

Simonton Says...

Great 4th of July show over our Lake!

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Photo by Gina Matherly



Thanks

TO THE SPORTSMAN'S CLUB FOR ANOTHER GREAT SHOW



Gina Matherly



Gina Matherly



Gina Hoff



Carla Brossman



Gina Hoff

BOATERS CAUSE HAVOC WITH FIREWORKS

The night of the fireworks several boaters drove too close to the fireworks barges causing the barges to bob violently in the waves and swells. DNR officers and Osolo Fire Department personnel tried get these boaters to move back and to move about with no wake. Several boaters were not compliant and, in fact, were rude. The situation deteriorated when the barges let loose from their anchors and floated some 50 feet. This position caused the folks at the Flipin' Cow to not see the fireworks except over the trees. In all the craziness the last few fireworks didn't even get set off.

The same company gave an excellent performance the following week at Eagle Lake.

The Sportsman's Club works hard all year to get enough money to put on a great show over the lake. They also count on donations from lake residents. The newsletter staff wants you to know that any concerns over this year's show are not due to the Club or the company hired for the event. The issues which affected this year's show were made by non-compliant boaters. The Sportsman's Club fireworks are the highlight of the year at the lake. Let's work together to make sure this doesn't happen again.

Simonton Lake Conservancy

Takes Over Drainage, Erosion and Weed Control

The following letter was sent from the Conservancy Board to the SLAHA Board of Directors.

May 21, 2018

To: The Simonton Lake Home Owners Association

The Simonton Lake Conservancy District with its newly adopted Purposes, will now be assuming all responsibilities and implementation for the additional Purposes which would include future dredging, drainage and watershed projects. We will also continue with weed control in all channels and specific lake areas as needed.

All homeowners are welcome to attend the Conservancy meetings at any time to voice input on needs for the lake area and discuss current and future projects related to the Conservancy District. Please call our office at 574-206-8485 for meeting dates and times.

We also plan to post our budget and all future projects on the SLHOA website as we progress.

Regards,
The Simonton Lake Conservancy District Board of Directors

After a two-year legal process the Simonton Lake Conservancy District has been given additional authority to:

1. Improve Drainage
2. Develop Forests, Wildlife Areas, Parks and Recreational Facilities
3. Prevent Erosion
4. Operation, maintenance and improvement of any work of improvements for water-based recreational purposes (Dredging, Water Quality, Weed Control)

The original purpose given to the Conservancy when they were established in 1999 was collection and disposal of sewage. This purpose will continue.

This is a big undertaking for the governmental body. The circuit court also approved a "District Plan" which lays out how the Conservancy is to accomplish their new legal commitments. "The District Plan" is available on the Lake Association Webpage.

WHAT THIS CHANGE-OVER MEANS TO YOU

For the last several years the Lake Association has led projects such as dredging, weed control, and maintenance. Volunteers have written grants, sought out and gotten county funding, worked with contractors, attended countless meetings, written detailed proposals, and spend hours working on behalf of the community. It has been overwhelming for a group of volunteers continually trying to obtain grants and governmental funding.

The Lake Association will continue to do things which build community like our New Neighbor program, Garage Sale, Lake Alert System, Website, Calendar, Safety issues and Newsletter.

And, now that the burden for some projects has been shifted to the Conservancy, the Lake Association can enhance other current projects and programs and can look for other ways to serve our community.

What About the Current Dredging Project?

The Lake Association Environmental Committee will complete the current dredging project with a planned finish date of December 2018. No funding for this project came from the Conservancy funds.

What About Weed Treatment this Summer?

The Conservancy will organize and pay for this project.

What About Current Drainage and Erosion Issues?

Drainage and erosion issues should be taken to the Conservancy.

INFORMATION & EVENTS

SIMONTON

Summer 2018 Edition

Association Board Members

Vaughn Nickell-President
51147 Maplewood Drive
574-262-3195
VLNickell@gmail.com

Carole Foutz-Vice-President
26109 Lake Drive
574-903-5991
clyfoutz@yahoo.com

Susan Broderick, Treasurer
25424 N. Shore Drive
Elkhart, Indiana 46514
susiealice@comcast.net

Ginny Bellamy-Secretary
50973 CR 11 North
574-262-3766
lgbellamy@msn.com

Heidi Cintron-Legal Advisor
24788 North Shore Drive
226-6644
heidijo@hotmail.com

Bob Evans
51275 Aqua Drive
574-320-3366
gkingbevans@gmail.com

Jack Tucker-Little Lake/Channel
Director
51110 Sail Bay Court
574-370-3326
Jtu977@frontier.com

Simonton Lake Area
Homeowners' Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 1706

Elkhart, In. 46515-1706

NEW: www.simontonlakehoa.com

Email: ramatherly@gmail.com

Standing Committees

Membership: Ken & Sue Ward
sckjward@comcast.net and Gina &
Randy Hoff gmlifeisgood@aol.com

- New Neighbors
- Lake Calendar
- Garage Sale
- Dues

Newsletter: Amy Matherly
ramatherly@gmail.com

- Submit info. or pictures
- To become an advertiser
contact Jon Hart at
jonhart150@gmail.com
- Website: Erin Kirchner-Lucas
wickedpics@gmail.com

Environmental: Bob Paul
kabopa730@yahoo.com
513-431-2432

- Ecozone
- Weir
- Dredging
- Weed Control: Bob Kelsey,
zipi@choiceonemail.com

Safety:

- Buoys
- Public Landing
- Hazards in the water
- Neighborhood watch

To activate our Neighbor-
hood Watch contact Chris Toles
cmt6061@comcast.net

Our Mission

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

EVENTS ON THE LAKE

- Aug. 4 Sportsman's Club Kid's Fishing Contest
- Sept. 3 Sportsman's Club "Sink The Boat" Food Drive at the Sandbar
- Sept. Dredging Resumes
- Sept. 29 Sportsman's Club Fireball Open
- Oct. 6-7 Sportsman's Club Turkey Shoot
- Oct. 10 Articles and Photos due for Nov. Issue
- Oct. 20 Sportsman's Club "Pumpkin Cup Golf Outing"
- Oct. 25 Lake Calendar Picture Entries due
- Nov. 17 Sportsman's Club "Fall Ball"
- Dec. 1 Petitions due for Conservancy Board Candidates
- Dec. 8 Sportsman's Club Christmas Party

Community Contacts

Simonton Lake Conservancy

574-206-8485

902 CR 6, Elkhart, In. 46514

Hours M-F 8:30-4:30

Meeting times posted on door.

DNR

District Office 574-457-8092

Pier Regs. 317-234-1097

Or 317-234-1063

Sheriff Elkhart County

(574) 533-4151

EMERGENCIES-CALL 911

Osolo Township Fire Dept.

574-264-1066

Osolo EMS 574-262-3052

REMEMBER OUR WEB ADDRESS:

simontonlakehoa.com

"LIKE" us on Facebook

Sign up for LAKE ALERTS at:

ramatherly@gmail.com

SIMONTON NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE REPORT

By Amy Matherly, Chairperson

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The Newsletter Committee had more articles and pictures submitted for this issue than EVER before. We just could not fit everything in without severe editing.

THANKS FOR YOUR PICTURES!

If you submitted a picture we may use it in our next issue. We also will post it on our website and consider it for the Lake Calendar.

THANKS FOR YOUR ARTICLES!

Several excellent articles will be held for our fall issue so that we can print them in full.

LAKE PEOPLE ARE THE BEST!

Bob Paul retires, Randy Hoff Steps Up New Chairman of Environment Committee

For three years Bob Paul has been the Chairman of the Environment Committee. Bob came on board as we began our dredging project. The position was one which we thought no one in their right mind would take. The project required lots of hours, state and federal permits and requirements, engineering studies, meetings with county officials, dredgers, state officials, and so on.

We at the lake were very lucky because Bob Paul stepped forward. Bob has spent countless hours working on dredging. He has worked on weed control, erosion and drainage issues. His expertise and willingness to give his time and energy was invaluable. When you see Bob (and his wife Kathy) say Thank you.

With the dredging project near completion, Bob announced his retirement. It was announced at our Annual Meeting in May that one of our leading lake citizens has stepped up. Randy Hoff, long-time lake resident, will take the reins of the committee. Bob Paul will continue any work needed on the dredging project and Randy will work alongside him. Randy is appreciative of Bob's work and has some great ideas for the committee in the future.

Randy and his wife Gina have lived on the Forest Road channel - for many years.

SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS RESIGN

Paul Wilson, chairperson of the Safety Committee and Bob Kelsey committee member have resigned. Bob was also a member of the Association Board. He has resigned this position as well.

Both men are members of the Simonton Lake Conservancy Board. The Conservancy Board is now responsible for drainage, erosion and maintenance such as weed control in addition to the sewer system. So, they'll be very busy.

If you are interested in taking the reins of this committee or serving on the committee, please contact Vaughn Nickell or Carole Foutz.

CRIME REPORT

May 2018 a construction trailer was stolen on Lake Drive.

Early on Monday morning **June 25th**, a burglar was chased from a home on Maplewood. The homeowner who chased the burglar had the presence of mind to have his cell phone in hand and got a picture of the burglar's license plate. He was later apprehended by the police and was arrested. Also, around that time another resident of Maplewood heard what she thought might be gun fire. It was not. But, someone had thrown something through a large window of a home that is currently not occupied. It was not clear whether the same suspect was responsible for this incident.

Tuesday, **June 26**, the same person arrested the day before and now out on bail, was back in the same neighborhood of Maplewood. Police were called. A warrant is out for his arrest.

Sunday, **July 8**, between the hours of 5 and 8 p.m. a white Ford F150 was stolen out of the driveway at 25290 N. Shore Drive. This truck was pulled into a driveway way off of the street. The home is not visible from the road. Someone had to be looking hard for something to take. By 6 pm the truck had been recovered from Beverly Shores, Michigan City. After a short high-speed chase, police arrested the driver. Inside the truck

were items from Elkhart and Edwardsburg homes. This same driver may have been seen by a resident the previous week on Vernon Crossing leaving a different stolen car.

Sunday, **July 8**. The security system at Wakeside Marina captured photos of suspected burglars outside of their fenced-in property attempting to break in. The Elkhart County Sheriff's Department was on the scene within minutes. Unfortunately, no arrests were made. Thankfully their security system was working and no damage was done. For additional information check out the Wakeside Facebook page.

A security camera detected persons at a barn and car port area of a home in the 25000 block of North Shore Drive (Little Simonton) on Monday morning **July 9** about 5:30 a.m. The building is clearly marked as having an alarm system.

On Tuesday, **July 10** a person came to the same residence. Home owners believed him to be the same person detected by the cameras the night before. The resident described him as early 20's, blondish-red hair, skinny. When the door was answered the man claimed to want directions to Cassopolis Michigan. The police were called. At that time the man was driving a dark color car with gold tone wheels and a handi-

cap tag in the window. The license number is Indiana 121 KAW

July 12. The Porter County Crime Times, an online reporting site, reports that **Jeffrey Clinch**, 35, Elkhart, was arrested in Michigan City in the Ford F150 that he stole on **July 8**. He was charged with auto theft, theft and driving while suspended. Elkhart County Police confirm that Jeffrey Clinch is linked to the incidents on Maplewood and North Shore Drive.

Saturday, **July 14**. A car window was smashed in the driveway in the 25000 block of North Shore Drive. The police were called.



When an incident occurs in your neighborhood, first call the police, then let us know so that a LAKE ALERT can be sent out.

We currently have 250 persons on the list.

Please read "Safety Tips" from the Elkhart County Police in this issue.

PUBLIC AREA DREDGING

*By, Bob Paul outgoing Chairperson of the Environment Committee
With Randy Hoff, New Chairperson*

Preparations are underway for completion of the Dredging Project by the end of this year. This phase of the dredging work is fully funded through grants from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Elkhart County Stormwater and Drainage Board MS4 Fund.

Our dredger (Superior Seawall & Docks) will soon be on site to modify the Sediment Basin located just south of Vernon Crossing. The Basin has been redesigned by Cardno Environmental Services in accordance with the revised Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan approved by the Elkhart County Stormwater and Drainage Board. This basin work should be completed by mid-August.

The Hydraulic Dredging operations are scheduled to begin immediately following the Labor Day holiday and are expected to be completed shortly after Thanksgiving (weather permitting).

For questions concerning this matter, please contact Bob Paul, Chairman of the Dredging Project at 512.431.2432 cell or email at kabopa730@yahoo.com

AREAS TO BE DREDGED ARE

1. From the mouth of Forrest Channel north along the western shoreline of the East Basin to the Narrows;
2. On the northern shore of the Narrows along Ola Crain's property to the mouth of the Watershed Drainage Channel, then east along the northern shoreline of the East Basin until it intersects the east end of the Narrows Channel which was dredged two years ago;
3. Along the curve of Wogoman's Cove at the northwest corner of the West Basin; and the Channels.

The hydraulic piping associated with the pumping method will be located so as to minimize interference with boating activities, but boaters are asked to be alert and take care to avoid the floating pipe. Trying to cross over a pipe could cause damage to boats and motors. All areas of dredging will be staked in late August and boaters are asked to respect the markers. Your cooperation is requested as we undertake this important effort in improving the lake we all love.

One year, a man decided to buy his mother-in-law a cemetery plot as a Christmas gift. The next year, he didn't buy her a gift. When she asked him why, he replied, "Well, you still haven't used the gift I got you last year!"

AND THEN THE FIGHT STARTED . . .

A man and his wife were sitting at a table at her high school reunion, and she kept staring at a drunken man swigging his drink as he sat alone at a nearby table.

The man asked his wife, "Do you know him?"

"Yes", she sighed, "He's my old boyfriend. I understand he took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear he hasn't been sober since."

"My goodness!" he said, "Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?"

AND THEN THE FIGHT STARTED . . .

A man's mower broke. His wife kept hinting to him that he should get it fixed. But somehow he always had something else to take care of. There was always something more important to him. Finally she thought of a clever way to make her point.

When he arrived home one day, he found her seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors. He watched silently and then went into the house. He came out and handed her a toothbrush. He said, "When you finish cutting the grass, could you also sweep the driveway?"

AND THEN THE FIGHT STARTED . . .

SIMONTON NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Summer 2018 Edition

Association Dues: In previous years, we ran our membership "year" from June 1 – May 31. This was because it coincided with our Annual Meeting which is held in May. **We are changing our dues cycle to run from January 1 to Dec. 31 each year.**

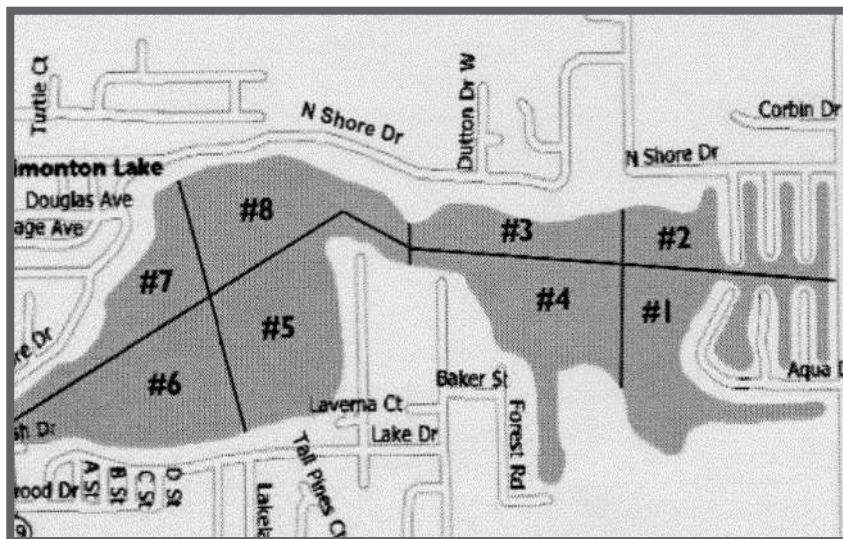
You will not be billed in May as we have in previous years. But please remember that the Annual Meeting will continue to be in May.

Check out the map below.
What area of the lake do you live in?

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Your Delegates for Neighborhood Concerns

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Area #1 Van Kessler | 262-1685 |
| Area #2 Ann & Jerry Broderick Ken & Sue Ward | 264-1331 596-2020 |
| Area #3 Maria Hopman | 262-1665 |
| Area #4 Jon Hart Randy Hoff | 262-1404 596-8885 |
| Area #5 Bob Meyers Cindy Nickell | 675-0970 262-3105 |
| Area #6 Ron Taylor | 262-1332 |
| Area #7 Dave VanZile Theresa Maier | 264-5201 361-0517 |
| Area #8 Amy Matherly | 262-4773 |



Contact your Area Rep. if you have questions about membership, volunteering or to let us know about a new neighbor.

SLAHA MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
2nd/Spouse Email: _____

DUES: PER HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR
JANUARY 1, 2018 - DECEMBER 31, 2018

_____ Household:\$30
_____ Senior: (70-79):\$20
_____ Honorary (80 & Over):FREE
FREE lifetime member

CONTACT PREFERENCE: ☐ EMAIL ☐ CELL ☐ HOME PHONE ☐ MAIL

SL PRESERVATION TRUST DONATION \$ _____

PARTICIPATION INTEREST: ☐ Lake Environment

FIREWORKS FUND DONATION \$ _____

IN A CURRENT COMMITTEE: ☐ Lake Safety
☐ Membership/Outreach
☐ Newsletter
☐ Website

TOTAL ENCLOSED

\$

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

If you are NOT willing to share this information in a directory sent to members, please check here: ☐
We will not share this information outside the association without your permission.

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SEA-DOO.



May 23, 2018

SLAHA ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER

At 7:00 our meeting was called to order. The first report was made by Susie Broderick, treasurer. She reported that the Board had decided early in the year that our dues will run by calendar year which will be easier to manage. The balance is \$262,116.41 and we have 246 Association members. Much of this money will be spent on the upcoming sediment removal project. A \$5,000 check was presented to the Sportsmen's Club for the fireworks.

Paul Wilson of the Safety Committee reported that all buoys are in the water. A change has been made to protect them from theft. More buoys have been added around the Ecozone. Safety issues should continue to be reported to Chris Toles.

Gina Hoff of the Membership Committee explained that they head up and assist with the membership drive, organize the neighborhood garage sale, distributes "New Neighbor Bags" and help with the annual meetings and other social activities.

Amy Matherly chair of the Newsletter Committee explained the people responsible for the communication within our SLAHA Community. We are on Facebook, Erin Lucas is chair of our website, www.simontonlake.org. Our graphic designer is Angela Black. Steve Wogoman handles the newsletter distribution. Lake Alerts are sent out via email about safety concerns around the lake.

Bob Paul, outgoing chair of the Environment Committee made a report. He reported that the county has been out and involved in helping to assist in the area drainage and flooding problems. Weed treatments are being done by the Conservancy. Residents can treat weeds up to 600 ft. from your seawall and use Hydrafoil/91 with no permit needed. A general explanation of the fall dredging was made. Randy Hoff will be replacing Bob as chair.

A short explanation of the Watershed Management Plan was made by John Richardson from Cardno. The county requested the Lake Association have this study conducted for future possible solutions for our erosion and drainage issues. The cost of this study is \$45,000.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LAKE ASSOCIATION



Lake residents listen to reports and updates at the SLAHA Annual Meeting on May 23 at the Sportsman's Club.



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Fishtales

Look at this nice one caught by the daughter of Matt and Cassandra Jone of Aqua Drive!

Van Kessler caught this fish on May 8 off of his pier.



Sportsman's Club Fishing Contest

Here are the winners of the June 23rd Fishing Contest.
Looks like they had a great time.



Front Row: Alexis Jones, Chole Gray, Mia Eye, Andrew Grey, Ryan Paul, Allison Paul, Addison Renyolds, Caden Hanson
Back Row: Nadelyn Gray, Noah Haas, Amber Simpson, Daymayian Goodison, Braden Hanson, Emily Cornish
Not pictured: Cameron Mullins, Landrin Schrock, Grant Hoover

31 kids participated!

2019 LAKE CALENDAR

Have you taken a picture of a beautiful sunrise or perhaps a group of cygnets? Whatever it may be, but photographed on or around beautiful Simonton Lake, please submit your pictures via a jpg. attachment to gmhlifeisgood@aol.com no later than October 25th, 2018 for consideration in the 2019 calendar.

The scent of August
Bright skies
Warm colors,
The smell of seasons about to change



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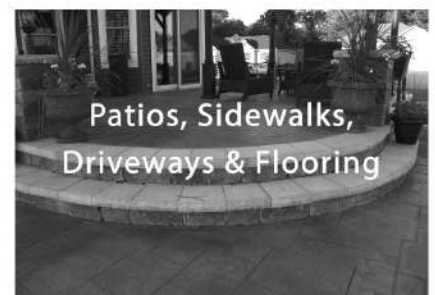
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County Code Enforcement Helps with Neighborhood Issues

Adapted from an Elkhart Truth Article written by Matthew Straw

NOTE: The Lake Association receives many calls and e-mails about neighbors who don't mow, have debris in their yards or are violating zoning laws like running a construction business in their yard, running a business from their home with lots of traffic or having permanent lawn sales.

The question is: Who do I call? Well, here is the answer. Read on.

Officials say Elkhart County is moving forward with a plan to give officers the authority to write tickets when they see code violations. A measure sponsored by state Rep. Doug Miller allows counties to partner with municipalities so a local ordinance violations bureau or town court can deal with low-level violations without the need for extensive processing or potential legal battles.



Elkhart County planning and development director Chris Godlewski said the **job of code enforcement is driven by complaints**, usually from neighbors who believe someone may have violated an ordinance. County Enforcement Officers have as many as 30 investigations each day.

Officers can send mowing contractors out to the properties of violators and bill the owners for work done. Any unpaid bills must go to the county auditor, who can place a tax lien on the property. Inoperable vehicles that must be towed are handled by the sheriff's department. The new ticketing program was expected to start sometime this summer.

TO SUBMIT A COMPLAINT

Document your concerns with pictures. Document dates and times of incidents (smelly, standing water in the yard, dates of when the yard was last raked or mowed, etc.)

COMMON COMPLAINTS ARE

- Weeds and rank vegetation, over 8 inches tall,
- Junk cars
- Tall grass
- Debris in yards
- Structural issues
- Trash and outside storage
- People living in tents, sheds or RV's in a neighborhood

Call the Elkhart Planning and Development Office with the address of the property in hand. **Phone: 971-4678.** Ask for Code Enforcement. They may send you to Nuisance Enforcement or Zoning Enforcement.

Sometimes a letter with pictures is better than a phone call. Direct your letter to:

Code Enforcement
4230 Elkhart Road
Goshen, Indiana 46526
Email: pds@elkhartcounty.com
Hours: Monday, 8-5, T-F, 8-4





Weed Control

NOTE: A few years ago the Environment Committee of the Lake Association created a Weed Control Committee. At that time the Lake Association was the only organization working on this problem. While the Lake Association will continue to monitor invasive weeds, the responsibility for treating the weeds and paying for the weed treatments will now go to the Simonton Lake Conservancy.

All channels were sprayed on June 29. All residents of the channels received a post card in the mail telling the date they would be treated and flags were

left in the yards. No report on when Stary Stonewort will be treated. As you remember from previous articles, Stary Stonewort is a very invasive weed and is already present in Simonton Lake.

Residents of the channels reported weeds so bad this year that motors struggled to get through. We must remember to put no-phosphorus lawn fertilizer on our lawns. The run-off of fertilizers with phosphorus feeds the weeds.

If you have a question or concern about invasive weeds contact the Conservancy at 574-206-2485.

201920192019

Simonton Lake Calendars

- Each page features a photo of the lake taken by a lake resident
- Great for Christmas gifts
- Great way to support your Lake Association



*Sponsored by the
Lake Association Membership Committee*

How do I order calendars?

- Mail your order to Sue Ward at 50959 Twilight Drive, Elkhart, IN 46514
- Your order will be delivered to your home

2019 Simonton Lake Calendar ORDER FORM

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____

_____ Number of calendars ordered

_____ Amount of money enclosed (\$12.00 for each calendar)

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FEEDING THE DUCKS IS FOR THE BIRDS

By Lesa Hershberger

Tossing a few pieces of stale bread crumbs to the lake's duck and swan population is fun, right? Hearing a child squeal in delight as the fowl flock within arm's length makes for fond summertime lake memories. But what if this harmless, memory-making pastime was not so harmless?

You always see signs touting, "Don't Feed the Ducks". As I have watched various neighbors relishing in attracting waterfowl to their piers with a plastic bread bag in hand, I wondered how safe it is to feed these wild animals human food. If some humans cannot digest gluten-laden foods, can ducks, swans and geese? So, I did some research.

Feeding the Birds increases their susceptibility to disease and causes them to concentrate on handouts.

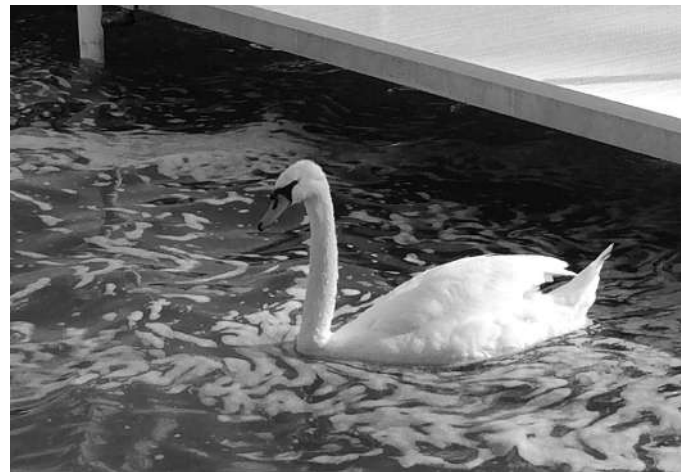
According to the Indiana Fish & Wildlife website, feeding the local waterfowl is not only harmful to the animals, it can cause overcrowding populations in the lake and delay the natural migration patterns of the birds. Here's why.

"Many environments can provide sufficient space and food for small populations of water-

fowl. However, as thousands of waterfowl concentrate in areas because handouts are easily attainable, the once wild birds can soon become tame, lose their fear of people and pick up habits that conflict with the human population and the birds' natural patterns of migration", states the free pamphlet published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As waterfowl become more and more accustomed to free handouts, they limit their search for lake vegetation and concentrate on the easier pickings from human feedings. This attracts more ducks, geese and swans to the lake, increasing the competition for food. The waterfowl stay on the lake longer than they normally would, adjusting their migration pattern, sometimes stranding the fowl in the harsh, freezing winter weather.

In addition, the stress of a less nutritious diet of human food, "Increases their susceptibility to life threatening diseases like avian cholera, duck plague and avian botulism. These diseases have the potential to kill off large numbers of waterfowl," according to the same publication. The result is the spreading of these diseases within the waterfowl population similarly to spreading the common cold in the human world.

We have all seen the damage that too many Canadian Geese can cause to yards and docks. The Indiana Department of Resources (DNR) states that the single most effective technique home owner associations should employ to control the geese population is to adopt a no-feeding policy.



An evening pontoon ride on Simonton Lake wouldn't be complete without spotting a flock of ducks paddling in the big lake or a pair of white swans swimming with their brood of newly hatched cygnets in the main channel. It's part of what we love about our lake. But if you truly care about the waterfowl and preserving their natural habitat here on the lake, please stop feeding them.

But don't take my word for it.

Educate yourself by visiting

https://training.fws.gov/library/Pubs9/caution_waterfowl.pdf



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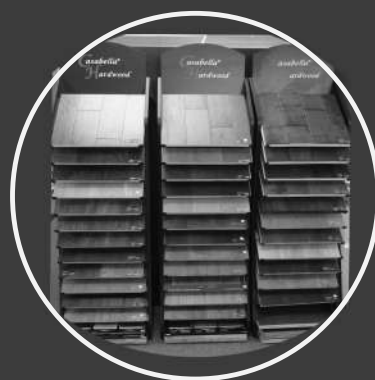
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Visiting **Margot Rutter** were Margot's daughter, Katy Rutter Fix, and her children Michael and Lily Fix. They were in town for two weeks from Arizona.

Gary and Marlene Taska had their whole family for the June 30th fireworks,

including granddaughter Lauren Gaskill and her husband Alex who now live in Raleigh, NC and granddaughter Ashley Klein and her husband Korey who now live in Seattle. Their family also includes 4 great-grandchildren with a 5th one coming in September.



"Captain" **Wogoman** was spotted near the island on the little lake. Good to see you out there.



Bob and Jodi Ferro of Sail Bay have a third granddaughter. They are shown here with 7 weeks old Abby Lou and Abby's twin sisters, Emma and Ellie who are three and a half. Isn't being a grandparent great!



Some of our Simon-ton Lake ladies took a kayak trip to Lake Michigan. From left to right, **Theresa Maier, Marie Garatoni, Deb Weaver, Cindy Hackman, Marie's daughter-Emily Garatoni,** and **Maria Hopman.**



Ryan Garatoni is shown here with a canine buddy afloat on the lake.



Dave and Carol Foutz's grandsons, **Colton** and **Cody**, bounce on their "Super Mable".

Graduations

Brooke Troyer, daughter of Jeff and Trisha Troyer of Sail Bay, graduated from Memorial on June 9th! Brooke graduated 13th in her class and she was the Kiwanis Female Athlete of the Year for Memorial. She is attending Anderson University in the fall of 2018 to study Nursing and play volleyball for the Ravens. This summer she has been very busy lifeguarding at Ideal Beach and in her spare time enjoying herself with family and friends on beautiful Simon-ton Lake!



New Neighbors

- Bret and Cynthia Hansen are new neighbors on Channel Ct
- Ray Sudney has purchased the Flickinger home on CR 11
- The home on N. Shore Drive previously owned by Chris and Anastasia Tapper has just been sold to the From family from South Bend.
- The home formerly owned by the Linson's on Lake Drive has sold to Marilyn Slock formerly of Mishawaka.
- Andrew and Rachael Szczechowski have purchased a home on North Shore Drive (Little Simon-ton) formerly owned by the Ganyards.

To all of our new neighbors
Welcome to the Lake

Farewells

Ellie M. Dexter, 81, daughter of Phyllis Bishop and Winston George Matheson, passed over June 18, 2018, from cancer while in hospice care in Greensburg.

Born May 11, 1937, in Melrose, Massachusetts, she graduated from Malden High School in Malden, Massachusetts, and earned degrees from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She taught high school English before moving to Elkhart in 1965, where she worked as a feature writer for The Elkhart Truth and was owner of E.M. Dexter Inc., a children's furniture store. She also owned and operated Image Concepts, a marketing communications company.

She relocated to California in 1981, working in marketing and advertising and occasional freelance writing. While there she created and hosted "Bridges," a radio talk show, interviewing people who had changed their lives dramatically, and presented workshops, both in business and for personal growth.

She later lived in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Corvallis, Oregon. In Corvallis she wrote the lead features for a senior publication sponsored by several regional governments.

Her family included her children, Garth and wife Wendi Dexter and their children, Cole, Owen, Riley and Kendall of North Liberty, Ohio; Stephanie Dexter and children Samantha and Jack of Indianapolis; Adam and wife Jami and their son Spencer of Simonton Lake, Elkhart; and Sister Diane Zarick of Florida.



Keith Bontrager, 55, of Cottage Avenue passed away in the early morning hours of Monday, July 2, 2018, after a 4 1/2 year battle with cancer. He was born in Gary, IN, on September 17, 1962, to David A., and B. Kay (Flora) Bontrager, of Elkhart, both of whom survive him.

He married to Carol J Hansing, of Elkhart in, June of 1987. They were married for 31 years.

Carol survives him, along with their two children, daughter, Taylor Bontrager, and son, Max Bontrager, both of Elkhart.

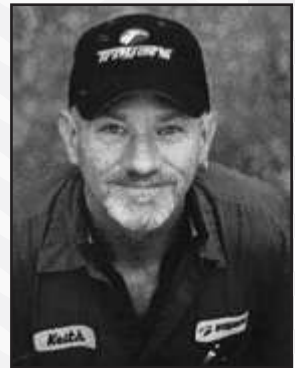
Also surviving him are his sister, Carie Bontrager, of Denver, CO, and his Brother, Bryan Bontrager, of Upper Marlboro, MD.

A member of both the football and wrestling teams, he graduated from Memorial High School, in the class of 1981. He went on to Miami of Ohio.

Gregarious and outgoing, he worked in Sales, Automotive Finance, and Customer Service, until partnering with a friend and technician, to form Crossroads BMW Motorcycles in the fall of 1996, where he not only sold motorcycles, but arranged regular Wednesday night rides, and several overseas motorcycle tours in Europe with his friends and clients. When the shop later closed, he obtained his CDL license and began driving for several years, doing both long haul and local delivery. He was installed as a Masonic Brother of the Tyrian Lodge #718 on Dec. 31, 2011.

Keith had an infectious laugh. He was a friend to many, and never knew a stranger. He was always willing to help, and did his best to maintain a positive attitude, even in the face of severe challenges. He was an inspiration to many and will be greatly missed.

Memorial contributions may be made to CAPS, Great Lakes Hospice, or United Cancer Services.



Ella Mae "Willie" Brewer of North Shore Drive passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 26, 2018 after a long battle with cancer.

Willie was born on June 30, 1932 to Noah D. and Alene (Mills) Willard. She grew up in Elkhart and summered at Shavehead Lake along with her four siblings; Richard Willard, June Lunn, Frank Willard, and Don Willard. These trips sparked her love for being around water and ultimately led her to plant her roots at Simonton Lake for the last 53 years.

She married Robert H. Brewer in 1950 and had two children, Connie (Jon) Hart of Forest Road and Robert (Betty Warlick) Brewer, of North Shore Drive. She also had three grandchildren, Austin (Megan) Hart, Matt Hart, Leslie (Sean) Hochstetler, and four great grandchildren.

Willie worked as the manager of Elcome Federal Credit Union for 36 years. She was a strong, sharp-minded woman who was as sincere as they come. She loved the beach, traveling, going to auctions/estate sales, collecting antiques, and sitting on her deck embracing the sights and sounds of nature (including the parade of boat lights through the channel after the fireworks). It is evident that Willie passed along her love for nature and being around water to her family as many of the memories that will live on revolve around just that.

There was a graveside service for close friends and family in May at Rice Cemetery. Please consider making donations to Cancer Resources for Elkhart County.



Christina A. Phillips, 79, of Lake Drive passed away Monday April 30, 2018 at North Woods Village in Mishawaka. She was born September 17, 1938 in Leeuwarden, The Netherlands to the late Dominicus & Elsje (Wolf) Overdyk. On October 1, 1960 in Elkhart she married Marshall B. Phillips. He preceded her in death on September 5, 2005 in South Bend. Surviving are 2 children, Tonda J. (Mike) Lucchese of Lake Drive, Jeffrey B. Phillips of Kendallville, IN; 2 sisters, Willy (Ed) Welter of Elkhart and Elsje (Michael) Sotebeer of Scottsdale, AZ. Christina was a member of the IAAO and in her younger years enjoyed snow skiing and going for rides on the pontoon at Simonton Lake. She was elected Osolo Township Assessor on November 9, 1982 and in November of 2006 was elected to her seventh term in office. She retired in 2008.





ASKED & ANSWERED

May 2018

From: Lake Resident

RE: Weir Responsible for spring flooding?

I am new to the lake but I understand that a weir was built across the creek which empties out our lake to keep our lake from getting too low in the summer when we go without rain. Is the Weir keeping too much water back and causing the flooding this winter and spring?

Answer: Bob Paul, Environment Committee Chair

After decades of work by lake residents the Weir was installed in 2016. The Weir is set at the legal lake limit. Water above that level flows over the top with no restriction. Prior to 2016 when there was no weir we have had flooded streets and wet basements. This year was particularly bad but the Weir is not part of the problem.

June 2018

From: Lake Resident

RE: Buoy Destruction

I am an older lake resident and don't want trouble. But, I saw some kids out on the lake running their jet ski into one of our new buoys. I don't want them to know I am doing this so please don't print my name. What should I have done? Is there someone I can call?

Answer: Simonton Says Staff

We were advised by our district DNR office to get the numbers on the Jet Ski and call the DNR District Office. If you have a cell phone, take a picture. The DNR officer will give you directions on how to get the picture to the office. The Trust purchased many of our buoys with donations from lake residents. They are expensive. We've got to protect our investment.

July 2018

From: Casey S.

RE: Fireworks

My wife and I are trying to get our one-year-old to sleep and our neighbors are still shooting off fireworks. What can I do? Is there a law on this?

Answer: From the Elkhart County Police

The use of fireworks in the unincorporated areas of Elkhart County is still prohibited with the exception of the following days and times:

- Between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and two (2) hours after sunset* on the following dates:
- June 29, June 30, July 1, July 2, July 3, July 5, July 6, July 7, July 8, and July 9
- Between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 midnight on July 4
(and between the hours of 10:00 a.m. on December 31 and 1:00 a.m. on January 1)

*Sunset is approximately 9:20pm on these dates, making approximately 11:20pm the latest time to set off fireworks.

***Violation of this ordinance may result in fines totaling up to \$500, in addition to court fees.
Call the Elkhart County Police.***

July 2018**From: Gina Hoff, Chris Toles****RE: Boat Launch Issues**

GINA: On a bike ride we went down to the public boat launch and found lots of trash and an old soiled mattress. What can we do?

CHRIS: On Memorial Day weekend I attempted to launch my boat at the boat launch. It was a mess. All the spots were full and there were vehicles parked on both sides of CR 109. I will report this to the County Police and let you know what I find out.

ANSWER ON THE ISSUE OF TRASH: In the past the Safety Committee has worked on issues like this. With the changes in leadership on this Committee, all we can say at this time is that we are working on getting an answer for you.

ANSWER ON THE ISSUE OF ILLEGAL PARKING: Chris Toles, Safety Committee

I spoke with Officer Casey Lehman of the Elkhart County Police and he advised it is Elkhart County's responsibility to enforce parking. In order to make this an effective effort we need multiple calls into the non-emergency dispatch. This was a real mess on that Sunday.

June 2018**From: Lake Resident****RE: Ongoing Lawn Sale**

How long can a neighbor have things set out all over his lawn for a garage sale? I've been putting up with this mess for several weeks. It's a mess.

Answer: Newsletter Staff

Check out the article in this issue about Code Enforcement. Call the number listed. If nothing is done after a few days we would advise you to call again. Please let us know the outcome of this situation.

July 2018**From: Lake Resident****RE: T-shaped Boat Anchors**

Answer from Steve Wogoman: These anchors can be made with PVC pipe. There are plans on the internet. However, there are also pre-made ones that can be bought from suppliers. Google it.

"SWIMMER'S ITCH"

Earlier in the summer several people around the lake experienced what is commonly known as "Swimmer's Itch."

WHAT IS IT?

According to the Mayo Clinic, "Swimmer's Itch" is an itchy rash that looks like reddish pimples or blisters and can occur after you go swimming or wading outdoors. Also known as cercarial dermatitis, "Swimmer's Itch" is most common in freshwater lakes and ponds, but it occasionally occurs in salt water. The rash usually affects only exposed skin, not skin covered by swimsuits or waders.

HOW DO YOU GET IT?

Swimmer's itch is caused by an allergic reaction to parasites that

burrow into your skin while you're swimming or wading in warm water. The parasites that cause swimmer's itch normally live in waterfowl and some animals such as geese, ducks, gulls, beavers, swans and muskrats. The parasite's eggs enter the water via their hosts' feces. Before infecting birds, animals or people, the hatched parasites must live for a time within a type of snail. These snails live near the shoreline, which explains why infections occur most often in shallow water.

HOW LONG DOES IT LAST?

Humans aren't suitable hosts, so the parasites soon die while still in your skin. "Swimmer's Itch" is uncomfortable, but it usually clears up on its own in a few days. In the meantime, you can control itching with over-the-counter or prescrip-

tion medications. It is not contagious. Talk to your doctor if you have a rash after swimming that lasts more than three days.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MY FAMILY?

If swimmers near your beach have gotten Swimmer's Itch rinsing exposed skin with clean water immediately after leaving the water and then vigorously dry your skin with a towel is recommended. Also, launder your swimsuits often.





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WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A CLEAN, CLEAR LAKE

By Heather Harwood, Executive Director Wawasee Area Conservancy Foundation

One way we sustain our water quality is to NOT stir up the bottom. Stirring up sediment clouds the water and releases phosphorus from the lake bed. Our goal is to leave that sediment alone as much as possible.

What can You do?

PHOSPHORUS

1. Don't use it!
2. Seaweed uses phosphorus to grow.
3. Tell your lawn care provider that you only want zero phosphorus fertilizer
4. Once phosphorus is released into our lake it STAYS in the sediment

PRESERVE OUR LAKE BOTTOM

1. Stirring the lake bottom suspends the phosphorus
2. Accelerating in shallow water creates sediment plumes.
3. Wakeboard and surf in deeper water.
4. Whenever possible begin pulling skiers and tubers in deep water.

DIMINISH WAVE ACTION

1. If you have a metal or wood seawall consider glacial rock in front of that seawall. That will diminish the slapping of the waves and the disturbing of the lake bottom

Wakeboard and surf in deep water

We do not want to discourage boating on Simonton Lake but we do want people to be responsible boaters. Be aware of shallow areas, and stay in deeper water especially while wake boarding and surfing. Deep drafting ballast boats can cause severe damage to the lake bottom and can even displace piers along the lake shore. Keeping these activities in deep water has a huge impact on slowing resuspension and keeping algae blooms down.



Lake Alert System Updates

By the Newsletter Committee

In addition to the quarterly newsletter our committee oversees the Website created and updated by Erin Lucas and has a Facebook page run by Michelle Coleman.

However, one of the most important things we do is to communicate to the community our LAKE ALERTS. In the case of recent burglaries and attempted burglaries, we work with the Safety Committee to get out to you the information you need to keep your own family safe and allow you to help be on the lookout for those persons in

our lake neighborhoods who are there to cause us harm.

Currently we have about 250 e-mail addresses on our LAKE ALERT list. If you are not getting LAKE ALERTS it may be because

- your server does not allow mass e-mails, or
- your settings prevent our e-mail from getting through or
- because we have the incorrect e-mail.

It's a simple process to get on the LAKE ALERT e-mail list. E-mail us at ramatherly@gmail.com with your current e-mail. If the next LAKE ALERT sent to you bounces back, we'll contact you. Then you can check the system from your end to see if we can solve the problem.

**FALL ISSUE OF
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SIMONTON LAKE SAFETY TIPS

By Corporal Joseph Milovich, Patrol Division 1, Elkhart County Police

Many thanks to **Gianina Chard** for sharing this information with Simonton Says readers.

With the recent burglaries and attempted burglaries around the lake, we are grateful to our County Police Officer, Joe Milovich, who wrote this article. Of particular interest is the section "Facts about Burglaries." This helps us get to know how the criminals work. We urge you to read these safety tips and put them into practice.

Lock up your home and your vehicles

1. Never leave your keys in your vehicles
2. Never leave your car running, unattended
3. Always hide valuables inside of your vehicle, making it appear that there is nothing in your car
4. Never leave a wallet or purse in your vehicle
5. Lock your doors and windows to your car and home
6. When you leave, go to a neighbors, go out on the lake - lock everything up.
7. Keep your garage door closed
8. If it's hard to burglarize you or steal your car/belongings, criminals will not do it.
9. Do not make their risk worth their reward

Illumination is important

1. Light up your property
2. Use motion activated lights
3. Close your curtains/drapes at night
4. Criminals do not like being seen, make it harder for them to conceal themselves

Facts about Burglaries

- Most burglaries and thefts occur during the day.
- Burglars will often case a neighborhood and look for the "target" that is easiest, or has the highest reward associated with the risk involved. This surveillance can occur over several days.
- Burglars will often come right to your front door and knock or ring the doorbell. This lets them know if you are home. Burglars don't want you to be home.
- If someone strange comes to the door and you answer it, do not give any personal information or even speak to them in any detail about anything.
- If you are familiar with your neighbors and you don't recognize a person hanging out there, then they don't belong there. Don't hesitate to call 911 and ask for an officer to locate these people.
- If someone suspicious is driving a car, do your best to get a description of the vehicle/license plate. It helps us locate the suspect more quickly.
- Be cautious of door-to-door salespeople.
- Be cautious of people telling you a story to play on your emotions.
- Be vigilant of nervous behavior - criminals get nervous too, especially when someone is home that they didn't expect.

Facts about Home Security

- Home security systems are important to have. Criminals usually do not target homes with alarm systems, however they also understand the time it takes to notify law enforcement. Make sure cameras cover every angle of your house, driveway, and boat - anything you want to protect. Making the cameras visible will increase safety.
- Do not rely completely on Alarm Systems to protect you. The reality of law enforcement is that we never have enough Officers on duty to be at your house within 3 minutes every time. When your alarm goes off, the alert is sent to a call center. The call center tries to reach you. If you can't verify the false alarm, or they can't reach you, the call center calls dispatch. Dispatch posts a call, and if the officer is available, the officer will go to your house. This can take over 10 minutes before the officer even gets the call. By that time, the suspect is gone and you have been victimized.
- It is always a good idea to have video cameras. Cameras with a DVR or Cloud Based Storage System are ideal, as you will be able to provide the footage to Law Enforcement should anything happen, which will help in the identification and prosecution of the suspects.
- If you have a DVR storage unit, lock the DVR up in a secure area. Many criminals have broken the DVR, taken the SD Card of the Hard Drive and made them useless because the DVR was left out in the open. Cloud based storage is more secure.



The Elkhart County Police advise us that: Neighbors can protect neighbors.

1. Get to know your neighbors
2. Neighbors keep an eye out for anything abnormal on your property and theirs.
3. If you see something, say something, and call or text 911
4. Join social media groups as a neighborhood like the Simonton Lake E-mail Alert System

Finally, if anyone has any questions or needs help with anything contact:

Corporal Joseph Milovich
jmilovich@elkhartcountysheriff.com

SIMONTON Message Board

www.simontonlake.org

Piano Teacher sought

Lake Residents looking for a piano teacher. Please e-mail dgawthrop4321@yahoo.com

Kayak Found



A yellow two-seater kayak was found along the 26000 block of N. Shore Drive. E-mail ramatherly@gmail.com

Have you paid your
Lake Association Dues?



What's for sale on the lake?

Information Courtesy of Zillow and Elkhart County GIS- July 2018

- Eric Irions is selling his home on Maplewood
- Nora Allen's home on Lake Drive is for sale.

Be Safe on the Lake.
Review the Boating Laws at the
DNR website

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

To add your family birthdays and anniversaries to this list,
e-mail tkshewmaker@yahoo.com

BIRTHDAYS

- 8/3 ---- Nadia Polizotto
8/4 ---- Ginny Bellamy
8/5 ---- Jaxon Patrick Kern
8/9 ---- Buck Ulery
8/19 --- Cindy Nickell
8/19 --- Amy Matherly
8/23 --- Henry William Saleh
Grandparents Bill & Susie Broderick
8/24 --- Sloan Cooper
Grandparents Randy & Wendy Cooper
8/26 --- Erin Hoffman Harding
8/31 --- Adam Moore
Grandson of Theresa Maier
9/3 ---- Diane Marlow
9/12 --- Lincoln McIntire
Grandson of Cam & Sue Snyder,
Brad & Pam McIntire
9/8 ---- Lois Sellers
9/11 --- Tim Taylor
9/14 --- Wyatt Samuel Skipper
Grandson of Bufford & Becky Skipper
10/5 --- Kyan Joseph Wilson
Grandparents Paul & Linda Wilson
10/21-- Bruce Marlow
10/25-- Ken Ward
10/31-- Bob Putnam

ANNIVERSARY

- 8/1 ---- Courtney & Patrick Qualls
Doug & Myra Cors' Daughter
8/13 --- Kay Marcus
8/18 --- Sue & Ron Taylor
8/19 --- Barb & Don Rospopo
8/25 --- Larry & Ginny Bellamy
8/29 --- Kristin & Mike Newkirk
Daughter of Carole & Dave Foutz
9/1 ---- Connie & Jon Hart
9/10 --- Pat & John Brown
9/12 --- Cam & Ab Saleh
Daughter of Susie & Bill Broderick
9/22 --- Pam & Richard Zinsmeister
10/7 --- Deb & Tom Swanson
10/9 --- Ashli & Ben Swathwood
10/11-- Erin & Chad Winchester
Daughter of Cindy & Vaughn Nickell

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