

# the Lake Breeze

## Inside this issue

- President's Letter.....1-2
- Dear LBA Members.....3-5
- Annual Spring Clean-up.....5
- LBA Winter Social.....6
- LBA Spring Dinner.....7
- Rummage Sale Details.....8
- LBA Membership Form.....9
- Community Ads.....10



## President's Letter

**I**t is not just the frigid arctic cold that takes our breath away during winter here at our lake: it is the quiet stillness of the freshly fallen snow; the beauty of the winter sun reflecting off the ice-covered water; the majesty of one of our resident bald eagles soaring over the frozen landscape. Winter at Lake Bloomington is a privilege we are so blessed to experience each year.

But let's not kid ourselves...we all long for the bright, hot summer sun, warm water to float in, and the sound of laughter floating on the summer breeze once again!

The pace of life and activity around our beautiful lake may slow down during the winter months, but it certainly does not grind to a halt! The LBA and our lake neighbors and friends remain busy and committed to making our wonderful life at Lake Bloomington even more rewarding. The LBA held our annual Fall Clean Up Day on October 28, 2023. We had a great turnout of neighbors and friends – thank you to each and every one of you who took the time to help us walk the roads around the lake and pick up trash and other discarded junk. A special thanks to Ryan Esposito, who took some great photos and video of the group from his drone and his vehicle!

Your LBA Board held regular monthly meetings in November and January. At the November meeting, the board approved our LBA Budget for the fiscal year October 2023 through September 2024. A summary of the budget appears below for your information. As you will undoubtedly note, the budget reflects an unfortunate deficit situation, (as it has for the past several years), and that situation is addressed in a separate article further down in this newsletter.

The LBA also partnered with the City of Bloomington to once again provide a lake neighborhood Christmas tree! This year, your LBA purchased lights and a large lighted star, which the City then erected into a beautiful Christmas tree display at the Hubbard Gate near the water plant. The display was powered by a solar panel donated by the City. The lights will be stored until next year and will then once again be put out by the City for all of us to enjoy. A huge thank you to Joe Darter and the Water Department for their help in making this display possible. We hope all who had the opportunity to drive down PJ Keller past the Gate and see the display enjoyed its contribution

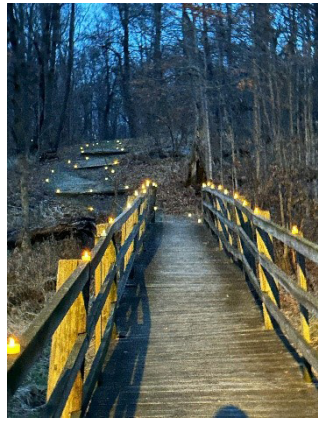
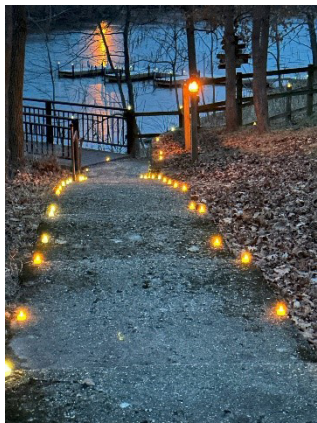




to the festive resident displays around our lake.

Our wonderful LBA partner and neighbor, the East Bay Camp, held a very special event on December 21, 2023. The camp hosted a Winter Solstice Hike that evening. We joined other residents and friends of the lake for the fun and wonderful event. The hike began in the Maples Camp area and wound through the woods along the bay to the end of the hike on the East Bay Camp beach. The route of the short hike was lined with the warm glow of candlelight, (provided by safe battery-operated candles!), and the camp staff were wonderful hosts providing hot chocolate, hot cider, and all the ingredients for roasting s'mores at the end of the hike! A huge thank you to Cassie Leitzen and the East Bay crew for this fantastic event. We look forward to participating again next year – please make sure the weather is just as nice!

It has indeed been a busy winter season here at the lake. And we have welcomed some new residents to our lake neighborhood! The LBA extends a warm welcome to Karen & Phil Reginelli on Arrowhead Lane; Mustali Carbaidwala and also Jim Carmicheal on Thornapple; as well as Brooke Schwartz on Nighthawk. Sadly, we also acknowledge the loss of longtime lake resident John Slater and extend our sincere condolences to his family. If you are aware of additional new residents or deaths of our members, please let us know.



Please note that several events are coming up shortly, including our annual Winter Social at the Lake Road Inn on February 7th. We hope all of those who are here at the lake during this peaceful winter season are able to join us! We are also going to be sponsoring a rummage sale this spring at East Bay camp with all proceeds going to the camp. Please start saving your treasures that you no longer want for donations to this sale and look for future information regarding this event in May.

Traci and Bob Freitag  
LBA Co-Presidents

## DEAR LAKE BLOOMINGTON ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

As we enter a new calendar year, we reflect back on a fun and eventful past year here at our beautiful Lake Bloomington, and we look forward to another year filled with opportunities and adventures. Your Lake Bloomington Association, in accordance with our mission statement, will once again be working “to improve the quality of life of the residents, the environment of the lake, and relationships with the surrounding community.” But these worthwhile objectives cannot be pursued without the support of each and every member of our association. With that in mind, we are asking that each member please attend to paying your annual association dues by March 1, 2024. In addition, we are asking that you consider further supporting your lake community by also making a donation towards the cost of our annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks show and all of the other worthwhile projects the LBA is undertaking. The hard truth is that without your full support, the LBA will continue to operate on a deficit basis, and of course that cannot be sustained without significant reduction in the activities and events the LBA sponsors and provides.

Perhaps this a good time to remind you of the many benefits of LBA membership. These include:

- The Lake Breeze, your quarterly LBA newsletter
- LBA Facebook page access and e-mail news blasts
- A printed membership directory (every two years)
- Neighborhood address signs and flowerbeds
- LBA traditions, including:
  - Spring and Fall Dinners
  - Winter Social
  - July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration
  - Lake Clean ups

All of this and more for only \$25.00 per year!

For the past several years, the LBA has been operating in an annual deficit situation. The reasons are several: first and foremost, as with all things, costs have risen. Our biggest single annual expense, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks, has steadily increased, and we expect that this year the cost of a quality show will be near or perhaps even exceeding \$20,000.00. Second, the LBA has also expanded the range of activities and support provided to you, our lake community. More activities and services mean more costs for the same. Finally, the level of financial support from our membership has declined, especially since the pandemic. The combination of these three factors has led to a situation where we are spending more than we are bringing in, and unless the income side of the ledger is increased, we will be forced to begin to find events and activities to curtail or eliminate.

The LBA recently approved our budget for this fiscal year, (10/1/23 – 9/30/24). A summary of that budget appears below. Based on last year’s numbers, we have budgeted income of \$27,702.00, and expenses of \$39,890.00, a shortfall of \$12,188.00. While the LBA currently has

assets in the bank which can cover that deficit, continuing such a pattern will soon drain those resources.

As the budget reflects, we are anticipating dues income of \$4500.00, (in FY 2023, we collected \$3975.00). \$4500.00 represents 180 dues paying members. We need your cooperation to meet that number, so please make your payment as soon as possible.

The budget also reflects our hope for member donations of at least \$15,000.00. The LBA has been blessed in the past with generous and supportive members, and we know that is still the case. However, in FY 23, the donation total was \$12,665.00. As mentioned earlier, the cost of our annual fireworks show is expected to be near \$20,000.00. Again, we need your support. Please consider making a donation, in addition to your annual dues, in whatever amount you are able, so that we can continue to provide our lake community with the fun and enjoyable programs and services it deserves!

Please feel free to contact either of us, or any LBA Board member, with any questions or concerns you may have. Our lake is indeed a jewel, and our lake neighbors are a true blessing. Please take a moment to complete a membership form, (included in this newsletter, on our website, and in a soon to be sent e-mail blast!), and return it with your dues, along with any additional donation you are able to make, as soon as possible. Thank you for being an integral part of our beautiful lake community!

Respectfully,

Traci and Bob Freitag, LBA Co-Presidents

### **LBA BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

#### **INCOME**

Dues	\$4500.00
Donations	\$15,000.00
Fall Dinner	\$3400.00
Spring Dinner	\$3400.00
50/50 Raffle	\$750.00
Chlorine Tablet Sales	\$250.00
Lake Breeze Advertising	\$400.00
Interest	<u>\$2.00</u>

**TOTAL INCOME** **\$27,702.00**

#### **EXPENSES**

Chlorine Tablets	\$540.00
Donations	\$500.00

Fall Dinner	\$4000.00
Spring Dinner	\$4000.00
Winter Social	\$400.00
Lake Christmas Display	\$500.00
Fireworks	\$20,000.00
Flag Maintenance	\$200.00
Fourth of July (prizes; advertising)	\$500.00
Liability insurance	\$1000.00
Lake Breeze newsletter	\$400.00
Maintenance – Grounds	\$4100.00
Nature Walks	\$500.00
Office supplies	\$100.00
PayPal account	\$50.00
Postage & PO Box	\$400.00
Public Relations	\$200.00
Address Signs	\$2000.00
Website	\$200.00
Unclassified	<u>\$300.00</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$39,890.00</b>
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>(\$12,188.00)</b>
<b>LBA ASSETS (CHECKING/SAVINGS ACCOUNTS) as of 1/4/24:</b>	<b>\$38,618.18</b>



Mark your calendars for our annual spring clean-up around the lake.  
 April 27, 2024  
 More details to follow.



# **LBA Winter Social**

**Please join your  
neighbors at**

**The Lake Road Inn on  
Wednesday, February 7th**

**5:00 PM**

**Your LBA will provide  
appetizers.**

**Come hang out  
and meet some  
new friends.**

# Save the Date

A scenic sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, partially obscured by a line of dark trees. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow. The water in the foreground is rippled, reflecting the warm colors of the sunset. A small boat is visible on the water in the middle ground.

LBA Spring Dinner

May 9, 2024

Timber Pointe Outdoor Center

More detail to follow.



A fundraiser for East Bay Camp

May 18th

8—2 PM

Located in the East Bay gym

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

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



# 2024 Lake Bloomington Association Membership Form

[www.LakeBloomington.com](http://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](http://www.lakebloomington.com) (click on buttons). **If paying online, be sure to email [lakebloomingtonassociation@gmail.com](mailto: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 –

Revised 1.20.24



 <p><b>JIM SPACHMAN</b> 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><b>Ryan Esposito</b> BROKER</p> <p>mobile - 309.275.4361 ryanesposito1981@gmail.com</p> <p><b>mcleancountyhomes.com</b> Remax Rising 501 S Towanda Barnes, Suite 2 Bloomington, IL 61705</p>
	 <p>Al Rollins &amp; 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](mailto:lakebloomingtonassociation@gmail.com).