

# VILLAGE OF WONDER LAKE

*news and updates from the Village*



It has been a dreary autumn; now it's time to Decorate and Celebrate!!

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## **December dates to note:**

Wednesday December 4, 7 pm at Village Hall:  
Village Board Meeting

Tuesday December 10, 7 pm at Village Hall:  
Planning & Zoning Commission meeting

Wednesday December 18, 7 pm at Village Hall:  
Village Board Committee of the Whole meeting

Saturday December 21, 10 am - 1 pm,  
MPOA/Chamber of Commerce offices @ 7602  
Hancock Dr: Santa Claus comes to Town!

Wednesday December 25th - Merry Christmas!  
Wednesday December 31st - Happy New Year!

**\*\*\* Winter Reminder: no parking on Village streets between 2 & 6 a.m.; also when there is 2 or more inches of snow \*\*\***

*If you have suggestions for topics to be included in a future newsletter, email [TrusteeSue@gmail.com](mailto:TrusteeSue@gmail.com).*



*Photo courtesy of Sarah Pickrum-Fuchs; Hickory Falls Beach, north end of the lake. Winter 2018*

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## **WINTER LAKE SAFETY - BY RANDY STOWE, LAKE MANAGER, MPOA**

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***The 2019 lake drawdown was successfully accomplished and the lake is refilling. Lake Manager Randy Stowe warns us there are important changes to be aware of with the lake.***

As of Thanksgiving, the lake is still roughly 3 feet below the spillway crest, but refilling fast! The 10 day weather forecast for early December calls for above freezing daytime temperatures, which will delay safe ice formation. As such, the **MPOA is strongly advising people to not access the lake surface until the lake has reached spillway elevation, and a sufficient period of below freezing temperatures have created safe ice conditions.**

This is because the refilling of the lake will create **highly variable ice conditions** until the normal pool of the lake is reached. Any winter lake users accessing the ice will need to be **exceptionally careful** to avoid any debris trapped in or protruding through the ice, as well as day-to-day **changes in ice conditions.**

Lake users are also reminded that the dredging operation also created deeper water, which will also likely affect ice formation. Anyone venturing out onto the ice should be familiar with how to conduct a “self-rescue” in the event they fall through the ice. The MPOA has posted a **self-rescue video on the MPOA website homepage [www.wlmpoa.org](http://www.wlmpoa.org).**

Additional information on ice safety can be found these websites:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/ice/index.html> (from the state of Minnesota)

[https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79135\\_81057\\_91749---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79135_81057_91749---,00.html) (state of Michigan)

*Randy is the Lake Manager for Wonder Lake and the Watershed Manager for the Nippersink Watershed Association. He has over 28 years of environmental planning and design/build restoration experience. Randy has tirelessly worked days, evenings, and weekends to complete many projects associated with the 2019 lake drawdown. He works hard to keep our lake healthy and beautiful, and provide information to keep us safe while using it. You can meet Randy at any upcoming MPOA meeting (held the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 7 pm at the MPOA office, 7602 Hancock Dr).*





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**SANTA CLAUS VISIT  
SATURDAY DECEMBER  
21ST, 10 AM - 1 PM**

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Join Santa Claus and his helpers for a fun time eating cookies & drinking hot cocoa, making crafts, and get your picture taken with Santa!

He will be at the Chamber of Commerce / MPOA building at 7602 Hancock Drive in Wonder Lake between 10 am and 1 pm on Saturday December 21st.

Santa will have gifts for the children, and your kids can make some fun crafts with friends and family.

Even if you don't have children, feel free to stop by on the 21st to make new friends and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate!

A \$1 donation at the door is kindly requested, but no child will be turned away.



*Donations of children's gifts are still welcome, and cash donations for the crafts and hot cocoa will also be appreciated - these can be dropped off at the MPOA office (7602 Hancock Dr) between 10 am and 2 pm Tuesday-Friday. For more information or to volunteer to help Santa and his Friends on the 21st, contact Amie Kennedy at (815) 980-0735.*



*Christmas tree and candle safety is important!*

## **CHRISTMAS TREE AND CANDLE FIRE SAFETY TIPS YOU SHOULD KNOW**

***The Village of Wonder Lake wants you and your family to be safe this holiday season - make sure you follow these fire safety tips to avoid unsafe conditions in your home.***

- One out of four Christmas tree fires in a home are caused by electrical problems
- These fires aren't common, but are more likely to be serious if they occur
- On average, 1 of 32 home Christmas tree fires results in a death (compared to 1 of 143 total reported home fires)
- One of every four Christmas tree fires is caused by a heat source too close to the tree
- Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day are the top 3 days for home candle fires
- Candles start 2 out of 5 home decor structure fires

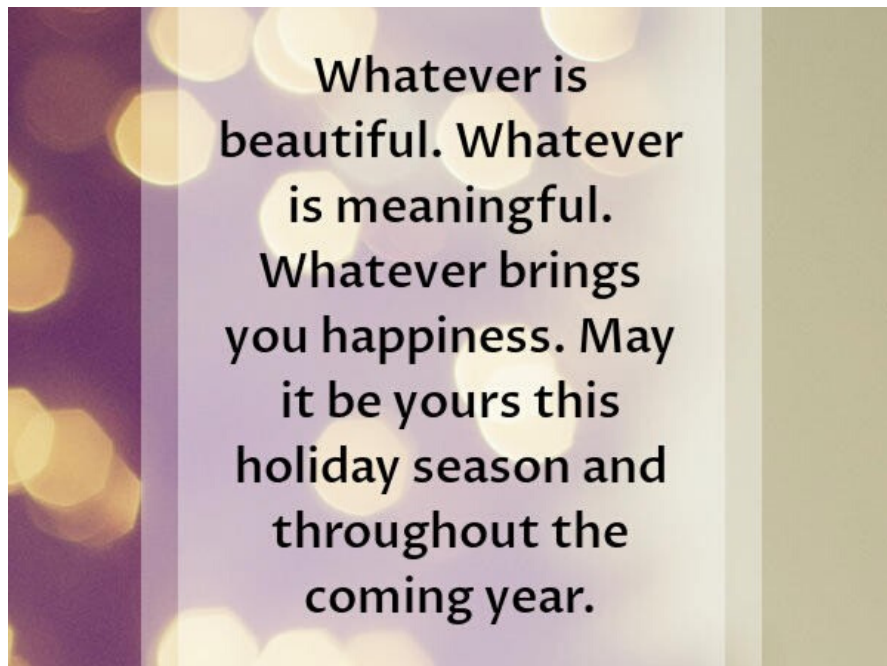
There are things you can do to significantly reduce the chances of a Christmas tree fire - most importantly, water your live Christmas tree every day! (Dry trees can easily catch fire.) Make sure your lights are not frayed or crimped; try to limit the number of sets you link together, and don't overload a power strip.

Unplug your tree lights before going to bed or leaving home. Try to use decorations that are non-flammable; and be sure to remove your tree from the house shortly after Christmas or as soon as it gets dry.

Candle safety is also extremely important - NEVER place a burning candle close to anything flammable, or leave a candle burning unattended! Place candles in sturdy candle holders that won't tip over. And maybe easiest of all - use flameless candles like those pictured above, instead of real (burning) ones.

Fires kill over 3000 and injure more than 16,000 people per year in the United States. Sadly, about 100 firefighters die on duty annually. Property losses due to fire are over \$14 Billion a year. Most of these deaths and losses are preventable; we all need to pay special attention to the dangers of trees and candles during this holiday season.

On a related note - did you know the Village of Wonder Lake Police Department has a house watch program while you're on vacation? For more information: <https://villageofwonderlake.org/house-watch>



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## **A HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM YOUR VILLAGE ADMINISTRATORS AND TRUSTEES**

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The holidays are a time for reflection as well as looking ahead to the New Year. In that spirit, a few thoughts for us all:

You don't know what your neighbor might be going through, especially during the holiday season - so be kind. We all need a little encouragement sometimes; a smile or kind words could make a big difference in someone's life.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." ~ Winston Churchill

"Seeing is believing, but sometimes the most real things in the world are the things we can't see."  
~ The Conductor, Polar Express

Thank You for placing your trust in us to guide the Village of Wonder Lake.  
Wishing everyone the very best in 2020 - good health, many successes, and much happiness!

**Village President Tony Topf**  
**Village Clerk Jo-Ellen McIntosh**  
**Village Treasurer Candi Gay**  
**Assistant Treasurer Jennifer Snelten**  
**Police Chief John Crilly**  
**Public Works Director Chuck Bissell**  
**Planning & Zoning Chairman Jim Cavanaugh**  
**Administrative Assistant Lori Bissell**

**Trustees:** **Dan Dycus**  
**Fred Learman**  
**Dennis Palys**  
**Larry Reinhard**  
**Sue Wells**  
**Kim Windler**