



# Bills Lake Association

## July 4, 2009



### Officers

President: Dan Coby 652-9643  
 Vice President: Tery Schuiteman 652-5783  
 Secretary: ?????  
 Treasurer: Jim Tower 616 560-2319  
 Trustee: Ron Madsen 517 719-8278  
 Trustee: Del DeJong 652-9941  
 Trustee: John Merkle 652-7676

### Zone Representatives

Apache: Tery Schuiteman 652-5783  
 Blackhawk: Holly Sosnowski 652-4829  
 Cherokee & Dakota: Dave Gabrielse 652-7620  
 Erie: Wendy Poel 616 340-3215  
 Fox: Lynda and Bryan Fox 517 930-1419  
 Geronimo 1: Karen Bos 616 405-3357  
 Geronimo 2: Del DeJong 652-9941  
 Hiawatha: Ardi and Dan Coby 652-9643  
 Iroquois: John Merkle 652-7676  
 Pat Crow 652-7871  
 Judy Hicks 652-5708

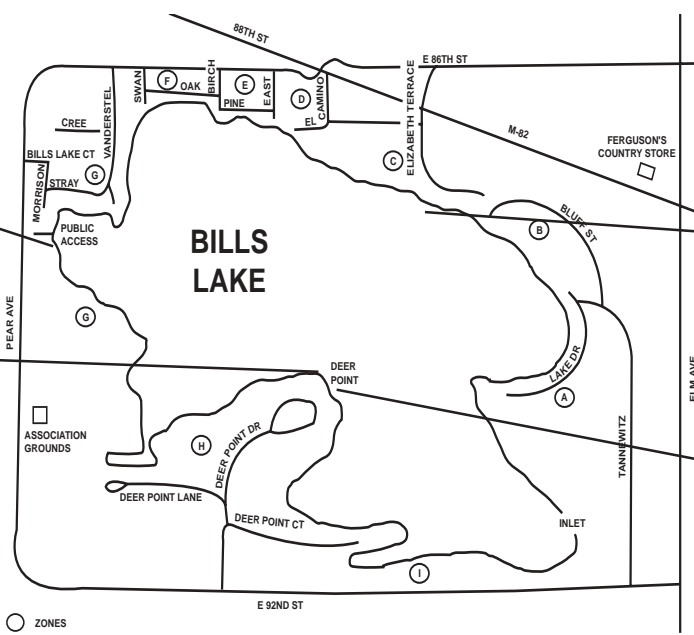
Web site: [www billslake.net](http://www.billslake.net)

# Fourth of July to be held on the Fourth of July

Rain date is Sunday, July 5th. Time is **9:59 p.m.** (a concession to those who find it difficult to restrain themselves). Flares -- \$2.00 apiece -- can be purchased from your zone representative who may ask you to come to his/her house to pick them up.

**Boat Parade - 7:30 p.m.**  
 Preregistration during the day at the DeJong (blue) dock would be appreciated. Details on next page.

**Paddleboat Races**  
 LaPenna- 11:00 a.m. 652-7812. They will also sponsor games for 12 and Under after the races.



**Commodore John Mulder Memorial Regatta**  
 (652-2983)  
 Race starts at 2:30 p.m. Please arrive at 2:15 p.m.

**Canoe and Kayak Races**  
 Nash-- 10:00 a.m.  
 734 673-7000



# Bits and Pieces

**Results and pictures of the Fourth of July activities will be posted on our Web site** long before a hard copy of the newsletter is printed on August 1.

At the Memorial Day meeting, Gene Furgason, director of Camp Trotter who lives in Grant, gave a presentation to the group with regard to camp activities and their current needs. In that a subject for later discussion was what to do with our excess money, **residents voted to contribute \$1,000 to the camp for cabin furniture.**

**The bane of walkers, joggers, and even bikers is loose dogs who loudly and aggressively charge strangers.** The problem, in part, is a clash of cultures in that some vintage citizens have, lo these many years, never felt the need to leash their pets because "We've always done it this way," in spite of a Newaygo County leash law which is in place. This isn't as much of a problem in the cities where dogs are restrained for their own protection. But especially during this busy time of the year, residents are asked to respect the fears of pedestrians who are out to get a little exercise and enjoy nature by restraining their dogs, preferably with a rope.

**Lake Clarity:** Perhaps we are coming back down to earth. After last year's skyrocketing Seechi Disk readings, this year's have been a more normal (for us). Weekly readings have been 17, 16, 19, 21, and 12 feet.

Some zone representatives have found it cumbersome to go about their neighborhoods selling flares and then repeating the process for those who weren't home. **A few may ask you to come to their houses instead.**

There was some talk at the Memorial Day meeting in regard to **tearing down the outhouse facility** on the association grounds. The prevailing opinion is that to fix the problems would require considerable expense in that the situation would have to be brought up to code. As it stands, the association grounds are only used for four meetings per summer. Our facility offers occasional relief for walkers and perhaps for Camp Trotter kids who sometime hay-ride down as an outing. Is it worth it? If you have an opinion, please attend the June 28th meeting or contact Dan Coby.

Jerry Gerloski, who sells **flags and flag poles**, has donated new flags for display at the association grounds. If you need a flag, he can be reached at 652-1218. In addition, **Limited Editions of Bills Lake Fine Apparel** can be purchased from Ken or Jackie Huizen (652-1199).

**Boat Parade details:** Please preregister at the De Jong's dock (blue carpeting next to the public access) or call 652-9941. Carol and Del need your name and the title of your entry. Also, please put your entry title on a sign to be placed on the right side of your boat in letters large enough to be seen by people on shore. Votes will be taken from lake residents using your entry title – one vote per dock. There is only one category – there are no separate junior and senior divisions. Please arrive 10 minutes early to line up. Also, please stay in the public access cove afterward until the votes are counted and the trophies are awarded.

Heads up: Residents are reminded that tragedy can occur on land as well as in the water. In this case, we are talking about **golf carts** which are often operated by overconfident (read: speedy) but inexperienced drivers, particularly in the Hiawatha and Geronimo 1 zones. On June 13, 2008 the *Grand Rapids Press* carried an article about the risks. Over half of the accidents nationwide involved drivers ages 10-19 and on streets, not golf courses. A similar article using the same data was found on p. 53 of the June 30, 2008 issue of *Time* magazine. It was entitled "Crash Course."

**Directory updates/corrections** would be appreciated, especially e-mail addresses. Please contact Ed Waits at 652-2629 or edwaits@charter.net Your zone representative can also take this information.

Steve and Barb Neurither, retired public school teachers who live in the Apache zone, have established a **Lakeside Library** for area residents. Steve and a crew constructed a building last fall and winter. All four walls contain shelves filled with approximately 2,000 books as Steve continues to add display space.. Hours of operation are 1-3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday or whenever you can meet with Steve and Barb. There are no due dates or fines: you simply fill out an information card the first time and then enter your name and the title of the book in a journal. More details, including lists of books available by category, can be found on the Bills Lake Web site.

During the July 4th weekend, we may receive visitations by **boaters who don't know the laws and rules.** For instance, some go clockwise around the perimeter, not counterclockwise. Be on the lookout. Be extra careful. If you know someone who needs a refresher poster with regard to boating rules, contact Ed Waits.