

## SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

A gallery of past newsletters and this one is available at [www.truesdalelake.com](http://www.truesdalelake.com). Please send ideas to [clarepanno@gmail.com](mailto:clarepanno@gmail.com)



# TRUESDALE LAKE

Est. 1927

## COMMUNITY NOTE

### UPDATES

- Water Corp Update
- Snow People
- Pipe Testing
- Dam Engineering Study
- Lake Health
- Property Management
- Twig Pick-Up
- Goose Patrol

### EVENTS CALENDAR

- New Social Events
- Fund Raising
- Annual Association Meeting

### AROUND THE LAKE

- Storm Water Management
- Road Paving
- New Residents
- The Sewer Initiative
- Gone Fishing

### HISTORY CORNER



## COMMUNITY NOTE *Allison Settineri*

Hello Neighbors,

As spring blooms and brings with it a sense of new beginnings, we find ourselves eager to update you on the latest happenings around the lake.

First and foremost, we're pleased to provide an update on our dam engineering study.

The study, conducted this winter, has been crucial in assessing the condition of our 110-year-old dam. In this newsletter we speak a little more about the necessary maintenance and improvements outlined in the study.

We will give you a more in-depth summary at the annual meeting, scheduled for June 13th. Your support and engagement in this process is invaluable, and we're committed to keeping you informed every step of the way.

There's plenty more to catch up on in this newsletter, so be sure to give it a thorough read. A couple of key points to highlight: if you haven't completed your lead pipe testing yet, please do so by

June 1st at the latest. This is a state mandate that must be adhered to. We've made it easy, you can launch the survey from this link:

<https://bit.ly/44QtYMT>

Additionally, you'll find a fantastic update on the sewer initiative in this issue—definitely worth checking out!

Regarding the board, we're delighted to welcome new members who will be taking on two important roles, the Vice President and Beach Commissioner.

We're excited to announce that Jessica Berger and Mike Vincitore have agreed to fill these positions, pending the official vote at our annual meeting in June.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Jessica and Mike, and thank them for their willingness to serve our community.

As always, we're grateful for each and every one of you who make our community a special place to call home. Your dedication, support, and neighborly spirit are what make our lake community truly unique.

# WATER & LAKE UPDATES

## WEEKEND SNOW PEOPLE OF TRUESDALE LAKE



Maria Bubaris  
Snowman



Amelia Courtien  
& Rudolph



Cocoa on the Deck at the Pannos



This way to the Bergers



Young men of Hoyt street Cameron &  
Casey Rasamny with Matt Settineri

## WATER CORP UPDATE

LUCILLE MUNZ

### Water Quality and Testing

Our water quality is tested each month for Total Coliform, E. Coli and Residual Chlorine. In addition, there is also extensive testing for a broad range of contaminants and most recently we are required to test for PFOS & PFAS (PFOS refers to Perfluoro octane Sulfonate and PFOA stands for Perfluorooctanoic Acid.

We are happy to report that our drinking water continues to meet and/or exceeds the current EPA and Westchester County and NY State Health Department requirements and we no longer need to test for PFOS & PFAS.

### Westchester County Health

Department upgrade requirements: The Basketball Court Well (AKA the Producer) and the Howe Street Well (AKA the Brain) have had all the necessary upgrades as required by the WCDOH, and the generator has been installed at the Producer (Basketball Well). We have all our sign offs from the Town and County.

### Lead Pipe Testing

If you are on our drinking water system, you received an email from us at the beginning of April asking for

your help with testing your pipe coming into your house for lead. We are mandated by the EPA and Westchester County to test our water lines and the pipes going into your homes for lead. Unfortunately only (38, of the (147) homes on our water system, have responded back to us and (10) of those homes are board member homes. The good news is that none had lead pipes. But we need **your test results.**

<https://bit.ly/44QtYMT>

A fully mapped out plan for addressing this issue, including **each resident's documentation** of lead-free pipes throughout our system must be submitted to the Department of Health by this July.

A 2nd notice email is going out asking for everyone to please respond by June 1st. For those who need assistance, we will come to your home and test your pipes for a fee of \$50 per address.

### Water Valve Locations and Mapping

We have started mapping out in digital format, our water supply system. An email will go out this summer asking for your help with location valve boxes. Look for future emails with instructions and updates.

# DAM & LAKE UPDATE

## DAM STUDY INITIAL INFO

### TLPOA BOARD

.We are pleased to share with you the findings of the recent engineering survey conducted on our 110-year-old dam.

The survey results indicate that the dam is in good condition for its age; however, it does require maintenance to ensure its continued safety and functionality.

**... no immediate signs of failure, there are structural issues that need to be addressed**

Current Condition: Despite its age, the dam appears to pose no imminent risk. The survey found that while there are no immediate signs of failure, there are structural issues that need to be addressed In order to maintain its structural integrity.

Due to previous lack of maintenance coupled with the ongoing effects of global warming, certain aspects of the dam require attention. It is important to take a proactive stance and address these issues sooner rather than later when they could be critical.

Proposed Phased Approach  
After careful consideration, the board has decided that the best approach is to prioritize and phase the necessary work on the dam.

**The current gate valve aka sluice gate, is positioned on the wrong side of the dam, and inoperable.**

The proposed first phase of the project will focus on installing a new gate valve. The current gate valve is positioned on the wrong side of the dam, and is inoperable.

This control gate is a critical component of our dam, it is this mechanism designed to relieve pressure on the dam during a storm and high water levels by allowing excess water to flow out. Without a functioning sluice gate, and the increasing frequency of storms due to global warming, the dam is under

more pressure than it was originally designed to handle. An operable gate would allow us to lower the lake level ahead of a storm, relieving pressure on the dam's walls.

**...widening the spillway to mitigate the risk of flooding reduce the water volume and therefore structural stress on the dam walls**

The proposed second phase of the project will involve widening the spillway to help mitigate the risk of flooding, reduce the water volume and therefore structural stress on the dam walls, and at the same time, meet current engineering requirements.

**...seeking grants and raising funds**

### Call to Action

These projects will require a significant investment of time, money, and resources. We will be seeking grants and developing a plan to identify various funding sources for these projects. If working for the benefit of our dam resonates with you and you have skill-sets that will align with this project, or not, we need members of our community to get involved.

Get on the Dam Committee!!!  
If you would like to make a difference, be part of a solution, and ensure the continued health and well being of our lake and dam (they are not mutually exclusive) please consider volunteering your time.

We are developing a "Dam Team" (T-shirt will be made) and together, we can work towards protecting our dam and lake for the future of our community and for generations to come. We love Truesdale Lake.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We will continue to keep you updated on our progress and look forward to working together.

## LAKE UPDATE

### JOHN GUSMANO

Managing our lake has always been about water quality and volume.

That involves a balancing game with nature and property owners. High volume rainfall along with fertilizer use adds excessive nutrients to the lake causing rapid plant growth and algae blooms. We will continue the herbicides and algaecide treatments this season. Last fall we treated for the invasive phragmites with some results already visible. We will monitor to see if a follow-up treatment is required.

Weekly testing for ecoli at the beach area will continue and be posted once the season starts.

Our 100 + year old dam was built when the 250 mile watershed was mostly forest and fields which allowed rainfall to soak into the ground. Today's watershed of houses, roads and drainage result in more rainfall reaching our lake faster. Today's rainstorms are more frequent and drop more water in a shorter timeframe. Our dam spillway was not designed for today's volumes, so we see rapid increases in the lakes water height with negative impacts on property.

The challenge is how to manage the volume with short and long term solutions. Siphons are a short-term possibility. However, we failed again this year to lower the lake as intense storms twice destroyed the siphon setups. We are looking for solutions and welcome any suggestions.



# PROPERTY & COMMON AREAS



Jessica Berger our new Vice President hosts her Hoyt St neighbors along with her husband Chris and son Will



Ernest and Matt Brill enjoy kayaking on the lake

Thank you Town of Lewisboro for carefully dropping the chips from our cut trees to our community basket ball court. We so appreciate your help and partnership, and giving our trees another life in Truesdale Lake.

## TWIG & BRANCH PICK-UP MAY 20TH

**Pile your branches and twigs neatly on by the road but not on the street and they will be picked up.**

**Your branches and twigs will be chipped up and spread in common areas around our community.**

**We will NOT pick up logs, leaves or any other yard debris.**

## GOOSE PATROL

This Spring we resumed actively oiling goose eggs on the three big islands of Lake Truesdale.

We do this to control the population of migrating Canada Geese to discourage them becoming Lake Truesdale residents. If these flocks are allowed to stay and multiply, our human residents risk health issues including geese droppings on their lawns and high levels of E.coli in drinking water and on beaches, where multiplying in the warm summer water it posed a threat to swimmers.

Some communities throughout the country have resorted to killing geese, but our own community and others employ a far more humane way to handle the problem: egg oiling and addling.

Recommended by the Humane Society of the United States, the goal of egg oiling (coating eggs with pure corn oil) or addling (shaking the yolks) is to create a failed nesting, which discourages geese pairs from hatching goslings and then shedding their flight feathers to become residents.

Each year we do an initial census of the three main islands of the lake to determine the number of nests and the egg quantities. We also check the small private island in the north end cove of our lake, and any inaccessible shoreline areas that might house a stealthy pair of geese and a nest.

Last year, 2023, we found ten different nests between the three islands and continued to monitor the islands through the spring. We acted

as needed since new nesting pairs continued to show up throughout the spring season with newer waves of paired geese landing weekly to scope out the neighborhood.

Egg oiling requires a permit from the Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) which we have obtained. Truesdale Estates Association has renewed its FWS RCGR (Resident Canada Goose

Registration) permit #13757A and currently there are seven lake residents who are named on the permit and can serve as volunteers. This activity benefits the entire community, it is not association specific.

If you are interested in learning about this program and adding your name to the list of federally approved volunteers click here:

<https://truesdalelake.com/contact-us/>

This is a FREE program for our lake. The only cost is the time given by the volunteers and the cost of the corn oil used for oiling.



Cameron Rasamny the youngest member of the goose patrol keeps geese at bay while father Lee oils & addles on Ant Island.



# ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Editor's note: Events to posted or changed please send to CLAREPANNO@gmail.com

## APRIL

- 1 Goose Patrol
- 8 Total Solar Eclipse

## MAY

- 12 Mother's Day Activity?
- 12 Safe to Planting today!
- 19 Beach Clean-up Day
- 20 Twig Pick-up
- 27 45th Annual South Salem Memorial Day Races
- 29 Memorial Day Parade

## JUNE

- 1 TAG SALE (rain date 6/8)
- 3-4 Fine Fair Day at Onatru Farm
- 13 Annual Meeting
- 21 Moonlight Regatta

## JULY

- 4th July 4th Bike Parade

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The 2024-25 volunteers to keep our events calendar packed with fun times, and our neighborhood beautiful.

Here are just a few of the areas we could really use your assistance with:

- *Lake Event Photographer(s)*
- *Articles for newsletter*
- *Roads Petition coordinator*
- *Sunshine committee*
- *Water Commissioner Support*
- *Beach crew*
- *Front Entrance garden*
- Please reach out to: Marissa [marissa.carrio@gmail.com](mailto:marissa.carrio@gmail.com)

TLPOA BOARD POSITIONS TO VOTE IN:  
Beach Commissioner  
Vice President



## Bike Parade

Meet you at 10 am  
at the Library!

## Social & Events *MARISSA CARRIO*

### BEACH CLEAN-UP

Please join your friends and neighbors to tidy up the beach for the 2024 season. Beach clean up will begin at 3 PM & immediately following stay and BYOB for a fun time with your neighbors! See you Sunday, May 19th, 3-7 at the beach!

### LAKE WIDE TAG SALE

On Saturday, June 1st from 10am to 4pm the TLPOA will be hosting a community-wide Tag Sale. It is \$30 a family to be put on the map that will be distributed around town. The proceeds will go towards lake improvements. Have fun with it! Bring out your old items, play some music, and walk around shopping at your neighbors!

<https://forms.gle/JPMCjMRfQi4ekJrL8>

### MOONLIGHT REGATTA

Fri June 21st (full) or Sat June 22nd and Sun Aug 18th (full moon Monday) Light up your boat and grab some costumes! Stay tuned on the exact theme but \$20 will get you access to drinks at the "boat bar". There will be music & games for good fun out on the lake as we watch the moon rise! No boat? No problem! Watch the boats from the beach!

### PADDLE BOAT RACE

Paddle Boat Race - Date TBD New Lake Truesdale activity! We're thinking about a fancy dress race - thoughts? We'd love your input! Prizes for winner, best dressed, best decorations with beach party Get involved, a little or a lot: [marissa.carrio@gmail.com](mailto:marissa.carrio@gmail.com) [bree.rasamny@gmail.com](mailto:bree.rasamny@gmail.com)

## FAREWELL TO MARTIN ROZARIO OUR BEACH COMMISSIONER

It has been my honor to serve you as Beach Commissioner for the last 4 yrs.

My sincere gratitude and appreciation to our TLPOA Board for serving our community with hard work, compassion, and care on a daily basis. I am grateful to my wife Rebecca and our two boys, Ethan and David, for allowing me the time to serve our community. They graciously joined me to keep the beach clean and organized all year!

When I took over the beach role, my primary focus was to bring our members together in our community and revive beach activities. Thank you to the many wonderful members in our association for joining us twice a year for beach clean-ups. These events gave our members the opportunity to connect with each other while also saving money

on upkeep of the TLPOA beach. I am always amazed by the willingness of our members to come together to help and serve our community.

My family and I will continue to help in any way we can as members of this wonderful



community. We have appreciated your support and care in joining us over the years. Wishing you a wonderful spring and summer season!

Warm regards, Martin Rozario

## TLPOA ANNUAL MEETING AT THE BEACH



**JUNE 13, 2024 7:30PM**

IN CASE OF RAIN WE'LL MEET AT THE HORSE AND HOUND

# AROUND THE LAKE

## STORM WATER MANAGEMENT BEFORE PAVING OUR ROADS

You may have noticed this very tall man and his crew from the town working on the storm water catch basins along the streets of Truesdale Lake.

Meet John Winter, our new Superintendent of Highways for the Town of Lewisboro. A position that had not been open for 20 years. While John is new in this role--just 4 months--he is a 4th generation town resident and raising the 5th generation here. With almost 12 years municipal work experience.

On a beautiful spring morning, next to the town's excavator, John and I chatted about the work on our catch basins which must be completed before the roads are paved so they will be smooth and level after the paving.

"We are assessing what needs to be done by removing the catch basin grates. Checking the blocking which sets the tops height, checking the condition of the basin overall, inspecting the pipes that connect them under the street. If needed we replace the basin tops, cross pipes, or the entire precast basin. We also have added a few to areas we found to have water issues."

Our catch basins are fitted with a grated steel protector over the water entry point. These basins are designed to filter out larger debris and, in some cases, drop water into a sump, for sediment retention. The sump is the depth of the basin below the pipe where dirt and debris settle.

"Eventually all this water needs to go somewhere so the catch basins are networked in a system, leading to pipe outfalls. As part of our annual maintenance, we vacuum sediment out of the bottom of the basin (in the sump) this helps sediment from going into our beautiful lakes.

"We vacuum basins in lake communities twice a year, our dirt roads which fill up often, get done more frequently. The rest of the town we work to get vacuumed once a year, crews are out constantly checking on them specifically when it rains. When



we do street sweeping, the lake communities get done first."

"Around Truesdale Lake", John noted, "The Highway Dept installed some new curtain drains of perforated pipe with holes in it buried surrounded in gravel, where water is seeping. The ground water goes into the catch basins reducing ice buildup in the winter, standing water on top of the pavement in other months. Standing water on pavement is always bad, but really bad in winter as it becomes ice and then we have to salt. If we can reduce the ice buildup, we can use less salt. This ultimately means less salt goes into the lake.

The lake communities are more sensitive when it comes to salt. Smoother paved roads help us clear the roads resulting in less ice/snow build up. The less salt needed on the roads, and ultimately in the lakes. We have assigned our newer more technologically advanced salt trucks to the lake communities, because they spread salt much more efficiently and effectively."

I asked John about the scope of his team's work, and of course, which roads will be paved by the town. "An easy way to know which roads the town's responsibility is by the name.

## INTERVIEW WITH JOHN WINTER BY CLARE PANNO

The numbered roads i.e., routes 35 and Route 121 are state roads, and my department has nothing to do with them. I sympathize, but I only have limited funding to take care of the town roads. In previous years, we've only had approximately \$180K budgeted for paving all our roads - 95 center lane miles, 10 miles are dirt, so 85. For a road 100 feet 22 ft wide it costs about \$34,000 just to pave, not including the catch basins, pipes, and other drainage repairs.

This year, we've been awarded nearly \$800k. We've received \$320k from the town through bonding, 180k from the paving line on the budget. Annually the state through multiple programs allocates around 300k, so our roads are getting paved, we are going all out, this spring to get them ready to be paved this summer. Once paved, we don't want to ever cut them or dig them up, hence all the new drainage now."

The price to pave 4100' by 21' wide is going to cost \$137,173 for just one road. Pavement is not cheap; today's pricing is around 176k per mile so important we do all necessary drainage maintenance below the road prior to paving."

Paving will commence after school lets out for the summer.

### OUR TREES GET NEW LIFE AT OUR BASKET BALL COURTS

As part of the maintenance, the town must take down trees that are impeding the drainage.

This wonderful town crew brought 3 truck loads of wood chips to our basketball court. We needed these to fill in the deep grooves on the dirt road.  
**THANK YOU!**

These trees are not those that are being taken down by NYSEG who employs Nelsen.

# AROUND THE LAKE

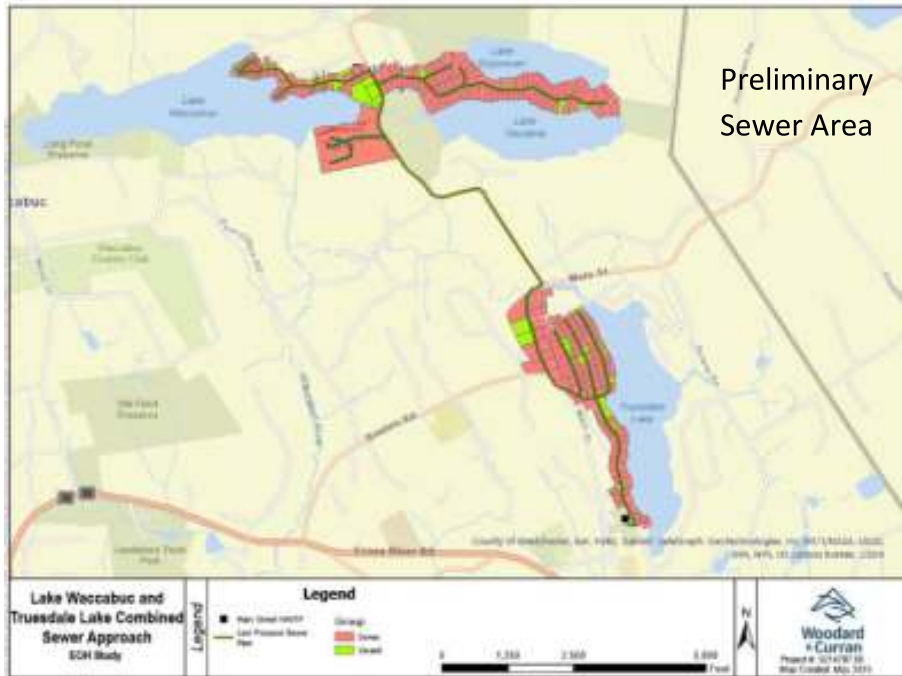
## THE SEWER INITIATIVE

Sue Enos

### Continued push for sewer proposal

**A brief recap:** In 2021, the town obtained grant funds for engineering studies on lakes Kitchawan, Truesdale, and Waccabuc. Study results pointed to failing and poorly functioning septic systems as a source of phosphorus pollution to our lakes – and, as you know, phosphorus enables growth of

would be near the current recycling center and highway garage. A collection system will run from the homes, along the roads, to the wastewater treatment plant. After treatment, plant effluent would be discharged into the stream that flows out of Truesdale Lake.



algae and aquatic plants. While well-sited and maintained septic systems can treat waste effectively, sewers, where affordable, will ensure that the waste is properly handled.

Initial wastewater solution With a lot of input from community members, elected officials, and engineers, a preliminary sewer approach was established, size based on anticipated funding availability of \$40M.

The plan includes selected parcels on Truesdale, Waccabuc, Rippowam, and Oscaleta lakes. The wastewater treatment plant

Many steps remain before implementation. The town must be successful in two different grants. The town will reapply for grants in 2024. Additional funding from Westchester County and NYCDEP needs to be approved. The plan requires approval by a host of permitting agencies. Homes that would be in the project must vote in favor.

The draft plan may change for many reasons, including funding availability. It is very exciting to see these proposals moving forward.

Stay tuned for more updates.



New Beach Commissioner Mike Vincitore and his family enjoy the first fishing on our lake.

Our beautiful private lake is home to some good size largemouth bass, crappies, perch, and sunfish. While reeling in your catch please remember to carry your fishing permit tag:

<https://truesdalelake.com/lake-management/fishing/>

Since instituting the requirement for carrying fishing permit tags, we've significantly reduced the left behind discarded tackle and refuse of non-resident fisher folk.

All people fishing on Truesdale Lake must:

- Be a lake association and/or riparian resident (or a guest accompanied by a resident)
- Carry their Truesdale Lake Fishing Tag
- Have a NY State Fishing License.

Fishing is permitted from private shorelines, private docks, lake association properties, or from resident boats with resident boat registration stickers.

Fishing is NEVER allowed at any time in any season on the association swimming beach properties. Fishing tackle is a hazard that does not co-exist well with bare feet.

Thank you for your support in keeping our residents, lake and wildlife safe!

# Truesdale Lake History Corner

By Priscilla Luckow

Truesdale Lake Sunfish Fleet #27 started almost 70 years ago in the late 1950s/early 60s. It is one of the oldest Sunfish fleets in the country. Prior to this, races were held on the Sunfish's wooden predecessor, the Sailfish. Sailfish were larger, wooden and had no foot-well.

In the early 1950s, lake residents organized a Sailfish fleet and began holding weekly races after a bet between John Blair and Jack Fles about who could sail fastest around the lake.

In the 1950s and 60s, there were around 30 boats, both Sailfish and Sunfish, racing on the lake. At one point, the fleet was so large that it was split into two sections. There was also a junior division for many years, and a ladies' division for a short time.

When fiberglass Sunfish were introduced in 1959-1960, the



Members of the Kinal (Hoyt St.) and Hayden (Gilbert St.) families raced together on Sunday afternoons in the Sailfish Class on Truesdale Lake in the 1960s. NWT 8-17-1961

wind comes over the mountain, drops and spreads out 360 degrees. You end up with all kinds of wind shifts. If you can race well on the lake, you can race anywhere." (LL 9-2-2004)

Everyone has always been welcome to join. Spare boats and lessons for those who want to learn how to sail are still offered today. Although the present-day Fleet #27 is small, the colorful sails are still enjoyed by many

boats were lighter, faster and sleeker than their wooden predecessors, and the perfect boat for the size of Truesdale Lake.

Many familiar names like John Blair, Jack Fles, Mark Patek, Ray Morse, Ira Sanchick, Jonathan Rodgers, Skip Jahn and Rob Cummings are attached to Fleet #27. Mark Patek, who chaired the races for decades, said "The lake is difficult to sail because the

of us on Sunday afternoons. Consider joining! It's a great way to have fun, meet your neighbors and enjoy our beautiful lake!

For more information, please see the Fleet #27 page on the Truesdale Lake website:

<https://truesdalelake.com/boats/sunfish-fleet-27/> or call Ira Sanchick 914-763-6515

~ Priscilla Luckow

JUNE 13  
7:30PM

## TLPOA ANNUAL MEETING

BEACH  
THURS



### TLPOA BOARD MEMBERS

President  
Vice Pres  
Treasurer  
Secretary

Allison Setteneri  
Jessica Berger  
Ted Bloch  
Bree Rasamny

Water Corporation  
Lake Health  
Beach Management  
Property & Roads

Lucille Munz  
John Gusmano  
Mike Vincitori  
Jay Vosler

Social & Events  
Community Relations  
Community Advisor  
Welcome Wagon

Marissa Carrio  
Clare Panno  
Daniela Tuohy  
Jill Wishner