

THE TWELVE MONTHS

SNOWY, Flowy, Blowy,
Showery, Flowery, Bowery,
Hoppy, Croppy, Droppy,
Breezy, Sneezzy, Freezy.

—George Ellis

A Few January Events:

Jan. 1, 1752—birthday of Betsy Ross

Jan. 1, 1928—first air-conditioned high-rise office building opened (San Antonio, TX)

Jan. 1, 1735—birthday of Paul Revere

Jan. 1, 1946—baby boom officially began

Jan. 3, 1876—work began on Brooklyn Bridge

Jan. 10, 1984—TV's "Where's the Beef?" aired

Jan. 11, 1770—"Rhubarb Day"—John Bartram received from Ben Franklin in London the first shipment of rhubarb sent to the colonies

Jan. 17, 1706—birthday of Benjamin Franklin

Jan. 19, 1825—tin can patented

Jan. 20, 1885—roller coaster patented

**AND, some say,
we celebrate the theme song of
Laurel & Hardy ("The Cuckoo Dance")
during the third week of January**



COUNCIL REPORT

Conant Atwood

The transition of reserving Lumberton Community Center rooms by the Medford reception desk was completed.

Two resident risk prevention concerns remain open and will be pursued: making house numbers more visible at night, and replacing malfunctioning CO (carbon monoxide) detectors.

Signage and the speeding issues on Woodside Drive continue to be an open item, as is the reworking of the Community Center Great Room to create better usage of Community Center space.

The annual Lumberton Community Service Fund Drive will take place during February and March.

The Resident Directory updating project, begun in early 2015, is in the copying and distribution stage and is expected to be completed by February.

A further topic for discussion is using the internet to encourage paperless communication. Possible options are more Lumberton information and request forms placed on the Medford Leas website, or perhaps a separate Lumberton campus website.

Judy Aley has resigned as secretary, but will continue to serve on Council. Secretarial duties will be covered cooperatively by Council members for the remainder of her 2015-16 term.

Our next Coffee with Administration (Jeremy Vickers and Bill Murphy) will be held on February 2 at 7 p.m.

FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR DECEMBER

Balance on November 30	\$4901.98
Income	61.62
Expenses	240.51
Balance on December 31	\$4723.09

MEET OUR NEW NEIGHBORS

text by Barbara Zimmerman

photos by Joyce Koch



Frank and Christine (Steinmetz) Smolka moved to 226 Woodside Drive in October 2015, from Bellmawr, NJ. Since 1989, when they met a resident who impressed them, they have had Medford Leas in mind. As Frank, in later years, worked at inspecting the Medford Leas elevators, he met more enthusiastic residents. Other recommendations along the way encouraged their original thoughts about living in the Medford Leas environment.

They love everything about their new home. This includes the bright and shiny interior, the ability to bring a lot of their possessions, and the answers to all their questions.

Frank started life in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia and then moved with his family to Buena, NJ. He spent four years in the Navy and served in the Panama Canal Zone during the Cuban Missile Crisis. The base was one that was unified with Army, Navy, and Air Force services which monitored the crisis as well as Central and South American countries.

Chris was born in Jersey City and then moved to a farm in Buena Vista, NJ. Her education was at the Minotola School, Vineland High School (where she and Frank met), then at Chestnut Hill Hospital School of Nursing. Her first job out of

school was at Children's Hospital, where she learned the practical side of patient care. She worked at Underwood Memorial Hospital (now Inspira), Woodbury, NJ, for 20 years. Her career eventually led her to IV therapy and home infusion—a new field which she loved and improved along the way.

The two married after Frank's discharge, and he went on to pursue work with Houghton Elevator, first in the office and later doing elevator installations. His territory included the tristate area with major malls and buildings. Later, when he worked as an elevator inspector/subcode official for the State of New Jersey, he covered portions of North and South Jersey, including all state office buildings.

The Smolkas have four daughters living in Pennsylvania, Virginia and Africa. Their three grandchildren are in Pennsylvania.

After one of their Labrador retrievers died, they became interested in the training of seeing eye puppies through the Burlington County 4H Club. The family raised 26 puppies between 1987 and 2015. They may further this interest by fostering seeing eye puppies with medical issues.

Also residing at their Woodside Drive home are four Koi and two Comets (goldfish). They live in a huge 3100 gallon tank in their basement. And there's a cat too!

The Smolkas are settling into their home and the neighborhood. Chris is interested in gardening and they have brought several plants from their previous home. Frank loves the outdoors, especially fishing and playing golf. He is a volunteer on the Battleship New Jersey and says he's learned from the best—one of the original sailors of this vessel.

They look forward to their new life chapter in Lumberton.

Pete's Pick

MY NEANDERTHAL PAST AND NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Yesterday while trolling the internet I discovered a quite interesting study by those in academia that may offer a gratifying explanation for what I have recently noticed have become increasingly sedentary moments of my life. And so on this New Year's Day, it seems appropriate for me to share this finding with those of you who may now be contemplating a change to your lifestyle through one of those dreadful seasonal "resolutions," most of which seem to involve pledges of greater activity in one form or another.

The study, which comes from the Simon Frazier University of Canada, suggests that we are all wired to be "lazy." This, the eminent professors who carried out the study tell us, is because of our Neanderthal past when, as hunters and gatherers, it became essential for us to go into extended periods of rest in order to conserve our energy for the next important hunt.

And so on this New Year's afternoon as I ponder the matter, unshaven and lying stretched out on my living room couch while drinking beer and watching football on TV, I am assured by this study that my slovenly habits are quite normal and explainable in the Neanderthal scheme of things.

Perhaps some might find it somewhat ironic that, at least in my case, the "next hunt" never seems to come about. But does this not merely explain why my retirement years have become so pleasurable? And could it also not explain why I now eschew the very notion of making any New Year's resolutions that might change things in my life? After all, am I not assured by the learned folk in academia that the "next important hunt"

is undoubtedly just around the corner? And would that not in and of itself require the major changes in lifestyle that those of you who are now making your dreaded New Year's resolutions will bring upon yourselves? As anyone familiar with their Neanderthal past could tell you, saber-toothed tigers and woolly mammoths are frightening beasts, and encountering one of those could mean the end of all that I now enjoy.

So in the meantime please excuse me from participating in any of the self-examinations and unpleasant exorcisms that New Year's resolutions always seem to entail. And while I now lie about and patiently await my next critical hunt, might I ask if there is anyone out there who would be kind enough to get up and fetch me another beer from the fridge? After all, do not these precious moments of leisure that I am now enjoying also represent my period of repose when I must try to conserve all of my energies and to fortify myself in every possible way for the frightening eventuality that the learned professors in Canada have cautioned is in my imminent future?

—Pete McCord

BOOK CLUB
Barbara Lewis

It has been a while since our November meeting. We discussed the novelization of the transport of orphans from New York City to places in the Midwest. *The Orphan Train* book caused many questions, and we had a stimulating conversation about the many aspects of the situation. At the end, the author, Christina Baker Kline, told of the many groups that meet, even today, trying to find more information about their forebears who were on those trains.

In January we are reading and discussing *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough. If you are a reader, I imagine that you have read one or more books by Mr. McCullough. He is so thorough in his research; it is always a pleasure to read his compilation of facts wrapped up in a flowing story. Last month George Rubin wrote an excellent review of this book in December's *Medford Leas Life*. I can do no better, so if you haven't read it, find a copy of the newsletter.

Orville and Wilbur Wright deserve all the acclaim that is attributed to them in this book. Yes, there were many others, particularly in France and England, who were trying to fly, but the Wrights actually did it. I found a lot of information in the book of which I had no knowledge. I also skimmed the pages that gave engineering information that I could not understand, except for the results of such info. I recommend the book. It is a great read.

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m. in the conference room at the Community Center. You are welcome to attend any of our meetings that are held throughout the year.

In February the book will be *Big Little Lies* by Liane Moriarty, a complete change of literature.

LEAS FORUM
Dorothy Cebula

Leas Forum programs are presented in the Theater on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m.

February 13

Not Your Father's Grocery Store

David Zallie will describe some of the changes in the supermarket industry in his program. When David and Renee Zallie bought ShopRite of Medford from his father, it was a large but ordinary store. In

the ten years since, they have transformed it into a trendy supermarket complete with the most modern amenities. David will discuss his family's history with the retail grocery business, local changes—including Medford Leas—and trends in the industry. He also promises to talk about the purchase of the Indian Chief Restaurant next door. David is a member of the Food Marketing Institute and the National Grocers Association, and is on the board of the Wakefern Corporation, owner of the ShopRite brand.

February 27

Immigrants in Our Communities— A perspective from the American Friends Service Committee

The topic of immigration is always a challenging one, and is once again receiving attention in the presidential campaign. News reports show us that migration is increasing as wars, violence, and natural disasters drive people from their homelands. Private prison companies are profiting by detaining immigrants; proposals are advanced that restrict entry by certain immigrants. With political debates about US immigration policy and challenges, combined with global migration crises, what current policies and procedures are affecting immigration in this country today? **Amy Gottlieb**, Associate Regional Director for the Northeast Region of American Friends Service Committee Immigration Rights Program, will discuss the current state of the law, the realities faced by immigrant communities, and perspectives of the AFSC involving a fair and humane immigration policy.

PICKUP DATES—FEBRUARY

Recycling: February 1, 15, 29
Trash: February 2, 9, **17**, 23

WHAT WERE YOU DOING ON NEW YEAR'S EVE?

**text by John Speirs
photo by Joanne Thomas**

Remembering the Frank Loesser tune from 1947, I had done a variety of things before moving to Medford Leas at Lumberton—from watching the ball drop



in Time Square to attending the 1999-2000 Rose Bowl festivities in Pasadena.

I hadn't a clue what folks did in South Jersey, so when a neighbor asked if I would like to dine around a Hibachi table, I

jumped at the chance.

That was three years ago and this year's "New Year's Eve with Friends" included 18 residents at the front table at Jasmine Restaurant in Medford for the 5 p.m. seating.

The show began when the chef lit the two grills to prepare the shrimp, steak, chicken, lobster, and scallops along with fried rice, noodles, and wonderful vegetables.

The chef pitched vegetables at us and squirted saki to the willing. The conversation flowed freely while our food was prepared before us. The sumptuous feast was capped off with fortune cookies and orange slices. We then adjourned to a neighbor's home for dessert and beverages.

All that enjoyment and right around home; my idea of a great New Year's Eve.

THE LEAS GALLERY ART SHOWS

text by Joyce Linda Sichel
photos by Joe Costanza



The Community Center Gallery on the Lumberton campus will be devoted to the photography of our own resident Joe Costanza. Besides being the current president of the MLRA, Joe is a talented experienced naturalist. He is a very well-known nature photographer whose work is in great demand. He has recently finished showing at the Palmyra Cove Nature Park, and previously exhibited at the Perkins Art Center, the Cherry Hill Public Library, the Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge, the Center for the Arts in Marlton, the Crofts Farm Arts Center in Cherry Hill and the Memorial Community Center in Medford.

While his work includes plants and landscapes, Joe’s fame is greatest for his bird photographs, and he is an extremely accomplished birder. He has won prizes and been published in Birder’s World magazine and numerous others.

This will be Joe’s second show in the Lumberton Gallery, and Gallery attendees will also be familiar with his work on the Medford campus. The opening reception will be held Friday, February 19, at 4 p.m., and the show will run through the end of April.

Last month, *Medford Leas Life* reported on the posthumous show just arriving at the Medford Leas Theater Gallery for the months of January and February. There is still time for you to view the work of the prominent New Jersey artist Thomas Kimball. His widow Barbara and his son Max were on hand at the reception to explain

the artist's particular interests and to answer questions.

Last but not least is a reminder to see the Art Studio Gallery show of residents’ art and photography on the Medford campus on the lower level. The collection of pieces is varied and shows the artistic ability we nurture here at home.

Thinker’s Corner



Sudoku

Solution from last month. *Clue was:*
A square can be cut into two of them.

E	G	I	S	T	L	A	R	N
A	N	L	G	R	E	I	T	S
R	T	S	N	I	A	G	L	E
S	E	N	T	A	R	L	G	I
G	A	T	L	N	I	S	E	R
I	L	R	E	G	S	T	N	A
N	S	E	A	L	G	R	I	T
L	R	A	I	E	T	N	S	G
T	I	G	R	S	N	E	A	L

Cartoons

This month's cartoon:



Write your caption:

“ _____ ”

Last month's cartoon:



Last month's captions:

“It's from our lawyer. He wishes us a Happy New Year but denies liability if we don't have one.”

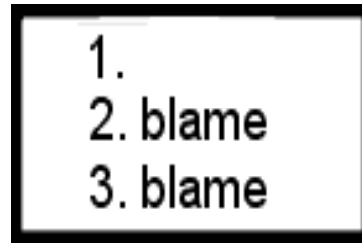
“Does anyone really want to hear this tribute to the late Red Green, who actually never enjoyed these parties?”

“Can someone please get me a microphone instead of this champagne glass?”

“Does anyone have any words of wisdom before we all make fools of ourselves?”

“I'd like to start tonight's program by saying I hope this party is not boring like last year.”

Rebus Puzzles:



A Photo from Lynn's Friends



I have a great job!

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Lynn Ware

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Conant Atwood,
President

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 12. All residents and other interested parties are encouraged to contribute.

Email your submission to hsheineman@gmail.com, with copies to ruthbgpersonal@comcast.net, thomasjm@comcast.net, hehahn1@verizon.net, and vince267@gmail.com.

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