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# LAKE LIFE

## A Newsletter for The Friends of Lake Carey

### Fall 2023

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## President's Letter

by Lewis Flinn

Well, another summer done and dusted! We had a lot of success raising funds for the dam replacement project, at the Golf Tournament and at Lake Carey Day. Thanks to the hard work of many of our members, especially Deb Tierney, we have now raised over \$100,000! Equally important is the sense of community that these events fostered. More than 132 golfers participated in the tournament - a huge turnout. And Lake Carey Day, where the Lake Carey spirit was on full display, drew larger numbers

than ever. Several additions to the day proved to be a hit as well; the corn hole tournament (organized by Dick Daniels) brought out a lot of new faces, despite the rain! And over 100 Lake Carey friends and neighbors gathered at the Old Carter Barn Bash, to meet and greet and listen to live music, capping off the day.

I know we are all glad to have the sewer project largely behind us. It has been a long, hard road for the community, but we made it. I look forward now to improvements in the

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quality of the lake water.

Although replacing the dam is still a few years away, it is not too early to search for additional funds from government grants and private sources, as well as for planning the construction itself. But in the meantime, we look forward to the simple pleasures of seeing the fall colors, watching the bald eagles soar, and enjoying the peace and quiet of our lake.

# The Clintons Enjoy Lake Carey

by Virginia McGregor



*Bill, Hillary, Virginia & Bob with McGregor Family Members*

Lake Carey has seen its share of notable visitors. Ike & Mamie Eisenhower, I'm told, were guests of Admiral Stark and wife, Kit, in the Stark's Lake Carey cottage in the '50s. Since then, it seems we've been over-looked by former U.S. Presidents, and Secretaries of State too. That changed this summer when Bill and Hillary Clinton paid a visit to my husband Bob and me at our cottage on the west shore.

We first met in 2008 when Hillary, whose family has Scranton roots, rode in the city's St. Patrick's Day Parade. Since then, as active Democrats and through my role as Democratic National Committee Treasurer, we've continued to meet.



*Jim Perry, Hetty Baiz, Hillary, Patti Fitzsimmons* Inn.

I remember well our 2021 trip with Hilary, then Secretary of State, first to Britain's Oxford University where she received an honorary degree, and then, two days later, to Queen's University, Belfast, where she was appointed that university's Chancellor--the first female to be so honored in the institution's 178-year history.

Equally remarkable, was a 2023 trip with the Clintons to Northern Ireland to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement, which ended the decades of violence known as "The Troubles." That peace settlement had been brokered by US envoy, George Mitchell, who had been appointed by Bill when President.

This summer's Lake Carey visit arose quite by chance without elaborate planning and protocol. After visiting Hillary's brother, Hugh Rodham, at nearby Lake Winola, the Clintons travelled to Tunkhannock for dinner at Twigs and a night at the Hampton

Remembering my past offers to host them at the lake, they came over for breakfast the next morning, escorted by the State Police and the Secret Service too.

To my delight, Hillary and Bill loved the lake. As we chatted on the porch and later by the tennis court, their affection for the lake was returned by a parade of boaters who noticed them above and shouted, "We love you!" When the Clintons finally withdrew, they were met by yet more of their Lake Carey admirers who had gathered on the road in front of the cottage hoping for a chance to pose for a photo with them.

The visit was a great success, so much so that I believe this Lake Carey meeting will turn out to be at least as memorable for the four of us as any of the other occasions we've been together. Afterall, this time we were able to celebrate our friendship, relaxed and at leisure, while enjoying the quiet beauty of our exceptional lake.



*Becky Kilmer at Work*

## Read the Instructions

by Walter Broughton

I sat down recently with Becky Kilmer, Secretary/Treasurer of the Lemon Township/Tunkhannock Township Joint Municipal Sewer Authority. Becky runs the office and its affairs, with a ready smile and wry humor.

It's not always easy. People are really good, she affirms, but not everyone at the lake has been happy with the sewers and it's she who often bears the brunt when someone 'flips out.' She can handle it! A rough grandfather, years of substituting as a social studies teacher, and yet more years as the Tunkhannock Township clerk to Judy Ginger prepared her well.

There are satisfactions. She's proud of the fact that PENN-VEST gave the Authority a \$10.5 million grant, along with a \$3.5 million loan. That grant is the largest relative to total project costs ever awarded and it helps to keep user costs down. We also 'over built' the treatment

plant's capacity. As a result, 85 units from Shadowbrook's new retirement housing can be added, enabling the Authority to keep unit costs lower going forward. The plant can also handle the increased demand that results when owners convert seasonal homes into year-round residences. And finally, there is sufficient capacity to accommodate the 62 'reserve taps' purchased by Lake Carey property owners for future connections to the system.

As we talked, we spoke about several concerns among lake residents.

- Brief power failures shouldn't be a problem; the grinder tank is large enough for several toilet flushes. (Don't over-do-it; a full tank will not take more sewage.) A backup generator is advisable, if longer outages are anticipated.
- The Authority is unable to monitor household sewer use, so every user must pay the same monthly fee, whether year-round or seasonal; that's how it's done at all the local lakes, she observed.

Becky would like to establish a grinder pump repair and replacement fund. No pump will last forever, she noted, so it makes sense to put some money aside every year to handle those that wear out. (Pumps that are abused, of course, would have to be repaired or replaced at the user's expense; remember that sanitary napkins, for example, should never be flushed down the toilet.)

As the interview drew-to-a-close, I asked her if she had any advice for residents. "Read the instructions," she responded, without a moment's hesitation. She's been confronted recently with incomplete Sewer Application Forms. (Too many came back without property tax numbers; some even lacked names, phone numbers, and/or mailing addresses.) Her frustration was obvious. And, she added, read the Rules & Regulations; they're posted on the website at: [www.lemtunksa.org](http://www.lemtunksa.org).

As I left, I could envision her clearly as she must have been when teaching, firm, yet generous and fair.

# LAKE LIFE

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## Safety Committee

by Rob Baskin

We live in such a beautiful place and we all want to spend healthy time on the lake and on the roads surrounding it. Sometimes our enjoyment is disrupted by a minor mishap; heaven forbid something more serious occurs. That's why the LCWA reinstated the

Safety Committee at its last meeting.

Initially, we hope to be able to mark the bridge at the causeway with the clearances at different water levels for boats passing beneath it. We will also seek permission from PA's Fish

& Game Commission to mark the shallow areas around the lake with buoys. We want to do this discreetly without detracting from the lake's natural beauty.

Later this Fall, we will send out a brief survey to lake residents via email, text and Facebook soliciting ideas for more ways to improve safety. Let us know what concerns you have; is it geese, blue-green algae, speeding on lake roads, or something else? And let us know, also, if you would like to help as a committee member.

In the meantime, stay safe, have fun and enjoy life at this wonderful lake.