

TLIA Newsletter

HAPPY NEW YEAR, TOWER LAKES!

TLIA BOARD

NOTES FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

RANDY YOUNG, PRESIDENT, TLIA



Welcome to another wonderful year in Tower Lakes! We have a lot to celebrate. As my last month as your president, I'd like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and thank the selfless volunteers who manage our committees. Without your continued dedication, none of the amenities that we have come to expect from TLIA as our standard of living would be possible. Here are some of the highlights from our committees in 2018.

Beach - The beach has been a stable and constant recreational element for our families over the years. Activities included swim lessons, the annual swim meet, and Friday Fundays. Not to mention the 4th of July! We gained some new tables, benches and even found the missing lifeguard boat on Devil's Island! The beach is an unparalleled and treasured asset to our community.

Communications - The committee that blasts emails, produces the monthly newsletters, creates the posters and updates the website is at a critical turning point. It is a financially self-sustaining committee and has been managed superbly by the committee lead, Cass Young. Unfortunately for the community, she is stepping down from the lead position and this January edition will be her final newsletter. This is a huge loss for TLIA and a major challenge to the Board moving forward. Amanda Brown, who along with Cass, produced many of the email blasts, is also stepping down in favor of her commitment to the Events Committee. Communications is in need of a dedicated volunteer who is interested in communicating the vital information we all need to keep our community current. If interested, please contact: communications@tlia.org.

Events - After a re-structure of this committee a few years ago, it is back to full capacity with eight couples managing the incredible fun activities in our community. This creative bunch launched some new and exciting events last year: beer tasting, laser tag, and the fall concert on the water, featuring Pat McKillen. The committee also brought back some favorite standards: bowling, The Pub Quiz, Cubs at Milwaukee, Progressive Dinner, Turkey Trot, Chili Cookoff, Men's Day, and of course, the big multi-day July 4th celebration. A very deserved thank you to these committee members who keep us connected.

Finance - In my mind, this committee made the biggest and most necessary transformation and process improvement in our association. Firstly, the board secured a volunteer audit committee and an outside consultant to review our books. They both made recommendations that we implemented for better fiscal responsibility and accountability. Secondly, we moved our accounting from a fiscal year to a calendar year, beginning January 1, 2019, which created a much more efficient reporting and accounting system. Thirdly, all Board committees merged their finances into the TLIA system which allowed for more oversight and centralization. We have been able to provide oversight into our cashflow and much better reporting to our membership. Finally, the committee collected over 98% of dues, including several delinquent accounts which has been a consistent issue for years within the association. We have become much more transparent with our dues collection by publishing articles in the newsletter on dues compliance and the potential consequences of late payments and delinquency.

Grounds - Led by John Yancey, this committee kept the parks and common areas well-maintained. Some of the many things they manage are: the cutting of the grass, raking leaves, and keeping the structures within the parks safe and secure. Covek's Crossing Bridge was repaired and Lindy Lewis Gazebo (on the west side) received a fresh staining and new stone steps down the hill. While the fall cleanup day was cancelled due to weather, the spring cleanup day went well. New this year was a "Fun Run for the Parks" which helped educate and bring awareness of our conservation efforts and obligations.

Grounds Beautification - While Grounds maintains the parks, Grounds Beautification beautifies them. They refurbished and maintained the flowers at each entrance and park. Their numbers are staggering: over 100 mums and 200 tulips were planted last year. Led by Pat Covek, her team restored the community gardens and installed two new ones last year: one at the gazebo (which included a water spigot) and one called Remembrance Garden. In addition, the committee formed a butterfly way-station at the entrance of Rest Island. For the holidays, they placed wreaths around the community and donated 20 handmade Christmas centerpieces to a local food pantry.

Continued on page 2

TLIA Annual Meeting

Save
the
Date



Save
the
Date

American Legion Hall
515 S. Main St.
Wauconda, IL 60084
Noon

A QUORUM OF MEMBERS
IS REQUIRED
Please Attend

TLIA BOARD

Continued from cover

Finally, it wouldn't be Tower Lakes without the annual tree lighting ceremony on Rest Island, managed by this committee.

The Garden Club - This club, which is a subcommittee of Grounds Beautification, held monthly meetings to educate members on the beauty of flowers and gardens in our lives. They discuss garden topics and host a variety of speakers and educational activities.

Lake - The Lake Committee had a very challenging year. Due to the ups and downs of our weather, the lake accumulated a lot of algae, which was treated with an algaecide. Underwater plants also grew more than the committee liked and were treated with herbicides. Lilies were in abundance this past year and treated with an herbicide and "lake raking." All of these are examples of an outstanding committee lead by Tom Kubala. The committee continues to benchmark with other organizations, communities, and experts to find the right - and most cost effective - balance for our most precious asset.

Member Services - The role of this committee is to hand out annual beach tags and boat stickers in an effort to keep track of the members who use our lake and beach. You may not realize that members who are not current on their dues payments are prohibited from using the beach and lake, among other community assets and activities. Kevin Middleditch did an incredible job of stepping into his new role and keeping track of boats removed in anticipation of the fall cleanup and rain garden project. He is also working on the next version of the member directory.

Stewards of the Parks - part of Grounds Committee, maintains parks on an ad hoc basis to keep the parks clean and orderly. It is a new community based action committee with plenty of room to grow and increase membership.

Rain Garden - As we looked for a way to eliminate the standing water at Bays Park, the idea of creating a rain garden became the best solution. Project manager Andy Hay facilitated the tremendous amount of work with great success. If you haven't seen this rain garden in action, please stop by it on a rainy day. It is on maintenance mode now and as planned will contain excess runoff water with its unique design. The second rain garden, at Wagner Park near the east boat landing, is in the works this year. Please keep track of the progress. Andy's devotion to this project secured (last year alone) over \$10,000 in government grants to help fund it.

Tennis - The new courts, which were funded by private donors and the Tower Lakes Community Foundation, are in full use. Not only were adult and youth tennis lessons taught, but over the last two seasons, Tower Laker Dave DeRita taught pickleball to our members. The new sport was so popular with residents that the committee stripped the second court for the game. A special thank you to Robert and Kathy Covek for maintaining the nets and courts throughout the season.

Youth - Finally, the Youth Committee hosted a slew of activities for the little ones in the neighborhood. They managed great standard events like: Easter Egg Hunt, End of School Party, Family Day at the Ballpark, Tot Soccer, Movie Night, Back to School Bash, Story Time, Family Campout, Halloween, Santa and Carriage Rides. They also created some new ones last year, including: Rockin' Jump at Trampoline Park, Middle School Volleyball, Kindergarten Playdate, and Family Bingo Night during the July 4th celebration. They also received a generous gift of a video projection system and screen from Jacquie Skurla and her company, *A Touch of Pixie Dust Travel*.

I have been so honored to serve as your president over the last 4 years. With your help, we have accomplished so much to make Tower Lakes better and more prosperous each year. As I step down, I'd like to wish the new administration the best and will see you around the neighborhood! Onward and upward!

November 2018

APPROVED TLIA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TLIA BOARD

Board Members: Steve Burgoon, Tom Kubala, Mary Magro, Kevin Middleditch, Mike Mitchell, Kathy Pattengale, John Yancey, and Randy Young

Apologies: Fran Steffen

Committee Reps: Pat Covek - Tennis, Jan Bahr - Nominating Committee, Tanya Van Black and Meg Koszulinski - Youth Committee, Andy Hay - Rain Garden project manager

Guests: Mark Handley

Call to Order

Randy Young called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

President's Report

President Young asked the Board to consider how they would like to archive documents from his tenure in office.

Approval of September and October TLIA Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the September TLIA Board Meeting Minutes: Mary Magro,

Second: John Yancey - All in favor

Motion to approve the October TLIA Board Meeting Minutes: Mary Magro, Second: Mike Mitchell - All in favor

Committees

Beach

No report.

Communications

This month the committee published the newsletter, sent out 10 email blasts, and created posters advertising the Turkey Trot and the Rain Gardens Open House.

Events

The Chili Cookoff was very well attended with approximately 30 chilis entered in the contest this year. The committee expressed thanks to all who volunteered to help

Randy Young

Randy Young

Mary Magro

Cassandra Young

Liz Giglio

[Read all the president's columns at TLIA.org](#)



Email me and let me know your thoughts.

out at this event. They had considered changing the Events Committee name back to the Social Committee but will not do so at this time since that would require a Bylaws change. They continue to work on enlisting new members. Plans are in the works for 2019, possibly kicking off the year with another beer tasting event.

Turkey Trot

Randall Cross has published a link to sign up and purchase t-shirts electronically for this year's Turkey Trot. Money raised will be processed through TLIA and will go toward beach improvements/equipment this year.

Grounds General

TLIA and the Village teamed up to plant 32 trees on the site of the Kelsey Road silt removal site. Many thanks to those who volunteered to help with this project. Seven trees were planted in parks and green spaces in conjunction with the Village Tree Commission. A large tree was removed from the boat landing in South Hills.

Fall Cleanup was canceled due to inclement weather. The boat landings will need to be upgraded to accommodate heavy equipment accessing the lake. A plan for this professional upgrade will be presented to the Board since it potentially will necessitate accessing Capital funds. Locations, plans, and bids will be presented in the spring.

Work continues on a variety of special projects. The Covek's Crossing bridge will be completed in the spring. The gazebo park grounds will require professional stewardship to remove invasive growth and reseed the area. Work on the volleyball courts can proceed now that the Village has completed work on the roads. Mark Shircel and Brad Merkel will coordinate this project. Seeding of areas affected by roadwork will be done in the spring. Rest Island was over seeded as per the contract.

Read full board minutes [here](#)

Welcome to the Neighborhood!

Joe & Irene Kuchan
216 Tomahawk

Contributed by Mary Beth Adams

Joe and Irene came often to Tower Lakes to visit their son, Peter and his family who live on the west side. They decided to make Tower Lakes their new home! They moved here from Des Plaines. Joe is a multi-discipline engineer with experience in electronics, software and electro-mechanical systems focusing on solving hardware reliability issues. Irene is a homemaker. They have a daughter who lives in North Carolina with her husband and children, Bella and Mason. Their son (Peter), his wife, (Patty), Cole (5) and Alice (3), all live on W. Lake Shore Drive. Joe and Irene have been very busy since they moved in fixing up their new home. Joe is quite the handyman and loves working on home projects as well as fixing cars. They are enjoying decorating their home for the holidays to spend with their grandchildren here in Tower Lakes.



TLIA COMMUNICATIONS

Status of 2018 Dues Collection

TLIA BOARD

We are happy to report we have had three more homeowners close out their final payments on their agreed-upon 2018 payment plans. So, we have ended the year with a total of six properties in non-compliance of 2018 dues and/or late fees. These property owners are in violation of TLIA bylaws and are considered "Members Not in Good Standing of the Association." Therefore, they are not eligible to vote in the upcoming election or attend the annual meeting; they do not have any rights or access to TLIA events, properties, etc., until their TLIA dues are paid in full.

The addresses of these properties are:

807 Roberts Rd. - 25147 Edward Lane - 25382 Wren Rd. - 411 E Lake Shore Dr. - 248 Summit Dr. - 121 South Dr. - 25202 N. Edward Lane

Collection efforts continue with these homeowners, including our first lawsuit against a homeowner we have been demanding collection from.

A big THANK YOU from TLIA's community of neighbors to all our paid-up property owners!

2019 Dues Payment Process

* We have received over 200 email addresses to send 2019 invoices electronically to homeowners' in-boxes. These addresses are being correlated and entered to each account holder now. These homeowners will have the option of paying at no extra charge via ACH (bank to bank) or via credit card (plus a convenience fee). All homeowners that must still be invoiced via paper copy in the US mail will not have these alternative payment options.

2019 Dues payments are due

April 1, 2019

* Any accounts not paid by April 1, 2019 will be assessed a late payment fee of \$100, unless the homeowner has already made an agreement with the TLIA Financial Secretary (Fran Steffen, Dues@tlia.org) on a payment schedule. If that mutually agreed to payment schedule is not achieved in the committed timeframe, the \$100 late fee will be immediately assessed to the account.

**Squirrel in your attic?
Bat in your basement?
Skunk under your deck?**



Animal Trackers Wildlife can help

Animal removal services

Animal trapping

Animal proofing

State Recognized Experts

<http://animaltrackerswildlife.com>

847-884-1057

TLIA is looking for a Communications Lead

Are you interested in producing the homeowners' newsletter, email blasts, posters and updating the website? If so, email communications@tlia.org for more information.

TLIA COMMUNICATIONS

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Contributed by Dave Parro
Village of Tower Lakes President



I was recently interviewed by an aspiring journalist at BHS about what I thought made Tower Lakes special compared to other Barrington area communities. Well, no offense to our outstanding neighbor towns, who I love and enjoy working with, but the list of potential good responses to that question is long and varied. A target-rich environment indeed. I offered up one answer to the young reporter, but I'd like to talk to you today about a couple of other answers to that question about what differentiates our town.

One is the phenomenon of volunteerism. This is a topic that gets a lot of discussion in these pages so I won't dwell on it. I think we can all readily agree that the level of volunteerism and community spirit we've always had here is quite rare. Just one example is that we even run our government with unpaid volunteers. Who else does that among the hundreds of Chicago suburbs?

Another differentiator is the number of Boomerangs. No, I'm not talking about so-called 'boomerang kids' who move back in with their parents. By Boomerangs I mean citizens who lived here, maybe were raised here, then moved away in pursuit of education, career moves, etc. but then later in life returned to Tower Lakes, bought a house and reestablished a home base here. Such Boomerangs are a measure of the quality of life in a community. Almost every town has some Boomerangs. Big cities have them in big numbers. Small towns are more likely to have multiple generations of families but perhaps less likely to have Boomerangs among the departed sons and daughters. Towns with a particular big draw, like resort towns and university towns for example, attract more than their share of Boomerangs. I admittedly don't have any hard data on hand to prove my hypothesis, but I think Tower Lakes is a Boomerang capital in terms of percentages. Certainly, in the region. Let's just say I'm highly skeptical that there are more than a handful of towns in America that can claim that anywhere remotely close to 5% of the population are families of Boomerangs. I think we might exceed that, as I came up with over 2 dozen households out of 400 something just off the top of my head. Like I said, it's a measure of the quality of life in a town, and we can be very proud that we stand out in this measure, whatever the exact numbers are.



The news I have to report this month relates to the above outburst of prideful boasting. Sadly, for me, and really all of us, Village Trustee Tom Bolger has decided that he needs to resign from the Village Board effective in Dec 2018 due to the time and travel demands of his new company. Tom has served without compensation as one of your Village Trustees since 2006. In that time, he's been our representative on the Board of the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) and worked with our consortium of SW Lake County towns to get better prices on garbage contracts. He was our anti-mosquito leader during the rise of the West Nile virus threat. He oversaw the prioritization and investment of hundreds of thousands of dollars in stormwater drainage improvement projects. Over the last several years his special focus has been as Chairman of the Police Committee, bringing his CEO level decision making skills and valuable experience to the task of overseeing and improving our police force. As one of the Board's most experienced voices, Tom has been a major influencer in a long list of other accomplishments we have made in the last 12 years

including financial health, water system and road improvements, legal issue resolutions, intergovernmental cooperation, and zoning law changes such as lot coverage limits and setback rules intended to preserve the character and property values of our special place. Tom is one of the nicest and most good-natured, thoughtful and generous people I have had the honor to work with. Not only is he a skilled volunteer who is always ready to pitch in, he is one of those Boomerangs! He moved back to Tower Lakes as a successful adult with his family, now 2nd and 3rd generation Tower Lakers. He quickly proved that, like all Boomerangs, he loves his town. And, like his Boomerang sister, he takes after his late parents who were respected community volunteer leaders in decades past. We owe Tom a huge thanks for his contributions to his old/new hometown. We also wish him well in his current endeavors and hope that once he retires, he will find a way to return to community service.

On Dec. 17, 2018 the Village Board voted unanimously to accept my appointment of former TLIA President Andy Hay to fill out the 2-year remainder of Tom Bolger's term on the Village Board. Andy's background as Homeowner's Association President, as Project Manager of the large multi-year rain garden grant project, as current member of the Village's Plan Commission and Chairman of the ZBA, plus his COO level corporate management skills, experience, wisdom and pleasant personality will make him a terrific asset on the Village Board. We are all grateful for Andy's decision to continue his community service in this way.

Merry Christmas and a prosperous and safe New Year to you all!

David R. Parro
 Village President
 Tower Lakes, IL

Happy New Year from TLIA,
 The Village of Tower Lakes and
 The Tower Lakes Foundation!



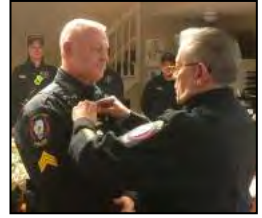
Local Heroes Step-up to the Call of Duty



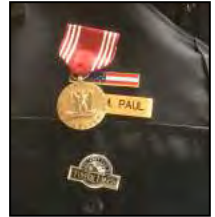
The fire that burned down the Dvorak house on S. Hills Dr. in November may have destroyed a house, but it served to surface several local Tower Lakes heroes. At the December Village Board meeting, Tower Lakes President Dave Parro honored Erum Malik (neighbor to the Dvoraks) with a Community Service Award. She was honored for stepping forward and assisting the responding fire and police departments during the crisis. She, and her husband (Ashraf), opened their home to the Dvoraks and the first responders as a safe place of refuge during the emergency. Shortly after 9:00pm on November 15, Mrs. Malik recalls, "I saw the Dvoraks sitting in the police car and felt the need to help." The Maliks provided respite and refreshments to the weary personnel who worked until almost 2:00am to put the fire out.



In addition, Wauconda Fire Department Battalion Chief Mark Dierker honored Tower Lakes Police Officer Mike Paul (18-year veteran) for his outstanding performance in assisting the homeowners and their four pets to escape the burning structure. Moreover, Tower Lakes Police Chief Sam Sinacore honored Officer Paul with an Accommodation of Valor. Officer Paul was the first one on the scene and is a "true guardian of the public," stated Chief Sinacore.



While we are saddened by the circumstances that the Dvoraks endured, our hearts are warmed by the bravery and generosity of so many in our village who aided the now displaced couple and their pets.



HOUSE / VACATION WATCH PLAN CHANGES

Beginning December 1, the Tower Lakes Police Department initiated a NEW House Watch/ Overnight Parking Application for our residents. This will enable residents to request a house watch or overnight parking from any computer or mobile device without contacting the 911 center. Residents can



to go to the website to set up a house watch or overnight parking.

Tips to keep your house safe while you are away

1. **Get a dog** – Dogs will typically bark when strangers come to the door. The noise will ward off some burglars.
2. **Keep your home well-lit at night** – Lights around your home at night will keep criminals away as they don't want to be seen.
3. **Know your neighbors** – Friendly neighbors who keep a close eye on your house can help ward off potential burglars.
4. **Install a security system** – Many security systems can be accessed remotely, so you can keep tabs on unwanted visitors and activity.
5. **Make sure all doors and windows are locked** – This is the easiest step to deter potential burglars.
6. **Be careful about your trash** – Boxes from expensive items (computer, TV, etc.) tip the burglars off that the house might contain some significant purchases. Cut them up instead.
7. **Keep your home well kept** – Keeping bushes trimmed and driveways clear of snow signifies your home is lived in.



'Tis the Beauty of the Season!

Thank you to the volunteers who make Tower Lakes look festive!



Thank you to the following people for helping keep the Tower Lakes spirit alive by decorating our great community for the holidays. The Magro family, Steve Burgoon, Pat Covek, Ray and Suzie Boe, and Ann Magro braved the bitter cold and rain to decorate the tree on Rest Island. Steve Covek installed the wreaths around the village and Mark Schircel took care of the lights. Paula Voska helped Mary Magro decorate North Lake.

Thank you for all your commitment to keeping Tower Lakes beautiful and festive!



JANUARY

Skating Party
January 6, 2019

Noon*
at Rest & Toy Islands

Park at the Beach



Bring your own potluck and drink

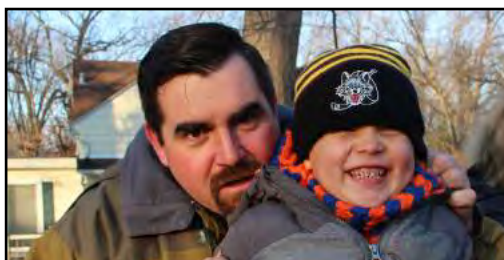
Youth Committee will provide hot chocolate

TLIA YOUTH COMMITTEE

* weather & ice permitting

TLIA GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION

Making spirits bright...



Photos courtesy of
Pati Schaefer



TLIA YOUTH COMMITTEE

Santa and cheer...



Photos courtesy of
AnnMarie Gilmore
Cianne Mitchell
Photography

TLIA YOUTH COMMITTEE



TREE
LIGHTING
2018



Photos courtesy of Anne Gavic

TLIA GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION

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TLIA Youth Committee
receives a \$250 donation
for every home I sell in
Tower Lakes



Download my QR code to get the
free RE/MAX Home Finder App.



OUTSTANDING AGEN
OUTSTANDING RESIA

RE/MAX of Barrington

306 W. Northwest Hwy., Barrington, IL 60010

**your VOTE
is your VOICE**



The TLIA Annual Meeting will be
January 13, 2019 — Noon
American Legion Hall — 515 S Main St. — Wauconda, IL 60084

Tower Lakes Newsletter
P.O. Box 405
Barrington, IL 60011