



September 2022

Volume 39, Issue 05

*“Members Helping Members”*

## **Long For The Days Before the World Could View Your Home? Blur Your Home On Google**

By Kurt Jefferson, Editor, CKCS Newsletter

October 2022 Issue

<https://ckcs.org/>

lxtown2 (at) gmail.com

Remember the old days when almost no one knew your home’s appearance except you, your neighbors, the property tax assessor, your letter carrier, and friends?

Sure, your cousins in Somerset had visited, so they knew you lived in a ranch house built in the 70s. And your uncle and aunt from Utica had seen snapshots you mailed them. And, of course, the milkman, UPS, and FedEx drivers, as well as men and women driving other delivery and repair vans, had been to your home. (There was no Amazon in those days.)

Leap forward to today, and anyone can get a glimpse of your home thanks to Google Maps, Apple Maps, and Bing Maps.

As Lifehacker writes, “With the rise of increasingly convenient features such as street-level 360° photos available on Google Maps and other competing mapping services, there’s always a risk your personal data will be captured in a publicly available photo in a way you’d rather avoid—whether that means the outside of your house or the location where you park your car.”

*(Continued on page 4)*

## **Next Meeting September 10, 2022**

## **Grayslake Public Library**

*"Members Helping  
Members"  
(since 1983)*

## **Board of Directors**

2020-2021

**President**  
Lester Larkin

[president@lcace.org](mailto:president@lcace.org)

**Vice President**  
Mike McEnery  
[vicepresident@lcace.org](mailto:vicepresident@lcace.org)

**Secretary**  
Linda Busch  
[secretary@lcace.org](mailto:secretary@lcace.org)

**Treasurer**  
Judy Dunham  
[treasurer@lcace.org](mailto:treasurer@lcace.org)

**Programs**  
David Carlson  
[programs@lcace.org](mailto:programs@lcace.org)

**Membership**  
J.J. Johnson  
[membership@lcace.org](mailto:membership@lcace.org)

**Public Relations**  
Linda Koudelka  
[pr@lcace.org](mailto:pr@lcace.org)

## **Volunteers**

**Webmaster**  
J. J. Johnson  
[webmaster@lcace.org](mailto:webmaster@lcace.org)

**Newsletter Editor**  
Mike McEnery  
[editor@lcace.org](mailto:editor@lcace.org)

**Historian**  
Lester Larkin  
[historian@lcace.org](mailto:historian@lcace.org)

# Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts

c/o Group Ambassador

"J.J." Johnson

## **News Journal**

*The LCACE News Journal* is published eleven times annually. Members are encouraged to submit contributions which will be acknowledged in this newsletter. Send articles to [editor@lcace.org](mailto:editor@lcace.org). Permission is granted to reproduce any or all parts of this newsletter in other User Group publications, provided that credit is given to LCACE and the individual author (s). Logo designed on an Atari Stacy Laptop in 1989 by Dwight Johnson Jr.

## **Membership**

LCACE membership is open to all individuals and families interested in personal computing. Annual dues are \$20.00 per individual/family. Applications for membership may be obtained at the monthly meeting, by request on the club hotline, and are now available on our web site at <http://www.lcace.org>.

## **Meetings**

LCACE meetings are usually held on Saturdays at the Grayslake Area Public Library, 100 Library Lane, Grayslake, Illinois. The meeting room opens at noon and the formal meeting begins at 12:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public. Bring a friend!

## **Newsletter Submissions**

Club members are welcome to submit classified ads, reviews, tips and other articles for publication, to our newsletter editor in Microsoft Word format (.doc). **Publication deadline is the 20th of the month for all ads and articles.** Please do not use tabs or special formatting.

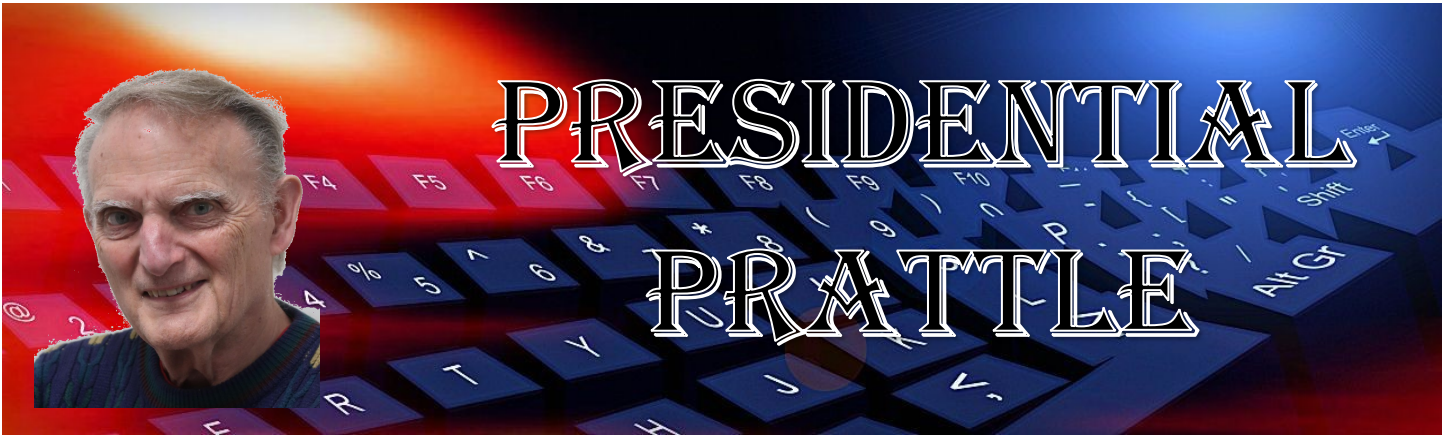
## **Newsletter Advertising**

Ad rates per issue: Full page - \$25, Half page - \$15, Quarter page - \$10, Business Card - \$5. Discounts are available on advance purchase of multiple issues. Please send camera-ready copy and payment to the club address by the 15th of the month preceding publication. For more information on ad pricing, please call our Hotline. Ads are **FREE** to all paid members.

## **NOTICE**

*LCACE WILL NOT CONDONE or knowingly participate in copyright infringement of any kind.* The *LCACE News Journal* is published by and for LCACE members. Opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of LCACE, the membership, the board of directors, and/or our advertisers.





## Meetings

Because we have hybrid meetings, Zoom and in person, I have been working on a way to improve the ability for all to hear and participate. I met with the Library I.T. person, Sean, and he showed me how we could make such improvement. It involves placing a portable projection screen at the east wall of the 'B' room, and forming the seating in a semi-circle around it.

We will also use a different projector table that's made for our own computer, to drive the projector. We will have mostly chairs without tables, but we will still have a few tables, mostly behind the chairs. Tables require lots of floor space, and most of us don't need them. For those who bring a laptop (or bigger) computer, we will have a few tables.

## Holiday/Christmas party

It's time to start putting together plans for our upcoming annual December shindig. There is lots to do, so we must get started. As of the writing, I am planning a September 7 Zoom meeting of all interested members. Let's make this a fun event!

My best to all,

*Les Larkin*



## **Google Maps**



To blur your home's image, Lifehacker provides these steps:

Open Google Maps and search for your address or a nearby landmark. You should see a left pane win-

dow. Click on the Street View tab and choose an image where your home is shown. On the upper left-hand corner of the image, you should see an icon showing three dots. Click on those and select Report a problem. Lifehacker writes, "This will show you a page where you can select the area to be blurred. Click and drag on the image to point the red square towards your house (you can also shift it to focus on a car or anything else visible in the photo). Then, under Request blurring, select My home. After that, share your email address, check the captcha box, and click Submit."

Lifehacker says Google will review your request and blur your home on the map.

Remember, your home may stand out even more if your neighbors' homes are not blurred.

## **Apple Maps**



Apple offers a similar feature called Look Around. Unfortunately, it looks a lot like Google Street view.

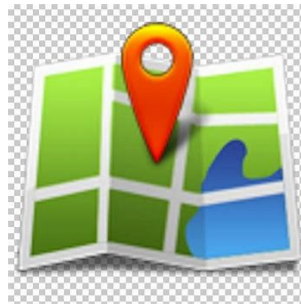
If you locate your home and want it removed, Lifehacker suggests you send an email to:

mapsimagecollection@apple.com

Describe your issue in detail and request that your home be blurred. Lifehacker says Apple will review your request and hide your home – generally within a week.

Again, if you hide your house and your neighbors don't, your location will stand out even more.

## **Bing Maps**



StreetSide is what Microsoft calls its service that's similar to both Google Maps and Apple Maps. If you locate your home in StreetSide, you can also ask Microsoft to hide it there. Lifehacker says Mi-

crosoft reviews these requests and will remove data within 30 to 60 days.

To make a request, open Bing Maps. Then navigate to your home address.

Scroll down and click any image with the StreetSide label in the left panel. You should see a 360° view of the entire area. To make a report, click Report a privacy concern with this image in the bottom left-hand corner.

A page should open where you can choose House next to the question, "What kind of a concern do you have?"

Lifehacker urges you to click on the portion of the image containing your home. You should see a red dot on the image that will label this part. Then, click submit to send the image to Microsoft.

An individual identifying himself (or herself) as kikirimu comments on the Lifehacker article. He mentions that once you complete this process for Google Maps, they will not UNDO it. Ever. Period. "Whoever lives there after you will never be able to get it undone. Many people have tried. Google can/will not undo it," writes the individual.

Another commentator on Lifehacker writes, "be aware: nothing draws attention like something blurred out. "There must be something interesting there, let's go see in real life." Although, at a certain point, military stuff (in The Netherlands at least) was blurred on the satellite images of Google maps, never was it easier to find it – the more obscure stuff not many people knew about."

## Simplify your life with these smartphone apps

Visit [play.google.com](http://play.google.com) or open your iTunes application and search within the App Store to download these.

App name	How it works
Flashlight	Turns your screen into a flashlight
Google Maps	Provides maps and directions using GPS
Dragon Dictation*	Lets you send texts and emails without typing
GasBuddy	Finds cheap fuel in your area
FaceTime*	Allows video chats with friends and family
Triplt	Organizes flights, hotel reservations, and more
Laser Level	Helps hang pictures straight
Lose It	Lets you create and follow a diet plan
RedLaser	Compares prices by scanning bar codes while you shop
The Weather Channel	Keeps up with local weather
iPharmacy Drug Guide & Pill ID	Identifies your pills and finds lowest drug prices
Tip Calculator	Computes your tip and splits the bill among friends



\*iPhone only

## Members Helping Members

*Just think you could have submitted a paragraph or two that would help your fellow Members*



**Ctrl+ click white arrow to go to out Youtube site**



## Membership Chairperson Report

### THANK FOR FOR RENEWING

Henry Henriksen  
David & Diane Carlson  
Terry Eiden

### THANKS FOR VISITING

Gordon & Cleo Spadling

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

*Annual Dues*

**2022-2023**



## Computer Services

**Desktops,  
Laptops,  
All-in-Ones  
and more**



During our October Zoom meeting the following two computer services were mentioned.

### White Box Computers

They say they are the place for all your computer repairs & upgrades at nearly half the prices of the competition.

<https://whiteboxcomputers.org>

**847-833-9324**

### ZYTEK Services

Has been around for over 30 years and offers the best in fast, friendly, high-quality, fair price computer service solutions

**847-336-2259**



## September

*Cynthia Simmons*

*Theodore Rock*



# Member's Area



## BUSINESS CARDS



**Pegasus**  
OPEN AIR PHOTOBOOTH

847.372.8186  
pegasusphotos.smugmug.com

**JIM JACOBS TRIO**  
*Jazz Standards*  
THURSDAYS 6:00-9:00 PM

*Deerfield*  
*Italian Kitchen*

CONTACT JIM AT 847.372.0656 OR JIM.JACOBS@MUSIC@GMAIL.COM



Phone: (847) 623-3815

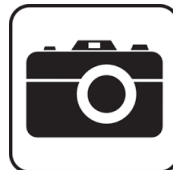
## Members



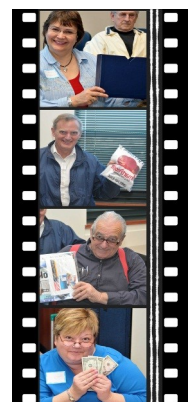
### Members Web Sites

e-mail me at [editor@lcace.org](mailto:editor@lcace.org)

[www.pegasusphotos.smugmug.com](http://www.pegasusphotos.smugmug.com)



Take a good look, you just might see yourself.



[LCACE Photo Albums](#)

**Liz Barnett**  
Chief Cookie Baker

Phone: 847-494-4222  
E-mail: [Liz@LoveMyCookies.com](mailto:Liz@LoveMyCookies.com)

[www.LoveMyCookies.com](http://www.LoveMyCookies.com)  
[www.facebook.com/LoveMyCookiesLizB](https://www.facebook.com/LoveMyCookiesLizB)

*Custom Cookie Treats for any Occasion!*

**Genealogy Your Way**  
Special Computer Services

**Bobby Jacobs**  
847-372-0660

[bobby@scs4now.com](mailto:bobby@scs4now.com)  
[scs4now.com](http://scs4now.com)

**LAKE COUNTY HONOR FLIGHT**

847.282.0374  
[info@lakecountyhonorflight.org](mailto:info@lakecountyhonorflight.org)

P.O. Box 1187, North Chicago, IL 60064  
[www.lakecountyhonorflight.org](http://www.lakecountyhonorflight.org)

**apcug** Member of  
The Association of  
Personal Computer User Groups