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# the tri-lakes birchbark

## In this issue

Presidents Letter.....	p.1
New Lake Elmo Library.....	p.1
Tri-Lakes Day 2012 .....	p.2
Tri-Lakes Ski Show .....	p.2
Boat Parade.....	p.3
New Neighbors .....	p.3
Santa Visits .....	p.3
Diner's Club .....	p.3
Tri-Lakes Garden Club .....	p.4
Stephanie Landsem.....	p.4

## New Lake Elmo Public Library



Come visit the new officially opened Lake Elmo Public Library. You may visit the online catalog that also includes a link to a virtual tour of the library at <http://lakeelmopubliclibrary.org/>

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Fall has set in, Halloween parties are right around the corner, and the fact snow is soon to fall makes us reflect on how the summer has come and gone once again. Before we dust off the downhill and cross country skis for another season I would like to reflect upon the great summer we, as Tri-Lakes residents, have had this year. Our swim and ski programs had record attendance this year. Thanks again to the Vandemmeltraadt's for hosting both programs, making it an unbelievable year. Having seen the ski show on and off for the last 17 years, I have to say this is one of the best years ever. Every act made it up on the water making the show that much more interesting. Many thanks to Faye Carpenter and Brenda Jo Carlson (the show coordinators) as well as Donaven Chase, John Mayek, and Jerry Heroff (the boat drivers) for the year.

Last but not least, we finished up the year with what will hopefully be an annual event; the Tri Lakes Pig Roast. I have to admit I was unsure of how the event would turn out. Week after week, Jon Early kept saying "We don't have enough this, we don't have enough that. We are going to have 300 people!" Well, we know who was right that day! While members of the Lake Elmo Fire Department gave tours of the truck and doused kids with water, "Wheelhouse" played 3 sets during kid games, a bonfire, and dancing. The weather was perfect and so was the party. Special thanks to the Olinger Family and Chase Family for hosting this event on their beachfront. We hope to see you there next year!

Justin Bloyer  
President

# TRI-LAKES DAY 2012

As my family and I made our way to our first Tri-Lakes Day, we didn't know what to expect. When we approached the address listed on the postcard we received in the mail, we were surprised to see so many cars lining the street. We parked and walked to the backyard of the Van Demmeltraadts, which was already a hub of activity. We were greeted by upbeat music coming from the sound system, people of all ages getting chairs and blankets arranged, and kids playing on the swing set. There was an air of celebration on this late-summer day, when the sun reminded us that it really was still summertime despite the string of cooler days that led up to Tri-Lakes Day.

Friends and neighbors visited as we waited for the ski show to begin. After a shortened version of the National Anthem, sung confidently by two young women, Hannah Quinn and Fion Tran, the ski show kicked off with the "Gangfoot Line" and the "Hello Line", a barefoot group, and a group of seven skiers who held flags that spelled out the word "Hello" (with a couple decorative flags as well). There were at least 12 different lines that were part of the show, and they were presented by the MCs, Mark Vandemmeltraadt and Dave Carlson. As the MCs pointed out, it really was a ski "recital" and showcased of all the hard work the 52 skiers (not counting all the adults who helped with boats, ropes, docks, etc.) had put in since they started putting in two hour practices twice a week for six weeks. It was impolite to ask the age of the oldest participant, but the youngest was only three years old.

Down the street and around the corner at the beach of the Olinger and Chase families, there was a feast awaiting the

neighborhood. Small green and white striped canopies dotted the grass, evidence that the organizers were ready for any kind of weather. They needn't have worried, though. The evening was a picture-perfect Minnesota night, and even the mosquitoes got the memo and did their business elsewhere. A live band, Wheelhouse Band, played from the grassy hill; a professional band with stage, lights and lots of covers that let everyone sing along. The pig roast fed a record 250 people and there were brats provided for anyone still hungry. Bags of chips, potato salad, cookies, beans, all provided free of charge, were down to the last solitary bean and crumb by six o'clock.

It was an event that was designed for all ages. While the adults sat around white tables and caught up with the neighbor from across the way, children were treated to carnival games and generous prizes. My family and I had to reluctantly leave just as they were getting ready for the water balloon toss. All set against the backdrop of Lake Jane, it was a snapshot of why we love to call Minnesota home: beautiful scenery, families, good food, and teenagers who will sit behind a blue plastic tarp and put a candy treat on the end of your line when you cast it into their pretend water.

If you are looking for other ways to connect with people in the area, consider joining the Diner's Club, attend one of the Bunko game nights, or stay up on events by joining the Tri-Lakes Improvement Association page on Facebook.



# TRI-LAKES SKI SHOW



We, the VerBeek family, have lived on Olson Lake since August 2011. At the beginning of The Ski Show practices, we had never seen a skimmer; we didn't know the difference between a wake skate and a wakeboard. We arrived at the VanDemmeltraadts's beach with clueless (yet willing) looks on our faces; we were warmly welcomed and encouraged by our skiing neighbors. We laughed a lot, fell a lot, and learned a lot. Below are some of our family's favorite recollections:

According to six-year-old Cade, the best moments were "seeing my Mommy ski and riding on the ski boat with Donovan. I also liked the pyramids and barefoot skiers at the show." Seven-year-old Trent loved that he got up on skis and stayed up! He also liked meeting new friends. Noelle learned to water ski for the first time, at age 29 ...er, 42! Noelle is not sure what was more thrilling—seeing her boys get up on skimmers their first time behind a boat, or having her son yell 'Yeah, Mommy!' from the very boat pulling her the first time she finally stayed up on skis. According to Noelle, "The practices were fun, yet on performance day, it seemed to me like God was smiling down on The Ski Show! The weather was perfect, and the show ran better than it did at any of the practices. The enthusiasm was high and the performances were phenomenal! It was amazing how it all came together!" Steve was impressed with the talent and generosity of the skiers and boaters on the Tri-Lakes. "It was wonderful to be able to spend time as a family in an activity close to home where I could meet some of our neighbors. I am so glad for the family-oriented event of which we got to be a part."

Falling in the lake was part of the adventure, but the folks at The Ski Show focused on each others' successes. The party afterwards was also great celebrating with each other, and lots of great food, games, music, and even an optional shower from a fire truck!

We have lived in many neighborhoods over the years, but none as special as this. We have met so many of our neighbors in just one year through wonderful Tri-Lakes Improvement Association events like The Ski Show, and had such family fun as well. Thanks to ALL who made this a possibility!



## Diner's Club FAQs:

### What is Diner's Club?

Diner's Club is an amazing evening where fellow neighbors (adults only) get together in an informal setting. It is a time to catch up with friends and meet new neighbors. The average attendance is 30 people and no RSVP is required you just show up! Watch for dates in the Birchbark and on the neighborhood signs. Diner's Club information can also be found at [www.tri-lakes.info](http://www.tri-lakes.info). Just bring an appetizer and your own beverage. Hosting a Diner's Club is very easy. All you need to provide is paper plates, napkins, forks, cups, and ice—that's it! Your guests bring the rest. There is a prize give-away at each event and you can't win if you don't attend. Think about heading out to the following events, ALL ARE WELCOME! ~Marilynn & Faye

### Diner's Club

Saturday November 10th at 7:30pm  
Justin and Dana Bloyer  
8881 Jane Road N

**Lake Elmo Wine Company will be offering wine-tasting at this event!**

### Diner's Club Christmas Party

Saturday December 8th at 7:30pm  
Mick and Marilynn Mohrlant  
4870 Olson Lake Trail

**The best-attended Diner's Club of the year! Very festive!**

## Santa Visits

### Mark your calenders!

Santa will be making his way around Lake Jane, Lake Olson and Lake Demontreville December 10-12.

Please contact one of the following in your area if you would like a Santa visit.

### Dawn Blaney 779-9121

(Hidden Bay area)

### Anne Mc Gee 994-1956

(Lake Jane area)

### Debbie Dean 770-9430

(Lake Demontreville area)

Santa usually stops in for pictures and a small candy treat.

## Boat Parade

It was a hot, humid summer day. Must've been a good day to be on the lake! And it was, especially for a parade of boats.

There were 8 boats decorated to start the parade, with top honors going to Vickie Iverson and her homage to the days of disco, with her floating Studio 54. The Boczek's again outdid themselves and got 2nd place with a fine showboat of Candyland. From the generosity of our parade sponsors, all participants received prizes!

Special thanks go to our parade sponsors –

Gormans Restaurant Lake Elmo Inn Phil's Tara Hideaway!

They are good to us, so remember them next time you go out to eat!

We were proud and honored to have Dale and Lois Branch as our 2012 Tri-Lakes Grand Marshals. We were glad to have them again as our honorees!

Steve Iverson

## NEW NEIGHBORS:

Victor & Tammy Acosta &  
Family  
4240 Ivy Ct. N.

Justin & Gina Nelson & Family  
5777 Highlands Ct. N.

Jeff Malean & Denise Bakken  
4385 Jack Pine Trail N.

Evgeny Vasilyev & Marina  
Fuhrman  
9498 Jane Rd. N.

Mike Parent & Leslie Dady  
5451 Hilltop Ave. N.

Dave & Mary Kerr & Family  
5230 Jamaca Blvd N.

Tracy Engels & Family  
8030 DeMontreville Circle Ct.

Gary & Marilyn Naglak  
8919 Jane Rd. N.

Dave & Lee Erdman  
8155 59th St. N.

Bjorn & Elizabeth Peterson  
5060 Jamaca Ave N.

8881 Jane Road North  
Lake Elmo, MN 55042  
www.tri-lakes.info

*Actively bringing Tri-Lakes residents together to protect,  
improve, and promote our community.*

## 2012 TRI-LAKES IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

Justin Bloyer – President  
Jon Early – Vice-President  
Karen Slakey – Treasurer  
Deb Meier – Secretary  
Cameron Barry  
Steve Iverson  
John Hamerly  
Jim Carpenter  
John Mayek  
Mark Vandemmeltraadt

**Stephanie Landsem**, twenty year resident of the tri-lakes area, will see the release of her debut novel, *The Well*, in June of next year. *The Well* will be published by Howard Books, a division of Simon & Schuster. It is the first of a three-book series of historical fiction.

*The Well*, inspired by the Biblical story of the Samaritan woman at the well, focuses on the Samaritan woman's daughter, Mara. When her mother is stoned and left for dead, Mara is determined to find the Jewish healer who can save her mother. She sets out across Galilee with Shem, an unlikely companion with a dangerous secret. Their journey brings them unexpected love, and unimaginable heartbreak.



## Tri Lakes Garden Club Changes

For fifteen years, the Tri Lakes Garden Club has been meeting and tending community sign gardens throughout the Tri Lakes area. Robbi Dillon held the first meeting at her home in 1997 and, appropriately, hosted the last meeting on September 8 in her lovely garden by the lake.

Over the years, many residents of the Tri Lakes have attended the fun and educational meetings, toured one another's gardens, and formed lasting friendships. Now the members agreed it is time for a change. Going forward, interested members will join the Washington County Horticultural Society, holding monthly meetings in Oakdale. Keith Miller at is the Membership Chair: kam75506@aol.com

The sign gardens will not be neglected! Several club members have volunteered to continue their work with the signs. The coordination of the volunteers and the small budget for improvements will be turned over to the Tri Lakes Association at year's end. It is no surprise that Robbi Dillon has agreed to be the point person for this new endeavor. Happily, the friendships and gardening interest will continue.

Bonnie Wilson