

TRIVIAL TRIVIA

The Mouse Trap by Agatha Christie is the longest-running play in history – playing since 1952 in London – over 25,000 performances.

Dr. Seuss wrote *Green Eggs and Ham* after his editor dared him to write a book using fewer than 50 different words.

Sherlock Holmes never said “Elementary, my dear Watson.”

Ghosts appear in four Shakespearian plays: *Julius Caesar*, *Richard III*, *Hamlet*, and *Macbeth*.

The annual Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival at Harbin, China includes a 6.5 million-square-foot landscape of frozen structures illuminated by brilliantly colored LED lights. The monthlong exhibition and competition features a variety of attractions attended by hundreds of thousands of local and international visitors.

The city’s arctic-like climate generated an earlier “Ice Lantern Festival,” which was based on a tradition begun in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Ice lanterns were made by peasants and fishermen by pouring water into a bucket that was left outside to freeze. Before the water froze completely, the bucket was gently warmed so the ice could be pulled out. A hole was chiseled in the top of the ice and the remaining water poured out, leaving a hollow vessel. A candle was placed inside, leaving a windproof lantern.

The illuminated main stairway of modern displays is made of solid ice – for two floors, with no handrails. And the tiny black specks on the large structure are people walking on the icy levels!

For more information and photographs of amazing snow sculptures, google “Harbin Ice Festival.”



COUNCIL REPORT

Judy Aley

Issues in the Community Center parking lot were discussed. Better nighttime lighting is needed and the removal of bumpers has not been completed.

Marc Mostovoy and John Welch’s request for a new piano for the Community Center was answered by a Rushmore resident. An article acknowledging the gift will be published with an offer to donate the current keyboard if the recipient will remove it.

The new instrument will be inaugurated at the Tuesday, February 10, Leas Lounge.

A Coffee with the Administration will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, in the Community Center.

FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR DECEMBER

Balance on November 30	\$3871.67
Income	27.77
Expenses	116.68
Balance on December 31	\$3782.76

Pete’s Pick

AULD LANG SYNE ALL OVER AGAIN?

So now it’s the week after New Year’s Day. Around our village most of the ornamental lights and decorations have been taken down and stored away until next December. So too have those objets d’art outside of the home on Creek Road near Route 38 that by day lay on the lawn looking like multi-colored oil slicks and then magically inflated themselves in the evening to become lighted Disney figures.

No longer do I find greeting cards in my mailbox from relatives and friends. Soon 1099’s and other financial forms will arrive, and my thoughts will turn from those worthy souls who once journeyed to Bethle-

hem to be taxed to what I may owe to less worthy folk down in Washington.

The weather is cold – very cold. And snow covers our lawns and meadow. W. Atlee Burpee & Co. has sent me their latest catalogue showcasing all manner of seeds that I can plant when the soil thaws. There is a huge tomato that they have named “Porterhouse” and which promises “the greatest extra-large beefsteak tomato we’ve ever bred.” A picture shows a beefy-looking farmer holding a four-pound tomato against his bibbed dungarees. Who, I ask myself, would ever want or need a four-pound tomato? But then it occurs to me that a four-pound tomato might satisfy the Social Activities Committee requirement that I must bring a dish to share with “8 to 10” to our potluck suppers. Additionally, being able to write only “Porterhouse” on the recipe card that always appears in my mailbox on the day before the Potluck will certainly simplify matters in my life and prove to be a lot easier than listing all of the ingredients for my potato salad. And how much fun will it be when some wise guy pokes my Porterhouse and demands: “Where’s the beef?” But heck, the joke will be on him. After all, isn’t that what “potluck” is all about?

On the national scene the 114th Congress has been sworn in with a different majority. There’s a lot of talk about “bipartisanship” and the end of “gridlock” and “dysfunction” – pithy words that Ben Franklin would probably never use. But if they can somehow get our nation’s kite flying again, then maybe the folks in Washington should do whatever those words might mean.

Around these parts there is a lot of discussion among residents about enlarging our Community Center to accommodate the expanding needs of our community. Potluck suppers notwithstanding, we hope that this has nothing to do with our expanding girths since Rick Trandhal

reports that with the New Year more people than ever are showing up for exercise classes and use of the Fitness Center.

Certainly not everything in 2015 will prove as exciting as the claims in my Burpee catalogue or the possibility of an expansion of our Community Center. For those who are sports fans, the prospects for our local teams are “tenuous” – if not “dismal.” The Eagles, after back to back losses to Dallas and then Washington, let us all down as our dreams of a Super Bowl trip were fumbled away. And then there are those Phillies without management or ownership willing to spend more money and with aging and useless players hanging around on multiyear, multimillion-dollar contracts. But I suppose that for Philadelphia “Boo-Birds,” watching Howard strike out with the bases loaded while they were choking on a \$10 wiener may prove somewhat satisfying.

And yet despite all of the cold and pessimism that may seem to surround us, better days are assuredly in our future and the cycle of wintry days will soon depart. Daffodils and crocuses will magically appear and the soil will warm, heralding a new season. I will plant my Porterhouse tomatoes – hoping to then discover a solution for the “8 to 10” potluck requirement that so troubles me, as well as a way to simplify the completion of the recipe card that always appears in my mailbox on the day before.

And when all of this has been finally accomplished, the last page of the calendar suggests that it might then become time for Auld Lang Syne all over again.

—Pete McCord

I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it.

— Thomas Jefferson

THE BEHEMOTH

Joyce Sichel

Looming above the two-storied street,
rolls the city's new orange beast,
noisily stopping at each curbside.

Its metal grabber arms bear-hug and tilt up
a plastic pail into the beast's secret vitals,
then lower the pail back to earth – mostly
empty.

No human driver waves through a window;
an anonymous presence controls the
position of the beast and the motions of its
arms.

Does the unseen driver-operator love this
duty,
like a child having dominion over a remote-
controlled toy because parents saw him as
ready?

Is it a pay upgrade? No need to shower at
shift's end?

Does it carry a job title like “sanitary
engineer?”

Does it reflect military advances and need
computer skills?

Might the city cut its payroll now,
threatening old jobs,
the budget's line items for “garbageman”
slashed?

Why not pay women 70% for this clean job,
no brawn needed?

Is morale and camaraderie already plunging
from these efficiencies,
splintering the workplace with competition
and isolation?

And could a robotic version of the orange
beast be next?

Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman:
“And what do you think is the best thing
about being 104?” the reporter asked. She
simply replied, “No peer pressure.”

NEW TEMPORARY NEIGHBORS

Barbara Zimmerman

Seen by a friend on Devon Lane in Hainesport – two critters that followed her home. After she called 911, two state police cars arrived, and after a while came back with a local farm owner who induced the visitors into his SUV with feed.

Lesson learned from the story – don't call animal control – they don't pick up goats.



LEAS FORUM

Barbara Trought

Programs will be presented in the Theater on Saturdays at 11 a.m.

February 14

“By Hand and By Foot”

Joanna Patterson is an award-winning photographer who has traveled to all seven continents. Her passion for travel and photography become apparent through her exhibitions, as she focuses on capturing the essence of life in her work. Her most recent trip abroad was to Burma/Myanmar in December, 2013 where she photographed

the people and their culture. She felt compelled to visit before the ancient ways were lost to advancing mechanization. Know some of the time-honored ways of a little-known culture through photographs and stories as Joanna shares her personal experiences.

February 28

“Batsto Village, Jewel of the Pines”

Barbara Solem, popular Pine Barrens speaker and resident of Shamong, immerses her listeners in the story of Batsto, an early iron town and glassworks at the heart of southern New Jersey's Pinelands. From its modest beginnings as a sawmill in the 1760s, Batsto grew into a thriving industrial community through the Revolutionary War years and beyond, its fortunes rising and falling for two centuries as a succession of owners and speculators brought their visions and schemes to bear. Located along the Mullica and Batsto rivers, Batsto's ironworks became a vital arms supplier to Washington's army and nurtured a “nest of rebel pirates” that would confound British forces and help turn the tide for independence. Today's Batsto Village is a loving recreation of a Pine Barrens industrial village – an open-air museum that brings history alive.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Marc Mostovoy

The Lumberton Campus community is most appreciative that a resident from the Medford Campus responded positively to our appeal for the donation of a piano for the Community Center's Great Room. This is another example of the generosity of our residents in response to a good cause. Medford Leas is the place to be!

Concerning the disposition of the present

keyboard, it was decided to offer it first to a resident of either campus free of charge. It is an older instrument, but it still works and might be suitable for a resident or a resident's child or grandchild interested in playing music. The only requirement is that whoever takes the keyboard needs to make arrangements for the moving. It would fit in most minivans. Please contact John Speirs, president of the Lumberton Campus Resident Association, if you are interested in having the keyboard.

PICKUP DATES – FEBRUARY

Recycling: February 2, 16

Trash: February 3, 10, **18**, 24

CLUSTERS

Claire Engle

The holiday season at Medford Leas has always been special with its array of festive events. As has been our custom for the past couple of years, **Cluster 6** gathered on the Medford Campus for an evening of good fellowship on December 10.

A delicious dinner, prepared by Medford Leas, was enjoyed by all. Inexpensive, but useful, gifts were then exchanged. Following dinner, Nannette Hanslowe at the piano accompanied our zealous group, led by Bob Rosvold, in the singing of many familiar carols. The evening ended on a high note filled with holiday spirit.

NEW PHOTO NOTE CARDS BY RESIDENTS

John Speirs and Vince Menzel

At this past year's successful Holiday Craft Fair, the MLRA introduced six new designs of the popular note cards. Photos for the new note cards were graciously provided by Lumberton Campus resident and

expert photographer, Joe Constanza. The cards feature photographs of four birds and two butterflies.

These new cards, which were very popular at the Craft Fair, and the original series of cards are for sale in the Gift Shop on the Medford Campus. Two of the six photos are below. Stop by the Gift Shop to see the rest; you'll enjoy them.



THE CHRONICLE BY EMAIL

The Editors

Approximately half of Lumberton campus households receive *The Chronicle* by email, benefiting from speed, full color, and home delivery (and a smiley face on their mailboxes). All who don't, including both longtime and new residents, can sign up anytime by contacting any of the editors by email or telephone. Note that your computer must be able to read pdf files. Most computers can do so.

Another advantage is that electronic delivery saves money!

Thinker's Corner



Cartoons

This month's cartoon:



Write your caption:

“ _____ ”

Last month's cartoon:



Last month's captions:

“I don't know how I would cope if I didn't always get presents.”

“I know I have eliminated positions, but would you please tell Maintenance to remove this Christmas tree; it's already March 5.”

“Why doesn't anyone answer? I know it's Christmas, but this is ridiculous.”

“It's Christmas, Melanie. Have young Cosgrove go down to the street and give something back to the community.”

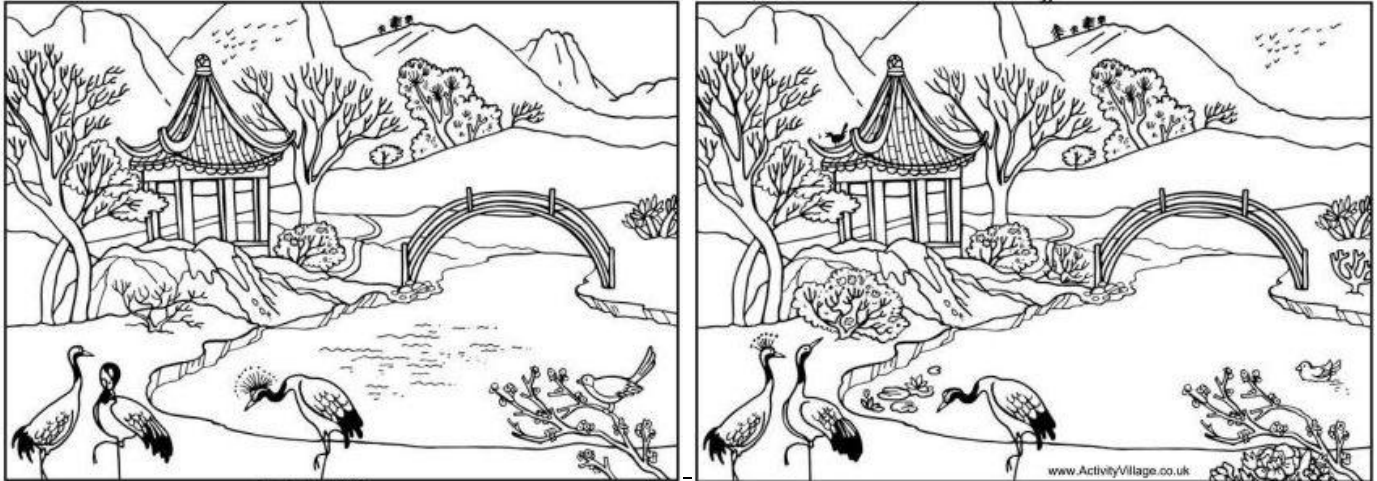
“I don't take Christmas off. Why should you?”

“Since when does the Constitution require me to give paid leave on a religious holiday?”

“Which one of these things has our wedding anniversary on it?”

For the Eagle-eyed

Last month's pair (this one really didn't require eagle eyesight.):



12 Differences:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Number of trees on mountain top | Ripples on water |
| Location of birds in the sky | Lily pads in water |
| Leaves on small bush at left | Plumes on peacocks |
| Mountain peak at right | Flowers at bottom right |
| Bird in water | Bush at left side of bridge |
| Bird on bush at bottom right | Bush at right side of bridge |

Do You Know?

Where are the world's five busiest subway systems?

Where is the longest railroad in the world?

What country has the most pyramids?

Where is the longest fence in the world?

On what island are more than 800 native languages still spoken?

Where did the word "tattoo" come from?

Where is the southernmost active volcano on Earth?

Which world capital is at the highest elevation?

What are the two largest universities (not just a college) in the world – by contiguous land area? (Hint: one is in the US.)

Answers next month

A Photo from Lynn's Friends



Lake Tahoe, California

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The Lumberton Campus Chronicle is a monthly publication featuring articles, poems, and other works by residents of Medford Leas at Lumberton and other writers. Subject matter is not limited to our community; it only needs to make good reading for our residents. The date of each issue is timed to include the report of the Council meeting, which is held on the second Monday of the month. Next submission deadline is Friday, February 13. All residents and other interested parties are encouraged to contribute.

Email your submission to the editor, vince267@gmail.com, with copies to the associates, ruthbgpersonal@comcast.net and hsheineman@gmail.com.

We cannot accept handwritten, typed, faxed, or printed copy.