

# Indian Lake Smoke Signal

• INDIAN LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION •

## President's Message

by Mark Rumreich

### A STEP FORWARD ON LAKE ISSUES

This fall, the board approved a Preliminary Engineering Study (PES) by Commonwealth Engineering to look closely at two ongoing concerns: the dam's condition and lake sedimentation. The intent is to gather clear, professional information about what we're dealing with and what it might take to address it.

The study will review existing data, evaluate alternatives, and develop cost estimates and funding options. It's expected to take about 120 days and cost \$60,000. Commonwealth has indicated that the work could also help with future grant applications, but there are no guarantees that outside funding will follow.

This is not the start of a construction project—it's the beginning of an information-gathering process. What comes after will depend on the results, our financial position, and the community's priorities.

### REALITY CHECK ON COSTS AND EXPECTATIONS

The board discussed at length whether this expenditure was justified. In the end, the general consensus was that having professional data in hand is necessary before any larger decisions can be made by the Association and by governmental agencies.

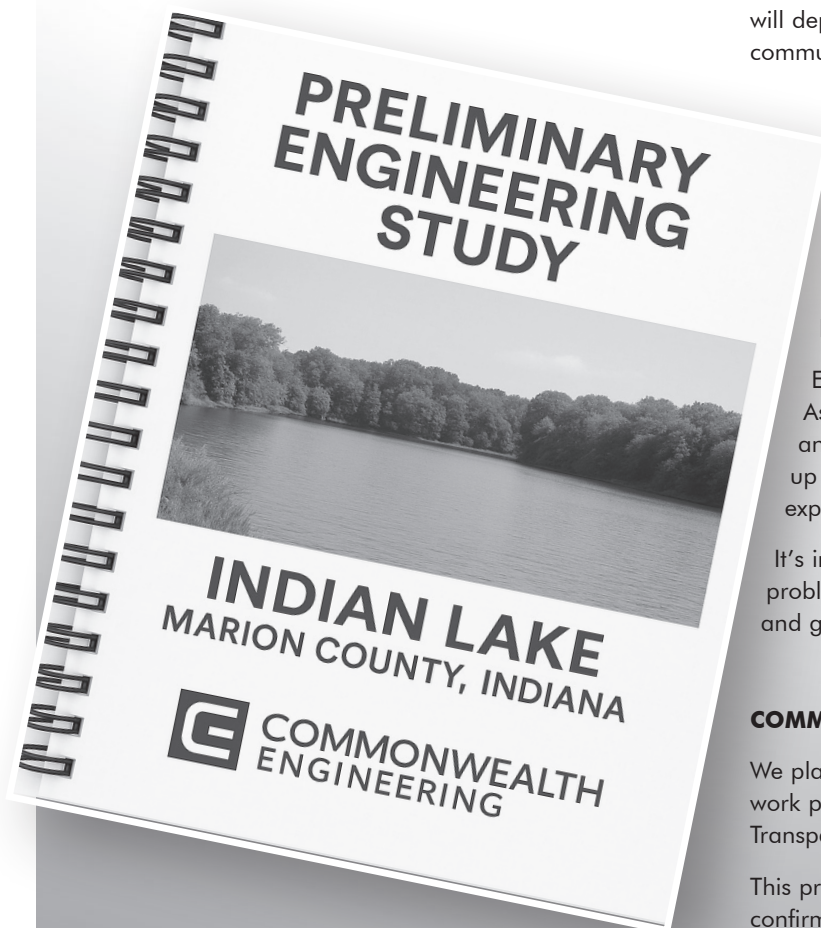
Even so, we recognize this is a significant expense for the Association. The study will reduce our reserve balance, and replenishing those funds will take time. Any follow-up projects—especially involving the dam—will likely be expensive and will require additional discussion.

It's important to note that the study itself won't solve the lake's problems. What it will do is clarify what those problems are, and give us a realistic picture of options and costs.

### COMMUNICATION AND NEXT STEPS

We plan to post summaries and updates to members as the work progresses, and to hold member meetings as appropriate. Transparency and accuracy will be key as we move forward.

This process will take patience. It's possible the study will confirm what we already know, or reveal challenges that aren't easy to fix. Either way, it will give us a factual basis for planning.







## Heron Sculpture Continues Indian Lake Tradition

A striking new sculpture now stands in the front yard of Richard and Melody Uργο's home — a heron carved from the trunk of a once-towering tree. Rather than removing the tree, the Urgos chose to have it transformed into a work of art.

The tall, flowing figure captures the grace of the heron, a bird long associated with Indian Lake.

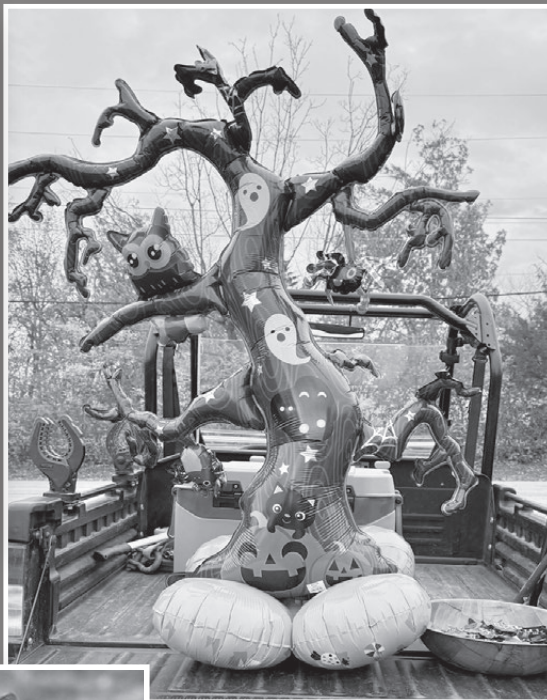
The piece continues a growing neighborhood tradition of turning old trees into wood carvings, blending creativity, craftsmanship, and a deep appreciation for the lake's environment.



## Trunk or Treat







## Trunk or Treat

Several Indian Lake ghouls and goblins enjoyed the spooktacular Trunk or Treat event hosted by the Civic Committee on November 1 at the Indian Lake Park.

Congratulations to Matt Manka for winning the best decorated trunk!





# Across the Chain Link Fence

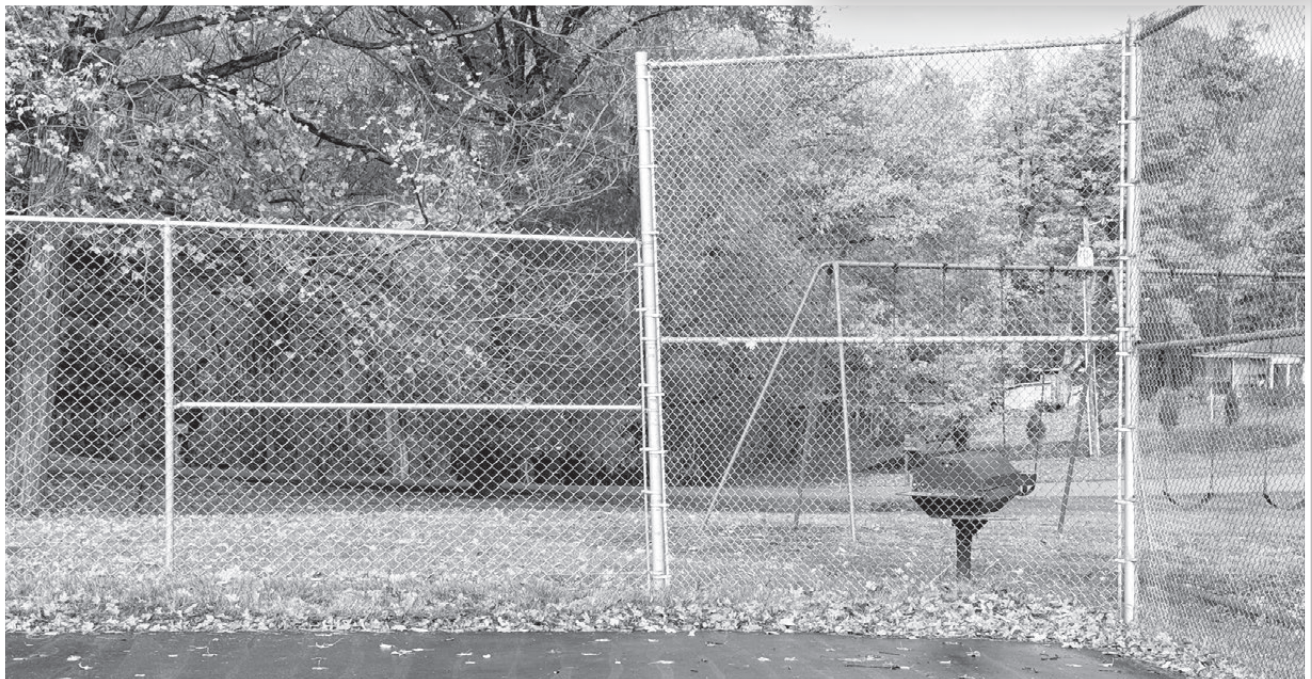
Several fence repair projects were recently completed around the neighborhood. On August 16, a strong storm brought down a large branch from one of the old trees by the tennis courts. The falling branch caused significant damage to the tennis court fence, and the tree itself was so badly damaged that it had to be completely removed by ASAP Tree Service.

Then, on September 9, a car accident at the dam destroyed the fence gate there.

On October 29, Draper Fence Co. completed all the necessary repairs, including fixing an older section of fence at the spillway that had been damaged by kids a few years ago.

Multiple quotes were obtained for the work, in keeping with the board's standard operating procedures. Insurance covered a substantial portion of the costs, helping to minimize the neighborhood's expense.

A special thank-you goes to Phil Marble for his help coordinating these projects.





## City Home in Country



One of Indian Lake's modern two-bedroom homes.

### Indian Lake Retreat Has All The Conveniences—and Bass

If you're looking for a place to build which has all the conveniences of modern city living yet has the charm of a wooded vacation retreat, you should consider Indian Lake.

Some 14 miles northeast of the Circle, Indian Lake is the largest body of water in central Indiana. Around the 60-acre lake (which was formed in 1928 by the construction of a 650-foot earth dam across Indian Creek) are 197 lots, most of them wooded. Four homes are already built and one of them is occupied.

Martin C. Eastburn of the United Mortgage Co., sales agent for the addition, will show one of the completed homes Sunday afternoon.

To the left of the entrance in this home is a large guest closet with a window. The tan striped wall paper is the same as that in the living room which opens from the entrance alcove. Across the entire front of the living room is a triple small-paneled window from the ceiling almost to the floor overlooking the bluff and lake.

An archway leads to the dining room, which has a chintz patterned paper, and windows on two sides, one of them overlooking the lake. Back of the dining room is the kitchen with block linoleum flooring in blue star pattern. The steel cabinets have 20 separate compartments and counter and splash of red marbled linoleum with blue trim. There are double windows over the sink.

A breezeway leads to the single-car garage.

A hallway off the living room on the right of the entrance leads to the bath and two bedrooms. Like the living room, the front bedroom overlooks the lake. The woodwork here is finished in pale green to harmonize with the green wall paper which has a nosegay pattern.

The other bedroom (at the front of the house) has peach woodwork and peach paper with a bouquet pattern. Both bedrooms have large closets and the hallway has a linen closet with four shelves. The hall paper is a silver stripe over a blue background.

The bath has black marbled linoleum flooring running up on the walls about three inches to a chromium trim. Above this are green marbled linoleum walls. There is an inbuilt tub and shower and all fixtures are of modern chrome and enamel.

The home is built against the bluff so that the basement opens onto the ground level on the lake side. A doorway makes it possible to store boats there. There is a hot-air furnace, a coal room, a pump room (for the four-inch drilled well), and a large space for storage. A feature which will appeal to women is the extra electric outlets. There are four in each bedroom, two in the dining room and eight in the living room.

Indian Lake is a haven for wild duck and bass and the owner of each lot has exclusive fishing rights. It can be reached by Road 67 through Oaklandon then past Sunnyside following the addition's markers.

## Blast from the Past

This article is from the Friday May 30, 1941 Indianapolis Times. It shows the freshly built home on lot 19 on Mohawk Drive. It's now the home of Thomas and Tanya Vanderpool.

## When You Need To Call



KEEP THIS WITH YOUR INDIAN LAKE PHONE DIRECTORY

Assessments – Angie Vogt	847-1650
Beach reservations - Mark Rumreich	643-6733
Boat slip rentals – Alyssa Alexander	719-0910
Boat stickers - Tim Watts	765-430-4130
Car stickers – Tim Watts	765-430-4130
Civic Committee – Stevi Kersh	691-4854
Community trailer – Dan Van Treese	319-7708
South Beach gate key - Kevin Hunt	716-7264

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Rumreich (president)	643-6733
Phil Marble (vp)	702-5715
Angie Vogt (treasurer)	847-1650
Tim Watts (secretary)	765-430-4130
Shawn Alexander	463-248-7284
Joe Dayan	910-7751
Kevin Hunt	716-7264
Patrick Kennedy	908-0007
Jeff Martin	626-1442
Jeff Van Treese	627-0738

Board meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month except in January. Meetings are at 7 PM at the Indian Lake Country Club except in January and November. All Indian Lake residents are welcome to attend. Visit the Indian Lake website at [www.IndianLakeHOA.com](http://www.IndianLakeHOA.com)

# Meet the Neighbor

by Kimberly Hunt

Several neighbors have been curious about the “goat project” on Winona Drive, so it seems like a great segue into learning about one of our newer families in the neighborhood, the Bakers. When Adam and Courtney Baker arrived from Texas to their new home on Winona Drive, they found much to love about the beauty of the woods and the lake and the charm of their home. They also encountered a lot of work that needed to be done. They immediately hired contractors to



renovate the lower level of their home to accommodate bedrooms for their three daughters; Milligan (17), Charli (13), and Hattie (11). To address the jungle of weeds overtaking their backyard, the Bakers hired a different kind of work crew. They rented goats.

The Bakers wanted a natural way to rid their backyard of unwanted plant species like poison ivy and ragweed, which Adam is highly allergic to. Courtney admits the project got off to a slow start because the goats initially spent all their time sunbathing on the back patio and peering intently through the windows at the family’s comings and goings. After a few days, however, the goats got to work clearing the weeds with only one disruption to their quiet labor. Courtney describes one exciting event when Adam and their dog, Hugo, met a delivery person at the front door, and they all realized at the same moment that the goats had jumped the back fence and were standing on the front deck. In the ensuing stampede, two of the goats ended up in a ravine, from which Adam

had to rescue them and carry them home and hoist them over the fence. Courtney reports that Hugo and the goats never became friends, but she believes the goat project was a positive experience overall, and only wishes they would have rented more goats for a longer period of time. Three goats for three weeks allowed the goats to be picky about their diet, and unfortunately for Adam, they left the ragweed behind.

Hiring goats for landscape maintenance is a little unconventional, but the Bakers have a history of making countercultural decisions for their family. Courtney and Adam attended Purdue University and were on track to build careers, financial stability and a family when they realized the path they were on did not align with their passion to travel and experience life through a global lens. They liquidated their assets and started their travels in the early 2000’s, going to Australia, followed by New Zealand and Thailand. Courtney used her teaching degree to get work visas to open up travel opportunities abroad while Adam built an online presence blogging about travel, finances and lifestyle design; the philosophy of aligning one’s livelihood around one’s beliefs and goals. The Bakers started their family along the way, and even blogged about their family’s adventures traveling around the US in an RV.

The Bakers have lived all over the world and have delved into an array of careers in education, business and real estate, while also building an online community. Today, while many people have become more digitally engrossed, the Bakers are heading in a different direction. “We’re pretty ‘low-tech’ when it comes to our girls,” muses Courtney. And while, professionally, the Bakers still work predominantly online, they have changed their focus. “People have forgotten how to be in person with each other since the pandemic. We want to bring people out from behind their screens where they can be together and feel safe being seen in real life.” To this end, the Bakers have returned to Indiana to live in nature and enter a new career phase centered around helping people strengthen their partnerships and build in-person communities through various practices such as counseling, life coaching, yoga and in-person couples retreats. They believe Indian Lake is the right place for their family to start this new endeavor. So even though the goats are gone for now, be sure to get to know the Bakers. They’re always up to something new and a little different.

