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SUMMERFEST 2014!

Dina Lepczynski at 847-566-1989 or dinare11@yahoo.com, is heading up Summerfest again this year. Plans have been finalized. She needs volunteers to help set up (9:00 a.m.), and clean up Beach Park on Saturday. Please call or email her if you can spare some time.

The **Fishing Derby** will begin at **7:30 a.m.** with great prizes, the **Cardboard Boat Race 3:00/3:30p.m.**, with prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, a face painter, snow cone machine, balloon animals and the raffle, along with plenty of good food and drink and conversation with your neighbors—new and old

Please bring your own adult drinks. Coolers welcome. Food will be served from 12—12:30p.m. Food is calculated based upon previous years. There will be a charcoal grill for those who come late and want to cook their own food.

We look forward to seeing you, and enjoying your company!

MESSAGE FROM OTIA PRESIDENT GREG DENNY

Oak Terrace is a small community, but is blessed with some high quality natural areas. These areas do more than just provide some open space; **they are critical in the lake's health and survival.** From a practical standpoint, the *health* of Diamond Lake has a direct impact on everyone in Oak Terrace's property values, *affecting us all.* This year, the lake has had extensive algae and aquatic plant-growth.

Diamond Lake has three critical, core problems that contribute to the issues we all see in the lake. These issues are **elevated levels of phosphorus, excessive sedimentation, and invasive species.** All plants have a few basic needs to grow and thrive; they require carbon dioxide, oxygen, nutrients, water and light. Phosphorus is the nutrient essential to photosynthesis and naturally available **in limited quantities** to the plant life in many lakes. In Diamond Lake, the introduction of more phosphorus directly increases its availability to plants, and thus accelerates growth and reproduction in those plants. Conversely, in our area soils, nitrogen is generally the limiting factor for plant growth. **Our soils have more than enough phosphorus to provide for abundant plant life. When fertilizers are applied to the ground some amount almost invariably washes off.** A good practice on many lakes is to make "no fertilize zones" within a 20' distance of the water. Additionally, sewage overflows, animal waste, food waste, or even fish die-offs, can contribute nutrients to the lake. **In Oak Terrace, and much of the surrounding area, almost every drop of runoff not absorbed into the soil, goes into Diamond Lake.** This nutrient-laden runoff greatly increases the fertility of the lake. A fertile lake will have plants or algae. It is not possible to stop this process without effectively killing the lake.

Sedimentation is the natural process of solid particles filling in the lake bottom. In a natural setting, runoff water typically meanders to a lake in a gradual process, moving through wetlands, upland grassy, or wooded areas. Runoff moving slowly through those areas will leave behind much of these solids before it enters a water body. In developed areas like Oak Terrace, pavements, short grass areas, and storm sewers speed this water into the lake, carrying most of dirt, silt, nutrients, and other debris along with it. Some of these materials dissolve into the lake water, much of it settles onto the bottom of the lake. There it would stay, if it was not stirred up

and continually mixed into the water column by boat traffic. This is why "no-wake" buoys are typically placed in shallow areas of lakes with heavy boat traffic.

A healthy lake will always have some amount of plant growth. The healthiest lakes have a "heterogeneous, or diverse native plant community." In these lakes, no one species of plants is dominant. However, invasive plant species, such as Eurasian water milfoil, or curly leaf pondweed impede human uses of waters by forming dense surface canopies that shade out lower growing native plants and interfere with water flow, boat traffic and fishing. We have targeted the lakes herbicide treatments to address those plant species.

The areas where rooted plants grow are based on the depth of the lake bottom. If sunlight does not reach to the sediment on the bottom of the lake, rooted plants cannot establish themselves. If all of the rooted aquatic plants are removed from a lake, or you have excessive phosphorus levels, you will inevitably end up with large algae masses accumulating on the water surface. We have seen unprecedented algae blooms this year on the lake, and excessive plant growth all around. When you have water, nutrients, and sunlight, without diverse rooted plants, you will typically have algae blooms.

Another invasive species that has further complicated this situation is the zebra mussel. These relatively small invaders from southern Russia became established in the Great Lakes in the late 1980's and have rapidly spread to most of the lakes in our area. They were first detected in Diamond Lake around 5 years ago. The Zebra mussels filter an amazing amount of organic matter out of the water, which then increases the area where rooted plants, or submersed algae, can become established.

As you can see, this is a complicated problem that cannot be solved with a single herbicide treatment or a couple of no-wake buoys. The answer is a coordinated approach to the lake's management. With the support of the Mundelein Park District, and other lake associations, the Oak Terrace Board is taking the lead in establishing such a management advisory group to help stabilize and improve our greatest asset as a community—Diamond Lake.

GARAGE SALE FOLLOW UP

The garage sale was a success, with several homes participating and a good volume on traffic in the subdivision.

The third weekend in June was a popular date as far as members were concerned.

BOARD MEMBER RESIGNATION

Rich Rieck of Lake View has resigned from the Board as his work schedule does not allow him to attend meetings currently.

Oak Terrace offers heartfelt thanks for his many years of service to the community and hopes to see him back again.

BEACH PARK PARKING PROBLEM

Cars parked blocking the ramp have become a nuisance. The ramp **MUST BE KEEP FREE AND CLEAR** for people dropping in and taking out their boats.

Please be mindful of this—your cooperation is appreciated. Thank you.

Oak Terrace Board Meetings

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month (except for January and December) at 7:00 p.m., at the Countryside Fire Department on Midlothian Road, south west of 60/83. Turn west/left at that junction and you'll see the fire station on your left just beyond the shopping plaza. Enter through the side main door and take the stairs or elevator to the second level conference room. The building is handicap-friendly. All residents