

the Lake Breeze



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Photos by Jeff Jackson and Pamela Cather



President's Letter

Fall on our glorious lake is magical. The movement and sounds of summer calm to a quiet din, and the lake becomes a sheet of glass reflecting the beautiful colors, (albeit with less water than we would like!). We treasure those cool weather pontoon rides to gaze at the changing leaves, and we hope that you, too, are able to enjoy the peaceful beauty of fall at Lake Bloomington.

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us at the El Paso Golf Club for our Fall Dinner and LBA Annual Meeting in September. The meal, as always, was very good and the company was splendid. The business portion of the evening included a presentation of the annual LBA President's Report. For those who were unable to attend, a copy of that report is included in this newsletter for your information. The meeting also included our election (and re-election!), of several officers and new LBA Board members. We especially want to welcome brand-new board members Laurie and Steve Lange! A listing of your present LBA Board officers and directors is also included in this newsletter. Finally, a huge thank you to our dinner program presenter: long-time lake resident Ed Lundeen, who enriched us with knowledge and stories about our lake in its earliest years. And when he blew his whistle, he seemed to become that teenage lifeguard once again! What a treasure that evening became due to Ed's reminiscing with us.

Also, a big thank you to the following community members who came out to help during the Fall Clean-Up Day. These hearty workers included: Kelly & Eric Ekstam and their grandkids, Angie & Carey Davis, Julia & Dave Turner, Deb Caldwell, Kathy & Darryl Oncken, Lynn & Neil Finlen, and our adorable grandkids who helped as well! It was a beautiful, sunny, and dry morning, and we were able to walk the entire perimeter of the lake collecting trash. And once again, our volunteers agreed that the beer brand of Busch Light appears to be the favorite of those who feel the need to dispose of their empty cans along our roadways. Keeping our lake environment clean and looking wonderful takes many dedicated people, and we so appreciate those volunteers who came out on clean-up day, and all of those who do their part to pick up trash while walking our roads and trails year-round.





The Fall 2025 Clean-Up Day crew!

You might have also noticed a large amount of water being pumped into our lake near the boat dock. The water department is pumping about 12 million gallons of water from Lake Evergreen into Lake Bloomington. Joe Darter explained that this is to mix the less quality water of Lake Evergreen before treating the water in the water plant. This is why you may have noticed the water level in our lake has been remaining stable recently. Also, the idea of dredging our lake is still going through the proper channels of being studied and hopefully approved.

Finally, we are certainly very happy to report that the city has indicated to us that they have heard our concerns regarding the deteriorating state of many of the lake's inner roads, and they are taking steps to dedicate funds to the maintenance and improvement of those roads. This is an issue that your LBA board has been focusing on for the last several years, and we have had numerous conversations and meetings with city officials, including Mayor Dan Brady and Water Department Director Ed Andrews. Lake Property Manager Joe Darter has been instrumental in facilitating these meetings, as well as in emphasizing to the city the need for attention to our roads. Thank you,

Joe, for your support and assistance with this matter! We are optimistic that in the near future improvements, which are desperately needed, will be made to many of our interior roads.

*Happy Fall
from your LBA Presidents,
Traci & Bob
Freitag!*

2025 LBA PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

LBA BOARD: First, your LBA Board held 8 monthly board meetings, hosted by various board members in their respective homes around the lake. One of those gatherings, held last November, was a strategic planning session at which your board reviewed and updated our strategic plan document, as we do every 2 years. That plan includes focusing on the board's priorities for the coming years, and details various goals and initiatives to help serve those priorities.

The board also maintained our lake Facebook page; produced and distributed the Lake Breeze, our organization newsletter; and hosted a number of social events, including our Winter Social Hour at Lake Road Inn in February and our Spring Dinner which was held at the Lexington Community Center in May. And, of course, the board continued its work on the many initiatives and activities which help us to support the LBA's Mission of enhancing the quality of life for all of our members and lake residents. Traci and I would like to highlight just a few of the successes of the past year on those initiatives.

COORDINATING DOCK CONCERTS: Perhaps one of the most popular and fun initiatives which I just love working on is helping to coordinate dock concerts throughout the summer season. These events have been a wonderful way to bring friends and neighbors together to enjoy some great music and a truly fun time! This summer was again a huge success, as a number of residents stepped up to host various bands and musicians on their docks who performed concerts for all to enjoy. We want to thank the following residents who hosted concerts this summer:

- (1) Diana and Matt Matigian, who hosted their son Dominic and his band, D.M. Wesley and the Mighty Handful, on July 4 th ;
- (2) Marshall and Marianne Kaisner, who hosted our very own lake community resident Lisa Galliard and her band "Lisa G and the Good Reasons" on July 5th;
- (3) Rick Hemwall and Lisa Molter, who hosted guitarist and vocalist Kyle Yap on August 9th; and
- (4) Shannon Duvendack and Matt Stuckel, who hosted their annual benefit concert for St. Jude, on August 30th.

What a wonderful and fun gift each of these residents have given to our lake community by hosting these dock concerts! If anyone is interested in hosting a dock concert next year, please contact us and the LBA will be more

than happy to help promote your event!

SPRING AND FALL CLEAN-UP: Two lake clean-up days were held in the past year, one last fall and again this past spring. On each of those days, LBA volunteers gathered together to walk around our lake perimeter roads and pick up trash. We'd like to thank all of those who came out to help, and a huge thank you to Cassie Leitzen and the East Bay Camp staff who provided a wonderful hot breakfast for all the volunteers who came out for our Clean Up days!

And if you missed out on that fun...have we got a deal for you! Our Fall Clean Up Day is only a few weeks away, on Saturday morning, October 4th ! Watch the Facebook page for details.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: This past year, the LBA continued to work with Advantage Lawn & Landscaping to supply and spread mulch in many of our landscaping areas around the lake. Thank you to Shannon Duvendack & Matt Stuckel and lake resident Janet Wiser who help coordinate this initiative for the LBA. And we are so grateful for all of the residents who volunteer their time to plant flowers and plants in these areas, as well as all the other beautiful wildflower gardens that grace the various neighborhoods around our lake!

LBA WEBSITE: Throughout this past year, your LBA Board had a number of discussions regarding our organization's website. Due to difficulties in communicating with our current website hosting service, and despite a lot of hours spent by board members trying to update the site, the board decided to explore other options for a website. These efforts eventually led to a decision by the board to enter into a website development and hosting agreement with a local Bloomington company, Cybernautic. They have been absolutely great to work with, and a huge bonus is the fact that Cybernautic is led by lake resident, Mr. Chad Parker! Chad and his company have agreed to develop a brand new website design for us – a service that normally would cost about \$4000.00. Cybernautic will be completing and launching our new website...at no cost. The board has entered into a contract for Cybernautic to then host our website and continue to provide updates and technical assistance to us for a monthly cost of \$200.00. We are in the process now of holding meetings with them to begin the design process, which may take several months before

the new website is ready to launch. Watch for more on this to come.

4th OF JULY CELEBRATION: Like many of you, our favorite day of the year here at the lake is the 4 th of July! The sounds of laughter and celebration that fill the air during that day bring huge smiles to our faces. And this year, Mother Nature blessed us with just a beautiful day with no threat of rain at all!

The LBA continues to sponsor the annual pontoon boat parade and it was once again a fun event. It was evident that our judges, the Parker and Osenga families, had a difficult task choosing a winner given the creative and fun decorations that were on display. You can see photos of all of the entries in the summer edition of the Lake Breeze. This year, big winners of the \$100.00 cash prize and the annual Ranney Traveling Trophy was the Parks family, with their fun and entertaining Jurassic Park entry. Those dinosaur costumes had to be a bit warm on that sunny day!! Second place went to the Lipic family with their Gilligan’s Island entry. Thank you to all those who worked hard at decorating their pontoons and participating in the parade, and to our City Lake Patrol for once again leading the parade this year!

The fireworks show that night was once again the perfect way to demonstrate our patriotism and pride in our country, and of course the perfect way to end our big day at the lake. Thanks to the Gridley Fire Department for providing safety and fire protection for the show, and to the City staff for making sure everything worked out at the site. And...thank you to all of those who contributed to the cost of the show.....it would not happen without your financial support, so again....thank you. We can’t wait to see everyone come out again to celebrate next year – start thinking of some great pontoon boat ideas now – it’s never too early!

CHLORINE TABLETS PROGRAM: The LBA continues to offer our residents chlorine tablets for your septic systems. This is such an easy and important way that you can help keep our lake water clean. We have a few tablets available here tonight, and will have more at the Spring Dinner as well. The LBA subsidizes the cost of those tablets, so they are much more affordable than they would be if you purchase them on your own. Tablets can be purchased tonight – for only \$2 each!

CAMP PARTNERSHIPS: It has been my pleasure this past year to work with our camp neighbors at East Bay

and Timber Pointe on behalf of the LBA. Cassie Leitzen and Nancy Lane at East Bay and Lydia Gartner and her staff at Timber Pointe have been so supportive of working with and supporting the LBA and our lake community. East Bay continues to open up their indoor pickleball court for free use by lake residents when there is not a camp in session, and invites residents to many camp activities like their fall cookout and winter solstice hike and campfire. Watch our Facebook page for these activity announcements.

The Timber Pointe Yacht Club, headed up by LBA Board Member Commodore Paul Lawrence, continued this year to provide Wednesday evening boat rides to camp participants. What a great way to showcase our beautiful lake to these campers and their counselors! This summer, our pontoon captains gave over 730 rides in 12 different sessions! Thank you to all the boat captains who make this possible each week during the summer camp season.

INTERIOR ROADS IMPROVEMENTS: The final initiative we’d like to report on is one that arose from prior strategic planning sessions of the board, and was created specifically in response to concerns expressed to the board by you, our neighbors. That initiative is one we refer to as “Seek solutions to interior road issues.”

The LBA Board has, for the past several years, been engaged in meetings and conversations with city leaders and staff, as well as leaders and staff from the county and the 2 townships which our lake community lies in, regarding the deteriorating condition of many of the interior roads in our various lake neighborhoods. I will very frankly say that it has been a slow and at times frustrating process, and we know that many of you share in that frustration. However, I can tell you now, with a relatively high degree of confidence, that present city leaders, some of whom are present this evening, have been listening, and have voiced support for our request that our interior roads receive the attention they desperately need. While this remains an ongoing process, we wanted to report to you, our members, that work is being done and progress toward finding solutions is being made. I do want to specifically thank our lake property manager, Mr. Joe Darter, for facilitating communication between our board members and city staff, and to Mr. Ed Andrews for recognizing the legitimacy of our concerns. More to come on this...!

OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER: Finally, we want to close our annual President’s Report by thanking our

outgoing board member, Mr. Mark Schuler. We are so grateful for the willingness of our neighbors to volunteer their time, effort and passion to making our lake community a better place for all of us by serving on the board. Thank you, Mark, for your service.

2025-26 LBA Board Members

Position	Name	Phone Number	Address and E-mail
Immediate Past President	Rick and Lynette Mehall	309-826-6004 309-826-6024	24655 Iroquois Ln. rmehallram@yahoo.com mehalllh@gmail.com
President	Bob and Traci Freitag	309-531-7787 309-825-1002	24444 Ron Smith Mem. Hwy. bobfreitag125@yahoo.com tracifreitag@yahoo.com
Vice-President	Shannon Duvendack and Matt Stuckel	309-256-5498 309-287-4847	18253 Hiawatha Ct. shannonduvendack@gmail.com mattstuckel@gmail.com
Treasurer	Helen Ogar and Paul Lawrence	309-826-2404 309-824-8551	25147 White Owl Ln. hogarlaw@hotmail.com judgepaullawrence@gmail.com
Secretary	Kathy and Darryl Oncken	309-242-8370	25090 Ron Smith Mem. Hwy keoncken@gridcom.net
City Liaison	Mark Csanda	309-530-1685	25227 White Owl Ln. mark.csanda@gmail.com
Lake Breeze Editor	Michael Randitsas	309-868-2628	m.randitsas@gmail.com
Membership	Lezlee Dillon	309-453-6325	18340 Kickapoo Ln. lzb1530@yahoo.com
Third Year Director	Julia Davis and Robert McDonald	309-287-9683 309-663-6165	23733 Ron Smith Mem. Hwy jdavis@juliadavislaw.com rm@rmcpaco.com
Third Year Director	Angie and Carey Davis	217-369-9129 217-714-1378	25360 Hiawatha Lane angiekdavis1984@gmail.com cdavis406@outlook.com
Second Year Director	Rick Hamm	309-287-0877	25652 Sunset Lane rhamm1963@yahoo.com
Second Year Director	Tom Carey and Megan Dortenzo	440-465-1147 440-465-1146	25093 Eagle Point tcarey3.tc@gmail.com mdd1146@gmail.com
First Year Director	Matt and Diana Matigian	708-955-5353 708-955-5350	25250 Hiawatha Lane mmatigian@blueworldam.com dmatigian@aol.com
First Year Director	Laurie and Steve Lange	309-830-0770 309-531-4937	18299 Teepee Trail laurie@laurielange.com 1windfarmer@gmail.com

Fire Training Facility at Lake Bloomington

By: Bob Freitag

If you have been hiking or bird-watching in the area of the former girl scout Camp Peairs on the southwest side of the lake, you may have noticed a recent addition to the grounds of the old camp: a connected set of shipping, or “con-ex,” containers. While these large, rusty, old containers may not necessarily meld into the natural beauty of the woods around our lake, they are there to serve a vitally important function related to the safety of our lives and property. The containers make up a training facility for our area volunteer fire departments.

Even if you have not seen the containers here at our lake, there is a good chance you have seen them in their previous location while driving along PJ Keller Highway or the Gridley blacktop. The containers had been located behind the Money Creek Township building at 25397 N 1525 East Road, (the Gridley blacktop). When the township determined that the containers could no longer remain there, area fire departments who utilized the site for training activities began looking for a new location. That search led to discussions with City of Bloomington staff and leaders, and an agreement was reached to place the containers at Camp Peairs, which now owned by the City. The city stores equipment that is used for maintenance around the lake at the site. The containers have been placed in a location that is in a clearing far enough from the surrounding trees to not pose a significant danger of heat or fire igniting the trees. The location prevents the containers from being seen by those boating or fishing on the lake.



As a volunteer firefighter with the Village of Carlock for over 30 years myself, I can assure my neighbors that while these containers may not possess aesthetic beauty, they are an important component in assuring that our area fire departments are trained and ready to respond to fire emergencies, perhaps even at one of our lake residences. The containers are intended to represent structures that have caught fire, and firefighters will enter the containers to conduct both search-and-rescue as well as fire suppression training. Because the containers are made of steel, it is possible to conduct live-fire training inside the containers without the threat of the structure itself being consumed by fire. The containers therefore can be utilized over and over for this critical training. Having experienced live-fire training in a similar facility used by the Carlock Fire Department in the past, I can attest to the fact

that this type of training is crucial to a firefighter’s ability to confront real-world emergency fire situations with a calm, professional approach necessary to properly carry out their duties.

Despite their distasteful appearance, the purpose of the con-ex boxes now located near the shores of our beautiful lake serve a noble purpose. And if you should be in the area of Camp Peairs and happen to see local volunteer firefighters training there, be sure to thank these dedicated men and women for the unselfish service they provide to each one of us.

Dear Residents,

I hope everyone is doing well and that the summer was enjoyed with family and friends! I know I am looking forward to cooler temperatures and enjoying the fall colors around our beautiful Lake!

The City continues to address our many challenges that we face head on. During the winter/spring, as you all remember, we experienced a very prolonged taste and odor problem with our finished water. This was due to several factors: warmer temperatures during the winter, lack of any significant rainfall, lower lake volumes and an algae bloom that occurred during the brief time that both lakes froze over. The Water Department worked very closely with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to secure two emergency permits to combat this issue. The first permit was to begin utilizing Powdered Activated Carbon in addition to our Granulated Activated Carbon in our sixteen filters and an algaecide permit to treat and eliminate algal growth within the reservoirs themselves.

We contracted Aquatic Controls to treat both reservoirs. The plan called for treating what is called the benthic layer, which is the bottom two feet of the water column where lower dissolved oxygen (due to higher temperatures) allowed phosphorous to be released which algae feeds on. Aquatic Controls then treated the surface area (top seven feet of the water column). This treatment was effective in reducing and eliminating the naturally growing algae that is always present in our reservoirs. We are planning to treat both reservoirs in the next couple of weeks to better position water quality as winter sets in and the lakes turnover.

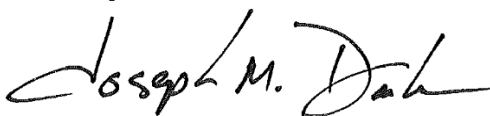
Since our Lake residents are the closest customers receiving our finished water, if anyone notices any changes to the taste and odor of our water, please let me know right away!

We will be budgeting our lease income to start repairing the interior residential roads. It is vitally important that lease invoices be paid as soon as possible to ensure that we can budget accordingly. We started a trial project during the summer with the Inner-Loop Road (Lampe Lane) with milling sections and then chip sealing the road. I was pleased with how the finished product looks and has held up. Over the next couple of months, we will evaluate the conditions of each road and budget for the worst roads to be repaired first. The few gravel roads that we have will be paved last as we have to focus our attention on the asphalt roads that are crumbling faster and faster each year to help lower the cost of repairs.

If anyone has any questions, please feel to contact me directly at jdarter@cityblm.org or by calling me at 309-434-2431 (desk phone) or my cell phone at 309-251-5401.

I hope to see everyone around the Lake enjoying the fall weather!

Sincerely,



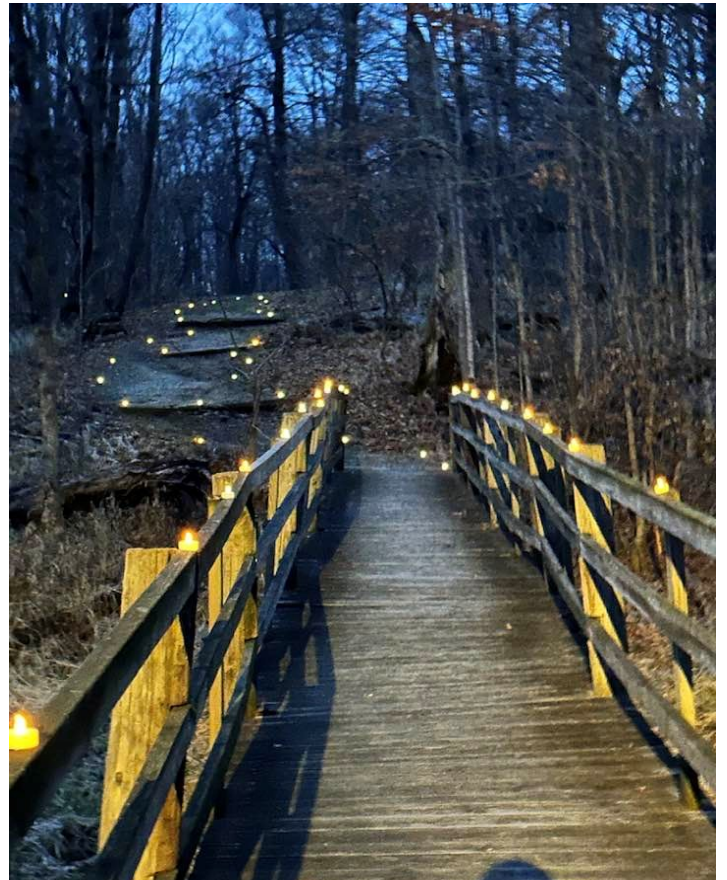
Winter Solstice Hike

at

East Bay Camp

Sunday, December 21st

4:30-6:30 PM





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JIM SPACHMAN
Agent

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

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Ryan Esposito
BROKER

mobile - 309.275.4361
ryanesposito1981@gmail.com

mcleancountyhomes.com
Remax Rising 501 S Towanda Barnes, Suite 2 Bloomington, IL 61705



Edward Jones[®] Member SIPC



Shawn Finlen, AAMS[™]
Financial Advisor

507 N Hershey Road
Suite C
Bloomington, IL 61704
309-662-8582

MKT-5894P-A AECSPAD > edwardjones.com



Al Rollins & Mike O'Grady
P.O. Box 173, Hudson, IL 61748
(309)530-2394
www.prairie-storage.com
ogradymike1@gmail.com

GRAYCO HEATING & COOLING
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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.