

# Lake Life

from the Lake Carey Welfare Association

A newsletter for the friends of Lake Carey



FALL 2025

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	1
Those Dam Boards	1
Welcome Board Members	2
Membership	2
Your Support is Invaluable	2
The Sirens Sound	3
Sportsmen's Corner	3
Water Quality	4
Chapel Chatter	4
Rosalind	5
LC Rallies for Clean Water	5
Floating Islands	5
Night at The Races	6
Holiday Cheer	6
Golf Tournament	7
Lake Carey Day	7
Community Calendar	8

## A message from the President

Dear Friends and Neighbors—



Summer 2025 was full of energy and accomplishments for our organization. Our two major fundraisers for the Dam Replacement Project—Lake Carey Day and the Lake Carey Golf Tournament—brought in nearly \$30,000. At the same time, the community rallied behind our new focus on water quality, supporting the hiring of Aqua Link, our lake management consultants, to guide this important initiative. Thanks to a community-wide garage sale and our first-ever “Night at the Races”, we raised an additional \$10,000 to cover the costs of this program.

Membership is also stronger than ever, and we're on track to surpass the 200-member mark this year! None of these achievements would be possible without the countless volunteer hours contributed by so many in our community—thank you to everyone who stepped up in large and small ways to make it all happen.

A special recognition goes to Ed Hetzel, who is stepping down from the LCWA board after serving as president and vice president for over a decade. Ed has been instrumental in managing our Growing Greener grants and guiding the dam project from its earliest days. While he is leaving the board, he will continue as president of the Lake Carey Dam Association (likely more involved than he would prefer!) and will remain a vital member of the Water Quality Committee. We also bid farewell to Patty Skrynski, our dedicated secretary, who skillfully captured our meetings in clear and relatable minutes for years.

Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome three new board members: Janet Schillinger as vice president, Jaime Bernstein as secretary, and Paul Bernstein as assistant treasurer. Their energy and fresh perspectives will help lead LCWA into the next chapter of our history.

*Warm Regards,*  
**Lewis Flinn**

## Those Dam Boards

By Rob Baskin

The LCWA often receives questions about “those dam boards” and how they relate to the management of our lake's water levels. Each year, the several dam boards (also known as stop logs) are removed – usually around the third weekend of October, lowering the lake level for the winter by about two feet. They are reinstalled around the third weekend of March, raising the lake back to its summer level. Please note that both actions require a permit which is issued by the Fish and Game Commission and approved by DEP. The exact timing may be delayed based on their turnaround. LCWA applies for these permits every year in June.

### Why Lower the Lake in the Fall?

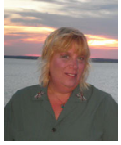
- **Prevent Ice Damage**—The engineer of the dam, Charles “Chuck” Givler (who was also a Lake Carey resident for many years) advised us that as ice forms and thaws through the winter, it expands and contracts. High-water levels can cause the ice to push against the dam potentially causing damage as well as damage to docks, shorelines, and retaining walls. Lowering the lake helps minimize this risk and protects structures from damage.

*continued on page 7*

## LCWA Welcomes New Board Members

By Deb Tierney

At our last association meeting of the year, the membership voted in and welcomed three new board members, Vice President Janet Schillinger, Secretary Jaime Bernstein, and Assistant Treasurer Paul Bernstein, each serving a two-year term. We are excited to have Janet, Jaime, and Paul joining the board and serving our lake community.



**Janet Schillinger** brings over 30 years of leadership and problem-solving experience to her role as vice president. With a background in production, quality assurance, and contract management for the Department of Defense, Janet is skilled in risk management, compliance, and team coordination. Her experience as a small business owner and real estate agent has strengthened her customer service and community engagement abilities. Janet is dedicated to fostering collaboration, maintaining high standards, and supporting the well-being of the lake community.



**Jaime Bernstein** has been coming to Lake Carey her whole life, first with summers with her grandma Jane, then later at her parent's cottage. As a kid, she was always on her bike or with her cousins, and of course they made many pit stops at Frank's Marina. After graduating from RIT in 2020, her remote job made it possible to make the lake her permanent home. Now, she lives next door to her parents and works as an engineer in Carbondale. When not at work, you can usually find her outside by the water, spending time with neighbors, or cheering on the Cowboys. Jaime is excited to put her energy into the secretary position along with other projects to benefit the welfare of the Lake Carey community.



**Paul Bernstein** brings many years of treasury experience to the board, and will be assisting the treasurer with the financials and tracking budgets on the dam replacement project. Paul has been coming to Lake Carey for 35 years, first visiting with his wife's family, the Publik's. His family began spending summers at their cottage after they bought it in 2007. Over this past summer, Paul and his wife Patty recently became full-time residents. Paul love's spending time by the water, grilling, and enjoying the lake with his family.

## Membership

By Patty Publik

We're excited to share that our community has reached 191 paying members this year! Each membership plays a vital role in keeping our lake and neighborhood thriving, from supporting ongoing improvements, to strengthening the sense of connection among neighbors. New resident welcome bags are now available to help those just joining us learn about our lake, the many ways to get involved, and how to enjoy our community. If you know of new neighbors, please let me know at [pattyjanepublik@gmail.com](mailto:pattyjanepublik@gmail.com) so we can deliver a welcome bag and help them feel connected right away.

This fall feels extra special for me personally, it's my very first as a full-time resident after years of spending summers, weekends, and vacations here. I'm so happy to now call this beautiful lake home year-round.

Membership is about more than just dues, it's about belonging to something bigger. If you haven't yet joined or renewed, now is the perfect time. Visit our webpage at [lakecreypa.com](http://lakecreypa.com) and click on the "Membership" tab to join today. Together, we can continue to keep our lake safe, clean, and welcoming for everyone.

## Your Support is Invaluable

By Keith Holland II, Founder & CEO JTFK9s

On behalf of JTFK9s, I want to extend our sincere gratitude for hosting such an incredible golf event in support of our mission. Your hard work, generosity, and commitment to honoring our nation's heroes—both two- and four-legged—make a real difference in the lives of veterans and their service dogs. Events like yours not only raise vital awareness and funds but also strengthen the community that stands behind those who have served. We deeply appreciate your dedication, the effort your team put into every detail, and the enthusiasm of everyone who participated.

Thank you again for choosing to stand with JTFK9s. Your support truly helps us continue our mission of healing, hope, and partnership between veterans and their K9 companions. For more information check out our website at [www.jtfk9s.com](http://www.jtfk9s.com) or connect with us on Facebook at JTFK9s. **Saving LIVES One Dog at a Time**



Keith & Service Dog Blue

## The Sirens Sound—Lake Carey Volunteer Fire Co #1

By Justin Sickler, Fire Chief



As the beautiful colors of fall begin to blanket our community, we at the Lake Carey Volunteer Fire Company want to take a moment to remind everyone of the importance of fire safety during this season. Autumn brings unique fire hazards that can put our homes and families at risk. Listed below are some essential tips to keep in mind.

### FALL FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- **Check Smoke Alarms:** As we shift our heating methods for the cooler months, ensure your smoke detectors are functioning. Replace batteries every six months and consider testing them monthly.
- **Properly Store Firewood:** If you have a fireplace or wood stove, store firewood at least 30 feet away from your home. This helps prevent pests from entering and reduces fire risk.
- **Monitor Outdoor Activities:** If you plan to enjoy bonfires, always keep a hose or bucket of water handy and never leave fires unattended. Make sure to follow local regulations regarding outdoor burning.
- **Use Caution with Decorations:** Autumn decorations, including hay bales and pumpkins, can be flammable. Keep them away from heat sources, and avoid using candles near them. Consider using battery-operated candles for a festive glow without the risk.
- **Inspect Heating Equipment:** Before lighting up your fireplaces or space heaters, have them inspected and cleaned by professionals. This can prevent creosote buildup and reduce the risk of chimney fires.

### Won't You Consider Joining Our Team!

As we embrace fall and its cozy gatherings, it's also a perfect time to think about how you can contribute to our community. The Lake Carey Volunteer Fire Company is always looking for dedicated individuals who are passionate about safety and service. Volunteering with us is more than just firefighting; it's about community spirit, teamwork, and making a difference.

Whether you have prior experience or are new to firefighting, we welcome anyone interested in learning and growing. Training sessions are provided, and there's a spot for everyone—whether you're looking to fight fires, help with fundraising, or provide administrative support.

**Interested?** Join us any Tuesday night! Meet our team, tour the firehouse, and discover how you can get involved—your community needs heroes like you!

Stay safe, have fun, and enjoy the wonderful fall season Lake Carey!

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## Sportsmen's Corner

By Crystal Posten

What a fantastic summer it has been at the Lake Carey Sportsmen's Club! Our chicken BBQs have concluded for the season, and we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support. We hope you enjoyed a wonderful summer at Lake Carey with family and friends.

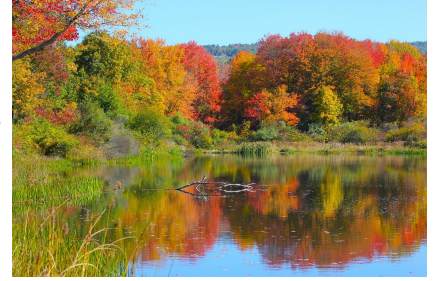
As we approach fall, we are excited to continue our tradition of stocking Lake Carey with Walleye. This will take place from late October to early November. This annual event is significant not only to us but also to the community, as it helps ensure the lake remains vibrant and healthy for everyone to enjoy.

But we're not stopping there! We have some new projects in the works. First, we will be replacing the roof on the clubhouse, and we will also be adding a small addition to our building. Even better, we're already looking ahead to next season and can't wait to welcome everyone back. Mark your calendars: in April, we will fire up the pits for our very first chicken BBQ of the season! We can't wait to see you there!

## Water Quality

By Jessica Fiore

“Leave the leaves!” It’s a popular phrase during the Fall that you may have seen online or on signs, but why does it really matter and how can it be accomplished practically? While some of us may enjoy the leaves for their colors and others begrudge the trudge of raking them all, the leaves serve a greater purpose beyond providing beauty and annoyance. One example would be the insect that lights our summer nights. Fireflies require moist soil for their eggs to survive, making leaves the perfect damp domicile for their little ones. When at the larval stage, which lasts up to two years, they feed on rotting wood and forest litter. It isn’t until after these two years, that they burrow into the ground in the winter, transitioning to pupa, and then eventually emerge as adults later in spring. Removing the leaves means removing a place for fireflies to complete their lifecycle, which is the case for many important insects that all contribute to a balanced ecosystem as they serve as food for larger predators and so on up the food chain.



So if the leaves are so important, how can we leave them without incidentally killing our lawns? One method is to shred the leaves turning them into mulch. Slowly mowing over the leaves before they pile up too much (cross cutting if necessary) will reduce the leaves to bits which can decay more quickly. These shredded leaves can be left on the lawn, not exceeding a depth of one-half inch. The rest can be used to mulch around shrubs, trees, and even perennial plant beds (depths of two to four inches). If shredding, mow earlier in the season to avoid shredding eggs or critters that may have already settled into the leaves. If you have no choice but to rake whole leaves then consider making leaf mold, which can also be used as mulch or as an addition to the soil in your potted plants. Leaf mold is made by piling and packing leaves over time. Though not necessary, the leaves can be placed in some sort of container, such as wire fencing or even in trash cans with some airflow. If you already have or are considering composting, leaves (shredded or whole) can serve as brown layers between your green layers of vegetable waste or grass clippings. Just remember to turn your compost, since oxygen assists the process of decomposition. Finding ways to leave the leaves or use them for our lawn or gardens prevents sending them to landfills and benefits our local ecosystem. The fireflies and the broader balance of the Lake Carey watershed will appreciate any steps we can take to support them this Fall.

## Chapel Chatter

By Crystal Posten



As summer comes to an end, so do the services at our beloved Lake Carey Union Chapel. On Sunday, August 31, 2025, we gathered for our closing service, with Rev. James Skinner leading us in worship. It is always bittersweet to close the chapel for the season, but what a beautiful year we’ve had together! Each Sunday was made extra special by the talents of Jessica and Jackson Fiore. Jackson’s piano playing set the tone each week, while Jessica not only shared her own beautiful music but also wowed us by bringing special guests to bless us with their gifts. We are so grateful to them for filling the chapel with joy and inspiration.

This summer also provided many moments to connect and celebrate. We enjoyed two Sunday receptions with light refreshments, where friends, both old and new, came together in fellowship. Our raffle was once again a wonderful success, raising \$2,150 for the chapel’s preservation projects. None of this would have been possible without the generosity of our local businesses and community members, who donated so graciously. We also want to thank each of our guest speakers who guided us in worship each Sunday; their messages grounded us in faith and reminded us of God’s presence in our lives.

One of the most exciting highlights this year was seeing the chapel’s updates come to life. The renovation of the porch, ramp, stone wall, and the work done to the bank has truly brought new life to this little gem that sits high on the hill! And we’re not stopping there; we’re already looking ahead to repainting the inside of the chapel, hoping to have it ready by the time we joyfully open our doors again next summer. Until then, we carry the warmth, fellowship, and blessings of this season in our hearts. May God’s love surround you all until we gather again.

## Rosalind - The Ship Beneath Our Lake

By Rob Baskin

This year on Lake Carey Day, my wife Karyn won a beautiful picture of the steamboat *Rosalind* in a silent auction. The frame was crafted from wood salvaged from the actual wreck at the bottom of Lake Carey. Now hanging above our fireplace, it piqued my curiosity to learn her story.

In the early 1900s, Lake Carey was more than a peaceful retreat — it was a lively summer destination filled with picnic groves, dancing pavilions, boat rides, and the promise of fresh air. Among the main attractions was the *Rosalind*, a 60-foot steamboat — nearly three times larger than the biggest boats on the lake today.

Built in 1893, *Rosalind* first operated at Harvey's Lake, carrying more than 60 passengers on leisurely cruises. She was part of a fleet that defined the golden age of lake excursions in Northeast Pennsylvania. In 1905, she was sold to the Lake Carey Boat Company and transported by rail to Lake Carey to serve as the highlight of a new picnic park on the west shore.

For a time, *Rosalind* carried visitors and added excitement to summer days. But as attendance declined and investor interest faded, the park's success waned. Around 1911, after suffering ice damage, the *Rosalind* sank to the lake's bottom, where she remains today — buried beneath silt and time.

Though she no longer glides across the water, *Rosalind* is a quiet reminder of Lake Carey's vibrant past, when steamboats, dancing, and laughter once filled the summer air.

***Special thanks to Maurice Cusatis for his generous donation of the framed picture.***



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## Lake Carey Rallies for Clean Water: A Yard Sale That Made Waves

By Barb Scanlon

This summer, the Lake Carey community proved that when neighbors unite around a cause, remarkable things happen. In support of our newly formed Water Quality Committee. Residents came together to organize a yard sale that was more than just a fundraiser — it was a movement.

From early April, donations poured in. People dropped off items or arranged pickups with ease, eager to contribute to the health of our lake. The sale was scheduled for Memorial Day Saturday, but interest was so strong we expanded the effort. Volunteers stepped up, and we opened our pole barn doors on sunny afternoons, welcoming shoppers before and long after the official date.

It was simple: a sign out front, a barn full of treasures, and a community committed to clean water. As new inventory arrived, neighbors stopped by to browse and buy. This flexible, extended approach — powered by generosity and grassroots energy — raised over \$4,000 for our committee.

That money will go directly toward protecting the lake we all cherish. But more than the funds, this yard sale showed what Lake Carey is made of: heart, collaboration, and a shared vision for a cleaner future.

Let's keep the momentum going.

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## Floating Island Update

By Deb Tierney

We were recently notified that one of the floating islands had broken loose and made its way north. Please know that we are working with Princeton Hydro and the DEP to figure out what we can do with the floating islands. They were installed many years ago under a Growing Greener grant, and therefore we have to have approval from DEP to address the ongoing issues we are having with them. When we receive guidance from DEP on our next steps, we will apprise everyone of their decision.

## Night at The Races

By Rob Baskin

While brainstorming ways to fund Lake Carey's water quality monitoring services, a small group of volunteers gathered to toss around ideas. My wife suggested a *Night at The Races* fundraiser. When she did, my first thought was, what a bad idea! — but I've learned that some thoughts are best kept to oneself.

Fortunately, Nancy Daniels, one of our fundraisers, had attended similar events and shared some great insights on how we could make it work. We also sent a few volunteers to observe a local church's *Night at The Races* to gather ideas.

As it turns out, *Night at The Races* was a very good idea — and a fun, fresh way to bring the Lake Carey community together!

The excitement was contagious, as seen in our lively group text exchanges and the now-famous reindeer-turned-racehorse "Spike" (thanks to Paul Brown) used in our event promotions. The water quality fundraising team was truly **off to the races!**

Thanks to the dedication of numerous volunteers, everything came together beautifully for a very successful evening.

Event Highlights:

- Attendance: 85+
- Sponsors: 14
- Profits: \$6,800

The night was filled with laughter, great company, and spirited racing. Our heartfelt thanks go to The Old Carter Barn, for hosting the event and to Douglas Carter, who served as our highly entertaining master of ceremonies. Dinner, catered by Leggio's, was delicious, and Kathy Keefe took home the prize for best hat!

The horse names — all created by participants — were absolutely hilarious, and the thrill that followed the starting horns was pure fun.

A sincere thank you to everyone who attended, sponsored, or volunteered to make this event such a success.

Mark your calendars! Next summer's *Night at The Races* will be held on Saturday, August 22, 2026. We hope to see everyone there for another unforgettable evening!



## Holiday Cheer

By Crystal Posten

Are you ready to jingle all the way and spread some holiday cheer? Join us on Thursday, December 4, 2025 for a magical Christmas caroling adventure you won't forget!

We'll meet at the Lake Carey Fire House on Siren Rd at 4:45pm, then climb aboard a tractor-pulled wagon, courtesy of our wonderful friends at Brown Hill Farms. Snuggle up in your coziest scarf and mittens as we ride around the lake, singing our favorite Christmas carols under the twinkling lights and starry sky!

Warm up with a cup of delicious hot cocoa, share a few laughs, and make memories that will keep your heart glowing all season long.

Keep an eye on the Lake Carey Chapel Facebook page for updates.



## SAFETY ALERT

When walking around the lake make sure to wear bright colors. Now that it is darker in the morning and evening, you want to be visible to traffic.

If you can, we recommend wearing a safety vest.

## Fourth Annual Golf Tournament—Huge Success

By Deb Tierney



The Lake Carey Dam Association's annual golf tournament was the biggest one yet! It was a gorgeous day, as 140 golfers hit the greens at Stone Hedge Golf Course for two great causes.

Together, we made over \$17,000 for the dam replacement project. I am so grateful to all of our sponsors and the amazing team of volunteers who had my back and worked tirelessly to make sure this event was a success.

This year's non-profit recipient was Joint Task Force K9's, a veteran-owned organization dedicated to enriching the lives of Active-Duty Military, Combat Veterans, and Law Enforcement with disabilities through K9 therapy classes and the placement of specially trained service dogs. We are so glad we were able to pay it forward and help this amazing organization out.

Next year's tournament is scheduled for Monday, June 8, so make sure you mark your calendar now before you forget! More information on available sponsorships and how to register will be available right after the holidays. You can always check the website for up to date information.



**Monday, June 8, 2026**

## Another Lake Carey Day is in The Books

By Deb Tierney

We had an equally successful Lake Carey Day. From the Admiral Stark Run/Walk and Frank J. Valvano Memorial Run to the craft fair; from the delicious baked goods to the basket raffle; from the poker run to the historic boat tour; and more. Everyone enjoyed great music during the day from Wand'Ring Aloud and into the evening with BettyLou and Billy. The Lake Carey Fire Co opened their doors on Friday evening for bingo and slaved over the BBQ pit all day Saturday to bring you a mouthwatering chicken dinner. With the support of the community we were able to raise over \$14,000! All proceeds benefits our dam replacement project.

A huge shout out to my amazing team of volunteers; I couldn't have pulled the day off without each of you!

We've already started planning for next year... if you have any ideas of events you would like to see, email us at [lcwa637@gmail.com](mailto:lcwa637@gmail.com) and we will see what we can do. Mark your calendars now—Saturday, July 25, 2026.

## Boards

*continued from page 1*

- **Manage Spring Flooding**—A lower lake provides additional storage capacity for snowmelt runoff in early spring, reducing the likelihood of flooding both around the lake and downstream.
- **Support Shoreline and Habitat Health**—Exposing parts of the lakebed over the winter can:
  - ⇒ Dry out and control invasive aquatic plants
  - ⇒ Allow homeowners and municipalities to perform shoreline repairs or cleanup

### Why Raise the Lake in Spring?

- **Recreation**—Spring and summer bring boating, fishing, swimming, and all the activities that make lake life enjoyable. Restoring the dam boards allows the lake to refill to its seasonal level, ensuring safe and enjoyable recreation for everyone.
- **Ecology**—Higher water levels in spring support natural cycles such as fish spawning and bird nesting. Refilling the lake helps maintain a balanced and healthy aquatic ecosystem.

### In Summary:

Removing the boards in the fall prevents ice and flood damage and supports maintenance and habitat management. Replacing the boards in the spring restores recreation levels and sustains a healthy ecosystem.

A special thank you to Ed Hetzel for his long-standing volunteer service to the LCWA. Among his many contributions, Ed has faithfully managed the lake's seasonal drawdown and refill cycle for years by manually removing and replacing these boards. Ed, your dedication and stewardship are deeply appreciated—**THANK YOU** for all you do for our community!

## Lake Life

Fall 2025

### Editors

Rob Baskin and Deb Tierney

### Association Officers

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### Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

E-mail us at [lcwa637@gmail.com](mailto:lcwa637@gmail.com)

### Moving? Change of address?

Send your new contact information to  
[lcwa637@gmail.com](mailto:lcwa637@gmail.com)

### [lakecareypa.com](http://lakecareypa.com)

Webmaster—Deb Tierney  
[lcwa637@gmail.com](mailto:lcwa637@gmail.com)

## Grinder Pump Issues

Per the LTTSA, contact  
Brad at 570-801-6900

<https://lemtunksa.org/>

## Fun Facts...

Lumber was an important industry at the lake for over a century. After they were felled, the trees were skidded or dragged to a road and then carted to the lake's millpond.

Facts from "Lake Carey" part of Arcadia's Images of America series  
by Dr. Walter Broughton

## Community Calendar

- ◆ 12/4—LC Union Chapel Christmas Caroling—Meet at LC Fire House at 4:45pm
- ◆ 5/31—LC Union Chapel Season Opening—Non-denominational Sunday Services at 10:00am through Labor Day Sunday; everyone is welcome
- ◆ 6/8—LCDA 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament—Stone Hedge Country Club
- ◆ 7/25—Lake Carey Day—Old Carter Barn
- ◆ 8/22—Lake Carey Night at The Races—Old Carter Barn—Time TBD
- ◆ **LCWA Monthly Meetings**—Dam Site at 11:15am (5/17, 6/14, 7/12, 8/9, 9/6)
- ◆ **Sewer Authority Meetings** are held the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM at 26 Billings Mill Rd, Tunkhannock.
- ◆ **Township Monthly Meetings**—**Lemon Twp** meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm at 2 Tague Rd, Tunkhannock and **Tunkhannock Twp** meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 7:00pm at 438 SR 92 South, Tunkhannock.

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## Our Wish to You and Yours

On behalf of the LCWA Board, we would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season! See everyone in 2026.