



THE BROWER *News*



**BBLIA wishes you a
safe and fun fourth!**

4th of July Popsicle 6 Pack Pre-sale

Order now through July 1st!
\$15 per 6 pack box: cash or card
Payment upon pick up: July 4, 4-6 PM

Our popsicles are made with local and/or organic & sustainable ingredients, no fake stuff, corn syrup or fillers! All pops are nut free, dairy free, gluten free. We've selected our top flavours, kid tested, moms approve:

***Fruity box:**

3 of: Strawberry-Orange-Pineapple
3 of: Berry-Lavender Lemonade

***Chocolate box:**

3 of: Chocolate-Cherry Fudgesicle
3 of: Maple-Chaga Fudgesicle

To order, email:

anycolouryouliketreats@gmail.com

Pick up at:
8488 Brower Lake Dr.

*No modifications or
substitutions!



- 9:00 am Fun Run & Walk
- 6:00 pm No wake
- 6:45 pm Meet in cove for
Boat Parade
- 7:00 pm Boat Parade Theme:
Out of this World
- 10:00 pm Light your flares!
- At dark Fireworks

Need Flares?

Flares will be available for purchase on the [BBLIA website](#) or through your board member (see back page for your board representative). Once purchased, they will be dropped off to you. Due to COVID, flares will not be available at the Fun Run.

They sell for \$3.00 each and lighting will begin at 10:00 on July 4th.



Fourteenth Annual Big Brower Lake



The annual Big Brower Lake Fun Run/Walk will be held on July 4, starting at 9:00 a.m. This fun event is a great way for family, friends and neighbors to start their Independence Day festivities. This is a “fun” run with no prizes, but we’ll pat you on the back (virtually) when you cross the finish line! Proceeds go to BBLIA to help offset the expensive cost of our fantastic fireworks display. A small monetary donation will also be sent to the North Kent Service Center.

The run/walk will look a little different this year due to Covid-19 and we will be practicing social distancing before, during, and after the run/walk. To keep everyone safe and comfortable attending the event, we ask that you please follow the social distancing protocols below:

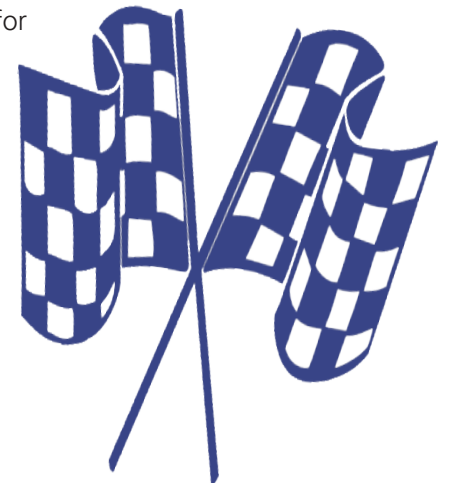
1. Please arrive to the association lot by 8:45 a.m. and check in with Lorraine. We will be forming 2 lines inside the gate, one which will circle up the right side of the pavilion and the other which will circle out towards the playground and up the hill on the other side of the pavilion. Please remember to maintain social distance while in line, keeping 6 feet between families. Starting at 9 a.m., we will release a group from each line in small increments to start the run/walk so that we are not all taking off at the same time.
2. During the run/walk, please remember to keep your family 6 ft. apart from other families.
3. After the walk, head on home and enjoy the day!

**** NOTE:** Due to Covid-19 we will not be setting up a registration table, taking money, or be providing any bottled water or snacks this year. Also, due to the staggered start times, we will not be keeping track of times or have any winners this year so if you’d like to know your time please keep track of it.

Don’t forget to wear your 2020 Fun Run Tees to the event!! If you registered for the run, Lorraine will be dropping your tees off at your front door a few days prior to the run/walk so please keep your eyes open for them on your doorstep. If you haven’t registered and wish to join the run/walk, please let Lorraine know and you can send her a check to cover your registration – no tees guaranteed for late registrants however we’d still love to have you join us and you can check with Lorraine to see if there are any extras.

This is our largest run/walk ever!! I think we’re all ready to get outside and at least SEE one another!

Have a safe and Happy 4th!!
Lorraine



The Fourth of July Boat Parade

The boat parade theme this year will be:

OUT of this WORLD

Don't miss the fun!

Please use a boat that is motorized.
Meet in the cove at 6:45 pm to receive your number so you can win a prize.
The **cash prizes will be \$35, \$30, and \$25.**

Seeking Volunteers for the Pontoon Assembly and Dismantle

If you are handy with power tools (and even if you are not!) please consider helping the board assemble and dismantle the pontoons for our fireworks display. It is a special treat that we can have the fireworks shot from the center of the lake for all to see but it requires additional work for the board and the pyrotechnic's crew. If you could help either July 2, starting at 4pm, for the assembly or July 5, starting at 1pm, for the dismantle, please come to the association lot.

Your help is appreciated!

Membership Dues are Due

Thank you to all who have paid your dues so far! If you haven't, please go to the [Big Brower Lake website](#) to pay online. With concern for the safety of our board members and you as residents, this year we ask if you would pay your dues either online or by check. The board members will not be coming around to collect the dues.

The BBLIA is counting on your dues once again for our spectacular fireworks, association maintenance and so much more. The annual dues are \$60.00 if paid by 7/15/20 and \$75.00 if paid after that date. We will be changing the password after the 15th so you will no longer have access to the website and will be removed from the email list. Please don't miss the deadline, we do not want you to miss any important news items!

2020 Spring Water Quality Report

We had our challenges this spring for sure. With a relatively light winter, the lake woke up this spring looking clearer than I've seen it in years! Then came the heat, the rain, the cold, the heat, more rain...and up popped the Algae. The combination of sudden warming with rain (abundant in nutrients) caught us off guard and we had a major bloom right before Memorial Day weekend. We addressed it with Professional Lake Management (PLM) immediately but it was still too late for the holiday. When they did come, I asked how soon we could do another treatment as I knew it would be necessary. EGLE (the state environmental department) restricts us to every 14 days so we had to wait. The weather complicated it further by pushing the fish bedding closer into summer. This meant we couldn't treat for algae near their beds. Some of what we were seeing was a mixture of pollen with the algae as the quick weather change made other things bloom more quickly. The lake is finally starting to recover and we'll be keeping a close eye on it going forward to do our best to prevent this happening again. Algae is the cheapest of the weeds to treat so cost is not a concern.

We had some more Cabomba, an invasive plant, growing in the cove. Fortunately, there are now a couple of herbicides that can be used to get rid of it. This is similar to milfoil in that it can take over shallow lakes like ours quickly if left unchecked.

We are also doing some spot treatments for milfoil. It continues to grow through the winter and as mild as our last one was, it grew better than normal.

We are also going to back off a bit on treating the non-invasive plants unless a hindrance to lake usage. The thought is that if we let them grow, they will leave less space for the invasive plants to grow. We do still plan to treat for eel grass (it has the spiral flower stem) that comes up in August.

There has been some concern as far as the treatment schedule is concerned. We are required by law to circulate a schedule at the beginning of the year and always do, posting it on our web site. The challenge that comes up is when the weather doesn't cooperate and a treatment can't be done that day. In addition, when the weather is as erratic as it was for us this spring, it creates the need for additional treatment to maintain a healthy lake balance. Usually, this also raises havoc with other lakes so it can be difficult for PLM to schedule ahead of time. If it becomes an even bigger concern, we can look into the possibility of an alert system but as is the case with Algae, mother nature usually doesn't give us much of a warning. She forces us to be reactionary.

Feel free to email/text myself, or any of the other water quality monitors if you see anything of concern.

Have a great summer!
Frank Walejewski

2020 Weed Treatment Schedule

Week of:

Type of Treatment:

7-6

Weed & Algae Opt., E.Coli

8-3

Weed & Algae Opt.

8-24

Fall AVAS, WQ

DEQ permitting restrictions, national holidays, and/or weather conditions may influence the timing of treatments throughout the 2020 season.

Community Crew Update

Due to the success of the first BBQ food truck organized in the BBL Association Lot, the Crew arranged for a 2nd truck (Taco) on Saturday the 20th from 11:00am - 7:00pm along with Corn Hole boards. It allowed for a break from cooking and provided a challenging game with fellow Corn Hole enthusiasts!

The June 13, BBL Association Lot Project proved to be very successful with help from many of our residents going our Crew working together in the Lot. If you haven't walked or driven by the Lot in a while, please do so. Your eyes will be pleased!

Here are a few things we accomplished this year:

- Removal of additional invasive Autumn Olives
- Splitting of down tree in the Lot
- Fresh coat of paint applied to pavilion walls
- Border created, lined with rocks, ferns and hostas added
- Maintenance and expansion of the flower garden
- Picnic table donated
- Work on re-directing of drainage off the gutter causing run off
- Decision to hire professional mowing service after concerns brought to committee of safety for our teenagers who were doing the mowing



Ideas for the future:

- Continuation of work on drainage issue and creation of new brick walls on each side of the pavilion
- Face lift of the BBLIA Sign
- Exploration of finding and installing a Library Box in the Lot
- Movie night at the Lot with film projected on pavilion walls
- Planning of 2nd Pig Roast this Fall scheduled tentatively for October 11 but subject to change or cancellation due to COVID-19 precautions

The Lot's transformation and the Events that have been provided and continue to be organized by the BBL Crew could not happen without the additional volunteer hours, and generous donations we have that were received from all of you. THANK YOU.

If you have enjoyed the efforts The Crew has put forth for our BBL Community, please consider making a monetary donation to the BBL Crew, formally known as Beautification Committee. You can do this through the website or with me and I'll give it to our treasurer. Additionally please consider volunteering your time. Many hands make light work!

Have a wonderful summer,
Renee Lobert, *BBL Community Crew Chair*

**Thank you to the committee for all their hard work
and to those who contributed monetarily to the cause.**

If you would like to contribute to the Community Crew committee, please visit the [website's contribution page](#).

Our New Neighbors

Ken & Shelly Vermeulen 8337 Je Ne Be

The Vermeulens have been Rockford residents since 2000, previously living just a few miles away near Egypt Valley and Belding Road. Ken and Shelly have been married for almost 30 years (you can expect a little celebrating on August 11). Ken is originally from Grosse Pointe Park and Plymouth, and is a real estate and environmental attorney with Honigman, LLP. Shelly grew up in the NW side of Grand Rapids and recently retired after 30+ years as an elementary school teacher (the last 20 years or so for Rockford Public Schools). They have two daughters, Morgan (25) and Sarah (23), who are both nurses at Spectrum Butterworth. Morgan will be getting married later this summer to Jamie Staley, but will still be spending plenty of time on the lake.

Ken is an avid hunter and fisherman, although most of his fishing is spent pursuing salmon and walleye in Lake Michigan and Lake Erie, but he's looking forward to trying to outsmart the fish on Brower Lake as well. Shelly and the girls are looking forward to all kinds of outdoor activity around the lake, including paddle boarding, kayaking, and taking walks and runs around the lake.

The other member of the family is Kody, an eight year old golden retriever and Ken's waterfowl and pheasant hunting partner. When Kody was younger, Ken

and Shelly spent much of their time as members of the Great Lakes Hunting Retriever Club, and participating in hunt tests and field trials with Kody.

Mike & Kristen Herweyer 8585 Brower Lake

The Herweyer family moved on the lake on July 7, 2019. They have two girls, Abby (7) and Grace (5). Kristen is already volunteering her help with the BBL Community Crew making the Association Lot look beautiful. Kristen just wanted to express how much she appreciates the lake community and how friendly everyone has been. She says that it is "the nicest place I've ever lived." They are looking forward to being on the lake this 4th of July and participating in the Fun Run and boat parade!

WELCOME TO THE LAKE!

New to the Lake?

If you are new to the lake and we have not welcomed you yet, please let us know! We want the lake residents to have a chance to know a little bit about you. Please let us know at wendy@bigbrowerlake.com.

Quiet Hours

Tuesday & Thursdays

Mornings: 5 am to 9 am

Evenings: 5 pm to midnight

"Quiet hours" means motorized craft must operate at no-wake speed.

2020 Summer Calendar of Events

JULY 4

Fun Run & Fireworks
See summer newsletter for the event details.

AUGUST 18

BBLIA Annual Meeting
6:30pm - Association Lot
See next page for the event details.

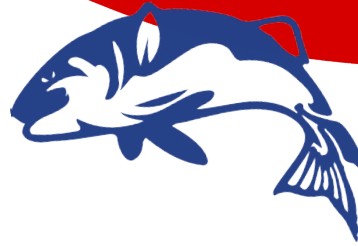
OCTOBER 11 - TBD

BBLIA Harvest Festival & Pig Roast
2:00pm - Association Lot
See fall newsletter for the event details.

Please see the website for the up-to-date information on lake activities. If you are a member and want to receive the latest news and are not receiving emails from the association, please send your email to wendy@bigbrowerlake.com.



News from around the lake



Thanks to the generous donations of lake residents, we are planning on fish planting this fall. If you would still like to donate to the fish planting, please go to the [website's donate page](#) and select fish planting from the drop down menu.

If you have a suggestion on what type of fish you would like planted, please send your requests to Kevin Jacot at kevinjacot@yahoo.com.

Elliot Morrison, Michelle Richardson's grandson caught a pumpkinseed sunfish (in bluegill family) just off her dock. What a great catch!!



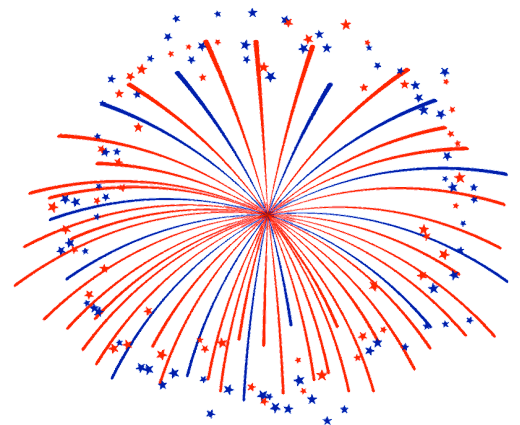
You are invited to the **Annual Meeting**

**at the Association Pavilion
Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 6:30 pm**

Please come to learn about the activities the board has planned, what has happened during the year, and to elect the next year's board members. If you, or someone you know, is willing to serve on the board, please let your board member know. Even if you can't make it to Tuesday night's meeting, the board will include your name on the list to be voted on. This is your opportunity to help out your community.

If you would like to help the board members, but feel you can't commit to being a board member at this time, please contact a board member and let them know your willingness to help.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

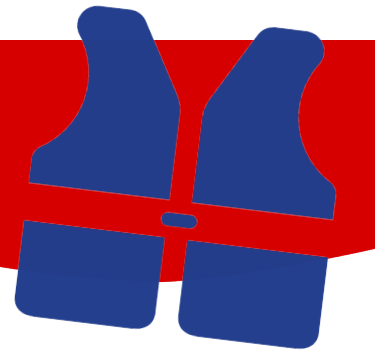


Contributing to the Fireworks Display

We are so grateful to those of you who have contributed to the fireworks display. If you haven't yet, but still would like to contribute, you may make your contribution online at the [Big Brower Lake website!](#) Any amount you can contribute to this is appreciated!

Boating Laws

Be legal,
be safe



For those who were unable to attend our recent boater safety presentation, here are some important reminders to keep in mind as you enjoy this boating season.

Age Requirements for operating a boat

- Those born ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 1996 may operate a boat powered by a motor over 6hp ONLY if they have a Boater Safety Certificate on board.
- Those born BEFORE JULY 1, 1996 may operate a boat legally without restriction
- Those UNDER 12 may operate a boat powered by a motor of 6hp or less without restriction *or* operate a boat of more than 6hp up to 35 mph if they have a boater safety certificate on board *and* are accompanied by a person 16 years or older.

Age Requirements for operating a Personal Water Craft (PWC)

- It is illegal for anyone UNDER AGE 14 to operate a PWC
- AGE 14-15 may operate a PWC if they have a boating safety certificate on board AND are accompanied by an adult 21 or older
- AGE 16-41 (born after 12/31/1978) *must* have a boating safety certificate on board to legally operate a PWC
- BORN BEFORE 1978 may operate a PWC without restriction
- CHILD PASSENGERS on a PWC must sit *behind* the PWC operator

MUST HAVES

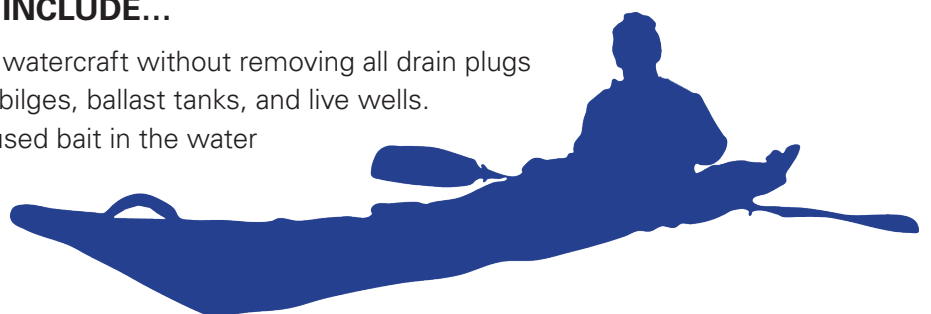
- All boats 16' or longer must have a life jacket for each person on the vessel AND a throwable, all readily available
- Children under 6 must wear a Type I or Type II life jacket when riding a boat
- Any person being towed must wear a life jacket
- Kayakers must have a life jacket or throwable readily available in their vessel

UNLAWFUL OPERATION INCLUDES...

- Not maintaining proper distances when at greater than "no wake speed":
 - **At least 100 ft. from shore; any anchored vessel, dock, or raft; or any swimmer**
 - In addition to the above, a PWC at greater than "no wake speed" must be at least 150 ft. behind boats (does not include other PWCs), including the traversing across the wake of boats.
- It is unlawful to operate a vessel while under the influence of alcohol or for the owner to allow someone under the influence of alcohol to operate their vessel.

NEW ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS INCLUDE...

- It is unlawful to transport a watercraft without removing all drain plugs and draining all water from bilges, ballast tanks, and live wells.
- It is unlawful to release unused bait in the water



Lake Directory

Looking for an address for a Big Brower Lake resident? Please see the website, bigbrowerlake.com, for an updated Lake Directory. If you have any changes or are a new lake resident, please email Wendy at wendy@bigbrowerlake.com to update your information.

Pontoon Trailer Rental

If you need to use the association's pontoon trailer, please schedule a time with Ingrid Jensen at 915-2273. The rates for the pontoon trailer rental are tiered. For those who rent the pontoon trailer to use around the lake, the rate is \$35.00. Any rental requiring travel to another area the rate will be \$50.00. Please have payment ready when you pick up the trailer for use.

The lake residents have been divided up into eight sections and a board member is assigned to the following sections.

Jeff Case	8348-8481 Je-Ne-Be Dr.
Jackie Dangl	8585-8720 Brower Lake Dr.
Ingrid Jensen	8659-8851 Je-Ne-Be Dr. 8405-8470 Oakview
Renee Lobert	8843-8955 Je-Ne-Be Dr. 8820 Ne St.
Shawn Marks	8735-8888 Brower Lake Dr.
Lorraine Nykun	8493-8651 Je-Ne-Be Dr.
Kevin Jacot	8450-8582 Brower Lake Dr.
Michael Wilson	8402-8436 Brower Lake Dr. 8315-8344 Je-Ne-Be Dr. 8446 & 8453 Brower Ave.



Need an inexpensive idea for your guest?

Contact your board member to get yours today! They are only \$10.00 or 2 for \$15.00 and you will be helping out your association.



facebook.com/bigbrowerlake

Newsletter address:
8493 Je Ne Be NE
Rockford, MI 49341

Website address:
www.bigbrowerlake.com

BIG BROWER LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors

President:

Ingrid Jensen 915.2273 ijensen@clarkhill.com

Vice President:

Lorraine Nykun 884.5660 lorraine.nykun@outlook.com

Secretary

Jackie Dangl 299.1745 jcdangl@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Mike Wilson 248.561.9933 m.wilson@dfarminc.com
-- 8570 Je-Ne-Be Drive, Rockford, MI 49341

Technical Officer

Wendy Mersman 940.4598 wendy@bigbrowerlake.com

Directors:

Shawn Marks 989.430.0715 shawnlobertmarks@gmail.com

Renee Lobert 446.1010 lobertrenee@gmail.com

Jeff Case 540.6855 jdcase23@gmail.com

Kevin Jacot 989.73.1362 jacotk@progressiveae.com

Board Alternates

Steve Cilek 340.2479 cilek@chartermi.net

Mike Farrar 430.9693 farrarmichael@yahoo.com

Volunteers

Neighborhood Watch

Wendy Mersman 940-4598

Township Lake Board

Ingrid Jensen 915-2273

Frank Walejewski 460-4225

Township Sewer Board

Bill Dykstra 874-1234

Water Quality Monitors

Ingrid Jensen 915-2273

Frank Walejewski 460-4225

Newsletter & Website

Wendy Mersman 940-4598

Welcome Representative

Shawn Marks 989-430-0715