



The LPOA Board for 2006 consists of Mark Anderson, Jim Benkovich, Chuck Christiansen, Larry Fitzpatrick, Fern Nelson, Tracey Matson, Carol Norregard,

Paul Swanberg, Mike Ilseman, 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 Carol Norregard as Secretary. Committee Assignments – Newsletter (Chuck, Carol, Rich), Directory (Kathy, Chuck, Fern & Mark) Web Site (Kathy Zant), Legislative (Jim Benkovich), Forest Preserve (Larry Fitzpatrick), Membership/Welcoming (Fern Nelson), Social (Mark, Tracey & others), and Environmental (Mike). We thank Greg Otwell, Susan Pilgrim & Dave Tackes for their service on the LPOA board.

Board member Jan Burg has resigned leaving an opening on the board. We thank Jan for her time of service on the LPOA and wish her well in her new pursuits.

Our goal continues to be keeping you informed and “Protecting the interests of the Ledges Community”. Use your directory, call any board member, or log on to the web site to send any of us an email with your concerns and items you would like included on our agenda or in future newsletters.

*2006 LPOA board*

## Social Events 2006

Dinner  
&  
Bowling

The Valentines Dinner & Bowling party has become a popular event with 32 participants recently enjoying the evening out. The next family event is the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday,

April 15<sup>th</sup> (see the enclosed flier).

Rumor has it that the Easter Bunny will stick around after hiding an ample quantity of colorful eggs on the grounds of Ledgewood School. The annual golf/pool/pig roast scheduled (Sat. August 5th, Noon till 10pm) as a “rain or shine” event. The



Adult Christmas Party will be Sat. Dec.9th, 6pm till 10pm. The kids Christmas Party is scheduled for Sun. Dec.17th, 11:30am till 1:30pm. The

board is exploring a “Garden Walk Event”. Look for detailed information about these parties as they become available on the web site. If we have your email address, we will email your web address with any pertinent information as it becomes available. (**But only if we have your email address.**)

## Avian Influenza (Bird Flu)?

Space will not allow us to print the full version of this article that recently crossed our desks. The full article is posted on our web site (ledges.org).

**Avian influenza**, or bird flu, is a common naturally occurring virus in birds that has many forms or subtypes. Scientists believe all birds are susceptible to infection by some form of avian influenza, but some birds, like waterfowl, can be infected with influenza but develop no signs of illness from it. In addition, the potency (virulence) varies greatly among the influenza subtypes. The Asian H5N1 virus is a particularly virulent strain of avian influenza that was first detected in Southeast Asia in 1997.

**Is the Asian H5N1 strain of avian influenza a risk to humans?** To date, there has been little human-to-human transmission of the Asian H5N1 strain of avian flu. Yes, there is a risk to humans who are handling infected domestic birds or infected wild birds in Asia. In the United States, no case of the most deadly strain, H5N1, has been reported in either birds or humans. All human deaths reported so far - at least 70 in Asia and four in Turkey - have occurred mainly among people who were in direct contact with infected birds, and not through a human strain that could be easily passed from person to person. **It is important to note** that to date (December 2005), the Asian H5N1 strain has not been detected in the Americas.

### Fast facts about Avian Flu

- ◆ There are no known cases of H5N1 in the U.S., either among birds or humans.
- ◆ Avian flu exists in all bird types, but H5N1 has been found mainly in domestic poultry, especially chickens, and certain such wild waterfowl as geese and ducks.
- ◆ Lower-pathogenic forms of bird flu have been found in the U.S. for decades, including in four outbreaks in New Jersey in February 2004. Low-path bird flu is not an immediate risk to humans, though it has the potential to mutate into a more serious strain.
- ◆ You can't get bird flu, either low- or high-pathogenic forms, from cooked chicken or turkey.
- ◆ There is no widely available vaccine for H5N1. One is being developed, but there's no guarantee it would protect against a pandemic form of bird flu. Health experts still recommend people get a yearly vaccination for regular flu, and follow the usual recommendations to avoid spreading sickness, such as washing hands regularly and covering coughs and sneezes.
- ◆ Avian flu, or bird flu, has killed at least 74 people worldwide and ravaged poultry flocks since late 2003, and has spread recently from Southeast Asia to Turkey. The most deadly strain known as H5N1, has been contracted mainly by people in

direct contact with birds. Experts worry H5N1 could meld with a human strain into a "superflu" that could cause a global pandemic.

- ◆ The H5N1 bird flu virus has not been found in birds or humans in the United States. So unless there's a global outbreak of avian flu, it's unlikely that bird flu will become a problem in the United States.

## Featured Business

Brad & Terri Kemp (former owners of Kate's Hallmark) and John & Sue Arntzen announce the opening of their new wine store called Wine Styles. The store is located at 621 S. Perryville Rd in Rockford, just south of State Street next to Panera Bread. Both the Kemp's and Arntzens live in the Ledges.

The store is merchandised unlike any other wine store. The wines are displayed by style (or taste) rather than by country of origin or variety as most other wine and liquor stores are. "We want to demystify the wine buying process," says Brad Kemp. "It is a fun and simple way to buy wine, not intimidating at all".

WineStyles features over 170 unique and hard to find wines from around the globe. The store's ambience is designed to transport customers into an old-world wine cellar. Although it has an upscale look, the world-class wines are priced at a very affordable prices. "Customers comment that they are surprised how reasonable the prices are considering the look of the store" Kemp says.

In addition to great wine, the store also offers wine-related gifts and customizable gift baskets. The monthly Wine Club enables customers to purchase 2 bottles of wine from different styles at a discount. Everyone is welcome to attend the weekly wine tasting every Thursday from 5pm – 7pm.

WineStyles is a franchise located in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. The first store opened in November 2004. The Rockford store is the 43<sup>rd</sup> store to open. Over 90 stores are now under franchise agreement and will be opened within months. WineStyles was named one of Entrepreneur Magazine's "Top 50 New Franchises" in 2006.

WineStyles is located at 621 S. Perryville Rd in Rockford. They can be reached at 815-399-WINE (9463) or [Perryville@WineStyles.net](mailto:Perryville@WineStyles.net). Their website is [www.WineStyles.net/Perryville](http://www.WineStyles.net/Perryville).

The Kemp's and Arntzen's would like to invite the Ledges community to stop in and enjoy a unique wine experience.



- ◆ Directories are printed and have been distributed to those who have paid their 2006 dues. If you have not received yours please let us know!
- ◆ We are considering creating a garden walk this spring.
- ◆ We archive board minutes, past issues of the newsletter and helpful information like burning regulations, Avian Influenza (Bird Flu), etc. Take a look!
- ◆ LPOA volunteers will be oiling goose eggs again on the golf course.
- ◆ The DNR has removed 25 deer from the wooded area near Elevator and Moore Woods roads.
- ◆ We will be doing landscaping and plantings around the five Ledges signs early this spring.
- ◆ Is there a volunteer from the North Ledges 1<sup>st</sup> that is willing to server on the LPOA board?

## Club House For 2006

The Hoffman Club House, in its fifth year, will again provide the concessions during the golf season. At the time of this printing there is no information available on the status of the Friday evening fish fry or any other specials that will be offered.

## Introducing The Newest Board Members

**Tracey Matson** - Ledges resident for 2 years. I want to be an active member of our Ledges community that has so much to offer its residents. 11853 Waxwing Ct. 623-2593.

**Paul Swanberg** - A Ledges resident for 5 years. Paul & his wife both grew up in Rockford. They enjoy the many social events hosted by the LPOA. He joined the Board to stay involved with his neighbors in the Ledges community. 623-5150

**Mike Ilseman** – a pilot who works in Chicago and has lived in the area for 7 years. He would like to see more residents involved in LPOA 623-7627

**2 Board Seats Unfilled** The LPOA board welcomes volunteers to contact Mark Anderson 623-6391 if you are willing to serve on the board. There are monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. We would like at least one person from the North Ledges 1<sup>st</sup> edition to become a representative for their neighborhood.