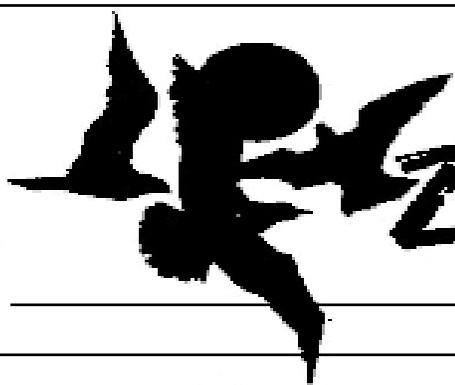


The
Weekend
Of

July 25,
2020



Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



So, now we really know how to do the dog paddle, huh?

photo by *Mr. Bob*

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**Commodore's Comments #20
Weekend of July 25, 2020**

By **J. Patrick McGann**

WELCOME to Comet Neowise! A visitor to Birch Lake from 60,000,000 miles away from Earth at it closest. Don't worry if you missed it's visit this time, just be patient because it will be back again in our neck of the solar system in another 7,000 years. It's tail, visible with the naked eye, was about three fingers long as you hold out the tips of your fingers up next to the comet. Fleet Captain Bill Luecht and I saw it from the end of our piers about 10:30 pm first with binoculars then after it got darker without them. It was the brightest comet either of us had ever seen. I remember when Hailey's Comet was around some 34 years ago, 1986, I took my four small kids out to farm country south of South Bend so they could all view it and even though it was only a wisp of light with binoculars I wanted them to remember it in 75 years when it returned to earth the next

time.

Congratulations to the team of Jeanne Welch and Barb Cassady for another successful Ladies Golf Outing. See their report in this issue of the Barker and the date for 2021.

The Men's Golf Outing is on Friday July 31 at Pine View in Three Rivers, or "Triple Ripple" as we use to call it at Camp Eberhart, with a shotgun start at 1:30 pm. A beef tenderloin dinner to follow. Sign up and pay online at: mens-golf.birchlakeyachtclub.com. Also email me your team members at pat@mcgannhay.com. You can also drop off a check at my house mailbox, 63164 Birch Rd.

Ed Levy (south side) reported to me that fishing has been good on Birch Lake this year for pan fish. But he made me promise to not reveal his favorite spots. Other fishermen say there are lots of small Largemouth Bass but very few keepers of 14" or more. There was one report of a 3-1/2 lb. bass. And then there are people like Tom Lacy (south side) who photoshops pictures of huge bass and posts them on BLL Facebook page but he did not fool me. Keep trying though, Tom.

It was reported by Bob Waddle, our unofficial executive property manager,

2020 Birch Lake Calendar

July 25 - Reid Francis Memorial Invitational Regatta, Diamond Lake **POSTPONED**
JULY 31 - New date for **MEN'S GOLF OUTING**, 1:30 pm shotgun start @ Pineview golf course
August 1 - Corn & Sausage Roast, **CANCELED**
August 1 - HOMEOWNERS Annual meeting, following BLYC board meeting
July 21, 2021 - Ladies Golf Outing, 9 am
Diamond Lake Golf Course
BLYC Board of Directors' meetings, 9 am, August 1, September 5
To rent the BLYC building contact Sandy Vitale at 269-476-1680 or 269-858-8184.

that we need a new refrigerator at the BLYC. If anyone is so inclined to gift a new one to the club next Spring, that would be much appreciated. Just let me know. The one we have now was a gift of a longtime former BL resident with other kitchen equipment and a remodel. Hopefully someone else will step up for the estimated \$1500 investment.

Vice-Commodore Dr. Dan and I

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 Noon 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 —

decided it would be best to make the annual BLYC Fall Dinner a virtual Zoom gathering for social distancing and to keep us all safe. Our Web master Chas Grundy has some great ideas to make it fun and special during this cocktail hour over Zoom. Boy that guy comes from good genes. The date is the last Saturday August 29. More information to follow.

Enjoy the rest of the weekend and please stay safe.

LOVE THE LAKE!

~ JPM, Commodore

Next year's ladies golf outing

The BLYC Ladies Golf Outing will be Friday, July 16, 2021 at Diamond Lake Golf course starting at 9 am.

Plastic lids

Hi Birch Lakers. I'm asking for a favor. If you could save your plastic lids, I would really appreciate it. A friend of mine knows a family who is collecting them to make a friendship bench in honor of their father who passed away. They can be milk jug lids, salad dressing, ketchup and mustard, water bottles, mayonnaise jars, prescription tops and containers, anything you empty that has a plastic lid. Just put them in a baggie and save them for me, please.

Thank you so much for your help!

~Bad Patty, east side.

Homeowners Association meeting

The Annual Homeowners Association meeting will take place on Saturday, August 1 at 10 am. This meeting is open to all current members of the Birch Lake Homeowners Association. Due to the pandemic the meeting will be done virtually through a program called Zoom, instead of physically meeting at the Yacht Club. Below is some information about Zoom and on how to access the Annual Homeowners Meeting.

Zoom is a video conferencing tool that lets multiple people meet using a computer, tablet, or smart phone. It also allows dial-in access (audio-only).

Step 1: Download and Install Zoom (the conferencing software). It runs on Windows, Mac, iOS, Android, etc. <https://zoom.us/download>. Optional: Test your connection and setup using <https://zoom.us/test>. We suggest you do this at least a day before the meeting.

Step 2: Join the Zoom meeting by computer, smart phone, tablet: <https://bit.ly/homeownersmeeting> (This is a direct link.) or go to <https://zoom.us/join> and use Meeting ID: 726 244 689, Password: 989768 or by dialing in from a phone (audio only): (312) 626-6799,

Meeting ID: 726 244 689, Password: 989768

Still need help joining? Contact Blair Garceau for assistance. Text her cell at (574)261-9817.

M-62 to close for two weeks

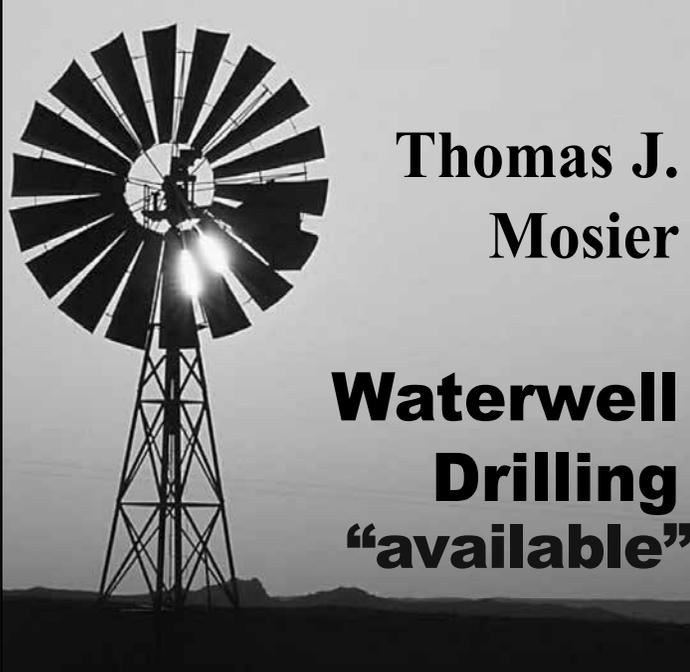
Beginning August 3, for two weeks, the Cass County Drain Commissioner will have M -62 closed between Hess Road and Yankee St. near Edwardsburg. This project is to lower a culvert to assist drainage to the Pleasant Lake drain. Depending on the weather the project may be completed early and the road reopened.

For questions or concerns contact the Cass County Drain Commissioner at 445-4428 or email bruceec@cassco.org

Goose Control Survey

Birch Lake has seen an increase in geese in recent years (5 families, approximately 25 geese). Some homeowners have experienced negative effects, such as aggressive geese, feces on piers and yards, and other damage to properties.

In response to requests from the community, the Birch Lake Yacht Club and Homeowners Association have researched solutions. One of these solutions involves rounding up geese into cages and relocating them. Some geese



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— Birch Lake Notes —

may not survive this process. The effectiveness is not guaranteed.

If we decide to pursue the goose removal option, we will need to begin working toward a permit this fall. *This process will likely cost \$10,000 over the first five years (with ongoing costs as well).* Before taking any further action, the Birch Lake Yacht Club and Homeowners Association would like to gather input from the community.

One survey response will be accepted per household. This survey will remain available until the end of day Monday, July 27.

Take the survey online at bitly.com/blycgoosesurvey or fill out the form on page 10 of this week's Barker and mail or give it to BLYC Commodore Pat McGann at 63164 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095 or BLYC Vice Commodore Dan Waxman at 63590 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095

If you have any questions or want to share additional feedback, please contact Dan Waxman at dwxman@versiti.org or 317-506-1680.

The Birch Barker

The Birch Barker is delivered to all homes on Birch Lake every weekend, and posted online at <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>.

To submit items to the Birch Barker for potential publication, or to buy a display or classified ad, contact sailorphil@philvitale.com or onlinebarker@gmail.com, or mail to Phil Vitale, 63174 Birch Rd. (east side), Vandalia, MI 49095.

Deadline is noon on the Tuesday prior to the weekend of publication. Display ad prices and sizes can be seen at <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>; classified ads are free for members, and \$5 for non-members.

Please note: the Birch Barker and the Birch Lake Yacht

Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND Starting over for 2021!

In 2020 we raised \$14,208 for our \$10,250 goal ... so we've now started over for 2021



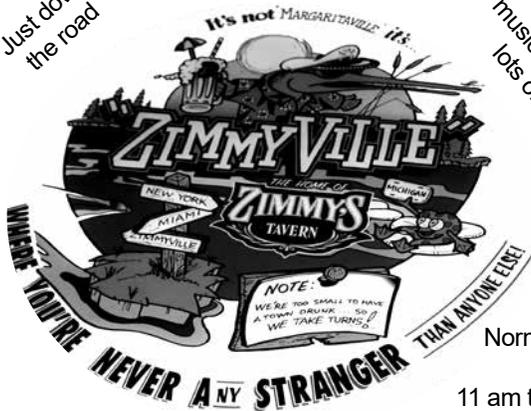
or contribute online at <http://BirchLakeYachtClub.com/>

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NOPE

Blue skies
Smiling at me
Nothing but blue skies
Do I see"

Well obviously, we saw none of that on Sunday! Once again, Mother Nature hit us with a one/two punch! Plenty of wind, (almost too much!) rain, thunder and lightning! Not a good combination for sailing. I'm beginning to think that sailing on Birch Lake was just in our

imagination. It was something sailors of the past would tell us. Stories of the great Sunday races that occurred long ago! Have optimism sailors! One day you may be able to tell the next generation about the great races you had on our beautiful lake!

This season to be continued ... Sail on,

~Fleet Captain Bill
(and ghost writer BP)



Just our imagination ... from 1968

SUNFISH SAILING

Last Saturday's adequate winds provided good conditions for our competitive sunfish sailors. The triangular course was set from the public beach (#1) to Camp Tannadoonah (#3) to Kruggels (#2). Both races were one and one third times around and the windward leg was a real test of sailing skill as right from the start the fleet chose different sides of the lake from which to approach the 1st mark. Those skippers picking the west side of the lake seemed to gain the advantage. Tom Troeger fighting desperately to regain his number two spot in the seasons standings sailed both races to perfection finishing first each time. He was followed across the finish line in the first race by Bill Carpenter (2nd) and seasons leader Keith Claro (3rd). In the second race veteran Mike Foote placed second followed by still steady Scott Troeger who is holding on to his second place season standing.

Thirteen sunfish completed in each race marking another week of expansion of our colorful fleet. It is anticipated that about 16 boats will participate in next weeks 3-race Labor Day Regatta. Two races are scheduled with the snipe on Saturday August 31 followed by one race on Sunday September 1. Those few sailors who have not yet paid their \$5 seasons fee are reminded to do so at once to fleet captain Herm Kruggel.

BOAT	SKIPPER	1ST RACE	2ND RACE	AVE. POINTS	AND BONUS	STAN-DINGS
14766	KEITH CLARO	3	5	1617		1
14580	SCOTT TROEGER	7	3	1548		2
14310	TOM TROEGER	1	1	1532		3
21903	BILL CARPENTER	2	6	1448		4
21351	BOB KING	4	4	1438		5
14962	KEVIN KRUGGEL	8	9	1348		6
20909	DICK & STEVE COWEN	9	12	1332		7
17002	BOB HARLAN	10	7	1179		8
Blue & White	DAVE & JOHN HAY	DNS	DNS	1172		9
22429	GREENS	12		*		*
130	MIKE MACHALLECK	5	10	*		*
Green & White	MIKE FOOTE	6	11	*		*
White			2	*		*
White	JOHN AND MAJOR O'BRIEN	11	13	*		*
White	KEN KOSTANSKY	11	8	*		*
White	JIM HIBSCHMAN	DNS	DNS	*		*

* WILL NOT HAVE HAD SAILED ENOUGH RACES TO QUALIFY FOR SEASON TROPHY



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— Water Quality Report —

Water Quality annual E coli report

As many of you are aware each year we do a sampling of a number of places around the lake to determine if there is any concern regarding bacterial contamination and in so doing be in a position to be able to alert the lake population as well as initiate an investigation as to any reason for such an observation. We should state initially that the E coli levels from samples this year represent no more than expected background, are way, way below the State of Michigan recommendations for swimming safety, and do not indicate any point sources of pollution. In other words folks, there is nothing to see here, and based on at least this parameter (bacterial contamination), the lake is safe and a great place to enjoy this summer.

After the sewers were installed there were some concerns that we may have breaks or leakages in the lines leading to potential contamination of the lake. This has been proven not true in a number of ways.

The first being that if there were leak points, due to the nature of the system water would be sucked into the sewer pipe rather than the opposite.

Secondly, formal evaluation of the sewer pipes has been conducted using camera outfitted robots to look at the entire line, which showed no breaks etc.

Third we initiated a formal E coli testing program using an outside lab to evaluate for any hotspots of E Coli. None were found with the exception of the little stream draining the wetlands into the lake on the north-east corner. Genetic analysis of the stream E coli DNA showed it to be nonhuman (i.e. not from the sewer). Additionally, although high levels were found in the stream, within 2 feet of the stream outlet, levels were diluted to background. Following the formal testing program, we have been conducting the tests for E coli ourselves using validated testing kits and methodologies. The data has been virtually identical each year with high levels in the little stream, and basically background at all other sampling sites.

E coli is a fecal coliform bacteria found in the digestive system of especially warm blooded animals. By itself, it may not necessarily be harmful, but it is an indicator bacteria for fecal contamination of water sources (wells, beaches, water bodies) and



thus other potentially harmful bacteria. Each year a number of beaches around the state may be closed due to high levels of E coli. This is often due to overflow of storm/sanitary sewers following rains, drainage of heavily used animal farms into lakes, or large populations of geese by swimming areas.

Fortunately, we have none of these conditions with the exception of an enlarging goose population. Should it get larger and the flock spend considerable time at single locations, local E coli levels might become a problem, but not now.

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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— Ladies golf —

Birch Lake Ladies' Golf

On Friday, July 17, 22 women played nine holes of fun golf at Diamond Lake Golf Course. The annual event had the theme of "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" and fun we had. The weather was sunny and breezy and we all felt a bit like we had gotten a Get out of Jail Free card. It was so nice to be out with others just relaxing, laughing and having fun. Even though the virus was still going on and we had the option of taking separate carts, we had to wear masks inside the clubhouse and our lunches were boxed and not buffet-style, we still felt we could think about things other than the dreaded pandemic for a few hours.

The game was Pink Ball and once everyone figured out what the rules were, we got going and things moved along. After our nine holes, we stayed at the golf course and ate outside in the nice picnic area.



Thanks to Jeannie Welch for making the delicious lunch, and to Pat Welch for delivering the box lunches to us. A huge thank you to the staff at Diamond Lake Golf Course: Bill, Cheryl and Mikey for helping us in so many ways. They really made the event special.

The following prizes were awarded this year for great golf:

1st Place Team: Debbie Soldato/Dana Soldato/Johanna Stratigos/Mackenzi Dobosiewicz (winners three years in a row!)

2nd Place Team: Jeannie Welch/Julie O'Chap/Barb Cassady/Diane Robertson

3rd Place Team: Claudia Phipps/Becky Wiseman/Brittany Marlow/Allison Weaver-Gills

Longest Drive: Johanna Stratigos

Closest to the Pin: Carla Chester

Longest Putt: Irene Steffen

A big thank you goes out to Staci Whiteman for driving the beverage cart. Staci said she doesn't play golf but this is her opportunity to spend time with the ladies of the lake. Michelle Seyfarth was our official photographer and helped in other ways as well. We appreciate these ladies giving their time to help make the event a success. Zimmy's Tav-

ern owner, Lee Oswalt, generously donated t-shirts and gift cards for the outing. We appreciate his annual support to this cause.

We had generous sponsors for this year's outing: O'Donnell's Docks, LLC; Patti & Rick Russwurm - Paramount Properties, Inc.; Sandy & Phil Vitale; Gavin Francis - Prime Property Care; Carmen & Debbie Soldato; Bob & Sue Waddle; Bill Robertson - B4Time; Dan & Sharon Waxman; Mark Bidelman - Sun & Shade Awning; Jan Temple & Tom Kuhn; Jim Rau - Apollo Marine; Dennis Bamber; Susie Tucker Realty; Barb & Tom Cassady.

Please remember to thank our sponsors. Their generosity helped make the event a huge success for Birch Lake Yacht Club.

Be sure to mark your calendars for next year's event: Friday, July 16, 2021.

~Barb Cassady and Jeannie Welch, co-chairs



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— Ladies golf —



2020 BLYC Ladies Golf Outing

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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Jim and Linda Bergan's (Cove) granddaughter Lily and great niece Lia visited last week and merit Barker Kids of the Week honors.



Raegan's first swim in Birch Lake this year with Daddy (Scott Sortal), Grandma Jan (Temple) and Papa T (Kuhn) of the west side.



Connor Caplis (north side, age 7) caught two fish with one worm! He might as well retire from fishing now.

Barker Kids of the Week

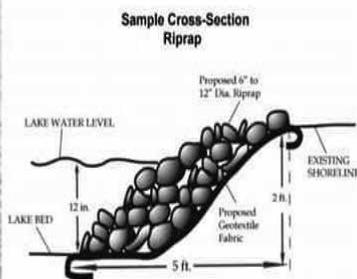
Want your kid to be a Birch Barker Kid of the Week? Want your dog to be a Dog of the Week? Want your lawnmower to be the Lawnmower of the Week? Just mail your photo (with a SASE if you want the photo(s) back) to Birch Barker, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095; put them in a ziplock and stick them in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

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— SEPSA millage explained —

More than 13 years ago, the voters of Mason and Porter Townships approved a special millage to support EMS and Fire protection services. During that 13+ years, the 2 mill dedicated millage has been renewed each time it was placed before the voters. This millage expires with the 2020 winter tax levy and is scheduled to be placed on the ballot in August of 2020 for renewal consideration. The Southeast Public Safety Authority (SEPSA) Board recently voted to place the 2 mill renewal on the August ballot.

This RENEWAL is NOT an increase in your tax levy, and will not overlap with the expiring mills for EMS and Fire.

Questions and Answers

- Is this a new millage? NO, It is a renewal of the expired millage (2mill)
- What is the total millage amount if the proposal passes? 2 mills
- In everyday language, what does the SEPSA EMS and Fire Millage Proposal mean? The renewal asks voters to approve two mills for seven years on taxable property in Mason and Porter Townships to help fund the fire departments. If approved, the millage renewal would begin in 2021.
- How much would this cost me per year? Take your home's taxable value (from your tax bill or the township) divide by 1000 and then multiply by 2

mills [TV/1000x2=yourcost].

- Why is dedicated funding needed? The amount of revenue generated by Townships tax revenues are not able to fund fire and EMS service.

- Is additional funding needed? Authority millage varies from year to year based upon the taxable value of the Townships. Historically, as the taxable value of the township has increased, so has the revenue generated by the millage. Authority expenses continually rise due to increased costs of equipment, insurance and staff. SEPSA has effectively managed expenses to prevent increasing levies above current millage rates.

- How much revenue would this millage generate? For 2021, with passage of the proposal, it is expected that the millage would raise \$658,498 for fire and EMS coverage.

- What is the money for? The revenue raised by the EMS and fire millage goes towards funding the Southeast Public Safety Authority's Fire and EMS Department operations for Mason and Porter Townships. The millage covers a portion of the total cost of operations including replacement of Vehicles, Equipment, Insurance and Wages. For 2019, the millage funded approximately 76 percent of the authority's budget. The remaining funding for the EMS and fire department budget comes from run fees, donations, grants and other revenue sources.

- What will the ballot proposal look like?

Renewal Proposal Southeast Public Safety Authority Fire & EMS Millage (This is a Renewal of millage which will expire with the 2020 tax levy) Shall the limitation imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution on the amount of ad valorem taxes be levied on all taxable property within the territorial limits of the Southeast Public Safety Authority, (Mason Township, and Porter Township, in the County of Cass, State of Michigan), be increased (this is a renewal of millage which will expire with the 2020 tax levy) by 2 mills (\$2.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for 7 years, 2021-2027 inclusive, for the purpose of providing funds for the purchase of equipment, and operation of Fire and EMS services by the Southeast Public Safety Authority? If approved and levied in its entirety, it is estimated that, in its first year, the 2 mills will raise \$658,498 for the Southeast Public Safety Authority. (This is a RENEWAL of millage which will expire with the 2020 tax levy). Yes No

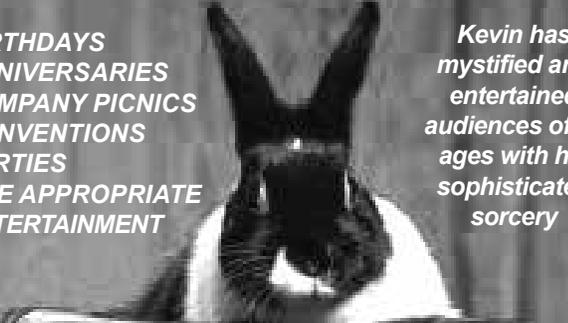
- When and where do I vote?

Vote August 4, 2020

AUTHORITY PRECINCTS AND POLLING LOCATIONS

Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm on Election Day. Mason Township Polling Location; Mason Twp. (US 12 and Kessington at Library); Porter Township Polling Locations; Porter Fire Station & Porter Twp. Office (Baldwin Prairie & US 12)

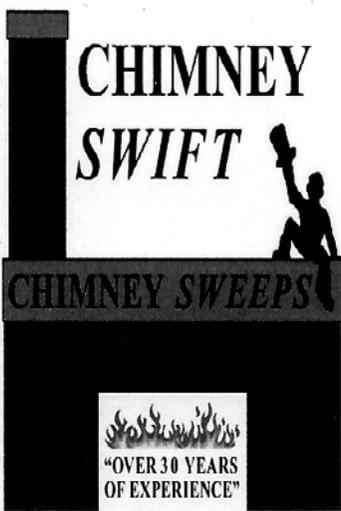
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— Goose Control Survey —

Birch Lake Goose Control Survey

Birch Lake has seen an increase in geese on the lake in recent years (5 families, approximately 25 geese). Some homeowners have experienced negative effects, such as aggressive geese, feces on piers and in yards, and other damage to their properties.

Natural control and deterrence methods include planting tall grasses and plants at the water's edge (although the lack of these grasses and plants on neighboring properties reduces the benefit of this approach), minimizing lawn areas, or scaring away geese. These have been moderately successful in some areas of the lake, while other residents report continued issues.

In response to requests from the community, the Birch Lake Yacht Club and Homeowners Association have researched solutions. One of these solutions involves rounding up geese into cages and relocating them (a method used by Diamond Lake, Shavehead Lake, and others). Some geese may not survive this process. The effectiveness is not guaranteed as some geese may not be found while others may still return after being relocated. Based on similar efforts, 80% of adults annually may return and new geese may come to Birch at any time.

If we decide to pursue the goose removal option, we will need to begin working toward a permit this fall. This process will likely cost \$10,000 over the first five years (with ongoing costs as well). Before taking any further action, the Birch Lake Yacht Club and Homeowners Association would like to gather input from the community.

One survey response will be accepted per household. This survey will remain available until the end of day Monday, July 27.

If you have any questions or want to share additional feedback, please contact Dan Waxman at dwxaxman@versiti.org or 317-506-1680.

* Required

Name * _____

Address * _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

How much have you been affected by the geese at Birch Lake? *

Not at all 1 2 3 Extremely negatively

In what ways have you been affected by the geese?

Would you support goose removal? *

Yes, and would financially support it

Yes, but not at a cost

Maybe, depending on cost

Maybe, depending on how they are removed

No, I am opposed

Other:

If yes, how much (in addition to your regular dues and contributions) would your household contribute to the expense of goose removal? (This is not a firm commitment but an expression of interest.)

If you answered no, but the majority were in favor, would you seek to block the removal efforts?

____ Yes

____ No

____ Maybe

Other Comments:

Please complete this survey and mail or give it to BLYC Commodore Pat McGann at 63164 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095 or BLYC Vice Commodore Dan Waxman at 63590 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095
OR complete the survey online at bitly.com/blycgoosesurvey

YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Twice a year for a four-week window, the Sun "shines" on you. This begins this week, which is great news because it brings balance and equilibrium to your life. It will boost your energy level. It's a great time for a vacation because amusements, recreation, hobbies, fun socializing and playful activities with kids are higher up on your list of priorities. You will feel lighter and more free-spirited! Romance is favored, and new love will begin for many.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - In the next four weeks, you might encounter circumstances that test you and the validity of what you're doing. You might encounter people who seem to work at cross purposes with you. You might be forced to prove to someone that what you're doing is worthwhile. Meanwhile, your focus will turn to home, family and your private life. If you can, you will choose to be by yourself and cocoon at home.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) - The pace of your days will accelerate in the next four weeks because suddenly, you're busy! Short trips, increased reading, writing and studying, plus, more time spent with siblings, relatives and neighbors on top of a busy schedule of errands, visits and appointments will keep you on the run! Actually, you will work effectively with others because your goals will harmonize with their goals.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) - Don't be surprised if you find yourself reflecting about your values in the next four weeks. When it comes to things that you own, it's time to take a hard look at them and decide do they help you or are they a hindrance? Let's face it, you have a tough time letting go of stuff. You know who you are. Nevertheless, you might want to make an important purchase and show it off to others? Meanwhile, this focus on money and possessions could lead to deeper self-scrutiny about what is really worthwhile in life? (Aside from dark chocolate.)

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - For the next four weeks, it's a time of new beginnings because you are setting out on a fresh new cycle! During this time, it is totally appropriate to put yourself first. You're not being selfish. You have a need to express yourself now, personally and creatively, and this is valid. Don't deny yourself this out of a misguided concept of duty or modesty. Your first allegiance is to yourself and if you don't respect that- you will be of little use to anyone.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Now is the time to set goals for your new year. (You love lists!) Define some goals because they give you a clearer focus on what is important to you. If you have goals, they help you to make decisions in the future. Goals also give you better control over your future and they certainly give you a sense of purpose. Take some time in the next four weeks to jot down some things you hope to accomplish in your new year ahead. You won't regret this because it will only benefit you.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - The next four weeks are more social! You will enjoy the company of others and vice versa. Not only will you be happy to be with friends, you will work more effectively with groups and organizations. Meanwhile, think about whether your friends are beneficial to you or not? Never underestimate the influence that your friends have on you because that influence is great.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - The Sun is at the top of your chart for the next four weeks, which is the only time all year this occurs. Symbolically, it represents a spotlight on you that makes others notice you more than usual, especially bosses, parents, teachers, VIPs and the police. Fortunately, this spotlight is flattering, so people think you're great! This is why you might be asked to take on increased responsibilities. If so, say yes because you don't have to do anything special to impress them. Nevertheless, both your successes and your failures will seem more obvious now.

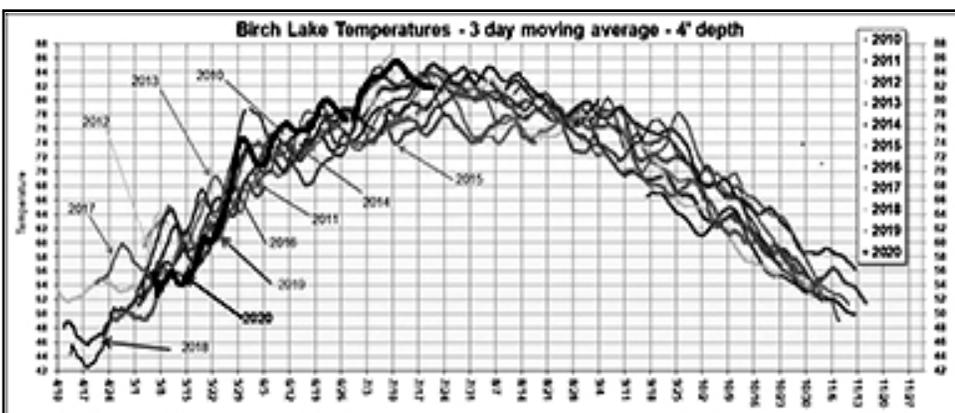
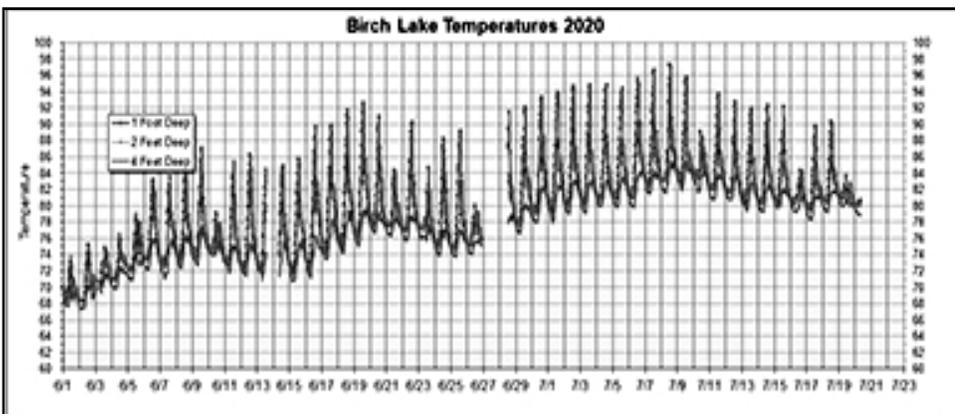
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - You have a lovely four-week window ahead, which means that your life will run smoothly. Nevertheless, don't be tempted to slack off. (Admittedly, this is an excellent time for a vacation and a fun time to travel.) Nevertheless, examine what is working in your life and what is not. It's time to think about which projects are worth saving and which are not. This is also an excellent window of time to learn something new through study, training or taking courses.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - The next four weeks will be more intense than usual. For some of you, this intensity will be passionate! It could be a sexual passion or passion about what you're doing or passion about art or a new kind of experience. One thing you will be passionate about is your desire to improve yourself in some way. Ironically, just when you are soul-searching, you might encounter someone who prompts you to do this even more so. Time for a reality check.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - In the next four weeks, certain things in your life are reaching a culmination. You're bringing some affairs to a climax, which means you might need to be careful dealing with bosses, superiors and people in authority. This is also a time when you see what is working and you see what is not. Always remember that your first loss is your cheapest loss.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - The next four weeks are a change of gears for you because suddenly, you want to work hard and be productive and effective in every aspect of your life. Because you will set the bar high, your personal aspirations will include your health as well. Nevertheless, as you focus on getting better organized and being physically efficient, remember that you might have to work for the benefit of someone else, which is not your first choice. Relations with parents are better. Redecorating your digs will also appeal. (If you don't paint, can you see yourself cleaning mirrors?)

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: 0.355
1.2 days before first quarter



Sunrise: 06:28:48

Sunset: 21:08:19

Moonrise: 12:02:37

Moonset: No MoonSet

Daylight: 14 Hr 39 Min 31 Sec

Birch Barker Funnies

**Even Duct
tape can't fix
stupid**

But it can
muffle
the sound



An old photo of people eating in a restaurant.
Photo was taken in 2019 B.C. (before Corona)



Not to brag, but I just
went into another
room and actually
remembered why I
went in there.

It was the
bathroom, but still....



"FREE HAMMOCKS, all over town. It's like a miracle!"





~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Strawberry Angel Food Layer Cake

Patty's light-as-air, heavenly spin on strawberry short-cake is perfect for summer and preps in just 25 minutes.

Ingredients:

- 1 (16oz) pkg. angel food cake mix
- 1 ½ cups low-sugar strawberry preserves
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 2 Tbs. sugar
- ½ tsp. vanilla extract
- 3 cups strawberries (from 16oz container trimmed, halved.
- Fresh mint leaves (optional)

Directions:

Heat oven to 350. Prepare and bake cake mix in 10" round angel food cake pan and let cool according to package directions.

In bowl, stir strawberry preserves until smooth, reserve. On medium-high speed beat cream, sugar and vanilla until stiff peaks form; reserve.

Using serrated knife, horizontally cut cake in half. Place bottom half on serving plate, spread reserved strawberry preserves on top.

Top with remaining cake half.

Spread whipped cream over top of cake.

Top with strawberries. Garnish with mint.



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— Camp Tannadoonah —

Favorite camp songs

Every few years I get requests from parents or people around the lake about favorite camp songs. This spring during the stay-at-home orders, we hosted online camp song singing sessions every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon for campers and friends to join us in song. So this week I wanted to share the lyrics to some of the songs our campers love to sing.

Pep is one of the “fun” songs that are rowdy and silly, and On the Loose is one of the “serious” ones or ballads we sing at Council Fire. Every night we have a song circle around the fire and sing camp songs. On a quiet night around 8:30pm you might be able to hear us singing!

PEP

The peppiest kids I ever knew, they never come a-pokin'
If I was to tell you the pep they've got you'd think I was a-jokin'
It's not the pep in the pepper pot or the pep in the popcorn popper
It's not the pep in the mustard jar or the pep in the vinegar stopper
It's good old-fashioned P-E-P, the pep you cannot down
Tannadoonah pep, Tannadoonah pep
The peppiest camp around!

ON THE LOOSE

Have you ever watched a sunset turn the sky completely red?
Have you slept beneath the moon and stars, pine bows 'fore your head?

Do you sit and talk with friends, though not a word is ever said?
Then you're just like me and you've been on the loose

Chorus

On the loose to climb a mountain
On the loose where I am free
On the loose to live my life
The way I think my life should be
For I've only got a moment
And a whole world yet to see
I'll by looking for my life out on the loose

There's a trail that I'll be hiking, just to see where it might go
Many places yet to visit, many people yet to know
So in following my dreams, I will live and I will grow
In a world out there that's waiting on the loose

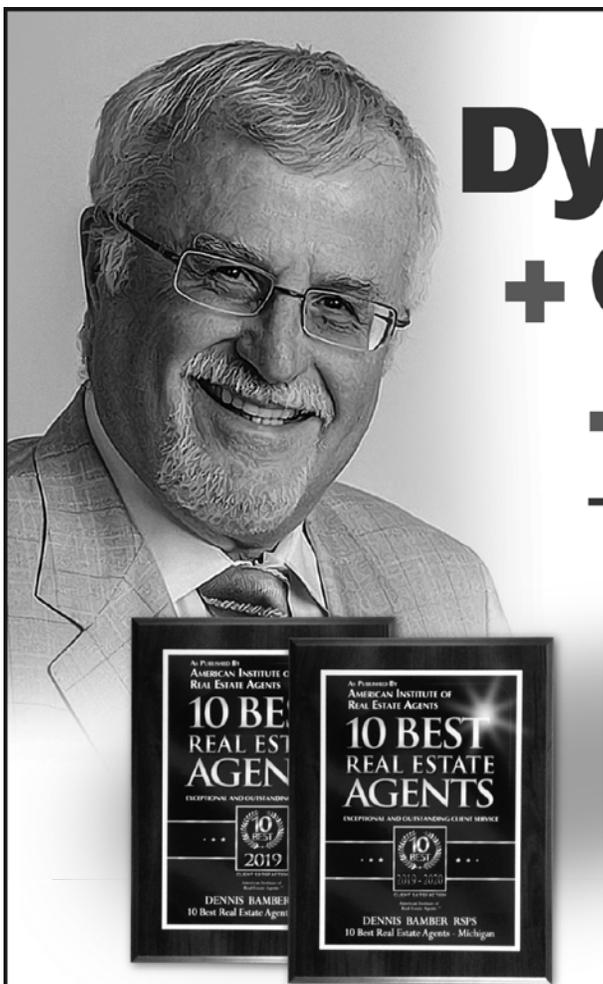
Chorus

So in search of love and laughter I am traveling 'cross this land
Never sure of where I'm going, for I haven't any plans
And in time when you are ready, come

and join me take my hand
And together we'll share life out on the loose

On the loose to climb a mountain
On the loose where I am free
On the loose to live my life
The way I think my life should be
For I've only got a moment
And a whole world yet to see
I'll by looking for tomorrow out on the loose

~Mrs. Amber



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FOR SALE

For Sale: **14 ft. Starcraft boat with trailer and 1200 lb pwc lift.** \$1300, south shore,



call or text Jack, 1-574-250-5852
2012 Rockwood Roo by Forest River

24 foot camper. 1 large slide out. 2 queen size beds. Shower. Bathroom, A/C, TV, Microwave, stove/oven. Very clean. Makes for a great overflow for guests. Asking 13,000. Please call Bob Groszek(south side) 1-219-384-9291.

LOST & FOUND

FOUND: Green float tube floated in to east shoreline. It is green

and says Airhead Rebel on it. Call 708-738-3962 if it is yours.



LOST: Kayak paddle, black shaft, yellowish blades, probably went westward from the north shore. Contact Stewart at 574.514.0667

FOR RENT

Interested in a unique, **fun vacation?** How about renting the most inexpensive but cutest and best-located rental in The Villages, Florida at ourhome4rent.com/cjp

WANTED

WANTED: **Used Boat Lift for**

24' Pontoon (minimum 26' Canopy) for Northsider. Call Rob 513 319-4038

Looking for a **kids bike trailer** to buy, or rent for a few weeks. Jen Magro Algarotti (north shore) 624-432-1252

SERVICES

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

If you are in need of **yard work** this summer (weeding, mowing, flower care, etc.), Please contact Claire Brovold (west side) at 1(574) 323-3683.

NOTICE:

Due to lack of participants for the **First Annual Naked Golf Cart Parade**, we have decided to postpone this event until the end of November. - Bob G

Talk With A Live Person



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HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Tip No 7: Wave & say "Hi"

Around here folks are friendly and wave to one another and say "hi" when we pass on the street or on our boats. Be a friendly neighbor and wave a friendly "hello."



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

BLYC Officers and Directors

2018/19 BLYC Officers

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WATER QUALITY AND HOMEOWNERS
Paul Fallon (E), Chairman, Water Quality and
Homeowners Association 476-1467
pauljfallon@gmail.com



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB THE YEAR'S GOING FAST! It's time to pay your 2020 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

\$___ - Other non-party related expenses

\$___ - BLYC Roof Fund

\$___ - BLYC AED Fund

\$___ - Misc.

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

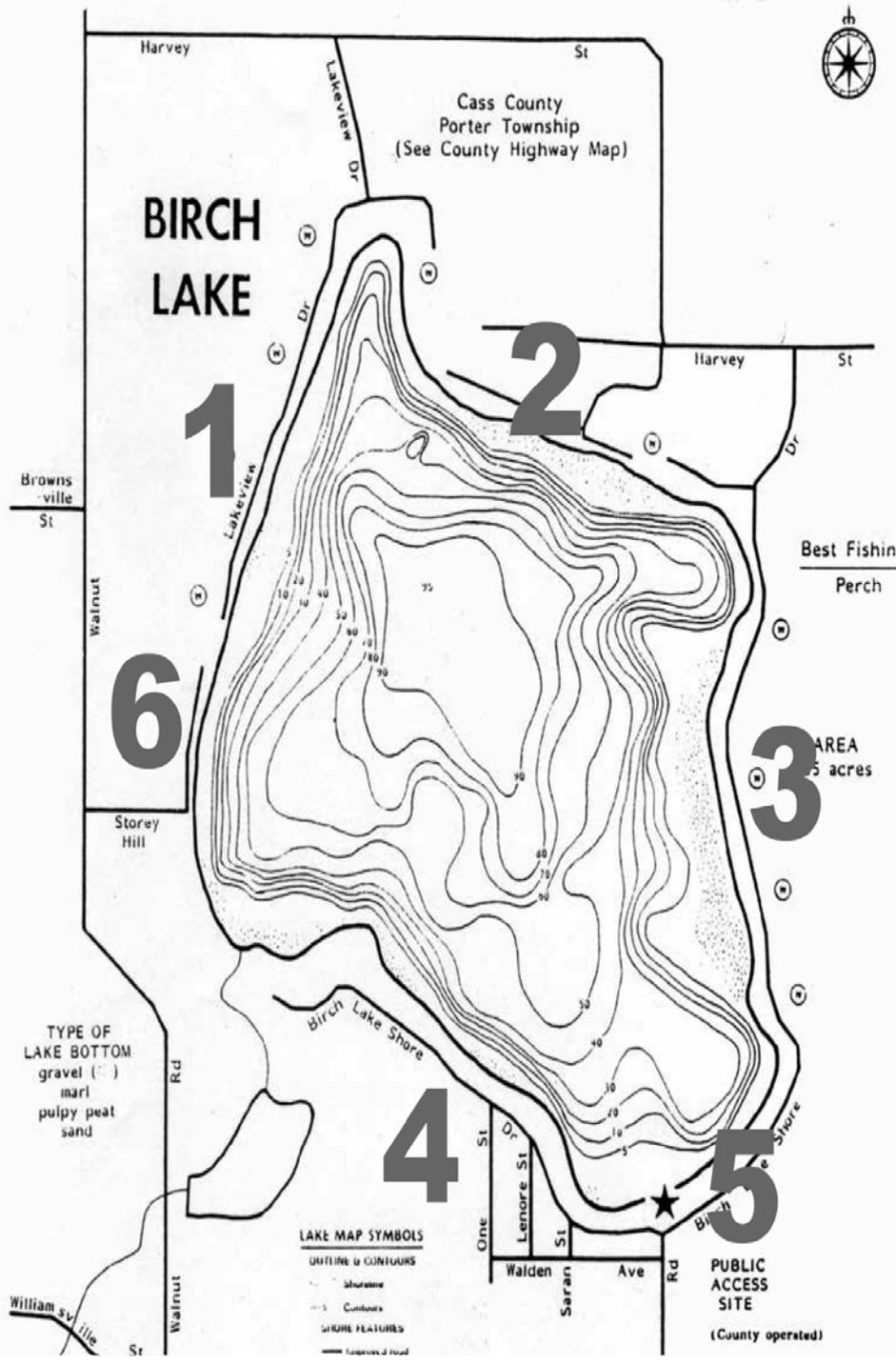
NEW

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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