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Interim Publisher: Paul Heidebreder

Executive Editor: Lois Tomaszewski

Sales: Monica Evans, Shelley Kovar

Graphics: Judy Lytle, Julie Eilers,
Madelyn Kerbyson

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JUDY WINTER PHOTO

Laura Nugent says the styling at Craze is a key to their success.



JUDY WINTER PHOTO

Creative styling at CRAZE is key

Craze relocated to the former Gustafson's store after Laura and husband, Dan Nugent, bought the historic building in 2018.

to an elevated lakeside lifestyle

BY JUDY WINTER
SHORELINE MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

One of the first things you notice as you enter the Craze home goods and clothing store in Pentwater is the creative styling of the merchandise.

Everywhere you look, mannequins are dressed in seasonal fashions alongside delightful home décor enhanced with giant flowers, straw hats, colorful beading, candles and table linens in shades of blue, green and yellow.

Craze isn't just another lakeside retail shop. It's an experience that's been carefully cultivated by its owner, Pentwater native Laura Nugent.

Full of high energy and creative ideas, Nugent is quick with spirited laughter and high praise for her employees.

"It's a team effort," she said of the dynamic design displayed throughout the store.

When asked how important styling is, she replied quickly.

"Styling is the business. Everything is

presented in the best way possible, the most aesthetically pleasing way possible," she stressed. "We're selling an elevated version of Pentwater. So, the styling must be elevated, too."

Housed in the former Gustafson Building, Laura and her husband and business partner, Dan Nugent, purchased the 1887 building in 2006 and renovated the space while preserving its old-world charm.

Nugent grew up in Pentwater and fondly remembers shopping there with her parents, who were also in retail.



Craze has an eclectic mix of sophisticated, colorful, and fun home decor.



Craze employee and Nugent's cousin, Kristine Santana, holds a marble kitchen piece from India.

JUDY WINTER PHOTO



One of the large flowers displayed at Craze during the spring and summer retail seasons.



Craze in Pentwater carries a modern and sophisticated mix of women's fashion, beachwear, purses, and accessories.

"It's in my blood," she said.

"We still sometimes refer to this store as Gustafson's."

Those childhood visits stayed with her, especially the idea of bringing world elegance to the lakeside town that so many seasonal residents call home.

After COVID slowed their renovation plans, the second floor of Craze finally opened in 2021.

The shop features women's clothing, select men's apparel and colorful home furnishings and décor.

In 2012, Craze added the popular Free People clothing line.

"It has its own vibe and customer base," Nugent said.

Selling online remains a future goal.

Craze offers an unexpected retail escape

in a community better known for ice cream shops and T-shirts.

Nugent explained that nothing at Craze is left to chance. Every display is designed with one mission in mind — elevating the lakeside experience.

Nugent's three children, Oliver, 13, Atticus, 11, and Eleanor, 8, also take part in the family business.

"They sweep floors and water flowers," she said proudly.

Dan and Laura Nugent grew up as friends in Pentwater and began dating after attending Western Michigan University, where Laura earned a bachelor's degree in family consumer sciences with an emphasis in textile and apparel studies.

"I learned so much," she said.

The name Craze was born on an airplane

in 2005 as the couple developed their business plan.

"I kept envisioning a woman who was unafraid to wear what she wanted," Nugent said.

The name stuck.

This is Craze's 20th year in business, with a summer staff of 12.

It's also the first year the store did not close during January.

"My cousin, Kristine Santana, kept things running successfully last winter," Nugent said gratefully.

"It felt like a very big triumph just to be opened in January and sustain the business. Retail is not an exact science. After 20 years, you think you might have the hang of it and then it changes."

Nugent, 42, is now focused on growing



JUDY WINTER PHOTO

Some of Laura Nugent's favorite dishes are Danish and from a female-owned co-op in Tennessee.

what she calls the "Shoulder Season" from November through April.

"The intention is to always feel fresh with what we offer customers," she said. "We adjust everything, including style, to



JUDY WINTER PHOTO

Craze is full of colorful homegoods.

seasonal sensitivity — the products, textiles, colors and even the music."

"The young staff grows so much working here," Nugent said. "We throw them to the wolves," she teased, "but with lots of guidance and support."

She and her husband do the buying three times a year, but everyone contributes to the displays.

"It starts with a conversation, and then each person adds their special touch," Nugent explained. "Store styling is all about team effort."



JUDY WINTER PHOTO

Craze recently began carrying a limited supply of menswear per customer request.

On this day, she praised the swimwear displays created by employee Lauren Davis as she arrived for her Wednesday morning shift.

"You killed it!" Nugent said, and Davis beamed.

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A 2025 Pentwater High School graduate who will attend Ferris State University this fall, Davis said working at Craze has helped build her confidence.

"Craze is such a fun place to work," she said. "I love talking to customers."

With summer underway, swimwear fills the front displays.

"We have Boho Beach in the south window and Nautical Chic in the north window," Nugent explained.

"The floor design is always fluid. Friday through Sunday, we are here to talk to the customers. Monday through Thursday, the store is recovering. That's when we do our displays and windows."

She said tourists remain essential to the business, but efforts by the Pentwater Downtown Business Association to promote events such as a fall launch and Christmas in the Village have helped extend the retail season.

"It has been a true community effort these past few years to support retail," Nugent said. "It feels like everyone is united in growing the Shoulder Season."

While styling changes with the seasons, Nugent remains committed to maximizing

her customers' experience in Pentwater.

"Whether you're headed to the beach and looking for the most luxurious Turkish bath towel imaginable, or you're a customer buying mocha pots to totally romanticize your morning coffee prep, I encourage Craze customers to slow down and build beautiful summer rituals," she said. "The clothing we offer is what one might want to look like while elevating the rest."

"Many residents have chosen summer to live here, and I try to make it as good as it can be by providing a little luxury and ritual."

She and her husband once believed they would never return to Pentwater after college.

"But we knew we wanted kids, and we wanted them to grow up like we did, with an active lifestyle that involves sports, dance and riding their bikes everywhere, something you can't do just anywhere these days."

"Our kids are growing up just like we did, and we love that Pentwater still provides that kind of family opportunity," Nugent said.

After surviving another Michigan win-



Jean's display on the second-floor of Craze.

ter, she hopes visitors and residents alike embrace the slower pace of summer.

"My hope is that everyone who comes into Craze can settle their nervous system, slow down and wander, and just breathe out."



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HOMECOMING: more than a tradition

BY LOIS TOMASZEWSKI
EXECUTIVE EDITOR, SHORELINE MEDIA

Long before the first parade entry turns onto Hancock Street, lawn chairs begin filling the sidewalks.

Families stake out favorite viewing spots. Friends greet one another after another year apart. Children wait patiently for candy while conversations turn to Homecomings past — favorite parades, memorable fireworks, the year the Budweiser Clydesdales came to town or the year rain delayed the parade but couldn't dampen the celebration.

Ask longtime Homecoming visitors about their favorite year, and you'll probably get a different answer.

Yet ask what people remember most, and the traditions are remarkably similar.

For nearly a century, Pentwater Homecoming has brought people together each August for a celebration that has become as much a family reunion as a community festival. The first Homecoming took place in August 1930 during the dedication of Pentwater's new Community House, the culmination of a decade-long effort led by

the Pentwater Mother's Club. Since then, every generation has left its mark on the celebration.

Milestone anniversaries have shaped the event through the years. Homecoming's 75th anniversary in 2005 celebrated "Generations of Family Fun." In 2015, the theme was "Senses of Summer." Pentwater's sesquicentennial in 2017 brought the theme "Throughout the Years," along with historical exhibits, community portraits and special programming celebrating the village's 150th anniversary.

Even as Homecoming evolves, many of its signature traditions remain.

The Scottville Clown Band and Pentwater Civic Band still reunite for the Les Bailey Memorial Concert on the Village Green. Families gather at Charles Mears State Park to create sand sculptures along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Parade-goers claim favorite spots along Hancock Street well before the first entry arrives. As dusk settles over the lake, thousands make their way to the beach for fireworks that have become the traditional finale to Saturday's celebration.

Last year, Pentwater Artisan Learning

Center Vice President Sue Hopp described what keeps drawing families back.

"I love seeing all the families come to town and talk about their history in the town and how they're here for Homecoming because their parents did and their grandparents did," Hopp said. "That week there's a lot of memories that people share about what Homecoming is to them, and it is about coming back here, and celebrating as family."

Every generation has a Homecoming story.

In 1998, then-Pentwater Police Chief Jack Rought described the crowd heading toward the fireworks as "a river of people." Fourteen years later, thousands turned out to watch the Budweiser Clydesdales make a rare appearance in the parade. In 2022, steady rain delayed the Grand Parade, but spectators lined Hancock Street in ponchos and beneath umbrellas rather than miss one of Pentwater's signature traditions.

This year's theme, "Beyond the Beach," reflects what many residents say Homecoming has always been about. While Lake Michigan is one of Pentwater's defining at-



tractions, the annual celebration has long centered on the people, traditions and community spirit that bring families back each August.

The weekend will once again feature many of the events that have become synonymous with Homecoming, including the Strawberry Shortcake Social, the Les Bailey Memorial Concert, the Sand Sculpture Contest, the Grand Parade, fireworks over Lake Michigan and the VFW Pancake Breakfast.

For nearly a century, Pentwater Homecoming has continued to evolve while holding onto the traditions that have defined it from the beginning. If this year's celebration is any indication, another generation will soon have its own favorite Homecoming memories.

This article was compiled based on years of Shoreline Media news articles and special publications.

2026 PENTWATER HOMECOMING AT A GLANCE

Dates: Thursday-Sunday, Aug. 13-16 • Theme: Beyond the Beach

THURSDAY, AUG. 13

- Pentwater Farmers Market
- Strawberry Shortcake Social
- Les Bailey Memorial Concert featuring the Pentwater Civic Band and Scottville Clown Band
- Comedy and evening entertainment

FRIDAY, AUG. 14

- Sand Sculpture Contest at Charles Mears State Park
 - Pentwater Women's Club Quilt Raffle
 - Movies on the Green
 - Live music
- Saturday, Aug. 15
- Beach Yoga

- Big Ten Tailgate Party
- Horseshoe Tournament
- Grand Parade — 4 p.m.
- Scottville Clown Band mini-concert
- fireworks at dusk over Lake Michigan

SUNDAY, AUG. 16

- VFW Pancake Breakfast
- Pentwater Historical Society Golf Cart Raffle
- Summer Music Series at the Municipal Marina



A complete schedule is available at the Pentwater Chamber of Commerce office and participating downtown businesses. Or visit: https://pentwater.org/event/homecoming-celebration/?instance_id=2425



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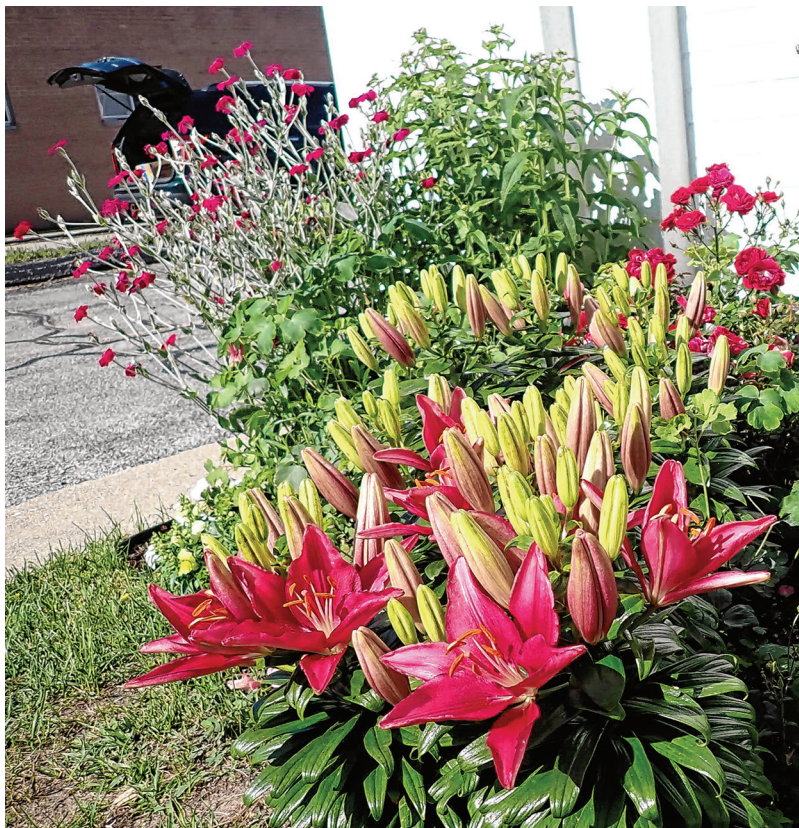
Flower Power

alive and well in Pentwater

PHOTO ESSAY BY JEANNE BARBER

"Flower Power" was a rallying cry of a nation-wide peace revolution of the mid 60s, a counterculture "Make Love, Not War" movement that defined a generation. Yet before, during and after that era, "Flower Power" symbolized, quite simply, what the two words have always suggested – inspiration and incredible beauty can be found in a single flower, a vase of flowers, a garden of flowers, a field of flowers, and so on. And in Pentwater, there are plenty of colorful flowers that leave passersby with a calming sense of peace and appreciation for Mother Nature. That's the way it's always been with flowers, their incredible and inspirational beauty can cause a person to pause and reflect on how fragile and fantastic life can be when summer explodes into a kaleidoscope of colors.







The Pentwater Civic Band —

BY CRISTINA JUSKA
SHORELINE MEDIA STAFF WRITER

It would not be summertime in Pentwater without the Pentwater Civic Band's Thursday evening concerts on the Village Green, one of the area's longest-running community traditions. A civic band is an ensemble formed to provide public musical performances, typically made up of volunteer musicians and supported by the community.

This summer marks the band's 79th official year, but the history of community musical ensembles in Pentwater pre-dates the group's founding. Current band member David Christensen said that his father joined as a junior high school student in 1948, one year after the band "restarted" following World War II.

While the Pentwater Civic Band didn't start until 1947, Christensen's father probably spoke of the area's active pre-war musical tradition, which included school bands; ad-hoc community bands assembled for special events; small ensembles playing at local resorts and lakeshore venues; and seasonal musicians who played together informally in the summer.

When WWII began, live music fell by the wayside as many young musicians enlisted and local events were suspended. Communities shifted resources to wartime production and rationing, and tourism slowed, reducing the opportunity for any remaining musicians to find an audience.

After the war, returning veterans and local musicians wanted to revive Pentwater's musical life, leading to the formal creation of the Pentwater Civic Band in 1947 by a group of six musicians led by John DeYoung. The band was structured, named and operated as a true civic ensemble — something Pentwater did not have before the war.

Known to be a bit more informal and spontaneous than one might expect, the Pentwater Civic Band has no conductor, and they hold just one rehearsal each year. Musicians of all ages and from anywhere are welcome to join in as often or as infre-

quently as they like.

Today, there are around 25 core band members, with many more who "drop in" when they visit Pentwater from all over Michigan and the U.S. Members of the famous Scottville Clown Band sometimes join in, as do musicians from Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Twin Lake.

Many members have been longtime participants. President Terry Cluchey — now retired, he once served as Pentwater's Fire Chief — joined as a high school student in 1955. Cluchey still plays the snare drum with the Civic Band, but he hopes to find a younger drummer willing to take over his percussion duties. Getting the youth involved is important to "keep the tradition going," Cluchey said.

At age 13, the youngest member is Ayla Kokx, who joined in for the first time this summer. She has been playing the trumpet for three years in her school band, and her mom, Katie, also plays in the Civic Band.

At age 97, the oldest band member is Bill Cerny, a retired college professor. A summer Pentwater resident who has played in the Civic Band for around 12 or 14 years, Cerny is the former chair of Notre Dame's music department. He graduated from the Yale School of Music in 1954. While the piano is his primary instrument, Cerny





A summertime staple for 79 years

can also play the trombone, clarinet, oboe, French horn, flute and piccolo.

Vice President Peter Jackson also plays the piccolo, and has been with the band for 54 years. Jackson has earned the right to plan the set list for each performance. He said the members have folders with sheet music labeled 1-80; he chooses which 30 or so songs they will play on any given Thursday, calling out the number before each tune.

"It's just a fun time," Jackson said. "The musicians we have are amazing."

Selections include marches, polkas, show tunes, patriotic songs and lots of old-time favorites. Jackson said he likes to mix and match songs, but certain ones are non-negotiable – such as the Chicken Dance. Band member Gail Kowalski, who joined around 1977, still puts on a chicken hat and leads children of all ages in flapping their wings and shaking their tail feathers when the song is played each week.

Kay Danforth, a retired school band leader who plays the clarinet and other instruments, and her late husband, Mac, played together in the band – even on their wedding day! They tied the knot in Clinton Township (near Detroit), then headed to Pentwater to play a concert the same evening, Danforth said as she prepared to play

the clarinet on a recent Thursday evening.

Andy Loree, who was born in Pentwater and is now a summer resident, joined the Civic Band in 2003. He plays a sousaphone that is actually 101 years old and one of the largest ever made. Because they were only manufactured from 1924-1934, most sousaphones today are found in museums, Loree said.

Christensen recalls watching his father play in the Civic Band, so being a band member himself brings back many memories. "I used to hang off these railings as a kid," he said.

"We all did!" added Christine Stigailo, another Pentwater native. Stigailo graduated from Pentwater High School in 1969, where she played in the school band. She didn't pick up an instrument for many years after that, but eventually started playing again. Stigailo joined the Civic Band around 20 years ago.

"It's not a 'stuffy' band," Stigailo said. She enjoys participating because, "It is a way to share the joy of music with other people."

The Pentwater Civic Band performs weekly, 7:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursdays, from late June through late August. The audience that gathers on the Village Green each week is – like the band itself – intergenerational.

Cousins Fritz Baker and Wally Loague,

along with their wives Suzi and Paula, have been coming to watch the Pentwater Civic Band for decades – at least 50 years, they estimate. The Bakers are year-round Pentwater residents and the Loagues live outside Chicago but spend their summers on nearby Bass Lake.

"It's just a homegrown tradition," Wally said.

"It represents everything that is good about small-town America," Paula added. She said they like to come see the band whenever they can, but especially when their grandchildren are in town, "Because then, we go have ice cream afterwards!"

The Pentwater Civic Band has stayed true to its community roots while keeping up with the times. A registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, they are able to solicit tax-deductible donations, and even have a website.

They are raising funds to purchase a new shed to house the band's equipment, said Suzy Koths, who serves as the Secretary/Treasurer. Koths plays the euphonium, also known as a baritone horn; although the two instruments are not exactly the same. To donate toward the cost of a new shed, visit pentwaterciviband.org or use the collection bucket available at their weekly free concerts.



A family picks out some farm-fresh tomatoes.



Curt and Linda Rath said their Michigan Berry pies were their top sellers among other bakery items.



Carla with Dean Farms said the sweet cherries were a hit.

TASTE OF SUMMER, PENTWATER STYLE

BY SHANNA AVERY

SHORELINE MEDIA STAFF WRITER

Nothing says summer in Pentwater like some tasty treats offered at the Pentwater Farmers Market on Mondays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. from June through September, bringing together the best selections from growers and farmers throughout Oceana County and outlying areas.

On any given day the market is open, residents and visitors browse through the market set up on the Village Green and enjoy the pleasant atmosphere with live singing and music, and a variety of goods crafted and grown with love - all in one stop. From crafts, flower arrangements, farm goods, meat, dairy, bakery items and locally grown produce, there's something for everyone.

Boasting beautiful and bountiful farming country, from small family farms to larger corporate operations, the broader Pentwater region is ideal for growing produce, with its agricultural heritage dating back to the earliest settlers in the area.

At the Pentwaters Farmers Market, people look forward to buying fruit and vegetables in season, a variety of baked goods such as breads, pies and pastries, dips, cheeses, various cuts of meat, fish, honey

and syrup products, jams and more.

Among some of the vendors at the market in the last week of June, Blanca's Fresh Garden Produce offered farm-fresh strawberries, stalks of rhubarb and fresh-picked white and purple onions, with the green stalks attached. People who love to bake a strawberry rhubarb pie had no need to look further, or those wanting to add a zesty fresh onion to their salad.

Curt and Linda Rath's business, Woodland Farm Market, had a variety of baked goods featuring fresh Michigan berries in season.

"Our popular sellers are Michigan-berry pies, and the apple fritter bites are probably our best selling, then anything Michigan berry and after that, fritter bread is really good, and brownies," Curt said.

They also had a variety of breads, such as cranberry orange bread, pumpernickel, English muffin bread, among other selections.

The young lady working the Great Lakes Fish Company booth said their white fish pate - a cream cheese dip, was a popular seller. She said folks also enjoy fresh fish all caught in the Great Lakes the morning prior to market day.

Liberty Family Farm and Bakery featured varieties of sourdough from regular to dill and cheddar sourdough, and 6-grain loaf. They also had organic granola, banana

bread, pizza crusts, broccoli and cheddar quiche. They also sold fresh meats from grass-fed beef such as ground beef, patties, various steak cuts, grass fed lamb, pork and eggs.

E & J Farms had beautiful big red tomatoes that looked ready for a tasty BLT sandwich for \$3 a pound, and fresh garlic.

Carla, with Dean Farms, had strawberries, jams and fresh, plump cherries, which she said were the popular sellers.

"They are dying for the cherries. It's the first day we got them; strawberries they die for and asparagus, because it is in season, and everybody likes whatever's in season," she said, explaining they won't get any more asparagus, and there was one more day of strawberries, and the cherries were limited too, with the frost impacting them this year.

"People wait all year for them, these are really big items," Carla said, referring to the cherries.

There are many other goodies to try, from fresh produce, to meat and dairy products, to baked goods and concoctions already prepared.

There's still time to take a stroll through the Pentwater Farmers Market and see what is next in season and the delectable goods that make Pentwater the place to be in the summer.

Strawberries and jams were popular early season items.



Cherries were the in-season popular berry for late June and early July.



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Homecoming Sand Sculpture Contest brings out best of beach-going artists

BY DAVID L. BARBER

What if five centuries ago a young boy – his hands playfully puppeteered by the angels, themselves – sculpted sand castles in the playgrounds of the Florentine hamlet of Caprese.

And what if here and now – on Friday,

Aug. 14, to be precise – similar masterful inspirations might tug at the hands of the children, and adults, too, who'll take part in the 53rd Pentwater Sand Sculpture Contest that will be held on the golden beaches of the Charles Mears State Park.

Who knows. Maybe a Michelangelo de

Loducico Buonarroti Simoni will appear in Pentwater that day in the guise of a beachgoer, a camper, a visitor to the city, a local resident, or in all the above, swimmers and sailors included.

"The Pentwater Sand Sculpture Contest is one of the most unique traditions of

our Homecoming Celebration,” said Pentwater Chamber Executive Director Eva Gregwer. “The creativity and imagination on display each year are incredible. I’m always amazed at how the Pentwater Service Club judges the entries because every sculpture is great.

“My nieces and nephews have participated for more than 10 years, making it a family tradition. I remember building sand sculptures and walking around to admire all of the creations when I was a kid. People come from all over to see the display. I encourage everyone to gather a group of family or friends, enter the contest, and become part of this longtime Pentwater tradition.”

Gregwer said the theme for this year’s sand sculpture event – which is divided into age and family group categories – is “Beyond the Beach” and is again sponsored by the Pentwater Service Club. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. and winners will be announced at noon.

Glenn Beavis, co-chair of the contest, said more than two dozen volunteers help with the event.

“I would like to personally thank all our volunteers for their dedication to the event and to the community at large,” said Beavis. “I am very proud to be a part of it. Everyone who supports this event is a volunteer, judges included. Judges are made up of members of the Pentwater Service Club, as well as the many community members who love this event and want to be a part of it. We typically have about 25 volunteers supporting this annual effort. None of the jobs are particularly onerous, but our community members love this event and want to be a part of it.



Many of our volunteers have signed up year after year, and new faces seem to turn up every year as well.

“We get quite a few participants every year, come rain or shine. The entire beachfront is partitioned off by group category before the event starts, and pretty much fills up with contestants.

“Sculptures are judged on adher-

ence to theme, creativity, attention to detail, and neatness,” he said.

“Contestants are limited to using sand, water and natural items found on our beach such as naturally uprooted dune grass, driftwood, et cetera. No uprooting of live dune grass is allowed.”

Beavis said First, Second and Third Place trophies will be award-





JEANNE BARBER PHOTOS

ed in seven different Group categories that will span "... a number of both age and family groups." He said there is no charge associated with the event and that after registering and being guided to their assigned beach location, participants "can go to work on their creation."

Judging, he said, will begin at 11 a.m., followed by an awards ceremony beginning at noon at the beach pavilion.

"Our goal is to have fun, not compete professionally," he said. "In addition to the 21 trophies we award, we also give out

'Pentwater Service Club Sand Sculpture Contest' ribbons to anyone who didn't take home a trophy.

"Suffice it to say that everyone in all the group categories is proud of their creations and deserve kudos for their hard work. The Pentwater Chamber of Commerce publishes a theme for every year's contest. How well a team, or individual contestant incorporates the theme into their sculpture, is one of the several criteria judges use to rank them."

And then, just like that, the contest will

come to a fitting end – or should it be said to a "footing" end.

"Some of the children look forward to stomping through their creation right after the award ceremony, while others try to preserve it as long as possible," said Beavis.

"The Park Service graciously authorizes this annual event, but once it's over we need to open the entire beachfront back up to everyone."

For more information go to facebook.com/PTWServiceSandSculpture



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In Pentwater, pick door number three

BY DAVID L. BARBER
PTW COLUMNIST

The real prize that is Pentwater is tucked neatly behind door number three.

Door number one, of course, would be the downtown artery with its Village Green and all its restaurants, artisan specialty stores and the such, and what lies behind door number two would be the Charles Mears State Park and its golden beaches of Lake Michigan, though it could be debated those two doors might be interchangeable.

But what is revealed when door number three is opened is the real prize – Hancock Street and Hanover Street and Lowell Street and First, Second and Third Streets, and on and on.

And therein lies the heart and soul of Pentwater, what lives and breathes behind door number three.

Pentwater doesn't require much ink when being pinpointed on a map. In fact, it is so small that some maps ignore its location altogether.

It does, however, require a barrel of ink when writing about what's charming about the community, what's peaceful about it, and most importantly what's inviting about it.

To experience the latter – what's inviting about Pentwater – you need to get off its beaten path that takes you through the center of town and travel its secondary streets such as the aforementioned Hancock, Hanover and Lowell streets, and all the others such as First, Second and Third streets.

And it is on those streets that you'll find the charm and peacefulness of the lake-shore community lies in the homes of the people who call Pentwater home.

While visiting Pentwater the last week in June my wife and I traveled many of those "off the beaten path" roads, looking for flowers so Jeanne could take pictures for her photo essay, "Flower Power is alive and well in Pentwater."

We had no problem finding flowers, lots and lots of 'em – allium, daisies, marigolds, pansies, petunias, yellow daylilies and a bouquet of others. To say summer was in full bloom would be an understatement.

But the people were out, too. Some wa-

tering or mowing their lawns. Some sitting on their porches. Some standing in small groups talking with each other. Some walking dogs. Some riding bicycles.

All smiling and waving as we passed by them.

Pentwater is an "inviting" community, alright, small in size, big in charm and peacefulness.

For many, it is their summer retreat, their home-away-from home, their little slice of heaven, and so much more.

And for those like Jeanne and I who only pass through for one reason or another –

for one assignment or another – Pentwater is a place where we're left to feel as though we were personally invited to stop in and feel welcomed, because the welcome mat is always in place in Pentwater, in front of doors number one, number two and number three.

Editor's note: David L. Barber is a retired journalist living in Manistee. He will provide occasional feature stories and columns for various Shoreline Media publications, including the Ludington Daily News, Oceana Herald-Journal, LakeStyle Magazine and PTW Magazine. He can be reached at dlbarber1006@gmail.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

RECURRING EVENTS:

Pentwater Farmers Market – Mondays and Thursdays through September (Labor Day and 1st four Thursdays), 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Village Green

Civic Band Concerts – Thursdays through last Thursday before Labor Day, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., Village Green

Worship on the Green, Sundays, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., Village Green, 327 S. Hancock St., Pentwater

AUGUST

August 1 - C.O.V.E. Benefit Beach Walk/Run, 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., Charles Mears State Park, 400 W. Lowell St., Pentwater

August 2 - St. James Chicken Dinner, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., St. James Episcopal Church, 82 S. Wythe St., Pentwater

August 7 - 8 - Bronco Takeover, Golden Sands Golf and Bucket Bar, 2501 Wilson Rd., Silver Lake

August 8 - PSA/Bannik's Lines Down Salmon and Trout Tournament, weigh-in at 1 p.m., Pentwater Village Marina Gazebo

August 11 - 12 - Boater Safety Class, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., Pentwater Yacht Club, 205 S. Dover St., Pentwater

August 13 - 16 - Homecoming Celebration, downtown Pentwater

August 15 - 16 - Free ORV Weekend

August 21 - 22 - Pentwater Sidewalk

Sales, Downtown Pentwater

August 22 - 7th Annual Old School Buggy Meet, 12 - 4 p.m., Silver Lake Sand Dunes, 1765 N Lakeview Dr, Mears
Wooden and Classic Boat Show and Parade, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Pentwater Yacht Club, 205 S. Dover St., Pentwater
Pentwater Sportsfishing Association Super Mini Tourney, weigh-in at 1 p.m., Pentwater Village Marina

SEPTEMBER

September 5 - Pentwater Sportsfishing Association Regular Mini Tourney, weigh-in at 1 p.m., Pentwater Village Marina Gazebo

September 11 - 12 - 23rd Annual Apple and BBQ Festival, Golden Township Park at Silver Lake Sand Dunes, 8501 Silver Lake Rd., Mears

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