

# LMSA NEWSLETTER 2022

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.*

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## Message from the President

What is the mission and purpose of the Lake Michigan Shore Association? It was stated back in 1962 when LMSA was founded by William Erby Smith, that LMSA “was created to protect, preserve and enhance the aesthetic qualities of the area and the property values of our Lakeshore community.” This is the language as taken from the pages of the LMSA directory. Our Bylaws get a bit more specific in stating that LMSA was organized, among other things, “To establish reasonable building standards in this area; To work with governmental bodies to assure maximum police and fire protection for residents and property in this area; and To further such projects as will make this area a more desirable place in which to live.”

So what do we do as LMSA members and area residents to support the stated mission and purpose as outlined above? There have been many issues over the years that arise where there has been clear agreement that LMSA should do things to prevent certain things from happening. Techniques have been used such as lobbying, communications with both members and other local residents, interaction with state, county, and township officials, and door-to-door canvassing. Some of the most objectional issues over the years have been the proposed turkey farms in the area, the proposed truck stop near the intersection of M-89 and I-196, the proposed conversion of West Side County Park into multiple RV campsites, and clear-cutting the 66’ right-of-way along Lakeshore Drive. Over the years, LMSA and its members have worked diligently to prevent these types of changes that would negatively impact our quality of life and property values.

Our mission and purpose should not be focused solely on preventing objectionable things from happening. Our organization should also identify and support causes that actually “enhance the aesthetic qualities of the area.” In that regard, the LMSA Board initiated two initiatives in the past year. First of all, the Board donated \$2,500 to be used toward the planting of trees and shrubs as part of Ganges Township’s efforts to improve and expand Pier Cove Beach Park (see full report elsewhere in this newsletter). Secondly, the Board also recently submitted a proposal to the Allegan County Parks Board to plant trees along the Lakeshore Drive frontage at West Side County Park where a large number of trees were removed as part of the re-paving program last year (see full report elsewhere in this newsletter). In addition, the Board has included in this newsletter a fund-raising request from the Parent Teacher Committee at the Glenn School (see article elsewhere in this newsletter). We hope to continue to use our financial resources to help make positive things happen in our Lakeshore community.

Thanks to all LMSA members for supporting our organization. For those area residents who are reading this newsletter, but are not members, I would encourage you to consider membership. There is a membership form at the back of this newsletter. For additional information visit our website at [www.lmsa.us](http://www.lmsa.us). Thank you.

*Charles Landefeld  
LMSA President*



## Lakeshore Drive Safety & Signage

**Signage:** During the completion of the Lakeshore Drive road widening project, the committee has been in touch with the Allegan County Road Commission and Sheriff's Department on issues of speed and signage. As a result, and with the support of Ganges Township, 2 digital signs were added on the stretch south of M-89. We continue to be in touch with the ACRC to coordinate attaching the speed limit to the digital signs. Additionally, we are working with them on a plan to add 'Share the Road' signage going north and south of M-89.

**Safety:** Lakeshore Drive within the LMSA boundaries has seen increased usage over the last several years and the newly paved road brings an improved road for vehicular traffic, along with a need for safety reminders for all types of road traffic (vehicles, bicycles, walkers & runners). We hope the following will serve as helpful reminders that can improve safety for all.

What follows may seem obvious, yet the intention is to alert all who enjoy the area to be on the lookout for opportunities to avoid accidents and to be considerate of others while walking, riding, or driving so as to create a safe environment. We encourage family, friends, neighbors, visitors and those passing through to join in helping maintain a safe environment for all. Slow down and enjoy the scenery.

1. **Walking or running** – Always walk AGAINST traffic. There is now a lined and paved shoulder South of M-89. North of M-89, there is no paved shoulder walk on the side of the road. Be aware of your surroundings. Always assume oncoming traffic is not aware of your presence. Let people know you are there at night by using a flashlight moving it left and right ahead of you, not into the oncoming traffic.
2. **Riding (bicycles)** – Ride with traffic. Use flashing front and rear lights if you have them. Use appropriate hand signals. When riding in a group, ride single file during high traffic periods or when traffic is present. Note: Cyclists have the same rights to the road as other vehicles; some riders believe that when there is high traffic it is safer to ride side by side which can upset drivers - perhaps, a precautionary reminder of 'share the road' is appropriate.
3. **Driving** – Follow the speed limit and precautionary signs. Watch for walkers, riders and other vehicles within your surrounding area. Watch for kids playing in or near the road and be prepared to slow down or stop. Do not pass when walkers are present in the oncoming lane. Slow down when conditions would indicate - rain, ice, snow, blowing snow or debris etc.

4. The **new wider paved shoulder** provides marked lanes for walkers and cyclists. These shoulders are not likely to be maintained by the road commission, so we can all do our part by sweeping up debris that collects on the shoulder in front of our properties. It may just be needed a couple times a year, like after the snow plowing season is over. Another neighborly reminder is to keep **trash cans** out of the shoulder/walking lanes. Obstructions or debris in the road shoulders can be a hazard that neighborly actions can mitigate.
5. We all need to be aware of our surroundings. Most accidents are preventable, often by either party. When walking or riding during the darker hours wear light or reflective clothing. Use kind hand signs when attempting to attract driver attention to slow down etc.
6. **Safety and Awareness Campaign** - We are suggesting that people consider wearing bright colors when riding and walking. Toward that end we have created bright 'safety' T-shirts that have the speed limit on the back and a 'slow down' mantra on the front. We will gladly give people a shirt with a minimum \$15 donation to the LMSA. For information about shirts and donations please email [lmsasafesignage@gmail.com](mailto:lmsasafesignage@gmail.com).

*Andy Murch, Ed Welk,  
Daphne Fairbanks, Lynn Kirkaldy  
LMSA Safety & Signage Committee*



## Lakeshore Drive Paving and Washout Update (North of M-89)

As reported in our 2021 newsletter, the Allegan County Road Commission (“ACRC”) completed the construction of an earth retention system and repair of the damaged section of Lakeshore Drive in early May of last year. This provided full access for those homeowners living north of the erosion/sink-hole location just south of the 1986 washout.

The erosion of bluffs along Lakeshore Drive running north to Wiley Road continues to be a concern for ACRC and area residents. In response to those concerns, ACRC has contracted with the civil engineering firm of Prein & Newhof (“Prein”) to perform two feasibility studies for the managed retreat of Lakeshore Drive. The first study is to evaluate the current condition of the bluff from Wiley Road south to 126<sup>th</sup> Avenue and to assess levels of risk that would negatively impact the Lakeshore Drive roadway. Prein collected drone topography of the bluffs in March of this year. The second study is to look at an alternative roadway at the Quarter Mile Line that would run from Wiley Road south to just north of the 2008 Culvert washout. Where this road would actually dead-end has yet to be fully resolved with local property owners. ACRC did receive a grant from the State of Michigan through the Coastal Management Program of EGLE to partially fund these two studies.

ACRC stopped the repaving of Lakeshore Drive north of M-89 at 126<sup>th</sup> Avenue and will not do another further repaving until the Prein studies have been completed and reviewed. LMSA will continue to work with the ACRC as they continue to study and develop possible road alternatives.

### In Loving Memory

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

**Robert Williams**

June 14, 1927 – December 28, 2021

**Linda VanderLaan**

January 31, 1941 – April 16, 2022

## Meet Your Board of Directors

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Frank Alfieri	2022
Duane Brown	2024
Clark Carmichael, Membership	2023
Daphne Fairbanks	2023
John Folks	2022
John Hagen	2022
Charles Landefeld, President	2024
Andy Murch, Treasurer	2022
Kat Needham, Secretary	2022
Don Olendorf	2022
Mary Puglise	2022
Ed Welk	2023

## Pier Cove Beach Update Approval of Grant Application

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund has approved two grants to be used for Pier Cove Beach. Both grants require that the applicant (which in these two cases is Ganges Township) provides 25% of the total project cost amount in public and/or private funds. One grant is to be used for improvements to be made to Pier Cove to improve accessibility, walkways, bathroom facility, erosion control, landscaping, parking layout, steps, fencing, and signage. This grant amount is \$266,000 and requires a match of public and/or private funds of \$89,000. LMSA contributed \$2,500 toward these private funds to be used specifically for trees and shrubs. The second grant is to be used for the acquisition of additional beach frontage to the north. This grant amount is \$128,700 and requires a match of public and/or private funds of \$42,900. These grants will need to be approved by the state legislature.

The LMSA Board will continue to have discussions with Ganges Township to encourage them to have some type of public forum to involve area residents in deciding what type of improvements are ultimately made to Pier Cove. Ganges Township is currently considering an RFP to be sent to design firms that would work on the scope of improvements. The Board will also continue to encourage the Township to establish a budget line item with monies to fund the management of Pier Cove for trash removal, maintenance, security, parking and other rules enforcement.



## Lake Michigan Water Levels June 1, 2022

### Water levels still high but 25” down from 2020 record.

*“By and by all trace is gone, and what is forgotten is not only footprints but the water too and what is down there.*

*The rest is weather.”*

*Toni Morrison*

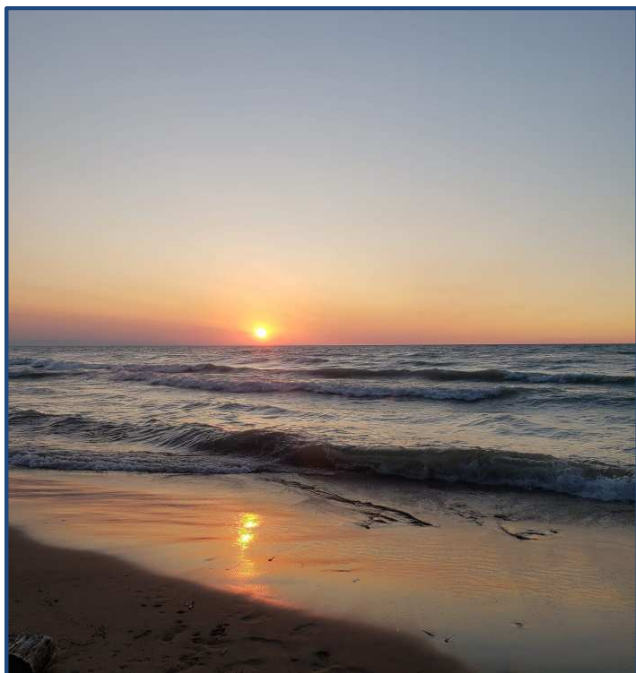
Currently the levels of Lakes Michigan/Huron are on a seasonal rise, at least until mid-month. Compared to last year, the basin is down 7”. We are still 11” higher than the June seasonal average. Hopefully a quick warming of the Lakes will be affected by a hot, dry summer season. We can expect a 7” to 11” drawdown during the evaporation season going into 2023, if the weather Gods treat us well.

Experts tell me that climate change, long term, will tell a story of extreme water levels both high and low. High intensity storms are also to be expected.

Keep your fingers crossed for fair winds and following seas.

You may access the weekly levels reports at <https://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/Great-Lakes-Information/Great-Lakes-Water-Levels/Water-Level-Forecast/Weekly-Great-Lakes-Water-Levels/>

*Don Olendorf  
LMSA Board*



## Dollar General Update

Toward the end of 2021, Midwest V, LLC (the “Applicant”) submitted a zoning request to Saugatuck Township to rezone portions of the land parcels just west of Lyons Fruit Market on M-89. This zoning request was approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals and subsequently approved by the Township Board.

Earlier this year the Applicant submitted a Site Plan for the Dollar General site for the Planning Commission’s consideration. A public hearing was held on March 28 at which the Site Plan was presented and the Planning Commission members asked numerous questions to clarify a number of issues. The Planning Commission requested that the Applicant modify their Site Plan in response to the questions and issued discussed. A video recording of the meeting is available here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKZzVkr\\_npA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKZzVkr_npA). The Planning Commission did not address the Dollar General Site Plan during its April, May or June meetings because the revised Site Plan had not been submitted. The Planning Commission MAY review the revised Site Plan if it is in fact submitted in time to get on the agenda of the regular meeting on Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. The LMSA Board strongly encourages local residents, particularly those living in Saugatuck Township, to make their opinions known regarding the Dollar General store via either letter (Saugatuck Township, PO Box 100, Saugatuck, MI 49453) or email sent to Lynee Wells at [lwells@saugatucktownship.org](mailto:lwells@saugatucktownship.org).

The LMSA Board has submitted a letter to all Planning Commissioners requesting that they “strictly follow all applicable ordinances for the development of this site”. We also requested that they specifically consider the following; (1) The negative impact of migrating underground water on the bluffs and shoreline to the west of the site. (2) To not allow this site to be developed until all environmental issues are known and properly addressed. (3) Traffic needs to be addressed with issues such as parking, vehicle ingress and egress, curb cuts, etc. These need to be coordinated with all existing and future traffic. (4) The M-89 and Bluestar Highway intersection is a major southern entry into Saugatuck Township. Consequently, any project needs to reflect the rural/tourist-oriented character of the Saugatuck and Douglas area. Features such as site lighting, landscaping, building design, and signage shall all reflect the special character of our area.

The LMSA Board will continue to monitor this development as it moves forward.

*Charles Landefeld  
LMSA President*

**LMSA Annual Meeting**  
**July 23, 2022**  
**Glenn Community Center**

Our annual meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup> will feature two presentations on issues that affect our members and residents in a post pandemic and historic high-water period. We hope the high-water levels in Lake Michigan are for now, at least, in our rear-view mirror.

**Topic No.1 – Area Lakeshore Property Values, Changes, and Challenges For The Near Future**

Our first speaker will be Liz Engel, area resident and member of the West Michigan Association of Realtors. Liz has generational family connections to our association area and will focus her remarks to recent property development, housing trends, and future trends to consider demographically.



**Topic No. 2 – Current Lake Michigan and Lake Huron Water Levels**

Our second presentation will provide an overview of current Michigan/Huron Lake Levels and what to expect moving forward, relative to shoreline preservation. John “Ric” Curtis, Great Lakes Coalition Board Member and lifelong resident of our lakeshore, will present timely information along with LMSA Board Member Don Olendorf.

**West Side County Park**  
**Tree Replacement Proposal**

The LMSA Board has submitted a proposal request to the Allegan County Parks Board to plant trees at West Side County Park along the frontage of Lakeshore Drive where a significant number of trees were removed as part of last year’s repaving. Preliminary plans call for the planting five maple trees and three indigenous flowering trees. The

Board intends to work with Jan Landry of Huntree Nursery to identify the most appropriate species of trees to plant. Please note that a final planting plan will not be developed until **after** the Park Board’s approval (hopefully in June) and an on-site planning meeting of interested residents in late July at West Side County Park.

The proposal to the Parks Board states that the majority of the costs will be funded by LMSA via a fundraising program that will be conducted once the final design plan/tree layout and budget have been developed. A preliminary budget that has been developed which includes the cost to deliver and professionally plant the trees, as well as a temporary irrigation system to service all eight trees. The proposal calls for the Parks Board to install a hose bib at the public restroom for connecting the irrigation system, and daily operation and maintenance of the irrigation system.

LMSA’s cost is currently estimated to be \$6,325.00.

The following is a projected schedule for the Tree Replacement Proposal;

June 7, 2022

Parks Board Approval (subject to final plan)

Late July 2022

On-Site Residents Design and Planning Meeting

Mid-August 2022

Finalize Tree Planting Plan

Mid-August – Mid-September 2022

Fund Raising Program

Mid-September – Early October 2022

Tree Planting and Installation of Irrigation System

Further details will be discussed during the annual meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you have any questions or want to volunteer to participate in this program, please contact either Duane Brown ([duanebrown.dba@gmail.com](mailto:duanebrown.dba@gmail.com)) or Charles Landefeld ([celandefeld@gmail.com](mailto:celandefeld@gmail.com)).

*Duane Brown*  
*LMSA Tree Committee Chairman*



## Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy Wau-Ke-Na Update

This spring the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy (SWMLC) completed its climate change reforestation project, which involved planting over 8,500 trees at five SWMLC nature preserves along the Lake Michigan coastline, including the north and south tracts of Wau-Ke-Na.

If you visit Wau-Ke-Na, you will see the 5,000 plus trees in protective tree tubes planted by SWMLC's stewardship crew and volunteers during several workdays during the past two years.

Funded by a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Society's Climate Adaptation Fund which is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Fund, SWMLC began the project in 2020 on the north tract by removing five acres of diseased and blighted non-native Douglas fir trees. This past year we followed this initial work with a planting to restore the forested area with species that are better adapted to the anticipated changes in the region's weather patterns.

This new approach to creating healthy forests, uses 37 different "southern" species of trees and shrubs, including Ohio buckeye, pawpaw, common persimmon, and shumard oak, which are better suited to the warmer climate and more severe rain events that are expected for this region. So, when you see the rows of white tubes protecting these tiny trees at Wau-Ke-Na, try to imagine the strong, climate-resilient forest these little "whips" will become.

And equally as important, SWMLC treated over 1,100 of Glenn's iconic native eastern hemlock trees to protect them from the invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid which has killed so many hemlock trees in areas further north.

During the next several years SWMLC will continue the removal of the north tract's unhealthy Douglas firs, and conduct general maintenance activities to support the new tree planting. From a quick survey, it appears that the first-year survival rate is over 75%, which exceeds expectations. Going forward SWMLC expects mortality from deer browse and drought, and hopefully, one day, an extensive forest canopy that might shade. SWMLC is optimistic that in 20 years, there will be cultivated a stand

of trees that will increase the preserve's biodiversity and expand the Wau-Ke-Na forest.

This past August, utilizing staff and volunteers, SWMLC undertook a visitor survey of five of its nature preserves, including Wau-Ke-Na's North Tract, to better understand expectations and needs of preserve visitors, the number of which increased during COVID. As SWMLC heard at many of its other preserves, Wau-Ke-Na is well-used by dog walkers and people would like to see more trails. Most of the survey respondents at Wau-Ke-Na lived within the Glenn area and many owned lakefront property, but stated that Wau-Ke-Na has been one of the few places with a sandy beach that has been accessible during the past several years when lake levels have been extraordinarily high. For many survey respondents, Wau-Ke-Na is their "secret" natural area on the lake.

In the next year, SWMLC will improve, but not expand, the existing parking lot at the North Tract, which is appropriate in size for the level of preserve use. SWMLC has been exploring creation of a new trail that will take visitors south through the center of the preserve, allowing them to walk through the spectacular hemlock woodland that is currently not accessible. SWMLC wants to share this forest with you, but its constant challenge is creating public access while protecting the fragile ecology of the land.

And this year, SWMLC will hold its summer Annual Meeting at the Wau-Ke-Na south tract on Saturday, August 27 from 10am-12pm. A specific program and agenda is still in the works, but SWMLC expects to offer a couple of tours of the preserve to discuss its rare ecology and other current projects. SWMLC would love for you to join them on August 27<sup>th</sup>, if you are a member, and if you're not yet a member, but would like to become one, please visit [swmlc.org/membership](https://swmlc.org/membership). It will be a fun morning with food, music, guided nature walks and good company!

*Peter Ter Louw, Director  
Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy*



*Eastern Hemlock*



## Glenn School Fundraiser

The LMSA Board decided that it is appropriate to include the following piece that was provided by Valerie Levan of the Glenn School Parent Teacher Committee (PTC). We encourage you to read thru this article and consider making a contribution to support this very special school that is located within the LMSA geographical boundaries

*Charles Landefeld  
LMSA President*



The Glenn School Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) invites you to support rural education in Michigan by donating to our annual fundraising drive.

Located in the heart of Glenn at 114<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Adams Road, Glenn School has a long history. Founded in 1854, Glenn School is Michigan's oldest continually operating rural school. Today, the 33 students and five teachers at Glenn School learn and teach in a setting much like that of their pioneer predecessors, but divided now into three classrooms for Kindergarten, Lower Elementary (1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> grades), and Upper Elementary (3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grades). The school combines the historic schoolhouse environment with a modern curriculum that includes technology and foreign language as well as a partnership with Holland's Outdoor Discovery Center.

With our basic yearly budget of \$5,000, the Glenn School PTC supports a variety of programs big and small, from school supplies and healthy snacks to outdoor fun like snowshoeing to social studies field trips to the state capitol.

With our annual fundraising drive, we are hoping to raise the amount needed for our yearly budget, plus an additional \$1,500 to add a Michigan DNR-supported Salmon in the Classroom program to our Upper Elementary STEM curriculum. Students who participate in this program raise Chinook salmon in their classrooms for release into local bodies of water that feed Lake Michigan, where the salmon prey on invasive species like the alewife. The DNR supports these school programs as part of their efforts to educate the next generation to be stewards of Michigan's waters.

### Ways to Give:

The Glenn School PTC is a 501(c)(3) organization and thus your contribution is **tax-deductible**.

You can use our QR code to donate online, go directly to the school's website:

<https://www.glennpublicschool.org/giving-1>

or mail a check to the school at 1392 Adams Road - PO Box 69, Glenn, Michigan 49416, attn. Cate Rutter.



Thank you for supporting Glenn School!

*Valerie Laven  
Glenn School PTC Member*

### ~ Reminder ~

## It's Lyme Time!

**Protect Yourself Against Lyme Disease**

- 1 Walk in the middle of trails; avoid sitting on logs and leaning on trees.
- 2 Wear a hat, tuck in hair, if possible.
- 3 Wear a long-sleeved shirt fitted at the wrist.
- 4 Wear shoes, no bare feet or sandals.
- 5 Wear long pants tucked into high socks or duct tape around pants.
- 6 Consider Deet for skin and permethrin for clothes.
- 7 Wear white or light-colored clothing to make it easier to see ticks.
- 8 Do tick checks immediately and 3 days after outdoor activity.
- 9 If you find a tick, remove it carefully and save it.
- 10 Ask your veterinarian about protection for your furry friends.

**Remove tick with tweezers. Pull straight out as close to the skin as possible. Save tick in container and call doctor.**

**lymedisease.org**  
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Lyme Disease is transmitted by a tiny tick, most often the size of a poppy seed.

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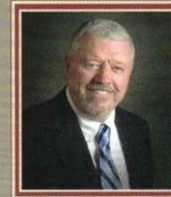
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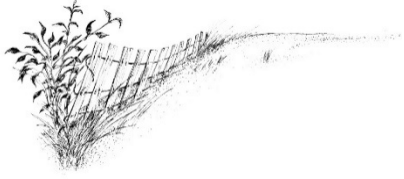


www.whatnotinn.com



# Lake Michigan Shore Association Boundaries Map





## Lake Michigan Shore Association

### NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

*Tear off  
&  
return*

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, 2022 thru December 31, 2022.**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Local or Other Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://www.lmsa.us) for more information or to renew/apply online.



**Lake Michigan Shore Association**  
**PO Box 995**  
**Douglas, MI 49406**

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