



# FOUR LAKES NEWS

November 2021

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## Four Lakes President Steps Down

On September 14 the President of Four Lakes, Mark Anderson, announced his resignation both as President and as a member of the Board of Directors, effective October 1. The reasons for this are ongoing health issues and his work situation. Mark has been a great President and has led us through some difficult situations. His leadership and service to Four Lakes will be greatly missed. Mark Somnis, our previous Vice President, has stepped up to take on the job.

This leaves a vacant Board position that we would like to fill as soon as possible. If you are interested, please contact a Board Member. Because some of our Board members are getting older, we would like to see some of our newer residents become more active in the community.

## Greetings

My name is Mark Somnis and currently serve as the Interim President of 4 Lakes Landowners Association. Also, I am the Vice President and Co-Chair of the water committee. My wife and I are blessed to live in such a wonderful community that is self-sufficient and relies on members to create a living environment that is outstanding! I would like to say a huge “thank you” to all committee chairs and members who have given their time to make this all possible. Throughout the years, I have made so many wonderful connections with neighbors. It is very rare to live in a community where people know you on a personal level and work together for everyone’s benefit.

As we transition into the new year, I will be transitioning out of the interim position as President. The board will be voting on a new President within the next couple of months. If you are interested in this position, I would encourage you to contact a board member. Board member names are underlined on the 2021 phone directory. With that said, the board is also seeking new committee members to help with specific aspects of our community. If you are inclined to help with a specific committee, please contact one of our committee chairs. Their names are listed on the phone directory as well. It has been a pleasure serving as the interim President, and I look forward to the new leadership.

Respectfully,

**Mark W. Somnis**

President, 4 Lakes Landowners Association

# Members of the Four Lakes Water System

Ellen Winningham, *Employed by 4 Lakes HOA as the designated operator of our water system*

Every year, we complete and distribute the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) so that you know about the water quality results from the community water system. This summer, some additional water testing was completed on behalf of a community member concern. The results were well below state and federal guidelines.

## Source water:

Analyte	Results	MCL	Action Level
Arsenic	0.001 mg/l	0.01 mg/l	N/A
Barium	0.0011 mg/l	2 mg/l	N/A
Nitrate	1.1 mg/l	10 mg/l	N/A
Nitrite	ND	1 mg/l	N/A
Lead	ND	N/A	15 ppb
Copper	0.00048 mg/l	N/A	1.3 ppm

## Lead and Copper results from individual homes, summer 2021:

Resi- dent	Lead	Action Level	Copper	Action Level
1	ND	15 ppb	0.18 mg/l	1.3 ppm
2	ND	15 ppb	0.12 mg/l	1.3 ppm
3	2.3 ppb	15 ppb	0.19 mg/l	1.3 ppm
4	ND	15 ppb	0.13 mg/l	1.3 ppm
5	1.4 ppb	15 ppb	0.14 mg/l	1.3 ppm

MCL – Maximum Contaminant Level

mg/l – milligrams per liter

N/A – Not applicable

ND – No detection

ppb – Parts per billion

ppm – Parts per million

mg/l = ppm

Please feel free to contact me at 206-440-0500 or email [EMCNW@aol.com](mailto:EMCNW@aol.com) if you have any questions.

## Community Social Events

Written by Nina Hufford  
Chair, Entertainment Committee

Hello! Apologies for not saying much the past 2 years but on the social front - there's not a lot that can be said.



I am very hopeful that 2022 will bring our community back together face to face and that those interactions will begin with the Easter Egg hunt.

There are many new young families and many old, kind faces we have missed. There has only been room for technical, legal, and operational focus and so little opportunity for us to gather as neighbors, and that has been pretty demoralizing.



I look forward to seeing us all together, vaccinated and in good health this Spring and will be happy to continue with the Easter Egg Hunt, Fall Festival and Turkey Bowl until another neighbor chooses to take it on.

Thanks to all of you,

## Community Home Safety Notice

Written by: Bob Liebling  
Co-Chair Lakes Committee/Board Member

I just spent 15 minutes talking to two County Sheriff deputies who responded to several calls from our residents reporting strangers trespassing into their garages and stealing some boats.

Some "dopers" from Maple Valley stole a car and were trying to evade the police and came into our community. The deputies caught one of them, but some others escaped by running into the woods between some houses. They stole a canoe on Osprey Lake, but overturned it and went over to Mallard Lake, and that is where one of them was caught.

The deputy gave me several safety tips for our properties, which we should all follow:

1. Keep your cars locked, because if they are not and a stranger takes the car, it's almost impossible to have them arrested, according to some new County laws that went into effect in July. If they break into the car, that's a different story.
2. Keep your house doors locked, for the same reason as above. That goes for your garage doors too. If you can safely take a picture of the trespassers, then do so. Some garages were trespassed in our neighborhood, but it will be difficult to arrest them for trespassing if they didn't break-in, according to the Sheriff Deputies.

# The Eagle Lake Eagle Scout Project

Written by Greg Craff



In March 2021, Elysia had just achieved her Life Scout rank, and she was in the market for an Eagle Scout project. The idea of making yet another bench somewhere was not appealing. Elysia was hoping to be the first female Eagle Scout from Troop 498, and taking an easy, boring project seemed to be letting everyone down.

So, she asked me: what about the eagle pole?

A previous Eagle Scout had put the wooden pole up on the island, and it had fallen in a windstorm a few years ago. Replacing it seemed like an ambitious undertaking, but it certainly wouldn't be boring. There were several challenges Elysia would need to overcome:

**Consent of the community:** consent of the actual property owners; design of the new perching pole; transporting everything to the island; fundraising to buy the materials; organizing the Scouts as a workforce.

As it turns out, the community board had on its agenda the project of replacing the pole on their backlog of things to-do, and their biggest obstacle was having someone take charge. So, assuming Elysia had a good plan, they were more than happy for her to do the job. The Morris's, who own the little island, were agreeable.

With those agreements in place, the problem started with transportation: everything had to be moved to the island in a rowboat. So, a wooden, treated telephone pole would probably not work, because we would have problems getting it to the island, and it would be very difficult to get it vertical with the limited amount of space on the island. That difficulty drove the design towards an aluminum flagpole, particularly one that comes in two pieces. The design would need a perching structure on it, because eagles don't typically land on a ball. With those concerns in mind, we settled on a design, and got approval from both the Troop committee and the Community Board.

**Funding:** The flagpole was going to cost about \$4,000, and there were other materials that would be needed to build the foundation. Ultimately, after a GoFundMe

campaign and donations of materials and labor, Elysia had raised a total of \$4,800. The Community Board was willing to provide some funding, but it turns out Elysia had raised enough money and we didn't need any more. After all the costs for the materials were deducted, Elysia had \$122.77 left over and, adding in corporate matching, she donated the remaining to a homeless shelter.

**Design and materials:** Kevin Bray helped us buy and deliver the actual flagpole and the foundation kit. Home Depot discounted the concrete for the foundation. Arrow Precision manufacturing in Auburn bent an 84" aluminum tube into a circle for free. Two



Boeing machinists contributed their time, tools, and labor to shape and weld the other aluminum pieces into a perching structure strong enough to land an airplane on it... or a 12lb eagle.

**Labor:** Troop 498 Scouts and adults showed up in force to make the project work. It took several events to finish the project.

While the fundraising was happening and the flagpole was on order, the Scouts went out to the island, cleared the bushes to make a work area, found the old rotten perching pole, and dug a hole for the foundation. While digging the 4' deep hole, they found golf balls about 6" below the surface. "Mister Craff, how did golf balls end up on the island?" they asked me. I told them, "That's not

nearly as interesting as the question of how 6" of very dark dirt ended up on top of the golf balls. The reason you're all wearing



rubber boots and gloves is because this island is mostly made of goose droppings." It also explained why a wood pole wouldn't work. The old eagle pole was completely crumbling from being in contact with that damp, nasty goo.

A few weeks later, the flagpole and foundation kit arrived. Elysia and I collected 1.25 tons of concrete

from Home Depot. Then the foundation kit, Scouts, and all the concrete were rowed across to the island, which took about eleven round trips, plus another four round trips to bring everyone and everything back.

Letting the concrete cure for twenty-eight days, the focus changed to building the perching structure for the top of the flagpole. The design changed a little in collaboration with the Boeing machinists. We did have a bit of a scramble to find the one business in the



region that had the right tools to properly bend the tube into a circle without kinking it. After some minor on-the-fly redesigning, we had a structure that would perfectly fit on top of the flagpole without any wiggle, and Elysia covered it with brown grip-tape to provide grip for the eagles and it also avoided the problem of paint flaking off.

Finally, we rowed the flagpole over to the island in two pieces, assembled it, delivered all the other mounting materials, and we started to lift the pole... and it didn't work. The ground was just too uneven, we didn't have enough to work with on the little island, and we couldn't lift it more than about 10 degrees before we got stuck. So, we left it on the island and went back to shore to rethink our lifting strategy.

A few weeks later, we finally had good weekend weather again, even though the lake had risen about six inches. This time, with some straps to make a hinge at the foundation, some manual winches, an A-frame made of 2x4s, pulleys, and some ropes for sideways stability, we got the pole up and into the ground sleeve. We did, unfortunately, lose a strap ratchet down the foundation hole that we couldn't recover. In the end, we buried it in the packed sand that is holding the pole in place. As the sun was going down, we were finally done! An eagle perching pole, on Eagle Island, in Eagle Lake, for an Eagle Scout project.



## Calling All Hands

*Written by: Bob Liebling*

*Co-Chair Lakes Committee, Board Member*



A reminder to us all, that our wonderful community is as great as it is because we have volunteers who keep it in good

shape through on-going maintenance projects, and who sit on the Board and keep the H.O.A. functioning on everyone's behalf.

Being on the Board takes about 1 ½- 2 hours of time per month for each Board member. That's one Board meeting, and a review of the previous meeting minutes. If there are special issues that need to be dealt with, then those are delegated to a few members. Time commitments in those situations usually require only a few additional hours of your time.

Committee members participate in the committee's activities, which may be a few one-hour meetings per year, and any work party activities on some weekends during the year. The committee chairs plan the budget for each year, based on the previous year's activities and expenses. They organize the work parties and the agenda for each meeting, which is usually 1-2 topics.

There are going to be vacancies on the Board, and on some committees, coming next year and we need some new, younger, people to take those positions. The outgoing people will coach the new people and help them with learning what to do, so the new people will have "back-up." Most of the Board members and committee chairs have been volunteering for years, and coming next year, some of them will be fading into "retirement." If no one takes on the passing of the 4-Lakes "baton," our community is going to suffer greatly as the quality of our community life will quickly degenerate. If this is allowed to happen, your dues will increase as vendors will be paid to do the work that volunteers have done in the past. Please think about this situation and be ready to join in at the next [4-Lakes Annual Meeting](#) to be held in [March 2022](#).

# Message from the Welcome Committee

*by Sharon Ayers, Welcome Chair / Board Member*

Hello neighbors! There have been so many new folks to welcome to the Four Lakes Community since I began doing committee visits about three years ago. Some of the new people have even come and gone again in that short space of time. Our community is undergoing a big and rapid change and it will take all of us pitching in to keep our neighborhood the fabulous place to live that it is now. If you haven't already done so, consider giving one of the committee chairpersons a call and let them know what you can do to help out. Doesn't have to be big.... every little bit helps!

The welcome committee provides basic information about our neighborhood to help folks get to know their neighbors and become familiar with the community. Some of the topics covered during the orientation meeting are:

The HOA (homeowners association) called the Four Lakes Landowners Association. It is governed by a Board of 9 directors or trustees. They meet once a month and meetings are announced on the reader board. Residents are welcome to attend. There is an annual membership meeting in February or March of each year.

The HOA has responsibility for several key items in the community. The biggest of which are the management of the water system and the maintenance of the roads. We also have community property that consists of the gazebo, the field it sits in, the site of the water well, and the pathway from the road entrance. We also have a committee that sees to the health of our lakes. This involves working to maintain a balanced eco system while maintaining the lakes' natural beauty.

Finances are handled by our Treasurer and information on how and when to pay are included in

the orientation. Our entertainment committee is very active with an Easter Egg Hunt, Fall Festival, Trick or Treating and several other smaller events.

We also have an Emergency Preparedness Committee that has organized to react to emergencies in the community should the normal first responders be overwhelmed.

In addition to our Communications Committee, we have a member's only Facebook page. If you don't have access and want it – just send me a Facebook friends request. All our committees and chairpersons are listed in the Four Lakes Directory. Now would be a good time to check that the Directory information for your household is current and up to date. Just let the Communications Committee chairperson, Kathy Higgins know of any discrepancies.

Here are the names of our new neighbors within the last three years: \*

Arndt, Christy  
Cushman, Ken and Rachel  
Downey, Bill and Celeste  
Naik, Neena and Pranav  
Hampton, Andrea and Ben  
Higgins, Kathy and Steve  
Kulawik, Helen and Mike  
Lolos, Callie and Nick  
Mason, Stephanie and Josh  
McClelland (Verplank), Ashley  
Pike, Nicole and Corey  
Salashoor, Mitra and Mortesa  
Vogel, Chelsea and David  
White, Keaton

Wolff, Anna Marie and Matt\*If your name isn't listed and/or you have not received your new neighbor welcome gift and orientation, please contact Sharon Ayers of the Welcome Committee.

# Osprey Lake Algae

## Round-Up

Bob Liebling, Lakes Chair / Board Member

For those of you who haven't visited Osprey Lake during the last summer season, it has been having algae blooms for the last three years. By mid-summer it is quite unsightly, with yellow-brown clumps of goopy algae floating on the lake surface and covering ½ to ¾ of the lake. This has made the lake not suitable for swimming, boating, or fishing.... NOT EVEN THE PESKY BEAVERS WILL SWIM IN IT!! Then, when it dies, it sinks to the bottom and contributes to the sediment that is filling in the lake and reducing its depth and water clarity. This type of algae is different than the bright green or filamentous algae that has been growing in the other lakes.

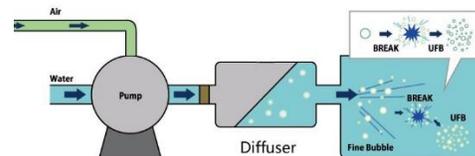
The lakes are experiencing these algae blooms because the water is getting warmer earlier each summer since the lake depth is shallower, due to the accumulation of dead lake vegetation, leaves and goose "deposits" that increase the lake bottom sediment layer. Osprey Lake has the worse algae condition in our community, and we have been trying to mitigate the situation with chemical algaecide applications each summer, but with little results, and the cost is not insignificant. During the past summers, a team of Osprey "cow-pokes" have been doing an "Algae round-up Rodeo" with a floating yellow boom, collecting the algae flotsam by the shore, and scooping it out with fishing nets, pool skimmers, and buckets, but the Algae Beast keeps on multiplying, bucking the Cowpoke Heroes into the lake! What to do...

The Lakes Committee has researched this problem with our chemical applicator contractor and there is a new technology from Europe that we propose to

try. This system is called a "nano bubbler fountain" by [Environmental Compliance Equipment](#). This mechanical system produces tiny oxygen bubbles, smaller than a grain of salt, and pumps them into the lake which disperses them evenly throughout the water body and into the sediment. This rich, oxygenated water environment is not conducive for algae growth and sinks into the sediment and will slowly dissolve it. Another advantage of this system is the reduction of chemicals into the lake environment and a savings of thousands of dollars each year.

We have talked to two local communities that have installed this system, one on Mercer Island that installed it last Spring, and another on Camano Island that installed it in September. Both communities did their research on the system and agree with the science behind the system. The community on Mercer Island has already experienced clearer water and a great reduction in algae.

So, next Spring we are going to install a bubbler fountain on Osprey Lake to see if it can eliminate our algae blooms and reduce the lake sediment. If we have positive results, we'll consider installations on the other lakes, which is part of the Community 10-year Plan.



An example of how the nano bubbler works to prevent growth of algae in the lake.

You can view the [Environmental Compliance Equipment](#) Website here for more photos and an explanation of how it works:

<https://ecequip.com/>

# Assessments for 2022

*By Rod Case, 4 Lakes Treasurer/Board Member*

Assessment amounts for 2022 will be adjusted based on the official US 2021 Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Puget Sound region in the year ending August. They show the increase was 5.2%. Therefore the 2022 quarterly assessment for each lot will become **\$115.35**. Water service charge will become **\$51.86**. The total charge for a lot attached to our water system will be **\$167.21**.

These new charges will appear on your 1st quarter statement on February 15, 2022. **For those of you who have set up automatic payments through your bank please remember to go into their system and change the amount that will be paid each quarter.** For the lots on Cedar Grove Road which are not charged for our road system your lot assessment will be **\$57.75**. With water service, that becomes **\$109.54**. Questions? Rod Case 425-392-5266

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