

# Lake Manitou

Area Newsletter

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Publisher Fred Farkas

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Here is a quartet of merry peddling paddle wheelers taking the manual method of lake transportation for leisurely sightseeing. Our neighbor Cheryl Hannah brought along her friends Kelly, Tanya and Cindy for extra pedal power on a warm sunny day.

## *More New Neighbors*

David and Renee Schulte moved to 1924 W. Manitou Dr. this past May 21. Previously from St. Johns, they were looking for a home more centrally located between Lansing and Flint as well as having a lake atmosphere. A little internet research brought their attention to our area. "We love this neighborhood and the extremely friendly people here. Everyone has been so nice, and our kids and grandchildren loved the boating and swimming this summer."

Renee is an automotive plastics production manager and David is a tooling engineer/cost estimator.

## *New Neighbors* (continued)

On June 14, Alex Young purchased a home at 2039 Smith Park Drive. Alex is originally from the local area and knew of our lake as he had friends who lived here. Prior to his move to the lake, Alex lived in Fenton and began commuting to Owosso when he became the Young Chevrolet sales manager for pre-owned vehicles. If you are in the market for a pre-owned or new vehicle see Alex and mention that you are his neighbor to receive an extra \$100 dollar deduction.

The home of Steve and Amber Cohen at 4947 Chippewa Ct. is for sale. After 17 years of lake living on a ½ acre lot, the family has purchased a new home in Corunna that sits on 3 acres. The Cohen's restaurant, the O Town Café in Owosso was mentioned in the May 2018 newsletter.

Farwell to our departing neighbors and a very warm welcome to our newest residents!

## *Past Association Board*

Fair, considerate and respectful of everyone's opinion was how our past President Chris Hannah managed Association affairs for the past 6 years. Chris was quite eloquent in summarizing concerns and putting them into perspective.

Sandy Morrill, Secretary for 5 years, went above and beyond in taking meeting notes and offering constructive advice.

Dan Cody was the newest member of the Board for 2 years and did his best to offer opinions and support while working many hours and supporting his growing family.

## *Association Board* (continued)

Thank you to everyone, past and present who offers their time and talent in managing Association affairs.

## *Fireworks Display*

By all measure, July 7<sup>th</sup> was a picture perfect warm and sunny summer day. Many families took full advantage of the outdoors with day long family, friends and neighborly activities on land and in the water. At dusk, the lake was aglow from the annual fireworks. A drone video of the day long activities was produced by Kestral Media, who is a friend of our neighbors, Tiffany and Fred Rose. The video can be found on our Lake Manitou Association Website; [www.lake-manitou.org](http://www.lake-manitou.org) under Current News; click on Celebration Video.

The 2019 fireworks display date is not yet set, although the dates of Saturday June 29, or Saturday July 6 are being considered.

## *Thank You Lake Manitou Neighbors!*

Our 2018 fireworks fund goal was \$5,400. Thank you to so many neighbors; we collected \$5,257.00, which included \$702 carry over from last year.

Many neighbors in our community deserve a note of gratitude for their unsung deeds. Recently our well worn Lake Manitou Association sign at Garrison Rd. was expertly refurbished, thanks to Kathy Duso. Phil Strauch and Bill Duso managed to remove and replace the sign all in one piece. Other neighbors regularly trim and cut grass along roadway easements and the Felton's help with island upkeep. It is very much appreciated that so many others lend a helping hand to other neighbors. While there is no perfect utopia, Lake Manitou can truly be a pleasant community.

## *Aquatic Plant Harvesting*

In attempt to reduce chemical herbicides to control aquatic plants, this year the Association contracted with Diving Solutions, LLC to help with invasive aquatic plant removal. This was to be on a trial basis to evaluate whether or not

## *Aquatic Plant Harvesting* (continued)

mechanical suction harvesting of plants from the lake floor would be beneficial. In theory, by removing the plant and roots, return growth of the plant should be much less next spring, and by removing the plant and roots from the lake, there should be less plant debris to decay on the lake floor.

A northwest section of the lake was selected and the target plant was the invasive Curly Leaf Pondweed which grows profusely in May and June and has historically been a reoccurring nuisance in that area.

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, while walking on the lake floor, a diver in a weighted Bell Suit was suctioning plants through a hose into bags on a boat. At the same time, oxygen was being pumped to the diver by machine.



Pontoons and equipment used while suctioning.

On a tragic and sad note, Jesse Tabor, a very caring and energetic 45 year old and owner of Diving Solutions, died while diving near Mackinaw City this past August 12<sup>th</sup>. Jesse was from Owosso.

## *Home Waste Water Treatment Systems*

These are also known as home septic systems or onsite waste water treatment systems. We've all got one. Proper use, care and regular maintenance can give them a life span of 30 years or more.

Did you know that almost all septic tanks

## *Waste Water Treatment* (continued)

have two separate chambers? When you call a company to pump your tank you should locate, or have them locate two separate lids and have both individual chambers of the tank pumped. Shiawassee County Environmental Health highly recommends this, otherwise you have only half the tank cleaned.

## *Lake Pickers*

You've probably heard of the American Pickers television show of two guys rummaging through barns and garages for collectibles and antiques. Did you know that Lake Manitou has its own version of pickers? With specialized accessories such as waders, boots, rakes, nets, pitch forks and a strange looking pontoon boat, Russ Friess and Roy Thelen collect a variety of dislodged floating aquatic plants from our shorelines. More than 70 loads of aquatic plant debris was removed and transported to Crooked Tree Nursery for composting.



Roy (left) and Russ (right)

Thank you for all of the work you do!

## *Algae Testing, Year Two*

Graduate student Ryan McWhinnie and doctoral student Hunter Craig visited our lake throughout the summer. The two Oakland University students, and others, working under the direction of Dr. Szlag at Oakland University collected Blue Green algae from our lake water. Blue Greens, sometimes will produce a toxin, mycrosystin, which in high concentrations is harmful or fatal to humans and pets.

## *Algae Testing* (continued)

The research is focused on identifying what Blue Greens produce mycrosystin and what conditions trigger the production of mycrosystin. From our lake water testing, we know that mycrosystin concentrations in Lake Manitou have been low, but it is not advisable to immerse yourself into high concentrations of algae.



Ryan McWhinnie (left) and Hunter Craig

Our Association website contains the 2017 Oakland University algae study which can be found under the navigation bar; click on Lake/Water, then click on Lake Studies. The 2018 study will be posted when it's available.

The Waugh road lake channel experiences a continuous algae bloom due to elevated phosphorus and other pollutants; a direct result of the Hardy Jennings drain that empties into the lake channel. Phosphorus is a fertilizer that enters surface water mostly from agribusiness. Phosphorus, ammonium and Nitrogen are by-products of the breakdown of animal manure and human waste, both of which have been identified in the drain.

It is essential that lakeside homes septic systems must be properly maintained to minimize phosphorus and E. coli bacteria from leaching into the lake water. Lawn fertilizers of any kind should not be used near the lake and pet feces should be picked up regularly to avoid runoff into the lake water.

## *Busy Bee Cleaning*

If you are having too much fun boating, swimming or fishing on the lake and don't have enough time to keep up with the house cleaning, then Busy Bee Cleaning may be what you need. Dianna Wilson runs her own cleaning business and has clients at Lake Manitou.

Dianna's motto is "Striving to Bee the best".

Ms. Wilson's telephone is (517) 610-6648 and her Email is [tobiasdjwilson@gmail.com](mailto:tobiasdjwilson@gmail.com)

## *Creative Design & Engineering*

Karon and Josh Palus own a vacant lot at Lake Manitou. They also own a tract of land at 2460 W. Garrison Rd. adjacent to our Association boundary of Mohican Trail. For those of you who might not recall, and for newer residents, there once stood a very tired old house at that address.



Tired old house

More than 4 years ago Karon and Josh embarked on a dream to rebuild. The majority of it was torn down and the foundation was rebuilt. Much of the original framing lumber was salvaged as well as the original hardwood flooring. Today the main floor plan retains its original footprint and to add to the home's distinctive character, repurposed hand hewn barn beams are incorporated into some of the exposed interior framing along with refinished barn wood accents and doors.

This past September the home passed the occupancy inspection. Welcome home!



Old new home

## *Farewell To A Neighbor*

Mr. William (Bill) Lavigne (83), a long time Lake Manitou neighbor passed away Sept. 30. Bill was predeceased by his wife Lori. They were long time residents of Mohican Trail who joyfully appreciated the lake environment.

## *Receive Email Notices*

The Lake Manitou Association Website home page contains a box where you can sign up to receive automatic notices when a new item is posted on the website such as lake chemical notices, water use restrictions, water advisories, important dates and other information. Sign up to stay informed. [www.lake-manitou.org](http://www.lake-manitou.org)

If you do an internet search of Lake Manitou Association you will likely find an indicator message that our website may have been hacked. Rather than clicking on that, just type in our website address and you will go directly to the website. It has not been hacked.

## *What's This Newsletter All About?*

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform, educate, enlighten and entertain. It is privately funded and is not an official publication of the Lake Manitou Association. This newsletter is posted as a courtesy on the Lake Manitou Association website.

Until next time, happy trails to you.