

Lake Manitou Area Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 2

Publisher Fred Farkas

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Enjoying A Frigid Sunny Day

By proclamation of the Grand Warm Weather Worshipers, there will be no whining this summer when the weather turns hot!

To the chagrin of homeowners who have to pay the bill, it's a full employment season for tree service companies. It was a constant drain of finances for home and business owners, but a marvelous winter for heating fuel companies. It was a grand winter season for snow and ice removal businesses, but not so good for the many mailboxes that were plowed down. It was a great winter for snowmobilers and ice fishermen, but not so good for so many people who, in epidemic proportions came down with the dreaded "cabin fever". I hope you are feeling a little better now.

Thank you Neighbors

The ice finally released its hold on the lake Thursday April 9th and on Saturday April 12th the area experienced a major spring storm that brought large hail, damaging winds and property damage as stately spruce and other trees were toppled like bowling pins throughout the area. In times of hardship quiet and

Thank you Neighbors (continued)

unassuming neighbors will do extraordinary deeds for the good of us all with no expectation of notoriety. What makes it all worthwhile is when someone takes note and stands up to say thank you for helping all of us. While many neighbors helped each other that weekend, neighbors on W. Mohican Trail and Apache Path were most appreciative of Frank Buznardo and his guest who spent their Saturday evening sawing, hauling and removing a gargantuan tree that had fallen across W. Mohican Tr. completely blocking travel for many. A very appreciative good neighbor on Apache Path wanted to be sure to acknowledge the selfless effort.

Lloyd Sutliff's effort must also be recognized as he recently worked tirelessly to lead a group effort in clearing massive amounts of tree debris from last December's ice damaged trees on the Association's vacant lot that is for sale. Lloyd offered his tools, tractor and many hours of personal time to see that the property was adequately cleared. Many thanks are in order to a number of other helpers who pitched in to "get-er-done" over the last few weeks.

Thank you to all who help each other and those who take the time to acknowledge those who help.

CodeRed

On Saturday April 12th at 4:50pm I received a message on my telephone from the CodeRed county alert system of approaching severe weather and advising me to be alert and to take precautions. At 4:59pm I watched as the storm arrived and was glad to have had the notice as I was in my car. It's easy to sign up and receive these early warning messages through Shiawassee County.

www.shiawassee.net .

Smoke Signals

With all of the tree debris strewn about many of us have little choice but to burn as much of the remnants as we can. While it's not the most environmentally friendly, it is a legally accepted practice (but not household refuse), once a burning permit is obtained. When burning yard debris such as leaves and brush there is courteous neighborly considerations that will benefit everyone: Have a wide buffer zone from other combustibles to prevent an out-of-control fire. (On April 12 there was an out-of-control fire to the east of Waugh off Garrison Rd. in which several fire departments responded). Keep the fire small and burning as hot as possible using dry materials which will produce less smoke. Burn during the morning or afternoon hours when there is a slight breeze (emphasis on "slight"), that way the smoke will quickly dissipate, keeping in mind that evening hours are the worst time as generally there is less breeze which causes smoke to hang in the air and permeate into our houses. Also, try to burn well away from bodies of water. The burned ash reduces to phosphorus, a plant fertilizer. Wind or rain easily moves it into the lake and it becomes a detriment to our water quality. If you must burn yard waste near water, please clean up and remove the ash pile.

Specialty Salvage Refuse Company

Specialty Salvage is offering an incentive that will benefit new and current customers. If at least 25 new customers' sign up for refuse service by May 30, 2014, Specialty Salvage will roll back the current monthly price to the first year prices for everyone in the route area. The roll back will continue through April 15, 2015.

We've just completed one year of the partnership as of April 15, 2014. The second year cost increased about a .50 cents a month with the exception of the Bag Tags which remain the same at \$1.00 per tag.

The goals of one refuse company are to reduce heavy truck traffic on roads which equates to longer road life through less road wear and breakage, trash at roadside one day a week which improves aesthetics and a group

Specialty Salvage Refuse Company

financial discount for the benefit of all. Some households have cut their monthly refuse bill in half. To quote one family: "It's a no brainer".

Specialty Salvage offers a very affordable refuse pick up service to the area encompassed by Waugh rd., W. Garrison, Calluna Dr., E.Ashebrooke Dr. Lake Dr., Old Colony, Hickory Hollow Ln., and all of the Lake Manitou Association homes.

What To Do With The Genie??

In the last newsletter I asked for input on how the association board of directors should move forward with addressing past and future by-laws infractions. Putting the Genie back in the bottle so-to-speak. This was precipitated last year by two individual residents building sheds without board approval. [Just so you know, last year two others submitted building plans that were approved by the board].

From one of our long standing and respected residents I received comment that many of the association restrictions have long been ignored. After careful consideration of the comment, the question for residents is why wouldn't the association restrictions apply to everyone? Along with the property came a set of operating rules, not for the benefit of a single property, but for the betterment of us all.

The By-laws and restrictions are only as good as those who will cooperatively abide by them rather than disregard or find loopholes. The lake water quality will only be as good as those who take care not to pollute it. Our property values will only be as solid as all those around us who maintain their home and grounds. It's up to each individual property owner.

The Dog That Caught The Car

Have you ever seen a dog run wildly after a car barking and growling and wondered what would the dog do if it actually caught the car? The answer is nothing, as the dog is no

The Dog That Caught The Car (continued)

match for the car and the dog would eventually go away. That statement was made last summer as an analogy to the change over in the Lake Manitou Association Board of Directors. So what's happened since last summer? The "dog" grabbed the steering wheel and has carried the operation forward. It can be done, and you can do it to. There will be Board member vacancies, nominations and elections in the near future. It's an opportunity for you to meet or reacquaint yourself with neighbors and participate in the decision making process.

Aquatic Plant Harvesting Permission

The Michigan Department of Environmental quality (MDEQ) regulates aquatic pesticide treatments and the types of chemicals that can be applied for good reason. Anyone applying aquatic chemicals takes on the responsibility and liability for unintended damages and misuse. DEQ applications for permits contain a "certification" section that states: "Prior to carrying out the permitted chemical treatment, I certify that I will have obtained written permission from all of the property owners within the treatment area, for the chemical treatment of their bottomland property." In fact, a commercial company would not apply aquatic chemicals without the written permission of shoreline property owners.

It is important to chemically treat the lake water to control the invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil and algae as both are very prolific in Lake Manitou. We also mechanically harvest aquatic plants by machine or manual raking, which by the way also requires permission. The permission request form that has been sent to lakeshore owners has some neighbors asking very specific questions which I am thankful for. I welcome all inquiries as it brings about a much better understanding of the balance between lake aesthetics, aquatic plant growth, chemical use and the watershed.

Board Meeting

There is a Lake Manitou Association Board

Board Meeting (continued)

meeting scheduled for Sunday April 27, 2014 at 7:00pm. 1995 W. Manitou Dr. All Association members are welcome.

Nature's Corner



Michigan's most common bat is the Little Brown Bat. Did you know that bats are the only mammal capable of true flight. Most bats are insectivores and really do us a great favor in helping control night flying insects including mosquitoes. The bats flight speed is fast and appears erratic as it dives, climbs and turns. Its flight movements are in response to its sophisticated sense of echolocation hearing. It emits high frequency sounds that eco back to their ears telling them the size and distance of their next insect. A baby bat is called a pup. Now how could you not love a furry little pup?

It's only a myth that Count Dracula is a bat, although there is blood sucking vampire bats in South America, but not Michigan, so no worry. I think it's true that there are werewolves; I've seen them in one of my dreams.

Everything you want to know about bats can be found at: www.batcon.org The Michigan DNR website also has great information on bats. Search "bats" from their home page.

The Osprey has arrived and is fishing on Lake Manitou. It's been here since April 17th. Last year it arrived about April 21st. Without a calendar or road map it migrates thousands of miles every year and it will be here less than two weeks as it continues its northern migration. Watch for the large bird slowly circling the lake from about 100 feet above. It will tuck its wings and head first, will plummet, with its talons outreached into the water and most times come out with a catch-in-claw. It's quite an amazing sight.

As The Lake Turns

Our Shiawassee County Soil Conservation District is offering a free confidential home assessment of the operating systems of your home and property, offering ideas on how to improve your home environment and ideas on how to better protect our watershed and lake water quality. The program is called Home*A*Syst. Contact Andrea Wendt at: 989 723-8263, ext 3.

Friends Of The Maple River

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, our Lake Manitou watershed (which includes the Hardy-Jennings Drain) flows into the Maple River, then to the Grand River which ultimately enters Lake Michigan. As we are part of the upper Maple River watershed, the group Friends Of The Maple River is interested in learning more about the sediment and nutrient flow into Lake Manitou from the Hardy Jennings Drain. Building a partnership with our Soil Conservation District would be another win win situation for overall water quality improvement. To that end, this May 21, 2014 at 7:00pm at the Baker College Welcome Center, 1309 S. M-52 there will be a meeting with Friends of the Maple River. Shiawassee County Soil Conservation District staff will be there and all are invited to attend this informational meeting.

One Refuse Company - Recycling?

“Earth Day” was April 22nd. It’s been around since the late 1960’s. Still, many struggle to fully understand the long term legacy for future generations by not taking care of our surroundings now. It’s a good time to consider recycling options in Bennington Township. The catch phrase is: “Think Locally, Act Globally”.

At the last two Bennington Township meetings there’s been some discussion about considering one refuse company township-wide with emphasis on curb side recycling. Admirably, our township officials have offered to look at options but wisely have not stated a commitment either way at this early juncture. They are merely researching possibilities.

One Refuse Company - Recycling?

In essence, such a program would require a “special assessment” that each township property owner would pay in their tax bill. In return each property owner receives weekly refuse pick up and curbside recycling. Less heavy truck traffic on the roads, refuse at curbside one day a week, easy recycling. You’ve heard me mention all this before as I continue to work toward one refuse company within the Lake Manitou Association area. What I can tell you is that cost of refuse pick up is not always the primary factor in the company people use, as there are many people paying more for their service than the negotiated group rate that is in effect.

On April 13, 2014 Governor Snyder announced a household solid waste recycling program as currently Michigan falls well below the national average of other states in recycling efforts. State grants will be offered to local governments that adopt ordinances or include curbside recycling services in contracts.

Here are a couple of websites worth looking at for additional factual information:

www.michiganrecycling.org/
www.environmentalcouncil.org/

Lake Manitou Website

New informative and educational information is posted weekly on the website under “current news”. There’s also information on details of the July Fireworks, the grandest of yard sales, Lake Manitou Carp Tournament and summer part-time employment.

<http://lake-manitou.org>

By The Way

Please, kindly corral and dispose of your left over Christmas tree rather than it blow like a tumble weed into the neighbors’ yard for them to dispose of.

This newsletter is privately funded and not an official publication of the Lake Manitou Association. The mission is education, enlightenment and entertainment. Your comments are always appreciated. f.farkas@hotmail.com