

TLIA.org Web News

UPDATE

Cooperation and Progress Keys to Success

Contributed by Steve Burgoon

Silt at North Lake entrance

After three months of rain we haven't had but a few drops in a month which is great for drying out the silt bags at North Lake. We pulled the weeds out of the bags on August 1 and cut the tops off the front two bags on August 8. The site is much more presentable and with the dry, hot air the silt is drying. We still have to cut the tops off the "slot" bag so that can dry and be ready for movement to be deposited at the Lathan's Landing pit. The Grounds and Grounds Beautification Committee will meet with the Lake Committee's Silt team to establish a final re-landscaping plan that includes maintenance of the area.

Lathan's Landing

Our plan has been approved by Lake County Storm Water Management and we should have final costs from vendors by the end of August. We await the permit from US Army Corps of Engineers. After we receive that permit we can begin the work to cut in a new and larger storm sewer, catch basin, shoreline "shoulder" and finally, the movement of the silt/dirt. If we receive the permit before mid-October we believe we can complete the bulk of the work.

319 Grant for Excavated/enhanced rain gardens

The final paperwork has been completed and the application has been submitted to Illinois EPA for a large grant to develop and construct rain gardens at Bay's Park and Wagner Park (East Lake Boat Landing). This is a collaborative effort of TLIA and the Village of Tower Lakes. We have been told that MANY more applications have been received in 2015 than in the past so it will be a very competitive process. Thankfully, we have received "Letters of support" from Lake County to go along with our application.

TLIA LAKE COMMITTEE

Aram Park Gets a Good Scrubbing



Aram Park, located at Oak St. and Bridge Lane on the west side, got a much needed scrubbing recently. Great stewards of the parks and friends of Aram Park, Betsy Brookbank, Gwen Torstenson, and Andrew Young came together to give the

playground equipment a good scrubbing.

Over the past three years since the new equipment was installed, the overhang of the trees has caused sap and dirt to gather on the equipment. A power washer, and a few scrub brushes cleared the way to a clean playground for this highly used park.

Gwen's and Betsy's boys got into the act as well helping to clean their favorite park.

"Aram Park is one of the most used in the neighborhood," said Andrew Young. Gwen and Betsy both agreed. "Our kids and their friends play here all the time," said Gwen.

The playground equipment is now clean and ready for play.

Photos of the cleanup are on p.7 and tlia.org.

See the Photos
[CLICK HERE](#)



Sunday

November 8, 2015 - 2pm

Wauconda American Legion Hall
515 S Main Street
Wauconda, IL 60084



NOTES FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

RANDY YOUNG, PRESIDENT, TLIA

Every day when you look around Tower Lakes you can find great examples of our natural environment -- the lake -- being the best example.

Our environment is precious and our lake is fragile. It is great example of how we as a community care for our resources. It's also why we have rules and regulations on lakeshore management.

Recently we've had presentations to the Board from lakeshore owners about potential shoreline improvements on their property. One owner has designed and plans to install an incredible rain garden to improve the storm water drainage across their property. Another is installing a boulder barrier to stem erosion and create aeration at their shoreline. Different as these proposals are, what is common between them is that the property owners followed the rules outlined by TLIA for shoreline improvement and presented their plans to the Board for approval prior to construction. Those rules are posted at TLIA.org in the public documents section of the website.

The regulations state that no improvement "shall be installed, constructed or replaced on the shoreline without the express prior written approval of the TLIA Board." After presentation, both of these homeowners received approval. **Unfortunately, not everyone has sought the Board's approval.**

These rules are in place to protect our lake and the shoreline from unnecessary and potentially harmful alteration. The approval process allows TLIA to help everyone avoid potential issues related to erosion, wildlife, stormwater management, water quality, and pollution. We have expert knowledge on all these issues and are ready to help each homeowner with their development plans.

We have worked hard over several years, spent hundreds of thousands of our dollars to protect, develop, and keep our lake a shining example of water quality management. We must continue this course if we are to protect our most important asset. It's a valuable investment that must be made by everyone to assure and improve the quality and value of our neighborhood.

Please, **if you are a lakeshore owner and are thinking of shoreline development, it is a requirement that you consult with the Lake Committee and the TLIA Board first.** The process is easy; just tell us what you have in mind. We will listen, review the plan, and together with you, work to assure that the plan is successful for you, the lake, and the entire community. If you have questions contact anyone on the Board or Lake Committee.

[Read all the president's columns at TLIA.org](#)



TLIA Board Meeting Minutes July 9, 2015



Board Members Attending:
Randy Young, Jack Johnson, Linda Kuna, Judd Lautenschlager, Mary Magro, Mike Mitchell, Kathy Pattengale, John Yancey, and Andrew Young

Apologies: None

Committee Representation:
Pat Covek – Grounds Beautification & Tennis
Cass Young – Communications
Jennifer Grey – Lake (Shoreline Restoration)
Kathy Covek and Victor Mannina
Henry and Marty Thompson – Social

Guests: Jennifer Gray

Call to Order: Randy Young

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Opening remarks: Randy Young

Randy opened the meeting noting that it was a very full agenda. Randy lauded the Social Committee for an outstanding Fourth of July weekend. Randy asked us to recommend people with organizational and/or accounting skills to serve on an audit team (ex-board members are welcome). The flagpole on Rest Island has been removed because of safety concerns. There will be an executive session after tonight's meeting.

Committees: John Yancey

Grounds: John Yancey
The company TLIA has been using for landscaping quit abruptly, so John Yancey has contracted with another company. The transition has been smooth.

The damaged flagpole will be replaced with an anodized, brushed aluminum pole that will be painted white. Aluminum fares better in freezing & thawing conditions than fiberglass. The new pole will be 33 ft. tall with a 90 mile per hour wind rating and an 8' x 5' flag. The estimated cost is under \$2,500. Future projects could involve removing concrete pads from previous flagpoles and enhancing the fountain and rose garden areas on the islands.



[Click here to read entire minutes](#)

[For archive Board Reports, click here.](#)

Next Meeting:



September 14, 2015

All recent meeting minutes are archived on the [TLIA.org](#) website.

TLIA Board meetings are held on the **second Monday of each month** at the TL Village Hall.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR - Valerie Baartz

Members of our Communications Committee sat down with teacher Valerie Baartz. Here is Valerie's story, in her words:



Both John and I grew up on the east coast (Baltimore and Philadelphia). John's job brought us to Chicago in 1998. My education background is in early childhood, but before Charlie was born, I had been working as a corporate event planner and training coordinator. I started back to grad school for my Masters in Library Science in 2006.

We have two children. Charlie is in 5th grade and Heidi is in 3rd grade at North Barrington. We have loved raising our family in Tower Lakes and being able to participate in all the family-friendly activities.

We moved to our first Tower Lakes house on East Lake Shore Dr in 1999. John's job had us move to Tampa, FL in 2002. We moved back to Tower Lakes in 2005 when Charlie was 5 months old. While we were living in Tampa, we came back to TL for 4th of July and John came back for Men's Day. We missed Tower Lakes and our friends and once Charlie was born, we knew if we moved back to the Chicago area, that we wanted to be in Tower Lakes.

John and I have taken a spin on the Social Committee. John has served on the TLIA board and I have volunteered on Youth Committee. I currently am on the Communications Committee.

We have enjoyed being able to participate in the Chili Cook Off, Easter Egg Hunt, 4th of July, Family Movie Nights, Progressive Dinner, Lake Clean Up Day and many other TL events over the years. Being able to meet neighbors and connect with people has been a wonderful part of our TL experience.

[Read the entire story at tlia.org](http://tlia.org)

READ MORE

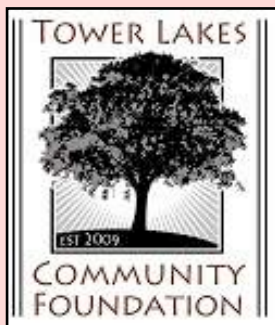
Nominations Open for TLIA Board



Are you interested in running for a position on the the TLIA Board? It's a great opportunity to make an impact on your neighborhood today and into the future. Board positions open for election in 2016:

- Vice President**
- Financial Secretary**
- Member-at-large/Grounds**
- Member-at-large/Member Services**

Each position is a two (2) year term, beginning in November 2015. Please contact Janet Blake 847.526.1654 ASAP if you or someone you know is interested.



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SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING COLLECTION PROGRAM

**** *Thursday* ****

September 3, 2015



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"Be most for the change you wish to see in the world" -Gandhi

School Bus Safety and our Most Precious Cargo



For twenty three million students nationwide, the school day begins and ends with a trip on a school bus. The greatest risk is not riding the bus, but approaching or leaving the bus. Before children go back to school or start school for the first time, it is essential that adults and children know traffic safety rules.

Drivers

- When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch out for children walking or bicycling to school.
- When driving in neighborhoods with school zones, watch out for young people who may be thinking about getting to school, but may not be thinking of getting there safely.
- Slow down. Watch for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks in neighborhood.

- Slow down. Watch for children playing and congregating near bus stops.

- Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street with out looking for traffic.

- Learn and obey the school bus laws in your state. Learn the "flashing signal light system" that school bus drivers use to alert motorists of pending actions:

Yellow flashing lights indicate that the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.

Red flashing lights and extended stop arms indicate that the bus has stopped, and that children are getting on or off. Motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop sign is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before they can start driving again.

Children

- Get to the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.

- When the bus approaches, stand at least three giant steps (6 feet) away from the curb, and line up away from the street.

- Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says that it's okay before stepping onto the bus.

- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk on the sidewalk or along the side of the road to a point at least five giant steps (10 feet) ahead of the bus before you cross. Be sure that the bus driver can see you, and you can see the bus driver.

Use the handrails to avoid falls. When exiting the bus, be careful that clothing with drawstrings, and book bags with straps don't get caught in the handrails or doors.

Never walk behind the bus.

Walk at least three giant steps away from the side of the bus.

If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver. Never try to pick it up because the driver may not be able to see you.

Parents

Teach children to follow these common sense practices to make school bus transportation safer.

Save the Dates

Join Your Neighbors for Music in the Park

Sept. 19 6-9:30 pm
Barsumian Park

Prizes Music Fun

Ole' Be There Man!

The Chili CookOff is going to be October 24

TLIA EVENTS COMMITTEE

Thank You From The Youth Committee!



It's been a busy summer for the kids in Tower Lakes! Little Tower Lakers have been involved in Tot Soccer, Kindergarten T-Ball, Story Time on Rest Island, Kids' Garage Sale, Movie Night at the Soccer Field, Swim Races, End of School Party at Aram Park, and finally the Back to School Hot Air Balloon Party. Wow! Of course, the Youth Committee couldn't organize these fun events without the support of many of the grown-up Tower Lakers. We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to those special people who helped make it all happen. Thank you to Andy Milne and Tyler Sandberg for coaching Tot Soccer and Kindergarten T-Ball, respectively. Thank you to Jacquie Skurla for sharing her gift of storytelling on Rest Island this summer.

Not only have Tower Lakers volunteered their time this summer, but a few have also pulled out their checkbooks. Thank you to Jess Galvan and her business, Shugie Shop, for donating some of the profits from the sale of her adorable Tower Lakes t-shirts. Thank you again to Jacquie Skurla and her business, Touch of Pixie Dust Travel, for the donation of school supplies and bottle openers to the Back to School Party. Finally, thanks to the Torstenson Family Trust for their monetary donation to the Youth Committee. Our neighborhood is magical because of people like these!

Let's keep the momentum going. See you all **September 12** for the **Family Camp Out!**



[SEE ALL THE PHOTOS](#)
[CLICK HERE](#)

SAVE THE DATE

TOWER LAKES COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PRESENTS

BIG NIGHT VI



NEW SHUTTLE SERVICE
TO & FROM TL
AVAILABLE THIS YEAR!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2015

THE ONION PUB & BREWERY

COCKTAIL HOUR, GAMES, DINNER,

RAFFLE, AUCTIONS, MUSIC,

DANCING, BEER TASTING,

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Garage Space Needed

I am looking to rent a garage space to park and store my antique truck.

Please contact: [Click Here](#)
[to email](#)
Tony Cantieri tcantieri1@gmail.com [Tony](#)

847-529-8470

Good and Bad Mulch

Reprinted from *The Dirt Doctor*

There are several bad mulch choices such as pine bark, cypress, rubber, and cocoa shells. But there is one that deserves special mention in the do-not-use category - the red and black dyed mulch. Colored or dyed mulches are ugly and not good to use. They are made by grinding up dry wood waste and then dyeing it. The chemical binders and dyes often used contain toxic heavy metals and other contaminants such as algaecides and fungicides to retard decay and make the color last longer.



Colored mulch does not support the variety of beneficial microbes required for healthy soil and plants as other organic mulches such as a good shredded native tree trimmings. To absorb the dye, the dyed mulch has to be made from dry wood. This may be unused construction wood scraps, mill waste or old pallets. Some vendors grind up and use the hazardous treated wood so the colored mulch may be an unwanted source of arsenic (studies in Florida have found levels of arsenic in colored mulches to exceed federal safety limits in over 75% of the samples tested). Whether contaminated or not, dyed mulch is wood with no protein to prevent nitrogen robbing from soil and plants. These red and black products are bad to use horticulturally and are tacky looking. Avoid this stuff and use the superior native tree trimmings for mulch.



[READ MORE](#)

[Read entire story at TLIA.org](http://www.tliala.org)

Repaving or sealing your driveway?

TLIA has some recommendations



BACOG (The Barrington Area Council of Governments), of which Tower Lakes is a member, recommends that driveways not be sealed with products containing coal tar because of environmental and health concerns associated with its use. See links below for information from BACOG regarding this issue. Talk to your contractor and spread the word to your neighbors.

TWO HELPFUL LINKS:

[CLICK HERE](#)

or

[CLICK HERE](#)



WHAT IF?

Are You Prepared?

A guide to severe weather preparedness - FLOODING

Our gardens love all the rain we've been getting, but our houses don't. Many residents have experienced flooding over the last wet month.

[Click here](#) to read the guide prepared by the State of Illinois Emergency Weather Preparedness area. Information in this guide will prepare you and your family before severe storms impact Illinois again.

Family Camp Out - Games, Ghost Stories & Glow sticks!



Gather up your tent, sleeping bags & lanterns for a fun family evening!

Sleep over in your tent or simply join your friends and neighbors for some fun for a while. We'll bring the marshmallows; you bring your roasting sticks.

Saturday, Sept 12
Any time after 5:00PM
Barsumian Park

Questions? Call Lila Nelms 847/791-7276



Aram Park Gets a Good Scrubbing!



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Cathy Schmidt
Broker Associate

Communications Committee:

- Valerie Baartz
- Jan Bahr
- Randall Cross
- Kathy Pattengale
- Steve Pattengale
- Cassandra Young
- Randy Young

Interested in being a part of TLIA Communications?

Contact us for more information.

Communications@tlia.org

