

Good Neighbor Initiative

Gentle Reminders and Simple Courtesies:

- **FIRE:** Allegan County has strict fire guidelines that are rigorously enforced. Obtain a fire permit before starting a fire. Beach fires can be especially dangerous due to shifting lake winds and the easily flammable dune grasses. Always have a water source readily available. Never leave a fire unattended and never leave children alone near a fire. Never use an accelerant (such as gasoline) on a fire. Be careful to extinguish all fires completely and remember that embers can quickly be reignited by lake winds. Also clean up any beach campfires. Lastly individuals who are found at fault for starting a fire that gets out of control can be held responsible for Allegan County expenses related to extinguishing that fire.
- **FIREWORKS:** County ordinances and strict guidelines are in place for your protection and the protection of your neighbors when using fireworks. Fireworks are a significant fire hazard, especially in areas of beach grass on windy nights and in forested areas. Fireworks should never be used near structures, trees, open fields or vehicles. Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Fireworks are meant to be used one at a time, never combine or mix fireworks. We urge you to use the greatest amount of caution when using fireworks.
- **NOISE:** Local Townships have strict Anti-Noise & Public Nuisance Ordinances in place from 11:00 pm to 6:00 am. Please act responsibly and keep amplified music, loud parties, barking dogs and excessive noise to an acceptable level. Fireworks should not be used after 11:00pm.
- **SHORELINE:** The Department of Natural Resources has designated sections of our shoreline as a high-risk erosion area. Please be careful not to damage grass or vegetation growing on the dunes. Remember that trees help to hold the bluff and prevent erosion. Be especially careful to follow pathways to and from the beach. Work together with your neighbors to protect the shoreline.
- **GARBAGE:** We ask you to place household garbage in tightly secured bags inside trash containers. Do not overfill containers and close the lids tightly. Please do not leave bags on the ground or out overnight to prevent scavenging by animals and to eliminate odor and insects. Dumpsters at West Side County Park and Pier Cove are **not** to be used for household trash.
- **4 WHEELERS:** The use of “off-road” vehicles on the Lake Michigan shoreline is only permitted on private property. 4-Wheelers are not permitted at the beach waterline or on public beaches.
- **PETS:** Remember to be a thoughtful pet owner. Always clean up after your dog and make certain their barking does not disturb your neighbors. Respect posted signs pertaining to pets and follow local leash laws. Dogs are not permitted on public beaches.
- **BEACHES:** The Lake Michigan sand dunes are the largest assemblage of fresh water dunes in the world. Our shoreline is a “unique, irreplaceable and fragile resource”. We ask for your help in protecting our shoreline. Remember to take any trash with you when you leave the beach. Cigarettes are the #1 most littered item in America and the toxic residue in filters is damaging to the environment. Many beach walkers carry an extra bag and pick up beach litter as they walk. It’s just a polite custom of our community.

We wish to thank you for reading this information and for being a thoughtful Lakeshore neighbor.

Lake Michigan Shore Association