

Countdown to Belle Maer Harbor's 20th Anniversary July 4th Fireworks:

...And, There Are Only A Few Days Left To Pick Up Your Fireworks Guest Stickers at the Marina Office

You've probably heard about our new policy Belle Maer Harbor this year — a policy that was created to eliminate the long lines for entry into the marina for the 4th of July fireworks. That's why Belle Maer has initiated a new policy of issuing guest vehicle stickers.

This means that there will be no guest lists for the 4th of July.

Boat owners can receive up to two stickers free of charge, and additional stickers can be purchased at \$20 each (which means each owner can have four cars — two with issued annual decals and another two with July 4th guest stickers). Once each guest car has a numbered vehicle sticker, guests can be admitted without delay at the gate. In addition, the new guest vehicle stickers will help resolving parking problems, as the marina will have a listing of the vehicle stickers with the corresponding boat locations.

The guest vehicle stickers are good only for July 4, 2006.



Belle Maer boat owners can also gain entry on July 4th with a valid BMH membership card (cards are for boat owners only, and ID will be checked). Any guest attempting to gain entrance with a membership card will have the card confiscated and charged \$20 for a vehicle sticker. As you would expect, use of guest cards will contribute to delays for entry into the marina, so we would advise against using cards on this day only.

The marina management appreciates your cooperation in obtaining your guest vehicle stickers in advance, as it will help avoid the traffic jams we experienced in the past. The new policy is designed to solve this problem, so please come into the office and sign out your guest stickers as soon as possible.

The marina office is open 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (including Monday, July 3rd) and will be open 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Saturday June 24 (the last Saturday we will be open during the season).

The Belle Maer/Mac Ray fireworks display is among the biggest and highest rated in the state. It's little wonder, with about 1,200 shells used in the display, not including the multiple "barrage cakes" which shoot off 100 shells with 25-1,000 shots each. Plus, dramatic finale can run through 600 shells alone.

Plus, Belle Maer is proud that for the first time we have two corporate sponsors to help offset the costs of the fireworks: Huntington Bank and Ocean Yachts.

Thank you for helping to make this 20th Anniversary year of our fireworks display the best in our history!



Thanks to the new streamlined policy with guest stickers, security Guard Ken Nichols won't have to sort through hundreds of guest lists, as in past years. This should keep traffic moving and 4th of July celebrants happy.

PLEASE Leave Anti-Siphon Valves in Place

On each of the utility pedestals at Belle Maer, there is an anti-siphon valve, which is also known as a back-flow prevention device. These are attached directly to the water spigot at the base of pedestal. It is important that you do not remove these when you attach your dockside water and/or wash hoses.

According to BMH Harbormaster Jim Krause, these valves prevent water from flowing back into neighboring water valves — and potentially contaminating your neighbor's hose (or vice versa), once the water flow is turned off. According to Jim, it is potentially dangerous — even illegal — to remove the anti-siphon valve — and subjects the marina to stiff fines from the township if they are removed.



The anti-siphon valve assembly is between the hose spigot and your female hose connector, as shown here.

49-Year Old Chris Craft Entered in Classic Show

You may have seen the classic wood 30' Chris Craft Constellation, "Betty Jean," around the marina. According to owner Dan Kluza, who keeps her at Belle Maer in #M-16, the vintage 1957 Chris will be shown June 23-25 at the Algonac Boat and Harbor Show Club along M29 — which is an old Chris Craft boat yard. Dan's pride and joy took three years of loving restoration and is now in tip top shape.



Sometimes, It's the Little Things...

In the coming days, each bathhouse commode will be replaced — by brand new, state-of-the-art er, ah, toilets.

OK, now that's out of the way, the 14 new toilets will be installed in both men's and women's bathhouse locations. They feature vacuum-assisted flushing mechanisms to minimize er, ah, you know. We know all Belle Maer boaters will appreciate this little — but important — improvement!

DiscoverBoating.com Traffic up Almost 300 Percent since Ad Campaign Kickoff

The Michigan Boating Industries Association reports that the number of visitors to DiscoverBoating.com web site jumped 284 percent since the Discover Boating national advertising campaign officially launched on April 1. Back in March, the number of visits per month to DiscoverBoating.com was approximately 88,000; by the end of May, after eight weeks of national print, television and online advertising, that figure soared to nearly 337,000.

For the month of May alone, DiscoverBoating.com received more than 336,000 visits. As of May 31, the total number of "leads" generated on the site is an impressive 22,089—of which 18,799 are requests for the free "How to Get Started in Boating" DVD. The top DiscoverBoating.com referring websites last month were Google and Yahoo paid and organic placements, followed by weatherbug.com, cnn.com and weather.com.

For more information, contact Armida Markarova at (312) 946-6284; amarkarova@nmma.org

Belle Maer Gets Ready for Another Beautiful Boating Season

Some Early Season Reminders

Please review the environmental rules and keep in compliance. These measures are being dictated by state and federal law. Do your part to protect our waterways. Remember that the Marina office has BioSoks for sale and vacuum sanders available for rent for your convenience. The marina also provides a disposal service by the hoist for used engine oil and oil filters.

No boat or other object (such as a jet ski or an inflatable) may extend more than eight feet beyond the end piling. This is a provision of the condominium by-laws and must be observed by all co-owners.

Please help management out by reporting any problems that you encounter. Suggestion/Service Requests are available 24 hours a day in the marina office foyer. If there is a problem or you have a suggestion, please let us know by completing one of these forms. Don't assume we are already aware of the problem. If the problem needs immediate attention and the Marina office is closed, contact the guard either at the gate or by telephone at (586) 465-4536.

Emergency Telephone Numbers

It might be a good idea to clip and save these emergency telephone numbers, and keep them in a place where they're easy to find. Let family members know where they are so they can get to them quickly in case the need arises:

General Emergencies: 911
Belle Maer Security: (586) 465-4536
Marina Security Dispatch: (586) 803-0003
Sheriff's Marine Division: (586) 469-5803
Macomb County Sheriff: (586) 469-5151

Be Kind to Your Marina Environment

No sanding work can be performed by individual boat owners unless it is done inside one of the designated shops or a vacuum sander is used (with the residue properly disposed of). For your convenience, a vacuum sander can be rented through the marina office.

As part of our Environmental Master Plan, every boat at Belle Maer Harbor is required to have a BIOSOK (or generic equivalent) installed to prevent oil or fuel from being pumped overboard from the bilge. For your convenience, BIOSOKs can be purchased in the marina office.

Hints from the Harbormaster

In the interest of odor control for the entire marina, it is highly recommended that all boaters use a chemical odor deterrent in their holding tanks. One popular choice is "Odorless," a 68 ounce container which is priced at about \$20.00. Each use only requires 4-5 ounces. Of course, there are many other choices — but please sure to select one, as a great way of keeping friends and making new ones around the marina!

If you are experiencing electrical problems at your boat, there are two breakers you should check. The first is on the pedestal at your dock. The second is located in the electrical meter box located on your row. Your well number appears above the meter and the breaker is positioned beneath it. If these are both turned on and the problem still persists, please contact the harbor office or security. We will fill out a "Service Request" to get the problem resolved quickly if necessary.

Please help us — as well as your fellow boaters — by removing all miscellaneous items from the winter storage buildings. Our buildings are not to be used for storage during the summer; they are designated for vehicle parking only. Any items not clearly marked with the owner's name and/or the owner's well number will be disposed of within 30 days from June 1st. Owners will be asked to remove their marked items.



The grounds at Belle Maer are looking stunning as the beginning of summer dawns. In these various views of the marina grounds, you can appreciate the lush landscaping, hundreds of stately trees — as well as tens of thousands of annuals that are planted every year.

On the right, a hard working employee pulls growth out of north hill of Mt. Howard, to allow the flowers room to spread and grow.

Proposal One Protects Your Boating Fees

A “yes” vote on Proposal One this November is a vote to constitutionally protect your state recreational funds, including the fees paid for boating, fishing, snowmobile, hunting, ORV, state park and forest entry fees or camping fees—fees which could be pirated by bureaucrats, elected officials, or the administration to be used for resolving Michigan’s budget woes.

All users of Michigan’s recreational activities pay fees, buy licenses or permits to support their recreational activities on state waters and lands. These fees are the primary source of funding for maintaining the state’s marinas, boating access, state parks, state forests, fisheries and wildlife programs, as well as the snowmobile and ORV trail system. No general tax dollars are used to support these programs.

Your “yes” vote protects the programs that ensure public access to Michigan’s waterways, the preservation of fisheries and wildlife along with many other things important to the outdoor lifestyles and Michigan’s great outdoors.

So why not tell your friends and colleagues why it’s important to support this proposal, and be sure to vote on November 7, 2006. You can make a difference.

A new web site, <http://www.protectyourfunds.org> has been set up to solicit support for the proposal. If you would like to receive regular updates on this campaign, please send your name, address and telephone number to boatmichigan@mbia.org or send it to Michigan Boating Industries Association, 32398 Five Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48154.



Most Boaters Have Incomes under \$100,000, Report Shows

Despite a trend towards buying larger boats, the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) reported recently that 95 percent of powerboats owned in the United States have a length of 7.9m (26ft) and below. About 75 percent of owners are individuals or families with an annual household income below \$100,000. The statistics are part of the NMMA’s 2005 Recreational Boating Statistical Abstract.

The report noted that dollar sales for new boats increased by more than \$820 million in 2005, an eight percent increase over the previous year, while unit sales remained steady at 864,450. Over 71.3 million Americans participated in the sport last year. “We’ve noticed a trend over the past few years toward bigger, better equipped boats as Americans look for ways to spend quality time with their families and friends, as well as vacation closer to home,” said Thom Dammrich, president of the NMMA. “When we look at the trend toward larger, better equipped boats, we’re not talking about megayachts; rather we are seeing middle class Americans buy a 22-foot boat instead of an 18-foot boat.”

Belle Maer Classified Ads

GREAT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY - A botanical and herbal based, hypoallergenic skin/healthcare, cosmetic and aromatherapy company is looking for motivated people who want to work from home part-time and gain financial freedom for the rest of their lives. These Swiss formulated, American made products are exploding into the marketplace and now is the time to get involved and reap the benefits!

Learn more about these phenomenal products and get a free brochure and product sample today. Call Mary Simmons (N29) today at (734) 709-2332 for more information on owning your own business.



FOR SALE - 1999 SEA RAY 540 SUNDANCER. Excellent! Completed updated in 2004/05. New boat coming this spring, so the price is right. For complete package, call Phil at (810) 423-8100.

FOR SALE - 1995 SEA RAY 440 SUNDANCER "MY GIRL" 3116 Cats, 435 Hours. New canvas in 2005. Beautiful condition, non-smoker. Dripless shafts, well is available @361 Elco; \$185,000 OBO. Call (248) 514-9405

FOR SALE - 1989 38' CARVER AFT CABIN. Very clean, loaded with all equipment needed for cruising. Two cabins with queen beds, two heads with separate showers. Many updates. Call Henry Siwek at (586) 286-6858.

FOR SALE OR LEASE - 40' BOAT WELL. Lexington, #L-90. Call (586) 752-6247.

FOR SALE OR LEASE - 40' x 16' BOAT WELL. Lexington, #L-89. \$22,000. Will consider land contract. Call (248) 477-8749.

FOR SALE OR LEASE - 45' x 16' BOAT WELL. Griffon, #G269, corner well. \$25,000/Best Offer. Call (248) 660-6518.

Invite Your Boating Guest to Stay in a Belle Maer Transient Well

This summer, designated transient wells will be made available to travelers, and visitors on weekends and weekdays. For all Belle Maer transient wells, reservations must be made in advance, and transient passes will be made available upon their arrival.

Minimum stay on a regular weekend is two nights, and on holiday weekends three nights.

Prices and slips are:

25' x 10' Slip - \$35/day (T6, T7, T8, T9, T10)

30' x 11' Slip - \$40/day (A Row, W Row)

30' x 12' Slip - \$40/day (A Row)

30' x 14' Slip - \$40/day (C Row)

35' x 15' Slip - \$45/day (as available, see marina office)

40' x 16' Slip - \$55/day (N Row, wells have 50 amp service)

60' x 19' Slip - \$65/day (B Row, wells have 50 amp service)

4th of July Weekend - prices are doubled

Transient guests must pay in advance. Checks are accepted only if mailed three weeks before stay. Pool passes are available for \$10 per day with a \$50 deposit; paid in advance. Charges will be deducted from deposit and balance returned when pool card is returned.