



THE TIMBERLAKE TIMES

76th Year • 337th Issue • June 2023

Final Information on Timberlake Community Night at the Lake County Captains See Page 2



In This Issue...

T-lake Captains Game	2
Village Club Voice	3
Doggie Data	4
Council Minutes	5
Times Flashback	10



Timberlake Lunch Bunch

The May and June lunches will be at **Trader Jack's** on May 25 and June 22 (Thursdays) at 11:30 am. Please note change of time and location. All are invited.

The *Timberlake Times* is a monthly publication staffed by volunteer villagers and sponsored by the Village of Timberlake. Please make article submissions **electronically** to the **email** below or **texted** to the number below by end of day Sunday before the last Saturday of each month.

Volunteer staff

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On the Web

villageoftimberlake.com/timberlake-times/

Social media

facebook.com/TimberlakeVillageClub

Follow the Village Club on Facebook to stay informed of current events, photos, and videos! We actively update it with announcements and reminders!



June Recycle Dates

6/2, 6/16, 6/30



TIMBERLAKE

COMMUNITY NIGHT

JUNE 30, 7:00 PM

Lake County Captains vs Fort Wayne TinCaps
POSTGAME FIREWORKS!

Tickets \$12 (All Star Box Seats)
(does not include food, beverages, or parking)

Reserve tickets by June 10

Pick up tickets at Village Club meeting Monday June 12, 7 pm at Village Hall

NOTE: Cash is not accepted inside ballpark for any concessions. However, gift cards can be purchased at the park with cash and used for concessions.

Family name _____ Address _____ Phone _____

Number of tickets _____ × \$12.00 = \$ _____

- Must be paid by check written to Village Club
- No tickets distributed before payment is received
- Place form and payment in mailbox in driveway on left hand side at 41 E Shore Blvd

Village Club Voice



Village Club Meetings

Meetings will be held on the second Monday of every month: June 12, July 10, Aug 14, Sept 11, Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec 11.

Only two more meetings until Family Fun Day . Bring your ideas, bring your energy, and bring ideas of how you want to volunteer to help make Family Fun Day a success!

Village Club Events

2023 Confirmed Events

These are the events currently being planned:

- Friday, June 30 - Timberlake Night at the Captains Game
- Sunday, Aug 6 - Timberlake Family Fun Days*
- Saturday, September 9 - Clam Bake
- Saturday, December 2 - Christmas Dinner
- Sunday, December 24 - Luminaries

SAVE THE DATE

Timberlake Family Fun Day Sunday, August 6, 2023

Where you'll have **FUN, FUN, FUN**



**1:00 pm: Parade down
East Shore Blvd
Bike decorating contest**

**Picnic in the Park
Hot dogs and beer
provided**



**Music, games (for all
ages), 50/50 raffle,
Chinese Auction and
more...**

See you there!!

Doggie Data

In Timberlake, we love our dogs. Here are some interesting facts about our canine companions.

Some Dogs Can Understand 250 Words

Dogs are man's best friend, and the canine ability to understand human words has gone a long way to solidify that world-changing relationship. According to the American Psychological Association, the average dog can understand 165 words, and "super dogs"—those in the top 20% of canine intellect—can understand around 250 words. Dog intelligence can be divided into three main types: instinctive (what the dog is bred to do), adaptive (what a dog learns from its environment), and working/obedience (what a dog is trained to do). Research into the levels of working/obedience intelligence in various dog breeds shows that Border Collies displayed the highest levels,

followed by Poodles, German Shepherds, and Golden Retrievers. With the ability to also understand simple math ($1+1=2$, for example), these "super dogs" have an estimated cognitive ability of 2- to 2.5-year-old humans.

Although 250 words is already impressive, it's by no means the absolute limit. The Einstein of the

dog world is a Border Collie named Chaser. According to the journal *Behavioural Processes*, Chaser had the ability to recall and correctly identify 1,022 words. This far exceeds the vocabulary of any known dog, and pushes Chaser into the cognitive ability range of a 3-year-old. Now, that's an extremely good girl.

Furry Facts



Number of dog breeds recognized by the American Kennel Club in 2022



Estimated maximum number of words cats understand



Estimated number of dogs in the world at any given time



Number of years ago dogs were first domesticated in Siberia

Off the Leash by Rupert Fawcett



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FACEBOOK.COM/OFF THE LEASH DAILY DOG CARTOONS

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES VILLAGE OF TIMBERLAKE

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Work Session 5:30 PM

Meeting began at 5:30 PM with the pledge of allegiance, and the Mayor's opening prayer.

Mayor John Marra presiding.

Roll Call of Council Members Present and Motion to Excuse:

Cindy Hardwick, Jerry Joyce, Margaret Joyce, Ryan Konrad (arrived late), Nancy Marra, and Kevin Thompson.

Personnel in Attendance:

James O'Leary	Solicitor
John H. Roskos	Fiscal Officer
Susan Scofield	Chief, Police Department

1. Discussion of Vacation/Sick Leave Policy - Proposed Ordinance

- i. Review of the Proposed Ordinance No. 5-2023
 - ii. Some language was borrowed from the Village of Grand River, and some came from other municipalities.
 - iii. This Ordinance would only apply to full-time employees.
 - iv. Det. Sgt. Swanson is working full-time hours currently but has not reached full-time status yet according to the Chief.
 - v. Discussion followed about the definition of full-time.
 - vi. Mr. Joyce is not against offering benefits for full-time.
 1. Believes it is a good HR practice.
 - a. Timberlake has not had a policy in the past.
 - b. Mr. Joyce does not believe there is a requirement in the ORC; he believes these requirements only apply to County employees.
 - c. We do not have to offer benefits, but he thinks it is the right thing to do.
 - i. Additional related discussion occurred.
 - d. The Chief believes that while the private sector is not obligated to offer based on of ORC and Federal Law, she believes this is different for public employees; she disagrees with Mr. Joyce's assessment.
 - e. Mr. O'Leary noted that he did not want Council to get sidetracked by nuances of ORC and legal arguments regarding a requirement to offer benefits.
- Mayor discussed full-time employees.
 - i. We already have a verbal agreement with the Chief.
 - ii. Doesn't think we need this Ordinance.
 - iii. Doesn't believe it is in our budget.
 - Additional discussion related to Det. Sgt. Swanson's current status.
 - Mr. Joyce inquired about why we are having a hard time hiring police officers.
 - i. The Chief noted that Eastlake currently pays part-time officers \$24/hour.
 - ii. We currently have 0 applicants according to the Chief.
 - iii. We ran an ad on Indeed for a large part of last year; the Chief will not hire anyone with a criminal record.
 1. There is a nationwide shortage of police officers.
 - Additional details and discussion occurred.
 - i. Swanson currently works full-time hours, because no other officers can fill. He is looking for another position, but it takes a while for application process.
 - ii. Discussion of records of potential applicants, expungement of records, et cetera.
 - iii. All other current officers have full-time jobs elsewhere or off-duty jobs.
 1. We no longer have any unpaid Special Officers.
 - iv. Ad is currently running on Indeed again for new part-time officers.
 - v. Discussion of filling shifts when Chief was off earlier this year.
 - vi. Discussion of hours worked by various officers.
 - vii. Officers must work 1 day per week with exceptions.
 - viii. According to Mr. Joyce, the threshold for determining full-time status is an average over a course of a year.
 - Discussion of history of benefits for Chief of Police and lack of discussions concerning this issue with Mayor and Council
 - i. Related details and opinions shared by Mr. Joyce
 - ii. Additional discussion of scheduling
 1. Chief would prefer Monday through Friday schedule, and explained why this isn't currently possible
 - Discussion regarding staff issues, of history of hiring of Chief, and past officers on staff, and difficulties that occurred when officers quit the department
 - Discussion of what the Chief would like to see for vacation, and sick leave.
 - i. 2 weeks of vacation
 - ii. Discussed meeting on March 11 with Mayor, Fiscal Officer, Solicitor (and Chief) and how vacation time was accumulated; additional details were given regarding time off, vacation and sick leave.
 - Mayor prefers a Monday through Friday schedule too.
 - Discussion of approval of funds for vacation days in budget
 - The Chief does not expect Det. Sgt. Swanson to stay long-term.
 - Discussion of officers working full-time hours in the past.
 - Additional extensive discussion followed on related items that were already discussed earlier in the meeting.

- Discussion of accrual of sick leave hours.
 - Mr. O’Leary believes we should focus on the future, not past events.
 - i. Either we need to commit to our Police Department or should consider negotiations with Eastlake.
 - ii. Need to look at how to retain officers.
 - iii. Mr. O’Leary sees the benefits of hiring full-time officers; cited success in North Perry and Perry Village - costs similar or less than having part-time officers.
 - Mr. Joyce noted that Grand River currently has 21 officers on staff.
 - i. Discussion of history of Special Officers.
 - ii. Discussion of number of graduates from the Police Academy.
 - Additional discussion, details given, that relate to subjects previously covered.
 - Mr. Joyce asked Mr. O’Leary what our obligations might be for full-time employees.
 - i. He will reach out to a colleague who has more experience in this area.
 - ii. He noted that ORC Section 124 covers State Government.
 - The Fiscal Officer indicated that he received feedback and revisions from the Chief and inquired whether Council or the Mayor had any other revisions to the proposed Ordinance at this time; there was no feedback provided at this time.
2. Discussion of Allowing Chickens/Fowl- Proposed Ordinance (No Discussion)
 3. Sprinkler Credits for Residents (No Discussion)
 4. Parks Ordinance (No Discussion)
 5. Other Topics
- Mrs. Hardwick noted that a new resident is moving into the Village, who has an emotional therapy pig.
 - i. Discussion of details of the pig; is about 135 pounds.
 - ii. Service Animals may be exempt from Ordinance; Solicitor may need to look into.
 - iii. Mrs. Hardwick noted that the resident does have a certificate from the State of Pennsylvania.

Adjournment of Work Session

Mr. Joyce made a motion to adjourn the Work Session; Mr. Konrad seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Work Session adjourned at 6:28 PM.

Regular Council Meeting 6:30 PM

Meeting began at 6:30 PM with the pledge of allegiance, and the Mayor’s opening prayer.

Mayor John Marra presiding.

Roll Call of Council Members Present and Motion to Excuse:

Cindy Hardwick, Jerry Joyce, Margaret Joyce, Ryan Konrad, Nancy Marra, and Kevin Thompson.

Personnel in Attendance:

James O’Leary	Solicitor
John H. Roskos	Fiscal Officer
Susan Scofield	Chief, Police Department

Public Comment, Good & Welfare:

- Debbie King, 43 East Shore Blvd.
 - o Inquired about what steps we are taking to repair the streets.
 - o Mayor indicated we will look at a crack sealing program and other repairs.
 - ♦ He will follow-up with Surface Engineering for a quote.

Reading & Disposition of the Minutes:

- a. Council Work Session, April 18, 2023 – Mrs. Marra made a motion to approve the minutes of the April, 2023 Council Work Session. Mr. Joyce seconded the motion. Roll call: all were in favor of approving the minutes.
- b. Regular Council Meeting, April 18, 2023 – Mr. Konrad made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2023 Regular Council Meeting. Mrs. Marra seconded the motion. Roll call: all were in favor of approving the minutes.

Legislation:

- a. Resolution No. 2023-10 (Rules Suspended)

A Resolution authorizing reimbursement to resident Robert Hurley for tree work completed in the Village right of way and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Joyce made a motion to suspend the three reading rule: Mrs. Joyce seconded the motion; roll call- all were in favor of suspending the rules.

Mr. Joyce made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-10: Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. Mr. Thompson reviewed the details of what occurred; a fair price was obtained by the resident. He does not encourage residents to do; the Village should be aware. Don’t want residents to take action on own; trees falling on public lands (streets, etc.) will be handled by the Village.

Roll call- all were in favor of Resolution No. 2023-10.

- b. Resolution No. 2023-11 (Rules Suspended)

A Resolution establishing the 4201 Playground Construction Fund of Timberlake Village, Ohio, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Joyce made a motion to suspend the three reading rule: Mr. Konrad seconded the motion; roll call- all were in favor of suspending the rules.

Mr. Konrad made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-11: Mrs. Hardwick seconded the motion. The Fiscal Officer noted that ODNr prefers to have a separate line-item or fund designated for the NatureWorks Grant.

Roll call- all were in favor of Resolution No. 2023-11.

- c. Resolution No. 2023-12 (Rules Suspended)

A Resolution amending the Permanent Appropriations Funds for the Village of Timberlake, Ohio for the Year

2023, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Joyce made a motion to suspend the three reading rule: Mrs. Marra seconded the motion; roll call- all were in favor of suspending the rules.

Mrs. Marra made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-12: Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. Mr. Roskos reviewed Exhibit A and the various changes to appropriations necessary to apply for the NatureWorks grant. The net additional cost to the General Fund is around \$2,818.

Roll call- all were in favor of Resolution No. 2023-12.

d. Resolution No. 2023-13 (Rules Suspended)

A Resolution authorizing the Fiscal Officer to transfer of eight thousand dollars and fifteen-cents (\$8,000.15) from the General Fund (1000) to 4201 Playground Construction Fund for the Current Fiscal Year 2023, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Joyce made a motion to suspend the three reading rule: Mr. Konrad seconded the motion; roll call- all were in favor of suspending the rules.

Mr. Joyce made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-13: Mrs. Joyce seconded the motion.

Roll call- all were in favor of Resolution No. 2023-13.

e. Resolution No. 2023-14 (Rules Suspended)

A Resolution authorizing the Fiscal Officer to advance twenty-four thousand dollars and forty-two cents (\$24,000.42) from the General Fund (1000) to the Playground Construction Fund (4201), and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Joyce made a motion to suspend the three reading rule: Mrs. Marra seconded the motion; roll call- all were in favor of suspending the rules.

Mrs. Marra made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-14: Mr. Joyce seconded the motion; the funds advanced will cover the 75% match from ODNR that will be reimbursed. Funds will be returned to the General Fund when ODNR reimburses the Village (if the grant is approved) or at the end of the year at the latest.

Roll call- all were in favor of Resolution No. 2023-14.

f. Resolution No. 2023-15 (Rules Suspended)

A Resolution the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to apply for Grant Funding through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources NatureWorks Grant Program, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Thompson made a motion to suspend the three reading rule: Mrs. Marra seconded the motion; roll call - all were in favor of suspending the rules.

Mrs. Joyce made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-15: Mrs. Marra seconded the motion;

Roll call- all were in favor of Resolution No. 2023-15.

g. Ordinance No. 5-2023 (1st Reading)

An Ordinance amending Section 10 of the Village of

Timberlake Personnel Policies and Procedures (includes the establishment of a Vacation and Sick Leave policy for full-time employees and several corrections/clarifications to Section 10).

Ordinance No. 5-2023 was presented for First Reading.

h. Ordinance No. 6-2023 (1st Reading)

An Ordinance amending Section 700.03 Prohibited Animals of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Timberlake.

Ordinance No. 6-2023 was presented for First Reading.

i. Ordinance No. 7-2023 (1st Reading)

An Ordinance permitting the keeping and raising of chickens in the Village of Timberlake.

j. Ordinance No. 7-2023 was presented for First Reading.

Council Motion to Appoint Regional Council of Governments Delegate

A motion to appoint Fiscal Officer John H. Roskos as delegate for Timberlake Village for the Regional Council of Governments.

Mr. Joyce made a motion to appoint John H. Roskos as delegate for the Regional Council of Governments. Mr. Konrad seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Reports:

a. Mayor:

- (Service) has been working around the Village to clean-up
- We will work on some catch basins, as well as Keewaydin Sanitary Sewers
- Pretty quiet otherwise, encourage your neighbors to clean-up.

b. Solicitor: Nothing new to report

c. Council Members:

Cynthia Hardwick

- Everything is going well at the Hall.
- All weekends are booked next month
- Service is keeping the Hall clean
- Called Lifetime about the tables; tables have been paid for, will get a delivery date soon.

Ryan Konrad

- Lake County Sewer will be doing some work at Storm Sewer near 58 Shawondassee; sewer is just holding water, not draining
 - o Sanitary Sewer flush will happen (on Keewaydin)
- 85 Shawondassee
 - o Issue with catch basin and a hole nearby; the catch basin is on private property. Resident would have to speak with neighbor about issue.
 - o Discussion of who installed the basin
 - ◆ Mayor indicated that the basin was installed privately; blueprints show that it is not public

- Mr. Konrad indicated that 3 quotes were obtained for the sewer work
 - Chose Lake County Sewer for 2 reasons: they are available immediately; United Survey was higher in cost and Ciro's was similar in price, but not available for a couple of weeks.
- NatureWorks Grant
 - Thanked Mr. O'Leary and the Fiscal Officer for background work.
 - Grant application is due June 1.
 - Has a call out to Tim Robinson at ODNR
 - ◆ Mr. O'Leary inquired whether ODNR could review application before submitted.
 - Mr. Konrad will meet with Fiscal Officer prior to submitting.
 - If grant approved, new equipment could be installed by October, but not may be useable till next year (weatherwise).
- Gametime is set to ship (slide, new playground equipment) on June 5.
- Gives kudos to his neighbors for cleaning up sticks; he and 5 other residents helped a neighbor move a pile of sticks to backyard.
- Gives kudos to the Chief for helping with crossing at the school bus on Lake Shore; additional related discussion.
- Thanked Cindy Hardwick and the Village Club
 - Sidebar discussion on Timberlake night at the Captain's
 - ◆ Mrs. Hardwick indicated they will be going with ticket-only plan; they are \$12 each and we will have our own section. There is a handicap area.
 - ◆ It is a group rate; still can sign the National Anthem. Likely will be performed by a quartet with former resident Brian Noda.
 - * Discussion followed about other groups singing at Captains games
 - ◆ Maybe can throw out 1st pitch
 - ◆ Date is June 30; bring your own money for food (please note that Captains Stadium is "cashless"; cards only)
 - ◆ Can only bring purses or bags that are clear
- Thanked the Mayor for technical guidance on the sewers.

Jerry Joyce

- Discussed Captains Game tickets and pricing
 - Can you negotiate with Captains to be able to buy all you can eat
 - Expect to spend a minimum of \$5 at the concession stand (example, for a beer, diet coke, and pretzels, the cost was \$27)

- ◆ You can bring "label-less" water

- Mrs. Hardwick noted that a minimum of 30 people would be needed to be able to use the pavilion there; additional related discussion. Would this include all you can eat?
 - Mrs. Hardwick will follow-up again
- Discussion of cashless policy at Captains Stadium and whether this is legal; Mr. Joyce intends to call them.
- Explanation of process to get food credits at Captains
- Mrs. Hardwick will buy 20 tickets and these will be available (after purchase) in a box by her driveway. She will take check only.

Margaret Joyce

- Noted that the Village Hall looks terrific.
- Mrs. Joyce said they moved in about 4 years ago, and she noted many dead trees at the time when she walked around. She said many of these trees have since been removed.
- Received a second letter from NOPEC regarding electric
 - Offering is 16 cents less than CEI
 - Suggested residents call NOPEC if they didn't receive a letter

Nancy Marra

- Discussed people having trouble cleaning up their yards
 - Partly this is due to residents having moved out and left stuff behind
 - Does receive complaints about people's yards
- Discussed related scenarios and situations
 - Council keeps an eye on property maintenance currently
 - The approach "how can I help?" seems to work better
 - Recommends Council members go together when following up on a complaint (bring the Ordinance too)
 - Service Department also watches for maintenance issues.

Kevin Thompson

- Nothing to report

d. Fiscal Officer:

Monthly Financials and Annual Report:

General Fund- ending balance through April 30, 2023 is \$306,319.84. Month to date revenue was \$28,080.11 vs expenditures of \$41,965.26, a net difference of \$13,885.15. Please note that our first half Real Estate Homestead and Rollback payment from the State of Ohio was delayed, and not received until May 3; this occurred County-wide. There was

no reason given for why this occurred. This receipt would have added \$21,339.39. However, it is important to note also that Income Tax Collections are down by \$4,000 year over year; a drop of around 5% versus last year's collections at this time. Expenditures were less than estimates by \$10,034.74, primarily due to the early arrival of the invoice for 80% of our Audit costs (paid in March).

General Fund Revenue through April 30, 2023 is \$17,328 less than last year. This is attributable to lower than expected property tax collection rates, not as robust income tax collection for the month as anticipated, and again the delay in the receipt of our First Half Homestead and Rollback payment.

At this time, based on current estimated spending rates and revenue (including adjustment for the late Homestead and Rollback Payment), we estimate a surplus for the General Fund this year, of around \$94,414; this would not include any additions to the Village Hall or Police Cruiser Capital Funds. The Village will need to maintain conservative spending versus total appropriations to achieve this level of surplus; for example, total spending in the General Fund in 2022 was \$647,712 versus total permitted appropriations of \$761,708.

Other Significant Fund Activity and Miscellaneous: \$400 in refunds were issued from the 9901 Hall Rental Security Deposit Refund FUND. There was no other significant activity in other Funds.

- o Mr. Konrad inquired about the reason for lower income tax revenues, even though we eliminated the Income Tax Credit; Mr. Roskos indicated that a large tax refund of \$4,000 occurred, but he does not know the reason for the refund.

e. Police Chief- Monthly Report-

The Chief noted that the report is for April 1 to April 30; she then presented the monthly report- there were 2 911 calls, 3 administrative calls, 3 requests for assistance, 1 breaking and entering of a vehicle, 2 civil complaints, 32 community policing events, 2 disabled vehicles, 56 house checks, 9 investigations, 1 noise complaint, 5 phone complaints, 1 property complaint, 1 suspicious person, 1 traffic complaint, 4 tree complaints, and 1 warrant executed for a total of 124 events.

Discussion of commentary on social media regarding cars being broken into in Timberlake

- Chief indicated that the State considers any car entered (illegally) as a breaking and entering regarding of whether unlocked.
 - o The department is obligated to report these to the State
 - o There were 5 complaints of people entering vehicles, all were unlocked and in 4 out of 5 instances, residents declined to file a police report. All 5 occurred on East Shore.
- The Chief noted that crime tends to be up in warm months.

- o Please lock your car.
- o Mr. O'Leary noted that most of these break-ins are committed by teens.
- o Police use spotlight; sometimes receive complaints, but more residents in support. Related discussion followed.

- Mr. Joyce noted that officers know people in the neighborhood and related that he received a knock on his door the first day they lived here. He noted that police remind people to close garage door, et cetera; he appreciates that.
- The Chief said house checks can be startling, if the police don't know you're back home; additional discussion followed of officer walking through a yard looking for a dog and a related neighbor complaint.

f. Zoning/Property Maintenance-

Gary Gray was not present; the Mayor indicated that there was 1 roof permit, and 1 yard drain permit issued.

Purchases & Approvals:

a. A motion to approve the April, 2023 Financial Reports-

Mr. Joyce made a motion to approve the April, 2023 Financial Reports. Mrs. Marra seconded the motion; roll call, all were in favor of approving the monthly financial reports.

The Mayor inquired about approval of the payment to Robert Hurley; the Fiscal Officer indicated that the Resolution was sufficient for this purpose.

Public Comment and Questions (may be directed at the Mayor or Council members only; reserved for follow-up questions on topics discussed at today's meeting):

- Debbie King, 43 East Shore Blvd.
 - o She inquired about whether we can increase font size of the Minutes in the Timberlake Times and also the monthly financial reports.
 - o Mayor indicated that we were trying to condense, since some of the Minutes were very long; it was noted that you can blow up the font size if viewed online or you can print out larger at home.
 - o The Fiscal Officer indicated that the font size of the financial reports is determined by the software program; if we print on legal size paper they might be slightly larger.

Editor's Note: for additional details and discussion, please see our You Tube Page link for this meeting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLiVh4A5Yc8>

Adjournment

Mr. Konrad made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. Roll call: all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.

Called by: Mayor Posted

Our next regular meeting is Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 6:30 PM (Tax Budget Hearing to be held at 6:15 PM before Regular Meeting).

Timberlake Times Flashback - Some tasty nuggets from Villager Meg Piekul back in June of 2006



Timberlake Times

57th Year – 167th Issue

June 2006



Did you know?

Egg-cellent: Though you may have thought it was nameless, the squiggly white string that you see when you break an egg open is the chalaza (cha-lay-za). Inside the egg, it serves the function of holding the yolk in place.

-Meg Piekul

Schnitzel

Schnitzel, the German word for cutlet, is used to describe meat that has been breaded and fried. It is prepared with chicken or veal cutlets. Serve with buttered egg noodles sprinkled with fresh parsley. Have lemon wedges that can be squeezed over the cutlets.

2 large eggs>>1 garlic clove, minced>>1/2 tsp. minced fresh parsley>>salt & pepper>>1 cup Panko bread crumbs>>1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese>>4 cutlets, veal or chicken (about 6 oz. each) pounded to an even 1/4 inch thickness>>4 T. olive oil>>1 T. butter>>1/4 cup dry white wine>>1/2 cup chicken broth>>1 T fresh lemon juice

In shallow bowl beat eggs with garlic, parsley & 1/2 teaspoon each, salt & pepper. In separate bowl, combine crumbs & cheese. Dip each cutlet into egg mixture to coat completely, then dredge in crumb mixture, patting it on with your fingers.

Heat 2 tablespoons oil in large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook 2 cutlets until golden brown & cooked through, about 3 minutes per side, transfer to platter. Add remaining 2 tablespoons oil to pan, reduce heat to medium, repeat with remaining 2 cutlets.

Wipe skillet, heat butter until melted. Add wine, heat 30 seconds. Stir in broth & lemon juice, simmer 2 minutes. Season with salt & pepper. To serve, pour broth mixture over cutlets.

-Meg Piekul