

Save the Date!
2024 Lake Isabella
Fireworks, Saturday,
July 6th at dusk.



Please use the QR Code to make a donation in support of this year's show.



Look inside for the following
Lake Restoration Update
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Village of Lake Isabella Spring 2024 Newsletter

Lake Restoration Project Update

This past August, voters in the Village of Lake Isabella overwhelmingly approved a dedicated millage to fund lake and river restoration efforts. The first funds from that millage will not be collected until the Village's 2024 summer tax bill, but community leaders are actively working on the first phases of the project.

Under the direction of the community's Joint Lake Restoration Committee, the first permit application was applied for in early October, and was approved in January. The approved permit from the State of Michigan allows for restoration of Birch Bay. Birch Bay is located on Queens Way across from the Lake Isabella Property Owner's Association office and is adjacent to Isabella County's Gilmore Park.

The permit approved by the State of Michigan will allow for the removal of over nine-thousand cubic yards of spoils from the bottom of the bay. The Committee prepared a request for proposals and accepted bids until mid-February. Seven bids were received ranging in cost from \$204,444 to \$775,000. A copy of the results are available on the Village's homepage; www.lakeisabellami.org.

After conducting a review of the bids, the Lake Restoration Committee selected the low bid from Malley Construction of Mt. Pleasant. The Committee had hoped that weather would have allowed for work to begin in late February or early March. However, due to the unseasonably warm winter and rise in the lake level, work will not begin until this upcoming fall with drawdown for the 2024-25 winter.

This summer's Village tax bill will be the first annual collection on the millage approved last year. Property owners that have their taxes escrowed by their mortgage company are encouraged to factor in the additional 3 mills into their payments to avoid a shortage in their escrow account. To determine how much to budget for please refer to the adjacent **Lake Restoration Millage Calculator**.

The Committee's next area of focus is the river area. It is anticipated that work on the river area will begin in 2025 as funds remaining from the tax collection in 2024 will be used in conjunction with the 2025 tax collection to fund restoration work in this area.

Planning work is already underway as soil samples have been collected and submitted to laboratory analysis as part of the pre-permitting process. The Committee is hopeful that a permit application can be completed later this year to be approved in early 2025 for the restoration of the river area. Permits are valid for five years from the date of approval.

Also of note, in the fall of 2023 the State of Michigan renewed the drawdown permit that authorizes the six-foot winter drawdown of the lake. Under the oversight of the Lake Isabella Property Owners Association and the Isabella County Drain Commissioner the winter drawdown is planned to continue during restoration efforts.

Want to stay in the loop on the lake restoration project? Visit our website and select the "**E-notify**" feature on our homepage. Using this feature you can get text and/or email alerts whenever we update our website with new information, meeting dates and times, and bid opportunities on this project and other activity from the Village. You can also visit our YouTube channel and view recordings from past meetings of Lake Committee and Village Council.

Lake Restoration Millage Calculator

Take the property's Taxable Value and divide by 1,000 to get the base dollar amount per mill of taxation.

Then multiply by 3. For a property with a Taxable Value of \$80,000 it would look like this:

$$\text{\$80,000} / \text{1,000} = \text{\$80 per 1 Mill...}$$

$$\text{\$80} \times \text{3 Mills} = \text{\$240 of additional yearly taxes}$$

2024 Master Plan Update

In 2024, the Planning Commission will be leading an effort to update the community's Master Plan. In Michigan, municipalities are required to have a Master Plan and review or update the plan every five years. The Village's current Master Plan was adopted in 2019.

The Master Plan is a policy document that guides the physical development of a community. It provides the foundation for the zoning regulations adopted in a community. Michigan law requires that a zoning ordinance be based on the community's Master Plan. The Master Plan lays out the vision for the entire community, addressing future land uses and community development in a coordinated manner. It portrays a clear statement of community goals and objectives, establishes a future vision, and includes plans to achieve this vision. The information and concepts presented in the Master Plan are used to guide local decisions on public and private uses of land and the provision of public facilities and services.

One of the key sources used to shape the Master Plan is the community survey we use every five years. The Master Plan survey is a significant opportunity for

our community to share their priorities and concerns. Data from past Master Plan surveys have guided us in bringing natural gas service to the community, high-speed internet, refuse collection, and increased road patrols.

This year's survey has questions covering topics like short-term rentals, marijuana businesses, street maintenance, policing, housing, backyard chickens, and much more.

The questions on policing are of considerable importance. The Village Council will use the results of this survey as part of its discussion on what to do in the event that Isabella County eliminates road patrols from the Sheriff's Department.

Due to the failure of the County's February millage request, it is anticipated that significant cuts are coming in County services, including the possible elimination of road patrols. In the event that this service is eliminated, the only law enforcement coverage in the community would be from the Michigan State Police. This would result in major change in response times for public safety calls in the community.



Please visit our website, www.lakeisabellami.org or scan the adjacent QR code to take the Master Plan Survey. The survey is 35 questions and should take only 15 minutes of your time!

2024 ELECTION

This November, as part of the statewide General Election, four seats on the Village Council will be up for election. Four-year seats currently held by Councilmembers Robert Laraway, Carol Shannon, and Emil Lahti will be up for election.

In addition to the four year seats on the ballot, voters will be asked to fill the final two years of a term currently held by Councilmember Carrie Barringer.

Residents interested in running for the Village Council are required to obtain and complete a nominating petition and Affidavit of Identity from the Sherman Township Clerk. Nominating petitions are required to be signed by at least 1% and not more than 2% of the total registered voters in the Village. All materials are due to the Township Clerk by 4pm on Tuesday, July 23rd.

Materials will be available in early May, please follow our Facebook page for updates on when those are available.



Clubhouse Drive Resurfacing Project

Coldwater Road to Parkview Drive

The Village has received a grant from MDOT's Category B program to cover 50% of the cost to resurface approximately 1.4 miles of Clubhouse Drive this summer. The Village is currently advertising for bids on this project. Bids are due in late April. Once the Village awards the project, updates will be made on our website and Facebook page. Please follow those closely to stay informed about any possible lane closures and the project schedule.



Code Enforcement Reminders



Dogs are required to be on a physical leash if off your property, dogs running at-large will be ticketed.

All dogs are required to have a current dog license issued by the Isabella County Treasurer's office.



If storing a vehicle outside, it must have a current plate and registration.

Lawns must be maintained at a height of 8 inches or less.



I Received a Correction Notice... What Should I do?

The notice you receive will detail the ordinance section in violation, how your property is in violation of that section, and what you need to do to resolve the issue. If you are unclear about any of these items, please contact the Village Hall for further assistance.

If there are circumstances that prevent compliance by the date on the notice, please contact the Village to set up an appointment with our Code Enforcement staff so we can jointly come to a plan of action to resolve the issue.

Code Enforcement staff can also be reached via email through the "Code Enforcement" page of our website. The value of communication cannot be understated. Enforcement efforts are directed at providing opportunities for solving problems and eliminating violations, not punishing people.

A complete copy of the codified ordinances of the Village of Lake Isabella can be found on the Village's website at: www.lakeisabellami.org