**A4** April 13-14, 2024 The Tribune

## TALONG THE LAKE SELORE

## BLP recognized for safety, reliability

The Grand Haven Board of Light & Power (BLP) received two national awards from the American Public Power Association (APPA).

The utility received an award for outstanding performance for safety and a second for demonstration of exceeding standards for reliability. Both the Gold Standard for Safety award and the BLP's Diamond RP3 (Reliable Public Power) designation were officially announced at AP-PA's Engineering and Operations Conference in New Orleans.

"We are proud of the hard work and dedication of our entire team on behalf of our customers," said Rob Shelley, BLP interim general manager. "There are a lot of moving parts that contribute to the level of recognition our utility has received with these awards. It's a testament to the level of commitment we put into safety and reliability all across the organization in service to our community.'

The APPA's Safety Committee bases its safety award on three years of submitted data, with categories tied to total hours worked by all employees. The BLP is the only Michigan public power utility in its category to achieve a Gold rating.

The Reliability Diamond Level designation is based on industry-recognized best practices in reliability, safety, workforce development and system improvement. The reliability criteria includes disaster management and emergency response, as well as cyber and physical security. System integrity and employee training and networking programs also factor into the award designation.

demonstrate a strong level of



Courtesy photo / Steve Jessmore Photography

The Grand Haven Board of Light & Power recently signed a contract with White Tail Solar, helping bring its solar portfolio to just over 23 megawatts at peak generation.

Chairman Mike Westbrook. chase commitment will cost 'This national recognition \$4,662,900 over the term of receiving awards for both of the commitment and will safety and reliability illus- continue the utility's additrates the value of the BLP tions of renewable energy in providing one of our most life-essential necessities. Our community puts a high level of trust in the BLP, and these awards are well earned."

The BLP serves more than generation. 15,000 residential, commercial, and industrial customers houn Solar and BLP's wind in the cities of Grand Haven and natural gas commitments, and Ferrysburg, along with moves the utility closer to its Grand Haven, Spring Lake, and Robinson townships.

## **BLP** increases renewable energy portfolio

The BLP's latest solar commitment will provide 2.15 megawatts – or enough to power approximately 490 homes per year.

Tail Solar, is expected to go vestment strategy has been "Our BLP continues to into commercial operation in just like a personal investsummer 2025 and is located ment strategy by spreading

our community," said BLP BLP's 20-year power pur- ent baskets to control risk and resources.

> White Tail Solar, combined with other commitments puts the BLP's solar portfolio just over 23 megawatts at peak Cumulatively, last year's addition of Cal-2025 goal of 28 percent renewable energy.

'We have now made commitments with six solar projects, two wind power projects, and one battery storage project which helps us continue to responsibly grow and diversify our renewable energy portfolio," said Erik Booth, BLP operations and power supply The new facility, White manager. "Our laddering in-

protect our community from market swings."

"The BLP's strategic direction is to maintain a sustainable, economical, and diversified power supply portfolio, consistent with proven energy risk management practices," Westbrook added. "This means that our plans are to increase our renewable energy resources in a responsible manner that balances reliability, affordability, and sustainability. We are very excited to announce this new solar addition."



When does boating season start? That all depends on the

## Has boating season arrived?

Rob, I've started to see and 1997 made us wait on the river. Is it time to get our boats in the wa-

ter for the

The No. 1

factor when

it comes to

boat(s) in

the water is

the weath-

er. Mother

season?

Rob Schopf Ask Rob



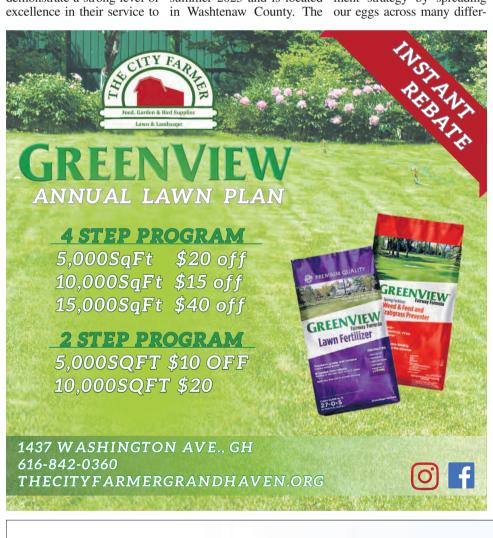
Nature is pretty much in control of the timeline for cutting off the shrinkwrap and

prepping your vessel. After some research, I discovered that there have been years when warm weather has taken over as early as mid-April. In late April 1987, the mercury soared to 85 degrees. Boaters considered the summer of 1985 as one of the best seasons ever. The years 1995, 1996

boats in the channel and until mid May to crack 80 degrees. There are many variables that go into when to launch and each boater has a unique set of circumstances. Check with the national weather service and our local putting your forecasters. I have to believe our hard freezes are behind us (it is Michigan, though).

Remember, the boating season on Lake Michigan typically runs from late April or early May to early October. Our peak months are June through August. Take the necessary precautions to ensure your safety. When having issues with your motor, electronics or seaworthiness of your vessel, don't hesitate to contact a professional.

We are all psyched to get out on the water. Be safe and have a great boating season.









(616) 842-6100 | (231) 726-5210 | sytsemath.com