

JUST SO YOU KNOW! . . . JANUARY 15, 2022

IDEAS, HINTS, AND OPINIONS

BY DAVID SPEARS

. . . Abbreviations (**I use**): NCC – National Council of 56 Clubs • JSYK – Just so you know! • TVC – The Village Collector • VDL – Village D-Lights • D56 – Department 56 • VN or VNCC – Village North Collectors Club – See more abbreviations on page 2.

. . . **Dates of note:** February 2, *Ground Hog Day* – February 14, *Valentine's Day* – February 12, *Lincoln's Birthday* – February 16, Village North meeting - February 22, *Washington Birthday* – March 14, *Daylight Savings Time Begins* – March 17, *St. Patrick's Day*. All, **well most**, offer vignette ideas/suggestions.

. . . *Dept. 56 Village 2022 brochures are available*, order early; they ran out last year. 2022 brochure: \$6.00; Shipping, \$6.95; Taxes, \$1.14; Total, \$14.09. <https://department56.com/>



• *Rosie Hurtado* has been named as the Executive Editor for the new *'Model Cars, Trains & Villages'* magazine; *Linda Di Masso* as the Assistant Executive Editor. They are planning on Spring 2022 for the first issue.

. . . Articles and club activities for the *National Council of 56 Clubs* February/March *'Club Connection'* are due February 1, 2022. I know earlier would be a big help to the editor, Judy Severance.

. . . A lot of different stuff to see in the *'Coach is Here'* in *The Village Collector* - by Bill Channell. • *'Show Your Village'* - Jim Peter's *Show Your Village To The World*, new column is titled *'Video Transition Effects.'* More for me to learn. • You can also visit past issues of *'Hauntsville'* and *'Dickensville'* by displays aren't possible this year. Larry Treadwell. Larry is moving and new We will all miss his displays and words. • Brian Vaill new offering; *'Lionel Trains for Christmas.'* • Thea Heyink is now on *TVC* with her *'The Creation Station'* projects; the newest, *'2021 Christmas Village on Three Shelves.'* • *Phil & Sue Adkins*, Northampton, England. Check out their December 29th words. • Past *'Just so you know!'* columns on the site. <http://thevillagecollector.com/>



. . . **Region VI:** *Northern Lights Collectors Club*, Twin Cities, MN, Tom Iacoviello, tiacoviello@yahoo.com • *Village North Collectors Club*, Duluth MN/Superior, WI, Adelaide Cline, amcline@chartermi.net • *City Lights*, Mankato, MN, Mary Zellmer, mzellmer@hickorytech.net • *D56 Builders and Treasurers*, Janesville, Beloit WI/Rockford, IL, Charlene Swansboro.

. . . Additional abbreviations (I might use): AV – *Alpine Village* • CIC – *Christmas In The City* • DV – *Dickens' Village* • NEV – *New England Village* • NP – *North Pole Village* • SV – *Original Snow Village*.

• <https://d56club.com/> - the location of a **Dept. 56 oriented forum**. I joined, *'davidg'* is me. • I've posted messages, answered/asked a few questions and added my image to the forum. Some of the nuance's still have me a bit confused; but I'll get it (and they have help available). Stop by and say *'Hi!'* to *'davidg.'*

. . . *'Otto's Granary'* has **discounts** on Dept. 56 Village items; it's well worth a look. ottosgranary.com/product-category/christmas/department-56/ - 4119 Marsha Sharp Freeway, Lubbock, TX 79407 (806) 797-1728

. . . I wrote twenty columns in 2021, over 2,000 words each – *Just so you know!* – **Thank you** for the comments, questions, suggestions and corrections; please keep them coming.



- *Tigger 'Ecstatic Elf'* could be a leader with our many clowns. He's tall and looks like he's in charge☺. Disney Traditions by Jim Shore.

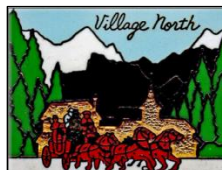


- *'Santa Riding FAO Schwarz Train'* – by Jim Shore, would make a good accessory for the Dept. 56 Christmas In The City 'FAO Schwarz' building. It is large, 7.68 in H x 2.95 in W x 8.27 in L, but I'm sure someone could make it work. Maybe not in a normal display, but certainly in a vignette.



... The Dept. 56 *'Steen's Maple House'* vignette was featured with a **calendar page** background. This was in our China cabinet. Note: I was asked to show examples of our calendar use.

Village North Collectors Club



Duluth, MN – Superior, WI

... The next *Village North Collectors Club dinner meeting* will be on Wednesday, January 19, 5:00 p.m. Thanks to Gerry, we have a reservation for ten people in the dining room of *'Fosters,'* 4767 W Arrowhead Rd, Hermantown, MN 55811 (down the road from the Hermantown *Menard's*). Foster's phone number: (218) 727-7002.

... *"If you never change your mind, why have one?"* • Fortune cookie

... **Thanks** to Jim Peters; he identified Lemax *'Plein Air Portrait'* and *'Cozy Christmas'* for me.



- How often do **we get a choice**; which one should I chose for our ski hill? The Luville 'Ski Route' or the Lemax 'What's Next?' We do feature both snowboards and skis; one has lights, the other not. The Luville version will blend in with our hill, the Lemax Run Map is brightly colored and a bit taller. I can't find/hold either one in my hands to make the decision.



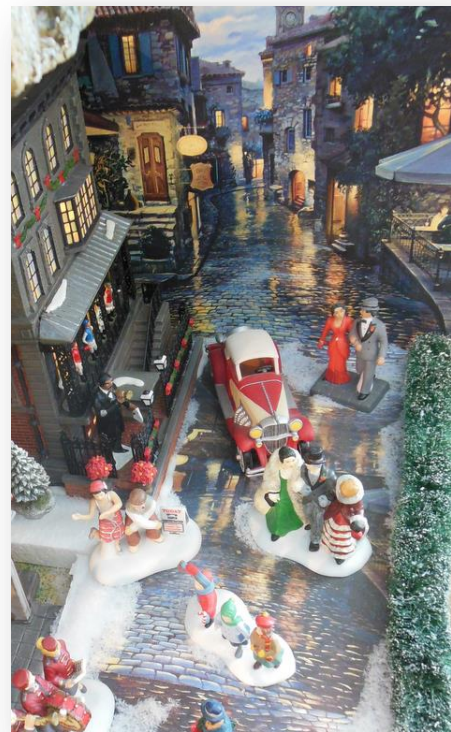
. . . Please let me know when/if you **read** 'Just so you know!' on 'The Village Collector' website.

. . . Anna McPherson, vicepresidentncc@ncc56.com, posted another **vignette contest**. You can find details on the *NCC56 Facebook Page*, Jan 10, 2022. NCC members have until the end of the month to enter. The 'tease line' is: 'So who of you added pieces to your collection AFTER your display was built??? Either a gift or self-indulged - we've all been there - unable to fit 'er in.' Rules on FB page.

. . . **Lemax 2022** - We usually see them on-line before the end January. So far I've found only hints. Please let me know when and if - thanks!



- I guess we can't make a display, or at least keep track, until 99 days before Christmas.' 'Lamplighter Countdown,' Lemax, 2017 - Approx. size (HxWxD) 4.57x6.30x2.99 inches. Note: My math skills wouldn't/couldn't tell me the actual date.



- A **calendar page** background is immediately behind the couple on the street. The automobile, and other people on the street, are placed on copies of the same calendar. Our 2017-2018 display.

. . . 'For some there's therapy. For the rest of us there is chocolate.' • **Happy Valentines Day** • Saw these words in the newsletter of the *Garden State Village Collectors Club*.

. . . Dept. 56 has **produced a video** for their web site. It shows the process of making new products; from original idea, design, to customer sales. Video will be on-line before the end of January.



. . . Look what I found; another canvas/easel, artist/muse. Do you think someone is sending them my way? I saw this on: <http://thevillagecollector.com/2021-hall-of-fame-copy> - Number 12. Iris S. "Lemax, Luville & Department 56 Christmas Village 2020 Date: 2020." Location: Netherlands • Never seen a village 'glass blower' before. Not sure we need it, but I sure like it, a lot!

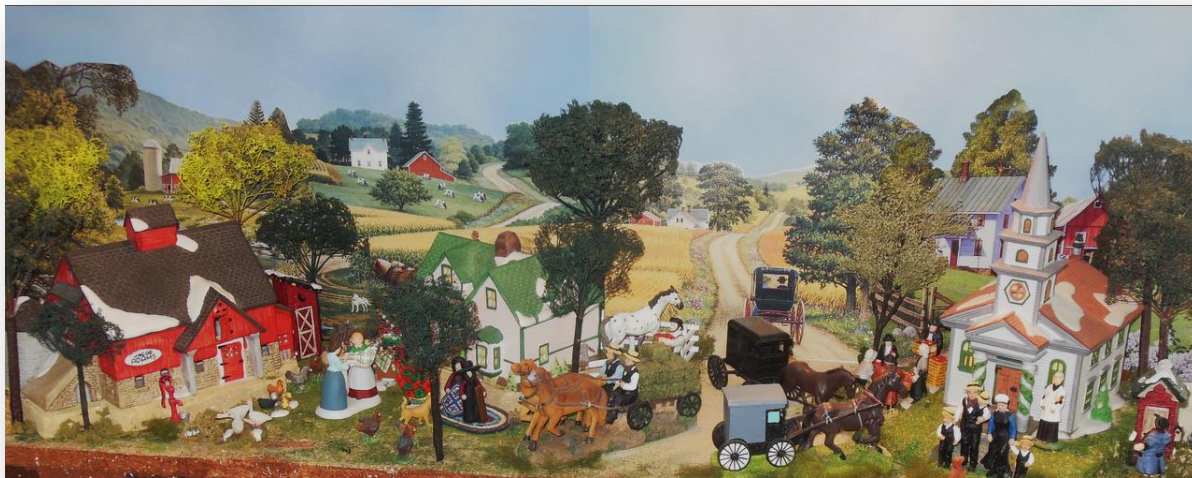


• The Lemax **facades** have always attracted me. This web site below shows twenty-three choices. These are the seven I like best. I've listed the businesses included in most. The buildings are approx. 10 x 12 x 5 inches. The smaller number is the depth. Remember they look 'deep.' - 'Wesley Pub;' 'Seaside Christmas' (Bistro, Anna's Clothier, The Strand Café, Molen Hotel), 'English Lane,' (The Curio Shoppe, Prince of Wales Pub). 'Ye Olde Cobblestone Road,' (Belle's Bon Bons, Nick's Craft Beers, The Cheese Wheel); 'Tuscany Hills,' (Ada's Olive Oil, Ristorante Toscana - like the look); 'Venice Canal Shops,' (Pizzeria, Old Venice Ristorante); 'Wintergarten Lane,' (Pub, Christmas Shop, PretzelHaus).

<https://www.lemaxcollection.com/village/general-products/facades/>



• Mike Goode died January 5th. He was a former President of the National Council of 56 Clubs. Mike's commitment and dedication to the NCC, and his Texas clubs, will never be forgotten. Linda and I have good memories of Mike Goode; we always looked forward to meeting with him at gatherings. I've continued to communicate with Mike on various village subjects. We miss him already. Our thoughts and prayers are with Trisha, his family, and friends.



• Above is an example of our 'calendar background' for a display. The blue sky is a spray painted poster board; the hills are four calendar pages; trees 'hide' the page differences. The continuing road, under the wagons, is sawdust. Linda does the backgrounds and makes the trees. Note: We understand this is not an Amish church.

... **Sources to order Village D-Lights, Qtr. 4, 2021** - the special *New England Village Retirement* issue. • On January 7th, I received the following information from Polly Clark. She said the cost, including shipping, is \$12.95 ea. Contact one of the following to order:

1. *Village D-Lights* – Polly Clark - 1-800-765-1690
2. *Millie's Hallmark, Gifts, Collectibles & Christmas* | 5027 East Elliot Road, Phoenix, AZ 85044 - 1-480-893-3777
3. *Collector Bookstore*, 724 Delaware St, Leavenworth, KS 66048 - 1-913-651-0600

... Received this 'info' from three readers, and Linda, concerning the most recent *JSYK*. They said: "I didn't like the text either side of the picture. Initially I just read all the way down the left side, and it seemed a bit weird! Then reading across the picture for each line didn't work for me." Linda agreed, too tough to enjoy reading. • I will very much limit this in the future.

... Additional abbreviations (I might use): AV – *Alpine Village* • CIC – *Christmas In The City* • DV - *Dickens' Village* • NEV – *New England Village* • NP – *North Pole Village* • SV – *Original Snow Village*.

... Do Dept. 56 North Pole elves look different this year; just wondering? Not sure if it's coloring, clothing, attitude or? Maybe a new D56 artist? Anyone know?

... Current TV shows I watch: '*Blue Bloods*;' '*NCIC*' (original); '*Bull*;' '*New Amsterdam*;' '*FBI*;' Network/local news; Univ. of Minn. – Duluth, hockey; '*Vera*;' '*Doc Martin*;' '*Great Gardening*;' '*60 Minutes*;' '*CBS Sunday Morning*.' When time is available, I also watch some 'old' TV series and assorted live sports. • I was asked this question; no idea why.



• Tim Stephenson passed away on January 6; he and wife Patti, were *Pretty Petals*. They sold village miniatures, and conducted seminars, at many gatherings. Outgoing, friendly and always colorful (shirts). We will all miss his 'presence.' Our sympathies and prayers to Patti and family.

- We have a small collection of super hero's; visitors find them on structures in our CIC displays. At 1x2.5x1 inches, this 'Wonder Woman,' D56, 'Hot Properties' would fit in well. Our current version is too small.



- 'Holiday Balloon Ride,' I like the look of this one from D56. The Christmas look would work right over our CIC, or NEV, or maybe even Dickens. This is animated, goes around, but I'd prefer to hang it from the ceiling.



- Dept. 56 says "The husky loves to pull a sled. Our husky gives a tiny pup a ride and both are having fun!" The 2022 Dept. 56 Village introduction, '**Whose Best Friend?**' could be a new addition to our 'dog sled group.' 1.875 in H.



- More ladders? I didn't notice them, ever; now, in the past several months, I want/need ladders. What could be better than '**Sparkling High-lights,**' featuring two of Santa's finest, adding sparkles to the new 'Norny's Ornament House.' Both 2022 intros for Dept. 56 North Pole.

- '**Every Quilt Kid Tested**' Dept. 56 says, "Quilts are for kids and kids are for quilts! Whether they use them for snuggling up or a game of "toss the elf in the air", quilts are found in every elf home." 2022, North Pole Village.





. . . 'A Dickens Christmas Village 2017' - Larry Treadwell said, "From the corner, by the 'Crowntree Apartments,' we can look back up 'Portobello Road' toward 'Saint Stephen's Church.' This is a beautiful section of the road with its trees lining the roadside." • I always enjoy showing pictures, and captions, from Larry's 'Dickensville' displays. <http://thevillagecollector.com/larry-treadwell>



• 'Ao Dai Tunic Girls,' These girls are all wearing a white dress and a straw hat, themed for a Zen Garden. Small, 2 inches tall, 4 inches with picks. Found on *Only-InMiniature* on *Esty*. I'm thinking an Oriental display, or maybe with Bonsai trees.



. . . New for 2022, Lemax, 'Santa's Hot Rod Garage!' It will be part of *Santa's Wonderland*. In the '60's, our car club used a couple of garages. One was an old single car garage; on a dead end street; in a suburban area of town (not fifty feet from Lake Superior). The next, and larger, was almost a barn; maybe ten miles out of town. Neither was bright, or colorful, with signs, like Santa's. All part of guys growing up with cars in the era. <https://mikeschristmasvillage.com/>

. . . Also on *Mike's Christmas Village* site, Lemax will introduce a couple choices of '**mountain climber**' figures for 2022. I'm guessing they will be part of the *Vail Village*. No images yet.



• 'Today's Specials' - **again?**

Left - 56.59458 'Today's Specials,' \$12.50, December **2004** - December 2006

Right - 6009747, 'Today's Specials,' \$30.00, January **2022** - Current

Both Dept. 56, Christmas In The City

Is this usual? Two with the same name (even after one is retired).

SuzyQ brought this to my attention. My thanks to her!





These figures are all listed by Mini's of Christmas. left, 'Women and Child - Christmas Village - Lunar New Year.'
 • center - Don't know who the 'big guy' is, but I like him. I'm sure he must have a name. • We've had the Lemax Cad-dington Village 'The Pagoda Res-taurant' since 2012.



• Photographer and ice fishing; need one, see the other on many local lakes. Dept. 56 Snow Village, 'Loon Lake Champion.'



• "Gentlemen are born not made." But I really like the 1932(?) auto; and particularly this picture of it.



• Lemax 'Flower Bed Boxes' Time to get them out for spring displays.



• We use plastic fishing lure/hobby **boxes for storage** of village people and accessories (with no original containers available). For protection, we put felt under, and cotton batten on top, to hold each piece in place. To help find the pieces, we have a photo, and printed list, of what is in each of the boxes. This picture shows who they are, and where they are, in box 6. On the box cover, we also label what is in each slot. It is a help if all the storage boxes are at least the same size. And, number the boxes on more than one side; much easier to find the boxes on the shelf.

... "I like people that I can trust with my eyes closed and my back turned." • On-line

... Buying and shipping or gifts? Tom I., SuzyQ, McGraw's, Lani, Claudia, Frances - were on the list.



• 'FAO Schwarz' keeps adding interesting pieces within Dept. 56. I keep talking about them; maybe that means we'll have to find/buy the building. 'Ready For Duty,' The elf on duty at the "FAO Schwarz Toy Emporium" is outfitted with the signature soldier's uniform and standing at attention." 1.75 in H x 0.75 in W x 0.75 in L - It's probably all about my 'toys.'

The D56 Club is looking for additional Club Ambassador's. For questions, or to express an interest, <https://d56club.com/>



... 'Mike's Christmas Village' noted the buildings released in 2021, available exclusively to Michaels and Gift Spice, will also be available in the rest of the world this year. Note: our Michael's didn't receive any of the pieces in 2021; maybe this year? <https://mikeschristmasvillage.com/>

... 'The D56 Club' is still "taking orders for their fabulous new Brooklin Model, **'Santa's Jeep & Toy Trailer.'** Our Jeep has been modified from the earlier Brooklin model to include new chrome trim, a trailer hitch, and a re-trailer filled with toys, a been done before that lectible. This of course Edition numbered offer-ber that this offering in-(Jeep & Trailer)" \$328.00 - To order, go to <https://d56club.com/thread/178/santas-jeep-trailer-ready-order>.



a movable pendant. with a Jolly Santa ing, a brand-new combination never should be highly col-will be a Limited-ing. Please remem-cludes two models

... Welcome all, to 2022; good to see you here!



Questions, comments and/or suggestions are always welcome. You can contact me at: spears.duluth@juno.com, 105 E. Toledo St., Duluth, MN 55811 or (218) 724-6148.

- 2,796 words and 38 images in this JSYK - not counting this line •
- "Another fun and fact-filled edition! Thanks! Happy New Year" • Myrna
- "I also like your little snippets of wisdom and sometimes how you put one in twice to make sure we are paying attention!" • Tony A
- "And Happy New to You also, David! As always, another enjoyable issue here." • Mary
- "Firstly, when a new column of yours arrives it affects my life in a good way! I make a cuppa (tea), settle in a comfy chair and immerse myself in villaging escapism for ten minutes or so!" • Phil