

TLIA Newsletter

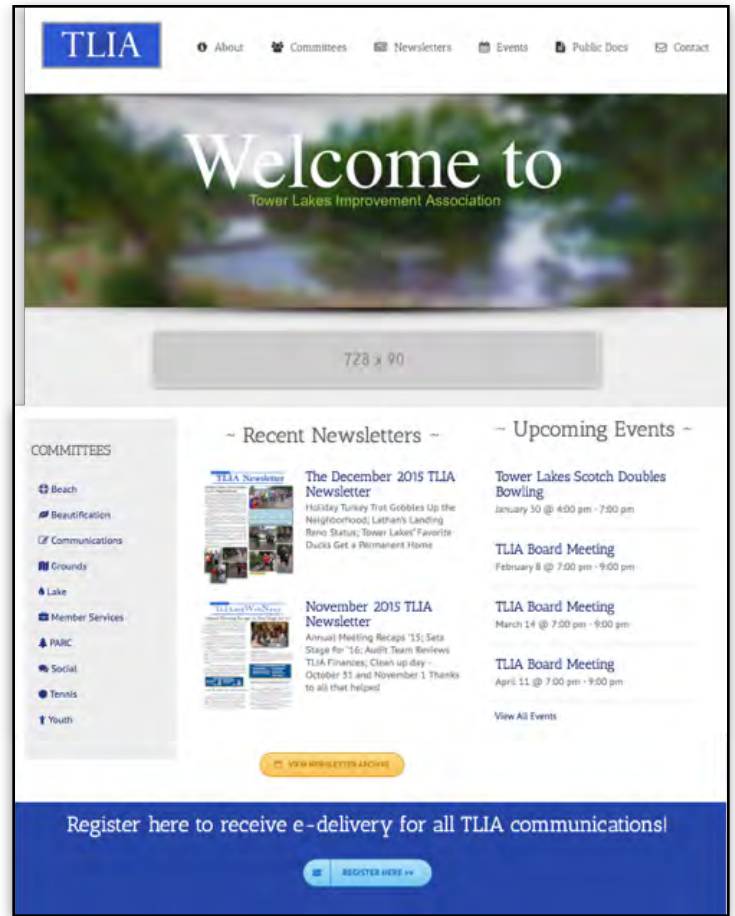
tlia.org A Facelift for 2016

Navigation made simple and improved appeal

TLIA announces the launching of the newly redesigned website for the Association. Using the same url, (www.tlia.org), the new site has an updated look and several improved features to heighten the user experience. The look of the new site is clean, crisp, and easy on the eyes. With the redesign, the navigation and functionality is greatly improved. It also boasts fewer pages with more content, in a simpler, more readable format.

One key feature is the improved site security. Moving to a more secure server has eliminated the need for members to enter a name or user password to gain access to the site. Users have, in the past, cited the user name and passwords as an obstacle to the user experience. Additionally, the site has been optimized to be less detectable to internet searches by eliminating “keyword” tags. The new server, along with the optimization, makes it difficult for hackers or random searchers to even find the site. With those obstacles eliminated, the TLIA Communications Committee anticipates higher user rates by members. Cass Young, Communications Director said, “We want the site to become the best resource for TLIA information and news.”

At first glance, the user will notice the refreshed home page. It is clean and easy to read. A link at the top leads to individual and important TLIA pages. Immediately below, a large photo area shows off the beauty of our neighborhood. The photos will rotate regularly and feature the work of the best TL photographic contributors. Just below this area is space available for advertising by TLIA committees, local retailers, and service providers.



Facelift cont'd on p. 5

The new tlia.org website home page

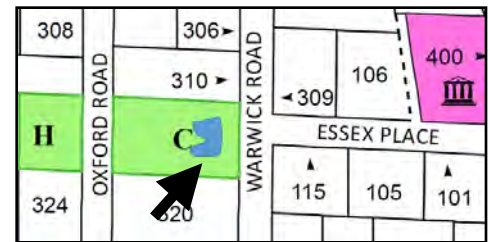
RAIN GARDENS

Update *Contributed by: 319 Project Team – Andy Hay* Community Rain Gardens on Track for 2016

While there is snow on the ground, it seems a little early to think about the gardens and parks; however, much planning was conducted over the winter season to prepare for a busy year of Tower Lakes improvements. One of the projects that started early in 2015, and is now gaining momentum, is the “Tower Lakes Rain Garden Project.” This is a major initiative led jointly by the Village of Tower Lakes, Tower Lakes Improvement Association Board, and the TLIA Lake and Grounds Committees. Barrington Area Conservation Trust, Lake County Storm Water Management, the Tower Lakes Drain Partnership, outside consultant Nancy Schumm, and ENCAP Environmental Engineers also support this project.

The goal of the project is to create two significant Rain Gardens: one in Wagner Park (a.k.a. East Boat Landing) and the other at the uphill end of Bays Park (East of the Tennis Courts). In turn, the rain gardens will:

- Reduce Non-Point Source Pollution runoff into Tower Lake;
- Reduce flooding in key area(s);
- Educate the community on the value of rain gardens through demonstration and involvement; and
- Improve the quality and health of Tower Lake.



319 project cont'd on p.3



NOTES FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

RANDY YOUNG, PRESIDENT, TLIA

One of the charms of Tower Lakes is the impression that we are a quaint community; a sleepy, cottage town where everyone gets along. It is, for the most part, a true statement, but only because there are rules we respect and live by.

A few years ago, some of the bylaws went through the process of a rewrite to comply with newly passed state laws. It was a necessary and lengthy process, but well worth the effort. It's time now to fully review and updated our TLIA rules.

At the January meeting, the Board created a committee to do just that. I tasked committee members with the duty, over the next few months, to review the current rules and, where necessary, propose revisions. It's a daunting task that could benefit from the expertise of you – an engaged resident. This is where you come in.

Rules for TLIA cannot be written without the input of our members. After all, they are our rules that affect our families and the entire neighborhood. We are looking for your involvement on how we set the standards for TLIA. For example;

- *How do we better regulate special use of TLIA property?*
- *How do we better manage our shoreline and property use (or misuse)?*
- *How do we control our new tennis courts when they are built?*
- *Are there conflicts or contradictions within our rules?*
- *Do we have rules that are outdated, unenforceable, or unnecessary?*
- *Are there some rules that need to be added?*

Recently, we heard concerns about rules on dog waste pickup in our neighborhood. We don't have that rule; should we?

These are all valid questions and your input is not only valuable, but necessary. Your opinions are the best resource to gauge the pulse of the community as to what's important to us in Tower Lakes.

The Rules Committee is available and ready to listen to your contributions. Contact us or come to our meetings, dates and times will be published on the events calendar at tlia.org and announced via emails.

It's your community and it's our job to improve it. Please help us construct a living set of TLIA rules that will be a viable part of our daily lives.

Want to be contribute? Contact:

Randy Young: president@tlia.org

Steve Burgoon: vicepresident@tlia.org

TLIA Board Meeting Minutes December 14, 2015

TLIA BOARD

Board Members Present: Steve Burgoon, Randall Cross, Linda Kuna, Judd Lautenschlager, Mary Magro, Kathy Pattengale, John Yancey, and Randy Young
Apologies: Mike Mitchell

Committee Representation: Pat Covek - Grounds Beautification & Tennis
Andy Hay - Lake-Jack Johnson - PARC-Rick Steffen - Social-Cass Young - Communications

Member Representation: Village Building Inspector Tony Cantieri

Call to Order @ 7:05PM

President's Report

Randy Young

Randy Young welcomed new Board members Steve Burgoon and Randall Cross. He laid out expectations for meetings, discussed parameters for community outreach and communication, and outlined open meeting act requirements.

Financial Secretary Report

Linda Kuna

FY 2016 dues have gone out and our total outstanding invoices are \$264,724.01. This includes late fees (\$100 per account) for those who have not paid their 2015 obligations. (Residents on a payment plan are not charged the late fee). This amount also includes two outstanding letters of paid assessment (\$75.00 each). In just on week of the bills going out we have already received \$13,000 in payment of current obligations.

Past dues remain an ongoing issue. After the close of the books for FY2015, \$4,700 in dues was collected in November, leaving approximately \$14,000 outstanding for FY 2015. Three residents are on payment plans. There is also a small amount (\$2,300) of past dues from 2013 and 2014 that are outstanding. Almost all of this money is from two residents on payment plans and one foreclosure where we are unlikely to recover any past dues.

Treasurer's Report

Mary Magro

\$12,000 was paid this month for the silt removal project. Overall there were minimal bills this month, although administration costs were up because of printing costs for the Annual Meeting.

319 Project Report Andy Hay

TLIA has applied for a 319 Grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Association (IEPA). If awarded, the grant money would be used to create two strategically placed rain gardens that would help deflect runoff and pollution from going into the lake. The Lake Committee recently received a grant from Lake County Stormwater Management to supplement the 319 Grant project (the money from Lake County will only be awarded if we also get the 319 Grant). The grant money from Lake County can be used in 2016, and we can reapply for additional funds again next year.

The Lake Committee is asking for the money to fund a required update on the wetland delineation status of the Bays Park rain garden site so that this can be done in the next few weeks. This wetland delineation has to be current (within the last 12 months). This process will require \$750 and is needed to move forward in order to fund the Army Corps permit, which will take about 90 days to a year to obtain. If we don't get the 319 Grant, this money will be lost.

Motion: Judd Lautenschlager to approve \$750 out of the Capital Fund for an update on the wetland delineation at Bays Park.

Second: Kathy Pattengale

Vote to approve

In-kind contributions such as labor, training, and meetings count as a match to offset the overall cost of building the rain gardens. The offset amount is \$22.47 an hour for volunteers and more for those whose skill sets are higher. The hours to match the Lake County grant start counting on January 9. If awarded the 319 Grant, we can count those hours as well. Both grants should be included on the regular agendas of all board meetings so that total hours can be documented. The 319 Grant announcement will be in March. If awarded work will commence in late 2016/early 2017 and be completed in spring of 2018.

Youth Committee Randy Young

Randy Young thanked Randall Cross for organizing the Turkey Trot. It was a huge success!

READ MORE

Read the full minutes at tlia.org

TLIA

[Read all the president's columns at TLIA.org](http://tlia.org)

RAIN GARDENS

This initiative was first defined in the Tower Lakes Long Term Plan, Watershed Section. In order to afford the project, the team applied for two major grants. The first was a 319(h) grant application, made under the Federal Clean Water Act, Section 319(h). This fund is administered by the state EPA, but supported on the federal level. Fines are levied when companies (and other entities) pollute the US waterways – especially along the Mississippi River – in violation of this act. The grants focus on selected areas each year; and for 2016, the focus was Tower Lakes and the surrounding community. Nancy Schumm assisted in submitting the application in the summer of 2015. The team should know the results of the application in the spring.

A second grant application, made to Lake County, was successfully awarded to the Tower Lakes Rain Garden Project Team on January 9, in the amount of \$10,000. In addition, 8 hours of support time from Lake County Storm Water Management Staff was approved. In order to qualify for both grants, the community has to demonstrate support for the project through volunteer hours, education and communication, as well as invest a modest amount of money, which was funded evenly between the Village and TLIA.

Over the next few months, residents will learn more about this project and the team's goals. The team will be contacting neighbors who live close to the properties to review the plans. The team will also work with the Garden Club and the Grounds and Beautification Committees to determine best plantings and garden style. Finally, the team will host town hall meetings and presentations to educate the community on their progress. Please join them to learn more and see how to get involved.



Notice from Chief Sam Sinacore *Tower Lakes Police Department*

As you may know, the State of Illinois is no longer sending license plate renewal notices in the mail. Paperless notices is the convenient and secure way for Illinois motorists to go green and receive their notice by email. To receive your license plates renewal by email, go to www.cyberdriveillinois.com, and enter your registration ID and PIN located on the Renewal Notice you received in the mail or your current registration card. If you do not have a renewal notice or a current registration card, please call the Public Inquiry Division at 800-252-8980 to obtain your Registration ID and PIN number.



Calling all Lifeguards! Calling all Lifeguards!

We know it is cold outside but it is time to start thinking about summer! If you are interested in lifeguarding this summer, please send an email with your name and email address to:

beach@tlia.com. We will then send you an application.



TLIA BEACH

Looking forward to another great year at the beach!

Next Board Meetings:

February 8, 2016

March 14, 2016

TLIA BOARD

All recent meeting minutes are archived on the TLIA.org website.

SAVE THESE EVENT DATES

- Progressive Dinner - April 2
- July 4th Celebration - July 2, 3, 4
- Chili Cook Off - October 15



See all events and details at tlia.org

A Budding Opportunity in TLIA

Pat Covek always admired the flowers and beautiful plantings at the North Lake entrance. She went in and out of the entrance multiple times over the years and never much thought about where the flowers came from or who cared of them. They seemed to magically flourish. Then one day (in 1995), she saw the late Phylis Pfeil planting daisies. Pat decided to stop and help.... and the seeds of the Grounds Beautification Committee were planted.

Pat dug in, full force, to assist and eventually lead the effort to beautify the community. What started as a small, volunteer effort of a few to enhance the entrances has blossomed to a twenty-two-person army of residents with degrees in horticulture and landscape design. Some are master gardeners. The volunteers beautify the entrances and parks by planting, mulching, weeding, cutting, raking, scraping and much more. They have tackled buckthorn on the islands, designed landscaped gardens, and built flower boxes for the bridges. They have constructed benches for parks and hung seasonal wreaths. And of course, they host the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony on Rest Island. The results are bountiful, considering the small stipend they receive from the TLIA Board and the predominately volunteer base.

Although Pat was instrumental in cultivating the committee, it thrives with the help of others. Leaders from the village and TLIA, as well as homeowners, residents and friends have come together to assist in many ways. Notable forces over the years include: Ray Boe, George Covek, Susan Dehnert, Bill Fitzpatrick, Tom Groh, Gordon Iversen, Jack and Lee Johnson, Carol and Len Kuskowski, Dick Lathem, Judd Lautenschlager, and Mark Shircel.

The Grounds Beautification Committee is flourishing. In fact, they now have a branch (sub-committee) called the Tower Lakes Garden Club. This club meets regularly to promote volunteerism and education. Activities such as garden walks and holiday design parties are annual events. In addition, the committee hosts several guest speakers to lecture on current gardening topics and tips.

If you are interested in getting your hands dirty and fertilizing the neighborhood in this way, please contact someone on the team. Who knows? A small bud may blossom for you too.



Tower Lakes Stewards of the Parks Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, February 9, 2016
7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall

Please come if you are interested in learning more about the program as we plan this year's upcoming park maintenance and special projects.

For additional information, please contact:
John Yancey (847) 487-9203 johnyancey@att.net
Mike Mitchell (847) 487-0873 mjmitch1@yahoo.com

TLIA GROUNDS

If you need advice or guidance on flora or horticulture in your own yard, the Grounds Beautification Committee members are happy to help. Please be sure to call someone on the committee before trimming trees or weeding gardens in the common areas.

Grounds Beautification Committee Members

Chairperson:

Patricia Covek

East Side:

Kathy Covek, Jeanne Mitchell, Lee Johnson,
Ann Hay, Ann Magro, Burget Riepe,
Susie and Ray Boe

North Lake:

Mary Magro, Paula Voska, Carol Rolfs

South Hills:

Diane Thompson

Barsumian Park:

Gordon Iversen, Mary Beth Adams and crew

TLIA GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION

Website Facelift Cont'd from p.1



Headline news dominates the center of the page with newsletter icons that serve as hot spots links. Committee page links have been relocated as a list on the left side of the page and a newly added events column with links on the right. Each of the event listings, when clicked, redirects the reader to the individual event page and from that page, users can download events directly to google and iCal calendars. At the bottom of the home page is a link to sign up for the entire TLIA suite of electronic communications resources.

Clicking on either of the TLIA newsletter icons sends the reader to a full size, readable newsletter. The entire newsletter can be read on screen or downloaded as a .pdf for individual printing. The readable newsletter contains links to individual stories, event details, links to full stories, as well as links to advertisers. From the home page, you can click to see an archive of the full year of newsletters allowing you to catch up on past news. This feature also contributes to a more cost effective and environmentally conscious presentation of community news.

The new events column (on the right of the home page) will list upcoming community events in approaching calendar order. The new calendar will include all committee meetings, board meetings, social events and local community activities. By clicking on each event listing, users will land on the details page of the event, including links to volunteer.

Advertising is also an additional feature of the new site. The front page, as well as other pages, has a limited amount of space available for ads. This space will be utilized as free space for TLIA and village activities or will serve as ad space for revenue generation. "We have been successful with our advertising in the past. So it's a logical expansion for us to provide this opportunity via the website" said Cassandra Young. The revenue generated will help offset the operating cost of the communications committee and provide some ease to the overall TLIA budget.

The entire TLIA membership will benefit from the new site through its enhanced presentation, improved navigation, and focused content. The site contains programming for optimum presentation to any device, including mobile.

The site was developed as a joint venture between TLIA Communications and Mike Endicott of Endesign Studio. Mike is a collaborator on website design with TLIA Board member Randall Cross' company, Ethervision.

TLIA.ORG

Click here to check out the NEW TLIA.ORG

- Upcoming Events -

- Tower Lakes Scotch Doubles Bowling**
January 30 @ 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- TLIA Board Meeting**
February 8 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- TLIA Board Meeting**
March 14 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- TLIA Board Meeting**
April 11 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

[View All Events](#)



the Tower Lakes **Progressive Dinner**

The Tower Lakes Progressive Dinner - April 2, 2016

Your TLEC hostesses: Valerie Baartz, Julie Losinski and Nancy Cross

Look for your invitations with details arriving mid-February.

The Events Committee is searching for those wonderful volunteers who want to serve as appetizer hosts, dinner hosts, and of course the Tower Lakes favorite, dessert host. As always, the dessert home is provided the privilege of a complimentary professional cleaning service after the evening. If you are interested in an early sign up for any of these opportunities, please email, call, or contact the event hosts or social@tlia.org.

TLIA EVENTS COMMITTEE



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For Your Own Health and That of the Lake ...Please, Pick Up After Fido

Tower Lakes is a dog-friendly neighborhood. In fact, at any given time, you can see someone walking, playing with, or driving his or her dog somewhere. We love our pets. With that comes the responsibility of picking up your dog's waste. It's not just a good practice; consistent cleanup of pet waste is vital for a healthy environment.



On average, a dog will poop twice a day. Contrary to popular belief, it doesn't act as a ground fertilizer. In fact, dog waste can burn and discolor your lawn. Dog poop often contains various diseases including parvovirus, whipworms, hookworms, roundworms, campylobacteriosis, giardia, salmonellosis, cryptosporidiosis, and coccidia. All of these present a risk to other pets. More startling, children can contract these viruses.

Not picking up after your dog affects the dog and the entire family. Think of it as a toxic cycle. In fact, the EPA places dog waste in the same category as oil and toxic chemicals. Many of these parasites remain viable in your yard for years – even with our harsh winters – and may infest or infect pets, children, or adults walking barefoot, playing sports, or while rolling in the lawn. In fact, the longer dog waste stays on the ground, the greater the risk. Bacteria thrive in waste until it's washed away into the water supply.

Dog waste is the third highest contributor to unsanitary water. Left alone, it will seep into the water table and eventually our lake. On the ground, the poop breaks down and enters the watertable or our storm water management system and ends up in our lake. That's not good. In fact, weeds and algae in the water thrive on the bacteria in the poop, grow to greater levels, and then limit the amount of light that penetrates the surface of the water. This results in lower levels of oxygen for the fish and suffocates them -- something that happened in Tower Lakes a few years back.

Picking up after your pet also fosters neighborly goodwill. Non-pet-owning residents often complain to the village office when they find pet waste, both bagged and un-bagged, in their otherwise pristine lawns, having been left there by lazy dog walkers. If you're guilty of this, your resentful neighbors usually know who you are.

While Tower Lakes does not currently have a formal ordinance or association rule regarding pet pickup, both TLIA and the village are looking into it. The village is reviewing how neighboring communities handle the issue and according to Randy Young, TLIA President, "We will be taking up this issue as we update and revise the Association's rules in 2016." In the meantime, picking up is vital to our environment, your health and the lake.

Please do the right thing and clean up after your pet



TLIA YOUTH COMMITTEE

SAVE THE DATES for 2016:

Here is a list of Youth Committee 2016 events! Clip this and post it on your refrigerator! More dates and events to come. Stay turned.

Easter Egg Hunt

Play Island, Rest Island, Toy Island
Saturday March 26, 2016
10 a.m.

End of School Party

Location TBA
Week of June 1st

Family Movie Night

Soccer Field
Friday June 24, 2016
Dusk

Back to School Party

Location TBA
Week of Aug. 8

Family Campout Barsumian

Saturday September 10, 2016
Rain date: Sept 24, 2016

Trick-or-Treat Soccer Field

Monday October 31, 2016

Santa

Location TBA
Sunday December 4, 2016

Please direct all questions / comments to:

youth@tlia.org

Getting to know your neighbor... Gwen (Shully) Torstenson



"I remember leaving in the morning with my bike and not coming back home until dinner. I played tennis, went to the beach, swam in the lake, and ran around the soccer field with my friends." That is how Gwen Shully described her childhood living in Tower Lakes. Today, you know her as Gwen Torstenson and her neighborhood friends back then remain her neighborhood adult friends today: Mary Kate (Skurla) Harazin, Betsy (Spicer) Brookbank, Missy (Metzl) Sandberg and Gwen's sister, Kelsi (Shully) Knight." They have all returned to Tower Lakes with their own families for the same reasons that brought them together in their childhood. Gwen believes it's the love affair with Tower Lakes and the strong community bond. Today, not surprisingly, their kids have become best friends. And the cycle continues.



A great childhood in Tower Lakes

Gwen did leave for a short time. After high school, she went to Colorado for college and then transferred to University of Montana in Missoula to join her future husband, Eric. While there, she obtained a degree in Sociology. After graduating, she and Eric moved to Onalaska, Wisconsin where she worked in a youth home for troubled children, followed by work as a kindergarten-teaching assistant for 6 years. In 2009, the

Torstensons wanted to move back to the area. (Eric is from Barrington Hills.) They looked in neighboring communities and settled back in Tower Lakes, buying the house in which Gwen grew up. They now share their renovated home with sons Brody (7), Cooper (4) and two Westies.



Gwen spends the day raising her kids and volunteering in the community. She is in her third year on the Youth Committee where she and the others have expanded the activities to include events reminiscent of her childhood: hot air balloon rides, horse drawn carriage rides, swim team races, and family campouts. "I had such an amazing childhood in Tower Lakes and wanted to return that same feeling to other kids, so I got involved in the Youth Committee," says Gwen. "It's a small way I can create good memories for other children."

She has also volunteered her time on the PARC Committee, Tennis Committee and The Tower Lakes Community Foundation, where she'll help plan The Big Night with childhood friends Mary Kate, Missy and Betsy.

What goes around, comes around. Gwen is living proof of that. Her time in the community serves as an example to all of us. Give back what you receive. Create the experience you want to pass on. It's not just good karma; it's good for your children.

Events Committee Does it Again!

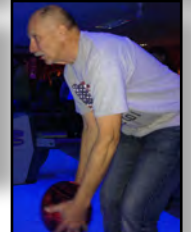
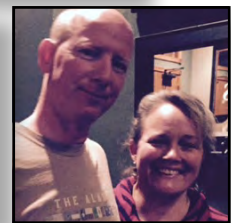
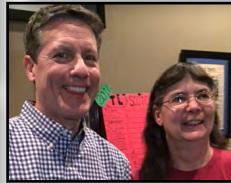
A fun adult social night of Scotch Doubles 3D bowling at Sideouts! The teams consisted of two players who alternated shots throughout the game regardless of whether someone got a spare or strike. To mix it up even more, the women of Tower Lakes were paired with a partner by drawing the name of a Tower Lake's man from a hat -- and the mixed doubles teams were born, preserving marital harmony! Prizes were awarded for highest and lowest scores in each of two games, so all skill sets were appreciated!

Next TLEC Event: Progressive Dinner on April 2. Details coming soon!



SideOuts 3D Bowl

TLIA EVENTS COMMITTEE





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Of Barrington

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RemaxCathy@msn.com

WWW.CathySchmidtHomes.com

Communications Committee:

Valerie Baartz
Jan Bahr
Randall Cross
Kathy Pattengale
Steve Pattengale
Cassandra Young
Randy Young

Interested in being a part of TLIA Communications?

Contact us for more information.

Communications@tlia.org

TLIA COMMUNICATIONS

TLIA.ORG GETS A FACELIFT!

New Look

New Navigation

New Functionality

TLIA.ORG

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