

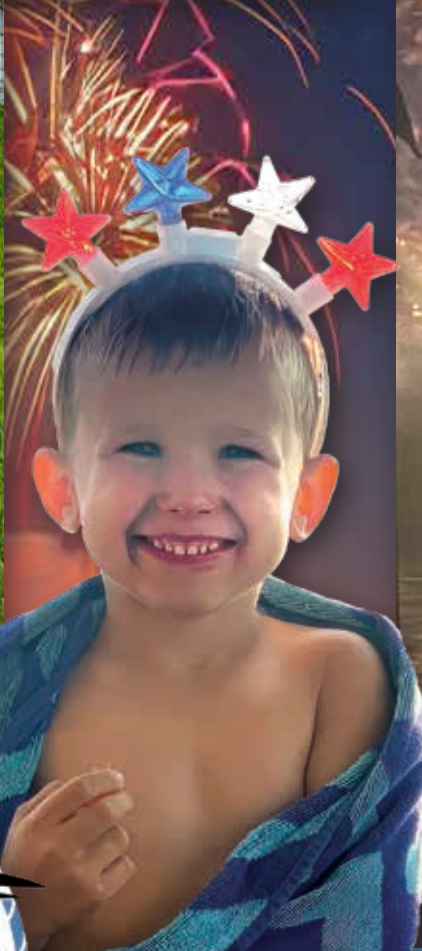
SIMONTON SAYS...

SIMONTON LAKE AREA HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC. NEWSLETTER

SUMMER ISSUE 2023

VOLUME 16

ISSUE 3



Starting top right going clockwise: Randy and Gina Hoff with Randy's mother, sons Mark and David and grandkids, Luke Meyers grandson of Bob and Bobbie Meyers. Leo Cahall, grandson of Bob and Joely Divjak. Tessa Meyers granddaughter of Bob and Bobbie Meyers.




ELKHART, INDIANA

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www.simontonlakehoa.com

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Fireworks & Poker Run

2023



Many thanks to all our talented photographers. Thank you for sharing!

INFORMATION & EVENTS

SIMONTON SAYS...

SUMMER 2023 EDITION

ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

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

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

Theresa Maier, Secretary
51211 Maplewood

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

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

Randy Hoff, Environment
25369 Vernon Crossing

Tim Leis
51004 Sail Bay Court

STANDING COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP

New Neighbors: Frank & Kathy Stec

Lake Calendar: Gina Hoff

Garage Sale

Memorial Day Boat Parade

Dues: Van Kessler

COMMUNICATION

Amy Matherly
simontonhoa@gmail.com

**To become an advertiser
contact Jon Hart**
simontonhoa@gmail.com

To sign up for Lake Alerts
simontonhoa@gmail.com

Facebook: Michele Coleman

ENVIRONMENT

- Ecozone
- Weir
- Water Quality Concern

SAFETY

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

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Simonton Lake Conservancy
574-206-8485

Contact the Conservancy for

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

DNR Law Enforcement
District Office 574-457-8092
Pier Rules 317-234-1097
Or 317-234-1063

Sheriff Elkhart County
(574) 533-4151

EMERGENCIES-CALL 911

Osolo Township Fire Dept.
574-264-1066

Osolo EMS 574-262-3052

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.simontonlakehoa.com

EMAIL US AT

simontonhoa@gmail.com

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SIMONTONLAKEHOA

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

JOIN "LAKE ALERTS"

EMAIL GROUP

simontonhoa@gmail.com

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

August Summer Issue "Simonton Says"

August 5 Kid's Fishing Contest

August 9 Conservancy Meeting

August 19 Vetter Habitat Build

September 23 & 24 Sportsmen's Club
Fall Turkey Shoot

Sept. 13 Conservancy Meeting

Sept. 20 Deadline for Calendar Pictures

Sept. 29 & 30 Fall Garage Sale

Sept. 30 Sportsmen's Club Fall
Casino Night

Oct. 11 Conservancy Meeting

Nov. 2024 HOA Calendars for Sale

Nov. 8 Conservancy Meeting

Nov. 11 Sportsmen's Club Fall Ball

Feb. Winter Issue "Simonton Says"

Spring 2024 GARAGE SALE May 3 & 4



Simonton Lake is a member
of the Indiana Lakes
Management Society





NEW HOA SEAL

This year, the HOA decided to freshen up the seal to give it a brighter look and feel. While the former seal represented our wetlands and waterfowl, we wanted to add a boating element and highlight the majestic Sandhill Crane that shares our shores as our new mascot Simon. The new seal (and the previous seal) were designed by Erin Lucas, who is also in charge of our association website. In the coming months, we'll also be making some updates to the website to reflect our updated color palette and imagery. As we mentioned in the annual meeting, this is just the first step in a plan to roll out a new line of merch that will be available to residents online...stay tuned for the announcement of our online store!

NEW TO THE LAKE?

- Read the Indiana DNR Boating Manual. Available online. See the link at the Simonton Lake HOA website, www.simontonlakehoa.com
- Are you hooked up to the Simonton Lake Sewer? If you are, you'll have a grinder pump in your yard. Make sure your name is now on the account. Call the Conservancy Office at 574-206-8485.
- **Don't blow yard waste or leaves into the lake.** Water quality is something we all must protect. Be careful about using fertilizer near the water.
- Putting in a pier? **Make sure you know the rules for piers.** Check this out at the Indiana DNR website, in.gov/dnr/water
- **Don't feed the geese or ducks.** When ducks and geese get food from us, additional waterfowl who visit our lake will stay because it appears that there is plenty of food.
- **Let us know you've moved in.** We'll send you a New Neighbor Gift Bag.
- **Join the Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association.** You'll find a membership form in your gift bag.
- Read the quarterly "Simonton Says" magazine to keep up with what is happening at the lake

Follow us on Facebook:
SIMONTON LAKE HOA

Visit our website:
simontonlakehoa.com

Email us:
simontonlakehoa@gmail.com

NEW NEIGHBOR GIFT BAG VOLUNTEER NEEDED

FRANK AND KATHY STEC RETIRING

For several years Kathy and Frank Stec have assembled New Neighbor Gift Bags that the HOA delivers to new people on the lake. They are ready to retire from this job and we thank them for their service.

The job entails deciding what type of bag you'd like to use and what you'd like to put into the gift bags. Then you ask the HOA to make the purchases. You'll fill the bags and when a new person moves to the lake, you'll be notified. You can either drop off the gift bag yourself or have someone you know in that neighborhood make the delivery.

This is a great way to help the HOA and it doesn't require a huge amount of time. Also, it allows you to have some creativity in deciding what a new laker would like to get from the HOA.

*If you are interested, or if you just have more questions,
please email simontonhoa@gmail.com.*



NOTES FROM THE BOARD

SUMMER 2023 EDITION

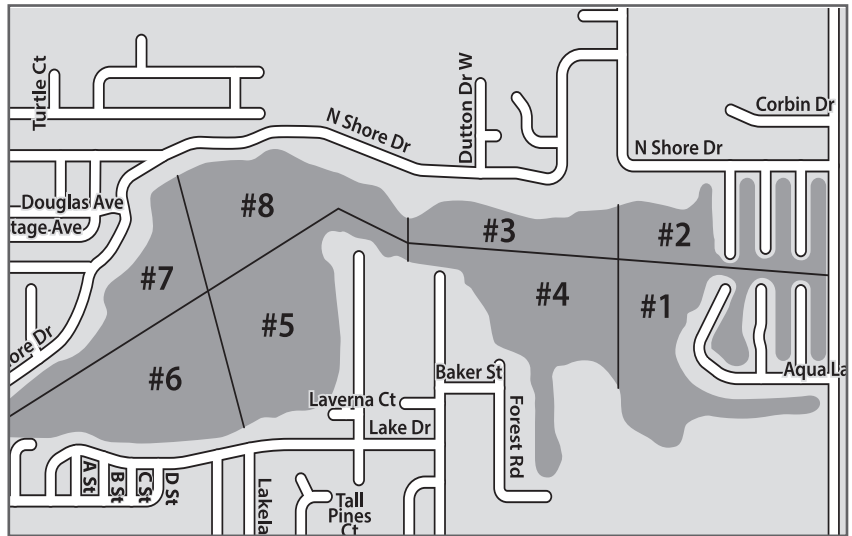
Yearly HOA membership begins in January, but we continue to take memberships throughout the year.
Contact simontonhoa@gmail.com for membership information.

HOA Email: simontonhoa@gmail.com • Website: www.simontonlakehoa.com • Facebook: SimontonLakeHOA

**THE LAKE ASSOCIATION HAS DIVIDED THE LAKE INTO 8 AREAS.
CHECK OUT YOUR AREA IN THIS MAP.**

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Area #1	Van Kessler	574-370-2266
Area #2	Ann & Jerry Broderick	574-264-1331
	Sue Ward	574-596-2020
Area #3	Maria Hopman	574-262-1665
Area #4	Jon Hart	574-262-1404
Area #5	Bob Meyers	574-675-0970
	Cindy Nickell	574-262-3105
Area #6	Melissa Kessler	574-849-9995
Area #7	Dave VanZile	574-264-5201
	Theresa Maier	574-361-0517
Area #8	Amy Matherly	574-524-6632



SIMONTON LAKE HOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

From left to right: Doug Reese - President, Tim Lies, Randy Hoff, Jack Tucker - Vice-President, Susie Broderick, Erin Lucas - Technical Advisor to the Board, Theresa Maier - Secretary.
Not pictured: Van Kessler - Treasurer



SUPREME COURT WETLANDS RULING

Thanks to Bev Weimeri, lake resident, for forwarding this information from Indira Frank, of the Hoosier Environmental Council which we have included in this article.

"On May 25 the Supreme Court issued an opinion in the case of Sackett v. EPA which will substantially reduce protection for wetlands across the U.S. and in Indiana. Prior to this opinion, the majority of Indiana's remaining wetlands were under protection of the federal Clean Water Act, but the court's statement means the majority of wetlands will no longer qualify."

WHO BROUGHT THIS CASE TO THE SUPREME COURT?

"Michael and Chantell Sackett have been battling with the federal government for over 15 years in their efforts to build a house on an empty lot near Priest Lake in Idaho. The Sacketts' legal battle began shortly after they began backfilling their property to prepare the lot for construction, which is about 300 feet from Priest Lake, back in 2007. The Sacketts received a notice from the EPA to stop work because their lot contains wetlands protected by the CWA, which bars the discharge of pollutants, including rocks and sand, into "navigable waters." The Clean Water Act defines navigable waters as "waters of the United States." The EPA reasoned that the wetlands on the Sacketts'

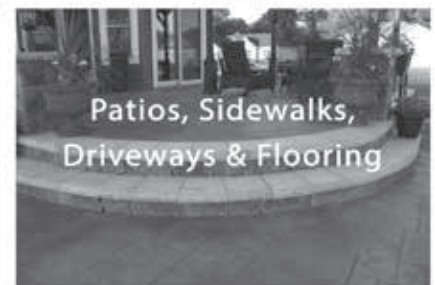
lot fed into a non-navigable creek that then led to Priest Lake."

"The Supreme Court reversed the lower court's decision and said that "we hold that the Clean Water Act extends to only those "wetlands with a continuous surface connection to bodies that are 'waters of the United States' in their own right," so that they are "indistinguishable" from those waters." The wetlands at the southeast corner of Little Simonton run right up to the shoreline. This seems like it would make it a "continuous surface" making the wetlands protected. But, we need to keep watch on this.

While environmentalists are extremely worried about lowered protection for wetlands, builders and farmers often find that the wetlands laws are too stringent.

WHY ARE WETLANDS IMPORTANT?

They "catch and hold excess stormwater, like giant sponges on the landscape, helping to reduce flooding. While the water is held in wetlands, it is filtered, purified, and allowed to soak in and replenish groundwater for our wells to tap. Wetlands are also among the most biologically productive ecosystems. According to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, wetlands provide habitat for 50% of Indiana's species with small or declining populations."



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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SIMONTON LAKE AREA HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

On May 17 the Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association held their annual meeting at the Sportsmen's Club. About 70 people came for the dinner and more arrived for the meeting which immediately followed.

We currently have 258 members. Our membership campaign 2024 will begin in January. A treasurer's report was given as well as reports by each of our committees: Environment, Safety, Communication and Membership/Outreach.

SWAN REMEDIATION A presentation was given by Carl Vogleweden who explained how the swans will be removed from the lake.

GEESE We have raised most of the funds to start the relocation of the geese. This will take place in late summer or early fall. In the meantime, some lake residents are having good luck in using green laser pointers. Residents are reminded not to feed the geese.

CONSERVANCY REPORT

- Spraying for invasive weeds will be done in June and in August. A postcard will be sent to you if you are not to use your sprinkler system.
- The Board is looking into placing Dry Hydrants on the lake for use by the fire department.
- Solar-powered lights will be placed on the top of each buoy by volunteers before Memorial Day.

INDIANA LAKES MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

Simonton Lake is now a member of this state-wide group which educates lake residents, provides resources and lobbies at the General Assembly.

FISH KILL-A IDNR official visited Simonton Lake to investigate the higher than usual number of dead fish. Other lakes are seeing the same thing. The finding is that the great fluctuation in water temperature in the spring led to the demise of the fish.

ISSUES AT THE PUBLIC LANDING We continue to monitor parking in no parking areas, blocking the boat ramp, vandalism, and suspicious activity. For issues dealing with a DNR rule like blocking the landing or parking in a no parking area in the parking area, call the DNR Central Dispatch at 812-837-9536. For suspicious or dangerous activity or parking along C.R. 109 call the Elkhart County Sheriff's Office.

FUTURE GOALS There are four organizations at Simonton Lake: the HOA, the Sportsmen's Club, the Conservancy, and the Trust. It is the goal of the HOA that all these groups work together for the common



good. We also hope to work with the county to keep Lily Creek clear of vegetation. We are looking at some nice Welcome signs to place along the main roads. Finally, we are looking into getting stop signs on C.R. 11 and Aqua as well as C.R. 11 and North Shore Drive.

Finally, Doug Reese announced a Simonton Lake promo from Bordon Waste Away.



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CONSERVANCY CORNER

SIMONTON LAKE
CONSERVANCY

WHAT NOT TO PUT INTO THE SEWER

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

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

F stands for Fats

O stands for Oils

G stands for Grease

S stands for Sanitary "disposable" wipes

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

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

ADA COMPLIANT PIER

The DNR has installed the ADA compliant pier and will remove it in the fall. This ensures that those with disabilities are not excluded from enjoying the lake



CRIME REPORT

May 29 - Around 11 p.m. juveniles were out knocking on doors and ringing doorbells on North Shore Drive. At one North Shore Drive home the landscaping near the house was damaged.

BIKE STOLEN

July 4 - A gray Schwinn Mountain Bike parked on the lake side of a house on Maplewood Drive was stolen after 1:00 a.m. on July 4th. A police report has been filed.

July 4 - On Lake Drive near Maplewood a resident's camera

spotted a lady trying to break into a vehicle. The lady failed so she tried to open a window to the home.

The residents confronted her. She fled on foot, trying to break into a neighbor's house as she ran. Then she fled north on Maplewood. The police were called. The gray Schwinn Mountain Bike reported stolen earlier that day was found outside the home. The incident occurred between the hours of 2:30 a.m. and 5 a.m.

BE CAREFUL WHERE YOU DIG!

The sewer system is pressurized. If you puncture the line, you will have a fountain of sewage. Call 811 before you dig!

SIMONTON LAKE SEWER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1 - Paul Wilson

District 2 - Ed Hickman

District 3 - Ryan Matherly

District 3 - Mark Lucas

District 5 - Randy Hoff

BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE ELKHART AQUATIC CENTER

August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8

SUMMER WEED SPRAYING

Check the SLSC website for dates of summer weed spraying.

If you get a card from Aquatic Weed Control, then the chemicals they are using are harmful to your lawn. The card says not to use your sprinkler system.

If you see Aquatic Weed Control spraying but you have not received a card, DON'T PANIC! The chemicals they are using are not harmful to your lawn.

After every spraying near your property a yellow flag will be placed on your lawn.

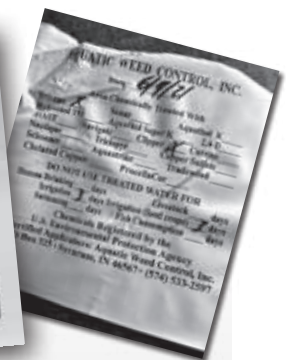
PLEASE NOTE:

Aquatic Weed Control will treat the channels the WEEK of June 13th.

After our application, yellow flags will be posted in the yard listing the water use restrictions of three (3) days using water out of the channel to water yards and ornamental plants.

Residents can fish and swim right away after our application.

Aquatic
Weed
Control



July 14 - A black Glock 23 was reported stolen from a car on Baker Street (connects C.R. 109 with Forest Road). A police report was filed.

Ongoing problems continue at the public landing including parking in no-parking areas and vandalism.

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SPOTLIGHT ON ADVERTISERS

HERMAN SERVICES

Herman Services is a small family owned business and one of our Simonton Lake neighbors. Josh Herman and his wife, Kalie, reside on one of the northeast channels off Little Simonton. Originally started as a part time business while Josh kept his day job, they have now gotten so busy that it's become his full time occupation. With over 14 years experience providing electrical work, generator installations, and service to Michiana, Josh can provide a wide range of specialty. His ad promotes home standby generators of the most well known and reliable brands, but Herman Services also handles home electrical service and repair, general electrical contracting, RV generator repair, and grinder pit service for the Conservancy. Their focus is service, as they would much rather help you repair than replace.

At Herman Services, they strive to provide the customer with a timely response, and focus on integrity and knowledge in offering a customer the best solution for their electrical needs.



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices

The real estate market has had some ups and downs this past year, and while some agents find it slow, that's not the case for **Michele Mathewson**. She is having a busy summer building her business. After 12 years as the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and School Board at Baugo (Jimtown) Schools, Michele decided to give real estate a try and has been with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services in Elkhart the past three years. A place she loves to be. She feels fortunate being surrounded by a group of diverse realtors that thrive on innovation, collaboration, and pursuit of excellence to make a difference in the lives of their customers. And, says that BHHS support and development of their agents is second to none. Michele is involved with the Elkhart County Board of Realtors, the Elkhart Chamber Economic Development Council, and is a Senior Real Estate Specialist Designee.

As a child, Michele spent a lot of time on Simonton Lake with her best friend Julie and is excited to be back living on the lake now as an adult. She and her husband, Kirk, live on Sail Bay Court and have four grown boys. They are also the proud grandparents of two granddaughters, Kahli and Zoey.



Carl Bossung and his family opened **Senior1Care** 17 years ago when Carl retired from his career as a CPA and Partner with Crowe. Several years prior, Carl's mother needed home care services and he was not happy with the services they were able to find at the time. He had often thought about the huge need for quality and dependable services for our rapidly aging population, and that led

Carl and family to begin Senior1Care. It is not a franchise, and today the company has over 500 employees with locations in St. Joseph and Elkhart counties, and Fort Wayne. Plus, serving areas surrounding Indianapolis. Carl's oldest son, Kyle, is now leading the company with five other family members also working in the business. Senior1Care provides caregivers to assist people in their homes with meals, bathing, light housekeeping, medication reminders, transfers, activities, and transportation services. To ensure quality caregiving services, Senior1Care owns and operates a licensed Certified Nurse Aid training school, called Legacy CNA Training. They are the only home care company offering a specialized training school of this type.

When bringing care services into the home, families want reliable, dependable caregivers they can trust. Plus, they want services that are professionally managed and delivered in a desirable manner. Senior1Care provides all of this and more. They have been recognized by Inc. Magazine seven years in a row, and were chosen as Business of the Year by the South Bend Chamber of Commerce. Carl and his wife Susan, who also works in the business, reside in Elkhart. The Senior1Care Elkhart office is located at 230 N. Main Street, Suite #4.

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FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY 2023

Held on Evan's Island, this moving ceremony has become part of the 4th of July tradition at Simonton Lake. If you missed it, here are some memories from that ceremony.



▲ The Honor Guard Arrives



Ready for the salute ►



Unfurling the flag ▼





WAKESIDE
MARINE

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LAKE SHORTS

NEW TO THE LAKE

Rob and Marisa Schwindaman bought a home on North Shore Drive. They have lived in North Shore Landings for three years.

Kay Wuchner Marcus's granddaughter, Francesca, and her husband, Stan will be moving to Kay's home on Maplewood in September.

LEAVING THE LAKE

Randy and Wendy Cooper, longtime residents of Lake Drive, are leaving the lake and moving to a home with a lot less stairs. We'll miss them.

Aaron Young and Jenny Cooper have moved to Florida. They are keeping their home at the lake.

Steve and Christine Helvey have sold their home on LaVerne Court.

MOVING ACROSS THE LAKE

Fred and Kim Kieper of North Shore Drive are moving to Lake Drive.

Joe and Martha Mamo of North Shore Drive are moving to LaVerne Court.



HELEN HOFF AND FAMILY

Helen Hoff, 93-year-old mother of Randy Hoff, joined the family for the 4th of July festivities at the lake. Pictured here with Randy and Gina are Helen's grandsons Mark and David, and the great grandkids.

THANK YOU

Thanks to **Josh Herman**, of Sail Bay for cleaning up the graffiti that was painted on the signs at the public landing this spring.

ANNUAL CLEAN UP

Each year **Mark and David Hoff** complete a volunteer clean-up of the lake via their kayaks. They are amazed at what they find. Thanks. Next time you are out in your kayak or canoe, take a trash bag with you. Every little bit helps!



RYDER CUP GOLF BY THE WIERS FAMILY

Dave Wiers and father, **Larry Wiers** of Maplewood Drive, hosted ten guests for a total of six vs. six, Ryder-cup-style golf tournament at Blackthorn Golf Course. This year was the 2nd annual event. The group played golf in the morning and spent the afternoon on the lake. And top it off with dinner at Flippin' Cow!



MIKE AND CHRISTINA SELLERS

Mike Sellers, son of **Lois Sellers**, was married earlier this year. Congratulations!



CONGRATULATIONS!

Paige and Calib Dill were married on May 19, 2023. The bride's parents are Gina and Randy Hoff and Sheila and Jim Dill.

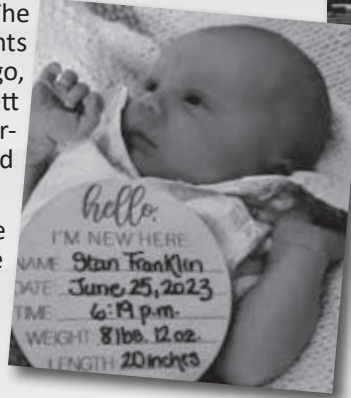


LAKE SHORTS

CONGRATULATIONS, GREAT GRANDPARENTS!

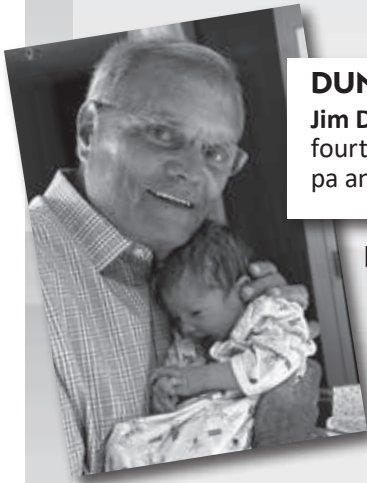
Kay Wuchner Marcus reports that she and husband Tom are a great grandparents. Stan Franklin Najmr will be the fifth generation to enjoy life on Maplewood Drive. The great great grandparents are Nick and Mary Yugo, grandparents are Brett and Heidi Polizotto, parents are Francesca and Stan Najmr.

The new addition to the family was born on June 25 in New Jersey.



DUNFEE GRANDDAUGHTER

Jim Dunfee welcomed his fourth granddaughter. Grandpa and baby are doing just fine.



ROADSIDE FLAGS

Local real estate agents had flags placed at mailboxes before the 4th. It was really a pretty sight.

Now that the holiday is over those flags are falling over. Please remove them and save them for next year.



WORKOUT BY THE LAKE

Beth Smith reported to us that Jessica Garretson of Elite Performance Center in Edwardsburg led a lake-side workout. Take a look at the healthy people above.

NO MORE "HOSTETTER HACIENDA"

The house on North Shore Drive owned by Harry Hostetter, better known as "Bugeye," was torn down earlier this summer. The big tree on the lakeside was taken down as well. Bugeye's garage across the street was the original site of Sportsmen's Club meetings. The garage is still there. The lot where the house had been is now planted with grass and part of the next-door neighbor's yard.



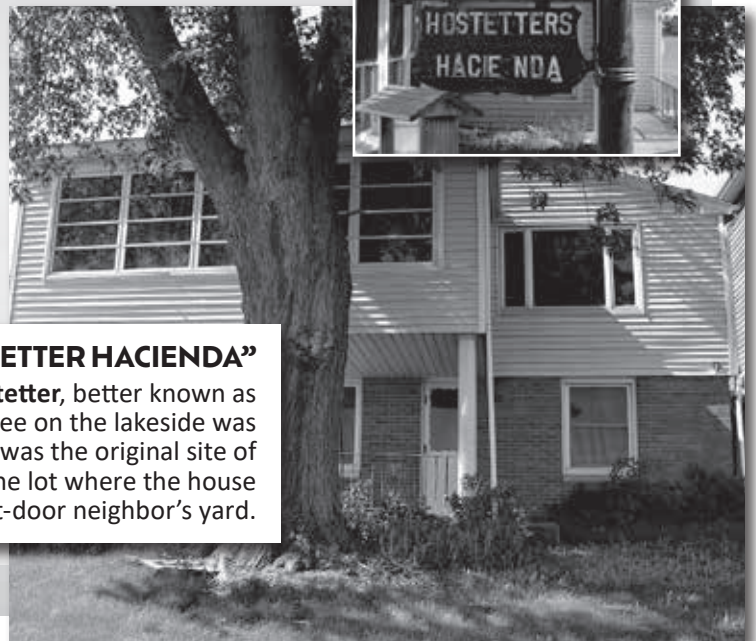
CHURCH ON THE WATER

Church on the Water seems to be going well. Here's a picture of all the boats at the sandbar one Sunday morning. The service starts at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday. Labor Day Sunday will be the last service for the summer.



GRADUATION

Kay Wuchner Marcus's youngest granddaughter, Elena Polizotto, graduated from Hawaii Pacific University May 6. Though she worked two jobs and did research while taking a full load, she managed to graduate Summa Cum Laude with a degree in Marine Biology. She will continue to live on Oahu while obtaining her master's degree in marine biology at HPU. Hopefully when finished, she'll return to her home in Hobart and work at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago!



LAKE SHORTS



PARTY AT THE SMITH'S!

Like many of us on the lake, **Mike and Debbie Smith** of North Shore Drive had a house full of family and friends over the 4th holiday weekend. Mike and Debbie shared these photos with us.



HOUSE DEMOLITION

Another lake house that bit the dust was one in the cove along North Shore Drive. **Ron and Cathy Dosmann** bought the home for their retirement years and hoped to add on. But those plans didn't work out. So, within a matter of a few days the house came down leaving a clean slate for a new retirement dream.

76th Infantry Brigade Indiana National Guard



Nate is the middle soldier in the front row.

★ ★ ★ WELCOME HOME NATE BOEHMAN ★ ★ ★

On July 11, the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Indiana National Guard returned home from a 9-month deployment to Kosovo. Included in those returning was **Nate Boehman**, the grandson of **Pam and Jim Dunfee** of North Shore Drive.

WEDDING AT THE LAKE

Hannah Mitchell and Cameron D'Antonio were married July 15 under the covered bridge at the home of Hannah's grandparents, **Mike and Debi Smith**, North Shore Dr. Hannah is the daughter of the late Michael Mitchell and Heather Mitchell. Cameron is the son of John and Cary D'Antonio. It was magical.





FAREWELLS



RUDOLFO ESPINAS

Rodolfo “Rudy” Espinas Jr. was born Sept. 25, 1948, in Havana, Cuba to Rodolfo Senior and Candida Espinas. He passed away peacefully on July 17, 2023, in Tavares, Florida; he was 74.

Rudy, of Leesburg, Florida, is survived by his wife Camille Espinas; three children, Angela Espinas-Runyon (Wes), Elizabeth Smith (Nate) and **Dr. Tony Espinas** of Simonton Lake; and seven grandchildren, Nick Kintigh, Parker Kintigh, Isabel Smith, Caleb Smith, Samuel Smith, Evelyn Smith and Sloane Espinas.

Rudy loved to fish, go camping, spend time with family and take road trips. He enlisted in the Army during Vietnam where he was a door gunner and a mechanic on helicopters. He worked hard at Utilimaster in Wakarusa, Indiana, for about 20 years.

In lieu of flowers the family invites you to donate in his name to Cornerstone Hospice House, Tavares, Florida.

Our hearts go out to the family.



ESTHER ARREDONDO

Esther Arredondo peacefully passed away June 6, 2023, at hospice at the age of 81 years old. She had 1 ½ years of health issues which included dialysis. She is survived by her husband of 33 years, Joe, and a son Abel, as well as stepchildren Sandy, Tony, Phil, and grandchildren.

Esther entered the world on July 18, 1941, and was the youngest of four children in a Mexican family who lived in South Deering.

She attended Bright Elementary and graduated from Jones Commercial. As a friendly outgoing person with business skills, she entered the office/secretarial field and retired from the Chicago Board of Education.

Esther was a good listener, and it was important for her to keep in touch with family and friends. She resided in California, Illinois and Florida and made friends easily. Esther was an avid White Sox fan and was a talented racquetball player who challenged younger players to a game.

Esther and Joe loved dancing at social gatherings and loved all kinds of music. She was talented at making arts and crafts and spent hours gardening and attending Garden Shows.

She attended St. Thomas Catholic Church in Elkhart and was involved in the parish community.

Esther loved bright colors and enjoyed Neapolitan ice cream. She often referred to herself as a “snowbird” when she would go to Florida in wintertime.

Our heartfelt condolences go out from the lake community to Joe and the family.



ANN VAHALA

Albena “Ann” Vahala, 93, resident of North Shore Landings, passed away on Wednesday, July 19, 2023. Ann was born on February 28, 1930 in Pleasant City, Ohio to August and Mary (Petkash) Mailot. She married Edward A. Vahala on April 18, 1953 in Byesville, OH.

Ann graduated as valedictorian from Pleasant City High School, class of 1947. She was a member of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church. She and her late husband enjoyed entertaining family and friends tailgating for Notre Dame games.

LOIS YODER

Lois Yoder, a former resident of Bell Avenue has passed away. She and her husband John had moved several years ago to be closer to family.





FAREWELLS



SALLY KIDDER EARNHART

Mrs. Sally A. Earnhart, 87, of Elkhart, passed away peacefully on Friday, Dec. 23, 2022 at her home on Thompson Avenue. She was born in Elkhart on Sept. 08, 1935, to the late Lester and Katie (Lantz) Kidder. On July 28, 1958, she married her lifelong sweetheart Lawrence I. "Larry" Earnhart in Elkhart, where he survives after over 70 years together.

Sally was a 1953 graduate of Elkhart High School and worked at G.L. DeFord and Ge-meinhardt. Her sweetest memory was when she and Larry met while working at Mc-Clelland's Five and Dime Store in Elkhart when they were 16. She always laughed when Larry would claim that he "found his million dollar baby in a five and dime store."



SUMMER AFTERNOON, SUMMER AFTERNOON; TO ME THOSE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE TWO MOST BEAUTIFUL WORDS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

~Henry James

THE CHUCK VETTER MEMORIAL HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD!



The First Presbyterian Church in Elkhart, in honor of their long and faithful member, Chuck Vetter, is going to sponsor a Habitat "Panel Build." A panel build is a quick start to a Habitat home building project.

Charles "Chuck" Harman Vetter, 97, of Elkhart and a lifelong resident of the Simonton Lake area, spent his last hours at his home on the lake on Dec. 25, 2022, celebrating Christmas with his family. Chuck, as we Simonton Lake folks knew him, was an icon. A defender of the lake and wildlife and a conservator of land, Chuck walked for miles with his walking stick at his side until just a few years ago. He always had a smile on his face. He loved dogs and allowed neighbors to walk their dogs in his woods.

On Saturday, August 19, at 8:30 volunteers will work for about 3-4 hours in the parking lot of the First Presbyterian Church. Habitat for Humanity will bring all the wood for the construction of the wall frames, tools, and instructors. Then together we will build the frames for the walls and lift the walls in the parking lot so the family that will receive the new home will get a chance to take a first walk through. Then the walls will be lowered and trucked over

to the home site where construction will be immediate.

This is going to be a fun day and at the same time honoring Chuck Vetter for the many hours Chuck gave to Habitat for Humanity.

Lots of volunteers are needed to make all of this happen. Chuck's family has already signed up to help. The church would like to extend the invitation to Chuck's neighbors at Simonton Lake.

To sign up for the build call First Presbyterian Church at 574-264-3107



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

2023

Summer & Fall Events

Kid's Fishing Contest

August 5

Sportsmen's Club Fall Turkey Shoot
September 9 & 10 (tentative)

Sportsmen's Club Fall Casino Night
September 10 (tentative)

Sportsmen's Fall Ball
November 11

**FOLLOW THE
SIMONTON LAKE
SPORTSMEN'S CLUB
ON FACEBOOK!**

FIREWORKS AND POKER RUN

Thanks to all of you who volunteered for and participated in the Poker Run. Despite the early showers, the event was a success.

With the Fireworks 2023 now in the books, we begin planning for the 2024 show. Please donate early and often. The Club works all year to raise funds for this great show.



Uncle Sam (Jack Tucker) at the Poker Run tent



Hook Us Up!!

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REWARDING EVENTS... SO WE WANT
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100% of Donations will be prizes for Friend's Kids Fishing on August 5th!!

Participants are kids ages 4-14

JOIN THE CLUB

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

Membership is \$25.00 per year.

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



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HEY, WHERE'S THE LAKE?

INFORMATION ON FENCES BY BOB MYERS

It certainly can be frustrating to have a picturesque view of Simonton Lake blocked by a fence, a boat house or shed. Can you imagine greeting guests who walk to the lakeside of your property and say, "I thought you lived on a lake." And your response is, "I do. The lake is on the other side of that fence and behind those boat houses." People purchase homes on a lake partially because of the view of the surrounding landscape. Also, the value of a particular home may depend to a great degree on the view.

People build fences on lake property to keep pets or children in, keep neighbors, other people's children, or other people's pets out or provide privacy. All are valid reasons. How you construct that fence and where, and the view you may be denying your neighbor are of concern.

INDIANA CODES ON FENCES-Elkhart County has no specific regulations regarding fences. They defer to the laws set up by the State of Indiana. SEE INDIANA CODE 32-26-9-1, 32-26-10-1, 32-26-5-1

- In Indiana, a fence cannot be taller than six feet and cannot be built or maintained in a way that purposefully annoys adjoining landowners.
- If a fence is constructed or maintained to purposefully annoy adjoining landowners, it can be considered a nuisance. In the State of Indiana there is a "Spite Fence Law." This statute evaluates whether a structure is to be deemed a private nuisance and should be removed. Even if the fence is built to State standards it can still be found in violation of the state "Spite Fence" law. An example of a previous case is one where a resident of Indiana built an 8-foot fence with barbed wire on the top in a residential neighborhood. This was deemed to be a "spite fence" and was ordered removed.
- All fences "shall be erected with the finished side facing toward the property line."
- Do I need a permit? If your fence is 6 ft tall or under, you will not need a permit.
- Can you build your fence on your lot line? Yes, but make sure to determine where the lot line is and not just where you think it is. Officials recommend a stake survey to determine that lot line.
- Can I build a fence down to the seawall? **There are no state or county laws that prohibit this.**

If you previously had an unobstructed view, and now your neighbor has built a structure blocking it, and you are unable to work out a solution with your neighbor, you may want to explore your options with an attorney.

If a fence is "unsightly and needs repair" you may use a "fence viewer." Indiana law provides for fence viewers to serve as an out-of-court dispute resolution function. These viewers are usually ordinary citizens appointed by a local official. Upon request, the fence viewer inspects a property, considers whether the fence needs repair. The decision of the fence viewer is binding on the neighbors, although it can be appealed in court.

Question: If I build a fence that obstructs my neighbor's view, won't it obstruct my view as well?





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THE OSOLO TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT

BY FIRE CHIEF MICHAEL C. SMITH



Upon learning that Simonton Lake had a quarterly magazine, Chief Smith asked if he might write an article for each issue. We were happy to say yes. For his first article we asked Chief Smith to compose an overview of the firehouse, the firefighters, and the fire station and give us a little history as well. The Osolo Township Volunteer Fire Department was founded by local business owners, school bus drivers, and residents in Osolo Township back in late 1950's. Back then the township contracted with Elkhart City for fire protection. When a home or business caught fire, Elkhart City sent 1 truck with 3 firefighters and when they ran out of water they returned to the city and the building was left to burn.

So, Osolo Fire Department was created for the protection of the residents and businesses. We are located at 24936 Buddy Street which is south of C.R. 6 and on the east side of C.R. 11. We have been on the same ground since the laying of the first cement block back in 1957. The station opened for service in 1958.

Although Osolo Fire started as a volunteer department, today it has grown into a combination department with 15 full-time career firefighters, three part time firefighters, and six volunteer firefighters serving the township. Our current fleet consists of a 100 ft. ladder platform truck, one main line engine and one reserve engine, two tankers, a brush truck, a rescue truck, a command vehicle and one fire boat. The Osolo Fire Department runs an average of 1500 calls a year between fire, EMS, and mutual aid to neighboring fire departments. The department covers approximately 25 square miles including Simonton Lake and six miles of the Indiana Toll Road.

CALL ELKHART COUNTY CODE ENFORCEMENT

Simonton Lake is part of Elkhart County. When you need the police, you call the County Sheriff's Office. When your neighbor doesn't mow or has several junk cars in their lawn you call Elkhart County Code Enforcement which is part of the Planning and Development Department.

Elkhart County does have laws regulating homes in our neighborhoods including:

- weeds and rank vegetation,
- lawns over 8 inches tall,
- junk cars in lawns, debris in yards,
- structural issues regarding homes,
- sheds or other structures,
- trash and outside storage,
- people living in tents,
- unattended trash or leaf fires or
- RVs parked in a neighborhood.

The Elkhart County Planning and Development Director is now Mae Kratzer. She is a former resident of Cottage Avenue and familiar with Simonton Lake.

The job of enforcing the county codes 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. The bottom line is: If you do not call in a violation, the county does not know there is a problem.

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.)
- Then call the Elkhart County Planning and Development Office with the address of the property in hand. Your call is confidential.
- Elkhart County Planning and Development Phone: 574- 971-4678
- Ask for Code Enforcement. Depending on the type of complaint you may be sent 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**

E-Mail: dps@elkhartcounty.com

Hours: Monday, 8-5, T-F, 8-4



FIBER INTERNET? IT'S COMING TO SIMONTON LAKE

BY AMY MATHERLY & SCOTT FRANKO OF SURF INTERNET



At the beginning of 2023 Elkhart County partnered with internet provider ChoiceLight. Under it, the county retains ownership of the existing underground cables and the regional not-for-profit manages all the operations. ChoiceLight is no stranger to Michiana. In the last 20 years, they have brought telecommunication infrastructure across 300 miles of cables to St. Joseph and Marshall Counties. This partnership with Elkhart County creates one regional network of nearly 500 miles of cable.

The cables currently in the ground are what is known as dark fiber. That means they are not yet "lit" or being used by a service provider. These will be open access, which will allow multiple different service providers to bring internet access to customers.

One of the providers at Simonton Lake is Surf Internet.

We asked their representative, Scott Franko for some information on this new type of service.

"Fiber-optic internet uses light signals to connect you to the Internet. Unlike cable, where entire areas of town share the same cable, every customer gets their own fiber optic strand so there's no sharing with all your neighbors. That means a more consistent and reliable Internet experience. Fiber internet offers the speed and stable connection you need to stream all your favorite movies, shows, news and sports from whichever streaming service you choose.

Fiber-optic internet service is future proof. There is no practical limit to the amount of capacity or speed fiber can provide. And, since the fiber wire is buried underground, it is immune to lightning and thunderstorms.

FIBER OPTIC CABLE FACTS

A fiber optic cable is a network cable that contains strands of glass fibers inside an insulated casing.

Fiber optic cables provide higher bandwidth and transmit data over longer distances than wired cables.

Fiber optic cables do not overheat and are not affected by weather factors, making them more invincible than copper.



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Simonton Lake Location

FALL LEAF PICK UP

Once again Simonton Lake residents are encouraged to have their leaves taken away for free as an alternative to burning.

Five years ago, the Elkhart County Commissioners started an Elkhart County Leaf Collection Competition. With \$50,000 to be divided among the top teams based on pounds of leaves collected, the competition was fierce.

Last year the contestant we were referred to, James Wyly,

wasn't as reliable as he should have been. But, he is a contestant again and has made needed repairs and upgrades on his equipment.

If you are interested in having your leaves taken away FOR FREE, contact this contestant:

SmokelessLeafs at wlycoyote86@gmail.com

James will make arrangements with you for pickup.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES:

- Leaves can be dropped off at the Elkhart County Landfill for no cost. The landfill is at 59530 County Road 7 South of Elkhart.
- If you have a compost pile or bin, leaves can be added.
- Placing leaves in your garden in the fall will bring you enriched garden soil come spring.

IF YOU ARE SUFFERING FROM A NEIGHBOR'S FIRE:

- Talk to your neighbor.
- If necessary, call the Elkhart County Police and let them know you are having trouble breathing because of a fire in the neighborhood.

If you must burn, be sure to follow the Elkhart Count burning ordinance: Fires must be attended during burning until completely extinguished.

- A fire must be extinguished at any time if it creates a:
 - Pollution problem
 - Threat to public health
 - Nuisance
 - Fire hazard
- Burning may not be conducted during high winds, temperature inversions, air stagnation, or when a pollution alert or air quality action day has been declared.
- Private residential open burning must be during daylight hours. All fires must be extinguished before sunset. (Recreational or ceremonial fires are allowed after sunset but cannot be used for disposal purposes.)

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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

BIRTHDAYS

8/1 ----- Ethan Delp
 8/3 ----- Mary K. Mooi
 Nadia Polizotto
 Chad Broderick
 8/4 ----- Ginny Bellamy
 8/5 ----- Jaxon Patrick Kern
 8/1 ----- Levi Scott
 Grandson of Don & Barb Rospopo
 8/17 ---- Graham Byrns
 Grandson of Laura Byrns
 8/19 ---- Cindy Nickell
 8/19 ---- Amy Matherly
 8/22 ---- Gina Hoff
 8/23 ---- Henry William Saleh
 Grandparents Bill & Susie Broderick
 8/24 ---- Sloan Cooper
 Grandparents Randy & Wendy Cooper
 8/26 ---- Erin Hoffman Harding
 8/30 ---- Blake Walters
 8/30 ---- Raelynn Lane
 Granddaughter of Laura Byrns
 8/31 ---- Adam Moore
 Grandson of Theresa Maier

9/1 ----- Roger Bromen
 9/3 ----- Diane Marlow
 9/3 ----- Tim Nusbaum
 9/6 ----- Brent Ernsberger
 9/12 ---- Lincoln McIntire
 Grandson of Cam & Sue Snyder,
 Brad & Pam McIntire
 9/8 ----- Lois Sellers
 9/8 ----- Shelly West
 9/11 ---- Tim Taylor
 9/11 ---- Stacey Miller
 9/14 ---- Wyatt Samuel Skipper
 Grandson of Bufford & Becky Skipper
 10/3 ---- Kiera Broderick
 10/5 ---- Kyan Joseph Wilson
 Grandparents Paul & Linda Wilson
 10/19 --- Erica Byrns
 10/24 --- Louisa Saleh
 Granddaughter of
 Bill & Susie Broderick
 10/26 --- Morrie DeGeyter
 10/29 --- Ab Saleh
 Son-in-law of Bill & Susie Broderick
 10/31 --- Bob Putnam

ANNIVERSARIES

8/8 ----- Shelly & Dan West
 8/10 ---- Victoria & Tim Taylor
 8/13 ---- Kay & Dale Marcus
 8/17 ---- Kiera & Sean Broderick
 8/18 ---- Sue & Ron Taylor
 8/18 ---- Shirley & Dave Adams
 8/19 ---- Barb & Don Rospopo
 8/25 ---- Larry & Ginny Bellamy
 8/27 ---- Susie & Bill Broderick
 8/29 ---- Kristin & Mike Newkirk
 Daughter of Carole & Dave Foutz
 9/1 ----- Connie & Jon Hart
 9/1 ----- Wendy & Curt Willis
 9/3 ----- Becky & Bufford Skipper
 9/10 ---- Pat & John Brown
 9/12 ---- Cami & Ab Saleh
 Daughter of Susie & Bill Broderick
 9/20 ---- Stacey & Dave Miller
 10/3 ---- Lisa & Randy Weinley
 10/8 ---- Peggy & Morrie DeGeyter
 10/9 ---- Ashli & Ben Swathwood
 10/11 --- Erin & Chad Winchester
 Daughter of Cindy & Vaughn Nickell

We welcome Becky Lies to our Simonton Says staff. She takes over the "Birthdays and Anniversaries" column from Kathy Shewmaker. Thanks, Kathy, for all your years of service.



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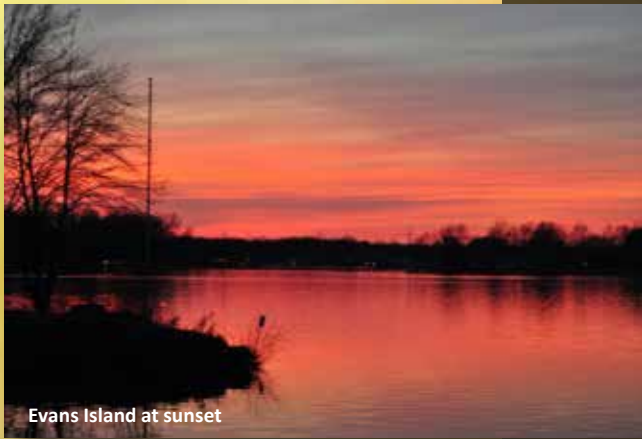
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Ann Lehman "Sunset"



Evans Island at sunset



There's a storm a comin'

JULY MOON



"Where's my mama?"