



Simonton Says...

September 2013
Volume 6, Issue 4

Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc. Newsletter
Elkhart, Indiana.....www.simontonlake.org

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(If you are having trouble and don't get the emails, send a message to simon@simontonlake.org and we will set you up.)

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93 year old Henrietta Wenger on her grandson, Jamie's waverunner. Jamie is from Indianapolis and brings his jet ski up here when he visits. This was taken on Labor Day weekend. Jamie zipped her around the lake!



Check out the new
www.simontonlake.org
for all of your lake community events,
stories, information & photos.



Dog and owner were happily reunited!

-by Maria Hopman

One day last May I was sitting in my recliner reading the morning paper and saw something out of the corner of my eye, down by the seawall. There was a dog desperately trying to get over my seawall into the yard. I called my neighbor, Beth, and asked for help getting the dog out. He had a vet tag on his collar and we called them. The Vet would not give us the number of the person who the dog belonged to, but they said they would call the owner and give him my phone number. They did tell us the dogs name was Ralphie. The owner, Tony Balzano, called and came over right away to pick him up. He is a fireman who lives across Cassopolis Street and they had been looking for him for 2 days. And the best part of the story is that dog and owner were happily reunited! ■



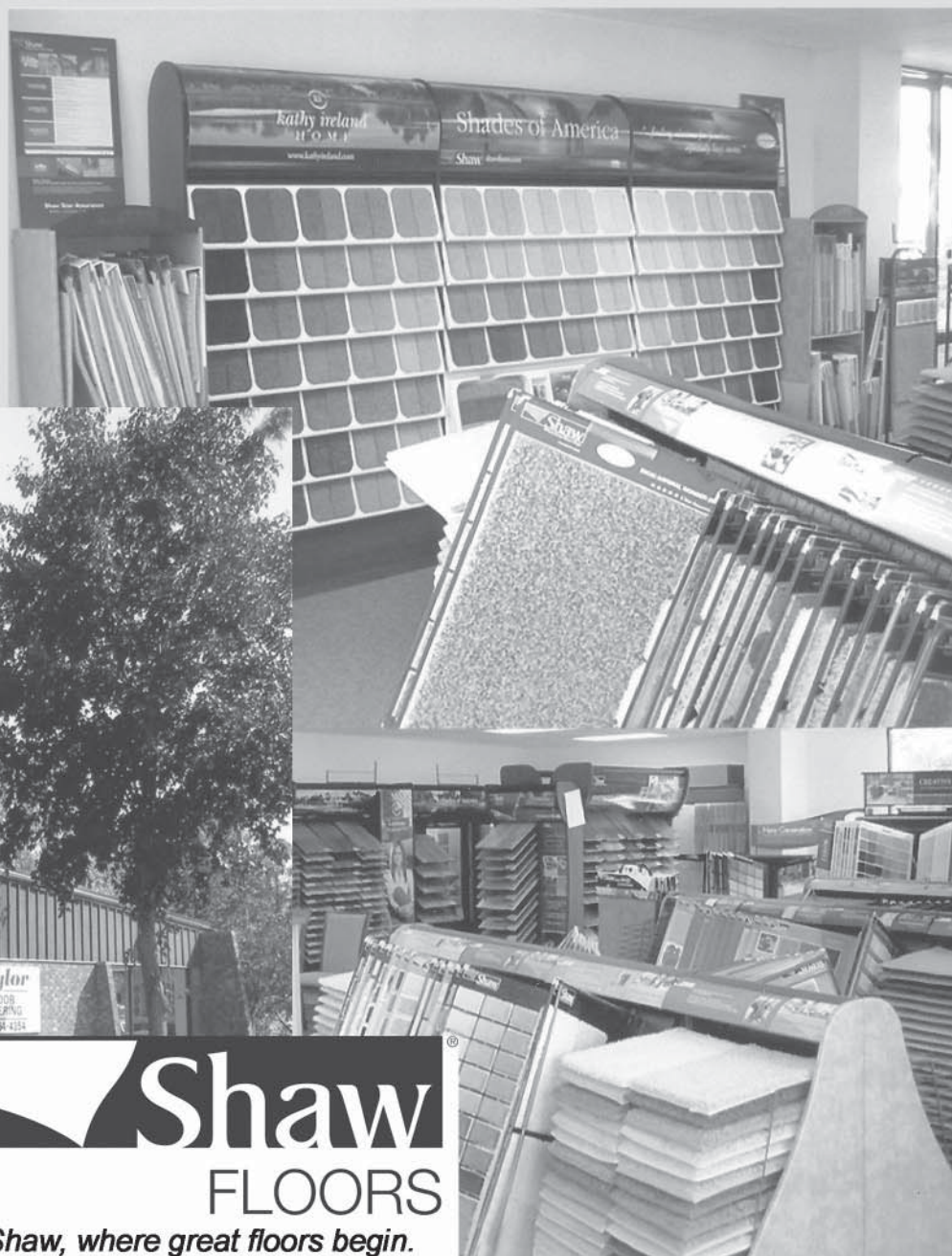
(below) Rick Hoff,
preparing for the
Amazing Corn Maze...
more info on pages 11
& 21.



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

Email: simon@simontonlake.org
We are always looking for volunteers for our committees:
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New Neighbors?

We would love to put their name in our newsletter. Please notify Sue Ward at 574-206-0450 or email skward@frontier.com

Our Mission

*The **MISSION** of the Simonton Lake Area Homeowner's 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.*

Our Newsletter

Our newsletter is published 4 times a year, but our website is filled with current information, stories, events, photos about the community. Check it out at:

www.simontonlake.org

For advertising information, call:
Dick Rhodes - 574-370-7884 or
Bob Meyers - 574-361-4445 or
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Would you like to contribute information, pictures, or stories to "Simonton Says...?"

Email to:
simon@simontonlake.org or mail to: Simonton Says... Newsletter, Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc., P.O. Box 1706, Elkhart, IN. 46515-1706

Go to our website and let us know how we are doing...

Events on the Lake

October - SLSC will be stocking walleye in the lake.
Nov. 9 Casino Night
(sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)

Hog Roast Cancelled

The Hog Roast scheduled for Sunday, September 29 at the Sportsman's Club has been cancelled. We had to move the event from its original date. After the date was rescheduled, we found several conflicts which made it necessary for the committee to need to cancel. We regret that this is necessary as this event has been a great success and enjoyed by our lake community in the past.

Community Contacts

Simonton Lake Conservancy
(574) 206-8485

DNR

Main office: (317)232-4160
or toll free 1-877-928-3755

Sheriff Elkhart County

(574) 533-4151
Neighborhood contact person:
Cpl. Casey Lehman
General information or questions,
Email: clehman@elkhartcountysheriff.com
Phone: (574) 535-6553

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Weir Update

-by Dave Foutz

When it come to the weir it seem like it's always a good news, bad news scenario. Having said that, I believe the good news outweighs the bad news. First, here's the good news. The weir is moving forward. The Elkhart County Commissioners have endorsed the project and are working closely with the representatives of the homeowners crafting a payment process. The surveyor's office is working with homeowners as the agent communicating with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The IDNR has approved the project and is offering a workable amount of financial support for their half of the project. They have also assigned the same legal counsel to the project that supported the homeowners' position in the court case ten years ago.

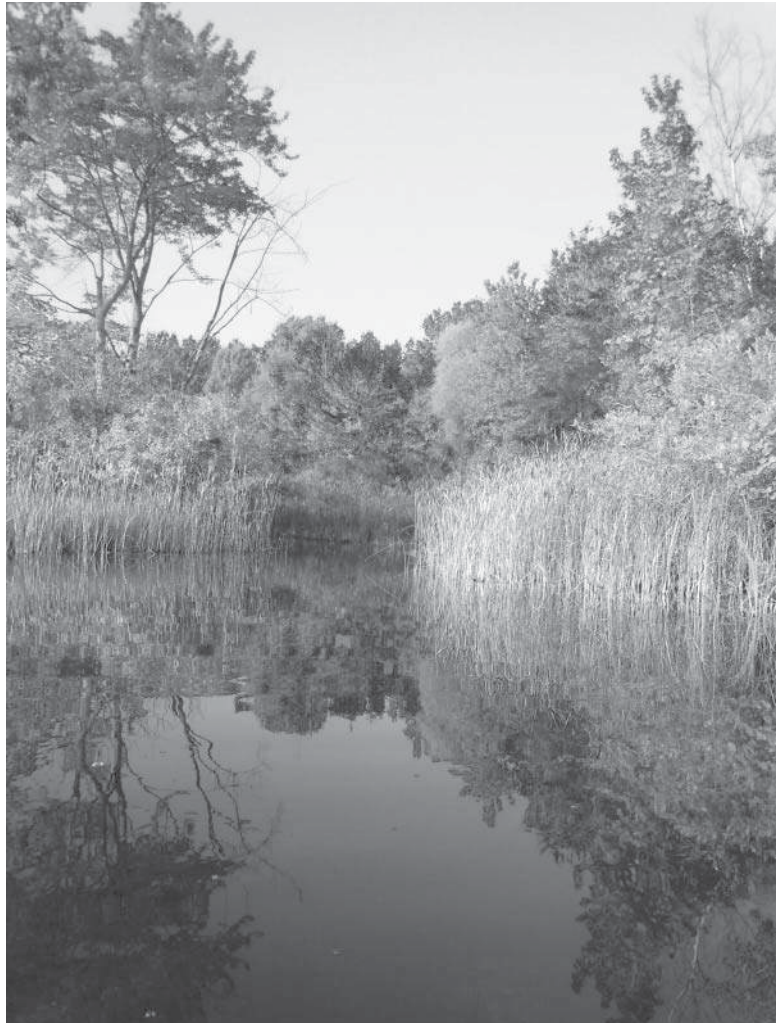
The next good news is that the surveyor's office has awarded the design contract to the engineering firm of Lawson-Fisher. In addition to design, Lawson-Fisher must determine the cost for the project. They are currently in the final phase of that portion of the project. The cost estimate is critical to the next step in the process. Once the cost estimate is determined the Commissioners, Surveyor, and IDNR will return to the court for approval of the project and permission to use the proposed method of payment for the project. This is a step in the process where progress can be slowed or forced to be redirected.

Once the project receives a favorable court ruling, the surveyor's office will bid the project and construction can begin. Construction is another area of delay. Since the weir is to be constructed in a marshland environment the optimal construction time is when the ground is frozen. Consequently, the prime construction target time is November to February. Therefore, if process is too slow we miss this year's target and construction is pushed out another year.

Some of you may wonder if there is potential for conflict between the proposed Eco Zone, future sediment removal, and weir construction. For proper weir function it will be important for there to be an unrestricted water flow into Lily Creek to reduce the high water problems residents have experienced in the past few years. IDNR has determined that even if the mouth of Lily Creek lays within the proposed Eco Zone, whatever measures necessary to remove obstructions to the flow into Lily Creek will be permitted to be removed.

For homeowners to remain patient through a process that spans over twenty years is difficult. Public projects

are often difficult for government to achieve. A parallel project comes to my mind. The Pumpkinvine Trail has also taken over twenty years to complete. Now that the trail is finished people realize it was worth all the time and effort and consider it to be an important community resource well worth the persistence. I think when finished, the weir will be viewed in a similar light. ■



Entrance to Lily Creek



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Let's Talk About Lake Levels

-by Dave Foutz

After my posting on the weir a couple of weeks ago, I received a couple of questions regarding the entire weir process. Sometimes when you are so close to a project you incorrectly assume everyone knows what you know. I realized there is a need for some review of the project and a general sharing of information that will help interested lake residents better understand the importance of the weir project and how the installation of the weir will result in improved water quality and enhance the value of property.

After wading through tables of hourly lake levels from January 1, 2007 to the present, I came to some interesting conclusions. First of all anyone can access the current level of Simonton Lake by going to the homeowners web page at www.simonton-lake.org. Once you arrive, click on Community Resources and then tab down to "Monitor our lake level. . ." Now you can watch the changes in the lake level at any time. It's kind of fun to do when we have a particularly rainy period, or an especially heavy rain. It is interesting to see how quickly the level of lake can change.

Just for review, you will remember that the legal lake level is 772.86 feet above the mean sea level. That was established in 2003 in the Superior Court of Elkhart County. What may not have been previously mentioned or residents may have overlooked is the method by which that figure was determined. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources did pretty much what I was doing, reviewing tables of lake levels. However, instead of looking at seven years of hourly lake level readings they used fifteen. Based on all of those numbers, they arrived at the average lake level figure of 772.86 feet. So, basically the court has ruled

into law what nature has determined over fifteen years.

Additionally, the court ruled that a "water control device" should be installed to maintain the lake level as closely as possible to the legal lake level. I think most people would agree the primary function of Simonton Lake is to serve as a recreational water feature used by swimmers, boaters and fishermen as well as provide for the community a clean, clear and valuable asset for all. Sometimes we need to be reminded that while we may be heavily invested in the lake, it isn't our lake. Technically it belongs to the State of Indiana which is interested in having the lake as an accessible resource for the citizens of the state. Consequently, the goals of the State and lake residents are compatible in maintaining the lake level at a depth that improves the water quality and optimizes the lake's recreational use. This is why IDNR supported the setting of the legal lake level in court and is willing to pay for half of the construction costs for a water control device.

So let's talk about water control devices. First of all, it is highly unusual for a recreational body of water the size of Simonton Lake not to be equipped with a water control device. As I ride my bike through Cass County Michigan and look at the many lakes, they all seem to be equipped with them for years. If you want to take a look at a very simple example of one close by, drive up Eagle Lake Road to the east end of Eagle Lake. Just north of the old Dock restaurant on your left, you will see a twelve inch pipe cemented at both ends which maintains the level of the lake by preventing water from running into Christiana Lake, which of course it would have done in pre-settlement times. This is an incredibly simple device and is all we would have needed if we had constructed it fifty or seventy-five years ago, as they did in Michigan.

I am going to change names and

begin calling the water control device a weir, but every time you see the word weir think "water control device," because that's what a weir does. It is designed to control the lake at its optimal level. That's a tough job for a passive structure. The edge of the face of the weir will be set at the legal lake level. So it's pretty easy to understand that once the water level drops below the legal lake level no more water can escape by entering Lily Creek. At present the lake level can fall to the level at which no more will flow down Lily Creek. In looking at the historic lake level tables, you can hypothesize that the bottom of Lily Creek lies at about seven or eight inches below the legal lake level. This is determined by watching the pace of decrease in the lake level. Once the lake level falls seven inches below the legal lake level, the fall rate decreases noticeably. With the weir in place at the legal lake level, the fall rate will be more nearly like it is when no water is flowing into Lily Creek. This is a good thing for residents. This part of the equation is easy to follow; the high water portion is less apparent. One thing we should be able to agree upon is that the weir should keep lake level closer to the desired depth during periods of insufficient rain fall.

An Indiana statute that you may not be familiar with states that a legal regulated drain (Lily Creek) cannot be excavated within three-fourths mile of a lake where a water control device has not been installed. Consequently, the only clearing and enhancement to the discharge flow can be through brush removal. Lily Creek is significantly clogged with plant growth and stumps from removed brush which impedes the water flow and over time raises the level of bottom of the ditch. These obstructions are much of the reason for how slowly the lake level returns to the legal level after a seasonal rain episode. When the weir is

See LAKE LEVELS on page 10

Dam/n Beaver

-by Dave Foutz

After all the trips I've made to examine Lily Creek, I was totally shocked when I heard there is a beaver dam in Lily Creek. There is just a lot about this story that doesn't make sense to me. This wouldn't be my first rodeo with aquatic mammals. In my many kayak and hiking adventures I have seen no evidence of beaver anywhere around Simonton Lake. But hey who knows, we could have had a couple displaced flat-tailed water rats move into the area. So when my "Mr. Woodsman" son-in-law came to visit, we launched our kayaks and paddled off to investigate the crime scene.

As we moved about twenty or thirty yards down the channel from the mouth of the creek, by golly, we did observe an obstruction in the water way. This was a big surprise to both of us. This definitely required closer inspection. The first observation we made was that all the branches in the "dam" were dead driftwood and none of them appeared to have cut marks characteristic of beaver. Secondly, there were no trees cut anywhere near the area of the obstruction. Thirdly, the main ingredient in the "dam" construction was mud. This is not typical with bea-



ver dam construction. Our final observation was that those crafty beaver had chosen to build their dam on the exact spot where the previous dam had been built with sacks of concrete and steel rods by a group of midnight engineers a couple of years ago.

How long had the obstruction been there and had it affected the lake level? That's hard to say. I do know that the lake level has remained higher than normal this year, but then it has been a wet

spring and early summer. Did we remove the obstruction? No we didn't, for a couple of reasons. First by the time we made this discovery, the lake had already fallen below the legal lake level and there was no danger of it causing high water problems for residents. Secondly, we didn't think that was our job. Finally, it was difficult to gauge just how effective it was at restricting the creek flow.

If you hear the Simonton Lake beaver legend you might surmise that these beaver were related to the same ones who built the original concrete dam. Just call us the myth busters!

p.s. We have received evidence to support the existence of beaver in the general eco zone area. This intrepid reporter will continue to follow the beaver lead. However, it is still my belief that these beaver were not responsible for the Lily Creek structure. Stay tuned. ■

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LAKE LEVELS

continued from page 8

installed the ditch can be dredged along with widening the approach to the weir improving the flow rate from the lake to the weir. With a water control device installed on the lake the county will be able to do dredging below the weir and further enhance the flow beyond the weir. As a result of this work the lake level will return much more quickly to the legal lake level during a rainy season.

Now that you understand how the weir works and how it passively controls the lake level at a specific point as near as possible, let's review the typical lake level fluctuations over the past eight years. The cycles have been remarkably similar. As you would expect the lake level is at its lowest at the end of summer. As the fall rains begin the lake level rises and is usually at the legal lake level by November. The lake level continues to rise through March where it reaches its maximum, typically about seven inches above the legal lake level. As summer arrives the lake level recedes, in normal years, to about eight inches below the legal lake level. If the summer is particularly dry it may fall another four inches or a foot below the legal lake level. There is significant variability in timing and duration of these cycles. If you remember, 2012, was a dry year and the lake level fell early and to its typical maximum depth shortly after mid-summer. This year has been very moist. We have remained above the legal lake level until two weeks ago when the rains stopped and the lake level has been falling since that time. As you can see there is potentially eighteen inches of variation in the lake level during the course of the year. High water levels negatively affect some people. In fielding complaints of constituents, I have learned that there are a significant number of residents who have water in their basement when the

lake level is above the legal lake level. As soon as the lake level falls below the legal lake level, the calls stop. I have personally had a lot of wave action over my sea wall this year, even after adding four inches to the top. Last year and other years in the recent past where we have experienced low lake levels residents have had trouble getting their boats on and off their shore station, difficulty getting in and out of the Forest Road channel, and boaters experiencing damage to their lower control units from hitting bottom. This also results in stirring up silt resulting in poor water quality, blocking of springs, and filling in channels.

What is the take away from all of this? Extremes in lake levels, no matter which direction, are problematic for lake residents. Lake levels are going to fluctuate within a pretty predictable range which results in negatively impacting some residents. If we can reduce the extremes in lake levels, or at least the duration of the extremes, it will improve the quality of the lives of our residents. A weir is a sensible, proven solution to the problem that will enhance the recreational and esthetic experience of the lake residents. Control of the lake level will improve the clarity of

the water, reduce silt migration and make the lake more desirable as a recreational destination, which will improve property values. ■

Hog Roast Cancelled

The Hog Roast scheduled for Sunday, September 29 at the Sportsman's Club has been cancelled. We had to move the event from its original date. After the date was rescheduled, we found several conflicts which made it necessary for the committee to need to cancel. We regret that this is necessary as this event has been a great success and enjoyed by our lake community in the past.



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Amazing Acres Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch - US 12

Amazing Acres is just a few miles from us on US 12 in Edwardsburg owned by Rick and Ronnie Hoff who live on Simonton Lake. This 90 acre farm is AMAZING! It is a destination for the whole family. It has a corn maze with 3 ½ miles of paths, a pumpkin patch, farm animals, hay rides, gem mining, and so many more activities and attractions to entertain the family in the fall. Families are able to have parties there with space available to celebrate events. Field trips and church groups are also welcomed.

Check out their AMAZING website:

amazingacrescornmaze.com

to find out about the facilities, activities, how to contact them, and more. It opens this week, September 14! The hours are Tues-Fri 4pm-9pm, Sat-Sun noon-9pm. Closed Mondays. From Cassopolis St., turn East on US 12...you can't miss it on the North side of the road.





-by Bob Meyers

At the second *Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club Youth Fishing Contest* held in August, 47 young people fished and the largest fish caught was a, now this is a great story, read carefully and intently, the largest fish caught was a 13" bass. Got that? A 13" bass. And who caught it? Here's the best part. Who caught it? A little girl who was fishing for the first time in her life. Now that's a fish story that is truthful and heart warming. That's the kind of fun you and your children and grandchildren can have that make memories. Jim Friend and Gene Jimison, with a cast, (get that, cast) of many, made this contest fun and exciting for those 47 young fisherpeople. Everyone was a winner because each fisherperson went home with a prize and a memory.

And there is more fun to be had. September 14 and 15, at the clubhouse, the SLSC Turkey Shoot will be terrific entertainment for all. If you have never attended a turkey shoot, check this out. The fun begins at 10 each day. Any questions? Contact Chairman Joe Arrendondo for answers.

Keep making those memories, the ones that can be made only here at Simonton Lake, the ones that will mean the most See you on the lake. ■

DNR Upgraded the Public Landing

-by Carole Foutz

The State of Indiana has chosen to upgrade the public landing on Simonton Lake! The landing was closed from Monday Sept 9th thru Friday Sep 13th. A public notice was posted at the landing informing users prior to its closing. As some of you may have known, there were some issues with a hole at the end of the ramp causing some users problems. Those problems were corrected along with other sea wall improvements. Also, accommodations for handicap usage was added. The parking and other areas will be improved also. Our **Lake Safety Committee** has been working along with the DNR to keep our landing clean, safe and efficient for lake residents and the local community. A big "Thank You!" to our committee for their efforts! ■



Brian Cripe, Tim Burksfield, Jeff Ladie, and Mark Wimmer



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Report on the Ecozone Project

-by Amy Matherly

The Ecozone committee is in the final stages of the process for establishing a zone on Simonton Lake. Within the next few weeks we will send in to the state our formal request. The DNR then has their own legal process which they must complete. This has been a long process and we have taken special care to listen to all comments and concerns and to comply with all of the state guidelines.

Our last obstacle was to determine the exact boundary of the ecozone. As you will remember the zone will be located in the small inlet that leads to Lily Creek. At one time we thought that we would ask for the boundary to be a straight line including the entire inlet and Lily Creek. While we were told by one individual at the DNR that they would allow us to work on the weir at Lily Creek even though it might be part of the ecozone, we were concerned that this policy might change. So, we have opted to end our ecozone at a point on the east bank of Lily Creek. Once the weir is completed we will then apply to the state for a second zone that will take in the remainder of the inlet.

Here are the particulars as they are written in the document that will go to the DNR:

We are asking for the following guidelines for our Simonton Lake Ecozone:

Speed Restrictions-Only non-motorized water craft will be allowed in the ecozone. This restriction does not include trolling motors.



Anchoring Restrictions-No anchoring will be permitted in the ecozone. (Fishing will not be prohibited but anchoring will not be allowed.)

Boundary-The ecozone boundary will be a line beginning on the eastern shoreline of the inlet on Little Simonton Lake and will proceed in a northwesterly fashion to a point about 75 feet south of the island. At that point the line will make a 90 degree turn and go in a southerly direction to the shoreline on the eastern bank of Lily Creek. (The state will require GPS coordinates for this boundary.) We understand that buoys marking the ecozone will be provided by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The Simonton Lake Area Homeowners Association agrees to place these buoys at the required distance of every 100 feet along the boundary as well as removal and storage of these buoys.

Sunset Clause-We would like to include in our proposal the option of a sunset clause. (A Sunset Clause allows us to review the ecozone after five years. If we would like to un-establish the zone we may do so at that time. If we want to continue the zone, then it is permanent.) ■

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Simonton Lake Preservation Trust Established

-by Amy Matherly and Ryan Harding

The Simonton Lake Area Homeowners Association, with the cooperation of the Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club, has been working on several major projects to improve our lake. These include the building of a weir across Lily Creek, establishing the Eco Zone and plans for dredging some of our shallow areas (especially the main channel). Each of these projects requires different levels of financial support. The weir project will be covered for the most part by state and Elkhart County funds, but the dredging project will require significant funding from lake residents. In the future there may be other big environmental, water quality or conservation projects that need to be done. Who knows? With these major projects, we all wonder, where will that money come from? And if we are able to raise money, how will the funds be managed?

It became clear that we needed to follow the lead of many other lake communities and form a new non-profit organization dedicated solely to protecting the lake and its watershed. This new organization – the Simonton Lake Preservation Trust – is a charitable organization that can accept donations and take on new projects that improve the quality of the lake. The mission of the Preservation Trust is *"to protect, preserve and enhance the Simonton Lake Area Watershed for present and future generations."* In fulfilling this mission, the Preservation Trust will work on environmental conservation projects, land conservancy, water quality programs, wildlife enhancement and wetlands preservation. We anticipate that the Preservation Trust will take on a major role in the planned dredging project as part of our mission to improve water

quality.

To comply with IRS rules and make sure that donations will be tax-deductible, the Preservation Trust needed to be separate from the SLAHA and the Sportsmen's Club, even though there is some overlap in what the organizations do.

Who Established the Preservation Trust?

Early in the summer, Ryan Harding, a lawyer and lake resident, contacted John Rose and Amy Matherly to talk about establishing the Preservation Trust. Ryan and John had already been contacted by other lake residents who wanted to contribute funds for the dredging project and other environmental initiatives. Neither one could legally accept the funds until the Preservation Trust was established. So, when talking about the feasibility of a Preservation Trust at Simonton Lake, it seemed like our questions had already been answered! We had folks who wanted to give us financial help, but we needed a legal means to accept their donations.

Ryan and his firm donated their time to do the legal paperwork. We felt we needed additional board members but with donations pending we moved fast. This legal paperwork required officers, so John and Amy elected Ryan as President. For now John will be the treasurer and Amy will be the secretary. We have a bank account with 1st Source Bank.

How Can I Donate?

You can make donations at any time, including funds for the dredging project, by contacting John at johnrose11@comcast.net. The Preservation Trust can accept contributions of cash and of land or other



property. You can make gifts yourself or in honor of someone. You can even leave the Preservation Trust money in your estate plan!

We will have some fundraising activities this year and will be in communication with all of you on these as our plans are made. We'd love to hear your ideas too.

Donations to the Preservation Trust will be tax-deductible to the donor. We have filed our paperwork with the IRS to be recognized as a "501(c)(3)" organization, and our attorneys expect that our application will be approved. This means that all donations will be tax deductible, and we can provide you or your accountant with the necessary receipts and documents.

How Can I Help?

If you are interested in becoming a board member, helping with fundraising, or have questions or concerns, contact Amy at ramatherly@gmail.com. We would like to involve anyone interested in protecting the lake, and there are many ways to help.

Contact Information

The Preservation Trust's mailing address is:
Simonton Lake Preservation Trust, Inc.
PO Box 469
Elkhart, Indiana 46515 ■

Osolo Township Fire Department's Open House

September 29, 2013

11am - 4pm

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SLAHA LATE SUMMER UPDATE

- by Vaughn Nickell

It's hard to believe summer is ending. Unlike last year's hot dry spring and summer we've had a more comfortable summer with a decent amount of precipitation to keep our lake water level up. As of August 31st our Lake level was 772.82' (about 1/2" below the legal lake level).

Since early August we've had little precipitation and the lake's water level is declining steadily. Unless we experience some rain we'll continue to see the lake level decline until the bottom of Lily Creek becomes dry.

Weir

If the weir were in place, our lake would stop losing water to Lily Creek at 772.86' (our Legal Lake level). After studying the USGS website recording of our lake levels we can observe the past few years that our fresh water springs can keep pace with evaporation, but they don't keep pace when we lose water to Lily Creek. Last year we hit Lily Creek bottom (approximately 772-0') in mid-July and remained near that level (+ or - 2") until the mid-October rains.

The weir will benefit property owners when we experience periods of high precipitation. High water should drain from the lake faster since Lily Creek can be cleaned and maintained by the county. Currently, Indiana law prohibits the creek to be cleaned or maintained (without a control device) within ¾ mile from the mouth of Lily Creek. This should give relief to property owners who experience high water issues (standing water in yards, flooded basements/crawl spaces, and waves splashing over seawalls) when the lake gets too high.

No doubt, the weir will help the lake maintain a healthy and consistent level and minimize those periods of

extreme high and low water levels. Both extreme high and low water levels negatively affect our property values, the lake's water quality/health, and recreational use. Like the conservancy, the weir will be a good thing for our lake.

Environmental Committee Update

This committee is working on two primary issues:

1.) The Eco-Zone is headed up by Amy Matherly. Currently, the committee is finalizing boundaries and soon should be ready to submit our application to the State. The Eco-Zone will allow us to protect the lakes vegetation in a small defined area (approximately 8 acres) of shallow waters in the southeast corner of Little Simonton. This vegetation filters our lake's water and provides for the health of our lake water and wildlife.

2.) The Sediment Removal Project is now headed up by John Lendman.

The committee has identified approximately 5-6 dredging sites requiring an estimated 46,000 cubic yards of sediment removal. Probably, only the main channel between the two basins (approximately 30,000 cubic yards) will qualify for LARE funding. For the remaining 16,000 cubic yards we'll likely be on our own to fund. To date the total dredging project cost is estimated at \$440,000 plus costs to secure a basin. In January 2014, we will submit an application for dredging work and will be competing with many other Indiana lakes, reservoirs and rivers for a limited amount of grant funding (note the LARE grants are funded through Indiana boat registration fees).

The DNR has advised our biggest challenge would be to secure a basin to dispose 46,000 cubic yards of sediment and secondly, raise funds to cover remaining costs not covered by LARE. This summer we've secured

a commitment for the land and basin site. We've also established a 501c3 "Simonton Lake Preservation Trust" to efficiently raise funds for environmental causes. Our association has already received two grants totaling nearly \$50,000 including the association's 20% match (\$10,000). Since the State has invested \$40,000 in lake studies prerequisite for dredging, we are optimistic.

The maximum LARE grant is \$300,000 per application of which our association needs to match 20% or \$60,000. To complete the entire 46,000 cubic yard project we need to raise \$200,000 total. Since there are considerable overhead costs just to setup the dredging equipment and preparation of the basin, we feel it's cost effective to complete the total project upfront and avoid repeating this whole process again.

Why should we dredge?

Some would argue let nature take its course, and I would tend to agree except our lake has been subject to human intervention for many years. Developers have built homes in our watershed sometime without the best practices for protecting the lake. Pre 1999 before we had the conservancy our sewer systems contaminated the lake. Cattle waste and fertilizers have washed into our watershed. Boaters have transferred invasive weeds and Zebra mussels to our lake. The mute swan not native to the United States has exploded in population and threatens our lake's food source for other native wildlife. When boaters speed through the channels it suspends and relocates sediment. This list could go on and on, but bottom line, we need some human intervention to protect, maintain, and reverse some of the damage we have created.

Sediment removal, like the weir and the eco-zone, will help to improve our lake's health and water quality.

See UPDATE on page 20

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Heated RV
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UPDATE*continued from page 18*

By deepening the shallow areas so propellers disturb less lake bottom we'll have less sediment redistributed throughout our lake. Water clarity, lake health and wildlife, Navigation and recreational use will improve and so will our property values! Just Google "what impact does water clarity and lake depth have on lake properties values" and you'll see numerous studies by universities and independent organizations supporting this fact. If we remove 46,000 cubic yards (3,000+ dump trucks) of sediment we'll add about 10 million gallons of fresh water storage capacity

to our lake.

Recently we've been exploring the issue concerning property owners' riparian right to access their piers by boat. We are told that property owners who experience difficulty accessing their pier because of shallow waters may be permitted to do some minor dredging to deepen waters to accommodate their boats and lifts.

If we can verify the riparian rights of property owners we may consider applying for permits, negotiating individual dredging needs on a group basis for cost savings with dredging firms and approve to have the sediment disposed on our basin. All of this would be additional cost for individual property owners or groups of prop-

erty owners interested in dredging a common area (like a cove). More on this subject will be available in the next few months.

We need your support

Conservatively, if we have 400 homes on the lake and everyone contributed \$500 total over the next two years (\$250/year average) we can raise \$200,000 to complete this project. Since this donation will be to the "Simonton Lake Preservation Trust" a 501c3 it is tax deductible. We think this is a great opportunity to invest in our lake. The return for each of us will be manyfold. ■

Simonton Lake Sportsmens Club Youth Fishing Contest, August 10, 2013 - Trophy Winners

Front Row - Anastazia Phillips - G 8-11 2nd Place, Jordan Makimoto - G 4-7 Largest Fish, Max Shreiner - B 4-7 2nd Place, Noah Haas - B 8-11 3rd Place, Elle Yakym - G 4-7 1st Place, Payton Sears - G 4-7 2nd Place, Isiah Flemming - B 4-7 3rd Place, Thomas Donnelly - B 8-11 1st Place, Liliyana Colon - G 4-7 3rd Place

Back Row - Owen Lillich - B 12-14 2nd Place, Adam Donnellh - B 12-14 1st Place, Mason Haas - B 12-14 3rd Place, Keegan Thursby - G 12-14 1st Place, Catherine Underly - G 12-14 3rd Place, Kaitlin Merklin - G 12-14 2nd Place, Alexia Greathouse - G 8-11 1st Place,

47 children participated.....good time had by all



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until they know how much you care!

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Wildlife in our Backyard

Photos by Maria Hopman





Fall Parts, Accessories & Apparel Sale

OCTOBER 11 & 12

- 50% Off All Remaining '13 Snowmobile Jackets, Pants, Helmets, Gloves & Apparel
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- 20% Off All Woody's Traction Products
- 20% Off All Motorcycle & ATV Helmets In-Stock
- 20% Off All Motorcycle Riding Jackets, Pants & Gloves
- 20% Off All Snowmobile Lube Products
- 15% Off All 2014 Snowmobile Apparel & Accessories
- 15% Off All ATV/Winch & Plow Systems
- 10% Off All Motorcycle & ATV Tires In-Stock
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Superior Space

-by Dave Foutz

Service is the fastest growing sector of the United States economy and within this market segment there are many options that didn't exist just a few years ago. Today there are new customer choices that are surprising and provide many options for consumers. Recently I sat down and had a conversation with Gary Price, the owner of **Superior Space**, one of our newsletter advertisers, about the changing landscape in the storage industry. Superior Space entered the large item business in 2001 and constructed a state of the art purpose built storage facility in 2006 only five miles from Simonton Lake, a short distance south off County Road six.

Many of you already know about Superior Space as the heated inside storage facility where you store your personal watercraft for the winter. The heated inside store represents the largest subdivision, by sales volume, of the business. If you haven't taken the opportunity to visit your pontoon during the winter you have no idea of all the wide range of personal property with which your boat is sharing space. How about that classic car, sports car, motorcycle, or snowmobile you have always lusted for, only to have your significant other respond, "I'm not steering around that thing in the drive way every day!" You guessed it. Superior Space could be your problem solver.

This was a huge surprise for me. Gary related that customers from different cities, states, and even countries stage their recreational vehicles and travel equipment in the inside storage and use it as their base of operations for exploring the US and North America. Superior Space has customers from as far away as Australia. And talk about service, Gary's star employee, Ross Nusbaum (Tim and Phyllis's nephew), even brokered the purchase of two towable units at an area auction while the buyer communicated from his Australian home. Flexibility and creativity are properties that make this business unique.

Other types of storage that may serve your needs may include the need to access your property twenty-four hours a day. A significant portion of Superior Storage's space lies outside the main storage building, which is open during normal business hours, and is accessible around the clock through a keypad-activated front gate. There is open storage, where you simply park your vehicle on a paved lot. This would be perfect for that horse trailer or old beater pickup truck you only need occasionally. If you need slightly more protection for your unit there is space available in carport type structures similar in design to what you might see at an apartment complex. Next come completely enclosed individual garages with overhead doors. These are unheated but are weather tight and add a greater level of protection from the elements for your equipment than the two previous storage types.

The last type of space is one that I find most fascinating. These units are huge heated, lighted spaces with overhead doors large enough to drive a truck and trailer into. Having been a former touring drag racer, I see one of these spaces as the perfect location to build, maintain, and operate your racing business or maybe a yard service business. Also the units are large enough to house all of your equipment in the off season. These spaces are an entrepreneur's dream. There is no limit to the kinds of creative uses for these spaces that could be financially rewarding.

One of the last things Gary and I discussed was the subject of security. It was clear to me that Gary recognized the weight of responsibility he was undertaking by watching over his customers favorite and most valuable possessions. He said that maintaining the various layers of security was one of his greatest expenses and was constantly re-evaluating the procedures and hardware.

Remember the focus of Superior Space is large item storage. If you are thinking of storing furniture or household items you should probably visit **Iron Gate** on Johnson Street. In teaching economics I always told my students information is power. I hope you have gained some information from this article that will allow you to improve the quality of your life. ■



Tragedy on the Lake Leads to a Request for CPR Classes

-by Amy Matherly

This July a visitor to our lake died after becoming ill in the water. She was pulled into the boat, emergency services were called and the boat was driven to Pete's and met by the ambulance. Sadly the visitor did not survive.

Dealing with a severe health emergency on water is even more complicated than when this type of incident happens on land.

Do you do CPR and then try to call for help?

Do you call for help first?

Do you know CPR or would you have to wait until the EMT's arrived?

If you are out on the lake, do you drive to your own pier, go towards the highway. . . ?

Can the emergency personnel get to you on the water?

How do they know where you are?

Work has begun to look into providing CPR classes each year in the spring prior to boating season. Contact has been made with trainers. While there will be a small cost for the class, we hope also to provide scholarships for those who want to attend but cannot afford to do so. Watch for times, dates and site which we hope to announce this February.

If you are interested in helping with this effort contact simon@simontonlake.org. ■



(right) Lisa Garatoni

(below right) Ryan Harding



Photos by Maria Hopman



Hog Roast Cancelled

The Hog Roast scheduled for Sunday, September 29 at the Sportsman's Club has been cancelled. We had to move the event from its original date. After the date was rescheduled, we found several conflicts which made it necessary for the committee to need to cancel. We regret that this is necessary as this event has been a great success and enjoyed by our lake community in the past.

Treasurer's Corner

Below is a brief financial update on the association:

Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc.
January 1, 2013 – June 1, 2013 (CASH Basis Accounting)

ITEM	SUBTOTAL	TOTAL
Advertising	\$855.00	
Fireworks Donations	3,110.00	
Other Events (e.g., Hog Roast)		
LARE Grant from State of IN		
Membership Dues	4,470.00	
Sales (T-shirts, Calendars)		
Other (e.g., interest income)	133.39	
TOTAL INCOME		\$8,568.39
Board of Directors (e.g., Hog roast, general meeting expenses, insurance)	1,362.38	
Fireworks Transfer to Sportsmen's Club	2,765.00	
Lake Environment	25.00	
Lake Safety		
Membership/Outreach		
Newsletter / Website	2,044.47	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$6,196.85
NET POSITION AS OF 6/1/2013		\$2,371.54

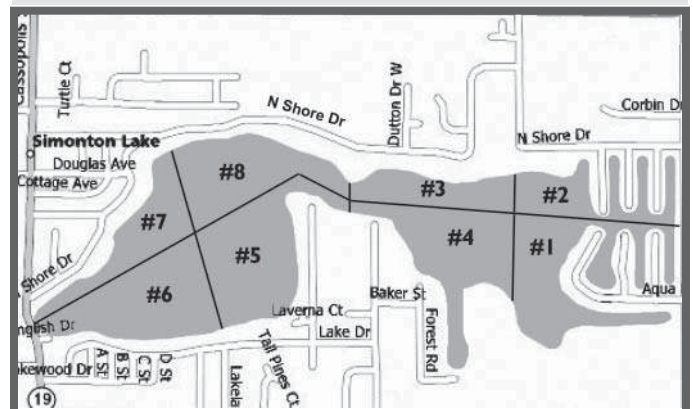
Fall is here, but our SLAHA year goes through April 2014. So, if you haven't sent your dues in yet, please remember to join or renew! We need your support to keep improving our lake!

As always, if you have any questions about our association finances, please don't hesitate to contact Erin Harding at eharding@nd.edu.

Area Representatives

-your delegates for neighborhood concerns

1. Tim and Phyllis Nusbaum 264-0965
2. Ann and Jerry Broderick 264-1331
John and Pat Brown 264-2258
Ken and Sue Ward 206-0450
3. Maria Hopman 262-1655
Anne Harbaugh 264-7792
4. Jon Hart 262-1404
Randy Hoff 262-3432
5. Bob Meyers 675-0970
Cindy Nickell 262-3105
6. Dick Martin 264-7656
Ron Taylor 262-1332
7. Dave VanZile 264-5201
Jon Hart 262-1404
8. Maria Hopman 262-1655
Anne Harbaugh 264-7792

**SLAHA MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION**

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 2nd/Spouse Email: _____
 Preference for contact: _____Email _____Phone _____Mail
 Participation Interest: _____
 Current committees: Lake Environment, Lake Safety, Membership/Outreach, Newsletter/Website

Please mail your completed form and check made out to SLAHA to:
Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc., P.O. Box 1706, Elkhart, IN. 46515-1706

Please check the appropriate box below if you are NOT willing to share this information in a directory sent to members. We will not share this list outside of the association without your permission. _____Address _____Phone _____Email

DUES: per household per year

_____ Household: \$30
 _____ Senior: (70 and over): \$20
 _____ Senior Honorary Membership:
 (80 and over):
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 Donation Amount: \$ _____
NEW MEMBER RECRUITED - \$10
 Member's Name: _____

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TOTAL AMOUNT
ENCLOSED: \$
 w/ Registration Form

MESSAGE BOARD

We wish you a Happy Birthday!

8/5	Jaxon Patrick Kern	10/3	Frieda Baskerville
8/9	Buck Ulery	10/5	Kyan Joseph Wilson – Grandson of Paul & Linda Wilson
8/19	Cindy Nickell	10/21	Bruce Marlow
8/19	Amy Matherly	10/25	Ken Ward
8/23	Henry William Saleh – Grandson of Bill & Susie Broderick	10/31	Bob Putnam
8/24	Sloan Cooper – Grandparents Randy & Wendy Cooper	11/1	Sue Linson
8/26	Erin Hoffman Harding	11/5	Carole Foutz
8/31	Adam Moore – Grandson of Theresa Maier	11/5	Marie Garatoni
9/3	Diane Marlow	11/10	Bailey Sue Hovarter – Great Grandma Vicki Dubbert
9/8	Lois Sellers	11/9	Arlie Jo Barhydt – Granddaughter of Jim Ulery
9/11	Tim Taylor	11/24	Camden Curtis Niederwerfer – Grandson of Curt & Wendy Willis
9/14	Wyatt Samuel Skipper – Grandparents Bufford & Becky Skipper	11/29	Delores Troyer
		11/30	Sue Ward

BE AWARE OF CRIME IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

1. When a crime occurs: Make sure you first report the crime to the Elkhart County Sheriff's Department. **Call: 911**
2. Secondly - **CRIME TRACKING:** We encourage lake residents to forward safety issues (break-ins, vandalism, other crimes, etc.), so we can notify residents.
Report to: Chris Toles, Lake Safety Committee.
Call: 574-266-7768
Email: CMT6061@Comcast.net

Hog Roast Cancelled

The Hog Roast scheduled for Sunday, September 29 at the Sportsman's Club has been cancelled. We had to move the event from its original date. After the date was rescheduled, we found several conflicts which made it necessary for the committee to need to cancel. We regret that this is necessary as this event has been a great success and enjoyed by our lake community in the past.

www.simontonlake.org



ARE YOU SIGNED UP?

Log into *simontonlake.org*, Sign up to be a follower. You will get an email to **CONFIRM** your subscription. That is all you have to do and you will automatically receive notices about what's happening around Simonton Lake — sent right to your email inbox.

(If you are having trouble and don't get the emails, send a message to simon@simontonlake.org and we will set you up.)



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E-mail: GGI@GraphicsGroupInc.net



Do you know
someone who is
having a birthday,
anniversary, etc?
Email: [simon@
simontonlake.org](mailto:simon@simontonlake.org)

Happy Anniversary!

- 8/1 Courtney & Patrick Qualls
-- Daughter of Myra & Doug Cors
- 8/18 Sue & Ron Taylor
- 8/19 Barb & Don Rospopo
- 8/25 Ginny & Larry Bellamy
- 8/28 Betty (BJ) & Dave Gawthrop
- 8/29 Kristin & Mike Newkirk
-- Carole & Dave Foutz's daughter
- 9/1 Connie & Jon Hart
- 9/10 Pat & John Brown
- 9/12 Cami & Ab Saleh
- 9/22 Pam & Richard Zinsmeister
- 10/7 Deb & Tom Swanson
- 10/9 Ashli & Ben Swathwood
- 10/11 Erin & Chad Winchester
-- Daughter of Cindy Nickell

Dorothy E. Molebash, 94, long time lake resident died on Saturday, July 13, 2013, at Elkhart General Hospital. Dorothy was born Sept. 12, 1918, in South Bend to Daniel and Maude Mabel (Smith) Landaw. She married Robert R. Molebash on Sept. 3, 1938. He died July 16, 1989. Dorothy worked in the cafeteria for Elkhart Community and Baugo schools. She enjoyed traveling, cooking, ceramics, crafts and fishing when younger.

Janis L. Huff (age 93) of Sail Bay Court passed away on April 23, 2013 at Greenleaf Health Campus. She sadly had to leave her home with her daughter and son-in-law, **Jodi and Greg Ferro** and enter Greenleaf due to her failing health in December of 2012. She loved her time here on the lake, though it was short in comparison to many. Janis and Vivian Vetter were lifelong friends, the lake has lost two wonderful women.

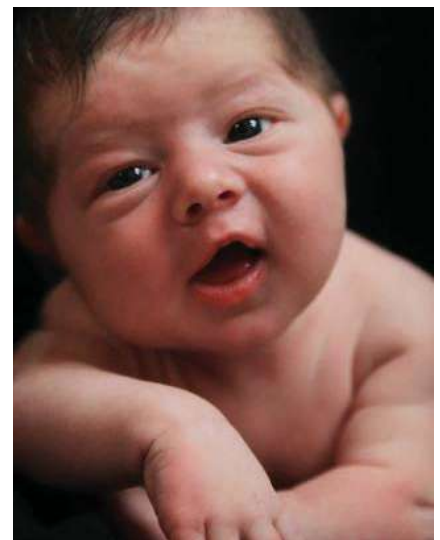


Matthew and Cassie Jones recently moved to Aqua Drive.

Matthew has lived on the lake since 1989 and his parents Ed and Nancy Jones live on Channel Court. Matthew and Cassie have 3 children – Alexis 5, Adalyne 2, and Carter 6 weeks. Welcome to the neighborhood.

**Carter
Matthew
Jones** was

born on June 18. He weighed 8lb. 15oz. His big sisters are excited to have a new baby brother. And I'm sure that proud grandparents are Ed and Nancy Jones are thrilled.



Osolo Township Fire Department's Open House

September 29, 2013

11am - 4pm
24936 Buddy St.

Truck Rides, Door Prizes, Food & Drinks, Face Painting, Mail-box Signs, Sparky the Fire Dog, WTC 9/11 Memorial Beam

