

**LAKENGREN  
PROPERTY OWNERS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.  
BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES -  
Regular Open  
Meeting January  
12, 2009**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at the LWA Meeting Room. Present were: President Paul Ellison, Vice-President Gerald Estes, Secretary Judy Thaxton, Treasurer Randy Blaich, Asst. Treasurer Bill Holtman, Amy Gilbert, Rick McMahan, John Kanzleamar and Rod Suman. Also present were Manager Kevin Thorpe, Office Manager Tammy Moore, Board Recorder Daphne Brunett and 14 visitors.

President's Remarks: Mr. Ellison noted this is the first meeting in the new building. Last year was a good one thanks to the efforts of Maintenance, Security, and the Office. The Board has two new members, Randy Blaich and John Kanzleamar.

09-01-01 Amy Gilbert made the motion to approve the minutes of December 8, 2008. Randy Blaich seconded. Motion approved.

LWA Report: Terry Parks noted there are still some small details to work out with the new building.

They are working to alleviate the problems with the phone lines. The Open House for the LWA office will be Sunday, January 18, 2009 from 2-5 pm. The public is encouraged to attend and refreshments will be served. The LWA Board of Trustees elected new officers for 2009 as follows:

Terry Parks, Chairman; Tom Pierce, Secretary; and Roger Riga, Treasurer. A downturn in new home construction is evident by comparing the figures since 1994. In the years 1995-1998, the LWA picked up 272 new customers. In the years 1999-2003, the LWA picked up 270 new customers. In the years 2004-2008 the LWA picked up 76 new customers.

Manager's Report: Kevin Thorpe noted the docks at

Norwegian Cove are done and they are at Mermaid Cove now. Lakengren Cove will be next, then the North End. There is a new hot water heater at the Lodge. Vandalism at the East gate last week resulted in 2 broken gates and a fine of \$300 to be paid. 1/2 of the salt supply has been used so far on the roadways. Security Patrolman Mr. Crease is on medical leave following operation for a brain tumor. The red dump truck is down due to transmission problems. Mr. Thorpe met with the Roads Committee and hopes to have more information soon. New locks were put in at the Lodge. The Board has received copies of the 2007 audit in their packets.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Dams/Roads Committees...John Kanzleamar reported the two committees met and spent most of the time discussing the list of to-do's from the State for the dams. Rip rap is needed. They also discussed the repairs needed for the dredge and whether to repair the old one, or lease a newer one. The pond riser on Thor Lake needs to be checked for repair or replacement. The Roads committee has set another meeting for February 17th. They will be prioritizing remaining roads. Lower asphalt prices were noted.

Viking Editorial Committee...Mr. Spaeth apologized for the delay to the last issue due to the holidays. January 16th is the deadline for the next issue.

Safety Committee...There will be a meeting on Thursday at 5:00 at the Lodge. Discussion will be about wake boats and also about the Emergency Shelter at the Lodge. It was noted generators are needed. Charlie Pergram has volunteered to train a Disaster Team.

Judiciary Committee...Jorge Brunett stated the committee met on December 29th and will be interviewing a new member on January 17th.

Activities and Entertainment Committee...Bill Holtman noted the Winter Carnival will be on January 31st at the Lodge. The 21st

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

**NEW BUSINESS**

09-01-02 Rick McMahan made the motion to approve the Corporate Resolution. John Kanzleamar seconded. Motion approved.

09-01-03 Rod Suman made the motion to approve placing a plaque in the Lodge in honor of Gladys Preston. Gerald Estes seconded. Motion approved.

The issue of a mailbox damaged by Maintenance was discussed as the owner wanted a new, identical mailbox, which was costly, but there is no policy to require replacing to original.

09-01-04 Randy Blaich made the motion to have a policy created which will limit the LPOA responsibility to replacing damaged mailboxes with a standard mailbox and post, or the financial equivalent thereof. Bill Holtman seconded. Motion approved.

A request was made to put email addresses for Board members on the Lakengren website. Separate addresses can be created and email can be forwarded to a regular email address. A paper was distributed to the Board members so they could fill in their information.

Carol Moore volunteered for the Nominating/Election Committee chair position.

Dan McElwee questioned whether the activities of the Social Club and the Activities and Entertainment Committee would cause issue with the new restaurant. The restaurant will have to be notified sufficiently ahead of time of activities. Also, use of the ice machine will have to be based on restaurant usage. Also discussed was the problem of regulating non-property owners entering Lakengren to go to the restaurant.

**RECOGNITION AND HEARING OF VISITORS**

Mr. McElwee presented the 2009 schedule of Dragons activities.

Paul Ellison noted a letter of thanks was sent to the Preble County Sheriff's Dept. and copies sent to the commissioners.

Paul Healy made suggestions about how to control geese on owner's property.

09-01-05 Bill Holtman made the motion to approve the New Membership. Rod Suman seconded. Motion approved.

Terry Parks reminded everyone that the LWA meeting room is available for clubs and committees.

9-01-06 Judy Thaxton made the motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

**LAKENGREN  
PROPERTY OWNERS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.  
BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES -  
Regular Open  
Meeting January  
26, 2009**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at the LWA Meeting Room. Present: President Paul Ellison, Vice-President Gerald Estes, Secretary Judy Thaxton, Treasurer Randy Blaich, Asst. Treasurer Bill Holtman, Amy Gilbert, Rick McMahan, John Kanzleamar and Rod Suman. Also present were Manager Kevin Thorpe, Office Manager Tammy Moore, Board Recorder Daphne Brunett and 12 visitors.

President's Remarks: Mr. Ellison reminded everyone to wait to be recognized before speaking during the meeting. He also noted there will be an Executive Session following the meeting to discuss personnel issues.

09-01-07 Rod Suman made the motion to approve the January 12, 2009 Regular Board Minutes as corrected. Amy Gilbert seconded. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: Randy Blaich noted the following funds were available as of January 23, 2009: 2007 Carry Over Balance \$2,338.19 (\$1,524.47 transferred to Designated Road Fund); Operating Fund \$168,345.15; Designated Lodge/Building Fund \$9,091.21; Lake Improvements Fund \$95,216.42; Road Improvements Fund \$5,452.50; Capital Improvements Fund \$39,044.05; Emergency Reserve Fund \$117,532.91. It was noted that 60 small claims have been filed to date and 33 small claims are scheduled for filing on January 29, 2009.

09-01-08 Bill Holtman made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit. Rick McMahan seconded. Motion approved.

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Manager's Report: Kevin Thorpe noted the docks at Mermaid Cove are done and Lakengren Cove docks are almost done. The Emergency Action Plan (E.A.P.) call list is almost complete and once finished, will be turned in to Preble County. The prints and permits for the Marina are ready to be picked up. There were some slight problems with the South Gate, possibly the free loop going bad. It should be fixed by this time. A request has been faxed to the Ohio Department of Watercraft requesting as many patrols by their officers as possible for our lake during the upcoming 2009 boating season. Sandra Comer from Manning & Associates, our accounting firm, will be in the office to print out W-2s and check end-of-year tax reconciliations prepared by Tammy Moore. A copy of a second proposal for the 2009 Budget has been given to the Board members. Changes to the budget came about when the CP-I came in at 3.8%. At the time the bud-

**VIKING  
DEADLINES  
2009**

March 20  
April 17  
May 15  
June 19  
July 17  
August 21  
September 18  
October 16  
November 20  
December 18

get was first prepared, the budget was based on a 4.5% increase. The CP-I dropped the last three months of the year causing the decrease.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Policy Review Committee...The committee will meet on February 3, 2009.

Viking Editorial Committee...The deadline for the March issue is the 3rd Friday in February.

Building Committee...Dave Foreman was accepted as a new member of

**SEE NEXT PAGE...**

**LPOA BOARD MEMBERS**

<b>Paul Ellison</b> .....	<b>President</b>
<b>Gerald Estes</b> .....	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Randy Blaich</b> .....	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Bill Holtman</b> .....	<b>Asst. Treasurer</b>
<b>Judy Thaxton</b> .....	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Amy Gilbert</b> .....	<b>Member</b>
<b>Rick McMahan</b> .....	<b>Member</b>
<b>Rodney Suman</b> .....	<b>Member</b>
<b>John Kanzleamar</b> .....	<b>Member</b>

**LAKENGREN PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION**

22 Lakengren Drive  
Eaton, OH 45320

Office Phone 456-3173  
Fax Number 456-9671

Web site-lakengrenpoa.org

Viking E-mail-lakepoa@lakengrenpoa.net

**SPECIAL NUMBERS**

Security: 456 2646  
Marina: 456-5072

Maintenance Barn: 456-3359

LWA email address: alakengrenwater@woh.rr.com

LWA web site address: lakengrenh2o.org

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Building Committee-Jerry Spaeth

Road Committee-Gary Ketron

Dams Management-Gary Ketron

Lakes Management/Marine Committee-Marty Burnett

Safety Committee-Gerald Estes

Webmaster-Barry Clutter

Policy Review Committee-Daphne Brunett

Financial Planning Committee-Vacant

Election/Nomination Committee-Carole Moore

Judiciary Committee - George Brunett

Activities/Entertainment Committee - Bill Holtman

**LAKENGREN WATER AUTHORITY TRUSTEES:**

Terry Parks, Chairman

Tom Pierce, Secretary

Roger Riga, Treasurer

Gary Wagner, Operations Manager

24 Lakengren Drive - 456-4455

Viking Editorial Committee

Janet Davis, John Keefe, Jerry Spaeth

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FROM PREVIOUS PAGE....  
this committee.

Safety Committee...The committee meets on the third Thursday of each month. Wake boats were discussed. Suggestions are requested from the Marine/Lakes Committee. The Safety Committee also discussed the Disaster Preparedness Team and suggested a 2 hour restaurant Pass issued by leaving a driver's license or \$20 at the Front Gate as a "deposit".

Judiciary Committee...Jorge Brunett asked approval for new member Gary Hall and renewed term for John Bentley. Each will serve 3 year terms on the committee.

09-01-09 Rod Suman made the motion to approve Gary Hall and John Bentley for 3 year terms on the Judiciary Committee. John Kanzlemer seconded. Motion approved.

Activities & Entertainment Committee...The Winter Carnival will be Saturday, January 31st from 1 to 5 pm. The Mardi Gras will be February 21 from 8 to 12 pm. The committee discussed a Christmas Lights Committee dance for St.

Patrick's Day with a tentative date of March 14th. The Easter Egg Hunt still needs to be planned. They will be looking at the Social Club's proposed Gospel Concert for June 13th. The Social Club's Chili Cook-Off was a success. Winners were Derrick Morris, 1st place; Sean Spaeth, 2nd place; Susan Howard 3rd place.

#### NEW BUSINESS

09-01-10 Randy Blaich made the motion to approve the Spring Yard Sale dates for May 14, 15, and 16. Rod Suman seconded. Motion approved.

Discussion was held concerning Lakengren social clubs and committees using the LPOA tax ID for banking purposes. It was recommended that such clubs and committees should each get their own IDs.

09-01-11 Rick McMahan made the motion to advise all clubs and committees they have 90 days to get their own tax ID. Amy Gilbert seconded. Motion approved.

Procedures for visitor entrance to eat at Beare's Restaurant were discussed.

09-01-12 Randy Blaich

made the motion that the Regular Meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:13 pm.

## SUBJECT: MAILBOX REPLACEMENT POLICY

Date of Adoption:  
February 9, 2009

### Motion #: 09-02-20

Reason for Policy: LPOA Maintenance crews occasionally inadvertently damage or knock down property owners' mailboxes while snow plowing or other road maintenance work. Although not required by law, the LPOA Board of Trustees has determined a reasonable effort to rectify such damage is in the best interest of both the LPOA and the property owner.

09-01-13 John Kanzlemer made the motion to table the discussion of a Police Levy until the next meeting. Gerald Estes seconded. Motion approved.

#### RECOGNITION AND HEARING OF VISITORS

Alma Warner noted the clubs need the key to the cleaning closet to clean up after functions. She also questioned what to do with the tables on the dance floor when they needed to be out of the way.

Alice Forte noted that John Shipley has offered to be chairperson for the Nominating/Election Committee instead of Carol Moore.

Dan McElwee asked the Board to request a ballot to vote on making Gasper 2 and 3 a "wet" township, allowing for the sale of alcoholic beverages in the township.

09-01-14 Randy Blaich made the motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Amy Gilbert seconded. Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 9:10 pm.

09-01-15 Randy Blaich made the motion to adjourn from Executive Session. Bill Holtman seconded. Meeting adjourned from Executive Session at 10:11 pm.

09-01-16 Rod Suman made the motion to adjourn

Policy: At the request of the property owner, and in the event that the LPOA Manager determines that a Lakengren property owner's mailbox is damaged or destroyed by LPOA Maintenance crews while in the action of snow plowing or other road maintenance work, that mailbox will be replaced with a standard metal mailbox and wooden mailbox post or the monetary equivalent thereof. Replacement will be done by LPOA Maintenance.

Note: Only standard metal mailboxes and wooden mailbox posts will be used for replacement done by the LPOA. Installation of other types of mailboxes will be at the discretion of the LPOA Manager. Other types of mailboxes must be provided by the property owner at their own expense, less the reimbursement of an amount not to exceed the price of a standard mailbox and post, and may include labor as determined by the LPOA Manager.

Submitted by: LPOA Board of Trustees

## THE STATE OF THE LAKENGREN WATER AUTHORITY MARCH 2009

The Lakengren Water Authority (LWA) is in good shape.

In this tough economy, the LWA Board of Trustees (BOT) has been working to use its money wisely. In the past two years we have had a reduction in employees through attrition. Our current staff has taken over the duties of those who left and are doing a good job. Recently, the LWA BOT and its General Manager took steps to eliminate some

overtime hours and reduce costs further. In this way, the LWA BOT is working to cut costs and stay within our budget.

Our current operating expenses are within our budget. However, expenses in replacement parts, maintenance, and costs for both treatment plant operations continue to rise. This has not placed an extreme burden on the LWA financially.

The LWA's financial reserves remain the same (approximately \$300,000 in CD's) to cover any foreseeable short-term requirements.

#### NO RATE INCREASE THIS YEAR

There is no water or wastewater rate increase scheduled for fiscal year 2009.

#### AVAILABILITY CHARGE

In 1989 when the Lakengren Water Authority was set up to provide water service to the Lakengren community, the availability charge came into existence. The availability was levied to pay for the bonds for the water lines and to finance LWA operations. Overall, the money that comes to the LWA from the availability charge represents approximately 23% of its total income.

The final payment on those water bonds was made on February 1, 2008.

The LWA is using approximately one-half of the availability charge to accomplish two special projects:

- 1) to pay for the office upgrade
- 2) Installing radio-read water meters.

In order to complete both of these projects without raising water rates, the LWA BOT has decided to continue with the availability charge.

#### NEW OFFICE PROJECT

The new LWA office at 24 Lakengren Drive opened for business on December 22, 2008. Although there are still a few issues that need to be resolved, the LWA BOT is very satisfied with the new building.

The LPOA office staff also moved in the first week of January 2009 and the LPOA Board of Trustees

has been holding it's monthly meetings in the Board and Multi-Purpose rooms of the new building.

This new office, with both organizations in house, will solve some issues for our customers. It is on a single floor with no steps to climb, making it easily accessible to our elderly customers and those who are wheelchair bound. Anyone who buys an existing home or builds a new home will be able to meet with both organizations at the same location to get the necessary information to become a member of the Lakengren community. Also, by building the office outside of the perimeter of Lakengren's gated area, our vendors, outside customers, and guests can do business with both organizations without entering the community through the front gate. This location will give even more support to security investments made by the LPOA BOT.

The Board/Multi-Purpose meeting rooms are being used by some LPOA committees and there have been some requests for usage by a few social clubs with charters. Both boards are looking ahead, planning for years down the road. This new office will be a community resource that will benefit Lakengren for years to come. If you haven't seen the new facility, call the LWA office at (937) 456-4455 to arrange a tour.

WATER METER PROJECT

The water meter radio read project is being phased in, as time and finances permit. By installing radio-read meters, the LWA will save man hours by requiring less reading time per month. The meters can also be read in inclement weather, eliminating the need to estimate water charges in the future. The water meters are the LWA's financial lifeline and accurate readings of water usage by our customers is essential. Hopefully the project will be complete by 2012.

#### WASTEWATER AREA

The LWA continues to have some inflow and infiltration concerns in the wastewater area. The man-

SEE NEXT PAGE....

## Free Boat Lift Motor or Dock Furniture! Available Through March 31

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hole repair project continues every year and is progressing. Our wastewater operators will continue to search for foundation drains, sump pumps, or rain gutters that are connected to the sewer system. This will be an ongoing project until every home is checked out.

If you believe that your house's drains or sump pump might be attached to the sewer system, call the LWA office at (937) 456-4455. The LWA wastewater operators will check it out. The LWA will also make any changes to eliminate any attachment at no charge to the customer.

The LWA is continuing to inspect the grinder pump system. The LWA wastewater operators will continue to inspect 1/3 of the grinder units each year. Replacing parts and upgrading of individual units will continue on a yearly basis until all are in good working order. LWA wastewater operators will continue to maintain the units on a rotating basis after that is accomplished. Painting of the control panels and pedestals will continue in the spring when the weather breaks. Replacement of aging grinder pump units will be done as needed.

#### WATER AREA.

Our distribution system continues to produce excellent water and the Water Treatment Plant is working well.

The old treatment plant is a work area with a loft for storing equipment and replacement parts used in the distribution system. It has been turned into a valuable asset for the water operators as they do in-house maintenance work for the LWA.

#### ADMINISTRATION

As a political subdivision, the LWA is governed by ORC 6119, abiding by Ohio's "sunshine law." The LWA Board of Trustees meets in open session every Friday morning from 9 AM-noon and Tuesdays as needed. LWA customers are invited to attend. If a customer has an issue with the LWA BOT and would like to meet and discuss that issue, please call the office at (937) 456-4455 between 8

AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. If the morning sessions are not convenient, the BOT would be glad to meet with any customer in the evening.

The LWA has a website; it is [www.lakengrenh2o.org](http://www.lakengrenh2o.org). Announcements and important LWA information is located on the site.

Customers who have questions or concerns about this report should call the office at (937) 456-4455 or E-mail us at [CustomerService@lakengrenh2o.org](mailto:CustomerService@lakengrenh2o.org).

As always the LWA BOT and its employees are working to provide the best possible water and wastewater services for the Lakengren community.

## Road Committee Report

By John Kanzlemar

The Road Committee met on February 17th to discuss road conditions, available funds and 2009 repair plans. In addition to committee members, we also had several residents attend the meeting to voice their thoughts and opinions. The Road Committee encourages resident participation and we will do a better job of advertising future meeting dates to encourage more participation from everyone.

Similar to past winters, many of our roads are showing signs of serious distress and need attention immediately. Freeze-thaw affects our roads severely, because most of them do not have a free draining granular base beneath them. Consequently, our roads always start looking bad this time of year. Some of our cross streets and most of the cove streets have not seen any attention for years, while we've focused on the most heavily travel roads first. The shorter roads are in very poor condition. Additionally, roads that were paved 5 to 6 years ago once again need attention, if not replacement. Unfortunately, our road funds will not be replenished until 2009 asso-

ciation dues start coming in over the next few months so we are stuck with what we have until then.

Adequate funding continues to be our biggest hurdle and the recent failure of the proposed \$60/year road assessment increase won't help matters. We're left with doing the best we can with the money we have, while exploring different avenues for additional revenue. We know that there are individuals who recognize the need for and benefit of higher quality, longer lasting roads. Even in tough economic times, we need to keep up with our infrastructure needs financially. All of us need to make individual sacrifices, in other areas, in order to fund necessary road maintenance and rebuilding. With sufficient funding, we can develop road rebuilding plans that are proactive vs. reactive and save money over the long haul. Long-term, we need more than \$60/year to rebuild our roads to a reasonable standard. How can we generate additional revenue and generate revenue more quickly?

Some of the ideas that are floating around within the Road Committee and the Board of Trustees include:

- \* An option for residents to make early payments on 2010 and 2011 road assessments fees, with an incentive to do so.

- \* Allow family members of LPOA residents to purchase gate stickers for easier access and use the additional funds towards roads. This is a great idea suggested by a resident who came to the Road Committee meeting this week.

- \* Development of a Road Donation Program, where donations are listed in the Viking Newspaper showing the donor's name.

- \* Review and consideration of converting Gasper Township, District #2 (northern Lakengren), into a "wet" township. Then develop a LPOA owned beer and wine store (drive-thru), where all proceeds go to building new roads. Drink a beer, build a road!

So what is the road plan for 2009? The Road Committee's recommendation to the BOT is once again placement of a thick gravel base on as many roads as money and time will permit. This will put as many residents as possible on a "better" surface and is the building block for a properly designed road. We do not recommend using our limited funds for asphalt this year. This plan may carry over into 2010 depending on available funding. In general and moving for-

ward, the Road Committee does not recommend placing any asphalt pavement until a free draining, stable gravel base is established. The roads simply won't last without a stable foundation. This is the proper way to build a road and also the most economical solution long-term. There are some downsides to this approach in the short-term, including dust in the dry summer months. Snow and ice removal on gravel roads is also tricky. All in all, this is the most logical approach to our road maintenance for the next few years.

We appreciate everyone's patience and support as we attempt to develop an improved roadway system in Lakengren.

## Shoreline Clean Up Rescheduled

Some 12 volunteers showed up for the February 21st Shoreline Clean Up Day, but due to the snow-storm that blew in while they were getting prepared (having coffee), the event was cancelled and rescheduled to March 14.

On this day, it will be a combined Shoreline and Road Clean Up, that is, if the lake hasn't come up so high that it would prevent safe access to the shoreline. If that is the case, then it would primarily be the Road Clean Up Day. The Dragons need plenty of assistance, so be sure to make the commitment.

If you have questions about these events, please call Dan McElwee of the Dragons at 456-5319.

## Attention New Boat Owners

Congratulation on your new boat! Did you know:

You must register it with

LPOA and have a permit (sticker) to operate it on our lake.

The name on the boat title must match the name on the property deed.

Operators of unregistered watercraft are subject to arrest for trespassing.

If the boat is over 10 hp, any operator under 27 years old must have completed an approved boating safety course. The fine (Eaton Municipal Court) for not having proof of completion is \$135!

Remember! the OWNER of the watercraft is responsible for all rule infractions. Even if the owner is not on board.

So, before you head for the launch ramp this spring, take your title or state registration to the new LPOA office and get a permit. Then make sure all of your children, grandchildren and young guests have a boater's education certificate. The U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will offer classes at the LPOA office on March 16, 17 and 18.

## Walking Path Committee

By Helen Fisher

Thanks to a very generous couple, the Walking Path Committee has a Jet Ski Lift to be sold. Proceeds will go towards the construction of the new Lakengren Walking Path. For information on this Jet Ski Lift, please call Helen Fisher 937-367-1163.

We are also reminding everyone to call if you have items to donate to the spring garage sale in May 2009.

## St. Patrick's Party

The CLC along with the Entertainment Committee will sponsor a St. Patrick's Party on Saturday, March 14 in the decorated Lodge.

Liam Jackson and his sister, Sheelaugh, will provide a 20 minute Irish Dance routine in the Lodge at 6:00 PM. Their sister, Dacey, who attends Notre Dame, may get home to accompany them. They have studied Irish dance since they were 6-8 years of age. Liam, who attends Oakwood High School and is on their track and soccer teams, participated in the Irish international competition in Belfast, Ireland, last year and will again, be in competition this Easter school break. This year's competition is being held in Philadelphia.

All Lakengren youngsters are invited to attend. So as not to block the view of the diners, it is recommended that they occupy the Library area of the lodge and the balcony.

At 8:00 PM a party for just adults will begin and Amy Gilbert will provide some Irish music along with other music to please the group for dancing and levity. She will also have some DVD's that will be shown during the evening. The party goers can bring their own favorite beverages and snacks to share for the adult evening party.

The Beare's Restaurant will be serving some Irish dishes during the day. Their television set will show some Irish travelogues. The restaurant opens at 11:00 AM and closes at 8:00 PM on Tuesdays through Saturday and 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Sundays.

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*Work has started on the replacement of the marina building. The old building had seen many band-aid repairs over its lifetime including floor rebuild in 2008. The new structure will be an ADA(Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible building measuring 12ft by 34ft with a storage area included. This new building will be a welcomed improvement to the Marina area. Also it is hoped that over the next few years money will become available to upgrade the marina restrooms to meet ADA standards.*

## H.I.T. Foundation, ESOP offer new foreclosure prevention program

Home Is The (H.I.T.) Foundation, in partnership with ESOP (Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People), is offering a new service to Lakengren and other Preble County homeowners whose homes may be at risk of foreclosure. The program targets homeowners facing job loss, medical issues, or other hardships, as well as those victimized by predatory lending practices. Whether a homeowner has missed one mortgage payment or is already in the foreclosure process, H.I.T. Foundation and ESOP may be able to help. The foreclosure prevention program is a free service. H.I.T. Foundation is a not-for-profit organization originally formed to meet

the critical shortage of affordable housing options in Preble County. The agency now offers a variety of housing services with the goal of "empowering our clients and strengthening our community one family at a time." H.I.T. Foundation works to identify homeowners who are currently facing foreclosure and enroll them in this program. ESOP then works with lenders to negotiate an acceptable loan modification. A Cleveland-Based organization, ESOP (pronounced E-SOP) began its state-wide expansion in 2008 in an effort to better assist homeowners experiencing foreclosure across Ohio. ESOP leads the state in saving homes and is the

number one resource for foreclosure prevention services in all eighty-eight Ohio counties. ESOP saved more than 1,600 Ohio family homes in 2007 and more than doubled that figure in 2008. ESOP's success stems from its established partnerships with various lenders and servicers, allowing for easy negotiation of loan modifications. They currently have agreements with more than 30 major lending institutions and will work with other lenders as needed. For more information, contact: Deron Newman, Outreach Specialist, at the H.I.T. Foundation, 1751 N. Barren Street, Eaton, Ohio 45320, (937) 472-0500, Ext. 403 or [deron@hitfoundation.org](mailto:deron@hitfoundation.org).

## Bass Club News

The Lakengren Bass Club met on February 7 at 9:00 a.m. at the lodge with 26 members and 2 visitors present. Reports were read and approved, and the new point system was explained and reviewed. Two new members joined the club. It was announced that the annual Dixie Marine Open House and fish-fry will be held March 7-8. Members plan to attend as several seminars will be presented on Saturday. Following the brief business meeting, a seminar on fishing Kentucky Lake was

presented by Mark Whetstone and Stu Eversole, two well-known tournament anglers from the Dixie Marine Pro-staff. It was a very informative and interesting seminar on techniques and patterns that have worked well for them on Kentucky Lake. A question and answer period followed. The meeting was then adjourned. The Lakengren Bass Club is always open to new members. The club is co-ed and encourages family participation. One need not have fishing experience

or own a boat to belong. The only requirement is LPOA membership. For further information, call Bruce at 472-2020 or Ron at 456-4128. The next meeting of the club will be Saturday, March 7 at 9:30 a.m. at the lodge. (Editor's note: News from the Marine Committee is that Charlie Moore is their new president, and that applications for the Open Bass Tournament to be held in April are available at this time.)

# AK CONSTRUCTION



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# Christmas Lights Fleeting

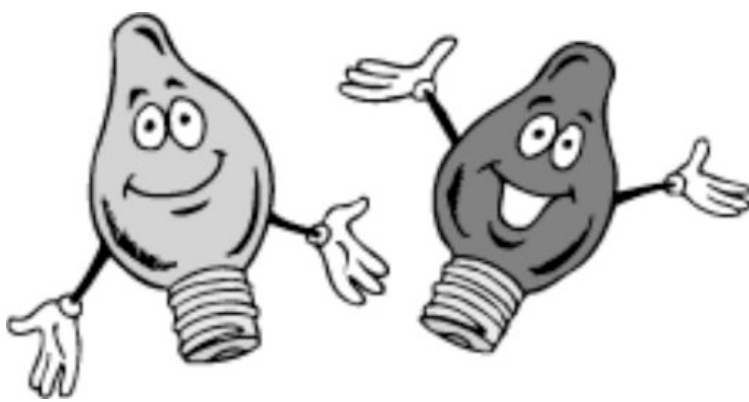
The Christmas Lights Committee had its monthly meeting in the Lodge last Wednesday evening. Prior to the meeting, the Varney's, the McMahan's, the Kelch's, the Gilbert's, the Healy's and Judy Thaxton and Tom Wissman dined together at the Beare's Restaurant. The other half of the group were in Florida, Church, tied up in other things. Chuck Rutherford was to have a cardiac catheter procedure the next day and stayed home that evening. A Friday morning call about his condition resulted in just leaving a message. Hopefully, he is doing well. Comments from some of the fellows at the CLC meeting is that he did quite well at the previous Dragon meeting card game. Something was mentioned about going to the cleaners.

Final plans were made for the St. Patrick's Party on Saturday, March 14. The dates were set for the two Poker Runs that will be held on Sunday, May 24 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM and Sunday, July 5 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Rick and Karla McMahan will be in charge of this fun event.

A motion was made to have money awards for the best three decorated homes at Christmas. Judy Thaxton and Amy Gilbert will plan this contest.

The next meeting will be on the third Wednesday of the month, March 18. All Laken-gren residents are invited to join this social group that will dine at about 6:00 PM and have the short meeting at 8:00 PM.

It is suggested that attendees bring along a bottle of wine that was given to them or purchased for a special occasion but never opened. The bottles will be opened and shared along with memories of that were involved. The CLC invites other couples and singles to attend these monthly meetings and there are no annual dues.



**Face  
Painting**  
By Stephanie  
Parties, Reunions  
& Corporate Events  
**583-5105**



## Health Careers Camp

# Make plans for summer *AND* for your future!

Reid Hospital, Indiana University East and Ivy Tech are teaming up to offer a **Health Careers Camp** this summer, **June 15-19 and June 22-26**. The **FREE** camp is open to high school students who have completed their freshman year up to those who will graduate this Spring. The camp will provide information and on-the-job experiences in varied health care fields.

**Bring your parents and  
DON'T MISS THIS  
INFORMATION SESSION:**

7 p.m. Monday, March 9  
Reid's Lingle Auditorium  
1100 Reid Parkway  
[www.ReidHospital.org](http://www.ReidHospital.org)



**Reid Hospital**  
& Health Care Services



**INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
EAST**



# BASS TOURNAMENT NEWS



## Lakengren Open Bass Tournament

April 26<sup>th</sup> 2009

7:00am – 3:00pm

Practice Date

April 18<sup>th</sup> 2009

7:00am – Noon

**Entry Fee is \$80 per team, including Big Bass**  
(Prizes based upon a full field of 60 boats)

1<sup>st</sup> place \$1000 + Trophy

2<sup>nd</sup> place \$600 + Trophy

3<sup>rd</sup> place \$420+ Trophy

4<sup>th</sup> place \$340 + Trophy

5<sup>th</sup> place \$210 + Trophy

**Biggest Bass gets 75% of Big Bass Pot and 2<sup>nd</sup> Biggest  
Bass gets 25% of Big Bass Pot**

Official entry forms are  
available at the  
LPOA office.

For tournament information  
call:

Bruce Clark

937-472-2020

Sponsored By:

Lakengren Marine  
Committee

## Marine & Lake Management News

The M & L Committee met February 5 and set dates for the 2009 Open Bass Tournaments. Charlie Moore was elected as new chairman and Dan Brierly as new treasurer.

Other topics discussed were placing fish structure in the lake, and perch, hybrid bluegills and catfish are due to be stocked in the lakes in April.

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 5 at 7 p.m. at the lodge. You are welcome to attend.

Tournament dates are as follows

Spring Open Tournament -

April 26; Hours 7 am - 3pm

Practice - April 18; Hours 7 am - Noon

Summer Night Open Tournament -

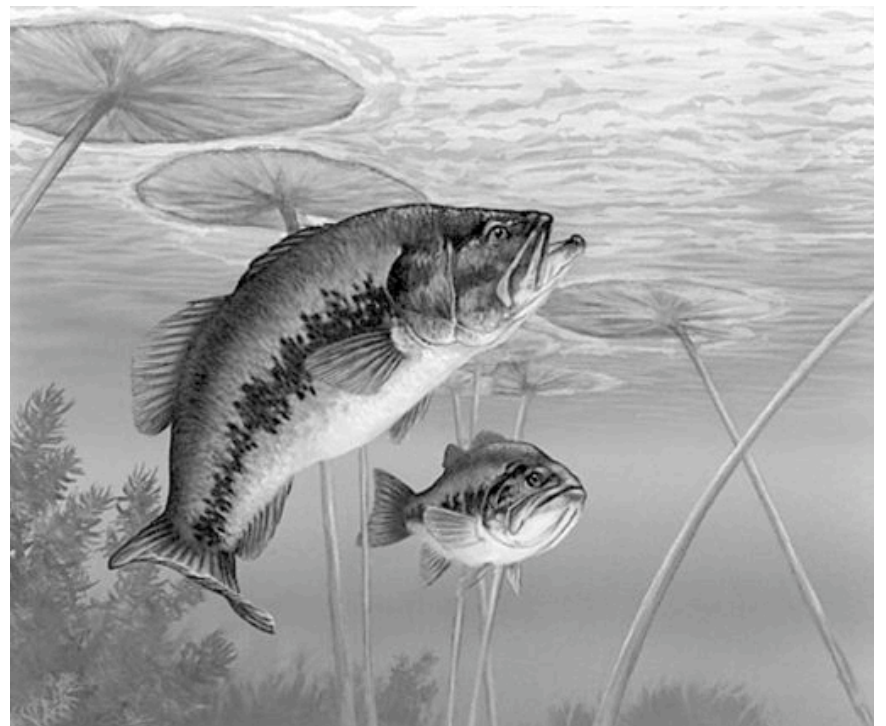
July 18; Hours 11 pm - 7 am

Practice - July 11; Hours 7 am - Noon

Fall Open Tournament -

September 27; Hours 7 am - 3 pm

Practice - September 19; Hours 7 am - Noon





## CHILI COOK OFF HEATED

## UP A BLUSTERY DAY

The first-ever Lakengren Chili Cook Off was held January 24, 2009 at the Valhalla Lodge starting at 2 p.m. Ten entrants brought in their crockpots filled with spicy and pungent chili recipes.

Judges from the Gasper Township EMS and Fire Department were: Josh Haney, Jeff Gels, Joe Hodapp, and Tom Pekar. Classifications for the chili were mild, hot, and very hot. Then it went to taste, texture and aroma.

Those entering this year were: Dan McElwee, Alma Warner, Steven Parker, Sue Howard, Daphne Brunett, Bill Holtman, Lynn & Jeff Storar, Scott Spaeth, Derrick Morris, and Sean Spaeth.

While the judges tasted and judged the bowls of chili, the audience enjoyed samples of the crockpots full of steaming chili, too.

With much fanfare and trophies for the top three, 3rd place went to Sue Howard, 2nd place was Sean Spaeth, and Derrick Morris came in 1st Place.

A 50/50 raffle was held during the afternoon and Robin Holtman was the lucky winner

## Women's Club Guest for April

The Lakengren Women's Club invites all ladies to get their bodies ready for spring.

Amy Robertson of "To Your Health" will be presented by Dorothy Roebuck. Hostesses on April 1 at 1:00 p.m. Amy plans to talk about how to spring clean your system with detoxification. She will do a cleansing foot bath demo and have handouts to take home. A short business meeting will take place, along with devotions presented by Dorothy Roebuck. Hostesses on that day are: Arlene Helsinger, Loretta Varney, and Gladys Myers. It is planned that the slate of officers will be presented for their May election. Hope to see you there..

## A & E Sponsor Mardi Gras Party



The Lodge resounded with hot music and dancing partners during the Mardi Gras extravaganza held on February 21st. Cincinnati's own Dixieland jazz band called "Jazz-merized" kept the party jumping. Bill Holtman, a member of the LPOA board, is a member of this band and he performed a fantastic Louie Armstrong impression on most the vocals.

The partygoers brought lots of snacks to share so there was a spread of fancy treats. The lodge was decorated with huge masks, balloons, beads, gold coins and music notes. The Gaydosh family crowned Dan and Pat McElwee as this year's "King and Queen" for the evening (pictured above). Following their coronation, they led the room full of revelers around the lodge weaving in and out the tables and chairs.

During the evening's activities, a shower of various colored balloons were released from the ceiling. Many colorful beads were thrown in the air for the partygoers to catch. There were contests through the evening for the best mask (Diana Staight), and the most beads (Dalene Simons). Other raffle contests were held to offset the expenses for the party.

The Activities & Entertainment Committee would like to thank all the volunteers who so graciously helped put this party together. Special thanks go forward to the sponsors, which will be enumerated in next month's Viking. Thanks, too, for those who stayed afterwards to help tidy up the lodge.



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# Scouting News

## Klondike Derby

Troop 78 participated in the Darke / Preble district Klondike Derby on the weekend of February 6th and 7th at Cricket Holler Boy Scout Camp in Dayton. Troop 78 had 3 patrols, The Flying Aardvarks with Austin Marcus, Austin Cassell, and Aaron Branstrator, the Charmin Ultra's with Jordan Bitner, Zac Burgess, Jacob Marcus and Brandon Gibson, the Ninja's with Josh Current, Isaac Wilson, Eric Mumma and Jesse Keller all lead by the Senior Patrol Leader Jimmy Stuart that tested their scout skills in competition.

The Klondike Derby is an annual camporee in the winter months where the scouts are able to test their scout skills in the winter environment. They use a sled similar to what you might see being pulled by a dog team in Alaska to move there supplies for the day from station to station.

The scouts working as a patrol of 4 scouts move from station to station where they demonstrate skills ranging from First Aid, starting a fire without matches, reading a map and compass and knot tying, building a bridge with lashings and flag etiquette. This year a geocaching event was added where the patrol's using a handheld GPS device searched the camp for hidden objects and prizes on the camp.

With 21 patrols participating in the Klondike Derby, the Ninja's patrol consisting of Jesse Keller, Isaac Wilson, Eric Mumma, and Josh Current were the overall winner's of the Klondike Derby.

### Visitation Church Pancake Supper

On Tuesday evening February 24 members of Troop 78 will be assisting the ladies of Visitation Church for their annual pancake supper.

### Scouting for Food

In March members of Pack 78, and Troop 78 will be participating in the Miami Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America annual scouting for food drive the Traditional Food Drive consist of the scouts placing bags on the doors of the residents of the Miami Valley on Saturday, March 14 and then returning on the following Saturday to pick up the donations.

In Lakengren we have a week long collection of donated food items drop boxes will be located at the guard station, the lodge and at the new office, donations can be dropped off at your convenience during the week from Saturday, March 14 to Friday evening March 20.

According to Alice Forte the Lakengren Scouting for Food Coordinator donated items should be non perishable foods such as canned meats and vegetables, canned fruits, boxed meals or canned evaporated milk.

Troop 78 asks that you check that the item being donated has not expired. Items that are expired cannot be accepted by the food bank and will be discarded in the trash. Items collected at the Lakengren drop boxes and in the traditional collections in Eaton are donated to the food pantry in Eaton located on South Maple at the Once Around Shop.

### Scout Round Up

Boy Scout Troop 78 and Cub Scout Pack 78 are sponsored by St. Paul's United Methodist Church at 120 North Maple in Eaton.

Troop 78 meets weekly at the Church on Tuesday evening from 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Pack 78 holds it's monthly Pack Meeting on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Church.

## 2009 Standing Committees

### BUILDING COMMITTEE

Gerald Spaeth, Chair  
Lou Deneau  
Gerald Estes  
Don Giffin  
Dan McElwee  
Bill Turner  
Dave Fourman

### ELECTIONS/NOMINATION COMMITTEE

John Shipley, Chair  
Alice Forte  
Ronald Goodwin  
Anita Jones  
Dewey and Jane Glazier  
Wilma Estes  
Carole Moore  
Chuck & Jane Rutherford

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
Gorge Brunett, Chair  
John Bentley  
Mark Coning  
Gary Hall  
Linda Tibbetts

POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE  
Daphne Brunett, Chair  
John Bentley  
Dan McElwee  
Deron McEldowney

SAFETY COMMITTEE  
Gerald Estes, Chair  
Helen Fisher  
Jerry Spaeth  
Deron McEldowney  
Dave Fourman

VIKING EDITORIAL COMMITTEE  
Janet Davis, Chair  
Jerry Spaeth  
John Keefe

DAMS COMMITTEE  
Gary Ketron, Chair  
Bob Claybaker  
Burch Cramer  
Gary Hall  
John Kanzlemar

ROADS COMMITTEE  
Gary Ketron, Chair  
Burch Cramer  
Delounce Jackson  
John Kanzlemar  
Gary Hall  
Pete Flora

MARINE & LAKES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
Charlie Moore, Chair  
Dane Brierly  
Marty Burnett  
Bruce Clark  
Dave Fourman  
Ron Foulk

Greg Jacklin  
Bob Jones

ACTIVITIES & ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE  
Bill Holtman, Chair  
Robin Holtman  
Tony & Leah McGuire  
Susie Call  
Pat McElwee  
Alma Warner

Ex Officio Members:  
To all the above committees  
Paul Ellison, LPOA President  
Kevin Thorpe, LPOA General Manager

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937-456-4031 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
CLASS SIZE LIMITED TO 25 STUDENTS.**



## THE WINTER CARNIVAL

The winter carnival was a huge success. We estimated about a hundred plus children enjoyed the games, popcorn, cotton-candy, hotdogs and prizes. We had a special visit late in the day from "Dweebo" the clown. The carnival-like atmosphere complete with calliope music and balloons was perfectly suited to our theme. Thanks to Ginger Adams for decorations and face painting. Ginger & Judy Thaxton both made sure no child left without the opportunity to have artwork on the cheek. Tony McGuire's daughter, Audrey, also helped with face painting. Ginger's brother made some balloon animals ahead, but Ginger got a crash course on doing them, and did a fine job herself at the art of balloon animal making.

Thank you Pat McElwee for manning the cotton candy machine that had a never ending line, children and adults, to sample the sweet stuff. Rick and Alma Warner bought the machine just for the carnival and it will be a welcome treat at Lakengren's future events! We would also like to thank our adult volunteers who stayed and braved it all to lend a hand. Thank you Kevin Thorpe and Dragon volunteers for helping set-up and tear down the games that were used. Thanks Sharon Beare for understanding! Also Eaton Girl Scout troop 106 for volunteering to help with the games.



If you missed Rodney last year, here's your chance to get expert advice for all of your lawn problems. The March meeting will be held at the Lodge on Tuesday, March 17 at 7:00 p.m.

## Garden Club News

By Judy Mahaffy

The Lakengren Garden Club met on February 17, at the Lodge. President, Dick Shank presented this year's scheduled events. Lots of interesting guest speakers and fun trips are planned.

Next month, Rodney Creech, Lawns Plus will present a seminar on "Lawn Care".

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# Dragon Club

by Paul Healy

The Dragon Club met last month and the main topic was the Shoreline Clean UP and this year's agenda. Plans are being made for the Jack Block Fun Day and new games are being planned.

A motion was passed to purchase six new white plastic tables for the Lodge. Bob Varney will study that market and make his recommendation next month. Also, a suggestion was made to make putting golf holes at the lodge or walk path areas. It was suggested that, with a \$100.00 contribution, a golf hole would be named after that club or person. Previously, Kevin Thorpe and others have shown interest in this project. Anyone who would like to help or contribute should call Paul Healy at 456-3387.

There was a discussion of assisting the LPOA in the establishing a small swimming area by the sand volley ball court at the Marina. It was recognized that players have been rinsing off the sand in an unmarked swimming area. The Dragons could supply the needed buoys and rope, etc. that are required in a swimming area.

The next Texas Hold'em will be on Saturday, March 9 in the Lodge. Buy-ins begin at 7:00 PM and the game begins at 7:30PM. There were 40 players last month. There is a conflict on the June and July first Saturdays and players will be asked if they would prefer to change the June and July sessions to another date.

# Lakengren Social Club News

By Alma Warner

The first annual chili cook off was a hit. The winners were 3rd place Sue Howard, 2nd place Sean Spathe, and the Lakengren Chili Master is Derrick Morris.

We would like to give special thanks to the Gasper Township Fire Department for taking time to participate in this event by lending us our judges (Joe, Jeff, Thom-

as, and Josh). Great job guys. And special thanks to Amy, owner of Little Italy Pizza for all your help with this event. We are already looking forward to next year's Chili Cook Off.

We held a social breakfast on February 7 at the Eaton Frisch's Restaurant. A good time was had by all. The next social outing will be in Richmond at the Golden Corral. We will be enjoying an early lunch on March 7 at 11:00 a.m. (everyone pays for their own lunch). Come join in on the fun and get to know your Lakengren neighbors.

The social club plans to meet on the last Thursday of each month (March 26) at the lodge at 6:30 p.m. You are welcome to stop by and

join us. Coffee is always being served. You are welcome to bring your favorite snacks or drink. We will be discussing new ideas for social outings so that we are always doing something that is great fun for all.

We are presently beginning to plan for a Gospel Singing event at the Marina this summer. The date has been set aside as Saturday, June 13. If you know of a gospel or church group that has a choir or band, just let me know and I will try to arrange for them to join in on our special Day of Gospel Music.

Come join in on the fun. We look forward to meeting you. If you have any questions, just call at 937-336-5256.



## Card Scores

Jan 23 - SINGLE DECK EUCHRE - 1st Joanne Parks, 2nd Sue Harrison, 3rd Mark Schoettinger, 4th & 5th Bob Worley & Jim Parks (tie), 6th Virginia Wehrly

Jan 30 - PINOCHLE - 1st Donna Guethlen, 2nd Jan Weaver, 3rd Elsie Burkle

Feb 6 - No Cards

Feb 13 - DOUBLE DECK BID EUCHRE - 1st Tom Carr, 2nd Gladys Myers, 3rd Virginia Wehrly, 4th Norma Maxel, 5th Darlene Gilbert

Feb 20 - PINOCHLE - 1st Sue Pohlabel, 2nd Elsie Burkle, 3rd Judy Thaxton, 4th Willie Feldsburg

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# Bluebirds and Martins

## It's That Time of Year

By Jo Ann Hoffman

Purple Martins and Bluebirds are like family; they hold a special place in the hearts of the many people who entice them to their yards. Studies have shown that the same birds will return year after year on or about the same date to the exact same house where they hatched. Just like children and grandchildren coming home for the holidays, their arrival is much anticipated and one worries if they have not arrived on time. I still remember one morning, maybe 3 years ago, when Virginia Wehrly enthusiastically called to let me know that the Martins had returned safe and sound to her yard on Thor Drive. She even called back just to share their voices over the phone line! She loves to sit out on her back deck "listening to their sweet song."

It may not seem like it with the winds and storms of March, but the Eastern Bluebirds and Purple Martins have left their winter homes and are headed this way. The middle of February was actually the beginning of the Bluebird migration north. Their courtship starts now, the first of March, and they will be on the nest as early as the first of April. So if you have a Bluebird box, now is the time to dust it off, clean it out, and get it mounted. It is also the time of year to prepare for Purple Martins. By April 15th (Tax Day), these glossy purple/black songsters are usually back en masse in Lakengren, but the scouts arrive in March. Don't wait for April; get your houses up now (4 weeks in advance is the rule to entice a first family; one week in advance for established families) so the scouts will know the place to invite the ladies, come April!

If you need help mounting a Bluebird box, call Don Reeves of Plunder Cove at 456-1845. Don and Mary are our resident Bluebird experts. They started and maintained Lakengren's original Bluebird Trail back in the early 1980's. With Don's construction background and over 300 Bluebird boxes to his credit, he can answer most any how-to question when it comes to putting up Bluebird boxes.

Where is the best location? A Bluebird house needs to be in an open grassy yard mounted at least 5-6 feet up from the ground with the hole facing east or southeast away from sunlight and wind. To discourage House Sparrows from moving in, keep it 100 feet away from any building and do not paint it white. Earth tones such as green or tan applied with exterior latex paint can be used, but only on the outside of the box. To discourage House Wrens, keep the box at least 100-120 feet away from any low-lying brush such as a forsythia bush or a hedge. While Bluebirds will not live in the woods, having one or two trees with perching branches nearby or telephone wires or TV antennas is a plus for young birds learning to fly.

For those of you who have woody lots but are interested in supporting the Bluebird effort, there is a Bluebird Trail at the Preble County Historical Center. Jane Lightner is always looking for volunteers to help monitor the houses. Jane can be reached at 787-4256. You see, once a house is mounted, then once a week it must be checked. Bluebirds do not have scent glands that detect human presence, so don't worry that they will leave just because you touched and opened the door to their home. Throughout the month of March, watch for the formation of the neat nest of a Bluebird. It is made of grass and/or pine straw lined on the inside with fine dry grass. Sweep out and destroy any open, messy nest made of sticks, feathers, paper, etc. This is the nest of a House Sparrow; an alien, predatory species known to kill other birds including Bluebirds. If a nest appears made of grass, but it is lined with soft down feathers instead of finer grass or a nest built of moss appears, these are from Tree Swallows and Titmice or Chickadees respectively. Please leave them to nest

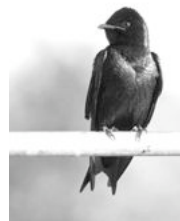


and put up another Bluebird house nearby. Pairing the boxes is a common and effective technique. While Bluebirds need at least a football field of space between the homes of nesting pairs, they readily accept swallows as next door neighbors. As long as both kinds of houses are provided and there is ample food, Bluebirds and Purple Martins will also share the same yard. They both eat insects, and Lord knows, we have plenty of that here in Lakengren!

From way back before Europeans ever came here, Native American Indians would entice the Purple Martins to nest near their lodges by hanging clusters of hollowed-out gourds in the trees nearby. Early settlers followed the example and hung gourds in the trees near their gardens. Today, many thousands of people erect Martin houses on lawns and in gardens across the eastern United States. Unlike Bluebird boxes, Martin houses that are painted white have the highest success rate. Like multi-level apartment complexes, Martin houses can accommodate as many families as there are rooms. Some elaborate homes have over 200 chambers! I have read that before gourds and Martin houses, the birds did actually nest in natural tree cavities like woodpecker holes, but I have never seen them other than at Martin houses. People used to live in caves; but we no longer rough it either with the availability and comfort of modern housing. Why should the Martins?!

About the size of a Starling, the Purple Martin is the largest of the American swallows. Flying overhead, the two birds have a similar shape, though they behave differently. Starlings fly more directly from destination to destination. Martin flight is longer, more joyfully soaring and gliding, swooping to catch insects in midair. Both Starlings and male Martins are glossy purple/black birds. On closer examination, a Starling has a more mottled coloration, iridescent black, green, and purple with a startlingly bright yellow bill, especially in spring and summer. Male Martins, on the other hand, are shiny purple/black all over even to their bill and eye. Female and juvenile Martins are duller - almost a dark brown on top with grayish white bellies and speckled throats. European Starlings and Purple Martins also have totally different sitting silhouettes. Martins sit forward - almost horizontally - giving a V-like silhouette and have the typical pointy wings and forked tails of the swallow family. Starlings sit nearly upright with only a short stub of a tail in comparison.

Lakengren is the perfect habitat for Purple Martins. They love water, open fields, large yards, and being fairly close to human dwellings. The most successful houses are on poles 15- 20 feet high not too close but actually within 100 feet of a man-made structure. (Bluebird boxes need to be farther away than 100 feet.) Martins do however need 40 - 60 feet of unobstructed airspace to access their home. There should be no trees or wires at the same height or in a direct line to the Martin house openings within that flight zone. Proximity to water is also a plus - something we have plenty of in Lakengren. Martins will not come to a bird bath, instead they drink and bathe in lakes and ponds while in flight by skimming across the top of the water. Frequently seen darting around in the rain, do you suppose they enjoy the occasional shower instead of a bath?



People tout the importance of Purple Martins as natural mosquito-control agents. The birds do subsist on an insect diet, consuming massive amounts every day, including mosquitoes, but Martins are diurnal (day) feeders and have gone inside to roost for the night as twilight approaches when most mosquitoes come out to play. Martins feed mainly on insects active in the heat of the day, like dragonflies, beetles, small flies, and wasps - even airborne spiders provide a tasty treat. While people continue to rationalize attracting Martins as "skeeter-eaters," I think Virginia had it right. We just love their "sweet song"! The bubbling chirps and trills of the whole colony singing at once, such marvelous music streaming down from high overhead in the early morning has earned these cheerful birds the song title "Dawn Song." I can't think of a better way to start the day than to turn off the TV or radio, grab that cup of coffee, walk outside and have a listen. It is that time of year. The Bluebirds and Martins are heading this way. Are you ready?

Happy Birding!

# Letter to the Editor

Last year in June, my wife and I purchased a vacation property with in the Lakengren community. Having had lake property before in Tennessee, we were very impressed with the grounds, layout, organization and leadership within Lakengren.

After spending a considerable amount of time there since last June, we continue to be impressed with everything about Lakengren with the exception of the roadways.

Needless to say when we have friends visiting, the roads are an embarrassment. I feel like I should give them money to get their car cleaned after they leave Lakengren. It is hard to believe that our community would accept the conditions that currently exist.

Having attended a board meeting and reading the minutes every month in the Viking, it is even harder to believe that our board does not have the road conditions as number one priority and dedicate the amount of time needed to find a solution.

In fact, the best I have seen the condition of our street was when the road was frozen during the recent freeze. Another unbelievable event is that the recent vote would handily defeat a \$60 increase to help in repairing the roads. But I did note that the percentage of people voting was a fraction of the total population of Lakengren.

During the recent election, we elected a resident that has considerable experience in infrastructure improvements having worked for CONTECH Construction Products Inc. for over twenty years. John Kanzelmar is a friend and business associate of mine and I believe, given the chance, he could help us bring our roadways up to standards with a little help and support from us.

Please, if you feel the same as we do, contact John or Kevin Thorpe (Lakengren property manager) and find out what you can do to support them in this effort. I am sure that they would welcome your thoughts, ideas and suggestions.

Thank you,  
David and Sheila Senften  
Lot 1397

# It's A Matter of Security

By Ginger Adams

Did you read any of the Harry Potter books? Or watch any of the movies? Did you pay any attention to the letters the children received from their owls while in school? Sending letters by owl was the preferred method of communication in those books. Anyway, when a parent got wind of misbehavior by her child, it was common for the child, or student, if you will, to receive a scolding by post, which was called a "howler." When the "howler" letter was opened the student would hear his mothers shrill voice yelling at him or her, about whatever the misdeed was. If you are wondering where I'm going with this, here it is. I would like to personally send everyone in Lakengren a "howler" who does not lock his or her automobile when it's not being driven! It would say, "What were you thinking? Didn't I teach you better than that? You know better than to leave your car unlocked while unattended!" And the reason for sending the howlers is because week after week I take calls in the guardhouse about someone's car being broken into. And the first question I ask is "Was your car locked?" And the answer is always a meek, "Well, no." In the Sheriff's report in the Viking every month are the statistics about break-ins. This is an ongoing problem here in Lakengren, as it is in the city and the county. Why would you risk having your car ransacked when it would be so easy to just lock it and prevent the crime in the first place? Most people say that they didn't have anything of value in the car, but in many of the cases, loose change was taken out of the ashtray, or a CD.

If you have expensive electronics items in your vehicle, like a GPS, take them in the house with you. Even if nothing is stolen, you can tell if your car has been entered. You still feel violated. There is no doubt that if you have something someone wants, even if your car is locked, they're going to break in and get it. Just locking your car can prevent most of this. We need to be proactive in protecting our possessions. Lock your house up when you leave, as well as your car.

How many of you used to laugh about shooting someone who was breaking into your home and dragging them inside to keep from getting into trouble over shooting them? Well, that law has changed. You no longer have to "drag them in the house." You can legally shoot someone if they are on your property and you feel your life is threatened. We have all read in the papers about the pizza delivery guy or the newspaper delivery guy getting shot because they were mistaken for an intruder. Unfortunately, this situation may be repeated with some of the break-ins we are experiencing. Most of the time it is a group of teens, around the ages of 13, 14, or 15. Someone is going to get hurt. Parents need to warn their children about this. Trespassers are scary to a senior citizen, and they may act before they think about what they are doing.

Keep your kids from the receiving end of violence. Do you know where your kids are at 2:00 in the morning?



STREET	DATE	TIME	NATURE OF CALL	DISPOSITION
Aberna Cove	23-Jan	2:15 PM	Peace Officer Call	Negative Contact
Brande Drive	21-Jan	12:36 PM	Petty Theft	Call Recorded
Brande Drive	7-Feb	2:45 PM	Ambulance	Handled by EMS
E Lakengren Drive	17-Jan	8:10 AM	Abandoned 9-1-1 Call	False Alarm
E Lakengren Drive	17-Feb	10:38 AM	Petty Theft	Report Taken
England Drive	21-Jan	8:53 PM	Petty Theft	Report Taken
Finland Drive	21-Jan	1:33 PM	Unclassified Offense	Call Recorded
Finland Drive	3-Feb	10:28 AM	Attempted Suicide	Report Taken
Fiord Drive	28-Jan	6:30 PM	Ambulance	Handled by EMS
Fiord Drive	10-Feb	6:20 PM	Harassment	Report Taken
Fiord Drive	11-Feb	9:54 PM	Fire	Handled by FD
Hammer Drive	9-Feb	8:46 AM	Ambulance	Handled by EMS
Hammer Drive	14-Feb	4:36 AM	Ambulance	Handled by EMS
Haugesund Cove	30-Jan	8:26 AM	Ambulance	Handled by EMS
Kastrup Drive	10-Feb	5:50 PM	Ambulance	Handled by EMS
Lief Drive	17-Jan	12:50 PM	Ambulance	Handled by EMS
Lief Drive	3-Feb	8:08 PM	Ambulance	Handled by EMS
Long Drive	6-Feb	4:44 PM	Grand Theft	Report Taken
Norseman Drive	29-Jan	2:58 PM	Threatening Harassing TX calls	Call Recorded
Norseman Drive	15-Feb	10:30 PM	Threatening Harassing TX calls	Call Recorded
Norseman Drive	17-Feb	3:42 AM	Trespassing Person	Escorted off Property
Norseman Drive	18-Feb	4:57 PM	Threatening Harassing TX calls	Report Taken
Saxon Drive	23-Jan	9:43 PM	Unclassified Offense	Call Recorded
Saxon Drive	24-Jan	12:36 AM	Unclassified Offense	Call Recorded
Shield Drive	28-Jan	10:40 AM	Ambulance	Handled by EMS
Skodborg Drive	2-Feb	5:42 AM	Juvenile	Call Recorded
Snedstead Drive	8-Feb	9:51 AM	Ambulance	Handled by EMS
Thor Drive	24-Jan	11:12 AM	Ambulance	Handled by EMS
Thor Drive	26-Jan	10:13 AM	Ambulance	Handled by EMS
Thor Drive	31-Jan	4:55 PM	Threatening Harassing TX calls	Call Recorded
Thor Drive	11-Feb	9:54 PM	Ambulance	Handled by EMS
Thor Drive	14-Feb	8:41 PM	Ambulance	Handled by EMS
Thunder Drive	22-Jan	10:58 AM	Unclassified Offense	Unable to Locate
Valhalla Drive	25-Jan	10:51 AM	Abandoned 9-1-1 Call	Call Recorded
Valhalla Drive	15-Feb	9:23 PM	Ambulance	Handled by EMS
Viking Drive	7-Feb	11:41 PM	Ambulance	Handled by EMS
Vinland Drive	28-Jan	9:31 AM	Crash Property Damage	Call Recorded
W Lakengren Drive	17-Jan	3:23 PM	Assist - non emergency	Call Recorded
W Lakengren Drive	23-Jan	3:05 PM	Unclassified Offense	Call Recorded
W Lakengren Drive	23-Jan	6:57 PM	Unclassified Offense	Call Recorded
W Lakengren Drive	2-Feb	12:15 AM	Domestic Dispute	Call Recorded

## NATURE OF CALLS

Adandoned 9-1-1 Call	2
Ambulance	16
Assist - non emergency	1
Petty Theft	3
Unclassified Offense	6
Peace Officer Call	1
Crash Property Damage	1
Threatening Harassing TX calls	4
Domestic Dispute	1
Juvenile	1
Attempted Suicide	1
Grand Theft	1
Harassment	1
Fire	1
Trespassing Person	1
Total Calls	41

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# GASPER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

November 17, 2008

## Regular Meeting

Submitted by Anitra Roell,  
Fiscal Officer

Minutes from Regular Meeting held November 17, 2008 at the Gasper Township Fire Station. Gasper Township Board President John Moore called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M. Those present were board members, John Moore, Bill Roell and Eric White, Fiscal Officer, Anitra Roell, and Maintenance Worker Jack Reece. Fire Chief Dean Miller, and EMS Director Josh Haney.

Fire/EMS Business: EMS employee Stephanie Taylor is on maternity leave. EMS employee Charity Whiteaker has resigned. EMS employee John Collins has returned from medical leave. Volunteer fire fighter Kristen Schlater has been hired as a part time EMS employee. Department needs to hire EMS employees. Josh will type up a help wanted ad for Anitra to place in the Register Herald. Fire department has ordered pagers needed to update department. The department is also in the process of ordering more hose. Dean and Josh are still working out billing for EMS and fire. They are looking into the option of billing EMS from within, and no longer using Medicount. Discussed a billing structure for in house fire billing. Winter supplies needed: RV antifreeze for fire trucks.

Maintenance Business: Trustees reviewed Jack's list of road/ditch work. Jack is pricing fire extinguishers that are needed for in trucks. Need to get more salt. Once salt is in and piled, the back hoe needs washed so salt does not destroy equip. Discussed electric options for new barn on Camden Road. John will get supplies.

Trustees moved the regular scheduled December board meeting from Monday to Tuesday. December 16, 2008 at 7:00 P.M.

Trustees scheduled year end

meeting for December 29, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. at the fire station.

Bill made motion to pass Resolution 2008-5. Eric second, all vote yes.

Bill made motion to pass Resolution 2008-6. Eric second, all vote yes.

Eric made motion to pass Resolution 2008-9. Bill second, all vote yes.

Anitra read minutes from October 2008 meeting. Bill made motion to accept minutes as read, Eric second, all vote yes.

Anitra read minutes from November 9, 2008 Special Meeting, Eric made motion to accept minutes as read. Bill second, all vote yes.

Eric made motion to pass Resolution 2008-14. John second, all vote yes.

Trustees approved bids for 1997 International snow plow truck being sold by Darby Township. John made motion to pass Resolution 2008-10 2008-11 2008-12, 2008-13. Bill second, all vote yes.

Trustees signed checks for November bills.

Bill made motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Eric second.

## December 10, 2008

### Special Meeting

Submitted by Anitra Roell,  
Fiscal Officer

Minutes from Special Meeting held December 10, 2008 at the Gasper Township Fire Station. Gasper Township Board President John Moore called the meeting to order at 7:11 P.M. Those present were board members, John Moore, Bill Roell and Eric White, and Fiscal Officer, Anitra Roell.

John made motion at 7:11 to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues concerning John Reece. Eric second, all vote yes.

Bill made motion to return to regular session at 7:58. Eric second, all vote yes.

Eric made motion to accept resignation of John Reece as part time Gasper Township employee per a phone call between Eric and John at 7:35 P.M. on December 10, 2008. Bill second, all vote yes. Eric will get keys and phone from John.

Eric made motion to hire Jamie Beneke as part time road man at \$10.00 per hour. John second. Eric and John vote yes. Bill abstains.

Bill made motion to adjourn

at 8:04 P.M. second.

## December 16, 2008

### Regular Meeting

Submitted by Anitra Roell,  
Fiscal Officer

Minutes from Regular Meeting held December 16, 2008 at the Gasper Township Fire Station. Gasper Township Board of Trustees President John Moore called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were board members, John Moore, Bill Roell, and Eric White, Fiscal Officer, Anitra Roell, and Maintenance Worker Jamie Beneke. Fire Chief Dean Miller, EMS Director Josh Haney, fire/ems members Gary Taylor, Larry Taylor, and Sheila Taylor.

Bill made motion to go into executive session at 7:05 to discuss fire/ems personnel issues. Eric second, all vote yes. Board went into executive session with board members, fiscal officer, Dean Miller, and Josh Haney.

At 7:36, Gary Taylor and Sheila Taylor were brought into executive session.

At 8:27, Dean Miller and Josh Haney left executive session.

At 9:07, Gary Taylor and Sheila Taylor left executive session.

At 9:18, Dean Miller and Josh Haney return to executive session.

Bill made motion to return to regular meeting at 10:30. Eric second, all vote yes.

Bill made motion to pass resolution 2008-17, pertaining to purchase of new truck. Eric second, all vote yes.

John made motion to pass resolution 2008-16, pertaining to purchase of bed, plow, and accessories. Eric second, all vote yes.

January 2009 regular meeting will be January 26 at 6:30 P.M.

John made motion to accept minutes as read from November 17, 2008 regular meeting. Eric second, all vote yes.

Eric made motion to adjourn at 11:11 P.M. Bill second.

## December 29, 2008

### Special Meeting

Submitted By Anitra Roell,  
Fiscal Officer

Minutes from Special Meeting held December 29, 2008 at the Gasper Township Fire Station to conduct year end business. Gasper Township Board President John Moore called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. Those present were board members, John Moore, Bill Roell, and Eric White, Fiscal Officer, Anitra Roell, Fire Chief Dean Miller, Maintenance worker Jamie Beneke, and fireman Larry Taylor.

John led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Maintenance Business: Trustees discussed road signs,

mowing, weed eating, and spraying with current road worker.

Fire Business: Discussion about drivers for EMS, gas cards and contracted EMS runs by Camden EMS. Fire chief requested new insurance identification cards for trucks.

John made motion to go ahead with full staffing of Gasper EMS. Eric second, all vote yes.

John made motion to accept Resolution 2008-18 declaring the pay scale for part time Gasper Township employees. Bill second, all vote yes.

There will be no changes to the volunteer/officer pay for fire and ems. It will be as defined in Resolution 2007-15.

Eric made motion to accept Resolution 2008-19, Bill second, all vote yes.

Eric made motion to set trustee and fiscal officer pay as set forth by state legislation to be determined once final appropriations are accepted. Bill second, all vote yes.

Bill made motion to hold all regular monthly meetings of the Gasper Township Board of Trustees on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 P.M. Meetings will be held at the fire station. This schedule will begin in February 2009. John second, all vote yes.

John made motion to accept minutes from the December 10, 2008 Special Meeting and the December 16, 2008 Regular Meeting as read by fiscal officer. Bill second, all vote yes.

Eric made motion to accept Resolution 2008-20, declaring temporary appropriations for 2009. Bill second, all vote yes.

John informed trustees that per the Gasper Township attorney the Board of Tax Appeals lawsuit has been settled in favor of Gasper Township. The settlement check to Gasper Township is in the mall.

Trustees signed checks:

Eric made motion elect Bill Roell as president of the Gasper Township Board of Trustees beginning January 1, 2009. John second, all vote yes.

John made motion to adjourn at 9:52 P.M. Eric second.

## Boy Scouts Help With Food Drive

Did you know that our local Boy Scouts will be participating in the annual "Scouting For Food" drive? They will be collecting March 14 through March 20. The items will be donated to the Food Pantry here in Preble County.

During that time period, there will be drop boxes at the Lodge, the new LPOA office (22 Lakengren Drive), or you can leave items at the guard house.

The Scouts are thanking you in advance for your generosity.

# March & April Calendar of Events

Activities at the lodge unless otherwise noted

**Pinochle and Euchre Friday at 7 p.m.**

BP/Glucose screenings at the Fire Station

- Mar 4 Women's Club 1 p.m. spkr Bob Roach
- Mar 7 Bass Club Mtg 9:30 a.m. @ lodge
- Mar 7 Dragons Hold'em 7 p.m. @ lodge
- Mar 9 LPOA Board mtg 7 p.m. @ new office
- Mar 12 Dragons Mtg 7:30 p.m. @ lodge
- Mar 14 Shoreline or Road Clean up 9 a.m. Mtn Barn
- Mar 16-18 Boating Safety Course 7-10 p.m. @ new office
- Mar 17 Garden Club Mtg 7 p.m. spkr Rod Creech
- Mar 19 Safety Committee Mtg 5 p.m. @ lodge
- Mar 20 Viking deadline for April edition
- Mar 23 LPOA Board Mtg 7 p.m. @ new office
- Mar 26 Social Committee 6:30 p.m. @ lodge

- Apr 1 Women's Club 1 p.m. spkr Amy Robertson
- Apr 4 Bass Club Mtg time TBA
- Apr 4 Dragons Hold'em 7 p.m. @ lodge
- Apr 9 Dragons Mtg 7:30 p.m. @ lodge
- Apr 12 Sunrise church service 7 a.m. @ lodge
- Apr 13 LPOA Mtg 7 p.m. @ new office
- Apr 16 Safety Committee Mtg 5 p.m. @ lodge
- Apr 17 Viking deadline for May edition
- Apr 18 Practice fish begins @ 7 a.m.
- Apr 18 Ham & Bean Dinner 4 - 7 p.m. @ lodge
- Apr 21 Garden Club Mtg 7 p.m. @ lodge
- Apr 25 Road Clean Up 9 a.m. Mtn Barn
- Apr 26 Open Bass Tournament 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Apr 27 LPOA Mtg 7 p.m. @ new office

# Wanted Correspondents

Paul Healy will be having a left rotator cuff surgery about the same time his friend, Bob Roach is conducting his appraisals for the Lakengren Women's Club. Some correspondents are needed to carry on the Lakengren News for the month of March. If you like to write, find out what is going on in Lakengren, report on church news, student activities, birthdays, etc., then call Paul at 456-3387.

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