

PLA Newsletter

Spring 2022

It's that time of year - the PLA Newsletter. In this newsletter we reflect on the past year as we look forward to the year to come. These articles are to update and keep you informed about the Pine Lake Community. Focuses are about the different activities that are at Pine Lake, the support systems that are available to us all, and the overall absolute joy we each find from living on the lake.

Welcome to the many new residents who are experiencing Pine Lake for the first time. Reach out to your neighbors and Pine Lake Association officers if you have questions or need support. We all remember our first year on the lake and are willing to help others.

IN MEMORIAM

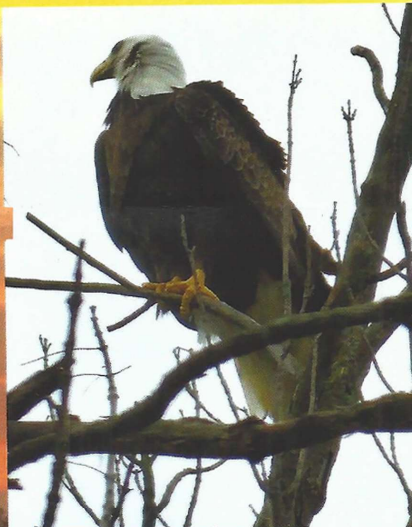
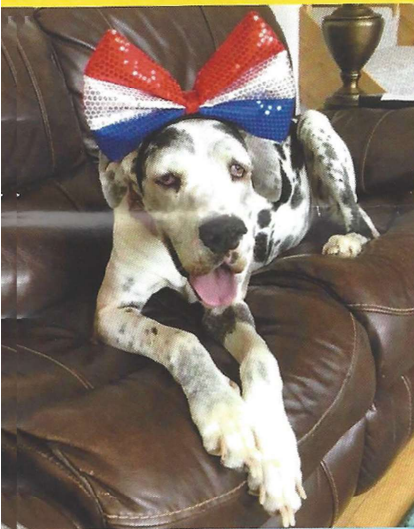
There are members of our community who passed this last year. Their lives gave us memories that are too beautiful to forget. We now rely on these memories to always keep them as a part of the Pine Lake Community. They will forever be in our thoughts.

Hollis Vliestra
Bob Pence Sr.
Phyllis Ketchum
John Morrow
David Klok
Yolanda Peacock
Terry Callen
Rick Bush
Paula Birdsall
Tony Schorr

Working Together for our Community

The Prairieville Township Police Department and the Prairieville Township Fire Department together focus on the safety of our citizens. All officers have a large amount of training and share their knowledge and skills to solve problems. Were you aware that police support the fire department through assistance at the scene? This may be as simple as arriving first and notifying the other of the situation. In accident cases, the PTFD focuses on extraction and the PTPD will provide patient care. This past year, an on-call Prairieville police officer supported our PTFD medical first responders by using recent training to share lifesaving information. He supplied the first responder charged with patient care with a Narcan kit. This revived the patient and saved a life. Thank you to our PTPD and PTFD for making a greater difference for our community.

Loving Pine Lake Living!



Message from the President 2022



I have had a great first year, and I look forward to what the rest of 2022 will bring!

Over the past year, the way that the board and our committee volunteers have supported each other continues to make me feel grateful that I am part of the Pine Lake Association (PLA)!

As you may have noticed, we are seeing an uptick in lake traffic during boating season. With that in mind I would like to kindly remind everyone to place great importance on boating safety. This is particularly important with our young drivers and visiting guests that do not normally operate watercraft. Common sense and courtesy goes a long way.

I am also working with others to consider realistic and actionable improvements within our lake community. Here are some examples:

- With the help of volunteers like the Whitney family, we are upgrading the buoy anchors and anchor chains. The goal is to prevent the buoys from frequently migrating and/or floating away.
- We are in the beginning phases of updating our association webpage. The goal is to give you a central hub for information and contacts relative to all things related to the lake, throughout the year.
- Last but not least, we are adding an exciting event to the lake this summer. Watch the PLA Facebook page for more details to be announced soon!

Thank you for continuing to make this a great place to live!

-All the best, Andrea

VOLUNTEERS:

OFFICERS

President, Andrea Bernard
president@pinelk.org

Vice President, Corey Case
vicepresident@pinelk.org

Secretary, Sara Smith
secretary@pinelk.org

Treasurer, Darci Irving
treasurer@pinelk.org

Sergeant-at-Arms,
Ron Goolsby
sergeant-at-arms@pinelk.org

EVENT COORDINATORS

Easter Egg Hunt,
NEEDED FOR 2023

Boat Parade, PLA Board

Fireworks, Nancy Whitney

Halloween Party, Bernard Family

Turtle Races, Jaki Spencer and
Scout Troop 50

Newsletter, MaryAnn DeVries

Garage Sales, Lori McAdam

Webmaster, Pete Seibert

Fire Chief Brian Uridge

Thank you to the many people it takes to run our volunteer department. The fire fighters and medical first responders, the township officials, and the folks in our community that pitch in every year to help make special memories for our kids. This is what makes a community great, and we couldn't do it without you!

In 2021, Prairieville had 280 calls for service, just slightly higher than our 2020 volume.

Over 90% of the calls in 2021 were for medical rescues vs. other types of calls, which is typical. Because medical rescues are such a high percentage of our calls, it's important that we have enough volunteers who are trained and prepared to deal with these runs. Congratulations to recently certified medical first responders: Chris Beltran; Tanner Callahan; Cassie Flick; and Devin Stuart!

We said a fond farewell to 34 year fire volunteer, great friend and a pillar of the community, Chief Bob Pence. He passed away on June 9th after having the station renamed in his honor, on June 7th.



Police Chief Kevin Callahan

The Prairieville Township Police Department (PTPD) proudly serves its citizens. In 2021, Officer Elijah Arnold became a member of our department. The PTPD responds to calls for service for a variety of issues. As your police department we are on patrol. Sometimes we have found a need while patrolling and other times we are reacting to a call. Never think your concern is too small to contact us. We are here for you.

Police were dispatched to the channel on Pine Lake between Lake 1 and Lake 2 just off Boniface Point on February 28, 2022. A UTV had gone through the ice. No one was hurt and the UTV was removed from the lake the next day. It was a good reminder that water safety is a year round concern.

Do not hesitate to contact us if we can help. Call 911 for an emergency, the office is 269-623-2691 and my cell is 269-284-9144.

Parks and Recreation

MaryAnn DeVries

Did you know that your tax money does not fund our parks?

Except for an occasional grant that we receive, the Prairieville Parks are completely financed through the fees that boaters pay. The Pine Lake Recreation Area has been developed over the past few years with many of those funds that were collected. We encourage you to benefit from this absolutely great facility. When you use any launches run by the Prairieville Parks and Recreation, feel assured that the money you pay is supporting Pine Lake Rec and the other parks in Prairieville Township. Thank you to our boaters for your support so these improvements can happen!



Pine Lake Areas Ladies Group (PLALG)

Glo Kelly

Wow! It's been 4 years since a few women got together and established the PLALG which has grown to over 180 members. It's where women around the lake connect to get to know each other better and share common interests. Some of the fun and fellowship that has ensued since the group began include pickleball, Bible Studies, book clubs, several service projects, and wine and dessert nights. If you haven't joined us on Facebook to get the scoop on what's going on at the lake, you should, seriously 😊! All ladies are encouraged to become more involved by sharing activities and events of interest on the PLALG Facebook page where most communication about upcoming opportunities occurs. If you are not on Facebook, you can contact Karen Blamer at 269-312-3447 and she will inform you of upcoming events. Looking forward to connecting fun and fellowship with all of you and making this the best year yet for the PLALG!



**Pine Lake
Ladies rock!**

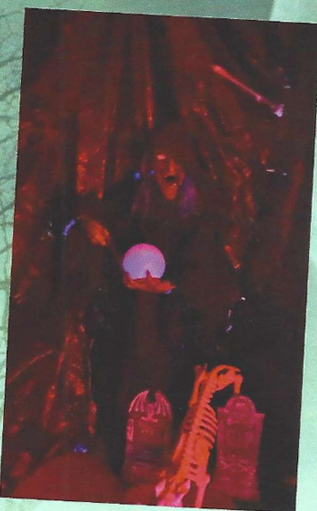
Yuletide Fun at Pine Lake

On December 18, 2021, a Pine Lake Christmas Celebration was held. There were approximately 100 people and even some furry friends who attended. Santa and Mrs. Claus were guests of honor and there was a reindeer. The Grinch was in attendance but it is not clear if he was invited or was just crashing the festivities. Special shout outs to: Scout Troop 50 who helped set up and run the day; The Prairieville Fire and Police Departments; Biggby Coffee from



Plainwell who gave a partial donation of coffee and hot chocolate; and the many neighbors who baked cookies for the special event celebrating the holiday season. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day so special!

A Spooktacular Halloween at Pine Lake



Once again, the Prairieville Township Fire Department was transformed for the PLA Halloween Party. This event had two parts in 2021. There was the regular Halloween Party in the afternoon and a special haunted house for the older spooks in the evening. Join in for the 2022 "Spooktacular" fun on Saturday, October 22.

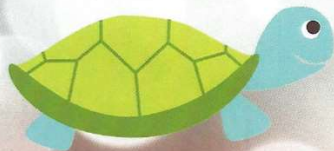


Pine Lake Big Ski

Joel Schneck

The Pine Lake July 4th Big Ski Extravaganza continues to grow in popularity! Last year was a record-breaking year on two levels. There were 13 skiers who successfully pulled into the finish area. Just as importantly, we had a tremendous support from Pine Lakers who surrounded the perimeter of lakes 3 and 4. Thank you! We wouldn't have been so successful without you.

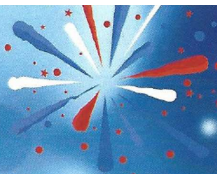
We hope you come to this year's event planned for the morning of July 4 between 9 and 10 am. We launch from the south end of Lake 4, circle Lake 3, and return. We typically give it two tries as we all scrape the rust off on the first attempt. If you have any questions you can email Brian at: uridgeb@gmail.com.



Pine Lake Turtle Races

The turtle races once again added excitement to the 4th of July at Pine Lake. In 2021 Nancy Robinson completed 20 years as the organizer of the races. Scout Troop 50 with Jaki Spencer are the leaders this year. Be at MCTI at 11 a.m. on July 4th and join in the fun! Turtle Races are a great Pine Lake tradition.





Fireworks **Nancy Whitney**

The 2021 fireworks show did not disappoint. Once again, having the launch from the barges was well received. It was great to see so many boats in attendance. In my opinion, the after-show parade of boats heading home is a fitting end to the spectacular day.

A sincere thank you to Ian and Anne Bagley for allowing Great Lakes Fireworks to stage at their home; Pine Lake Marina for the donation of the pontoon boat for the fireworks crew to shuttle back and forth; and Lake Trades for the use of the barges. Please give all these people your thanks the next time you see them.

There has been a 30% increase in the cost this year mainly because of shipping. Some places are canceling their fireworks show because of this. The Association decided to work within our budget and provide a shorter fireworks show. The Pine Lake tradition will continue of celebrating this special day! Put July 3, 2022, on your calendar to enjoy the fireworks once again.

Boat Parade

Check out the pictures from the 2021 Boat Parade. It will happen again this year, on Saturday, July 2. Join the fun and be in the cove by MCTI at 5 p.m.

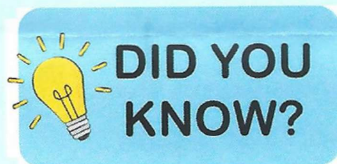
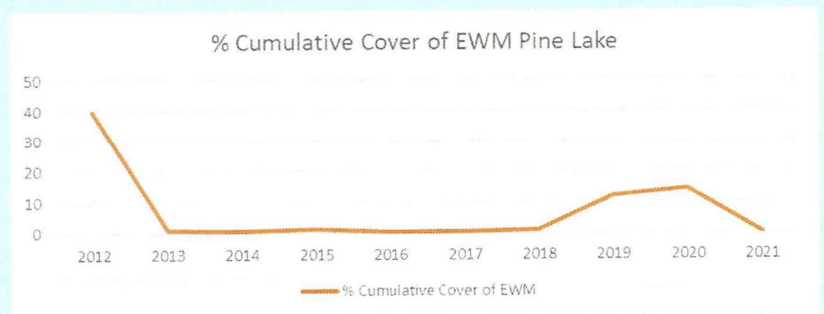


Weed Management

Andy Tomaszewski, PLM Lake & Land Management Corp.

As many of you are aware the Weed Management on Pine Lake was started in 2012 when Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) was in abundance. It was very effective for over 6 years. During that time after the initial treatment, a new exotic species called Starry Stonewort was found at Pine Lake. Efforts were made to address that species as well. In 2019 and 2020 we started to see an increase in EWM on the lake. In 2021 there was the second lake wide Sonar Treatment for Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM). For 2022, we expect to start the season in good shape. EWM should be minimal in 2022 and if found, can be easily addressed with spot treatments. Most of the work should involve treatment of Starry Stonewort which typically starts growing mid to late June. In addition, we will continue with water quality sampling and vegetation surveys.

This graph shows the trend since the weed management program started.



Invasive Species continue to multiply in our waterways. There is no new species identified in Pine Lake and we want to keep it that way. If you are fishing or boating in other waterways, please use caution to keep from carrying these home.

ROADWORK AHEAD



Updates are coming to two of our local roads this spring. Merlau Avenue and Southgate Drive will be repaved. We thank all of you for your patience during the construction. One final reminder as some roads get smoother and are easier to travel - the speed limit is 25 mph!

Water Level Update

Jim Dull, County Drain Commissioner

As of April 14, 2022 Pine Lake is at 893.3 feet. At this time last year, the lake was about 12 inches lower. We are starting the process for a permit from EGLE to pump to the gravel pit. The first step was to get authorization from the owner of the gravel pit to apply. We have already received a reply to our first request to EGLE asking for additional information. This will be submitted the week of April 18. There are no final numbers on the cost of the project, and we have no control over the timeline. It is possible that we could get a permit in 90 days, or it could be stalled for many months.

Water Safety

Safety must come first when using the water. The Marine Division cannot be here all of the time. Everyone, residents and visitors, need to be apprised of what the marine laws are prior to operating any watercraft. For everyone to enjoy the lake, it is imperative to abide by the laws at all times. Did you know it is illegal and unsafe to pull floatables with riders through the channels? You will see on the map that boating on the lake goes counterclockwise around all of the lakes. The map also shows other legal boating directions. Show respect for others by following safety laws on the water.



IMPORTANT

Buoy Information

Chief Kevin Callahan

Just a heads up for anyone with buoys in the lake. The DNR has indicated it may be out enforcing this law <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-324-80159>. The first line says it all. "A person shall not place a beacon or buoy, other than a mooring buoy, in the waters of this state except as authorized by a permit issued by the department pursuant to part 13." If you do not have a permit for a buoy, you will be fined.



LOOK!!

PINE LAKE GARAGE SALES

and

PINE LAKE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Registration forms can be found at...

www.pinelk.org



Volunteering

There are so many opportunities for fun at Pine Lake and these happen because of volunteers. There are many people who continue to volunteer and they are so appreciated. Thank you to Barb Ver Sluis for being the volunteer lead for Easter Activities last year and to Brooks Craft for leading the boat parade for the last two years. The PLA is still looking for a person to take the lead for the Easter Egg Hunt. You do not have to be the sole lead to volunteer. You can offer to help run a game at the Halloween Party, assist with the Boat Parade, or you may know another lake resident who would be willing to take the lead for The Easter Egg Hunt. Consider giving back to your community by volunteering.

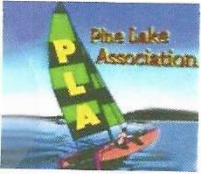
THE NEXT PLA MEETING IS SATURDAY, JUNE 4 AT 9:00 A.M. AT THE PAVILION AT PINE LAKE RECREATION AREA.

Contact the association anytime at plaofficer@pinelk.org or send a message on the Facebook Page.

Treasurer's Update as of March 31

General Fund:
\$12,024.63
Fireworks: \$10,730.75
Bouy Fund: \$4,785.23





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Plainwell, MI
49080

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Pine Lake Association 2022 Calendar of Events

Event	Leader	Date/Location
Association Dues Invoices	Sara Smith	Mailed 3/24/22; Payments due 6/1/22
Annual Newsletter	MaryAnn DeVries	Month of May
June Meeting with Officer Elections	PLA Board	Sat., June 4, 2022 at 9 a.m. at Pine Lake Rec Area
Garage Sales	Lori McAdam	Fri. 6/24, 9a.m.-5p.m. and Sat. 6/25, 9a.m.-3p.m.
Boat Parade	Andrea Bernard	Sat. July 2, 5p.m. line up at MCTI Cove and 6 p.m. start
Independence Day Fireworks	Nancy Whitney	Sunday, July 3 at dark; Rain date Monday, July 4
Turtle Races	Jaki Spencer/Boy Scout Troop 50	Monday, July 4 at 12 p.m. at MCTI
Kyle Jennings & special guest Lucid Vibe	Andrea Bernard	Sat., August 20 at 7p.m. on Lake Trades Barge Lake 2
Children's Halloween Party	Andrea Bernard	Sat., October 22, Pine Lake Fire Barn, 1-3 p.m.
February 2023 Meeting	PLA Board	Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023 at 7 p.m.; location TBD