

LMSA NEWSLETTER 2020

Lake Michigan
Shore Association
Serving the shoreline
since 1962

*The most beautiful place to live is where we call home.
Our mission is to protect and preserve our shore for future generations.*

Message from the President

I like to think that I am a fairly positive guy. But really, a person should only have to take so much bad stuff in their lives. Our corner of the world has been bombarded with negative things that, over the past few years, have disrupted our otherwise idyllic lifestyles. In no particular order, the following are all occurring right now forming a “perfect storm”;

- A. The coronavirus causing unimaginable sickness and death, stay at home orders, social distancing, wearing of face masks, tanking of the United States economy, record high unemployment, significant drop in investment portfolios, and closing of all types of businesses.
- B. Record high Lake Michigan water levels causing erosion of bluffs and shoreline, non-existent beaches, closing of County Park and Pier Cove beaches, and flooding in downtown Saugatuck.

Isn't that enough for any person to withstand at one time? Oh yes, I almost forgot. I don't want this message to be about me, but late last summer I contracted Lyme disease. No big deal if it is identified early on. Two weeks of an antibiotic and you are good to go. Mine was not diagnosed until about eight weeks after the initial symptoms showed up. It developed into Lyme Encephalitis...kind of a bad thing. Four weeks in Blodgett Hospital, six weeks in Mary Free Bed Hospital for rehab, and outpatient rehab at Holland Hospital that is still ongoing as I write this article. Thank God I am now almost fully recovered.

Out of my journey through my battle with Lyme disease, one thing became perfectly clear. The support and encouragement provided by friends and neighbors was priceless for both my wife and me. Thanks to everyone who sent cards and letters or made phone calls. And thanks to everyone that helped out with tasks around our house while I was hospitalized. With the stay at home order and social distancing, we miss contact with our friends and neighbors. With all of the negative stuff in our lives today, the one positive that we can always focus on is the wonderful people we have in our lives.



We are all looking forward to having Wacky Wednesdays going again!

*Charles Landefeld
LMSA President*

Due to the numerous health issues associated with the coronavirus

~the 2020 LMSA Annual Meeting has been cancelled~

The Board of Directors is putting together an online video presentation that will include all of the speakers that would have been included in the “live” meeting. Details to follow.

Lakeshore Drive Update Paving/Reconstruction and Tree Survey

LMSA has been in discussion with the Allegan County Road Commission (“ACRC”) for several years regarding the repair and repaving of Lakeshore Drive. Portions of the roadwork were scheduled to begin in summer of 2019, but were delayed due to sub-contractor employee strikes, etc. ACRC recently updated the board with the following schedule and deadlines.

The major change is that the entire section of LSD from M89 to Plummerville Creek will now be completed in one single phase with the work performed summer of 2021 - rather than being broken into three phases, completed over three years’ time.

ROAD RE-PAVING update

Saugatuck Township (LSD north from M89 to washout)

- M89 running north to 126th Street - Pavement to be 22 feet wide (existing 18' plus two 2' paved shoulders), to be completed by Sept 25, 2020.
- 126th Street north to the washout - Pavement to be existing width (18 feet +/-) with existing gravel shoulders, completion date pending due to road wash-out bypass solution.

Ganges Township (LSD south from M89 to 118th Street)

- M89 to Plummerville Creek reconstruction (grind, grade, compact, and pave) will now be completed entirely in the summer of 2021 (rather than 2020, 2021, and 2022). The entire stretch will be marked with 2 ten foot lanes and 2 four foot shoulders. Survey and engineering work has already been completed.
- At the end of May, Plummerville Creek to 118th was re-surfaced at 28’ with 2 eleven foot lanes and 2 three foot shoulders.
- All property owners along LSD between M89 and Plummerville Creek will soon be receiving letters from ACRC requesting input for issues such as drainage, conflict with existing trees/structures/mail posts, driveway, landscape issues, etc.

TREE SURVEY update

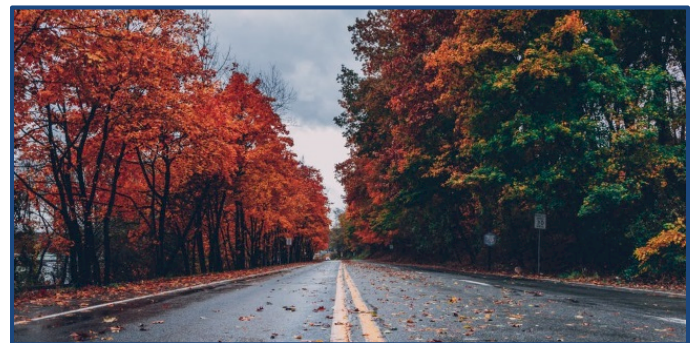
The repaving and reconstruction of LSD will have some impact on trees along the road. The most affected stretch will be between M89 and Plummerville Creek, the result of widening the road and paving shoulders to 28 feet. The impact on the trees immediately outside a 32 foot roadway zone (approximately 2 feet on either side of paved

surface) will require evaluation, understanding, and compromise by all parties involved.

To better understand the impact on the trees in question and gain professional guidance with proven preservation efforts, the LMSA Tree Committee commissioned Davey Tree to perform a **Tree Survey** of the area from M89 to Pier Cove - as Phase One. A possible Phase Two Survey from Pier Cove to Plummerville Creek and Phase Three Survey from M89 north to 126th Ave will be based on the board’s assessment of the completed Phase One Tree Survey. The board is currently reviewing the Phase One report and voted at our June meeting to proceed with a Phase Two Survey.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Duane Brown (415-305-6113), LMSA Road Committee Chair, or Charles Landefeld (773-617-1706), LMSA President.

*Duane Brown
LMSA Board*



Lakeshore Drive Washout The Path of Lakeshore Drive: Now and in the Future

Now

Late last fall, bluff erosion north of the 2008 washout (the one that was repaired) began to threaten Lakeshore Drive (“LSD”), a County road within Saugatuck Township. Earth slides on the bluff had moved to within just a few feet of the roadway. These slides caused damage to the County drain, located on the east side of LSD at this location, which runs under the road and bluff into the Lake. This damage resulted in a very large sinkhole on the east side of LSD. After a couple of temporary repairs by the Allegan County Road Commission (ACRC) which did not hold, the ACRC in December closed the road north of that point to all traffic. Eleven homes located north of the problem area were stranded over the winter

months (no emergency services, trash pick-up, mail/deliveries, and residents had to walk ¼ mile each way to access cars parked south of the sinkhole).

After exploring several options, in early March the ACRC trucked in a new part from Pennsylvania, repaired the drain, and filled the sinkhole. During the winter, another section of the bluff just north of the sinkhole began to slide. It will likely continue to slide as the Lake remains at record high levels. The west lane of LSD remains closed, but the Commission has created a one-lane bypass to the east of the original road (20 ton load limit) within the existing road easement. This temporary solution appears to be working for now.

Future

As LSD became threatened in November, the County and Township initiated meetings/work to identify a viable long-term solution. (Several options were identified in a 1988 engineering study after the first washout in 1986 where LSD remains permanently closed, these form the basis for options now being considered). As Lake levels continue at record highs, the County has initiated regular drone surveillance to identify areas of risk. LSD has key risk areas just north of the sinkhole area as well as just south of Wiley Road on the north side of the 1986 closure. A failure near Wiley Road would put a much larger number of homes at risk of isolation.

The County commissioned engineer Dana Burd (Prein & Newhof) to lead the effort to define a viable long-term solution. As discussions continue with multiple property owners who would have to grant access over their land, the focus is on a potential roadway running south from Wiley Road approximately ¼ mile east of the current LSD, dead-ending roughly east of where the sinkhole appeared. The County has also begun exploring potential sources of funding (naturally the pandemic has taken precedence). The County recently (5/28) passed a resolution that requests immediate financial assistance and asks the governor and/or elected state officials to utilize emergency powers to free up funds required to mitigate ongoing risk to life and property.

LMSA will remain engaged and continue to advocate for a safe, viable long-term solution that ensures that all of our homeowners continue to have access to their homes and necessary services.

*Dan Keller, Richard Donovan
Kat Needham, Ed Welk, Rich Forbes
LMSA Board*

LMSA Annual Meeting Speaker (to be presented online)

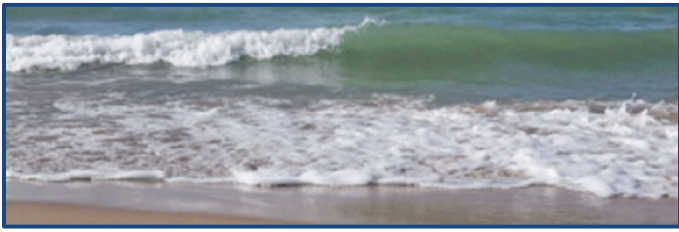
Speaker Topic
What do we know about anthropogenic impacts to Michigan shorelines?

Guest Speaker
John A. Yellich, Certified Professional Geologist
(CPG)

John A. Yellich was appointed the Director of the Michigan Geological Survey (MGS) effective October 2, 2013. Mr. John A. Yellich obtained both his Bachelors and Masters degrees in geology from Western Michigan University and for over 30 years, has been a Certified Professional Geologist (American Institute Professional Geologists) and member of the Society of Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME) for 25 + years. Mr. Yellich brings more than 50 years of geologic experience in mineral exploration, mineral development, environmental consulting, business operations, stormwater, land development and OSHA safety compliance to MGS. He has worked in more than 30 States and has also conducted mineral assessments in Canada, Australia and China. Mr. Yellich is currently coordinating and conducting geologic research and surficial geologic mapping in priority areas of Michigan utilizing available Federal matching funds as the primary resource. MGS is developing geologic programs and research to support the identification and protection of Michigan's natural resources, including water resources to justify annual funding for the MGS. These multiple programs utilize basic and new data and techniques to expedite and present unbiased validated geologic data in useable formats for all to use. The State of Michigan currently does not have annual funding to support the geological needs of Michigan to be conducted by the MGS.

2019-20, President Elect of the Association of American State Geologists (AASG).

2017-2020 Secretary of the Michigan Basin Geological Society



Great Lakes Water Levels Record Highs for Lake Michigan All Summer

By Mike McCarthy, Rear Commodore

The Army Corps of Engineers looked into its crystal ball – and foresees record high levels now all summer on Lake Michigan.

The latest Army Corps forecast, released last month, estimates Lake Michigan and Huron will top their previous monthly high marks set in 1986, by 5 inches in June, 3 inches in July, and 2 inches in August. The September level should tie the previous high set in 1986.

Last summer, Lake Michigan nearly reached record levels. The forecast for this year represents averages, however, and could be a bit higher or lower in actuality.

In February and March, Lake Michigan measured 17 inches and 14 inches higher than a year earlier. Recent months haven't provided the relief they historically have, as evaporation has been lower than normal, among other factors.

“Given the high-water conditions we have been experiencing recently, as we enter the period of seasonal rise on the lakes, we project high water levels to continue,” said Deanna Apps, physical scientist at the Army Corps of Engineers in Detroit.

“The spring is usually the time of year that the lakes experience their seasonal rise, as a result of increased precipitation and runoff, or flow from the land into streams,” she added. “Water levels typically peak in the late spring or summer and then begin their seasonal decline in the late summer or fall.”

For June, July and August of 2020, the forecast for Lake Michigan and Huron is the same, a tad over 582 feet. The Army Corps compares lake levels against a measuring stick set at zero near the mouth of the St. Lawrence River, the approximate sea level.

The all-time high-water mark on Lake Michigan and Huron was set in October of 1986 at 582 feet. The record

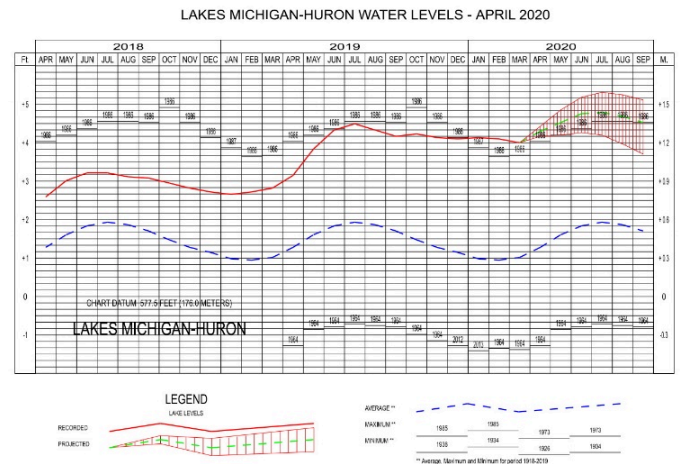
low was in December 2012 and January 2013, around 576 feet.

Inching Up

In February and March, levels on Lake Michigan-Huron were 6 inches and 4 inches above the previous records, set in 1986. Here are the monthly increases the Army Corps of Engineers forecasts for this year.

2020 vs Record Highs in 1986	
April	+3"
May	+4"
June	+5"
July	+3"
August	+2"
September	same

2020 vs 2019	
April	+14"
May	+8"
June	+5"
July	+4"
August	+4"
September	+4"



Michael McCarthy worked for the Wall Street Journal for twenty-two years, first as a reporter and then as an editor on feature stories. Among other publications, he is the author of *Ashes Under Water*, about the SS Eastland shipwreck on Lake Michigan. He now resides in South Haven, Michigan.

*Kat Needham
LMSA Board*

Glenn Community Center

6953 114th Ave ~ Glenn, MI 49416
269-227-2262

Pancake Breakfasts cancelled thru 2020
Due to coronavirus

Meet Your Board of Directors

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Frank Alfieri	2022
Duane Brown	2021
Clark Carmichael, Membership	2020
Richard Donovan	2020
Rich Forbes	2021
Dan Keller	2021
Charles Landefeld, President	2021
Andy Murch, Treasurer	2022
Kat Needham, Secretary	2022
Don Olendorf	2022
Mary Puglise	2022
Dermot Putnam	2021
Dan Sutherland	2020
Ed Welk	2020

Early Summer on the Blue Star Trail

As the weather continues to warm and we move into early Summer, many of us are looking to get outdoors for fresh air, sunshine, and exercise. The recent stay-at-home order has been a reminder of the need for simple pleasures - like getting outside on a warm sunny day and stretching our legs. We are so incredibly lucky to live in such a scenic area and to have a portion of the Blue Star Trail complete. The Trail is open and is wide enough to allow good social distancing while going for a long walk, jogging, or jumping on your bicycle. As you look to use the Trail, please follow all federal, state and local guidelines related to the Coronavirus – maintain 6 feet social distance, frequently wash your hands with soap or sanitize your hands, avoid touching your face, wear a face mask if you may encounter other people.

We are all hoping to make further progress towards completion of the Trail in the very near future. In January, we finally reached agreement with City of Saugatuck, Douglas, and Saugatuck TWP to form a working group with the Friends to formulate a viable plan to complete the north section of Trail. Each of the three governments approved the effort through formal resolution and appointed two representatives to the working group, with each government manager also serving *ex officio*.

The north section will connect existing Trail in Douglas, head north over the Kalamazoo River bridge, run alongside Blue Star Highway, connect with current Trail section beginning at Old Allegan Road, then connect from North Street to existing Trail along Holland Street which then continues north and connects to the Bee Line Trail running all the way to Holland.

The group convened its first meeting on February 26, at which it elected a Chair and Vice-chair. Members agreed to initially focus on the Trail route, funding, and expense responsibilities. Saugatuck City Mayor Ken Trester presented several concerns of the City Council, including maintaining three lanes across the Kalamazoo River bridge, maintaining current traffic flows at the Lake St. intersection, ongoing maintenance costs, and aesthetics. To maintain three lanes or a “center lane”, a new trail option was developed and made available to Council in late 2019. This option, informally approved by MDOT, calls for a physical vertical separation (to be determined) between the roadway bike lane and the southbound lane of traffic. By doing this, both the width of the roadway trail and the buffer separating it from the south bound lane can be reduced to allow sufficient space to retain the center lane. Mayor Trester indicated he would seek to convene a Saugatuck City Council workshop to review this new option. As of April 14, the workshop had not been scheduled. Monthly meetings of the working group are on hold due to the pandemic.

The Friends Board in December voted to explore new options to advance the Trail in the South Haven area. A meeting on this topic was held with the South Haven Manager and background information is being gathered to develop possible options.

Jeanne Van Zoren, founding member and inspiration for the Friends of the Blue Star Trail, resigned from the Friends’ Board December 31, 2019 after more than a decade of dedication to the project. Jeanne remains an active supporter, but has earned a well-deserved rest from the daily activities of the Board. Thanks, Jeanne, for all your hard work and perseverance!

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Blue Star Trail – stay healthy and safe.

*John Adams, President
Friends of the Blue Star Trail*





Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy 40,000 New Trees for the Lake Michigan Shoreline

The Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy (SWMLC) and four conservation partners are excited to announce that we have been awarded a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Society's Climate Adaptation Fund to undertake a project to improve the health of damaged forests in the lakeshore region. Over the course of the next two years the partners will plant over 40,000 trees at twelve sites using a diversity of native species, creating forest habitats that can better adapt to climate change and invasive species.

At Wau-Ke-Na's north tract, the grant will help to fund re-forestation of 10 acres of diseased Douglas firs and treatments to help Eastern hemlock trees survive an emerging tree pest, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. The most noticeable change will be the removal of a large area of Douglas firs, a tree native to the Pacific Northwest often planted as Christmas trees. These trees do not thrive in Michigan's climate and the stand on the preserve is heavily diseased. It is time to begin their removal.

After cutting and mulching the Douglas firs this year, in spring of 2021 SWMLC staff and volunteers will plant 5,000 native trees in their place. These new trees will not only create quality habitat for wildlife but include species that will thrive in current and future conditions influenced by invasive species and climate change, which include wetter springs and hotter summers.

The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid was recently identified in west Michigan just north of Wau Ke Na. An extremely destructive insect, the HWA has demonstrated its impact by devastating stands of hemlock in the Appalachian region where it has become firmly established. The combination of this invasive pest and warmer summer temperatures greatly stress hemlocks killing needles, shoots, and branches and ultimately death. By conducting preventative tree insecticide injections at Wau Ke Na, and with private landowners in the Pier Cove area, we hope to eliminate infestations and prevent further spread.

On Wau-Ke-Na's south tract we continue our ongoing restoration efforts annually using prescribed fire on the prairies to enhance grassland habitat for birds and pollinators. Forest improvements will begin as well, removing dead ash and utilizing funding from the grant to replant forests in areas that are increasingly too wet each year to support grasslands. We will intentionally choose new tree species that can replace the ash where they have been top-killed by the Emerald ash borer. These include traditionally southern tree species like black gum and sycamore that will thrive with wet conditions and warmer summers.

Throughout this project, Wau-Ke-Na, William Erby Smith Preserve will remain free and open to the public from dawn-to-dusk, every day serving the greater community as a place of respite, relaxation, exploration, and enjoyment of nature.

And this spring, SWMLC initiated a campaign to conserve the Porter Legacy Dunes, a pristine and biodiverse, 48-acre backdune forest on Lake Michigan that is adjacent and directly across the street from SWMLC's Pilgrim Haven Natural Area in South Haven. Conserving the Porter Legacy Dunes property is critical in creating an almost 2 mile stretch of freshwater dunes, between Van Buren State Park and Pilgrim Haven that is almost entirely publicly owned. If you would like to know more about this very special project, please visit <https://swmlc.org/protect-porter-legacy-dunes>.

*Peter Ter Louw, Director
Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy*

In Loving Memory

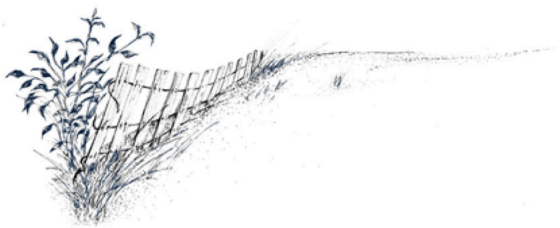
LMSA would like to remember and honor the following member who passed away since our newsletter last year.

Mark Smith
April 12, 1924 – February 15, 2020

Good Neighbor Initiative

Gentle Reminders and Simple Courtesies:

- **FIRE:** Allegan County has strict fire guidelines that are rigorously enforced. Obtain a fire permit before starting a fire. Beach fires can be especially dangerous due to shifting lake winds and the easily flammable dune grasses. A firepit is required. Always have a water source readily available. Never leave a fire unattended and never leave children alone near a fire. Never use an accelerant (such as gasoline) on a fire. Be careful to extinguish all fires completely and remember that embers can quickly be reignited by lake winds. Also clean up any beach campfires. Lastly individuals who are found at fault for starting a fire that gets out of control can be held responsible for Allegan County expenses related to extinguishing that fire.
- **FIREWORKS:** County ordinances and strict guidelines are in place for your protection and the protection of your neighbors when using fireworks. Fireworks are a significant fire hazard, especially in areas of beach grass on windy nights and in forested areas. Fireworks should never be used near structures, trees, open fields or vehicles. Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Fireworks are meant to be used one at a time, never combine or mix fireworks. We urge you to use the greatest amount of caution when using fireworks.
- **NOISE:** Local Townships have strict Anti-Noise & Public Nuisance Ordinances in place from 11:00 pm to 6:00 am. Please act responsibly and keep amplified music, loud parties, barking dogs and excessive noise to an acceptable level. Fireworks should not be used after 11:00pm.
- **SHORELINE:** The Department of Natural Resources has designated sections of our shoreline as a high-risk erosion area. Please be careful not to damage grass or vegetation growing on the dunes. Remember that trees help to hold the bluff and prevent erosion. Be especially careful to follow pathways to and from the beach. Work together with your neighbors to protect the shoreline.
- **GARBAGE:** We ask you to place household garbage in tightly secured bags inside trash containers. Do not overfill containers and close the lids tightly. Please do not leave bags on the ground or out overnight to prevent scavenging by animals and to eliminate odor and insects. Dumpsters at West Side County Park and Pier Cove are **not** to be used for household trash.
- **4 WHEELERS:** The use of “off-road” vehicles on the Lake Michigan shoreline is **only** permitted on private property. 4-Wheelers are not permitted at the beach waterline or on public beaches.
- **PETS:** Remember to be a thoughtful pet owner. Always clean up after your dog and make certain their barking does not disturb your neighbors. Respect posted signs pertaining to pets and follow local leash laws. Dogs are not permitted on public beaches.
- **BEACHES:** The Lake Michigan sand dunes are the largest assemblage of fresh water dunes in the world. Our shoreline is a “unique, irreplaceable and fragile resource”. We ask for your help in protecting our shoreline. Remember to take any trash with you when you leave the beach. Cigarettes are the #1 most littered item in America and the toxic residue in filters is damaging to the environment. Many beach walkers carry an extra bag and pick up beach litter as they walk. It’s just a polite custom of our community.



We wish to thank you for reading this information and for being a thoughtful Lakeshore neighbor.

Lake Michigan Shore Association

Please Support Our Sponsors

Alfieri Family Chiropractic
www.alfierifamilychiropractic.com
269-857-1000
3484 Blue Star Hwy.
Saugatuck, MI



FIRST
TEAM
CARE



Bill Jelsomeno
Owner

For Professional & Affordable Service,
Call Bill - The Tree Guy!

269-205-8604
www.BillsTreeServices.com

Andy's Tree Service

Stump Grinding
Fully Insured



Tree Trimming / Removal
Firewood

andybeelen@gmail.com 616-566-3386

Tony Marr
President
(269) 214-1186



Fresh & Frozen
Blueberries

Phone: (269) 857-4278
Fax: (269) 857-4018
Email: tonymarr@bluestarfarmsinc.com

2647 68th Street
Fennville, MI 49408
www.bluestarblueberries.com

**ANNE
CORLETT
ARTWORKS**

Local Landscapes
Commissions
Studio Visits by Appt

AnneCorlett.net
616-283-2149




Century 21
AFFILIATED



616-836-5241

Diana M. Decker
Associate Broker, ABR
Diana.Saugatuck@gmail.com





REAL ESTATE
CONKLIN

Est. 1965

Frank T. Conklin
Broker

Corner Blue Star & 114th
Glenn, MI 49416

Office: (269) 227-3254
Cell: (269) 208-0082
frankconklin@conklinrealestate.net
conklinrealestate.net



KRAMER
SERVICES
COMPLETE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

LANDSCAPE SUPPLY
269-251-4943

-Lawn Care -Irrigation
-Landscaping -Snow Removal

www.kramerservices.com



MATRIX
CONSTRUCTION

Building Since 1990
MatrixHomes.com
616-458-8888




DAVE HULST
REALTOR®, ASSOCIATE BROKER
616-813-2751



GLOBAL LUXURY

WOODLAND SCHMIDT
Certified Luxury Specialist

Love the wild lakeshore?



Support Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy
www.swmlc.org

The Glenn Store

Coreen Newell - Terese Orban
Proprietors

Store 269 - 227 - 3233
Fax 269 - 227 - 9534



1402 Blue Star Hwy Glenn, MI 49416
www.TheGlennStore.com for menu and services

Pizza Sandwiches Salads Deli Meats Cheese Wine Beer Liquor

Visit our website for specials and events!



www.whatnotinn.com

Lake Michigan Shore Association Boundaries Map





Lake Michigan Shore Association

*Tear off
&
return*

NEW/RENEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

I hereby make application for, or seek renewal of, membership in The Lake Michigan Shore Association which represents an area bounded by Lake Michigan on the West, Lake Shore Drive "wash-out" or 128th on the north, then along Interstate 196 on the East, then South to exit 30, then South on Blue Star Hwy to 111th Ave (the southern boundary), then west to Lake Michigan, in Allegan County Michigan. I am a property owner or resident of the above described area.

It is a condition of membership that any group, owning or residing in a membership property, are included in a single membership.

**Enclosed is my check for \$35.00 covering membership dues
for the period January 1, 2020 thru December 31, 2020.**

New Member(s): _____ Renewing Member(s): _____

Name(s): _____

Primary Address: _____

Primary Phone: _____

Local or Other Address: _____

Other Phone: _____

E-Mail Address(s): _____

I prefer to be contacted by: E-Mail _____ Regular Mail _____

Michigan Voter? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, Ganges Twp. _____ Saugatuck Twp. _____ Casco Twp. _____ Other _____

I am interested in serving on an LMSA committee: _____

I am interested in serving on the LMSA Board of Directors: _____

I am interested in helping LMSA in other ways. Please contact me: _____

Make checks payable to LMSA and send to:

**LMSA
P. O. Box 995
Douglas, MI 49406**

Please take a moment to add suggestions, concerns or "areas of interest" that you would like to share with the LMSA Board on the reverse side of this form. Visit www.lmsa.us for more information or to renew/apply online.

Lake Michigan Shore Association
PO Box 995
Douglas, MI 49406

*Dedicated to Preservation of the Quality
and Character of the Area*

