

Traditions Golf

CAMELOT • WEST BEND LAKES • HORICON HILLS

In this issue:

- Newsletter Reborn
- From The Family
- American Companies Selected
- Do You Know What's Happening?
- Thank You!
- Calendar of Events

THE REVIVAL OF THE NEWSLETTER!

The times change and it often becomes necessary to find new ways and reinvent old ways to communicate with our members and the public. The experience of March 14th, was such a catastrophic event. To keep you informed of what is really happening, we have decided to dust off the newsletter, although, in a new format.

FROM THE FAMILY!

We will try to update the information every 2 to 3 weeks or as major events happen.

This past weeks have been unusual, to say the least. The fire of Sunday March 14th is still settling in and probably won't ever be fully understood. Each day "The Merkel and West Bend Lakes Golf Club Family" which includes our staff, members, guests and a multitude of friends continues to honor us with their warm thoughts, friendly gestures and prayers.

The entire family wants to first thank the nearly 100 first responders who assisted us. They first secured our safety and secondly tried to extinguish the fire, which in the end proved stronger than all those assembled. In making a list, you always risk leaving someone out and we hope that we are not guilty of that here. Departments involved were Newburg, West Bend, Grafton, Fillmore, Saukville, Port Washington, Slinger, Allenton, Kewaskum, Hartford, Cedarburg, Germantown, Fredonia, Silver Creek, and Waubeka. Trenton Police, Newburg Police, and Washington County Sheriff's Department also assisted. The kindness and dedication shown by these brave young men and women is outstanding and we as a community should be proud of what they do for us every day. Local businessmen, like Keith Novotney of Cousins Subs were among the first to come to our aid by supplying free subs for the first responders. Other businessmen, Jeff Szukalski of Jeff's Spirits on Main, Tommy Schwai of Schwai Sausage, and JL Office Interiors soon offered their much appreciated assistance.

Because they had to bring in an excavator, after the fire, to put out hot spots, there is no definitive cause of fire. The State Fire Marshal has ruled it accidental and probably electrical in nature.

Over the years, West Bend Lakes has prided itself as a strong source for charities and organizations that found themselves in need. In our 28 some years in West Bend and our over 40 years at our other locations, (Horicon Hills Golf Club and The Golf Club at Camelot) we have been proud to have raised millions of dollars for those in need. The Lakes was a simple 9-hole course when we purchased it back in 1994 and many of you have participated in the growth of that simple course to what it was just that second Sunday in March of 2021. Believe me, it is much easier to be in the position of helping others in need.

Let me assure you, that we are picking up the pieces as best we can. We truly appreciate all the love and warm gestures that the community has sent our way. Although we may not be responding individually to all of them, we continue to shed a tear and even a smile with each story that we do get the time to read. To say that this experience is humbling is such an understatement. As our folks taught us years ago, "What doesn't kill you will only make you stronger!"

The golf course is open, depending on weather. We have gotten our internet and phone service back. We are working with The Town of Trenton and Washington County on getting the old clubhouse down. Our website is up and operational and we will continue to post updates on it and other social media. We are making positive steps towards normalcy and hope to see you this summer to personally thank you for your support.

The Entire Merkel Family (Traditions Golf)

AMERICAN COMPANIES CHOSEN FOR REBUILDING

Although we haven't signed any contracts yet, we have decided to go with local Businessman, Kraig Sadownikow and American Companies to rebuild "The Lakes". We were impressed by the level of commitment and professionalism that Kraig and his company showed us in the preliminary process. We were able to tour several buildings which they have produced and really like the idea of doing business locally. Their ability to work with a wide variety of building materials and special situations was also very appealing.

Before we can start the planning process, we need to clear a few hurdles with local government. We did have the building tested for asbestos and it was found to be relatively clear. This should allow us to go ahead with the permits to remove the rest of the building and to begin site preparation. So far, the local governing agencies have worked closely with us to move the process ahead and we appreciate their assistance. The next problem will be in defining the flood plain and the limitations on exactly what we can build and where.

Keeping in mind that we are limited in space, money and practicality we are looking for ideas for the new clubhouse. If you have ideas on what should be included in the plans, please drop me an email at wblbobmerkel@gmail.com and I will be sure that the family has a chance to look at your ideas.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED!

This is a list of the top items which have or should be occurring soon at "The Lakes".

1. The 30 new power carts have been delayed at the factory and they sent 20 rental units until the new carts are ready.
2. We replaced the 4 port a john units on the course and at the clubhouse with 5 nicer and bigger units.
3. We have a beer wagon at the courthouse.
4. The computer, credit card and phone systems are working.
5. Volleyball is going ahead as scheduled.
6. Golf leagues will be starting on schedule.
7. The Dacco Trailer with the proshop is up and running.
8. We have several Charity golf events coming up, please check the proshop for details and entrance forms.
9. We have rented Tommy Schwai's Food Trailer for the season and hope to have it operational by May 1.
10. We have ordered an asphalt pad near the volleyball courts for the placement of a tent that will be in place for the season. We will be using

the tent for all events. We were promised early installation of the asphalt, but have to wait for the asphalt plants to open.

11. We have started to reorder items for the pro shop which were lost in the fire. Some items have already come in and others are arriving daily.
12. We expect to have the bev carts running daily and for more hours than we normally did in the past. We are also expecting to increase bar services soon.
13. For safety reasons, we ask that you stay clear of the old building and be cautious this summer as construction continues.
14. We apologize in advance for short tempers. You can't begin to understand the amount of pressure everyone is under right now with so many things up in the air. We are trying our best to keep moving forward with a smile.
15. New handles have been ordered for the pull carts and should be here soon.
16. New score cards have been printed and are available in the pro shop.
17. Tom Merkel and his crew have been working extra hard to make sure the course is in top shape.

THANK YOU!

I know that over the years we would not be where we are today, if we didn't have the support of our many friends, employees, members, and guests. The timely pat on the backs and thoughtful comments when you know we are down, mean so much. Your excitement at wanting to play a round of Oley or simply sit down and talk is truly heart warming. Your concern for our well-being is amazing. Your questioning whether I ate or not today, continues to make me proud to be a part of "The Lakes". Again, making a list of people to thank is really dangerous, because at my age, it is so easy to forget someone very important, and that is the last thing I want to do! But here goes!!!

- ◆ **The Town of Trenton for expediting permits**
- ◆ **Mike and Vicki Krajna for helping check the building for smoke and fire**
- ◆ **Sue and Bob Carbine for helping clear people out of the building**
- ◆ **Wendy Werner for going back into the building to get my coat and car keys**
- ◆ **To the many volunteers who helped transfer materials out of the building and recover the strangest things**
- ◆ **To Key Insurance and Vern and Ellen Bode for their assistance with the paper work for the fire**
- ◆ **To Beer Capitol Distributing for the use of a beer trailer for the season**
- ◆ **The employees for putting up with short tempers and situations that really aren't their fault**



- ◆ **For members and guests who keep smiling, are positive, and try to make something constructive out of this mess**
- ◆ **Bill Cummings for calling in the alarm**
- ◆ **Our many vendors for helping us reconstruct our accounting records**
- ◆ **Midwest Accounting for answering all the dumb questions we knew the answers to, if we would have thought them out**
- ◆ **To Al Bentfield and Dan Schlueter for helping recover the phones and internet**

EVENTS CALENDAR 2021*

MONDAY MORNING SENIOR LEAGUE—Cedar Ridge

MONDAY NIGHT COED LEAGUE

TUESDAY NIGHT CHURCH LEAGUE

**TUESDAY NIGHT COMPETITIVE LADIES LEAGUE—
Starts early May**

**WEDNESDAY MORNING SENIOR LEAGUE—West Bend
Senior Center**

WEDNESDAY NIGHT COED LEAGUE

THURSDAY LADIES SOCIAL LEAGUE

FRIDAY NIGHT COUPLES LEAGUE

MAY 7TH FRIDAY COUPLES LEAGUE

MAY 15TH FAMILY PROMISE OUTING

MAY 17TH FREDONIA LIONS CLUB OUTING

MAY 27TH VOLLEYBALL

JUNE 5TH GOOD SHEPHARD OUTING

JUNE 26TH RANK CANCER OUTING

JULY 17TH JOKERS 5 OUTING

JULY 30TH CONCORDIA FOOTBALL OUTING

JULY 31ST TROOPS 1ST OUTING

AUGUST 12TH STAY THE COURSE

AUGUST 13TH HOLY ANGELS

AUGUST 29TH SHEEHY OUTING

SEPTEMBER 17TH SWINGING FOR SENIORS

SEPTEMBER 19TH GRID IRON CLUB

SEPTEMBER 20TH RYDER CUP

***FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CHECK OUT THE
INFORMATION BOARD IN THE TEMPORARY PRO SHOP
OR ON OUR WEBSITE. www.westbendlakesgolf.com**



One of the nice, if not strange finds after the fire is this hand painted flag I completed, just before the fire.

It is made of barn boards we saved from the original barn at the shop. The boards are over 100 years old and we are looking to hang the flag in the new building when it is completed.