

Indian Lake Smoke Signal

• INDIAN LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION •

President's Message

by Mark Rumreich

Westminster Village North Litigation Settled

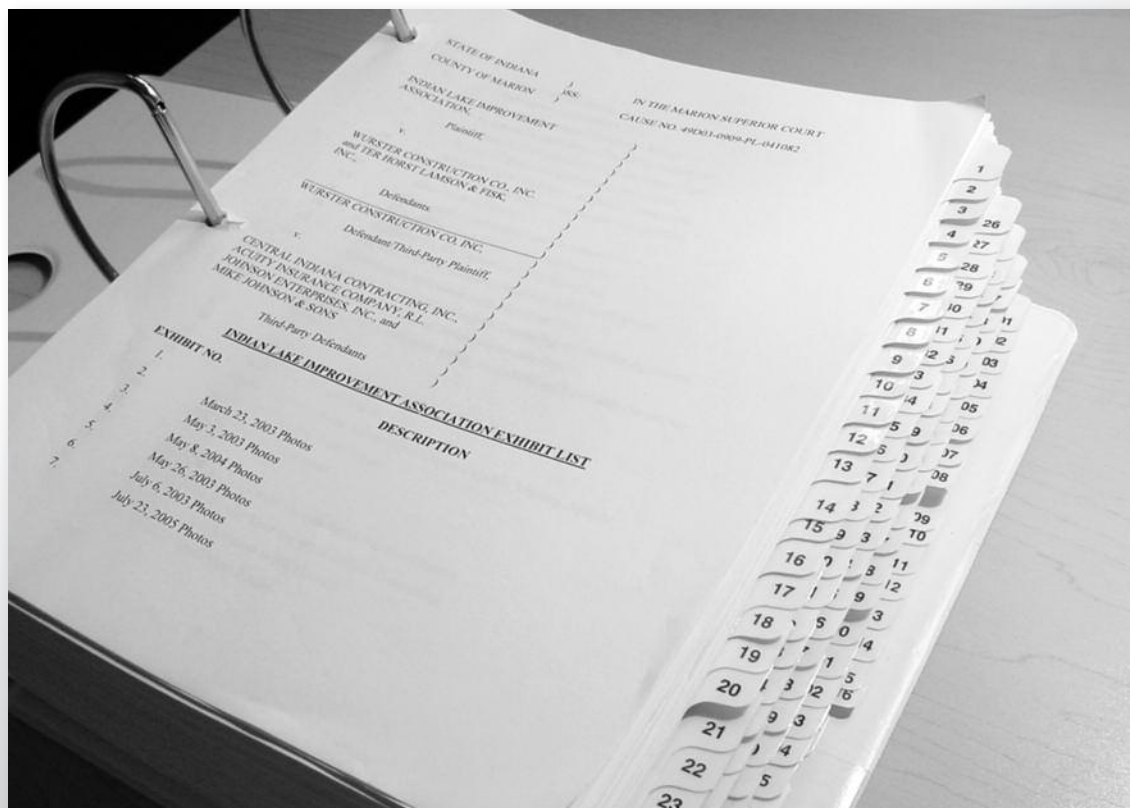
I'm pleased to report that on April 17, we settled our lawsuit with Wurster Construction for \$220,000. Wurster was the contractor for the \$25 million Westminster Village North expansion project that broke ground in 2003.

This project was a textbook case of poor erosion control practices. Our expert estimated that 5,400 tons of soil unnecessarily left the WVN job site into Indian Creek, eventually settling into Indian Lake. The lawsuit targeted the many contractors and their subs involved with the project.

We filed our lawsuit in 2009, and spent many hundreds of hours providing and examining documents, answering interrogatories, working with expert witnesses, obtaining estimates from outside dredging and excavating contractors, testifying in and taking depositions, and defending against motions for summary judgment.

To give a taste of how many documents were produced, the photo shows the binder that we handed out to each of the jurors. The binder from the defendants was almost as thick.

President's message continued on back page...



When You Need To Call



KEEP THIS WITH YOUR
INDIAN LAKE PHONE DIRECTORY

Assessments - Lynn Osborn	826-1505
Beach Reservations - any board member	
Boat Slip Rentals - Jeff VanTreese	823-6690
Bylaws and Rules - Chad Worland	987-4354
Civic Committee - Ruth Norrington	460-8576
Property Maintenance - RJ Russell	281-0024
Security - Jeff VanTreese	823-6690
Smoke Signal - Mark Rumreich	823-3897

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Rumreich (president)	823-3897
Jeff VanTreese (vp)	823-6690
Lynn Osborn (secretary/treasurer)	826-1505
Ed French	823-4431
Ron Gillum	250-1125
Kyle Hurd	416-7982
RJ Russell	281-0024
Ben Slocum	989-4718
Andy VanTreese	627-0737
Chad Worland	987-4354

Mailbox Improvement Week

May 19-25

Each year, the US Postal Service designates the third full week of May as Mailbox Improvement Week to encourage customers to examine and, where necessary, improve the appearance of their mailboxes. Neat, attractive mailboxes make a significant contribution to the appearance of the community in suburban areas.

Mailbox Improvement Week, May 19-25, calls attention to the need for providing mailboxes that are:

- Approved by the postmaster general
- Designed to protect the mail from weather
- Safe to use
- Conveniently located
- Neat in appearance

Summer Workers Wanted

We're looking for summer workers for our dredging operation. Workers must be 18 or older, and enjoy working on the lake. Duties include connecting and disconnecting dredge pipe and floats, assisting the dredge operator, and moving riprap.

Please call Jeff Van Treese
627-0738 or RJ Russell
281-0024 for more info.



Blast From The Past

This article appeared in the special publication "Uniquely Lawrence: Discovering Our Past and Future" published by the City of Lawrence and Topics Newspapers. It was distributed on July 4th, 1999 under the auspices of then mayor Tom Schneider, to celebrate

the 150th Anniversary of Lawrence. The article was written by Connie Staton Smith, who was performing public information duties for the City of Lawrence at the time.

East Lawrence

Indian Lake hides traces of history

Geist Lake isn't the only artificial lake in Lawrence Township.

About the time the Indianapolis Water Co. began purchasing land for its reservoir, another, smaller body of water was being planned — Indian Lake.

Indian Creek, as noted in the 1880s, had its origins in the swamps of Hancock County. The creek enters Lawrence Township a mile north of the southeast corner and snakes in the general direction of the northwest for several miles before emptying into Fall Creek about three-quarters of a mile northeast of the center of the township.

The first settler in Lawrence Township, Elisha Reddick, named the creek for the American Indians he found encamped along it. Reddick had invited the people living along Indian Creek to help raise his cabin soon after his arrival in the township in October 1823. When the appointed day came only three women came. Elisha sent them to cooking and he instead sought the help of three land prospectors who



Indian Lake dates to 1923 when plans were initiated to dam Indian Creek and to develop housing along its hilly shores. It is thought the lake was filled about 1929.

were passing through.

A map of Lawrence Township, dating to 1889, shows Paul Klepfer as the owner of some 126 acres encompassing Indian Creek between what is now Sunnyside and Oaklandon roads.

In 1927, the Northern Investment Co. of Indianapolis began acquiring land in the Indian Creek area — roughly north of 63rd Street, south of 79th, east of Sunnyside

Road and west of Oaklandon Road. Northern Investment was formed in 1913 with Mark Rinehart as president and Florence S. Kirkwood as secretary. The company listed among its business activities buying, holding, owning, mortgaging, leasing and selling real estate and personal property.

In 1928, the property was transferred to Indian Lake Development Co., which was incorporated that

year to buy, improve, develop and sell real estate. This included 167 acres valued at \$95,000.

Platting of Indian Lake began in 1929, with three sections totaling 197 lots. Less clear is the date when the dam was built and the lake filled. It must have been about that time because conditions and restrictions to the lots in the three subdivisions were adopted May 16, 1929, including the "lake known as Indian Lake, an artificial body of water created by damming Indian Creek."

Development of the lake was hindered in 1932 when the mortgage of the Indian Lake Development Co. was foreclosed and the company filed bankruptcy.

Still, the property was eventually sold. Vacation-like homes of many shapes and sizes occupy the land. Narrow drives wind up and down, turning sharply as they follow the outline of the shore. The placid lake hides all traces of the land where Reddick sought help to raise his cabin more than 100 years earlier.

Dock in Disrepair?

Is your dock in disrepair after the long winter? Docks in poor repair create safety hazards and are an eyesore. Property owners are responsible for the upkeep of their personal docks and any non-beach common property docks they constructed or use.

The board requests that dock owners promptly repair or remove their unsound docks. There are a number of docks around the lake that are falling apart, and need to be removed. If anyone has difficulty complying with this request, contact a board member and we'll work with you to help remove a dilapidated dock.



Indian Lake Projects Targeting Grant Support for Water Quality

Two Indian Lake residents applied for grants that support water quality related projects through the Fall Creek Watershed Partnership (FCWP) and the Upper White River Watershed Alliance (UWRWA). These organizations have cost-share programs to help landowners reduce nonpoint sources of pollution to our waters through a variety of conservation projects like streambank stabilization, water edge enhancements, filter strips, invasive plant removal, rain gardens and bioswales.

Lynn Osborn and Bill Asher's project, Indian Creek Streambank Stabilization, has been approved for funding and involves removal of Asian bush honeysuckle, the addition of live fascines/coir logs, and seeding of native species along the creek shoreline. The main benefit of the project will be sediment reduction. The UWRWA grant will reimburse 75 percent of the costs of this project, the remainder to be paid by the homeowner.

Ron Gillum's project, Mohawk Drive Rain Garden, was submitted for review this month and involves creating a shallow, 8 inch depressed garden of native flowers and grasses to intercept storm water runoff from impervious surfaces (road, driveway, and roof) before it washes pollutants to the ravine and the lake. This FCWP grant, if awarded, will reimburse 50 percent of the costs of this project, the remainder to be covered by the landowner.

Congratulations to Lynn and Bill on their grant award and good luck to Ron on his application!

If any other resident is interested in similar opportunities, please contact Leslie White of the Fall Creek Watershed Partnership (Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Hamilton, Hancock, Madison and Marion Counties) at leslie-white@iaswcd.org or (317) 773-2181. Leslie is very familiar with the grant application process as well as our neighborhood, and is very willing to help.



Across The Fence

by Andy Van Treese

The Indian Lake Civic Committee hosted their bi-annual fundraiser in February – the famous and super fun Monte Carlo. The Indian Lake Country Club opened their doors to our community. Over \$1,100 was raised! As many of you know, the Civic Committee funds and supports many worthwhile projects around the lake, like the new grills at the Park and North Beach. Keep up the good work ladies, and we look forward to the Monte Carlo for 2016. Special thanks to ALL the donations of auction items from the people and businesses of the Lawrence area! We certainly could not do this without your generosity.

The Easter Egg Hunt was held on Saturday, April 19th at the Park. It was a beautiful day and the Easter Bunny made his appearance. **Griffin Slocum** found the coveted Golden Egg for his age group. Sister, **Emerson**, found the most eggs in her age group as **Jase Russell** did for his age group. Thanks to Gary Benjamin for the "extra" special eggs.

Across the Fence continued on next page...



Across The Fence, continued

Congratulations to **Ron and Anne Gillum**. They will be celebrating their 10th Wedding Anniversary on July 24th. They have three beautiful children: Gavin 10, Allison 9 & Ian 3.

Speaking of weddings....**Jessica Thomas**, daughter of **Ed and Kristine Thomas**, will be marrying Ryan Johnson of Muncie, Indiana. Their nuptials will be at the Indian Lake park with reception following. Jessica's dream was to get married at Indian Lake...sometimes dreams do come true! Daughters Brianna 9 (a bridesmaid) and Bailey (the flower girl), son, Jace 6 (the ring bearer) and daughter, Ryleigh 7 months, will be in attendance too. Congratulations to Jessica, Ryan, and the Thomas Family.

Welcome **Rob Connors** to Indian Lake! Rob purchased his home on South Drive in early January of this year. He is son of former resident, Dan Connors and grandson of Lucette Connors. Rob mentioned that he always loved coming over to the lake and visiting Grandma's house and realized he wanted to live here some day. It is amazing how many 2nd and 3rd generations come home to Indian Lake.

Has anyone noticed **Ross Walker's** new solar panels? After much research, he decided to purchase 12 panels. They were installed just last week and are already hooked up to the grid. Ross will be selling power back to IPL when his solar output is more than he is using at any given time. His electric meter will actually run backwards! Along with his investment, he will be applying for a rebate and get a nice tax credit too.

The panels are located on Ross's south exposed roof and can be easily seen from Checotah.

Bob Ferguson and **Andy Van Treese** have applied for a grant to have evasive plants like honeysuckle and garlic mustard plants removed from their properties. There is a 50/50 in-kind match for this program. That means that either money or labor must be provided by the homeowner. This includes a price of \$10 per hour for adults over 18 and any supplies like tools, tool rental, herbicides, etc. will be considered an in-kind match. If anyone wishes to apply for the upcoming fall grants, contact Andy and he will put you in touch with the right people.

Longtime Indian Lake resident **Dr. Glenn Eugene Brown**, passed away on January 8. Dr. Brown served his country in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He flew over 60 missions in the South Pacific including the Philippines, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa and was awarded the Flying Cross. Dr. Brown and his family came to Indian Lake in the late sixties. He served on the board from 1969 to 1978. Dr. Brown retired after 40 years in practice with Dr. David Tavel at the Vision Center in Indianapolis. Our condolences to Kerry Brown and his family.



Andy Clifton



President's message continued...

On April 14, our trial date arrived. The trial was to have been five days, but the court realized that Good Friday was a court holiday and asked that we condense the proceedings to four days. A six member jury was selected on Monday morning, and witnesses for the plaintiff began testifying. Witnesses for the plaintiff were myself and Andy Van Treese from ILIA, Glenn Lange from Marion County Soil & Water, Rob Beck from IDEM, and Greg Bright from Commonwealth Biomonitoring. On Wednesday, we rested our case, and witnesses for the defense began testifying.

On Thursday morning, the Wurster corporate attorney approached us to discuss the possibility of settling the case. At this point we knew that the jury was very engaged, but neither us nor the defendants could tell which direction they were leaning. We weren't able to reach a mutually agreeable settlement figure, so the trial proceeded. After another witness testified, we were again approached about settling. This time, we were able to agree on a figure, \$220,000.

After the judge dismissed the case, we had the chance to interview the jury, and learned which witnesses were most effective. The jury especially liked "the golf-ball

guy" A.K.A. Andy Van Treese explaining how golf balls from miles up the creek could actually travel all the way to Indian Lake.

Thanks to our watershed watchdogs who provided key photos for the case, our excellent attorneys at Plews, Shadley, Racher & Braun, and all our witnesses. After expenses and attorney fees, this settlement will allow us to mitigate a significant amount of sediment.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held on January 29 at the Jenn Park pavilion and was well attended. We got to hear the Mayor's "state of the city," discuss what's going on in our neighborhood, and enjoy some tasty hot food.

The board would like to welcome new board member Kyle Hurd and returning members Ron Gillum, Ben Slocum and Andy Van Treese. The board would like to thank retiring member Mike Hurd for his service to the Indian Lake community. Mike served on the board for seven years.

Thanks to all the candidates for their dedication to the neighborhood!

