

The Highland Lake Neighbor

July 2023

A round up of timely information about lake health, community focus, neighborhood events and other updates from your Highland Lake Property Owners Association.

For jam-packed updates and useful neighborhood news, visit www.hlcommunitysite.com

President's Letter

A group of neighbors led by Donna Herendeen has undertaken the challenge of reviewing and archiving multiple tubs full of old HLPOA records. They are uncovering a number of items of lake and community interest – some fascinating, some curious, some tragic. This issue of *Highland Lake Neighbor* shares a few historical stories about our lake and community while providing information about today's efforts to be good stewards of this 12,000-year-old lake, our precious resource!

This June 1, 1995 article from the *Chicago Tribune* reminds us our lake can take as well as give. We had a similar incident here in 2021 involving a guest on the lake.

Vigil on shore comes to sad end as rescuers find boater in lake

By Douglas Holt
and Lou Carlozo
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITERS

For two days, divers crisscrossed the bottom of Highland Lake while a bloodhound sniffed the water from a rescue boat. On shore, friends and family of the missing teenager kept vigil.

Finally, late Tuesday afternoon, the news everyone feared was confirmed.

Searchers recovered the body of Round Lake Beach resident Joseph E. Boyle of 1511 N. Pleasant Drive, who would have turned 20 on Friday, ending a tense drama for those who waited tirelessly on shore.

"We saw three of the boats come together," said Rich Huber Jr., 42, a friend of the Boyle family who watched the search operation. "When it looked like they were pulling something in, his stepfather broke up and started crying."

"Joey was a big person to us," said Huber's 20-year-old daughter, Christy, who said she dates Boyle's older brother, Michael. "He'd sit and play with my daughter all day long. He was really cool. He always had something to

say to cheer everybody up."

Boyle attended Round Lake Community High School and formerly worked as a grocery clerk at a supermarket in Round Lake Beach, friends said.

Authorities said the tragedy began as a holiday outing in an aluminum rowboat that Boyle and a friend, 20-year-old Anthony A. Moore of 309 Lunar Drive, Round Lake, apparently took without permission.

About 2:30 p.m. Monday, Boyle and Moore came across the 14-foot boat on the shore of Highland Lake, a private lake near Grayslake, police said. Boyle and Moore rowed to a buoy in the lake and hopped out to swim. The craft took on water as the men climbed in and out, but it never sank, authorities said.

Kate Smith, 36, said she heard a noise from the porch of her rented cottage on the lake, "like a foot banging the side of a boat."

In seconds, she said, she saw one of the heads submerge, resurface, then disappear.

At 4:10 p.m., Boyle's body was snagged by a tow bar dragged across the lake's bottom. There were no signs of foul play, Mobley said.

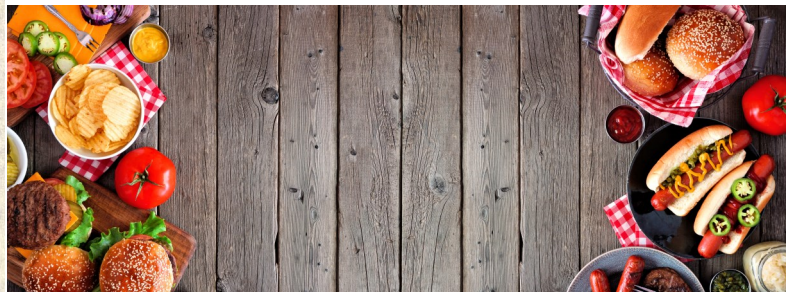
HAINESVILLE ROAD PROJECT

The Hainesville Road Improvement Project with an added bi-directional turn lane, pedestrian walkway and bicycle lane will be entering the appraisal phase of the land acquisition process shortly. The addition of a storm sewer with curb and gutter will direct stormwater runoff northward into detention ponds north of Shorewood Road, preventing runoff into our lake.

Traffic lights will remain at the same locations and a pedestrian crossing (striping only, no trigger light) will be added at Indian Trail. Construction is planned for 2025. The LCDOT contact for the project is Chuck Gleason who may be reached at 847-377-7447 (Tuesdays or Thursdays are best) should Highland Lake residents have questions.



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ARRIVING SOON—AUGUST 5

ANNUAL HIGHLAND LAKE PICNIC

Join your friends and neighbors at the Annual Highland Lake Picnic, Saturday, August 5, at 4 p.m. at Chic Park.

Bring chairs, drink and a dish to share (with serving utensils), your good humor, your favorite Highland Lake tale—and your camera!

Volunteers requested!

Please contact Cathy deGroh at decathy@live.com if you are interested in helping.

Lake County Sheriff
Non-Emergency Phone Number
847-549-5200



HIGHLAND LAKE WATER PROJECT FAQ

PHASE ONE, INSTALLING THE PIPES:

Lake County Public Works (LCPW) recently sent mailings to our community describing construction plans for water system interconnection along Washington Street and Lakeside Drive, expected to begin in late July. More information at lakecountyil.gov/Highland.

PHASE TWO, BUILDING THE FACILITY:

The initial plan to install a 100,000-gallon water holding tank at Hartnett Park was not accepted by our Board. Public Works is currently in the process of reviewing other potential sites.

Why is this project needed? A recent engineering study identified a modernization need in our water system requiring improvements now. An additional well and storage capacity would serve as a backup for emergencies or planned service interruptions.

Will these improvements serve me? Approximately half of us are served by LCPW water service. We all have LCPW sewer service. Check your water bill for more information.

Why is a building needed? By locating the hydro-pneumatic storage tank and accessory equipment above ground (now a requirement of the Illinois EPA), they can more readily be inspected and maintained. Electrical controls and other equipment should be stored indoors.

What is a hydropneumatic tank? It is a pressurized water storage tank. In emergencies it can be utilized with the booster pump to provide water to the community system.

Will there be an extra cost to customers? This project is funded by the American Recovery Plan Act, and rates of existing customers will not be affected by the project. Existing user rates do change over time, but any rate changes would not be related to this project.


Why aren't you bringing Lake Michigan water to the community? Overall, LCPW has a goal to bring a Lake Michigan water source to existing well water systems, but that requires significant time and resources. Highland Lake water system needs upgrades now.

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A ONCE VERY POPULAR GOOD TIME

Before there was Thorntons gas station at Hainesville Rd and Washington St., there was Villa Bianco, a charming Italian restaurant established by Arturo and Atilia Conti in the 1930s.

Grand-daughter Diane (Conti) Kula, our neighbor on W. Lakeshore Dr, is pictured here with her parents Tony and Giovanna. Diane recently shared some memories with her daughter, Joanne.

Q. When did your Grandparents buy the house?

A. My Grandfather Arturo was living in Chicago. He had come out in the summer to visit and fell in love with the area and the lake. He had the opportunity to buy the house and the two lots right across the street, which gave him lake rights.

Q. Why did he decide to turn it into a restaurant?

A. After the Great Crash (the Depression) he lost everything but managed to hang onto the house and property, so he and my Grandmother Atilia moved out here permanently and opened the restaurant.

Q. How did your parents come to run it?

A. After my Grandfather died my Grandmother asked my parents Tony and Giovanna to help her run it. We moved from the city. I was about 3. My Parents still had other jobs in the beginning.



Dining room at Villa Bianco

Q. What was the busiest/slowest season?

A. The busiest was in the summer when all the city people came out to their cottages. The slowest was in the winter. My parents usually worked other jobs then to make ends meet.

Q. Fondest Memories of growing up on the lake?

A. I always looked forward to summer because that meant that the "Summer Kids" would be coming and I would have someone to play with. I spent a lot of time on the lake and at Clausen's Pool where my parents would buy me a pass every season.

Q. How old were you when you were "recruited" to work in the restaurant?



A. I was in High School. I washed dishes, and waitressed. My brother Joe helped my dad behind the bar. If they were short staffed you were handed an apron.

Q. When did Your father sell it?

A. After my mother died in 1966 my father didn't have the heart to run it alone anymore. He sold it a couple years after to a man with the last name of Ethridge, who was not very successful. Ethridge then sold it to Tullio. My father was pleased as Tullio kept it an authentic Italian restaurant.

Q. Any last thing you want to say?

A. It broke my heart when our family home/restaurant came down for a Thorntons and it is still sad at times to go past it, but I cherish those memories and will pass them on to my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Tony tending bar at Villa Bianco

RAFT USER UPDATE

The Highland Lake raft is a unique and iconic amenity for our families, but it requires upkeep and responsible use.

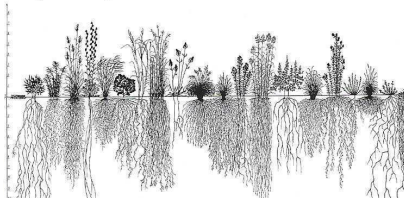
Bird Droppings: For the benefit of yourself and others, please use the raft bucket and broom to keep the deck clean.

Alcohol: A number of vodka spritzer and beer cans were recently recovered in the raft trash bin despite clear messaging that alcohol is prohibited.

Trash: Consider bringing a bag to the raft and removing your trash (and maybe some trash in the bin?) when you leave. General maintenance and annual raft ingress/egress requires time and effort by Board members, and we respectfully ask that all who benefit from these efforts do their part. Check out "Raft Rules" at hlcommunitysite.com.

We Flunked the Shoreline Buffer Test

In 2019, the Ecological Services section of the Lake County Department of Health assessed the shoreland buffer condition at Highland Lake by examining the lake's edge in aerial images analyzed by geospatial software. Shoreland buffers are classified into three categories; good, fair or poor. Three years ago, Highland Lake had 95.6% of the shoreline classified as "poor buffer".



Native plantings can stabilize shorelines

Some of the shorelines around Highland Lake have turf grass planted down to the water line. When



Highland Lake shoreline repaired with native plantings. (Photo by David Oswald)

erosion occurs, the soil that is washed away ends up in the lake along with unwanted nutrients in the soil. Eroded shorelines can be repaired and protected by planting native wildflowers, grasses and wetland plants to form a

buffer zone. Stabilization of shorelines will not only enhance property values, but will also improve wildlife and fish habitat, recreational use and water quality. The HLPOA Board plans to submit a grant proposal to the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) to help support such a project.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

It's STILL not too late to pay your dues! Your \$150 check will help to support our lake. Mail to HLPOA, P.O. Box 101, Grayslake, IL 60030

THANK YOU!

Highland Lake Resident Rules and Regulations

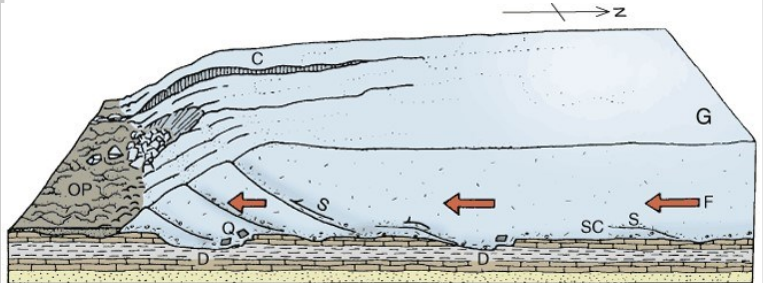
The Highland Lake rules and regulations for the residents is now posted. [Click here](#) to view what is new.

Note the Date:

**Next HLPOA Board Meeting
Avon Township Offices 7.17.23**

A Glacial Beginning of Highland Lake

Highland Lake with its clean, sparkling, spring-fed waters originated from glacial action. For tens of thousands of years massive sheets of ice in the form of glaciers covered the land. The glaciers began to melt when a warming trend occurred about 12,000 years ago.



The Glacier Advances Southward — As the glacier (G) spreads out from its ice snowfield accumulation center, it scours (SC) the soil and rock surface and quarries (Q)—pushes and plucks up—chunks of bedrock. Source: Illinois state Geological Survey

This site has more information on Illinois glacial action that formed Highland Lake:

<https://isgs.illinois.edu/outreach/geology-resources/quaternary-glaciations-illinois>

The melting glaciers left behind a glacial till composed of sand, rocks and silt. This glacial till formed the area's soil. The lakes were formed when great chunks of melting ice broke from the glacier carving depressions in the earth.

As the land continued to dry, prairie grass and flower seeds carried by the wind and insects took root and grew in the area. Soon trees, grass and wildflowers began to appear everywhere and completed the landscape. (Taken from *SAILING THROUGH TIME* by Marie Caviness. Illustration added)

YOUR HLPOA LEADERSHIP TEAM

For your continual referral and reference, the Highland Lake Property Owners Association Board of Directors has moved online:

<http://www.hlcommunitysite.com/the-board.html>

AVON TOWNSHIP FOOD BANK

Avon Township maintains a small food bank that is open twice a week for township residents in need. Donations of canned and other packaged goods (no perishable items) are accepted during normal township work hours. After hours there is an outdoor collection box on the east side of the building for donations.