



The Birch Bark

White Birch Lakes Recreational Association

4730 Lake Road, Farwell, Michigan 48622

Office: (989) 588-2853 Fax: (989) 588-4924 Security: (989) 588-7066

FEBRUARY 2009

www.whitebirch.org

MEMBERS VOLUME II

Clubhouse Hours

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Mon. Tues. Wed.

8:00 am - 8:00 pm

Fri. Sat.

10:00 pm - 4:00 pm Sun.

Closed Thursdays

Office Hours

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Mon. Tues. Wed. Fri.

8:00 am - 12:00 pm Sat.

Closed Thursday & Sunday

Community Events and Meetings

03-01 Pool reopens 10:00 am

03-14 Board Meeting 12 Noon

03-21 Soup Cook Off 5:00 pm

**UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
WBLRA Board Meetings will start at
12:00 Noon**

COMMUNITY CORNER



Gregg and Mary Griswold
were married Feb 20th
CONGRATULATIONS

Get Well Wishes

Agnes Burtch Lot 38 on Pear Way has under gone bypass surgery while in Florida. She is recovering well. Anyone wishing to send her a card the address is

7031 El Torro, Zephyr Hills, Fl 33541



Robert Brinkman Lot 270 on Elm Run is very ill and in Alma Hospital on dialysis. His address is

5888 Elm Run, Farwell, MI 48622

Our thoughts and Prayers are with them both and we wish them a full and speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

February - Ed Poterek Lot 398

March - Marty Perkins Lot 1095

Exclusive Contracted Broker for Properties owned by
White Birch Lakes Recreational Association

WHITE BIRCH REALTY, INC.

10751 Harrison Avenue • Farwell, MI 48622

(989) 386-6990 • Fax: (989) 386-9770

www.whitebirchrealtyinc.com

STEPHEN F. BRYANT
Assoc. Broker



Authorized Builder



Cell: (989) 240-5893
Licensed and Insured

For Snow Plowing services call cell

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Steve Bryant
1st Vice President	Marty Perkins
2nd Vice President	Brian Kozlowski
Director	Linda McNeil
Director	Brian Heiden
Director	Sharon Bridges
Director	Al Isaac
Secretary/Treasurer	Elaine Carrasco

STAFF AND COMMITTEES

Activities	Debby Gerish	
Communications	Mary Cox-Perkins	588-3338
Webmaster	Terry Obrecht	
Financial Advisory	Dorothy Nalepa	
By-Laws	Ken Passage	588-2483
E.P.C.	Dennis Karlson/Jim Neal	588-3346
Supervisor	Dawn Holzer	588-2853
Maintenance	Doug Lake	588-2853
Security	Bob Pelfrey	588-7066

Presidents Statement - 02/14/09

First, let me apologize to the members in attendance and the candidates who were going to be interviewed for the Supervisor position at the February 14th meeting. The delay at the beginning of the meeting was caused by the Board having to go into closed session to interview the candidates. A notice should have been posted announcing the closed meeting at 9:00 A.M. Our intent was to finish the interviews before the regular monthly meeting started.

In any hiring situation, I believe a private meeting between the applicant and those making the hiring decision is a professional common courtesy due any individual interviewing for a job. The majority of the board including myself thought it would be unfair to interview the candidates in an open forum.

The Board sincerely appreciates those who had shown interest in this employment opportunity and we extend our thanks and well wishes to everyone who submitted a resume.

For those who have not heard, the Board selected Dawn Holzer as our new Association Supervisor. She is a Member and six-year resident of WBLRA. Some of Dawn's responsibilities include, but are not limited to, employee relations, member relations and strictly adhering to a yearly spending allowance provided and approved by the Board of Directors. She will also be responsible for the development of weekly employee work schedules, maintenance programs for all commons and Association equipment. She will make regular inspections of all common areas to create work assignments and to ensure assigned work is completed. She will get competitive bids for products and services that help save money and will maintain accurate records and files of all Association business activities. She has a pleasant, enthusiastic and positive attitude that I am sure everyone will welcome and enjoy. Members will be able to contact Dawn after March 1, 2009 at the WBLRA office during normal scheduled business hours.

Along with Dawn, Elaine, and the clubhouse attendants, we have expanded our office and clubhouse hours for the convenience of the Members at a reduction to payroll expense.

We have cut the budget by over \$78,000 and are now down to bare bones. In order to continue providing services, maintain facilities and the common areas, we need more than ever for Members to make timely assessment payments. As much as the Association needs Members to pay assessments in full by March 1, to help our financial situation, we realize this may not be possible. In lieu of assessments being paid in full on March 1, the Association will be accepting monthly payments of \$33.00 and quarterly payments of \$99.00. Should you decide your financial situations requires a payment plan or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office during regular business hours. Please remember, you must be current in your payment plan to be eligible to vote in the annual election.

I want to thank Sally Keillor for doing such a bang up job cleaning the clubhouse and Doug Lake for a job well done in maintaining our roads this winter. I look forward to the opening of the pool on March 1st and the return of our seasonal neighbors and friends in May.

We will also be planning a number of fun work parties to spruce up the commons. Get ready with the rakes, shovels and paintbrushes and we will get ready to fire up the grill! Anyone interested in volunteering, please contact the office or any Board Member.

Steve Bryant

A NOTE FROM OUR NEW SUPERVISOR

I would like to share a little of my background skills that enabled me to apply for the part time office position.

I have worked for a community bank downstate as a teller to an Assistant Vice President position in an 18 year career and have a Bachelor Degree in Business.

I served as the Secretary/Treasurer for Lake Tahoe Property Owners Association for over 10 years before moving to White Birch Lakes.

I also served on the Board of Review for Freeman Township and I have worked with my husband, in the fall, for the Gypsy Moth Suppression Dept of Clare County.

My favorite hobbies are gardening, plants and working in my yard and I am a Master Gardener.

My husband, Dan and I, have lived here 6 years and he has been a past board member.

We both love living here and will continue to promote strong support for this community.

I look forward to working with the Board and members in this great place.

Dawn Holzer

If you are interested in advertising in the Birch Bark, please call Mary at 989-588-3338 or e-mail funk49pt@yahoo.com.

Advertising Rates \$15 an issue Business Card Size Only

Fees and Ads must be submitted by the 15th of each month preceding the next issue. Business cards must be "copy-ready" or clear enough for clean scanning.

Please make checks payable to White Birch Lakes Recreational Association and addressed to the attention of
The Birch Bark
4730 Lake Road Farwell, MI 48622



THE TASTERS



**2009 WBLRA
CHILI COOKOFF WINNER
CATHY BURNS LOT 332**

There was a great turn out for the Super Bowl Party. Everyone had a good time and way too much to eat.

For more pictures go to the White Birch web site

The football square winners were Debby Gerish, Steve Bryant, Jay Gunden and Terry Obrecht. \$190 was raised to go for our 4th of July party.

We had 11 different chili entries and I am sure it was a tough decision, but in the end Cathy's was named as the best. She was presented a Chili Ladle which will be engraved for her as the 2009 Chili Champ. Congratulations Cathy!

As a matter of fact we all had such a good time they have decided to do it again in March. To celebrate the First Day of Spring there will be a gathering at the Club House. "SOUP COOKOFF" will be the theme, so cook up your best pot and bring it in.

The event will be 5:00 pm March 21st at the Clubhouse. Bring your pot of soup or a dish to pass and a good appetite. Maybe we can get a dart or a Euchre game or two going.

CONDENSED INCOME STATEMENT

	Jan 1 - 08 to Jan 31-08	Year to Date	Budgeted
Assessments	\$3,524.99	\$305,106.63	\$385,000.00
TOTAL Income	\$6,592.28	\$383,420.06	\$446,300.00
Administ.	\$9,155.34	\$136,929.48	\$140,800.00
Office exp.	\$1,624.77	\$18,541.84	\$23,025.00
Roads	\$9.67	\$35,964.04	\$47,000.00
Clubhouse	\$5,727.19	\$64,605.64	\$61,700.00
Campground	\$430.32	\$20,980.08	\$25,350.00
Entrance	\$215.20	\$10,592.97	\$6,300.00
Capt Improve	\$0.00	\$2,190.03	\$15,575.00
Gen. Maint	\$165.49	\$26,123.55	\$30,600.00
Maint Bldg	\$62.23	\$2,605.78	\$5,000.00
Goods/sale	\$0.00	\$3,652.51	\$5,000.00
Events/Activ	\$34.15	\$1,161.83	\$1,000.00
Prof. cost	\$25.00	\$9,371.75	\$10,000.00
Board/Comm	\$50.47	\$861.78	\$600.00
Security	\$807.19	\$16,210.54	\$17,100.00
Lakes	\$579.63	\$18,943.74	\$26,450.00
Taxes & insur	\$0.00	\$17,560.27	\$23,000.00
Long term debt	\$673.00	\$7,875.08	\$7,800.00
Develop fund	\$1,000.00	\$11,000.00	0
TOTAL EXP	\$19,049.19	\$393,739.95	\$446,300.00
Net Income	-\$12,456.91	-\$10,319.89	
	Cash balance	By fund	
General Fund	\$19,299.76		
Payroll	\$1,057.62		
Money Gold	\$5,740.23		
Commer. Ck	\$6,340.91		
TOTAL CASH		\$32,458.32	
Development	\$35,177.14		
Spa, furn, playg. Whale	\$2,234.68		
TOTAL RESTRICTED		\$37,411.82	

Employment Opportunity
Part-time

Looking for a Workamper for campground maintenance Fridays through Mondays for restrooms and Pavillion area.
May 1st through Oct. in exchange for campsite and a small wage.
If you have Workamp experience please send a resume and references to:

White Birch Lakes Recreational Association
c/o Steve Bryant
4730 Lake Road
Farwell, MI 48622

MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads for items and services are "FREE" and may be posted by Members only. Your ad can be posted here and in the Member Forum area on our website at www.whitebirch.org

No Internet? No Problem Call 989-588-3338 we will post it for you.

(Sorry, no real estate ads at this time)

WANTED: other moms with toddlers who would like to get together for play dates.
Call Kay at 588-9766

Traveling? Can't take your pet with you? Don't lock them up in a strange kennel!!!
Call me – I will come to your home and care for your pets while you are away. I'm open to caring for any type of pet! I live right in White Birch.
Please call Sharayah at 989-588-9192

PLANNING A PARTY?
Why not rent the Clubhouse or the Pavillion?

Contact Dawn Holzer at the Clubhouse for information, pricing and reservations.

989-588-2853

NOTICE

It was motioned to have the charges to White Birch added to those who pay their Assessments by credit card. Although it is stated in the enclosed minutes no charge will be added. Due to our Merchants agreement with the card companies we are not allowed to charge a fee. It will be brought to the next BOD meeting.

It is Tax Assessment time again the following notice will be published locally. We are including it here for those of us who are down State or down South for the winter. If you think your increase is unwarranted please respond, it does work sometimes.

Notice of LINCOLN TOWNSHIP March, 2009

Board of Review Meeting Schedule

The March, 2009 Board of Review will be held at Lincoln Township Hall, 175 Lake George Avenue on the following dates

Tuesday, 03 March 6:30 pm -Organizational Meeting

Monday, 09 March 9:00 am to Noon and

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm -Appeals Hearing 1st day

Tuesday, 10 March 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm and

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm -Appeals Hearing Final Day

Wednesday, 11 March 10:00 am -Meet with Assessor

All meetings are subject to the provision of P.A. 267 of 1976, The Open Meetings Act, as amended: [MCL 15.260, et seq.]

If you are unable to attend in person, your appeal by mail or fax will be given equal consideration as an appearance in person. Mail to:

Lincoln Township Board of Review,

P.O. Box 239 Lake George, MI 48633-0239

or Fax to: [989] 588-2574

The tentative Ratios and the estimated Factors for each class of Real Property and Personal Property for 2009 are as follows:

Commercial 0.5107 - - - - 0.97905

Industrial 0.5082 - - - - 0.98386

Residential 0.4999 - - - - 1.00000

Personal 0.5000 - - - - 1.00000

Dennis Zimmerman

Secretary to Board of Review

COMMUNITY CORNER

Do you have an announcement you would like posted to our Community Corner?

E-mail Kathy Lutz at
mlutz33@sbcglobal.net



AROUND TOWN

**CLARE'S 34 ANNUAL
Irish Festival**

March 11th THRU 15th

5 days of nothing but fun and food. Children's Carnival, Hospital Bed Race, Raffles, Contests, lots of Irish Food, an Irish Parade....way too much to list. Visit the Clare website for the time schedule.

<http://irish.claremichigan.com>

Irish Festival Craft Show

On March 14, 2009, at the Clare Primary School from 9:00AM until 3:00PM.

For information call 989-386-2442

**Yoder's Amish Quilt Auction
& Craft Show**

May 15th and 16th, 2009 at Yoder's Farm

For information call 989-386-2872

Check the Member Forum for local activities. It is updated as info. comes in.

www.whitebirch.org

As of February 25st we only have 24 days left till spring.

February 14, 2009 Proposed Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order:

President Steve Bryant called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Board members present were President Steve Bryant, 1st Vice President Marty Perkins, 2nd Vice President Brian Kozlowski, Director Al Isaac, Director Sharon Bridges, Director Linda McNeil and Director Brian Heiden. Also in attendance, Elaine Carrasco, Secretary.

Invocation led by Director Isaac. Pledge of Allegiance led by President Bryant.

II. Additions to Agenda:

(1) Director Kozlowski moves to have the item of supervisor to be taken out of order and to be considered at this time, support by Director Bridges. Motion carried.

(2) Director Perkins moves to go into closed session to interview applicants for the supervisor's position, seconded by Director Heiden. Motion Carried.

(3) Director Bridges motions to amend previous motion by Director Perkins to include reasoning by each Director as to why interviews should be in closed session as opposed to in the open membership meeting. Second by Director Kozlowski.

Roll call to Director Perkins original motion for an executive session results in: Director McNeil aye, Director Bridges nay, Director Perkins aye, Director Kozlowski abstains, Director Heiden aye, Director Isaac abstain, motion carried.

(4) Director Perkins motions to hire Dawn Holzer at the rate of \$13.00 for 28 hrs a week as of March 1, 2009 as Supervisor, seconded by Director Heiden. Board vote results: Director McNeil aye, Director Bridges aye, Director Perkins aye, Director Kozlowski abstains, Director Heiden aye, Director Isaac aye, motion carried.

Additions to the agenda: Director Bridges adds financial security, minutes in the Birch Bark. Director Perkins adds to the agenda, campground host. Director Kozlowski adds assessments, the gate and clarity of board action. Director Isaac adds electrical escrow account issue.

(5) Director Perkins motions to approve January's minutes, second by Director Isaac, all in favor, motion carried.

(6) Motion to accept the Treasurer's report by Director Perkins supported by Director McNeil. Motion carried.

(7) Payable approval motion by Director McNeil, seconded by Director Perkins. All in favor, motion carried.

Committee reports:

Tammy Mitchell reports on the activities committee.

Ken Passage gives the By-laws committee report.

Dennis Karlson reports for the EPC.

President Bryant reports on security.
Sharon Bridges reports on campground.

Comments from the floor available at the office.

(8) A motion to move \$10,000.00 from the development fund into the general checking account for general operational expenses by Director Perkins, seconded by Director McNeil, motion carries.

Electrical Escrow Account Issue is moved to March Agenda as requested by Director Isaac.

(9) Motion to accept the 2009-10 budget proposals by Director Perkins, supported by Director McNeil. Motion to amend Directors Perkins motion to include \$1000.00 for gate repairs in the budget. Motion carried.

(10) A motion by Director Perkins to allow the Lincoln Township Fire Dept. to use our clubhouse and our lake for a training session on March 15, 2009, between 10 and 12noon with insurance approval letter, seconded by Director McNeil. Motion Carried.

(11) Director Bridges moves to have all persons signing checks to be bonded at association cost, supported by Director Kozlowski. Vote results: Director McNeil aye, Director Bridges aye, Director Perkins nay, Director Kozlowski aye, Director Heiden nay, Director Bryant aye, motion carried.

(12) A motion by Director Bridges that all persons who are not employees and bonded not be allowed in the office area, behind the desk. Director Kozlowski suggests amending the motion to: volunteers who are not employees or bonded not have access to sensitive documents and financial records, Director Bridges amends her motion. Roll call: Director McNeil nay, Director Bridges aye, Director Perkins nay, Director Kozlowski aye, Director Heiden nay. Motion fails.

(13) Director Kozlowski moves that all minutes of the executive committee sessions be distributed to all board members, supported by Director Bridges.

(14) Director Perkins moves to advertise for a campground host to clean up the campgrounds and bathhouse, in exchange free full hookup camping and which may also include a small salary for other services, supported by Director Heiden. Motion carried.

(15) Director Kozlowski makes a motion that the WBLRA Board of Directors support promote and promulgate the official policy that any Member may elect to pay their assessment on a monthly basis as of March 1, 2009, with such monthly payments amounting to \$33.00 per month, supported by Director Bridges, we will not except credit card payments on the monthly plan. Motion carried.

(16) Director Kozlowski moves that anyone paying with a credit card pay the appropriate fees that are charged back to the association for the use of that card, seconded by Director Bridges. Motion Carried.

(17) Motion from Director Perkins to adjourn, seconded by Director Bridges. Motion carried. Meeting adjourns at 4:10 p.m.

Elaine Carrasco
Secretary

The Birch Bark

White Birch Lakes Recreational Association
4730 Lake Road, Farwell, MI 48622



THE KARLSON REPORT

Dennis reported 74" of snow as of January 20th. This month he reported that as of Sunday February 22nd we have had 96 ½ inches of snow fall for the year. That is only 5 ½ inches short of last years record, think we'll break it???



NEW WINTER POOL HOURS

The pool will be reopened on March 1st
Doug is doing the yearly cleaning this week, so there will be no 2 week closing in April and it will now be open during the day.

Monday Tuesday & Wednesday

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Friday & Saturday 10:00 am – 7:30 pm

Sunday 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Closed Thursdays

**White Birch Lakes Recreational Association
does not endorse and is not responsible for products and/or services advertised in the newsletter.**