular Open meeting minutes. Bill Holtman seconded. Motion approved.

The Treasurer's Report as of 10-31-09 was read.

09-11-179 Rick McMahan made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report subject to audit. Rod Suman seconded. Motion approved.

Manager's Report: Kevin Thorpe noted the leaf machine needed repairs the day after the last Board meeting. The impeller had to be replaced and was

back to work on Thursday morning. It cost \$600.00 to replace. Price of another leaf vac would be around \$6000.00 plus another \$1000.00 to build another box, for a total of \$7000.00.

Sharon Beare offered us a double door reach in refrigerator to complete the terms of her lease with Lakengren. It was accepted. Lake lowering started November 16th and should take about a month to get it down to winter pool, depending on the rain.

Congratulations to the new LPOA Board members, John Bruggemann and Deron McElDowney and a special thanks to those members that have helped Lakengren and the people of Lakengren over the last few years. Thanks also to Bill Holtman and Rod Suman, retiring Board members.

When it dries up enough we will put a few tiles in the walking path where the water has cut ditches in it.

A revised set of prints has been sent to the architect for the Marina restroom/meeting room project. (A short discussion was held concerning windows and expenses.)

The new lessee for the restaurant, Eric White, has agreed to the contract and it was signed 11/19/09. His plan is to open on December 1st. There will be a 30 day grace period with a full year's lease. All menu entries are under \$10.00 and the restaurant is to be "group friendly."

Cost estimates for trash collection were included in the Board packets and will be discussed under new business.

Mr. Thorpe noted he will be on vacation the first week of December and will be in and out of Lakengren some that week.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**  
Viking Editorial Committee-The December issue is currently at press.

Building Committee-The committee will meet November 24th.

**OLD BUSINESS:**  
1) Kevin Thorpe noted how expenses will be shared to replace the Ski Club dock.  
2) The new LWA Trustee was selected.

09-11-180 Randy Blaich made the motion to approve Paul Reed as new LWA Board member. Rick McMahan seconded. Motion approved.

**NEW BUSINESS:**  
1) Discussion was held on the passage of the new Police Levy. Operations are expected to begin on January 1, 2010.

2) Discussion was held on trash collection for Lakengren.

09-11-181 Judy Thaxton made the motion to have Kevin continue investigating details of trash collection by Lakengren. Amy Gilbert seconded. Motion approved.

3) Rick McMahan announced that the Mardi Gras dance/party has several clubs interested in participating. The

date is tentatively scheduled for February 20, 2010.

09-11-182 Randy Blaich made the motion to transfer \$7,170.76 from Capital Improvements to Building Expenses for the Lodge repairs.

09-11-183 Amy Gilbert made the motion to adjourn. Randy Blaich seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

**Restaurant  
Opened For  
Business**

Eric White is the new operator of the restaurant at the lodge. He calls it the Lakengren Inn. The hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. The menu, primarily sandwiches and side items will be expanded with the addition of pizza as soon as the ovens are installed. There is a daily dinner special. Eric is open to menu suggestions and recipes for new menu items. The phone at the restaurant is still 472-0444.

**VIKING  
DEADLINES  
2010**

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

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Deron McElDowney .....	Vice President
Randy Blaich .....	Treasurer
Rick McMahan .....	Asst. Treasurer
Judy Thaxton .....	Secretary
Amy Gilbert .....	Member
Gerald Estes .....	Member
Matt Bruggemann .....	Member
John Kanzlemer .....	Member

**LAKENGREN PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION**

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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-Charlie Moore  
Safety Committee-Gerald Estes  
Webmaster-Barry Clutter  
Policy Review Committee-Daphne Brunett  
Financial Planning Committee-Tom Pohlabel  
Election/Nomination Committee-Carole Moore  
Judiciary Committee - George Brunett  
Activities/Entertainment Committee - Vacant

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

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# LETTERS to the Editor!

## Letter to the editor: The dockside responds.

I would like to address the letter to the editor that appeared in the last Viking regarding my writing about the swimming pool issue.

I'll be honest with you, I wasn't going to acknowledge the letter and I was going to let it go by the wayside. After talking to several people and getting their opinion on what they thought about what I had written and the response in the letter to the editor I have given the subject great thought and my response is as follows.

While I believe each person is entitled to their own opinion, I also believe that we must be responsible and respectful of those who have differing opinions. The writer of the letter called me out on a few things and I think that while it is perfectly fine for a differing opinion to be expressed there should be some respect given in the response and I don't believe that occurred in that letter to the editor.

For someone who prides themselves upon their journalistic abilities, I felt this letter was written from a personal prospective rather than a journalistic prospective. For a letter to the editor I guess that doesn't matter and that is fine. But given the writers background I must say that I was disappointed in both their content and methodology.

The pool issue at this point is done, majority wins and I will live with that. Do I believe that the wrong decision was made? Sure I do, or I wouldn't have expressed my differing opinion. But it is over so I'm not going to argue that point.

What I do want to address is the fact that the writer made some claims that are not exactly true. I did not speak on the

issue at the annual meeting because that was the first time I heard about it. Most people, who know me, know that I won't speak or write about something unless I feel that I know what I am talking about.

So after the annual meeting I started doing my research to find out what was going on.

Then I asked questions, got answers and then I wrote that dockside. Also understand that the dockside is written several weeks prior to the time members receive the Viking in their mail box. Sometimes this can effect a story.

As a side note, understand that I am sometimes asked to write about specific subjects by various parties. This was one of those times. Who was it? That doesn't matter. I wrote the article and I'll stand behind what I wrote.

As much as we all need and use water, yes it can be dangerous. I can't say that I am in a position to know how it feels to have had or be involved in an accident involving water and or a pool. I am also sure having that experience does have a lasting effect on a person, and I can feel for those people.

But given the fact of where we live and our surroundings, you think people would have a respect for the water. I mean we've got some pretty big holes filled with water. I would think that people that live here would make sure children know how to act around water and that they are aware where their children are and they know how to swim.

While the writer expressed "he cited his reluctance to use our pool. There is no reluctance on my part, I will not use the pool given the current situation and I am not the only one who feels this way although I may be the only one to express my concerns.

Now I am not going to sit here and air all of my problems with current pool management.

Those who need to know what the problems are already know and it doesn't need to be handled publicly out of respect. See those I disagree with still get respect whether deserved or not.

I do owe a thank you to the

writer of the letter to the editor. You proved to me that it is important to write about issues of importance. You also reiterated something to me a journalism instructor once shared with me. That was "if you write a good story and you use no names or specific details yet everyone knows what you're talking about, then you did a good job." So I thank you, xxxx (name withheld for journalistic principles and respect)

I thank you for the opportunity to express my feelings and disappointment, this whole ordeal has most certainly been an experience I would have much rather not gone through. I'm not shirking responsibility for the controversy caused by that dockside article, All I am saying is if you are going to criticize me, do it with a little respect and knowledge about what you're talking about.

**Tony McGuire,  
Author of the "Dockside"  
docksidelpoa@aol.com**

## A Letter to the Lakengren Community

I have served on the Lakengren Water Authority Board of Trustees for nine years, since December 2000. I have been Chairman of the BOT for the past seven of those years. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to lead this organization as a new well field, a new water treatment plant, and a new office were built in those last seven years. The LWA has also worked diligently to improve the facilities at the wastewater treatment plant. Everything should be set, as far as infrastructure is concerned, for the next fifty years in Lakengren.

At the Lakengren Property Owners' Association meeting on Monday, November 23, 2009, the LPOA committee, (Randy Blaich, LPOA board member; Roger Riga, LWA board member; and David Fourman, the Lakengren community member) who interviewed the six LWA candidates, recommended that I not be selected to continue on the LWA Board of Trustees. By a vote of 4-3, a majority of the LPOA board members voted to accept the committee's recommendation to appoint a neigh-

bor of one of the LPOA board members who has never attended a LPOA meeting, an LWA meeting, or served on any committee associated with either organization. It was suggested that my nine years of LWA experience was not even considered in the decision. This suggests misfeasance, as well as a personal and political vendetta against me, with no consideration for what I have done for the Lakengren community.

Is this the kind of decision-making that is best for the community?

I would like to thank Paul Ellison for his efforts to secure my re-election, as well as Rodney Suman, Bill Holtman, and Amy Gilbert, who voted against the decision to replace me. Their continued support is greatly appreciated.

While on the LWA BOT, I voted for and did what I thought was best for the community. I worked diligently and tirelessly to secure the best possible financing for our projects and tried to come up with better ideas that could benefit the LWA and the Lakengren community. As a matter of fact, the only new, fresh, and novel ideas over the past seven years have been mine. I fear complacency and stagnation for the LWA in the years ahead.

At the meeting when I was replaced, no one even had the courtesy to thank me for all of the work I've done to make Lakengren's water and wastewater facilities better. I guess my best compliment was when the head of the Ohio EPA's finance committee told me back in 2004, "If every water and

sewer organization in Ohio ran their operation like the LWA does, I would be out of a job."

I hold my head high as I consider all the LWA accomplished while I was the leader. I hope you think I did a good job.

Sincerely,  
Terry V. Parks

## Dockside NEW YEAR

Well I trust that we all had a happy holiday season, and we all enjoyed our time with friends and family. Another year has slipped past us and we are now poised for a new one to start, which by the time you get this copy of the Viking, should already be under way.

Like so many years in the past I am sure we all rang out 2009 and ushered in 2010. As always New Year's Day is a time of reflection on our past and a little speculative planning on our future. That's why they call them "resolutions" we resolve to do certain things in the New Year that we haven't necessarily been doing over the

past year. People have for the longest time resolved to do various things differently in the future than they have done in the past. Most of the time you will hear people say that their resolution is to lose weight, stop smoking, and exercise more or any number of things. Generally the resolutions are more of a personal nature, things that people want to do to better themselves.

So what were your resolutions this year? Were they more like the common things that we hear others resolve to do, or did you set yourself apart and resolve to do some things different than most.

Or are you one of those who don't make resolutions? Who feel that it is pointless and that resolutions are never kept so why should you waste your time? It's a personal choice so there isn't anything wrong with feeling that way. I mean sometimes I ask the same question, why?

Did you know the celebration of the New Year is the oldest of all holidays?

The history of New Year's Day dates back 4000 years ago

SEE NEXT PAGE....

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and over the years has seen many changes in the date it has been celebrated. Not all cultures celebrated New Year's day in the same way or even at the same time.

The practice that we have is based upon those cultures using the 365 day solar calendar which is based on the Julian and Gregorian calendars. However some cultures use a Lunar calendar which does not have 365 days in it.

New Years resolutions date back to 153 B.C. and are centered around Janus a mythical King of Rome, who had two faces one that looks to the future and one looking back upon the past. Coincidentally Romans placed Janus at the head of the Julian calendar hence January.

Janus became the ancient symbol for resolutions and many Romans looked for forgiveness from their enemies and also exchanged gifts before the beginning of each year.

Some of the long standing traditions in other cultures regarding the celebration of the New Year include:

**UNITED STATES** - The kiss shared at the stroke of midnight in the United States is derived from masked balls that have been common throughout history. As tradition has it, the masks symbolize evil spirits from the old year and the kiss is the purification into the New Year.

**SPAIN** - In Spain, when the clock strikes midnight, the Spanish eat 12 grapes, one with every toll, to bring good luck for the 12 months ahead. In Peru the same custom applies, but a 13th grape is eaten for good luck.

**WALES** - At the first toll of midnight, the back door is opened and then shut to release the old year and lock out all of its bad luck. Then at the twelfth stroke of the clock, the front door is opened and the New Year is welcomed with all of its luck.

**ENGLAND** - The British place their fortunes for the

coming year in the hands of their first guest. They believe the first visitor of each year should be male and bearing gifts. Traditional gifts are coal for the fire, a loaf for the table and a drink for the master. For good luck, the guest should enter through the front door and leave through the back. Guests who are empty-handed or unwanted are not allowed to enter first.

**NORWAY** - Norwegians make rice pudding at New Year's and hide one whole almond within. Guaranteed wealth goes to the person whose serving holds the lucky almond.

**CHINA** - For the Chinese New Year, every front door is adorned with a fresh coat of red paint, red being a symbol of good luck and happiness. Although the whole family prepares a feast for the New Year, all knives are put away for 24 hours to keep anyone from cutting themselves, which is thought to cut the family's good luck for the next year.

So you can see custom and tradition has continued for several thousand years and it will continue on. So take the time to participate in history, make your resolutions if you haven't and keep with your customs, they have a place.

I resolve to be a better person, father, husband and friend, what do you resolve to do? I'll eat my grapes and pudding, steal a kiss, open my doors, put my knives away, my front door is red and I have put my fortunes in your hands.

Bless each and every one of you in the New Year. As always, I appreciate your comments and questions. Send them to docksidel-poa@aol.com.

Happy New Year!  
Peace, Love and Pay it forward.

Contributing information from Gary Ryan Blair ezinearticles...

## Strategic Planning Team Formed for Fairgrounds

In an effort to coordinate future fairgrounds development and to understand the current and future needs of that facility and how it can prepare to meet the usage demands in the future, a local task force has been formed to develop a long-term strategic plan for the grounds.

Bringing together the Fair Board, Pork Festival Board, County Commissioners and the City of Eaton, along with Woolpert Consulting, the team will collaborate in creating the plan. The team will be comprised of three representatives from both the Pork Festival and Fair boards along with one member each from the County Commission and the City of Eaton. Funding for the strategic planning process is being provided by Mary Bullen, who will serve as the team facilitator.

Woolperts will be tasked with creating a Final Strategic Plan and a Site Master Plan by gathering input from the committee, studying the fairgrounds and soliciting comments and suggestions from the many groups and organizations who use the fairgrounds. Once the information is gathered and evaluated, Woolpert, under the guidance of the team, will develop a plan outlining the needs and prioritizing projects which will offer the most immediate improvements. Setting both short and long term goals and the projected cost of those improvements, upgrades and new additions, will allow all involved to then determine how best to proceed and coordinate their efforts in the most cost effective and productive manner.

Ultimately, the purpose of the effort is to produce a strategic five year plan for the Preble County Fairgrounds which will map out the process necessary to create an atmosphere and environment that encourages community members to think of the fairgrounds as a real community asset. In order to make the fairgrounds a " preferred destination" one of the project goals will be to establish what upgrades, improvements and continuing maintenance needs to be done that will attract events, be youth friendly, create a sense of community and encourage an increase in facility usage.

The next meeting has been set for January 6th at the Bullen facility on Miller-Williams road.



**Doe Zarley, long-time resident of Lakengren, with plaque to be placed under the American flag at the lodge. Doe donated the flag to Lakengren in memory of her late husband Howard R. Zarley.**



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# Women's Club Year in Review

by Connie Moore

The Lakengren Women's Club is open to all residents of Lakengren. We meet once a month on the first Wednesday at the Valhalla Lodge for a meeting with a speaker or travel to interesting places for programs and tours. Our meetings are usually at 1PM, except for the out-of-town trips or luncheons. Be sure to check the calendar of events.

Sept. 3, 2008 - "Sights and Sounds of Birds" by Jo Ann Hoffman.

Oct. 1, 2008 - "Let Freedom Swing" at the Bearcreek Farms Buffet and Playhouse.

Nov. 5, 2008 - "A Taste of Greece" by Judy Thaxton.

Dec. 3, 2008 - Christmas Carry-in Luncheon and Silent Auction for charity.

Mar. 4, 2009 - "Antiques Road Show" by Bill Mooney.

Apr. 1, 2009 - "To Your Health" by Amy Roberts with demonstration of cleansing foot bath.

May 6, 2009 - "Kitchenaid Factory Tour" and lunch at Stonehedge.

Jun. 3, 2009 - Salad luncheon carry-in with installation of officers.

Jul. 1, 2009 - Lunch at Smith Coffee House in Arcanum with shopping at Country Charm Gift Shop.

Aug. 5, 2009 - Carry-in picnic and pontoon rides at Carole Moore's home.

## Burkle's Family Christmas - the final "E"

By Elsie Burkle

The Burkle Family Christmas was held December 12th at the home of Elsie Burkle, Valhalla Drive.

After five years of adults exchanging gifts beginning with a letter of our last name, B-U-R-K-L, this 6th and last year was "E", a bit more challenging, I think. The group was quite a bit smaller this year due to various reasons, 23 members could not attend. Where normally we'd have 6 to 10 little ones running around, there were only 2 along with 19 adults. Quite a change but still joyful, loving and reminiscent.

The weather was perfect, good food carried-in, fun games played, and sharing of gifts and memories as past Christmas photo albums were scanned and remembered with lots of laughs.

We guessed the number of items contained within a walnut shell and the winner of the prize was daughter Linda who guessed 35 (there were actually 38). When someone doubted, he actually opened it to count and found it difficult to get back together with a lot of hoots from some of the others. A German tradition of hanging a pickle ornament on the tree was found by great granddaughter Hannah age 4, with more than a little help from her Aunt Ginny.

My request of not buying me a gift this year but instead to bring food for our local Food Bank and children's hats, gloves and scarves for the Eaton Kids Christmas brought in 16 children items and bags and bags of food filling a decorated box.

Next year, we will also forego buying the adult gift exchange and instead each of us will choose a favorite charity or local family or person and buy for them. We will then take a picture of the items and write a paragraph or story about the situation and put together at Christmas and each of us will draw one out and read it aloud. We prayed for God's blessings to lead us in this endeavor.

The "E" gifts this year were: Etch a Sketch (2), Esther Price chocolates (2), Elf and Edward Scissorhands DVD, Expo dry erase board, Ethiopian coffee, Easy Bake oven, Extra Virgin Olive Oil, Espresso Starbucks coffee, Earth therapeutics Neck Pillow, and "Eat Out" Bob Evans \$25.00 gift certificate.

Those attending were: Christine Miller, Justin Miller with Amber Hunt and son Tyson, Ginny Miller and friend Nicole, Amanda Miller and fiancé Joshua Tussing, Linda and Richard Bray, Cindy Kay, Bethany and Beau Nickol with children Hannah and Elainah, Bill and Donna Burkle, Jacob Burkle, Rachael Burkle and friend Chris.

Unable to attend: Jim Kay, Marissa Groeshen and children Spencer, Madison, Donovan, Holden, James and Katie Kay and children Kalie, Ryan, Aaron, Mattlyn, Sue and Keith Steinman, Barb Grega and children Matt and Michael, Jackie and Chuck Billings and children Megan and Forrest, Ed Burkle and Brian Burkle.



Employee Christmas lunch provided by the LPOA and Catered by the Lakengren Inn

## Christmas Lights Committee & more....

By Paul Healy

The CLC wishes to thank all those who helped decorate the Lodge, conduct the Annual Christmas Open House and the New Year's Eve Party. We hope that those attended the parties enjoyed the occasions. The CLC plan to do the same events next year.

The next event will be taking down all of the decorations. Those who wish to join the CLC can come to the Lodge at 9:00 AM on Monday, January 11. This is a fun group that will have monthly meetings on every third Wednesday. Those who wish to eat together will arrive about 6:30 PM and the meeting starts about 8:00 PM. The meeting will be short since the next events are the boat poker runs. The next meeting is on Wednesday, January 20. Attendees can bring their own favorite beverages and a snack to share.

Enlarge the Pool Basketball Court  
The CLC received the permission of the LPOA Board to study the possibility of enlarging the cement basketball court at the pool.

Presently, any three point shots from the sides have the shooters standing in the grass. Kevin Thorpe related that he would like to have input about just enlarging the court for a half court size or enlarge it to meet the official high school and college court size. Any Lakengren residents who would like to give their opinions or help fund this proposed project can call Kevin Thorpe at 456-3173 or Paul Healy at 456-3387.

## Correspondents Can Apply

We are a community and many of us would like to know what our high school and college students are doing. We could use a couple of students to report on these subjects. If you are home for the holidays and have been away, send an email to phealy6@woh.rr.com and it will be published in the Lakengren News for others to see. We even have a website, lakengrenpoa.net, that could publish items of interest.

## Press Pass Has Limits

Newspaper reporters and television production people can enter areas blocked to regular people such as the White House Press Conferences. Many of these professionals started at a small newspaper or city television station and then advanced

to larger companies with greater prestige. Erma Bomback got her start at the Kettering-Oakwood Times and only really started when her University of Dayton professor said that she could write in contrast to an earlier teacher's negative comments about her attempts.

It is my hope that some of you who aspire to be correspondents or writers may hit the big time. I am only in the beginners program and just found out the limits of my press pass.

Margaret and I missed the Christmas Open House since we were attending a niece's daughter's wedding at Notre Dame.

I do not have a Press Pass from the Register Herald, but when we heard that they were going to have a television media presentation for the new Notre Dame football coach, Brian Kelly, we entered the media room prior to his arrival. We were approached by an Athletic Department person who said we were to leave since it was only for "Media People." I told her that I was a newspaper correspondent. Again, she said we would have to leave since we were not Media and then she called Security over. I got befuddled and told him that we were there to see "Mike." He asked,

"Mike who?" We left.

Undaunted, we stayed in the lobby and wrote a letter to "Brian" Kelly and left it with the Athletic receptionist.

After 20 minutes, with the Security guy glaring at us, "Brian" arrived to be escorted into the media room. Prior to his entrance, I caught his attention and told him that my niece's daughter is being married tomorrow at 11:00 AM in the Basilica and half of the people are from Cincinnati. Also, I wrote him a letter about it. He nodded, smiled and made his entrance. However, he did not come to the wedding.

Interesting is the fact that all of the bridesmaids were staying in room 902 at the Marriott which was Charlie Weiss's former suite. They were contacted by the management to see if they would relinquish their room for Brian Kelly and they said "No." We do not know where he stayed but he missed some great parties.

You may aspire to be a renowned reporter or "Media" person. The pay is good and they attend great functions at no cost to them. May you have "Good Luck" in any pursuit.

But remember that through your own constructive efforts, do you create the opportunity for "Good Luck" to enter.

# Lakengren Bird Count, Dec. 14, 2009

by Jo Ann Hoffman

Lakengren is one of many Preble County groups that participated in the 110th annual National Audubon Society December Bird Count. On Monday, December 14, 2009, the following birds were seen right here in Lakengren. How many could you have called by name had you seen them? They are your neighbors!

- 3 Great Blue Herons
- 180 Canada Geese (88 on the main lake and 92 on Valhalla Lake)
- 2 albino Canada Geese
- 74 Mallards
- 4 Hooded Mergansers
- 2 Bufflehead
- 5 Ruddy Ducks
- 8+5=13 Herring Gulls
- 4 Mourning Doves
- 1 Belted Kingfisher
- 1 female Red-bellied Woodpecker
- 2 Downy Woodpeckers (1 male and 1 female)
- 1 Pileated Woodpecker
- 4 Blue Jays
- 5 American Crows
- 5 Carolina Chickadees
- 4 Tufted Titmice
- 1 White-breasted Nuthatch
- 3 American Robins
- 13 Cedar Waxwings
- 86 European Starlings
- 6 Northern Cardinals
- 1 Song Sparrow
- 1 White-throated Sparrow
- 2 Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Juncos
- 5 House Finches
- 22 House Sparrows

I know there has to be more than 1 Nuthatch, 2 Juncos, 4 Blue Jays, 5 Chickadees, and 6 Cardinals in all of Lakengren! Are there no birds in any yard or at any feeders other than 211 Valhalla Cove? Surely not! But that is all this one pair of eyes saw and with no other sightings called in, it was all I could legitimately report. We sure could use more backyard feeder counters next year!

I do want to thank Mike and Anne Schleich of Eagle Drive for their fantastic help in counting the birds there on the main lake. While I didn't see the Red-tailed Hawk on count day, Janet Davis of Vinland Drive did see it on Wednesday sitting on its favorite telephone wire on Rt. 732 between Cassel Road and the High School. It seems to scout that field most days between noon and 1 p.m. A flock of over 100 Sandhill Cranes was spotted near Gratis the weekend before the count. We sure hope someone saw them on Monday the 12th for the official census. Birds seen the 3 days before and 3 days after the official count day can at least be included in the Count Week notes. Thanks for those hawk eyes, Janet! Darrel Michael, Preble County Count Coordinator, should have the County totals for me to report to you for the February Viking.

## The Bluebird Guru Remembered

by Jo Ann Hoffman

Wednesday, December 9, 2009 the Register Herald newspaper reported Col. Donald E. Reeves, USAR (Retired), 83, died Sun. Dec. 6, 2009. Members of the Lakengren community, Don and his wife Mary have lived at the corner of Lakengren Drive and Plunder Cove for the past 28 years. His obituary, struck me by its focus, almost exclusively, on Don's military career. True, he spent 30 years as career military. He earned the rank of Colonel and the listing of his surviving children, nearly all with military titles as well, shows how influential that was in his life and that of his family. When I told my husband that Don Reeves had died, he said "Who? Oh, you mean The Colonel!" Many folks knew him simply as "The Colonel". Yes, the military was a big part of Don Reeves. Thirty years he spent in service to our country. Then he retired and lived the next 28 years here in Lakengren.

It is not possible within the space limitations of an obituary to convey the true depth, the multiple layers in the life of one human being, nor the many varied people one man has influenced over the course of 83 years. You see, here in Lakengren, I never knew Don Reeves as military. I knew him as a homebuilder and a birder. After he retired, after the military, this environmentally aware, forward-looking, creative home designer built a geodesic dome home on Plunder Cove and later another on the east side despite nay-sayers who admonished it couldn't be done. Beautiful inside and out, they stand to this day as testament to a whole other facet of the man Don Reeves. With his home building experience, he also worked with Spitzer Construction. They built both of my neighbor's homes in the 1990's. After Winton and Margaret moved in, Don would stop by periodically to get the shovel on his backhoe welded, at least until the Cutchens moved to Florida in 2000. Don Reeves was a hard-working, creative, insightful homebuilder whose handiwork lives on in many Lakengren homes.

Beyond the military and the builder lies another facet to Don Reeves. Nearer to my heart



was Don Reeves the bluebird lover, an activist birder, the leader who, with his wife Mary, started, coordinated, and maintained the Lakengren Bluebird Trail. In his own words from an article he wrote for The Viking in the spring of 2004, he reveals this gentler side of The Colonel.

"When Mary and Don Reeves joined the Lakengren community in 1981, their first priority was to build a geodesic dome home on Plunder Cove. When it was completed, they started The Lakengren Bluebird Trail. The conditions were ideal. There were open spaces, a minimum number of four legged predators and many members of the Lakengren Community who wanted to be part of a program to encourage these beautiful birds to nest and raise their young.

"The Lakengren Garden Club and the LPOA Board of Trustees fully supported these efforts. A cove on the west side of the main lake was renamed Bluebird Cove and they were allowed to fasten nesting boxes to the metal uprights for the road name signs. In the 1980's, the program thrived. They gave color slide presentations to many of the clubs and activities here and at schools. Don's basement became an assembly line, as he built nesting boxes, using materials donated by local lumberyards, grape cases from supermarkets and scraps from contractors. During this period, he built and gave away over 300 boxes to Lakengren residents who wanted to be part of this conservation program.

"In its heyday, Don and Mary could be seen once a week on summer mornings visiting the forty nesting boxes they monitored along Lakengren Drive and many of the side roads on the west side of the lake... The weekly visits were made to insure that the sparrows did not take over the boxes, and to count and record the number of eggs laid and birds hatched and fledged. This information was reported to the Ohio Bluebird Society and a state sponsored survey entitled "Wings of Blue". In three successive years during this period, more than 100 bluebirds a year were added to the local population." Hundreds of new lives entered this world all because of the efforts of Don and Mary.

Don ends his article in true bird lover style, "It is now Spring, the time of year when hummingbirds and bluebirds first appear and the juncos, which have been here all winter go north to their summer nesting grounds. Don and Mary are anxiously watching the recently cleaned and repaired nesting boxes in their yard and garden to see if any bluebirds will show up this year to share the area around their home with the cardinals, goldfinches, tufted titmice, tree swallows, woodpeckers, flickers, Carolina wrens, house wrens, white and red-breasted nuthatches and many other species that have brought so much beauty and pleasure to Don and Mary, as they watched them visit the feeders during winter."

The Colonel had a soft spot in his heart for the birds. From 1981 to 2009, he, together with Mary, dedicated a portion of their lives to protecting and feeding the birds in Lakengren. Their exceptional effort for the endangered bluebirds is alone noteworthy. He will not be watching the birds at the feeders on Plunder Cove this winter, nor reminding us come March to clean and prepare our bluebird nesting boxes, but his legacy lives on in the houses we live in, the houses the bluebirds nest in, and the knowledge and love of birds he imparted to all who knew him. To Colonel Donald E. Reeves, the Bluebird Guru of Lakengren, we thank you. Salute.





## Caplinger Assigned to Patrol Lakengren.

Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Caplinger named to patrol Lakengren (Gasper Twp) Police District. Kevin is a graduate of Hocking College in southwest Ohio with a degree in Fish & Wildlife Management. As a fifteen year member of the Preble County Sheriff's Office, he has had many duties. Among those are: corrections officer, detective, road patrol, evidence technician, and certified voice stress analyzer technician (CVSA).

Kevin lives within Lakengren with his wife and two children. He participates in many activities as well as being a member of the Bass Club.

His duties will consist of answering all Sheriff's calls, road patrol, and enforcing all state laws within Lakengren. He will assist Lakengren Security when requested. He will work forty hours a week on a random schedule. His satellite office will be located within the LPOA office. All calls requiring the Sheriff's assistance must go through the Preble County Sheriff's Dispatcher or for emergencies 9-1-1, as has always been done in the past.

He was selected for this position because of his knowledge of the community and its problems. He looks forward to a positive relationship within Lakengren. He welcomes questions and comments be directed to his e-mail address at the Sheriff's Office [kcaplinger@preblecountysheriff.org](mailto:kcaplinger@preblecountysheriff.org)

## BASS CLUB AWARDS

The Lakengren Bass Club held it's Year End Awards Banquet on Dec. 12, 2009 in Hamilton, Ohio at the Golden Coral. A great meal and good times were had by all.

The following awards were presented to the following,  
 Angler of the Year - Jeff Bowling  
 2nd Place - Brian King  
 3rd Place - Tony O'Dell  
 4th Place - Justin Taylor  
 5th Pace Tie  
 - Ron Bowling  
 - Dean Rogers  
 Big Bass - Louis Ross - 4.70 lb.  
 Smallest Bass - Bob Jones - .68 lb.  
 Heavyweight Catch of the Year - Pete Jones - 12.69 lb.  
 Classic Winner - Kevin Thorpe  
 Club Member of the Year - Jeff Bowling  
 Jr. Angler of the Year - Ryan Bowling

## Art Center Planning Yard Sale

Beginning January 5, the Fine Arts Center will be collecting donated items for their annual Winter Yard Sale. The public is asked to help out by donating goods. Contributions go toward funding the Fine Arts Center and keeping art alive in Preble County. They only ask that items be clean and ready to sell. No clothing, food, magazines or anything hazardous or illegal will be accepted.

Items can be dropped off Tuesday through Saturday between 1-5 p.m. beginning January 5 at the Fine Arts Center, 601 Hillcrest Drive, Eaton. The Winter Yard Sale will be held February 12-13 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For further information you may call 456-3999 during office hours.

## Dog Licenses on Sale

**Preble County Auditor Mindy S. Robbins has announced that dog owners may purchase their 2010 dog license now through January 31. For the convenience of the Lakengren community, dog licenses may be purchased at the LPOA office, 22 Lakengren Drive for \$14.75.**



DATE & TIME	STREET	NATURE OF CALL	DISPOSITION
12/2/09 7:09 PM	Alborg Drive	Ambulance	Handled By EMS
12/4/09 9:14 PM	Battle Drive	Juvenile	Report Taken
11/20/09 4:16 PM	Brande Drive	Fire	Handled by Fire Dept.
11/28/09 8:51 PM	Brande Drive	Welfare Check	Call Recorded
12/15/09 10:43 AM	Brande Drive	Ambulance	Handled By EMS
11/26/09 5:19 AM	E. Lakengren Drive	Ambulance	Handled By EMS
11/29/09 11:18 AM	E. Lakengren Drive	Ambulance	Handled By EMS
12/4/09 8:00 PM	E. Lakengren Drive	Traffic Stop	Warning Issued
12/13/09 6:48 PM	E. Lakengren Drive	Unclassified Offense	Call Recorded
12/16/09 2:26 AM	E. Lakengren Drive	Alarm Drop	False Alarm
12/3/09 5:02 PM	England Drive	Assault Misdemeanor	Call Recorded
12/10/09 2:14 PM	Europe Cove	Ambulance	Handled By EMS
12/14/09 7:36 AM	Finland Drive	Ambulance	Handled By EMS
11/30/09 5:15 PM	Hatchet Drive	Fire	Handled by Fire Dept.
11/27/09 11:11 PM	Mariner Cove	Ambulance	Handled By EMS
12/5/09 10:29 PM	Norseman Drive	Juvenile	Call Recorded
11/22/09 4:58 PM	Plunder Cove	Ambulance	Handled By EMS
11/20/09 9:09 PM	Thor Drive	Property Damage Misdemeanor	Call Recorded
12/15/09 12:45 PM	Thor Drive	Property Damage Misdemeanor	Call Recorded
11/23/09 12:11 AM	Thunder Drive	Ambulance	Handled By EMS
11/28/09 8:10 PM	Valhalla Cove	Crash Property Damage	Call Recorded
12/2/09 2:58 PM	Valhalla Cove	Property Damage Felony	Report Taken
12/10/09 12:49 PM	Valhalla Drive	Ambulance	Handled By EMS
12/11/09 8:46 PM	Valhalla Drive	Prowlers	Call Recorded
12/4/09 2:19 PM	Viking Drive	Property Damage Misdemeanor	Report Taken
12/12/09 10:57 AM	Viking Drive	Property Damage Misdemeanor	Call Recorded
12/13/09 11:10 AM	Viking Drive	Unclassified Offense	Report Taken
12/10/09 6:59 PM	Voyage Drive	Ambulance	Handled By EMS
12/7/09 3:36 PM	W. Lakengren Drive	Threatening / Harassing Tx Calls	Report Taken
12/7/09 7:13 PM	W. Lakengren Drive	Ambulance	Handled By EMS

## NATURE OF CALLS

Alarm Drop .....	1
Ambulance .....	12
Assault Misdemeanor .....	1
Crash Property Damage .....	1
Fire .....	1
Juvenile .....	2
Property Damage Felony .....	1
Property Damage Misdemeanor .....	4
Prowlers .....	1
Threatening / Harassing Tx Calls .....	1
Traffic Stop .....	1
Unclassified Offense .....	2
Welfare Check .....	1
Total Calls .....	29

## Dragons Tentative Schedule

January 2 Hold'em 7 p.m. @ lodge  
 January 14 Dragons Meeting 7:30 @ lodge  
 February 6 Hold'em 7p.m. @ lodge  
 February 11 Dragons Meeting 7:30 p.m. @ lodge  
 February 13 Mardi Gras Party @ lodge  
 Feb 20 Shoreline Clean-up (details later).

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# LPOA BOARD MEMBERS

During the December 14 LPOA board meeting, the newly elected trustees - Matt Brueggemann, Amy Gilbert, and Deron McEldowney were sworn in by President Paul Ellison.

The new board then elected officers as follows: President Paul Ellison, Vice President Deron McEldowney, Secretary Judy Thaxton, Treasurer Randy Blaich, and Assistant Treasurer Rick McMahan.

The remaining board of trustee members are: Matt Brueggemann, Gerald Estes, Amy Gilbert, and John Kanzleamar.

Outgoing trustee Bill Holtman was presented a plaque of appreciation for service. (see photo elsewhere in this issue). Rodney Suman was not present to receive his appreciation plaque.

The first meeting of the new year will be on January 11 at 7:00 p.m.



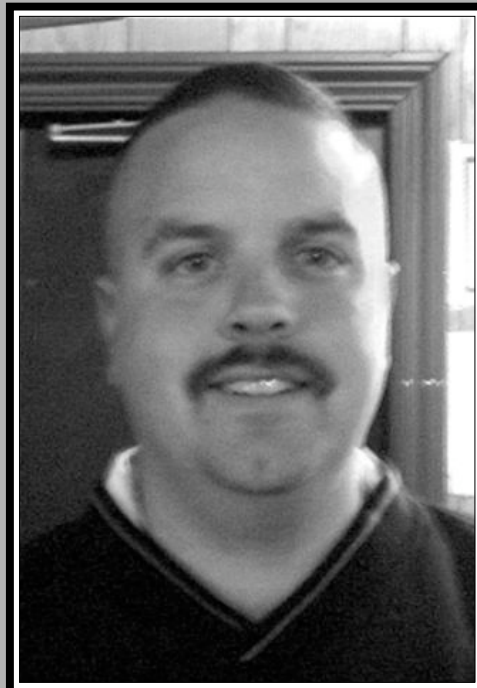
**President Paul Ellison**



**Vice President Deron McEldowney**



**Secretary Judy Thaxton**



**Treasurer Randy Blaich**



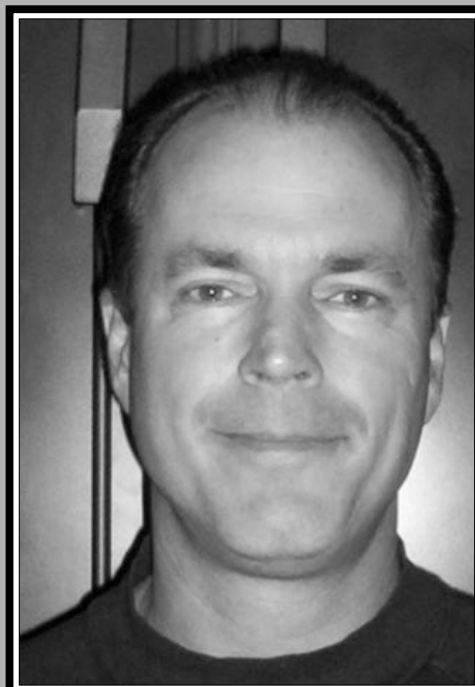
**Assistant Treasurer Rick McMahan**



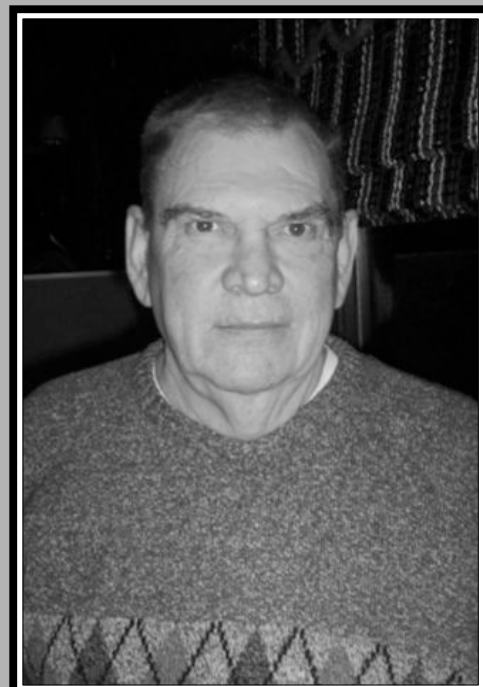
**Amy Gilbert**



**Matt Brueggemann**



**John Kanzleamar**



**Gerald Estes**

## Women's Club News by Janet Davis

Lakengren Women's Club met on December 2, 2009. The Lodge was all decorated for the holiday season by the Christmas Lights Committee. Table decorations were created by Judy Thaxton.

Hostesses were Liliana Islamovsky, Jeannie Stoner, Judy Thaxton, and Sue Pohlbel. Phyllis White welcomed the 30 members and three guests for the Annual Christmas Carry-in Luncheon. Guests were Betty Beck, Mary Ann Brown, and Joannie Hemmelgarn. Loretta Varney presented devotions with the religious explanation of the "Twelve Days of Christmas."

The food was blessed and the ladies began the usual trips around the tables piled high with salads, main dishes, specialty breads and tons of desserts. Coffee and punch were available to wash down all these goodies. Following the lunch, Phyllis White announced that all bids upon the special tables for the Silent Auction would be closed at 1:30 p.m.

A short business meeting was held wherein Connie Moore read the LWC minutes which were approved as corrected. The treasurer's report was read by Loretta Varney. This report was approved subject to audit. Phyllis announced that the exercise class was now meeting on Monday and Thursday at the lodge at 10:00 a.m. for one hour. During this time the number had reached as high as 12 and as low as 4, met twice a week at the lodge. Judy Thaxton again offered a senior yoga on Thursday at 11 a.m. following the 3 mile walking tape DVD.

Discussion was entertained upon finding a better method of communication regarding news about members who were ill. Following a lengthy discussion about an employee appreciation lunch, it was decided a committee would make arrangements for this event to be held on January 20 in the break room at the LWA Building. Those agreeing to help were: Jean Armour, Carole Moore, Gladys Myers and Phyllis White. Any others that would like to help would be appreciated and should call Phyllis White. Homemade desserts from LWC members are needed.

Peg Baker made an announcement about the Children's Santa Open House on December 12 at 6:30 p.m. Cookies and punch will be available for the kids and their families. Donations of cookies will be needed. Bring cookies at 6:00 to the lodge. Kaitlyn Smith will entertain with special songs of the season. A dog act will follow the singing and Santa will arrive at 7:30 p.m. Amy Gilbert will play music during Santa's visit. There will be an adult party following the children's portion of the evening. Adults are requested to bring snacks to share and their favorite beverage.

Jeannie stoner announced about the New Year's Eve Party for adults on December 31 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets can be purchased and picked up on the first three Saturdays in December from 10 a.m. til noon at lodge.

Jo Ann Hoffman told about the Preble County Bird count on Dec. 14. Call her to tell her of your tally of birds during that week. Jo Ann also told about the Community Chorus on tour - going to Greenville on Dec. 13. Tallies were announced regarding the Silent Auction and Loretta Varney and Connie Moore collected funds for the treasury. The benefit would be going to a Lakengren family in need. Phyllis reminded the audience that there are no meetings in January and February.

Editor's note: At press time, the location of the Employees Appreciation Luncheon had been changed to the lodge.\



## Davis Receives Associate Degree

On December 19, Janet Davis, a member of the Viking Committee, received an Associate of Science Degree in Business from Indiana Wesleyan University at their main campus in Marion, Indiana. Shown here with her daughters Mindy Davis and Terri Dawson.



## TEXAS HOLD 'EM



AT THE VALHALLA LODGE

January 2nd DOORS OPEN AT 7PM

You must be 21 to enter

Sponsored by

The Lakengren Dragons Club

## Card

Dec 11 - DOUBLE DECK EUCHRE - 1st Marilyn Sliver, 2nd Neal Weaver, 3rd Bob Worley, 4th Sue Harrison, 5th Virginia Wehrly

Dec 18 - PINOCHLE - 1st Joanne Parks, 2nd Jim Parks, 3rd Sue Pohlbel, 4th Neal Weaver

Please note: There will be no cards played on January 1st. Cards will resume on January 8 with Pinochle at the Lodge...

## Scores

# Open House & Santa Party

The Children's Party and Open House was held on December 12. The kids and adults enjoyed the holiday cookies and punch, and all the singing. At one point during the evening, all the children's faces lit up as they saw Santa Claus coming in the door. They crowded around waiting for their chance to sit upon his knee. He listened and took note of their individual wishes as he passed out the Christmas tree lollypops. After each and every one had a chance to talk with Santa, he wished everyone a M-E-R-R-Y C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S. Some said that when he arrived they had seen him flying over the lake.

The adult portion of the evening welcomed Amy Gilbert and her musical entertainment, including the spinning mirrored globe over the dance floor. All the party goers were in a festive mood and a fun time was had by all.





Outgoing LPOA trustee Bill Holtman was presented a plaque of appreciation for service by President Paul Ellison as he leaves the board.

# January & February Calendar of Events

Pinochle and Euchre Friday 7 p.m. @ lodge  
BP/Glucose screenings at the fire station

- Jan 1 LPOA & LWA offices closed
- Jan 2 Bass Club Meeting
- Jan 2 Dragons Hold'em - 7 p.m. lodge
- Jan 11 Remove holiday deco @ lodge 9 a.m.
- Jan 11 Board Mtg - 7 p.m. @ new office
- Jan 14 Dragons Mtg - 7:30 p.m. @ lodge
- Jan 15 Viking deadline for February
- Jan 20 Employee Appreciation Lunch @ lodge by LWC
- Jan 20 Christmas Lights 6:30 dinner, 8 p.m. mtg @ lodge
- Jan 21 Safety Committee - 5 p.m. @ lodge
- Jan 25 Board Mtg - 7 p.m. @ new office
- Jan 30 Chili Cook Off - 2 p.m. @ lodge

- Feb 6 Bass Club Meeting
- Feb 6 Dragons Hold'em - 7 p.m. lodge
- Feb 7 Superbowl
- Feb 8 Board Mtg - 7 p.m. @ new office
- Feb 11 Dragons Mtg - 7:30 p.m. @ lodge
- Feb 13 Mardi Gras Party @ lodge
- Feb 17 Christmas Lights 6:30 dinner, 8 p.m. mtg @ lodge
- Feb 18 Safety Committee - 5 p.m. @ lodge
- Feb 19 Viking deadline for March
- Feb 20 Dragons Shoreline Clean-up planned
- Feb 22 Board Mtg - 7 p.m. @ new office

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## Second Annual Lakengren Chili Cook Off

Free Entry  
4 quart minimum



Bring your  
own drink

**Jan 30**  
**2pm**

**At the Lodge**

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Who will hold the Title of  
**Lakengren Chili Master**

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