



Lake Lorman Community Newsletter

January/April 2026

Chief Prater Reports on our local Fire Department

by Kelley Dickinson

Fire Chief Tim Prater recently completed his first year as chief of the Southwest Madison County Fire Department. "We're staying very busy," he said. He pointed out that the area is growing and the department is growing along with it. More hours are being manned at the station. "We're almost twenty-four hours, seven days a week, someone is at the station," he said, "not completely, but almost."

Last year the department averaged 1 or 2 calls a week. This past year there were 140 calls, which now average 3 or 4 a week. Over half (80) were pure medical calls and 20 others were car accidents with some medical involvement. Most of the fire calls involve brush, grass, or trash, he said, although 6 did involve a structure. He said an important goal in extinguishing the brush fires is always to prevent them from spreading to a structure. The fire hydrants recently installed along the east side of Lake Cavalier Road belong to the Bear Creek district and will be helpful if the department has to respond to fires along Lake Cavalier Road, he said. He also mentioned the old station near the intersection of North Livingston and Lake Cavalier roads is still an active station. It has recently been cleaned up and new lights have been installed in the bays. He said the station is not manned but rescue equipment and a fire truck is stored there and so the building remains in use.

Chief Prater mentioned the MS fire rating bureau has recently inspected the station, checking the new hydrants and how the department trains people and mans the station, among other factors. He is hopeful that the review could improve our fire insurance rating.

He added the department is always looking for volunteers. He stressed that even if you don't want to be a firefighter there are still volunteer opportunities, especially if neighbors have any medical experience. The volunteers receive training. The chief said the department is very open and inclusive for volunteers from age 18 to however old you want to be to help out.

The Southwest Madison District runs from our station south to the Ridgeland city limits, west to Pocahontas, east to the Madison city limits, and a good part north of Robinson Springs Road and Gus Green Road.

Around the Lake

Update from the water and sewer board

by Kelley Dickinson

I recently spoke with Woody Holt, chairman of the Lake Lorman Utility Board. Woody was upbeat about the water and sewer commission, stating that "we're rocking along". There have been some improvements at the well site but there is no need to increase our rate.

He noted that there has been no major problem since last summer when a tree near the end of Lorman Lane fell on a fence at the well, resulting in the broken water line. "That was a challenging day," he said modestly but since we are tied in with Bear Creek water district we were able to "flip a valve" seamlessly and refill the tank in an hour and a half. We are running all our own water but we do have the ability to draw on Bear Creek if a problem were to develop. Woody said insurance reimbursed us for the repair and we were able to make improvements at the same time.

Finally, he said Lake Lorman still has one outstanding loan which the utility district obtained from the United States Department of Agriculture in 2008 to build the elevated water tank. Woody said that will be paid off in 2028.

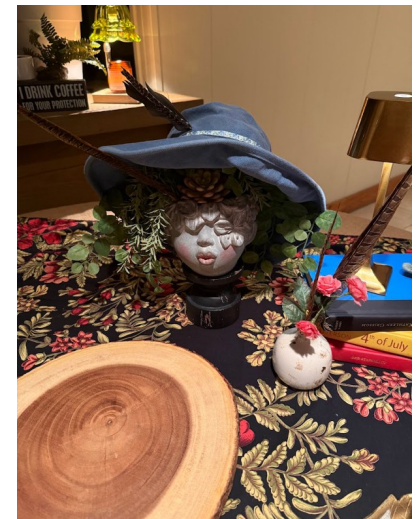
Lake Lorman Book Club by Nancy Mills

Theo of Golden by Allen Levi was our March book for Lake Lorman Book Club. This novel includes themes of quiet kindness, anonymous generosity and finding meaning in the connection between joy and sadness. An elderly man, Theo, brings joy to others in the small town of Golden, GA as he heals from personal loss. This touching, yet bittersweet story shows us a more compassionate approach to others. The novel received an overall “thumbs up” from the Club.



A good book changes, challenges and inspires its reader. The Club was inspired to have our book discussion in a fun setting while sharing special “Theo moments”. The coffee items on the table represented the local coffee shop that Theo frequented. The bottles of Port wine on the table reminded us that Theo grew up in a town in Portugal where Port wine was produced. (And, yes, we sampled the Port.) Feathers inserted in blocks of wood were reminders of a very colorful character, Ellen. She was homeless, well-loved and intelligent. While riding on her bike around the town of Golden

she collected feathers to go into her block of wood to remember her bird friends. Each Club member took home a wood block and feather. Throughout the story was the theme of kindness. Theo said, “The best part of a



good person’s life is the little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and love.” The book discussion was lively and heartfelt. Such a fun night at LL

Book Club!

Our next meeting is Monday, April 6. This book selection is non-fiction, Elements of Marie Curie by Dava Sobel. It is a biography that explores Marie Curie’s groundbreaking work on radioactivity, her two Nobel Prizes and her lasting impact on women in science.

Please join us! The Lake Lorman Book Club meets the first Monday of each month.

From Theo: “I’m very glad I get to be in the world with you!”



The Bird's Eye View

by

Dale & Sarah Lea Anglin

“Something to Crow About”

We've got something to crow about! Yep, you guessed

it...Crows. Those beautiful, large shiny black birds that are with us year-round and are currently vocalizing as the mating and nesting season begin. Let's face it, though: Crows *always* vocalize. Spring, summer, winter and fall, they are quite social and sometimes a tad loud in the mornings (and evenings). Crows are interesting creatures! Check out the two photos here: One is of an American Crow and the other is of a Fish Crow, two different species, but can you tell the difference? We have both species here at the lake. Technically, Fish Crows are a little smaller and have more slender bills and feet. Right. Even if they are side-by-side, good luck with that. American Crows are ubiquitous across North America, and Fish Crows are along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, and some major inland rivers—so here in central Mississippi, their ranges overlap. This begs the question: How can we tell the difference?



Our favorite way is to ask the Crow. When we see a crow, we look at it and ask, “Are you an American Crow?” If the crow responds “Uh-Uh”, it's a fish crow. And that's no bull. American Crows vocalize with the familiar “Caw! Caw!”, but Fish Crows go around like two-year-olds, sounding out “Uh-Uh!”. So for all of you have wondered if we talk to birds, yes we do! It goes without saying that if the crow refuses to respond, we are at a loss as to its species.

A few interesting things about crows. They are exceptionally intelligent—they have the largest brain-to-body ratio of any bird, and their prefrontal cortex (the bit associated with complex thinking) is remarkably similar in function to humans. They have been observed making and using multi-step tools. We once saw a crow eat about 20 peanuts, walk 20 feet away from the feeder, regurgitate them, then cover them with a leaf! One of our favorite examples of crows using those big brains is that they have been filmed playing pranks—sneaking up behind sleeping cats and dogs, yanking their tails, and then flying off laughing (OK, cawing). There are several documented cases of crows bringing gifts of trinkets over several years to the homes of people who regularly feed them. We are not, unfortunately, among those, despite concerted efforts to earn the affections of the crows!

Our affection for crows extends from those around the lake to crows in popular media and books. Crow T. Robot, the wise-cracking robot crow from Mystery Science Theater 3000, provides biting commentary to terrible movies (we think he's every crow's spirit animal). Diablo from Sleeping Beauty is Maleficence's loyal crow sidekick, an example of how crows have often been cast as the cool, slightly ominous companions to human characters.

There you have it. Walk outside your door and call a crow, ask it if it is an American Crow, and see what happens. We'll eat crow if you don't hear anything this spring—as the crow flies, you all live within a quarter mile of us, so we two old crows know a little about what you may hear. And that's something to crow about!

**Images and scientific information from allaboutbirds.org*

***We're not sure where the rest of this crow came from, but it was in our prefrontal cortex areas. Or something like that.*

Spring Clean-up Time

Kathy Warren, the board member who chairs the clubhouse/social/beautification committee, reminds neighbors it is spring clean-up time. Please remove any trash, tires, or any unsightly areas in your yard. Kathy has arranged with the county for a trash receptacle to be placed at the clubhouse parking lot for the weekend of April 17. Tires, paint, and chemicals cannot be disposed of in the containers.



Well, I missed St. Patrick's Day, but here is a recipe to use when you have a lone cabbage languishing in the back of your fridge.

We had a bumper crop of cabbages this year, so I took a deep dive on "cabbage centric" recipes. We made sauerkraut, roasted cabbage, stir fried cabbage...you name it! Adapted from a NY Times Cooking recipe, I made this recipe last week with the one remaining cabbage I had and it was a winner! The recipe calls for sauerkraut, but I went with the cabbage/vinegar method and it was delicious! Even though it is a fairly hearty soup, the vinegar and fresh parsley gave it a brightness that nods at the coming spring.

Served with a green salad and some good bread, makes for a perfect weeknight meal. Speaking of good bread...I have sourdough starter to share if anyone is interested!

One-Pot Cabbage Roll Soup

INGREDIENTS

1 pound ground beef or venison
Salt
½ cup basmati rice
1 large yellow onion chopped
1 tablespoon sweet paprika
6 garlic cloves, minced or finely grated
1 (14-ounce) can whole tomatoes
1 packed cup sauerkraut, plus
½ cup sauerkraut brine (or substitute fresh cabbage and rice vinegar; see Tip)
Chopped fresh parsley to taste

TIP

Though store-bought sauerkraut is a quick shortcut ingredient that brings great depth to this dish, in a pinch you could substitute fresh cabbage that is spiked with a little bit of vinegar. Instead of adding the sauerkraut and brine in Step 5, add 4 cups/10 ounces chopped cabbage and 2-4 T red wine vinegar to the pot and continue following the recipe as written.

PREPARATION

Step 1

Heat a medium Dutch oven or heavy pot over medium high heat. Add the beef and a hefty pinch of salt. Using a spatula, spread the beef in an even layer to cover the bottom of the pot. Sear for 3 minutes, then break the beef into smaller pieces and continue cooking for 3 minutes, stirring occasionally, until evenly browned.

Step 2

Stir in the rice and cook, stirring frequently, for 3 minutes, until the rice develops a golden color.

Step 3

Add the onion and cook, stirring frequently, for 5 minutes, until softened and translucent.

Step 4

Add the paprika and garlic and cook, stirring, for 1 minute, until fragrant.

Step 5

Add the tomatoes, crushing them as you add them to the pot, plus 6 cups of water, the sauerkraut and brine (or the cabbage and vinegar), a hefty pinch of salt. Cover the pot and simmer for 15 minutes.

Step 6

Taste and season with more salt if needed. Serve the soup with freshly chopped parsley on top.

Enjoy!

SCHEDULED EVENTS:

- **Lake Lorman Utility District Board Meeting:** Monday, April 13 – 7:00 p.m.
- **Lorman Corporation Board Meeting:** Monday, April 20 – 6:00 p.m.
- **Lake Lorman Utility District Board Meeting:** Monday, May 11 – 7:00 p.m.
- **Lake Lorman Corporation Board Meeting:** Monday, May 18 – 6:00 p.m.

Be sure to check the [Calendar](#) on the Lake Lorman website for scheduled activities, meetings and events.

Twin Lakes Baptist Church

You Are Invited to Join Us ~ Everyone is Welcome!

Easter at Twin Lakes

Sunday, March 29th, 5pm | The Chosen

Friday, April 3rd, 6:30pm | Family Worship

Sunday, April 5th, 8:30am | Prayer Service

Sunday, April 5th, 10:30am | Easter Service

Regular Weekly services:

- **Sunday-** Life Groups 9:15 am, Worship 10:30 am and 6:30 pm. Children and youth meet at 6:30 pm.
- **Tuesday –** Community Men's Bible Study 6:15 am in church fellowship hall
- **Wednesday,** Supper 5:30 pm and Bible Study 6:30 pm. Call church at 601-856-2305 no later than Tuesday morning to make reservation for meal. Cost \$6.00.