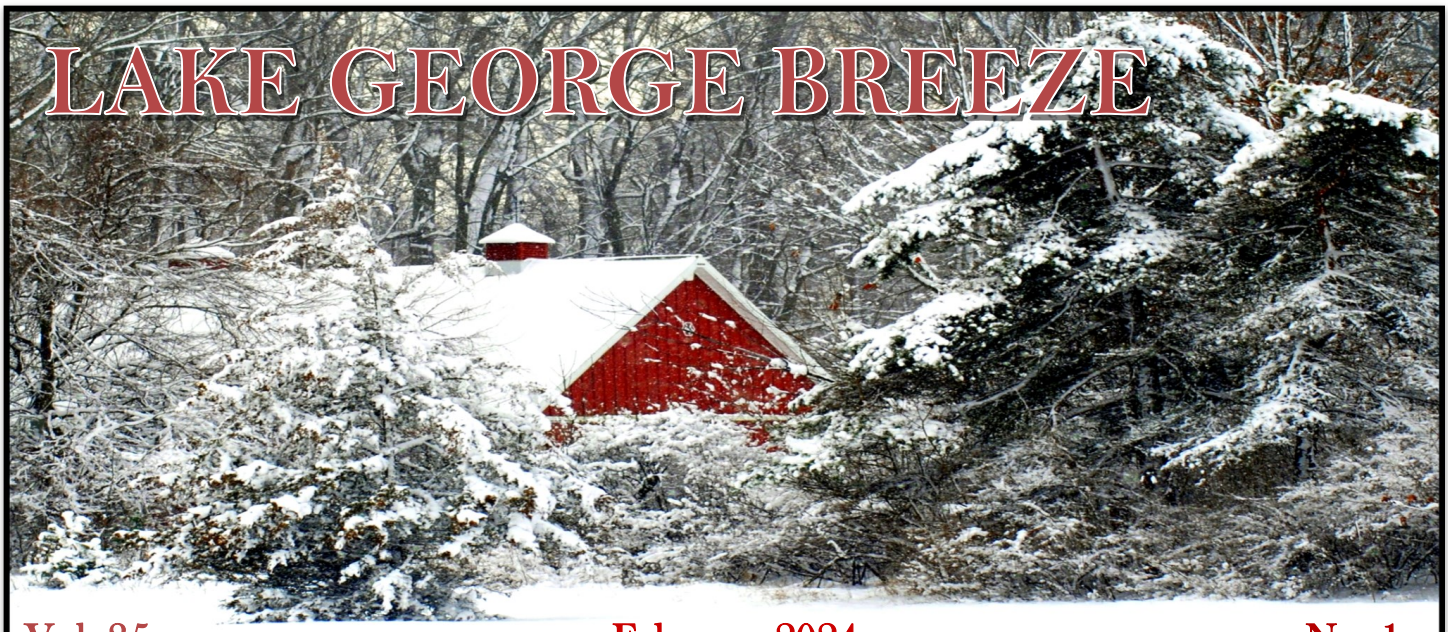
LAKE GEORGE BREEZE



Vol. 85 February 2024, No. 1

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

LGCA BCH DIRTOR'S MTG.	5-25
LG PLANT SALE	5-25
MEMORIAL DAY LIGHTS	5-26

JUNE

LAKE GEORGE GARAGE SALE	6-14/15
LG CONSERVANCY ANNUAL MTG.	6-15

JULY

F IREWORKS, BOAT PARADE	7-06
CHICKEN BBQ (pick-up)	7-06
LGCA ANNUAL MTG.	7-13
LGCD ANNUAL MTG	7-13

AUGUST

LG CONSERVANCY HOG ROAST (FAMILY PICNIC)	8-24
LGCA BCH DIRECTOR'S MTG	8-31

SEPTEMBER

LUMINARIES	9-01

LETTER FROM LGCA PRESIDENT

I can't wait until summer! Only 18 weeks until Memorial day! I hope 2024 will be another great year for all Lake George Cottagers!

2024 dues statements were recently mailed to your address of record. There is no change in total dues from last year. We have, however, increased the fireworks allocation and decreased the general fund amount.

Please make payment and submit any directory changes by March 1.

The world's best fireworks, the boat parade and the conservancy's chicken pickup will be on July 6.

Your LGCA officers again this year are Rex Melchi (Vice President), Kevin Snyder (Treasurer), and Rick Weaver (Secretary). The list of Beach Directors and the 2024 Calendar will be in the 2024 directory and on the LakeGeorgeinfo.net website. Please let any of us know if there is something that we can do to make Lake George everything it can be!

We are looking to bring some "new blood" to this team! Most of us have served for at least 5 years and it's time for others to bring their energy and spirit to the table. Please consider this opportunity and let me know of your interest. These positions are open to all owners on Lake George. We will be available for consulting!

Until then, stay safe and warm!

Dave Sorg
765-637-8343
lakegeorgecottagersassociation@gmail.com

LAKE GEORGE CONSERVANCY

The Lake George Conservancy ("LGC") celebrated its 20th year since formation last year and this year will be celebrating 20 years since its initial purchase of what is known today as The Preserve. As many of you know that was an unbelievable showing by all the residents of Lake George coming together to donate funds so the Preserve could be purchased effectively preventing a truck stop from being our neighbor on the east side of Old 27.

Conservation and improvement to our properties in 2023 included planting 86 new trees in clusters along Kope Kon Road in the southern section of the Orchard/Oak Savanna. The clusters consist of five varieties of oaks, red buds, service berries and dogwoods. We also conducted a prescribed burn of the nine acres of tall prairie grass on the north end of this property to create more sunlight to help the wildflowers grow in concert with the prairie grass. Personnel from the US Fish and Wildlife Service out of Michigan broadcast additional wildflower seed over this area at no cost to LGC.

We hired Crowe Forestry Management to remove invasive woody species from the wooded acreage of the Swift property over the summer. This work was fully funded by a grant from the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Thank you for your continued support through membership dues (if you haven't sent in this year's membership yet, there is still time), donations, memorials, patronizing not only the Lake George Boutique but also our annual chicken barbeque (looking to expand our offerings at this year's event, stay tuned). In regards to our memorial offerings we have one bench left at the Preserve and seven tree clusters with memorial plaques still available along trails in the Orchard-Oak Savannah. Let me or any of the board members know if you are interested in a memorial.

In the past few months we had three board members resign or their term expired, Matt Minnick, former President, who worked tirelessly on expanding and improving the reach of the LGC in all facets, as well as Derek Melchi and Bill Ricci, who served important roles in maintaining and improving all of our assets (these members will be sorely missed). As a result, we are looking for new board members, if you are interested in serving on LGC board please contact me or our Vice President Tim Burke. All backgrounds and past experiences have a place on our board, the only pre-requisite is that you desire to see LGC continue to prosper, expand our reach and follow the lead and mantra of previous boards.

As this article is being penned, Lake George is frozen over with 6 inches of ice. Not only is this good for the ice skaters and fisherman on the lake, but this layer of ice protects organisms below the ice from winter storms and wind, many aquatic plants die back which is good for summer swimming and boating, water temperatures decrease which is also a benefit to a number of our native fish species. Happy 2024 from your Lake George Conservancy. If you have any questions or concern's please feel free to reach out to me or any of our board members.

Respectfully submitted John Albright

Lake George Regional Sewer District News

An Indiana Municipal Corporation

The LGRSD Board Of Trustees is committed to communicating with all of our Lake George patrons effectively and often. We plan to continue to provide updates in all future Breeze newsletters. However, there may be occasions when we want to share timely information or current events with you. To do so, our plan is to send emails to you using a commonly known "email blast" process. However, for this process to be effective for you, we need your current email address. Thus, we ask ALL patrons to send an email to lkgeorgesewer@yahoo.com, with only your name & LG address, from your preferred email address, which will ensure you are included in our future email communications.

The Year 2023 in Review

An Investment Committee was formed to develop an Investment Policy which resulted in hiring Kingsview Financial Management to assist in investing our non-fixed assets.

On Wednesday, 2023-02-22, an ice storm developed in the upper Indiana and lower Michigan regions which caused a power outage in Michigan affecting the entire Michigan side of Lake George. A total of 55 truck-loads, or 104,500 gallons of wastewater was successfully transported over a 5-day period.

New Trustees joined the BoT in 2023: Beth Stander (9/23), Tom Ayers (9/23), & Becca Mahuren (12/23). Welcome & we look forward to your contributions.

Cont'd page 3

LG Sewer District, Cont'd from Page 2

We conducted a Failure Mode & Effects Analysis (FMEA) study of our wastewater system to assess its reliability and potential systemic risks of failure.

A Cash-Flow model was then developed based on the FMEA resulting in an 8-year Capital Plan.

Rate Ordinance # 2024-1 was approved at the LGRSD Public Meeting in September-2023 to support funding the Long-Term Capital Plan. We also consolidated multiple Sewer Use documents into one common "current" document.

Year-1 (2023) Capital Spending included:

- Pipeline camera inspection kit
- 45 New grinder pumps
- Safety Hatches for 8 Lift Stations (2 already had safety hatches)
- Replaced guide rails in 9 lift stations
- Replaced 5 Air Relief Valves between Lift-Station-10 & Kinderhook

Based on RO # 2024-1, we rectified 13 patron monthly fee charges and issued refunds to all 13 patrons.

A decision was made to stop rebuilding Clear Lake grinder pumps in lieu of purchasing new E1 pumps from Covalen – many Clear Lake pumps had been rebuilt numerous times resulting in shortened life performance.

Contact was made with Stantec, a civil engineering firm, to form a technical relationship in support of our FMEA study & Capital Plan. Initial face-to-face meetings are scheduled for early 2024.

Multiple meetings were held with the Branch County Board of Public Works Commissioner to extend both the 1993 Interstate Agreement and the 1996 Kinderhook Treatment Agreement. A meeting with our shared attorney was held in December-2023 to begin formalizing both extended agreements. Initial Agreement proposals are expected in early-2024.

An Indiana State Board of Accounts Field Compliance Engagement was started in December-2023 and is expected to be completed in early 2024.

Our sewer system is managed by seven volunteer Trustees and one full time System Superintendent.

For System issues call Cory @ 260-667-4143 For invoice issues call Siegel CPA Group @ 260-665-3166

Submitted by the Lake George Regional Sewer District Board of Trustees

2024 - LG BOAT PARADE

The theme for the 2024 Boat Parade, to be held at 6:30PM on Saturday, July 6, is "Decades". Simply choose your favorite decade from the past, present or future and build your float around that era.

Kathy Adamonis is the new Parade Director. She can be reached at; adamoniskl12@gmail.com. Thank-you Kathy for helping to continue this great Lake George tradition.

The entry form and related documents for the boat parade can be found on the Lake George Cottagers Association website at

www.lakegeorgeinfo.net/lgca/home/activities/boatparade

VETERANS OF LAKE GEORGE!

LG veterans please consider submitting information on your service to our great country, current or retired. We would like to hear from you so we may honor you in the spring Breeze.

Please include a brief description of time served, where and which branch of service. You may add other information as you choose that may be important to you or of interest! If you have a picture, especially one in your military uniform, please send, but, if none, let me know, I would be glad to come to your cottage to take your picture. Also, I can scan a picture you might like to use!

Please email: fschlatter@frontier.com or call 260-704-1055

Thank you!! Faye Schlatter - Editor

DAM UPDATE

On January 19, 2024, the Lake George Conservancy District received the **Certificate of Approval** from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). This is a major step in the review process and allows the Conservancy District to proceed to bidding provided all the permits are in hand.

As of January 19th, the only outstanding permit needed before bidding is from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). When that permit is received, the Conservancy District will begin the bidding process.

Patriot Engineering will prepare a final estimated construction cost along with final construction bidding documents. The Board is anticipating bidding the project in February / March '24 and cottagers will be kept informed through email and Facebook. The Board is anticipating construction in the summer of 2024.

It appears we are getting closer to completing the project that started in about 2005. If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at **517-462-5854** or via email at: rick40425@gmail.com.

Rick Weaver, P.E., Retired,
Lake George Conservancy District - Special Projects Coordinator

LG LASER FLEET NEWS

Hello Laser sailors and **potential Laser sailors** at Lake George! Although it is cold and snowy in northern Indiana right now, perhaps thinking about next summer's lake activities will warm you!

In summer 2024, the Laser fleet will continue to race every other Saturday, beginning on June 1st. Racing will start at 1:30 PM with a Warning Signal at 1:25 PM. The fleet looks forward to the renewal of close but friendly competition.

We always welcome new Laser skippers!

For more information, contact Kevin Ahaus or Jack Stiefel.

LAST FALL A TRAGIC STORY UNFOLDED ON LAKE GEORGE

After most of you lakers left Lake George for the season, we had an incident that didn't end well.

The Marina was out on the lake pulling out boats for the season. They, as well as a few others on Kope Kon, spotted a deer swimming in the middle of the lake. The boat crew decided they should guide the deer towards KK shore where there was a ramp so he could get out easily! They gently followed behind and guided him/her to the shore where the ramp was located! All arrived safely to the ramp, but, this little guy decided he was NOT getting out. He jumped the rail of the boat and ran west until a dock stopped him. He turned and ran east passed the ramp before another dock stopped him. He just stood there and didn't move. That is when we decided to leave him rest and when ready he would jump out onto the shore and head into the woods, so we thought!

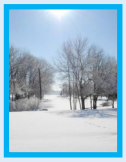
We noticed the little deer started to lay down in the water. He stayed there for a while. I checked on him through my window and could see his/her ears over the seawall; but after an hour or so, I didn't see the ears. I ran out and hid behind our tree so I wouldn't disturb him. I peeked and saw this ltle guy was completely in the water, his head down. I went to see where he was laying and found that this poor deer, for some unknown reason, died!!! Some of the men on KK buried him shortly after he was found. Thanks to everyone who tried to help mother natures wild creature!

THE COVER PHOTO The Red barn is off Kope Kon Road, formerly owned by Tom Blackburn, and it's current owners are Suzy Fulghum's sons, J. R. and Bob, who live on Kope Kon during the summer months.

LAKE GEORGE FREEZE!

It was Christmas and the lake was still wide open! But, around January 14, a cold snap came in froze half of LG. What you see is in the photo is not wind blowing snow, it was steam coming out of the water where it was still open!! Mother nature wasn't done yet, we woke up the next morning to find the whole lake completely iced over!!

As of January 22, the lake has 6"inches of ice! The weather stayed cold, and it was filled with sunny days and light wind. There have been ice skaters, snowmobiles, and shanties pulled onto the lake to enjoy the frozen water!



Come, enjoy the fun.

LG CONSERVANCY PLANT SALE

The Conservancy will sell native plants this spring, May 25, Memorial Day weekend, from 9 to 1 at the Boutique! The plants were purchased through Riverview Native Plant Nursery! Please come early as they sell out fast.

Any questions, please call: John Ranshaw 847-922-7814

LG BOUTIQUE NEWS

We are getting excited to bring new merchandise to the boutique this summer. Please join the Lake George Conservancy FaceBook page for updates and sneak peaks. We will again be open the Saturday before Memorial Day for a Preview Sale day. The hours of the boutique will be Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. - noon.

We appreciate everyone's business in the past and look forward to another successful fundraising year for the conservancy.

See you soon,!! Jana Gepfert

INLAND CAT NEWS

Inland Cat Sailors are getting ready for a fun season of racing with summer 2024!

We will race alternate Saturdays beginning June 8th at 1:30 pm with two back-to-back races. We're always looking for new sailors and crew! Please join us!

We also welcome folks to join us on the Committee Raft during the races. You're up close and personal with the racing starts and finishes. Come out on the Lake on Saturdays and watch the graceful sailboat races! See you soon!

Commodore, Julie Zinsser