

JUST SO YOU KNOW! . . . JANUARY 27, 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 3.

. . . **Dates of note:** February 2, *Ground Hog Day* – February 12, *Lincoln's Birthday* - February 14, *Valentine's Day* – 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.

. . . 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 'Let's Make a Movie Using Movie Maker for Windows 10 Pro' • You can also visit 'Dickensville' by Larry Treadwell. Larry is possible this year. I missed his displays offering; 'Lionel Trains for Christmas.' • Brian Vaill's new 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/>



. . . **NCC 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.



• <https://d56club.com/> - the location of a **Dept. 56 oriented forum**. I joined, 'davidg' is me. I'm asking questions, and answering them as well. Stop by and say 'Hi!' to 'davidg.' I've been informed that our 'membership flags' (for the forum) have been shipped from England. I look forward to receiving mine. • The first issue of 'Model Cars, Trains & Villages' magazine is planned for late spring.



• 'Bruce Wayne & Alfred' Batman; **should he be part of our 'super hero's' (in civilian form)?** As a plus, the billionaires 'Wayne Manor' would provide a place for all of the super hero's to live. And, of course, all would have 'The Batcave' available to store and hide stuff. It would be expensive – for us to buy.



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

. . . **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



. . . I **really like** what she did here: different angles-no straight lines, backlighting, sparkling lights, multiple levels; noticed the outside, but not distracting, ads to the wonderful presentation. We saw on Facebook. Chris, Elk River, MN.

. . . How many of you have some place to leave your kids – in your displays? Several years ago we featured 'Mini's Cantina Day Care;' including Mini herself. Also six children and a snowman!

• I'm looking at 'Mixed With Love;' she **doesn't look like** our elves. However her ad says, "Our little elf carefully mixes the right ingredients while a friend pup waits to lick the spoon!" I'm allowed a spoon full of dough whenever Linda makes her great chocolate chip cookies. Dept. 56, North Pole, Introduced 2022. 1.75 in H x 1 in W x 1.25 in L. →



← Lemax 'Mountain Climbers,' 2009 to 2014; maybe something from a theme park. Looks like six kids; each with a backpack. The goat half way up the mountain adds a bit of wilderness. I found an image after mentioning the new Lemax mountain climbers in the most recent JSYK. I'm hoping the new ones are the type we can place on the mountain where we want/need them.

- U.K. Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, 1940-45. He sure looks like a cool dude. I realize he doesn't truly 'fit' in any of our displays; but maybe walking down a CIC avenue; or visiting an Alpine Village. \$45.00 from the William Britain Museum Collection, <https://trainsandtoysoldiers.com/>



- Spotted another pizza place; the Coca Cola Town Square '**Leaning Tower of Pizza.**' It was at our friend Kandi's house. We have other Town Square buildings and I would have liked to have this one. She has so many 'things' in her house; it could easily have 'disappeared.' But I'm sure she would know who had it (and where it was). • My villages began with Coca Cola bldgs.

... "Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses." • JSYK, October 28, 2002

... "Smile, it'll make the world brighter." • Fortune cookie



- Lemax Carole Towne Collection 'Potluckers,' 2004. They may be 'over-dressed' for our displays; but I do enjoy potlucks – just saw one on eBay.

- 'Cardinal Christmas Deer,' we have both in our yard; bird and animal. Now if I can them to become friends, I could take a picture. Until then, I should buy this, new for '22, Department 56 resin accessory.



... "Remember, growing older is mandatory; growing up is optional."

... "We make a Living by what we get; we make a Life by what we give."

... JSYK July 2006: "We went to Green Bay (gathering) with the intention of coming back with nothing new. Boy did that ever work out well. When I finished unpacking 'that' suitcase, it contained: won/gifted - two houses and two accessories; purchased, two houses and six accessories from event sponsor PJ's. That doesn't include the miniature selections from 'Mini Things' and 'Village Realty and Landscape.' - Linda and I just shouldn't go **shopping** together." • We have done 'better/more' at gatherings before and after. And yes, I've seen the pictures from Billy and Sharon.

... Additional abbreviations I might use when writing this column: Dickens' Village • NEV – New England Village • NP – North Pole Village • SV – Original Snow Village.

... "Everything is funny as long as it is happening to someone else." • Will Rogers

... **Multiple mailings** of JSYK; not sure how I did it, but several folks reported it. I've 'fixed' the ones called to my attention (I hope). If it happens to you, please let me know.

- Lighthouse by 3D printer; Dave Ross; Bishops Stortford, England; I like it - a lot!



- October 2007, David and Linda Spears, Duluth Public Schools Community Ed Class, 'Christmas Village Ideas;' five ladies and a gentleman. It was fun; three months later, most of them came to our village open house. • We had many more people at our, also fun, gathering seminars.



2001 Hall of Fame Village Video's

Voted by the village community

- #1. Greg Cassidy's Workshop - "*Spooky Town 2019 Halloween Display*" - Location: Maryland, USA
- #2. Soaring Hawk EO - "*Our Dept. 56 Dickens Village 2020*" - Location: Oregon, USA
- #3. Mark Frendo - "*Frendoville 2020 Christmas in the City*" - Location: Long Island, New York, USA
- #4. Madison Sebastian - "*Madastiville A Christmas Facade 2021*" - Location: Australia; Orlando, FL
- tie -
- #4. Jim Peters - "*Claire's Christmas Village 2020*" - Location: Kentucky, USA

Editor's Choice #1 – Madison Sebastian - "*Madastiville A Christmas Facade 2021*" – Australia; Orlando, FL

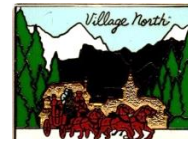
Editor's Choice #2 - Jim Peters - "*Claire's Christmas Village 2020*" – Location: Kentucky, USA

Editor's Choice #3 – GreenvilleGuy - "*Christmas Decorating - Department 56 North Pole Bookcase Dioramas*" - Location: South Carolina, USA

See these videos, and more, at: <http://thevillagecollector.com/2021-hall-of-fame-copy>

Presented by Bill Channell

... JSYK, Aug 28, 2017: I received an email from a friend. It began "*Just got your latest missive.*" I had to be sure what she was saying to me; looked it up. Missive is defined as: *communicate, epistle, dispatch, note, message* – now I know – **this is a missive!**



- Our train depot surrounded by a very busy downtown. It features a 'running' train; 'my' cars on the streets; 'Jenny's Corner Book Shop,' Linda's favorite; multi-levels with home-made Styrofoam walls; and our 'Welcome To Duluth' sign by John Rapacz.



By the request of readers; images of some of our past displays. These five are from 2007.

- left - Half of our 2007 carnival display. It uses a lot of Lemax and Dept. 56 animation, accessories and figures. Also includes many pieces from other sources. Linda made most of the trees; grass is from model railroading; roads are sawdust.
- Below is part of the other half. You will see many accessories from the 'other sources;' like the Color Guard and the clowns.



- On a busy street; Red Hat Ladies shopping and chatting.





- Pizza appears somewhere in most every JSYK; **and** in our displays. This time it was the Coca Cola Town Square 'Tony's Pizza House' (now our local 'Sammy's Pizza'). Note Woodstock and Minnie enjoying dinner at a Lottie's (Minithings) pizza table. I hope that that's 'pop' in those cans.
- The 'Red Bus,' Glacier National Park tour bus, is being driven by an elf 'jammer.' *Jammer* – in the old days, the bus drivers had to double-clutch to change gears.



- This was a village display we did in our livingroom. It was about half of our displays for 2015. The other half was behind me in our 'computer room.' This picture was for our seminar at the California gathering that year – the reason for the location IDs. Total of 130-140 houses, 1,000 people. We possess approx. 200 houses, maybe 2,500 people – no display room to use them all.



... JSYK Spring 2015: The newspaper garage sale ad said ". . . Christmas items, including village figures. . . ." I had to go take a look. They were lit, animated and life sized. It's amazing how I have these preconceived notions.

... Please remember to comment, question, or reply, to what's written in this column. I need input to keep things going. **Thanks** for the responses I've received in the past.

. . . Just found a note from the *Chicago Gathering 2012*. It was a list of the names of **folks conducting seminars** we attended. It included Linda and David Spears, Miles Wood, Joe Meyers, Jeff McCann, Linda Roberts, Pat Ehrenreich, Tim Stephenson, Jill Schlung, Will Holt and Melinda Seegers. Note: We had to go to the one by David and Linda on both days.

. . . "If we don't tell people how we feel, how will they know?" • On-Line



- Do you see **what's different** with our D56 'Twirling Teacups?' Hint: the kids in every other cup are wearing summer clothes. • We were able to add three cups and it still 'works' fine. We used Tacky Wax to secure them. Sorry, don't have a source for the extra cups. Our display 2011.



- For my north of the border friends - I noticed something from Lemax: **'Hockey Tryouts.'** It features four players wearing 'Canadian uniforms,' a coach and a dog. They are on a small skating rink. Not animated. Could fit in our Canadian neighborhood - when we build it.



- 'Circus Juggling Stilt Walker' - Maybe a 'big' addition to our ever growing circus/carnival. (No height measurement provided). W Britain at <https://trainsandtoysoldiers.com/> - \$45.00

- Homies are **everywhere** in our displays. These four are 'rolling dice' in front of the fence at the carnival. Popsicle stick fence is covered with model railroad decals/stickers. →



- The glow 'works' better in the shadows; not in direct sun or under a lamp. You have to be able to see the fire. This 'warm up' area was in our 2015 sliding park; for adults and kids. The 'fire' location worked great!

... 'The D56 Club' is now "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 and a removable also comes with a Add to this offering, filled with toys, a been done before collectible. This, of Limited-Edition numbered offering. Remember that this offering includes two models (Jeep & Trailer)" \$328.00 – To order, go to <https://d56club.com/thread/178/santas-jeep-trailer-ready-order>.



... "Note to self: Just because it's on sale, doesn't mean you need it." • On-line

... "I've learned that the more creative you are, the more things you notice."

... I saw someone who was 'saving out' the houses and people with 'no snow' when taking down a display. She is planning to use them for a year-a-round vignette. We've done the no snow thing, but never thought about doing it before we put everything away – live and learn.



• The former Ms. Lit Town, "Judith Price, age 83, died peacefully in her sleep on Dec 24th. She and her husband retired to Bath, NC in 2003. The Prices were long-time residents of south Minneapolis. She is survived by her husband Anthony; children Sarah, Elizabeth, Catherine, Anthony Jr. and Francisco; also 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Keep her in your heart." Minneapolis Star Tribune Obituary. January 9, 2022 •
 • Judith Price, Department 56 Ms. Lit-Town,' 1989-2004•

... Linda and I do our own backgrounds, foregrounds, trees, water, waterfalls, tunnels, mountains and other smaller items. I wrote a regular column, 'Just so you know!' for Village D-Lights from 2004 to 2016. My words were on the Minnesota 56 Clubs web site even longer than that. We conducted seminars at the Minnesota Gatherings in 2002 and 2008, Green Bay 2006, Chicago 2012, Connecticut 2013 and California in 2015. • I was asked the question; this is the answer.

... 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.



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.

• 2,468 words and 25 images in this JSYK – not counting this line •

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"I'm now officially getting three copies of your 'Just so you know!' ... perhaps you just want to be sure I read it. I do. - Wash your hands and wear an N95 mask". - Esme

"Thanks for another great issue. I am very impressed that you wrote 20 issues last year. Using calendar pages for background pictures looks great in your displays". Take Care - Barb

"Delighted that you are back for another year!!!! Thanks for another great edition". - Myrna

"Thanks for the preview reading of your always interesting musings." - Jim