

Fire Protection

Currently Winfield Township contracts Howard City Fire department to automatically respond to all fire calls on our lake. They have done this for years and pays part of Howard City Fire Dept.'s annual budget. This year Howard City is going to charge by the run. Just short of \$800 per run. Winfield Township does not want to pay such an exorbitant amount especially because the township has its own volunteer dept. located in Amble.

If this were to happen everyone's home owners insurance would go up, approximately \$130 per year for a \$70,000 house, more according to home value. The amount is varied dependent on Insurance Company.

In short, by having a contract with Howard City it reduces our ISO rating (this means its a safer place to live and economical to insure). This rating is dependent on many things, one of which is number of fire apparatus, water supply, and response times.

Lake Shores Association board was invited to a meeting with Winfield Township board. I (Kathleen Thompson) and Terry Veneklaue represented the current board. I also called some concerned neighbors that would help us get the point across that we need to maintain this contract, they were: Tim Slavens, Tom Boss, Joann Pyle, Mr. VanDam, Mr. and Mrs. Westveer, and Mr. Walker.

Winfield Board, represented by Supervisor Eno Yankee, Pat Hyde, Coleen Stebins, Pat Schuster and Bill Knox. Amble Fire Department was represented by David Knox. They were very interested in our concerns and want to make us as happy as they can acknowledging their budget constraints. Mr. Yankee

said it best, "No one is going to burn to death because we are being cheap."

Mr. Westveer had some statistics that we should put in our memory banks. Winfield township is 23,040 acres, Indian Lake is 440 acres, 300 are water therefore 140 acres of property pay one-third of the township taxes. The whole budget for the township is approx. \$30,000. I learned that we are actually a very poor township especially when you take out the Fire Dept.'s budget, road repairs etc.

The end results of the meeting are:

1. Winfield Township will continue talks with Howard City to finalize 1999's contract.
2. Winfield will only have this automatic mutual aid on Fire calls only. Not downed wires, not brush fires, not medical calls. For those, Amble will reply alone.
3. We will publish the great need Amble Dept. has. Amble is expected to protect our lives and property and has NO ONE from the lake on their Dept. They are in desperate need of bodies (training and gear provided). Men and women over 18 with a decent driving record are encouraged to give the chief a call SOON. How can we expect strangers to carry the load without our help.
4. Winfield township is interested in dropping the contract with Howard City in the next couple of years especially if they place a quick response (grass rig) fire truck at the lake. Can you imagine our response time if we stationed a fire truck at the pump house bldg. - less than one minute?
5. LSA will write a grant in cooperation with Amble Fire Dept. to have dry hydrants installed at

each of the parks and on each end of the dike. (If there is anyone with grant writing experience please contact Kathy Thompson ASAP)

Note: Howard City charges the home owner's insurance company to help recover their costs, up to \$500, which would be reimbursed back to the township. So, it would cost the township about \$300.

Winfield Township will be meeting with Howard City soon. They will notify us of the date. Howard City is not being very cooperative and they need our support to insure that we can get the needed contract modifications.

Résumés Due for new Board by April 1, 1999

It is that time again. Please submit your name and résumé (limited to 150 words) with your dues envelope for the upcoming board election. It is unsure if all of the current board will seek reelection so please... STEP UP and do your share.

Dues due by April 1

Enclosed with your *Smoke Signals* is your dues envelope. Please submit before April 1. Remember that you are past due after 30 days and can have a lien applied to your property.

Fireworks

Last year's display was awesome.

Hopefully this year's will be even bigger.

Remember we can't use budget money to pay for these. It is totally covered by **your donations**. Please submit your generous gifts when you pay your dues.



July 4 Celebration

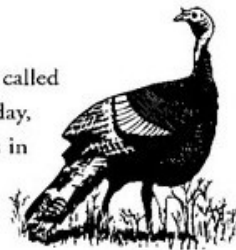
Last year's volleyball tournament had almost 30 people participate! There was a \$10 charge per team. We made enough money to purchase a permanent competition net and lines. It took about 3 hours. My point, I can not run the tournament this year, nor the boat parade. I am scheduled to work and don't have enough seniority to get the day off. Please, if you can run the tournament (you need not play) let me know. Lots of time to think about it.

Boat Parade

Remember this year's theme is CARTOONS. Start thinking.

Birds

My father called be the other day, "Guess what's in the front yard?" I thought, no way can those darn geese be back already... nope, 14 wild turkeys. Well, the yards will be nice and green with all the fertilizer.



Ice Shanties

Please remove them. The ice is changing rapidly! With the water sitting on top and the severe temperature changes, the ice is starting to honeycomb. BE CAREFUL, although the ice is very thick, it may not be as safe as years past.

Lake Wide Yard Sales

The first weekend in June and the last one in August are tentatively scheduled for the lake wide yard

sales. We will be advertising in the local papers. One man's junk... could be yours! (ha ha)

Michigan Lakes and Streams Conference at Boyne Mountain

This is a stupendous opportunity to network with other riparians. Whether or not the LSA can afford to pay your registration fees, we need to have people attend. The conference is scheduled for April 24th and 25th.

Enclosed Brochure

Enclosed is a brochure for the Michigan Alliance. Please read.

Audit

For each and every property owner there should be a one page paper which states all the information we have on your file. Since we've computerized and again when we changed programs (now we use Quick Books), some information was lost. A perfect example is year purchased. We had some wonderful people volunteer to be on a welcome committee, the only problem is the year purchased has been lost. So, please update the information the best possible. Now is the time to add your spouse's name, fix the spelling, add your new phone number and even your e-mail address. This spring we hope to publish a directory. ***THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TOPIC OF THE NEWSLETTER - FILL OUT AND RETURN WITH YOUR DUES ENVELOPE.***



