


Simonton Says...

Fall Issue 2022
Volume 15, Issue 4

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Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc. Newsletter

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Fall in Little Simonton by Susie Broderick



Elkhart, Indiana
www.simontonlakehoa.com

TRANQUILITY, SERENITY, BEAUTY



*Holding the Moon
by Sara Kilgren*



*Mama and Her Babies
by Gina Hoff*



*Turtle Out for a Swim
by Maria Hopman*



by Maria Hopman



*He's Back
by Maria Hopman*

INFORMATION & EVENTS

Simonton Says...

Fall 2022 Edition

ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

Doug Reese, President
51234 Aqua Drive
574-327-4484

Jack Tucker, Vice President
51110 Sail Bay Court
574-370-3326

Theresa Maier, Secretary
51211 Maplewood

Van Kessler, Treasurer
51172 Blue Ribbon Lane
574-370-2266

Susan Broderick,
Membership/Outreach
25424 North Shore Drive
574-903-6789

Randy Hoff, Environment
25369 Vernon Crossing



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.simontonlakehoa.com

Email us at:
simon@simontonlake.org

Find us on 
SIMONTONLAKE HOA

Simonton Lake Area
Homeowners' Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 1706
Elkhart, IN 46515-1706

STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership:

Susie Broderick, Sue Ward

- New Neighbors
Frank and Kathy Stec
- Lake Calendar - Gina Hoff
- Garage Sale
- Memorial Day Boat Parade
- Dues - Van Kessler

Communication:

Amy Matherly,
ramatherly@gmail.com

- To become an advertiser
contact Jon Hart
- To submit an information or
a picture for "Simonton Says"
contact ramatherly@gmail.com
- To sign up for Lake Alerts:
ramatherly@gmail.com

Environment:

Lesa Hershberger

- Ecozone
- Weir
- Water Quality Concern
- Wildlife Concerns

Safety:

- DNR related issues
- "Lake Alerts" - Chris Toles,
cmt6061@comcast.com
- Buoy Watch, report damaged
or loose buoys
- Crime Reports

Our Mission

The MISSION of the Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association is to foster the safety and quality of life in our neighborhood. We strive to protect the value of our homes, the wildlife and the environment surrounding our lake, support local and state law enforcement for the safety of our families and lake visitors, and encourage active involvement in the northern Elkhart area growth and development.

EVENTS ON THE LAKE

NOVEMBER: Fall Issue of
"Simonton Says"

NOVEMBER: LAKE CALENDARS FOR SALE

NOVEMBER 12: Sportsmen's Club
Fall Ball

DECEMBER/JANUARY:
HOA Membership Drive

FEBRUARY: Winter Issue of
"Simonton Says"

FEBRUARY: Election Simonton Lake
Conservancy Board - Districts 4 and 5

MAY 5 and 6: Spring Garage Sale

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Simonton Lake Conservancy
574-206-8485

902 CR 6, Elkhart, IN 46514

Contact the Conservancy for:

- Sewer issues
- Drainage issues
- Erosion issues
- Weed Control
- Public Landing
- Buoys
- Hazards in the Water

DNR

District Office 574-457-8092

Pier Rules 317-234-1097

Or 317-234-1063

Sheriff Elkhart County
(574) 533-4151

EMERGENCIES-CALL 911

Osolo Township Fire Dept.
574-264-1066

Osolo EMS 574-262-3052

**JOIN LAKE ALERTS
EMAIL GROUP**

**email : ramatherly@gmail.com
FOR INFO**

WHAT DO I DO WHEN I SEE WATER RESCUE IS NEEDED?

—by Bob Meyers—



Early this summer the Osolo Fire Dive and Rescue Team was out in their boat just making sure everything was in working order.

We hope we never need them, but it's good to know they are there!

The Osolo Fire Department is located just off County Road 11, just south of Simonton Lake is the fire service for the Simonton Lake area. The Osolo Township Emergency Service is located on County Road 4 near the intersection with CR 109.

Until 1957, the City of Elkhart Fire Department responded to fires in Osolo Township. When that service ended, a group of township citizens started construction on the township fire department building, and in 1958 the Osolo Fire Department opened for business. The department began as a totally volunteer department and has evolved into a fully staffed crew of 15 career firefighters and, at the present time, 10 volunteers.

Our question to them for this article was:

What should we do in case there

is someone in trouble in the waters of Simonton Lake?

Here is their response:

First dial 911 and give the address where you are calling from. Then give the dispatcher a **landmark near the person or boat that needs help.** Some examples would be, “near Re-Petes” or “in the channel near the boat launch” or “the east end of Lake Drive.”

If the subject or subjects are within safe range for you, throw a floatation device, rope. But do not put yourself in harm's way. A drowning person can easily pull under their rescuer!

If the emergency is on a boat, tell the dispatcher this information.

Then, if possible, **go to the public landing at the north end of CR 109 to await the first responders.** In a call of this type. Emergency personnel and the fire department

will also respond.

The Osolo Fire Department has a rescue boat (shown in the picture above) and a “banana” boat (inflatable watercraft) that can be dispatched. The Osolo Fire Department and Emergency Medical Team have personnel with some training in water rescue. However, they do not have a dive team. If needed, the firefighter in charge of the rescue will call for a dive team from the Elkhart City Fire Department or the Elkhart County Sheriff's Department.



More information on our fire department and emergency service team that are “at your service” will follow in future Simonton Says issues.

SIMONTON NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Fall 2022 Edition

Yearly membership begins in January.

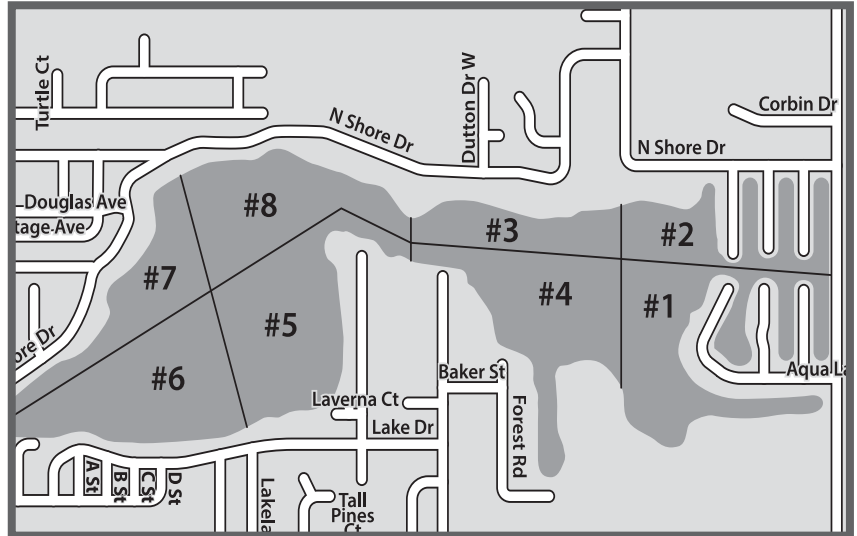
Remember that even if you are an Honorary Member and pay no money, your membership counts.

Contact your Area Rep. if you have questions about membership, volunteering, to let us know about a new neighbor or because you didn't receive your newsletter.

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Area #1 Van Kessler	370-2266
Area #2 Ann & Jerry Broderick	264-1331
Sue Ward	596-2020
Area #3 Maria Hopman	262-1665
Area #4 Jon Hart	262-1404
Randy Hoff	596-8885
Area #5 Bob Meyers	675-0970
Cindy Nickell	262-3105
Area #6 Melissa Price	849-9995
Area #7 Dave VanZile	264-5201
Theresa Maier	361-0517
Area #8 Amy Matherly	262-4773

The Lake Association has divided the lake into 8 areas.
Check out your area in this map.



Questions or concerns? Contact a board member (see page 4).

2023 HOA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Join Now!

A new year of our membership drive for the Simonton Lake Area Homeowners Association will begin in January of 2023.

- Residents under the age of 70 pay \$30 per year.
- Residents aged 70-79 pay only \$20 per year.
- Residents over the age of 79 are Honorary.

Please be aware that we need everyone around the lake to be a member of the Association even if you are honorary and pay no dues.

Whenever we go to the county or the DNR with concerns or needs of the neighborhood or when we apply for a grant, we must be able to prove that a majority of the residents belong and support the Association.

Your dues supports the newsletter, the website, technical support, "Lake Alerts" and other safety programs, the "New Neighbor" program, the "Annual All-Lake Garage Sale," our Lake Calendar, water quality and so much more.

A member information letter and a membership card will be mailed to your home.

You can submit your membership dues in the following way:

- 1. RESPOND BY MAIL** - Fill out the membership card. Attach a check and mail to:
Simonton Lake HOA
PO Box 1706
Elkhart, Indiana 46515-1706
- 2. RESPOND ONLINE** - Use the link provided in the membership appeal letter, or online at simonton-lakehoa.com, to submit your membership information and your payment via Paypal.

Even if you pay no dues, your membership is important to the Lake Association. Please become a member.

On the membership card you may also donate to the 2023 Fireworks and to the Simonton Lake Preservation Trust.

Follow our Facebook page for root beer can sales through the winter, and for our 2023 Opening date.

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SIMONTON LAKE CONSERVANCY BOARD ELECTION

- DISTRICT 4 & 5 -

Saturday, February 18, 4:00pm - at Beacon Health and Fitness, 200 E. Jackson Blvd, Elkhart, IN

WHAT DOES THE CONSERVANCY DO?

Our local Conservancy is in charge of: the running and maintenance of our sewer system, improving drainage, developing forests, wildlife areas, parks and recreational facilities, preventing erosion, and the operation, maintenance and improvement for water-based recreational purposes (Dredging, Water Quality, Weed Control)

WHO IS ON OUR CONSERVANCY BOARD?

In our Conservancy we have 5 districts. The current Board members are as follows:

- District 1-Paul Wilson
- District 2-Ed Hickman
- District 3-Ryan Matherly
- District 4-Mark Lucas
- District 5 Jane Mollo

Board members serve for four-year terms.

This year an election will be held for District 4 and District 5.

Only landowners who own land in District 4 can vote for the District 4 board member.

Only landowners who own land in District 5 can vote for the District 5 board member.

If there is only one candidate for a position, there will be no election.

How to run for a seat on the conservancy board

1. Call the Conservancy Office to find out if you live in Section 3.
2. Pick up a nomination form. The office has moved. Call 206-8485
3. Have five freeholders (landowners) who own land within the Simonton Lake Conservancy District sign your petition.
4. Have your petition notarized.
5. Your petition should be hand delivered or sent by registered mail to the Simonton Lake Conservancy District Office at 51245 Channel Court, Indiana 46514, **ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2022**
6. Call the Conservancy Office to make sure your petition was delivered and to confirm the site and time for the Annual Meeting.
7. You and your supporters should attend the Simonton Lake Conservancy Board's Annual Meeting on Saturday, FEB. 18, 2023. Voting will take place at that time.

WHERE ARE SECTIONS 4 AND 5?

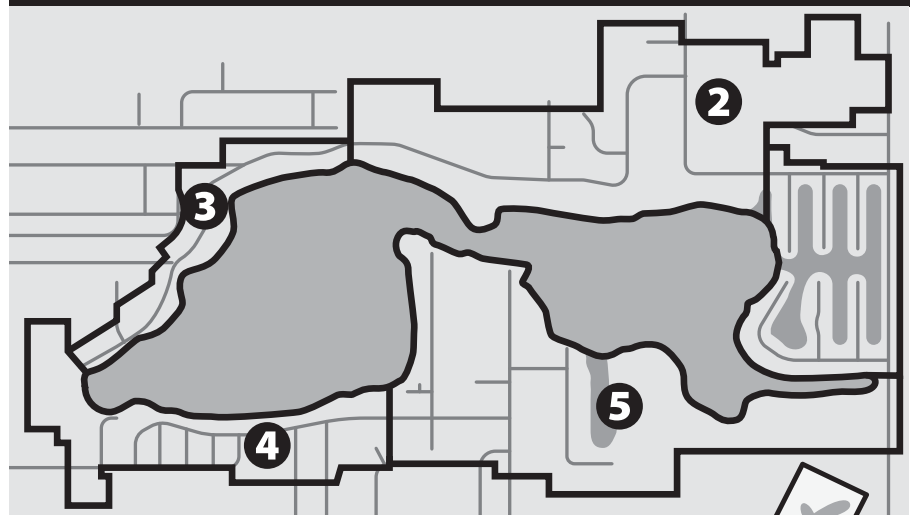
SECTION 4

From Flippin' Cow south along State Road 19 (including some properties on the west side of the highway) to Lake Drive (including homes on both sides of Lake Drive) to the east side of the property owned by the Freehaver's at 25783 Lake Drive, just six properties west of Maplewood. This section also includes A, B, C and D streets and Lakewood.

SECTION 5

From the east edge of the Freehaver property on Lake Drive east including Maplewood, Laverne Court and Lake Drive, CR 109, Baker, Themadale, Ver-non Crossing and Forest Road.

SIMONTON LAKE CONSERVANCY SECTIONS MAP



ONLY RESIDENTS OF DISTRICTS 4 & 5 MAY VOTE.

CONSERVANCY CORNER

Simonton Lake Conservancy

WHAT NOT TO PUT INTO THE SEWER

There are some things you can do to make your grinder pump continue to work.

Remember these letters: F.O.G.S.

F stands for Fats

O stands for Oils

G stands for Grease

S stands for Sanitary "disposable" wipes

Grease and fats clog up pipes which eventually need to be cleaned out. And, those disposable sanitary wipes, well, for our system, they are NOT disposable.

BOTTOM LINE:

DO NOT PUT F.O.G.S INTO THE SYSTEM!

BOARD ELECTION

Two members of the Board of Directors are up for re-election this year. District 4 represented by Mark Lucas and District 5 represented by Jane Mollo. **Please refer to the Election Article on page 7.** If you are interested in running, your forms must be in by December 1. The election will be held at the annual meeting of the Conservancy on February 18.

Simonton Lake Sewer Board of Directors

District 1	Paul Wilson
District 2	Ed Hickman
District 3	Ryan Matherly
District 4	Mark Lucas
District 5	Jane Mollo

BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE ELKHART AQUATIC CENTER, 6:30

October 12
November 9
December 14
January 11
February 8

Annual Meeting February 18, 4:00

SLCD Website

The Conservancy has a website that has information on paying your sewer bill, board meeting minutes, upcoming projects, and board members. Did you know you can now pay your sewer bill online? Just go to the SLCD website and click on "Pay Online" on the menu bar!

Cost of Grinder Pumps

When you attach to the sewer system, you'll need a grinder pump. If you are connected to the sewer and your grinder pump fails, you'll need to purchase a new grinder pump. In either case, the Conservancy District keeps a supply of the pumps and will supply you with one on request. The pumps are bought at the lowest price possible. The charge to you includes the cost of the pump as well as freight and handling. The pumps are shipped from Ohio. Installation of the pump is done by private companies. The Conservancy District cannot control that charge.

Repair and Installation Services

You may use whoever you like to install and repair your grinder pump and sewer line. The companies listed below have done great work for many Conservancy District sewer customers in the past and know our system well.

For Sewer Line Repairs

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Adam Clark: 574.320.2050 - www.candeexcavating.com

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Mishawaka, Indiana, 46545
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Elkhart, Indiana, 46516
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ZONING REPORT

Business And Industry Creep Towards Simonton Lake

While there were no zoning variances granted in the immediate Simonton Lake area, **there is concern with businesses and industry moving closer to the lake.** Long gone are the days when Simonton Lake was in the country.

In the August meeting of the Zoning Appeals Board an application was approved to turn the former "Trinity Gardens" land into an RV and camper repair business. The land in question as you can see from the map below is just across County Road 4 from Lily Creek. The petitioner said he was going to use the three existing buildings on the property. There will be no tree removal. The parking lot will not be enlarged. Interestingly, the Zoning Board could find no original permit for the Trinity Gardens business!

While 13 people near the site were notified by mail of the variance request, only one person came to speak against the project.

The Board voted to approve the variance in part because at least the buildings that haven't been used for years, would be used for something. The Board did limit the business to 10 RVs on the property at any time, to ensure there isn't any expansion to a bigger use.

This business will not adversely affect Simonton Lake. But it is another example of industry and business coming closer to us. We must make ourselves aware of what comes before the Elkhart County Zoning Board and make sure effects on Simonton Lake are at the top of the list for each proposal.



CRIME REPORT

SEPTEMBER 7

Sometime between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. a camouflage-colored kayak was stolen from the home at 25526 North Shore Drive, directly across from the public access. This kayak is an "Old Town Loon Angler". We would appreciate your help in locating this kayak. Beware, thieves are out there looking for something to steal. The kayaks were hidden near the owner's pier. Another identical kayak was left.

OCTOBER 3

On Monday, October 3 during the night an unlocked car sitting in a driveway near Douglas and North Shore was entered by an unidentified subject. The thief only took the change in the console.

At about 2:30 a.m. early Thursday morning, October 6, a Jeep Renegade was stolen from Cottage Avenue. The thief also attempted to enter the cars in the neighboring driveway.

COUNTY POLICE HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED. MAKE SURE ALL CARS ARE LOCKED. SECURE BOATS AND OTHER WATERCRAFT SITTING IN YOUR DRIVEWAY.

OCTOBER 10

S & H Auto Sales on State Road 19 reported the theft of a 2011 Infinity EX35 from their lot. The theft occurred on Monday, October 10 at about 4 a.m.

OCTOBER 14

More attempted car thefts have been reported this time from Blue Ribbon Lane (Channels). Please contact the Elkhart County Sheriff's Office with any information or video surveillance.

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Although we often think of pumpkins as vegetables, they're actually fruits!

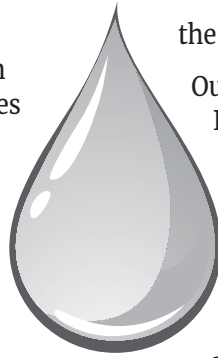
INDIANA CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE UPDATE

Clean Water Initiative sponsored by the Indiana DNR, IDEM and IU Bloomington called the Clean Water Initiative. So far only 100 of Indiana's lakes have been approved.

Who will do the testing?

- Lesa Hershberger, lake resident has volunteered. We will be looking for additional volunteers as substitute testers.
- Clean Water wants us to test Big Simonton and Little Simonton separately and submit the data separately. Reason: the basins are so different
- Testing is to be done between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday in the deepest part of each basin. This is going to be difficult in Little Simonton because it is so shallow. Bob Evans is helping us with this location.
- Equipment provided by the DNR. The tests are simple.
- The results are uploaded to the Clean Water website.

The first year we will only be testing for water clarity and transparency. This is simply a test where a disk on a cable which is marked for depth is lowered into the water (Ryan has one of the two disks sent to us.) Clarity is determined when Lesa can no longer see



the disk. Easy and quick!

Our data will be uploaded to the Clean Water Initiative website. Indiana University Bloomington O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs will do all the assembling of data.

Second phase of Testing

Usually, a lake is asked to test for just clarity and transparency for two years. We have been given permission to add more testing next year, summer 2023. Testing will require that we get a lake level monitor re-installed near the boat landing. When we get to that phase, we will be able to test for:

- temperature
- dissolved oxygen
- phosphorus, nitrogen, and chlorophyll
- invasive species
- Algal blooms

This testing is more complicated but not rocket science.

SUGGESTION: Should we hire a company to do a full testing of our lake water to supply us with baseline data? JFNew did a Water Clarity Study in 2011. I did not print the report because it is 120 pages long.

LOW LAKE LEVEL

August and September were especially dry. Lake Residents voiced concerns about the low lake level.

Simonton Lake is spring-fed. That means there are no rivers or streams that run into the lake.

The water goes out of Simonton Lake by way of Lily Creek, also known as Lily Ditch or Osolo Ditch. The mouth of the creek is located just west of the Simonton Lake Ecozone.

In 2016, a weir (small dam) was constructed across Lily creek. The weir was built to the exact height of the legal lake level which is 772.86 feet above mean sea level. Currently the water level is lower than the height of the weir, so no water is leaving the lake via Lilly Creek.

What we can't control is evaporation or the lack of rain.

In July 2022 we were 3/8 of an inch below our legal level. By September 2022 we were a little over 4 inches below our legal level.

Can you imagine how low the water would be without the Lily Creek weir?

The other lakes in our area also show low levels. With most of the hot days behind us we can hope for less evaporation and maybe some rain to replenish Simonton Lake.

Each spring when the snow and ice melt, the water level goes higher than the legal lake level. Water easily flows over the weir into the creek and on to the St. Joe River, until we are back to the legal level.

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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

NEW CHAIRPERSON, NEW PROJECTS

The Lake Association welcomes the new chairperson of the Environment Committee, Lesa Hershberger. She is planning a meeting in November. If you are interested in any of the items below, please attend that meeting.

- **LEAF PICK UP ALTERNATIVE TO BURNING** - Once again this fall lake residents are encouraged to use James Wyley to pick up leaves FOR FREE instead of burning. See the Leaf Pick Up article in this issue.
- **NO LEAVES IN THE LAKE** - Leaves end up in the lake naturally but we must not add to that by blowing leaves from our lawns into the water. This is bad for the lake. We are trying hard to maintain the quality of the water. Remind your lawn service not to blow leaves or lawn clippings into the water. Leaves add excessive phosphorus to the water and that furthers the growth of blue-green algal blooms, encourages weed growth, and a general decline in water quality.
- **GEESE/SWAN REMOVAL** - As reported in the summer issue, the Lake Association is looking into having some of the geese relocated. See the GEESE REMOVAL UPDATE article in this issue. Swans are not eligible for relocation because according to the Indiana DNR they are not natural to Indiana and are invasive. Both swans and geese use good lake vegetation for their nests. While geese leave their droppings in your yard, those beautiful swans do the same IN THE WATER.
- **NO FEED ZONE** - While the Lake Association cannot make residents refrain from feeding the geese, ducks, and swans, we encourage you NOT TO FEED them. Feeding these birds only encourages more of them to live on our lake. The Indiana DNR strongly encourages us to be a NO FEED ZONE.
- **CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE** - As reported in our summer issue, Simonton Lake has been accepted into the DNR Clean Water Initiative. The testing supplies arrived this summer and Lesa Hershberger has been testing since that time. See the article on "Clean Water Initiative" in this issue.

NORTH SHORE LANDING

Lisa Butt, Neighborhood Leader

North Shore Landings is a subdivision on North Shore Drive. We deliver the "Simonton Says" magazine to all of these homes and encouraged them to write an article.

"Now that all lots in the North Shore Landings subdivision have been sold and homes completed, the residents are hoping to assume responsibility for the Homeowners Association.

There is interest in finding an easement property on Simonton Lake that one or multiple families could use. If anyone on Simonton has information on this issue, please contact Chris and Jeff Mann at cjmann142@gmail.com."

What's for sale at the lake? What just sold at the lake?



According to Zillow October 2022

For Sale: 51292 County Road 109
51174 North Shore Drive
1134 North Shore Drive
26403 Cottage (empty lot)

Sold: Lot on Deer Run Lane
25705 Lake Drive
25916 Lake Drive
51165 Blue Ribbon

NEW TO THE LAKE?

- Read the Indiana DNR Boating Manual. Available online. See the link at the Simonton Lake HOA website, www.simontonlakehoa.com
- Are you hooked up to the Simonton Lake Sewer? If you are, you'll have a grinder pump in your yard. Make sure your name is now on the account. Call the Conservancy Office at **574-206-8485**.
- Water quality is something we all must

protect. Don't blow yard waste or leaves into the lake. Be careful about using fertilizer near the water.

- Putting in a pier? Make sure you know the rules for piers. Check this out at the Indiana DNR website, in.gov/dnr/water
- Don't feed the geese or ducks. When ducks and geese get food from us, additional waterfowl who visit our lake will stay because it appears that there is plenty of food.

- Let us know you've moved in. We'll send you a New Neighbor Gift Bag.
- Join the Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association. You'll find a membership form in your gift bag.
- Read the quarterly "Simonton Says" magazine to keep up with what is happening at the lake.
- Follow us on Facebook: **SIMONTON LAKE HOA**

THE BOOMERS

By Tom Townsend



Growing up on Simonton Lake was like growing up in Camelot for many of us. While we did not realize it, we had a village and for the most part all of us kids growing up at the Lake in the 50's and 60's got along. My best friend was Bob Todt, who lived across the street with his sister Deb (my "little sister"). So many others to remember: John Nusbaum, the Doty boys (Jack, John, and Jerry), Kevin Blair, the Strauss girls (Carol, Cinde, and Debbie), the Todts (Gig and Tom), the Shades (Jane, Jerry, and Mike), the Kilgren's (Frank, Don, and Linda), Cathy Thorpe, Marsha and Sheryl Vetter, and so many more.

We rode our bikes everywhere and would stop at the Strauss home for a piece of pie on occasion. I used to work out with Chet Matherly in his garage. My brother, Rich Townsend and I grew up on Lake Drive and could walk to Pete's Tavern and Cassopolis Street through our backyard. The LAKE was magic. Most of us had boats and we would spend hours on the lake, swimming, and skiing. Beach Boys music was found playing frequently, celebrating our day in the sun.

Carol Strauss Weaver and I graduated in 1967 and at our July 2012 45th reunion, we orga-

nized a Simonton Lake gathering on the Saturday morning of the reunion. It was meant to be for those who grew up on Simonton Lake or even those that went to school at Mary Feeser. That reunion was at Flipping Cow and drew a great group of lakers. It was a heartwarming reunion, and everyone enjoyed it. Then, when we were planning for our 50th reunion in 2017, we decided to make it better and bigger and held it at Pete's Tavern. We were able to capture a group picture with the cove in the background. In fact, the dock on the right side of the picture was my dock growing up.



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SIMONTON LAKE SPORTSMEN'S CLUB



2022 Officers

David Miller, President
Jason Ringle, Vice President
Linda Fearnow, Secretary
Jaimie Hershberger, Treasurer
Jack Tucker, Sergeant of Arms
Board Members: Randy Cooper,
Bill Leighton, Tom Krueger,
David VanZile and Randy Miller.

.....

2022 Sportsmen's Club Events

Fall Events

Fall Ball

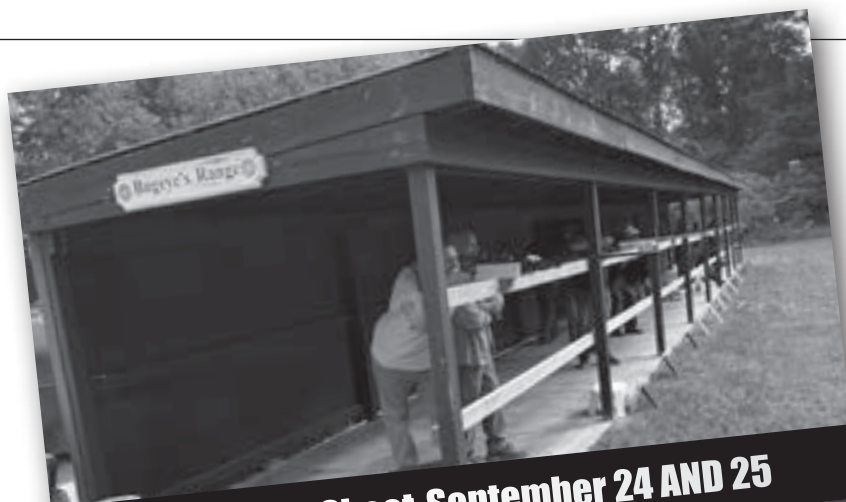
Saturday, November 12

JOIN THE CLUB

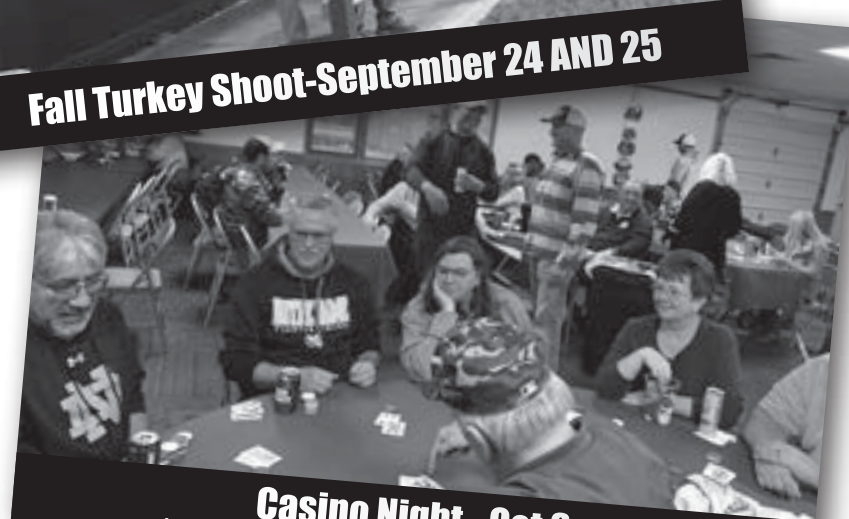
The Sportsmen's Club is always looking for new members. What a great way to meet people and have a good time and to give back to the lake community through their various community projects.

**Membership is
\$25.00 per year.**

Call Dave Miller at
574-596-4835 or e-mail Dave
at davemilr@cs.com.



Fall Turkey Shoot-September 24 AND 25



Casino Night - Oct 8

A great time was had by all, and it was another successful fundraiser for the Club.



Annual FALL BALL Planned for November 12th

Once again the Sportsmen's Club will host the "Fall Ball". The date is Saturday November 12th with food provided by Chubby Trout and music by The Hipposonics. **AND, IT'S A DISCO THEME!**

SPORTSMEN'S CLUB GEAR

This summer the club offered all kinds of gear with a great logo designed by lake resident Cortney (Snyder)McIntire. Sales were great!



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LAKE SHORTS



Lake Talent

Beth Davis with her son Damon are pictured here. They go by the name "Momma Knows Best." This summer they performed at Re-Pete's.

New Neighbors

- Bill Gonyon has bought a home on Blue Ribbon Lane formerly owned by Alan Medford
- Justin and Jessica Hughes have bought a home on C.R. 11 formerly owned by the McGoughs

Leaving the Lake

- Cami and Ab Salee have moved but will return for summers at their home on North Shore Drive.



Reunions

Elkhart High School Class of '70 and '72

Buford Skipper was a featured singer at the Class of '70 and '72 Class Reunion held this summer. The band included class members, many of whom have gone on to make music their career. Behind Buford is Paul Decker, Class of 72. Many lake residents were in attendance. Trust us, the music was fantastic.

Three lakers from the Class of '72 in attendance were Deb Wilkinson, Kyra Matherly Kilgren, Denise Rogers.



Boomer Meetings

Tom Townsend, a former lake resident sent us several pictures of “The Boomers,” Baby Boomer Generation members who grew up at Simonton Lake.



Congratulations!

Laura Byrns of Cottage Avenue sent us this shot of her new grandbaby, Parker Jane Byrns born June 3rd, 2022. The parents are Danny and Erica Byrns. Parker has two older brothers, Graham, and Brody. This is grandbaby #7 for Laura.



John Rose Gives Back to the Community

On September 8, Bashor Children's Home held its 7th annual

“Running with Spoons” cooking competition fundraiser.

Thirteen teams of local business and community leaders competed by cooking up their favorite dishes for attendees to sample during the event at the Lerner Crystal Ballroom. Attendees voted for their favorite dishes and chefs with donations to Bashor Children's Home.

John is one of the “Good Guys.” And we are fortunate to have him as a lake neighbor. We thank him for his efforts which benefit kids who have been truly have been “thrown away.” If you ever have a chance to go to this event, do it! You'll have a great time and you'll be helping the kids.

Farewells

Connie Varga

Connie S. Varga, 64, passed away on September 2, 2022, in her home. On August 25, 1984, in South Bend, IN she married her best friend, Randy Varga.

Along with her loving husband Randy, she is survived by her children, Ryan (Maggie) Varga of South Bend and **Maranda (Brent) VanBruaene** of Simonton Lake.

Connie graduated from LaSalle High School in 1975, and at 18 years of age began her employment at Teachers Credit Union (TCU). She was employed at TCU for 47 years as the longest tenured employee and served as the Executive Director Corporate Communication. Connie lived with selfless and unconditional love for others, especially her family, and nothing brought her more joy than spending time with them. Friday nights in the summer were reserved for her and her husband to enjoy their beautiful backyard and on winter Friday nights you'd find her courtside cheering on the Washington Panthers.

Connie was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in July 2021. Although she lost her battle to cancer, she'll forever be remembered for her strength, grace, and beauty.



Connie Varga

Viola J. Robison

Viola J. Robison, age 87, passed away on Friday, August 26, 2022, at the Ernestine M. Racclin House-Center for Hospice in Mishawaka. On May 30, 1963, in Toledo, OH, she married Roger S. Robison. They met while both were employed by Owens-Illinois Glass Company at their technical center, while participating in a company sponsored stage play at the University of Toledo. Vi performed The Dance of Lola from Guys & Dolls.

Vi is survived by her husband **Roger Robison** of Simonton Lake; their son, Steve Robison of Elkhart and daughter, Gwen Robison of Elkhart; her sisters, Cathy (Pastor Alvin Shrum) of South Carolina and Patsy (Marty) Bettencourt of Florida

Vi enjoyed being a member of "The Heart Time" Ladies and "Free the Children" projects. She loved to help others; it was very satisfying for her. She volunteered for many projects at church.

After attending the University of Toledo, Vi worked as a technical secretary at Owens-Illinois Tech. Center. In 1964 she and her husband moved to Elkhart. Vi managed the Y.W.C.A. resale shop for some time. She worked for a couple of investment services but many of her last working years for Douglas Investments.

Vi and her husband spent many winters in Arizona and Las Vegas, Nevada. She loved to travel, to see and learn about new things.

Vi and her husband Roger were special neighbors on North Shore Drive. She was helpful and pleasant.



Viola Robison

Sharon Stow

Sharon A. Stow, 86, of Elkhart passed away on Tuesday, October 4, 2022. She married the love of her life, Jerry L. Stow Sr. on October 2, 1954, at Grace Lutheran Church in Elkhart. He preceded her in death on July 8, 2017.

Sharon was a 1954 graduate of Elkhart High School. As a young mom, she enjoyed serving lunch to students in the Elkhart Community School system, where she also worked as a para-professional. She was a top-notch mom for her children, as well as many other neighborhood kids. From her love of cooking great meals for her family, to being a coach for the North End Cycle Chicks, she was a tiny dynamo! And truly, her favorite time was spent with her family and friends.

Sharon is survived by her children, **Jerry (Kathy) Stow Jr.** of Simonton Lake, Julie Smith of



Sharon Stow

Farewells

Hartford, WI., Perry (Andrea) Stow of South Bend, IN., and Sherrie (Dave) Miller of Elkhart. Our hearts go out to Jerry and Kathy Stow and their family.

JoAnn Divjak

JoAnn Divjak passed away peacefully on Thursday, July 28, 2022, at the Raclin House—Center for Hospice Care in Mishawaka, IN. She was born on March 31, 1923 to the late Anka and Milos Beronja.

Preceding JoAnn in death are her siblings: twin sister, Milanka Kirsanoff; sister, Soka Beronja; brother, George Beronja; brother, Valdimir Beronja; and stepfather, Steve Paravina. JoAnn is survived by her sons, George Divjak and **Robert (Jody) Divjak** of Simonton Lake, brother, Branko Beronja; sister, Evelyn Berich; and grandchildren, Tyler Cahall and Jordan Cahall.

JoAnn's pride was her son, Dan, whom she took care of for 57 years of his life, until he passed. Dan had Downs syndrome, and she treasured all the blessings that he brought to her life.

JoAnn lived the past six years with her son (Bob and Jody) on Simonton Lake and enjoyed the times out on the deck in the sunshine. She loved her cat, Tater, and the five rescue dogs that she always played with. JoAnn was the oldest member of the Saints Peter & Paul Serbian Orthodox Church.



JoAnn Divjak

*When you lose a precious mother,
The Love you shared does not die with them.
It lives forever among the beautiful memories in your heart.*

Bonnie L. McCollough

Bonnie L. McCollough, 88, of Hubbard Hill Estates in Elkhart, died Friday August 5, 2022, at Elkhart General Hospital. She was born March 14, 1934, in Edwardsburg, Michigan in the building that is now Star Farms, to Edgar & Alta (Tavernier) Landis.

On July 17, 1953, in Elkhart she married Keith V. McCollough. He preceded her in death on March 20, 2020, in Elkhart. Surviving are 4 children, Julie (Juul) Scholten of Bristol, **Richard (Peggy) McCollough** of Simonton Lake, Tim (Carol) McCollough of Elkhart, Rodney (Tina) McCollough of Edwardsburg; 16 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren and a brother Gene Landis of Elkhart. She was preceded in death by 3 brothers, Orland, James, and Delvin Landis and 3 sisters, Norma Landis, Fern Killian, and Ardis Emerson.

Bonnie enjoyed golfing and was an active member of Christiana Creek Country Club for many years, playing in the Women's League and was proud of the "Hole in One" she achieved. She also was an avid bowler and participated in many leagues over the years. Bonnie was a member of the Adamsville Road Church of God where she taught Sunday School and sang in the choir for many years.



Bonnie L. McCollough





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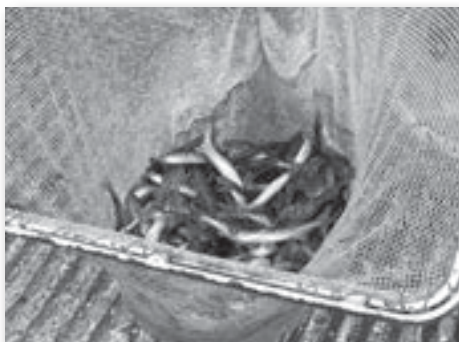
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SIMONTON LAKE STOCKED WITH WALLEYE

On Thursday, October 20, the Indiana DNR stocked 3000 Walleye between 5 & 6" long into the lake. IDNR started this program 2 years ago and this year Simonton Lake was included in the program. These fish come from the Fawn River Fish Hatchery in Orlando, Indiana.



BOAT FOR SALE

2015 Craig Catamaran fishing/pleasure boat (one owner), 30 horse E-TEC Evinrude motor (73 hours), plus EZ Loader trailer, both in great condition. The manufacturer values the boat at around \$6,000.00, plus \$500.00 for the trailer. Asking \$6,200.00. Call 512-431-2432 cell.

LOST AND FOUND

Cushion found this summer. Blue and green pattern.



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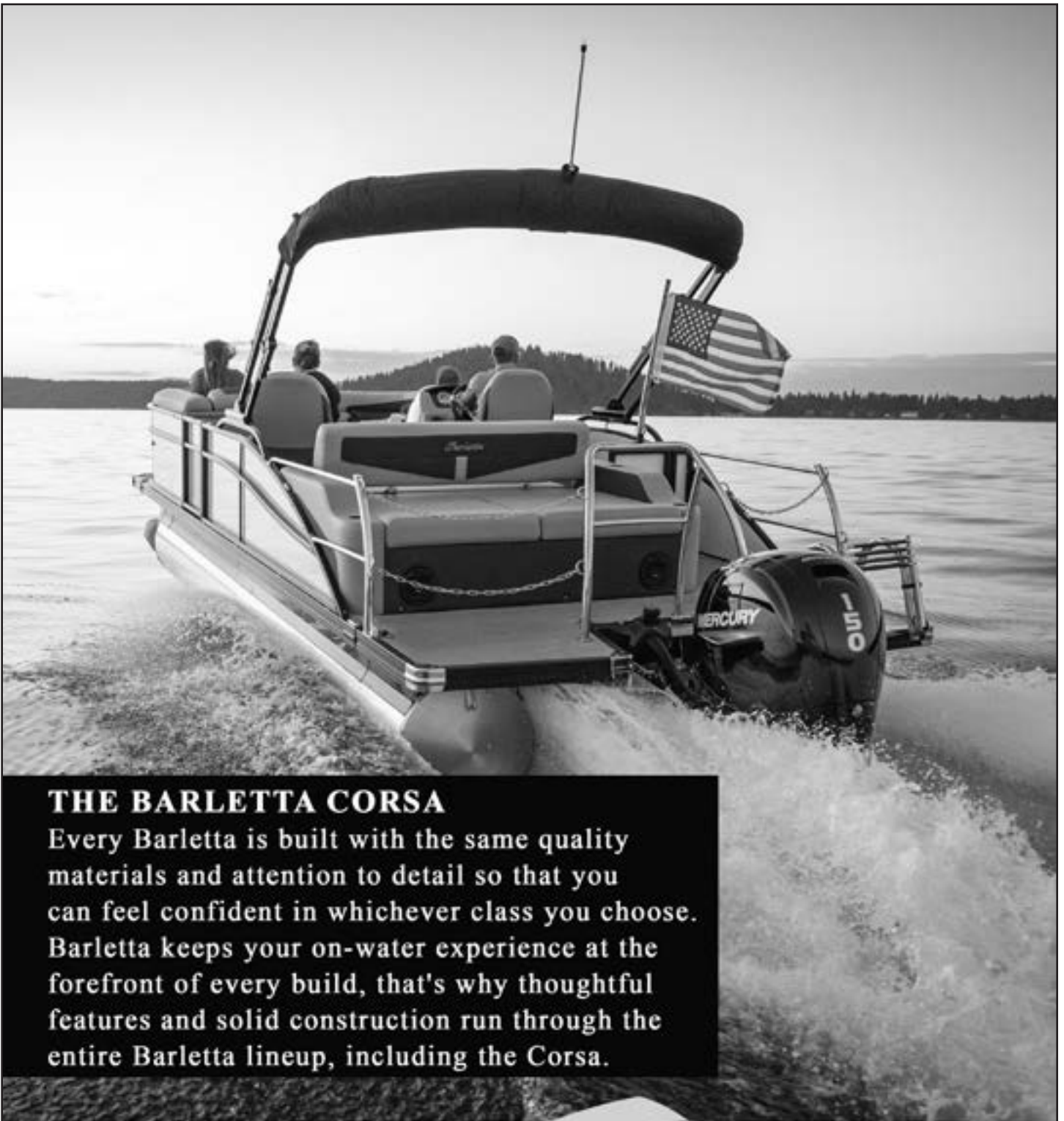
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RAY SCHULER MAKES A BIG SALE

*As reported in the June 14th
edition of the "Elkhart Truth"
by Jon Gard*

Ray Schuler landed a couple of big fish when he sold his 1934 Ford hot rod, drawing two of the biggest names in automobile design to his northside garage.

Ray, a lake resident and retired advertising executive sold the hot rod to Tony Hatter, a British automobile designer who only recently retired as longtime design director for Porsche in Germany. He was introduced to Schuler's hot rod by longtime friend Moray Callum, a Scottish automobile designer who himself retired last year as a design vice president at Ford and who now lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Both men met Schuler and picked up the car in Elkhart before taking it for a run to Kokomo, then drove it to Ann Arbor. The souped-up Ford with a Chevrolet V8 engine can do 80 mph.

There were no immediate plans to ship the car to Europe. Neither the buyer nor the seller wanted to discuss the purchase price publicly, but Schuler indicated he made a profit on the deal.

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From the Safety Committee

These safety reminders come to us from the Indiana DNR:

1. Drill a test hole near shore. Your test hole should show at least a four-inch thickness of clear ice like the ice you get from your freezer.
2. Wear a life jacket for extra warmth and safety.
3. Not all the ice on the lake is the same thickness.
4. Ice strength can also change. Thick ice is rotten after rain. Old honey-combed ice or slushy ice is weak ice.
5. Wind, waterfowl, and beavers can also keep areas of ice from being thick.
6. The water in the area near Lily Creek may still be flowing into the creek. Flowing water under the ice makes the ice unreliable.
7. Water near an aerator may freeze with inconsistencies in the thickness.
8. Underground springs and wind can cause weakness in the ice.



ICE SAFETY GUIDELINES

ICE THICKNESS	WHAT TO DO
1" of ice-----	STAY OFF!!!
4" of ice-----	Needed for safe ice fishing
5" of ice-----	Needed for snowmobiling
8" of ice-----	Needed to support the weight of a car or light truck
10" of ice-----	Needed to support a medium weight truck



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Ernsberger.....	Brent & Michelle	Lockwood.....	Norma	Shinabarger.....	Brian	Wilson.....	Jacqueline
Esenwein.....	Mark & Patti	Long.....	Matt & Tami	Shultz.....	Robert & Pam	Winchester.....	Chad & Erin
Espinas.....	Tony	Loose.....	Ronda	Shultz, Tom.....	Lindsey, Sally	Woodworth.....	Mike & Carol
Euber, Joseph.....	Stark, Cindy	Lucas.....	Mark & Erin	Simeri.....	Angela	Wuchner.....	Kay
Evans.....	Bob & Georgia	Lusk.....	Al & Alice	Skipper.....	Bufford & Becky	Wyncott.....	Tom & Kristine
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