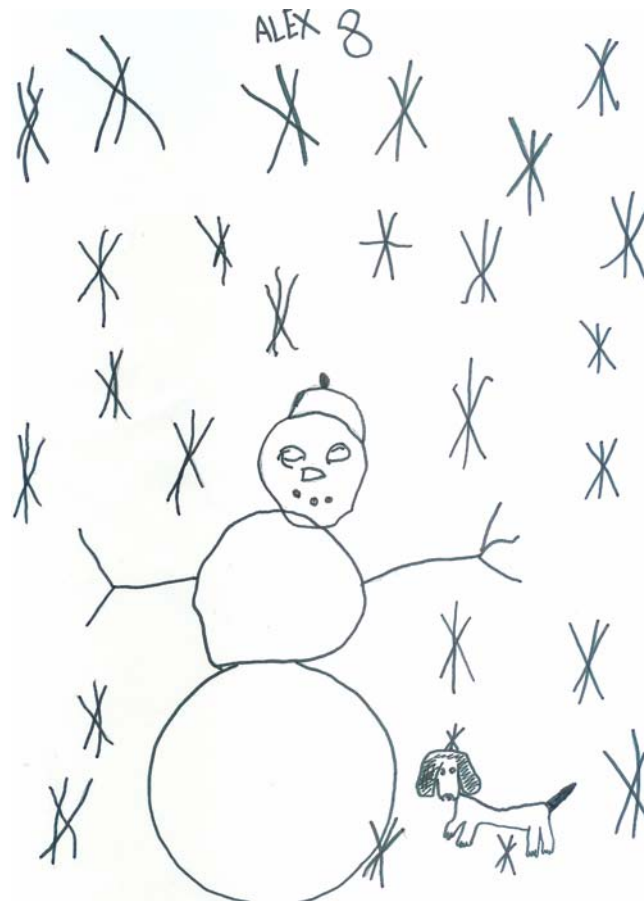


# Loch Alpine Lore

## December 2004



*"A Dog's Winter" by Alex Maser (8)*

### Calendar of Events

- |               |  |               |   |
|---------------|--|---------------|---|
| <b>Dec 3</b>  | LA Playgroup 10:00 am @ Adrienne Royce @ 4415 Crestline  | <b>Dec 20</b> | Winter Break – No School  |
| <b>Dec 7</b>  | Conger Home Tour & Art Market  | <b>Dec 24</b> | No LA Playgroup   |
| <b>Dec 9</b>  | Dexter District Library Planning Community Forum @ Dexter Senior Center @ 7:00 pm.                       | <b>Dec 31</b> | No LA Playgroup   |
| <b>Dec 10</b> | LA Playgroup 10:00 am @ Donna Schaefer @ 4161 Sunset Court   | <b>Jan 11</b> | LA Garden Club: Businessmeeting & Conservation Conference report @ Betty Earle 4050 Woodland @ 7:30 pm. |
| <b>Dec 14</b> | LA Garden Club: Annual pot luck dinner and social meeting @ Marjie Edwards 4177 St Andrews Way @ 6:00 pm | <b>Jan 17</b> | Martin Luther King Day – No School  |
| <b>Dec 17</b> | LA Playgroup: Holiday Party @ Marty Newton's 4850 Gifford Court @ 10:00 am.                              | <b>Jan 21</b> | Records Day – No School   |

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Been Here A While

*Jan Alford @ 426-1180 or [silveradoJan@aol.com](mailto:silveradoJan@aol.com)*

Long time Loch Alpiners, Betty Fritzler, has lived in not just one, but two homes in our subdivision. Betty and husband Jerry moved from Ann Arbor to the home on lot 226 in 1975. They met in Texas where Betty grew up. Jerry had graduated from U of M aeronautical engineering school and was working in Texas but longed to get back to Michigan where he grew up. He landed a job with Ford Motor Co. and they moved to Ann Arbor but eventually wanted more space. After seeing advertisements for some place called Loch Alpine, they called the realtor, Marge Craven, and came out to visit. The scenery coming down Huron River Drive was great and when they turned onto Loch Alpine and saw the hills and open spaces, they were hooked! They bought their first home on Loch Alpine East and from their view, they could see all the way to Delhi Road. As the need for a larger home became apparent with the addition of children, they bought a lot on Whitman Circle. At that time there was an energy crunch and people started looking for more efficient ways to heat and cool their homes. Jerry got so interested in this concept, they decided to build their new home using passive solar energy. The back of the house faces south which allowed an easy way to design a solar heating system. This system is still in use today with a small furnace for backup.

Their two girls, Robin and Jennifer, grew up in our neighborhood and especially loved swimming at the Ann Arbor Country Club. Robin, now 29, teaches at Michigan Tech in Houghton and she and her husband have a new baby. Jennifer is a senior at Michigan State studying art and architecture. Jerry died very suddenly in 1994. In 2000, Betty's dad came from Texas to live with her.

Betty is a pediatric nurse and has worked steadily except for a time when the girls were young. She is currently working full time in Ann Arbor. Betty has been involved in so many activities through the years. Here in Loch Alpine she was part of the garden club for several years when it first started. She also was part of the neighborhood Bible study group for almost 20 years. A great volunteer for the school district, Betty was part of PTO and Band Boosters. She worked tirelessly on many millage elections when the girls attended Dexter schools. She felt a bit lost when Jennifer graduated and she no longer had such strong ties to the school district. She also is a volunteer for the Trinity Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor, and was organizing a craft project for Christmas when I visited with her. She's a strong supporter of the village of Dexter and believes that we all should support our local merchants who are always so friendly and helpful.

Things have changed a lot since 1975, but Betty still loves Loch Alpine and has no intentions of leaving.

## Garden Club

*Chris Rochman @ 426-5736 or [rubyaa2@aol.com](mailto:rubyaa2@aol.com)*

**Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.** Our annual pot luck dinner and social meeting. A business meeting will be held to discuss the current situation with entrance signs for the subdivision. Reservations required.

- Hostess: Marjie Edwards; 4177 St. Andrews Way

**Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.** Business meeting followed by a report (with slides) on the Conservation Conference held in October in Acme. Joan Clauss will give the report with a lot of great information from the lectures and field trip attended.

- Hostess: Betty Earle; 4050 Woodland Dr.

The garden club welcomes guests if a particular program is of interest as well as new members. Please call Marjie Edwards, president, 424-9093, or Chris Rochman, vice president, 426-5736.

## Conger Home Tour & Art Market

*Julia Janosi @ 42601224 or [njanosi@aol.com](mailto:njanosi@aol.com)*

On Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, the Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group is holding its annual Home Tour and Art Market. The Art Market is going to be held at Barton Hills Country Club and will be open from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. The Art Market will feature over 30 artisans.

In addition, four Ann Arbor-area residences will be decorated for the holidays and open for touring. The Home Tour is open from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm, and includes residences in Stonebridge, Travis Pointe, near the Polo Fields, and off of Washtenaw Avenue.

Tickets are \$15.00 in advance for both the Art Market and the Home Tour. Advance tickets are available November 18<sup>th</sup> through December 6<sup>th</sup> only at the following locations: Nicola's Books; Heslop's China & Gifts; The Back Alley Gourmet; Letty's Ltd; Downtown Home and Garden; and Quinn's Essentials. Tickets also are available the day of the event for \$20.00 and are available at the homes and at the Art Market. The ticket includes entrance into both the Art Market and the homes, though entrance into only the Art Market is available for \$5.00 at Barton Hills.

The sole mission of the Lucile B. Conger Alumnae Group is to provide need-based scholarships for women students at the University of Michigan. All of the proceeds from this event will go towards scholarships. Last year, over \$35,000 in scholarships were awarded to women at Michigan through Conger.

For more information on the tour, see [www.congerhometour.org](http://www.congerhometour.org). For more information on joining Conger, please contact Julia Janosi at [njanosi@aol.com](mailto:njanosi@aol.com). You do not have to be an alumna of the University of Michigan in order to belong to Conger, but scholarships are awarded only to women students at Michigan.

## July 4<sup>th</sup> Bake Competition

By request, here's a copy of the winning entry recipe in the "2004 LAIA 4<sup>th</sup> July Bake-Off". Says Susan Carolin, "As for the famous pie recipe, truthfully, Patrick made it up as we went along. It was a collaboration of different generations...his Mom and I and Patrick all put it together!!!"

- 2 cups graham cracker crumbs....approx. (crushed)
- 1/2 stick butter, softened
- 1 cup Skippy peanut butter
- 1 large banana sliced
- 1 cup marshmallow fluff (approx.)
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1/4 stick butter

## Swan News

*Nona Credille @ [hcredille@provide.net](mailto:hcredille@provide.net)*

What does the swan situation look like at this time? I am not sure but it seems that the pair which nested here in the spring, (I dubbed Pen and Cob Friendly), are presently here again to partake of Greenook's leafy, weedy bounty.

When the ice comes they'll probably return to the river and whatever open water they find but I suspect they will claim Greenook again in the spring.

I did see Cleotoo one day on Bridgeway and she came to me for bread. Unfortunately she has no mate and I figure it is because of her age. She is close to 20. I am sure that birds in the wild never make it to that advanced an age. There is another single swan that comes to Bridgeway but it shuns people.

A young pair appeared from time to time on Bridgeway and mistakenly landed on Greenook and received a very hostile reception from Pen and Cob. I saw Cob grab one of them by the neck and hold it under water until I ran down, waving and shooing until he let go. The muddy swan hastened off-never to return. Lesson learned.



## AACC News



*Tony Bonino @ 426-4693 or [GeneralManager@AnnArborCC.com](mailto:GeneralManager@AnnArborCC.com)*

This is a tough issue to address but the incidence of problems with dogs and their owners on the golf course is increasing. Although generally dog owners are more considerate than twenty years ago, the sheer number of dogs that are now present in our community of 450+ homes has increased enormously. As a result, the number of problems and difficulties facing our grounds crew and golfers has also increased. Many of these seem to stem from a basic lack of understanding as to what it takes to maintain a golf course and how the green grass of the fairways and greens is not the same as that in your front yard. There is also an apparent lack of appreciation as to just what

a dangerous place a golf course can be. Therefore, to quote that Late Show host, David Letterman, "*I have a Top 10 (OK 8!) List in my hand*":

### ***Top 8 Problems a Maintenance Crew and/or Golfers Can Face With Dogs Being Walked On A Golf Course***

1. When you walk on the golf course when the turf is frosted, you literally break the plant cell. While this does not kill the plant, it does harm the turf and gives it the appearance of it being killed. Golfers are not allowed to drive or walk on frosted turf. Enforcing this rule is not a pleasant experience for us; and, it is more difficult when non-golfers take the liberty of walking on frosted turf.
2. The AACC golf course is a central part of the Loch Alpine community and just like anywhere else here, there is a leash law in effect. On occasion, dogs have intimidated and growled at crewmembers. It is hard for them to trust these large dogs, which are often 200 feet or more away from their owners.
3. Just as the LAIA Grounds Committee and individual Loch Alpine residents have pleaded with dog owners to "stoop and scoop" when walking community roads and grounds, the same issues apply to the golf course. There's no other way to say it: Not cleaning up after your dog is disgusting. No one appreciates stepping in such a mess on their own front lawn or having to clean up after someone else's dog. The same applies to our grounds crew and golfing members.
4. Even when dog owners do clean up after their dogs, there are still problems with disposal. We have had to remove certain well-used trash receptacles because of the abundance of dog feces being placed there. I know that this is also a common nuisance in receptacles down at the Loch Alpine park. Although this might seem like owners are being considerate, you should know that our small crew is stretched thin and is not able to empty these trash receptacles on a daily basis. Add a few days of hot weather to the mix and you can imagine the rest. Also imagine how disgusting a job it becomes emptying these receptacles and cleaning them because, yes, many of the bags are poorly tied (or not at all) in the first place.
5. Other times, the bags are simply thrown in the creek banks. Aside from the fact that this is littering and against the law, it also takes out valuable time from the crew's work time. The well-being of our golf club depends on our ability to maintain our grounds to the standards demanded by our members. As with anywhere else in the community, dog owners should take their bags home for proper disposal.
6. Dogs love to chase sticks and toys, that's a fact. But it's also a fact that many stops are made every week to pick up these items in the fairway and rough areas.
7. Dog tracks in bunkers are also a big problem. At least twice a week the crew has to make special trips to rake out these tracks – and we have a lot of bunkers on our golf course so that takes a lot of time. Of course, dogs are not the only offenders – foxes, skunks, raccoons etc. also like to frolic in the sand. But it's a fact that dog tracks are the main cause for these extra raking sessions.
8. Several times a year, non-golfers are seen walking along the creeks on #6 (at the bottom of Cardiac Hill) or #11 (by Fairway), while golfers wait to continue their round of golf. Not only is this inconvenient to the golfers, but a child, a dog, a dog owner or anyone else on the course could be injured if not seen in time. Just ask any homeowner who has had a window broken or their siding damaged: the speed of a flying golf ball (heading towards its target or otherwise) is deadly. And if you talk to any golfers, they'll assure you that golf balls do seem to have a mind of their own when it comes to where they want to go.

So please read this and try to consider the point of view of the grounds crew and golfers. We love being your neighbors just as much as you enjoy having so much green space running through the midst of your community. But good neighborliness is a two-way street. Please respect the golf course. It's a treasure we work very hard to maintain.

Thank you – and happy holidays from everyone at AACC!

## **Dexter Library News**

*Paul McCann @ 426-4477*

### ***Library Planning to Begin December 9<sup>th</sup>***

The Dexter District Library will kick off its next round of Library Planning with a Community Forum on Thursday, December 9th at 7:00 pm at the Dexter Senior Center.

At this meeting, we will introduce our planning consultants and architects to the community, review the planning we have completed to date and discuss issues to be explored through focus groups. The community forum will be led by

Lawrence Corbus of Corbus Library Consultants and a team member of the architectural firm of David Holzheimer and Associates.

The community forum will generate ideas that will be carried into focus group sessions to be held at the Library on January 13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005. At the December 9<sup>th</sup> community forum, the Library will also begin gathering suggestions of possible locations for a new library building. At this time no location has been determined and the Library Board is looking for input on possible locations from the community. Since the previous issue was presented to the community, the Dexter Community Schools have withdrawn their offer of land on Parker Road. The Library Board is open to all suggestions of prospective sites and will work with its architects to research various suggestions.

**Planning Process to Date:** During the last two years, the Library has completed several planning tasks. After the June 2002 election, the Library Board examined the community's decision not to fund a larger library. The Board conducted a community survey and held small research discussion groups. The results of this research identified three main areas of concern; the cost of the proposed project, the location and the size of the proposed building. From there, the Library Board recruited a community task force to examine the Library's mission statement and goals for the future. The Community planning process involved numerous individuals from local government, community service groups and local churches. The outcome was a revised mission statement and affirmation that the Library's top priority should be to work towards a larger facility.

In January, 2004, the Library hired a library planning expert who generated a space needs assessment for the Library. Documents covering all this work are available for public review at the circulation desk.

**Library Hires Architectural Firm:** After an extensive search process, the Board of Trustees of the Dexter District Library has hired the firm of David Holzheimer and Associates to assist the Library in planning for a new facility. Based in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, David Holzheimer and Associates have a solid history of helping libraries engage communities in discussing and assessing library needs and translating those ideas into concrete facility plans. The Dexter Library project will be led by architect Peter Bolek. Mr. Bolek has supervised several major projects for the firm. Mr. Bolek was the lead architect on the Huron (Ohio) Public Library, a project that expanded an existing library facility, renovated an office building for Library use and joined the two structures together with new construction.

## COMMITTEE NEWS

### LASA News

*Neil Gerl @ 426-2934 or [neilgerl@umich.edu](mailto:neilgerl@umich.edu)*

#### **Steps Taken to Assure Drinking Water Quality**



In order to provide the residents of Loch Alpine with a safe and dependable water supply, the Loch Alpine Sanitary Authority (LASA) follows a rigid schedule for testing of the water to fulfill the guidelines of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

The following summarizes the types and frequency of testing done to monitor the quality of drinking water provided by LASA:

**Daily:** Your water is tested for chlorine residual, iron and manganese.

**Twice Monthly:** Your water is tested for coliform bacteria, the presence of which could indicate system contamination.

**Yearly:** Your water is tested for nitrate, nitrite, fluoride and sodium. The water is also tested for disinfection byproducts such as Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids.

**Every Three Years:** Your water is tested for Volatile Organic Compounds (such as benzene, toluene and xylene), Arsenic, pesticides, herbicides, carbamates, lead, and copper.

**Every Four Years:** Your water undergoes Gross Alpha Radiological testing.

**Every Nine Years:** Your water undergoes testing for a variety of metals (such as mercury, cadmium, thallium, chromium, beryllium, and selenium), and for Radium 226 & 228.

In addition to this water testing, your water distribution system is completely flushed twice per year, and all fire hydrants are checked at that time for proper operation. Also, every year the residents of Loch Alpine are provided

with a Consumer Confidence Report that summarizes the water quality testing results for the previous year. A copy of the most recent Consumer Confidence Report can be found on this website at:

[http://www.lochalpine.org/lasa/lochalpine\\_water\\_report\\_2003.pdf](http://www.lochalpine.org/lasa/lochalpine_water_report_2003.pdf)

## LAIA Community Manager

*John G. Agno @ 734-426-2000 [orjohnagno@signatureseries.com](mailto:orjohnagno@signatureseries.com)*

### **Is it time to look at Loch Alpine's annual association fees?**

Your volunteer board of directors has been working hard and long this year, and in years past, to keep expenses within their annual budget of \$159,000. Because of this small budget, these high-powered people have been required to engage in managing day-to-day operational activities while putting out fires that could affect the long-term welfare of Loch Alpine. Board members can burn out after a year or two of service and few residents are willing to serve on your board of directors. This is not good.

A board's contribution is meant to be strategic, the joint product of talented people brought together to apply their knowledge and experience to the major challenges facing the community. Yet, having to get the low-level activities done by board members, can leave community volunteers feeling discouraged and underused, while Loch Alpine gains little benefit from their talents.

The problem is not a lack of volunteerism but the under-management of community resources caused by a lack of adequate funding to get the job done right on a timely basis. Loch Alpine's association fees have not risen to fund the necessary management and maintenance of community resources; as evident in crumbling roadways to rusting mailboxes.

### **How Loch Alpine compares with other association annual fees (excluding the approximate cost per household of \$140/year for garbage, yard waste and recycling services):**

Loch Alpine = \$350

North Delhi Hills = \$540

Glen Devon = \$410

The Preserve = \$600

Country French Estates = \$484

### **What Barton Hills spends to maintain their 8-9 miles of roadways versus Loch Alpine spends to maintain their 12 miles of roadways:**

Barton Hills Budget for Roads & Streets in 2004-05 is: \$179,300. Of this total, \$55,000 is for road paving with striping & painting of speed tables and gravel.

Notes: Barton Hills typically spends about \$50,000 per year for road paving, painting, and gravel type work.

In the Village of Barton Hills, funding for operations and maintenance is at the rate of 10 mils per \$1,000 taxable value of property (median house value: \$710,000 in 2000) plus state revenue sharing and other sources of income.

### **Loch Alpine Roads & Streets:**

In 1994, a funded engineering study resulted in a 10-year road maintenance recommendation of \$300,000 (\$30,000 per year). Loch Alpine, with the exception of this budget year, had a road reserve of \$15,000 per year that began in 1997-98. This reserve has been depleted.

Note: Please feel free to contact me by email at [johnagno@signatureseries.com](mailto:johnagno@signatureseries.com) for copies of an overview of road reserve funds use and the Loch Alpine Improvement Assoc. Road Budget, 2004-05 for specifics on what isn't being done related to the twelve miles of roads and the costs of deferring road maintenance.

### **What's down the road?**

There could be unfunded costs for repaving sections of Loch Alpine roads on a yearly basis (at \$30,000 to \$50,000 per year), constructing dams at the estimated cost of \$200,000 (to comply with a mandated requirement to survive a 200-year flood) and for maintaining parks and lakes.

Instead of saving for these future expenditures, the community could decide to pay for these as they occur and/or continue to ignore the proper maintenance and management of our resources; by assessing residents (like the \$2,078 per household lakes assessments) to pave roads, build dams, maintain lakes and parks when the situation becomes critical. However, assessing every resident equally in large amounts can present a hardship on retirees and others on a fixed income.

Another option is to explore becoming a village as Barton Hills did back in 1973. Loch Alpine has a taxable property base of \$59,505,990 but does not tax its residents. The formation of a village would allow us flexibility to maintain lower costs for longstanding residents (with lower taxable property values) while still raising the necessary capital to ensure that our roads, lakes and other community assets are well cared for. Also, by paying a village tax rather than association assessments, residents could deduct village taxes against income on their state and federal tax returns.

Whatever option taken in the future, generating sustaining funding to properly manage and maintain your community matters. The question comes down to:

How much are you willing to pay in association fees in 2005?

## Winter Storage

As fall turns to winter, Loch Alpine residents begin to spend much time in-doors as the snow falls around us. Outdoor toys of the summer are stored to wait out the colder months of the year.

As you winterize and store your summer toys, it is important to keep in mind community rules for maintaining the beauty and safety of this special place:

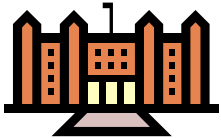
Parking and storage of vehicles off Loch Alpine roads is restricted. No automobile, truck, mobile home, recreational vehicle, trailer, boat, snowmobile, motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle, camper, camper top or tent shall be stored, parked or left unremoved for a period exceeding seventy-two (72) hours on any lot between the front lot line and the front of the building.

For more information, please visit the Loch Alpine community website at [www.LochAlpine.org](http://www.LochAlpine.org) , click on "L A Improvement Association" and then click on your community's "Restriction Agreement."

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Cornerstone & Wylie

*Dotti Bilello @ 424-9254 or [dotti@tidings.org](mailto:dotti@tidings.org) and Laura Van Dusen @ 426-2526*



It's hard to believe the holiday season is already upon us. Our children have had a fantastic fall. The Halloween parade/parties were especially cute this year. Turkey Trot has come and gone and we've been through the first round of parent/teacher conferences. There have been a number of cool field trips including Lansing, Cobblestone Farm and the Dexter Historical Museum.

In the next few weeks you will begin to hear of charitable events in your child's school including the collection of hats, mittens, socks and books, food, including canned/dry goods and the adoption of needy families in our area. Please give generously.

Important Dates:

- Book Fair-Wylie: December 1-3
- Winter Break: December 20-31- No school
- Martin Luther King Day: January 17 - No school
- Records Day: January 21- No school

## FREE CLASSIFIEDS

Dog walker needed for late afternoon or early evening. 2-4 times per week.

Call Deb Lewis @ (734) 891-0378.

## ADVERTISEMENTS



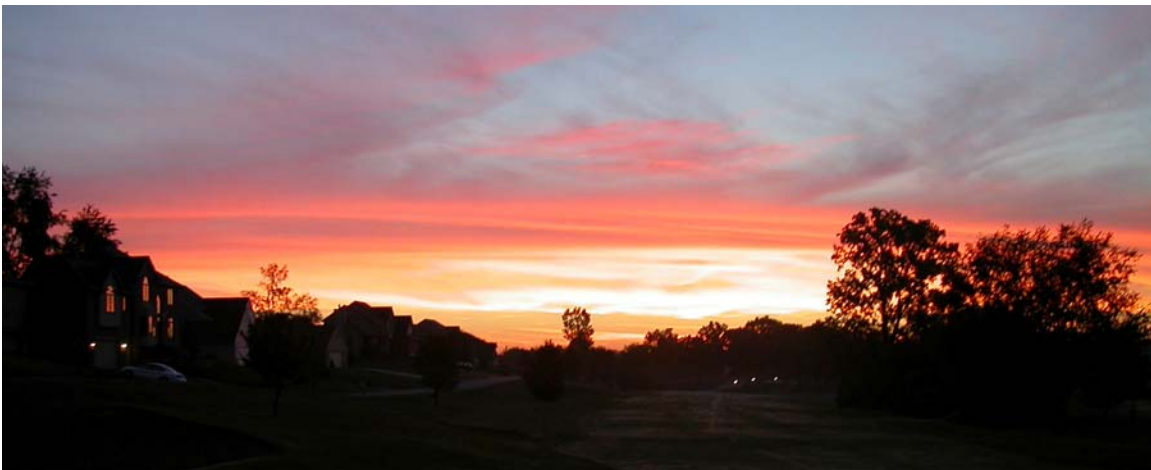
### ***L-N-J Landscape and Lawncare Inc.***

*L-N-J would like to thank Loch ALpine for selecting us for the past several years to provide Loch Alpine Improvement Association and homeowners with our different services. Some of the services we provide are as follows:*

- *Complete Tree removal and stump grinding with winter rate packages*
- *Complete landscape installation, design, and refurbishment*
  - *Lawn care, and much more.*

*Free estimates. Completely insured.*

*Please call home office (734) 426-0846.*



Sunrise Over Loch Alpine