

Legacy

Investing Today to Impact Tomorrow

Spring 2017

Beautification Plan Champions Environmental Stewardship

Previous issues of the Legacy newsletter have shared plans to establish a healing garden, memorial pathways, fountain, and an overall Beautification Plan for the Pavilions twenty-eight acre campus. We remain dedicated to addressing the ongoing maintenance of the gardens, courtyards and walkways enjoyed by our residents and their families, as well as, our employees and the community. As discussions about potential projects have evolved we became more aware of the wonderful natural resources we have on our property which lead to discussions with the Department of Environmental Quality and The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay regarding creek restoration and preservation.

Out of these discussions and common commitment to the natural environment and resources that make this region so spectacular, two projects evolved which will be taking place in 2017 to help beautify the Pavilions and create a stronger, healthier natural environment: Kids Creek Tributary AA floodplain creation on the "Grand Lawn" and the installation of two rain gardens at the front entrance of the Grand Traverse Pavilions circle drive.

Tributary AA isn't a name that will be familiar with most people. It's also known as 90 Degree Creek as it takes a sharp, 90 degree turn under Cottage View Drive. If neither of these names ring a bell, this creek runs between the Cottage View Drive and Elmwood Avenue, with the headwaters beginning behind the Commons, running past Spanglish and Higher Grounds Coffee under Cordia, and reemerges as a small meandering creek on the Pavilion's back lawn down to the sidewalk off Elmwood Drive.



"This specific creek is a tributary of Kids Creek, which flows to the Boardman River and outlets in West Grand Traverse Bay," said Sarah U'Ren, program director at The Watershed Center. "These restoration projects are part of our ongoing efforts to improve Kids Creek, which is on the state's impaired waters list due to storm water runoff and sediment. Creating a floodplain and installing rain gardens will be beneficial on two levels – we're not just making the area prettier, we're also making the ecosystem healthier."

Creating a floodplain and adding vegetative buffers will help alleviate the erosive pressure in the creek after a heavy rain. As it stands now, the creek doesn't have room to spread its waters when flooded. By peeling back the existing streambank and giving the creek a

"bench" for higher water to flow as well as adding native flowers, shrubs, and trees along the banks, water will slow down enough for the plants to soak up water and sediment from the storm water runoff. The buffer of native plants will be beautiful, too. It will vary in width from 20-30 feet; leaving spaces without a buffer so visitors and residents can still walk up to the creek and all the existing trails will stay intact.

"We'll be adding beautiful flowering plants and shrubs, like Echinacea, black-eyed Susan, and aster, as well as planting 65 new trees" said U'Ren. "Work should begin early June and continue through July."

In addition to the floodplain work, there will be two rain gardens installed near the front entrance later this year. These rain gardens will soak up water that runs off the building's roof and parking lots when it rains, giving the water a place to drain before flowing to Kids Creek. Like with the buffer along the tributary, the rain gardens will feature native flowering plants that also support pollinators and butterflies.

According to Deborah Allen, Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation Executive Director, "I'm very proud to be part of an organization that is committed to the environmental stewardship of this property. The Pavilions is a facility whose mission is to serve the residents of Grand Traverse County, and the park like setting is so essential to the wellbeing of our residents." Each summer season, the Grand Lawn provides the unique opportunity to engage the community in events like the fourteen week long free outdoor music concert series "Concerts on the

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An Update from our Administrator/CEO



Kory Hansen

Recently the Grand Traverse County Department of Health and Human Services Board approved and reaffirmed the Mission of the Grand Traverse Pavilions: To provide acces-

sible, trusted and compassionate care that enhances quality of life for aging adults.

Grand Traverse County has a long history serving the aged and infirmed, beginning in 1911 with the Boardman Valley Hospital (a.k.a. County Infirmary or poor farm) to Grand Traverse Medical Care in 1959, now known as Grand Traverse Pavilions since 1998.

It was in 1995 that the community overwhelmingly supported a 20-year millage for the construction of our new facility. Through this millage and continued support, our citizens recognize the value of accessibility emphasized in our mission statement. Created under Public Act 280, Grand Traverse Pavilions was established to serve the indigent population. About 73% of those residing in the Pavilions' long-term care are Medicaid recipients. As such, Grand Traverse Pavilions provides more than \$4.8 million in uncompensated charity care annually as a benefit to our community.

The Grand Traverse Pavilions is among one of the top 10 employers in Traverse City and Grand Traverse County with over 460 employees, and another 50 contracted food service workers on-site. The Pavilions makes a significant economic impact in our community injecting more than \$30 million into the local economy primarily from Medicare and Medicaid funding and distributed through employee payroll and local services purchased. For over 30 years the Grand Traverse Pavilions has operated financially self-sufficient without reliance on allocation of county general funds or operational millage.

Although some 330 residents reside on the Pavilions' campus in long-term care, assisted or independent living, Grand Traverse Pavilions serves many more through home and community-based programs like adult day and overnight respite care, outpatient therapy and aquatic exercise classes.

Grand Traverse Pavilions skilled nursing center isn't just for long term care residents. Opened in 2011, the dedicated Rehab Center is available for anyone needing short term recovery from hospital to home.

With no public support for individuals seeking assisted living level of care, Grand Traverse Pavilions also extends its mission to provide reduced rental rates through benevolent donations and financial support from its Foundation and operations, so that residents can remain in

the least restrictive setting they are accustomed for as long as possible.

This year to bring added awareness and honor for our valued elders we will celebrate "Grandparents Day" weekend, September 9th and 10th, with two very special events. Funds generated from these events will enhance services for the most vulnerable of our aging adults through benevolent care provided by the Pavilions, and for support of the proposed Program for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). More information on the events and the programs they will enhance are in the following pages.

We believe that the Grand Traverse Pavilions is a community asset, and we are committed to being good stewards of the natural resources by assuring the ongoing preservation and aesthetics of our campus, which you will read about in the article Pavilions Beautification Plan Champions Environmental Stewardship.

We hope you will also join us on the Grand Lawn this summer for one of the fourteen free outdoor concerts that celebrate family, community, and culture, as part of our Concerts on the Lawn series. We again thank our sponsors, especially Title Sponsor Serra Subaru, and the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs for acknowledging this unique free musical offering as a gift to our aging adults, and our community. We hope to see you all on the Grand Lawn this summer!

Join Us in Welcoming our New Residential Services Director

Grand Traverse Pavilions is proud to announce the appointment of Deb Nichols as Residential Services Director. "Grand Traverse Pavilions is excited to have Deb Nichols join our management team," says Kory Hansen, Administrator/CEO of Grand Traverse Pavilions. "Deb comes to us with 16 years' experience in the industry and a strong commitment to serving the elderly in our community."



Deb Nichols
Residential Services Director

As Residential Services Director, Deb will be responsible for handling the day-to-day operations of Assisted and Independent Living at the Cottages as well as the Adult Day and Overnight Respite Services. She has worked for both Orchard Creek Assisted Living and The Village at Bay Ridge during her time in Traverse City.

"I started in this industry as a fluke. When I came back to Traverse City, it took several tries

to find my dad the right place to live," said Deb. "When I found the right place, they offered me a job and I found a career working with some amazing people."

A Midland, MI native, Nichols has lived in Pennsylvania, where she met her husband Frank, and Florida. Before moving to Traverse City, she worked for staffing agencies helping individuals in Welfare to Work programs.

"I love working in this industry and with the residents," says Deb. "The crankiest ones are my favorite because if you can get them to smile, you know you've achieved something."

Environmental Stewardship



Lawn” Thursday evening, as well as, events like the Strawberry Social and Collector Car Show, The National Cherry Festival Intergenerational Picnic, and many more. “We recognize the immense responsibility we have to maintain this treasure,” states Allen. “This is why several funds have been established to assure its preservation.”

The Pavilions Foundation was established in 1997 to manage the established funds, such as; The Grand Traverse Pavilions Arboretum Fund - to sustain the eight acre Grand Lawn historic park-like setting by managing donations to support the ambient setting along the creek and pathways by providing benches, handicapped-accessible picnic tables for Pavilions residents and their families, as well as, community use. Living memorials, in

memory or honor of a loved one, are available to resident families and community members through non-invasive tree plaques within the arboretum.

The Pavilions Foundation will also be presenting opportunities this summer for individuals to support the Beautification projects and The Healing Garden Fund to construct and maintain a garden, fountain, and memory walk within the circle drive of the Grand Traverse Pavilions entrance.

If you are interested in learning more about these projects please feel free to contact Deborah Allen, Foundation Director at 231-932-3018, or visit us at one of the Thursday evening Concerts on The Lawn events. We will have the most current project plans on display, and donor forms for those interested.



Join the first ever GTP Garden Club!

We are looking to start a GTP Garden Club to maintain our courtyards and gardens. Do you like to:

- Dig in the dirt?
- Plant flowers?
- Pull weeds?
- Water plants?

Just want an excuse to play outside and call it volunteering? If you said yes to any of the above, this is the volunteer opportunity for you.

Whether you are a Master Gardener, or a novice looking to learn, we welcome you to join our club. Weekly meeting time is to be determined, but opportunities to help will be flexible whether you can make the meetings or not.

Interested? Visit gtpavilions.org/garden-club for more information and to sign up online or contact the Volunteer office at (231) 932-3018 or email us at marketing@gtpavilions.org.



A Retrospect – My Greatest Lesson

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Legacy is a publication of the Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation. If you no longer wish to receive mail from us or to change your contact information please contact Jessi at jweir@gtpavilions.org or call (231) 932-3018.

We would also love to add you to our email list. Please share your email with us so we can keep you better informed of what's happening here at Grand Traverse Pavilions.



Grand Traverse Pavilions
FOUNDATION

1000 Pavilions Circle
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The great memories I have of Easter are of the mixed emotions as a child waking up early to attend the sunrise church service, dressing in our Sunday best as we partake in the community meal, and the anticipation of “after,” which meant arriving home and searching for the candy baskets Mom had hidden away for us. Trying to grasp the sacrifice of a savior on the cross and His rising as well as the interjection of celebration with too much sugar were interesting appositions. Personally, I still feel a little uncomfortable trying to measure the scope of Christ’s legacy. The next part of this story, then, starts with us. How will we be remembered, and how would we like to pass on our own legacy? In today’s world there are many examples of people with charitable hearts. Perhaps the most famous are Bill & Melinda Gates with their personal foundation, but there are countless others who are doing great works, many in our own community.

Being a part of the Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation Board, and working to assist in launching PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care of the Elderly) has brought these thoughts up close for me. Certainly, no program any of us could give to is perfect, but given the components I would seek, PACE is a worthy effort. PACE is sponsored by the Pavilions, a deeply respected member of our caring community to help the elderly in their later days. PACE has now been running nationwide for decades and has a deep commitment to helping individuals



Dennis Prout, CFP®, RMA,
Master Elite Advisor

remain independent in their own homes. Given the aging of our local population, the benefits of having this program in our region are many and will draw a significant economic benefit to our communities through the required support of federal dollars as well as professional staffing needed to operate the organization. Next, the longevity of PACE in other communities points to

our own needs as well as older loved ones. This program might one day benefit you or me. Obviously, we treasure our independence. When I think of the Traverse City area and its personality, this program seems to me a simple solution to an aging problem. PACE, after all, is solely focused on keeping the aged independent by allowing those to remain in their own homes while attending the PACE center weekly. At the PACE Center they will receive medical supervision, recreational activities, nutritional meals and physical therapy. These checkups generally will lead to encouraging results for those who need and allow for a much larger percentage of the populace to stay at home. The other major component is the ability of caregivers (usually family) to get this professional input and attend to their personal lives.

There are few things more valuable than a legacy of enhancing the lives of others. Please consider the Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation in your estate planning. For more information on how you can support PACE or the Pavilions services, contact Deb Allen, Foundation Executive Director at 231.932.3018.



We are pleased to announce that Dennis Prout, President of the Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation, was recently recognized by the Governing Board of LeadingAge Michigan for “Service Excellence” for providing significant years of service in a trustee position. Dennis has delivered service “beyond the call of duty,” supported the organization through financial contributions, and exhibited personal preparation and work to enhance enlightened governance and community involvement. We cannot thank Dennis enough for his continued commitment to the care and dignity of aging adults through his leadership on the Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation Board and through his profession.

LeadingAge Michigan Acknowledges Penny and Erin Hanks with Awards

Long time Grand Traverse Pavilions Residential Services Director Penny Hanks and her daughter Erin Hanks, a Grand Traverse Pavilions volunteer, have been recognized by LeadingAge Michigan - the statewide association for non-profit aging services providers - for their accomplishments in elder care.

"We are very excited that LeadingAge Michigan has recognized both Penny and Erin for their many years of service to the residents of Grand Traverse Pavilions," said Kory Hansen, Administrator/CEO of Grand Traverse Pavilions. "Throughout her career Penny has always been a shining example for her co-workers and an advocate for her residents."

Penny Hanks was awarded the 2017 Shining Star Award, which recognizes a gifted aging services professional who has consistently demonstrated dedication, commitment and enthusiasm in their profession, and has made a significant impact upon the lives of older adults. Hanks has worked at the Pavilions since 1990, and is praised by colleagues, residents, and family members for her kindness and dedication.

"Her years of experience, along with her calm and kind demeanor, have made her a resource for many when seeking advice and information not only on services provided by Grand Traverse Pavilions, but on community resources for the aging and elderly as well," said Rose Coleman, COO of Clinical Services at Grand Traverse Pavilions. "Penny is highly respected among her colleagues both at the Pavilions and in the community."

Grand Traverse Pavilions volunteer Erin Hanks was named 2017 Individual Volunteer of the



Erin Hanks, Kory Hansen, Penny Hanks and Rose Coleman pose together at Penny's retirement party on April 28, 2017.

Year. With obvious influence from her mother, Penny Hanks, Erin has been a great help and comfort to our residents over the years. The award recognizes her extraordinary service to seniors through her volunteerism with Grand Traverse Pavilions. Hanks has volunteered at the Pavilions since she was 13 years old, serving the residents in a variety of ways from helping with events and outings, to running the gift shop in Hawthorn Cottage.

"Erin is everything you could want in a volunteer," said Elizabeth Sonnabend, Community

Relations Assistant. "She's reliable and always puts the resident's needs first. She's willing to do whatever she can to help and we are excited to see her recognized for her years of service."

"Grand Traverse Pavilions works to provide a family-like atmosphere for its residents," says Hansen. "This unique opportunity to recognize two members of the same family for the impact they made on the entire Pavilions family was an opportunity we couldn't pass up, especially with Penny and Erin retiring from their work at the Pavilions at the end of April."

Successful Aging Series Announces "Leaving A Legacy"



Brian Ursu

Join Grand Traverse Pavilions as our Successful Aging Series explores the topic "Preserving Your Legacy," presented by Brian Ursu. This bi-monthly series is geared to help

individuals and their families preserve a loved one's life stories, wishes and legacy.

This third installment of the series will be held Friday, June 9, 2017 at 1 PM. *Leaving A Legacy* attendees will learn about getting their financial house in order so that they can have a comfortable retirement and a plan for the legacy they will leave behind.

Held in our Multi-Purpose room at Grand Traverse Pavilions, the Successful Aging

Series is free and open to the public with support provided by Comfort Keepers of Northern Michigan. A light lunch will be provided. Register online at www.gtpavilions.org/register-now or by calling 932-3018.



Grand Traverse Pavilions Sponsors 90 Over 90 Brunch

Grand Traverse Pavilions was proud to be presenting sponsor of the Grand Traverse County Senior Center's second annual 90 Over 90 Brunch on May 5, 2017 at the Hagerty Center. This year's event was even bigger than last year's, with 98 guests over 90 accompanied by their friends and family.



Residents from the Cottages: Assisted and Independent Living at Grand Traverse Pavilions participate in the toast.



Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation Executive Director Deborah Allen speaks to the group.



Best Buds: "Count your age by friends, not years."
-John Lennon



Senior Center Network Manager Lori Wells was emcee of the brunch.



Nonagenarian and Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation Board Member Agnes Hayden (at right) attended the event.



Community Support for Aging Adults and Community Programs

The **Les and Anne Biederman Foundation, Inc.** recently made a very generous commitment toward the effort to establish the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) for the seven county region of Northern Michigan. PACE is a Medicare recognized program that is an alternative to institutional nursing home placement for aging adults that meet nursing home eligibility requirements, but could live independently in their own home (or residence) if they had support services to assist them.

Efforts to bring PACE to Northern Michigan are being coordinated by the Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation, and a PACE Campaign has been established to raise the needed \$3 million dollars to renovate the proposed PACE Center; the former Grand Traverse County Health Department Building on Garfield Avenue.

Current fundraising efforts now exceed \$1.85 million toward the total goal. The renovations on the PACE Center are anticipated to begin mid-year, and pending state approvals PACE could be a reality by next spring.

Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation wishes to thank the women of the **Zonta Club of Traverse City** for their recent grant of \$5,000 to assist with Women's Care Services as part of the comprehensive services pro-

posed for the PACE Center. The funds requested would support "Beauty Care" services to women who attend the PACE program, who otherwise would not be able to access or afford the opportunity to have their hair washed and styled. Once the PACE Center is approved to enroll clients, partnerships or volunteer arrangements with local stylists will help to offer these services on an ongoing basis.

Earlier this year the **Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs** (MCACA) awarded the Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation a \$1,000 grant in support of the 2017 Concerts On The Lawn free outdoor music series. The funds were awarded to assist with funding support to attract local artists to perform for the free concerts. Each of the fourteen musical performances are paid to entertain the residents of the Grand Traverse Pavilions, their families and the up to 2,500 community guests who attend each week, shared, Deborah Allen, Foundation Executive Director. "We wish to thank The Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and NorthSky Nonprofit/Rotary Charities who administers the grant locally for their kind support and acknowledgement of the service we are providing to the people of Traverse City and the region."

The Grand Event Set to Celebrate Grandparents Day and Elders

Grand Traverse Pavilions has a long history of holding the Generations Gala to demonstrate the Pavilions commitment to successful aging from our youth to our elders. Although our commitment to the aging process has not waived, we are refocusing our future fundraising efforts on our valued aging adults and chose to do so on the one National Holiday of the year that specifically recognizes our Elders – Grandparents Day.

The Pavilions Foundation will hold a special fundraising event on Saturday evening, September 9th called **The Grand Event**. On Sunday, September 10th "Grandparents Day" we will host a community-focused **Grandparents Day Brunch & Benefit** with a very special musical performance to celebrate this special day.

Like those who first proposed the establishment of Grandparents Day in the mid 70's, we at the Pavilions agree that it is appropriate to take time to honor the contribution made by our elders. We want to recognize the wisdom they have achieved through life experience, and to thank them for the many gifts that they have shared with us, our families, and our society – not the least of which is the gift of life that our Grandparents ultimately are responsible for. After all, if not for them, we would not have parents.

President Jimmy Carter signed the presidential proclamation in 1978 that "the first Sunday of September following Labor Day" would be recognized as National Grandparents Day. Taking this lead, the Grand Traverse Pavilions will also be celebrating Grandparents Day on Sunday, September 10, 2017 with a very special Grandparents Day Brunch & Benefit to support benevolent care and services provided to the aging adults in our region.



Robin Spielberg is familiar with Northern Michigan and has followers who are excited for her performance.

Tickets for the very special Grandparents Day Brunch & Benefit at the Traverse City Opera House can be purchased by contacting the Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation Office at 231-932-3018. Mezzanine tickets for the Sunday performance (not including Brunch) for the Grandparents Day Benefit can order their tickets by calling the Opera House Box Office starting Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 231-941-8082.

Keep Us Updated

We want to be sure that your contact information and communication preferences are correct. If you would like to notify us of any changes, we have three ways to do so:

Call us at 231-932-3018

Email Jessi at jweir@gtpavilions.org

Fill out our online form at gtpavilions.org/update

Please consider updating your contact information with us so we can keep you better informed of what's happening here at Grand Traverse Pavilions. If you have any questions about updating your contact information and communications preferences, please contact us at the number or email above.



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Grand Traverse Pavilions to Host Strawberry Social and Collector Car Show Featuring Cherry Blossom Ramblers

Grand Traverse Pavilions' will host their annual Strawberry Social and Collector Car Show on June 11, 2017 from 2-4 PM on the Grand Lawn featuring musical performers the Cherry Blossom Ramblers. Admission is free and strawberry shortcake is available for purchase for \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 10 and under.

"This is our tenth year hosting a Strawberry Social and Collector Car Show and it's become an event our residents, their families, and the entire community enjoys," says Kory

Hansen, Administrator/CEO of Grand Traverse Pavilions. "With the return of the Cherry Blossom Ramblers, we expect an even bigger crowd this year."

The Collector Car Show is put on with the help of Don and Kay Rettelle of Traverse City, who help get the word out to auto owners.

Cars can be pre-registered online at gtpavilions.org/register-car, by calling Jessi at 231-932-3018 or by email to jweir@gtpavilions.org.



2017 Concerts ON THE LAWN GRAND TRAVERSE PAVILIONS

- JUNE 1 THE NEXUS BAND
- JUNE 8 OH BROTHER, BIG SISTER
- JUNE 15 MAY ERLEWINE
- JUNE 22 REBOOTED
- JUNE 29 THE GORDON LIGHTFOOT TRIBUTE
- JULY 6 JETTY RAE
- JULY 12 MIRIAM PICO
- JULY 20 PETER, PAUL AND MARY REMEMBERED
- JULY 27 K. JONES AND THE BENZIE PLAYBOYS
- AUG 3 GRAND TRAVERSE PIPES AND DRUMS
- AUG 10 BAY AREA BIG BAND
- AUG 17 ROB BOLIN
- AUG 24 DAN FOGELBERG TRIBUTE
- AUG 31 THE BACKROOM GANG