



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

MARCH 2009

www.whitebirch.org

MEMBERS VOLUME III

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

Pool Hours

10:00 am - 3:00pm Mon. Tues. & Wed.

10:00 am - 7:30 pm Fri. & Sat.

10:00 am - 3:00 pm Sun.

Closed Thursdays

Community Events and Meetings

03 - 28 Board Workshop 10:00am

04 - 04 Easter Egg Hunt 1:00 pm

04 - 18 Board Meeting 10:00 am

05 - 10 Mothers Day Breakfast 8:00 am

05 - 23 Assoc. Yard Sale 9:00 am

WBLRA Board Meetings will now start at 10:00 am

CONDOLANCES

We are sorry to report that Robert Brinkman Lot #270 Elm Run passed away. A long time Member of White Birch, we surely will miss seeing Bob and his dog on the golf cart this summer. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Terry and Family.

Get Well Wishes

George Sholler Lot #1252 Pine Run is recovering from cancer surgery at 5 North Wing VA Health Care System, Ann Arbor , Michigan.

Jack Tyrrell Lot #742 has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer and is undergoing chemo and radiation therapy.

Prayers and wishes for a full and speedy recovery for both Jack and George, we will try to keep all informed of their progress.

Bob Adair Lot #60 we hope your broken leg mends quickly.

Community Corner

Ed Poterek wanted to wish Deloris Duke a belated March Birthday. Well, March isn't over yet here are all the March Birthdays that we know we missed.

Kathy Lutz - Dick Gute

Dawn Holzer - Toni Passage

April Birthdays

Christina Van Pelt - Terry Obrecht

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

E-mail Kathy Lutz at

mlutz33@sbcglobal.net

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

Presidents Statement - 03/14/09

I got a couple phone calls this week with questions from Members who received invitations to join a new homeowners group here at White Birch. Their concerns were whether this group would have an affect on the existing rights of property owners. Not knowing too much about the situation, I asked for help with research and learned a little more.

After looking into public records, we learned our ex-managers husband; Gerald L. White filed Non-Profit incorporation papers with the State of Michigan on March 9, 2009. This new corporation is called "White Birch Lakes of Clare Homeowners Corporation, ID number 70560X". Membership into this group is by invitation only and many homeowners including myself did not receive a request to join. For various reasons, this matter was turned over to WBLRA legal counsel for review and a letter expressing concerns will be sent on behalf of the Association. Our legal counsel also recommends that appropriate measures be taken in the event this new Corporation engages in activities deemed to be harmful to White Birch Lakes Recreational Association.

WBLRA and many of our homeowners DO NOT support or endorse this group. The new corporation is a separate entity that IS NOT in any way affiliated with White Birch Lakes Recreational Association. Its creation has no affect on existing rights of WBLRA property owners, our Articles of Incorporation, By-laws or Covenants and Restrictions. The annual and special membership dues charged by this group are their own internal charges to their members. These fees are entirely separate from WBLRA assessments. Since that is pretty much all we know, if you have any further questions, please direct them to the incorporator, Mr. Gerald L. White at 2480 Spruce Hill, Farwell MI 48622.

Later on in the week, I was told Members are being asked to pay assessments monthly in order to hurt the current Board. Where assessments are concerned, WBLRA has to charge a yearly fee to maintain amenities, the commons and to cover operational expenses. We prefer and encourage assessments to be paid in full on March 1st; doing so gives us a better handle on our financial situation and helps minimize surprises later in the year. The offer of installment payments by WBLRA was to help our Members who may be experiencing personal financial difficulties. This offer was not meant to be used by those capable of paying assessments in full as a tool and a means to hurt this Board. Withholding assessments will not hurt the Board, if anyone is hurt, it will be the property owners and the Association as a whole. If the Association fails to collect what is necessary to run the organization, the Board will have to cut Member services and/or close the use of amenities.

Regardless of anyone's personal feelings toward the Board or its individual members, I am of the opinion the campaign to pay assessments monthly is self serving and not in the best interest of White Birch Lakes Recreational Associational Association. Those involved should be ashamed of themselves for trying to deny Members the use of their amenities and for attempting to bring financial hardship to our Association.

On a more positive note, because of the budget cuts, we had money left over in our operational funds at the end of our fiscal year and we did not have to use any money from the Development Fund (savings account). Our 2009-2010 budget has been lowered by nearly \$79,000.00 while increasing clubhouse and pool hours. This year's budgeted payroll will total \$128,624.70 versus the \$213,750.00 that was budgeted for 2008-2009. This equals a cost savings of \$85,125.30.

We have also received a number of generous offers from Members who are willing to volunteer their time and equipment to perform maintenance duties at the campgrounds and lakes in order for us to minimize our maintenance payroll costs and at the same time have functions where we can burn some hot dogs and share some laughs. Posting for times and dates of these events will be published in the newsletter and on the forum if anyone else wants to join in on the fun.

The Board would like to thank all our Members for their patience and continued support.

Steve Bryant

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



Sunday, March 15th White Birch hosted a Training Session for the local Fire Departments. A few of our Members went down to Timber Beach to watch. This is one of the pictures Pat Graham took of a "Man in the water" rescue.

We would like to say Thank You to all our Firemen and Firewomen for all their hard work and for all the good things they do through out the year.

BURN PERMITS

With the on set of Spring we are all eager to clean the winter debris from our lots to ready for the Summer fun. Please remember when burning those left over leafs and twigs you need to call or go on line for a Burn Permit number.

toll free, (866) 922-2876 or go the Internet... www.michigan.gov/burnpermit

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

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

For Sale: Top of the line powered chair. Heavy Duty price new was \$7,000.00. Never used asking \$3000.00 call Jean at 989-463-5644

If you are a business 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 1st of the month of 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**

Comments from Office Supervisor-Dawn Holzer

I would like to say in Our Birch Bark what I said at my 1st Board meeting as the new office supervisor. Thank You Elaine, Georgia and Sally for such a warm welcome to the clubhouse.

I have several projects to get started on since the warm weather is arriving and I need some information from the members.

I will be doing an inventory of the boats that are on the racks at Timber and White Birch Lake with our current records. If you have your boat on either rack, please call the office with your name, lot # and phone # so I can determine what boats may have been abandoned and those will be removed and placed at another location.

This will enable Elaine to update our records and make sure all the boats have their necessary tags identifying it to belong here and storage fees have been paid and a "member in good standing".

I also will be doing this with the campground storage area. You will need to be a "member in good standing" to store your trailer in this area and storage fees will be paid before storing in the fall. Right now there are several trailers that the owners are not current with storage fees or assessments.

I also have been looking at the Clubhouse and the overhangs need a new coat of paint, so volunteers are needed to help with this very necessary project. The scrapping and painting don't all have to be done the same day, so if you can volunteer during the week or weekend, that would be great. What ever time would fit your schedule. Please call the office or use e-mail if you would like to volunteer and a date will be chosen (April or early May) that will fit the weather forecast.

Elaine, our Secretary/Treasurer, would also like to remind you that in the February Board Meeting, the Board APPROVED to accept monthly and quarterly or annual assessments (no change there) to help fit the member's budget during these slow economic times. For example, if you choose MONTHLY, it's \$33.00 and quarterly payments would be \$99.00, based on a 1 lot status. Please don't use \$375 and divide by 12 (\$31.25) because you will be short and not in good standing at the time of the annual meeting. Any more questions about this and you can call the office.

Spring is here and the Robins and Red Wing Blackbirds have returned and their singing is so welcomed... Time will soon be arriving to dig in the dirt!!!

Dawn Holzer

CAMPER STORAGE

Campers can return on Friday May 8th this year, Due to popular demand a 14 day permit is issued to all. It is just in time for the May 10th Mothers Day breakfast.

We would like to remind you that all campers stored in the Campground section must be moved to your lot by Monday May 11th. Regular campsite rental and campground clean up will begin that week. We also want to remind you to please to make sure that your camper or trailer is registered at the office.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

1. Saturday, April 4th 1:00pm - Easter Eggstravaganza - Games, Treats, Easter Egg Hunt.
2. Tuesday, May 5th 6:00pm - Cinco De Mayo Committee meeting with Chips, Salsa & Beverage. All are welcome.
3. Sunday, May 10th 8:00am-11:00am - Mother's Day Breakfast - We are asking for male volunteers to work the mother's day breakfast.
4. Saturday, May 23rd - Association Rummage Sale and Bake Sale (We are asking For donated baked goods for the Bake Sale, which will be located at the bus stop, and proceeds will go to "activities fund")
5. Sunday, June 21st 8:00am-11:00am - Father's Day Breakfast - We are asking for female volunteers to work the father's day breakfast.
6. Saturday, July 4th - We are planning a parade with decorated recreational vehicles, live musical entertainment, picnic potluck and games.



THE KARLSON REPORT

Dennis reported a total 99" of snow this year. It may not have been the deepest snow year, but I'm sure it is in the running for the longest. Dennis will return next season with the first snowfall.

We'd like to say THANK YOU Dennis for keeping records and sending us your reports.

Unapproved Minutes March 2009 Board Meeting

Proposed Minutes
March 14, 2009

I. Call to order: President Steve Bryant called the meeting to order at 12:00 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 and Director Linda McNeil, Director Brian Heiden absent due to his water tank flooding his home. Also in attendance, Supervisor Dawn Holzer and Secretary, Elaine Carrasco.

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

II. Additions to the Agenda: Director Bridges adds to the Agenda, gatehouse lights, road lights and annual yard sale. Director Perkins adds closed session regarding a letter from our lawyer. Director Isaac adds under new business, insurance. Director McNeil adds the April meeting.

III. Approval of Minutes: (1) Director Isaac moves to approve the minutes with an amendment to include that #13 was never voted on, second by Director McNeil, all in favor.

IV. Income Statement-Treasurer's Report: (2) Director Perkins moves to accept the Treasurer's Report as stated, second by Director McNeil, motion carried.

V. President's Report: President Steve Bryant reports on our financial status and the savings on closing the pool.

VI. Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Dawn Holzer reports on the gate house lights, the gate, the flag lights, the cameras and the road lights, eliminating the need to add these items to the Agenda.

Payables Approval: (3) Director Perkins moves to pay the bills, second by Director McNeil, carried.

VII. Committee Reports: Chris Van Pelt reports on the activities committee. Dennis Karlson reports EPC activity, Director Bridges reports on campground and President Bryant reports for the safety committee.

(4) Director Kozlowski moves that the Executive Committee and office personnel develop a report that can be placed in the office for the membership that shows under the line items what the money was spent on and bring that information back to the board at the May meeting for board approval, supported by Director Bridges all Ayes, with exception of Director Perkins, motion carried.

(5) Motion by Al Isaac with a second by Director Kozlowski that the escrow account document from 2001 be copied and presented to all board members at the next Workshop and this issue be resolved and reported to the membership, amended by Director Perkins to revert to the year 1995, withdrawn by Director Isaac.

(6) Director Perkins motions that the Executive Committee form to look into the matter of the Escrow

Unapproved Minutes March 2009 Continued

Account and documents so that we may bring them back to the board with their findings, support by Director McNeil, all in favor, carried, amended by Director Kozlowski that prior to the Board Meeting, this document and investigating information be shared with all board members. Motion carried.

(7) A motion by Director Kozlowski to rescind the previous motion in the February meeting regarding passing charge card fees on to the membership. Roll call results in all ayes. Carried

(8) Nominating Chair, Director Perkins nominates Director McNeil to be the Nominating chair, support by Director Kozlowski, President Bryant appoints Director McNeil as nominating chair, all in favor.

(9) Director Perkins moves to start the annual audit proceedings with Weinlander Fitzhugh, amended to include using another person beside Jolene, support by Director McNeil, carried.

(10) Director Isaac motions to accept the low bidder to be our insurance carrier, support by Director Perkins, amended to include like and similar coverage, motion carried.

(11) Director McNeil motions to change the April meeting to April 18th at 10 a.m., supported by Director Perkins, carried.

(12) Director Bridges motions that Dick Brandt be the yard sale coordinator, second by Director Perkins, carried.

(13) Director Kozlowski moves to have the board vote on and confirm the business of the severance package issue. Support by Director Perkins, motion carries.

(14) Director Kozlowski moves that the board vote on the confirmation of the instructions to our Attorney pursuant to the letter of March 13, 2009, seconded by Director Perkins, motion carries unamose.

(15) Motion to adjourn by Director Kozlowski, support by Director Perkins, carried.
Adjournment at 3:30 p.m.

Monthly and Quarterly Payments

As you know the Board has offered Monthly Payment Plan to make it easier for members to stay current on their Assessments. To help alleviate some of the confusion on the new policy of Monthly Payments we thought the coupons on the next page might help you keep track.

Monthly payments fall under the same rules as Quarterly Payments and they are due on the first of the month, with the first payment being March 1st. They may be paid by check or by credit card please enclose the coupon and if paying by check be sure to also write your lot number on the bottom of your check. You are responsible to make these payments on time to remain in good standing. A monthly invoice will not be mailed out, the next set of coupons will be published the month prior to due date..

White Birch Lakes Assessment due 03/01/09
QUARTERLY Payment #1 \$99.00

Master Charge# _____
 Visa# _____
Expiration Date _____
 Lot # _____
Signature _____

White Birch Lakes Assessment due 06/01/09
QUARTERLY Payment #2 \$99.00

Master Charge# _____
 Visa# _____
Expiration Date _____
 Lot # _____
Signature _____

White Birch Lakes Assessment due 03/01/09
MONTHLY Payment #1 \$33.00

Master Charge# _____
 Visa# _____
Expiration Date _____
 Lot # _____
Signature _____

White Birch Lakes Assessment due 04/01/09
MONTHLY Payment #2 \$33.00

Master Charge# _____
 Visa# _____
Expiration Date _____
 Lot # _____
Signature _____

White Birch Lakes Assessment due 05/01/02
MONTHLY Payment # 3 \$33.00

Master Charge# _____
 Visa# _____
Expiration Date _____
 Lot # _____
Signature _____

White Birch Lakes Assessment due 06/01/09
MONTHLY Payment #4 \$33.00

Master Charge# _____
 Visa# _____
Expiration Date _____
 Lot # _____
Signature _____

White Birch Lakes Assessment due 07/01/09
MONTHLY Payment #5 \$33.00

Master Charge# _____
 Visa# _____
Expiration Date _____
 Lot # _____
Signature _____

White Birch Lakes Assessment due 08/01/09
MONTHLY Payment #6 \$33.00

Master Charge# _____
 Visa# _____
Expiration Date _____
 Lot # _____
Signature _____

Condensed February 2009 Year End Report

	Feb 1 – Feb 28	Year to Date	Budgeted
Assessments 09	10,697.28	368,792.86	410,000.00
TOTAL Income	13,032.95	405,199.87	446,300.00
Administ.	10,097.85	144,355.35	140,800.00
Office exp.	1,263.74	19,805.58	23,025.00
Roads	949.06	36,913.10	47,000.00
Clubhouse	3,824.38	68,430.02	61,700.00
Campground	489.00	21,469.08	25,350.00
Entrance	265.21	10,858.18	6,300.00
Capt Improve	0.00	2,190.03	15,575.00
Gen. Maint	1,714.43	27,837.98	30,600.00
Maint Bldg	1,068.63	3,674.41	5,000.00
Goods/sale	0.00	3,652.51	5,000.00
Events/Activ	67.18	1,229.01	1,000.00
Prof. cost	580.00	9,951.75	10,000.00
Board/Comm	0.00	861.78	600.00
Security	0.00	16,210.54	17,100.00
Lakes	1,129.16	20,178.58	26,450.00
Taxes & insur	5,986.33	23,546.60	23,000.00
TOTAL EXP	26725.44	415,078.37	446,300.00
Total Income	-13,692.49	-19,513.44	
Other ordinary income/expense			
CH furn dona.	0.00	-4,256.63	
Donats other	0.00	0.00	
NET INCOME MAR 08 TO FEB 09		-23770.07	

Attention

The enclosed year end report reflects what we actually took in and paid out for 2008 – 2009 fiscal year. It does not include the \$68,022.00 in assessments collected pre March 1st for 2009 – 2010 fiscal year.

THIS IS A CONDENSED REPORT. It is just a snap shot with the main expenses, therefore it will not add up through the columns. There is not enough room to include all 5 pages or each expense line in the paper. I can assure you the Totals are those from the full report you can pickup at the office or at the next Board meeting.

The same holds true for all condensed reports published in the Birch Bark.



The Summer season is approaching fast and it is time to begin Spring clean up. There are a couple days we are seeking volunteers to help out.

These gatherings can be a lot of fun, we have a large group it only takes a couple of hours and then we get out the grills and enjoy the results.

I know all the boys are planning on bringing out the big toys and cleaning up the Camp Ground the week of May 11th and there will be a Beach clean up or 2 sometime before then.

Times and dates will be posted on the website and at the Clubhouse as soon as they are available. When you visit the web check out the pictures from Timber Beach clean up.

EMPLOYMENT OPORTUNITIES

Seasonal Maintenance person needed:

May 1st to Nov. 6, 2009

Duties to include yard work, clubhouse/pool maintenance, painting, etc.

Up to \$9.00 per hour 24 hours per week

Mail letter of interest with qualifications to:
White Birch Lakes Recreational Association

Attn: Office Supervisor

4730 Lake Drive

Farwell, Michigan 48622

No phone calls please

Seasonal Campground Attendant needed:

May 1st to Nov. 1st 2009

Duties are for Bath House maintenance, to include cleaning of showers, stalls, floors and keeping supplies full.

\$8.00 per hour 2 hours a day 4 days per week, up to 7 days 14 hours as needed

Send letter of interest to:

White Birch Lakes Recreational Association

Attn: Office Supervisor

4730 Lake Drive

Farwell, Michigan 48622

No phone calls please

NOMINATION & TELLER COMMITTEES

These Committees are now forming if you wish to participate please sign up.

Sign up sheets will be on the bulletin Board at the Clubhouse.

BOARD SEATS

There are 2 seats open for the Election this year. If you have the desire to serve your community please send a letter of intent to Director Linda Mc Neil, the nomination Chair, or to the office by June 1st. The Annual Meeting is July 18th this year.

Don't Forget the Soap and Shampoo!

When visiting the Campground Bath Houses, please make sure to bring soap and shampoo for the showers.

Regrettably, due to ongoing theft of the dispensers from the shower stalls, the Association will no longer be providing these items.

White Birch Lakes Annual Yard Sale

One Day Only

Saturday, May 23rd

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

This is your opportunity to conduct a Yard Sale on your property

All publicity and newspaper advertising furnished at no cost to you

Open to ALL White Birch Lakes property owners

Sign-up sheet at the White Birch Lakes Clubhouse

The Birch Bark

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



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