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Mike and friends "pilot" an inflatable plane across the lake!!!



A **HARMLESS** Northern Brown water snake near shore in September 2022, No need to worry!

## Welcome old and new to 2023 at Three Mile Lake!

I can feel it already, it's going to be an awesome summer here at the lake. As I am writing this the spring rains are coming down hard but I'm not minding it at all as I know it's just filling up the lake for us all to enjoy this year. All the birds are coming back and their songs are a sure sign of good weather. Whether you live here full time or come up in the summer/weekends almost everyone I talk to finds a calm here, some new friends and definitely has a lot of fun!

To our new homeowners getting this newsletter for the first time, we welcome you. You're going to love it here, we have a good community at Three Mile Lake with generally caring and fun people.

Hopefully you'll all join me in meeting someone new this year, talk to your neighbors, lend a helping hand and offer a bit of wise advice you've learned from the years of living here.

New to the lake? Questions? Just want to chat? Feel free to give me a ring anytime or reach out to any other member of the board!

-Chadwick Learned [clearned@gmail.com](mailto:clearned@gmail.com)



We had a light winter this picture was taken from the boat launch, looks as if the ice was making a pathway.



# Our Township and Quick Reference Guide

Three Mile Lake is located in

**Paw Paw Township** which is part of  
**Van Buren County**

Paw Paw Township Hall	114 N Gremps St, Paw Paw, 269-657-4340
Zoning and Building / Inspections / Permits	Safebuilt-269-729-9244-athensmi@safebuilt.com
Planning Department-Site plans, special land uses etc	David Jirousek, 616-540-1794, hcplanning@outlook.com OR want to talk first? Chadwick is on the planning commission. (Contact info on front page)
Assessing-Land splits, lot line adjustments etc	Ben Brousseau, 269-655-1144, ben.apglcc@gmail.com
Van Buren County Road Commission	269-674-8011, ubcrc@ubcrc.org
Van Buren County Sheriffs Office	269-657-2006
Michigan DNR (Department of Natural Resources -Allegan Field Office (over our lake)	269-673-2584
EGLE-Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy-Our District Office is Kalamazoo	7953 Adobe Rd, Kalamazoo - 269-567-3500

## Won't you be, my neighbor?

We're all pretty easy to get along with out here for the most part but that doesn't mean something won't irk one of us at one time or another. We'd like to encourage anyone with an issue of any kind to talk directly together to see if there's a solution without involving any authority figures whenever possible. Our township doesn't have a police department or full time enforcement officer, we are complaint based response in the township. Why? - Simply put we haven't needed more than that, total enforcement action requirements are low. One of the great things about living out here is the low key culture and pace of life. Most of the time when I've learned about an issue on the lake it's either a misunderstanding or the offending party didn't even know they were bothering someone!

## Board Members

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Term Expiring</u>
President	Chadwick Learned	269-779-3636	clearned@gmail.com	2024
Vice President	Mike Sullivan	269-352-2781	tikibar1970@gmail.com	2022
Treasurer	Jim Chlada	708-610-2065	jimchlada@comcast.net	2024
Director	Francisco Posada	269-823-3810	franciscopolposada@gmail.com	2023
Director	Charlie Bear	269-657-7590	bearcsm@yahoo.com	2022
Director	Rich Maxwell	269-657-7343	maxpp4444@aol.com	2023
Director	Millie Pawlowski	312-406-1129	mill.pawl@gmail.com	2022
Director	Jolinda Douglas	269-655-0059	Jolinda.douglas42@gmail.com	2024
<b>SECRETARY</b>	<b>SPOT AVAILABLE</b>			

**Interest in joining?**

**We'd love to have you! Email or call!**

**This Years boat parade will occur Saturday, July 1st, 2022**



***Meet on the south side of the lake in the bay at 7:30pm to start our troll around the lake. Feel free to join in line with your boat or jet ski anytime! OR just enjoy the parade from your dock waving away!***

## **Three Mile Lake Picnic OR Something Else?**

For many years the Three Mile Lake Association hosted a picnic for all our residents. Between Covid and a lack of volunteer host site we haven't had one for a couple of years.

**All are Welcome, no need to be a member!**

The board provides all the food, tables, chairs, prizes and port-o-jon . All we need is someone willing to have the community over for the annual meeting, picnic, fun and games!

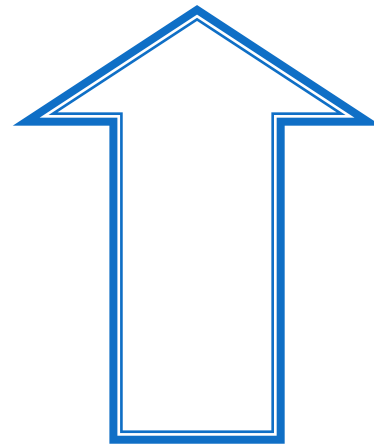
If you have any interest at all in hosting or other ideas please contact:  
admin@threemilelakepawpaw.org or call

Chad-269-779-3636  
Jim-708-610-2065

**We'd love to hear your feedback on any alternatives.**

Sandbar Party?  
Giant Boat Tie Up?  
Virtual Meeting?  
House Hopping Cornhole Tournament?

**Thoughts? Please email or call!**



## **Wowzers!**

Home Values around the lake have increased dramatically the last few years with home sales setting new records for price per sq ft for Three Mile Lake!

So many of us have been investing in updating our homes and landscaping, it's been fun to see all the renovation projects as of late.

We have a varied mix of architecture and different style houses along the lake creating a unique ambiance. New and shiny or old and full of character we love them all!

# Three Mile Lake Health Update

The lake is tested / analyzed twice per year to determine the health of the lake and water conditions.

Our 2022 report and all HISTORIC reports/analytical are available on the website

[threemilelakepawpaw.org](http://threemilelakepawpaw.org) - Click the tab on the left labeled **LAKE MANAGEMENT**

FYI—If you didn't see, we came is **UNDER BUDGET** on the last lake treatment agreement and a new contract was approved by the township and lake association.

We're very fortunate to have been able to maintain very healthy conditions for fish growth and swimming throughout the years. Our natural wetlands and sources of incoming water contribute to the high quality of water in Three Mile Lake.

## Algae Blooms—Can we do anything to help prevent them?

We've seen some increased occurrence of floating green algae blooms in recent years. Many factors can contribute and we've been fortunate that they've been short lived.

The recent results are very similar to our results in previous years. We have seen a trending increase in PHOSPHOUROUS ENRICHMENT . Generally this it due to nitrogen enrichment from runoff of fertilizer from surrounding fields AND from homeowners. This can also happen if plants/weeds/lilypads are destroyed in the lake but not removed.

## Why is it important to evaluate phosphorus? (epa.gov)

High concentrations of phosphorus may result from poor agricultural practices, runoff from urban areas and lawns, leaking septic systems or discharges from sewage treatment plants. Too much phosphorus can cause increased growth of algae and large aquatic plants, which can result in decreased levels of dissolved oxygen— a process called eutrophication. High levels of phosphorus can also lead to algae blooms that produce algal toxins which can be harmful to human and animal health.

**We can all help reduce negative effects on the quality of the water. Keeping our lake thriving for generations to come!**

## Quick Tips for maintaining water quality

- ◆ Use lake safe fertilizer only. That is Phosphorus FREE. The middle number on the bag would be a ZERO

### Example 10-0-5

- ◆ If you're removing lake weeds from in front of your home make sure to remove them from the lake. Leaving dead vegetation in the lake compounds weed growth by creating an ideal place for them to regrow.
- ◆ Keep leaves / grass out of the lake.
- ◆ Maintain your septic system tank and fields.
- ◆ Refrain from dumping soil/bait into the water.

### GOODBYE AND THANK YOU RON CICCHINI

One of the founders of the Lake Association and over 3 decade long resident of the lake Ron is moving to New Jersey with his wife Sue. Our heartfelt good-byes and appreciation for all you've done!

*Reminder: PLM treats the lake for invasive weed species. They are not permitted to treat for native species of weeds/aquatic growth such as Lilypad's.*



## New Member Questions and Answers

The Three Mile Lake Board received a few questions over the past year not previously asked—here's our best guess at a response.

**Q: Where should we anchor the boat for swimming?**

**A:** There's no RIGHT answer here or "rule" but here's some general guidance that MAY help. The south end of the lake is calmer and generally safer for swimming as there is no towing or high speed boating in the area. If you do end up anchoring in the Northeast cove we'd suggest you do so as close to shore as reasonable. Boats towing skiers/tubers often don't realize anchored boats until making the turn which can cause some danger.

*The only regulation is your anchoring of a vessel should not impede the normal traffic flow. (Basically, don't anchor right at a turn or constricted access area like a channel or narrow portion)*

**Q: How late can we be out on the lake?**

**A:** As late as you want!  
*If using the public access, that closes at dusk but if you live here there's no limit for how long you can stay out. Just use your lights if on a boat (NOT your docking lights—they'll blind other boaters and are only for docking.) Swimming late at night? We'd suggest a lighted swim ball for safety.*

**Q: Is there "really" a Three Mile Lake monster created from an experiment on Three Mile Island?**

**A:** We don't want to add to rumor but here's a picture from a few years back,



# Fishing Time!



2023 Free Fishing Weekend is June 10th and 11th, 2023  
No License needed these days.

### Need a fishing license?

Our local hardware stores sell licenses on the spot and you'll be supporting a local business. OR you can register an account and buy online at ;

<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/things-to-do/fishing>



*The Michigan Riparian* is the only magazine devoted exclusively to covering current issues relevant to the protection, preservation and improvement of Michigan's inland waters, and to the rights of riparian property owners to protect and enjoy their water-front property.

Visit [mi-riparian.org](http://mi-riparian.org) for more info or to subscribe.

Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Inc. is a non-profit, state-wide organization dedicated to the preservation, protection and wise management of Michigan's vast treasure of inland lakes and streams. .

Visit [mymlsa.org](http://mymlsa.org) for more information!



# Volunteers

## Needed!



The Three Mile Lake Association is comprised of it's members and a board of volunteer officers and directors.

We're seeking a replacement SECRETARY at this time and would welcome you with open arms.

Generally speaking the secretary would take minutes at the once or twice yearly meeting and prepare the newsletter (with help).

We'd also really appreciate some help with the below if you're willing and able please send us an email or give us a ring.

- **Spring Buoy Placement**
- **Fall Buoy Removal and Storage**
- **Newsletter Preparation and Articles', Folding and Mailing**

# Membership Drive Join Us

# Membership Drive Join Us

Included in this mailing is a membership form should you wish to fill and send by mail with a check.

Otherwise you can go online to [threemilelakepawpaw.org](http://threemilelakepawpaw.org) Click the become a member button to fill the easy online form. Payments are accepted through Paypal (You DO NOT need to have an account)



Membership Dues are only \$30



Friendly reminder that in Michigan you must keep your pet leashed when not contained on your property. Pet owners are also required to pick up any droppings!





# DOCK PROS

## LAKEFRONT SERVICE



## CANDOCK

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EASY INSTALLATION (NO NUTS/BOLTS) AND  
UNRIVALED STABILITY, THERES NO WONDER WHY  
**SHORE STATION** HAS BECOME THE MOST  
TRUSTED BRAND ON THE WATER.

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INSTALLATION/REMOVAL  
WE BUY USED LIFTS  
(269) 823-3810



## “Think About It” ( quote: Rinaldo Cicchini)

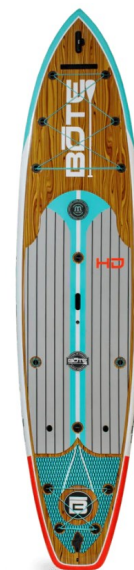
*A parting note about lake safety.*

Everyone wants to stay safe on the lake and we here on Three Mile (and Little Three Mile) have been fortunate to have avoided any major incidents the last few years. It’s easy to forget to mention some basics when guests come over, or assume everyone knows how to stay safe out there. Here’s some items to keep in mind, and end of the day don’t forget Ron’s line “Think About It” - which is simply to say everything you do on the water deserves some consideration, that extra effort may prevent an unfortunate visit to the hospital.

### Kayaking and Paddle Boarding



If you haven’t been kayaking or paddle boarding, try it! Our lake has lots of nooks and crannies to explore!



#### Basics

- ◆ Let someone know when you’re going out with an approximate time of return.
- ◆ Check the weather beforehand
- ◆ Consider wearing a life jacket—at minimum have one available.
- ◆ Bring a phone or another way of communicating.
- ◆ Have WATER available.
- ◆ If you can, bring a friend!
- ◆ Out at night or MAY be out at near dusk? BRING a lantern / white light, by regulation kayaks must have a single 360 degree white light on the bow at night.

#### Think About It

- ◆ Plan your path—going out when there are lot’s of boats on the lake? (especially towing skiers or tubers) Consider sticking to the shoreline whenever possible.
  - 1) Yes, you have the right of way, but that doesn’t mean they’ll see you.
  - 2) Boats towing passengers for water sports often have divided attention.
  - 3) Getting caught in the whirlpool effect or increased wave activity from boat activity can be a dangerous situation.
  - 4) In areas of high motorboat traffic, stay near the shore, and approach waves head-on or at a slight angle to avoid capsizing.
- ◆ Help your guests remember the basics, it’s easy to forget if you’re not here all the time!
- ◆ Try not to cut directly across the path of traffic if it’s reasonable.
- ◆ Getting in/out of your kayak (sand bar etc), consider bringing an anchor or other way to prevent losing your kayak or paddleboard.
- ◆ Protip: Use your paddle to confirm the depth before exiting the kayak in the water.

### What is the most dangerous type of watercraft?



Riding a jetski is by far the most dangerous activity statistically!

Over 80% of accidents are by GUESTS / NON OWNERS, 73% of those occur within the first hour of use! You may want to remind guests of the counter clockwise traffic pattern, not to go through weeds etc.

*Reminder:* ANYONE born after Dec 31st. 1978 must have boating safety certificate to operate a Personal Watercraft and be at least 16 years old. This INCLUDES out of state residents, although your states equivalent of a boating safety certificate is OK.

