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MEDITATION’**

*— Pentwater artist  
Cheri Petri*





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CONTENTS



BOOK CHRONICLES BASS LAKE HISTORY .....	4
35TH ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL .....	6
PAINTING IS LIKE MEDITATION - ARTIST CHERI PETRI .....	10
HAPPY MEMORY REKINDLED IN MOST UNEXPECTED WAY .....	16
MONARCH WILL SOON TAKE FLIGHT PHOTO ESSAY BY JEANNE BARBER .....	18
STILL VIBING IN SEPTEMBER - ENJOY THE END-OF-SUMMER .....	20

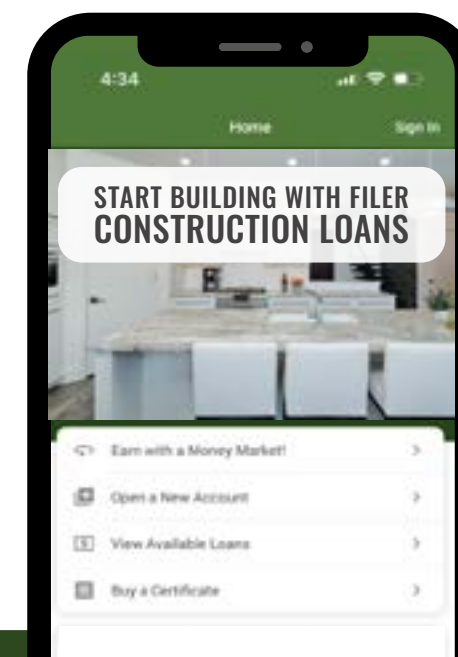
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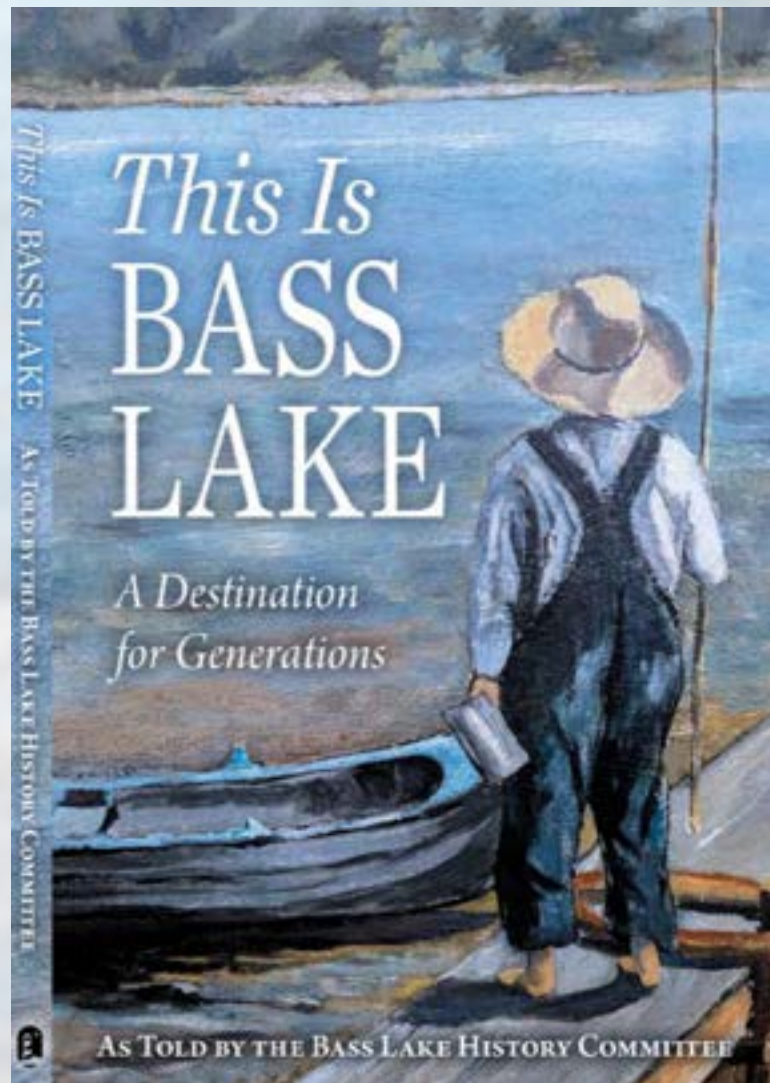
# *A Destination for Generations* BOOK CHRONICLES BASS LAKE HISTORY

BY PAM CHAPMAN

BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Local history enthusiasts and those who appreciate stories of a simpler time will enjoy a new Michigan book called *This Is Bass Lake: A Destination for Generations*. Through historical storytelling, the book details Bass Lake's 140-year legacy as a summer retreat located in southern Mason County.

The book's cover shows an early 1930s oil painting of Bass Lake. The artist is Neva J. Gilbert Chapman, whose family first came to Bass Lake in the 1890s. She painted her son, Ted, standing on the family dock. Generations later, her family continues to enjoy the Bass Lake community.



Produced by the Bass Lake Property Owners Association (BLPOA), the book's collection of narratives and photos tell how the Bass Lake community evolved. Once stripped of its majestic pine forests by the 1800s logging industry, the Bass Lake area was reimagined in the 1880s by prominent Pentwater residents as a tranquil lakeside haven. Since then, it has remained a cherished seasonal destination for generations of families and friends.

While focused on Bass Lake, the book's themes are the same for many inland lake communities across Michigan, sharing similar stories of logging-era origins, generational cottages, and the enduring pull of summer traditions.

"*This Is Bass Lake: A Destination for Generations* is the culmination of a four-year endeavor by the BLPOA to tell our lake's story. The six history committee members compiled personal accounts from Bass Lake families, memoirs, photos, articles, and memorabilia from sources spanning six generations," said Dan James, BLPOA president. "The result is a comprehensive look into Bass Lake's storied past, and a book that eloquently captures the rich history of this remarkable west Michigan 'hidden gem.' Our hope is that people will enjoy reading about the beautiful surroundings and long-standing traditions of Bass Lake."

Copies of *This Is Bass Lake: A Destination for Generations* are available locally at the Pentwater Historical Society, Mason County Historical Society, and Oceana County Historical & Genealogical Society, as well as several retail locations. The book may also be purchased at Amazon.com. Bookstores can find it at IngramSpark.com.

The Michigan-based publisher for *This Is Bass Lake: A Destination for Generations* is Mission Point Press out of Traverse City and Detroit.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE BOOK** CONTACT PAM CHAPMAN – PKCHAPMAN30@GMAIL.COM OR WENDY JONKERS – WWJONKERS@GMAIL.COM

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# *35th* annual **Fall Festival** *arts, crafts and antiques show*



**BY CRISTINA JUSKA**  
SHORELINE MEDIA STAFF WRITER

It's a bona fide fall tradition in Pentwater, taking place every fourth weekend in September for 35 years now – the Fall Festival returns to the Village Green, Sept. 27 and 28.

Be sure to wear your walking shoes, because this year, the festival will feature more than 100 booths filled with crafts-people, artists, and antique dealers! Both new vendors and returning favorites will be there, showcasing their unique and handmade wares, including:

- Furniture
- Fall décor
- Pottery
- Hand-woven accessories
- Carved wood creations
- Jewelry
- Glass art
- Sculptures
- Photography
- Paintings and more!





Shoppers will find one-of-a-kind treasures around every corner, and it's never too early to start holiday shopping.

All of this shopping and strolling the Village Green might make you hungry and thirsty, so refreshments and food will be available during the two-day event. The Pentwater Service Club will be onsite with their traditional Duncan Wagon featuring hot dogs, brats and more. The Pentwater Fire Department returns with their BBQ meals.

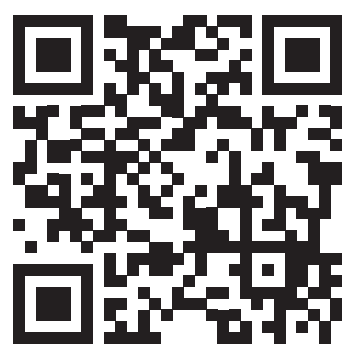
The Chamber of Commerce reminds everyone that, in addition to your time at the Fall Festival, make sure to visit Pentwater's distinctive downtown shops and have dinner at one of the great restaurants in town. And, don't forget a sweet treat from one of the local ice cream shops.

Don't miss out on this special Fall Festival weekend in Pentwater, Sept. 27 and 28. The hours are Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Village Green is located at 231 S. Hancock St., Pentwater. For more information please visit [www.pentwater.org](http://www.pentwater.org).



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# ‘PAINTING IS LIKE MEDITATION’



Close up of highlighting a painting



Cheri Petri's work station

## *Pentwater artist Cheri Petri helps to bring out the talents in others*

BY DAVID L. BARBER

Time and time again, artist Cheri Petri turned “the moment” into a masterpiece, her intricate paintings becoming playful, artful expressions of youth.

“I was always drawing (as a young girl), all the time,” said the Pentwater resident, business owner and artist. “I always liked to draw people. Well,

I naturally got into painting children – I like that – I enjoy their innocence, especially when they’re at the beach where they’re so engaged in what they’re doing.

“When I did that – which I don’t do any more – I would take hundreds of photos to catch ‘the moment,’ the right moment, and now the children that I painted are having children of

their own.”

Owner of Petri Gallery in Pentwater, Cheri no longer paints children, or any other people, because she said she can no longer “do it to my standards.” Rather, she concentrates her brush and easel efforts on other types of art.

“I’m having a lot of fun doing all kinds of other things – abstracts, for

PHOTOS BY JEANNE BARBER





Owner Cheri Petri outside her Pentwater gallery

example, I like doing abstracts," she said. "I just like to play around – I call it 'playing' – so nowadays I 'play' and whatever happens, happens. And if people like it, that's wonderful, and if I like it, that's wonderful. The children that I painted were done in pastel, but I do acrylic (now), and some oils.

"Painting is like meditation," she said. "I love all kinds of artwork, and I love other people's work, too. We have the works of other people here – pottery and jewelry, things like that."

With longtime friend and fellow artist Cedar Kindy also working in the gallery, Cheri said she enjoys talking with other

up and coming artists – young and old – and learning about what inspires them.

Cheri and her husband, Hugh Larsen, have made Pentwater their home for years and he, too, shares her love for art. Her first husband, Bert Petri, who passed away about 16 years ago, also shared her love for art and he, too, was an accomplished artist.

"When we lived out in the country, I always said if we do a gallery, I want it to be in Pentwater because Pentwater felt like home, and it still does – I love it," she said. "It's just a wonderful little town, with wonderful people."

Petri Gallery is located at 42 S 2nd

Street, just across the street from the Village Green in Pentwater. It can be reached at (231) 869-5008; petrighallery-pentwater@gmail.com; or at petrighallery.com

Cheri taught painting in her gallery for years, and her paintings have been shown and shared worldwide, including her favorite: children playing on the beach.

"There was something special about painting children, like I said, something innocent," she said, "and I always liked that. Their families liked the paintings, too, and that always made me feel good."



Owner Cheri Petri shows off her painting of boy at beach





Owner Cheri Petri highlighting a painting

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The Museum volunteers have worked hard this past year acquiring grant money to have a professional assist us in compiling an outstanding historical display of those who have come to our village over the years called, "Journeys to Pentwater." a compilation of historical stories ... retold combining, written word, voice and photography and then viewed using the latest addition to our museum ... Touch Screen Technology.

Please come and see this outstanding interactive display of Pentwater History... Learn about our Village, its residents over the years...and our Museum ... as these stories are conveniently retold by modern invention.

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# Happy memory rekindled in most unexpected way

BY DAVID L. BARBER  
PTW COLUMNIST

A silver-haired couple, bent and cautious with their steps, walked slowly out of the restaurant.

"Have a good day," one of the servers yelled as they left, a friendly salutation that workers there shout out whenever someone leaves their dining area.

"Happy Trails," the silver-haired fella' with a pencil mustache shouted without looking back, instead focusing his attention on holding the frail arm of his companion, and protecting her balance.

"Happy trails!" I hadn't heard that gentle greeting in I don't know how long – a lifetime, for sure.

As I watched them leave the gentle man – he was gentle and kind and the reflection of all that is good about life – opened the door to their car and then steadied his wife as she slid into her seat, I knew, I just knew, that all is well in our "Happy Trails" world, even if the current climate doesn't seem like it.

A few minutes later, when my friends showed up to share breakfast with me – we do that once a week – I told them about what the old fella' had said: "Happy trails."

Bob smiled. Stan smiled and nodded his head. Ted laughed and said, "... ah-h-h, Roy Rogers." Oh yeah, just as it is for the kindly, silver-haired man, the four of us are of that generation, too.

For those who don't know, Roy Rogers – co-founder of the Sons of the Pioneers and long hailed as The King of the Cowboys – was an American singer, actor, television host and rodeo performer of another generation – my generation – and his legendary 1951-57 TV show that bore his name featured such sidekicks as Pat Brady, Andy Devine, George "Gabby" Hayes and Smiley Burnette.

As one of the original singing cowboys of the mid 20th century, Rogers twice was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame and his signature song that he sang with his wife, Dale Evans – "Happy Trails" – became a massive hit that is still remembered today as the kindly man at the restaurant weighed testament to.

Rogers, by the way, has been honored with not one, not two, but three stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame: one for Motion Pictures at 1752 Vine Street, a second for Television at 1620 Vine Street, and third for Radio at 1733 Vine Street.

But as I sit here, a few weeks after watching the silver-haired couple walk arm-in-arm from the restaurant, I can't get The King of the Cowboys tune out of my head – it just keeps churning inside me over and over and over.

I even dreamed about "Happy Trails" last night and recently, as I sat at the beach watching the gulls stretch their wings, I hummed "Happy Trails." And as I write this column about living through an age of "Happy Trails," I appreciate my childhood, all the more.

I appreciate the life I've lived, a life carved out with "Happy Trails" more often than not being blockaded with ruts and disappointments, though I've had my share of the latter.

And I'm thankful for having crossed paths with the silver-haired couple not so long ago – I had never seen them before, and I haven't seen them since – if we ever cross paths again (trails, really), I want to approach them and tell the fella' how I'll forever remember what he said that morning: "Happy Trails."

But I gotta' be honest, I'm also hoping that between now and then – if "then" ever happens – I'm hoping that tune will fade from my memory.

Until then, may I share it with you: "Happy trails to you, until we meet again; happy trails to you, keep smilin' until then; who cares about the clouds when we're together; just sing a song and bring the sunny weather."

**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



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## THE MONARCH WILL SOON TAKE FLIGHT

From caterpillar to butterfly, the Monarch once again reigned supreme all across the Lake Michigan shoreline the past several months, from peaceful hamlets such as Pentwater, to neighboring communities like Ludington, Manistee, Shelby and so many more. Colorful, delicate and always fun to photograph, these wonders of nature will soon leave the area and return to their winter home in Mexico, a daytime-only flight that will take them several weeks. The final generation of monarchs born in this region – known as the “Methuselah generation” – hatches right about this time of the year and this will be the generation that will keep future generations coming back, springtime after springtime. Many monarchs follow the Lake Michigan shoreline south, a natural corridor that provides both direction and access to nectar-rich habitats. Monarchs rely heavily on these energy sources to build up fat reserves before beginning their long journey. Native fall-blooming plants – such as swamp milkweed, butterfly weed, black-eyed Susan, New England aster, and wild bergamot – are key nectar sources for the butterflies during this critical period.

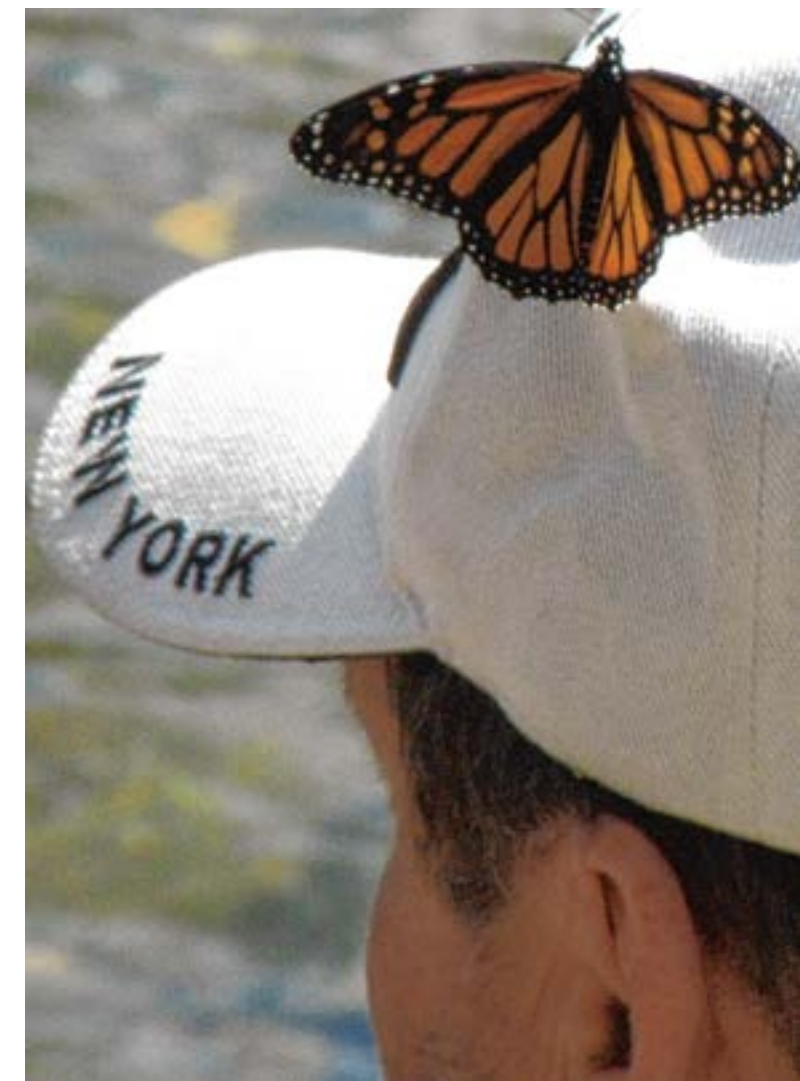


PHOTO ESSAY BY JEANNE BARBER





*Still vibing  
in September*

# ENJOY THE END-OF-SUMMER, BEGINNING OF FALL

**LARRY LAUNSTEIN JR.**  
SHORELINE MEDIA STAFF WRITER

PENTWATER - Summer is almost over and the tourist season for 2025 is winding down, but there are still plenty of things to do in the Pentwater area during the fall.

Especially during September.

According to Pentwater resident Bev Weber, "You know, there's great hiking trails around here."

"The Painted Frog still has classes," Weber said. "The Pentwater Artisan Center is really busy with anything you want to make."

Weber also said that there are several places she likes to eat out at, such as The Brown Bear and the Clutch (Food Shop)."

"Kayaking is still good in the fall," Weber said. "Some good rivers-You know, there's the Pentwater River, the Pere Marquette River."

These, and so much more, awaits the resident or the visitor who is willing to take the trip to Pentwater during the fall.

One tourist who likes to visit during the fall is John Blatchford, of Petersburg, in southeast Michigan.

"The fall's nice because there's less people and you get a different vibe in Pentwater," Blatchford said.

"It's more laid back, it's more subdued," Blatchford said. "It's more of what it started out to be, I would say."

Blatchford then talked about some of the things he likes to do when he visits Pentwater in the fall.

Keg throwing at the Steinfest at the Golden Sands Golf Club. There is also the Red, White & Blue golf scramble, both of which take place September 27.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALICIA KOLENDA,  
GOLDEN SANDS GOLF COURSE





Opposite page: A food vendor sells at the Pentwater on Harvest Day, the last day the Farmer's Market is open. This year it will take place September 25 at the Village Green on 327 South Hancock Street.

PHOTO COURTESY OF  
EVA GREGWER, PENTWATER  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



PHOTO COURTESY OF EVA GREGWER, PENTWATER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

One can find carrots like these during Harvest Day, the last day that the Farmer's Market is open. This year's event takes place September 25 at the Village Green on 327 South Hancock Street.

"Looking at the leaves; looking at the changing colors," Blatchford said.

In addition, Blatchford said, "It's nice to sit down by the water even in the fall; go to the beach."

He was accompanied by his son, Brett Blatchford, who relocated to Phoenix, Arizona and this was the first time back in the Pentwater area for the first time in four years, John said.

One of the things people can enjoy in the area is golf, and the Golden Sands Golf Course just south of Pentwater is one place people can continue to play during the fall.





PHOTO COURTESY OF HECTOR "MANNY" VALDEZ, UNIT SUPERVISOR, CHARLES MEARS & W.F.M. HART-MONTAGUE STATE PARKS

These lighted stairs are part of the Mears Lighted Trail at Mears State Park. The event this year takes place on September 12-13.



"The Red, White & Blue golf scramble is their biggest event. The Red, White and Blue golf scramble is a two-person golf event that has been going on since 1999," one of the owners of the golf course, Alicia Kolenda said.

Both the golf scramble and the Steinfest are on Sept. 27.

Kolenda also said that playing in the event also allows people to be in the Steinfest, an end of the year party following the golf.

"It's a keg throwing, stein hoisting kinda day!" Kolenda said.

According to her, anyone can come to the Steinfest events, which start at 4

p.m, but participants in the Red, White & Blue event need to have prior signup.

Kolenda asks that people text her at (231) 425-0844 to sign up for your tee time.

According to Eva Gregwer of the Pentwater Chamber of Commerce, they are also hosting fall events that people can enjoy,

The Farmer's Market continues on the first four Thursdays of the month of September, which will end on Harvest Day, Sept. 25. Found at the Pentwater Village Green at 327 South Hancock Street. The Farmers Market hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



LARRY LAUNSTEIN JR. | SHORELINE MEDIA PHOTO

Pentwater resident Bev Weber, who enjoys activities in the fall.

The Chamber also hosts the Fall Festival Arts, Crafts and Antiques event Sept. 27-28,

And the Pentwater Public Schools fall sports season starts up in August, and boys and girls co-ed cross country, girls volleyball and boys soccer are the sports being played. The season runs through the fall.

One of the boys basketball players from last season who offered his thoughts on favorite fall things to do was Jonny Arnouts.

"When it's perfect weather, I like to go get some shots up at the courts, play some hoops."

His preferred place for hoops is North End Park on North Hancock Street.

"Honestly, it's a nice time for the beach, like early fall; the water is still nice, but the air is about the same temperature as the water," Arnouts said. He also said he likes to jump in the water as well as going fishing.

Arnouts is going to college this fall at Northwestern Michigan Community College in Traverse City, saying he'll concentrate on schoolwork.

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# Pentwater Lake Association advancing water quality projects, harbor plans and shoreline work over the summer and continuing into the fall

## STAFF REPORTS

PENTWATER — The Pentwater Lake Association (PLA) is crediting community action for recent gains in water quality monitoring, shoreline restoration, and channel maintenance — with multiple projects continuing into the fall and slated for 2026.

In the organization’s August newsletter, PLA President Patrick Hooyman said the association’s long-standing volunteer water testing program played a direct role in prompting state action this summer. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) conducted a five-week E. coli study in the lake’s tributaries after years of elevated readings in the Village Creek and the North and South branches of the Pentwater River.

The PLA’s Water Quality Committee

also expanded its own testing to include four additional upstream locations near the wastewater treatment plant. Volunteers also gathered dissolved oxygen and temperature profiles twice a month at the lake’s deepest point — data that guided responses to seasonal low-oxygen conditions, which contributed to a sheepshead fish die-off in late July and early August.

**Shoreline and Habitat Work**  
*(Verified from official Village Council records, June 19, 2025)*

The Pentwater Lake Improvement Board (PLIB) advanced two shoreline improvement projects this summer with support from the Village Council — one at the Village Boat Launch and another at the 4th Street road end.

At the Village Boat Launch, the Junior Sailing Program partnered with the PLIB

to remove an unsafe deck, relocate it farther north onto the grass where it will not impede parking, and naturalize the shoreline. Renovations are being funded by the PLIB and the Junior Sailing Program, with the Village Department of Public Works providing an in-kind contribution of labor and equipment.

At the 4th Street road end, the PLIB plans to move existing shoreline rocks into the water to form a natural buffer in front of the concrete seawall. The vacated areas will be transformed into rain gardens, and benches may be added in the future to make the site more inviting. The project’s goals are to improve the shoreline’s ecological health and enhance the appearance of an underused public space. Spinnaker Condominiums has pledged \$15,000 to cover the costs.

Invasive species control continued

through late summer, with mechanical harvesting of starry stonewort and curly leaf pondweed. A map of targeted areas was posted on the PLIB website, and riparian owners were encouraged to either move boats for harvester access or borrow PLA-owned tools to remove invasive plants within 100 feet of shore.

The PLIB is also promoting the addition of large wood structures to the lake — an ecosystem feature largely absent in Pentwater Lake — to enhance aquatic habitat, reduce wave energy, and improve shoreline health. The Shoreline Manager will handle permitting, with installations expected to begin in 2026.

## Harbor Maintenance and 2026 Dredge

A long-term push to maintain the channel between Pentwater Lake and Lake Michigan secured a major federal investment earlier this year. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will allocate \$2.2 million in 2026 for dredg-

ing, operations, and maintenance — the largest funding commitment for the harbor in years.

While dredging did not occur in 2025 due to permit delays, mid-July soundings reported a 9-foot depth on the south side of the channel entrance, allowing safe passage for boaters this season. The Protect Pentwater Harbor Committee, working with the Township and Village, is developing a long-term plan to ensure navigation even in years when federal funding is not available.

## Community Recognition

The PLA joined the Pentwater Service Club in honoring the late Bart Zachrich as the 2025 Citizen of the Year. Zachrich, who died in January, was recognized for his leadership and volunteerism in the Service Club, Centenary United Methodist Church, and Pentwater Historical Society. His family will participate in October’s special Yacht Club dinner honoring his contributions.

## Upcoming Fall 2025 Community Events

- **Sept. 12:** Glow in the Park Luminous Trail – Mears State Park at dusk

- **Sept. 25:** Harvest Day – Pentwater Farmers Market, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

- **Sept. 27–28:** Fall Festival Arts, Crafts & Antique Fair – Village Green

- **Sept. 27–28:** Fall Cemetery Tours – “Maritime Memories” at Pentwater Township Cemetery

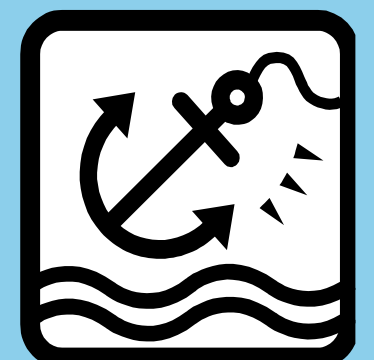
- **Oct. 4–5:** Fall Volunteer Weekend – Mears State Park, 9 a.m.

- **Oct. 11:** Oktoberfest – Classic Car and Hot Rod Show, Stout Stumble 5K, live music, yard games, and COVE Home Tour

- **Oct. 25:** Halloween Spooktacular – Village Green costume contest, scavenger hunt, and downtown trick-or-treating

- **Oct. 31:** Traditional Village Trick-or-Treating

For more information, visit [www.pentwaterlakeassociation.com](http://www.pentwaterlakeassociation.com).







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