

Late June 2008

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Belle Maer to Offer FREE Cable TV and WiFi

Belle Maer boaters with vessels of all shapes and sizes should welcome this news with open arms. That's right: get some fresh batteries in your TV remote control and bring your laptops on the weekends because free Cable TV and free wireless internet is coming soon to a well near you.

Eric Foster, managing partner, said he has secured the services of a third party company who will be installing Cable TV throughout the marina starting this week. The WiFi capability should be active throughout the marina by early July and the Cable TV should be up and running by late August.

"We are very pleased we will be able to offer our customers basic cable TV at no charge," Eric said. "This will be especially welcome by boaters with analog TV's who would not be able to receive digital broadcasts that will begin early next year. Now, boats with analog or newer flat screen TV's can simply plug into the coaxial cable that will be available at each well—and they'll receive 48 crystal-clear channels."

Eric also noted Belle Maer boaters should appreciate the significant savings of a free WiFi internet service, which has cost as much as \$150 per season from independent services.

Boaters do not need a cable box to take advantage of the service; they do, however, need an input for the standard coaxial cable. A schedule of available Cable TV stations will be made available as installation progresses.



Have a Golf Cart? Decorate it in Patriotic Garb and Join July 4th Belle Maer Parade

If you've got a golf cart and want to have some fun on the 4th of July, why not join the 4th of July Golf Cart Parade this year? All you have to do is show up with your decked-out golf cart (and, of course, your passengers) at 12:30 p.m. on July 4th between Buildings 5 and 6. The Parade will begin at 1:00, and the "route" will travel around each pier through the marina.



Photo from 2007 July 4th Golf Cart Parade

A Reminder: Don't Forget to Pick Up Guest Stickers at Marina Office for July 4th Fireworks Celebration

If you haven't picked up your guest vehicle stickers for the 4th of July, we ask to that you do so as soon as possible. Two stickers will be provided at no cost; additional stickers can be purchased for \$20 each. Please make every effort to have your family and guests car pool for this event.

As in the past two years, guest lists will not be accepted for the 4th of July. Guests arriving without a guest sticker will be charged \$20 for entry and issued a guest sticker (provided parking is available).

22nd Anniversary Fireworks Celebration Set

On Friday, July 4th, the Belle Maer Harbor fireworks will mark its 22nd Anniversary with a spectacular celebration along the shoreline of Anchor Bay. More than 100,000 are expected to enjoy the display, with boat owners, their families and friends watching from their home marina, while others watch from restaurants, beaches—and wherever they can catch a glimpse of one of the highest rated fireworks displays in Michigan.

More than 1,200 shells are used in the Belle Maer display—even more if you include many "barrage cakes" which shoot off 100 shells with 25-1,000 shots each. The finale runs through as many as 600 shells alone.

The display begins once darkness falls, usually around 10:15 p.m. Weather conditions may cause a delay or cancellation, although this event has never been cancelled. Severe storms have delayed shows in the past, but a window has always been open so "the show could go on." The U.S. Coast Guard maintains a watchful and safe eye over the event, and has the final word on this. The contingency rain date is Saturday, July 5th.

We are very pleased that Huntington Bank has agreed to sponsor the 22nd Anniversary of the fireworks, which helps to offset some of the costs.

Traffic Expected to be Lighter

Eric Foster and Jim Krause have met with the Macomb County Sheriff Department to plan for smooth traffic flow after the fireworks show. Traffic leaving the marina is expected to be lighter this year with the Fourth on the weekend, as the majority of our member boaters will be spending the night after the show.

Your Boating Friends Can Stay Nearby — in a Belle Maer Harbor Transient Well

This summer, you can invite your friends from other marinas to stay nearby—right at Belle Maer for your own weekend rendezvous. For all Belle Maer transient wells, reservations must be made in advance and transient passes will be made available upon their arrival.

Belle Maer transient prices have been set at \$1.50 per linear foot per night. Check out time is 11:00 am on the next day. Anyone wishing to stay past the check out time on the next day will be required to pay for an additional night.

Belle Maer also offers special rates to our boating customers: Rack customers can spend an evening in the water by renting a transient well for \$.75 per linear foot. All of our customers can sponsor an individual friend or family member to spend an evening for \$1.00 per linear foot. All rates are doubled for the fireworks show on the 4th of July.

Transient guests must pay in advance. It is preferred that payment be made one week in advance by check. Any payments less than a week in advance must be made in cash (no credit cards). The use of the swimming pool and all of the other marina amenities are included in the daily transient fee.

For more information, please call the marina office.



Boom! Blam! Ka-Blammo!

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel Exams Popular Among Belle Maer Boaters

On May 31, many Belle Maer Boaters took advantage of a Courtesy Vessel Safety Check, a complimentary check of their boat conducted by members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in Mt. Clemens. If boaters passed, they received a decal to display.

Some of the items checked included Personal Flotation Devices, Registration and numbering, Navigation lights, Ventilation, Fire extinguishers, Distress signals (flares, horn, etc.), and Battery cover and connections.

All of these items are currently required by state and federal laws and, if missing or non-operating, can result in a citation should your vessel be inspected by the Coast Guard.



Joe Valentine of the Mt. Clemens Coast Guard Auxiliary inspects a vessel on May 31. Unfortunately, the vessel (owned by the author) did not pass because (a) his flares expired in 2005, and (b) he did not have a copy of the U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Rules on board. The author has remedied this, and will schedule another VSC exam.



Copy of the Vessel Safety Exam forms used by the Auxiliary.

Emergency Telephone Numbers

It might be a good idea to print, 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

Hints from the Harbormaster

New Announcement! We have had many problems with glass-top furniture breaking in high winds. We will no longer permit tables with glass tops to be brought into the marina from now on (if you currently have such a table, it is permissible, but please use caution and replace it when possible). This policy is being implemented for the safety of all Belle Maer customers; glass table tops often break into dangerous flying shards or tiny glass pieces that present serious hazards and risk of injury.

In the interest of odor control for the entire marine, 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 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, two breakers can be checked before reporting the issue to the guard or Harbormaster. 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.

Pavilion is New Gathering Spot for Groups

If you would like to host your group or club at Belle Maer, the marina now has its own pavilion where everyone can gather.

This sheltered area, which has been constructed around the former tennis building, includes ample parking and gathering space for our full time residents as well as transient friends. In addition, Belle Maer has invited neighboring boat clubs, groups and marinas to visit for a rendezvous or a weekend.

Please call the marina office for a more information on the usage and fee policy and reservations.



Free Shuttle Service Offered Again In And Around Boat Town Area

For the second season, Harrison Township is offering a free Shuttle Service that will take passengers in and around Boat Town on weekends. Hours are Friday from 5 p.m. to midnight, Saturday from 9 a.m. to midnight and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The free service will shuttle you to dinner, shopping, church, brunch—even Metro Beach. Make arrangements by calling (586) 612-4454.

Of course, another benefit of the shuttle means you don't have to worry about driving your car back to the marina after you've had a few cocktails at dinner or afterward: why not let Harrison Township be your "designated driver?"

Summer Office Hours

Monday – Friday - 8:30am – 5:00pm
Saturday (through June 28) - 10:00am – 4:00pm

Contractors will only be permitted access during the hours the marina office is open (or with advance authorization from the marina office).