



The SHORELINE

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Keeping Busy During the Winter Months

Summer months are certainly the fun months on Buckeye Lake and the warm weather passes much too quickly for most of us. The cold weather forces many to flee to warmer climates, however, for some of us, winter is the time for a lot of behind-the-scenes work that must be done. This year will be no exception to the rule. There is much that will keep us busy for the next few months.

We will continue to work with the West Bank Homeowners Association and ODNR to reach an acceptable plan for the dam improvement project that will involve the construction of a new structure in front of their homes. Resolving the many issues that are a part of any project of this magnitude has involved many meetings and progress is moving very slowly.

The work with the South Licking Conservancy District will continue, as solutions are sought for the flooding that continues to plague areas in the Village of Buckeye Lake and Walnut Township. There are many unresolved issues that must be addressed before an acceptable plan can be moved forward and we will be involved in many of these meetings.

As might be expected, the plight of the residents in Thorn Township who have no access to a waste water treatment facility will continue to involve many hours with our elected officials, as we work with the Honey Creek Homeowners Association to reach an acceptable resolution to this ongoing problem that indirectly impacts every resident who lives on the shoreline of Buckeye Lake.

We are also beginning the work with Fairfield, Licking and Perry County officials to assure that there are coordinated efforts in place to deal with emergency management issues. This is uncharted territory for most of us, but in an ever-changing world, it seems prudent to take the steps necessary to assure our safety and ability to deal with the unexpected.

There will also be the normal planning for the events of next summer. The boat parade, the Tour of Homes and the various fund-raisers will require our best efforts and the cold weather seems to be the best time to get this preparatory work completed.

So, if you're looking for something to do this winter... [well, you know the rest]



WANTED: Waste Water Treatment Facility

You pull the handle and then run to the window to watch the backyard bubble-up. That is the plight faced by many of our neighbors who live off of Honey Creek between Heron Bay and Buckeye Bay.

When the rest of the shoreline communities around Buckeye Lake got sewer service in 1987, Perry County residents were not included. The decision was made, at the time, that would permit Perry County to develop their own system. Well, some 20 years later, that development is still waiting to take place and there appears to be no activity that would indicate that they are any closer than they were in 1987.

This decision to not be a part of the Licking County system not only affects the 295 households

along Honey Creek Road, it also impacts all of the sites in Fireman's Park. In addition, the lack of a waste water treatment facility for these residents also impacts every person who chooses to swim in the swimming area across from Papa Boo's. This swim area is located at the mouth of two channels that empty septic tank drainage into the lake. Although the pollutants are diluted throughout the rest of the lake, the pollution is there and impacts every homeowner around the lake.

There is no doubt that Buckeye Lake is a much cleaner lake than it was 30 years ago. The completion of the current sewer system around the lake and improved management practices have made a major impact on the condition of the lake. That improvement, how-

ever, is no reason to continue to dump sewage into the lake.

The residents have formed a group [The Honey Creek Homeowners Association] to work on this problem and are currently seeking solutions with their local elected officials. We are also working with them as well as State and Federal Legislators to bring resolution to this problem that has existed for much too long.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has also been contacted and is currently involved in better enforcement of existing pollution laws to force speedier action than has taken place over the past several decades.

Our plans are to stay involved in this situation until such time that a successful outcome is realized.

Park Fountain to get a Face Lift

Plans are being developed to improve the area around the fountain at the North Shore Boat Ramp area.

Dick Crumley is working with ODNR on the final drawings for plans to install an 8 foot walkway around the fountain. This project will replace the existing split-rail fence that currently surrounds the fountain.

The walkway is intended to be made of pavers and will include 3 to 4 benches as an integral part of the new structure.

This project will be a community effort, coordinated by the Civic Association.



The Greater Buckeye Lake Historical Society will provide some financial assistance. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources will provide some of the equipment and manpower for initial excavation. The Civic Association will provide much of the volunteer

labor and material for the walkway.

It is anticipated that there will be ample opportunity for individuals and businesses to participate through additional contributions and donations.

The fountain was the focal point of the amusement park that was the pride of Buckeye Lake during the 1940s and 50s. It was scheduled to be demolished in the late 80's, but was rescued and preserved by several local groups including the Civic Association. It is the only remnant of the original amusement park and should be preserved as an important landmark of the community.

Schedule of Events for 2006

JANUARY

- ◆ 18th—Trustee Meeting

FEBRUARY

- ◆ 15th—Trustee Meeting

MARCH

- ◆ 15th—Trustee Meeting

APRIL

- ◆ 18th—VIP Days*
- ◆ 19th—Dinner / Meeting
Eagles—Buckeye Lake

MAY

- ◆ 17th—Trustee Meeting
- ◆ 18th—Reverse Raffle/Auction
Harbor Hills
- ◆ 20th—VIP Days*

JUNE

- ◆ 21st—Trustee Meeting
- ◆ 24th—VIP Days*

JULY

- ◆ 4th—Boat Parade
- ◆ 19th—Picnic / Meeting
AMVETS—Thornport
- ◆ 25th—VIP Days*

AUGUST

- ◆ 13th—Tour of Homes
- ◆ 16th—Trustee Meeting

SEPTEMBER

- ◆ 20th—Dinner / Meeting
Eagles—Buckeye Lake

OCTOBER

- ◆ 18th—Trustee Meeting

NOVEMBER

- ◆ 15th—Trustee Meeting

*Volunteers In the Park

Maple Bay Dredging to Begin in Spring

The last week in September, the preparatory digging had begun for the dredging of Maple Bay. ODNr workers were busy making a trench for the dredge piping that will carry the sediment to the upland site that was developed this past summer.

All of this activity follows over 15 years of work by various individuals to improve the navigation channel in Maple Bay.

Over that period of time, several possible solutions have been presented and rejected for one reason or another. But, it appears that our persistence has finally paid off. Even with the approval of the current site, however, there were last minute hurdles to overcome before any work could begin.

An archeological study was done on the site to assure that no artifacts from the past would be damaged or destroyed. Then a study of the history of wet lands in the area was required to assure that

no current or ancient wet land would be disturbed. Earlier studies had put to rest the concerns over disturbing the Great Blue Heron breeding grounds.

The plans are now in place to begin the actual dredging of Maple Bay this spring. Those plans call for dredging a 50 foot wide channel, that will basically follow the current shoreline channel, to a depth of 6 feet. Current plans call for a 3-4 year project that will start at the west entrance to Maple Bay and will extend to the culvert at the east end of the Bay.

Special precautions will be taken to stay at least 15 feet away from any existing retaining walls or boat docks, to mitigate the danger of undercutting any of the existing structures on the shoreline.

There are no plans to remove anything other than the sediment that has accumulated over the years. Some of the dredge islands that have been formed in the past

will also be removed with this project.

For the past several years, this beautiful section of Buckeye Lake has been difficult to navigate for all but the pontoon boats and a few outboard V-hulls, and then only with the motors lifted much higher than normal. Most I/Os gave up on going back there several years ago.

During the actual dredging, we may have to take a different route through and around Maple Bay to avoid the equipment that will be floating in that area, but ODNr will keep as much open as possible during the construction period.

Many thanks to Dick Wolfe, who has put many years into this project. He has been involved in one way or another for the entire 15 year period that we have been trying to move this project forward.

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The **Shoreline** is published and distributed quarterly to members of the Buckeye Lake Area Civic Association and elected public officials with an interest in the general welfare of the resident districts around Buckeye Lake in Fairfield, Licking and Perry Counties.



Sign Up a New Member Today

U.S Congressman Visits with BLACA

United States Congressman, Robert Ney, visited with BLACA President, Merv Bartholow on October 8th during a special breakfast meeting at the Cherry Valley Lodge.

Congressman Ney had requested the meeting through Trustee, Ron Van Atta, to better enable him to represent the communities around Buckeye Lake.

The discussion focused on the flooding project that is underway, creating a dry reservoir at the intersection of I-70 and Route 37. There was also much interest expressed in our involvement with the need for a waste water treatment facility for the Honey Creek residents in Thorn Township.

He was extremely pleased with the projects that have been completed and planned for the State parks around the lake.

The 90 minute meeting was very enlightening for both of the participants. Future support from the Congressman is anticipated as we move forward with the various projects around the lake.

You can Double our Membership This Month

A chain is only as strong as its weakest link and that old adage also applies to your Civic Association. While our membership has grown significantly the past few years, so has the population that we represent. When we meet with our elected officials, our credibility is judged by the size of our membership. Although we enjoy a very positive position with most of our public officials, a larger membership would only strengthen our voice and influence on issues impacting our community.

Thanks to your past support, we have achieved much, however, much remains to be accomplished. Invite and encourage your friends and neighbors to become a member of the Buckeye Lake Area Civic Association. If everyone signs up one new member, we will double our membership this month. Why not do your part and make this goal a reality?

Thank you in advance for your positive support.

New Membership Application

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone # _____ E-Mail _____

Family Membership (\$10.00) _____ Business Membership (\$25.00) _____