

FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

A gallery of past newsletters
available at
www.truesdalelake.com.
clarepanno@gmail.com



TRUESDALE LAKE

Est. 1927

WATER WATER WATER

Water Corp Update
Conserve Water-Disengage

DAM & LAKE UPDATES

Dam Engineering Needs You
Lake Health

Property & Beach Updates

Maintenance Report
BEACH CLEAN-UP 11/30
Keep Your Leaves - How to
Start Composting

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

New Social Events
Halloween Activities
Holidays Around the Lake

AROUND THE LAKE

Clean W.O.T.R - Sewer
Initiative Update
We're in the Money
\$6.875mill Grant toward
\$40mill goal see page 7

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

Holly Peppe



EDITOR'S NOTE

In October the Northern Lights gleamed over our lake community adding new colors to our already glorious fall leaves show. And so much more, I was on the other coast that weekend, my phone exploded with pics from my sharing and caring Hoyt St neighbors group chat. It felt like I was here. That is the sort of neighborhood we live in.

The initiatives facing our community, a sewer district to clean up our lake and allow residents to flush during storms (and so much more), and the challenges of fixing our 117-year-old dam would be daunting to some, but ours has shown up en masse. The town meeting last month was standing room only.

Allison and Lucille who have been buried in dam studies – are starting to hear from new volunteers who are coming forward to help on the Dam Team. These are the kind of involved residents Lake Truesdale attracts. Please join us, your Dam needs you see page 4.

While we are assembling a Dam Team in order to formulate a plan for improvements and commence the two prioritized phases of the necessary work, the unseen work of Scot Evans who provides engineering direction and John Gusmano who manages the project involving the installing, dismantling, repairing and replacing of parts on our siphons are deserving of honors – all work is managed by these responsible volunteers with only the satisfaction of a huge job well-done, keeping our lake safe through winter and water flowing the rest of the year.

Our volunteer water commissioner Lucille Munz spends many a sleepless night, managing the innumerable moving

CLARE PANNO
parts of keeping our drinking water safe, our community wells powered and all of it in compliance. Lucille doesn't even use our water; she has her own well.

Not only are we living in a beautiful and amazingly involved and responsible community, but we are a generous bunch as well.

In the spirit of giving, we are again raising money by selling Luminaries – see constant contact or reach out to Marissa Carrio. Every luminary set purchased is a donation to the Community Center of Northern Westchester. I look forward Friday, Dec 20th when our streets will be lined with luminaries and the Holiday Carolers will follow trumpeter Matthew Settineri and his horn with his mentor leading the way along our snowy streets to the beach for hot cocoa, a warm fire, and if we have been good, a visit from the man in red.

This New Year consider joining in the tradition of the Polar Bear Plunge Jan 1, 2025. This involves jumping into icy water and is widely attributed to the Coney Island Polar Bear Club (1903) in New York, where people began taking New Year's dips in the ocean as a way to boost health and stamina. Though the practice dates back much further in Nordic countries, it's fun to think of it as ours. Reach out to Mike Vincitori for the event or just support the T-shirt fundraiser!
Our neighborhood, it's a hidden gem. I know I don't need to tell you; many have been here longer than my 20 years. I hope your New Year's resolutions will include helping out in one of the areas of need, which includes a new editor/publisher for this newsletter.

Wishing you all a peaceful and prosperous New Year around the lake.

WATER WATER WATER

WATER CONSERVATION

SCOT EVANS

October was the driest month in NYC since record-keeping began more than 100 years ago and South Salem was nearly as dry. Our lake received only a third of an inch of rain in October, which experienced 29 dry days. And the first 10 days of November have been dry.

The silver lining is that the dry weather will help our lake's winter '24 - '25 Drawdown to reach target depth sooner, so gravity silt compaction can occur before sub freezing temperatures harden the exposed lakebed to kill the weed tubers.

Also, riparian (waterfront) owners are asked to please rake & clean your exposed lakebed of vegetation, which should be composted into your gardens, and dispose of any trash and sharp objects encountered. Members have found tires, beer bottles and cans, car batteries, rusted steel drums, chairs, bricks, rib cages of dead deer, discarded fishing tackle, knives, tools and toys.

PLEASE CONSERVE
OUR WATER

TLPOA members may not use our community's well water to water lawns. It is healthier for the grass to allow it to go dormant during a drought as the roots grow deeper. Don't worry, the grass will survive! You may of course water your lawn IF you're using lake water or your own PRIVATE well.

Using our community's well water to water your lawn is prohibited. Lawn irrigation systems that draw water from our community well are already prohibited.

WATER CORP UPDATE

LUCILLE MUNZ

Lead Pipe Testing

Per the EPA deadline the Truesdale Lake Water Corp submitted the lead pipe testing results to the New York State Dept of Health. Of the 147 customers, 42 did not respond to our numerous requests for lead testing. I am pleased to report that those who responded, none were lead pipes, with the majority copper lines.

If you are reading this article and have not tested your water line coming into your house, please contact us and test your pipe and/or we can assist you.

We are not sure what the outcome of the non-compliance testing will be. We have been told by the Westchester County Health Department that there will be fines for not having 100% compliance. If this, in fact the case, we will pass those fines onto the individuals who have not tested their lines.

Water Quality and Testing

Our drinking water continues to meet and/or exceeds the current EPA and Westchester County and NY State Health Department requirements.

However, we are aware that the EPA is projecting to reduce

DISENGAGE your irrigation system if it draws water from our community well.



This submersible pump, Wayne WaterBUG, is excellent and draws water at 1,350 GPH for those who can pull from the lake.



allowable PFOS and PFOA (forever chemicals) in Water, Air, Soil, Waste, Food, and Commerce.

Under 'EPAs new federal standards, public water systems must comply with new federal max contaminant levels (MCLs) of 4 ppt (part per trillion) for PFOA and 4 ppt (parts per trillion) for PFOS by 2029. EPA has also set MCLs for four additional PFAS not currently regulated in NYS. Until 2029, public water systems must still meet NYS maximum contaminant levels of 10 ppt for PFOA and PFOS, which we currently meet.

We will most likely, like other water suppliers will need to study, access and figure out potential next steps for 2029 compliance changes.

Drinking Water Sub-Committee

In speaking with the TLPOA Board, I recommended that we establish a Drinking Water Sub-Committee, to help evaluate the existing water lines, (age & condition) and ever-changing rules and regulations, to figure out a game plan for future improvements and how that can be achieved.

If you have an engineering background, finance background and experience with municipal regulations, and are interested in helping me chart a course for the future, send me an email.

Thanks in advance for your help!

lmunz50@gmail.com

DAM & LAKE UPDATE

LAKE DRAW DOWN

JOHN GUSMANO

You may have noticed we are in the process of lowering the water level in the lake. Last year's attempt was stopped when a series of heavy rainstorms destroyed the siphon setup. It has been rebuilt with steel reinforcement and supports.

The target is to drop the water between 3' and 4'. This will expose the lakebed allowing for the soil to compact and hopefully freeze. The freeze has proven to greatly reduce the plant growth decreasing the need for chemical treatments during the swimming season. This also is a great time to rake and clean up the exposed lakebed and make any repairs to your docks or walls.

We did successfully treat the Phragmites, but it will take several seasons to eliminate this invasive plant. If you have them on your shoreline, take this opportunity to cut down and remove them. Same goes for the Lily Pads. They may be pretty, but they are quick spreading invasives that will damage our lakes ecosystem.



OUR DAM NEEDS YOU

Our dam is in good shape for its age, but as the study showed, there are structural issues that need to be addressed in order to maintain its structural integrity.

We need to assemble a Dam Team in order to formulate plan for improvements. The two prioritized phases of the necessary work on the dam are:

1. **Resolve the current gate valve aka sluice gate, which is positioned on the wrong side of the dam, and inoperable. An operable gate would allow us to lower the lake level ahead of a storm, relieving pressure on the dam's walls.**
2. **Widen the spillway to mitigate the flooding by reduce the water volume and therefore structural stress on the 100 year old dam walls.**

These projects require volunteers!
Join the Dam Team contact:
ScotEvans7@gmail.com and
TLPOAsec@gmail.com

Truesdale Lake Triathlon

BREE RASAMNY

Residents came together to host the very first unofficial Truesdale Lake Triathlon on September 21st. There were a total of 6 participants all of whom completed the course. The race began at Gilbert Street Beach, with a 750^{yd} swim to Hoyt st boat dock, followed by a 9mi bike ride to Waccabuc and back, ending with a

classic lake loop of 2.6 miles. They were met at the finish line with medals and the first place trophy that went to Julie Grant, who completed the course in 1 hr and 4min.

Congrats to all who competed!

Interested in competing next year? Send a message to Race Director & Organizer Lee.Rasamny@gmail.com



David Cotterman; Matt Brill with son Ernest; Julie Grant (winner); Tom Davidson; Lee Rasamny; Jen Vincitore.

Who Had More Fun this Halloween? The Adults or the Kids?



PROPERTY & BEACH UPDATES



KEEP YOUR LEAVES Start a Compost Pile

1. **Find a dry shady spot** away from your house but close enough for a garden hose if it gets too dry. You can use a bin or tumbler, but mine is working great right on the ground.

2. **Start with a pile of leaves** from this fall or already degrading mulch from your woods. The earth worms will come.

3. **Add layers of brown (carbon) and green (nitrogen)** a ratio of 4:1 browns to greens.

Browns: dry leaves, torn up cardboard (we all have it!), small wood chips, torn newspaper and shopping circulars

Greens: grass clippings, garden waste, spent coffee grounds, food scraps (not meat or grease) eggshells, fruit and veggie trimmings. Cover food scraps with Browns

4. **Mix and Turn your pile** – use a shovel or pitchfork, this is great exercise!

5. **Cover or enclose with access** so you can throw things in, but animals can't drag things out. We have a small 2.5" chicken wire fence around ours because the racoons and opossums love it.

If you only start with a pile of leaves this winter, you will still be well on your way to composting come spring.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

We maintain Truesdale Lake common areas year-round.

El Niño gave us a wet winter and by March we were already cleaning up the fallen trees at the basketball court, chipping the remains and clearing the brush.

Again, TLPOA sponsored the neighborhood Twig and Branch Pick-up and cleared the sides of the streets for the May flowers. By June the stubborn weeds by the dam and near the lake needed whacking. The well on Howe Street got a nice grooming too.

Throughout the year we cut the brush back at the Gilbert and Lakeshore boat launch along with weeding and the addition of some new mulch.

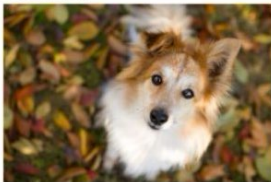
By August we were whacking down record breaking weed growth everywhere around the lake, the boat areas, TLPOA beach parking area, and along the Lakeshore and Gilbert corner.

And now it's Fall and as much as we love them, the fallen leaves are crispy and ready to go. We remind all residents and friends who help us maintain our community, kindly dispose of clean-up debris in your trash on your property. The Town will not pick-up leaves left alongside of the road.

**PLEASE DO NOT PUT LEAVES IN
OUR LAKE or on community
property**

ATTENTION PET OWNERS!

Beware of ticks in the fallen leaves. Leaves provide ticks with a desirable habitat via higher humidity a lower temperatures within the leaf litter, as well as protection from exposure over winter.



BEACH LIFE ON THE LAKE

MIKE VINCITORE

We are working to improve the current conditions and make the beach as pleasant and enjoyable for any and everyone. We are trying to improve some current things, like the walkway, picnic tables and dock maintenance. In addition:

- Added a new gate
- Fixed the power outlets
- Pump has been fixed
- New Picnic Table
- Added Solar lights
- Power washed the beach fence

Late beach cleaning up 11/30/24 10am - this will also be preparation for Christmas party .

Need a place to host a party?
RENT THE BEACH



CONTACT Mike Vincitore
Sgtvincitore@yahoo.com



ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

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

NOVEMBER

- 11 Lewisboro Town Meeting 7:00pm
- 16 Vista Troop 101 Dumpster Day
Sat, Nov 16 2024, 9am - 4pm
- 17 Holly Peppe at Lewisboro
Library 11:30am
- 28 Thanksgiving
- 30 BEACH CLEAN-UP

DECEMBER

- 2 Cyber Monday
- 3 Giving Tuesday
- 15 Water Meter Reading
- 20 Caroling thru the streets
meet at the bridge 5:45pm
- 21 Winter Solstice
- 22 National Cookie Exchange Day
- 25 Christmas
- 25 Hanukkah (12/25 - 1/2/25)

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day
- 1 Polar Bear Plunge
- 20 Martin Luther King Day
- 21 National Squirrel Appreciation
Day
- 29 Lunar New Year

LADIES WINE NIGHTS

Coming in 2025

BYOB events will start indoors this winter and move to the beach once it warms up again. If you'd like to offer hosting for one month this winter, please contact Marissa

Get involved, a little or a lot:
marissa.carrio@gmail.com
bree.rasamny@gmail.com

Social & Events *MARISSA CARRIO*

Halloween Parade

Our annual Halloween parade started at 11am at the library and Allison drove the truck with music to leading the wonderfully spooky and delightful pageantry to the beach.



Pumpkin Carving Contest

Kaiber Bowes, took the first place prize for the pumpkin carving contest, for her design of Pumpkin #2. Congrats and Happy Birthday Kaiber!



Holidays Around the Lake

Hanukkah and Christmas are on the same day this year. With eight total occurrences in 117 years, Hanukkah starts on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day roughly once every 15 years. We will be selling driveway luminaries as a fundraiser again this year, along with caroling through the streets and a visit from Santa at the beach. Watch for the constant contact notifications. Some pics from last year...



Allison, Julia, Matthew Settineri,
and friend with Santa



Jenn & Peter Vincitori



Santa w/ Martin & Baby Lucy Cochet



Halloween at the Beach 2024

AROUND THE LAKE-Sewer Initiative Update

Q & A TOWN MEETING OCT 8 *Sue Enos*

On Tuesday, October 8th, 90 Lewisboro residents attended a well-received presentation of the proposed sewer project and Sewer Taxing District which would include approximately 300 properties around Truesdale and the Three Lakes (Waccabuc, Oscaleta and Rippowam).

Link to video of the meeting:

https://youtu.be/H_MU931zh7A?si=acXiZIRuzU2eDYpw

New York State Representative Chris Burdick, Town Supervisor Tony Gonçalves, and Woodard and Curran engineer, Ken Kohlbrenner explained the scope of the sewer project, details of the proposed Sewer Tax District and answered these questions:

WHY A SEWER?

Q. Our lakes and wells are polluted by many things, runoff, fertilizer, goose poop. Why are we working on a sewer?

A. Yes, many pollutants can impact lakes and drinking water. Studies have shown that septic systems in these areas are older, often in poor soils, and contribute a substantial amount of pollution to both groundwater aquifers and lakes. This will worsen as increasing precipitation events occur. We should continue to focus on reducing other sources of pollution in addition to the sewer.

SEWER PLANT

Q. Will the sewer treatment plant be noisy, will it smell, will it be lit up 24 hours a day?

A. Treatment will be inside a building, which will be designed to contain odors and noise. The Oakridge and Wild Oaks plants are run by the town and have all the operations inside the building. There are also private plants on Michelle Estates or the small plant at the former Lewisboro Elementary School. Lighting would be minimized but allow safe nighttime access. The backup generator would be outside and would cause some noise when running or exercising.

Q. What if there's a big storm, could chemicals or materials in the plant run down to Truesdale Lake?

A. The plant would be designed with containment systems. All chemicals and processing would take place under cover inside a plant building.

Q. Where will the plant effluent go?

A. The effluent would be discharged to the tributary to the Waccabuc River below the Truesdale Lake outfall.

MONEY

Q. What if the Town doesn't get grants? Will they have to borrow money and then what is the cost of the loan?

A. The project will not go forward unless the capital costs are covered by grants. A loan is not under consideration at this time.

Q. Is \$1450 the average cost per home? Will a house that is worth more pay more?

A. The details will be available when the Map, Plan, and Report is released. Some sewer districts charge partially based on water volume or a proxy for water use such as bedroom count. (Creation of the Map, Plan and Report is the first step in the process)

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Q. Will a sewer system enable unconstrained building and change the character of the community?

A. Normal zoning and building codes apply. The DEP limits building to 80% of the capacity of the sewer plant. The formation of the district includes a sewer law that will apply just to the district, which could, if the community wanted, impose additional restrictions. This will be known before the vote. Note that today houses can be limited by the number of bedrooms but still be quite large.

Q. This will benefit everyone around the lakes, and everyone who drinks the water. Can they share the costs?

A. The laws on district formation do not allow this. The sewer users must pay for the operations and maintenance.

Q. If we use state and county money for the sewer capital costs, do we have to open our lakes to the public?

A. No.

ELECTRICAL OUTAGES

Q. What if the power goes out?

A. The system will be designed with extra capacity to deal with power outages. The plant will have a backup generator and individual pumps will have a generator connection point. For homes without a backup generator, systems operators would use portable generators to power the grinder pumps and street pumps in the event of a lengthy outage. We don't know of battery backup systems for grinder pumps at this time, which will require further study.

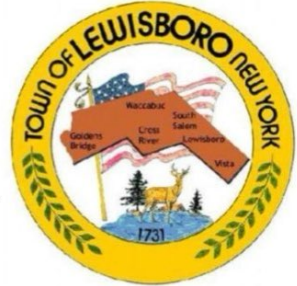
AROUND THE LAKE - Grant Funding

WE'RE IN THE MONEY!

Sue Enos

At the November 12 th Lewisboro Town Board meeting, the Town Board approved the acceptance of the NYEFC WIIA (New York Environmental Facilities Corporation Water Infrastructure Improvement Act) grant of \$6.875M towards the Clean WOTR Project. Clean WOTR is the project name for the proposed sewer initiative and Sewer District which would include approximately 300 properties around Lakes Waccabuc, Oscaleta, Truesdale, and Rippowam.

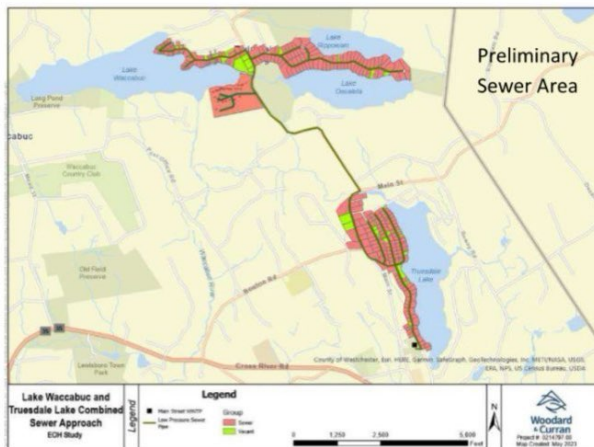
Tony Gonçalves also provided an overview of the projected cost of the project and the grant money received to date.



\$40 Million Project Total

| | Sources of Funding | Amount |
|---|--|----------------------|
| 1 | DEP/DEC CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATION | \$ 12,500,000 |
| 2 | NYS EFC WIIA = 25% Net Project Cost | \$ 6,875,000 |
| 3 | EOH WQIP via County | \$ 12,000,000 |
| | Sub Total Funding Sources Secured | \$ 31,375,000 |
| 4 | DEC WQIP (Not awarded yet) | \$ 10,000,000 |
| | TOTAL PROJECT POTENTIAL: | \$ 41,375,000 |

The Capital costs of building the wastewater treatment plant and main sewer lines will be paid for with the grant money awarded for that purpose. A date for the vote on a Sewer Tax District has not yet been set.



The next step in the sewer initiative will be the preparation of the actual "Map, Plan and Report" by an engineering firm. This will specify the following; exactly which properties will be included in the Sewer Tax District, the engineering details and associated costs, as well as time lines for the project.

Before the project can begin, the property owners identified on the sewer "Map" will vote on whether or not to form a Tax District to pay the ongoing maintenance of the wastewater treatment system after it is installed.

View the meeting details:

<https://www.lewisborony.gov/meetings>

SOPHIE AND THE SWANS



Holly Peppe, Truesdale Lake resident is an award winning author, poet, and a teacher of music and literature. Shares her new book about friendship overcoming bullying.

Sophie and the Swans is the story of a little girl who makes friends with a pair of swans who visit her every day. One day, when a bully starts to torment the swans, Sophie rushes to defend them, not by attacking the bully, but by showing him kindness when he gets into trouble on the lake.

I spoke with the author Holly Peppe, who lives with her husband on Truesdale Lake, about her inspiration for the book.

"Some of this story is based on fact—my imagination wrote the rest! It is set on our beautiful lake and Sophie's cabin is modeled after my writing cabin below our house. I've spent many happy hours there writing and admiring the swans, as Sophie does in the story.

A few years ago, I made friends with a pair of swans I named Romeo and Juliet who visited the shoreline below my cabin every day. I was fascinated by their beauty and strength and happy to learn that swan couples stay together for life. I was struck by their loyalty to one another and hoped they never suffered from the often-thoughtless actions of human beings.

I started writing a factual book about swans for children but decided it would be more useful to write a book that gently taught a lesson. Sophie's story carries an anti-bullying message because unfortunately, bullying among students is an issue in both elementary and high schools. The book illuminates the problem and shows how the power of kindness can sometimes discourage that behavior.

I believe all children are inherently good but sometimes follow the bad example of others or lash out because they themselves have been bullied. They are also easily influenced, so I felt that giving them a strong role model like Sophie might help them deal with unkindness or bullying in their own lives.

Sophie sums up the theme of the book when she explains why she wants to help her neighbor, even though he had acted like a bully toward her and the swans: **My mother says we should always treat others with kindness, even if they aren't kind to you.**

Sophie and the Swans has received accolades including a Family Choice Award, a Purple Dragonfly Book Award, and glowing reviews from several sources including *The Children's Book Review*.

100% of the author's proceeds from the book will be donated to three nonprofit organizations that prevent bullying among children and cruelty to animals: [The National Bullying Prevention Center](#), [We the Best](#), and [Animal Nation](#), located here in South Salem.



Lewisboro Library hosted an event for kids and parents on Nov 16th to meet Holly in person for a story time and craft to celebrate the release of her book. It was a beautiful event.

TLPOA BOARD

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
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| Vice President | Jessica Berger | Lake Health | John Gusmano | Community Relations | Clare Panno |
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