

# SMOKE SIGNAL



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INDIAN LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*From Mark Rumreich*

In this President's Message, I'd like to give a rezoning update for properties of interest to our neighborhood.

### ***7044 Sunnyside Road***

This is the 50 acre property at Indian Lake Blvd., South and Sunnyside Rd. that Centex tried to rezone for duplexes in August of 2001.

In November of 2002, M/1 Homes purchased the property. They proposed to build 51 single family homes on the site, with subdivision entrances on Sunnyside and South Drive. Representatives from the neighboring Homeowner's Associations (including Indian Lake), plus neighboring homeowners, met with M/1 to negotiate commitments of lower density, higher minimum square footages, no vinyl siding, etc. Indian Lake additionally requested commitments of \$3000 for dredging expenses, right of access for assessment of erosion control measures, no filling of the flood plain and no entrance on South Drive.

M/1 was willing to meet some of the requests, but not all. The compromise that was accepted by the builder and the neighborhood representatives retained the 51 units and the

entrances on South Drive. This was done with the realization by the neighborhood groups that the city would consider this to be extremely low density and that the city wants two entrances for emergency vehicle access. But we were able to obtain commitments of \$3000 for Indian Lake dredging expenses, right of access for assessment of erosion control measures and no filling of the flood plain.

### **10940 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street**

This is a 77 acre site between 42<sup>nd</sup> and 46<sup>th</sup> Streets - a few blocks west of German Church Road.

You might be wondering why we have an interest in this site. The answer is that it is within our watershed, therefore Indian Lake is the receiving basin for any sedimentation that takes place there during the development process.

Accordingly, we asked the developer (originally Crossmann Communities) to commit to paying Indian Lake \$9252 for dredging expenses (the formula is \$120 per disturbed acre). Crossmann declined our request, so we remonstrated at the rezoning hearing. We lost - 3 votes to 5.

That might have been the end of the story, but some neighbors adjacent to the property claimed they hadn't been properly notified about the rezoning and they were opposed to it. They called their Councilor, the Councilors at large and the Mayor and were able to reopen the case. In the meantime, Crossmann sold the property to Mann Properties, who had a different development plan. As a result of much political wrangling, Mann agreed to a number of commitments, including our \$120 per acre Environmental Impact Fee. Mann has a site plan that disturbs fewer acres than Crossmann, so the total we will receive is \$8052.

We owe Councilors Curt Coonrod and Karen Celestino Horseman a debt of gratitude for their efforts on this.

**10335 East 52<sup>nd</sup> St.**

This is a 64 acre property between 46<sup>th</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> Streets, a few blocks west of German Church. It's right across 52<sup>nd</sup> St. from the previously described property. We're interested in this because it is also in our watershed.

Upon receiving notice of rezoning for this property, I sent a letter to the developer (Centex) requesting a \$7660 Environmental Impact Fee commitment for Indian Lake. Centex agreed - contingent on rezoning approval.

On December 2, this went before the Lawrence Common Council and was denied for reasons of density. Centex was to appeal this decision on Feb. 19, before the Metropolitan Development Commission.

**10150 East 63<sup>rd</sup> Street**

This is an 11 acre site at the northeast corner of 63<sup>rd</sup> and Winona. You may remember it from when Adams and Marshall tried to rezone it for 21 duplexes (42 residences) in October, 2001, and entrances were proposed along Winona as well as 63<sup>rd</sup>.

The outlook now is much better. The rezoning is for D-2 density, which would put 21 single family homes on the site. There would be no entrance on Winona. The developer (a resident of Fountain Springs) plans to live in the development himself and has a personal interest in maintaining quality.

The neighbors and representatives from nearby neighborhood associations (including Indian Lake) are in the process of negotiating commitments with the developer. The rezoning hearing was scheduled for Mar. 3. I'm optimistic that an agreement can be reached, but I will put out a notice if we need to remonstrate.

## IN REMEMBRANCE

We mourn the passing of Ardis Stearns, a resident of the lake for over 30 years. Her death, on Dec. 26, 2002, came after a year spent in a nursing home due to her having suffered a stroke in Dec., 2001. Her husband, Jim, passed shortly following her stroke. We remember both Ardis and Jim fondly and keep their four adult sons in our thoughts.

Sadly, our community also lost Joe Ballinger, a resident for the last three years. Joe passed in the fall of 2002. His active presence will be missed.

## PLANNING A HOME ADDITION?

Be sure to submit a copy of your plans to the Indian Lake Board of Directors before starting construction. Many people don't realize that this is stated in the bylaws (section 9, private residence restrictions). The review is informal and may save you trouble down the road. Board meetings are at 7 PM on the first Wed. of every month (except Jan.) at the Indian Lake Country Club.

## INDIAN LAKE DECALS AND STICKERS

If you ever park your vehicles at either beach, make sure they have an Indian Lake decal in a back window so you can be identified as a lake resident. Contact Jack Sweeney to get decals. Also, this spring, volunteers from the Civic Committee will be placing a small, unobtrusive sticker on each resident mailbox to assist with the correct distribution of relevant ILIA materials.

## ACROSS THE FENCE

### WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS!

*Cheryl (Harper) Hart* has changed sides of the lake, moving from North Drive, where she was a caretaker at the French Estate, to the south side. She and Danny Hart, newly married, have purchased the Stearns' former home on Winona Drive. Their three children are Brian, Tabatha and Olivia. Best Wishes!

*Michael Stevenson and Therry Winata* are the new residents at 10335 South Drive. They have done "10 years of work" to make it a stunning home. Michael is a professor at Ball State and Therry is finishing a degree in Bio-Chemistry, with plans to find employment in Indianapolis.

Congratulations to *Scot Kelley* and his new wife, who married on March 1<sup>st</sup>. They have purchased Graham's former home at 10241 South Drive.

*Jason and Bernadette Frey* are our new neighbors at 10321 South Drive, the home that was the Wilson's. Congratulations are also in order to the Frey's on the birth of their first child! A baby daughter, Kaitlynn, was born January 30.

*Keith Corbin* is new to the lake, in the home at 10407 South Drive, formerly Yarber's.

Congratulations and Blessings to *Ed and Christine Thomas* on the birth of a baby boy, born Sept. 19, 2002. Big sisters, Jessica and Alison, join the proud parents in welcoming Robert Thomas into the family!

### BEACH CLEAN-UP

It's that time again! After the strong winter there will be much to take care of on Sat., May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The clean-up will take place starting at 9:00 AM and will be followed by a luncheon picnic at the North Beach. Please bring rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, etc., to assist in the work. **All boats must be removed from the beach during clean-up.**

## WHAT HAPPENED TO MONTE CARLO NIGHT?

Message from Ruth Peters  
Civic Committee:

One of the first activities that I did when I moved to our Lake community was to become involved in the Indian Lake Civic Committee. I have been actively involved for the past four years. The involvement in the Indian Lake activities allows me to make friends and get to know the people who live here and to truly feel a part of "my neighborhood". It has been great to hear of the people who have lived on this lake over the past 50 years and to hear about the activities. Our Lake has always had a very active community. Many of the activities have been passed on for years - the Easter egg hunt, the annual picnic - and some of the activities have been renewed - the boat parade and the ice cream social - and then there are new activities - the kids parade, the autumn party.

Some of the activities that we do are just for the enjoyment of the residents. Other activities like Beach clean-up and the biannual directory are for the betterment of the community and other activities like Monte Carlo are how the committee raises money for lake improvements such as the playground equipment, the picnic tables, and basketball hoops.

Our committee meets at 7:30pm the third Monday of alternating months - January, March, July, September and November. The houses vary. The meeting usual last approximately 2 hours and include a social visit and usually a light snack. They are really very fun! The activities that we have require very little time. I realize that families have different demands on them now with work and the added social activities and sporting activities. Our committee has struggled over the past couple of years with having enough people involved on our committee to be able to develop the activities that we would like. We also have had times had limited input from people to find out what activities the Lake residents would like us to continue and what new activities that people would like us to do. For example, do people really care if we continue the luminaries lighting in December or the fall cookout?

This year we had planned to have a Monte Carlo night in February. Unfortunately, with the small number of committee participants and the demands of putting out the directory and other activities, precluded our ability to prepare this event. This is one of our major fundraisers on alternating years!

I ask each of you to take a moment and ask yourself what you would like of your community? What events would you like to see? What neighborhood improvements would you like? What activities do you want for yourself and any children? Then, what can you do to help? Maybe you can attend the meetings. Maybe you can't attend the meeting but can volunteer with an event. I would appreciate any input from residents so that we can become a more active community. You can e-mail me at [coffeezon@aol.com](mailto:coffeezon@aol.com)

INDIAN LAKE HISTORY PART VI. Cash was almost nonexistent on the frontier of the area which now surrounds Indian Lake. Furs were the equivalent of cash. They could be exchanged for precious supplies, or used to pay for the land being settled upon. Furs for trade had to be obtained in the winter when their quality was at its peak. That is probably why Elishia Reddick settled here on the eve of winter in 1823. He knew he would run short of corn, hay, fire wood, smoked bacon and hams, and other essentials needed to survive a winter on the frontier. He knew the hastily built roof to his cabin would probably leak during the thaws and rains and the cabin's dirt floor would be a muddy mess. He knew the fireplace without a damper would constantly draw what little heat which collected in the cabin up the chimney and the cabin would be constantly cold. They couldn't build the kind of roaring fire we are accustomed to because the chimney was made of sticks and mud and would catch on fire and burn the cabin down. Life inside the Reddick cabin would have been cold, damp, muddy, and gloomy most of the winter. The cabin would have been illuminated and heated only by small flickering flames at best, and red coals for cooking most of the time. Candles were used sparingly. Elishia Reddick knew his family would consume most of the cured bacon and hams they brought with them by mid January. From that point on they would be dependent on what he could kill for their meat supply. Game would often be scarce in winter so the family would have to live through some hungry days. Their main food would be corn bread supplemented by the milk, butter, and cheese obtained from the cows milk. When snow covered the ground for long periods the cow wouldn't have any hay to eat and her milk production would slow or even stop leaving them without precious food supplements. They had to feed the cow and the horse some of the corn they brought in the bed of the wagon, but each ear of corn they fed to the animals was corn they didn't have to eat. They hadn't had enough time to chop the ten or more cords of firewood they would need to get through the winter so they would have to chop firewood as they used it in fair weather or foul. If they both became sick or were injured at the same time the lack of firewood could be fatal. These were the conditions the first settler in this area faced in order to get furs to pay for his needs and dream of land ownership.

While running his trap lines Elishia Reddick's hands and feet would have become wet. In the freezing cold frost bite would have been a constant danger. Frost bite could lead to a loss of fingers or toes, possible incapacitation, or even death if gangrene set in. Most settlers didn't use an out house in the winter and used a chamber pot as a bathroom. They threw the contents out the door onto the ground. This didn't present too much of a problem as long as it remained frozen. When it thawed or rained runoff from this mess often became mixed with the drinking water causing dysentery or worse which was often referred to as the spring sickness. One person in eight died of this illness in the new State Capitol of Indianapolis in its early years. Elishia Reddick and his family may have escaped that problem if their water supply was drawn from artesian springs. Bathing was a seasonal experience at best, and very little if any laundry would have been washed during the winter.

The furnishings inside the normal 16 by 20 foot cabin would probably have been very sparse. A few pegs to hang things on, a rope frame bed with a corn shuck mattress, quilts, maybe a hewn plank table and bench, a churn, iron cooking utensils, a water bucket, and other minor objects which the wagon they came in would have had room enough to carry. Most of the space in the wagon would have been taken up by farm tools and implements, and the precious supply of corn which filled the bed of the wagon.

The Reddicks ran out of ground corn to make cornbread. Elishia was forced to ride through the forest and cross numerous streams without bridges to reach Conner's Station near the present Nobelsville. There he traded some of his fur pelts for 2-1/2 bushels of corn. He then had to struggle on to reach a mill on Fall Creek near the present town of Pendleton. That mill had broken down so Elishia had to struggle to another mill on White River near the new state capitol. He had to leave it there a week. After another hard trip he returned and picked it up. If

the streams had become swollen he would have had to wait till they went down. It took nearly two weeks and a lot of hard travel to get cornmeal for cornbread. That's hard living.

When the spring rains came the inside of his cabin turned into a quagmire of mud. His wife probably insisted that he strip the bark off a large tree and lay it down on the dirt floor like linoleum. Black swarms of mosquitoes rose up from the dank areas of the forest and drove both the people and their livestock nearly mad. The clearing the cabin stood on was now surrounded by huge dead trees which had been girdled to kill them so they wouldn't leaf out and cut off the sunlight the corn needed to grow. The spaces between the really large trees had the fewest thick roots on which the tip of the plow might catch on and injure either the horse pulling the plow or the plowman. Patches about twenty feet square were plowed between these big trees and the corn was planted. The stumps of smaller trees would have been left standing everywhere. It would be years before their roots would decay so the stumps could be removed easily. The clearing around the cabin would have looked far different than we picture in our minds today. The strangest sight may have been the cabin itself. Quite often the logs used to build the cabins were full of sap and sprouted branches and leafed out in the spring. It gave the appearance the cabin was alive and growing.

As soon as the corn was in the ground birds and other hungry critters had to be chased off day and night until the corn could sprout. After the corn sprouted the patches had to be guarded by dogs and people so deer wouldn't browse on the tender new shoots.

When Elishia Reddick's corn crop had developed until the ears were milky they faced their greatest danger of destruction. Hungry raccoons, bears, and deer loved milky ears of corn so the crop had to be protected even more diligently both day and night. Even then they lost a goodly portion of the crop to varmints. Nothing new came easy in the forest.

Just after the corn had been gathered in late in the fall of 1824 the first of several new neighbors moved into the region near our present Indian Lake. The second white family which settled in the area was headed by William Reddick, no relation to Elisha. William's parents had come to this country in 1773 when he was eleven years old and they had apprenticed him to a weaver in Pennsylvania. He ran away in 1775 and enlisted in "Mad" Anthony Wayne's division in the Revolutionary army. He served for the entire American Revolution which is quite remarkable. While serving with Anthony Wayne he would have been present in the battle below Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain which forced Burgoyne to retreat back to Canada. This victory gave George Washington a crucial year to recruit and train his army. He also would have been present at the battle of Brandywine Creek just above Philadelphia where Washington was defeated. His unit would have been among those which retreated to Valley Forge and suffered so terribly in the winter of 1777-78. His unit helped in protecting West Point after Benedict Arnold's attempt to turn it over to the British. He also would have fought beside General Lafayette, and would have participated in the siege of Yorktown. This meant he would have been present when the Colonies prevailed over the British and America was born after Cornwallis surrendered. He had done all of this and was only twenty years old.

This remarkable man built his log cabin on the hill overlooking the right bank of Mud Creek where it flows into Fall Creek. As you drive down Fall Creek Road toward 465 look to your left as you approach Sergeant Rd. and you will see the sight where this truly American hero lived. You can be sure he had some great stories to tell as he sat around his fireplace or in front of his cabin when neighbors visited. Sadly the only mention of all of these adventures in the history books is that he served six years and seven months in Anthony Wayne's unit. A person has to piece the rest together based on the actions of Anthony Wayne's unit and what they did, and where they did it. He was so young when he joined up you have to wonder if he was a drummer boy like the one in the famous painting showing the bandaged men playing the fife. William Reddick was a yankee doodle dandy. More things next time. John Repass



## Events for Our Community

### **BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING**

Date: Wednesday, Apr. 2, 2003

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Indian Lake Country  
Club Trophy Room

(first Wednesday night of each month)

### **CIVIC COMMITTEE MEETING**

Date: Mon., Mar. 17, 2003

Time: 7:30 PM

Location: Flo Peck's, 10120 South Dr.

May 19 Mary Lou Power's, 7160 Shoshone Dr.

July 14 Suzy McDaniel's, 7135 West Dr.

Sept. 15 Ruth Peter's, 6910 Winona Dr.

Nov. 17 Valarie Canfield's, 10421 North Dr.

### **ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT**

Date: Sat., Apr. 19, 2003

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 PM

Location: North Drive Park

### **BEACH CLEAN-UP**

Date: Sat., May 3, 2003

Time: Begin at 9:00 AM

Locations: North and South Beaches

### **JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION**

BOAT PARADE, BIKE PARADE AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Date: Fri., July 4, 2003

Location: North Beach and Park

### **ANNUAL PICNIC**

Date: Sun., July 20, 2003

Location: French Estate

PLEASE WATCH FOR FLYERS TO VERIFY DETAILS REGARDING  
UPCOMING EVENTS