



# THE VILLAGE PRESS

The Village Landlords Newsletter



Our Next Meeting is Sunday October 23rd, 2:15pm  
Champions Hall, 6601 Blvd of Champions, North Lauderdale, 33068

October 2011

## Village Landlord Current Board

**Bob Obenland** 561-752-0450  
President

**Chris Barrett** 954-943-9682  
Vice President

**Gene Armeno** 954-969-0041  
2nd Vice President

**Peggy Mead** 954-974-8271  
Treasurer  
Membership

**Bonnie Eichholtz** 954-972-5045  
Secretary

**Jerry Fernon** 954-753-5953  
Programs

**Gisela Gaspar** 954-600-3519  
Membership  
Publicity

**Peggy Layton** 954-476-1210  
Hospitality

**Norman Barrett** 954-943-9682  
Parliamentarian

**Roseann Abrams** 954-254-4365  
Webmaster

**Jonathan Stout** 305-545-1657  
Newsletter



## News From the President

by: Bob Obenland

I'd like to con-  
gratulate Bonnie Eichholtz  
for winning the Department 56 Collector of the Year award. Bonnie's name was submitted, to Department 56, as our candidate for the Collector of the Year and at the Arizona Gathering she was announced as the winner. Clubs from around the country and Canada submitted names for collector of the year. Bonnie specializes in Halloween and her displays have been on the Department 56 website before. You can see the finalist on the Department 56 website under Collecting/Village Collecting/Club news.



Fresquez. See more details in the newsletter. We also have two Christmas House Tours at Tom & Susan Shetler's home and Joe & Katherine McPhillips house. Please be thinking if and when you would like to have an Open House. We will be taking names at the October and November meetings. If you are unable to make one of these meetings you can call or e-mail me. These tours are a lot of fun and gives you more ideas on displaying your village. I can be reached by phone at 561-752-0450, and via email at

obenland@aol.com

Remember we will be celebrating our 20th Anniversary this Sunday. Cake for all! Below are a few pictures from the way back machine! Please see the article on page 2 about one of the original members of our club. We have changed—and stayed the same, all at the same time!

We hope to see you at the October meeting and see what kinds of displays were made from the September Make & Take.

## Inside this issue:

News from the President	1
Happy 20th Anniversary	2
September Meeting Highlights	3
The Treasury Report	4
Hospitality Helpers	4
Membership Insider	5
Facebook Announcement	5
Collector of the Year	6
Our Next Meeting	7
Upcoming Events	7
Membership Application	8
Map to our Meeting Site	8





## Happy 20th Anniversary, Village Landlords

by: Jonathan Stout

Walt Disney was quoted as saying "I only hope that we don't lose sight of one thing — that it was all started by a mouse." Well, to rephrase, in the world of D56, it was all started by a House.

At least that is the word from one of the clubs founding members, Donna Swanson. She recalls having a casual conversation with some other shoppers at Sandy's Silver Sleigh store, and discussing these little houses being created by Bachman.

Donna and the others thought what a good idea it would be to get together every once in awhile and discuss this newly forming passion of theirs. She and 13 other people kept it informal at first and met at Dell Hanover's house for their first "meeting". It was more casual than not, but it was the start of the club we have today.

As the club expanded, they needed more structure, so of the members present (Marion, Meryl, Joyce, Lynn, Donna P., and others, elected the first president, Rebecca Fulton. Rebecca got nominated because "she didn't work - so she was it". Tom, one of the few men who took an active interest in the club at that time, became the vice president. Donna became the 3rd president to serve the association.

20 years ago, villages were new, and hard to come by. One of the missions of the club was to share information with each other, as to places these obsessions could be found. "At first, dealers did not like us. They didn't want anything to do with us, because they did not know what we were up to", said Donna recollecting on their initial relationship with the stores. "It took awhile for them to learn how we could help them and that we could do each other a lot of good".

So, what did the club do back then? It turns out, a lot of the same things we do today. The club held meetings at members houses, and once the membership grew, they began to looking for larger venues to gather, such as at retail stores, like Ellie's and at the Davie community center. They even had a meeting at the Plantation Mall when L & H Miniatures presented to about 80 participants.

The meetings back then focused often on the houses themselves. "Some had windows, some did not. Some were larger than others, and it seemed that some were more valuable than others. I am not sure why, but it seems as if they had a blue roof, they were worth more!", she noted.

The club also sponsored Open Houses dur-



ing the holiday season, but unlike today, they would have 3 or more houses to visit, all in the same night! Donna had one open house, and people marveled at how she was able to integrate houses from one village, such as New England with Dickens "just down the street".

"When I started, I was just collecting New England", Donna recalls. However, since the pieces either were introduced slowly, or were difficult to find, she decided to expand her collection to include Dickens "because there were a few pieces I really liked". But it did not stop there. "It begins to grow on you. Honestly, I think I have a addition", she admitted. "Some people smoke, some gamble, some drink, I collect houses. What better way to be hooked", she rationed.

Her decision to collect was also mitigated by the knowledge that her original accusations were actually acquiring value. Shopping at the Mole Hole, she learned that a piece she owned, *Jacob's Farm House* had doubled in worth. With that, she branched off into other villages, such as North Pole. Actually she blames her husband, Don for that. "He wanted a single piece, and he said I could have one, if he could". We all know how that turned out!

The club was growing during the early years, and to get the word out, they also went to dealer events, and were allowed to setup informational tables. Their goal, turn shoppers into members. Due to the lack of local resources for their "drug of choice", members decided to venture past Dade, Broward and Palm Beach county.

There were trips out of town for house hunting, going to places like Melbourne, and Roberts. (Much like Marlene's famous Bus Trips!). "We really had to work at our passion, because the houses were not as common as they are today", she noted. Members of the club ventured up to Minneapolis to visit the Bachman showroom on one trip, even though the showroom was not on the agenda. "But we've come so far", cried Donna to no avail by management.



The club began to take shape into its current form, with the addition of some new key members, such as Chris and Norm, and Bob Obenland. We still recruit new members and are always looking for fun ideas. From her home in Port St. Lucie, Donna sips her morning coffee, admiring her display and checking in on "everyone" in her town, and sees what they are up to.

While the exact origins of the Village Landlords is a bit sketchy, one thing is for sure. It all started with the passion of a few wonderful people, and a House.



## September Meeting Highlights

by: **Bonnie Eichholtz**

Chris Barrett welcomed back members **Rosemary DeJesus** and **Marge Bennett**.

Gisela said she had a coupon from The Christmas Palace for our membership.

Chris informed the membership that Cross Stitch is holding its "Tree lighting" event, an Open House, on Monday, October 10th at 6:00pm.

Gene informed the club that some items donated to the club by Bonnie would be used for prizes, raffles and special raffles. "The Costume on Parade" would be used as the prize for next months contest that Jerry is planning. The Castle and The Haunted Tree would be used as a special raffle, along with The Apple Orchard House Vignette made by **Mark Reynolds** for this meeting.

It was decided to use the Creepy Creek Carriage house for a future regular raffle. Gene also informed the club that **Chet Rosenbaum** donated the D-56 piece, The Fireman's Memorial. **It was decided by membership to auction it off at the October meeting.**

Gene said the Halloween Bubbly lights were free and also mentioned he had four bags full of Duck Hats that Chris suggested be donate to the Ronald McDonald House. All was in favor of doing that.

**Bill and Debbie King** spoke of their Halloween Open House On Saturday, October 22nd, at 7:00 pm. Also, **Donna Fresquez** announced that she was planning one for October 29th, at 7:00 pm.

**Nancy Fernon** said she would consider the Treasurer's position in our upcoming election. She also volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee along with **Debbie King**. One Board member is also necessary to complete the committee.

Anyone deciding to host an open house, please contact Bob Obenland by e-mail. As of now, **Susan and Tom Shetler** are opening their home on Sunday, December 4th, 2011 at 6:00 pm and **Joe and Kathy McPhillips** on December 17th.

Chris announced that Joe would be the Ronald McDonald chairperson this year. He will be doing the holiday display along with Jerry, Norm, Gene and Chris.

Jerry gave each member materials to make a Halloween scene. Bonnie, Debbie King and Jerry made sample scenes for all to see. The membership worked on making a coffin during the meeting and will take all other materials home and create their own scene **to enter a contest at the October meeting**. The winner will receive "The Costume on Parade" D-56 piece.

The October 23rd meeting will be held at Champions' Hall. The November 20th meeting will have to be held at our old meeting place, the teen center. This is due to the Thanksgiving weekend.

There are no meetings in December so that we can all enjoy each others homes with our annual Open House tours. Please get on the schedule if you are interested.

### DOOR PRIZES

Set of Trees — **Genevieve Alt**  
 M&M Candy House — **Gisela Suarez**  
 Bright Lights Entry Way — **Josephine Armeno**  
 Send in the Clown — **Debbie King**  
 Set of Trees — **Gisela Gaspar**  
 Set of 4 Birch Fence — **Gisela Suarez**  
 SV A Tree for Me — **Barbie Long**  
 Black Kittens for Sale — **Tom Shetler**  
 Candy Cane Lampposts — **John Eckhardt**  
 Williamsburg Event Piece — **Debbie King**  
 Set of Trees — **Linda Purrington**

### RAFFLE PRIZES

Countdown to Christmas — **Bill Shields**  
 The Trout Stream — **Guenther Heil**  
 Set of 3 SV Classic Cars — **Susan Roberts**  
 Caramel Apple Stand — **Chris Barrett**  
 SV Santa comes to Town — **Chris Barrett**  
 Building Fort Frightful — **Joe McPhillips**  
 Lenox-Spooky Town — **John Eckhardt**  
 Candy Cane Lamp Post — **John Eckhardt**  
**Mystery House**  
 NE Captains Cottage — **Mai Hua Paige**  
**Special Raffles**  
 Apple Orchard Vignette — **John Eckhardt**  
 Castle and Haunted Tree — **Marlene Bretl**



## The Treasury Report

by: Peggy Mead

### Treasurer's Report

September  
2011

Beginning Balance	\$3,712.56
<b>Deposits</b>	
Membership	\$ 25.00
Raffle	\$ 130.00
Special Raffle	\$ 117.00
<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>\$ 272.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Meeting	\$ 78.39
Refreshments	\$ 8.97
Bank Charges	\$ 15.00
Membership	\$ 25.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 127.36</b>
Ending Balance	\$3,857.20
raffle bank	\$ 50.00
	<b>\$3,907.20</b>



## Hospitality Helpers

by: Peggy Layton

Hi Everyone,  
Club members who signed up to bring goodies for the October Meeting are:

**Marlene Bretl**  
**Carlos & Gisella Suarez**  
**Susan Roberts**  
**Peggy Layton**

**Chase Bagnell & John Eckhardt** will be bringing the Ice and Soda. Thanks, guys!

Well, Halloween is upon us and I am sure most of you are carving out those pumpkins for the big night. After making your ghoulish creations, why not treat yourself to those pumpkin seeds for a "midnight" snack. Here is an

easy recipe that I thought you might like, Roasted Pumpkin Seeds.



### ROASTED PUMPKIN SEEDS

2 cups of pumpkin seeds  
Butter-flavored cooking spray  
1/2 tsp. salt

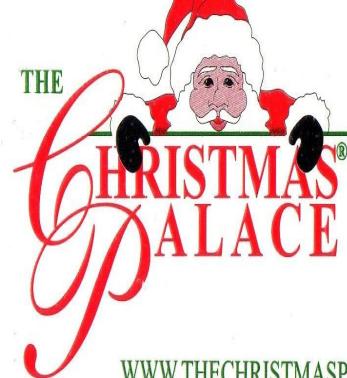
Rinse seeds; discard any stringy membranes.

Spread seeds into single layer on baking sheet. Let stand 3 hrs. or until dried.

Heat oven to 350. Spray seeds generously with cooking spray; sprinkle with salt.

Bake 8 - 10 min.

Enjoy!



WWW.THECHRISTMASPALACE.COM

Over 100,000 Items to Decorate your Home or Business

OPEN YEAR ROUND  
DESIGNERS ON PREMISES

MIAMI  
9820 NW 77th Avenue  
Hialeah Gardens, FL 33016  
Tel: (305) 558-5352

FT. LAUDERDALE  
800 N.E. 13th Street  
Ft. Laud., FL 33304  
Tel: (954) 763-1403

Toll Free:  
1-(877) 367-2474  
Fax: (305) 558-6718

WWW.THECHRISTMASPALACE.COM



# Membership Insider

by: Gisela Gaspar

HAPPY OCTOBER EVERYONE! By now, everyone's creative juices should be flowing, and everyone should be getting everything ready for their open houses. I have contacted all of our vendors and they too have many things in the works for this holiday season. Please reserve the following days to visit the vendors that advertise and support us:

## THE CHRISTMAS PALACE:

**The Fort Lauderdale store** will be holding a special event on October 23, 2011 from 1-5p.m. They will have door prizes, special raffles and demonstrations.

**The Hialeah store** will feature designer Carlos Padron, demonstrating new techniques in building a Department 56 village. This free event will be on November 6th from 1-5pm. They will have drinks, a raffle and free door prizes

## THE CROSS STITCH CUPBOARD:

They will be holding their Annual Porch sale on November 5th, 2011 from 9-4 p.m. The sale will be on Gifts, Cross Stitch and Collectibles. Please be sure to check their Facebook page for more information.

## THE SILVER SLEIGH:

The store will be holding an Open House on November 5

88 Members and still growing!

and 6th. The Silver Sleigh has decided to hold a Decorating Class on Sunday the 6th from 12:30- 4:30 pm. There will be a \$10.00 charge for the class, so please contact the store directly at 954-943-4388 or by email at slvrsleigh@aol.com , if you would like to attend.

At this time, we are currently 88 members strong. Thank you to all who renewed their 2011 memberships! I would also like to ask if anyone would like any photos or information added to our Facebook page, please email it to me at: giselagaspar@aol.com.

Agustin Barchuk

Terri Barchuk

## Terri's Cards & Gifts

1357 W. Palmetto Park Rd.  
Boca Raton, FL 33486

Tel: (561) 391-3410  
Fax: (561) 391-7987



# FACEBOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

The Village Landlords proudly announces that we are now on FACEBOOK! If you are not yet a member of Facebook, getting started is easy. Just point your browser over to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and set up an account. The service is free and a lot of fun to use. Once on Facebook, you can search for our club by going to the top where there is a SEARCH bar.



Please type in, *THE VILLAGE LANDLORDS*. At that time, a drop down menu will be visible and you can click on our entry.

Please be sure to Press the **LIKE** button.



Once you have LIKEd the page, you will be able to view all of the content for the club! The Facebook Page will be your link to the club's most up to date information. Feel free

## The Village Landlords

Non-Profit Organization • Coral Springs, Florida



Wall

The Village Landlords • Everyone (Most Recent)

Share: [Post](#) [Photo](#) [Link](#) [Video](#)

Write something...

to check it as often as you like, as THIS IS A FREE SERVICE! More information will be available at the meeting. Please know that Facebook is a social network. Partly, that means you are not just a "spectator". You are actually a participant. You can post your own thoughts and ideas to the forum for others to see and comment on. What this also means is that most information is public and some details (like home addresses and phone numbers) should not be included in your posts. We are hoping this newest resource will help in our gathering of new members. Come join us!



## 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 bring.



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.





## Our Next Meeting

by: Jerry Fernon

I hope everyone is ready to see some "spooktacular" (I borrowed that) Halloween displays. I really hope that each of you submit your personnel vision of the "spirit" (pun intended) of Halloween. In recent years Halloween has become a commercial enterprise like all of our other holidays. When I was a kid we draped a sheet over our heads to look like a ghost or smeared burnt cork all over our faces and dressed like a hobo and went "trick or treating". Of course we all made jack-o-lanterns. But that's about the extent of Halloween frivolities back then. Now it's a month long party. Not to mention the efforts people like Debbie & Bill



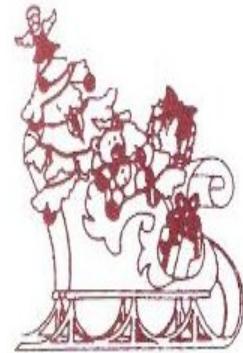
King and Bonnie Eichholtz put forth to express their love of the "spirit" of Halloween. As I have said before I planned this "Contest" to awaken your individual tal-

ents so that you can put your stamp on a small vignette and enjoy a little Halloween in your own home.

Also at Sunday's meeting we will be holding an auction for a piece donated by **Chet Rosenbaum**, *The Fireman's Memorial Monument*. Bidding will start at \$10 and be raised in \$5 increments.

Our Prize Master, Gene, also has a surprise for us. This month's "Mystery House" will become a *Mystery, Mystery House*. You buy your raffle tickets as always, but if you win, instead of looking at the beautifully wrapped gifts, you will instead pick a number (1, 2 or 3), without seeing what is "behind each door" (or concealed in a bag, as the case might be). You will then be awarded the prize associated with that number.

Spooky, right? See you all on Sunday the 23rd. Happy Haunting!



### The Silver Sleigh

A Unique Holiday Shoppe  
Christmas • Flowers • Gifts

**The Silver Sleigh**  
**1319 East Sample Road**  
**Pompano Beach, FL 33064**  
**(954) 943-4388**



### CROSS STITCH CUPBOARD

1600 NORTHEAST 26TH STREET

FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33305

954-563-6363

1-800-752-4153



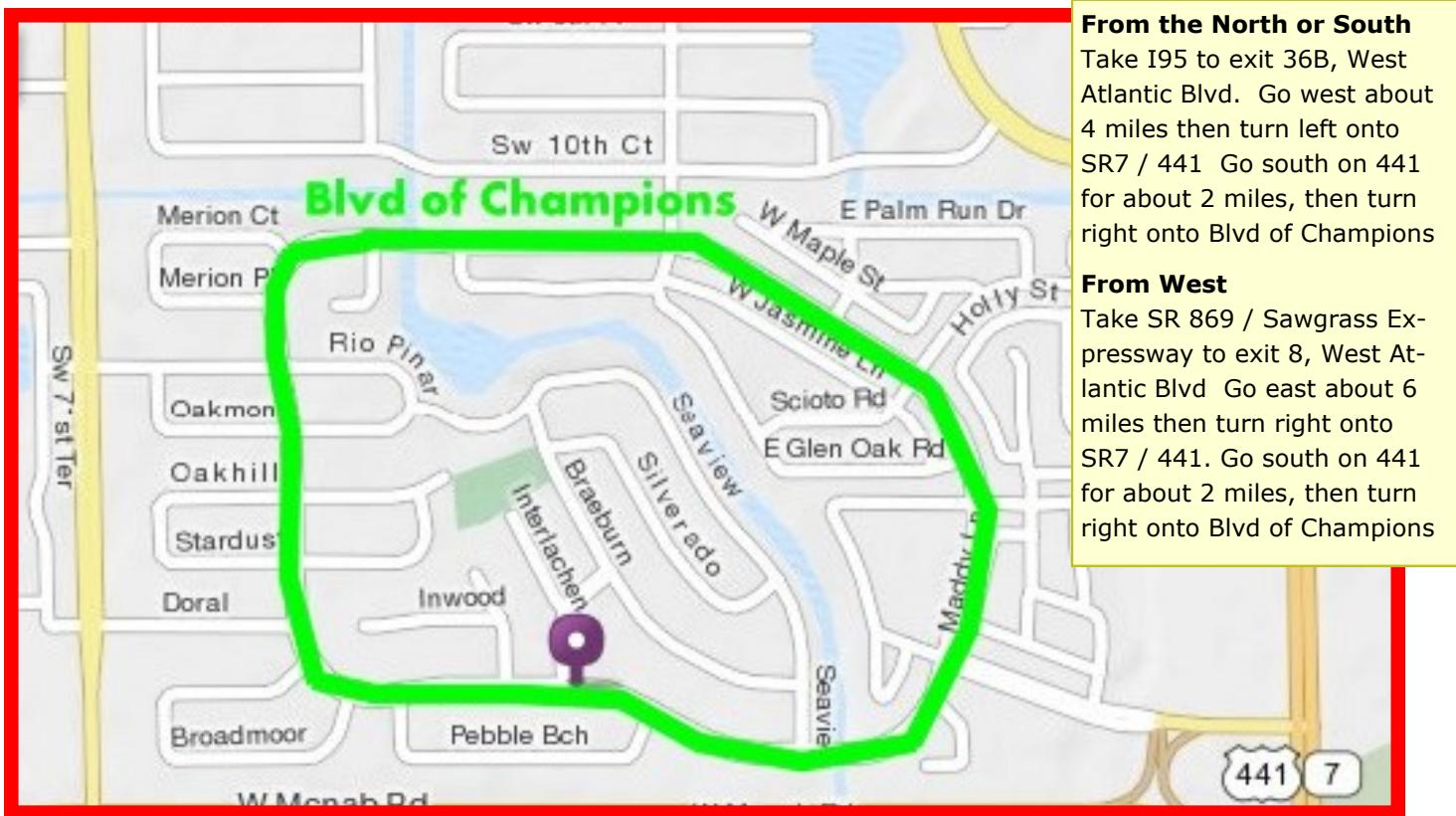
### Upcoming Events

- 10/22 — Bill and Debbie King Halloween Open House, 7pm
- 10/23 — Village Landlords General Meeting (NEW Location)
- 10/29 — Donna Fresquez Halloween Open House, 7pm
- 11/01 — Village Landlords Board Meeting at 7:30 pm
- 11/05 — The Cross Stich Cupboard from 9-4 pm
- 11/05 — The Silver Sleigh Open House
- 11/06 — The Silver Sleigh Decorating Class 12:30- 4:30 pm.
- 11/06 — The Christmas Palace, Hialeah 1-5pm
- 11/20 — Village Landlords General Meeting (OLD Location)
- 11/23 — The Christmas Palace, Fort Lauderdale 1-5pm
- 12/04 — Susan and Tom Shetler Open House, 6pm
- 12/17 — Joe and Kathy McPhillips Open House
- 01/03 — Village Landlords Board Meeting at 7:30 pm

The full Open House schedule will be published soon.

[Map to the NEW site for the Village Landlords Meeting Location](#)

**New Meeting Location: Champion's Hall  
6601 Blvd of Champions, North Lauderdale, FL 33068**



**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 \_\_\_\_\_