

4/17/2020

Lighthouse Village members and staff,

I would like to update you all and hope this finds you well. After celebrating and appreciating this past Easter weekend it certainly puts things in perspective. Today we awoke to three inches of accumulating snow and freezing temperatures which delays park water opening regardless of the epidemic. By this time we all know someone who has been diagnosed as covid positive and our hearts and prayers go out to our members and families who are personally dealing with this virus.

I will address some of the commonly asked questions by our members as follows and I hope you may find them helpful;

-Is the water turned on?

*No. State campground rules state the water must be off from December 15-April 15th. Currently the water is off and weather providing we will be completing preseason coordination, chlorination, and testing after which point water will only be available to the general membership lots when the Governor's restrictions are lifted.

-Can we use lake water for flushing?

*No. The septic system is designed for continuous flow and the elimination of waste water during the off season is prohibited.

-Why is the center bath closed?

*CDC and DNR protocol recommendations specify the necessity of closure as well as that of the dump station.

-Can I use my RV at LHV as my designated home?

*No. While many consider LHV a second summer home, LHV is a campground and never considered permanent living. If you have a home you must stay there under the executive order.

-Do I have rights of residency as I thought I paid property tax at LHV?

*No. There is no address associated with your site and the taxes you may pay are land use tax to Clarendon Township on your personal site improvements. If you have an RV on your site you are also assessed a specific tax by the state of MI.

-We are a resort, so are there exceptions to the mandates?

*No. LHV is a licensed campground. While describing LHV as a "resort" indicates an elevated expectancy of amenities, it has no bearing on licensing regulations.

-When will the campground be open?

*Under the directive compliance and enforcement of the State Executive Order 2020-21 and its amendments, LHV is closed through April 30 and or until further notice. The DNR has closed all State Parks until at least May 15. We will be re-open when the mandates are lifted and then operate with cautious optimism and imposed regulations.

-If we can't be there, why are there workers on site?

*LHV is not an essential business as described by the Governor; however, we may maintain necessary minimal basic operations with essential workers. On 3/26/20 we designated our essential workers and are working with a skeleton crew to service and maintain the park along with the proper health and sanitation practices established. All others are gone including any contractors. I personally have been working day and night to make sure the park is operationally safe and secure for the reopening of the place we all love and enjoy.

-Can we at least come for a walk and enjoy the outdoors while adhering to social distancing as the Governor may have suggested?

*No. While some parks in your area may be open, LHV is a campground and is ordered closed. Any variance to the order would jeopardize our license and risk criminal prosecution.

-Can we get in the park to take care of life essential things?

*Yes. Monitored entry to the park is only accessible by appointment through screened requests for emergency or life threatening situations. Cooperation has been exhibited for such things as retrieving meds and food. If you need assistance please call the office at (517-568-4343) and leave a specific message of your request along with your name, contact info, and lot number. In most cases we have been able to process the request within 24 hours if not the same day. We ask all entries comply with CDC health standards including wearing protective masks.

-Can we do site cleanup and hang out for the day at our lot?

*No. All non- life threatening activities are prohibited. In consideration of these logistic disruptions, LHV has temporarily suspended the rules of such requirements as spring cleanup and site trailer removals.

-Can we get a refund or proration of dues since the park is closed?

*No. If we were privately owned that would be would be a possibility along with more grant monies available but, LHV is a cooperatively owned nonprofit membership association with fixed costs; therefore, no refunds are being considered at this time with regards to the COVID-19 "Act of God" pandemic and its consequences.

-What are our options if we live in our RV fulltime?

*The legal opinion states that if you were residing in a campground at the time of the order or if you are a member that is "Otherwise Needy" and or homeless and are seeking temporary shelter during the pandemic you may qualify to stay at the park. We would require you to sign an affidavit stating such and

releasing LHV of any liabilities of exposure and along with the understanding that you have a self-contained RV and there are no bath facilities available at this time. You would not be able to have guests or use any park amenities and common areas. If you are under consideration for quarantine you would be required to stay in your RV for 14 days. Please contact the office on this matter if you need assistance in qualifications.

I hope these shared questions may resolve some of your general concerns. LHV management has phased into these directives with great caution and concern. We have exhausted every avenue to give our members the benefit of doubt in the early stages by allowing them to demonstrate compliance with self-regulation and oversight, but quite honestly some failed.

While I understand the frustrations of the different perspectives presented, I believe the use of social media regarding LHV information should be used at this time as a source for critical and factual information to benefit our members rather than as a platform for personal opinions of covid-19 as they would be more appropriately effectively addressed to your congressman or Governor. Instead of looking for loop holes to accommodate personal agendas we should and continue to be looking for clear directives for our well-being so we may safely reopen sooner rather than later.

It is my sincere goal to prioritize the health and safety of our members and always do what's best for LHV. As you know in 2018 I pledged a platform of commitment to you to create "consistency" in leadership and administration and in 2019 I adopted the same commitment as a goal for "community". There was never a better time than now to exhibit community. We entered into this together and with diligent cooperation we will emerge from this together even stronger.

Stay safe and God Bless

James D. Arver / Resort Manager