



Bills Lake Association July 4, 2021



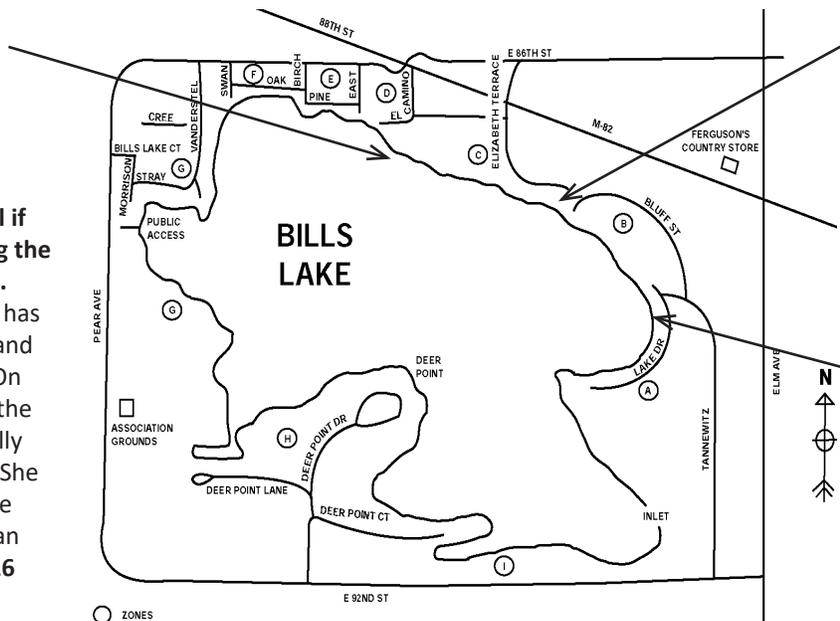
Fourth of July celebration to be held on the July 3rd

Rain date is Sunday, July 4th. **Circle of Fire starts at 9:59 p.m.** (a concession to those who find it difficult to restrain themselves). **Flares for \$3.00 apiece** can be purchased from your zone representative who may ask you to come to his/her house to pick them up. Extra flares can be obtained from Doug Moline 616 466-8785

Becky Martin is once again hosting the **Boat Parade** which starts at her dock, located four cottages east of Camp Trotter, at 7:30. **It would be helpful if you preregistered during the day (not a requirement).**

Becky's cottage has a yellow swim platform and a red MC Boat on a lift. On Saturday, she will be on the swim platform periodically to check in participants. She needs your name and the title of your entry. You can also call or text her at **616 450-3089**.

Additional details on next page.



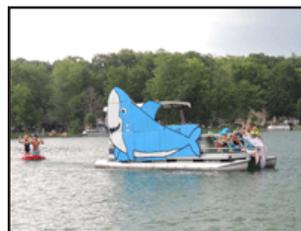
John and Dorothy Mulder Memorial Regatta - 2:30

After a year's hiatus, Jennifer Turner will again lead the event. Additional details on next page.

Canoe, Kayak, Canoe, Paddleboat, and Paddleboard Races -10:00

Steve Bultema and others. Spectators are urged to watch from their boats. If on land, please observe a respectful distance.

Kelly Kovalska will lead children's game in the area afterward.



Being careful, and other stuff

The cost of the flares for the Circle of Fire has gone up to **\$3.00 each**, the primary reason why our treasury is now sufficient for our needs. Only 50 percent of residents pay dues although some do not live directly on the lake.

Reminder: As you are buying your flares, it would be a good time to pay your **\$20 association dues**. The money pays for the hard copies of this newsletter and the website domain name, (all \$21.78 per year of it), the association property taxes and insurance, and the Fourth of July trophies, among other items.

July 4th weekend is a potentially dangerous time to be out on the lake, what with the speeding amidst the crowding and wave making. In addition, we get visitors who don't know the law. Please talk to your guests about being extra cautious. A **"Safety on the waters of Bills Lake" poster specifying some of the rules can be found on our website.**

Save the date: The Mobile Boat Wash is coming to our public access on Aug. 6th. Details are in the digital edition of this newsletter

Results and pictures of the Fourth of July activities will be posted on our website shortly after the events. Any photo that you can contribute to this celebration would be much appreciated. Yes, you will get photo credit but no money. Please send to edwaits@charter.net

The Bills Lake Yacht Club wants to remind residents that **several buoys will be placed in the lake on the morning of the annual John and Dorothy Mulder Memorial Regatta.**

Boaters are asked to steer clear of them during the day and to give the sailboats a wide berth during the races. There has been a problem with regard to this in the past. **Please stress this to the boaters in your family, especially visitors.** The buoys will be removed immediately after the event.

Also, the club wants to remind you: you can't put a trophy on your shelf unless you enter the race. Two years ago, a lonely third place trophy went unclaimed.

Residents are reminded that misfortune can occur on land as well as in the water. In this case, we are talking about **golf carts and four wheelers** which are often operated by overconfident (read: speedy) but inexperienced drivers, particularly in the Hiawatha and Geronimo 1 zones.

Please urge your family members and guests who bring boats in on the holiday weekend to "Clean, Drain, and Dry." We want to keep unwanted critters -- both animal and plant -- out of our water. Preventing them from entering is a lot easier and less expensive than getting them out.

Parking at the Public Access

Some do a lousy job, **too often blocking the turn-around.** There have been frequent complaints. **If you have guests who use it, please give them a heads up.**

If you are victim of poor parking practice or observe unacceptable behavior, contacting the Newaygo County Dispatch might help. There may not be an officer in the area but enough texts and/or phone calls reporting violators might generate more surveillance and awareness on the part of the authorities. 231 689-5288

Becky Martin is once again hosting the boat parade. The event starts at her dock -- located four cottages east of Camp Trotter -- at 7:30. **It would be helpful if you preregistered** during the day (not a requirement).

Becky's cottage has a yellow swim platform and a red MC Boat on a lift. On Saturday, she will be on the swim platform periodically to check in participants. She needs your name and the title of your entry. You can also call or text her at **616 450-3089.**

Please put your entry title on a sign to be placed on the right side of your boat in letters large enough to be seen by people on shore. Votes will be taken from lake residents using your entry title -- **one vote per dock.** There is only one category: there are no separate junior and senior divisions.

Please arrive 10 minutes early to line up and remain at the end of the event until the votes are counted and the trophies are awarded. **Please do NOT take a speedy victory lap** that might swamp and ruin fireworks that are being set up on docks.

Directory updates: As your zone representative goes around selling flares, please consult his/her list of directory information for accuracy. **This is especially important in terms of your e-mail address.** A hard copy of the directory will be published and distributed by the end of July **to those who request it.**

In the midst of the frivolity, it would be very appropriate to thank certain folks for what they do to make July 4th at Bills Lake memorable. If you received a trophy, it didn't just appear by magic: **Gord Hicks** was responsible. **Becky Martin, Jennifer Turner, and Steve Bultema** organized the contests. **Doug Moline** is the one who procured the flares and the zone representatives sold them. Acknowledgement in this newsletter regarding their contributions shouldn't be the only one.

Our resident Marian the Librarian, **Barb Neueither**, has done a superb job of distributing books from the Lake Street Library during a time when the rules for pick-up and return have so drastically changed. If you happen to see her, use your imagination in terms of expressing your gratitude. For a lake community, she provides a unique service.