

The
Weekend
Of

Aug. 31
2019

Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



Thanks to Mr. Bob (King, north side) for the pirate humor with the Sunfish Pirate Fleet in the background.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

I would like to thank all the people who have congratulated me on becoming the new Commodore of the Birch Lake Yacht Club. Also, I appreciate the people who have told me they would help with a particular project or with anything I need. A huge thank you goes out to Vice Commodore Dan Waxman and his wife Sharon for accepting to serve as Vice Commodore and his First Mate over the next year and Commodore the year after. It is a big job but he and Sharon are up to the task.

If you have not yet paid your 2019 Birch Lake Yacht Club membership dues there is still time, and you can now be pay online at www.birchlakeyachtclub.com. There are so many things the BLYC does to make our lake a better place to live and play. We need every family that enjoys our little piece of

heaven to do their part by becoming a responsible lake resident by paying their dues. Thanks to eastsider and BLYC board member Chas Grundy, my Godson and cousin, for his talented work in getting this website up and running.

This Sunday of Labor Day weekend at 6 pm, there will be one of those famous Birch Lake Flotillas out in the middle of the lake. Just come out and tie up to the other boats, walk back and forth and meet and great other Birch Lakers. Bring an appetizer to share.

The next BLYC Board meeting is on Sept. 7, at 9 am at the BLYC Club House, and we would like to talk about all the events coming up next year, so if you are chairing an event, have an idea for any new events or would just like to chair an event, please come to this meeting.

As the season starts to change and the sweet corn passes it's peak taste, the bean fields turn golden brown and the leaves transform into their beautiful

2019 Birch Lake Calendar

2019

Sept. 1 - Sunday Night Flotilla, 6 pm
Sept. 7 - **BLYC Board Meeting**: Sept 7
Sept. 8 - Sailing party, 1 pm, Luecht's house
October 19 - Crockpot Challenge, BLYC

2020

May 16, 2020 - BLYC Spring Dinner,
McGann Hay Granger Chapel, TBA
June 20, 2020 - Spaghetti Dinner, BLYC

To rent the BLYC building contact Sandy Vitale at 269-476-1680 or 269-858-8184.

multicolored stage, we turn our attention to the Crockpot Challenge on Saturday, October 19 at 5:30 pm at the BLYC club house. Chaired by the infamous eastsider Bad Patty Luecht of Flamingo Room fame, it will surely be a highlight of the season and a fall func-

The Birch Barker is always accepting materials for publication. E-mail materials to sailorphil@philvitale.com, mail them to me or put the items in the stone mailbox at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). **DEADLINE** for any issue is 3 pm on the Tuesday of the week before the publication.

To contact Editor Phil by phone, call (269) 476-1680. To contact Commodore Pat McGann, call 574-532-5377 or email pat@mcgannhay.com.

— Birch Lake Notes —

tion to remember. Her theme this year is savory and sweet, so bring your best soup, chili or desert prepared in your crockpot. The food that the Birch Lakers have made in the past has been nothing short of outstanding.

See you all at the SPRING DINNER Saturday May 16, 2020, at 5:30 pm, at my Granger Chapel, 13260 SR 23, Granger, IN 46530, catered again by the Skillet with a totally awesome special premium menu created just for the BLYC. Be sure to put it on your calendars now. We have had lots of events like: weddings, reunions, meetings, etc. with as many as 265 people for a sit-down meal, with a DJ, dance floor and two bars. I built this building with the idea to do multiple kinds of events with a full kitchen, and we can all be in one room.

Love the Lake,

~ JPM, Commodore

Crockpot Challenge Cookoff 2019

Attention to all you "SOUPER-DUPER" cooks! The date for this year's cookoff will be on October 19, 5:30 pm, at the BLYC! There is a little change to the format this year. There are going to be 2 categories. We will have a "savory" group, which will contain delicious soups, chili, stews, etc. and we will be voting for the top two places. Next will be the "sweet" group. Wonderful desserts that can be created in the crockpot. If you're thinking "what desserts do you make" check out Pinterest for hundreds of ideas and recipes! Again we will be voting for the top two in this group.

If you are entering either categories, you must have you entry at the BLYC no later than 5pm. Also, if entering, contestants please let me know by October 12 so I can make sure we have enough extension cords and tables for your crockpot. NO TASTERS UNTIL 5:30!

There will be 50/50 drawings with proceeds going to Fireworks. Other drawings for door prizes and possibly a surprise or two!

Fixings of crackers, chopped onion, shredded cheese, bread

and butter, etc. would be appreciated.

BYOB in case there's not much left at the BLYC. This will be the last official event of the season!! See you there, and come HUNGRY!

Questions? Call Bad Patty 476-2615 or text 317-605-6421

2020 Spaghetti Dinner!

Hey lovers of Italian cuisine ... Spaghetti man here to tell you to mark your calendars for the not-to-be-missed 2020 BLYC Spaghetti Dinner brought to you by Chef Boy R Bruce and his team of Spaghetti-Os on June 20, the first day of summer in 2020.

~ Spaghetti Dinner Chairman Bruce Wagner

Barker Delivery

This is the last printed edition of the Birch Barker in 2019. It is the 15th week that your paper will be delivered this year. There is a dedicated group of Lakers who assure that happens every week. It all begins with our talented editor and expert ad salesman, Phil Vitale. Phil's experience in the newspaper business is responsible for the professional weekly that we enjoy all summer that is the envy of surrounding lake associations.

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— Birch Lake Notes —

The distribution chain begins when Stewart Spratt picks up the papers at the printer and delivers them to Sue Waddle. Sue then distributes the Barker to our loyal carriers around the lake. Beginning on the Southwest side we have Buzz Rasmussen and then Vicki Rogers continues down the West side and around the Cove. The Pettys, Sarah, Ben, Cam, Cooper and Leila

cover the north side and Claudia Phipps takes over at Kiloqua. Linda Curtis does the East side north, while Bob Waddle continues down the East side and up Kinsey St. then Holly Troeger finishes the East side. Julie Lacy and Staci Whiteman deliver to the entire South side and up Lenore St.

We all owe all of them a special thank you, so if you see them let them

know how much we all appreciate their service. This is another reason that Birch is a Great Lake.

~Signed, Sparky

The Birch Barker

This the last printed Birch Barker of the season .. if you've missed any of the issues, they're all online at <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/PrintedBarkerArchives.htm>.

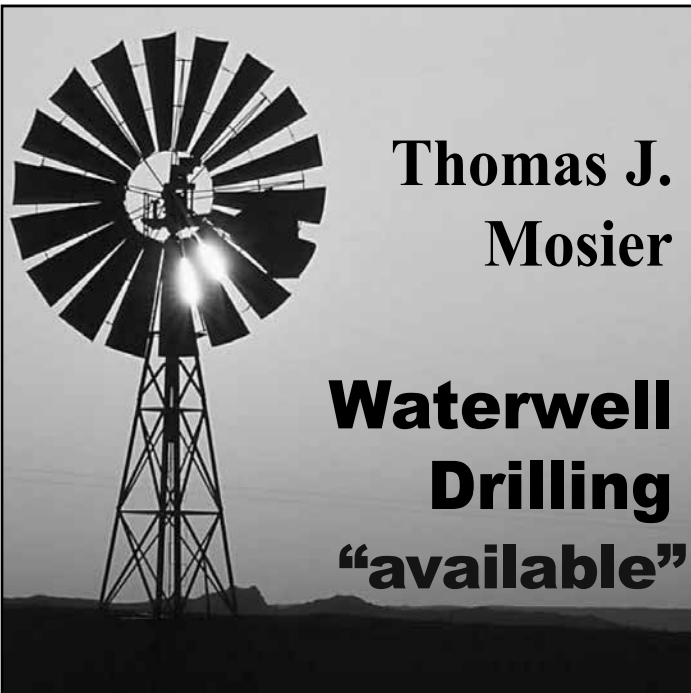
My thanks all of the columnists, contributors, writers and photographers who submitted info to me this season, as well as Stu Spratt, who picked up the printed Barkers every week at Alpha Graphics, Bob & Sue Waddle who got the Barkers from Stu and delivered them to the delivery people around the lake, and to the delivery people who walked (or drove) around and delivered the papers to the readers. Thanks, too, to Alpha Graphics, and to all of the advertisers who helped finance this high-dollar operation.

Good Lord willing and the creek don't rise, I'll be producing the Online Barker again during the off season, beginning in October. If you're not on the list to receive it automatically (or if you've changed your email address in the last year), you can sign up by emailing me at onlinebarker@gmail.com.

~ Editor Phil



Thanks to Mr. Bob (King, north side) for the flock in the fog pic from last weekend.



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**Labor Day
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Sunday Night Flotilla!**

Sunday September 1 – 6 p.m.

Due to the past successful flotillas, let's do it again!

Meet in the middle of the lake with your boat.

Bring an Appetizer.

Boats will be tied together and we will walk from boat to boat sharing food and camaraderie.

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FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Fleet Captain's Jibe #15, Aug. 31

By *J. Patrick McGann*

We had a great day for the sailboat races on Sunday with winds pretty steady all day with gusts up to 15mph which gave us all a significant challenge. The races were lively and quick, with only one crash when Bill Luecht and I rounded one of the marks together in the second race and I was on the inside and called "Bouy Room" in front of me he unexpectedly slowed to a snails-pace crawl causing me to ram into his rudder and transom. In other words I rear ended him. Because we do not have brakes on our sailboats I was told by Sailor Phil Vitale, in the boat behind that he had witnessed the whole incident and that I had in fact fouled Mr. Bill, so I did my 360 penalty turn, as required and the race continued as normal. No damage was suffered by either boat.

In the Sunfish Fleet Rick Ruswurm, husband of the frequent Committee Boat helper Good Patty, solidified his leadership position in the season standings by taking two first places and a third place finish. He was being chased by Stewart Spratt, husband of our trusted BLYC Treasurer Deb Spratt. Stewart took one first place and two second places for an outstanding day. The senior

member of the Sunfish feet, that little old winemaker, Herb Cleveland, finished 2nd in the first race followed by two thirds.

The first race in the MC Fleet was taken by arguably the best sailor on the lake and maybe in the state, Mr. Scott Troeger. Scott had to leave after that for other commitments so he did not sail (DNS) in the other two races. That left it open for the other fleets members to fight for the top spot in the other two races, which were won by Jeff Smitly and last year's Season Champion Barb Cassidy respectfully. That was Barb's first win of the season which made her a happy camper for the rest of the day. Jeff additionally, took two 2nds with Sailor Phil Vitale in his boat named The Pickle picking up the other 2nd. Bill Luecht got one third and yours truly captured two 3rds which made us both happy, also.

Remember, this Labor Day Regatta, will be the best of five races. Three on Saturday and two on Sunday or vice versa, with make ups on Monday, if needed. All starting horns blow at 11 am for MC's with Sunfish starting three minutes after.

The end of the year sailing awards party will be at the East Side Sailing Club at 1 pm next Sunday, Sept. 8, food



and drinks provided. Thanks to Bad Patty for arranging all the party plans and her genius partner 2020 Fleet Captain Bill Luecht for preparing all the awards.

If you or your kids or grandkids want to learn more about sailing and or racing here on Birch Lake any number of us would welcome the opportunity to teach those wanting to learn and or go for a sail ride. Contact me at 574-532-5377 to make arrangements.

Sail on Dudes and Dudettes!
~Fleet Captain Pat

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2019 Birch Lake Sailing Results

BLYC Season Standings*

Date	25-Aug	25-Aug	25-Aug	Total	Point	Races	%
Race	18	19	20	Points	Average	Finished	Finished
MC Scow/Sailor				Total MC Races=>17			
Scott Troeger #1489	1	DNS	DNS	23844	1589.6	15	88%
Jeff Smitley #2002	2	1	2	14630	1463.0	10	59%
Phil Vitale #500	5	2	5	21303	1420.2	15	88%
Barb Cassady #2506	4	4	1	21155	1410.3	15	88%
Bill Luecht #1579	6	3	4	23289	1369.9	17	100%
Pat McGann #1735	3	5	3	23238	1366.9	17	100%
Harold Cranmer #1991/2550	DNS	DNS	DNS	2450	1225.0	2	12%
Sandy Vitale	DNS	DNS	DNS	9321	1165.1	8	47%

Sunfish/Sailor				Total Sunfish Races=>20			
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	3	1	1	24445	1527.8	16	80%
Tom Cassady	DNS	DNS	DNS	1521	1521.0	1	5%
Peter Soldato	DNS	DNS	DNS	20953	1496.6	14	70%
Pat McGann	DNS	DNS	DNS	4259	1419.7	3	15%
Stewart Spratt	1	2	2	14166	1416.6	10	50%
Amy Troeger	DNS	DNS	DNS	7009	1401.8	5	25%
Steve Frew	DNS	DNS	DNS	18204	1400.3	13	65%
Herb Cleveland	2	3	3	25868	1361.5	18	90%
Cole McGann Bell	DNS	DNS	DNS	4034	1344.7	3	15%
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	DNS	DNS	DNS	17208	1323.7	12	60%
Bob Niezgodski	4	5	4	14387	1307.9	11	55%
Camille Butler	5	4	5	19930	1245.6	16	80%
Bill Butler	DNS	DNS	DNS	2381	1190.5	2	10%
Bob Cassady	DNS	DNS	DNS	1089	1089.0	1	5%

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

*8/27/19

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— Water Quality Report —

THE "SIX COMMANDMENTS OF BIRCH LAKE WATER QUALITY"

- I. THOU SHALT PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS).
- II. THOU SHALT MINIMIZE SURFACE RUNOFF.
- III. THOU SHALT MINIMIZE THE EFFECTS OF WAVES.
- IV. THOU SHALT PROTECT AND EXPAND NATURAL SHORELINES.
- V. THOU SHALT NOT ALLOW PHOSPHORUS, NUTRIENTS, AND OTHER UNDESIRABLE CHEMICAL ELEMENTS TO ENTER OUR LAKE.
- VI. THOU SHALT REMAIN INFORMED AND ACTIVE ABOUT OTHER WATER QUALITY ISSUES.



WQ Report - End of Summer

You might have noticed over the summer the listing and presenting of what we call the 6 commandments. These are issues and concerns and activities that we as lake dwellers should keep in mind as we further develop our properties and use the lake. We want to maintain this lake in as pristine and safe condition as we can, and believe that attention to these commandments will help permit this. Articles, explaining one each of the 6 commandments, can be found in six of this summer's previous Barkers. Further questions or comments can be directed to Paul Fallon.

2. In addition to the commandments, we have talked about the shoreline extensively as it is both a buffer to what happens on the land as well as the ecological contact between water and earth. The buffer part is to keep things we do not want to get into the lake out of the lake and the ecological contact part is that a lot of the animals both large and small rely on a shoreline habitat for reproduction, early development, food sources, and shelter. Please look at the two attached web sites as you think about what you might do to enhance your shoreline next year etc. (www.mishorelandstewards.org and www.mishorelinepartnership.org).

3. As we tidy up this fall some may want to do a little burning by the side of the road or (horrors) close to the lake. Should you feel absolutely compelled to do this, and we would encourage you to not do it, please after the fire goes out sweep up the ashes and bag them for the trash. The alternative is during the next rain you will see them head to lake as ready to use fertilizer and minerals that will enhance extra plant growth.

4. Our role on the Water Quality Committee is somewhat simple in premise. (A) Survey the lake for invasive species and if something can be done about them to advertise this to the lake and set the proper procedures in motion. This is most evident for the Eurasian milfoil that would be clogging many acres of the lake in the absence of this. Sorry there is nothing we can do about zebra mussels, but they have declined on their own the

past few years. They can just as well rebound. We are closely monitoring both starry stonewort and hydrilla, two truly nasty invasives should they get into the lake. Tell friends you know that bring their boats from other lakes to make sure they properly clean them before launching them here. Also, should you take a boat or kayak to another lake, please properly clean it before placing in back in Birch. (B) Monitor the lake for evidence of increasing levels of nutrients that will age the lake prematurely and report on this to the lake community. (C) Ascertain the safety of the lake waters for the recreational activities we all enjoy and wish to have our children and grandchildren enjoy now and in the future.

5. In the future, just take some time to truly try and be aware of the lake. Especially in the spring when the water is clear, cruise around the shallows and drop offs and look at the diversity of plant life that exists in different parts of the lake. Keep pathways for the turtles to come ashore and lay their eggs. Provide cover at the shoreline for small fish to hide in, insects to come to, and frogs to lurk when the insects are around. Grab some decaying material from the bottom and put in a white pan and watch the life that springs from this. Have your kids try to learn the names of some of the aquatic plants. Hopefully, you can think of even more ways to become better aware of, and learn more about, our lake.

6. Commandment #6, explained in the August 3d Barker, referred to the need for adequate donations to fund our Water Quality [WQ] program. As stated, should we ever run meaningfully short, likely our only option would be to request the township establish a Special Assessment District [SAD], which, once in place, the township would run with our TAX dollars. Virtually all other Michigan lakes that are treated for invasive species [like Birch Lake is] are financed by SADs, the costs for which are arbitrarily added to the tax bills of ALL property owners in that district. It is a huge blessing indeed that we have, ever since we started incurring substantial expense fighting invasives in 2007,

survived on donations alone. So, how much should people donate? In truth, no one knows. We don't know when the invasives we have will hybridize, when the next invasives will arrive, which one[s] it will be, or the costs of timely and appropriate treatment. When Eurasian Milfoil [EM] first hit 12 years ago, our treatment costs alone were higher than the average sum of our current annual expenses. Lately our annual expenses for professional surveys and treatment, testing and education have totaled in the neighborhood of \$4500.00 per year. Typically, we have about that much in the bank, which is good, should our expenses stay flat. **BUT THEY WON'T STAY FLAT!** Our treatment costs the first year for EM were some \$6,000. Our most likely next visitor, Starry Stonewort[SS], is considered to be tougher to treat than EM. Shouldn't our reserves allow for this and be increased to say \$11000., 12,000. or even more? To do so, each of us now contributing would have to minimally double their current annual donation. What are the typical annual donation amounts? Since the typical balance on hand never goes much below or above one year of expenses, it seems fair to assume two things about that amount: it is more or less the result of cumulative abnormal [fund raising type] contributions, AND it is the approximate total of regular annual donations. An educated guess is that around 100 families donate annually to the WQ fund. This means that: the average donated amount is around \$45. [Thanks to those that do so.], and that less than half of those here donate. [Shame on those that don't. You don't have to be a member of the Yacht Club or the Homeowners' Association to donate to the one cause that ALL of us, undisputedly, have in common and benefit from.] To double our reserves [a modest, reasonable goal], requires that those now giving will have to double the amount they now give [to say \$90. / yr.], or that double the amount of people will have to donate the same average [say \$45. /yr.], or that some combination of the two increases must occur simultaneously. Come on everybody, write a [bigger] check. Let's get this thing done!

— Barker Plant of the Week —

Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes* [Mart.] Solms)

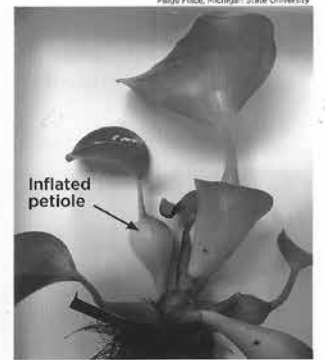


Suzan Campbell, Michigan Natural Features Inventory

Description: Water hyacinth is a free-floating plant that can grow to 3 feet in height. Leaves are glossy, nearly 6 inches wide and round to oval. They curve inward at the edges. The leaves are attached to a spongy and inflated-looking petiole. The plant produces large purplish flowers with six petals on a terminal spike. The roots are thick, branched and dark-colored.

Habitat and distribution: Water hyacinth is often described as one of the worst aquatic weeds in the world. The plant reproduces through both vegetative means and seed. It forms dense mats that impede recreational activities, clog waterways and irrigation channels, hamper flood mitigation operations, interfere

with wildlife and increase siltation rates. The plant cover prevents sunlight from penetrating into the water, thus impeding growth of submersed plant species. It is easily distributed by water currents, winds and boats. A popular water gardening plant, water hyacinth was introduced from South America in the 1880s and has invaded much of the southern portion of the United States. It has been found in only a few lakes in southeastern Michigan, including Lake Erie Metropark, where it has persisted for years even though it should not have been able to survive cold Michigan winters.



Paige Filice, Michigan State University

Control/management: Control mechanisms for water hyacinth include mechanical harvesting, herbicide treatment and biological control. Biological control, which has met with limited to substantial success, has included two species of weevils, a moth species and a water mite. Adult weevils and larval moths feed on the petiole and leaves; the mite sucks juices from the plant. The combination of biological control and herbicide treatment has produced mixed results, in part because of the reduction in the insects' food supply. When water hyacinth was grown in controlled pots, the herbicide imazapyr resulted in reduction in biomass and complete control. Further studies have been suggested for identifying more compatible methods using a combination of herbicide application and biological control agents. Care should be taken to dispose of the plant properly and not transfer it from water gardens or aquaria into water bodies.



Present Absent



(Not as yet listed in Michigan)

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

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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Faith and Audrey Wahlgren (granddaughters of Kerry and Carol McCoy, east side) enjoying their first ride in a tube with their Mom Kristin McCoy Wahlgren. They also enjoyed swimming off the pier with their grandma Carol McCoy.

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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Dominic and Aley Vitale Richards (our grandkids) visited my Brother Chris at his lake cottage on Lake Papakeeche near Syracuse, IN recently and terrorized his neighborhood for a day ... Dominic even brought home a new bike. Dom & Aley will be visiting with us Labor Day weekend ... hide the good plates!

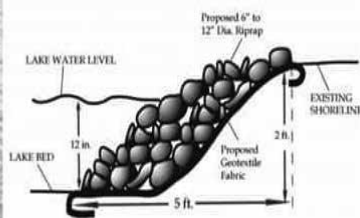
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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Thanks to Vice Commodore Dan Waxman for the cool pic of a loon and a heron in front of his house (east side).

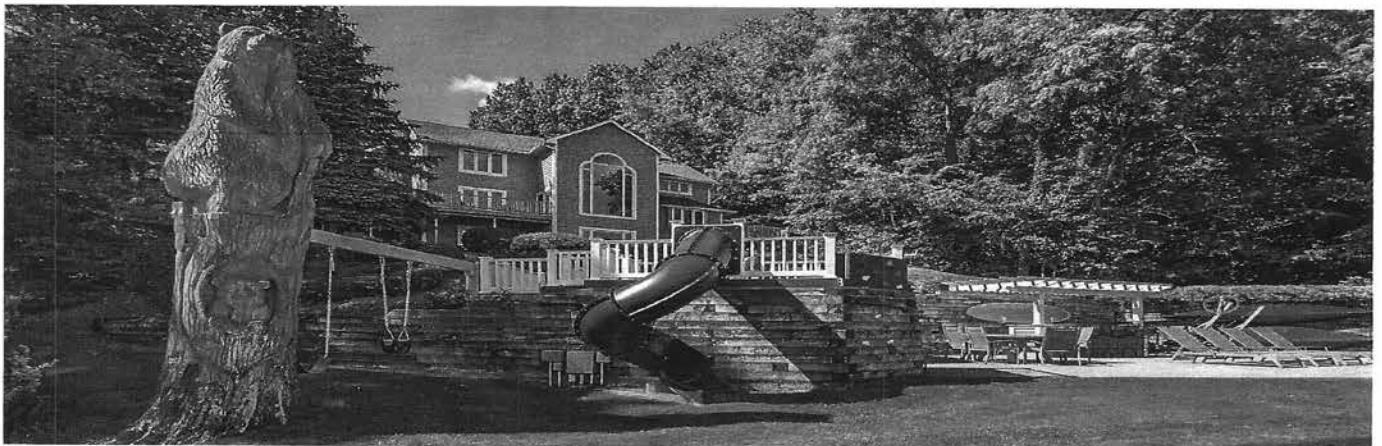
Want your kid to be a Birch Barker Kid of the Week? Want your dog to be a Dog of the Week? Want your lawnmower to be the Lawnmower of the Week? Just mail your photo (with a SASE if you want the photo(s) back) to Birch Barker, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095; put them in a ziplock and stick them in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

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Baths: 4 1/2
Fireplace: 3
Garage: 3 Car Attached
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Sewer: Municipal
Lake Frontage: 125'
Taxes: \$8,804
Price Reduced: \$899,000 (\$995,000)

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- Lower level has family room with fireplace, bedroom suite with adjoining bedroom for the toddlers, gaming room with full kitchen and storage room leading to lake.
- Adorable guest house with washer, dryer, wood stove, electric heat, full kitchen, and sleeps 6.
- Lakeside there's a large patio with bar and fridge, slide and climbing wall for the kids, carved tree, sandy beach, and gorilla decking.
- There is also a wrap around deck overlooking Birch Lake.

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YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Your focus for the next several weeks is on how to best function in the world, especially your job. Are you doing your job well? Do you work efficiently? Do you worry about wasting too much time? We each have 24 hours in a day - rich or poor - so how we use that 24 hours is virtually - how we are creating our life. After all time is the stuff life is made of. It's the perfect time of year to work hard and get stuff done. Fortunately, coworkers are cooperative.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - You love beautiful things; and because you are tactile and sensuous you explore hobbies and creative activities that please the senses - taste, touch, visual and auditory. (Many of you sing and love music.) For the next four weeks, set your own priorities and please yourself. What do you do for amusement and recreation? How do you explore romance and relationships? What's a fun vacation? Do you appreciate the children in your life? These are your questions.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) - For the next four weeks, there's a handful of planets in the part of your chart that represents your intimate personal life, family and parents. Naturally, you will relate to your external world, but your main focus will be on home and family relationships. Something might make you better appreciate your home and your family. You might also see the value of warm bonds with family members.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) - You will become more aware of how you communicate with others in the next four weeks. You might see how people don't hear you. And you might also see how you miss hearing others. No wonder everyone is at odds with each other. The pace of your days will accelerate as you focus on a stronger need to communicate and get out in the world. Short trips, conversations with others plus reading and studying will fill your days. Use this time to tell someone how you feel about something. Will they hear you?

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - A gaggle of planets is clustered in your Money House for the next four weeks. This makes you reflect upon the things you value. You will examine your relationship to your belongings. You might want to show off what you own. You will look at your physical world and take stock. In doing so, you might wonder what really matters in life? Meanwhile, you will work hard to earn money and you'll spend big!

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Once a year, the Sun is in your sign for four weeks, often accompanied by Mercury. But this year, Venus and Mars join the party giving you a magnificent booster shot of energy and drive. Venus increases your desire to relate to others; and as an added bonus, it makes you charming and diplomatic. It will also attract people to you. By contrast, Mars makes you a fighter for your own rights and makes you eager to work hard. This is your chance to show the world what you can do! People will respect you and listen to you.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - During the next four weeks, a handful of planets are hiding in your chart. It's a time for reflection and self scrutiny. It also means you're inclined to self-denial, especially in love relationships. Venus encourages you to explore charity work. Meanwhile, Mars is brash, bold energy, and this is why you might feel vaguely irritable and uneasy for the next few weeks. Like you're all dressed up with no place to go.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - For the next four weeks, a handful of planets are in your House of Friendships. This is why you will do your best work cooperating with others and being involved in groups. Knowing this - be friendly! Engage in groups. Join classes or a club. However, make time to scrutinize your friends and the groups to which you belong. Ask yourself, "Are these my people?" When you're young, you have to play with the kid next door. But as an adult, you have a choice. Enjoy socializing with others.

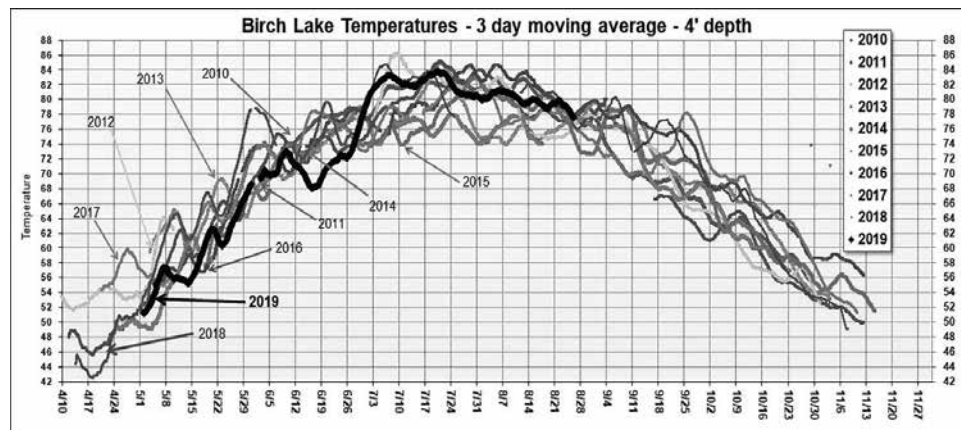
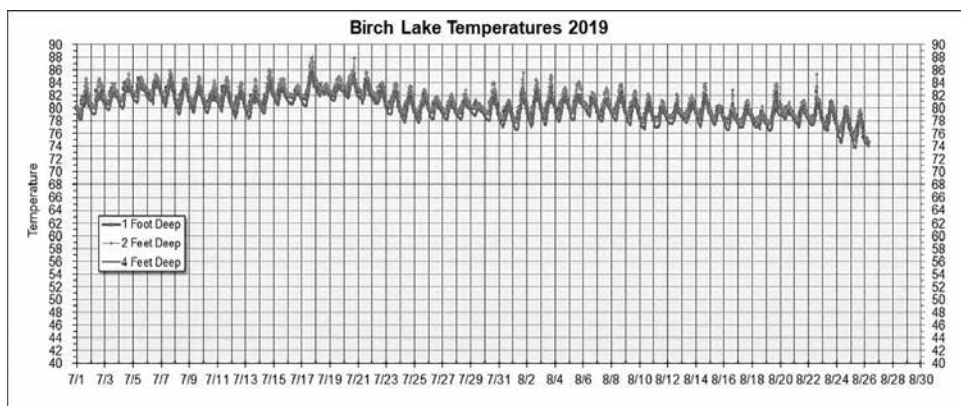
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Once a year, the Sun is at the top of your chart for four weeks making you look stellar! The Sun makes you great to bosses, parents, VIPs and the police. (Naturally, you can use this to your advantage.) Venus will attract people to you who will help you promote your professional life and make things run more smoothly. Hey, relax. You can juggle different energies because you are so likeable.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - You're going to want to do whatever is within your power to expand your experience of life in the next four weeks. The most obvious way to approach this is to travel and see more! But you will also find it rewarding to study and learn something new because it expands your mind. You might want to defend ideas that you haven't even examined. Don't coerce others into agreeing with you.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - The issues that are occurring in your life during the next four weeks will not be casual. They will be intense and passionate! Basically, this is because you have a strong desire to experience life on a feeling level - not just intellectual. You feel alive and you're aware of your own mortality. This is why you might have concerns about finances and financial security. The next several weeks are a great time to ask for a loan or mortgage.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - In the next four weeks, a gaggle of planets will create a variety of influences, one of which is that you will need more rest and more sleep. Another influence is that you will have more objectivity in viewing your relationships, which means you can better understand them. (This applies to professional partnerships as well as marriage.) Venus will pave the way in all these relationships and make things warmer and friendlier. Mars however, will make you easily annoyed with people. (Gulp.) It can stir up tension in relationships.

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: 0.053
1.8 days since new moon



Sunrise: 07:06:14 AM
Sunset: 20:18:21 PM
Moonrise: 08:22:33 AM
Moonset: 21:29:53 PM
Daylight: 13 Hr 12 Min 07 Sec

— Barker Weekly Puzzle —

Start to Finish

Brain Teasers

DIRECTIONS: For each clue, find a corresponding word that starts and finishes with the same letter. There is one word for each letter of the alphabet except for i, j, q, u, v and z.

Spend time in front of the mirror.	PRIMP
Intuitive inkling.	
Pioneer in photocopying.	
Bitterly sarcastic.	
Gas in some signs.	
Eskimo canoe.	
Chinese medicinal root.	
Where a rubber duckie lives.	
Roll in the mud.	
Pleasure traveller.	
Temporary loss of memory.	
Deadly.	
Pizza herb.	
Very knowledgeable.	
Forty-eight hours before tomorrow.	
The most.	
Excessive.	
Feudal land.	
Trepidation	
Water storage area.	

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BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES

**My luck is like
a bald guy who
just won a
comb.**

I'M BORED.
I THINK I'LL GO TO THE MALL,
FIND A GREAT PARKING SPOT
AND SIT IN MY CAR WITH THE
REVERSE LIGHTS ON.

© 1992, 1995

If you answer
the phone with
"Hello, you're on the air!"
most telemarketers
will quickly hang up...

**When one door
closes and another
door opens,
you are probably in
prison.**

When I say "the other day,"
I could be referring to any
time between yesterday and
15 years ago

I REMEMBER BEING
ABLE TO GET UP
WITHOUT MAKING
SOUND EFFECTS...

GOOD TIMES.

I had my patience tested.
I'm negative.

Remember, if you
lose a sock in the
dryer, it comes
back as a
Tupperware lid
that doesn't fit any
of your containers.

If you're sitting in
public and a stranger
takes the seat next
to you, just stare
straight ahead and
say, "Did you bring
the money?"

What I am doing
today, and I say
"nothing"
It does not mean I
am free. It means
I am doing
nothing.

Sixty might be
the new forty
but 9:00 is the
new midnight.

I finally got 8 hours
sleep. It took me three
days, but whatever.

**I run
like the
winded.**

I HATE WHEN A COUPLE
ARGUES IN PUBLIC AND I
MISSED THE BEGINNING
AND DON'T KNOW WHOSE
SIDE I'M ON.

WHEN SOMEONE ASKS
WHAT I DID OVER THE
WEEKEND, I SQUINT AND
ASK, "WHY, WHAT DID YOU
HEAR??"

I don't remember
much from last night
but the fact that i
needed sunglasses to
open the fridge this
morning tells me it
was awesome.

When you do squats, are
your knees supposed to
sound like a goat chewing
on an aluminum can stuffed
with celery?

**I DON'T MEAN
TO INTERRUPT PEOPLE
I JUST RANDOMLY
REMEMBER THINGS
& GET REALLY EXCITED**



~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Cheese Canapes

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

**by Sue Wagner
(AKA Sunny Waters)
(formerly of the Cove)**

Ingredients:

- ½ cup Hellman's Mayo
- ½ cup onion, finely chopped
- 1 cup black pitted olives, chopped
- 1 tsp. curry powder
- Salt to taste
- 1 ½ cup grated cheddar cheese
- 8 halves toasted English muffin

Directions:

Mix first six ingredients and pile on the split toasted English muffins. Cut in quarters. Put under the broiler briefly; just until they sizzle. Serve hot.

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



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— Camp Tannadoonah —

Thanks for a great year!

The end of the summer has arrived, and it's hard to believe this is the last printed Barker of the year!

I'd like to give huge Thank You to the three couples on the lake who hosted staff members on their nights off this summer! Gordon and Michelle Seyfarth, Tom Kuhn and Jan Temple, and Pat and Tessa McGann each hosted an evening at their home for a group of around 10 camp staff. The staff were so grateful for a chance to get away from camp on their night off, to meet some lake residents, and enjoy a good meal! Thank you for hosting!!

We had many children and grandchildren and other relatives of lake residents who attended camp this summer. It's fun to see so many campers who have family on the lake coming to camp. I am sorry if I miss anyone on this list.

Representing the west side (10)... Gregory (nephew of Stacia and Fred Andriano), John (nephew of Kathy and Ron Niezgodski), Sydney and Jazmine (granddaughters of Bill and Carol Myers), Reese and Emerson (grand-

kids of the Toth/Carroll family), Ocean (related to the Niezgodskis), Wyatt and Mason (grandsons of Phil and Betsy Custard), Mary Therese (great-granddaughter of Laveta Scofield)

Representing the east side (16)... Maggie and Haley (cousins of Chas Grundy), Dominic and Aley (grandkids of Phil and Sandy Vitale), Alex (son of Casey Kruer and Mike Schroer), Annabelle (niece of Ray and Judi Gaik), Denny (grandson of Margie Trybus), Elliott (grandson of Tim and Irene Steffen), Anya and Claire (great-granddaughters of Duffy Dufour), Ava (granddaughter of Linda and Jeff Myers on the hill), Emma (daughter of Robert and Dana Boll), Braden and Brody (sons of Bob and Kelli Bienz on the hill), and of course, Avery and Elyse.

Representing the cove (3)... Allison (related to the Vath family), Timmy (grandson of Jim and Linda Bergan), Giselle (daughter of Binh Tran)

Representing the north side (7)... Dominic, Vincent, Tommy, Gianna, Ben, and Clara (grandchildren of Bill

and Sheryl Magro), Ben (grandson of Beth and Bob Kenagy)

Representing the south side (12)... Parker and Quinn (sons of Jill and Jeff Robinson), Alex, Gabby, Mia, and Tyler (grandkids of Melanie Como), Ethan (grandson of Carolyn and Bob Palm), Hunter Nick, Harper, and Ben (kids + nephews of Kim and Steve Fillenwarth), Kiaya (granddaughter of Julie and Doug Weaver)

And representing former Birch Lakers (3)... Jade (granddaughter of Tom and Jackie Minglin formerly on the west side), Blake and Collin (grandkids of the Blackwoods formerly of the cove)

Wow, that's an amazing list - 51 Birch Lake kids at camp this summer!

Thank you to everyone on the lake for all your support of camp, through sending campers, volunteering your time, donating, and helping spread the word about camp! Thank you!

~Miss Amber

amber@tannadoonah.org



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Birch Lake Notes



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. Alternately, residents can voice their concerns to Skip Dyes, County Commissioner, District 3 at the county building, (269) 445-4420, or at his home, (269) 445-2537, or by Email skipd@cassco.org. If you call or email a report about swimmers at the landing, please copy or notify Phil Vitale at 476-1680 or at onlinebarker@gmail.com so we can keep a record of the number and outcome of the complaints.

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For Sale: **2006 Pontiac Solstice** (2-seat convertible). Only 33K miles, runs great and looks great too! Silver with Black top, 5-speed manual transmission, newer tires. Stored every winter so no salt wounds. Fun car to drive. Sadly selling so I can downsize my 'fleet'. \$9,000 OBO. Call/Text Karen at 574-261-6712.

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FOR SALE: small porcelain topped table with one drawer, two small chairs, good condition, circa 1940s? \$125. Call Deb at 476-7226.

Attention Golfers: **For Sale ~ Full set of Adams irons**; 3 through 7 hybrid irons - 8, 9, PW regular irons. \$150. Call Bud at 476-2526

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Name _____

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Address _____

\$___ - Fireworks Fund

\$___ - Water Quality Program

\$___ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication

\$___ - Safety Committee

\$___ - Other non-party related expenses

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\$___ - BLYC AED Fund

\$___ - Misc.

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NEW

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

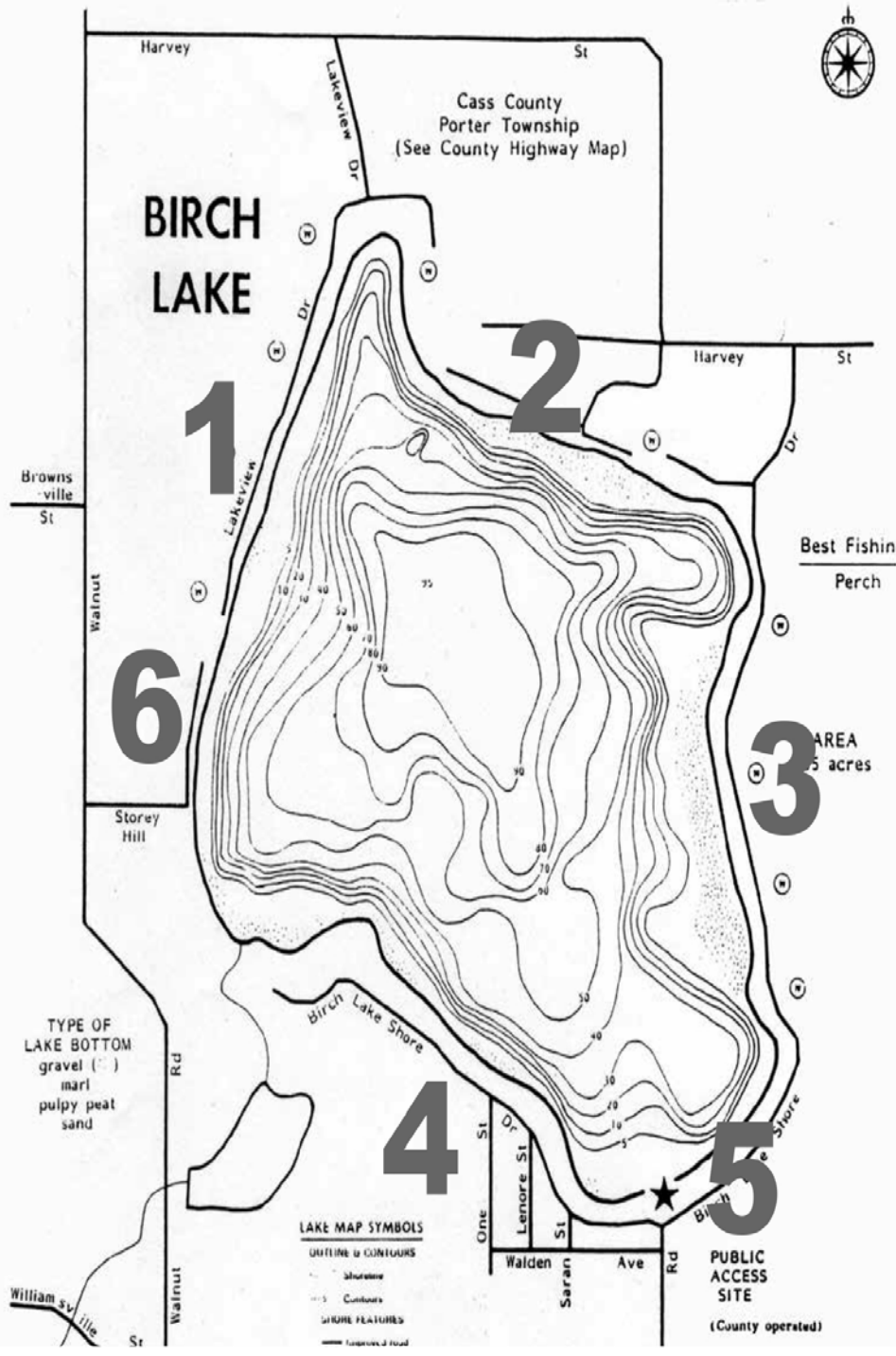
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62875 Birch Lakeview Dr.
2. **North Shore, Smitley home,**
14859 Birch Northshore Dr.15046
3. **East Shore, Vitale home,**
63174 Birch Rd.
4. **South Shore, Eberhart home,**
15046 Birch Lakeshore Dr.
5. **South/East Shore, Troeger home,**
63696 Birch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

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

IN AN EMERGENCY:

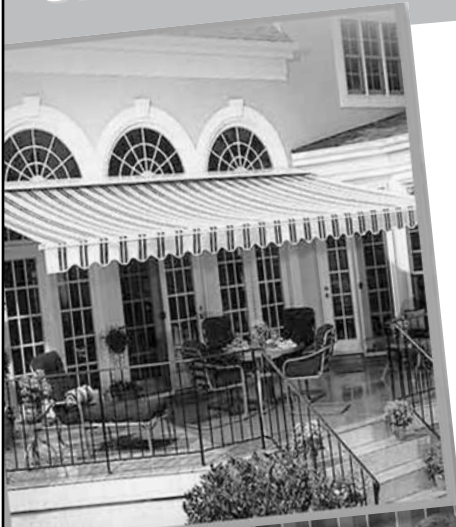
1. CALL 911 and report the emergency and the patient's location immediately.
2. Pull the box open, remove the orange-colored unit, TAKE IT TO THE PATIENT and open the device by pressing the white lever at the bottom.
3. An automated voice will guide you through the setup and use of the defibrillator.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

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