



**ECHOES FROM OUR LAKE**  
**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WALKER LAKESHORES**  
**LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION**  
**SUMMER 2013**  
**VOLUME 131**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello everyone! I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped and continues to help in the continuous task of beautifying our wonderful living environment here at Walker Lake. For the first time in many years, more residents have become involved with our community, and we have a Board of Directors that continues to look-out for everything that is in the best interests of our residents. In the past there were complaints about this and that, but truthfully, I can count on one hand the number of complaints that I have received as far back as I can remember. Of course when things are going smoothly and everything is being done in the best interests of the community, there are always that one or two naysayers lurking about who just can't seem to grasp the idea of being positive...and can't grasp the fact that things are moving forward in a positive direction. As a community living in harmony, though, these naysayers are but a mere speck of dust in the grand scheme of things. To be able to see, hear and read the tremendous amount of compliments concerning the present state of the Walker Lake community is what it's all about! And it doesn't end here. More things are planned for the very near future; things that will greatly enhance your living environment in Walker Lake...and make Walker Lake the destination for not only new property owners in all four (4) subdivisions, but will also make you more proud to boast about where you presently live!

Take a walking tour, (or rather, drive like me!), into the community down Maple Drive. See the beautiful new Forest Green mailboxes on the left. Make a left on to Walker Lake Drive and see the beautiful new professional grade tennis court. Move on past the tennis court and make a right to take in the beautiful new landscaping and foliage along the perimeter of the clubhouse. And then, before you know it, you'll be practically on top of the new basketball court that was also recently completed. Turn right on to Mohawk Drive and when you get back to Maple Drive you'll come upon the newly asphalted roadway running down Maple Drive to the left. Make a left on one of the roads off of Maple Drive and go down to the end to Lake Shore Drive. Make a right turn and go to the boat launch/dam area of Walker Lake and you will immediately see the new boat slip that has been installed. Actually, with this boat slip getting so much use, a wider one, (one foot wider), will be taking the place of this one in a very short time. We were fortunate enough to be able to trade this new one in for another new one without any added expense. The residents asked for this...and the residents will be getting this.

Okay...enough verbiage from me...there's plenty more to read in this edition of the Newsletter. So take the rest of the tour at your leisure...and don't forget to check out the new upgrades at the Clubhouse beach and also Sandy beach. Oh, and the new...what I call...port-a-potty...at the Clubhouse beach!

I hope to see you all at the annual Walker Lake shindig on Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. Until then, I remain...

Your humble servant,

Art W. Politano

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Get out your calendars and pens because some fun activities are scheduled for July and you don't want to miss them.

The annual ***Penny Social*** scheduled for July 6. The doors open at 5:00 pm, calling at 7:00 pm. Gather up your family and friends and join us for a fun filled evening. Hope to see you there.

Then it is time for the annual ***Picnic***. This year, it will be a carnival extravaganza on Saturday July 27<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 6:00 pm at the clubhouse. Catered by Kevin's Hog Heaven, we'll be offering pulled pork, beef brisket, chicken tenders, hamburgers and hot dogs. Complimenting this feast will be a variety of salads, etc. We are renting machines to make cotton candy, sno-cones, popcorn and funnel cakes.

To help the kids burn off calories from all the food, we are renting a bouncy house and under the big tent will be featuring "***Macaroni the Clown***."

Bring your appetite and a chair as the latter will be in short supply. Members please call the office or stop in to sign up to make your reservation. If you want to bring a guest or guests it will be \$5.00 per guest...children under 10 are free. All payments need to be made at the office before the event.



There will be a table upon entering and your hand will be stamped to enjoy all the festivities and food! **Bring a dessert** to share if you wish.

And, as with any event like this, volunteers are needed to help man the machines, supervise the bouncy house and more. Please call Fran 296-5528 or Art 296-7788. It will be a lot of fun for all.

We have a ***double casino trip*** to the ***Sands*** and ***Mt.Airy*** scheduled for Thursday, August 8th. The cost is \$30.00 per person and we will be getting back sometime after 10:00 PM. Call Fran 296-5528 to reserve your seat.

Our trip to Lancaster in May was a huge success. We enjoyed "***Noah***" at the ***Sight and Sound Theater*** and a delicious buffet at ***Hershey Farms***. There was plenty of time to shop and bring home some of the best that ***Lancaster*** had to offer! A trip to Lancaster in the fall is currently in the planning stages.

Plans for a ***Christmas*** party and dinner is currently in the works.

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## COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION

Your ***Association*** hasn't been idle through the long winter. A number of major and minor enhancements have been completed in time for the summer beach and outdoor season.

First of all, our **tennis court** has been rebuilt to provide excellent playing conditions. It is a vast improvement over the previous court that had never been properly installed and had fallen on hard times. Check it out and start playing or learn how!

Next to the tennis court we have installed a top notch **basketball goal** and laid out a regulation size half-court. It has already seen a lot of usage and we hope that will continue.

The new **mail boxes** are installed and operational at the Maple Drive entrance. Everyone will agree that they make a very nice impression upon entering our community.

As soon as the post office installs the locks for the parcel boxes in the new units, the old ones will come down. If you were lucky enough to get a new mailbox and move away from the stand-alone mailbox, please remove the latter as soon as possible. We are also looking into paving costs for the area to keep mud under control.



A new **boat slip** is in place at the boat dock area and will make it easier to get your watercraft into and out of the lake.

There is a **Porta-John** near the Clubhouse beach so people taking advantage of the lake don't have to worry if the clubhouse facilities will be open. They are contracted to be cleaned weekly. If you find it a mess, please let the office know.

A variety of **road** and **culvert projects** have been completed and as of this writing, all **potholes** repaired. If you currently have an issue with a road that we might have overlooked, please let the office know.

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## NEW COMMITTEE FORMED

As the **community** is shaping up, a new committee (**Oversight Committee**) was formed to help keep up the overall appearance of the neighborhood. This group will look at all properties within WLLA. If/when they see something that presents a hazard to the public or is unsightly, the committee will send a letter asking that the problem be resolved. If it is not resolved, a fine will be levied and ultimately legal action will be taken.

What qualifies for attention by this committee? Dilapidated structures about ready to fall down, piles or large individual pieces of junk, trash and debris such as old mattresses and construction material, etc.

*Want to be part of the committee? Contact Scott Rando to sign up. Not sure if badges are involved, but hey, you never know...*

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## SECURITY

A couple of small fires caused concern in late winter. The police have informed us that they suspect an arsonist lives in one of our member developments. Please keep an eye open for suspicious activity and report it at once to the police (no, not the office this time as in all the previous cases). You can let the office know later but get the police involved ASAP.

Otherwise, the security team has had no incidents to report, which is a good thing. They continue to patrol at irregular intervals so no pattern is set that those intent on “evil deeds” can figure out. Again, keep your eyes open and notify the office of any suspicious activities or call the police if it looks serious.

To help our security folks keep things in order, please be sure to display your Association parking stickers and wear your beach passes at all times (when using the beaches). Lack of such identification is clear cause for security to ask you to leave.

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## CONSTERNATION WITH CANADA GEESE

Scott Rando

Folks have been noticing a quantity of geese on the lake along with the accompanying mess (each adult goose is capable of producing up to a pound of guano per day). From what can be seen, there are 3 broods of young geese totaling around 10 and 3 pair of breeding adults (totaling 6). Along with the 3 broods are a flock of non-breeding geese that varies from around 10 to perhaps 20 geese; most of these fly in from Little Walker Lake and other nearby waterways daily or near daily to feast on the lush lawn along the shores of Walker Lake. Our young count is down and the non-breeder count is up, making for a near typical year on average.



WLLA was partially successful in our nest adding program, but the majority of the nests that affect Walker Lake are not on WLLA property and cannot be accessed. After hatching, many goose families move considerable distances to brood-rearing areas where food is readily available in the form of lush lakeside lawns. Many of the nearby waterways had nesting activity this spring.

The adult geese are currently molting, which means that they will be flightless until around mid-July. The only good news about all this goose biology is that around the same time in July, the young have fledged and have the ability to fly; based on past experience, they usually leave the lake around the first week of August with a little help in the form of harassment.

The question has been asked on whether WLLA can get a permit for depredation (trapping or shooting). That question has come up in the past, and we have found out that we are below the threshold of geese/impact damage that can trigger a depredation permit. Our lake consultant, Joe Gallagher, keeps on top of the permitting process on state and federal levels.

In the meantime, there are things you can do to keep the geese from coming up on your shorefront property. Reflective ribbon (give a couple of twists as you run it) and reflective pinwheels are effective; the little party favors are great, but here is a real fancy one if you are so inclined: <http://www.birdcontrolsupplies.com/geesecontrol1.htm> . Use the reflective material where it catches the sun; it's the UV light that disturbs the geese. Short pieces of Mylar tape can be used on docks as well. (If a dock is too high for a goose to hop up on it, they will usually avoid it.)

Waterfront fencing is an option, but only if the geese do not walk over from your neighbors unfenced waterfront. Low slung heavier monofilament line can even be used; use tin foil ribbons for better effect and to warn people that there is a trip hazard where the fence is. Consider landscaping with shoreline shrubs or tall grasses. Geese avoid obscured shore areas where predators can hide. Try to eliminate large open areas of “beachhead” where geese can just walk up on shore.

Until the geese get through the molting process in time for the annual August Goose Shoo, there is little to be done except for “goose proofing” your property or think about ways to make it less attractive to geese in the future.

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## **UPCOMING ELECTIONS FOR OFFICERS AND BOARD**

At the General Membership Meeting in June, attendees had the opportunity to nominate people positions on the Board and for existing Board Members to run for one of the officer spots. Since neither situation occurred, all three incumbents are unopposed. There can be no further nominations so a unanimous ballot cast or decree will be made at the next General Membership meeting. Barbara DiMaio will be returning as a Board member as will be Art Politano and Fran Orth. The latter two will also remain President and Vice President respectively for another term.

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## **RUMBLINGS OF WATER PROBLEMS**

Many may have heard that the water quality of the lake has been compromised with e-coli and other nasty agents. And, as a result, the beaches will have to be closed and other drastic measures taken. This is not the case. Right after a heavy rain in June, the e-coli level did turn up higher than would be liked at the inlet near Sandy Beach. However, subsequent tests (they are performed weekly) have shown a drop back to normal levels. There is no problem with the water quality. It appears to have been related to the heavy rain and resulting run off.

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## **SUMMER SAFETY**

Guess what? It is hurricane season once again. Didn't we just finish this dance? Time to dust off the old storm prep plans and make sure they are up-to-date.

- Scour your list of contact numbers to reflect the most recent changes.
- Update the list of any critical medications you are taking.
- Rotate your water inventory. By this I mean if you have water in jugs, use it now and replace it with fresh. Not that it has a shelf life but it can develop a plastic taste.
- Put aside a small amount of non-perishable food (3 day's supply is recommended).
- Take advantage of Red Cross apps for smart phones. These include tornado, hurricane, wildfire and earthquake alerts plus another each for finding shelters and basic first aid. Their site also offers an array of preparedness tips. Find out more here: <http://www.redcross.org/> then scroll down to the bottom and click on the last link in the Plan & Prepare column.
- You can also visit my employer's website, <http://www.sussecrec.com> and click on the Weather Center link down the left hand side.