

The  
weekend  
Of

Aug. 6  
2016

# Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the  
**Birch Lake Yacht Club**



Thanks to new neighbor Pat McGann (east side) for the pic of the Camp T stairs

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Where oh where did July go? It feels like we celebrated the Fourth of July, and then it was August! Summer always goes that way though. We wait and wait for it to arrive, and then in a blink of an eye, it's gone again! It doesn't help any that schools keep starting earlier and earlier. I know many schools are starting back next week already. Hard to believe!

Well, it's still summer at Birch Lake! The men had a great day to play golf last Friday. I hear a good time was had by all! Thanks again to Chas Grundy and Pete Soldato for all their work in organizing the men's golf outing.

Don't forget the Corn and Sausage Roast is this Saturday. Come down to the Yacht Club between 5:30 and 7:30 for a delicious summer dinner. You will be sorry if you miss this lip smacking meal! Thank you to Bernie and Blair Garceau and Mike and Julie Sheffieck for co-chairing this favorite Birch Lake event. They have it down to a science and do such a great job every year!

The Yacht Club fire pit has been repaired just in time for the Corn and

Sausage Roast. Whew! A very big thank you to Jim Hettmansperger for coming out of retirement and donating his time and the materials we needed to make the necessary repairs. He is a long time East Sider and a Master bricklayer. It is nice to have such talented people on the lake to help us! Thanks, Jim, we sure appreciate it!

There's a board meeting this Saturday, August 6, at the Yacht Club. It will be my last official board meeting before turning the reins over to Claudia. That big event will take place at the Fall Dinner on August 27 at the Yacht Club. So mark your calendars and purchase your tickets by August 20. Ticket sellers are listed in the ad in this Barker.

Since our summer weekends are dwindling, make sure you get out there and enjoy the lake before it's too late! Have a good week!

~Commodore Sue

### Corn & Sausage Roast August 6, 2016 – TODAY!

The BIG DAY is finally here! The annual Corn & Sausage Roast is TODAY, Saturday, August 6. From 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Yacht Club we'll be serving delectable meals consisting of your meat choice, perfectly roasted corn,

## 2016 Birch Lake Calendar

Aug. 6.....Corn & Sausage Roast - 5:30-7:30  
Aug. 12 .....Friday Night Flotilla - 6:30  
Aug. 27 .....BLYC Fall Dinner 5:30 cocktails,  
6:30 dinner (at the Yacht Club)  
Aug. 27 .....Vitales' 46th Anniversary  
(and just 126 days until Sandy retires)  
(unless she decides not to retire yet)

**BLYC Board Meetings (9 am)**  
Aug. 6, Sept. 10 @ BLYC

**More info as available.; Dates subject to change; Watch the Barker for updates!**

four sides, cookies and lemonade or iced tea. Prices are only \$4 for a hot dog meal and \$7 for a bratwurst or chicken breast meal (we'll only have a limited supply of chicken breasts so they are first come, first served until we run out). Pay at the door – no reservations required! The Summer is almost over! Come see your neighbors and enjoy an excellent meal for a low price. We look forward to seeing you!

### Friday Night Flotilla!

Due to past years successful flotillas, let's do it again! Meet in the middle of the lake with your boat on Friday, August 12 at 6:30 pm. Boats will be tied

# — Birch Lake Notes —

together and we will walk from boat to boat sharing food and camaraderie. Bring an appetizer; be there or be square! Look for the boats in the middle!

## 2017 Birch Lake calendars here

Thanks to all the photographers who submitted photos for the 2017 Birch Lake calendar. This year we received over 100 pictures. It was hard to narrow the selection to just thirteen and a little sad to have leave out so many wonderful photos. The calendars are available now. You can get yours from Vickie Rogers (476-2383), Linda Yoshizawa (476-2308), Sue Williams (476-8886), or Carla Chester (476-1010). They'll also be on sale at the remaining Birch Lake events as long as they last. The cost for each calendar is \$15.

## Library coloring contest

The Mason-Union Friends of the Library is sponsoring an art contest for Pre-K to 8th graders. Creative landscapes in flat medium (pencil, paint, water color, markers) of choice that can be up to poster board size (22x28). All entries received at the Mason-Union branch of the Library by August 16. Judging and award party will be on Wednesday, August 24. Gift Certificates to the first three winners in each age group. Small art prizes for all entry submitters. All entries should be labeled with name and age on the back.



Thanks to our Artist-in-Residence, Duffy Dufour for the great Birch Lake art ...

## Fire truck to be on display

Remembrance Rescue Project's FDNY Rescue 4 Fire Truck will be on display at the Middlebury, IN Fire Department during the Middlebury Summer Festival, Aug. 13, from 10 am to 8 pm. On Sept. 11, 2001, eight FDNY firefighters lost their lives trying to save others at the World Trade Center's

South Tower. FDNY Rescue 4 was parked two blocks from the WTC's South Tower when the tower collapsed and destroyed this truck. FDNY Rescue 4 was restored and now is part of the Remembrance Rescue Project, a 100 percent volunteer program. The exhibit is a mobile memorial and teaching tool for Modern American History. For information go to <http://www.remem->

# Simply STUNNING

Have you seen the stunning new stamped-concrete compass rose at the Birch Lake Yacht Club?

This is just one example of the custom concrete services and products available to our friends and neighbors here at Birch Lake.

Interested in a whole new look for your plain old concrete garage, patio or entrance?



Call us today!

# Lutz Concrete

SW Michigan's FLATWORK experts

17050 M-86 — Three Rivers, MI

(269) 279-7973

[mmtlconcrete@aol.com](mailto:mmtlconcrete@aol.com)

# — Birch Lake Notes —

brance.co/ or contact C. Marc Tjaden (West Side), Remembrance Rescue Project Volunteer at 260-710-3995.

## **Walk for Life - "People Who Care"**

Come join in on August 27 from 9 am to noon and walk for Cancer fighters and survivors! Gather pledges and take a scenic walk is all it takes to make a difference. Proceeds will go to the Cass County Cancer Service, Inc. to help people with everyday expenses this is for residents of Cass County who are fighting cancer and need a helping hand.

There will be water stops along the route. A light lunch will be provided at the club after the walk. Bring your friends, family, along with smiles and cash. The walk will start at the Conservation Club, down Birch Road to the "swimming hole" then back.

For more information or to make a donation contact Connie Sue Hulse at (574) 333-8838.

## **Updates on Birch Lake sailing**

Sailors! Send me your cell phone numbers if you want to be included in text alerts and updates on the status of weekly sailing. 317 605 6421.

*~Bad Patty*

## **Birch Lake Pooch Parade**

The Third Annual Birch Lake Pooch Parade will be held on Saturday, September 3 (Raindate, September 4).



*Congratulations to east-sider Nanette Sharpe and Joey Eash who were married on July 7th at Siesta Key, FL. Pictured below with Nanette's daughters Kendal, Taylor and Courtney.*

Registration will begin at 10:30 am, the parade will start at 11. The grand marshal will be our own veterinarian Duffy Dufour .

Birch Lake dogs and their owners are invited to meet at Ed and Carla

Chester's home to kick off Labor Day weekend with our annual Pooch Parade. After the 10:30 registration, the parade will begin at the Chesters' home at 11 and proceed north on Birch Road, making a loop at the Kinsey Street marina



## **BACK ON TRACK!**

**56951 N. Main St.  
Three Rivers, MI**

**(269) 273-9015**

## **Visit us again For the First Time!**

**Frankie's Restaurant in Three Rivers has new owners. Over the past few months we have been working very hard to return the quality of the food and the quality of the dining experience to the levels that so many of us fondly remember from years ago. We hope you'll stop by and learn what we mean when we say that we're "Back on Track!"**

**Open M-Th 11-10, Friday & Saturday 11-11 Closed Sunday.**

**Daily food & drink specials**

**follow us on Facebook at frankiesbythetracks**

# — Birch Lake Notes —

and ending back at the Chesters' house for the award ceremony.

Prizes will be awarded in these categories: Best Costume, Largest Dog, Smallest Dog, Cutest Dog, Best Owner-Pet Lookalike, Bushiest Tail, Longest Ears, and more. All canine participants will receive doggy treats!

### Parade Rules:

1. Animals must be current on vaccinations.
2. No aggressive animals or females in season.
3. Animals must be on a leash and in the control of the owners at ALL times. Costumes are encouraged.

Parking for spectators and participants will be available at designated marked areas along the parade route. Spectators, bring lawn chairs!

A donation box will be available for donations to the CASS COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY and event expenses.

### Sausage Fest next weekend

It's that time once again, the Kinzler's (west side) 10th annual Sausage Fest returns to the West Side of Birch Lake Aug 11-14th. It's the growing and ever-popular all-guys trip to the lake house. Can you believe it's been 10 years? That makes it the longest running party in Birch Lake history!

You may remember the waterskiing pirate, hotdog, Batman and Robin, moose, chicken, shark, and the Geico

## BIRCH LAKE TOTE BAGS BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

**Royal Blue with White Logo  
Very Sturdy and Large Size  
Limited Number so DON'T Delay**

**\$5 each (same as in 2011!)**

**Available by July 23  
63168 Birch Rd (east side)**

**Line up to get yours  
begins at 10 am!**

**Patty Luecht  
476-2615**



pig in a tube. The rumor this year is a special guest from the Arctic.

Our waterski contraption entry this year is always a secret but should prove to be epic and will be launched Saturday afternoon, keep your eyes peeled for it!

So don't be alarmed if you see 30+ guys barbequing in matching sausagefest t-shirts and be on the lookout for the "dancing sausage."

You're welcome to stop by for a game of bags, beer darts/pong and the coldest beer and fireball on Birch Lake!

### Online content

The full, weekly printed Birch Barker is once again online this season,

along with selected additional content ... just go to [www.philvitale.com](http://www.philvitale.com) and follow the links.

### Printed Birch Barker

The Birch Barker is a service of the Birch Lake Yacht Club and provided free of charge every weekend to all the homes on Birch Lake, thanks to our generous advertisers.

The Barker welcomes the submission of editorial and advertising materials for publication (at the discretion of the editor). The deadline for submitting ads and information for any Barker is by 3 pm on the Tuesday of the week before publication (example: the deadline for

Michigan  
LAKES and LAND

Any licensed REALTOR® can list your property.  
A waterfront specialist will **GET IT SOLD!**

LIST YOUR HOME WITH PAUL DELANO — THE AREA'S #1 LAKE REALTOR!<sup>1</sup>

## Birch Lakes homes currently for sale



63300 Birch Rd; 3 Beds, 3.5 Baths, Built by Nick's Custom Homes, 63 Feet of frontage, Adjacent property with wood shop / quest quarters may be purchased separately **\$990,000**



14965 Birch North Shore Dr. 4 beds, 2 baths, Sandy Beach frontage on the North Shore **\$664,900**



14901 Birch North Shore Dr., Newly Remodeled, 3 Bed, 2 bath, 100 Feet on North Shore **\$535,000**

## Recently sold Birch Lakes homes



**Get a FREE market analysis!**  
Contact Paul DeLano:  
(574) 536-6363  
[Paul@TheLakeLife.com](mailto:Paul@TheLakeLife.com)



- SOLD **72 LAKE PROPERTIES** IN 2015... versus 27 lake properties sold by the #2 agent
- Extensive database of buyers looking to purchase this year
- Lake home website with over 4,000 monthly visitors
- Proven results and experience that **close the sale**

Explore more online: [MichiganLakesAndLand.com](http://MichiganLakesAndLand.com)



<sup>1</sup> The number of sold lake homes is up 22% from 4/1/15 to 3/31/16 compared to 4/1/14 to 3/31/15. <sup>2</sup> Based on data from the Southwestern Michigan Association of Realtors, Sales of Inland Lake Homes and Properties, from 1/1/12 to 12/31/15 in Berrien, Cass and St. Joseph Counties. Sales of properties where agents represent both the buyer and seller are given 200% credit by the M.S.A.R.

# — Birch Lake Notes —

materials for the August 6 issue is 3 pm on Tuesday, July 26) ... thanks.

Send your kid-of-the-week to Birch Barker, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095; put them in a ziplock and stick them in the stone mailbox at my home (east side), or email to me at sailorphil@philvitale.com I'm at 476-1680. For questions or problems with delivery please contact Sue Williams (476-8886, email: smwillia@comcast.net) or Bob & Sue Waddle (476-3393 or email:

sparkybob220@comcast.net).

## e-mail scam persists

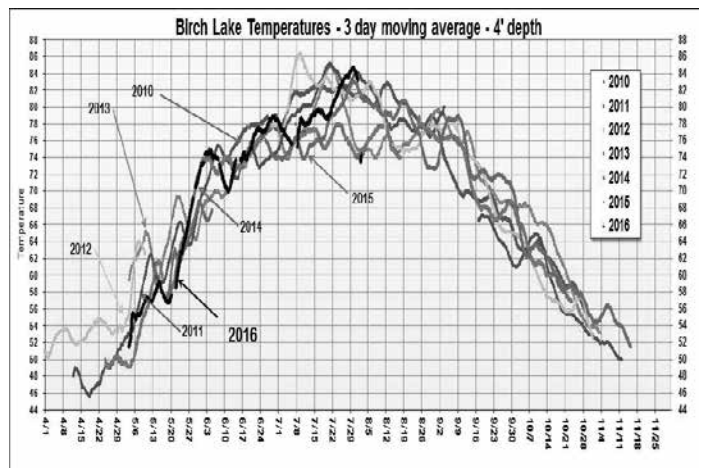
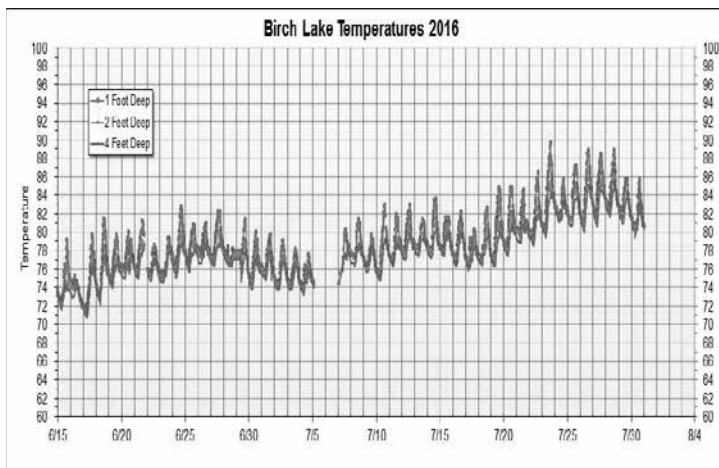
A couple weeks ago I wrote about some emails supposedly from a Birch Laker with an abbreviated message and a note that it couldn't show the entire message but I should "click here" to view it. I warned that this was a scam and it would hack your address list and email itself (with the virus) to everyone on it. Apparently it is still making the circuit

around Birch Lake. Always be wary about opening unknown email attachments, even from trusted sources.

## BLYC Welcoming Committee

We are ready to rock and roll on our Welcoming Committee. If you know of a new neighbor please contact Vicky Rogers at 269-476-2383, Pam VanHuffel 269-244-3487 and Linda Curtis at 574-361-2629.

# Birch Lake Water Temperature



Temps provided by Steve Quinlan



**Welcome to Jaywalker**

**JAYWALKER RESTAURANT**

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

alphagraphics®

increase your reach

1 Pr + 1 Gd + 1 Mk + 1 Si  
print graphic design marketing signs

= your success

660 County Rd 15, Elkhart, IN 46516  
(574) 295-1203,  
us599@alphagraphics.com

# FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## Another week with no sailing

Headline says it all. We had little if no wind most of last Sunday morning. Predictions called for possibly 5 mph, but mother nature had other ideas, and we ended up with mostly no wind at all.

We will try it again this Sunday and hope that the wind Gods are with us.

Until next week **"Splice the main brace"**

~Fleet Captain Mike~



## 2016 BLYC Season Sailing Results

Date ..... 24Jul ..... 24Jul ..... 24Jul ..... Total ..... Season ..... Races ..... %  
 Race ..... 12 ..... 13 ..... 14 ..... Points ..... Average ... Finished ... Finished

### MC Scow/Sailor 12

Scott Troeger #1489	1	2	2	18574	1548	12	00.0%
Jeff Smitley #2002	4	1	1	16668	1515	11	91.7%
Phil Vitale #500	5	7	6	12278	1364	9	75.0%
Harold Cranmer #1991/2550	6	8	3	16245	1354	12	100.0%
Bill Luecht #1579	2	3	4	15935	1328	12	100.0%
Barb Cassady #2435	3	6	8	8944	1278	7	58.3%
Bob King #1199	7	5	5	7644	1274	6	50.0%
Gib Eberhart #916	8	4	7	7447	1241	5	41.7%
Pat McGann #1735	DNS	DNF	DNS	11132	1237	8	66.7%

### Sunfish/Sailor 14

Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	2	1	3	17286	1571	11	78.6%
Peter Soldato	3	2	1	19250	1481	13	92.9%
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	4	4	4	18561	1428	13	92.9%
Herb Cleveland	1	6	2	19366	1383	14	100.0%
Stewart Spratt	7	3	5	16133	1344	11	78.6%
Sandy Vitale (White)	5	7	7	6496	1299	5	35.7%
Katie Luecht	DNS	DNS	DNS	3746	1249	3	21.4%
Bob Niezgodski	9	9	8	16623	1187	14	100.0%
Stefan del Rossi	6	8	6	3539	1180	3	21.4%
Bill Butler	8	5	9	8189	1170	7	50.0%
Greg Cowan	DNS	DNS	DNS	3417	1139	3	21.4%
Brad Davis	DNS	DNS	DNS	3334	1111	3	21.4%
Camille Butler	10	10	10	12071	1097	11	78.6%

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.



## KB Village Express

M60  
CASSOPOLIS  
269-445-2754



**We have MARINE gas**

91 Octane, No Ethanol! — recommended for 2- and 4-stroke engines  
 Hunting, Fishing licenses, bait available

**Open 24 hours**

**Liquor ~ Beer ~ Wine**

**Liquor sales 7 am to 2 am**

**Fuel special: 20¢ off per gallon with  
 Soft-Cloth Car Wash**

Come Visit our

**WINE & SPIRITS**

Department - Huge Selection

# **2016 BLYC FALL DINNER**

Saturday August 27<sup>th</sup> at the Yacht Club

Door prizes!

It's a **Black and White** Party

Dress in casual black and/or white

## **Social Hour 5:30**

Beer and Wine

***Wine tasting*** and food provided by Bacon Hill Kitchen and Pub

### Appetizers

Crostini with shrimp, avocado, sweet chili aioli with sesame seeds  
Sausage and Goat Cheese Stuffed Dates Wrapped with Crispy Bacon

## **Dinner 6:30**

Spring greens with toasted sunflower seeds, strawberries, blueberries, red onion, croutons, and  
lemon poppyseed vinaigrette

Assorted artisan breads and cornbread muffins with sweet honey butter

Smoked Pork Loin with strawberry balsamic barbeque sauce

Roasted potatoes with parmesan and garlic

Sugar snap peas with pine nuts

Assorted Banana, Boston, and Chocolate cream pies

## **Year End Wrap Up 7:30**

**Ticket Price: \$25.00**

All tickets must be purchased by August 20<sup>th</sup>

Please see the following to purchase your ticket:

Carla Chester 476-1010

Vickie Rogers 476-2383

Katha Machalleck 476-2642

Julie Sheffieck 476-1849

Michelle Seyfarth 476-1319

*Tickets must be purchased in advance and presented at the door*

# — Barker Kids of the Week —



*The annual ScaBoom Reunion took place on the 23rd with Scannells and Hogoboos coming from all over the Midwest. Bob Scannell and sister Pat grew up on the south side and return to the family cottage every summer. They started the first lake newsletter with their brother, John, back in the 40's.*



**Thomas J.  
Mosier**

**Waterwell  
Drilling**

**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**

**WAKESIDE**  
MARINE



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



# — Barker Kids of the Week —



At right, Abby Waxman Moore (the youngest sister of Dan Waxman, east side) skippering and her youngest daughter Jessica, a Freshman this fall at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln visiting our for a fun day on the McGann MC.

**Vickie Hall**

CELL  
574/849-9957

OFFICE & FAX  
269/641-7928

[www.VickieHall.info](http://www.VickieHall.info)

[willowtree.vickie@gmail.com](mailto:willowtree.vickie@gmail.com)



**Willow Tree  
Realty**

13549 U.S. 12 / UNION, MI 49130

When it comes to choosing a Realtor, it's not about claims of having or selling the most listings. Nor is it about the claims of being the "Lake or Waterfront Expert." It's about who will provide you with a quality experience and good results from listing or searching to closing. Read what my clients have to say and then call me when you're ready to sell or buy.

**Elizabeth Carey and Steve Decker -- Sold our home on Indiana Lake**  
 "Vickie is an extremely dedicated professional who will make you feel like you are her top priority. She can grasp complicated situations easily, explain them to you accurately, and then wisely advise you as to what to do. We found her knowledgeable in many areas and helpful in many ways beyond her obligations as a Realtor. You will enjoy working with this personable, warm, trustworthy lady who will take the stress and strain of buying and selling a home off your shoulders and put them onto hers."

**Amanda North Druckeniller** "Working with Vickie to sell our home was a pleasure! Our home sat on the market for a year with another realtor. We switched to Vickie and had an offer within a month! Vickie is prompt, professional and very knowledgeable in her field. I strongly recommend her for your realty needs!"

**Tom Davidson -- Top qualities: Personable, Expert, High Integrity**  
 "Vickie did an excellent job in finding a house in Michigan that represented what I was looking for. She also was instrumental in providing detailed information on the history of my property and several adjacent Birch Lake properties which along with her knowledge of building regulations allowed me to obtain a reduction in property taxes. She is dependable, knowledgeable, and follows through. I would highly recommend her."

**Tony Clark -- Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres**  
 "Vickie is the hardest working and most knowledgeable Realtor I have ever known. I have flipped about 7 properties. She sold my partner's house on Eagle Lake in a couple of weeks. While another Realtor had the listing for 9 months. She helped with taxes, inspections and legal transfers that were outside of her realm of duties."

See more at [www.VickieHall.info](http://www.VickieHall.info) under the "resources" tab


# STRONG THROUGH EVERY STORM

FOR 100 YEARS

For life's unexpected storms, Auto-Owners Insurance and your local independent agent will be there when you need us most - just like we have been for 100 years.

**UNION INSURANCE AGENCY**  
 Corner of US 12 & Union Rd., Union, MI 49130  
**Independent Agency**  
 269-641-5995  
 fax: 269-641-5787  
 email: [Sue@unionins.net](mailto:Sue@unionins.net)  
[www.unionins.net](http://www.unionins.net)

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS



# — Barker Kids of the Week —



*John Stitz (east side), Joel Finch, John DeCloedt (east side) and former laker Terry Wiseman at last week's BLYC Men's Golf Outing dinner.*



*Mia Olimpia McGann, granddaughter of Pat and Tessa (east side) ... ok, she was in the Barker last week but, hey, that's one cute kid, so I put her pic in again this week!*



*That's Bill and Le King (north side) relaxing at the boat house last Sunday.  
Thanks to GOOD PATTI for the pic*



## **Birch Lake (Cove) Home 62746 Woodland Drive**

*Newly remodeled 3 BR home on Birch Lake!  
New gas furnace and central air with all new duct work. New well and all new windows.  
New Nantucket bead board kitchen cabinets and all new appliances including a main level laundry area. Bath has all new fixtures. Open concept living and dining area with brick fireplace and skylight. Loft with bedroom, enclosed front porch and deck. All new flooring and newly insulated walls and drywall. Move in ready! \$289,900*



***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.**



# — Barker Kids of the Week —



Camp T serenaders singing at the Phipps' home on the north side last week.

## O'Donnell's Docks LLC

Southwest Michigan's Premier Dock & Lift Headquarters



*Serving you for  
over 20 years!*

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

For an 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:



## Dave's Residential Services

Home: (269) 476-2797

Wireless (269) 362-0724

[davehardisty@comcast.net](mailto:davehardisty@comcast.net)

### Handyman Repairs

- \* Roof to basement - inside and out
- \* Floors, doors, stairways, ceilings and windows
- \* Siding, roofing, driveways and sprinklers
- \* Decks and fences; fascia and soffits
- \* Plumbing, electrical, heating and A/C

### Home Maintenance

- \* Painting - interior and exterior
- \* Gutters and chimney cleaning & repair
- \* We do windows
- \* Power washing, insulation and weatherproofing

### Lawn Care

- \* Spring and fall yard clean up
- \* Tree and shrub trimming
- \* Rototill our garden
- \* Mowing and Trimming
- \* Fertilizing

### Property Management

- \* Reliable caretaker
- \* Fulfills all absentee homeowner's needs
- \* Periodically checks your property
- \* Provides second home peace of mind
- \* Call for all lake property requirements

**FIREWOOD AVAILABLE**



# STU'S STAR STUFF



## Just what is this gravity stuff, anyway?

**W**e're all familiar with gravity as the reason objects fall, but there's much much more to gravity than that.

Gravity is a long-range attractive force between all objects with mass. It's what keeps us from falling off the Earth, it's what keeps the Earth in orbit around the sun and it's what caused the sun itself to form four and a half billion years ago. It's amazing to think that every massive object attracts every other in the universe. That means that your cat, the Earth and a black hole in the Andromeda galaxy 2.5 million light years away are all gravitationally attracted to you, and you to them.

In the 17th century Isaac Newton discovered that the strength of the gravitational force decreases by the square of the distance between two objects. So if you're twice as far away, gravity is only one fourth as strong. He also discovered that the strength of gravity is proportional to

the mass of the objects in question. The more massive the object, the stronger the gravitational force.

That's why we can all feel the Earth pulling on us, but don't really notice the pull of the moon; it's smaller and farther away. The moon's gravity is strong enough to cause the tides though.

And when I said earlier that gravity is an attraction between objects of mass, I lied. I meant objects with energy. Because in addition to massive objects, gravity also attracts light and other massless but energetic particles, so that a photon of light can be bent slightly passing the sun or trapped completely by a black hole.

Now do you understand the gravity of the situation?

*~Stu Spratt*

Celebrating more than  
52 Years at Birch Lake

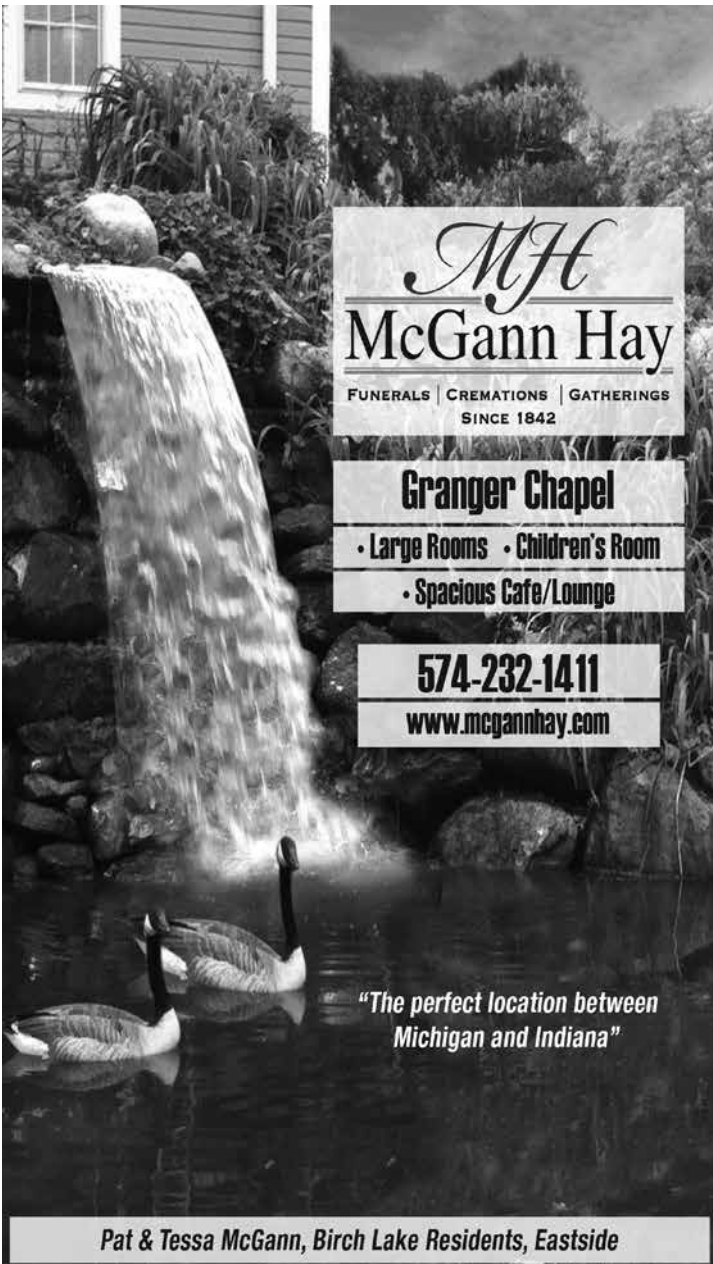
### The Moon for this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time,  
as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)

**Illuminated Fraction: 0.189**  
**3.5 days before first quarter**



**Sunrise: 6:42am**  
**Sunset: 8:57pm**  
**Moonrise: 10:34am**  
**Moonset: 11:01pm**  
**Day length: 14h 14m**



*MH*  
**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)

*"The perfect location between  
Michigan and Indiana"*

**Pat & Tessa McGann, Birch Lake Residents, Eastside**

## Eagle Lake Marine

**SALES \* SERVICE \* STORAGE**

SanPan, Aqua Patio, Sweetwater Pontoon,  
Polar Kraft Aluminum Fishing Boats, Hurricane Deck  
Boats, Honda Outboards, Yamaha outboards and  
MerCruiser Stern Drives



[eaglelakemarine.com](http://eaglelakemarine.com)  
**269-699-5103**  
south side of Eagle Lake, Edwardsburg, MI



Jim "Bubba" Baldwin  
Owner/Operator  
574-596-5752  
13599 US 12  
Union, Michigan

Hours:  
Fri-Sat. 9:30am-7:30pm  
Sunday 10am-5pm

 [facebook.com/bubbasmart](https://facebook.com/bubbasmart)

# YOUR HOROSCOPE

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** In the next two months, you will be eager to expand your world and your mind. You will travel as much as possible, especially to exciting, stimulating places. You will enjoy learning about other cultures and ideas, especially philosophy and metaphysics. Although legal matters might be challenging, your health will feel great in August.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** The next month will be promising for you because Mars will hype your sex drive and Venus will bring you lots of opportunities for romance, fun, pleasure, parties and vacations. An interesting combination! Be open to exploring opportunities for creative self-expression. When it comes to romance, you will feel relaxed with no need to pretend to be what you are not.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)** For the next two months, fiery Mars will be opposite your sign. There is no way to sugarcoat this. It generally indicates tension in your life, especially with close friends and partners. This makes your interactions with others mutually pushy and assertive. Yes - you will come on strong to them and they will come on strong to you!

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)** You will accomplish an enormous amount during the next two months because Mars will not only help you work, it will motivate you to work! For starters, it will give you pride in whatever you accomplish. It will also boost your energy so that you can work hard. There is one caveat: You will want credit for what you do.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** In the next month, you will be motivated to earn more money because you have specific ideas about what you want. Fortunately, financial negotiations will be favored. The only downside is if you have a beer wallet, you will have champagne tastes! Romance and love affairs will flourish!

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** As both Venus and Mars change signs this week, they bring good news and bad news for Virgo. Let's go for the bad news first. For some reason, in the next two months, your home scene will become chaotic and insane because of increased activity. This could be due to renovations, redecorating, residential moves or visiting guests - hopefully, not all of the above at the same time! This will put a strain on relationships with family members and people living at home.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** When Venus and Mars change signs this week, they introduce an unusual and contradictory influence to your life. You will crave peace and quiet. (Some of you will explore a secret love affair as well.) Look out world! You will identify strongly with your beliefs and will not hesitate to say what you mean and mean what you say!

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** You have a lot to look forward to because as Venus and Mars shift signs this week, they stimulate both your work sector and your ability to socialize with others for fun. Expect to have good times with friends and enjoy the company of others. You will want to make sure that your assets and possessions make your life easier and not the other way around. Sagittarius

**(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** You will really notice the change that Venus and Mars make this week because Mars moves into Sagittarius! Mars will rev your engines and make you energetic, hard-driving, forceful and more of a fighter for your own rights than usual. Yes, you will be a lot to contend with!

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** When Venus changes signs this week, it will heighten your appreciation of beauty, especially in the arts. During August, you will adore travel for pleasure. You will also love to see the arts and crafts of other cultures and different countries. Venus will promote your personal growth and your personal experience of life in a pleasant way.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** During August, Venus will bring you financial good fortune. This is an excellent time to ask for a loan or mortgage. It's also a good time to ask to borrow anything because others will be generous to you. You might even benefit indirectly through the wealth of your partner. Relationships will be more loving and emotionally impacting.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** Like your opposite sign Virgo, the shift of Venus and Mars into new signs is a beneficial thing for you. Fair Venus will be opposite your sign for the next month smoothing all your closest relationships and partnerships. In fact, this position of Venus is about the best for relationships that it can ever be! (You will even improve your dealings with your enemies.) It will certainly be easy for you to express your affection to others, something everyone likes to hear.

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



ACCREDITED  
BUSINESS

Major Credit Cards Accepted



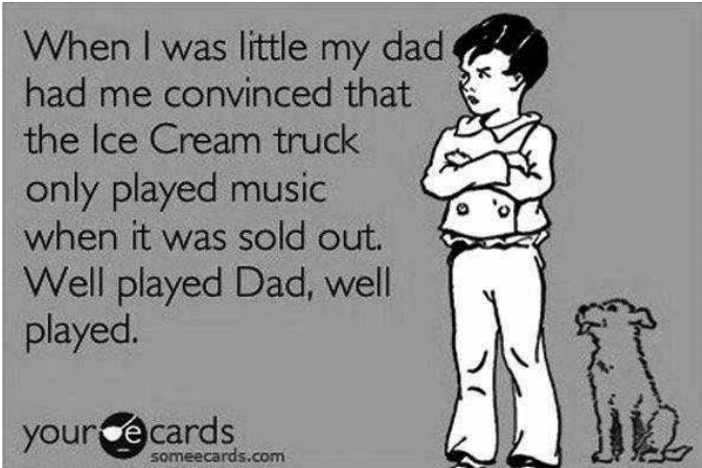
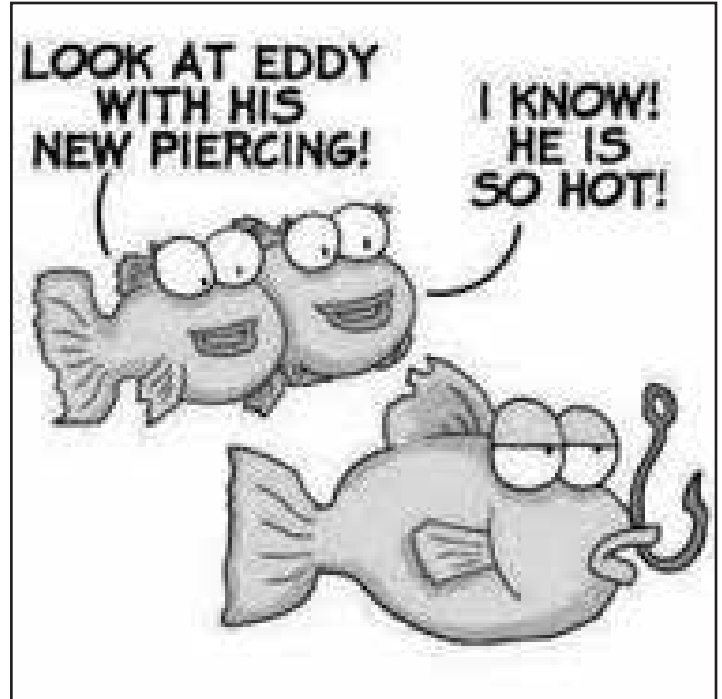
2400 N 5th ● Niles, MI

269-687-7192 Niles, MI

866-751-1470 Toll Free

[www.advantageplumbinginc.net](http://www.advantageplumbinginc.net)

# BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES





# ~Birch Lake Recipes~



*Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge*

## Baked Eggplant Parmesan

### Ingredients

- 2 eggplant, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch slices
- 1 tablespoon salt, or as needed
- 1 cup Italian-style bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 (28 ounce) jar garlic-and- tomato pasta sauce
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 (16 ounce) package shredded mozzarella cheese, or as needed
- 1/2 teaspoon dried basil

### Directions

1. Place eggplant slices in a colander; sprinkle both sides of each slice with salt. Allow to sit for at least 3 hours. Wipe excess moisture from eggplant slices with paper towels.
2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease a baking sheet.
3. Mix bread crumbs and 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese together in a bowl.
4. Dip eggplant slices in beaten egg; coat with bread crumb mixture. Arrange coated eggplant slices in a single layer on the prepared baking sheet.

5. Bake in the preheated oven until lightly browned and crisp, about 5 minutes per side.
6. Cover the bottom of a 9x13-inch casserole dish with a layer of spaghetti sauce; top with a of eggplant slices. Sprinkle with about 1 tablespoon of the remaining Parmesan cheese and 1/3 the mozzarella cheese. Repeat layers with remaining ingredients, ending with a cheese layer. Sprinkle with basil.
7. Bake in a preheated oven until cheese is bubbling and golden brown. About 35 minutes

## Birch Barker Sudoku

### Puzzle of the Week

	2				6		9	
4		6						
5				8		2		1
	5	9	2		1			
			4		7	6	5	
3		2		5				4
						3		5
	1		9				2	

# — Camp Tannadoonah —

It's hard to believe, but we're already coming up on the end of our summer here at camp. This is Session 7, and we have one more after this, ending on August 13. That's a week later than we have ended in the past. This year's calendar allowed us to squeeze in an extra week of camp, which made it possible for us to reach 900 campers for the first time ever!

This year we had 37 kids who were on waitlists for various sessions, and were unable to get a spot for camp. Unfortunately, the early weeks in the summer had openings, but all of the weeks after the July 4th holiday were completely filled, and some had long waitlists.

Looking at next year's calendar, it's going to be hard to work that extra week in, because we would be starting the first week of camp before many schools in our area are out of school. So we're exploring other ways that we might be able to increase our capacity, so that we can serve just as many campers next year as we did this year.

This week's theme at Camp T is International Week, in honor of the upcoming Olympics. On Sunday night the campers played a series of "battles" /games, and each team represented a different country. They played Big Base Kickball, Ball Wars, Tug of War, etc. Tuesday night's evening activity was the Tannadoonah Cup Soccer Tournament, again with each team representing a different country. Our dining hall was decorated with many different flags, and our international staff members got to talk to the campers about their home countries and different traditions they have at home.

Next Friday night (August 12th) will be the final council fire of the season. Every year at the final council fire we have a special torch ceremony to honor the camper who have earned an award called the Order of the Birch. This summer so far we have had 5 campers earn this award, and there are two more campers working

towards it this week. They will all be invited back next Friday for the ceremony. Staff members who have been at Camp T for at least 5 years (as campers or staff) will hold a torch and form an honor guard for the awardees as they receive their certificates.

In order to earn the Order of the Birch, a camper has to be going into at least the 7th grade, and this has to be at least their fifth summer at Camp. During the week they are here, they must be a model camper, keep their bunk neat and clean, do a service project for camp, go to every free choice activity at least once, wake up every morning for one of our early morning programs (either swim, run, or fish), help lead sing one evening, and write a poem, song, or speech about what Camp Tannadoonah means to them. They read or sing their poem, song, or speech to all of Camp at council fire on Friday.

This year we are also presenting the Legend Tree award recipient at our final council fire. In the past we have combined this ceremony with the Hog Roast, but this year decided to do it in conjunction with the ceremony to honor our Order of the Birch recipients. We created the Legend Tree in 2009 to honor individuals who have made legendary contributions to Camp Fire and Camp Tannadoonah, recognizing people who have given significant time, talent, and treasure to our organization.

This year's Legend Tree award goes to Miss Sue Canarecci Felix. Miss Sue was a camper and counselor at Camp

Tannadoonah for many years, and in 2006 and 2007 she served as our CIT (counselor in training director). From 2008 through 2014 she was the assistant camp director. For the past two years she has come back for a week or two to help with special programs. This year she was in charge of the new reading program that we had during the first two weeks of Camp. She was also in Camp Fire as a child, and served as a Camp Fire Club leader for her own children. Miss Sue has shown amazing dedication to Camp Fire and Camp Tannadoonah, and we are very grateful for everything she has done to help our programs thrive.

Following the Council Fire and awards ceremonies, we will proceed to the waterfront for our candlelight serenade. If you would like to attend Council Fire and the awards ceremonies, we will begin at 7:30pm on Friday night (August 12). Guests are welcome! Or you can come out on your boat and watch the candlelight serenade. We usually make our way down the stairs around 9:15pm.

See you next week!

~Miss Amber



**CAMP TANNADOONAH**  
BIRCH LAKE

<http://tannadoonah.org>



**Apollo Marine is Open 7 days a week call or stop by today and START SAVING!**



SOUTHSIDE OF GRAVEL LAKE  
15355 96TH AVE  
Lawton, Michigan 49065  
269.423-6011

**1-888-996-BOAT**

We rent Pontoon Boats  
Service to most area lakes!

[WWW.APOLLOMARINE.NET](http://WWW.APOLLOMARINE.NET)



# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

## FOR SALE



For sale golf **caddy cart** call 476-7073

### 2006 Coachman Captiva 265.

Like new condition. Hardly used. Slide-out in back opens camper to 31 feet. Sleeps 8. Everything works! Great for overflow sleeping. Asking \$7995.00. Please call Bob Groszek @ 1-708-738-0088.

For Sale: **Top and complete frame from Hurricane** 196 Fun deck. Will fit any deck boat, approximately 90" wide. Like new. Asking \$400. Call Jim. 574-276-7903.

For Sale: **Shore Station**, 3,000 lb aluminum, \$200. Call 708-307-4324, Bill Odenwald.

For Sale: **Paddle Boat with Canopy**. Very good condition. Reduced to \$50. Call 317-752-2184 Gus Eshleman

**Boat For Sale. 1989 Sun Ray** speedboat with boat cover, trailer, and boat lift with cover \$3,000. All in good condition. Please call 476-2744

## GARAGE SALE

**Saturday, August 13** – 8 am to 1 pm, Harvey Street across from the entrance to Camp Tannadoonah (Mullin's Garage). Books, toys, clothes, picture frames, kitchen & office stuff - you name it! Everything will be priced to sell!

## WANTED

**Looking for lake rentals** for next year starting June 10 through 24, 2017! May need 2 cottages. Location not important. Please contact Patty Luecht at 269-476-2615, text 317-605-6421 or email: pgallo-way4@yahoo.com. Thanks!

**WANTED SUNFISH** - I am looking for a newer Sunfish in great condition to race and teach my wife and grandkids to love sailing. Pat McGann call or text 574-532-5377,

or email pat@mcgannhay.com.

Camp is also looking for a **gas-powered wood splitter**. If you have one that doesn't get much use and you're interested in selling (or donating!) it, please contact Amber at 574-387-6095.

## FOUND

Found: **Styrofoam noodle (pink) and boogie board (blue)**. Call Tom Kuhn 708-772-7373/Jan Temple (847-846-8600)



**This floated up on our shore** a month ago. We are on the east side located at 63418 Birch Rd.

## SERVICES

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

## BIRCH BARKER CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads in the Birch Barker are free to paid members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club

Ads are \$5 per ad for non-members (please pay in advance).

To submit an ad, email it to Sailorphil@philvitale



## 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



## Not just a will. A way.

*Estate planning is more than having a will. It's a way to protect what matters most.*

You've worked hard to build a life for you and your family here in southwestern Michigan. And Tuesley Hall Konopa will work equally hard to make sure the things that matter most to you are passed along to your loved ones. Estate planning is one of our firm's signature legal services and our experience will help assure your legacy is protected and your wishes honored.

To learn more about the estate planning capabilities of our firm as well as our business counsel and civil litigation/mediation services, visit our website or call us. We're right here in Cass County. Right here for you.



TUESLEY · HALL · KONOPA LLP  
attorneys

UNDERSTANDING. INSIGHTFUL. EFFECTIVE.

21550 Shore Acres Rd. • Cassopolis, MI • 269.445.1818 • thklaw.com

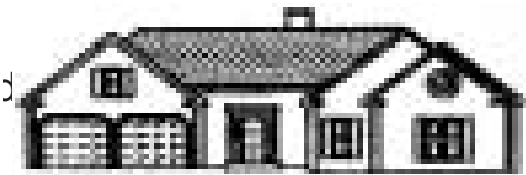
# BLYC Officers and Directors

## 2016 BLYC Officers

Comm. Sue Williams (S).....476-8886 smwillia@comcast.net	Ed Chester (E).....476-1010 ed@chesterlawoffice.com	gbolin31@aol.com	Bob Waddle (E).....476-2293 sparkybob220@comcast.net
V Comm. Claudia Phipps.....476-7073 claudia2154@gmail.com	Harold Cranmer (W).....574-264-6817 dhcranmer@yahoo.com		PJ Vandewalle (H).....476-7086 pjvandewalle@gmail.com
Deb Spratt Treasurer (N).....476-2113 debspratt@comcast.net	Terry Dugan (S).....476-2814 s581122@aol.com		Alan Van Huffel (S).....269-244-3487 abec3@aol.com
Mike Sheffieck Secretary (W).....476-1849 mcsheff@aol.com	Celia Fallon (E).....476-1467 celia.fallon@gmail.com		Phil Vitale (E).....476-1680 sailorphil@philvitale.com
Mike Lutz Fleet Captain (N).....476-2843 mmtlconcrete@aol.com	Fred Freihofer.....476-9823 cdfreihofer@aol.com		Sandy Vitale (E).....476-1680 sandra.vitale@franciscanalliance.org
<b>2015 BLYC Directors</b>			
Patty Luecht (E) Past Comm.....476-2615 Pgalloway4@yahoo.com	Vickie Rogers (C).....476-2383 tvrogers@frontier.com		<b>NON-DIRECTOR ATTENDEES:</b> Jim Bolinger BLYC Homeowners' Association Chairman (E).....476-9737 debo36@comcast.net
Chas Grundy (H).....476-7062 Chas.grundy@gmail.com	Rick Russwurm (N).....476-2407 paramountp@aol.com		Paul Fallon, BLYC Water Quality Committee Chairman (E).....476-1467 paulf@hrpconstruction.com
Greg Bolin (W).....476-2420	Scott Troeger (E).....476-9898 scott.troeger@btlaw.com		

## DIAMOND CONSTRUCTION

No Job Too Large or Too Small!



All Types of Remodeling  
\* New Home Construction \*  
Restoration

Licensed & Insured Free Estimates

**Bob Bienz** 269-759-4010  
63366 Kinsey St., Vandalia, MI  
email: diamondconstr@yahoo.com

CHIMNEY  
SWIFT  
SWEEPS

We Keep Your Chimney  
Safe and Drafting Properly

Chimney Cleaning  
Chimney Relining  
Chimney Certifications  
Chimney Repairs  
Dryer Vent Cleaning

Ron Colborn  
(574) 514-4831

58550 ELLER DR OSCEOLA, IN 46561



## BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

Haven't paid your 2016 dues yet?

# THERE'S STILL TIME!

Support the BLYC, support our Birch Lake Community!

- \$\_\_\_ - BLYC Member Dues (\$30 / year)
- \$\_\_\_ - 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)
- \$\_\_\_ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
- \$\_\_\_ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$\_\_\_ - Fireworks Fund
- \$\_\_\_ - Water Quality Program
- \$\_\_\_ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication
- \$\_\_\_ - Safety Committee
- \$\_\_\_ - Other non-party related expenses
- \$\_\_\_ - BLYC Roof Fund
- \$\_\_\_ - Misc.

Total contribution:

\$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to

## BLYC

c/o Deb Spratt

18100 Farmington Hills Dr.

South Bend, IN 46637

PRE-OWNED  
**SALES**

**BOATS, MOTORS,  
LIFTS, PWCS**

Putting the  
**SERVICE**

**in CUSTOMER SERVICE,  
Pickup, Delivery, Detailing,  
Summer Trailer Storage,  
Winter Storage**

**SERVICE above and beyond**



**Indoor  
Winter  
Boat  
Storage**

**Summer  
Trailer  
Storage**

**Boat Butler llc**

***Buy A Boat — Sell Your Boat***

**We Buy & Sell Boats, Personal Watercraft & Boat Lifts**

**Open 8 days a week “by appointment” for your convenience**

**Pre-Owned Specialist**

**Specializing in pre-owned Boats, Motors,  
Lifts and Personal Watercraft**

**to answer all of your boating needs!**

**269-476-2222**

*or text Dave @ 312 399-3688*

***www.boatbutlermarine.com***

# We've Got You Covered!



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

- Retractable Awnings for Deck & Patios
- Roll Curtains for Screened Porches
- 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**