

The Lake of the Oaks

Property Owners Association Corporation

#1 Apache Trail
Canton MO 63435

Winter greetings to all 122 Lake of the Oaks Property Owners!

This joint mailing comes to you from the Secretary and the Treasurer of the Property Owners Association Board of Directors to notify you of important financial and Association business .

Enclosed, you will find:

1. **Your 2014 dues assessment statement** (goldenrod sheet) with enclosed addressed envelope. Providing this information to you at this time allows members plenty of time to get their dues payment mailed in before the April 1st due date.
2. **An official notification of the Saturday, April 26th Annual Meeting of the Property Owners Association Corporation** (top part of the pink sheet). Please mark this date on your calendar.
3. **An invitation to submit your name as a candidate for the upcoming Board of Directors election.** (bottom half of the pink sheet). Your Association's Board is comprised of seven directors elected by the members to conduct the business of the Association. Three positions on the Board are up for election this year.

Current Board members whose three year term of office expire this April are:
Mark Bigelow , Kent Stevenson, and Bill Genck.

Board members whose terms of office continue through 2015 or 2016 are: Bob Bergman (2015), Gary Hetzler (2015), Doug Ammer (2016) and Bill Weckbach (2016)

We need and want a great slate of members willing to submit their name for inclusion on the upcoming election ballot. Our Association is only strong, successful and effective if we have members ready, willing and able to step forward and offer their service.

If you wish to have your name entered on the ballot for the 2014 election, please complete the pink form and **return it by April 1st. (Return the pink slip ONLY if you wish to be a candidate in the election).** Official ballots will be mailed out in early April.

4. A brief **newsletter** to keep owners current on what's been happening at the Lake and what lies ahead (attached to this letter). There's some exciting news included!

Bob Bergman, Treasurer (217-257-9982)

Kent Stevenson, Secretary (217-242-8652)



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Property Owners Association

January, 2014 Newsletter

It's definitely winter at the lake! Ice covers most of the water surface...ice and snow coat the pontoons, pedal boats and picnic tables...dark eyed-junco/snowbirds look for food in the snow...and large flocks of Canada Geese honk loudly as they pass over the Lake and drop down for a stopover (hopefully, brief) in the open water. Winter is a beautiful time to enjoy the Lake of the Oaks!

The Good News of the Lake of the Oaks Goes National!

This week the national magazine, Cabin Life, released its February 2014 issue and lo and behold – the Lake of the Oaks is featured on page 12 of the magazine! (as well as in the online edition of the magazine). **Many thanks to Tom Hornstein**, who coordinated this effort with Cabin Life to have the spotlight shine on the Lake of the Oaks and our Property Owners Association ...and to **Carol Genck** for supplying the photo that accompanied the article.

Cabin Life is a magazine that focuses on vacation homes, cabins, lake houses and get-away retreats and regularly offers articles and information that appeal to owners of such recreational property. Each month this magazine devotes a half-page to showcase a lake association to highlight how and why they function and how they provide service to their members. Missouri has hundreds of property owner associations and there are thousands of others throughout the U.S. but this is the first time that a Missouri property owners association has been featured by the magazine. **We at the LOTO should be very proud to be able to tell the story and success of our Association to Cabin Life readers!**

This national exposure is great free advertising for the Lake of the Oaks; our website is specifically included in the article...and we're hoping that this will generate many new first-time visitors to our website who want to get an even more in-depth look at the Lake of the Oaks. Be sure **YOU** check out our website (www.lakeoftheoaks.net) to see the brief Cabin Life article.

If you have made the decision to put a "For Sale" sign on your lake property you would be wise to make sure that you have provided Tom Hornstein (the volunteer webmaster of our website) with pertinent information, lot numbers, and contact information so that he can include your property in the website's "Cabins and Lots For Sale" section.

Long winter days are a great time to start thinking and planning improvements to your lake house and property. **Remember:** obtaining a building permit for construction or expansion of lake cabins, outbuildings and docks is an easy process...but it does take time; please do not wait until the last minute. The **Building Committee** has the responsibility of providing preliminary approval to any member's building plans prior to it being approved by the Board of Directors.

Our current volunteer Building Committee members are:

Pete Henson (573-288-5837), Bill Davis (573-228-0324) and Gary Hetzel (573-217-3051)

Contact any of these volunteers to discuss preliminary plans...or to submit plan drawings.

Mark your new 2014 calendars with these important upcoming Lake of the Oaks events:

Saturday, April 26 th	The Annual Meeting of the Lake of the Oaks Property Owners Association Corporation
Saturday, July 5 th	Independence Day Celebration at the Lake - (Community breakfast, Fishing Derby, Carry-in Dinner)
Saturday, August 30 st	Labor Day Carry-in dinner
Saturday, October 25 th	Annual Chili Fest gathering

Property Owner News

We share with you the passing of two long-time property owners since our last newsletter of 2013:

In mid-August, **Baron "Terry" Crone** passed away in Keokuk just a few weeks after the death of his wife, **Janis**. The Crones were long-time owners of lot 389 on West Washita.

In mid-December, **Patricia Goetz** of Carthage passed away. She and her husband Roger ("Doc") have maintained a lake house on lot 298 near the end of West Lake Shore Drive for many years.

Our sympathy goes out to the Crone family and to Doc Goetz and his family on the loss of their loved ones.

The Lake of the Oaks marks the end of an era as we bid farewell to Sharon Ferguson Allen who recently sold the last of her lake lots to **Jason & Heather Hall** (lots # 236-237 , 244-247 & 224-225) and to **Charles & Carol Briscoe** (lots # 233-235). The Halls have added these lots to expand their lake property while we welcome the Briscoes as new Lake of the Oaks owners!

The transfer of these lots represents the conclusion of a 50 year connection to the Lake of the Oaks by the Ferguson family; Sharon's father, Basil Ferguson, was one of the major initial creators and developers of the lake and subdivision back in the early 1960s.

Farewell to Fred and Darla Birkhofer who recently sold their Lake of the Oaks lot 264 to **Daryl & Carla Herron**. Welcome to the Herrons!

Farewell to Tracey & Kristie Elder who recently sold their lake lots at 249-250 & 231-232 to **Polly Mullins** who is expanding her lake property.

Farewell to Richard & Daryl Shankland who recently sold their Sequoyan Court lots 281-283 to **Ted and Mary Kay Allen** of Canton. Welcome to the Allens who also recently purchased lots 224-225.

Farewell to James Drescher who recently sold his lots across from the beach (lots 371-372) to Bruce Emery.

Farewell to Ron and Brenda Wellman who late this fall sold their West Lake Shore Drive home (lots 530 and 533-536) to **Ed & Kathy Wilson of Kahoka**. Welcome to the Wilsons!

Don & Teresa Martin recently added to their lake lot holding by purchasing lot #391 adjacent to their existing lot # 345 on West Washita.

BEACH Renovation Fund Drive – a HUGE LOTO Success!

As you recall, back in October, Tom Hornstein undertook a major fundraising initiative with the blessing of the Board of Directors to focus on a much-needed revitalization of our beach. Needless to say, our beach area is a very scenic aspect of the Lake of the Oaks as well as a much-used facility. Over the last 15-20 years there has been minimal improvement or upgrading done to the beach area; time has taken its toll!

The fundraising portion of this project has been a **HUGE SUCCESS** with the original goal of raising \$3000 surpassed...to a current total of \$4205! Some 45 lake property owners (as well as several “friends of the lake”) have thus far sent in voluntary contributions to help this project go **FULL STEAM AHEAD!** THANK YOU , THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all who have been able to help out in this fundraising phase of the project). It’s still not too late for donations –big or small – to be mailed in to Tom (#7 Prestwick Drive, Pekin IL 61554) if you have forgotten or put off sending yours in.

Right now Tom is very busy in Phase II of this project – planning and researching how best to spend the monies to achieve the goal of a beautiful, revitalized beach area for members and their guests to enjoy.

Current plans include:

1. All new heavy-duty, commercial-grade picnic tables that will require no regular, on-going maintenance.
2. Expanding the beach dimensions somewhat – back to what it was years ago before it was “shrunk” by encroaching grass and erosion.
3. Adding lots of good-quality beach sand.
4. Doing a little “sculpting” of the hillside and drainage paths behind the sand area to help keep erosion of the sand to a minimum.
5. All new, correct, current, easy-to-read signs.
6. Something to help “deter” the Canada Geese from becoming beach bums...and leaving their undesirable “deposits” on the beach..

Tom’s goal is to have all of this in place (“Phase III) when the beach officially “opens” on Memorial Day. Please visit the LOTO website for full details and a look at some of the preliminary ideas. Please feel free to offer your suggestions; Tom needs and wants your input...but please do **soon** because – believe it or not – spring is going to be here very quickly and Phase III will be quickly underway!

FOUND: Have you checked your dock recently? In early December a 3’ X 6’ piece of floating dock was discovered banging around the lake. If you have ‘lost” a piece of your dock, please contact Bob Bergman.

Lake of the Oaks undeveloped lots FOR SALE

Even though the Association has sold almost 60 lots since we took over development of the Lake in 2008, we still own approximately 215 lots that are available for purchase. If you – or someone you know is interested - please contact Bob Bergman (217-257-9982). Most of the lots are grouped for sale in four-lot units, though there are several instances where one or two lot packages exist randomly around the development. Purchase cost is \$2000 per lot plus a share of the legal and other sales related expenses.

Lake of the Oaks ...Building...Growing...Going Strong!