

GREETINGS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR OF 2012

With the Holidays behind us, and our winter not quite yet upon us, we look forward to a better year for our residents, businesses and visitors alike.

As we take time to welcome our new Town Councilman, Mr. Mike O'Connor, I reflect on a 2011 that saw continued improvement in our town and village ... from its' parks, beaches and cemeteries ... to the wonderful look of our main streets, from Courthouse to Camp of the Woods.

However, 2011 was a time of much sorrow, as we mourned the tremendous loss of our friend and Councilman, Gary O'Rourke. His loss, to his family, and our town's governance ... is indescribable.

The outpouring of goodwill and community benefit was on full display this August when a record number of players participated in the First Annual Gary O'Rourke Outing for Oak Mountain, with nearly \$10,000 being raised for youth activities at his beloved Oak Mountain; this year promises to be even greater as sponsors and participants are eager to gather for this cause.

More recently, we pause to remember Myron LaVarnway, our own Randy LaVarnway's dad and the longtime Lion, and friend to the community, Mr. Jack Wolfe.

Some housekeeping updates for your information include, the tax bills being mailed out ... never a time for celebration ... but our Board is proud to have delivered a flat, less than one percent change in your town taxes for the second year in a row.

This control of budget, at a time when both medical insurance rates and pension contributions are pushing 10% increases, required a steady turn to prudent spending combined with an eye towards our future. I assure you, your Town Board will continue to invest in our future, while we review past practices.

Speaking of our past ... WE ARE 200 YEARS OLD! That's right ... the Town of Lake Pleasant was formed in 1812 ... and our Bicentennial Celebration has begun.

In your tax bills, you have an early look at our winter events planned to enlighten, educate and entertain our townspeople as we remember our historic roots. Come and participate!!

- Buy and fly your 1812 flags
- Wear Proudly your Bicentennial hats and t-shirts

- Look for your Bicentennial Programs out this spring with more events, pictures and fun. ** All are available at the Chamber of Commerce Office, Town Hall or through the Historical Society.

This winter look forward to some changes:

1. Our LONG, exhaustive search for a doctor is done; our care provider will be placed permanently at our NLH Primary Care facility.
2. The Department of State, working with the Village and Town Boards has finally begun our Revitalization Study of our Main Street and water front ... and will develop that study with Chazen Associates and our Town peoples input.
3. The Town Library has begun its plans for an addition to our great facility, providing more space for programs and learning.
4. In response to some well-founded criticism, our town website will be updated to include such important tabs as our Town Ethics Policy ... upcoming events and dates for our Town ... and recent Town Board minutes and appointments.

As you know, our Town Board urges your input, your attendance at meetings and your continued involvement. **Get Involved!**

Chamber, LPSA, TWIGS, Friends of the Library, Lions, Fire Departments, Ambulance, Friends of Oak Mountain, A Pretty Good Band, your church or school, SPEC ... and your town and village.

All the best to you all in 2012 ... and especially during our difficult winter and spring months, please remember to patronize our local business's ... shop locally so our town can stay vital!

P.S. The town wishes good luck and good things to Tom Germain as he leaves our employ to pursue a business opportunity, and thanks him for his years of service.