



Shorelines

*Published By The Balsam Lake Homeowners' Association
A volunteer, nonprofit organization serving the lake community since 1974.*



JUNE 2020

Member Website:
www.balsamlake.com

BALSAM LAKE HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Angie Pearson Sanderson and husband, Jim, make friends easily. Life is ducky on Balsam Lake.



SAVE THE DATE!

(Due to the current COVID-19 crisis, all of these events could be postponed or cancelled.
Look for updates on the BLHA website
www.BalsamLake.com and our email blasts.)

Balsam Lake Farmers Market

Starting Friday, May 22, 3 to 5 p.m.

Balsam Lake Invitational Ski Show

Saturday, June 27, 7 p.m. - Bring a chair or blanket to sit in front of Sunnyside Marina. There will be a free-will donation collected during intermission. If you enjoy the show, please bring a few dollars along to donate to this great group.

Balsam Lake Freedom Fest - July 3-5

All Weekend, Softball Tourney at Pine Park
Friday, July 3, 6 p.m., Hot Rod Tractor Pull,
Main Street

Friday, July 3, Dusk, Fireworks, Town Bay

Saturday, July 4, 7 a.m., Freedom Fest 5K

Contact Joey, 715-554-7616

Saturday, July 4, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Craft Fair, Main St.

Saturday, July 4, 3-6 p.m., Main Street Car Stroll

Saturday, July 4, 8 p.m.-Midnight, Todd Hurst

Sunday, July 5, 9 a.m., Vintage Car Show, Main St.

Sunday, July 5, 2 p.m., Parade

Balsam Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District Annual Meeting

Saturday, July 18, 8:30 a.m. Possibly outside of Unity High School. Time and options to be determined.

Balsam Lake Homeowners' Association Annual Meeting

Friday, August 8, 9 a.m. Possibly outside at Paradise Landing. Time & options to be determined.

Balsam Lake Invitational Ski Show

Saturday, September 5, 6 p.m. - Bring a chair or blanket to sit in front of Sunnyside Marina.



The Duxbury family knows that the Thirsty Otter Ping Pong ball drop pays off big for those willing to work for it!

The Best of the Fresh: Farmer's Market 2020

The Balsam Lake Farmer's Market is open Friday afternoons beginning May 22 (if restrictions are rescinded) from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church parking lot.

See *what your community is producing* this year!

An assortment of early bedding plants and vegetables can be found starting in May. The fruits ripen by June, and in July honey and maple syrup flows. In Autumn you may find freshly baked pies. Throughout the season, you can enjoy the homemade jams, jellies, fresh eggs, shitake and oyster mushrooms.

Your Balsam Lake Farmer's Market sells anything that is made at home, so you are invited to bring the projects you've been working on all winter. How about your artwork, preserves, woodcraft, inventions, music, sewing, craft projects, or anything you make in your home or garden? Come as a buyer or vendor. One day vending is \$5.00 and full season is \$30.00.

If you have questions about what is appropriate, call our leader, Esther Nelson at 715-268-8223.

shorelines

Published and distributed three times a year (June, July, August) to homes adjacent to Balsam Lake, Wisconsin by the Balsam Lake Homeowners' Association, a private, nonprofit volunteer organization supported by membership dues, contributions, and advertising subsidies.

- Sign up for our monthly email blasts at www.balsamlake.com or like us on Facebook: [balsamlake.com](https://www.facebook.com/balsamlake.com)

- To submit an article or photograph: jeanegerman@gmail.com.

- Advertising inquiries: www.balsamlake.com or Box 8, Balsam Lake, WI 54810.

2020 June article contributors: Special thanks to John Parks, Mary Skaret, Michael Jekot and the BLHA members who share their pictures and stories.

Editor: Jean Egerman. **Layout:** Gayle Olson.

"REFLECTIONS"

Submitted by John W. Parks

We all have a happy place. You know, the place that is the last thing you think about when your head hits the pillow at night. The place that you hope your dreams will take you if, and when, you get to sleep. The vision you conjure up that unites you with your family or friends, perhaps on a boat or in one of the local eateries, instead of the reality of being trapped in the middle seat next to a sick passenger on an airplane. That's right, "happy place," a place where you "choose to be" rather than a place where you "have to be."

My family and I have discovered one of those places; Balsam Lake, WI. For us, Balsam Lake has come to mean, "a place of family and friends." It is a sanctuary from the chaos and pace of 21st century urban life. Its shores serve as a peaceful retreat where your kinsmen come together to celebrate family; to engage and reflect on accomplishments and hopes for past, present, and future generations. It is a community in every sense of the word, a place people become "close friends" rather than "close neighbors." Where you can have a conversation in a local restaurant that is punctuated by, "another drink?" or "more coffee?" and not the cacophony of noise that accompanies the stress and anxiety of the city and the endless traffic of people in a hurry.

Generations of our family have been coming here for years. I was introduced to Ward's Resort about 30 years ago (Love this family. My sister-in-law is the sister of Ron's wife Steph).



The Parks family.

Initially I didn't appreciate the significance of where I was, nor the inherent beauty and genteel ambience of Balsam Lake. Sure, I enjoyed the lake, but I certainly didn't really see it as the haven it would become for me and my family. I loved the little town and resort. but had I been told this would become my choice of venues for spending my, and my wife's "golden years," I would have laughed.

Early on the thought of living in the Midwest, particularly in the North Woods of Wisconsin, was beyond my comprehension. I mean really, Wisconsin? That's Oklahoma with trees! Impossible! Clearly, I was badly infected with self-inflicted "Urban Sophistication" and subsequently not recognizing this infection as a form of mental illness. Looking back, I nearly missed the opportunity of a lifetime. And to be frank, today I joyously recognize that it is Oklahoma with trees. Yep, trees, and water, and wonderful people, and funny northern accents! Nearly 30 years down the road, my family and I yearn to be here every spring. We long to see the reflection of the water tower off our shores, to hear the sounds of the motorcycles (mostly the WI built Harley Davidson) buzzing through Main Street on their weekend rides. Sitting on our lawn swing overlooking Mill Pond, we smile at the music from the Thirsty Otter skipping across the pond and pouring over the old dam. These are called "WOW" moments and are merely artifacts to reinforce the fact that we are in a very special place.

For those who long for a Rockwellian environment from a bygone era, Balsam Lake more than meets that criteria. In fact—and much to its credit —Balsam Lake fiercely protects that heritage from the influences of anything that might compromise that richly "all American" history and principle laden foundation. From the little museum in the old county courthouse to the noon-time siren and the 5 o'clock chimes of the local church, Balsam Lake begs the spirit of Norman Rockwell to set up his easel next to the town's ice cream store and capture smiles and giggles from its children aged 2 to 102.

Balsam Lake's greatest asset is its residents and their frontier spirit. Many people today visiting from outside the area try to pigeonhole this cultural behavior as "Midwestern!" To that I say, "thank you." What they are really seeing is a people not shy about lending a hand or helping a neighbor. They are witnessing a societal imperative that recognizes that you cannot live here alone, and further, you don't have to. This is about the "truest" quality of an "American." As far as I'm concerned, the Balsam Lake community is a treasure.

I love to sit on my dock and watch the final vestiges of sunset on the western horizon followed by a couple of orbits of the ISS in the night sky. Clearly you cannot see these things in the city, but worse yet, you don't even think about what you are missing. Therein, for the lost youth of a midwestern couple, lies the ultimate reward for a lifetime of work; the reward of regaining the experiences garnered from the night sky and the midwestern philosophy of how one should strive to live.

A Happy Place to be sure!

Editor's note: After 30 years of annual visits to Ward's resort, John and Cathy Parks moved from Mountain View, California to Indianhead Shores Drive, Balsam Lake in 2016. As retired NASA Ames Research employees, they found their "happy place."

A COUPLE OF SCENARIO'S ON BOATING LAWS:

1. A father and his two sons, age 14 and 17, just bought a new boat and are out getting familiar with it. All three are operating the boat. None of them have had a boater's safety course. Is there any violation and if so by whom?
2. A motorboat, with an observer, is pulling a water skier. A personal water craft (PWC) is slowly operating along at Slow No Wake speed. The motorboat goes by within 100 feet of the PWC, and the water skier is within 50 feet of the PWC. Is there any violation and if so by whom?
3. A group of people are enjoying the day on a dock. A PWC takes off from the dock and about 150 feet from shore, the PWC accelerates up onto plane. Just after that a motorboat takes off from the dock and accelerates up onto plane right away. Is there any violation and if so by whom?

Answers:

1. The 17 year old is in violation and needs a boater safety certificate even if a parent/adult is present. The 14 year old is OK with adult supervision. The dad was born before 1989 so he doesn't need a boater safety certificate.
2. Technically all are in violation. A PWC cannot be operated (regardless if at slow no wake speed) within 100 feet of another vessel or skier. The motorboat pulling a skier may not go within 100 feet of another vessel. The skier may not come within 100 feet of a PWC. However, it would appear that the boat and/or skier should have stayed away from the PWC moving at slow no wake.
3. The PWC cannot go greater than Slow No Wake within 200 feet of shore. A motorboat cannot go faster than slow no wake within 100 feet of shore, so unless the end of the dock is more than 100 feet away from shore, the boat has to leave at slow no wake speed.

The following is a broad list meant to cover many types of boats and boating trips. This checklist includes both mandatory equipment and recommended equipment which may be good to have on board for safety but may not be required by state law.

Wisconsin Required Equipment Checklist				
	Unpowered Boat	PWC	Boat Less Than 16 FT	Boat 16 FT To Less Than 26 FT
Boater Safety Course Certificate On Board		✓1	✓1	✓1
Certificate of Number On Board		✓	✓	✓
Expiration Decals Displayed		✓	✓	✓
Wearable PFDs: Type I, II, III, or V	✓	✓2	✓3	✓3
Throwable PFD: Type IV				✓
Type B-I Fire Extinguisher		✓	✓	✓
Ignition Safety Switch		✓		
Backfire Flame Arrestor		✓	✓4	✓4
Ventilation System		✓	✓	✓
Muffler		✓	✓	✓
Horn, Whistle, or Bell		✓5	✓5	✓5
Daytime Visual Distress Signals				✓5
Nighttime Visual Distress Signals		N/A	✓5	✓5
Navigation Lights	✓	N/A	✓	✓

Numbers correspond with the chart above.

1. Required for some operators of motorized vessels and PWCs.

2. Those on PWCs must wear a PFD at all times.

3. Those under the age of 13 years must wear a PFD when on federally controlled waters.

4. Required on inboard and stern drives only.

5. Required when operating on federally controlled waters.

Note: Some items are not applicable to personal watercraft (PWCs) because PWCs are not allowed to operate between sunset & sunrise.

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BUILDING A CABIN: A FAMILY PROJECT

By Mary Skaret

My parents, Gunnar and Sally Skalet, bought our Balsam Lake property on Idlewild Drive in 1961. The property to the end of the road was owned by Helen (Tuttle) Freeman, who lived in Balsam Lake since 1902 when she and her twin brother, Ben, were born in the big Victorian house on Main Street. She told me she was a “preemie” kept warm in a shoe box on the oven door.” Her father died soon after, and her mother kept the family with four children together in that house and took in boarders to make ends meet. When electricity came to Balsam Lake around 1916, they used money Helen made selling milk from their cow to buy electrical fixtures. Helen lived to be over 100 years old.

At some point, Helen’s lot was divided into ten properties and made available for sale. Neighbors from St. Louis Park, Minnesota were among the first to recognize the rare opportunity and purchased several partitions to split into lots for two or three cabins.

Then, through a school friend, Susie, I learned that her dad, Colby Skinner, wanted to split a lot on Balsam Lake. I wanted a lake cabin BAD, and my dad had been looking for lake property all my life (I was 16 yrs. old). I told him about Susie’s dad and the lot on Balsam Lake. He always said, “You don’t have to go as far north in Wisconsin to get to lake country and the north woods,” so I knew he liked Wisconsin.

With a picnic lunch of egg salad sandwiches and homemade cookies, my dad, mother, 14 yr. old brother Johnny, and our beagle, Flicka, we drove up on a Sunday in May. I remember my dad parking on the hot dirt road and venturing down to the lake to “check the shoreline.” It needed to be a good solid lake bottom and get deep enough that he could dive off a dock. He came back wet and claimed it was “a good shore and not much ivy” (he hated poison ivy).

Holding our breath, we tried not to look too interested while he “walked the land” and talked to Mr. Skinner and other neighbors. By the end of the day they made a “deal.” We were ecstatic!!

That summer, visiting the land with a friend who now lives on Butternut Lake, we stayed with relatives on Raskin Bay, went to the soda fountain, and floated in the summer sun in front of our newly acquired land, “oohing and aahing” at the young man waterskiing (probably Ron Helms) “casing out the joint.”

My dad was a C.P.A. with the firm Peat, Marwick, and Mitchell in Minneapolis, and although he had done remodeling and maintenance projects on his home, he had never built a whole structure. He did everything himself and was highly motivated by his frugality - “What do you think - I am made out of money?”



He must have been thinking about it for a long time because in a few short weeks he had plans to excavate the site and put in a foundation. By the middle of the summer supplies were delivered and arrangements were made to have Walter (a building consultant), and his 20-year-old son, Bud, help with the construction. For two weeks that summer, my dad, brother Johnny, Walter and Bud camped out on the property. Living in a tent, cooking in a fire pit, and washing in the lake, they built the original frame, closed it in, put in windows and doors, and shingled the roof of the cabin.

Dad put in a well, plumbing and electricity the next fall and spring and sided the cabin in the summer. By the end of the summer of 1962, the cabin had walls that divided the rooms. The rest of the cabin would take several more years to finish - no, maybe we are still completing it in 2020. This winter Gunnar’s deck is being remodeled into a three-season porch for my “lake view” art studio - a family project!



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ONE TORNADO, TWO TORNADOES, THREE TORNADOES...MORE

Seven confirmed tornadoes touched down in Polk County, Wisconsin, within a week in July 2019. If you were in the neighborhood, you remember.

"Our summer ended on the 19th of July," said a resident. "The rest of the summer was clean-up time." It was catastrophic. Officials say public sector costs associated with the storm total around \$5.3 million. (WCCO July 28, 2019).

Storm damage was the talk of the season for a very good reason. Areas near East Balsam, White Ash, and Bone Lake were hit hard by the heavy rain and winds, leaving noticeable paths of destruction. Officials estimate thousands of trees were downed during the storms, many of which fell across roadways and electrical lines. In response, approximately 100 Soldiers and Airmen from the Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard came to assist with recovery efforts.

There is a "silver lining." When homeowners tell their stories about the storms, their comments resonate with gratitude for their neighbors. There are stories about Lonnie and his skid-steer loader, Tom with his chainsaw, Deb and Paul given shelter while their power was out, and many other acts of kindness.

Maybe you are still removing fallen trees, cleaning debris or learning something about insurance coverage. One lesson learned is that when a tornado tears us apart, our neighbors pull us together.



The Leisch clean-up crew are among the many helpers.



The World According to Mister Rogers: Important Things to Remember

"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, *"Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."* To this day; especially in times of "disaster," I remember my mother's words, and I am always comforted by realizing that there are so many helpers – so many caring people in this world."

Fred Rogers

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THROUGH JIMMY'S EYES

See the world through Jimmy's eyes. Jimmy Reagan is a young, internationally recognized artist who speaks through his art. And he has much to say.

Born July 6, 1993 in St. Paul, Jimmy was independent, capable and healthy as a baby. Then at 2-1/2 years old, he was diagnosed with regressive onset complex autism, which means that Jimmy's communication skills slowly declined and his ability to communicate diminished. "He could no longer say my name," explained his mother Peg, and he "slipped into a world by himself."

Jimmy struggled physically as well. By 14 years old, due to chronic health issues, he could no longer attend school. He was often sick and unable to communicate his pain. It would be years before he was diagnosed with mast-cell disease, a painful and chronic autoimmune condition triggered by food and environment. Through surgery and diet, the family managed Jimmy's condition, yet he continues to require 24-hour care.

As the middle of five children, Jimmy's early caregivers were his siblings and family members. They served as teachers, therapists, behaviorists, researchers and friends. Through their guidance, Jimmy became an enthusiastic reader. One day, when he was 16 years old, he was asked to draw a page from a *National Geographic*.

It was a breakthrough.

Since 2009, Jimmy has used his art as his voice. His artwork has been exhibited in the United States and Europe. The young and talented artist brings his perspective of the world to life in his artwork.

Jimmy's favorite subject are portraits of people and animals. His paintings often depict a clear, sometimes striking direct gaze. Eye contact is an interesting and reoccurring theme in his artwork. His expressive and inventive art is innocent and sophisticated, bright and intense. Electric colors are prominent in his paintings, as are short lines he defines as "tick marks." His charming and unique designs grace products and clothing.

Jimmy remains verbal but non-conversational and struggles with health issues, and his style is constantly changing. An exhibit of his artwork is on display at Balsam Arts. You can go online or look in the gallery windows to see the world "Through Jimmy's Eyes."



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1,000 MILES TO POLK COUNTY

Our ancestors came in horse-drawn carriages and canoes into unknown territory. They trapped, traded, and paved the way to Polk County. Their journey was filled with hardship and danger, yet their strength and determination brought them from all parts of Europe to the "New World."

In a rare publication, *The Apple River Settlement*, the stories, maps and pictures describe the arduous trek and harsh challenges faced by those pioneering families.

The book begins:

In memory of the early settlers and their priest, who left their homes to go into the wilderness to make a better life for their children. Their faith in God and the church was what gave them the courage and encouragement to withstand the many hardships. To them we owe our good life as we have so little hardship and sickness.

For one family, the journey to Polk County began in Quebec, Canada.

Richard Pearson, the first Pearson to settle in Polk County, was born in Ireland and came to Polk County by way of Canada. His wife was French-Canadian, and their ancestors can be traced back to the early 1600s. Traveling more than 1000 miles "as the crow flies" to a settlement near the Apple River, the Pearson family established a farmstead with sheep, grains and exchangeable commodities. They joined the early Swedish, Norwegian, German, Danish and other immigrant families to build a new community. Although spelled different ways in Wisconsin, the Pearson's have over 410 descendants today. Perhaps you know Jim, Joyce, Angie, Ray or Fred?

"It is amazing how these families got along so well, working together to build up their schools, roads, creamery, feed mills and exchanged labor on their farms. Often they could only speak their native language and the biggest problem was when the children started school and could not speak English." (*The Apple River Settlement*, a history of French-Canadian Families, 1988.).



Ray Pearson 3rd from right side, back row. He was born 1899.
Picture ca 1909.



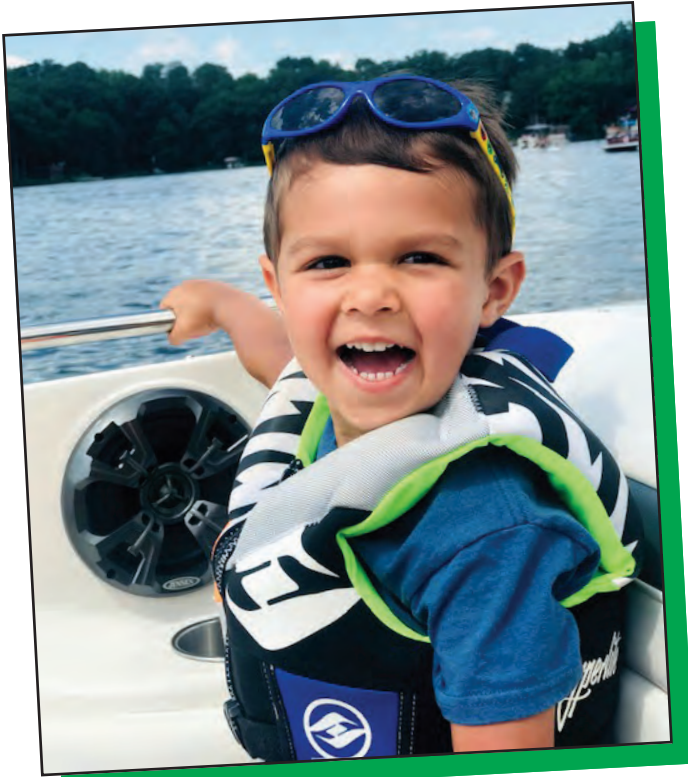
Residence of Mitchel Pearson, northeast of Amery, Wis.,
on old Hwy. 8, May 20, 1900.

Ben Fredrickson in buggy, Stella Pearson (a cousin) in doorway, Mitchel Pearson between horses and Walter Pearson on horse. Mrs. Anna Pearson holding Hazel. Mr. Fredrickson with Florence.

Hard-working and adventurous, these early families are models of diversity and cooperation. Farms were sold, transferred, traded and expanded, and many original settlers passed their legacy to current generations. However, their traditions and values continue to define our communities, families, and neighborhoods; they give us reason to celebrate. Today, thanks to our ancestors, we have winding roads, rolling hills, and lush farmlands. For many, gathering at the cabin is an annual event.

Have a great summer, everyone, and enjoy your traditions.

FUN TIMES ON BALSAM LAKE ...



This young man is certainly enjoying a nice summer day on Balsam Lake.



7-year-old Addison Jagielo loves waving to boats that pass by! She is also a member of the Balsam Lake Water Ski Team. Enjoy!



Marcia and Jim Freed's family knows how to enjoy time together at the cabin all through the year.

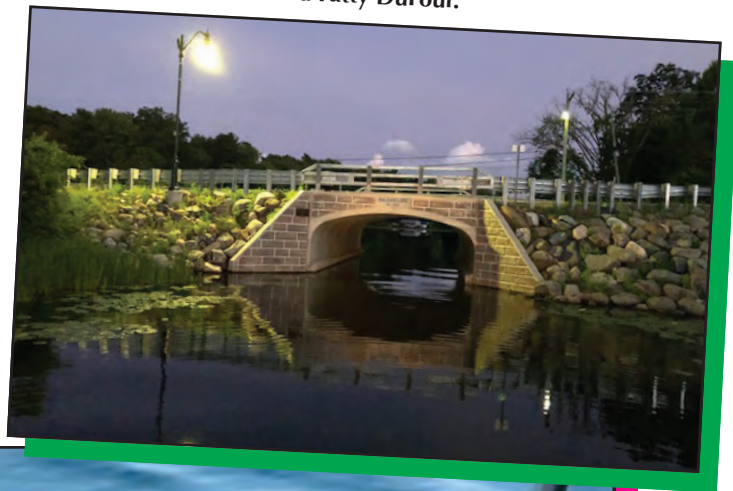
NO MATTER WHAT THE SEASON!



Visiting from Arizona, Ava Toenjes, grandchild of Peter and Tangley, has lasting memories of Balsam Lake.



Brynn and friends take a refreshing break at the home of Dave and Patty DuFour.



Cheryl and Duane Hejny have a beautiful view of the bridge over Balsam Lake.



Summer fun for the Pollreis and Sippl families when granddaughters come to visit.

ENCOUNTER IN BALSAM LAKE

On September 3, 1979 a UFO descended on a rural highway in Polk County, somewhere near Balsam Lake. This encounter occurred a few days after a patrol car was struck in Minnesota by a similar encounter that left the car damaged and the officer unconscious.

That wasn't the last of the close encounters in Polk County.



On September 10, 2019 two independent residents of Rice Lake reported UFO sightings at 8 pm. The reports, which are documented in the National UFO Reporting Center (<http://nuforc.org>), describe the incidents as “three stationary red flashing lights” in the sky. They never moved but are described as being “in a line, disappearing one by one about 20 to 30 seconds apart from each other.” According to the reports, the flashing was minimal, and they turned white before they disappeared.

Alien sightings reported to the National UFO Reporting Center are archived and categorized by state, date and description. Since data was first recorded in 1947, there have been 2,052 UFO sightings in Wisconsin alone.

The phenomenon that began with the flying saucer in the summer of 1947 has been around for more than 70 years, and only now is gaining attention from the mainstream media, military, and government. In September 2019 the US Navy acknowledged footage that shows UFOs hurtling through the air. The objects seen in clips of declassified military footage are “unidentified aerial phenomena,” a Navy spokesperson confirmed to CNN. The clips show fast-moving, oblong objects captured by advanced infrared sensors. In the footage, sensors lock on a target before it accelerates out of the frame, too quickly for the sensors to relocate it.

Wisconsin seems to be on the radar for our alien friends. In fact, the frequency of sightings in Wisconsin has been celebrated for many years in nearby Elmwood, Wisconsin (about 61 miles southeast of Balsam Lake). UFO Days festivities in Elmwood are held the last weekend of July (7/24-7/26/2020) and include storytelling, parades, costumes, memorabilia, and food that is out of this world!

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Until the gallery reopens, we will present new art each week.

Something new?
Something amusing?
Drive by to see for yourself.

As we manage social distancing, the gallery windows aim to entertain and inspire. As you walk by 314 Main Street or wait at the pharmacy, take a moment to look in the windows and smile.

Wishing you health, Michael and Jean



Micayla and Sophia Gondek riding their jet skis on Little Balsam in the snow storm of Easter 2020.



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www.balsamlakepubliclibrary.org

The Balsam Lake Public Library is working to provide a fun summer reading program for kids and adults. We realize that we may not be able to provide our usual programs this year however, we are still hoping to bring you fun offerings for the whole family. Follow us on Facebook, check our website or find us in the newspaper to stay informed on our upcoming activities.

As this issue comes out I hope we are able to provide our usual services to our community. But please know that we have a wide variety of online resources for you to use regardless of the situations that may be happening. Our annual book sale is currently scheduled for Friday July 4th and we are planning another community-wide activity during the holiday weekend. Stop in to see all that is new at the library we have been working to provide more kits like disc golf, dementia kits, blood pressure monitors, hot spot, and many new kits for kids.

Remember, we also provide faxing, copying, WIFI, public computers as well as a friendly atmosphere. Enjoy the summer here in Balsam Lake and come say hi!



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Soupe Aux Pois



Take 1-1/2 pounds yellow peas and soak in water overnight; boil until soft. Or put 1 pound of split yellow peas in 2 quarts of water. To either add 1-1/2 cups chopped onions fried in pork fat, 1/2 cup chopped celery leaves, salt and pepper.

Strips of salt port or ham hocks may be added. Bring to a boil, then cover and simmer. (*The Apple River Settlement*, a history of French-Canadian Families, 1988.).

Pea Soup for the pioneers:

"A kettle was hung over the fire, nearly full of water then nine quarts of peas – one quart per man, the daily allowance –were put in; and when they were well bursted, two or three pounds of pork, cut into strips, for seasoning were added and allowed to boil and simmer until daybreak, when the cook added four biscuits, broken up, to the mess, and invited all to breakfast. The swelling of the peas and biscuits had now filled the kettle to the brim, so thick that a stick would stand upright in it."
(Records from St. Mary's Catholic Church).



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