President's Column

As this year draws to a close and we reflect back on this eventful year, it will certainly be memorable for each of us in so many ways.

As LPOA board members look to the New Year, we are trying to shape this organization to better meet the needs of this community. To that end, we have recently launched a phone survey of our residents to get feedback and ideas of what our association should focus on. We will report on the results of this random sampling at our upcoming annual meeting January 15, at the Roscoe Middle School. Hope to see you there and have a chance visit.

The best to you and your families for a wonderful holiday season and a great new year.

Jim Benkovich

EPA Questions Air Quality at Toll Road Pay Stations

At he time that Motorola planned to begin manufacturing in a new plant at Harvard, a tollbooth and intersection was planned at I 90 and IL Highway 173 to allow access to the toll road from the new facility. The request triggered an examination of air quality throughout the I-system resulting in non attainment status for most of the system's booths. Starting in 2002, a phased abandonment of the toll collection stations will begin with the most severe polluters. The South Beloit Plaza will be one of the first to be eliminated.

EPA non attainment status places harsh restrictions on any new development associated with the designated areas as well as making it difficult to obtain public monies for any new road construction. Because the Tollway Commission has spent most of the toll monies which would have been available to fund the conversion to "freeway" status, the Governor and Legislature will have to determine how and who will pay for the changes. The freeway may not be so free after all.

Lloyd Hornbostel

LPOA Service Advisory Committee

I'm sure you have been faced with trying to find a reputable service provider to help you with a household need. This could be anything from snow removal to an inside or outside paint job, a plumbing or electrical problem, window or carpet cleaning, landscape help or any other small job.

If you have used these kinds of services and found the provider to be either very good or very bad, call Larry Fitzpatrick (389-9930 or e-mail lof825@aol.com) or Marge Sanger (623-2738 or e-mail jrsanger@charter.net) and give us your comments.

For information you will need to call Larry or Marge. In the future you will be able to visit our website to access this data.

Larry Fitzpatrick

LPOA Annual Meeting

Our next annual meeting will be held Tuesday, January 15, 2002, at 7:00 P.M. in the Multi-purpose room of the new Roscoe Middle School on Elevator Road. Board members will be elected at this meeting.

Detective Falzone of the Winnebago County Police Department will review the policies and procedures of our Neighborhood Watch organization, and report on the frequency and nature of vandalism and crime in the Ledges.

The annual meeting of the LPOA is open to all Ledges Residents. Membership is determined by payment of the annual dues ($20.00). Dues payments received after October 1st are considered payment for the following year, and a directory will not be provided until said following year. New directories will be available at the annual meeting or can be obtained from any board member after January 30th. Please fill out the attached form and send in your 2002 dues soon. Our membership is growing and we are striving to meet the needs and desires of our members.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Fern Nelson, Treasurer LPOA

Jean Seiberling, former long-time resident passes away.

Jean Seiberling passed away October 24, in Columbus OH with husband Dale and daughters Leslie, Lynda and Lisa at her side. It was in 1962/63

when Dale and Jean built on the SE corner of Southgate and Kinnikinnick Drive and joined about 30 other families here in the early stages of the Ledges community.

Dale and Jean, leaders in the Ledges formative years, helped found the LPOA and with 6 other families, combined their resources and founded the Ledges Pool Association, built the pool and clubhouse, which hundreds of families have enjoyed over the years.

Jean started the tradition of placing luminaries at the driveway entrances of Ledges homes and helped found the Gourmet Bridge club.

Dale recently recounted their life in the Ledges…

"We considered ourselves very fortunate to have discovered what Al Bowen described as "Nature's Greatest place to Live" very early in its development. We enjoyed the special camaraderie of the early residents, on Adult Nights at the pool, at the Annual Association Picnic, and at the multitude parties held every Christmas."

Current residents Ron and Barb Douglas purchased the Seiberling home in 1983 when Dale and Jean moved to their homes in Indiana and Vero Beach, FL. Seiberling Associates, has its corporate headquarters in Roscoe, so the Siberlings returned frequently to tend to their business and to stay in contact with their many friends in the Ledges. Jim Benkovich

Deer: Love Them and Hate Them

Gary Neu

Some Illinois communities have taken to bringing professionals into their neighborhoods to reduce the overpopulation of deer. Concerns are auto accidents (which I can attest to - totaled my van last yr.), lymes disease and the damage they cause to plant life. Some of their favorite plants may also be your favorite and some native plants are listed as endangered or threatened but the deer don't know that. To protect your plants repellents can be used on and/or around them. Deeraway, Miller Hot Sauce and Thiram are contact repellents that taste bad. Area repellents such as Hinder, dried blood, bar soap (type with tallow acid, nor coconut) such as Irish Spring, human hair and diluted urine, and Milorganite all smell bad to them. Both types need to be reapplied and vary your repellents because deer seem to get use to them.

A few other points: Firewood should dry 6-9 months before use; winter mulch goes on and around plants after the ground has frozen, not before, and regular mulch should never touch the trunk of the tree or shurb. Many local landscape companies pile the mulch up on the trunk. This will in time kill the tree or shurb due to the increased moisture.

Operating Snowmobiles within the law!

It's imperative that you know what the laws of the State of Illinois are regarding the safe and legal use of snowmobiles operated in Illinois. The following information was taken from bulletin R9-8478-20M. If you have, and operate a snowmobile you should obtain a copy of the current regulations. Here are some of the more important ones to remember.

Operation must be no closer than 10 feet of non-interstate and limited access highways. Crossing any highway should be done at a 90˚ angle with the highway and as there is to be no use on interstates and active railroad beds. No one under the age of 11 may operate one, and any child between 10-11 must only ride with a parent or guardian. To operate a snowmobile a parent or guardian must accompany children 12-15. You must be 16 or older and have a valid driver's license to cross a state highway.

All snowmobiles must be registered with the state and display the appropriate decals on the vehicle. Operation is not permitted on the Ledges golf course and operation on any private property requires permission of the owner. Be smart, be considerate, be safe and be legal and enjoy the use of your snowmobile.

Chuck Christiansen

2002 LPOA Annual Dues ***($***20 per household)

If you would like to pay your 2002 now, complete the form below and submit with your check to the LPOA, P.O. Box 36, Roscoe, IL 61073. New directories will be available at the annual meeting or delivered when we receive your registration.

Names of Adult/Parents

First _____Last_____

Child_____Birth year_____

Child_____Birth year_____

Child_____Birth year_____

Child_____Birth year_____

If you believe you have already paid to 2002 call Fern Nelson 389-1632. Dues valid Jan. 1 to Dec.31

GOLFING AT THE LEDGES FOR 2002

The most crucial question for the New Year is neither “to be nor not to be” nor "where is Osama Bin Laden" but " should I buy a season pass from the Winnebago County Forest Preserve?” If you want an unequivocal answer to this query, continue reading.

The answer is NO! Never! Not in a million years because:

l) The cost for this coming year's unlimited play pass is $475, an increase of l5 % over last year's $415 and a whopping 35% over two years ago ($350). That's a huge increase.

2) Daily fees for residents remain constant from last year at $16 per round on weekdays and $22 on weekends and holidays, and only $1 more than two years ago. That's a miniscule increase.

3) Even though our fees will increase dramatically, much needed improvements to our cart paths, bunkers, and clubhouse never seem to happen. Where is all this additional revenue going, anyhow?

4) Instead of charging their clients more, the District should cut costs of operation. There is a rumor that the District is considering hiring a consultant at a hefty salary? Do we need a consultant?

5) Instead of raising fees, the Forest Preserve should increase revenues by encouraging more play. For example, Ledges, Macktown, and Atwood all closed during the month of December. The owners of a near-by course, which remained open, informed me that they had over l00 golfers several days during This period which was extremely profitable for them. Also, the Board needs to address the serious problem of geese at the Ledges. A number of golfers stated they do not play fall golf here because of the migratory invasion of these scatological creatures. Finally, the District would most likely benefit--at least in the long run--by offering more programs for junior golf.

On the other hand, the answer is an unqualified YES! A gold season pass is the best bargain in town---maybe even the state, because:

l) The price is right. Anyone who plays golf just once a week for the 7 months of the pass will be even with those who pay a daily green fee. Any additional rounds are "free". You can't beat that.

2) Relative to other comparable markets, our pass is rock bottom cheap. For example, the Decatur Park District pass is $675---plus an additional $1 capital improvement surcharge for each round. That makes the Forest Preserve look like Santa.

3) According to Mike Durand, the P.G.A. Director of Golf for the District, season pass golfers comprise 65 % of the total rounds played, but only provide 45% of the total revenue. So we're getting a good deal.

4) Finally, all of us would like to see some significant changes on these three courses. However, since these venues are not tax supported, the only source of money for improvements must come from us---the golfers who would be the beneficiaries. (Here's a thought. Why not a) acquire sponsors for each hole? and b) find a philanthropist who would be willing to donate a few million to a specific course in exchange for hyphening their name onto the present one?? Any takers?

So there you have it----the unambiguous answer to the question of the year. Glad I was able to clear it up for you. Happy holidays. Arvid Adell.