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PENTWATER MAGAZINE

MAY 2026



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COSMIC CANDY  
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AND COSMIC  
CANDY  
COMPANY  
WILL BE  
'LOST IN  
TASTE'**

**BY  
DAVID BARBER  
PHOTOS BY  
JEANNE BARBER**





BY DAVID L. BARBER

Ginormous candy jawbreakers, larger than baseballs, harder than pool table cue balls and weighing as much as a bag of 50 golf balls – the latter figures to be about five pounds – tease and test the most daring and enameled sweet tooth.

Sparkling soft drinks, tinged with all the colors of a rainbow and stirred with all the flavors of a fruit basket, are just as pleasing, while fancifully flavored popcorn – red and green Christmas Crunch, Cranberry Pecan, Peppermint Stick, Angry Pickle, Birthday Cake, Cosmic Crunch, Dill Pickle, Loaded Baked Potato, Sugar Cookie, Gingerbread Cookie, Caramel Cashew, Pentwater Style and more – are served up to satisfy both your imagination and your taste buds.

Welcome to the Pentwater Popcorn and Cosmic Candy Company, located in the heart of the coastal community that bears its name, and home to all the aforementioned sweet treats and so much more.

This year will be extra special because the store will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a “Lost in Taste” experience, a play on the “Lost in Space” television phenomenon of the mid 1960s. And that fits in perfectly since the word “Cosmic” is etched on the store’s calling card.

Josh Niswonger, general manager, said he and his 15 employees who staff the store during its peak summer season said

“... we are celebrating our 20th year – 20 years of ‘Lost in Taste’ – so for sure (we’ll have that ‘Lost in Space’ look).”

“It’s ultra-important to be able to see all our customers’ faces, and to be able to recognize those people who come in here, year after year,” he said.

“Lost in Taste?” You bet.

Not only does the store offer an assortment of “Cosmic Candy” that’s out of this world, but there’s ice cream, too, buckets and buckets of it, and on a hot day along the lakeshore that ice cream becomes a “must have” favorite of everyone.

There’s the world’s hottest Gummy Bear, too; toasted nuts; creamy fudge;



more than 60 flavors of saltwater taffy (bins and bins line one wall from the floor to eye-level and higher); a seemingly endless supply of shoestring licorice; everybody’s favorite suckers, some of which are filled with crickets, scorpions, and more. Oh yeah, much, much more.

There’s also “sweet, sour and earthy ...not just for the birds” earthworms, Cricket Lickit Suckers, and other such delicacies, all of which “dare you to eat” ‘em.

Of course there’s plenty of “Retro” candy, too – old-time candy for old-fashioned people – including jelly beans, Pez candy and collectible plastic dispensers, Kit Kat candy bars, M& Ms, old-time gum including Beemans, Black Jack, Clove, and more, reminding us all that some sweet treats will live forever to satisfy our childhood sweet treat cravings, no matter our age.

A few weeks back, as the winds of winter were bowing out and the breezes of spring were making their entrance into this coastal community that draws tens of thousands of pleasure-seeking visitors every spring and summer, downstaters Nathan Perryman and Ali Mullins found themselves in awe – again – of the flavored popcorn section of the store.

“This has always been my childhood vacation spot,” said Nathan. “We’d come here, all the time, and of course you can’t come back (to Pentwater) without coming in here and getting your popcorn, or

something else.

“I haven’t been here in many weeks, but it’s like coming home.”

Marianna Lopez, assistant manager at the store, smiled as she watched Nathan and Ali stroll through the store, zeroing in on the popcorn section.

“It’s always fun meeting our customers, so many come back year after year,” she said. “Even though we only see them a

few times each year, we get to know them by name, and that’s always nice.”

For added fun, you can be greeted at the door by the 1988 friendly fortune-teller co-star of the Tom Hanks movie, “Big” – Zoltar.

With a friendly staff that’s kept busy during the bustling summer months – many have been with the company for years – long lines of eager visitors seeking sweet, salty and other tasty treats

sometimes stretch out the door and down the street – 168 Hancock Street, to be exact.

The Cosmic Candy Company’s website tells readers, in part, “... we have only taken the very best of candy stores from days gone by and created an experience that will give you a blast from the past and will rocket you into the future ... you can find people of all ages visiting the stores, adults looking for that sweet candy of their past to kids looking for some sugar. It’s all here; sweet candy, fantastic popcorn, creamy fudge, and even unique gift baskets.”

For more information call (231) 869-4852.



## A VILLAGE IN MOTION:

# News Highlights from Fall into Spring

*From leadership changes and infrastructure investments to community milestones and economic growth, a look at the developments shaping the village from late 2025 into early 2026*

### SHORELINE MEDIA STAFF REPORTS

PENTWATER — A review of a few of the highlights of the news from Pentwater in 2025 shows a year marked by leadership changes, institutional restructuring and continued investment in the community's future, with several developments carrying into early 2026.

#### Pentwater District Library established

The Pentwater Township Library be-

came the Pentwater District Library on Oct. 17, 2025, following nearly two years of planning between Pentwater Township and Pentwater Public Schools under Michigan's District Library Establishment Act of 1989.

The change expands the library's service area to align with Pentwater Public Schools boundaries, adding 729 residents from Weare Township and modestly increasing funding through state aid and penal fines, according to library officials.

"The Pentwater District Library is still your hometown library," Director Mary Barker said, noting the additional funding will support programs, collections and technology.

Officials said services, hours and patron accounts remain unchanged.

The library, established in 1855, marked 170 years of service earlier in 2025.

Mary Barker at library welcoming people

#### Leadership transition in village government

The Village of Pentwater also saw a change in leadership in 2025 following the resignation of Village Manager Rachel Witherspoon in August after less than a year in the role.

Witherspoon served from Oct. 1, 2024, to Aug. 12, 2025. During her tenure, the village advanced several initiatives, including a nearly completed \$7 million water project, the establishment of its first code enforcement program and securing \$2.2 million in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funding for Pentwater Harbor, according to village records.

Following her departure, Zoning Administrator James "Toby" Van Ess was appointed interim manager and later selected for the permanent position.

The council voted unanimously to offer Van Ess the position following a public interview process in September.

#### Long-term recreation planning

Pentwater Township advanced its 2025-2030 parks and recreation plan during the year, outlining priorities such as waterfront access improvements, trail development and preservation of natural resources.



Township planning documents indicate the plan is intended to guide future development and support applications for state and federal recreation funding.

#### Business activity reflects regional reach

Pentwater's tourism-based economy also showed signs of continued strength in late 2025.

Pentwater-based boutique Linabella expanded operations with the opening of a second location in Manistee, adding year-round retail presence beyond the village, according to chamber and business information.

Entrepreneurial activity also remained active, with Rizzo's Bread — which operates pop-ups in Pentwater and surrounding communities — winning the \$5,000 top prize at the Momentum 5x5 Business Pitch Competition, administered by the Chamber Alliance of Mason County. Judges cited the business's potential for wholesale expansion and its ability to fill a niche in the regional market.

The award supports plans to expand product offerings and pursue a future brick-and-mortar location.

#### Tourism and community events remain strong

Pentwater's identity as a tourism destination remained a defining feature in 2025, with major annual events continuing to draw visitors.

The Pentwater Homecoming celebration returned in the summer with parades, fireworks and community activities, according to village event records.

Seasonal events such as Brews & Beats and Oktoberfest also remained part of the annual calendar, helping extend visitor traffic beyond peak summer months.

#### Education and athletics contribute to community identity

Pentwater Public Schools continued

to play a central role in community life.

District communications show student participation in regional academic and arts programming, along with recognition in athletics and extracurricular programs.

In August, Pentwater golf coach Alicia Kolenda was named Regional Coach of the Year by the Michigan Golf Coaches Association, according to school and association information.

During the 2025-26 season, boys basketball coach Ashley Lubera reached a career milestone with her 200th win, according to school athletic records. Lubera has led the varsity boys program for 17 years and has guided the team to multiple conference and regional titles.

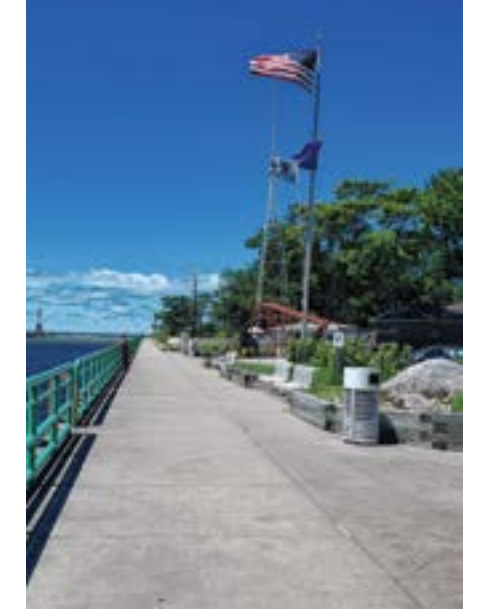
#### Museum expansion campaign advances

In early 2026, the Pentwater Historical Society reported progress on its museum expansion campaign, with nearly \$1 million raised toward a \$1.5 million goal, according to a Jan. 3 update from the organization.

With capital costs within reach, the group is moving through village approvals to begin construction, with activity expected in spring and summer 2026. The museum is expected to remain open during the building process.

The organization also acquired a neighboring property using donated funds, which will be incorporated into the expanded campus.

#### Harbor funding highlights early 2026 activity



Legislation passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in early 2026 includes \$1.666 million for dredging at Pentwater Harbor, according to federal appropriations documents and statements from U.S. Rep. John Moolenaar.

The funding supports maintenance of the federally authorized navigation channel, which connects Lake Michigan to Pentwater Lake and is maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District.

Pentwater Harbor has an authorized depth of about 12 feet, and sediment buildup requires periodic dredging to maintain safe navigation for recreational boaters, charter fishing vessels and other traffic tied to the local tourism economy, according to the Corps.

#### A period of transition and continuity

Taken together, developments from late 2025 through early 2026 reflect a balance of change and stability for Pentwater.

Structural shifts, including the transition to a district library model and changes in village leadership, point to long-term planning and governance evolution. At the same time, continued investment in recreation, harbor infrastructure and community assets underscores the village's ongoing role as a vibrant lakeshore community.

**Editor's Note:** This roundup is based on local reporting by the staff of the Ludington Daily News and the Oceana's Herald-Journal, unless otherwise noted.

# Reflections on 30 years of Flygirls and a lifetime on the water



*An interview with local fly-fishing legend, Dorothy Schramm*

BY CRISTINA JUSKA

Flygirls of Michigan is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and an affiliate of Fly Fishers International (FFI). Its mission is to provide women with educational, recreational and stewardship opportunities in the sport of fly fishing. The organization is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

PTW Magazine sat down with one of Flygirls' founders, Pentwater resident Dorothy Schramm, to learn more about the organization and how it came to be.

Schramm is a former FFI Fisher of the Year (1998) and, more recently, received the 2025 FFI Fly Fishing Skills Education Award.

According to FFI, "Dorothy Schramm is the very embodiment of a teacher. A founding member of the West Michigan Hacklers and a driving force behind Flygirls of Michigan, her legacy spans decades of mentorship, instruction and encouragement. From casting and rod building to

fly tying and beginner schools, Dorothy has always been the first to volunteer and the last to stop teaching. Her passion, patience and generosity have inspired countless fly fishers along the way."

## FORMATIVE YEARS

Before the accolades, she was a girl who learned to fish with her dad in Madison, Wisconsin.

"As a young child, I was a hellion," Schramm said.

"I really was a handful, and my father would love to fly fish. He'd say to my mother — I'm only like 3 years old — 'How about if I get her out of your hair for the day?' And he'd take me with him."

Water continued to play an important role throughout her childhood, with four lakes near her home.

"Back then, the kids would just disappear, and you didn't worry about them," Schramm said. "My parents knew that I would be on one of those four lakes, and come dinner time, I'd be home."



*Flygirls*



Later, as a busy young mother - "I had rugrats," Schramm said - she recalls reading Steve Hopkins' weekly outdoors column in the Wisconsin State Journal, which helped draw her back into the sport.

"His writing inspired me," she said, and she decided to take a fly-tying class. "I'm a crafter and a little-detailed person, and I just absolutely loved it." It wasn't long before she was back on the water, borrowing equipment for a year until she could save enough grocery money to buy her own rod and reel.

"I would get my kids on the school bus, and I could drive west out of Madison, 25 minutes up to two hours, and it was just solid rivers!" Schramm said.

"Then I'd be home before the kids got off the school bus."

Schramm moved to Michigan in 1990 and married her second husband, Jim Schramm, in 1991.

#### FLYGIRLS IS FORMED

Schramm and fellow angler Ann Miller founded Flygirls of Michigan in 1996. The two met at an FFI Midwest regional meeting a couple of years earlier.

"There were 80 people at that lodge," Schramm said. "And there were only two women there."

She was used to being the only woman in the room and was thrilled to connect with Miller. They bonded over their shared love of fly fishing and their desire to help more women get involved.

In the '90s, Schramm said, the sport was rising in popularity, and fly shops were popping up across Michigan. She and Miller began teaching women's seminars and collecting names and addresses of attendees. They sent out about 330 surveys asking, "Would you be interested in joining a women's fly fishing organization?"

Three hundred surveys came back — a

response rate that's nearly unheard of — and the answer was a resounding yes.

"All the women wanted to meet other women that fly fished, and they wanted to have the opportunity to learn more about the sport," Schramm said.

It was decided early on that Flygirls would have a single-gender purpose but open membership.

"Anyone who wants to join us to help us with our mission of getting women comfortable on the water and having a place to go and learning more is welcome," Schramm said.

They also decided not to have meetings. "Women are too busy to go to meetings," Schramm said. "Who wants to go to a meeting?" Instead, Flygirls would focus on fishing outings and educational opportunities.

The group hosts classes covering casting, wading, fly tying, insect identification, knots and rigging, rod building and other aspects of the sport. Members range from beginners to seasoned anglers, and all are welcome. Outings can be daylong, week-end-long or extended fly-fishing trips.

Schramm fondly remembers a Flygirls trip to Argentina in the early 2000s — it had been her dream to fish there — during which she spotted a father and his young daughter on the river. The man pointed to her Flygirls hat, saying, "Internet." He'd heard of the group online. Schramm gave her hat to the little girl.

#### PRESENT-DAY REFLECTIONS

These days, Schramm and Miller are still involved in Flygirls. Turning 80 this year, Schramm has slowed down a little but still finds joy in helping out whenever she can.

"I love doing a clean-up," she said. "Seeing everyone put their key in their car and leaving and they're happy."

Miller has published books about the insects the sport revolves around, with hatching charts so fly fishers can learn

which type of fly to use when.

"It's like flowers in your garden; they all come up at different times," Schramm said. "The insects come off at different times of year." She said she has learned the Latin and common names of the flies over the years, but that's not necessary to enjoy the sport. "Fish don't understand Latin," she said.

And while fly fishing can be an expensive hobby, Schramm says it doesn't have to be. She has become a minimalist, preferring to land fish without a net and carry only what's necessary.

"You can be a gear junkie, and that just gets in your way. It actually keeps you from fishing, and you have to carry a whole lot, so it weighs you down," she said. "In the end, you're trying to outsmart something with a brain the size of the tip of your little finger. You know, what do you need?"

When asked to share some of her favorite fly-fishing spots near Pentwater, Schramm replied with all seriousness, "I don't name spots. Never name the river." She's not trying to be secretive, she said, but, "Half the joy of the sport is picking up your map and looking at a blue line and driving to find it."

She says fly fishing to her has always been about "what's around the bend. You know, you're fishing, you're fishing, but there's a bend in the river. What's around the bend? What's there to steal your heart?"

After dedicating most of her life to advancing the sport, she feels, "The one thing that is very rewarding to me is being around people that have enthusiasm," Schramm said. "I could say I volunteered my life away, but I received far more than what I gave."

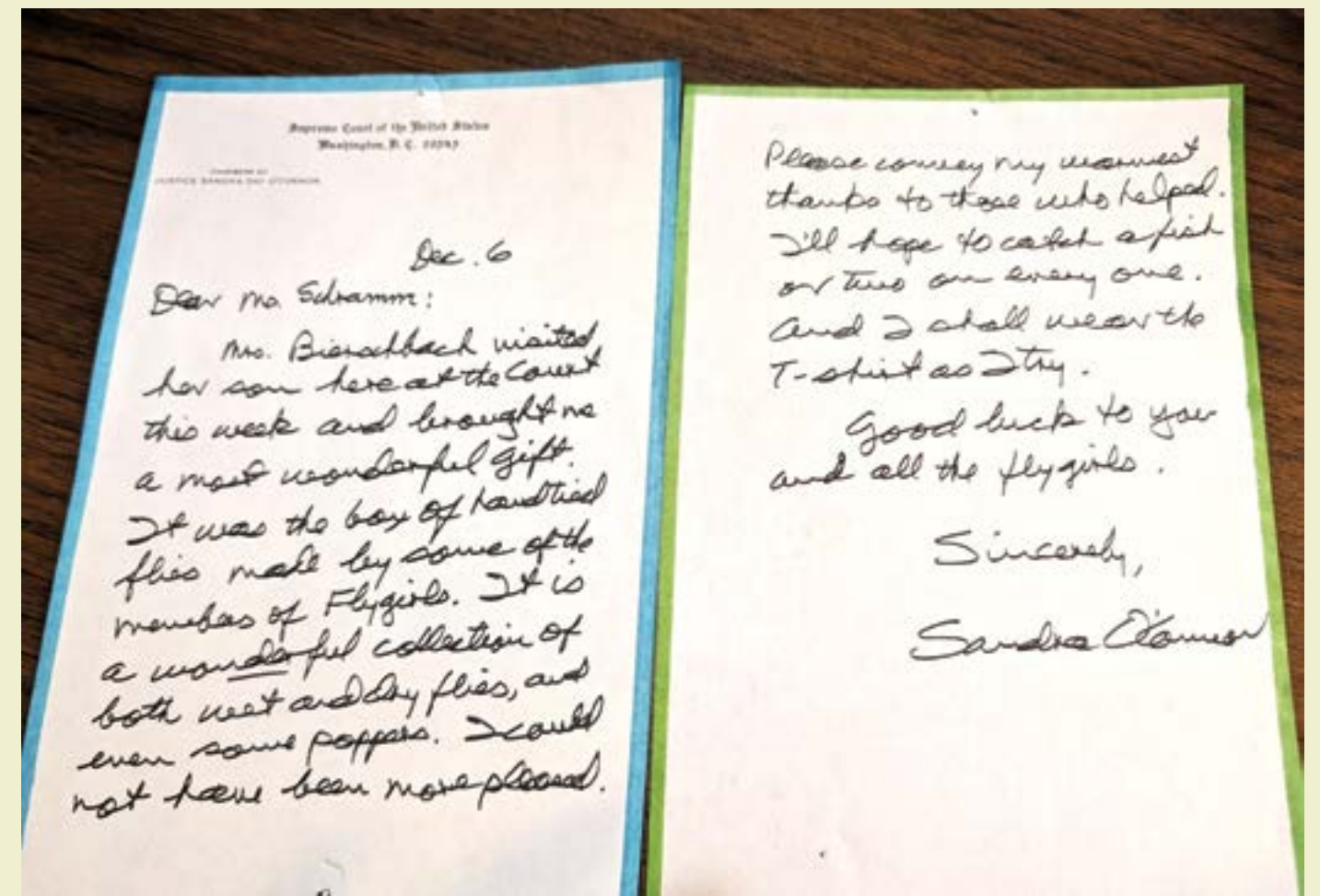
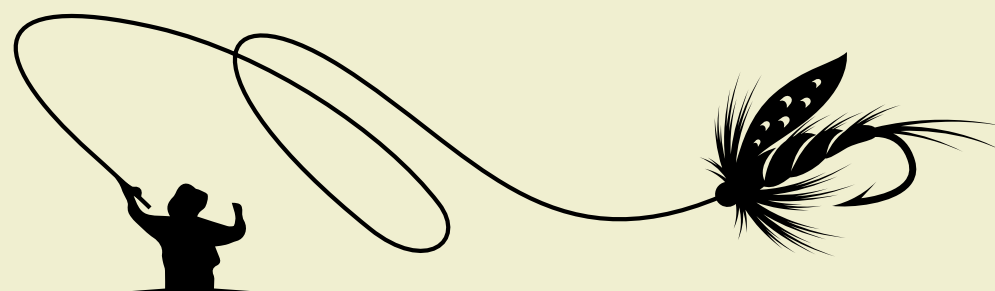
Below: letter from Sandra Day O'Connor



#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Flygirls of Michigan or to join, visit <https://flygirls.ws/>.

The West Michigan Hacklers, a local fly-fishing club started by Schramm, meets the first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m., at the Crystal Valley Town Hall.



# SPRING IS IN THE AIR, PENTWATER

PHOTO ESSAY BY JEANNE BARBER

Finally, the winds of winter have taken their seasonal hiatus, or at least let's hope so. And as spring has returned to our little corner of the world – paradise, to be sure – let us welcome back those tiny ducklings and other winged wonders as they pop their heads up here and there; and swimmers (waders, really) who bravely test the still chilled water of Lake Michigan at the Charles Mears State Park; and hometown families who snap cherished photos of their loved ones at Pentwater High School graduation; and sailboats that have returned to Pentwater Lake and Lake Michigan; and shoppers who've returned to our quaint and friendly downtown area, and so much more. Indeed, let us be glad that spring is in the air!



# PENTWATER COMMUNITY

# CALENDAR

**Editor's note:** This calendar reflects the best available information at publication deadline. Some organizations finalize summer event dates later in the spring. For updates, readers should check with the sponsoring organization.

## MAY

### Mondays (weekly)

#### Game Day at the Library

Pentwater Township Library • 402 E. Park St. • 3–7 p.m. Drop-in board games, cards and socializing for adults and families.

#### Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays (weekly) Chair Yoga

- Pentwater Township Library • 9:45 a.m. Gentle exercise classes focusing on flexibility, balance and relaxation.

#### First and Third Tuesdays Technology Help Sessions

Pentwater Township Library • 1–2 p.m. Library staff assist with smartphones, tablets, laptops and general technology questions.

#### Second Monday of the Month Library Book Club

Pentwater Township Library. Community book discussion

group featuring a selected title each month.

### May 22–25, 2026

#### Memorial Weekend Amateur Salmon & Trout Fishing Derby

Pentwater Harbor and Lake Michigan. Hosted by the Pentwater Sportfishing Association, the annual tournament awards prizes in categories including salmon, lake trout, steelhead and brown trout.

### May 25, 2026

#### Pentwater Memorial Day Parade

Downtown Pentwater • 10 a.m. Community parade honoring military veterans and marking the beginning of the summer season.

#### Late May (seasonal opening) Pentwater Historical Museum Opens for Summer

- Pentwater Historical Society Museum • 85 S. Rutledge St. Seasonal hours typically begin in late May with exhibits highlighting the village's maritime history, resort heritage and early settlement.

## JUNE

### Beginning June 1, 2026

#### Pentwater Farmers Market

Village Green • Mondays & Thursdays • 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Seasonal market featuring regional produce, baked goods, flowers, honey, crafts and artisan products.

### June 7, 2026

#### Start of Summer Party

Village Green • 5–7 p.m. Community potluck celebration hosted by the Pentwater Service Club with support from the village and Downtown Development Authority. Attendees bring a dish to share while organizers provide hot dogs and bottled water.

### Mid-June (date varies)

#### Pentwater Public Schools Graduation

Pentwater High School. Annual commencement ceremony for graduating seniors of Pentwater Public Schools.

### June 20–21, 2026

#### Spring Fest Arts, Crafts & Antiques Fair

Village Green. More than 100 artists and vendors display handmade crafts, artwork and antiques during the annual early-summer festival sponsored by the Pentwater Chamber of Commerce. Saturday: 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Sunday: 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

### June (late month – summer series begins)

#### Pentwater Civic Band Summer

### Concerts

Village Green Bandshell • Thursdays • 7:30 p.m. The long-running community band performs weekly concerts throughout the summer.

### June 24, 2026

#### Women's Pentwater Tennis Mixer

Pentwater Tennis & Pickleball Club • 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Friendly round-robin tennis event bringing together regional club players.

## ONGOING SUMMER ACTIVITIES

### Pentwater Historical Society Programs

Pentwater Historical Museum, Rotating exhibits, historical displays and occasional walking tours exploring the village's history.

### Pentwater Yacht Club Sailing Season

Pentwater Yacht Club • Pentwater Lake. Seasonal sailing activities, youth instruction and social events for members.

### Charter Fishing Season

Pentwater Harbor / Lake Michigan. Charter boats operate throughout spring and summer targeting salmon and trout.



### Charles Mears State Park Beach Season

Pentwater shoreline. Swimming, boating and outdoor recreation increase as summer visitors arrive.

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# BREWS, BEATS

## AND THE VILLAGE GREEN:

### *How Pentwater Welcomed the Season*



**BY LOIS TOMASZEWSKI**  
SHORELINE MEDIA EDITOR

PENTWATER — The sound of live music drifted across the Village Green as the first glasses of craft beer were raised beneath a bright spring sky. Visitors wandered between tasting tents, stopping to talk with brewers, sample a new cider or simply take in the view of Pentwater Lake just steps away. For many in the crowd, it felt like the unofficial start of summer along the lakeshore - and it was a scene that came about exactly as envisioned years ago.

Brews & Beats returned to downtown Pentwater on May 2, transforming the village's central park into a celebration of Michigan craft beverages and music. Organized by the Pentwater Chamber of Commerce, the afternoon festival brought together breweries, wineries and cider producers from around the state for an event that blended tasting experiences with live entertainment and small-town atmosphere that makes Pentwater one-of-a-kind.

"In its inaugural year, Brews & Beats be-

came the first Craft Beer, Wine, and Cider Festival in Pentwater," chamber representatives said in announcing the event. "Brews & Beats returned for a celebration of Michigan craft beverages and music."

#### **A FESTIVAL BUILT AROUND PLACE**

From the beginning, organizers envisioned an event that reflected Pentwater's character as a walkable harbor community where gatherings naturally happen outdoors. And that happens organically on any season's visit to the village.

"Brews & Beats created a relaxed atmosphere focused on great beer, local businesses and excellent music," the chamber said. "Locals and visitors alike were excited to kick off the season while enjoying the finest beverages in the area."

The Village Green proved to be the ideal venue. Surrounded by downtown storefronts and offering views of the harbor, the open lawn allowed attendees to move easily between tasting stations, music performances, yard games and nearby restaurants and shops.

"The outdoor venue of the Village Green in the heart of downtown with lake views is the perfect place for all to come enjoy this new tradition in Pentwater," the chamber said.

#### **MICHIGAN CRAFT IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

Breweries from across Michigan poured specialty brews throughout the afternoon, joined by wineries and cideries showcasing their products. More than 20 breweries participated, offering everything from crisp lagers and hop-forward IPAs to seasonal and small-batch releases.

Festivalgoers purchased advance tickets that included a commemorative tasting glass and several drink samples, with additional tasting tokens available during the event, thus satisfying the "Brews" part of the event.

Food trucks and yard games added to the relaxed festival atmosphere. Local live music performances contributed the "Beats" portion of the event and provided a steady soundtrack throughout the afternoon.



**A GROWING LAKESHORE TRADITION**

Brews & Beats tapped into Michigan's expanding craft beverage scene, which has become a major draw for tourism across the state. Pentwater's version stood out for its intimate setting and scenic location.

"As beer festivals become more popular, we are committed to providing the best experience for our vendors, sponsors and festival attendees," the chamber said in previous reporting..

The festival also helped bring early-season visitors to the village, providing a boost for local shops and restaurants as Pentwater began transitioning into its busy summer months. It is the spark to a season filled with community, fun, and an easy summertime mood that does indeed go with the flow.

Organizers said interest in the event had continued to grow.

"Anticipation for Brews & Beats continues to grow," the chamber said.

**A SIGN THAT SUMMER IS NEAR**

By midafternoon, clusters of visitors gathered on the grass, tasting glasses in hand as music carried across the park.

Conversations flowed easily between friends, brewers and newcomers discovering Pentwater for the first time.

In a lakeshore community where seasonal traditions shape the rhythm of the year, Brews & Beats had quickly found its place — not just as a tasting event, but as a shared moment marking the return of spring and the promise of summer along the harbor.



*Pentwater Chamber events: May-October*

Although the annual Brews & Beats is described as the prelude to the busy season, there are many more opportunities to join in the Pentwater spirit. The Pentwater Chamber of Commerce organizes a series of seasonal events throughout the year, drawing visitors to the village from spring through fall.

**MAY**

Brews & Beats — Village Green  
 Craft beer, wine and cider festival featuring Michigan beverages and live music.

**JUNE**

Pentwater Community Garage Sale — Villagewide  
 Spring Festival Arts, Crafts & Antiques Show — Village Green

Pentwater Chamber Golf Outing — Lakeside Links Golf Club

**JULY 3**

Pentwater Fireworks Celebration — Harbor area

**AUGUST**

Pentwater Homecoming Celebration  
 The village's largest annual event featuring parades, concerts and community traditions.

**SEPTEMBER**

Harvest Day — Village Green

**LATE SEPTEMBER**

Fall Festival Arts, Crafts & Antiques Fair — Village Green

**OCTOBER**

Pentwater Fall Fest — Downtown Pentwater  
 Seasonal celebration featuring autumn activities, vendors and family events.

**NOVEMBER**

Pentwater Christmas Open House — Downtown Pentwater  
 Holiday shopping event with participating local businesses.

**DECEMBER**

Pentwater Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa Visit — Village Green  
 Community tree lighting ceremony welcoming the holiday season.  
 Christmas in the Village — Downtown Pentwater  
 Holiday festivities including seasonal activities and shopping throughout the village.



# The charming history of COTTAGES ALONG THE CHANNEL

BY SHANNA AVERY  
SHORELINE MEDIA STAFF WRITER

Cottages along the channel in Pentwater, such as Greynook and Breezewood, stand as a testament to time — abounding with countless memories throughout the decades.

When it comes to these cottages, locals think of the accomplished Alberta Leonora Miller.

Bertie, as she was called by family, but most often called Peggy by others, was born in Elizabethtown, Illinois, in 1880, one of 16 children.

Peggy was a music major, attending DePauw University. A child prodigy piano player, she also composed music. She married Samuel Ruick, a young attorney, on May 25, 1899. He graduated from Yale and took an additional

year of study at DePauw. It was said Peggy was ahead of her time in striving for independence and financial security.

According to a historical writing, “A Woman Ahead of Her Time,” by Milford M. (Tim) Miller, a great-nephew of “Aunt Peggy,” as he called her, he relates: “I don’t know how Aunt Peggy became acquainted with Pentwater. Family lore suggests that an uncle took several nieces and nephews on an excursion of several Great Lakes ports, and Pentwater simply never thereafter was far from Bertie’s thoughts.”

He also said, “Bertie was ahead of the times. She invested her money in real estate. Her first purchase in Pentwater was the cottage now known as Greynook. I have not done a

search of real estate records, though I believe that when Aunt Peggy purchased it, the cottage was called Got ‘Em Again and was essentially a fisherman’s shack.”

Peggy purchased property along the channel in 1915 from Carrie Mears. Originally, inspection of the west and east walls of the Greynook cottage suggested large doors existed on both walls, indicating that it likely started out as a boat shack. The front and north additions were added a short time later, as well as the back bathroom and the upper sleeping room. The east bedroom and full bath were added around 1950.

Over several years, Peggy built more cottages on the land, including Beechnuts (now known as Breezewood), Paddle Inn, Tuck-A-Way and Ship’s Ahoy. In 1930, just west of Breezewood, Driftwood was constructed. It was said it was built by a crew from Purdue University. This was built on state land, and Peggy obtained a lifetime lease to the Driftwood land, which would end when she sold the cottages.

Breezewood (originally Beechnuts) was built around 1930 and was Peggy’s personal residence, as she would travel from her home in Indiana, along with her housekeeper, to spend summers in Pentwater. A structure called a “cabana” existed where the garage now sits, which served as the residence for the housekeeper.

Peggy also had a driver, John, who lived in a building along the north side of the driveway. He drove her around in a station wagon with an exterior wood body. Family



members remember “Breezewood” was painted in gold letters on the front doors of the vehicle. Some thought this was how Breezewood got its name, or possibly it was named for one of Peggy’s prize-winning Samoyed dogs.

Where the eating area off the kitchen currently stands was once a screened-in back porch. The enclosed front room also was originally a screened-in porch. There were six sleeping rooms, one of which was converted into a laundry room in 1975. The prized dogs had a kennel and dog run

on the east side of the cottage. There’s a picture on the wall of Breezewood showing the dog pen.

The other cottages — Paddle Inn, Tuck-A-Way and Ship’s Ahoy — are all located east of Greynook. She would rent the five cottages, which were popular due to their proximity to the state beach. Around 1960, she sold Tuck-A-Way to George Tubich and Paddle Inn to Dr. Ray Taylor, both public health officers based in Lansing. They had rented the cottages as early as 1947 while inspecting factories, foundries and farms in western Michigan. Dr. Taylor, who died in 1963, has grandchildren who continue to stay in Paddle Inn when they travel to the area. Ownership of Ship’s Ahoy was transferred to Richard Herline, sometimes referred to as “Captain Dick,” in 1935. He was Peggy’s companion and handyman.

By 1965, Peggy’s health prevented her from traveling to Pentwater, and she sold Greynook, Driftwood and Breezewood to George and Yvonne Tubich. Peggy died on April 25, 1974, at age 94.

Around 1975, George and Yvonne Tubich sold the Tuck-A-Way cottage and moved into Breezewood. About 1988, they built the garage where the “cabana” had been located and enclosed the screened-in front porch, creating the current glassed-in front room.

To this day, the cottages remain a fond feature of Pentwater. The Pentwater Historical Society occasionally hosts tours of some of the cottages, helping to keep this special history alive.



# Cyndy's Pentwater Sceneries

**KATE BABEL**  
SHORELINE MEDIA STAFF WRITER

An artist from Pentwater, Cyndy Callog, sees the beauty in nature and brings it to life on the canvas.

Callog is a watercolor artist from Pentwater, who has been painting since she attended Adrian College, majoring in Fine Art and Elementary Education.

In an interview with Shoreline Media, Callog described how she got started in her passion for art.

"I think it must have been something inside of me. I do have artists in my family from a jeweler to a painter, and different grandparents and uncles and things like that," said Callog.

"I started out with paint by number. I loved paint by number, and I always say I was the best dog and horse drawer in the sixth grade. So whatever it was, it just started and I kept going. I loved it, and in a way, I also loved teaching. I think art is vitally important to children, which of course they don't get enough of anymore. But I always wanted to be the child doing the project instead of the teacher, so I kind of morphed into becoming an artist," said Callog.

Callog first came to Pentwater with her mother while traveling for an art show. While staying at an inn that also included a real estate company, they were encouraged to explore all of what Pentwater had to offer. She found a nice piece of property and has lived in Pentwater for 24 years.

"It was just, it's just a beautiful community, and Ludington and the whole area is obviously just a wonderful place to live and we could still go wherever we needed too for art shows and everything else," said Callog.

With the luscious green forests, cool ripples of the lake,





Pentwater felt like an ideal place for her to carry out her craft, inspiration flowing through her brush with every stroke and feeling the peace and tranquility.

After moving to Pentwater she saw the lush colors and awe of her backyard garden of her home. It was here that she got her inspiration for her paintings. Painting every flower that sways in the breeze, every bird that lands, and every fine detail that nature has given to her.

Callog also shared why she chose watercolor as her primary medium and how she developed her layered technique.

"I was exposed to all sorts of mediums in college, which I enjoyed, but out of college I settled on watercolor—which was actually the only thing I didn't study there," she said. "But I had plenty of design and color education. I've used watercolor my whole life, and I use it in a different way."

"Usually watercolor is more fluid and not as detailed, but I build up layers and layers until it's very detailed and in focus. At the same time, I can still use the beautiful aspects of watercolor—when colors blend and something unexpected happens. That's the beauty of it. It's harder to manage because you can't fix it like acrylic or oil—you can't just paint over it. What's on the paper is what you have," she said.

From the delicate feathers of birds to flowers in full bloom, Callog's work brings the wonders of nature to life through intricate detail and careful layering.

On her website, she describes her technique as working with

"transparent watercolors and tiny brushes," often taking several weeks to complete a single painting. Each piece is built layer upon layer of color and shadow, finished with fine details such as veins and feathers.

Her work and shows have earned numerous awards, including National Wildlife Artist of the Year, and has been widely recognized for its contributions to fundraising efforts supporting scholarships and environmental organizations.

"Giving back has always been important," said Callog. "I've made such wonderful relationships through my art, which I never expected. Many of the wildlife art shows were fundraisers, so we were able to donate a lot of money to different organizations. We helped support nature centers, scholarships, and other artists. Supporting nature and helping others has always been doubly important."

Callog credits much of her success to encouragement from family members and mentors along the way.

"I was very fortunate to be able to make a living with my art, which I never dreamed I could do," she said. "Looking back at my first pieces, they were obviously my first pieces—but I kept going. I had wonderful people, like my mom, my aunt, and gallery owners, who encouraged me and were like angels along the way."

She noted that her career developed during a time when licensed artwork and wildlife art shows were especially popular, allowing her to travel across the country and gain recognition for her work.

"To be recognized was wonderful—it was like icing on the cake," said Callog. "But I just deeply loved what I did. That was always the reason behind it."

Today, Callog continues to paint, drawing inspiration from the same natural beauty that first brought her to Pentwater and is a featured artist at the Pentwater Arts Council.



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