



## From the President

*Hi, Everyone!*

Welcome to Fall! Well it doesn't seem like fall; as I am writing this article it is 92 degrees outside with very high humidity. I am beginning to think that someone moved me to Florida without telling me. Oh that is a Maple tree in my front lawn and not a Palm tree! I guess I am right where I should be! I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer activities. You still have a couple of days to make it to the fair and see the butterheads! Our summer picnic and pool party turned out to be a great one; even Mother Nature got in on the act! (Dee I will be over for a swim as soon as I finish this article and I will bring the 5 bucks I owe you!) Our meeting with the Homeowners was fun and we were able to share and receive some new ideas! Hopefully we will be able to plan some activities with both our clubs!

In September we will get down to club business again! It is time to ramp up our efforts, begin our Halloween, harvest and holiday village displays. It is time to begin our fall charity project, organize our Chili Feed and plan the December Holiday meeting and the January House Hop. I am tired already just thinking about it! The club officers have also brought along some new ideas that we will share during our September meeting. There will be some additional door prizes and remember it is dues night! We will leave some time for shopping at Robin Lee's. The new D-56 pieces are in! Don't miss them!

Fall is my favorite time of year. I love the leaves changing and the cooler weather. The garden chores slow down. Of course, this year it is especially nice since some of us will be heading to Michigan shortly to attend the Seasons of Michigan Gathering. I look forward to seeing all our friends from across the country. Tom, Janet, Darnell and I will bring back all the news and pictures! I have been told some of our Village North folks will be joining us there!

Take some time over the next couple of weeks to slow down and take in some of the beauty of fall before the snowflakes fly and we all get crazy about the holidays. If you have a chance, take a stroll or trolley ride through the Arboretum to see the Maples in full color! The apples are ready!

*~shirl*

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### **In This Issue:**

Visit to the Homeowners.....	p2
Dates to Remember.....	p2
Fall Charity Activity .....	p3
A Message from D56 .....	p4
Williamsburg .....	p5
Lori & Fred at the Fair .....	p6
Happy Trials to AZ .....	p7
Gathering Update.....	p8
Treasurer's Report, Dues Reminder.....	p9

### **Dates to Remember:**

#### **September 9th: NLCC meeting**

September 16th-19th, 2010: Michigan Gathering

October 22nd-24th, 2010: Williamsburg

September 29th-Oct. 2nd, 2011: Arizona Gathering

## Visit to 56 Homeowners Association

On Monday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, Tom, Shirley, Diane and Mel attended a meeting of the 56 Homeowners Association which was held at the Knights of Columbus in Bloomington.

Four things I noticed about the meeting were club dress, food, prizes and show & tell (or whatever they call it).

1. Most, if not all of the members attending (approximately 12), wore their club shirt and club pin.
2. Different people volunteer to bring treats to each meeting according to a particular theme. At the July meeting it was picnic food. So, there were peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, fruit, cupcakes with sprinkles, etc. So our two clubs definitely share an affinity for eating!
3. They seemed to have prizes for lots of things. Some were for the particular meeting (like choosing from everyone who arrived on time). Others were based on accumulating "points" by doing any number of things each week. These points were accumulated over a period of time before the winner was determined. They also had a quiz in their newsletter (like name the piece pictured) with the winner getting a prize. I didn't quite understand all the various prizes (and frankly I think this would be far too complex to keep track of), but they definitely had lots of prizes.
4. Each meeting, members are encouraged to bring in a vignette based on a particular theme. The creator of each entry then does a "show and tell" to explain what they've built. The theme for this meeting was summer, patriotic, etc. I participated by bringing in a patriotic display using a Time To Celebrate (remember that product line?) building with several Snow Village July 4 accessories.

During the meeting we spent a lot of time just talking. Some of their members I've known for years; others I met for the first time. It's always fun to talk with fellow collectors to discover what they collect, why they collect, their unusual specialties, etc. We also had a great discussion about club activities – what works, what doesn't. Our two clubs have lots of similarities, but also lots of differences. Finally, we talked about having joint club functions in the future. Perhaps the House Hop in January might include stops at houses from both clubs.

All of us from Northern Lights felt very welcomed at the meeting and agreed that this was a very productive outing. I think that both clubs took away a lot of great ideas. I would like to personally thank the members of the 56 Homeowners Association for a delightful evening and look forward to working together in the future.

*~Tom*

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## Dates to Remember

**September 16th-19th ~ Seasons of Michigan Gathering**

**Saturday, October 22nd-24th ~ Williamsburg, Virginia**

**September 29th-October 2nd, 2011 ~ Happy Trails to Arizona**

## Northern Lights

### Fall Charity Activity

**Dee, Deb and Diane are organizing our fall charity activity and they need everyone to help! We will be putting together some “Christmas In a Bag” projects for a couple of the nursing homes in the area. The more we gather together the more bags we can make and distribute!**

The September meeting will be our gathering and organizing night. We need everyone to participate. Then the “Trio of D’s” can see what they have and what more we will need. There will be more information forthcoming about the assembly schedule! **Here are your two tasks for the September meeting:**

**Bring in as many of these items as you have:**

- Holiday figurines about 5 inches high and two inches wide. They do not have to be Department 56; we found some good ones in the garage sale room at Robin Lee’s!
- Foamcore Board – White would be best but if you have another color contact one of the “Trio of D’s” to see if it can be used
- Ribbon, ric rack etc. in holiday colors
- Stickers/scrapbooking embellishments etc.
- Scrapbooking background paper
- Trees

**Bring in a name and location of a nursing home** where you would like to see us distribute some of our bags.

**Thanks to Deb, Dee and Diane for organizing what should be a fun and worthwhile activity for us!**



## A message from Department 56

Dear Collectors: This summer seems to be flying by, and it's almost time to think about late summer vacations, back to school and football! (And you all know how I love football!) I hope that I will see many of you at the upcoming Gathering "Seasons of Michigan" in September. If you can't make that event, we've got another great opportunity planned for fall. *Department 56* will be holding an event at historic *Colonial Williamsburg* the weekend of October 23, 2010. We aren't calling this a Gathering but it will have many elements of an old fashioned Village Gathering –, an artist signing opportunity, a display demonstration, a luncheon and a special event piece. (See the separate article detailing this exciting event on page seven. To reserve a place at our event, please call me any weekday between 11 AM and 2 PM Central time.) This event will feature our new "Williamsburg" Village series and gives collectors the opportunity to meet and visit with artist, Jeff Junkins. This is not a name that you have probably heard before, but Jeff has been working with *Department 56* for about 12 years and has designed more than 100 lighted buildings. It would not surprise me that many of you may already own a number of pieces designed by Jeff. In the past he has worked on many of the "Historical Landmark Series" pieces, "Legendary Ballpark" pieces, buildings for the *Department 56's* 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (in 2001), and now the great new "Williamsburg" Series. By attending this event, you will learn, first hand about some of the history behind the pieces that are part of this beautiful new series. And have a unique opportunity to have your pieces signed. With all the newsletters I receive from clubs throughout the United States and Canada, I feel that I learn a lot about what each club is doing. What I've noticed recently is that many of you are going to sending your newsletters by email. Congratulations! And welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century! If I'm not on your email list to receive your club's newsletter, now is a perfect time to add my email address to your list. It is [msslittown@dept56.com](mailto:msslittown@dept56.com). I always respond when I receive each issue and sometimes add comments about what I've read. While I cannot visit with each of your clubs, reading you newsletter makes me feel like I'm truly a part of each of your clubs. And you never know when I might decide to send your club a little "thank you" for the opportunity to be part of your mailing list. This past spring I sent 15 clubs a box of goodies that could be used as door prizes, awards for attendance or displays contests. If any club newsletter editor has a question that you need an answer to, please contact me and I would be happy to write an answer that you can print in your next newsletter. I would be happy to respond to your questions – and don't think that any question is too silly or weird to ask. I've heard almost everything and enjoy a good challenge! (I don't think that I've ever been stumped – but there's always a first time!) As fall approaches, I know that many of you will be getting your *Snow Village* Halloween Village displays ready and may discover that you are missing a part, bulb or adapter. Don't forget that I still have a wide variety of replacement parts available. The most popular requests I get are light bulbs for the "Spooky Farmhouse," interior units for "Grimly Manor" and the "Haunted Mansion", adapters for many pieces and light bulbs for lots of pieces. While I can't keep everything in stock, call now so you can have a good chance of receiving your parts' order in time for Halloween. We take all major credit cards as payment, and of course, I always enjoy hearing from each of you. The 2010 brochures (both annual and mid-year brochures) for the Villages and *Snowbabies* are all available and can be ordered by contacting us at 1(800) 548-8696. Call any week day between 11 AM and 2 PM Central time. Happy Collecting!

*Melinda Seegers*

Melinda Seegers  
Consumer Services  
Department 56/ ENESCO

Department 56, Inc. – Consumer Services, 6436 City West Parkway, Eden Prairie, MN 55344  
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# Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

**Be it known that in accordance with the introduction of the Williamsburg Village Series, Department 56 will summon all collectors to participate in a special event in Williamsburg, Virginia on Saturday, October 23, in the year 2010.**

Department 56 is pleased to announce a very special signing event to introduce the new "Williamsburg Village Series" of porcelain lighted buildings and accessories in Williamsburg, Virginia. This is the first new Department 56 Village to be introduced since 1998.

The event is scheduled to take place the weekend of October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the "Woodlands" hotel and conference center in historical "Colonial Williamsburg," Virginia, amid the very places that inspired this new series. Village artist, Jeff Junkins, along with Department 56 personnel will be on hand to visit with collectors who choose to attend this special one day event.

The complete event package price will include an exclusive "Williamsburg Village Series" accessory with special bottom stamp and packaging. It will be signed by the artist. Each attendee will also receive an eco-friendly cloth event bag filled with goodies, one adult admission to "Colonial Williamsburg" exhibits and a special private luncheon hosted by Department 56. This complete package will cost \$79.95. To reserve your spot, please call Melinda Seegers at Department 56 Consumer Services (800/548-8696) any weekday between 11 AM and 2 PM central time. We accept all major credit cards for payment.

The adult unlimited admission ticket to all Colonial Williamsburg venues for the entire weekend includes one day prior to and one day after the weekend event where visitors can view all exhibits, craft demonstrations and historical talks. Convention attendees will be able to tour several of the actual buildings that are now part of this wonderful collection.

Hotel accommodations at the "Woodlands" include complimentary continental breakfast each morning in the spacious lobby as well as free shuttle transportation from hotel, to conference center, lodge, historic sites and shopping areas. To make hotel reservations for this event, please contact the "Woodlands" PASSKEY reservation line at 800/261-9530. The reservation code to receive the group hotel rate of \$119.00 per night is 12589. (reservations must be made by September 24, 2010 to receive this group rate.)

## And, If You're Heading to the Minnesota State Fair

**Lori & Fred** will be working at the  
Robbinsdale Eastern Star Dining Hall  
(1315 UNDERWOOD) next to KTIS Radio  
Fri Aug 27, Sunday Sept 5th, AM Shift 6 Am to 1 PM  
Fred will also be on the AM shift Monday Sept 6th  
The Robbinsdale OES has a coupon in the Saver book for  
Chicken Fingers: buy one get one



**Apparently, not all state fair food is on a stick!**



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.HAPPYTRAILS.SAZ.COM

*Happy Trails to Arizona—  
A Destination Gathering in 2011*

Sue Chretien  
Event Marshal

Phone: 480-773-8575  
Email: schretien@cox.net



**W**e're looking forward to seein' y'all real soon as we head 'em up and move 'em out to Livnoia for their ace-high affair! We hope to meet up with y'all as they show us the "Seasons of Michigan." We know they'll show us a real good time! See you in Livonia!



**From the Event Marshal...**

**H**owdy Pardners! This here's yer Event Marshal, Sue Chretien inviting you to dust off those boots, hitch up your wagons, saddle up them ponies and head 'em up and move 'em out to Arizona for the most delightful destination for a gathering in these here parts!

The warm and friendly folk from the Arizona Village Collectors, Desert Villagers, Southwest Villagers along with our posse from Region 10 and tharabouts are just plumb delighted to be your hosts for this fine affair!

We're all-fired up to roll out the welcome wagon fer y'all at our right purty destination hotel, the Wigwam Golf Resort and Spa where we're sure you'll experience the charm of the southwest! We recommend you pack out early to stay a spell and see what all Arizona has to offer

yer! In this here epitaph, we gonna bring yer all kinds of tidbits about Arizona, updates on what we're corralling for the gathering and all that information just too plentiful for a web page.

We'll be havin' some mighty fine grub, the Village General Store will be open, there'll be bang-up seminars, and if yer ain't having a durn good time, we may have to throw you in jail! All in all, this here gathering will be fine as cream gravy!

We aim to give yer the best gathering this side of the Pecos! So I ask yer - what would you like to see in the seminars we're going to offer? Do you have ideas? Is there something yer particular on? Something you have a hankerin' fer? Do you know a great presenter? This here's yer chance to share yer opinion and yer ideas. Share 'em with me, by sending me a telegraph of some

nature and we'll see what we kin do about making sure you have a hog-killing (a really good) time!

We'll be having a few more of these here epitaphs. (By the way, I have to give credit where credit is due, and I borrowed the name of our newsletter from the "Tombstone Epitaph" where that name was thought of by the editor who said, "every tombstone has an epitaph.") Check our website ([www.happytrailsaz.com](http://www.happytrailsaz.com)) frequently to see what we're up to. We're having a pack o' fun with this and hope ya are too! We hope yer makin' plans to make the Happy Trails to Arizona!

Y'all take care now!

*Happy Trails!*



## *Gathering Update*

### **Seasons of Michigan Gathering**

The Seasons of Michigan Gathering is scheduled for September 16 – 19, 2010 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Livonia, MI just outside of Detroit.

As we get closer to the time for the gathering I'm getting more excited. It's been almost a year since the last gathering in San Antonio, so I'm in need of a "D56 Fix". Getting together with old friends from around the country and experiencing D56 related seminars and activities is sure to do the trick.

The club had considered creating a display for entry into the display contest but it was decided not to pursue this. With everyone's hectic summer schedules it's hard to find the time for such an activity. Maybe next time.

The gathering website –

<http://villagecollectorsofmi.com/The%20Seasons%20of%20Michigan%20Gathering/Home%20Page.html> -

has been updated recently and now shows a list of Marketplace vendors and Seminar presenters. I was glad to see that one of my favorite vendors – Tracy's Collectibles – was on the list. They sell a wide variety of metal cast figurines. I've got a whole set of ball players that I use with my ballpark display. I've also got a set of malt shop people that I use with my American Bandstand building. The list of seminar presenters includes Kirk Wylie from Chicago. Knowing Kirk, that's sure to be a laugh-filled hour! The website also has registration forms which can be downloaded.

Thus far, we've got 6 members from Northern Lights most probably going to Michigan – Shirley, Janet, Darnell, Diane, Mel and Tom. It would be nice to have a few more. It's probably the closest get-together we'll have for the next few years, so why not join the party!

### **Happy Trails to Arizona Gathering**

The Arizona Department 56 Clubs (the Arizona Village Collectors, Desert Villagers and Southwest Villagers, along with the volunteer posse from Region 10 and others) will be your hosts for the 1st gathering in Arizona. It is scheduled for September 29 – October 2, 2011.

History, charm and authentic Arizona await at the destination hotel the Wigwam Golf Resort and Spa, 300 East Wigwam Blvd., Litchfield Park, Arizona. If you are flying you'll want to fly into Sky Harbor Airport in Phoenix. Litchfield Park is just outside of Phoenix to the west -[www.wigwamresort.com](http://www.wigwamresort.com). They have rustled up a great rate of \$125/night (plus tax). Call the Wigwam at 623-935-3811 or 800-327-396 and mention "Happy Trails to Arizona" or enter the following code: HAI29A if you book on line for the great rate.

The Southwest Villagers website is updated as more information arrives - [www.southwestvillagers.com](http://www.southwestvillagers.com). Here's the link to the gathering flyer - <http://www.ncc56.com/HappyTrailstoAZ.pdf>

**Tom**



*Happy birthday to you! Happy birthday to you!  
I lost the club's birthday list;  
but happy birthday to you!*

<b>Northern Lights Treasury Report – September 2010</b>			
<b>By Tom Iacoviello</b>			
<b>Balance</b>	<b>6/1/2010</b>		<b>\$1,673.39</b>
<b>Revenue:</b>			
<u>Received From</u>		<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
<u>Paid To</u>	<u>Ck No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Shirley Willis	3158	May Gift Certificate	\$25.00
Dave Erickson	3159	MN Clubs Website Domain Registration (3 years)	\$44.85
Dee Yetter	3160	Postage Expenses (7/09 - 7/10)	\$47.43
<b>Total Expenses</b>			<b>\$117.28</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>7/31/2010</b>		<b>\$1,556.11</b>

**September marks the start of another great year for the Northern Lights Collectors' Club. SO.....your membership fees are due at the September meeting. As always, it's \$15 for an individual membership or \$25 for a household membership. If you can't make the meeting, feel free to mail your check (payable to "Northern Lights Collectors' Club" to: Tom Iacoviello, 3615 Black Oaks Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55446.**

Northern Lights Collectors' Club  
% Robin Lee's Hallmark  
345 Willow Bend  
Crystal, MN 55428 - 3969

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## *D56 Collector Web Sites ....*

### **Minnesota Clubs**

<http://www.minnesota56clubs.com>

Get up-to-date information about the activities of various Minnesota D56 Clubs

### **Department 56**

<http://www.department56.com>

Official Department 56 site with the latest D56 product information.

### **Department 56 Webring**

<http://i.webring.com/hub?ring=dept56>

Links to web sites of collectors, retailers, and anything else related to Department 56 collecting.

### **National Council of 56 Clubs**

<http://www.ncc56.com/>

News and information from the NCC.