

Indian Lake Smoke Signal

• INDIAN LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION •

President's Message

by Mark Rumreich

COVENANTS MEETING

A Special Meeting was held on Wednesday, January 22 at 6:30 PM at the Jenn Park Pavilion, to vote on the single question of whether to amend the ILIA Covenants to remove the "no signs" rule. Electronic voting was offered as an option to all members in advance of the Special Meeting. In-person and proxy voting were offered at the meeting.

Votes were tallied afterward, and the proposed covenant change to remove the no signs rule did not pass. The measure required 65 percent of 197 votes (128.05 votes) to be approved. It received 68 yes votes. There were 56.07 no votes and 72.92 non-votes.

Thank you to the Covenants Review Committee for their efforts to improve our covenants.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, January 22 at 7 PM at the Jenn Park Pavilion, immediately following the Covenants Special Meeting. The Annual Meeting was well attended and allowed us to elect board members, approve an annual budget, and discuss neighborhood topics.

Phil Marble presented the 2024 accomplishments, of which there were many.

Jay White presented the financial statement and 2025 proposed budget for the Association. The board proposed no increase in the 2025 budget.

Stevi Kersh presented the Civic Committee Report.

Kate Dydo presented an overview of the Long Range Plan and it was well-received. Documents with more details were emailed to members the next day.

Joe Dayan presented the status of dam and spillway projects and the desire for grants.

Kate recognized everyone who volunteered during 2024, and there was a drawing for three Amazon gift cards for them. Each volunteer act received one entry, and board members were ineligible. Read more about Indian Lake volunteerism elsewhere in this issue.

Following open discussion, elections were held.

The board would like to welcome new board members Shawn Alexander, Patrick Kennedy, and Jeff Van Treese and returning members Kevin Hunt and Mark Rumreich. Shawn, Patrick, and Mark will serve three-year terms, and Kevin and Jeff, one-year terms, to replace board members Tom Crouch and Kate Dydo who retired a year early.

Thank you to all the candidates for your willingness to serve our community. The board would also like to thank retiring board members Tom Crouch, Mike Nix, and Kate Dydo for their dedicated service to the board and the Indian Lake community.

The 2025 budget was approved.

When You Need To Call



KEEP THIS WITH YOUR INDIAN LAKE PHONE DIRECTORY

Assessments – Jay White	296-3530
Beach reservations - Mark Rumreich	643-6733
Boat slip rentals – Alyssa Alexander	719-0910
Boat stickers - RJ Russell	281-0024
Car stickers - Jay White	296-3530
Civic Committee – Stevi Kersh	691-4854
South Beach gate key - Kevin Hunt	716-7264

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Rumreich (president)	643-6733
Phil Marble (vp)	702-5715
Jay White (treasurer)	296-3530
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

White Pelicans

by Phil Marble

Indian Lake is on the flight path of many migratory birds, and 2025 was special. Residents were blessed to see hundreds of white pelicans this year! Most major lakes in Indiana experienced these huge flocks of beautiful birds. They are a large aquatic soaring bird, and breed in North America then move south and to the coasts, as far as Costa Rica. They have a wingspan up to ten feet, making them the second largest of any North American bird, after the California Condor.

The large number of white pelicans, cormorants, blue heron, bald eagles and osprey attest to the health of Indian Lake and of the large supply of fish for them to

consume. Reactions to the arrival of the white pelicans in such large numbers did spark concern of many residents that they were eating all the game fish.

I made a call to Aquatic Controls, to assess the impact on our fish population. This company does

our fish surveys and stocking of fish in the lake. They weighed in on my question. They did confirm that the white pelicans ate a lot of our fish as do the cormorants and blue heron. In the last fish survey, Aquatic Controls recommended harvesting a high number of bluegill, unlimited crappie, all common carp, all hybrid sunfish and all black bullhead as well as the most abundant species in the lake, gizzard shad.

Aquatic Controls believes that the pelicans are largely eating the gizzard shad. Bluegills are also very numerous and are mostly 6.5 to 7.0 inches. These were likely being eaten in large numbers too. There are too many bluegills, sunfish and crappies in the lake and this results in stunting. By thinning the gizzard shad, bluegills, sunfish and crappies, their conclusion is that this will result in a much healthier fish population and in larger fish. They do not foresee a negative impact on the fish population, but rather that the remaining fish will reach optimum weight. Another fish survey will occur in the spring of 2025, and we will get an updated assessment of our fish population.

So please enjoy the white pelicans and other aquatic birds. Nature will take its course and let's trust it to be a positive experience for all.



Neighbor Care Initiative

The Indian Lake Civic Committee is pleased to launch the Indian Lake Neighbor Care initiative, designed to provide services to neighbors who find themselves in vulnerable positions without reliable assistance.

The program focuses on four essential services:

1. TRANSPORTATION:

Assistance for neighbors needing rides to medical or non-medical appointments.

2. ERRANDS:

Support for picking up items like groceries or prescriptions.

3. MEALS:

Meal delivery for neighbors recovering from medical events or procedures.

4. HOME VISITS:

Friendly visits to reduce social isolation, especially for aging adults.

Transportation – neighbors may find themselves in need of a ride to a medical appointment, therapy session or other health- or non-health-related appointment.

Errands – neighbors may find themselves in need of such errands as picking up pharmaceuticals, groceries, etc.

Meals – There may be times when a neighbor in need requires food to be delivered, particularly after a medical event or procedure.

Home Visits – Health experts say social isolation can cause emotional and physical harm, especially to aging adults. Neighbors may find themselves in need of social interaction.

Several Indian Lake residents volunteered to provide these services at the Annual Meeting, building the necessary infrastructure to move forward with the initiative.

HOW IT WORKS:

- Volunteers from the community have stepped up to provide these services.
- If you or someone you know needs assistance, contact Sarah Kelley at indianlakecc9@gmail.com to get matched with a volunteer.

PRIVACY AND SENSITIVITY:

- The initiative will comply with all privacy laws regarding health information to ensure confidentiality.

This initiative not only provides practical help but also fosters a stronger sense of connection and care among neighbors. A fantastic step toward a more supportive community!

Indian Lake Volunteerism

by Phil Marble

The amazing power of volunteerism profoundly propelled life at Indian Lake in a powerful trajectory for 2024! Being a volunteer is a way to freely offer up your time and service to help the ILIA community. Projects took many forms last year and the benefits to all Indian Lake residents were greatly appreciated.

The ILIA Board was so impressed by the number of volunteers in 2024 that we decided to raffle off gift cards. We gave away four \$50 Amazon gift cards to randomly chosen volunteers. Board members were not eligible for the drawing.

Nearly 40 residents volunteered their time and service for a myriad of activities in 2024. Here are some of the examples:



- Pickleball event
- Flowers and cards for funerals of our beloved residents
- Spoils labor
- Dredge pipe removal
- Operation and maintenance of Dynahoe
- Fishing class down at North Beach
- Hosting and serving food at ILIA budget meeting
- Honeysuckle Removal
- Donation of money derived from sale of fire rings
- Providing old Smoke Signals to the Board
- Organizing printing of decals
- Assisting in Civic Committee activities
- Beach committee support
- Peninsula cleanup
- Easter egg hunt
- Trunk or Treat
- Annual meeting support
- Love your Neighbor planning
- Annual picnic
- Merchandise
- Flowerpots
- ILIA Insurance support
- Kayak construction
- Silt trap/sluice committee
- Lake conservation committee
- Dirt Removal from Spoils
- Emerald Ash Borer treatment
- Boat slips
- Community trailer program
- Covenant Review committee

Some of the volunteer events are spearheaded by the Board, and many by the Civic Committee. But many of the most rewarding ones emanate from residents that simply have a passion for something and organically develop an idea and then follow through with an organized project.

My personal favorite was the Fishing Class that was put on by Fred Zainey. It was very cool to see all the kids attentively watching Fred's presentation, which included knot tying and casting techniques. Then to see the kids battle it out in a competition for the prizes of a fishing pole and a tackle box was priceless!

Four very important volunteer efforts involved the removal of invasive honeysuckle. This was done on the Yakima Trail, Indian Trail, South Beach and the Peninsula. These projects involved hard work and tools and resulted in long-term improvements to those areas.

Please consider being an Indian Lake volunteer in 2025. To do this, simply contact a Board Member. We will help to facilitate your project. Oftentimes, the Board will provide food and water for the effort, as well as transportation on the workboat. If you don't have a new project in mind but would like to volunteer to help with someone else's project, let us know and we will connect you with other volunteers.

Meet the Neighbor

by Kimberly Hunt

A teenaged Patrick Kennedy could not have predicted that, when his mother was teaching him to drive in challenging winter conditions on curvy, hilly Indian Lake South Drive, he would one day own a home on that very street.

It makes sense that Patrick's driver's education was in the hands of his mother. As a respected educator at the former Craig Middle School, Mrs. Kennedy's fortitude was tried and true. It also stands to reason that Patrick, himself, chose a career in education in Lawrence Township Schools, but it didn't start out that way. Even though Kennedy chose to attend Ball State University, widely known as the "teacher's college," he was more interested in law and politics. He entered into an experimental degree track that allowed him to take unique courses like "History Through the News," which led to unique experiences, like helping create the documentary, "Changing Gears; The End of an Era," which was aired on PBS in 2010. "Changing Gears," addressed the issues Kennedy was most interested in; the economic revitalization of Midwest cities as they deindustrialize and face a global economy. To his surprise, Kennedy's unique education at Ball State did not turn his sights toward politics and economic development, but toward education. "I kept thinking how much I would have loved classes like that in high school." So, he got his teaching license and went to work for Lawrence Township Schools as a social studies teacher and football coach at Belzer Middle School. A twist of fate later brought Mrs. Kennedy to the Belzer faculty, when Craig Middle School closed down. Mother and son worked together for 8 years until Mrs. Kennedy retired in 2018.

There was a time when Mr. Kennedy would have told you he did not want to be an administrator, but once again he missed his prediction when, in 2023, he took a promotion as the Assistant Principal at Belzer. It was this promotion, that convinced Patrick's wife, Lauren, it was time to move to Lawrence and stop commuting from Wannamaker, where they had lived for 13 years. Kennedy remembers, "When we attended the open house on South Drive, I walked around the side of the house and saw the lake, and I immediately said, 'This is it.' I hadn't even been inside."

Also attending the open house was neighbor and ILIA board president, Mark Rumreich, who talked to the Kennedy's about the uniqueness of the neighborhood and provided them with a map and his phone number to call if they had more questions about fees, common areas, etc. Patrick and Lauren left the open house and took a drive to the North Beach to have a closer look at the neighborhood amenities the realtor told them about. Standing in the clubhouse, Patrick was having difficulty figuring out how the estimated HOA fees could cover everything he was seeing. "I kept thinking, 'There's no way.'" So, Patrick brought his father back to look at the common-use facilities at North Beach with him. Looking at the extensive work being done to the pool adjacent to the beach area, neither of them could make sense of it, so Patrick called Mark for clarification. Rumreich affirmed that the facilities at North Beach were for all Indian Lake members to enjoy and were maintained through the HOA fees. As the two Kennedy men continued their perusal of the grounds, they encountered a man coming from one of the buildings and asked him what that building was. To this, Ed French replied,

"That's my house." Patrick instantly realized the miscommunication with Rumreich and sheepishly confessed to Mr. French that he had been misinformed by the realtor and had unwittingly walked through the French estate. Ed French simply replied with forbearance, "It's not the first time."

Thankfully, when the confusion settled, Patrick and Lauren still saw the value of raising their children; Claire (10yrs), Matthew (7yrs) and Kate (3yrs), in this unique community in the township in which they attend school. When asked why he volunteered to be on the ILIA board after living in the neighborhood for less than two years, Kennedy responded tongue-in-cheek, "I don't know anything about anything, but I'm willing to learn by doing. This is a pretty special neighborhood and we have assets to protect." (Even if those assets don't include a clubhouse and a pool.)



Blast from the Past

Here's the front page of the minutes from the December 1940 special by-laws meeting. This was the first such meeting after the formation of the Indian Lake Improvement Association, and they would be held about every twenty years thereafter until the last one in December 2021. The purpose was to provide a periodic opportunity to change the bylaws with a 65 percent approval of the membership. Our revised covenants allow a special meeting to be called whenever it's deemed appropriate.

In 1940, only 16 of 183 lots had been sold. The Great Depression no doubt affected sales. It's interesting to look at which lots were the first to sell, not all of them were waterfront property. Lots 39 and 40 would soon be resold to the Frenches.

The changes made to the by-laws at this special meeting included requiring board approval for erecting or altering a residence, that septic tanks must be approved in writing by the Indiana Board of Health, and that sale of Association property must be approved by 75 percent of the membership.

INDIAN LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION Minutes of Special Meeting of Members

A special meeting of the members of Indian Lake Improvement Association was held at the office of the Association, 1030 East 9th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, on December 27, 1940, at 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon, pursuant to notice, copy of which and affidavit of mailing by the Secretary were presented and ordered inserted in the Minute Book of this Association. The following members were present in person or by proxy:

Ira A. Minnick in person, owner of Lot 86
Arthur E. Krick in person, owner of Lot 87
Mark V. Rinehart, owner of Lot 95 by proxy to
Ira A. Minnick
Indian Lake Development Company, owner of 183
lots by proxy to Arthur E. Krick
Total lots represented 186.

The following owners of lots were absent:

Ira Howell Ellis, Lot 22
Lora Shinn, Lot 26
R. W. Frost, Lot 28
Fannie Hochman }
and } Lot 39
Louis Farb, }
Lena L. Beadle, Lot 40
Thomas M. Reeves, Lots 63, 64 and 65
Merle and Kathryne }
Kemmerly Alte } Lot 66
Frank A. Symmes, Lot 67
Thomas D. and }
Martha Rhodes } Lots 102, 103 and 104
Total lots not represented 13

There was a general discussion of the changes in the by-laws and in the restrictions upon the use of lots in Indian Lake Subdivisions, as set out in the notice, after which the following resolution was presented and unanimously adopted by the affirmative vote of the owners of 186 lots:



The Love Your Neighbor event is a great way to build camaraderie and neighborhood cohesion, and is a fun way for neighbors to gather during the winter months. This year, Phil Marble graciously hosted it on Saturday, February 8. It was very well attended. Guests enjoyed delicious appetizers and desserts provided by their neighbors - it was quite a spread. Thanks to Phil and thanks to Civic Committee member Stacy Russell for organizing.

Love Your Neighbor

