

Cafe Lures Exercisers, Diners with Lakeside Ambience and Music

People looking for a relaxing way to dine and enjoy a crisp spring afternoon, a warm summer night, a cool fall evening, or even a brisk winter day in a cheerful setting with a pleasant outdoor ambience may find just what they're looking for at the Creve Coeur Lakehouse.

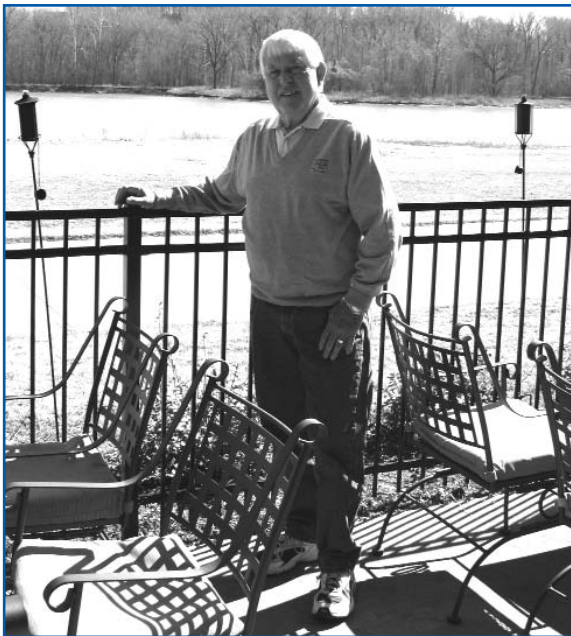
The Lakehouse, located on the shore at the far southern end of Creve Coeur Lake along the exercise path, offers light meals and deli sandwiches either on an outside patio or in a comfortable indoor restaurant with a full bar.

Developed with the idea in mind of catering to the joggers, cyclists, roller-bladers and walkers using the path looping the lake, the

Lakehouse also draws a lunchtime business crowd as well as middle-aged people looking for a spot to spend an evening out.

"We do a pretty good daily lunch business with the deli and the outside grill," said part-owner Dick Shaiper, a well-known golf pro and former executive director of the Gateway PGA. "We also do dinner business, encouraging people to sit outside on the patio, maybe have a glass of wine and a hunk of cheese, watch the joggers go by and the geese landing on the water. It's a perfect spot to sit outside to see a beautiful setting which changes throughout the year."

Another main focus of the Lakehouse's business is providing refreshments to people using the lakeside trail—a drink of water, a soft drink or a beer, a bowl of ice-cream—even just a stop for the restroom. The Lakehouse is also available for private parties and plans to add a pavilion that will be ideal for weddings, small receptions and other gatherings during mild weather. Bike rentals will start this spring and future plans call for renting boats as well.



Lakehouse co-proprietor Dick Shaiper on the outdoor patio overlooking the lake.

In addition, Shaiper said, the restaurant is working to develop relationships with the many sports teams that practice and have their tournament play at the soon-to-open Gateway Strykers facility as well as nearby Sportport, the city's multi-use sports facility.

"For sports groups, we've got a special arrangement," he said. "To help sponsor these organizations, any time they use our facility, we'll return 10 percent of what they spend to them. We're trying to do what we can to fit into this community well, and this is one way to do that."

One of the special features of the Lakehouse is the outside patio with tables built around fire pits, creating a cozy environment where people can spend the evening listening to live music—mostly from the 50s and 60s, starting in April. "There's something about being around a fire," Shaiper said. "We do everything we can to keep it an open air patio setting and give some warmth. We even have blankets."

Usually open from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday (closed Monday), the Lakehouse is located at 2160 Creve Coeur Mill Road, south of Missouri Route 364 (the Page Avenue Extension).

Shaiper and his partner, son-in-law Bill Loynd, opened the Lakehouse last June, starting off slowly and gradually adding features to the restaurant and attracting a growing number of patrons.

"This is our first full year here. I'm really looking forward to it. This place will be a win-win for everybody," Shaiper said. "We've spent time getting a feeling for what people want. We've done everything we can to make this as first-class as possible. We're not fine dining, but with the deli and the grill we can satisfy most taste buds for a very reasonable pricetag."