

BHA



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BHA Today
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BHA Today is the official newsletter of the Butterfield Homeowners Association
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Doug Elwell

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Today

A Butterfield Homeowners Association Publication



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

A BHA Christmas



By Doug Elwell, President
Butterfield Homeowners Association

"I never thought it was such a bad little tree. It's not bad at all, really. Maybe it just needs a little love."
~ Linus, "A Charlie Brown Christmas"

This is my third Christmas serving as your President, and there have been lots of changes over that time. The BHA has held steady against changing times and busy schedules, adjusting to accommodate new ways of thinking and communicating. People no longer have time to take an hour or so to meet with their neighbors to discuss common areas of interest and concern. With after-school activities, soccer, ballet, a million things to see and to do on TV, online and in the real world, it is becoming more and more difficult to find the time to do the things that are really important.

This is why we are planning on having our very first online virtual town hall in place of our January meeting, the first meeting of 2017. If you would like to attend our virtual town hall, which you can attend in the comfort of your own home, please send us an email at butterfieldhomeownersassoc@gmail.com, and we will put you on our invite list. We are planning on using Skype to have the town hall, which you can download for free from <http://www.skype.com>. Both Mac and Windows versions are available, and it is also available as an app on any mobile device, even on iWatches.

You will also find an envelope within this issue which you can use to conveniently mail in your annual dues check to Connie, our Vice President. You can also donate by credit card online by visiting our site at <http://www.mybhoa.com>, and clicking on the yellow "Annual Dues" button.

Our theme for this issue is *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, where the underdog, Charlie Brown, stubbornly fights against all odds to survive his quest for the true meaning of Christmas, symbolized by the small, fragile tree he chooses to save. But he could not save the tree all by himself, in the end the community had to step up and give the poor little tree the love and attention it needed in order to reach its full potential. The BHA is like this little tree. It is still alive and holding on, but it needs your love to help it grow. Learn more in our article on *A Charlie Brown Christmas* starting on page 10.

Merry Christmas to all from your friends at the Butterfield Homeowners Association! ☃





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Have a safe and joyous holiday season! May you be blessed with peace, happiness and good health!

Are you or someone you know thinking about selling?

Butterfield East Home Sales for the past 12 months are on the rise!

	Max	Average	Median	Min
List Price (28 homes)	\$414,900	\$292,682	\$284,900	\$214,999
Sales Price (28 homes)	\$382,500	\$279,625	\$272,250	\$185,000

Average Market time was 85 days, Average List Price to Sales Price ratio was 86% to 103%

Simply mention "Butterfield East" and save today -- Referrals are welcomed!!

A note from Darlene-I am enthusiastic, dedicated, knowledgeable and trustworthy.

I will help you sell your home with confidence and get you the results you need.

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

- ❖ You matter! I will always ensure your best interest.
- ❖ I am passionate about educating, consulting and providing you with options so that you can make the right choice that best suits your needs!
- ❖ I will provide you with professional tips on de cluttering, internet marketing and staging your home.
- ❖ Whether you are upsizing, downsizing, re-locating, count on me to get the job done!
- ❖ Leaving Illinois? I have access to an outstanding referral global network-free of charge.
- ❖ Do you know what your home is worth? You may be surprised! Don't count on a zestimate, Call, Text or E-mail me today for your free consultation.
- ❖ Are you a mobile app user? Search the MLS Like a Realtor! Download my Re/Max app that is updated 24/7 <http://app.illinoisproperty.com/9FJ> or text Darlene to 630-560-5700
- ❖ Request a valuable Butterfield East (or any area) Home Trends Report
- ❖ Visit www.DarleneMahnke.com for all your real estate needs!



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/darlenemahnke>

<Https://www.facebook.com/dar1sellhomes>

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Butterfield Homeowners Association

- President: Douglas Elwell
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630-400-1212 | connieloos21@aol.com
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- Treasurer: Open
- Landscaping: Phyllis Schroeder
630-627-2671 | pianogramma@comcast.net
- Welcome Wagon: Jean Paprocki, Sandy Henry
630-932-8601 | 630-495-3978
- Speak Out: Editorial Staff | bhatoday.com/contact
- Canopies: Tony Danylevsky | 630-932-1804
- Community Information:
<http://mybhoa.com/community-information/>

Important Phone Numbers

- Animal Control: 682-7197
- BHA Facebook: www.facebook.com/BHAToday
- BHA Website: www.mybhoa.com
- Butterfield Park District: 858-2229
- Butterfield School: 827-4000
- ComEd: 800-334-7661
- DuPage Non-Emergency:
 - Police: 407-2400
 - Fire: 620-5738
- DuPage Disposal: 268-9253
- DuPage Zoning: 407-6700
- Electronics Recycling: 627-2200
- **Emergency Fire/Police: 911**
- Flood Brothers: 261-0400
- Good Samaritan Hospital: 275-5900
- Illinois American Water Co.: 739-8810
- Lombard Post Office: 627-1864
- Milton Township
 - Office: 690-9036
 - Highway: 682-4270
- Poison Control Center: 800-942-5969
- Vacation home checks: 682-7256
- Voter registration: 629-0475
- Waste Management: 800-747-2278
- Westlake Middle School: 827-4500
- York Township
 - Office: 620-2400
 - Highway: 627-2200

Connie's Corner



By Connie Poulos Loos,
Vice President, Butterfield
Homeowners Association

omeowner tips from
Coldwell Bankers
Sellers Resources:

Fall/Winter Home Maintenance Tips for Homeowners

all is a popular and ideal time for home maintenance. It can also be daunting for many homeowners to think about seasonal projects that help keep up their property values. But many things can be done without having to hire someone to do it. Here are some projects to share with your clients, whether they're getting their home ready to list this winter or just want to keep the value up.

● **Roofs.** The importance of a secure roof can't be stressed enough. Roofing issues can be complicated and expensive to fix when allowed to linger too long. Simply walking the property and looking for any obvious problems before the weather prohibits repair is always a good idea. If a problem is discovered, homeowners should have their roofs inspected by a professional as soon as possible.

● **Windows and Doors.** Don't wait until it's too cold out to realize how much air drafts can hike up heating bills. Seal leaky windows with spray foam, caulk or weather stripping. A tip to make sure your weather stripping is doing its job: close your door/window and guide a lit candle along the stripping. If the flame flickers at any point, you know you have an air leak.

● **Gutters and Downspouts.** Gutters are your roof's drainage system. Gutters account for thousands of gallons of water being diverted from your home's exterior and foundation. A pile of debris in your gutters can mean water in your basement. Inspect and clean and consider a mesh guard to keep debris out.

● **Lawn Health.** If leaves are left on the yard for extended periods of time, they can kill the grass. To keep lawns and soil healthy, mulch the leaves and spread them around.

● **Chimneys.** As temperatures drop, fireplaces start up. Don't find out the hard way that your chimney wasn't prepared for the start of the fireside season. Check your chimney now. Rule of thumb: Sweep your chimney when soot buildup is one-eighth of an inch or more. Not sure how to tell? To be safe, have the chimney swept by a professional every one to two years.

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M E E T I N G M I N U T E S : O C T O B E R 2 0 , 2 0 1 6

Attendees

President Doug Elwell, Vice President Connie Poulos Loos and six attendees.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Approved Motions

- A motion was approved to cancel the January meetings henceforward due to projected lack of attendance. There will now only be three regular meetings each year, on the third Thursdays of March, June and October, unless the membership requests additional meeting(s) be held. The next regular meeting will be the annual meeting on March 16, 2017.
- A motion was approved to approve the 2017 BHA budget as presented in this meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the June 16th meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

Officer and Committee Reports

TREASURER'S REPORT

All numbers are reported as of October 13th, 2016:

ASSETS

• Checking account.....	\$3,462.49
• PayPal account	\$663.12
• Money market account	\$13,833.36
• CD	\$4,908.88
• Balance in postage acct.	\$487.23
TOTAL ASSETS	\$23,355.08

INCOME AND EXPENSES (JUNE 27TH-OCTOBER 17TH)

INCOME:

• 2016 member dues (3 households, YTD total 240 households):.....	\$75.00
• Ad revenue deposited for Summer 2016 issue (deposited June 3rd):.....	\$385.00
TOTAL INCOME (for 6/17-10/17)	\$460.00

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Wishing you a

Merry Christmas and

Happy New Year



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References Available Upon Request



- Window Replacements (wood/frame/vinyl)
- Door Replacements (entry/interior/patio/storm doors)
- Vinyl Siding
- Soffit & Fascia
- Trim Work (interior/exterior)
- Tile Work
- Painting
- Bathrooms

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2017 BHA Budget

Here is the approved Butterfield Homeowners Association budget for 2017:

REVENUE

Membership Dues (est. 240 members):\$6,000.00

ADVERTISING

Newsletter:2,700.00

Website:\$300.00

Subtotal Advertising:\$3,000.00

Interest:0.00

Miscellaneous:\$0.00

Total Estimated Revenue:\$9,000.00

EXPENSES

MARKETING & CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Printing:\$2,700.00

- Average Newsletter: \$650 x 4: \$2,600

- Membership Reminder Postcard: \$100

Postage:850.00

- Average Newsletter: \$400 x 4: \$1,600

- Membership Reminder Postcard: \$250

Website:\$300.00

Welcome Wagon:\$150.00

Subtotal Marketing:\$5,000.00

LANDSCAPING

Plants and related materials:\$100.00

Mowing and related landscaping needs:\$600.00

Decorations:\$100.00

Subtotal Landscaping:\$800.00

EVENTS

Picnic, Parties & Special Events:\$1,000.00

Subtotal Events:\$1,000.00

MISCELLANEOUS

Insurance:\$900.00

- General Liability: \$689

- CNA Surety Licensing & Bonding: \$187.00

Incorporation Fees:\$50.00

Office Supplies, Prizes & Miscellaneous:\$250.00

Subtotal Other:\$1,200.00

Total Estimated Expenses:\$8,000.00

Estimated Net Income - Expenses:+\$1,000

>> *Meeting Minutes (Continued from page 4)*

EXPENSES:

• Summer 2016 Newsletter\$600.79

• Butterfield Annual Picnic Card\$232.68

• Butterfield Picnic reservation/deposit
(includes rain check date)\$340.00

• Lee 'n' Eddies catering\$561.89

• Fall 2016 Newsletter\$687.73

• Landscaping (Lawn Barbers, April-June)\$300.00

• Landscaping (Lawn Barbers, July-Sept.)\$225.00

• Repayment to Doug for purchase of picnic
ice & drinks\$59.63

TOTAL EXPENSES:\$3,007.72

NET Income or Loss (6/20-10/13):-\$2,547.72 (Loss)

MARKETING COMMITTEE

No report this meeting.

WELCOME WAGON COMMITTEE

No report this meeting.

LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE

It was discussed whether or not we will decorate the entrance for Halloween, but it was decided not to do so as pumpkins and related ornamentation have been eaten by small animals or stolen in the past. We will only be decorating for Christmas this year.

The entrance sign lights at the Gray Ave. entrance were not working, nor was the street light. This may have been a result of a car hitting the post. Carl Schroeder has since discovered that the lights were just burned out and replaced them, though the street light was still not functioning as of his last report.

A Butterfield resident requested we help get the highway commission to build a sidewalk along the north side of the Butterfield Road bridge over I-355. Butterfield Road is outside of the Butterfield East subdivision, however, and in either case is out of the BHA's jurisdiction. See our website at <http://mybhoa.com/local-government/> for useful contact information if you want to request to have this or similar construction take place.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

2017 BUDGET

The proposed 2017 BHA budget was also presented by President Doug Elwell. Ideas on how to cut costs for next

Continued on page 9 >>



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- Serving Butterfield since 2001
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- Chinese is our specialty
- Full Japanese sushi bar
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- Family restaurant
- Lunch special 7 days a week
- Special Sushi Roll:
 - Guatemala Roll \$12.95
 - Paradise Roll \$14.95
 - Hawaii Roll \$12.95
- Order online available
- Open on both Christmas and New Year's Day 2pm - 9:30pm
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Not Valid With Any Other Offer.
One Coupon Per Customer/Party.
Expires Mar 31, 2017 • Code BHA

**Dine-In Special
1/2 Off Dinner**

**Buy 1 Dinner, Get 2nd Dinner
of Equal or Lesser Value
for 1/2 OFF**

Not valid Fri. or Sat.
Dine-In Only.

Not Valid On Lunch Specials
One Coupon Per Customer/Party.
Not Valid With Any Other Offer.
Expires Mar 31, 2017 • Code BHA

\$5 OFF

Dine-In Special

**Any Dine-In Purchase of
\$25 or More (before tax)**

Not valid Fri. or Sat.
Dine-In Only.

Not Valid On Lunch Specials
One Coupon Per Customer/Party.
Not Valid With Any Other Offer.
Expires Mar 31, 2017 • Code BHA

FREE

California Roll

**With Any Purchase of
\$25 or More (before tax)**

Not valid Fri. or Sat.
Not Valid on Lunch Menu,
Combo Specials or Family Dinners.
Not Valid With Any Other Offer.
One Coupon Per Customer/Party.
Expires Mar 31, 2017 • Code BHA



BUTTERFIELD NEWS

Investing in Our Future

BHA Today Editorial Staff

At the October meeting there was a spirited discussion regarding how best to invest our savings, which have been sitting in investment vehicles that return so little interest that, after accounting for inflation, it was discovered that they are actually losing value. As discussed in the Meeting Minutes on page 4 of this newsletter, our assets as of October 20, 2016 were \$23,355.08 — much more than we need to keep close at hand for our short- or even medium-term cash needs. And according to the approved 2017 budget on page 6, we estimate, based on those of you who pay your annual dues (thank you), along with advertising revenues that are steadily increasing year over year, we are actually saving a little every year. So, there is no reason at all to not put the majority of the \$23,355.08 we have available to us (which was measured at the time of the year when we have the least cash available) into some longer-term investments that will return a much higher yield.

We typically keep at least \$3000-\$5000 in our checking account from year to year, so we have no issues with being cash-flow positive. And our billables are modest and not very numerous, so keeping a smaller amount in our checking account does not present any potential problems. So, investing \$10,000, \$15,000, even \$20,000 on a variety of longer-term,

higher-yielding investments will not affect our ability to pay our debts in any way. Indeed, they will most likely enhance them.

Some have made the argument that we should keep all of our money liquid and quickly available in case we need to take legal action against some of the entities that in the past have attempted to do things in and around our neighborhood that no one wanted, such as attempts by Lombard to annex us, or builders trying to build high-rise apartments near our borders that block out the sun and ruin our views. However investments today can be quickly sold and converted to cash in a matter of days, not weeks or months as it was in times past, so that argument is no longer valid.

Another concern that has been voiced is that higher return investments typically involve higher risk. That is true, but more moderate risk investments, such as stable stocks like AT&T, or mutual funds that are vested in quality companies such as Apple, Microsoft and Google, have consistently made money over time — in some cases, a lot of money. And these stocks, many of which are essentially pillars of our economy, are essentially too big to fail and would certainly be bailed out by the government in the very unlikely event of a bankruptcy, so they are effectively as well insured as the FDIC insurance touted by the sort of ultra-low-yield investments in which we are currently enmeshed.

The discussion at the October meeting basically boiled down to what level of risk we were willing to take. Everyone in attendance wanted to get a higher return on our investments, but some were concerned about losing some or all of the principal, which would be for all practical purposes impossible with the quality of stocks we were considering. President Elwell proposed to invest \$10,000 in one solid, conservative stock, such as AT&T, which has had a good track record over several decades, and pays an annual dividend of 4.7%, which would provide an additional income of around \$470 per year. Some wanted to make sure that our investments were FDIC insured, and recommended that we try to find a relatively high interest CD, recommending the Discover Bank CD, which pays a 2.20% return for a 10-year investment. Not a huge return, but literally 20 times better than we are currently getting from our money market. Others suggested a dividend-paying mutual fund. Vanguard funds offers some well-performing mutual funds that offer yearly dividends of over 3% which, though not as high as AT&T's is still respectable and, along with the more stable nature of a mutual fund, might be the best compromise between safety and return on investment.

We will be considering these options and making a final decision on the direction our investment portfolio will be making in the coming year, so please attend our next annual meeting on March 16th, 2017 and help us make the right decisions with your money. ☺



where faith and fitness meet

Ladies – It’s a New Year and time to get fit!!

Join us! Classes are great fun, consisting of 30+ minutes of cardio routines, followed by 25 minutes of strength and toning and ending with a relaxing stretch -- all to great music with a fantastic group of women

Classes start Tuesday January 3rd

**Tuesdays and Saturdays 9:15 to 10:30 a.m.
and
Thursdays 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.**

**Peace Lutheran Church
21W500 Butterfield Road in Lombard**

Questions? Want more information? Contact me, Dimitra Cornwell at dvasilop2002@yahoo.com, or call 708-927-0487



>> Meeting Minutes (Continued from page 6)

year were discussed, including reducing the cost of the annual picnic, and possibly cutting or reducing additional services. The 2017 BHA budget is printed in this newsletter, though because the January meeting has been canceled, it was decided to vote to approve the budget presented by President Doug Elwell at the October meeting instead of waiting until the January meeting. This is the way it will be done from now on unless the membership decides otherwise. The 2017 budget as presented in the meeting was voted on and unanimously approved, and can be viewed on page 6 of this newsletter.

BHA INVESTMENTS

President Doug Elwell presented his research into different types of stocks and mutual funds, and his recommendation to invest part of the money currently held in a money market into shares of AT&T stock, as it is a good, long-term, stable stock with a good, solid reputation. AT&T also pays a dividend of approximately 4.7%, which for an investment of \$10,000, would yield an average annual dividend payment of \$470, over and above any potential gain in the value of the stock. President Doug encouraged the membership to vote to allocate some of our savings to AT&T or one or more other stable stocks or mutual funds, as our money markets are currently yielding a rate of return lower than inflation, resulting in a net loss of value every year.

The members suggested diversifying our portfolio into more than one stock, or a mutual fund. Another member suggested a CD from Discover Bank. Information about Discover Bank CDs can be viewed at <https://www.discover.com/online-banking/cd/>, information about AT&T's past, present, and predicted performance can be viewed at <http://www.nasdaq.com/symbol/T>, and a typical dividend-paying mutual fund example can be seen at <http://www.nasdaq.com/symbol/VHDYX>. The members requested additional research be done prior to the next regular meeting in March, when more educated discussions can take place about the financial future of the BHA.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

President Doug Elwell requested volunteers for the nominating committee for the 2017 election, which will be held during the annual meeting on March 17, 2017. There were no volunteers, so President Doug went ahead and nominated himself for President, and Connie Poulos Loos for Vice President. The Secretary and Treasurer positions had no nominees or volunteers, and those roles have been vacant since the 2015 election, when Secretary Gloria Atkins and Treasurer Bob Garstki did not volunteer to run for another term. In the future, the nominating committee will be dispensed of in favor of straight nominations by members

in attendance at any regular meeting, unless volunteers come forward to form the nominating committee themselves.

2017 ANNUAL PICNIC

A preliminary discussion took place regarding the 2017 annual picnic. Since the Butterfield Park District is no longer providing picnic tables in the main area of Glen Briar Park for our use, the members discussed the possibility of having the picnic at Kensington Park pavilion instead. Kensington Park is inside of Butterfield proper, can be walked to easily, and has several permanent picnic tables and a nice, large grill nearby. We could save money by grilling hamburgers and hot dogs, plus do a pot luck instead of buying food from Lee 'n' Eddies, which costs over \$500 every year.

JANUARY MEETING CANCELED

A vote was held to henceforward cancel the January meeting unless one is requested to be held by the membership. This is due to very poor attendance in past meetings, due to the cold weather and the majority of the regular attendees being out of town during the time that the January meeting is usually held. The January 2016 meeting, for example, had only two attendees aside of the President and Vice President. President Doug Elwell is considering holding an

Continued on page 13 >>

>> Connie's Corner (Continued from page 3)

➊ **Driveways and Walkways.** Repair cracks more than one-eighth of an inch wide. Walk your walkways and driveway inspecting for asphalt decay, loose railings, and rotting and crumbling surfaces which can become dangerous trip hazards.

➋ **Smoke Detectors and Fire Extinguishers.** Ensuring your smoke detectors and fire extinguishers are functioning correctly isn't seasonal. It's always a good idea to keep close tabs on them, but we couldn't leave this off the list!

➌ **General Cleanup around the Property.** Make a list that includes, trimming overhanging branches; recycling old newspapers; securing and storing flammable and poisonous chemicals in safe, approved containers; clearing spaces around heaters, furnaces and other heating appliances; storing or covering porch furniture and barbecues; and removing dirt from empty pots and planters and storing upside down.➌

Homeowner tips from Keller Williams Experience Realty Home-owner Resources

BUTTERFIELD CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

A Charlie Brown Christmas

By Doug Elwell

A Charlie Brown Christmas is one of the most popular and enduring Christmas specials ever made, and the second longest running special next to the Rankin/Bass animated Christmas special, *Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer* (1964).

First published in 1950, by the early 1960s cartoonist Charles M. Schulz's *Peanuts* comic strip had become a runaway success, having become popular worldwide. In 1965 the strip even made the cover of *Time* magazine, meaning that it had officially attained the status of genuine cultural phenomenon, and *Peanuts* began to gain the attention of Madison Avenue as a potential sales vehicle.

Soon after *Peanuts*' appearance on the cover of *Time*, the New York-based McCann Erickson advertising agency approached television producer Lee Melendez, who had worked with Schulz on a documentary about the *Peanuts* comic strip called *A Boy Named Charlie Brown* in 1963. McCann pitched him the idea of a *Peanuts*-based Christmas special, that would be sponsored by no less than the Coca-Cola company.

The show was cooked up at the last minute by request of Coca-Cola executives, who wanted an advertising vehicle for Coca-Cola products over the holiday season. Charles Schulz, along with famed animator Bill Melendez, put together a draft outline for Coca Cola to review in less than a week, and they had only 6 months to complete the entire animated short once the idea was approved.

Schulz wanted a more contemporary soundtrack, so he tapped Vince Guaraldi to do the now-famous jazz-based soundtrack, which turned out to be a tremendous critical and commercial success, having sold nearly 4 million copies to date. It has since been deemed one of the greatest soundtracks ever recorded, and was even voted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2007.

Despite the fact that *A Charlie Brown Christmas* would become



Charlie Brown standing next to the iconic Christmas tree that, like himself, came to stand for the underdog overcoming all odds to be a success.

known as one of the most beloved Christmas specials of all time, when first presented with this unorthodox cartoon, which was actually surprisingly counter-culture and progressive for its time, Coca-Cola executives feared it would be an embarrassing disaster that would not only blemish Coca-Cola's sterling reputation, but also that of *Peanuts*. They were concerned about the somewhat cynical tone of the show, the lack of a laugh track, even the use of real children to voice the characters. The overtly religious tone and the quotation of Scripture was also a major issue. In the end, the executives came to the agreement that *A Charlie Brown Christmas* would be aired, but only once as a one-off special to promote their product and that would be it.

After the initial screenings the show also concerned the animators, who were concerned that the animation style was too simple and the pace too slow to keep the attention of audiences, and they too feared it would be a disaster. One of the writers vehemently disagreed, however, saying that it was the best show he had ever worked on, or would ever work on, and that it would run every year for a hundred years. Well so far, he has been proven at least half right.

As we now know, the special turned out to be not only hugely successful, garnering 45% of all households and rating #2 in its timeslot next to *Bonanza* (then the most popular show on television), but it was also deemed a critical success, winning both an Emmy and a Peabody award.

Critics gave the show glowing reviews, describing it variously as novel, delightful, and even haunting. It was and is generally considered to be one of the most if not the most sensitive and insightful Christmas specials ever to be produced. And despite the fact that the quotation of Luke 2:8-14 was considered by executives to be too religious even for early 1960s standards, where less than 10% of Christmas programming was overtly religious in

Continued on page 12 >>



Since its initial publication in 1950, the *Peanuts* comic strip went on to global syndication, becoming enough of a cultural phenomenon to make the cover of *Time* magazine in 1965

Spring is coming! Is change in your future?

Warmer weather is right around the corner. Take advantage of it and make a move or transform your home.

Temperatures may be hovering around freezing now but tulips and daffodils are on our minds. If you're considering making a move or changing things up, we can help with tips on listing your home, insight into the spring-time real estate market, and determining how much you can afford on a new home.

If a move is not in your future, create more space at home by decluttering. Not only can improved organization help you realize a feeling of peace and contentment, but it may increase your home value. A great resource is *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*. If you've read the best-selling book or intend to do so, join us for book club.

Join us for BOOK CLUB

Saturday, Feb. 11 at 11:00am.

Juicy O • 2942 Finley Rd. • Downers Grove, IL 60515

RSVP to Christina Becker by Saturday, Feb 4.

For assistance in listing your home or buying a new one, contact me today.



Christina Becker

Realtor

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DAY 2

Make room by your entryway for daily essentials.

DAY 5

Pare down your bathroom vanity to the essentials.

DAY 3

Rid your desk and office of old papers and books.

DAY 6

Declutter and refold the items in your linen closet.

DAY 7

Edit and organize your kitchen cabinets and refrigerator.

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BUTTERFIELD CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

>> A Charlie Brown Christmas

(Continued from page 10)

nature, the critics loved the inclusion of the scriptural quotation, and it became, in the words of one critic, "the dramatic highlight of the season."

The true success of *A Charlie Brown Christmas* was not in the animation, nor in the music, but in the message that Charles Schulz wanted to convey — that the true meaning of Christmas was being drowned out by commercialism, and that the community had to act collectively in order to keep Christmas from losing its original meaning. Predictably, the airing of the special and its subsequent popularity pretty much destroyed the advent of the aluminum Christmas tree, which by that time (1965) had been around for around seven years. Schulz's dedication to principle and refusal to compromise was one of the main reasons that *A Charlie Brown Christmas* became so successful.

But Schulz was not just railing against commercialism — the true meaning of Christmas had been in decline for some time. Very few if any Christmas specials mentioned the actual, historical meaning of Christmas, replacing it with fanciful tales based loosely on actual figures from history (St. Nicholas for example), or with characters that had been purely manufactured for commercial purposes, such as Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, which was actually based upon a children's coloring book that Montgomery Ward had published and given away free to children in the 1930s and 40s.

In the story, Charlie Brown, the heroic, if humble, protagonist, finds himself repelled by the shallow, commercial nature of the modern Christmas and embarks on a quest to discover the original, true meaning of Christmas. Searching for a Christmas tree to help salvage the troubled Christmas play, Charlie Brown travels to a Christmas tree sales lot, finding that almost all of the real trees had been replaced by garish aluminum Christmas trees. Charlie



Charlie Brown's search for a sincere Christmas tree was actually a quest to discover the true meaning of Christmas. The humble nature of the man caused him to choose a humble tree, symbolically representing the humble birth of the one whom the Christmas star had foretold — the one whose birth was the true meaning of Christmas.

thrive once more.

A Charlie Brown Christmas originally aired annually on CBS from 1965–2000, when it was acquired by ABC. ABC now runs the show at least twice every Christmas season, and also has *A Charlie Brown Christmas* available for free (with commercials) online at <http://abc.go.com/movies-and-specials/a-charlie-brown-christmas>.

FURTHER READING:

Charles M. Schulz, "The Life of Charles M. Schulz", Timeline: 1950, <https://schulzmuseum.org/timeline/#!/1950>

Danny Gallagher, "10 Things You Probably Didn't Know About 'A Charlie Brown Christmas'", The FW: <http://thefw.com/10-things-you-probably-didnt-know-about-a-charlie-brown-christmas/>

Daniel S. Levine, "'A Charlie Brown Christmas': 5 Fast Facts You Need to Know", Heavy.com: <http://heavy.com/entertainment/2016/12/a-charlie-brown-christmas-abc>

Wikipedia, "A Charlie Brown Christmas", https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Charlie_Brown_Christmas



The hero returns from his quest, but only with the help of the community can he restore the balance — in this case, restore the tree, and with it the true meaning of Christmas.



>> Meeting Minutes (Continued from page 9)

online "virtual town hall" instead, which does not count as a regular meeting, but will be informational in nature only. Please contact us at 630-627-4845 or email us at butterfieldhomeownersassoc@gmail.com if you wish to participate. More information will be posted on our website at <http://www.mybhoa.com>.

2016 BEST DECORATED CHRISTMAS HOUSE CONTEST

Planning for the 2016 Best Decorated Christmas House Contest also took place at the meeting, with the following decisions:

- Final review of all houses will take place by December 20th, after which time no additional decorations will be counted.
- There will be 3 prizes: a Third Prize of \$25, a Second Prize of \$50, and a Grand Prize of \$100.
- Final judging will take place prior to Christmas.
- The contest winners will be published on our website at <http://www.mybhoa.com>.

Open Forum

- There was a lengthy discussion regarding how to bring more people into the BHA, get them to attend the meetings, and get more involved in the community. It was concluded that people are not attending and volunteering largely because the culture has changed, and there are no longer stay-at-home moms who have the time and interest in volunteering. The BHA encourages the residents of Butterfield to get more involved in their community in any way possible.
- There was also more discussion about how to fix the problem with drivers speeding through our subdivision in order to save time on their commute, particularly down 22nd Street and Glen Avenue. Thanks in part to the intervention by our new Safety Committee, the police have increased their presence. However, most of the drivers caught by the police have actually been Butterfield residents, so, please keep your speed below 25 MPH throughout Butterfield.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.

The next meeting will be held on March 16th, 2017. ☺

BUTTERFIELD CLASSIFIEDS

● **DC Windows, Doors & Remodeling** provides total renovation and home improvements specializing in window and door repair/replacement. Phone: 630-689-3229. Email: dmj_74@yahoo.com. See their ad on page 5 for more information.

● **Double Dragon** is an authentic Chinese and Japanese sushi restaurant located at 414 W. 22nd St. in Lombard (Cove Plaza). Phone: 630-889-8989. See their ad on page 7 for more information.

● **Christina Becker, RE/MAX & Bianca Stone, GuaranteedRate** work together to offer both realtor and mortgage services. Phone Christina at 630-632-2064, email: christinasellshomes@comcast.net, and Bianca at 630-869-0011, email: bianca.stone@guaranteedrate.com. See their ad on page 11 for more information.

● **Connie Poulos Loos** offers realtor services as a Coldwell Banker real estate agent. Certified in residential relocation, negotiation, short sales and foreclosures. Phone: 630-400-1212. Email: connie.loos21@aol.com. See her ad on page 15 for more information.

● **Darlene Mahnke** offers realtor services as a RE/MAX real estate agent. Darlene is a Lombard resident and has been an area specialist since 1997. Phone: 630-674-3678. Web: www.DarleneSellsMyHome.com. See her ad on page 2 for more information.

To add your listing, call 630-627-4845, or email butterfieldhomeownersassoc@gmail.com. ☺

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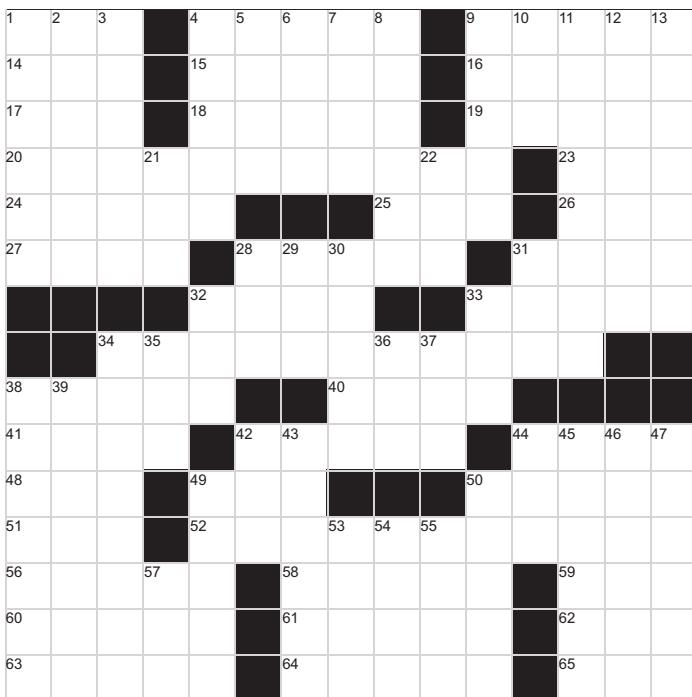
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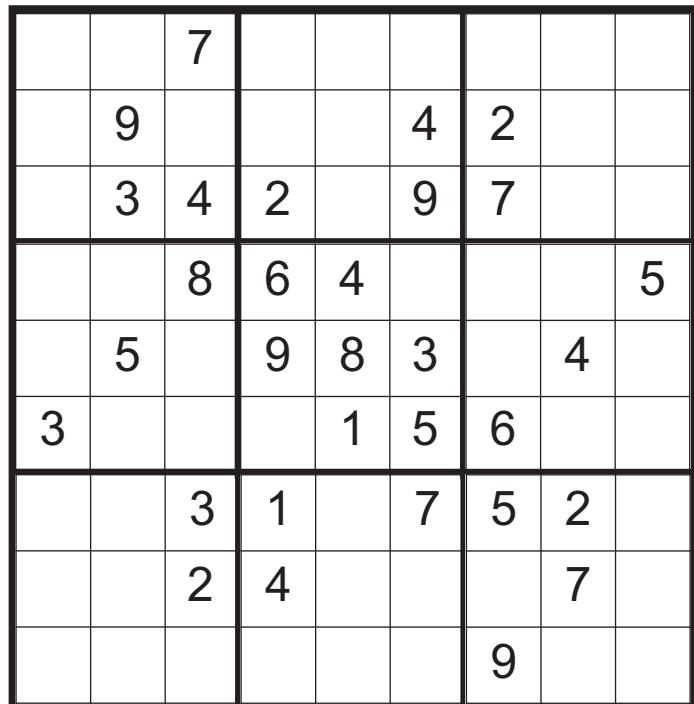
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1: Video recorder, for short
- 4: *Ipso* ____
- 9: *Terra* ____
- 14: Some gametes
- 15: Shivering fits
- 16: Juicy plants
- 17: Dauphin's denial
- 18: Assesses the value of
- 19: Stops bleeding
- 20: Street urchin
- 23: Electrical unit
- 24: Lots, sometimes
- 25: Streaking, once
- 26: Spoil
- 27: Pillow cover
- 28: Prevents litters
- 31: Puff like a pooped pup
- 32: Robin of Sherwood
- 33: Creepy 'Psycho' motel
- 34: Bring back together
- 38: Olympic weapons
- 40: Part of a hammer head
- 41: Expanse near the Capitol
- 42: Gave a ticket to
- 44: Goes for
- 48: Old hand
- 49: Enjoyable
- 50: Pack animal
- 51: Gigantic 'Arabian Nights' flyer
- 52: It'll hold a place for you
- 56: Fill with joy
- 58: Modern form of communication
- 59: Hour div.
- 60: Bristles
- 61: King or queen
- 62: Squeeze (out)
- 63: Barely flows
- 64: Spirited horse
- 65: Wharf pest

DOWN

- 1: Drums or dance lines
- 2: Assert positively
- 3: 'Om,' e.g.
- 4: Cabbie's customers
- 5: Emulsifying agent
- 6: Budget decisions
- 7: Adolescent
- 8: Become bony
- 9: Didn't avoid
- 10: Hardly hale
- 11: Rent splitter
- 12: Natural gas constituent
- 13: Puts in like piles
- 21: President pro ____
- 22: Faux follower
- 28: George W. Bush, to George H.W. Bush
- 29: Stewing vessel
- 30: Well-versed
- 31: Butter square
- 32: 'To each ____ own'
- 33: Prohibition
- 34: Have a moving experience?
- 35: Slim swimmer
- 36: 'Golly!'
- 37: Pinot Noir or Merlot
- 38: Catherine, for one
- 39: One out early
- 42: Stick on a table
- 43: Enlarged map segments
- 44: Away from the office
- 45: Simple text
- 46: Russian sleigh
- 47: Wordsworth work
- 49: Dislodges
- 50: Bundled, as hay
- 53: Give off
- 54: Miles per hour, e.g.
- 55: Ignominious
- 57: Dance like Hines



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our children and youth ministries, listen to our messages
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4 - ACTIVE LISTINGS
5 - PENDING LISTINGS
30 - CLOSED LISTINGS IN 2016
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CONNIE POULOS LOOS

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