

# the Lake Breeze



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## President's Letter

Once again, our Lake community finds a way to take lemons and turn them into lemonade. In spite of no fireworks at North Park this year, our Pontoon Parade was amazing! Such creative ideas... we know it was VERY hard for the judges to decide on a winner. Congratulations to Laura and Dave Elkins for bringing Joe Exotic to life, complete with dog-turned-tiger on their Tiger King themed Pontoon. We all enjoyed the parade and I know that families made the best of the holiday in their own ways. Unfortunately, we will not be able to have fireworks on Labor Day weekend either. Perhaps the anticipation of a bigger, more fabulous fireworks show next year will help us get through until then.



We continue to experience life with COVID-19 and because we are concerned about the safety of our members we have decided to cancel the fall dinner. You may recall that normally we have an annual meeting at this dinner but instead we will be conducting the meeting online. Keep a lookout in your email for a report and a survey with nominations for new directors and officers sometime in early September. (We will plan to mail this to residents who do not have email.) Please return the survey as we need your votes to keep our LBA Board active for the next year. If you are interested in serving on the board as a director, please contact us.

We are VERY excited that the city is exploring participation in a grant that could provide some funding to create rain gardens to help with lake runoff in the easements between the lakeshore and our homes. Joe Darter's city update provides more details about this. We will have a meeting for members who are interested in this on July 28 at 7:00 p.m. at Davis Lodge. There will be an option to attend via zoom as well. We'll send all the details to you all in an email. This would be a wonderful way for us to positively impact the ecology of the lake as well as having a beautiful garden for all to enjoy.

One big blessing we all enjoy is to call this jewel of a lake our home. We have really enjoyed the lake this summer and are happy to see so many of you out on the water doing the same. As the hot summer begins to wind down, take a moment to reflect on these blessings; community, friends, and all God's glory in the natural surroundings we call home. Happy Summer to you all!

CAROL AND MARK CSANDA  
LBA Presidents

**Are you interested in serving on the LBA Board? If so, please email [mark.csanda@gmail.com](mailto:mark.csanda@gmail.com)**





**FOURTH & JULY  
PONTOON PARADE  
2020**

*First Place*  
**TIGER KING &  
KITTENS**



# FOURTH & JULY 2020



Hello Lake Bloomington Residents,

Hopefully everyone has stayed safe and healthy during these difficult times. Even with everything going on in the world around us, we have been able to keep making progress on projects and some initiatives that I would like to talk about.

### Grant Opportunity

The State of Illinois has released grant funding that is designed to improve water quality within an urban environment. This grant is designed to improve water quality in reservoirs, lakes, rivers and streams by reducing pollutant run-off in an urban setting. The City of Bloomington and the McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District will be applying for funding for the installation of rain gardens at Lake Bloomington. Rain gardens are a proven method to help reduce stormwater run-off from roofs, roadways and parking areas. According to governmental studies, approximately 70% of pollutants in our reservoirs, lakes, rivers and streams are carried by stormwater run-off. Rain gardens collect the run-off in a shallow pond lined with native plants and buffer plants and the water is absorbed into the soil rather than running straight into Lake Bloomington.



A successful grant application must highlight cooperation between the municipality and the stakeholders within



the urban environment. Therefore, we are asking for homeowners to assist us in applying for this grant. The cost of a typical rain garden is usually between \$4,000 to \$6,000. If awarded, the State of Illinois will pay 75% of the costs. The remaining 25% will be shared between the City of Bloomington and the homeowners. We are proposing that the City pay 15% and each homeowner pay the remaining 10% of the cost of installation. For a typical rain garden, the cost to the homeowner would be approximately \$400 to \$600 (depending on the size and plants chosen by the homeowner). As part of the application, the City will hire a landscaping company and that company would then work with the homeowner to design their rain garden.

I think this is a great opportunity for all of us. There are so many beautifully landscaped yards that surround Lake Bloomington and I think this could really add more beauty to our Lake! If anyone has any questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly. My contact information is below.

### **Girl Scout Camp**

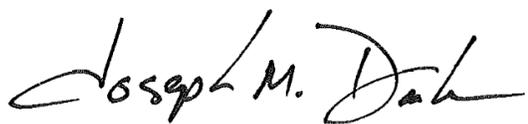
About a year ago, the Girl Scouts approached the City of Bloomington about dissolving their lease for Camp Peairs. Due to a deteriorating financial outlook, the Girl Scouts decided that it would be best for them to consolidate their camp operations to their main camp in Metamora, Illinois. At the June 24<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, the Council agreed to dissolve their lease and to purchase the buildings and content that the Girl Scouts no longer wanted.

For the short-term, the City of Bloomington will utilize the camp for Lake Parks Maintenance staffing and equipment until our new building is built. Once our new building is completed, the possibility exists that Bloomington Parks and Recreation may utilize the camp for day camps and other nature-related events. My desire is to also use the area as an children's educational center for water conservation and as a place to learn about our local flora and fauna.

The Girl Scouts were excellent caretakers of their leased area and their presence will be missed. I hope to be able to turn the 70-plus acres into a natural environment that will inspire conservation and instill a love of being within nature. With help from the McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District, I think we will be able to achieve this goal. Once we are moved into our new building, I would love to work with those of you that are willing to lend a helping hand to see this dream become a reality. It is not often that we get a chance to start fresh and build a legacy that benefits everyone.

Please feel free to contact me directly should you have any questions.

See you around the Lake!



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Public Works Department | Water Division  
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Fax: (309) 434-2159 | Email: [jdarter@cityblm.org](mailto:jdarter@cityblm.org)

## OH CRAP, DON'T FORGET ABOUT YOUR SEPTIC

Once the water goes down the drain, it's out of sight....out of mind. But where does it go? Your waste water that leaves your house drains into your septic system. It is important for you to know what type of system you have. Rather than bore you with information about all the different types of systems, let's just focus on the type that has the largest impact on the lake. Sand filters.

How do you know if you have a sand filter system? Check outside where your septic system is located and see if you have three pipes sticking up out of the ground. If you see 3 pipes, you have a sand filter.

What's that mean? It means your septic system discharges towards the lake. Gross right? Don't be alarmed. The 3 pipes you have actually help you treat the water before it ends up around your sea wall where you swim. One of the pipes,(chlorinator feed pipe), is for you to add chlorine tablets. These tablets help in many ways but here are a few:

- Keeping bacteria and coliform treated to allow you and your guests to swim safely
- Protecting the reservoir and surrounding ecosystem
- Providing a longer life to your septic system

So how do you add tablets? It's very simple. The chlorinator feed pipe is a 4" plastic pipe with a screw cap to allow access to an inner 3" pipe, which usually is equipped with a nylon rope handle. Just unscrew the top to access that inner pipe and drop them in.

Be sure to not use chlorine tablets designed for swimming pools. Those are made with a different formulation and will not function correctly. The LBA has chlorine tablets on hand if anybody is in need. Please contact Ryan Esposito at 309.275.4361 if you need any tablets. They can also be found at the following local distributors:

Bradford Supply, Bloomington

Tolan's Excavating Inc., Bloomington

Zeschke Septic Cleaning, Bloomington

Shoemaker Farm Drainage

In addition to the Sand Filter Chlorination benefits outlined above a separate mailing is to follow regarding care required for the septic tanks themselves and seepage field systems. This maintenance is better explained with an information packet provided by the Health Department. Suffice it to say that protecting these systems can save you large costs and serious problems. Just for your next Trivia Contest-about 1/2 the Lake's septic systems have sand filters and a discharge, while the other 1/2 are seepage field systems and operate by percolation into the soil without directly discharging into the Lake.

Should you have any questions-you are welcome to call either Ryan Esposito at 275-4361 or Neil Finlen at 825-8435



## RON SMITH MEMORIAL HWY. PROGRESS

"All good things come to those who wait" and "Rome wasn't built in a day".... are two sayings that apply very well with regard to Ron Smith's new highway.

When completed this roadway widening/resurfacing project will be a terrific benefit to the lake residents and community at large!

On July 15th Jerry Stokes (County Hwy. Engr.) wrote-

*There is going to be a lull in the work going on for Ron Smith Highway. The County and Rowe (prime contractor) are waiting on Dunn Company (subcontractor) to do the cold-in-place recycle. It was supposed to be started on the 20th, but has been moved to at least 7/24. I am guessing they will start on 7/27. Also, there will a cure period of 7-10 days after the cold-in-place recycle is completed to make sure all the moisture is removed before the asphalt is placed.*



I believe you may know-when finished (about mid-August) the highway will be wider with 4' paved shoulders on each side.

The benefit of these additional paved travel ways on each side could have the effect of providing a linear park to those that bike/hike/stroll /roll their way around the lake!!

So stay tuned and be patient...  
All the best - Neil Finlen

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## RAIN GARDEN GRANT INFORMATIONAL MEETING TUESDAY, JULY 28TH 7:00PM AT DAVIS LODGE

For appropriate social distancing, seating will be limited. If you would like to attend this meeting in person, please rsvp via email to [jdarter@cityblm.org](mailto:jdarter@cityblm.org) to reserve your spot **OR** you can use the following link to Zoom in.

### Zoom meeting invitation - City of Bloomington Rain Garden Grant Meeting

Julia Turner is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

**Topic:** City of Bloomington Watershed Rain Garden Meeting  
**Time:** Jul 28, 2020 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89733357357?pwd=SE02aUZGTDFpUndiNitZbkIwVUYxdz09>

Meeting ID: 897 3335 7357

Password: 972706

# 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!

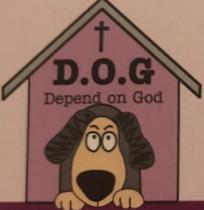
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

 <b>JIM SPACHMAN</b> 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 <i>24 Hour Good Neighbor Service</i> ®		 <b>Ryan Esposito</b> BROKER mobile - 309.275.4361 ryanesposito1981@gmail.com <b>mcleancountyhomes.com</b> <small>Remax Rising 501 S Towanda Barnes, Suite 2 Bloomington, IL 61705</small> 
 <b>Gaye's TLC Kennel</b> Dog Boarding Rural Setting - State Licensed Flexible Check-In & Check-Out Times Long-Term Boarding Available <b>Gaye Siebert</b> (309) 726-1644 Est. 1996 15502 E 2550 N Road Hudson, IL 61748 Driving Directions on Back <b>2 miles W. of Lake Bloomington</b>	 <b>Al Rollins &amp; Mike O'Grady</b> P.O. Box 173, Hudson, IL 61748 (309) 530-2394 www.prairie-storage.com ogradymike1@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](mailto:lakebloomingtonassociation@gmail.com).