

Sylvan Tides

Vol. 8 No. 1 June, 1997

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Shareholders and Friends,

When you show up this year, bring your waders. The lake isn't at historic levels, but it's close. We have about four feet of kiddie beach, and on the Michigan side, the dunes down on the north end by the pier have given way to high water; there are fifteen foot drops into the lake where there used to be shore, dune, dune grass, and scrub. When you walk along the shore you will see logs sticking out like cannons from the new cliff along the shore; the whole scene is like an archeological dig. Just like the stock market, the lake goes up, and the lake goes down; in the big scheme of things, it matters not - things may be all ahoo in the short run, but it's the long term that counts.

Spring at Sylvan has been slow in coming. Cold, lousy, miserable, and wretched weather has hindered cleanup, and a bare bones budget doesn't help. On top of natural and financial considerations, the 1961 Dodge dump truck (Wab One), critical for spring cleanup, blew its main bearing. These are important things, main bearings, sort of like 'mac' without the cheese; without it, the device doesn't work. Alternatives were; buy a new one for 22-30K, buy a used one for 5-10K, or fix up old faithful and get 5-8 more years out of it for \$1800. The latter choice was opted for; there isn't much to a straight six 1961 engine, parts are still available, and to spend a large amount of money on a vehicle which daily goes from Sylvan to the dump and back didn't make a lot of sense.

About the budget; folks, we are running Sylvan on a shoestring, and have for years. No administration wants to bear bad tidings, but the fact is, we need to spend some money to fix things up. Immediate fixits are the water tower, the caretaker's house (foundation, furnace, insulation, roof - take your pick), steps to the beach, and our rainy day fund. Rainy days do occur, even at Sylvan Beach. Another aspect of this plan should be the way information and history is transferred from one Board to another - we seem to be continually reinventing the wheel, and spinning it unnecessarily.

Also note that we have received reports on items missing from several Sylvan Beach cottages (mine was on of them, by the way). If, upon arrival, you notice anything missing from your cottage, please notify Roger or any member of the Board. If what you are missing has been absent for some time, it is helpful if you can remember when you noticed the item missing. You may also want to contact the Muskegon County Sheriff's Department at 616.724.6352. We don't know if this is a wide spread problem, but it is obviously a problem which needs to be monitored and acted upon accordingly.

Regarding the sale of the small parcel of Sylvan Beach to the Dombrowskis, our neighbors on our southern border, this is still a work in progress. It turns out that they never had an easement from Sylvan Beach to access their property; upon successful completion of this necessary piece of business, this transaction may yet take place before the millennium.

Well, that's the news, not the greatest, but it's the news. Some good news is that the Calendar of Events is set for the season, and we are looking forward to a good time being had by all, as usual. Sylvia Cisler is the one responsible for the orchestration of this important piece of our summer concert, and has done just an outstanding job as your Activities Chairman the last few years. Give her an attagirl (or attaperson, depending on how politically correct you are) and a hearty thank you when you see her. Good show Sylvia.

Cheers,

Jim Schmidt

News From The Editor:

Dear Readers:

First order of business, please excuse the lateness of this release. Events of the spring sprung out of control and I did not get back to this machine for some time. In the future, the issues will be more timely.

One order of business is money. I am sounding much like our president I know, but the newsletter such as it is, costs a little to produce. So, we are asking that you pay an annual subscription of \$5.00 for each household or person receiving an issue. Please send a check made payable to the Sylvan Beach Association to me. I shall don my green eye shade and keep track of who has paid. Thank you.

My visits to the Lake have been infrequent this spring, but I have noted that the isthmus is rounding into shape nicely. There is a lot of water, more than enough for everyone this summer. I doubt anyone would mind if a bucket or two were appropriated for a sand castle moat or even to put out an evening beach fire.

(Continued on back page)

Brooks Davis reports . . .

July 10 **Brooks Davis** will present a History of the Wabaningo Club at the Wabaningo Club itself. Brooks' talk is sponsored by the Whitehall Historical Society. The time will be posted at the Post Office and the Wab Club. Plus, I am such a big mouth that you will probably hear any new details from me.

The Arlington Heights Daily Herald, January 5, 1997 reported that **Ormond Ferris Lyman** died recently at the age of 93. He was the leader of a group of college boys who lived in the old Wab Club and provided music for those who were in a dancing mood. For fun he served as the executive vice president of the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce.

The US Army Corps of Engineers is forecasting **continued high water in Lake Michigan** (hence White Lake) for 1997, however this may be moderated by the fact that a "lower than normal precipitation pattern is forecast to develop across the northern lakes by late winter." The August 1996 lake level was about 22" below the 1986 high and 42" above the 1964 low.

Reprinted in part from the 11/24/96 Chicago Tribune article titled "Impressive Voices Take the Prizes," by Lawrence Johnson.

It may be the age of the Three Tenors, but it was the sopranos and baritones who made off with the top prizes at this year's central regional finals of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Thursday evening at Orchestra Hall.

*The high quality of the young singers led the judges to grant two first-place winners. . . . Also receiving a first-place prize was bass-baritone **Mark W.***

***Uhlemann.** The 22 year-old singer's warmly resonant, darkly burnished timbre was impressive in Bellini and, especially, a dramatic and nuanced "Il lacerato spirito" from Verdi's "Simon Boccanegra."*

Mark appears to be following Douglas Schmidt as a successful former Jinks performer and director on the road to a career in the big leagues.

4th of July Watermelon Party. This year the party will occur on the 4th of July behind the Post Office. Our President will be among the luminaries inspiring us with their words of wisdom.

A Couple of Whitehall Events

The Howmet Playhouse is presenting seven shows this summer.

7/3 - 5 Broadway Babies and Phantoms

7/10 & 19 Twain by the Tale

7/11 & 17 Bloody Jack

7/12 & 18 The Foreigner

7/24-26 Give 'em Hell Harry

7/31 & 8/1 & 2 Radical Radio

7/7 - 9 Amateur prby area actors

Note: I am unclear what Nancy intended by the 'prby' in her e-mail.

In the same theme, the Arts Council of White Lake, 124 W. Hanson St., Whitehall, MI 49461 is looking for new members and volunteers. The price is right (\$10 I think) and is a good cause.

What is Happening at the Channel?

From our ace Beacon Reporter, Teresa Coronado comes this well written and superbly edited story.

The White Lake Channel will be undergoing many major changes in the next five years.

The US Army Corps of Engineers has found the money for the rebuilding of half of the channel, and they will begin to rebuild this spring, with hopes of finding more money to finish the project.

This spring the Corps will begin repairing the jetties on the north and south sides of the channel. The plan is to cap the existing channel walls, and build a new support base, replacing the wooden structure currently holding the channel together. The channel walls will be approximately 3 to 5 feet wider, and at least 2 feet higher than the existing walls. Baffles will also be added to the current structure. The baffles will be small diagonal slits in the sides of the channel walls, with the function of absorbing some of the waves and boat wakes. Along with the Army Corps' improvements, money from the Edison fish kill suit is available to the governmental entities owning land along the Pentwater, White Lake, and Ludington channels. The money is earmarked for improving access to the channels. Plans for each channel will be submitted and moneys divided accordingly.

Fruitland Township has voted on asking for money for more parking, a ramp to

the channel for the handicapped, and other accessories.

Peter Palmer, a Township Trustee, drew a rough plan for the area near the White River Light Station. Trustee Duane Pierson assisted with the plan. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is asking that the parking lots be expanded by at least 50 spaces. The Fruitland Township Board planned for up to 26 new parking places. To achieve the new places, the existing parking lot will be squared, and expanded toward the lighthouse. Some of the lighthouse ground will be paved. The fence that marks the parking lot boundary, and the shed along one corner of the parking lot will be moved back and more parking spaces will be added.

The ramp for the handicapped will run from the parking lot to the new channel wall. A thin strip of land, called Inlet Place, that borders the property of Hollister's Water's Edge, will also be paved for access for the handicapped.

The township is also asking that the existing stairs be replaced in the new plan, toilets added, and a possible vault toilet built.

The new parking spaces and changes to the lighthouse property are not planned for the immediate future. The money has not been appropriated, and the Township is unsure of the plans of the Army Corps and the location and path of their construction equipment.

Activities Report

by
Sylvia Cisler

Jeanne Kochin will return as the Post Mistress this summer with Margaret Bart filling in when Jeanne starts her job at Whitehall School in late August. We are fortunate to have both devoted ladies working for us.

The Tennis Instructor for the kids will be Carrie Bozym, a graduate of Whitehall High School. Carrie played first doubles on the Whitehall Tennis Team. She will also host a "Kids' Night" once a week at the Wab Club on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00.

There will be an Art Show/Sale at the Wabaningo Club on August 2 from 9:00 - 4:00 p.m. If you are an artisan and would like to display and possibly sell your art, please call Sylvia Cisler at (616) 894-8388 for details.

The 89th Annual Jinks Follies will be directed by Katie Hylland and her devoted and loving mother, me! We hope to add some spice to the evening with acts, before, during, and after the show. So, if you are one who must be there early and want to mingle with the stars, be prepared to have them dazzle you with rare talent!

For those who can't be here for the Jinks in August, there is something for you! We will be making props all summer and need your expertise! Check the poster at the Wab Club for the schedule of events.

Tennis Tournament for Adults - Is there anyone who would like to help host a

July or August Tournament? If you are interested, please call (616) 894-8388.

Your Sylvan Calendar will come out in late June so that you can plan your activities when you arrive at Sylvan. We have had a quiet winter and await your smiling faces here on the shores of White Lake!

News, Notes, and Such From Up and Down the Beach.

From my very well placed sources all over the beach there is a great amount of news. As you will note, some of the news is reported before it actually happens. Those stories are from very good sources.

Ina Deyman died February 9, at the age of 97. She came to us from Scotland. Memorials may be sent to Muskegon Catholic Schools.

Edna Blomdahl, currently residing at Whitehall Manor, has been reported to be in good spirits and asking about all of her friends. If you have a moment, I am sure she would appreciate a note or two.

The **Gillespie's, Megan and Jim**, are expecting a baby this May. They planned a trip to the Bahamas in March. I meant to tag along, but was afraid that I might miss another snow and ice storm.

Joe and Carolyn Hyland are the proud parents of a son, Benjamin Garrett, born March 8, 1997, in Minneapolis. Benjamin joins brothers Ari and Sam and weighed in at birth at 9 pounds, 5 ounces. Proud grandparents are Sue and Jerry Hyland.

John and Leslie Tukey were delighted with the birth of their daughter in December, Summer. Brooks may have to conceive a new award for his 4th Party which awards not only the youngest baby's but those with the best Sylvan names. Summer certainly would have to be considered a good choice.

Buffy and Tom Andrews were blessed with Caroline Wilson Andrews in January.

Chip and Becky Hummel Kenyon have added three to their home, all at once. Jonathan, Matthew, and Katherine are the newest Kenyons. If you don't own stock in Pampers, I think there is still time to buy on the way up. The Kenyon's are keeping five in diapers.

Our Beacon Reporter in Residence, **Teresa Coronado**, has declared that in order to complete all of her travel plans she will gladly discuss her child watching, cleaning, and odd jobbing skills with anyone needing such services. Please call her at our cottage with any such requests. 893.3300.

The **Wabaningo Community Church** has announced that the 1997 services will begin on July 6, 1997. Dr. Gil Bowen will lift our spirits and lead us not into temptation.

Bonnie McColl warmly invites children ages 3 to 13 to join the **Choir** this summer. Last summer's group enhanced the worship services five Sundays. This summer there will be three groups; the Angel Choir - ages 3 to 5, the Youth Choir - ages 6 to 10, and the Junior Choir - ages 9 to 13. Rehearsals will take place Saturday mornings as early in July as is practical. Bonnie and Rika thank all who participated and helped last year and look forward to another great summer of warm and exuberant voices.

More Development Things

From Teresa again here is the news on the Seyferth Condominium Proposal.

The preliminary plans of the nine unit condominium structure planned by Gerry and Sue Seyferth have received a recommendation from the Fruitland Planning Board.

The condominiums, which are to be built on the Galleon property, would include 24 parking spaces, 18 in a semi-underground structure, and a pool. Over 70 letters from members of Murray Road, L.C. were received by the Fruitland Township Board, supporting the project. Murray Road, L.C. is the entity that is selling the property to the Seyferth's.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Thank you for finally bringing the weather vane error to light after so many years. Imagine anyone thinking that the instrument could predict the weather. It is an indicator of wind direction and that is all, ergo, a wind vane.

Keep up the good work.

A Loyal and Learned Reader.

Dear Editor:

Why is it that golf balls travel farther on the back nine than the front nine at White Lake Golf Club? For years I have been wondering and have not ever had a satisfactory answer. One fellow told me that there is some sort of temperature inversion caused by White Lake that makes the air thinner. Huh? All I know is that no matter whether I have a ball with one or a

thousand dimples, I have much better distance on my drives on the back nine. So, if you know, please print your answer so that I finally stop driving everyone crazy with my questions.

Thanks.

A Nut.

Dear Nut:

I don't know, but I'll ask around. Ed.

Dear Editor:

Just wanted to say thanks to everyone in Sylvan for a wonderful time last summer. I can't tell you how much I enjoyed my two weeks in paradise. Particularly I would like to say thanks to a special gentleman who I hope had as much fun as I. Who could have imagined that after so many years on the road, that I would find true love and happiness on the shores of Lake Michigan?

We did get out one morning early to attend a Farmer's Market in Muskegon. What a hoot. Everything so fresh, so crisp, and so colorful. I understand the asparagus, it comes from the area and appears to have a three month season. Even the blue berries and raspberries make sense, Muskegon being the north part of the fruit belt and all. But bananas? The farmer selling them insisted that they were native to the state and came from Dole County, just outside Grand Rapids. First I heard of it.

Well Mr. Editor, I will keep in touch and send you some postcards from a couple of the wild places I go. And I hope to return to your lovely part of the world soon.

Thanks again.

L. Erickson

News From The Editor Continued

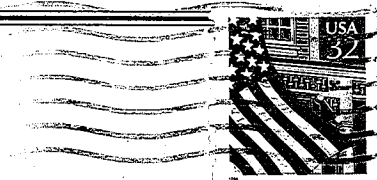
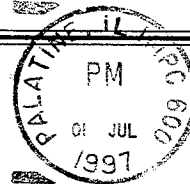
I was asked if in the interest of accuracy, we should consider changing the name of the Tides. More accurately, the reader queried, shouldn't the paper be named Tidings? Lake Michigan has an insignificant tide, but does it really have anything to do with Sylvan, which really relates to trees? Another reader (there are at least two now) suggested that why try to make sense of the name, when part of what we enjoy about the place is its whimsy. Just keep the name we have since it is characteristic of the nature of Sylvan Beach. I will tell you that I have lost sleep over this issue and am hopeful that one of you can put it to rest.

That is all from here. I look forward to seeing you this summer.

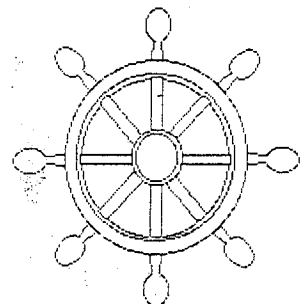


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