

The  
Weekend  
Of

Aug. 3  
2019

# Birch Barker

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



Thanks to Mr. Bob (King, north shore) for the sailing action pic of the Cassady women in last weekend's races.

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Hello Birch Lakers,  
Last week I mentioned being commodore is not easy. I am not suggesting I am a great commodore. Which got me thinking ... what makes anyone great? I've heard knowledge is power. With that in mind, If I can share some knowledge with you here is what I know; it is impossible to please everyone. But couldn't we try to do a better job?

When I first took this position, I had high hopes. Insert funny Bitmoji of me floating on a cloud here. I would have loved to have hosted a fishing tournament for youth. I also thought it would be cool to do a movie night with popcorn. We could float in the lake and watch Finding Nemo followed by Jaws. Maybe a costume party or a roller skate party.

None of this panned out. Not because someone stopped me, it just never got done. Which doesn't mean it can't happen in the future.

I guess what it comes down to is people wanting more events at the lake or not. I urge you, if interested, to step up to the plate and give it your best shot. Meaning if you have an idea or you want to see an event continue at the lake please volunteer to be a chair or volunteer your time.

We need a chair for the spaghetti dinner and the men's golf outing. We once discussed having a poker run to raise money for the fireworks. Please attend the September board meeting if you are interested. If you currently chair an event your presence is requested as well to discuss if the rates of the events should increase.

Take care and be kind to one another.

~Commodore Angela

## 2019 Birch Lake Calendar

August 10 - Ceremony to scatter the ashes of Kemi O'Brien, Camp T, 3 pm  
August 10 - Corn & Sausage Roast, TBA  
August 17 - Homeowners Association annual meeting following board mtg.  
August 17 - Fall Dinner, BLYC, 5:30 pm  
October 19 - Crockpot Challenge, BLYC

**BLYC Board Meeting:** August 17; 9 am  
September meeting TBA  
*More info as available. Watch for updates!*

### Remembering Kemi

There will be a ceremony to honor Kemi 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.

The Birch Barker is always accepting materials for publication. E-mail materials to sailorphil@philvital.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 Angela Bergan, call 561-603-5522 or email berganfsu@aol.com.

# — Birch Lake Notes —

## Mmmmm! One Week Away!

You can almost taste it!! Just a week until the most delicious event of the summer arrives again! Bring your appetites, families and neighbors to the annual Corn & Sausage Roast, next Saturday, August 10. From 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Yacht Club we'll be serving scrumptious meals consisting of your meat choice, roasted corn, a selection of side dishes, cookies, lemonade and iced tea. Prepare yourself for either a bratwurst (\$7), hot dog (\$4) or chicken breast (\$8) dinner (we'll only have a limited supply of chicken breasts so come early to try to grab what we have!). Pay at the door – no reservations required! Come hungry, visit with your neighbors and leave happy and satisfied! Hope to see you there!

## Thanks Pat!

Special thanks to Vice Commodore and Fleet Captain Pat McGann for chairing the 2019 Birch Lake Men's Golf Outing. The day was perfect, the golfing was fun and the dinner was spectacular! We look forward to next year when we're sure Pat can do even better!

Just kidding about that last part, Pat ... and all the golfers ... are searching for a new chairman to take run the even for the 58th Annual BLYC Men's Golf Outing!

## Birch Lake Book Club

Jeannie Welch will host the August Birch Lake Book Club meeting on August 20 at 7 pm. We'll discuss *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan. Everyone is welcome.

Our next book is *Women in Sunlight* by Frances Mayes. Denny Weesner will host.

## West Nile Virus

For a couple of days the Levys (south side) had a Blue Heron in their back yard (Mill Pond side) that just hung around and wasn't scared of them. It got weaker and weaker as the days went by. They called a rehab place and were told there was nothing to do, the chances were that the bird had

## BLYC Fall Dinner Registration

August 17, 5:30 pm, Birch Lake Yacht Club

Polish Style Dinner catered by the Skillet (So. Bend)

\$25 p/p if you pay by check/cash to Pat McGann  
63164 Birch Rd. (east side);

\$26 p/p if you pay online at [birchlakeyachtclub.com](http://birchlakeyachtclub.com)

## Sign me/us up!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for reservations is August 12 at noon

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# — Birch Lake Notes —

the West Nile virus - which has now been going around - from Mosquitoes - and is even transmittable to birds. They were told not to touch it, and if/when it died to bury it as soon as possible. They called the DNR and they basically said the same thing. The heron dies late last Saturday, Ed Levy buried it without touching it.

If they see a sick bird - don't touch it, and to call the DNR or a rehab outlet.

## 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.com](http://www.birchlakeyachtclub.com).

The Barker welcomes (reasonable) content (remember that this is a family publication and don't send things you wouldn't want your own kids to see). Deadline for submitting items for publi-

cation 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.

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](http://www.birchlakeyachtclub.com)

~Editor Phil



## OFF THE LAKE ...

*Coach Bill Doba, South side caught this huge Lake Trout and smaller, but still huge Brook Trout way up in Manitoba Canada.*

*Heading to the annual car show/cruise to Dowagiac, are East shore residents Kevin Bernaciak, Bob & Brody Baucus, Steve Curtis and Ray Gaik. Thanks to Tom Mosier (East shore) for hosting the event.*



## The 'Lucky Ducks' are back!



## Will you be a 'Lucky Duck?'

The corn and Sausage Roast is coming up on August 10, and we are bringing back the "Lucky Ducks!" These five ducks will be tossed into the lake this weekend under the cover of darkness. If you find one, simply bring it to the BLYC on August 10 and you will get ONE FREE MEAL at the Corn and Sausage Roast! (Limit one per household).

So, keep your eyes peeled, and maybe you will be one of the "Lucky Ducks"!

# Birch Lake Notes

## 57th Annual Men's Golf Outing Report

by Chair: **Pat McGann**

We had a great day for golf at Pine View's Hemlock Course on Pulver Road in Three Rivers last Friday the 26th of July. The temperature and wind were perfect. The greens and course were in excellent condition and the meal following was superb. The 1:30 pm shotgun start went off without a hitch. The drinks were cold and the music during dinner, in a beautiful room, was really rockin' the oldies, by D.J., "Jammin' J. Pat."

There were prizes awarded to the four Closest to the Pin winners on the

Par 3 holes, the Longest Putt made on the green and the Winning Team and Second and Third Places as well.

For the he Winning Team there was a tie between two teams at 11 under par.

In a default "tie breaker" on the number 1,2 & 3 handicap holes the team Winners of: Bob Bocus, Brody Bocus, Tony Schmitt and Mike Lutz. 2nd Place went to Pat McGann, Bud Zesinger,

Bud Hall and Mark Caenapeal. 3rd Place was John DeCloedt, Terry Wiseman, John Stitz, and Joel Finch.

The Closest to the Pin Winners were: on #2 Scott Soral, on #8 Tom DeCoker, on #12 Terry Wiseman, and on

#18 Bob Baucus. Longest Putt was won by Brody Baucus however, Honorable Mention has to go to Mark Caenapeal for about a 32 ft. downhill putt but was 18" off the green, but the rule was you had to be on the green.

After 57 years of the BLYC hosting the Birch Lake Men's Golf Outing it is alive and well and fun was had by all. We do need someone however, to step up and take over to Chair the event for next year. Let me know if you are willing to do this. Thanks to all those who participated and donated.

~J. Patrick McGann



### 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.**

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# FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



## Fleet Captain's Jibe #11, Aug. 3

By *J. Patrick McGann*

Finally, a beautiful wind for sailboat racing Sunday. In less than an hour and a half we got in three races and were on our way back to port. Once again I had one of my grandkids, 12 year old Cole McGann Bell as my crew and after the races gave some time to skipper the MC in that nice wind ... he loved it.

The Sunfish fleet is having quite a competition for the highly coveted season championship between this week's winner of all three races, Rick Russwurm, (using one my Sunfish main sheets ... I think I deserve something for that?) and last year's Season Champion Peter Soldato who took all three 2nds. Steve Frew was a solid 3rd in all three races. We had one Sunfish Skipper flip her boat this week, but she and her crew were able to right the boat themselves. If she needed help we had some boaters and members of the Sailboat Rescue Team: Rick Doolittle and Tom Cassady ready to come to the aid of any overturned boat in peril. Thanks Rick and Tom for your help.

It is not as competitive in the MC Fleet, where all three races this week were won by skipper and season leader Scott Troeger. Two 2nds went to Jeff Smitley in his boat with the green number 2002, and a second went to Phil Vitale in "The Pickle" number 500-A, a former National Championship boat. The story goes that after it won, the other skippers filled it with pickles as a joke, thus the name "The

Pickle."

While we did have some violations and errors they were all handled on the water by the sailors themselves, as the ladies and gentlemen we are, with the goal of fun above everything else, no protests being filed.

I did however give some wrong advice. Barb Cassady had crossed the starting line a moment too soon. I apologize that I told her she needed to do a 360 degree turn, however the actual ruling should have been to go back and cross the starting line again. So sailors, that is our policy from now on. Thanks to Tom Cassady for explaining that a skipper could cross the starting line five minutes early and then when the race started they would only need to do a 360 and would be way ahead, so it makes sense to have to go back and cross the starting line.

I can't believe that the Fall Dinner is almost here! As your Vice-Commodore it is my job to plan the Fall Dinner. I am terming it as the last chance to say goodbye for the summer and reminisce about the fun we had and to find out what your neighbors have planned for the Fall and Winter. It is not really Fall yet but a lot of families have to leave to get back to schools and jobs so hopefully this will be before they leave. It will be held on August 17 from 5:30 pm at the BLYC Club building. The cost is \$25, and it will be a wonderful polish style dinner, with all catered by the Skillet in South Bend. The



menu includes Kielbasa (Polish Sausage), broasted chicken, noodles, sweet & sour cabbage, salad, green beans, rolls, appetizers and assorted pies for deserts. We will have a limited supply of beer and wine, but as always you can BYOB. You can pay, and give me the names of people attending ahead of time to me at the East-side A-frame, 63164 Birch Rd., put in the screen door or in the mailbox, or online for \$26 at: [www.BirchLakeYachtClub.com](http://www.BirchLakeYachtClub.com). The deadline to pay for your reservation and list names is Monday, August 12 at noon, because I must give them a final head count.

*Sail on Dudes and Dudettes!*  
~Fleet Captain Pat

# SLOW DOWN

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

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# 2019 Birch Lake Sailing Results

## 2019 BLYC Season Standings

Date	28-Jul	28-Jul	28-Jul	Total	Race Point	Races	%
Race #	12	13	14	Points	Average	Finished	Finished
<b>MC Scow/Sailor</b>				<b>Total MC Races 11</b>			
Scott Troeger #1489	1	1	1	17444	1585.8	11	100.0%
Jeff Smitley #2002	6	2	2	9988	1426.9	7	63.6%
Phil Vitale #500	2	4	3	12779	1419.9	9	81.8%
Barb Cassady #2506	5	3	DNS	14077	1407.7	10	90.9%
Bill Luecht #1579	3	5	4	15142	1376.5	11	100.0%
Pat McGann #1735	4	6	5	14720	1338.2	11	100.0%
Harold Cranmer #1991/2550	DNS	DNS	DNS	2450	1225.0	2	18.2%
Sandy Vitale	7	7	6	9321	1165.1	8	72.7%

<b>Sunfish/Sailor</b>				<b>Total Sunfish Races 14</b>			
Tom Cassady	DNS	DNS	DNS	1521	1521.0	1	7.1%
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	1	1	1	15080	1508.0	10	71.4%
Peter Soldato	2	2	2	16463	1496.6	11	78.6%
Pat McGann	DNS	DNS	DNS	4259	1419.7	3	21.4%
Amy Troeger	DNS	DNS	DNS	7009	1401.8	5	35.7%
Steve Frew	3	3	3	18204	1400.3	13	92.9%
Stewart Spratt	DNS	DNS	DNS	9524	1360.6	7	50.0%
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	4	5	DNS	17208	1323.7	12	85.7%
Herb Cleveland	5	4	4	18494	1321.0	13	92.9%
Bob Niezgodski	DNS	DNS	DNS	10353	1294.1	8	57.1%
Bill Butler	DNS	DNS	DNS	2381	1190.5	2	14.3%
Camille Butler	6	6	5	11785	1178.5	10	71.4%
Bob Cassady	DNS	DNS	DNS	1089	1089.0	1	7.1%

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

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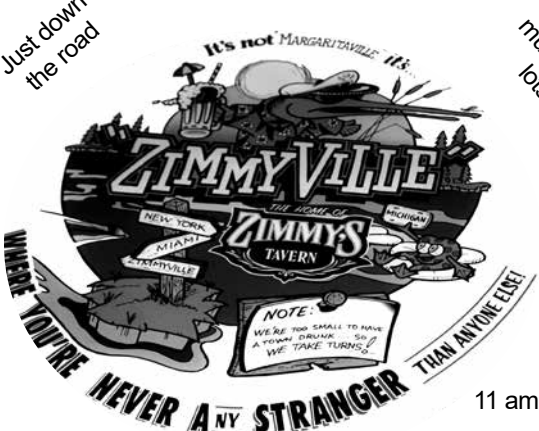


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# 2019 Birch Lake Sailing Action



## Sunday at Birch Lake

*thanks to Mr. Bob (King, north shore) for the pix*



**SAILBOATS ALWAYS HAVE  
THE RIGHT-OF-WAY!**



# — Water Quality Report —

## Commandment #6

Last but not least, let us together explore Commandment #6: "Thou Shalt Remain Informed About Other Important Water Quality Issues" Midsummer decreases in water clarity are usually the result of;

a) Higher clarity earlier in the year, which allowed more plants to grow at deeper depths, thus increasing the subsequent volume of nutrients and algae (which later decreases clarity).

b) The water from the springs at the bottom of our lake emanating from and laden with the limestone below forming calcium carbonate (marl) as it comes in contact with the warmer lake water. This marl is initially suspended in the water column and eventually settles to the bottom, but it becomes suspended again every time the settled marl at the bottom is disturbed, typically by increased boat traffic and waves.

None of the samples tested for e-coli in Birch Lake over the last 10 or more years have shown any dangerous or worrisome amounts of e-coli in Birch Lake.

The term "seaweed" has a negative connotation. At Birch, we are blessed to have numerous aquatic plants growing in the lake. Should you cut or

find any cut vegetation, please remove it from the lake.

Avoid swimming in, ingesting, or letting your pets drink from, water in or nearby an algae bloom.

The effects of alcohol and certain medications are increased while on the water due to added stress factors such as sun, heat, wind, wave motion, and engine noise.

85 percent of drowning victims in the United States were not wearing a life jacket.

Should the present method of financing common interests (donations) like water quality become inadequate, our only option will be to ask our local governments to create, control, and ultimately make all decisions for, a special assessment district (S.A.D.) The costs for same will be added to all our tax bills. Thanks for everyone's past generosity. Let's pray that it continues and even grows (because our expenses do).

Although we have some pretty good ideas (Starry Stonewort has already been discovered in the mill pond), we do not know for sure when, exactly where or in what form, the next invasive species will arrive in Birch Lake. But we do



know for sure that it will arrive. Probably sooner than later. Let's hope we have the money on hand to react quickly.

Except for the people living here, the lake is the most significant feature of our homes. The lake is our home, Take care of it.

The lake is a shared possession and a shared responsibility. Make sure to contribute your time and talent to its maintenance and betterment.

The majority of the current WQ members have both served and lived for lengthy periods. Fresh blood, if only for smooth future transitions, would be welcomed.

**PLEASE PASS THE WORD!**

## 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.



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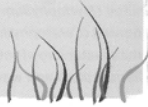
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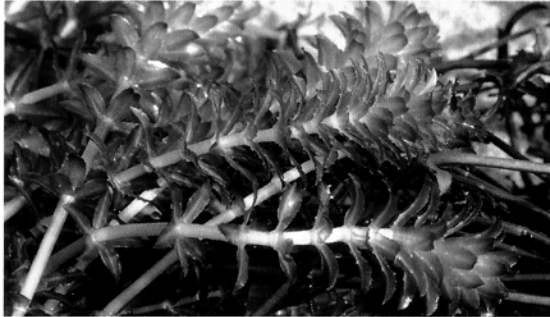
# — Barker Weed of the Week —

## Hydrilla

(*Hydrilla verticillata* [L.f.] Royle)

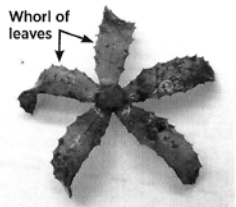


Vic Ramey, University of Florida/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants



**Description:** Hydrilla is a rapidly growing submersed aquatic plant that has small leaves — about 0.5 to 0.75 inch long — occurring in whorls of four to eight around the stem. The leaves have finely toothed margins and may have one or more teeth or spines along the midrib on the underside of the leaf. The rooted plant has long stems that can grow upward from depths of 20 to 25 feet. Hydrilla looks similar to both native *Elodea* (waterweed) and non-native *Egeria* (Brazilian waterweed), but only hydrilla has spines on the underside of the leaf.

**Habitat and distribution:** Hydrilla is an aggressive plant that often outcompetes native species. It can grow under lower light conditions than most natives, so it can grow to deeper depths.



Angela De Palma-Dow, Michigan State University

Whorl of leaves

It grows rapidly and has been found to double its weight every two weeks during summer in warm climates. Although it does produce flowers, seeds apparently do not play a large role in the spread of hydrilla. Rather, hydrilla mainly spreads by plant fragmentation, turions and tubers. The turions are compact, dark green, spiny dormant buds found in the leaf axils. When they break off, they can drift long distances before they eventually sink and form new plants. Tubers, found on the terminal end of underground root-like stems called rhizomes, can remain in a dormant phase for several years but eventually produce new plants. Two varieties of hydrilla occur in the United States. One has male and female flowers on the same plant. The other variety has male and female flowers on separate plants, but only the female plant is found in the United States. The female flower in both varieties is inconspicuous and has three translucent petals. The male flower has three white or reddish petals, but it is usually seen floating on the water surface as whitish-looking debris.

Hydrilla is widespread across the southern United States and in several states along the east coast. Its origin is uncertain; it may have originated in Asia, Africa or Australia. It has been found in several inland states, including Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Iowa, but has not been reported in Michigan.

**Control/management:** Preventing hydrilla establishment is the best approach for dealing with this plant species. Once established in a lake, it is extremely difficult to control because of its many modes of reproduction. Herbicides containing copper, diquat, endothal and fluridone may be used to selectively control hydrilla, depending on the other plants growing in the lake, but the herbicides do not affect dormant tubers in the sediment. Neither the tubers nor turions are affected by winter lake level drawdown. Biological control with several species of insects is currently being studied, and continued field monitoring will help provide more information on their

impact on hydrilla. Harvesting is not widely used, often because of necessary repeated harvesting, sometimes as many as six times during one season. Pond dyes may provide some control, particularly in small ponds with little or no outflow during the growing season. A combination of several management techniques may be the most effective means to treat established hydrilla.



Present Absent



(On Michigan's prohibited species list)

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 —



David Gorski family and sister Cathy, cousins of John Groszek (south side) enjoying Birch Lake.



Youngest, Lexi, caught a good size fish.

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 that leads to a covered patio  
 with a new hot tub and a  
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 views. The master suite,  
 with walk-in closet, also  
 has access to the covered

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 off-  
 street parking. An adjacent  
 lot is also available.



**15176 Birch  
 Lake Shore Dr.**  
 Price Change to \$565,000  
 3 BD 2 BA 2,698-sq-ft home  
 on double lot w/ 128 ft wa-  
 terfront, 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

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 ca-  
 sual dining, 1 BA. Street-side  
 lawn has wrought iron fence  
 and brick path to the home.



**63095 Birch Rd**  
 \$215,000  
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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



*Katie Luecht (east shore) and her friend and former next-door neighbor Parker Greene (currently of Irvine, CA) had breakfast at Jimmy's last weekend while visiting Bill & Bad Patty ... and as expected, Katie chowed down on a famous Jimmy's Bloody Mary ... Thumbs up, Katie!*

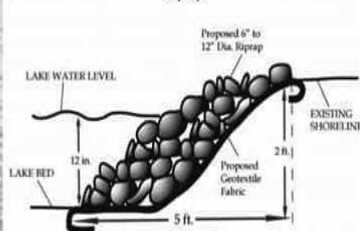
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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



Tom and Julie Lacy's grandkids, Xandar, Jett, and Dezi at a recent gathering.




The Lacys entertained cousins overnight last Thursday. They love their repeat visits to lovely Birch lake!!



Another First for the Birch Barker ... the tree of the week! Here are two shots of the tree between Bill and Bad Patty Luecht's house and ours ... The pic at the left was taken the day we planted it as a group in 2013; the pic at the right was taken last Saturday, exactly six years after we planted it ...

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 zip-lock and stick them in the stone mailbox at my home (east side), or email them to me at [SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM](mailto:SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM)



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# — Barker Critters of the Week —



**FISH OF THE WEEK** honors go to the 24" Rainbow Trout caught on a Mayfly by Douglas Currier last weekend. Doug's been coming to the lake for 56 years. His cottage is on the East side and was originally owned by the man who taught him how to catch Birch Lake rainbow trout, his grandfather Frank Bodza. Pictured is Josh Currier with the delicious-looking FOTW!



**EAGLE OF THE WEEK** kudos to Talon, the Birch Lake resident (Sky & Aerie) photographed by Amy Troeger (south side).



**Moth of the week** goes to Mothra, the black and white beast who repeated feasted on my arm last weekend on a trip the Flamingo Room ... rumor has it a hungry flamingo chowed down on Mothra after some Bad Patty Punch.

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# YOUR HOROSCOPE

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** - This week you can expect some surprises and interruptions to sports events, social outings, parties, events related to theatre and the arts, plus anything to do with your kids or a romantic partner. It could be something as extreme as a sports accident or a romantic breakup. Or it could be as mild as simply being late or having to reschedule a social event. Wise parents will be extra vigilant to protect their kids this week. Meanwhile, relatives who have been camped on your doorstep will finally leave.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** - Something unexpected will impact your home or your family life this week. You might have a falling out with a parent or an authority figure in the family. This might make you feel you have to strike a blow for freedom. Something unexpected might affect your home, especially related to electricity or technology where you live. Someone unexpected might visit you or do a favor for you. You might also encounter a surprising real-estate opportunity.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)** - Pay attention to everything you say and do this week because this is an accident-prone week for you. Something sudden and unexpected will change your daily routine. Things will be different. You might suddenly have to take a short trip or conversely, a short trip might be canceled. You might have an argument with a sibling or relative. You might want more freedom from someone. You might also receive pleasant, surprising news. You might socialize with others and have fun!

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)** - You're never casual about money. You respect money and you handle it carefully. Whatever you earn - you hold onto it. You know the sales, you don't buy full retail. That's why it's important for you to know that this week something unexpected will impact your finances and cash flow. It might mean that you find money or that you lose money.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** - This week, something sudden and unexpected will be disruptive. It could be an automobile breakdown, a sudden argument or an unexpected separation from someone. You might have difficulty dealing with restrictions or authority figures. Your everyday routine will change! Romance will be exciting and stimulating although you might have a fight? Flirtations and a desire for new experiences will intrigue you!

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** - A number of different things might occur this week that make you feel restless. You might not even know why you feel this way. But many of you will feel rebellious and will chafe at restrictions. Plans will change. What you expected to do won't happen. Instead, what happens is what you least expected! However, some of you will suddenly begin a secret love affair, quite likely, with someone who is "different".

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** - You are a social sign and very much in touch with friends, groups and organizations. Therefore, you should know that this week something will happen that might blow you out of the water. Admittedly, it could be minor; however, it could be major! Someone you know might do something bizarre or unusual; or perhaps you will meet someone new who is bizarre or unusual. In all likelihood, you'll make a friend who is memorable and exciting. In fact, this friend could become a lover.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** - This week is tricky. The Sun is at the top of your chart, and you're high viz. But it's positive! People admire you, especially bosses and parents. You might do something unexpected or even shocking in the eyes of authority figures. You might have a serious rift with a parent or boss. You might feel rebellious and want to break away. You might start a romantic relationship with a boss. Meanwhile, delays and confusion that you've suffered with travel plans, publishing, medicine and the law will settle down.

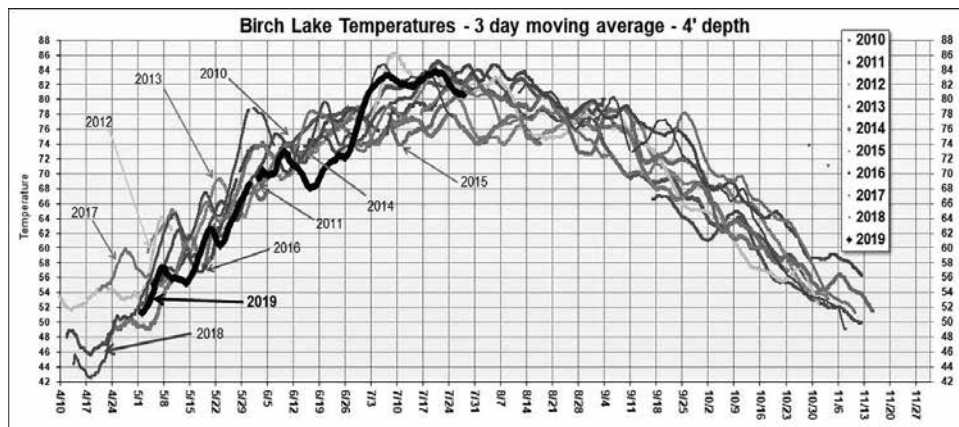
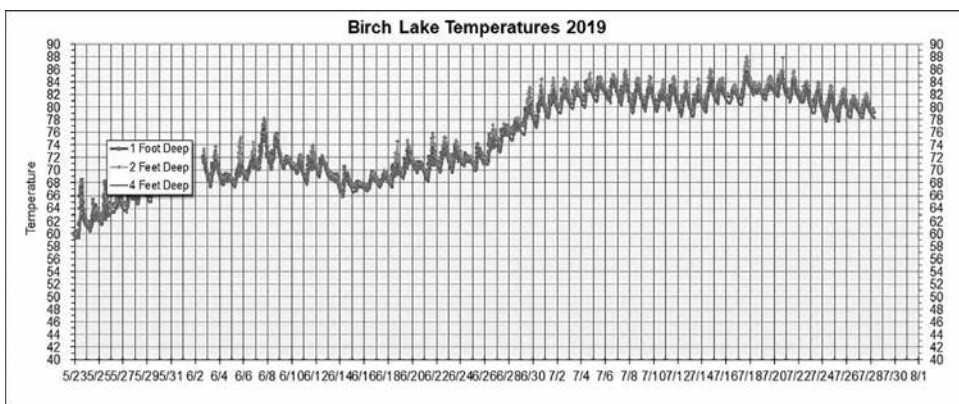
**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** - Expect disruptions to travel plans this week. A trip might be interrupted, canceled or rescheduled. Or you might suddenly have to travel when you did not expect to do so. Likewise, interruptions to legal or medical matters, publishing and the media might also catch you off guard. A fallout with someone over a dispute about race, politics or religion might occur. The good news is delays with taxes, debt, money back from the government, insurance settlements and shared property will now subside.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** - Watch for a bat signal this week as a warning to keep your eye on shared property, inheritances, estates, wills, insurance settlements and the money and wealth of your partner or someone else. These are the areas where you will get a surprise. Something will either fall through - or conversely, you might suddenly be the winner! Could go either way. Quite likely, at some point, perhaps later in the week, you will receive a gift, a favor or the affection of a new love.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** - This is a tricky week for relationships and partnerships. Something unexpected will impact them. Some might end. Some will require rethinking because someone might want more freedom in the relationship. The notion of wanting more freedom in your partner or yourself is strong. Meanwhile, you can relax because this will now subside. Your work will be more efficient and reliable.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** - A gaggle of planets now spurs you to be more efficient, hard-working, dedicated and persevering. You will even work on behalf of someone else because you value the rewards of service to others. This is your ongoing theme at the moment; however, this week something will disrupt it! Something unexpected will blow your job out of the water or radically change things. Admittedly, it could be minor. But it could also be major.

## 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: 0.141  
3.2 days since new moon



Sunrise: 06:36:48 AM  
Sunset: 20:59:35 PM  
Moonrise: 09:32:04 AM  
Moonset: 23:01:40 PM  
Daylight: 14 Hr 22 Min 47 Sec

# — Barker Weekly Puzzle —



## Dog Breed Word Search

AIREDALE  
AKITA  
BASSET HOUND  
BEAGLE  
BOXER  
BULLDOG  
CHIHUAHUA  
CHOW CHOW  
COLLIE  
DACHSHUND  
DALMATIAN  
GERMAN SHEPHERD  
GREAT DANE  
LHASA APSO  
MALAMUTE  
MALTESE  
MASTIFF  
PEKINGESE  
POMERANIAN  
POODLE  
PUG

S	P	W	K	C	D	H	W	R	E	X	S	H	A	R	P	E	I
D	D	E	U	G	Z	T	E	C	G	I	Q	J	L	V	A	D	L
A	R	S	O	Z	Q	E	N	S	H	I	H	T	Z	U	E	M	B
C	O	E	Y	S	V	S	K	X	G	O	K	O	H	Y	A	U	E
H	T	T	H	N	P	S	E	D	U	C	W	A	O	S	L	T	T
S	T	L	H	P	S	A	N	S	D	V	U	M	T	L	U	D	P
H	W	A	C	K	E	B	A	D	B	H	A	I	D	M	O	O	A
U	E	M	T	D	S	H	P	S	I	S	F	O	A	H	M	E	R
N	I	J	O	I	R	D	S	H	A	F	G	L	D	E	R	E	E
D	L	V	Q	R	K	Y	C	N	K	H	A	T	R	Z	X	B	I
C	E	O	N	O	N	A	I	T	A	M	L	A	D	O	I	E	L
D	R	V	E	L	X	G	Q	Q	B	M	N	G	B	N	X	A	L
S	C	H	I	P	P	E	R	K	E	I	R	N	U	E	O	G	O
X	E	L	A	D	E	R	I	A	A	N	K	E	B	A	Y	L	C
D	R	A	N	R	E	B	T	N	I	A	S	P	G	N	N	E	U

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# BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES

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I WAS IN A HURRY THIS MORNING







# ~Birch Lake Recipes~



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

## ~ Fuzzy Navel Cake ~

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

**by JJ Harlan**

**Ingredients:**

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- ½ cup veg. oil
- 4 eggs
- ½ tsp. orange extract
- 6 oz box instant vanilla pudding
- ½ cup orange juice
- ¾ cup peach schnapps

**Topping:**

- 4 TBLS peach schnapps
- 2 TBLS orange juice
- 1 cup confectioners sugar

**Directions:** Combine first 7 ingredients. Blend well. Pour into a greased and lightly floured bundt pan. Bake at 350 for 45-50 min or until cake springs back.

Combine topping ingredients. While cake is warm, poke holes in the cake and pour over. Allow cake to cool 2 hrs in pan before serving. Freezes well!



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

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# — Camp Tannadoonah —

## Just one week left!

It's week 6 at camp, and that means we just have ONE more session after this week! It's hard to believe how quickly the summer flies by every year. A couple years ago, a group of campers wrote a song about camp, and a line from the chorus comes to mind around this time every year: "The days may fly by, but the memories last forever..."

Next weekend (Friday, August 9) is our annual last council fire and candlelight serenade at the lake! If you want to come up for council fire on Friday evening, it will begin around 7:15 pm at the song circle/stage near the dining hall. We do a really cool torch ceremony in honor of the kids who have earned the Order of the Birch Award. Then we will proceed to the waterfront for our candlelight serenade around 9 pm, so come on out on your boats to watch!

This week I wanted to give an update on the forestry project we are undertaking this fall. I know that there was a post already on the Birch Lake Facebook group asking about it. Many of you have probably noticed that they've cleared an area on Harvey

St, just east of Lakeview Dr.

Approximately every 10 years, we do a forestry evaluation. We review all the trees on the property, and they make recommendations about what needs to be done. This year, they have recommended that we take down quite a few of the old growth trees. When we walked the property, they pointed out that our canopy has grown so thick that it's not allowing a lot of the younger trees to thrive.

We have a lot of trees on the property that were planted all at once, in the mid-1940s. In old photos of camp, if you were standing where the dining hall is now, you could see all the way to Harvey St! So we know that a lot of our trees are approximately 80 years old, and we're starting to see quite a few of them losing branches and/or falling altogether. So both for the health of the forest, and for the safety of our campers and staff, we are taking their expert advice.

They've advised us that it will look noticeably more bare in the forest for a year or two, but that things will rapidly start to fill back in. The last time we did this sort of project was in 2008 or

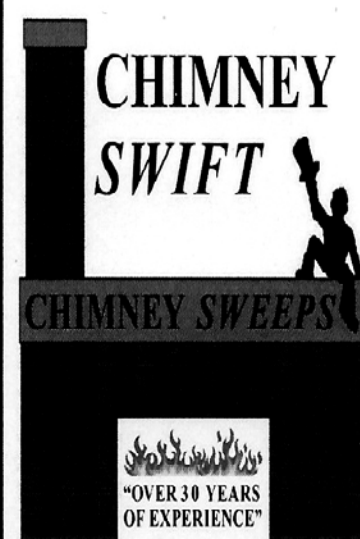
2009, and we took down a lot of trees then. Now you can't even tell anything was cut! So we know it will all fill back in, but that we'll have a year or two of being able to see more daylight through the trees!

We also have a contract with a timber company to purchase as much of the good timber as possible, so not only does the project address safety and the health of the woods, but it will bring in some income for camp in the process. All of those proceeds will be invested back into camp to help us continue to improve.

Every time we do a project like this, we get lots of questions and sometimes concerns for people around the lake. So I wanted to allay everyone's concerns by addressing it and sharing the plans up front. I promise, we're not clearcutting anything! And no land has been sold, and nothing is being developed. The area that they have cleared on Harvey St is their staging area, and it's the same staging area that was used last time, about 10 years ago.

~Miss Amber

amber@tannadoonah.org



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## FOUND

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

Found: **6x9 Aqua Lily float pad** on the East side on July 19. Call Bob At 269.228.6005.

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**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)
- \$ \_\_\_ - 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
- \$ \_\_\_ - BLYC AED Fund
- \$ \_\_\_ - Misc.

**Total contribution:**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

**NEW**

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

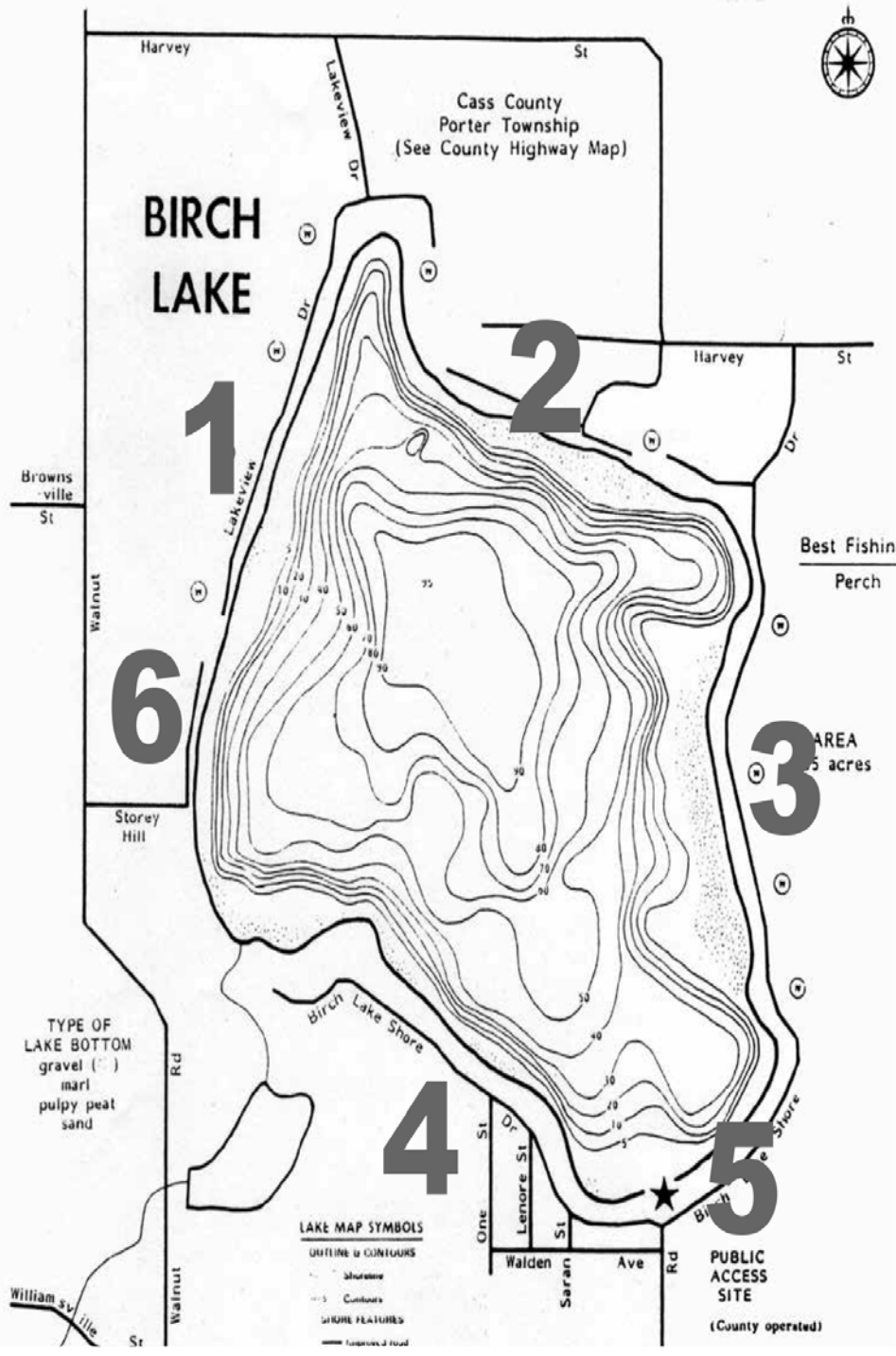
**NEW**

# 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.
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:

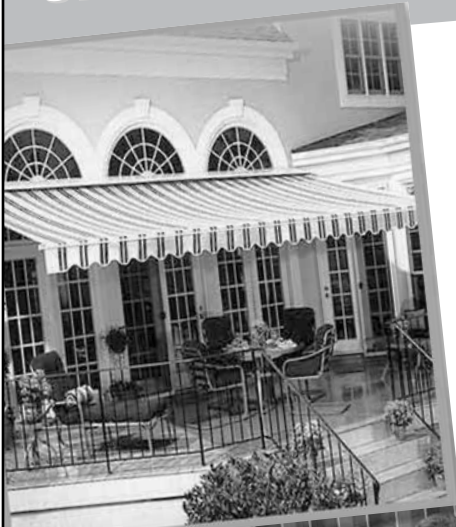
1. CALL 911 and report the emergency and the patient's location immediately.
2. Pull the box open, remove the orange-colored unit, TAKE IT TO THE PATIENT and open the device by pressing the white lever at the bottom.
3. An automated voice will guide you through the setup and use of the defibrillator. 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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