

24th Annual Fireworks Display a Hit for Young and Old

Maybe it was the weather, which was, in a word, perfect. There was a 100% chance of blue sky and balmy temperatures, and virtually NO chance of precipitation. The only issue was the westerly breeze, which was enough to give boaters the occasional docking challenge. But other than that, the weather was SO nice it made us all a little giddy. For days!

The weekend's events got started on Saturday, July 3rd, with the 2nd Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta. With some 14 vessels and a lot of youthful enthusiasm, there was no shortage of excitement (laughter AND tears), as you would expect in any bona fide competition. Well, this wasn't exactly the Port Huron to Mackinaw race, but it was awesome nonetheless.

The 4th of July dawned sunny, bright and very warm (what else?), and there was a buzz around the marina as participants readied their golf carts for another growing event: the Annual 4th of July Golf Cart Parade. From pirates (4th of July pirates?) to scallywags to patriots, dozens and dozens of golf carts got in on the action. Horns honked along the route as kids threw candy, and others partook in an occasional adult beverage. What a blast!

But the REAL blast came at dusk during the Belle Maer/MacRay Harbor 24th Annual Fireworks Display. The balmy weather may have accounted for the turnout of spectators and boats that crowded Anchor Bay. As always, the display was spectacular, with some 1,200 shells exploding in dizzying combinations. And it was all capped off with another incredible finale during which more than 600 shells were lighted on the barge. Wow, what a day... what a weekend!

For more Fireworks pictures, click this link: http://gallery.me.com/oomm_studios#100113

Belle Maer Harbor Golf Cart Parade: More Carts, Craziness & Creativity

For more pictures from the Golf Cart Parade, click this link: http://gallery.me.com/oomm_studios#100113

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
Harrison Twp Fire Department: (586) 466-1450



Photo by Bruce Nierzwick (586) 322-1740.



Cardboard Boat Regatta: All Winners, No Losers

The 2nd Annual Cardboard Regatta, held July 3rd, pitted teams and boats against each other all in the name of fun. The event is for kids and teens under 17. It is a "boat race" where competitors paddle and row their way down the canal between C-Row and E-Row. As if these racers didn't have enough on their hands, they had to contend with a rowdy group of adults in dinghies and in the back of boats who sprayed them with water guns about 2/3 of the way down the canal.

Boats made of cardboard, paper, tape and paint plied the canal; some vessels were amazingly seaworthy while others, frankly, well... not so much.

Winners are as follows:

Age 12 and under winners:

1st place - Lauren Moore and Audrey Huhtasaari (Audrey Express)
2nd place - Dominic Baffo and friend Nathan (Dragon)
3rd place - Brianna Martina, Isabella Martina, Haley Watkins (Pink Ladies)
Best of Show - Taylor Con (Hot Shot)

Age 13-17 winners:

1st place - Jennifer Pysh and Zach Blackburn (JoGus II)
2nd place - John Hardwicke (Hot Shot)
3rd place - Jordan Riley, Katelyn Petracca (Dragon)
Best of Show - Jennifer Pysh and Zach Blackburn (JoGus II)

For more pictures from the Cardboard Boat Regatta, click here: http://gallery.me.com/oomm_studios#100113



Pavilion is Perfect Gathering Spot for Rendezvous, Groups

If you would like to host a group or club event at Belle Maer, the marina offers its own pavilion where everyone can gather.

This sheltered area, located between the tennis courts and the playscape area, 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 or reservations.

Why Not Have Friends Visit This Summer In a Transient Well at Belle Maer Harbor?

This season, why not invite your friends with boats to stay at Belle Maer for your own weekend rendezvous? 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 with their boat 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.

For all Belle Maer transient wells, reservations need to be made in advance and transient passes will be made available upon their arrival. 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.

Duffy's Landing Offers Ethanol-Free Gas, Beer and Wine, ATM, Propane and More

Most Belle Maer boaters are aware of Duffy's Landing and the friendly staff who helps us with everything from fuel to pump-outs to stocking up on ice. But we wanted to remind you that Duffy's has Ethanol-free gasoline, which is so important for marine engines and fuel tanks, while many fuel docks around the lake do not. They are also carrying propane and propane tanks this year for the first time. Duffy's also has a nice selection of quality beer and wine, an ATM machine, Walt's Crawlers, sunglasses, snacks, ice cream treats, pre-made sandwiches, marine supplies and a lot more.

And don't forget, another advantage is the friendly, courteous crew that will make sure your needs are met. So next time you're in the neighborhood, wave hello or stop in and see Sal Baffo or son, Sal Baffo, your proprietors at Duffy's Landing.



Ray's Marine Supply Expands, Offers Easy, Close Alternative

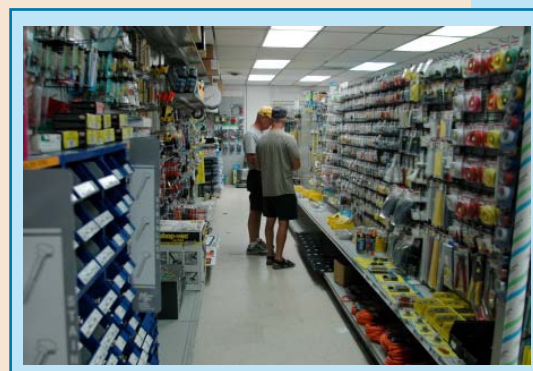
Ray's Marine Supply has reopened this season with an expanded and fully-stocked marine store located adjacent to D Brothers grocery store and Classic Boat Decks, located at 31469 North River Road in Harrison Township.

Ray's Marine is a partnership between Ray Darghali, owner of the D Brothers store on North River Road, and Tom Robinson, who owns and operates Classic Boat Decks in the same plaza.

Tom, a knowledgeable boating expert and Belle Maer resident, has been the head buyer for Ray's Marine, making sure they had the bases covered when boaters needed something. Tom and Ray still work hard to keep their prices low, and follow the advertised prices of their competitors in town to ensure that happens.

Ray's Marine carries marine supplies, stainless steel hardware, cleaners and waxes, paint supplies, AMS oil, sporting goods, electrical supplies, lines and rope, charts and maps, safety gear and more. They also handle prop repairs.

For more information, call Ray's Marine at (586) 469-8900.



Drowning Doesn't Look Like Drowning

by Mario Vittone
Water Safety, gCaptain

The new captain jumped from the cockpit, fully dressed, and sprinted through the water. A former lifeguard, he kept his eyes on his victim as he headed straight for the owners who were swimming between their anchored sportfisher and the beach. "I think he thinks you're drowning," the husband said to his wife. They had been splashing each other and she had screamed but now they were just standing, neck-deep on the sand bar. "We're fine, what is he doing?" she asked, a little annoyed. "We're fine!" the husband yelled, waving him off, but his captain kept swimming hard. "Move!" he barked as he sprinted between the stunned owners. Directly behind them, not ten feet away, their nine-year-old daughter was drowning. Safely above the surface in the arms of the captain, she burst into tears, "Daddy!"

How did this captain know – from fifty feet away – what the father couldn't recognize from just ten? Drowning is not the violent, splashing, call for help that most people expect. The captain was trained to recognize drowning by experts and years of experience. The father, on the other hand, had learned what drowning looks like by watching television. If you spend time on or near the water (hint: that's all of us) then you should make sure that you and your crew knows what to look for whenever people enter the water. Until she cried a tearful, "Daddy," she hadn't made a sound. As a former Coast Guard rescue swimmer, I wasn't surprised at all by this story. Drowning is almost always a deceptively quiet event. The waving, splashing, and yelling that dramatic conditioning (television) prepares us to look for, is rarely seen in real life.

The Instinctive Drowning Response – so named by Francesco A. Pia, Ph.D., is what people do to avoid actual or perceived suffocation in the water. And it does not look like most people expect. There is very little splashing, no waving, and no yelling or calls for help of any kind. To get an idea of just how quiet and undramatic from the surface drowning can be, consider this: It is the number two cause of accidental death in children, age 15 and under (just behind vehicle accidents) – of the approximately 750 children who will drown next year, about 375 of them will do so within 25 yards of a parent or other adult. In ten percent of those drownings, the adult will actually watch them do it, having no idea it is happening (source: CDC). Drowning does not look like drowning – Dr. Pia, in an article in the Coast Guard's On Scene Magazine, described the instinctive drowning response like this:

1. Except in rare circumstances, drowning people are physiologically unable to call out for help. The respiratory system was designed for breathing. Speech is the secondary or overlaid function. Breathing must be fulfilled before speech occurs.
2. Drowning people's mouths alternately sink below and reappear above the surface of the water. The mouths of drowning people are not above the surface of the water long enough for them to exhale, inhale, and call out for help. When the drowning people's mouths are above the surface, they exhale and inhale quickly as their mouths start to sink below the surface of the water.
3. Drowning people cannot wave for help. Nature instinctively forces them to extend their arms laterally and press down on the water's surface. Pressing down on the surface of the water permits drowning people to leverage their bodies so they can lift their mouths out of the water to breathe.
4. Throughout the Instinctive Drowning Response, drowning people cannot voluntarily control their arm movements. Physiologically, drowning people who are struggling on the surface of the water cannot stop drowning and perform voluntary movements such as waving for help, moving toward a rescuer, or reaching out for a piece of rescue equipment.
5. From beginning to end of the Instinctive Drowning Response people's bodies remain upright in the water, with no evidence of a supporting kick. Unless rescued by a trained lifeguard, these drowning people can only struggle on the surface of the water from 20 to 60 seconds before submersion occurs.

(Source: On Scene Magazine: Fall 2006)

This doesn't mean that a person that is yelling for help and thrashing isn't in real trouble – they are experiencing aquatic distress. Not always present before the instinctive drowning response, aquatic distress doesn't last long – but unlike true drowning, these victims can still assist in their own rescue. They can grab lifelines, throw rings, etc.

Look for these other signs of drowning when persons are in the water:

- * Head low in the water, mouth at water level
- * Head tilted back with mouth open
- * Eyes glassy and empty, unable to focus
- * Eyes closed
- * Hair over forehead or eyes
- * Not using legs – Vertical
- * Hyperventilating or gasping
- * Trying to swim in a particular direction but not making headway
- * Trying to roll over on the back
- * Ladder climb, rarely out of the water.

So if a crew member falls overboard and everything looks OK – don't be too sure. Sometimes the most common indication that someone is drowning is that they don't look like they're drowning. They may just look like they are treading water and looking up at the deck. One way to be sure? Ask them, "Are you alright?" If they can answer at all they probably are. If they return a blank stare, you may have less than 30 seconds to get to them. And parents – children playing in the water make noise. When they get quiet, you get to them and find out why.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed by the author are not necessarily those of the Department of Homeland Security or the U.S. Coast Guard.



Belle Maer Globe Gets New LED Lights

Belle Maer Harbor's signature lighted globe got a facelift on July 13th, when workers installed new LED (Light Emitting Diode) lights on the ball portion. The bright, all-weather lights replaced the old fluorescent lights, which were more susceptible to wind, weather and insect damage. The old lights were costly to maintain and were a constant headache. The new LED lights are brighter and more maintenance-free. The new lights will be a welcome improvement for boaters coming from the water—or those who will enjoy the iconic, dressed up globe from their slips in the marina.



New Belle Maer Cable 'Channel' Coming Soon

Belle Maer will soon have its own 'channel' on the cable TV system, which has been assigned to Channel 13. While not operational yet, the channel will show the cable channel line-up, upcoming events, messages from the marina and much more. Once Belle Maer's Channel 13 is up and running, we will send out an email blast to let you know; boaters will then need to reprogram their televisions in order to receive it (as boaters did when you initially connected to the cable system). Stay tuned!

'Decades Dance' Scheduled at Belle Maer Pavilion July 24th

A "Decades Dance" is planned at the marina on Saturday, July 24th. There will be some additional associated activities that will be announced soon. The dance will feature popular, upbeat music from several decades and will run from 6 to 9 p.m. A DJ will provide entertainment.

The event, cosponsored by Belle Maer and the New Wave Boat Club, will take place in front of the marina pavilion — complete with a "dance floor" in front.

T-shirts will be available for sale and prizes will be awarded.

'Saturday Night at the Movies' Continues at Belle Maer

Weather permitting, there is a showing of a movie every Saturday night in the parking area between the new pavilion and the playscape area. Bring your golf carts, chairs, blankets and coolers for a drive-in theatre experience on a large screen—all right here at the marina.

Admission is free.

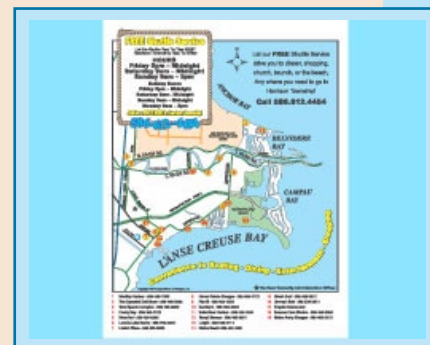
Complimentary Shuttle Service Offered This Season in Harrison Township

For the fourth season, Harrison Township is offering a free Shuttle Service that will take passengers in and around Boat Town on weekends. This schedule and map with contact information will come in handy if you want to get out and about.

Summer Office Hours

Monday – Friday: 8:30am – 5:00pm
Closed Saturdays in July and August

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



Hints from the Harbormaster

1. Should you have electrical problems at your boat (which can happen during hot weather when a majority of boaters have their A/C running at the same time), there are two breakers you should check before reporting it. 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 exists, please contact the harbor office or security. We will issue a Service Request to get the problem resolved.
2. Especially during the hottest part of the summer, it is recommended that all boaters in the marina use a chemical odor deterrent in their holding tanks. A popular choice is "Odorless," a 68 ounce container which is priced at under \$25.00. Each use only requires 4-5 ounces. Of course, there are many other choices—but please sure to select one as a courtesy to your friends and boating neighbors.
3. Please remember that the marina no longer permit tables with glass tops to be brought into the marina. This policy is being implemented for the safety of all Belle Maer customers; glass table tops can break into dangerous flying shards or tiny glass pieces that present serious hazards and risk of injury.

Advertising Programs Available For BMH Events, On Web Site

Most of the boaters at Belle Maer have expressed strong interest in participating in exciting family events like Belle Maer Fun Day held in June. More events like BMH Fun Day are being considered and planned. Events like these give sponsoring organizations and charities a great opportunity to become involved in the boating community, showcase their products and services and gain exposure. And it can be a surprisingly affordable alternative to conventional advertising. If you're interested, contact Eric Foster in the Marina office.

Belle Maer Harbor also offers individuals and businesses marketing opportunities through promotion on the Belle Maer web site.

Classified Ads are posted on the web site, providing each advertiser the opportunity to reach some 6,500 prospects who hit the site per month. Here are the details:

Classified Ad Program (for Individuals):

We will create a prominent Personal Classified Ad click-on section on our home page (these will no longer be part of the e-newsletter, and will run independent of our e-newsletter postings.

The ads will be placed as they come into our office and run for a specified time frame. Donna Kempt of the marina office will collect the ad fee.

The charge will be \$20 for two months and \$35 for a four month term. There is no refund if the item sells early.

Classified Ads in this section should all be personal ads of 35 words or less.

Photos can be included with your ad for an additional charge.

Banner Ad Program (for Businesses):

Businesses can purchase Banner Ads which will be run on a calendar year basis. We can accommodate a new banner ad at any time of the year. Animated, custom designed Banner Ads rotate throughout the BMH web site and the e-newsletter, providing optimum exposure to approximately 6,500 hits the web site receives per month.

In addition, advertisers receive bonus exposure on the Belle Maer Cable TV network on Belle Maer's own Channel 13.

Cost for the Annual Banner Ad is only \$500 for the entire year.

Please call Donna Kempt at the Belle Maer marina office for more information or to run your ad.