



# LOON'S CALL

LOON LAKE PROPERTY OWNER'S ASSOCIATION

"Working together for a fun, safe & scenic lakeside community"

JANUARY 2026

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY KATHY EHINGER



Welcome 2026! As we begin a new year on our beautiful lake, I'd like to personally thank all of the volunteers who help make this community so special. Your efforts truly make our lake an incredible place to call home.

With the weather we've had this past week, I'm excited for spring and all the great things that come with it. A fun-filled summer is on the way, including the Kids Fishing Derby, Garage Sale, Fireworks, Golf Cart Parade, 5K Run, Sailboat Regatta, and Corn Hole Tournament. We're always looking for new ideas and would love to hear your suggestions!

If you have ideas to share or would like to volunteer in any way, please reach out to me or any of the board members. We look forward to hearing your ideas and seeing everyone enjoy the lake!

## CHANGES TO THE CORNHOLE TOURNNEY

BY DEB HISS

Hello fellow Loon Lakers. Looking ahead to next year, we would like to update you on changes to our annual event schedule.

The Loon Lake Fish Management Program (LLFMP) will cease its fish stocking program over the next couple of years. Along with that change, they will no longer be sponsoring the annual cornhole tournament. Previously, proceeds from the cornhole tournament supported this endeavor. Since the tournament is an excellent opportunity for fun and camaraderie, plans are underway to continue the tradition as an LLPOA sponsored event. Deb Hiss has stepped up to chair the event and the fish management group has graciously offered to assist making a smooth transition.

Beginning In 2026 proceeds will be put toward lake enhancement and conservation efforts on Loon Lake. As in prior years, the tournament will take place on the same day as the Association Annual Fall meeting. For 2026 that day is Saturday, August 29th.

To keep the tradition alive, we are looking for individuals that would like to make donations, sell tickets, or set up and clean up the day of the event. Please contact Deb Hiss 260-229-0643 if you would be interested in assisting.



# 2026 Loon Lake Events Calendar

<b>APR 11</b>	April Can Pickup - 9:00am
<b>MAY 9</b>	May Can Pickup - 9:00am
<b>MAY 16</b>	Spring Meeting - 9:30am-10:30am
<b>JUN 6</b>	Kids Fishing Derby - 8:00am-11:00am
<b>JUN 13</b>	June Can Pickup - 9:00am
<b>JUN 19</b>	Golf Outing - 1:00pm
<b>JUN 19-20</b>	Garage Sales - 8:00am-4:00pm
<b>JUL 3</b>	Fireworks - 10:00pm
<b>JUL 4</b>	5.5K Run/Walk - 8:00am
<b>JUL 4</b>	Pancake Breakfast - 8:00am-11:00am
<b>JUL 4</b>	Sailboat Race - 5:00pm-6:00pm
<b>JUL 5</b>	Golf Cart Parade - 10:00am-12:00pm
<b>JUL 11</b>	July Can Pickup - 9:00am
<b>AUG 1</b>	Poker Run - 10:00am-12:00pm
<b>AUG 8</b>	August Can Pickup - 9:00am
<b>AUG 29</b>	Fall Meeting - 9:30am-10:30am
<b>AUG 29</b>	LLPOA Cornhole Tournament-12:00pm
<b>SEP 12</b>	September Can Pickup - 9:00am
<b>TBD</b>	Community Trick or Treat - 3:00pm-5:00pm



## WELCOME SIGNS

Want to post a special message on the welcome media signs around the lake? Contact Linda Garrison at (765)254-3955 to rent a sign for only \$5! Great for birthdays, anniversaries, retirements, or even fun quotes or messages!

### Sign Maintenance

Thanks to Nancy Graft, Denise Milestone, Patty Hessler, and Sara Vepel for maintaining the flowers around the signs!



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# LOON LAKE A SPECIAL PLACE TO LIVE

BY GARY HICKS



All Loon Lake property owners would agree... Loon Lake is a very special place to live! For many of us buying property on Loon Lake was the realization of a dream. But beyond the fact that we have a lake right outside our front door, Loon Lake is a community of wonderful, fun-loving, caring people.

Our board members have had the opportunity to talk with a lot of other lake association leaders, TWF (The Watershed Foundation) members, and DNR officials, both local and state level. During these conversations they are constantly amazed by what we do and what we have accomplished as a small association. In fact, they have confirmed, we not only have the highest membership to resident percentage (over 67%), but we are clearly the most active association within the TWF group of lakes. That says a great deal about the people who are dedicated and care about the present and future of Loon Lake.

Just think of all the things we do and in a year's time: A garage sale, fishing derby, can collections, fireworks, pancake breakfast, sailboat race, 5.5K run, poker run, golf cart parade, and cornhole tournament.

And that's just the obvious public events. Behind the scenes a long list of Board, Committee members and volunteers spend countless hours making sure this all happens. There are meetings, master plans, financial records and reports, newsletters published and e-mail blasts to keep members informed.

We have a very active Lake Enhancement Committee. We spray purple loosestrife, addle goose eggs and place buoys to help boaters protect our lake shores.



We've acquired property for a conservancy to preserve the habitat and health of the lake. We (with an all resident volunteer crew) built a pavilion along side a wildflower prairie. Several property owners in the past have personally taken advantage of Healthy Shoreline grants to improve their property as well as the habitat of the lake.

It literally adds up to not just hundreds, but thousands of volunteer hours. And it's this spirit of volunteering and participation that makes Loon Lake a special place to live and play.

Why do all these people give of their time and effort? The reasons are as varied as the number of people involved. But, as we have talked to volunteers, there is a common theme that comes up in almost every conversation. They're all having FUN!! It's spending time on the water, making new friends, seeing the smiles of residents, their children and grandchildren. And yes, it leaves you feeling good to know you are contributing to making and keeping Loon Lake special today and for the generations to come.

# LOON LAKE SEDIMENT RETENTION POND SCHEDULED FOR DREDGING IN 2027

BY WALT HESSLER

Did you know there's a Sediment Retention Pond south of Loon Lake along the Friskney Ditch? (View the Google Earth map.) Built in 1997, this pond was designed to help preserve Loon Lake.

Back in the 1990s, studies found that Loon Lake had high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus. Below a depth of 13 feet, there was almost no dissolved oxygen. The combination of these low oxygen levels and high phosphorus concentrations in the deep water suggested that phosphorus from the lakebed sediments was a serious issue. Investigations identified the Friskney Ditch as the main source of pollutants affecting the lake's health.

To address this, community leaders established the Sediment Retention Pond on the Friskney Ditch, aiming to reduce harmful sediment inflow. The pond fulfilled its purpose, requiring dredging in 2012—fifteen years after it was built. Recent depth measurements show it's time for another dredging in 2027, conveniently fifteen years since the last cleanout.



This project is both significant and challenging. The LLPOA Board has decided to form a committee specifically to manage this effort. Key responsibilities include:

- Coordinating and communicating with the landowner
- Preparing detailed plans and drawings showing necessary dredging depths
- Finding contractors and gathering bids
- Identifying potential grant funding sources and preparing applications
- Assisting the selected contractor in securing permits from agencies like the DNR, Drainage Board, Army Corps of Engineers, and IDEM

If you are interested in being part of the committee to guide this important work, please reach out to LLPOA Board President Kathy Ehinger.

**Aquatic Weed Control**

Jim Donahoe  
Owner/Operator

P.O. Box 325  
Syracuse, Indiana  
46567

574-533-2597  
Fax 534-8230

[jim@aquaticweedcontrol.com](mailto:jim@aquaticweedcontrol.com)

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## HOLIDAY LIGHT DISPLAY WINNER

After touring the lake's holiday lights, last year's winners, Jeff and Jennifer Anderson, chose Kent and Diana Farthing as the 2025 winner. Their display stood out with lights on both sides of Brown Road and a singing Mickey. Congratulations Kent and Diana!



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**website** Visit [www.loonlakeindiana.org](http://www.loonlakeindiana.org) to see the lake calendar, history, news, contacts, newsletters & more! Have any suggestions or photos you'd like to see featured on the Loon Lake website? Email them to us at [loonlakemail@gmail.com](mailto:loonlakemail@gmail.com)

**facebook** Join the Loon Lake Community Facebook group. Follow news and other happenings around the lake. Over 600 folks have joined and regularly share info! It's great for lost and found, power outage updates, help needed, cottage for rent, etc.

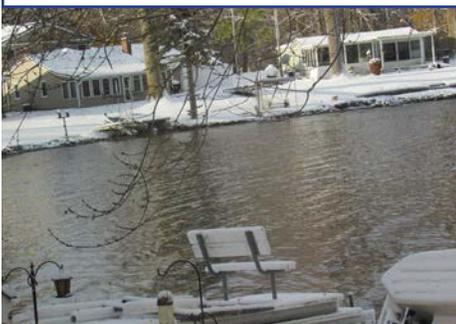
**email** Have you been receiving emails from the LLPOA? If NOT, email us at [loonlakemail@gmail.com](mailto:loonlakemail@gmail.com) so we can add you to our email list. We do not share e-mail addresses. The summer and winter issues of the newsletter are sent via e-mail only unless you request a hard copy.



# TRICK OR TREAT FUN



# LET IT SNOW



# LOON LAKE APPAREL

BY DEBBIE BAUERMEISTER

Happy New Year! We have great news!

If you didn't get any LLPOA apparel for Christmas, it is not too late to have some for Spring. LLPOA, with the help of Running Around Screen Printing, now offers new patterns for your Loon Lake apparel. When you log onto [www.loonlakeindiana.org](http://www.loonlakeindiana.org) and start your order, there are 5 designs that you can select from—#1 is the original and 4 new ones.

I know it's still cold outside, but it won't be long and Spring will be blossoming. These are available on the website now. Visit our website today to browse the full collection and place your order. In addition to the sweatshirts, hoodies, long-sleeve shirts, and t-shirts we've always had, we now have youth and toddler hooded sweatshirts.



Below is a quick reminder on how to order your apparel.

**Go to the Loon Lake website: [www.loonlakeindiana.org](http://www.loonlakeindiana.org)**

Once you are on the Loon Lake site click on:

> **MORE** (on the upper right side of the home page)

> **Apparel**

- **Click Here to Order** (takes you to Running Around Screen Printing website)
- Choose the **Loon Lake logo** located on the Apparel screen, click on it
- Start shopping: Select an item to shop
- Then you will choose color, style, and size
- Order and pay
  - You can either pick up your merchandise at the store or have it shipped directly to you (for a small fee)

Running Around Screen Printing is a local business in downtown Columbia City:  
227 W Van Buren St, Columbia City, IN 46725

Loon Lake receives 10% for every sale, so you are also supporting LLPOA.

Questions or need any help with the website?  
Contact Debbie Bauermeister at 260-705-3192.

Have a wonderful 2026!

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# LOON LAKE CONTACTS

All area codes 260 unless noted

## BOARD OFFICERS

Kathy Ehinger, President ..... 437-8085  
 Debbie Bauermeister, Vice President ..... 705-3192  
 Tena Miller, Treasurer ..... 213-0638  
 Carol Kurtz, Secretary ..... 799-4980

## BOARD DIRECTORS

Brian Clark..... 438-2322  
 Michael Cornyn ..... 337-344-0177  
 James Foreman..... 417-4578  
 Bob Gallivan ..... 820-1240  
 Gary Hicks..... 403-7691  
 Geoff Vepel ..... 602-5996

## CHAIRPERSONS \*Denotes Board Liaison

5.5K Run/Walk ..... (Scott Davis)\*Gary 847-312-9547  
 By-Laws ..... (Michael Cornyn) 337-344-0177  
 Can Collection.....(Brian Clark, Bob Gallivan) 820-1240  
 Cornhole Tournament ..... (Deb Hiss) \*James 403-2786  
 Email ..... (Carol Kurtz) 799-4980  
 Finance Committee..... (Tena Miller) 213-0638  
 Fire Hydrants..... Terry Huffman \*Geoff 609-8691  
 Fireworks ..... (Brian Clark) 438-2322  
 Garage Sale ..... (Linda Archer) \*Tena 341-2895  
 Golf Cart Parade.....(Kathy Ehinger) 437-8085  
 Golf Outing .....(Kirk Smith) \*James 417-4578  
 Kid's Fishing Day .....(JoAn Butler) \*Carol 466-6207  
 Lake Enhancement.....(Walt Hessler) 403-1173  
 Loon Lake Apparel ..... (Debbie Bauermeister) 705-3192  
 Loon Lisle Reserve ..... (Carol Kurtz) 799-4980  
 Media Sign .....(Linda Garrison) \*Karen 765-251-3955  
 Newsletter ..... (Beth Hartman) \*Carol 614-738-9664  
 Pancake Breakfast....(Kristina Stephan) \*Debbie 317-850-0650  
 Poker Run.....(Abby Green) \*Kathy 437-8085  
 Sailboat Race ..... (Tom Zahm) \*Gary 341-8349  
 Water Quality Testing .....(Walt Hessler) \*Tena 403-1173  
 Website.....(Tom Zahm) \*Carol 799-4980  
 Welcome Committee ..... (Louise Hill) \*Debbie 705-3192

## COMMUNITY-POLICE/FIRE/HEALTH

Emergency ..... 911  
 DNR ..... 244-3720  
 Whitley County Sheriff..... 244-6410  
 Whitley Co Fire (Larwill Richland Twp)..... 248-8911  
 Whitley Co Fire (Thorncreek Twp) ..... 691-9117  
 Whitley County Health Dept ..... 248-3121  
 Noble County Sheriff..... 636-2182  
 Noble County Fire ..... 799-9987  
 Noble County Health Dept..... 636-2191

## COMMUNITY-OTHER

Columbia City Utilities ..... 248-5110  
 Humane Society..... 244-6664  
 Noble REMC.....636-2113 or 800-933-7362  
 The Watershed Foundation.....574-834-3242  
 Tri-Lakes Sewer District..... 691-2820  
 After Hours Emergency Number ..... 609-9680

## BEING NEIGHBORLY



**Neighbors watch out for neighbors over the winter!** Loon Lake is one of the most caring communities. Please take extra measures to assure your neighbors and their homes are doing well during our less active season. Stay alert of your surroundings and we will all be enjoying the summer breezes soon!

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