



# Lake James Association

HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE! We are looking forward to a grand 2009 on Lake James. For those of you filling out your new calendars we have some important dates:

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month (except December) we have an LJA Board Meeting. Everyone is welcome at these meetings. If you wish a spot on the agenda please contact one of the officers.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Olympic distance triathlon held at Pokagon State park by Tri-Fort Triathlon Club and sponsored by Woman's Care Center will be held May 16th

Lake James Chain Boating Class will be on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

The fireworks display will be held on Friday evening, July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The flotilla will be held on July 4th.

Our Annual Meeting/Pancake Breakfast date is set for July 18<sup>th</sup>.

7th annual seaplane splash sponsored by The Indiana Seaplane Pilots Association will be held Sunday September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Check the Lake James webpage, lakejames.org, and the 2009 Lake Directory for other events and activities.

This winter there has been a huge outcry from lake residents concerning the rate increases from the Steuben Lakes Regional Waste District. A public hearing before the County Commissioners was held on January 7th in response to petitions signed by approximately 400 persons. The Commissioners heard a thirty-minute presentation from the Waste District explaining the rate justification. Then Keith Hoskins presented for the petitioners. Several citizens also spoke. The Commissioners decided the rate increase was NOT "just and equitable", not because of the financial facts given but because of the untimely board decision to use the money from the sale of property to buy into the state pension plan. They also felt the 5% employee raise was untimely. The next step will be for SLRWD to go before a judge to either uphold or override the Commissioners' decision.

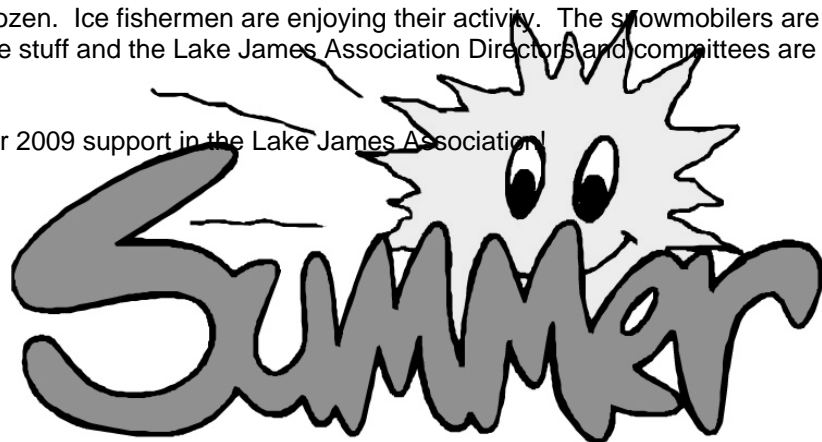
We have had some questions about the rate increase from Allied Waste. Our contract stated we could see a yearly increase based on 80% of the Municipal Price Index. Originally, this increase was expected to be about one percent. Unfortunately, the Municipal Price Index went up drastically so our rate increase was closer to seven percent. We are seeing price hikes in costs everywhere we turn and until the economy comes under control it may continue.

With these growing expenses please help us out by listing your e-mail address on the membership application. With the current list of addresses we only reach about 40% of our lake residents. We do not share these addresses with anyone, unless you agree to have it printed in the directory, the option is yours. These addresses provide a great way to contact people about public hearings, such as the one above concerning the Waste District, changes in schedules or events, public notices and alerts. **Please provide your e-mail address.**

On the brighter side, the lake is frozen. Ice fishermen are enjoying their activity. The snowmobilers are praying for some more of the white stuff and the Lake James Association Directors and committees are planning for a great summer.

Keep warm and thank you for your 2009 support in the Lake James Association!

Board of Directors  
Lake James Association



P.S. please see flip side for more important information!

## Dredging Up the Past:

A group of Lake James residents, in conjunction with the Lake James Association, is looking into silt removable projects for Lake James.

Several areas have been identified where silt removal would be beneficial to both Lake James and its residents. In identified areas, boats are close to or on the bottom. Also, there are several channels that have been identified that need deepening. Some of the areas are Jimmerson Creek (the channel between Lake James and Jimmerson Lake), the channel between Snow and James, the channels of Glenn Eden Springs, and the delta being formed from Croxston Ditch entering Lake James.

It is anticipated that some of these silt removal projects could be funded through LARE (Lake and River Enhancement) grants. The ad hoc group has had some discussion with LARE personnel and there is funding potential.

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to identify areas that you think need to be addressed in a lake wide silt removal program. Once the dredge equipment has been relocated to Lake James, adding additional silt removal areas is more economical. The ad hoc group requests that you contact your area representative, respond through the Lake James web site, or contact one of the following: Kim Ladig  
260.833.4922

Rene Scheimann 260.833.3181  
Bill Schmidt 260.833.6663

If you are interested in participating in the planning and implementation of this dredging study, please contact any of the above. We look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions.

## And Finally:

Remember your Lake Association is putting together the directory for this summer – If you have any interesting articles and/or pictures, please send them to [LJA.lakejames@gmail.com](mailto:LJA.lakejames@gmail.com).

We have received some interesting pictures we will be including of you having fun at the sandbar, and out on the lake in both winter and summer conditions!!