

Welcome to the Neighborhood!

AFTER EXTENSIVE RENOVATIONS, PARTY STORE RE-OPENS

In May 2022, after 40+ years of owning and operating the Hayloft, Ray Safa turned off the “open” sign for the last time and handed over the keys to new owners Shaun Benard, Jamin Blitchok, and Joe Runci – best friends and longtime residents of Linden and Fenton. The three were grateful for the opportunity to continue Ray’s legacy, with their own twist.

“My family moved to Lahring Road in 1981, the year I was born,” explained Benard. “As kids, we would walk to Ray’s store for candy cigarettes or a large pickle, oftentimes with a fishing pole in hand.”

The store needed a refresh and Benard, Blitchok, and Runci were committed to doing it right, renovating the entire space to create something fresh and welcoming. While it may look brand new, it was important to them to keep some of its character, including the 1900s McCray walk-in cooler.

Fast forward to Super Bowl Sunday, and the newly renovated Shore Do Party Store officially opened its doors as a one-stop shop for everyday grocery items, wine, beer, liquor, cigarettes, and seasonal items.

“I moved to Squaw Lake in 1990 from California,” said Runci. “As a kid, I would ride my bike with friends to see Ray for candy. I’m fortunate to have grown up in this community, making many friendships along the way. It’s one of the reasons my wife and I moved back to Squaw Lake with our three children.”

“Being a 40-year resident of the Fenton/Linden area, with 15+ of those years on Ponemah and Squaw lakes, it’s a pleasure to be able to put a makeover on the store and operate such a staple in our community,” added Blitchok. “It will be a lot of fun to celebrate old traditions, while we create many more!”

Shore Do is open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., with later weekend hours being considered. Owners are also looking at possibly renting kayaks and standup paddleboards and serving coffee and hot food.

Residents looking to launch their boats may do so for \$25 by stopping in, calling the store at **810.208.7555** to set up an appointment, or texting **810.577.4993**. For additional updates and promotions, follow Shore Do Party Store on Facebook.

ASSOCIATION FINANCIALS

\$1,115.60

**2022
INCOME**

Memberships,
Donations, Merch Sales

\$581.50

**2022
EXPENSES**

Postage, PO Box,
Merch, etc.

\$8,982.09

**YEAR-END
CASH
RESERVES**

\$1,250.00

**ANTICIPATED
2023 EXPENSES**

Includes Liability
Insurance

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www.friendsofloonlake.com

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FRIENDS OF
LOON LAKE
ASSOCIATION



Board Members

OFFICERS

Brian Sanderson, *President*

Adam Haffajee, *Vice President*

Colleen Gemborys, *Treasurer*

Mike Graves, *Secretary*

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Nathan Andres

Pat Hagedorn

James Jeffers

Rick Lutgens

Dave Weber, *Past President*

Show Off Your Loon Lake Pride

Can koozies are in stock and available for purchase online at www.friendsofloonlake.com/shop.

There are also a limited number of t-shirts and stainless steel tumblers available for immediate delivery. Proceeds support the ongoing work of the Association.



Lake Association Q&A

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION AND WHY IT'S BENEFICIAL

Below are answers to some common questions we receive about the Friends of Loon Lake Association. We hope you find this Q&A interesting and insightful, and we welcome any additional questions via Facebook at www.facebook.com/loonlakelinden or email at hello@friendsofloonlake.com.

Q How did the Friends of Loon Lake Association come to be?

A In 1981, residents of Loon Lake and Crane Lake formed an association for the purpose of "preservation, maintenance, and enhancement of the Crane-Loon Lake area." The group worked collaboratively until 1994 when an issue arose where residents of Crane Lake sought to have Loon Lake lowered, citing damaging high water on their lake. Loon Lake residents were opposed and withdrew from the Association. Steps were taken through various government agencies to fight the adjustment and, eventually, Loon Lake residents prevailed.

Around 1989, a small group of Loon Lake residents began to collect money from people around the lake to treat for weeds. They bought chemicals, borrowed a boat, and treated the water themselves with somewhat effective results. In 1993, a petition was circulated to establish a special assessment district (SAD). Since that time, every riparian property owner has had a special assessment on their taxes to pay for weed control.

Over time, it became clear that the lake community needed a more formalized voice. Existing volunteer "block captains" began recruiting others and, in July of 2019, they established the Friends of Loon Lake as a 501c3 entity registered with the State of Michigan. The organization is now governed by an elected nine-member Board of Directors and Association bylaws with valued input from Loon Lake property owners.

Q Why do we need a lake association?

A There are numerous benefits to having a formal lake association. With board representation from neighborhoods around the lake, the Association serves as a strong, singular voice when issues arise that require action. Past examples include navigating a water level dispute with residents of Crane Lake in 1994 and replacement of deteriorating culverts under Rolston

Road from Loon to Aanikegamaa (Squaw) in 2016-17. More recently in 2021-22, the Association consulted with Fenton Township and a real estate attorney to explore options for securing an Association-owned property or long-term use agreement for lake access. Unfortunately, no viable options were found at that time.

The Association also expends considerable time and resources managing seasonal weed control, including reviewing vendor bids, making recommendations to Fenton Township for necessary tax assessments, and working with the vendor to ensure timely and effective applications throughout the warmer months.

In addition, the Association works to build a sense of community through regular print and electronic communications, the sale of Loon Lake merchandise, and hosting family friendly events such as boat parades in 2020 and 2021 and an upcoming Summer Kickoff Cookout (see page 4 for details).

Q What does it cost to produce and distribute the newsletter?

A The Board prides itself on transparency and using donor funds responsibly, with board members frequently offering their own talents and resources to help support the organization. With the exception of postage at approximately \$70 per issue, all other costs to design, print, and distribute the newsletter have been donated. The newsletter not only helps keep property owners informed, it also serves as a fundraising tool. And while we would love to shift to an all-electronic distribution model, we do not have a comprehensive email database of residents and not everyone uses Facebook or visits our website regularly.

Q How can I get more involved?

A The Friends of Loon Lake Association is always looking for volunteers to help serve in areas such as weed control management, event planning, communications, and other special projects. Most positions require minimal time commitments and are a great way to get to know your neighbors and fellow Loon Lake residents. For more information, please email hello@friendsofloonlake.com.



A Perfect Time for Renewal

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY

A friendly reminder that membership dues expire on December 31 of each year, so now is the perfect time to join or renew for 2023! Without the ongoing support of our lake community, the Association cannot continue to meet its basic financial obligations unless it taps into cash reserves.

Suggested dues are \$25 per year; however, we encourage you to give more if you can.

Please complete the enclosed form and mail it, along with your check, to: **Friends of Loon Lake Association, PO Box 632, Linden, MI 48451**. You may also pay online at www.friendsofloonlake.com.

Mark Your Calendars!

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR ALL RESIDENTS

2023 ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 17 @ 7:00 p.m.

Fenton Twp Hall, 12060 Mantawauka Dr, Fenton

Please join us for the Friends of Loon Lake Association annual meeting. This meeting is open to property owners with riparian rights to Loon Lake, and all are encouraged to attend.

SUMMER KICKOFF COOKOUT

Saturday, June 3 • 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Shore Do Party Store • 13257 Jennings Rd, Linden

Let's celebrate the unofficial start of summer on Loon Lake with a family friendly cookout near the boat launch! Reconnect with longtime neighbors and get to know new ones. Follow us on Facebook for more details. And thank you to Shore Do Party Store for their support in hosting this event!



Follow *Friends of Loon Lake* on Facebook or visit our website for more information on these and other upcoming events!

The Whys & Whens of Weed Control

BALANCING BUDGET, CONDITIONS & EFFECTIVENESS

With the tease of milder temperatures and sunshine, many lake residents may be looking ahead to boating season and getting on the water this spring. These activities often bring about the question, "What is being done about the weeds?"

Managing an effective weed control program is a primary focus of the Lake Association. Each year, volunteer board members work closely with our weed control vendor to map out trouble areas, test water conditions, and create a plan for the most effective treatment using special assessment district funds collected by Fenton Township through our property taxes.

Budget restraints and Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy restrictions

put limits on the extent of weed elimination. Also, overtreatment can lead to negative long-term implications including increased weed growth.

Our goal is to treat the lake before Memorial Day weekend when possible, however, there are several factors outside our control that must be considered such as water temperature, weather conditions, and water levels. Heavy winds or high lake levels can send costly products downstream into Aanikegamaa (Squaw) Lake, and cold temperatures may render products ineffective.

Written treatment notices will be posted along the shoreline on the day of application. Updates will also be posted to Facebook at www.facebook.com/loonlakelinden.