



Spring 2011

# The Villager

VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE LAKE  
Spring/Summer 2011 Newsletter



## Wolverine Lake Welcomes Back Our Police Department

By John Magee  
Village President

At our April meeting the Village Council voted unanimously to bring the Wolverine Lake Police Department back to the village hall, and to end the joint scheduling arrangement that we've had with Walled Lake for the last four years. The Wolverine Lake Police Department will begin once again operating as an independent department on June 1. On Wednesday, June 8, we will distribute new Wolverine Lake badges to all of our officers in a ceremony at our June council meeting. Our department will be led by Captain John Ellsworth and will have five full-time officers, two part-time patrol officers, and two part-time marine officers.

A lot of folks have asked me why we're doing this, so I wanted to share some of our reasons and expectations.

We entered the joint policing arrangement with Walled Lake back in 2007 to help both communities deal with budget cutbacks. By consolidating services such as dispatch, lockup, and record keeping with Walled Lake we were

able to reduce the overall cost of our police departments while keeping a strong patrol presence on the streets. In the years since then, we have worked together with Walled Lake to further reduce the cost of those services by consolidating them elsewhere. All of our dispatch is now done through Oakland County, while our lockup is now located at the Wixom Police Department. This further consolidation and cost reduction has freed us both to look at other police issues, especially community patrol.

As both communities have worked together over the past four years and looked towards the future of policing, it's become apparent that we each have different needs. During November's election my fellow councilpersons and I heard from a lot of you that you weren't seeing the same level of patrol that you had come to expect in the village. We were listening.

Wolverine Lake is a bedroom community that has always maintained a strong focus on community policing, while Walled Lake has a central business district that deservedly takes a lot of its department's atten-

tion. The council has looked at a lot of alternatives over the past few years, including going to Oakland County Sheriffs. In the end, we felt this was the most cost-effective way to provide the best possible police service to our village.

Ending our joint scheduling arrangement will let each community focus on the best way to ensure public safety within its own boundaries. Both departments will, of course, continue to provide mutual aid for one another. We have always worked well with our neighbors in Walled Lake, and we expect that to continue.

I would like to thank everybody who worked so hard to make the joint policing arrangement work over the past four years, especially our officers and the officers of Walled Lake. During these very difficult economic times the arrangement helped us all to keep you safe while we made the changes we needed to make to bring affordable and sustainable community policing back to our village.

## Packing Party for the Troops

Residents of the Village, in conjunction with Desert Angels, Inc., are hosting a "Miracle Box" Packing Party to support our troops and military working dogs serving on the battlefield by sending them some small comforts of home. HOW CAN YOU HELP? You may donate items from the flyer available on the Village website and at the Village office. You may volunteer to pack the boxes at the party. You also may donate \$\$ as it costs \$12.95 to mail every

box. Checks may be made out to Desert Angels, Inc. and mailed to the address on the flyer.

Packing Date: Saturday, October 15, 2011, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Organized By Village Residents: Joann Sullivan 248-624-1706; Kristy Nedrow 248-960-0244; Denny DeWitt, Vietnam Veteran



The donation list includes items that would be great yet simple projects for scout troops, church or school groups, mom's clubs, senior groups, and sewing or yarn work groups. We are also looking for volunteers to provide homemade baked goods for the "Miracle Boxes". For more information on how individuals or groups may help with these projects or to answer any questions, please call Joann.

# Help Keep Your Neighborhoods Safe—A Note from the Captain

Hello Village Residents:

We would like to think that Village of Wolverine Lake residents and the Police Department are “Partners in our Community”. But there are many more residents than there are police officers, that is why we need your help by becoming the “eyes and ears” of the Police Department.

Your ability to detect suspicious activities begins with your knowledge of the neighborhood. In order to effectively participate in making your community safe, you need to be well informed about your neighborhood and your community.

Talk to your neighbors; encourage them to tell you about suspicious activity or unusual occurrences in the area. Read the local paper about crimes in your community and be better informed of arrests and other criminal activities occurring in your area. Remember, the better informed you are, the better prepared you will be to help prevent crime in your own backyard. This will help deter criminal activity and put the criminal on notice that it’s not just the police he needs to watch for, but an entire community.

Always remember to keep your vehicle locked and valuables out of site.

- Keep tools and bikes in your garage and keep the door closed

when not in the immediate area.

Fill out a “Vacation Check Request” when going out of town. This gives us contact information if we need you in case of an emergency and we will check on the security of the house while you’re gone.

(This form is available on line at the Village web site) <https://mylocalgov.com/WolverineLakemi/>)

I want to wish you all a wonderful and safe summer, I’m looking forward to seeing you on the Lake!

Captain John M. Ellsworth

## Pickle ball in the park

The tennis courts are newly painted and designed for pickle ball. Come out and enjoy this relatively new sport at the Vita Trail Tennis Courts. Adults only come out on Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m. and Village resident Maria Williams will be there to instruct at no charge. All you need are a comfortable pair of sneakers since equipment will be supplied. Thank you Maria!



## Dog Licenses

Dog Licenses are available at the Village Offices. Dog tags are available at the Village Office at regular prices through June 1. There is a delinquent fee effective on June 2. Michigan State Law requires that all dogs be licensed.

## Park & Recreation Schedule of Events

Eastern Market Bus Trip—Saturday, May 7, 2011

Detroit Tigers Bus Trip—Friday, July 15, 2011

Tiki Night—July 3, 2011

Fishing Tournament—August 20, 2011

Village Festival—Saturday, September 10, 2011

Tuesdays in the Park—June 21st, July 19, August 16



## News from the treasurer’s office

Village Tax bills will be mailed prior to July 1st. They are payable without penalty until August 31. There will be a 2% penalty added on September 1st and an additional one half of 1% for each additional month that the taxes are unpaid. If you qualify for a Summer Deferment, you may apply at Commerce Township prior to September 14th. This will allow you to delay paying your taxes until February 29, 2012 without penalty.

## Park & Rec. requests Your Opinion

The Park & Recreation Board would like your opinion. Would residents enjoy having a community garden? The Park & Recreation Board is not certain this could be accomplished and wanted to know if this is something the residents would like them to pursue. Please call Village Hall at 248-624-1710 and let us know if you would like a community Garden.



## Bunny Lunch

The Bunny Lunch was held on April 17, 2011 and was a hopping good time. Thank you to all of the members of the Park & Recreation Board and the volunteers who support them. Special thanks to Sherry Williams of Dream Cakes on Benstein Road who made and donated all of the delicious sugar cookies for the children to decorate.

Tuesdays in the Park will be resuming this summer. If you are not on our email list, please go to [www.wolverine-lake.com](http://www.wolverine-lake.com) and sign up to receive our e-mails for future event information.

## Fireworks Donations

Drastic cuts in state shared revenue and tax revenue to the Village have eliminated the financial support for the annual July 3rd Tiki Night Fireworks Show. The fireworks show is fully funded by resident donations and fundraisers. The Fireworks Committee is once again launching a drive to fund the program with donations from residents and local businesses.

Please join in making the 2011 Tiki Night Fireworks another spectacular aerial event by donating whatever you can afford. Checks should be made out

to the Village of Wolverine Lake noting that it's for the Fireworks Program and mailed to Village Hall or dropped off at 425 Glengary. A drop box on the second floor front entrance of Village Hall is also available. The Fireworks Committee will also be hosting their 4th Annual Coxeter Classic Golf Outing on June 4th at Bay Pointe Golf Club. All proceeds will be applied to the fireworks fund.

Call Village Hall to obtain location of ticket sales 248-624-1710.

*Picture taken by Village Resident, David Mexicotte—7-3-2010*

## Boater Safety—June 4, 2011

The Village of Wolverine Lake will once again be offering Boater Safety. The class is scheduled for Saturday, June 4, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (bring a bag lunch). The cost is \$15.00 per student.

This is your opportunity to become certified in the safe operation of a powerboat and other types of boating. This course covers all aspects of boating. You will learn the rules of seamanship, navigation, boat handling, kayaking and water safety. This course is as important for adults as it is for your youngster. Playing it safe around water is

good training for everyone.

You will be issued your boater safety certificate provided that you pass the written test given that day.

If you were born before December 31, 1978, then you are not required to have a Boater Safety Certificate to operate a PWC. This rule is correct. You can be 33 years old and you need a boater Safety Certificate. Why? Because most PWC accidents are caused by drivers between the age of 20 and 40 and most don't have formal boating education. Please register and pay in advance at Village Hall by June 1, 2011.

## Spring Lake Heights Annex Dues

Spring Lake Heights is now collecting yearly dues. \$35.00 per family and \$10.00 for Senior Citizens. This is necessary to keep the maintenance of the boat launch and beach. PLEASE DO NOT, park your boats, vehicles, canoes or paddle boats at the Association beach, lake access and other Association properties over night. Please mail or drop off checks to: Glenda Prickett, 1065 Lakeview Dr., Wolverine Lake, MI 48390.



## MINOR HOME REPAIR PROGRAM

The Village of Wolverine Lake's minor home repair program is designed to help low to moderate income household's complete more complicated home maintenance such as; roofing, furnace, hot water tank replacement, etc., at no cost to the homeowner. In order to qualify for the program, you must be a resident of this Village and meet income specifications. For further information, please contact Village Hall at 248-624-1710.

## Summer Lake Reminders!

With the annual summer water recreation season upon us, the Village Water Board and Wolverine Lake Marine Police Patrol has issued the following reminders to everyone using Wolverine Lake or living along its shores:

### **Please Don't Feed The Wild Fowl**

At the urging of the Water Board, the Village Council has enacted an ordinance banning the feeding or baiting of all waterfowl. Violators are subject to civil penalties.

There are two primary reasons for the ban: first it is always a bad idea to teach wild animals to become dependent on humans, and second it is an even worse idea to "attract and concentrate migratory waterfowl to the Village of Wolverine Lake."

This not only can lead to confrontations

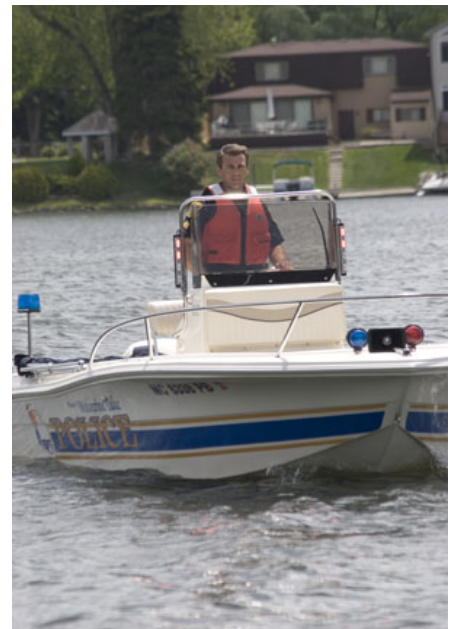
(see the following caution regarding rogue waterfowl) but adds to lake and lawn pollution from the birds' excrement.

### **Report Rogue Waterfowl Confrontations**

Residents are encouraged to report to the police any confrontations with swans or other wild fowl that pose a threat to boaters and others using the lake, in order to compile a more accurate record of these occurrences and to help identify rogue birds that habitually threaten humans. Please call 248/624-1335 with any complaints

### **Report Abuse or Harassment of Waterfowl**

Please report to the police any instances of people abusing, harassing or antagonizing the wildlife. Stopping this human aggression early will prevent a swan from becoming aggressive itself, and from them having to be destroyed. Please call 248/624-1335 with any complaints.



## Protect the Huron River Water Shed

The Village of Wolverine Lake is part of the Huron River Watershed. Water runoff that flows into storm drains and roadside ditches all goes to the nearest lake, stream, river or wetland without any kind of treatment. To protect water quality, make sure you do your part to keep pollutants off the land. Pollutants that can impact our waterways include sediment, nutrients, bacteria, pesticides and hazardous chemicals such as grease and oil.

- 1. Never dump anything down a storm drain**
- 2. Minimize soil erosion and sedimentation**

Stabilize bare soil with seed and mulch, or sod as quickly as possible.

- 3. Bag it!**

Pick up pet waste .

- 4. Get pumped!**

Have your septic tank pumped every 3-5 years, at a minimum.

- 5. Wash Right!**

Use environmentally safe car wash soaps.

- 6. Properly take care of your lawn**

Please go to [www.wolverinelake.com](http://www.wolverinelake.com) To read this article in its entirety and a full description of proper lawn care for the environment.

## Real Estate Outreach

In an effort to help residents sell their homes during a tough real estate market, Planning Commission member Ginger Nickloy and Council President John Magee spearheaded a ground breaking Real Estate Outreach initiative. Council appointed a Committee comprised of Planning Commission Members, Council Members, Administration and local Realtors.

Guided by Ginger Nickloy, materials were created including an in-depth booklet with a tagline "Where 'Home' is like being on vacation all year"; information about Wolverine Lake, Clara



Miller Park, Neighborhood Beach Associations, Police, DPW, Walled Lake Consolidated School System, walking paths and history of Wolverine Lake. A beautiful full-color brochure depicting pictures of Water Skiers, Fire-

works, Snow Mobiles, Fisherman and Park & Recreation events.

A luncheon was held at Village Hall on February 7, 2011 with the sole purpose of educating well-known, local Realtors. Approximately 40 Realtors attended the event. They were given a CD with all of the materials that they could personalize to their own business along with a copy of the booklet and a brochure. A video of the Village History and another video of lake activities were playing for Realtors to observe. Exhibit boards with all current home listings were up on display as well as Historical Picture

Boards. Councilperson Brian Nedrow delivered a great speech which further cemented the message that Wolverine Village is a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

# A GUIDE TO SUMMER FUN & SAFETY ON WOLVERINE LAKE

## FOR ADDITIONAL BOATING LAWS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

visit [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) search for “boating laws handbook”.

Handbooks also available at Village Hall, 425 Glengary, Wolverine Lake

NO high speed boating between the hours of 7:30 p.m. and 11:00 a.m. the following day. “High Speed” means at a speed at or above which a boat reaches a planing condition.

NO WAKE areas are posted with orange and white buoys. “Slow, No Wake Speed” means the slowest speed at which it is still possible to maintain steering and which does not create a wake.

All occupants and operator shall not sit, stand or walk upon any portion of the vessel not specifically designed for such purpose, while the vessel is underway.

Vessels shall be operated in a counterclockwise fashion.

Vessels must remain a distance of 100 feet from docks, rafts, swimmers, or anchored vessels, except when proceeding at slow-no wake or picking up skiers.

Maximum speed is 55 mph.

It is unlawful to anchor a vessel at a distance greater than 100 feet from shore, between 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., except in slow-no wake zones.

When pulling anything, in addition to the operator, you must have at least one competent person to “spot”. Operators who watch their skiers instead of looking ahead are guilty of reckless operation.

One Marine B1 fire extinguisher is required on all vessels (including PWCs) with enclosed spaces, less than 26 feet. Two B-1 extinguishers or one B-II on boats 26 feet or over.

### WHO MAY OPERATE A BOAT

#### Those less than 12 years of age:

May operate a boat powered by a motor of no more than 6 horsepower (hp) legally without restrictions.

May operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 6 hp but no more than 35 hp legally *only if* they are directly supervised on board by a person at least 16 years of age.

May not operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 35 hp legally under any conditions.

#### Those 12 to 15 years of age:

May operate a boat powered by a motor of no more than 6 hp legally without restrictions.

May operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 6 hp legally *only if* they:

\*Have passed a boating safety course approved by the Department of Natural Resources and have on board their boating safety certificate or....

\*Are accompanied on board by a person at least 16 years of age.

**Those 16 years of age or older** may operate any boat on the waters of Michigan. Note: See “Who May Operate a Personal Watercraft “(PWC) below.

### WHO MAY OPERATE A PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC)

**Those less than 12 years of age** may NOT legally operate a PWC.

**Those 12 and 13 years of age** may operate a PWC legally *only if*:

He or she obtained a boating safety certificate prior to January 1, 1999, *or...*

ALL of the following conditions are satisfied:

\*The operator is accompanied solely by his or her parent or legal guardian *and...*

\*Both the operator and the parent or legal guardian have obtained a boating safety certificate *and ...*

\*The PWC is equipped with a lanyard-type ignition safety switch and the parent or legal guardian has the lanyard attached to his or her person, clothing, or PFD.

Those 14 years of age or older:

And born after December 31, 1978, may operate a PWC legally *only if* they have obtained a boating safety certificate.

And born on or before December 31, 1978, may operate a PWC legally without restrictions.

**FOR A FULL LIST OF PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICE GUIDELINES, PLEASE GO TO WWW.WOLVERINELAKE.COM. GO TO THE MARINE DIVISION, CLICK ON “SUMMER FUN AND SAFETY REGULATIONS”**

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We are on the WEB  
[www.wolverinelake.com](http://www.wolverinelake.com)



**COUNCIL:**

John Magee, President  
Ed Sienkiewicz, Pro-Tem  
Mike Stack, Linda Champagne,  
Pam Kaznecki, Robert Malek and  
Brian Nedrow

Administrator/Clerk: Sharon Miller  
Police Captain: John Ellsworth  
Treasurer: Michael Kondek

**Board and Commission**

**Chairpersons:**

Water Mgmt: Clifford Yantz  
Planning: Tom Hite  
Park and Rec: Rick Pobe  
Zoning: Craig Minoletti

**MEETING DATES**

**Council:** 7:00 pm  
Second Wednesday of every month  
Council Work Session: 7:00 pm  
4th Wednesday of the month  
**Water Management:** 7:00 pm  
1st Wednesday of every month  
**Planning:** 7:00 pm  
4th Thursday of every month  
**Park and Recreation:** 7:00pm  
3rd Monday of every month  
**Zoning Board of Appeals:** 7:30  
3rd Tuesday of every month

**IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE**

Police Department

Non-Emergency:  
248-624-1335

Emergency: 911

Fire Department

Non-Emergency: 248-560-0051

Emergency: 911

Village Hall

Office Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Monday through Friday

PH: 248-624-1710

Fax: 248-624-3536

**VILLAGE OFFICE CLOSED**

Over the upcoming Holidays the Village Office will be closed on Memorial Day, May 30, 2011, Independence Day, July 4, 2011 and Labor Day September 5, 2011