



## **ILOA Newsletter**

P.O. Box 808 Smithville, Texas 78957

December 1, 2025

### **Welcome December**

December was one of the original months in the ancient Roman calendar, which was in use from around 750 BC until 45 BC. In this original Roman calendar, December was actually the tenth month. This placement actually makes a lot more sense for December, as this month's name translates into "tenth month." When Julius Caesar changed the calendar in 45 BC to the Julian calendar, he added two months, January and February, which were inserted at the beginning of the calendar year. These changes have forever cursed December to be a month with the wrong name.



**Mail HOA Payments to:**

Indian Lake Owners Association

P.O. Box 808

Smithville, Texas 78957

Phone # 512-237-8500

The ILOA Board is still accepting payments via credit card or ACH. If you would like to pay your HOA dues by credit card or ACH bank draft, please call the ILOA Office at 512-237-8500 to make arrangements, there will be a 5% surcharge for paying by credit card and 2.5% surcharge for ACH bank draft.



**This is the last month of the year, if you have not paid your dues yet, please make sure you get them paid, the ILOA Board will be filing new Liens in 2026.**

**Current Board Members**

Bonny-Lynn Joplin-President

Carlie Case-Vice President

Crystal Kohanek-Secretary

John Keller-Treasurer

**Position Open**-Parks & Roads Chairman

Charles Faulds-Lakes & Fish Chairman

James Spell-Pool Chairman

**Architectural Committee**

Christopher Robbins, Bobby Williamson, Wendy Williamson



## Neighborhood Events / Happenings



### Letter from the ILOA Board President

Happy Holidays from Your HOA!

Dear Neighbors,

As the year winds down and our homes twinkle with festive lights, I wanted to take a moment to wish you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year.

This past year has been a truly productive one for our community, and we have each and every one of you to thank for that. From the volunteers who served on committees, to those who tended to our common areas, and to everyone who simply helped a neighbor in need or maintained their property with pride—your efforts have made all the difference. It is this collective spirit of care and involvement that makes our neighborhood such a special place to live.

I also want to extend a special thank you to the dedicated members of the HOA Board and all our volunteers. Your commitment of time and energy is the backbone of our community's success.

May this holiday season be filled with joy, peace, and cherished moments with family and friends. Here's to continuing our great work together in the coming year!

Warmest wishes,

Bonny Joplin  
President, Indian Lake Owners Association

The next bi-monthly Board of Directors meeting will be January 10<sup>th</sup> 2026, from 10-AM to 12-Noon at the First National Bank meeting room in Smithville. We hope to see you all there.



# Important NEWS!!!

The Committee that was assigned to work on replacing the Pavilion has awesome news, after many hours and days of hard work and dedication to our community, they are proud to announce that demolition of the Old Pavilion should be starting very soon, stay tuned for updates!



There is to be **NO Unauthorized** vehicles in the park or pavilion area, this cart was captured on the cameras at 3:28AM Monday Morning 11/24/2025, please call the ILOA Board if you know this person.





## Neighborhood Watch

When you are out and about the neighborhood, please be vigilant of your surroundings, if we see something let's say something. Please call the Bastrop County Sheriff's Office at 512-303-1080 if you notice any suspicious activity in the neighborhood, you can also report concerns to your current Board Members by email @ [iloaoffice78957@yahoo.com](mailto:iloaoffice78957@yahoo.com) or by calling the ILOA Office phone 512-237-8500. In the event of an emergency, dial 911.



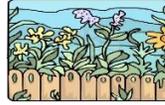


## [New ILOA Website](#)

Please go to our new website and register by clicking on the Contact tab at the top of the page <https://indianlakeowners.net> . You can enter your personal information there, by sharing your email address with us you will receive notifications from time to time. Please share this information with your neighbors so that they can sign up also.



## Brush Pile



The Brush Pile is open for ILOA residents the first Saturday of each month with weather permitting. When dumping, please pull to the back of the pile before dumping your brush/debris. **Members must have their dues paid in order to use the Brush Pile.**

Bastrop County Commissioner who arranges the mulching of the Indian Lake brush pile, only natural materials are appropriate for the brush pile: brush, shrubs, twigs, branches, small tree trunks.

**Not appropriate** is any processed wood materials, treated lumber, lumber with nails, etc. These products are hazardous to the environment and may damage the mulching machinery.

Open from 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon



## Volunteer Your Time



The ILOA Board Members are always looking for volunteers to assist with things to do in our neighborhood, please send your information to [iloaoffice78957@yahoo.com](mailto:iloaoffice78957@yahoo.com) if you would like to volunteer your time.

Pool/Pavilion Playground Area

Brush Pile Area

Lawn Care

Lake/Fish

Architectural Committee Member



## Welcome to the Neighborhood



We would like to welcome the following new neighbors to Indian Lake.

1. John Welch & Derrick Leach - Laguna
2. Derek Dylan Scott - Wampum



# Merry Christmas

May the light of the Christmas star guide you to the everlasting light of Christ.

Christmas is a time for reconnecting with loved ones and expressing appreciation for family and friends. These blessings are tailored for those closest to us.



Smithville/Bastrop/La Grange Events 2025



Let's always support our Local Business's in Smithville, it helps our community grow and keeps our Business's open.

# 34th Annual Festival of Lights Holiday Celebration in Smithville

Festival of Lights is a beloved holiday tradition in Smithville, Texas. There will be an Arts & Crafts Festival held from 9AM to 4PM in the gymnasium at the Smithville Recreation Center, along with more vendors and family friendly activities in Railroad Park & downtown (intersection of Main Street & 1st Street)

Saturday Dec 6, 2025  
9:00 AM - 8:00 PM CST

Festivities begin at 9AM. The lighted holiday parade is at 7PM.



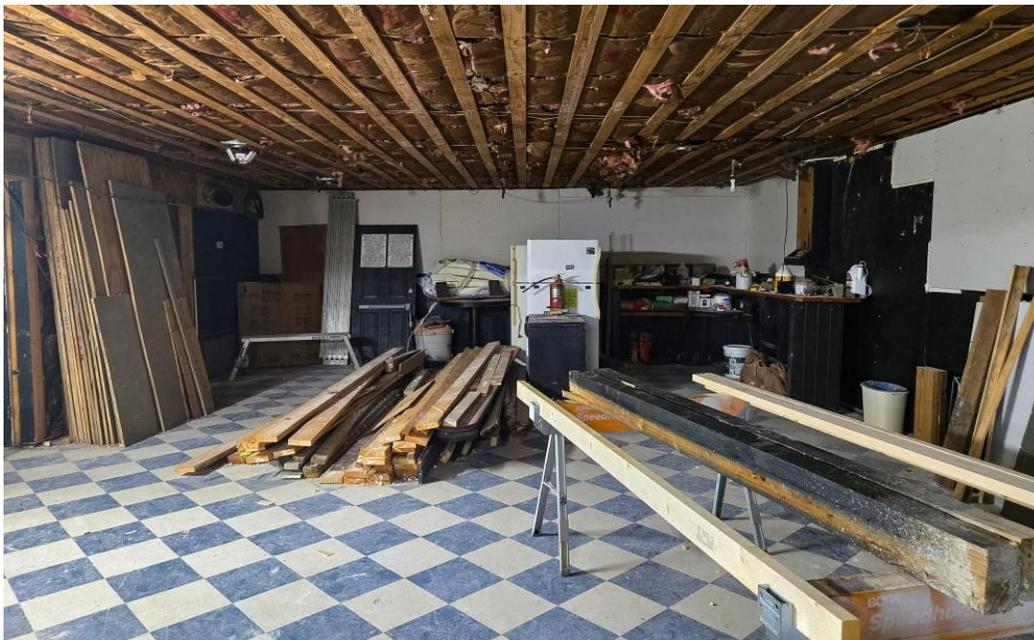
## The Birdsong Bar and Patio to open in Smithville

When Brittany and Kyle Stinson said their wedding vows in 2022, they never imagined they'd later be opening a bar.

Now, their newfound dream, realized after getting married on Brittany's family land just outside of town, is set to become reality with **The Birdsong Bar and Patio**.

"We're creating a come-as-you-are hub for friends, family, neighbors and visitors alike—a place where anyone feels comfortable stopping by for fairly priced food, drinks and mocktails, games, gatherings, and fun events," the Stinson's said in a social media post. "Nothing fancy, just simple as that."

- Opening December
- 1200 N.E. Loop 230, Smithville



## Property for Sale in Indian Lake

This will be posted quarterly as I don't want to duplicate the same information.

These listings can also be found at [www.HAR.com](http://www.HAR.com)



106 Caddo	Sec-1 Lot #87	\$325K
117 Caddo	Sec-1 Lot 95-96-97-98	\$105K
359 Big Bow	Sec-2 Lot #89	\$349K
Big Bow	Sec-1 Lot #49	For Sale by Owner
Peace Pipe	Sec-2 Lot #464-465	\$50K
118 Peace Pipe	Sec-2 Lot #459-460	\$274.9K (New Build)
Chickasaw	Sec-2 Lot #238	\$30K
Chickasaw	Sec-2 Lot #167	\$27K
Tejas	Sec-2 Lot #500	\$29.9K
133 Deer Run	Sec-2 Lot #268-269-270	\$180K (Home)
167 Deer Run	Sec-2 Lot #288 & 289	\$230K (New Build)
TBD Wigwam	Sec-3 Lots #87-88	\$55K
118 Laguna	Sec-3 Lot # 159	\$89K
106 Wampum	Sec-3 Lot #2	\$30K
441 Tom Tom	Sec-2 Lot #441	\$25,250K

# Renegade Rise & Grind

Nestled in the heart of Smithville, Texas, Renegade Rise & Grind is where good mornings and easy Sundays come to life. We're a small-town to-go spot with a big Texas heart — serving up hot breakfast tacos, bold coffee, and friendly smiles that make you feel right at home.

270 State Hwy 95  
Smithville, TX 78957



# First Watch

Bastrop will soon have more brunch options when daytime dining restaurant **First Watch** opens in early 2026.

**First Watch** coming soon will offer fresh, seasonal menu options just off Hwy. 71, including made-to-order breakfast, brunch and lunch choices.

"Our commitment to the community is a big part of who we are, and we're excited to become part of the neighborhood," the representative said.

- Opening in the first quarter of 2026
- 661 Hwy. 71 W., Ste. 101, Bastrop

<http://www.firstwatch.com/>



## A Bit of History

### Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5' 10' and 6' 2' tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30.' Other requirements of the Guard:

They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives.

They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform {fighting} or the tomb in any way. After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn.

The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin.

The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt.

There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform.

Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.

During the first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone, nor watch TV.

All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred.

Among the notables are President Taft, Joe E. Lewis {the boxer} and Medal of Honor recipient Audie Murphy, {the most decorated soldier of WWII} of Hollywood fame.

Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

ETERNAL REST GRANT THEM O LORD AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM.

In 2003 as Hurricane Isabelle was approaching Washington, DC, our US Senate/House took 2 days off with anticipation of the storm. On the ABC evening news, it was reported that because of the dangers from the hurricane, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment.

They respectfully declined the offer, 'No way, Sir!' Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment, it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a serviceman.

The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

God Bless and Keep Them

### **Facts about the Guards:**

1. The Guard takes 21 steps. It alludes to the twenty-one-gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.
2. The Guard pauses 21 seconds before beginning his walk back across the Tomb.
3. The Guard wears moistened gloves to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.
4. The Guard carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.
5. The Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.



## Recipe of the Month:



# Killer white chicken chili

## Ingredients:

- 1 pound dry navy beans
- 5 cups chicken broth
- 1/4 cup butter
- 2 pounds chicken breast, diced
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 1-1/2 cup diced onion
- 1 cup diced celery
- 1 cup diced green chilies
- 2 tablespoons cumin
- 1 tablespoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon white pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1 can corn (15.25 oz)
- 8 ounces cream cheese

## Directions:

- **STEP 1**

Wash the beans. Cover with water and soak overnight. Drain.

- **STEP 2**

Add the drained beans to a 5-quart slow cooker with the chicken stock.

- **STEP 3**

- Melt the butter in a large skillet. Add the remaining ingredients except the cream cheese and sauté until the chicken is done.

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- **STEP 4**

- Transfer everything to the slow cooker, using a bit of chicken stock to deglaze the pan and add that, too. (You really want this, as it adds just another depth of flavor to your chili).

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- **STEP 5**
- Cover and cook on low for 6 hours.
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- **STEP 6**
- Just before serving, add the cream cheese and let it melt about 15 minutes.
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- **STEP 7**
- Stir throughout the chili.



## Inspirational Quote:

December is a time to reflect on the blessings of the past year and to embrace the opportunities of the coming one, welcome the new year with open arms.

