November 12th, 2023

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

The sun is shining, it’s 55+ degrees, and it’s November! Are we in Florida or am I dreaming??? I know the deer hunters and snow lovers might not be thrilled but I sure am!! Once again…thank you Mother Nature😊 Speaking of dreaming….**HOW ABOUT THOSE LIONS!!??** Are you sports fans pinching yourselves, peeing your pants, spilling your beer and putting everything else on hold while you watch the Lions game!? Of course you are!!! If you’re a die-hard Lions fan then this has been your year to finally be excited to actually watch the **entire** game! How great to jump up and down and cheer them on instead of hanging your head and mumbling things we teach our children not to say. Thanksgiving Day will undoubtably be filled with excitement for the game but don’t forget to be thankful for everything else as well. Friends, family, good health and freedom are easy to take for granted. Like the Lion’s success, life too is filled with failures and successes. So, for just a brief moment this Thanksgiving (maybe during halftime), take a pause, look around and just be grateful for what is.

I am very grateful to be starting my 27th year as a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner at Trinity Health. This year on Thanksgiving, I will be taking care of the tiniest and sickest babies who surely, one day, will be future Lions fans! So, cheer those Lions on extra hard for me, and… have an extra helping of turkey and pumpkin pie for me too!!

Now should the Lions lay an egg, or things get a little heated at your Thanksgiving get together (family can be challenging), here is a little Thanksgiving joke to lighten the mood:

 Q. Why did the cranberries turn red?

 A. Because they saw the turkey dressing!!

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you!! Here’s to your day being filled with love, laughter, grace and a Lions Win!!

Read on friends for **Past Events, Upcoming Events, Updates, Other Stuff!!!**

**That’s all for now!**

Kindly,

Wendi Davidson

WCLA President

**Past Events:**

**October Social Dinner at Candlestone Golf Course was really great!** With half off meals and beautiful raffle prizes how could you not have fun! Thank you, Mindy Hutchison and Cathy Schrauben, for making the raffle prizes!! The lucky winners were Karin Darvill, Candie Ritsema and Jamie Skinner.

**WCLA Cornhole/Chili Cook-Off was another fantastic social get together**! We had 50 participants and 21 pots of delicious chili and fantastic weather to play cornhole. The chili winners were: First place champions Chris and Ann Decker. Runners up were: Amber Covell and Pat and Noralie Jachim. The Cornhole winners were: Flight One: Mike and Colleen O’Herron, Flight Two: Kim and Faith Peterson. All winners received bragging rights for the next year and trophies or medals to celebrate their win! The night ended around the firepit with a little music from Pam Swigart and lots of great conversation and laughter. Thank you to all the helpers who came early to set up and keep the day running smoothly.

**The Winning Chili Recipe is posted below!!**

**November Board Meeting and Voting on By-laws. Board Meeting Minutes, past President’s Corner and Waterline editions are uploaded to the WCLA Website** for your late-night reading pleasure! [**https://woodbeckchainoflakes.com**](https://woodbeckchainoflakes.com)**.**

**Upcoming Events:**

**WCLA Jingle and Mingle Christmas Party**: **Saturday, December 2nd** at Norm and Wendi Davidson’s house: 13337 Oakcrest, Gowen 49326. Join us for some **holly, jolly holiday fun** starting at 6pm. The party ends when the last person leaves! Please bring a dish to share and your favorite beverage. There will be the Davidson’s “usual beverages” available. **We will also be raffling off some nice gifts in addition to the 50/50 raffle so bring a little Santa money!!** **For you sports lovers, the Big 10 Championship will be on in the background so you won’t miss a thing! Please RSVP Wendi at** **davidsonwendi@gmail.com** **or text me at 616 799-0412.**

**WCLA Holiday Cookie Exchange and Social Get Together: Sunday, December 10th from 1-4 pm**. Come join the fun at Deb Eaton’s house: 13192 Marsh Rd, Gowen 49326. Bring a minimum of a dozen of your favorite cookies and leave with even more! This is a great time to socialize and be amazed at how beautifully Deb has decorated her home for Christmas, it is incredible!! **Please RSVP Nan Holmes at** **holmes.nanette@gmail.com** **or text her at (616)213-8247.**

**Other Stuff:**

**A big THANK YOU to all our sponsors who paid to advertise in the Waterline.** Please check them out!! They can help you with many of your needs!

**Next Waterline will come out January, 2024.** If you have ideas for articles you would like to see in it, please let Wendi know at davidsonwendi@gmail.com. Even better…if you would like to write an article for the Waterline, that would be greatly appreciated!!! **WE LOVE YOUR IDEAS and WE LOVE YOUR HELP!!**

**Welcome New Families!** If you know of new families on our lakes, please let our Welcome Team, Phil and Denise Sliva know so they can welcome them properly!Contact Phil Sliva at philsliva@chartermi.net or (616) 970-2273.

**2024 Membership Dues: It’s only $40.00!!!** A small price to pay to keep our lakes safe, our fish plentiful and support the fun events we want everyone to enjoy! You may pay online at[**https://woodbeckchainoflakes.com/pay-dues**](https://woodbeckchainoflakes.com/pay-dues)or pay by mail.

**YOU CAN ALSO PAY AT THE WCLA CHRISTMAS PARTY. Make checks payable to WCLA.**

**Somethings Fishy!!** Yep, on October 24th, 2000 5-8” walleye and 210 5-7” yellow perch were planted off the MacClain St Bridge. We had approximately a dozen people watch the amazing fish plant happen. Good eats are in your future!

**The Meal Train** is always available to help you in the event of illness or injury. Your friends and neighbors are here to help! **Please contact Mara Iteen at Iteenmm@yahoo.com or text 616 255-6081**. Even if you only need a few days of meals, the Meal Train is here for you!

**Also…. if you want to be a part of the Meal Train to provide meals, please let Mara know.** This is how you get on the list to help when families are in need. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

**DID YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGE????** If it did, please let Kris Ferguson know at **scrambledeggs85@gmail.com**so you don’t miss out on important information and notifications. Also, if you are not receiving our email communications, please check your spam folder and accept emails from our new Gmail account WCLAcommunications@gmail.com. Questions can be sent to this new email account or text Angie at 616 213-9252.

**The Kindy boat launch code is available if you have paid your membership dues.** You can contact any Board member or lake Representative for the code**.** As always, please do not give the code out, close the gate, re-lock the lock and clear the dial when done. This code is a privilege for paid lake association members only.

**The Camp Concordia boat launch is available to paid members.** Everything you need to know is on this page: <https://www.campconcordia.org/wcla-information.html>. Calendar of use can change due to groups who may schedule to come to use the camp.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!** We have several events that we need volunteers to help us with so they can run smoothly and successfully. Without volunteers these events are not possible. Please contact Wendi Davidson at davidsonwendi@gmail.com or (616) 799-0412 or Nan Holmes at holmes.nanette@gmail.com or

 (616)213-8247.

**Boater’s Safety Class**:

Anytime is a great time for kids and young adults to take this class! This is an ongoing opportunity to **receive an Amazon gift card for $15.00 to anyone age 12-20 who completes the Boater’s Safety Course anytime, all year long!!!** You can be a kid or young adult that lives on the lakes, or grandkid to

someone who is a paid member of the lake association and take this course online at your convenience anytime throughout the year!! Just email a copy of your completion card to davidsonwendi@gmail.com and

you will receive your gift card. It’s so easy and important so take advantage of it and help keep our lakes safe! **Click on this link to begin your Boater’s Safety Course online**: <https://www.boat-ed.com/michigan/>

**SHARING IS CARING!** If you have anything you would like to share such as ideas for social events, healthy recipes, lake concerns, or you simply want to listen to what the board is up to in person; you are encouraged and more than welcome to contact me, your Lake Representatives, or come to the Board meetings. We are always happy to see some new (and old) faces at the Board meetings!

**Officers, Lake Reps and Administrators for the 2024 year will soon be available on the WCLA Website:** [**https://woodbeckchainoflakes.com**](https://woodbeckchainoflakes.com)**.**

**DID YOU KNOW…….??**

There is a site where you can learn about:

**Erosion and maintaining healthy shorelines**

**Get the basics about shoreline erosion control options instead of a seawall**

**Review lists of recommended native options for your lakeshore.**

 [**https://www.shorelinepartnership.org/**](https://www.shorelinepartnership.org/)

We want to keep our lakes as beautiful as possible while maintaining areas for wildlife to live and prevent erosion from becoming a major problem. If you are interested in learning about ways to do this, please visit [**https://www.shorelinepartnership.org/**](https://www.shorelinepartnership.org/)

**REMEMBER OUR MISSION:**

**The Woodbeck Chain of Lakes Association will promote the preservation of lake/water quality, provide education about boat safety & etiquette and initiate social activities to promote community friendships and interaction. It will encourage membership and participation in the Association and will facilitate a sense of community amongst riparian property owners.**

**Calendar of Events for the Remainder of 2023**

**DECEMBER**

 Saturday 2rd WCLA Christmas Party 6pm Davidson’s House

 Sunday 10th WCLA Cookie Exchange and Social Get Together 1-4pm Deb Eaton’s House

**Winning Chili Recipe! Thank you Ann and Chris Decker**

1 lb. ground beef

1 large onion chopped

1 can diced tomatoes

2 ½-3 Tbsp chili powder

Salt to taste

2 lb. cans chili beans (1 mild, 1 spicy)

Tomato juice (add if you want thin consistency

**NOTE:** Ann did adjust the above ingredients to taste

**It doesn’t have to be hard to be good** 😊