



RED CEDAR LAKE POST

VOLUME 34 ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2016

FOR ADDITIONAL UPDATES PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT www.redcedarlake.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO TAKE THE TRASH CAN FROM LITTLE BEACH TO THE TOP OF LAKESIDE DRIVE FOR TRASH PICKUP WEDNESDAY MORNING.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO RUN THIS YEARS FISHING DERBY. THE FISHING DERBY WILL BE CANCELED IF WE RECEIVE NO VOLUNTEERS.

IF YOU CAN HELP WITH ANY OF THE ABOVE PLEASE EMAIL MIKE SIDOTI at michaelsidoti@gmail.com or BOB RAGAGLIA at rragaglia@snet.net.

NOTES FROM OUR PRESIDENT Mike Sidoti

The board is most pleased by the membership's unanimous approval of the By Laws revisions at our meeting on June 11, 2016. Finalized copies of these By Laws will be distributed to all members in the near future. Special thanks to Bob Macklin, Moe Hebb and Rich Haigh for working with me over the winter to draft these changes.

The lunch picnic following the meeting was as nice and as "filling" as ever. We extend a sincere thanks to Donna Lupinacci for organizing this event once again. Your Board of Directors continues in its efforts to support our community. Over this summer we hope to complete a review/ audit of our insurance policies to be certain that we have adequate coverage for the best price available. To enhance our lake security, we intend to install a cable lock system across the boat launch area at Little Beach and to enhance safety we plan to replace old and rotted posts along Lakeside Drive. The Board is also investigating purchasing a storage shed to be used for items such as our beach swimming lines, buoys, social and activity committee supplies, speed bumps and other equipment. If purchased, the shed will be located on the North West corner of the Main Beach.

A major task for us this summer will be consideration of ways to maintain, expand and/or improve upon our community activities and social events. These efforts require member volunteers to plan and run activities and events for our community members. If you have any ideas, requests, or better yet, are able to donate some time to assist on an event, please contact a Board member.

Finally, I draw your attention to the information regarding safety and security contained on the next page. It is incumbent upon us all to look after both our own and our neighbors' property.

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There has been many items stolen along with vandalism reported from RCL property owners this past season. These items have been reported to Connecticut State Police.

TFC Collin Konow, Lebanon Resident Trooper has responded with the following important guide lines.

Things citizens can do to prevent/minimize being victimized by a crime to your home

Make sure all doors to all building's on the property are properly locked with a DEADBOLT lock. This includes sheds and detached garages. It is not a bad idea to lock doors even when you are home. It is imperative to do it when you are away.

Install security cameras. Hunting/game cameras are a great cheap alternative to a traditional home security camera. We are solving a lot of crimes with the use of these by the average home owner.

Install an alarm system. Install motion lights on the exterior of your home

Dogs especially loud large ones are excellent deterrents

Be mindful of your surroundings and of any suspicious persons. The most common mistake that citizens make is failing to call the police when they see something suspicious. LICENSE PLATES AND A GOOD VEHICLE DESCRIPTION ARE CRUCIAL!!!! Most people think that they don't want to "bother" the police in case the suspicious person turns out to be nothing. That is what the police are for. We would much rather you call us and it ends up being nothing to worry about than you not call and it turns into a crime because it was not reported. Most crimes are solved with the help of YOU, the citizen.

Leave the lights on when you are away and if you are away for an extended period come up with a way to randomly turn lights on and off, a neighbor or timers.

Keep your driveway plowed and your lawn mowed during extended absences.

Make arrangements for your mail and newspapers to be collected.

Do not keep valuable items in your vehicle or expensive tools/equipment unsecured in your yard.

If your home is broken into follow these guidelines:

Do not enter - the perpetrator may still be inside.

Do not touch anything or clean up until the police have inspected for evidence.

Write down the license plate numbers of any suspicious vehicle.

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OTHER PRECAUTIONS YOU SHOULD TAKE:

Never leave keys under doormats, flowerpots, mailboxes or other "secret" hiding places, burglars know where to look for hidden keys.

Keep a detailed inventory of your valuable possessions, including a description of the items, date of purchase and original value, and serial numbers, and keep a copy in a safe place away from home, this is a good precaution in case of fires or other disasters. Make a photographic or video record of valuable objects, heirlooms and antiques. Your insurance company can provide assistance in making and keeping your inventory.

Trim your shrubbery around your home to reduce cover for burglars.

Be a good neighbor. If you notice anything suspicious in your neighborhood, call 9-1-1 immediately.

Mark your valuables with your driver's license number with an engraver. Marked items are harder for a burglar to dispose of and easier for police to recover at pawn shops.

Never post on Facebook or any other social media web site that you are away on vacation or any other compromising information, example- you just won a large amount of cash at the casino, or just cashed your tax return check!!

Again.....The most important thing you can do is CALL THE POLICE to report a crime or any suspicious activity **immediately**.

Calling 911 for a suspicious person or vehicle is perfectly acceptable. You have to be the eyes of your neighborhood. And remember you can always remain a pair of anonymous eyes.

Caterpillar Concerns

The caterpillars that are devouring our leaves will enter a pupal stage and emerge as Gypsy Moths in July. Gypsy moths do not produce a web like Eastern Tent Caterpillars. The fungus that normally kills gypsy moths did not grow well during the dry spring last year. The moth population exploded last summer. More eggs were laid, therefore there are more caterpillars this year. If you google "gypsy moths" you will find a wealth of information on line. www.gypsymothalert.com is outstanding resource. There are lots of pictures and topics include: Fighting the Moths, Damage They Do, Life Cycle, and most importantly How to Control.

SUNDAY MORNING SAILING

2016 Sailing Season

The Sunday morning sailing races will start Sunday July 3 at 11:00 am and continue every Sunday thru September 4 of Labor Day weekend. Suggestions or comments contact Larry Berglund at 860 887 4972 or stop by 152 Lakeside.

WATER CONTROL by Mark S. Fitton

I am Mark S. Fitton. I have been a member here for 28 years. I am a long ago past President and a year round resident here. I will probably do this job for many years. The first year is always the toughest as one gets used to the procedures, but in the future it should be something I can do easily.

The lake was treated on Monday June 13 in the directed places. Water testing will commence on Monday June 27. In past years, our water has been among the cleanest in the area. I will bring the samples of water (2 samples from each beach) to the Columbia Environmental Laboratory for testing. When I get the results, I will post them on the bulletin boards at both beaches. A green square means the the water is clean. A yellow square means it's borderline but swimming is still allowed. A red square means the water is not suitable for swimming. That last one has never happened to my knowledge. Should that worst case scenario happen, emails/letters will be sent to all members.

Assuming the water tests well, I will be testing the water on a monthly basis, so late July and August would be the next tests of the quality of the water. This is a change from twice a month testing. After talking with John Burrell at Columbia Environmental Lab, he indicated that our lake can easily go to once a month testing saving us some money. Obviously, if the tests are not great we will go to a more frequent testing.

The water level is actually pretty good. When you stand at the dam and look to your left on the shore nearby, you will see a rock that has permanent water marks on it. This has always been a good indicator. There is a bit of leakage on the top boards of the dam, but those boards were extra additions. If need be, we can replace those boards but we want to be careful. Some of the residents basements flood with too high of a water level. Enjoy the summer and our beautiful lake.



Mark your calendar for BINGO Saturday 6PM at Main Beach. July 23rd and August 27th

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RED CEDAR LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION TAX ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The first Tax Assessment Committee meeting of 2016 was held on June 25.

Some GOOD news: One of our members did file a Real Estate Appeal with the Lebanon Board of Assessment Appeals in February of 2016 and their assessment was lowered. The committee agreed that sharing of information and ideas contributed greatly to the success of this appeal.

The purpose of the Tax Assessment Committee is to give a physical presence to the tax concerns of association members. Our role is primarily educational and our goal is to prepare for the Town of Lebanon's 2018 revaluation of properties, a process which actually begins in 2017.

We will keep you informed of our progress via email. If you would like to join the RCLPOA tax Assessment Committee kindly email (honeyr@snet.net) or call Honey at 860 748 0112 (cell)

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

DRIVE CAREFULLY

Speeding is a concern on our narrow roads. Many children and adults walk and ride bikes on our roads. PLEASE drive slowly.

The speed limit is 10 mph. Tell your guests, workers and delivery people to drive slowly when coming to your home.

KEEPING THE LAKE AND ROADS CLEAN

Please remember to close trash cans tightly when you leave your property each week. Trash will be picked up each Wednesday. So any trash barrels left unsecured before that are likely to be ransacked by animals, infested with bugs, blown over in a storm or all of the above. Let's keep our lake properties clean and be good neighbors.

RECREATION / SOCIAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers to assist with planning and staffing all recreation activities and social events for the season. **FISHING DERBY WILL BE CANCELED THIS YEAR, UNLESS WE RECEIVE SOME VOLUNTEERS.**

POST YOUR HOUSE NUMBERS CLEARLY SO EMERGENCY VEHICLES CAN EASILY FIND YOUR COTTAGE.

RED CEDAR LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS WEB SITE

<http://www.redcedarlake.org>

Check out the web site for any general information, dates of event, current bylaws, annual membership meeting minutes and announcements.

Rules and Regulations are also posted on the website.

Send electronic copies of your Red Cedar Lake photos for the website to janet.wislocki@gmail.com

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BEACH AND BOATS by Peter Van Steeden

In general the beaches are in good shape this year, and with the help of all POA members, they should remain so all season. We have Lakeside Landscape in place to maintain the grounds at both sites, and the buoy system developed over the past 2 years continues to function as designed, as evidenced by the roughly 45 minutes needed to set up the main beach, with no one needing to go swimming (the water was cold that morning!)

The assistance of all members is very much needed to help maintain the beaches. Two significant issues, which started last season and continue this year, are occurring at Little Beach. First, the gate is being left unlocked and open, and second, damage to the gate, the lock, and the signage on the gate continues. Leaving the gate open simply invites non-residents onto our property, increasing wear and tear on the facility, and increasing our costs. Actual damage to the facility also obviously increases costs. I do not budget for these costs and they put a strain on the budget. So I am asking everyone to PLEASE remember to close and lock the gate both after entering, and when leaving the facility. It only takes an additional minute. If you wander down to Little Beach and you see the gate open, please close it and lock it. If you witness damage or see a suspicious vehicle or person who looks out of place, please contact the police. They are trying to watch our community as theft and property damage continues to accelerate locally and in neighboring lake communities, and they need our help. At the same time, please send a note to Mike Sidoti, Bob Ragaglia, or myself so we can keep track of issues and look for solutions. Have a great summer!

Here are a few things to remember:

1. New gate combination
2. No Smoking allowed on Main or Little Beach.
3. CLOSE and LOCK gates when you enter and leave.
4. Dogs are NOT allowed in the sand areas of Main and Little Beach.
5. NO CHILD under 14 years of age is allowed in the swimming area at either beach without the supervision of an adult 14 years or older.
6. A sign has been placed at Main Beach to announce upcoming events.
7. SAFE USE OF THE SWIMMING PLATFORM – Excessive rocking and otherwise rough use of the swimming platform at Main Beach can result in its damage. Please take care when using the platform so it remains in good condition for years to come.
8. Please use the garbage cans that have place on Main and Little Beach.
9. NO BOATS shall be launched on the MAIN BEACH between 11:00am and 4:00pm on weekends and holidays.

We welcome new members

Robert Ciotto 111 Lakeside Drive

Charles and Kem Cassella 200 Camp Mooween Rd

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ADVERTISING

Kevin and Leslie Vonderkall have started a design and handyman business over the winter. The company MY LEVEL HANDYMAN LLC offers a no job too small attitude with attention to perfection and satisfaction. We are CT Licensed and Insured. You can reach us at [860 250 2491](tel:8602502491) or email Kevin@mylevelhandyman.com Look for our web site coming soon. We look forward to helping you in the future with your home projects. Kevin and Leslie Vonderkall 176 Lakeside Drive.

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Have mower trouble? Just want your weekends back? Tired of always having to rake up those leaves, pick up the sticks and branches? Spring clean-up is really bringing you down? Why spend your summers mowing your lawn and doing endless yard work, when someone will do it for you for less than the cost of a new mower and gas to do it? We are dependable and reliable with a professional service at affordable rates. We are insured for your protection. Even the estimate is free .... Take your summers back and make your yard work disappear. Try it for a one time job or all weekly maintenance .... Call for a free estimate [LAKE SIDE LANDSCAPE AND LAWN CARE 860 889 7280](tel:8608897280)

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DOG GROOMING by Donna Lupinacci. I have 38 years of experience and will come to your home at the lake. I also do dog walking and pet sitting. Need your K-9 let out while you are gone for a long day? Give me a call at [860 848 3434](tel:8608483434)

RED CEDAR LAKE OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS 2016

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|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Mike Sidoti | President | michaelsidoti@gmail.com |
| Robert Ragaglia | Vice President | rragaglia@snet.net |
| Janet Wislocki | Secretary | janet.wislocki@gmail.com |
| Bob Macklin | Treasurer | RVMbanker@gmail.com |
| Mo Hebb | Chair, Liaison Committee | mohebb@charter.net |
| Donna Lupinacci | Social Committee | donnalupe@aol.com |
| Peter Van Steeden | Chair, Beaches/Boat Launch Committee | pm454@aol.com |
| Ann Pellegrino | Chair, Recreation Committee | bittypell@aol.com |
| Kevin Vonderkall | Chair, Roads Committee | kvonderkall@yahoo.com |
| Connie Berglund | Finance Committee | ckberglund@charter.net |
| Mark Fitton | Chair, Water Quality Committee | mfitton285@sbcglobal.net |
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