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Guys' Club News

The 2008 Guys' Club Virtual Tour of Shops and Sheds recorded 78,931 internet visits to the website with an average website visitation time of 128 minutes. Thus, a total of 10,103,168 minutes or 168,386 human hours were spent touring Lakeside Shops and Sheds. Compared to people in the past coming through the gates for a typical tour event, this equals 28,064 visitors coming through the gates and spending 6 hours on the grounds.

Hoover Potato Maze: Guys' Club Extension Agent, Helpis Ondaway, announced that the potato maze sculpture image of Arthur L. Hoover, former Lakeside general manager, will be open for Lakesiders on Wednesday July 30. The maze is a tribute to the late Lakeside leader and is part of the 135-year anniversary celebration of Lakeside. It is located on the field to the west of the Williams Tennis Campus. Among his accomplishments, Arthur Hoover (no relation to the Hoover vacuum titans, J. Edgar Hoover, or Lakeside directors formerly under the employ of the FBI) invented and manufactured a potato picker.

Ondaway noted, "The lower height of potato plants makes it more difficult to appreciate the artistry when compared to corn maze sculptures. It can only be fully appreciated from greater heights." For an aerial view, Guys' Club members and shuttle drivers, Earl Kennedy, Dick Davey, and Dan Mauntler, will be shuttling potato maze visitors to the Marblehead water tower ladder and back from 1-5 pm on Mondays and Fridays.

Becker Marketing Group, a company that specializes in farm crop maze design drew up the plans for the Hoover portrait, which says HOOVER across the top and THANKS below. "Instead of just creating a path for people to travel through, we decided to make it a tribute to the late Arthur Hoover," said maze artist, marketing guru, and Guys' Club member, Glen Becker. "We also wanted to include a profile of the Hoover Auditorium in the background, but that would have taken us into the first clay tennis court," Becker added.

John Deere Company bought Hoover's potato picker patents and factory for a tidy sum that Arthur Hoover in turn used to build Hoover Auditorium. Soon after its opening in 1928, the Guys' Club started a successful Hoover Seating Campaign that lasted from 1928-1938 using the motto, "A seat for every seat."