

# Lake Watch



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

July - October 2021

## **NO GENERAL MEETING IN OCTOBER 2021!**

Due to the Governor's mandate, there is still an indoor mask mandate in place until 10/27/2021. The Puyau's no longer felt comfortable hosting in their home with these restrictions & nobody else volunteered to have the General Meeting. **NO CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR 2021** due to Covid uncertainties!

## **LOOK FOR YOUR BALLOT AND VOTE!**

A ballot for OHLDA MEMBERS to vote "yes" or "no" for the 2022 Lake Board and the 2022 budget is attached to this newsletter.

The ballot is to re-elect board members who have completed their 3-yr term and are up for re-election to the board, those still on the board, and new nominees to the board.

We are asking for just a "yes" or "no" to the Board and the Budget. The board needs to consist of at least 9 members, but more can be on the board. Married couples count as 1 vote only.

**Return ballot to Susan Puyau by Dec. 15, 2021 – by email, US mail, or drop it off.**

## **2021 Quarterly Meetings:**

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

- Tues. Jan. 12, 2021 – 6:30 via conference call due to COVID-19 pandemic - board members  
Tues. April 27, 2021 – 6:00 - At the home of Mike & DeEte Montalbano.  
Tues. July 13, 2021 - 6:30 - At the home of Susan & Mike Puyau.  
Tues. Oct. 12, 2021 – 6:30 - At the home of Rob & Melissa McConnell.

## **2021 Officers**

President	Rob McConnell
Vice President	Mac Peek
Secretary	Susan Puyau
Treasurer	Mike Puyau
Social	Mary Dunbar
Lake Management committee	Mike Montalbano
Newsletter & Website	Martha Austin Steve Baker Jerry Goss Walter Smith

*Special committee to gather information on Weir/Dam: Mac Peek, Mike Montalbano*

Oak Hills Lake Consultant Mark McElroy



## **On the Lake**

### **Notes from July 13, 2021 board meeting:**

Aerators/diffusers were repaired/replaced with updated equipment. With the new equipment, the filters will need to be ordered from Pilot Construction (Doug Sanders) & these 5 filters must be changed every 6 months.

The Weir grate was severely damaged by the May 17, 2021 flood. Several estimates to repair the weir, which was damaged extensively, were received. Mark McElroy, our lake consultant, was able to get us a very good estimate of \$3600. Additionally, there were costs to galvanize the grate (\$675) transporting it to a business to this, as well as return it to the Weir were included in the repair costs.

The new grate was made as an exact replica of the old grate, which lasted sixty years. It was also noted that concrete was added to the structure of the dam to increase the lake water level many years ago, but now there is a small leak, which will be sealed during the next drawdown (scheduled for Nov. 2022-Feb. 2023).

### **Notes from Oct. 12, 2021 board meeting:**

Approximately \$10,000 was spent to repair the aerators and the weir after the May 17<sup>th</sup> storm damage. The circulators are working as they should after the repairs. Mike P. reported that our Entergy bill has risen significantly in the past couple of years, which prompted additional funding for the 2022 proposed budget.

It was reported that some of the drains going into our lake have been found to be two-thirds (2/3) clogged with debris. This is the City's responsibility. We need to contact the City to get the drains repaired and cleaned out.

The Baton Rouge Stormwater Master Plan has numbers and people you can contact and is on our website and in this newsletter. Please be reminded to keep debris out of your curbs and drains, as this goes directly into the lake.

Mark McElroy noted that Waterfowl droppings are 100% nitrogen, which is **NOT** good for water quality. We need a nitrogen management strategy, which first should be to stop feeding the waterfowl. This just increases the vitality of the birds.

**Stormwater Master Plan Information**

Link to the Stormwater Master Plan Website:  
<https://stormwater.brla.gov/>

This is the place to sign up for updates on the Stormwater Master Plan and report flooding issues:

[https://pima.ebroureach.com/public/subscribe/search?project\\_id=14047](https://pima.ebroureach.com/public/subscribe/search?project_id=14047)

And once again the way to contact the city for storm drain cleaning w/ Vactor Truck: Maintenance Website:  
<https://www.brla.gov/416/Maintenance>

**Contact Us**

Reginald Brumfield  
 Director

Email Link for Reginald Brumfield

<https://www.brla.gov/Directory.aspx?DID=151>

Maintenance

Physical Address

222 Saint Louis Street  
 8th Floor, Room 880  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Hours

Monday - Friday

7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- The Vactor truck is that big bottle truck with the vacuum hose. You can request they come clean out your storm drains.
- They give priority to people whose homes or cars have flooded.
- Maintenance said you first need to **call 311** to put in a Work Order to have Maintenance check your storm drain.
- The direct number, if 311 doesn't pick up, is 225 389-3090, and hit 9 when prompted.
- The operator will give you a Work Order number.
- If you give them an email they will contact you along the process.

**Our Sincere Condolences to these longtime Oak Hills Lake residents**

To the family of Deanna Lewis Sklar, (mother of Ria Smith) who passed away in Nov. 2020.

To the family of Carey Messina, (husband of Jolie Messina), who passed away on Feb. 10, 2021.

To the family of Heather Austin Savoie, (daughter of Martha & Bill Austin) who passed away on March 30, 2021.

Prayers for all our lake families who have suffered from Covid, Cancer, Floods & Hurricanes in this 2020-2021 year.

**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 decals (2) and 2 OHLDA decals.

These decals should be placed on both sides of the bow of the boat. If you need decals, please email

Rob 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 2021 dues. Owners are responsible for the renters' behavior on the lake.

**2021-2022 Weir Cleaning Schedule**

Remainder of 2021	
Oct.	Walter Smith
Nov.	Ralph Lorio
Dec.	Paul St. Dizier
Year of 2022	
Jan.	Steve Baker
Feb.	Rob McConnell
March	Boyd Helm, Adrienne Bourgeois
April	Roy Johnson
May	Russell Babin
June	Brian Hanchey
July	Mike Puyau
Aug.	Walter Smith
Sept.	Ralph Lorio
Oct.	Paul St. Dizier
Nov.	Steve Baker
Dec.	Rob McConnell

**Contact Russell Babin:**

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

Thanks to all of our 2022 volunteers!

**2021 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.