

Community Overview

The Syracuse/Wawasee area is a growing small town with new industry, retail and service businesses opening regularly. It has also been a destination for visitors for generations due to the breathtaking Lake Wawasee, the largest natural lake in Indiana. With access to Syracuse Lake there are more than 3,500 acres of water for year round recreation.

History

The first inhabitants of the Syracuse/Wawasee area were Native Americans. They were called the Miami and were split into two groups led by Chief Flat Belly and his brother Chief Wauweeaskee (namesake of Lake Wawasee). After an 1826 treaty the Miami left the area and Syracuse's first two white settlers, Samuel Crosson and Henry Ward built a dam on Turkey Creek and then set up a grist mill on Syracuse Lake. By 1830 a small general store/trading post was built in Syracuse and in 1837 Crosson and Ward completed the town's plat of 101 lots. In 1873 the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad announced plans to pass through the Syracuse Area. The railroad caused an incredible increase in new businesses and population.

Syracuse Today

Gorgeous trees can be seen everywhere you look, even painted on one of the town's water towers. Syracuse is proud to be a Tree City USA (a very difficult distinction to be named) and continues to work hard to keep the title. Uptown Syracuse has changed very little over the last 100 years. Brick buildings line Main St. and are home to a variety of businesses. Something is always happening on Main St. The retail stores, many of which focus on art, along with the restaurants and the movie theatre look like a page out of a history book.

The Syracuse Area has a lot to offer people of all ages including many childcare options and a Youth Center. A modern nursing home and activities are available for senior citizens. There are also 6 banks in town, including Crossroads Bank, Key Bank, Farmers State Bank, Mutual Federal Savings Bank, Fort Financial Credit Union and Lake City Bank. More than half of the town's 25 restaurants are locally owned and there are 7 fast food restaurants. Family activities abound in Syracuse thanks to our lakes, golf courses, parks and a variety of other activities.

Oakwood Retreat and Conference Center is an attractive destination for conferences and retreats. This 42-acre facility has a panoramic view of Lake Wawasee, four star quality inn, superb restaurant and a variety of unique meeting spaces for large or small groups.

Syracuse is also home to a diverse group of industries including boat manufacturing, circuit board manufacturing, rubber production, RV manufacturing, plastic production, horse trailers, printing, research and development of engines, metal fabrication, and modular home manufacturing. As well as agricultural industries including agricultural and poultry production and livestock supplement production.

Service Organizations

Service organizations in Syracuse include the Syracuse Rotary, Wawasee Kiwanis, Syracuse Lions, Knight of Columbus, Eagles, American Legion and VFW Post 1342.