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## **Inland Lake Life**

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2202 Plaza Dr. Benton Harbor, MI 49022  
(269) 934-2583  
jeff@mailmaxonline.com

**President:** Glen Head

**Publisher:** Jeff Painter

**Ad Sales:** Kate Marie, R. Douglas Farrell

**Graphic Design:** Brook Reddel





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Wood-look tones to fit your idea of beauty. Click vinyl technology progress has made it hard to tell real wood from a click vinyl repro in the same wood species, even side by side. White oak naturals. Light stains or washes on white oak, hickory and maple-looks. Natural wood-warm neutrals complement today's taupe, mushroom tones and natural sisal interiors.

FloorArt's eleven unique, natural or lightly washed tones in stock make wood grain the hero. Our real wood display boards let you compare a real wood look to click vinyl. If you prefer real wood, we have the most current hardwood styles available. However, many choose click vinyl for easy maintenance.

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Do-it-Yourselfer? This is your floor. A circular saw or saber saw, a utility knife, a square, a good mallet and a tapping block for a tight fit (plus installation tips from the manufacturer) are all you'll need to do a first-class click vinyl floor. Tips like work around special corners, rotate planks for a natural wood design and avoid narrow strips improve your final appearance. A click vinyl floor "floats" so it's easier on your feet, and no added underlayment needed as there is one already attached.

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By Jennifer Smith - Owner, FloorArt



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## Pour Me!

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## Summertime Swilling

Greetings! My name is Jenna Podjan, and I am the Sales Manager for Bud Distributing, located in Dowagiac, Michigan. Bud Distributing is local and family-owned company which has been in existence for 54 years! We service all your favorite stores and restaurants with beverages of all kinds. We are finally at that time of the year where the sun is shining more and more, and temperatures are warming and folks are gearing up for summer! I would love to tell you about some great summer drinking options.

Whether you are out on the golf course, relaxing on your back porch or out at the lakes, we have some great options that you will love!

### **Good Boy Vodka Seltzer and Tea**

I am sure many of you have seen **Good Boy Vodka Seltzers** on the shelves and at your favorite establishments. If you enjoy seltzers, you will love their Variety 8 Pack with great tasting and refreshing flavors: **Cranberry Pineapple, Summer Watermelon, Mango & Peach, and Strawberry Hibiscus.**

Also brand new to the line-up is their Citrus Circus, which is endorsed by Travis Pastrana, who is a legendary professional motosports competitor and stunt performer. Citrus Circus is super delicious and refreshing, inspired by the Maryland Orange Crush. All of the seltzers are gluten free, 95 calories (Citrus Circus is 110) vodka based, and simply delicious!

Let's not forget about the **Good Boy Vodka John Daly Cocktail Teas!** I can't say enough great things about these. Perfect for any occasion but a no brainer on the golf course. I love all the flavors included in the 8 pack Good Boy John Daly Cocktail variety pack:

**Iced tea & Lemonade, Raspberry Iced Tea and Lemonade, Peach Iced Tea and Lemonade,** and my personal favorite, **Blackberry Iced Tea and Lemonade.** SOOOO good! Also, Good Boy Vodka is a purpose driven, lifestyle brand who believes in giving back. They support Veterans and those that have served our country alongside their companions, K9 dogs.

**Every Pour Helps a Pup!** Check out [thegoodboyfoundation.com](http://thegoodboyfoundation.com) for more information!

### **Carbliss....Liss is More**

Brand new to the state and Southwest Michigan, is **Carbliss.** This company is based out of Wisconsin, is Veteran and Woman owned. Also, a spirit-based cocktail in a can. Current flavors include **Black Raspberry, Pineapple, Cranberry, Lemon Lime, Lemon, Peach, Black Cherry** which are all vodka based, and the **Margarita** which is Tequila based. These beverages are also Gluten Free, 0 carbs, 0 sugar, and around 100 calories. Make sure to keep your eyes open for this



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brand new entry into the market!  
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These seltzers are super delicious and refreshing!!! Used with real fruit juices, you can't go wrong when you pick up this brand. In the Variety 8 pack, the flavors include: **Pineapple, Mango, Watermelon, and Cranberry.** Also available in 4 packs are **Black Cherry and Orange.** If you are a cranberry lover, they have a cranberry variety pack that includes **Classic Cranberry, Cranberry Apple, Cranberry Grapefruit, and Cranberry Orange.** Do you love lemonade? They also have a nice 8 pack variety of **Classic Lemonade, Blackberry Lemonade, Peach Lemonade, and Strawberry Lemonade.**

Well, that is it for me - I hope you enjoy these recommendations for some easy drinking, summer beverages. Honestly, they are great year-round, but tis the season! As always, please drink responsibly!

Jenna@buddistributing.com



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# History Of Berrien Springs

Berrien Springs, like Berrien County, is named for John M. Berrien. "Springs" was added after mineral springs were discovered in the area.

The village is the site of the earliest European-American settlement in Oronoko Township. It was first known as "Wolf's Prairie" in reference to the 1,000-acre prairie in which it was situated. The site had been a village under the leadership of a Potawatomi chief named Wolf. The first permanent settlers (according to European-American terms), John Pike and his family, did not arrive until 1829.

Francis B. Murdoch was a co-founder of the village and the first lawyer in the county. (His surname was spelled as 'Murdock' in some records.) In 1831 he built a two-story log house, which is the oldest surviving

example of its kind in Michigan. In 1973 this house was moved near Courthouse Square, to be part of that historic complex.

Murdoch was known in the antebellum period for representing enslaved African Americans in freedom suits, in which they tried to gain freedom. Michigan was established as a free territory and later state. It went by the principle of "once free, always free". If slaveholders brought enslaved people to the state, the latter were judged to be free.

The village of Berrien was platted in 1831. The Berrien Springs post office opened with the name "Berrien" on December 4, 1832; this was changed to Berrien Springs on April 18, 1836. Berrien Springs served as the county seat from 1837 until 1894, when St. Joseph was designated as the county seat.

Berrien Springs Courthouse, designed by local architect Gilbert B. Avery, was completed in 1839, making it the oldest courthouse in the state. The Greek Revival-style courthouse emulated the architecture of ancient Greece with its large columns, triangular pediment and white paint. After the county seat was moved in 1894, the building was put to various uses and briefly was vacant. In 1967, efforts to preserve and restore the courthouse were started. Such restoration was completed by 1975.

The restored Courthouse Square also features the Midwest's most complete surviving mid-nineteenth century county government complex. Today a county museum and archives are housed in the square. The courthouse serves as headquarters for the Berrien County Historical Association. Its original buildings are listed on the National Register



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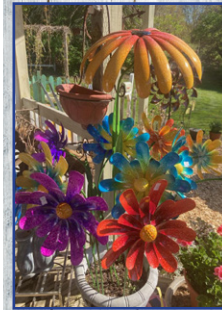
of Historic Places. The property is dedicated to the preservation of Berrien County's history and does this through permanent and temporary exhibits, programs, events, and community outreach.

Berrien Springs was once known as the Christmas pickle capital of the world. A festival was established by the Berrien Springs-Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce, the Berrien County Historical Association (BCHA), and the village. They featured parades, games, activities, and a Pickle Prince and Princess contest. The event ran until the mid-2000s. In 2021, the Pickle Festival was revived by the Village, the BCHA, and the Berrien Springs Community Library.



July 4th

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**JEN WURSTER**  
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Jennifer Wurster is a creative and intuitive Realtor®. Her clients value her highly organized and creative approach to what can be a highly emotional transaction. With more than 20 years of sales, marketing, and customer service experience – her track record of happy clients is evidence of her success. Jennifer is humble and believes she found her “voice” when she began selling real estate. Her clients are the beneficiary of this awakening, and she fiercely advocates for clients whether negotiating on price or when trying to access off-market listings.

One of her grateful clients wrote, “Having Jen guide us through a sometimes daunting process made the biggest difference. She was always available and maintained a positive, pragmatic, and professional approach from start to finish. Jen is a dream!”

Jen has built a strong reputation and respect amongst her colleagues and her cli-

ents alike – selling Southwest Michigan from New Buffalo to St. Joseph to Saugatuck and beyond. She is praised for her warmth, attention to detail, organization, and for listening and understanding her client’s needs. “My core business is real estate, but more importantly, they are homes to families, be it first or second. I represent the people, not brick and mortar. This is what drives me to work harder and be my best all day and every day.”

Family, faith and adventure are central to Jennifer Wurster. When she is not selling real estate, you may find her at one of her daughter’s games or just walking with her husband and dog – taking in the beauty of everything Michigan. A graduate from the University of Illinois she has a Bachelor of Finance and a Master’s in Communication.

Contact Jennifer Wurster when it’s your turn to make a move.

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# Priebe's

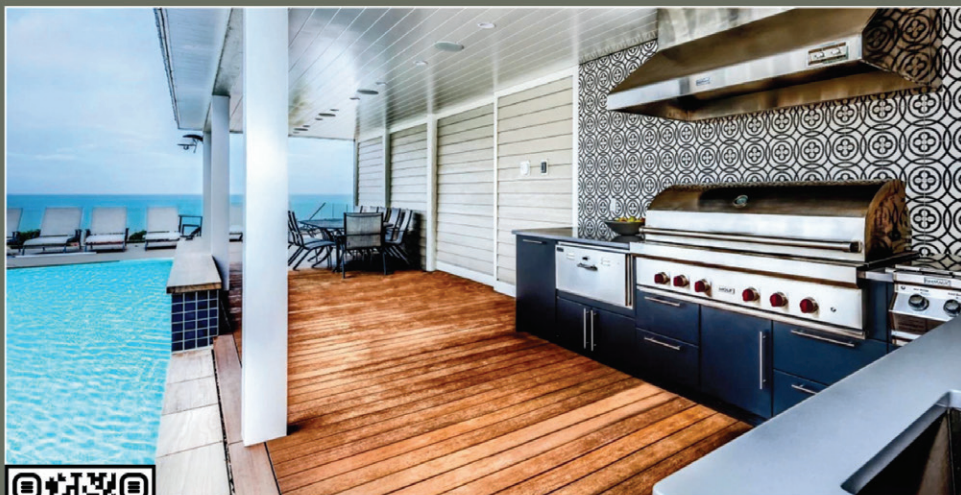
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## Watervliet Paper Mill

The flow of the Paw Paw River powered the earliest lumber mills near the site of the Watervliet Paper Mill. With the help of dams, by the late 1830s, local timber was depleted after only a few decades. A brick paper mill was built on the former site of the saw mill and first began operating in 1894, but was closed by 1905.

The Watervliet Paper Company was formed in 1910, primarily by Kalamazoo investors. The paper mill here was considered "one of the best constructed plants ever erected" in Michigan, so it was re-opened with renovations and new state-of-the-art machinery. In 1912, the Watervliet Paper Company (WPC) began making fine glossy or "coated" paper products. A rail spur connected the paper mill to the railroad in town, allowing the WPC to easily bring in pulp sources and ship out its finished products.

WPC quickly gained a reputation for quality and consistency. Paper made in Watervliet was used around the nation as catalog covers, including Sears Roebuck & Co., as well as labels and wrappers in goods such as Wrigley's Gum, Campbell's Soup and Kodak Film. The mill also produced U.S. post-

age stamps and large amounts of playing cards. Hundreds of workers drove the success of WPC by 1960 the payroll included 470 employees. It was not only the area's largest employer, its significant contributions to local taxes helped fund the fire and police services, schools and the hospital in Watervliet. WPC sponsored leisure activities like baseball and bowling teams, musical groups, an employee newsletter, annual parties and social events. The paper mill shaped everyday life for local residents and generations of workers.

Throughout its early history the paper mill was powered by a combination of water wheels and steam engines, and used large amounts of river water for paper making. In 1973 the mill introduced a new water use and recycling system that prevented any further impact on the Paw Paw River. WPC became a part of Hammermill Paper in 1956, then it changed hands again four times after 1974. The paper mill produced its last paper in 1994 and was demolished in 2002, ensuring the total clean-up of hazardous wastes at the site. The historic dam structures remained in place until 2011, when the natural flow of the Paw Paw River was restored.

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is an inspiring date night, family activity or personal enrichment. You will want to stargaze at Dr. T.K. Lawless International Dark Sky Park again and again.

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# Hickory Creek Phantom Skater

In its wintery heyday, Hickory Creek in Buchanan often welcomed ice skaters when the temperatures dropped low enough. To get their children home on time from a day of skating, parents often warned their children that the Phantom Skater would catch any stragglers.

An enormous figure clad in black tights and a skull cap, the Phantom Skater's blades flashed green sparks and blue flames, according to the recollection of a local. He would leap over bridges while giving out shrieks of eerie, horrifying laughs.

However, only one man has publicly come forward claiming to have encountered the Phantom Skater himself. That was the late Harvey Seasingood, who once operated Harvey Seasingood Farm Supply on Glenlord Road in Lincoln Township.



Seasingood, who died in 1964, said he and other children were once skating along the creek and lost track of time. Then he heard the horrifying scraping of huge blades as the Phantom Skater approached.

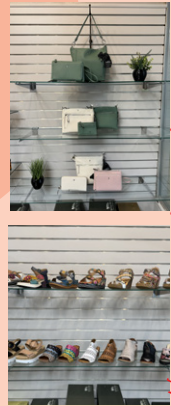
When everyone scattered, Seasingood wasn't so lucky. He got stuck in a barbed-wire fence at the top of the ravine. Although the Phantom Skater didn't see Seasingood, the young boy was horrified to find the spectral

skater looked exactly as the legend said. Towering, wearing black, fiery skates and with cloven hooves where his feet should be. He cast no shadow in the moonlight.

The legend of the Phantom Skater still makes its way around the rumor mill these days, although there haven't been more reported sightings. The kids must be getting home on time after a day of winter fun.

For more information about haunted places in SW Michigan, visit [SWMichigan.org](http://SWMichigan.org)

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# THE BOTTLE RUN

## Meet “The Bottle Run”

While the pandemic wasn't ideal for anyone, some things that came out of it for Jason Menken personally were actually quite wonderful. In August of 2020, Jason Menken and his partner purchased a cottage in the small lakeside community of Sister Lakes, Michigan. They wanted a place to get away



from the city during the pandemic. Life is always better by the lake! The area was new to both of them, and they quickly fell in love with the inland lakes and the beach towns along

Lake Michigan.

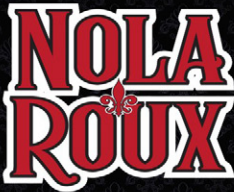
They spent weekends and holidays at the lake house with friends and family, exploring their surroundings. One of their friends is a devout fan of Southwest Michigan Wine Country. To be perfectly frank, Jason and his partner didn't even know the Southwest wine country existed. They were complete novices! Their friend planned a couple of wine tours for them to introduce them to the wine scene.

“Boy, were we surprised by what was practically in our own backyard.”

Jason and his partner started doing weekend day trips, wine tasting. Per their friend's proper training, they always planned a lunch stop and packed a bag of snacks for the fun while frolicking in the vineyards!

### What Sets Bottle Run Apart

The Bottle Run idea was born, when Jason's sister and her friends visited the lake house. They could not find any wine tour availability! They messaged Jason, “You should do the tours! You would be great at it!” Jason has a robust background in luxury retail and marketing, and a keen eye for details. Jason, now, also had a burgeoning



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curiosity about the wine itself. The idea of creating an all-inclusive wine experience appealed to Jason. The Bottle Run was created to be a curated boutique wine tour experience, showcasing the best of what Southwest Michigan Wine Country has to offer! Each tour is tailored to give their customers a memorable one of a kind day among the vineyards.

**Where Is It Headed**

The Southwest Michigan wine scene is rapidly evolving. It is becoming more appealing to winemakers, who are changing the narrative of Michigan wine. What better way to showcase that evolution than by curating tours featuring both the established and the unknown wineries? Jason is excited to get involved in the industry, where the culture and region are both alive and well, with new boundaries being pushed on the regular, they are excited to be here!

The Bottle Run is chauffer licensed and commercially insured. They do NOT operate a party bus. They cater to discerning and curious wine lovers who want to explore and have a memorable experience in Michigan wine country.

To plan a tour, contact: 269.256.4487  
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# DRIVE-IN THEATERS

On June 6, 1933, eager motorists park their automobiles on the grounds of Camden Drive-In, the first-ever drive-in movie theater, located on Admiral Wilson Boulevard in Pennsauken, New Jersey.

Park-In Theaters—the term “drive-in” came to be widely used only later—was the brainchild of Richard Hollingshead, a movie fan and a sales manager at his father’s company, Whiz Auto Products, in Camden. Reportedly inspired by his mother’s struggle to sit comfortably in traditional movie theater seats, Hollingshead came up with the idea of an open-air theater where patrons watched movies in the comfort of their own automobiles.



He experimented in the driveway of his own house with different projection and sound techniques, mounting a 1928 Kodak projector on the hood of his car, pinning a screen to some trees, and placing a radio behind the screen for sound. He also tested ways to guard against rain and other inclement weather, and devised the ideal spacing arrangement for a number of cars so that all would have a view of the screen.

The young entrepreneur received a patent for the concept in May of 1933 and opened Park-In Theaters, Inc. less than a month later, with an initial investment of \$30,000. Advertising it as entertainment for the whole family, Hollingshead charged 25 cents per car and 25 cents per person, with no group paying more than one dollar. The idea caught on, and after Hollingshead’s patent was overturned in 1949, drive-in theaters began popping up all over the country. One of the largest was the All-Weather Drive-In of Copiague, New York, which featured parking space for 2,500 cars, a kid’s playground and a

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Drive-in theaters showed mostly B-movies—that is, not Hollywood’s finest fare—but some theaters featured the same movies that played in regular theaters. The initially poor sound quality—Hollingshead had mounted three speakers manufactured by RCA Victor near the screen—improved, and later technology made it possible for each car’s to play the movie’s soundtrack through its FM radio. The popularity of the drive-in spiked after World War II and reached its heyday in the late 1950s to mid-60s, with some 5,000 theaters across the country. Drive-ins became an icon of American culture, and a typical weekend destination not just for parents and children

but also for teenage couples seeking some privacy. Since then, however, the rising price of real estate, especially in suburban areas, combined with the growing numbers of walk-in theaters and the rise of video rentals to curb the growth of the drive-in industry. Today, fewer than 500 drive-in theaters survive in the United States.

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**5 Mile Drive In Movie Theatre:** 28190 M-152, Dowagiac MI // 269.782.7879

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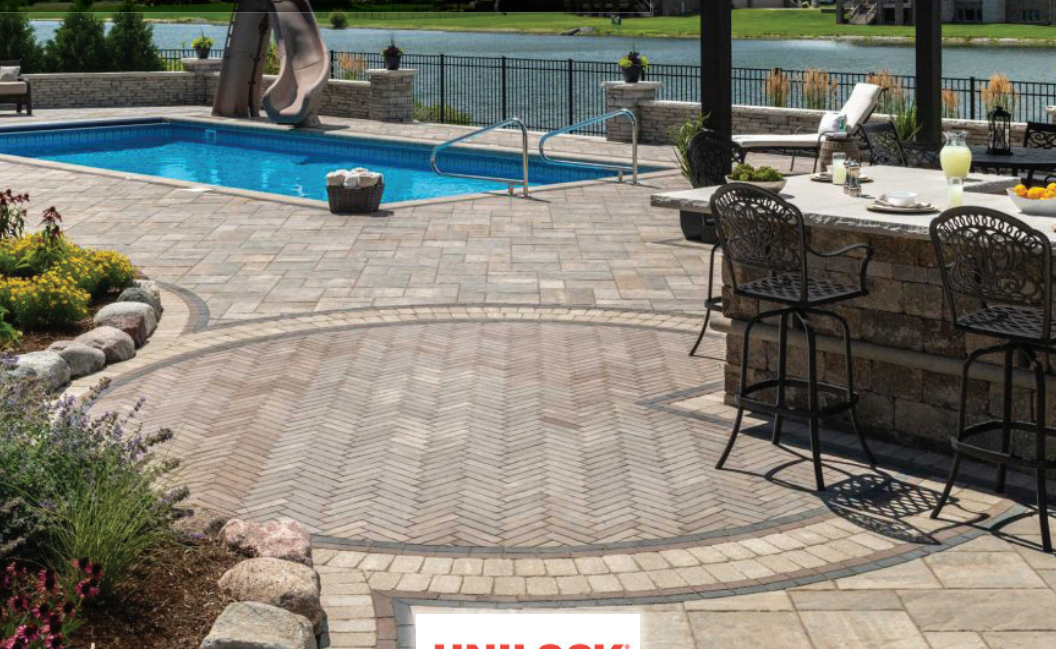
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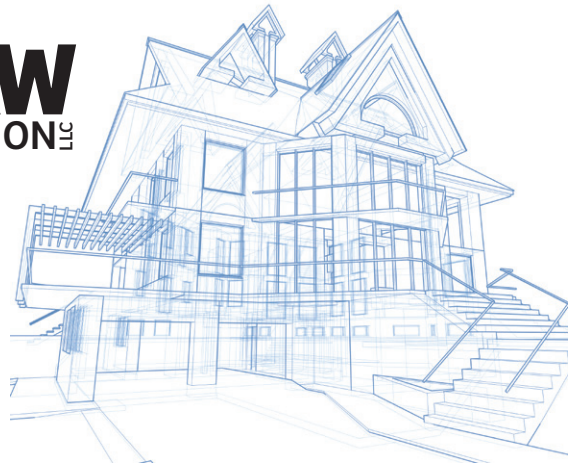
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# Outdoors in SW Michigan

Go outside and have fun all year! There is no shortage of ways to play outside in Southwest Michigan. And that applies to all ages! Each season offers several ways to take in the beautiful scenery while boosting those endorphins and getting fresh air. In the winter, enjoy snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, sledding and fat tire biking. Spring and summer boast thrilling bike rides, swimming, sailing, hiking, kayaking and even surfing for those brave enough to try something new. And fall, a vibrant and colorful moment in our region, offers the chance to do much of the above while surrounded by a canopy of changing leaves. Find something perfect for you and your crew, and enjoy the outdoor recreation in Southwest Michigan.

## BIKING

Southwest Michigan is a known destination for outdoor enthusiasts, and cyclists aren't to be excluded. If you are looking for a fun or challenging ride with beautiful

scenery, below are some of the best local mountain bike trails in Southwest Michigan to add to your itinerary. Mountain biking doesn't need to be an extreme adventure until you're ready for it — and we have the perfect easy, but fun, trails on which to get started

### Kal-Haven Trail State Park

Bailey St, South Haven

### Love Creek County Park & Nature Center

9292 Huckleberry Rd, Berrien Center

### Dr. T.K. Lawless County Park

15122 Monkey Run St, Vandalia

### Chikaming Mountain Bike Trail

8120 Warren Woods Rd,

Three Oaks

### Andrews Trails

Campbell Dr, Berrien Springs

### Whirlpool Lakeview Bike Trail

750 Monte Rd, Benton Harbor



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## KAYAKING

There is no better way to explore not only Lake Michigan's coast, but interior waterways around our region than by kayaking Southwest Michigan! From the big lake and rivers winding by breweries to creeks and inland waters, there is much to see while paddling. Take in the nature around you and those rippling surface reflections. Here are some of the best places to kayak:



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conditions before paddling; wear a properly fitting life jacket; and if you are a beginner, stay close to the shoreline.

### **GALIEN RIVER MARSH TRAIL**

Approximately a six-mile stretch on the river that starts at Glassman Park in New Buffalo Township and ends at the City of New Buffalo's boat launch. This is an easy river to paddle upstream and downstream. The best viewing of wildlife is in the early morning and evening.

### **LAKE MICHIGAN WATER TRAIL**

New Buffalo to South Haven: 50 miles of coastline that offers some of the most amazing scenery – magnificent dunes, lighthouses, wilderness, beach towns where you can shop and catch a bite to eat and stunning sunsets. Popular places to launch are New Buffalo Beach, Warren Dunes State Park in Sawyer, Weko Beach in Bridgman, Lions Park/Silver Beach/Tiscornia Beach in St. Joseph, Jean Klock Park in Benton Harbor and Deerlick Creek Park in South Haven. The waves can change quickly from mirror-smooth to dangerously wild. Always check the weather and wind

### **SISTER LAKES AREA**

Dowagiac & Edwardsburg: The calm inland waters in the Sister Lakes area are ideal for stand-up paddle boarding. You can paddle from sunrise to sunset on Magician Lake, Dewey Lake, Indian Lake, Pipestone Lake, Cable Lake, Big Crooked Lake, Little Crooked Lake and Round Lake. But one of our favorite paddles is starting at the Christiana Creek Paddling Launch near Edwardsburg and then doing one, two or all three of the interconnected lakes – Juno Lake, Christiana Lake and Painter Lake.

See page 29 for kayak launch spots

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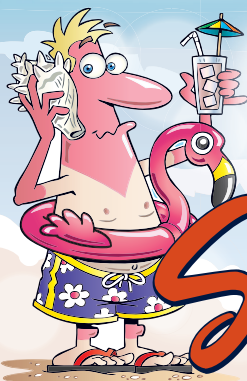
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## Where to Launch Your Kayak

We have several kayak launches throughout Southwest Michigan. Some of them are a little more established than others, while a few are simply right off the sand of our beaches. Here are a few popular spots:

### **Carronde Park Access:**

This St. Joseph River launch site is on Riverbend Dr, Benton Harbor.

**Galien River Access:** Red Arrow Highway, East of New Buffalo

### **Paw Paw River Riverside Access:**

On Coloma Road, this launch is handicap accessible with a mechanism to help slide into the kayak and lower into and out of the water!

**St. Joseph River Access:** Niles Boat Ramp – Niles



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## HIKING

Our paved trails, boardwalks and well-worn paths take you along our Lake Michigan shores, into the woods and across our wide-open farmland. Many are ADA accessible so everyone can enjoy the outdoors.

The region's longest trail is the 34-mile Kal-Haven Trail State Park between South Haven and Kalamazoo. Sarett Nature Center and the Galien River County Park have walkways over the treetops. Your reward for hiking the dune trails in Warren Dunes, Grand Mere and Van Buren State Parks is seeing the jaw-dropping views of Lake Michigan.

### **Warren Woods State Park**

Elm Valley Rd, Three Oaks  
Wrapping along the Galien River, this state park is in Three Oaks. It offers 311 acres of nature preserve that is just seven minutes away from Warren Dunes State Park.

### **Warren Dunes State Park**

12032 Red Arrow Hwy, Sawyer  
Warren Dunes State Park provides 1,952 acres of recreational opportunities along Lake Michigan. The rugged dune formation rises 260 feet above the

lake, offering spectacular views and is excellent for hang gliding. The park is home to 3 miles of shoreline and 6 miles of hiking trails and is open year-round.

### **Grand Mere State Park**

7337 Thornton Dr, Stevensville  
Grand Mere State Park is characterized by magnificent sand dunes, deep blowouts and half a mile of Lake Michigan shoreline, accessible by the park's two trails. Two inland lakes lie behind the dunes in the undeveloped natural area.

### **Royalton Township Nature Trail**

Bacon School Rd, St. Joseph  
This year-round, wheelchair-accessible trail off Bacon School Road surrounds you with beauty for three-quarters of a mile. Wind your way through wooded ravines, by a pond, across wetlands, into an open prairie and down to the river during daylight hours. In the warmer months, bring a picnic and enjoy the fragrant tapestry of wildflowers.

### **Van Buren State Park**

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In the northernmost portion of our region, you'll find yet another dune-filled escape at Van Buren State Park. Walk along woodland trails or enjoy a picnic watching the sunset. This is also a popular spot for beach glass hunting, cross-country skiing and bringing your dog to enjoy the view.

**Van Buren Trail State Park**

23960 Ruggles Rd, South Haven and 57th Ave & Prospect St, Hartford  
The 14-mile-long Van Buren Trail which makes up this state park runs between South Haven and Hartford. This multi-use trail has a dirt and gravel surface.

**Kal-Haven Trail**

**Sesquicentennial State Park**

Bailey St, South Haven

If you're looking for a long hike to really get those steps in, then journey from South Haven to Kalamazoo without having to switch trails once. This 33-mile trail used to be a railroad bed, but now it's a route through several small towns and historical sites.



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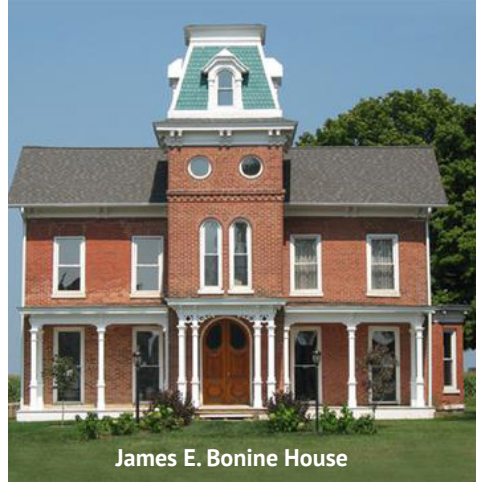
# The Underground Railroad - Vandiala Hub

The Underground Railroad (UGRR) existed from 1830-1861, the start of the Civil War, and was neither underground nor a railroad. Rather it was a series of houses, barns, cellars and other hiding places that were stops for fugitive slaves on their journey north to freedom in Canada.

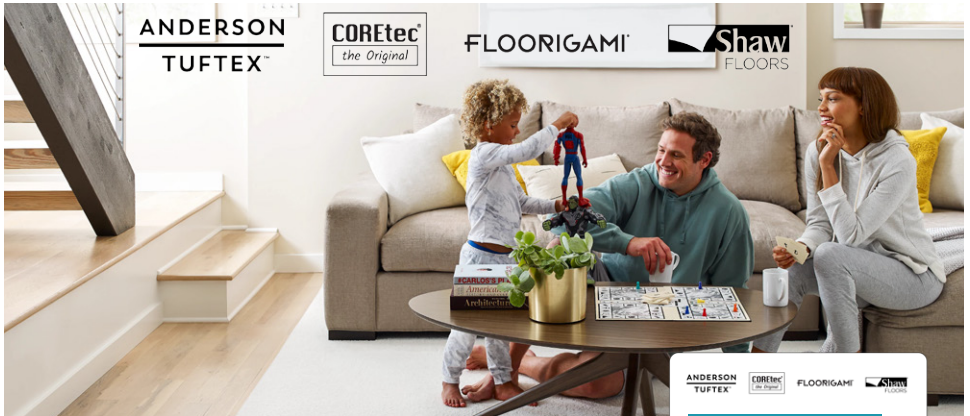
Rail transportation was becoming popular in the early 1800's and the UGRR adopted the terms. The routes that freedom seekers followed north were called lines. The places where they hid were called stations. Those who provided food and shelter at the station were called stationmasters, and those who carried freedom seekers to the next station were called conductors. Canada outlawed slavery in 1833 and became a beacon for freedom seekers everywhere. Escape from the deep south slave states was almost impossible. Most freedom seekers journeyed north on hundreds of lines from the border slave states of Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee through the free states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York

and Michigan, crossing into Canada at various sites. It is said that between 50,000 and 100,000 freedom seekers escaped bondage by 1861, many on the UGRR.

Anti-slavery abolitionists of all races and religions participated in the Underground Railroad.



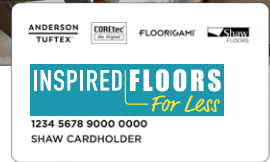
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Quakers were the first to declare slavery a 'sin against man and God' freeing their slaves in the late 1700's. Many moved to free states to escape slavery and freedom seekers followed them.

There was a large settlement of Quakers in Wayne County Indiana, many of whom moved into Cass County Michigan around 1830, settling in Penn, Porter and Calvin Townships, known then as Young's Prairie. Some of them became part of the Quaker Line of the UGRR. Freedom Seekers crossed the Ohio River at Cincinnati, were taken by conductors to stations along a route to Wayne County, IN up to Bristol IN to Vandalia, MI. Another route was called the Illinois Line. Freedom Seekers crossed the Ohio or Missouri Rivers, and traveled north through Illinois to Chicago to Niles, Michigan and into Vandalia. Well known UGRR stations and stationmasters in the area were the homes of Stephen Bogue, William Jones, Ishmael Lee and the Carriage House of James E. Bonine. Conductors Zachariah Shugart and

African American Henry Shepard took freedom seekers to the next station, the home of Dr. Nathan Thomas in Schoolcraft.

From there they continued their journey to Battle Creek, then stops about 20 miles apart until they reached Detroit, where they crossed the Detroit River into Canada.

Many free black families began arriving in Cass County in the mid-1800's, purchasing land and creating thriving farms. They founded Chain Lake Baptist Church and Mt. Zion AME, formed anti-slavery societies and played an important role in the UGRR. It is said that over 1500 freedom seekers came through Vandalia on the Underground Railroad. Slave catchers weren't far behind.

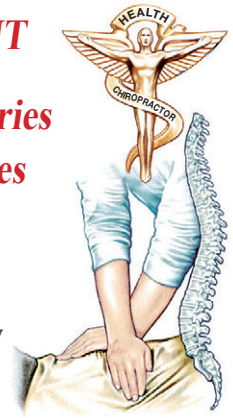


The Underground Railroad of Cass County visit: [URSCC.ORG](http://URSCC.ORG)

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# 10 Great Lakes Fun Facts You May Not Know

Thousands of years ago, receding glaciers formed the Great Lakes and created Michigan's iconic peninsulas. Here are ten fun facts you may not know about these incredible natural treasures.

## 1. Lake Superior is the largest freshwater lake in the world by surface area

Spanning nearly 32,000 square miles, Lake Superior is not only the largest freshwater lake in the world (by surface area) but



it is also one of the largest lakes in the world, second only to the Caspian Sea. In fact, if you were to add up all the water in Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Ontario, and four of Lake Erie it would total the volume of Lake Superior.

## 2. Lake Michigan's shore is home to the largest freshwater sand dunes in the world.

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, as well as many other protected dunes along the western coast of Michigan, make up the world's largest collection of freshwater sand dunes. The tallest dune at Sleeping Bear stands about 450 feet above the shore of Lake Michigan.

## 3. The Great Lakes are the largest freshwater system in the world.

The five Great Lakes - Superior, Huron, Michigan, Erie and Ontario - span a total surface area of 94,600 square miles and are all connected by a variety of lakes and rivers, making them the largest freshwater system in the world.

## 4. More than 20% of all the world's freshwater is in the Great Lakes.

It is estimated that there are nearly 24,000 cubic miles of surface freshwater on earth. The Great Lakes hold over 5,400 cubic miles of water -- therefore accounting for more than 20% of the world's surface freshwater.

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## 5. Lake Superior contains half of the water in all the Great Lakes.

As mentioned before, the Great Lakes hold over 5,400 cubic miles of water. Of this amount, Lake Superior holds 2,900 cubic miles, or 3 quadrillion gallons -- accounting for more than 50% of the water. The rest is distributed among the other four lakes, with Lake Michigan holding the second most, Huron third, Ontario fourth, and Erie holding the least. To raise the water level of Lake Superior by one inch, you would need to pour more than 500 billion additional gallons into it!

## 6. Lake Michigan is the only Great Lake that is entirely within U.S. territory

The Great Lakes touch 8 states – but Michigan is the only state that touches four lakes, with borders on Superior, Michigan, Huron and Erie. While two Canadian provinces also touch the Great Lakes, Lake Michigan is the only Great Lake that doesn't touch Canada.



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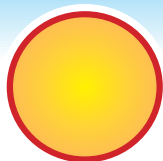
# 10 Great Lakes Fun Facts You May Not Know

**7. The Empire State Building would sink beneath the surface of Lake Superior.**

Lake Superior's deepest point is 1,330 feet – for comparison, the Empire State building is 1,250 feet tall from ground to roof. If you built the Empire State Building on the deepest point of Lake Superior, the only thing peeking above the waves would be the antenna.

**8. The Great Lakes Region is the primary water source for more than 40 million people.**

It accounts for more than 90% of the surface freshwater in the United States. The freshwater system is also an important shipping route, tourist attraction and energy source.



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**9. Michigan has the most freshwater coastline of any U.S. state.**

Michigan also ranks in the top 10 for shorelines in the U.S. Who needs the ocean when you can go boating, surfing, paddle boarding and swimming in the fresh waters of the Great Lakes?

**10. Lake Michigan has a 'Bermuda Triangle' of its own.**

There's an area of Lake Michigan where many unexplained occurrences have left people bewildered that has been dubbed the Michigan Triangle – similar to the Bermuda Triangle. Occurrences have included unexplained ship disappearances and missing planes. North of the triangle near Traverse City, a strange, Stonehenge-like rock formation rests below the lake's surface. Some believe the two phenomena are related to each other.

**Bonus: Lake Erie has a Loch Ness-like sea monster.**

Lake Erie is allegedly home to Bessie, a 'sea monster'-like creature that has been spotted on multiple occasions for decades. The Cleveland baseball team - the Lake Erie Monsters - were named after this legend.

For more info visit [www.michigan.org](http://www.michigan.org)



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# ST. JOSEPH IS WAKING



## Glen & Shelly Head

**Glen:** Downtown St. Joseph is home to a new breakfast spot that is garnering rave reviews. **The Copper Pot Breakfast Café** opened its doors in November by **Robert and Tawn Montgomery**, who also own the adjacent **221Main Restaurant and Cocktail House** at the corner of Main and Pleasant Streets.

"We've heard for years that there were not enough breakfast restaurants in the downtown area," Tawn stated. "We already own the space and were not utilizing it during the morning hours, so the idea was birthed."

One of the unique features of The Copper Pot is their coffee/espresso bar which

also has alcohol options. As I sipped on an **Espresso Martini**, I was taken with its smoothness. Robert explained that the smoothness and rich flavors come as a result of cold brewing Forté Coffee espresso beans, resulting in a drink that is less acidic and bitter compared to traditional hot espresso. "We top the espresso martini with three espresso beans," Robert said. "Tradition says they symbolize health, wealth and happiness."

I also noticed the cocktail menu read **MIMOSA FUR-THE-TABLE** - a carafe of OJ, a bottle of prosecco and miniature frozen OJ



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# UP TO THE COPPER POT BREAKFAST CAFÉ

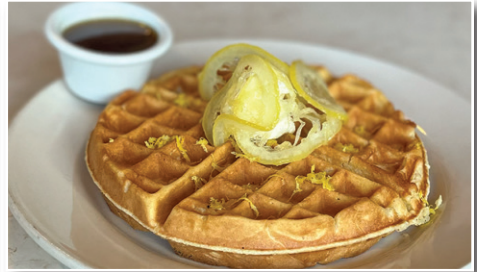
paws at the bottom of each glass. “With a passion for pets, we’ve made the decision to contribute \$5 to the Humane Society of Southwest Michigan for every Mimosa Fur-The-Table ordered.” Tawn explained.

If you are an Eggs Benedict fan, The Copper Pot has eight “Benny’s” to choose. We sampled the **Eggs Florentine** which had rustic, country toast as the base instead of a traditional English muffin. Piled high was sauteed spinach, avocado, sun-dried tomato, and poached eggs, bathed in a delightful hollandaise sauce. Like 221 Main Restaurant, **Chef Chris Hooley** makes everything from scratch, including this exquisitely balanced hollandaise.



ise. The slightly sweet undertone and tangy acidity of the sundried tomatoes made this dish “pop.”

We watched as pancakes, French toast and waffles paraded from the kitchen to other tables, and all looked visually appealing. We split the **Copper Pot Waffle**, which was golden brown, crowned with lemon confit and served with house-made amaretto syrup. The delicate aroma of freshly cooked batter tantalized the senses, inviting anticipation with each bite. The waffle held a decadent, buttery taste complemented by subtle notes of vanilla, almond, and, of course, lemon. These flavors complemented the sub-



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tle sweetness of the cake but didn't over-power. You can add little bites of the lemon confit to boost the intensity. I could do another review on the house-made amaretto syrup. Shelly is not much of a drinker, but she adored this syrup, which unquestionably elevates the waffle experience with its wow-factor. This is a 21+ dish.

Since adding **The Breakfast BLT** to the menu, it has quickly become a fan favorite. The massive sandwich consists of jumbo slices of rustic bread enveloping two eggs, thick bacon, roasted tomato, arugula, and horseradish mayo. Initially uncertain about horseradish mayo on a breakfast sandwich, I found it to be pleasantly subtle yet undeniably superb. The bacon was on point...thick, meaty, salt and smoke balanced, and cooked



to crispy perfection. Roasting the tomato and utilizing the peppery taste of arugula were brilliant culinary choices. This champion is served with The Copper Pot's soon-to-be-famous **Morning Potatoes**. The cubed redskins were tender yet slightly firm in texture, with a golden-brown exterior that offers a satisfying crunch. Each bite revealed a velvety interior, infused with savory flavors from the seasoning. When asked about the blend of seasoning, Robert shared, "It's the same seasoning blend we utilize at 221 Main for our fries. People love our fries, so we decided to try it on our potatoes with the same positive response." I pressed in for the secret blend of seasoning, but Robert jokingly said if he told me, he'd have to kill me.

The Copper Pot is "killing it" in downtown St. Joseph with elevated breakfast.

**Shelly:** When I come back to The Copper Pot, I want to try the **Coconut French Toast**.

### The Copper Pot Breakfast Café

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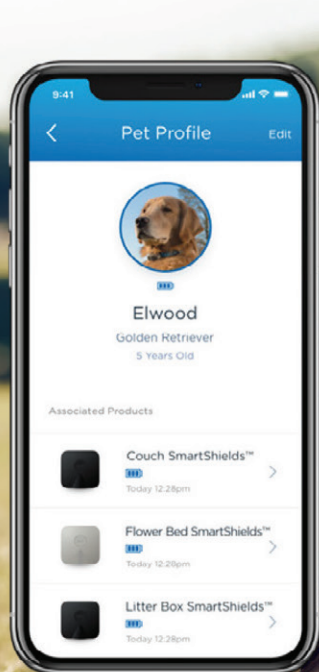



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# Lake Living Creators



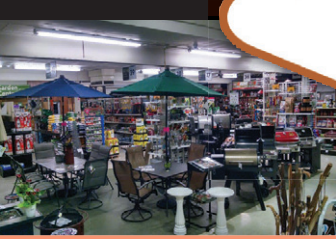
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