

# BIRCH Barker

vol. 77 issue 5

Weekend of  
JUNE 21  
2025

The official publication of the Birch Lake Yacht Club

BirchLakeYachtClub.com



*Brendan Snider (Cove) with his toothy friend Gar-face. Caught on a 60" wakeboard. Brendan ran over this gar with his wakeboard near the northeast cove on Monday.*

## 2025 BIRCH LAKE CALENDAR

### June

21 - Yacht Club Board Mtg, 9am

### July

5 - Boat Parade, 3pm  
5 - Fireworks, 10pm  
6 - Pancake Breakfast, 8:30-11am  
16 - Card Night  
18 - Ladies' Golf Outing, 9am  
19 - Yacht Club Board Mtg, 9am  
25 - Men's Golf Outing, noon

### August

2 - Corn and Sausage Roast  
16 - Yacht Club Board Mtg, 9am  
20 - Card Night

### September

20 - Yacht Club Board Mtg, 9am

### October

25 - Bad Patty Crockpot  
Challenge, 6pm

## 2025 BLYC Directors

### Officers

Commodore: Julie Dickey (E)  
Vice Comm.: Steve Frew (E)  
Secretary: Mike Sheffieck (W)  
Treasurer: Deb Spratt (N)  
Fleet Capt: Bob Niezgodski (W)

### Directors

John Ball (E)  
Dave Carroll (W)  
Barb Cassady (E)  
Ed Chester (E)  
Karen Curtis-Miller (E)  
Sue Davis (E)  
Ronny Eshleman (S)  
Bernie Garceau (E)  
Amber Grundy (E)  
Deb Hall (C)  
Ron Niezgodski (W)  
Sarah Petty (N)  
Claudia Phipps (N)  
Vickie Rogers (C)  
Rick Russwurm (N)  
Ray Scholes (S)  
Scott Troeger (E)  
Phil Vitale (E)  
Sandy Vitale (E)  
Dan Waxman (E)  
Sue Williams (S)

### Committee Chairs

Water Quality:  
Patrick Welch (S)  
Homeowners Association:  
Blair Garceau (E)

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Hello neighbors and friends! Hope all the fathers had an enjoyable Father's Day last Sunday! It is wonderful time to celebrate with family! That may include, parents, spouses, children, and grandchildren. We had a great family reunion that included family coming from Maryland and Arizona! Our grandchildren really enjoyed tubing, boating, and paddle boarding! There were many other lake residents also enjoying fun lake activities!

Many of us take time to reflect on their dad who is no longer with them. The years fly by, but the treasured memories will remain in our minds and hearts.

The Trivia Night was a very fun and competitive event! Read more about it in the Birch Barker! Thank you, Blair Garceau and Sue Williams for organizing this great annual BLYC event!

Card night was on June 18. It is one of three opportunities to hang out at the BLYC and play cards with your neighbors! If you missed it this week, there will be a card night on July 16 and August 20!

We are fast approaching our July events! Some lake residents are busy planning for the boat parade on July 5th! This year's theme is "Favorite TV Show." I'm looking forward to seeing the parade! Good luck to all!

The Fourth of July fireworks are anticipated by the Birch Lake residents. They will also occur on July 5th! The fireworks fun needs your help to make it a magical display! See the BLYC website to make your contribution to the fireworks fund.

On the BLYC website, please review all the other ways to provide support through your contributions. The water quality fund is always a BLYC priority that benefits all residents.

It takes a village to achieve our goals! Birch Lake is our very special paradise, thanks to your support!

We come from many different places, but we are all in the same boat, we love Birch Lake!

~Commodore Julie



*A Turtle Parade, photo credit to Bob King*



The 2025 Birch Barker is  
generously sponsored by Culver's.  
See ad on page 2.

The Barker will consider ads, photos, and editorial content for publication.

Email items to [birchbarker1@gmail.com](mailto:birchbarker1@gmail.com).

For editorial concerns, contact editor Amber Grundy at [birchbarker1@gmail.com](mailto:birchbarker1@gmail.com) or 574-315-0227.

For delivery concerns, contact Ron Niezgodski at [birchbass1@gmail.com](mailto:birchbass1@gmail.com) or 269-476-9317.

For all other BLYC matters, contact Commodore Julie Dickey at [jdjuls@aol.com](mailto:jdjuls@aol.com) or 574-220-9132.

**DEADLINE** for submissions is always **NOON** on the Tuesday of the week before publication.



# BIRCH LAKE NOTES

THANK YOU to all of our 2025 Barker advertisers! Please check them all out on the BLYC website and support our advertisers.



## Yacht Club Dues

Hey Lakers! Have you contributed to the Yacht Club yet this year? If not, why not? Our annual dues are a pittance so, it can't be that. BLYC does way more than host parties [insert the long list, starting with protecting water quality, etc., etc.] so, it can't be that. Your weekly Birch Barker is an ongoing expense and ... delivered by a great crew of volunteers. Pry those purses open and support our Club!

~Chrys A. Lis

## The Printed Barker

The Birch Barker is delivered to all of the homes on Birch Lake each week, and is available online at

[birchlakeyachtclub.com](https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com)

The submission deadline is noon on Tuesday of the week before publication. Contributions can be emailed to [birchbarker1@gmail.com](mailto:birchbarker1@gmail.com).

Advertising rates are posted at [birchlakeyachtclub.com/advertise](https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com/advertise). To buy an ad or for more info, contact Amber at [birchbarker1@gmail.com](mailto:birchbarker1@gmail.com) or 574-315-0227.

## BOAT PARADE

The Boat Parade is 2 weeks away on Saturday July 5th! This year's theme is "Favorite TV Show" so pick your show and start your decoration plans.



All parade participants need to gather at the Waxman pier on the East side at 2:45 pm to tell the judges your family name(s), TV Show Theme and you will get a number to line up behind the Grand Marshal for your lap around the lake. Here's a suggestion for those of you with boats that have motors over 200 to 300 HP: "Miami Vice" Dress your family up in white linen outfits and put on Ray-Ban sunglasses and Voila! See you on the 5th!

**Saturday, July 5, 3pm**

## Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND

Our goal for 2025 is \$16,000

Contribute now at

<https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com>



## Yacht Club Building Use

For information on the rules and requirements, or to make arrangements to use the Birch Lake Yacht Club building for a non-BLYC event, call or text Sandy Vitale at 269-858-8184, or email [sv6102@gmail.com](mailto:sv6102@gmail.com).



# WELCOME to DELICIOUS

VISIT YOUR LOCAL CULVER'S RESTAURANT:

Niles, MI

Sturgis, MI

Coldwater, MI

Three Rivers, MI

Granger, IN

Mishawaka, IN



2025 BIRCH BARKER SPONSOR



# ODDS AND ENDS

## Boat Parade Grand Marshal

In our Grand Marshal countdown, last week we made it to the summer of 2012. So, we now proceed with Phil and Sandy Vitale in 2013, Bud and Barb Zesinger in 2014, Terry and Linda Curtis in 2015, Duffy and Sue Dufour in 2016, Terry and Carol Dugan in 2017 and then Bruce Wagner in 2018. Next week we will have the final countdown from 2019 to 2024. Then in the July 4th Barker, you will meet this year's Grand Marshals! Who do you think it might be?

## Ladies Weekly Golf

We usually tee off Monday mornings and follow up with lunch after the nine-hole "adventure." We don't keep track of scores and welcome all levels of players. The only judgment and competition is with yourself. If you have questions or are interested in golf or just lunch, contact Blair Garceau (269-476-9862).

The **Birch Lake Floating Keychains** that were available at the Commodore / Vice Commodore party are still available for purchase for \$5.00 each. 100% of proceeds go to the Water Quality Fund. Text or call **Jennifer Ball at 574-535-3733** or **Cindy Bernaciak at 773-401-9191** to get yours.

## Slow Down Signs

"Slow Down" signs are available for lake home owners. Contact Blair Garceau (269-476-9862) if you need a sign for your yard. Courtesy of the BL Home Owners Association.



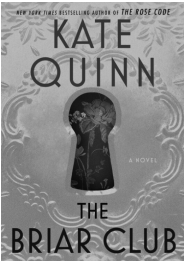
The 4th Annual Birch Lake Trivia Night was a great success! Five enthusiastic and very competitive teams vied for the honor of first place through 6 rounds of trivia questions. Cheering was heard as teams realized the correctness of their answers. Competition was fierce, and some tension was felt as each team worked hard for top standings and bragging rights so they could claim their brains were full of useless information for a year! After Round One every team was tied with perfect scores for everyone. It was neck and neck and back and forth as the teams fought for that first place win. In the final standings the "Lester's Revenge" team earned the crown. That team with a lot of trivial tidbits in their heads was Dennis and Peggy Gaik, Ray and Jill Scholes, and Sue Davis. Only 9 points separated the first and last place team. Way to go to the trivia teams!

Through the generous donations of the night, the Yacht Club's piggy bank was \$108.00 richer. Special shout out to our great announcer, Mike Sheffieck, who kept the fun spirit and competition on track all night long. Other trivia assistants included Pat Williams and Bernie Garceau. We'd also like to thank everyone who brought a treat to share. Birch Lake sure knows how to put together some great treats. There is a saying that many hands make light work and that certainly proved true after the winners were announced. Thanks to everyone cleanup was a breeze and we were finished in no time.

This year we had one couple whose team had to cancel at the last minute but found a welcoming group and joined their team. All of them really enjoyed the evening. So next year come join the fun, we'll find you a spot if you don't have a team. Your Trivia Committee: Sue Williams, Holly Troeger, Claudia Phipps, Blair Garceau, Carla Chester, and Julie Sheffieck.

## Book Club

Our first meeting will be June 24th, discussing *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn. Any questions, or if you'd like to join in the fun, contact Jackie Frew: [seeitall8@gmail.com](mailto:seeitall8@gmail.com) or call/text 708-285-2999.



## Ladies' Golf Outing

The Ladies' FUN Golf Outing will be on Friday, July 18th with a best ball, shotgun start promptly at 9:00am. This year we'll be playing at Sauganash Golf Club in Three Rivers. Lunch will follow in the clubhouse. The cost of golf and lunch is the same price as last year at just \$45.00 per golfer. What a bargain! Registration form is on the next page of this Barker.

Ladies who would like to join us for just lunch the cost will be \$25.00. Let Carol or Blair know before July 13th. We are looking forward to a fun day with all the Birch Lake Ladies.



2025  
**BIRCH LAKE  
KIDZ  
REG TTA**



Birch Sailors are determined to get kids sailing, even if it is just the one time every year!

**Date TBD**

**WATCH THIS SPACE FOR DETAILS**

## "Newsies"

This week's Barker delivery spotlight is Chris Stevens who lives on the South Side with wife Donna. The south delivery route is divided into west and east sections and Chris delivers to the homes in the east section. Chris' parents bought the original A-Frame home in 1971, which Chris and Donna replaced with a new build when he retired 2½ years ago and now they are full time residents on Birch. Chris' favorite parts of the Barker are the Funnies and the Water Quality Report. Thank you, delivery boy Chris!

## PAUL'S PROPERTY REHAB



- Landscape Maintenance
- Tree & Shrub Pruning
- Leaf & Weed Removal
- Gutter, Roof, & Siding Cleaning
- Window Washing
- Patio & Retaining Wall Repair
- General Exterior Maintenance

**CALL or TEXT 269-303-3893**

Lake References Available

Join us for dinner!

**THE ROCK**  
AT BIG FISH LAKE  
MARCELLUS, MICHIGAN



**TheRockAtBigFishLake.com**  
**269-646-7625**

14625 Loveridge Street  
Marcellus, MI 49067

Sunday & Monday, 4-9pm  
Thursday through Saturday, 4-10pm  
Closed Tuesday & Wednesday



# BLYC ANNUAL LADIES' FUN GOLF OUTING

**FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2025**

## Sauganash Golf Course

**9am Tee Off**  
please arrive no later  
than 8:30am

**Lunch at Sauganash**  
following the outing

**\$45 REGISTRATION INCLUDES:**  
**Golf, Cart, and Lunch**

If you don't golf but would like to  
join us at noon for lunch, please  
register and pay \$25

**All Entries Due by**  
**Sunday, July 13**

**If you'd like to sponsor a hole, or have questions, please contact either:**  
Carol McCoy (708-738-3962) or Blair Garceau (574-261-9817)

## 2025 BLYC Ladies' FUN Golf Outing Registration

\$45 per player or \$25 for lunch only

**Team Captain:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Player 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Player 2:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Player 4:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to BLYC and bring or mail to:**

Carol McCoy	Blair Garceau
63021 Birch Rd.	<b>OR</b> 63542 Birch Rd.
Vandalia, MI 49095	Vandalia, MI 49095

**\*Individual registrations available.**  
If you don't have a team, contact Carol  
or Blair and we can match you up.



**Friday, June 27: Touch of Texas**  
**Friday, July 25: Memphis Underground**  
**Friday, August 22: Whistle Pigs**

The COA's Summer Concert Series is back by popular demand. Join us at the COA Lowe Center's Pavilion for some great music and an opportunity to purchase food from our food truck vendors. Bring a chair or blanket enjoy three FREE outdoor concerts!

**Food is available from 5:30-7:30pm**  
**Concerts begin at 7:00pm**

*more info -->*



## Birch Merch

Dive into lake season with  
Birch Lake gear today!

*Now Available!*

Spynoffs.store / (574) 213-4122



**SPYNOFFS**



# WATER QUALITY REPORT: VOICES FROM THE LAKE

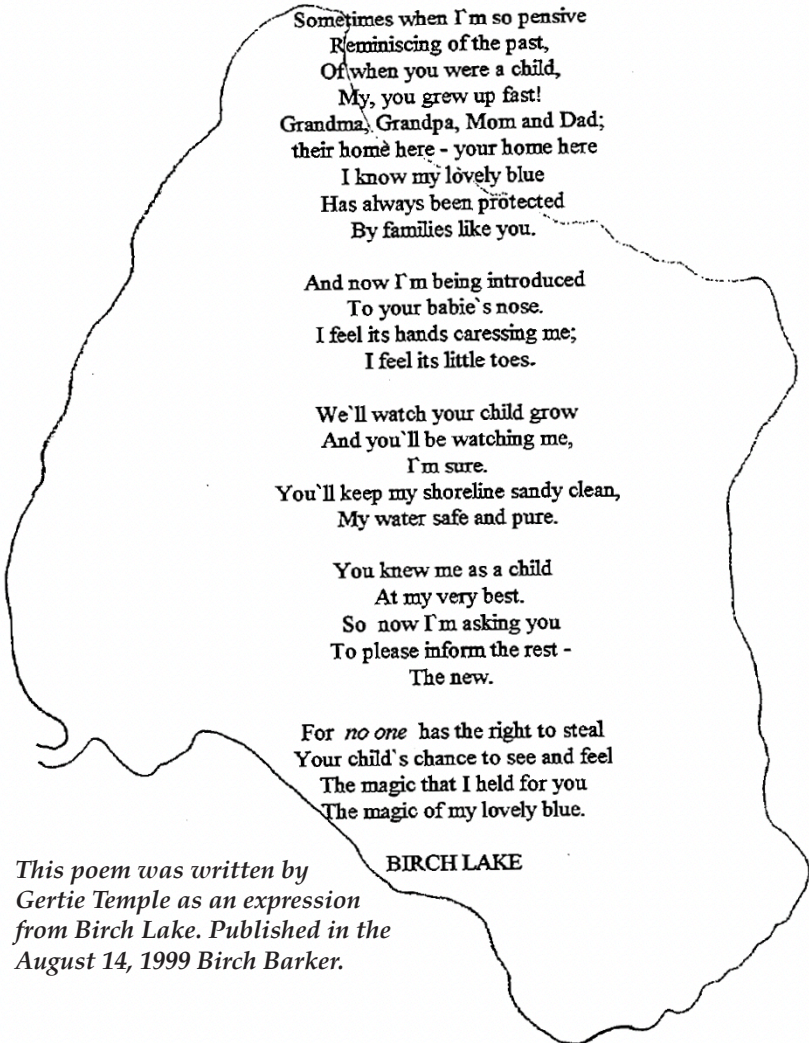
This year, the Water Quality Committee has asked some long-time residents of the lake for their perspective of Birch Lake and the importance of its water quality. The series of articles called, "Voices From The Lake", represent unique viewpoints: some historical, others subjective and even one poetic like our first, from Jan Temple. Thank you to all of our authors for contributing. We hope you enjoy their "Voices". Your Water Quality Committee

Early this spring we had a bit of a scare, which turned out to be an algae bloom that covered most of our precious lake. But now, thankfully, the water is clear and blue and beautiful once again.

The lesson, at least for me, is that we can never take our water quality for granted. And each of us needs to do what we can to protect our lake from too much phosphorus — from fertilizer runoff and disruption of the lake bottom from our boat motors — or other contaminants. In addition, our donations to the Water Quality Program (through the Yacht Club) fund the important testing and treatments needed to help keep the water safe for swimming and fishing.

Many of us have been blessed with generations of memories at Birch Lake. And we have a lot of new families that have a chance to do the same. We all want our children and grandchildren to be able to enjoy our lake — not just today, but every day for many years to come.

I found this poem below as published in an August 1999 edition of the Birch Barker. It was written by Gertie Temple (my mom) as an "expression" from our dear Birch Lake — and pretty much sums up our shared love and promise to "the jewel of Cass County".



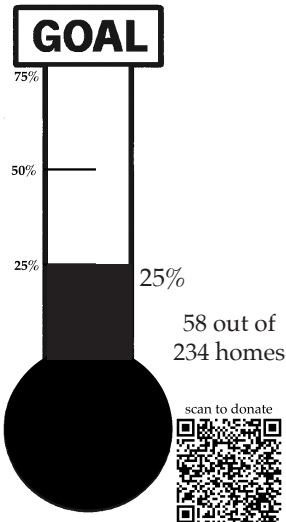
*This poem was written by Gertie Temple as an expression from Birch Lake. Published in the August 14, 1999 Birch Barker.*

## 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.

## WATER QUALITY FUND

Our goal for 2025 is to have 75% of homes on the lake contribute. Contribute now at <https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com>





**McGann Hay**  
FUNERALS | CREMATIONS | GATHERINGS  
SINCE 1842

**Granger Chapel**  
Large Rooms | Children's Room  
Spacious Cafe / Lounge

**574-232-1411**  
[www.mcgannhay.com](http://www.mcgannhay.com)

**Pat McGann, Former Birch Lake Resident**



11923 M-60  
Jones, Michigan

**Satori**  
Salon & Spa **269.244.5510**  
[www.satorisalonandspa.com](http://www.satorisalonandspa.com)  
email: [satorisalonspa@gmail.com](mailto:satorisalonspa@gmail.com)

**Offering our Guests...**

- All hair services with natural products
- Massages / Facials
- Hydrafacial MD Treatment
- Eyelash lift & tint / Brow lamination
- Pedicures / Manicures
- Waxing / Sugaring
- Hair Extensions
- Spa Treatments

*Experience the Organic Difference!*





# FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## INTERLAKE REGATTA, ANOTHER WEEKEND WITH NO SAILING

Diamond Lake is hosting the Interlake MC Regatta this year. You may remember this event. It is the same event we hosted here at Birch Lake last year in memory of Earl Troeger, Jr. Representatives from Diamond Lake sent us the formal invitation this past week. Sailors from Birch Lake, Corey Lake, Eagle Lake, Indian Lake, and Diamond Lake are all invited to the *Heritage and Horizons Interlake MC Regatta at Diamond Lake* on July 26, 2025. If anyone is interested in attending and representing Birch Lake, please don't hesitate to reach out for additional details.

As for this past weekend, unfortunately, it was another weekend with no sailboat racing. There were some light gusts of wind on our shore. Due to this, my dad and I went out in the committee boat a touch before 10am to investigate. The wind was light and sporadic. We might have been able to set a small course in the southwest corner, but it probably wouldn't have been enjoyable. Not wanting to delay racing until twelve due to Father's Day and the forecast not looking much better, I made the call not to race. Then, of course, the wind picked up a bit, and sailing was more feasible. Thus, is wind, life, and sailing, "Sometimes Unpredictable". In any event, I hope everyone had a great Father's Day weekend.

~FC Bob Niezgodski  
rjniedzgodski@gmail.com

### Heritage and Horizons Interlake MC Regatta

Diamond Lake Yacht Club, Cassopolis, MI  
July 26, 2025

Join us as we celebrate our sailing history and look forward to our future on Diamond Lake!

We are hosting the traveling regatta, welcoming sailors from Birch Lake, Corey Lake, Eagle Lake, Indian Lake, & Diamond Lake. Sailors from other lakes interested in participating, please contact the Regatta Chair.

#### Agenda:

**7:30-9:00am:** Boat launching, set up, light breakfast  
**9:00:** Skippers meeting  
**10:00:** First of 3 races begins  
**2:30 (approximately):** Awards, lunch, refreshments

#### Registration Fee: \$50

Includes light breakfast, t-shirt, boxed lunch, and refreshments

*"Rooted in Tradition. Sailing into Tomorrow!"*

Contact Amy Usher, Rear Commodore  
amywusher@gmail.com, 630-272-4023



2024 Earl Troeger, Jr. Memorial Interlake MC Regatta at Birch Lake

## Thinking about selling your lake home or property?

### The Dennis Bamber Group

has sold over 175 waterfront properties in the past few years valued at over \$70,000,000.

### Our Exceptional Marketing

for lake property is creative, dynamic, and brings results.

### We Know How to List, Market, and Sell



## Here are some things for you to consider:

- Lake inventory is at an all time low and prices are higher.
- There are more buyers than sellers.
- Many lake property buyers are cash buyers.
- Interest rates have leveled off and may come down more.



Visit our website:

mymichiganlakehouse.com  
exclusively to waterfront



Above & Beyond

**Cressy & Everett**  
REAL ESTATE

701 Spruce St Dowagiac, MI

**THE DENNIS BAMBER GROUP**

LAKE & WATERFRONT SPECIALISTS

**574-532-3808**

dennisbamber@cressyeverett.com

\*Not intended to solicit any properties already listed for sale with another real estate agent.



# INFINITY

## HOME SERVICES<sup>LLC</sup>

- home watch • property checks • maintenance •
- repairs • small projects •
- short-term vacation rental maintenance services •

**269-259-1127** | [jim@infinitymichiana.com](mailto:jim@infinitymichiana.com)

*infinitymichiana.com*

## JAYWALKER RESTAURANT

Conveniently located close to Birch Lake!

Open for Lunch and Dinner

Located on the beautiful St. Joseph River

10188 US 12, Mottville

for reservations or carry-out, call

**269-483-2305**

PIER LOGIC MARINA  
LAKE LIFE SPECIALIST

269-528-6001

# SALE

CONNECT-A-PORT<sup>®</sup> DRIVE-  
ON DOCKING



**\$1650.00 XL6**

- Smoothest, strongest rollers on the market!
- Rollers are adjustable to best match the user's hull
- Accommodates any PWC brand (up to 4 seats)
- Attaches to any dock style



**MOTORCYCLE  
RENTALS**



# Elkhart

**INDIAN MOTORCYCLE<sup>®</sup>**

**RENTALS  
AVAILABLE NOW!**



**SLINGSHOT<sup>®</sup>  
RENTALS**



# CAMP T CORNER

The longest week of camp is upon us - Super Week! Campers staying for this extra-super week stay for 11 days of nonstop fun. This year, we have about 40 campers signed up to stay for the whole time. This is in addition to our regular weekly campers who will get picked up this coming Saturday. So overall, it is bound to be a great week!

The specialty activities of the week include an off-site canoe trip, cooking and baking, and yoga. The canoe trip allows older campers a chance to practice canoeing in Birch Lake all week with the ultimate challenge of canoeing for a few hours together on the St. Joseph River (from Mottville to Bristol) at the end of the week. Lunches, sunscreen, and life jackets will be packed for a fun day of paddling!

Although we offer Iron Chefs every week to teach campers how to cook over a campfire, this week is one of the few times we offer a more traditional cooking and baking class. Just before campers arrived for the summer, we had stainless steel countertops installed in the kitchen, so the campers will get to enjoy the new updates as they cook!

Yoga is always a popular activity, and allows some campers to take a quick breath during the busy camp day to calm themselves. We are looking forward to all of the activities and fun times that this week will bring!

I wanted to take a moment this

week to reflect on one of the most quintessentially “camp” parts of camp: the songs. Even if you have never been to Camp T, you have most likely heard us at some point serenading around the lake (**mark your calendars for this year’s Lake Serenade, July 23rd!**), singing on our pier for our first or final closing campfire, or just singing some of our favorites passionately enough that they travel across the water! If you have attended or visited Camp T, you will remember singing around the campfire, at the amphitheatre, before meals, during Friday night serenade, during storms, and before bed every night. Song is inextricably linked to the Camp T experience.

In writing this article, I have conducted a quick survey of staff and campers to find out their favorite camp song. *Linger* was the top answer by a large margin. For any who need a refresher, the lyrics are as follows:

*Mmm I wanna linger, mmm a little longer,  
Mmm a little longer here with you.  
Mmm it’s such a perfect night, mmm it  
doesn’t seem quite right,  
Mmm that it should be my last with you.  
Mmm and come September, mmm and I’ll  
remember,  
Mmm our camping days and friendships  
true.  
Mmm and as the years go by, mmm I’ll  
think of you and sigh,  
Mmm this is goodnight and not goodbye.*



I suspect this might be a crowd favorite because it is shorter, easy to catch on to, and easy to remember. But it also could be because it simply expresses a sentiment felt deeply by most at camp: I have loved spending time with you, I am sad that it must end, and I will remember you fondly when it does. And if that doesn’t embody the Camp T experience, I don’t know what does!

Enjoy your weekend, and we will see you around the lake!

~Miss Meghan at Camp T



**Mowing  
Hedges  
Edging**

**Gutter Cleaning  
Spring, Summer,  
and Fall Cleanup**

**Rock / Mulch Installation**

**BRET TIETSORT  
269-580-2738**

## **Tri-County Bookkeepers & CPAs** tax accounting & payroll services since 1955

2525 Lake Pine Dr, Suite A - St Joseph, MI 49085

**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 and personal tax prep, tax planning, tax representation, full-service payroll, affordable timekeeping solutions, financial analysis, and pay-as-you-go Worker's 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.

**Tri-County Bookkeepers and CPAs  
2525 Lake Pine Dr., Suite A  
Saint Joseph, MI 49085**

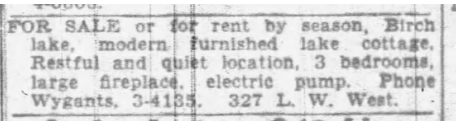
**269-926-2191**



# BIRCH LAKE HISTORY: THE HORVATH FAMILY

**Editor's Note:** This season in the Barker, we plan to feature different properties on the lake each week, with historical information about the families who have lived there, photos, and stories. If you would like to submit content about your home at the lake, we will gladly accept new submissions! Please send to [birchbarker1@gmail.com](mailto:birchbarker1@gmail.com)

*It was spring, 1943. My mother had seen an ad in the So. Bend Tribune about a cottage for sale at Birch Lake. It sounded great, so we got in the car, along with Aunt Helen and Uncle Ham, and drove up to the lake. It was very muddy, and the roads were all gravel and very rough. The hill by our cottage was not like it is today... Back then, it was very steep and bumpy. We drove down and got stuck in the parking area, but loved the cottage.*



**South Bend Tribune, May 19, 1943**  
*The newspaper ad that brought the Horvath family to Birch Lake.*

*We couldn't get in, but looked in the windows. When we got back to town, my mother called Mrs. Wygant and said we would buy it. She already had a buyer, but they did not have cash. We did! So we got it.*

*The cottage was completely furnished. It had wicker furniture and beautiful oval rag rugs. The outside was white with red window boxes. There were about 17 trees on our lot. That made it very dark inside, so my father had a lot of his friends come up one day and start cutting down trees. We still had lots of trees left, and over the years they got bigger and bigger. Inside the cottage we had a pump in the kitchen, and many oil lamps as the electricity went out all the time.*

*~Denny Weesner's recollection of her family (the Horvaths) buying their cottage at Birch Lake in 1943.*

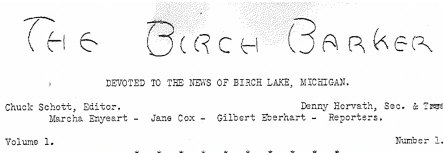


**The original cottage, "Pair-A-Dice"**

Denny was 7 years old when her parents, Frank and Rose Horvath, bought their cottage at Birch Lake. Every summer the family would move up to the lake. She recalls walking around the lake with other kids, playing cards, and swimming every day, even if it was cold. Every morning, her friend Gib Eberhart would pick her up in his fishing boat and they would ride around the lake, with Denny sitting on the bow of the boat "like a movie star." The neighbors had a raft with a high dive, and Denny says it "was a big deal when you finally got the courage to dive from the top."

Denny and other youth from the lake were the original founders of the Birch Barker. One rainy day in the summer of 1944, four kids were at Jane Cox's house complaining that they had nothing to do. Her father suggested they write a Birch Lake newspaper, and proposed the name "Birch Barker."

The kids went door to door collecting news from the lake, and then wrote the stories. Mr. Cox took their stories and had his secretary type them up and make copies at his office. The kids walked around the lake selling copies for \$0.10. And thus, the Birch Barker was born. They published 3 editions that first summer. The first editor was Chuck Schott, Denny was the Secretary and Treasurer, and Marsha Enyeart, Jane Cox, and Gib Eberhart were the reporters. You can view the full first edition of the Barker at [birchlakeyachtclub.com/archives](http://birchlakeyachtclub.com/archives).



**The first Birch Barker, 1944**

Over the next decade the family got a bigger boat and a sailboat. They also purchased the lot next door, which had previously been a county park known as "Forest Park." Denny remembers having friends coming to the lake all the time. The teens would go sailing, play in the lake on a surf board, and have hayrides, bonfires, and parties. She says she spent most of her days on the raft with "a pile of comic books, a coke, and a bottle of baby oil with iodine in it (for tanning)."



**Denny on their boat, the Denny II, c. 1950**

The youth from around the lake would walk to Williamsville to buy penny candy and ice cream at Lanky's (Breece's) General Store. Denny recalls Birch Lakeshore Drive (south side) ending at a fence just beyond Earl Troeger's house. There was a cow pasture and the kids would climb the fence and run through the field to keep away from the cows.



**Denny on the fishing boat in 1943**

Lanky also had the only telephone in the area. Once telephone service did come to the lake, the entire lake shared four party lines! Lanky's delivered ice to the residents of the lake, and would let the kids ride on the truck on top of the ice. He would chip off some ice and they would suck on the ice while riding around the lake. There was a second general store called "Tubby's" in Williamsville as well.

When she was around 15, Denny started dating Keith Weesner, whom she would later marry. Denny was a cheerleader and Keith was a football player. During the summers, they would come to swim at the lake in between two-a-day football practices. One of the friends who joined them at the lake in those days was Jim Bradfield, who was a good friend of Keith's in high school. Coincidentally, Keith's aunt and uncle, Bernie and Helen Weesner, also had a cottage at Birch Lake.

Frank's brother, Steve Horvath, was a frequent visitor to their cottage at the lake. He would come to the lake every Wednesday with a group of kids from the Y, and taught everyone to swim and to ski. In 1972 Steve and his wife Irene bought the cottage next door from Betty Bowers. Their grandson, Mark VanHuffel, is now the owner of that home.

The original Pair-A-Dice cottage was home to the Horvath-Weesner family every summer for nearly 55 years. In 1996 the original cottage was torn down and the current house was built. Today, Denny and her husband Jim Bradfield, and her daughter Ronni Eshleman and her husband Gus live at Birch Lake. Steve and Rose's great-great-grandchildren are 5th generation Birch Lakers and love to spend time at the lake.



**Frank and Denny on the boat, c. 1943**



**Frank and Rose Horvath at the BLYC in 1990. Frank's 80th Birthday.**



# BLYC 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEN'S GOLF OUTING

## FOUR MAN FLORIDA SCRAMBLE

Friday, July 25, 2025

Shotgun Start at **NOON**

**Sauganash Country Club**  
61270 Lutz Rd  
Three Rivers, MI

Dinner and awards at Sauganash  
Cocktail hour at 5pm  
Dinner and Awards at 6pm

REGISTRATION INCLUDES:  
Four Man Scramble  
Team Prizes<sup>+</sup> & Contests  
Cocktail Hour & Dinner

**Questions? Contact John Ball (john.ball0452@gmail.com or 574-535-3736)**

<sup>+</sup> Donations of door & team prizes are needed. If you have access to golf- or lake-related merchandise that could be donated, please contact John.

**ALL ENTRIES DUE BY JULY 14**

### 2025 BLYC Men's Golf Outing Foursome Registration

**\$75 per man\***

Please PRINT names:

Team Captain: \_\_\_\_\_ Player 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Player 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Player 4: \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions? Contact John Ball (john.ball0452@gmail.com or 574-535-3736)**

*Please make checks payable to BLYC and mail to:*

John Ball  
63690 Birch Rd.  
Vandalia, MI 49095

**\*Individual registrations available.**  
If you don't have a team, contact John  
and he can match you up!



- BOAT SALES AND SERVICE
- DOCK & LIFT SALES AND SERVICE
- HEATED INDOOR STORAGE
- SHRINK WRAPPING
- MARINE ESSENTIALS & MORE
- FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

**269-444-LUNA LUNAMARINE.COM**





# BARKER KIDS OF THE WEEK



*The Henderson and Wozny kids enjoying a day of tubing on Birch Lake.*

Want your kid to be a Barker kid of the week?  
Send your photos to [birchbarker1@gmail.com](mailto:birchbarker1@gmail.com)



*Claudia Phipps, North Shore, and grandkids Finley, Foster, Taylor, Macey, Bexley, Parker, and Layla enjoy a hug moment!*



*Taylor Gableman, granddaughter of Dennis and Claudia Phipps, and Edwardsburg High School Senior Class President instructs the graduates to turn their tassels!*



*Sailor and Kayson Ball at Papa's and Yai Yai's for Father's Day*



*The Dickeys (east shore) had a houseful for Father's Day weekend. Upper left: Grandkids and dads eating at Jaywalkers. Middle left: Johnny Dickey giving brother-in-law Mike Johnson and nephew Luke Johnson a ride in his fishing boat. Lower left: Abby Williams, Elliott Johnson, grandkids with Johnny Dickey eating scorpion suckers. Upper right: Celebrating Father's Day at the Dickey home. Lower right: Dickey, Meneghin, and Johnson families.*



Just down the road!

Daily food specials, music, cold beer, and fun!

**ZIMMY'S TAVERN**

ESTABLISHED 1946

41° 47' 09.5"N 85° 49' 20.8"W

**ZIMMYVILLE, MI**

69608 Sunset Blvd | Zimmyville (Union) Michigan

269-641-5317

[zimmystavern.com](http://zimmystavern.com)

**Carryout available**

Tuesday through Sunday: Regular hours 11am to midnight  
Saturday and Sunday Breakfast, 9am to noon  
Closed Mondays

# ROY'S GREENHOUSE

16451 M-60 | Vandalia

Open Daily: 9am - 6pm

Come out and see us for all your gardening needs.  
We have vegetables, flowers, trees, and shrubs.



# Bark & Bubbles

PET GROOMING

269-845-0074

15809 M60,  
Vandalia, MI 49095

Online booking  
[barkandbubbles.groomore.com](http://barkandbubbles.groomore.com)

Open Monday-Friday 7:30-4

Saturday 8-4

Closed every other Monday  
& Saturday



GET NOTICED.  
GET BUSINESS.



**PRINTING, MARKETING &  
SIGN SERVICES**

CUSTOM SOLUTIONS & DESIGNS

**alphagraphics®**  
ELKHART

\$499  
Lip Filler

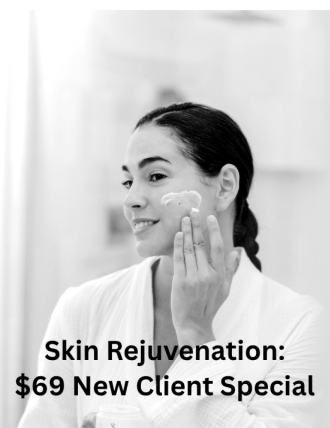


Laser Hair  
Removal Starting  
at \$50/month

**dermani  
MEDSPA**

605 E University Dr  
Granger, IN 46530  
574-521-1355

[dermanimedspa.com/granger](http://dermanimedspa.com/granger)



Skin Rejuvenation:  
\$69 New Client Special

**Botox®  
Membership**  
\$45/mo

STEP INTO LUXURY

**Barletta**  
B O A T S



**WAKE  
SIDE**  
MARINE

574-264-2874 [WakeSideMarine.com](http://WakeSideMarine.com) Elkhart, IN

**Prime Property Care**

**Barge Services  
Dock Removal / Install  
Dock / Hoist Sales**

61272 Dailey Rd  
Cassopolis, MI 49031  
269-591-9848

[primepropertycarellc@yahoo.com](mailto:primepropertycarellc@yahoo.com)



# SUMMER RECIPES: CHICKPEA SALAD

Looking for a salad with a light and refreshing taste that's still big on flavor? Enter: Chickpea Salad with Smashed Cucumbers. This veggie-packed dish is loaded with crunchy textures and mouth-watering flavors, making it a perfect healthy side dish or easy summer salad you can enjoy all year long.

**Ingredients:**

- 12 oz. Persian Cucumbers
- Kosher salt and pepper
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon capers, drained and roughly chopped
- ¼ teaspoon dried oregano
- ½ small red onion, finely chopped
- 1 jalapeño, seeded and finely chopped
- 15 oz. can chickpeas, rinsed
- 12 oz grape or cherry tomatoes, halved or sliced
- ½ cup flat leaf parsley, chopped
- Crumbled feta cheese

**Instructions:**

1. With side of chef's knife, bash cucumbers slightly to crush, halve lengthwise, then cut each into 4 to 6 chunks. Transfer cucumbers to bowl and toss with 2 teaspoons of salt. Let sit 10 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, whisk together lemon juice and honey to dissolve. Whisk in oil, capers, oregano, and ¼ teaspoon each of salt and pepper. Add onion, jalapeño, and chickpeas and toss to combine. Let sit at least 10 minutes.
3. Transfer cucumbers to colander and rinse, then shake off as much water as possible. Add to bowl with dressing, along with tomatoes and parsley, and toss to combine. Serve topped with feta if desired.



*Recipe and photo credit  
to Goodhousekeeping.com*

Packed with irresistible veggies like red onion, crunchy cucumbers and sweet cherry tomatoes, this invigorating salad truly has it all. Bits of jalapeño give an added spice, while the herb and lemon dressing brings it all together. We recommend letting all your delicious veggies marinate in the dressing for at least 10 minutes, but no stress if you give it more time! The longer everything sits, the more the complex, bright flavors all develop together. If you think salads won't fill you up, allow us to introduce our protein star: chickpeas. They not only add to the flavor, but are also a great source of protein and fiber, making this salad tasty, satisfying and nutritious.

# Need an affordable Medicare plan that's in step with your life?

## I can help!

Choosing the right Medicare coverage can be confusing.

I can help you find a Medicare plan that's right for you and your budget.



**Ashly Connaughton**  
Licensed Insurance Agent

**(269) 312-1410**

[awelch@HealthMarkets.com](mailto:awelch@HealthMarkets.com)  
[HealthMarkets.com/awelch](https://HealthMarkets.com/awelch)



**health  
markets®**

HealthMarkets Insurance Agency, Inc. is licensed as an insurance agency nationwide except in MA. Not all agents are licensed to sell all products. Service and product availability varies by state. Sales agents may be compensated based on enrollment. No obligation to enroll. ©2024 HealthMarkets 50124a-HM-0824

# CLASSIFIEDS

## SAILBOATS

**Sad Sunfish Seeking Sailors!** Our boat pines to go racing on Sundays. Please borrow the boat (rigged and ready)! It's a great way to "kick the tires" at no expense. Contact the Kings at 574-299-0705 and leave a message. **UPDATE:** I was mobbed by sailors at the Commodore's Cocktail wanting to race our Sunfish on Sundays. First guy wins, watch for 21351 on a lake near you. **Vintage Sunfish:**



*Sad Sunfish*

Tammy Hanstine has a 1990-vintage AMF Sunfish previously owned and raced by Tom Howard on Birch Lake for sale. Brand new sail (still in plastic), new tiller and extension, 3 daggerboards, 2 complete mast/boom set-ups with sails, 2 rudder assemblies, plus misc. extra parts. Everything is in good to great shape. Make an offer (minimum \$500) and take it all (or will sell parts individually).

Come see on the south side; contact Tammy at [tkhanstine@yahoo.com](mailto:tkhanstine@yahoo.com)

## FOR SALE

**Pier Bumper**, \$20. 86 inches long, fits 4" rail. Text Vic at 574-220-0407



**2017 22-foot South Bay Pontoon.** 220 CR series. 70 hp Yamaha motor four stroke. automatic Bimini. Also for sale 2022 Shore Station boat lift. Both in excellent condition.

Call Claudia at 574-596-2154.



## FOUND

This short paddle washed up on Fallon's shore last week. Come by anytime to reclaim it. It will be at the end of our dock, wind permitting.



Found: a **maroon boat welcome mat** floating in water near the west shore. Call Niezgodski's to claim. 269-476-9317.



Classified Ads in the Barker are free to current BLYC members. The cost is \$5 per week for non members. Send your ad to [birchbarker1@gmail.com](mailto:birchbarker1@gmail.com) Deadline is Tuesday noon for the upcoming weekend's Barker.

## SERVICES

I do **sewing and mending** at fair prices – zippers, hemming, small alterations. Call Kathy at 269-476-9317.

**Sourdough Baking Class:** Have you ever wanted to learn to make sourdough bread, but found the whole process intimidating? Come to the west side for a complete class on making sourdough bread. I will walk you through each step and finish with a loaf of homemade sourdough bread to sample. Bring a container to take home sourdough starter to begin making delicious sourdough bread at home!



**When:** Friday, July 11 at 10am  
**Where:** 62769 Birch Lakeview Drive (west side, Scofield cottage)  
**RSVP:** text 574-210-5584. Text any questions to the same number!

## WANTED

**Wanted to Buy:** Bill and Sherry Holleman are looking to get back on to Birch Lake part-time or full-time. If you are thinking about selling, please email Sherry at [dakotalynn01@aol.com](mailto:dakotalynn01@aol.com).

**Save your plastic for camp!** We need plastic containers with lids (like cottage cheese, cool whip, margarine, etc.). We are also in need of plastic grocery bags. You can drop off items at Amber's house on the east side or the Welcome Center at Camp.

**Packing Materials:** If you have any boxes, newspaper, bubble wrap, etc. that you want to get rid of please drop them off at 14719 Kiloqua Woods Ln. on the front porch. Thank you! ~Claudia and Dennis Phipps

**1st Source Bank**

1stsource.com | Member FDIC

**Straight Talk. Sound Advice.**

**1st Source 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.



THK LAW, LLP

Estate Planning  
Business Counsel  
Elder Law  
Litigation

Cassopolis | South Bend | Elkhart  
269.445.1818

[thklaw.com](http://thklaw.com)



# EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) locations on Birch Lake

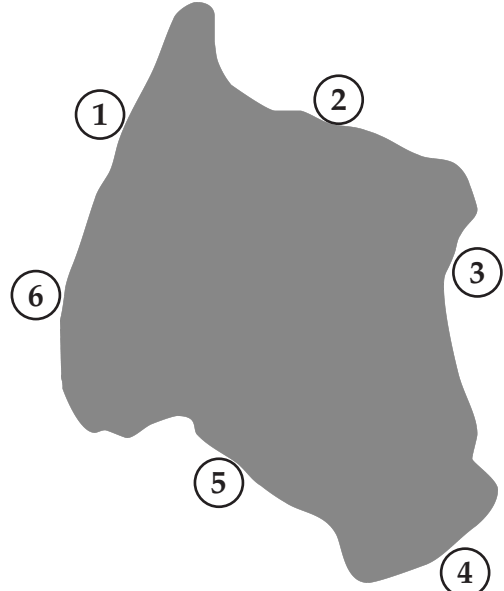
There are six (6) automated external defibrillator units (AEDs) on Birch Lake. The boxes that contain these devices are located at the following locations:

1. **West Shore:** Sheffieck Home  
62875 Birch Lakeview Drive
2. **North Shore:** Smitley Home  
14859 Birch Northshore Drive
3. **East Shore:** Vitale Home  
63174 Birch Road
4. **Southeast Shore:** Troeger Home  
63696 Birch Road
5. **South Shore:** Crawford Home  
15046 Birch Lakeshore Drive
6. **Southwest Shore:** DeYoung Home  
63255 Storey Hill Street

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



## AED Locations



## IN AN EMERGENCY

1. **CALL 911** and report the emergency and the patient's location
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 directions as they are given.
4. Continue to follow the instructions, and **stay with the patient until emergency personnel arrive.**

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

## O'Donnell's Docks LLC

A one stop shop for all your waterfront needs

### SPRING SPECIALS

**33% off 4'x10' in-stock HD  
anodized aluminum dock sections**  
Retail \$891 - SALE PRICE \$596

**20% off in-stock boat lifts**  
**NEVER UNDERSOLD!**

We have replacement boat lift covers  
We clean lift covers and repair most major lift brands

**Serving you for OVER 30 YEARS!**

for online quote, go to   
**[www.odonnellsdocks.com](http://www.odonnellsdocks.com)**



12097 M-60  
Jones, MI

269-244-1446

[info@odonnellsdocks.com](mailto:info@odonnellsdocks.com)

Authorized Dealer for:

**4Ever Aluminum**  
PRODUCTS INC.

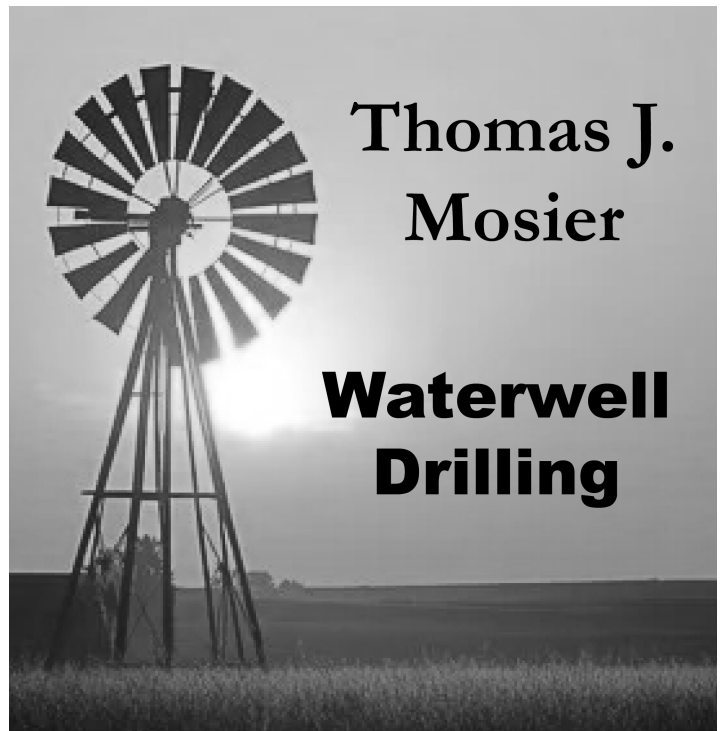
**CRAFTLANDER**

**lifttech** Marine

**SHOREMASTER**

**HEWITT**  
DOCKS - LIFTS - PONTON LEGS

**POLYDOCK**  
PRODUCTS



**Thomas J.  
Mosier**

**Waterwell  
Drilling**

**5" Water Wells**

**Repair and Service  
Most Water Pumps**

**M-60 E, Cassopolis**

**Office: 269-445-3246**

**Cell: 269-580-3246**

PUZZLE PAGE

Extreme Wordsearch

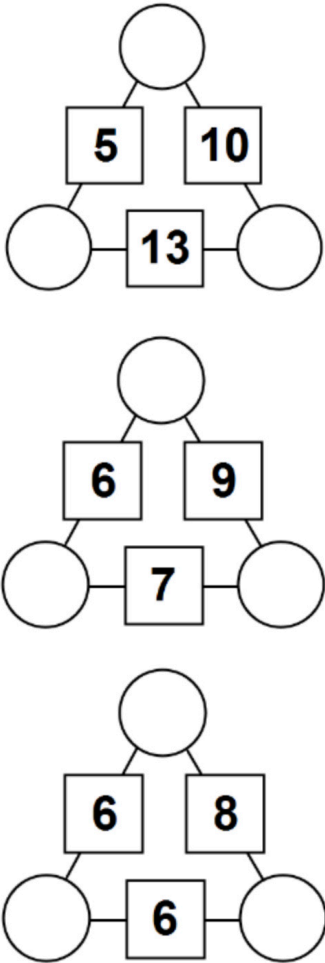
LEFUWRWCSCRLYJKTBFUYYQFOPAUIDKWRTBM  
KZUJTLCIBCFYOYFMXPXNKOKCIBNDOKTUYFY  
DZXBFBFAFNKKJTIRTGJSRDERINNOYHPRIVY  
EZRPLNSHIGXDVAGQSQEMVEQOTJDOMINOIP  
AHBMULTIPLIEDAIONMCBQFZYURRNHBYHVUJ  
JELLEZAGQRCRLCRTLDJRRICLAUODPAQGGJR  
GTLTFGCFVGGQAHYHOOAIIQNKALLRNJHBIWV  
SRAYPLRSBRCVRTSISGVHGNSEALXIJHICI  
YPXJODTFXTSGLEWEXESJSINUONITICKCE  
YZNYSECSIBGEDDURRQXNYRRGTOQONIVWOR  
UWYBATCCRPWLWSAENFTTTBNBTVQXIGPITF  
QIXMWIEMKULBBTXIHLTDIIZBYGMZETIUGN  
GUIASDHPREWCEXALPXPFLMIMSBCTRCIGEF  
ONJXGEXEFRRQXTCVVIBUAIZHNEHIEWCDKZ  
GENBYRHHAAFEBIJKPSNSCYBBWNYCUNGLDG  
KMXMHRRIIMTTOSQHEWPLXISQBWDDQNDJMWXA  
OODMCESLAONHKIEUIFRZSCIAVIYSMHUQHB  
MSSEZTQLRWEHEVVARLLXYCKNBHYPVTROT  
ZOMSENIYTTSWIRGENLFFHLRYDGSXHFHGXW  
HBGMJINJISVSGIPEDRKIPLDQVIDEOTAPED  
DIUEWOASAQHWMZVEJVEHRYPHYWVDHNUWCZ  
ZRKRCWGVLLQKPDOSYCODMKITBSDGDMREIBKF  
MFCIFURFKAAIBAIXYCLEMQLXUXDZSLZJHR  
TPMZCIOCULMNEDYJXKIHNALEMBDWSISEHI  
RNQEONOIYIQILLCOQRXHTJIHFKPOVWDOTSV  
ITIDNYUNNAXBIYRGYUDEEZAETOPNFDDTB  
TKJICTGTHCFDSENTNVIABNITGAXREALWGO  
EKTORDURBXETCBEPOINRJYIRRDUEHEZBPJS  
QFDZEIQARRIUJIFALFDMGHQKAUEXZNZTDS  
VWFXTBYCPCCTRRHWFVFNKBNJCLUWNUOQ  
CTXYEPHEKAQAZAKKTIUDRHCLQPGPSACINT  
HVSWFLPPNSVOPARANORMALWRSEDAHTHCSI

- ADDITIONALLY  
ARMED  
BABOON  
BENDING  
BOSS  
CIDER  
CITRON  
CONCRETE  
CURTAINED  
DEVISER  
DOMINO  
DUCT  
EQUALLING  
FORECLOSED  
GALACTIC  
GAZELLE  
HADES  
HILLY  
HURL  
IMPALING  
INTERRED  
JOYSTICK  
KINETIC  
LEASE
- MARTIAL  
MESMERIZED  
MULTIPLIED  
NEGOTIATOR  
OBTAIN  
ORGAN  
PARANORMAL  
PEEVISH  
PHYSICALITY  
PRIVY  
REFRIGERATE  
RIBOSOME  
RILE  
SINNER  
SITE  
SLEDGEHAMMER  
STEAMING  
STEPFATHER  
TALON  
TICK  
TRACE  
TRITE  
VARIETY  
VIDEOTAPED

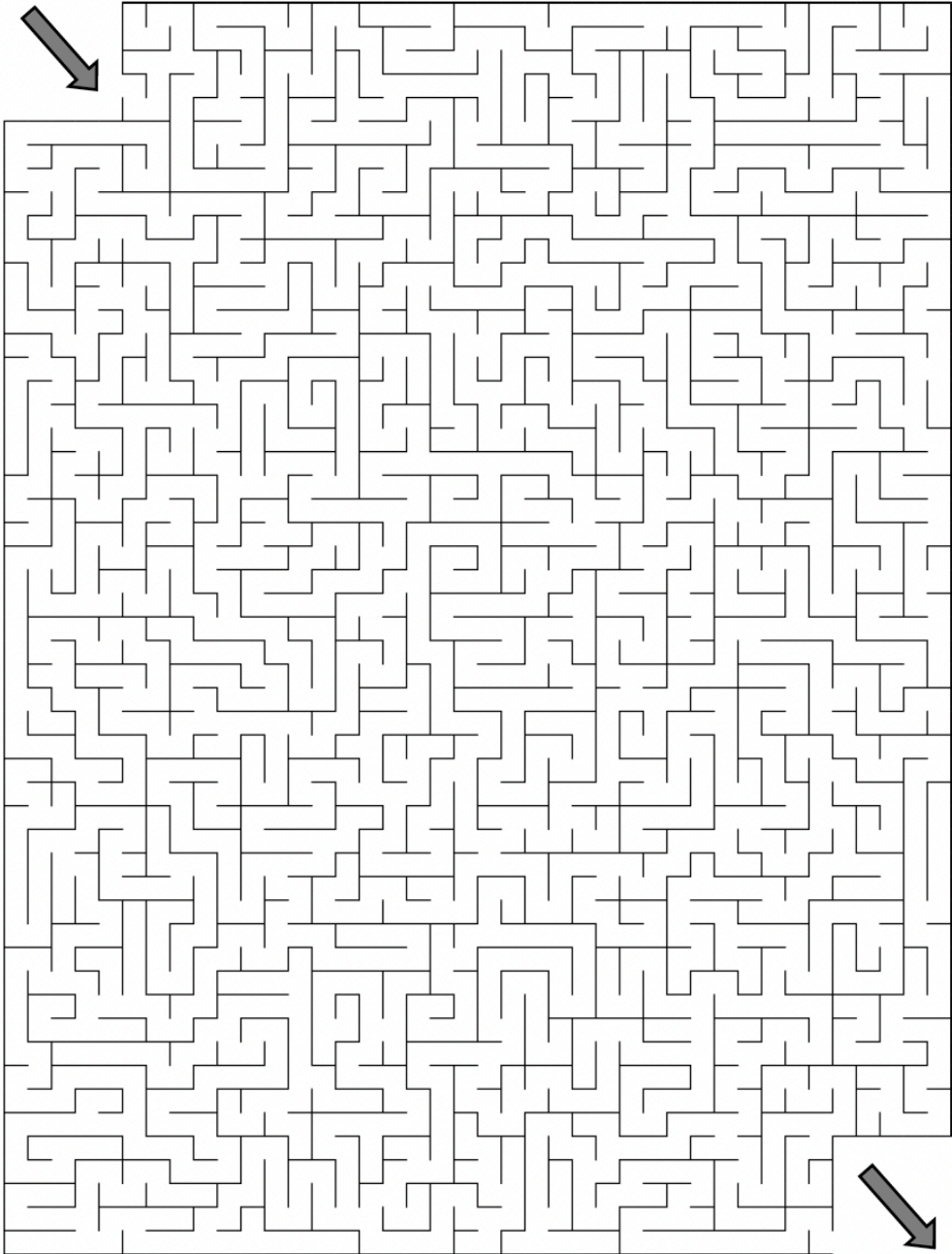
Scan for  
Solutions



Arithmagons



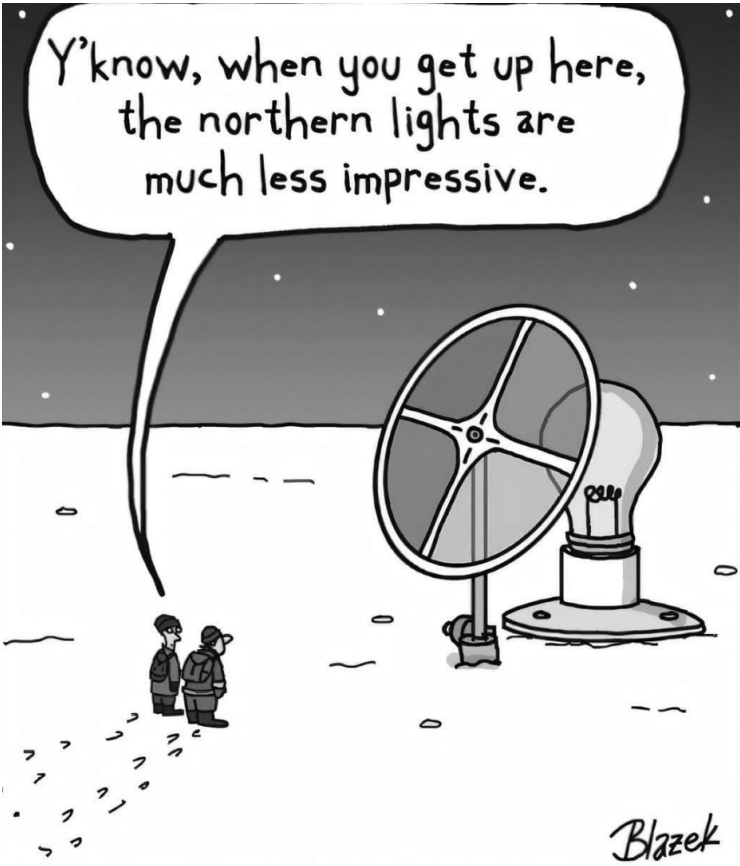
Classic Maze



The aim of an arithmagon is to work out which numbers go in the empty circles. The numbers in the square boxes are made by adding together the numbers in the circles either side. For example, if the number in the square box was 10 you could try 6 and 4, but the numbers must also add up on the other edges, making this more difficult than it first appears.



BARKER FUNNIES



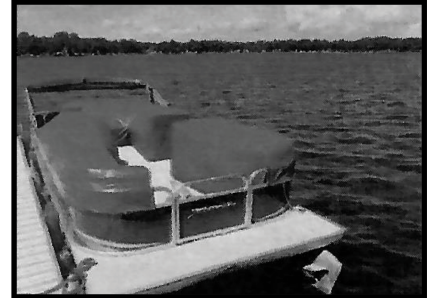


# D & M CANVAS

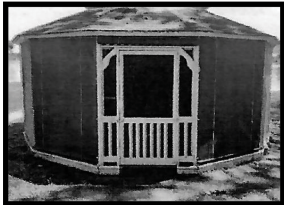
**O: 269.244.8020 | C: 269.506.3276**

**PROTECT YOUR PORCH WITH**

## *Sunbrella Roll Curtains*



### **CUSTOM CANVAS COVERINGS**



Sunbrella roll curtains  
outdoor furniture covers  
boat covers  
pontoon covers



**12291 BIDELMAN RD. | THREE RIVERS, MI 49093**



# BASTION

EXCELLENCE IN HOME MAINTENANCE

**YOUR ONE CALL SOLUTION TO MEET YOUR HOME'S YEARLY  
MAINTENANCE, SAFETY, AND COMFORT NEEDS.**

Tired of doing home maintenance, no time to do it, or just  
lacking the skills to do it?  
Let our certified crews *do it all for you.*

To schedule a home visit and discuss your options,  
call Jim at 574-381-0410, or email  
[jim@bastionhomemaintenance.com](mailto:jim@bastionhomemaintenance.com)

Want to know more about our services? Please visit our website  
at [BastionHomeMaintenance.com](http://BastionHomeMaintenance.com)

**Jim Gills**

Director of Sales

574-381-0410

[jim@bastionhomemaintenance.com](mailto:jim@bastionhomemaintenance.com)





# BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB DUES

Support the BLYC and the entire Birch Lake Community by becoming a member!

The Birch Lake Yacht Club (BLYC) is a 501(c)(7) non profit organization



**What your BLYC dues and donations support:**

- Monitoring water quality, which helps keep Birch Lake clean, and improves our ability to respond swiftly to treat and eradicate invasive species.
- Maintaining the Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) around the lake.
- Producing and distributing the printed Birch Barker every week in the summer (and online every month in the off season).
- Publication of a biennial Directory.
- Fundraising for, planning and carrying out the 4th of July Fireworks show.
- Providing a forum and means for handling lake-wide concerns with local governmental issues.
- Helping to fund and host a variety of community-building activities.

BLYC dues are NOT used to purchase alcohol for events. All events sponsored by the Yacht Club are organized by volunteers. In 2024, the BLYC Board of Directors voted to make all events revenue-neutral and to not spend any Yacht Club funds on alcoholic beverages.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ BLYC member dues (\$50 per year)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Associate member dues (\$10 per year) (non lake residents)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Water Quality donations

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Fireworks fund

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Homeowners Association (\$10 per year)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Sailing Fees (\$15 per year)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other Donations (please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL CONTRIBUTION

Make checks payable to:  
BLYC  
and mail to: Deb Spratt, Treasurer  
18100 Farmington Hills Dr  
South Bend, IN 46637

or pay online at  
store.birchlakeyachtclub.com

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_

## LAKE EFFECT MARINA

LakeEffectMarina.com

269-641-2154

Offering a variety of services from pick-up and delivery, parts, repair services, winterization, shrink wrap at our place, inside or outside storage, spring fire and detailing.

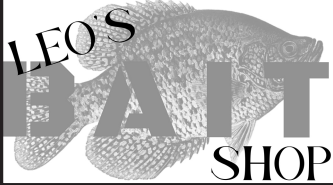
13815 US Hwy 12  
Union, MI 49130

*Your Local Florist*  
**Village Floral**  
*Weddings, Events & so much more*

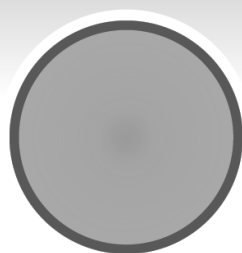
269.445.2393

www.villagefloralcassopolis.com

150 South Broadway St. Cassopolis MI 49031



The bait shop is located behind Village Floral.



**APOLLOMARINE.net**

**We rent  
Pontoon Boats!**

**We service all  
area lakes!**



**South side  
of Gravel Lake  
15355 96<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Lawton, MI 49065  
269-423-6011  
1-888-996-BOAT**

**SALES • SERVICE • STORAGE**

**LAKE LIFE**  
REALTY



*Get a FREE market analysis!  
Contact Paul DeLano:  
**269-445-8877**  
[paul@thelakelife.com](mailto: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](mailto:paul@thelakelife.com)**