

Lake Watch



Oak Hills Lake Development Association (225) 769-5452

October 2013

www.oakhillslakebr.com

Events on the Lake

Don't miss the annual
General Membership Meeting:
Mon. October 21, 2013 – 6:30 pm
Mary Dunbar's home, 822 E. Lakeview

**There will be plenty to eat and drink
and people to see!**

**A business meeting will follow and
new board members will be elected for
the 2014 year.**

**Nominations will be taken from the
floor.**

**A December holiday event is also
being planned. Details will be
announced at a later date.**

Officers and Board Members 2013

President – Michael Puyau
Vice President – Roy Johnson
Secretary – Shelly Johnston
Treasurer – Sealann Longwell

Board Members:

Newsletter and Website – Martha Austin
Evelyn Redwine
Jackie Labauve

Ad Hoc Committee: Mike Montalbano –
Chairman of Lake Drawdown Committee

Mark McElroy – Lake Consultant

Lake Website - stay informed without waiting
for the next newsletter!

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2013 Dues Reminder

Oak Hills Lake Development Membership is available to everyone lot owner on the lake, but privileges are enjoyed only by those who pay their dues! **Only paid members are able to vote or use the lake!** Boats on the lake must have the lot number and a current OHLDA decal.

Dues are \$200 per year, and are due during the 1st quarter of each new calendar year. There are 7 residents who have not yet paid - 2013 dues will be accepted at the meeting.

Dues are necessary to keep our lake stocked, healthy & beautiful. A lake that is totally neglected becomes stagnant, stinky, and a detriment to our property and well-being.

Please Welcome to the Lake!

New Residents:

Jordana Pomeroy and Edwin Penick

Ruth and Peter Kovacs

We look forward to meeting you!

At the present time there are 2 more properties on the lake for sale – one on S. Lakeview and one on E. Lakeview.

Condolences:

Our sincere condolences to the family of Steve & Kim Baker, whose daughter, Shelley Anne Baker, passed away July 1, 2013.

On The Lake



This has been a good summer on the lake, with reports of numerous large bass being spotted. We have not had a fish kill this summer. Many factors have contributed to keeping our lake healthy: the above normal rainfall, the absence of extreme summer temperatures over a long period of time (helped by the numerous afternoon summer showers) and the use of our pumps to keep the lake water moving. The circulator in the finger of the lake has broken several times and it was no longer viable to repair it. It was removed during the summer. After the drawdown, replacement of the circulator will be discussed.

In an effort to improve our lake even more, the Board and Drawdown committee plans to begin the drawdown of the lake on Nov. 1st. This is a financially feasible way to expose the outer edges of the lake so that the leaves and muck can decompose faster and create a better environment within the lake. This would be a good time for residents to consider construction or maintenance of bulkheads or dredging/cleaning of shallow areas around the banks of their property.

A letter about the drawdown explaining the "hows, whys, and what you should expect" was delivered to each home on the lake in early October. The letter and the return sheet are on the website in case you have misplaced your letter. Please return the 2nd sheet to Mike Montalbano if you have not already done so.

The Drawdown committee has done a lot of work and has considered all options and possibilities. We feel this will be a great enhancement to our lake, and secondarily, to our property values. The board would like to thank those on the committee for their extensive research and timely proposal to the Board in an effort to improve the quality of the lake.



Lake Drawdown! This letter went out Oct. 2nd, 2013 to all lake residents:

October 1, 2013

To All Oak Hills Lake Association Members:

Throughout this past year, our committee has been studying the feasibility of lowering the level of the lake for a short period of time. We have utilized the expertise of Mark McElroy, our lake consultant and others. Mark has constructed and tested a prototype which was successful. This is a common lake management technique that has been done all over the country. The procedure will start on Nov. 1st, and will end in the spring. In this letter I will try to explain the hows, whys, and what you should expect. Please understand that hours and hours of discussion and research have gone into this decision. The committee submitted its recommendation to the board, and they in turn, approved it.

WHY? Our lake is slowly silting. This leads to unwanted algae blooms and overgrowth of certain vegetation. Dead leaves on the bottom can and have caused fish kills. Our lake is a watershed to the surrounding neighborhood, and everything that goes into those storm drains, goes into our lake. The leaves that fall from the beautiful trees around the lake fall and add to the problem. The other remedy (dredging) was done about 10 years ago at an incredible expense. We don't think that this would be feasible now due to the expense, logistics, and environmental roadblocks. If we do nothing, the lake will die.

HOW? A siphon will be constructed that will allow the surface of the lake to be lowered to the desired level (estimated to be about 3 feet lower). The water will drain into the weir. We will have the ability to stop and start the flow as needed. If we don't experience an unusual amount of rain, this should expose the lake bed along its outer edges leaving water in its deepest areas. The fish should survive; in fact thrive in this situation. When the lake bottom is exposed, all of the accumulated leaves and muck should decompose more naturally. This layer of leaves and unoxygenated muck is what causes fish kills. Exposing the bed will also allow any of us who wants, to do any bulkhead maintenance we need. You will also have the ability to clean out or deepen any area in front of your lot that has silted badly, impeding your access to the lake.

WHAT TO EXPECT? Our hydrologist estimates that the level should fall about an inch or two a day until we get to the desired level. This, of course is dependent on the amount of rain we get, as we cannot control the water that comes into the lake. There may be some unpleasant odors. You will not be able to access the lake unless you put boards over the mud leading to the water line. The aesthetic beauty of our lake will be compromised for that period of time, but should come back more beautiful than ever.

Please understand, your committee and board have put a lot of time and effort into this and we have investigated all other options. One just needs to look at the City Park Lakes and the University Lakes to see what will happen if we don't act. We feel that this solution will allow us to enjoy our lake for many years to come and protect our property values.

If any of us can answer any of your questions please contact me, Mike Puyau, or any committee member.

Best Regards,

Mike Montalbano
Lake Drawdown Chairman
Oak Hills Lake Development Assn.

Mike Puyau
President
Oak Hills Lake Development Assn.

2013 Weir Cleaning Schedule

October – Ralph Lorio
November – Paul St. Dizier
December – Carey Messina

Greater Oak Hills Civic Association (GOHCA)

There will be a general meeting of GOHCA on Tuesday, October 22nd at 6:30pm at Hilltop Arboretum in the new educational facility. A jambalaya dinner will be provided. Come support your neighborhood Civic Association!

Neighbor Recommendations (insured & safe)

Dentist – Dr. Mike Montalbano – 925-2118	Electrician – Design Lighting & Electrical Co. Frank Digeralamo - 356-3126
House painting/pressure washing – Charlie Turner - 936-7406 (painting homes in Oak Hills for many years)	Plumber – Ken Flory – 763-9632
Real Estate – Coldwell Bankers One Margaret Goodwin–413-9493 Charisse Hanchey–315-0612	Tree trimmers/stump removal – Ace Tree Service Beau Williams, Kurt Delhommer - 667-6764 (since 1965)
Lawn and Landscape LLC Bilwood Smith, III - 225-287-9533	

If you have any other trustworthy and insured that you would like to recommend, submit their names, service, and phone number to mhaustin2001@yahoo.com