



## Autumn continues as a “busy” time

You could look at the Fall season from two different perspectives: 1. Summer has ended. The season is over. Time to close the doors until the next busy season; 2. Summer has ended. Autumn is here. Let’s breathe new life into our economy by taking a pro-active approach. Fortunately in Harbor Country, we have people willing to dedicate a lot of time in taking that pro-active approach.

Margaret Anderson, led the call for “things to do” as chairperson of Harbor Country’s first-ever Harvest Fest, October 11-13. First conceived as a typical Octoberfest celebration, the event rapidly transformed itself to include the

art of autumn in the form of a creative scarecrow contest, fall clearance sales, product and service demonstrations, and exhibits to reflect the season.

A driving force behind the event was the New Buffalo Business Association. Janet Clark of Michigan Thyme was the first to ask the chamber how they could help to extend the season. Roberta Pope of You’re Invited organized family activities at the New Buffalo Transient Boat Dock park. (There’s got to be a better name for this lovely piece of real estate.) Karen Gear brought in the participation of the Three Oaks Business Association. Area high school art departments we enlisted to judge the scarecrow entries. Bob Tibbles of The Villager and Dorothy Sheehan of Michigan Thyme decorated the light poles in downtown New Buffalo. Hollis and Ron Oselka of Country Mates extended their hospitality to the scarecrow judges. Milda Rudaitis of Milda’s Corner Market was also part of the Scarecrow contest committee.

The word was put out there. The South Bend Tribune Weekend section provided a two-page spread highlighting the schedule, as did the September issue of The Other Side of the Lake. Advertising support from the Harbor Country Lodging Association touted the activities in local and regional newspapers.

Operating on a shoe-string budget and under the pressure of a few weeks time to organize the weekend, the committee succeeded in attracting over 70 participating businesses. Newly-elected board member Patty Prino, Patty’s Picks, was instrumental in drumming up support throughout the Harbor Country membership and if she ran across a non-member, she got them an application and signed them up.

“This was our first year and I think we did a really good job,” said Prino in the midst of a busy Harvest Fest Saturday at her Union Pier store.

“I know we didn’t get everything just the way we wanted it this first year, but I think we’ve found a viable activity here,” said chairperson Anderson. **HCC** “We’ve learned a lot doing this.”



(At left) The creative talents of Liz and Chuck Garasic of Sweethaven Resort weren’t wasted in the Scarecrow Contest. (Above right) Interior redeigner, Cynthia Wood, gave helpful decorating hints at Patty’s Picks.



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## Thank you for a good year

By Don Jackson, Chamber President

*I say good bye as your president. It has been a wonderful year. There is no greater honor to a business person to be asked to serve as president of the largest and strongest business organization in this land we know as Harbor Country. Thank you to all of you for the support and encouragement I have been given.*

*I have tried over the last year to put new thinking into the organization. This started with the question of who we are. We have had some lively discussions at board meetings over this subject. We are a strong organization and can influence how the area develops.*

*We have met with the City of New Buffalo and will meet with other governments to create a system of communication between government and business.*

*I have tried to bring new faces into the chamber decision making process. Today we have three new board members who previously were not actively involved in the chamber. Patty Prino, Diane Botica-Olsowak, and Brenda Stellema will bring new vigor and insight to the board. The vitality of the Chamber is dependent on the ideas and enthusiasm of the new members.*

*But ultimately, the chamber is dependent on each of you as members to push the chamber. The challenges are great. We must continue to challenge the chamber to meet our needs. This takes the voices of each of you.*

*I welcome Mike Hojnacki as our new president. He shares my vision of taking the Chamber to a new level, to meeting the needs of the various members and helping shape the development of the Harbor Country Area.*

*Thank you all for the honor and privilege of serving the chamber.*

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## New Officers, Board members to be installed

Don Jackson's last official duty as Chamber president will be to install new Officers and Board of Directors at the Annual Installation Dinner to be held at Hannah's Restaurant, Oct. 23.

Officers for 2003-2004 include President- Michael Hojnacki, Artistic Energy Group, Inc. Three Oaks, MI; Vice President- Karen Gear, 5/3 Bank, Three Oaks branch; and Treasurer- Don

Jackson, The Jackson Group, New Buffalo.

Board of Directors to be installed are Diane Botica, Dinner's Ready, New Buffalo, MI; Patty Prino, Patty's Picks, Union Pier; Brenda Stellema, Alliance Banking Company and John Nelson, Lakeside Antiques, Lakeside (his second term).

## Upgrade your computer for a better experience

The new version of the Chamber's web site [www.harborcountry.org](http://www.harborcountry.org) has been operating for over a month now, and we have been steadily receiving feedback on our new look. 99% of our feedback has consisted of "Wows", accolades and praise on graphic design, ease of navigation and relevancy of content.

Interestingly we have found that the 1% who "disliked" the new version were limited to issues on functionality, not design, and were people who also had a number of handicaps that restricted their experience:

- 1) They were using an older browser that does not support many of the features requiring the newer technology,
- 2) Using an older version of Windows®, which again does not support many of the newer functions.

3) Using an older computer with limited memory causing the site to respond slowly to the memory intensive navigation functions.

4) Net Newbies - people relatively new to the Internet and easily confused or frustrated by radical change to "mouse sensitive" navigation or new search functions. Their comfort factor or reference point for "user friendliness" was based on the previous elementary version of the site.

While we do not want to dismiss any legitimate criticism, it is important that we respond to any concerns and evaluate them based on how (via software & hardware) the site is accessed.

It was a main concern of the Internet Committee and site development team that the new site should use

the latest technology that is being embraced by 90% of the Internet audience. To support everyone would mean we would have to stay behind the fray using standards that are now 2 and 3 versions behind the times. For anyone wanting to get the best experience on the web (and of course, the Chamber's site), it is important to upgrade to a computer with higher memory, and download the FREE versions of Internet browsers. Some popular resources are at

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

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

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

Newer versions of Windows® 2000 or Windows® XP are pay-for products purchased off the shelf or directly online from these and other online resources.

new  
members  
september  
2003

**Smokin' Woody's**  
12620 Red Arrow Highway  
Sawyer, MI 49125  
Owner: Michael Boucher

**Huckaby Studio**  
12658 Red Arrow Highway  
Harbert, MI 49115  
Owner: Barbara Huckaby

**The Open Trunk**  
13646 Red Arrow Highway  
Harbert, Michigan 49115  
Owner: Jan Gildo

**Diane Haas Studio**  
Red Arrow Highway  
Harbert, MI 49115  
Owner: Diane Haas

**Endless Summer Bungalow**  
34 S. Townsend  
New Buffalo, MI 49117  
Owner: Holly Shulman

**Café Gulistan**  
13581 Red Arrow Highway  
Harbert, MI 49115  
Owner: Ibrahim Parlak

**You're Invited**  
104 N. Whittaker Street  
New Buffalo, MI 49117  
Owner: Roberta Pope

**Sprite of Hand**  
14931 Lakeside Road  
Lakeside, MI 49116  
Owner: Susan Bryant

**The Moorings Association**  
310 Oselka Drive  
New Buffalo, MI 49117  
Owner: Cyndi Deadman

**Green Mansions, Inc.**  
19750 Lakeside Road  
New Buffalo, MI 49117  
Owner: Gunner Piotter & Alana Johnston

### Harbor Country® Connection

Harbor Country Connection is published once a month by the Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce and the Harbor Country Lodging Association, 530 South Whittaker Street, Suite F, New Buffalo, Michigan 49117 and is distributed to its membership through the U.S. Postal Service. Additional copies are available at the office. DEADLINE for all editorial matter is the 20th of each month for publication in the following month's issue. COPY may be sent via fax, e-mail, or regular mail to:

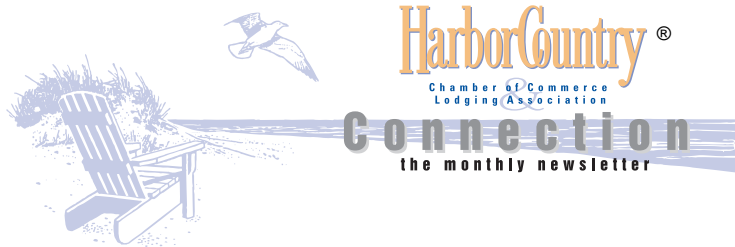
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## PET Golf tournament a success

The PET committee (Partners in Education for Tomorrow) held its annual golf tournament on September 17 at Lost Dunes Golf Club in Bridgman. They raised over \$4,600 for vocational scholarships at River Valley and New Buffalo High Schools.

Congratulations to the first place team of Paul Oselka and Dave Montayne with a round of 68 and the second place team of Darren Zuranski and Carl Barrows with a 69. Winners of the Closest to the Pin contest for the men was Jeff Jones and for women Ellen Williams. The putting Contest winner was Jim Whittaker.

Thanks to the 48 golfers who participated and to J.J. Shearer and the entire staff at Lost Dunes, who provided a great barbecue lunch and prizes from the pro shop. Jerry Welsh of Garden

Grove Bed & Breakfast lent his expertise and experience with the putting contest. Nora Duffy worked with Lost Dunes in arranging this year's outing and ran the Century 21 First Team's "Beat the Muffin Contest." Our hole sponsors were Redamak's, Wetlands Excavating & Trucking, 5/3 Bank, Topp Press, Century 21, First Team, Garden Grove Bed & Breakfast, Harbor Dunes, Amerihome Mortgage and the United Way of Southwest Michigan, who sponsored two holes.

The committee, chaired by Margaret Anderson, consisted of Karen Gear and Joan Zonka. They were assisted by Sue Harsch, Brenda Stellema, Marci Ritter, Kathy Sellers, Liz Grim and Irene Kuffer.



(Above) The PET organizing crew. (At right) Golfers Mike Notorangelo, John Notorangelo, Tom Arundel, and Keith Burchett.

