

BIRCH *Barker*

vol. 78 issue 2

Weekend of
May 30
2026

The official publication of the Birch Lake Yacht Club

BirchLakeYachtClub.com



The DeYoung (west shore) Grandkids taking a Dilly-Bar Break. Photo Credit to Buzz Rasmussen

2026 BIRCH LAKE CALENDAR

May

30 - Commodore / VC Party

June

6 - Trivia Night
10 - Card / Game Night
13 - Spaghetti Dinner
27 - BLYC Board Meeting, 9am
27 - Kidz Regatta

July

3 - Port-a-Pit Fundraiser
4 - Boat Parade, 3pm
4 - Fireworks
4-6 - Fourth of July Regatta
5 - Pancake Breakfast, 8:30-11am
15 - Card / Game Night
24 - Ladies Golf Outing

August

1 - BLYC Board Meeting
1 - Corn and Sausage Roast
22 - BLYC Board Meeting, 9am
22 - Homeowner's Assoc., 10am

2026 BLYC Directors

Officers

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

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Liz Cover (E)
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Bernie Garceau (E)
Amber Holleman (E)
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Rick Russwurm (N)
Ray Scholes (S)
Scott Troeger (E)
Phil Vitale (E)
Sandy Vitale (E)
Dan Waxman (E)
Sue Williams (S)

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

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

It was exciting to read Bernie's article last week about the generosity of Keith and Julia Remington and Culver's. They have offered a matching grant for the first \$5,000 raised towards a grand fireworks show for America's 250th birthday - so great that it will still be remembered on America's 275th! Our own kids have many great memories of watching fireworks shows while toasting marshmallows for s'mores, over a campfire with neighbors at the Lazy Lodge beach. Once they were full of sugar, the kids would trace out their names with sparklers in the gathering darkness, and then shoot off some bottle rockets. One year we bought some bigger rockets, which were a lot of fun until one made a sudden U-turn and grazed Grandpa Hornbeck's head. After that, we let the professionals handle all of the fireworks. So please go online right now, donate to fireworks, and let's quickly match the Remington's and Culver's generous offer!

This year's Memorial Day weekend had its share of rain, but less than some I can remember. The BLYC Board held its first meeting of 2026 in the newly cleaned clubhouse with the newly repaired deck, and also a newly repaired men's urinal (ahem), courtesy of our Vice Commodore. Thank you, Ron. When I arrived early for the board meeting, I found

that some wonderful friends had surprised me by concealing the Christian cross in the liquor closet door with a sturdy white wooden cover. I had put that on my wish list last fall, during the small group meetings with Directors. Not that I am against the cross, far from it, but was against the context in which it was placed, which was done many years ago in a joking manner. The Bible verse, for anyone interested, is Galatians 6:7. Thank you, wonderful friends!

Also at the meeting, Blair Garceau and Rick Russwurm reported on efforts to keep data centers away from our area's lakes and good farmland. Despite the threat, there are many positive developments, so please watch for their reports. On a happy note, a friendly Amish couple and their little girl trotted their buggy past our house last week, and waved. This was a first for us, and we welcome them to our area.

The Niezgodskis and Frews look forward to welcoming everyone to the grand opening of clubhouse events, i.e., the Commodore / Vice Commodore Party. It's next Saturday, May 30 at 5:00 p.m. You will have to opportunity to donate to stocking the bar for the season, enjoy a potluck light dinner, great music, and even greater company! Last names A --M please bring an appetizer; N--Z please bring a dessert; and everyone please wear your red, white and/or blue to celebrate this 250th year of America!

This season's BLYC events will be following fast and furious, with Trivia Night bringing out our best on *continued on the next page...*



The 2026 Birch Barker is
generously sponsored by Culver's.
See ad on page 3

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

Email items to birchbarker1@gmail.com.

For editorial concerns, contact editor Amber Holleman at birchbarker1@gmail.com or 574-315-0227.

For delivery concerns, contact Ron Niezgodski at birchbass1@gmail.com or 269-476-9317.

For all other BLYC matters, contact Comm. Steve Frew at stephenbfrew@gmail.com or 239-315-1177.

NEW DEADLINE for submissions is 11AM on the **MONDAY** of the week before publication.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, June 6; and then the return of the Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, June 13; with many more great events to follow.

Stay safe, and here we go with a great year! Day weekend!
~ Commodore Steve Frew

Book Club

The first book club meeting of 2026 will be on Tuesday, June 23, hosted by Ronni Eshleman. The book will be *Theo of Golden*. Any questions, or if you'd like to join in the fun, contact Jackie Frew: seeitall8@gmail.com or call/text 708-285-2999.



Ladies Weekly Golf

This year we tee off on Thursday 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).

Commodore / Vice Commodore Party Note

Join us at 5pm on Saturday, May 30th for our annual Commodore / Vice Commodore Party at the Yacht Club. Bring an appetizer (last names A-M) or a dessert (last names N-Z). We also invite you to help stock the bar for the season! Suggested donations: Domestic Beer (Bud, Bud Lite, Miller Lite, Coors Light), Boxed Wine (White Zin, Chardonnay), and Mixers (Diet Sprite, Diet Coke, Diet 7 Up, Coke, 7 Up).

COMMODORE— VICE COMMODORE Party!

SATURDAY, MAY 30 @ 5:00 PM

★ Please wear red, white, and/or blue ★
as we open the clubhouse for America's 250th year!

Please Bring a Dish to Share

★ A-M: Appetizer
★ N-Z: Dessert

★ Contributions to ★
*help stock the bar
are welcome!*

Domestic Beer | Boxed Wine | Mixers

See you all there!

TRIVIA NIGHT

Grab your FRIENDS NEIGHBORS FAMILY? and come to

at the BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB!

Previous Trivia Nights have been very popular – so don't miss out on the fun! You can either form your own team or just come individually and we'll get you on a team. Teams can be anywhere from one to eight people.

<p style="font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">WHEN:</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">DOORS OPEN AT 6:30</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; text-align: center;">TRIVIA BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 7PM!</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">WHERE:</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">BRING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your own drinks • A dish to share (either an appetizer or dessert) • Paper and pen • Your wallet (for 50/50 raffle and to buy mulligans – good for free answers!)
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BLAIR GARCEAU
(269-475-9862)

QUESTIONS?

contact

SUE WILLIAMS
(269-298-2839)

Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, June 13

→ 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm ←

Join us for a delicious evening at the
Birch Lake Yacht Club

Enjoy spaghetti with choice of homemade meat sauce, alfredo sauce, or marinara sauce (limited)
Salad, bread, dessert, and lemonade or iced tea

Bring your family, friends, and appetite for a fun community dinner night.

No tickets needed.
Pay at the door:

👤 Adults \$15.00

👨‍👩‍👧 Children 10 and under \$10.00

Join us for a delicious Nelson's Port-A-Pit fundraiser and treat yourself to some amazing BBQ while supporting a great cause!

Preorders are now open for mouthwatering options including:

	1/2 CHICKEN	\$10.00
	PORK CHOPS	\$10.00
	RIBS	\$11.00
	POTATOES	\$4.00

📅 All orders will be available for convenient pickup at the Waxman's house (East Side)

🕒 on Friday, July 3, 2026, between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM.

SCAN TO PLACE YOUR ORDER!

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https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/nelsons-port-a-pit-fundraiser

★ Please note that this is a preorder-only event, so be sure to secure your meal in advance! ★

ODDS AND ENDS

NEW BARKER DEADLINE

Our printer has notified us that we need to send in the final version of the Barker by Monday at noon in order to have it ready for pickup at the same time we've picked up in the past. As a result, **the new deadline for Barker submissions is 11am on Mondays.** Contributions can be emailed to

birchbarker1@gmail.com.

THANK YOU to all of our 2026 Barker advertisers! Please check them all out on the BLYC website and support our advertisers. The Birch Barker is delivered **free** to all Birch Lake residents because the advertising revenue covers all of the printing costs, website hosting, and our new membership platform. Publication and distribution is all managed by volunteers.



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

To buy an ad or for more info, contact Amber at birchbarker1@gmail.com or 574-315-0227. Advertising rates are posted at

birchlakeyachtclub.com/advertise

Congratulations!

William Edward Lang was born on May 24, 2026 at 4:45pm, 8lb 6oz, 20.5 inches. Proud parents are Brian and Kayla Lang, who met when they were students at Valparaiso University. William is the first grandchild of Doug and Sue Currier (east shore).



Birch Lake Floating Keychains 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.



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.

**Birch Lake Yacht Club
FIREWORKS FUND**
Our goal for 2026 is \$26,000
Contribute now at
<https://tinyurl.com/BLYCfireworks>



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.



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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.

NEW in 2026!

We are excited to introduce a new membership platform this year for BLYC memberships! This platform – called JoinIt – allows us to take online membership payments, collect donations, and take payments for events like the Spring or Fall Dinner. JoinIt also gives us an online directory that is only accessible to current BLYC members. It's entirely up to you what information you want to put into the directory to be shared with other BLYC members.




Scan here to go to Join It

When you get to the JoinIt page, **make sure to click the blue "JOIN" button under the membership type you're interested in.** Don't click log in at the top right of the page, because you won't be in the system if you haven't joined yet.

You can also make donations to the BLYC online. We are using a platform for donations called Zeffy that allows nonprofits to accept payments with no fees, but they automatically select a donation to Zeffy on the checkout screen. If you choose to pay online with the QR code, **you can avoid paying any credit card fees by choosing "other" from the dropdown menu and entering \$0 in the box.**

You can also mail in a paper form:

<p>Membership Fees</p> <p>\$ _____ BLYC member dues (\$50 per year)</p> <p>\$ _____ Associate member dues (\$15 per year) (non lake residents)</p> <p>\$ _____ Homeowners Association (\$10 per year)</p> <p>\$ _____ Sailing Fees (\$15 per year)</p> <p>\$ _____ Water Quality donations</p> <p>Donations</p> <p>\$ _____ General Fund</p> <p>\$ _____ AED Fund</p> <p>\$ _____ Barker Donations</p> <p>\$ _____ Building Fund</p> <p>\$ _____ Fireworks Fund</p> <p>\$ _____ Safety Fund</p> <p>\$ _____ Water Quality / Milfoil Program</p> <p>\$ _____ Other Donations (please specify: _____)</p> <p>\$ _____ TOTAL CONTRIBUTION</p>	<p>Make checks payable to: BLYC and mail to: Deb Spratt, Treasurer 18100 Farmington Hills Dr South Bend, IN 46637</p>
	<p>or pay online at https://app.joinit.com/o/blyc/</p> 
	<p>Name _____</p> <p>Lake Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>Email _____</p>



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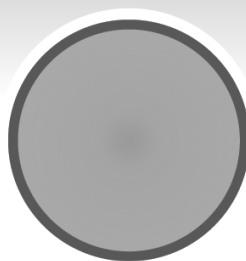
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Dan Waxman (E) 317-506-1680
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patrick.welch2017@gmail.com
Water Quality Committee Chair

Sue Williams (S) 269-476-8886
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2026 BIRCH LAKE DIRECTORY

Every two years, we publish a new Birch Lake Directory. In 2026, BLYC members will also have access to the online directory through Join It, our new online member portal.

If you would like to update the information that is published in the printed directory, you can submit the new information by scanning the QR code (this is the preferred method to update!).



or by mailing the printed form to:

Amber Holleman
63250 Birch Rd
Vandalia, MI 49095

Please indicate on the form which information you consent to being shared in the printed and online directories.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The JoinIt online directory is ONLY available to current, paid, BLYC members.

If you do not submit an update by **June 30, 2026**, the printed directory will contain the same information that was in the 2024 printed directory. The online directory will contain ONLY name, lake address, and cottage number.

If you have questions about the directory or the information to be shared, please email birchbarker1@gmail.com

BLYC 2026 Directory Update

Cottage number: _____ Lake Address: _____

Last name(s): _____

First name(s): _____

Off lake address (if applicable): _____

Phone #1 _____ Name for this phone # _____

Phone #2 _____ Name for this phone # _____

Email address(es) _____

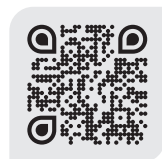
Children's names: _____

Consent to Share Information in the Directory

	Printed Directory	Online Directory
You may share ALL of the information above	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
You may share NONE of the information except name, lake address, and cottage number	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
You may share my / our phone number(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
You may share my / our email address(es)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
You may share my / our off-lake address	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
You may share my / our children's names	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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WATER QUALITY REPORT: A LITTLE HISTORY

We've got a throwback water quality article for you this week. This was published in the Birch Barker nearly 20 years ago, on August 17, 2006, contributed by Gertie Temple, who was instrumental in helping Birch Lake set the standard for clean water. We have come a LONG way since 1978!

BIRCH LAKE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM August 17, 2006 Report to Residents from the BLYC Water Quality Committee

BIRCH LAKE AQUATIC PLANT HISTORY

1978. The near shore waters of Birch Lake were surveyed for aquatic plant growth.

- Plants were observed out to 6 foot depths in some areas.
- There was a noticeable lack of plants compared to other lakes in the study.

Source: *Birch Lake Watershed Analysis Study*

1986. The entire shoreline was surveyed for aquatic plant growth to evaluate the impact that near shore septic systems were having on water quality.

- Green algae growth indicated excessive nutrient loading from septic seepage.
- High bacteria levels indicated that septic contamination was seeping into the lake.
- Elevated open water phosphorus levels and excessive plant growth was an indication of nutrient contamination seeping into the lake from septic and/or run off from phosphorus in lawn fertilizers.

Source: *Tony Groves, Progressive Architects/Engineers/Planners Lake Management Report for Birch Lake*

1985-1994. BLYC Commodores give special help to Birch Lake by supporting the Water Quality Committee that assisted the Health Department in eliminating contamination from septic systems that were contributing bacteria and/or phosphorus to the lake.

The program could not have been completed without concern, cooperation, and efforts of the Yacht Club and residents who organized, collected information and persevered. "There within lies the value. There within the reason why. Birch Lake is so special."

1995. If there was a source of fecal waste entering the lake you would see a rise in the bacterial count. You would also see a rise in plant and green algae growth.

- Birch Lake was free of bacteriological contamination.
- There was a *noticeable lack of a plant and green algae problem.*

Water quality is reduced when there is an abundance of green algae suspended in the water. Compared to other lakes, Birch Lake had by far the best water clarity. More astonishing was the fact that it still retained clarity into late August. Most lakes lose clarity due to warmer water and favorable environment for green algae growth.

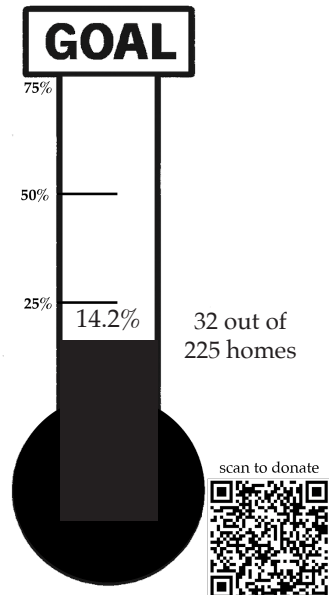
Source: *Water Quality Specialist, DEQ Surface Water Quality Division*

2001. Birch Lake is phosphorus poor and quality rich. Birch Lake has *moderate plant populations consisting of a good diversity of species, none of which dominate.*

- *Beneficial plants were observed out to 10 foot depths compared to six foot depths in 1978. Plants grow in deeper depths at a pristine lake like Birch.*
- *Eurasian milfoil was not found*
- *Population of curly-leaf pondweed was sparse.*

Source: *Howard Wandell, Michigan State University, Michigan Lake and Stream Association Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program Aquatic Plant Mapping.*

**Birch Lake Yacht Club
WATER QUALITY FUND**
Our goal for 2026 is to have 75%
of homes on the lake contribute.
Contribute now at
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FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER

This past Memorial Day weekend started wet and dreary the first two days, but Memorial Day itself turned out to be a nice sunny day. No sailboat races last weekend, but I saw at least one sailboat out briefly on one of the days. Also, there was not much boat traffic in general over the weekend due to the conditions, but the boats were out in droves on Monday to enjoy the sunny day. I went out swimming to set our buoys on Monday, and the water temperature has risen significantly. Let's hope the warmer weather over the next week will warm the water further so we can all enjoy Birch Lake to its fullest.

Not sure yet if the sailing season will start this weekend, but I'm hopeful. It will depend on how many sailors are ready and, as always, what the wind is like on Sunday morning. If you see the course being set up and sailboats raising their sails, it is a good sign that we will be racing. Any sailors around the lake that don't typically race are always welcome to join in and try it out. All you need to do is sail out to the racecourse at race time, usually around 11, and hail the committee boat at the start line to let them know who you are. And if you're new to racing, we would be happy to show you the ropes, so to speak.

~Fleet Captain Bob Niezgodski, rjniezgodski@gmail.com

Sundays are SAILING DAYS!
Races typically start at 11am
Please steer clear
of the course!



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CAMP T CORNER

In last weekend's camp column, I mentioned a big change that happened at camp over the winter. In February of this year, we officially separated from the National Camp Fire organization and became an independent local nonprofit organization.

Camp Fire was founded at the national level in 1910, and our local council was one of the first to be formed. The earliest references I have found to Camp Fire activities in the Michiana area date back to 1914, when the South Bend News-Times Society page included a note about the Camp Fire Girls holding their monthly meeting.

The eighth grade Campfire girls, together with Miss Frances Toy of the Y. W. C. A., held their monthly ceremonial meeting Thursday evening at Studebaker park. A picnic supper was enjoyed at 6 o'clock.

South Bend News-Times, June 12, 1914

In 1921, the Camp Fire Girls held their first summer camp outing at Pleasant Lake in Edwardsburg, led by Colonel and Mrs. Seymour Bullock of South Bend. Colonel Bullock served as the Municipal Recreation Director for the City of South Bend. The organization held its annual summer camp at Pleasant Lake through 1929 before moving to the property on Birch Lake in 1930.

For 106 summers, since 1921, our local organization has operated Camp T. During those 106 years, there have been 17 different directors. Amazingly, three

of those directors accounted for 77 of those years! Miss Dorothy Denton served as director from 1940 to 1968, leading camp for 29 summers. Mrs. Jo Murphy followed from 1971 to 1997, serving 27 summers. I have been the director since 2006, making 2026 my 21st summer.

In 1976, the National Camp Fire organization became co-ed. Camp T followed suit and welcomed its first male campers in 1978. Over the decades, we have built new buildings, added new programs, moved our permanent offices from South Bend to camp, and expanded both our camper capacity and staff. More recently, we have added before- and after-school programs in three local schools.

The traditional Camp Fire "club" program in our community reached its peak in 1960, when the South Bend council reported more than 4,300 girls enrolled in its programs, while the Mishawaka council served another 3,000 girls. By the mid-1970s, those numbers had declined dramatically, with the South Bend council reporting only 1,290 participants in 1976. Discussions about merging the two councils began in the late 1960s, but the merger did not officially occur until 1993. In 1994, the newly combined councils reported only 552 participants in the traditional club



program. By the time we ended support for the club program in 2018, fewer than 25 participants remained.

Our decision to separate from National Camp Fire was not rooted in a philosophical difference or disagreement with the direction of the organization. Rather, we had not been offering the traditional Camp Fire programming for many years, nor were we utilizing many of the resources provided to councils by the national organization. Ultimately, we determined that we could better serve our local community as an independent local nonprofit organization. We notified the National Headquarters last summer of our decision, and together we reached an agreement to formally disaffiliate, and that agreement was finalized in February of this year.


~Miss Amber



South Bend News-Times, July 25, 1921

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BIRCH LAKE HISTORY: AROUND THE AREA

Editor's Note: This history piece is a little different from the ones I've written last year and so far this year. Instead of a property or family on Birch Lake, this one focuses on the former Resort at Paradise Lake, just a couple miles away from Birch Lake.

This piece was inspired by a documentary produced by a Cassopolis filmmaker, Sally Jo Connor, about the Paradise Lake Resort. The documentary is titled *Paradise*, and you can find it on YouTube by scanning the QR code below. It's 45 minutes long and full of old photos and historical information.



Paradise Lake, located just down Brownsville Road from Birch Lake, was once home to a thriving resort community that served primarily Black vacationers. The earliest references to Paradise Lake Resort appeared in the early 1920s.



Cassopolis Vigilant, June 15, 1922

The community grew during the years following World War I, when the Great Migration brought many African Americans north for work in factories, foundries, stockyards, and railroads. With higher wages and more disposable income, Black families began seeking places for rest, recreation, and community. Several Black resort communities developed during this era, including Idlewild in northern Michigan, near Big Rapids.

Originally known as Mud Lake on early plat maps, Paradise Lake was renamed sometime between 1920 and



Participants in the 1965 Paradise Lake Regatta. Front row: Edward White, Mrs. John T. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Edna Handy, Mrs. Lillian Hytower, Van Henderson. Back row: Ivan Grady, Henry Duminic, and Napoleon Fields.

Fish Fry

A crowd estimated at over 600 persons attended the sixth annual fish fry at Wade's Paradise lake re-

1938

1922. Much of the land surrounding the lake was owned by the Bonine family. In 1923, the Paradise Lake Resort subdivision was platted, creating more than 170 lots along the northeast shore.



1923 Plat Map

Prominent Black professionals connected with Provident Hospital in Chicago began vacationing at Paradise Lake. Founded in 1891, Provident Hospital was the first Black-owned and operated hospital in the United States. Among those connected to the lake were Dr. T. K. Lawless and Dr. Austin Grey, both physicians at Provident.

Dr. Grey purchased a significant amount of land in the Paradise Lake Resort subdivision. In addition to medical professionals, several Chicago-area "numbers men," or gamblers, also began buying property, including Mr. Handy and Jack Perrin. In 1946, additional land along the north shore was platted as Paradise Lake Heights.



Dr. Grey's Paradise Lake Hotel

Around 1947, Dr. Grey and his wife, known as Queen, built their resort: a 28-room hotel and restaurant. Their home stood next door. The hotel rooms were simple, typically furnished with a bed and dresser, while suites included a second room with couches. Bathrooms and showers were shared by guests. Queen ran the hotel every summer, and the Greys' grandchildren—some of whom still live at Paradise Lake—spent their childhood summers there.



Unidentified vacationers at the Paradise Lake Resort, 1960s.



Soon after, Mrs. Edna Handy opened her well-known Paradise Lake Tavern just up the hill from the hotel. Most lake residents simply called it "Miss Handy's." Around the same time, Franny and E. P. Pursely opened a 12-room bed and breakfast, and Jack Perrin built a 10-room motel. Helen Mifflin also operated a resort on the south side of the lake, offering cabins for vacationers seeking a quieter, more restful getaway. In 1956, the Paradise Cove subdivision was platted on the west end of the lake.



Miss Handy's Tavern

Paradise Lake Resort offered swimming, boating, fishing, waterskiing, tennis, and horseback riding. Eventually, there was a second tavern owned by Dr. Grey. Miss Handy's featured live music every weekend. Because Calvin Township and Penn Township had different liquor rules, Miss Handy's could serve liquor, while Dr. Grey's tavern was limited to beer and wine.

Waterskiing became one of the lake's signature activities. The Byrd family, avid waterskiers, taught many people on the lake to ski. They founded a Pro-Am ski club, hosted tournaments, and held an annual Labor Day Weekend Ski Show. At times, they competed with skiers from other lakes, including Diamond and Donnell. As many as 100 people would gather on the Byrds' front lawn to watch the show.

Residents remember the years from 1956 to 1971 as Paradise Lake's "Glory Days." After the Civil Rights Act of 1964, travel patterns began to change, and visits to Black resort communities gradually declined. By the mid-1970s, many out-of-town guests had stopped coming to Paradise Lake. Today, many Paradise Lake residents are descendants of those early vacationers, or were once vacationers themselves. While the hotels are gone, the lake remains an important part of local history.

The Ted Grarely orchestra played Saturday night at the Paradise lake resort. This place is an exclusive colored resort with bathing, boating and dancing.

1928

JAS. R. GOLDEN
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1940

Queen and Dr. Austin Grey in front of their Paradise Lake Hotel while it was under construction in 1947.

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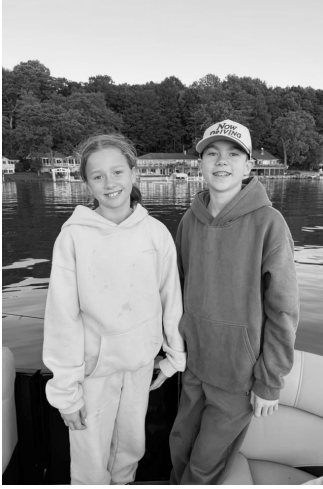
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BARKER KIDS OF THE WEEK



Connor and Abby Caplis (north shore) on a sunset cruise



Ciara Rasmussen (west shore, wife of Phyllis Rasmussen) is turning 31 years old on June 4th! She loves fishing Birch Lake.



Molly Moore with the first catch of the season, and driving the boat with her Grandfather Bob. Granddaughter of Bob and Lisa Groszek (south side).





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EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) locations on Birch Lake

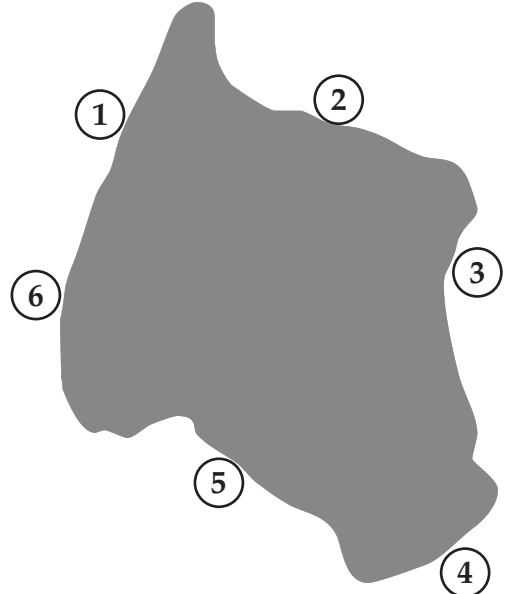
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5. **South Shore:** Crawford Home
15046 Birch Lakeshore Drive
6. **Southwest Shore:** DeYoung Home
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All units are on the **ROAD SIDE** of the property and accessible by vehicle or on foot.



AED Locations



IN AN EMERGENCY

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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.

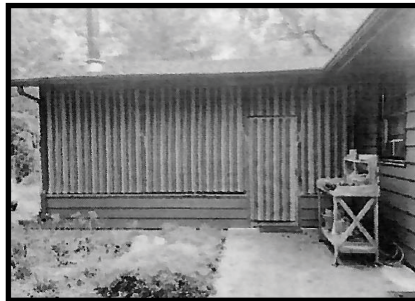


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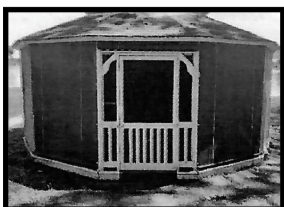
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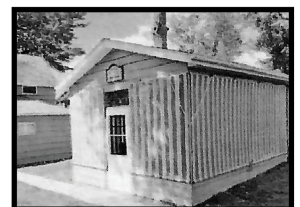
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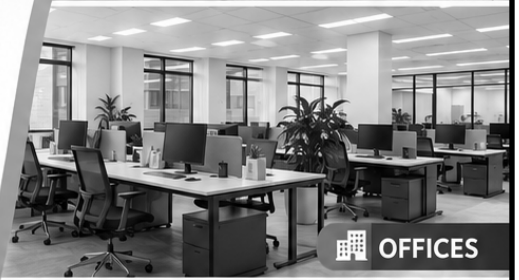
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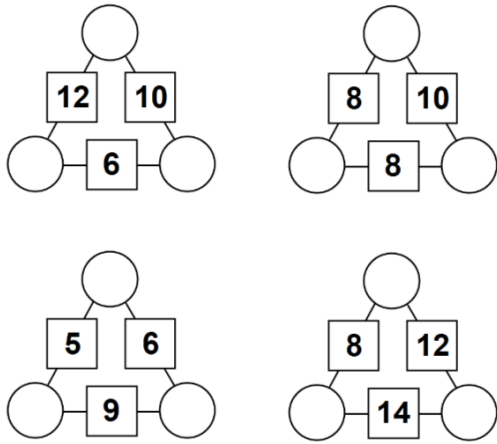
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PUZZLE PAGE

Arithmagons

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.



3 LETTER WORDS

GAD
HAM
PST
SET

4 LETTER WORDS

ACNE
ANTS
ASIA
CAP'N
EMMA
ERGO
FONT
GUST
LEST
LINT
NOON
OFFS

ONES

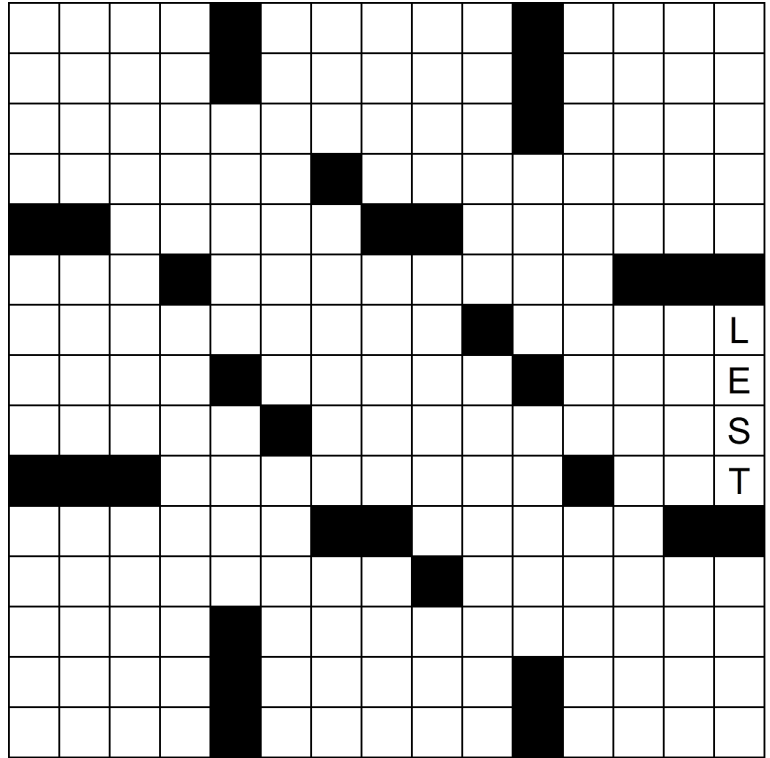
RAID
SATE
SCUD
SEAM
SEER
SLOE
SOAP
STIR
TERM
TINT
UGLY
USES
VINE

5 LETTER WORDS

AMASS
ATLAS

Fill It In Puzzle

Fill-in puzzles, also known as Kriss Kross, are variations of crossword puzzles where you're given a list of words instead of clues. The goal is to fit all the words into the grid by finding the right placement for each.



CHUTE
DANTE
DOLLS
ÉCLAT
EVENT
IMPEL
LEACH
LEVEL
OASIS
OVENS
PENNE
PRICE
REVEL
SEEDY
SNORT
START

TIDAL
TOTAL

6 LETTER WORDS

APPEAR
CRAFTS
ESTATE
LENTIL
RECESS
STEREO
TRIVIA
TUSSLE

8 LETTER WORDS

CARELESS
COLORADO

SEVERELY
STAGE SET
TRESPASS
VOCATIVE

9 LETTER WORDS

CRASH-DIVE
DISPLEASE
FORESTALL
INTERESTS
RECESSIVE
SYLVESTER

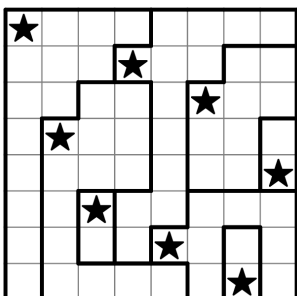
10 LETTER WORDS

ENROLLMENT
FLAGELLATE

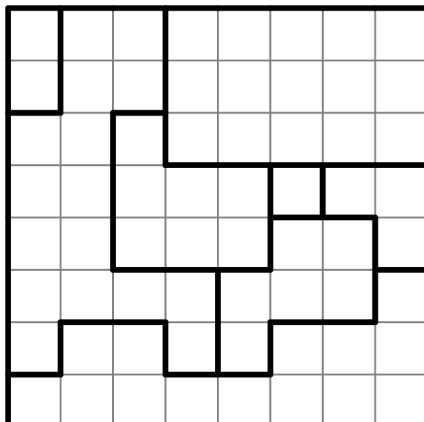
Star Battle Puzzle

Star Battle Puzzles are also known as "Two Not Touch" Puzzles. Each puzzle is divided into 8 different regions. Each region, row and column contains a single star. The stars may not be adjacent to each other (not even diagonally). Check out the example below, before you try the one above!

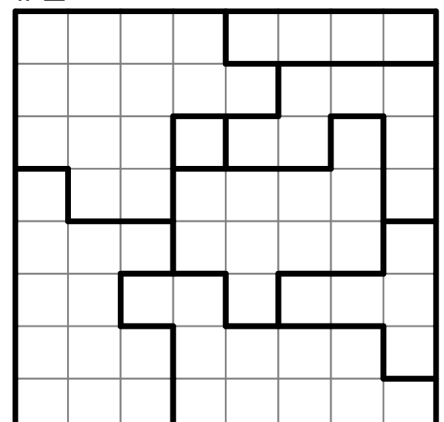
Star Battle Puzzle: EXAMPLE



#1



#2



Scan for
Solutions

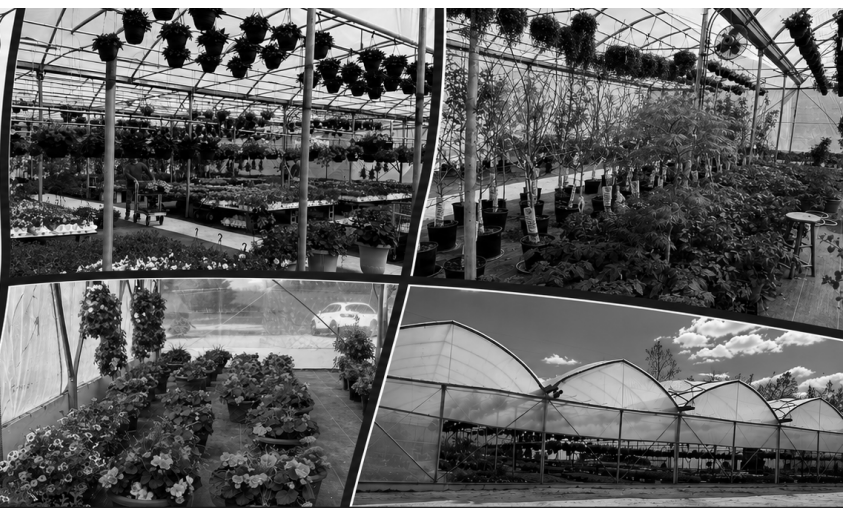





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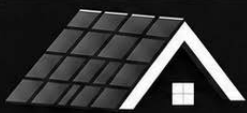
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Photos of Birch Lake Sailors. Looking for photos of BLYC sailors from the 60s to create a Wall of Fame at the Yacht Club around the trophy shelf. Send photos or questions to Deb Hall at debbershall@gmail.com

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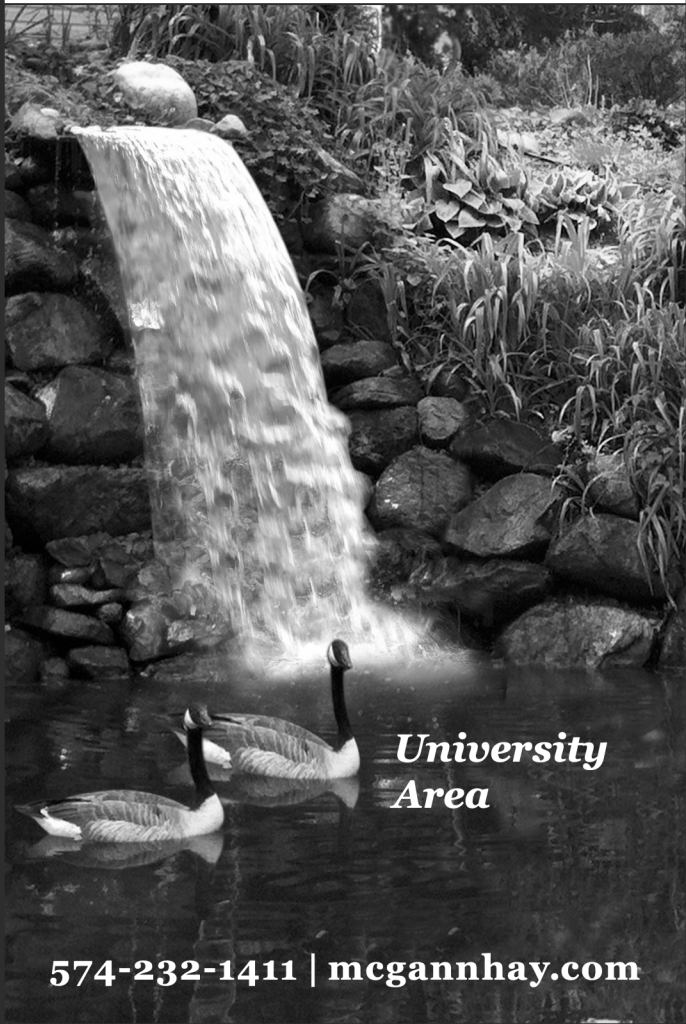
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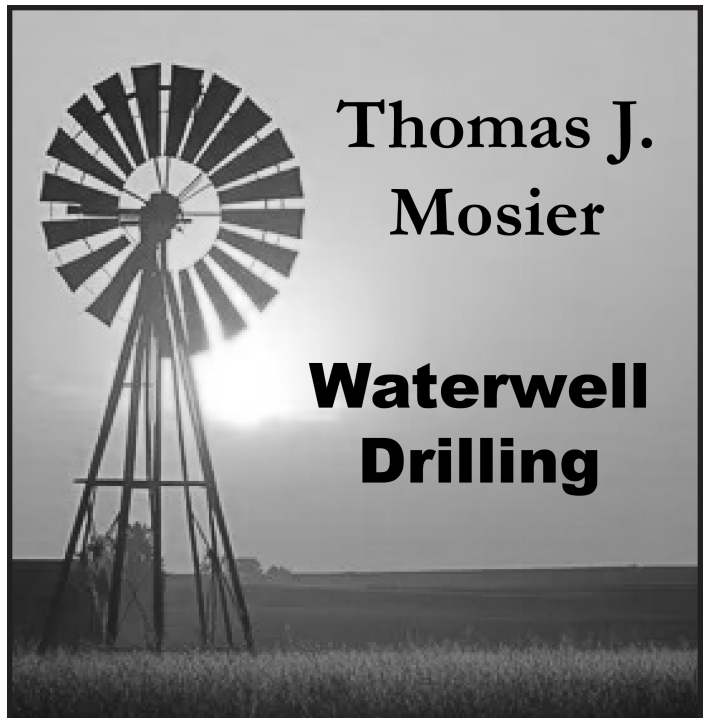
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dennisbamber@cressyeverett.com

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

BARKER FUNNIES



My wife was like,
 “Why don’t you treat
 me like when we
 first started dating?”

So I took her to dinner
 and a movie...
 then dropped her off
 at her parents.

@COACHSAVYJOKES

Once upon a time, there
 lived a King who was
 only 12 inches tall.

He was a terrible King
 but he made a great
 ruler.



“It’s from the hospital where you were
 born. You’re being recalled for
 manufacturing defects.”



“That’ll be the cost of the surgery if you
 survive, and that’s the discount you’ll get
 if you don’t.”

One time Fruit of the
 Loom took Hanes to
 court. It was a...brief
 case.

What do you call a dog
 on a submarine?

A subwoofer.

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SUZUKI MARINE

MERCURY

South Bay

STARWELD
BY STARCRAFT

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Cass County **COA**
Summer Concert Series

- Friday, June 26: *The Van Dyke Revue*
- Friday, July 24: *Whistle Pigs*
- Friday, August 28: *Whiskey Retreat*

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 -->



WAKE SIDE MARINE



NAUTIQUE®

WakeSide Marine

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