

Thanks to Bud Hall (Cove) for this amazing selfie during last weekend's flotilla for Dennis Phipps' 78th birthday.

#### COMMENT

ello Birch Lake Floaters, I witnessed many of you taking advantage of the sun and great weather. It was definitely a chance to make the most of it and float along in the cool Birch Lake water to get away from the humidity and heat.

Unfortunately, we continued to see people swimming at the landing as well. Which brought up a good point. Maybe we need a bigger sign? Or an arrow to point to the park area if people want to swim. I appreciate people voicing their concerns. I still urge you to contact  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{DNR}}$ if you see people swimming at the landing, which is super dangerous.

Speaking of danger, please be sure that when you are on a jet ski you are wearing a life jacket. We also need to make sure we are aware of the rules of the lake and we are driving in the correct direction even when tubing.

We should continue to try to not cause so many waves by boating further out from the shoreline at least 100 feet. While the water level has declined, rain is still in the forecast. So be mindful when boating.

Next, I want to address something that you may or may not care about but I think is very important ... Sunscreen! I am a very fair-skinned person, so I always lather up. Which got me thinking, is the sunscreen I am using good for

Birch Lake Calendar

July 26 - Men's Golf Outing, Pine View, 1:30 July 27 - Celebration of Life for LaVeta Scofield, west side, 1-5 pm August 10 - Corn & Sausage Roast, TBA

August 17 - Homeowners Association annual meeting following board mtg.

August 17 - Fall Dinner, BLYC

October 19 - Crockpot Challenge, BLYC

BLYC Board Meetings: July 20, August 17; at BLYC beginning at 9 am More info as available. Watch for updates!

the lake? No worries, I rarely get in the

### — Birch Lake Notes —

water but I do stick my feet in on occasion.

What makes a sunscreen good for the environment? Well, using an Eco-friendly product means replacing chemicals with healthy, sun-blocking agents like zinc oxide.

According to Oars.com, the best Eco-friendly sunscreens are:

- \* Badger Sport Sunscreen Cream SPF 35
- \* All Terrain Aqua<br/>Sport Natural Sunscreen SPF  $30\,$
- \* Kiss My Face Natural Mineral Sunscreen SPF 30
- \* Sun Salve Herbal Sunscreen SPF 27

No matter what kind of sunscreen you buy, the Skin Cancer Foundation recommends this basic criterion for how to pick a product:

Choose a sunscreen with at least SPF 15 and at most SPF 50 Reapply every two hours and after swimming or heavy sweating

Look for 'Broad Spectrum' protection, which blocks both UVA (early-aging) and UVB (sunburn) rays  ${}^{\prime}$ 

Choose lotions over spray for more consistent coverage If you cannot find any of the ones I listed don't worry, the EWG or Environmental Working Group has a list of over 304 sunscreens good for the environment and good for you on their web site, www.ewg.org. I highly recommend Color Science brushon sunscreen. It's great if you have kids too. Its a powder you brush on your face, and it takes less than 30 seconds to apply.

You should also be protecting your eyes, wear sunglasses and hats when possible.

So enjoy the sun, but be safe and think about what you are putting on and how it effects the environment.

Take care and be kind to one another.

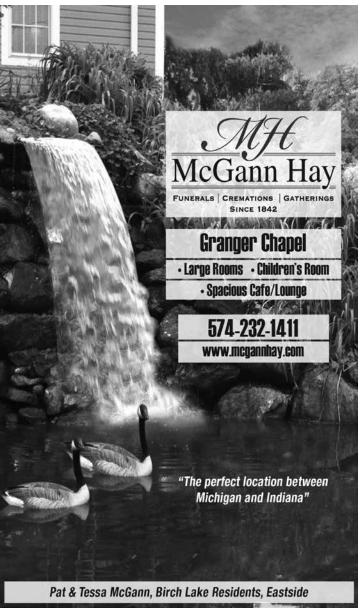
#### ~Commodore Angela

#### Remembering Kerni

There will be a ceremony to honor Kerni O'Brien on August 10 at 3 pm at Camp Tannadoonah, with the spreading of her ashes. Anyone that would like to attend is welcome.

#### **Birch Lake Book Club change**

The July Birch Lake Book Club meeting has been changed to



### Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND \$10,250 GOAL MET! BUILDING FOR 2020!



# alphagraphics®

# GET NOTICED. GET BUSINESS.

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

### Birch Lake Notes

July 23. Claudia Phipps will host at 7 pm, and we'll discuss Educated by Tara Westover. Everyone is welcome.

Our next book is Beneath a Scarlett Sky by Mark Sullivan. Jeannie Welch will host.

#### Men's golf outing is July 26

Vice Commodore Pat McGann asks that anyone who hasn't paid for their entry in the mens' golf outing on Friday, July 26, should do so immediately via check to him or via the web payment option at birchlakeyachtclub.com.

#### The Birch Barker

The Birch Barker is delivered to your Birch Lake home every weekend through Labor Day - FREE of charge! It is also posted online every week at http://www.philvitale.com.

The Birch Barker is one of the many things for which your Birch Lake Yacht

Club membership dues are used to benefit to the citizens of our lake. If you haven't paid your 2019 membership dues (just \$30 for full members, \$15 for associate members), you can do so with the handy form in every week's Barker or online at www.birchlakeyachtclub.

The Barker welcomes (reasonable) content (remember that this is a family

Please accept my sincere apologies for not

being able to attend your As you know, my passion is boating and spending as much time aboard as we can. The boating season is short and the high cost associated with the boat to sit idle (unused for the weekend) requires me to say no to all nor boating events planned during the boating season. Please don't take it personally, but I hope you understand my formal weekend policy. If you would like to move your special event after November 15 and before April 15, I would be happy to attend. I hope you respect my position.

publication and don't send things you wouldn't want your own kids to see). Deadline for submitting items for publication is always at 3 pm on the Tuesday of the week before publication.

If you would like to submit an ad or editorial item for consideration, see note at bottom of page 1. Please send high resolution photos (we prefer 300 dpi); cell phone photos will work (sometimes) but can't be enlarged without blurring. If you want your materials back, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The Birch Lake Yacht Club has added a new secure website for residents to pay dues, donate to various causes, buy merchandise and pay to attend events. Please note that all fees are slightly higher when paying online. To check it out (or pay your dues), go to: HTTP://WWW.BIRCHLAKEYACHT-

CLUB.COM

~Editor Phil



#### The Joy's John at Birch Lake public landing

Despite the objections of multiple homeowners on Birch Lake (including the owners of the properties on either side), the Cass County Parks Department's Joy's John on a concrete pad near the water at the Birch Lake public landing remains. The Parks board of directors has taken the matter under advisement and has promised to monitor the launch to try to keep out swimmers. They have asked that residents notify Parks Director Scott Wyman if we see swimmers, by calling him at 445-4456, and if that is unsuccessful, to call the county sheriff's department at 445-2481 to report the activity so they can respond.

## SLOW DOWN

**BIRCH LAKE HAS NARROW ROADS.** LOTS OF PEDESTRIANS, A TON OF CHILDREN. **GRANDCHILDREN AND PETS** 

> **SLOW DOWN ON OUR ROADS** AND ON THE HILLS **TO AND FROM** THE LAKE!

SPEED LIMIT

**1**5<sub>MPH</sub>



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

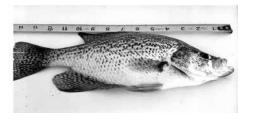
### — Birch Lake Notes —

#### Ray Gaik's Gallery

Over the Fourth of July several large fish were caught at Ray Gaik's home (north east side). Below is Lady Beth's largemouth bass measuring 23" (she argued for releasing it for breeding purposes) caught July 7. At right is a 14" Crappie, and at

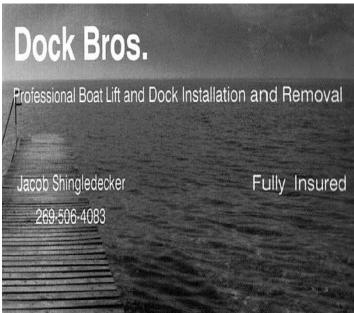


bottom right is a 22" largemouth caught on July 5. Ray says despite what he's been hearing from neighbors, there are plenty of large fish in Birch Lake.













### FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



#### Fleet Captain's Jibe #9, July 20

By J. Patrick McGann OATERS: The sailing fleet did have a very well received and well attended positive meeting on Sunday morning at the East Side Sailing Club to go over some of our racing customs here on Birch Lake. I thank you all for coming. We all go out there to have fun and it is a great way to make friends and share our camaraderie. It also brings much beauty to Sunday summer afternoons here on the lake. However, I ask for YOUR HELP! On those windy days and even on some not so windy days we need boaters to offer assistance to sailboats the have over turned in some cases turtled where the mast is pointing straight down. This can be an deadly situation for the sailor whether wearing a life jacket or not and may be a very exhausting situation. Whereas, the Race Committee Boat cannot leave the Start/Finish Line, we need a boat or boats to come to the sailor's aid who has flipped his or her boat. The mast needs to be lifted out of the water as soon as possible to be able to right the boat. Always talk to the sailor first because sometimes he/she can do it themselves and if you help he/she will be disqualified from the race.

It happened again, not enough wind to race last Sunday. ;-( So, I find myself having to fill the white space saved for my column with no results of the competition.

As some of you know, I was in beautiful Montana last week for a

Celebration of Life for my very gifted and smart Intensive Care Physician brother-inlaw Thomas Bajo, MD, who drown two years ago Thursday after hitting his head under his helmet above his left eye on a boulder in the Rock Creek, in the Beartooth Mountains near Red Lodge, MT. He retired a few years before his accident two years ago. A world class kayaker he died enjoying what he loved to do and where he loved to do it. So, about 25 family and friends from the kayaking community gathered on a bridge on the raging river where it happened and he was last seen, to scatter his ashes. We also celebrated his 70th birthday the next day. Life is Good t-shirts were worn by all, Tommy's favorite t-shirts and danced The Twist and the whole restaurant sang Happy Birthday to him after dinner. I am, you may know, in the funeral business in South Bend and Granger. As many of us have seen here on Birch Lake this summer it is so meaningful for not only family but friends and co-workers as well to have a Celebration of a Life lived to remember that person. No one ever told me they regretted having a ceremony/gathering of some sort, but many people have told me that they did regret not having something for family and friends after the loss of a

**GOLFERS:** We will still accept registrations now through Monday online at the bottom of www.birchlakeyachtclub.com



\$63 or bring me a check or cash for \$60, put inside the screen door or mailbox, 64164 Birch Rd., East Side A-Frame. We are scheduled for Pine View Golf Course on Friday July 26th with a 1:30pm Shotgun start. A nice dinner to follow at the course. Cash Bar cart on the course.

**ALL LAKERS:** The Fall Dinner is set for Saturday August 17, 5:30 pm, at the BLYC before everyone leaves to give us one last chance to say goodbye and talk about your fall and winter plans.

Sail on Dudes and Dudettes! ~Fleet Captain Pat



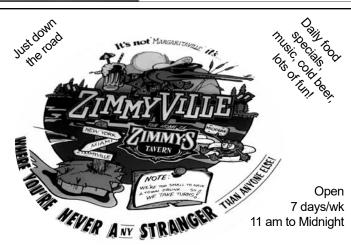


TUESLEY · HALL · KONOPA, LLP attorneys

> Estate planning Elder law Business counsel Mediation Litigation

Cassopolis • South Bend • Elkhart 269.445.1818 | thklaw.com





69608 Sunset Blvd

Zimmyville (Union), Michigan

#### ZIMMY'S TAVERN

(269) 641-5317 http://www.zimmystavern.com

### — Water Quality Report —

### Commandment #4

e'd now like to discuss Commandment # 4: "Thou Shalt Protect and Expand Natural Shorelines"

The 2007 National Lakeshore Assessment indicated that far more Michigan inland lakes are stressed by poor shoreline conditions than by excesses of nutrients or turbidity.

Shorelines:

Dictate what gets into the lake Provide key animal habitat and breeding areas:

Serve as important fish nursery areas; Prevent (or hasten) soil erosion.

(The) "lawns and seawalls (that most of us have) change the lake ecosystem in ways that are hard to reverse." Hard shorelines have physical, biological and chemical impacts.

In terms of our environment and protecting our lake, natural shorelines are best. They are even our best bet at limiting phosphorus.

An optimum natural shorelines includes many components:

- Submerged vegetation (in the water):
- Emergent or floating vegetation (in the water);
- Woody debris (beached logs or sticks) (in the water);
- A secured, gradual (climbable by turtles) slope up from the water's edge;
- And, at the top of the slope, before the lawn, a barrier strip (the wider the better) of at least 12" - 24" tall native, deep-rooted-plants.

In a perfect world the gradual slope would be made of and secured by native plants, perhaps initially held in place by natural fabrics or logs. Seyfarths (northeast corner) comes to mind as meeting many of these criteria.

The barrier strip helps to prevent erosion but also captures many chemicals on their way to the lake. It also makes your lawn area less desirable to geese. Please pick up whatever deposits geese (or other living beings) might leave on your property and throw them, not into the lake, but into the trash.

Although not 100% natural, a gradual slope of riprap (cobbles and boulders) is more desirable than a solid concrete wall. A gradual slope of riprap could be installed in place or in front (on the lake side) of a poured concrete seawall, thus mitigating some of its negative effects. Kudos to the Woznys (south) and Troegers (east side).

Even those with riprap and/or a poured concrete wall could install and maintain any of the other features of a natural shoreline described above.

A hardened shoreline, absent any of these natural characteristics, used to be considered by many of us lake folks to be highly desirable. Instead, water quality experts have referred them to as "aquatic deserts".

In 2017, using methods and standards provided as part of the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program, we subjected our lake to a "Score the Shore" evaluation. Due to our performance (or lack of) on the factors listed above, and the amount of development around the lake, we received a Below-Average score. Our score today might be a little higher, but not too much different, still likely



below average.

A good source for more information on the subject, including approved material and contractor source guides, can be found at www.mishorelinepartnership. org. Also helpful is www.mishorelandstewards.org.

PLEASE PASS THE WORD!

#### THE "SIX COMMANDMENTS OF BIRCH LAKE WATER QUALITY"

I. THOU SHALT PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVA-SIVE SPECIES (AIS).

II. THOU SHALT MINIMIZE SURFACE RUNOFF.

III. THOU SHALT MINIMIZE THE EFFECTS OF WAVES.

IV. THOU SHALT PROTECT AND EXPAND NATURAL SHORE
LINES.

V. THOU SHALT NOT ALLOW PHOSPHORUS, NUTRIENTS, AND OTHER UNDESIRABLE CHEMICAL ELEMENTS TO EN-TER OUR LAKE.

VI. THOU SHALT REMAIN INFORMED AND ACTIVE ABOUT OTHER WATER QUALITY ISSUES.



Hours of Operation:

Fridays 2-6;

Saturdays 10-6;

Sundays 11-5

#### Bubba's Market, LLC IS BACK!

Under the Yellow Tent at Hall's Bait and Tackle in Union

Jim "Bubba" Baldwin
Owner
574.596.5752
jlbald66@gmail.com
facebook.com/bubbasmarket

574.596.5752 jlbald66@gmail.com facebook.com/bubbasmarket



### — Barker Weed of the Week —

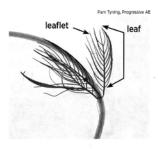
### Eurasian Watermilfoil (Myriophyllum spicatum L.)



Description: Eurasian watermilfoil is a submersed feathery-looking plant with long stems that branch as they grow to the water surface. The plant usually has four leaves arranged in a whorl around the stem. Each leaf is finely divided into 12 to 20 leaflets, each about ½ inch long, along the leaf's central axis.

Jabitat and distribution: Eurasian watermilfoil produces flowers on a spike above the water surface and produces seeds, but its major mode of reproduction is through fragmentation. Each broken fragment is capable of producing a new plant. This invasive milfoil can be easily confused with the native northern watermilfoil, and the two species can hybridize. It is often assumed that, if the plant has 12 or fewer pairs of leaflets along the central axis of the leaf and the leaves remain rigid when the plant is removed from the water, it is the native species. However, this mode of identification is not totally reliable for distinguishing between native, non-native and hybrid species, and genetic testing may be required.

The plant, either as whole plants or fragments, is readily moved from one lake to another by boats, boat trailers, bait buckets and wildlife. Once established, it grows quickly and creates a canopy when it reaches the water surface, shading out slower growing plants, displacing native vegetation, restricting water movement and decreasing oxygen production below the surface.



Eurasian watermilfoil is a native to Europe, Asia and northern Africa. An aggressive plant, it was first found in the United States in the 1940s and since then has spread to almost all states in the continental United States. It is prevalent throughout Michigan, particularly in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula.

Control/management: Mechanical harvesting is generally not recommended for controlling Eurasian watermilifoil because of the potential fragmentation and spread. Several herbicides have been used successfully in treating the species, including fluridone. When used early in the growing season and at recommended rates, fluridone is fairly specific for this species. Other chemicals that have proven effective are 2,4-D, endothall, diquat, triclopyr and flumioxazin. Permits are usually required for these chemicals, with some requiring a certified applicator. Biological control is another



method that has been used in reducing Eurasian watermilfoil. The milfoil weevil, Euhrychiopsis lecontei, is a native species and appears to favor the invasive milfoil. The adult weevils feed on the leaves and lay eggs on them. The eggs hatch, and the larvae burrow into the stem, eventually causing the milfoil plant to collapse. Factors such as fish predation and lack of vegetation and leaf litter on shorelines have been shown to limit the success of the milfoil weevil.



on Michigan's restricted species list)

7

Source: Michigan State University Extension Bulletin E-3189, A Michigan Boater's Guide to Selected Invasive Aquatic Plants

### Sale With Susie!

Your Waterfrout Specialist



Waterfront Specialist Serving Michigan and Indiana

SUSIE TUCKER
REALTY

**574-320-6697** Cell

269-641-5775 Office

www.susietucker.com Susie@susietucker.com





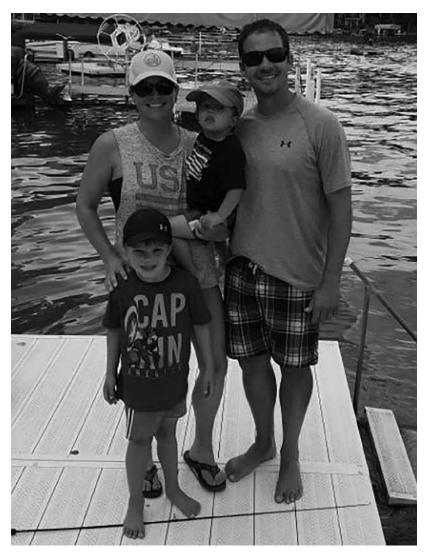
susie@susietucker.com 574-320-6697



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 —



KOTW kudos to the Caenepeel clan (west side) from Charlotte, NC. Included are Jason, Jen, Dylan, and Jack. They enjoyed a wonderful week at WeeWood, and were able to enjoy all the festivities associated with the 4th of July celebrations. Best place on Earth to spend time with friends and family!

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

# The LAKE LIFE



Get a FREE market analysis! Contact Paul DeLano:

269-445-8877

Paul@TheLakeLife.com

#### **Birch Lake homes for sale**



#### 62930 Birch Road 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath, 2,200-sq-ft lodge-style home on a 1.2-acre lot. Sale of furniture, furnishings, and decorations will be negotiable. On the main level, a foyer with a soaring ceiling opens to the living room with



### 15176 Birch Lake Shore Dr.

3 BD 2 BA 2,698-sq-ft home on double lot w/ 128 ft waterfront, fenced tennis court, large backlot w/ 1,200-sq-ft heated Morton Building. House has large windows, broad upper deck, covered lower patio, 3-season room, brick patio w/ custom-built

fireplace, a bar, a formal dining room, and a family room with lake views and a knotty pine ceiling. The kitchen has an island with breakfast bar seating, stainless appliances, and a casual dining area that leads to a covered patio with a new hot tub and a 19x33-ft saltwater pool and a deck with panoramic lake views. The master suite, with walk-in closet, also has access to the covered

chimneyed fireplace near water. Upper level: large living room w/ vaulted ceiling, exposed natural beams, Midcentury Modern fireplace designed by Wendell Lovett, deck access, panoramic lake views: dining area w/ lake views; sink for wet bar; 3 BD; 1 BA; outside access. Spiral staircase down to sitting room w/ 3-season room and patio access, dining room, kitchen w/ bar seating and casual dining, 1 BA. Street-side lawn has wrought iron fence and brick path to the home.

patio. A laundry and mud room, with access to garage as well as outdoors, has a powder room. Upstairs, a landing affords lake views for two bedrooms. On the lakeside lot, a matching hut has a bath, kitchenette, and covered porch next to a stone patio with fire circle. The property includes a 3-car garage and plenty of offstreet parking. An adjacent lot is also available.



63126 Birch Road
TURNKEY - 3 Bed, 2 bath,
Year-round cottage on 60 ft
of sandy frontage. Updated
kitchen and open concept living & dining with great sunset
views and access to a large
lakeside low-maintenance
deck with awning and lots of
storage below. Ample parking
for 6 vehicles. \$415,000

#### **OUT OF INVENTORY!**

#### **LISTINGS NEEDED!**

**HOMES ARE SELLING** 

NOW IS A
GREAT TIME
TO LIST
YOUR
HOME!

PAUL DELANO
TODAY

269-445-8877

Paul@TheLakeLife.com

### Barker Kids of the Week —





#### **Happy Half Birthday John Luecht**

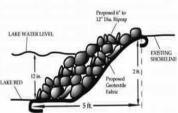
My good friend and neighbor John Luecht (east shore) celebrated his24-1/2th birthday last Saturday with a crowd of well-wishers who descended on the Flamingo Room deck. John's birthday is actually in December so he's never been able to celebrate at Birch Lake ... so Bad Patty and Wild Bill invited a few of John's lake friends over to help him celebrate in style.



### We Are The Natural Choice For Shoreline Preservation



Fieldstone RipRap This is a great option for preserving your existing shoreline.



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

### NEW LEA Complete Landscape Services 1269)**462-096**6 To Create Your Perfect Shoreli We Will Pay The Permit Fee With A Signed Contract

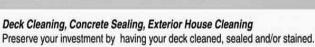
New Leaf Landscapes Serving Michiana!
Facebook: New Leaf Landscapes, Sod & Sprinklers • Email: newleafofswmich@gmail.com
Google: New Leaf Landscapes of Southwest Michigan Owner/Operator: Bill Personette III

### NEW LEAT

Complete Landscape Services

SOD • SPRINKLERS • PATIOS SEA WALLS • TREE SERVICE

Ca69) 462-0966



Sprinkler Turn-on & System Install

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

Tree & Hedge Trimming

Consider having us professionally trim your ornamental trees & shrubs.

#### - When Quality & Dependability Matter Most -

Beach Install Clean-up Spring/Fall Clean-up Custom Mowing Mulch, Stone. Sand & Topsoil Seed & Sod Landscape Restoration

Retaining Walls

Excavation Concrete Remova Tree/Shrub Pruning Tree Removal Deck Cleaning Power Washing Professional Snow Management

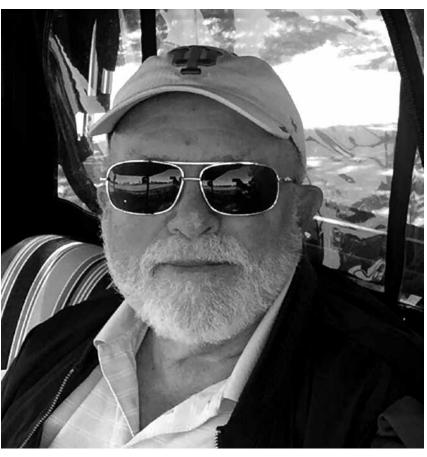


Specializing in Fieldstone Seawalls, Fire Pits & Flagstone Patios

### — Barker Kids of the Week —



The east side's Bob and Sandy Baucus family had a family picture day last weekend that lasted 3 hours, and finished with this lovely couple posing for the last picture on the pier! Thanks to Commodore Angela for sending the pic.



Dennis Phipps, north side, celebrated his 78th birthday Sunday by attending a surprise flotilla in the middle of our great lake with a couple dozen friends and a lot of birthday libation. Thanks to his wife Claudia for organizing, and we wish you many more happy birthdays on Birch Lake together!

### My 30 point marketing system is Dynamic! — Exciting! — Productive! — Creative! And most importantly GETS RESULTS!

### Offering...

- Drone, professional, and 3-D photography...
- video... TV, print, and magazine advertising...
- internet, email, and social media marketing...
- 3<sup>rd</sup> party advertising... including Zillow with video
- **■** Luxury Homes international...
- and MORE, MUCH MORE!

I can help you reach MORE buyers!



Real effort. Real results.



701 Spruce St. Dowagiac, MI 49047

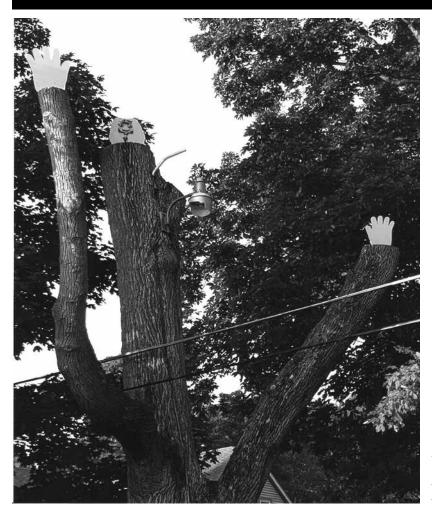


Dennis Bamber
Cressy & Everett REALTOR
Licensed in Indiana and Michigan

Cell: 574-532-3808



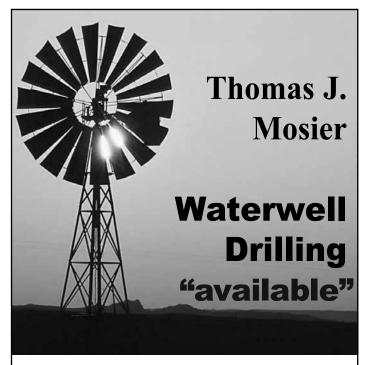
### — Barker Kids of the Week —





KOTW honors to Rick Harman, east side, and his captain who Mr Bob (King, north shore) photographed while they were sailing on an MC. Looking good Rick, but a little more vang might be in order ...

I don't think we've ever published a tree of the week, but Ray Gaik's tree, Mr. Friendly (north east shore) welcomes all Birch lakers. Enjoy and have a safe summer!



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

#### **Welcome to Jaywalker**



Conveniently located close to Birch Lake! 10188 US 12, Mottville on the beautiful St. Joseph River

(269) 483-2305

#### **General Handyman Services**



Need something repaired replaced or maintained? Let me see if I can help! Lake references available.

### YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) - This is a powerful time for you because you are in the peak of a 30-year journey of Saturn in your chart, which means you are in your time of harvest. This means the seeds you have planted in the past are now coming to fruition. Obviously, this can be good or bad. Focus on your wins. Opportunities will come your way, promotions, kudos and a chance to put your name up in lights!

**Taurus (April 20-May 20) -** This year you can benefit from the wealth and resources of others. One obvious example will be that your spouse or partner will earn more and you will benefit indirectly through this. However, many of you might also receive an inheritance or money from the government or a payout from insurance. This week you will start to focus on increased activity and chaos on the home front, which will continue for seven weeks. Do what you can to keep the peace.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20) -** You're still focused on money and cash flow. You are also starting to rev your engines because in the next seven weeks, you will be more direct, more proactive and a much stronger communicator and fighter for your own rights than usual. This year is a beneficial year for partnerships and close friendships for you. In fact, it's a great year for Geminis to get married.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) - You're still the star of the show because the Sun and Venus are both in your sign. In fact, by the end of the week, retrograde Mercury will join them. This means you have lots of energy and charisma. Oh yeah, you're the belle of the ball! Do not forget that your good fortune this year is all about improving your job or getting a better job. You can really do this! Likewise, you can improve your health. Admittedly, partnerships are challenging right now. In fact, some that have outlived their usefulness will end. (You hate letting go.) In the next month, you will put out more energy to earn and spend money.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** - Most people think you are dramatic, playful, theatrical and the life of the party. And this is often true. But the deeper truth is, you are actually a serious person more than many people realize. Romance is also super amped! Grab your chance for fun this week because week year is your turn to improve your job or get a better job. Along with this, your health will improve.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - This continues to be a popular time for you. In particular, you will enjoy hanging out with creative, artistic people. In fact, you'll feel so chummy that for some, a friend might become a lover. This is your time to improve your home or your real-estate scene. You can buy a better home, or rent a better home or improve your existing home through renovations, repairs and purchases. Likewise, your family life will be happier and family members will be more generous to each other. Make plans for a big vacation.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -** Oh boy! This is your month because this is the only time all year when the Sun is at high noon in your chart. This light is flattering, which is why everyone is so impressed with you, even if you don't do anything special. Obviously, this is the time to use your positive energy and optimism to promote your agenda. Tackle major repairs at home and do anything you can to secure your home base for you and your family. Just do it

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** - Well of course, the great news for your sign is that this is your time to get richer. If you were born late in your sign, this will not kick in until late this year. But it will happen. Meanwhile, job changes and residential moves have kept you in a state of flux. This means you have to stay on your toes and keep your eyes open. One thing is certain, your home scene looks fabulous! Meanwhile for the next two months, your ambition is aroused. You intend to go after something because you really want to achieve it.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** - This has been a fortunate year for you in many ways. Enjoy the good life! But that's not all. Next year you will make more money! Meanwhile, grab every opportunity to travel and expand your world in the next seven weeks because this is what you really want to do. Veni vidi Visa!

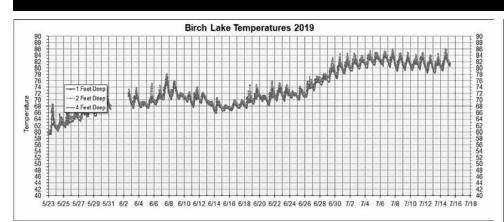
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Your energy might be flagging a bit because this is a low-energy month for you. However, in a week or so, things will start to pick up. You'll feel it. Nevertheless, your sex drive is amped, and I'm sure you can feel that! At a more subtle level, many of you are experiencing some personal growth and a deeper understanding of who you are, especially with your spiritual values. This is important. We tend to overlook our inner world compared to riches and so-called success

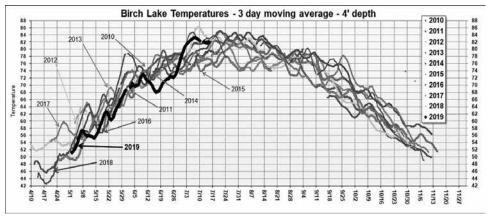
#### Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -

Friendships are important to you because more than any other sign, you are a natural net worker. You understand the power of the collective - when people of like minds join forces to make a difference in the world. This year you have more than usual access to this power because you are popular. Not only do friends appreciate you more, clubs and groups also admire your ability to lead, mediate and make things happen.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Once every 12 years, lucky Jupiter sails across the top of your chart giving you a chance to expand your influence in the world. That's what's happening now for you. Suddenly, people notice you. They admire you! Many of you are getting praise, awards, kudos and promotions. Definitely, something is happening to make others view you as a success in their eyes. Fortunately, you're entering a lovely two-month window where you are prepared to bust your buns to work hard to achieve your objectives. Quite likely, you will do this at your job.

### Birch Lake Environmental Data





Temps provided by Steve Quinlan

### The Moon for this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.828
3.8 days before last quarter



Sunrise: 06:23:11 AM Sunset: 21:13:40 PM Moonrise: 06:23:11 AM Moonset: 21:13:40 PM Daylight: 14 Hr 50 Min 28 Sec

### — Barker Weekly Puzzle —

DIRECTIONS: Find the numbers in the list below the grid. The numbers be in any direction: backwards, forwards, up, down, or diagonally.

2	5	6	1	8	5	6	3	0	4	8	3	6	1	6
7	2	8	7	6	5	3	2	8	0	8	5	8	1	8
3	0	2	3	1	3	5	0	5	5	4	8	7	5	5
2	2	9	0	8	3	4	5	2	0	9	6	2	0	8
4	8	5	7	4	3	3	3	3	4	5	2	4	9	8
4	8	6	6	9	2	6	1	9	8	4	1	5	0	5
4	7	8	5	1	0	0	0	2	1	5	1	4	6	1
7	0	5	6	5	4	1	8	0	9	0	6	9	0	3
9	0	5	4	4	4	5	9	7	7	0	3	3	3	4
1	9	5	3	9	2	7	4	2	3	5	2	9	5	0
0	9	8	9	6	4	9	7	9	8	0	5	9	2	0
3	2	2	9	4	2	5	5	0	0	6	3	9	0	0
3	8	7	1	2	6	0	0	0	0	8	2	1	6	5
9	6	5	4	9	8	7	2	5	2	0	6	8	0	1
4	3	6	2	3	4	7	0	8	9	9	1	0	1	3

130456	410974	561280
150526	433334	567037
253060	436234	572855
270159	444791	588586
280858	454908	592884
286554	470085	642950
296684	481973	712600
322942	500043	870099
325326	520680	896497
399918	549872	991013

#### **Talk With A Live Person**

### ADVANTAGE PLUMBING INC.

VOTED NILES BUSINESS OF THE YEAR!

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





2400 N 5th ● Niles, MI 269-687-7192 Niles, MI 866-751-1470 Toll Free

**After Hours** 

**Emergency** 

#### BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES



My Wife texted me a selfie in a new dress and asked "Does this make my butt look big?"

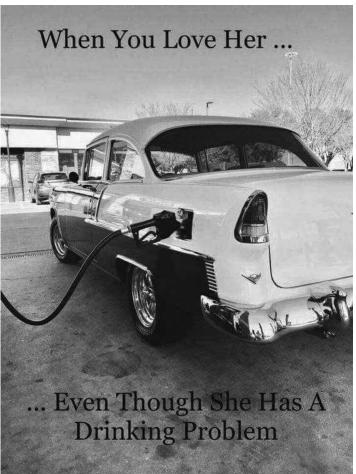
I texted back "Noo!"

My phone autocorrected my response to "Moo!"

Please send help!











### ~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

### Win Schuler's Cheese

# From the 2004 Birch Lake Ladies Luncheon Recipe Collection\*

**by Sue Wagner** AKA Sunny Waters

#### Ingredients;

1 lb. Velveeta cheese ½ cup mayonnaise ½ cup white horseradish

#### Directions:

Melt cheese and mayonnaise together. Add horseradish. Blend well and refrigerate until ready to use.

Thanks to **Denny Weesner Bradfield** and Ronnie Eshleman for the recipes







### **Prime Property Care**

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

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

gavinfrancis@rocketmail.com

### — Camp Tannadoonah —

t's a FULL week at camp this week! We have 150 campers, which is as many as we are licensed to have at any time. With all this heat, we've had to change up our schedule a bit to make room for additional water activities.

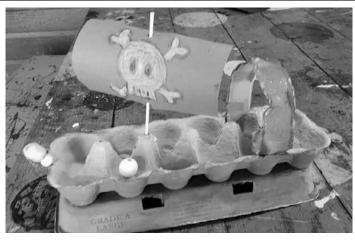
Sunday night, we had a free swim for evening activity, and we've played sprinkler soccer, water polo, cardboard boat races, and water relays. We also set up a couple extra water and sunscreen stations. Luckily, we have an air conditioner for the nurse's cabin, so we are able to have a cool spot in camp for any kids who got overheated.

On really hot days, when the temperature is over 90 degrees, we make the afternoon swim time mandatory for all campers. It was quite an adventure on Monday to have all 150 kids in the water at the same time!

Even though it has certainly been hot, we've all managed pretty well, and we usually have a nice breeze up on the hill so it doesn't feel as bad as it does in town! And we were glad to not have any major storms come through (at least so far!).

The theme last week was Pirate Week, and we made use of some of the donated items that people have collected for us. We made Parakeets from the toilet paper tubes, and Pirate Ships from the egg cartons. Miss Mi-





chelle send me pictures to share in the Barker!

This week's theme is "I Love the 90s," so we have had fun dancing to 90s music this week. The Counselors in Training (CITs) are our "committee" this week, which mean that they're in charge of decorating the dining hall, planning evening activities, and teaching the songs every evening at our song circle.

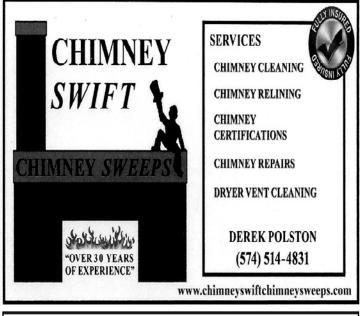
This week, we have 3 CIT 1s (meaning they are first-year CITs), and 1 CIT 3 (so he's 17 and a 3rd year CIT). They've been shadowing counselors, helping lead activities, and assisting in the cabins. The first year CITs come for two weeks, the second year CITs come for three weeks, and the

third year CITs come for four weeks, so each year they get more and more experience to hopefully prepare them to join our staff in the future.

This year, our CITs are being led by Miss Julie Herwick, who has done the CIT program for the past few years, and by Miss Ryanna Hester, who works at our after school program during the school year, and is working at camp for the first time this year. They're doing a great job teaching the CITs about what it takes to be a camp counselor, and we look forward to having this group on staff in a few years!

Hope everyone is staying cool on the lake this week!

~Miss Amber amber@tannadoonah.org







### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

#### **FOR SALE**

**4-seater pedal boat for sale.** As-is (though we will get her down from the pole barn for test rides). Contact the Kings at 476-2128.

**Schecter Diamond Series "Black Widow" electric guitar** with case and Line 6, Spider III 30 Amp, used maybe 6x's. \$200 for both, negotiable. Call Deb at 476-7226.



For sale: the **former Misch Mfg building** located at 14111 Esther Ave., Mishawaka, IN 46545. Location 3/10 of a mile west of Capital Avenue between Jefferson and McKinley. Contact Jill Celie-Brenay, REMAX, or Bob King.

For sale: **Full size bed frame with Maple headboard and footboard**.
Make offer. Bob Groszek. 219-384-9291.

For sale: **2010 Bennington pontoon** with **50 hp Yamaha & 2013 lake-shore lift** with canopy and motorized wheel assist. \$15,000. Call PJ or Sue Vandewalle at 476-7086

**For sale 2007 Cadillac DTS** 120K Mi. Looks great and everything works.

\$5500.00 OBO. Bob Waddle 269-365-7696

FOR SALE: **Modern Master Bedroom set** including King sized bed frame (with inboard storage / headboard cabinetry) and desk. Vertical computer desk with doors and drawers. Call Leslie King 574-276-9996



**42 inch game table** w/18 inch leaf & 4 counter height stools. Custom no mar finish! \$500. **Crate & Barrel trundle bed** w/two quality mattresses. \$750. Call Sue or PJ at 269-476-7086



#### **FOR RENT**

Interested in a unique, **fun vacation**? Check out renting the most inexpensive but cutest and best-located rental in The

Villages, Florida at <u>ourhome4rent.</u> <u>com/cjp</u>

#### **FOUND**

Found: **small red and black Attwood buoy** found in the Cove Sunday, June 23, Call 476-2090

#### **SERVICES**

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

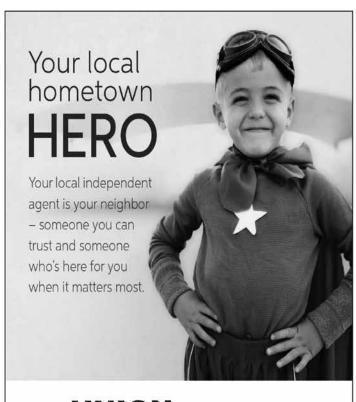
For **Sprinkler service**, please call SOS Irrigation @ (574) 534-9150

#### **THANKS**

Thank you all for your donations of plastic bags and toilet paper & paper towel tubes! We have enough now to last us the entire summer for tie dye and crafts at camp, so we don't need any more at this time. Thank you from Camp Tannadoonah!

#### **CLASSIFIED ADS**

Classified ads in the Birch Barker are free to BLYC members, \$5 for everyone else. Send your ads to me at sailorphil@philvitale.com



### UNION

SUE MCCAMMON Owner/Agent

"For all your MI and IN Insurance needs" Personal and Commercial

CALL TODAY! SAVE YOURSELF SOME MONEY!

15479 U.S. 12 (next to post office)
P.O. Box 74 sue@u
Union, MI 49130 www.ui

sue@unionins.net www.unionins.net 269/641-5995 800/888-4095 Ax 269/641-5787

Auto-Owners
INSURANCE

LIFE . HOME . CAR . BUSINESS





Have you seen the stunning 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 at Birch Lake. Interested in a new look for your 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

### **BLYC Officers and Directors**

2018/19 BLYC Officers					
Angela Bergan (E), Commodore					
561-603-5522	berganfsu@aol.com				
Pat McGann (E), Vice Commodore					
574-532-5377	pat@mcgannhay.com				
<b>Deb Spratt, Treasurer</b>	<b>(N)</b> 476-2113				
de	ebspratt@comcast.net				
Mike Sheffieck, Secre	tary (W)476-1849				
	mcsheff@aol.com				
2018 BLYC Directors					
Greg Bolin (W)	476-2420				
	gbolin31@aol.com				
Ed Chester (E)	476-1010				
ed@	chesterlawoffice.com				
Past Comm. Karen Curtis-Miller (E) .574-261-6712					

karen.curtis-miller@bayer.com,

Terry Dugan (S)476-2814
s581122@aol.com
Fred Freihofer476-9823
cdfreihofer@aol.com
Chas Grundy (H)574-315-0217
Chas.grundy@gmail.com
Patty Luecht (E) Past Comm476-2615
Pgalloway4@yahoo.com
Sarah Petty (N)476-7068
sarahkpetty@gmail.com
sarahkpetty@gmail.com Claudia Phipps (N)476-7073
Claudia Phipps (N)476-7073
Claudia Phipps (N)476-7073 claudia2154@gmail.com
Claudia Phipps (N)
Claudia Phipps (N)       476-7073         claudia2154@gmail.com         Vickie Rogers (C)       476-2383         tvrogers@frontier.com
Claudia Phipps (N)       476-7073         claudia2154@gmail.com         Vickie Rogers (C)       476-2383         tvrogers@frontier.com         Rick Russwurm (N)       476-2407

PJ Vandewalle (E)	476-7086
. ,	pjvandewalle@gmail.com
Phil Vitale (E)	476-1680
	sailorphil@philvitale.com
Sandy Vitale (E)	476-1680
	sv6102@gmail.com
Bob Waddle (E)	476-2293
s	parkybob220@comcast.net
Sue Williams (S)	476-8886
	smwillia@comcast.net

### BLYC WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE AND HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Paul Fallon (E), Chairman, Water	Quality and
Homeowners Association	476-1467
paulf@hrpcor	nstruction.con





# BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB IT'S A NEW YEAR! It's time to pay your 2019 dues



Support the BLYC, support our Birch Lake Community!

\$ BLYC Member Dues (\$30 / year)	Total contribution:		
\$ BLYC Associate Member* Dues (\$10 / year)  *Associate membership is available to current associate members and for non-lake residents who wish to support the BLYC	\$		
\$ Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)	Name		
\$ Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)			
\$ Building Improvement Fund	Address		
\$ Fireworks Fund			
\$ Water Quality Program			
\$ Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication			
\$ Safety Committee	Make checks payable to		
\$ Other non-party related expenses			

**BLYC** 

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

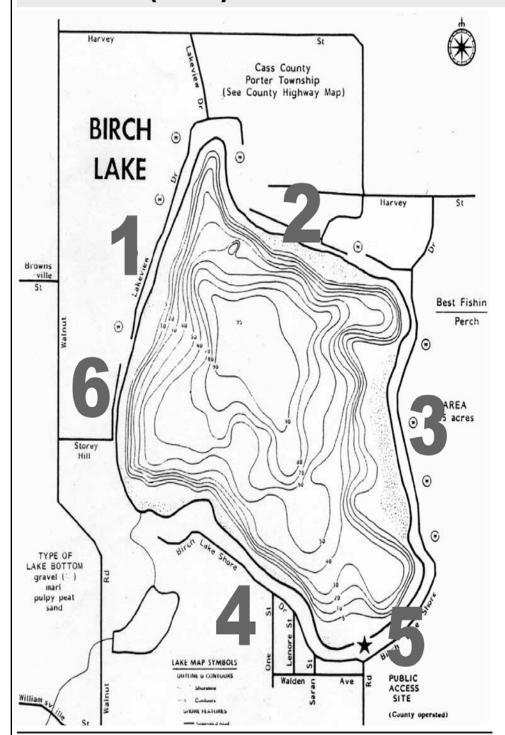
\_ - BLYC Roof Fund

- BLYC AED Fund

- Misc.

### **EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR**

(AED) locations on Birch Lake



### **CALL 9-1-1**



### FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY ALARM WILL SOUND



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

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

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

### IN AN EMERGENCY:

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

## We've Got You Covered!



SUMMER'S HERE! CALL US TODAY!

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





SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION

Call us for a free at-home demonstration!

Locally owned and operated since 1985



12291 Bidelman Road ● Three Rivers at Big Pleasant Lake

269 244-5307 www.sunandsshadeawning.com