



Simonton Says...

February 2014
Volume 6, Issue 3

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

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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. Not getting the emails? Let us know by emailing simon@simontonlake.org

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In the meantime, keep checking the website for breaking news or Simonton Lake stories that you won't want to miss.

What's eating Chuck's Tree? -- story page 12.

**Check out
www.simonlake.org
for all of your lake
community events, stories,
information & photos.**



Hawk posing for a photo on North Shore Dr., photos by Maria Hopman





The Leaping Labrador's Lad and Lass Leap into Competition with Dad

- by Lou Putnam

Buckeye, the leaping Labrador of Simonton Lake, handled by Bob Evans, had some familial competition September 7 and 8, 2013 at the Dock Dog event in Mansfield, OH. Birdie and Bogey, handled by Lou and Bob Putnam respectively, made their Big Air debut. The two black Labradors are Buckeye's daughter and son.

Big Air is the competition in Dock Dogs when dogs run off a 40' dock and jump into a 50' pool. Winners are determined by their division and how far they jump. Both Birdie and Bogey jumped 14'6" in their divisions each taking a blue ribbon on Saturday. However, on Sunday they both jumped out of the junior division with a 15'6" and received a participation ribbons. Buckeye place third in the finals with a leap of 23'.

Practice for these events is held at (Grampa) Bob's dock. All three dogs' handlers are members and officers of **Indiana Dock Dogs** chapter. More information on the Indiana chapter and its events can be found on their Facebook page. ■



Clausen and Chloe

- by Mike and Heidi Compton

There are many days when I think I have to be crazy to have two dogs this big! But then again as most dog lovers know, it's just what we do. Many of you who walk or drive by may wonder if they are dogs or bears, well its Clausen and Chloe our Newfoundlands. Clausen was kind of given to us by someone who could no longer keep him and knew that we had a "newffie" years ago. Some of you may remember Grunt our black one we had for 13 years. We then bred Clausen and I swore I was not going to get a puppy! Well that would be Chloe. I will say that newfs are the kindest and most loving dogs I have ever been around.

Great with kiddos! Chloe found her voice at around a year old and is a bit vocal...but what female isn't. They were bred years ago for water rescue as they have webbed paws. They are not fast swimmers but will get the job done if they are trained...mine are not. Clausen will get in the lake as long as he can touch so I wouldn't bet my \$%*# on him to save me. They love attention so feel free to stop by and see them, but I will tell you they drool ...be prepared! ■



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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:
Membership/Outreach, Environment, Lake Safety, & Newsletter/Website.

New Neighbors?

We would love to bring them a welcome packet and 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
email: ads@simontonlake.org

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

- Feb. 22-23 Winter Turkey Shoot
(sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)
- Mar. 8 CPR Class (see page 16 for info)
- Mar. 29 Spring Casino Night
(sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)
- May 17 Mostaccioli Open
(sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)
- May 21 Association General Meeting
6:30pm at Sportsmen's Club
- Jun. 14 Youth Fishing Contest
(sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)
- July 5 Poker Run (rain or shine)
(sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)
- July 5 FIREWORKS
(sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)
- July 6 FIREWORKS Rain date
- Aug. 10 Youth Fishing Contest
(sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)
- Sep. 27 Hog Roast-Fall Festival

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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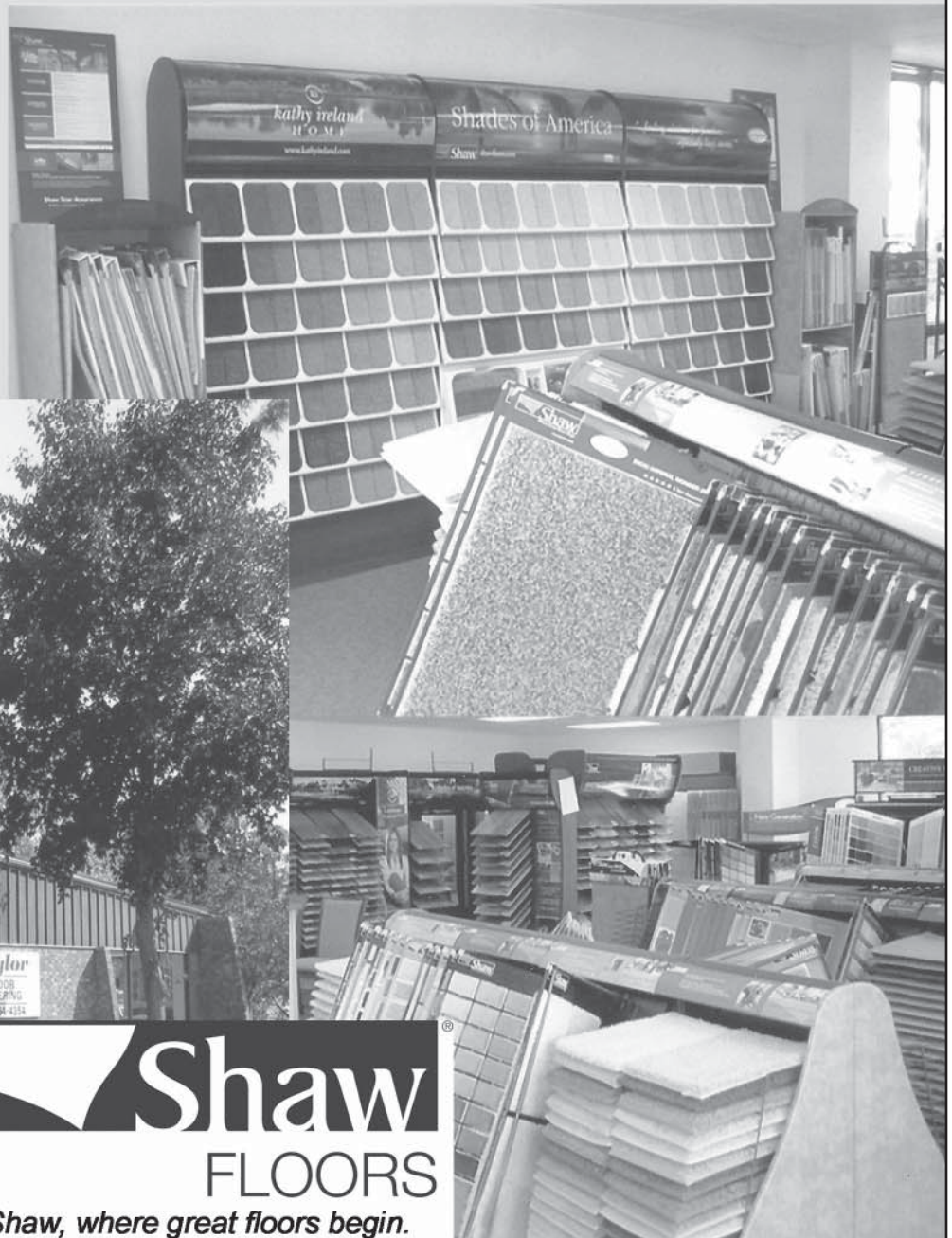
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Environmental Committee Update on Sediment Removal (Dredging) Project

-by John Lendman

Positive things are happening with the Sediment Removal (Dredging) Project. The Environmental Committee, a standing committee of the SLAHA, is working to keep this project moving forward and make plans so that all lake residents can invest in Simonton Lake. We have made great strides because of much hard work and dedication by numerous individuals from the lake community. Listed below are some of the accomplishments since our last report in the September edition of Simonton Says.

The "Simonton Lake Preservation Trust" was created in order to handle the money needed for this project. The Trust has been approved by the IRS as a 501 (c) (3) organization, or an American tax-exempt nonprofit organization. That means that any donations made towards the Sediment Removal Project are TAX DEDUCTIBLE. So you can give to a good cause that directly has a positive effect on your property value and the future of the lake AND it you can deduct your donation from your taxes.

The LARE Application for state funding will be submitted before the end of January. The State has grant money that will help us pay for part of the dredging. The Sediment Removal Plan, a specific and detailed plan of what will be done and how it will be accomplished, is almost completed and will be submitted to the state along with our application.

We have begun raising funds through efforts of our own lake neighbors. Thanks to Cam Snyder of the Flippin' Cow and Merle Anderson of Pete's Simonton Lake Tavern. Both establishments will give a percentage of Sunday's receipts to put toward the

Sediment Removal Project.

We have partnered with The Shaklee Corporation and Shaklee reps, Jim and Sue Flemming also lake residents. A portion of the profits from any Shaklee products ordered through Jim and Sue will bring money to the project. For just the month of December we have made about \$200.00

The Simonton Lake Preservation Trust sold Simonton Lake Calendar 2014 Calendars. All 100 calendars have been sold. The profits from this project also have been added to the dredging fund. A big Thank You to Mike Smith, lake neighbor and owner of The Graphics Group for printing the calendars.

You might ask why we need to do this project.

A Diagnostics Study was completed on Simonton Lake in 2010-11. While our water quality was good, it was strongly recommended that we do two things:

1. We were advised to set up an Ecozone, an area where plant life in the water is undisturbed by motors and would serve as a natural water filter. We have submitted an official proposal to the DNR for an ecozone. Our proposal will be reviewed in January of 2014.
2. We were also advised to dredge our main channel and other shallow areas used by our motorized boats. The muck which our motors continually suspends in the water encourages the growth of the wrong type of weeds and destroys water clarity. The dryer the summer, the lower the water, the more disturbance of the shallow areas.

Why invest in Simonton Lake?

As stated in a previous article our committee has identified about 5 dredging sites totaling about 46,000 cubic yards of sediment. The esti-

mated total costs of the project is \$432,000. Currently, the LARE program will only fund a maximum of \$300,000 one-time per lake. Our association needs to match 20% of the \$300,000 plus an additional \$140,000 for additional dredging work not qualifying by the LARE grant.

So, why invest?

1. Our water quality will be better.
2. The main channel between the two basins will be deeper along with other approved dredging site making boating easier and safer.
3. Our kids and their kids will have a lake that we made safe for the future
4. Our property values will improve.
5. The environment and vegetation will be enhanced to multiply and improve.

We need your help? Although we have made great strides to make this project a reality we still need help. It's our lake. Everyone has great memories of their time on Simonton Lake. The future is good for Simonton Lake and you are part of that future. If you want to get involved contact me at lendman@comcast.net or call me at 574-361-8337. Several people have come forward already as volunteers or donors. However, we need more involvement and more people. There is power in numbers. We have activities planned for the future and we will keep you updated. Get involved. ■

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Welcome to Vetter's Nub, Home of.....

-by Bob Meyers

Although it is observed other places, the most famous celebration of *Groundhog Day* in the United States takes place just outside Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. That's where Punxsutawney Phil lives at Gobbler's Knob. And every February 2nd, thousands of visitors take part in the many activities planned by the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club. Club members, townspeople, reporters and visitors convene at Gobbler's Knob to await Phil's appearance and weather prediction.

We were asked by Bill Diehl, "How did this phenomenon of *Groundhog Day* begin? I am very happy you asked that question. Thousands of years ago in the land that is now Germany, people believed the badger had the power to predict the beginning of spring. They watched the badger to know when to plant their crops. When Germans migrated to Pennsylvania, they carried on the tradition. There weren't many badgers in Pennsylvania, therefore the groundhog, also known as a woodchuck or marmot, was substituted to carry on the tradition. If the groundhog sees its shadow, he is frightened and returns to its burrow, indicating there will be six more weeks of winter. If it does not see its shadow, then spring is near.

Punxsutawney held its first *Groundhog Day* in the United States in the 1800s. The first event at Gobbler's Knob was held February 2, 1887. The prognosticator of weather was first called Br'er and was later named Punxsutawney Phil after King Phillip.

Many don't know Punxsutawney Phil has a twin brother. Doctor Ryan Matherly knows it. Just a few years ago, Ryan decided, "If Punxsutawney (remember, he's a doctor so he knows how to pronounce it) if Punxsutawney can have a groundhog, so can we." So

Matherly headed for Pennsylvania, found Gobbler's Knob and the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club. He told the membership how much he delights in being informed of the calculations of the prognosticator of prediction on the inauguration of springtide as he departs his wintertime warren to either observe his silhouette or the alternative, realize a nonentity. Alright, once again, he's a doctor. What he told them was how much he enjoys hearing whether or not the groundhog sees its shadow.

The Groundhog Club told Ryan about Phil's twin brother, Sam. Sam is upset every February second because Phil gets all the attention, all the notoriety, while he, Sam just watches with the town folk and receives no glory. So Doctor Matherly said he would gladly bring Sam to Indiana and every February second release him from his burrow of hibernation to predict when spring would begin. In this way, Sam will himself have a purpose and be appreciated. The Groundhog Club thought this was a wonderful idea and helped Matherly pack Sam in his vehicle for the long trip home.

Now Doctor Matherly needed a place for the groundhog to live. Knowing his wife, Amy would not allow the creature to burrow on her property, the doctor helped Sam set up living quarters near a tree in Chuck Vetter's yard.

Every February 2 at seven thirty in the morning, Doctor Matherly sneaks over to Chuck Vetter's tree, liberates Sam, and learns when spring will begin. This gives me an idea.

Each year on *Groundhog Day*, let's all meet at the Matherlys a little after 7 am, go with Ryan to Chuck's house and make this an annual event of predicting the beginning of spring as we see whether or not, let's call him Simonton Sam, sees his shadow. We can call Chuck's property Vetter's Nub.

So now we have to figure out how big we want the billboard to be, the one we will place in Chuck's yard that will read something like, "Welcome to Vetter's Nub, home of the world's second most famous groundhog, Simonton Sam". We'll see you on the second day of the second month.

From all of us at *Simonton Says*, have a terrific *Groundhog Day* and an early spring. ■

**Read about
"What's Eating
Chuck's Tree"
on page 12.**



Denny Bueter plowing his relatives driveways in North Shore Landings.



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Life on the Lake

February 2014

-by Amy Matherly

As the temperature went into negative numbers and the lake looked like the frozen tundra of Siberia, I had some deep and powerful thoughts.

- I have not been as thankful as I should have been that we have a working furnace.
- I have not been as appreciative as I should have been that we have a nice clean mattress, flannel sheets and soft blankets.
- I did not realize that double-pane windows are a blessing or that hats, even the ones that make you

look ridiculous, are a good thing.

- I have been remiss in being grateful for thick socks with no holes.

But worst of all, I did not value those hot summer days like I should. I remember them fondly. Very fondly. It was hot, hot, hit-yourself-in-the-face hot as you walked outside. Hot enough that ice cubes melted on the way to the pier. Hot enough that you stopped the boat on the way around the lake to get in and cool off. It was so hot that grilling seemed like a bad idea, like mowing the lawn at any time except in the early morning was just wrong. It was so hot the dog just sat in the water, so hot that we just sat in the water.

We actually set our air conditioner at 68 degrees and were still hot. ARE YOU KIDDING? Just a couple of hours ago when I came in from snow blowing the driveway I opened the oven and instead of taking out the casserole, I just let the heat roll out over me. It felt great. Ice cream for dessert. NO WAY! Going barefoot. YOU MUST BE NUTS!

Only in Indiana. How many days until summer? ■

Neighborhood Watch Program

-by Chris Toles, Safety Committee

Lt. Casey Lehman of the Elkhart county Sheriff's Department has reported the following updates to the Safety Committee.

- The Simonton Lake Area is now part of the Osolo Township community oriented policing program. Additional officers will now be in charge of this program within the township rather than one officer being assigned to just the lake area. The e-mail for this group of officers is osolotownship@elkhartcountysheriff.com. This e-mail can be used for non-emergency issues or questions. Emergency calls or reports still need to go through the Public Safety Communications Center at 533-4151.
- These officers will do house checks for those leaving home for a week or an extended stay. A list of house checks will be logged into a secure website for officer access only. Homeowners may contact the Patrol Administrative Assistant, Tammy Bline at 891-2371 during regular business hours.
- The Sheriff's Department has an

anonymous tip line with a link at the Sheriff's Dept. website. Once a tip is reported an email is sent out to all shift supervisors.

- A Facebook account has been implemented where crime information is posted and updated.
- Anyone interested in receiving tips by text message or email can sign up with the link on the main page of the Sheriff's Department website. ■

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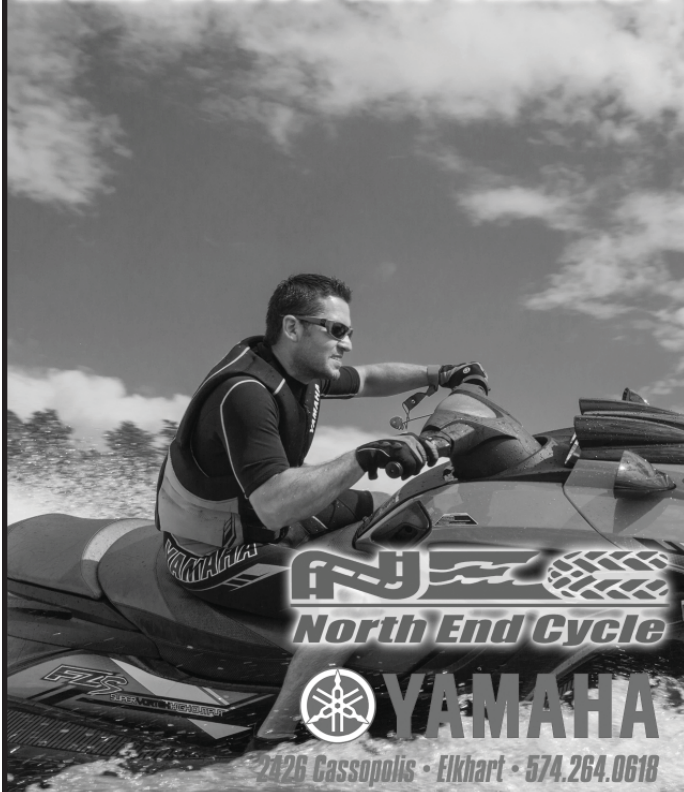


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Wildlife in our Backyard

Bald Eagle on Simon- ton Lake

-by staff writer

Early in December the Elkhart Truth reported a sighting of a bald eagle perched on a tree along the Elkhart River at the Environmental Center. In March of 2012 several people sighted a bald eagle along the St. Joseph River. The bald eagle is limited in numbers according to the Indiana DNR but was taken off of the endangered species list in 2007. While sighting an eagle in Indiana throughout the year is not unheard of, it is an amazing experience. In 1985 the DNR began an initiative to rein-

troduce bald eagles to the state. They now believe there to be over 100 nesting pairs around Indiana but mainly in the southern part of the state.

This majestic bird's wingspan is between 72 and 90 inches. Able to fly up to an altitude of 10,000 feet, the eagle can fly up to 35 miles per hour and can lift up to 4 lbs with its talons. Bald eagles are strong swimmers, prefer fish and live up to 30 years.

This picture (on back page), sent into us by Ken and Judy Roscoe in December, shows a bald eagle on Simonton Lake swooping in on a flock of coots. While Ken and Judy were able to actually get a picture of the eagle in this process, other neighbors who have not gotten pictures have reported watching an eagle dive at the flock apparently in an attempt to separate one bird from the rest. Once

the eagle succeeds, he then swoops in and picks up the unlucky bird in his talons. Neighbors have watched as the eagle then flies away with the bird. Note to the coots: stay in group formation AND watch out for those sharp claws!

If the eagles we have sighted are here to stay we will need to watch for them nesting in March and April near the lake. Typically the eagle places a 5 to 9 foot nest of sticks in the fork of a tree. Eagles tend to use the same nest over several years. After 35 days of incubation eaglets are born with soft grayish white down. Occasionally the first-born eaglet will kill other eaglets in the nest and the parents do not intervene. Eaglets, who are fed strips of meat by their parents, will be one foot high at 3 weeks. At six weeks the eaglets are as large as their parents.

Let's hope our eagle has chosen Simonton Lake as his home. ■

What's Eating Chuck's Tree?

-by staff writer

Early in December, long time lake resident, Chuck Vetter called on Maria Hopman to take a picture of a tree in his yard. You might ask why. Well, take a look at the picture she took. Something is eating this tree. Remember last summer when there were claims of a beaver making a dam in Lilly Creek? That rumor was put to rest. But, maybe the beaver has moved to Chuck's yard.

This pussy willow tree near the water has had its limbs chewed off one by one. Now the trunk has been attacked. Mark Hines from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources took a look at the picture and believes this to be the work of a beaver. While Mr. Vetter has no recollection of any sighting of these animals on the lake in all his years here, daughter Kathy says that he and other family

members intend to take a look under the shoreline to see if they can find his home. Mr. Hines says trapping season begins March 1 and advised the Vetter family to contact a trapper or a nuisance control officer to relocate their unwanted guest. ■



Photo by Maria Hopman

The IRONGATE



self storage



Spring Word Search

ALLERGIES
APRIL
BASEBALL
BEES
CROCUSES
CYCLAMENS
DAFFODILS
DANDELIONS
EASTER
EQUINOX
FLOWERS
FROGS
GOLF
GRASS
GREEN
GROWTH
IRISES
LILIES
MARCH
MAY
NEW LEAVES
PLANTING
RAIN
RENEWAL
ROBINS
SEASON
SNOWMELT
SOFTBALL
SPRING BREAK
SPRING CLEANING
TULIPS
WARMER
WET

B	A	S	E	B	A	L	L	S	O	F	T	B	A	L	L	S
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S	E	V	A	E	L	W	E	N	R	S	S	R	O	E	I	E
I	R	I	S	E	S	J	I	E	V	L	E	S	G	S	N	N
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The County Buzz Area Economic Development

-by Dave Foutz

Shops on 6

Blizzards make me think of the good old days when the weather turned ugly and we got some time off from school. We, along with the neighbors, would rent pool side rooms at the Holiday Inn and have a neighborhood beach party. Those were great times. Many of you may not even remember there was a Holiday Inn in the area. The motel was located on the empty lot on the corner County Road 6 and Cassopolis Street, south of Key Bank. Most probably think of that open space as the location for the new commercial developments know as **Shops on 6**. If this describes your understanding you need to think bigger, much bigger. The **Shops on 6** site proposal or PUD (planned urban development) begins on CR-6 just east of Wings and runs to Cassopolis Street. The site includes everything along Cassopolis Street from the CR-6 corner south to Emerson Drive, including the movie theater. The southern boundary follows Emerson west to the street entering the back side of Wal-Mart. I have always wondered why there is this strange kind of intersection from that street as you enter the Wal-Mart parking lot. The perfectly good reason is that this street will eventually connect Emerson with CR-6, where there will be a traffic light that will also serve the Lowe's parking lot. The **Shops on 6** projects are a joint effort of Thompson Thrift, a Ft Wayne commercial development corporation and the City of Elkhart. I hope you have a good visual of the site. You will need it as I walk you through the phases of development.

There is good reason to believe that there will be significant construc-

tion completed during this construction year. In fact, if you have noticed there is work going on right now. Back to your visual, Phase I, has the shape of a backward capital letter "L" extending from the Goodyear Tire Store on the north along CR-6 to Cassopolis Street and then south to a point just north of Burger King. This would include much of what you would consider the vacant lot. Now use the Verizon store along CR-6 as you reference point for future construction and architectural design. The lot to the west of the Verizon store is designated for the construction of a bank. There is a bank that has expressed serious interest and could move forward this year. This is pure conjecture on my part, but for you that bank at Key Bank across the street, how many of you have stopped to do business and then ask yourself "how am I going to get home from here?" The new site seems like a perfect fit to me.

The current construction located east of the Verizon is a four unit structure that has one announced tenant, Dunkin Donut. That should make a lot of people happy. That takes us to the corner lot which will be an extremely valuable location. This location is reserved for a family friendly chain restaurant that would not currently have a presence in the local area. That leaves just one more lot in Phase I, the second lot on Cassopolis Street, between the corner lot and Burger King. That site is also reserved for a restaurant similar in character to the one on the corner.

Phase II will be located in the center and western part of the site, south of the Goodyear store. The plan calls for three anchor stores and several smaller retail units. The anchor stores would be in the nature of TJ Maxx, Shoe Carnival, or Pet Smart. This phase could be pushed forward quickly if Phase I gets good traction this year.

Phase III is, of course, the most

difficult and more speculative part of the design. This stage calls for the demolition of the current theater complex and it being rebuilt near the north-west corner of the current back theater parking lot. In that location the building would front on an interior road with parking on the east side between the theater and two new out lots would be made available for new retail along Cassopolis Street.

CR-4 Bridge

Did you know that the county is responsible for all bridges in the county, including those within municipalities, with the exception of bridges on State or Federal highways? There are 148 bridges and 11 major bridges (over 200 feet in length) the county must maintain. Elkhart County Bridge 127, or more commonly known as the bridge over Christiana Creek on CR-4 is slated for demolition and replacement this year. You may have noticed the work going on in that area this fall, especially on the north side of the bridge. A number of trees have been removed and a new rail fence has been erected on the property of owners of the brick house at the corner of CR-4 and Winding Waters Lane.

The utilities also have been moved away from the area for future construction. This closure will require lake residents to determine alternate routes for travel to the west. The timetable has been set to create minimum disruption with transportation to and from Mary Feeser School. The engineering is complete and the contract will be bid in March, awarded in April and construction will begin the first week of June. The job should be finished by the first week in November. Consequently, there will be about ten weeks of interruption of the school schedule in the fall of 2014. When finished the new bridge should look something like the new Redfield Road

BUZZ*continued from page 14*

Bridge to the north. The new structure will be bicycle and pedestrian friendly.

The Weir

The county surveyor's office reports that the firm of Lawson-Fisher has finished the engineering specifications for the project and the contract should be bid by March. While progress is slow movement continues in the correct direction.

Traffic Control

The highway department is doing an engineering study of the traffic control signs at the corners of Lake and Johnson streets and Lake and Lakewood streets, along with

North Shore and Bell streets. There has been considerable neighborhood concern about these intersections.

A follow up to resident concern regarding the fatalities on Cassopolis Street, since the road was restriped there has not been a major accident between the intersection with Lake Drive and the State Line. The change has resulted in a reduction in the number of drivers who exceed the speed limit. There are some issues with getting on to Cassopolis Street at busy times, but overall the residents I've talked to have seemed generally positive about the changes.

Simonton Lake residents do have a voice. ■**Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club**

-by Bob Putnam

The Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club (SLSC, Inc.) was established in 1983 as a not-for-profit organization. This club is a small group that does several big projects every year that benefit the Simonton Lake community and the areas around it.

Projects/Benefits include:

1. **Kids/Fishing Contests** – June and August. This event is opened to all children ages 4 through 14 with trophies awarded to the first three in each age group with separate groups for boys and girls. Every child goes home a winner of a prize whether they catch fish or not. The contests are funded by the club and some outside sponsors. These events have been held every year since 1984.
2. **Fourth of July Events** on Simonton Lake. This popular weekend event on the lake includes the 4th of July fireworks display which is viewed by thousands of people each year. The other event on the lake this weekend is the Poker Run which is enjoyed by both lake and non-lake

residents. The club pulls everything together to make these events possible and successful.

3. **Boy Scout Troop 794.** The club sponsors this Boy Scout troop by giving it access to the club's building for its meetings and functions. The troop also uses the club's forested land for some of its campouts. This is a very active and well run troop that has produced two Eagle Scouts in the past two years.
4. **Fish Stocking of Simonton Lake.** Every year the club funds the stocking of 1,000 walleye fingerlings into the lake at a cost of over \$2,000. By doing this the fishing is enhanced. Simonton Lake is a state-owned lake with a public landing, so the lake is open to anyone who desires to fish here.
5. **SLSC Building.** The club has a 6,000 square foot building that it makes available at no charge for community related events such as DNR training/certification classes, homeowners association meetings, the boy scouts, benefits for medical fund-raisers, etc.
6. **SLSC Donations.** Each year the club makes donations to various organizations which include Memorial High School Dollars

for Scholars program by funding two scholarships each year, Hospice, United Cancer, Osolo Fire Department and other community organizations.

The Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club has a history of getting things done that are beneficial to the community thanks to the participation of its members and the support of the community. We plan to continue doing what we have accomplished in the past and continue to be a positive influence in the lake community. ■

Introducing a partner of the Simonton Lake Preservation Trust...

Shaklee Corporation and Local Reps Jim and Sue Flemming have joined forces with their Simonton Lake neighbors to raise funds for the dredging project; they will donate a portion of each product sold. Shaklee cleaning products are all environmentally friendly making your home not only clean but safe for you and safe for the lake. There is a money-back guarantee if you are not satisfied.

Contact Jim or Sue Flemming at 574-266-9996 or e-mail jsflemming1@gmail.com

CPR and First Aid Training Class

If your child or grandchild goes under while swimming next summer and needs CPR are you OK with not being able to help?



Sponsored by the
**Simonton Lake
Area Homeowners
Association
Safety Committee**

Saturday, March 8, 2014

At the

Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club Clubhouse
8:00am - 12:00pm

Fee \$60.00

Taught by American Heart Association Instructors
Course will certify you in CPR, First Aid and AED usage

When
someone has
a heart attack
on your boat
what will
you do?

Reservations Required by February 22

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

_____ Number of people attending

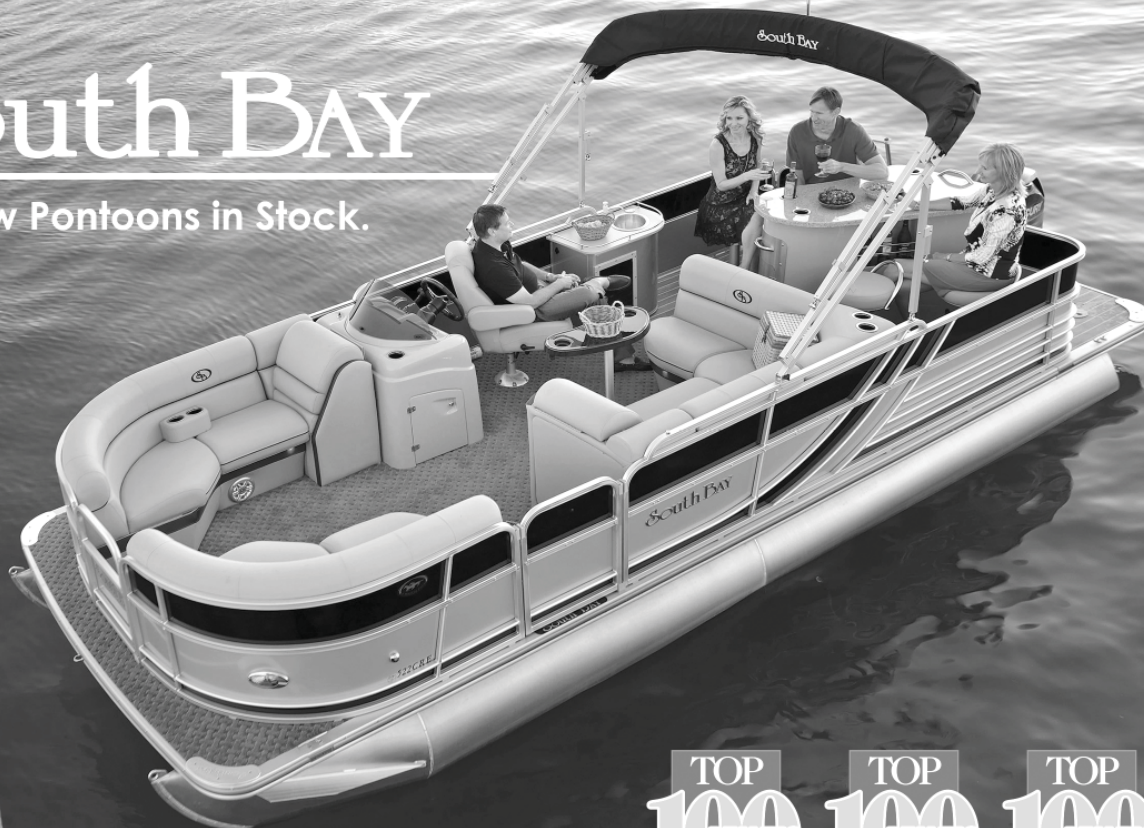
_____ Amount of money enclosed. (\$60.00 for each participant)

Make checks payable to **Simonton Lake Area Homeowners Association.**

Mail your check and this form to SLAHA, PO Box 1706, Elkhart, In. 46515-1706.

South Bay

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ICE FISHING SAFELY

-by staff writer

When in doubt, DON'T GO OUT! BEWARE OF THIN ICE

Every winter, thousands of Hoosiers enjoy fishing, skating, hiking or just sliding around on frozen ponds and lakes. And every year, people drown after falling through ice. Like driving on snow, Hoosiers need to re-learn how to have safe fun on ice.

WARN KIDS ABOUT PLAYING ON FROZEN LAKES AND STREAMS WITHOUT SUPERVISION!

If You Are Fishing:

1. Drill your own test hole near shore. Your test hole should show at least a four-inch thickness of clear ice like you get from your freezer.
2. Wear a life jacket for extra warmth and safety.
3. Be aware of various ice strengths and qualities. One area of a pond may be a foot thick while another spot of ice may only be an inch thick.



Photo by Maria Hopman

4. Ice strength can also change. Thick ice is rotten after rain. Old honey-combed ice, slush ice or ice with current under it is also dangerous. New ice is almost always stronger than old ice. Wind, waterfowl and beavers can also keep areas of ice thin.
5. Indiana law limits ice fishing holes to a diameter of twelve inches.
6. Fishing shanties must have reflectors on each side so snowmobiles won't crash into them at dusk or during snowstorms. ■

Use these guidelines to judge the SAFETY of FRESH SOLID ICE

One inch of ice	STAY OFF!!!
Four inches of ice	Needed for safe ice fishing
Five inches of ice	Needed for snowmobiling
Eight inches of ice	Needed to support the weight of a car or light truck.
Ten inches of ice	Needed to support a medium weight truck.



Photo by Theresa Maier

1/26/14 - Todd Green, Elkhart resident thought he would come out before the cold weather sets in. He only caught 3 small fish.

JJAMCO

Call **574-266-HELP**

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Free Estimates

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The 1963 Elkhart High School Football State Champions

-By Carole Foutz

You may have followed the series of articles in the Elkhart Truth about the reunion which was held in November of this year marking the 50 year anniversary of the 1963 Elkhart High School football team winning the mythical state championship. In our neighborhood on Simonton Lake, we have three of the members of that team; Mike Franger, Doug Nickell, and Vaughn Nickell. Craig Kessler, whose brother, Van lives on the lake, was also on the team. Mike, Doug, and Vaughn were all juniors that year. Mike was the team's quarterback, Doug was a fullback/lineman, and Vaughn a halfback/safety.

Back 50 years ago, Elkhart High School was the second largest school behind Indianapolis Washington. EHS's team, ranked second in the state, played Hammond ranked number one on Rice Field November 8. There were more than 12,000 fans in the stands that evening. The Blazers won that evening 21-12 which some say was more a test of determination and team spirit over Hammond. The response of the community was inspiring and a memory most of that team will never forget. The fans made cardboard and wood replicas of each player and mounted them on the marquis at the State Theatre. The community filled Main Street in front of the theatre celebrating their victory.

The team members say that the success of their team was really due to not only the coach and assistant coaches but the willingness of the team to buckle down to hard work and their chemistry as a team. Several members of the team went on to play college football. Doug Brown played at Ball State, Mike Franger at Notre Dame, Chuck Richardson at the Air

Force Academy, Gary Nichols played at Indiana University, and Scott Miller at the University of Iowa.

The Reunion in November renewed their camaraderie they shared 50 years ago and was enjoyed again as they came together celebrating the success as a team. Congratulations men and neighbors! ■



(above) with trophy - Chuck Richardson, Back left to right - Gary Nichols, Mike Keech, Mark Fessenden, Mike Franger, Ron Mathis, Scott Miller, and Coach Janzerak



Left- Mike Franger, Middle - Vaughn Nickell, Right-Doug Nickell



Sportsmen's Club

Catch Phrases

LET'S CELEBRATE!

-by Bob Meyers

It's a new year and we're going to "push the boat out" in 2014 and party more than we ever have in past years.

The *Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club* has scheduled the first of many events to be celebrated at the greatest of all lakes, Simonton.

The first is the *Winter Turkey Shoot* to be held February 22 and 23. A turkey shoot is a fun way to get out of hibernation in the middle of winter. And a two day party is a great way to celebrate the birthday of our first president, George Washington on February 22 and the birthday of composer George Frideric Handel on the 23rd. If you've never attended a *Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club Turkey Shoot*, you've never attended a great turkey shoot. Come on out and see what it's all about as you celebrate the birthdays of two Georges and enjoy food, drink and opportunities to win cash and other prizes including, of course, turkeys. If you have any questions, contact turkey shoot chairman, Joe

Arrendondo.

The much anticipated *Spring Casino Night* will be held March 29. Come try your luck and enjoy a night of absolute fun. See a Sportsmen's Club member for tickets. Any questions? Contact Casino Night chairman, Jack Tucker.

The *Mostaccioli Open* will be held May 17.

Please see ad below.

The first Kid's Fishing Contest of the season will be held June 14. Fishing Contest chairman, Jim Friend always puts on a terrific event for your children and grandchildren. Watch on the SLAHA website and upcoming fliers for more information.

AND NOW, the main event, the one you have all been waiting for, the reason for the most fun on the great-

est lake, THEEEEE POKER RUN / FIREWORKS. This year, both will be held on July fifth. Terrific, huh? At least two days to celebrate the Fourth of July. Let's party!

These are the events just through the fifth of July. At that time summer will have only begun. Just think of the possibilities for the remainder of the best season of all.

.....See you on the ice. ■



The Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club Presents

The 25th Annual Mostaccioli Open

May 17, 2014, Raber Golf Course
Bristol, Indiana

Starts at 7:00 a.m. / Tee off at 7:30 a.m.
\$60.00 per person / 4 Person Scramble

Contact: John Lendman Sr.

574-361-8337

Contact: John Lendman Jr.

574-370-6074

lendman@comcast.net

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Membership Committee Report

The membership committee has been busy this winter getting "New Neighbor" bags out to new folks on the lake. Check out the list of these people in "Lake Shorts". Make sure to let us know when you get a new neighbor on your street.

Our next event will be the general meeting on Wednesday, May 21st, 6:30pm, at the Sportsmen's Club. While everyone should attend this meeting because of the information on projects and plans that affect each person in the lake area, this year you will also want to attend to win door prizes. The drawings will take place at the end of the meeting and you must be present to win.

In addition we will have a display from the Shaklee Corporation as well as free samples.

Newsletter Committee Update

Our committee is still working hard to bring you our neighborhood news by providing the "Simonton Says" newsletter four times a year (February, May, August, November) and always having access to both past and up-to-date information and articles via www.simontonlake.org, our website. For those that do not have access to the internet, we are publishing many of the web articles for you in the newsletters.

Our committee is going through some changes and we are looking for volunteers that would like to help us. You do not have to write nor have computer skills but willing to donate a

little of your time to support this very important committee in our community. If you are interested contact either Amy Matherly (ramatherly@gmail.com, 262-4773) or Carole Foutz (clfoutz@aol.com, 262-3908).

Make sure you are signing up on the website to get the posts and articles as they are posted. This is especially important for reports of neighborhood crimes. Don't wait to read it in the Elkhart Truth. Sign up to get our posts immediately and read important news as it happens. If you are having trouble with the sign up process give us a call.

Safety Committee Announces CPR/First Aid Class

On March 8, 2014 the Safety Committee with the help of trainers from the American Heart Association will host a CPR and First Aid Training Class for lake area residents. Probably all of us have thought being trained in CPR and First Aid would be a good idea. But, how many of us have followed through?

Yet out here on the lake when someone has a heart attack, chokes or is rescued from the water we have to think, what could I do in that situation. As I wait for help to arrive am I ok with not being able to help?

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?

PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY and be ready when your family, neighbor or friends need help. A registration form is included in this newsletter. ■



Simonton Lake Preservation Trust

Is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

**Donations to the trust are
tax-deductible**

And can be made by mail at:

**Simonton Lake Preservation Trust
PO Box 469
Elkhart, Indiana 46515**

For more information call or e-mail:
Ryan Harding, president and lawyer
for the Trust,
rwharding@mwe.com

John Rose, treasurer,
johnrose11@comcast.net

Amy Matherly, secretary,
ramatherly@gmail.com

*"To Preserve, Protect and Enhance
the Simonton lake Area Watershed
for present and future generations."*

Treasurer's Corner

Below is a brief financial update on the association:

Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc.

January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013 (CASH Basis Accounting)

ITEM	SUBTOTAL	TOTAL
Advertising	\$5,155.00	
Fireworks Donations	3,155.00	
Other Events (e.g., Hog Roast)		
LARE Grant from State of IN		
Membership Dues	4,490.00	
Sales (T-shirts, Calendars)		
Other (e.g., interest income)	213.49	
TOTAL INCOME		\$13,013.49
Board of Directors (e.g., Hog roast, general meeting expenses, insurance)	1,471.15	
Fireworks Transfer to Sportsmen's Club	3,770.00	
Lake Environment	25.00	
Lake Safety		
Membership/Outreach		
Newsletter / Website	2,564.47	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$7,830.62
NET POSITION AS OF 12/31/2013		\$5,182.87

The SLAHA accounting year begins again with the new year. Thanks to everyone for your support in 2013, and here's to a wonderful 2014! As always, if you have any questions about our association finances, please don't hesitate to contact Erin Harding at eharding@nd.edu.

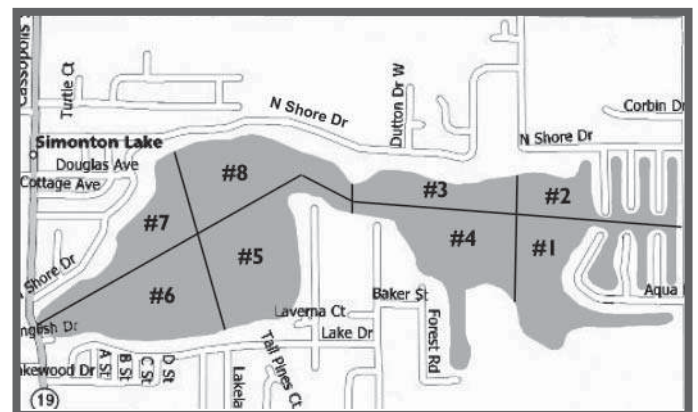
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The date for the association general meeting in May is
Wednesday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sportsmen's Club.

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

DUES: per household per year

_____ Household: \$30

_____ Senior: (70 and over): \$20

_____ Senior Honorary Membership: (80 and over):
FREE lifetime member

FIREWORKS FUND DONATION:
Donation Amount: \$ _____

NEW MEMBER RECRUITED - \$10

Member's Name: _____

.....
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____
w/ Registration Form

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

MESSAGE BOARD

Mostaccioli Open

Lake neighbor John Lendman runs a golf tournament called the Mostaccioli Open. The money from the tournament will go to the Sportsmen's Club to help with all of the wonderful things that the club does around the lake and in the community. John is looking for sponsors for each of the 18 holes at \$100.00 each. Be sure to take a look at the advertisement on the open in this edition of the newsletter.

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The date for the association general meeting in May is Wednesday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sportsmen's Club.

If anyone is interested in running for the SLAHA board, you should contact any of the members of the nominating committee (Sue Ward, Paul Wilson, Dick Rhodes, Carole Foutz or Vaughn Nickell). Two (2) board positions will be up for election at our Wednesday, May 21st, 2014 annual meeting.

We wish you a Happy Birthday!

- 1/24 Larry Bellamy
- 2/12 Bob Shultz
- 2/16 Graham Duncan
Grandson of Dick & Kay Rhodes
- 2/18 Kathy Shewmaker
- 2/19 Ella Grace Meyers
Granddaughter of Bob & Bobbi Meyers
- 2/23 Terry Shewmaker
- 2/25 Vaughn Nickell
- 3/20 Colton Jesse & Cody Kalil Newkirk
Grandsons of Dave & Carole Foutz
- 3/26 Eulah June Shewmaker
Granddaughter of Ryan & Amy Matherly,
Terry & Kathy Shewmaker
- 3/27 Bill Broderick
- 4/2 Ryan Matherly
- 4/5 Cassandra Ulery
- 4/14 Ryan Harding
- 4/24 Preston Thomas Ryan
Grandparents are Tim & Phyllis Nusbaum
- 4/28 Michael Thomas Fix
Son of Katy Rutter & Ryan Fix
Grandson of Tom & Margot Rutter
- 4/30 Grant Brekke

Happy Anniversary!

- 2/6 Ken & Sue Ward
- 2/19 Don & Carol Bradshaw
- 4/4 Matt & Elie Hart
- 4/14 Lonnie & Cari Waggoner
- 4/30 Bob & Bobbi Meyers



www.simontonlake.org



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

New Neighbors

Sherry & Tom Cripe are new neighbors on Maplewood Drive. They are building the lake cottage on the site of the old Dick Dubbert home which was the first cottage ever built on Maplewood before the road was paved.

Also on Maplewood Drive are **Steven & Christina Helvey**. They are building a new home on the site of a home and cottage on LaVerna Court formerly owned by the Harbaughs.

Julianne & Kyle Kwansy have moved to big Simonton from their home on the channel with daughter Emily and Kona the dog.

New neighbors on North Shore Drive are the **Companion** family and the **Dexter** family.

On Lake Drive **Jenny White** and **Rob Drake** are new neighbors.

Maria Hopman, lake photographer and dog lover has a new puppy. Her name is Samantha (aka "Sammy"). She loves riding on the wave runner and is a good swimmer. Maria's doggy buddy, the Garatoni's dog Franklin has taken Sammy in as a friend. Congratulations!

Returning to the lake are **Lesa and Randy Hershberger**. Lesa and Randy both grew up on the lake. Lesa is the daughter of **Carroll and Joyce Fritz** who built a house on Blue Ribbon back when there were only a couple of houses on the street. Randy is the son of **Dick Hershberger and Shelby Morrisy** and grew up on Aqua Drive. Randy is the step-brother of **Leanne Brekke** of North Shore Drive.

It was Randy and Lesa's dream to return to the lake one day. They now live in a house on Aqua drive right across from Randy's childhood home. Randy and Lesa have four grown children. Scott and his wife Emily live in Elkhart, Adam and his wife Hannah live in Indianapolis. Daughter

Chelsy and her husband Jake live in Chicago. Hillary, Lesa and Randy's youngest child, is a 2nd year law student at DePaul University in Chicago. Welcome to the lake!

Cory Stutsman and his wife Andrea have returned to the lake. Cory, a pilot, grew up on Simonton Lake. He and Andrea are making their home in the house in which Cory grew up. Currently this house on Lake Drive is being remodeled and the family has temporarily moved to a house on North Shore owned by his aunt Mary Noreus who passed away late last summer. Cory and Andrea have a son. Welcome to the lake

The lake has lost yet another lady of the lake. **Kate Nusbaum** passed away on Oct. 4, 2013 at the age of 94. She was born to the late Frank and Bess Brown in 1919 and married John J. Nusbaum on August 11, 1940 at St. John's Episcopal Church. He passed away in 2009. Kate's son John and his wife, Linda live on North Shore Drive. She also has a daughter Crystal and son-in-law Ken, five grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and several great-great-grandchildren.

Katie was a graduate of Elkhart High School, a lifelong member of St. John's and a lifelong resident of Simonton Lake. She will be missed by all of us here at the lake. In 2009 Carole Foutz interviewed Kate and this article appeared in the May 2009 issue of "Simonton Says", which can be found online at simontonlake.org, under LAKE NEWS.

Mary Ann Noreus, good neighbor and friend, passed away at 2:30 a.m. Thurs., Aug. 15, 2013 in Elkhart, Indiana. Mary was born June 6, 1940 in Cloquet, MN. You might remember Mary's sister Nancy Stutsman a Lake Drive resident who died a few years ago. Family members who survive include her niece Jayne Steed and nephew Corey Stutsman both residents of Lake Drive along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Mary attended Purdue University then received her bachelor's degree at the University of Minnesota. She was a Media Specialist for the St. Paul, Minnesota school system.

All of us in the North Shore neighborhood were blessed when she decided to retire here at Simonton Lake. She walked almost daily and always stopped to chat with folks along the way. A very talented and interesting lady, Mary enjoyed antiques, golfing, gardening and nature. It was Mary who usually spotted the first Purple Martins in the spring. She had a lovely martin house and was accused by other neighbors of "stealing" the birds from adjacent yards. Her gardens were full and flowering. She was wise and compassionate.

I am saddened to lose her so soon. She was only 73. We will miss her.

MORE



Our wonderful neighbor and friend, **Nadine Anderson** passed away on Friday, September 28, 2013. North Shore Drive will never be the same.

Nadine lived her whole life at the lake. Her parents Roy and Eva Phillips brought her home from the hospital to the lake. She married Dutch in 1954 and they bought a house just across the street from her folks. Nadine and Dutch raised their two boys Mitch and Mike here and later she helped care for her grandchildren at their home. A beautician for four decades, Nadine cared for Dutch as he recovered from a fall at work. After months and months of round the clock care, she brought him back to a full recovery. Then at the end of his life she again gave up her own days and nights to take care of him. She drove her kids Boy Scout troop all over the United States and never missed a wrestling match when an Anderson was on the team.

Her grandson Jason had been living with her for the last few years. She took great comfort in that. She felt safe with him there and he mowed and did jobs around the house for her.

Nadine loved Simonton Lake. She didn't like change which made the lake move away from its roots. She wanted the lake preserved and cared for. She was instrumental in setting up a neighborhood watch and was a dogged presence in getting folks to slow down on North Shore.

You know, back in the day Roy Rogers was called "King of the Cowboys" on his TV show. But, Dale Evans was called "Queen of the West." That's how I think of Nadine. She was "Queen of the Lake." The Queen is gone but will be remembered forever.

Nadine's family has asked that memorial gifts be made to Shriners Hospital. Also a Nadine Anderson Memorial Fund has been established with the Simonton Lake Preservation Trust. Money in her memorial fund will be used to enhance and protect the lake.

Vicki L. Dubert, Maplewood Drive, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2013. Her husband, Jim passed away just last summer. She and her husband were the third generation of Dubberts to live on Simonton Lake.

Surviving are her mother, Phyllis Kidder; two daughters, Teresa (Robert) Wargon and Susan (James) Case, both of Elkhart; four grandchildren, Justin (Ryann) Herrli, Megan (Kent) Hovarter, and Collin and Caitlin Case; and four great-grandchildren, Bayleigh, Owen, Wyatt and Landyn.

Vicki graduated in 1956 from Elkhart High School. She was a member of St. David's Episcopal Church and the Simonton Lake Association. Vicki enjoyed baby-sitting her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and loved sharing the lake with them. She will be missed by her family and her neighbors. Memorial contributions may be given to Special Olympics.

.....
Doris Wilson, mother of Paul Wilson passed away on November 11, 2013. She graduated from Elkhart High School in 1947 and married Mahlon Wilson in 1949. She had 4 children Paul, Linda, Charles and Janet who all live in Elkhart. Doris was a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church and was the church secretary for 20 years. Our thoughts and prayers go out to our lake neighbors, Paul and Linda Wilson as well as Paul's dad and the family.

.....
Paula Burke, daughter of Betty Guthrie of North Shore Drive passed away on August 18, 2013. Paula's mother, two sisters, Sandra Hartman and Brenda Horvath and brother, Morris, survive. Paula worked for 29 years at LE Johnson Hardware. A regular visitor at her mother's house on the lake, she will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family.

.....
Pam Goddard, North Shore Drive, Director of Surgical and Cardiovascular Services at Elkhart General Hospital, is an integral part of the hospital's plan to build 10 new surgical suites. Work has already started on the project that will add three floors to the west wing. The present operating rooms are over 40 years old and needed to be updated. A project of this magnitude has required countless hours as Pam has worked with architects, hospital officials and planners to make these state-of-the-art operating rooms more efficient for her staff and the best for patients.



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MORE

See more **Lake Shorts** on pages 25 and 26.



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



The Leaping Labrador's Lad and Lass Leap into Competition with Dad

See story on page 2.



Did anyone see the Bald Eagle on the lake? Here is a photo from **Ken & Judy Roscoe**, North Shore Dr. Ken states "I have lived on Simonton Lake for 35 + years and have seen a lot of things, but this was my first Bald Eagle. Just thought I would share". It's amazing what fabulous wildlife we see right in our own backyard. Thanks to Ken & Judy for sharing. (story pg. 12)



Congratulations on the birth of **Lincoln McIntire**, born 9/12/13, 8 lb 5 oz 20" long. Proud parents are **Cortney and Michael McIntire**, Hidden Lakes. Grandparents are Cam and Sue Snyder and Brad and Pam McIntire.

(right) **Kim Sapikowski and Kasey Pruett** were married on Aug 2, 2013 on Anna Maria Island in Florida. Kim's parents are **Pat & Kathy Sapikowski** of Simonton Lake and Kasey's parents are Randy & Beth Pruett of Elkhart. They had a beach wedding and a honeymoon in Ft Myers, Fl and Disney World. They are living in South Bend. A reception was held at the Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club on Sept 21st.

