

the Lake Breeze



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President's Letter *Joel and Connie Bankes*

We are optimistic that by the time you read this newsletter our Spring weather will have taken a turn for the better. Our local area has just endured its second weekend in a row of measurable April snow – frozen April showers if you prefer. However, many other signs point to warmer days ahead at our Lake. The Pelicans have returned for their annual visit and local snowbirds are now migrating home as well. Yet as we sit in front of the last whimper of March madness on the tube, watching the snow fly we are looking forward to those outdoor Lake chores that seemed like such a burden at the end of last season. Soon grandkids will be splashing in the cove, crappie will be chasing minnows and neighbors will reconvene over a glass of wine on the dock. The caravan of sunset pontoons is almost upon us. Soon we will be waiting longer for a seat and cheeseburger at Gables and the patio at LRI will be bustling with Lake friends.

The renewal of Spring is reflected in this edition of our Lake Breeze. Carol Csanda reviews our recently refreshed LBA strategic plan. Cathy Strader discusses Lake road safety as runners, hikers, bikers and Sunday drivers now appear in greater numbers. The LBA Spring Dinner is right around the corner and we are looking for a record turnout as we take advantage of this wonderful tradition to celebrate the coming season and reconnect with old friends. Don't forget the Spring clean-up event and Mucky Duck Marina's opening. We have a calendar of events to help you keep track.

Also, in this edition of Lake Breeze, John Larkin provides an update on City of Bloomington activities and discussions with the LBA. Ryan Esposito waxes nostalgic and shares a lesson about viewpoints. Elizabeth Binning provides helpful and very timely do's and don'ts to help protect the security of our Facebook friends.

C'mon carefree summer – we welcome you with open arms. Somehow the lyrics of Don Henley fit this tribute to a change of seasons:

The Boys of Summer

*Nobody on the road,
 Nobody on the beach.
 I feel it in the air,
 The summer's out of reach.
 Empty Lake, empty streets,
 The sun goes down along.
 I'm driving by your house,
 Don't know you're not home.*

*But I can see you,
 Your brown skin shining in the sun.
 You got your hair combed back
 And your sunglasses on, baby.
 I can tell you my love for you will still be strong,
 After the boys of summer have gone.*



Wishing you a joyful spring season,
 - Joel & Connie Bankes



SPRING CALENDAR

Saturday April 28th	LBA Lake Clean Up
Thursday May 10th	LBA Spring Dinner
Sunday May 13th	Mother's Day
Monday May 28th	Memorial Day Holiday
Saturday June 9th	Mucky Duck Marina Open House
Sunday June 17th	Father's Day

CITY CONNECTION

As we continue our monthly meetings with the City, we are able to dig deeper into many of the topics brought to our attention by LBA members. Even with his expanded role, Acting City Manager Steve Rasmussen continues to participate in the meetings and has done an admirable job of looking at issues from the residents' and the City's perspective. Here is a summary of recent topics:

Docks

There will be a City Council Special Session on April 9, currently scheduled for 5:30 PM. Administration and the Water Department will present their finding on the docks on non-leased City property. There will be a limited time for public comment during this meeting. A vote by the Council is expected at the Council meeting April 23rd.

Infrastructure Maintenance

- Work continues on the boat ramp project which should wrap up soon — if weather cooperates.

- The City plans on a significant water main replacement project for Hepatica, White Owl, Columbine, Wood Thrush and Nighthawk. If bids come in at budgeted levels, the work will begin later this year. The City will host a public hearing prior to initiating the project. The main line will go from the current two-inch- to an eight-inch line. The new lines will run to the cut-off valve for each home. Homeowners will be encouraged, but not required, to upgrade the line from the cut off to the home — at their own expense. They also will be offering free, pre and post construction lead testing.
- The City is also looking into the future and is actively studying options and comparative costs of a sewer system at the Lake.

Refuge and Recycling

The contract with the current refuge provider is expiring and the City has negotiated a new contract. Though the contract rates remain the same, the amount paid by leaseholders

will be increasing to reimburse the City for actual costs. The charges will appear in our next annual lease bill. The good news is that Republic Services will be offering curbside, single-stream recycling. Each homeowner can choose to participate. Details are still being finalized but cost will be approximately \$8.50 per month for each wheeled container.

City Storage

The City is requesting a zoning change for a small portion of the land immediately west of the spillway from residential to agricultural. The plan is to use the recently renovated land to store items necessary for maintenance of the surrounding area.





The calendar promises that summer is right around the corner and your Mucky Duck Marina is counting on it. We will open again on Friday May 18th and be open Thursday through Sunday throughout the summer. Please remember us for propane swaps, ice, fishing stuff and snacks. Plus, we have a whole new batch of much coveted Mucky Merchandise for that special fashion statement. Mark your calendars for June 9th, 2 to 6 for our third annual Mucky Day open house and hog roast featuring the terrific music of Tom and Brianne Neal with special guest Tim Irvin. As always admission to the Open House is set at the low, low price of free. We hope to see you there and throughout the summer. We appreciate (and need) your support! See you on the Sunshine!"
- Michael Philippi

WINTER SOCIAL 2018



LBA Winter Social at Lake Road Inn hosted by Neil and Lynn Finlen

"We intended to celebrate the end of winter and ended up toasting to filling the lake!"

I Remember when...

a story by Ryan Esposito

I remember as a child loading up in the car (riding in the back window) and making the trip to Lake Bloomington quite frequently. It seemed like it was on the other side of the state to me. Rt. 39 was still in the planning stage, so we would always go through Hudson. We would stop at Gables for our two boxes of nightcrawlers which always seemed to be bigger than the ones we would get at American Bait and Tackle in town. Dad would always get roped into a conversation with some fisherman, and of course he didn't exaggerate the size of the bass he had caught recently. My older brother and I were used to this sort of thing since dad was a taxidermist, so we pretended to be interested, but in the back of our minds we were already standing on the shoreline with a pole in our hand.

One day by the spillway, while fishing with my brother, I lost my footing on the concrete and started sliding towards the water. It seemed to happen in slow motion in my young mind. I remember thinking this was it. I'm a goner. Panic set in as I continued to slide down the bank and I reached for my brother who seemed to be 100 ft away. Screams followed and of course the tears. My brother remained calm and took two steps toward me and grabbed my hand. He was about 5 feet from me and probably had a good laugh as I slowly sank into the water up to my armpits. He drug me back up the bank and I truly thought he just saved my life. I'll never forget that day among others at Lake Bloomington.

I think my brother's version of the story went like this: "My idiot little brother slid into the water and I had to pull him out. He was super dramatic about it. I think I was getting a bite, but he cost me that fish. Why couldn't I have been an only child...ugh."

There are all kinds of stories tied to Lake Bloomington and hundreds of points of view for each story. From "Shore Wars," to the "Lake Management Plan" there have been many varying opinions about how Lake Bloomington should best be used and preserved for future generations. I have read through a lot of these stories and one account was very interesting to me. It's a prime example of how there are two sides to every story.

On August 3, 2006 Nick and Jane Mohar and their daughter Kathy were interviewed. Here is an excerpt from that interview:

Kathy: *You were going to tell about the ghost.*

Jane: *The property was different back then, the Lake has had a new seawall, it was pushed back.*

Nick: *It was raised 5 feet.*

Jane: *There used to be a point that was pushed out. A neighbor, Gordon Cushman, who lived over here, two houses over. He would dress up and put this white sheet on and put blood all over it and would carry a flashlight on his face and he would get in his boat. It would be dark. And then they would row across, in front of our property so it looked like the ghost was walking across the water.*

Nick: *It scared my mother. She had a bunch of ladies down one night and she took them down to watch the sunset and they were sitting down there and the sun was setting. It was getting dark. Gordon came around the back way and got me and said, "You've got to come row for me." So, we went to his place two doors down, got in the boat and we're rowing along. Well, it was a cut bank, kind of like some of the city property is now, so they were sitting way up here and we are sitting down here in the water. I rowed down real quiet and he had chains with him so that started rattling in the boat and then he started moaning. He had a funny, red-green light under this sheet thing and he started standing up in the boat so it looked like he was rising up out of the lake. Mom and all her friends, ran screaming to the cabin.*

I wonder if they ever did find out what Cushman was up to? There are tons of good stories about how things were at the lake back then. But one thing has remained constant. We are not all going to see things from the same perspective. I only hope that another thing also remains constant. That we all work together and take care of this precious resource that brings all of us so much joy and such great memories with our families and friends. I truly believe that if all our decisions are made with the common goal of protecting our reservoir and our homes for future generations, that our small disagreements will fade away over time.

2018 STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THE LBA

On January 20 this year, members of the Lake Bloomington Association met at the Davis Lodge to do some planning for the year ahead. We shared breakfast, comradery, and brainstormed on ways to best serve our association while staying true to our mission.

The Lake Bloomington Association's mission is to work together to improve the quality of life of the lake residents, the environment of the lake, and relationships with the surrounding community.

We agreed on six focus areas for our efforts:

1. Develop Community Spirit
2. Maintain Membership
3. Promote Safety
4. Protect the Lake
5. Improve Surroundings
6. Facilitate Collaboration

A few of our initiatives for the year include:

- Continue our main social events; the spring dinner, Fourth of July activities, the fall dinner and the winter social. We had a great time at the winter

social on February 22 and hope to see you at the Spring dinner on May 10.

- Update and publish our Lake Bloomington Directory to be available at the Fall dinner.
- Develop new safety signage to promote safer living and recreational activity.
- Participate with the city in the development of the North Park Nature Area.
- Explore the installation of new and consistent address signage around the lake.
- Continue to provide a liaison to the city, invite city representation at all LBA activities, and advocate for representation of Lake Bloomington resident's interest on the Bloomington City Council.
- Continue to be supportive of the needs of the Timber Pointe and East Bay Camps, including the Timber Pointe Yacht Club.

We have posted our full plan on the LBA website. We will keep you updated on our progress as the year unfolds. Our association is here to represent your interests. As always, please be in touch with any of the board members if you have other ideas or thoughts about how we can better serve you and our lake community.

*"The spring is fresh and fearless
And every leaf is new,
The world is brimmed with moonlight,
The lilac brimmed with dew.*

*Here in the moving shadows
I catch my breath and sing -
My heart is fresh and fearless
And over-brimmed with spring."*

*Sara Teasdale,
May Night, 1920*

Spring Lake Clean-up

Join us on Saturday, April 28 for the annual Spring Lake Clean-up! We will meet at Green Gables at 8:00 a.m. to get organized and have a quick cup of coffee before heading out. Each group of volunteers will work on a portion of the roadway surrounding our lake and clear the garbage that may have collected over the winter. Trash bags will be provided. Volunteers should email Cathy Strader at straderca5@hotmail.com before the 28th so we know how many people to put in each section. Bring work gloves! THANK YOU and we'll see you on the 28th!

SPRING ROAD SAFETY

Spring has sprung and soon our friends and neighbors will be out and about walking, running and biking on the roads surrounding our lake in larger numbers. These are great ways to enjoy our neighborhoods and visit with friends, but can also be dangerous without concern about safety.



Just as boat & swimming safety is important on the water, road safety is equally important at Lake Bloomington.

We have rural roads surrounding the lake which bring some different scenarios than in the city with regard to “sharing the road”. Many roads are not marked with center lines, or do have center lines which can result in narrow lanes. We have many winding roads instead of mostly straight. Shoulders are non-paved. Moving traffic is also typically going at higher rates of speed than in the city. All of these make for some tricky situations when bikers, pedestrian walkers & runners, and motor vehicles encounter one another.

The following are tips found from several sources concerning road safety in rural areas:

In a car/bike situation: Bikers WANT you to see them. Yes, slower vehicles should be to the right, but because a car approaches a bike from the rear, it is unknown to the biker if it is seen at all by the driver of the oncoming vehicle. Wearing bright colors can help with that as well as reflectors, lights and mirrors. Driving & riding in a predictable manner is beneficial. Waving, signaling, or lightly honking also helps.

In Illinois a car is required by law to give a bike 3 feet of clearance when passing. In rural areas that means cars must move almost entirely into the other lane or other side of the road. Some states require 4-6 feet for additional safety. Most people riding a bike on a roadway are more than 3 feet tall. If a biker goes down chances are he or she is going to need more than 3 feet to avoid catastrophe. Occasionally a biker will “take the lane” to avoid dangers along the shoulder. This is not to be mean or disrespectful, but a temporary way of being more visible and safe. A scary situation for bikers is when they are passed by a vehicle on a curved road with a double yellow center line. This could be a very serious situation for everyone if there is an unseen vehicle coming in the opposite direction.

In a car/pedestrian situation:

Runners and walkers WANT you to see them. Again, bright or reflective clothing helps with this. Pedestrians should be moving in the opposite direction of traffic. Headphones and cell phones are a distraction even when facing traffic. Pets accompanying runners and walkers should be leashed.

As a runner it is my responsibility to be on the left side of the road facing traffic. Because the shoulders are not

paved, it is probably safer for me to be actually on the pavement where it is level to avoid loose gravel, broken glass, drop offs, ruts, dead animals, etc. If I see a vehicle coming at me I hope to be given the same 3 feet of clearance as if I am on a bike. If the oncoming vehicle does not move over I am forced to the less stable shoulder and I assume the driver does not see me (or assumes that the white line along the shoulder is a safety shield that will protect me?). Please, please, please if you are driving and encounter a pedestrian slow down and move over. Your courtesy is so appreciated and will be acknowledged!

I write this because I am involved in all 3 scenarios. I drive a car. I ride a bike regularly in the lake area. I run frequently on these rural roads. To be honest I think I’m pretty safe doing all 3, and I recognize that I have responsibility when on the road in all of these capacities. But the truth is as a biker and runner I am the most vulnerable. A car can weigh 2 tons or more, a typical bike weighs 20 pounds, and a person....well, that encounter could be catastrophic.

Every driver, biker, or pedestrian has the chance to be someone you know. Surely we all can error on the side of safety, courtesy and friendliness. Let’s all take a deep breath, slow down and enjoy sharing the road!

For additional reading:

www.BicycleSafe.com

www.edmunds.com/car-safety/coexisting

www.pantagraph.com

www.clrp.cornell.edu

www.theuncommuter.com

How to PROTECT Yourself on facebook

Recently Facebook was in the news as it came to light that a voter-profiling company captured “private” information from about 87 million Facebook users.

How do you protect yourself? The sad truth is that if you are using the Facebook website or app on your smartphone or tablet, you are voluntarily giving your information. Very few of us fully read through the terms and conditions when we clicked “submit” to their user agreement as we created our accounts. Facebook is free, right? Well, yes and no – they don’t collect fees, but you pay for it by agreeing to their terms and providing them with your information. Apparently some of us more than others, as in recent days we have learned that Android phones lax app permissions “allowed” Facebook to collect users’ call logs and text messages without their knowledge. Scary indeed.

Even those of us who kept our profiles as secure as possible are vulnerable. The crux of the matter comes from how Facebook distinguishes between “profile privacy” and “application privacy.” Changing the privacy settings won’t matter. If you want to fully protect yourself from a social media company who has been selling your (and my) data for a decade, you will need to delete your account and delete the app from your phone. Given the Android phone vulnerability I would recommend all Android users to delete the Facebook and Messenger apps off their phones, even if they retain an active Facebook account.

You’ll note that Facebook only gives you an option to “deactivate” your account. Although Facebook doesn’t give you an option to delete your account that is easy to find, you can do it. Go to www.facebook.com/help/delete_account - they claim it will take about 90 days for the account to be completely removed. Can’t give up FB just like that? I get it. How will you keep in touch with your siblings? Or see pics of your grandchildren? OK, so if you want to keep Facebook but protect yourself a bit (but not completely), follow these steps.

Option 1 - Remove Facebook from apps
You may have used your Facebook login info to log into other applications, such as games (Words with Friends, etc.), other member websites (like Pinterest or Houzz), or even utilities (like DirecTV). Removing this turns off the platform so third-party apps don’t have access to your account and its information.

Step 1: To do this, click on the down arrow to the right of the question mark on the top navigation bar.

Step 2: Click “Settings” on the drop down menu

Step 3: When the “General Account Settings” page opens, click on “Apps” on the far right

Step 4: Locate “Apps, Websites, and Plugins” and click the “Edit” button.

Step 5: On the pop-up, click the blue “Disable Platform” button.

You may also choose to remove all the apps associated with Facebook at the same time. I was surprised to find that I had 22 apps associated with my Facebook account - some of which I didn’t remember linking. Hmm.

Option 2 - Turn off Facebook’s data collection from other websites
Facebook obviously uses your data (as does Google) for their advertisements. This is why if you shopped once for a pair of shoes at Nordstrom’s you will start seeing shoe ads from Nordstroms along the sides of your Facebook feed... for months. They collect your use of websites and apps, and advertisements paired with your social actions. Here is how to shut that down.

Step 1: To do this, click on the down arrow to the right of the question mark on the top navigation bar.

Step 2: Click “Settings” on the drop down menu

Step 3: When the “General Account Settings” page opens, click on “Ads” on the far right

Step 4: Scroll down to “Ad Settings.”

Step 5: Under “Ads based on your use of websites and app”, click off (or on - your choice)

Step 6: Under “Ads on apps and websites off of the Facebook Companies” choose yes or no

Step 7: Under “Ads with your social actions” choose “No One.”

Step 8: Now scroll up to “Your information” and switch off the available settings to your preference.

Option 3: Do a privacy audit and clearing of your browsing history
Think of this as internet hygiene - you need to clean that mess up sometimes.

Step 1: Clear your browsing data. Each browser does this differently, but it may be listed under “history” or under the name of your browser. For example, in Chrome, if I click on the word “Chrome” in the navigation bar, I can choose to “Clear Browsing Data” in the drop down menu. This will temporarily delete cookies and trackers, but they will reappear over time.

Step 2: Be wary of downloads, only choosing to download from organizations that you fully trust.

Step 3: Be wary of unknown brands, quizzes, or other “fun” parts of Facebook.

The truth is, if you exist in society, your data is collected. Even if you delete your Facebook account and never click “like” again, mega data companies like Google and Amazon are still collecting data about your searches, your shopping, and more. Although I’m no tech guru, if you want additional help, just email me at elizabethbinningcoach@gmail.com.



Spring Dinner

Thursday
May 10, 2018
Timber Pointe

5:30 social hour - BYOW

6:30 dinner

catered by

Famous Dave's BBQ

*Special gift
for everyone
attending!*

Invitation
coming in the
mail soon!!



Fireworks Donations

The City of Bloomington is no longer contributing to the cost of our fireworks show. 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:
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Your Ad
~~**HERE**~~

\$25 for a 3.5x2in size. Proceeds go toward the fireworks fund. More information.
lakebreeze.editor@gmail.com



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.