

the Lake Breeze

SPRING 2024



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Photos by Jeff Jackson and
Pamela Cather



President's Letter

Happy Spring Lake Bloomington neighbors and friends! As we sat on our deck witnessing the near-total eclipse on April 8th, we could not help but notice the dulcet strains of the sounds of spring at the lake all around us: the chatter and songs of the birds, the soft wind rustling in the trees, the haunting call of the returning loons, and wait – what was that? The rumble of an outboard motor driving the first pontoon we've seen since last fall! These melodic sounds of spring remind us that the sleep of winter has come to an end, and summer fun is not far off!

Your LBA Board has also been eagerly anticipating the return of summer activity at our beautiful lake and has been busy preparing for another fun-filled season. The board hosted our annual Winter Social at the Lake Road Inn on February 7th, with over 50 LBA members and friends in attendance. Craig and the crew at Lake Road prepared an impressive array of hot and cold appetizers as well as several delicious pizzas. It was wonderful to see and visit with so many of our lake community! The board held monthly meetings in March and April, with a focus on preparing for our annual Spring Clean-up Day coming up on April 27th, the Spring Dinner to be held on May 9th, and a new joint venture with East Bay Camp: a lake community rummage sale to be hosted at the camp on May 18th. Details on each of these upcoming events are in this edition of the Lake Breeze. We encourage everyone to attend and support each of these springtime events!

The board has also been looking ahead to summer events. We have been negotiating with our fireworks vendor, and as of this writing we have a tentative agreement for a fireworks show on the 4th of July for the same cost as last year! Even with this great news, we still need your financial support to be able to continue to sustain our tradition of a fabulous fireworks show here at our lake. We need an additional \$5000 to break even on our firework contract. Please consider contributing what you are able to our fireworks program, either through the Paypal link on the LBA website or by mailing your contribution to the LBA at P.O. Box 223, Hudson, IL 61748.

We are also looking forward to the continuation of what has become a most enjoyable summertime event here at Lake Bloomington: dock concerts!!! Currently, a concert is scheduled for Saturday, July 6th at 6:00 PM at Eagle Pointe, featuring local lake celebrity Lisa G & the Good Reasons! The



concert is being graciously hosted by Marshall and Marianne Kaisner, and will be an incredible way to cap off everyone's 4th of July celebrations. We are also working to arrange a change of pace style dock concert involving an ensemble from the Illinois Symphony Orchestra! Stay tuned to the LBA website, Facebook page and e-mail blasts for details on this exciting event and other dock concerts this summer! If you are planning a dock concert this summer, please let us know so we can help spread the word. The Hamm's are also planning to bring back Highway J in September!

The LBA board has also been in conversation with Joe Darter, our City of Bloomington property manager for the lake, regarding the change in the provider of refuse services here at the lake. Joe has included an explanation and some information about the process in his letter posted later in this newsletter. On behalf of the board, we want to thank Joe not only for explaining the need for the City to follow this legal process and keeping us up-to-date on its progress, but also for going the extra mile to reach out to our current vendor, Republic Services, to clarify the process of their concluding service and collecting the large blue Republic trash receptacles we have been utilizing. Thanks to Joe's initiative, Republic has indicated that their final trash pickup will be on Monday April 29th. They will also be collecting and removing their blue trash receptacles on that same date. It is our understanding that the new trash vendor, GFL Environmental, will be providing new trash receptacles, (although as of this writing the date for that is not known), and begin their weekly trash collections on Monday May 6th. For those who participated in the curbside recycling program provided by Republic, they have agreed, (thanks to Joe's intervention), to conduct the final recycling pickup on Wednesday, April 24th, (you may have received a letter stating they would discontinue recycling on April 23rd, but they have now agreed to the pickup on the 24th). They will also collect and remove the blue recycling receptacles on that same date.

Like many of you, we are sorely disappointed at the news that Republic Services has chosen to discontinue the curbside recycling program that we and many other residents have participated in the past several years. Unfortunately, the new trash vendor will not be offering a curbside recycling option, due to what they have indicated are prohibitive costs of such a program. Again, the LBA reached out to the City of Bloomington, specifically to Joe Darter, to explore the possibility of some other type of recycling collection here at the lake. Joe contacted other recycling businesses and services, including the Ecology Action Center, to explore the possibility of having a recycling trailer here at the lake. The hard truth that we learned in this effort, however, is that the cost of doing so, in the range of \$30,000 - \$40,000 annually, makes that solution unfeasible. We are thus sadly resigned to the fact that convenient, local recycling pickup here at the lake will no longer be an option, but we would encourage our neighbors to undertake other methods to separate recyclable materials from the trash, thus keeping them out of the landfills, and making the effort to transport them to recycling receptacles in Bloomington/Normal.

Finally, it is with heavy hearts that we acknowledge the passing of one of our Ron Smith Memorial Highway neighbors. Longtime lake resident Jim McCalla passed away in February, and we extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends. If you are aware of any new residents or recent deaths of our members that have not been acknowledged, please let us know.

Remember to mark your calendars for all the upcoming events and activities here at the lake. Details about many of these can be found in this newsletter. And take some time to pause and listen to those beautiful sounds of spring!

Traci and Bob Freitag

LBA Board Co-Presidents

Dear Residents,

Summer 2024 is upon us, and I have to wonder where the time goes! As we prepare for another wonderful boating season, I wanted to remind everyone of some of the rules and regulations so that all can enjoy the lake peacefully.

Be sure to remember:

- ❖ No wakes 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 2024 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.

What's new around the Lake?

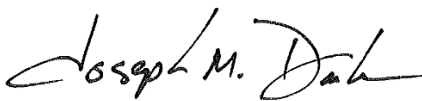
Garbage: The City's procurement policy states that any expenditure over \$25,000 must be put out for public bid. Our annual garbage contract is a little over \$33,000 each year. The contract with Republic Services was expiring at the end of April, so the City released a public bid for weekly garbage pickup, which also included pricing for one (1) bulk pickup day during the first week of June. We had two companies submit competitive bids for weekly and bulk pickup. GFL Environmental was the lowest bid. The first pick up of weekly garbage will be on May 6th. The weekly garbage will be picked up every Monday.

Bulk Garbage: GFL Environmental will be collecting bulk pickup on Monday, June 3, 2024. This service does have some restrictions:

- ❖ The volume is limited to 5 cubic yards per household (equivalent to an 8-foot bed of 2 pickup trucks).
- ❖ The following items are not accepted: tires, liquid waste, electronic waste, car batteries, appliances, landscape waste, bulk shingles and construction materials.
- ❖ If you require a bulk pickup outside of this cleanup, please call GFL Environmental at 217-935-5652. The homeowner will be responsible for this service charge.

Flowers: We are in desperate need of help with picking out and planting flowers at Association Park along the Inner Loop Road. My staff and I have no clue when it comes to what should be planted so any help would be greatly appreciated! We will be installing a stone garden underneath the Association Park sign and the flowers will be planted there. These flowers will need to be deer resistant due to the large number of deer that call that area home. We also need help for the area at the intersection of Sunset and Hiawatha and underneath the new sign at the Water Treatment Plant.

See you around the Lake!



Joseph M. Darter
Property Manager
City of Bloomington | Water Department
25515 Waterside Way | Hudson, IL 61748
Office: (309) 434-2431 | Cell: (309) 275-8087
Fax: (309) 434-2915 | Email: jdarter@cityblm.org



A fundraiser for East Bay Camp

May 18th

8—2 PM

Located in the East Bay gym

24984 N. 1875 East Road (in Woods Camp area)

Drop off donations on Friday, May 17th from 12-5 PM

Please let Traci know if you are available to help: 309-825-1002



Lake Bloomington Association **SPRING DINNER**

May 9, 2024

Happy Hour 5:30 PM

Dinner 6:30 PM

Timber Pointe Lodge

HAPPY HOUR IS BYOB

Dinner catered by Annie's Eats
Pulled chicken, brisket, cheesy potatoes, green beans
and broccoli/cauliflower salad

Program by Amy & Kyle Tague
Rebuilding and Reopening the Green Cables

\$35 PER PERSON

PLEASE RSVP BY APRIL 27TH

I/WE WILL ATTEND: _____

PLEASE SEND CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

**LAKE BLOOMINGTON ASSOCIATION, PO BOX 223, HUDSON, IL 61748
BY APRIL 27TH**





Mark your calendars for our annual spring clean-up around the lake.

April 27, 2024

Meet at East Bay dining hall for pancakes at 8:30 AM

OUR NATIVE BIRDS HAVE RETURNED TO THE LAKE AND NEED YOUR HELP!



House sparrows are not native to North America. They will take over the nesting sites of native birds such as bluebirds, tree swallows and purple martins. They attack adult birds when competing for nest sites and destroy their eggs and young. They also overtake birdfeeders, driving native birds away.

House sparrows often nest in martin houses and bird houses that are left unattended. If bird houses are not monitored, at least once or twice a week, it is best to block the entrances to deter house sparrows from building nests. Regular monitoring of bird houses will help control house sparrows by removing their nests and eggs. This will prevent the house sparrow population from increasing. House sparrows can rebuild nests as soon as they are removed and a pair of house sparrows can produce up to four broods a season vs some of our native birds which only fledge one brood per season.



The Grand Prairie Bird Alliance (formally JWP Audubon) has been very supportive of our efforts around the lake. They are very knowledgeable and also purchased the 3 purple martin houses that are at North Park. Two of the poles were recently relocated by Joe Darter's team to the middle of the prairie.

If anyone is interested in learning more about our efforts by tagging along when we are checking the houses, bringing children or grandchildren or would like to join us in monitoring our bird houses around the lake, please let us know. Please reach out to Janet Wisner, jlpwiser@yahoo.com or Kathy Oncken, keoncken@gridcom.net if you would like to learn more about our efforts to support our native birds at the lake.



Here are some pictures to help identify house sparrow's vs our native birds.

House sparrows have speckled eggs and their nests always have a dome or roof over the nest with feathers woven in and various materials. They look rather trashy. House sparrows do not migrate.

Eastern bluebirds form a neat cup shaped nest made from dried grass and twigs. Their eggs are a beautiful light blue. Eastern bluebird's winter in the southeastern United States or Mexico. Adult Bluebirds tend to return to the same breeding territory year after year.



Tree Swallows are an iridescent blue/green that shines in the sunlight. They build a nest with dried grass and when the nest is complete, they line it with feathers. Tree swallows migrate to areas along the southern coast of the United States to Costa Rica and often return to the same nesting area.



Purple martins often live in houses or gourds located in open areas. Before they lay their eggs, they line the nest with green leaves. Purple martins lay one egg per day for a total of two to seven pure white eggs. Purple Martins migrate to South America.





THE GOOD REASONS

**EAGLE
POINTE**
PARTY 2024

**Saturday
6pm**

July 6



SAVE THE DATE



Dock Concert





Pamela Cather

 <p>JIM SPACHMAN Agent</p> <p>2501 E College Avenue, Suite A Bloomington, IL 61704-2484 Bus 309.661.1700 Toll Free 866.661.1700 Fax 309.663.1007 Cell 309.261.1890 jim@jimspachman.com jimspachman.com</p> <p><i>24 Hour Good Neighbor Service</i>®</p>		 <p>Ryan Esposito BROKER</p> <p>mobile - 309.275.4361 ryanesposito1981@gmail.com</p> <p>mcleancountyhomes.com Remax Rising 501 S Towanda Barnes, Suite 2 Bloomington, IL 61705</p> 
 <p>Member SIPC</p>  <p>Shawn Finlen Financial Advisor</p> <p>507 N Hershey Road Suite C Bloomington, IL 61704 309-662-8582</p> <p>MKT-58940-A AECSPAD</p> <p>> edwardjones.com</p>	 <p>Al Rollins & Mike O'Grady P.O. Box 173, Hudson, IL 61748 (309) 530-2394 www.prairie-storage.com ogradymike1@gmail.com</p>	



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.