

STONY LAKE NEWZLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE STONY LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

| Spring 2020

President's Letter

On behalf of the Board of our Lake Association, and myself, we hope this year's newsletter finds you well. As we have seen, our nation and our communities have turned upside down in the past two months. Words cannot describe the suffering that the coronavirus pandemic has caused to many of our families and friends.

What started as excitement planning the 2020 SLPOA activities has turned to feelings of uncertainty. The pandemic has created anxiety about our health, the health of our parents and our children, our jobs, and the future. When the Board started discussing this summer's events, the general sentiment was that "it's hard to think about summer" with what we were witnessing.

As the Board waited for signs that the protective actions were "flattening the curve," we had to make tough decisions to postpone summer rituals like the June Picnic, the Ice Cream Social, the Stony Lake Sparkler, and our newest event, the Kayak Poker Paddle. While we all hope that the health trends remain positive throughout the summer, there is enough uncertainty at the present that the Board felt it prudent not to hold our larger events this year. That being said, the Board has decided to go forward with the Boat Parade and Sailboat Races as we believe those events typically involve single families and can be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with Michigan's Safe Start Plan. As for holding our Annual Meeting, the picture is not as clear. In mid-July, the Board should have a better idea regarding which phase the state is likely to be in by early August, and we will make a decision about the Annual Meeting and announce it through our email list and Facebook.

In the midst of this coronavirus outbreak, we're also seeing good all around us. We're seeing neighbors look after neighbors. We're seeing skies clear. We're seeing communities celebrate those on the frontlines who risk their lives to protect and care for others. And we're seeing communities recognize the everyday

heroes like those who drive the trucks, stock the shelves, keep the utilities on, and make it possible for us to shelter at home. If you planned to participate in the Sparkler 5K and you still want to support the Crystal Valley Care Fund, I hope you will consider a donation to the gofundme fundraiser to benefit CVCF started by Amy and Neal Miedema.

Though it is still hard for me to think about summer, I know it is coming right up. And while it might be difficult to think about a summer with facemasks and social distancing, we need to remember the importance of taking the long view and considering health and safety as we move forward.

The Stony Lake Community is strong and we will get through this together.

Be safe and stay healthy,

- Jeff Larmore, SLPOA President



Outgoing president Jon Vanderploeg, left, passes the gavel (OK, yes, it is a hammer) to newly elected President Jeff Larmore at the 2019 Annual Meeting. Oh those happy carefree days! Photo by Julie Stivers.

See You Out On The Lake This Summer!

So maybe we have to curtail some of our gatherings at Stony Lake during summer 2020, but we can still be out on the water, in the fresh air and safely distanced but within speaking range of our neighbors. We hope to see as many of us as possible out on July 4 for the annual **Stony Lake Boat Parade**. Last year was one of the best ever, and this year the Saturday actually falls on the 4th of July! Let's celebrate that, and our life on the lake, with lots of red, white, and blue, and maybe some pithy themed boats to rival last year's winner about road construction. Looks like we'll have plenty of that to "celebrate" this summer too.

Boats will gather at Green Point at 2:00 p.m. Anyone can join, whether you have decorated your boat or just want to parade around the lake and greet your neighbors. There will be no voting or prizes, and no gathering, but it would be great to see everyone out on the water or out on the waterfront cheering on the parade.

Sailboat Races—a time-honored

Stony Lake tradition—will also go on as usual. If you'd like to participate, contact race coordinator Neal Miedema at neal_miedema@hotmail.com to be put on the contact list. He lets everyone know when the races are and how they will be structured.

Races are scheduled at 2:00 on Sunday, May 24; Saturday, June 6 & 20. Sunday, July 5, Saturdays July 18, August 1 & 15, and Sunday, September 6. Neal will give a five-minute warning at 1:55, and a two-minute at 1:58. Single sails start at 2:00, Doubles at 2:02, Catamarans at 2:04. Races are cancelled in bad weather (thunder/lightning). If the race is cancelled, Neal will remove the Start/Finish buoy near his dock and hang a "Skull and Crossbones" flag.



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Please see website for contact info on trustees.

A Resource Guidebook for Stony Lake Homeowners can be found at www.stonylakepropertyowners.com/docs/2015StonyLakeHomeownersGuide.pdf



WHAT'S *with the* NEWZ?

We pay tribute with our “newzletter” name to Swift Lathers, above, who published the Mears Newz from 1914–1970. The “world’s smallest newspaper” was printed in Mears, Michigan, but had subscribers nationwide. Copies are available at the Oceana Historical Park Museum Complex in Mears, which includes his home office.

Send comments about and information for the “Newzletter” to Julie Stivers, jlstivers@gmail.com.

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A Summer to Remember!

After a bit of a stormy beginning, Summer 2019 at Stony Lake was among our most fun ever.

We had about a hundred people again at the **Community Picnic in the Park**, even after moving it to Mary Alice Antonioli’s “Electric Hangar” because of predicted bad weather—which never developed. Many thanks to Mary Alice again. Thanks also to Chet and Katie Sosnowski for generously providing their very tasty pulled pork sandwiches as the basis of the pot luck. Background music from Jon VanderPloeg’s voluminous record collection was appreciated.

What a fantastic **Boat Parade**! Thirteen entries, the most ever in this writer’s 26 years at Stony Lake, and all wonderfully decorated. We could have awarded ten more prizes! Thank you thank you thank you to all who participated, and to the volunteers who made the Ice Cream Social work—211 votes were cast and there were people who arrived too late to vote—a huge turnout but we almost covered it with cake and were scooping ice cream to the very end. Good job all, and a big thanks to Parade Chairs Jeff & Sue Larmore.

The **Sparkler 5K** was again a smashing success—see the following two pages in this issue for more details, and on page five pictures from the debut **Kayak Poker Paddle**. See you all next year!



Top Prize in the 2019 Boat Parade went to the Speck family, with their oh-so-appropriate creation celebrating the endless construction on Stony Lake Road (but aren’t we happy with the results!).



Such fun at the Ice Cream Social. All the winning Boat Parade families gathered for a photo.



Second place, was the Richardson family with a Survivor theme (well, maybe that would be a good one for this summer too!)



Third was the very clever Ice Cream Truck from the Beattie family.



Mara Carbines, left, with Tournament Chair George Patten, moved up into the adult division this year and took home first place for her 25” pike, which she, to the delight of all, brought to the picnic! Shawn Richardson was second with a 19.5” largie. Kids Division winner was Jack Malloy, right, with a 24.5” pike and a 19” largie. Second was Nate Boudreaux with an 8” rock bass. Again, many thanks to Matt Ferguson for organizing and shooting all these photos.

The Sparkler was Shining in 2019 and Will be Back in 2021!

One of the great things about activities at Stony Lake is that people keep stepping up to make them happen. After another spectacular success in 2019—903 registered runners/walkers, raising \$21,722 for the Crystal Valley Care Fund—there was some doubt that the event could go on when Race Director Kathy Sullivan, who took the baton from founder Janie Denman three years ago, said she could not continue in that role. Just when the SLPOA Board was contemplating having to cancel the event (well before COVID-19 reared its ugly head), up jumped Stony Lake neighbor Sally Malnor to shoulder the mantle.

Sally and her team, including mentor Kathy Sullivan and many returning volunteers from the organizing committee, as well as some new faces, are working hard to ensure that the Sparkler 5K will go on in 2021, stronger than ever. Keep an eye on the Sparkler website and Facebook page for info. There was a definite pang of grief at the 2019 event, remembering its founder Janie Denman, who died in October, 2018. Organizing Committee member and Parking Czar Tom Oczarski read a very moving poem he had composed in her honor, and the 5th anniversary was acknowledged by several highlights arranged by her closest friends, including basket door prizes. We miss you Janie.



Kathy Sullivan, right, Sparkler Race Director for three years, passes the baton to Sally Malnor.



The traditional passing of the exhibit check to Judy Kokx, CVCF president, right, and Vice President Debby Mitteer, second from left, by SLPOA President Jon VanderPloeg, left, and Race Director Kathy Sullivan.



The Hendrix Family took home the cake for most family members participating.



Grand Master winners Chris Kok of Midland, age 53, at 19:29:3, and Dawn Nicholas, age 53, at 23:29:5, received artwork from Claybanks Pottery.



Top Male Finisher in the Master division was Joe Verlin of Grand Rapids, age 42, at 19:20:8. Top in Female Master was Katie Jazwinski of Shelby age 40, 20:29:6. Their prizes were made by Lenny Lewandowski of Stony Lake Custom Birdhouses.



Prizes for fastest times in the 2019 race, Corn Hole Games donated by Team Janie, went to Jessica Jazwinski, age 12 of Shelby, above left with presenter Amy Beattie, with a time of 19:26.3, and Hunter Tubbs, age 18 of Hart, who came in at 18:56.4.



Pretty in Pink! A photo of as many 5-year volunteers as could be rounded up by our intrepid race photographer Matt Ferguson. Thank you! Thank you!

Sparkle On 2021!

Our hindsight of the year 2020 will be interesting, but one thing we do know is that the Sparkler 5K will be missed and that our Sponsors are still supporting the race wholeheartedly!

Even though the event will be run at a later date, all was not lost because of our fantastic sponsors! They were given the option of holding over their funds for the 2021 Sparkler, distributing their donation to the Crystal Valley Care Fund, or having it returned. Even without a race the Sparkler 5K, as of the date of this publication, will be donating \$8,153.51 to CVCF, the chosen 2020 charity. Thanks to Neal Miedema who set up a Go Fund Me page to boost our Sponsors' distributions, the site has added \$2,261 to date and is still increasing daily! Donations may be made on the link at www.gofundme.com, search for Stony Lake Sparkler 5k.

Our thanks to the many volunteers who have already given their time to the 2020 race. Tom and Ann Beattie, Terry and Mike Spellman, Anita Yoder, Maribeth Sala-Geitzen, Deana Fox, T.O., Libby Brouwer, Cherie Schierbeek, Chris Kok, and mostly Kathy Sullivan who although retired from the Race Director position worked many hours to see to the transition of leadership and secure donations for the race.

Sparkle on until we are up and running again on Sunday, July 4, 2021!

- Sally Malnor, Race Director



PLATINUM SPONSORS



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Sally and Mark Myers



SILVER SPONSORS



Libby and Dan Brouwer, Sally and John Malnor, Deb and Jim Mitteer, Julie and John Stivers, Kathy Sullivan and Bob Bauer, Kate Van Bokkelen, Sally and Joe Van Bokkelen, The Voges Family

Kayak Poker Paddle is a Big Hit!

Our all-new event was a wonderful success in its debut year, with almost a hundred people at the finale of the **Kayak Poker Paddle** at Ellen Jonkers' cottage. More than 50 paddlers participated, with the adult division winner Steve Lawwill holding a full house for first place. Worst hand for adults was Jeff Nobke; Best hand in the kids division was Claire Miedema with a flush, Worst hand in the kids was Sawyer Miedema. Youngest participant was Ila VanEffen and her friend Alison (sorry, no last name); oldest was Kurt Chambers. Winner of the Stony Lake Trivia contest was Chuck Dawson. Many thanks to the dock volunteers who handed out cards at ten docks (they're listed in the Volunteer Thank-you). Also thanks to the folks who donated prizes for the Poker Paddle: Christian Buddie, master wood craftsman; Jason Fleming, J&H Fleming Farms; Cherry Point Market; Libby and Dan Brouwer; and Jon VanderPloeg. Congratulations to Ellen, Kate and their committee for dreaming it up and making it happen. The event will return next year.



Ethan Brady greets the Poker Paddlers as grandfather John Mixer looks on.



Stony Lake Photographer Matt Ferguson takes a break to paddle and play, along with daughter-in-law Kelly Ferguson.



Adult division Steve Lawwill, with wife Becky, displays his winning flush and his beautiful "half of Michigan" breadboard prize.



Tom and Emily Best hand out cards to Poker Paddlers.



The ice cream and cake crew had their work cut out for them this year, from left, Sharon Zoller, Carol Conley, Ellen Jonker and Kate Johnson.

Thank You 2019 Volunteers!

PICNIC IN THE PARK

Jon VanderPloeg, *Music Chair*

Deb Mitteer, *Pot Luck Chair*

And all the tent set-up and tear-down crew
—you know who you are.

FOURTH OF JULY FUN

Fishing Tournament: George Patten

Boat Parade: Jeff & Sue Larmore

Ice Cream Social: Diane Christianson, Carol Conley, Ruth Fox Fleming, Kate & Julie Johnson, Jeff & Sue Larmore, Nancy Migas, Deb & Jim Mitteer, John & Julie Stivers, Jon VanderPloeg, Sharon Zoller

SAILBOAT RACING

Neal & Amy Miedema

NEWSLETTER & COMMUNICATIONS

Julie Stivers, *chair*

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MEMBERSHIP

Ruth Fox Fleming, Debby Mitteer

STONY LAKE SPARKLER 5K

Kathy Sullivan, *Race Director*

Steering Committee: Kate Van Bokkelen, Tom

Owczarski, Cherie Schierbeek, Deb Mitteer, Libby

Brouwer, Amy Beattie, Anita Yoder, Susan Kurtz,

Vicki Nyenhuis, and Suzanne Koop

PLUS: Hundreds of Race-Day volunteers and an army of preparation folks! Many many thanks.

KAYAK POKER PADDLE

Kate Johnson & Ellen Jonker, co-chairs; Libby

Brouwer, Ruth Fleming, Jeff Larmore, Nancy Migas,

Jon VanderPloeg

Card Distribution Docks: Rosenberg, Mixer, Best, Zoller,

Sullivan, Migas, Fleming, Stivers, Johnson, Larmore

Master of Ceremonies: Dan Brouwer

Kayak Valets: Scot Jonker, Jacob Jonker, Adam Zavislak

WATER QUALITY

Lake Improvement Board: Dave Zoller, Tom Best

CLMP & Stream Monitoring: John Stivers, chair;

Helen Kelly, Tom Owczarski, Margitta Rose, Ray

Shinler, Tom Tissue



8050 W. Stonycroft
Shelby, MI 49455

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS TODAY – SUPPORT THE SLPOA

You can pay by PayPal on our website,
www.stonylakepropertyowners.com.
Note: We are mailing this newsletter only
to neighbors who have paid their SLPOA
dues for the past two years. Thank you
for supporting the Stony Lake Property

Owners Association. KEEP IN TOUCH!
Visit our web page, find us on Facebook,
or e-mail [stonylakepropertyowners@
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STONY LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP



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