



2026 Newsletter

LETTER FROM MLA PRESIDENT

Maple Lake is a wonderful place to live!

For the first time in 32 years, my wife Adele decided that we were going to stay home this winter instead of heading to Florida. Because I like to eat, I decided that I would stay home with her. It really was not bad at all.

I saw my first robin the other day! Welcome back, spring! You certainly took your time getting here.

One of the best parts of this season is seeing the lake come alive again. We are lucky to share our beautiful lake with so many incredible birds—trumpeter swans, eagles, osprey, blue and green herons, mute swans, diving ducks (those playful mergansers!), sandhill cranes, and more. Keep an eye out - you never know what you will spot next!

Important Reminders for the Season:

Life jackets save lives!!

- Please always travel **counterclockwise** around the lake.
- Use **navigation lights** (red, green, and white) after sunset.
- **Docking lights** should be used **only when docking**.
- Make sure **life jackets** are in good, serviceable condition and **readily accessible**.
- Be mindful of **anchored or drifting boats and pontoons**. Stay at least **100 feet away** from other boats and kayakers unless you are at **no wake or idle speed**.
- Make sure that your registration is current.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or just want to connect, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at **269-352-2534**.

HAPPY SPRING,

Frank Walters
President, Maple Lake Association

2026 MLA CALENDAR

Members Only Events

Jun 27	Ladies of the Lake Brunch
Jul 5-Aug 30	Summer Concert Series
Jul 18	Poker Run and Tie Up, 6:30
Sep 6	Maple Island, Potluck, 5:30
Sep 12	Boat Parade, assembly at 5:00
Oct	Date TBD, Progressive Party
Dec 6	Holiday Dinner Party, 5:30 at La Cantina

Board Meetings – 7 PM at Township Hall

Apr 16, 2026	Sep 17, 2026
May 21, 2026	Oct 15, 2026
Jun 18, 2026	Nov 19, 2026
Jul 16, 2026	Dec 17, 2026
Aug 20, 2026	

LAKE & VILLAGE UPDATES

There is a lot happening around Maple Lake!

Parks & Recreation Millage Renewal

The Maple Lake Association strongly supports the Paw Paw Parks & Recreation millage renewal. This funding is vital to maintaining and improving our parks and public spaces throughout our community, preserving what makes Paw Paw such a beautiful place to live and enjoy. We encourage you to stay informed and vote on May 5th in support of this important initiative.

6th Grade Salmon Release – April 29

A sure sign of spring, and a great community tradition, is the Paw Paw Middle School Salmon Release! Join this event **April 29 at 9:00 AM** at the Paw Paw River below the power plant to watch local students release salmon they have been raising. It is a fun and meaningful event that connects our kids to the environment and highlights the importance of our waterways. Come out, support the students, and enjoy a great morning along the river!

Summer Concert Series

Mark your calendars for another summer favorite! The Village of Paw Paw Downtown Development Authority will once again host its **free Sunday concert series** at the amphitheater, running from **6:30 PM to 8:00 PM**. The series kicks off on **Sunday, July 5** and continues through **Sunday, August 30**. Bring a chair, relax, and enjoy some great music with friends and neighbors—it is one of the best ways to spend a summer evening on Maple Lake.

Public Restrooms – Buoys – Kayak Launch

The restrooms at the boat launch and Maple Island are expected to open around **May 2**, just in time for spring activity to pick up. You will also notice the buoys being installed at the south end of the lake soon. These buoys mark very shallow water—boaters should not travel south of them except for the narrow channel along the east shoreline leading to the amphitheater. Even there, please go slow and proceed with caution. Kayakers, good news—the kayak launch will be going in soon! And over the winter, improvements were made to level out the dock at the boat launch, making access safer and easier for everyone.



Maple Island Bridge Celebration – Celebrate the completion of the Maple Island Bridge project.

A ribbon cutting will be held on **Saturday, May 2 at 12:00 PM**, and all are invited to attend. It is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and enjoy this new addition to our lake area.



Briggs Dam Project Update

The Briggs Dam project is also nearing completion. This is a unique “labyrinth dam,” believed to be the first of its kind in the State of Michigan—a major milestone for our village!

This project has been years in the making, involving extensive planning, engineering, and permitting. In addition to the dam itself, the surrounding grounds will see improvements along with attractive new lighting. The bridge over the dam has been constructed to allow for a roof to be added in the future.

A ribbon cutting event for the dam will be announced soon—stay tuned, and we hope to see you there!

LADIES OF THE LAKE BRUNCH



Mark your calendars for the annual Ladies of the Lake Brunch on **June 27, 2026, at 10:00 AM**. This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome new lake residents, reconnect with friends, and enjoy a relaxing morning together. Please bring a dish to share. The location will be announced later in the year.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out at **MLA@MapleLakePawPaw.com**.

We look forward to seeing you there!

SOMETHING NEW - MLA SOCIAL CLUB

We are excited to introduce the **Maple Lake Social Club**, a fun new way to bring neighbors together and build even more community spirit around the lake! From casual get-togethers to seasonal celebrations, this group will create extra opportunities to connect and enjoy lake life. Some Social Club events will be separate from the MLA calendar, with their own announcements and emails to keep you in the loop. We would love your ideas and input—help shape the fun! Join us at a meeting, send an email to mlasocial@maplelakepawpaw.com, or contact Sherry Adams at 616-366-6333.

Let's make it something great—together!

WEED TREATMENT & WEED BOAT VOLUNTEERS

The weed control for Maple Lake has been top notch and will continue in 2026 by the same company as the last six years, Aquatic Weed Control. The weed treatment will begin in the first week of June. We will be looking for areas with Eurasian Milfoil and Starry Stonewort which may need different herbicides. Life at Maple Lake and our ecosystem is much better because of the Maple Lake Association weed control efforts.



The weed boat has not been needed over the past few years, and at this time, we do not plan to launch it for the upcoming season. Keeping it in dry dock will help reduce wear and tear and extend its life. That said, we do need volunteers in case the need arises. If the boat is needed, training will be provided—no experience necessary. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact **Doug at 269-806-4208**.

COLLECTING AND DISPOSING OF FLOATING LAKE DEBRIS

With the new bridge and continued work on the dam, we need to take extra precautions on the lake. Please be on the lookout for floating logs, pier planks, timbers, tree limbs, and any other debris. If you see debris in the lake and can remove it, please do. These items may be deposited at the white lift located at the north end of the lake near the power plant.

LAKE BUOYS



The Maple Lake buoys are positioned on the south end of the lake to let boaters know there is shallow water beyond that point and to use caution when boating in that area. You can access the Amphitheater and the south side of the lake by staying close to the east shoreline. For non-resident boaters, there is also a sign posted at the boat ramp, warning of shallow water.

SHOW YOUR LAKE SUPPORT



Short sleeve season is here!

We have T-shirts for adults and children (\$17-\$20)
Polo shirts (\$25)
Baseball caps (\$20)
Flags (\$10)
Magnets (\$6).

To order yours, call Diane at 269-345-4111.

STAY INFORMED OF LAKE EVENTS AND ALERTS – IT IS FREE TO EVERYONE

Sign up for emails to learn about upcoming events and lake alerts at the “[Click to join our newsletter and news postings](#)” link on the home page of our website. If you see or know of something happening on/around the lake and want to share that information, email us at MLA@MapleLakePawPaw.com.

MEMBERSHIP, DUES & DONATIONS

Care for the Lake. Connect with Neighbors. Be Part of MLA

The Maple Lake Association (MLA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and preserving Maple Lake, maintaining water quality, safety, and natural beauty, weed control, and supporting recreation for residents and the public.

But, did you know...

- we bring members together through events like picnics, boating, and holiday parties?
- membership is open to lakefront & non-lake residents?
- annual dues are only \$30 and are tax deductible?

If you would like to join the Maple Lake Association or renew your membership you may pay online at <https://maplelakepawpaw.com/membership.html> or by mail.

Dues: \$30/year Dues + Donations: \$40 \$50 Other \$ _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Lake Address: _____

Alternate Address: _____

Make checks payable to Maple Lake Association.

Maple Lake Association, 35145 51st. Ave., Paw Paw, MI 49079