

# MT. LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Summer 2020 Edition  
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## BOARD'S MESSAGE:

Welcome summer! Our gratitude goes out to this amazing community for your continued support, membership, donations and volunteerism! What an amazing community we have here!

The Board would like to thank the 144 households who have joined MLCA, members of the Mt. Lake Fire Company for aerating the lake, and Liberty Township for removing the swimming beach dock! The most recent tests by NJDEP have shown a dramatic decrease in algal cell count and toxin levels that have lifted swimming and boating restrictions.

Our efforts to protect and preserve the lake are not done. We will be addressing some of the symptoms of the lake's issues while coordinating a plan to identify and address the causes.

Respectfully,  
 Shannon Schaaf, President

## What's Next?

- Hydro-raking in the lake this summer 5 full days – MLCA and Liberty Twp. have both contributed \$10,000 towards hydro-raking this summer. Map and Dates will be posted on Facebook page.
- Enhanced Water Monitoring Program – expanded to include Dissolved Oxygen monitoring and nitrates.
- **August 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting** – Online and in-person. Link will be posted on our website.
- Continued development of a Lake Management Plan
- Work with Liberty Township to seek Highlands Coalition conformance – providing access to thousands of dollars in planning grants
- Proposing shovel-ready projects to apply for a 319h HAB grant for next year

## Did you know?

- Four geese produce the same amount of phosphorous in one day as an average septic system. Please do not feed the geese or encourage them to nest on your property.
- I ❤️ Mt. Lake Magnets are available for purchase at The Lodge! \$5 each or 3 for \$12.
- **Not an MLCA member yet?** There's still time to join. Download a form from our website above or donate via PayPal.
- Our membership list is available on our website. Thank you to the 144 households, businesses and donors for your support!!!

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Shannon Schaaf	President/Editor
Daniele Nevins	Vice President
Susan Dingsor	Secretary
Carolyn Pullman	Treasurer
Arthur Strock	Trustee
Lorraine Thiel	Trustee
Alice Bechok	Trustee

## 2020 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- July 18<sup>th</sup> - Christmas in July at The Lodge
- July 26<sup>th</sup> - Mt. Lake Car Show\*
- August 7<sup>th</sup> - 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Membership Mtg.\*
- September 12<sup>th</sup> - Community Day \*

\*Events will be at the Mt. Lake Firehouse.

## Clean Water Begins At Home

### DO...

- Pump your septic tank every 3-5 years
- Be water-wise - using less water increases the life of your septic system
- Direct water from land and roof drains away from the drain field
- Landscape with love - grass is the best cover for your septic tank and drain field
- Keep septic tank lids easily accessible

### DON'T...

- Flush anything except toilet paper into your septic system
- Put household chemicals down the drain
- Park cars on your drain field, reserve area, or septic tank
- Use septic tank additives - these products may be harmful by adding extra solids to the system that can clog your drain field; chemicals can also pollute ground and surface water

## **The NEW Lodge and General Store is open for business!**

The General Store opened on Weds, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Why May 13<sup>th</sup>? Laura and Jeff McConnell, new owners of The Lodge, share the same birthday. You guessed it, on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Laura & Jeff partner beautifully on designing and implementing the new Lodge & General Store. Jeff owns his own contracting business and develops unique and creative construction ideas. Laura comes from a career of nursing and enjoys sharing the art of building community. Laura was raised in Mansfield. She & Jeff live in Great Meadows.

Laura was able to sign on Dan Keating, a top flight culinary chef. Dan supported the process of designing the needs and purchasing kitchen appliances to support the kitchen and community menu of The General Store. One of the favorite sandwiches is The Landslide with herb-marinated chicken, bacon jam, roasted red peppers, and provolone cheese on sour dough for the reasonable price of \$6.95. Lunch menu has other fun sandwiches like The Glacier, The Lodge, The Casino, The Fisherman and more. But you'll need to stop in and get a menu to see how well planned the menu is including home-made pizzas. Hours are great: six days a week 5:30 am – 7 pm (closed Tuesdays). Breakfast, lunch, & dinner.

The store also supports basic needs like farm-fresh eggs and other basic needs: milk, butter, sugar, flour and easy to grab-and-go frozen items. The candy counter is reminiscent of the old-time dime store with shelves stocked with old and new goodies. Local M&M Mars has a great display too.

But more than anything, The Lodge & General Store is meant to support bringing back the good times at Mountain Lake—picnics, camp fires, boating, and more. The General Store has some great plans for fall & winter—keeping the community engaged with hot beverages and fun seasonal activities. Laura & Jeff partner well to support Mountain Lake Fire Department activities as well as Mountain Lake Community Association. MLCA thanks The Lodge for joining membership as well as contributing a good-faith donation.

Make sure you stop in and enjoy community fellowship at The Lodge & General Store.

### **Meet the New Vice President: Daniele Nevins**

Hello Mountain Lake community! My name is Daniele Nevins and I moved to Mountain Lake a little over a year ago with my husband Dustin and our three children. I grew up in Morris County but have always enjoyed the calm beauty northwest New Jersey offers. I have a passion for learning and have received my BS in business administration and AS in veterinary technology. I am an animal lover and have a brood of pets at home. We can often be seen walking our two dogs around the neighborhood with our cats trailing behind. I work at Hunterdon Hills Animal Hospital as a certified veterinary nurse and am aspiring to become a college professor to teach the next generation veterinary medicine. In my spare time, I like to be outdoors with my family, spending time playing on our lake or heading down the shore. I am very excited to serve as the Vice President of the Mountain Lake Community Association. I was captivated by the beauty of our lake and overjoyed that we could plant our roots here. Thank you for the opportunity to serve this great community, I look forward to getting to know everyone and help keep our community beautiful!

It's time to deck your dock (and house, lawn, boats, etc.) The Lodge is hosting Christmas in July, Saturday 7/18 @ 2pm. The best decorated will receive a trophy and a gift card to the Lodge! Summer Santa attire is encouraged, let's see what the big man Looks like in the off season. There will be a visit from Santa himself, and of course, cookies and snacks. Any additional information can be provided by the Lodge at (908) 750-4573.



## **Stewardship Spotlight: Meet Chris Shand**

### **1,000 Mile Kayak Challenge**

Earlier this spring I found myself stuck in the house (like everyone else) and in need of something to get me outside. Although I've been here nearly 3 years, I didn't have a boat; so, I got a used kayak and started paddling. I fell in love with it and really enjoy seeing new things on the lake and meeting so many more of my great neighbors.

I've become more aware of how much needs to be done to preserve and maintain our lake, and the scope of it; ... 122 acres is not a koi pond! It's an even bigger job when you realize that it's all done through donations. There are no annual budget line items from our property taxes to take care of the lake itself, and no mandatory HOA fees.

That got me thinking about what can be done to help. I'm fortunate enough to be working from home and saving money on gas, insurance, repairs, coffee and snacks at the office café, etc., .... why not donate some of the savings in a meaningful way? And thus the 1,000-mile challenge was born!

Between June 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020; I am kayaking 1,000 miles around Mountain Lake to raise funds and awareness of our spectacular 10,000-year-old, spring fed glacial lake! I'm personally donating \$1 for every mile I complete, up to 1,000 miles! So far; I have completed over 150 miles and nearly 100 of 625 laps! Follow my progress on the Mountain Lake Facebook page and donate if you can.

I encourage everyone that enjoys our lake; Lakers *and* visitors, please donate, volunteer, pick-up litter and be a good steward - to preserve this precious natural resource. I'll see you around (and around and around) the lake!

~ Chris

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR  
VOLUNTEERS, MEMBERS  
AND DONORS FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT!!!**