

Lake Currents

Lake of the Woods Improvement Association

New Speed Limit Signs Being Installed on 86th Ave.

New and amended speed zone signs along 86th Ave. on the south side of the lake are being installed this fall, thanks to a cooperative effort of our Board of Directors, Decatur Township and the Van Buren County Road Commission. The legal speed limit is 40 mph between the village limits and 47 1/2 St. Unfortunately, motorists have been exceeding this limit, endangering pedestrians, joggers and driveway access along this stretch of residential and seasonal campground property for some time due to confusing signage.

Traveling eastbound on 86th Ave. from 47 1/2 St. there is only one 40 mph sign. Travel-

ing westbound near the Decatur Village Limits line where St. Mary's St. becomes 86th Ave. at the curve in the road there is another 40 mph sign plus on the same post a sign that read "speed zone ends." Motorist confusion resulted when several drivers thought the sign implied that vehicles might travel the maximum county road speed limit of 55 mph beyond that point.

To help clarify and enforce the actual speed along this stretch of 86th Ave. the Road Commission and Decatur Township have agreed to

- Remove the "speed zone ends" sign from the village limits post to clarify that

40 mph is in effect from that point forward, traveling westbound on 86th Ave.

- Install two additional 40 mph sign near the intersection of Lake Dr. and 86th Ave., one eastbound and one westbound to again remind drivers of the legal speed.
- Request the Van Buren County Sheriff Department monitor this roadway more closely for speed enforcement.

Our Board of Directors is not only concerned about the safety of lake residents on the water but also on the roadways surrounding Lake of the Woods

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Did you know:

All paid members may list items for sale or giveaways on the website's classified page for free.

Have a great photo or story about the lake? Send it to us.

Email questions and/or ads, pictures to: webmaster

@LakeOfTheWoodsMI.org

The website has upcoming events, pictures, newsletters, the weed treatment schedule and more. Check us out at: www.lakeofthewoodsmi.org

Phosphorus Ban Update

With the recent regulation changes banning phosphorous based fertilizers beginning January 1, 2010, many Lake of the Woods members have been inquiring on what to look for and where to purchase phosphorous free fertilizers.

The amount of phosphorus in a product can be determined by looking at the 3 numbers on the package. The numbers indicate the percent of nitrogen, phosphorus and potash. Look for packages where the middle

number is zero (0) for phosphorous free products.



It appears that next spring many vendors will have the phosphorous free fertilizer. Currently, Southern Michigan Seed, Inc in

Decatur has a full 4 step program in 5,000 ft area on year end clearance. They plan to have plenty in stock for next year. Warner Supply, Do It Best in Decatur currently does not carry any phosphorous free fertilizers, however they hope to have some in stock for next spring.

Help keep Lake of the Woods healthy and beautiful for ourselves and for future generations, purchase phosphorous free fertilizers.

Inside this issue:

Annual Meeting/Picnic Highlights	2
4th of July boat parade results	2
Day of Review Summary	3
Paid Members List	4
Maintaining Your Septic System	5



Annual Meeting and Picnic

On Saturday, July 11th, the annual Lake of the Woods Association meeting and picnic was held at Red Woolfe Park. The meeting began at 1:05 PM with 51 people in attendance. This year's meeting focused on such items as the water quality of the lake and events that happened throughout the summer.

The report on the weed control progress was given by Wayne Potter in Andy Broekhuizen absences stating. He indicated that Professional Lake Management is pleased with the way our lake has responded to the prescribed weed control program.

It was reported by Larry Ralston that 28 new Boating Safety Certificates were issued at the 2009 Boater Safety Course sponsored by the Lake Association. He announced the next class would be held June 13, 2010.

Roy Pearson reported on the status of the lake's outlet dam. He learned that a 1950 court order to build the dam to help control the lake's water at a defined level resulted in construction being completed in 1952. The dam was last inspected in June 2008 and was found to be in fairly good shape. Any future repairs required

on the dam would be funded by a special assessment of lake residents.

Elections for three Board seats with terms ending in 2012 were held. Roy Pearson was re-elected to the Board and Clarence Kooy and Craig Morey were elected to fill the remaining open seats. On July 13, 2009 Clarence Kooy resigned and the Board of Directors appointed Sandy Eich to the vacancy. A special election will be held at the 2010 annual meeting to fill the Board seat for the remaining two year term.

Wayne reported on a discussion that he had with Hamilton Township Supervisor Carol Druskovich concerning news reports and rumor that the township was planning to install sewers around the lake. According to Druskovich, the township had no plans for additional sewers but had been conducting informal interest surveys from residents.

Wayne reported that the Association purchased a commercial size gas grill for use at our annual picnic. Comments from the floor indicated that several residents were interested in using the grill for a rental fee. Wayne indicated he would refer the grill use by members to the Board of Di-

rectors for a decision and possible policy creation. The Board of Directors met in a separate meeting and it was decided that due to liability issues the grill would not be able to be rented out to the Association.

Wayne asked for suggestions from members on how to spend down the Association's savings reserve for the improvement of the lake and/or betterment of the membership. Previous comments ranged from stocking the lake with fish to paving the private gravel roads around the lake. Additional comments from the floor were in favor of additional Walleye stocking. Wayne indicated that the issue would soon be decided by the Board.

Many thanks were extended to:

- Jan and Bob Thoner and Carol Matens for working registration
- The Dominic Panico Family for counting ballots
- Sandy Eich for helping sell shirts and floor mats
- All the board member for their efforts in running the annual meeting/picnic.

20 Boats Participate in Annual 4th of July Boat Parade

The annual Lake of the Woods 4th of July boat parade was enjoyed by many onlookers on water and shore.

This years parade had 20 boats with a variety of themes including the traditional patriotic red white and blue.

All entrance were eligible to win one of four prizes donated by High's Marine and the Lake Association.

1st Place: The Manley-Prohl boat from Crown Point, IN. Theme: Smokey the Bear, Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires.

2nd Place: The Kelly Younker boat from Shore Drive. Theme: Christmas in July.

3rd Place: The John Neubauer boat from Lake Drive. Theme: Every Day is a

A Holiday on Lake of the Woods.

4th Place: The Robert Shepard boat from Delta Drive. Theme: Doing the Hula in Hawaii.



The Lake Association would like to congratulate the winners and thank all those that participated and High's Marine for donating half the prizes. It's not to early

to start planning for next year's parade.

See the LOW website for additional photos of the boat parade.

Thank you

On behalf of the Lake of the Woods Board Members and the entire Association a hearty thank you is extended to both Joe Hillyer and Jan Roeder for their many years of service to the Lake Association.

Their most recent terms ended and they have chosen not to seek re-election.

Best wishes and many thanks to both Joe and Jan.





Maintaining Your Septic System Helps Improve The Quality Of Our Lake

Lake of the Woods homeowners have a special responsibility to ensure that their septic systems are not polluting and harming our lake. Septic systems can be safe and effective as long as they are located, designed and installed correctly and homeowners continuously monitor and maintain them.

The following list of tips will help keep your septic system in good working order and help protect our lake.

Conserve water: Excessive water use is the most common cause of septic failure.

In the bathroom:

- Identify and repair dripping faucets and sticking float valves in toilet to reduce water waste.
- Shorten shower times and choose showers over baths. A full bath uses 50-60 gallons of water, while a shower uses only about 5 gallons per minute. However a 20 minute shower is not a savings over a bath.
- Install low-volume toilets: Typical toilets use 5-6 gallons per flush, newer toilets use as little as 1 1/2 gallons of water.
- Use toilet tissue that breaks up easily when wet to help prevent clogging.

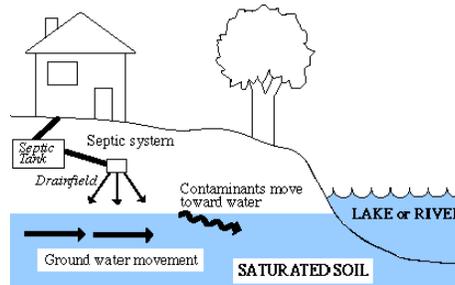
In the kitchen:

- Wash only full loads in the dishwasher. Typical dishwashers use about 13 gallons for each wash. Newer models use 8-9 gallons.
- Avoid using a garbage disposal. Garbage disposals add tremendously to the amounts of solids entering your septic tank.
- Discard grease in the garbage instead of the drain. Grease can clog the septic tank or the soils surrounding the absorption field.
- Use low phosphorus detergents and cleaning products whenever possible. Phosphorus is the nutrient most likely to cause damage to a lake after leaving your septic system.
- Don't pour strong cleaning agents, chemicals or old medicines down the

drain. These kill beneficial bacteria that break down waste in your septic system.

In the laundry room:

- Install a lint trap on your washing machine. Lint will clog the pipes in the absorption field.
- Purchase a high efficiency washer. Typical washing machines use about 35-40 gallons of water per load, newer HE washers use 1/2 that amount.
- Doing all the household laundry in one day might seem like a time saver, however it could be harmful to you septic system. Load after load does not allow you septic tank time to adequately treat wastes.



Outside the house:

- Do not drive or park vehicles on you absorption field. Vehicles can compact soils and break pipes.
- Keep roof drains, basement sump pump drains and other rainwater away from the drainfield.
- Keep trees and shrubs a least 35 feet away from your field to prevent roots from plugging or breaking pipes.
- Driveways , patios and other structures should never be built over the absorption field. As much as one third of the water in septic effluent evaporates up through the ground over the absorption field.

Septic systems that are not functioning properly can pose a health threat by allowing sewage to contaminate drinking waster. Sewage is high in phosphorus, which can promote the growth of algae and aquatic plants. Because

phosphorus is very slow to leave a lake system, sewage inputs often have lingering effects long after they have been discontinued. Bacterial contamination can be a concern because our lake is used for swimming.

Signs there might be a problem with your septic system:

- Slow draining toilets, shower or sinks
- Sewage backing up in the basement, drains or toilets. This may be a black liquid with a bad odor.
- Poned water or wet areas over the absorption field in you lawn.
- Sewage odors.
- Bacteria or nitrates show up in test of a nearby drinking water well.
- Excessive growth of aquatic weeds or algae in the lake near your home.
- Biodegradable dye flushed through your system is detectable in the lake.

You should have a typical septic system inspected at least every 3 years by a professional and have your tank pumped as recommended by the inspector. The frequency of pumping varies with the amount of use your system receives. For an average family of four, a septic tank needs to be pumped out every 2-3 years. If you are using the system on a seasonal basis, the tank may need to be pumped less often. If you are placing heavy demands on the system the tank may need to be pumped yearly. Tank pumping must be pumped by a licensed professional. Never enter the tank or breathe the gases inside the tank. The gases produced in a septic tank are dangerous and can kill.

Please do your part to keep the quality of our lake enjoyable and safe for everyone.

This and additional information can be found on the following websites: www.epa.gov and www.epa.state.il.us.

Fall Clean-up Reminder

As you clean up your yard this fall, please do not rake leaves and grass clippings into the lake. This encourages weed growth.



*Lake of the Woods
Improvement Association*

www.lakeofthewoodsmi.org

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*Servicing Lake of the Woods residents
since 1980!*



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