



Newsletter November-December 2008

**NEXT MEETING: March 14, 2009-- 9:00 A.M. at COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
McCARDLE and MAIN STREETS**

CONTACTS

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President: Curt Brungardt

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Treasurer: Joyce Hutter

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

I am happy to announce several positive items since our last newsletter.

First, the City Council has enacted a new lake boundary determination ordinance. You should have received a copy of the new ordinance from the city with your yearly lease statement. This new ordinance probably is a result of the Marlow vs. City litigation. We are happy that the City Council considered and enacted some of the Lake Associations' ideas when drafting the new ordinance. It is definitely a step in the right direction and provides guidelines and due process procedures for lot boundary issues.

Second, we are also seeing positive movement from the City Council concerning plans to prevent zebra mussels and other ANS entrance into the lake. More information is detailed in the following pages.

Third, many of our lease holders have voiced concern about junk, trash, and old boats and trailers being an eye sore in the commons area. The City Council is also concerned and initiated a move to clean up the commons area. Two members of the Lake Association board of directors have been working with the City Council Lake Committee to reach a reasonable solution to the problem. Once again, we are encouraged that the City Council is working with the Lake Association.

Fourth, we have received the results of the detailed legal analysis that was performed by the national law firm of Stinson, Morrison, Hecker, LLP, relative to rights of leaseholders under renewable lease terms. We are very encouraged by what we consider very positive legal conclusions supported by case law and Kansas law that will provide a foundation that we hope to build on with future negotiations with the City for a long-term lease agreement and financial stability for leaseholders at Council Grove City Lake Park. We sincerely appreciate the generous contributions to the legal fund. I assure you that these funds have been put to good use in that they have allowed us to get very credible legal advice which will help support our negotiating position in the future as we work with the City to represent the best interests of the Council Grove Lake Association membership and the community.

Finally, I am happy to announce that the Morris County Economic Development Corporation has included the City Lake in its draft strategic plan. First, the strategic planning process has talked about the importance the

City Lake provides as an “economic engine” to the surrounding area. Second, and most importantly, the strategic plan has listed “a long-term lease agreement” for lake residents as a top priority.

The Lake Association leadership believes that we have made significant progress on a number of important issues as a result of our continued efforts to work together. We are encouraged by the collaborative spirit we see with the city, the chamber and the new county commissioners.

RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM ON THE RUN FOR 2009 FUNDRAISER

A huge THANK YOU to all who came out and supported us during the Council Grove Candlelight Charm Weekend. It was a great time for all of us and we thoroughly enjoyed getting acquainted with new folks from the lake, as well as the town. We are happy to announce that we started our campaign making \$290.00 that evening!! We are now selling winter lake scenes on note cards. The photos were taken by our own lake resident and cancer survivor, Jane Swofford. Thanks so much, Jane. If you would like to purchase any of these note cards, please email LuAnn Fuller at tfuller@tctelco.net or call 620-767-7207. Thanks again for all your support. YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN!

VOLUNTEERS STEP FORWARD TO SERVE ON BOARD OF BOUNDARY APPEALS

A part of the new boundary determination ordinance is the formation of a boundary appeals board. This board will be comprised of five members; two from the city of Council Grove and three who are lake property owners. Although the city has not specifically stated they will use the volunteers whose names have been submitted to them, we are hopeful that they will. The names of the following twelve lake property owners have been given to the mayor and City Council Lake Committee. We would like to thank these people for volunteering to serve in this important capacity. When you have an opportunity, please let these folks know how much you appreciate their willingness to serve: Mary Anne Clark, Ron Clark, George Forrester, Robert Forrester, Richard Heinemann, Carolyn Nelson, Joan Kohake, Cherie Orth, Jim Orth, Mike Petitjean, Randy Prentiss, and Larry Reber.

SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES FOR 2009

Below are the dates for the general membership and the Board of Directors meetings for the year 2009. General membership meetings are held on Saturday’s at 9AM at the Community Christian Church, McCardle and Main. Board of Directors meetings are also held on Saturday’s at 9AM at the Hays House, 112 W Main. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

March 14, 2009
April 11, 2009
May 9, 2009
June 13, 2009 –ANNUAL MEETING
July 11, 2009
August 8, 2009
September 12, 2009

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

January 24, 2009
February 28, 2009
March 28, 2009
April 25, 2009
May 23, 2009
June 27, 2009 (new board)
July 25, 2009
September 26, 2009
October 24, 2009

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Lake residents **Cheerie Baker** and **Diane Bolton** were honored as Citizens of the Year at the Council Grove Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Annual Banquet for their outstanding work in reactivating the Pride Committee and improving the appearance of Council Grove Main Street. We are extremely proud of these two ladies and all others they have solicited to work with them. At the same meeting, Vern Hay and Joyce Hutter were elected to the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Board of Directors for the coming year.

GET READY FOR A NEW LOOK

The 2009 Business Directory is getting a new “more professional” look and will be distributed in March instead of May. If you would like to place a listing, or know of anyone who would like to be listed in the directory, or if you have any questions regarding the directory, please call LuAnn Fuller at 620-767-7207 or email her at tfuller@tctelco.net. This is a wonderful opportunity to get the name of your business or service before a large audience.

WAYNE CRISER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Board of Directors is excited to announce the establishment of a new award recognition program for city lake residents. Each year the Lake Association will recognize one of its own who has committed their time and talents to the betterment of the Association and the City Lake. This award is named after long-time lake resident and volunteer, Wayne Criser. In March you will be receiving information regarding how you can nominate someone for this special award. Keep your eyes peeled; watching for that person who goes way above and beyond for the good of all lake residents, making improvements in conditions and relationships with the city and county.

BUY A LONG-SLEEVED LAKE SHIRT---STILL ONLY \$16.00

Long-sleeved lake shirts are still available for purchase. If interested, please email tfuller@tctelco.net or purchase at Trowbridge Classics or Saturday Morning.

REMEMBER TO LOCK AND PROTECT YOUR LAKE PROPERTY VALUABLES

Lake Caretaker, Calvin Seedek, would like to remind lake residents to lock their homes, cabins, cars and boats when they are unoccupied. We join with Calvin in calling for crime prevention measures to keep our lake community safe. This is especially important during the winter season when many more of us are away from our cabins for extended periods of time. If you are a full-time resident, please keep a watchful eye out for your neighbor. We all need to help each other.

EMAIL LAKE NEWS

Homeowners, and other interested people, send an email request to cglakeassoc@gmail.com to be added to our lake email news list. This allows recipients to stay current on lake happenings.

For those of you already receiving lake email news, please notice our email address has changed. You may need to add the new address to your contacts list to prevent our emails from going to your spam email box. We will continue to monitor the old email address.

Lake Resident Vern Hay Elected County Commissioner

We realize this is old news to most of you, but if you don't regularly read the local newspaper, or don't receive regular Lake Association email news and depend solely on the Lake Association Newsletter for lake news, its new news!

Vern Hay, J-9, was elected as a Morris County Commissioner in the November General Election, defeating incumbent Darrell Miller by the margin of 684-450 votes. Effective in January, two of the three County commissioners will be replaced by new Commissioners Vern Hay and Diana Jost.

ORIGINAL WORK BY LAKE RESIDENT BOB HAY

Last summer I received this poem from Bob Hay with the explanation of what inspired it. I thought this cold season would be a great time to reflect on summer happenings at the lake with Bob's poem entitled "Fireflies, Fairys and Fantasy". Below, is his explanation and poem. Enjoy---and if you would like to submit an original work for inclusion in the newsletter or web site, please email it to: cgclakeassoc@gmail.com.

Every now and again, one sees a thing that evokes memories of childhood, possibly not all that unique, but may exist only a moment in time.

Barb and I had just such an experience last night when the very bright full moon, (which we could not see because of the patio overhang and the trees on the lake margin), reflected on the very tip of the breaking ripples, as tiny white points of light, as bright as one of the new LED penlight bulbs. A fantastic thing, with hundreds of blinking lights on the water. It took me a second or two to realize what it was, before I called Barbara, to bring the little digital camera to see if she could capture it on film. We could not, to our disappointment, but it is forever etched in our memories. It was gone within a minute or two, as the ripples died or perhaps the moon was obscured by a tiny passing cloud. We had never seen anything quite like it, in the fifteen years we have owned the cottage. We were at the exact point and angle of reflection apparently, to be treated to the unique light show. It inspired me to write the simple little poem that follows. We hope you like it. It does at least; capture a bit of what we saw and a glimpse of a more innocent time in our lives.

BH

Fireflies, Fairys and Fantasy

Come quick, dear sleepy one

Look, there, toward the dark water,

See them, there, beneath the trees

See the Fireflies, brighter than stars

Blinking so often as if in a frenzy to mate,

Or like a billboard at a summer stock
theater

The flashes dimming now, not quite so bright

As we watch the lights dance over the water

Our view of the drama framed by the trees,

Obscures the now very bright full moon,

As the breeze driven ripples slowly subside

The dance of the fireflies is now ended

For you see, they were never really there,

But for just a moment in time, you knew

That the fairys of your youth truly lived,

In the dark waters, with the fireflies!

JOIN THE LAKE ASSOCIATION in 2009

Shortly, you will be receiving a letter and membership information card regarding dues, donations and contributions. When you receive it, please return your dues as soon as possible. It is a big help to us in keeping our accounting in order and up to date. Thank you in advance.

Zebra Mussels and the City Lake

We continue to be extremely concerned about the possibility of an Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) introduction, especially zebra mussels, into the City Lake. The Lake Association focus has been on efforts to raise community awareness and then hopefully spur on a well thought out effective coordinated, cooperative prevention plan.

A brief history of progress this far follows:

- During the late summer and early fall, the Board of Directors began to coordinate with KDWP and other area lakes to better understand the ANS issue and what we could do in the way of prevention at the city lake.
- In October the Lake Association sent a letter to the city expressing our concerns and asking the city to join us in drafting a cooperative prevention plan. A draft of our proposed plan was attached to provide an example and a starting point. This letter was distributed to appropriate KDWP personnel and was also a letter to the editor in the Council Grove Republican.
- In October, November, and December the Lake Association published several advertisements in the Council Grove Republican with pictures showing examples of zebra mussel infestations. We once again published a letter to the editor concerning the ANS issue.
- All of the above ANS information was also distributed to over 220 people on the Lake Association email news list. ANS has been a topic in several newsletters over the last year.
- On November 5, the city sponsored an ANS awareness presentation conducted by KDWP personnel. This presentation was very informative, and the first hand information from the experts did much to raise the awareness level in the Council Grove and Lake Community. The Council Grove Republican news report of the presentation is attached to this news letter with permission of the newspaper.
- After the awareness presentation the city administrator proposed that the Lake Association and city work cooperatively to present the same or a similar power point presentation to the Council Grove and Lake Community. Plans to do this are currently in progress.
- During the December 8th City Council meeting the council decided to plan a work/study session in late January or February, with KDWP and the Lake Association to further discuss the zebra mussel issue. Also to consider the possibility, effects, and effectiveness of restricting the city lake to Council Grove residents and lake leaseholders.

As you can see the Lake Association has been very pro active and is extremely concerned about the ANS issue. We are pleased that we have the opportunity to work with the city on this important issue. We all have much at stake if an infestation occurs.

After thoroughly investigating the issues and studying the success of prevention in most of Minnesota's "cottage lakes" we believe that prevention of ANS at the Council Grove City lake is not only possible, but something we must do protect our property values, the city water supply, and the ecology of the lake. It appears that denying unrestricted access to the lake, possibly in conjunction with a watercraft inspection program, and a very strong, continuing education program is our best bet.

Experience in other states and lakes have shown the aggressive education programs coupled with effective regulation is the most successful in preventing the spread of ANS. We will continue our awareness and educational efforts about prevention. Our plan is to do this through newsletters, emails, newspaper advertisements, and professional bill board type signs, at or near the city lake entrances. These means of communications are expensive; however it is a proven, effective effort that the Lake Association can move forward on in the immediate future.

In the meantime please take the time to educate yourself and commit to personally join the education/prevention efforts. Below are some helpful links to gain an insight into the issue. Please make the effort to educate yourself, family friends and neighbors. We hope to conduct an email survey to gather information and opinions from lake property owners concerning prevention efforts. There are many considerations in developing a well thought out prevention program, we must be sure we don't create unintended consequences. Please educate yourself and be ready to provide well thought out feedback.

<http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/Boating>

<http://www.100thmeridian.org/>

The Zebra Mussel Prevention article from the Council Grove Republican is printed on a separate sheet. Please use it to spread the word about zebra mussels. Post it in your lake house, send it to friends and family, whatever is appropriate, we must all become actively involved to stop the spread.

Stop Zebra Mussels
"Clean, drain, dry" stop the spread

Your Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you and all of yours a happy and prosperous new year. We look forward to seeing you in the spring.