

April 21, 2026

Dear Village Neighbors:

We're saying "Bon Voyage" to the BARGE – Insurance outrageous \$\$\$, Logistics/storage complicated, Rentals meager . . . we just can't make it work anymore!

It is with sadness, lots of nostalgia and some relief that we inform you of the retirement of the Wolverine Lake Village Barge. The barge has been part of the fabric of our lake community for more than 18 years, both as the platform for our Tiki Night fireworks (its original purpose) and as the host location for countless summer barge parties. It's been there for your weddings, your graduations and your family reunions. We loved the barge and it was such fun.

However, time has passed and times have changed. The Board is tasked with fundraising almost \$7,000 each year just to pay for the barge liability insurance and additional funds for much needed maintenance. Additionally, the On&Up Board is subject to some personal liability, which is unacceptable. We are required to secure DNR permits for any barge parties. Resident rental of the barge has been very sporadic. Movement of the barge requires training and a specific pontoon design. The barge requires an ongoing village resident commitment for maintenance, assembly/disassembly and storage. And lastly, our fireworks vendor has their own barges, so the original purpose of the barge is no longer relevant.

For all those reasons, the barge is no more except in our fond memories. **Thanks Barge – it has been great and we'll all miss you!**

Finally, a big thank you to JR and to all those who were part of making it possible all these years—building it originally; disassembling it; storing the rafts; reassembling it and fixing it annually; moving it; renting it; loading the fireworks onto it; cleaning it; hosting community parties; putting the artificial turf on; taking the artificial turf off, etc., etc.! It took a village... a very special village, the Village of Wolverine Lake.

This has been an announcement from:



Onwards & Upwards Community Enrichment Fund

(Fundraising for/Facilitation of: Fireworks, Scholarships, Community Giving, Golf Tournament, Lake Rally, community gatherings et al.)