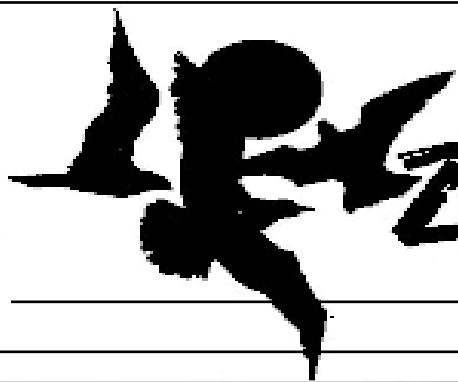


The
Weekend
Of

Aug. 22,
2020



Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



Thanks to Mr. Bob (King, north side) for this photo of the transom of his MC sailboat on a hazy, calm morning.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Commodore's Comments #24
Weekend of August 22, 2020

By **J. Patrick McGann**

Please be careful cruising around the lake but particularly at dusk and in the dark. I recently hit a small dark buoy that I knew well while cruising at dusk and carrying on a conversation with someone else in my boat. I heard it hit the bottom of my boat but did not think I did any damage to it at the time, it looked ok. I was going very slowly and it popped right back up, so I figured I had not done any damage.

Today, a week later, I was chatting while having lunch after golf with the regular Monday golf group at Pine View Golf Course in Three Rivers. During the course of conversation Jim Limes (Cove) said to Bud Zesinger (E) that he noticed his buoy was missing. Bud replied that he thought someone must have hit the small dark green buoy that is pretty far out because it is shallow there. I immediately spoke up and said it was me and told Bud I would pay for a new one, I'd come and dive down

to find the chain. Better yet I went to Menards right away and bought a new "Notre Dame blue" buoy, a 20-foot chain and all the fittings. After all he is a ND man through and through. While I was putting down the new cement block he supervised me from the end of his pier in the perfect placement to his liking. He is good with it he says.

We have gotten all the Goose Surveys back and the results have been reported in the last Birch Barker. Your BLYC board of directors will vote on what to do at the next 9 am Zoom board meeting on Saturday, September 12. I have been approached by an individual to lasso a small group of your neighbors who have offered to collect and pay for the whole five-year cost to hire Goose Busters. There would not be any of the BLYC or BLHOA regular monies to be used for this. A number of neighboring lakes report success with them eradicating their Geese. However, we would run the money through the books of the not for profit BLYC if we vote to move forward with their program. We would need to apply for the permit this fall in order to get started next spring early. As I understand it, we would need to apply for the permit as one individual and not as the club. So, we will more than

2020

Birch Lake Calendar

August 29 - Fall Get Together Zoom meeting. 7 pm, see Commodore Comments
September 12 - **New Date for BLYC Board meeting**, 9 am
July 26, **2021** - Ladies Golf Outing, 9 am
Diamond Lake Golf Course
To rent the BLYC building contact Sandy Vitale at 269-476-1680 or 269-858-8184.

likely do that in one of the Homeowners Association or BLYC board member's name, I would guess. There are people on the BLHOA board that know a lot more about the procedures than I do.

Another reminder that our annual BLYC fall dinner will be a non-dinner private cocktail-hour party via ZOOM meeting. BYOB. Because of the Corona Virus we must do this to keep us all safe. There are certain requirements that must be done in accordance with our club's bylaws and traditions that we would like to do. Please join us on Saturday, August 29 at 7 pm from your home for what may be a surprisingly fun event created by our Zoom Master Chas Grundy. To join us for the

The Birch Barker is always accepting materials for publication. E-mail materials to sailorphil@philvitale.com, mail them to me or put the items in the stone mailbox at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). **DEADLINE** for any issue is Noon on the Tuesday of the week before the publication. To contact Editor Phil by phone, call (269) 476-1680. To contact Commodore Pat McGann, call 574-532-5377 or email pat@mcgannhay.com.

— Birch Lake Notes —

BLYC fall meeting on Aug 29, 2020 at 7 pm, join the Zoom meeting at <https://bit.ly/blycfall2020>, or join manually at meeting ID: 924 8092 9662, Passcode: blycfall, or dial in by phone at (301) 715-8592, passcode: 37590042

If you need help logging on to this please call Chas, V.C. Dan Waxman or myself.

Enjoy the rest of the weekend and LOVE THE LAKE!

~ JPM, Commodore

Gentlemen (and ladies) take turns

I suspect many who have a sailboat tethered to shore would like to join the racing but ... worry they will run afoul of the rules. Heck, don't let that stop you, I fouled others in two of three races last weekend!

Race #1 I tacked from Port (wind coming across the port side) to Starboard (which generally has right-of-way over a Port boat). But, I "tacked too close" and didn't give Phil a chance to make a seaman-like maneuver to avoid contact. This required me to take a turn (a 360) before the next mark.

Race #2 on Port I barely crossed right-of-way Starboard boats Phil / Scott and Tori. The geometry indicated I could pass clear ahead but ... the wind velocity caused me to either flip or foul. Grumbling at myself I dutifully "took another turn" and carried on with the racing. We fix fouls by taking turns.

Bug of the week!
Bad Patty Luecht
(east side) sent in
this cool bug pic for
BOTW honors ... any
idea what it is?



Come on out and join the racing! Don't know the rules? No worries, the same can be said of others. We all make mistakes and others will make sure to let you know if you foul them.

~Mr. Bob (King, north shore)

Plastic lids

If you are saving plastic bottle caps, the collection will stop on Labor Day weekend. Thank you for all the support. Birch Lakers are the best! Thank you so much for your help!

~Bad Patty, east side

The Birch Barker

The Birch Barker is delivered to all homes on Birch Lake every weekend, and

posted online at <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>.

To submit items to the Birch Barker for potential publication, or to buy a display or classified ad, contact sailorphil@philvitale.com or onlinebarker@gmail.com, or mail to Phil Vitale, 63174 Birch Rd. (east side), Vandalia, MI 49095.

Deadline is noon on the Tuesday prior to the weekend of publication. Display ad prices and sizes can be seen at <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>; classified ads are free for members, and \$5 for non-members.

Please note: the Birch Barker and the Birch Lake Yacht Club are not affiliated with ANY Facebook page.



Thomas J. Mosier

Waterwell Drilling
"available"

5" Water Wells

Repair & Service
Most Water Pumps

"Promise of Quality"

M-60 E
Cassopolis

Office: 269-445-3246
Cell: 269-580-3246
Fax: 269-445-0008



APOLLOMARINE.net



SALES
SERVICE
STORAGE

We rent
Pontoon
Boats!

We
service
all lakes!

Just a
phone
call
away

South side of Gravel Lake
15355 96th Avenue, Lawton, MI 49065

269-423-611 **1-888-BOAT**

— Birch Lake Notes —



Meet the "to-be" Food Network stars! East siders Jennifer Ball and Karen Curtis-Miller (along with Team Captain John Ball) recently filmed a short clip for Bashor's "Running With Spoons" fund raiser. The Lake Girls Mixologists focused on lake cocktails. Stay tuned to next week's Barker to learn how you can donate to help Bashor in the fight to end human trafficking.

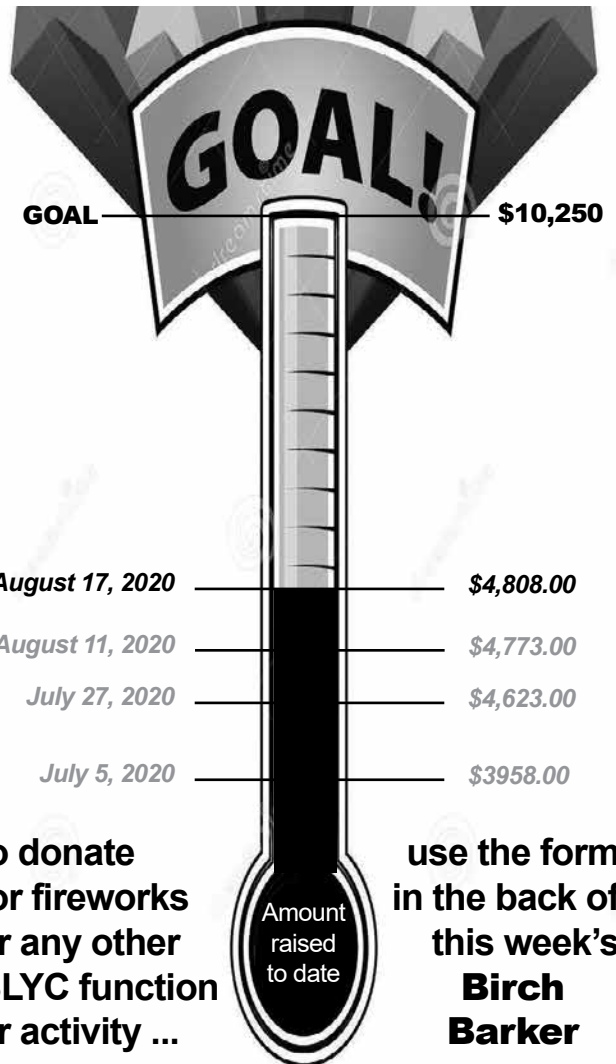
Welcome to Jaywalker



Conveniently located close to Birch Lake!
10188 US 12, Mottville
on the beautiful St. Joseph River
(269) 483-2305

Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND Starting over for 2021!

In 2020 we raised \$14,208 for our \$10,250 goal ... so now we're working on the 2021 fireworks fund

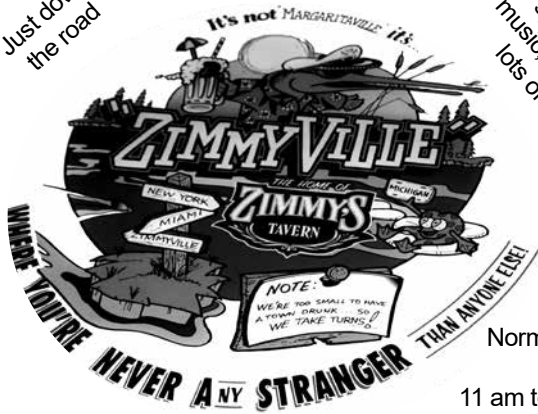


to donate
for fireworks
or any other
BLYC function
or activity ...

use the form
in the back of
this week's
**Birch
Barker**

or contribute online at
<http://BirchLakeYachtClub.com/>

Just down
the road



Daily food
specials,
music, cold beer,
lots of fun!

Normally Open
7 days/wk
11 am to Midnight

Carry Outs available

69608 Sunset Blvd

Zimmyville (Union), Michigan

ZIMMY'S TAVERN

(269) 641-5317

<http://www.zimmystavern.com>

PRINTING, MARKETING & SIGN SERVICES

CUSTOM SOLUTIONS
& DESIGNS

alphagraphics®

ELKHART & SOUTH BEND



FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



It's a miracle!

UIt's a miracle, unbelievable and awesome! Someone needs to notify Ripley's Believe it or Not we are now 4 for 4 weeks that we were able to sail! Whatever you sailors are doing to send good vibes to the wind, it seems to be working. So keep it up! And speaking of the wind, it was a little tricky this week. It was shifty and unpredictable. It was good to see our safety patrol boat manned by Rick Doolittle out there with us. A few sailors wore life jackets and a couple boats had a crew to help navigate the wind. Scott had his daughter Tori, and Barb was accompanied by daughter Molly. Nice

job of staying safe. Tom Cassady set a nice course for us, with a wide start/finish line. Thank you Tom! Your ever popular committee boat crew was Deb Hall, Good Patti and Bad Patty. It was a great day to sail and enjoy our Sunday. Only one incident occurred when someone who will not be named, (Rick) hit the committee boat, trying get an adult beverage from a beautiful woman. Luckily no damage was done. Only a few more weeks to sail officially, so let's get out there!

Sail on!

~Fleet Captain Bill
(and ghost writer BP)



~Sailing results!

BLYC Season Standings to date

| Date | 16-Aug | 16-Aug | 16-Aug | Total | Point | Races | % |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Race | 17 | 18 | 19 | Points | Average | Finished | Finished |
| MC Scow/Sailor | | | | | | Total MC Races=> | 19 |
| Scott Troeger #1489 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 24970 | 1561 | 16 | 84% |
| Barb Cassady #2506 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 24135 | 1508 | 16 | 84% |
| Jeff Smitley #2002 | DNS | DNS | DNS | 5782 | 1446 | 4 | 21% |
| Bob King #1199 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 22528 | 1408 | 16 | 84% |
| Vic Jones/ Tom Cassady | DNS | DNS | DNS | 2756 | 1378 | 2 | 11% |
| Phil Vitale #500 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 24678 | 1371 | 18 | 95% |
| Bill Luecht #1579 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 21370 | 1336 | 15 | 79% |
| Pat McGann #1735 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 18318 | 1308 | 14 | 74% |
| Pat Welch #1979 | DNS | DNS | DNS | 18831 | 1255 | 15 | 79% |
| Sandy Vitale | 7 | 7 | 7 | 16129 | 1152 | 14 | 74% |
| Amber Grundy | DNS | DNS | DNS | 16682 | 1112 | 14 | 74% |
| Sunfish/Sailor | | | | | | Total Sunfish Races=> | 19 |
| Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue) | 2 | 2 | 1 | 27939 | 1552 | 18 | 95% |
| Stewart Spratt | 1 | 3 | 3 | 18875 | 1452 | 13 | 68% |
| Scott Temple | DNS | DNS | DNS | 4340 | 1447 | 3 | 16% |
| Amy Troeger | DNS | DNS | DNS | 12852 | 1428 | 9 | 47% |
| Steve Frew | 6 | 1 | 2 | 25395 | 1411 | 17 | 89% |
| Peter Soldato | DNS | DNS | DNS | 2817 | 1409 | 2 | 11% |
| Herb Cleveland | 5 | 4 | 4 | 26714 | 1406 | 19 | 100% |
| Bill Butler | 4 | DNS | DNS | 1369 | 1369 | 1 | 5% |
| Bob Niezgodski | 3 | 5 | 5 | 24873 | 1309 | 19 | 100% |
| Camille Butler | 7 | 6 | 6 | 18251 | 1217 | 15 | 79% |
| Cole McGann Bell | DNS | DNS | DNS | 3401 | 1134 | 3 | 16% |
| Pat McGann | DNS | DNS | DNS | 1089 | 1089 | 1 | 5% |

DNS (Did Not Sail) does not count against season score, however sailor must complete 2/3 of races to qualify for season.
 DNF (Did Not Finish), DSQ (Disqualified) scores as one place worse than last place (if 5 boats finished, you would have finished 6th, will be scored as 7th place); DNF, DSQ not counted toward minimum number of races needed
 CB - sailor who serves on Committee Boat receives their season average place as of that date - counted toward season total.
 Season Points are awarded on Square of 40 system (1st = 40 squared = 1600, 2nd = 39 squared, etc.)
 Season Place = total season points/number of races attempted
 Crew - Counted toward completed races, Points go to skipper of boat



Understanding. Insightful. Effective.
Local.



TUESLEY • HALL • KONOPA, LLP
attorneys

Estate planning
Elder law
Business counsel
Mediation
Litigation

Cassopolis • South Bend • Elkhart
269.445.1818 | thklaw.com

— Water Quality Report —

Commandment # 6

Last but not least, let us together explore Commandment #6: "Thou Shalt Remain Informed About Other Important Water Quality Issues"

1.) Midsummer decreases in water clarity are usually the result of;

a) Higher clarity earlier in the year, which allowed more plants to grow at deeper depths, thus increasing the subsequent volume of nutrients and algae (which later decreases clarity).

b) The water from the springs at the bottom of our lake emanating from and laden with the limestone below forming calcium carbonate (marl) as it comes in contact with the warmer lake water. This marl is initially suspended in the water column and eventually settles to the bottom, but it becomes suspended again every time the settled marl at the bottom is disturbed, typically by increased boat traffic and waves.

2.) None of the samples tested for e-coli in Birch Lake over the last 10 or more years have shown any dangerous or worrisome amounts of e-coli in Birch Lake.

3.) The term "seaweed" has a negative connotation. At Birch, we are blessed to have numerous aquatic

plants growing in the lake. Should you cut or find any cut vegetation, please remove it from the lake.

4.) Avoid swimming in, ingesting, or letting your pets drink from, water in or nearby an algae bloom.

5.) The effects of alcohol and certain medications are increased while on the water due to added stress factors such as sun, heat, wind, wave motion, and engine noise.

6.) 85 percent of drowning victims in the United States were not wearing a life jacket.

7.) Should the present method of financing common interests (donations) like water quality become inadequate, our only option will be to ask our local governments to create, control, and ultimately make all decisions for, a special assessment district (S.A.D.) The costs for same will be added to all our tax bills. Thanks for everyone's past generosity. Let's pray that it continues and even grows (because our expenses do).

8.) Although we have some pretty good ideas (Starry Stonewort has already been discovered in the mill pond), we do not know for sure when, exactly where or in what form, the next invasive species will arrive in Birch Lake. But we do know for sure



that it will arrive. Probably sooner than later. Let's hope we have the money on hand to react quickly.

9.) Except for the people living here, the lake is the most significant feature of our homes. The lake is our home, Take care of it.

10.) The lake is a shared possession and a shared responsibility. Make sure to contribute your time and talent to its maintenance and betterment.

11.) The majority of the current WQ members have both served and lived for lengthy periods. Fresh blood, if only for smooth future transitions, would be welcomed.

PLEASE PASS THE WORD

THE "SIX COMMANDMENTS OF BIRCH LAKE WATER QUALITY"

- I. Thou shalt prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).
- II. Thou shalt minimize surface runoff.
- III. Thou shalt minimize the effects of waves.
- IV. Thou shalt protect and expand Natural Shorelines.

- V. Thou shalt not allow phosphorus, nutrients, and other undesirable chemical elements to enter our lake.
- VI. Thou shalt remain informed and active about other Water Quality issues

**Source[®]
1st Bank**

1stsource.com | Member FDIC

Straight Talk. Sound Advice.

**Source[®]
1st Insurance**

Insurance products and annuities are not insured by the FDIC; are not deposits or obligations of, or guaranteed by 1st Source Bank; and may involve investment risk, including loss of value. 1st Source Insurance, Inc. is a wholly owned affiliate of 1st Source Bank.

**CHANGED
LIVES**



**RIVERSIDE
CHURCH**

SUNDAYS AT 9 & 11 AM
THREE RIVERS, MI
RIVERSIDE-CHURCH.COM

— Barker Kids of the Week —

Nope, not caught at Birch Lake! Jacob Molho, son of Ross and Kris Molho (south side) caught a prize Coho salmon on Lake Michigan on August 15. Nice fish Jacob!



Birch Barker Kids (and other things) of the Week

Want your kid to be a Birch Barker Kid of the Week? Want your dog to be a Dog of the Week? Want your lawnmower to be the Lawnmower of the Week? Just mail your photo (with a SASE if you want the photo(s) back) to Birch Barker, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095; or you can put them in a ziplock and stick them in the stone mailbox at my home (on the east side), or email them to me at SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM

The
LAKE LIFE
REALTY GROUP



Get a **FREE** market analysis!
Contact Paul DeLano:
(**269-445-8877**)
Paul@TheLakeLife.com

LISTINGS NEEDED!
**NOW IS A GREAT TIME
TO LIST YOUR HOME!**

Birch Lake homes are
SELLING!

CALL
PAUL DELANO
TODAY

269-445-8877

Paul@TheLakeLife.com

— Barker Kids of the Week —



Tie dye fun on the North Shore! Cooper & Leila Petty, Connor & Abby Caplis.



Congratulations to Terry Dugan's (south side) dad who turned 105 last week. LeRoy Dugan loved Birch Lake. First night here in July of 1977 he caught a 20 inch bass off the pier. He was hooked.

**Kevin Wilson
Magician**

BIRTHDAYS
ANNIVERSARIES
COMPANY PICNICS
CONVENTIONS
PARTIES
AGE APPROPRIATE
ENTERTAINMENT

Kevin has
mystified and
entertained
audiences of all
ages with his
sophisticated
sorcery



Kevin Wilson
574-234-9975
abracadabramagic.com
info@abracadabramagic.com

**CHIMNEY
SWIFT**

CHIMNEY SWEEPS


“OVER 30 YEARS
OF EXPERIENCE”

SERVICES

- CHIMNEY CLEANING
- CHIMNEY RELINING
- CHIMNEY CERTIFICATIONS
- CHIMNEY REPAIRS
- DRYER VENT CLEANING

DEREK POLSTON
(574) 514-4831

www.chimneyswiftchimneysweeps.com



Tri-County Bookkeepers

tax accounting & payroll services since 1955

**An accounting practice serving
southwestern Michigan for over
60 years specializing in
small business accounting**

We offer A free no-obligation discussion about your business requirements, competitive pricing, personal account manager, corporate & personal tax prep, tax planning/tax representation, full-service payroll, affordable time keeping solutions, financial analysis, pay-as-you-go Workers' Comp Insurance

Tax planning

Need assistance with your tax planning? Don't we all! We can help you plan for your taxes before your business is even off the ground

Bookkeeping/Financial Statement Compilation

Depending on your needs, we can do your bookkeeping for you or we can teach you how to accurately keep records

Company Structure

Let us help you decide what the best organization is for you

Federal and State Forms

We'll help you apply for all the tax IDs and forms you need

**2056 Plaza Drive
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
269-926-2191**

— Barker Kids of the Week —



West side neighbors Amanda Butler and Kathy Niezgodski chilling after a dip in this great photo from 2005 earn Barker KOTW kudos this week. Thanks to Cam for submitting the pic!

Sale With Susie!

Your Waterfront Specialist



**Waterfront Specialist
Serving Michigan
and Indiana**

**SUSIE TUCKER
REALTY**

574-320-6697 Cell

269-641-5775 Office

www.susietucker.com

Susie@susietucker.com



Zillow
★★★★★
5-STAR AGENT



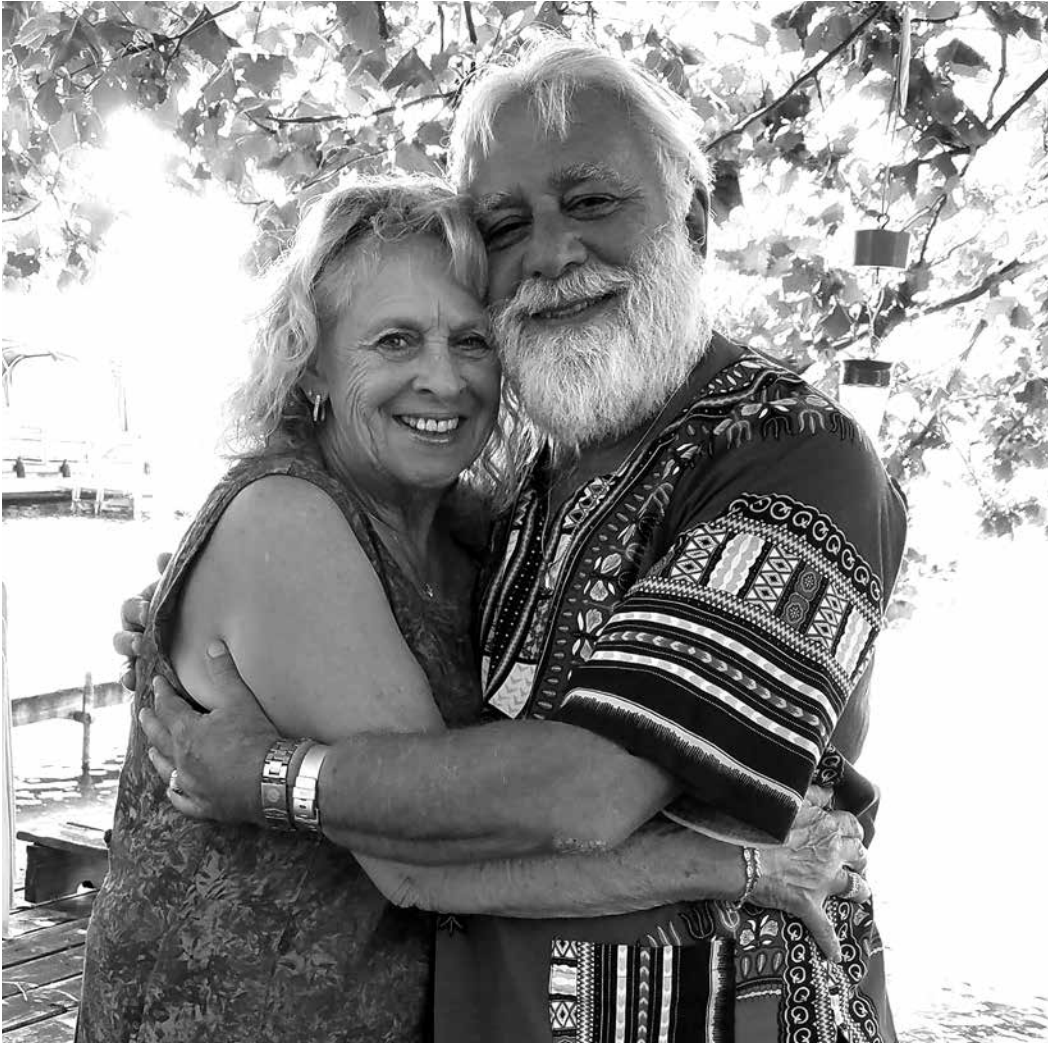
susie@susietucker.com 574-320-6697



**ATTENTION SELLERS:
LISTINGS NEEDED TO FILL OVERWHELMING
DEMAND FROM BUYERS! CALL ME FOR
A FREE MARKET ANALYSIS OF YOUR
PROPERTY.**

**I KNOW
120**

— Barker Kids of the Week —



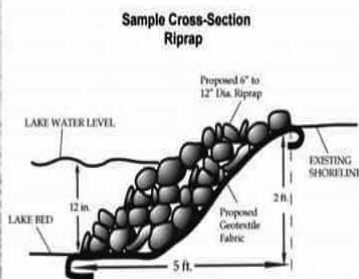
No one knows how but by some bizarre and unlikely quirk of fate, if they can make it to this August 27 without mishap, Sandy and Phil Vitale (east side) will have managed to stay married for 50 years without divorce, mayhem or serious bloodshed. According to the occasionally happy couple, a large part of their marital success can be linked to their good friends and neighbors who have kept them plied with large quantities of alcohol, to frequent sailing trips, and to their two wonderful children and three grandchildren who keep them from hurting themselves or one another. Due to the pandemic, all of their plans for celebration, sailing and travel have been canceled and they plan to simply and quietly let the day and the occasion pass while they sit and stare numbly at Birch Lake like a couple of old codgers. Future plans include trying to continue their non-violent relationship, sailing if and when they can, and hoping that it's true that the first 50 years of marriage are, in fact, the hardest.

We Are The Natural Choice For Shoreline Preservation



Fieldstone RipRap

This is a great option for preserving your existing shoreline.



Call text or email today for a consultation and assessment of your shoreline needs. We will help you understand the process and cover the cost of any necessary permits.

NEW LEAF Complete Landscape Services

SOD • SPRINKLERS • PATIOS
SEA WALLS • TREE SERVICE

Dowagiac, MI
(269) 462-0966



Deck Cleaning, Concrete Sealing, Exterior House Cleaning

Preserve your investment by having your deck cleaned, sealed and/or stained.

Sprinkler Turn-on & System Install

We will turn on the water to your lawn irrigation system, adjust heads, make sure all heads are working, program controller and give advice on proper operation.

Tree & Hedge Trimming

Consider having us professionally trim your ornamental trees & shrubs.

— When Quality & Dependability Matter Most —

NEW LEAF Complete Landscape Services

Dowagiac, MI
(269) 462-0966

We Offer RipRap Shorelines Plus A Full Range Of Services
To Create Your Perfect Shoreline
We Will Pay The Permit Fee With A Signed Contract



| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Beach Install Clean-up | Excavation |
| Spring/Fall Clean-up | Concrete Removal |
| Custom Mowing | Tree/Shrub Pruning |
| Mulch, Stone, Sand & Topsoil | Tree Removal |
| Seed & Sod | Deck Cleaning |
| Landscape Restoration | Power Washing |
| Retaining Walls | Professional Snow Management |



Specializing in Fieldstone Seawalls,
Fire Pits & Flagstone Patios

New Leaf Landscapes Serving Michiana!
Facebook: New Leaf Landscapes, Sod & Sprinklers • Email: newleafofswmich@gmail.com
Google: New Leaf Landscapes of Southwest Michigan
Owner/Operator: Bill Personette III

Blasts from the Past



L to R: Earl Troeger, Bud Zesinger, Mike Love, Bill King, Randy Welch, Tony George, Rick Doolittle & Sadie, Dan Reynolds. Taken in front of Randy Welch's original place. Submitted by Dan Reynolds and Becky Wiseman



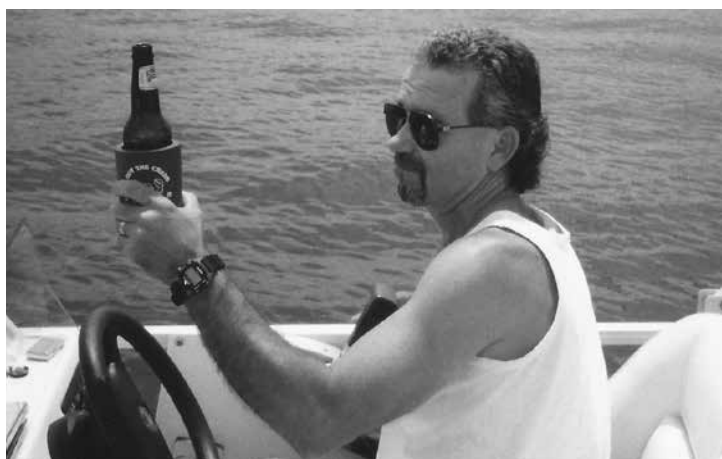
Don Harman, Amy Troeger and Bad Patty Luecht at Kidz Regatta 2003.



Larry McCay, Howard & Beth Blackwood, background: Sue Wagner, Marc Golden, Larry Dennert, circa 2001.



Kidz Regatta at the Harman's residence, August, 2003.



Past Commodore Jim Beck, August, 2000.



Kay and Larry Dennert and Madame Loretta Drolet, Queen of the Lake, circa 2001.



Undated gather of boats in Birch Lake Flotilla party.

Additional photos submitted by Bruce Wager (Cove)

YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) - This continues to be a fabulous, playful week for you! Enjoy romantic interludes, fun activities with kids, vacations, picnics, barbecues, camping adventures and socializing with others - in person or online. (Do stay healthy.) You can be in touch with your creative vibes through music, writing, singing or creating anything with your hands. Grab every opportunity to express your talents! Midweek, a surprise might impact your home or your family. Very likely it will be pleasant.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Family discussions are lively this week! Definitely. Someone, and it could be a parent, has ideas! You might also tackle major repairs or home improvements, especially at the beginning of the week. This is a fine time to examine your personal and family life and make plans. You also might want to evaluate whether things are meeting your needs? Don't let pressures build up within you. Speak up if you want to say something.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) - This continues to be a fast-paced time because you're eager to get out and talk to others. You will love a short trip, especially for pleasure. You will also enjoy hanging out with younger people. It's a great week for intellectual activities and sharing ideas. This is not the time to settle down and relax. Use this time to gather information and learn new things! Meanwhile, competition with others will take place. "Go team!"

Cancer (June 21-July 22) - You have money, earnings, cash flow and your belongings on your mind this week. For starters, you might have some wonderful, moneymaking ideas! If so, you won't hesitate to express them to someone. It's possible that you are excited about a big purchase. Meanwhile, midweek, something will totally please you! It might be a spontaneous get together with friends, or a little vacation. It will be something to do with pleasure and it will come out of the blue!

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - At the beginning of this week, you will take the initiative! You might also be more involved with social media, writing notes and letters - as well as doing routine paperwork because your mind is so clear! Many will make lists and plans for the future because you're pumped about life. You have a strong desire to travel and get away. Nevertheless, find ways to shake up your routine and create some new stimulation in your life.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Your research skills are fabulous, especially at the beginning of the week. If you're looking for answers to old questions or solutions to old problems, you just might discover them. You will want to express your ideas to everyone. In fact, this two-week interval will be excellent for teachers, salespeople and writers. Meanwhile, expect a lovely surprise from a friend or a member of a group midweek. You might meet someone, possibly a new romance? Someone might do you a favor or you might have a delightful time with someone.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Your popularity continues! Enjoy meeting new faces and talking to friends, especially younger people. (These discussions might influence your long-range goals.) Midweek, something delightful will happen. It could involve a parent or a boss. Someone might bestow honors or praise on you. You might be flattered because someone wants your advice about how to make something look better. It's a pleasant, solid week!

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - You are high viz. for a number of reasons and people admire you! They're impressed with your accomplishments and they respect you. At the beginning of the week, your ability to talk to people in power is excellent. Midweek, a sudden opportunity to travel for pleasure will fall in your lap. Because you're working hard - your chickens are coming home to roost!

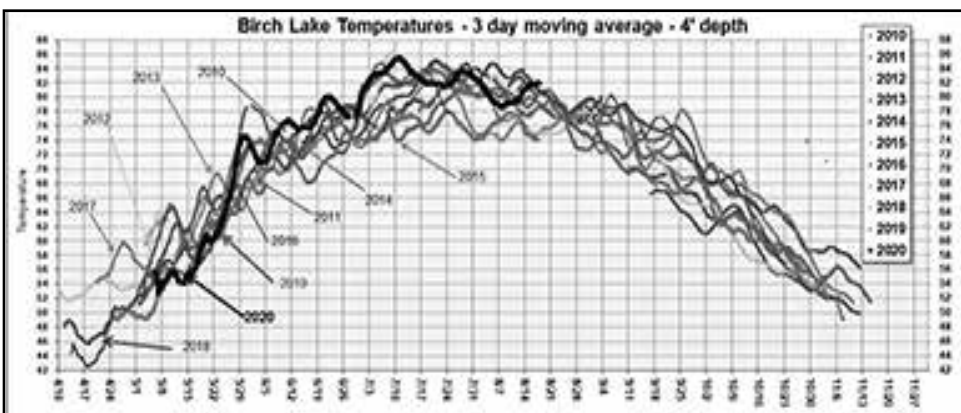
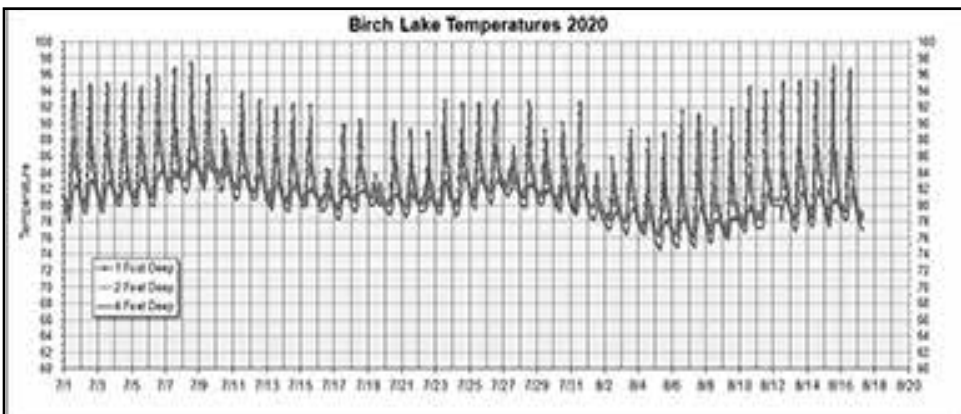
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Let's face it, you're restless! You want something to happen. Ideally, you want to jet off somewhere thrilling and discover new ideas, meet new people and learn new things. Quite possibly, for some, this will be a reality. But most of you will have to generate your own enthusiasm for something new by shaking up your world a little and breaking free from your routine. Study, learning and writing will be solid choices.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Issues on the home front or in your family are stalled and a bit perplexing. Just cope as best you can. Fortunately, when it comes to shared property, inheritances and insurance, you'll have no trouble speaking up to defend your best interests. In fact, it will please you to do so! Others will be receptive to what you have to say because fair Venus is opposite your sign paving the way for all your communications. This is why discussions with others will be successful! Look for ways to hammer out favorable deals and wait for delays at home.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - You need more rest. However, this draws your attention to your closest relationships. Because you have more detachment, you can view these relationships with more objectivity. Because you see your style of relating to those who are closest to you, you can look for ways to improve how you relate. Don't worry if you have to go over something again or rethink something about siblings, relatives and neighbours

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - You're still in work mode, and keen to get as much done as possible. Actually, you're interested in how you work. You want to work smart. You want to be effective, efficient and productive! You want to get the most bang for your buck. Something related to earnings seems sluggish or stuck in the mud right now. Fortunately, your hard work will bring you rewards! Parties, fun activities with kids, vacations and the arts will please you. Romance might sizzle!

Birch Lake Environmental Data



Temps provided by Steve Quinlan

The Moon for this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.227
2.5 days before first quarter



Sunrise: 06:57:48

Sunset: 20:31:25

Moonrise: 11:03:04

Moonset: 22:55:18

Daylight: 13 Hr 33 Min 37 Sec

Birch Barker Funnies

**I GOT KICKED OUT OF
A FLAT EARTH GROUP
FOR ASKING IF THIS 6
FT SOCIAL DISTANCE
RULE PUSHED
ANYONE OVER THE
EDGE YET..**

Finland has just closed
their borders.

No one will be crossing
the finish line.

There will be a minor baby
boom in 9 months, and
then one day in 2033, we
shall witness the rise of
the quaranteens.

**PEOPLE COUGH &
WORRY THEY
HAVE COVID-19.
I COUGH AND
PRAY THAT I
DON'T PEE MY
PANTS...**

**DUE TO THE
QUARANTINE, I'LL
ONLY BE TELLING
INSIDE JOKES.**

The grocery stores in
France look like
tornadoes hit them. All
that's left is de brie.

**RIPPING YOUR
MASK OFF
WHEN YOU GET
BACK INTO THE
CAR IS THE NEW
"TAKING YOUR
BRA OFF WHEN
YOU GET HOME"**

So many coronavirus
jokes out there, it's a
pundemic.

Kids exploring ancient ruins





~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Grilled Marinated Shrimp

This makes the best shrimp! Remove from skewers and serve on pasta with sauce for a great meal.

Servings: 6

Ingredients:


- 1 cup olive oil
- ¼ cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1 lemon, juiced
- 2 tablespoons hot pepper sauce
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 pounds large shrimp, peeled and deveined with tails attached
- 6 skewers

Directions:

- In a mixing bowl, mix together olive oil, parsley, lemon juice, hot sauce, garlic, tomato paste, oregano, salt, and black pepper. Reserve a small amount for basting later. Pour remaining marinade into a large resealable plastic bag with shrimp. Seal, and marinate in the refrigerator for 2 hours.
- Preheat grill for medium-low heat. Thread shrimp onto skewers, piercing once near the tail and once near the head. Discard marinade.
- Lightly oil grill grate. Cook shrimp for 5 minutes per side, or until opaque, basting frequently with reserved marinade.



O'Donnell's Docks LLC
Southwest Michigan's Premier Dock & Lift Headquarters



Serving you for over 25 years!

Sales and service of all major docks, boatlifts and water front accessories.

For an online quote, go to www.odonnellsdocks.com



12097 M-60 • Jones, MI
269-244-1446
info@odonnellsdocks.com
Authorized Dealer For:




Prime Property Care

Gavin Francis
313 North O'keefe St.
Cassopolis, MI 49031
(269) 591 9848

- Mowing
- Edging
- Spring/Fall Clean UP
- Hedges
- Gutter Cleaning
- Rock/Mulch Installation

gavinfrancis@rocketmail.com

— Camp Tannadoonah —

By the numbers

We are happy to report that we made it to the end of the 2020 camp season with no illness at Camp Tannadoonah.

Some stats for this summer:

- 10 weeks of Day Camp (June 1 – August 7)
- 5 weeks of Overnight Camp (July 5 – August 8)
- 510 total camper sessions
- 300 overnight sessions
- 210 day camp sessions
- 300 individual campers
- 8 Counselors in Training
- 36 Summer Staff
- 9 Volunteers
- 1 COVID Nurse
- 0 Cases of COVID at camp
- And many, many gallons of disinfectant!

The camper numbers this year were most similar to the numbers we had in 2009, when we had a total of 491 camper sessions for the summer. Last year, in 2019, we had 1001 camper sessions, so just about double what we had this year. This year was also much heavier on the day camp numbers than we have seen in the past. In a typical year, we have about 100 day camp sessions over the course of the summer.

I realized this week that we didn't

have a fall camp OR a spring camp this past year. Spring Camp was canceled due to COVID, of course, and Fall Camp was canceled due to the EEE outbreak that happened in September last year. What a crazy year it has been.

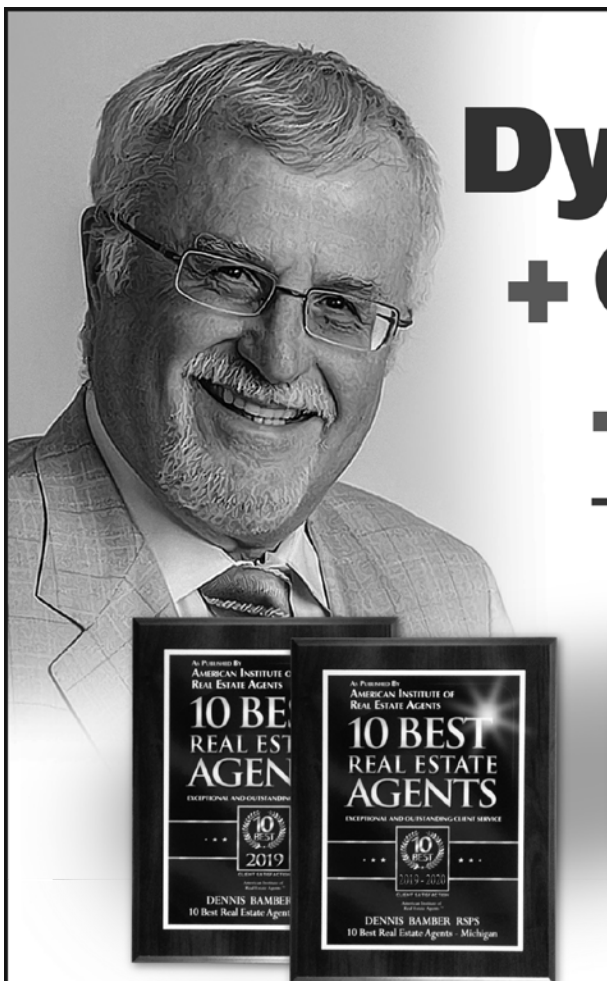
Our year-round staff took it easy this past week, getting some sleep, finishing up cleaning around camp, and catching up on paperwork. But this week we just right back into the chaos! One of the schools we work with for After School programs (Good Shepherd Montessori School in South Bend) decided to push back their start date from August 10 to August 24. So they asked us to run a week-long day camp at the school this week.

We started Monday the 17th with 16 kids; we have between 14 and 20 kids each day, and we're following many of the same policies we did at Tannadoonah this summer. We have two groups, with seven-10 kids in each group, and try to keep the groups separated as much as possible. Everyone – staff and campers – is required to wear a mask this week, all the time except when we're eating. We're trying to be outside as much as possible, and are using a tent that the school set up for us. And just like at camp, we have lots of breaks for hand washing and

sanitizing surfaces!

The staff for day camp this week is made up of our core year-round staff (four of us) plus two of our summer staff who haven't gone back to school yet. Good Shepherd plans to go back to school next Monday, on a regular five-day-a-week schedule, and we will switch from day camp to doing the After School program when they start their regular school days.

~Mrs. Amber



2017, 2018, 2019 MLS Diamond Award Winner
2017, 2018, 2019 Chairmans Club

**Dynamic
+ Creative
+ Aggressive
= Results**

Real effort. Real results.

Cressy & Everett
REAL ESTATE

Above. And Beyond.

Dennis Bamber REALTOR® 701 Spruce Street • Dowagiac, MI 49047

Cell, 574.532.3808

dennisbamber@cressyeverett.com

RSPS
Resort & Second Home
Property Specialist

2019 ★★★★★ 2019
Chairman's Club
Cressy & Everett Real Estate

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR SALE



24 foot camper. 1 large slide out. 2 queen size beds. Shower. Bathroom, A/C, TV, Microwave, stove/oven. Very clean. Makes for a great overflow for guests. Asking 13,000. Please call Bob Groszek(south side) 1-219-384-9291

For Sale: 2020 **Trailmaster boat trailer.** 1200 lb. capacity, swing away tongue. \$1,350, call or text Jack, 1-574-250-5852 or 269-476-7176

Canoe for a case of Coor's Light. See Bad Patty at east side, 64168 Birch Rd., next to Phil Vitale and Pat McGann's a frame or call 317-605-6421. Thanks.

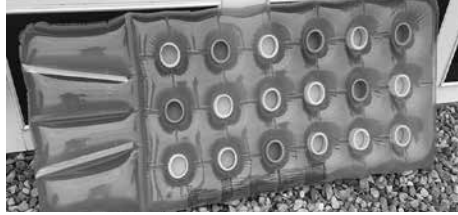
FOR RENT

Want a unique, fun vacation? How about renting the most inexpensive, cutest and best-located **rental in The Villages**, Florida at

ourhome4rent.com/cjp

LOST & FOUND

FOUND: **Pink/multicolor float** washed up on East shore last week. Call 269.228.6005 if it is yours.



FOUND: **Green float tube** floated in to east shoreline. It is green and says Airhead Rebel on it. Call 708-738-3962 if it is yours.



LOST: Red Coleman Kayak following last week's storm. Contact Beth at 269 985-8782

Found: Mooring Buoy floated up to

the North Shore. Please call the Jeff & Denise Smitley 476-9000 to claim.

SERVICES

I do **sewing and mending** at fair prices - zippers, hemming, small alterations; call Kathy at 476-9317

If you are in need of **yard work** this summer (weeding, mowing, flower care, etc.), Please contact Claire Brovold (west side) at 1(574) 323-3683

Need Propane? Bill Butler will pick up grill tanks fill and deliver for 20. Call him at 574-596-1343

WANTED

WANTED: **Used Boat Lift** for 24' Pontoon (minimum 26' Canopy) for Northsider. Call Rob 513 319-4038

Looking for a **kids bike trailer** to buy, or rent for a few weeks. Jen Magro Algarotti (north shore) 624-432-1252

Wanted: Does anyone have a **large, anchored raft** in good condition they want to sell? Text Megan Caplis at 773-343-4056

Talk With A Live Person



VOTED NILES
BUSINESS OF
THE YEAR!

ADVANTAGE PLUMBING INC.

Complete Plumbing Service - If there's water to it, we do it.

Let Us Show You Why We Were
Voted Business Of The Year!

Top 10 Reasons to Choose ADVANTAGE PLUMBING

- Licensed Plumbers
- Drug-Free Employees
- Criminal Background Checked Employees
- No Surprises with the Bill - You know the Cost Before the Work is Done
- 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
- True 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Fully Stocked Trucks - "Warehouse on Wheels"
- Clean and Professional Technicians in Uniforms
- Longest Warranties in the Business
- Our Phones are Always Answered by a Customer Service Employee During Business Hours



After Hours
Emergency
Service



- **Bonus** — The Only Attitude You Will Receive is a Good One!

Major Credit Cards Accepted



2400 N 5th ● Niles, MI

269-687-7192 Niles, MI

866-751-1470 Toll Free

www.advantageplumbinginc.net

HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Tip No 7: Mind your pet!

Not everyone is a dog or cat lover, so show responsibility for your pets. Keep them under control, on a leash, off the neighbor's lawn ... and pick up after them!

This message is brought to you by the Homeowners Association of Birch Lake



BLYC Officers and Directors

2018/19 BLYC Officers

Pat McGann (E), Commodore
574-532-5377 pat@mcgannhay.com

Dan Waxman (E), Vice Commodore
317-506-1680 dwaxman@indianablood.org

Deb Spratt, Treasurer (N)476-2113
debspratt@comcast.net

Mike Sheffeck, Secretary (W).....476-1849
mcsheff@aol.com

Bill Luecht (E), Fleet Captain..... 476-2843
wal303@sbcglobal.net

Ed Chester (E)..... 476-1010
ed@chesterlawoffice.com

Karen Curtis-Miller (E)574-261-6712
krcurtismiller@gmail.com

Terry Dugan (S).....476-2814
s581122@aol.com

Bernie Garceau 476-9862
bgarceau@norcoind.com

Chas Grundy (E)574-315-0217
chas.grundy@gmail.com

Deb Hall (Cove)..... 476-7226
bdeh@sbcglobal.net

Patty Luecht (E)476-2615
pgalloway4@yahoo.com

Sarah Petty (N)..... 476-7068
sarahkpetty@gmail.com

Claudia Phipps (N)..... 476-7073
claudia2154@gmail.com

Vickie Rogers (C).....476-2383
tvrogers@frontier.com

Rick Russwurm (N).....476-2407
paramountp@aol.com

Scott Troeger (E).....476-9898
scott.troeger@btlaw.com

Phil Vitale (E).....476-1680
sailorphil@philvitale.com

Sandy Vitale (E) 476-1680
sv6102@gmail.com

Sue Williams (S).....476-8886
smwillia@comcast.net

2018 BLYC Directors

P. Com. Angela Bergan (E)561-603-5522
berganfsu@aol.com

Greg Bolin (W).....476-2420
gbolin31@aol.com

Barb Cassady (East).....574-303-2831
bcassady@holycrossvillage.com

WATER QUALITY AND HOMEOWNERS
Paul Fallon (E), Chairman, Water Quality and
Homeowners Association 476-1467
pauljfallon@gmail.com



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

THE YEAR'S GOING FAST!



Time's running out to pay 2020 dues!

Support the BLYC, support the Lake, support the Community!

\$ ___ - BLYC Member Dues (\$30 / year)

Total contribution:

\$ ___ - BLYC Associate Member* Dues (\$10 / year)

\$ _____

*Associate membership is available to current associate members
and for non-lake residents who wish to support the BLYC

\$ ___ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)

Name _____

\$ ___ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)

\$ ___ - Building Improvement Fund

Address _____

\$ ___ - Fireworks Fund

\$ ___ - Water Quality Program

\$ ___ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication

\$ ___ - Safety Committee

\$ ___ - Other non-party related expenses

\$ ___ - BLYC Roof Fund

\$ ___ - BLYC AED Fund

\$ ___ - Misc.

Make checks payable to

BLYC

and mail to Deb Spratt, Treasurer
18100 Farmington Hills Dr.
South Bend, IN 46637

NEW

now you can go online at [HTTP://BIRCHLAKEYACHTCLUB.COM](http://BIRCHLAKEYACHTCLUB.COM) to pay your dues

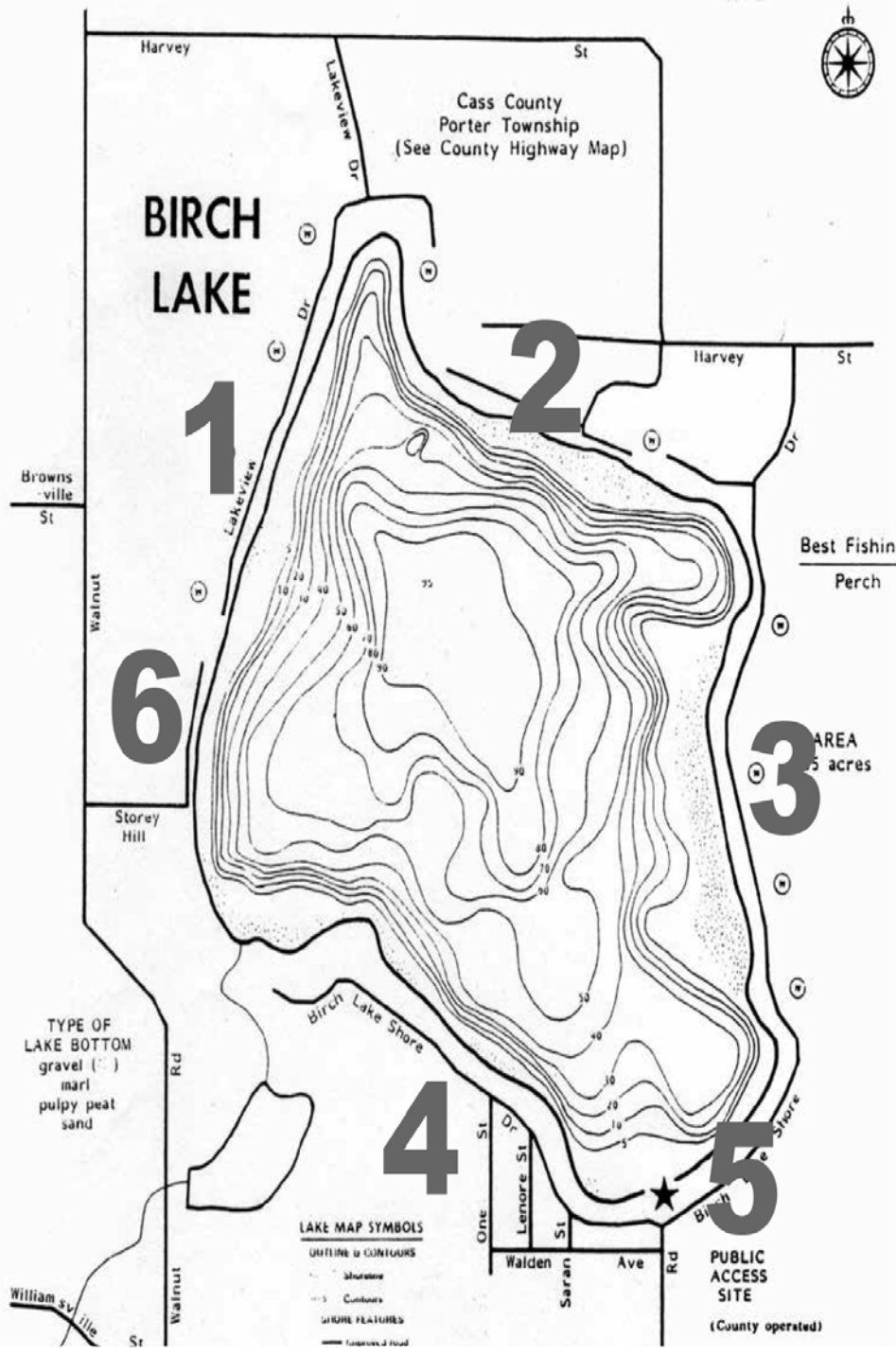
NEW

EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) locations on Birch Lake

CALL 9-1-1



**FOR
EMERGENCY
USE ONLY
ALARM WILL
SOUND**



There are six (6) automated external defibrillator units on Birch Lake. The boxes that contain these devices are located at the following locations (see map):

1. **West Shore, Sheffieck home,**
62875 Birch Lakeview Dr.
2. **North Shore, Smitley home,**
14859 Birch Northshore Dr.15046
3. **East Shore, Vitale home,**
63174 Birch Rd.
4. **South Shore, Eberhart home,**
15046 Birch Lakeshore Dr.
5. **South/East Shore, Troeger home,**
63696 Birch Rd.
6. **Southwest Shore, DeYoung home,**
63255 Storey Hill St.

All units are on the ROAD SIDE of the property and accessible by vehicle or on foot.

IN AN EMERGENCY:

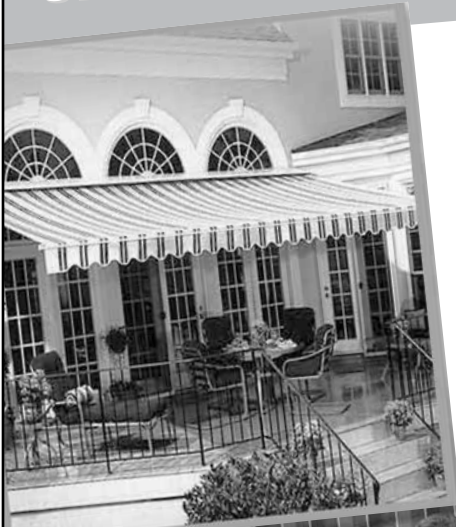
1. CALL 911 and report the emergency and the patient's location immediately.
2. Pull the box open, remove the orange-colored unit, TAKE IT TO THE PATIENT and open the device by pressing the white lever at the bottom.
3. An automated voice will guide you through the setup and use of the defibrillator. Follow the instructions as they are given.
4. Continue to follow the instructions as given, and stay with the patient until help arrives.

We've Got You Covered!



**SUMMER'S HERE!
CALL US TODAY!**

- **Retractable Awnings for Deck & Patios**
- **Motorized Solar Screens**
- **Boat Covers and Tops**
- **Canvas Repair**
- **Aluminum Awnings**



SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION

**Call us for a free
at-home
demonstration!**



*Locally owned
and operated
since 1985*

**SUN
& SHADE
AWNING**

12291 Bidelman Road • Three Rivers at Big Pleasant Lake

269 244-5307
www.sunandsshadeawning.com