



Winter 2010 LOLA Newsletter

Concerned citizens for a better lake community

www.LOLAinfo.org

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Visit the web site:

<http://www.LOLAinfo.org>

Contact the board at:

LOLA Board of Directors
Box 446
Lake Orion, Mi. 48362

Or e-mail to:

LOLA@LOLAinfo.org

Contact the Oakland County
Sheriff's Dept., Marine Division

Patrol hours- - weekends from
Memorial Day thru Labor Day.

For jump boat:
Call Oakland County Dispatch
at 248-858-4950.

Dial 911 in case of emergency.

For local enforcement:
Orion Township County Sheriff
248-
Village of Lake Orion Police
248-

Boater Safety Classes available
through Marine Division

Class schedule available at
www.oakgov.com/sheriff
Click on Safety Tips and Courses

New boating laws at Michigan DNR
Phone 517-373-1230

Oakland County Sheriff Marine Division Patrols

During the 2009 boating season, the Association became aware that funding for lake marine patrols would be substantially reduced for 2010. A search began for viable alternatives to maintain an effective and efficient enforcement process for the future.

Meetings were held with Mike Gingell, County Commissioner, Matt Gibb, Township Supervisor, Paul Zelenak, Village Manager and Major Bob Smith of the Sheriff's Department. In mid-November, a town hall meeting was held to review the situation, hear from government representatives and allow lake owners to provide input.

Late in the year, it was confirmed that marine patrols would be drastically reduced due to state funding cutbacks. Lake patrols would be completely eliminated, with just two jump boats maintained to respond to county-wide calls. The Association was concerned that service would be limited to only the most serious problems, and then after the fact, with no enforcement of safe boating regulations. The result would be a decline in safety for everyone using the lake for boating, skiing, swimming and fishing.

Reflecting a cooperative effort between the County and Township, a solution was identified for 2010. On March 1, the Township Board passed a resolution that will fund patrols from an existing budget. A contract is being developed.

For the longer-term, a creative solution is still needed. The Association believes that an effective patrol capability is essential and that the cost needs to be borne by all lake users, not just the riparian home owners. Legislation is being considered at the state level to fund and maintain marine patrols. An alternative solution might be fees similar to those applied to maintain trails for snowmobiles. If you have suggestions or input, please send a letter or e-mail to the Association.

www.LOLAinfo.org, the Association's website is being expanded and content is evolving. Questions, comments and suggestions about the website or broader issues related to lake living can be e-mailed to the Board at LOLA@LOLAinfo.org. A Paypal account capability is also now available for membership dues by clicking on the "Link to Membership Form".

2010 Membership Dues are Due

Dues support activities, including the no-wake buoy program, water quality testing, special events, web site development and communications on issues affecting lake owners. Please fill out the attached form and forward it with a check for \$20 payable to LOLA or complete the process through the website.

Interested in serving on the board or volunteering to be part of activities on Lake Orion? Please check the appropriate boxes on the information form.

Thanks for your support.

The Lake Association's Annual Meeting will be held at 7:00pm on April 29 at the Orion Township Library, Conference Room B, 825 Joslyn Rd. Matt Gibb, Orion Township Supervisor, will discuss challenges and opportunities for Lake Orion and the Township. Please plan to attend and become part of the process.

No-Wake Buoy Program

Buoys are placed at specific sites around the lake based on state permits. They should serve as a reminder to boaters of local ordinances and encourage courteous boating near shore and in narrow channels. Lights and reflective tape were installed last season to improve visibility. However, careless boaters continued to damage buoys, making costly repairs or replacement necessary again for the 2010 season.

State of Michigan's Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program.

The Association continues to participate each season in the state-wide effort to monitor lake water quality. Water quality parameters being tested include water clarity, phosphorus and chlorophyll. Testing begins in mid-April and continues through September. Data for all lakes participating in the program during the 2009 season are available at www.micorps.net. Use the search function to locate information on Lake Orion.

Neighborhood Self-Help Groups for Weed Management

Coordinators will begin contacting their neighbors shortly regarding the 2010 treatment program. The cost and process will be similar to last year, with April 30 targeted as the final day for sign up. There will be four monthly treatments beginning in mid-May and continuing through August. If you have input or questions regarding the program, please contact your neighborhood coordinator or e-mail George Hanley at LOLA@LOLAinfo.org.



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Association Annual Meeting - - April 29 - - 7:00pm - - Orion Township Library, Conf Rm B