



Growing the faith

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Growing the faith at Pentwater's First Baptist Church

BY SHANNA AVERY
SHORELINE MEDIA STAFF WRITER

Founded in 1882, First Baptist Church has been a cornerstone of faith for generations of Pentwater families. Marking his first anniversary this month, Pastor Matt Seaver said he is grateful for the opportunity to support the spiritual growth of both the congregation and the wider community.

"It has been an incredible blessing to get to know the people of this church and become part of such a welcoming community," Seaver said, reflecting on the year since

he and his family moved to Pentwater.

Seaver graduated from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago with a bachelor's degree before earning a master's degree in local church ministries from Grace Theological Seminary.

"I sensed God's call into ministry at a young age. Throughout the years, He has continually confirmed that calling through opportunities to serve, faithful mentors and a growing desire to see people come to know Jesus and mature in their faith," Seaver said.

During the past 19 years, he has served

in a variety of ministry roles, including worship ministry, youth ministry and pastoral leadership.

"Serving as lead pastor at First Baptist Church has been a wonderful opportunity to bring together my passion for biblical preaching, shepherding people and leading Christ-centered worship," he said.

His years leading music continue to influence how he leads services today.

"Before becoming a lead pastor, I had the opportunity to serve in worship ministry and enjoy a season of traveling and playing music alongside artists such as Lincoln



Brewster, Chris August, We Are Messengers, Matt Maher and others,” Seaver said. “Those experiences allowed me to see how powerfully God uses music to encourage believers and point people to Christ.”

Today, he said, he enjoys combining those two passions.

“I love helping people engage with Scripture in practical ways while also drawing hearts to Christ through music,” Seaver said. “One of the things that made coming to First Baptist Church especially meaningful is that the church has long been known in the community as ‘the singing church.’ With my background in worship ministry, I couldn’t help but smile when I learned that. It felt like the Lord had been preparing both the church and me for this season of ministry together.”

After a year in Pentwater, Seaver said getting to know the congregation and community has been one of the greatest blessings.

“It has truly been a joy,” he said. “Pentwater is an incredibly friendly and welcoming community. From the day we arrived, people embraced our family with open

arms. We’ve loved getting involved in community events, meeting local families and serving alongside people who genuinely love both the Lord and this town.”

Visitors on Sunday, he said, will find a welcoming atmosphere.

“Our worship services include meaningful congregational singing, prayer, Scripture reading and practical, Bible-centered preaching that connects God’s Word to everyday life,” Seaver said. “We also provide nursery and children’s ministries during the service so families can worship with confidence, knowing their children are being cared for and taught God’s Word.”

The church primarily preaches through books of the Bible.

“Our messages address topics such as hope, joy, marriage and family, overcoming fear and anxiety, prayer, discipleship, forgiveness and living faithfully in today’s world,” Seaver said. “Above all, we strive to keep Jesus Christ at the center of every message because we believe He is the answer to life’s greatest needs.”

The church’s music ministry blends tradi-

tional hymns with modern worship songs.

“We are blessed with talented musicians and vocalists who faithfully lead our congregation in worship each week,” Seaver said. “Our desire isn’t to put on a performance but to help people worship the Lord together as one church family. One of my favorite moments each Sunday is simply hearing the congregation sing. It’s easy to understand why First Baptist has long been known as ‘the singing church.’”

Beyond Sunday services, the church participates in a variety of outreach efforts.

“Our heart is to reach people both locally and around the world,” Seaver said. “We support missionaries serving in many different countries and partner with ministries sharing the Gospel in places where it has never been heard.”

Locally, the church offers children’s and youth ministries, men’s and women’s Bible studies, community service projects and seasonal events designed to connect families with the church.

“We desire to be a church that not only gathers on Sundays but also serves our



community throughout the week,” he said.

Summer worship services are held at 9 and 10:30 a.m. Sundays. From September through May, Sunday school begins at 9:30 a.m., followed by worship at 10:30 a.m.

The church also offers a men’s summer Bible study at 8:30 a.m. Thursdays, a women’s summer Bible study at 7 p.m. Tuesdays, along with children’s, youth and seasonal ministry opportunities throughout the year.

“Whether you’ve attended church your whole life or have never stepped inside one before, you’re always welcome,” Seaver said. “We know visiting a new church can feel intimidating, but we want people to know they’ll be welcomed just as they are. Our desire is to be a place where people can encounter God’s truth, build meaningful relationships and grow in their faith.”

Looking ahead, Seaver hopes First Baptist continues serving the Pentwater community while expanding opportunities for outreach.

“Our prayer is that First Baptist Church continues to be a light in the Pentwater community,” he said. “We want to see lives transformed through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, families strengthened, young people disciplined and our church actively serving our neighbors.”

One of the things that has impressed him most, he said, is Pentwater’s strong sense of community.

“People genuinely care for one another, and we are grateful to be a small part of that,” Seaver said. “At First Baptist Church, our mission is simple: to love God, love people, faithfully teach the Bible and share the hope found in Jesus Christ. Whether

you’re searching for a church home, new to the area or simply visiting Pentwater, we’d be honored to welcome you. We believe church is more than a place to attend — it’s a family to belong to.”

Outside the church, Seaver said his family has embraced the area’s outdoor recreation.

“We’ve enjoyed taking our Polaris through the Silver Lake Sand Dunes, spending time at Pentwater Beach, sailing with the Pentwater Yacht Club and the Pentwater Junior Sailing Program, mountain biking, fishing and hunting,” he said. “Most of all, it has been a wonderful place to raise our five children. The people are what have made this place so special. It’s easy to see why so many families choose to make Pentwater home, and we feel incredibly blessed that God has led us here.”



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Beyond the Beach: Pentwater's Hands-On **Arts Scene**

BY SOPHIA MARVIN
SHORELINE MEDIA
CORRESPONDENT

Visitors may come to Pentwater for its beaches, harbor and boutiques, but many leave having painted pottery, sewn a quilt block, fused glass, decorated cookies or discovered an artistic hobby they never expected to try.

One business is the Painted Frog, a charming, blue building with a large frog sign out front, marking its presence in the town. The Painted Frog, owned by Michelle Manscombe, has been a part of the Pentwater art scene for the last seven years, as an art gift shop and offering art classes for people of all ages.

Manscombe is no stranger to the world of art.

"This place is kind of an accumulation of everything I've done through the years. Be it an exhibition, a gallery experience, a retail experience, teaching, or a lot of art stuff. I've taught probably every level, from crafts at senior centers to college level.

Originally from Dearborn, Michigan,

Manscombe has been in the area for almost 20 years, taught in the area, and did some art-type programs before opening her business.

She loves teaching her art classes and being able to work as an artist, and said, "finding that happy medium between making money with what you love and keeping your own passion and art alive" is incredibly important in her job.

Manscombe loves being able to give people who weren't artists before the confidence to pursue art.

"The classes have been great because I love getting someone who hasn't done a whole lot of art in their past and getting them to find that passion, then moving forward with it." The Painted Frog opens opportunities for collaboration with other artists, too, Manscombe said. "I have some local artists who have helped me tremendously. Ron Harris is up in Manistee; he does all the metal work for me. Bill Cox is a local artist; he does a lot of nature scenes and landscapes. Yumi, my friend, does all the origami."

Another business is Amy Shotwell's Sew

Let's Be Quilty. The business offers sewing and quilting classes, along with a wide array of fabrics, and any sewing/quilting products anyone would need. The shop celebrated its seventh anniversary recently.

Shotwell said about the beginning of the business, "We had 500 bolts of fabric, and now we have like 3,500 bolts."

She explained that younger generations are beginning to have an interest in handiwork activities, "hot girls have grandma hobbies," she said, pointing out a sign in her store, "younger people are getting back into doing sewing, needlework and hand work."

Taught to sew by her mother, she learned how to quilt through a quilting class, and eventually she was able to teach her mother how to quilt.

Her shop provides sewing and quilting classes for people interested in picking up the hobby. Pentwater has businesses involved in a Michigan shop hop; one of these businesses is Sew Let's Be Quilty, which has been a part of the shop hop for three years.

"The first year, we had a little over 3,000 people come into the shop in June and



July; that's more exposure for Pentwater," she explained. "This year, more people are coming back because they came the first two years. Now they're spending more time (in Pentwater)."

Jilly's Gallery, run by Jill Barnes, has been part of the community for more than 15 years. Before Pentwater, the gallery was in Muskegon for a decade.

A full-time artist of about 41 years, Barnes doesn't have a specific medium, she said. "The joy of the gallery is that I don't have a main one (medium). I have worked with clay, I still paint and draw, I work with glass."

Yet another Pentwater business offering art classes, Jilly's primarily offers glass classes. Barnes has lived on West Michigan beaches for almost her entire life, originally being born and raised in Muskegon, along the lakeshore.

"Moving up to Pentwater was easy," she described, "I live in the woods up here, and I love it. It's peaceful. Pentwater's great because you get a little bit of a break during the wintertime, so it's like a built-in sabbatical, which allows me to be an artist."

Barnes is also involved in life in Pentwater, too, as a member of the DDA (Downtown Development Authority) and working as a chairperson for Christmas in the village.

She likes being able to be one of the many businesses in town offering different needs for different people.

"I think it's kind of fun to give people the opportunity to come in and see what I do. I think with all the variety of businesses in Pentwater, it's amazing how many different

ones we have." "Not everyone just wants to hang out on their own and vacation at the beach," she said, "so by being somewhere you can come in and take a class, Pentwater offers something different."

Homebaked by Roxanne is a small, cozy bakery across the street from the Pentwater Municipal Marina. Owned by Roxanne Frame, the establishment has been open for four years. Frame began her professional baking journey through her interest in interior design: "I decided to take interior design into decorating cakes." After attending a couple of classes, she learned and triumphed at cake decorating.

Her own bakery once offered baking classes, something that she said she would be interested in bringing back.

Many of the goods in store are family and old recipes, such as the passies, which are made with homemade dough.

"My husband's grandmother was from Cornwall," she said, "she made the passies for the family all the time, so Bill (husband) kept that tradition going, and we decided to make passies." "We try to put each fruit out every day. Strawberry, blueberry, raspberry, cherry. We try to, you know, have something with each fruit in it."

Homebaked by Roxanne gives back to the community through donating goods to different charities.

"We take them to church all the time," she added, "we also try to provide a nice, positive atmosphere within the bakery for people to come and sit and work on their computers or, you know, talk with one another."

Pentwater doesn't just have small businesses based in the arts, but the Pentwater Arts Council, a nonprofit based in showcasing and bringing art to Pentwater and Oceana County. The Council promotes art education through teacher grants and a student art show in the spring. The Council also has different activities surrounding art, such as wine tasting and a fundraiser, and a featured artist program currently running that highlights local artists.

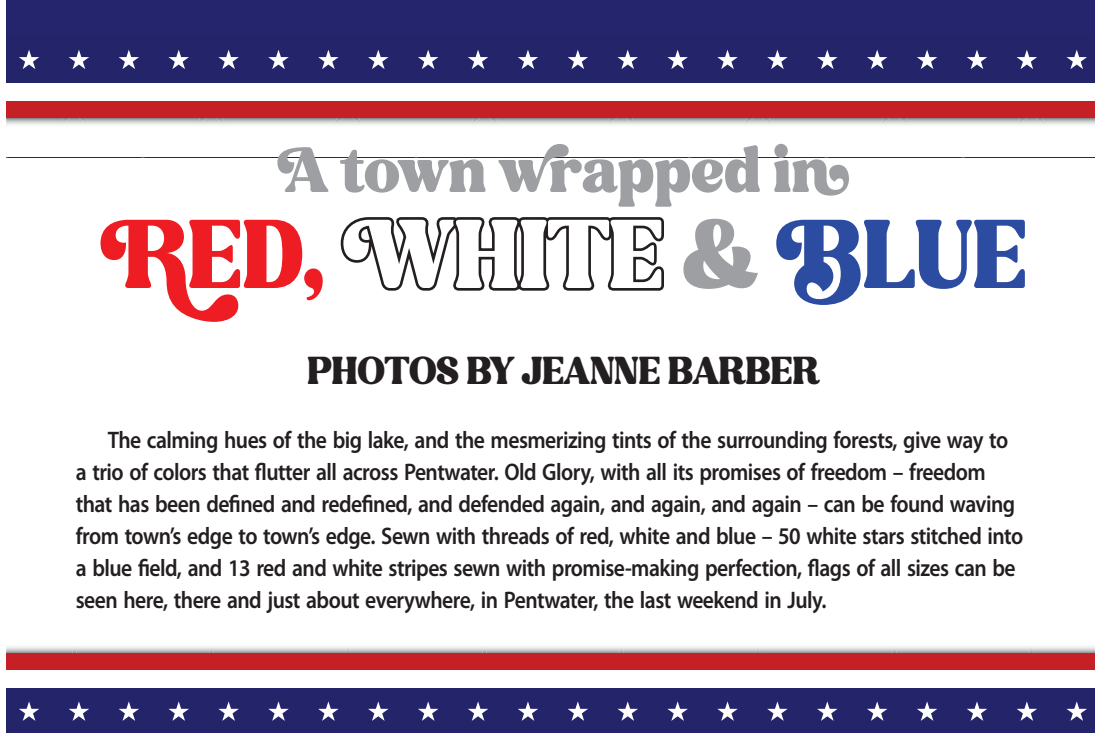
Judy Pazol, co-president of the council, said, "This year for the first time, we have had some of the students, our show winners, along with other community artists, featured in various locations."

Such locations include "Pentwater Library, Shelby Library and Hart Library," Janet Nelson, co-president, said, along with "art on the town, a gallery in Pentwater," and many other scattered locations.

A part of Pentwater since 2011, the organization became an official nonprofit in 2012. Since its beginning, it has helped promote the art scene in Pentwater through its work. A town that always drew in a lot of art-interested people." Janet said, creating an organization that would help artists in Pentwater seemed obvious.

This summer, the council plans to sponsor a field trip to the Chihuly exhibit at Frederick Meijer Gardens.

Judy added, "We have a new website, and we're trying to focus on West Michigan." "We just hope that people will look at West Michigan as being a magnet for people interested in the arts."



PHOTOS BY JEANNE BARBER

The calming hues of the big lake, and the mesmerizing tints of the surrounding forests, give way to a trio of colors that flutter all across Pentwater. Old Glory, with all its promises of freedom – freedom that has been defined and redefined, and defended again, and again, and again – can be found waving from town's edge to town's edge. Sewn with threads of red, white and blue – 50 white stars stitched into a blue field, and 13 red and white stripes sewn with promise-making perfection, flags of all sizes can be seen here, there and just about everywhere, in Pentwater, the last weekend in July.







Summer's best may still lie ahead

BY DAVID L. BARBER

The best of summer is yet to come in Pentwater, just ask Eva Gregwer.

"Summer doesn't have to end with a packed schedule," said Gregwer, executive director of the Pentwater Chamber of Commerce.

"Sometimes the best memories come from slowing down, enjoying the fresh air, supporting local businesses and appreciating everything Pentwater has to offer before autumn takes over."

As good as summer has been so far in this little lakeside town — and it has indeed been a good one — the best of the season could be delivered in the coming days.

What to do, what to do, before autumn unleashes all its splendor? Here are just a few suggestions from Gregwer:

- Spend a day at Charles Mears State Park and take one more swim and watch another sunset;
- Walk the channel and watch boats come and go;
- Enjoy a long walk through town and say hello to fellow walkers with their four-legged companions;

- Listen to live outdoor music at venues like Village Cafe and Gull Landing;

- Treat yourself to one (or two) more ice cream cones before the season ends;

- Hit the end-of-summer sales at local shops;

- Visit the Pentwater Farmers Market (continues through September) for fresh produce, flowers, sweet corn, honey, soaps, bagels, toffee, meats, fish, eggs, cheese, baked goods and more;

- Pack a picnic in one of Pentwater's parks with takeout from a local restaurant and a favorite beverage from Port View or Cenzo's;

- Book a charter fishing trip on Lake Michigan;

- Kayak or paddleboard the Pentwater River and Pentwater Lake;

- Take the family to the Pentwater Historical Museum or Up North Farm Market for interactive activities;

- Pick up a new book at the Pentwater Library or attend a book club meeting;

- Visit the galleries and discover artwork by regional artists;

- Treat yourself to a visit to a local salon;

- Enjoy coffee on a porch or in a park while watching the village wake up.

Gregwer also pointed out another Pentwater staple in a press release regarding the community's Farmers Market.

With the growing season at its peak, she said visitors will find an abundance of fresh, locally grown and produced items every Monday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Village Green in the center of town, where market shoppers can fill their baskets with seasonal favorites including sweet cherries, blueberries, lettuce, sweet corn, farm-fresh eggs, locally raised beef, artisan cheeses, fresh Great Lakes fish, cut flowers, homemade baked goods, honey, jams, coffee, tea, bagels, pizza, plants, soaps, lotions, dips and much more.

Every visit, she said, offers something new as local farmers and vendors bring the freshest products available throughout the summer.

For the fourth season, Green Isaac's Coffee & Tea is proud to serve as the grand sponsor of the Pentwater Farmers Market. Green Isaac's has become a gathering



place for locals and visitors alike, serving locally roasted coffee, tea, baked goods, breakfast burritos and light breakfast options seven days a week, year-round. Over the past three years, Green Isaac's has been roasting its own coffee right here in Oceana County and has developed 18 distinct roasts, each with its own unique character and flavor profile.

"While you're visiting the market, be sure to stop by the Pentwater Chamber booth to purchase a limited-edition Pentwater Farmers Market Bag," said Gregwer. "The reusable bags are available for \$20 each, with 100 percent of the proceeds benefiting the Pentwater Fireworks Fund. Supplies are limited, so shoppers are encouraged to purchase theirs while they last."

"The market is one of the best places to experience the flavors of summer in

Pentwater," she said. "Whether you're picking up ingredients for dinner, fresh flowers for your table or simply enjoying the atmosphere, there's something for everyone. We're grateful to Green Isaac's Coffee & Tea for their continued support and to everyone who purchases a market bag to help keep our fireworks tradition alive."

Also, Gregwer said, the Pentwater Historical Society has resumed its one-hour Hancock Street History Stroll on Mondays and Thursdays through Labor Day, beginning at 11 a.m. at the top of the Village Green.

Visitors, she said, will be led by a volunteer Pentwater Historical Society docent who will describe businesses and happenings on six blocks of Hancock Street over the years. Much of the narrative is drawn from past newsletters post-

ed on the Pentwater Historical Society website under the Research heading.

Visitors will stroll three blocks south on Hancock Street to Fifth Street, cross Hancock, walk four blocks north to First Street, cross Hancock again and end at the Village Green. Topics will include the great downtown fire of 1889, the "White Elephant," Pentwater's silent movie house, John Cahill's saloon, the "finger factory," the 400-seat Faulkner's Opera Hall, the murders of 1896, Esther Dempsey's information booth, why a big boulder was placed on the corner of Second and Hancock streets about 100 years ago, a hotel with an outdoor goldfish pond, an idea to build airplanes downtown and more.

For more information about the Pentwater Farmers Market and other upcoming events, visit pentwater.org.



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Pentwater Fall Festival extends the season, celebrates community

PENTWATER — Summer may be winding down, but one of Pentwater's busiest weekends is still to come.

The Pentwater Fall Festival Arts, Crafts & Antiques Fair returns Sept. 26-27, continuing a tradition that began 35 years ago with a simple goal: bring visitors back to the lakeshore community after Labor Day while supporting local businesses and celebrating artists and craftspeople.

That mission remains much the same today.

Each fall, the Village Green fills with artists, craftspeople and antique dealers while visitors stroll through downtown, browse local boutiques, enjoy meals at area restaurants and take in the views of Pentwater Lake and Lake Michigan that have long made the village one of West Michigan's favorite destinations.

The Pentwater Chamber of Commerce hosts the annual event, which has become one of the community's signature fall traditions.

*Annual arts, crafts
and antiques fair
brings visitors, supports
businesses and showcases
the best of autumn*

"This is a nice boost for our local shops," Chamber Executive Director Eva Gregwer said of the chamber's arts and crafts festivals. "It brings a lot of people to Pentwater."

More than an arts and crafts show, the festival serves as an economic boost for businesses as the busy summer tourism season gives way to autumn. Visitors often spend the day shopping downtown, enjoying local restaurants and exploring the waterfront before heading home.

The Village Green provides a setting unlike many other arts and crafts fairs, with mature shade trees, views of the marina and easy access to Pentwater's downtown business district.

"You can't beat the venue we offer, lake views and a beautiful park," Gregwer said.

The event also benefits local nonprofit organizations that provide food and refreshments throughout the weekend, raising money that supports community programs. In past years, proceeds have helped fund scholarships, youth activities,



community events and other local initiatives.

For many visitors, the festival has become an annual tradition. "We love opportunities to be doing things in the community of Pentwater," visitor Erin North of Okemos said during a previous festival. "I feel like Pentwater does a nice job of providing different things to see. I feel like every time we come here there are different events and opportunities to get out into the community."

The festival traces its roots to 1991, when organizers created the event to extend Pentwater's tourism season beyond Labor Day. More than three decades later, it continues to fulfill that mission, welcoming visitors during one of the most colorful times of the year along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

This year's festival is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27, on the Village Green in downtown Pentwater. Visitors can browse artwork, handmade crafts, antiques and specialty merchandise while exploring Pentwater's shops, restaurants and waterfront.



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The waterway that

BY LOIS TOMASZEWSKI

The summer bustle along the Pentwater Channel may quiet as autumn arrives, but there's still plenty of life along the water.

Charter captains head for Lake Michigan before sunrise as sailors, anglers, kayakers and families share the channel. Even as summer gives way to fall, there's still plenty of movement between Pentwater Lake and Lake Michigan.

Walk the channel on a September afternoon and you'll see anglers lining the seawall, people stopping to watch boats head toward Lake Michigan and families making one last trip to the beach before summer slips away. Sculptures along the walkway add another dimension to the waterfront before visitors continue to

the pier light and the sandy beaches of Charles Mears State Park.

The channel, stretching less than a mile between Pentwater Lake and Lake Michigan, has shaped nearly every chapter of the village's history.

For nearly 170 years, this narrow channel has connected Pentwater Lake with Lake Michigan. Over the years it has carried lumber schooners, commercial vessels, charter boats, sailboats and generations of families who return to the water every summer.

What visitors see today is only part of the story.

What the channel means depends on when you came to know it. Earlier generations watched lumber schooners load along the waterfront. Today, visitors are

more likely to remember salmon boats leaving before sunrise or evenings spent walking to the pier.

Long before Pentwater became known for its marinas, beaches and summer tourism, the community's future depended on finding a dependable connection between Pentwater Lake and Lake Michigan.

According to the Pentwater Historical Society, when Charles Mears arrived during the 1850s, the lake provided a protected harbor, but reaching Lake Michigan through the natural outlet was often unreliable. Moving lumber from the region's vast white pine forests to growing markets around the Great Lakes was difficult, limiting the area's commercial potential. Historical Society accounts



shaped Pentwater

credit Mears with financing construction of a man-made channel connecting Pentwater Lake with Lake Michigan around 1855, transforming what had been a small settlement into a working harbor.

As Michigan's lumber industry expanded, so did Pentwater. Schooners regularly loaded logs and finished lumber bound for communities across the Great Lakes. Sawmills, warehouses and businesses clustered along the waterfront, while workers, merchants and their families helped the village grow around an economy tied directly to the harbor.

The channel quickly proved too important to remain only a local undertaking. Records from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers show the federal government began improving Pentwater Harbor in

the late 1860s, eventually constructing and extending the protective piers that continue to define the harbor today.

Although the era of lumber schooners eventually passed, the channel remained as important as ever.

Commercial shipping gradually gave way to recreational boating, charter fishing and tourism. Instead of exporting lumber, the harbor welcomed visitors drawn by Lake Michigan, the village's walkable downtown and one of the region's most recognizable waterfronts.

Its history also explains why the harbor still requires constant attention.

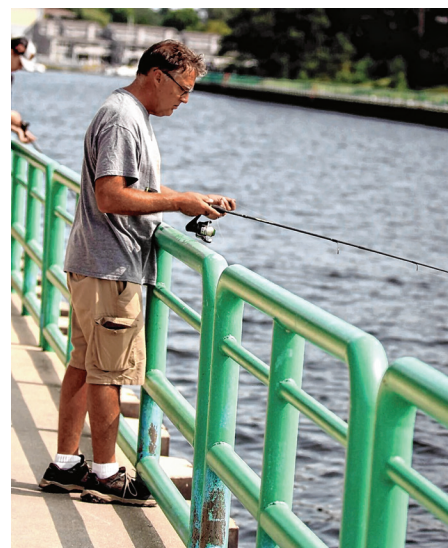
Nature never stops working

While Charles Mears created the channel, nature has spent nearly two centu-

ries trying to reshape it.

According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, wind, waves and currents continually move sand toward the harbor entrance, making periodic maintenance dredging necessary to keep the federally authorized navigation channel open. Without regular dredging, the navigation channel gradually becomes shallower, making it more difficult for recreational boaters, charter captains and other vessels to safely enter and leave Pentwater Lake.

The challenge extends beyond the water. Wind-blown sand collects on nearby roads, walkways, parking areas and portions of Charles Mears State Park, prompting local, state and federal partners to explore ways to reduce sand movement while preserving the shore-



line's natural character.

This summer, the Corps completed another maintenance dredging project at Pentwater Harbor, restoring the navigation channel and pumping sand south of the harbor to help nourish nearby Lake Michigan beaches.

Maintaining the channel has become part of Pentwater's story. Nearly 170 years after it was first carved through the dunes, it remains essential to the community that grew around it.

The Channel's Second Life

As Michigan's lumber era faded, the Pentwater Channel found a new purpose.

Commercial freighters gave way to sailboats, fishing boats and pleasure craft. Marinas replaced lumber docks as recreation and tourism became increasingly important to Pentwater's economy. The waterway that once shipped the products of Michigan's forests became the gateway for generations of visitors discovering Pentwater.

As the village evolved into a vacation destination, cottages appeared along the channel, tucked among the dunes and beach grasses overlooking the water. Many remain today, some still owned by the same families who have returned for generations, according to historical research and presentations shared by the Pentwater Historical Society. From their porches, they've watched the channel change with the times—from the last years of commercial shipping to the rise of recreational boating, charter fishing and the vibrant harbor visitors know today.

Over time, the channel became part

of everyday life in Pentwater. Children learned to fish from the seawall. Families spent summer afternoons on the water, and evenings often ended with a walk to the pier light to watch boats return from Lake Michigan.

The waterfront also became the setting for sailing regattas, fishing tournaments, visiting vessels and community celebrations that continue today. Whether gathering to welcome a historic ship, cheering tournament anglers returning with their catch or simply enjoying another Lake Michigan sunset, people have long found reasons to gather along the channel.

The Pentwater Yacht Club has played a central role in the village's boating culture since the early 20th century. In a history published by the Pentwater Historical Society, the club is described as "a place to socialize, enjoy various water sports, and create a sense of belonging." The history also notes that "Pentwater has been and will continue to be about community."

Charter fishing has become another defining chapter in the channel's story. Before sunrise during salmon season, charter captains idle toward Lake Michigan while anglers prepare for another day on the water. Throughout the summer and into early fall, fishing tournaments bring competitors from across the region, continuing a tradition that has drawn anglers to Pentwater for generations.

Sailboats continue to tack through the harbor, kayakers explore the quieter waters near shore and families launch pontoons for an afternoon on Pentwater Lake. Others simply find a place along

the seawall to watch the steady procession of boats moving between the lake and Lake Michigan.

More Than a Channel

Today, the channel serves a different purpose than it did during Pentwater's lumber days, but its importance to the village hasn't changed.

It created a harbor that helped build a community, supported an industry that shaped western Michigan and later became the centerpiece of a village known for recreation, hospitality and life on the water.

Today, the pace is different than it was during the lumber era. The sounds of sawmills have been replaced by gulls, boat engines and conversations drifting across the waterfront. Yet the connection between the village and the channel remains as strong as ever.

Walk the channel in September and you'll still find anglers casting from the seawall, visitors lingering at the pier and boats making their way toward Lake Michigan. The crowds may be smaller than they are in July, but the rhythm of the harbor continues.

Nearly 170 years after Charles Mears financed a passage through the dunes, the Pentwater Channel continues to connect Pentwater Lake with Lake Michigan, residents with visitors and the community with the history that shaped it.

For generations, the channel has welcomed those arriving by water and those who simply come to watch it. As seasons change and years pass, it remains what it has always been—the waterway that shaped Pentwater.



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PENTWATER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

RECURRING EVENTS:

PENTWATER FARMERS Market – Labor Day and 1st four Thursdays of September, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Village Green

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 5 - Pentwater Sport-fishing Association Regular Mini Tourney, weigh-in at 1 p.m., Pentwater Village Marina Gazebo

SEPTEMBER 6 - Worship on the Green, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., Village Green, 327 S. Hancock St., Pentwater

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

SEPTEMBER 18 - 19 - Luminous Trail – A Glow in the Park, 8 - 10:30 p.m., Charles Mears State

Park, 400 W. Lowell St., Pentwater

SEPTEMBER 19 - Stewardship Day: At the Beach, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Oceana County Beaches

SEPTEMBER 24 - Harvest Day, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Village Green, 231 Hancock St., Pentwater

SEPTEMBER 26 - 27 - Fall Fest Arts and Crafts Show, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Saturday) & 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Sunday), Village Green, 231 Hancock St., Pentwater

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 2 - Golden Fair Parade, downtown Mears

OCTOBER 10 - Oktoberfest, downtown Pentwater

OCTOBER 10 Stout Stumble 5K Walk and Run, 10 a.m., Pentwater

OCTOBER 10 Oktoberfest Classic Car and Hot Rod Show, 10 a.m. -

5 p.m., downtown Pentwater

OCTOBER 24 - Spooktacular, 12 p.m., Village Green, 231 Hancock St., Pentwater

OCTOBER 31 - Trick or Treating, 5 - 7 p.m., Pentwater Village

OCTOBER 31 - Free Homemade Donuts - Trick or Treating, 5 p.m.,



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