

Bracken Bits

Lake Bracken Country Club

December, 2011

Volume 17 Issue 12



Restaurant/Bar Hours for December

Bar		Restaurant	
Monday	5-?	Monday	closed
Tuesday	closed	Tuesday	closed
Wednesday	12-9	Wednesday	5-8
Thursday	3-8:30	Thursday	5-8
Friday	1-10?	Friday	5-9
Saturday	12-8:30	Saturday	5-8
Sunday	12-5	Sunday	closed

Please check the December calendar for dates when the Dining Room is closed for private parties.



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Join Mark and fellow members in the Bar on Saturday, December 24 from 12 pm to 4 pm for his annual ice cream drinks and hors d'oeuvres party.



Rental space is available in the Lake Bracken Cart Shed for Winter. Please contact the Office at 342-4431 for more information.

• Phone Numbers:

- Office 342-4431
- Rest/Bar 343-5912
- Pro Shop 343-5915
- Maint. 342-4341

A Note from Kathleen

The staff has been very busy decorating the clubhouse and I must say they did a fine job. It puts a person in the holiday spirit. We have several Christmas parties this month so please keep the club calendar close at hand. I know the dining room hours are limited due to the number of parties but we do have some free nights for the members to come and dine with us. We introduced the new menu Friday night and seemed to get a positive response. We still have several openings for the Christmas brunch Sunday, December 11, so please call soon for a reservation. Remember Santa will be making a special appearance. We are in the stages of planning the New Year's Eve's dinner and party. I will have a

menu and details to you as soon as possible. Also don't forget the Carriage Rides Friday, December 16. We have several time slots still available. Thank you to all our sponsors for the Carriage Ride. Without their help we would not be able to offer this fun event for the members and their families.

January will be very busy with cleaning and rearranging things in the clubhouse. We will be cleaning the lockers out in the locker rooms. If you have not paid for a locker the contents will be thrown away.

On behalf of the staff here at Lake Bracken I would like to wish one and all a very healthy and Happy Holiday season.

Kathleen



Mike's News

Winter is approaching and snow plowing is just around the corner. As a reminder, gravel roads will not be plowed unless they are frozen. Also check in with the Office on snow plowing pricing and try to get on the list as soon as possible. It looks great and Thanks again! Happy Holidays from the Ground's Crew.

Mike

Firemen's Bass Tournament Results

We had a beautiful day for our Fall Bass Tournament. The only problem was that the bass did not get the memo as to time and date of the event. The turnout was good having sixteen teams, but only one limit of six bass was brought to the scales. The total number of bass weighed was 36, with the big fish of the day being 3.50#, caught by Ian Carruthers. The winners were Steve Fryrear and Tom Hachbaum with a weight of 7.76#. Second place was Gregg Lewis and Ryan Bradford with 6.23#. Third place went to Shain Hunsinger and Craig Sherwood at 4.97#. Thanks again to the Galesburg Bassmasters for providing the weigh in scales and helping run the event.

Thanks,

John Hanson



Message from Chief Howard

It is that time of year again. Let's make sure our homes are ready for winter. Check your space heaters for safe and proper operation. Be sure to check all your electrical cords for frays and cracks. For that matter check all your electrical cords for cracks or frays. Ex. Lamps, radios, refrigerators, etc. Replace any that are questionable. Also check your fireplace chimneys. The buildup of creosote can cause chimney fires. Believe me I have seen this first hand. Don't forget to check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors too. Happy holidays from all of your Lake Bracken firefighters.

**Santa will be here during the
Holiday Brunch on
December 19, 2010 at 12:00p.m.**



From the Chef

The new menu has finally arrived! It would be a pleasure to have as many members as we can join us this upcoming month to try some of the new menu items. The first half of the month has the staff busy preparing for Holiday events. Please mark your calendars for the Holiday Brunch on the 11th. I have also been preparing a special New Year's Eve menu. This menu will be limited, however it will feature specialty items for this particular night. Specific details will follow in the near future for the New Year's Eve event. I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Holiday season and look forward to seeing all of you soon!

Matt Davis



Lake Bracken Holiday Brunch

Sunday, December 11, 2011



Serving from:

10:30—1:00

Call 342-4431 or 343-5912 for reservations

Don't forget Santa will be making a special visit to Lake Bracken!

Featuring:

Brunch Lasagna - Mini Banana Hot Cakes
Huevos Rancheros Casserole - Applewood Smoked Bacon
Roasted Baron of Beef - Chef Carved Honey Ham
Steamed Vegetables - Mini Baked Potatoes
Maple Glazed Sweet Potatoes
Shrimp Cocktail - Salad Bar
Chicken Strips - Mini Burgers - French Fries
Assorted Breads and Desserts

Happy Holidays
To all Lake Bracken
Members and Families

Adults \$15.00
Kids 4-12 \$7.00
Kids 3 & under
Free
Reservations
By noon Wed.
December 7

Attention Homeowners

Changes to Snow Plowing 2011-2012

Your immediate attention to this notice is requested.

The Board of Directors after careful review of the 2009-2010 season snow plowing cost analysis, the past snow plowing program, and funds generated for snow plowing fund do not cover the cost of the current snowplowing program. Please review later pages concerning the rationale behind these changes to the snowplowing program.

Maintenance staff will continue to plow roads maintained by Lake Bracken. Roads not maintained by Lake Bracken will be plowed using a plow through or open up procedure. This means that maintenance staff will plow through these areas and back to Bracken maintained roads; this should create an 8-12 foot open lane for homeowners and assure emergency access. The cost of this procedure will come from the snowplowing portion of the trash removal/snow plowing fund. Please note these funds will not be used for snow removal at the clubhouse.

Garage approaches, parking areas and so forth will not be plowed by Lake Bracken Staff unless specifically requested to do so, pricing for each homeowner is available by calling the Clubhouse during normal business hours. The staff took into account the size and difficulty of each area and determined these prices. In addition several local snowplowing contractors were contacted to determine the prevailing rates in the area. At this time the minimum for plowing an area will be \$25 and up per plow. The cost of secondary areas is only available in conjunction with the primary area being plowed. If a homeowner elects to make a secondary area the primary area then the \$25 and up cost will apply, other areas would be plowed at their quoted rate.

Homeowners are not required to participate in the removal of snow from these areas using Lake Bracken Staff. Homeowners are free to not remove the snow, remove the snow themselves or hire an outside contractor.

Option 1 Snowplowing for the season.

Homeowners desiring to have these areas plowed by Lake Bracken Staff should immediately contact the Club Office to determine the rate for their areas and indicate their desire to participate in the program. Services will be contracted for the entire season, plowing will occur automatically after 2" of snowfall. Homeowners participating in this option will be first on the plowing list.

Option 2 Snowplowing by request.

It is anticipated that homeowners may not decide until a large snowstorm occurs they require plowing by Lake Bracken Staff. The homeowner may request the service, at that time they will be placed on the plow list for that individual storm and plowing will occur when staff is available. You are requested to request service as soon as possible; this will allow the staff to plan for the plowing in the most efficient manner.

Outside contractors or homeowners will be held responsible for any damage to Lake Bracken roads or other property; if the contractor fails assume responsibility the contracting homeowner may be held responsible for such damage.

In the event that weather conditions cause drifting homeowners may request additional plowing at the price quoted for the area. Homeowners requiring special services such as cinder/salting of an area will be billed for such services.

How Homeowners should arrange for plowing by request.

During normal business hours inquires or arrangements for the service should be directed to the Clubhouse Office. During non-business hours when plowing is in progress inquiries may be directed to lakebrackenc@yaho.com and the staff will contact you: **This is the preferred method of contact.** If you do not have internet access please leave a message at the maintenance building telephone number, 309-342-4341. Please understand that during plowing, staff is not available to receive phone calls. The email contact goes directly to a staff member's cellular telephone. The maintenance building answering machine is not checked as often and has a limited amount of memory, which if a large number of calls are received could result in your call being missed.

Rationale

For information purposes the current trash removal/snow-plowing fund collects \$230 per homeowner each year. The Board of Directors requested trash removal bids from four area vendors. One indicated they did not want to provide a bid, one wanted to provide a bid for dumpster service only and the other two provided bids similar to the current trash removal program. The current provider, Abingdon Salvage provided the best bid. They proposed a three-year contract 2012, 2013, & 2014 with the option for one additional year (2015). Abingdon Salvage proposed the same program currently in effect including one cleanup per year. In addition Abingdon Salvage agreed to attempt to provide the weekly service on Friday mornings, the Board understanding is that there may be circumstances beyond Abingdon Salvage's control that may not always allow completion on Friday mornings. Abingdon Salvage also responded to the Board's concern of road damages caused by their larger trucks, they agreed to use their lightest weight trucks or if necessity requires a larger truck they would arrive with the truck empty. The Board examined a recycling option but rejected it as that would have increased the cost by \$100 per month. Abingdon Salvage bid was substantially lower than the other bidder. Abingdon Salvage was awarded the contract. Prior to accepting the contract it was determined that individual trash pick up in the area ranges from \$180 to \$220 per year. The Abingdon Salvage contract for each homeowner works out to be \$140 per year, with no change during the life of the contract. This is not an increase; it is at the current level. Also, the previous contract called for yearly increases and for most of that five-year contract the additional cost was not passed on to the homeowners.

The Board noted the concern by some homeowners that the trash removal at the Clubhouse and pool is funded through these proceeds. The Board notes the staff is used to obtain the bids, collect the funds, forward them to the contractor and monitor the contract and it is a fair exchange for the services provided by the staff. The contractor's bid is for trash removal from the entire facility, including the dumpster used by homeowners behind the maintenance building and it is hard to break that out from the bid.

Trash removal being addressed at \$140 per year is \$90 per year to accomplish snow plowing.

The 2009-2010 Snow Plowing Cost Analysis showed the on average for a three-inch snow 36 Man hours were required to complete the snow operation, of that 16 man hours were required to complete the cleanup operation; clearing garage approaches, parking areas and so forth. For the 2011-2012 season based on the \$90 figure the Board determined that it would only be possible plow Lake Bracken roads and provide a plow through or opening up of remaining areas. Funds do not allow for the plowing of individual garage approaches, parking area, and so forth.

It was determined that due to the various size and needs of each homeowner's areas that needed plowed the service should be address individually rather than all homeowners paying a flat amount which resulted in some homeowner receiving a great service than others.

Want to save some \$\$\$

If you use CenturyLink for telephone services, you might want to review your bill. By accident I noticed we were being charged for "Galesburg Excise Tax" among the extra fees. It is not a large amount, but Galesburg legal boundaries are 10 miles away. You need to call CenturyLink at 1-800-223-1851 and work your way through the prompts to get a living person in billing. Explain your home is not in the corporate limits of Galesburg and this is an improper tax. You'll be put on hold till the attendant checks with his management person. You will be informed this will be corrected and a refund will be issued for the incorrect billings. A couple calls have indicated CenturyLink has a larger problem with this issue affecting all of Lake Bracken and other un-incorporated phone users of Knox County using Galesburg as their mailing address. I have gotten the city involved in helping fix this issue, too. My refund is about \$50 for two years of back charges. I'd look at all your utility bills and cell phone bills to verify if they also are taxing you and keeping the money. Galesburg is not sure if they are even getting this wrongly tax money. Good Luck.

Bob Porter
Lake Bracken Resident

J.R.'s News...

December Golf Shop Hours:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday: 10 – 5

Thursday: 10 – 5

Friday: 10 – 6

Weekends: 10 – 5

The golf shop will be closed on the following days:

Monday December 5th thru Thursday December 8th (Big Golf Sale in Des Moines)

Last Day of Operation will be Saturday December 24th from 11-2!

REMINDER:

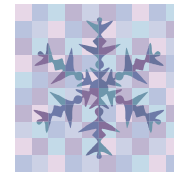
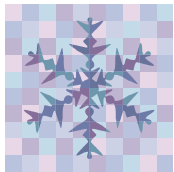
All golf shop balances need to be paid by December 15th!!!
We do accept MasterCard and Visa for your convenience.

SUPER SAVING STOCKING STUFFERS

Gift Certificates for SALE! You have to spend money to make money! This is true, now thru the end of the season. This is a great way to get more bang for your buck! The promotion will work as follows:

<u>Purchase</u>	<u>Receive</u>
\$25	\$30
\$50	\$65
\$100	\$140

You are not limited to a number of gift certificates so, for example, if you purchase a \$500 gift certificate, you will actually receive \$700!! This would be great for anyone looking for new irons or a driver. These will not expire until October 31st, 2012! So, please stop in today to get early discounts on 2012 equipment and merchandise!!



Horse—Drawn Carriage Rides will be December 16, 2011 from 6:00—10:00 p.m. Please make a reservation to take your ride. Bring your family out for a drink with your Lake Bracken Fire Department as Guest Bartenders. All proceeds will go to purchasing gifts for children at the Holiday Brunch.

2011 Carriage Ride Sponsors

Dr. John Bicego, D.D.S

Blucker, Kneer & Assoc.

Tompkins State Bank

Sam's Janitor Service II

Accounting Systems, Inc.

Hendricks Pump Service

Neil Thomas Plumbing & Heating

Furniture Country

Kleine Equipment

Way Insurance

McDonalds

J.R. Millar Golf Shop

Lucky Monuments

Office Specialists

A Big Thank you to everyone who sponsored the Carriage Rides!

On behalf of the entire staff- We Wish You and Yours a very Merry, Healthy and Blessed Holiday Season

Mike Howard

Course Superintendent

Nate Curtiss

Assistant Superintendent

Layton Sandall

Clubhouse/Lake/Pool

Kathleen Van De Rostyne

Clubhouse Manager

Mark Plasters

Bar Manager

Mary Tapper

Dining Room Manager

Matt Davis

Head Chef

Jessica Plasters

Office

Wait Staff:

Lyndee Andrews

Johanna Boone

Danielle Sandrock

Amanda Brown

Taylor Holmstrom

Kitchen Staff:

Jason Fleming

Grounds:

Mark Truitt

Bar Staff:

Russell Coon

Lake Bracken Country Club

1036 Sunny Knoll Drive
Galesburg, IL 61401

Phone: 309-342-4431
Fax 309-342-3829
Email: lakebrackenccl@grics.net



Merry.
Christmas

Men's Bridge Results

Nov 3rd:

1. Wayne Gonyea
2. Wilbur Walck
3. Jim Armstrong

Nov 10th:

1. Bill Tracy
2. J.R. Millar
3. Wilbur Walck

Nov. 17th:

1. Wayne Gonyea
2. Dave Goff
3. Ken Munson