

**FOURTH OF JULY
EDITION**

**The
Weekend
Of**

**July 1,
2023**



Birch Barker

<http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club

**Happy Fourth
of July!**

**Please be careful
with fireworks and
be safe on the lake**

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

The spaghetti dinner at the yacht club this past Saturday was a huge success thanks to all of the residents who came out to support the event. A big "thank you" to all of the volunteers, especially the Niezgodski family for chairing the event and making sure that it went off without a hitch. A hefty sum was raised for water quality between ticket sales, 50/50 raffle proceeds and the sale of Birch Lake themed merchandise made by lake resident Jennifer Ball. See a detailed recap of the dinner in this issue of the Barker.

Birch Lake is the place you want to be this Fourth of July holiday weekend. The two day sailing regatta begins on Saturday, followed by the boat parade and the fireworks display. Don't forget the pancake breakfast at Camp Tannadoonah on Sunday morning as well. More info for these events are here



**Eight Bells for Bad Patty.
Our lake is much smaller
without you here.**

BLYC, Facebook and other social media

The Birch Lake Yacht Club DOES NOT have a Facebook page nor is it participating in any form of social media. If you see Birch Lake Yacht Club information on any social media, the information has not been provided, checked or approved by the BLYC, and may be incorrect or misleading. If you have questions or concerns, please check <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>, or contact any BLYC director or officer (see "officer and director" information in any edition of the Barker).

2023 Birch Lake Calendar

- July 1, 2** Fourth of July Regatta, 11 am
- July 1 Boat Parade**, details inside
- July 1 Fireworks** (weather permitting)
- July 2 Camp T Pancake Breakfast**, 8:30-11 am
- July 14 Birch Lake Flotilla**, 6 pm
- July 21 Ladies Golf**, details inside
- July 22 BLYC Family Picnic**, tba
- July 28 Men's Golf**, details inside
- Aug. 5 Home Owner's Assoc. annual meeting**, details tba
- Aug. 5 Corn & Sausage Roast**, 5:30-7 pm, BLYC
- Aug. 12 - Don Harman Kidz Regatta**, Kings', details tba
- Aug. 26 Fall Dinner & BLYC Annual Meeting**, , details tba
- Aug. 26 Junior Sunfish Fleet races**, 11 am
- Sept 2, 3 Labor Day Regatta**, (Sept 4 rain date), 11 am
- Sept. 9 Sailing awards luncheon**, Frew's house (east side)
- Sept. 30 Crockpot challenge**, details inside

**2023 BLYC Board Meetings
July 8, Aug. 5, Sept. 9**

The Birch Barker will consider ads and editorial items for publication. E-mail items to onlinebarker@gmail.com, mail them (or put them in the stone mailbox to) 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). For **editorial contact Editor Phil** at onlinebarker@gmail.com, or at 476-1680 (no text). For **delivery concerns contact Ron Niezgodski**, birchbass1@gmail.com or 476-9317. For all other matters **contact Commodore Deb Hall**, at debbershall@gmail.com or 219-765-8691. **DEADLINE** is always Noon on the Tuesday of the week before the publication.

— Birch Lake Notes —

in this issue.

If you have not done so, be sure to purchase your copy of the Birch Lake poster which is still for sale for \$25. The proceeds will help to fund improvements to the yacht club building and quantities are limited so contact Becky Wiseman on the South side for details.

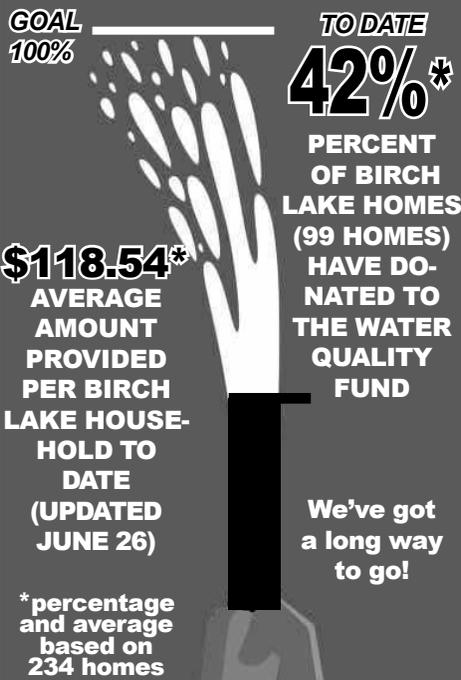
The lake will be busy this weekend so be sure to observe the speed limit on the road, and obey the rules on the water so that our community can experience a fun-filled, accident free holiday.

Lastly, the lake community was stunned last week to learn of the passing of Bad Patty Luecht, the most ardent supporter of Birch Lake. I had only known Patty for a short seven years, but it seemed like a lifetime. She always had a twinkle in her eye, a beautiful smile, an infectious laugh, and a great sense of humor. Serving on the committee boat with her during sailing season was quite an experience to say the least. I feel honored to have had such an amazing woman grace my life, and I am not just sad, but truly heart-broken. I will deeply miss my loyal friend and confidante. Rest easy Patty, until we meet again.

Go out and spread some love and joy and remember, the sun always shines on Birch Lake, even on a cloudy day
~Commodore Deb

Birch Lake Yacht Club WATER QUALITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Contribute now with a click at:
<https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com>



To donate for **WATER QUALITY** or any BLYC activity or event, use the form in the back of this week's Barker or visit the website above

Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND

2023's goal is
\$15,775.

Contribute now with a click at:
<https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com>



Ready - Set - Medicare!

Turning 65? I Can Help!

- ✓ Medicare Advantage
- ✓ Medicare Supplement
- ✓ Prescription Drug Plans
- ✓ Multiple Insurance Companies

Medicare // Health // Small Group // Life // Supplemental

TO DO LIST!

- Call Ashly 3 months before turning 65 to discuss your enrollment in Medicare Parts A & B
- Avoid Penalties! If over 65, ask employer for proof of insurance.
- Watch for your new Medicare card to arrive in the mail.

Keep This List!

Let's Talk! Over-the-phone appointments welcome!
No cost!
No obligation!



Ashly Connaughton
Licensed Insurance Agent
(269) 312-1410
awelch@HealthMarkets.com

**health
markets.**

803 CR 6 East, Suite B, Elkhart, IN 46514

I CAN HELP!
New to Medicare? Free Consultation!



Thomas J.
Mosier

**Waterwell
Drilling**
"available"

5" Water Wells

**Repair & Service
Most Water Pumps**

"Promise of Quality"

**M-60 E
Cassopolis**

**Office: 269-445-3246
Cell: 269-580-3246
Fax: 269-445-0008**

— Birch Lake Notes —



DNR monitoring device

On Thursday when the DNR reset the buoys on Birch Lake, we happened to see them at the landing while distributing the Barkers. The DNR Biologist offered to let me go out on the boat with them. Above is a photo from that day.
~Bob Niezgodski

Spaghetti Dinner Recap

O me of little faith. They came, they ate, they stayed, and a good time was had by all.

I wanted to thank a few specific

people. Thanks to, the Chairman Bob Niezgodski for pulling all the strings to put this together, Deb Hall for the idea of bringing this event back, and Amber Grundy for her assistance. Also, thank you to all the sauce makers, desert makers, salad people, bread & butter people, set up crew, break down crew, the servers, pasta makers, drink servers, cleanup crew ... you can see where I'm going with this. Over 50 people helped to pull this off and I will not list all their names in fear that I would miss someone. This was Birch Lake, and I can't say thank you enough.

All in all we sold 178 tickets and raised \$2,250 towards Water Quality. That includes \$515 from 50/50 tickets and Birch Merchandise sales.

Thank you to the Bernaciaks for running the afore-mentioned, and a special thanks to Carol McCoy for donating her 50/50 winnings back to Water Quality. Finally, a very special thanks to everyone who donated time and money to make this such a success.

~Ron Niezgodski

P.S. *I thought I would finally get a good night sleep for once but could only think of all the Great People at Birch Lake. Written at 3:15 am Sunday after event.*

North shore guests

The King family looks forward to



YOGA at the YACHT CLUB

Join us for yoga at the Yacht Club

- 9 -10:15am on June 22, 29
- July 6, 13, 15, 20, 29
- August 3, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 31
- \$5 for water quality
- Most Thursdays and 4 Saturdays

Bring: yoga mat, two beach towels or blankets for Yoga Nidra shavasana (The YC is cold & cold floor, body temp will drop)
A pillow or two for under the knees and head
An eye pillow or scarf to block light

Satori Guest House

11979 M60

Jones, MI 49061

airbnb.com/h/satoriguesthouse

Satori Guest Cottage

11987 M60

Jones, MI 49061

airbnb.com/h/satoricottage

Only 7 minutes away from Swiss Valley Ski Lodge.

Owners – Kevin & Buffy Mallo
“All the little touches matter”

**Both properties are adjacent to each other and may be rented together for larger parties.*



Scan Here →

Satori Guest House
Up to 6 guests

Located next to Satori Salon and Spa on M-60

Bookable through [Airbnb.com](https://airbnb.com)
OR by calling (269) 506-1577

Satori Guest Properties



← Scan Here

Satori Guest Cottage
Up to 8 guests



Hosts: Kevin & Buffy Mallo



APOLLO MARINE

SALES • SERVICE • STORAGE

South side of Gravel Lake
15355 96th Avenue, Lawton, Mi
49065

www.apollomarine.net

423-6011

1-888-996-BOAT

**We serve all area lakes
We rent pontoon boats**

Boat Show pricing still in effect on all inventory

— Birch Lake Notes —

hosting family and friends including: Suzy (SB, IN), Cal and Liz King (Oronoco, MN), Ric and Lisa Dwenger (Muncie, IN) Chuck and Karen Horn (Carmel, IN residence / Sheridan, IN farm) and ... friends of Cal and Liz probably too numerous to list. As always, please stop by to visit and ... and please forgive us for the noise!

~*Bob and Leslie (N. shore).*

Birch Lake Flotilla

Due to past successful flotillas, let's do it again! On Friday July 14 at 6 pm, let's meet in the middle of the lake with our boats. Bring an appetizer; boats will be tied together, and we will walk from boat to boat sharing food and camaraderie. Look for the boats in the middle!

BLYC Men's Golf Outing

Reminder - deadline for registration is the week of July 17! We are looking for \$100 hole sponsors which includes a sign at the hole as well as dinner at the yacht club. We are also looking for door prize donations. Questions - john.ball0452@gmail.com , text or call 574-535-3736.

Ladies' Golf Outing

Ladies! The BLYC annual ladies' fun golf outing is Friday, July 21. Grab three of your besties and join us at Spruce Ridge Golf Course. Tee off is at 9 am, with an enjoyable luncheon after-

wards at the Wounded Minnow in Dowagiac.

You say you're not a good golfer? We don't care. It's a best ball scramble so everyone can come and play without any worries. If you are unable to get a foursome together let us know and we'll help find you a great group of ladies who'll make it a fun day.

Just want to enjoy the lunch without golfing? There's space for that too. Check out the Ladies Golf Outing form in this Barker for more info or call one of us. Lunch should start around 11:30 or so. Come join us.

~*Carol McCoy, Blair Garceau*

Crockpot Challenge

The 2023 Crockpot Challenge will be September 30 at the BLYC. Again there will be two categories: Savory and Sweet. Prizes will be given for each category. Basket raffle, and 50/50 to benefit our Water Quality.

Entries will allowed in at 5:30 pm. Tasting will begin at 6.

This year, we will again sponsor a food drive for the Food Bank of Cass County. Please contribute with non-perishable foods. Let's help our community!

Birch Lake boat parade

This year's boat parade theme is "It's A Small World." For many of us, Birch Lake is our favorite place to be, but where else in the world would you

like to be?

Start working with your family and friends on your boat decorations and be ready to join this year's parade. It will be on Saturday July 1 at 3 pm.

Participants should meet at Past Commodore Waxman's pier on the East Side at 2:30 pm on that day to register, pick up your instructions and get your boat number.

If you have any questions before then, feel free to give Dan a call at: 317-506-1680. Look forward to seeing you and having fun in the sun!

Holiday thoughts

Great to see Lakers and friends as we celebrate Independence Day. Please be careful with fireworks and lets all remain vigilant while operating boats on what is usually a busy water weekend.

At the 2023 Spring Dinner one speaker suggested only 40% of the residents have paid their due. Really? C'mon people! BLYC does oh so many things for us (including weekly summer Barker). Probably the tally will never hit 100 percent but it's incredible we don't regularly hit 70-80 percent. Pry open those purses and wallets and pony up 30 bucks.

Last: many thanks to all those who do more than contribute. It's great so many help row the boat every year at our many functions.

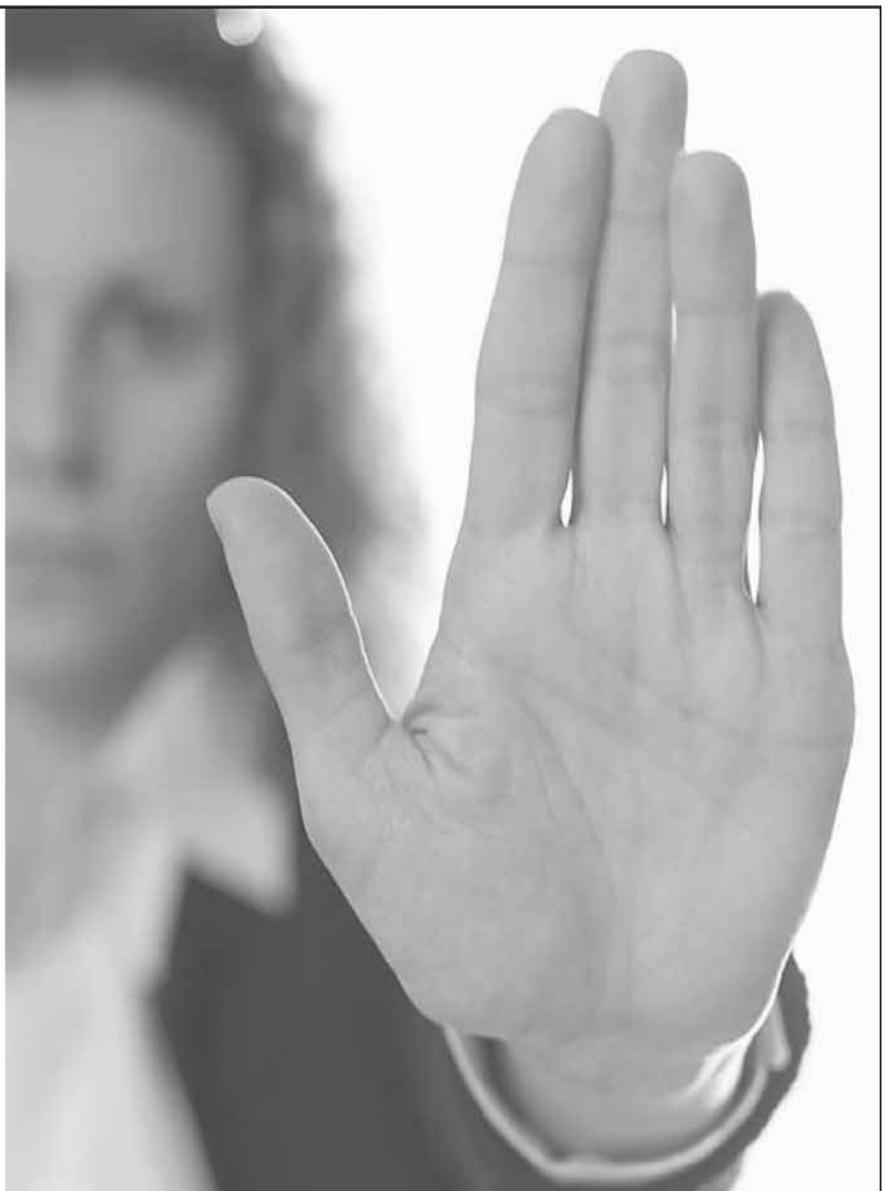
~ *Chrys A Lis*

SLOW DOWN

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

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

**SPEED LIMIT
15_{MPH}**



— Birch Lake Notes —

Michigan Boating Laws – Rules of the water

Here are some basic rules when operating a boat that you should know, they include:

■ Unpowered vessels (Sailboats, kayaks, etc.) have the right away when traveling, and powered vessels must get out of their way.

■ When two powered vessels pass one another, both should keep to the left.

■ Speed – When operating a boat, the law states everyone must do so in a careful and prudent manner, and at a speed that allows them to come to a safe stop.

■ You must operate the boat in a reasonable way, and you can't act carelessly.

■ As the boat owner, you are required by law to have one life jacket per person aboard your boat at all times. Life jackets are not only a requirement, they are also important safety features. Study after study finds that life jackets are one of the most important influences in boating-related deaths, and can decrease fatality rates by as much as 80 percent. Skiers, tubers, and anyone else being pulled behind a boat are required to wear their life jacket. Children under the age of 6 must wear their life jackets while on the vessel.

■ It's against the law to operate a boat under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Similar to Michigan driving laws, if the person who is operating the boat has

a blood alcohol content (BAC) above .08, you are violating Michigan boating laws and can be found guilty of operating under the influence. For each subsequent offense, the penalty oftentimes becomes more severe.

■ Furthermore, injuring or killing a person while operating a boat under the influence of drugs or alcohol is a felony in Michigan.

■ All motorized boats must be registered.

■ Anyone born on or after July 1, 1996, must have a boating certification.

■ One life jacket on board per person.

■ Anyone being pulled behind a boat **MUST** be wearing their life jacket.

■ Don't operate a boat under the influence.

■ Have fun!

Personal Watercraft Laws

A personal watercraft is defined as "designed to be operated by one or more people positioned on (rather than within, as with a boat) the confines of the whole." For example, a jet ski is a personal watercraft. Rules between boats and personal watercraft differ in Michigan.

Personal watercraft laws in Michigan include:

■ Operators must wear a lanyard-type engine cut-off on their vest.

This shuts down the engine in the event the operator falls off.

■ Operators can't ride a personal watercraft after sunset and before 8 a.m. Personal watercraft can't cross within 150 feet of the rear of another vehicle unless doing so slowly.

■ Operators can't ride personal watercraft in depths of less than 2 feet unless doing so slowly.

■ Michigan law makes it very clear that the owner of a personal watercraft is liable for injuries whether or not they're operating it during the accident. This means to be careful who you let driver your personal watercraft. Always make sure it's covered under insurance.

**SUNDAY IS SAILING DAY
AT BIRCH LAKE,
and
ON SAILING DAYS
races start
at 11 am!
PLEASE GIVE 'EM
A BREAK,
and
STAY CLEAR OF
THE COURSE!**

11920 McKinley St.
Jones, Michigan

Offering our Guests...

- Hair Services
- Facials & Hydrafacial MD
- Eyelash Lift & Tint
- Pedicures & Manicures
- Hair Extensions
- Sugaring - Hair Removal
- Waxing
- Wedding Parties
- Gift Cards

 **Satori**
Salon & Spa

(269) 244-5510

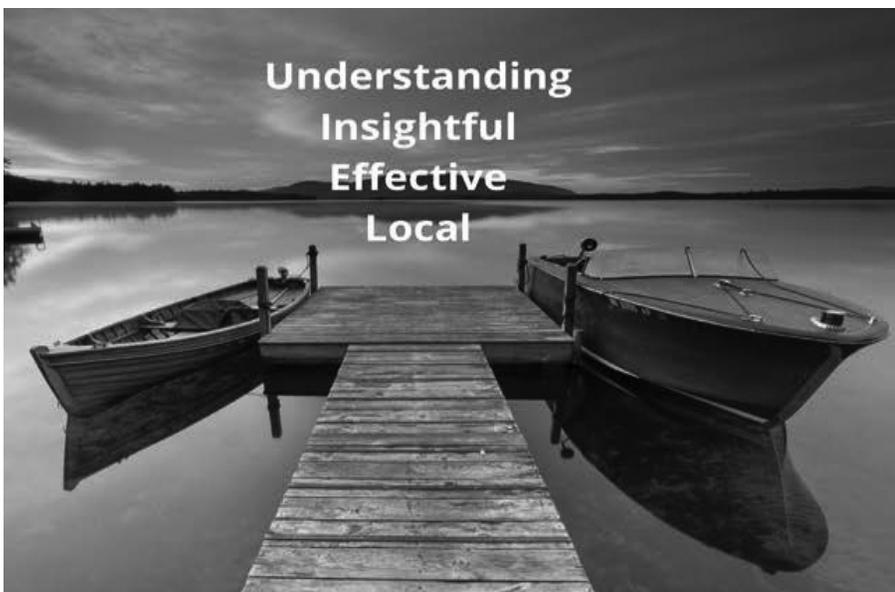


www.satorisalonandspa.com

Email: satorisalonspa@gmail.com

*Organic Salon & Day Spa
Eufora Hair products & Satori Skin Care Products*

Understanding
Insightful
Effective
Local



THK LAW, LLP

Estate planning

Elder law

Business counsel

Mediation

Litigation

Cassopolis | South Bend | Elkhart
269.445.1818 | thklaw.com

— Barker Kids of the Week —



WooHoo! Gavin Andis, grandson of Eric and Karen Miller (East Side), faced his fears and shrugged off his life jacket while playing in the shallows. He was so proud of himself!



Never had a "Flag of the Week" before, and unfortunately black and white doesn't do justice, but Mr. Bob (King, north shore) flew at large pink flag last week to honor the passing of Bad Patty.

photo by **Dan Waxman**



Bill Luecht and his neighbor, Sandy Vitale (east shore) shared a moment last week during an impromptu gathering at the Garceaus' (east side).

photo by **Cam Butler**



The
LAKE LIFE
REALTY GROUP



Get a **FREE** market analysis!
Contact Paul DeLano:
(269-445-8877
Paul@TheLakeLife.com

LISTINGS NEEDED!

NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO LIST YOUR HOME!

Birch Lake homes are
SELLING!

CALL
PAUL DELANO
TODAY

269-445-8877

Paul@TheLakeLife.com



FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



“Eight Bells” ceremony for Bad Patty planned

It was with great shock and sadness that we learned of the passing of our beloved “Bad” Patty Luecht on the morning of Friday, June 23. Patty had been the Captain of the BLYC Sailors Rules Committee Boat since at least 2008. Last Sunday’s races were canceled that morning in her honor.

Straight-forward and with a heart of gold, Patty enthusiastically gave her time in service to many BLYC activities. But it was her long-term service as Captain of the Committee Boat that made her an icon; and that was, in part, because of the way Patty’s announcing voice so perfectly captured her exuberant spirit.

There have been a number of iconic sports announcers whose voices somehow resonate with all that is beautiful and thrilling about their sport. Even when they have long ceased broadcasting, their voices can remain clear in our memories, still able to work their magic. Bob Jenkins, Voice of the Indianapolis 500. Peter Montgomery, Voice of the America’s Cup. Harry Caray, Voice of the Chicago Cubs. And while “Bad” Patty’s audience was much smaller, it is no exaggeration to say that her voice was in that class. Even the non-sailors among us could enjoy hearing Patty’s voice carried on the winds across Birch Lake on Sunday mornings. Sometimes even



without a loudspeaker!

And Patty knew that she had the magic. On June 4 of this year, she texted: “Sailors, you will be delighted to know the Voice of a Nightingale will be back calling the race today!” Patty did call the races that day. But little could any of us have known that it would be her last day to do so.

In the sailing ships of old, the days at sea were divided into watches of four hours each. A young boy would watch a 30-minute sand-glass, ring a bell, turn the sand-glass over, and do it again.

Therefore every watch had eight bells. When a sailor passed away, a ceremony was held and 8 bells were rung, signifying that the sailor’s “watch” is over. This ceremony later became a tradition of the BLYC Sailors, having last been held after the passing of Don Harman.

In honor and in memory of “Bad” Patty Luecht, the Birch Lake Sailors will hold a short and traditional “Eight Bells” ceremony on the Rules Committee Boat at the starting line of the first race of our Fourth of July Regatta. We hope that all of us, sailors and non-sailors alike, will gather nearby on boats and attend the ceremony. Weather permitting, the ceremony will start promptly at 11 am on Saturday, July 1. There will be a minute of silence, and then a bell will be rung solemnly eight times. There will be no speeches. After a respectful silence, the ceremony will be over and the Regatta will commence. If a weather delay of the Regatta races is necessary, the ceremony will be at 11 am on Sunday, July 2; and if another delay is necessary, then at 11 am on Monday, July 3.

To know whether the ceremony will be held, look for the course-setting boat about 45 minutes or so beforehand. If the buoys are being put out, it means we will be racing, and the ceremony will be held at 11 am sharp that day.

~F.C. Steve

Tri-County Bookkeepers & CPAs

tax accounting & payroll services since 1955

2525 Lake Pine Dr, Suite A - St Joseph, MI 49085

An accounting practice serving southwestern Michigan for over 60 years specializing in small business accounting

We offer A free no-obligation discussion about your business requirements, competitive pricing, personal account manager, corporate & personal tax prep, tax planning/tax representation, full-service payroll, affordable time keeping solutions, financial analysis, pay-as-you-go Workers’ Comp Insurance

Tax planning

Need assistance with your tax planning? Don’t we all! We can help you plan for your taxes before your business is even off the ground

Bookkeeping/Financial Statement Compilation

Depending on your needs, we can do your bookkeeping for you or we can teach you how to accurately keep records

Company Structure

Let us help you decide what the best organization is for you

Federal and State Forms

We’ll help you apply for all the tax IDs and forms you need

Tri-County Bookkeepers & CPAs
2525 Lake Pine Dr., Suite A
Saint Joseph, MI 49085

269-926-2191

O’Donnell’s Docks LLC

Southwest Michigan’s Premier Dock & Lift Headquarters



Serving you for over 30 years!

Sales and service of all major docks, boatlifts and water front accessories.

For an online quote, go to

www.odonnellsdocks.com



12097 M-60 • Jones, MI
269-244-1446

info@odonnellsdocks.com

Authorized Dealer For:



— Water Quality Report —

Commandment #2

As part of our study of The Six Commandments, let's consider Commandment # 2, "Thou Shalt Minimize Surface Runoff"

It has often been said that whatever is around a lake eventually gets into that lake. Unfortunately, that is typically true. This is particularly problematic when our lake takes some fifteen years to fully drain and replenish itself. Even worse, many of the most objectionable substances settle to the bottom of, and thusly are not likely to ever leave, our lake.

Whenever planning to develop, modify, improve or even landscape your property, please consider that:

1) The fewer areas hard surfaced (by buildings, sidewalks, pavements, etc.) the less water is likely to run off into the lake. The greater the distance between the hard surface areas and the lake means less water is likely to run off into the lake. This is important because this runoff often carries undesirable chemicals and objects into the lake.

2) Before disturbing the earth, you might be required to first obtain a "Soil and Sedimentation Control Permit." Installing a silt fence between the disturbed area and the shoreline to capture and contain runoff is typically required

by these permits.

3) Capturing water and then piping it directly into the lake might only increase its velocity and minimize the chances that suspended solids will settle out before the runoff reaches the lake. Draining the water into dry wells instead of directly to the lake allows the water to be filtered by the soil before it enters the aquifer (and eventually the lake).

4) Although better than hard surfaced areas, lawns don't do much to slow down or filter the runoff. A barrier strip of thick, rooted native plants at and above the shoreline does help to both slow down and filter the runoff. While any width strip is better than none, a 6' wide minimum barrier strip has been suggested as desirable. A barrier strip of 2 - 3' (or more) in height will help keep geese off of your property. (They like to be able to see the lake.) At all times, even when not contemplating surface changes at your property, please remove and properly dispose of, or protect and carefully store, any objects that are likely to, whenever washed into our lake, damage our lake. Examples that come to mind are oils, fuels, fertilizers, feces (goose, pet or other), ashes, leaves, trash, grass clippings, etc. Thank you for your help.

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*

INFINITY
HOME SERVICES LLC

Home watch/property checks

Summer home opening

Closing/winterizing

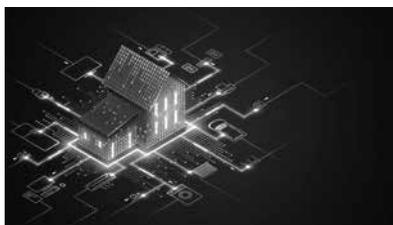
Maintenance

Repairs

Small projects

Short term vacation rental

Maintenance services



Infinity Home Services, LLC

269-259-1127

jim@infinitymichiana.com

http://www.infinitymichiana.com

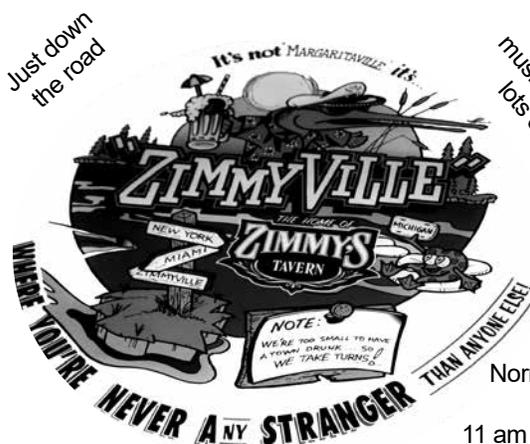
**PRINTING,
MARKETING &
SIGN SERVICES**

CUSTOM SOLUTIONS
& DESIGNS

alphagraphics®

ELKHART & SOUTH BEND

Just down
the road



Daily food
specials, cold beer,
lots of fun!

Normally Open
7 days/wk
11 am to Midnight

Carry Outs available

69608 Sunset Blvd

Zimmyville (Union), Michigan

ZIMMY'S TAVERN

(269) 641-5317

<http://www.zimmystavern.com>

Birch Lake Items of Interests

The Moon this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time, viewed from the Birch Lake)



Illuminated Fraction: 0.977
1.2 days until full moon

Sunrise: 06:09:23 AM

Sunset: 21:22:44 PM

Moonrise: 20:06:56 PM

Moonset: 03:55:51 AM

Daylight Hours: 15 Hr 16 Min 20 Sec

Remember: In Michigan, it is illegal to ride a personal watercraft (PWC) after sunset and before 8 am

4th of July

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

white
stripes
liberty
blue

watermelon
stars
fourth
bell

united
uncle sam
flag
barbeque

states
red
fireworks
america

Birch Lake Ladies' FUN Golf Outing

Friday, July 21, 2021

Spruce Ridge Golf Course, Dowagiac

9 AM Tee Off - \$45 per golfer

Please arrive no later than 8:30 AM

Fee includes cart and lunch

Lunch at Wounded Minnow following the outing

If you don't golf but would like to join us at noon for lunch
Please register and pay \$20

If you'd like to sponsor a hole please contact either:
Carol McCoy 708-738-3962 or Blair Garceau 574-261-9817

Don't have a team? Sign up and we'll help find you one.

Registration Form

Team Members (list captain first with phone number)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Please make checks payable to BLYC. Bring or mail to :

Carol McCoy, 63021 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095 or

Deadline for registration is Sunday, July 16

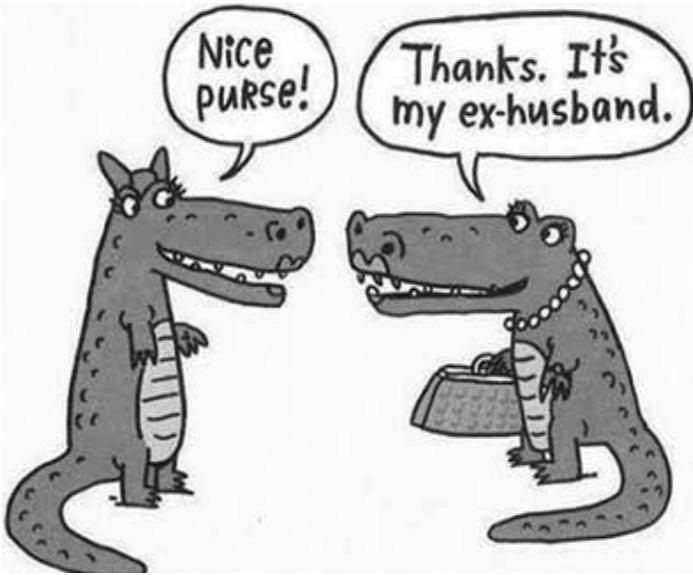
BIRCH LAKE



This beautiful poster is on sale this summer for \$25 while supplies last. It measures approximately 23" X 35", and would be a great addition to your home. The proceeds will be used for needed improvements to the yacht club building. Posters may be purchased through Becky Wiseman, 14910 Birch Lakeshore Drive (south side) on Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 1 pm. Make checks payable to BLYC.

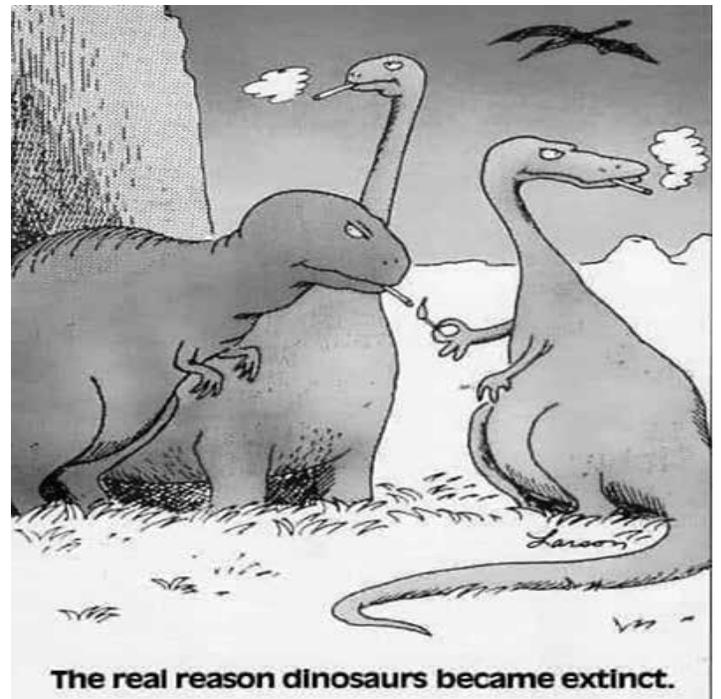
Editor's note: The poster was produced from a painting by former Birch Lake resident and artist Coy Jankowski.

Birch Barker Funnies



Apparently, when you drink a pint of beer, you shorten your lifespan by 9 minutes.

So according to my calculations, I died sometime in 1644.



Saturday morning in the Garden



~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Strawberry Sparkles

This is a great dessert item! These strawberry sparkles are sweet and delicious! Try them anytime you get a sweet tooth! They also add fantastic color to your table. Try making red, white, and blue sugar color for a great Fourth of July look. Great at picnics also!

Prep Time: 20 mins; Additional Time: 2 hrs

Total Time: 2 hrs

20 mins

Servings: 15

Yield: 1 pint strawberries

Ingredients

- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 2 teaspoons confectioners' sugar
- 4 teaspoons milk
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- ¼ cup white sugar
- 2 drops red food coloring
- 1 pint fresh strawberries



Directions

1. In a small bowl, beat together cream cheese, confectioners' sugar, milk and vanilla until smooth. Chill 2 hours in refrigerator.

2. Stir together white sugar and food coloring. Dip strawberries in cream cheese mixture, then in tinted sugar.

3. Refrigerate until serving.



BUBBLY BOAT CLEANING SERVICE

HELLO,
Love having a clean boat but hate washing it all the time? Let us come to you and take care of it! Say goodbye to the hassle of cleaning your own and hello to a clean boat. Contact us today to book your service and get ready to make waves!

DISCOUNT FOR WEEKLY WASH!

WE OFFER

BASE PACKAGE:
Interior surface cleaning, vinyl protection, windows, vacuuming
(FOR THE MAINTAINED BOAT) \$7 per foot
(FOR THE EXTRA DIRTY BOAT) \$10-\$20 per foot

ADD-ONS:
HULL WASH & WAX (MUST BE ON TRAILER) \$20-\$60 per foot
CARPET SHAMPOOING \$5 per foot

CONTACT US NOW
574-807-2786
bubblyboatcleaning@gmail.com

From bow to stern - we'll get your boat looking like new!



McGann Hay
FUNERALS | CREMATIONS | GATHERINGS
SINCE 1842

Granger Chapel
• Large Rooms • Children's Room
• Spacious Cafe/Lounge

574-232-1411
www.mcgannhay.com

"The perfect location between Michigan and Indiana"

Pat McGann, Birch Lake Resident, East Side



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

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

gavinfrancis@rocketmail.com

NOW HIRING FULL AND PART TIME POSITIONS

— Camp Tannadoonah —

Pancakes, seas and storms

The pancake breakfast is this weekend! Join us on Sunday, July 2, from 8:30-11 am at camp for a delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausage, coffee, and orange juice. The cost is \$5 for ages 13 and older, \$3 for youth ages 5-12, and free for ages 0-4. We love to see everyone from the lake and their holiday guests at the breakfast each year! We can always use helpers at the breakfast, too! If you're interested in volunteering for a shift, please email me at amber@tannadoonah.org

We're in the midst of the third week of camp this week, and theme is "Under the Sea." We had quite an eventful check in for this session on Sunday, with severe storms rolling through right in the middle of our check in window! Around 3, halfway through check in, we had parents waiting to check in, get out of the cars and come inside the Welcome Center to wait out the weather. We took all of the campers who had already checked in to the three buildings in camp that have storm shelters, just in case we needed to go to the basements.

All the stormy weather led to some questions about how we handle weather emergencies here at camp. During staff training, we spend time discussing procedures and what to do in different situations. We have walkie talkies at every cabin and every activity, and Gabby and I

and the other leadership staff monitor the radar and weather alerts closely. Whenever there is a storm watch, we alert all of the counselors in camp, just to make sure they stay aware of what's going on. We have several different signals for severe weather, so if a counselor doesn't hear the message over the radio, we also blow the air horn or ring the big bell outside Main Lodge to signal an emergency.

If a tornado warning is issued, or if the storm gets bad, we immediately bring all of the campers to one of three locations: The Dining Hall, Morris Lodge, or the Welcome Center – whichever is closest to their cabin or activity. These buildings have basements, so they are the safest places in camp to bring the kids. During the time we're waiting out the storm, we sing camp songs and play games to keep the kids calm. We monitor the weather radar and radios, and if it gets bad (or any time a tornado warning is issued), we move the campers to the basements. We also do periodic drills with the counselors to make sure they stay sharp and remember all of the proper procedures for various emergency situations.

While the weather situation is unfolding, we keep parents informed of what is going on via our camp Facebook group for parents, and also via text message. Our registration system, Ultracamp, allows us to send text blasts out to all the



parents who have campers in camp that week. It's great to be able to send a quick message letting parents know that everyone is safe. After we get the all clear and send kids back to their cabins or back out to activities, we follow up with posts on Facebook and text messages. We always feel it's better to over communicate than to not communicate enough in an emergency situation! Luckily this weekend's storm didn't turn out to be bad – just heavy rain and a brief period of strong winds.

I hope everyone has a fun and safe holiday weekend at the lake. Hope to see you on Sunday at the breakfast!

~Mrs. Amber

Considering selling your lake home or property?

Don't wait!

Here are a few great reasons to put your home on the market.

- Beat the competition
- Inventory is at an all time low
- Plenty of qualified buyers actively looking
- More people than ever are looking for a second home

Dennis Bamber and his group sold over 100 waterfront and lake access homes in Michigan and Indiana over the past few years.

Dennis has been a Diamond Lake resident for over 30 years. Many of the group's listings sold quickly and over asking price. Take advantage of their wealth of experience.



Cressy & Everett
REAL ESTATE

Above. And Beyond.

701 Spruce Street • Dowagiac, MI 49047

RSPS
Resort & Second-Home
Property Specialists

2019 ★★★★★ 2019
Chairman's Club
Cressy & Everett Real Estate

THE DENNIS BAMBER GROUP
LAKE & WATERFRONT SPECIALISTS

574-532-3808

dennisbamber@cressyeverett.com

*Not intended to solicit any properties already listed for sale with another real estate agent.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR SALE:

For Sale: **INVACARE Microair 85 hospital bed.** Purchased from Alick's Home Medical five years ago for \$3,685. Make an offer. Call Bud Z (East shore) 269-476-2526

For Sale: **Walking Chair,** new condition, cherry red color. \$50. Call Bud Z (East shore) 269-476-2526

Pony for sale. Looks like a small horse. Low miles. Call 574-535-4946

Used tombstone: perfect for someone named Homer. Phone 574-532-5377

FREE

Free Sunfish. Needs repair. Text or call 616-272-9046.

FOR RENT:

Birch Cottage 4 Rent: Three bedroom, one bath with tub and shower, lakefront house on Birch Lake. New granite kitchen, new stainless appliances with dishwasher, washer and dryer. Nice pier with big platform. Plenty of parking. Possible ski, pontoon, row boat, and sailboats available for rent. Sleeps six in beds, room for more. Contact Pat McGann call/text 574-532-5377.

Interested in a unique fun vacation? Check out our **Florida Village house** at ourhome4rent.

com/cjp Call 574-596-2154 for more info.

SERVICES:

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

WANTED:

A counseling psychologist to coordinate mental health prevention initiatives.

Looking for love: SM, 41, seeking SF, looks not important, must be tall, slim and attractive

HELP WANTED:

Job offer: To cook people with or without experience.



1stsource.com | Member FDIC

Straight Talk. Sound Advice.



Insurance products and annuities are not insured by the FDIC; are not deposits or obligations of, or guaranteed by 1st Source Bank; and may involve investment risk, including loss of value. 1st Source Insurance, Inc. is a wholly owned affiliate of 1st Source Bank.



Conveniently located close to Birch Lake!
Open for Lunch and Dinner
Located on the beautiful St. Joseph River
10188 US 12, Mottville
(269) 483-2305

Talk With A Live Person



VOTED NILES
BUSINESS OF
THE YEAR!

ADVANTAGE PLUMBING INC.

Complete Plumbing Service - If there's water to it, we do it.

Let Us Show You Why We Were
Voted Business Of The Year!

Top 10 Reasons to Choose ADVANTAGE PLUMBING

- Licensed Plumbers
- Drug-Free Employees
- Criminal Background Checked Employees
- No Surprises with the Bill - You know the Cost Before the Work is Done
- 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
- True 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Fully Stocked Trucks - "Warehouse on Wheels"
- Clean and Professional Technicians in Uniforms
- Longest Warranties in the Business
- Our Phones are *Always* Answered by a Customer Service Employee During Business Hours



After Hours
Emergency
Service



- **Bonus** — The Only Attitude You Will Receive is a Good One!

Major Credit Cards Accepted



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

www.advantageplumbinginc.net

HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Tip No 6: PLEASE STAY CLEAR OF THE BOAT PARADE

This Saturday, July 1, boats that are not participating in the Birch Lake Boat Parade should stay clear and out of the route.

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



2023 BLYC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

BLYC OFFICERS

Deb Hall (C)..... **Commodore**
219-765-8691 debbershall@gmail.com
Sue Davis **Vice Commodore**
574-993-6031 eyesnd76@gmail.com
Deb Spratt (N)..... **Treasurer (N)**
476-2113 debspratt@comcast.net
Mike Sheffieck, Secretary (W).....
708-220-1506 mcsheffieck@gmail.com
Steve Frew, Fleet Captain (E)..... 708-285-2999
stephenbfrew@gmail.com

BLYC Directors

Angela Bergan (E) 561-603-5522
berganfsu@aol.com
Dave Carroll (W) 574-850-8359
carrolldavid39@gmail.com
Barb Cassady (E)..... 574-229-9815
barbcassady49@gmail.com

Ed Chester (E)..... 476-1010
ed@chesterlawoffice.com
Karen Curtis-Miller (E) 574-261-6712
krcurtismiller@gmail.com
Bernie Garceau 476-9862
bgarceau@norcoind.com
Chas Grundy (E) 574-315-0217
chas.grundy@gmail.com
P. Com. Pat McGann (E)..... 574-532-5377
pat@mcgannhay.com
Laura Pence (E)..... lpence3@gmail.com
Sarah Petty (N)..... 574-274-9202
sarahkpetty@gmail.com
Claudia Phipps (N)..... 476-7073
claudia2154@gmail.com
Vickie Rogers (C)..... 476-2383
tvrogers@frontier.com
Rick Russwurm (N)..... 476-2407
paramountp@aol.com

Scott Troeger (E)..... 476-9898
scott.troeger@btlaw.com
Phil Vitale (E)..... 476-1680
sailorphil@philvitale.com
or onlinebarker@gmail.com
Sandy Vitale (E) 476-1680
sv6102@gmail.com
Dan Waxman (E), 317-506-1680
DWaxman@versiti.org
Denny Weesner (S) 219-765-8602
dkwees@cs.com
Sue Williams (S)..... 476-8886
smwilliams226@gmail.com

OTHER ATTENDEES

Paul Fallon (E) Chairman, Water Quality
476-1467 pauljfallon49@gmail.com
Blair Garceau (E) Chairman, Homeowners
476-9862 blairgarceau@gmail.com



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB PAY YOUR DUES NOW



Support the BLYC, support our Lake, support our 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
\$ ___ - **WATER QUALITY/INVASIVE SPECIES**
\$ ___ - **FIREWORKS FUND**
\$ ___ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)
\$ ___ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
\$ ___ - Building Improvement Fund
\$ ___ - 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

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

BLYC 63rd Annual Birch Lake Yacht Club

MEN'S GOLF OUTING

FOUR MAN FLORIDA SCRAMBLE

FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

\$75/MAN*



Hampshire Country Club - Dogwood Course
29592 Pokagon Hwy., Dowagiac

Shotgun start at 8 am

Dinner and awards at BLYC

Cocktail Hour at 5 pm , Dinner and awards at 6 pm

Please submit your foursome registration to John Ball, 63690 Birch Road, Vandalia, MI 49095 574-535-3736

Make checks payable to BLYC

Individual registrations available

If you don't have a team, I can match you up

Must have completed registrations by July 17

Team prizes and contests

Catered dinner at BLYC included

Prizes awarded at dinner

*Donations of door & team prizes needed**

**If you have access to logo or golf or lake related merchandise that could be donated, please*

Contact John Ball at john.ball0452@gmail.com

2023 BLYC Men's Golf Outing Foursome Information

TEAM CAPTAIN:

PLEASE PRINT NAMES

Please make checks payable to BLYC and mail to John Ball, 63690 Birch Road, Vandalia, Mi 49095

EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) locations on Birch Lake

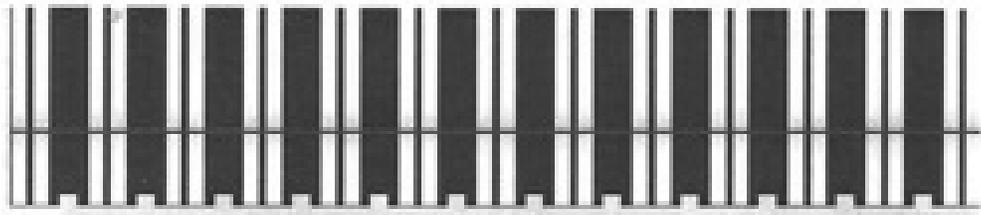
There are six (6) automated external defibrillator units on Birch Lake. The boxes that contain these devices are located at the following locations (see map):

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.



SUN & SHADE AWNING

Retractable
Awnings
for Decks
and Patios



Roll Up Curtains for Screened Porches

Flexshade Motorized Zip System Screens

FOR SHADE & PRIVACY



Boat Covers
and Tops

Aluminum
Awnings

Contact Mark at 269-244-5307
markbidelman@comcast.net

12291 Bidelman Road
Three Rivers, MI 49093

www.SunandShadeAwning.com

