

FIFTEEN YEARS OF FALL FEST

Leaves and excitement were in the air this October during Voyager Village's 15th annual Fall Fest. Everyone was welcome to attend the annual tradition in the Village, which was started by Voyager's own general manager, Steve Johnson.

When Steve came to Voyager, he brought with him a passion for autumn and for growing pumpkins. In 1997, Steve helped establish a Giant Pumpkin Festival in Nekoosa, Wisconsin.

"Back then the only sponsor we could get was from Piggly Wiggly," Steve snickered. "We thank the pig for helping get that event off the ground."

Today, the Nakoosa Giant

Pumpkin Fest is still going strong and tends to attract up to 10,000 people a year annually. Voyager's Fall Fest doesn't quite reach those numbers in attendance, but it has persisted as a beloved event in the community. Steve said that Fall Fest started just as a way for him to display the giant pumpkins he grows right here on the course and decorate the clubhouse, but he realized it could be something much more when he noticed that there were many kids in the village around Halloween.

"There wasn't really much for them to do," he said. "I wanted to give them and their family something they could go out and enjoy together. I'm very

proud of what we did this year; I think the enthusiasm and participation matched the nice weather."

New events for this year's Fall Fest included a Scavenger Hunt and Trunk or Treat. There were new faces around; when asked who at the Scavenger Hunt had been to Fall Fest before, only one hand was raised. The pumpkins for this year were a bit small overall due to deer interference, and Steve wanted to thank Betty Paskausky for her help keeping the patch weeded. Steve estimates the largest ever to come out of the Voyager patch was about 1,000 lbs. We'll have to see if he can grow another giant like that for next year's festival!



ABOVE AND BEYOND: BETTY PASKAUSKY

by Tiffany Fesenmaier,
Membership Coordinator



There are people in this world that are “do” people, and they “do” with passion, drive and integrity. They also “do” for others without a blink of an eye, and they “do” because they see the need and feel it in their heart. I often wish I could be that kind of person; it’s almost embarrassing to admit that we all want to be seen or recognized at some point in our life.

But not Betty Paskausky.

Betty is the queen “do” person that I have had the privilege to get to know here at Voyager Village. Born in Waukegan, IL she was raised with one brother and spent most of her summers and weekends on her grandmother’s farm. Betty had a love for outdoors at an early age and would tell you herself that she was a tomboy. She later attended college at Northern Illinois and received her Bachelor of Science, and then went on to finish her masters at Stout. Her first job out of college was a Phy. Ed. teacher at the high school level, working there for four years. She then left teaching and bought into the franchise Baskin Robbins and owned three different locations in Illinois. However, the time took a toll on her and she realized after a couple of years that working 365 days a year and all day was not what she

wanted. On a weekend get-away with some friends, she went to play golf in Eau Claire, WI and ended up meeting the Superintendent of the Altoona School District. Betty worked in the Altoona School District for 32 years, serving as Special Needs Administrator and School Psychologist, and was active in girls sports and very proud to be.

So, what brought her to Voyager Village? Her friend had a cabin on Long Lake and made the offer that if she maintained it, she could use it whenever she wanted to. She eventually made her way to Birch Island and built the home that she shares with Diane and her two sweet puppies. When Betty learned about Voyager, she was sad to see it had no trails or skiing opportunities. So being the “do” person she is, she started a Ski Club. It was then that Roseanne Berg connected with her, and Betty joined the Trails committee. From there, Betty has worked with a great group of people and have worked diligently and committed to creating and rebuilding eight different trails here at Voyager.

In 2006 she met Steve Johnson, who was the Superintendent of the Golf course at the time, and he began volunteering his time to help her and the rest of the gang on the Trails/Ski Club

committees. In the summer of 2011, the storm that ravaged Burnett County saw a tremendous amount of damage done to the trails, including to Betty’s favorite tree on the Golf Course hole #17. Steve tried to do what he could, but the tree’s injuries had been too great. Roots had been ripped up in the cart path, and Steve told Betty it had to come down. Knowing how much the tree meant to Betty, Steve saved some wood from the tree and built her a table for her home. He presented her the gift during the Ski Club’s annual soup kitchen fundraiser and wrote about the moment in his blog post, “Small but Mighty”. You can read it online here: <https://voyagervillage.wordpress.com/2017/12/31/small-but-mighty/>

Today Betty is still involved with the trails and is still just as passionate about them. If you go to the Johnson Trail, you will find homemade walking sticks that she crafted for the trail— just be sure to return them once you are done! You will see her on the golf course or flying by you in the clubhouse on a mission to get to the next project. You will see her amongst giant men, and know it’s her because she’s the tiny one in the middle they are looking down and listening too. You will see her, and when you



Steve presenting Betty with the table made using her favorite tree.



One of the Ski Club’s famous soup kitchen fundraisers.

ABOVE AND BEYOND: BETTY PASKAUSKY

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do there is this smile that will be on her face and almost dares you not to love her. But whatever you do, don't go on and on about anything that might make her blush—she won't stand there long and will quickly change the subject.

At the end of each day, she is usually in her rocking chair by 5pm drinking a cold Surley, with her two puppies Murphy and Maxi, dinner, and then off to bed. When I asked her what she would like to be remembered for, she quickly changed the subject.

"No," she said. "you have to mention these peoples' names that have been such a big help

to me here at Voyager. Without many of them I would have never been able to do all that I have done."

So—Betty said to Ed, her neighbor for over 20 years, you have been the constant in her life and have always been there when she needed help. To all the members that have come and gone on the trails committee: Steve Johnson, Betty and Bob, Kermit, Dave Swan, Tom, Steve McDonough, Suzie, Walt, and many more.

So I again asked Betty what she wanted to be remembered for, and I knew this was going to be hard for her to say, but she sat there for a moment and looked

up at me and said,

"If people are on the trails, walking, hiking, or cross-country skiing, I hope they will remember me and that they know I had no regrets and can't say "I wish I would have" about my life."

And that, my friends, is why she is my favorite "do" person I have ever met!

The graphic features the Voyager Village logo at the top left, which includes a stylized 'V' with a mountain and water. To the right of the logo, the text 'VOYAGER VILLAGE' is displayed. Below the logo, there are three icons: a red shovel, a blue shovel, and a red shovel. A large blue banner with the text 'Member Maintenance' is centered. Below the banner, a blue box contains the following text: 'Offering driveway plows, yard cleanup, tree pruning/removal, home wellness checks, and snowman building services to all Voyager Members this winter. Submit a work request form through our website on the Member Resources page to schedule your member maintenance services, or pick up a form from the POA office.'



Betty and her crew.

ASK THE BOARD PRESIDENT

This month, Voyager Village Board President Dave Heiss tackles three questions submitted regarding the board of directors and avenues for suggesting change at Voyager.

How does someone get on the board?

"Any member interested in running for the Board can complete an application. They are available in the P.O.A. office prior to the established deadline. Candidates are given the opportunity to present their qualifications to the P.O.A. Board of Directors. Qualified candidates are then given the opportunity to present to the P.O.A. members at a quarterly Board meeting. Members vote for their selection(s) at the annual membership meeting. We are currently restarting a nominating committee who, once in place, will also be available to help interested candidates."

How long is a term on board?

The term for a Board Member is three years starting on the annual meeting date. A Board Member can hold two consecutive terms. Exceptions to the maximum of two terms

occurs when a Board Member is appointed by the Board to fill a mid-term vacancy. After the vacancy term ends, the Board Member can still have two complete terms. After a year wait they can run again.

If a member wants to suggest a change to VV, how does one do that?

We encourage members to provide suggestions and feedback on opportunities for Voyager to improve the experience offered to its members and guests. We recommend you first direct your comments to the Voyager Manager responsible for the appropriate department. If you are not satisfied with the follow up you receive, you can bring your comments to Steve Johnson, General Manager. In the rare event that you still are not satisfied, you can reach out to any Board Member. We have every confidence that our top-notch management team will be helpful, but the other avenues are available to ensure your suggestions are heard and as appropriate acted upon.

Got a question? Forms for submitting questions and comments for consideration in this column can be found on our website at <https://www.voyagervillage.com/member-resources/> or at the POA Office.

WEEKLY WINTER ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Sunday: NFL Watch Party - Broadcasting all games, all day + food and drink specials! Giveaways during Packers and Vikings games and free shots at every touchdown. Broasted Chicken Special, 4pm - Quarter or half chicken served

with coleslaw and choice of potato.

Tuesday: Corn Hole League (Open House), 3pm
DJ Trivia, 6pm

Wednesday: Date Night, 4pm - Join every Wednesday evening for our Surf & Turf special!

Thursday: Wing Night, 4pm - 99 cent bone-in wings served with choice of two sauces. Trivia/Pictionary (alternating every week), 6pm

Friday: Friday Night Fish Fry, 4pm - All you can eat beer battered or broiled haddock

served with coleslaw and choice of potato.

Saturday: Meat Raffle., 3pm
Prime Rib Special, 4pm - 12oz or 16oz prime rib served with choice of vegetable and choice of potato.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monthly Board Meeting, 3pm on November 18th at Killkare Lodge
- Thanksgiving Brunch, 10am-2pm on November 25th at the Bar & Grill.

Date night drinks are on us!

Receive two complimentary glasses of champagne or house wine with the purchase of two entrees

Redeemable on Wednesday nights



VOYAGER VILLAGE
Grill

Coupon must be shown at time of purchase. Not valid with any other offers. Limit one coupon per table. Expires 12/31/21.

PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

The public votes have been tallied, and the winners for May, June, and July have been chosen!

Congratulations to Kevin Stenzel for his photo of a bald eagle on Little Bear Lake for winning first place for May, and Dan Nelson for being the runner-up with his photo called "Little Bear Reflections".

Martha won the month of June with her photo of a black bear, and Michael Hussey came in second place with his photo of kayaking on Birch Island.

Finally, Susan Vander Linden won the month of July with her photo of a bee on flowers, and Walter Fuchs for being the runner-up of his photo of a sunset.

August's entries are up for public voting on our website!



July Winner, by Susan Vander Linden



May Winner, by Kevin Stenzel



June Winner, by Martha

CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES



by Brent Linnemeyer, Food & Beverage General Manager

Events are a time to celebrate the past and what's to come, to reminisce, and a chance to be surrounded by our closest family and friends. Our Food & Beverage Team at Voyager Village is lucky enough to be a part of these special moments. From milestone anniversary celebrations to the day couples say "I do", and family gatherings where people travel from near and far, we get to play a role in ensuring celebrations go off without a hitch.

This season, our Banquet Team executed over 40 events at our various event spaces. Golf tournaments and social gatherings took place at our outdoor tent that overlooks our Championship Golf Course. Weddings, family reunions, birthday parties, celebrations of life, and dinner events were held at Kilcare Lodge. Larger



Cassandra & Cary's Wedding

gatherings like the Annual Labor Day Craft Fair were hosted at our Event Center. Our banquet staff played a tremendous part in executing all of the events that took place. There are hours of set-up, preparation, and tear down that go on behind the scenes well before and after an event takes place. It would be impossible to deliver such wonderful service without them. Geoffrey George, our Executive Chef, and his team are crucial to these events as 99% of the time events are revolved around a meal. The kitchen team spends days prepping for meals up to 300 guests in addition to all the work that comes with operating a full-time restaurant. A huge thank you to our food and

beverage team, front and back of house, that executed all our private and public events. Your hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed.

As we look forward to the 2022 season, we are excited to announce that we will have a bigger focus on more member exclusive events for our community. If you are interested in booking a private event, please reach out to Kelsey at 651-249-7001 or kelsey@voyagervillage.com. Be sure to ask about our member discounts and keep an eye out for a copy of our 2022 Event Calendar!



Tupa Wedding Reception



Fly-In Social Event

WORD FROM A&E

from Tom Heenan, chairman of Architectural & Environmental committee

One of the most misunderstood rules written out in the covenants is regarding "when you need a permit from the A&E committee to do home improvements or construction on your property". To help all of our members be on the same page, we've compiled information about this process below.

When do you need a permit from the A & E committee?

Any time you alter external appearance, or make improvements to, the buildings on your lot. For instance: adding additional out buildings, painting, shingles, fences, altering drainage pattern, combining lots, or adding a septic.

Where do I find this application?

The POA office has applications that you can either pick up there, or you can view and print applications from our website on the "Member Resource" page under "Voyager Life". <https://www.voyagervillage.com/member-resources/>

One last important piece of this application is that many times you will need different permits and approved applications through the county and town. But before you do that, apply with the A & E committee first because of two reasons:

- 1) The County cost money, and the application process here is free.
- 2) The county must abide by the county rules and regulations. We must adhere to that as well, but the covenants may be more restrictive than what the county is allowing on certain things.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

If you leave the Village for warmer weather in the wintertime or if you're just leaving town for the holidays, it is essential to make certain your vacant home is properly winterized before you leave. Northern Wisconsin can get intensely cold and if precautions aren't taken, you could end up coming home to serious and expensive damage. We've made the following checklist below to help avoid any unwanted surprises when you return.

- 1.) Turn off the water supply. The most important thing you need to do is shutting off your water supply. Leaving the water on when the lines aren't going to be used can freeze the water in the line, leading to a leak or burst pipe. Shut off your water at the main valve, or if you have a well, shut the breaker to the pump.

- 2.) Drain the waterlines. After you shut off your water, you'll need to make sure water is not left in the pipes. Drain the waterlines by opening all faucets in your home and flushing all toilets. Allow the water to run until it becomes a slow drip, and after the toilets have drained their tanks, flush them one more time to empty the bowls. If you are going to be shutting off the pilot light to your water heater, you'll want to drain it as well.

- 3.) Insulate pipes. Whether or not you turn off your water, it's a good idea to wrap insulation around your pipes, such as the ones leading to and from your water heater, any pipes exposed outdoors or in a crawl space, etc.

- 4.) Turn down the heat. You don't want to turn your furnace off completely; instead, turn your thermostat down to about 60 degrees to keep your home systems and components near room temperature, where they

are meant to be. Your heating bill will be less than the cost of potential repairs.

- 5.) Unplug all appliances. If you leave the power on, unplug appliances, including microwave ovens and TVs. This way you'll avoid the risk of fire if there should be a faulty switch or other issue.

- 6.) Throw out the trash. Don't forget to empty all your trash cans before you leave. You'll also want to rid your refrigerator of any food that could go bad while you're gone. Take this out with the trash too.



OUT AND ABOUT



by Steve Johnson, General Manager

Fall is the favorite time of the year for myself and many others—and for good reason. One driving factor for this is the sheer beauty of the landscape, painted by the world's most talented artist. No corner is painted quite the same, and no corner of the great Wisconsin Northwoods is missed. For those of you that like to get out, the landscape of Burnett County and Voyager Village is the perfect place to explore. Whether you want to drive in a car, ride a bike, canoe, take a UTV ride down the trails or just walk, there is always uniqueness waiting for you to see.

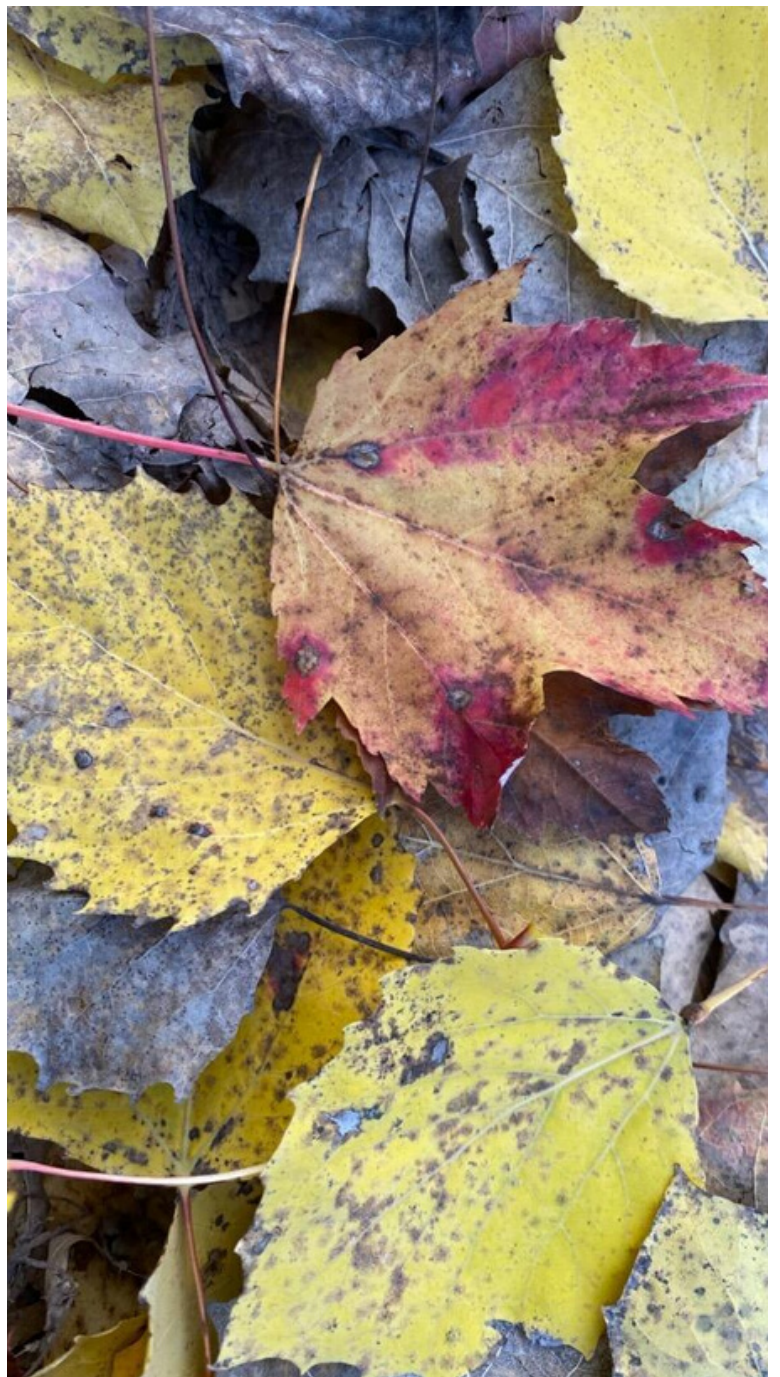
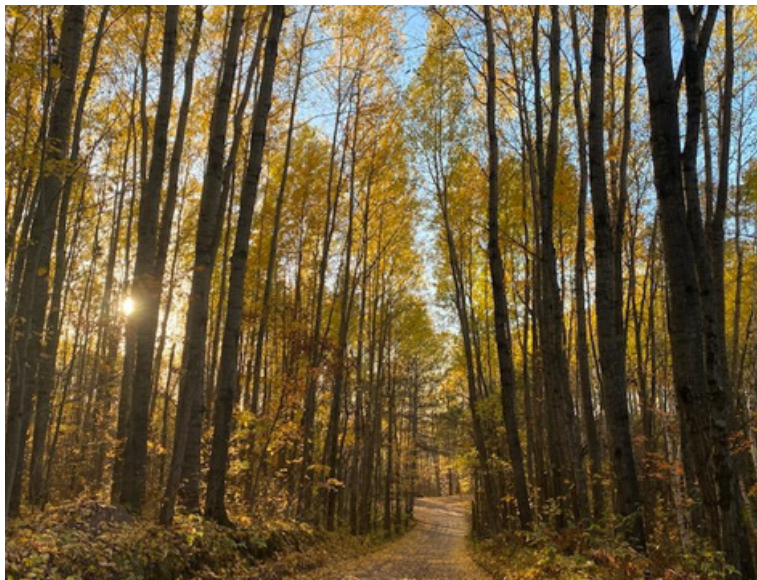
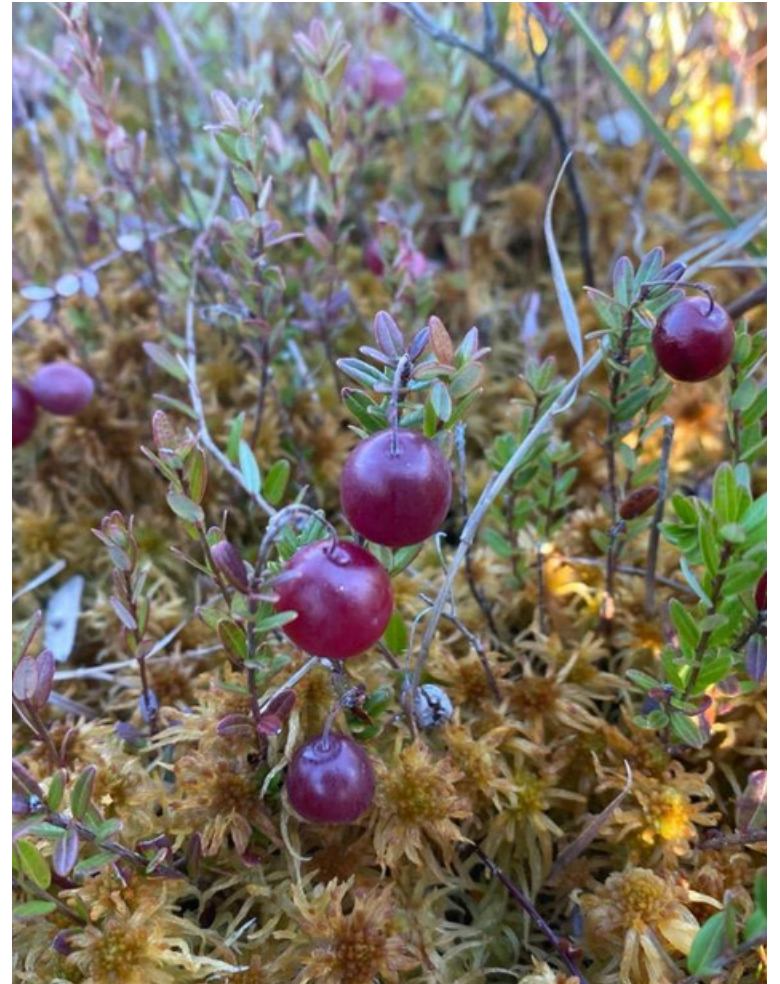
The other week I set out on one of my own personal journeys in the county forest to find and pick some wild cranberries. Yes, you heard me right—to pick

some wild cranberries. If you haven't done this, here are a few tips. The best time to pick wild cranberries is right after we have had a few light frosts; these cold temperatures will increase the sugar content of the berries, which is normally more desirable as otherwise they can be incredibly tart. They love to grow on the edges of acidic bogs, most of the time mixed in with grasses, sedges, and sphagnum moss. Don't just be looking for a red sea of berries like you see on TV, as that isn't going to happen. These plants are less than a foot tall in the wild, so they hide well. However, they can be quite plentiful in good situations, but you still must be on top of them to see them. You can look for some of these county-owned wetlands or bogs on the county GIS system on your phone, pin it and start your journey. Make sure you have your rubber boots on as these things are growing in very wet places. This is a high intensity search as the conditions are normally soft and very uneven and unstable underneath you in these bogs.

If you are unsuccessful in finding them, don't worry as I'm sure you will be blessed with seeing a lot of great things on your trip and there are plenty of

berries always in the grocery store. But to me, there is no comparison in taste and the feeling of self-satisfaction if you're successful.

Here's a little background info about cranberries: in 2019, Wisconsin was responsible for 59% of the nation's cranberry haul, with the production of 4.67 million barrels. Wisconsin's economy gains roughly 4,000 jobs and \$1 billion from cranberry production, making it the state's most profitable fruit. With a number that large, it is no surprise that Wisconsin leads not only the country in cranberry production but also the world. Wisconsin is home to around 250 cranberry bogs covering approximately 21,000 acres of land in 20 of Wisconsin's counties. Wisconsin's acidic soil and the abundance of fresh water that makes Wisconsin the perfect home to cranberry production. In fact, cranberries are a historic fruit in Wisconsin that the state's Native inhabitants took great care of and enjoyed. So, if you ever looking for a fall adventure, this is one I highly recommend—or at least hopefully I will make you appreciate that little red bag in the grocery store this time of year.



HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST WINNERS



Best Individual



Best Couple's Costume



Scariest Costume



Most Creative Costume

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The board of directors has decided to reinstate the nominating committee. We are asking for volunteers to participate on this committee. The primary responsibility is to solicit qualified candidates to run for the Voyager Village Board of Directors. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact the Tiffany in the POA office for an application.

Tiffany@voyagervillage.com or 715-733-7004.

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RECREATION RECAP



by Ryan Christopherson, Director of Golf and Recreation

What a golf season! This season was definitely one for the books. We want to first thank all the members, guests, and the public for coming out and supporting the golf course this year! Did you know that if we play into November, we will have been open for play in 9 consecutive months; unbelievable. With that said, we will be close to 22,000 rounds of golf this year when back in 2019 we did right around 16,500.

I wanted to touch on some season highlights you may have forgotten:

We started playing golf on March 20th this year.

- We helped raise almost \$50,000 for our 1st Responders.
- Our new Ladies Club Champion is Deb "bubba" Watson and the Men's Club Champion is Randy Nelson.
- Had a great turnout, about 100, for our Voyager Shoot-Out, with new champions: Bruce Blom & Bob Wold.

Just to name a few. We also said good-bye to some golf shop help; Sue Oslund retired from the golf shop after many years along with many years as a lifeguard. She was a valuable asset to Voyager Village and we thank her for being a team player and making Voyager better! Jake Sargent left us after 13 years in the golf department to work at a golf club in Arizona. Jake started here when he was 14 years old and worked his way up from an Outside Service Attendant to the Assistant Golf Professional when he left. He is trying to further his career in the golf business and we wish him nothing but success in the future! It was a memorable year in a lot of ways, but a great year nonetheless!

host your

Holiday Party

at Voyager Village

large party dinner reservations | private parties at Kilcare Lodge

We are now booking holiday parties for groups up to 100 total guests. Call or email us today to find out more information. Space is limited.



kelsey@voyagervillage.com | 651-249-7001
28851 Kilcare Road, Danbury, WI 54830



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