Olivia Godfrey sent us this iconic pic of the famous lighthouse at the jetty. The lighthouse was a gift to the Association several years ago by Dr. Mark Menadue, owner of the Port. Its classic look is the object of hundreds of photos that characterize the Lake and its beacon does guide vessels home.

Invasive Species Prevention
Still an Emphasis

The threat of invasive species, in particular zebra mussels and Asian carp, is and will continue to be, a priority concern of the LPA. Recent photos from the Iowa Great Lakes show the infestation is now highly noticeable in some areas there. Lifts and dock legs are covered with the tiny shellfish and conditions seem ripe for a takeover of the beautiful Iowa natural lakes. (continued on page 2)

Annual Meeting
Saturday, May 14
10 a.m.
LPN Conference Center

Ballots for the board election will be sent out in mid-April. Three candidates—Larry Babcock, Gary Evans, and Jim Spradling—are on the ballot for three open board seats.

Fines for Not Getting Permits
Become Significant

The LPA Board has passed updates to the Building Codes that put considerable fines in place for not obtaining building permits or land disturbing permits prior to starting projects.

The regulations authorize fines up to $6,000 for failure to obtain a permit for a new home prior to beginning work.

“There is no reasonable reason for anyone to have to be fined,” Jim Tometich, building codes committee chairman noted. “The process is outlined and is intended to protect the owner as well as the LPA’s community interests. Simply taking responsibility for the requirements is all we are asking.”

The fines have minimums with increasing amounts being added for negligence that might result in damage to other’s property, erosion issues, lack of inspection and destruction of one’s own septic lateral capacity.

The regulation stipulates levels of fines from $500 on up depending upon the project. The “negligence” fines can add up to $1,000 for each other aspect that is violated.

Randy Holl, LPA staff in charge of building issues, said the LPA just wants the importance of obtaining permits emphasized by the size of the fine potential. “We hope we never have to collect one. But it has happened more than once and a $200 fine was ineffective,” he said.

Other changes in the code include requiring owners or designated authorized agents to sign for building and land disturbing permits. See page 2 for a table of fines. (go to page 2)
The LPA still will require all vessels designated as NON-RESIDENT and having the orange “clean-drain-dry –2016” invasive sticker, to report to LPA Security prior to every launch. Security will check the vessel for potential contamination and a thorough inspection may be required.

Any vessels designated RESIDENT and having the greenish “Clean-Drain-Dry” stickers won’t need to report. However, any RESIDENT boat that is taken to another water body MUST report the information to Security, forfeit the green sticker, and report for inspections the rest of the year.

Simply following Iowa law and draining all compartments including live wells and bilge areas and insuring bait buckets are empty and leaving plugs out while traveling will go far in helping insure no invasive critters make it into Lake Panorama and thrive here.

Invasive Reminders

1. Zebra mussels are capable of being transferred in their juvenile forms on wet ski ropes in a floor compartment or inside boat trailer structural pipes. Completely cleaning any organics—mud, plants, worms, etc—draining all possible locations that can store water from one place to the next, and drying the vessel (for a minimum of five days) should keep these pests out of Lake Panorama.

2. Asian carp, in particular one species called silver carp, can be transferred in bait buckets, aquariums, and any water containing portion of the vessel. Silver carp grow large and jump out of the water when stimulated by boat engine vibrations. Such behavior could cause injury or death to skiers, tubers, boaters or anyone not protected from their scrambling flight.

3. Invasive plants are possible too, but complete cleaning, draining and drying of the vessel and trailer, as well as fishing gear (even waders or life jackets), will stop them.

Do your part to protect the lake—Clean—Drain—Dry!
Narrows Ban on Towing on Weekends and Holiday Continues

All towing activities in the Narrows will be banned from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends and holidays again this year. The ban, enacted last year, changed some traffic patterns, but produced many fewer potential accidents. Skiers, tubers, and wakeboard enthusiasts won’t be falling in front of other vessels that don’t have enough room to legally go around the fallen at speed during crowded conditions. Buoys mark the area. Simply be aware of the time and always think of safety while operating on the Lake.

Water Meter Change-Out Homes Needed

The water department continues to change-out old mechanical water meters to new technology versions without moving parts that wear out and fail. The new meters are much more accurate and help give more accurate information regarding flow and metering data.

If your home has not yet had its old meter changed, please call the LPA office to make arrangements at (641) 755-2301. If you aren’t sure the work has been done, call anyway. Someone must be at home to allow installation.

In other news, much of the sediment issues experienced by homeowners has been taken care of by the installation of inexpensive cartridge filters in home systems. Call your plumber for more information.

Barge Service Notes

The two local barge services that install and remove boatlifts and docks are both privately owned and operated. At the December 2015 LPA Board meeting, a potential third service announced he would NOT pursue doing business on the lake. The two services operate with the permission of the board, and are required to purchase boat permits for their work vessels, but are not under contractual obligations to the LPA except verbal agreements regarding storage and parking of their work vessels. At that time, the existing barge operators indicated they would try to do a better job of customer service.

Please inform the board if you have received a change (either good or bad) of service levels from these businesses. It will help the board in determining future policy regarding these or other operations on the lake.

Written comments are welcome at LPA, P.O. Box 157, Panora, IA 50216. Emails can be sent to lpa@lakepanorama.org with the subject “barge service.” Faxes are accepted at (641) 755-3810. All comments will be forwarded to the LPA Board of Directors.

Safety Rule Reminders from LPA Security

Licensed drivers are the only ones who can operate golf carts on LPA streets. It’s tempting to allow the kids to drive while grandpa or grandma sits in the front seat...but it’s against the rules for a reason. We’ve had close calls when kids panicked, even with an adult on the seat beside them.

Beach docks are for docking—swimming and diving off of docks at LPA beaches is prohibited. It’s too difficult to see swimmers in the water, especially with wave action and traffic. Water depth varies, but is not suitable for diving.

Even noted skier Matt Lukacs will not “ski” in the Narrows from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on summer weekends & holidays!
A decade ago, I heard someone say water would be the oil of the next century. It wasn’t until a couple of years ago that the concept made sense to me. Take a look around Iowa and you’ll find water quality is becoming Iowa’s biggest issue. Nothing invokes more passion at rural Iowa coffee shops and co-ops than the mention of the Des Moines Water Works lawsuit.

The saddest part of this discussion is that Iowans have come to believe they must choose between being “Pro Water Quality” and “Pro Agriculture.” In Iowa, that’s a difficult choice to make. Perhaps I’m naïve … but I believe it’s still possible to be a supporter of BOTH improved water quality AND a healthy ag economy. I refuse to accept these positions are mutually exclusive.

I had the pleasure of visiting with a colleague about this issue recently, and he offered the best analysis I’ve heard in a long time. He accurately pointed out the common ground of these positions is improved “Soil Health.”

“Soil Health” isn’t a term that gets thrown around very much. No one really thinks dirt needs to be healthy. I think we’re all a little guilty of taking Iowa’s fertile farm ground for granted.

Good soil health is characterized by minimal topsoil erosion and a high percentage of nutrient retention. In addition, the conservation practices put into place can help reduce the amount of bacteria entering Iowa’s streams, rivers and lakes. This benefits ALL PARTIES who have a stake in water quality and the ag economy:

- Farm Owners - Reduced erosion preserves the limited amount of topsoil that makes a farm productive and valuable. This protects the investment of the farm owner in the long term.
- Farm Tenants - High nutrient retention improves profitability for farm tenants on a year-to-year basis, as it reduces the amount of fertilizer operators must apply to achieve strong yields.
- General Public - Less sediment and fewer nutrients enter the streams, rivers and lakes of Iowa. Water quality is improved for drinking water consumption and outdoor pursuits.

Lake Panorama’s watershed ratio is more than 220 to 1. In other words, more than 275,000 acres of upstream lands drain into Lake Panorama. This is a massive watershed for a lake of our size, which means our lake realizes the improvement or decline of soil health on a magnified basis.

Even the most modest improvements in Middle Raccoon River watershed soil health will measurably reduce the amount of silt, nitrogen, phosphorous and bacteria entering Lake Panorama. These improvements will:

- Decrease the amount of silt RIZ and LPA must dredge and store, thus reducing costs to keep the lake navigable.
- Reduce the bacteria count in Lake Panorama, which will make the water safer for swimming, skiing, wakeboarding, tubing and other water sports.
- Reduce the nitrogen and phosphorous levels in the Middle Raccoon River and Lake Panorama. First, this will dramatically reduce the frequency of algal blooms at Lake Panorama, which pose both aesthetic and health concerns to anyone who uses the water. Second, reduced nitrogen will broadly improve the ability of downstream communities to treat this water for human consumption. Third, reduced nitrogen will begin to repair the hypoxic dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico, which drives substantial federal dollars to this issue.

As this discussion moves forward, watch for increased reference to “Soil Health.” It’s only through changing the narrative of this conversation that Iowa can move past the current divide between water quality and the agricultural economy. Farm owners, farm tenants and the general public all have to come away with a “win” if progress is going to be made on this critical topic. Don’t let either side tell you it’s impossible to have your cake and eat it too.

John Rutledge, GM
Friends of Lake Panorama “Fun-Raiser” May 6

The 1st annual Friends of Lake Panorama “Fun-raiser” will be held Friday, May 6, at Lake Panorama National. Planners dubbed the event “The Beach Ball” since there will be live music and dancing, and money raised will be used to build a new playground at Sunset Beach.

The event begins at 5 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m. A wine pull, raffle, silent and live auctions, and other “fun-raising” activities are planned. Donated items for the auctions, raffle and wine pull are being sought.

Table sponsorships cost $100. Each table of eight will be decorated with a different theme. Sponsors can do their own decorating, or a volunteer decorator will be assigned.

Table sponsors are encouraged to recruit up to eight guests at $40 each for their table. Seats not filled by sponsors will be available for purchase by others. Friends of Lake Panorama is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, so the $100 table sponsorships and $20 per ticket will be tax-deductible.

Those interested in sponsoring a table, purchasing tickets or donating an item can email staff@friendsoflakepanorama.org. Or call Susan Thompson at 641-755-4382 or 515-240-6536.

The LPA Security Department

— provides round-the-clock phone access to the LPA at (641) 755-3101. **Please call Security** to report reckless driving of boats or land vehicles, excess noise, unusual activity, wild animal problems, vandals, or similar issues. The department does not have account information. **Call before bringing a NON-RESIDENT vessel for launch** to arrange an inspection, which Security will determine. The department does NOT sell boat permits but inspects all guest and NON-RESIDENT vessels (member vessels that travel to other water bodies).

For FIRE AND AMBULANCE, CALL 911—If no answer, call the Guthrie County Sheriff at (641) 747-2214.

To sign up for emergency weather announcements

Go to [http://entry.inspironlogistics.com/ag_ia/wens.cfm](http://entry.inspironlogistics.com/ag_ia/wens.cfm) to sign up for Emergency Notifications for storms, and other emergencies. Or go to [Guthriecounty.org](http://Guthriecounty.org), click on emergency management and follow instructions.

Beach Water Quality Testing begins May 17

To receive e-bullets, see directions on the left.

LPA tests for bacteria weekly from late May to September.
My wife Marilyn and I have owned property at Lake Panorama since 1992, and been full-time residents since 2006. We love it. Our extended family has enjoyed the lifestyle and amenities Lake Panorama offers. Over time, we have seen significant changes in our facilities and the recreation opportunities for LPA members.

In May I will complete my second consecutive three-year term on the LPA Board of Directors, the last two as president. It has been a wonderful and rewarding experience. I encourage all LPA members to consider getting involved with either the LPA or LPN boards or committees that work to make our unique development even more enjoyable and valuable to all of us.

I want to thank all the talented and dedicated people I have worked with over these six years. Board and committee members have addressed issues and worked to resolve them. I also want to thank the outstanding group of managers and employees at both the LPA and LPN. These staffs work hard, do a great job and we are lucky to have them.

My background is in business management and operational improvement, so that is the focus and perspective I brought to my time on the Board. The Lake Panorama Association and Lake Panorama National have unique missions to serve our members. During the last six years, we have worked towards making improvements in the operations and finances of these two businesses.

Far and away the biggest event was the extension of the RIZ agreement with Guthrie County. This on-going agreement now allows us to focus on a stable future and do financial planning that will bring more benefits and value to LPA property owners. This accomplishment took a lot of time and talent, and I’m grateful to those involved in helping get this done.

There has been a focus on implementing solid business practices in all areas of the operations, including finances and organizational structure. We now have a five-year capital and facilities planning exercise as part of the annual budget process. A plan for consistent seasonal and annual maintenance of our roads is in place. Machinery and equipment needed to operate the LPA and LPN businesses have been reviewed and updated. There are schedules for future upgrades now in the budgeting processes.

The LPA has always owned a lot of properties but did not have a good handle on these as individual parcels or as a whole. These properties now have been inventoried, catalogued and some made available for sale through an agreement with a local realtor. Land sales revenue goes towards capital projects.

A few years ago the membership, through a survey, made it clear that “taking care of the lake” was a top priority. Water quality and beach maintenance is an everyday effort, but new debris dams have been designed and installed in the upper basin to keep debris from entering the lake. Sometimes major rain events overpower these man-made efforts, but most of the time they do the job. This spring we will be reviewing a piece of equipment designed to improve the quality of the sand at the beaches...hopefully addressing the geese problem.

I believe communications between the LPA and LPN staffs and association members has seen a great improvement. Our newsletters and timely alerts make us better informed and feel like a real community. Thanks to those who work hard making that happen.

There now is a 501(c)3 organization that enables tax-deductible contributions to places or projects around our development. At one time we were told not to pursue this, but dedicated people pushed forward and made it happen. The Friends of Lake Panorama is managed by volunteers and will provide long-range benefits for all of us.

The old agreement between the LPA (non-profit) and LPN (for profit) legal entities was updated to reflect today’s needs. This has resolved confusion of operational responsibilities, reporting relationships and financial obligations. We now have clearly defined Landlord (LPA) and Tenant (LPN) responsibilities. A new, independent Board of Managers was appointed to directly oversee management of the LPN’s multiple businesses, which include The Links restaurant, two golf courses, a conference center for hosting events and meetings, a new swimming pool and lodging facilities. Both organizations are moving forward with a much better definition of business objectives and financial goals.

When I decided to be a candidate for the LPA Board of Directors, my grandson asked me “Why.” I told him I hoped I could make a positive contribution. Marilyn and I have met and worked with really great people and I hope that, together, we have accomplished that goal. Thank you for the opportunity.

John Coghlan, Board President

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LPA Contact Information: Phone (641) 755-2301, FAX (641) 755-3810, Security (641) 755-3101, email lpa@lakepanorama.org, website: http://www.lakepanorama.org, Office hours 8-4:30, M-F