

The Columbian

March 2009



Lake Columbia P.O.A.
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Closed on Tuesday

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The 45th Annual Meeting of the LAKE COLUMBIA PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION will be held on Sunday, May 3, 2009, 1:00 pm at the Columbia Central High School on Hewitt Rd., Brooklyn, MI in the LIBRARY.

The Business to be brought before the membership will include the following:

1. General Information.
 - a. State of the Lake, reports of officers
 - b. Board approved updated By-laws to be presented to the membership.
 - c. Other Business
2. Other association issues that may be brought up by members. (open discussion)
3. Election of Directors for the Board
The following shores are up for election for a 3 year term; Members must own a lot in the shore to be nominated and to cast a vote or proxy.
 1. Royal Shores
 2. Riviera Shores I & II
 3. Southern Shores
 4. Grand Pointe / Blakely Shores (this is to fill an open position until 2011)

If you are interested in volunteering to be a board member or would like to nominate a member according to By-Law VII, section 6

"Members of the Association may nominate other candidates for Directors. Such nominations shall be in writing, signed by the members making such written nomination which shall be placed in the hands of the Secretary on or before thirty (30) days prior to the date of the election." **Send Letter of Intent or Nomination** Attention: Secretary by **April 3, 2009 to the Association office.** Letter of Intent or Nomination may be sent via mail, fax, email or delivered in person.

Proxies for use at the Annual Meeting will only be valid if received at the Association Office via mail (USPS) or delivered in person by Tuesday, April 28, 2009 by Midnight. A proxy vote for your Shore Director must designate a member in good standing to cast his/her vote (only 1 vote per membership in each shore owned). Approved proxy forms may be obtained at the Association Office and shall be given to in person or mailed upon request.

NOTE: The By-Laws of the Association require that members' previous year's dues and assessments must be current as of January 1st, 2009 in order to participate in the Annual Meeting of members and to vote at such meeting.

To improve the effectiveness of our Association, we urge the attendance of all members eligible to vote. Please bring your most current MEMBERSHIP card.

DIRECTOR OPENING GRAND POINTE / BLAKELY SHORES

In late January the Board requested candidates to replace Steve McLearn who resigned after accepting a position with Columbia Township. Because no one stepped forward it was decided to leave the position open until the annual meeting. Therefore, the Board is again announcing this opening and requests those interested to submit a letter to the Association announcing his or her intent to run for the opening.

Being a Director is not a thankless job. There are many rewarding aspects to it and you get back what you put into it. Candidates do not need to have prior experience or special expertise. We need candidates who want to maintain Lake Columbia as a great place to live and play; and who can work with the other Board members to problem solve and make the best decisions for the Lake Columbia community.

So what do you say Grand Pointe & Blakely Shores members? Is it your time to serve on the Board?

8th Annual Community Garage Sale Saturday, May 9 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

NOTE: The date of the garage sale has changed from the previous published date. It is now the Saturday before spring clean up instead of being held in June.

Owners that wish to participate may register their address and items for sale or description of their sale. Call or go to our website to request a registration form. A map with registered addresses will be available May 8 & 9 at the association office. After normal business hours the lists and maps will be available in the outside Pick Up Box at the office. The association will advertise in the Exponent and the Citizens Patriot. The sale is held at each owners own home and not at the association office.

Registration and Participation is optional. An owner may still participate if they do not register.

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 MAIL TO: 11281 HEWITT RD, BROOKLYN, MI 49230

OR

Pay by CREDIT CARD (Fax to 517-592-3710 or Mail)

CC# _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. Date _____ - _____

Address: _____
street number zip

Please an amount: _____\$10 _____\$25 _____\$50 _____\$Other write in amount

Fish Stocking Donation form

Cut out and return with donation

Fish Stocking

The fish stocking for 2008 took place on 12/16/08. A quantity of 2830 4" to 6" Hybrid Bluegills and 3250 5" to 6" Perch were stocked. The total cost of stocking was \$6650 which is an increase over the previous years. Now when you donate your donation is matched. The Board voted to match dollar for dollar up to \$5,000 for all donations received. Use the form to the left to donate for the 2009 season.

Thank You to the owners that donated to the 2008 fish fund!

JUSTIN & MAUREEN ALLEN*

JAMES & CYNTHIA BADGE

PHILIP & LOIS BEERY

JOHN & ELIZABETH BIEK

ROBERT & BRENDA BOHL***

JIM & WENDY BORSOS

PATRICIA BRONDES

MARCIA BROWN

JOHN & VICKI BROWN

DAVID & JDUY BUSZKA*

MARLIS CARGO

ALLEN & MARGARET CASSADY *

HARRY CASSIDY

BERNARD & JANET COLE*

MIKE & SUSIE CROOKS

JOHN & SHARON DALE

RALPH & SANDRA DAMATO

RONALD DEREN

ROBERT & CARLIN DRESSELHOUSE*

CHARLES DUFF

JACK & RUTH ESCOTT

RICHARD & KAY FETCHIET

JAMES & ROCHELLE FLAKE

NATHAN FOREMAN**

GUY FREYSINGER

ARMANDO & LINDA GALANTI

KATHIE & STEVE GATES

KEITH GEIGER

RICCARDO & SUE GIOVANNONE

JOHN & EVELYN GOETZ

EDWARD & VIRGINIA GRESKOWIAK

DANIEL & JANE HALEY

LARRY & JULIE HESS

TIMOTHY & CATHY HOLASKI ***

MILKOS & JUDITH HORNAI

STEVE & LORI HUNTER

DELBERTA IRVIN

CHARLES & JANET JANKE

GARY JOHNSON

BRUCE & KAREN JONES

DAVID & DORIS KATCHERIAN

LARRY & CONNIE KETZENBERGER

REBECCA & GENE KIELHORN **

JACOB & DAWN KOEBBE****

JEFF & LEIGH LONGSTRETH

MICHAEL MANASIAN

WILLIAM & JOYCE MERRIMAN

JOHN & EMILIE MINAR

EDWARD & JANET NEWMAN

BERNARD & PATRICIA OLENDER

JAMES & DONNA OSBORNE

PAUL & LINDA OSSTIFIN

LEONARD & BLANCHE PAWLOSKI

PAUL & SHARON PEACOCK

JOHN & NANCY PIOTROWSKI *

JEFF PLUTO*

CHARLES & DIANE PONAGAI

ROBERT & JODI REGAN

RON & KIM ROBINSON

JASON & KRISTINE RONDERS

VINCENT & JUDITH SCHEMBRI *

JEFFREY & VANESSA SCHEMBRI

JOSEPH & DIANE SCHEMBRI *

DANIEL & SUE SHIPMAN

GARY & DIANE SKINNER*

ROBERT & MARGARET SMITH

FRED & PARTICE TAKAVITZ*

BARRY & MICHELINE TROMBLEY

RICHARD & ELIZABETH TURNER

RICHARD & DIANE VANDOREN

MICHAEL & VIRGINIA VENTRELLO

NORMAN & OLGA WALZ

TODD WANTY**

EDWARD & ELSIE WEHR

CHARLES & SUSAN WHITBREAD**

HAL AND BARB WHITFORD**

GARY & VONDA WIDMER*

FLOYD WILSON

BRIAN & CAROL WRIGHT

BONNIE WY SOCKI

ALBERT BARBARA YOUNG

LAKE COLUMBIA OFFICE

DONATION BOX***

(for the unmentioned owners that gave)

* A special thanks for their extra contribution. (\$50 to \$99)

** An extra special thanks for their generous contribution. (\$100 to \$199)

*** A very extra special thanks for their generous contribution. (\$200 to 299)

**** A very highly noted special thanks for their extremely generous contribution. (\$300 +)

Any donations received after 12/5/08 will be named in a future newsletter.

Message from the President

Dear Members:

The most pleasant and rewarding part of being the President of the Board of Directors is working with dedicated board members and the Committees who assist with the job of maintaining and improving our Lake Columbia Community. These dedicated, hardworking volunteers and professionals, who share your vision for Lake Columbia, sacrifice their time and energy to make sure we all benefit as a community.

There are several initiatives I would like to bring you up to date on as we begin this New Year. As I reported to you in my early days as President, we created several committees to help move our association in the right direction and respond to the many concerns of our membership. The committees are The Finance Committee, The Code Enforcement Committee, The By-Laws Committee, The Lake Management Committee and a new position of Representative of External Affairs. Your board and all of the committees are working and planning today for a better Lake Columbia Community tomorrow.

The Finance Committee – The 2009 Budget as recommended by the Finance Committee was passed unanimously by the board with a 17.3 % increase over the 2008 Budget. Weed Control for 2009 is primarily responsible for the increase and represents 30 % of the total operating expense. Trash pick up which is an ongoing expense represents 31.7 % of total expenses. Members that choose to fly south for the winter can help reduce our trash pick up expense by reporting to the Office the dates where pick up is not needed. While this budget is the best estimate of income and expenditures for the coming year, your board and finance committee will continue to watch and monitor each expense item to ensure cost control without compromising the Quality Standards we all expect. Much thanks to our Treasurer Harry Breniser and Finance Committee members John Nally Chairman, Jim Stechschulte, Brian Wright, Doug Crippen, Chuck Barnes and Bob Callison who are dedicated to oversee and advise on all of our financial matters.

The Code Enforcement Committee – Under the capable leadership of Mike Koon and his Co-Chair Peter Kolb, John Gosinski and Art Seltzman, the committee has made great strides of addressing the issue of property maintenance. We look forward to your co-operation this year in keeping our community pleasing to the eye and project pride in our community and property. The vacant lots are of particular concern and need to be kept mowed and trash free.

The By-Laws Committee – The membership of this committee consists of one representative from each Shore, a mirror image of the board – 9 members. The mission of this committee is to bring our 45 year old By-Laws governing this association up to date in language, technology and legal status. We have commissioned an attorney to help draft the By-Laws and avoid deviating from the basic principles governing our association today. The objective is to have a first draft document for review by the board no later than March, 2009 for approval in time to present THE NEW BY-LAWS to the membership at the annual meeting in May 2009. Much appreciation is extended to Hal Whiteford, Chairman (Sherwood Shores and Hill & Shores) and his team – Harry Breniser (Cambridge Shores, Fletcher Shores and Imperial Shores), Kurt Hetke (Holiday Shores I), Dan Fulara (Bayview Shores), Larry Bergman (Grand Pointe/Blakely Shores), John Ketzenberger (Riveria Shores), Coleen Crampton (Royal Shores), Dennis Blain (Southern Shores) and Al Hetke (Holiday Shores II).

The Lake Management Committee – This committee was finalized recently with a mandate to establish a comprehensive plan for maintaining our most precious resource “ Lake Columbia “ that includes weed control, fish stocking & monitoring, water quality, park / building maintenance and security during the winter ice fishing season and the summer boating season. This committee will be Chaired by Bob Willerer and supported by Co-Chair Dave Bellfy for the fishing group and Co-Chair Kevin Wetzel for the “ Dredging Study “. The other members supporting this committee are our board members Ralph Damato and Larry Rygiel with special assignments.

Representative of External Affairs – We recently appointed Bob Willerer to represent the LCPOA at the Township Board Meetings. The objective is to keep our board apprised of Township politics especially when it affects our Lake Community. Also, we intend to communicate our concerns to the Township as they arise and solicit their support. We have approached the Township to help resolve the issue of Bubblers / Ice-Retardant Systems on Lake Columbia and pass an ordinance to outlaw its use. We believe the use of Ice-Retardants poses a serious safety hazard and should be banned before we are faced with the unthinkable consequence.

Successful organizations like your Lake Columbia Property Owners Association must take advantage of all the talent available to us in our community in order to grow and prosper in a healthy environment. We are blessed to have all these talented volunteers participate in the running and managing of our association. The Board and I thank all of you for your continued support and especially you the membership.

AL HETKE

OVER 80 MEMBERS ARE DELINQUENT IN PAYING DUES

At present, there are over 80 members who are delinquent in paying their 2008 dues and many are also delinquent in paying two or more past years dues. All these members are officially "not in good standing" and thus are not eligible to vote, receive member benefits such as trash service, boating privileges, park privileges, etc.

Although the Association has filed liens on their properties, these members have still not paid their dues. Therefore, the Association Board has unanimously approved contracting with the Association Dues Assurance Corporation (ADAC) to collect all present delinquent accounts and those which may occur in the future. All costs incurred by ADAC will be added to the amount currently owed by the member as follows:

If a letter is sent notifying member of intent to record a lien:	\$85
If a lien is recorded:	\$365
If a Notice of Foreclosure is sent, a foreclosure is filed and a Sheriff's Deed obtained:	\$1895
If a court judgment for evictions is obtained:	\$1500

In addition, all out-of-pocket filing fees, costs, legal notice costs, appraisers costs, if any, Sheriff's Deed costs, eviction costs, including without limitations court filing fees, property taxes (if any) and other filing and advertising fees, if any, will be paid by the delinquent member.

The Association can not ignore its fiduciary responsibility to the membership as a whole. The Association regrets taking this action during these tough economic times, but it is essential that all members pay their dues in a timely manner. It is not fair to the great majority, who do faithfully pay their dues, if some are allowed to ignore that obligation while still enjoying many of the benefits of living in our great Lake Columbia community. The Association Office will work with members to set up a payment plan to bring the member to a paid up status in a reasonable period of time.

Another course of action would be to publish the names and lot numbers of all those who are delinquent in paying their assessments for two years as stated in our Basic Standards of Conduct of Membership. However, this is not a viable option because it has never been done before, it creates more of an adversarial relationship with the members and there are privacy issues that could open the Association to being sued.

In conclusion, we want to emphasize that it is not our intent to increase substantially what delinquent members owe by passing on the collection costs, or to foreclose on anyone's property, but the Association can not let this problem continue and will allow the collection process to end in foreclosure if necessary. We urge all delinquent members to immediately contact the Association Office to confirm what they currently owe and pay off their debt or agree to a payment plan before their file is assigned to ADAC for collection.

The LCPOA Board

RESULTS OF THE AUDITS FOR 2005, 2006 & 2007

As reported previously the firm of Robertson, Eaton & Owen completed the financial audits for 2005 and 2006 in September. The audit for 2007 was completed in October. The Board and the Finance Committee met with the auditors in late October to review the findings of these audits.

In a summary dated October 28, 2008 the auditor stated that "The results of the audit showed that there were no discrepancies in the financial reports. " However, the auditors did identify some areas of internal controls which require the attention of management, the Board, and the Finance Committee. These have to do with the payment of bills, billing of dues and other fees to members, receipt of payments from members, and the reporting systems for these transactions. The auditors recommended a review of the reports from the dues and fees billing and collection system, and their usefulness in highlighting delinquent accounts.

The Finance Committee, with Board participation, is in the process of reviewing current policies and procedures with management to identify areas and methods of improvements in financial processing and reporting. One area already of concern is the rising rate of delinquencies in the annual collection of member dues and fees. This trend surfaced even before the advent of the economic downturn within the last year. In response, the Board unanimously approved signing a contract with the Association Dues Assurance Corporation (ADAC) to begin collecting dues from members who owe for 2008 and prior years and those who become delinquent this year. Details about the new collection efforts are detailed above. It is unfortunate that such steps are necessary, but in serving the membership we have an obligation to use all reasonable efforts to collect dues from all members in a timely manner.

Actions have already been taken to ensure that all association funds on deposit with financial institutions are fully insured under the provisions of the F.D.I.C., and the budget for fiscal year 2009 was approved by the Board at the November meeting. Audits for future years, beginning with 2008, will be conducted annually and on a timelier basis. Your Board of Directors is committed to providing the time and resources necessary to ensure the financial integrity of the Association.

Treasurer,
Harry Breniser

A message from Fire Chief Shawn Lutz regarding Dry Hydrants: Over the last year I have been looking and working at finding ways to reduce the insurance premium cost our property owners have to pay for their property owners insurance. After speaking with many homeowners regarding their insurance cost and fire protection question, it was clear to me that one of the biggest questions was, "how and where do you get water to put out a fire when you do not have fire hydrants?" The answer is drafting water from a lake, stream, and pond or using a dry hydrant. Why have a dry hydrant?

Dry Hydrant Advantages: Having water available in area streams, ponds and cisterns helps a fire department only if the water is readily accessible. The needed water may be located so far away from where it is needed that a fire department's ability to control the fire is impaired. Mobile water supply vehicles can move water from distant sources, but the critical factor is whether or not the fire department can maintain an uninterrupted supply of a predictable rate of water at the fire scene.

Installation of dry hydrants into nearby and developed water supplies eliminates the inefficiency and complexity of long-distance water shuttle operations. This arrangement also allows access to water sources from a roadway instead of having to work on soft ground immediately adjacent to the pond or stream.

In any area without water mains and domestic fire hydrants, the dry hydrant concept can provide a simple, cost-effective solution to the need for rapid access to water sources. A dry hydrant consists of an arrangement of piping with one end in the water and the other end extending to dry land and available for connection to a pumper. Dry hydrants have the following features:

- * Use a non-pressurized pipe system.
- * Use relatively inexpensive piping materials and other supplies.
- * Are permanently installed in existing lakes, ponds, streams and cisterns.
- * Provide a means of access whenever needed, regardless of weather.
- * Allow years of simple operation with a minimum of maintenance.

The time-savings are many. Multiple lengths of hard suction hose extending to the water are not needed; usually one section to the dry hydrant is enough. The strainer is also permanently attached, saving more time. Fewer people are needed to make a hookup compared to make a conventional direct drafting hookup. When a strategically placed dry hydrant with all-weather road access allows more water to be distributed in less time, and the water can be applied effectively on the fire, fire fighter effectiveness and safety is improved. Savings can be financial as well. Fire departments save money by reducing fuel and equipment costs through shorter transportation distances and lower operational demands. Communities can preserve more of their treated water supplies, since dry hydrants use untreated water.

Dry Hydrant Location: The location of individual dry hydrants is influenced by several factors. We have conducted a water source survey of the area, using a road map to mark potentially good sites. The following factors should be considered:

Maximum distance of travel between dry hydrants. This can vary for several reasons, but a target distance could be one dry hydrant every 3 square miles. This would produce a travel time of about 6 minutes between the water and the fire, assuming an average safe constant speed for a loaded truck of 35 mph.

Ownership of the land. The authority should contact the legal property owner to secure written permission (in conjunction with the town or county attorney) to use the water source. If a possible dry hydrant site is along a road right-of-way, you will need town, county or state approval. In some cases US Army Corps of Engineers approval may also be needed. Obtaining written permission is an important requirement that may take some time.

Depth of water at the source. Careful note should be made about the useful depth of a lake or pond, measured from the minimum foreseeable low-water surface level to the top of the suction strainer (not the bottom of the lake). The low-water mark considers drought, freezing and other effects, such as where the water level is lowered to generate power. The absolute lowest level must be not less than 2 feet, to prevent a vortex or whirlpool which could allow air to enter the pump and cause loss of pump prime. You may need a minimum of 4 to 5 feet of water over the suction screen and pipe during low water to prevent a freeze-up of the screen.

Composition of the bottom material. For long-term useful hydrant operation, the best composition for the bottom of a lake, stream or pond is sand, gravel or rock or a combination of these. Decaying vegetative matter could clog the suction screen.

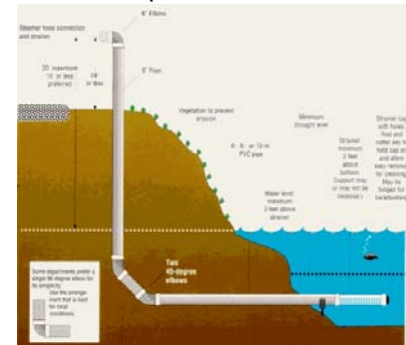
Ease of digging. A backhoe will need to get close enough to the water's edge to reach out and dig at least 5 feet below the surface of the water to start the trench.

Protection of the connection. A location that is conveniently accessible to fire apparatus may also be exposed to accidents from other passing vehicles. An impact barrier constructed of partially buried posts may be needed to prevent a vehicle from destroying a dry hydrant in a heavily traveled area. Special markings may be necessary to avoid damage from snowplows.

Costs. The expense of a dry hydrant installation depends on local practices and the length of pipe needed. The Colorado State Forest Service has estimated the cost there to be between \$800 and \$1500, including the cost for contractor labor and machines.

With the number of boat launching sites and association parks located around Lake Columbia, this gives us the means to install dry hydrants at these locations, which will improve our water supply efficiency, and effectively reduce the insurance rating of every structure within 1500 feet of each dry hydrant. I have a map of Lake Columbia with the proposed locations of the dry hydrants marked out on them. You will notice that a few of the locations that were mapped out are not on L.C.P.O.A. property. I will be contacting them regarding their approval to use their property should this project move forward. The benefits of this project are many, life safety, property safety, improved efficiency in supplying water, reduction in insurance cost and the reduction in potential fire loss. All of these benefits will make our community a safer and more desirable place to live.

Shawn M. Lutz, Fire Chief



Neighborhood comes together as a Team.

On a warm, sunny, Saturday in June 2008, many of the neighbors on Castlewood Dr. one family on Garrison Rd. and one family on Wesch Rd. gathered their garden tools and formed a cleaning brigade. The objective was to eliminate the litter (on land and in the water), cut down the overgrown, unsightly and unruly plant life that was making mowing difficult, and remove the very odiferous dead weeds from the north end of the bay.

Chris Bowman brought the LCPOA dump truck to the project. It was filled not once, but twice, to the brim with the fruits of everyone's efforts. The neighbors worked hard and enjoyed being together to make our street and bay area pleasing to live near.

At the end of the day, Marty Johnstone invited all the workers to her home for food and drink.



2009 4th of July Celebration

Fireworks display at dusk on FRIDAY, JULY 3

The Board voted to hold the fireworks display on Friday night due to the fact that the Village of Brooklyn's will be on Saturday, July 4. The Board also voted to hold the Picnic in the Park and Board Parade on Saturday, July 4.

Picnic in the Park - Saturday, July 4

Food, music, contest voting, view boat parade, fun for the kids and whole family. More details to come in the next newsletter.

5th Annual 4th of July Boat Parade CONTEST - Saturday, July 4

1st (\$100), 2nd (\$50) & 3rd (\$25) place cash prize for the best, most creative decorated boats. Sign up information and more parade details to come in a future newsletter.

Did you know. . .

. . . that back in July 1963 swimming and water skiing lessons were offered to both children and adults who were Lake Columbia owners.

If anyone is trained in giving swimming or water skiing lessons maybe you would be interested in making this available once again to our owners. If you would then submit an article for a future newsletter.

St. Patrick's Day Fun!



St. Patrick's Day

Y P H G O L D K T B V G N J R
 M A Y S Q E G W P C R L M Q F
 D L D Q I P D O K E A J U M K
 B B X S C R T B E Q L Z B P S
 H L U C K E I N G H B O R J L
 V C N F C C V I B K W C T U G
 H S R D O H I A B S Y Y P G P
 M U D A R A U R L W K J L N Q
 F P J C M U F T T B S R E R F
 W A T O A N S E F A V V W M F
 L D Z T H N T A U V P L A N T
 K A I K S I L T U Q M T O X U
 C W Z I B L X H N U B Q S N K

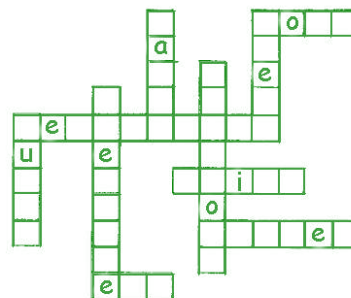
Gold
 Irish
 Luck
 Pot
 Shamrock

Green
 Leprechaun
 March
 Rainbow
 St. Patrick's Day

WORD SCRAMBLE:

MARKSCOH
 WINBROA
 LODG
 LEERMADA LISE
 CHEAPLNEUR
 HISRI GJI
 RAFGISEI
 CEGALI

YARNBEL NOTES
 REDALIN
 NAIST KIPARCT
 LIDBUN
 TICCLE
 RENEG
 RHIIS WEST
 SIRIH GIVSENSLS



magic
 shamrock
 lucky
 leprechaun
 gold
 treasure
 Irish
 elf
 green
 clover

RAINBOW TOAST

(a fantastic St. Patrick's Day Breakfast!)

Ingredients:

Sliced White Bread
 Milk
 Food Coloring (Red, Yellow, Green and Blue)

Tools:

Dixie Cups
 Basting Brushes

Procedure:

- Fill Dixie cups half way with milk
- Add a different color to each cup
- Brush stripes of colored milk onto bread
- Toast bread

*Rainbow Toast tastes even better with Leprechaun Butter (butter tinted with green food coloring)

LUCKY CLOVER SNACKS

Ingredients:

Cucumber Slices (wedged)
 Celery Sticks
 Cream Cheese
 Green Food Coloring

Procedure:

- Tint cream cheese with food coloring
- Place scoops of cream cheese in the center of snack plates
- Place cucumber wedges around cream cheese to resemble a 4 leaf clover
- Use celery sticks for stems

Shamrock Shake

Ingredients:

1 Banana
 2 cups of Lime Sherbet
 2 cups of Milk

Tools:

Blender

Procedure:

- Blend ingredients
- Serve

* Add green food coloring if hue is not deep enough!

Remember when.....

Imagine living in the suburbs of Detroit, in a nice neighborhood where all the identical red brick houses, were lined up perfectly in a row, with exactly and repeatedly 15 ft. between them. Imagine having no lakes near by, unless your fortunate enough to be living in Dearborn, which would allow you to get into Kensington Park. Imagine only being able to view Golf Courses through magazines, or the two second glance during the 6:00 news. Imagine wondering what it would be like to actually see a deer out in the wild, in your city as if you shared this common ground.

Now, Imagine what kind of impression is embedded in a young persons mind, once they realize that their family has found that one perfect place, where everything comes together. Where the houses are unique and the concrete doesn't seem so visible. Where the lakes are numerous, and nature seems to surround the city, as if to keep it peaceful and inclusive. Where golf courses are as fluent as party stores, and the town square is exactly how you would imagine it ought to be.

Imagine willingly and wanting to get up early, during summer vacation every weekend, in order to drive to a location, that not only makes you smile once you've arrived, but without your knowledge, creates memories that will last a lifetime. Spending countless number of hours swimming, fishing, playing cards at a picnic table until your hour was up after eating, and taking that last quiet swim before the sun goes down, and your forced to get back into the car to head back home.

When I remember the times I was privileged to have at Lake Columbia as a child with my family, it seems like a lifetime worth, and even though plenty of years have passed and I am not a child anymore, I was extremely delighted when I was able to move to Lake Columbia permanently with my family, to relive and pass down some of my fondest memories, along with creating new ones with my family that hopefully will last their lifetime.

Submitted by: Trish O'Shea
Royal Shores

Below is a quick and easy recipe. We are going to be giving a new one in each issue. If you have a recipe to share please send them to the office and we will add them in when space allows. Also, if you would like to see a Lake Columbia Cookbook published please inform the office and we will work on getting one assembled.

Quick and Easy dessert

Submitted by Coleen Crampton

Lazy Daisy Cake

2 Eggs beaten together Bake in 8 x8
1 Cup Sugar or 9 x9 pan
1 Cup Flour
1 tsp. Baking powder

Add to above:

1 Cup boiling milk with 1 Tblsp. butter melted

Bake @ 350° for 30 minutes

Topping:

6 Tblsp. melted Butter
10 Tblsp. Brown Sugar
4 Tblsp. Milk
1 Cup Coconut

Mix well. Spread over hot cake and set under broiler until brown.

Welcome to the new format for the Columbian

We will now be publishing 6 issues per year. Look for recipes, reminders, word searches, shore happenings, helpful hints, announcements, etc. in upcoming issues. If you have a funny thing that happened in your shore, an idea of anything you do as a group or anything you would like to share please send them to the office to the attention of Columbian Newsletter with your name and shore and we will add it to our column. We will be selling ads for local business in the very near future. If you would like to help in any way or would like to have your ad put in the Columbian please contact Trish O'Shea at 517-592-6567 or Coleen Crampton at 517-592-5863 or the association office.

KUDOS

Also, many thanks goes out to Chris Bowman and the Board for our new shore signs. All of them are new and look great.