



The Christmas Lake Home Owner's Association Newsletter
Spring 2005

From the President

Even though we have had a rainy spring, summer is finally on the horizon and the start of another great Christmas Lake boating season.

The Homeowners Association is working with the city of Chanhassen and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District on implementing an equitable plan to solve the Curry Farm Creek erosion problems. An agreement with the City and the property owners is moving closer. It is possible to have an agreement in time for this fall's work season.

The cost of this project will be shared by the City of Chanhassen, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, and the Homeowners Association. Some of the association reserves will be used along with contributions from the homeowners for our share.

Christmas Lake is a great natural resource, and we should all feel great pride in living on the lake. It is also our responsibility to protect this special place.

We owe a debt of thanks to Greg Swirtz for providing leadership for the association over the past two years. I appreciate the opportunity to follow in Greg's steps.

If you need to contact me, you can call at (952) 470-1915. Here's hoping that everyone has a pleasant and enjoyable summer on Christmas Lake.

Harley Feldman

Annual Meeting

The Christmas Lake Homeowners Association Annual Meeting was held on May 10 at the Excelsior Elementary School. About 45 residents attended.

New officers were named to the Christmas Lake Association Board: Harley Feldman, President and Doug Punke, Treasurer. The Board is looking for a volunteer for the Secretary position.

The 7th Annual Christmas Lake Fun Run/Walk will be held on Memorial Day at 9:00. The race will honor the memory of Bill Newhouse and other deceased Christmas Lake residents.

Progress is being made on the Curry Creek Farms erosion prevention project. The city is in the process of completing an agreement with the property owners. Since the boulder work is best done in the fall, we are hoping that this project can be completed this year.

The project cost is estimated to be between \$60,000 and \$69,000. The City of Chanhassen and the water shed districts are committed to paying about one-half of the total cost, leaving the Christmas Lake residents with the other half. The Board has decided to use \$11,000 of the existing \$21,000 association fund balance to support this project leaving \$20 – 24,000 that will need to be collected to finish paying for the project.

The other big issue that is still with us is Eurasian Milfoil. There was progress made with last year's cuttings. Since cutting

seems to be having a positive effect, the Board has decided to cut twice this summer, once in mid-June and again in late July or early August. The estimated cost of two cuttings is \$15,000 - \$18,000. The cuttings will come to within 150 feet of the shore which is a DNR restriction under the harvesting permit. Homeowners who desire to cut closer to their shoreline can contact Rick Thompson of Midwest Weed Harvesting at (763) 238-1012.

Clayton Sedesky, Deputy, Water Patrol Unit, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, talked about water safety. He supports the Christmas Lake Etiquette rules (attached) as common sense and safe rules for the lake. If any one on the lake sees violations of the law or persons creating unsafe conditions on or near the lake, they should call 911. The Sheriff's office is at a low staffing level, but they will respond as soon as possible.

7th Annual Christmas Lake Run/Walk

The run/walk will be held on Memorial Day, May 30. This is a great opportunity to see friends and neighbors after the long winter. The proceeds will be sent to a deserving charity chosen by the Association Board members. Suggestions are welcome.

Last year's winners are listed below:

Adult male runner – David Beddor

Adult female runner – Krista Fragola

Adult walkers – Robin Beddor, Molly Swirtz (tie)

Youth female runner- Eli Meiusi

Youth male runner – Blake Szalapski

Youth male biker – Nick Johnson, Chris Bartschat

Youth female biker – Anna Meiusi, Emma Whicher

Annual Dues

This year's dues are based on two milfoil harvestings and creating a fund to pay for the Curry Creek Farms erosion project. The dues associated with milfoil harvesting are \$200 per household and the Curry Creek Farms Fund was decided to be assessed at \$50 per household. If the project is not done this year, this money will be carried into next year. If the project is done this year, there will be an additional assessment for the Association members. Please remit your check for \$250 to the Association Treasurer, Doug Punke, 20695 Radisson Inn Road, Shorewood, MN 55331. Since we would all like the milfoil problem to be minimized, the Board is shooting for 100% dues collection. All households with fully paid dues will receive a copy of "Christmas Lake: An Album".

Special Assessment

As soon as the final negotiations are complete on the Curry Creek Farms project, a one-time special assessment bill will be sent.

July 4th Activities

Last year's theme for the parade and dock contest was "Adventure Movies". There were many outstanding entries. Below are pictures of the winning entries and the annual poem. The 2005 theme is "Animated Movies". The location of the after party and award ceremony will be announced later.



Eagle Dock – “Indiana Jones” (Josephs)



Shark – “Girls Gone Wild Christmas Lake Edition” (Larsons)



Eagle Boat – “Pirates of the Carribean” (Novacyks and Rainey – tie)



Honorable Mention – “Princess Bride” (Cunninghams and Meyers)



Eager Beaver – “Tarzan and Jane” (Fields)



Honorable Mention – “Tarzan” (Szalapskis)