

CATCH & RELEASE

VOL. 6 NO. 12

DECEMBER 2019—BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

President Rick Anderson's Thoughts

A Bass Lake December is much different than a Bass Lake June. Much less traffic for one thing and there are few complaints about "too hot". December is the month of Christmas decorations and the longest nights. New Year's Eve ends December just after the days start getting longer. It will be the start of Bass Lake 2020. How about some year end statistics? As of the 11th, the lake has a coating of skim ice. The waters remains very clear and the lake's level that is about four to five inches under the "top of dam" mark. At that level, ice should not have a big impact on the shoreline.



Late shoppers tip. The number one Bass Lake Christmas gift suggestion remains an option: That special gift for the whole family. Something everyone can enjoy together - pier paint brushes for all - one for dad, one for mom and one for all other family members who enjoy the pier. Combine that with a promise to decide on the pier color together. What could be more Bass Lake? And, if your pier can go one more year without painting, you can help a neighbors do theirs. So get into the spirit. On Christmas morning as gifts are unwrapped, you can exclaim: "Merry Christmas!" Our pier will look like new.

We have not had a Property Owners meeting since the last newsletter. 2019 BLPOA Accomplishments: The remodeling work in the Fireplace Room was completed. A Curbside Recycling option for property owners has become a reality to complement the new Starke County Recycling facility located on 250 north just west of the County Garage. A Healthy Shoreline imitative resulted in a \$35,000 glacial stone grant. Do you have any 2020 thoughts and/or suggestions? 2020 is on the way and February 1 will be our first 2020 meeting. Around the lake: Certainly the 2020 Stellar Award win will remain a big goal. As 2019 runner up, \$333,000 has been awarded to Starke County. 2020 will see the approved two mile Erie Tail extension underway. Old timers remember the SOS of decades past; some called it King Kream North. Of course, some called the King Kream, SOS south. Get ready for SOS 2020. And Double D's Bait & Fireworks is under new ownership; get ready for DD 2020. Could it become the new SOS South? Stuff is happening. Remarkably the Great American Game at the VFW in Knox is once again over \$557,000. With 13 numbers left, the next drawing is December 21. Will someone have a great Christmas gift or will GAG 2020 just continue to grow?
Stay Safe & Healthy, Rick

Property Owners Association—Saturday, February 1 at 9:00 a.m., BLPOA building

Bass Lake Neighborhood Watch: Monday, April 6 at 6:30 p.m. BLPOA building

Exercise Class: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:00 a.m.—9:00 a.m. \$3 per class. BLPOA building

Prairie Trails Club—Thursday, January 16 at 6:00 p.m. CST, BLPOA building

Starke County Park Board (our Beach): Tuesday, January 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the Starke County Annex

Bass Lake Conservancy District: (our sewers, pump and lake weeds) Monday, December 13 at 6:00 p.m., BLPOA building

Constellation of Starke—Focused on the Future

"While the Constellation of Starke representatives were obviously shooting for a Stellar designation, we are very grateful for the many successes achieved as a result of going through the Stellar process this past year. Starke County now has a collaborative Regional Development Plan, and the communities of Starke County, which are often seen as rivals and competitors, are working together in unprecedented ways. Each of our municipalities now has a Comprehensive Plan, and our unincorporated areas are represented through the Starke County Comprehensive Plan. We have direction, collaboration, and resources. Not to mention that, in my opinion, our community pride has soared, which is, perhaps, one of our largest assets.

"It's been said by OCRA, and I would echo the same sentiment—Constellation of Starke has shown what community development can look like. To see how far we've come since this process started last year is incredible. We will continue to move forward and to enhance all we've accomplished this year. It's an exciting time to be a Starke County resident, and I'm looking forward to seeing how much further we can reach next year."

-Jessica Martinovic, Starke County Community Foundation Director of Development & Constellation of Starke Executive Committee member

Also, below is a link for an article that was published recently with more detail:

<https://wkvi.com/2019/12/constellation-of-starke-exec-committee-plans-next-steps-after-stellar-designation-is-awarded-to-marshall-county-crossroads/>

In summary, our Bass Lake community was heavily involved in dreaming, planning and helping with this important initiative. When we do win the Stellar Community designation, we will see significant changes to the Bass Lake Beach and to the roadways in our county. We thank the Constellation of Starke Executive Committee for a job well done! We're in this for the long haul, together. *The BLPOA Board of Directors*

Bass Lake Property Owners Association

President ~ Rick Anderson
 Vice President ~ Mary Topelian
 Treasurer ~A. J. Gappa
 Secretary ~ Kathy Laiter

Board Members

- Zac Binkley
- John Bucher
- Terry Chmiel
- Rich Linkus
- Rik Ritzler
- Gayle Smith
- Ron Vendl

Board member contact information is on our website:

www.inbasslake.com

Elvis Impersonator Coming!

Reserve your spot for the New Year's Eve extravaganza at the Bass Lake Pub and Ristorante. This event is in celebration of this successful business. It will include fine food and our lake's first Elvis Presley impersonator. Located at 2869 S. CR 210, call to make your reservation (574) 772-6668.



Bass Lake Conservancy District

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from the Bass Lake Conservancy District (BLCD) Board! See you next year at one of our monthly meetings, held the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the BLPOA building. We manage the lake's sewer system and partner with the DNR to manage the lake weeds.



*The holiday spirit is alive and well at Bass Lake!
 Happy holidays to all.*



Santa's Clauzet—Located near Bass Lake is a holiday charity that is just... a beautiful thing. Enjoy the thrill of a country farm house with holiday gifts and the spirit of Christmas! You'll find the home packed full with handmade and vintage holiday items; ideal for shopping for special family, friends and lake neighbors. It is staffed by local volunteers and has been doing this work for fourteen years. All proceeds are donated to the Starke County Scholarship Foundation to benefit local high school students. It is open through December 21 from 1:00—5:00, and is located at

7700 East Toto Road. www.facebook.com/santasclauzetinknox

BLPOA Meetings—There will be no property owner meetings in December or January. The next BLPOA meeting is on Saturday, February 1. In the meantime, if you have questions, contact President Rick Anderson, barefootrun@mchsi.com.

The Santa Train—The Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum in North Judson will again offer the popular Santa Train.

When: December 21 at 10:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m. & 2:30 p.m. CST

To buy tickets go to www.hoosiervalley.org or call the depot at (574) 896-3950. After your train excursion, be sure to visit the museum where admission is always free. The Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum has one of the nation's largest collections of working railroad signs.

Scoops and Smiles—Eat at Bass Lake Scoops and Smiles is located near the Bass Lake Beach on the south curve of SR 10 (5820 S. 600 East, Knox.) It is a small restaurant that has remained open this fall. It is owned by Jesse and Dannelle Escalante, both local people. They are now serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. There is a full breakfast menu, hamburgers, hot dogs and daily specials. Check out their Facebook page for daily specials: www.facebook.com/scoopsandsmiles1

Changes Coming to the Lake! - Stay tuned for 2020 changes at Bass Lake. Double D's Bait Shop has new owners and changes are planned. It will be closed this winter. Also, if you've been at the lake, you've noted that the old SOS building was stripped to the bones and it now being rebuilt. What can we expect? We'll include the details in future newsletters.



Bass Lake Welcome Team—Gayle Smith heads a welcome effort, focused on all new Bass Lake property owners. If you are selling your lake home, we need to know who the new owners are so we can share information about BLPOA business, garbage contract details and local businesses! Contact Gayle Smith if you'd like to help with the effort to welcome new families to Bass Lake, resmith3_99@yahoo.com, (574) 249-2335.

2020 Family Reunions—If you are looking for space for your family reunion, consider renting the BLPOA Community Center. It has been remodeled and is affordable. Call (574) 772-7761 for more information.

Incredible Bats—Bats, possums and skunks: A trio of furry, native animals notorious for fluttering too close to your head at dusk, knocking over trash cans, and releasing offending smells. But what if we could change your mind about these creatures? The Lilly Center is partnering with Dan and Sharon from Incredible Bats to allow you to experience bats, possums and skunks up close! Learn from the experts about how important they (and other native species) are to the outdoor world you enjoy. You'll also get to visit with the Lilly Center's turtles, frog and fish! Call (574) 372-5100 for more information. www.lakes.grace.edu

When: Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM EST

Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams 200 Seminary Dr, Winona Lake, Indiana 46590