



## Lake Columbia

### Property Owners Association

11281 Hewitt Road, Brooklyn, Mi 49230  
Phone: (517) 592-2361 Fax: (517) 592-3710

Email: [lcpoa@frontiernet.net](mailto:lcpoa@frontiernet.net) \* [www.lakecolumbia.net](http://www.lakecolumbia.net)



Office Hours:  
Monday—Friday  
9am—5pm

October • 2013

# The Columbian



### Holiday Trunk or Treat For the Kids!!

6:00-8:00 Thursday Night, October 31st  
At the Park on Southern Shores  
(Look for the Big Tent)

Doughnuts, Cider & other goodies will be provided.

## Happy Halloween

We are inviting anyone that wants to pass out candy from the trunk of their car or pick-up to come out to this event! It makes for a fun night to visit and hang out with other Lake Columbia families and see all the fun costumes! Please be there at 5:30 if you are going to be a vehicle who wants to pass out candy. Let's keep it a safe Halloween around the lake that night. Slow down & be aware.

Any questions or if you wish to help, please call Michael Moore  
517-937-9185 or the Association office at 517-592-2361.



### Lake Columbia Park Update—Bob Callison

During 2012, we completed changes to the Hawthorne/Waverly & Big Bedford Parks. Items included were fencing of the property, paved boat ramp driveways/parking lots, new park benches, cement pads for picnic tables as well as the bathroom approach/porch. The bath houses were freshened up with paint, lights were put on motion sensors & electronic locks were installed that automatically lock & unlock at prescribed times. Signage on each bath house was added to both the road & lake sides. A new playground set was installed at the Big Bedford Park, & remaining playground equipment had its paint refreshed.

During 2013, similar improvements were completed at our Nottingham, Grand Pointe & Riviera Parks. Fencing was installed at the Wesch Rd Outlot & a new seawall/beach was completed at the Riviera Park. A new Slide was installed at Riviera & a new playset was installed at Nottingham.

Plans for 2014 include Karen Court and Castlewood Parks with similar updates. In 2015, we are looking at Southern Shores and Somerset Parks with 2016 including Hilltop, Claremont, Archwood, Princess followed by 2017 with Kelly, Bedford West and Donald Parks.

It's been a lot of work, but the Board & Parks Committee believe these improvements are long overdue and will add value & curb appeal to our lake community.



### **2013 LCPOA Picnic, Boat Parade & Fireworks**

The Annual LCPOA Picnic was a great success again this year. Poppa's Place supplied the food with all feedback being positive, just needed more food. We will make sure we order more food for next year. We did not anticipate so many of you would turn out for this event. Todd Soper & his band supplied the live music for the day & they are a blessing every time we get to hear them. They kept everyone involved & having a great time.

We had 10 boat entries for the Boat Parade this year with Joe & Helina Swierlik winning with their #3 Boat rooting for our Detroit Tigers Team. The 1st place winners received \$100 & a plaque with a picture of their decorated boat & name on it. 2nd place for \$50 went to Nick Cole, for his boat #2 with U of M as his team of choice. 3rd place went to John & Mary Jo Ketzenberger receiving \$25 for their boat #6 which had the All Sports Theme.

The Fireworks were once again Wonderful, thanks to Richard Turner & his staff. Due to his retirement we will all surely miss his fine work.



### **1st Place Winners** of the Boat Parade

Helina & Joe Swierlik receiving their plaque from LCPOA Executive Board Member, Coleen Crampton



## Memorial Day Fishing Tournament Winners

We had 25 boats sign up.  
We fished from 6:30 to 11:30 am & weighed in  
at Big Bedford Pk.

### **Winners were:**

Largemouth Bass: **Butch Bivins 4.45** pounds

Smallmouth Bass: **Team Amon 3.31** pounds

Walleye: **Rick VanDoren 4.81** Pounds

Other Fish: **Chris Northern Pike 6.76** pounds

Winner of the Fishing Pole (Kids Category):

**Caden Corbin**

Thanks to Knutson's for donating the use of  
their Tournament Scale



## Labor Day Fishing Tournament Winners

We had 21 Boats enter to fish. Fishing started at 7:20 and ended at 11:30, & it was a beautiful lightly overcast day.

### **Winners were:**

Kids Category Fishing Pole: **Keegan Lapinski**

Best Three Largemouth Bass: **Team Stewart 8.07 lbs** 11 Teams weighed fish.

Best Three Smallmouth Bass: **Team Borsos 3.83 lbs** 4 Teams weighed fish.

Best Three Walleye: Just 1 fish to weight **Team Corbin, Lapinski 2.68 lbs fish.** 3 teams weighed fish.

Thanks to Dr. John Kovatch for donating several \$25 off coupons on Fishing Poles that were handed out.

Thanks to Knutson's Sporting Goods for the use of their Tournament Scale & the youth fishing pole.

The Tournaments raised **\$400.00** to the fish stocking fund.





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**Other Lake Columbia Information:**

Restrooms at the Parks will be closed during the month of October.

Yard Waste pickups will end November 30.

Don't let your pets use other people's property as their toilet  
& please keep them on a leash.

Motorists, be aware of walkers, joggers & bikers on the roads.  
Wear brightly colored clothing when doing these things.

We have had a few reports of Gas Thieves taking gas from members boats on the lake.  
Keep your eyes open & please report it to the authorities if it happens to you.

**Help us cut down costs. Send us your e-mail address so we can send this Newsletter to you electronically.**



***Fish Stocking Donations*** can be made anytime of the year. Just use the form below and mail a check; stop in the office; call, fax or e-mail the office to use your credit card.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: LCPOA  
or  
Pay by CREDIT CARD  
CC# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
street number zip  
( Drop off at Office, Fax, Mail or Email your donation)  
Fax: 517-592-3710 Address: 11281 Hewitt Rd., Brooklyn, MI 49230  
Please  an amount: \_\_\_\$10 \_\_\_\$25 \_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\$Other write in amount  
***Fish Stocking Donation form***

Cut out and return with donation

## **Deeded Restrictions – Bob Callison**

It seems of late that we are hearing from various members who didn't realize they signed up for Deeded Restrictions or at a minimum hadn't read them when they purchased their homes or lot at our lake. They were created by the Developer back in the 1960's before property started selling as the lake was being built. The Board would like to remind each member of their responsibility to read, understand and honor the restrictions as written. We also realize that the restrictions don't necessarily reflect what people think are reasonable in today's world. However, they are legally binding and need to be followed until they can be changed. We ask for your help in supporting and honoring them in the meantime.

As a result, your Board of Directors would like to seek out volunteers that would represent a cross section of our membership who would be willing to work with us and an attorney or two in the re-writing of them. Our hopes are that the potential changes would better reflect the member's desire and be something that could possibly withstand the test of time. If you are interested in being considered for this committee, please let the office know and provide your email address and phone number so we can get in touch with you when this process starts.

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**NOTE: Please refrain from Power Loading your boat when taking it out of the water. It damages our ramps and takes time and money to repair. We have had 2 ramps damaged this year due to people utilizing this technique to get their boat onto their trailer.**

# **STATUS OF DNR ISSUE**

## **RECAP OF THE ISSUE**

Mr. Pierson inherited with his sister the property on Cement City Road east of Goose Creek. He initially offered the property to the Association. Because the DEQ said that the Association could not use the property to run dredging pipes through the wetlands the property was of no use to the Association and we declined to make an offer. Mr. Pierson then listed the property with a real estate company but received no acceptable offers. He then sought out the DNR as a prospective buyer for the purpose of establishing a take out point for kayakers and canoeists going down Goose Creek. The DNR is currently evaluating the project and looking for another organization that would maintain the site once completed. If for whatever reason Mr. Pierson withdrew the opportunity for the DNR to purchase his property, he would be open to considering an offer from the Association.

## **WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO DATE**

1. Letters in opposition were submitted by 1259 members to Paul Yauk, Land Programs Manager, DNR Director Keith Creagh and DEQ Director Dan Wyant. Thank you to all those who submitted a letter. In response, Ron Olson, Chief of Parks & Recreation, stated in a letter to President Callison that because water flows into and out of Lake Columbia it therefore potentially qualifies for public access. Furthermore, their preliminary investigation concluded that a “carry down only” access site would be appropriate. Note – this seems to be contrary to Mr. Pierson’s plan for a take out site. Finally, he stated before a decision to purchase the property can be made, the concept plan must be discussed with the public.
2. Columbia Township sent a letter to Paul Yauk stating it was not in the best interests of the community as a whole to seek support for the project.
3. Jackson County is considering a resolution stating it is not in the best interests of the County to support the project.
4. Representative Mike Shirkey met or spoke individually with President Callison, Mr. Pierson, Paul Yauk, and DNR Director Keith Creagh. It was made clear to him that the project will only happen if another organization will partner with the DNR to maintain the property once it is completed. Since neither the Township nor County are interested, that leaves some other private or non-profit organization. The most likely candidate would be an organization like GREAT (Grand River Environmental Action Team) but they have emphatically stated they would never accept such a partnership.

Legal arguments – Based on a review of applicable case law by our attorney in 1991, there appeared to be legal precedents to contest anyone entering Lake Columbia from Goose Creek as being trespassers. However upon further research by an attorney expert in water law and riparian rights, it is questionable that such a challenge would be upheld in court.

Recently the matter was discussed with a member of Senator Mike Nofs’ staff and the Senator will be looking into the matter to see where he may be of assistance. Members are encouraged to reach out to whoever they think may be influential in preventing the DNR from going forward with the project. If you have contacts with Senators Stabenaw or Levin or Governor Snyder, please raise the issue. The DNR may have the legal right to establish a public access on our lake, but is it the right thing to do and the best use of the citizens’ money? Any new developments will be put on our website.