

# Lake Currents

Lake of the Woods Improvement Association

## Update on Sewer Feasibility Study from President Roy Pearson

A meeting was held September 27 at the Decatur Village Office. Persons present included Roy Pearson, LOW President; Roger Mattens and Chris Schaap, LOW Board members; Matt Rizzo, Decatur Village Manager; Dale Avery, Decatur Maintenance Supervisor; and Mike Fuller, engineer, representing Prein and Newhof. Hamilton and Decatur Township supervisors were also invited but were unable to attend.

The purpose of the meeting was to determine whether a Lake of the Woods sewer system could be connected to the Village of Decatur sewer

lagoon system. A final decision would have to be made by the Village Council but Village Manager Rizzo was optimistic that so long as the capacity of the lagoons was adequate and the Village of Decatur would not entail additional expense there shouldn't be a problem. Mike Fuller and Dale Avery examined the current pipeline routing and lift stations and discussed options.

Subsequently to the meeting, Mike Fuller contacted the MDEQ's engineer with responsibility for the Village sewers and wastewater treatment plant. He informed

Fuller that it was his opinion that the Village plant had sufficient capacity for approximately 250 additional residential dwelling units. This is good news! Lake residents will have to pay something for wastewater treatment but with cooperation from the Village, a new wastewater treatment plant will not be required. Prein and Newhof engineers are in the process of gathering information for design of the sewer system. This will take some time and when completed, further information will be provided to LOW members, the respective townships and the Village of Decatur.

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#### Did you know:

We are looking for individuals who would like to submit articles of interest to our newsletter. These articles could be one time submissions or ongoing features.

The newsletter is produced 3 times a year.

Do you have a great photo or favorite story about the lake?

Send it to us at: [webmaster@LakeOfTheWoodsMI.org](mailto:webmaster@LakeOfTheWoodsMI.org)

## Spring Forward, Fall Back

Twice a year, when Daylight Saving Time begins or ends, make it a habit to not only change your clocks, but do a few other semi-annual tasks that will improve safety in your home...

Do these things every 6 months when you reset your clocks:

- Check and replace the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms. Energy savings hint: don't toss the replaced batteries just yet. While they're likely

not fully charged, replaced batteries can still do duty in children's toys, media players or electronic devices. Squeeze the last drop of power out of them before you recycle!

- Prepare a disaster supply kit for your house (water, food, flashlights, batteries, blankets). Once you've created your home disaster kit, use the semi-annual time change to check its contents (including testing flashlights and changing bat-

teries as needed.)

- A COLD winter is coming! Make a "winter car-emergency kit" now and put your vehicle! (Don't know what to include? Do an Internet search for "car emergency kit" and you'll find lots of ideas!) It's a good idea to carry a car-emergency kit in your car year-round, (Having a separate duffle/gear bag clearly marked "Cold Gear" specifically for your (cont on Page 2...)

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## Annual Meeting and Picnic

On Saturday, July 16th, the annual Lake of the Woods Association meeting and picnic was held at Red Woolfe Park. The meeting was called to order by President Roy Pearson at 1:12 PM. This year's meeting focused on such items as the water quality of the lake and the sewer feasibility study.

The report on the weed control progress was given by Andy Broekhuizen stating that the lake water was in good shape except for the 4th of July churn up. He indicated that the Association will have enough money to pay for treatments for the next 3-5 years. After that time we will need signatures on petitions to extend assessments with the townships.

It was reported by Bill Kiss that 30 stu-

dents attended the 2011 Boating Safety Course sponsored by the Lake Association. He announced the next class would be held in June 2012.

Elections for three Board seats with terms ending in 2014 were held. Nominees included Andy Broekhuizen, Dan Buenz, Wayne Potter and Chris Schaap. Andy Broekhuizen, Wayne Potter and Chris Schaap were reelected to the Board.

A vote was taken on if the members wanted to have a sewer feasibility study preformed. Result were 25 to 23 in favor of having the study preformed..

Many thanks were extended by Roy to:

- All the picnic workers and those that donated the "goodies" to pass.

- All the board member for their efforts in running the annual meeting/ picnic.

Special thanks were extended for the donation of door prizes to:

- Decatur Lumber
- High's Marine
- Short Stop
- Super Car Wash
- Warner Do-It-Center

With your support, Lake of the Wood will continue to be a safe, clean and beautiful community for many generations to come. Hope to see you at next years picnic.

## 12 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 12 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 Kelly Younker boat.  
Theme: Decatur's Revenge (Pirate Ship)

2nd Place: The Allsop Group boat.  
Theme: LOW Camelot.



1st Place: The Kelly Younker boat.

3rd Place: The Manley-Prohl boat.  
Theme: Garden Party.

4th Place: The Bathje boat.  
Theme: It's 5 o'clock somewhere.

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.

## Spring Forward, Fall Back (Cont...)

(...cont from page 1) cold weather emergency gear makes it easy to add or take out of the car, seasonally.) Like a Boy Scout, "Be Prepared!"

In cold weather, even a very minor car problem or flat tire can be deadly serious, or at the very least, miserable to deal with, unless you're well prepared.

- Check home and outbuilding storage areas for hazardous materials. Discard (properly, please) any which are outdated, no longer used, or in poor condition. Move any which are within reach of kids or pets.

- Check the first-aid kit and replace any missing supplies.
- Check and discard expired medications - those dates really DO have meaning - some very common over-the-counter medications can cause serious problems due to change through aging.
- Update phone numbers, addresses and contact information, and post an emergency information page near the phone.

Remember to check the AGE of your detectors!

In November 2007, the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission , (CPSC) suggests not only to check/change batteries in alarms, but also check the age of the alarms and replace older alarms. The CPSC suggests that consumers

- replace smoke alarms every ten years and
- replace carbon monoxide (CO) alarms every five years.

Sensors in smoke and carbon monoxide alarms degrade and lose effectiveness over time through environmental contamination and age.





# Annual Asian Lady Beetle (aka Japanese Ladybug) Invasion

*Harmonia axyridis* more commonly known as the multi-colored Asian lady beetle (aka Japanese Ladybug) is native to Asia where it dwells in trees and fields. The first field populations in the United States were found in Louisiana in 1988. Since then the beetle has expanded its range to include much of the U.S. and parts of Canada.

These beetles are pretty easily distinguished because they generally have 19 spots on their back and when noticed in your home often come in large numbers. In the fall of each year the Asian lady beetles start looking for a place to spend the winter. Most of the time you will find them congregated on a sunny wall outside of your house. These beetles can easily get indoors, wherever there are air-leaks, around weather-stripping and through cracks at doors and windows. They can enter through foundation and attic vents, gaps in siding and wherever plumbing enters, etc.

Beetle flights are heaviest on sunny days following a period of cooler weather, when temperatures return to at least the mid-60s. Most flight activity occurs in the afternoon and may vary from one day to another. Studies have shown that Asian lady beetles are attracted to illuminated surfaces. They tend to congregate on the sunnier, southwest sides of buildings illuminated by afternoon sun. Homes or buildings shaded from afternoon sun are less likely to attract beetles. Dwellings near woods or fields are especially prone to infestation, although those in other locations can be infested as well.

Once the beetles settle on buildings, they seek out crevices and protected places to spend the winter. They often congregate in attics, wall cavities, and other protected locations to hibernate.

As temperatures warm in late winter/early spring, the beetles once again become active. This usually occurs first on the

sunnier, southwest side of the building. As awakening beetles attempt to escape to the outdoors, some inadvertently wander inward, emerging from behind baseboards, walls, attics, suspended ceilings, etc. Since lady beetles are attracted to light, they are often seen around windows and light fixtures.

The Asian lady beetle is not harmful to humans. They are very annoying, invading the house, buzzing around your head. While they don't bite or sting, they can give you a good "pinch" as they test out your skin looking for aphids.



Asian lady beetle  
(aka Japanese Ladybug)

The following are suggestions on how to prevent infestations and manage the Asian lady beetles that do invade your home.

- Cracks should be sealed around windows, doors, soffits, fascia boards, utility pipes and wires, etc. with caulk or other suitable sealant.
- To attract them to a certain area inside, place slices of fresh apple in infested areas. This usually will bring many of them down from ceilings and walls. Replace with fresh slices every 4-7 days or whenever needed.
- Leaving one light on in the house that the lady beetles will eventually congregate to that area.

- Vacuum them up with a wet/dry vac by placing a towel or wadded-up paper in the bottom of the collection canister to break the beetles' fall. If the beetles are crushed a rather noxious smell will result, so it is best to relocate them rather than kill them.
- A broom can also be used, but is more likely to result in staining when beetles emit their yellowish defensive secretion.
- Insecticide foggers, "bug bombs" or sprays are generally not recommended for eliminating beetles indoors. Insecticides applied indoors for lady beetles tend to be ineffective and may stain or leave unwanted residues on walls, countertops and other surfaces.

Once collected release them outside ASAP, away from the home. Place on the ground or into high grass and/or weeds. You can also store them in your refrigerator (The cold sends them into hibernation) to keep until spring and then release them in your garden for pest insect control.

## New Residents: Do You Have New Neighbors?

If you have new neighbors, please put them in touch with any Lake of the Woods Board member, so we can send them a membership application form.

## Keep Us Up To Date

Have you recently changed your mailing address, email address or any other pertinent information that would keep us from getting important information to you?

Please remember to keep your Lake Of Woods information current.



*Lake of the Woods  
Improvement Association*

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*Servicing Lake of the Woods residents  
since 1980!*



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