

Lake Jackson Citizens Association's The Heron



Next LJCA meeting: Wednesday, January 20, 2010 @ 7:30pm
Road Committee meeting: Tuesday, January 19, 2010 @ 7:30pm

Moving On

Wow! It is hard to believe that two years has come and gone—what a great experience it was serving in our community. While we can all appreciate Lake Jackson for its setting, what I found to be extraordinary while serving on the Board was the people of every diversity whom I had the opportunity to meet. We have so many talented artisans, tradesmen and professionals living together in every type of house, from some you couldn't give away to those worth a million dollars. This brought about the most interesting challenge I faced while being on the Board—that of moving LJCA forward as a community. This is what makes me excited about Jodi Perry taking over as President. I know she certainly likes a good party, and on top of that I feel confident that we would be well represented by her in matter, particularly in our ongoing efforts to improve our relationships with Prince William County.



My first impression of Jodi was probably a couple years back when wake boarders were buzzing her dock doing tricks. Many of us have had this happen to us and can only imagine her reaction. Yup...she got out the permanent marker, some paper and held up a big number "8". Somehow a simple day on the Lake was turned into a mini tournament. Clearly Jodi appreciates people and the things they like to do. That is, to me, one of the most important qualifications for being President of LJCA. I have also worked with her on issues facing our community and she does not treat those as fun and games. She considerately seeks answers and presents many alternative solutions. I am really looking forward to this next Board because I know that even if nothing else gets done, it will be one fun year.

For me, while I still serve on the Board for another year as "Past President", the amount of time needed to be effective in helping to run the Board will be consumed by a new baby in April. I have also been looking for the time to set up a non-profit Community Chest in Lake Jackson. This would allow for tax deductible gift and donations to be made that could be used for helping those in the community and improvement ideas. The biggest factor that reduces the effectiveness of the Board is the lack of a Budget. I envision the Community Chest as cooperating with the LJCA to fund many ideas for the community.

Looking forward to hopefully seeing a lot of new faces at the meeting in January.

Bill Pierce

Past President, LJCA

Meeting agenda for Wednesday, January 20:

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| 1. Confirm Recording Secretary | 1. Letter to BOCS on current road plow situation |
| 2. Announce new board | 2. Meetings hereafter will be changed to 4th Tuesday of every other month |
| 3. Consider raising membership rates | |

The current road plow situation will be discussed at the Jan. 19 Road Committee meeting.



The Heron

Moving In ... the New President of the LJCA

I've always been active in my community but never served on the Board. I've come to meet and stay friends with many of you over the years, so I'm looking forward to meeting even more residents of Lake Jackson in the next year and beyond. It's my goal to help bring about many positive changes for the LJCA and community that benefit each and every one of us..

I am an 11 year resident of Lake Jackson, originally from a small town in PA. I grew up in the heart of the Allegheny National Forest surrounded by nature and beauty, with only a 10-minute drive from boating, camping, and outdoor fun. Like many Virginians, I moved to the greater DC area for more opportunity and was disappointed to quickly find that with that opportunity came small condos, large mortgages, and a tremendous lack of nature and beauty. As crazy as it may sound to many, I always wanted a log cabin home on a lake. Now, my vision certainly was a massive body of water where it was difficult—if not impossible—to see the folks across the lake. We may not have that exact picture here, but we do have so much. There is nothing I enjoy more than coming home after a long day in the rat race to the tranquility and beauty of Lake Jackson. All the stresses of the day quickly dissipate and the world is good again.

I never thought that I could enjoy all the benefits of living outside of the Nation's Capital but still enjoy that small town feel and spirit. Only the folks that live here fully understand it. There is a sense of community and family within the lake that none of my friends experience in the places they live. I have seen time and time again the neighborhood coming together in times of illness, to help with a project, a snow storm, or the lake flooding. I just can't imagine living anywhere else.



Ironically enough, we have had friends that have left the lake to "go have children in real neighborhoods." I am just the opposite as I can't imagine raising my kids anywhere else.

As incoming President, my hopes are to represent the lake well, to encourage participation in events, to extend the feeling of community to everyone that resides here, and to continue to make Lake Jackson the best place to live. Thank you for the opportunity.

Jodi Perry
President, LJCA

Ideas Encouraged and Places to Put Them

If it weren't for the residents of Lake Jackson, there would just be a bunch of rotting cabins on 30 miles of debris-filled water. Your character and personalities make the homes, the atmosphere, the people, the summers and the winters all that they are.

LJCA wants to hear your opinion and encourages you to voice it. As the saying goes, you can't complain if you don't do anything about it!

Remember that we are all neighbours, and we are all in this together!

- Pay your annual dues for membership into the LJCA, giving yourself voting rights, and your neighbourhood the opportunity to improve
- Attend the LJCA meetings to hear what's happening and stay on top of our news
- Read the newsletters
- Suggest article ideas and items for the Board to discuss to HeronEditor@hotmail.com
- Visit the new Facebook page often and post questions to be answered there



The Heron

Lake Jackson is on Facebook!

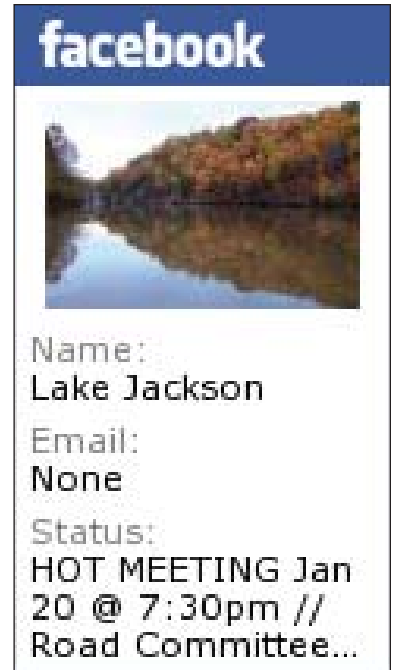
That's right, we've moved on to the 21st century and in just these few weeks since its start, it's already been a handy tool for residents and the Board alike. Topics covered so far have been the meeting agenda, trash service, and ice thickness and safety.

The LJCA is running Lake Jackson on Facebook to keep you up to date on hot topics, upcoming events, and help people on the lake get to know each other. As the page becomes more successful, it will be updated with Events, Notes in the form of newsletter articles, meeting times and the agenda, moving-in information, photos, and in all honesty - anything interesting and relevant to this community that you would want to know about. The Facebook page is and will be a fast-acting, up-to-date, and timely method of communication.

Our hope is also that this brings residents together more, and already is serving as a way for folks to catch up during these winter months when so many of us "hibernate" because our boats are winterized.

If you are unfamiliar with Facebook online, this is not a tool that is open to the public for anyone off the street to look into what we are doing and find out personal information about our residents. This is private, and can only be accessed by other members of Facebook who happen to be Lake Jackson residents or friends of the Lake.

If you are a member of Facebook, become a friend and see what people are saying about the things that are on your mind! The "Info" and friends list is the only information visible to the general public; the "Wall" opens up once you become a friend.



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Heron Editor	Jesi Smith	HeronEditor@hotmail.com
Official web site	www.ljca.info	
Unofficial web site	www.lakejacksonva.com	Forum boards and Meeting Minutes
Lake Jackson on Facebook	www.facebook.com/profile.php?ref=profile&id=100000642730062#/profile.php?ref=profile&id=100000642730062	
LJCA Phone Number	877 . 705. 5522 (LJCA)	



The Heron

Feeding the Deer and Loads of Mixed Feelings

My son's favorite thing since he has been born is stopping the car to watch the deer in neighbors yards and in the woods. When we stop and stare, they just stare right back for what seems like forever. It is a pretty cool thing that reminds me why you have to love living here. We now have several neighbors feeding the deer which makes these sightings so frequent that they no longer excite my son anymore than if he just saw a cat. Maybe something as editorial as this belongs more in the forum section of our website, but I was prompted to write this for the Heron when the other night while I was driving down my road I was hit by a deer. Yup, he scared the heck out of me and left two dents in my driver door like someone drove a couple of golf balls at point blank range. Add this to the incident of an entire herd of five that ran in front of the car a couple of weeks ago, (providing a good demonstration why ABS and gravel roads don't mix...for those curious go to www.4x4abc.com/4WD101/ABS_offroad.html) along with my neighbor and a house-guest who both recently contracted lyme disease, I am beginning to lose a little of the love for the nature.

Now there are no laws against feeding the deer in Prince William County, but the practice is being banned by more and more localities as wild animals become nuisances and we gain a better understanding of the actual harm it causes to them. All too often an animal is at risk because it causes harm and is doing so because it has been fed, somewhat tamed and/or attracted to a feeding area for competitive or predatory reasons. Sometimes the risk is as severe as death by anonymous poisoning or concerned authorities. Which reminds me of one of my neighbors who, as a result of feeding the birds, had to maintain an equally vigorous squirrel trapping campaign to stop them from digging up her garden in search of bulbs when they apparently decided that those tasted better than the dried bird seed. In any event, corn and other high-protein grains can be fatal

to deer and elk, ironically doing more harm than good. Feeding causes higher and unnatural concentrations of animals that can devastate yards and gardens, especially once they have lost their fear of people, and further gives them unnatural reproductive abilities to over-populate, and more easily spreads diseases such as lyme and chronic wasting disease. Once concentrated and overpopulated, they now depend on human food in an area that cannot sustain them naturally, this leaves them at risk should a human feeding ever stop for any reason. Fed deer lose foraging skills and it is difficult for them to revert back and change their feeding habits if they ever need to again survive on their own in the wild.

Hence, while it is not illegal, one would have to question whether the practice is neighborly or fair to the animals.

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An even bigger concern revolves around the questions of liability—a complex issue. It would be easier to ask the questions that could be asked of the Courts. Could property damage, injury, or fatality of a crash as a result of striking a deer have been avoided had the deer not been attracted to the area and/or lost their fear and natural tendency to flee? Could one attracting deer be responsible for property damage

caused by them? If a neighbor to someone feeding deer gets lyme disease, could they be responsible for the medical bills, lost wages, and other damages as a result of contracting the diseases? Regardless of the outcomes to these questions by the court, these are legitimate causes of action and, win or lose, it is always costly to have to hire a lawyer to defend yourself in Court.

To close, those who feed the deer are the ones probably most concerned for their welfare, and about all we can do is ask people to reconsider in light of the perspectives set forth above. Everyone is welcome to respond to this article to the editor of the Heron for the next issue...and please don't hand me a copy of this article the next time you see us feeding the ducks from our pontoon boat.



The Heron

2010 Membership Form

The current rates are up for discussion at the upcoming meeting, so a membership form is not included in this edition of the newsletter. The rates will be decided upon Wednesday evening, and a revised membership form will be uploaded to the web site: www.lakejacksonva.com as soon as possible thereafter.

If you would prefer to have the membership form emailed to you, please let us know by sending an email to HeronEditor@hotmail.com.

For your convenience and that of new folks moving in or buying boats or becoming active, the membership form will also be included in each newsletter from here out.

Save LJCA Money and Receive the Heron by Email

We are actively pushing all members to help us save money in various ways this year, and one of them is very simple:

Let us know by the membership form, by email, or by mouth that you would prefer to NOT have the Heron mailed to your house, and want to receive it by email instead.

The revised membership form includes a very clear waiver and space to enter your email address. Providing this information ensures you will not receive the newsletter in your mailbox; thereby saving the LJCA time, postage, and print costs.

Each issue of the Heron will also be posted to the web site: www.lakejacksonva.com, and will also be posted to the Facebook page, if you would like to view it either of those ways, as well.

The Lake Jackson Citizens Association
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