

# Lake Watch



Oak Hills Lake Development Association  
[www.oakhillslakebr.com](http://www.oakhillslakebr.com)

April - July 2020

## Covid-19 Global Pandemic

The 2020 Global Pandemic has affected everyone in the World! It has also changed our life on the lake to some extent! An announcement was made on March 13<sup>th</sup> that all schools would be closed for a month or more by our governor, John Bel Edwards. This was eventually extended through the end of the school year. We learned new terms like “social distancing” and “flattening the curve.” Everyone has been affected – many high school and college graduations were cancelled or postponed, and sports were abruptly stopped. Many adults were lucky enough to work from home (and home school their children), while others had to continue to go to work as essential employees, or were no longer able to go to work at all - some losing their jobs and incomes. And now, as things just started to normalize, there has been a substantial increase in cases reported in July!

Quarterly Lake Meetings - the April 2020 board meeting was held via a conference call due to the “stay at home” order of the Mayor and Governor due to the Covid-19 virus pandemic. Present on the conference call were 10 board members. The Jan. minutes were approved and posted. The April minutes will be approved and posted at the Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Lake Social Activities were officially cancelled at the April conference call – specifically the Spring Social gathering – due to pandemic restrictions.

## 2020 Quarterly Meetings:

Oak Hills Board Meetings are generally held quarterly, on the 2nd Tuesdays in January, April, July, and October.

Tues. Jan. 14th – 6:30 - Susan & Mike Puyau's home, 826 W. Lakeview Dr.

Tues. April 14th – 6:30 -  
Board conference call meeting (Covid-19)

**Tues. July 14th – 6:30 – POSTPONED DUE TO SCHEDULING CONFLICTS with board members. MOVED TO TUESDAY, AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup> – 6:30 pm.** A Board conference call meeting will again be held.

Tues. Oct. 13th – 6:30 Jerry & Devera Goss' home, 735 Oak Hills Pkwy. TBA?

Annual General Membership Meeting  
Mon. Oct. 26th – TBA?

## 2020 Officers

President	Jerry Goss
Vice President	Mac Peek
Secretary	Susan Puyau
Treasurer	Mike Puyau
Social -	Mary Dunbar
Lake Develop. Resources	Mike Montalbano
Newsletter & Website	Martha Austin
Rob McConnell	
Steve Baker	
Christine Robinson	
Jim Robinson	
Walter Smith (taking the place of Diana Underhill)	
Special committee to gather information on Weir/Dam:	Mac Peek, Mike Montalbano
Oak Hills Lake Consultant	Mark McElroy



## On the Lake

Lake News (April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting)

Mike M. reported that the drawdown was a success, even though there had been some algae in the shallow areas.

The weather did not cooperate during the drawdown - so just as the water level would recede and the mud started to dry out, more rain would come and fill back up the lake. There was never an optimal time to try to take out some of the soil and leaves from the designated areas that were planned to be helped. It was decided that the funds dedicated to this project will carry over until the next drawdown.

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, after the drawdown ended, one diffuser was repaired, and two more diffusers were added to the finger to make a total of four! These are designed to keep the water and silt moving so that not so much of it settles to the bottom. Rob M. sent out an email and pictures (still available on the website) and reported that even though the water level was still 18” lower than normal, he was able to get all the way to the back of the finger with a trolling motor. “The last diffuser is almost at the end of the finger, within about 25 yards of the large storm drain, and the other 3 are spaced apart at about 50-yard intervals, going back out towards the main large lake area.” Steve B. reported that the newly installed diffusers near him were very helpful.

Walter S. and Mike P. also volunteered to be on the Weir assessment task force and to add anyone who may be an asset to the committee.

### More Meeting News (April Meeting)

The Bylaws committee (Susan P. chairman) and Carey Messina reviewed the proposed new Bylaws that were presented at the April meeting. Several questions were asked about specific wording and changes were voted on by the board. Carey Messina joined the conference call and answered any questions that were asked by the board members present. He was thanked for his assistance with the restating of the Bylaws.

Susan Puyau was designated to make the changes to the Bylaws as discussed at the meeting, and the Bylaws were sent to all the board members and a letter was sent to the President by the April 26<sup>th</sup> deadline, in order to comply with the current Bylaws.

Walter Smith was named to the board, taking Dianna Underhill's place, as she opted out of serving on the board in 2020.

Other new business brought up at the board meeting included a question by Mary D. about the Cul-de-Sac at the end of E. Lakeview Dr. & whether the Greater Oak Hills Civic Assn. could take over the mowing for this property. They have been contacted about this, but at this time, an existing maintenance contract with RCI is in effect for the designated main entrances to the Greater Oak Hills neighborhoods only.

Steve B. brought up the clogged drains during storms and evidence of drains "breaking down" & causing cave-ins around the sidewalk areas between his property the Castillo property. Several other members have reported similar issues.

### 2020 Weir Cleaning Schedule

Jul - Carey Messina  
Aug – Adrienne Bourgeois  
Sep - Roy Johnson  
Oct - Russell Babin  
Nov - Brian Hanchey  
Dec - Mike Puyau

Contact Russell Babin:  
[rababin@cox.net](mailto:rababin@cox.net) if you need to change your month or have any problems.

A CES truck (Compliance EnviroSystems) has been in Oak Hills Subdivision in July, working on data collection for the EBR City Parish to aid in developing an overall Stormwater Master Plan for the City/Parish. It is anticipated that Phase 2 will be completed by Aug. 2020.

For more of the Stormwater Master Plan, see:  
<https://www.brla.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5357/Stormwater-Master-Plan-PDF>

### Our Sincere Condolences

To the family of Sherwood "Woody" Gagliano, a longtime lake resident, who passed away on Fri., July 17, 2020. Please check our website for more information and an article about his life that was in The Advocate on July 20, 2020.

### Lake Notes

Lake membership is limited to the 55 owners of the lake lots around our 12-acre lake, which is located in Oak Hills Place. Every lot owner on the lake is eligible for membership.

To become a member, lot owners must pay a yearly membership fee, which begins each new calendar year in January.

**REMEMBER....** Boating and fishing on the lake is for members only – boats must have their lot number and an OHLDA decals. These decals should be placed on both sides of the bow of the boat. If you need decals, please email Ron McConnell at [rmconn3@comcast.net](mailto:rmconn3@comcast.net)

**NO SWIMMING IN THE LAKE AT ANYTIME!**

**NOTE:** Lake Property owners are responsible for paying Lake dues! Renters cannot use the lake if the owner hasn't paid 2020 dues. Owners are responsible for the renters' behavior on the lake.

### 2020 Lake Dues

Dues will again be \$200.00 per household per year. Dues notices will be mailed out near the end of Feb. and are due in March.

If you have not already done so, please make your check payable to:

Oak Hills Lake Development Assn. (OHLDA)

**Mail to:** Mike Puyau, Treasurer

Oak Hills Lake Development Assn.

826 W. Lakeview Dr.,

Baton Rouge, LA 70810

### 2020 Weir Duties

1. Be safe. Be careful not to twist your ankle on the grating.
2. Check the weir for blockage at least once a week.
3. Check the weir for blockage after any rains.
4. Watch the weather forecast and check the weir for blockage before any big storms.
5. During big storms (1+ inches) during the fall/winter, I usually check the weir during a lull in the rain to avoid anything "getting out of hand". Bring a flashlight at night if necessary.
6. Keep the grates with smaller openings propped up and out of the way. They just plug up the weir faster.
7. Bring a small trash bag to haul off the small non-biodegradable stuff (cans, bottles, paper, toys, etc.)
8. I simply push the small organic stuff (leaves, pine needles, twigs) through the grating.
9. I stack the larger stuff (branches, boards, fence posts, etc.) by the street. The city will haul it away.
10. Watch out for floating clumps of elephant ears near the weir. Break them up and get them out of the water. They can quickly plug the grating.
11. If things get out of hand during a big storm and the lake water level keeps rising, call other weir team members for help.
12. If you will be out of town during your month, find a backup to check the weir for you.