



# HOOK, LINE & SINKER

Cumberland Lakes Newsletter

JUNE 2014

## FROM THE DESK OF THE P.O.A. PRESIDENT *Bob Connors*

Hi all, and welcome to summer! It's great to see the seasonal people returning and the flowers blooming. The grass is growing and the first big right-of-way mowing has been done. The neighborhood looks great! I would like, however, to address what seems to be an ongoing issue in our community. As our main road, Cumberland Lakes Drive, is a convenient link between Routes 70 and 62 we see quite a bit of through traffic by non-residents. This creates a problem with trash being thrown from vehicles along the way. We have also had many instances of our dead ends and cul-de-sacs being used as dumping grounds by those who choose not to take the time to dispose of things properly. We are asking that all our residents take an extra moment to either pick up trash they find along the roadside or report it to Neighborhood Watch if they are unable to do so. Ultimately, we are responsible for the condition of our community and we can't let the "rotten apples" spoil the beauty for everyone. **Thanks for your cooperation!**

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*Maintenance assessment fees, as you know, are due by June 30, 2014. Timely payment of these dues is always appreciated.*

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## LAKE MANAGEMENT

*Ron Seiss*

During March both dams were inspected by a Tennessee state dam inspector and met the criteria of the Safe Dam Requirements Act. A certification was received for both dams. The total cost to inspect and certify both dams was \$500.00 each. This certification will apply for three years.

Lazy Lake Dam - A split in the headwall was indicated in the prior inspection and after nine months of monitoring no change has been detected. The inspector recommended periodic monitoring over the next three years.

Cumberland Lakes Dam – On the outflow side of the 100 year concrete overflow there is a need for additional shotrock placement to help reduce the erosion now taking place. Approximately two loads of shotrock and a back hoe are needed to make the repair.

After certification, the state has required us to provide a drawdown plan for both dams. For nine years the state has been trying to get us to open the drawdown valves on each dam; however, the valves are frozen shut and cannot be opened. The state finally recognized the reality of not opening the valves. The drawdown plan must meet the requirement to remove 75% of the volume of water within ten days, which is the bare minimum that the lakes must do in order to be in compliance with the TN Department of Environmental and Conservation Safe Dam Program. Fields Engineering Consultant Services was solicited to perform the task at a total cost not to exceed \$2500.00 for both plans. Fields Engineering completed the drawdown plans and submitted them to the state. We are currently waiting for a response from the state.

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### Critter Control

*An alligator was reported in Lazy Lake. Pictures were taken and distributed. It turned out to be a paper tiger and I do not do paper tigers.*

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## FIREWISE

*Tom Torbleau*

Now that May is here with summer fast approaching, the need for a Burn Permit is expiring on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, but the threat of fires does not expire. During the spring and early summer the trees and foliage undergo a "green-up" process making them less susceptible to fires. However, we should keep in mind the weather condition called drought. Drought can set in when warm, dry winds persist along with a drop in humidity caused by a lack of rain for several days, and this is the time when the Forest Service will restrict burning for a particular community. When in doubt, one should still check the Burn Permit Site [www.BurnSafeTn.org](http://www.BurnSafeTn.org) for current conditions.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

*Frank Jimenez*

With the weather finally turning, construction has accelerated in Cumberland Lakes. At the present time we have one house almost completed and another one at 80%. We have received numerous requests from the residents of the community for work in their existing homes, and we expect to have more requests during the coming months.

Remember that all of the forms necessary for any work on your property are available on our website, as well as the regulations governing any work to be performed. I want to remind all that Cumberland County now has a building permit requirement as well as inspections during the construction phase.

## ACTIVITIES

*Cindy Carty*

Future Pre-planned Cumberland Lakes Community Center Social Events open to all Cumberland Lakes residents; and/or, lot owners include:

- 4<sup>th</sup> of July BBQ/Picnic - \$2.00 per adult for this event**
- Labor Day BBQ/Picnic – September 1, 2014 - \$2.00 per adult for this Event**
- Christmas Evening Social December 13, 2014.**

Being new to a community may be a bit intimidating. That is why most of our recurring social events will include the adornment of "First and Last Name Tags". For those active on the Board of Directors (BOD); or, Committee Chairpersons, the "Title" will also be shown underneath those name tags. Since beginning this practice last year, I have heard many "Thank you" comments, from new arrivals as they were welcomed assist, connecting our many faces to names during these open events. The name tags also help us know who best to address our community concerns or questions.

**Memorial Day of Fun:** As expected, another nice showing of Cumberland Lake residents for this event. Look on our official website, [http://www.cumberlandlakes.net/Calender\\_of\\_Events.html](http://www.cumberlandlakes.net/Calender_of_Events.html) for those candid photos of neighborly fun and camaraderie. These events are key to helping us get to know one another with more and more homes being built, sold and arrival of new folks.

**Casual Friday Socials:** A 'Recurring' No-Host Gaming Night, established and tentatively reserved for residents of Cumberland Lakes continues. This No Host Social event was established for those local residents interested in anything from a challenging game of electronic darts; and/or, table games of either a friendly night of Poker; or Left, Right, Center are options for a lively evening. This night is reserved for those of us 21 and over. Only requirement is to show up with 'after dinner' munchies and personal beverage beyond sodas or coffee.

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

*Tom Torbleau*

Overall, crime in Cumberland County has dropped since the end of last year. Incidents have fluctuated between 99 and 167 for the last half of 2013 and for the first 4 months of 2014. The number of incidents has stayed consistently between 89 and 101. During my analysis, I have seen that the two areas of increased crime have been the area just outside our community on South Cumberland Lakes Drive, and the area along Plateau Road. The fact that we have held our community virtually "crime free" can be attributed to the hard work of our Neighborhood Watch members. Also, on another happy note, we can welcome back one of our valuable watch members, Ken Welker, who had suffered a major health issue in January but is finally back home continuing his recovery.

## Casual Friday Social



### Memory Book:

*Recently found was a 'historical' and former Cumberland Lakes Memory Book dating back to details including first home built here, first birth, past Christmas floats participation, with pictures and awards Cumberland Lake residents received for their efforts. Because our neighborhood has a pretty significant past and present, the consensus was to continue this very informative and appreciated past practice. Therefore, a Cumberland Lakes Memory Book, in hardcopy, is being assembled and will be placed and remain at the Center for all to enjoy. We hope recording these memories will continue for years to come by our future Activities Representative(s).*

*Working on Memory Book*



## COMMUNITY RELATIONS - WELCOMING

*Betsy Hess*

Welcome to Linette and Reggie Almond who moved into their beautiful new home on Anne Rd. this spring. We officially welcomed them in early May. Reggie said there is still about a half year of work left to do but they were ready to move in! They came to us from Santa Cruz, CA. Linette moved from Knoxville to California immediately after she graduated from the University of Tennessee. She is so happy to be this close to her parents in Knoxville after all these years. Reggie was his own contractor and was able to get Jeremy Tayes and Keith Deutscher to help in the winter.



## BEAUTIFICATION

*Betsy Hess*

Judi Connors and Shirley Seiss now man the Community Center gardens and have done a wonderful job. Janine Torbleau is in charge of the Route 62 entrance to The Lakes and Elaine Jimenez and Betsy Hess man the Jim Garrett Road entrance at Cumberland Lakes Road. By the end of May we will have planted our annuals: red geraniums near the Divide Road entrance and two flats of zinnias/vincas at the Community Center. Shirley and Ron dug up some of the gladiolus corms at the Community Center and they were distributed to three families, with another family expressing interest too late! Next fall Bill Hess will head up a group to plant two big redbuds in the island near Route 62.

## NATURE NOTES

*Bill Hess*

Well, I ended the Spring Newsletter with a comment about the likelihood of us having a cold spell and the effect of it on the spring flowering season. As it turned out, we did have a mild freeze in the third week of April and a few of my woody plants did suffer from it. Two of them, Yellow Wood (*Cladrastis kentukea*) and Beauty Berry (*Callicarpa Americana*) are natives. Yellow Wood should do well in the cold since its distribution goes up into Michigan. On the other hand, Beauty Berry is mostly southern and occurs in the lower half of Tennessee. The Yellow Wood is doing fine and the Beauty Berry has growth coming up from the base of the plant so not to worry. I won't say any more about our winter since I can hear most of you saying "Do you really want to compare your winter with ours?!"

To my eye, this seems to be one of the more spectacular springs for our Redbuds (*Cercis canadensis*), Dogwoods (*Cornus florida*) and Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*). Soon we will be seeing other woodland and roadside plants. Already the roadsides are beginning to show a variety of color that have included the Birdsfoot Violets, Bluets, Irises, Dewberries and many more to come. Red Maples are beginning to lose their red fruits and I suspect in another couple weeks the Oaks will be shedding their pollen. (This pollen gets all over, including in the house.) Our pine trees will start shedding their pollen within the next two weeks. I would say they are a couple weeks behind the norm. For those of you with allergies, we certainly are in a center for this problem. It is short lived for the most part.

On our property our house is imbedded in the woods and not visible from the road. I think we have quite a variety of different kinds of birds. Some nest in our shrubs that we've planted and many more nest in our surrounding woods. One of our interesting birds is the Carolina Wren. They have two nesting periods, one of which is going on now. The past few years they have chosen to nest first underneath the top of our propane tank. (I would like to know how low my propane supply is but I will not look at the gauge until they are finished nesting.) Anyway, I'm now certain that the young have hatched out and the two adults are busy feeding them. As my wife and I sat on the porch watching them, we noticed that they were bringing out white particles in their beaks. I thought it might be pieces of egg shell. Since they were dropping these pieces about ten feet away from us, I finally got up to investigate. Upon looking at the piece I realized it wasn't egg shell, but might be excrement (poop!). I Googled this and found out I was right. The proper term is "fecal sac". I hope this last little info will make your day or, at least, be more info than you need!

**FROM THE EDITOR:** If at any time you prefer to receive a mailed copy of the Newsletter, or you no longer need a mailed copy, please call me at 931-839-7252. The Community Center office no longer has specific hours; however, the phone is monitored and your call will be returned as soon as possible. ....**JUDI CONNORS**

It seems, as Editor, I never really have much to say with the exception of my usual blurb seen above. Since I have a bit of space to fill here I was thinking it might be nice if occasionally we could use this spot for "Letters to the Editor". If anyone has a story or comment they would like to share about life in Cumberland Lakes please bring it to my attention and it will be considered for publication in the Newsletter. All submissions must be signed and due to space restrictions they may not always be able to be used, but I will do my best to include them when possible.

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