

# WESTLAKE LAKE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – JUNE 2023

Dear Members of the Westlake Lake Community,

We welcome the arrival of summer this month despite some “June gloom”. As WLMA continues to focus on maintaining the health and beauty of our lake and private community, safety is paramount as well.

As a community, we must remain vigilant in ensuring the well-being of ourselves, our families, and our guests. I would like to highlight a reminder of some of the following boating safety guidelines:

- **Exercise caution and be considerate of other boaters:** First and foremost, be courteous and neighborly to other boaters, and our lake patrol. Wave and say “hi!” to your fellow neighbors and friends!
- **Follow direction of travel:** When navigating the waters, please remember to keep your right shoulder (starboard side of boat) to the shore. Also, keep a safe distance from other boats and drive carefully – don’t assume all boaters are aware of the direction of travel. This helps ensure everyone can enjoy their time on the water safely.
- **Boat navigation lights at night:** If you're planning to be on the lake after sunset, please make sure your boat is equipped with appropriate lights – top of stern (rear) white light, and bow (front) green light on starboard side and red light on port side (left). Proper lighting not only helps you see clearly but also makes you more visible to others, reducing the risk of accidents.
- **Balance weight distribution on boat:** Improper weight distribution / overloading can cause problems with navigation and potentially the boat taking on water that can damage or even sink the boat!
- **No throwing or launching projectiles, using water guns:** This is dangerous to other boaters, and also plastic from water balloons is harmful to our fish & wildlife.
- **Life jackets for children under 13 years old:** According to California boat safety laws, children under the age of 13 are required to always wear life jackets. Please discuss with children on your boat that this rule is for their own protection and sets the right example for other children.

**Call 911 In an Emergency!** Although we have WLMA lake patrol available from 8am through the lake closing at 11pm to assist with monitoring boating safety, I want to emphasize that in case of *any* emergency on the lake, you should immediately contact the 911 emergency line. The 911 emergency personnel are equipped to handle emergencies swiftly and efficiently, and they know how to access the lake in an emergency. If in doubt whether it is a 911 emergency, don’t hesitate and call 911 for help!

***Did you know? Lake Hours:*** I would also like to remind everyone that Westlake Lake operating hours are 1 hour before sunrise and the lake closes promptly at 11:00 PM. Please be especially mindful of this closing time and plan your activities accordingly.

Let's embrace the summer spirit with enthusiasm and a strong commitment to safety.

Respectfully,

Chip Lightfoot, President