

## PREVENTING CONFLICTS WITH BLACK BEARS

Forest Lake Residents, this is Vito Manzella the Director of Security. There have been more recent sightings of a younger Black Bear on S Forest Lake Dr and along Wilderness trail. The board reached out to the DNR to get direction on what our next steps should be. I had a good conversation with our local DNR Wildlife Technician and will recap some of the things he stressed. The Bear Smart Brochure and The DNR Page on Michigan Black Bears have some good tips and ideas to help minimize contact. This is posted here and within the bulletin board at the office.

The officer stressed the following...

1. We live in Bear country which goes from Bay County across to Muskegon all the way north.
2. If you do see a bear be sure to make a lot of noise like banging pots. Bears are more scared of us than we are of them. They are most active at Dusk and Dawn.
3. They don't eat people or pets, which will scare them away. Their diet is mostly berries.
4. Never feed a bear and keep your home clear of inviting food which may attract bears like bird feeders, pet food, open trash cans, and BBQ Grease traps.

In closing, never attempt to socialize with a bear. Bears have learned behavior and sightings will continue unless we minimize the attraction to our homes, but it will take everyone's willingness to do so.

Thank You,  
Vito Manzella FLPOA  
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