

# BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

## 2026 ANNUAL LETTER

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Dear Fellow Bass Lake Property Owners,

Greetings Bass Lake 2026! Our Membership Drive dates at the Property Owners Building will be **MAY 16** and **JUNE 13**. *Dues will also be collected for 30 minutes after the June 6 property owners meeting.* If you cannot make any of these dates, the \$5 mailing option should be used.

We encourage members to share and visit our website: [www.inbasslake.com](http://www.inbasslake.com) The Board will continue email distributions (members only) with lake information, upcoming events, and meeting agendas. If you are not receiving email updates/news, please contact Kathy Laiter at 773-251-6410 or [info@inbasslake.com](mailto:info@inbasslake.com) with your email address.

### OFFICER AND DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Terry Chmiel, <i>President</i>	574-606-5194	etowncopper50@aol.com
Tom Busch, <i>Vice President</i>	312-882-2966	tombo50@live.com
A.J. Gappa, <i>Treasurer</i>	574-806-4224	aj_gappa@yahoo.com
Kathy Laiter, <i>Secretary</i>	773-251-6410	weskii4@yahoo.com
William Oliver III, <i>Director</i>	765-427-8041	williamdawn.oliver@comcast.net
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Mary Topelian, <i>Director</i>	361-290-2457	mjtopelian@gmail.com
Ron Vendl, <i>Director</i>	574-202-4666	vendlr@yahoo.com
Cathy Wagner, <i>Director</i>	630-921-9720	wagstwo@sbcglobal.net

### MEETING SCHEDULE

Scheduled Bass Lake Property Owners Association (BLPOA) meetings at the property owners building are at 9:00 AM on the following Saturdays:

February 7	May 2	August 15
March 7	June 6 ( <i>Dues collected ½ hour after meeting</i> )	October 3
April 4	July 11 ( <i>Annual Meeting &amp; Board Elections</i> )	

### SCHEDULED EVENTS (*all times listed in this letter are Central Time*)

- **Membership Drive: May 16 and June 13** | 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM
- **County Household Hazardous Waste Collection: May 9** | 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM
- **A Taste of Bass Lake Pizza: May 16** | 5:00 PM
- **DNR Safe Boating Class: TBD** | Location: BLPOA building

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- **Neighborhood Watch Meetings:** *usually* first Monday of month at 10:00 AM starting **February 9**
- **Soup Social:** **September 26** | 5:00 PM

Our association By-laws, list of members who would like their information shared as well as local business advertisers are included in the Annual Directory. If you have not attended a meeting, we invite you to do so. New ideas are always welcome.

### PROCEDURE FOR PROPERTY OWNER REGISTRATION (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM)

2026 BLPOA Membership Forms will be accepted in person at the property owners building at our two membership drives (May 16 and June 13) as well as by US mail.

Fees include: **Membership - \$50.00 / Garbage – 150.00 per cart / Optional Curbside Recycling - \$150.00**

- To register and receive your materials by US mail, use **the \$5 mailing option** on the Membership Form.
- **ALL DUES MUST BE PAID BY JUNE 30, 2026** to avoid garbage/recycle pick-up termination.
- Please type or print information *clearly* on your Membership Form.
- **NEW:** *There will be a \$25 fee for lost or misplaced stickers*

If you are unable to **personally** pick up your directory, pay membership/garbage fees, and do not wish to have your Sticker & Directory mailed to you, follow the instructions below to have someone else pick up your package.

*On your 2026 membership form either make a highlighted note on the form itself (front or back) or attach a signed note to your form with the name of the person you are authorizing to pay for and pick up your BLPOA 2026 membership information. It will then be released only to them. This procedure will alleviate any miscommunication and wrongful distribution of garbage stickers/directories.*

### BLPOA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT FUND

The Bass Lake Property Owners Association signed a Fund Agreement with the Northern Indiana Community Foundation to create an Agency Fund to benefit the BLPOA.

The mission of the Northern Indiana Community Foundation is to improve the quality of life in our communities by assisting donors in fulfilling their charitable wishes forever. We feel that in the future this can lead to a great partnership between the Community Foundation and the Bass Lake Property Owners Association.

Our Agency Fund will provide a place where BLPOA members who choose to give are able to support our organization and help secure the property owners continued needs in the years to come.

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### TRASH PICK UP GUIDELINES

#### **2026 ADHESIVE STICKERS MUST BE ATTACHED TO ALL GARBAGE AND RECYCLE CARTS.**

Apex Waste will provide one 95-gallon cart to each member's home. You are responsible for the cart, and your cart number is registered so please do not move to another location. Please contact Apex to coordinate any issues/damages with your cart(s) by calling their Dispatcher (a fee may be required). You will need to contact the Secretary to obtain a new sticker. As a reminder, all garbage should be inside of the cart with no spill-over or bags sitting on the ground as well as placed off the main road for vehicles passing by. ***One bulk item can be picked up the **FIRST** service day of each month (usually Monday's). For this service you will need to call Apex to advise them of your item and address.*** Please note that a mattress and box spring are considered one item.

Garbage is picked up (usually) on Monday mornings. In 2026 pick-up for Memorial Day and Labor Day are scheduled on Tuesday. In 2026 these dates are May 26 and September 8. When placing your garbage cart out, have the WHEELS of the cart point AWAY from the road (opening roadside). **Your adhesive sticker needs to be placed at the top on the side as the truck approaches** (different color each year). **ONLY APEX CARTS ARE TO BE USED (RED FOR GARBAGE | DARK GRAY or RED w/BLACK LID for RECYCLE)**. Apex stickers will be on approved carts. Other carts will not be accepted/emptied. Guidelines can be found on the inside of the back cover of the directory.

#### **ADDITIONAL VOLUMES OF GARBAGE/TRASH**

Additional items can be picked up with special arrangements by calling the Apex Dispatcher. There may be an extra charge for this type of pick-up service. Items such as leaves, grass clippings, hazardous oil/chemicals, tires, batteries, concrete, dirt, medical waste and appliances such as refrigerators, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, TV's and computers are **NOT ACCEPTABLE**.

#### **CURBSIDE RECYCLING - OPTIONAL**

Curbside recycling is available to members at a cost of \$150.00 per year (per cart) and is included as an option on the BLPOA Membership Form. Recycling can also be done at the Starke County Recycle Facility located at the County Garage on 250 North and US 35.

### OTHER IMPORTANT ITEMS

#### **ADOPT-A-BUOY**

This program adds buoys to areas of the lake to give our members more shoreline protection. Adopt-a-buoy volunteers place buoys out approximately 350 feet from **their** shoreline. At the end of summer, they remove the buoy and store them for the winter season. Remember, the BLPOA purchases the buoys, however, if you adopt a buoy "you put it in, you take it out." Please contact Gary Laiter (773-750-4049) if you no longer want your buoy, if you would like a buoy and would like to become a "caretaker", or if your buoy is damaged.

**NOTE:** Copies of the Rules of Waters are available online at the DNR site: [www.in.gov/dnr](http://www.in.gov/dnr)

#### **BLPOA PROPERTY OWNERS BUILDING**

Single rooms or the entire building is available for rent. The rental fees are listed in the BLPOA Directory and on the BLPOA Website. Call 574-772-7761 for availability and scheduling.

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### **BOATER EDUCATION AND SAFETY CLASS – TBD**

The DNR will offer a Boater's Education and Safety Class at Bass Lake on Saturday, June TBD, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the BLPOA building. Online pre-registration is requested and can be done at:

<https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/224301>

If you cannot make it this year keep in mind there is next year.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

All volunteers donate their time, gas, and cars to patrol the Bass Lake area. Any suspicious activities are reported to the Sheriff's Department. This is a year-round patrol that strives to keep your property safe while you are away. If you have any questions, please call Ron Vendl at 574-202-4666, or [vendlr@yahoo.com](mailto:vendlr@yahoo.com) for more information. Neighborhood Watch meetings are usually held on the first Monday of each month at 10:00 AM at the property owners building. The first meeting will be on Monday, February 9 at 10:00 AM.

## **STARKE COUNTY GOLF CART ORDINANCE / STICKER**

The Starke County Sheriff Department has implemented a new procedure to obtain your golf cart sticker. You need to complete a form that requires a signature attesting that your cart and insurance information is accurate and current. The form can be found on Sheriff's website as well as ours.

You will need to take your completed form and a check/cash for \$25 to the Justice Center located at 5435 E State Road 8. Their hours are 24/7 for everyone's convenience. *It should be noted after June 30 the fee is \$50 to include a late fee.*

Starke County golf cart ordinance and operating permit can be viewed via their web site:

<https://starkecountysheriff.com/>

### **BASS LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

The Bass Lake Conservancy District ("BLCD") was created by the Starke County Circuit Court in accordance with the requirements of the Indiana Conservancy District Act. BLCD owns and operates the sewer system that services the residents of Bass Lake. It is also involved in lake water quality control (i.e. invasive weed control) and during certain times of the year will pump water into the lake in an effort to maintain the lake level. The BLCD meets on the second Monday of the month at 6:00 PM CST at the BLPOA building.

The BLCD sanitary system use ordinance PROHIBITS sump pumps and other clear water sources from being connected to the sanitary sewer system. Following a scheduled inspection, homeowners who are found to have these illegal connections can be fined up to \$1,500 per day.

In the past, the Conservancy District has had problems with inappropriate items being flushed into the system. Please **DO NOT** dispose of any of these items in the toilet: disposable diapers, baby wipes, depends, feminine products, flushable cleansing wipes, dental floss, and paper toweling. The lift stations are unable to pump these items through the lines to the treatment plant. As a result, pumps are clogged and damaged. ***FLUSH ONLY TOILET PAPER AND HUMAN WASTE.*** In many cases it is possible to identify where these items originate; and a homeowner may be held responsible for any damage/repairs to the pumping station because of this negligence.

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The BLCD works diligently to keep members informed about important events and information that may affect you. If you would like to stay up-to-date on lake health, rainfall totals, pump output, weed control or other useful statistics, please visit the BLCD website at: <https://basslakecd.in.gov/>. If you are on the sewer system and would like to sign up for monthly ACH/EFT payments, you can find that information (and form) on the BLCD website.

If you have questions regarding the sanitary sewer system or want to register your email with us, please call the BLCD office at 574-772-2974 or visit us at **[www.BassLakeCD.IN.GOV](http://www.BassLakeCD.IN.GOV)**. For emergencies only call 574-806-1707.

### **BASS LAKE FESTIVAL**

In 2026 the festival will be held **July 24, 25 & 26**. The Committee's mission is to showcase the beauty and diversity of the lake, promote local businesses, provide family entertainment and build community spirit within and outside Starke County. Check the festival website **[www.basslakefest.com](http://www.basslakefest.com)** regularly to stay updated with the latest news and information. Entry forms for the events and activities are on the website which may be downloaded and mailed to: Bass Lake Festival Association, P.O. Box 455, Knox, IN 46534. Volunteers are always needed, and the committee can use your help no matter how large or small. Please contact Tabitha Dillner, President, (219-314-2030) for further information.

### **STARKE COUNTY HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT – MAY 9**

A Starke County Residential Household Hazardous Waste Collection event is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, from 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM. Their location is 3835 E. 250 N (north of Knox). Additional information can be found on our website as well as the Starke County website: <https://starke.in.gov/>

***See you on, at, or in the lake – the 2026/2027 BLPOA Board!***