

SPRING ISSUE 2025 VOLUME 18 ISSUE 2

# Once Bound by Ice, the Lake now Sings with the Return of Spring



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ELKHART, INDIANA

PEY HOMEOWNERS

ON LAK

www.simontonlakehoa.com

Find us on Facebook



2025 Leprechaun Leap **\$23,308** 

PETES

# **INFORMATION & EVENTS**

#### 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, Treasurer 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 Toni Queener, Kim Kieper, Kathryn Freehafer kimk999999@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 Concerns

#### SAFETY

- DNR related issues
- "Lake Alerts" Chris Toles, <u>cmt6061@comcast.net</u>
- 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

Find us on Facebook

#### 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.

#### SIMONTON SAYS...

SPRING 2025 EDITION

#### EVENTS ON THE LAKE

May 10 STAMP OUT HUNGER May 14 Conservancy Meeting May 21 Annual HOA Meeting May 26 Memorial Day June 7 SLSC Spring Kids Fishing Contest June 11 Conservancy Meeting June 13 HOA Sunset Social June 21 HOA Lakeside Dock Hop July 4 FIREWORKS NEW DATE! July 5 POKER RUN & **BOAT DECORATING CONTEST July 6 FLAG RETIREMENT** July 9 Conservancy Meeting July 11 HOA Sunset Social July 15 Deadline for pictures and info for the Summer Issue of Simonton Says August Summer Issue of Simonton Says Aug 2 SLSC Fall Kids Fishing Contest Aug 8 HOA Sunset Social Aug 13 Conservancy Meeting August 23-24 SLSC Club Turkey Shoot August 23 HOA Norma's Rager Sept 1 Labor Day Sept 10 Conservancy Meeting Sept 12 HOA Sunset Social FALL GARAGE SALE SEPT 26 & 27



Simonton Lake is a member of the Indiana Lakes Management Society



# NOTES FROM THE BOARD

**SPRING 2025 EDITION** 

### Join the Simonton Lake HOA today!

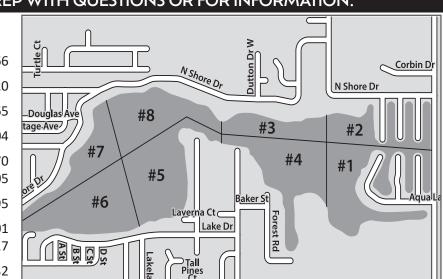
Use the form below.

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	4
Area #2	Sue Ward	574-596-2020	
Area #3	Maria Hopman	574-262-1665	_Do
Area #4	Jon Hart	574-262-1404	tage
Area #5	Bob Meyers Cindy Nickell	574-675-0970 574-262-3105	. et
Area #6	Melissa Kessler	574-849-9995	0.
Area #7	Dave VanZile Theresa Maier	574-264-5201 574-361-0517	ſ
Area #8	Amy Matherly	574-524-6632	



# **2025 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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

# BOB EVANS WINS STATE ILMS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The Indiana Lake Management Society was established in 1991 by Indiana residents with a common interest in protecting and saving Indiana lakes for future generations. While there are officials involved in the ILMS, this is an organization of volunteers!

Each year ILMS asks for nominations for the Volunteer of the Year award. Each lake is asked to submit a nomination for the person they feel deserves the award for faithful service to their lake community. Our own Bob Evans was chosen for the award.

The award was presented to Bob at the ILMS 2025 Conference in March.

We long-time lakers probably know Bob. But for those of you who don't, here is just a smattering of his service to Simonton Lake.

- He was instrumental in the founding of the original Lake Association and the Simonton Lake Conservancy District.
- He is an active member of the Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club.
- With Bob's expertise and diplomacy and the help of other lake leaders, a weir was built across the creek that empties our spring-fed lake.
- Bob has been an officer and board member of the Lake Association
- Bob was on the Board of the Simonton Lake Conservancy when it began in the 1990's. He pushed and shmoozed residents and the county and state government to make our sewer a reality.
- Bob and his wife host the annual Flag Retirement Ceremony.
- He is currently the President of the Simonton Lake Conservancy Board.



I'm not sure what we'll do someday without Bob. If he doesn't run it, he ran it in the past, or he knows about it. Bob, a retired civil engineer, not only understands the engineering involved in

projects, he can get blood out of a turnip when it comes to local government. Bob is one of the reasons our lake is healthy and facing a bright future.



The ILMS organization produces quarterly newsletters, sponsors conferences, provides a technical assistance network, and encourages collaboration between local lake association leaders and managers to share ideas and techniques.

Simonton Lake is a member of the ILMS.

### DOUG REESE RETIRES AS HOA PRESIDENT

Doug Reese has led the Simonton Lake HOA for 3 years taking over the reins from Carole Foutz. He dived right in and helped led us with many projects including the geese reduction, swan eradication, protection of our Fire and EMT services, and other zoning concerns, dry hydrants, speeding on lake roads, and AED's, just to name a few.

Doug's leadership will be missed but his exit gives someone else on the lake an opportunity to lead.





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**SPRING 2025** 

### MEMBERSHIP / OUTREACH / SOCIAL COMMITTEE

### SIMONTON LAKE SUMMER EVENTS

We are hoping to plan and hold the following social events. Obviously, they are weather related.

All event details available on "The Neighbors of Simonton Lake" Facebook page.

#### Simonton Sunset Socials – Meet Your Neighbors! Location: Sandbar

When: 2nd Friday of each summer month (June–September) Dates: June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12 Time: 6 PM to Sunset

#### June 21 – Lakeside Dock Hop (21+ Bar Crawl)

Start Time: 4 PM – 8 PM 4 Host Dock Locations – Enjoy a Specialty Cocktail at Each Stop! (Dock details available soon on Facebook)

#### July 5 – Poker Run & Boat Decorating Contest

- VIP Judges will evaluate boats and poker run stops.
- Win exciting prizes like Boat Rings & Gift Ca**rds!**
- Sign up wherever poker hands are sold.

#### August 8 – Kayaks & Koozies: Light Up the Night

- Meet at the Sandbar 30 minutes before sunset (~8:30 PM).
- Decorate your kayak with lights for a nighttime paddle following the Sunset Social.

#### August 23 – Norma's Rager

Details coming soon! Music on the lake for a memorable night!

#### August 24 – Simonton Sandbar Family Play Day

Time: 1 PM – 4 PM Location: Sandbar

- Fun family games and special organized kids' activities.
- Activity details and sign-up available on Facebook.

#### STAY TUNED TO "THE NEIGHBORS OF SIMONTON LAKE" FACEBOOK PAGE FOR UPDATES AND FURTHER DETAILS!

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING OUR BOARD AND/OR THE MEMBERSHIP/OUTREACH/SOCIAL COMMITTEE. It's a GREAT group of homeowners but as expected, we can always use more fun people!!

### SIMONTON LAKE AREA HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

# WEDNESDAY, MAY 21 AT THE SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

Meal 6:00 p.m. \* Meeting 7:00 p.m.

# Good Food, Good Friends, Good Information



**SPRING 2025** 

# **CONSERVANCY CORNER**

#### SIMONTON LAKE CONSERVANCY 574-206-8485

#### **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 <u>new to the lake</u>, 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.

#### NO RUN-OFF WATER IN THE SEWER

Please redirect your downspouts out of the sewer system and into your yard away from your home. Run-off water that goes into the sewer is treated like sewer water. We are charged by the volume we send into the city of Elkhart.

#### **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!** 

#### **DRAINAGE ISSUES**

Please take a look at the article in this issue on drainage. If you have a drainage issue and you live within the boundary of the Simonton Lake Conservancy, they are your source of help.

#### 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!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS Ryan Matherly-District 3, Mark Lucas-District 4, Randy Hoff-District 5, Bob Evans-District 1 and President of the Board, Ed Hickman-District 2, and Linda Wilson, SLCD Secretary.

#### BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE ELKHART AQUATIC CENTER

May 14 = June 11 = July 9 = August 13

#### **NEW REPRESENTATIVE FOR DISTRICT 2**

Hayden Kruger is the new representative for District 2 replacing the retiring Ed Hickman. Only one person submitted a nomination form. So, no election was needed. Next year, District 3, now represented by Ryan Matherly, will be up for grabs.

#### **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.arwwm.com • Emergency Grinder Repairs

Tank\Pump Installation Contractors

# SPOTLIGHT ON ADVERTISERS



**WakeSide Marine** was established in 2002 by brothers Greg and Jeff Haradine, Elkhart natives with a lifelong love for boating. Their journey began when they were initially brought on to help manage the storage operations at Simonton Lake Marina. When the marina's owner, Dane Slabaugh, decided it was time for a change, Greg and leff saw a unique opportunity to turn their passion for boating into

something more. That passion now runs deep throughout their entire team. For over two decades, the dedicated staff of skilled professionals and fellow boating lovers have helped bring families and friends together on the water across Michiana and Southwest Michigan.

While Greg and Jeff are no longer involved in day-to-day operations, leadership remains in the family. Jeff's wife, Jamie Haradine, now serves as President, guiding a team of over seventeen employees—each with an average tenure of more than ten years. This level of experience and continuity reflects their deep commitment to expertise and exceptional customer service. With a staff this seasoned, customers can count on reliable support and knowledgeable guidance every step of the way. WakeSide Marine continually invests in its employees, ensuring each member is up to date with the latest technological advancements impacting their product and service. Team members regularly attend service and sales schools, along with industry conferences to learn and earn valuable education and associated certifications.

At WakeSide, they take pride not only in having experienced people, but also in offering some of the highest quality products in the industry. Featuring Barletta pontoons and Nautique towboats—both known for exceptional performance, craftsmanship, and innovation—they provide boats that deliver unforgettable experiences on the water. As a full-service dealership, they help with everything from sales and financing to service and parts. Join them at one of their many summer events or stop by the showroom to see all that WakeSide Marine has to offer

# WILD ANIMAL RESCUE

Spring and summer are the seasons when residents find wounded or abandoned animals, birds or water fowl. The question then is, now what? This is the current list of DNR permitted wildlife rehabilitators. Keep this list handy. Sadly, the only DNR approved rehabilitators for birds and waterfowl are not close by.

NOTE: The swans that live on our lake are considered an invasive species. They are not native to the mid-west. One of the rehabilitators listed below might help you. But the DNR will not.

#### INDIANA DNR PERMITTED WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS AS OF MAY 2024

NAME	ANIMALS ACCEPTED	TELEPHONE
Rachelle Marshman/St. Joseph Co	Rabbits, opossums, skunks, foxes, raccoons, groundhogs, squirrels, deer, and weasels	574-286-6998
Dennis Badke/Elkhart Co	Mammal, raptors, songbirds, snakes, turtles, lizards, No raccoons, or skunks. Call first	574-849-0187
Mike Wilson /Kosciusko Co	Foxes, coyotes, skunks, raccoons, opossums, rabbits, squirrels, deer, and groundhogs	574-527-2099
Stephanie Gratton/Elkhart Co	Squirrels, rabbits, opossums, raccoons, skunks, turtles	574-214-5563
Heather Downey/St. Joseph Co	Turtles Only	574-233-4601
Shannon Johns/Elkhart Co	Skunks, raccoons, foxes, squirrels only. Accepts babies or adults	574-359-9161
Liz Hatton/Hamilton Co	Birds	317-877-1187
Kristen Hertman/Marion Co	Waterfowl	317-902-3825



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# **ZONING ISSUES**

The Simonton Lake HOA attempts to present zoning appeals making a fair representation for both sides of any zoning issue.

Three items from the February, March and April meetings of the Elkhart County Zoning Board are in the Simonton Lake neighborhood.

### PRESENTED AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE ELKHART COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

The application of Gripdog Enterprises LLC for a Use Variance to allow for the construction of an **accessory structure without a residence** on property located on the Northwest side of North Shore Dr., 865 ft. East of SR 19, common address of 51245 North Shore Dr. in Osolo Township, zoned R-2, came on to be heard.

There were 33 neighboring property owners notified of this request. Gripdog Enterprises, Darrin Benton, 51264 North Shore Drive, Elkhart was present for this request. Mr. Benton stated he owns a house at 51264 North Shore Dr. He also owns 51248 North Shore Dr. and 51245 North Shore Dr., where he wants to build a 20'x30' storage building for bikes and other lake items, which are on the same deed. He continued by saying that he intends to sell 51264 North Shore Dr. soon, thus the need for the storage building at 51245 North Shore Dr., which is vacant land across from 51248 North Shore Dr.

While many neighbors were in attendance, three neighboring property owners offered comments.

One stated she feels anything he builds would be unsightly and adversely affect property values.

Another neighbor was also present to remonstrate. He questioned the zoning for the petitioner's property located at 51245 North Shore Dr. He continued by saying the size of the shed that Mr. Benton wants to build seems more like a pole barn. He stressed he has concerns about Mr. Benton parking vehicles on the vacant property.

A third neighbor supplied letters from 8 neighbors objecting to the request to build an accessory structure at 51245 North Shore Dr. THE ZONING BOARD APPROVED THE VARIANCE UNANI-MOUSLY for construction of an accessory structure without a residence with the following condition imposed: 1. The Elkhart County Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals approval shall not be effective until the Commitment form has been executed, recorded, and returned to the Elkhart County Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals staff for placement in the petition file. The following commitment was imposed: 1. The request is approved in accordance with the site plan submitted (dated 12/19/2024) and as represented in the Use Variance application.

#### THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS BROUGHT TO THE APRIL BZA HEARING OFFICER MEETING

**Petitioners: Byron P. Moore & Aimee S. Moore Petition:** for a 25 ft. Developmental Variance (Ordinance requires 50 ft.) to allow for an existing residence and construction of an **attached garage** 25 ft. from the centerline of the right-of-way and for a 3 ft. Developmental Variance (Ordinance requires 5 ft.) to allow for an existing residence and construction of an addition 2 ft. from the east side property line. Location: South side of North Shore Dr., 1,430 ft. East of Bell Ave, East of SR 19, common address of 25856 North Shore Dr. in Osolo Township, zoned R-2.

#### THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS BROUGHT TO THE MARCH BZA HEARING OFFICER MEETING

#### Petitioner: Michael W. Stout

**Petition:** for a 6 ft. Developmental Variance (Ordinance requires 50 ft.) to allow for the construction of an **attached garage addition** 44 ft. from the centerline of the right-of-way and for a Developmental Variance to allow for the total square footage of accessory structures to exceed that allowed by right. Location: South side of North Shore Dr., 65 ft. East of SR 19, common address of 51376 North Shore Dr. in Osolo Township, zoned R-2.

NOTE TO RESIDENTS: If you are notified of a zoning variance, please let the Simonton Says staff know. Our email address is simontonhoa@gmail.com.

# **LEPRECHAUN LEAP 2025**

BY AMY MATHERLY

The world often seems a mean place. But then there are bright spots of human kindness. One of these is the Leprechaun Leap. Held on a very cold and rainy March 29th, the jumpers were many and the money rolled in to help Cancer Resources for Elkhart Cancer support area cancer patients.



In fact, all donations to this group go to help families in Elkhart County deal with cancer.



Feb 19, 2019



Now

One group jumping that day was Aine Bolmer and her friends. On their t-shirts it said, "Gnome Bunny Fights Alone."

Aine was diagnosed with cancer at age 13 when she was a student at West Side Middle School where she was a cheerleader.

A biopsy revealed Aine had Ewing Sarcoma. She started chemotherapy at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. After just two rounds, her hair was gone.

She would have an additional 12 more rounds of chemotherapy.

In fighting the cancer, doctors told Aine and her mother that there was an 80 percent chance her ovaries would no longer func-

tion. The family was told about a new procedure where one of Aine's ovaries could be removed prior to chemo. But the insurance would not pay for it. And what family has money for another surgery? The family did it anyway.

But Cancer Resources for Elkhart County COULD help. Director Peter Norton knew raising funds to pay for this procedure was how they could help Aine.



Aine is now at Manchester University.

And, then there is Jim Ballard, an angel in our midst, dressed up like a merman. He jumps every year. His group is called, The Blue Knights Angry Leprechauns. They were in second place until Jason Hanson and Joe Mazza of JJ Crumstown Tavern donated the difference to TIE them with Express Pros just as they were ready to jump.

Jim is not being arrested in the picture. Jim was an officer with the Elkhart Police Department.

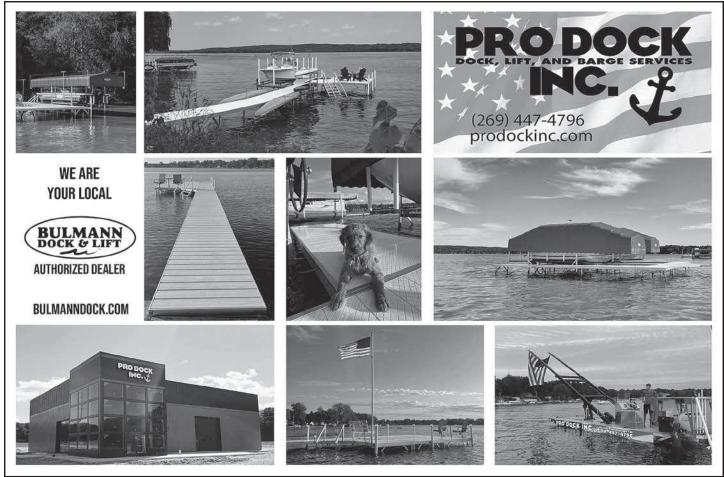
There are other stories. Sometimes, cancer wins. This issue

contains the obituary of a former lake resident, Jenny Marshall Sotebeer, who at age 44 lost her fight with cancer. Heartbreaking!

# But . . . we've just got to go forward, and we've just got to keep jumping!

For more information on Cancer Resources for Elkhart County, to donate or to seek help, go to their Facebook page or call 574-875-5158.

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GABE CAN DO IT ALL!

# **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.
- Water quality is something we all must protect. Don't blow yard waste or leaves into the lake. 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 and in the "Simonton Says" magazine.
- 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 Join the Simonton Lake Neighbors page: NEIGHBORS OF SIMONTON LAKE

#### ELKHART CITY COUNCIL APPROVES NEW FIRESTATION TO SERVE NORTHEAST

REPORTED BY AARON MISHLER ON NEXTDOOR.COM



The City Council approved Proposed Ordinance 25-O-09 which is 8.9 million dollars for the new fire station six location on Ada drive, a little over 5 miles from Simonton Lake. Ada Drive is and north/south street east of Jeanwood

## TOLL ROAD "GATEWAY ENTRANCE" PART OF THE CITY'S REVITALIZATION PROJECTS

ELKHART, Ind. (WNDU) - The City of Elkhart has begun a series of construction projects that are aimed at revitalizing the city and "building the Elkhart of tomorrow."

The "2025 Aspire Construction Season" will focus on key infrastructure projects, one of which is "The Cassopolis Gateway and Street Scape. The expected finish date is the second quarter of the 2025 calendar year.



and west of Decio Drive. The current onebay station at Osolo Road and Bristol Street is too small to have an ambulance, and requires one sent from Central Fire when the need arises. The new station will be a three-bay station and allow emergency responders the equipment they need. This passed with a 7-1 vote with Councilman Henke voting against.

The city has annexed land near County Road 17. This land had been part of Osolo Township. Now that this land is part of the city, the township will no longer receive tax money from the property owners. As the city expands, the township grows smaller.

How will this affect our Osolo Township Fire Department and Emergency Services? Time will tell.

We need to be watchful of further annexation nearer and nearer to Simonton Lake.



#### CONSTRUCTION UPDATE ON CASSOPOLIS STREET

The City of Elkhart is working to prevent crashes and make the area on Cassopolis Street between County Road 6 and Emerson Drive safer.

New medians and curbs will be installed to reduce the amount of left turn opportunities, which is the most common cause of crashes.

For months large yellow traffic barriers have blocked what had been the turn lane, in this area. As of late March, these barriers were removed, and traffic was reduced to one lane each way. The concrete in this area had been removed as of early April. We understand that the area will look similar to the "pedestrian islands" installed further south on Cassopolis Street.

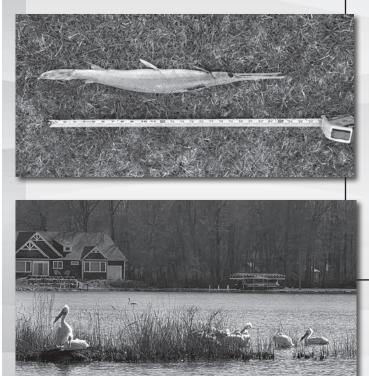




**NEW CONSERVANCY BOARD MEMBER** Hayden Kruger will be representing District 2 on the Simonton Lake Conservancy District Board. He and his wife Kyra and their two boys have a home on North Shore Drive.

#### **FLYING FISH?**

In early April Ryan Matherly was cleaning up sticks in the lawn east of his home. He was surprised to find a 24-inch gar way up in the yard near North Shore Drive. How did it get there? Our best guess is that a bird, a big bird, dropped it.



#### CLOTHES LEFT AT THE PUBLIC ACCESS

We're not sure if someone was at the laundromat in their truck and the clothes flew out the back or if someone was mad at their spouse and threw their clothes out. But whatever brought them there, these clothes were found at the landing. The Simonton Lake Conservancy pays for regular clean up at the landing. This person was alerted to the clean up needed. The Conservancy is considering adding another camera, like a "Ring" camera so that persons responsible for bad behavior at the landing can be caught.



#### THE PRODIGAL CHAIR RETURNS

During that early April storm, the VanTiems contacted us to report that one of their polywood type chairs had disappeared into the lake. This particular chair floats so they had no idea how far it had gone. A LAKE ALERT



was sent out and the chair was found! The Prodigal chair had traveled from the northwest corner of Big Simonton to Maplewood Drive! Just another reason to send in your 2025 hoa membership form so that you can continue to get lake alerts!

#### **PELICANS?**

Yes, the pelicans are back. The Lake Wawasee Facebook page posted pictures of pelicans a week or so prior in April. Thanks to Susie Broderick for submitting this picture.

# LAKE SHORTS



#### **STORM-MARCH 30**

On Sunday, March 30 straight line winds ran across Indiana causing damage in several communities including Simonton Lake. The National Weather Service confirmed six tornados. Damage surveys were delayed as the area prepared for another storm on April 2. Simonton Lake suffered from wind damage. We didn't get pictures of all the damage. Photos above are just a sampling.



#### **ED HICKMAN RETIRES**

Thanks to Ed Hickman for decades of service as a board member of the Simonton Lake Conservancy District. Ed's knowledge of the sewer system, where the pipes are, how and where they were laid and how the system works has been priceless. Ed and his wife Judy live on North Shore Drive.

#### **NEW NEIGHBORS**

- We understand that the home owned by **Shirley Adams** on Twilight has sold. We do not know the names of the new owners.
- Tim King is not new to the lake. He just moved to Twilight Dr.
- Randy Kibbe, North Shore Dr. He bought the home previously owned by Mike and Deb Smith.
- Nichole Depriest and Stephen Sobowiak, Deer Run.

#### **LEAVING THE LAKE**

- Jody and Robert Divjak have listed their home on Lake Dr.
- Bill and Joyce Conroy, Douglas Ave.
- David and Joyce Johnson, Aqua Dr.



# FAREWELLS

#### **ANNA JEAN BRODERICK**

It is with profound sorrow that we share the passing of **Anna Broderick**, 89, of Elkhart, IN, who peacefully departed this life on Monday, January 27, 2025. Surrounded by her loving family at Memorial Hospital, she faced her journey with remarkable strength and grace.

Ann was born on March 23, 1935, in Lacrosse, Wisconsin, to Olaf and Cecilia Espenes. She grew up in Lacrosse alongside her late siblings, Kenneth Espenes, Marilyn Jones, and Olav Jon Espenes, sharing countless cherished memories and a deep love of music. After graduating from Lacrosse High School, Ann followed her passion for healthcare at Madison General Hospital, where she was certified as a Registered Nurse. She furthered her education by obtaining a Nursing Administration degree from the University of Wisconsin. On July 11, 1959, Ann married Jerald Broderick in Belleville, WI. The couple moved to Davenport, IA, where Jerry began his studies at Palmer Chiropractic College. During their time in Davenport, Ann taught Surgical Nursing at St. Luke's Hospital until Jerry completed his Chiropractic degree. Following his graduation, they



relocated to Elkhart, where Jerry established Broderick Chiropractic Center. Ann continued her career in healthcare, working part-time as the House Supervisor at Elkhart General Hospital while raising their young family.

Ann loved traveling, camping, boating, music, and spending time with her family and friends. Ann was an active and dedicated member of her community, contributing to various organizations with passion and commitment. Ann was truly a picture of faith and was very involved in the church. She was a member of the St. Thomas Altar and Rosary Society and played a key role in establishing the Coffee and Donuts gathering after Sunday Mass. Her love for music led her to participate in the Newcomers and Nutones Music Program. Alongside her husband Jerry, Ann served as Co-Director of the Miss Elkhart County Pageant, helping to shape and support young participants. She was also deeply committed to the Scholarship Committee of the International Chiropractors Association and the International Chiropractors Association of Indiana, where she worked to advance educational opportunities. Additionally, she served for many years as President of the Ladies Auxiliary for both organizations, demonstrating her dedication to supporting chiropractic professionals and their families. Ann leaves a legacy of love, kindness, and inspiration that will continue to touch the lives of all who knew her. Her impact on her family and friends is a testament to a life well-lived and will be cherished for generations to come.

Ann is lovingly remembered by her devoted husband of 65 years, Jerald, and their children: Bill (Susie) Broderick, Cheryl (Steve) Lieurance, Stuart (Dody) Broderick, and Laurie (Steve) Berggren. She was a cherished grandmother to Chad (Angela) Broderick, Cami (Ab) Saleh, Sean (Kiera) Broderick, Beau (Lindsay) Broderick, Kiersten (Jared) Huppenthal, Jamie Broderick, Alan Jerald Berggren, Jennifer Berggren, Angela Berggren, and Alyssa Lieurance. Ann and Jerald were also blessed with eight great-grandchildren: Henry, Greyson, Louisa, Sebastian, Frankie, Blair, Luna, and Breckin. Her legacy of love and family will live on through the generations she leaves behind.

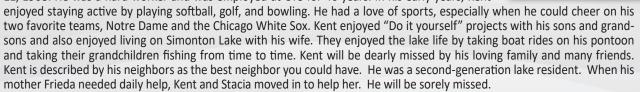
#### **KENT BASKERVILLE**

Kent R. Baskerville, 81, passed away on Monday, March 10, 2025, at his residence. He was born in Elkhart, IN on March 22, 1943, to the late John W. and Frieda (Kostienley) Baskerville.

Kent is also preceded in death by his sister, Rita Phoebus. He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, **Stacia Baskerville**; sons, Ryan (Becky) Baskerville and Shawn (Kristen) Baskerville; 2 grand-children; and sister, **Deb (Bob Foster) Weaver**.

A celebration of life for Kent will be held on Saturday, June 28, 2025, from noon to 3:00 p.m. at Kent's residence. Please contact the family for an address. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Heart to Heart Hospice, 7240 Chase Oaks Blvd, Plano, TX 75025 and Humane Society of Elkhart County, 54687 County Road 19, Bristol, IN 46507.

Kent was a loving father and grandfather who married the love of his life, Stacia Bissinger, on May 11, 1968. He was a hard worker and was employed at CTS for 46 years. In his early years, Kent





# FAREWELLS

#### **DAN THURSBY**

On March 10, 2025, **Dan Thursby**, father of former lake resident Bryan Thursby passed away. He was 82.

Dan is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, his daughter, Nichole (Damon) Swoape, his son, Bryan (Jennifer) Thursby, four grandchildren, Brock Swoape, Colin (Kenzie) Swoape, Keegan Thursby and Avery Thursby, two great-grandchildren, Zane and Paisley, and brother, Gary (Marilyn) Thursby.

At the age of 7, Dan began his battle with polio. However, he never let it keep him from accomplishing the goals he set for himself even though later in life he battled post-polio syndrome.

He graduated from Elkhart High School and went on to study business and finance at Tri State University (Trine). Dan spent 30-plus years in the banking industry; his specialty being mortgage lending.

One of his greatest loves was sailing. He enjoyed bare boat sailing with friends and family on Lake Michigan, in the Bahamas and numerous islands in the Caribbean.

#### **BROOK ERTEL**

Brooke Boroughs Ertel, 84, of Matthews, North Carolina, died peacefully on Feb. 22, 2025.

On Jan. 31, 1965, she married Thomas N. Ertel at Cooper River Baptist Church in North Charleston, South Carolina. They lived in Elkhart, Indiana, for 28 years and retired to Greensboro, Georgia.

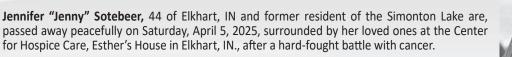
She is preceded in death by her husband, Tom Ertel. She is survived by her two sons.



#### JEANIECE ANNETTE BUMGARDNER

The grandmother of **Beckie (Tim) Lies** passed away on March 21, 2025. She was born on May 27, 1938, in Sidney, Ohio. She married Arthur Bumgardner on June 2, 1956, Art passed away in 1997. Jeaniece lived life with passion and purpose. Well into her 70's she led an aerobics class at her church. She has a great love for music and played the piano even in her later years. Jeaniece was a longtime member of First Brethren Church in South Bend.

#### JENNY MARSHALL SOTEBEER



Jenny was born on October 16, 1980, in Elkhart, IN to Mike and Cindy Marshall. She married Chad Sotebeer on November 26, 2005, in Bonita Springs, FL.

Jenny graduated from Northridge High School, class of 1999. She also graduated from Indiana University South Bend. Jenny worked as a CT and x-ray Technician for over 25 years with Beacon Health, 22 of these years at Elkhart General Hospital. She enjoyed being outside, golfing or kayaking. She enjoyed going to concerts and attending sporting events, where she was always known

to be the loudest cheerer in the stands. Jenny loved to spend time with her family and friends. Jenny left an impact on every person she met and brought light to every room she walked into. She was truly an angel here on earth and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Jenny is survived by her husband Chad Sotebeer and their daughters, Taylor (Brandon Abel) Sotebeer, Sophia Rose Sotebeer and Whitney Sotebeer; parents Mike and Cindy Marshall all of Elkhart, IN., and her sister Marissa (Matt) Golla of Bloomberg, PA. Jenny was preceded in death by her sister Leslie Marshall.





# FAREWELLS

#### SHERRY KIRBY LANKFORD

**Sherry Ann Lankford,** 77, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, passed away on Sunday, February 9, 2025. Sherry was born June 2, 1947, in South Bend, Indiana, daughter to the late Francis and Juanita (Williams) Kirby. She attended school in Elkhart until her Senior year when she became a postulant at the St. Francis Convent at Mount Alverno, Mishawaka, IN. She ultimately left the convent because she wanted to start her own family. Sherry worked as a teacher throughout her life and loved lake life, enjoying the time that she spent with her family and friends. She was a Win-

nie the Pooh fan and loved spending time with her pets, Watson, and Bones. Sherry is survived by her son, Josh (Deb) Lankford; grandson, Jacob Lankford; companion, Rick Momenee; fur baby, Bones; and her siblings, Mary Jo (Don) Locke, Phyllis Newkirk, Debbie Hofflander, **Kristine (Dave) Van Zile**, and Michael (Edna) Kirby; and many nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, William Ray Lankford; daughter, Jessica Bryce Lankford; and brother, Patrick Kirby.

# SPRAYING FOR INVASIVE WEEDS

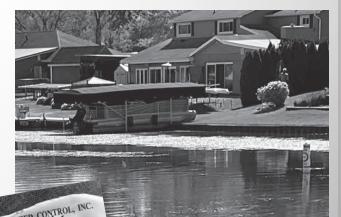
**SUMMER 2025** 

Each year the Simonton Lake Conservancy pays for the spraying of invasive weeds. (PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THE PICTURES OF INVASIVE WEEDS IN THIS ISSUE.) Only the areas of the lake that have these invasive weeds are sprayed.

Spraying for Invasive weeds on Simonton Lake is done twice each year. NOTE: While two sprayings each year is the plan, sometimes an additional spraying is needed. Such was the case last May when the channels were choked with Curly Leaf Pondweed as shown in the picture.

If the weed spraying is going to be harmful to your lawn the company tries to get prior notice to homeowners by U.S. Mail, and a yellow flag like the one below will be placed in your yard. You can see from the notice below that the homeowner is warned not to use the sprinkling system for three days after the spraying. If you get a notice like this and have neighbors who have gone out of town and might not have gotten the mailed notice, texting or emailing them would be the neighborly thing to do.

According to Jim Donahoe at Aquatic Weed Control, both algicides and herbicides are used in the channels to control the weeds and the algae. The herbicides used to control the weeds in the channels are the ones that require a 3-day irrigation restriction.





When Aquatic Weed Control sprays specifically for Starry Stonewort, which is NOT harmful to your lawn, you will NOT get prior notice. But a yellow flag will be placed in your

yard just so you know they have sprayed. Mr. Donahoe also states that none of the herbicides or algicides used have swimming restrictions and that the restrictions on using the water are only for the treated area and not the entire lake.

# SIMONTON LAKE SPECIALS

Your local dealership and service center - right in your back yard! 15% off all services

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# WHERE DOES ALL THE WATER GO? PART 2

IN THE WINTER 2025 ISSUE WE INCLUDED PART 1 OF "WHERE DOES THE WATER GO"

#### PART 1 RECAP - PART 1 EXPLAINED THAT:

- •Simonton Lake is spring-fed.
- •Simonton Lake also receives underground water and run-off water.
- •Once the water gets to Simonton Lake it can go down Lily Creek to the St. Joe River.
- However, the creek only plays its part in our drainage plan when it is clear and flowing.



#### PART 2:

# IN THIS ARTICLE, WE WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE WATER ON OUR STREETS. WHERE DOES THAT GO?

#### STREET WATER RUN OFF

When a light rain falls and the ground is not saturated, water leaks into the soil.

In a heavy rain or when the ground is already saturated, water flows down the street to the nearest low point and pools. That could be your driveway. It eventually evaporates.



On Lake Drive ONLY, there are several storm drains under the street. Each of these underground tanks is covered by a grate. Why is this the only street around the lake with storm drains? We don't know. This does not mean that Lake Drive is free of ponding or flooding after heavy rain or when the snow melts.

Not only is ponding or flooding annoying, it is also a hazard.

#### STATE ROAD 19 RUN OFF

State Road 19 has storm drains at the curbs from Bell to North Shore Drive.

The curve around the west end of the lake is another story. Over 30 years ago, State Road 19 was reconfigured into a four-lane road as it bends around the west end of the lake. The street was built so that it slants towards the lake. To help redirect the water that would rush across the new curve, a drainage system was installed under the new road by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT).

Across the highway from Flippin' Cow a small retention pond was dug. Under the highway drains were installed at the curbs on the east side of the curve and the tanks below connected to the retention pond.



This may have worked for a while, but in recent years the water simply flowed across the highway towards the Flippin' Cow parking lot, across the asphalt and into the lake.

Besides the flooding and ponding, **the water carries with it dirt and other highway contaminants and they end up in our lake.** This is not good for the lake or for the Flippin' Cow owners and patrons.

### SO, WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN A DRAINAGE SITUATION AFFECTS YOU OR YOUR PROPERTY?

#### IF YOU LIVE IN THE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Alert your representative to the Conservancy Board. You'll find their names on the Conservancy Corner page in every issue of this magazine. The Simonton Lake Conservancy oversees drainage problems in the Conservancy District. NOT ALL OF OUR READERS LIVE IN THE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT. If you are not sure, call the Conservancy Office.

The Conservancy is dealing with the drainage problem at State Road 19. The plugged drainage pipes and silted-in retention pond were repaired by the State of Indiana. But the Conservancy got the ball rolling. The Conservancy continues to check at this site during heavy rains. The system will need to be cleaned out regularly and we must "encourage" the State to do this.

#### IF YOU DO NOT LIVE IN THE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

If you do not live in the Conservancy District, you'll need to call on Elkhart County to help you. For drainage issues call the Elkhart County Surveyor or visit their website.

#### Page 24



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# **SPRING FISHING CONTEST**

The Spring Friends Kids Fishing sponsored by the Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club is Saturday June 7th. 9am-11am at the South end of Sail Bay Court.

- Free for all kids age 4 14
- We provide bait
- They need to bring their own pole
- Trophies for top 3 finishers
- Every kid goes home with a prize
- Free hot dogs, snacks, drinks

Please take a look at the T-shirt sponsorship form to the right. We also need help with prizes. Find the link to the Amazon list on the Sportsmen's Club Facebook page.



### FACEBOOK, EMAIL UPDATES FROM YOUR SIMONTON LAKE HOA

On Facebook you will find two pages that lake residents should follow:

Simonton Lake HOA - is the official HOA page. Here you will find reminders, updates, road closings, storm damage information, lost and found information and other official updates or information from the HOA. The HOA makes all the posts on this page.

Neighbors of Simonton Lake is for residents to post pictures and information. THIS IS THE BEST PLACE TO POST LOST AND FOUND. You can post the item lost or an item found immediately instead of going through the HOA. You must join this group, but the process is easy. Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club is the place you'll find all the information about upcoming events and programs.

Most of our advertisers have a Facebook page as well.

#### LAKE ALERT EMAIL GROUP

If you are a lake resident you will want to become a member of the "Lake Alert" email group. Just email simontonhoa@gmail.com and we'll add your name IF YOU ARE AN HOA MEMBER.

YOU MUST BE AN HOA MEMBER TO GET LAKE ALERTS!! If you haven't sent in your membership form, do so today!!!

The Sportsmen's Club has a very active Facebook page.

### WHAT LAKE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE STATUS?

There are four organizations here at the lake. They are listed below with their tax-deductible status.

Simonton Lake Preservation Trust is a 501c3 organization which makes your donations to them tax deductible. They hold land and fund projects.

The Simonton Lake HOA is not a 501c3 organization. Dues to an HOA is not tax deductible, however, donations to a project like geese reduction is deductible.

The Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club is a 501c3

organization which makes your donations to their projects, like the fireworks, tax deductible. If you are paying your dues, that is not tax deductible.

The Simonton Lake Conservancy is a government body. They are in charge of our Sewer System, Drainage, Erosion, Sediment Removal, Weed Control and Issues that improve recreational use of the lake (Examples: ADA Compliant Pier, buoys). Your sewer payments are not tax deductible.

# HERMAN SERVICES

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# INDIANA BOATING HANDBOOK

POWERPROTECT

0

You may have been operating a speedboat for years, but do you know the most current regulations? Before the Conservation Officer gives you a ticket, you might want to take a look at the most recent "Handbook of Indiana Boating Laws and Responsibilities."

# This book is available online at https://www.boat-ed.com/indiana/handbook/

You can also get a paper copy of the book at various suppliers. Also, check out the online boaters' courses offered. It's a good idea for people new to operating any motorized watercraft

- Do you know how many life jackets you must carry in your boat?
- Did you know that all motorboat or PWC operators must have a valid driver's license to operate on all Indiana public waters?
- Did you know that 15-year-olds can operate watercraft only if they complete a boater education course approved by the Department of Natural Resources and have on board an ID card issued by the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles?

#### AVOID A FINE. READ THE BOOK!



**SPRING 2025** 



President: Bill Leighton Vice President: Jaime Hershberger Secretary: Linda Fearnow Treasurer: Jessica Substanley Sergent at Arms: Bob Evans

> **Board of Directors** Randy Miller, Angie Fisher, Matt Clark, Tommy Kruger, Jack Tucker, Kyra Kruger



June 7 Kid's Fishing Contest

> July 4 Fireworks

July 5 Poker Run

July 6 Flag Retirement Ceremony

> **August** Kid's Fishing Contest Fall Golf Outing Casino Night

#### LEPRECHAUN LEAP

Once again, the Sportsmen's Club provided support for the Elkhart Cancer Resources fundraiser. Held at Re-Pete's, club members help with set up and tear down and traffic





#### **FOOD DRIVE**

On April 5, the Sportsmen's Club held a food drive for Mrs. Oates Center for Veterans. This is a local 501c3 organization that provides resources and information for veterans.

Kid's Fishing Contest SATURDAY, JUNE 7 MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

#### SPRING EVENTS HELD

The Club is very busy with events. Earlier this spring the Firecracker Golf Outing, Casino Night, a euchre party, and the spring Turkey Shoot were all held. These events help to support the 4th of July fireworks.



# **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**

**Saturday, February 22** A known subject was accused of urinating on a building in front of My Dad's Place at 2:41 a.m. The same subject also damaged five vehicles by stabbing one tire on each vehicle before leaving the area.

Wednesday, March 19 A 2020 Jeep Grand Cherokee was reported stolen from the lot at S&H Auto Group. The theft occurred between 1:30 and 1:50 a.m.

#### Sunday, March 30, Monday, March 31

Power cords and televisions were reported stolen from Tiara RV sales on Cassopolis Street. An unknown subject came onto the property, opened several RVs, and stole items from some units. A door also was damaged on a unit.

#### Late April-May 5 THREE HIGH SPEED CHASES ON LAKE DRIVE

As of May 5, the residents of Lake Drive experienced the third high speed police chase in a week's time. On May 5, a stolen car turned onto a cul-de-sac off Johnson Street just south of Lake Drive. The driver of this stolen car drove through the yards at the end of the street and came out onto D street. There the driver got out and ran. Police dogs were used to apprehend.

The previous week a chase ended up on the same street, but the driver was apprehended in the cul-de-sac.

Prior to that another chase that began in Elkhart County continued onto Lake Drive and ended near the Chubby Trout restaurant where the driver was apprehended.



### EAGLE NEST UPDATE

A few years ago, the HOA investigated erecting a nest for eagles in land adjacent to the lake. We even got the homeowner's permission and received the plans for building the nest from the Indiana DNR.

But, as we delved into the idea, we came to a problem. Eagles are meat eaters. Sometimes it's fish or a bird, or maybe a duck. And sometimes it can be a small dog or cat. We decided that we did not want to invite an eagle to nest here who might eat our residents' pets. It might not happen, but we can't guarantee it.

So, currently the HOA is not proceeding with the Eagle Nest Project. If you enjoy watching the eagles, they visit our lake. They just don't live here.



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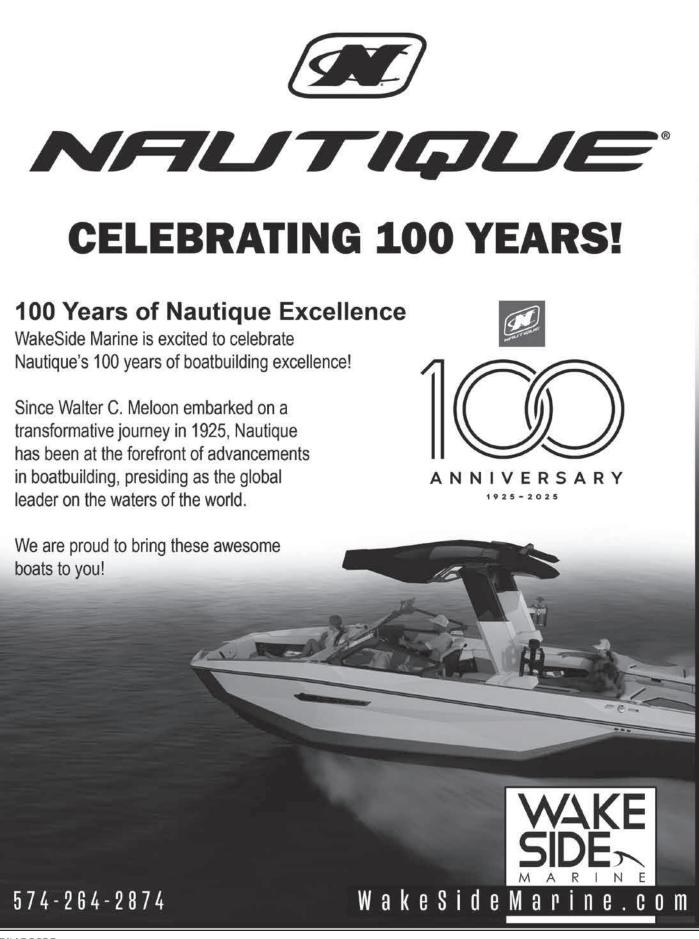
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SPRING 2025

# SPRING IS MOLE SEASON

According to Jeff Burbrink, Purdue Extension Educator for LaGrange County, moles are a springtime concern. However, if you walk in the woods in the fall or winter, you can see that moles are still digging runs. But once the snow is gone and the temperatures rise, they are even more active. In the spring female moles are mating and will have babies.

> Moles eat earthworms and grubs. According to Jeff, there just aren't enough grubs in your lawn to keep the moles satisfied. They really like the earthworms. So, while grub control will help, it won't keep them out of your lawn completely.

Moles can't be baited with rodent foods. Poison peanuts won't work either. There are false claims and schemes on the internet. Beware.

Either use a bait that they like or trap them. Make sure to put the trap on a run that the mole regular uses. f you want to know if the mole is using the run, press it down with your foot and check it later. If it's pushed up it's an active run.

Good hunting!





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# INVASIVE WEEDS THE TOP FOUR MOST INVASIVE

KNOW WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE. REPORT THEM IF YOU SEE THEM.



#### **EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL** • Extremely fast growing.

Feathery leaves with tiny flowers above water surface.
 Grows to form mat on water surface.
 Spread by cuttings that sink and root.

#### HYDRILLA

- Small, serrated leaves.
- Spread by cuttings that sink and root.
- Looks like plants used in aquariums.



#### CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED

- Three-inch leaves that are reddish green.
- Grows to form mat on water surface.
- Spread by cuttings that sink and root.





#### **STARRY STONEWORT**

 Starry stonewort forms dense mats on the surface of the lake.
 Identify by star-shaped flower.

**REPORT SIGHTINGS TO THE SIMONTON LAKE CONSERVANCY 574-206-8485**