

October 2008

Lake Geneva Property Owners Association

Visit us on the web at: <http://www.lgpoa.com>

2008-2009 Board Members

- **Dave Zyble - President**
668.2085 zybled@comcast.net
- **Kathy Thelen - Vice President**
668.6180 spartanmomx3@comcast.net
- **Chadd Smith - Treasurer**
669.5609 lansingcamera@sbcglobal.net
- **Stu Shafer - Secretary**
669.4484 stu@stushafer.com
- **Dan Skorich** 669.5871
dskorich@4wbi.net
- **Doug Earle** 669.3248
dougearle@power-net.net
- **Craig Benham** 669.5790
craigbenham@briarwoodrealty.com
- **Terry Gartside** 669.3272
tgartside@comcast.net
- **Ken Fields** 290.4970
kenfields@mtchelp.com

New Lake Stickers Required for Watercraft and Ice Fishing Shanties

The Association has a new supply of watercraft stickers which will replace all old stickers. The new ones are bright GREEN! New this year is a requirement that all ice fishing shanties also display a sticker. Contact Terry Gartside for your sticker. They are available now.

President's Message -

Summer is over, and we have had a great season. The lake continues to be in good shape. The water quality remains in excellent condition, and the weeds have been under control. The parks and playground equipment were well-utilized for picnics, swimming, fishing, and relaxing.

Our parks suffered minimal damage from the severe spring storms. In the east park a large tree limb came down and was cleared away, along with several dead trees in the small grove to the north. The landscaping work is now complete in the east park. Our landscapers did a great job.

The west park landscaping has also had some attention. A plastic sleeve was fitted over the metal storm drain pipe that empties into the lake to protect against the sharp edges on the top of the pipe. New steps were added to descend to the beach area. Both parks are fresh with flowers and are well groomed. A big thank you goes out to our tireless board member Terry Gartside, who devotes many hours to our parks for the enjoyment of us all.

Our three year engineering survey for our dam called for extensive brush clearing and muskrat damage repair which has been completed. The required emergency action plan for the dam has been finalized and approved with the help of the Clinton County Emergency

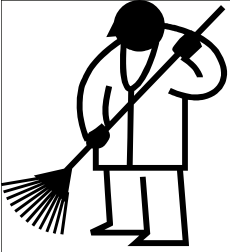
(Continued on page 3)

Meet our two most recent board members

My name is Ken Fields and I am happy to become a member of the Lake Geneva Association Board. My wife, Jackie, and I live at 1041 Mora Circle. I am a psychologist who specializes in substance abuse treatment. I own and operate Michigan Therapeutic Consultants, an outpatient substance abuse treatment facility with offices in Jackson, Lansing, and Mount Pleasant.

More than anything I love spending time with my six children and one grandchild, who is almost 20 months old. Jackie and I love living here, and I am looking forward to working with the Lake Geneva Board in continuing to make our neighborhood a wonderful place to live!

(Continued on page 4)



Jake the Rake

Over the course of the spring and summer it has been mentioned to me on several occasions that one lawn service company is making the recommendation that people "lime" their lawn every year.

Lime is not a lawn food or fertilizer. Lime is a soil amendment and lime raises the pH in your soil. Therefore it is a *must* that you check the lawn pH before applying lime. You may be surprised to find out the soil pH can be adjusted by the addition of potash rather than lime.

The best method to test your lawn is through a simple soil test which we are fortunate enough to have available to us here locally through MSU. Soil testing kits found in retail stores tend to give incomplete readings. An MSU soil test is a \$12 investment which could pay you dividends in cost savings, time, as well as having a good environmental impact, *AND* a great looking lawn. Fall is the best time of year to fertilize your lawn, and if you get right at the soil test now is the time to do it!

To take a soil test, you'll need a clean hand trowel, a clean, dry plastic bucket, 10-15 markers (plastic knives or popsicle sticks are great ideas!), and two 8-ounce plastic cups or two large baggies. Be sure not to use any metal containers as this may affect the outcome of your test. Mark 10-15 locations in your yard in a zigzag fashion (it's okay to mix the front and the back yards). Stay one foot away from pavement or rocky areas and avoid areas with dips or rises. Take your trowel and carefully lift the grass and dig three inches into the subsoil (be careful not to go any deeper than that). Drop all of the soil in your bucket and mix it well. Then either let the bucket sit for a long time or spread it out for a quick air dry. Do not attempt to force-dry the samples, such as by heating or blowing.

Once everything is dry, you can now fill up the plastic cups or baggies with two cups (1 pint) of the sampling taken. Place everything in a small box or bag with your name, address and \$12. Be sure not to use a metal container as this may affect the outcome of the sampling.

You can now take it to the Clinton County Courthouse in St. Johns, room #G100, or mail or drop it off at A81 Plant and Soil Sciences, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1325. A detailed soil test report will be sent to you within a few weeks. Here is a link to the handy-dandy form: <http://www.css.msu.edu/PDF/SampleSubmissionForm4.pdf>

One more helpful hint: If you're a gardener, do two separate soil samplings – one from your gardening area and one from your lawn, but be sure to keep them separate and labeled separately. Also the garden samples should be taken deeper than three inches.

(Fine print: Remember MSU recommendations are in pounds of nutrient needed, not pounds of fertilizer to be applied)

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 & Use Restrictions Revision Advisory: Dan Skorich, Doug Earle, David Zylbe, Dan Norberg, Eric Olson, John Waugh, John Donohue, Scott Wall, Stu Shafer
- ☞ Building Control: Vacant (Chair), Doug Earle, Dan Skorich
- ☞ City Liaison: Dan Skorich
- ☞ Compliance: Doug Earle (Chair), Chadd Smith
- ☞ Newsletter: Melissa DeMong and Kathy Thelen (Co-chairs), Terry Gartside
- ☞ Welcoming: Barb Hamm (Chair), Deneen Benham, Jackie Fields, Kathy Thelen

BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month and all members of the Lake Geneva Property Owners Association are encouraged to attend. Be sure to check the Association website (www.lgpoa.com) for location and any date/time changes.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Last month Liz Rhoads resigned her Board position due to her husband's transfer to Virginia. Two Association members volunteered to fill the vacancy created by her resignation.

The Board, at a Special Meeting in October, appointed Stu Shafer to fill the remainder of her term. Stu's knowledge of the Board and his dedication to the Association will certainly serve the Lake Geneva Property Owners Association well.

At a special meeting of the Board in October, Dan Skorich announced that he was resigning as Board President. Though Dan will continue to serve on the Board as a Board Member, his leadership as President will be missed. In response to Dan's resignation, the Board appointed David Zyble to fill Dan's term as President. They also appointed Kathy Thelen to the Vice-presidency and Stu Shafer to the position of Secretary.

(Continued from page 1)

Coordinator, Clinton County Sheriff's Department, DeWitt Township Police Department, and the DeWitt Police Department.

Candy Cane Park (huh, where's that?) has been dormant for years. It lies in the flood plain behind the homes on Sandhill Drive and borders the river. It is accessed by the lane at the intersection of Waxing and Sandhill. The park ceased being used years ago for a number of reasons, including flooding, extensive mosquitoes, and some rampant poison ivy. Legend has it that 25 years ago there were candy cane striped play sets in the park, however, few recall that now. The Board is in the process of gathering information to determine whether it is possible and practical to convert this property back into a usable park.

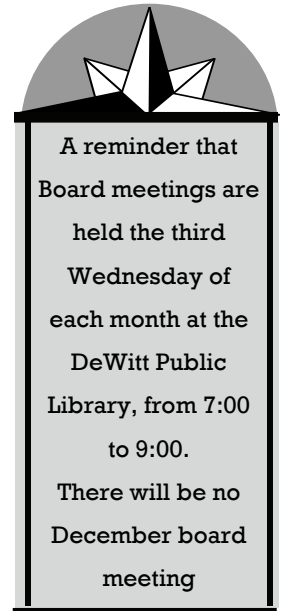
The shed issue is close to resolution. The following is a summary of the issue: Over the years, the Board received complaints from members asking why the Board was not enforcing our Building and Use Restriction prohibiting sheds. The Board is required to enforce certain rules which are embodied in the Building and Use Restrictions and Board Resolutions. We have 485 member homes in our association. There were a number of properties identified as having sheds in violation of our Building and Use Restrictions. Most of the members entered into an agreement which will result in the removal of their sheds. A lawsuit was filed to enforce the Building and Use Restrictions against the remaining 13. Three of those members agreed to remove their sheds and were dismissed from the lawsuit, and 10 members remain in the lawsuit.

On a separate note, the Board formed an advisory committee to look at our Association's building and use restrictions and to make recommendations back to the Board. There are nine people on the committee, and the Committee has been meeting every month for several months. Our neighborhoods are in direct competition with the newer neighborhoods that surround us. Those neighborhoods are more spacious and have larger homes than many of ours. The Committee will be dealing with a number of complicated issues, including what we need to do as an association to keep our property values up, and what we need to do so that our homes sell when they are on the market!

I want to thank each of the members of our Board, who volunteer considerable time, dedication, and hard work, which provides us a beautiful and well-maintained lake, spectacular parks, and a great neighborhood for all of us to enjoy. As we head into the Fall, I hope everyone had a great summer and enjoys the change of seasons.

A special "thank you" to the board and the many supportive neighbors who helped make my short term as President rewarding and enjoyable.

- Dan Skorich, President
September 2008



As a reminder that Board approval is required *prior* to doing any construction on your property, including your shoreline, such as construction of a seawall. An MDEQ permit is required for almost any project in the lake or on the shoreline. Be aware that obtaining a DEQ permit may take several months. If you are planning any projects, please contact the Building Committee to seek Board Approval prior to beginning the project.



NEW PUMPS PAYING OFF - Tim Walter



The investment of having both pumps replaced has had a positive effect on our electricity usage. Over the summer both pumps worked at maximum efficiency, and we were able to rotate their usage as well as not having both pumps operating at the same time.

In the maintenance of a healthy lake, it is important to keep the water level up at a reasonable level (well, except what Mother Nature won't allow us to control), and we were successful in reaching our goal in controlling pump usage, allowing us to enjoy the savings in our electric bill!

**Lake Geneva Property Owners Association
P. O. Box 356
DeWitt, MI 48820**



(Continued from page 1)

Craig is the second newest board victim...er, member. He and his wife Deneen are real estate agents (The Benham Group) with Coldwell Banker/Hubbell Briarwood in Lansing. They have lived in DeWitt since 1996 and have three children, the second of which graduated from high school this last spring. (Two down; one to go.)

Craig enjoys traveling, working in his yard if he can ever find the time, and buying houses for remodeling, renovating, and rental purposes. A tidbit (and little known fact) about Craig is that he has been a drummer for about 35 years. For his birthday last year his wife bought him an electronic drum set so he can slip on headphones and an I-Pod and go to town without disturbing the family. Craig plays in bands and can be heard playing at various venues in the Lansing area.

Another little known fact is that Dave Zyble (also on the board) is a guitar player. Is there a Lake Geneva band in the future? Should we be thinking up creative band names? The Geneva Jammers? (just joking...)