

## ***Just so you know! . . . . October 2, 2020***

### ***Ideas, hints and opinions***

***By David Spears***

. . . In case you missed it, **New England Village is being retired**. Melinda Seegers made the announcement on *Dept. 56 Facebook Live* October 1<sup>st</sup>. All current New England Village pieces will be on the November 26<sup>th</sup> *Dept. 56 Retirement List*. NEV was introduced in 1986, two years after Dickens' Village. See *Dept. 56 Facebook* for details.

. . . The **winners** of the *Dept. 56 Halloween Display Contest* have been announced. 1st place - Mary Jo Lawson, Florence, KY; 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Martha Jack, Collingswood, ON, Canada; 3<sup>rd</sup> place - Cheryl Crossland, Broken Arrow, OK. Take a look, images and descriptions can be seen at: <https://www.facebook.com/Department56/>

. . . Look at the picture below - There is **two of each** figure. The elf skaters are Dept. 56 originals. The elf skiers, 'modified' versions of each skater. The Lemax photographer is original; the sign holder is 'modified.' Thanks to John Rapacz for the creations.



. . . Lemax 'Spooky Windmill' - used **second image** in JSYK, last column. I must like it more than I thought. Note: Bought it today!

. . . "Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing." - received in an email.

. . . Dec 7, 2007 - JSYK "You just never know where you are going to find a **good idea**. This came from Claudia and Char in the bakery at our Duluth (MN) Festival Foods store. I asked where we could use cartoon characters (Disney, Looney Tunes, etc.) in our village displays. They suggested placing the cartoon characters on the red carpet in front of a theater having a premier. Or how about lined up at a door in the rear of a building. Above the door the sign says "Auditions Today."

. . . How about a **simple background**. On the lower shelf I used a photo enlargement of me running a gymkhana/autocross and green poster board. I think it's **easy but effective** (and looks a whole lot better than a bare wall).



. . . There was supposed to be a picture of **seated elves** here. As a matter of fact, three pictures. They all hid on me. Hopefully I'll find them for next time.

. . . **Hauntsville 2020** will be posted soon, very soon! Check <http://thevillagecollector.com/> for Larry Treadwell's latest creation. It is well worth the visit. Note: Don't forget to read all the words with the great images. Hope to see you in Hauntsville . . . .

. . . The **Dominican Republic** was the 137 country to visit **The Village Collector**. Linda and I have visited both/each of them – just so you know!

. . . Welcome to new readers – Hi! to all others as well. Hope to hear from each of you – once in a while ☺



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