



Sun Valley Iowa Lake Association

VIEWS & NEWS



Cover Photo by Darren Beverage
Photo contest winners on pages 34-35

Fall 2024



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Trading One Busy Season for Another



As Labor Day approaches and primary boating season slows down, I hope that all of you have enjoyed another great season at our beautiful lake! After the usual, hectic run-up to July 4th, we've seen a nice moderation to the level of boating activity each succeeding weekend. Our weed treatment seems to have been successful, and with a bit of luck, we can re-stabilize the lake environment to gradually reduce the need for future efforts of this type. Most of our fishermen tell me they're catching plenty, and our fishing tournaments have been very well attended events.

While recreational boating slows, our fall line-up of activities will likely be started or very near ready to begin, post-holiday. The Association has let the bid for construction of the connector road between the Trails End and Hillsdale South subdivisions. This is an important safety addition to our community (never mind the convenience it will offer) to those of you wanting to visit the clubhouse, golf, play paddleball, or just tour our development. Many of you use your ATV's, UTV's, or other 'fun' vehicles at the lake.

Along with a generally safe boating season, we've also had a safe season of non-standard vehicle use. Thanks to all of you for continuing to focus on this while you're here at Sun Valley and doing the fun things that create great family memories.

As in past years, SVILA will be preparing to do some annual fall road maintenance. Keeping our roads cleaned, well-maintained, and usable for all is a never-ending effort. I am particularly appreciative of our Facilities and Infrastructure team! While most members are out playing, these dedicated employees work every day to make sure road holes are patched, grass is mowed, the beach is cleaned, and our equipment is kept ready and available. Their efforts help all of us enjoy the 'top tier' experience Sun Valley has to offer.

Also high on my thank-you list are our volunteer committee members. Many in this group spend several hours each week, working to keep our facilities attractive, welcoming new members, reviewing permits, setting fish structure, and many other important tasks. All of us owe a debt of gratitude to those that willingly give up their personal time without pay, for the betterment of our facilities and the advancement of our community environment.

So, as lake season 2024 starts to wind down, please continue to keep safety in mind while you look forward to those great, cooler, enjoyable days and evenings that fall will bring. Some of the best times at our lake occur during the 'shoulder' seasons. We hope all our members have enjoyed 2024 at the lake (so far) and will find many more days this fall to round out another good season at the lake.

Gene Smith
SVILA Manager LakeManager@sunvalleylake.com



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MEET JASON ECKHOFF, SUN VALLEY LAKE ASSISTANT MANAGER

Hello Sun Valley Lake friends, my name is Jason Eckhoff and I am the Assistant Manager at the lake. I have been part of this beautiful community for the last 17 years. This summer was my first in my current role as the Assistant Manager.

I come to Sun Valley from the classrooms of West Des Moines. I have been a teacher and coach for 25 years. I love educating and watching my students and athletes discover the concepts we have been working on. There is nothing like that ah-ha moment.

I started coming down to Sun Valley with a teacher friend some 20 years ago. We used to come down during the summer and fish. I couldn't believe the size and quality of the fish we caught! The beautiful clear water was amazing, and I knew I had to find a way to get on the lake. My family and I ended up purchasing a lot and built our current house a few years later. In the summers when the kids were younger, we got to spend most of our summers down at the lake, definitely a perk of teaching.

At this time, I am a full time Sun Valley resident in the summers and every weekend. I have two children who are in college. They come down and enjoy the lake with me when they are able. During the school year I live in Urbandale. I can't wait to call Sun Valley Lake my permanent home.

I would like to thank all the members and staff who made me feel so welcome this summer. I have enjoyed learning the lake manager position this summer. It is a challenging yet rewarding position. It has been fun meeting the members and helping them with challenges that arose during the season. Every day is different, and I am enjoying the new challenges.

Sun Valley Lake will always hold a special place in my family's heart. I am passionate about and will do what I can to keep Sun Valley that special place where we all can enjoy spending our time with family and friends making lasting memories.



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TIMELY REMINDERS



PHOTO CONTEST 2024 has concluded. Look for its return in 2025!

WOMEN WHO WINE –August 28th and September 25th

YOGA WITH JESS, 10 a.m. August 31st

CONCERT @ the CLUBHOUSE, 7 p.m. August 31st and September 14th

2024 FUN RUN – September 1st

Lobster Boil – September 14th



Bass Tournament – September 28TH - See information inside this issue.

Fish Fry – September 28th

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“Sun Valley Iowa Lake Association - SVILA”



Photo by Jennifer Watson



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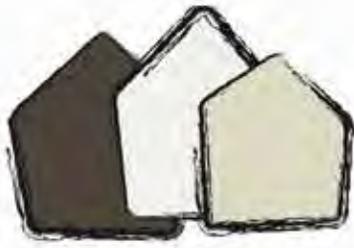
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- 376 Redbird Ln
- 140th St
- 2 Westview
- 1504 Eden Cor.



Paula McClaffin
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Fall 2024 Views and News Article

Great News, on July 30, 2024, the long-awaited back-up generator for the Bunker Lift Station arrived. With its arrival and installation, the Sun Valley Sanitary District Sewer Upgrade Project is complete!! We are happy to report the upgrades are performing flawlessly and the entire project came in under budget! Again, a huge thank you to everyone involved in the project!

On June 4th, 2024, we held our Special Election to elect a successor trustee to the Sun Valley Sanitary District. Bill Havekost was elected to the Board of Trustees as Treasurer. In the winter of 2024, the Clerk of the Sun Valley Sanitary District will retire from the board. If you have a desire to give back to the Sun Valley community, please consider a position on the Sun Valley Sanitary District Board. Please contact me at president@SV-SD.com to discuss the possibilities.

Most homes have an e/One lift station in the yard. Each lift station has an audible alarm and flashing red light to notify homeowners of e/One pump failure or the need for service. Please do not ignore the alarm or warning light. If you see or hear the alarms, smell sewer, or see sewage at any lift station, please call our service line immediately 641-234-2099.

REMEMBER ONLY HUMAN WASTE GOES IN THE SEWER SYSTEM. Among the items that should NEVER be flushed or put into the sewer drain include but are not limited to the following items: Female Hygiene Products (Tampons, Applicators or Pads), baby diapers, flushable or non-flushable wipes, disposal dish rags/towels, non-biodegradable products, paints, solvents, and more. If you're not sure, call before you dump it down the drain!

Once again, a big thank you to our employees Dion Giles and Carrie Christiansen and our Board of Trustees! They work tirelessly to keep our district working!

Enjoy the beautiful fall colors at the lake!!

Your Board of Trustees

Chuck Gassmann - President
John Bednarz - Clerk
Bill Havekost - Treasurer
Mike Mahoney – At Large

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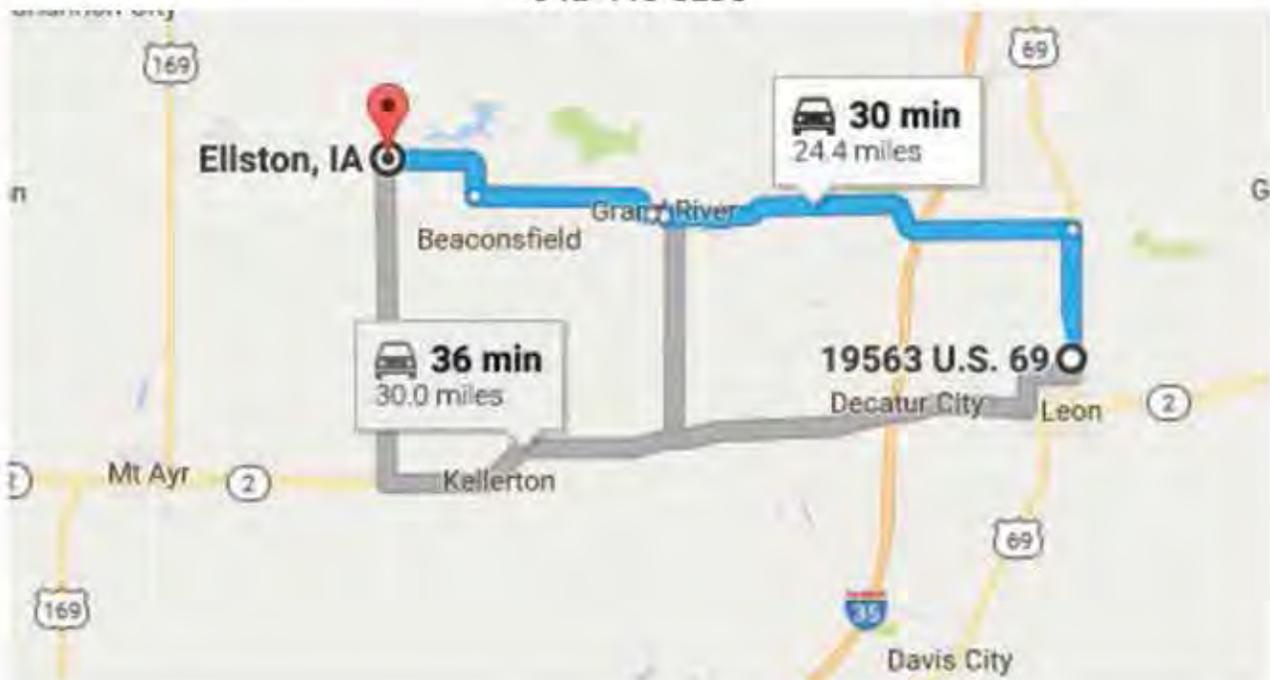
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August 28th

YOGA ON THE LAWN

August 31st

CONCERT: THE BOYS

August 31st

CYHAWK WATCH PARTY

September 7th

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KILE JACKSON PERFORMANCE

September 14th

WOMEN WHO WINE

September 25th

FISHING COMMITTEE FISH FRY

September 28th

GOLDFISH RACES

October 12th

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Fish and Water Quality Committee

The committee hopes all had a wonderful summer on your private lake. We certainly were happy to see the water levels return to normal pool. We have worked on several water quality issues. First is to get rid of/control the Brittle Naiad in the lake. This is important for several reasons: 1) Safety compromise due to large chunks of this floating out into the lake. (One skier took a hard fall with face injury when skis hit a floating patch of this), 2) Potential damage to lower end units, props and impellers (Naiad fibers are dense and strong-ropelike), 3) Overtaking normal vegetation which impairs oxygen levels, water clarity, and fish habitat and 4) Overgrowth of shoreline areas making swimming and dock use less enjoyable. This weed tends to exponentially increase in amount year to year and would be significantly worse next year if not treated this year. **Please be aware that you all can help prevent this problem from getting worse by only using fertilizers approved for use around lake shorelines.** There are several organic fertilizers that work well and are environmentally friendly. Staying 15' or more from shore when applying helps prevent runoff into the lake. Also, it is better to apply lawn fertilizer in the fall as there will be better absorption into the soil over the winter versus during heavy spring rains where it is washed off into the lake. We are treating the areas immediately around the ramps and beach monthly with a contact herbicide to control these areas, thus improve access in those areas. Treatments are done at the beginning of the week and chemicals used are safe for human contact, essentially gone in 24 hours.

The Moma C Memorial Kids' Tournament was held on June 29. Another great success, thanks to Darla and Pauli Turner, their team, and many members of Chris Wenzel's family (see photo). Numerous others helped weigh and filet fish, provide/set up food, register kids and record fishing harvests. Nick Kuhn volunteered to fry several hundred filets—please thank him when you see him. Over 100 kids fished and approx. 90 rods were given away (thank you Scott Steinkritz). It was a great day for all and our community spirit.



Fish Stocking: We placed another 10,000 redear sunfish. Again, these eat the snails (controls swimmers' itch) and other crustaceans and parasites in the lake. They are a good food source for the other fish species in the lake that otherwise be not utilized. We plan additional stocking of walleye, perch and redears in the fall.

Habitat work continues, guided by our consultants at Aquatic Controls with board/manager approval. Sites picked for optimal placement regarding effectiveness and safety. Optimal lake management would be improved by creating a bathymetric map of the lake bottom. This map will help us understand the lake bottom more completely (especially post-dredging) and guide future management decisions. We will pursue completing this with donations. Printed maps can be available for sale. The data will be given for boat electronics.

The Fall Bass Tournament will be Sept. 28 with rules and entry forms in this issue and available at the office. We will also organize a **fish fry** (9/28, 6-8pm) that evening at the clubhouse with Nick frying the fish provided by anglers along with sides of fries and slaw for a free will donation. Bar-bill will be your responsibility. The money raised that evening will augment our ability to provide the above-mentioned map and further management of the lake. We hope to see as many as possible that night. Additional surprises to follow for this....

Thanks for reading. Doug Massop, for the committee. Email: fishcmte@sunvalleylake.com

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Safe Boating and Road Use Committee

Summer is nearly over and as we reflect on another wonderful season at Sun Valley Lake, we are pleased to have enjoyed another safe summer. No major accidents or incidents have occurred on either the water or the roads. As always, the Safe Boating and Road Use Committee continues to consider safety on our roads and lake as being paramount and collaborates with Sun Valley Lake staff to accomplish that.

The Committee's mission is to seek a safe boating and road use environment at Sun Valley Lake. As always, we ask that all members of the lake community become familiar with the Safe Boating and Road Use Rules and follow them. These rules are posted on our website for your convenience.

To the majority of our members who are safety-minded and follow our common-sense boating and road use rules, we say "Thank-you!" for your attention and efforts to keep safety in mind. Balancing the enjoyment of all the lake has to offer while having reasonable regulations to keep our community safe is our goal. We continue to work to ensure the regulations are straightforward, reasonable, and easy to understand. We also continue to have productive, meaningful interactions with many of our members regarding specific rules and are appreciative of any input and guidance received.

In recent years, it's become evident that many of the violations recorded at the lake involve a lack of awareness of the rules. As we welcome new homeowners and guests to the lake, our goal is to ensure that every person operating a vehicle on our lake, or roads understands the rules and abides by them.

In reviewing the 2024 boating violations, a couple of issues continue to need attention. Most violations cited were in conjunction with personal watercraft. Most of these violations were a result of underage operators and the unsafe operation of a jet ski (going the wrong way, donuts, following at an unsafe distance, etc.)

As we continue through the remainder of the season, let's all strive to uphold the values of safety, respect, and community spirit that make Sun Valley Lake such a wonderful place. Please remember the rules are in place for everyone's benefit. By working together and treating each other with courtesy, we will continue to ensure a safe and enjoyable environment.

Enjoy the rest of the season! Be safe.

Doug Pearson
Chairman, Safe Boating and Roads Committee





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September 28, 2024, Sun Valley Lake Bass Tournament Official Entry Form

We have read and understand the rules and submit this completed application and our entry fee payable to: Sun Valley Iowa Lake Association, and in signing this application, we hereby waive and release all other contestants, the hosts, sponsors, association officers, committee members and tournament officials from all claims for personal injury and/or property damage incurred in connection with this tournament. We further agree and understand that the tournament committee reserves the right to refund entry fees, if they so choose, for any reason, and to not accept this application. I FURTHER STATE THAT I MAINTAIN LIABILITY INSURANCE ON THE BOAT THAT I WILL USE IN THIS TOURNAMENT.

A) BOAT OPERATOR'S NAME _____

MALE ___ FEMALE ___ AGE _____ MAKE OF BOAT _____

MAKE OF MOTOR _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

MOBILE PHONE (_____) _____ EVENINGS (_____) _____

SUN VALLEY LAKE LOT #: _____ E-mail address: _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE ____/____/____

B) PARTNER'S NAME _____

MALE ___ FEMALE ___ AGE _____ SUN VALLEY Lake lot #: _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

MOBILE PHONE (_____) _____ EVENINGS (_____) _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE ____/____/____

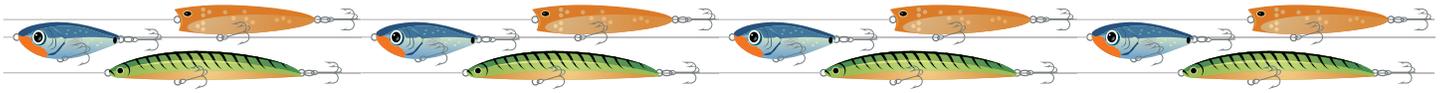
ENTRY FEE

\$60.00 per boat

Entries accepted by mail or hand delivery until Friday, September 27, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. at the association's office. Cash, checks, money orders, and cashier's checks will be accepted for fees.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SUN VALLEY IOWA LAKE ASSOCIATION

Mail or deliver entry form and fee to the Association's office at: 3186 Big Bend Road, Ellston, IA 50074-0041



SUN VALLEY LAKE BASS TOURNAMENT RULES FOR September 28, 2024

1. **DATE AND TIMES:** September 28, 2024 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. The check-in time is 6:30 a.m. at the beach house boat ramp. Weigh-in time is 3:00 p.m. at the beach house boat ramp.
2. **ENTRY FEES:** \$60.00 per boat (2 participants per boat, only). Includes Biggest Bass Contest entry fee of \$10 per boat. Entries accepted until September 27, 2024, at 5:00 pm, only. Entries after 5:00 pm on September 27, 2024, may not be accepted.
3. **ELIGIBILITY:** Boat operators who are Sun Valley Lake property owners, 16 years of age or older with paid entry fee and a boat with a properly operating live-well and 2024 SVILA boat stickers and lot numbers attached. Partners: No age limitation. If partner is a SVILA property owner, they must be in good standing with SVILA. Two fishermen per boat.
4. **SAFETY & SPORTSMANSHIP:** Good sportsman-like fishing practices and safe boating must be observed at all times. Life jackets and kill switches (if equipped) shall be worn during take-off and while the boat engine is running. There will be no alcoholic beverages consumed by contestants during tournament hours. SVILA safe boating rules apply.
5. **FISHING LOCATIONS:** Anywhere on Sun Valley Lake.
6. **CULLING:** Immediate culling of fish is allowed. Having possession of more than 5 fish per boat shall be grounds for immediate disqualification.
7. **TACKLE & EQUIPMENT:** Only one fishing rod and reel may be used at a time and all bass must be caught by casting only. Only artificial bait or lures may be used. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. No umbrella rigs allowed.
8. **SCORING:** Only up to 5 largemouth bass will be counted per boat. Total bag weight per team will determine placement. All fish presented at weigh-in must measure at least 15", mouth closed, tail compressed. Teams presenting fish which are determined to be "short" shall be penalized the weight of the short fish. Teams presenting more than the tournament limit shall be disqualified. Dead fish presented at weigh in will receive a 0.25-pound reduction per fish. If it is the big bass, the penalty will also be applied to that fish. Dead fish may not be culled. Any frozen or iced fish presented for weigh-in will result in immediate disqualification.
9. **PROTEST:** All protests must be submitted in writing and signed within 15 minutes after the weigh-in is completed. Director must be notified of any protest before close of scales. An official written protest must be presented to director within 15 minutes of completed weigh-ins. A "protest committee" consisting of 3 fellow anglers, randomly drawn by tournament director, will address all protests.
10. **LATE PENALTY:** Any boat checking in after 3:00 p.m. will lose one pound per minute up to 10 minutes, then the boat shall be disqualified.
11. **TIES:** All ties for the total bag limit will be determined by the weight of the largest bass of each boat's 5 fish limit.
12. **NO REFUNDS:** Unless cancellation of tournament-by-Tournament Committee.
13. **TOURNAMENT MEETING:** There will be a *non-mandatory* Tournament meeting Friday night, September 27, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., at the **SVILA Club House**. Boat numbers will be drawn for each boat for the tournament "Start." If you don't attend the meeting, you will be assigned a late "Start" number by the Tournament Committee.
14. **PRIZES:** 100% pay out based upon entry fees paid less any administration expenses.

Heaviest bag limit per boat: If up to 20 boats: 1st place--50% of "\$50" entry fees; 2nd place--30%; 3rd place---20%.

For 21-25 boats: 4 places will be paid, For 26-30 boats: 5 places will be paid, etc.

Biggest bass contest: 1st place--60% of big bass "\$10" fees; 2nd place-- 40%.

The Tournament Committee shall have sole authority to interpret these rules and to apply them to all issues, disputes, questions, or controversies concerning the tournament. All decisions made by the Tournament Committee concerning the interpretation or application of the rules or award of the shall be final and not subject to dispute or appeal.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS



Lake living was nothing new to Mike and Debbie Chapman prior to arriving at Sun Valley Lake in February 2002. Mike is a native of Minnesota and was building a house on Madison Lake, outside of Mankato, MN, when he and Debbie met in 1988. Both were working for Pioneer Hi-Bred. After getting married in 1990, Debbie, a native of rural Creston, IA, moved to Minnesota along with her 10-year-old son Jacob. Mike was a corn breeder with Pioneer and managed the Mankato corn research center. Over the years, he took on more responsibilities and in

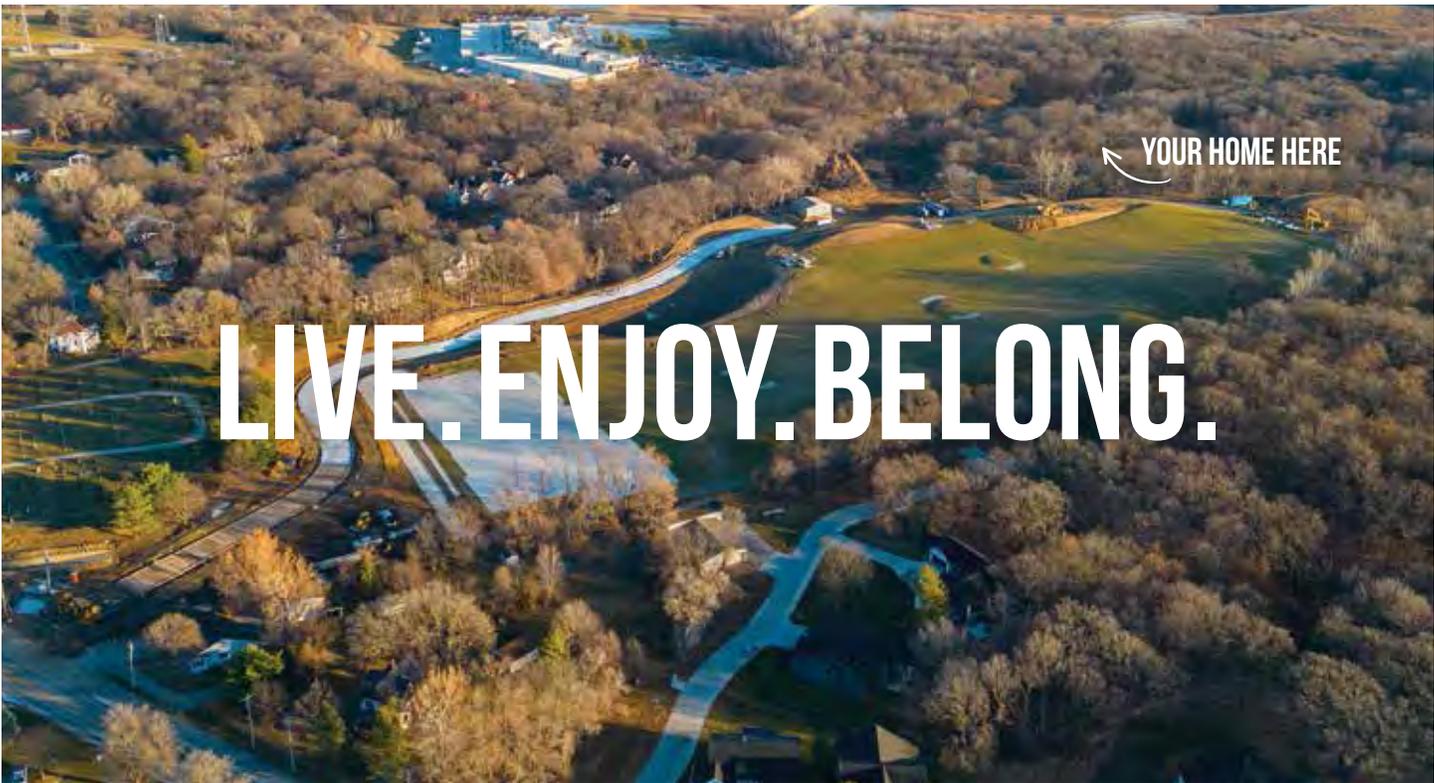
2001 was promoted to being a corn research director which precipitated having to move to Pioneer headquarters in Johnston, IA. By this time Debbie and Mike had adopted two children, Emily and Matthew, from Paraguay. They moved to Johnston in August 2001.

The Chapman's shared, "While we loved the idea that the winters would be at least a month shorter and virtually no mosquitos as compared to Minnesota, we realized quickly that we had moved from 'the land of 10,000 lakes' to 'the land of 10 lakes.'" They almost immediately started looking for lake property and discovered Sun Valley Lake from a co-worker who had a cabin for sale, which they ended up buying in February 2002. They later discovered they had bought a prime location on the lake with good water, good views and good fishing. Multiple remodels later they feel set.

Mike and Debbie were weekenders for 12 years, before living here full-time upon Mike's retirement from Pioneer in 2014. They now also spend time in Wes Des Moines. During their time at Sun Valley Mike has served on the SVILA Board twice, been a member of the Long-Range Planning Committee, the golf club board, and was recently elected to the RIZ Board. Debbie has been a member of the Beautification Committee, sewed and donated quilts for the Kids Fishing Tourney raffle, and organized home tours for the SVL Parrot Head Club fundraisers.

In closing, the Chapman's shared these thoughts. "We both appreciate the uniqueness of being part of a private Sun Valley Lake and are willing to do our part to help keep it that way. There will always be a few malcontents, but they are far, far outweighed by good, positive, and giving individuals. We appreciate the efforts of those that give their time and energy to making SVL a great place to be, from the board, SVILA staff, the many committee volunteers, and to Nick, Lynn and staff that have made the Clubhouse a fun place to eat, drink, and socialize. We have a great thing going, let's all work together to sustain and improve upon it.

"Debbie and I are fortunate to have been able to make a number of dear friends here at the lake. The boat cruises never get old. Our 5 grandkids love being here. There is always something new to see or notice. The water quality, swimming, and fishing are high quality. Thanks again to all of you that do your part. It is noticed and appreciated."



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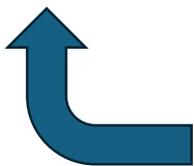
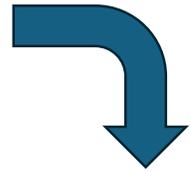
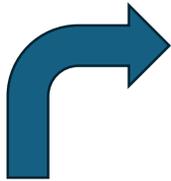


Lori Walljasper



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Seasons of Sun Valley Lake



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~~

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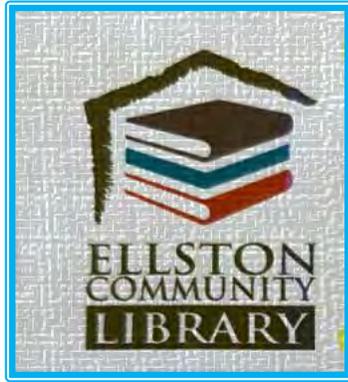
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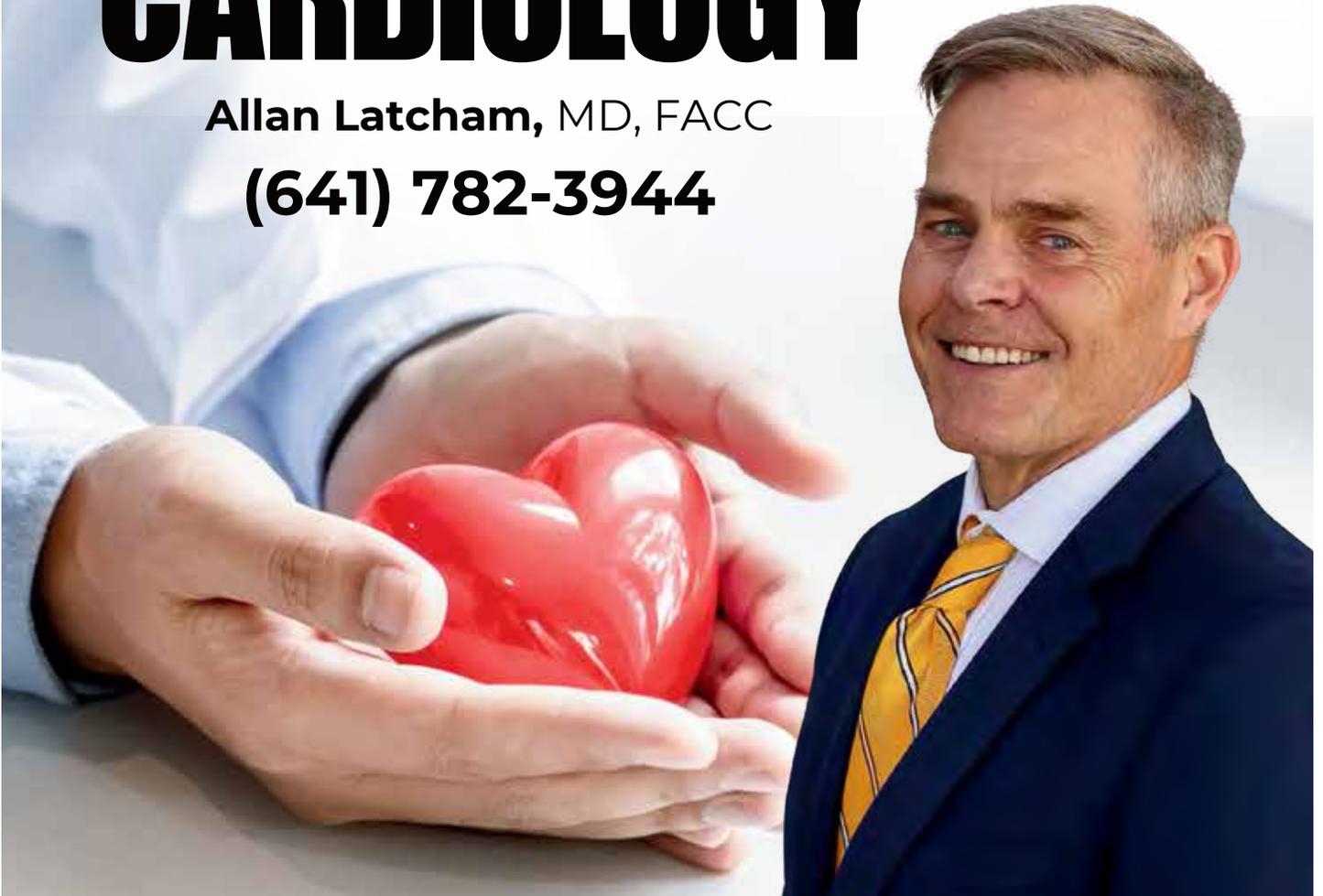


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Ringgold County Sheriff

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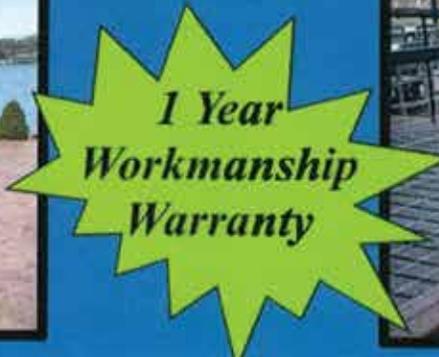
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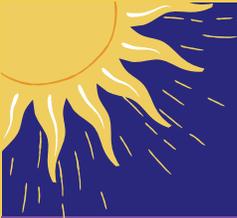
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