



Birch Bark

Newsletter of **WHITE BIRCH LAKES RECREATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

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Kozlowski Volume

June 2008

No. 8

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Brian Kozlowski

What are you doing on Saturday, July 19? I'll be attending the WBLRA Annual Meeting. If you have other plans for your Saturday morning, be sure to get, and send in, an Absentee Ballot. I know that that has been said before, but many of us are more than disenchanted with the schism within our community. You can help to heal this tear through the use of your vote. Your Board needs your continued support to complete their work. So, please, take a few minutes to vote by Absentee Ballot. We will all be the better off for it.

Have you seen the letters from those who want to be elected? Certainly an eclectic group. Heading into the Annual Meeting you will hear a lot of tales about your Board and your Association. If ever there was a time for you to weigh fact versus fantasy, this is the time. You can get copies of our financial statements, Bylaws, and other information from the Office. A comprehensive statement of our financial condition is produced and published every month. For those of you who could not attend your Board's meetings, the actions taken are printed in the minutes after every meeting. Take the time to be informed, ask the right questions, and talk to your Board. Get it from the horse's mouth.

We are closing hard upon our election, which causes one to reflect on the immediate past.

There are seven members to your Board, with seven different backgrounds and seven ways of expressing themselves. But the big thing is seven different ideas as to the best things to do for you. Not everything that your Board wanted to accomplish was accomplished. But we all want to try again. (You know what we mean, Mike Klutz). Even with the diversity amongst your Board, we have worked together to improve and protect our

community. For me, it has been a pleasure to with, argue with, and ultimately to reach a compromise with each of our Board members to move WBL forward. I thank all of our Board for their service, and look forward to another year of success with the Board of 2008-09. God's blessings to all.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - MAY 2008

INCOME	
Membership	\$22,265.13
Delinquent	13,861.63
Interest	1,505.81
Misc.	78.00
Sales	1,071.00
Campground	1,640.00
Club Rental	40.00
EPC	35.00
Total Income	\$40,496.57
EXPENSES	
Administration	\$12,025.43
Bad Debt Expense	718.76
Office Expense	1,124.02
Road Maintenance	14,578.22
Clubhouse Maintenance	6,528.75
Campground Maintenance	1,491.89
Entrance Costs	1,183.89
Capital Improvements	0
General Assoc. Maintenance	2,042.58
Maintenance Building	391.71
Goods for Resale	96.99
Professional Costs	778.00
Special Events/Activities	276.88
Security	1,426.10
Lakes	4,729.59
Total Expenses	\$47,392.81

Board of Directors and Staff		COMMITTEES AND CHAIRPERSONS		
President	Brian Kozlowski	Activities	Joe Romine	588-3155
1st Vice Pres.	Sharon Bridges	By-laws	Mary Alice Harrington	588-2561
2nd Vice Pres.	Marv Frayer	Campground	Sal Scozzari	588-4415
Director	Al Isaac		Fred Witchell	588-6797
Director	Brian Heiden	Birch Bark	Al Willoughby	588-0749
Director	Pat Graham	Election		
Director	Darren Bondy	EPC	Chick Witchell	588-6797
			Dennis Karlson	588-3346
		Garden Club		
Manager	Gail White	Hospitality	Sue Nethaway	
Secretary	Elaine Carrasco	Just Community	Russ Abney	
Treasurer	Priscilla Moore	Maintenance	Jerry Bridges	
Security	Bob Pelfrey	Planning	Arnie VanOverbeke	
	588-7066			
		Whitebirch.org	Todd Graham	588-9192

NOTICES FROM COMMITTEES:

The **E.P.C. Committee** meets the first Thursday of each month at 12:00 p.m.

Applications for lot improvements must be submitted to the committee two weeks prior to the meeting for consideration.

Following are seven letters from candidates for three openings on the Board of Directors for your association, election to place July 19, 2008 or by way of absentee vote (applications for absentee ballot were in the May Birch Bark and can be found on the internet, click here <http://www.whitebirch.org/birchbark.asp> Click on "May 2008 Word Document" Go to Page 4)

Darren Bondy (Incumbent)

I am submitting this letter to inform you that I wish to submit my name as a candidate in the upcoming July election for the WBLRA board of directors.

My family and I have been members of the

White Birch Community for approximately eight years, first as campers then as homeowners. In that time, we have enjoyed the community and camaraderie of our friends and neighbors. During our time here, there have been issues that have raised my concern for the future of our community.

It is my opinion that it is easier to sit back and complain and be part of the problem, than to participate and be part of the solution. This is the reason I submitted my name as a candidate for the WBLRA board of directors earlier this year, and was subsequently appointed to the board. During my short tenure on the board, we have already been faced with serious issues that could seriously affect our community. In dealing with these issues, I have used common sense, fairness and our bylaws to make informed decisions that I believe are in everyone's best interest. I have shown that my first priority is the community and would like to continue making White Birch a great place to live, and play.

I would ask for your support in this election so I may continue to represent the needs of all members, and continue to move our neighborhood in a positive direction.

Thank you,
Darren Bondy
Lot 682,683

Steve Bryant

Dear Members of White Birch Lakes Recreational Association,

My name is Steve Bryant and I'm asking for your vote and support in the 2008 election for the Board of Directors.

My wife and I have had the pleasure of raising our family here and being long-term active members of WBLRA. We've seen first hand what the association has evolved into and it saddens me to say we've become very disappointed. This disappointment lies in the direction most of our current Board Members have taken in regards to the treatment of members and management of the association. I know the potential of our association and it could be much more than the type of organization the current Board is sponsoring.

With a seat on the Board, my mission would be to bring about positive change, which includes true fiscal responsibility and respecting the wishes of the membership. I'll be sending out a private mailing to give members a more detailed explanation of the benefits of proposed improvements.

Again, I ask for your vote and support.

Sincerely,
Steve Bryant Lot #1

Marv Frayer (Incumbent)

Fellow Members of White Birch Lakes Recreational Association:

I am currently serving a term on your Board of Directors. I am running for re-election this year and would very much like to continue serving our membership.

Currently your board has been instrumental in making progress in updating many aspects of our association. Such as the campgrounds, and the clubhouse to mention just two. I would very much like to be able to continue going in such a forward direction and see our association grow and prosper. I pledge to continue to serve all of you to help

make White Birch Lakes Recreational Association an even better place to be

I have been and still am a member of the Lake George Fire Department and Emergency Medical Team, and I have helped with many activities and projects around White Birch.

It is the responsibility of each board member to listen to the membership and carry forth their wants. Our association is fortunate to have so many caring members.

I am always eager to hear from any of you. Please vote at the annual meeting on July 19, 2008 either in person or by absentee ballot.

Marvin Frayer Lot 737

Pat Graham (Incumbent)

This letter is a request to have my name placed on the July, 2008 ballot for White Birch Lakes Recreational Association's election for the Board of Directors.

I have been a resident of this community since November, 2003 and was elected in July, 2007 for a one year term to our Board of Directors. I have been an active volunteer in various committees, recreational activities and a previous Birch Bark editor. I would like to see all of our committees become active on a continual basis without prejudice. I am anxious to bring our community back together and not base decisions on personal desires but, what is best for our environment as a total mixture of individuals and interests.

Thank You in Advance,
Pat Graham
Lot 1302

Linda McNeil

Dear Members of WBLRA and Board of Directors~

I would like to once again announce my intentions to run for WBLRA Board of Directors.

But first, let me start by introducing myself to those of you who may not know me.. My name is Linda McNeil and my husband and I: have been members of White Birch since 2003. Some of you may remember me from last year. I ran as a write-in on the ballot and lost by only two votes. I requested a recount, which according to the By-laws I was allowed to have, and this current Board refused to allow the recount.

My husband and I built our house here on Laurel Lane as our retirement home ; and plan on spending as much time here as possible between now and then. We've been married for 26 years and have two sons, Mike and Drew. I work for the City of Romulus in the assessor's office and also serve as the union steward for the clerical staff there. We are active in our church, Community United Methodist Church. Brian and I are actively involved in every aspect of our lives, and I was named by the Romulus Chamber of Commerce last year as their Person of the Year because of all the volunteer and charity work I do. So it only goes without saying that we want to be as actively involved here also.

I also Submitted my letter of intent earlier in the year to fill the seat that became vacant when Brian Herndon quit. And I also participated in the interview process and that was to no avail.

I have many friends who had campers in the storage lot this winter. I believe that we let those people down by not securing and patrolling the storage lot the way we should have been. After all, the entrance to the

storage lot was plowed in with snow, which means they never intended to patrol it to begin with. It's just things like that that need to be addressed better than they have been by the current board. After all, we elected them to represent us!!!

I love White Birch as much as all of you, and I want: this place to be the best place it can be, and that will be my priority should you elect me to this board. I would like to Thank you all in advance for your support, and invite you to stop by anytime and say hello, we're at 2091 Laurel Lane. (the red house)

(**NOTE:** the Director who resigned is Greg Hernden. The bylaws contain no reference to recounts or election procedures)

Marty Perkins

I would like to announce my intentions of running for the Board Of Directors in this years election.

My wife Mary, my family, Christina, Jessica, Kasie and I have built a home here in WBLRA. We have volunteered for many association positions and have provided a helping hand on many projects. I myself have volunteered as a Board Director, past President and helped with the upgrade projects to our club house, parks and fund raisers for the community events. I hope to continue doing so for years to come.

I feel strongly that this association belongs to ALL it's members. I do not believe in closed door policies or the decisions made by phone votes. Phone votes were suppose to be for EMERGENCIES only, not for convenience. We bought our gate with a phone vote when we had a board meeting a week later. I think our members should have a right to express their input on such important issues. I also believe that you cannot debut a issue using a phone vote.

Communication is a important topic to me. Our members deserve better then what has been offered in this last year. The Birch Bark has no been on time, or regular for some time, I do not fault the volunteers. The web

page is pitiful and it is a shame it's been neglected after so much hard work went into it by others. In the past, if a member had a question it was answered in a timely manner with respect. I feel the Board of Directors is responsible and accountable to the membership, not the other way around.

I would like to see this practice restored.

I believe a board should work as a whole, not just a president making decisions and policy on his own. We voted in seven Board members to represent us. The way our members in good standing have been treated this last year is uncalled for. When the members of WBLRA are expected to follow local, state, federal laws as well our own By-Laws and C&R's, it's a reasonable expectation for our Board to set a higher example and do the same.

Please believe me when I say I love WBLRA. I care that the progress we make is for the better. I would like to see WBLRA restored to the nice recreational community we all bought into for my kids and your and the generations that follow.

I would like the opportunity to once again serve the members of this association. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Please vote for me,

Marty Perkins for Board of Directors

Michael Woodcock

Dear WBLRA Members,

My name is Michael Woodcock and my wife's name is Marsha. We've been happy campers of WBLRA since 2002. We just built our home on our lot and my family and I are overjoyed with the prospect of being able to spend more time in and around the community we love so much.

With that being said, I respectfully

request my name be added to the list of those running for a seat on the Board. I'd like nothing better than the opportunity to serve the community that's provided so much enjoyment for my family and myself. My background is as follows: I worked for General Motors for 37 years and was actively involved in the UAW for 10 years as a committee man representing the people. I have had many hours of training along with management at black lake in problem resolution and how to deal with the diverse population at General Motors.

I also served on the Holt Wrestling Club Board for 5 years and assisted in coaching for the wrestling team.

I have been coming up North since I was a little boy to a variety of places, one being White Birch Lakes where my aunt resided. I enjoyed the recreational activities that were available then and now, which played a role in my purchasing a lot in this lovely community. I believe that the diverse population in White Birch and the vastness of the property affords for the enjoyment of all who reside within our community.

So this is why I feel by applying these skills and vast experiences as a Board member I could assist in preserving and improving the relationships within our community and provide assistance for all members to enjoy their experience in their Northern haven.

I'd appreciate your support in the upcoming election. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Woodcock Lots 441 & 442

QUESTION THE CANDIDATES

Your ***only*** opportunity to question the candidates seeking election to the Board of Directors is at the Board Meeting on June 14, 2008

White Birch Lakes Recreational Assoc.
4730 Lake Rd.
Farwell, MI 48622-9618

Clubhouse Hours

8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., Mon., Fri.
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Tues., Thurs.
8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Sat.
1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Sun
Closed Wednesday

Office Hours

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Mon., Tues.,
Wed., Thurs., Fri.
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Sat.
Closed Sunday

Pool Hours

4:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Mon.& Thurs.
10:00 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Sat.
1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Sun.
Closed Tuesday, Wednesday

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.whitebirch.org

Happy Days!



Community Calendar

June 14, 2008 - Regular Board of Directors Meeting,
Ask the candidates - WBL Clubhouse 9:00 am

July 7, 2008 - **Deadline** Requests for Absentee Ballots
in WBL office 4:00 pm

July 18, 2008 - **Deadline** Absentee Ballots received in
WBL office 4:00 pm

July 19, 2008 - Annual WBL Members meeting at the
pavilion in the WBL Campground 10:00 am