

the Lake Breeze



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President's Letter

Happy 2020 to all our LBA Members! We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to another new year at this beautiful place we call home. Have you noticed? The days are getting longer and shadows of the tree branches tempt us to think about spring. The promise of a new season at the lake will bring us trees budding, grass greening and sparkling open waters. It's not that far away!



As we do every year, our LBA Board met in January for a day of dialogue about the new year ahead. At that meeting, we reviewed the results of the LBA Survey that we sent last fall. Thank you for your great response. In this newsletter, we share a summary of the survey results and the comments we received. We discussed the survey at length at our meeting and we hope our plans for the new year will reflect your input. We will share our full Strategic plan in the next LakeBreeze and on the website after it's fully approved by our board. A sneak peek of our plans include continuing the neighborhood signs project, pursuing improvements at North Park, creating an open archive of our meeting minutes and documents on our website, developing a new partnership with our camps, and a more consistent way to maintain our beloved flag on the tower by Carver Road Bridge. There will be ways for you to get involved so stay tuned!

By now you should have received your letter asking you to renew your LBA Membership for 2020. We appreciate your membership and your involvement in our lake community! We hope to have all dues for this year submitted by March 1. We also will welcome your Fireworks donations as we have a new contract this year which will cost us a bit more. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

We are planning for a Winter Social to be held March 5 at the Lake Road Inn. More details about that are also included in this newsletter. We hope to see many of you at this event to help us bid farewell to winter.

As we weather the dwindling mid-winter days.... remember how fortunate we are to have God's great natural world all around us: snow geese migrating, a deer's footprints in the snow, Orion's belt shining brightly in the sky, ice formation artwork on the water and all that is life on the Lake in the winter.

CAROL AND MARK CSANDA
 LBA Presidents



2019 SURVEY SUMMARY (165 responses returned)

Demographics

The majority of participants were homeowners and residents with most being part of the lake community for more than 10-20 years. There was a clear preference for email communication, some Facebook use, and occasionally the website.

Quality of Government Services

Parks and Grounds: **Very Good**
Body of Water: **Good**
Enforcing Rules: **Fair**
Condition of Roads: **Poor**

Quality of the Lake's Features

Neighbors and Neighborhoods:	Excellent	Water Quality:	Good
Sense of Safety and Security:	Very Good	Boating:	Good
Walking, Hiking, Running:	Average	Fishing:	Good
Biking:	Average	Using Parks:	Good

Additional Comments

What do you appreciate most about living at the Lake?

The natural surroundings, peace and tranquil environment: **82**
The friendly community, neighborhoods and neighbors: **27**
The opportunity for a variety of outdoor recreation activities: **18**

What do you appreciate least about living at the Lake?

Negative relationship with the City of Bloomington: **34**
Inconsistent Boating, Fishing and Skiing Rules: **20**
High Real Estate Taxes and Increasing City Fees: **19**
Condition of and Safety on the Roads and Streets: **14**
Water Quality, Run off, and Shoreline Erosion: **11**
No Landscape Waste Pick-up: **9**

What are the most important improvements that should be made at the Lake?

Relationship with the City: **20**
Enforcement of Rules/Laws: **19**
Condition of the Roads: **14**
Landscape Waste Pick-up: **13**
Water Quality: **10**

The LBA Board shared and discussed these survey results at their January strategic planning session and used this information to help prioritize goals and develop initiatives for the 2020 Strategic Plan. With details and budgets still under development, the plan should be completed and approved at our March meeting and shared with the membership in early spring. Thank you all for your opinions and input. We look forward to another great year of enjoyment and accomplishments at the Lake!

Contact mark.csanda@gmail.com for questions or more information.

Dear Residents,

If Punxsutawney Phil's forecasting abilities can be trusted, spring should be right around the corner. However, as I write this, the forecast for tomorrow is for six inches of snow...

I would like to take this time to discuss some noteworthy questions and some exciting developments within the Public Works Department – Water Division for this coming spring/summer.

How does the Division decide to pump from a reservoir?

One of the most common questions that I receive from the residents pertains to the pumping of water from our two reservoirs. The answer to that question is quite simple. We base our decision on which reservoir to pump from solely upon the analysis of water quality. No other factor is considered when making this decision. The Water Division operates under strict guidelines as set forth by the Federal and State Environmental Protection Agency. Throughout the day, staff routinely monitors various parts of the treatment process for different water quality parameters.

Since Lake Bloomington and Evergreen Lake have been classified as federally impacted reservoirs, our monitoring is essential to providing the highest quality water that we possibly can. One of the most important parameters that we monitor is the level of nitrates. We monitor the level of nitrates at the source (inside the reservoirs and streams through data loggers and the yellow buoys) as well as throughout the treatment process along with the finished water as it leaves the treatment plant. The Division has certain levels that the nitrate level cannot exceed. Depending what the nitrate level is within a reservoir, along with other water quality parameters, the decision to pump from Lake Bloomington or Evergreen Lake is made.

Lake Bloomington has approximately seventy (70) square miles of watershed, which means seventy (70) square miles of farm fields and creeks are draining to Lake Bloomington. Since Lake Bloomington is smaller and shallower than Evergreen Lake (which has a forty-one (41) square mile watershed), Lake Bloomington cannot dilute the nitrates as efficiently as Evergreen Lake. Because of this, the Division must choose our supply based solely on water quality parameters.

Does the Water Division consider projects like bank stabilization when determining which lake to pump from?

No. As I mentioned before, water quality is the only factor in determining which reservoir to use. While the Division would benefit from lower lake levels to install the stabilizing rock, we are aware that this may not be possible and have therefore incorporated different installation practices into the bidding process. The same is true for any other project that we may have to undertake within the reservoirs.

During this upcoming summer, the Division, in conjunction with the McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District, will be installing riprap along the shoreline of Lake Bloomington. Our stabilization efforts are governed by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACoE). Each regional division of the ACoE apply for what is called a Nationwide Permit from the federal government. These Nationwide permits are for a specific term and they allow work to be done within the lakes, streams and rivers of the United States. The Nationwide Permit allows for a certain number of linear feet to be stabilized before having to apply for an Individual Permit with the ACoE. Due to our past successes in stabilizing the shorelines of Lakes Bloomington and Evergreen, the Division has reached the allowable stabilization

limits under the Nationwide Permit and is now applying for an Individual Permit. In order to apply for the Individual Permit, the Division and the McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District had to submit a 5-7-year plan of stabilization projects and perform a cultural resource survey of both shorelines. This is a good predicament to be in because it means that we have been and continue to be proactive in reducing nitrates, phosphorus and sediment loss into our reservoirs.

Watershed Planning

As most are aware, the Division is required by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to submit for review and approval a watershed management plan every ten (10) years. In preparation, the McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District and the City of Bloomington applied for a grant to offset the cost of updating our plans. Last fall, the City and the McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District were notified that we were the recipients of the grant. The money that was awarded helps to defray the cost of hiring a consultant in developing the new watershed plan.

What most people are not aware of is that the City of Bloomington has been at the forefront of watershed planning and improvements throughout the United States. For well over a decade, the City has excelled at the collection of vital water quality data which will be used for the watershed plan. The City has also partnered with Illinois State University since 2014 for the Understanding and Monitoring Local Water Quality Program. This program collects valuable data on stream flow, sediment loading and nitrate and phosphorus loading, especially during high flow events in Money Creek and Six Mile Creek as well as in our wetlands. This enables the City to gather this valuable data that would be difficult for Water Division staff to collect, while at the same time providing students, under the guidance of a Nobel Prize winning professor, the ability to learn and train on state-of-the-art equipment while giving them real-world experience.

I cannot stress how important this watershed plan is to the goals of the Water Division. The treatment process does not start within the treatment plant but rather in the creeks and streams that feed our reservoirs. Any measure that we take to limit the negative impacts to our reservoirs, will aid in the treatment process within the treatment plant. While our goal is to provide our customers with the highest quality water possible, we also strive to be sound stewards of the financial resources each of you provide when you pay your water bill each month. The end result of this watershed plan is for the City to have specific best management practices in place that is based upon sound scientific data. The more data that can be collected, incorporated and implemented into best management practices means the better opportunity the Division has when it comes time to apply for implementation grants from Federal and State agencies, therefore reducing the overall cost to the Division and to our rate payers.

Please feel free to contact me directly should you have any questions. I would be more than happy to sit down and discuss how each of you can play a part in our watershed planning efforts.

See you around the Lake!



Office: (309) 434-2431 | Cell: (309) 275-8087 | Email: jdarter@cityblm.org

Come join your Friends and Neighbors
as we bid a fond

"Farewell to Winter"
at the annual
LBA Winter Social (Happy Hour)

Where: Lake Road Inn
Date: March 5, 2020
Time: 5:30 pm

Come Enjoy: Hot hor d'oeuvres &
tasty Desserts (provided by the LBA)
as well as Drink Specials (Cash Bar)

Don't be left-out in the cold!
Come say "Farewell to Winter"
and feel the warmth of
good company and conversation!

www.lba.org

Ron Smith Memorial Highway Resurfacing Project

The McLean County Highway Department will be resurfacing Ron Smith Memorial Highway from Pipeline Road (CH 31) to PJ Keller Highway (CH 8) this summer. For this project, a process called Cold-in-Place Recycling (CIR) will be used to remove the significant cracking in the roadway. The CIR process is an in-place rehabilitation method that consists of pulverizing the existing pavement to a depth of approximately four inches. During the pulverization, an asphalt agent is added. This mixture is used as the new base for the road.

The Highway Department will also be widening the road three feet on each side. After the excavation for the widening, one inch of the existing road will be removed and placed into the widening trench. The CIR process will then take place spreading the material over the existing road and trench area. The CIR will need approximately two weeks to cure and remove the moisture of the mixture. Once the CIR has cured, 2.25" of hot-mix asphalt will be placed in two separate lifts on the CIR mixture.

Access to driveways will be maintained during the project. During the widening excavation and CIR process, access to residences and businesses will be delayed until a temporary aggregate entrance is installed. Mail access will not be disrupted during the project. The mailboxes will be relocated temporarily during construction.

Work will start on the Ron Smith Memorial Highway resurfacing project after June 8, 2020 and will be completed by September 18,

2020. The Highway Department will be replacing cross road culverts and trimming trees prior to starting the resurfacing project. Daily road closures will occur to perform this work.



Fireworks Donations

Please help our annual fireworks display tradition continue by donating.

Please complete the form below to help support and continue this great tradition at the Lake live on!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Please send this form & checks payable to:
LBA
P.O. Box 223
Hudson, IL 61748



JIM SPACHMAN

Agent

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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.