



The Sun Shines in Thomponville

17th Annual SummerFest provides family fun and community resources

By Aubrey Ann Parker

Current Contributor

Cars are lined down the street. Helium-filled balloons inject color into the hazy, late-afternoon air. The ear-splitting sound from a bright red fire engine pierces the sky; it is followed by an onslaught of giggles, which wakes everyone in the vicinity up to the fact that this is not an actual emergency, but, rather, a fun demonstration. Adults mill around beneath a row of pop-up-tent-covered booths. A swarm of bare, gangly legs and arms teem across the jungle gym; they are still slightly pale from school days, only just concluded. The plucking of a few stringed folk instruments and the wale of a harmonica can be heard nearby, and the smell of hot dogs hangs in the air.

If you head to Thomponville on the third Monday of June, you might be surprised to see the downtown bustling with all of this activity. Monday, June 19, will mark the 17th annual Thomponville SummerFest, a free, family-friendly event that, on the surface, is all about fun. But beneath all of that free fun, there is a deeper, more purposeful intent—bringing valuable resources into a community that sometimes struggles with basic needs.

Shirley (Sexton) Damore is the brains—and much of the brawn—behind Thomponville SummerFest, but she



Sarah May (left), human services coordinator for Benzie County, with Shirley Damore (right), mother of the Thomponville SummerFest, a fun, family-friendly, annual event that brings valuable resources into the community. Photo by Aubrey Ann Parker.

is so humble that many people do not realize it. When we ask for a photo, she grabs another organizer to stand beside her; when prizes are raffled off later in the evening, she has her husband, Rick Damore, announce the winning numbers, while she stands off to the side.

Though she does get plenty of help nowadays, Damore basically started this event from scratch back in 2000, when she served as the head of the Community Centered Work Group and they identified

a summer festival as a priority.

Damore moved to the Thomponville area from Grand Rapids in 1994, and she has been on the Human Services Collaborative since 1997. In 2000, Damore and Rosa Brenneman, the volunteer coordinator for the Department of Human Services in Benzie County at the time, coordinated the first Thomponville SummerFest, with funding from the Community Chest, as well as the Benzie County Democrats, who have helped

with set-up and tear-down every year since. When the volunteer coordinator position ended in 2002, Damore took up the event on her own after that.

“Shirley [Damore] came up with the idea for SummerFest, because she noticed that a lot of people in Thomponville are isolated from the services that are more centered in Beulah or Honor, in the other corner of Benzie County,” says Sarah May, human services coordinator for Benzie County, who heads up the Thomponville work group that helps with the event each year.

Filling A Community Need

In the summer time, most visitors cruising the M-115 highway on their way to/from Benzie County’s beaches more than likely completely miss the one-square-mile village in our southeast corner. Just three blocks off the main highway, with 438 souls, according to the 2014 U.S. Census estimate, Thomponville is Benzie County’s second-largest village by population and by geography, next to Benzonia (493 people, 1.13 square miles), another drive-thru village that was once a hub of Benzie commerce more than a century ago. The greater Thomponville area—made up of the village proper, plus

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Those Nancys Know How to Party!

And those Susans, too. Oh, and don’t forget the Lindas.

By Nancy Bordine & Susan Koenig

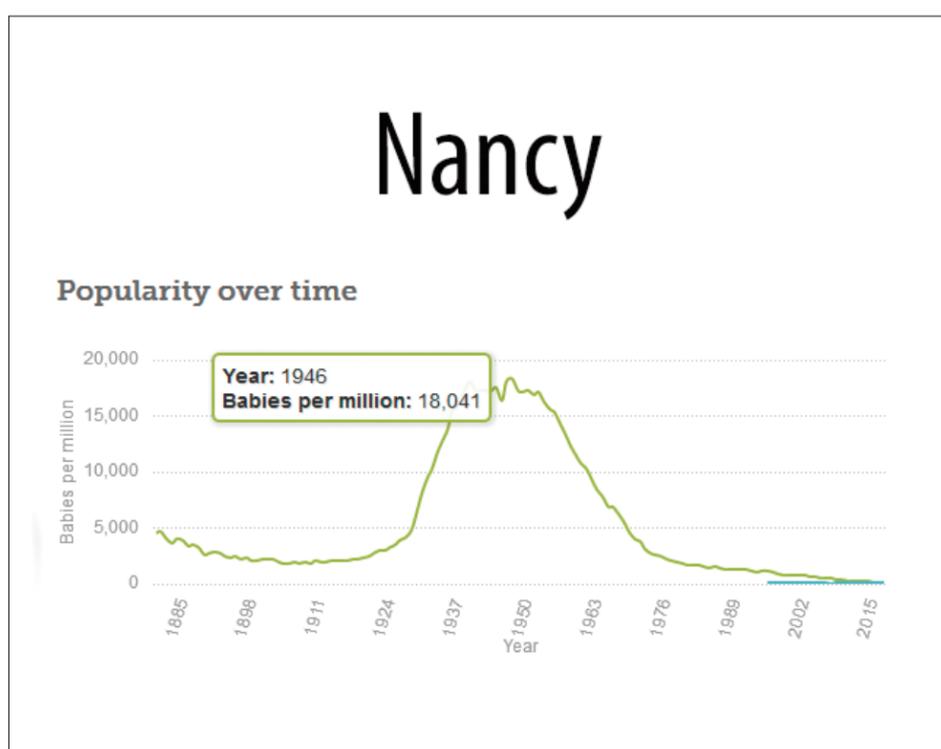
Current Contributors

Tired of trying to remember names at a party? Looking for a group with which to bond? Nostalgic for the days of your youth, when kids left people out and exclusivity was the name of the game? Well, there is a party coming up on Tuesday, June 27, and you are not invited—unless your name is Nancy, that is.

But not to worry, there is a party later this summer that you can attend—only if your name is Susan, though. And let’s not forget about the Lindas, who we have heard lunch at L’Chayim, or the Barbaras who feast up in Leelanau.

According to Bruce Lansky, author of *Baby Names in the News*, the most popular baby boomer girl names from the ’40s, ’50s and ’60s were: Mary, Linda, Barbara, Patricia, Carol, Sandra, Nancy, Sharon, Judith, Susan, Deborah, Karen, Donna, Lisa, Kimberly, Michelle, and Cynthia.

So where are they now? It would be a challenge to find these girl names in a high school these days. A baby named Nan or



It would be a challenge to find a girl named Nancy in a high school these days, but in 1946, this baby girl name was the bees knees. Graphic by Aubrey Ann Parker. Source: BabyCenter.com

Susie? Forget it!

Still, there is a contingency of these women—mostly middle-aged—who gather together once a year to celebrate their names.

The History

How did the whole thing get started? Well, that depends on who you talk to. Urban legend has it that the Cathys started it first in Benzie County, though the Susans will claim it was them.

When they grew up and had retirement time on their hands, they started looking for fun things to keep themselves busy. Someone—possibly wintering in a Florida retirement village—noticed, “There sure are a lot of us Cathy/Kathys around here. We should get together and have a party.”

Perhaps simultaneously, an area woman named Susan noticed, shortly after she had moved to Benzie County, that she had been meeting a lot of women of the same nomenclature, and so she decided

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Jim MacInnes: Benzie's Renewable Energy Leader

Questions & Answers with community faces

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Crystal Mountain near Thompsonville is not your average four-season resort, and Jim MacInnes is not your average CEO. He is a former electrical power engineer and a well-respected environmentalist, known throughout the state as a renewable energy advocate—one who preaches “green,” not only for moral reasons but because clean energy makes economic sense.

Under the leadership of Jim MacInnes, and his wife, Chris (Petritz) MacInnes—whose parents previously owned Crystal Mountain—the resort has undertaken many environmental initiatives. These include: being the first Michigan ski resort to purchase wind-energy offsets to cover the energy use of a new high-speed chairlift in the late 1990s; achieving LEED environmental design certification for a new spa in 2008; installing public charging stations for electric cars in 2011; working with Bay Area Recycling for Charities (BARC) to become 60 percent zero-waste (which *The Betsie Current* covered in 2014; read the story at bit.ly/2t9tBu3); and, most recently, the resort is adding geothermal power as early as this fall. In addition, wherever possible, Crystal Mountain's restaurants use local foods, compostable servicewear, and environmentally safe cleaning products, such as vinegar instead of harsh chemicals.

MacInnes believes that reducing energy use is good for the planet, and that is good for Crystal Mountain's bottom line. “Global warming is bad for our ski business,” he frequently tells journalists. Practicing what he preaches, MacInnes frequently drives his Tesla on the back roads of Northern Michigan. He recently received the prestigious Clarence Kroupa Award at the Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council's “Environmentalist of the Year” awards ceremony in late April.

Additionally, MacInnes will kick off the Michigan Clean Energy Conference & Fair—running June 23-25 in Traverse City—by moderating a panel at The State Theatre on Friday night about the future of electric mobility. The conference is organized, in part, by the Traverse City-based Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities (formerly the Beulah-based Michigan Land Use Institute, or MLUI), on whose advisory council MacInnes sits. Keynote speakers on Saturday include former Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm (D) and Mary Powell, CEO of the Vermont company Green Mountain Power, which this year was named one of the top 10 energy companies in the world by Fast Company.

Continuing with our interview series on impactful Benzie County characters, *The Betsie Current* caught up with MacInnes at Crystal Mountain.



Crystal Mountain CEO Jim MacInnes in front of the resort's newest “green” project—a 31,000-square-foot expansion to the Inn at the Mountain, which will be heated and cooled using a closed-loop geothermal heat-pump system. Photo by Aubrey Ann Parker.

MACINNES: For example, I'm going to an electrical engineering conference in Chicago in July hosted by the IEEE Power and Energy Society. [Pronounced “Eye-triple-E,” which stands for the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers] IEEE is the world's largest professional association dedicated to the advancement of technology for humanity. There will be more than 3,000 power engineers from

THE BETSIE CURRENT: Of what accomplishment are you most proud, with respect to Crystal Mountain's push for energy sustainability?

JIM MACINNES: Our newest project—a 31,000-square-foot expansion to the Inn at the Mountain—will be heated and cooled using a closed-loop geothermal heat-pump system. The project includes two-dozen 460-foot-deep geothermal wells and a dozen geothermal heat pumps. Beyond being very energy efficient in its own right, the system will also be powered using a lot of low-carbon energy from our electricity provider, Cherryland Electric Cooperative.

CURRENT: How can states, regions, cities, businesses, and communities do their part for the environment?

MACINNES: It is disappointing that the White House has abandoned our leadership role on climate change [by pulling out of the Paris Climate Accord]. Leadership has the power to create positive momentum or impede progress, and this most recent decision gives me concern about our energy future and how America is viewed on the world stage. The world has long looked to the United States as being a respected leader [for clean energy], and we all would like to continue to set an example. However, we don't need government to tell us to do the right thing. States and cities are already mobilizing, and this step will likely galvanize people's efforts to take greater ownership of the problem and move forward even faster on clean energy. Major corporations and other businesses have the resources to make things happen on a grand scale and will play an important role, not only because it is the right thing to do, but because their customers are demanding it. Just watch.

CURRENT: What has you most excited about the Michigan Clean Energy Conference coming to Traverse City? What do you expect to be your highlight of the weekend?

MACINNES: It's great to bring the conference here, because this topic is so front-of-mind in our region. The highlight for me will be talking about the future of electric mobility with our panel, which includes former Governor Jennifer Granholm. She is a thought-leader in clean energy, and it will be enlightening to hear her thoughts on the future of mobility.

CURRENT: How often are you attending conferences like this? What are you learning from others?

around the world discussing what is new in power and energy technology. I'm looking forward to that. I try to attend energy and/or ecology-related conferences each year to keep up to date on these topics. We worked with an organization called Local Future to host “The Conference on Michigan's Future: Energy, Economy, and Environment” in 2008, 2009, and 2013, bringing in dozens of great speakers. Now, I am mostly focused on helping people to better understand and implement these important clean-energy technologies.

CURRENT: We know that you drive a Tesla and love it. What are some reasons to be optimistic about the marketplace driving innovation in the electric mobility realm?

MACINNES: For a start, electric vehicles are way more energy efficient and have a lot fewer moving parts. This makes them mechanically simpler and less subject to breakdown. They have software that can be updated over the internet, so, rather than becoming obsolete, they will improve over time—much like your phone. You are already seeing this with Tesla. Internal combustion engines create a lot of pollution, while EVs [electric vehicles] have zero emissions. A lot more low-carbon energy is also being incorporated into the power grid. Air pollution is one of the reasons that China is pressing hard to deploy EVs as quickly as possible. I think that most auto manufactures have already determined that EV technology is inevitable, for many of those reasons.

CURRENT: Softball question—Jim, since the conference falls just after the Summer Solstice, what is your ideal way to spend the longest day of the year in Northern Michigan?

MACINNES: That's easy, I'd spend the day bicycling some of the beautiful bike trails in our Grand Traverse region.

Editor's Note: Jacob Wheeler performed this interview. He is a former editor for *The Betsie Current* and is currently communications manager at the Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities (formerly the Michigan Land Use Institute, or MLUI), which—along with the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association—is facilitating the Michigan Clean Energy Conference & Fair on June 23-25 in Traverse City. Learn more about the conference at MIcleanenergyconference.org.

T-ville Sun

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Colfax and Weldon townships—is 72.5 square miles with a population of 1,640.

Sure, Crystal Mountain is located just outside of Thompsonville proper, and the four-season resort brings all kinds of people to the area: golfers in the summer, ski bunnies in the winter, conference-goers just about any time in between. And although the 1,125-acre Crystal Mountain Resort is a mini-village unto itself—with restaurants, things to do, and apparel stores, so that you never really have to leave until it is time to check out—many folks do venture out to breakfast at Rosie's Country Cafe, or to grab ribs on Thursday nights at Geno's Sports Bar & Grill. (Seriously, if you have not, you need to: check out the story that ran in *The Betsie Current* about Geno's from 2014 at bit.ly/2cKWcjR.)

The truly adventurous head out to experience the local "night life" at the Laughing Horse Saloon or the Crystal Palace, or both. For the day-drinkers, now there is also the Iron Fish Distillery, located just over the Benzie-Manistee county line. Snowmobilers and bikers alike enjoy the trails in and around the Betsie Valley, depending on the season.

But what visitors to the T-ville area might not realize is that this tight-knit community has perhaps not benefited from the local tourist economy as much as other areas of Benzie County have.

U.S. Census data shows that, per capita, the people of the Thompsonville area are younger and poorer than many of their Benzie County neighbors—per capita income for Thompsonville is among the lowest in the state, hanging just over \$12,000 per year, compared to close to \$26,000 for the average Michigander. Likewise, the median household incomes for the two townships that Thompsonville straddles are among the lowest in Benzie County—\$37,740 for Colfax and \$31,005 for Weldon, compared to \$51,939 nationally.

The median age for Thompsonville was 38.5 in 2010; 41.5 in Colfax Township, and 46.5 in Weldon Township, with only Gilmore, Almira, Inland, Homestead, and Joyfield ticking in at this age or younger (38, 39, 40, 42.5, 45, respectively). In Colfax and Weldon townships, there are around 140 and 110 children respectively, or about 21 percent of the population, and more than 20 percent of households are those with single parents.

Valuable Resources... and Fun!

"More than 500 people came the first

year," Damore says. "We ran out of food." There are up years and down years, but about 300 people consistently attend SummerFest each year—everyone from the very young to the very old. The favorite part of the evening is the raffle, when everything from potted basil plants to Nerf guns to brand new children's bikes are given to attendees.

Damore spends countless hours every year raising money to pay for the event and the prizes through grants and sponsorships that she seeks out, in addition to coordinating more than a dozen volunteers—including musicians—and two-dozen local organizations that partake in the evening's events.

Last year, there were 23 exhibitors, both inside and outside the Thompsonville Village Hall, including the local Fire & Rescue, the Benzie Bus, Grow Benzie/Hive Minded, Michigan Works, the Community Action Agency, the Benzie County Council on Aging, and the Betsie Valley District Library. This year, Damore is excited that Oxo, Benzie County's new K-9 unit dog, will be attending.

"Except for one year, the dog handler has always come to SummerFest," Damore says. "I think it's great to have so many groups participating year after year."

The event includes free food and refreshments, children's activities like putt-putt golf and face-painting, and information booths of the participating organizations.

"It's a great way to reach that community—in a fun way, and with lots of give-aways," continues Sarah May of the Human Services Collaborative, which includes all of the organizations and agencies that service Benzie County, from BACN to Early Head Start to Northwest Michigan Health Services. "All the representatives [from these various organizations and agencies] go there, and the community gets all of this great info on how to access these resources. It's a fun summer atmosphere.

Angela Johnson, a mother and Thompsonville resident, has volunteered to run the kids' games for the past three years.

"I like to volunteer for the kids, to see them outside playing," she says. "Seeing smiling faces, watching families spend time together. Watching a diverse group of people bring informative information—you have nearly every group/organization from Benzie County that shows up. It's just a fun event."

This year, the Thompsonville SummerFest will take place on Monday, June 19, from 6-9 p.m. at the Thompsonville Village Hall at 14714 Lincoln Avenue. The children's door-prize drawing will begin at 7:15 p.m. For more information, call 231-920-1789.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CONSTANTLY FLOWING

Mondays

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. 231-525-0600. 10-11am.

A volunteer will be at the Benzie Shores District Library to repair clothing while you wait. No formal wear or upholstery; no drop-offs. 10:30am-12pm.

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: grab your friends and join us for euchre, cribbage, and rummy, too! 12-1pm.

Grow Benzie Farmers' Market: Every Monday at 4pm and 5:30pm, there will be free cooking and nutrition-education classes. All are welcome! Fresh vegetables and fruits, baked goods, bread, jam, honey, maple syrup, artisan crafts, and more will be featured at each market! You can also tour our new edible trails and try out mini-golf! The Grill Benzie Food Truck will be there so bring the family for dinner! 5885 Frankfort Highway (M-115) between Benzonia and Frankfort. 3-7pm.

Tuesdays

Sunrise Rotary Club's weekly meetings are over breakfast at the Cold Creek Inn of Beulah. Come join us! 7:30-9am.

Stretch and tone with Jean at the Oliver Art Center in Frankfort. Email annamallien@gmail.com if interested. 9-10am.

Technology Tuesday: Benzie Shores District Library in Frankfort offers assistance with technology. Learn how to download ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines to your personal devices. 10am-12pm.

Music by the Melody Makers at The Gathering Place. 10:30am-1:30pm.

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.

Yoga with Kari at Pleasant Valley Community Center in Arcadia. Open to all levels; \$13 per session. 231-383-1883. 5:30-7pm.

Deep Stretch & Meditation: This practice begins with asana (postures) and sequences that encourage deep release and ends with meditation. A variety of guided & non-guided meditation techniques, including Yoga Nidra, will be explored week-to-week. 5:30-7pm.

Yard Yoga with Jenn Ryan at St. Ambrose Cellars. Register via text 231-218-0655. 6-7:30pm.

Wednesdays

Pilates with Anna at the Oliver Art Center. annamallien@gmail.com 9-10am.

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

Open 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 per card or bring a prize. 12:30-1:30pm.

Yoga with Kari at the Oliver Art Center. Open to all levels; \$13 per session. 231-383-1883. 5:30-7pm.

The Storm Riders Cycling Club is rolling through beautiful Benzie County this summer. Join the rides every Wednesday, or just those that you can make! Explore rotating sections of rides around Frankfort and Elberta. Rides will begin and end at Stormcloud Brewing Company, and riders get a discount on their first beer after the ride. No registration; just show up!

Thursdays

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

Stretch and tone with Jean at Oliver Art Center. annamallien@gmail.com 9-10am.

Adult coloring at Benzie Shores District Library. All materials provided. 10-11am.

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.

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. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times in the studio. Price includes: 25 pounds of clay, glaze, and firings. 3:30-6:30pm.

Yoga with Kari at the Ware Farm of Bear Lake. Open to all levels; \$13 per session. 231-383-1883. 4-5:30pm.

Open Mic Night at The Cabbage Shed in Elberta. 8pm.

Fridays

Pilates with Anna at the Oliver Art Center. annamallien@gmail.com 9-10am.

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

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

Saturdays

Frankfort Farmers' Market at Open Space Park on Main Street, between 7th & 9th streets, along the beautiful 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.

Body Sculpting on the ball with Deanne at Oliver Art Center. annamallien@gmail.com 9-10 am.

*Yoga classes at Discover YOU Yoga and Fitness in Frankfort every day of the week, except Saturday. For a complete schedule and more information on classes and rates, visit discoveryyogami.com.

Thursday, June 15

Benzie County Chamber of Commerce's June Business After Hours celebrates Honor Bank's 100-year anniversary at the Honor Bank (2254 Henry St, Honor). Hors-d'oeuvres, 50/50 raffle, door prizes, \$150 member raffle! 5-7pm.

Thursday, June 15

The ultimate game of capture the flag COLOR WAR style! Grades 7-12. Food and live worship. Free. E.P.I.C. Youth Ministry at 15505 Cinder Road, Beulah.

Thursday, June 15

Mike Youker will play at Lake Ann Brewing Company. 6:30-9:30pm.

Friday, June 16

Frankfort musician Jake Frysinger performs a harmonious fusion of cover songs and originals. He's cool and likes big tips. Stormcloud Brewing Company. 8-10pm.

Friday, June 16

Blue Water Collective will play at Lake Ann Brewing Company. 6:30-9:30pm.

Friday, June 16

Music on the deck with Jack Pine Savage. The Cabbage Shed. 6-9pm.

Friday, June 16

Lake of Shadows plays at St. Ambrose Cellars. 6-9pm.

Saturday, June 17

Birdies, BBQ, Brews: Whether it's your first time on the course this year or this week, make a tee time for this event at the Interlochen Golf Course. You'll enjoy 18 holes of golf, BBQ lunch, and a pint of Bradley's Brew, provided by Right Brain Brewery, with a logo glass for just \$45. Stop in to meet the new owner, Brad Dean, and check out our completely renovated restaurant, now Bradley's Pub & Grille. Space is limited, so call 231-275-7311. 9am-12pm.

Saturday, June 17

Join the Benzie County Democrats for our monthly meeting! The new executive board will steer the conversation, but we would love for you to attend! The road to the 2018 election has already begun! 10-11am. 9930 Honor Highway in Honor, next to the Cherry Bowl Drive-In and Field Crafts.

Saturday, June 17

21st annual Frankfort Craft Fair on Main Street. 10am-4pm.

Saturday, June 17

Fairies & Forts annual Summer Kick-Off Party at Michigan Legacy Art Park at Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville, featuring brotha James and Jenifer Strauss. Flag raising, refreshments, and crafts. Through music, brotha James invites kids to join him as a dreamer, to follow their passion for what makes them happy, to show gratitude for simple things, and hold on to the moments that are filled with joy. His energetic and engaging performance gets kids and parents alike participating in the process—clapping, dancing, singing, and maybe even beat-boxing along. With a background as an environmental educator and classroom teacher, Jenifer Strauss unites her passion for teaching and storytelling in Story Be Told, a narrative consulting business. She offers a unique brand of energy-injected and interactive storytelling to capture interest, motivate learning, inspire action, and transform lives. 2-4pm.

Saturday, June 17

Stormcloud Brewing Company is turning four years old this June, and you're invited to join



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the birthday celebration and fundraiser. The event includes: Beerthday Bash with lawn games, live music, beer-can chicken on the grill, and Nightswimmer Stout birthday cake. **BONUS:** Join in the fundraising fun during the 2nd Annual Fun Ride/Walk from Elberta to Stormcloud on the Betsie Valley Trail and Fundraiser in the Pub, both to raise money for the Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail. Music by Evan Burgess from 8-10pm. Beerthday Bash is 4-11pm.

Saturday, June 17

Music on the deck with Jake Frysinger at The Cabbage Shed. 6-9pm. Off The Ledge 9pm-12am. No cover.

Saturday, June 17

Ron Harkness will play smooth jazz at Lake Ann Brewing Company. 6:30-9:30pm.

Saturday, June 17

Lake of Shadows plays at St. Ambrose Cellars. 6-9pm.

Sunday, June 18

Open mic night, hosted by the one and only Blake Elliott at Stormcloud Brewing Company. 6-9pm.

Monday-Friday, June 19-23

Nuts 4 Nature is a environmental summer day camp for children ages 8-12. Benzie area youth will have the opportunity to make discoveries in the soil, find out what's in the water, hike the beach, learn about our trees, and make environmental art. Each day will have a unique theme and a special guest presenter. Youth are invited to come for one or for all five days. \$15/day. Held at Oliver Art Center. Register with the Benzie Conservation District at 231-882-4391 or aime@benziecd.org.

Tuesday-Friday, June 20-23

Nature Explorers Kids Camp: Animal detectives is the name of this camp and will feature daily live animal guests, scavenger hunts in the woods, fun crafts, exciting games, and intriguing science experiences. Ages 7-11; 12 and older accepted as Junior Volunteers. Camp is \$115 for the week, \$32 per day, or \$18 per half day. Register with Amalia Fernand at 231-871-0276. Grow Benzie. 10am-4pm.

Monday, June 19

The 17th annual Thompsonville SummerFest will feature kids games, music, food, a raffle, and a bunch of Benzie County organizations. Thompsonville Village Hall at 14714 Lincoln Avenue. For more information, call 231-920-1789. 6-9pm. The children's door-prize drawing will begin at 7:15 p.m.

Monday, June 19

Strawberry Freezing Party: Want strawberries in the winter? Enjoy the company of others while you preserve your food in the Grow Benzie incubator kitchen. The Ware Farm of Bear Lake will bring flats that you can purchase for \$45 each, or bring your own. In addition, \$5 for the class. You do no set up and no clean up! 6:30-8pm.

Tuesday, June 20

New Third Coast will play at Lake Ann Brewing Company. 6:30-9:30pm.

Wednesday, June 21

Breakfast Book Share at the Benzie Shores District Library: Bring your own tea or coffee, share what you have read recently, and find out what fellow community members have been reading. This is a great way to discover new books! 9-10am.

Wednesday, June 21

Improving Benzie Education Opportunities for Everyone, a forum that is part of a series addressing barriers to improving the quality of life for our residents, presented by the Advocates for Benzie County. Forum issues include: pre-school, childcare, technical training, continuing programs for adults and seniors, and more. All interested parties are invited to the Benzie County Government Center on US-31, just outside Beulah. 4-6pm.

Wednesday, June 21

5th GEAR Band will play music at Geno's Sports Bar in Thompsonville. 6-10pm.

Wednesday, June 21

Mitch McKolay will play at Lake Ann Brewing Company. 6:30-9:30pm.

Thursday-Saturday, June 22-24

The inaugural Frankfort 48 Film Festival & Contest: Aspiring filmmakers are invited to create a 3- to 5-minute film that celebrates the beauty of Northern Michigan. Participants have 48 hours to conceive their ideas, scout location, film, edit, and present their masterpieces. Prizes will be awarded to the top filmmaker. Kick-off meeting at the Garden Theater at 9am on Thursday, June 22. Final versions will be shown beginning at 8pm on Saturday, June 24. Frankfort48@gmail.com

Thursday, June 22

J Winkler and Associates will play at Lake Ann Brewing Company. 6:30-9:30pm.

Friday-Sunday, June 23-25

The 17th Annual Michigan Energy Fair will be held at Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) in Traverse City. Learn more about the conference at MICleanEnergyConference.org.

Friday, June 23

Chloe & Olivia Kimes will play at St. Ambrose Cellars. 6-9pm.

Friday, June 23

Da Sista Hood will play at Lake Ann Brewing Company. 6:30-9:30pm.

Friday, June 23

Chris Skellenger and Patrick Niemistro will play at Stormcloud Brewing Company. 8-10pm.

Friday, June 23

Seth Bernard, with special guest Scott Pellegron: Are you ready to dance? Join us in welcoming back this talented guy and his guitar back to The Cabbage Shed stage. No cover. Full menu until 11pm; music begins at 9:30pm.

Friday, June 23

Annual Nitecrawler Hunt: Bring a flashlight and a container to put worms in for Take-A-Kid-Finish day on Saturday, June 24. Mineral Springs Park in Frankfort. 10:30-11:30pm.

Saturday, June 24

Take-A-Kid-Fishing day: Free lunch, fishing rod, and T-shirt. Mineral Springs Park. 8am-2pm.

Saturday, June 24

Fundraiser for the Pleasant Valley Community Center: 50% of all sales at Stormcloud Brewing Company will go toward PVCC's social and recreational programs to enhance the lives of the surrounding community. 4-6pm.

Saturday, June 24

Jim Hawley will play at Lake Ann Brewing Company. 6:30-9:30pm.

Saturday, June 24

The Saginaw-based trio Barbarossa Brothers will perform "Michigan-bred bayou folk." Ryan Fitzgerald, Loren Kranz, and Drew Pentkowski make up the trio. Stormcloud Brewing Company. 8-10pm.

Sunday, June 25

4th annual Up North Pride Rally and Visibility March in Traverse City: We'll gather at 1pm at The Little Fleet for a rally then march down Front Street to the Clinch Park Beach for a community picnic. Bring your posters, rainbow flags, and Pride spirit; Bikes, strollers, dogs, coaster toys are all welcome! 1-3pm.

Sunday June 25

Benzie Area Symphony Orchestra (BASO) features "Dvorak in America" concert, with soloist Chas Helge. Benzie Central High School Auditorium. 4pm.

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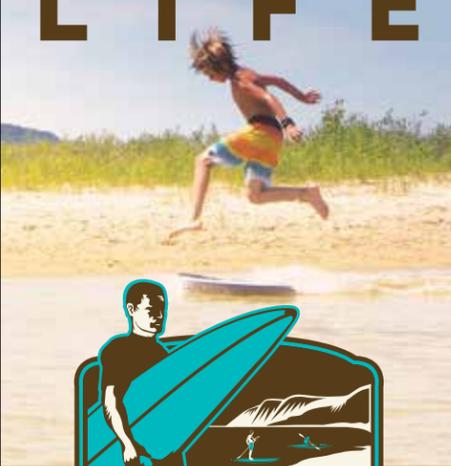
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Names

Continued from page 1

to invite all seven of them to a luncheon. It seemed corny, but a lot of them knew each other already, and some called other area Susans to join in. Everyone was from Benzie County, and most were locals (meaning they vote here). Susan Someone offered to host the party the following year, and so it continued through the early 2000s, with about 25 Susans attending back then.

Then, around 2002, a handful of Nancys, who had heard about the Cathy/ Kathy parties and the Susan parties, thought, 'You know, there are a lot of us around, too. Let's see if we can muster up a gathering of Nancys.' Well, that Nancy told two Nancys, and they told two Nancys, and before you knew it, there was a group of 54 Nancys on the Benzie County group list, with an average of 20 to 24 getting together each year. There are now seven Nancys on the planning commission, and they meet four times per year.

Of the Nancys who gather in Benzie County: 40 percent are local, 35 percent are from neighboring counties, 10 percent are from other areas of Michigan, 20 percent are from other states as far flung as Arizona, California, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

Regardless of which party you attend—and, thus, which name designation you fall under—it is funny not having to introduce oneself, nor having to remember any names. Benzie County can seem very homogenous at times, but the backgrounds of these women are as varied as the ladies themselves. Past careers and present include social work, education, sales, artistry (painting, pottery, design, sculpture, culinary art), law, flight attendant, healthcare, and beach shop owner. Most are married, some single (widowed, divorced, or by design), and all good-looking, charming, and in great physical shape. Amazing. (Sorry to be exclusive, but that is the way it is.)

Upcoming Parties

Nancys: This year, the 2017 Nancy gathering will take place on Tuesday, June 27, for a 12 p.m. luncheon at Chimney Corners Resort on Crystal Lake.

"Chef Steve [Tebo] puts together such a lovely lunch for us," Nancy Waltz says. "Last year, he used recipes from his winter training in France, and it was so delicious!"

Nancy Repp was involved in the decision to hold this year's event again at Chimney Corners.

"You just can't beat the serene setting there, overlooking the sparkling lake in that big vintage lodge," she says.

The theme for 2017 will be 'Fun Up North,' and there will be some fun ice-breaker questions, as well as one finale question for each Nancy to answer for the entire group. It is fun getting to know

more about each other each summer and learning more about enjoying this beautiful area from each other.

"Our Benzie group celebrated our 10th Anniversary in 2012," says Nancy Vanderlinde, one of the planning committee members for the Nancy Luncheon in Benzie County. "We have such a good time that no one wants to stop getting together."

The planning committee's ultimate goal is to have every Nancy in the county join the party.

If you know a Nancy who likes to have fun, share this information with her. If you are an interested Nancy, contact Nancy Waltz at njwaltz@yahoo.com by Monday, June 19, to reserve a place at the party. (Checks will be due to Nancy Williamson by Friday, June 23.) 'Meet & Greet' will begin at 12 p.m., with the meal following at 12:30 p.m.

Popular U.S. Girl Names Per Generation

The Greatest Generation (born 1901-1924)

Mary, Helen, Dorothy, Margaret, Ruth

The Silent Generation (born 1925-1942)

Mary, Barbara, Patricia, Judith, Betty

Baby Boomers (born 1943-1964)

Mary, Susan, Linda, Karen, Donna

Generation X (born 1965-1980)

Jennifer, Amy, Melissa, Heather, Angela

Generation Y/Millennials (born 1981-2000)

Emily, Hannah, Samantha, Ashley, Sarah

Generation Z/Boomers (born 2001-beyond)

Sophia, Isabel, Emma, Olivia, Ava

Source: *LittleThings.com* and *U.S. Social Security archives.*

Susans: Sadly, we have lost a few Susans over the years, but the group lives on and continues to grow. Nowadays, there are about 40 Susans on the list, and the potluck luncheons have evolved (or devolved) into wine and cheese from 4-6 p.m. on the Thursday after Labor Day.

There is no test, but if the group gets much bigger, you might just have to show your birth certificate. This is, of course, discrimination in its only acceptable form—even Dr. Seuss would agree.

*Do you like it, Sue or Susie?
I think we're bonded, you and me.
If you're a her, even a he –
A boy named Sue at the party?
Well, that's OK, it's kind of funny.
We'll just call him Susie Honey.
Do you like the name of Susan?
Even if it's not your choosin?
You'll like it now, you have a group.
You don't have to jump through hoops.
A dish to bring, and you'll remember,
A special Thursday in September.*

If Susan (or some derivative thereof, as Susie, Sue, Suzanne, etc.) is your appellation and you are reading this article but have not been included in this in-crowd, take heart! Call Susan Koenig at 231-882-5722 or Sue Pyne at 231-882-5721.

Lindas: Up in Traverse City, they had the first Linda party in April 2015. There were 20 Lindas that showed up from the five-county region—the oldest Linda was in her 70s, and the youngest was in her

30s. (Both received a prize.)

"We had lots of laughs and a couple of silly games and contests," says Linda Sommerville, one of the organizers.

The next meeting of the Lindas will be Thursday, September 28, at 5:30 p.m. at Firefly in Traverse City. They plan to promote the party via Facebook, emails, newspaper, and radio, in order to reach the greater region. Want to learn more? Contact Linda Sommerville at lsommerville@cfsmail.org.

Barbaras: Back in 2012, our sister publication up in Leelanau County, the *Glen Arbor Sun*, profiled a group of Barbaras who have been meeting for close to two decades. Now, more than 80 Barbaras are on the email list, according to Barbara Alldredge, one of the club organizers. Alldredge was part of a 65-member Barbara Club in Rockford, Illinois, but she found a surplus of Barbaras in Leelanau County when she began spending more and more time here.

The Feast of Saint Barbara is held on December 4, so the Barbaras celebrate on the half-year, on June 4. In 2012, there were 45 Barbaras on the list and 18 attended the luncheon, but after the *Glen Arbor Sun's* story, attendance swelled to 26 in 2013, and the email list was at 56. Earlier this month, attendance was 35, and now the email list is currently sitting at 82.

Originally, the club met at the home of a Barbara, but they have since outgrown that. In 2014, the group met at the Glen Arbor Yacht Club; this year at the Leland Lodge.

"It's purely a social club," Barbara Siepker told the *Glen Arbor Sun*. "We eat and talk, share Barbara facts and stories, and lament that

there aren't any little girls named Barbara anymore."

However, a correction came to the *Glen Arbor Sun* a year later from club organizer Barbara Alldredge, who had received a letter from then seven-year-old Barbara Noreen Tornvall. Little Barbara had been visiting Glen Arbor from Chicago when she read about the Barbara Party, and she was delighted to learn of all of the area women who shared her name. Little Barbara wrote to share a little about herself, and Alldredge read the letter aloud at the annual Barbara meeting in 2013.

"I wanted to let you know that there are indeed some (at least one) little Barbaras out here," Tornvall wrote. "I am named for both my grandmothers. Your Barbara Club sounds like a lot of fun."

Calling all Barbaras: Do you share the name? All Barbaras are welcome to join the group—not just those in Leelanau County—by emailing Barbara Alldredge at glenarborbarb@aol.com. The next meeting will be June 4, 2018, time and location to be determined.

Editor's Note: Much of this article—especially the Susan portions—is from an article by Susan Koenig that ran in *The Betsie Current* in the fall of 2006, as well as a pair of Barbara articles by Karen Soderholm that ran in the *Glen Arbor Sun* in the summers of 2012 and 2013. Are you aware of another local Name Party that we should know about? Contact us at editor@betsiecurrent.com or at our Facebook page.

Frankfort48 Film Festival

Filmmakers and film enthusiasts invited to participate

By Staff Reports

Aspiring filmmakers are invited to Frankfort from June 22-24 to take part in the inaugural Frankfort48 Film Festival, and the public is invited to come watch these endeavors.

Participants will be tasked with creating a three- to five-minute short film that celebrates the beauty and character of Northern Michigan. Film teams will have 48 hours to conceive their ideas, scout locations, film, edit, and present their finished films. All ages are welcome to participate. Entries are \$75 per film entry.

All competitors will attend a Frankfort48 kick-off meeting at The Garden Theater in downtown Frankfort on June 22 at 9 a.m. to learn details and rules for the competition. Five criteria, which must be included in each film, will be revealed at the meeting. Local musicians are donating time to help compose and produce original background scores, as needed. All cast and crew must be volunteers.

Filmmaking (including all creative work, writing, footage, shooting, editing, etc.) must take place between June 22 at 9 a.m. and June 24 at 8:59 a.m., however, culling film crews, cast, and filmmaking equipment, as well as location scouting, may take place prior to the above-mentioned window of time. All completed films must be delivered back to The Garden Theater by June 24 at 9 a.m.

OB & Co, a local film-production studio by Frankfort siblings Liv Buzzell (20) and Sam Buzzell (16), is planning to participate. (Note: You may remember that we ran a Q&A on Liv's "Gap Year" back in Volume IV Issue 8 from August 2015, which you can read here bit.ly/1JThkLm, or that we mentioned the duo creating 15-second video commercials for the 2016 Frankfort Film Festival sponsors last October in Volume V Issue 10, which you can read here bit.ly/2eoOQIO.) They are perhaps the youngest film crew who will be participating in Frankfort48, bringing along Raegan Somero, a Frankfort High School student.

"This is a great chance for people in this community to get involved in what The Garden Theater has to offer, to get involved with the Frankfort Film Festival, and just with filmmaking, in general," Liv Buzzell says. "There seems to be a big interest in filmmaking in this area [of the state]."

The OB & Co team has talked a bit about their ideas for their Frankfort48 entry, but they are keeping their options open.

"We're going to meet this week, to make sure that we are on the same page and to scout locations beforehand, so we know what we're going to do when we only have 48 hours to accomplish this," Liv says, explaining that they are also going to get in touch with the Frankfort48 team of musicians for an original score. "We want to take advantage of all the cool things they are offering as part of this project."

After the 48 hours of creation has occurred, the public is invited to attend a screening of the films and the awards ceremony, happening on Saturday, June 24, at 8 p.m. at The Garden Theater. Tickets to attend are \$10 each and can be purchased at the theater's box office on the evening of the event. Tickets to a pre-screening party at 6:30 p.m. will also be available for purchase.

Cash and prizes will be awarded to the top three filmmakers, with \$500 and two VIP passes to the 2017 Frankfort Film Festival (October) awarded to the top film. Second place will receive \$250, and third place will receive \$100. The top three winning entries will be also screened at the 2017 Frankfort Film Festival later this fall. Winners will be posted online at Frankfort48.com after the

Frankfort48 Finale Screening event.

Judges for the event are esteemed filmmakers and actors with film experience:

- **Stephen H. Foreman** earned his BA in English, with minors in philosophy and German, from Morgan State University (a historically black college in Baltimore, Maryland) and his MFA in playwriting and dramatic literature from the Yale School of Drama. Foreman has had diverse and illustrious careers as a social worker; a professional stage manager; a teacher at various colleges, universities, and writer conferences; a screenwriter; a director; and he is currently developing his career as a novelist. His film and television credits include *The Resolution of Mossie Wax*, *The Jazz Singer*, *The Unknown American*, and *Cougar*. Forman has authored two novels, *Toehold* and *Watching Gideon*, and he is currently working on his third project, *The Education Of A White Boy*, a memoir of his years at Morgan State. He now lives and writes in the Catskill Mountains.

- **Jamie Donnelly** is most widely known as "Pink Lady" Jan in the film *Grease*, with John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John, a role that she also played on Broadway, seven years before she was in the film version. Donnelly made her Broadway debut at the age of 17 as Lulu in Kander and Ebb's first show, *Flora the Red Menace*. Donnelly also originated the role of Ethel Levy Cohan in *George M!*, a Broadway musical based on the life of George M. Cohan, the biggest Broadway star of the turn of the 20th century, who was known as "the man who owned Broadway." Donnelly's television credits go as far back as *Six Million Dollar Man*, up to her reoccurring role in the second season of *Ray Donovan* with Liev Schreiber and currently appearing in the web series *All Downhill From Here*. She is utterly delighted to be performing again with her all-time favorite, Tim Curry, with whom she first appeared as Magenta/Trixie in the original American production of *The Rocky Horror Show*.

- **Michael Bofshever** is an accomplished actor, director, teacher, author, and moderator in the entertainment field and has been for more than 40 years. Among his many film credits: *A Dogs Purpose*, *United 93*, *Housebroken*, *Dirty Deeds*, *Crime of the Century*, and *A Low Down Dirty Shame*. A veteran of episodic television, Bofshever was a series regular on the hit Disney Channel show *The Jersey*. He also works as moderator for film and television discussion for the SAG Conversation Series. Bofshever is the author of *Your Face Looks Familiar...How To Get Ahead as a Working Actor*, which is the basis of his seminar, "The Journey of the Working Actor." A highly regarded acting teacher and coach, Bofshever is recognized as "one of the finest acting teachers in Los Angeles," (Smith & Krauss). In 2017, Bofshever made his cinematic directorial debut with the short film *Echo Park Blues*, which showed at the 2016 Frankfort Film Festival last October and which is now playing at film festivals nationwide.

For more details about the competition, visit Frankfort48.com. Contact Frankfort48.com@gmail.com or 231-357-0864 with any questions. Sponsors include: Durango Homes, Stormcloud Brewing Company, The Garden Theater, Suzy Voltz, the Jon Zickert group, Carol McKee, the Elizabeth Lane Oliver Center for the Arts, the Benzie County Visitors Bureau, and Edible Grande Traverse.

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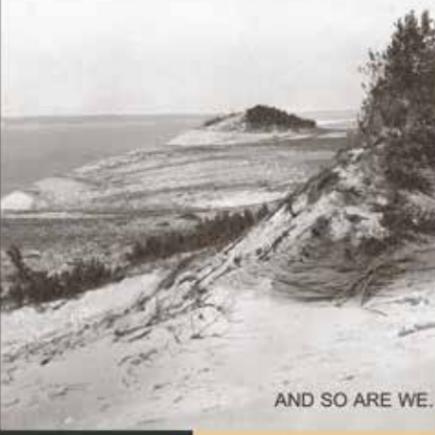
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Walter M. Franke, D.D.S.
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Chelsea K. Guzzo, D.D.S.

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