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July 4th, 2008, at Belle Maer: Spectacular!

During this election year, you're likely to find hundreds—if not thousands—of different and possibly conflicting political opinions among those of us who boat at Belle Maer Harbor. But on July 4th, 2008, all were in harmony and agreement on one thing: it was a spectacular day from beginning to end!

Balmy, humid, breezy but nothing too extreme, and nothing that would prevent us from staying in or getting out on our boats to enjoy this fine day (oh yes, July 5th was also a picture-perfect day).

This year, the 4th of July dawned sunny and bright with the summertime aromas of sunscreen and barbecue sauce intermingling in the air. Organized festivities at the marina got under way just after noon with a long and sometimes loud parade of golf carts (why do we still call them "golf" carts when they are in a marina?). Dozens of carts adorned with flags, banners, signs, music, amplified voices, kids throwing candy and revelers dressed in patriotic attire weaved their way around every pier. They all waved, and everyone waved back. It was a celebration of patriotic joy.

Among the parade watchers was Ken Klein of W Wharf, who videotaped the parade and posted his video on YouTube. Ken wrote in an email:

We're having another great year here at Belle Maer. The fireworks were spectacular, as usual. The bath rooms have been much better than in past years, and it's good to see so many folks using the facility. I took a video of the golf cart parade, on the 4th of July and posted it on YouTube. The link is below and I thought you all might be interested in viewing it. This is towards the end of the parade as they are coming off of A Row and turning on to M Row. I know that a few carts have dropped out at this time and I am sorry they were not included. The video is a little quick, as they go past me. I got the idea to video at the last minute and I wish I would have had the idea sooner as to do a better job. Anyway, here it is. I believe that a ton of fun was had by all. Enjoy... (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQu_nYFcnqw)

Since the Belle Maer Harbor community is among the most enthusiastic crowd of boaters in Michigan, it was soon time to head out into Anchor Bay for a cruise or a swim. Many boaters headed straight for "Poor Man's Beach," where they dropped a hook and opened a cold one to enjoy this day. Some rafted off other boats, others anchored by themselves—but all could be seen and heard having a blast.

Inside the harbor, Belle Maer boaters were no less enthusiastic as they putted around in their dinghies, their PWC's or their bigger boats. At times, our canals looked a little like the Lodge Freeway at rush hour—but it just added to the festive fun.

If you spend a day, a weekend—or a season—at Belle Maer, you know there's no shortage of things to do. On the 4th of July, where the marina grows to several times its normal population, you seem to see people everywhere doing every thing there is to do. The pool, for example, becomes a hub of activity on a hot July day as adults and kids alike heat up and then cool off. The basketball court, with its new surface and paint job, is the site for a number of pick-up games (and some of these guys are really good!). Then there's the volleyball court, where yards and yards of fresh new sand were delivered the previous week. It was busy all day long, with groups rotating in and out on the shores of Anchor Bay.



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As the day slipped by, folks at the marina gathered closer to their slips and fired up their grills. Of course, many boaters were joined by friends and family members who sometimes use this occasion to do some hooting and hollering. Sometimes, an impromptu dance would break out—right in the street. There's nothing like a holiday weekend to get the crowd in a celebratory mood.

As it turns out, the beautiful day was just a prelude to an even more incredible night—capped off by the 22nd Annual Fireworks Display. With the barge anchored safely well out into Anchor Bay, a few choice "booms" got everyone's attention as we knew the stage was being set by Barry Beltz and his crew at Great Lakes Fireworks.

Barry's team seems to out-do themselves every year and '08 was no different: this year, the fireworks seemed even more awesome with many pyrotechnic special effects all choreographed to reach a dazzling crescendo.

More than 1,200 shells were used in the Belle Maer display, along with a multitude of "barrage cakes" with as many as 1,000 shots each.

We would like to thank everyone for a rousing and wonderful 4th of July, this year, including Barry Beltz, our security team, our yard workers and others who pitched in to make things fun and safe. We would also like to thank Huntington Bank for their sponsorship of this year's fireworks; their support helps offset some of our increasing costs.

Editor's Note and Special Thank You: After the July 4th festivities drew to a close and our thousands of visitors left, the Marina Office started to receive many compliments on how orderly things seemed to go and on how clean the marina stayed. Many focused on the cleanliness of the Bath Houses. We'd like to say a special thank you to our new Bath House maintenance person, Vanessa Mavis, who has done an excellent job. Vanessa owns a boat cleaning and maintenance company, and is just as conscientious with gel coat as she is in the Bath House. If you are in need of boat cleaning services you can reach her at Dock Side Shine, 586-260-4126.

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



Duffy's Landing: Your Marina Headquarters For Fuel, Pump-outs—and Much More

Aside from the Belle Maer pool, the other gathering place for BMH boaters is (or perhaps should be) Duffy's Landing. Here, Sal and his son, Sal, operate a bustling gas dock and general store, where you can find much more than you might think.

Consider that this entrepreneurial two-some has added a full service ATM machine for the boater who may not have left home with enough cash for the weekend. And of course, there is a ready, willing and able team of friendly and professional gas-up and pump-out experts who can get you out on the water quickly:

But there are also a number of "bet you didn't know" items Duffy's Landing carries:

- Ben & Jerry's ice cream bars, including a delicious "Cherry Garcia" treat
- Dove bars, Good Humor ice cream and Klondike bars
- A new Mrs. Field's cookie and ice cream sandwich
- Hot dogs, Italian sausage and buns for your grill
- Onions and limes (buy a six pack of Corona and Sal will throw in a lime)
- Fresh Buscemi's subs (weekends)
- A selection of candy and other goodies for the kids
- Live Bait (night crawlers)

If you head to Duffy's Landing by car or golf cart, please remember to park in their parking lot and not in front of nearby boat wells. Your patronage and cooperation are appreciated!



No Wakes in Marina - Please!

We'd like to remind Belle Maer boaters and their guests that there is a "No Wake" policy on all canals in the marina. This goes for large boats, small boats, dinghies, jet skis—every vessel.

With more and more Belle Maer boaters (along with their guests, children and extended families) operating watercraft within the harbor, we have seen an increase in people operating their crafts too fast, thus creating wakes. Remember, you are responsible for the damage your wake creates. And even if a wake does not cause actual damage, it certainly creates an unpleasant motion within the confines of the marina environment.

So please, slow down and be considerate of your fellow boaters in the marina.



Mariner's Boat Club Invites Belle Maer Boaters to Open Houses

Cathy Dandrea of Mariner's Boat Club on North River Road tells us that there are two more open houses scheduled at the Club - and that Belle Maer boaters are all invited to attend:

Saturday August 2, 2008, 5:00: The Parade of Lights. Come and see what Mariner's Boat Club is all about and see the boat parade too.

Sunday August 10, 2008, 10:00 – 1:00: Mariner's Boat Club Breakfast Open House. \$5.00. Eggs, sausage, pancakes, biscuits, juice & coffee.

Mariner's Boat Club is located on North River Road at Conger Bay Drive.

The Importance of Filing a Sail (Float) Plan

A Reminder from Lt/Cdr Robert L. Corzine, Birmingham Power Squadron

No one among us was not deeply saddened by the tragic death of the mother and daughter due to hypothermia (in May). As everyone knows, after their boat sank in Lake St. Clair, they were floating - with life jackets - in the cold lake until the early morning hours. They had been missing 10 - 12 hours, but no one knew.

All accidents leave us with a prevention lesson. In this case, we can focus on two: one, when immersed in cold water, cuddle with each other; and two, never leave shore without filing a sail plan. It would definitely have saved their lives.

CPS, USPS and the Coast Guard strongly encourage you to leave a SAIL PLAN every (yes, every) time you head out on your boat. It's easy and insures that someone knows where you should be and will miss you in time to do some good.

NOTE: THIS SERVICE IS NOT AVAILABLE WITH US COAST GUARD. LEAVE PLAN WITH A RESPONSIBLE PERSON

Procedure:

1. Download and print out the SAIL PLAN @ <http://www.tc.gc.ca/marinesafety/debs/obs/preparation/trip/menu.htm> or your own form from USPS including your vessel & personal information
2. Complete all sections except the "Trip details" at the bottom. If you are leaving your SAIL PLANS with your marina (if they are willing) or a "Responsible Person", give them this copy to have on file permanently.
3. With each trip, call or radio your marina or "Responsible Person" and give them details of your trip.
4. When you arrive - CLOSE YOUR SAIL PLAN! Let the person who took your plan know that you've arrived safely. Be advised that if you fail to do this and a search is initiated, you may be liable for the cost of the Search and Rescue Operation.

Some Mid Season Reminders From the Harbormaster...

New! 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.

Please 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.

Nearby Bridgeview Clinic Convenient for Emergencies

If you're in need of medical care and want the convenience of a short (very short) drive, you might want to check out Bridgeview Medical Clinic, conveniently located on Bridgeview Street between North and South River Roads.

The Bridgeview Medical Clinic's mission is to provide the broadest, most efficient and convenient quality medical care to all patients, according to M. J. Shadel, D.O.

"We will do this by utilizing 100% of our knowledge, skills and abilities to treat each patient, Dr. Shadel explains. "Each patient will be treated with respect and care at each level of contact within the clinic, as we provide the highest quality medical care."

Services include: Urgent Care, Family Practice, Occupational Medicine, on site X-ray, On site Lab, on site Prescription dispensing, School / Sport Physicals, Pre-employment Physicals and Drug Testing.

Insurance Accepted include BC/BS of Michigan, Medicare, PPOM, Tricare, PHCS and National Provider Network.

Bridgeview Medical Clinic is located 39833 Bridgeview Street, Harrison Township. Telephone is (586) 627-2727. No appointment is necessary. Hours are Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and weekends and holidays – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Host Your Boating Friends for a Weekend 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.

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. dinner or afterward: why not let Harrison Township be your "designated driver?"

Reminder That Free Shuttle Service Offered

Don't forget that 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.

Another benefit of riding the shuttle is that 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?"

Pavilion is 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.

Summer Office Hours

Monday – Friday - 8:30am – 5:00pm

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