

SIMONTON SAYS...

SIMONTON LAKE AREA HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC. NEWSLETTER

SUMMER ISSUE 2025

VOLUME 18

ISSUE 3

Sizzling Summer Fireworks over the Lake

Photo from Ann Filley




ELKHART, INDIANA

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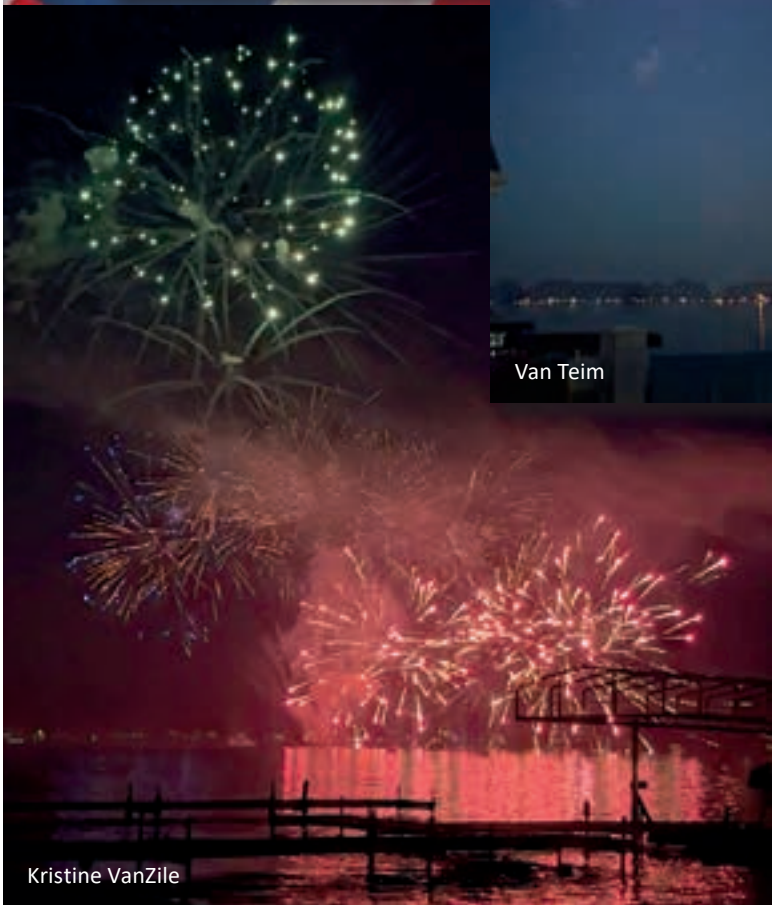
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FIREWORKS

— 2025 —



INFORMATION & EVENTS

SIMONTON SAYS...

SUMMER 2025 EDITION

ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

HOA ACTING PRESIDENT

Doug Reese
51234 Aqua Drive
574-327-4484

HOA ACTING VICE-PRESIDENT

Jack Tucker
51110 Sail Bay Court
574-370-3326

HOA ACTING BOARD SECRETARY

Amy Matherly
26048 North Shore Drive

HOA ACTING TREASURER

Van Kessler
51230 Blue Ribbon Lane
574-370-2266

Susie Broderick-Board Member

Randy Hoff, Environment
25369 Vernon Crossing

Tim Leis, Board Member
51004 Sail Bay Court

Tony Espinas-Board Member
51155 Aqua Drive

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,
cmt6061@comcast.net
- 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.

EVENTS ON THE LAKE

August "Simonton Says"

Aug. 2 SLSC Kids Fishing Contest

August 8 HOA Sunset Social AND Kayaks and Koozies "Light Up the Night"

Aug. 13 Conservancy Meeting

August 23-24 SLSC Turkey Shoot

August 24 HOA Simonton Sandbar Family Play-Day

Sept. 1 Labor Day

Sept. 1 HOA Norma's Rager Concert on the Lake

Sept. 10 Conservancy Meeting

Sept. 12 HOA Sunset Social at the Sandbar 6-Sunset

Sept. 26-27 HOA FALL GARAGE SALE

Oct. 8 Conservancy Meeting

Oct. 15 Information and Pictures due for the Fall Issue of "Simonton Says"

Oct. 11 SLSC Casino Night

Nov. "Simonton Says"

Nov. 12 Conservancy Meeting

Nov. 15 SLSC Fall Ball



Simonton Lake is a member
of the Indiana Lakes
Management Society



NOTES FROM THE BOARD

SUMMER 2025 EDITION

Join the Simonton Lake HOA today!

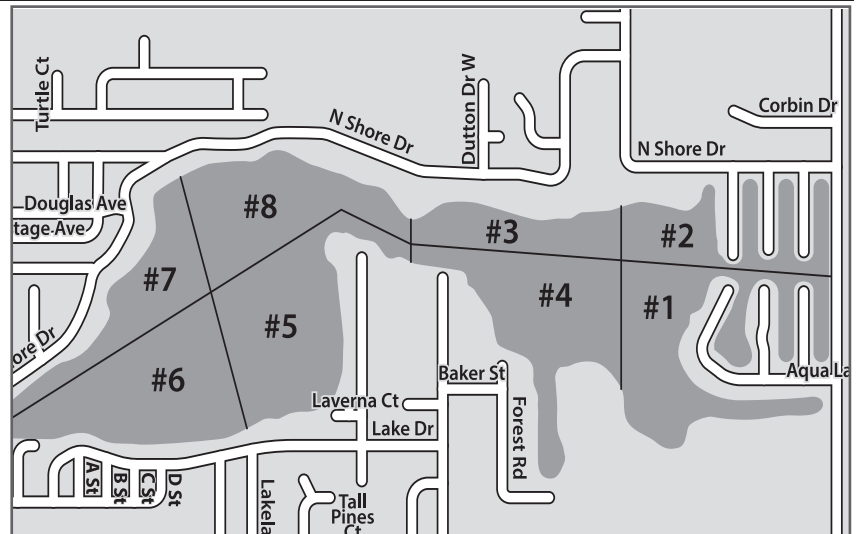
Use the form below.

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 |
| Area #2 | Jerry Broderick | 574-254-1331 |
| | 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) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Member | \$40 | |
| ADDRESS _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (70-79) | \$25 | |
| PHONE/CELL(S) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Honorary (80 & Over) | FREE Life Member | |
| PHONE/HOME _____ | SL HOA ADDITIONAL DONATION | | \$ |
| EMAIL(S) _____ | FIREWORKS FUND DONATION | | \$ |
| MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES AUTOMATED LAKE ALERTS VIA EMAIL | | SL PRESERVATION TRUST DONATION | |
| PARTICIPATION INTEREST IN A CURRENT COMMITTEE <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Environment <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Membership/Outreach Committee Chairpersons are listed in Newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> Website | | Goose/Swan Remediation Project | |
| | | 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.

SIMONTON LAKE ANNUAL HOA MEETING 2025

Our 2025 HOA Annual Meeting was held as usual at the Sportsmen's Club on May 21. Food was provided by Bruno's and Adam's Cakes. The Membership/Outreach Committee set up and cleaned up. Attendance was great.

Doug Reese, leading his last Annual Meeting as HOA President, did a great job. He updated the attendees on swan and geese eradication, protection of our Fire and EMT services zoning concerns, speeding on lake roads and AED's.

Each committee gave an update and a slide show of pictures from 2024-25 was shown.



IF YOU DID NOT ATTEND, YOU MISSED SOME GREAT INFORMATION AND A TIME WHEN YOU COULD ASK QUESTIONS OF YOUR LAKE LEADERS.

MARK THE 3RD WEDNESDAY OF MAY OF 2026 FOR THIS EVENT.

SIMONTON LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD

FALL GARAGE SALE

Friday Sept 26 & Saturday Sept 27

An ad on Yardsales.net will be paid for by the Lake Association.

Signs will be placed at major crossroads.

Get your yard sign out and

SELL! SELL! SELL!



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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: August 8, September 12

Time: 6 PM to Sunset

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 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.

Sept. 1 Labor Day – Norma's Rager

Anchor your boat off of Norma's pier. Enjoy the music on your boat or come on up to the lawn to listen or dance. It was a great event last year. Join in the fun. Look for the blue "Lake Concert" sign.

STAY TUNED TO

**"THE NEIGHBORS OF SIMONTON LAKE" FACEBOOK PAGE
FOR UPDATES AND FURTHER DETAILS!**

HOW TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LAKE!!

Pay attention! There WILL be a quiz!!

FACEBOOK Maybe you don't like Facebook. Maybe you won't ever post anything on your Facebook page. But FACEBOOK is where you will find information.

THERE ARE TWO SITES TO FOLLOW!

Simonton Lake HOA is the official HOA page. Here you will find reminders, updates, road closings, storm damage 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.

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



NEW NEIGHBORS ARE SOOOOO WELCOME AT SIMONTON LAKE

The Membership/Outreach Committee delivers a Welcome Gift Bag to new neighbors at the lake. What an awesome gift. I might move just to get one.

Do you have a new neighbor in your neck of the woods? Please let one of the committee leaders know.

kimk999999@yahoo.com



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CONSERVANCY CORNER

SIMONTON LAKE
CONSERVANCY
574-206-8485



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.

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.

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!

BUOYS ANNUAL MAINTENANCE

Purchasing navigational buoys falls under the purposes of the Simonton Lake Conservancy. In early May, volunteers take a boat trip to see which buoys need repair or have been moved out of place.

Then before Memorial Day, a boat trip is taken at night to see which buoys need new solar lights. (All of our navigational buoys outside the Ecozone have lights.)

Then, a team of volunteers replaces lights, moves buoys into their correct position, and replaces damaged buoys.

Thanks to Ryan Matherly, Bob Evans, and Randy Hoff for working on the buoys this summer.

BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE ELKHART AQUATIC CENTER

AUGUST 13

SEPTEMBER 10 - OCTOBER 8

NOVEMBER 12

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

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SPOTLIGHT ON ADVERTISERS



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Jeff serves the surrounding community. Jeff and his wife, Hope, have four children, making them the third generation to live on Lake Drive. Interacting with local lake residents is one thing they frequently enjoy doing.

Our services at Professional Carpet Cleaning extend beyond residential homes, encompassing apartment complexes, restaurants, office buildings, and hotels. Plus, we offer a comprehensive range of cleaning options that include carpet, furniture, air ducts, tile and grout, and dryer vents. We acquire all truck-mounted Hydro Master machines, each equipped with its own clean freshwater tank and waste tank.

Professional Carpet Cleaning Inc. is honored to be recognized and takes great pride in serving our community and all our neighbors. When you see us drive by, please give us a wave. And, give us a call to ask for the latest deals. We look forward to providing you with any services needed. Hope to see you around, even if it is while relaxing at the sandbar!

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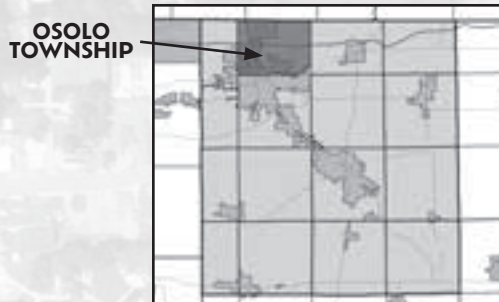
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Fort Wayne 260-426-4357
Indianapolis 317-652-6175
South Bend 574-239-2273
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ZONING THE CITY ANNEXES MORE OF OSOLO TOWNSHIP

BY AMY MATHERLY

Osolo Township is one of 16 townships in Elkhart County. The map below shows Osolo Township in RED. The cities in Elkhart County are shown in GRAY. As you can see the city has grown into Osolo Township and continues to eat up parts of the township as it annexes land.



OSOLO TOWNSHIP'S BOUNDARIES ARE:

- To the North-the Michigan/Indiana state line
- To the East-County Road 17 from the state line to the St. Joe River
- To the South-The St. Joe River to Violet Road (near Greenleaf) and then west along California Road
- To the West-From the California Road/Indiana 19 intersection north to the John Weaver Parkway then following a northern route from Willard Road across Boot Lake and to the state line just west of Adamsville Road

HOW CAN THE CITY OF ELKHART ANNEX PART OF OSOLO TOWNSHIP?

Owners of land can request to be annexed. Why? To reap the benefits of the services offered by the city. Other times, the City annexes property which will benefit the City by bringing in tax dollars.

When the city annexes parts of Osolo Township, Osolo Township loses the property taxes generated by that piece of land and the city gains. It is our property taxes that support our fire and emergency services.

In an informative post on the Simonton Lake Vacation Rentals Blog site, the author wrote an article titled, *ANNEXATION EFFORTS NEAR SIMONTON LAKE: COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND CITY EXPANSION*. Excerpts from that article are noted in italics below.

RECENT ANNEXATION ACTIVITIES BY THE ELKHART CITY COUNCIL

"In 2024, the City of Elkhart proposed annexing land at the northwest corner of County Road 4 and County Road 17, known as "Elkhart East Area A." This area, owned by Almac Inc., is near the industrialized zone and close to the Elkhart Bog-Overholt CEAS nature preserve. The annexation was approved by the City Council on June 17, 2024. This land was formerly part of Osolo Township.

Additionally, in November 2024, the Plan Commission recommended approval of annexing land generally at the intersection of County Road 17 and County Road 6, encompassing parts of Osolo and Washington Townships. This area includes both developed and undeveloped parcels within Elkhart East Phase I."

On July 7, 2025, the City Council approved the annexation of the area including the RV Hall of Fame And the Casey's Service Center at the corner of County Road 6 and County Road 17. In both cases, the owners of the properties petitioned to be annexed. This brings to them city water and sewer. Casey's was formerly on the Osolo Township tax rolls.

IF THE CITY SHOULD TRY TO ANNEX THE SIMONTON LAKE AREA, WHY SHOULD LAKE RESIDENTS BE CONCERNED?

- **Tax Implications:** Annexation could lead to increased property taxes for residents if the lake area is incorporated into the city.
- **Public Services:** Changes in jurisdiction may affect services such as emergency response, road maintenance, and public utilities. (SEWER AND WATER)
- **Environmental Impact:** Development near the lake could impact the health of the lake, including water quality, and impact on the watershed.

Last year, at the June 17, 2024, meeting as the City Council discussed annexation we lake residents were so fortunate the we had both Doug Reese and Fire Chief Smith in the audience speaking on our behalf. Both men emphasized the need for transparency and community involvement in such decisions.

HOW DOES AN AREA GET ANNEXED?

Indiana law stipulates that for an area to be annexed; it must be contiguous to existing city boundaries. The annexation process involves several steps:

1. **Petition Submission:** Property owners or the city submit to the Plan Commission a petition for annexation.
2. **Plan Commission Review:** The Plan Commission evaluates the proposal and makes a recommendation.
3. **City Council Approval:** The City Council votes on the annexation ordinance.
4. **Waiting Period:** If approved, there's a 30-day (for voluntary annexations) or 90-day (for other cases) waiting period before the annexation becomes effective provided. During this time a remonstrance can be filed.

CAN THE CITY ANNEX US IF WE ARE IN A CONSERVANCY DISTRICT?

Yes, according to Indiana Code, a city can take over a sewer conservancy, often as part of an annexation process.

- **Negotiation and agreement:** The city and the conservancy district may negotiate a purchase agreement for the district's assets, like the sewer system.
- **Legal Process:** State law outlines the specific steps required for annexation, such as obtaining signatures from a certain percentage of property owners within the district and holding public hearings.

This process involves legal and administrative steps, and the jurisdiction over activities of a conservancy district ultimately lies with the circuit court that established it.

BOTTOM LINE: Let's be watching this issue as we move forward.

FEEDING DEER: JUST SAY NO

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES - DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

WHY DO PEOPLE FEED DEER?

Feeding wild animals can be an enjoyable experience. Many Hoosiers enjoy seeing white-tailed deer up close and feel good about providing an easy meal, especially when food is scarce. Hunters often put out corn or apples so they can learn about deer in their hunting spot. Unfortunately, despite the immediate pleasure for human and deer, feeding wild animals causes more harm than good.

WHY SHOULDN'T I FEED DEER?

1. Habituation: Deer that are fed by humans become dependent on the easy food source and stop foraging. Deer are much better at feeding themselves on their own. When you feed deer and then stop, or when the food temporarily runs out, they will go hungry and may become a nuisance as they search for more easy food. Once deer are habituated, they can become demanding, even bumping at doors and windows to get their expected hand-out. It may seem manageable to feed a doe with two fawns in the spring, but by fall they become three adults demanding dinner every day. Additionally, landscaping and vegetation can be damaged where deer are concentrated around feeding areas. Before you put out food for deer, keep in mind that they are wild animals, not pets, and it's better for you and for them if they stay wild.

2. Disrupting their natural biology: It's easy to feel empathy for deer during a harsh winter, with no apparent food to eat. It may seem they depend on you to survive. Deer, however, are adapted for surviving long, cold winters in Indiana. Their fur provides insulation. Deer stock up on fat in the fall so they do not need to eat much in the winter. Additionally, their metabolism slows and they restrict movement to conserve calories. By spring, the deer have slimmed down but are healthy. Feeding deer, especially with high-calorie food, interrupts this natural pattern and speeds up their metabolism, making them burn fat reserves faster. Unlike humans, deer have a specific blend of microbes in their stomach that break down their naturally high-fiber diet. These microbes take several weeks to adjust to new foods. During this period, deer are susceptible to corn-induced acidosis, which can cause diarrhea, dehydration and death. This creates a situation where you must continue feeding them through the winter, though they would have otherwise survived on their own before you intervened.

3. Spreading disease: Under normal circumstances, deer spread out when they forage. When deer are given supplemental food, however, they congregate closer than they would in the wild. Close proximity is a way for deer to spread disease. Though it has not yet been found in Indiana, chronic wasting disease (CWD) is spreading in the midwest, and is a serious threat to deer. CWD spreads easily through saliva, urine, feces, and other methods and stays active and infectious in the soil for years. By not giving deer an incentive to congregate, you help slow disease transmission.

4. Deer feed is unhealthy "junk food": Several medical complications in deer arise from diets based on corn and pellets as opposed to natural woody browse. Acidosis, enterotoxemia, and aflatoxin all will cause 2-3 weeks of extreme discomfort for deer as the bacteria in their digestive system adjust to accommodate the new chemistry of the foreign food. Not all deer survive this transition, especially if they are already stressed from harsh weather or sickness. Even worse, deer go through the process again when they stop getting fed, making deer feed twice as harmful.



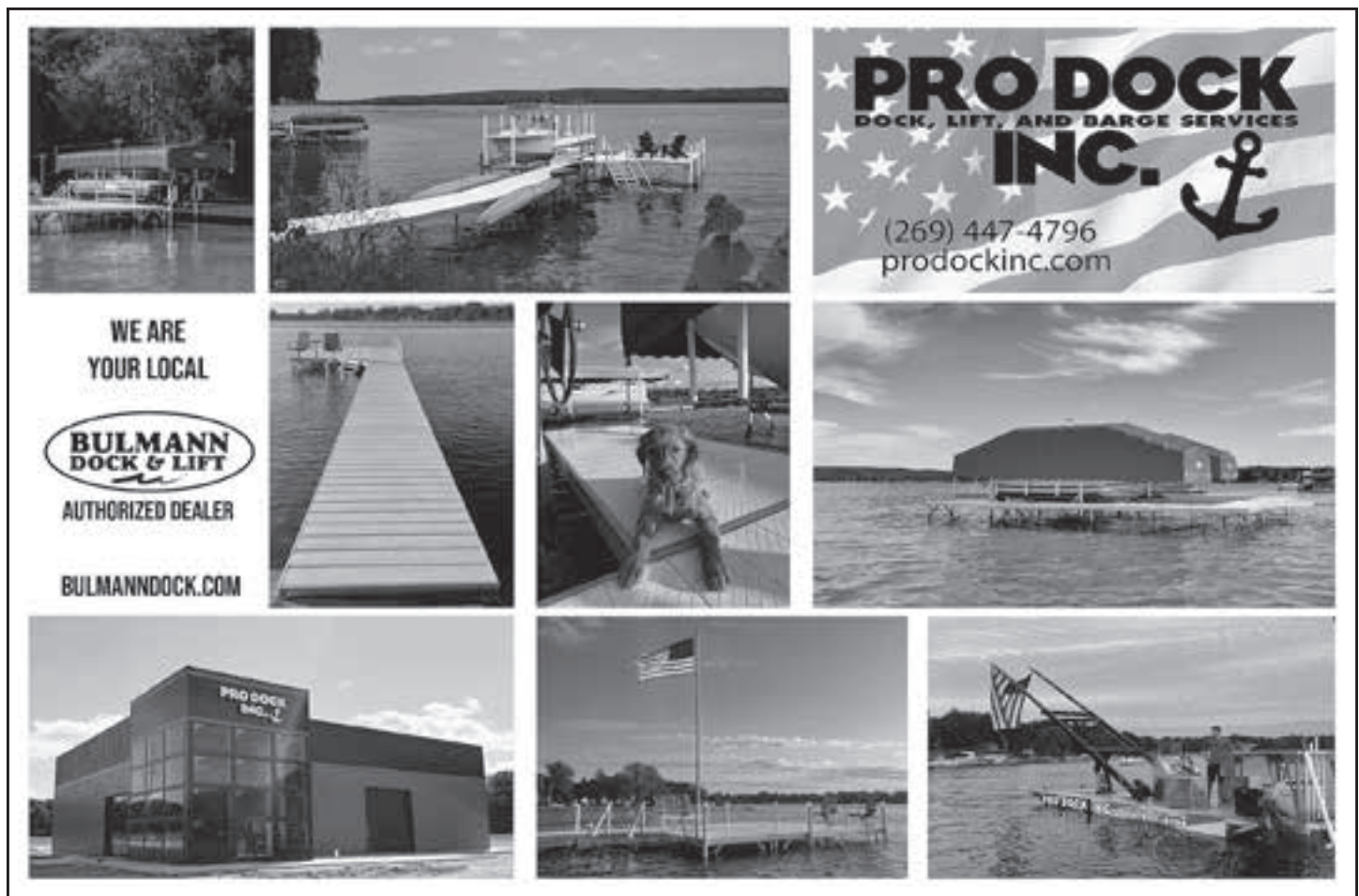
The Wildlife Management Institute offers an insightful evaluation of feeding wildlife as follows:

Supplemental feeding — however well intentioned — either compromises the animal's wildness or wellness, or it interferes with the essential natural processes of selection. For deer will crowd around a reliable food source, becoming dependent on the unnatural food and potentially spreading disease. the long-term benefit of big game wildlife populations, supplemental feeding is an accident waiting to happen. When and where such feeding is done, it is undertaken only — if not expressly — for the interest of people, because the fed animals almost invariably will not benefit and very likely will be harmed by the practice (Feeding Wildlife: Just Say No).

WHAT CAN I DO?

If you are already feeding deer and would like to stop, slowly decrease the amount of food you are offering. Do not remove all the food at once. This way, the deer will have time to adjust their browsing habits and learn to eat on their own again.

**For many of the same reasons, please
DON'T FEED THE DUCKS OR SWANS.**



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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

FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY 2025

Once again Bob and Georgia Evans hosted the annual Simonton Lake Flag Retirement Ceremony.

With the fireworks on Friday night and the Poker Run on Saturday, the stage was set to finish the weekend with a somber reminder of the freedoms we have through the sacrifices of others. Dozens of boats anchored off Evans Island to watch the ceremony.

American flags that are damaged or worn may only be disposed of by burning. All year lake residents bring flags to be taken to this event.



*Thanks to
Bob and Georgia
and all of the volunteers
that coordinate
with this annual event.*



Raising the flag.



The sound of "Taps" goes out across the lake.



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LAKE SHORTS



Mike and Debbie Smith, long-time residents of North Shore Drive have sold their house and bought a new home on Thompson Ave. In addition to moving Mike and Debbie were able to attend the graduation of their granddaughter from the University of Michigan with a graduate degree in pharmacy.

Lake resident and businessman **Dan Brekke** is a leader in new apartments off of County Road 17. Called "The Flats at Pine Creek" the project will have 252 units of multi-family housing. Here's a picture of Dan and wife, Leanne taking part in the ceremonial first shovels of construction.



Derek Zook and Jade Hill of North Shore Drive were married at Wellfield Botanic Gardens in Elkhart on June 21, 2025, in front of dozens of their Simonton Lake friends. Jade is the daughter of **Todd & Teriana Wagner** of Sail Bay Court.



LAKE SHORTS

TASKA FAMILY REUNION

Gary and Marlene had 7 of their 8 great grandchildren at their house. Marlene says that Baby Luke wasn't happy, but we were happy to meet him in person and his brother Graham (1st on left) from NC. We've lived on Twilight Drive for 41 years and have been married 66 years.



Congratulations to the "Christmas Stop" for winning best stop for the Poker run. What a great idea to add "snow" to the stop. Note the polar bear on the adjacent pier with a wine cooler in her arms.



Congratulations to **Nate Roll** and **Amanda Dixon Webber** on winning Best Boat for their "Day of the Dead / Dia de Los Muertos" theme!

Thank you to all 25 boats that participated! We loved seeing all of the unique and creative boats float by!

Every year a pair of barn swallows build a nest in **Marie Garatoni's** boat. They travel along with Marie and her "crew" on the Poker Run. It doesn't seem to bother them.

**COACH MAC LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP
GOLF OUTING FUNDRAISER
SEPTEMBER 13, 2025**

Supporting a Female Elkhart High School golfer's academic and athletic pursuits
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Lunch at the turn

*Gifts of proceeds benefit the Coach Mac Legacy Scholarship. No cash prizes awarded every dollar counts our heroes.

\$50/50
-Gift Basket Raffle
-Buy a 2' string \$20 per team
-Mulligans \$5 per person
(2 per person)

Lake resident **Kelly King** is helping organize a golf tournament this fall in honor of the Dodi McLeMore Scholarship. Dodi was a long-time teacher and coach at Memorial High School who passed away on March 23 of this year. If you are interested contact Kelly. Her information is on the poster to the left.



LAKE SHORTS



MARY FEESER ELEMENTARY FINALLY GETS A NEW PLAYGROUND

About two years ago Simonton Says ran an article about the horrible condition of the playground at our local elementary school. Parts of the structure were roped off, swings were broken. It was an embarrassment and made recess a pretty gloomy time for the kids.

But now with your support and a lot of hard work by the kids, parents and staff, led by their principal Carolyn Lesperance, there is a brand-new playground system in place ready for the kids this coming school year. LOOKS GREAT, HURRICANES! Have a great year.

SUMMER MEANS HAPPY TIMES AND GOOD SUNSHINE!

-BRIAN WILSON



MUSKRATS AT WORK?

Joe Mamo sent us this picture of his seawall. It could be the seawall, but muskrats love to dig under our seawalls.



Carla Brossman posted a nice photo of her family on the "Neighbors of Simonton Lake" Facebook page. This is her Elkhart family - daughter Taryn, with friend Justin and granddaughter Shelby with friend Ayden and Kloey.



Phyllis VanZile, matriarch of the VanZile clan, gets ready for the fireworks with son Dave.

LEAVING THE LAKE

- **John McAtee** and **Carla Brossman** are leaving the lake.
- Channel Ct is losing **Jim** and **Sandy Fox** and **Angela** and **Matt Fisher**.

You'll be missed!



FAREWELLS



WILLIAM RICHARD BRODERICK

William Richard Broderick, known affectionately as Bill to friends and family, was born on March 27, 1957, in Hawthorne, California. He passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on June 30, 2025, at the age of 68. Bill was a steadfast presence in the lives of those who knew him, leaving behind a legacy of love, laughter, and remarkable spirit.

A proud graduate of Elkhart Memorial High School, Bill finished in the top 10 of his class in 1975. He was a member of the National Honor Society and a dedicated athlete on the track and cross-country teams, where he formed lasting friendships and developed a love of competition and perseverance.

While still in high school, Bill met the love of his life, Susie Glick. They were married at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Elkhart, Indiana, on Aug. 27, 1977, beginning a lifetime of deep devotion, laughter, and shared memories.

After graduation, Bill attended Wabash College for two years before choosing to follow in his father's footsteps and pursue a career in chiropractic. He enrolled at Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa, where he thrived academically, graduating with honors and a perfect 4.0 GPA in 1980.

Bill absolutely loved his chiropractic family, patients, and practice, and would do anything for anyone. He especially loved his family and friends, who were the center of his world.

Bill was a devoted husband to Susie, with whom he built a beautiful life. He was a proud father to Chad (Angela) Broderick, Cami (Ab) Saleh, and Sean (Kiera) Broderick. Among his greatest joys was being a grandfather to Henry, Louisa, and Frankie Saleh, and Breckin Broderick. His grandchildren were the apples of his eye, and he embraced his role as their biggest fan with deep pride and endless love.

A cherished son, Bill leaves behind his father, Gerald "Jerry" Broderick, who instilled in him the enduring values of integrity, humility, and hard work. He is also survived by his loving siblings: Cheryl (Steve) Lieurance, Stuart (Dody) Broderick, and Laurie (Steve) Berggren – each of whom carries fond memories of Bill's kindness, humor, and unwavering support.

Bill was preceded in death by his mother, Anna, his uncle, Jon Espenes, and Richard Zimmerman.

As family and friends reflect on his life, they hold dear the wonderful moments and stories shared with Bill – the laughter, the compassion, and the boundless spirit that made him truly unforgettable.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to the Elkhart Humane Society, 54687 C.R. 19, Bristol, IN 46507, at www.elkharthumanesociety.org

As we say goodbye, we remember Bill not with sorrow, but with immense gratitude – for the joy, love, and light he brought into our lives. He will be deeply missed and forever cherished in our hearts.

TO THE BOTTOM OF THE HILL!



OLGA 'FAY' SHAFFER

Fay Shaffer passed away peacefully on June 29, 2025, at the age of 91. Born on March 31, 1934, in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, her family moved to Elkhart, Indiana, and she lived a full, vibrant life centered on family, friendship and unwavering love.

Fay married the love of her life, Wendell Lee Shaffer, on Dec. 4, 1958. Together, they built a life focusing on family, fun and sports. While raising six children, Fay went from working inside sales to ownership and having a successful career in the RV industry – a role she approached with the same determination and grace she brought to motherhood. She retired in 1990, and soon after, she and Wendell set out to explore the United States – ultimately visiting all 50 states. After their travels, Fay and Wendell found their home in Arizona Traditions in Surprise, Arizona. There, they dove headfirst into community life and made fast friends wherever they went. Fay helped launch the Friday Couples and Margarita Mamas Golf League and starred in the neighborhood lip sync shows. If there were games to be played or laughs to be had, you could count on Fay to bring the fun.





FAREWELLS



Fay was the heart and soul of her family. Her greatest joy was her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Home was where the kids brought their friends, and Fay always welcomed everyone with open arms and a full table. Whether it was year-round sports or summers at the lake, Fay created a life rich in memories. Mom's quiet strength, selfless love and steady presence touched everyone around her. Her children described her as tough, loving, driven and full of fierce endurance – someone who worked hard, never gave up and never complained.

Fay is preceded in death by her husband, Wendell L. Shaffer; her parents, Pearl Bowers and Andrew Frank Barrick; siblings Frank, Loma, Fern and Janet; her son, Randy Shaffer; and daughter-in-law Beth.

She is survived by her children, grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren: Robert W. Shaffer (Denise), Griffin and Crosby; **Douglas L. Shaffer (Tina)**, Brandon, Lauren (Josh), and Austin (Taylor); Debra R. Lecklider (Mike), Chase (Liza), Ryann Fretschel (Mathieu); Randall L. Shaffer (deceased), (Elizabeth – deceased), Derek (Amanda), Sean (Jonathan); Carla C. Pontius (Tom), Tate (Tracy), Angie McClane (Rob), Jenni Learman (Josh); Karen S. Nicholas (Jeff), Sydney (Nick).

In place of flowers, the family welcomes donations in Fay Shaffer's name to The Salvation Army, 300 N. Main St., Elkhart, IN 46516, www.centralusa.salvationarmy.org.

SLSA KIDS FISHING CONTEST

JUNE 7, 2025

As usual, the shores were packed for the Sportsmen's Club Kids Fishing Contest.







Another hopeful fisherman awaits the measuring.
A table of prizes awaited the kids.



This young man is getting ready to present to
the volunteer who measures the fish.



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SIMONTON LAKE SEWER PUNCTURED - LAKE AT RISK

BY AMY MATHERLY

Assisted by Bob Evans, Chairperson of the Simonton Lake Conservancy

Two years ago, Surf Internet was given a permit by Elkhart County to run fiber optic cable along the roadways of Elkhart County. The company was very cooperative with lake residents and the HOA even hosted a meeting at which the SURF leaders explained their process and their system. However, the underground boring workers did puncture the sewer system.

Now, it appears Frontier is laying its own cable along lake roads AND causing trouble with our Simonton Lake Conservancy sewer system. The system has been punctured several times over the past several months.

The latest puncture was so severe that a small amount of wastewater entered the lake. Sandbags were deployed and the Elkhart County Health Department was called in to assess the situation. It is the Health Department which does yearly testing of Elkhart County lakes, rivers, creeks, and ditches to determine the contaminants in the water. If a lake is closed because of health reasons, they are the ones to make the decision.

As you know your yard as it meets the county road includes a RIGHT OF WAY. As defined in "ELKHART COUNTY STREET STANDARDS" this is "a strip of land occupied by or dedicated to Elkhart County to be used as by a street, pedestrian- way, crosswalk, railroad, electric transmission line, oil or gas pipeline, water main, sanitary or storm sewer main, special landscaping, or any other public use. This is where the telephone poles, electrical boxes, sewer line and underground cables can and are placed.

WHY DID THE BORING COMPANIES PUNCTURE OUR SEWER?

Our sewer lines, when buried in 1999-2000 included "tracer wires" which can be detected above ground. Before you dig you are often reminded to call 811. This phone call then alerts you, or whoever is digging, where the

underground utilities are located. Of course, there are errors but if this detection is done carefully and correctly, instance of damage to the sewer system should be very rare.

In addition, residents have been dissatisfied with the mess left in their lawns. While these companies are in the public right of way, most of the time that right-of-way appears to be part of my lawn. I can only speak to how SURF treated us in that they cleaned up and left minimal yard damage to fix. FRONTIER has not yet been down North Shore Drive at the time this article was written. We'll see how they do. But it seems like any utility company who is competing for my business would want to keep me happy with their work.

On June 19, I sent the following Lake Alert

On Thursday, June 19 a damaged sewer line was repaired on Twilight Drive. Measures were taken to repair the line and prevent sewage from entering the lake. The Elkhart County Board of Health was on site, and they were satisfied with the measures taken.

NEVER, AT ANY TIME, DID ANY SEWAGE COME CLOSE TO THE LAKE. If that had been the case, the Elkhart County Health Department would have closed the lake until remediation had been done.

Please do not believe rumors. If you have a question or a concern, contact a member of the Conservancy Board for the truth. Go to the Simonton Lake Conservancy District website for board member's names and contact information. Or contact the Elkhart County Health Department.

That middle-bold paragraph is incorrect. There was a minimal amount of wastewater that entered the lake. The County Health Department DID declare the lake and people using the lake were not in danger. My apologies.



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| (Corner of Indiana & Nappanee) | 574-264-4579 |

LAKE ROADS IN NEED OF REPAIR

The HOA has received several concerns from residents about the condition of our roads. Lake Drive seems to have had a "patch job" done that neighbors said was not done well.

In a check of the list of road projects for 2025 at the Elkhart County Highway Department we find none of our streets listed.

In addition, this information was reported by WNDU in early June:

"Elkhart County may already be seeing the effects of decreased funding at the state level for road projects.

According to our reporting partners at **The Goshen News**, three appropriation requests were approved for 2025 highway department routine maintenance projects.

Elkhart County Commissioner, Suzie Weirick says due to a combination of Senate Bill 1 and new moves in Indianapolis, the county should expect a shortfall from the state.

Additionally, you should continue to see increases in what the county is covering."

We encourage you to report potholes and other road issues directly to the Elkhart County Highway Department.



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FALL LEAF COLLECTION

The next issue of Simonton Says comes out in November, so we must cover this issue now.

Because of the poor results from relying on the county leaf collection contestants, the HOA has no organized free way to get rid of your leaves.

You may contact the county and arrange to have a contestant pick up your leaves. But this will be on your own and not organized by the HOA.

IF I DON'T BURN MY LEAVES, WHAT CAN I DO WITH THEM?

- The Elkhart County Landfill at 59530 C. R. 7 (Oakland Avenue in the city) will take leaves for free on any day that they are open. The Landfill is just south of the U.S. 20 Bypass. If you have room on your property leaves, make great compost for use on gardens, come springtime.
- Check with your trash removal service to see if they will pick up your leaves.
- **DON'T PUT LEAVES INTO THE LAKE!**

ELKHART COUNTY BURNING REGULATIONS

Being allowed to burn does not mean you can burn anything you want, anytime. If you assume this, you may be ticketed.

Here are the Elkhart County Burning Regulations:

- Private residential open burning is allowed where the building contains four or fewer dwelling units. Apartments, condominium complexes, mobile home parks, and businesses may not burn.
- A person may burn vegetation from a farm, orchard, nursery, or drainage ditch.
- Recreational or ceremonial fires are allowed but cannot be used for disposal purposes.
- It is always against the law to burn trash such as household waste, plastic, batteries, rubber, diapers, and painted or stained wood.

If you choose to burn, these conditions must always be followed:

- Fires must be attended at all times 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 unfavorable meteorological conditions, such as 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.)
- Private residential open burning must be in a non-combustible container that is sufficiently vented and induce adequate primary combustion and has enclosed sides and a bottom. A burn barrel is not well vented.
- Only clean wood products and paper may be burned. "Clean wood products" means wood products, including vegetation, which are not coated with stain, paint, glue, or other coating material.

IF YOU ARE AFFECTED BY A NEIGHBOR'S LEAF FIRE, CALL THE ELKHART COUNTY SHERIFF'S NON-EMERGENCY LINE.



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SUMMER TRIVIA

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What month is National Ice Cream Month, instituted by Ronald Reagan in 1984? 2. The country that consumes the most ice cream is ____, followed by Australia then Norway. 3. What country is credited with inventing ice cream? 4. Which movie is widely considered to be the first summer blockbuster? 5. Which theme park, located in Anaheim, California, is known as "The Happiest Place on Earth"? 6. What is the name of the iconic wooden roller coaster located at Coney Island in Brooklyn, New York? 7. Many researchers believe that all citrus fruit can be traced back to just three species: pomelos, citrons, and ____. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Which classic American food has been approved by NASA as space food and was eaten by the Apollo 7 astronauts? 9. How many hot dogs do Americans consume each year, according to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council? A) 1 billion B) 5 billion C) 20 billion D) 50 billion 10. Which has more Vitamin C, the orange's flesh or the orange's peel? 11. What famous American author penned the novel "The Great Gatsby," which is set in the summer of 1922? |
|--|---|

ANSWERS:

1. July 2. The USA 3. China 4. Jaws
5. Disneyland 6. Cylone 7. Madarsins
8. Hotdogs 9. C 10. The peel
11. F. Scott Fitzgerald

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UPCOMING EVENTS

.....
August 2
 Kid's Fishing Contest

August 23 - 24
 Turkey Shoot



October 11
 Casino Night
November 15
 Fall Ball

KIDS FISHING CONTEST

By the time you get this issue the August 2 Kids Fishing Contest will be over. The Sportsmen's Club has two Kids Fishing Contest each summer. Please take a look at the article and pictures from the June 7th Contest in this issue.

This Sportsmen's Club event really makes memories for kids who might not otherwise have a chance to fish.

Every participant gets a prize.

Sportsmen Club members run the event. The Club also offers sponsorship of a T-shirt. For future opportunities, follow the Club on Facebook.



POKER RUN A BIG SUCCESS

The weather cooperated this year and the traffic was heavy at Evan's Island as participants turned their hands in.

It takes scores of volunteers from the Club to do everything from selling hands and T-shirts to manning the tables on the island.

Thanks for a great day!

FANTASTIC FIREWORKS!

This was the theme of the many comments on social media. It was a great show. The Club thanks all of you who donated.

Can't wait till next year.

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FOLLOW THE SIMONTON LAKE SPORTSMEN'S CLUB ON FACEBOOK!

CRIME REPORT

“DING, DONG, DASH”



Neighbors report kids on golf carts repeatedly ringing their doorbells and then running away. While the kids see this as a harmless prank, it is annoying. If the Elkhart County Police are called it could lead to charges of trespass, disorderly conduct or criminal mischief. Not to mention that the kids are being caught on “Ring”-type cameras.

Let's make this a Ding, Dong, Dash-Free Neighborhood.



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~JOHN MAYER~





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SAFETY ON THE LAKE

On several nights in July boaters have noticed a swimmer with no float buoy after dark. In fact boats have almost run over this swimmer. **THIS IS A DANGEROUS SITUATION!** Swimmers going beyond 200 feet from shore must have a float buoy!! Swimming at night with no float buoy more than 200 feet from shore is **EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.** In a swimmer vs. boat motor scenario the motor always wins

How about just following the law. Here are a few violations that have been reported to Simonton Says in the Summer of 2025:

- Follow the instructions on the DNR Approved buoys.
 - **Idle speed in the channels.** "Idle Speed means the lowest possible speed, not to exceed 5 miles per hour so as to maintain steerage and maintain minimal wake."
 - **Stay out of the Ecozone.** No motorized boats are allowed in the Ecozone.
- **Speeding boats going too close to swim areas** along the shoreline.
- **Boats going outside instead of between the buoys** on each end of the main channel.
- **Swimmers beyond 200 feet from shore with no**

float buoy. Do not swim beyond 200 feet from shore without a swim float.

- **Swimmers at night with no float buoy beyond 200 feet from shore.**
- **No lifejackets on drivers of wave runners.** Each person on a wave runner must wear a lifejacket.
- **No observer. When pulling a tuber or skier, an observer is required.**
- **Buoys:** Do not tamper with, moor to, move, or damage a navigational buoy. Doing so is a federal offense. The buoys placed on this lake are paid for with our tax dollars.
- **Skiing and tubing are prohibited between sunset and sunrise.** When the sun starts sinking and we enter twilight or dusk, can you really see who you are pulling on a tube or skis?



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POKER RUN

BOAT ENTRIES AND STOPS

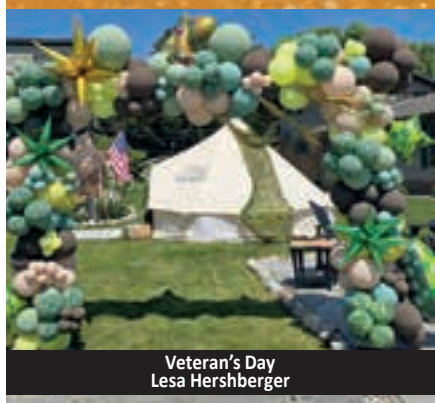
The theme was holidays, any holiday! We are sorry that we did not have room to get all of the entries in this magazine. We praise all of you for the great effort and making this the best holiday of the year on the lake.



Winner of the Poker Run Stops at the "Christmas Stop" it was snowing!



The Winner of the Boat Entries was Amanda Dixon Webber and her crew.



Veteran's Day
Lesa Hershberger



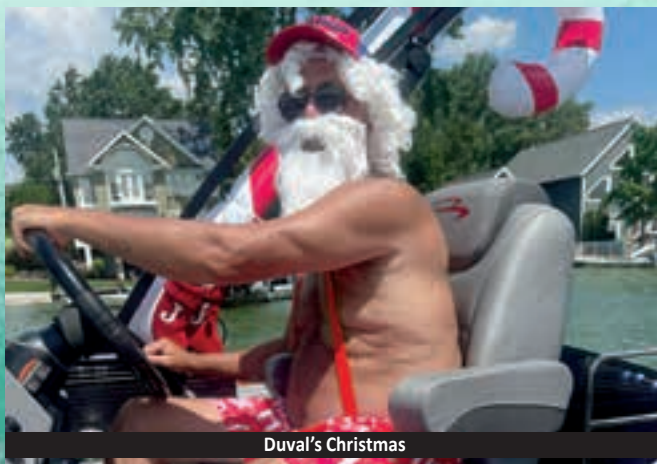
Not sure who this is. But they did a great job of decorating.



Skeleton Pirate Boat



The Milliken's on their St. Patrick Day Entry.



Duval's Christmas



St. Patrick Day



Spider!