

Thanks to Deb Hall (on the committee boat) for the nice photo of the MCs sailing in last weekend's races.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Commodore's Comments #13 Weekend of June 6, 2020 By <u>J. Patrick McGann</u>

lotes from the Birch Lake Yacht

Club Board of Directors meeting last Saturday, June 6, 2020:

1. We want everyone to know how much we appreciate Bob Waddle for everything he does to maintain our BLYC building: Power washing and staining the deck, maintaining the inside bathrooms, electrical, plumbing, gutters and roof. Bob always seems to have the best interest of the BLYC at

hand. Thanks ROBERT, you ROCK!

2. When pulling water skiers, tubers, wake boarders or wake surfing the Michigan Laws requires a separate spotter so a minimum of two people in the boat every time. It has been observed by several people this very important safety practice has not always been practiced by everyone here on Birch Lake. If you do this, you know who you are, and please stop on your own, because someone is watching.

There are other helpful water safety/ boating rules and laws from the state of Michigan in all the Barkers and the new directory. By the way there are additional copies if you need one for your office or winter residence.

3. Water Quality Committee: Giant Goldfish/Koi are nice to see in our beautiful healthy lake however, they are an invasive species. They are a breed of Carp, and it was said their primary food are eggs of other fish, which adversely impacts the native and supported game fish when they are on the nests. This can and will devastate all of our sport fish, such as: trout, large and smallmouth bass, bluegills, ciscos, sunfish, catfish, perch, gar and crappies, etc. If you see these goldfish try and net/catch them to remove from the lake. It was said that worms work well as bait. We are following up on this important matter. In the meantime, DO NOT EVER release aquarium and private pond fish in Birch Lake.

On a brighter note the Water Quality folks are making great headway in treating our invasive vegetation with only a quarter acre needing treatment this year, down from an acre in past years. Thanks to Rick Russwurm and

2020

Birch Lake Calendar

June 14 - Sailor's meeting, Flamingo Room deck and yard, 2 pm

June 13 - Commodore/Vice Commodore Party, BLYC, **CANCELED**

June 20, 2020 - Spaghetti Dinner, BLYC,

CANCELED

June 27 - Kids Party, BLYC,

CANCELED

July 3 - Golden Glow Chicken Sale/Fund Raiser for BLYC, 11 am - 1 pm, Camp T

July 3 - Fireworks, dusk

July 4 - Boat Parade, 4 pm, Weesner/ Eshleman pier

July 17 - Ladies Golf , Diamond Lake, 9 am July 24 - Men's Golf Outing, Pineview, 1:30

shotgun start, dinner to follow, more TBA August 1 - Corn & Sausage Roast, TBA

August 1 - HOMEOWNERS Annual meeting, following BLYC board meeting

BLYC Board of Directors' Meetings, 9 am July 1, August 1, September 5

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

— Birch Lake Notes —

his helpers for keeping on top of this for all of us.

4. Activities: Bruce Wagner is retiring chairing the lake favorite Spaghetti Dinner. It has been a significant fund raiser in past years. We are in need of finding a new chairperson or co-chairs to take this over if it is to continue in the future. If you are willing and able please contact Vice-Commodore Dr. Dan Waxman at: 1-317-506-1680 or DWaxman@versiti.com.

5. BLYC Dues: We are way down on people paying their 2020 dues for the BLYC because with the Covid-19 caused cancellation of the Spring Dinner and subsequent mailing of dues notice. So please send in your very reasonable dues. I





recently learned the Diamond Lake Yacht Club dues for 2020 is \$350.

6. Please order your Nelson's Port-a-pit chicken, ribs, chops and pitatoes before noon on Friday 6-26 the week before the July 3 sale pickup at Camp Tannadoonah 11 am-1 pm for preorder pick up and 1-3 pm drive-up sale. No guarantees you order will be available after 1 pm. NO REFUNDS if you don't pick up by 1 pm. We will sell everything to anyone after 1 pm until all is all gone. Thanks to Camp Director Ms. Amber Grundy for helping us with the Camp facilities. Reach out to me if you could volunteer to help all or part of that day's sale. Pat@McGannHay.com or call, text: 574-532-5377 to sign up. Thank you!

7. Fireworks will be on Friday July 3 at about 10:15 pm, and we are almost half way there to cover this year's costs, so please consider a donation to that fund. Thanks to Past Commodore Chas Grundy for his help in setting this up and maintaining our website for paying and ordering everything. If that makes things easier for you, please give Mr. Chas your nod of appreciation when you see him.



- Birch Lake Notes —

8. Lastly, Past Commodore Phil Vitale reported a need for more advertisers in the Barker and Neighbors this year, I suppose because so many businesses are happening on the hard times we have been living through the last three of four months. If you don't own or manage a business, you could take an ad celebrating a loved one's birthday, graduation or anniversary, or just showing your support for that publication and our amazing area we live in here in southwest lower Michigan. That would impress your fellow lakers.

Love the Lake and stay safe! Thank you!

~ JPM, Commodore

4th of July Boat Parade

Even though many of the Birch Lake events have been canceled this summer, the 4th of July boat parade is still on! The theme this year is "We are Family," and we would like to have as many of our Birch Lake families as possible participate. We may not be able to see each other at events, but this will be a great opportunity to see each other in our boats! The only requirement is that you have a sign with your family's name on the side of the boat. For those who would like to decorate, there will be awards given and a grand prize for the



Gavin Andis, the grandson of Eric and Karen Miller (east side), looks like a natural born jet skier ...

best of show.

The parade will start Saturday, July 4th at the Weesner/Eshleman pier on the southside at 4:00. We hope everyone will join in and make this a fun, Birch Lake family event!

~Ronda Eshleman

2020 Dues

In the midst of everything that has been happening in our world, the spring dinner was canceled, therefore the dues forms were not mailed in the spring as they have been in years' past.

Please use the dues form in the Barker to submit your donations or use the online store (store.birchlakeyacht-club.com) to pay your yacht club dues. Checks should be mailed to Deb Spratt, 18100 Farmington Hills Dr. South Bend, IN 46637.

"Slow Down" signs

"Slow Down" signs were discussed at a recent Homeowner's Association meeting. Signs that would be similar to a political campaign sign would cost under \$10, including the wire stake to place it in your yard. Final image for the sign has not been decided on but would remind drivers to slow down when they travel around the lake. If you have any interest in placing one (or more) of these signs in your yard please contact Blair Garceau. Thank you. (269) 476-9862 leave a message or bgarceau@comcast.net

Five-Lake Regatta planned

Attention all MC Sailors! We have been invited to participate in a five-lake MC regatta this summer. Diamond Lake Yacht Club will host a one-day event, Saturday, July 25. This will be an all-day event with sailors representing Diamond, Eagle, Birch, Corey and Indian Lakes. We are being asked to try to get at least 5 boats from Birch to race. Bruce Cassady from Eagle Lake is helping coordinate the event and has offered to help transport boats to and from the regatta if you are concerned you don't have an adequate trailer. Basically, he and Barb Cassady (east side) will work

to ensure every Birch MC sailor who wants to race in this event will have the opportunity. Please email bcassady@ holycrossvillage.com if you want to represent Birch at the regatta. Even if you are undecided but are considering, please let me know. This should be a great time and a wonderful way to help sharpen our racing skills.

~Barb Cassady



Because we loved the shirt, we had printed up some long sleeve dri-fit like shirts in white with a high zippered collar perfect for outdoor sports like tennis, biking, strolling, or lazy afternoons on the pontoon. Because the first 150 shirts sold out very quickly, we have had multiple requests for additional shirts. The shirts are white with black lettering that say "Birch Lake, Mi", as pictured here. The cost is \$30 each and available in men's sizes small thru double extra large. We are putting together a final order so please text Michelle Seyfarth at 269-535-3010 or email at msey1@yahoo.com prior to June 22, to reserve sizes and quantities as the shirt has been discontinued and quantities are limited. I'm is wearing a small in the photo.

BLYC Fourth of July Fundraiser

The Fourth of July Weekend is just around the corner, and if you'd like to stay out of the kitchen and enjoy the lake and activities, plan on letting Nelson's feed your group at the BLYC fundraising Nelson's Port-a-Pit dinner. There will be an assortment of meats and potatoes available at a very reasonable cost.

We ask that you preorder before noon on Friday, June 26. All preor-



ders will need to be picked up between 11 am & 1 pm the day of the sale, July 3. If not picked up by 1 pm we will open the sale to drive by customers from 1-3 pm or until all the food is gone. No refunds if you do not pick up your order by 1 pm. The pickup location will be The Camp T circle on Harvey Street at the east curve. We will have signs out.

We will also be accepting donations to help Camp T through this Covid/Economic crisis so please be as generous as you possibly can be to help out our beloved Camp T that is such a great part of the Birch Lake history. They need your support this year more than ever before.

Place and pay for your order

NOW online at the website: <u>Chicken.BirchLakeYachtClub.</u> <u>com</u> before noon on June 26. There will some limited drive up orders available the day of the sale.

MENU ITEMS

Port-a-Pit Chicken Half \$8 Port-a-Pit Bone-in Pork Chop \$8 BBQ Baby-Back Ribs \$9 Pit-tatoes \$5



Sailing finally gets started

By **BILL LUECHT**

unday, we finally had some sailing on Birch Lake! It was absolutely wonderful to see all the boats out there! And Sunday was the first time we have ever had three women sailing MCs! We have come a long way!

We started the day with a tribute to former Fleet Captain, Past Commodore, and wonderful friend, Mike Lutz. After having an improvised "eight bells" for a fallen sailor, and a moment of silence the race got started.

Due to the lack of wind, we only got one race in Sunday. We will continue to persevere and stay optimistic and positive. So don't give up!

Again a big shout out to Tom Cassady for taking charge of setting the course and also helping some new sailors get their boats ready!

Committee boat was manned by two lovely, extraordinary volunteers Deb Hall and Bad Patty!

Thanks to all who participated and see you (hopefully) on the water Sunday!

This Sunday after sailing let's have a sailor's meeting at my house beginning at 2 pm to review rules.

Sail on!

~Fleet Captain. Bill Luecht (and ghostwriter BP)



2020 Birch Lake Sailing Results

BLYC Season Standings

Date				Point	Percent
					Finished
Race	I		Points	Average	Finished
MC Scow/Sailor					Total MC Races=> 1
					100%
Barb Cassadv #2506	2	1521	1521	1	100%
Bob King #1199	3	1444	1444		100%
					100%
					100%
					100%
					100%
					100%
					100%
Sunfish/Sailor					Total Sunfish Races=> 1
Herb Cleveland	1	1600	1600	1	100%
Bob Niezgodski	2	1521	1521	1	100%
Stewart Spratt	3	1444	1444	1	100%
					100%
					100%
Pat McGann					

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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— Water Quality Report -

FISH DIE OFFS AND GOOSE POOP



couple of notes this week.

Fish die offs:

It has been brought to our attention this week that similar to last year there have been some fish die offs which due to wind and waves end up on particular areas of the lake. Last year we reached out to the local fisheries biologist regarding this, and his presumption at the time was it was due to reproductive stress.

Cool to cold spring followed by a rapid warming along with day night changes stimulates winter weakened fish to get to the business of mating, laying eggs, and defending these eggs. With the rapid onset of warm water, this provides a bit too much stress and the weaker fish may die as a result. This has happened at some other local lakes as well.

Thus, unless we continue to see this or there are observations of someone poring in lots of toxins into the lake, this should be the end of it and hopefully we will see a more gradual onset to spring or at least a real spring next year.

Goose poop:

As one may have noticed our flock has been increasing yearly from one family (aren't they cute) to three families, to now a mob of 25. Geese love good old mowed grass and a shoreline that provides little problems with getting in and out of the water without barriers. They can consume up to 4 pounds of grass each day but are not real efficient in its digestion so they then poop out about 2 pounds of effectively 2-4-2 fertilizer. With our little mob that could be up to 50 pounds of goose poop. It has been calculated that it only takes a single goose to overload a one acre pond with phosphorous. This mob will be with us until they all get their flight feathers and can leave if they so choose. Goose poop is also high in bacteria including E coli and can contain salmonella, campylobacter, and listeria. Large flocks are a major reason for bacterial contamination and closing of beaches on Lake St. Clair and other places. When, not if, you come upon goose poop in your yard, do not just flick it into the lake. Collect it and toss in garbage or put in compost

Due to high nitrogen and phosphorous content do not just bed it around plants. Additionally due to the bacteria and sometimes various parasites, keep your dogs away from it. For some reason they like to eat goose poop, and may normally tolerate it but can get diarrhea from it or then want to lick your face. With the increase in geese laying eggs (they like to return to the scene of the crime) this may only get worse and we may have to consider mitigation measures next spring. On the home front you can set up shoreline plantings or barriers by putting in stakes with strings with some shiny stuff between them.

Goose deterrents which you spray on the grass are also effective. Those which contain anthroquinone or methyl anthranilate are supposed to be especially effective. Safe for humans and pets however makes your lawn a not go. Anthraquinone gives them tummy discomfort and methyl anthranilate just does not taste good. They will go looking for lawns without barriers and bad taste etc. on which to leave their pounds of calling cards.





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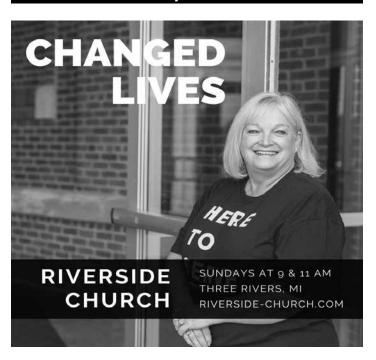
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away

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- 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



— Barker Kids of the Week —



Happy 13th birthday to Cooper Petty on the north shore! Most days, you can find Cooper fishing, or hunting turtles, snakes and frogs!

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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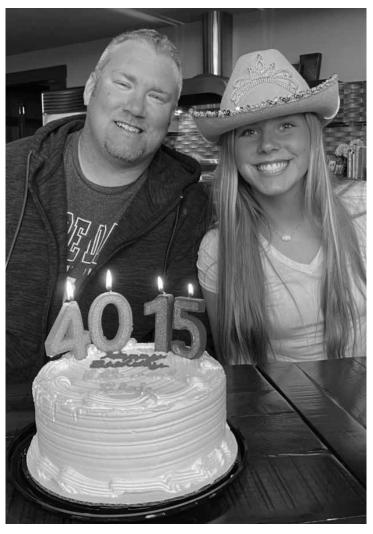


Barker Kids of the Week —



Above: It was Luke Gerken's (south side) 19th Birthday at the lake. He is pictured by his sister Elise and two brothers, Sean and Kevin.

Right: Blair Wozny (son of Diana Wozny and Bob Wozny, south side) and their granddaughter, Elle Guyton, (daughter of Meredith Wozny Guyton and Jeff Guyton) celebrate their 40th and 15th birthdays, respectively. They are Birch Lake babies from day one!!! Happy Birthday!

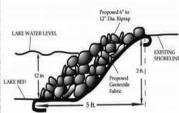


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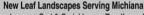


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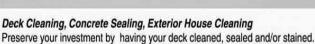
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— Barker Kids of the Week —









Top left: Carmen and Debbie Soldato's (west side) grandson, Cooper with the first of eight blue gills and one bass he caught in one day! Very happy little fisherman!

Top center and right: Tavia Bratt (south side) practicing her Bullfrog catching (and prince making) skills.

Left center: Gavin Andis made a quick trip up from Indy to enjoy the lake and get a little love from his grandparents, Eric and Karen Miller (east side).

Bottom center: Liz Hall, daughter of Bud and Debbie Hall (cove) was up for the day, as were Quinn and Ryne Howard.

Below: Quinn and Parker Robinson (south shore) building a "water feature." Sons of Jeff and Jill Robinson.





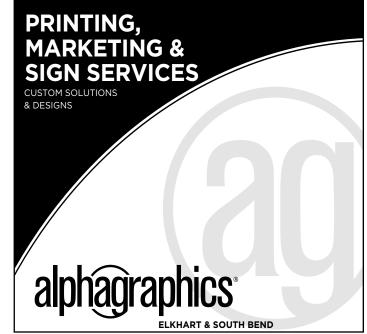






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Birch Lake Ladies' Golf Outing Girls Just Want to Have Fun!! Friday, July 17, 2020

Diamond Lake Golf Course, Cassopolis 9 AM Tee Off - \$35 per golfer Please arrive no later than 8:30 AM Fee includes cart and box lunch

Box Lunch at Diamond Lake Golf Course following the Outing ** IMPORTANT! Following health precautions, all participants will ride in separate golf carts; social distancing highly encouraged; DLGC may have additional rules we will need to follow **

> If you'd like to sponsor a hole please contact either: Barb Cassady 574-303-2831 or Jeannie Welch 574-286-2890

> > Net proceeds to benefit BLYC

Registration Form

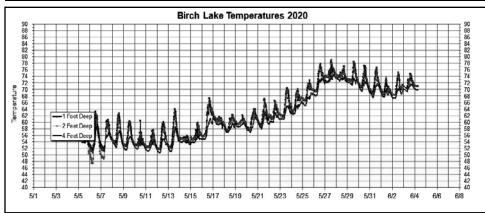
Team Members (list captain first with phone no.)

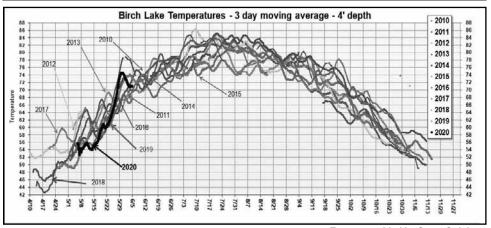
- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- **3.** _____

Please make checks payable to BLYC and mail to Barb Cassady at 63486 Birch Road, Vandalia, MI 49095

Deadline for registration is July 7th

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: 0.399 1.0 days after last quarter



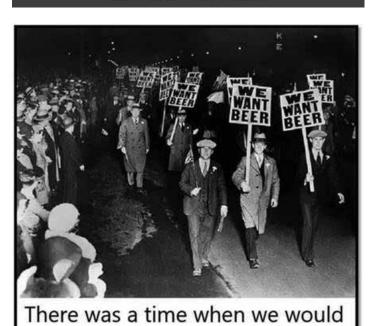
Sunrise: 06:05:06 Sunset: 21:20:08 Moonrise: 02:24:43 Moonset: 13:55:04 Daylight: 15 Hr 15 Min 02 Sec

Birch Barker Funnies

When parents start to crack during lockdown



Whoever decided a liquor store is more essential than a Hair Salon is obviously a bald-headed alcoholic!



Do you know how lucky we are this virus won't spread at grocery stores, big retailers and hardware stores?

It's crazy how it only spreads at small businesses?

protest for things that mattered.









~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Rosemary Ranch Chicken Kebabs

eally easy, really good. Simply add your favorite vegetables and fire up the grill.

Prep: 50 mins Cook: 10 mins Total: 1 hr

Servings: 6; Yield: 6 servings

Ingredients

- ½ cup olive oil
- ½ cup ranch dressing
- 3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon white vinegar
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper, or to taste
- 1 tablespoon white sugar, or to taste
- 5 each skinless, boneless chicken breast halves - cut into 1 inch cubes

Directions

• Step 1: In a medium bowl, stir together the olive oil, ranch dressing, Worcestershire sauce, rosemary, salt, lemon juice, white vinegar, pepper, and sugar. Let

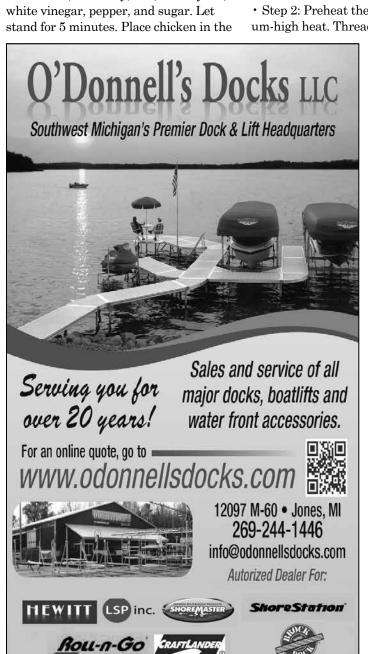


bowl, and stir to coat with the marinade. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

· Step 2: Preheat the grill for medium-high heat. Thread chicken onto

skewers and discard marinade.

• Step 3: Lightly oil the grill grate. Grill skewers for 8 to 12 minutes, or until the chicken is no longer pink in the center, and the juices run clear





— Camp Tannadoonah —

Working to keep everyone safe!

t's been a busy few days at Camp, as we wrapped up our first week of day camp and are now into session 2. We only have 10 kids on our biggest day this week, which works really well as we figure out all the new routines.

We announced last Friday that we do still hope to run overnight camps in July, pending final approval from the State of Michigan. I'm writing this article Tuesday morning, and in just a few minutes we will be participating in a call with officials from our state licensing organization, to discuss the guidelines they are hopefully going to release soon for overnight camp programs. Having looked over the drafts, we feel confident we can follow the guidelines and have a few weeks of camp in July and early August.

But it's definitely going to look different than our usual program! We've reduced our capacity for overnight campers from 135 to just 80. That will allow us

to have 8 cabins of 10 campers, and those cabins will make up our "cohorts" or "households."

The cabin groups will stay together for most of the day, doing their activities, eating at the same table at meals, and sitting together when we have camp fire in the evening. The goal will be to keep those households together as much as possible,

with limited mixing between the groups.

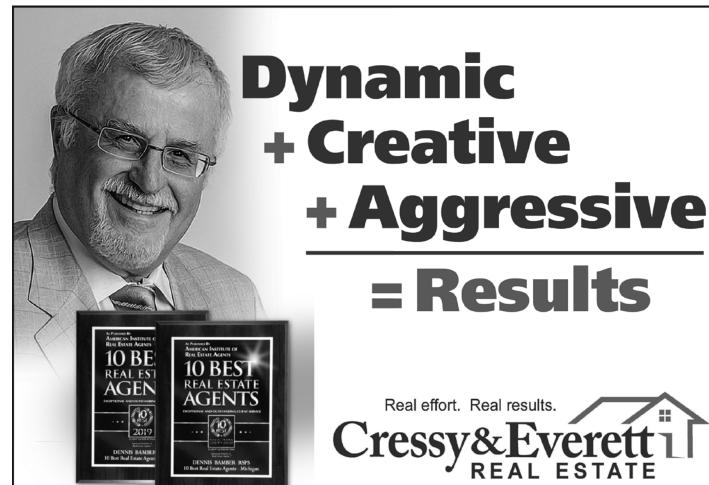
We will have drop off on Sunday take place in the parking lot, with temperature checks and health questions, and no one will have access to other parts of camp besides the drop off area. We've hired a second nurse so that we have two every week, and we will take temperatures of campers and staff every day — at least once. And we've set aside a cabin that will not house campers to be our quarantine space if anyone develops a fever or other symptoms while at camp.

We know it will change the camp experience, but we also know how much kids need to be outdoors and have a chance to go to camp. We plan to continue this plan as long as we feel we can do so safely.

One last thought this week – over the past few weeks there have been numerous groups of people playing at our waterfront / on our pier. We want to remind everyone that it's a huge liability to camp to have people playing at the waterfront, and that we will ask anyone we see on the pier to leave. We don't mind people walking through camp when we don't have camp in session, but the waterfront is off limits. Thank you!

~Mrs. Amber





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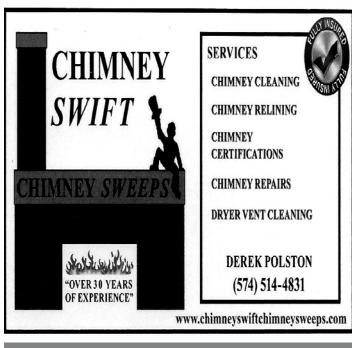
I do **sewing and mending** at fair prices - zippers, hemming, small alterations; call Kathy at 476-9317 If you are in need of **yard work** this summer (weeding, mowing, flower care, etc.), please contact Claire Brovold (west side) at 1(574) 323-3683.

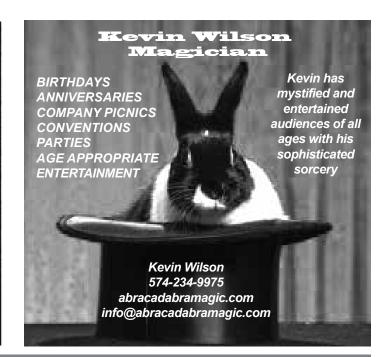
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BLYC Officers and Directors

2018/19 BLYC Officers				
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Bill Luecht (E), Fleet Captain 476-2843				
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BLYC WATER QUALITY AND HOMEOWNERS COMMITTEE

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

HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Tip No 4: Keep your boat outside the raft line

People and pets swimming to the rafts are hard to see ... Please be a good neighbor, be vigilant, be courteous, be aware, be safe, and keep your boats outside the line of rafts.

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





BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB THE YEAR'S OVER! 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	Mala alanaha asal la ka		
\$ Other non-party related expenses	Make checks payable to		
\$ BLYC Roof Fund	BLYC		

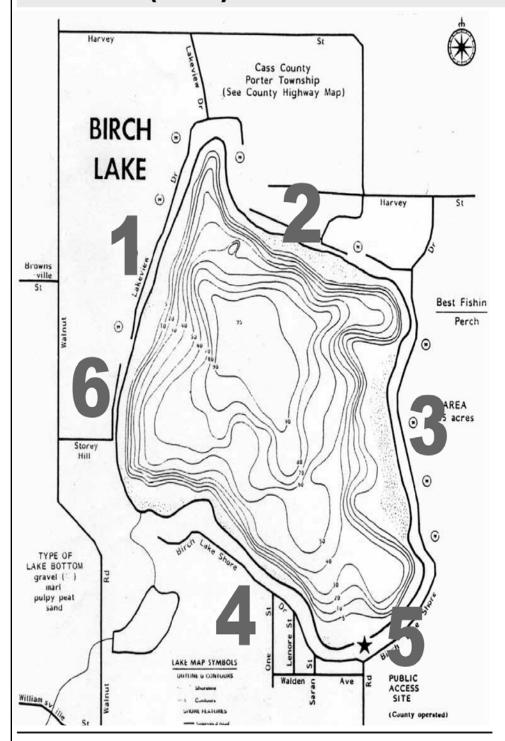
and mail to Deb Spratt, Treasurer 18100 Farmington Hills Dr. South Bend, IN 46637

- BLYC AED Fund

- Misc.

EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR

(AED) locations on Birch Lake



CALL 9-1-1



FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY ALARM WILL SOUND



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

- 1. West Shore, Sheffieck home, 62875 Birch Lakeview Dr.
- 2. North Shore, Smitley home, 14859 Birch Northshore Dr.15046
- East Shore, Vitale home, 63174 Birch Rd.
- **4. South Shore**, Eberhart home, 15046 Birch Lakeshore Dr.
- South/East Shore, Troeger home, 63696 Birch Rd.
- 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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