

# the Lake Breeze



### Inside this issue

President's Letter.....1

Board of Directors.....2

Membership Renewal.....2

New Email.....2

Advertisements.....2

City of Bloomington  
Updates.....3

Lake Road Inn  
Interview.....4

## President's Letter *Joel and Connie Bankes*

*October is a symphony of permanence and change.*  
- **Bonaro W. Overstreet**

We are very pleased to have the opportunity to serve as Co-Presidents of your Board of Directors for this term and we would like to thank Jim and Gaye Aaberg for their contributions and sacrifices made over the past two years. In taking the handoff from Jim and Gaye, our agenda is a simple one – to uphold LBA traditions and to execute the LBA Strategic Plan. Accordingly, we intend to encourage the Board to focus its energies and available resources on initiatives that support our mission and that achieve our strategic goals:

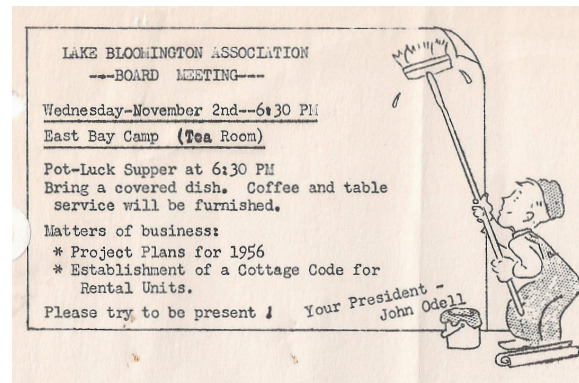
Mission: *“To Improve the Lake and Surrounding Community”*

### Goals:

- ♦ A vibrant **community spirit**
- ♦ **Membership** retention, growth and engagement
- ♦ Lake **recreational safety**
- ♦ Lake **ecosystem** improvements
- ♦ **Quality** of Lake life
- ♦ **Collaborative relationships** with other Lake Bloomington stakeholders

Last year the Board agreed to an operating reserve of 18 months leaving LBA dollars in excess of that reserve available to invest in strategic initiatives. The Board agreed to be thoughtful and weigh options before investing these available dollars. The Board welcomes ideas for a project or initiative that would address our strategic goals and requests that you submit your idea(s) to: [j.bankes@comcast.net](mailto:j.bankes@comcast.net)

In reviewing long kept LBA documents we discovered a Board meeting and Dinner as far back as 1955 – a potluck held at the East Bay Camp’s Tea Room. Last month, 62 years later, our Association held what is now our Annual Meeting and Fall Dinner at El Paso Country Club. As planned, we kept controversy off the menu,



we enjoyed a wonderful meal and the good company of friends and neighbors along with a little entertainment. Thank you Carol Csanda and her committee for organizing that special evening.

In this Fall Issue of the Lake Breeze you will find the roster for the 2017-18 LBA Board, an interview with Craig Hanson about Lake Road Inn, and a City of Bloomington update – which will be a standing article in future issues of the Lake Breeze.

We hope you take time to enjoy the symphony that is autumn at the Lake. ■

## New Email

The Lake Breeze Newsletter has a brand new email address:

**lakebreeze.editor@gmail.com**

The newsletter will continue to be published on a quarterly basis and sent by email to all registered members of the Lake Bloomington Association. Articles, news, photos, and items of interest for future newsletters are encouraged from the Lake Community. Please send them to this new email address.

## 2017 – 2018 LBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers:

Presidents - Joel and Connie Bankes  
Vice Presidents - Mark and Carol Csanda  
Treasurer - John and Lisa Larkin  
Secretary - Tim and Cathy Strader

### Directors:

First Year Directors - Neil and Lynne Finlen  
Jeffrey and Lezlee Dillon

Second Year Directors - John and Elizabeth Binning  
Craig and Tria Bouas

Third Year Directors - Eric and Kelly Ekstam  
Ryan and Lisa Esposito

Membership Chair: Elizabeth Binning

City Liaison: Dale Strassheim

Area Captain Coordinator: Lezlee Dillon

## Membership Renewal

Your 2018 LBA membership renewals are now due. If you have not paid these yet, please visit the website at [www.lakebloomington.com](http://www.lakebloomington.com) and go to the LBA Info page; click on the the LBA application form.



**Gaye's TLC Kennel**  
Dog Boarding  
Rural Setting - State Licensed  
Flexible Check-In & Check-Out Times  
Long-Term Boarding Available

**UNDER GOD'S CARE**  
15502 E 2550 N Road  
Hudson, IL 61748  
Driving Directions on Back

**Gaye Siebert**  
(309) 726-1644  
Est. 1996

**2 miles W. of Lake Bloomington**

**Ryan Esposito**  
BROKER  
mobile - 309.275.4361  
ryanesposito1981@gmail.com  
**mcleancountyhomes.com**  
Remax Rising 501 S Towanda Barnes, Suite 2 Bloomington, IL 61705

**ForeShore**  
LLC.com™

PJ Feit  
701 North Division St., P.O. Box 28  
Chenoa, IL 61726  
(309)275-1855  
foreshorellc@gmail.com  
www.foreshorellc.com

Your Ad  
~~HERE~~

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



## CITY OF BLOOMINGTON UPDATE

### Docks, Code Enforcement Approach & Public Meetings

As a property owner at Lake Bloomington, you quickly realize that we are in a unique (and beautiful) position. Kind of the jurisdiction of Bloomington. Kind of the jurisdiction of Hudson or Money Creek township and kind of the jurisdiction of the county. We own the structures on our leased lots . . . but we don't own the land. It is, as they say, complicated.

The City of Bloomington and your LBA are working together to clarify and communicate the guiding principles that are intended to allow us to enjoy this remarkable area and protect the water supply that is the reason for the lake's existence.

For the last few years, Dale Strassheim has lead our city liaison committee. He and a small group of board members meet monthly with Bob Yehl, Steve Rasmussen and Joe Darter to discuss issues, concerns and controversies. Over the last year, the discussions have intensified as the city has stepped up enforcement of the City Code, Chapter 23: Section 3.

These discussions are informative, sometimes intense and, in the end, positive. We have helped the city understand lease holders' concerns and the City has helped us understand the reasons behind their actions.

Of course, this summer, the dock issue has been prominent. The City has concluded the research and background phase of their efforts to ensure that all docks are in compliance with the Code. The next step is for the City staff to present its finding and recommendations to

the city manager. After that, a City staff recommendation will go to the city council for public comment and debate. With the changes coming to the city manager's office, the staff has not been able to present its research, so the issue is on hold pending a meeting with the city manager.

The dock discussion has helped generate discussion on many other related issues. Most of these issues relate to the use of Marginal Land Non-Leased Land by lease holders. All lease holders have Marginal Non-Leased Land adjacent or near our lots. Marginal Land is land owned or controlled by the City adjacent to the shoreline and not flooded by the waters of the reservoir. It includes both leased and non-leased land. An example of non-leased marginal land is the area between our leased lot and the shoreline. Similarly, the land that we often refer to as common ground is non-leased marginal land.

The City is responsible for managing the marginal land for the protection of the water supply and the benefit of general public. The interpretation of this responsibility drives the Code and the enforcement.

The Code and rules have not been consistently enforced for many years. Most of us have forgotten about these codes or we inherited properties that had violations we were not even aware of. But the City staff is required to enforce the codes and they have started to take action to reverse decades of inaction.

You will see an example of this soon. The City will be sending a letter to lease holders that provide details on the permitting process that is required by the code for construction, alteration or maintenance of any structure on Marginal land. This will

be a new process and Joe Darter will work hard to make it work for us. The City has been meeting with service providers at the lake to make sure they are aware of the permitting rules.

The City will also be sending lease holders an update on the well-drilling project. Joe and Bob are actively working to improve their communication with LBA members and lease holders.

The City is taking a slow and logical approach to gaining compliance with the Code from lease holders. As new leases come up for approval/transfer, the City will take the opportunity to enforce any issues that are not up to Code. The city has met with area realtors and shared the Code and the plan to enforce the Code upon lease transfers. The other thing that will trigger faster action on enforcement is a complaint from residents or lease holders.

The City is planning public meetings this fall where residents and other stakeholders can talk about concerns and needs. The LBA's Liaison committee will continue to promote the open exchange of information with the City of Bloomington. In the end, we all want the same thing — a healthy lake and a strong lake community. We will continue to work together toward that goal.



## INTERVIEW WITH LAKE ROAD INN'S CRAIG HANSON

**Lake Breeze (LB):** What possessed you to take over Lake Road Inn, just over two years ago now?

**Hanson:** I went into it thinking it would be a hobby – you know part time. We got busy beyond expectations. In some ways we were not ready for the response. We've learned some hard lessons along the way.

**LB:** What lessons come to mind?

**Hanson:** We kept adding to the menu to meet requests and suggestions of customers – it became too much to support – over time we've decided to emphasize quality over quantity. Like having Catfish on Wednesday rather than available every night. We are preparing more of our menu from scratch now – like cutting our own French Fries.

**LB:** What other challenges have you overcome?

**Hanson:** We have had to upgrade our kitchen three times in order to prepare quality meals on a consistent basis without unreasonable delays.

**LB:** What are you most proud of?

**Hanson:** (hesitates)...there is so much, certainly the fundraising we have done for charities and non-profits, and the parking lot events like the Boat Drunks ... and the expansion of the outdoor patio pop into my mind.

**LB:** Who are your customers?

**Hanson:** We are drawing from all over. Certainly from among Lake Residents but also from the local towns and cities over a wide area. We have meal (Taco Tuesday) and drink specials (Sunday Bloody Mary's) on a daily basis and we have theme nights such as Trivia Competition or Karaoke. These have helped draw repeat customers. We have also made a special effort to be family friendly – having a bright lit dining area and our staff are not permitted to drink when they are on the clock.

**LB:** I know the Friday Fish Fry is a Lake Road tradition – how long has the tradition been going now?

**Hanson:** The first Fish Friday was in 1935 – just a “few” Fridays ago. It may not come up on Trivia night but Gus Belt, the founder of Steak 'n Shake, was also the founder of Lake Road Inn and the first LRI Fish Fry 82 years ago.

**LB:** What are you thankful for after these first two (plus) years?

**Hanson:** We had no idea how well this would turn out. I am certainly thankful for our customers who have supported us through growing pains as well as good times. And of course Riz who does a great job running the place so I can attend to my “real” job – and all of our current staff for that matter.

**LB:** Where is the White Sox banner?

**Hanson:** We are still working on that one.

**LB:** Thank you Craig.

# 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:  
LBA  
P.O. Box 223  
Hudson, IL 61748**



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).