COMMITTED TO THIS COMMUNITY
VILLAGE MANAGER CHRIS BROWN IS HAPPY TO WEAR 100 HATS

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Your local agent is your neighbor – someone you can trust and someone who’s here for you when it matters most.

Anchoring Our Community One Home at a Time

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Move in ready, fully furnished ranch home on double lot in quiet neighborhood with private large backyard and beautiful landscaping. The 3 season room offers additional space for entertaining and features floor-to-ceiling screens. Conveniently located near downtown, beach and school, within walking or biking distance of everything. Call Sarah Hardy at 231-730-1621. $239,000 MLS# 20016477

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2 acres of vacant wooded land attached to the East of the home, and the home sits on a wooded lot itself. The location in the Village is ideal! You are far enough away from the commotion of town, yet only a short walk, or bike ride, to downtown and the beach. Almost 3 acres inside the Village! Call Paul Anderson at 231-624-2720. $275,000 MLS# 20017420

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05. PENTWATER EVENTS UPDATE

06. COMMITTED TO THIS COMMUNITY

Village manager Chris Brown is happy to wear 100 hats

10. PENTWATER PAST AND PRESENT

11. PENTWATER POLITICS

12. PETS OF PENTWATER

13. OCEANA WOMEN WHO CARE NEWS

13. PENTWATER LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWS

14. 2020 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
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In accordance with the CDC recommendations and the Executive Order put in place by the State of Michigan, the Pentwater Chamber of Commerce has made the difficult decision to postpone the Pentwater July 3 fireworks after reviewing all options and consulting with the State of Michigan, DNR, Pentwater Police Department and Pentwater Fire Department. Additionally, they do not feel it is appropriate to solicit donations from businesses who are already experiencing financial strain. The Pentwater Chamber is turning its focus on Homecoming and to make it the best it can be. Please note any future or past donations to the Fireworks Fund will continue to be used towards fireworks. The Pentwater Chamber has made the difficult decision to postpone the Pentwater July 3 fireworks after reviewing all options and consulting with the State of Michigan, DNR, Pentwater Police Department and Pentwater Fire Department. Additionally, they do not feel it is appropriate to solicit donations from businesses who are already experiencing financial strain. The Pentwater Chamber is turning its focus on Homecoming and to make it the best it can be. Please note any future or past donations to the Fireworks Fund will continue to be used towards fireworks.

The Pentwater Chamber hosts two popular activities during Homecoming including the Grand Parade and fireworks display. With additional safety precautions and public cooperation, they are hopeful that these traditional activities may continue. Please visit pentwater.org/homecoming to fill out a parade application and/or make a donation to the Fireworks Fund.

The Pentwater Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, July 25 at Lakeside Links. The format of the tournament is a four-player scramble with closest to the pin, longest drive and longest putt contests. Following the tournament there will be a cookout style meal, 50/50 raffle, silent auction and awards presentation. Please contact Lakeside Links (231-843-3660) or events@pentwater.org to register.

Brews & Beats will take place on September 5 on the Village Green of Pentwater. In its inaugural year, Brews & Beats will become the first Craft Beer, Wine, and Cider Festival in Pentwater. It will be a celebration of Michigan craft beverages and music. Breweries from all around the state will be showcasing a wide variety of specialty brews. There will be live performances from Zeek and Wally and The Drew Hale Band, yard games, and food trucks, along with beverages from over 20 of Michigan’s best breweries. Downtown businesses will be offering specials, sidewalk sales and more. Visit www.pentwater.org/brewsandbeats to see a full list of vendors and purchase your ticket.

More Pentwater events:
- Farmers Market: Mondays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., June 1 to Sept. 7
- Charles Mears State Park campground opens June 22
- Community Wide Garage Sales are cancelled
- Spring Festival Arts & Crafts Fair is cancelled
- Movies on the Green are cancelled
- Civic Band Concerts are cancelled
- July 3 fireworks are cancelled
- Blooming Arts Garden Walk is cancelled
- Tacos for the Trail is June 27
- Fine Arts Show is cancelled
- Back from the Mac is cancelled
- Pentwater Chamber Golf Tournament is July 25
- Homecoming is Aug. 13-16
- Sand Sculpture Contest is virtual
- Sidewalk Sales are Aug. 28-29
- Brews & Beats is Sept. 5
- Harvest Day is Sept. 24
- Fall Festival is Sept. 26 & 27
- Oktoberfest is Oct. 10

To keep up to date on all events, please visit www.pentwater.org and follow our social media channels.

Our products taste unique because we take the time to capture the true tastes of West Michigan fruits.

We use heirloom recipes, passed down through the family. Only the finest ingredients are used, no artificial flavors or sweeteners or chemical preservatives. From the farmers’ fields and orchards to our kitchen to you.

Find us on facebook: www.facebook.com/Lois.jammlady

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Chris Brown, Pentwater’s Village Manager, embodies the old adage that if one finds a job they enjoy doing, then they will never have to work a day in their life.

Brown is a lifelong Michigander, having grown up and worked in Cheboygan County and later in Mackinaw City.

But he confesses that he had never even visited Pentwater until he came to interview for his position here. He was looking for a career change and thought about pursuing a career in State government, but a couple of colleagues, including the County Administrator of Cheboygan County and the City Manager for City of Cheboygan, suggested to him that they knew him as someone who liked to see his work actually make a difference.

“They both discouraged me from going to Lansing where it is more difficult to see the fruits of your efforts,” Brown recalls, “and they felt that to really see things happen and make a difference you need to be at the local level. I liked the organization of local government and, with a little soul-searching, I came to see that maybe this is what I wanted to do.”

So, he began looking for a position in local government. He acknowledges that his background was not specifically in local government management, having earned a degree in business and accounting from North Central Michigan College. But he had served as a Cheboygan County Commissioner, with 2 terms as Chairman of the Board, and was also involved with the County Zoning Board of Appeals for about 15 years. In addition, for the 15 years immediately prior to his coming to Pentwater, he worked in Mackinaw City as operations manager for a large hospitality-based company that owns several corporations operating hotels and restaurants throughout the State, and he had significant connections to local government there as part of his job. “The company basically owns the whole town, and I had oversight over lots of areas. It was sort of like managing Disney World,” he recounts.

Obviously, this management experience has helped him in his position in Pentwater where his responsibilities are many and varied.

As he began to seriously look for local government positions, he says, “I was looking at two to three different areas, but primarily wanted a small resort, coastal town because that’s what I was most familiar with.” He didn’t know much about Pentwater, but he had two friends with close ties to the area -- one he knew as a restaurant manager for the company he worked for in Mackinaw City, and another who was a hotel director for a related company. They encouraged him to apply for the Village Manager position when it appeared in the Michigan Municipal League Magazine. Laughing, Brown relates that when he mentioned the opportunity in Pentwater to these friends, both said, “Oh, yeah! You gotta do it!”

And the rest is history. He responded to the ad and was first introduced to the wonder of Pentwater when he interviewed for the job.

How does he feel about his decision now? With a huge smile on his face, he declares, “I just love my job. Of all the jobs and careers I’ve been in, this is the one I wake up in the morning and I’m happy to come to work. I love the community. It’s not the same for all 12 months, so that provides a little variety. It’s a little sleepy in the winter – seasonal to a degree, so summer brings a rebirth of the community, and it’s always good to see people come back to town and people coming for vacations.” As for the change from the
private sector, he says he appreciates that policy changes from higher up no longer happen arbitrarily on an almost day-to-day basis. In the public sector, policies are set in Lansing by the senators and representatives in the State legislature, and when they affect those at the local government level, “We just have to embrace those changes, but knowing there is a process in place makes that easier.”

He goes on to praise the excellent staff at the Village. “We work well together, and they bring innovative ideas to the things they do,” he notes. “They take pride in their work, and that’s important.”

With the staff, he embraces a view of the people in town not just as citizens or residents or visitors. “They are all ‘customers,’” he says, “and we are here to serve them. Customer service is our goal.” He recognizes that this may not always be the case when people interact with government offices, but he believes strongly that this is how it should be done. With this in mind, he maintains an open-door policy as he works in his office facing onto Hancock Street, where the action is in town. “I take calls and visits myself. I make time to be approachable. I am adamant to be 100 percent transparent with what we do in our government. I have no long-time history here, so I treat everyone the same, no matter their address, and people accept that and respect me for that, I think.”

In a similar way, Brown commends the community. “People here want to get involved. I’ve never, in any community I’ve ever worked in, seen a volunteer corps like we have here, and with the wealth of knowledge. We have attorneys, engineers, CEO’s, doctors, psychologists – the volunteer base is amazing, and there are a lot of generous people who are ready to give their money, time and talent to make the Village a better place.” Obviously, this is part of what makes Pentwater so special.

So, what is the job all about? “It is very hands-on. I wear 100 hats,” he grins. “I’m the Public Works Director, so I have to have knowledge of wastewater and water systems. I oversee Planning and Zoning, and though we have a zoning director, I still have oversight of that. I supervise the Police Chief and his Department. I am the Marina Manager. I direct activities and projects around roads, sanitation, buildings, parks and recreation. The Village Clerk is the bookkeeper, tax collector, record keeper appointed by Council, but I have oversight for that position. The Village has a small crew, so I’ve done a little of everything – cleaned bathrooms, picked up leaves, fixed docks, plowed snow. I’m not afraid to do anything that needs to be done, so I’ve done it all.”

There is a lot going on in the Village right now, and Brown is in the thick of it. He notes that last year’s concerns with connecting residents south of the bridge on Longbridge Road with the main part of town have been resolved or are currently being resolved. The bridge is open and flood mitigation work on Business 31 should be completed soon. The Village’s water taxi, which was so popular last year, will be operating again this year to bring residents from the south across Pentwater Lake and into the business area. “People like the connection. It’s a nostalgic, place-making thing for the community. Grandkids will remember the boat that took them across the lake. People come and get their mail, visit the Farmers Market, have a meal or ice cream. A lot of people commented about coming and walking around and the different perspective of Pentwater they get from the lake.” The Village will also be doing the historical tour, which both raises awareness for Historical Society and pays for the boat, as the expenses are funded by the $10 charged for this tour.

In addition, this past year, the Village Council adopted an ordinance requiring registration of rental properties to improve safety and communication with owners of these properties, and the Village is currently processing applications and will be addressing any noncompliance for the first time. “This is a big industry in Pentwater,” Brown explains. “And now owners have to register and sign an affidavit of safety issues. We need the information – who owns the property, how many rental units there are, for things like police calls or sewer or...
watermain breaks. We need to know who to contact.” About 40 owners have registered so far this year – about one-fourth to one-third of what exists in town, so the Village will be busy tracking down the remainder.

Of course, his position also requires Brown to address the COVID-19 regulations. Village Hall has been closed to the public and open only for appointments, and essential business has been conducted by committees and the Village Council via Zoom. And, until recently, people were reluctant to come to town. “They weren’t making the trip at first,” he explains. “There were regulations about coming to second homes, and some were concerned with the lack of local health care, even though there are excellent facilities in Grand Rapids and Muskegon. There was also uneasiness with travelling -- not wanting to fly, not knowing whether restaurants and hotels would be available.” Now summer residents and tourists are beginning to arrive.

While some events, like the Junior Women’s Club art fair, have been cancelled, no decision has been made about the annual Homecoming celebration the 2nd week of August, so it may still take place. Whether there will be fireworks on the 4th of July is also still being considered.

One of the newer things on Brown’s plate is the relocation of the Village Hall. The current building is failing structurally so, after many public meetings, the Village Council decided to purchase the Huntington National Bank building at 65 S. Hancock Street for a new Village Hall, and to look into selling the current Village Hall site to a developer. As Brown reports, “We now have a tentative design for the new Village Hall, which still has to be approved by the Village Council. Under the COVID-19 protective orders, we were told to wait on non-essential business, so now we can start moving on this. Building and Grounds will probably meet later this month and make their recommendation for the July Council meeting. Once approved, we’ll move forward on the renovation plan, which may be done by fall, as most of the work is interior. However, the proposed design would also improve and soften the look of the facade, with a front porch and clock tower, and the building will be painted and have new windows. Another idea is to add an addition for the Police Department on the back. Though this has not been approved yet, it would be cost effective to be in one building.”

Brown further comments that with the Township moving its offices to the former Spectrum Health office at 500 N. Hancock Street, at least two buildings, and maybe three, will be removed from the tax base, so it is hoped that the current Village Hall site, and possibly the Police Department building across the street, will be sold and returned to the rolls.

Asked whether there has been interest in the Village Hall site, Brown chuckles. “We’ve had some ‘tire-kickers,’ he says. “Once it was made public that we’re leaving the building, there have been inquiries, including talk of a possible boutique hotel, which is lacking in the community. The general consensus is that it will be torn down and rebuilt. There is no saving it.” Among the possibilities being discussed is for the Village to establish a Brownfields TIF to help with the costs associated with obsolescence and mitigation of asbestos. “We don’t want to sell to someone and then see the building boarded up for many years. It needs to come down and the site must be redeveloped. We would have lots of control over how and when it’s done.
under Brownfields. However, no decision has been made to do this yet,” Brown notes.

The Friendship Center at 310 N. Rush Street is also undergoing a complete remodel, and the work was about half done when COVID-19 restrictions were implemented “Things that were ordered are just now arriving. We hope to finish in July or August.” Brown reports, “but this building is designed for social interaction, so indoor gatherings cannot be held until some restrictions are lifted. Eventually, among other things, that’s where we'll have our regular Council meetings.”

Brown comments that at the local government level statewide there is a lot of concern about loss of revenue due to the COVID-19 lockdown, but he emphasizes, “Revenue-wise, we’re in a different situation in Pentwater. Our property tax base is good. We get very little money from revenue sharing. Other funds come for roads, but the biggest portion of our revenue is property tax. A lot of communities that rely a lot on revenue sharing will have to make some serious budget cuts. We don’t see that we’ll be affected that much — maybe $10-15,000, and some will be offset by increased property tax from new construction. So, that’s a plus. On the other hand, our businesses are definitely impacted and will be losing about one-third of annual revenue. This is a definite concern.”

When asked about his personal background, Brown shares that he is one of five siblings, four of whom still live in Michigan, while a sister and his dad are in Florida. He was raised in a traditional home in Cheboygan County (“My mom was like a June Cleaver,” he jokingly says), went to a Catholic grade school, and learned discipline at a young age, which has served him well throughout his career. He was married for 10 years and has three children who are now young adults. They are all in Cheboygan where his daughter is an RN and is finishing her Master’s degree, while his two sons work in the construction industry.

In addition to his work for the Village, Brown remarks that he has a rather fun side job. “I was ordained as a minister when a friend asked if I would marry her. And I’ve done others since. Michelle Angell-Powell, one of our Village Trustees, does this too, and she had a conflict for a wedding for a couple she knew and asked if I’d fill in at the last minute. This is a really nice thing to do.”

So, finally then, what is so special about Pentwater? "It is a truly unique place," according to Brown. "There's a 'magic in the air' that attracts people to Pentwater year after year. You hear stories of people who have no roots here, but who came sailing in here to the harbor or camped here with their families, and they're drawn back year after year, and then ultimately for retirement. We treasure what we have, and we're not here to change a whole lot because there's not much that needs to be changed. We just want to preserve what we have."
The old red barn
It’s 1862, and the little village of Pentwater is quickly transitioning from a lumber settlement begun by Charles Mears and populated by a handful of intrepid pioneers to a real live town. Every day there are exciting new developments. Mail is coming twice a week. Stores are springing up. You can even get across Pentwater River by ferry now; just a short time ago, the only way that trek was possible was via a team of oxen owned by a Mr. W. P. Harding and used by the whole community. The ferry fee, by the way, is five cents per person, 10 cents with a horse, 25 cents for a team and wagon, and two cents each for sheep and hogs.

Lumber baron Mears has his hand in every aspect of local life. He not only provides the industry that employs virtually all of the citizenry; he owns a slew of establishments, presides over local government, and is continually expanding his entrepreneurial horizons. Among his wide-ranging interests is horticulture, and he’s currently engrossed in an ambitious experiment: importing thousands of fruit trees from Chicago to see if he can create an orchard industry here. He succeeds with River House Farm, which will gain fame as a model fruit farm of the period. On a site overlooking Pentwater River and Pentwater Lake, Mears erects a house and a barn, for the family that runs the operation and the farm hands who board there.

Fast forward 158 years. River House Farm is long gone. But there is one remnant of that rugged, rustic time that still remains. You can see it as you come up Monroe Road on your way into Pentwater. It’s the old red barn on your left, just past the now defunct Trading Post.

In 2011, members of the Pentwater Historical Society and Pentwater Service Club joined forces with area volunteers and the Department of Natural Resources to clean up the overgrown premises that hid the barn from view. Previously, the historical society had spent $40,000 to paint and re-roof the structure. This time, overgrowth brush and trees were removed and vines were pulled off the building’s siding. Currently the barn is part of the DNR’s Parks and Recreation Division. For Charles Mears State Park it’s an important educational site, a window into construction of the distant past. The actual materials used to build the barn are important historical markers, the wood and woodworking reminders of a vanished past. Primary tools used to construct the barn were adz, ax and saw. Virgin stands of hardwoods were made into 44-foot lengths and then hand hewn into beams. Beams and rafters were then fastened together using wooden pegs. The roof rafters were made from tamarack posts. The hardwoods were trees said to have been growing before the American Revolution.

Even though the historic Mears barn is fully in view today, those unfamiliar with this area might not even notice it, or if they do, won’t give it a second thought. After all, it’s just another old barn, like so many that dot rural landscapes. But to those who love Pentwater, this barn is special. It beckons with a message: you’re getting close. Pentwater is just around the corner. You’re almost home.

By Mary Beth Crain
PTW Magazine
News from the Village:
The Village experienced a total power outage during a recent heavy storm, with trees down and damage to private property. Generators kicked in to maintain lift stations and wells. The Village Council authorized going out for bid for a new lift station generator for the Third Street Lift Station in light of the need to replace the existing equipment to more expediently address any future outages.

Hopefully, you’ve noticed the new planters donated by the Garden Club at the Village Green and Water Tower and the new trash containers donated by the Downtown Development Authority. Also, the Pentwater Sportfishing Association has repaired the public boat launch dock off Lake Street, and it should have been put in by the time of this publication.

Look for the new golf cart purchased by the Police Department and being used for transportation by the summer part-time CSO’s who serve as the eyes and ears for the Village’s certified officers, patrol the boat launch and assist at the State Park.

The Village’s Building and Grounds Committee will meet over the next couple of weeks and will review the proposed design for the new Village Hall building, with a recommendation to be presented to the Village Council at its July meeting. The Ordinance Committee will also be meeting to consider an ordinance drafted by the Village Attorney which proposes to permit two retail marijuana establishments. Such establishments are currently prohibited by Village Ordinance. Those interested in these issues are encouraged to follow the Village website and attend the Committee meetings.

The Fire Department’s request for .5 mils. for purchase of an aerial truck (cost estimate approximately $1 million) has been approved by the Village Council to address the need for protection of taller buildings and areas that cannot currently be covered by existing fire department personnel.

The Council has also determined that the Village Marina will be closed to transient boaters due to the inability to complete the improvement project there. Some seasonal slips will be open for boats 27 feet and under.

Following the appointment of a new Planning Commission member at a recent Village Council meeting, Trustee Don Palmer requested that anyone wishing to serve in public service positions in the Village should send in an application or letter of inquiry. These are kept on file and will be considered when openings arise from time to time.

Clerk/Treasurer Rande Listerman has announced that the Village Council will have four seats up for election in 2020, one for the Village President, for the seat currently held by Jeff Hodges, and 3 for Trustee positions, for the seats currently held by Donald Palmer, Dan Nugent and Michelle Angel-Powell. Prospective candidates must file an Affidavit of Identity and a Nonpartisan Nominating Petition with the Township Clerk, Sue Johnson, by Tuesday, July 21 at 4 p.m.

Election packages are available in Johnson’s office or she will e-mail a copy to any prospective candidate upon request.

Finally, note that next month’s Village Council meeting on July 13 will be held live, and possibly outdoors.

By Barbara Gosselar,
PTW Magazine

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Congratulations!
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Pentwater Public Schools

June 18-25, 2020 - PTW - 11
Featuring: Larry and Chris Conroy's dog, Sparty

Say hello to Sparty, one of Pentwater's most congenial residents. Sparty is Larry and Chris Conroy's eight-year-old Golden Retriever, and if his name brings to mind Michigan State, it's no accident. "We've had Goldens since 1981," says Larry, "and we named all of them after our son Daniel's sports teams. He played football for the MSU Spartans, so that's where Sparty comes from."

Sparty is a "typical Golden," Larry says. "He loves everybody and everything. Goldens, to me, are the perfect dog. They're great with kids and older people as well. They're good-looking. They love to roughhouse, but they're gentle at the same time."

"He's a wonderful companion," adds Chris. "He's content to be anywhere we are. I call him our 'comfort dog'—not because he gives comfort, which he does, but because he needs a lot of comfort."

"He's a love bug," laughs Larry. "While Goldens may be the perfect dog, the breed does have a down side. "All Goldens love to chew," Larry notes. "Before he was one-and-a-half, Sparty ate three oriental rugs, a six-foot leash and the seat belt in my friend's car. Fortunately he passed everything—he's got a good digestive system, I guess you could say."

And Goldens shed. A lot. "We've got a vacuum at the ready on both floors," says Larry. "And Swiffer for the hard woods. We've said that with the fur we collect, we could knit another Golden."

Sparty loves his walks and is known throughout town. His favorite spot is Jilly's, where he can visit his best friend, Jilly Barnes's Golden Retriever, TT. "They love to play," notes Chris. "Although they've been apart since the COVID thing. But hopefully they'll be getting together again now that places are re-opening."
Knowing their collective philanthropy four times a year makes such a positive impact, the Women Who Care of Oceana County (WWC) met on June 2 via a Zoom conference call because local restaurants continued to be closed.

The women learned about three excellent causes serving our community. One compelling point made was that the single most significant factor influencing a child’s early educational success is an introduction to books -- and being read to at home -- prior to enrolling in school.

So the women decided that each of its 150 members will make a $100 contribution to boost the portion of the United Way of the Lakeshore’s support of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library that serves Oceana County children.

This is a national program that is being facilitated in Muskegon, Newaygo and Oceana counties by United Way of the Lakeshore. Generous donors provide the needed funds. A free book is mailed each month to families with young children through age five. The child is read to daily by a parent or caregiver. This action creates positive attitudes about reading among the caregivers and children. The child is more literate when they enter formal schooling, providing a solid foundation for further learning.

The WWC members’ collective generosity will net the Dolly Parton Imagination Library serving Oceana some $15,000. Since it costs $2 for each book and postage, the collective gifts by WWC members will buy 7,500 books for young Oceana children. More information about this important program is found at https://www.unitedwaylakeshore.org/dpil.

On the first Tuesday of March, June, September and December, Women Who Care meets for an hour somewhere in Oceana to learn about three worthy nonprofit causes serving county residents. They choose one that everyone agrees to support with $100 personal checks. Socializing follows for those who have the time to stay. Membership is open to any woman who wants to be involved in this unique joint effort to support Oceana causes.

The next meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 8 (second Tuesday, this time only), either via Zoom or at a location to be determined. For more information, contact Amy LaBarge at 313.268.2086, or check online at facebook.com/womenwhocareoceanacounty.

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High Readings in Pentwater River

Swimming in the river is not recommended due to high E. coli readings.

The Michigan Health Department has evaluated the 2019 E. coli bacteria counts taken in the 2 branches of the Pentwater River. The results are as follows:

- The flooded river systems are showing typically high-level readings of E. coli bacteria. These high-level readings are common in all watersheds in West Michigan. Portage Lake watershed has the same pattern of readings as the Pentwater watershed.
- The river readings are extremely high and reflect that wildlife feces are washing into the river. The readings are 4 or 5 times higher than the accepted 300 limit. As a result, we recommend that the users of the river not swim.
- We also recommend that after kayaking, boating, or canoeing, people wash their hands with soap and water.
- The E. coli readings in Pentwater Lake only reached a level of 15 (acceptable is 300). This supports our findings across the region that the “drown river mouth lakes,” like Pentwater Lake, have very good bacteria readings and are safe to swim in.

*Reference: Matt Fournier, Michigan Health Department

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June 18-25, 2020 - PTW - 13
The Pentwater Service Club (PSC) today announced the Citizen of the Year, officially naming Jean Russell, long-time community leader and philanthropist: 2020 Citizen of the Year.

Twenty-five years after arriving in Pentwater with her husband, Bob Childers, Jean Russell will forever be known as the 2020 Citizen of the Year. “Russell won the award for community leadership and generosity spanning more than a quarter of a century,” said Mike Flynn, who serves on the Selection Committee that manages the Person of the Year competition for the PSC, now in its 50th year. “I’ve known Jean Russell since she and Bob arrived here in Pentwater in 1995. Few people have had the kind of impact she has had over so many years, with so many worthwhile community projects and organizations, both in Pentwater and throughout Oceana County,” Flynn said. “The PSC is proud to have Jean Russell as Pentwater’s 2020 Citizen of the Year, a most deserving winner.”

When told by President Glenn Beavis that she had won the award for her generous advocacy on behalf of Pentwater and Oceana County organizations and non-profits, Russell said, “I am stunned and surprised, and at the same time—honored to have been chosen.” “Bob and I love this place and I’m certain he would be as proud as I am to be receiving this award.”

Outgoing President Glenn Beavis was lauded for his leadership in what was described as the highly productive year despite a national pandemic that interrupted everything. President Glenn Beavis was lauded during a review of the Club’s many accomplishments during his tenure and for his effective leadership during the Club’s 50th Anniversary year and the challenges wreaked by CO-VID-19. “Glenn accepted the position of president after the sudden death of Terry Valanzano and never missed a beat,” said former club Secretary Mark Benner. “He is a natural leader, motivator and project manager, so we planned to have a great year, and under Glenn’s leadership, our club did just that,” Benner said during the 90-minute event. Incoming president, Mark Trierweiler, echoed Benner’s comments, referring to Beavis as a strong and gifted leader who accepted a big challenge in difficult circumstances and moved the club to its current, strong position. “Glenn has the skills our growing organization of community leaders needed during the last year and he was the inspiration for our club to do even more in our community,” Trierweiler said.

Members of the 50-year-old PSC held their first-ever Annual Meeting via Zoom, electing new officers for the year that officially begins on Sept. 10, 2020. Elected President was Mark Trierweiler, who moves up from Vice President; elected Vice-President was Claude Peyrot; Steve Russell was elected Secretary; Carrie Roberts was elected Deputy Secretary; John Faas was returned to the position of Treasurer; Mat Hacker was elected Deputy Treasurer. All terms begin on Sept. 10, 2020, and run through May 2021.

The Pentwater Service Club is an organization of volunteers that strives through its many projects to improve the quality of life for the people of the greater Pentwater area. Those interested in the PSC should visit the Club’s website at www.serviceclub.org or its Facebook Page at https://www.facebook.com/Pentwater-Service-Club-284536781720382. Interested persons can also attend one of the club’s meetings, which are held at 11:30 a.m. on Thursdays at the Pentwater School Library, September through May of each year. For the duration of COVID-19 the Club will meet via Zoom.
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