



Big Fish Lake Association Newsletter

FALL 2025

PHOTO BY ALICE PAULSEN

Our BFLPOA Board

Officers

Raymond Bierbaum, Jr.-President

Ken Chemers-Vice-President

Carol Peterson-Treasurer

Chad Underly-Secretary

Board of Directors

Wayne Brazzell

Ron Colborn

Tim Jerke

Mary Kiser

Art Peterson

Due to the potential loss of SNAP benefits related to the government shutdown, BFLPOA treasurer Carol Peterson presented our annual donation to the Marcellus Food Pantry on October 28. Our donation is usually made at Thanksgiving.



A Message from the President



Hello All BFLPOA Members,

Summer is over. The leaves have turned colors and are falling. Boats and piers are no longer in the lake but on shore. Temps are cooler now. Pumpkin Spice is the flavor of choice at the coffee shops. I guess you get the point. Fall is here and winter is coming. I know some/most of you love this time of year. Me, well I'm a summer guy. I wish we could shave a month or two off winter and add it to summer. That's not going to happen but I would vote for it if that were possible.

Since our last newsletter we've had a lot going on. In early August we had our annual Poker Run. We had around 100 players going to the different stops throughout Big Fish, Finch, and Saddlebag lakes in search of the best poker hands they could put together. Also at each stop, the hosts would have a snack and a cocktail of some sort to offer the payers. After cruising around the lakes, the players gathered at The Rock to find the best 5 hands and pay those the prize money. Then we had finger food and cocktails and plenty of fun. Thanks to all the players, dock hosts, card counters, advertisers, The Rock employees, and all the other volunteers. A special thanks goes out to Ron Colborn who was the Chairman of the event. Also, to Jon Grondahl who helped Ron with a lot of the details.

We just had our 2nd annual Fall Party on Saturday, October 18th. This was also at The Rock. It was attended by 45 people. The Fall Party has taken the place of the Holiday Party which we always had the Saturday after Thanksgiving. The attendance at the Holiday Party had been dwindling the last few years so we tried moving to October and it has been a success. Sue Brazzell with the help of Phyllis Jerke put this event together and did a fantastic job. The menu was excellent, mostaccioli meatballs, salad, bread, and more. Cake was dessert and was very good. People had a fun time eating/drinking and mingling with friends and lake neighbors. This party was really one of the best get-togethers I have seen here at BFL. Thanks to all who helped and attended the party. Going forward, I'm hoping and really feel the Fall Party will continue to grow in popularity and increase in attendance.

Another exciting new bit of news is our newly launched Facebook page. The Big Fish Lake Property Owners Association page. This page is the new group created for the benefit of property owners and families of big fish Lake and connecting lakes to share everything happening around our lakes. This is the official group for our Property Owners Association and the board will share information important to the property owners and notify you of upcoming BFLPOA events. If you haven't joined this page, please look it up and join. You can also find a BFLPOA membership application on the page so you can renew your membership or join if you're not already a member. Three members of the board are Administrators or Moderators. If you have any questions, needs, ideas, etc., we will see them and try to respond to you. We have over 100 members and the page has only been active a short time.

In closing, this has been a very enjoyable summer lake season. Now it's time for falling leaves, turkey, Santa, snowmobiles, ice fishing and Swiss Valley. It won't be long before the boats and piers will be back in the lake and I can hardly wait.

Until next time,

Ray Bierbaum, BFLPOA President

Committee Contacts

Advertising – Ray Bierbaum, Jr.
 BFL Directory - Mary Kiser
 Fall Festival - Sue Brazzell
 Lake Weeds - Chris Brooks Marcellus/Volinia SAD liaison
 Neighborhood Watch - Contact your block captain
 Newsletter – Phyllis Jerke
 Picnic 2026 – Tom Dinneen
 Poker Run 2026 – Ron Colborn
 Website - Mary Kiser

Neighborhood Watch Block Captains

Mike Hauser – Grandview Drive
 Walt Leazenby – Red Run Road
 Kelly Lewis – Red Run Road
 Jerry Melko – Red Run Road
 Art Peterson – Fish Lake Drive
 Steve & Cheri Shepherd – Lake St/Steininger Rd
 Gary Troop – Elm Drive

BFLPOA Activity Dates – 2026

Meetings

May 30, July 4, September 5
 Board 9AM General 10AM

Events

June 13 Welcome Party
 July Boat Parade (date TBD)
 July 18 BFLPOA Picnic
 August 8 Poker Run
 October 17 Fall Party

Details will be circulated prior to each event.

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**Annual July 4th Water Balloon Fight
BFL Northside Neighborhood**



Poker Run 2025



Remember This?



Fall Party - 2025



Look at these two dressed in orange and black.

What a fun evening. Thanks to **Sue Brazzell** chairperson, Phyllis Jerke assistant, Ron Colborn, Barb Colborn, Cheryl Chemers party set-up.

Smile..... You're on the BFLPOA surveillance cameras.

By Allen Funt

As many of you may know, in the spring of 2023 the BFLPOA Board of Directors approved the purchase of CCTV system with security cameras recording to DVR which can store hundreds of hours of streaming video to help protect our community. These cameras are high-end, motion activated, commercial grade security cameras, with night vision. These cameras are strategically located to best serve our community, and they have. Most recently a nefarious perpetrator came into our community with the sole purpose of stealing from us. On 9/26 at approximately 1:30 PM this perpetrator stole one of our neighbor's lawn mowers from in front of the house of a lawn he was cutting. Our neighbor immediately reported this crime to the board administrators, and we were able to identify the perpetrator with our camera's (see attached photos). These photos were sent to the Cass County Sheriff's Department, and they were able to identify this criminal through their network of other law enforcement agencies. This criminal was identified as a White Pigeon resident and he was brought to justice for his crime.

This system is in place to work for all BFLPOA members, but the most critical bit of information is an accurate window of time, which this neighbor provided. Our chances of successfully retrieving these videos are totally dependent on an accurate timeline, which means within a few hours of the occurrence. This is not because the video is not being stored, it's because it's extremely time-consuming to go through it. We are also in process of trying to get the Cass County Sheriff's Department access to our system as well. We are currently waiting for them to see if this is something they can do. This system was not inexpensive by any means, but we feel it has and will continue to benefit our community for years to come. Our intention is to expand our surveillance system down the road.



Smart911

By Cheryl Chemers
(Reprinted from the 2025 Summer newsletter.)

Smart911 is a web-based application developed to provide the first responder network with fast, and accurate dispatch information coming in from 911 calls. Originally created in 2009, Smart911 was introduced to Michigan counties in 2017 through a state funded grant.

Why Smart911

Fast and accurate dispatch information can reduce emergency response times, and potentially improve outcomes.

How it Works

Create your Smart911 account and profile. The information you enter is only seen by dispatch centers. You can include as much, or as little information as you would like (including pets, service animals, or special notes you would want responders to know). In an emergency, the Smart911 system recognizes your information and is instantly visible to call takers. Your profile can be edited and updated as needed.

In addition, your information will “travel” with you to areas that have implemented the Smart911 system.

Resources:
smart911.com
govtech.com

Congratulations



Wayne and Sue Brazzell recently celebrated 50 years of marriage. Wayne serves on the BFLPOA board. Sue is our Fall Party planner.



Fall Lake Scene



Recent photo submitted by Sharon Melko

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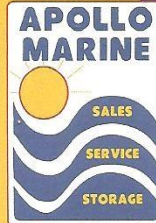


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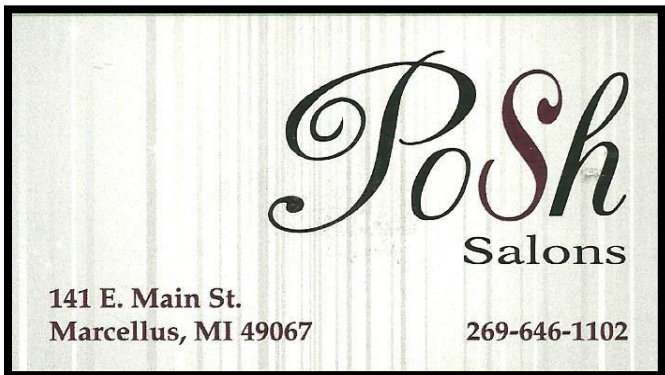
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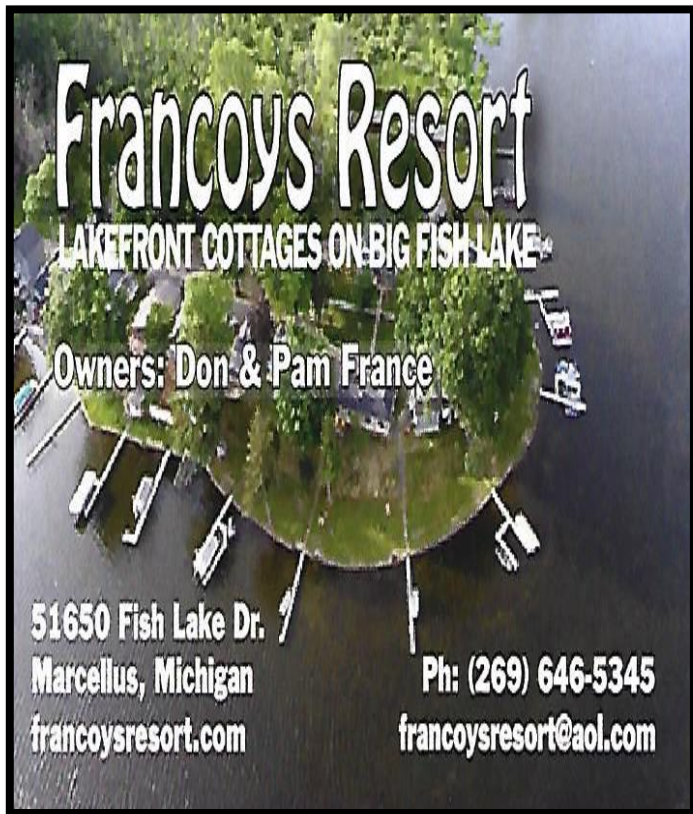

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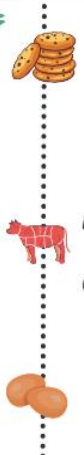
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Big Fish Lake Association Annual Membership Application

We welcome all lake area residents to join the Big Fish Lake Property Owners Association. Your membership dues support lake activities and community projects. You will also receive a spring, summer, and fall newsletter.

Dues are \$20 per family. Additional \$14 (optional) for the Riparian magazine.

Membership Enrollment Form:

Date Completed: _____

Name(s): _____

Lake Address: _____ 2nd address _____

City: Marcellus State: MI ZIP: 49067 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Email address: (needed so you will receive our newsletters and important announcements)

Mark selection: Dues: \$20 _____
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