

**PROJECT TO COMMEMORATE BUILDING OF
NEW DAM AFTER FLOOD OF JUNE 2008**

East Lake today enjoys a modern and safe dam. People want to live here and new residents have eagerly joined our community in recent years. But that was not how things looked nine years ago today. From June 6 to June 7, 2008, powerful thunderstorms unleashed horrific amounts of rainfall totaling 10-11 inches across central and southern Indiana. Severe widespread flooding at historical levels occurred across the region over the next few days. Affected towns included Columbus, Edinburgh, Franklin, Martinsville, and, of course, Princes Lakes. Our community sustained devastating damage to homes, roads, and its lakes and dams. The region was declared a Federal disaster area and the Indiana National Guard was activated to assist local government and public safety agencies with emergency rescue, disaster management, and to maintain law and order. Our dam was breached and the lake drained in the event of collapse (and would remain that way for several years). The situation looked grim and it was. It was natural for many of us who lived here at the time to wonder if East Lake dam would ever be rebuilt and the community made whole again.

Obviously, there is a happy ending to this story. From 2008-2012, ELLOA residents, volunteers and leaders contributed the time, talent, and dedication needed to make our new dam a reality—and with minimal cost to ELLOA members. This story is remarkable and a significant part of our collective history that needs to be told and preserved for newcomers and longtime residents alike.

With the ten year anniversary of the flood and community recovery approaching next year, the Board has authorized a Dam Commemoration project for completion in time for presentation at our annual meeting in July, 2018. We plan to request and gather information, photos and interviews from residents and other sources for a presentation to commemorate the rebuilding of our dam. Several persons will be recognized for their special service and contributions. More information will be shared in coming months about how residents may contribute and participate in this project.

Ken Colburn, ELLOA President
June 8, 2017