

# Frankfort Holds 8th Annual Film Festival

A truly local celebration

*By Aubrey Ann Parker*  
**Current Editor**

The Traverse City Film Festival commands international headlines, but our own Frankfort Film Festival—which celebrates its eighth anniversary at the renovated Garden Theater later this month—also brings world-renowned films and directors to our town. And you do not have to drive an hour each way to partake in this cultural highlight. Furthermore, the Frankfort Film Festival takes place after the major tourist season has ended (so it caters particularly to year-round locals) but not before the majestic fall colors fade into the foliage.

This summer marked the 12th annual Traverse City Film Festival, which—for those of you not in the know—was started by Michael Moore and some other movers and shakers in our region. There is no question that TCFF has done really great things for our local economy, and it is a hit with both tourists and locals alike, which is sometimes hard for festivals to achieve. (For instance, my family has always avoided the Cherry Festival like the plague!)

Every year, TCFF takes place



Photo by Aubrey Ann Parker.

during the last week of July and the first week of August. From Tuesday through Sunday, you can watch “just great films” at 10 different venues around Traverse City, including the beautifully renovated State Theatre, City Opera House, and Bijou by the Bay theater, most of which were renovated largely because of and thanks to TCFF. Additional venues include the Lars Hockstead Auditorium at Central Grade School and the Milliken Auditorium at Northwestern Michigan College (NMC). All in all, pretty awesome, but also pretty spread out, if you know your T.C. geography. (Fortunately, they have shuttle services that are dedicated to running people around the city to get to movies on time.)

*Please see FFF on page 8*

# Honorable Health

Supermarket with a twist wins state grant

*By Susan Koenig*  
**Current Contributor**

Honor Family Market is appropriately named, given that it is owned and operated by five of six siblings in the Schneider family (also owners of Copemish Family Market). Located along US-31 in Honor’s Shopping Center, just a short distance from the village itself, the store is too well stocked to be called a “Mom and Pop,” yet that is the ambiance—this market is comfortable, manageable (you will not get lost), and everyone is pleasant and helpful.

I wrote about Honor Family Market back in June of 2005 for *The Betsie Current’s* Volume I, Issue 3, but there have been upgrades and changes since then. Most notably, the store recently became the recipient of a \$2,500 state-funded grant to promote local foods.



Groundwork and Taste the Local Difference created farmer bios for all of the local farms supplying Honor Family Market. Photo courtesy of Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities.

When it comes to obesity, Michigan ranks third in the United States, with 31 percent of our state’s adults and 17 percent of our children falling under that category. And while lack of exercise is also a cause, obesity is largely due to the overconsumption of unhealthy, calorie-laden foods that are marketed with brightly colored packaging.

Enter Building Healthy Communities, a preventative health program—funded by the Center for Disease Control through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services—aimed at making healthier food decisions easier for the average

*Please see MMM on page 10*

# Voting in Benzie County

A look at voter registration and turnout

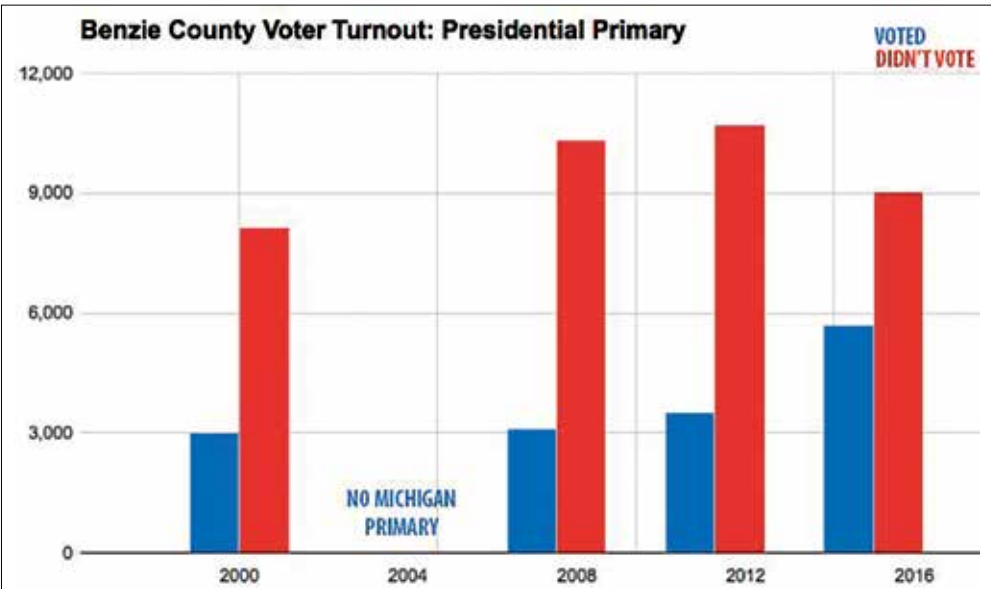
*By Aubrey Ann Parker*  
**Current Editor**

For the last few years, I have been crunching data about voter turnout and voting results for Benzie County, and I have also compared these data with population demographics. It is just kind of a hobby—something fun to do, trying to figure out statistically why Benzie County works the way that it does. #ilovespreadsheets

Here are a few of the cool trends that I have found:

**1. BENZIE COUNTY HAS HIGH VOTER REGISTRATION:** And by high, I mean literally off the charts.

OK, let me explain. If you are 18 or older, you are considered part of the Voting Age Population (also known as VAP), meaning that you are old enough to vote. But let’s



The 2016 presidential primary helped to close the gap in the number of Benzie County’s registered voters who vote (in blue) compared with the number who do not vote (in red). Graphic by Aubrey Ann Parker.

face it, not everyone who is old enough to vote actually registers to vote. Moreover, not everyone who is old enough to vote is even eligible to register to vote; thus there is an entirely separate category called Voting Eligible Population (VEP), which excludes non-citizens, criminals, and others who are 18 years of age or older (so they fit into VAP) but are not eligible to vote (so they do not fit into VEP).

All of the confusing lingo aside, let’s look at how many people who are old enough to vote (VAP) are actually registering to vote.

Over the past decade, only six out of 10 Americans who were old enough to vote (VAP) actually were registered to vote—this ranged from a high of 65 percent in 2012 to a low of 59 percent in 2014. In Michigan, that statistic is a little higher: it is more like

*Please see Rock Da Vote on page 9*



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Halloween - Monday, October 31  
Trick or Treat & The Haunted Ship  
At Beulah Trailhead Building. 5 pm -7pm
- Moonlight Madness - Friday, November 25  
Extended hours - check with your favorite stores for hrs.
- Small Business Saturday, November 26  
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- Christmas Magic- Saturday, December 10  
Breakfast with Santa, Activities, Family Fun  
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Having first visited Michigan in 1986, Georgia-based author James K. Evans has a long-distance love affair with the mitten state that manifests itself through his writing. Evans grew up in northern Indiana and studied art and creative writing at the University of Kentucky, then moved to Georgia for employment.

Evans has been a graphic designer for 25 years, primarily creating scientific graphics for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. For 40 years, Evans wrote poetry and a few short stories, but nothing of considerable length. That is, until May 2015, when he published his first novel, *My Zombie Honeymoon*, “a sweet, sensual tale of love and survival amidst chaos, despair, and zombies.” The story takes place in Ann Arbor, with flashbacks to Benzie County, and the protagonist, Kevin Williams, is well prepared for the zombie apocalypse with a stockpile of food, water, and alcohol, in addition to solar panels and a hydroponic garden. What he is not prepared for: falling in love with his neighbor, Michelle, who has moved in since the apocalypse.

This past summer, in August, Evans published the second book of this trilogy, *Zombies in Paradise*, in which Kevin undertakes the perilous journey from Ann Arbor to Frankfort to find medical help for his now-pregnant wife, Michelle.

And later this month—just in time for Halloween—the third book of the trilogy, *Zombie Destruction*, will be published. Readers can expect more zombies, but the heart of the book is the relationship between Kevin and his wife.

Continuing with our interview series on impactful Benzie County characters, *The Betsie Current* caught up with Evans and asked about his new book.

**THE BETSIE CURRENT:** So, do you really believe in zombies?

**JAMES K. EVANS:** As defined in my books, no. The dead do not usually rise, moaning, desperate for human flesh. However, some mornings, I have been known to rise, moaning, desperate for a mug of coffee. I’ve also seen my share of people who manage to perambulate without brains, and avoid them

when possible, especially when driving.

**CURRENT:** How do you ward off, or fight, a zombie?

**EVANS:** It’s a little known fact that zombies detest disco music. One chorus of Stayin’ Alive has been known to repel zombies for hours. Maybe it’s the refrain: “Ah-ah-ah-ah, stayin’ alive, stayin’ alive!”

**CURRENT:** In all seriousness, what inspired you to write these books?

**EVANS:** Initially, I wrote a story about a man in Frankfort who falls in love with a nurse who just moved from Georgia (my wife is, coincidentally, a Georgian nurse). At the same time, I was reading the book *One Second After* and began to wonder how to prepare for an apocalypse. Those thoughts seeped into the plot, and changed the course of the books. Zombies in my books are a plot element; the books are not about zombies, they are about the people who survive, and learn to love, despite the ZA [zombie apocalypse]. Zombies are a metaphor

disappearance of Arequipah, an Ottawa maiden, shortly after having given birth. Her husband found her canoe, floating empty, near the outlet. Their daughter was found, unharmed, in the couple’s wigwam near the beach. Supposedly, the mother’s ghost has been seen many times in the early spring as she walks from the outlet to the shore, where she stands looking out over the expanse of Lake Michigan. The second story tells of a man named Happy Mack, who inexplicably disappeared from a hunting camp near Elberta. His campmates searched for him for four days without finding a trace of their companion. Since then, hikers on the way to Old Baldy, south of Watervale, have reported seeing a ghostly figure stumbling through the underbrush, usually during the late fall. And lastly, in the spring of 1958, a German couple attempted to cross the frozen Lower Herring Lake outlet by automobile. At that time, the outlet was much deeper and wider than it is now, having been dredged to transport logs from the little lake to the now-vanished pier



James K. Evans has written a Michigan-based zombie trilogy. He has a handlebar mustache, sings bass in a barbershop quartet, and likes hot sauce, hard cider, and skinny-dipping. Photo courtesy of JamesKEvans.com.

for any difficulty seemingly beyond our control. As a writer who loves Benzie County from afar, the books also give me the chance to visit, in my imagination, a place I have come to love.

**CURRENT:** Since you visit Benzie County often, what are the spookiest or scariest places here?

**EVANS:** The Lower Herring Lake outlet comes to mind. In *The History of Herring Lake*, published in 1929—available for free on my website JamesKEvans.com—John Howard mentions three mysterious events: first, the

on Lake Michigan. The couples’ car broke through the ice, and they drowned. Each year, people report seeing tire tracks from the north leading to the edge of the outlet, but no tracks have been reported emerging on the other side.

**CURRENT:** What Frankfort or Benzie settings have appeared, either real or fiction, in your three zombie books?

**EVANS:** I describe a lumber-town-turned-resort named Lake Menekaunee, south of Elberta, which was based on Watervale. I had a great time writing those scenes. Much of the second and third books takes place on the Elberta Bluffs—and I hope they can forgive me for the liberties I was compelled to take—in Stormcloud, and at the Paul Oliver Hospital. The Frankfort Marina, the Betsie River, Betsie Bay, and breakwater all play roles, of course. I gave a passing nod to the Crescent Bakery, and Arcadia’s The Big Apple, one of my favorite low-key haunts when I’m lucky enough to be in the area.

**CURRENT:** How did you know that you had “made it” in the book industry?

**EVANS:** Well, I knew I’d written well when I found my wife crying her eyes out after reading one poignant passage. I’m excited about *Zombies in Paradise*, and I am looking forward to the release of *Zombie Destruction* later this month. I wasn’t able to



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P.O. Box 90 • Frankfort, MI 49635  
Phone: (612) 804-5975  
editor@BetsieCurrent.com  
ads@BetsieCurrent.com

Editors: Jordan Bates, Aubrey Ann Parker, Jacob Wheeler  
Contributors: Sarah Bearup-Neal, Susan Koenig

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visit Benzie this year, but I look forward to visiting sometime in 2017 and finding more inspiration—and Petoskey stones!

**CURRENT:** I assume that you write most frequently from your home in Georgia. When writing about Benzie settings, how do you transport your writer-self here?

**EVANS:** Transporting my characters, settings, and imagination from Athens, Georgia, to Frankfort is easy. It’s almost like having a lucid dream. It’s a mental margarita. Waking from that dream and returning home are the more difficult tasks. Those are the instances when I rise, moaning, seeking coffee.

**CURRENT:** What would the Frankfort area be like after a zombie apocalypse? Would one still be able to get a beer at Stormcloud or swim in Lake Michigan?

**EVANS:** In my zombie universe, zombies do not cross even small bodies of water. Frankfort has the Betsie Bay and Betsie River to the south and east, Crystal Lake to the north and east, and of course the Big Lake to the west. Frankfort is able to create a safe haven from zombies by erecting fences between the Betsie River and Crystal Lake, and also from Crystal Lake to Lake Michigan. The first post-apocalypse winter was difficult for Frankfort residents, but they managed to survive and create a working government with a viable economic system. Stormcloud was not only able to survive but became the main hub for social activity in the area. There’s not much swimming in my stories, because they take place mostly in winter and early spring, but the water is safe and the fish population is rebounding, now that there’s no credible fishing industry. Rick [Schmitt] and Brian [Confer], owners of Stormcloud Brewing Company, gave me permission to use their names and the Stormcloud name, and, from what I understand, they were happy to hear that yes, you can still get a beer after the ZA—I recommend “Another Day, Another Apocalypse.”

**CURRENT:** Any costume tips for Halloween this year?

**EVANS:** If you feel compelled to dress as a political figure, make it a zombie presidential candidate. Rumor has it that one of them really is a zombie, although I can’t for the life of me figure out which one! And here’s a great tip: If, in the course of revelry, you somehow get real blood on your clothes, wash the cloth in cold water to prevent the blood from permanently staining the costume.

**CURRENT:** What are you writing next, if I dare?

**EVANS:** I have several stories percolating in my mind, but the one I’m most excited about is a prequel to my *Love in the Age of Zombies* trilogy. I’m not quite ready to emancipate my characters. I have several scenarios demanding to be written—the story of the elementary school child zombies in Ann Arbor, the story of Frankfort during the early days of the ZA, and Doc’s adventures in the remote area near Atlanta, Michigan. I also have an interesting idea about Lake Menekaunee’s last days, before the resort was overtaken by zombies. My long-term project is an historical reenactment of the sinking of the *Marinette*, a ship lost just off the Watervale beach in November of 1886, in which six of seven crew members drowned, including the cook and her 13-year-old daughter. The sole survivor, who had both feet amputated as a result of his exposure, described the ordeal to the local paper. It has all the elements of a great story, and any time I see the remains of the ship off the beach, I pause and take note of the loss of life. I’ve plucked a few beach stones from amidst the sodden oak, but my dream is to find a Petoskey stone hidden among the waterlogged timbers.

Join Kevin and Michelle in this frightening, sweet, erotic tale of love, romance, and survival following the zombie apocalypse. Find the *Love in the Age of Zombies* trilogy books on Amazon.

# Excerpt from Book #2

Author James K. Evans agreed to let us publish a short excerpt from his second book, *Zombies in Paradise*. Kevin has had to stop for the night in Lake Menekaunee, a former lumber town turned resort, just south of Frankfort. Lake Menekaunee holds many fond memories for Kevin, but those memories are spoiled by the presence of zombies. He has taken refuge in the resort’s washhouse but wants to take one last look at the lake. He walks through the dark night onto the dock and over the lake.

While Kevin wasn’t usually the type to act impulsively, he attempted to shake off his increasing depression and paranoia by swimming out to the raft. After all, he rationalized, this really could be his last chance. He may never come here again. He wanted to see the stars one more time while lying on the raft. With that thought, he quickly disrobed and eased into the water, cringing. It was damn cold, especially when the water reached his groin. It took an act of courage to completely immerse himself. He slowly side-stroked away from the dock and into the lake, anxious to climb aboard the raft which appeared suddenly in front of him. He skirted the side of the raft until he felt the ladder.

As his feet found the steps, he pulled himself up and out of the lake. His right foot came splashing out of the water and onto the top step. He was greeted by an overwhelming stench; a split second later, a crepuscular hand grabbed his wrist. With a shout of alarm, he lurched back into the water just as the teeth of a zombie grazed the skin of his forearm. He jerked back so hard that he took the half-rotted zombie arm with him, wrenching it from the zombie’s body with a dull, wet snap. It splashed into the black water and sank with a gurgle. The zombie paced the side of the raft, agitated at having come so close to biting Kevin. Silhouetted against the starry sky, it began making the rasping sound he had come to dread.

He swam back to shore in a panic, wading onto the beach and crawling onto the dock to retrieve his clothing. *The zombie’s been stranded on the raft. Maybe someone got bit and swam out here, knowing they couldn’t hurt anyone if they turned*, he thought. It had been stranded since the fall—through the storms of November, the snows of winter, and the thaw of spring. No wonder the arm was so brittle, having been exposed to the elements for so long! How it stayed “alive” atop the raft during the gales, when the waves must surely have bounced the raft around, was beyond Kevin’s imagination.

Every hair on the back of his neck stood up as he heard the zombie rasping. Seconds later, he broke out in goosebumps as he heard responsive zombie rasps from around the lake. The calls from across the lake were barely audible, but he heard a few on the eastern side. *That’s around Simon Turner’s place*, he thought. One was nearer, close to his side of the lake. He didn’t hear any from the grounds of the resort, but that didn’t mean they weren’t there. He hastily put his shoes on, grabbed the rest of his clothes and sprinted the length of the dock and up the steps to the veranda. This was the second time he had run the length of the dock completely naked. The first time was fun.

He scrambled up the cement steps two at a time and stumbled over the last one, tumbling to the pavement and painfully skinning his knee. He knelt there, breathing hard, hoping the zombies couldn’t sense his blood. He strained his ears for any kind of sound over the pounding of his heart while he quickly pulled on his clothes. Despite his near panic, he knew he had to stop and listen. There were zombies around; he had to be careful. He couldn’t just run pell-mell into the night. There could be one just behind a tree or in the shadow of a cottage. The big maple by the tennis courts had a huge canopy; a good many creatures could huddle there, unseen, their bodies twitching and swaying while their jaws opened and closed.

Walking as fast as he dared in the darkness, he strode up the sidewalk passing between the inn and a small stand of trees. He imagined he could feel a presence in the woods, and he nearly cried out when he heard the sound of something moving among the trees. Whatever it was bounded off, and he realized it wasn’t a zombie but probably a deer, fox, or coyote.

Back in the washhouse, he hastily closed and locked the door before falling back onto his makeshift bed. The building no longer felt claustrophobic. Now it felt like a sanctuary.

He felt the floor with his hands, seeking one of the washcloths he’d knocked over. He was unsure whether or not he was bleeding, and if so, how badly, but he knew he did not want his bloody skinned knee to draw any zombies.

He found one of the wash cloths and, pressing it tightly to his knee, limped to the window. Of course he saw nothing except blackness. His eyes were useless. He would have to rely on his ears.

His sense of hearing had gotten much sharper without the constant white noise of civilization in the background—all the noise people and their machines make—and he could hear things he might not have noticed a year ago. He could hear the low rumble of the Lake Michigan surf in the distance. He heard the breeze rustle the young leaves in the line of maple saplings bordering the gravel drive. He heard a coyote; he heard two owls.

He heard a rasping.



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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## CONSTANTLY FLOWING

### Mondays

Pilates with Anna at the Oliver Art Center in Frankfort. Email annamallien@gmail.com if interested. 10-11am.

Circle Time for infants and toddlers at the Benzie Shores District Library at 630 Main Street in Frankfort. Infants and toddlers (+ their parents/caregivers) will have fun rhyming and moving with Miss Char, as well as a focus on repetition. Each week, children build their repertoire of rhymes, both old and new. There is an informal playgroup following Circle Time. 10-11am.

Yoga class for seniors led at no charge by Michelle Leines at The Gathering Place Senior Center, 10579 Main Street in the Honor Plaza. 231-525-0601. 10-11am.

Everyone is welcome to attend Open Clay Studio at the Oliver Art Center, including families! Per 4-visit block (12 hours total, used how you like), \$60 fees cover one adult or one adult and child pair. It can be as fun or focused as a student prefers, and all skill levels should consider taking part. 11am-2pm.

Cards at The Gathering Place. We have a dedicated group of card sharks who play Pinochle weekly during lunch, but we aren't limited to Pinochle: join us for euchre, cribbage, and rummy, too! 12-1pm.

Zumba at The Gathering Place. Your first class is free, and then it's only \$3! All ability levels are welcome. 2:30pm.

T(w)een Writers Club: Share what you're working on (novel, comic book, or anything else), get feedback from your peers, and/or write as a community. Darcy Library, 7238 Commercial Street, Beulah. 3-5pm.

Yoga Basics with Jess at Oliver Art Center. \$15 single class, \$70 for five classes, \$130 for 10 classes. Call/text 231-620-3529 to register for class at least two hours prior. 7:30-9pm.

### Tuesdays

Morning Flow with Jess at Oliver Art Center. 7:30am.

Stretch and tone with Jean at Oliver Art Center. 9-10am.

Music by the Melody Makers at The Gathering Place. 10:30am-12pm.

Grief Support Group, facilitated by Heartland Hospice. Contact 231-935-3089. Darcy Library. 1-2pm.

Knitting Group: A "knit-along" project for those who want to work on the same project, or bring your own project if you prefer. Benzonia Public Library. Contact Michele at 231-383-5716. 1-3pm.

Chair Yoga class for \$5 at The Gathering Place. 3:30-4:30pm.

Open Clay Studio at the Oliver Art Center. 3:30-6:30pm.

Speakeasy Open Mic, hosted by Cheryl Wolfram. St. Ambrose Cellars, 841 Pioneer Road, Beulah. 5:30-8:30pm.

Zumba at The Gathering Place. 6pm.

Yoga with Kari at Pleasant Valley Community Center in Arcadia. 231-383-1883. 6-7:30pm.

### Wednesdays

Zumba at The Gathering Place. 8:30am.

Stay Fit with Doris at The Gathering Place. 10-11am.

Open art studio at the Oliver Art Center. Participants are strongly encouraged to become members and to contribute a donation of \$2 per visit. 11am-5pm.

Bingo at The Gathering Place. Cost is \$1.00 per card or bring a prize. 12:30-1:30pm.

Sprouts Storytime: A warm and open space for young children and their parents to enjoy the magic of storytelling. Darcy Library of Beulah. 1:30-2pm.

Yoga with Kari at the Oliver Art Center in Frankfort. 231-383-1883. 5:30-7pm.

VinYin with Jess at Oliver Art Center. 7:30-9pm.

### Thursdays

Morning Flow with Jess at Oliver Art Center. 7:30am.

Stretch and tone with Jean at Oliver Art Center. 9-10am.

Bible Study at The Gathering Place. 10-11am.

Bunco at The Gathering Place. 1-2pm.

Computers with Carol at the Darcy Library at 7238 Commercial Street in Beulah. Ask Carol computer-related questions. Read to Rosie, the cute little dog! 1-5pm.

Fall Story Time with Miss Amanda: Enjoy fun stories, followed by a craft or whimsical coloring sheets during an informal, pre-school storytime circle. A time to socialize, make new friends, and hear great stories. Benzonia Public Library. 3-4pm.

Yoga with Kari at the Ware Farm of Bear Lake. 231-383-1883. 3-4:30pm.

Open Mic with Bill Frary at The Cabbage Shed in Elberta. 8pm.

### Fridays

Pilates Sculpt with Anna at Oliver Art Center. 9am.

Bunco at The Gathering Place. 9:30-10:30am.

Wii Bowling at The Gathering Place. 1-2pm.

### Saturdays

Body Sculpting on the ball with Anna at Oliver Art Center. 9am.

Dog play group at Benzonia Memorial Dog Park are lots of fun and open to the public! 10am for small dogs; 11am for big dogs.

Computer Basics: Dustin helps you unlock the mysteries of the computer! You may bring your own or use one of our public computers. These sessions are FREE! Benzonia Public Library. 11am-1pm.

### Sundays

Church services all around Benzie County.

Meditation with Jess at Oliver Art Center at 9:30am, followed by Integrative Yoga at 10:30am. Class begins with a short instruction and Q&A and will end with a 30-minute silent meditation. If you are attending Integrative Yoga directly following meditation, there is no extra charge; if you attend meditation only, the fee is donation based.

## ON DECK

### Thursday, October 13

*Paper Tigers:* This documentary film explores the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACES) and toxic stress on struggling teens. The film follows a year in the life of Lincoln High Alternative School in Walla Walla, Washington. After radically changing its approach to disciplining students, Lincoln High saw a dramatic turn-around in everything from the number of fights to test scores and graduation rates. Panel discussion after. Free. The Garden Theater. 7-9pm.

### Friday, October 14

Benzie Area Christian Neighbors (BACN)'s 34th Birthday Breakfast Open House: The public is invited to tour the BACN facility and see first-hand what services are available for Neighbors. Staff, board, and volunteers will be on-hand to answer any questions. Continental breakfast provided for free! 2804 Benzie Highway, Benzonia. 8-11am.

### Friday, October 14

Blake Elliott: indie, folk, rock, and blues. Born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, this musician took both sets of parents' last names to create her stage moniker. Raised with a piano- and guitar-playing mother and an Interlochen-

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trained percussionist father, Blake was around music her whole life. Inspired by the beauty of her homestate and this big adventure called Life, she writes songs that tell stories of love and heartbreak, dive bars, good whiskey, and everything that can come from them. St. Ambrose Cellars. 6pm.

Friday, October 14

Jake Frysinger is a Frankfort musician that performs an acoustic, harmonious fusion of cover songs and originals. Stormcloud Brewing Company. 8-10pm.

Saturday, October 15

LulaWoof: Shop LuLaRoe for a cause! There will be five consultants to shop from, and each will be donating \$5 per item sold to the Benzie Animal Welfare League. Local realtor Kathy Neveu will match donations, and LuLaRoe will also contribute additional funds! Benzonian Public Library. 10am-3pm.

Saturday, October 15

Olivia Mainville & Aquatic Troupe at Stormcloud Brewing Company. 8-11pm.

Sunday, October 16

Dances of Universal Peace at Llama Meadows Farm from 3:30-6pm. Potluck dinner to follow. Suggested donation \$7-\$10. Rumi Cafe begins at 7:30pm with an open mic for spiritual essence, sharing poetry, songs, chants, music, stories, comedy, gratitude, blessings, etc. 1176 West Street, Benzonian. Call Betty at 231- 651-0370.

Monday, October 17

Benzie Central Boys Varsity Soccer takes on Big Rapids in the first game of District Playoffs at Benzie Central High School. Come cheer the boys on; wear your red and white! 4:30pm.

Tuesday, October 18

Oktoberfest: Cooks & Books is a community cooking club in which you go to Darcy Library to pick out your recipe ahead of time and then bring your finished dish to Grow Benzie to share. Each month's recipes are selected from a single cookbook, and a variety of recipes are available, so cooks and bakers of all experience levels are welcome. This month's title is *Oktoberfest Cookbook* by Julia Skowronek and features favorite recipes from Munich's beer tents, such as sauerkraut, sausages, sauerbraten, and beyond! 6-8pm.

Tuesday, October 18

John Kumjian, singer and songwriter, takes the stage at Lake Ann Brewing Company, 6535 First Street, Lake Ann. 6:30-9:30pm.

Thursday, October 20

"How Is It Possible That We Are Here? An Illustrated Talk Summary" with Dr. David G. Penney, who will explore the scientific theories of how life exists on Earth. Betsie Valley District Library, Thompsonville. 7pm.

Thursday-Sunday, October 20-23

8th Annual Frankfort Film Festival: 20 award-winning films from around the globe, plus three short films produced by students of Interlochen Arts Academy. FrankfortGardenTheater.com/film-festival/

Friday, October 21

At age five, Sydney Burnham, a folky rock singer from Brighton, Michigan, received her first guitar, and she has been singing and writing music ever since. She has an old soul with a deep appreciation for blues, rock, and folk classics, which shine throughout her original material. Rich and unique voice that grabs you. St. Ambrose Cellars. 6-9pm.

Friday, October 21

Join Maureen Dunphy for a talk on her exploration of islands in the Great Lakes Basin and the resulting travelogue and guidebook, *Great Lake Island Escapes: Ferries and Bridge to Adventure*. This evening includes a Q&A session, and books will be available for sale. Darcy Library. 6:30-8pm.

Friday, October 21

Oh Brother Big Sister at Stormcloud.

Saturday, October 22

"Saldaje" is a phonetic spelling of the Portuguese word that means "an intense longing or desire," a fitting title for the darkest ukulele band in Northern Michigan. Saldaje's repertoire consists of mostly original songs: haunting, apocalyptic folk ballads with an old-world flair. Saldaje is Melonie Steffes and Shaun Anchak, with a growing family of assorted ukuleles, a violin, mandolin, guitar, toy piano, and harmonicas. Some of their influences include: Tom Waits, Leonard Cohen, Nick Cave, Suzanne Vega, Nina Simone. St. Ambrose Cellars. 6-9pm.

Saturday, October 22

Dot Org at Stormcloud.

Sunday, October 23

Robbie Provo at Stormcloud.

Tuesday, October 25

Lizzie Borden...Did She Do It? Benzonian Public Library. 7pm.

Wednesday, October 26

Benzie County Sheriff's Office K-9 Spaghetti Dinner. Silent auction (accepting items). Greystone Mansion, Honor. \$10 adults. Carry-out available. 231-645-4021. 4-7pm.

Friday, October 28

Chris & Patrick at Stormcloud.

Saturday, October 29

Tricks & Treats: A fun afternoon of crafts, costumes, games, and PRIZES! 1-2:30pm Crafts & Photo Booth. 2:30-2:45pm Costume Parade. 2:55-3pm Winners & Prizes! Prizes donated by Ace Hardware of Benzonian. Refreshments served throughout! FREE and open to all! Benzonian Public Library.

Saturday, October 29

Keith Scott Blues at Stormcloud. 6-9pm.

Saturday, October 29

Halloween party and costume contest with Rootstand at The Cabbage Shed. 9:30pm.


Monday, October 31

Halloween!

Thursday, November 3

Benzie Audubon's annual meeting, potluck dinner, and members photo night. Bring a dish to share and table service for the annual get-together. Tribal Outpost, 7282 Hoadley Road, Benzonian. Open to the public; everyone is welcome! 6pm.

**Benzonia Public Library**  
**Lizzie Borden...Did She Do It?**



**Tuesday, October 25th, 7pm**

Al Bryant, a distant relative to Borden, has plumbed resources to offer this gruesome introduction to family management.

[www.benzonialibrary.org](http://www.benzonialibrary.org)

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ 5 years as board member.</li><li>✓ Served as treasurer and secretary.</li><li>✓ Developed procedures to combat bullying.</li><li>✓ Graduated three children from BCHS.</li><li>✓ Selected new district superintendent</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Address decline in student population.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop additional funding sources to meet the needs of existing and future student populations.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Create programs to help students prepare for future challenges.</li></ul>

Fixing our problems will take a lot of ingenuity and hard work.

Please cast your vote for me on **Tuesday, November 8.**

Thank you,  
Lori (Cota) Hill



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FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20

NOON	EMBRACE OF THE SERPENT NR   125m   Bio/Drama
2:15 PM	SWEET BEAN NR   113m   Drama
4:30 PM	YEAR BY THE SEA NR   114m   Dram/Rom/Com ***Producer On Site***
8:00 PM	NORMAN LEAR: INTERLOCHEN SHORT JUST ANOTHER VERSION OF YOU NR   91m   Doc/Bio

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21

NOON	KATE PLAYS CHRISTINE NR   112m   Documentary
2:15 PM	MOUNTAINS MAY DEPART NR   131m   Drama/Romance
4:45 PM	WEINER R   96m   Documentary INTERLOCHEN SHORT
8:00 PM	ADULT LIFE SKILLS NR   91m   Comedy INTERLOCHEN SHORT
10:30 PM	EVERYBODY WANTS SOME R   117m   Comedy

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

11:00 AM	ODDBALL G   95m   Adventure/Family
12:45 PM	CARTEL LAND R   100m   Doc/Drama
2:45 PM	THE CLUB NR   98m   Drama
4:30 PM	SUPERIOR NR   110m   Adventure/Drama ***Director On Site***
8:00 PM	ECHO PARK BLUES NR   18m   Com/Drama ***Director On Site*** HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE PG13   101min   Adv/Com/Drama

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

NOON	THEY CALL US MONSTERS NR   82m   Documentary
1:30 PM	ANOMALISA R   90m   Animation/Com/Drama
3:15 PM	FRANCOFONIA NR   88m   Doc/Drama/History
5:00 PM	LOVE & FRIENDSHIP PG   92m   Com/Drama/Romance
8:00 PM	THE DRESSMAKER R   118m   Drama

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2016 LINEUP



EMBRACE OF THE SERPENT

THURSDAY | OCT 20 | NOON


NR | 125m | Bio/Drama | Spanish w/ Eng. Subs

Karamakate, an Amazonian shaman and last survivor of his people, and two scientists who work together over 40 years to search the Amazon for a sacred healing plant.

AWARDS: Academy Award Nominee - Best Foreign Language Film of the Year; Cannes Film Festival Winner- C.I.C.A.E. Award; Independent Spirit Award Nominee - Best International Film.

DIRECTOR: Ciro Guerra

STARS: Nilbio Torres, Jan Bijvoet, Antonio Bolivar



SWEET BEAN

THURSDAY | OCT 20 | 2:15 PM

NR | 113m | Drama | Japanese

The manager of a pancake stall is confronted with an odd but sympathetic elderly woman looking for work. A taste of her homemade bean jelly convinces him to hire her, which starts a relationship about much more than just food.

AWARDS: Asia Pacific Screen Awards Winner - Best Actress; Cannes Film Festival Nominee - Un Certain Regard Award; Chicago International Film Festival Nominee - Best Feature

DIRECTOR: Naomi Kawase

STARS: Kirin Kiki, Masatoshi Nagase, Kyara Uchida



YEAR BY THE SEA

THURSDAY | OCT 20 | 4:30 PM

NR | 114m | Drama/Romance/Comedy | English


Hoping to reclaim who she was before being a wife and mother, an empty nester retreats to Cape Cod where she embarks upon a quest to set herself free.

AWARDS: Rhode Island International Film Festival Winner - Best Screenplay; Berkshire International Film Festival Winner - Audience Award; Vail Film Festival Winner - Audience Award

DIRECTED/WRITTEN BY: Alexander Janko

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STARS: Karen Allen, Yannick Bisson, S. Epatha Merkerson



NORMAN LEAR:  
JUST ANOTHER VERSION OF YOU

THURSDAY | OCT 20 | 8:00 PM

NR | 91m | Doc/Bio/History

Norman Lear brought provocative subjects like war, poverty, and prejudice into 120 million homes every week. He proved that social change was possible through an unlikely prism: laughter.

AWARDS: Montclair Film Festival Winner - Documentary Feature; Nantucket Film Festival Winner - Best Storytelling in a Documentary; Traverse City Film Festival - Stanley Kubrick Award.

DIRECTOR: Heidi Ewing, Rachel Grady

STARS: Norman Lear, John Amos, Bea Arthur



KATE PLAYS CHRISTINE

FRIDAY | OCT 21 | NOON

NR | 112m | Documentary | English

Actress Kate Lyn Sheil prepares to portray the role of Christine Chubbuck, a real-life news reporter who killed herself on national television in 1974.

AWARDS: Sundance Film Festival Winner - Documentary Special Jury Award for Writing.

DIRECTOR: Robert Greene

STARS: Steven C. Bovio, Stephanie Coatney, Michael Ray Davis



MOUNTAINS MAY DEPART

FRIDAY | OCT 21 | 2:15 PM


NR | 131m | Drama/Romance | Chinese w/ Eng. Subs

Childhood friends Liangzi and Zhang are both in love with Tao. Tao eventually decides to marry the wealthier Zhang and they soon have a son... From China to Australia, the lives, loves, hopes and disillusion of a family over two generations in a society changing at breakneck speed.

AWARDS: Asian Film Awards Winner - Best Screenwriter; Cannes Film Festival Nominee - Palme d'Or; Chicago International Film Festival Nominee - Best Feature.

DIRECTOR: Zhangke Jia

STARS: Tao Zhao, Yi Zhang, Jing Dong Liang



WEINER

FRIDAY | OCT 21 | 4:45 PM


R | 96m | Documentary | English

An examination of disgraced New York Congressman Anthony Weiner's mayoral campaign and today's political landscape.

AWARDS: Sarasota Film Festival Nominee - Best Documentary Feature; Sundance Film Festival Winner - Documentary; Jerusalem Film Festival Nominee - Best International Film

DIRECTORS: Josh Kriegman, Elyse Steinberg

STARS: Huma Abedin, Amit Bagga, Adam S. Barta



ADULT LIFE SKILLS

FRIDAY | OCT 21 | 8:00 PM

NR | 96m | Comedy | English

Anna lives in the shed, making videos of her thumbs, works as a camp counselor, and microwaves her bras instead of doing laundry. When you're a quirky British woman about 30, with your best school friend due for a visit, missing your twin brother who died in an accident, and being dogged by a handsome but awkward real estate agent (and a troubled 8-year-old camper with a dying mother), maybe you can be forgiven for taking a while to earn your Adult Life Skills badge.

AWARDS: Tribeca Film Festival Winner - Nora Ephron Prize for Best Female Director

DIRECTOR: Rachel Tunnard

STARS: Jodie Whittaker, Lorraine Ashbourne, Brett Goldstein

INTERLOCHEN SHORT



EVERYBODY WANTS SOME


FRIDAY | OCT 21 | 10:30 PM

R | 117m | Comedy | English

In the summer of 1980, freshman pitcher Jake moves into an old college house with his new rowdy teammates. Together, they must navigate their way between girls, parties and baseball, all in the last weekend before school begins.

DIRECTOR: Richard Linklater

STARS: Jodie Whittaker, Lorraine Ashbourne, Brett Goldstein



ODDBALL

SATURDAY | OCT 22 | 11:00 AM

G | 95m | Adventure/Family | English

The true story about an chicken farmer who, with the help of his granddaughter, trains his dog to protect a penguin sanctuary from fox attacks and reunites his family and saves their town.

AWARDS: Traverse City Film Festival Winner - Stuart J. Hollander Prize for Best Kids Film; Seattle International Film Festival Winner - Films4Families Youth Jury Award

DIRECTOR: Stuart McDonald

STARS: Alan Tudyk, Sarah Snook, Deborah Mailman



CARTEL LAND

SATURDAY | OCT 22 | 12:45 PM

R | 100m | Doc/Drama | English/Spanish w/ Subs

In the Mexican state of Michoacán, Dr. Jose Mireles leads the fight against the Knights Templar drug cartel. Meanwhile, in Arizona's Altar Valley, American veteran Tim "Nailer" Foley, heads a small group called Arizona Border Recon, whose goal is to stop Mexico's drug wars from seeping across our border.

AWARDS: Moscow International Film Festival Winner - Best Documentary Film; Academy Award Nominee - Best Documentary Feature

DIRECTOR: Matthew Heineman

STARS: Tim Nailer Foley, José Manuel 'El Doctor' Mireles, Enrique Peña Nieto



THE CLUB

SATURDAY | OCT 22 | 2:45 PM


NR | 98m | Drama | Spanish w/ Eng. Subs

After an incident occurs, a counselor is sent by the Catholic Church to a Chilean beach town where priests and nuns, suspected of crimes, live secluded.

AWARDS: Berlin International Film Festival Winner - Grand Jury Prize; Chicago International Film Festival Winner - Best Director; Austin Fantastic Fest Winner - Best Picture

DIRECTOR: Pablo Larraín

STARS: Alfredo Castro, Roberto Fariás, Antonia Zegers



SUPERIOR

SATURDAY | OCT 22 | 4:30 PM

NR | 84m | Adventure/Drama | English

In 1969, recent high school grads and best friends Derek and Charlie embark on a 1,300 mile bike trip around Lake Superior to escape the pressure of their future.

AWARDS: Orlando Film Festival Nominee - Best Picture; East Lansing Film Festival Winner - Best Feature; Heartland Film Festival - Official Selection

DIRECTOR: Edd Benda

STARS: Lisa Deschaine, Harvey Desnick, Brian Downing

DIRECTOR EDD BENDA ON SITE



ECHO PARK BLUES

SATURDAY | OCT 22 | 8:00 PM

NR | 18m | Short/Comedy/Drama | English

The story of a journeyman jazz musician, whose last shot at success means reuniting with the lyricist and lover he betrayed, and getting back into the good graces of his former band leader. Only problem is, both of them hate him.

AWARDS: LA Shorts Fest - Official Selection; Fayetteville Film Fest - Official Selection

DIRECTOR: Michael Bofshever

STARS: Paula Jai Parker, Kevin Symons, Allan Wasserman

DIRECTOR MICHAEL BOFSHEVER ON SITE



ANOMALISA

SUNDAY | OCT 23 | 1:30 PM

R | 90m | Animation/Comedy/Drama | English

An inspirational speaker becomes reinvigorated after meeting a lively woman who shakes up his mundane existence.

AWARDS: Academy Award Nominee - Best Animated Feature Film of the Year; Independent Spirit Awards Nominee - Best Feature, Best Director, Best Screenplay.

DIRECTORS: Duke Johnson, Charlie Kaufman

STARS: David Thewlis, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Tom Noonan



FRANCOFONIA

SUNDAY | OCT 23 | 3:15 PM

NR | 88m | Doc/Drama/History | French w/ English Subtitles

FrancoFonia considers how French society and the occupying Nazis viewed culture during the Second World War.

AWARDS: Venice Film Festival Winner - Federa Award Best Euro-Mediterranean Film; London Film Festival Nominee - Grierson Award Documentary Film

DIRECTOR: Aleksandr Sokurov

STARS: Louis-Do de Lencquesaing, Benjamin Utzerath, Vincent Nemeth



LOVE & FRIENDSHIP

SUNDAY | OCT 23 | 5:00 PM


PG | 92m | Comedy/Drama/Romance | English

Lady Susan Vernon takes up temporary residence at her in-laws' estate and is determined to be a matchmaker for her daughter Frederic -- and herself too.

AWARDS: Rotterdam International Film Festival Nominee - Big Screen Award; Seattle International Film Festival Nominee - Best Actress.

DIRECTOR: Whit Stillman

STARS: Kate Beckinsale, Chloë Sevigny, Xavier Samuel



THE DRESSMAKER

SUNDAY | OCT 23 | 8:00 PM

R | 118m | Drama | English

A glamorous woman returns to her small town in rural Australia. With her sewing machine and haute couture style, she transforms the women and exacts sweet revenge on those who did her wrong.

AWARDS: Australian Film Critics Association Awards Winner - Best Actress, Best Screenplay; Mill Valley Film Festival - 2nd Place Audience Award.

DIRECTOR: Jocelyn Moorhouse

STARS: Kate Winslet, Liam Hemsworth, Hugo Weaving



INTERLOCHEN  
MOTION PICTURE ARTS

Interlochen MPA short films will be shown preceding feature films during the Frankfort Film Festival. The Motion Picture Arts program provides students with a progressive interdisciplinary education through writing, critical studies, and hands-on curriculum. Students in the program benefit from challenging college-preparatory academics and a comprehensive experience in cinema.

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# FFF

Continued from page 1

For four years straight, from the 6th TCFF of 2010 to the 9th festival of 2013, we went religiously. Mostly that was because we got a ton of tickets for the work that Jordan Bates—my partner in life and in the running of this newspaper—had done for our friend Andy McFarlane’s web-publishing company, Leelanau Communications Inc. Every year, Jordan, Andy, and the LCI team would build the TCFF website, thus they were considered “sponsors” of the film fest. This meant lots and lots of tickets. We would get first dibs on whatever we wanted to see, before the tickets even went on sale to “friends of the film festival,” let alone the mass general public.

Some years, we tried to pack it all into two to three days, watching movie after movie, sometimes as many as four or five in one day, from 10 a.m. to the end of the midnight showing—gah, long day! Other years, we tried spreading it out, with only one to three movies per day, but then we would be driving close to an hour one way,

movies, grab a snack for myself, feed the dog, let her out, and be back before the next movie begins. Even check my email. Compared to our experience up at TCFF, we spend less time and money on food, travel, and doggy daycare during F3.

**Venue (singular):** There is only one venue, which not only means less travel time but also absolutely no time is spent trying to schedule what to see and when to see it and then getting disappointed when two good films are being shown at the same time; this just does not happen at F3! And if I want to watch four movies in a row, I just stay right in my seat and do not move a muscle. Moreover, if you do not know, our beautiful Garden Theater was originally built in 1923, but it has been slowly renovated since 2008. A new projector, then a new screen. A new sound system, then a new bathroom. And most recently, as of last year, backlit movie posters. Not bad for a theater that was completely shut down for more than a decade! Many of these renovations have come from private citizens, either donating their time or their money or both. The theater is technically owned by Rick and Jennie Schmitt and Blake and Marci Brooks, plus a couple dozen investors who are resi-

fountain, if you ask politely.)

**Small-Town Feel:** As mentioned earlier, since the festival is in the fall, it is catered more toward locals. However, every year they give a prize to the person who traveled the farthest distance to get to the festival; last year, that person came all the way from North Carolina. F3 is able to do this because the announcer literally asks everyone who is in the theater just before the film, “Who has traveled more than 100 miles to get here? Put your hand up if you traveled more than 200 miles... keep your hand up if you traveled more than 250 miles,” etc. until we find a “winner.”

**Movie Makers:** There are not a whole lot of movie directors that show up at our small, off-season festival, but every effort is made to try to get at least one or two each year. This includes—new as of last year—Facetime with Michigan native Mo Scarpelli, one of the directors of the documentary *Frame by Frame*. Scarpelli’s face showed up on the big screen from her hotel room at another film festival in Missouri. (It took a little while to figure out how to get her audio to come through the speaker system, but then it worked out great! She could see and hear us, we could see and hear her. Neat.)



Photo by Aubrey Ann Parker.

with traffic to Traverse City, every single day for six days straight. That got old, too.

I think part of what people love about TCFF is the fact that it is close to home. At least, that is what the folks who live, work, and play in Traverse City like about it. And/or it is what the people who go up for only one or two days like about it. But if you are going to be a die-hard movie geek (not to be confused with a *Die Hard* movie geek) for a whole week, you really gotta reside in the town where the festival is going on.

**Sponsoring the F3**

For the past two years since we restarted *The Betsie Current*, we have been sponsors of the Frankfort Film Festival. In our 10th issue from 2014 and our 10th issue from 2015—and now in this, the 10th issue of 2016—we have dedicated two whole pages in the center of the paper to the movie titles, times, descriptions, and awards.

Two years ago, I attended something like seven or eight movies over the course of four days. Last year, I saw 10 films in three days (I skipped one entire day of the festival, because we already had other plans). And this year, there are many films on the list that look interesting to me; not quite sure yet how many I will make, but it will be as many as my rear end will allow me to sit for!

For our family life—and for our business life, for that matter—F3 is so much better than TCFF for so many reasons! Let me count the ways:

**Proximity:** We live just six blocks from The Garden Theater. This means I can leave my house at the time that the movie is supposed to begin and walk to the theater, getting there just three minutes into the film. (Note: Being three minutes late is not recommended; I am just making a point.) Additionally, I can come home between

dents of the community. Rick Schmitt says that the theater operates more or less like a nonprofit, though it does not have that tax delegation. “Virtually every cent goes back into the theater,” he says. “And the community really feels like they have ownership of this theater. They call it ‘our theater’ as if they are the owners, because they really are.”

**Community:** One great example of this is the art deco paint restoration on the walls and the ceiling, work that was performed by volunteers. Another example is the John P. Vinkemulder Audience Award, dedicated to my friend Vink who has donated countless hours to helping with everything from fundraising to installing light bulbs. Throughout the film festival weekend, patrons vote on each movie that they watch, and the winner gets its name on Vink’s plaque, complete with a hand-drawn caricature of Vink, drawn by another friend and local resident, Chris Bigelow. (Of note: The Garden Theater received a \$5,000 grant from a program to restore Michigan theaters, a grant that was presented at the 2012 TCFF, when I was blogging. Michael Moore also donated \$5,000 of his own money to the theater last summer, an event which I was asked to photograph for *The Betsie Current*.)

**Local Foods:** There is a pre-party in September and an opening night party, both are for sponsors and both are catered with local food and wine, as well as beer from Stormcloud Brewing Company next door. But not only that—in addition to the normal popcorn and candy fare at the concession stand, the general public can buy a Stormcloud charcuterie plate or a hummus and veggie plate or even a custom F3 doughnut (made down the street by Crescent Bakery) all weekend long! (They also will give you a free cup for free tap water from the drinking

**More Small-Town Feel:** Speaking of tech-y advances, it is humbling when the tech fails. No, I am serious. It reminds us just how much goes into the film festival weekend as a whole when we get a chance to see behind the curtain, to have a few small hiccups that—in the end—do not dramatically alter the overall experience. To have the mic batteries go out when a film is being presented and then have new batteries brought promptly up to the announcer by the staff. To have the lights flicker and the movie screen go out for a second when the ‘gales of November come early’ to our small city on the coast of Lake Michigan, and then to have a voice call from the projector room that he will have it back on in a jiffy. “You think this kind of thing happens at Sundance?” Rick Schmitt asked the crowd in jest. “Oh, it does,” responded someone from the crowd. I know not if this is true, but both of these instances last year made me smile and appreciate every single person who has a hand, big or small, in putting on F3.

**Local Moviemakers:** Every year, they play several short films from the Interlochen Arts Academy. These films are written, directed, filmed, edited, produced, and acted by talented kids just half an hour away—what a great way to make the big world feel small, by putting up these small films alongside the big ones! And new this year: OB & Co, a local film production studio by Frankfort siblings Liv Buzzell (19) and Sam Buzzell (15), created 15-second video commercials for each of the sponsors! Watch for *The Betsie Current*’s commercial before *Weiner*, the documentary film that followed Anthony Weiner’s 2013 campaign for New York City mayor, on Friday at 4:45 p.m. (Note: You may remmeber that we ran a Q&A on Liv’s “Gap Year” back in Volume



IV Issue 8 from August 2015. You can read it online here: [bit.ly/1JThkLm](http://bit.ly/1JThkLm)) Again, supporting the local community is so integral to the heart of F3, and I love that they find ways to involve young local moviemakers.

**Perks of a Business Sponsor:** When it comes to being a business sponsor, we are not just names on a screen. In addition to the short commercials that OB & Co created, each of us is assigned a film that we are sponsoring, and we then get the opportunity to introduce that film. Last year, we sponsored Joshua Oppenheimer's *The Look of Silence*, which was named one of the top 15 movies of 2015. Just before the film began, I got to stand up in front and introduce the film to a theater full of people, but I also got to introduce *The Betsie Current*, to talk a little about what it is that we do, why we do it, where people can find copies of the paper, and why we feel adamant about sponsoring F3 and helping to get the word out through our publication. This is an incredible opportunity for us as business owners, and it is also fun to hear from the other business owners as well! This year, as mentioned above, we are sponsoring another documentary film, *Weiner*.

**Even YOU Can Sponsor:** For \$85, you can buy a weekend pass to all of the movies (as compared with \$10 per ticket). But for just a little bit more (\$115 for a single, or \$200 for a double), you can become a "directing sponsor." Last year, there were 176 directing sponsors of the F3. Depending on how many films that these individuals see, they may or may not get their money's worth. However, this is crucial to making these individuals feel as though they are an integral part of the festival—unlike with TCFE, there is no need to spend \$25 each year to "become a member" of the festival, with the only advantage being that you get to buy tickets before the mass general public, but even then you still have to wait in line, and you are not assured that you will get tickets to what you want to see, and you still have to pay full price for each ticket. Moreover, with F3 sponsorship, there is not a \$50 cover to get into the opening night party. There is no hassle of waiting in will-call to pick up tickets. Nope, nothing like that. You just buy your weekend pass, which is a laminated card on a lanyard, and then you show up with it around your neck. And on top of that, you get your name on the sponsor list that plays before the films. Wahoo!

**Local, Local, Local:** Not only is the festival good for us sponsors, it is also good for the local businesses that stay open for it. And that is, in turn, good for the (local) people who wish to patronize these businesses in the off-season. You see, in our breezy coastal town, many of the storefronts close up after the majority of the summer tourists have left and the cheap workforce (high school and college kids) dries up. It used to be that most places would close up just after Labor Day, and many still do. But having the Frankfort Film Festival in mid-October means that many more businesses are staying open later in the year, getting us closer to being a real year-round place to live—something we will all be grateful for if and when it ever happens.

I do hope that you will join us at F3 this year... one thing that we do need to work on is getting a younger audience through the doors!

*The eighth annual Frankfort Film Festival will show 20 award-winning films from Thursday, October 20, at 12 p.m. until the end of the 8 p.m. showing on Sunday, October 23. Learn more at [FrankfortGardenTheater.com/Film-Festival/](http://FrankfortGardenTheater.com/Film-Festival/)*

# Rock Da Vote

Continued from page 1

seven out of 10 Michiganders over the last decade. (A high of 75 percent in 2012 and a low of 68 percent in 2014.)

So what is voter registration like in Benzie County? It is literally off the charts: 102 percent in 2010, 100 percent in 2012, 103 percent in 2014.

Wait, what? How is that possible? Well, the most likely scenario is that someone's numbers are off: either the number of registered voters in Benzie County or the Census estimate for how many adults are living here.

In other words, in order to get a figure of more than 100 percent, this means that we have more people registered to vote in Benzie County than the number of adults that the U.S. Census has estimated are living in Benzie County. For instance, the U.S. Census estimated that we had 17,519 people living in Benzie County on July 1, 2014, and an estimated 14,155 (80.8 percent) were 18 years or older. But according to state records, we had 14,562 registered voters here in July 2014, thus we get 103 percent voter registration.

Regardless of why the data is off and by how much it is off, I doubt very much that it would make that big of a difference: I bet that our numbers would still hover closer to 100 percent than to the national average of 60 percent or the state average of 70 percent. And I think that this is pretty amazing. To even be close to 100 percent voter registration—let alone to be over 100 percent—means that something is going on here in Benzie County to make us register to vote more than other places, but what is it?

I am not entirely sure, but I have a sneaky suspicion that our active Benzie County League of Women, Benzie Republicans, and Benzie Democrats play a big role. Maybe it has something to do with a high proportion of "snowbirds" voting absentee here in Benzie County but not getting counted here by the Census?

I also know from experience that students at Benzie Central High School get extra credit in their government and civics classes—which all students are required to take—when they register to vote. Additionally, just last week, the Benzie Republicans and the Benzie Democrats teamed up to register students to vote during lunch: they signed up 10 of the possible 17 age-appropriate students at Frankfort High School and an additional two at Benzie.

On top of that, I have heard that the employees at the Secretary of State office in Honor are diligent in asking every person who goes there to get a driver's license and/or state ID if they also want to register to vote.

"Their perseverance of getting people to register is a big help when it comes to the number of registered voters that we have here in Benzie County," says Gaylynn Howton, local resident.

**2. BENZIE COUNTY HAS HIGH VOTER TURNOUT:** And by high, I mean 7 percent higher than turnout in Michigan and 15 percent higher than national turnout, as a general rule.

When it comes to voter turnout, many media outlets have reported that Benzie is often among the top counties in the state to have people show up to the polls. "Registered Voter Turnout" is voter turn-

out as a percent of the registered voter list who actually voted on election day—this does not count people who are not registered to vote. In Michigan, you have to be registered three weeks before the date of an election to be able to vote. (Note: Tuesday, October 11, was the last day to register for the upcoming presidential election on Tuesday, November 8. As of Monday, October 9, Benzie County had 15,042 registered voters.)

Across the country, there is generally lower turnout in primary elections, in off-year elections for state legislators (called "mid-term" elections), and in local elections. However, regardless if it is a presidential election in the fall or a presidential primary in the spring, regardless if it is a presidential year at all or if it is just a mid-term Senate race, Benzie County tends to turn out in numbers that far exceed the national and state averages.

And last spring's presidential primary was no exception: voter turnout in Benzie County was 38.7 percent on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, compared with 33.8 percent on the state level. And while it is true that voter turnout was higher than normal throughout the United States during this presidential primary, this was not an isolated incident for Benzie County—consistently over the past decade and a half, we have had turnout numbers that average 5 percentage points higher than Michigan as a whole: as much as 8.8 percent higher in 2000 and as low as 3.2 percent higher in 2008.


In fact, we had incredible turnout last spring for the presidential primary in Benzie County—around 2,200 more people voted in the 2016 primary than in the 2012 primary!

And no, you cannot pin that (solely) on an increase in registered voters, because the number of registered voters in Benzie County has increased by only 500 since 2012. Nor can you pin it on this year having both a Republican presidential primary and a Democratic presidential primary, whereas 2012 only had a Republican presidential primary, because the 2016 numbers were also well above 2008, the last time that we had both a Republican and a Democratic primary in Michigan—we had 5,696 voters turn out in 2016 compared with 3,516 in 2012 and 3,090 in 2008.


In other words, this year's primary helped to close the gap in the number of registered voters who vote compared with the number who do not vote. It will be interesting to see if and how these trends continue in the upcoming presidential election next month.

To conclude—yay for us in Benzie County for rocking the vote, not only in the 2016 primary election but in all of our elections for the past 16 years!

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# MMM

Continued from page 1

consumer, reducing sodium intake, and providing a balanced diet. These goals are achieved through the use of mini-grants that pay for changes to the status quo of how food is marketed, prepared, and presented.

The Health Department of North-west Michigan recruited help from the Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities (formerly the Michigan Land Use Institute, or MLUI) and four other community partners to facilitate these mini-grants. The plan was to identify and guide 50 Northern Michigan businesses and institutions—from schools and hospitals to food pantries and elderly living facilities—in increasing the availability of healthy, local food options in vending, concession, retail, school cafeterias, and congregate meal sites.

Groundwork and TLD announced in June that they would be working in seven counties with 19 of the 50 sites on the list, and one of the venues was Honor Family Market.

The market will spend \$500 on new signage, describing what lies within the store. The nonprofit Groundwork and its for-profit counterpart, Taste the Local Difference, set about creating farmer bios for all of the local farms that supply the store with fresh produce, making healthy food choices more prominent. These bios highlight local options, encouraging people to purchase fresh produce, meats, and dairy.

Use of the remaining \$2,000 has yet to be decided but will involve the concepts of buying local, fresh meat and produce and continuing to support area growers.

“Sustainable,” observes Dale Schneider, one of the five sibling owners, “is a term that calls to mind the fact that farmers put as much into the land as they take

out. They work hard to put food in our larders and we, in turn, need to support them in their efforts.”

## Highlighting Local

When in season, Honor Family Market sources fresh fruits and vegetables locally. And while it is not likely that you will find fresh, local lettuce in Benzie County in November, why not try the local root vegetables that have been flash-frozen for a few seconds or the fruit that has been put away in a similar fashion? Honor Family Market proudly sells “Farm To Freezer” products, which come from Northern Michigan Goodwill’s community-based job-training program. Produce from local farms is flash frozen and sent to local markets, simultaneously filling a demand for local foods—especially in the off-season—while develop-

## Chew On This

Increasing consumption of local, seasonal fruits and vegetables while reducing sodium intake is the key to combating obesity, type-2 diabetes, and heart disease.

At Honor Family Market, you can buy foods that are good for you! Seasonal vegetables and fruits in your freezer all winter long, whole-grain options (they do not have to be boring), and vegetarian entrees (you can always add meat), 100% fruit juice (you will not notice the absence of refined sugar, honest!), no synthetic trans fats, all the while promoting sustainable practices like procuring local fruits and veggies.

ing new skills for unemployed individuals in our region.

To please the palates of the carnivores in your life—maybe even yourself—keep some lean local beef, pork, chicken, or fish in your freezer, too. Honor Family Market carries all of these, in addition to free-range eggs from Halpin’s Farm, delicious homemade bacon and a complete range of deli items. The rotisserie will catch your eye and sense of smell; herb-marinated pork loins, juicy sirloin chops, and barbecued chicken are slowly turning on the spits. Yum! Why cook? Just take some home!

Moreover, think about this: Honor Family Market is the third largest retailer of spirits in Benzie County, and the prices are right (long winter, don’t forget), not

to mention the excellent choice of wines that are attractively displayed in the south, front corner of the store.

Dale Schneider will be happy to explain the wines to you—their taste and origins—as he himself becomes an increasingly well-educated oenophile. Also available are handcrafted beers and case discounts. And you are not likely to be disappointed when you go looking for that certain ouzo or tequila or single-malt scotch, thanks to brother Pat Schneider’s philosophy.

“If we don’t have it, we’ll get it for you within three days,” says Pat, the force behind the Spirits Department.

## History of Keeping It Local

Honor Family Market was the third grocery enterprise for the senior Schneiders, Roy and Rose, after the Eastfield Thriftway in Traverse City, which they sold in 1974 when they “re-tired.”

Dale muses that, even in retirement, his parents were “looking for something to do... these were farm kids; they didn’t know how not to work!”

Roy and Rose bought the Cope-mish market in 1974, and then, in 1992, they purchased the store in Honor from Chuck Link. Once the business was up and rolling, five of their six children became involved: Dale and Pat, along with Marilyn, Margaret, and Helen. (The sixth, Tim, opted to travel the world with the U.S. Merchant Marine as a ship’s captain.)

Probably the first source of Honor Family Market’s renown was the wall of smoked meats, including the bacon, all made in the store. Then someone noticed tapenade on the shelves. Then fresh baked goods. In Honor! No need to drive an hour! Next came another source of the market’s fame—local meat without hormones, from free-ranging pigs, cows, lambs, and chickens that were living the good life for our benefit (until that one, very bad day).

Since there are few actual meat cutters/butchers in the area, it is pleasant to be able to speak to someone knowledgeable about such things. Head to the counter to order any specialty cut you desire (rib roasts, crowns, leg of lamb) and to get advice on portions and preparation tips.

Several Benzie restaurants have realized what a difference the quality of their burgers, steaks, chops, and chicken can make to their increasingly discerning clientele, and they buy from the market; Stormcloud Brewing Company in Frankfort, The Mayfair Tavern and The Cabbage Shed in Elberta, The Cherry Hut and Cold Creek Inn in Beulah, Geno’s Sports Bar & Grill in Thompsonville, and Jodi’s Tangled Antler, just outside Honor, all very popular eateries.

Responding to the demands of the public is what this small market does. Do you need gluten-free products? Just ask. A favorite cheese or a particular spaghetti sauce? Your wish is their command.

“We don’t attempt to duplicate what the larger stores do,” Dale remarks. “We have a different slant that makes us unique.”

This is an old-fashioned, friendly place that is easy to navigate and fully stocked but still small enough to zip in and out (no Meijer or Walmart). You will leave satisfied that you have the best and freshest whatever-it-is-you-were-seeking in the county. Lots of parking, too! Treat yourself.

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# Glen Arbor Art goes on the road to Frankfort

articles about local art, culture and creativity

Sarah Bearup-Neal

Current Contributor

Thirty-three paintings and photographs selected from the Glen Arbor Art Association (GAAA) Artist-in-Residence Collection (2008-present) will be exhibited at the Elizabeth Lane Oliver Center for the Arts in Frankfort, Oct. 21-Nov. 26. The show opens with a reception Oct. 21, 5-7 p.m. at the Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Road.

In addition to the artist-residents' works, there will be paintings by the late Suzanne Wilson, founder of the GAAA's Artist-in-Residence (AIR) program; paintings by former AIR Chairperson Harvey Gordon of Glen Arbor; and contemporary quilts by Benzie resident Sarah Bearup-Neal, the AIR Committee's current chairperson. A panel discussion about artist's residencies takes place on Nov. 5 at the Oliver Center.

The groundwork for the GAAA's Artist-in-Residence (AIR) program was laid in the late 1980s at the behest of Suzanne Wilson and her friend Ananda Bricker, another Glen Arbor studio artist. Although visual artists had long found their way to northern Michigan, Wilson felt Glen Arbor might be considered off-the-beaten-path by the art world, and she took it upon herself to change this perception. With its storied natural features, the idea of a residential program for visual artist made great sense, and the idea took hold. Wilson began to handpick visual artists for the program, and found friends in the area to house them. The program has since evolved. Today, a committee of seven volunteers administers the program, and selects residents through a juried application process. Painters comprise the lion's share of applicants. The program, however, is open to artists working in other visual media, performance, prose, poetry and music. Residencies are two weeks in duration. Typically, there are seven residencies each year. They begin in mid-May and continue into October. The GAAA provides housing in Glen Arbor, and a studio space at Thoreson Farm, an historical farmstead in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

The notion of creating a collection of work made by artist-residents materialized early in Harvey Gordon's tenure as AIR chairperson, which ran from 2005-2011. "It occurred to me that a substantial permanent collection of quality art work would enrich and enhance the GAAA. Requesting, but not requiring, the contribution of a single work by each visiting artist seemed like a reasonable, convenient, and effective way to build on the small collection that existed at that time," Gordon wrote in an email. "Our visiting artists have been generous, and the collection has grown accordingly over the years."

Today, the collection nears 50 two- and three-dimensional pieces, however the AIR Collection skews in favor of landscape paintings — a reflection of the preponderance of artist-residents whose focus is on the local land, water and sky.

Gordon, who has lived full-time in Glen Arbor since 2004, retired in 2000 as head of the Art Department at Glen Oaks Community College in Centreville, Mich. He taught art for 27 years, all the while continuing to exhibit his own paintings at prominent institutions such as the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Chicago Art Institute and the Museum of Modern Art in New York. He contends that in much the same way visual art "enriches and enhances our homes, communities and culture," a permanent collection of artwork operates in the same aesthetic fashion for the GAAA. Curated versions of the collection find a summer home at the Glen Lake Community Library in Empire. Most days, though, one find selected works hanging on the walls of the GAAA's main meeting room. "When somebody walks in and says, 'Tell me about your organization,' the collection provides a good starting point for describing who we are and for talking about our AIR program,"

said Peg McCarty, GAAA executive director.

Or, when a group of local students walks into the GAAA, the collection becomes an educational tool, at least in the skilled hands of Linda Young, retired curator of Museum Education with the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts and past AIR program chairperson. It is not uncommon for the Glen Lake Schools field trips to include a visit to the GAAA. With small groups of young students, Young uses the AIR Collection to illustrate how visual artists think. "I often tell school groups that (visual) artists often tell us something about themselves (in their work), about the world they live in and (for older audiences) their beliefs," Young said in a September email. "What I always like to do is ask the question: 'What do you see? Is there really purple in the footprints on the dune? Maybe the artist exaggerated the color to fit the mood he wants for the painting? Why?' It's important to really get the children to look."

Adults, too, will have a chance to really look and learn a little about the artist-residents when they visit the Oliver Center's exhibition. The imagery depicted in many of these works focuses on the iconic natural features that define this shoreline region. Program founder Suzanne Wilson, too, returned time and time again to this world of dune, water and forest that surrounded her Glen Arbor home. Working in watercolor and oil paints, Wilson's loose style captured fleeting, ephemeral moments, in all four seasons. The artist taught and traveled widely, mentored artists and the arts in northern Michigan, was a founding member of Lake Street Studios and the GAAA. She died in 2003 at the age of 63.

Rounding out the exhibition is the work of Sarah Bearup-Neal. Her medium is the contemporary quilt. Although quilts are generally associated with the domestic sphere, Bearup-

Neal approaches this functional household object as a starting point for art making. The Benzie resident's work is about relationships — between colors, lines, and shapes. She combines machine stitching with hand stitching, and references traditional quilting symbols and icons in her compositions, which hang from the wall rather than draped on the bed. Bearup-Neal manages Center Gallery, located at Lake Street Studios in Glen Arbor.

The Oliver Center maintains a year-round schedule of monthly exhibitions in its 2,800 square foot gallery. The organization has participated in other collaborative projects, "but nothing on this scale," said Mercedes Michalowski, the Oliver Center director.

"Collaborating with other arts organizations is always a wonderful learning experience," Michalowski said. "Local arts organizations usually have the same goals and mission — to bring arts and culture to northern Michigan — and collaboration allows you to reach out and attract a wider audience. It's positive, all the way around. If we're going to strengthen the arts community in this area, this is [one] way we're going to do it." The exhibition is sponsored by the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation.

Supplementing the AIR Collection exhibition is a panel discussion about artist's residencies, what they are and how they figure into a creative practice, supplements the exhibition. Bearup-Neal will facilitate the discussion at the Oliver Art Center on Saturday, Nov. 5, 1 p.m. The panelists are painter and art educator Joan Richmond, and poet Teresa Scollon, who is also writer-in-residence with the National Writers Series' Front Street Writers Program. Richmond and Scollon are both of Traverse City. There is no charge. For more information please call the Oliver Art Center at 231/352-4151.



Artwork by Harvey Gordon

### Q. Who is Harry Bannister?

A. I'm a Frankfort resident, business owner and co-founder of Advocates for Benzie County running for county commissioner for Frankfort and Crystal Lake Township. My platform is simple: If we think outside the box, we can use county government to **update zoning and inspection** programs and improve our quality of life. Some initiatives that I support:

- Collaborate to **build smaller density homes** and **expand the rental housing base**.
- Partner with existing non-profits to **rehabilitate existing housing**.
- Strengthen building inspection procedures to **reduce blight and eliminate substandard rental housing**.
- With the average age in Benzie County now at 58 years old, **develop services for aging residents** to make it easier for them to remain in their homes.

It's time for a change. I may not have all the answers, but I will find them. I will listen to you and work to improve our quality of life. I will take responsibility for my decisions and be held accountable to you.

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**LON JOHNSON**  
U.S. Congressman



**DAN SCRIPPS**  
State Representative

## Benzie County Commissioner



**District 3**  
Frankfort &  
Crystal Lake Twps.  
**HARRY (TIM)  
BANNISTER**



**District 7**  
Blaine, Gilmore,  
Joyfield,  
& Weldon Townships  
**DON C. SMELTZER**



**District 4**  
Benzonia Township  
**COURY CARLAND**

## County Road Commissioner

**CHARLES BROZOFSKY**  
**Drain Commissioner**  
**ED HOOGERP**

## Nonpartisan Ballot

**Michigan  
Supreme Court Justice**

**FRANK SZYMANSKI**  
8-year Term

**DEBORAH A. THOMAS**  
Partial Term (ends 01/2019)

**Michigan  
State Board of Education**  
**ISH AHMED / JOHN AUSTIN**

**Michigan State University  
Board of Trustees**  
**DIANNE BYRUM**  
**DIANN WOODARD**

**University of Michigan  
Board of Regents**  
**LAURENCE DEITCH**  
**DENISE ILLITCH**

**Wayne State University  
Board of Governors**  
**YVETTE McELROY**  
**ANDERSON**  
**MARK GAFFNEY**

## Township Candidates

**Almira Township**  
Treasurer: MANDY GRAY RINEER

**Benzonia Township**  
Supervisor: JASON BARNARD  
Trustee: JAMES SHEETS

**Colfax Township**  
Clerk: DEANN MOSHER  
Treasurer: LAURA DRAEGER  
Trustee: TOM BESEY



Benzonia candidate  
Jason Barnard

**Crystal Lake Township**  
Supervisor: AMY FERRIS

**Gilmore Township**  
Supervisor: CARL NOFFSINGER  
Clerk: SHANNON SPENCELY  
Treasurer: LAURA MANVILLE  
Trustee: RONALD BEYETTE  
Trustee: DOUGLAS HOLMES

**Homestead Township**  
Supervisor: JESSICA WOOTEN  
Trustee: PATRICIA DeLORME

**Inland Township Supervisor**  
PAUL BEEHCRAFT

**Platte Township Trustee**  
JULIE MOUNTZ

# *Your vote is your voice!*

Visit Benzie Dems at 9930 Honor Hwy. (U.S. 31) between Shirley's Salon & the Cherry Bowl Drive-In Theater).  
We're on Facebook & our website at [benziedemocrats.com](http://benziedemocrats.com).