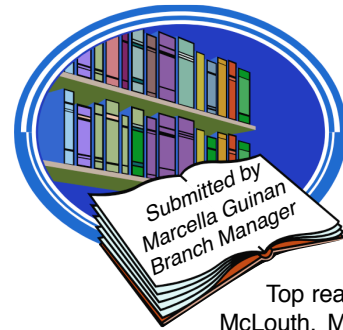


Bear Lake Clock Tower



If one wishes to make a donation for the clock, please write the check to Bear Lake Clock Tower Fund, and mail to P O Box 450, Bear Lake, MI 49614. A receipt will be sent to you.

The clock tower is to be placed on the lawn of the Huntington Bank. Collection boxes for donations are available in various stores in Bear Lake. This project is sponsored by Friends of the Bear Lake Clock Tower.



KEDDIE NORCONK LIBRARY

Another summer is behind us. The summer reading program was a great success. Our Juvenile and Young Adult readers spent 524 hours this summer reading, while our smaller readers were read to or read 1,656 books. Great job!!

Top readers for Bear Lake were Robbie and Mariah McLouth, Maggie Curtiss and Sierra Link. Winners for the drawing of the Ipod were Kara Smith, bike winner was Maggie Curtiss and winner of the books was Austin Thompson. Thank you to all of this years participants for making it such a great summer!

We now have an expanded parking lot to accommodate our ever-increasing usage of the library. We also have replaced our old rusting book return box with a nice new one. This was purchased with money from the Selma Johnson Fund.

The library is currently going through the transition from our "Verso" check out system to the new Softlink Liberty system. The new system appears to be a much more "user friendly system then the current one we are using.

We are hosting a Halloween story time on Wednesday, October 28 at 11 a.m. Please mark your calendars and bring the kids in for some stories and refreshments. If they would like to come in costume that would be great!

Did you know we have an "on going" book sale table at the Bear Lake Library? Friends of the Library are always adding books to the table as well as DVD's, CD's etc. Videos, CD's, DVD's and hardcover books are \$1.00 each and paperbacks and audiotapes are 50 cents each. There are also some antique books for sale at \$3.00 each. *Stop in and check us out.*

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BEAR LAKE BULLETIN

News of the Community
by the Community

Published by Vision Bear Lake

October 2009



WHAT WE TAKE FOR GRANTED

Submitted by Rick Farfsing

This has been a most interesting year – full of frustrations and successes.

I am frustrated that I have been unable to help with the roadside trash pickup the last two times due to commitments made much earlier. I am frustrated we did not have anything that resembled summer and that my garden failed to produce anything but weeds. I am frustrated that I have a monster cold that will not go away. Fortunately, I will get over my frustrations.

Besides, I much prefer focusing on our successes. I look at Hopkins Park and see the swimming beach that Vision Bear Lake helped install. I look at Village Park and how beautifully it came together. With the addition of some "green" (solar or wind) lights and a plaque recognizing those who helped with time, talent, or treasure, Village Park is done! We are looking across the street to one of the foot entrances to Hopkins Park and see plans materializing quickly to spruce things up a bit. We also see some improvements coming to The Point. Once the final tallies are done with Village Park and the Hopkins Park entrance, VBL will explore a way to make The Point a more attractive place to sit and enjoy life.

I am proud of VBL for its part in the Michigan State University's Small Town Design Initiative that provided so much food for thought regarding the esthetics of downtown. I am proud of the community for writing the initial grant that brought Land Information Access Association into the Comprehensive Planning Process and subsequently of VBL for acquiring a second grant to enable the plan to reach the level of completion it did.

I am proud of the Village for beginning to explore planning on its own, along with tackling a blight ordinance. This represents a huge step forward and the Council is to be praised.

I am proud of the hard work the Watershed Committee and the Bear Lake Property Owners are doing to protect our lake and of the rapid successes both have had.

I am proud of the community for supporting its times of celebrations. Bear Lake Days, the Community Yard Sale, and Autumn's Glory Day are three shining stars. Kudos to all!

As we watch Mother Nature again dress herself in her multi-colored gown in anticipation of her pulling up her white blanket, we again are seeing the departure of our snowbird friends. Safe travel and good health to them and we all look forward to being reunited in the spring. In the meantime, we who remain will continue working towards additional successes.



Attention Bear Lake Anglers!

The **Community Council To Improve Fishing** is growing in names and we would like to add you! We are starting to survey interested anglers as to what has been attempted in the past and any ideas you have, which should improve the health of our fish population. Whether it be as simple as protecting the spawning beds by keeping our motor boats and personal water crafts away from shallow waters in the spring or as complicated as building artificial shelters in the lake; we are interested in all ideas which might improve the health of our game fish. Finally, we are compiling a list of questions about the health of our lake fish, to be answered when the DNR fisheries staff make a public presentation next summer.

If you want your ideas to be considered, now is the time to volunteer. Give your name and phone number to Don Raiff at 864-3011.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Bear Lake School seeks volunteers to mentor a child for an hour each week in the Kids Hope USA program. 864-3785

Bear Lake Promoters is in need of short articles for the newsletter. 231-930-4759

Vision Bear Lake seeks volunteers to sweep and shovel off sidewalks. 864-2314



Village of Bear Lake News

The Village Council is proud to announce that The Michigan Strategic Fund has approved our Village to apply for an Infrastructure Capacity Enhancement Grant for Water System Improvements. The Village is invited to submit a full application up to \$487,500 with \$120,000 matching funds. This is the first step in securing a new water tower and upgraded water lines. A public hearing to discuss the grant and what it means will be held on November 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall on Lake Street, everyone is welcome to attend.

A public hearing to withdraw from the Joint Planning Commission (originally consisting of Bear Lake Township and Pleasanton Township) will be held on October 21, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall. If you have any questions or concerns please join us at the hearing.

The Council is continuing its efforts to form a new Planning Commission with discussions held during most of our regular meetings held every third Wednesday of the month.

The Scarecrow filled Village looks great thanks to the Ladies of the Lake and all those who participated in Autumn's Glory Day!

Trick or Treating hours are 5:00-8:00 pm on Oct. 31

Submitted by Michelle Mortenson, Clerk



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Bear Lake Township News

Recycling is available 24/7! At the September Bear Lake Township Board meeting, the Board decided not to join the County Recycling under Public Act 69, at this time. The Board decided to give the County program a year to see how it goes and possibly address that issue again next September. The Board will continue to run its own recycling. Currently there two dumpsters for mixed paper and cardboard located at the Township Hall. The dumpsters are located in the empty lot on the south side of the building and are facing Virginia Street. Please break down all boxes and do not leave plastic bags, trash, or Styrofoam! A dumpster is in place for 'clear' glass (only), tin and aluminum cans and #1 & #2 plastics. Please do not leave other grades of plastic, i.e #5 plastics, plastic lawn furniture, tarps, plastic sheet goods, etc. Do not leave Styrofoam and do not leave recyclables in plastic bags. Do not leave trash in the dumpsters or on the site. If the dumpsters are full, please do not leave anything on the ground by the dumpsters or building. The paper dumpsters are emptied every Wednesday and the other dumpster will be emptied when it becomes full. If you find any of the dumpsters full, please contact the Township Office @ 231.864.3620 ext. 10, 11 or 12. The Township encourages everyone to recycle because that will hopefully help reduce the Townships cost at the landfill for garbage disposal. The Township is looking into other recycling options, i.e. recycling plastic grocery bags, etc.

A reminder that the transfer station is located at the Devere Randall and Sons location on 13 Mile Road (Co. Road 600) east off U.S. 31. This will continue until further notice. There is a limit of 6 bags per pass and everything must be bagged. There will be only one garbage truck. The schedule for after November is currently being worked on and will be available by the end of November. The Township currently does not have a location for scrap metal or tires.

The Township is currently reviewing a draft "Noise Ordinance" and has approved to move forward with a Police Protection Agreement with the Manistee County Sheriff to help enforce any of the Township ordinances, if the need arises. Thank you for your cooperation.

Submitted by Vern "Corkey" Best, Supervisor

Pleasanton Township News

Thanks to our active Parks Commission, work on 2 new shuffle board courts at the hall are in progress. The Planning Commission, along with our zoning administrator, is working on updating our master plan.

Just a reminder to residents, our public accesses are for swimming, not boat launching, a parking lot or overnight use.

Please use them properly so they can be enjoyed by all. Due to the successful treatment of the phragmites in our lake, the 2010 special assessments will go down to \$60.

Effective September 12, the new transfer station site is up and running. It is located on Norconk Road approximately 3 miles West of US 3. Turn left on the dirt road at the first curve in the road. The recycling and cardboard bins are also at the new site. Upcoming dates are: October 10 & 24, November 7 & 21 and December 5 & 19. Hours are 9 am to 11am. There is a 6 bag limit per card, and all garbage must be bagged. Please help keep our roads and site clean of flying trash.

The board members treated Mr. and Mrs. Alkire to a dinner at the Glenwood in appreciation for many years of service.

Submitted by Connie Ledford, Clerk

Firefighting Blues...

Submitted by Rick Farfsing



Earlier I mentioned how much I appreciated the many good things we see in Bear Lake. Another is the professionalism of our fire fighters. Ahhh yes, I know first hand...It all started when I was putting my riding mower back in its shed. As I was driving it there, something broke in the steering. Faced with options of fixing it then or later, I grudgingly opted for sooner. So I steered the front wheels with my feet (rough on my shoes!) maneuvering my way to the apron of my garage. Pulling up, I parked perpendicular to the garage and went to work. First, the mower was designed to be propped up on end, allowing one to work easily underneath the unit. So, up it went! Diagnosing the problem I zipped to the hardware and got the needed part. Quickly I got the offending problem resolved. That should have been Warning #1. When I work on something mechanical, *nothing* is simple and when it is, trouble is brewing. Oh no, instead, I'm proud as a peacock, ignoring the impending doom that saturates the air. Plopping the mower back on its wheels, I attempt to start it to return it to its shed - once again. But, one pull, two pulls, nothing. Hmmmm...must be flooded, thinks the Master Mechanic. That's easy, remove the spark plug, pull the rope a couple of times to remove the gas, replace the spark plug, and off I go. HA HA! Plans went well until I pulled the rope. After about a quart of raw gas blew out on my garage floor, I was amazed. I've had flooded motors before but never to this extent. So, instead of hearing the trumpets blow, seeing the lightning flash, and hearing the gods of Mt. Olympus scream "STOP, YOU IDIOT!" I opted to pull the rope one more time...*knowing* all the gas had blown out. Well, it hadn't. Another quart of raw gas blew out. Only this time there was a spark from the spark plug cap, igniting the plume of gas. What could I do but admire the trail of flame leaving my mower motor and arching gracefully to my garage floor...mixing immediately with the previous quart of gasoline! I continued admiring the flames until the gravity of the situation hit me. My garage is in flux. In other words, I have cardboard and junk right where the gas is burning. Hmmmm, do I move the cardboard or try to put out the fire now coming from the spark plug hole? At this point I thought clearly, kind of. I did a classic Texas Two-Step, moving boxes and stomping out the flames. Reluctant as the fire was, I finally prevailed, leaving blackened footprints from my scorched and melting shoes all over the floor and apron! Then I noticed the mower. The flames had not gone out as I'd anticipated. So what is the smart thing to do? Easy, get on your knees and blow the gasoline fire out. Why did I know my plan would not work!

Starting to realize my mower, garage, and face were all in jeopardy I had to go into triage mode. I pushed the mower part way down the driveway to save the garage and house, but still figured I could save the mower if I could beat the flames with a towel. It finally hit me, while I'm again on my knees with the carburetor burning and seeing the only thing between the flames and the three gallons of gas I just put in the mower was six inches of rubber hose, that I have made better choices in my life than I was making now. With my face being about a foot from the flames, I went back into triage mode and realized my mower was soon to become a memory. So it got another push off the now smoldering asphalt as I called our fire department and admired the 25 foot flames shooting up into the small maple trees. My job was done. Once the fire department arrived, they made short order of my calamity. I admire their professionalism. That is, they did not openly laugh at me while I could see them. One or two of them did order (with straight faces to their credit) they had never seen an escapade like this. So perhaps I will make it in the Firefighter Hall of Fame...or something. One thing I learned is how my wife has supreme confidence in my abilities to solve problems. When I had a knot in a shoestring she suggested I take it to Keillors...



Thank You from Ladies of the Lake

Our appreciation and thanks to the following for their generosity in support of Autumn's Glory Day.



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Bear Lake Promoters	Three Pines Construction
Bear Lake Boosters	Rock's Retreat
Belle Suite	Bowling's Hydroseeding
	Manistee County Sheriff's Dept.

Everyone Participating in the Scarecrow Display
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Our sincere apologies to anyone what we may have inadvertently omitted in this thank you due to print deadlines

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