

## Collections #4

Never say never. It turns out there are so, so many more kinds of "collections" you could put together. It depends on what is your interest or passion.

Be sure to check out all the other topnotch and timely columns on TheVillageCollector.com – the always interesting "*Just So You Know (JSYK)*" by David Spears, Thea Heyink's "*The Creation Station*," "*Phil and Sue's Village*" (from England!), "*From Italy: Villaging in Europe*" by Peppe Apuleo (fascinating!), "*A Dickens Christmas*" and "*Hauntsville*" by Larry Treadwell, "*Tips & Trix*" by Mark Frendo, and soon to be more by webmaster Bill Channell. ***Please keep visiting the Village Videos page and watch, watch, watch.*** There will be a new batch of village videos starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month! So many ideas, so little time... and not enough money.



In the last column we found ways for the little people to have gainful employment. I looked at ways to work at a Budweiser brewery. There are many other breweries. D56 has, for example, the Wolfsteiner Brewery (Alpine Village #56239), Chiswick Brewery (Dickens Village #4025254), The Brew House (CIC #4036491), and 56 Street Brewery (Snow Village #4056682).

I live in an urban area, just across the river from Cincinnati. I can walk from our house to six active microbreweries.

Not to be left behind, Lemax has the Yulesteiner Brewery (#05073), Bottoms Up Brewery (#75270), The Bavarian Brewery (#65104), Delaney and Sons Brewery (#35556), Olde Firehouse Pizza and Brewery (#45761), Derby and Sons Brewing Company (#35034), and Beersmith Row façade (#05618). There is even a Home Brewing Supplies store (#85329).

St. Nicholas Square has the Stone Brewery, Steiner's Brewery, and SNS Brewery. Santa's Workbench has the Barley Mow Brewery. Holiday Time has Pete's Brewery. And, Heartland Valley has no breweries (?!).

Don't like beer? Do you fancy wine instead? You could build your own Napa Valley or Finger Lakes region with wineries.

The hardest part would be building vineyard grape fields (which should be ideally placed on a terraced hill). Lemax has Valley Vineyard (#84855) grapes, Valley Vineyard Merlot Grapes (#94002), and Valley Vineyard Ruby Grapes (#94003). They are hard to find and expensive accessories. I've seen villages where people crafted their own vineyards.





Photo by Thomas Cramer

There is no shortage, however, of wineries to collect. D56 has Chateau Valley Winery (Snow Village #799926), Vineland Estates Winery (Snow Village #55339), Grapevine Winery (Snow Village #6000635), Garden Valley Vineyards (Seasons Bay #53446), and North Pole Winery (North Pole #6009765).

Lemax wins the prize with Oak Grove Winery (#55011), Winter Arbor Winery (#45745), Lawson's Winery (#85706), Cedar valley Winery (#15244), Stella Creek Winery (#15259), The Cork and

Cask Winery (#35588), Fine Harvest Winery (#95343), The Montego Vineyard (#95858), and The Hillside Winery façade (#35027). In the core village you could have Village Wine and Beer Garden (#65111), The Wine Merchant (#25936), Carmella's Wine and Chocolate Tasting Room (#35062), Valley Winery Cheese Shop (#55971), and Green Valley Wine & Cheese Market (#45679).



More employment for the little people can be found at St. Nicholas Square's Winery (2006), Winter Winery (2012), and Winery (2018). Santa's Workbench has The Bunches of Grapes Winery and Crystal Creek Winery. Holiday Time made the Sun Valley Winery and Holiday Inspirations made the Grape and Grain Winery. Whew!

That beer and wine has to be consumed by the little people that populate our villages. I can't even begin to list all the bars, pubs, ale houses, and Irish pubs (D56 and Lemax) that could comprise a collection (Prost!!).

Little people have to eat, too. Pick your favorite kinds of food and you can start a collection of these types of restaurants:

- Italian Restaurants (why stop there? Let's make an entire Little Italy Neighborhood – restaurants, bakeries, pizzerias, gelaterias, shops, and churches)
- Mexican Restaurants
- French Restaurants
- BBQ Joints
- Seafood Restaurants
- McDonald's Restaurants
- Restaurants that have a greenhouse
- Diners (D56, Lemax, Coca Cola Town Square, St. Nicholas Square)
- Drive-In Restaurants
- Pizza Restaurants
- Pancake Houses
- Donut Shops
- Ice Cream Shops
- Coffee Shops (you could even collect coffee and book combo shops!)
- Tea Shops (prefer tea over coffee?)
- Grocery Stores (modern and/or retro)
- Farmer's Markets

If you build a large city display (I've seen many of these on YouTube and Facebook), you can make districts such as:

- Museums
- Arts District
- Theaters and Music Halls
- Dance Halls and Dance/Ballet Schools
- Fountains – water and fiber optic and frozen

Have you ever noticed how many buildings are corner buildings? All the village brands have them. To me that begs for city blocks or partial blocks composed of all types of corner buildings. They could be one-sided or full four-sided blocks, with stores, shops, and residential buildings between the corners. Now you have a corner building collection.

Here is a collection I've seen before:

## ➤ Casinos and Riverboats

Kathy Gibson used to publish YouTube videos of her immense and detailed Christmas village. Now she does smaller displays. She showed us her Las Vegas in:

@8:10 of Kathy's 2013 Christmas Village Very Detailed A Must See (14:58)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNHNn2Lhtpcandt=531s>,  
and

@ 12:17 of Kathy's Christmas Village 2014 Final Edition (23:26)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhyxV3HMzcwdt=178s>.



Where are the kids going to play while the adults are gambling?  
How about a collection of:

## ➤ Arcades

Let's stay with more potential big city collections. You could have:

- Department Stores
- Large Hotels (D56, Lemax, SNS and others)
- Boutique Hotels (D56 The Grand Hotel #4044790, The Ritz Hotel #59730, St. Anthony Hotel #50067, The Prescott Hotel #805536, The Timbers Hotel #58742, The Manhattan #6009746; Lemax The Argyle Hotel #75225, Park Hotel #75536, The Regis Hotel #75571, Fremont Hotel #55963, Gaslamp Hotel Goldsmith #25683, Hotel Belle #95856; SNS Grand Eagle Hotel, Flamingo Hotel, and The Elm Hotel).
- Night Clubs, Jazz, Blues (D56, Lemax)
- Car Dealers – new and used D56 CIC Hensley Cadillac, Buick and GM; SV Village Used Car Lot; SV Uptown Motors Ford; SV MacKenzie's Chevrolet; Lemax Superior Automobiles, Rothchild Automobiles, and Rod's Car Lot.
- Automotive Shops (Lemax has an infrastructure of these)
- Barbershops (My barber's wife decorates his shop's inside window each year for Christmas. I found out she also has a small village at home. I've been buying inexpensive barbershops when I find them and donating them to him so she can build a row of barbershops inside his shop window.)
- Pharmacies (if you were a pharmacist, maybe you could collect drug stores and pharmacies. Who wouldn't want lots of competition?)
- Doctor's Offices
- Hospitals
- Baseball Parks (D56 – Yankee Stadium old and new, Old Comiskey Park, Wrigley Field, Ebbets Field, Fenway Park; Hawthorne Village – Yankee Stadium, Comiskey Park, Wrigley Field, Fenway Park, Busch Stadium; Coca Cola Main Street Collection Sports Stadium)
- Football Stadiums (D56, Hawthorne Village)
- Basketball Arenas?? Why not a D56 CIC Madison Square Garden?
- Greenhouses and Conservatories and Nurseries
- Musical Stores (D56, Lemax, SNS, Heartland Valley)
- Piano Stores (D56, Lemax)
- Jewelers (D56, Lemax)
- Meat Stores/Butcher Shops
- Bakeries
- Book Stores
- Hair and Nail Salons, Beauty Palors, and Spas
- Christmas Shops and Stores (so many!)

➤ Parade – Floats, Bands, Marchers, Police, Balloons, Watchers



I had to assemble quite the collection to build and display a moving parade. A friend of mine designed and constructed a moving circular roadway for me. I had the two Lemax parade floats – Toy Float (#13911) and Santa Float (#93768) – but they were too wide for the roadway (“Measure twice, cut once”). I did have the Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street float, though.

If you build a parade, somebody must be there to view it. That means collecting lots of little people “watchers.”

You can see my parade at this link: [The Parade 2020 - YouTube](#).

After accomplishing as much as I could with a parade, it was time to move it along. I gifted the moving roadway to the most creative villager I know – pammyj100. She's done two amazing things with it already ([2021 Department 56/Lemax Christmas Village - YouTube](#) and [My 2022 CHRISTMAS VILLAGE - YouTube](#)). The rest of the marchers and items in the parade were sold on eBay.

Okay, let's leave the big city and consider some more kinds of collections. Remember, we are allowing cross-branding. Here are some collections for consideration:

- Treehouses
- Toys for Tots – Holiday Time (Walmart) has a small collection of buildings and figures on this theme.
- Log Cabins
- Lake Houses
- Ice Fishing Shanties and Figures
- Veterinary Clinics
- Pet Shops – cats and dogs, and their associated buildings. Lemax has quite a variety. An example would be:

Madastiville It's a Dog's World (1:54)

Madastiville

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvUKb6wniCY>



How about a village with no cars allowed? It would have to be filled with:

- Bike Shops and Bicycle Riders and Pedicabs

Here are some more thoughts:

- Motels (D56 The Honeymooner Motel, D56 The Flamingo Motel, D56 Harley Davidson Roadside Motel, CCTS Sleepytime Motel, HV Simpsons Sleep-Eazy Motel)
- Bed and Breakfasts
- Ski Chalets and Lodges
- Covered Bridges (D56, Lemax, Heartland Valley, Santa's Workbench)
- Stands, Stalls and Kiosks for festivals, Christmas Fair, or Oktoberfest buildings and figures. D56 and Lemax have plenty to choose from, and other village brands do, too.
- Boy Scout Camp (BSA, Holiday Time)
- Cowboy Town (Holiday Time, House of Lloyds)
- Barbie Village (Hawthorne Village, D56)
- Toy Stores (all manufacturers)
- Airports (D56 Blue Skies Airport, D56 Snow Village Airport, D56 CIC Deerfield Airport, CCTS Municipal Airport, Santa's Best Copper Canyon Airport). You will need runways, airplanes, pilots, flight attendants, and traveler figures.
- Working Waterfalls (D56, Lemax, or DIY)
- Musicians and Bands Playing (D56, Lemax)
- Flying Saucers and UFOs
- Fireworks (D56, Lemax, others)
- Craftsman Tool Stores and Repair Shops (Lemax Sears)
- Police Stations (What? You have a lot of crime in your village?)

Here are collections I have because of my occupation:

- Golf Stores
- Golf Pro Shops and Country Club Buildings
- Golf Carts
- Little golfing people (very hard to find)

What is the most popular Christmas flowering plant? Another small collection I've started is anything related to:

- Poinsettias (shops, little people, vehicles, vendors)

You could collect house types for a neighborhood:

- Brick
- Victorian
- Wood Siding
- Stucco
- Stone
- Modern
- Row Houses
- Mansions
- Fiber Optic
- Houses with Musical Animated Light Shows (like the D56 Dancing Lights House #805502)
- Suburban (it's hard to find Cape Cod style houses)
- Apartments

I've collected multiples of some houses for CIC neighborhoods. Where I live there are clusters of identical or very similar brick houses on certain streets. You can paint them different colors and change vegetation and fencing around them.

There are so many churches for Christmas villages. Most displayers prefer a good mix for the different denominations. I have found a small collection of:

- Churches with special stained-glass windows – Lemax St. Luke's Church #55173 (nativity), St. Matthew's Church #45116 (lamb of God), Riverside Memorial #65204 (multiple windows), Mountaincrest Chapel #75260 (out-stretched figure), and Reunion Chapel #75251R (dove).



Every villager should collect trees, bushes, and hedges. A primary villager rule is: ***You can't have too many trees!*** Make sure they don't hide details for viewing angles. If they are lighted, keep the blinking down to a minimum.

Don't forget collections of types of little people. You will need both action figures and watchers. Here are some to consider:

- Small Nativities for churches and some houses.
- Figures in wheelchairs or using walkers or canes.
- Afro-American figures
- Soccer Players (Lemax)
- Figures under an umbrella (make it rain in the video, e.g., [Photos App 3D Effects - YouTube](#))



Are you having a population explosion of little people? If so, then maybe you'll need to collect:

- Daycare centers

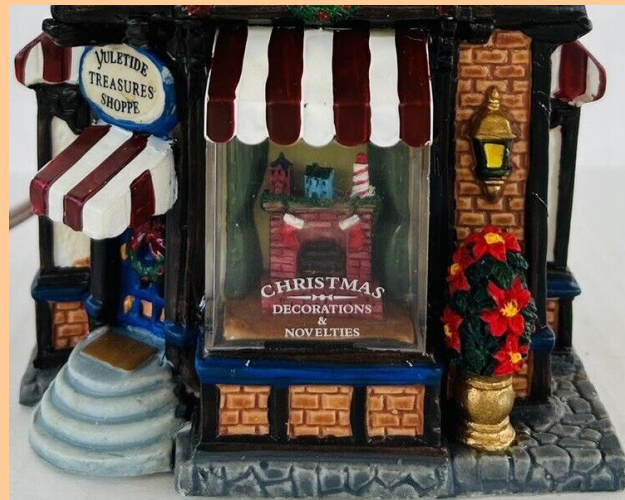


In perusing eBay, I've found that Lemax has a large and diverse collection of trick or treater little people. I'm almost tempted...

One last piece of news about collections – I told you about my quest to collect all the buildings that had a tiny 3D village in a window ("Villages in a Window," September 2022). Well, there are **three more** buildings – two old and one brand new. Exclusive through Michael's, Lemax issued the Cranberry Hill Christmas Boutique (#35023), which I think is a façade.



And back in 2000 as a Club Members Exclusive, Lemax issued the Yuletide Treasures Shoppe (#05537). It has a fireplace mantle with two buildings and a lighthouse. This building is the second one with a 3D village inside; the first one was D56's Collectors Club House (#54800) with accompanying little shopping couple, and still one of the very best villages in a window.



And, exclusive through Long's Drugs stores, Lemax issued one of the most citified (of four different Long's Drugs that I know of) #75609 in 2007, a corner building.



Just So You Know (JSYK)... Applebee's restaurants (how many of you have collected this building? It's D56 #06230 from 2004, with only 4,000 made) has a 2023 holiday season commercial featuring a Christmas village:

[NEW Holiday Combos are here at Applebee's for the holiday season! - YouTube.](#)

Ah, collections... I'm going to leave you with a villager's poem I found, written by Don Zook.

### **The Night Before Christmas**

'Twas the night before Christmas and through the city  
The boxes unpacked, the town looking pretty.  
Each Villager looked at his houses with pride  
As they checked on the front and the back and each side.

They all know the joys of the greatest of seasons  
But still they were perplexed as they searched for the reasons.  
What strangeness it was to be ruled by obsession  
To have every house, every piece in possession.

To be sure there are things every Villager needs  
But when they buy houses, desire recedes.  
"I've spent too much money, I'm down in a hole,"

The Villager said as he unpacked North Pole.

They check in their savings and things they could pillage  
If only to purchase just one more small village.  
The villages shined by the chimney with care  
With the hopes that new pieces would soon be there.

But then there was heard a loud knock at the door,  
And quickly the house filled with people galore.  
Suddenly, there was the answer he sought.  
The reason he traded and bargained and bought.

These were more than mere houses that light up at night.  
They were moments that everyone clings to so dear.  
Now it was clear, and he knew why he did it.  
Stop buying the villages? ...HEAVEN FORBID IT!

They were filled with excitement and anticipation.  
There were handshakes and hugs and friendly elation.  
And then all at once, their voices grew low  
As they looked at the village, each house aglow.

The Villager watched as they stared at the scene.  
They seemed so enchanted, their faces serene.  
But the thing that the Villager saw with his guests,  
Was something the season always seems to suggest,

At this moment in time, there was warmth and caring.  
The villages gave them a feeling of sharing.  
And there in the eyes of the children this night  
Reflections of wonderment, seeing the light—

The joys and the laughter it brought all the small ones,  
The old and the young and the short and the tall ones.  
They came for the feeling and looked on in awe  
And the memories were etched by the things that they saw.

They spoke not a word as they each saw the glow  
And remembered the things they had done long ago.  
Then he heard them proclaim as they left for the night,  
"What a pleasure to see such beautiful sight."

Now, all alone, the collector stood still...

And just for a moment, the world seemed so bright.  
And a smile broke out as he looked at the sight.  
To be sure, no one heard it as he turned out the light.  
As he said, "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night."

You can watch this poem set to music on a YouTube video I published:

2017 Christmas Village the Night Before Christmas (3:55):  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1iSfM\\_1imHI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1iSfM_1imHI).

If you have a village collection, show your village to the world!  
Put it on YouTube. We want to see it!

In my next column on The Village Collector, I don't know what I'm going to write about. I'm out of words for today and I'll try to do better next time.

Questions, comments and/or suggestions are always welcome.  
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Photo by Brian McKnight