

Murray Lake Association Monthly Newsletter

The Murray Lake Association was founded to develop civic and community interest among owners and residents around our lake. The board represents the MLA Members.

Issue: Jan/Feb 2026

Message from the President

Happy New Year Murray Lakers!

We start the year with crazy swings in our weather, from unseasonably warm to bone chilling cold! Warm yourself up with some nice hot soup or chili at our “Souper-bowl” Cookoff with the competition including both chilis and soups this year. So come to the party for some tasting, comradery, a fun raffle, maybe take home one of the coveted trophies and of course a chance to pay your 2026 dues!

We are still hoping for enough ice to hold our first ice fishing contest on February 14th . Maybe with this latest cold snap the lake will freeze over, stay tuned for updates on this event.

We are looking into bringing back the Memorial Day 5k Run/Walk, remember this is for both the runners and the more “let’s stroll around Causeway” folks! It is a great way to kick off the unofficial start of the summer season.

I again want to thank our board, volunteers, and everyone who helps make our neighbors around the lake a true community.

Terry Conley

P.S. Keep you eyes open for what I think is a very exciting announcement regarding the celebration of America’s 250th Anniversary!

Upcoming Events

Date/Time	Event	Location
Jan 31st 12-2pm	Souper Bowl	Sam and Nikki Paxson's House
Feb 14th 9am-12pm	Ice Fishing Contest	Check-in at West Boat Launch
May 14th	MLA Annual Meeting	Grattan Township Hall
May 23rd	5K Run/Walk	Start/End at Murray Lake Elementary

Highlights from Last Month

The MLA Board took a break from events over the holidays and enjoyed some quiet time. We are ready to kick-off with more activities to pass the time this winter!

Lake Updates and Information

Lake Info:

The temperature swings in Dec and early Jan have made for an interesting winter so far. The 1st ice in date was Jan 1st for the whole lake to be frozen, however it melted again shortly after. With the current cold spell, we can expect a full freeze again soon, if this wind would pause and allow the water to ice over. Hopefully more time for ice fishing, skating, and cross country skiing before this winter is over!

Education Opportunities:

MSU is offering an Introduction to Lakes online course to begin in Jan 2026 designed to provide information on lake ecology, watersheds, shorelines, aquatic plant management, Michigan water law, and community involvement. [Register here.](#)

Preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species is the responsibility of everyone who uses Michigan's valuable fresh-water resources. For more information on invasive species and prevention methods, visit [Michigan.gov/Invasives](#).

General Reminders

Ice season on the lake is here, please be sure to follow appropriate safety measures when preparing any activities on the ice this winter season. Some advice at the link below.

[Ice Safety](#)

Contact the MLA Board

Email: murraylakeboard@gmail.com

Website: <https://murraylakeassociation.com/>

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Souper Bowl

The annual chili cook-off is coming back as a “Souper Bowl” event! Join your neighbors at **Sam and Nikki Paxson’s house on Jan 31st** for great food and competition. **All soups and chilis must arrive by 12pm and judging will take place at 2pm** after votes are counted. There will be prizes for 1st and 2nd place overall. There will also be a raffle opportunity!

Ice Fishing Contest

The first ice fishing contest is planned for **Feb 14th** during the free fishing weekend if weather and ice conditions allow. **Check-in will be from 8:30-9am at the west boat launch and the contest will run from 9-11:30am.** Prizes will be awarded at 12pm for the most fish caught and the largest fish caught. There will also be raffle prizes! This event will be free for MLA members, non-members will be charged a \$30 fee to participate. Register in advance at [this link](#).

Memorial Day 5K Run/Walk

The MLA is planning to bring back the Memorial Day Weekend 5K Run/Walk to kick-off summer 2026! The run will start and end at Murray Lake Elementary School. All registered participants will receive a T-shirt. More information on registration will be shared in the coming months!

If you or someone you know would be interested in sponsoring this event, please reach out to the board!

Photos of the Month



Lots of sledding to be enjoyed with all the snow around the lake this winter!