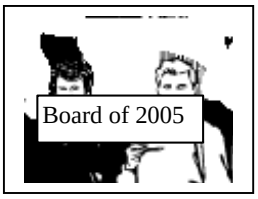

The LPOA Board for 2005 consists of Mark Anderson, Jim Benkovich, Jan Burg, Chuck Christiansen, Larry Fitzpatrick, Fern Nelson, Mike Nelson, Carol Norregard, Greg Otwell, Susan Pilgrim, Dave Tackes, Rich Weber, and Kathy Zant. The officers nominated and elected were – Mark Anderson as President, Jim Benkovich as Vice President, Fern Nelson as Treasurer and Chuck Christiansen as Secretary. Committee Assignments – Newsletter (Chuck, Carol, Rich), Directory (Kathy, Chuck, Fern) Web Site (Kathy Zant), Legislative (Jim Benkovich), Forest Preserve (Larry Fitzpatrick), Membership/Welcoming (Mike Nelson), Social (Mark with lots of help), and Environmental (Dave). We thank Russ Johnson for his dedicated service and Jim Benkovich for his service as president the last three years.

Please remember that board members are volunteers who have resident's best interests as their number one goal. Use your directory, or log on to the web site to send any of us an email with your concerns.

LPOA board

Social Events 2005

16 couples attended the first social event of the year, the third annual Valentines Dinner & Bowling party, Saturday February 12. A good time was had by all. The next family event is the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 26th (see the enclosed flier). As usual there will be treats for kids and adults alike and plenty of eggs to discover. In the works are a golf/pool/pig roast scheduled (Sat. July 30th, Noon till 10pm) as a "rain or shine' event, and the Kids and Adult Christmas parties. Adult Party - Sat. Dec.10th, 6pm till 10pm - Ledges Clubhouse. Kids Christmas Party - Sun. Dec.18th, 11:30am till 1:30pm - Ledges Clubhouse. The board is exploring a Halloween sponsored event. Look for detailed information about these parties as it becomes available on the web site. Don't forget that we email your web address with this information as it becomes available, ***<u>but only if we have your email address</u>.***

LPOA Annual Meeting

We had the privilege of having Scott Christiansen, Tom Kalousek, and Dave Krienke at our annual meeting. Scott spoke about impact fees, school tax relief by adopting new legislation, removal of yard waste and leaf burning as the current hot issues. He said 1-1/2 years ago the burning ordinance was passed prematurely before alternatives were in place. His mentioned the county board is working on viable alternatives to existing ordinances. Bids for the 100 million Justice Center will be in February. He wishes the center wasn't necessary! Snags have caused the section of Willowbrook Rd. not to be completed between Elevator and McCurry roads.

Tom Kalousek of the Forest Preserve District spoke about the necessity of reducing the deer herds in County Preserves. He said keeping all golf courses operating is a real challenge in the face of competing new courses and decreased player rounds. He declared a willingness to make a presentation locally to address concerns followed by creative dialogue with those in attendance. Reaching viable solutions would be the focus of any such meeting.

We applauded our advertiser's participation in helping the LPOA provide a great web site, production and distribution of printed materials and social events that are free or at reduced cost. Please purchase goods and services from our advertisers.

New Board Member for North Ledges

Last November the Board invited North Ledges residents to join the LPOA. Such a large number responded favorably that the Board decided the North Ledges should have a Board Member to represent it. Jan Burg, who lives on Charnwood Drive, was elected to the Board at the Annual Board Meeting on January 18, 2005. Any questions, suggestions or information for the Board, contact Jan at 389-8528.

One suggestion from North Ledges members was organizing a Neighborhood Watch Program for their area. Anyone interested? Contact Jan.

Neighborhood Watch

Every "spring" we need think about several issues. Children & adults will be out on the roads walking and ridiing bikes. Watch out for them! The speed limit on Ledges streets in most areas is 30 MPH. After the snow melts, to keep our neighborhoods looking appealing, a bit of clean up will help. If only people would quit throwing things from their autos!

Golf cart and car drivers need to be aware of their surroundings and drive accordingly. The LPOA has contacted golf cart users about their responsibilities.

Our area has enjoyed a low crime rate. Other subdivisions in Northeast Winnebago County aren't as fortunate. Our good fortune is due in part to the Neighborhood Watch Program. Our good fortune has

suddenly changed. Recently windows were broken in three vehicles in the North Ledges on Feb. 16th. At 4:00 a.m., the family was awakened by a Police officer. Stereo equipment and other valuable items were stolen. There were 16 different cars broken into on (2-20-2005) in the Ledges. The sheriff's office believes they will be able to make an arrest, let's hope so! We all need to keep our eyes and ears open to help our neighbors. We feel the signs help deter crime, as well as neighbors who report strange happenings. Unusual noise, suspicious cars and individuals should be watched carefully and reported to the police (987-5800, 987-5920 or in an emergency 911). If you plan to be gone, let your neighbors know your schedule.

Featured Business

Mid-City Office Products is our featured business. Mid-City has been providing office supplies and office furniture to this area for over 80 years. Greg Otwell and Larry Bridgeland have owned and managed Mid-City during the last ten years while they have grown to provide 20 full time jobs in the greater Rockford area.

As a local company Mid-City differentiates itself from it's larger competitors by developing high-integrity personalized relationships coupled with competitive pricing and customized services. Working together with their customers they help businesses control product and distribution costs, while keeping dollars local to help our community. They encourage you to contact them at 815-633-6789 and discover the benefits to your company today.

Club House Specials

Hoffman Club House will be featuring specials for the 2005 season. This year we will have our specials on Wednesday and Friday nights. On Friday's, beginning April 1st we will again offer our All You Can Eat Fish Fry, featuring cod or walleye, with salad bar and french fries for $8.99. Starting Wednesday April 6th we will be offering $6.99 All You Can Eat Fried Chicken. The dinner includes cole slaw, vegetable, mashed potatoes & gravy, and corn bread.

Hoffman Club House will again provide LPOA Club cards for seasonal discounts. Please remember to pick up your personalized Club Card at the Club House.

Deer Update

To date, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Lead Biologist informed us that 3 of the 5 deer identified with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) within the collection area, have come from the Ledges.

The outbreak is as severe as anywhere, and the Ledges and Legends Lake areas are considered "hotspots" by the IDNR Biologists. The team of biologists consists of 12 IDNR biologists who are collecting deer trying to isolate the spread of the fatal neurological disorder.

The CWD collection process has been very successful to date, and the work has reached a critical point in the biologist research. When trying to isolate, and extinguish the disease within the deer population, it is important that the process moves along with a clear and concise plan, and the IDNR should be commended for all the work they have done within our communities. On 02/02/05 a road block was thrown in the way by a judge's decision of a court injunction halting the collection of deer within the Clayton Andrews Forest Preserve, which resides on the eastern side of the Ledges property. The land is adjacent to the Ledges, and several suspect deer have been spotted, and collected in that area, making it a critical area to continue the testing and collection. An appeal is pending, but very critical time is being wasted, and IDNR funds are being utilized to fight a court battle. Watch for further updates on the Ledges website; http://www.ledgescommunity.org/ and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources website; http://dnr.state.il.us/

Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District provides fire and emergency medical treatment for the Ledges area. The department under the leadership of Chief Oscar Presley, is truly one of the finest in Illinois.

They publish a monthly newsletter that can be read online at www.harlemroscoefire.com. The newsletter includes fire and accident calls made, the Chiefs letter, EMS report, training news, Chaplains notes, upcoming events, and helpful information concerning fire, auto, medical, and safety issues. ***Check it Out!!!***

Here are a couple of helpful things you can do to protect you and your family:

- Check your smoke alarm batteries twice a year.
- Keep the wicks of your candles cut short.
- Keep an up-to-date list handy of all medications you are taking.

The fire departments annual spring dinner is Sat. March 19th, 2005. Plan to attend and show your support.