

LAKE GENEVA PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

2008-2009 Board Members

- **Dan Skorich** - President
669.5871 dskorich@4whi.net
- **Liz Rhoads** - Vice President
669.0152 liz.rhoads@gmail.com
- **Kathy Thelen** - Secretary
668.6180 spartanmomx3@comcast.net
- **Chadd Smith** - Treasurer
669.5609 lansinqcamera@sbcglobal.net
- **Doug Earle**
669.3248 dougearle@power-net.net
- **Craig Benham** 669.5790
craigbenham@briarwoodrealty.com
- **Terry Gartside** 669.3272
dgartside@comcast.net
- **Dave Zyble** 668.2085
zybled@comcast.net
- Vacant Board Position

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On March 12, 2008, we held our Annual Meeting and discussed the state of our Association. This last year we had a remarkable Board of Directors - nine members who devoted a significant amount of their time to making certain that our Association was run to the best of their ability.

Our budget is in good shape. Last year we anticipated revenues of \$74,750. Actual revenues received were \$74,834. We budgeted expenses of \$69,120, spent \$51,681, but are carrying over to this year money budgeted for park maintenance that has not yet been completed. We have been able to rebuild our emergency reserves for pump, well, dam, lake, and park issues. This year we have a budget of \$69,620.

We have a dam on the north end of our lake, which by law is inspected every three years. Our dam is in good condition and passed inspection, but needs some work to repair muskrat holes, clean brush growth from the top of the dam, and repair the concrete protective top on the overflow. Additionally, it was recommended that we get a baseline survey of the overflow so that we can detect if it shifts in the future. Finally, we are updating the Emergency Response Plan in case

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CURRENT LGPOA EVENTS

Our Annual Meeting was on March 12, 2008, at the DeWitt High School. During the meeting a number of issues were raised, the most time consuming ones involved the "shed" issue and the election of Board Members. Existing Board members Stuart Shafer, Liz Rhoads, Kathryn Thelen and Chadd Smith volunteered to serve new terms. Also seeking election were Leo Pasch, Janet Barberio, John Waugh, Stuart King, and Kammy Frayre. Liz Rhoads, Kathryn Thelen, Chadd Smith, and Leo Pasch were elected to this year's board.

On March 19, the Board held its required organizational meeting and monthly meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to address routine Association issues, elect the officers, and appoint committees for the coming year. The

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INTRODUCING THE BOARD'S LATEST ADDITION...

Kathy Thelen grew up in the Lake Geneva area. After a short diversion, Kathy and her husband, Kevin, returned to the area and purchased her childhood home on West Geneva in 1994.

Kathy and Kevin have three children, Kyle (17), Kendra (12), and Kirk (8). Kathy is an avid reader (and enjoys proofreading the newsletter) and gardening. Their family enjoys a variety of activities, including traveling.



TIDBITS TO SHARE:

- *There are pitchers at the beach to help with watering flowers*
- *Rakes are available to snag weeds in your spare time*
- *No pets in the park*
- *If anyone is interested in organizing a horseshoe tournament (Singles? Doubles?) please call Terry Gartside at 669.3272*
- *Watch for the amazing flower show this spring!*

of breach, which requires the Board to assume certain notice responsibilities.

Our lake continues to improve. Our two new pumps are doing a great job and using less electricity. Last year we began a new form of weed treatment, which significantly reduced the amount of growth. As a result the amount of bio-mass dropping to the lake bottom has been significantly reduced, and hopefully the life span of our lake will increase.

Although our water quality continues to be excellent, we continue to have a problem with run-off from the use of phosphorus fertilizer, which increases weed growth (see the other article in the newsletter for more information). Everyone, whether you live on the lake or not, is encouraged to use phosphorus free/lake safe fertilizer to help us maintain the quality of our lake as well as be good stewards of the environment. Although fishing has been very good, please remember that this is a "catch and release" lake, except for carp and pan fish.

Many thanks to Liz, Terry, Melissa, and the many volunteers who help keep our parks beautiful and usable. This year we hope to complete a number of projects, including repairing the sea wall on the West Beach, the steps on the East Beach, installing or repairing protective borders around playground equipment, landscaping, and parking lots. A lot of work goes into maintaining our parks. Please help to keep them clean so that everyone can enjoy them.

Our Board tries to be responsive to everyone's concerns. If you have any questions, complaints, or wish to discuss any Association issue, you may call or email me or any other member of the Board, as well as attend our monthly Board meeting. We are looking forward to another great year. -Dan Skorich

JAKE THE RAKE SPEAKS!

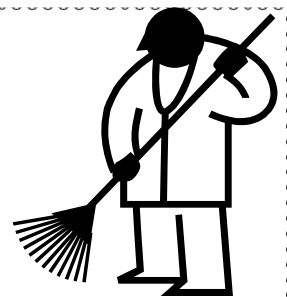
Have you ever wondered what the City of DeWitt does with the fall leaf pickup each year?

The fall harvest is taken to the city cemetery and unloaded into huge piles. During the following months this organic matter goes through a decomposing process. After nature has done its work, a rented screening device is used to sift the compost into what gardeners call "black gold" or humus.

This carbon-rich product should be available in the late spring or early summer to City of DeWitt taxpayers. Quantities are limited but you may contact Sue at city hall (669.2441) regarding availability. (As a side note, the city is offering a special leaf collection April 8 through April 10. Leaves need to be raked into piles along the curb line.)

Please consult our Lake Geneva website at www.lgpooa.com and check out "Jake the Rake" - Black Gold and its many uses.

On behalf of the Lake Geneva Association's homeowners, Jake the Rake wishes to thank Brian Vick and all the employees at DeWitt City Hall for this great service you provide year after year!



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first issue addressed was an actual conflict of interest of Leo Pasch, the newly elected board member. Mr. Pasch is a named defendant in ongoing litigation against the few members of our Association who are in violation of the Building and Use Restrictions that apply to everyone's property. The Board asked the Association's legal counsel for a legal opinion on whether Mr. Pasch would be able to fulfill his required duties as a member of the Board while being party to litigation against the membership.

Legal counsel determined that the by-laws, as well as state law, made Mr. Pasch unable to participate in any matter related to the litigation and that he was subject to removal for cause by being in violation of the existing restrictions. Mr. Pasch has a continuing direct conflict of interest and could not be seated as a member of the Association's Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is required by the bylaws to enforce the covenant restrictions and was therefore forced to take a vote on the removal for cause of Mr. Pasch from the Board of Directors.

The course of action that the Board had to take was very difficult. However, the Board is duty-bound to act and, as members of the Board, such action is expected and required. Following the action on March 19, the majority of members have expressed support of the decision. The Board is seeking a fair way to solve the problem while living up to its duty.

Mr. Pasch's departure from the Board means that an opening for service exists. If you are interested in being considered for this appointment, please contact our president, Dan Skorich, or any other member of the Board. The Board meets monthly for about two hours per meeting, and all of the members serve on two or three committees with varying levels of time commitment. For all who may be interested, thank you, for it is through working together that we can continue to make the Lake Geneva Property Owners Association one of the best places to live in mid-Michigan. For members who may not be able to commit to Board service, please stay up to date with the matters of interest to the Association by reading our newsletter, visiting our website at www.lgpoa.com and by attending our monthly board meetings and Annual Meeting.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors and many, many members of the Association, our sincere thanks go out to Stuart Shafer for all of the work that he has done on the Board over the last several years to make this a great Association. Stu has put in countless hours that were unseen by most of us.

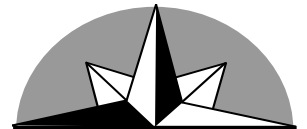
THANKS STU!

PICNIC IN THE PARK

The Lake Geneva Beach and Parks Committee has been given the go-ahead to explore the possibility of a "Picnic in the Park" type event, which has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 6th with a "rain date" of Saturday, September 13th.

Some questions still exist such as which park do we choose? Will there be games? Will there be music? How will we handle food?

Are you interested in participating or helping to organize a Lake Geneva picnic? If so, contact Terry Gartside at 669-3272.



PARDON THE MESS

Both the East and West parks will be going through a "face lift" over the next few years. The board-approved projects may involve equipment that could result in temporary or unpleasant sights. Our contractor will in no way place any association member or guest in harm's way. Rest assured that your dues will be well spent on these projects.

The park renovation will begin with two areas where erosion has taken its toll on our beaches. Above all else, fixing any unsafe conditions will be a priority. After that the focus will be landscaping, edging, mulching and planting new grass.



A Thank You - Stu Shafer

It was my pleasure serving on the Board since 2002, and my honor being elected president for the last several years. I have appreciated the devotion, experience, and hard work of all of our Board members and volunteers, who contribute a significant amount of their time towards the goal of making our Association great.

I am proud of the accomplishments we have made during my tenure. Our largest investment is Lake Geneva and our two parks. Our lake management program is working well. Weeds are now under control. Water quality is excellent. Boating, fishing, and swimming are the best they have ever been. We have cleaned our wells, and replaced our pumps. Our dam has recently passed its three year inspection.

Thanks to the hard work of our Parks Committee and volunteers, our parks have been well maintained, improve each year, and are used often. We have been able to streamline the review and approval process for building construction so that our members and their contractors have minimum delay in beginning work. Finally, our finances are extremely well managed and in good shape. In the past, it was not unusual for our budget to exceed our revenues. During my tenure, we have operated on a balanced budget, and often spent less than the amount budgeted.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

CARE AND FEEDING OF OUR PLANET

The DeWitt Grain Elevator is again working with the Lake Geneva homeowners to order the lake safe 23-0-30 phosphorus free fertilizer. This Anderson product comes in a 50 pound bag. Call Lisa at 669.5950 for availability and current prices.

The middle number on the bag is your greatest concern. Gardeners in the know realize that phosphorus is not a necessary item in your lawn's health care. Year after year we talk about not using phosphorus on your lawn. A little research on this nutrient finds that phosphorus in lakes can cause blooms of algae, a form of cyanobacteria, which can produce neurotoxins, which can affect the nervous system, and hepatotoxins, which can affect the liver. Although our lake is checked several times a year, we all need to do our share for the environment.

Phosphorus doesn't just impact our lake, it impacts the Looking Glass River and associated aquifers. Check your dish soap and dish detergent. In the US the EPA still allows phosphorus in those products, while they are banned in other countries. NOTE: Palmolive has introduced a phosphate-free dishwasher detergent you might want to check out. Every little bit helps!

2008- 2009 COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Lake Level and Water Quality:

Craig Benham (Chair), Stu Shafer, Dan Skorich, Tim Walter

Beach / Parks:

Terry Gartside (Chair), Craig Benham, Dan Skorich, Chadd Smith,

Building Control:

Dave Zyble (Chair), Doug Earle, Dan Skorich,

City Liaison:

Dan Skorich (Chair)

Compliance:

Doug Earle (Chair), Chadd Smith, Dave Zyble

Newsletter:

Melissa DeMong and Kathy Thelen (Co-chairs), Terry Gartside, Liz Rhoads

Welcoming:

Barb Hamm (Chair), Deneen Benham, Jackie Fields, Kathy Thelen, Liz Rhoads

SOME SPRING ADVICE FROM THOSE WHO KEEP US SAFE - Lt. Dan Flint

With the advent of Spring and nicer weather the pedestrian, bicycle, rollerblades, skateboards and children playing outside will be more prevalent. Please be extra cautious when driving and be aware of these individuals. I would note that one of our biggest complaints is skateboarders in the street and jump ramps in the street. For those who are not aware, it is illegal to skateboard or to place a ramp or any other obstruction in/on the street.

Another area of concern is speeding and "rolling stop signs." Not completely stopping at a stop sign is the same as not stopping at all and is a very expensive citation and a very dangerous habit. No one wants to injure someone else, so please pay attention to all the traffic laws.