

the Lake Breeze



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President's Letter

What a beautiful time of year around our glorious lake as we transition from the quiet of winter to the awakening of spring. The grass is becoming green and buds in the trees are opening, and we notice the eagles and deer become more active. Just as the lake is becoming more active, so too are your Lake Association board members, as we work hard to prepare for the exciting year ahead. We had our Strategic Planning Meeting on January 21st and have many ideas in the works. All the initiatives and board approved minutes have been added to our LBA website.

There are several dates coming up quickly as you plan your spring calendar. First, our Spring Lake Clean-Up date is Saturday, April 29th. We invite all members to gather that morning and help clean around our roadways and parks as we begin a new season. East Bay camp has graciously invited us to begin our clean-up day with pancakes and sausage at their camp. Updates will be on Facebook. The Lake Run will follow the next Saturday, May 6th. Knowing this date may help you to be mindful of the additional pedestrian and car traffic on that morning.

Mark your calendars now for our LBA Spring Dinner on Thursday, May 11th! Members will receive an invitation in the mail. At the dinner, Dr. Travis Wilcoxon from the Illinois Raptor Center in Decatur will speak to us about eagle and other raptor research. We know you will not want to miss this event!

There have been many improvements made to the boat ramp by the city of Bloomington. We are grateful that the ramp is now free of any potholes from the top of the ramp to the end. The city has repaired the broken gutter on the dock side. They also cut out the broken concrete in the parking lot and fixed large holes to make launching our boats safer and easier. A big thank you to Joe Darter and the city workers who completed this project!

Now that the snow on our shores and ice in our coves have melted, it is not too early to be thinking about our annual 4th of July Pontoon Parade! We encourage our



neighbors to get those creative ideas developing and hope to see many of you out on the water with your boats decorated. And as always, the winner will be taking home not only a huge cash prize of \$100.00 but will also be presented with the coveted Ranney Traveling Trophy and have bragging rights for the entire next year!

We would like to welcome several new residents to our lake community: Thomas DeWeert on Arrowhead Lane, Steve and Melinda May on Ron Smith Memorial Highway, Jeff Coulter on Kickapoo Lane, and Rick Hemwall on Nighthawk Road. We also fondly remember some longtime lake residents who have recently passed away, including John “Jack” Penn, Finn Amble and Craig Hart.

Finally, just a friendly reminder to please send in your annual LBA dues if you have not already done so. Your modest annual dues go toward helping support all of our LBA social activities, as well as the many initiatives in our strategic plan designed to beautify, preserve and improve our incredible lake community. We would also thank you in advance for any and all donations toward our annual 4th of July fireworks and other lake improvement projects, which you can submit along with your annual dues payment. Like everything else, the cost of our fireworks show will increase significantly this year, so your generosity will allow us to continue to provide a quality entertainment event to celebrate our nation’s founding here at our beautiful lake. Your prompt attention to this would be greatly appreciated!

WE HAVE EXCITING NEWS!

GREEN GABLES PLANS TO BREAK GROUND THIS SPRING. Kyle and Amy Tague want to thank all of you for your support! The fundraisers had great turn outs and the generous donations were remarkable. Green Gables will be back and better than ever with the some welcome changes.

There will be expanded seating, two grills, two fryers, expanded bathrooms, more staff, and most importantly, a beer garden! You are the first to see a photo of the tentative building plan, as there could still be some changes while we work with an architect and civil engineer. The zoning board graciously approved our variances in order to fit the building on our small lot and still have room for our septic. Although the lot looks large, it really isn’t all that big.

The building will be the same size as it was before, but you will notice a reduction in grocery items. They will have one aisle of necessities for those moments when you run out of some essential items and still include camping, boating, and fishing supplies. Packaged liquor, drinks and ice will be sold as well. Green Gables will offer a private gaming room with six machines to try your luck on. There will be a pool table with more space to play. The arcade games will also still be available for the kids. Another exciting addition is a host/hostess stand where you can put your name in for a table to help accommodate the busy rush periods. The host will also answer the phone! Green Gables is ready to be back and give you the best experience yet.

Kyle, Amy and the staff have missed seeing everyone and cannot wait to be back open.

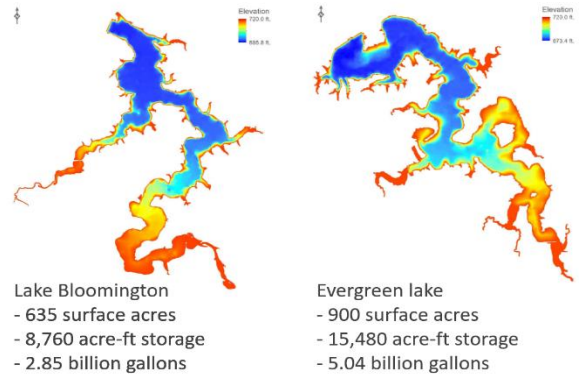
Dear Residents,

Welcome to spring 2023! I hope to see everyone out and enjoying this beautiful lake!

One of the most frequently asked questions that I receive, especially during the fall, winter, and early spring, is when will Lake Bloomington fill back up? Several years ago, the City installed monitoring equipment on the Lake Bloomington and Evergreen Lake spillways. This equipment sends water height information every 15 minutes that we save in the cloud. For Lake Bloomington to be considered “full pool,” which is fancy way of saying that water is at the top of the spillway without going over, the water level must be at 719.50 feet above sea level.

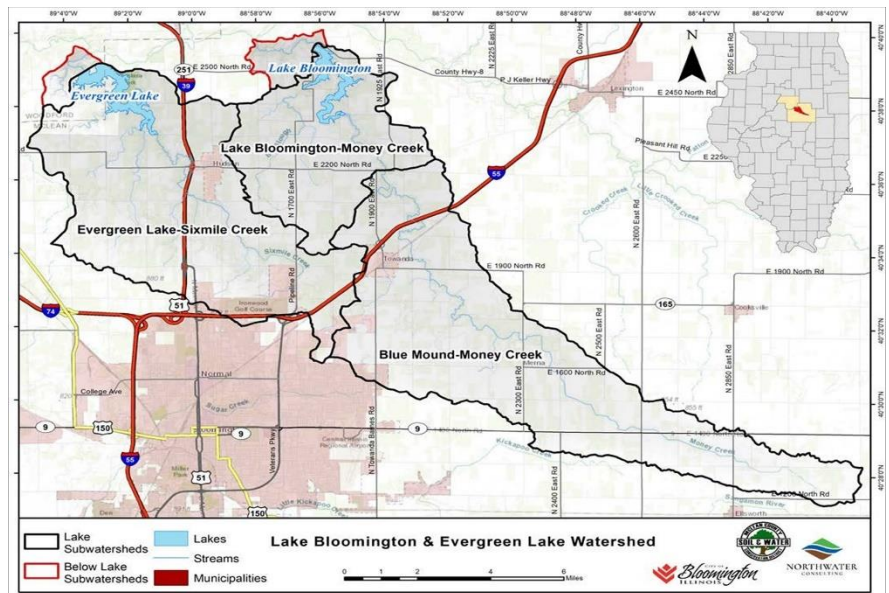
Impacts of This Much Rain

- 6 inches of rainfall across the 27.3 square miles of the City's corporate limits on frozen or saturated ground generates 8,736 acre-ft of run-off – enough to fill Lake Bloomington from empty.
- 11 inches of rainfall would fill Evergreen Lake.



On December 12, 2022, we recorded the lowest level for the year, which was 712.12 feet above sea level, which means Lake Bloomington was down 7.38 feet. On February 17, 2023, water began going over the spillway. Total precipitation between the beginning of December of 2022 and the end of February 2023 was 6.35 inches.

Water is transported to Lake Bloomington via two tributaries – Money Creek and Hickory Creek. These two creeks are filled by rainfall and farm drainage tiles. The area that drains into these creeks is called the Lake Bloomington Watershed. The watershed area for Lake Bloomington is 43,248-acres. The watershed area for Evergreen Lake is 26,264-acres. Since Lake Bloomington is a smaller reservoir than Evergreen Lake with a larger watershed area, Lake Bloomington does not need as much time to fill up as Evergreen Lake does. This also explains why Lake Bloomington only needed a little over 6 inches of rain to bring the Lake up over 7 feet. This is also why the City uses Evergreen Lake the majority of the time to draw water to the Treatment Plant. Since Evergreen Lake has a smaller watershed area than Lake Bloomington, nitrates are usually much lower than what we experience in Lake Bloomington. Evergreen Lake is able to dilute nitrates much easier than Lake Bloomington. However, during times that water quality meets regulatory standards in Lake Bloomington, the City will begin to use Lake



Bloomington as the primary reservoir. Traditionally, the times when Lake Bloomington is utilized is between August and February when nitrate levels are at their lowest.

Upcoming Projects around Lake Bloomington:

- ❖ Progress is being made between the Water Division and Parks and Recreation to use the former Girl Scout Camp for day-camps for kids. Kids will learn how to fish, kayak, identify flowers and animals and the trails will be used for hiking. I am excited to be able to offer this area for use.
- ❖ The City, with the McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District (MCSWCD), won a grant to plant 25 oak trees. These trees will be planted in the 6-acre field on Carver Road before the Girl Scout Camp. The Hudson and Lexington 4-H Club will be planting them on April 15.
- ❖ The City and MCSWCD, won another grant from Pheasants Forever to install more wildflowers. This 3-acre area is where we cleared out the brush along N. 1750 East Road and E 2350 North Road.
- ❖ More wildflowers will be planted around the Mucky Duck Marina, the end of Kickapoo Lane and between Nighthawk and Sandpiper Lane.
- ❖ We will be installing another yard waste collection area on Kickapoo Lane.

Boating Season Safety Rules and Regulations:

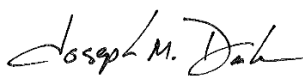
Be sure to remember:

- ❖ All wake zones must be adhered to.
- ❖ All boats that pull anyone, must have an observer as well as a twelve-inch by twelve-inch orange flag affixed to the highest point on the boat.
- ❖ All boats must have all safety equipment – appropriate number of life jackets, horn or whistle, Type -IV throwable device, battery connection covers.
- ❖ Skiing is allowed between the hours of 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM.
- ❖ All boats must have a current 2023 registration sticker (if you have submitted your registration, stickers will be mailed out shortly).
- ❖ Please see Chapter 23 of the City of Bloomington Codes and Ordinances for a complete review of all ordinances.

I am excited to see just how beautiful Lake Bloomington is becoming. I greatly appreciate all your help! I can't wait until all of the flowers begin to bloom! It means the world to me that we can work together to help make Lake Bloomington a special place to live and work.

See you around the Lake!

Sincerely,



Joseph M. Darter
City of Bloomington | Property Manager
Public Works Department | Water Division
25515 Waterside Way | Hudson, IL 61748
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Fax: (309) 434-2915 | Email: jdarter@cityblm.org

CPR TRAINING WILL BE AVAILABLE TO OUR LBA MEMBERS

Cardio
Pulmonary
Resuscitation

CPR training will take place at the Mucky Duck on May 27th free of charge to our LBA members. We will have a sign up for this event in April.





CHLORINE TABLET PROGRAM

Once again, we want to remind property owners with sand filter septic systems of the importance of adding chlorine tablets to the chlorinator once a month. Over the past several years the LBA has emphasized the importance of proper septic system maintenance and have provided chlorine tablets at no cost to those needing them. The LBA wants to continue providing these tablets, but due to the rising costs, we need to charge \$2 per tablet.

To purchase tablets, please contact John Hoffman via email at hoffee3322@hotmail.com. Chlorine tablets will be available at the Spring Dinner on May 11, 2023.

Dock Concert

July 15th

6-9 PM

Home of Ralph and Elsa Endress

Starring: Golden Embers with Brian Steffen,

Rick Metz and Robin McPferon



2023 Lake Bloomington Association Membership Form

www.LakeBloomington.com

Please print

Name(s) in membership: (1) _____ (2) _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone # _____ Cell # (1) _____ Cell #(2) _____

Lake 911 Address (if different from above): _____

Lake Phone#: _____ Do you live at lake full time? Yes ___ No ___

Email Address: (1) _____

(2) _____

Please include your Email address if you want to be informed of LBA events and receive the LBA Newsletter.

Special notes or comments: _____

Annual Dues: \$ 25.00

Fireworks Donation: \$ _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please send the above form along with your payment to:

Lake Bloomington Association
P.O. Box 223
Hudson, IL 61748

Note: Each family or individual in a multi-ownership property should sign up for their own membership if they wish to receive their own Lake Breeze & Directory.

Please make checks payable to: **Lake Bloomington Association**

OR: Pay online with Pay Pal on our website www.lakebloomington.com (click on buttons). **If paying online, be sure to email lakebloomingtonassociation@gmail.com with your membership information or changes, if any.**

The \$ 25.00 annual Lake Bloomington Association (LBA) membership dues are used to further the primary objective of the LBA, which is the improvement of Lake Bloomington and the surrounding community. Your dues pay for:

- Lake Breeze Newsletter Subscription
- 4 th of July fireworks and festivities
- Lake Bloomington landscaping care and maintenance
- Various service and beautification projects
- Social events
- LBA Membership Directory

– Annual Membership Dues payment is requested in January of each year –

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ogradymike1@gmail.com



The Lake Bloomington Association is made up of residents and anyone else who enjoys the Lake and works to improve the lake and surrounding community. Anyone can join the LBA; you don't have to live at the Lake. It's a great way to meet new people who also enjoy Lake Bloomington. If you are interested in joining the LBA, or have questions or comments, please email us at lakebloomingtonassociation@gmail.com.