



Pomona Lake Celebrates Golden Anniversary In Flood Control, Recreation

“The Pomona Lake in Osage County is 50 years old, and a yearlong celebration is in progress,” according to Stephanie Watson, Lyndon, director of Osage County Economic Development.

“The Pomona Lake Dam was built in 1963, at a cost of over \$13 million dollars. Pomona Lake was dedicated on September 5, 1964, when the lake was opened to begin control of flooding of the 110-Mile, Dragoon, Plummer and Valley Brook Creeks and the downstream Marais des Cygnes River,” Watson emphasized.

“The lake near Vassar began as an outgrowth of flood control efforts following the flood of 1951 that greatly affected many farming communities throughout Kansas and the Midwest,” Watson continued.

“To this day, flood protection savings have well exceeded \$135 million. Pomona Lake controls watershed runoff over a 322-square-mile area. This lake is operated in conjunction with other Army Corps projects, which Congress authorized to be built for flood control in the Kansas, Missouri, and Mississippi river basins. Its contributions toward this area’s quality of life are reasons to rejoice and celebrate,” Watson pointed out.

While controlling flood water damage to communities, populations, farmland and agriculture productivity, Pomona Lake also provides water supply, improves water quality, fishing, wildlife and recreation, all important to the area’s economy, Watson said.

Pomona Lake has 4,000 surface acres, and 52 miles of scenic shoreline, while also offering camping, hunting, hiking, horseback riding trail, and two disc golf courses. A frequent camper program called the 50 on 50 Club has been coordinated to encourage people to camp or stay at the lake for 50 nights during 2014, to become eligible for a drawing of camping privileges and prizes from area merchants.

The lake formerly played host to a showboat, ‘The Whippoorwill,’ for cruises. An unexpected June 17, 1978, tornado capsized the boat, resulting in 16 deaths and three injuries, among the 58 passengers and crew onboard. Drowning victims were remembered during a memorial service at Pomona Lake June 17, 2014.

Advertised on The BIG 94.5 County, Fourth of July week activities will highlight Pomona Lake’s 50th Anniversary. A Night Light Golf Tournament kicks off July 3, at Vassar’s Lamont Hill Resort. Set for Independence Day are: a Pomona Lake Ski Club Ski Show, at the ski club; boat parade, Pomona State Park Marina Cove; and fireworks at the Pomona State Park Boat Ramp One. Sharp’s Fireworks have been scheduled for Saturday night, July 5, at Lamont Hill.

All vintage and classic cars, hot rods, and rat rods have been invited to cruise around the lake on July 12. Actually, July 12 and 13 have been designated as Retro Weekend, with vintage camper and boat owners invited to come to the lake to show their recreational vehicles of yesteryear.

Jet Ski Races are set July 19-20, at the Marina Cove with Jeremy McComb performing live. A Pomona Ski Club Ski Show is planned August 17, and the Pomona Lake 50th anniversary Corps of Engineers Open House is September 7. Complete details on all of the special activities are available at www.exploreosage.com.



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Padre says:

“Age is much wiser than youth, because age knows what has happened. Youth only has an idea of what can’t happen.”