



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – FEBRUARY 2024

Dear Members of Westlake Lake Community,

February has certainly been an eventful month for us at Westlake Lake with the storms. This year's rainfall to date is comparable to last year's, and we know what to expect and how to manage it.

The heavy rainfall has brought with it the expected water and debris that flows into the lake from the 28 square miles of runoff from the surrounding community streets and Lake Sherwood. For every 1" of rainfall, it brings 7" of water into the lake. The good news is we have plenty of water in the lake! But the debris that comes with it is always a big clean up job!

Our lake maintenance crew has been working tirelessly to clean up the debris, prioritizing areas with the most buildup to prevent sediment from settling at the bottom of the lake. This is a very manual and labor-intensive job with rakes and other handheld clean up tools. This has been the clean-up method for over 30 years and, although effective, it is labor-intensive and slow. And limited to the number of maintenance boats and crew. There must be a better way!?

As part of our on-going "fresh review" of all operational areas, the **Lake Operations Manager, Nick Smith**, is currently exploring alternatives and tools available for the debris clean-up from storms, and the on-going year-round maintenance process. Nick has recently hired an additional maintenance person too. Nick recently met with Lake Sherwood representatives to discuss and observe their debris clean-up process that is also extensive and currently in process from the last storm and preparing for the next storm. Lake Sherwood has some major equipment involved too that is too big to put on our lake. However, there appears to be smaller equipment options that may work for our lake. Nick is researching these options.

As our maintenance crew continues to work hard to clean up the lake, we ask for your patience and understanding as it is necessary to prioritize the areas most impacted for cleanup to avoid sediment build up that brings other issues. Additionally, we urge you to take necessary steps to clean up and protect your dock, boat, and other property.

Also, please be extra careful with boating on the lake at this time.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work through the challenges that come with any lake. We are committed to keeping Westlake Lake clean and safe for all to enjoy.

Chip Lightfoot
President, Westlake Lake Management Association