. . . .We Want You . . . .

The past three years the LPOA has been striving to be an organization that is working for your best interests. We can only be as successful as you enable us to be by your participation as a member of the Property Owner's Association. Your dues help us offer children's events free of charge, provide each member with "The Ledges Directory", host low cost adult social events, give you current information via a quarterly newsletter, attempt to do something about your concerns and offer special discounts when we're able to do so (See Clubhouse offer in this issue). We do work with our local governmental officials and have made an impact on their decisions.

It costs us about $225.00 to produce and mail each newsletter. So, don't procrastinate, join us and help achieve greater things. Fill in the form below and we'll continue working for you with great dedication!

Chuck Christiansen

2003 LPOA Annual Dues ($20 per household)

Submit the form below along with your check to the LPOA, P.O. Box 36, Roscoe, IL 61073. Your new directory will be delivered when we receive your registration. If you wonder if you have already paid dues for 2003 call Fern at 389-1632

Names of Adult/Parents

First _____Last_____
Address_____Phone_____
Child_____Birth year_____
Child_____Birth year_____
Child_____Birth year_____
Child_____Birth year_____
E-mail _____

If you fill in the e-mail line, please check the appropriate box regarding your e-mail

- ☐ E-mail in the directory & communication
- ☐ E-mail for communication only

In Sympathy . . To Gene Readette on the loss of his lovely wife Marlo

To Lynn Rasmussen on the loss of her husband Grant, a long time Ledges resident

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar now !

- ✓ Easter Egg Hunt Saturday April 19th on the Ledgewood School Playground at 11 AM (details in the enclosed flier)
- ✓ Couples Golf & Dinner Outing at the Ledges Golf Course on August 2. Tee times (12:30 to 2 PM) can be made in advance by calling Mark at 623-6391 More information will be available in the next newsletter and on the web site.
- ✓ Ledges Christmas party for adults at the Hoffman Clubhouse on Saturday December 13th. Open house – details at a later date!
- ✓ Lunch with Santa at the Hoffman Clubhouse on Sunday December 21st (11:30 – 1:30)
- ✓ The LPOA Social Committee welcomes your input to make these events a success

Web Site Tid Bits

We are currently collecting Email addresses for next year's directory and communication. Please go to our web site www.ledgescommunity.org, click on **contact us**, and send us an e-mail letting us know if you would like your e-mail address in the 2004 directory. The second possibility is to give us your e-mail exclusively for communication regarding important events. In your communication, let us know your preference.

The Ledges Property Owner's Association board is striving to provide more incentives to those who become members of the LPOA. In that light, we are currently developing guidelines for the "Ledges Classifieds" which will be an online service only for LPOA members. You will be able to place advertisements for items you want to sell. It is also our desire to create more interest in visiting the web site, which is now actively managed.

Board meeting monthly minutes are now posted on web site under the heading Newsletters.

Hoffman Club House is scheduled to reopen to the public on Friday, March 28th. The snack bar will be open from sunrise to sunset every day featuring "Prime Rib Sandwiches". On Friday evenings the $8.99 all you can eat Cod fish fry will resume. The LPOA Club Card will entitle property owner's to receive $1.00 off on the fish fry and a 10% discount at Main Street Meat through May 30th. A special mailing should have been received regarding this nice gesture.

School Referendum Vote

You have already received information in the mail regarding the Kinnikinnick School Districts need to increase the Education Fund tax rate. The LPOA will not take a stand on how you should vote, but we do encourage you to read all the materials, make an informed decision and vote on April 1st.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The County Board has passed the **Leaf and Yard Waste Burning Ban**. It is in effect immediately! For those who have woodlands or prairie areas, it may be possible to get permission through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for native landscaping and invasive species control. www.epa.state.il.us, phone #987-7760.

Annual Tree, Shrub and Flower Sales. Many organizations are taking orders for their annual native plant sales. These are small sized quality plants at low cost (They will grow bigger). Government Agencies: McHenry County Soil & Water, #338-0099; Winnebago Co. Soil & Water, #987-4247 ext. 3 and Rock County, #608-754-6617 have native trees & shrubs. Some examples are Serviceberry, Dogwoods, Hazelnut: 5 for $8 or 25/$34. Oak trees 1 gal. size for $27. Evergreens 10 for $20. Call me or them for info. The Nonprofit Organizations: Wild Ones, Rock County Conservationists, Sinnissippi Audobon Society and Madison's Arboretum also sell native flowers or forbs and grasses as well as trees and shrubs. Remember Native Plants are low maintenance, are perennials and provide food and habitat for wildlife. Call me, I'm running out of space. Each place has a different selection. Act soon because deadlines are very close.

In honor of **Earth Day/week** (4/13-27) and **Arbor Day** (4/25) LPOA will be placing an order for 200 shrubs and selling them at close to cost. This will be the **First Annual LPOA Native Plant Sale**. We'll have serviceberry, ninebark, hazelnut and others for $2 each. Size 6''– 24", age 1 – 4yrs old. They will be available for purchase at my house on Fri, 4/25 at 4-6pm, and Sun 4/ 27 at 11am–1pm. For other times call 623-9841 or e-mail neufam@charter.net.

Sunday April 13th, is the annual **"Great American Clean-up"**, which is sponsored by the Keep **America Beautiful Program**. Participate by getting outside and cleaning up the Ledges. This day is also the **Global/National Youth Service Day** and both are part of the **Annual National Volunteer Week** that is going on. All these programs are on the internet for additional info.

"Geese Peace" is a program in which some LPOA residents have become involved. We will be helping the Winnebago County Forest Preserve oil goose eggs on and around the golf course and waterways in a humane effort to reduce the geese population. The Humane Society has given approval of the methods being used. We have completed training and will soon be getting our feet wet. I bet that's not all! If you have geese nesting on your property or know of some nests, let us know. We will be marking found nests with a flag and paying them weekly visits for a few months.

To help reduce the danger of **West Nile Virus** in our area we will be searching **for "mosquito pits"** as we oil eggs and we will be looking into ways to control/kill these little buggers. Please note that some of the **Chronic Wasting Disease** deer were from our area. So keep your eyes open for sick looking deer and report them to the sheriff or the DNR. Be advised that the DNR has been working on CWD in our area. If your yard looks like food is available to deer, you will be visited. To those who have stopped feeding the deer, **thanks**, now they're eating my plants!

Finally, those that have mature woods on your property, now's the time to start killing **garlic mustard** and **buckthorn**. If you are interested, I have free pamphlets from the Department of Natural Resources. These will help identify the plants and provide info on how to kill them effectively. Also for gardeners, I have pamphlets on Rain Gardening. Stop by and pick some free pamphlets. *Gary Neu*

Directory Deletions

Sauter @ 7272 Grosbeak
Lindstrom @ 12416 North Gate Road
Bastain @ 11738 Southgate Road
Cain @ 12328 N. Ledges Drive
Eley @ 12014 Waxwing Court
Diesner @ 11535 Bowen Court
Hicks @ 7767 North Gate Road
Peltonen @ 12551 Greensview Drive
Westmoreland @ 12151 Love Road

Phone Number Corrections

Bowers, Vince & Ann	389-7939
Pruitt, Dwain & Mikel	623-1572
Dewey, John & Mercedes	623-3629

We Welcome New Residents

Rick Kurtz & Elizabeth Linquist

12328 N/ Ledges Drive 389-2324
Papp, Barney & Alicia
7272 Grosbeak Trail 623-6585
Toni 85, Nikki 86, Vinnie 87, Jordan 91
Pearson, Tracy & Robin
12014 Waxwing Court 623-8297
Bryan Brentley 91, Elainna 96, Kimberly 99, Kevin 99

Alexus Lewis new daughter of Scott & Jennifer Lewis

. . . . Have You Heard? . . . .

Several Ledges residents have recently hit the tabloids. Kudos to the following:

Aurie Chapman, a member of the Rockford United Soccer Club U-16 team won the national title 3 on 3 Shoot Out in Orlando, Florida. There were 1000 teams in the nationals.

Scott Twigg, owner of Calibration Solutions was recently featured in Executive Profiles in Business in Rockford Magazine.

Don Ely was honored at the Technical Association of Pulp and Paper Industries annual meeting in Orlando, Florida for his outstanding contributions to the industry.

Jim Deeds' company, Besly Products, was listed in Rockford Magazine's top 100 businesses.

The Ledges has its own famous author…**Bruce Muench**, a rather new resident on Saladino Drive. Bruce was featured at a book signing at Books on Main in Rockton on January 25 of this year. The signing featured his second published book, "Spam Cans, Rice Balls, and Pearls." It is part fiction and part autobiography, chronicling his experiences during World War II and the friendship he forged with a Japanese counterpart.

Daniel Saavedra, president of Saavedra Gehlhausen Architects has received both local and national attention for many of his designs. He received a national design award for The Prairie Repose Cemetery Chapel and was prominently featured in the book "Architecture for the Gods II." In addition, he was recently invited to speak at the XVIII Bi-Annual Conference of Columbian Architecture in Bogotá. Hispanic Business Magazine honored Daniel by awarding him the Entrepreneurial Spirit Award.

President's Column

As you may have learned, the Winnebago County Board recently voted to implement a burning ban that affects how many of us have traditionally disposed of the large volume of leaves, tree limbs and brush from our lots.

Essentially an unfunded mandate has been imposed which, depending on your volume of landscape waste, could potentially cost many in the Ledges hundreds of dollars annually. It strikes me that this ban should have been put on a referendum for unincorporated areas since it is a substantial new tax. We can readily accept the results of a tax referendum because the people would have had the chance to evaluate the pros and cons of the issue.

I have always enjoyed the ritual of burning brush and leaves in the fall and spring....it's a part of the culture of living in the country. If anyone is interested in working on alternatives to the burning ban, call me. My phone number is (389-4150) or email (jimsr@benko.com)

In an effort to deal with the ban, the LPOA board is pursuing getting bids from area haulers in an effort to get the lowest possible price for landscape waste and garbage disposal. Once we have bids in hand, we will call a special meeting to make a presentation to all who would be interested is getting the best price and service. I would suggest that you not enter into a new hauler contract until we've had the chance to hear what we can put together.

Dr. Ray and Angie Fellows recently returned home (Northgate Court) from a two week vacation to find their house in a horrible mess. Someone had broken in, stolen numerous items, and switched off the furnace. This resulted in frozen water pipes which burst and were spraying when they opened the door! There was severe water damage throughout the home. The Fellows are temporary staying at the Marriott in Rockford while repairs are beginning. Ray told me the Sheriff has some good leads. Pay attention to your neighborhood and report any suspicious activities to the Sheriff's office.

Jim Benkovich - - President LPOA