

# the Lake Breeze



## Inside this issue

- President's Letter.....1
- Welcome New Residents.....2
- In Memoriam.....2
- Save the Date: Spring Dinner.....2
- Dues Letter.....3
- 2026 Membership Form.....4
- Parklands Moon Preserve Article...5
- Purple Martin Article.....6
- Winter Social Invite.....7
- Community Ads.....8

Photos by Jeff Jackson, Angie Davis, and Carol Csanda



## ***President's Letter***

Winter at the lake is so different than any other season. Many of our friends take flight and leave us for several months, which makes us miss them so much. But those of us that remain appreciate the peacefulness that the blanket of snow creates. The wildlife is quite active in the winter. It is not uncommon for the deer and fox to come right into the yard. The eagles are also very active. As much as we love the quiet and serene atmosphere, we will be happy to welcome back our friends in the spring.

We are happy to announce that we will be hosting our Winter Social this year, although it will look a little different. The event will be held at Green Gables this year! It will occur on Wednesday, February 11th beginning at 5:30 PM. Green Gables has graciously said that they would be expanding their menu to include several healthier options for the evening. You can of course, still purchase their delicious burgers. It will be fun to gather again as a community and raise our glasses to our frozen lake and good friends. We hope you will be able to join us this year for the Winter Social!

We have a few new residents that have joined our lake over the past year. We'd love to welcome: Sean Reidy, Dave Crow and Julie McDaniel, and Paul Brown to our beautiful lake. We hope that you find the lake community as welcoming and as wonderful as we do. Sadly, our LBA has also encountered a few deaths of our beloved members. We remember with great fondness: Barbara Busch, Gregory Oberlander, Ernest Lamke, and Craig Hanson. They will be missed so much in our community.

Our lake level continues to be down due to the lengthy drought we have experienced. The city is asking our residents to voluntarily conserve water where they can. We will also be hoping and praying for a very rainy spring. Joe Darter has informed us that they will be starting to use Lake Evergreen water again to try to keep our levels from dropping lower, so you may see water being pumped in near the boat launch.

East Bay Camp continues to be a great partner to our community. They have recently added a new staff member who is a certified lifeguard and swim instructor. Welcome to the lake, Adam and his wife Eva. Because of this addition, they are now offering water aerobics and swimming lessons! Please call Adam if you are interested in participating in either of these activities: 865-518-1247 or the East Bay Office: 309-365-7531.



The LBA board would also like to thank and highlight the Lipic Pavilion which is located near the boat launch. Thank you to Ruth Ann for honoring her wonderful husband, Bob. The pavilion is a beautiful addition to this area and helps us to remember all that Bob and Ruth Ann Lipic have done over the years for our lake community. Joe Darter mentioned his heartfelt thankfulness to all who were involved in planning and building this pavilion.



The LBA board is thrilled to report that the city of Bloomington has agreed to use our lease fees this year to improve a few of our neediest inner roads. We are happy that Hepatica, White Owl, and Hiawatha roads will receive attention and repairs this spring and summer. This is a project that we have been advocating for many years now. What a relief that our concerns are being heard.

Finally, our new LBA website will be going live within the next month! We are so excited to see the final product. Cybernautic, (owned by one of our very

own LBA members), has been busy updating and making our website more user friendly. We will again have the ability to pay your dues and firework donations on the website. It will include up to date newsletters and LBA board minutes. We hope that this new website will help you to stay informed on all of our lake happenings even if you aren't on Facebook. Keep your eyes open for this website: lakebloomington.com in the near future.

We hope to see you at the Winter Social or Spring dinner. If you are traveling or snowbirding elsewhere, we hope that you have safe travels and look forward to seeing you back at the lake this summer.

*Traci & Bob  
Freitag!*

## Welcome TO OUR NEW RESIDENTS IN 2025

- Sean Reidy
- Dave Crow
- Julie McDaniel
- Paul Brown

## IN 2025 WE ALSO MOURN THE LOSS OF OUR AMAZING LAKE RESIDENTS

- Barbara Busch
- Gregory Oberlander
- Ernest Lamke
- Craig Hanson

**Save the Date!**

**Spring is coming and so is  
the Lake Bloomington  
Association Spring Dinner.  
Mark your calendars for  
Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.  
Please stay tuned for  
additional information.**



Dear Lake Bloomington Association Members:

It is once again that time of the year in which we ask each of you to renew your commitment to our lake community by renewing your membership in the Lake Bloomington Association. Your LBA Board continues to work hard to bring you the various social events and community improvement projects that we have all come to know and enjoy. But the obvious truth is that we cannot do so without the support of each and every one of you. That includes, of course, your financial support.

Like everything else in life, the cost of bringing you our fabulous 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks show, of maintaining the many beautiful flower beds around our lake, of providing information through our soon to be debuted new LBA website, and of hosting social events like the upcoming Winter Social, continue to rise. As the board forges ahead with its responsibility of ensuring all of these events and activities continue, we have had lively discussions regarding our revenue streams. During these discussions, it became clear that it has been a long time, (so long, in fact, that none of our present board members has a clear memory of anything different), since our annual membership dues were anything but \$25.00. Given that, and the reality of ever-increasing costs, the board voted at its January meeting to increase the annual LBA Membership Dues by \$15.00 per year, to a \$40.00 annual fee. That new annual fee is reflected in our new membership application form, which is included in this edition of the Lake Breeze.

Perhaps this is 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:
  - o Spring and Fall Dinners
  - o Winter Social
  - o July 4th celebration
  - o Lake Clean ups

So, on behalf of the LBA Board, we are asking that each member please attend to paying your annual association dues by March 1, 2026. In addition, we are asking that you consider further supporting your lake community by also making an additional voluntary donation towards the cost of our annual 4th of July fireworks show and all of the other worthwhile projects the LBA is undertaking.

As always, we are grateful for our wonderful neighbors, and for all that each one of you does to make Lake Bloomington a wonderful place to live and to play in! 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

# 2026 Lake Bloomington Association Membership Form

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: \$ 40.00

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**

**The \$ 40.00 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
- 4th 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 1.19.26

## A SUCCESSFUL 2025 VOLUNTEER SEASON AT PARKLANDS MOON PRESERVE JANET WISER, PARKLANDS FOUNDATION VOLUNTEER STEWARD

This summer, 35 volunteers donated 250 hours helping to restore the Parklands Foundation Moon Preserve, which is located in Lake Bloomington's backyard and the Mackinaw River Basin.

I am grateful for lake residents and others, who volunteered their time and energy to preserve the native biodiversity of this beautiful 42 acre restoration prairie. This preserve is a glimpse of what our ancestors experienced when Illinois was 60% covered in tall grass prairie (22 million acres).

Winter is a beautiful time to be in the Moon preserve. As you hike the 1.2 mile loop that surrounds Illinois' two most common prairie grasses, Big Bluestem, and Indian Grass, you will notice the progress the "Moon Crew" made removing invasive shrubs, particularly bush honeysuckle, european privet and autumn olive. These invasives shade out and compete with native trees and understory vegetation.

This spring a prescribed (controlled) burn is scheduled for the Moon. Illinois' indigenous people used fire to keep native habitats resilient



and strong. The burn, coupled with the removal of invasive brush, will give the native forbs (flowers) access to sunshine and room to thrive—providing food and habitat for animals and insects who depend on them.

At our end of the season celebration, I was officially crowned, "Queen of the Moon" and presented with a handmade tiara of invasives made by Sherri McElroy, which I proudly wore! It was a honor to work with such a dedicated and fun group of volunteers.

Next spring, please consider joining us for an hour or two. All are welcome and no skills are necessary. You will meet great people and leave satisfied that you had a part in preserving this diverse ecosystem...our natural heritage.

Thank you to Dorothy Moon (1915-1988), who had the vision to preserve this place. Dorothy was a member of the Lake Bloomington Association and a Parklands Foundation Member.

If you have questions please call or email. 309-532-4652  
jlpwiser@yahoo.com

If you would like to learn more about Illinois prairie, prescribed fire as a land management tool, or volunteering at the Parklands Foundation, see below links.

[www.parklandsfoundation.org](http://www.parklandsfoundation.org)

[publish.illinois.edu/tallgrass-prairie](http://publish.illinois.edu/tallgrass-prairie)

[www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/illinois/stories-in-illinois/prescribed-fire](http://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/illinois/stories-in-illinois/prescribed-fire)

## LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

You often hear Realtors talk about finding the right location when buying a new home and those of us who are fortunate to live here at Lake Bloomington know how true that is. Purple Martins also seek out ideal nesting locations. In 2021, the Grand Prairie Bird Alliance (GPBA) purchased 3 Purple Martin gourd systems with 18 nesting locations for installation at Lake Bloomington. We initially installed the poles along the shoreline at North Park. For two summers we monitored the gourds and had little success attracting Purple Martins. Early in 2023 in coordination with the GPBA and our City of Bloomington Maintenance team a new location in the "prairie" at North Park was identified. We are happy to report the Purple Martins love their new location. Last summer we



had 16 active nests, 63 eggs, 59 hatchlings and 54 birds fledged from the nests. For us "Bird Nerds" it was a great summer!



If you are interested in installing (or enhancing) your Purple Martin house/system, here are a few tips. Purple Martins prefer housing that is placed in open areas with clear "flight paths". If possible, locate your pole approximately 30 feet or more from structures or trees. This was our downfall when we initially installed the gourd systems at North Park, there were too many trees along the shoreline which didn't allow for clear "flight paths". The houses or gourds should be approximately 15-20 feet high and near water, if possible, to ensure an adequate supply of insects for the Purple Martins to eat. Also, poles need to have the ability to raise/lower

for maintenance, clean out sparrow nests and to allow you to check in on your Purple Martins. The orientation of the entrance is not significant, but consistency matters once the martins have settled in.

Martins prefer to be near humans so choose a location that allows you to enjoy the purple martins. Watching these beautiful birds fly, sing and raise their young is so rewarding.



If you need assistance establishing, caring for or tips on improving your Purple Martin house, please reach out to Janet Wiser or Kathy Oncken.

# **LBA Winter Social**

**Please join your  
neighbors at**

**Green Gables on**

**Wednesday, February 11th**

**5:30 PM**

**Your LBA will provide  
appetizers.**

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



**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

24 Hour Good Neighbor Service<sup>®</sup>



**Ryan Esposito**

BROKER

mobile - 309.275.4361  
 ryanesposito1981@gmail.com

**mcleancountyhomes.com**

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



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](http://edwardjones.com)



Al Rollins & Mike O'Grady  
 P.O. Box 173, Hudson, IL 61748

(309)530-2394

[www.prairie-storage.com](http://www.prairie-storage.com)

[ogradymike1@gmail.com](mailto:ogradymike1@gmail.com)

**GRAYCO HEATING & COOLING**  
 309-963-2005 or 800-205-4005

[GraycoHeatingandCooling.com](http://GraycoHeatingandCooling.com) *Amana*

Email [grayco1@frontiernet.net](mailto:grayco1@frontiernet.net)

PO Box 701  
 Danvers, IL 61732

LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED

Bloomington, Normal, Danvers and Surrounding Communities



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).