

# LACKA - NEWS

5/20/98

SPRING 1998

## RICHARD F. KMEC

LACKA-NEWS readers are accustomed to seeing a "Message from the President" column by Richard Kmec on the first or second page. As most of you know, Rich passed away suddenly in December, 1997. Rich assumed the position of President in 1995, after serving several years as Vice President. A successful businessman, he stressed the importance of running LLIC like a business. Under his leadership, LLIC has gone from always being in arrears on property taxes to being able to improve key properties such as the clubhouse and beach for the benefit of all members. *We miss you, Rich.*

## SEWER SYSTEM EXTENSION vs. SEPTIC MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The Lake Lackawanna Environmental Committee solicited bids from several consulting firms for a study on whether our needs would be better served by sewer extension or a septic management program. After extensive review, the LLEC determined that Thonet Associates Inc. of South Orange was the most responsive bidder. We forwarded our selection to Byram Township. After review by the State of New Jersey, Byram Township has awarded a contract to Thonet Associates. A "kick-off" meeting was held with Dr. John Thonet on May 5th, including a tour of the lake area and discussions about our objectives and concerns. Field work will commence shortly.

The Lake Lackawanna Environmental Committee appreciates the assistance and cooperation of Mayor Bowe, Ron Gatti (Township Manager), and Margaret McGarrity of the Byram Environmental Commission.

## SWIM LESSON REGISTRATION

Kim Utter will hold Swim lesson registration at the beach on Tuesday June 23rd from 7 - 8 PM. *This registration is strictly for new members or members who did not participate in the swim lesson program last year. All members in the program last year are automatically registered in the program. The times for the program and names for each level will be posted at the beach by the beginning of July.*

The dates for the program will be:

Monday: July 6th, July 13th, July 20th  
Tuesday: July 7th, July 14th, July 21st  
Wednesday: July 8th, July 15th, July 22nd  
Thursday: July 9th, July 16th, July 23rd

Fridays July 10th & 17th will be reserved for raindates or special needs. Classes will be held in the morning at the beach.

*If you have any questions, please contact Kim Utter at 347-2313.*

## WELCOME, NEW NEIGHBORS!

We are pleased to welcome Su-Ann Whitehead, who purchased Mary Sullivan's house, Nancy Green, who purchased Valerie Cannata's house, and Laura Hamblen, who purchased the Jackloski's house.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Ryan Thelin, son of Sarah Thelin and the late Mark O. Thelin, was on the Dean's List at Rutgers University College of Pharmacy for the Fall 1997 semester. Keep up the excellent work, Ryan.



\*\*\*\*\* We received this anonymous letter recently, and wanted to have the opportunity to respond to the issues questioned.\*\*\*\*\*

I would like to bring to your attention my concerns regarding Lake Lackawanna. I have been a resident for well over 20 years and in the past few years have witnessed this lake going down hill. May I bring to your attention that on the evening of Tuesday, April 7 at approximately 11:30 at night there was a boat driving at high speeds around the lake. The boat appeared to have kids on it. They parked in the middle of the lake and proceeded to be loud and from what I could gather were also swimming (it is only April). This behavior cannot be tolerated. Besides being April, it was pitch dark and this boat was ripping around like nothing. There are several large motor boats that are practically airborne driving around this lake.

Also, if anyone cares to notice, the quality of our lake water is horrendous. Having a warm winter will only complicate the water. There are so many weeds already it is almost unmanageable. Have you ever visited Forest Lakes, Panther Lake or any other small lake community in our area? Well, if we don't do something about the boats on this water, the lake will die. It is absurd that we permit unlimited horsepower on a lake of this size. The lake committee keeps treating the water and this only creates more muck at the bottom. If you people want this water to survive, it should be only electric motors permitted. Your lake committee people are always so worried about money, but do they realize that if the lake suffocates, their property values will be nil!

Being an active environmentalist, I cannot sit by and let this happen to something I care deeply about. I have written to the State to report the conditions of this water and I will be contacting the State Police to notify them of the antics that take place here. I know that most of the trouble comes from lake committee members themselves and I can bet that the youngsters that were out last night were indeed someone's relatives. But again, it will go unnoticed. I will not let this lie. I will contact every organization there is.

***A concerned neighbor.***

Dear 'concerned' neighbor:

While we would have liked to discuss your concerns about our lake with you, we had no other path to respond to your complaints than through a public forum since you chose not to sign your letter. We hope that this response reaches you;; however since many of your concerns have been discussed in previous issues of our local **Lacka-News**, we wonder if you read this publication. Perhaps others will gain additional insight and/or come forward to offer their concerns and ideas for improvements. In the **Lacka-News**, we routinely invite our concerned neighbors

to attend our monthly Board of Directors meetings. The first half hour of each meeting is open to the public, but we rarely see our 'concerned' neighbors. Let me also state that the Board members have chosen to join this group in hopes to improve the lake conditions and our community's life style. We also welcome any one in our community to become actively involved in constructively helping us improve our neighborhood by offering to organize an activity or joining any of the Board's sub-committees (i.e. Lake Committee, Environmental Committee, Clubhouse Committee, Beach Committee, etc.). Reporting "us" to the State and other organizations is much less constructive than joining "us" in a pro-active role.

Now, let us address your specific complaints. First, the boater on April 7 was reported to the parent (who is NOT a Board member), and we requested his boat be taken out of the water until his 1998 annual membership was paid. While we share your concern about the careless behavior, we must treat our neighbors with respect and trust in order to work as a community. In return, we hope that our neighbors will choose to respect us by obeying the safety rules established for this lake. These rules are provided to each residence after they pay their annual membership dues. Additionally, the boaters rules were posted in last Spring's issue of **Lacka-News**. Although we allow high-speed motors, we have established speed limits on our lake. If everyone would abide by these, the size of the motors would not be an issue. However, there are rule breakers that continue to present problems for the Board, the Lake Committee, and the entire community. Policing our lake is a delicate and distasteful job. We need all of our neighbors to help with this. When rules are being broken, every lake member has a responsibility to bring it to the violator's attention. After all, it's your safety at stake! If the violator does not correct his behavior when requested, then a member of the Lake Committee should be contacted for assistance. While the Board contacts the State Marine Police every year for help, they have not been an effective solution simply due to the time it takes them to get here. If you would like to assist the Lake Committee in by reporting violations, we would welcome your help!

The second issue raised is regarding lake quality. This is a real insult to those who work so hard to ensure that our lake remains safe for swimmers and boaters. Yes, boaters - if it were not for the boaters paying the majority of lake membership dues and the fact that the boat traffic helps **CONTROL** the weed growth, our lake would already be "unmanageable". If we were to have electric motors only on this shallow lake, the weeds would overtake it very quickly; and we would not have the funding brought in by the motor boat owners to pay for weed treatments. The primary difference between Lake Lackawanna and the other lakes you mention is the depth of our lake. While dredging may be the best solution to save our lake, this cannot be done without State approval (which requires analytical studies) and a large amount of cash reserve. This is why it is so important for each and every residence



in our community to do their part by paying their annual membership dues. So, YES, the Board is worried about money, because we realize how much money is needed to investigate ways to help save our lake (and our property values). Furthermore, I have to assume you have not read the articles about the important work our Environmental Committee has been doing. Recently, due to their pursuance, we received a grant from the State to conduct a study on the effects our septic systems are having on our lake's eutrophication and the possibility of extending Byram's sewer system to our area. They also applied for a state grant to fix our storm drains and for a low-interest state loan to have boring samples taken to determine the feasibility of dredging our lake to increase its depth. Although we were unsuccessful in obtaining this funding, we will continue to pursue every opportunity available to us. This committee was formed last year by 'concerned' Board members and other 'concerned' community members. They are involved in many projects aimed at saving our lake and would welcome any offers for active participation.

As for the quality of our water, you must realize that there are state regulations that we are mandated to follow to ensure that the water quality at the beach is fit for swimming. We have raised our children in this community - do you actually think that Board members would allow our loved ones to swim in this water if it were unsafe? During the summer season, the water is tested at least WEEKLY by a State Agency (not by the Board).

As a final note to our 'concerned' neighbor, We found this letter offensive. It belittled all of the hard work that Board members and various residents have put into trying to make a difference in this community! We also care deeply about our lake - it is our home, too. That is why we volunteer our time to protect our community and lake. If you believe that the trouble comes from the lake committee members themselves, then the solution is simple - join that committee and make a difference!

**Please don't criticize - unless you have all of the facts - AND, are willing to offer to be part of the solution!**

If any one wants to volunteer their time and/or expertise, please contact LLIC at PO Box 89, Stanhope.

We recently contacted the NJ Marine State Police and they have since visited our lake. They indicated that **all complaints** should be phoned into the dispatch center at 973-663-3400. If you give specifics on what type of boat and/or identification, they can take action even if they don't see a violation. If the Marine Police receive repeated complaints about a specific boat, they will revoke its privileges on Lake Lackawanna.

## REPLACING AN UNDERGROUND OIL TANK

*by Rich Volk*

My wife, Betsy, and I began wondering how sound our 20 year-old underground oil tank was? We have friends who had a problem with a 15 year-old tank. We also noticed last year when we renewed our tank insurance that the premium for underground tanks was twice as high as for above-ground tanks.

We talked to Rick Donofrio of Richard's Oil Burner service and learned that we could easily fit a new tank in an alcove of our garage. We also learned that there are larger-capacity above ground tanks (330 gallons vs 275), which are a foot longer, at a slightly higher cost. Rick recommended LBR Oil Tank Services of Mine Hill for removing our old tank. We learned from the owner, Lou Riddick, that we could have our old tank cleaned, certified, and filled with sand or completely removed. The latter option was \$100 higher than filling with sand.

We obtained a permit from Byram Township for installation of the new tank and removal of the old tank for a fee of \$88. Bonnie Oscovitch, a secretary at the Municipal Building, was very helpful in processing the paperwork. We spent a weekend moving things around in our garage to make room for the new tank. (Our boat is still blocked by furniture and tools.) The new tank was installed and oil transferred in an afternoon.

Removal of the old tank entailed uncovering it and cutting an access hole. Frank Dill, the Building Inspector checked the site. A waste oil company pumped the residual oil and then scrubbed the tank. Lou Riddick then dug it out completely with a backhoe, had a load of gravel delivered to fill the hole, and put back the dirt which had covered the tank. It is hard to tell that any work was done at the site. ***Our old tank looked very sound, when removed, but we feel better knowing that it's no longer in the ground.***



## LAKE LACKAWANNA CONTACT PEOPLE

### PRESIDENT (Rules, Regulations)

**Ed Klingener** 347-1281

### VICE PRESIDENT (Rules, Regulations)

**Art Hoffman** 347-4128

### BEACH (Lifeguards, Guest Badges)

**Gary Smith** 347-6373

### LAKE (Weed control, boat control)

**Brian Conklin** 691-8833

### FORESTRY (Hunting, Land Usage)

**Skot Koenig** 691-8761

### CLUBHOUSE (Rentals, activities)

**Mike Bourlier** 691-9292

### REAL ESTATE

**Bill Koellhoffer** 691-4955

### ENVIRONMENTAL

**Dave Shepherd** 347-6949

### GOLF COURSE

**Tim Walker** 347-1172

### CORPORATE SECRETARY (Stock Transfers)

**Rich Volk** 347-7770

### **LACKA-NEWS Staff:**

**Editor:** Richard Volk

**Contributors:** Art Hoffman,  
Sarah Thelin

**WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS AND  
SUGGESTIONS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO  
HAVE AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE  
NEXT ISSUE (EARLY AUGUST 1998),  
PLEASE MAIL IT TO:**

**LLIC, ATTN: LACKA-NEWS**

**PO BOX 89**

**STANHOPE, NJ 07874**

## **LAKE LOWERING**

LLIC plans to apply for permits to lower Lake Lackawanna in October 1998. Now is the time to plan your bulkhead repairs and improvements.

## **LAKE LACKAWANNA SWEATSHIRTS, TEE'S and SWEATPANTS**

We have found a vendor for Lake Lackawanna apparel, including Sweatshirts, T-shirts, Staff Shirts and Sweatpants, at prices from \$10.00 to \$20.00 each. All items have a swan emblem. There is an order form on the next page. If you are interested, please return the order form and your check, payable to "LLIC", to

**L.L.I.C.**

**P.O Box 89**

**Stanhope, NJ 07874**



