



The Village Press

The Village Landlords Newsletter



Next Meeting is April 17th, 2:15pm
City Hall Aquatic Center, 701 SW 71st Avenue, North Lauderdale

April 2011

Village Landlord Current Board

Bob Obenland	561-752-0450
Chris Barrett	954-943-9682
Gene Armeno 2nd Vice President	954-969-0041
Peggy Mead Treasurer	954-974-8271
Bonnie Eichholtz	954-972-5045
Jerry Fernon Programs	954-753-5953
Gisela Gaspar Membership Publicity	954-600-3519
Peggy Layton Hospitality	954-476-1210
Norman Barrett Parliamentarian	954-943-9682
Roseann Abrams	954-254-4365
Jonathan Stout Newsletter	954-434-6560

News From the President

by: Bob Obenland



Please
note

that the April meeting will be on the 3rd Sunday since Easter is on the 4th Sunday, therefore we will be meeting at the old place. In September we will start using the new meeting hall permanently. If however we need to meet on the 3rd Sunday for any reason we will move to the old place for that meeting.

April will be the last meeting until September since we take a break for the summer. This will give you time to find those new buildings to add to your



village for the next holiday season. Good shopping!

We collected the nominees for the Department 56 Collector of the Year at the picnic and Bonnie Eichholtz received the most nominations. Bonnie's name was submitted to Department 56 as our candidate for the Collector of the Year. Read more about Bonnie and

what was sent to Department 56 in this newsletter. The deadline was March 31st and the winner will be announced at the Gathering in Arizona this September. Good luck to Bonnie.

The Picnic was a great success with plenty of food, games, and prizes. See the article and pictures.

We hope to see you at the April meeting, and see what kind of Make & Take Jerry has come up with for your village. See below for an example of activity. Fun!

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Our Next Meeting

by: Jerry Fernon



MAKE AND TAKE

We will make "street signs" for your villages at the April meeting. I had sent around a "sign" up sheet (get it? SIGN up) at the picnic and as far as I know everyone provided their two "street names". If someone comes to the April meeting that either did not pick a street name, or did not attend the picnic I will have stock names so they may complete their signage I will also provide kits to assemble. It is a fairly simple

design so not too challenging. The most difficult task is the peeling and placing of your sign names on the sign and keeping it straight. I do think you will like having them in your villages. Members who collect "north pole" may want to paint them white and candy stripe them. I will demonstrate one way to do this. I will remind everyone that that your ideas for meetings are sought along with any input (good or bad) so that we can do things that you as club members want to do. This month's idea came from Donna Fresquez. Thanks Donna!





Collector of the Year Contest

by: Chris Barrett

The membership of the Village Landlords unanimously named Bonnie Eichholtz as our Collector of the Year.

As most of us, Bonnie received her first Department 56 house as a gift, and it mushroomed from there. She now collects New England Village, Snow Village, Halloween and the new Williamsburg Village. Bonnie has opened her home for our members to enjoy her creative Christmas displays and her extensive Halloween village, which she showcases in a life-size replica of the Dickens Village "All Hallows Eve" Horse Drawn Hearse, made by her son and in a life-size casket.



Since joining our club in 2001, Bonnie has served a four-year term as our secretary. When her term was finished, she became our hospitality chairperson. Bonnie is once again serving as our secretary, but still helps with hospitality. When we lost our meeting location, Bonnie found us a new place, and she makes sure that it is available and ready for each meeting. She volunteered to help with our annual picnic and has organized it for the last six years, from getting the location, ordering

and picking up the food the club provides, to the dishes people are bringing. For the past four years or so, we have been doing a Toys-for-Tots drive at our November meeting. Bonnie takes the toys home, counts them, organizes them and delivers them to the Toys-for-Tots location. She has volunteered many times to make a vignette for a special raffle, with the proceeds going to one of our charities. Bonnie never says no. Bonnie is the true definition of a volunteer. She is always ready to do anything to benefit our club and the charities we support, and she does it all with a smile on her face, and wanting no thanks in return.

Bonnie writes, "I'm sure all of you will find this hard to believe, but I was actually at a loss for words when you nominated me "Collector of the Year". All I could think to say was a simple "thank you". However, it really means a lot to me. I'm honored. Joining the Village Landlords was one of the best things I ever did for myself. I couldn't be among a nicer group of people and again I say "Thank you".



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March Meeting Highlights — The Picnic

by: **Jerry Fernon**

Here we are once again getting ready for our monthly meeting. I can't believe we so recently had our annual picnic and what a picnic it was. The weather was perfect, the food was more than one could ask for and the games were tooo much fun. Thanks to all who made it so enjoyable.

If you have any pictures of the picnic, I would like to get copies. You can even email them to me. I plan to have a special section in our photo album of the picnic as well as the website.

There was a short meeting at the picnic as well. Chris Barrett passed out forms for members to nominate their candidate for "Collector of the Year". They had to specify why they chose that person and were told it should be a person who is not only active in the club but volunteers in charitable events. Congrats go to Bonnie as COTY!

Bob informed the members that D-56 sent him more siscal trees and items for door prizes.

Door Prizes

SV Pisa Pizza-**Gisela Suarez**

NP Grandma's Bakery-**Roseanne Abrams**

Game Prizes

Merrily Round We Go-**Debbie King**

Williamsburg Horse Collection-**Kathy Krepp**

Mill Creek Park Bench-**Josephine Armeno**

Billboard Surprise-**Roseanne Abrams**

Countdown Mission Control-**Kathy Krepp**

I'm Making Snowballs-**George Fells**

Foxes in the Forest-**Debbie King**

Marshmallow Roast-**Mark Reynolds**

Delivery Truck-**Kathy Tavernia**

The Life of the Party-**Nancy Fernon**

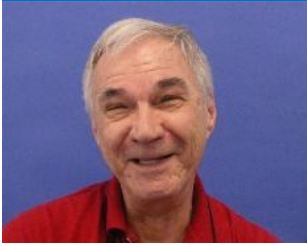
The Best in Hats and Walking Sticks-**Susan Roberts**

Christmas Around the World-**Josephine Armeno**

Special Raffle (Williamsburg Set)-**Guenther Heil**

50/50 Raffle-**Gene Armeno** (\$80.00)





Every Collector Has a Story

by: Gene and Josephine Armeno

In 1988, Josephine wanted three little houses to put under our Christmas tree. After discovering Department 56's collection of houses, we decided on the Nicholas Nickleby set of two, and The Old Curiosity Shop from Dickens' Village. Over the next couple of years we increased our collection to approximately 25 houses.

In 1990, North Pole Village was introduced and available in 1991. We had two young children, so we decided that this new collection would be a lot more fun for the family. Being hooked on Department 56 products, we just had to have every piece of this new village and, up until 2008, we accomplished this feat. We were already members of The Village Landlords, so we were able to sell most of our Dickens' collection at one of the swap and sells.

Part of the North Pole collection is Elf Land, and in 2004, they introduced Arctic Game Station and the accessory, "Testing Video Games Is The Perfect Job!". (Its name is by far "larger" than the piece itself!) When we purchased the house, the accessory was not available. At that time, we had around ten stores in South Florida, so I thought we could pick up this piece with no problem. But, I was mistaken, nobody had it. After attending a few conventions and two of Marlene's bus trips all over Florida and Brunswick, GA, we still

could not find the accessory.

In 2008, we attended the gathering in Minnesota, but still no luck. We were traveling with Chris and Norman Barrett at the time, and we heard a lot about Bronner's Christmas Place in Frankenmuth, MI. This store has quite a reputation and it was a fun place to visit. We thought maybe, just maybe, we could find our piece, but again, no luck.

While we were in Frankenmuth, a friend suggested we visit another store, about 8 miles south, so we went.



This store was not as large as Bronner's, but they had many quality products. The only problem was it was in the summer, they were not fully open, half the lights were off, the air conditioning was minimal – it was dark and musty. They had two floors of Christmas items, and on the bottom was Department 56. There was a huge, very well done, display in the center of the floor. Each village had its own special room. We

couldn't spend as much time as we wanted to because of the smell, so we hurried through each room.

The North Pole room was small, but large enough to support a small box that said "Testing Video Games Is The Perfect Job!". We were so happy to finally find this treasure, even if it only cost \$12.50. So, our suggestion to you is never give up, and tell other people if you are looking for that perfect charm.

Upcoming Events



- 04/17 — Village Landlords Meeting at 2:15 pm (old location)
- 09/13 — Village Landlords Board Meeting at 7:30 pm
- 09/25 — Village Landlords General Meeting
- 09/29 — "Happy Trails to Arizona" Litchfield Park, AZ.
Website: www.HappyTrailsAZ.com
- 10/11 — Village Landlords Board Meeting at 7:30 pm
- 10/23 — Village Landlords General Meeting



Phone: 954-529-





The Treasury Report

by: Peggy Mead

Treasurers Report for March

Beginning Balance \$3,785.56

Deposits

Meeting \$ 8.00

Membership \$ 105.00

Picnic \$ 50.00

50/50 Raffle \$ 80.00

Special Raffle \$ 135.00

Total Deposits \$378.00

Expenses

Meeting \$ 66.98

Refreshments \$ 39.36

Postage \$ 38.72

Copies \$ 64.00

Total Expenses \$ 209.06

Ending Balance \$ 3,954.50

Raffle Bank \$ 50.00

\$ 4004.50



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Hospitality Helpers

by: Peggy Layton and Susan Roberts

A Special Thanks to Susan Roberts for submitting her recipe for the wonderful dessert she brought to the picnic meet-

ing. If you sampled her baking, I am sure you will agree, it was sinfully delicious.

Also, thanks to **Joe McPhillips** who will be bringing the ice and soda! Below are the people who signed up to bring their own selection to the April meeting:

Joan Heinsinger

Donna Swanson

Genevieve Alt

Gisela & Carlos Suarez

Mark & Gail Reynolds

Debbie & Bill King

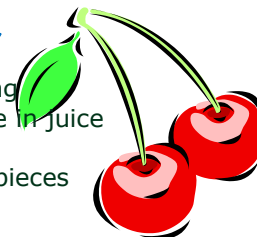
Rosemary DeJesus

Peggy Layton



Tropical Dump Cake

1 21 ounce can cherry pie filling
1 20 oz. can crushed pineapple in juice
1 18 oz. box yellow cake mix
1/4 cup butter, cut into small pieces
1/2 cup butter, melted
1 cup flaked coconut
1 cup chopped pecans



Grease 9 X 13 X 2-inch baking pan. Dump into pan and **spread or smooth** in this order: cherry pie filling, un-drained pineapple, dry cake mix. Arrange pieces of butter (1/4 cup) on top. Pour 1/2 cup melted butter over cake mix. Top with 1 cup flaked coconut and 1 cup chopped pecans. **DO NOT STIR.**



Membership Insider

by: **Gisela Gaspar**

Hope everyone is doing well. Thanks to those who renewed for 2011. Here are more pictures from the picnic last meeting. Go House Races! Go Marbles—and we are awaiting Zonk 2.0!

We have 78 PAID Members. Thanks to all who renewed their 2011 membership.



Agustin Barchuk

Terri Barchuk

Terri's Cards & Gifts

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VILLAGE LANDLORDS

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE

Membership year is from January 1st—December 31. All information is confidential and used for club purposes only. Please fill out application and return along with the membership fee of \$15.00 per person or \$25.00 per family. Make checks payable to **The Village Landlords, P. O. Box 670093 Coral Springs, FL 33067**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE #: _____

E-MAIL: _____

What year did you start collecting? _____

Would you be interested in hosting a Christmas House Tour in December or January?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Possibly ☐ Need more information

What activities would you be interested in seeing at the meetings?

☐ Display Techniques ☐ Guest Speakers ☐ Social Events ☐ Workshops

☐ Other _____

Comments

What do you collect?

☐ Dickens' Village

☐ Christmas in the City

☐ New England Village

☐ Snow Village

☐ North Pole

☐ Alpine Village

☐ Snowbabies

☐ Snowbunnies

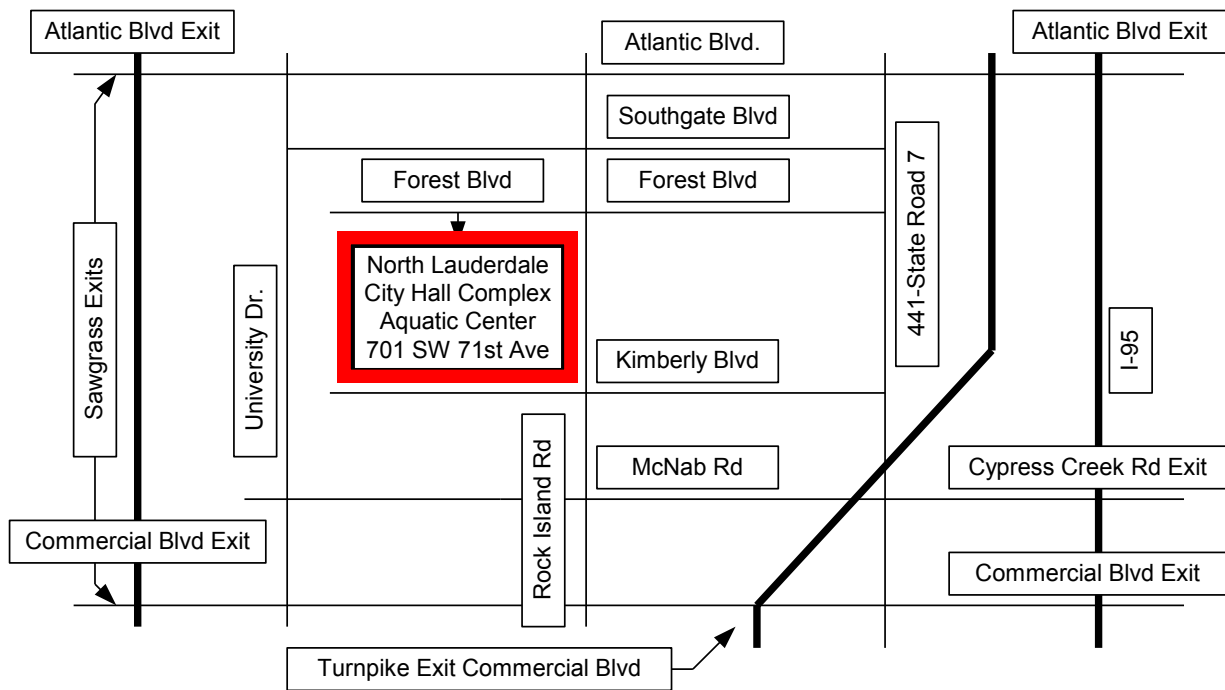
☐ Winter Silhouette

☐ Little Town of Bethlehem

☐ Seasons Bay

Other _____

Map to site of the Village Landlords Meeting location



**The Village Landlords
P.O. Box 670093
Coral Springs, FL 33067**

