

Special Holiday Issue!



THE SHAWNEE TWIN LAKES NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

NOVEMBER 2010

Published by SLLA Member Linda Agee

LEASE STATUS

On October 26th, the City Planning Department announced that a draft 30-year lease was available for review at their office and offered to mail a hard copy to leaseholders on request. The final version will become effective with approval of the first lease which is expected to happen at the City Commission's December 6th meeting. Major changes (based on recently-approved ordinance and zoning changes) include:

- 30-year lease versus the previous 5-year lease. The new lease also clarifies that there is no limit to the number of times the lease can be renewed.
- Increase in lease rate starting at \$600 per year in 2010 and increasing 2% per year through 2045. The lease rate in the year 2045 will be \$1,200.
- The 25-foot buffer strip around the perimeter of the lake will be for emergency use only instead of public use and fertilizer and chemicals are prohibited in this area.
- Aerobic systems must be inspected and pumped every 2 years instead of every five.
- Transfer fee increased from \$50 to \$1,000.
- Leases can be canceled upon a "showing of intentional disregard for terms of the lease or other city ordinance pertaining to the lake" instead of simply "for violation of any city rule".

A complete copy of the draft lease and ordinance and zoning changes are posted on the MEMBERS ONLY page of our web site at www.shawneetwinlakes.net.

According to the City Planner, leaseholders may continue their 5-year lease until it expires at which time they will be converted to the new 30-year lease.

DOLLAR GENERAL STORE

Looks like a Dollar General Store will soon appear at the SW corner of Hwy 102 & Lake Road, based on the City Commission's approval November 15th to rezone the property commercial. A major concern expressed by citizens at the meeting was traffic because of past accidents at this location. Property owner is GBT Realty Corporation, a company headquartered in Tennessee with a history of success in retail development.

SLLA Annual Meeting

In spite of rainy weather, the SLLA had a great turnout at its annual meeting on October 22nd and enrolled several new members for the coming year.

President Bill Holloway welcomed attendees and presented board member Mark Wolfe with an appreciation plaque for representing us on the Shawnee Lake Advisory Committee.

Attendees were treated to a great barbeque dinner catered by Swadley's, followed by a historical photo show of the Shawnee Twin Lakes.



A special thanks to our prize donors -- we encourage you to patronize the businesses that support us and our organizational objective to protect the welfare of the Shawnee Twin Lakes and surrounding area.

Thank You to our Prize Donors

A few of the lucky winners ...



The *Shawnee Lake Leaseholders Alliance (SLLA)* is the only organization exclusively representing the rights and interests of city lessees on the Shawnee Twin Lakes. Join us using the form on Page 6.



Why Shop Downtown Shawnee?

Looking for a unique gift – something you can't find in a department store? Then downtown Shawnee is the place to shop for Christmas.

Main Street is lined with specialty stores such as Uncommon Threads, Serendipity Boutique, Sense of Charm, and Bibliotech Books and Comics. And a little further east is Crows Main Fruit Market where you will find a variety of fresh fruits, nuts, candies, and gourmet items for gift baskets.



There are also some great finds at Shepherds Men's Wear, Baptists Athletic Supply, Pott County Book and Office Supply, Batchelor's Hallmark & Wedding and several quality antique and furniture stores.

Then, when you're ready to take a break from all that "power shopping", relax and eat at one of several nearby restaurants including Benton's Café, Boomerang's, Coney Island, Hamburger King, and Angie's.

So break out of the mold this Christmas and try something different! You'll enjoy not only the food and shopping but also the historical ambience and festive holiday spirit enjoyed by many generations before you.

News Tidbits

Shawnee received a loan from the Oklahoma Water Resource Board last February to install 47,975 feet of 30-inch raw water line between the lake and treatment plant. Work began in September and is expected to take around 270 days to complete. Below is a sign at Hwy 102 and Pecan Grove Road and picture of pipe stacked alongside the road in preparation for installation.

	
30" Raw Water Transmission Line	
Contract: SMA-09-04 DWSRF Project No. P40-1020504-01	
City of Shawnee	
Loan Amount: \$7,780,000.00	
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	
Engineer: Shawnee Engineering Department 222 N. Broadway Shawnee, Ok 74802	Contractor: Merryman Excavation Inc. Woodstock, Illinois
Funded by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality in cooperation with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board	State Senator: Charles Laster Representative: Kris Steele

Continued next page ...



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The Oklahoma Water Resource Board, which periodically tests water in state lakes as part of their Beneficial Use Monitoring Program (BUMP), began taking water samples from Shawnee Lake #1 in October 2010 and plans to continue through October 2011. Results of the testing will be posted on the SLLA web site as it becomes available.

* * *

In November, the county asphalted Lake Road on the west side of the lake, beginning at Walker and continuing west to County Line Road. This road was chip-and-sealed a few months ago but had washed out in several places during the spring's heavy rain.

* * *

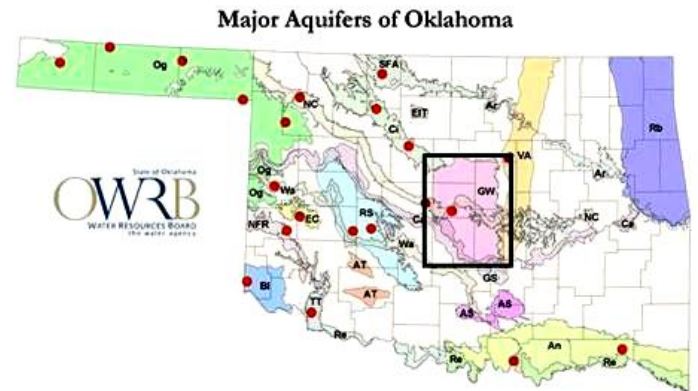
On November 1, the Commission approved city staff's (Don Lynch) recommendation to deny a request from Yale Oil Company to lease mineral rights on city-owned land near Lake #1. Mr. Lynch told the Commission the proximity to the lake made it too risky.

Water Wells ... Quantity and Quality

When you drill a water well, you are tapping into a huge underground storehouse of water called an aquifer. Wells pump water out and precipitation adds it back. Problems can occur when water is drawn out of the aquifer faster than it can be replenished. A few years ago during the drought in Oklahoma, some people with domestic water wells experienced either a drop in water pressure or in extreme cases, a dry well. Although people throughout a broad geographic area may be drawing from the same aquifer, the depth and availability of water can vary in different areas.

Pottawatomie County overlies the Garber-Wellington aquifer (outlined below) which covers about 3,000 square miles throughout central Oklahoma. This aquifer is used for municipal, industrial, commercial, and agricultural wells as well as more than 20,000 domestic wells. New development moving into rural areas

increases the withdrawal of groundwater from the aquifer and in some cases can result in decreased surface water, depending on the terrain.



The maximum annual yield for the Garber-Wellington is not known at this time but a water management study being conducted by the Oklahoma Water Resource Board (OWRB) in partnership with other agencies will determine this and be included in the state's long-term water management strategy.

In addition to water "quantity", another concern is the "quality" of water extracted from wells. Generally, the deeper the well the less likely it is to be affected by contaminants from storm water runoff. Common potential contaminants include septic systems, household waste, and pesticides and fertilizers. To protect yourself, you should at a minimum:

- Test annually for nitrates and bacteria. A pesticide screening can also give you useful information.
- Test at least once for lead.
- Maintain safe distances from your well to other contaminant sources such as your septic system and fuel storage.
- Have your septic system inspected and pumped every three to five years.
- Make sure your well is properly constructed with no cracks in the well casing.

If you would like to have your well water tested, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will conduct a bacteria test for \$21.81 and a more in-depth test for \$150 (hardness, alkalinity, nitrate-nitrite, chloride, sulfate, total dissolved solids, pH and specific conductance). To have your well tested or for more information on water quality testing and well disinfection, contact DEQ's customer service department at (405) 702-1000 or visit their web site at: www.deq.state.ok.us.

In our Own Back Yard ...

The following articles are about one business and two organizations located near the lake -- all open to the public.

Locomotive Operators of Central Oklahoma



L.O.C.O. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion and enjoyment of large scale model railroading. Their facility is located close to the Twin Lakes on 104th, west of Fishmarket Road. They are open to the public the first Sunday of each month (*except this December*) from 1:00-4:00 and kids (including the adult kind) can take a ¾-mile train ride around the 5-acres -- over seven bridges and through an 80-foot tunnel.



The scale of these rains is 1.5 inches to the foot (1/8th scale) and the distance between rails is 7.5 inches, making the equipment large enough to ride. In addition to a number of passenger-carrying cars and assorted freight cars, several locomotives are kept on site. The most interesting is probably the Atlantic steam engine, affectionately known as "Double Aught Ugly." This is a coal-fired, steam-powered locomotive that takes a fair amount of knowledge to operate.

LOCO members built and maintain the track and meet every Saturday morning to work on the property and trains.

LOCO's facilities are meant to be enjoyed by everyone and are available for special events, with children's birthday parties topping the list. For a donation (determined by number of guests) trains and qualified operators are dedicated to the party, ready to carry excited riders over the rails.

To be sure, this is an unusual but exciting twist to the model railroading hobby. If it is something that interests you, LOCO invites you to visit -- member-ships are ALWAYS available! For directions or to learn more, call President Truman Hefner at 405-942-0777 or visit: <http://oktrains.com/abloco.html>



Shawnee Twin Lakes Trap Club

Trapshooting is a form of clay target shooting that involves movement, action and split-second timing. Its expanding popularity is due to the fact that almost all ages can participate. Nine-year-olds can shoot alongside 90-year-olds.

The Shawnee Twin Lakes Trap Club is located at 17911 Patterson Road and is available for public use. Memberships are \$20 per year but you do not have to be a member to shoot at the club.

The club leases land from the City of Shawnee for a nominal amount but must collect fees to cover the cost of the facilities, equipment and operations.

Membership includes 100 trap targets for free at the Annual Club Shoot and you can purchase punch cards for discounts on practice rounds.

Hours of operations are 9:00 – 1:00 each Saturday. For more information, you can call (405) 273-1699 (Saturdays only) or visit www.shawneetrap.com.



Lavendar is an herb used in a surprising number of products including medicinal balms and salves, soothing teas, perfumes, cosmetics, and bath products. Essential oil of lavender was used in hospitals during WWI to disinfect floors and walls.

Country Cottage Primitives Lavendar Farm owned by Lucky and Debi Seaton is located at 17206 Walker Road (south of Hardesty). They have been growing and selling fresh lavender and lavender-based products over 9 years.

In the summertime, you can harvest your own lavender bundles while enjoying an ice-cold glass of lavender lemonade. In addition to the bundles, you can purchase lavender honey, tea, soaps, lotion, oil, sachets, potpourri, dried flower arrangements and more inside the store.

You can also enroll in a workshop where you will learn the history of lavender while making your own lavender products such as bath fizzies and sachets, strawberry-lavendar jam, lavender bread and cheesecake.

They also have many recipes free for the asking, including lavender-lemon Christmas fudge.

For more information, you can visit them on the web at www.CountryCottageLavendar.com.

* * *



Fishing Report

Danny Bowen with the Oklahoma State Wildlife Department (Fisheries Division) in Holdenville provided the following information about stocking the Shawnee Twin Lakes:

- Lake #1 was stocked in September with 10,155 10-1/2 inch Channel Cat.
- Lake #1 was stocked again in October with 3,296 6-1/4 inch Channel Cat.
- Lake #2 was last stocked in the Fall of 2009 with 11,000 7-inch Channel Cat.

Bowen said his department periodically samples lakes to determine when, what, and how much to stock.

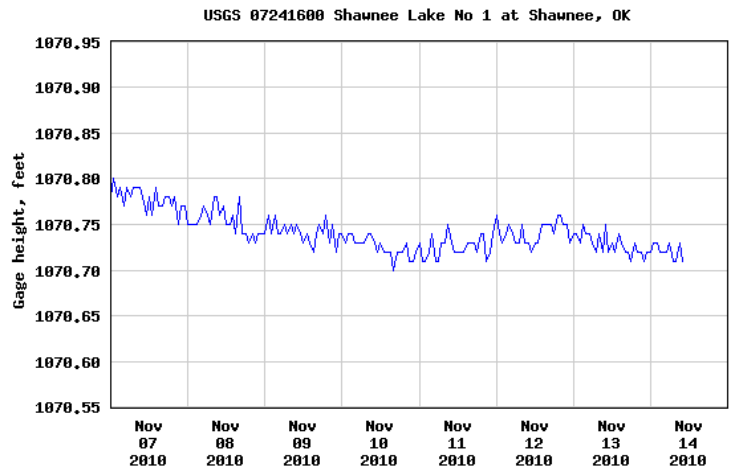
He said they seldom stock lakes with Saugeye unless there is a need to control the Crappie population. Because the Saugeye is a hybrid of the Sauger and Walleye, they do not reproduce so can be used for this purpose without interfering with the ecological balance.

They also normally stock only new lakes with Bass, although they did add 80,600 1-1/4 inch Bass to the Wes Watkins Reservoir in 2008. One of the reasons for stocking this large of a number is that many smaller fish (1-1/4 inch) will not survive long enough to reproduce.

Lake Report



Lake #1 tower on November 14 at 1070.71.



----- Provisional Data Subject to Revision -----

Most recent instantaneous value: 1070.71 11-14-2010 10:00

Lake Facts

Flood Pool Elevation: 1073.5
Normal Pool Elevation: 1067.00
Minimum Pool Elevation: 1043.50

(Note: Numbers represent feet above sea level.)

According to a Storage Capacity Survey conducted by the Shawnee Engineering Department in 2004, the Twin Lakes have a combined capacity of 9,960,430,250 gallons of water at spillway level.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Beginning January 15th, all leaseholders who have not joined or renewed will be removed from our mailing list – please join now to keep the lines of communication open!

Stay informed on issues affecting the lake, leaseholds and surrounding area. Of each membership, \$15 goes toward operating expenses and the remaining \$35 is deposited into a legal fund. Benefits include a quarterly newsletter, special bulletins, informative e-mails, access to the MEMBERS ONLY page on our web site, working with the city on your behalf, and an annual dinner meeting.



CITY LEASEHOLDERS

It's Time to Join or Renew

Your 2011 Membership

Shawnee Lake Leaseholders Alliance

Membership is good through December 31, 2011

Name(s): _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

Lake Address: _____

Mailing Address (if different): _____

Interested in Serving on Board or Committee? Yes No

Please enclose \$50 annual membership fee and mail to:

SLLA
P.O. Box 1034
Shawnee, OK 74802-1034