



Submitted by Rick Farsing, President Steering Committee

The Vision Bear Lake organization is a grass

roots group of citizens formed to position the Bear Lake area to become a thriving community with adequate resources to provide a comfortable and rewarding lifestyle for our demographically changing population.

VBL is not a decision-making organization. Rather, it is a facilitating one that attempts to assist collaborations among those groups that truly are decision-making. Goals that VBL has identified are those dictated by the community but must conform to the VBL mission of lifestyle enhancement.

Recently VBL endorsed a successful grant proposal by the Multi-jurisdictional Planning body to develop a long range, comprehensive Master Plan. To further support that initiative, VBL was recently awarded a grant for \$4,000 by the Manistee County Community Foundation.

VBL helped with the construction of the new swimming beach at Hopkins Park and is working with utilities to move the overhead wiring within the Village proper underground, cleaning up the streetscape.

VBL's areas of concern have been identified as infrastructure, recreation, beautification, economic development, and land use planning.

The group meets the second Monday of each month in the basement of the Lions Building in Downtown Bear Lake at 7 pm. Meetings are open to the public. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. For further information, call 864-2730.

BEAR LAKE-PLEASANTON AREA UTILITIES AUTHORITY?

Submitted by Jerry Mathieu

Some residents have asked from time to time, "What is the Bear Lake-Pleasanton Area Utilities Authority (BLPAUA) and who can be affected by its creation."

The Authority was created by the three entities: Village of Bear Lake, Bear Lake Township and Pleasanton Township in August of 2002 with bylaws adopted in April of 2003.

The mission of the Authority was to be able to acquire, own, improve, enlarge, extend and operate a water supply system or a sewage disposal system or either of the foregoing in accordance with Act 233, Public Act of Michigan 1955, as amended wherever necessary in the townships.

The Authority was at six members, two from each entity. Today, we have four members called Trustees. When necessary, the Authority meets at the Pleasanton Township Hall the third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. Meetings can be held any time by call of the Chairman and proper notice posted at the Township Halls. The Authority may continue in existence perpetually or until dissolved by act of the Townships or law, provided the dissolution would not be affecting any previous contracts.

OPEN HOUSE

EVERYONE'S INVITED!

RESCHEDULED DATE

SATURDAY, September 16

1 TO 3 PM - PAVILION IN HOPKINS PARK

Enjoy hot dogs, chips and cold drinks.

*** Updates from Vision Bear Lake about projects accomplished to date and exciting future plans.

*** Learn about the "enemy" Eurasian milfoil that is attacking Bear Lake and what steps need to be taken to curb its growth. Representatives from Bear Lake Property Owner's Association will be there to present the latest information.

At 2 pm a video of underwater photographs will be presented by BL's Dr. Jim Eaton.

*** Representatives will be available to answer questions about the proposed sewer project.

OPEN HOUSE SPONSORED BY VISION BEAR LAKE.

COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

Submitted by Bernie Ware

Last winter Bear Lake Village, Bear Lake Township, and Pleasanton Township agreed to form a Joint Planning Commission for the purpose of writing a Community Land Use Plan. The effort to form a multi-jurisdictional planning commission was given a major boost when the Land Information Access Association (LIAA) awarded the Bear Lake Community a grant to assist the project. Funding for the project has also come from the three municipalities.

The first step is to formally create the Commission. Once this is accomplished, the planning group, the Bear Lake Greater Community, and professional planners provided by LIAA will draft a Comprehensive Plan.

A Governmental Kick-Off Meeting was held on September 6 at the Pleasanton Township Hall which included the three municipalities, stakeholders, and interested public. A Greater Community Kick-off will take place at a later date with the starting of the Comprehensive Plan. Watch for publicity for the date and location of that event.

For more information, contact Bernie Ware at 864-3242.

DESIGN YOUR COMMUNITY

WHEN & WHERE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 - Bear Lake, Arcadia and Onokama Areas
6:30 pm to 9 pm - Bear Lake Middle School - Old Gym

WHAT: The 12 month process of Michigan State University's Small Town Design Initiative (STDI) for Manistee County for the purpose of developing design concepts for all of the county's communities began with open forums throughout the county in late June 2006. Meetings were held to gather public input.

WHY: Community input continues in September under guidance of MSU staff utilizing creativity of fifth year design students from MSU's College of Architecture and Landscape Design. Presentations will be made to see how other small communities in Michigan solved design problems. In break-out sessions, attendees will study those possibilities and provide guidance for what might be suitable for the Bear Lake area.



Groups & Organizations Updates



BEAR LAKE PROMOTERS

Submitted by Rita Brisbin

The Promoters are now getting ready for Sparkle in the Park. Work will begin in late October to set up the wonderful light displays. If you are an individual or business that is interested in participating this year, please contact either Pauline Jaquish at 864-3766 or Rita Brisbin at 864-2646. The cost to participate is an imagination, lights, good extension cords and willingness to brave the cold and have people enjoy the lights in the park.

The Promoters also have Christmas in Bear Lake. Work on that will begin sometime in October. This event takes place the second weekend in December at the Bear Lake School in the old gym. Food, entertainment, prizes, crafts, chili cook-off, visit from Santa, and a Live Nativity to end the day are some of the things that will be going on.

Bear Lake Promoters is an organization whose purpose is to make people aware of Bear Lake's businesses, its assets, and to provide a positive environment for progressive local government and community involvement.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please attend our meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 am at the Bear Lake Bar. Businesses and individuals are welcomed.

LIONS CLUB

Submitted by Tim Richard

Bear Lake Lions continue to meet the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month in the Lions Den.

Tim Richard, Sight Chairman, plans to deliver a load of used eyeglasses and hearing aids to our collection point in October to forward to needy people in Central America. Sunglasses are needed, too, because people in the tropics develop a need in the bright sun.

Collection points are the Lions Den, especially on Sunday mornings when we serve pancake breakfasts; the Bear Lake IGA; Honor State Bank and Huntington Bank.

Usually we get more than 200 pairs of glasses for the season, but this year donations are slower. Please review your old eyeglasses and sunglasses for pairs you don't need and drop them into the collection box. If you have a big bundle, call Tim Richard at 864-4013 for a personal pick up.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The Manistee County Member At large Group meets the first Monday of every month at 7 pm at various locations throughout the county. It is open to anyone eligible to vote, both men and women.

For meeting locations and other information, contact the group's comprehensive website lwvmanisteecounty.org. Questions can be answered by calling 864-5030.

BEAR LAKE WOMAN'S CLUB

Submitted by Joanne Schroeder

The Bear Lake Woman's Club meets on the first Tuesday of the month. The October meeting features a talk by Sandy Ware on Organic Farming. We are having our annual potluck lunch at this meeting. Join us at 1:30 at the Methodist Church at the corner of Main and Smith Streets on October 3.

In November, the meeting will be at the Bear Lake Manor on the same corner opposite the church. This meeting will feature a dessert and a talk by Manor owner Jan Witgen. Join us on November 7 at 1:30 pm.

For more information about the Woman's Club, contact President Shirley Van Liere at 864-3760

TRIGINTA CLUB

Submitted by Rita Brisbin, President

Triginta is a local women's group that is dedicated to help the local community or county in worthwhile projects. They have two large undertakings that they work in order to raise money. One is the Brat Stand during Bear Lake Days. Another is the Silent Auction that also takes place during Bear Lake Days.

Every year with the monies raised, at least one scholarship is awarded to a worthy Bear Lake student; money is given to Reading Programs at the Library; and a family is sponsored at Christmas time.

Monies in the past have also been donated to such worthy causes as the Volunteer Fire Department, Bear Lake Library, Athletic Field, Bear Lake School band, Choices of Manistee County, West Shore Community College and many other organizations or projects.

The ladies continue to work together to help their community.

PLUS 49ers

Submitted by Joanne Schroeder

The Plus 49ers meets the first Thursday of the month at the Pleasanton Township Hall. Each meeting features a potluck meal except for the November meeting which features a catered Thanksgiving dinner.

No reservations are needed for our potluck meals. Bring a dish to pass, table service and enjoy the feast. We also have a speaker after our meal.

We eat at 5:30 pm except for the Thanksgiving meal which is served at 2 pm at the Methodist Church. Reservations need to be made for this meal.

For more information, email President Joanne Schroeder at Adventureland1@mac.com.