

LAKE TAPAWINGO NEWS

A publication of the Lake Tapawingo Country Club

County targets Lake for more tax assessment boosts in 2021

By John Braden

Jackson County Administrator Troy Schulte has singled out Lake Tapawingo as one of eight areas that should anticipate “significantly higher assessed valuations in 2021.”

Schulte told the Jackson County Legislature Feb. 3 that the county Assessment Department’s substantial increases in property reassessments from 2019 will continue into 2021, with Lake Tapawingo a prime target.

He said the 2019 assessment process revealed significant flaws in the current assessment system and made recommendations for investments in Assessment Department staff, training and technology. The Legislature asked Schulte to give another update in six weeks.

Schulte said the county must increase communications and outreach to property owners now for 2021.

“If the current real estate market stays hot, 2021 reassessment will again be noisy,” he concluded.

He listed eight specific neighborhoods that have already been identified as having assessed valuations lower

than 90 percent of market value based on 2019 valuations.

They include (in order listed):

- 95th and State Line
- Ward Parkway
- Brookside
- 49-63 Neighborhood (bordered by Volker Blvd. on the north, 63rd St. on the south, Oak on the west and Paseo on the east)
- South Kansas City
- Martin City
- **Lake Tapawingo**
- Waldo

“These neighborhoods should already be anticipating significantly higher assessed valuations in 2021,” Schulte said.

Mayor Tom Goddard got word that Lake Tapawingo had been singled out on Feb. 6, just before the monthly City Council meeting. Goddard asked that the Municipal Committee -- including members of the City Council and the Country Club Board -- discuss the matter. He said the city might be able to

See City, Page 3.

Property owners elect six to Country Club Board

Lake Tapawingo property owners elected six residents to Country Club Board seats Feb. 20, including three incumbents.

Five of the total 15 board seats were up for election of three-year terms as usual. In addition, property owners voted to fill one seat, from which a member had resigned, for one remaining year. Seats are filled in order of votes received, with the highest vote-getters winning three-year terms, followed by the sixth highest winner receiving the one-year term.

Winning three-year terms were incumbents Steve Meek, 203 Anchor, and Brian Smith, 81 Beach, as well as Kim McReynolds, 58 Dockside, and Randy Thatcher, 56 Dockside.

Incumbent Jennifer Moran, 50 Emerald Shore, and Bill Ellwood, 52 Dockside, tied for fifth place. Ellwood volunteered to take the sixth-place one-year term, allowing Moran to claim the remaining three-year term.

The unsuccessful seventh candidate, Adam Shepard, 105 Beach, who did not attend the meeting, was thanked for

agreeing to run so that property owners had a choice of candidates.

Leaving the board at the end of their terms are Colleen Drinkard, David Hillerman (appointed to complete the term of Gena Queen) and Jeff Pirner.

Members with continuing terms on the Lake Board are Renny Buckaloo, Jayme Dean, Tyler Follis, Hap Graff, Clayton Holland, Wes Knox, Gary Mallen, Joe Rush and Sarah Wilke.



By John Nicol

CONTENDERS -- Lake Board President Jayme Dean convenes the Feb. 20 Property Owners meeting prior to introducing six Lake Board candidates who attended, seated at the head table from left: Bill Ellwood, Kim McReynolds, Steve Meek, Jennifer Moran, Brian Smith and Randy Thatcher.



Around the Lake

SYMPATHY

Sympathy to:

Sarah Luptak, 94 Beach, on the death Feb. 18 of her grandfather, Wayne Kranz, 83, Kansas City.

Loren Williamson, 127 Dockside, and Willy Williamson, 73 Beach, on the death Feb. 19 of their mother, Donna Carol Williamson, 83, Blue Springs.

BIRTHDAYS

March 3 Amy McDonald, 159 Dockside

March 4 Ron McIntire, 44 Anchor

March 10 Johnnie Lowther, 85 Dockside
Jerry Miller, 41 Anchor

March 12 Gretchen Bretz, 148 Dockside
Jackie Gale, 95 Beach

March 15 Kay Coen, 31 Emerald Shore

March 24 Gina Chavez, 34 Anchor
Peggy Davis, 7 Clipper
MaryAnn Rivera, 40 Clipper

March 27 Kathy Summers, 5 Anchor
Cathy Pirner, 81 Anchor

WELCOME TO THE LAKE

Samantha Byler, 120 Dockside

Doug and Dawn Miller, 159 Anchor

Scott and Kim Osborne, 142 Dockside

Amy Stetzler, 93 Beach

If you know of anyone who needs a Get Well card, Birthday greetings, Congratulations, Sympathy or Welcome to New Resident, please call Margie Guffey, 589-4166.

March 11 last day to register to vote in April 7 City Council election

March 11 is the last day for new voters to register to vote in the April 7 City Council election. Unopposed incumbents filed for re-election in two of the three city wards. There will be a contest in Ward 2, which includes B and C blocks, where two candidates filed to fill a vacated seat.

Voters may register at Lake Tapawingo City Hall; the Jackson County Election Board, 215 N. Liberty, Independence; or in Blue Springs at City Hall, either Mid-Continent Public Library, or the Blue Springs License Bureau on Missouri Highway 7.

Absentee ballots may be obtained by written request to the Jackson County Election Board. An application form may be obtained from the board Internet site at <https://jcebmo.org/voter-information/absentee-voting>.

Three City Council seats are to be filled by voters at the April 7 city election.

City alderman candidates are:

-- In Ward 1 (A Block), Alderman Steve Magel, 14 Anchor, who filed unopposed for re-election;

-- In Ward 2 (B and C blocks), Philip Scherer, 64 Beach, and Tom Rodenberg, 35 Beach, who filed to succeed Alderman Andy Rogers, who did not seek re-election;

-- In Ward 3 (D and E blocks), Alderman Bob Seago, 12 Emerald Shore, who filed unopposed for re-election.

Mayor Tom Goddard and Aldermen Charles Cruitt in Ward 1, Brad Cloverdyke in Ward 2 and John Sellars in Ward 3 have terms that expire in April 2021.



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Editorial Board: John Braden, Jayme Dean, Tom Goddard, Linda Osborne, John Nicol.

Copies of the *Lake Tapawingo News* are available at the Lake Office for \$1 each.

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City of Lake Tapawingo website: www.laketapawingomo.org

Community Facebook pages:
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"Residents of Lake Tapawingo" or
"Lake Tapawingo Police Department"



City eyes Lake property owners' assessment options

Continued from Page 1.

advise affected property owners, although he acknowledged it is an issue that residents would have to address individually.

The mayor said the Jackson County Board of Equalization was expected to hear soon the Country Club Board's appeal of its previously increased property assessments. He said citizens might attend that hearing to demonstrate their concern.

In a July 2019 Lake meeting, about 80 Lake residents indicated they received higher-than-expected real estate reassessments, with some increases as high as 60 percent. It was not known how many actually appealed. Attorneys indicated one key appeal point was that Missouri statutes say the county cannot increase assessments more than 15 percent in one assessment cycle without a physical inspection of the property.

Resident appeals done by March 31?

The county administrator reported a total of 21,208 assessment appeals were filed with the Jackson County Board of Equalization for 2019. Schulte said about 7 percent of all parcels in the county were appealed. Among those were 5,163 commercial parcels, which presumably includes the appeals filed by Lake Tapawingo Country Club for its properties. Additionally, assessments of 16,045 residential parcels were appealed including a number from Lake Tapawingo property owners.

Schulte said the goal is for the Board of Equalization to complete all residential appeals by March 31, while commercial/industrial appeals might lag into late spring.

As of Dec. 31, 2019, he said, 7,799 appeals were decided: 1,138 commercial appeals and 6,661 residential appeals. He said another 2,489 appeals were expected to be addressed in January, for a grand total of 10,288 expected to be addressed by the end of January. That would leave 10,920 appeals still to be addressed by the BOE, he said.

The good news?

The good news, if any, in Schulte's presentation, was that

about 70 percent of appeals of 2019 assessments have been successful.

Schulte said about 98 percent of all residential appeals argued for less than a 10 percent increase (46 percent of appeals) or up to a 10 percent decrease (39.5 percent of appeals) from their 2017 assessed values. He said the Board of Equalization has been granting the full taxpayer request in about 70 percent of all appeals.

However, he added those lower market valuations would be under pressure again in 2021 given continued price escalation in Jackson County housing markets.

Lessons learned

Schulte's findings from 2019 said the Assessment Department was understaffed to deal with the hot real estate market. He said peer counties have 40 to 50 more staff than Jackson County.

He said average annual increases for residential real estate are 5 percent to 8 percent, with some areas even larger. He said physical inspections are required for properties with growth over 15 percent.

Schulte said the Assessment Department relied too much on consultants and models that work better in homogenous or suburban real estate markets. He said urban areas were not accurately projected. As a result, markets that are rapidly appreciating did not get accurately projected, while more static markets might have been overvalued.

The administrator said the Board of Equalization, which handles the formal

appeals, also is not properly staffed. He said many future appeals should be expected due to strength of the real estate market. He said valuation increases exceeding 10 percent should be expected with a corresponding number of appeals.

Schulte said property remains generally undervalued on assessed basis as compared to market value. The state requires assessed valuation be at least 90 percent of market valuation. Current estimates based on market sales are 85 percent of market valuation. He said that requires further large catch-up increases in 2021 assessments.

He said commercial/industrial assessments remain well below market value and Jackson County has only one commercial appraiser on staff. Therefore, he said investments must be made to improve those assessments.

Schulte said to get through 2021 the county must invest in staff -- filling 17 vacancies in the authorized 74 positions and increasing pay to do so. There is no current office space to house any more staff, he said. He called for use of contract employees and consultants to aid staff.

He also said the assessment management system is obsolete, requiring about \$10 million to buy and implement a new system. He said public communication and outreach also must be substantially improved.

"Continued rapid growth in real estate value will lead to more public consternation about the assessment process," Schulte said.



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COUNTRY CLUB BOARD REPORT

Lake Board defers action on Clubhouse renovation

The Lake Tapawingo Country Club Board of Directors met Feb. 3 and 18 at the Clubhouse. President Jayme Dean presided.

Visitors: Jan Baldwin, 9 Anchor; Kim McReynolds, 58 Dockside; Jim Megerson, 110 Beach; Charles Plank, 38 Dockside; Randy Thatcher, 56 Dockside; John Braden, 45 Anchor.

Clubhouse: Board Member Gary Mallen distributed a summary of proposed Clubhouse renovation work. He said one portion of the design was for an exterior portico over the entrance. He said he had been unable to meet with President Dean to review the project budget for which the Budget Committee had agreed to \$40,000.

He said the work was proposed to be performed in three phases by Mark Wharton of Sunset Craftsmen LLC and that he hoped the project would be complete by July 4. He said the proposed work would be about \$39,000, slightly below the \$40,000 figure, but would not include the portico, which would cost \$18,000-\$19,000.

He said the board might hold fund-raising events to secure additional funds. He also said no painting is in the bid and the board could make other arrangements for painting, possibly with volunteer work.

Mallen said Wharton suggested replacing the interior wall paneling with sheetrock to improve acoustics and to give a fresh look. However, Mallen suggested forgoing the sheetrock and building the portico instead to remain closer to budget.

He suggested replacing the tile floor with woodgrain vinyl tile or a poured floor. He suggested a “lodge look,” dressing the ceiling supports to look like cedar beams and squaring off the round support poles. In addition, wainscoting would be added to the walls, cabinet countertops would be replaced and shelving would be installed above the main room cabinets. Bathroom fixtures would be replaced and back hall lighting improved.

Board Member Joe Rush suggested if the paneling is removed, the original two-wire electric wiring should be replaced with modern wiring at that time. Mallen said if the paneling is not replaced by sheetrock the existing wiring would be left in place. He added that bench seats would be constructed in front of windows and the front door would be replaced.

Rush and Board Member Jennifer Moran said any remodeling would require that the hallway door be widened so wheelchair users can have access to the bathrooms as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Board Member Tyler Follis examined the doorway and said the surrounding wall is constructed of cinder blocks.

When President Dean asked how much time the contractor required, Mallen said he did not know because work would have to be coordinated around Clubhouse rentals, cleaning up the ongoing work site prior to Clubhouse events. He said there would be less mess if the board decided to forgo sheetrock work.

Dean said a lot of weddings already have been scheduled for the Clubhouse beginning in the spring. She said the Clubhouse is booked for nearly every weekend until September and it is difficult to deal with angry brides. Mallen said Wharton would be doing work during the week.

Board Member Wes Knox said the biggest issue was the timing, trying to perform the work during a period of heavy Clubhouse usage.

Board Member Renny Buckaloo said he was worried about having sufficient funds for two expensive upcoming projects, C Cove litigation and potential shoreline construction work, and rehabilitation of the Miller’s pond dam above AB Cove.

Mallen said allocation of money is a question of priorities and that the Clubhouse is the only community focal point other than the lake that the community could be proud of.

Board Member Brian Smith suggested putting off the project until

the board sees where it is financially and after the many scheduled rentals have occurred. He noted there are other expenses expected, including draining the silt retention pond and restoring the Ponderosa property.

Board Member David Hillerman questioned how much more the board will be required to pay in property taxes due to increased assessments, while Smith noted nothing has been budgeted at this time for expected work in C and AB coves.

Board Member Hap Graff moved to allot \$60,000 to renovate the Clubhouse, seconded by Mallen. Graff said the board talked all last year about Clubhouse renovation and that, similarly, the board “took a leap of faith” last year in paying to renovate the tennis courts, at a cost of more than \$44,000. He said the board has \$150,000 in undesignated general funds and that it usually has \$60,000 left over at the end of its budget year. He said the board should approve the renovation and move on.

President Dean called for a vote on Graff’s motion to allot \$60,000 for renovation. The motion failed, 2-8.

Mallen, seconded by Graff, then moved to allot \$50,000 for Clubhouse renovation, minus sheetrock and including the portico. The motion failed, 2-8.

Dean said the board would put the renovation on file and return to it later.

Treasurer’s report: Administrative Clerk Laney Bedsworth presented bills to be paid, including \$6,500 to Tandem Paving for crack sealing. Board Member Clayton Holland said it appeared some roads were missed including much of roads in D Block. President Dean asked him to contact Tandem and asked that bills be approved minus the Tandem payment. The board approved, 10-0, a motion by David Hillerman to pay the bills minus the Tandem bill.

Bedsworth presented the profit and loss statement, saying the year-end retained earnings were higher than

See Lake, Page 6.



Lake Board property tax assessment appeal stalls

Continued from Page 5.

predicted. As a result, she said \$40,000 was put into a designated property tax fund, \$7,000 into a pathway repair fund and \$18,000 into a tree removal fund. The board passed, 10-0, a motion by Board Member Tyler Follis to approve the profit and loss statement.

Bedsworth said she met with the auditor and reviewed what would be done in the upcoming audit. She said she was not sure when the work would start.

Property taxes: President Dean said the Lake Office had been receiving phone calls from Jackson County about the check that was mailed to pay Country Club property taxes. Jackson County said they needed the property parcel numbers to which the payment was to be applied.

Dean said she directed Administrative Clerk Laney Bedsworth to ask for the Country Club's assessment appeal hearing date and time and a list

of parcels to cross reference, but that both were denied. Dean said Jackson County said if the parcels are not identified, the check would be returned.

She said she referred the issue to Board lawyer Zach Goff who was to send the county the same letter that was sent to the Board of Equalization listing all the parcels, and asking them to place payment on all those parcel numbers. Dean said there was still no word on the appeal hearing date and time.

Lake Management: C Cove litigation. President Dean said she spoke with Board lawyer Zach Goff who said the board's engineering firm received a summary from Blue Springs of the Woods Chapel Road improvement project and the firm is asking for clarification. Dean said she would have a conference call with the engineer in order to determine how to proceed and what has been decided.

Miller's pond. Dean said letters have been drafted informing the

Miller family heirs that there is no financial obligation required of them for the rehabilitation of the dam of Miller's pond above AB Cove and that the board only seeks an entry point to study the proposed project.

Geese. John Braden pointed out the number of geese on the lake that are migrating and that should be encouraged not to remain on the lake by use of pyrotechnics.

Nominating committee: John Braden said there were seven individuals running for Lake Board seats: Bill Ellwood, 52 Dockside; Kim McReynolds, 58 Dockside; Steve Meek, 203 Anchor; Jennifer Moran, 50 Emerald Shore; Adam Shepard, 105 Beach; Brian Smith, 81 Beach; and Randy Thatcher, 56 Dockside. President Dean said the election notice would be mailed to residents on Feb. 10 advising of the Property Owners Meeting and election on Feb. 20.

See Insurance, Page 7.

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Insurance renewed; work on roads, boat lots, trees seen

Continued from Page 6.

President Dean thanked nominating committee members for their work.

Silt Control: President Dean said installation and maintenance of silt fences on residential construction sites is still an issue and being monitored. John Braden said to add 42 Anchor to the list because they will begin building a house. Board Member Brian Smith said a silt fence on Beach Drive discussed at the Jan. 21 meeting has been fixed. Dean said 91 Docksides silt fence is down and that owners of 9 Beach also need to be told they need a silt fence.

Insurance: Board Member Jennifer Moran said she determined retaining the current employee health insurance for Laney Bedsworth and Matt Kempf was the best option. She said the coverage, from Cigna, would cost \$5,400 per year for each employee. She made a motion to approve obtaining the insurance at a cost of \$10,800.

Board Member Hap Graff said organizations are moving to require employees to share premium costs. Board Member Tyler Follis disagreed, saying many employers still pay 100 percent of premiums, while some pay less and that the costs of the Cigna plan are not exorbitant. Board Member Renny Buckaloo said the employees also are paying their deductibles. The motion passed, 10-0.

Roads: Board Member Tyler Follis said he contacted Lake resident David Beemer of Beemer Construction Co. about renovating drainage grates that are below grade since the roads were repaved. Follis said he would be reviewing the various grates with him.

Due to transition in board members, John Braden asked if board members had ever fully examined the results of the partial Anchor Circle road widening work. He questioned whether drainage had been impaired by asphalt poured into the roadside ditch. Board Member Clayton Holland said he would examine the work.

Maintenance: Board Member Joe Rush said Maintenance Supervisor Matt Kempf ordered salt and sand that was delivered the last week of January. He said Kempf also removed a fallen tree that had blocked Anchor Circle.

Board Member Brian Smith said work on grading and graveling boat lot roads needed to be a priority in a month. Board Member Gary Mallen said trash and junk needed to be removed from storage lots. Smith said Brad Williams of Williams Lakefront Construction would remove old foam dock flotation left in the B Block Boat Lot. President Dean asked that Williams be contacted.

Mallen said abandoned boats and trailers also should be removed from the boat lots. Dean said the Police Department should be contacted to help trace abandoned property and to determine the procedure for removing it.

President Dean said paint sprayed as graffiti on Lake signs, mainly above AB Cove, had melted the vinyl sign coatings, requiring replacement of the signs. She said the damage would be filed with the Country Club's insurance company. John Braden noted a Yield sign was missing on Anchor Circle.

John Braden urged the board to hire a contractor to properly thin and raise the canopies of the trees the board paid to plant along Tapawingo Lane on the Ponderosa. He said it is past time for the trees to receive necessary care to preserve the board's investment and that Maintenance Supervisor Matt Kempf's job list remains too full for him to have time to perform the work. President Dean asked Rush to pursue contract work on the trees.

Lake Testing and Invasive Species: Board Member Renny Buckaloo said the current quarantine time was 28 days, which would reduce to 21 days in March. He said all boats in the boat lots are to be marked with stickers on propellers or transoms by March 1 to indicate they do not require quarantine if they have not been removed from the lots.

Legal: President Dean said the Lake Office received full restitution from former Country Club Administrative Clerk Lori Worman who was ordered by the Jackson County Circuit Court to pay the Country Club \$4,434 over five years.

Water Patrol: Board Member Brian Smith said the lights on the Water Patrol's jon boat have been repaired and once work on the pontoon boat is finished then Stacy Scherer would be paid.

Strategic Planning Committee: President Dean said a Strategic Planning Committee meeting was scheduled Feb. 4 and asked if a board member could attend with Board Member Steve Meek in Board Member Sarah Wilke's place. Board Member Wes Knox agreed to do so.

Official Country Club minutes may be read at the Lake Office.

No Lake privileges

February 2020

The Lake Board lists the following property owners or tenants who do not have Lake privileges as of Feb. 26. Lake privileges include use of the lake for any purpose as well as all common space such as Liberty Gardens, boat lots, soccer fields, tennis courts, the Clubhouse and shelterhouses.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 56-A Beatty | 135-B Stickney |
| 120-A Rogers | 148-B Smith |
| 123-A O'Grady | 170-B Applequist |
| 124-A Schwenk | 22-C Theis |
| 140-A Light | 97-D Evans |



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome new Lake Board members, thank you, departing members

By President Jayme Dean

Spring is the time that our little community wakes up from its winter hibernation. Boats are launched, fisherman get out on the water collecting stories of the "the big one" that got away.

Spring clean-up begins outside in the yard, and the sun hangs on later each evening. New lake toys begin their quarantine time and neighbors reconnect on a walk, or on the dock.

Pickleball players take to the courts and applications are filled out for waterfront improvements.

It is also the time of year that the Lake Tapawingo Board of

Directors welcomes new directors and we show our appreciation to those directors who are leaving their position.

Volunteering and serving our community is a huge commitment of time and talent.

A big thank you to Colleen Drinkard, David Hillerman and Jeff Pirner for your dedication to our neighbors and our community.



Help plan Lake Garage Sale Weekend

If you are interested in helping organize and participating in a Lake Tapawingo Garage Sale, contact Pat Robinson, 81 Dockside, 260-8838, mrsrobinson99@sbcglobal.net.

Various dates have been suggested including May 15-16, May 22-23 (Memorial Day weekend), and May 29-30. State your preference or suggest other dates.

Previous sales have been timed to precede the Lake bulky trash pickup. However, the city's new trash contract puts the bulky pickup in question and none has been scheduled at this time.

Volunteers can also help with planning, making sale signs for the Lake bulletin boards and Lake entrances, and posting the event on Craigslist, Facebook Marketplace or other social media.

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CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Emergency plans include weather, disaster drill

The Board of Aldermen of the city of Lake Tapawingo met Feb. 6 and 18 at City Hall. Mayor Tom Goddard presided.

Visitors: Ryan Alberg, 15 Anchor; Jan Baldwin, 9 Anchor; Jody Goddard, 5 Beach; Charles Plank, 38 Dockside; John Braden, 45 Anchor; Assistant Director Les Boatright, Central Jackson County Emergency Management Agency; Terrence Brown, Merriam, Kan.

Emergency Management: Assistant Director Les Boatright, Central Jackson County Emergency Management Agency, presented an annual report, noting exercises, training, and community and civilian outreach continued to grow during 2019 at the agency, which is based at Central Jackson County Fire Protection District facilities outside the Lake's U.S. 40 gate. He said Community Emergency Response Team training continues to be offered in spring and fall, with more than 20 citizens attending in 2019.

Boatright said Jackson County was among counties with major flooding in 2019 that received a hazard mitigation grant and a matching grant of \$96,000 was awarded to CJCEMA to replace four outdated tornado sirens. He said he wants to replace a siren at the back of the CJCFPD U.S. 40 facility.

Among events in 2020, CJCEMA will conduct another Severe Weather Workshop from 8 a.m.-noon March 21 at the Fire and EMS Education Center on U.S. 40. Boatright said agency trainers usually are joined by local television meteorologists to make presentations. Participation is free. He said 110 people attended in 2019.

Boatright said a full-scale Local Emergency Operation Plan exercise will be conducted starting at 8:30 a.m. April 1 at the Fire and Education Center for disaster simulation and training. He said elected officials are invited to observe.

Boatright complimented Ryan Alberg, the city's volunteer emergency management director, saying he has contributed to CJCEMA on behalf of the Lake Tapawingo community.

After discussion, Mayor Goddard signed an agreement accepting the agency's emergency management plan.

Audit review: Mayor Goddard said the audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, should be ready for review in March. Alderman John Sellars said the city's cash total is accurate but, due to monthly transfers and limitations of the city's accounting software in regard to different accounts (or departments), the audit is not correctly matching the city's financial statements in regard to allocation of funds among the city's cash accounts.

Most notably, Sellars said the cost to build the new City Hall building in 2017-2018 and to

purchase a sewer vacuum trailer along with a pickup truck for the Water and Sewer Department in 2018 were not shown on the audit to match the city's financial statements.

He said the draft audit attributed the \$242,000 for the City Hall entirely to the city administrative budget, which is funded mainly by property taxes. Instead, he said, \$60,000 each should have been allocated to the other "tenants" of the building, the Police Department, which is partly funded by state motor fuel taxes and court fines in addition to property taxes, and the Water and Sewer Department, which is funded by utility bill revenues. Additionally, the \$45,000 vacuum trailer and the truck to pull it were allocated to the city administrative budget when they should have been allocated to the Water and Sewer Department.

Sellars said if those expenses had been allocated correctly, the draft audit of the city administrative budget would have correctly shown financial surpluses instead of losses. He said the city has had good financial management, but it simply had not been recorded correctly. To correct the problem in future, he said the city needs to consider new accounting software as suggested by the auditing firm.

See Officer, Page 11.



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Officer Cruz promoted to full time; Officer Brown hired

Continued from Page 9.

The council voted unanimously to approve a motion by Sellars to adjust the expense allocations in the audit as discussed.

Police: Mayor Goddard said Chief Tammy Taylor promoted Officer Alejandro Cruz-Samano from part time to full time status effective Feb. 4 to fill the position formerly held by Officer Andrew Wilson. City Attorney Paul Campo said he would check the city handbook to determine whether the City Council needed to act to confirm Cruz' promotion. Goddard noted Cruz had worked part time for the city for a year.

In a specially convened council meeting Feb. 18, Chief Taylor introduced Terrence Brown and recommended he be hired to fill the vacant part-time police officer position, filling 16 hours a week. After reviewing all the applicants, she said Brown was the right fit for Lake Tapawingo.

Brown's credentials and experience include: 17 years in law enforcement, service in both large and small communities; and eight years in the Air Force serving as military police. He said he is working on his associate's degree and while in the Air Force Reserve he has worked at Whiteman Air Force Base near Knob Noster, Mo., and Lackland Air Force Base in Texas among others. Taylor said Brown comes recommended by judges and is a Missouri Class A POST certified police officer.

After discussion, the council unanimously approved a motion by Alderman Brad Cloverdyke to hire Brown for the part-time police officer position at \$17.75 per hour.

Mayor: Mayor Goddard said news reports just before the Feb. 6 meeting and an e-mail from a Lake resident indicated Jackson County was expected to increase more real property assessments in certain areas in 2021, including Lake Tapawingo.

Goddard asked the Municipal Committee to discuss the matter. He said the city might be able to advise residents, although it is an issue that residents would have to address individually.

The mayor said the Lake Tapawingo Country Club Board expected to have an appeal hearing soon of its previously increased property tax assessments. He said citizens might attend that hearing to demonstrate their concern.

Zoning Commission appointment: Mayor Goddard said he wanted to

reappoint Janice Cunha, 28 Anchor, to the Zoning Commission. The council unanimously passed a motion by Alderman Steve Magel to approve Cunha's appointment to a four-year term.

Strategic Planning Committee: Alderman John Sellars said the Strategic Planning Committee met Feb. 4 to review the draft strategic plan priorities, the infrastructure plan, and the long-term financial plan. They also assigned responsibilities and discussed the city's audit report.

See Joint, Page 13.

City of Lake Tapawingo Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual July through December 2019				
	Jul - Dec 19	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
4000 · UTILITY BILLINGS	121,255.32	264,920.00	-143,664.68	45.77%
4300 · COURT INCOME	43,725.45	81,700.00	-37,974.55	53.52%
4400 · ADMIN INCOME	52,330.07	102,927.00	-50,596.93	50.84%
4500 · POLICE INCOME	16,707.88	29,100.00	-12,392.12	57.42%
4899 · RESIDENT TRANSACTIONS	2,364.00	4,728.00	-2,364.00	50.0%
Total Income	236,382.72	483,375.00	-246,992.28	48.9%
Gross Profit				
	236,382.72	483,375.00	-246,992.28	48.9%
Expense				
5000 · PAYROLL	209,092.69	425,503.00	-216,410.31	49.14%
5200 · ADMINISTRATIVE	77,161.80	111,355.00	-34,193.20	69.29%
5399 · POLICE	16,042.94	45,650.00	-29,607.06	35.14%
6100 · COURT EXPENSES	6,000.00	10,800.00	-4,800.00	55.56%
6140 · Uniforms/Clothing Allow	1,615.17	4,200.00	-2,584.83	38.46%
6150 · Education & Training	85.00	1,500.00	-1,415.00	5.67%
6151 · TRAINING FROM JEF & POLICE FUND	167.46	600.00	-432.54	27.91%
6152 · TRAINING FROM POST FUND	2,131.93	500.00	1,631.93	426.39%
7100 · SEWER / WATER	205.66	800.00	-594.34	25.71%
Total Expense	312,502.65	600,908.00	-288,405.35	52.01%
Net Ordinary Income	-76,119.93	-117,533.00	41,413.07	64.77%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
4025 · Sewer/Water Maint Billings-Res	58,842.79	111,000.00	-52,157.21	53.01%
4030 · Grinder Pump-Res	20,282.24	34,500.00	-14,217.76	58.79%
4611 · Property Tax	275,505.94	478,000.00	-202,494.06	57.64%
Total Other Income	354,630.97	623,500.00	-268,869.03	56.88%
Other Expense				
8800 · GRINDER PUMPS	51,188.03	74,000.00	-22,811.97	69.17%
8900 · MAINTENANCE	36,644.17	125,092.00	-88,447.83	29.29%
9100 · DEBT	25,470.61	306,875.00	-281,404.39	8.3%
Total Other Expense	113,302.81	505,967.00	-392,664.19	22.39%
Net Other Income	241,328.16	117,533.00	123,795.16	205.33%
Net Income	165,208.23	0.00	165,208.23	100.0%



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Joint panel to discuss storm drainage responsibilities

Continued from Page 11.

Water and Sewer: Alderman Bob Seago said the Water and Sewer Department had replaced two grinder pumps in the past month, which is typical in colder months. He said one of the city's grinder pump suppliers increased prices effective in January, prompting him to shop for additional suppliers. He said the city might have to consider changing from an air tube control system to using pumps controlled by transducers, which would require replacing pump control lines with a system of wiring in conduits.

Building: City Clerk Paul Blixrud said a building permit was issued for new home construction at 42 Anchor, where earthmoving had already begun.

Municipal Committee: Alderman Brad Cloverdyke said the Municipal Committee, with representatives from the City Council and Lake Board, would meet Feb. 11 to discuss

responsibilities of both entities in regard to storm drainage issues.

Fund transfers: The council approved a motion by Alderman Brad Cloverdyke for routine money transfers among funds. (Note: Incoming money to the city goes first to the Operating Account, Debt Service Account or Police Fund Account. Then, when appropriate, it is moved to restricted accounts. When a bill is to be paid from a restricted account, that money is first moved back to the Operating Account so a check can be written.)

Transfers approved:

- \$3,581.45 Water/Trash Account to Operating Account to pay Nov. 19-Dec. 17 Independence water supply bill
- \$17,997.00 Little Blue Valley Sewer District Account to Operating to pay LBVSD Oct.-Dec. bill
- \$100.00 Operating to Police Training Account, Dec. court revenue for police training

- \$598.13 Sewer/Water Maintenance Account to Operating for Jan. supplies/maintenance
- \$4,372.30 Sewer/Water Maintenance to Operating for Jan. water meter installation
- \$8,986.04 Grinder Pump Account to Operating to purchase grinder pumps/parts
- \$29,368.57 Debt Service Account to Operating, city portion of Jan. property tax collection
- \$5,953.72 Operating to LBVSD, revenue collected from Jan. billing
- \$10,474.79 Operating to Water/Trash, revenue collected from Jan. billing
- \$8,805.44 Operating to Sewer/Water Maintenance, revenue collected from Jan. billing
- \$4,518.41 Operating to Grinder Pump, revenue collected from Jan. billing.

Official city minutes may be read at City Hall or on the city Internet site, www.laketapawingomo.org.

For sale: Sweet 16 sailboat/trailer, 13-foot Laser sailboat/trailer, kayaks

For sale:

- 16-foot **Sweet 16 sailboat** with new sails and trailer for \$2,000 or best offer
- 13-foot Olympic class **Laser sailboat** with speed accessories and trailer for \$1,000 or best offer.
- **Two kayaks** with paddles for \$100 each.

If interested, they can be viewed at 31 Beach. Contact me at wpsmith51@aol.com.

Estate Sale, 31 Beach, in March

The estate sale at 31 Beach is expected to occur about March 5-7 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Included are a lifetime of sailing supplies, fishing equipment, books and other items acquired by a happy-go-lucky bachelor over 30 years. See information when posted on estate sale website absoluteestatesales.net.

Bill Smith
wpsmith51@aol.com.



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MAYOR'S MINUTES

Canada geese: Lake T is nice place to visit, please don't stay

By Mayor Tom Goddard

The spring waterfowl migration has started to the delight of many of our residents! A few days ago, there were several hundred geese on our lake. In a few days most of them will be gone.

The 30 to 40 geese left on the lake are the Giant Canada. They can have a wingspan up to 73 inches and be 43 inches in length. The largest ever recorded weighed 24 pounds.

Many of the geese that used our lake as a stopover were the smaller Lesser Canada goose. It is a separate species and is much smaller. If you observe them closely you can identify them by the length of their neck. The Lesser Canada has a very short neck compared to the Giant Canada with a much longer neck.



A large or small Canada goose can eat a lot of your lawn and leave some huge droppings!

All of the Lesser Canada and a lot of the



Giant Canada geese are migratory, and just use our lake as a resting place on their migration route. However, we do have a resident population of about 40 of the Giant Canada that stay here year-round. This is a change in their normal migration routine that has

come about for a number of reasons. The climate is getting warmer and our lake is a safe haven with few predators and no hunters shooting at them.

In the years when the lake froze over and we were ice skating by Thanksgiving the geese moved on and didn't stop on their way back north in the spring. When we moved to the lake in 1988 there were no geese and very few ducks here. As their populations have grown across North America to between 4 million and 5 million, more and more of them have become non-migratory.

We must all be diligent in helping the Lake Board's Joe Rush and Brian Smith with the strategy to keep the population from getting out of hand. Report the location of any nest that you see to Joe or the Lake Office and please don't feed them! A pair can raise five to six young per year if we let them nest successfully. We must work to keep them at a manageable level.

Under threat of jail, ex-Lake clerk pays

By John Braden

Former Lake Tapawingo Country Club administrative clerk Lori Worman has paid the full court-ordered \$4,434 in restitution to the Country Club to cover a variety of unauthorized purchases with a Country Club credit card.

Worman made the full payment in February after the Jackson County prosecutor filed a motion seeking to revoke her probation due to her failure to make any of the restitution payments as ordered by Judge James Kanatzar on June 14, 2019. Kanatzar had ordered Worman to follow a repayment plan of \$75 per month over five years.

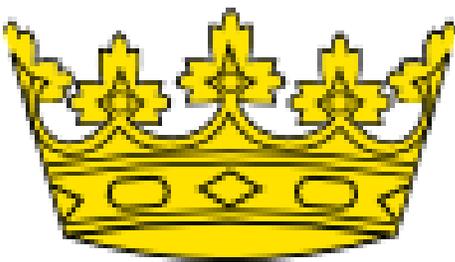
Assistant Jackson County Prosecutor J. Timothy Yasso had filed a motion Jan. 6 for a probation violation hearing for Worman. On behalf of Prosecutor Jean Peters Baker, Yasso requested an order to suspend Worman's probation and to set a hearing to revoke her probation.

After Worman made the payment, a court docket entry was filed Feb. 19, declaring Yasso's motion was

"no longer an issue." Lake Board President Jayme Dean reported full restitution had been made.

Worman pleaded guilty Jan. 29, 2019, to felony stealing more than \$750 from the Country Club. She was sentenced to three years' probation as part of a plea agreement that avoided a trial in Jackson County Circuit Court in Independence. Kanatzar had ordered her to comply with all her probation officer's instructions or the judge could send her to prison for up to seven years.

Charges against Worman alleged she misused a Lake Tapawingo Country Club credit card for her personal use. While the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office sought \$9,758.01 in restitution, Worman and her defense attorney only admitted she misused the credit card to a total of \$1,232.33. Judge Kanatzar roughly split the difference in the two amounts, ordering Worman to pay the \$4,434 after Yasso and Worman's lawyer reached an agreed-upon list of purchases based on the discussion in court.



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Photos by Elizabeth Braden

THEY HAD US AT "WINE" -- Wine and snacks fuel painters in the creation of new wall hangings for their homes. Once the painting began, the focus was on following the instructions to create a painting as good as the example.

WOMEN'S CLUB NEWS

New faces join club board; Wine & Design a hit

By Tomi Bellinghausen

March brings the installation of new officers to the Women's Club Board. Thank you to all who have served the organization over the years. Huge loads of appreciation for those coming off their terms, a shout out to those agreeing to stay on, and thank you and welcome to the new board members.

Officers will be installed at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12, followed by an open planning meeting and dessert potluck at the Clubhouse. Please come meet your new board, throw around ideas, and learn about volunteering/donating opportunities for our Lake activities.

2020-2021 Women's Club Board Officers

- Tomi Bellinghausen -- President
- Jeanne Turner -- First Vice President
- Julie Davis -- Second Vice President
- Lisa Hodges -- Third Vice President
- Shannon Follis -- Recording Secretary
- Morgan Combs -- Treasurer
- Marge Guffey -- Corresponding Secretary

Missouri presidential primary election set March 10

Lake voters go the polls March 10 for the Missouri presidential preference primary election. They may choose from the ballots of five political parties from which to nominate candidates to run in the Nov. 3 general election. Polls will be open from 6 a.m.-7 p.m. at the Clubhouse.

Missouri has an open primary system in which a voter does not have to belong to the political party whose ballot he chooses. Republicans could cross over to vote for Democrats and vice versa, for example.

Bring desserts to St. Patrick's Dinner!

The Women's Club requests donated desserts for the St. Pat's Dinner following the parade on March 14. A Facebook request will be going out with details. Please respond and donate if you are so inclined.

Challenge: Show us what you think a St. Patrick's Day dessert is. Is it a particular dessert or is it a decoration or is it just the spirit in which you gobble it up??!

Wine, snacks and art

The Wine and Design Party was fantastic! The Clubhouse was filled with laughter and creativity Feb. 27 as the Painting Party. People provided supplies and step-by-step instructions for 34 people to paint a picture of a moonlit lake with a dock and small boat.



Everyone left knowing their neighbors a little better and with a personal piece of art inspired and created right here at Lake Tapawingo.

Remember, Women's Club memberships are only \$15 and are being taken now. Bring your dues to our March 12 meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse!



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Photos by John Nicol

THAT'S AMORE -- When the sauce "makes you drool just like pasta fazool," that's the Sportsmen's Club Spaghetti Dinner! About 50 Lake residents brought their sauces to mix and match with club pasta.

SPORTSMEN'S CLUB NEWS

Show the green for St. Pat's Parade, Dinner on March 14

By John Nicol

The annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and festivities are under new management: The Lake Tapawingo Sportsmen's Club and Women's Club will put on the traditional dinner.

Be Irish for a day! Wear some green and join in the parade that lines up at the Clubhouse at 1 p.m., Saturday, March 14. Usually led by police sirens, it starts at 2 p.m., visiting first tier Docks, Emerald Shore, Anchor, Beach and Clipper and returning to the Clubhouse to begin the traditional Irish dinner at about 3 p.m.

The St. Pat's Dinner menu includes smoked corned beef brisket, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, beans, hot dogs and buns. Drinks include water, soda and adult beverages. A variety of desserts will be provided by the Women's Club. It will be \$10 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under with credit and debit cards welcome.

Help us continue this happy annual event begun by Lane Lasher and Bob Barrett in 1989 with a six-car parade, plus corned beef and cabbage in the Lasher carport. We hope you will participate in the parade or catch the candy tossed by the parade riders.

February Spaghetti Dinner was a saucy time

Our Missouri weather fluctuations did not deter a nice turnout of more than 50 attendees for the potluck Spaghetti Dinner Feb. 11. Under chefs Jim Clarke and John Harrison, the Sportsmen's Club

cooked the spaghetti and prepared garlic bread and salad. A fine variety and number of sauces were brought to the potluck as well as desserts.



The \$25 drawings went to Brandon Johnson and Sharon Arbaugh. Jim Clarke thanked all who attended and brought the excellent potluck contributions.

President Jim Clarke followed up the Spaghetti Dinner with the regular club meeting. First Vice President John Harrison reported membership increased to 145. A new meeting attendee, Joel Peknik, 68 Beach, introduced himself and was welcomed. He and his wife Hilary had been at the dinner and he stayed to join the meeting. Second Vice President Joe Rush had obtained the new Spaghetti Dinner signs that were used on the bulletin boards.

Plans for the St. Patrick's Day Dinner were outlined. Jim Clarke and John Harrison would do grocery shopping and cook. Scott Patton would help prepare vegetables and the Women's Club would assist and provide desserts. Chuck Welch would take care of decorating and pull the club's parade float. John Nicol would order and oversee the dinner decorations. Initial set-up would begin at 8 a.m. March 14.

Due to the recurring cold days, no fishing activity was reported by Third Vice President Barnard Wilson. Under old business, Chuck Welch reported on his participation on the Lake Strategic Planning Committee.

Jim Clarke had contacted Wyatt Zucca to get an estimate to reroof the Shelterhouse. Jeremy Cumberland provided insight into discussion of possible insurance options.

Due to the March 10 primary election, the March 10 Sportsmen's Club meeting is delayed until 7:30 p.m.



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Q: Insurance is confusing. A real hassle.

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Q: I hate calling "an 800" number or talking with someone different every time.

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TAPAWINGO POLICE GAZETTE

PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Welcome Officer Brown; events and reminders

By Chief Tammy Taylor

Let's give a big welcome to our newest part-time officer, Terrence Brown. Mr. Brown will be our weekend officer after he completes his field training with our department.



Brown has approximately 17 years of experience in law enforcement and comes to us with great recommendations. We believe he will be a great asset to our community and department. If you see him out and about please take the opportunity to meet him and welcome him to the community.

Event Permits - The Police Department requests that you fill out a permit at our office when having larger events in the city. Events would include: estate sales, garage sales, wedding parties, graduation parties, etc. These permits are free! The purpose of the permit is so that we may assist you with any parking situations that could occur and so we are aware there will be more citizens than normal entering and exiting the city. Thank you to those who have filled them out. We really appreciate it and it makes our jobs so much easier.

Camera Registration program - We are asking residents who have video cameras on their properties to please add your name to our registry. We ask so if there ever was a crime committed in your area maybe your cameras picked up something we could use to identify the suspects or their vehicles. Thank you to those who have already registered, it makes our jobs at solving crimes much easier.

File of Life - We have the File of Life packets available at the office. Stop by and pick up yours. File of Life is a program that alerts first responders to the medications you may be currently taking, your medical

conditions and your emergency contacts in case you were to have a medical emergency.

The File of Life packet with all your information stays in your home and is placed on your refrigerators, plus a sticker on your front door alerts that you have one. It's a great program that helps not only you but the responders helping you during your emergency. It helps save lives!



Donate DVDs - We are looking for DVDs to donate to the Summit View Terrace Senior assisted living facility. They must be family friendly DVDs. (No violence or sexual content, please.) These are great sources of entertainment for our seniors and they are in need. If you have any that you would like to donate please drop them by the station and our officers will deliver them.

Q&A with a Cop - We hope to see you at our second scheduled Q&A with a Cop, at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26, at City Hall. We will hold these events on the fourth Thursday of each month. Bring your questions!



Blood Drive - Join us for our second annual Blood Drive sponsored by the Lake Tapawingo Police Department from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at the Clubhouse. Register now for your donation and help save a life!

Q & A



Contact Sarah at our office, 224-6645, if you need assistance. Last year we had 42 people registered for donation. Let's beat those numbers this year!

Police Reports

	Jan. 1-31	Dec. 1-31	Nov. 1-30	Oct. 1-31	Sept. 1-30
Traffic - Anchor	0	2	4	3	3
offenses - Beach	2	0	0	1	0
- Clipper	0	0	0	0	0
- Dockside	0	2	0	1	4
- Emerald Shore	0	0	0	0	1
- Tapawingo Lane	0	4	4	9	3
- Woods Chapel	2	5	16	18	11
- U.S. 40	39	50	44	65	75
- Total	43	63	68	97	97
Warrant arrests	0	0	9	8	13
Arrests	1	2	10	6	12
Felony arrests	0	0	0	0	0
Codes complaints	0	0	1	3	4
Calls for service	16	14	20	25	27
Warnings	30	62	58	56	48
Total	90	141	166	195	201



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MARCH 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 <i>Lake Office: Closed</i>	2 Country Club Board, 7 p.m. Clubhouse <i>Lake Office: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</i>	3 <i>Lake Office: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</i>	4 <i>Lake Office: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</i>	5 City Council 6 p.m., City Hall <i>Lake Office: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</i>	6 <i>Lake Office: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</i>	7 <i>Lake Office: Closed</i>
8  Daylight Saving Time Begins <i>Lake Office: Closed</i>	9 <i>Lake Office: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</i>	10 Presidential Primary Election 6 a.m.-7 p.m. Clubhouse Sportsmen's Club 7:30 p.m., Clubhouse <i>Lake Office: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</i>	11 Voter registration deadline for April 7 election <i>Lake Office: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</i>	12 Women's Club 7:30 p.m. Clubhouse <i>Lake Office: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</i>	13 <i>Lake Office: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</i>	14  St. Patrick's Day Parade, 1 p.m. Clubhouse 3 p.m. Dinner <i>Lake Office: Closed</i>
15 <i>Lake Office: Closed</i>	16 Country Club Board, 7 p.m. Clubhouse <i>Lake Office: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</i>	17  St. Patrick's Day <i>Lake Office: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</i>	18 <i>Lake Office: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</i>	19  First Day of Spring <i>Lake Office: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</i>	20 <i>Lake Office: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</i>	21 Severe Weather Workshop, 8 a.m. CJCEMA, U.S. 40 Invasive Species Training, 9 a.m., Lake Office (pre-register) LTPD Blood Drive 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Clubhouse <i>Lake Office: 9 a.m.-11 a.m.</i>
22 <i>Lake Office: Closed</i>	23 <i>Lake Office: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</i>	24 <i>Lake Office: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</i>	25 Municipal court cases 1:30 p.m., Circuit Court, Independence <i>Lake Office: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</i>	26  LTPD Q&A with a Cop, 6:30 p.m. City Hall <i>Lake Office: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</i>	27 <i>Lake Office: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</i>	28  <i>Lake Office: Closed</i>
29 <i>Lake Office: Closed</i>	30 <i>Lake Office: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</i>	31 <i>Lake Office: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</i>	Country Club Office hours: -Monday-Friday, open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. -Third Saturday, open 9 a.m.-11 a.m. First, second, fourth, fifth Saturdays closed. -Sunday closed. City Hall hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.			

Zebra mussel form needed for boat stickers; class still offered

Lake residents who underwent invasive species training classes in 2018 and 2019 are required to submit signed retraining certificates in 2020 before they may obtain boat registration stickers or dock permits, or use the lake "for any activity."

A brief information sheet and a sign-and-return certificate were mailed to every property owner's home with the Country Club's annual assessment bill. Copies are also available at the Lake Office.

Monthly invasive species training sessions are still offered throughout the year, mainly for new residents, but also as a refresher course for previously trained property owners, renters or their families. Training sessions are held at 9 a.m. at the Lake Office on the third Saturday of the month and now are scheduled:

- March 21
- April 18
- May 16
- June 20



Residents planning to attend are required to preregister at the Lake Office at office@laketapawingomo.com or 228-3721, so trainers will know how large a group to expect.

Lake Rules require invasive species training certification before property owners or renters may obtain boat registration stickers or dock permits, or use the lake "for any activity." Rules require a member of each household to be retrained every two years.

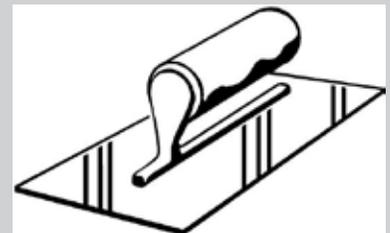


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