



Birch Barker

ALL THE NEWS IN, ON AND AROUND THE LAKE.

A Publication by the Birch Lake Yacht Club

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

June 28, 1997
Issue 5

Summer's official beginning last Saturday was heralded by an impressive display of Nature's power. The Fourth of July fireworks display has a tough act to follow, but perhaps it will prove gentler to Marc Golden's chimney.

Please note that the Vice - Commodore's party (the Karaoke party) has been rescheduled to July 26. This will give you additional time to perfect your vocal tone and fine tune your stage persona. I do not mean to imply that any of you require the additional time, and I am confident there will be memorable performances whenever the event takes place.

I must take issue with the Fleet Captain's assertion in last week's Birch Barker that sailors "are soooo quiet!" Anyone who has made a wake in front of a sailor nearing the finish line will doubtless have drawn a different conclusion. Indeed, an argument could be made that sailing tends to increase one's vocabulary and vigor of expression.

The "Kidgatta" will take place Sunday, June 29 at 11 a.m. (Ind. time), 12 noon (Mich. time) with contestants to gather next to Bender's on the South side for pre - race doughnuts, juice and coffee at 10 a.m. (Ind. time), 11 a.m. (Mich. time). Any class of sailing vessel and any age of "kid" is welcome, with the only requirement being a kid in the boat. I understand the course will be short and fast; only about a 6 - iron shot in distance between buoys.

Acknowledgements are in order for Natalie Dudeck, who answered the call in the last Commodore's Comments to bask in the glory of being the Birch Barker deliverer for part of the South shore.

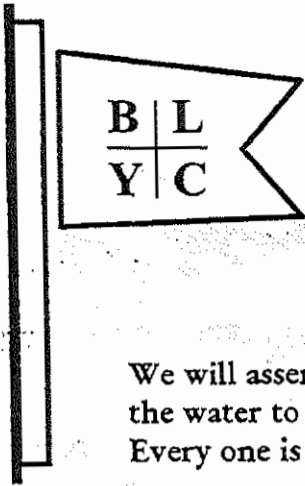
Again a reminder that July 1 is the date for determining those entitled to vote at the Homeowners' Association meeting. The voting list will consist of those whose \$10 dues have been received by that date.

If enough Birch Lakers aged 12 to 16 are interested in obtaining the Michigan boating safety course certificate, it may be possible to arrange for the course to take place here at the lake. Please let me know, and I will make the necessary inquiries. The boating safety course certificate is required in order for persons 12 to 16 years old to operate (without the direct supervision of someone aged 16 or older) a boat with a motor larger than 6 horsepower.

1997 DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| Commodore: | Scott Troeger | Directors: | Liz Cover | Marc Golden | Dick Green |
| Vice-Commodore: | Al Cover | | Dean Davis | Melanie Hall | Bill King |
| Fleet Captain: | Bob King | | Don Harman | Herm Kruggel | Tim Steffan |
| Secretary: | Melanie Hall | | Earl Troeger | Margie Trybus | Fran Welch |
| Treasurer: | Linda Rasmussen | | Rick Russworm | Buzz Rasmussen | |
| Past Commodore: | Sue Wagner | | | | |

just gotta regatta ... regatta kid? ... just gotta regatta ...



regatta kid? sails Sunday!

We will assemble at the lake shore just West of Bender's at 10:00 am & hit the water to race at 11:00 am (IN). You've gotta have a kid on board to sail. Every one is welcome to come out & watch. See you on the water !

Ladies Golf Outing

Park Shores Golf Course, Cassopolis, MI

Friday, August 1st at 9:00 am (Indiana time)

Join us at the next Birch Lake Ladies Golf Outing. We will play a "scramble" again, teaming four players of varying abilities ... you needn't be a pro to play. Everyone takes their shot and you all move to the "best ball". It's a great way for both beginners and frequent golfers to go out on the course and have some fun!



After golf in the morning we will share a delicious lunch as well as the awards ceremony at the Yacht Club. The cost is \$25 -- make checks payable to: BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB - LADIES GOLF OUTING. It is always helpful to make your own foursome, otherwise we will assemble groups as best we can. Please submit your entry no later than July 26th.

Call, drop off, or mail your form and payment to:

Pam Mullin
14859 Birch, N. Shore Dr.
476-8820 / 277-8884

Leslie King
1958 E. Denslow Dr.
299-0705

Le King
14877 Birch, N. Shore Dr.
476-2128

37th Birch Lake Open

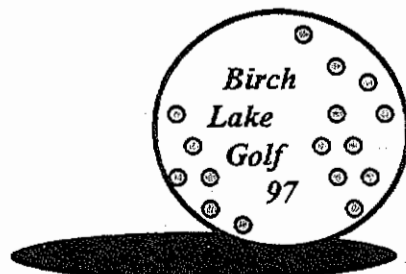
Park Shores Golf Course, Cassopolis, MI

Friday, July 25th at 11:00 am (IN), shotgun start !

The \$50 / man entry fee covers golf, cart, favor, door prizes, refreshments & prime rib dinner. While the deadline for registration is July 19th, remember this is on a first-come-first-served basis ... we fill the course with 72 golfers. Thanks again to those who have sponsored holes & provided door prizes in the past, we hope you will support this years event as well.

Contact Rich Mullin at 8820 / 277-8884 -or- Al Cover at 9339

Ladies Golf Outing / 37th Annual Birch Lake Open	
I am registering for (circle one above)	Payment is enclosed <input type="checkbox"/>
Name _____	
phone _____	
Foursome:	
1 _____	
2 _____	
3 _____	
4 _____	



HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Constantine Public Schools school board recently voted to approve an approximately \$24,750,000 construction program which, if approved by the voters, will add approximately 9.16 mills to the property tax bills of most Birch Lake homeowners for the next 30 years. All of Birch Lake, except the West side and the Cove, is in the Constantine Public Schools district. The proposed construction program includes \$22,626,751 (about 8.2 mills in property taxes) for new additions to and remodeling of Eastside Elementary and Riverside Elementary, constructing a new high school and converting the existing high school to a middle school, and also \$2,131,500 (about .96 mills) for a new 600 seat auditorium. A public vote to consider this matter has not yet been scheduled, but will likely take place in late August or September.

To estimate the effect of a property tax millage increase, divide the market value of the affected property by two, then multiply by the number of "mills" (each mill is one one - thousandth, or .001) to get the annual tax increase, and finally multiply that by the number of years the millage increase is to be in effect. For example, if a property has a \$150,000 market value, the formula is $\$150,000 / 2 = \$75,000 \times .00916 = \$687$ per year $\times 30$ years = \$20,610. This amount would be in addition to the existing tax bill.

In 1995 the Constantine Public Schools proposed an approximately \$18,000,000 construction program which would have resulted in a 7.9 mill property tax increase, but that was rejected by the voters by a nearly 3 to 1 margin. School boards are permitted to propose millage increases to the voters as frequently as every six months, and more frequently if the amount requested differs from the previous request by more than 15%.

The Constantine Public Schools had a 1995 - 1996 enrollment of 1,671, while the state average was 2,909. Constantine's high school had 477 students, the middle school 372, Eastside elementary 415 and Riverside elementary 405 in 1995 - 1996. (Those numbers don't add up to the total, but they are the official figures.) The current Constantine Public Schools school board members are Steve Curtis, Neil Ketner, Marla King, Marcia Miller, Dan Reynolds and Sandy Russel. Based on the most recent data found, in Cass County, Michigan the burden of property tax millage increases is borne by the following categories of property as follows: residential = 67%; agricultural = 17%; industrial = 3%; commercial = 6%; and "other" = 8%. This statistical information regarding Constantine Public Schools and Cass County, Michigan was obtained through the State of Michigan and University of Michigan internet sites.

The **3RD ANNUAL BIRCH LAKE GARAGE SALE** will be held Saturday, July 12 10-6 (Michigan Time). If you are interested in participating please give \$1 to a Birch Lake Director and place a balloon on your mailbox the day of the sale. The garage sale will be locally advertised. If you have any questions call Claudia Gableman 2132.

DATE CHANGE - VICE COMMODORE'S COCKTAIL PARTY & KARAOKE Night has been moved to Saturday, July 26th. HERE SPOTLITE KARAOKE by Pat and Fred. Cocktails will be served at 7:00 to loosen up vocal chords before the singing begins at 8:00. *Tip I learned in choir, by smiling you reduce the risk of singing flat!*

LOST SKI-June 7 or 8, if found please call Goldens 9635

STEWART and MARILYN SPRATT from Edgewood, Ky are glad to be spending the coming week at their cottage on the North side. Their two boys, Chris (13) and Mike (10) are looking forward to a week of fishing, skiing, boating and swimming. Stewart and Marilyn are hoping to log some serious raft time in the sun. Marilyn's brother Stan Pitakos, from Lansing, will also be joining the activities this week. The Spratts are celebrating 30 years as property owners at Birch Lake.

LAST CHANCE - WARDS MOVING SALE - JET SKIS, DINING SET (ANTIQUE), 2 KITCHEN SETS, BEER TAPER, OUTDOOR FURNITURE, 25HP MERCURY OUTBOARD \$1900, Numerous items - 63155 Walnut

DUES AND FIREWORKS CONTRIBUTIONS

The following have paid dues before the Barker publication deadline. An Asterisk indicates those from whom fireworks contributions have been received. If you believe any of this information is incorrect, please check with Scott Troeger or Linda Rasmussen.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Asire, Marty* | Funk, Clarence & Nancy Jo* | Niezdowski, Ron & Kathy* |
| Asire, Jack & Evelyn* | Gaik, Judy & Ray | Olson, Dave & Judy* |
| Ball, John & Jennifer* | Garceau, Bernie & Blair* | O'Brien, Joe & Betty |
| Ball, John & Marty* | Golden, Marc & Ilene* | O'Neill, Bill & Maryann* |
| Barker, Kevin & Sherry | Griffith, Tom & Betty* | Papandria, Sheryl* |
| Beck, Jim & Sally* | Green, Dick & Barb* | Parnell, Dorothy* |
| Beers, Becky(Griffith)/Keith* | Greenig, Kay & Bob* | Petit, Claude & Claire* |
| Bender, Dick* | Groszek, John & Lois* | Pletcher, Ruth* |
| Benjamin, John & Rita | Harman, Don & Lind* | Price, Eileen* |
| Bergan, Jim & Linda* | Harris, Bill & Dianna* | Rasmussen, Buzz & Linda* |
| Bernaciak, Kenneth & Mary Ellen* | Harris, Gwen* | Reynolds, Dan & Janet* |
| Blackwood, Howard & Beth* | Hayden, Bill & Letitia* | Richmond, Margaret* |
| Bliler, Frank & Grace* | Hettmansperger, Jim* | Richwine, Mike & Debbie* |
| Bolinger, Jim & Debbie | Herms, Bob & Slayter, Marty* | Rieth, Bud & Louise* |
| Brown, John* | Hornbeck, Ira & Mary | Russworm, Rick & Pat* |
| Budzinski, Loretta* | Horvath, Steve & Irene* | Sanders, Ray & Sonia* |
| Burke, Allan & Jackie* | Howard, Tom & Colleen | Sante, Marty & Doris* |
| Burket, Carl & Edythe* | Jones, Victory & Leslie* | Sargent, Kevin & Jan* |
| Caenepeel, Joe* | King, Bill & Le* | Scofield, John & Laveta* |
| Carpenter, Reg & Mildred | King, Bob & Leslie* | Sikorski, Joseph & Lenore* |
| Coan, James* | Kinner, David & Marjorie* | Steffan, Tim & Irene* |
| Coles, Deanna | Klappauf, Ray & Lolita* | Stevens, Pat* |
| Collings, Rich & Peggy* | Kolber, Chet & Vivian* | Tjaden, James & Janita |
| Cote, Adrian | Koontz, Thelma* | Troeger, Earl & Connie* |
| Courtney, Al & Norma* | Krueger, Lorene* | Troeger, Tom & Pat* |
| Cover, Al & Liz* | Kruggel, Herm & Bev* | Troeger, Scott & Holly* |
| Cowen, Richard & Peggy* | Landesman, Charles & Rosalie* | Tunicliffe, Bill & Joanne* |
| Curtis, Steve & Deborah* | LaPierre, Chuck & Cherie* | Vath, Helen* |
| Curtis, Terry & Linda* | Leach, L.J. & Norma* | Valentijn, Nico & Lynette* |
| Custard, Phil & Betsy* | Leatherman, Phyllis* | Waddle, Bob & Sue* |
| Davis, Dean & Phyllis* | Lindenfeld, Fred & Marilyn* | Walker, Brad & Nancy* |
| DeCocker, Tom & Nancy* | Lindzy, Richard & Judy* | Wagner, Bruce & Sue* |
| Dennert, Larry & Kay* | Luecht, Bill & Patty* | Weesner, Bernie & Helen* |
| Doba, Bill & Judy* | Lyzen, Bill | Weesner, Keith & Denny* |
| Doolittle, Rick & Kathy* | Machalleck, John & Arline* | Welch, Randy & Fran* |
| Drolet, John & Loretta* | Machalleck, Mike & Katha* | White, Phyllis* |
| Dudeck, Phil & Lisa | McNamee, Kathleen* | Winarski, Wanda* |
| Dufor, Duffy & Sue* | Messner, Jim & Judy | Williams, Patrick & Sue* |
| Dugan, Terry & Carol* | Minix, Cisco & Roberta* | Williams, Jerry & Mattie* |
| Eberhart, Gib & Barbara* | Monroe, Norman & Nancy* | Wiseman, Terry & Becky |
| Emory, Tim & Becky* | Morrison, Bob | Witchie, Ron & Linda* |
| Ferguson, Lynn & Delisa* | Mullin, Rich & Pam* | Wozniak, Ben & Vanessa* |
| Foley, William & Gladys* | Mumaw, Jerry & Beth* | Zelasko, Mildred* |
| Foos, Jim & Carole* | | Zesinger, Bud & Barb* |

If your name is incorrect or missing, please call 2227 and leave message.

TO PAY DUES or DONATIONS

Name/s _____ Telephone _____

Lake Address: _____

		Yes	No
Yacht Club Dues	\$20	_____	_____
Homeowner's Assn. Dues	10	_____	_____
Sailing Fee-Individual	10	_____	_____
Other	_____		
Fireworks	_____		
Building Improvement Fund	_____		
Water Quality Program	_____		
Riparian Magazine (annual)	7	_____	_____
Mailing address for Riparian:			

Total check to BLYC \$ _____

1997 CALENDER OF EVENTS

Fireworks	Friday, July 4, Dark Saturday, July 5, Rain date	Tannadoonah
Boat Parade	Saturday, July 5, 4:00pm	
Pancake Breakfast	Sunday, July 6, 8:00am	Tannadoonah
Garage Sale	Saturday, July 12	
Men's Golf Outing	Friday, July 26	Park Shore/ BLYC
Vice-Commodore's Party-Karaoke	Saturday, July 19	BLYC
Homeowner's Assn Committee Annual Meeting		BLYC
Ladies' Golf Outing	Friday, August 1	Park Shore/ BLYC
Jimmy Buffet Party	Saturday, August 2	BLYC
Corn and Sausage	Saturday, August 9, 5:30	BLYC
Fall Dinner	Saturday, August 23	BLYC
Sailing Trophies	Monday, September 1, 10:00am	BLYC

ERHARDT Termite & Pest Management



- Pest Control
- Termite Control
- Rodent Control
- Flea Control
- Commercial
- Residential
- Real Estate
- FHA & VA
- Inspections
- Competitive
- Low Prices

JOHN ERHARDT - OWNER

(616) 476-9944

(616) 476-2866

VANDALIA - PO BOX 275

St. Joseph/Cass County Listing Service



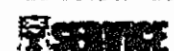
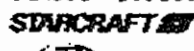
63021 Birch Rd.
at Birch Lake
Vandalia, MI 49095

E. JOYCE KLIMEK
Broker
(616) 476-2370

Eagle Lake Marine "Where Fun Is Everything"

Runabouts • Bass Boats • Pontoon Boats
Deck Boats • Paddle Boats • Canoes • Jet Boats

HOISTS • PIER PARTS



PARTS & SERVICE
Storage/Trim Shop
687 77 Ave A

(616) 699-5103

*New Showroom Open
Year Round*

Edwardsburg, • Michigan 49112

**SALES SHOWROOM
& Accessories**
26225 US 12 East

(616) 663-7400



BENDER

PLASTICS INC, MOLD & MACHINE, INC.

QUALITY MOLDS FOR PLASTICS

CUSTOM INJECTION MOLDING

55951 RUSSELL INDUSTRIAL PKWY
MISHAWAKA, IN 46545

TOOLING - (219) 255-5176

MFG - (219) 255-5350

Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

TOM'S GARAGE

IN WILLIAMSVILLE
PHONE: 476-2272

24 HOUR TOWING
GASOLINE AND AUTO REPAIR
MINI MARKET - VIDEOS

8:00 AM TO 7:30 PM (MI) SUNDAY THRU THURSDAY
8:00 AM TO 8:00 PM (MI) FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
CLOSED SUNDAY 10:30 TO 12:30 (MI)

** TOM * BETTY * BECKY **

DISCOVER - VISA - MASTERCARD ACCEPTED

Gableman's J. G. STORAGE 476-2132

HOME, BOAT, AUTO, RV
INSIDE-OUTSIDE
MINI WAREHOUSES - 4 SIZES
PICKUP, DELIVERY, AND SHRINKWRAP
MONTHLY AND SEASONAL RATES

M-60 & LEWIS LAKE ROAD

THORPE'S MARINE SERVICE

62276 WILSON AVENUE
CASSOPOLIS, MI 49031

(616) 445-3176

SHORE STATIONS
SERVICE
PIERS
PADDLE BOATS
STORAGE
JOHNSON, OMC, EVINRUDE

TOM THORPE

APPRAISAL SERVICES, INC.

227 Dixie Way North
Suite 235 South Bend

Office: 219 277-7777
Home: 616 476-2227

Residential appraisals in St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties

Doris Sante, SRA - Steve Sante - Rich Svoboda, Appraisers

EVANS BROS. BODY SHOP

"OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE"

- FOREIGN CARS & CORVETTES
- AUTO PAINTING
- COMPLETE BODY REPAIR
- RADIATOR SERVICE
- GLASS REPLACEMENT
- FREE ESTIMATES
- WE USE THE LATEST URETHANE PAINTS



24 Hour Emergency
Wrecker Service

"We are the Best in the Business"

476-2441 Accept No Substitutes

SOUTH ON CALVIN CENTER RD. OFF M-60 TO BROWNSVILLE RD., TURN
EAST TO END OF ROAD. 15674 Brownsville Rd., Vandalia



FRANGER
GAS COMPANY, INC.

3rd ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

JUNE 28, 1997

SATURDAY 9:00 - 2:00

CORNER OF M-40 & M-60, JONES,
MICHIGAN

(616) 244-8219 OR (800) LP GAS OK

\$2.00 -20# CYLINDER REFILLS

SEE US UNDER OUR TENT AND REGISTER FOR
OUR GAS GRILL GIVEAWAY

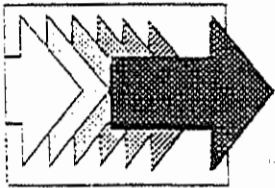
**\$50 OFF ALL GRILLS, LOGS
AND HEATERS**

FREE HOT DOGS, PEPSI & POPCORN
LIVE WLKM REMOTE BROADCAST

**ALL GAS SALES DONATED TO
THE UNION, MI. VICTIMS'
ASSISTANCE TRUST FUND**



**PORTER TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS
CLEAN UP DAY!!!
JUNE 28, 1997**

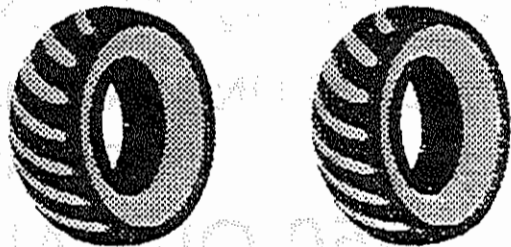


ACCEPTING FOR DROP OFF:

REFRIGERATORS, FREEZERS, AIR CONDITIONERS, ETC. FOR FREON GAS REMOVAL SERVICE AND DISPOSAL
ALL OTHER LARGE APPLIANCES AND TRASH NOT PICKED UP BY YOUR WASTE REMOVAL COMPANY (NO GARBAGE OR YARD WASTE)

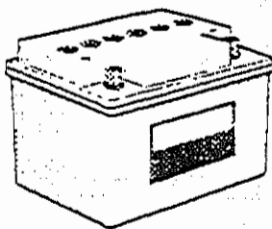
TIRES

(THERE WILL BE A CHARGE OF \$1.00 PER TIRE, \$2.00 WITH RIMS)



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE :

INCLUDES: OIL BASED PAINTS, AEROSOL CANS, ACIDS, AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS, & MOTOR OIL, BATTERIES, CLEANERS HEAVY METAL SOLUTIONS, PESTICIDES, SOLVENTS, PROPANE CYLINDERS, ASBESTOS-CONTAMINATED MATERIALS, REACTIVE ALKALI METALS, CHARACTERIZATION OF UNKNOWN, PCB SCREENS AND CO-MINGLED PAINTS.



THIS SERVICE IS PAID FOR BY PORTER TOWNSHIP.

**SATURDAY JUNE 28, 1997
8:00 TO 2:00 PM MI. TIME
AT AMERICAN WASTE YARD
MASON ST. JUST WEST OF UNION RD, UNION, MI.**

**PICK UP SERVICE FOR QUALIFIED SENIOR CITIZENS:
CALL 641-2375 OR 476-2314**