

# ◀ ANN LAKE WATERLOG ▶

September 29, 2006

## **ANN LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION**

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

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275-5823**

**VICE PRESIDENT  
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275-3040**

**SECRETARY  
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275-6297**

**TREASURER  
SHIRLEY DREWS  
275-5270**

### **DIRECTORS**

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275-5511**

**BETH DANNICKER-  
NOE  
275-7911**

**COLLEEN WRIGHT  
275-5299**

**ANN SKORY  
275-6715**

Published and  
distributed to property  
owners and residences  
of Ann Lake.

## **Government Report ~ Proposed Village Park**

The Lake Ann Village Board has expressed an interest and have started wheels in motion to purchase a piece of property in the Village, formally know as the Dreamland Resort, for a public park and swimming beach. While rumors abound, here are some facts, as we understand them.

- The property has been purchased by current lakefront property owners, The Klaasen Family. As a property developer, he plans on cleaning up the property, holding it, and selling it to the Village for use as a park.
- The Village plans to make application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (Ransom Lake, Pearl Lake) for a grant to cover 75% of the purchase price. The Village plans to raise 25% through fund raising efforts. The estimated local revenue is \$165,000. The village tax liability will be very minimal.
- The Trust Fund requires a comprehensive management plan, prepared by the purchaser in order to receive the grant. The plan includes improvements, maintenance, operations, hours, etc. This document must be adhered to.
- There will be no boat docks or boat launch at the site. The swimming beach will be roped off to prevent boating activity at the beach.
- If the property does not become a park, zoning may permit this property to be split. Although there seems to be a debate on this issue, requested zoning documents and impact opinions were not provided at the time of this writing.
- A citizens group of Village taxpayers and voters has formed to oppose this proposal. The impact on adjacent properties is the major concern. (Noise, Litter, Management, property rights and values, etc.)
- Several meetings to discuss this issue have taken place. The next Village Board Meeting is the first week in October. Public input is requested.
- The ALPOA has been involved in the meetings. Although this is primarily a Village Issue, our support or lack of has no real bearing on the Village decision. Members that oppose this proposal have requested the Association to take a position. Our position as stated in a letter to the Village Board states:

*Based on several factors, including but not limited to, a lack of a comprehensive management plan, past performance in the management of existing park areas, the nature and speed of acquiring support for this project, and the opposition voiced at the special public meeting, the Ann Lake Property Owners Association, through a consensus of its board members, can not support your initiative and the purchase of this property at this time.*

Our position can be changed pending further developments in the proposal. Again, this is primarily an issue for the voters of the Village, but this idea can not work without volunteer and financial support from the community. The impact on the quality of the Lake is in question. It is our opinion, that in any case, the lake may experience some change. High impact, low impact, or no impact, we would like to get a picture of what our member's views on this proposal are. Please review the enclosed opinion survey, fill it out, and drop it into the mail. Your views are crucial. Results and further developments will be available in our next *Waterlog*.

## Message from the President

What a great summer. The weather was perfect, abet a slight shortage of rain, but our lake was busy with people enjoying our great natural resource. Our annual meeting was very prosperous, with great ideas and constructive conversation regarding issues, policies, and our future. Volunteers stepped up to serve on the board as well as other duties required. The pot luck lunch, grilled burgers and brats topped off the day as the members further discussed issues informally. I feel grateful that so many people are concerned with and can make intelligent decisions regarding the resource that we share. I urge all of our property owners to join Ann Lake Property Owners Association. It really is a constructive and generous effort to maintain and enhance or quality of life on the lake

## Membership

Shirley Drews and Ann Skory spent many hours working with the Township Offices and Tax Department compiling an updated list of property owners that share Ann Lake. This update was needed. While we try to keep current, a comprehensive list is difficult because of its dynamic nature. Thank you Shirley and Ann for this monumental task. Along with this newsletter is a membership form. If you are not a member, join. If your neighbor is not a member, ask them to **join**. If you would like to volunteer a little bit of your time for the future of our unique environment, that would be a bonus. If you or you know someone who is not receiving this Waterlog, please have them contact us via mail or phone call to any of the directors so we can add you to the list. Talk with an officer or director anytime for more information.

This association, its members, officers, and director's work collectively on maintaining a high quality lifestyle as waterfront owners. Only **30%** of the property owners are members. **We are in need of volunteers to serve on the board.** It takes so little time and the rewards are measured by the positive preservation of our lifestyle on Ann Lake. As you now know, issues that impact our Lake and Property happen so rapidly. It is always better to be prepared than to catch up and follow pending issues.

## Ann Lake Water Testing Program

**Ted and Joni Keskey**

This is the 8<sup>th</sup> year for water testing on Ann Lake in conjunction with the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program. This is a unique program of volunteers who record data from their lakes and send it to the DEQ who then compiles the data and charts each lake's results yearly. The program is so well organized and the volunteers so professional and well trained that their results and the results of a DEQ officer side by side testing with sophisticated scientific equipment vary only by 1-2 %.

From our first year in the program, 1999, when we tested every week and recorded water clarity to the present season, we have continued to monitor the quality of the lake and added new methods to assist this monitoring. Currently, we monitor water clarity weekly, dissolved oxygen bi-weekly, Chlorophyll monthly, Phosphorus early spring and early fall, have mapped the lake for weed growth and will participate in a research study of harmful algae in Michigan lakes. This program begins in May each year and continues through until mid September.

Those involved are Dick Unger, Diane and Al Minicucci, Becky Gray-MacGirr and Ted and Joni Keskey. Jane Bluhm and Shirley Drews also helped Becky with the extensive plant mapping that was done this summer.

It has been our pleasure to head this program since it's inception. We have learned so much and enjoyed working with everyone involved, but it is time for us to pass the Secchi dish on. We have decided to no longer be involved with the program after this summer. This is a great opportunity for someone to get involved with the lake association and learn more about the lake's eco-system. Please contact Kim Becker if you are interested in helping in this program.

Thanks, everyone, for all your hard work and professionalism. It's been great.

## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Ann Lake Boat Parade

Although the Lake Association could not sponsor the Boat Parade, individualism prevailed. What a great tradition. Being a land bound spectator, I look forward to this annual event. To the participants, great job. I hope to see you next year having as much fun as this year. God Bless America!

## Help Wanted ~ Water Testing

This is a very important position. We cannot let eight years of work culminate with a defunct program due to a lack of volunteers. This position requires about 1 \_ hours per month of your time and a trip or two to the DEQ office in Cadillac. We pay for expenses. Training from Mr. Keskey as well as the DEQ is available. **If you, or someone you know, want a rewarding reason to take a little cruise around Ann Lake on a regular basis, take some samples, record some data, and maybe drop a fishing line in after the job is done, give one of the Board Members a call. It's not complicated and it's a great opportunity to give Mother Nature a helping hand as well as monitor our future quality of life in Lake Ann.**

## Purpose of the Ann Lake Property Owners' Association

- Promote the education of riparian property owners and other lake users about water quality and safety.
- Support issues, which concern the welfare of the lake including water conservation in the lake and watershed, maintenance of the quality of the water for swimming and conducive to the renewal of fish resources.
- Measure and evaluate hydrological data to make decisions and actions in the best interest of the lake.
- Promote the best interests of its members in civic matters such as taxation, zoning, property rights, pending legislation, law enforcement, etc.
- Strive to insure that individual rights should be enjoyed and protected without trespassing on the rights of others.
- Preserve Ann Lake as a natural resource and recreational area through protection and prudent use of its environs.

## Volunteers and Board Members

A special thanks to a wonderful group of volunteers serving you. Jane Bluhm, now working with Shirley Drews and Becky McGirr with our plant mapping endeavor. Shirley of course is our Treasurer and Becky is our Secretary and have served on this board for several years. Your generous contribution is appreciated. Elliott Caldwell's contribution to the Board was very appreciated. Dennis Conant's and Colleen Wright's charitable donation of time is appreciated. And Ted Keskey, thank you for stepping up for the VP job. Ted is a charter member and long time contributor to maintain our lifestyle. If you see any of these fine volunteers, be sure to thank them for their time and effort.

## Government Report ~ Greenbelt Ordinance

**Ann Skory**

Almira Township has a Zoning Ordinance regarding "Greenbelts". This is the abbreviated version. Specific development and use restrictions are listed regarding structures, dredging / filling, fertilizing / pesticides vegetation, etc. Cutting of trees, landscaping, chemical use, building and other improvements may be illegal. Remember, what you do to your property affects everyone with waterfront access. Please contact the Township offices or their website for further detail. [www.almiratwp.org](http://www.almiratwp.org)

### ALMIRA TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE, SECTION 4.10 "GREENBELT"

"To preserve and protect natural resources, water quality and community scenic and recreational values, a greenbelt shall be established and maintained on all waterfront property. (The purpose of the greenbelt is to maintain a vegetative strip, which is to stabilize banks and shorelines, prevent erosion, absorb nutrients in water runoff from adjacent lands, structures, and impervious surfaces, and provide shading for the water to maintain cool temperatures.) The greenbelt shall include all the land area located within twenty five (25) feet of the ordinary high watermark of any watercourse abutting or traversing the property."

## Village of Lake Ann, Waterfront Park Survey

As mentioned in the article in this issue of the *Waterlog*, the Village of Lake Ann is interested in the purchase of property, formally known as the Dreamland Resort, for use as a public park and a swimming beach. **Whether you are a member or a waterfront property owner, your opinion is valuable.** Please review and complete the survey. Just a couple of questions. Circle the Answer.

What type of impact do you feel a public park in the Village will have on Ann Lake?

Positive

Negative

None

Do you feel a park will have a greater or lesser impact that the alternative uses for this property (property splits, commercial use, etc.)

Greater impact

Lesser impact

No impact

Will you support this park purchase and maintenance financially by a charitable donation?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Will you support this park purchase by volunteering your time in fund raising efforts?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Do you have comments or questions regarding this proposal?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name & Phone (optional, names will not be released), \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: **Ann Lake Property Owners Association**  
**PO Box 184,**  
**Lake Ann, MI 49650**

## Annual Dues

Annual Dues of **just \$20.00** support the following programs. Please Join the ALPOA by sending us your dues. A membership form is included in this Newsletter.

- Water Quality Monitoring Program as mentioned earlier in the *Water Log*.
- Membership in the Michigan Lakes and Streams
- Postage and Costs for the publishing and distribution of the *Waterlog*.
- Annual Meeting and Picnic
- Other costs that may arise to benefit the Property Owners of Ann Lake

Issues and Concerns regarding Ann Lake happen so rapidly. We see large issues that concern us in the future such as development, legislation, etc. Your participation now and in the future will assure that the goals of our Association will be maintained.

**Membership Form, Membership is for the Calendar Year, January 2007 through December 2007**

**Membership Fee is \$20**, Additional Donations are appreciated. Your Association, it's Board Members and Directors are a Non-Profit, Volunteer Staffed, Organization to serve the Property Owners of Ann Lake.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Please make any comments below.

Permanent Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ (Is the address on the mailing label correct?)

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Ann Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing and E-Mail Addresses will not be distributed and used only by ALPOA. (Privacy Notice)

Mail To: **Ann Lake Property Owners Association**  
**PO Box 184,**  
**Lake Ann, MI 49650**