

# Port Austin News

end of April &  
**May 2024**



## Opening Day 2024 Farmers Market

Saturday, May 18th

Closes

Saturday, October 5th.

Every Saturday 9am-1pm. Rain or Shine.



Memorial Day 2024

May 27, 2024

Monday

### Village of Port Austin is seeking a Parks & Recreation Summer Program Director for 2024

**Must be 18 years old or older**

*Duties include being the onsite director of the summer program, coordinating and hiring camp counselors, creating activities and calendars for the program, administering the Facebook page, and providing the children with a fun, safe environment. Other duties as needed. Program runs June-August in Port Austin.*

Please send a resume to:

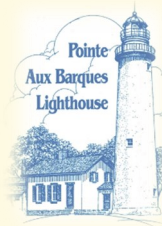
Village of Port Austin

PO Box 336

Port Austin, MI 48467

[villofpa@airadvantage.net](mailto:villofpa@airadvantage.net)

Pointe aux Barques Lighthouse  
7320 Lighthouse Rd, Port Hope, MI. Built 1848.  
586-243-1838



### GIFT SHOP AND MUSEUM OPEN FOR THE SEASON MAY 24TH, 2024

*Gift Shop and Museum Hours: Open  
Wednesday thru Sunday, 10:00am-5:00pm*

#### "ADMISSION INFORMATION"

Museum - \$5 Adults and \$3 for Children 12  
and under

Tower Climb - \$4 Adults and \$2 for Children 12  
and under Combo tickets - \$8 for Adults & \$4  
Children

May 25 - Tower Climb 10am to 5 pm

May 26 - Tower Climb 10am to 5 pm

June 15 - Membership Meeting 10 am

July 6 - Tower Climb 10am to 5 pm

July 7 - Tower Climb 10am to 5 pm

August 3 - Heritage Festival

August 3 - Tower Climb 10 am to 5 pm

August 17 - ABC Tower Climb 10 am to 5 pm

August 31 - Tower Climb 10 am to 5 pm

September 1 - Tower Climb 10 am to 5 pm

September 28 - 29 Huron County Museum

Weekend Tower Climb 10 am to 5 pm

September 29 - Gift Shop and Museum Closes for  
the season

October 5 - Membership Meeting and Closing  
Work Day 10am ~

## The Landing Tavern

8724 Lake Street  
Port Austin Michigan

989-738-9750

*Friendly place to eat in, take out & drink.*

Hours: Kitchen:

Thursday & Friday 4-8:30pm,  
bar closes when slow

Saturday Noon-8:30pm,  
bar closes at Midnight

Sunday Noon- 8pm,  
bar closes at 8pm

Closed Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

**New Kitchen Hours effective May 15th.**

Sunday Noon-8pm, bar & kitchen closes  
Monday 4-8:30pm

**Tuesday and Wednesday CLOSED**

Thursday 4-8:30pm

Friday 4-8:30pm

Saturday Noon-8:30pm

Bar closes when slow

CLOSED MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 12TH

**Karaoke**

Starts at 9pm Every Saturday Night

## Shelley's Bar & Grill

8745 Pearson Rd,  
Grindstone City, MI  
989-738-5105

Open to Dine-In or Carry-Out

Kitchen is Open at 11am except

**Closed: Mondays**

**Open 7 days a week starting May 6th!**

Kitchen now closing at 8PM on Sunday,  
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Bar stays open until slow.

Watch Facebook for Daily Specials

*All dinner specials come with soup /salad bar.*

- Sundays we will have our pool table open all day.  
We pay for the games!
- Prime Rib on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

\* Mother's Day Special,  
Prime Rib and Coconut Shrimp.

## J & J's Party Store

next to Shelley's Bar & Grill  
8743 Pearson Rd

Grindstone City, MI  
989-738-5046

**Closed Mondays -**

**Open Mondays also May 6th**

Store open daily at 10am Sunday,  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday  
and Saturday Closes at 7pm.

*~We carry food staples, refrigerated dairy, beer, wine,  
liquors and other basic supplies  
including some fresh vegetables. ~*

## Bank 1884 Food & Spirits

8646 Lake Street  
Port Austin, MI 48467

Located in Downtown Port Austin

National Historic Site

New Kitchen hours

Wednesday 5 to 8

Thursday 11am - 8

Friday open at 11am -9pm

Saturday 11am-9pm

Specials & Events listed on Facebook



"America without her soldiers would be like God without His angels." —Claudia Pemberton.  
Post 499

# American Legion Pemberton

8875 Helles Road, Port Austin MI

989-738-1223 Eat In or Take Out

\*\*\*Kitchen is open to non members\*\*\*

**\*\*HOURS\*\***

Monday - Tuesday 3pm-9pm,

Wed 3pm-12:00am, Thurs 3pm- close,

Fri. 3pm-close, Sat 12:00pm- close,

Sunday 12:00pm—7:00pm

Jam Session Every Wednesday 7:30pm

Also

Jam Session Saturday April 20 2024 7:30 PM

**Blue Star Mothers Dinner**

**Wednesday April 17, 2024, 5 to 7 p.m.**

Chicken 'n Dumplings, Coleslaw, Corn, Corn-  
bread and Homemade Desserts.

Take out or dine in.

Adults \$12. Kids 12 and under \$4

All proceeds go to Troop & Veteran Projects

= Pancake Breakfast

Sunday April 28, 2024 9AM-12PM

ALL YOU CAN EAT!! DINE IN ONLY

~WHILE IT LASTS~

Pancakes, scrambled eggs, ham, sausage,  
hash browns, coffee cake, coffee & juice

**VETERANS EAT FREE**

hosted by: Ladies Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion.



"America without her  
soldiers would be like God  
without His angels."

—Claudia Pemberton.

## R.E.D. FRIDAY! REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED!

In honor of everyone deployed if you wear Red on  
Fridays', Post 499 will discount all beverages by \$.50  
per drink, no matter what the drink is.

Red also symbolizes the blood spilled by those who  
have paid the ultimate sacrifice!

Starting Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, wear your Red on Friday's  
in honor of our Veterans!

**GOD BLESS AMERICA!**

**PORT AUSTIN AMERICAN  
LEGION POST 499**

# KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY SAT MAY 4TH 4PM

**AUTHENTIC KENTUCKY  
DERBY MENU**

**BEST HAT CONTEST  
FOR THE LADIES**

**BEST DRESSED  
CONTEST FOR THE  
GENTS**

**OTHER CONTESTS  
LEADING UP TO THE  
RACE @ 6:30**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**





## Spring - A time to Plant

By Rita Herford

April came in like a lion! I was hoping to write an update about how we started planting sugar beets, but Mother Nature has other plans. Cold rainy weather does not help spring planting any. Maybe by the time you are reading this, things will have changed.

Sugar beets are our first crop to plant in the spring. As soon as the weather allows (dry field conditions and the low temperatures above freezing) we can plant sugar beets. Some years this can be as early as Mid-March and other years it can be as late as the beginning of May. This makes it fun to try and plan for anything. Back in the beginning of February, I thought for sure it would be an early spring. There was record breaking warm temps and no frost in the ground. My husband kept telling me it'll be a late spring. He's good for watching the long term forecast and low and behold he was right. The end of March was freezing with rain and snow.

Once the beets are planted, we will start planting corn and then dry beans after that. Corn and beans like warmer soil temperatures to germinate and grow. This helps prevent seedling diseases which will kill the baby plant. Typically, we plant corn in May and dry beans in June, but again Mother Nature is the boss.

We also have to account for soil moisture when considering planting time. Seeds need water to sprout, but if the field conditions are too wet, we get what is called "crusting". This can happen when planting into wet soil or after a hard rain. The wet soil creates a hard layer and keeps the seedling from being able to emerge. Essentially the plant sprouts, starts growing but dies from lack of sunlight.

I wish it were easy to explain a planter. A farmer's planter is like the ultimate tricked out vehicle. Every single one is customized to the farmers preferences. They come in all sizes, makes and models and can have numerous after-market equipment put on. Nevertheless, the job is to place seed in the ground. This happens by opening discs creating a seed trench where seeds are individually dropped in, then a set of closing wheels pinch the trench back closed to cover the seeds with soil.

We have gotten very precise about it. I mean very precise! We want to know exactly how deep the seed is going, how far apart each seed is from the next one, the seed to soil contact... We can even tell the planter to change seeding rates based upon soil type. We call this variable rate seeding; where we plant more seeds, closer together in the more fertile parts of the field and then back the seeding rate down in the lesser fertile parts of the field. The planter will automatically do this on the go. The technology in agriculture is unreal!

Hopefully some sunshine and warmer weather is approaching soon so we can get 2024's crop planted. ~



Inside view of the planting tractor. 3 screens run & monitor the tractor and planter.



A row unit of a planter. The opening discs open a seed trench, seeds fall individually in a row between the gauge wheels that control the seed depth, fertilizer discs apply fertilizer (plant food) and the closing wheels close the seed trench and cover the row with soil.



A 24-row planter and tractor.

*Happy Spring!*



## What does it take to be a firefighter?

By Jason Zimmerman, Port Austin Fire Chief

I often get asked by a lot of people the question how do I become a firefighter? It is really a two-part question. The first part is you must determine why you want to become a firefighter. Each person has their own “why” and it is the most important part of the question. I cannot fully answer this part of the question. Some people want to be a firefighter to help people and the community. Some people become firefighters because they were once helped by a firefighter and feel the best way to say thanks is to join and continue the tradition. Some folks just feel “called” as if it is their purpose in life to help others. Although I cannot answer “why” someone may want to be a firefighter I can answer what type of training is involved and how one can apply to be a firefighter.

The application process is different for all departments. However, most of them start with an application. Once the application is filled out, at most departments the Chief will review it. More than likely, the Chief will set up an interview with the applicant. At the interview there will probably be the Chief and his/her officers or some of the senior firefighters. The questions at the interview will cover basic topics and they may even ask the applicant why they want to join. No matter what type of questions are asked the focus of the interview will be determining if the applicant will be a good fit for the department and focusing on past experiences or any type of past training the applicant has had. After a successful interview, the applicant would have to be approved by the fireboard or the board that oversees the fire department. Once approved, the applicant would be accepted into the department as a probationary firefighter. This means he/she will still have to meet the minimum training requirements and the attendance requirements before becoming a full member of the fire department.

The State of Michigan requires all members of a fire department that are 18 years or older take and pass the Michigan Bureau of Fire Services Firefighter 1 course within two years of joining a department. This course is 240 hours and covers all the basics aspects of firefighting. This course includes firefighter safety and health, communications, fire behavior, Personal Protection Equipment, ropes and knots, search and rescue, ground ladders, forcible entry, fire hose, water supply, ventilation, building construction, fire streams, salvage and overhaul, and hazardous materials operations. Students may also take drivers education for the fire service. It is an information packed four-month course often meeting two nights a week and some weekends. Once this certification is obtained it is highly recommended by all Fire Chiefs to take the Firefighter 2 course which is a 55-hour course that rounds out the basics of firefighting. With a Firefighter 1 & 2 certification you can embark on a journey to take many classes that are offered from the Michigan Fire Fighter Training Council.

Once the Firefighter 1 certification is obtained there is a final determination for the applicant whether he or she will be a permanent member of the department. This seems like a complex journey but let me assure you that it is not. Along the way you will have other firefighters helping you and guiding you along the way. It is a very time-consuming process yet ultra rewarding once you achieve firefighter status.

So, now that you know what it takes to be a firefighter. How do you stay a firefighter? Firefighting is a team sport. You train with the other firefighters in your department and outside your department, you serve the community with your time and knowledge, you answer the call when fires or incidents happen, you dedicate time that you know you will not get back yet you are helping pave a path that will continue long after you served. Being a firefighter also means sacrifice, you will miss family events at times, the pager will go off at the most in-opportune time, you will have to sacrifice your recreational time, you will also have to take part in fundraisers for the department. All of this can at times be overwhelming, that is why it is important to never forget “why” you wanted to be a firefighter in the first place. If you are interested in becoming a firefighter reach out to your local fire Chief or ask someone that is already in the department. All departments are always looking for people to get involved.

In closing, I would like to thank Jason Lermont who is not only the Harbor Beach Fire Chief but also the Huron County Training Coordinator. He instructed the Firefighter 1 class that just wrapped up on April 6th. He has spent the last 4 months honing over 30 students into firefighters. His time and talents are very much appreciated!! It is imperative that new people come into the fire service regularly so there is always trained firefighters to answer the call. He has also had many volunteers that have helped him as well, their time and talents are very much appreciated!! Much like firefighting, training firefighters is a team sport!! Lastly, I would also like to thank the Bad Axe Area Fire Department for hosting the training. They regularly open their fire station for training and meetings and is always appreciated!! ~



## **Port Austin History Center**

**1424 Pointe Aux Barques Road**

**Port Austin, MI 48467**

**989 551 5532**

[www.portaustinhistorycenter.com](http://www.portaustinhistorycenter.com)

### **Port Austin History Center Happenings**

We are finishing our spring cleaning, and we will be ready to welcome visitors to the history center starting Saturday, May 4. Please note that our opening hours have changed for 2024. In June, July, and August we will be open Thursday through Sunday, instead of daily.

#### **Port Austin History Center 2024 Hours**

**May: Saturday & Sunday 1-4 pm**

**June, July & August: Thursday-Sunday 1-4 pm**

**Sept & October: Saturday & Sunday 1-4 pm**

We will be closed on Mother's Day (May 12), Father's Day (June 16), and Independence Day (July 4). Our heritage gardens & woodland path are always open for strolling.

The History Center's 2024 calendar will feature the eighth annual quilt show and several other popular events:

**June 24-** Tea Party

**June 29-30-** Log Cabin Days

**August 3 to 11-** Eighth Annual Quilt Show

**September 18-** Pasta House Dinner & Brown Bag Raffle (Kinde)

**September 28 & 29-** Huron County Museum Weekend

**October 19-** Fairy Tale Trail

For more information, follow the Port Austin

Area Historical Society on Facebook or email [portaustinhistorycenter@gmail.com](mailto:portaustinhistorycenter@gmail.com).

### **Be a part of something extraordinary by volunteering at the Port Austin Farmers Market!**

Our market is not just an event – it's a cornerstone of our community, as one of the largest and most renowned markets in Michigan. Behind the scenes there are several fun and rewarding opportunities for dedicated helpers and volunteers to ensure its continued success.

**Market set-up** is a critical aspect of ensuring the smooth operation of our market. Work with the market master to facilitate the arrival of vendors and assist them in the unloading process, keeping vendors on schedule and ensuring that arrivals proceed seamlessly. By lending a hand during this essential phase, you play a key role in maintaining the efficiency and success of the Market.

**Assisting throughout the day** is a pivotal role that directly impacts the experience of visitors. Lend a hand manning the market tent, assist visitors with inquiries, and provide helpful information. Not only does this help to enhance the overall visitor experience, but also generate additional revenue that supports market projects, events, and improvements.

**50/50 raffles** are a direct way to support community organizations and initiatives. Your involvement contributes to fundraising efforts that benefit the broader community, whether it's enhancing education, helping the fire department, or supporting local organizations. By dedicating your time to these activities, you're making a tangible difference and helping to create a stronger community.

**Join the music crew** and support our market's live music performances while working alongside our dedicated and passionate team. From assisting with equipment setup to coordinating with bands and ensuring seamless event execution, your contribution helps uphold the standard of excellence set by our current crew.

Volunteers play a pivotal role in many aspects of the market. Their contributions are invaluable, helping to uphold the market's reputation for excellence and ensuring a seamless experience for the local community, vendors, and visitors alike. But volunteering isn't just about lending a hand – it's about becoming an integral part of a vibrant community event that brings people together in meaningful ways. Furthermore, a wonderful way to make connections and lasting friendships with fellow community members, vendors, and visitors. And it's so much fun!!

**With gratitude, we sincerely appreciate the generosity of our volunteers and support of our community.**

To express your interest and get involved please visit [portaustinarea.com](http://portaustinarea.com), or call (989) 738-7600. We are looking forward to a wonderful 19th season at the Port Austin Farmers Market!

# Beautiful Me



One Size Blue Floral  
Chiffon Kimono USA  
MADE

\$26.00 USD



Plus Floral Faux  
Wrap High Low Maxi  
Dress

\$44.00 USD

## Beautiful Me

### Boutique & Salon

281 E Huron Avenue  
Downtown BAD AXE

989.975.2278

locally Handmade Items  
Women's Clothing & Accessories  
Sizes Small thru 3 XLarge  
NEW Spring Arrivals Daily

Stop in:

Monday, Wednesday,  
Thursday & Friday 9-5  
Saturday 10-2

SHOP ON-LINE 24/7

Free pickup in store or  
Free Shipping over \$100

Follow us on Facebook  
for Daily Updates  
and NEW arrivals.



# END OF APRIL & MAY 2024 AREA EVENTS

**Wednesday April 17, Blue Star Mothers Dinner**  
5-7 pm. Chicken 'n Dumplings, Coleslaw, Corn, Cornbread and Homemade Desserts. Take out or dine in. American Legion Post 499 8875 Hellem Road, Port Austin MI Adults \$12. Kids 12 and under \$4. All proceeds go to Troop & Veteran Projects.

**Wednesday, April 24 2024 Poetry Sharing 6:30-8:00 p.m.**  
At the Welcome Center 2 West Spring St., Port Austin, MI 48467. Round-table sharing of original and/or published poetry at 6:30 pm Discussion of poems in process (voluntary) at 7:30 April is National Poetry Month; join us in celebration! All are Welcome! No Charge. For more info: email Stephanie Anderson([steph.anderson02@gmail.com](mailto:steph.anderson02@gmail.com)) email Judy Beam: ([jbeam509@comcast.net](mailto:jbeam509@comcast.net)) Sheila Cumberworth (text or call 734 649-9107)

## **Saturday, April 27, Poker Run**

\$40 Entry Fee includes 2 Drink Tickets Extra are available for \$20. Start & Ends at the Port Austin Conservation Club 11am – Riders Meeting at 10:30am. A portion of the proceeds from the Poker Run will be allocated to two scholarships at North Huron Schools. PRIZES For Worst & Best Hand. Enjoy: Food & Drinks & Share the Wealth. For more information go to the Port Austin Conservation club FACEBOOK Pre-Register by emailing: [rpettit989@gmail.com](mailto:rpettit989@gmail.com)

**April 26, 27, 28 & May 3, 4, 5, 2024 Spring Show**  
"Woman in Black" at Port Austin Community Playhouse at 35 Railroad St, (989) 738-5217 Spring Show - "Woman in Black" - show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 2pm. Directed by John Jacobus.

## **Sunday April 28, Pancake Breakfast 9AM-12PM**

All you can eat!! Dine in only ~while it last~ Pancakes, scrambled eggs, ham, sausage, hash browns, coffee cake, coffee & juice. VETERANS EAT FREE. hosted by: Ladies Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion. (8875 Hellem Road, Port Austin MI) 989-738-1223

## **May 4, Kentucky Derby Party starting @ 4 pm**

Food, fun and prizes! Men and Women best hat contests and more! Watch for flyer. American Legion 8875 Hellem Road, Port Austin MI

**Saturday, May 4. History Center opening hours** have changed for 2024. In June, July, and August we will be open Thursday through Sunday, instead of daily.

*Port Austin History Center 2024 Hours*

**May: Saturday & Sunday 1-4 pm June, July & August: Thursday-Sunday 1-4 pm September & October: Saturday & Sunday 1-4 pm**

**Saturday, May 18, Port Austin Farmers Market** Opens on State Street from 9am until 1pm. Live music on stage from 10am to 1pm. Every Saturday Rain or Shine. View more information on the Greater Port Austin Chamber of Commerce web site.

## **Sunday, May 19, MAGICAL SUMMER OF MUSIC EVER,**

The Port Austin Community Playhouse will be hosting a wonderful musical event. On Sunday afternoon, May 19, at 2:00 PM, a lively, vibrant band from the Detroit area, The Detroit Social Club, will be performing. Familiar to many here from their appearances at Art in the Park for the past several years, the group became a favorite among many listeners here.

**Saturday, May 18. Styles for Scholars Luncheon & Fashion Show 12-2 P.M.** at the Pointe Aux Barques Clubhouse, \$50 a Ticket, Contact Joanne by phone 989-550-4449 for Tickets. Ticket Must be Purchased in advance.

## **Friday May 24, Pointe aux Barques Lighthouse**

7320 Lighthouse Rd, Port Hope, MI. Built 1848. 586-243-1838 GIFT SHOP AND MUSEUM OPEN FOR THE SEASON MAY 24TH, 2024 Gift Shop and Museum Hours: Open Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00am to 5:00pm. Tower Clime May 25 and 26th. see page 1 for more details.

## **Saturday, May 25, Empty Bowls Help Fill Local Food Banks**

The Port Austin "Artists in Residence" program has joined with Detroit ceramic artists Ani Garabedian and Byron Nemela and local businesses and non-profit organizations to bring the empty bowls project to Port Austin. An array of handcrafted soup bowls will be available for purchase at the Port Austin Farmers Market on May 18th and May 25th. There will be seventy-five unique bowls to choose from at \$20 each. All proceeds from the bowls will be donated to local food banks to help those in our community who are food insecure. Patrons who purchase bowls are invited to join us at the Bee Barn (20 Washington Street, Port Austin) on May 25 starting at 11:30 a.m. for a soup event where community volunteers will be donating crock pots of their favorite recipes.

## **Sunday, May 26, 10am - 4 pm Pink Lady's Slipper**

a celebration of one of Michigan's most beautiful and rare wildflowers, the Pink Lady's Slipper Orchid! This family-friendly event offers a variety of activities for all ages, including live music, food vendors, and local artisans showcasing their wares. Visitors can hike and explore the trails in search of Lady's Slippers. For those who prefer a more leisurely experience, relax and enjoy the festive atmosphere. Huron County Nature Center, located at 3336 Loosemore Road, Port Austin, MI 989-856-5030

## **Thursday, May 30, SMASH M.S. PARTY.**

World M.S. Day fundraiser starting at 6pm at the Thumb Brewery, 6758 Pine St, Caseville, MI. Music Bingo, 50/50 Raffle, special Merchandise, Auction and tapping of "Jennerous Pour" - Single Malt and Single Hop IPA. The Benefit is for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

*Happy Memorial Day*

# PORT AUSTIN

# MAY 2024

# AREA EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>APRIL 28</b> Pancake Breakfast 9AM-12PM at the American Legion 	<b>APRIL 29</b>	<b>APRIL 30</b>	1  	2	3 	4   American Legion 8875 Helles Road, Port Austin Kentucky Derby @ 4 pm
5 	6	7	8  	9	10	11 
12	13	14	15  	16	17	18 Port Austin FARMERS MARKET OPENING DAY 9AM- 1PM
19 Musical Concert at the Port Austin PLAYHOUSE STARTS 2PM	20	21	22  	23	24 Pointe Aux Barques Light- house opening date, 7320 Light- house Rd, Port Hope, MI see page 1	25 Soup Bowl Sale AIS See page 8 
26 Huron County Nature Center 10am to 4pm Pink Lady's Slipper Celebration	27  HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY	28	29  		31	June 1 



Line dance classes at the U & I Club (8255 N Van Dyke Rd, Port Austin) on Wednesdays 10 am to 11 am. No Charge



Spring Show April 26, 27, 28 and May 3, 4, 5, 2024 - "Woman in Black" at Port Austin Community Playhouse located at 35 Railroad St, Port Austin, show times are Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 2pm. Directed by John Jacobus. (989) 738-5217



Jam Session Every Wednesday 7:30pm at the American Legion Post 499  
8875 Helles Road, Port Austin MI 989-738-1223



The Landing Tavern 8724 Lake Street Port Austin 989-738-9750 Karaoke Starts at 9pm. Every Saturday.

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- Wood Plank Flooring
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- Shiplap
- Mailbox Installation
- Door Installation
- Power Washing



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or visit us online at [Transformative.pro](https://transformative.pro)

## Poetry Sharing

Hosted by The Bards of Bird Creek

### Open Mic' Poetry Night For Thumb Area Student Poets

Wednesday, April 24 2024  
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.  
At the Welcome Center  
2 West Spring St., Port Austin, MI 48467

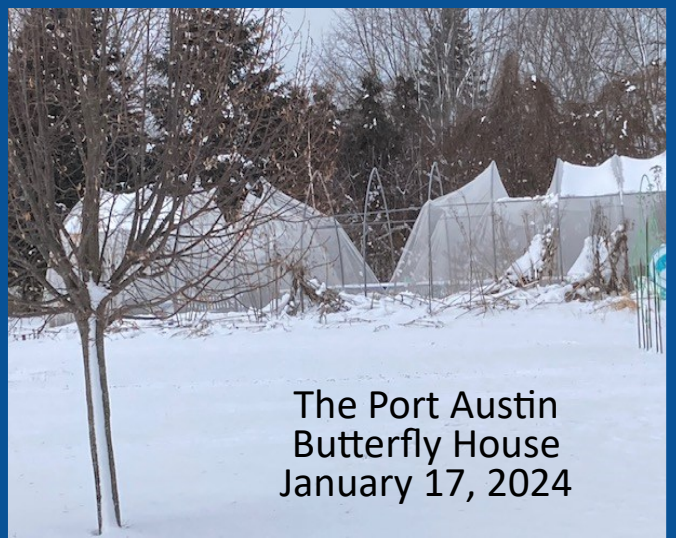
Round-table sharing of original and/or published poetry at 6:30

Discussion of poems in process (voluntary) at 7:30

April is National Poetry Month; join us in celebration!

All are Welcome! No Charge.

Questions? Contact:  
Stephanie Anderson ([steph.anderson02@gmail.com](mailto:steph.anderson02@gmail.com))  
Judy Beam ([jbeam509@comcast.net](mailto:jbeam509@comcast.net))  
Sheila Cumberworth (text or call 734 649-9107)



The Port Austin  
Butterfly House  
January 17, 2024

## The Port Austin Butterfly House and Community Garden 2024

By Deanna Kidd

Luckily, a new net was already planned for spring 2024 and will be put up once the weather gets nicer.

Weather permitting we should have some butterflies in for the last weekend in June to coincide with Porch Fest which is June 22nd. The big release will again take place the Friday before the 4th of July, like the last 3 year. Usually there are butterflies until mid-Sept (weather permitting).

We also offer private releases for anyone who'd like to pay for some butterflies and do a private/special release for a birthday, anniversary or as a memorial for a loved one. We set aside one hour of private time for these types of releases.

The big decorative butterflies will be hung again with help from the gentlemen who designed and donated them.

The North Huron Junior High National Honor Society will again be laying the mulch before school releases for the summer.

Also, the North Huron Ag Class will soon be planting the plants for the community garden in their greenhouse at the school. They will plant the water tower park beds prior to the school year ending for the summer.

We're hoping to have a bike rack installed, plant some areas of the park with sunflowers and possibly install some new signage for the butterfly house and community garden.

The Port Austin Chamber of Commerce Facebook page will have any announcements or changes throughout the summer months. Volunteers for projects are always welcome! They can contact me if they're interested! Deanna Kidd 989-550-6437 (text or leave a message).

~

## THE COVE

8685 Lake Street, Port Austin, MI

Port Austin's premier Gallery and Gift Shop featuring over 80 Michigan artists now open Saturdays 10am to 4pm and in May, Fridays and Saturdays. Additional hours open appointment. Call or text 989-975-6141 or 989-582-0926.

## PLANT SALE



Starting end of April

**\*Watch the  
North Huron FFA  
Facebook Page for  
more information  
coming soon!\***

ORV / SIDE BY SIDE / VEHICLE

# POKER RUN

**\$40 ENTRY FEE  
INCLUDES:  
2-DRINK TICKETS  
EXTRA HANDS ARE  
AVAILABLE FOR \$20**

**PRIZES  
FOR WORST & BEST  
HAND**

**SATURDAY  
APRIL 27TH**

START & END AT  
PORT AUSTIN CONSERVATION CLUB  
11 AM - RIDERS MEETING AT 10:30 AM

Pre-Register by emailing: [rpettit989@gmail.com](mailto:rpettit989@gmail.com)

A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS FROM THE POKER RUN WILL BE ALLOCATED TO  
TWO SCHOLARSHIPS AT NORTH HURON SCHOOLS

**ENJOY** FOOD & DRINKS & SHARE THE WEALTH

**Sponsored by: PORT AUSTIN CONSERVATION CLUB**

For more information: **PORT AUSTIN CONSERVATION CLUB - PACC  
FACEBOOK PAGE**

PORT AUSTIN

JUNIOR PRISCILLA CLUB

## STYLES FOR SCHOLARS LUNCHEON AND FASHION SHOW

MAY 18TH 12-2 PM

Pointe Aux Barques  
Clubhouse

\$50 A TICKET, CONTACT JOANNE  
AT 989-550-4449 FOR TICKETS.  
TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN  
ADVANCE

thumb  
PILATES

Join us for

# PILATES

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## HELPING HANDS THRIFT STORE IS READY FOR YOU AND SUMMER

On March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, Helping Hands did its semi-annual seasonal change over of its clothing inventory. On the 25<sup>th</sup> the staff took down, bagged and boxed up all the fall and winter clothes. Some went out as donations to the homeless, some went into storage for next year. Then on the 26<sup>th</sup> with the help of 14 volunteers, they and the staff brought out of storage all the donations of spring and summer clothes that had been collected over the winter months. They then hung all the clothes in the various departments displayed and ready for spring and summer shoppers.

We also have available all type of accessories for the back yard BBQ and beach. So we invite you to stop in and see the "New" bright and colorful, ready for summer Helping Hands. We hope to see you soon.

**WE ARE NOW OPEN FOR OUR SUMMER HOURS**

**MONDAY-SATURDAY 10-5**

**DONATION HOURS MONDAY-SATURDAY 10-4**

**(NO DROP OFFS PLEASE)**

**6495 Main St. Caseville, MI**



Facebook at Helping Hands Marketplace.

# SMaSH M.S. PARTY!



**Thurs May 30, 2024**  
**World M.S. Day**  
**starting at 6 pm**

**"Jennerous Pour" – to be tapped**  
**Single Malt and Single Hop IPA**  
**(SMaSH IPA!)**

**plus Music Bingo, 50/50 Raffle,**  
**special Merch, and Auction!**

**Benefit for the**  
**National Multiple Sclerosis Society**

**Thumb Brewery**  
**6758 Pine Street - Caseville, MI**

**PORT AUSTIN FARMERS MARKET**

**SATURDAYS**  
9AM-1PM  
MAY 18 - OCT. 5

**WEDNESDAYS**  
3PM-7PM  
JUNE 5 - AUG. 28

LEARN MORE AT [PORTAUSTINAREA.COM](http://PORTAUSTINAREA.COM)

STAR-SPANGLED MARKET JUNE 29	KIDS DAY JULY 13	GIRLS WEEKEND PINK MARKET SEPT. 14	HARVEST MARKET SEPT. 28
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The Village of Port Austin would like the welcome Henry Carlsen and Aaron Volk to the Department of Public Words, DPW.

## Perils of The Freshwater Seas

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18 TALES OF RESCUES ON LAKE HURON  
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## WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE PORT AUSTIN WEDNESDAY FARMERS MARKET

**3:00PM TO 7:00PM**

EVERY WEDNESDAY  
JUNE 5TH - AUG. 28TH

VENDORS: THIS NEW ADDITION TO OUR  
MARKET SCHEDULE WELCOMES  
FARMERS ONLY.

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Porchfest  
2024  
June 22nd



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📍 8673 Lake St, Port Austin, MI 48467



## 2024 Huron County Nature Center Summer Schedule

All events are held at

**Huron County Nature Center**  
**3336 Loosemore Road, Port Austin, MI**

(south of M-25; between Caseville and Port Austin, east of Oak Beach Road)  
[hello@huronnaturecenter.org](mailto:hello@huronnaturecenter.org), phone 989-856-5030

**Sunday, May 26, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** a celebration of one of Michigan's most beautiful and rare wildflowers, the Pink Lady's Slipper Orchid! This family-friendly event offers a variety of activities for all ages, including live music, food vendors, and local artisans showcasing their wares. Visitors can hike and explore the trails in search of Lady's Slippers, and learn about the unique characteristics of this stunning wildflower. For those who prefer a more leisurely experience, relax and enjoy the festive atmosphere. This event is perfect for anyone interested in nature, conservation, or just looking for a fun day out with the family.

**June 1, 9:30-10:30 am: Bird Walk.** Join hobby birder Tom Beachy for a morning of birding! This event is perfect for anyone interested in learning more about birds and their habitats. Tom will share his extensive knowledge and passion for birding as you explore the trails and look for local bird species. Bring your binoculars and cameras, and be prepared to observe and learn about the different behaviors and characteristics of the birds you encounter.

**June 8, 10:30-11:30 am: Sweetie B's Honey.** Matt Jacobs will offer a general overview of the bee business operation and open conversation with attendees. It is sure to be a sweet time!

**June 15, 10:30-11:30 am: Michigan Reptiles & Amphibians.** Explore the fascinating world of Michigan's reptiles and amphibians at our upcoming event with Nature Discoveries' Jim and Carol McGrath! This interactive experience will feature live animals from the region, including snakes, turtles, frogs, and salamanders. You'll also have the opportunity to see these creatures up close (under safe and supervised conditions).

**June 22, 10:00 am-2:00 pm: Zentangle.** Join artist Wanda Eichler for Zentangle fun! Wanda will be teaching participants a relaxing approach to creating art with the step-by-step Zentangle process. Zentangle is an easy-to-learn and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. Be sure to bring your own sack lunch to enjoy during a break. Pre-registration will open up in June, a class fee is required for art supplies provided at this class.

**June 29, 10:30-11:30 am: Print Making Demo** Rachel Mentzer is printmaker who uses found and recycled materials to create collagraph plates to compare nature and manufactured objects. During her presentation, she will show how she uses different products, including cardboard layers and how the layers hold ink to create prints. She will use her art to share her experiences in nature and as a birdwatcher. This presentation is in partnership with the Port Austin Artist in Residence program.

**July 6, 10:30am-11:30 am: Birds of Prey.** Experience the majesty of Michigan's birds of prey up close and personal at our upcoming event with Wildlife Recovery! Joe Rogers and his team will bring live raptors including hawks, owls, and falcons and will answer your questions about these interesting birds. This is a popular program so be prepared for a crowd. Don't miss out on this unforgettable opportunity to experience the power and beauty of Michigan's birds of prey!

**July 13, 10 am-Noon: Quick Start Nature Journaling.** Join local artist Patt Bennett for a fun practice that helps us slow down, pay attention, notice more and get curious about the wonder and beauty all around us. In this gathering you will be encouraged to record your own ideas and observations about Nature using words, pictures, and numbers!

**July 20, 10:30-11:30 Passenger Pigeons .** From the 1830's and through the 1890's, the Passenger Pigeon was a beautiful bird and dominant species in the State of Michigan. It was also the most hunted bird, with hunters and game dealers coming from as far away as New York and Texas to participate in of this remarkable species.

**August 3, 10:30-11:30 am: Michigan Avian Experience.** A favorite of the attendees in 2022. This is an event you won't want to miss! This is your opportunity to meet a bald eagle in person. Michigan Avian Experience will have a bald eagle and two other raptors on hand for this exciting program. They will be discussing these amazing birds! This event is perfect for families and bird enthusiasts.

**August 10, 10 am to 2 pm: Nature Journaling with Turtles & Frogs.** Join artist Wanda Eichler as she leads the attendees in learning about gesture drawing as participants observe Collin, our Blandings Turtle, as the model for nature journaling. Pre-registration will open up in August, a class fee is required for art supplies provided at this class.

**August 17, 10:30 -11:30 am: Let's Talk Tomatoes, Small Home Farms.** Everybody loves tomatoes, but how much do you actually know about this tasty fruit's fascinating history? Author and seed saver Bevin Cohen will share exciting tales of how this South American fruit traveled around the world and back, influencing the cuisines and cultures of the many countries it encountered along its journey. Discover tips and tricks to maximize your tomato harvest.

**August 24, 10:30-11:30am: Michigan Snakes.** Join Nature Discoveries' Jim and Carol McGrath for an exciting event exploring the amazing world of Michigan snakes! This interactive experience will feature live snakes from the region. You'll even have the opportunity to touch and hold some of these incredible animals (under safe and supervised conditions). This event is perfect for families and nature enthusiasts who are interested in learning more about these often-misunderstood creatures. Join us for a fun and educational program discovering the beauty and diversity of Michigan's snake population!

More information is available on our website and our Facebook account.



## What's in a Name?

Alan K. Ainsley

If you look at a county map, you'll notice that most rural roads are laid out at one-mile intervals. Left-to-right; top-to-bottom; county maps resemble crossword puzzle grids—with one underlying question: "What's in a name?" That's because rural roads often change names at township lines. Don't take my word for it...M-53 is a good road trip to check it out yourself. It's a state highway that splits many townships. If your eyesight's good, you don't even need a map. Just read the road signs.

Townships have the right to name their own roads, but they've been somewhat myopic about it. Some refer to a town or a farm family that once owned a section of land the road runs through. It doesn't matter that some of those towns are now little more than a couple of stop signs. It doesn't matter that those families sold off the land decades ago. It doesn't matter that those names are only known to people who live in the area. It doesn't even matter to us as we travel across those roads (not caring what they're called)...until it does matter. Then the inconsistency gets confusing.

For example, on M-53, Filion Road is Filion Road on both sides and Kinde Road is Kinde Road; but between them, Dunn Road isn't done, it becomes Dobson Road. And while Cross Road crosses, it becomes Limerick Road—although none of this rhymes.

Some roads have multiple names (or local names known only to the locals). M-53, aka VanDyke Road, becomes Lake Street in Port Austin. But in Bad Axe it's named Port Crescent Street and it doesn't even go there. On the other hand, Port Crescent Road, (a mile or so South of Port Austin) does. Not much left in Port Crescent anyway (except the state park and a lot of once-upon-a-time stories).

Getting confused? Me too! Thank you for letting me vent my "road rage." ~

## Daughters of Isabella

The Daughters of Isabella met on March 1, 2024 at 7PM in the Knight of Columbus Hall; Bad Axe. Regent Marilyn Braun brought the meeting to order, with the induction of a new member of the Order. Chancellor Shirley Jahn led the opening prayer and a Decade of the Rosary. The "Opening Ode" was sung by all the members, flag was presented, and the pledge was recited. Recording Secretary Pat Ignash did the roll call of officers, and read the last months minutes, the treasurer report was read with no correction being made it was approved by a vote of the members. Outstanding business was brought to the members attention and with no new business entertained, the meeting continues at a good pace. The monthly donation of \$50.00 when to Holy Apostles Faith Formation program in Harbor Beach, Door prize was Marilyn Gilbert, Birthday prize Louise Pionk, Daughter of the Month was Geraldine Miller.

**The next Daughter of Isabella's Card party was April 7, and the final card party for the season is May 5, at the Bad Axe Senior center on Nugent Road, Bad Axe.**

Any Catholic Women interested in Joining feel free to contact any member of the group, or if you want information call Verna Murawski 989-670-8489. ~



**PORT AUSTIN FARMERS MARKET**  
ESTD 2005

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*"We are not what we know but  
what we are willing to learn."*

**2024**  
**Huron County Nature Center Summer Schedule**

**Huron County Nature Center**

**3336 Loosemore Road, Port Austin, MI**

(south of M-25; between Caseville and Port Austin, east of Oak Beach Road)

[hello@huronnaturecenter.org](mailto:hello@huronnaturecenter.org)

**989-856-5030**

More information will be available on our website and our Facebook account.

Our kick-off to summer event, the annual Lady Slipper Festival, will be held on **Sunday, May 26, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** a celebration of one of Michigan's most beautiful and rare wildflowers, the Pink Lady's Slipper Orchid! This family-friendly event offers a variety of activities for all ages, including live music, food vendors, and local artisans showcasing their wares. Visitors can hike and explore the trails in search of Lady's Slippers, and learn about the unique characteristics of this stunning wildflower. For those who prefer a more leisurely experience, relax and enjoy the festive atmosphere. This event is perfect for anyone interested in nature, conservation, or just looking for a fun day out with the family.

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# Port Austin News

Barbara King: Editor/Owner

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Ace Reporter = Dennis Hafeli

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PA Fire Chief/Fire Safety =

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P A Chamber Executive Dir/Market Mgr =

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Pointe Aux Barques Lighthouse =

Mimi Herrington

Port Austin Music Reporter =

Steve Penn

Village Clerk/Treasurer =

Amanda Nienaltowski

Huron County Nature Center = Tamie Cook

Greater Port Austin Historical Society =

Drieka DeGraf

The Blue Star Mothers Thumb Chapter MI 178 =

Pat Rogers

Port Austin American Legion Port 499 =

Gina Volz

Michigan Farming = Rita Herford

Bards od Birdcreek "National Poetry Month" =

Sheila Cumberworth & Jane Mayes

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~



" Fall Sunset at Port Crescent State Park "  
by local Photographer Mark Nuss

## Happy Mother's Day



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# PORT AUSTIN - A MUSIC MECCA

by Dennis Hafeli

## Detroit Social Club, Denny Diamond at The Port Austin Community Playhouse

When I bought my home in Port Austin twenty years ago, I was completely in love with the town for what it offered back then – sun, water, beaches, swimming, boating, relaxation, a great theater with wonderful productions. The musical scene back then, at least to my knowledge, consisted pretty much of a man who was to become one of my best friends, Arnie Besonen, and his band of merry men. Then along came the John and Lisa Pridnia – inspired Farmers Market, which directly led to the introduction of a new musical group, the Spring Street Boys, to the Port Austin area. In 2016, Porch Fest made its appearance, and suddenly a number of very talented musicians became aware of our beautiful village. Conversely, many of the restaurants and bars, some old and some new, began to recognize the talents these folks possessed and began to hire many of them to perform at their establishments.

Fast forward to 2024. The Farmers Market presents wonderful music every Saturday from May to September. The Village Green provides Friday evening visitors with comforting musical background as they casually shop. Porch Fest returns for its ninth year on June 22, the fourth Saturday in June, bringing scores of visitors to town. Several nights a week, one can find a variety of musical sounds wafting throughout the downtown area emanating from one or more of the favorite establishments.

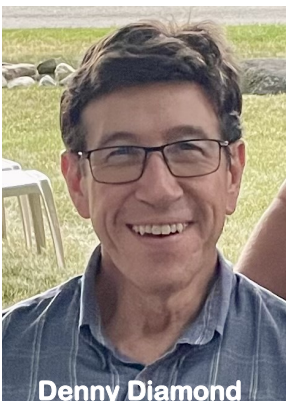
**To kick off what promises to be perhaps our most magical summer of music ever**, The Port Austin Community Playhouse will be hosting a wonderful musical event. **On Sunday afternoon, May 19, at 2:00 PM**, a lively, vibrant band from the Detroit area, **The Detroit Social Club**, will be performing. Familiar to many here from their appearances at Art in the Park for the past several years, the group became a favorite among many listeners here.

A committee consisting of Lisa Pridnia, Terry Ross, Joyce Stanek, and Dennis Hafeli discussed having them come up in 2024 for a performance at the theater, and shortly an agreement was reached. Lisa, under the auspices of the John Pridnia Foundation Community Services, established in memory of her late husband to support the arts, contributed a \$1,000 sponsorship. The band features Darnell “Doc” Gardner and Joanne Newman on vocals, with Arthur Littsey on guitar, Mark Croft on keyboards, Chris Kent on bass, Kenny Welk on harmonica, Carl Graves on drums, and Rick Turner on keyboards, with all of them contributing to the vocals. **Versatility is the distinguishing quality of this group**, ranging from all styles of the blues to a mix of Classic Soul, Motown, Jazz, Country, Funk, and Pop standards. **Tickets for the May 19 performance will go on sale at the theater box office beginning on April 25. Simply call the theater and place your order at 989-738-5217.**

A month later, during Porch Fest weekend, PACP is proud to bring back, this time **for two performances, Mr. Denny Svehla, one of the foremost Neil Diamond tribute acts in the country**. Mr. Svehla, who performs under the pseudonym Denny Diamond, came to Porch Fest in 2022, and then last year appeared before a completely sold-out audience at the theater during Porch Fest VIII. He truly had the audience screaming for more in the midst of a grateful and genuine standing ovation. A resident of Chicago, Denny has been appearing all over the country with this particular show as well as tributes to other artists such as Tom Jones, Barry Manilow, and Elvis. **His Port Austin performances will take place on Saturday night, June 22, at 7:30 and on Sunday, June 23, at 2:00. Tickets for both shows will also go on sale beginning April 25, again by calling 989-738-5217.**

Tickets for both the Detroit Social Club concert and the two Denny Diamond concerts are priced at **20.00 each for general seating**. Expectations are that all three shows will be complete sellouts. When ordering tickets, make sure you follow the phone prompts carefully, and specify the event and the date for which you are placing your ticket order.

**Make sure you take in as many of the musical happenings in Port Austin this year as possible. You’ll be glad you did!**



Denny Diamond



: Members of The Detroit Social Club performing in Port Austin in 2023