

SIMONTON SAYS...

SIMONTON LAKE AREA HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC. NEWSLETTER

FALL ISSUE 2024

VOLUME 17

ISSUE 4

AWESOME AUTUMN



ELKHART, INDIANA

Photo by Susie Broderick

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www.simontonlakehoa.com

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August Concert at the home of Norma Cox

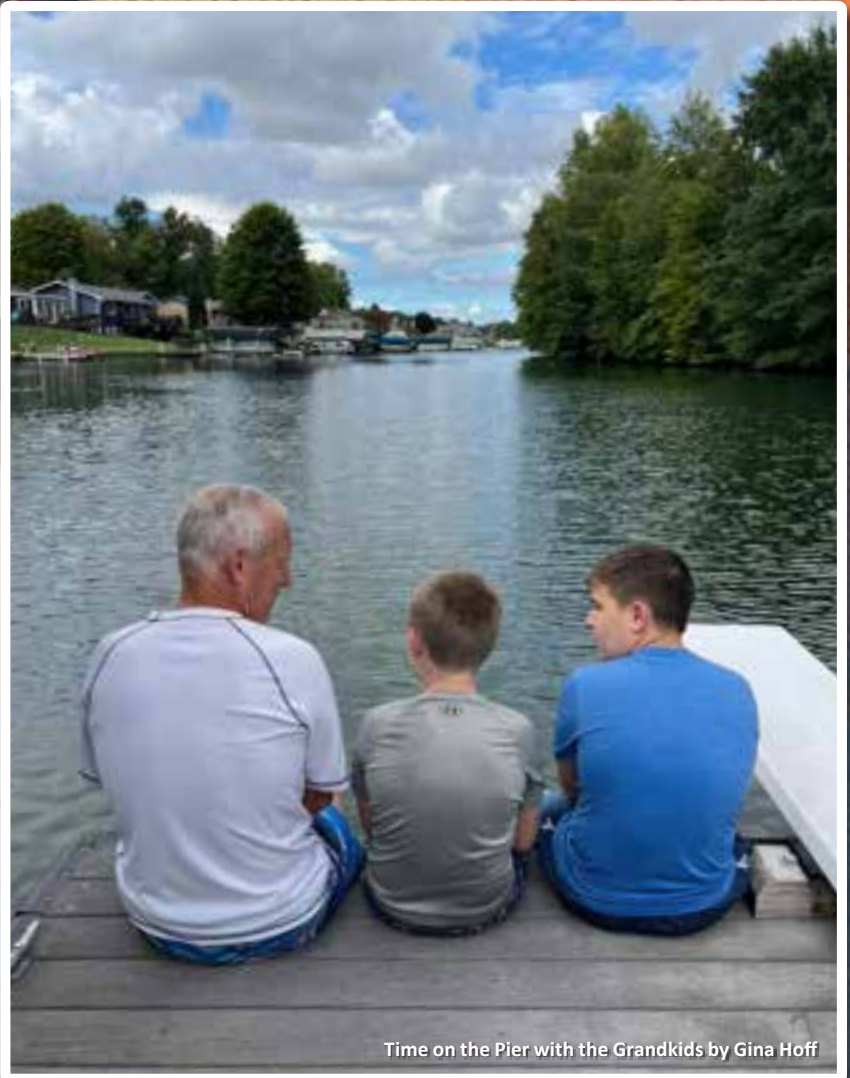


Here are just a few of the lighted kayaks from the Light up the Night event in August. Thanks to the HOA Membership/Outreach Committee for organizing this event.



Denise Sanders, North Shore Drive won Grand Champion-Quilts with this stunning entry.

SCENES • FROM • SUMMER



Time on the Pier with the Grandkids by Gina Hoff

INFORMATION & EVENTS

SIMONTON SAYS...

FALL 2024 EDITION

ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

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

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

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

Randy Hoff, Environment
25369 Vernon Crossing

Tim Leis
51004 Sail Bay Court

Erin Kirchner-Lucas
Website & Marketing
26117 Lake Drive
wickedpics@email.com

STANDING COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP/OUTREACH

New Neighbors: Toni Queener,
Kim Kieper, Kathryn Freehaver
kink999999@yahoo.com

- New Neighbors
- Lake Events
- Dues: Susan Broderick

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: Michelle 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
• Buoys • Hazards in the Water

DNR Law Enforcement
Central Dispatch 812-837-9536
Pier Rules 317-234-1097

Sheriff Elkhart County
(574) 533-4151

EMERGENCIES-CALL 911

Osolo Township Fire Dept.
574-264-1066

Osolo EMS 574-262-3052

CONTACT US / INFORMATION

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

November

Fall Issue of "Simonton Says"

November 2 SLSC Fall Ball

November 13 Conservancy Mtg.

November 23
SLSC "TAILGATE PARTY"

Dec. 1 FILING DEADLINE FILE
FOR CONSERVANCY, DISTRICT 2
ELECTION. See the article on pg.6
for details.

December 11 Conservancy Mtg.

January 10, 2025 Info. and Pictures
needed for the Winter Issue of
"Simonton Says"

January HOA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

January 8 Conservancy Meeting

February- Winter Issue
"Simonton Says"



Simonton Lake is a member
of the Indiana Lakes
Management Society



NOTES FROM THE BOARD

FALL 2024 EDITION

Join the Simonton Lake HOA today!

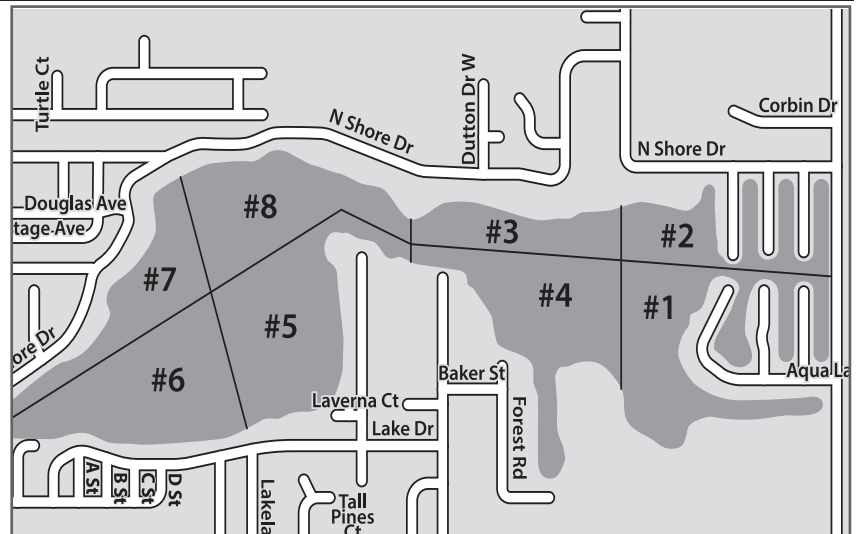
Use the form below to get a head start for 2025.

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

**THE LAKE ASSOCIATION HAS DIVIDED THE LAKE INTO 8 AREAS.
CONTACT YOUR AREA REP WITH QUESTIONS OR FOR INFORMATION.**

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



2025 MEMBERSHIP FORM

SLAHA MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION		DUES: PER HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR JANUARY 1, 2025 - DECEMBER 31, 2025	
NAME(S) _____		☐ Regular Member	\$40
ADDRESS _____		☐ Senior (70-79)	\$25
PHONE/CELL(S) _____		☐ Honorary (80 & Over)	FREE Life Member
PHONE/HOME _____			
EMAIL(S) _____			
MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES AUTOMATED LAKE ALERTS VIA EMAIL			
PARTICIPATION INTEREST IN A CURRENT COMMITTEE Committee Chairpersons are listed in Newsletter	☐ Lake Environment	SL HOA ADDITIONAL DONATION \$	
	☐ Lake Safety	FIREWORKS FUND DONATION \$	
	☐ Membership/Outreach	SL PRESERVATION TRUST DONATION \$	
	☐ Newsletter	Goose/Swan Remediation Project \$	
	☐ 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 interested in being a SLAHA Board Member, please contact a current board member listed in the newsletter.

SEWER RATES TO GO UP AS THE CITY OF ELKHART RAISES RATES

FROM THE SIMONTON LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT BOARD

As of July 1, 2024, the City of Elkhart initiated a substantial increase in sewage usage rates for the entire city and all others connecting to their sewer system. The rate increase will span over a period of five years to be used for the necessary upgrades and improvements to their system.

WHY DOES ELKHART'S RATE HIKE AFFECT US?

The Simonton Lake sewer system sends our sewage to the city, and the city charges the Conservancy. Simonton Lake sewer payments pay this charge. Now that the city is charging more, the Simonton Lake Conservancy will have to raise our rates to cover the increase.

HOW HAS THE SLCD BOARD BEEN DEALING WITH THIS SO FAR?

Since July, SLCD has absorbed the rate increase while the Board sought the best way to introduce rate hikes to their customers. The SLCD Board cannot continue to do this. The SLCD has reviewed all expenses and budget figures to determine what the minimum rate hike needs to be and when it needs to be added.

The sewer system is 25 years old and has been maintained and serviced very well to keep cost in line. Money in the budget must be available for repairs and maintenance. SLCD expenses have increased as fees for chemicals, equipment and repairs have increased.

HOW MUCH WILL SEWER BILLS GO UP?

Currently the board, working with their accountant, is looking at an increase of **\$17.48 for 2025.**

Keep in mind the SLCD sewer rates have for years have been the lowest or one of the lowest rates in the state. The board is striving to keep the rates as low as possible for SLCD users.

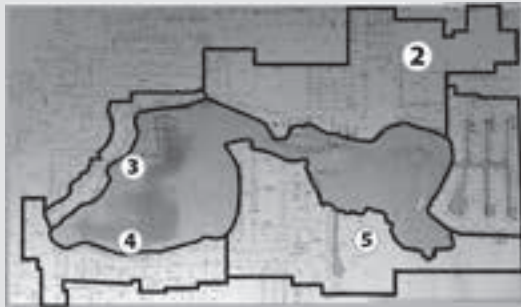
WILL I HAVE A CHANCE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RATE HIKE?

On November 13, 2024 at the Aquatic Center in Elkhart a public hearing will be held at 6:30.

SIMONTON LAKE CONSERVANCY BOARD POSITION UP FOR RE-ELECTION

This year an election will be held in February 2025 for the Section 2 district. That position is currently held by Ed Hickman who has decided not to run for another term.

District 2 includes homes from 25014 North Shore Drive (Little Simonton) to 25872 North Shore Drive (Big Simonton) and includes Brynwood, North Shore Landings, Dutton, Doe Meadow, Fawn Lane, Dear Run and Dolph. If you wish to run for the District 2 position you **MUST** own land in District 2.



HOW TO RUN FOR A SEAT ON THE CONSERVANCY BOARD

1. Call the Conservancy Office at 574-206-8485 to confirm that you live in District 2.
2. Using an official petition format, declare that you wish to run for a position on the Simonton Lake Conservancy Board.

3. Have five freeholders (landowners) who own land within District 2 sign your petition.
4. Your petition should be mailed to the Simonton Lake Conservancy District Office at P.O. Box 4304, Elkhart, Indiana 46515 on or before DECEMBER 1, 2024
5. Call the Conservancy Office at 574-206-8485 to make sure your petition was delivered and to confirm the site and time for the Annual Meeting.
6. **Only residents of Section 2 may vote.**

WHAT DOES THE CONSERVANCY DO?

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

Board members serve four-year terms and attend monthly meetings.

People who are interested in serving on the Board would be wise to attend some meetings and talk to board members to get an idea of the responsibilities and time required.





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ANNIVERSARY
1925-2025



SEE THE 2025 MODELS:

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DECEMBER 6-8

KALAMAZOO EXPO CENTER

CHICAGO BOAT SHOW

JANUARY 8-12

DONALD E STEPHENS CON. CENTER

MICHIANA BOAT SHOW

JANUARY 24-26

SOUTH BEND CENTURY CENTER

574-264-2874



WakeSideMarine.com

CONSERVANCY CORNER

SIMONTON LAKE
CONSERVANCY
574-206-8485

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!

CONSERVANCY PURPOSES

The Conservancy deals with the following:

- Sewer System
- Drainage
- Erosion
- Sewer
- Sediment Removal
- Weed Control
- Issues that Improve Recreational Use of the Lake (Example: ADA Compliant Pier).

If you are new to the lake, you will want to contact the Conservancy District to make sure your account is in order and that the name of the bill is yours.

CITY OF ELKHART TO DOUBLE RATES

Our sewage is sent to the City of Elkhart Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Federal government has mandated that Elkhart improve its facilities. To pay for that, sewage rates will go up. The Conservancy Board will have to pass this rate hike on to our customers. The Simonton Lake rate is still one of the lowest in the state.

ED HICKMAN, DISTRICT 2, PLANS TO RETIRE

Ed Hickman, a Board member since the beginning of the Simonton Lake Conservancy, will retire at the end of his term in February 2025. Ed's knowledge of engineering has been invaluable to the Conservancy. He will be missed.

Those District 2 residents who might like to run for Ed's position should contact the Conservancy Office. Please read the article on the Conservancy Election in this issue.

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!

The installation of our new fiber optic cable has caused several ruptures in the sewer line. No permanent damage was done.

NO RUN OFF WATER IN THE SEWER

Please read the article on page 9 about putting run off water into the sewer system.

REPAIR AND INSTALLATION SERVICES

The companies listed below have done great work for many Conservancy District sewer customers in the past and know our system well. BUT you may use whoever you like to install and repair your grinder pump and sewer line. The Conservancy has no control over the charges and gets no money for referrals.

FOR SEWER LINE REPAIRS: C&E EXCAVATING
Contact Adam Clark: 574.320.2050
www.candeexcavating.com

FOR GRINDER PUMP EMERGENCIES
A&R WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT, INC.
574.674.5779
www.arwwwm.com

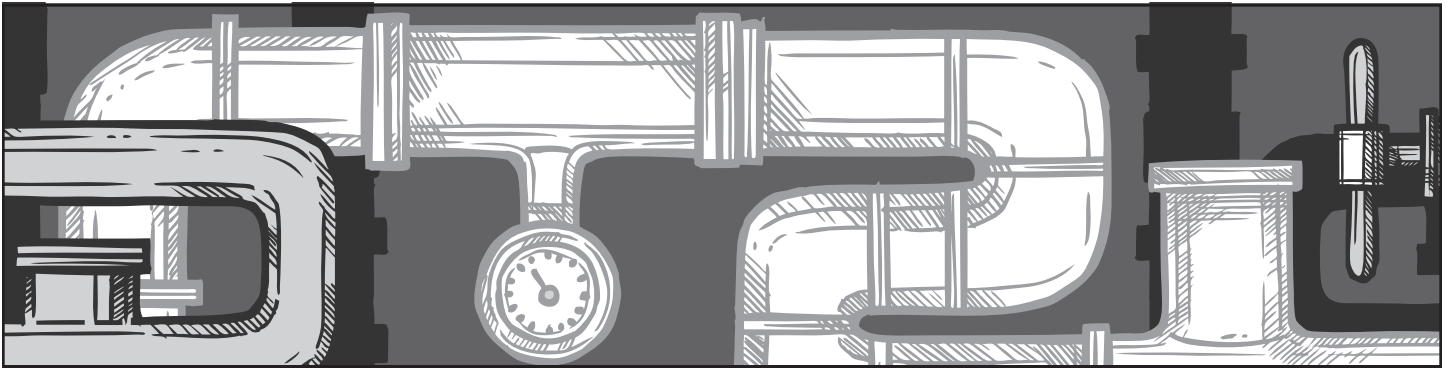
- Emergency Grinder Repairs
- Tank\Pump Installation Contractors

SIMONTON LAKE SEWER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1 - Bob Evans	District 3 - Mark Lucas
District 2 - Ed Hickman	District 5 - Randy Hoff
District 3 - Ryan Matherly	

BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE ELKHART AQUATIC CENTER

November 13 ▪ December 11 ▪ January 9
February 15, Annual Meeting on Saturday



RUN OFF WATER VS. WASTEWATER

BY BOB EVANS, SIMONTON LAKE CONSERVANCY BOARD PRESIDENT

As you know, the Simonton Lake Conservancy manages the sewer system around the lake. The sewer system is designed to take wastewater from our homes through underground pipes and sent to the City of Elkhart wastewater facility. We pay the city for this service.

WHAT ABOUT RAINWATER?

On July 9th and 10th this year, 3.5 inches of rain was recorded at the lake which is great for the lawns and the lake level but not so great for crawl spaces and basements. Homeowners' sump pumps were running at peak rate for several hours to keep the runoff water out of those crawl spaces and basements. Hopefully, the sump pumps performed as expected.

IS OUR SEWER SYSTEM TAKING IN RAINWATER?

We are fortunate that our Simonton Lake Low Pressure sewer system is a sealed system. Rain, runoff, and snow melt are not able to enter the sewer, EXCEPT for runoff water that enters the sewer system through sump pumps that are connected to the in-house drainpipe going to your grinder pump.

IN-HOME RUNOFF GOING INTO THE SEWER

So, many of us whose in-house systems are designed this way are pumping run off into the sewer system. It is being sent off to the city as if it was wastewater. And the city is charging us!

JULY STORM

During that 24-hour period in July there was a substantial increase in flows to the city. The daily average flows from our system are around 66,000 gallons of wastewater. But in July a total of over 200,000 gallons of water was sent to the city for treatment. This means that 134,000 gallons of rainwater was piped to the city for treatment.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR OUR USERS AND OUR SYSTEM?

The City of Elkhart charges the Simonton Lake Conservancy District for each gallon of wastewater sent in for treatment. The pumping of runoff water into a grinder pump adds additional cost as well as wear of our lift station equipment. It is the mission of the Simonton Lake Conservancy District to keep costs down as much as possible. This will be difficult as the city has raised its rates in July and will increase this rate annually over a period of five years. (This is due to a federal mandate to update their treatment facilities).

WHAT CAN I DO?

If sump pumps that are connected to in-house plumbing are disconnected and diverted to the exterior of your home onto lawns areas away from the house, this will reduce the flow during rain events and help reduce costs.

If there is a concern whether your sump pump is connected to your grinder cost, the SLCD can help with what to look for. New homes built on the lake can be plumbed so that rainwater is kept out of the sewer.





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VISIT US AT:

CHICAGO BOAT SHOW

JAN 8 - 12, 2025

MICHIANA BOAT SHOW

JAN 24 - 26, 2025

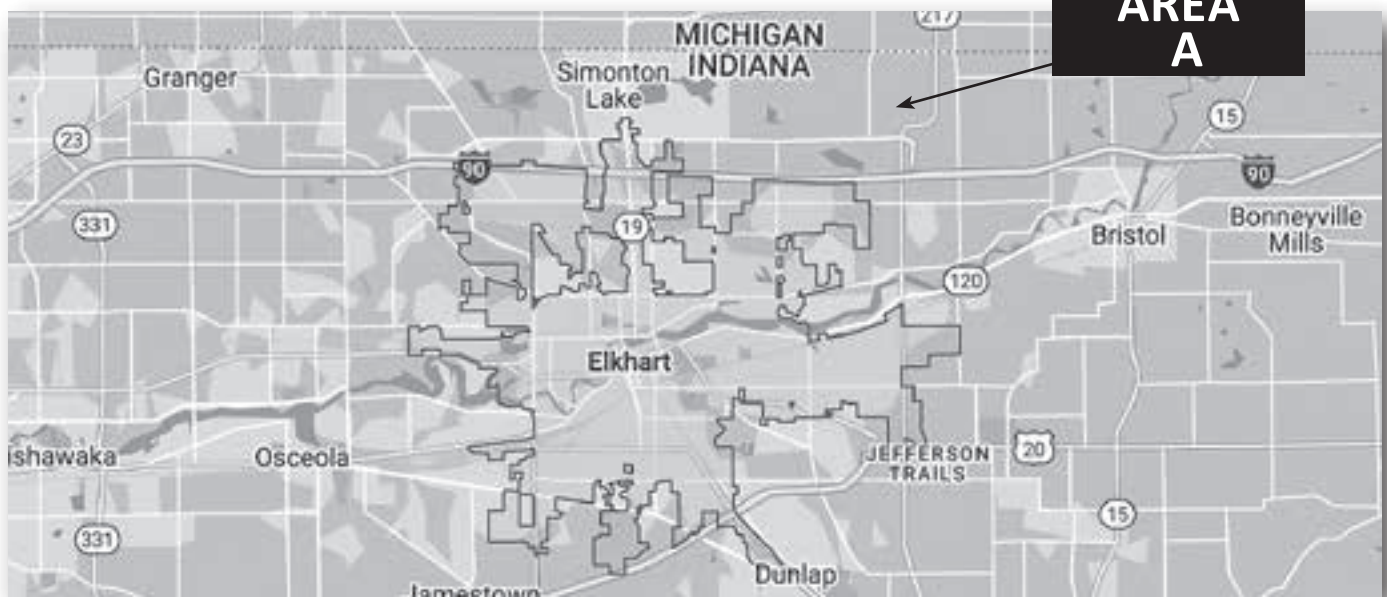
WWW.STBCM.COM






ZONING ISSUES

**ELKHART EAST
AREA
A**



On September 7 the Elkhart Truth reported that another 116 acres on the north side of C.R. 4 between County Roads 15 and 17 is being developed for another industrial park. The developers refer to this land as another part of “Elkhart East” industrial park. The developer ensures that they will protect

the “Elkhart Bog” a DNR property just to the north of the property line. The Elkhart Bog was featured in our August issue. This nature preserve is owned by the DNR, and they may oppose building on this adjacent property.

SPOTLIGHT

ON ADVERTISERS



Wyland's Marine was founded in 1941 by Earl Wyland with the original store located on US 33 in Elkhart, across from the railroad yards. It was one of the first sporting goods stores in the area. Then in 1982, the Wyland family acquired Bulldog Marine along the upper St Joseph River when Earl's grandsons, Steve and Doug Wyland, were taking over the business. Their brother Greg was also working with

them. Within a few years a second location was added on the lower St Joseph River on Jefferson Blvd in Mishawaka.

Now 83 years later, Wyland's Marine is still family owned and operated with Steve Wyland as President. Steve's brother in law, Tim Buzalski, is the General Manager. His daughter, Taylor Wyland, is Assistant Manager, and his nephew, Abraham Buzalski, the Sales Manager. The four of them work with a great team of parts and storage personnel, plus long time factory trained mechanics. They appreciate all of their customers, as many of them are like family as well.

In addition to new and preowned boat sales, their services include OEM parts, boating supplies, and engine diagnostics, repair and maintenance. Plus, slip rental at both locations, and indoor storage. Current boat lines include Bennington and Godfrey pontoons, Hurricane deck boats, Starcraft fishing boats, and Kawasaki Jet skis, along with Yamaha outboard motors.

If you'd like to see what's new in boats for next year, visit Wyland's at their Mishawaka showroom, or catch their displays at the Chicago Boat Show Jan 8-12, and the Michiana Boat Show Jan 24-26.



Call 574-206-1644 For an Appointment

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AMBULANCE SERVICE SAFE FOR 2025

In September, the HOA Board became aware of Osolo Township budget issues and the possibility of reduced ambulance service in the township.

HOA President, Doug Reese and 10 additional lake residents attended the September meeting of the Township Board to voice our concerns and listen to their explanations.

The combined budget proposals submitted by the EMS and Fire Department for the 2025 budget total approximately \$2,000,000 more than the township can receive from taxes. Last year's budget was balanced but that was because \$750,000 was taken from reserve funds. Doing that this year would empty that reserve fund. Taxes are already at the maximum level and cannot be increased to fund these budget proposals.

WHAT WOULD WE LOSE IF SERVICES WERE REDUCED?

Advanced Life Support (ALS) EMS service, which we now have includes a paramedic in the ambulance who can administer IV's, intubate, etc.

Basic Life Support (BMS) EMS service does not include a paramedic in the ambulance. This type of service is basically transport. Not having a paramedic in the crew will reduce the budget. But it will put residents who need immediate assistance at risk.

IS THE TOWNSHIP BOARD CONSIDERING REDUCING OUR AMBULANCE SERVICE?

The Township Board answered that this was never a possibility. Their intent is to maintain the highest possible level of care, but the EMS budget as proposed exceeded the allowable tax levy by 100%, which is why alternative solutions must be found. They alerted us that we will be in the same boat come budget time next year.

EMS AND FIRE ARE SEPARATE, PRIVATE, NOT FOR PROFIT ENTITIES:

Our Osolo Township EMS responds to around 1,100-1,400 calls per year and provides paramedic (ALS) services.

Osolo Fire has 5 full-time staff, all certified EMTs (BLS), but they currently do not have the ability to transport patients. Acquiring transport rights from the state could be done relatively easily.

COULD OSOLO FIRE AND OSOLO EMS COMBINE?

One of the proposals on the table is to combine EMS with the Fire Department, which would consolidate the two separate entities into one unified service. This model has already been successfully implemented in other townships such as Nappanee, Concord, and Baugo. Currently, Osolo is one

of the few remaining townships with separate EMS and Fire services.

NEXT STEPS FOR SIMONTON LAKE RESIDENTS:

BE AWARE OF THE SITUATION

It is clear that the township is under serious budget constraints as the city continues to annex property once part of the township. Once property is annexed by the city, the township no longer gets property taxes from this land. It is our property taxes that support the township.

Advocate for maintaining ALS services BY CONTACTING LOCAL OFFICIALS.

We need to make sure that any budget solutions do not compromise the quality of emergency medical care for Simonton Lake residents.

CONTACT

Doug Miller

Indiana House of Representatives

200 W. Washington Street

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Email: indianahouserpublicans.com/members/leadership/doug_miller

Suzanne Weirick

117 N. Second Street

Goshen, Indiana 46526

Email: ccommissioners@elkhartcounty.com



“CLEAN LAKES INITIATIVE” RESULTS MISSING

BY AMY MATHERLY

In 2022, Simonton Lake was admitted into the “Clean Lakes Initiative” a program run by the School of Public and Environmental Affairs Department at Indiana University, Bloomington. The program was funded by a grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and overseen by the Indiana DNR.

WHY IS SIMONTON LAKE TESTING?

Having the lake water tested is an extremely expensive prospect. But we did want to know how clean the water was in Simonton Lake. So, when this program came to our attention and there was no fee, we jumped at the chance.

WHAT PROGRESS HAVE WE MADE?

For the past three summers volunteers have tested the water only for water clarity and transparency. The results for 2023 were included in the April 2024 issue of Simonton Says. It showed that we were among the cleanest lakes of our size.

This summer 2024, after proving that we followed through by submitting two years of data, we were given \$1,000 worth of testing equipment to test water temperature, dissolved oxygen, phosphorus, nitrogen, and chlorophyll, invasive species, and algal blooms.

WHO DOES THE TESTING?

Lake resident, Van Kessler, volunteered to collect the samples. The Director of “Clean Lakes” came to Simonton Lake last spring to train us, and Van graciously allowed us to use his fishing boat. This testing had to be done carefully so that the data was accurate. Van had to go out on a calm day during the week when boat traffic was low, and the sediment stirred up on the weekends had settled. He had to place his boat at the same spot on the lake each time, then carefully do the collections and submit them to the “Clean Lakes” office by mail.

Eight samples were sent to “Clean Lakes” by Van.

These eight samples were received by the “Clean Lakes” office but,

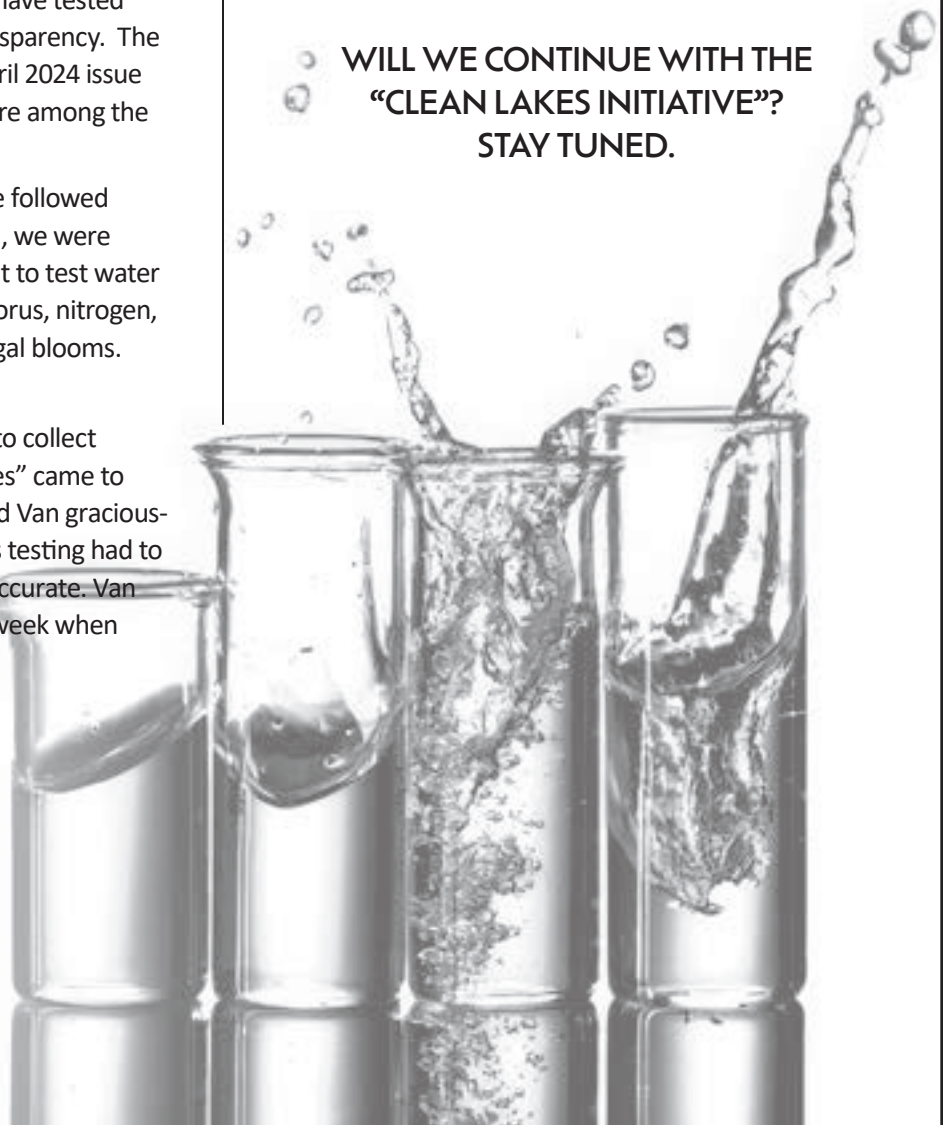
ALL EIGHT OF THESE SAMPLES ARE MISSING.

The “Clean Lakes” director and her superior have scoured their offices and refrigerators but have not found the samples. We have registered our extreme disappointment and have informed them that we are not sure we will continue with the program.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Here’s the bottom line: having data to prove that our lake is clean and without pollutants is necessary when working with the county or the state or the DNR or, if or when we might want to get a grant for future dredging. Doing this testing on our own is too expensive for the HOA budget.

WILL WE CONTINUE WITH THE
“CLEAN LAKES INITIATIVE”?
STAY TUNED.





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WE HAVE “FALLEN BACK”



Each spring and fall our clocks change. We “spring forward” one hour in the springtime and “fall back” one hour in the fall. This year we “fell back” one hour on November 3. How did this system of time change happen?

We call this springing forward/falling back, Daylight Saving Time. About 40% of the people in 70 countries on earth use this system.

In the 1890’s George Hudson, an astronomer from New Zealand proposed this time shift but it didn’t catch on. Germany used this system during World War I to save energy. The U.S. also began to use the system during the war. In World War II the U.S. went back to “war time” nationwide.

Now, every state except Hawaii and Arizona observes daylight saving time. Canada and parts of Australia use it, but Russia and the rest of Asia don’t.

For a while after World War 2 areas in the U.S. could choose daylight savings or regular time and it was very confusing. In 1966 The Congress passed the Uniform Time Act. Each state was required to choose a time for the entire state and stick with it. There have been adjustments in Indiana for the counties close to Chicago.

There is still much debate over this issue. But, with daylight savings time we get to enjoy that extra hour or so of sunlight at the end of the day. In the fall on the day the time changes we get an extra hour of sleep.

**“SPRING AHEAD” DAY IN 2025
WILL BE ON MARCH 9**

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.
- 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.
- Contact the New Neighbor team at: toniqueener@gmail.com, kfreehafer@icloud.com, kimk999999@yahoo.com.

Follow us on Facebook: SIMONTON LAKE HOA
Visit our website: simontonlakehoa.com
Email us: simontonlakehoa@gmail.com



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Interior Designer/Project Manager

michellecolemandesigns.com

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Fort Wayne	260-426-4357
Indianapolis	317-652-6175
South Bend	574-239-2273

@senior1care

LAKE SHORTS

Gary and Roz Muhr of North Shore Drive have volunteered to help with the HOA Garage Sale. Gary and Roz have just lived at the lake for about 2 years. There are 35 signs that need to be placed around the lake before the sale. Then, these 35 signs need to be picked up. Thanks for the help.

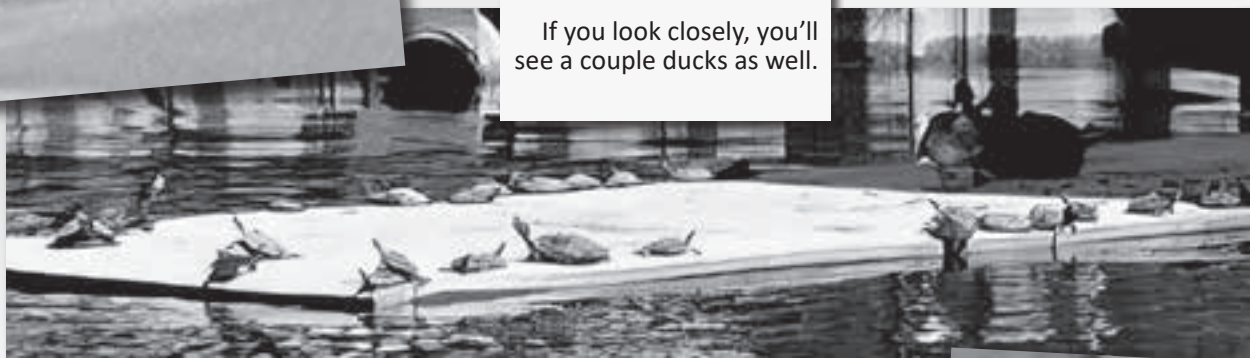
GRANDSONS VISIT THE LAKE

Gina and Randy Hoff spent some quality time with grandsons **Joshua and Luke**.

Grandparents, **Gina and Randy Hoff** and **Jim and Sheila Dill** welcome a new grandchild.

Shelly West and her husband were going through the channels when they came upon a swim mat which our lake turtles had overrun.

If you look closely, you'll see a couple ducks as well.



KRISTINE VANZILE RETIRES

After 29 years of service with the Elkhart Community Schools, **Kristine** has retired. A countdown was posted on her Facebook page. Kristine finished out her career at Feaser Elementary. She'll be missed.



LAKE SHORTS



Carole and Dave Foutz's twin grandsons love to fish and while they live in Carmel, they travel to Simonton Lake for every Sportsmen's Club Fishing Contest. Cody's brother, Colton, has SIX trophies but Cody has always come up short, until August. He's pictured here with his trophy and ribbon. **Congratulations!**

LEANNE BREKKE IS A ROCKSTAR

Remember last year when our own **Leanne Brekke** was photographed with Purdue star Zach Edey?

Well, here she is with former Purdue Basketball Coach, Gene Keady!



LEIF FREEHAVER CATCHES HIS FIRST WALLEYE

Leif Freehaver caught his first walleye in early October. It was a 23 incher!



FIRE??

October 3 several people posted questions on the Facebook Neighbors of Simonton Lake page asking about the big plume of smoke that was rising from the east end of Big Simonton. It was just a large pile of brush being burnt by a property owner.



NEW NEIGHBORS

- **Joe Greenlee** - Aqua Drive
- **Perri McQuillan** - North Shore Dr. (Ola Crain Home)
- **Doug Owenby**, North Shore Dr.
- **James and Terrell Frain**, North Shore Dr.

LEAVING THE LAKE

Jim and Sheila Dill, **John Duval**, and **Sherrie Nethercut** all of Twilight Avenue.

LAKE SHORTS



The **Marcus and Polizotto** family entertained family from Jasper, IN to Rochester Hills, MI this 4th of July. In the picture they are showing our support for their nephew, Joel Wuchner, who missed the event because he had just joined the army and was at Fort Leonard Wood hopefully training to be an MP.

FIVE GENERATIONS

Pam Dunfee sent us a picture of five generations of her family. Pictured left are Pam, with her dad Tom Moorman, Pam's daughter Stacey Vervynct, Stacy's son Nathan Boehman and Nathan's son Lincoln Boehman. Sadly, shortly before this issue went to print, Tom passed away. He was 92 years old.



FAREWELLS



DICK KOSS

Richard Henry "Dick" Koss, 72, of Elkhart, passed away on Sunday, June 30, 2024, at Center for Hospice Care's Esther House in Elkhart. He was born on May 11, 1952, in Mount Clemens, MI, to the late Richard J. and Mary Koss. On May 2, 1998, Dick married the love of his life, Tina Green.

Dick is survived by his loving wife of 26 years, Tina Koss; niece, Courtney Green; neighbor, Andrew; and a loving host of extended family, friends, and acquaintances.

A celebration of life gathering was held on Sunday, August 4, at Re-Pete's.

Dick worked as a sales representative for Flemming Sales and Structural Composites of Indiana for many years. He was also a proud member of the local Ducks Unlimited group, the Elkhart Moose Lodge, and the **Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club**.

In his spare time, Dick enjoyed going out in nature to fish or duck hunt. Most importantly, he enjoyed spending time with his beloved wife, Tina, and the many friends he made throughout his life who all brought him so much joy.

Dick will best be remembered as a fun-loving, welcoming man who had truly never met a stranger. He had the ability to make everyone feel included and was a guiding light for many throughout his life. Dick was loved by many and will be dearly missed by all.





FAREWELLS



DENISE O'BRYANT

Denise A. O'Bryant, a beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, passed away in her home with her loving husband by her side on September 1, 2024, at the age of 70. Born in Elkhart, Indiana on August 12, 1954, to William "Billy B" and Fern "Lucy" (George) Bartlett, Denise was a nurturing presence in the lives of all who knew her. She graduated from Elkhart High School in 1972 and dedicated her life to her family and community.

Denise's career began as a devoted homemaker where she skillfully raised her two children, Ben, and Chevy. She extended her commitment to service through her employment at Wal-Mart in Goshen, starting as a cashier before being promoted to department manager and later as a shipping clerk at Paragon until her retirement. Her unwavering work ethic and dedication were admired by colleagues and customers alike.

She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Ron; her son, Ben O'Bryant; daughter, Chevy (Mike) Brodersen; grandchildren, Kevin (Miranda), Katelyn, and Matthew Brodersen; sisters, Brenda Emerson, and **Myra (Doug) Cors**; and brother, Daryl Bartlett. Denise was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, Barry Bartlett, and her brother-in-law, John Emerson.



JASON MICHAEL OBENDORF

Jason Michael Obendorf, 42 of Bristol, IN passed away on Friday, September 13, 2024, at Elkhart General Hospital after a brief illness. Jason was born on April 29, 1982, to David and Melinda Obendorf in Elkhart, IN.

Jason graduated from Memorial High School in Elkhart, IN and he graduated with honors from the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale in Florida. He was the owner of Obe-Co, INC. and was a partner of Modern Buggy. Jason enjoyed golfing with his friends, watching movies and weight training. He also enjoyed hosting events and cooking for them. He was an avid Michigan, Chicago Cubs and Colts fan. Jason had a love of fast cars, something he inherited from his father. He enjoyed coaching little league baseball and Barkley basketball and sponsoring several recreational sports teams. Jason was a philanthropist and was very generous about giving of his time, talents, and donations. Most of all Jason loved to spend time with his family and friends.

Jason is survived by his fiancé Annie Hunsberger of Bristol, IN, his father and step-mother, **Dave and Tammy Obendorf of Simonton Lake**; children Johonna Obendorf and Micah Obendorf; siblings, Christi (Erik) Smith of Granger, IN., Jenna (Jordan) Mansfield of Goshen, IN., and Chris (Kaylee) Obendorf of Ft. Wayne, IN and his grandma Marilee Obendorf of Butler, IN. Surviving Jason are also 6 nieces and nephews, 2 dogs, Diesel and Dobby, and a cat, Richard. Jason is preceded in death by his mom, Melinda Bair and his grandparents, Robert Obendorf, and Joseph & Janeth Ball.

Memorials for Jason may be directed to Ribbon of Hope, 5230 Beck Dr, #2B, Elkhart, IN 46516, www.ribbonof-hope.org or Bashor Children's Home, 62226 County Road 15, Goshen, IN 46526 www.bashor.org or American Heart Association, 8720 Castle Creek Parkway E. Dr., #100, Indianapolis, IN 46250 www.heart.org



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THANKS TO LOCAL RESTAURANTS

FROM THE HOA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The membership/outreach committee would like to express our appreciation for their support of welcoming new neighbors to Simonton Lake. The following businesses have donated gift cards from their restaurants.

PLEASE GIVE A SHOUT OUT TO THE FOLLOWING:

Casey MacDonald at Re Pete's for his longtime support
Cam & Sue Snyder who own Smokin' Fatty's BBQ, Chubby Trout & Flippin' Cow
Natalie Nelson at Galley Sports Pub

**OUR NEW HOMEOWNERS HAVE SENT US MESSAGES OF THANKS
& LOOK FORWARD TO DINING AT OUR LOCAL RESTAURANTS.**

HAPPY
Thanksgiving
DAY



JOIN US AT "NEIGHBORS OF SIMONTON LAKE" FACEBOOK PAGE.

The HOA has a Facebook page that you find at "Simontonlakehoa." On this page you will find official information and updates as well as some photos of our beautiful lake. All of this is posted through the HOA Facebook Coordinator, Michelle Coleman.

The "Neighbors of Simonton Lake" is a place where every member can post.



- Lost and found items.
- Items for sale
- Safety Alerts
- Opinions, observations
- Information on lawn service, boat repair, pier removal, lost pets and more

The HOA site is where you find information directly from the HOA.

The Neighbors site is where you can post information quickly without going through the HOA.

This is a group-based site, and you will have to join. But it's easy.



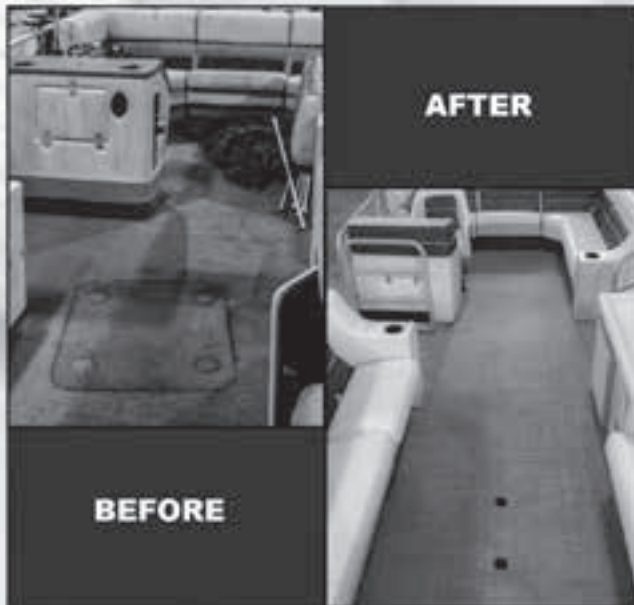
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Fall 2023 - Sunday afternoon after a weekend of leaf fires

FALL LEAF PICK UP

It's getting closer to leaf raking time and once again we will be faced with a decision on what to do with all those leaves.

We will not be continuing to work with the contestant in the County Leaf Collection Contest.

The HOA has investigated finding someone who would pick up leaves for all of us, probably at a cost but maybe for less because we supplied lots of business. We did not find anyone willing to do this.

Burning your leaves is the simplest method of getting rid of fallen leaves. But, when we all burn, the air quality really suffers.

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 County 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.)

Surf internet advises us not to burn on the edge of the roadways because the heat may damage the fiber optic cable buried underneath!

FALL REMINDER

BLOWING LEAVES INTO THE LAKE SPURS WEED GROWTH

Leaves are an essential part of compost that gardeners use to increase growth of flowers and plants. Leaves blown into the lake become a sort of "fertilizer" for weeds and they encourage algae growth.

UNLESS YOU LIKE WEEDS AND ALGAE, DON'T BLOW YOUR LEAVES INTO THE LAKE!

If you hire a lawn company to do leaf collection, please tell them not to blow the leaves into the water.

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New for 2024 "TAILGATE PARTY"

.....
Saturday, Nov. 23

Time 4:00pm

At the Sportsmen's Club

Grilled burgers, etc. provided

Bring a dish to share

Tickets sold for drinks

**ND and other games on big
screens**

**Corn hole, euchre, pull tabs,
etc.**

Kid Friendly

THE FISHING POND IS A GO!

For many years, the Sportsmen's Club has held a Kid's Fishing Contest. But, as the empty lots on the lake filled up, places for the kids to fish has shrunk. So, plans were discussed on digging a pond in the wooded area west of the Clubhouse. Finally, enough funds were raised to make this a reality. Trees were felled and sold for the wood to begin the clearing that was needed.

FREE FIREWOOD AVAILABLE

While the big trees are gone making way for the new pond, there's lots of good wood left. Please contact Bob Evans at 574-320-3366 if you are interested. You'll need to sign a waiver. You can cut as much as you would like and it's FREE!

FALL BALL

The annual Fall Ball was held on Nov. 2 and Pirates of the Caribbean was the theme.



OTHER FALL EVENTS

Casino Night was held on Oct. 5 and was a great success. Raffle items were awesome and included the skeletons shown below.

The **Fall Turkey Shoot** was held on September 28 and 29. The crowd was a little lighter than normal, but it was a great time. Food was provided by Flippin' Cow.

The **SLSC Golf Tournament** was held on October 19 at Sauganash Golf Club in Three Rivers. This is a fun event and a great way to support the club. If you are not a golfer, you can sponsor a hole.



JOIN THE CLUB

Membership is \$25/yr

**Call Bill Leighton at
574-596-4835**

FOLLOW THE SIMONTON LAKE SPORTSMEN'S CLUB ON FACEBOOK!

CRIME REPORT



Oct. 2 A car stolen from Superior Tire and Axle on Tuscany Drive was located the following day at the Simonton Lake boat ramp by the Elkhart City Police.

Oct. 8 The man pictured at left was caught on camera in the driveway of a residence on Lake Drive about 12:30 a.m. The cameras did not catch him leaving the property. Keep your cars locked.

Oct. 8 Trailer stolen. A trailer was reported stolen in the 25000 block of North Shore Drive between Tuesday, Oct. 8 and Wednesday, Oct. 9. The Elkhart County Sheriff's Office is investigating.

GOING SOUTH FOR THE WINTER? If you are going south this winter, don't forget to contact the Elkhart County Police. They are happy to make occasional stops at your home and even walk around the house. This takes them much less time than filling out the reports on a robbery. Use the NON-EMERGENCY number at the Sheriff's Department.



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2 Locations Serving Elkhart!

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--	--

ASSUME ALL ICE OUT THERE IS THIN ICE

FROM THE SAFETY COMMITTEE

WINTER IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER. SO, HERE ARE YOUR SAFETY REMINDERS.

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

ICE SAFETY GUIDELINES

ICE THICKNESS

WHAT TO DO

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

ICE FISHING REMINDERS

- Indiana law limits ice fishing holes to a diameter of twelve inches.
- Fishing shanties must have reflectors on each side so snowmobiles won't crash into them at dusk or during snowstorms.



If you see a pet or other animal in distress on the ice, do not venture out after it. The ice may be able to support the pet or animal, but not you. Instead, contact local emergency response personnel, who are trained and equipped to make rescues on thin ice.



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Day after Labor Day, steam rises from the water. -Amy Matherly



August Moon -Shelly West



Waterlily -Shelly West



Summer storm damage - Maria Hopman