

## That Guy Who Walks Doone

A boulevardier and his “official” dog

By Susan Koenig

Current Contributor

She’s a lady, and she knows it. Frankfort’s first “Official Dog” was sworn in by the city mayor about three years ago. Doone, a col-lie/husky mix, is recognized on the street by young and old alike. They know her by name. They stop to pet her. They speak to her in cooing voices, sometimes paying no mind to the man at the other end of the leash.

“One time, a woman was walking toward us on her cell phone. I heard her say, ‘I’ve got to go—that guy who walks Doone is coming!’” says Kim Fairchild, the owner of Doone. (Or is it the other way around?)

There are many reasons why people choose to live in or to visit Benzie County, and the characters that inhabit our quotidian lives are not the least of those. A pleasant, gregarious man of a certain age, Fairchild nevertheless describes himself as a “total ni-

hilist, misanthropist, an atheist since [his] early teens, a curmudgeon, a pessimist, and a cynic.” He says his mom used to tell him that “there’s no such thing as the Devil, no such place as Hell, and you can believe in God—if you want to.”

He is a cantankerous fellow, to say the least. However, when interviewed at his favorite Frankfort hangout, Petals & Perks, seemingly every person who entered the place would stop to chat, encouraged by this so-called grouchy fellow.

Unsociable and dis-



Man. Beast. Cigar. Photo by Susan Koenig.

trustful though he may claim to be, Fairchild is a person who converses with all and sundry, plays with babies, pets dogs, knows everyone, and everyone seems to know and like him, as well—yes, even those who don’t know him by name.

An informal poll of a few residents yielded such accolades as: “Kim has his finger on the pulse of the town,” “he’s a treasure to our community,” “a walking encyclopedia,” “bright,” “witty,” “cynical,” “the finest mind in Frankfort,” and, of course, “that guy who

walks Doone.”

When asked how he reconciles his misanthropic curmudgeonliness with his very pleasant sociability, this sardonic lover of people quoted the acclaimed satirist Jonathan Swift: “*I love men, but I despise mankind.* People, one on one, are usually pretty decent.”

Kim Johnston Fairchild was born in Frankfort on Forest Avenue in the Anna Markham Hospital, now a house divided into rental units. He is the eldest of four—and the only boy—of Charles and Edna Fairchild, and he is the grandson of Charles Albert Fairchild, who owned and operated the landmark Fairchild’s Market for 50 years. His grandfather sold the market in 1974, and the building burned to the ground shortly thereafter.

Kim Fairchild attended the Frankfort school system from kindergarten until his graduation from high school in 1966. He

Please see Doone on page 6

## The Wheels on the Bus Go Benzie ’round

All aboard the Magical History Tour

By Mitch Kennis

Current Contributor

For some, public transit is a means of getting from Point A to Point B in a way that reduces carbon emissions by pooling resources. Benzie Bus believes public transit can also provide a meaningful and educational experience.

This summer, Benzie Bus will launch a history loop called the “Magical History Tour,” which includes many of the county’s most famous historical landmarks. During each of these 30-minute loops—which intersect in Beulah—a tour guild will enlighten riders with various facts and trivia about each site.

The Magical History Tour begins on Monday, June 27, and continues each Monday throughout the summer. The idea—conceived

by Bill Kennis, executive director of Benzie Bus, and other Bus employees—includes a multitude of benefits to riders and the community.

“We live in breath-taking Benzie County,” Kennis says. “With people like Archibald Jones [who drained Crystal Lake] and Al Capone in Benzie’s past, there is deep history and beauty that some visitors never get to see. The same goes for businesses in the area.”

Kennis hopes that everyone on the bus this summer will enjoy learning anew about old locations that weave the tapestry of Benzie’s past.



Beginning Monday, June 27, the Magical History Tour will take place Mondays throughout the summer. Poorly Photoshopped image by Jordan Bates.

The tours will visit both the most famous and infamous places in the county from previous decades. Some, like the Frontenac Royal Hotel, can only be remembered through historic Frankfort photographs. In its heyday during the early 1900s, the Frontenac—which was larger and grander than Mackinac Island’s Grand Hotel—was the prime destination for this important port town. Visitors will also see the remains of the Ann Arbor Railroad system that spans Frankfort and Elberta along what is now the Betsie Valley Trail. The old railroad ties are gone, but the train depot still welcomes visitors at the trailhead in Beulah. Along the way, Benzie Bus passengers can listen as their guilds—local student-theater actors—explain the history of car ferries on the Great Lakes and the railroad hub that was

Please see Bus Beatles on page 3

## The Great Roadside Swap Meet

Free treasures along Benzie’s summer roads

By Beau Vallance

Current Contributor

The sellers and buyers rarely actually meet to swap. And really, most of them should not be called “sellers” or “buyers” anyway, because money seldom changes hands (though sometimes it does). Rather, it is a process of unloading and picking up along the road at random times. This often involves a hand-lettered sign, usually in capital letters, with a single word: FREE.

The roadside swap meet is lively in the summer, especially around lake cottages but also along back roads. The display might be a single chair, a sofa, a dresser. Sometimes there is an entire collection of things arranged around the FREE sign. Occasionally the road-

side offering appears to be, for a while, a revolving inventory as a house is cleared and newly discovered discards are added to the collection.

Other exchanges of goods happen along the roads, too, of course—the occasional items displayed with a price, such as a set of four upholstered rattan chairs and glass-topped table one recent summer (that sign said “\$500”), and the frequent garage/yard sale signs, complete with schedules and addresses. There may be some bargaining and actual cash exchanged at these swaps. The “Little Free Libraries” now appearing along sidewalks and



A special chair has its 15 minutes of fame on the front page of The Betsie Current. We hope it found a great new home. Photo by Beau Vallance.

front yards definitely count as a free roadside swap meet, also.

But for the purpose of this article, I am only interested in the free things, the still-useful goods that people discard by offering passers-by one last chance to give them new life. Township officials did not return my phone calls, but a Benzie County Sheriff, interviewed briefly from his parked car, said that this kind of exchange is perfectly legal, “just so long as it’s on your own property.”

There are many reasons why reusable items are left on the road for others to take.

Sometimes an item is simply too big—why bother finding a truck to haul it to a donation center or re-sale shop? This seemed to be the case with a perfectly functional clean green-and-white upholstered easy chair with match-

Please see Swap on page 7



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# Jenna Noffsinger: Healthy Meals, Healthy Minds

Questions & Answers with community faces

Students in the Frankfort-Elberta Area School District ate nutritious and delicious food this past school year, thanks to a collaboration between food service manager Jenna Noffsinger (a 2006 Frankfort graduate) and FoodCorps, a national nonprofit with a mission of working with communities to “connect kids to healthy food in school.”

Noffsinger returned to Frankfort in 2012 to put her degree in food science from Michigan State University (MSU) to use. She married Chris that summer, and they now have a nearly-two-year-old daughter, Stella, who Noffsinger attributes as the reason that she strives so hard at her job.

“I try to make food for the students that I would also feed my little girl,” says Noffsinger, who just completed her first school year as a full-time food service manager for Frankfort. (Prior to this, she was working part-time at Frankfort.)

FoodCorps—whose local service site partner is MSU Extension—placed service member Mikaela Taylor in the Frankfort/Benzie community this past school year to support and highlight Noffsinger’s utilization of the “10 Cents a Meal” funds, which are intended to serve healthy, homemade meals. Since schools only have 20-30 cents per meal to spend on produce, the 10 Cents a Meal program provides matching funds—in the amount of 10 cents per meal—for schools to buy from neighbor farms, thereby investing in local economies and putting Michigan-grown food on children’s plates. This financial cushion helps school food service managers like Noffsinger to try new things.

FoodCorps helped Noffsinger to place local products on the menu, increase exposure to vegetables, and engage students during monthly taste tests that highlighted the respective “Harvest of the Month.”

Noffsinger would prepare a new recipe on a designated day each month and send it to the elementary school. Then Taylor would serve the students sample-size portions of the item and allow them to vote on whether they “loved it,” “liked it,” or “tried it” (but it wasn’t their favorite). Noffsinger would then determine whether that new recipe should go on the menu.

During the 2015-16 school year, students tasted nine new recipes: roasted romanesco cauliflower, baked apples, roasted butternut squash, Panther Fries (roasted rainbow carrots), un-BEET-able hummus, frozen fruit smoothies, Aztec grain salad with white beans, and Italian bean pasta salad with radishes.

“Students have begun to realize that they can have a say in designing their own lunch menu and are beginning to request new items [like balsamic dressing for their salad bar],” says Taylor, who remembers one student giving a rating of ‘3 million’ on a scale of one to five after trying a frozen fruit smoothie.

“Creating healthy school food environments is a key factor in reversing the trends of chronic

diet-related diseases that are plaguing our country,” Taylor explains. Better health and nutrition also enhance classroom learning and academic success. Other signs of progress are reflected in changing attitudes toward fruits and vegetables, willingness to try new foods, reduction of cafeteria waste, participation in the school meal program, and support of local farmers.

Continuing with our interview series on



Jenna Noffsinger, a 2006 Frankfort graduate, just completed her first school year as the full-time food service manager for Frankfort-Elberta Area School District. Photo by Jacob Wheeler.

impactful Benzie County characters, *The Betsie Current* caught up with Jenna Noffsinger and asked what effect the collaboration with FoodCorps has had.

**THE BETSIE CURRENT:** How has your meal plan benefited from the presence of FoodCorps?

**NOFFSINGER:** The taste tests that occurred once a month in the elementary cafeteria helped me to try different recipes in small batches and get feedback from the students. I used the feedback from the teachers, students, and FoodCorps members to decide whether to put the recipe on my menu for following months or to try something else. The taste tests have been pretty positive this year, and I have been able to put different vegetables on the menus and know that the elementary kids are going to remember it and eat it, instead of throwing the food away. Mikaela [Taylor] also provided a few recipes that are school-approved to try, in case I needed inspiration. I have noticed a difference in how much the elementary kids try out new vegetables compared to the high school kids, who aren’t involved in the taste tests. It helps me also to incorporate different local products that the kids might not have tried before, and hope-

fully they will continue eating healthier foods at home or convince other family members to try new things.

**CURRENT:** Can you think of any particular comments or reactions to the taste tests?

**NOFFSINGER:** The kids loved the carrots, apples, romanesco, and smoothies. They love romanesco because they look like little trees. With all of the taste tests, I have had pretty positive results, but the list of the most “loved” have been put on the menu. The smoothies were the most loved by far, but they take the most time, and it takes 16 ounces to amount to a full serving of fruit. Therefore, when we have smoothies for breakfast, it’s an eight-ounce serving with another fruit option on the side so that they are getting enough fruit to count as a meal.

**CURRENT:** What have been some of your most gratifying moments in Frankfort as a food service director?

**NOFFSINGER:** I was truly touched this year when I received a pile of hand-painted and hand-written notes from all of the fourth graders. I found out later that they were painted using vegetables such as beets! They were ‘thank you’ notes listing all of their favorite meals and taste-test items that they had enjoyed. I felt like I had to write back, so my daughter and I painted a big card for them. It never gets old when students at the high school come through the line and say that they love a certain homemade dish, its their favorite. It makes it worth the time that it takes to prepare everything.

**CURRENT:** What are the biggest remaining challenges facing your effort to introduce more nutritious foods in school?

**NOFFSINGER:** The biggest challenges are time, money, and manpower. Since I started working for the school, the food-service staff has been cut in half. The three of us cook and serve breakfast and lunch for about 350 students every day, and we have developed our own routine that works for us. We truly are a team, and we have to help each other everyday to get different things ready for lunch. So we do the best we can, and we are very busy and work very hard. We can see the students really enjoying the healthier items, so we try to make time to put a new thing on the salad bar for them to try or have a different entree on the serving line that wasn’t on the menu. The kids at Frankfort always surprise us with what they try now, and we are hoping more students continue to try new things and continue to grow the program.

To learn more about FoodCorps’s service in Northern Michigan, visit: [TraverseCity.Blog.FoodCorps.org](#).

## JUNE EVENTS

- 6/8: Beekeeping 101- Learn the Basics, Farm Class Series
- 6/13: Grocer’s Daughter Chocolate Tasting
- 6/15: Asparagus Fresh-Pickled-Frozen, Preserving Series
- 6/17: Robin Lee Berry and Glenn Wolf, Concert Series
- 6/21: Cooks & Books w/Darcy Library
- 6/27: Hops 101- Learn the Basics, Farm Class Series

## WEEKLY

Monday Farmers Market, 3-7pm, demos-music-food truck  
Fridays w/Britt, 10am-noon, Q&A w/greenhouse manager

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# What’s New in Beulah

The ins and outs of a small town

By Jacob Wheeler

Current Editor

Beulah, the cozy hamlet on Crystal Lake, is feeling fresh as summer nears. L’Chayim’s bagels are back, Ann Loveless of State of the Art Gallery has one more prestigious ArtPrize under her quilt, and the business district has fewer vacant store-fronts than it did at this time last year.

“I see a change a’comin’,” says Mary Perzigian, who moved Luna Boutique into the roomy and well-positioned space that was formerly occupied by Mary Lane’s Live for Art Gallery, which has closed. Luna vacated its previous location, just a couple blocks north, in early April.

“This is a busier block, right in the thick of things,” Perzigian says. “When Mary [Lane] decided not to re-open, she actually came down and asked me, ‘Why don’t you take the space? It’s perfect for Luna.’”

The space is larger, brighter, and a better shopping experience for customers, according to Perzigian, who says that she can display twice as much merchandise as she did in the old store. Moreover, she says that new people are coming to Luna.

“They say that they always wanted to visit my store, but we were down on other end of the block,” she says.

Mary Lane, meanwhile, is trying her hand

at video-editing now, but she continues to run Jonathan Clark’s “off-the-wall art” just across the street at L’Chayim.

So what went into the space that Luna vacated? Déjà Vu, a resale store of things of the past, things of the present, and things that are eclectic. Stroll in, and you will see vintage clothing dating back to the 1930s, a decorative Hawaiian statue, and other unique offerings.

Benzie native Marsha Maria Driver opened the store in March and runs it with the help of her children, daughter Odessa and son Cyan.

Northern Décor is still a Beulah mainstay, but owner Kitty Ely just opened a new

store in Frankfort called Pier Fun, which will feature purses, jewelry, clothing, and shoes. Pier Fun is in the spot where Olsen-Sayles Gift Shop resided for years.

“The building opened up, and I wanted a bigger space,” Ely says. “Frankfort’s a great town with lots of action. So we decided to take the dive!”

*Look for coverage in a future edition of The Betsie Current about the new name of Beulah’s great coffee shop, soon-to-be formerly known as Blue Caribou Café. We will also feature a few new businesses that are coming to Elberta and the top of the hill just outside of Frankfort.*



Mary Perzigian moved Luna Boutique down the street to a larger space in the Beulah’s hub. Photo by Jacob Wheeler.

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## Bus Beatles

Continued from page 1

once based in Thompsonville.

There will be two historic loops. The first runs from Frankfort City Hall to Grow Benzie on M-115, then to the trailhead depot in Beulah, before returning to Frankfort via River Road. Riders can disembark anywhere along the route knowing that another bus will follow.

The second loop starts at Crystal Mountain and runs to St. Ambrose Cellars and the soon-to-be-open Iron Fish Distillery, then to Beulah where riders can decide whether to return to Crystal Mountain on Loop #2 or to switch to Loop #1. Passengers can ride all day for just \$5.

“It’s a great way to spend a day, rain or shine, and you can eat and drink along the way and leave the driving to us,” says Jessica Carland, the mobility manager for Benzie Bus who has been developing the logistics of this summer’s historic routes.

Carland plans to correspond with businesses along the route to expand the collaboration. St. Ambrose Cellars, Crystal Mountain, and Iron Fish Distillery are among the companies that have already embraced the tour idea.

Out of recognition that cultural tourism brings value to the community, the Crystal Lake Community Business Association has offered to pay for advertising for the historic tours. Seeing its role as a community asset, the Benzie Bus will accept further sponsorship advertising and will not make money off the Magical History Tour.

“We will pass all proceeds for promotions and won’t profit from these tours,” Kennis says.

Benzie Bus hopes that Crystal Mountain guests and employees will take advantage of these 30-minute loops, also.

“We believe that Benzie Bus is a great resource for our community, and that includes the thousands of summer guests that will visit in the coming months,” says Brian Lawson, director of public relations for Crystal Mountain. “These summer tours will not only provide convenient access to so many great attractions in Benzie County but a little history, as well, which is particularly relevant for Crystal as we prepare to celebrate our 60th anniversary.”

“Everybody has something to gain from this,” Kennis says. “Notoriety, business, or knowledge expansion.”

*To join the Magical History Tour, call Benzie Bus at 231-325-3000 to book a ride or show up at the posted stops on Mondays between noon and 5 p.m. Benzie Bus will also renew its partnership with the Beach Bums minor league baseball team in Traverse City by continuing its ride program on game days. Starting Tuesday, June 21, until Tuesday, August 30, transit to the ballpark is free on Tuesdays and Fridays. Rides are available from Family Fare in Frankfort, Shop-n-Save in Beulah, and the Benzie Bus station, just east of Honor.*

*Mitch Kennis is a graduating senior at Frankfort High School who is bound for Kalamazoo College in the fall. His father, Bill Kennis, is executive director of Benzie Bus. This is Mitch’s first story for The Betsie Current.*

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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. 9-10am.

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.

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.

Grow Benzie Farmers' Market at 5885 Frankfort Highway (M-115) in Benzonia. 3-7pm.

### Tuesdays

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

Honor Farmers' & Flea Market in Maley Park. Across from the shopping plaza and senior center with plenty of off-road parking. 9am-3pm.

Benzie Shores District Library offers technology assistance. Learn to download ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines to your personal devices. 10am-12pm.

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

Knitting Group at Benzonia Public Library. A "knit-along" project for those who want to work on the same project, or bring your own project if you prefer; we'd love your company! Need help? If you are having troubles with a current project, bring it along, and we'll help you get it straightened out. Call Michele at 231-383-5716 with any questions. 1-3pm.

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

Zumba at The Gathering Place. 6pm.

Yoga with Kari at Pleasant Valley Community Center in Arcadia. Call 231-383-1883 if interested. 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. 10am-4pm.

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

Matter of Balance with the Benzie Council on Aging at Honor Township Hall. 1-3pm.

Local computer whiz Dustin Wolpoff will be on hand after lunch to help navigate your computer, tablet, or smartphone. He will meet with everyone individually for a 15-minute appointment, so sign up at The Gathering Place in advance. A donation of \$2 is appreciated. 1:15pm.

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

### Thursdays

Elberta Farmers' Market at the Elberta Pavilion Park. 8am-12:30pm.

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.

Quilting at Darcy Library. 2:30-5:30pm.

Storytime for preschoolers at the Benzonia Public Library in the Children's Room. Miss Amanda will lead us through an informal time to socialize, make new friends, and hear great stories, followed by a craft or whimsical coloring sheets. 3-4pm.

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. 3-6pm.

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

Storytime with Kris at Darcy Library. 4:30pm.

Coloring & Creativity Club for Adults at Darcy Library. 5:30-7pm.

### Fridays

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

Fun Fridays at Benzie Shores District Library: Kids and their parents/caregivers are invited to join us! Programs are free and targeted at preschool children, though kids of all ages are welcome. For the parents, are you tired of technology? Coloring for Grow-n-ups is a stress-free hour of coloring while the kids play. Everyone welcome. All materials supplied by the library. 10-11am.

Fridays with Britt: Drop in for a garden tour, ask questions, and learn tips from Grow Benzie's greenhouse manager about

soil health, seed starting, and garden planning. Free, donations accepted. 10am-12pm.

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

Family Storytime: Gather 'round for stories, rhymes, and songs with Ashley at the Darcy Library. Storytime is designed for children ages 2-5, but all are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult, and be sure to sign up for a library card so you can borrow our books to read at home! 3-3:45pm.

Crystal Mountain Farmers' Market in Thompsonville. 3-6pm.

### Saturdays

Frankfort Farmers' Market at Open Space Park on Main Street, between 7th and 9th streets, along the waterfront. 9am-1pm.

Farmers' Market and Flea Market at the Interlochen Eagles #3503 at 20724 Honor Highway/US-131, three miles west of Interlochen. Consisting of Michigan-grown fruits and veggies, flea marketers, cottage-food vendors, artisans, arts & craft vendors, and independent reps. 12-4pm.

### Sundays

Integrative Yoga with Jessica at the Oliver Art Center. Young or old, novice or seasoned practitioner, yoga is for everyone! Explore yoga on your own terms and discover all that it can do for you. Adult drop-in fee is \$15, student/senior drop-in fee is \$10. Call 231-620-3528 if interested. 10:30-11:30am.

## ON DECK

### Every day through June 15:

Bag-A-Brown fishing competition is open to all anglers, by land or by boat in Benzie County and Arcadia only. Register at Big Bob's Up North Outfitters in Frankfort prior to fishing. \$20 entry fee lets you weigh up to three fish (but you are only eligible for one place). Money and prizes available! Call 231-352-5360 to learn more.

### Thursday, June 9

Baby Play Time with Miss Mary Kaye at the Benzonia Public Library is a time to play and bond with your baby, as well as to interact with others. 10am.

### Thursday, June 9

Stories of Women and Their Quilts During the Civil War: Women, through their quilting efforts, contributed enormously to the comfort and care of men who served in the Civil War. Though few of these quilts remain today, many of their patriotic stories have been passed down through the generations. Mills Community House. Sponsored by the Benzie Area Historical Museum. 7pm.

### Friday, June 10

Square Dance: Pat Hoekje is our Square Dance Caller with live music by Carter Creek String Band. No experience or partner necessary! Join us for appetizers, desserts, and some down-home fun! Call Dawn Bousamra at 231-525-0601 with questions. \$15 per couple, \$10 per adult, \$5 for kids ages 10-17, kids under 10 get in free! All proceeds to benefit the Benzie County Council on Aging. Platte River Association Hall, US-31 in Honor. 7-9pm.

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Saturday, June 11-Sunday, June 12

Free Fishing Weekend in Michigan. Every-one—residents and nonresidents—can fish Michigan waters without a license, though all other fishing regulations still apply. Michigan has offered the free fishing weekend annually since 1986 as an easy, affordable way to showcase the state’s vast water resources. With more than 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, 11,000 inland lakes, and tens of thousands of miles of rivers and streams, fishing and Michigan are a natural fit.

Saturday, June 11

Clean-up day in Colfax Township. American Waste facility on Gallagher Road. 8am-1pm.

Saturday, June 11

The Benzie County Sheriff’s Department is holding a free self-defense class, designed for women. The class will be held at the Benzie Central High School wrestling room, 9300 Homestead Road, Benzonia. If you would like to register, please call the Sheriff’s Office at 231-882-4484. 9am-1pm.

Saturday, June 11

5th annual Betsie River Clean Sweep: Join the Benzie Conservation District in our effort to enhance the health and natural beauty of the Betsie River by assisting with the collection of trash and debris from the water. This is a great opportunity to spend an afternoon on the river while helping to make a difference in your community. A free pancake breakfast and T-shirt will be provided. Contact John Ransom at 231-882-4391 or john@benziecd.org for more information. Meet at the Benzonia Congregational Church to carpool. 9am-2pm.

Saturday, June 11

14th annual Northern Michigan Alliance for Lupus Walk in memory of Josephine Vanham: A walk along the Betsie Valley Trail from Frankfort to Elberta, then back. The goal of each Walk is to help the Alliance for Lupus Research (ALR) to further its mission to prevent, treat, and cure lupus by raising funds for lupus research. All participants are encouraged to raise a minimum of \$25, and 100% of the money you raise will support cutting-edge lupus research programs to fight an autoimmune disease that affects predominantly young women. Contact Amy Gillard at ajgillard@charter.net or 231-347-4775, or check out LupusWalkFrankfort.org for more information. Registration begins at 9am at Mineral Springs Park in Frankfort. Walk is from 10am-12pm.

Saturday, June 11

The Glen Arbor Art Association’s Readers’ Theater is bringing another stellar performance to Oliver Art Center—Damon Runyon’s *Madame La Gimp*, directed by Celeste Crouch. A down-on-her-luck New York fruit seller named Apple Annie has the shock of her life when she learns that her long-separated daughter is coming with her fiancé and his parents from Spain to meet her. With the help of her steady customer Dave the Dude, a gangster, Annie poses as Madame La Gimp, a New York socialite, leading to a hilarious tale of the mob play acting as rich, law-abiding citizens. This performance is free and open to the public. 7:30pm.

Tuesday, June 14

Accessorize with Art, a catered ladies lunch with jewelry and accessory party at Oliver Art Center. Tickets are \$30. Contact director@oliverart.org for more info. 11am-1pm.

Tuesday, June 14

Grief Support Group, facilitated by Heartland Hospice, at the Darcy Library. Call 231-935-3089 with any questions. 1-2pm.



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Wednesday, June 15

6th annual K-9 Hausso Memorial Golf Outing, hosted by the Benzie County Sheriff’s Department. This event is in honor of the patrol dog who started the Benzie K-9 program; Hausso passed away in January 2011 due to natural causes. Hausso’s replacement, K-9 Ena, was retired in June 2012. With the funds raised from the last two golf outings, the Sheriff’s office was able to purchase a new patrol dog—his name is Dasty. The funds raised at this year’s golf outing will fund continued training, vet expenses, food, and equipment for patrol dogs, as well as food and vet expenses for retired K-9 Ena. \$65 per person or \$260 per team; price included 18 holes of golf at Crystal Lake Golf Club, with hot dogs served at the turn and a steak dinner after. A raffle will also be held during dinner. Prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams, with prizes also awarded for closest to the pin and longest drive, for both men and women. Must be registered by Friday, June 10. 231-882-4484. Begins at 11am.

Thursday, June 16

Darcy Library’s Book Club. 1:30-2:30pm.

Thursday, June 16

Super Awesome Robot Ninja Book Club at Darcy Library. 5-6pm.

Thursday, June 16

Benzie County Chamber of Commerce’s Business After Hours at Betsie River Centennial Lily Farm, 17745 Moore Road, Thompsonville. Hors-d’oeuvres catered by Geno’s Sports Bar & Grill, including their world-famous BBQ ribs! 50/50 raffle, door prizes, and \$900 member raffle. 5-7pm.

Thursday, June 16

Third Thursday Benefit Night: Film screening of ‘Great Lakes, Bad Lines,’ hosted by The Garden Theater from 5-5:30pm, sponsored by Dr. William and Carin Northway. Following the film, join Betsie Bay Furniture for an after-party from 5:30-8pm with food by Still Grinning Kitchen and drinks by St. Ambrose Cellars. Featuring artists Glenn A. Wolff and John Moore and music by Turbo Pup. All proceeds for the evening will benefit FLOW for Water with a mission to shut down the Line 5 Pipeline beneath the Mackinac Straits.

Thursday, June 16

Elberta Village Council meeting at the village community building, behind the old Bay Valley Inn.

Friday, June 17

Off The Page with author Adam Schuitema, who will discuss his book *Haymaker*. The Upper Peninsula town of Haymaker is taken over by a libertarian organization, and old and new residents must decide how to live with one another. Winner 2016 Michigan Notable Book Award. Free, with donations accepted. Darcy Library. 7-8pm.

Saturday, June 18

2nd annual Sandy Kay 5K: The Benzie Central Interact Club hosts a 5K that was created in honor of a member’s grandmother (Sandy Kay) who had suffered from Multiple Sclerosis for many years. This year, the race will feature Matt Olson, one of Benzie Central’s English teachers and the Boys Varsity Basketball coach, who was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis this winter. The Sandy Kay 5k is a run/walk open to individuals of all ages. It will be held at Benzie Central High School. Pre-registration costs \$20 and can be found on bcinteract.weebly.com. Race-day registration will cost \$25; the first 100 registrants get a free T-shirt. All proceeds to support the research and awareness of Multiple Sclerosis through the National MS foundation.

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# Doone

Continued from page 1

admits to being a “disruptive student,” now self-diagnosing as probably suffering from attention deficit disorder. Not surprisingly, he considered school a social event.

After graduation, Fairchild continued on to Central Michigan University (CMU), wanting to emulate his esteemed science teacher, Scott Matthews. Disillusioned with student teaching, though, he dropped out of college and joined the Air Force, attending basic training at Language School in Monterey, California, before deciding that he did not want to go to China or anywhere else overseas (this was 1969). So he wound up in the Packing and Crating Shop in Colorado Springs, cutting 4x8 pieces of plywood to make boxes for shipping typewriters to Turkey.

Then came, as the saying goes, the defining moment of his life up to that point.

In 1971, while cutting the crates, Fairchild ran his hand through a table saw, which apparently was not bolted to the floor. After 27 months in hospital and many surgeries, including skin grafts, tendon repairs, and transplants, he was given an honorable discharge and returned home.

Fairchild has attended classes in elementary education, speech pathology, history, biology, agronomy, and nursing, rejecting them all for a variety of reasons, not to mention boredom and “math anxiety.” After two years at the Grand Traverse Department of Veteran Affairs and one more educational stint at Aquinas College, he came back, yet again, to Benzie County, where he took the U.S. Postal Service exam and worked for that agency for seven years, retiring in 1988.

At the age of 40, Fairchild married Edith “Pinky” Marble, whom he had first met at a CSA dance 24 years earlier, when she was 14 and he was 16. The couple was married for 19 years, until Pinky’s death in 2006. They had acquired Doone—whom they named after the famous novel *Lorna Doone*—shortly before, and the Official Dog has been his constant companion ever since.

The twosome has a somewhat fixed schedule, with flexibility built in, of course, for ice and snow or the possibility of fly-fishing.

Their daily fair-weather outings go something like this: Carpe diem 8:30-9:30 a.m.; pick up newspapers at EZ Mart; head to Petals & Perks for coffee. Next, they hang out in the break room of City Hall for a while, where Doone gets treats and plenty of attention, and then they are off to Crescent Bakery, where Fairchild buys a doughnut and feeds it to sparrows on the sidewalk. They meander

to the beach, perhaps meeting Bill Beck and Max, his schnauzer, before backtracking to Ace Hardware for more Doone treats, then The Bookstore (treats and conversation), and finally L’Chayim, where there is usually a small stash of meat scraps for you-know-who, and where Fairchild eats a chocolate chip cookie. All this time, they are running into people on the sidewalk and stopping to chat.

“Winter is OK, but I really do prefer the lively summer scene for walking about and meeting all kinds of folks,” Fairchild says.

Then the *boulevardier* and his *femme fatale* wander home, where he puts on some “bad Rock ‘n Roll,” makes coffee, reads newspapers, does crossword puzzles, and smokes cigars. Fairchild usually reads for one to three hours (right now he is into sci-fi and fantasy), makes dinner, reads some more, and heads to bed.

A voracious reader, Fairchild’s taste in literature is eclectic. His two favorite novels are Dumas’s *The Count of Monte Cristo*, (“an exquisite story of revenge”) and George MacDonald Fraser’s *The Pyrates* (“a hilarious swashbuckling tale” that is set in the 1600s, though written in the 1980s). But his “Bibles” are *The Portable Curmudgeon* by Jon Winokur and *Whatever It Is, I’m Against It—An Encyclopedia of Classical and Contemporary Abhorrence* by Nat Shapiro.

“These are such great books, I go back to them all the time,” Fairchild says. They recall the satirical essayists H.L. Mencken, Oscar Wilde, and Edward Abbey, all cynics whom Fairchild greatly admires. He likens to Oscar Wilde’s most famous quotes: “We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars. Be yourself; everyone else is already taken. Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go.”

Fairchild is also a foodie. His culinary hero is Thomas Keller, and French Bistro cooking is his favorite style, because of that renowned chef. While at CMU and living in an apartment with two roommates, Fairchild says that he quickly tired of “very, very bad food” and began to experiment in the kitchen. Later, when married, he and Pinky (who also loved to cook) became known for their Sunday dinners. He makes a “killer” *boeuf bourguignon* and a “fantastic” roast chicken, plus a variety of quiches.

“I’m too old to work, but not too old to have fun,” Fairchild remarks. “I love everything about Frankfort, am umbilically connected to the Frankfort zone. It’s a wonderful, beautiful place. We have everything—25 miles from Interlochen, 45 miles from Traverse City, spectacular Lake Michigan, and all the remarkable people who appreciate this town. I’m Frankfort’s biggest booster—that’s what I do.”



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Swap

Continued from page 1

ing ottoman, arranged ready for settling into with a book, that I saw on the side of the road near our cabin. It was definitely the case with a large dresser that we ourselves offloaded. It was too cumbersome to display in its entirety: instead, we left the dresser on the road with a note saying that the drawers were at our cottage. In no time at all, a neighbor had phoned, claimed it, and returned with her truck to pick it up and haul it away.

Other times a piece is still functional but much too worn or too cheap to bother trying to sell. An example was a beach lounge that had been left by the road for several days but without a FREE sign. Finally, I went to the likely house and left a note with my phone number, asking if it was indeed free for the taking. A man soon called and said, "It's yours if you want it," but by the time that I went back to fetch the lounge, it was gone! Then, a few days later, it had returned! This time, I finally tried it out for myself and saw why it had been surrendered twice—uncomfortable! I agreed. I left it. But then it finally vanished for good.

Some things are left because they do not quite work but might be worth repairing, too good to throw in the trash. This had to be the case with an upright vacuum cleaner that we found one day beside the road—we took it home, started it up, discovered that it ran but had no suction, and in the dead of night, we returned it to where we had found it. But we never saw it again; it too vanished for good.

Or sometimes it is simply time to unload something that has outlasted its sentimental value. Recently, I saw a bright orange wicker chair beside the road. The owner explained, "Mom painted everything! Orange is OK, but it's not comfortable, we never use it." Alongside a FREE sign, the orange chair was placed beside the road with a small TV on the seat. Both disappeared. However, the chair later reappeared in front of a garage down the way, incorporated into a display of summer art projects—a whole new purpose!

Along the summertime roads, I have seen a myriad of FREE items out on the great roadside swap meet: the aforementioned

chairs, vacuum, TV, and ottoman; a shabbier armchair on a back road; a lone toilet; four large TVs with remotes taped to them; a full set of tires for a 2012 Chrysler minivan; a rope hammock; a Butterfly "project" sailboat; a computer keyboard and printer; an elegant-looking brown brocade sofa with Queen Anne legs on the main street in Honor; an office chair; heavy wooden planter boxes; a Kenmore gas grill; a brass planter; two large sections of orange carpeting, neatly rolled; an electric carpet sweeper; Tupperware containers; and a plaid sofa.

These things all have histories. Each now-FREE item once was new, acquired for some specific purpose—maybe it was acquired with excitement at solving a problem, with delight at its appearance or quality, with thanks in receipt as a gift, inherited as a family treasure. Often there is an original price tag on the bottom, and sometimes these indicate a reduced sale price, suggesting that this item had started life as a bargain, too good to pass up. Each was valued by its first owner, and perhaps by later ones, too. But each eventually reached its limit.

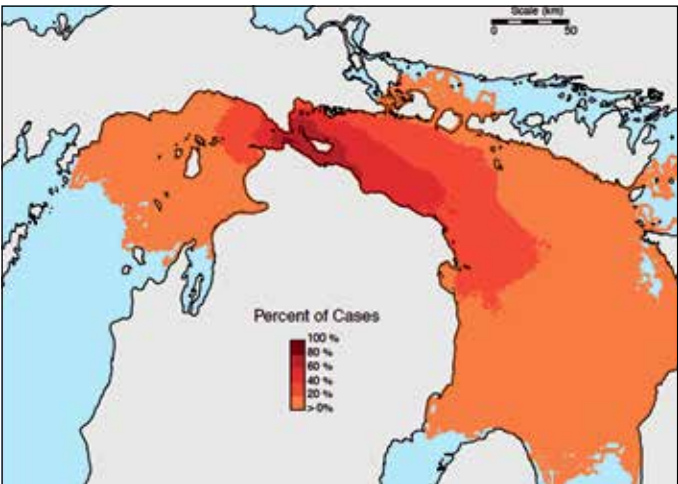
The backstory is not necessarily important to the item and whether or not it is useful, but the possibilities still intrigue me.

Museums are filled with items whose original use has long been finished. When a museum knows an object's provenance, the curators might tell the item's story in a label that is rarely longer than 90 words. Most often, we cannot know—except for that orange chair whose owner was available—whether a thing had special meaning for a family, whether it is being surrendered with huge relief or with some regret.

For instance, maybe the sofa on the street in Honor had been bought at a fine furniture store for a first home in the 1940s, then reupholstered five times and used as the Coho Festival Queen's throne for years, before being left on the curb by a grandson with a too-small apartment and no truck.

Ultimately, we just do not know. But we take our chances anyway. We take a free item, give it another life, another story. And if it does not work out, we can always return it to the road for the next person to try.

We hope, though, that no one takes our reusable painted wood FREE sign, because there will always be more stuff to put out beside the road.



A report this spring by University of Michigan scientists projected that an oil spill from the Enbridge pipeline under the Straits of Mackinac could stretch 700 miles, from Lake Michigan across Lake Huron. FLOW for Love of Water is part of a consortium trying to shut down the Mackinac Straits pipeline. Learn about FLOW and the effort at Betsie Bay Furniture's "3rd Thursday Benefit Night" on June 16 from 5-8 p.m.

The Betsie Current

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