



Middle Straits Lake *Connection*

Spring 2021

Letter from the MSLIA President

Welcome both new and old lakefront neighbors and association members to "Living in the Middle". What a year we all just went through. Well now is the time to start pulling the covers off of the boats, getting the boat docks in the water, and preparing the boat for a fun 2021 summer boating season. The association has been busy this winter addressing lake issues and co-hosting another successful sunny Winter Party. This time without Chili due to the Covid situation. It was a great day for all who attended, Hot Dogs, beverages, bonfires, and good music along with smiles abound and some deep slushy snow.

Spring is on the way and as usual the MSLIA has quite a chore list for the upcoming year. A few of the usual items on the "to do" list: Lake weeding, Water quality and clarity monitoring and testing, Fish stocking, the annual fourth of July boat parade, and Fireworks. We are also planning the annual MSLIA summer party, along with addressing any lake issues that arise.

The MSLIA board meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 pm to discuss lake issues. If there is any specific lake issue you would like us to address, please join in at a meeting or email lakeboard@MSLIA.org for meeting date / and locations. We would be glad to have you participate with the board and or provide your concern or insight. Please note that board positions are all voluntary and the meetings are lively and quite fun.

I personally want to thank all of the MSLIA Board Members and Beach Association representatives for volunteering another year of their time, effort, and hard work for the good of our lake and the MSLIA. I also would like to thank all our members who are concerned about the quality and safety issues of our lake, and all the members paying their association dues.

We hope to see all our members attend the annual membership meeting, Friday June 4th, 7 pm at Bloomer Park. Come and share your ideas and or concerns for the lake and meet your fellow lakefront neighbors.

I sincerely hope you all have a great 2021 summer season "Living in the Middle" and we look forward to seeing you all out on our lake.

Safe Boating and good Fishing,
Pete Saules - MSLIA President

Vice President Report

Happy Spring MSLIA members! I absolutely love the day when all the ice melts off the lake. It provides assurance that warmer weather is on the way and that a summer of good times will follow. I am SO ready!

The role of VP in any volunteer organization is sort of an ambiguous one. Yes, I am ready to take the reins from the President when needed and contribute in any way that I can to the success of the organization, but specific responsibilities are few. Therefore, I have taken on the unofficial role of being the SWAG (**S**ouvenirs, **W**earables, **A**nd **G**ifts) provider of MSLIA branded items. This is a break-even financial proposition purely intended for anyone wanting to show his/her pride of "Livin' in the Middle." I have produced sweatshirts, fleeces, t-shirts, koozies, coffee tumblers, hats, beach towels, and new for this spring, **boat stickers**. Come and see me at any official MSLIA function to purchase these fine items. Inventory will vary. First come, first served.

I hope to see you all in "the bay" this summer!

Cheers,
Jeff Carroll – MSLIA Vice President

Friendly Dues Reminder

Lately we have had tremendous success in getting most of the lakefront owners current on their dues, but for the remaining holdouts we will be filing new property liens over the summer to ensure that the MSLIA is following the act under which we are incorporated. Once the lien is filed with Oakland County the property owner will be required to pay all outstanding dues as well as the bylaw mandated late fees of 10% applied every 6 months. This amount will need to be paid before the property can be transferred or mortgaged. MSLIA dues are mandatory and apply to every property that receives a "Lake Level Control" assessment on their property taxes.

Water Quality Report

Weed Removal: Weed harvesting for the summer of 2021 is scheduled for the 3rd week in July. We schedule this time frame to achieve maximum harvest while cutting when weeds are at full growth. The contractor we are using is Mike's Clearwater Harvesting Inc. We are scheduling an extra day of cutting this year in anticipation of robust weed growth..

Fish Stocking: Fish Stocking for 2020 took place in October with Northern Pike. As in the past, we purchased the fish from Imlay City Fish Farm. According to a DNR fish study several years ago, our fishery was healthy. We alternate stocking the lake with Pike and Bass, and we plan to continue working on our stocking program. I hope you have a great summer and enjoy the fishing!

Lake Ecology/Biology – Al Proulx

Fertilizer Ordinance Reminder:

West Bloomfield has a fertilizer ordinance that protects our lakes from harmful runoff. **Do not fertilize prior to May 1 each year.** If you have questions, please contact the West Bloomfield Township Environmental Department. They have additional materials available. You can also contact the Detroit Landscape Association at www.healthylandscapes.com.

Lakeshore Maintenance:

Many of our residents utilize lawn services for maintenance and clean-ups of their property. Whether you hire it out or do it yourself, keep our lake clean by making sure leaves and grass don't get blown into the lake. Did you know?... It is illegal to intentionally dump or blow leaves and grass clippings into the lake. Violators are subject to a misdemeanor and may be fined up to \$2,500. You are responsible for any person or company that you hire so make sure they are abiding by the law!

Lake Safety – Bob Barbour

Please be sure to follow the following rules while on the lake to keep everyone safe:

- Stay 50 feet from another boat at wake speed and 100 feet from shore and marked swim areas.
 - Generally, drive around the lake in a counter-clockwise direction when underway.
 - There is **no wake** on Sundays and Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day before 11:00 am and after 7:30 pm.
 - Personal watercraft (Jet Skis, wave runners, etc.) may not be operated by persons younger than 12. Consult the Michigan Boating Rules at <http://www.boat-ed.com/mi/handbook/>. Keep in mind that these craft are highly maneuverable, harder to see than a boat, and very dangerous in the hands of an inexperienced operator. They must adhere to all boating rules.
 - If you see a person operating recklessly, either approach the person and explain the laws, or call the Oakland County Sheriff at 248-858-9411 and report the violator.
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MSLIA Event Calendar – Social Chairperson Matt Barron

Goodbye 2020 and bring on 2021! After a long year of social distancing, we are hoping we can turn the corner in 2021 and get back to hosting all of our usual social events with our lake community. We are planning to hold our usual events this summer, which you can find details about below, and are excited to announce that we will also be bringing a professional **FIREWORKS** show to the lake this year! Big thanks are in order to everyone who has donated over the past couple years as we worked to make this dream a reality. We are hopeful that we can make this an annual event so please continue to donate and reach out with fundraising ideas. I'm looking forward to another great year on the water and please remember to review all the local and state laws so that we can all have a safe and fun filled summer on the lake. Below is a list of upcoming events that the MSLIA board is planning, please feel free to reach out to me with any new ideas you may have to bring the lake community together for social activities or if you would like to support any of these events.

(matthew.barron@rocketmail.com)

- The 2021 TBPA/MSLIA Winterfest had an awesome turnout with lots of fun out on the ice. We were not able to have the Chili cookoff this year but were able to enjoy some delicious s'mores which were a huge hit with the kids. We will target February again in 2022 for the next Winterfest/Chili Cook off, but please watch our Facebook page for updates as you will not want to miss this event!
- THE MSLIA Annual Meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 4th @ 7pm. The meeting will be held at the Bloomer Park pavilion and is a great opportunity for you to come out and meet the board members/neighbors, learn about what is going on in our lake community, volunteer, buy your favorite MSLIA merchandise, and share any concerns you may have.
- The 9th Annual Independence Day Boat Parade will be held on the 4th of July holiday at 7pm (Sunday Night). As in previous years we will meet at the east end of the lake by Twin Beach Park so that we can then parade around the lake to show off the festive boat decorations and celebrate the USA! Invite your neighbors and friends out and be sure to get creative as there will be a Best Boat prize this year which will include the very popular MSLIA apparel and gift certificate for local dining! **Congratulations to the 2020 winner of the 4th of July boat decorating: Diane Peurach!**
- **FIREWORKS!**
The MSLIA has contracted GEN-X Pyrotechnics to conduct a firework display that will be launched from a barge on July 9th at the east side of the lake. Once all the details are finalized on the exact location and time, we will share the information on the Facebook page and MSLIA website. Thank you to everyone who has donated! If you know of anyone who might be interested in sponsoring this event please pass along their information. The goal is to make this an annual event, donations and sponsorships will help to make this happen. Here is the link to our fundraiser site for the Middle Straits Firework show. You can also include donations with your annual dues or send donations though PayPal at lakeboard@mslia.org. Make sure before you hit 'Send' that it says 'Paying a friend' that way 100% of your donation comes to us and no fees are deducted.

- **FORE!!!!** We are working to set up a golf outing fundraiser this summer to support the fireworks fund, get your foursome ready to hit the course. Once we finalize the details we will share more information on registration and dates. Our golf outing chairperson, Matt Ureste is looking for as much help as he can get to establish this event as an annual fundraiser. Please email him at lakeboard@mslia.org and let us know if you can help organize, sponsor or play!
- The annual MSLIA Summer Party will be a “raft off / float party” this year in the bay by the sandbar volleyball net. We are planning to hold it August 7th from 1pm – 5pm. Please help us spread the word to your neighbors and check the MSLIA website and Facebook for updates on the party.

***Please like our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Middle-Straits-Lake-Improvement-Association-282504370226/> and provide the committee with your email address so that we can keep you updated with upcoming events.*

A big thank you to Doug Browne of Farm Bureau Insurance for continuing to sponsor our MSLIA events. Farm Bureau offers an insurance policy, [The Lake Estate](#), that is designed specifically for lakefront homeowners (back lots too), to cover your home, watercraft and shoreline property, golf carts, umbrella, everything you need.

Call the Doug Browne Agency at 248-486-1831 to complete your coverage and save money at the same time.

Email Please!

Make sure that we have your email address so that we can send you late breaking news and let you know when important events take place. To submit your email address go to MSLIA.ORG and select the Contact Us link.

Lake News – Greg Andrick, Secretary and Mike Caruso, Government Relations

Lake Level Control

Middle Straits water level is maintained by a large pump located west of Newton Road that pumps water from the Huron River into Lower Straits which then feeds up stream to Middle Straits Lake. This pump is maintained by Oakland County Water Resources Commission (WRC, formerly the Drain Commission) and its upkeep is paid by lakefront homeowners through a Special Assessment District which appears on your tax bill. This pump is over 50 years old but was fully refurbished over the 2017-2018 winter at a cost of approximately \$26,000. This pump is able to push 4,500 gallons per hour, but it only can run when there is available water in the Huron River. We met with the WRC to discuss our lake level issues and inquire about installing lake augmentation wells, which would be able to run during drought periods when the river pump cannot. An augmentation well is able to pump about 1,000 gallons per hour so we would need 3 or 4. They also take up a bit of real estate (about 40,000 square feet). The last lake which installed augmentation wells was Long Lake in the late 90's and WRC thought it cost about \$900,000. We will continue to engage WRC as we see issues arise, but we are not pursuing anything at this time.

Bay Pointe Golf Club

Bay Pointe has again been listed for sale by its owners for \$8.95MM. We will stay on top of any developments that might impact our lake and our members.

Boat Docking

Westacres has submitted a request for a marina permit to dock a total of 80 boats. They are requesting 31 docks for 2 boats each and 3 docks for 8 boats each. You may submit comments on this application at

<https://miwaters.deq.state.mi.us/miwaters/external/publicnotice/info/7107175576585871393/details>

Select the "Comments" tab to leave your input.

Boat Storage

No more than two boats and/or watercraft together with their trailers may be stored in the lake yard. If storage in the lake yard is not feasible, storage may be permitted in the side or street yard subject to the regulations in Section 10-103 of the West Bloomfield Township Code of Ordinances.

Docks, boat lifts, and boat hoists may be stored only in the lake yard.

The owners of all developed residential lots within a subdivision having Township approved or officially recognized access to, a navigable watercourse for boating purposes may petition the Planning Commission to permit outdoor storage of not more than two boats and/or watercraft together with their trailers subject to the requirements of Section 10-104 of the West Bloomfield Township Code of Ordinances.

Important Dates for 2021:

Annual Meeting	Friday June 4 – 7PM – Bloomer Park pavillion
Boat Parade	Sunday July 4 th – 7PM – East end of lake
Summer Party	Saturday August 7 th – 1PM – Floating in Volleyball Bay
Boat Rally	Saturday August 14 th – Email Melissa Vey for details: mewrae@gmail.com

Fireworks Donations

The MSLIA would like to thank the following people who contributed extra funds toward the fireworks fund this year when they paid their dues. We would like to especially note the generosity of CEBIA who donated over \$400!

This list inevitably will end up missing a few of you who donated in past years or even this year but just got missed – I apologize in advance. Know that we all appreciate each and every person who helped us make this a possibility!

Platinum Club - \$100+ donations

Jeff and Bobbi Carroll
Matt and Connie Barron
John and Michelle Bonnett
Dennis and Lori Bott
Matt and Michelle Ureste
Pete and Karen Saules
Jerome and Linda Finkel
Jeff and Cathie Gallant
Mike and Kay Gorny
Robert and Rebecca McDonald
Mark and Erica Michon
Stuart and Kathy Rotenberg
Lynn and Jan Carnacchi

Andrew and Jessica Carnacchi
Larry and Linea Coles
Curt and Andrea Chowanic
Susan and Mark Kerney
Mike and Kerri Tomczyk
The Peters family
Jayne Monroe
Scott Hubble
Brad and Melissa Vey
Valerie Kaplansky
Mike and Jan Corrigan
Mike and Laura Caruso

Gold Club - \$20 - \$99 donations

Alfons & Linda Beshi
Dan & Linda Blank
Michael Coraci
Mark & Joan Haskins
Hussein & Kim Khatib
Lois and Mark Langberg
Larry and Susan Lankowsky
Gail & Gene Laveroni
Mary Myers
Diane Peurach
Alan & Holli Proulx
Jill Redmon
David & Stephanie Rossow
Pamala & Brian Schmitt
Jonathan & Rachel Serra
Geri Zeldes
Greg and Margaret Andrick
Chip and Debbi Campbell
Art and Lisa Jalkanen
Betsy & Joe LaVela
Steve and Karen Schickel
Stephanie Surowiec

Mike and Tracy McIlroy
Jeff & Kelly Rockwell
Bruce and Katie Varana
John Wisniewski
Jason & Tiffany Bachmeier
Matthew & Cheryl Caplan
Dennis Bernard
Curtis & Heather Capinjola
John & Deborah Cassidy
Mary Beth Castorri
Rick and Doherty, Grant Cumbo
Kara & Mike Dunn
Richard & Kim Hedlund
Anja Neumann
Zachary & Maggie Redmond
Robert Reibitz
Mark & Nicole Vinckier
Howard and Teri Weingarden
David & Maria Ziemkiewicz
Linda Rosberg
Perry and Connie Johnson
Tim and Kim Loszewski
Michael Miller