

# FRESHWATER REPORTER

A fresh approach to storytelling in Manistee and Mason counties...and a bit beyond.

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## A Grave Mission

Story and photos by VALERIE CHANDLER

Just over a year ago, my husband Matthew and I explored a new activity, which instantly became a hobby and genealogical endeavor; we call it grave hunting. We both share a passion for genealogical research and discovered many family members and ancestors did not have a photo of their headstone on Ancestry's Find a Grave website. Some of the locations were local while others are outside of Michigan. This made us think about all the other people in the same situation, and we have made it a mission to provide a picture for those who do not have one.

When time allows, we choose a cemetery and look at the Find a Grave website to make a list of those who do not have a picture of their headstone. We stroll through the cemetery, searching for the headstones to take pictures of them. Sometimes we're unable to locate the headstones, most often due to deaths that occurred in the early 1900s and prior. The engraving on the headstones has either weathered away, the headstone has broken and been removed, or the gravesite never had a marker.

People can request a picture through the Find a Grave website, and contributors such as myself can see those requests and fulfill them.

Often, we have had to clean headstones or weed through brush to locate ones that were hidden. We have straightened and adjusted fallen flowers and decorations. A lot of people might think going to the



Above: Beautiful display at a Rutowski headstone. Right: Wooden cross overlooks the Corfu Cemetery in Brethren, Mich.

cemetery is creepy and not their cup of tea, but we find it to be peaceful and, as you would imagine, very quiet.

Cemeteries have interesting and solemn facts for those of us with inquisitive minds. Reading the old-fashioned names can be interesting. We have come across graves that belong to children, including infants. Sometimes the deaths of children and/or parents on the same day makes one wonder what type of tragedy the family endured. There are headstones that are so intricate and beautifully designed to show the loved one's life; some even have encased lockets with the loved one's picture. Families have



their own section marked with an outline of rocks or bricks and plaques. It's always interesting to see the non-typical trinkets left at graves, too: metal toy cars, beer and soda cans, a pack of cigarettes, dice,

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SAUCE BOSS



## An Old-Fashioned Halloween

By JOSHUA ELIE

I have such great memories of Halloween. Carving Jack-O-Lanterns, baking pumpkin seeds, and candy, candy, candy! We had no fear of food allergies or homemade treats in those days, so the holiday seemed far less scary and commercialized. For our younger readers, imagine this: we had candy cigarettes, two different kinds, and Big League Chew, a gum that came in a pouch like chewing tobacco does. They really weren't very good, but they looked cool to us back then.

For trick-or-treating we had to get creative, and this was the best part of Halloween. People within 100 square miles of Irons were, and still are, so spread out that door-to-door visits didn't work that well. I do remember trick-or-treating on snowmobiles one year, and that was a blast. What IATA



Photo: Patricia Elie

(Irons Area Tourist Association) would do is put on a big Halloween party with cookies, caramel apples, piñatas, lots of games and, best of all, haunted hayrides. The firefighters and other volunteers would get all dressed up and put on a great show, jumping out of the woods at us amongst spooky displays.

One Halloween when my friend Paul Powers was here (we were inseparable in those days), he dressed as Darth Vader and I dressed as He-Man. I was interrupting a sword fight of epic

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Top: Richard Gallas holds potential heat in his hands. Above: The writer's woodpile.

## My Journey Heating with Wood

By RICHARD GALLAS. Photos courtesy of the writer.

Last year, Freshwater Reporter published an essay by Ron Schmidt titled, "The Comforting Warmth of Wood Heat". We received so many positive responses (and the essay was reprinted in another publication), we decided to share a second writer's wood-heating experience.

Little did I know I would one day spend full winters in Arcadia and heat our 1,000-square-foot home with wood. Growing up in Milwaukee with my woodworker father, I have always loved and respected wood, its smell, its solidity and its purpose. Wood has a spiritual nature, as we humans have depended on it for heat since our beginning. We can only live a few minutes without trees' oxygen. In Japan, "forest bathing" meditation calms the spirit, and I know these northern woods bring beauty and hiking pleasure to many of us.

When I began my journey burning wood, my first fire in our home's Englander wood stove, I carefully built a teepee stack with lots of paper on the bottom, adding wood until I had a roaring fire ... the temperature climbed to 94 degrees!! I had a lot to learn. I was graced by a mentor, an Arcadia man who initiated me into the ways of wood, from gathering and sawing to splitting, stacking and, finally, burning. An old

saying goes, "Heating with wood heats you twice." But truly it's more like four times because of each effort, especially if you procure and process your own wood. You can buy seasoned wood already dried and delivered, in which case the saying fits. Or, if you do it yourself, I've found my experience to be accurate.

I went on my own to buy my first chainsaw. My mentor laughed and asked if it was my wife Louisa's chainsaw! I named it Little Lulu and through the years cut wood too big for my little 16-inch saw until finally I purchased my 20-inch Husqvarana Rancher—Big Difference!! Thanks, Teach!

Finding wood to cut became a mission, almost an obsession. Wherever I drove I kept an eagle eye out for downed trees or asked people, "Do you have some wood you can spare?" One friend had so many trees taken down by the electric company, he gave us the go-ahead to cut. That kept us in wood for several years. A true gift. Again, without friends with wood splitters,

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# The Last Road Trip

Story by and photos courtesy of T. GENTER.

For the past 18 months, my brother Mike, my 94-year-old mother and I spent time driving around Mason County looking for the perfect post-army retirement location for my wife Kari and me. At least once a month I'd make the long trip from central Indiana to Tamarac Village beside Hamlin Lake. The routine always remained the same. On Saturdays we were out of my mother Gram E's house by 0800 and at the first property by 0900. We were greeted by our steadfast real estate agent, Polina, ready for three to four hours of house hunting.

Gram E and Mike both enjoyed our road trips. Mike marveled at returning to places in Mason County that he had not been to in decades. Each time, Mike was willing to drive and never complained when we turned his truck into a muddy mess. My mom was up for anything; she was the most fearless person I know. Despite not always feeling up to it, she always made the trip. I'm sure she just enjoyed being with family. They both patiently listened to me as I went on and on about my dreams and ambitions and what made this property the one.



Fortunately, our house-hunting excursions ended on June 17 when we put in an offer on the river house, as my mom labeled it. The most important decisionmaker, my wife Kari, made the trip this time Up North. That was a blessing. Within 10 minutes of viewing the place in Free Soil, all four of us knew this was the one. My wife Kari and my mom see eye-to-eye on a lot of things. After all, the river house didn't require a lot of repairs, tear downs or rebuilds, which was a far cry from my ideal property — a smelly,

100-year-old farmhouse; a leaning, big red barn; 100 acres ... You know the place, something with character. In my wife's mind, character meant lots of work and lots of money. In the end I am thankful North Myers, Scottville Road, Conrad Road and 30 other properties did not work out. I confidently deleted the Zillow app from my phone.

Fast forward to the end of July, and I was back Up North in paradise. I encouraged Gram E to go on a road trip to Frankfort on July 25, a Monday. That morning she said she didn't feel well enough to go; she mentioned her neck and shoulders were stiff and sore. However, within the hour, she was readying herself to head out the door, all made up, wearing a colorful floral print jacket and sharp white slacks. As a concession, I agreed to go only as far north as Arcadia. The purpose of the trip was to visit family vacationing in Onekama and stop by flower farms and a nursery along the way. We did all of that and so much more. I continue to be amazed at her energy level and ability to go, see and do. At times it was hard for me to realize that she was slowing down at age 94.

Looking back on that day, I realized I was too busy taking care of the dogs and failed to help my mother up a steep and long flight of stairs. We spent an hour or so catching up with Linda, Dan, Lisa, Clare and Grace at their spot overlooking peaceful Portage Lake in Northern Michigan. It was an overcast morning, but the temps were just right. A perfect summer day, and my mom was still going.

From there we drove to Arcadia Bluffs golf course and were wowed by the majestic views of the course and all the wonderful people dressed so nicely in their golfing outfits. We stopped at the access points at Arcadia and Pierport. We got out, took in the awesome views of Lake Michigan, the shoreline, and snapped the obligatory selfies of my mom and me.

We then visited The Flower Farm at Pierport and, like every other time, Mom made new friends. My mom had a special ability to engage and connect with people. I call it the Korwek charm. I saw it in Grandma Helen and all my mom's sisters — Joann, Laurel and Ginny. My mom's most recent schtick was to tell people she was in her 95th year and then go on and on about all the places she lived. The flower farm was no different. I felt embarrassed and put distance between myself and my mom. After all, I was on a mission. The couple who owned the flower farm, Colene and



Mark, were captivated by her. We learned their history; where they came from, what they did in the past, what brought them Up North and, most importantly, their purpose in life. After 45 minutes of chit-chat, we left — my mom, who they had come to know as Esther, with a beautiful bouquet of flowers, gratis. It is heartwarming to come across kind and generous people like them who would take time out of their busy day and pay attention to our wonderful Mom.

We traveled back to Onekama and ate our lunch of sardines and Triscuits, with cheese and fruit, in the beach parking lot. We stopped for spring water and a quick tour of Black Cap Nursery. She knew the nursery owner and they had a marvelous time getting reacquainted. We made it back home in time to make supper and invited Mike and Cindy over for pork



chops, baked potatoes and corn. My mom has a unique method for cooking potatoes in the microwave. Do you want to know what it is?

The next evening, she was medevac'd, air lifted in civilian terms, to Grand Rapids. She made sure to tell Mike to get photographs of her in the helicopter before they took off. We all believed the doctors would fix her up and she'd be back home by the end of the week. We thought 100 years was well within reach.

So, what are the key takeaways from a life well-lived? According to Esther:

- Live life to its fullest, always smile and be friendly.
- Be courageous, put yourself out there and meet new people.
- Always dress up, look nice and put your best foot forward.
- Be a life-long learner, go back to school and read or acquire new skills.
- Have faith — trust in God.
- If invited, go.

T. Genter is nearing the end of his professional career and will be returning home to Pure MI after being away for 30 years. He is an outdoor enthusiast with a conservationist mindset who cares deeply for the land, water and woods of Northwest Michigan.

## Wood Heat

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I would have had a gargantuan task hand splitting seven face cords each year. Thank you!

Fortunately, our home has a woodshed where we carefully stack our wood. I wheelbarrow in a load or two every few days to fill our round log holder, as well as prepare the abundance of kindling we need (also a time-consuming process). Believe me, tending wood keeps your muscles strong and alive! Your spirit, too.

I no longer make an initial fire from the bottom up, instead using the Swedish method: large split wood on the bottom, then a series of successively smaller cross kindling on top. Put a little paper or fire starter on top, so the fire burns from the top down, heating the stove pipe quickly, creating a great draw, and I have a successful fire with minimal fire tending. If you do still have hot coals in the morning, then your traditional bottom-up fire does work well.

Heating with an indoor woodstove

requires dry, high BTU wood. Maple, oak, beech, cherry or ash are the most available hardwood species in our area. While there is still environmental controversy, heating with the renewable resource of wood is safe. Some consider it environmentally neutral if using a stove built to the new 2015 standards, or an older catalytic combustor stove, as these stoves burn much more completely. It's a good area for research, as the issue is complicated. Dead or downed wood will decay in the forest and eventually release its carbon naturally. Obviously, the condition, maintenance, and regular cleaning of one's stove is vital.

Mainly, I wanted to share my learning and passion for heating a home, so we enjoy a comfortable warmth during our delightful quiet village winter evenings.

Richard Gallas is a retired metal shop owner originally from Milwaukee. He practices and teaches Tai Chi and Qigong in Arcadia when he isn't playing in the waves, hiking, walking his pup with his wife of 42 years, Louisa, or keeping the house warm.



Richard Gallas uses a borrowed wood splitter.



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## Let Freedom Read

By Louisa Loveridge Gallas  
Freshwater Reporter Poet-in-Residence

Banned Books Week, October 1-7, 2023

O, when I was 6, to come home from the library with armfuls of books, *Nancy Drew, Girl Detective*, my inspiration to look through the key hole, know life's complexities to the fullest! Flying to Neverland with Peter Pan, imagine never growing up!! I feared for Uncle Tom in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, loathed brutal slave owner, Simon Legree; every Spring *Charlotte's Web* revealed how even pigs and spiders are sacred, our bond with them opening my heart. How my child self-empathized with everyone, everything, expanding my imagination. Now I bring my grandchild to a Library to share the legacy only to find empty space for many of these books and more.

*Charlotte's Web:*  
banished because *animals talk*,  
"talking animals are blasphemous,  
offensive to human superiority."  
*Uncle Tom's Cabin* silenced for truth about slavery.  
"O, my, how sad! We will have to buy those books," I say.  
My grandson (who senses the moral high road early) "*But Grandma, what about poor people who need the library?*"  
A wise youngster! A *Wonder-full Question!*  
When banning a book and controlling libraries: Take a hard righteous look.  
Even my young grandson knows, you not only threaten free speech but create social inequity for those who will be denied access and opportunity.  
*Let Freedom Read!*



# GHOST SHIP READY FOR BOOS & GHOULS

By **RAMONA DEGEORGIO-VENEGAS.**

Images courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of the S.S. City of Milwaukee.

MANISTEE – Why book passage aboard the "Fright Ferry," aka the Ghost Ship? Because this fun and hair-raising half-hour excursion is only offered in October — every Friday and Saturday, 7:30-10:30 p.m. — with a special night on Sunday the 29th. The Ghost Ship makes its home on board the S.S. City of Milwaukee, permanently moored on Manistee Lake, just off U.S. Highway 31.

A new "Scaredy Pants" option for kids (all ages are welcome) takes place Tuesday, Oct. 31, 5-9 p.m. This event is a toned-down version for families, with the lights on and, of course, Halloween candy.

During your "voyage," you'll wander up, down, and across five decks while creeping along the hallways. You'll move, but the historical ship won't. As you climb the stairways in your sturdy shoes, ghouls may be fellow passengers. EEK! How twisted is that?

I met with Executive Director Robby Laurain and his colleague, Maxwell, as we "walked the plank" onboard. We sat for a chat amidst eerie decorating materials as I floated questions.

"The S.S. City of Milwaukee has been in operation since 2000, with the addition of the Coast Guard buoy-tender/icebreaker in 2009," Laurain explained.

I learned that the ship is open from May through Labor Day weekend. It is run by the Society for the Preservation of the S.S. City of Milwaukee, a nonprofit organization founded in 1986. The organization has six employees and up to 30 volunteers, especially during the Ghost Ship event. Each year the team strives for a better (or shall we say, more frightening) and well-attended event. Last year almost 4,000 souls attended the Ghost Ship evenings, up from 3,000 in 2021.

During the May-through-Labor-Day season, the ship has hosted weddings, family reunions and receptions. One of its 16 berths may also be rented for overnight stays.

The S.S. City of Milwaukee, built in 1930, is the last traditional Great Lakes railroad car ferry. Now a National Historic Landmark Museum, the steamship sailed from 1931 to 1981 or '82, according to carferry.com. In August, a post on the ship's Facebook page announced a painting



project on the starboard side of the hull was 99% completed. Thirty-two gallons of black paint were used, as well as 10 gallons of primer, to cover 12,000 square feet.

Meanwhile, back on the Ghost Ship, I hope to hear your screams harmonizing with my own as we join the hardy throng traipsing the haunted hallways. Consider supporting this nonprofit organization during their main fundraising event this October by adding a visit to your Halloween-month plans. Every year the crew invents new adventures, ramps up the ghostly sounds and creates more bumps in the night, including goosebumps. Cackle!

Be aware: There are public bathrooms near the entry, but none are available

onboard for the Ghost Ship event. Wear good shoes and dress in layers, in case it gets cold.

To avoid standing in lines, get your \$12 per person Fast Pass ticket at: [carferry.com/ghostship](http://carferry.com/ghostship). Children ages six and younger are free. Tickets may also be purchased at the ship's location: 99 Arthur Street. Scaredy Pants tickets are \$5 each. Follow the S.S. City of Milwaukee on Facebook @ SSCityofMilwaukee.

Ramona DeGeorgio-Venegas is a retiree of the Manistee Ranger District, Huron-Manistee National Forest, where she worked in recreation and as an outdoor recreation planner.



## Sauce Boss

continued from Page 1

proportions when I noticed something in the woodshed. An all-black cat had moved in, and she was so friendly that we named her Frisky. Even though we were somewhat saddened to leave our new-found feline friend behind, it was time for the party.

Halloween was one of the few times throughout the year that we got to see and meet kids that lived in the same area because we all went to different schools, churches, scout meetings and other places hosting youth activities. There were spots in Baldwin, Wellston, Brethren, Free Soil and other towns, but nowhere to meet in Irons after the roller rink closed and the Fun Spot (bowling alley) burned down.

Piñata time rolls around and nothing says “fun” to a small-town kid like beating something with a stick and not getting in trouble for it. The last piñata was built a little too well because the bottom half came down all in one piece. The whistle blew, and as the rest of us were scrabbling for the little bits that spilled closest to us, Pauly ran right for the center, picked up the bottom half with almost all the candy still in it, and ran out the door. That stinker wouldn't share with anybody, either! Not unless they did whatever task his warped little mind came up with, and I have yet to meet anyone more creative. It did come back to bite him, though. The bellyache he got from eating all that candy haunted him all night long.

Key West does Halloween (or at least

that time of year) a little differently. It's a 10-day adult celebration filled with “costuming, parades, libations, and excitement.” I can honestly say it was the wildest party I have attended. I was in Marathon Key for hurricane Wilma and as soon as the flooding subsided, we set sail for Key West. There were so many sunken sailboats along the way it was very difficult to navigate, especially as we got closer to the harbor. My dad used to swim with dolphins all the time, and one showed up and swam right in front of the boat, showing us the way. This is not an exaggeration.

It was still daylight, so everything at this point had been a family-friendly, touristy kind of environment. First stop, the Hog's Breath Saloon for some great jazz and acoustic music. As the sun began to set, we made our way to Irish Kevin's Bar. Things were really starting to liven up. After that was the Green Parrot. At this point, it really didn't matter where we went; everywhere was this outrageous party. Everything was friendly and safe, yet looked like pure chaos.

Going to Fantasy Fest once was enough for me, and once would probably be too much for most, but I can enjoy caramel apples every year!

Joshua Elie is a musician and a retired building contractor who now enjoys life as a homesteader.

## Elie's Caramel Apples

- Dunk 7-8 apples, one at a time, for a few seconds in boiling water then wipe off all wax. Insert a chopstick for a handle through the top (stem side) of each apple and place in freezer.
- In a 2.5 to 3-quart pot, combine ¼ cup butter, 1¾ cups heavy cream, 1 cup light corn syrup, 2 cups brown sugar and ½ teaspoon salt. Set heat to medium and stir with big wooden spoon until butter is melted then STOP STIRRING. Any further stirring will separate the butter.
- Wipe the inside of your pot above the caramel with a wet pastry brush and attach candy thermometer. DO NOT change heat setting while heating to 235-240 degrees (usually takes 15-20 minutes).
- While the mixture is heating, coat a 12" x 17" baking tin with butter and place 3 cups crushed peanuts (optional) in a bowl for rolling.
- When caramel reaches 235-240 degrees, remove from heat. The hotter it gets, the harder it will set. While caramel begins to thicken (about 10 minutes) remove apples from freezer.
- Quickly dip each apple in caramel, letting the excess drip back into the pot, then quickly roll in peanuts. Set (stick up) on baking tin. Allow caramel apples to cool then serve.

Bring the butter, milk, sugar, cocoa and salt to a boil in a medium pot over medium heat, stirring occasionally. Let boil for 1 minute. Turn off heat. Add the peanut butter and stir. Add oats and stir. A whisk is very helpful until you add the oats. Scoop mixture with a tablespoon (measuring), packing it flat, as hot as you can handle, then drop it flat side down on parchment paper. Dust with cinnamon sugar, powdered sugar, or anything else that sounds good to personalize them or just leave plain. Let sit at room temperature until cooled and hardened, about 30 minutes.



## Papermaking workshop cuts the mustard

By PAT STINSON. Photos courtesy of ISN.

To give pulled specimens of an invasive plant species “a second life,” the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network (ISN) is partnering with the Manistee Conservation District to offer a popular garlic mustard papermaking workshop.



The workshop will be held 5:30-7 p.m., Oct. 26, at a new venue, the Wagoner Community Center in Manistee. The event is free, and all ages are welcome. The Thursday evening workshop is limited

to 30 participants and pre-registration is required.

“ISN will instruct community members on how they can easily change this pesky invasive species into beautiful artsy paper, all while teaching about the importance of invasive species management,” stated organizers in their press release.

Described by the state of Michigan and Michigan State University as “a harbinger of spring” and “one of the greatest threats to our native woodlands,” garlic mustard plants can be found in wooded and other moist shaded areas across the state.

Shelly Stusick is the Go Beyond Beauty Specialist with ISN. I asked her about past papermaking workshops.

“I believe the first event started in 2018 with Jane Kramer (a fine art photographer), who exemplified some of her work in paper-making with all types of invasive species and led a workshop with us in Traverse City,” she said.

“We choose to use garlic mustard as the invasive for our events now since we think it's the easiest invasive plant to use and makes the nicest paper for beginners, most notably with its green color shining through.”

How many plants are needed to make a piece of paper is “a very good” question, according to Stusick. “It all depends on how thick folks create their pulp and how large their frame is for the paper.”

She said former workshop participants discussed using the paper as notecards, stationery and photo-frame backing.

“I think these events attract crafty environmentalists who are interested in the papermaking process but also care about what ISN is doing in our communities to educate about garlic mustard/other invasives. Plenty of folks were already familiar with garlic mustard and were intrigued by another use for the plants, (besides eating them, the leaves are edible), they already pull in their home landscapes or natural areas.”

Participants must register at: [www.HabitatMatters.org/Events](http://www.HabitatMatters.org/Events). Materials will be provided and those attending should wear comfortable clothing that can get “dirtied.”

The Wagoner Community Center is located at 260 St. Mary's Parkway. For more information, email Shelly Stusick at: [sstusick@habitatmatters.org](mailto:sstusick@habitatmatters.org) or call her at: 231-299-0805.



The Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, is a collaboration of over 50 organizations in the region. ISN's mission is to protect, enhance and promote northwest Michigan's natural communities in Manistee, Benzie, Leelanau and Grand Traverse counties through terrestrial invasive plant management and outreach. For information, go to: [HabitatMatters.org](http://HabitatMatters.org).

## New Christmas Artisan Market

From staff reports

ONEKAMA – A craft fair held annually during Christmas in Onekama celebrations will this year be juried and also include artwork for sale by Onekama High School students. Renamed the Artisan Market, the event will be held 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Nov. 18 in the Onekama Community School Gym and Café, 5016 Main St.

“We're so excited to be able to support area artisans while offering an elevated selection of wonderful holiday gifts and housewares,” commented Theresa Gimpel, co-chair of the 2023 Artisan Market.

Thirty-five area artisans, craftspeople

and food producers will be present. Among the market's offerings are pottery, jewelry, textiles, paintings, unique food and baked goods, furniture, photography, ornaments and more.

Holiday music, cookie sales and Santa visits, the latter sponsored by Jr. Clio, will add to the festive atmosphere of the Saturday event.

Proceeds from the sale of student artwork, found in a special gallery, will benefit the art department of Onekama Consolidated Schools.



Treasures of all kinds can be found at “Christmas in Onekama”.



“It's important to the PLA (Portage Lake Association, the sponsor) that the community is welcomed and supported,” co-chair Nikki Schneider said. “This is why we opened the market up to high school students and area nonprofits to sell items for fund-raising.”

Christmas in Onekama planners decided to hold a juried market to acknowledge the many talented and creative artists, craftspeople and food producers who live in Manistee County. Gimpel said the market is currently full, but artisans may be added to a wait list by going to: <https://bit.ly/3N7RBtE>.

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*Back from Bennu*

# Local NASA Ambassador invited for capsule touchdown

By **BROOKE EDWARDS**

To my complete surprise, I was chosen to travel to Denver, Colorado, to partake in Lockheed Martin's first-ever "in:SPACE Influencer" event. The event would be similar to NASA socials, where attendees get a behind-the-scenes tour of the campus while covering the mission on social media.

Arriving at the Lockheed Martin Space campus at 3 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 24, my peers and I were exhausted from an active day beforehand. However, physics does not wait until a team is well rested. The OSIRIS-REx spacecraft was on a trajectory through space, and the capsule carrying material from the asteroid known as Bennu was finally scheduled to begin its return to Earth just after 4 a.m. Lockheed's mission control team was already settled in and monitoring every maneuver.

From 2016 to 2020, the OSIRIS-REx spacecraft had been traveling to reach Bennu. When it did in 2020, news of the feat was largely overshadowed by news of the pandemic. The OSIRIS-REx spacecraft used its TAGSAM (Touch and Go Sample Acquisition Mechanism) collector to scoop more than a cup of astro material from Bennu's surface, vastly different than scientists had predicted. Anticipating more of a solid surface, experts were stunned when softer material spewed upward as TAGSAM tapped the asteroid.

The spacecraft as well as its TAGSAM was designed for NASA by Lockheed Martin Space. It was engineered and tested at Lockheed Martin facilities outside Denver, Colorado. Planning for all aspects of the mission, the team at LM built a sample surface of Bennu that covers an entire wall



The sample capsule, post landing, in the Utah desert. The capsule's black color is from charring that occurred upon reentry. NASA courtesy photo.

in their testing lab. They then used a robot, which happens to be the largest robot in the world, to test TAGSAM's approach. Lockheed Martin was also contracted to control the spacecraft and ensure its safe return.

Just as planned, the OSIRIS-REx spacecraft released the capsule on its approach to Earth. After a tense four hours, the capsule entered Earth's atmosphere with a fiery return as it plummeted toward the Utah desert. The parachutes opened and the capsule made a perfect landing on the desert floor. Applause erupted from LM's mission control as well as from other employees, friends, family and media watching the coverage on campus. What the team had worked hard to achieve for four long years reached an end.

As a NASA crew was dispatched to carefully retrieve the canister, space enthusiasts rejoiced. This sample is expected to reveal much about the formation of our solar system and maybe even shed light on the formation of Earth. The sample canister was airlifted by helicopter to NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, where it will be stored in a cleanroom specially built for this mission. Simply put, a cleanroom is a sterile environment that ensures the sample stays pure and without cross-contamination from Earth. People entering cleanrooms must wear full white "bunny" suits to keep hair, skin and bodily fluids contained.

The OSIRIS-REx spacecraft itself was "repurposed" and sent on another science mission to the asteroid Apophis. The new



Brooke Edwards (bottom, left) was among a group of influencers invited to cover the asteroid sample's return at Lockheed Martin's mission control center in Denver, Colo. LM courtesy photo.


18-month mission/former OSIRIS-REx spacecraft are now referred to as OSIRIS-APEX.

The sample canister from OSIRIS-REx will be opened at NASA's Johnson Space Center on Oct. 11. Teams will be careful not to cross-contaminate as they study the samples. The samples will eventually be stored in airtight containers in the cleanroom for future generations to study, using more advanced technology.

Brooke Edwards is our area's NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador and a regular contributor to Freshwater Reporter. She has hosted star parties at 5th Avenue Beach and Orchard Beach State Park in Manistee. Follow her on Facebook @Brooke-Edwards-Solar-System-Ambassador.

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*Local artists in Terrain Biennial*

# Global art exhibit connects area communities

From staff reports

Eleven artists, including area residents, are presenting their work outdoors in neighborhoods, art centers and businesses plus “surprising locations” around Manistee, Ludington, Onkama, Kaleva and Frankfort as part of “Terrain Biennial 23”, a global exhibition happening now through Nov. 15.

Local art curators Theresa Gimpel, of the Elizabeth Lane Oliver Center for the Arts, and Eden Ūnlūata-Foley, of West Shore Community College, are co-curating Terrain Biennial 23’s Northwestern Michigan outdoor displays.

A public reception will be held 2-4 p.m., Oct. 15, at the Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts in Manistee. Gimpel said there will be an opportunity to attend the Sunday event virtually for those living outside the area.

“Because a number of the artists and the Terrain Foundation staff are stationed in Chicago, we are including a remote component,” she explained. “Anyone who wants to zoom in will need a code to do that.”

Over 200 art projects will be popping up on front lawns (and porches, windows and rooftops) around the Great Lakes region, the U.S. and the world for anyone to discover.

“Think sculptures, paintings, projections, flags, yarn art ... you name it!” organizers stated in their press release.

“Mycelium Connections” is this year’s exhibition theme. The lead curators of Terrain Biennial stated: “Mycelium is a thriving underground network of fungal threads, vital to many natural ecosystems. Despite its enormous geographical span, it remains invisible to most, subversively springing up from the most unexpected cracks and shadows. We ask ourselves, who and what has been overlooked, and why?”

Using mycelium as a metaphor for modern communication technologies, co-curators Ūnlūata-Foley and Gimpel focused on connecting rural and urban art communities. Without such technologies, they said they would have been unable



Above: Sherry Antonini, “T- Shirt Salvage”, at Patina Designs Right: Terrain Biennial sculpture, “The Echo Effect” by Nat Rosales, is on exhibit in Frankfort. Photo courtesy of Oliver Art Center.



to bring their communities together with relative ease.

“Both Theresa and I have one foot in rural and one foot in urban life. On a daily basis we witness how both these cultural ecosystems are deeply connected,” Eden Ūnlūata-Foley said.

Terrain Biennial is organized by the Terrain Exhibitions Foundation based in Oak Park, Illinois.

Terrain was founded on the front porch of late artist Sabina Ott. Since 2011, Terrain has produced six editions of the Biennial and continues to bring art at a grassroots level to more neighborhoods across the world with every installment.

Since the exhibition takes place in private as well as public spaces, those visiting the installations are asked to be respectful of the property and privacy of hosts. All art will be visible from the street and descriptive texts can be found at each of the sites.

For more information and to visit exhibitions in other areas when traveling, go to: <https://terrainexhibitions.org>. For an invitation to attend virtually, email Theresa Gimpel at: [theresagimpel@gmail.com](mailto:theresagimpel@gmail.com). Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts is located at 101 Maple St.

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**Terrain Biennial Exhibit Locations**

**LUDINGTON:**

- Ken Cooper at 818 E. Foster St. Ludington, MI
- Rachel Brock at 305 Filer St. Ludington, MI
- Hale Ekinci at 110 S. Washington St. Ludington, MI
- Claire Ashley at:  
Site #1: Ludington Area Center for the Arts (LACA), 107 S Harrison St, Ludington, MI  
Site #2: 921 W. Gunnison, Chicago, IL  
Site #3: 1042 IL Route 89, Magnolia, IL
- Allison Svoboda at 417 N. Washington St., Ludington, MI

**MANISTEE:**

- Colette Wright Adams at Old Kirke Museum, 300 Walnut St., Manistee, MI
- Aimé Merizon at Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St., Manistee, MI

**ONEKAMA:**

- William Hattendorf at 8083 Johnson St., Onkama, MI
- Sherry Antonini at Patina Designs, 4850 Main St. Onkama, MI

**KALEVA:**

- Lynn Williams at 7425 Chief Rd., Kaleva, MI

**FRANKFORT:**

- Nat Rosales at Elizabeth Lane Oliver Center for the Arts (OAC) 132 Coast Guard Rd., Frankfort, MI

# Area Events Calendar

## TELL THEM YOU SAW IT IN FRESHWATER REPORTER!

To be included in our November 22 edition, submit your announcements by Nov. 8. Be sure to include the address where the event takes place. Email your events/press releases to: [editor@freshwater-reporter.com](mailto:editor@freshwater-reporter.com). Always check with the venue before attending as some event dates may change or be canceled. Despite our best efforts, errors may occur. See our online calendar for updates: <https://freshwater-reporter.com/calendar-2>.

### MARKETS

#### Saturdays

##### Scottville Farmers Market

9am-12pm thru October. Miller's Marketplace, 202 N. Main St. Times may vary. Check: <https://nfmfd.org/mi/scottville/1011280>

##### Frankfort Farmers Market

9am-1pm, Thru October. Open Space Park, 832 Main St.

### ONGOING EXHIBITS/EVENTS

#### Thru Oct 13

##### Art "ExhiBEERtion", Frankfort

Free. Celebrate Octoberfest with artworks relating to beer. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd.

#### Thru Oct 14

##### Frankfort Beer Week, Frankfort

Specialty brews/pairings/menus at participating area dining establishments.

#### Thru Oct 21

##### Art of Fantasy Exhibition, Ludington

Free. Art from the collection of Nate & Nicole Petersen of Backstage Hobbies & Games. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St. Oct 13-15, Adventures on the Lakeshore. \$5 donation suggested. Fantasy artists Randy Asplund, Brad McDevitt, Phil Stone & Susan Van Camp in person. Featuring game demos and band merchandise from Bog Wizard. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St.

#### Thru Oct 28

##### Gilded Nature Art Exhibition, Ludington

Free. Solo exhibit by Alexa Karabin. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St.

#### Thru Nov 15

##### Terrain Biennial Exhibition, Manistee, Mason & Benzie Co.

Free. 11 of 200 artists across the U.S. will be participating by presenting their artwork in Ludington, Manistee, Onokama, Kaleva, and Frankfort as part of the Biennial. Theme is Mycelium Connections, the fungal threads that connect underground. Artists opening 10/15 by invitation. See story, page 6.

#### Thru Nov 18

##### Ludington Artists Art Exhibition, Manistee

Free. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Artist reception Oct 14, 5-7pm

#### Oct 16-Nov 20

##### "Halloween Cinema/ Dia de los Muertos" Art Exhibition, Frankfort

Free. Spooky artworks related to the holiday. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd.

#### Nov 1-Dec 3

##### Celebrate Native American Heritage Month Exhibit, Grand Rapids

\$10 per person. \$9 Seniors 65+, \$8 teachers & active military. \$1.75 EBT & WIC cardholders. Art, music & history celebrating the Anishinaabe people's culture & traditions. 11 Sheldon Ave. NE. Hours/info: [grcm.org](http://grcm.org).

#### Nov 4-17

##### Regional High School Art Exhibition, Ludington

Free. Open to all High School/Home School artists from Lake, Manistee, Mason & Oceana Counties. Artist reception Nov. 4, 11am - 2pm. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St.

#### Nov 4-Dec 16

##### Small is Beautiful Miniature Art Exhibition, Ludington

Free. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St.

#### Nov 13-Jan 3

##### Artful Winter Trees, Frankfort

Free. Trees made from recycled/repurposed materials. Oliver Art Center, 132 Coast Guard Rd.

### DAILY EVENTS

#### Oct 10

##### Tails from the Trail, Manistee

6pm. Free. All welcome. Scottville resident Joan Young is one of 20 to have completed the 4,800-mile North Country National Scenic Trail. Listen to her stories at the Wagoner Community Center, 260 St. Mary's Pkwy. Hosted by Manistee County Library.

#### Oct 12

##### Benzonia Academy Lecture Series, Benzonia

4pm, \$5 donation. "1906: A Summer to Remember" presented by Steve Veatch & Cheri Dundon. Mills Community House, 891 Michigan Ave. Info/Zoom link: [benziemuseum.org](http://benziemuseum.org) or 231.882.5539

#### Oct 14

##### Stream Monitoring Program, Bear Lake

9am-2pm. Volunteers invited to collect macroinvertebrates from local rivers/streams. Short instructional presentation, then gear & locations will be given to teams of 4-5. Bring waders if you can. Waders provided for those without. Manistee Conservation District, 8840 Chippewa Hwy (US-31). Registration: <https://forms.gle/AXFUXtcrR5YfgpA8> or call 231.889.9666

##### Wellston Christmas Craft Show, Wellston

9am-3pm. Norman Township Community Hall, 1273 Seaman Rd., Wellston. Info: 231.330.2422.

##### Fall Festival Craft Fair, Frankfort

10am. Crafts and/or booths are fall-themed. 727 Main St.

##### Fall Festival, Frankfort

11am-7pm. Carnival rides, games, food. Mutt March. Parade. Pancake breakfast. Live music. Beer tent. Giant pumpkin weigh-in. Pie eating contest. Cornhole tournament. More. Open Space Park, 800 Main St.

##### Solar Eclipse Party, Thompsonville

11:30am-2:30pm, Free. Presented by the Grand Traverse Astronomical Society. Learn how to safely view the Annular Solar Eclipse, learn cool science, make crafts & enjoy stellar snacks. Betsie Valley District Library, 14744 Thompson Ave.

##### Fall Fest, Bear Lake

12-4pm. Cupcakes, cider, kids' pumpkin painting, hot dogs, food specials, weather permitting car show. See what each business has to offer.

##### 2nd Annual Race to Space (Glow Ace Run) Disc Golf Tournament, Scottville

6:15-10pm, \$40. The ONLY discs you get to use are the 2 in the player pack. One throw with each disc on each hole. The Edge at Riverside Park, 700 S. Scottville Rd. Info/registration: [discgolfscene.com](http://discgolfscene.com) or instore at Grip N Rip Disc Golf, 5770 US-10, Ludington.

##### Drive Thru Haunted Forest, Ludington

7:30-10:30pm, \$5 per person. Drive thru the campground and enjoy Halloween scenes. Enter off Lakeshore Dr. & exit to Rath Ave. Cartier Park, 1254 N. Lakeshore Dr.

#### Oct 15

##### Friends of Ludington State Park Guided Hike, Ludington

2pm, Free. Led by 2 volunteers & starting from the Warming Shelter. Ludington State Park, 8800 M-116. Recreation Passport required for vehicle entry.

#### Oct 18

##### Short Notice performing the songs of Patsy Cline, Ludington

7pm, \$25 ADV, \$30 @door. Benefit for LACA's creativity Art Kits. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St. Tickets: [ludingtonartscenter.org](http://ludingtonartscenter.org) or at LACA.

#### Oct 20

##### GTRLC Fall Hike at the Lower Woodcock Lake Nature Preserve

10am-12pm, Free. Mark Rogers will lead a 1.5 mile hike to see the fall colors on the new trail around the lake. Wear hiking shoes, bring water & a snack. Info: [gtrlc.org](http://gtrlc.org)

##### Pumpkins in the Park, Ludington

5-7pm, donations benefit West Shore Family Support (Footsteps 4 Families). 1 mile walk. Use parking lot off Rath & Bryant. Cartier Park, 1254 N. Lakeshore Dr.

##### Ludington Writers Book Launch Event, Ludington

7-9pm, Free. Anthologies "Making Waves: A West Michigan Review" (Issue 3) and "Beach Combings" (Issue 1) will be featured with readings by the authors. Refreshments will be served. Issues available for sale. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St.

#### Oct 20

##### Nikita Sokolov Solo Piano Concert, Manistee

7:30. \$15. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Tickets: [ramsdelltheatre.org](http://ramsdelltheatre.org)

#### Oct 20

##### The Millenium Brass featuring Marty Erickson, Scottville

7:30, \$20-30. Center Stage Theater at West Shore Community College, 3000 N. Stiles Rd. Tickets: [www.westshore.edu/performing-arts/](http://www.westshore.edu/performing-arts/)

#### Oct 21

##### UMC Marketplace Craft Show & Luncheon, Manistee

9am-3pm, luncheon 11am-1pm. \$10. Manistee United Methodist Church 387 First St.

##### Western Michigan Old Engine Club Antique Tractor Pull, Scottville

10am-2pm, Free. 700 S. Scottville Rd.

##### Hayday at Manistee National Golf and Resort, Manistee

11am-4pm. Pumpkin decoration, hayrides, cider, donuts, s'mores & more. Manistee National Golf & Resort, 4797 US 31 South.

##### Metropolitan Opera Live/Encore in HD presents Dead Man Walking (Jake Heggie), Manistee

1pm, \$15-25. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Tickets: [ramsdelltheatre.org](http://ramsdelltheatre.org)

##### Haunted Village, Ludington

2-5pm, \$5.50-7.50. Kids dress in Halloween costumes & Trick-or-treat in the village. Historic White Pine Village, 1687 S Lakeshore Dr.

##### Halloween Party and Dance, Copemish

7-11pm, \$5. Cash prizes for best costume. Come and Dance to the band, Working on Famous. Cash bar, pop and food also avail. Held at (& fundraiser for) the American Legion Post 531, 18843 Cadillac Hwy. Info: 231-970-9068

##### Michael Ray in Concert, Manistee

8-10:30pm, \$50-65. Little River Casino Resort, 2700 Orchard Hwy. Tickets: [lrcr.com](http://lrcr.com).

#### Oct 25

##### Halloween Family Fun Run, Ludington

6-7pm, Free, donations accepted. Costumes encouraged for this 1 mile family event. Candy, cider & donuts provided. Cartier Park Pathway, 1101-1203 N Rath Ave.

#### Oct 26

##### Garlic Mustard Papermaking Workshop, Manistee

5:30-7pm, Free. Learn an easy, quick way to make decorative paper using the invasive plant garlic mustard. All materials are provided by Invasive Species Network. Wagoner Community Center, 260 St. Mary S. Pkwy. Registration is required: <https://gtcd.wufoo.com/forms/mmrzw7e08wh58x/>

##### "Practical Magic" film, Frankfort

7:30, Free. Wear your witchy-est/spookiest costume for a free Kilwin's treat. Garden Theater, 301 Main St.

#### Oct 28

##### Community Block Party

1-3pm, Free. Game booths, photo booth, Free hotdog lunch, horse-drawn wagon rides, costume contest, bounce house. Manistee United Methodist Church, 387 First St.

##### Western Michigan Old Engine Club Garden Tractor Transfer Sled Pull, Scottville

1-4pm, Free. 700 S. Scottville Rd.

##### Downtown Trick-or-Treat, Ludington

2-4pm, Free. Info: [downtownludington.org/halloween](http://downtownludington.org/halloween)

##### Fear the Bogey Man Disc Golf Tournament, Scottville

6:15-?, \$80/team. Age restriction of 16+ due to playing at night. Halloween Glow Doubles. Ace pool, raffle. The Edge at Riverside Park, 700 S. Scottville Rd. Info/registration: [discgolfscene.com](http://discgolfscene.com) or instore at Grip N Rip Disc Golf, 5770 US-10, Ludington.

#### Oct 29

##### Run for Your Lives 5k/10k Run, Ludington

9-11am. Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St. Info/register: <https://downtownludington.org/runludington/>

#### Oct 31

##### Trick or Treat at the Garden, Frankfort

5-8pm, Free. Garden Theater, 301 Main St.

##### Tents & Treats, Ludington

6-7pm, Free. Tents in the parking lot for trick-or-treat, popcorn, cotton candy. Cornerstone Baptist Church, 121 Nelson Rd.

#### Nov 2

##### Coffee with the Councilors, Ludington

12pm. Up to 3 Councilors from the City of Ludington will hold a coffee hour to allow residents to ask questions & air their concerns about city issues. Book Mark Café, 201 S. Rath Ave.

##### "Homecoming: Tribal Buffalo Restoration and its Impacts", Ludington

7pm, Free. By Comanche documentary filmmaker Julianna Brannum. Part of WSCC's Humankind Series. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St.

#### Nov 4

##### Craft & Vendor Show, Ludington

10am-2pm. American Legion Post 76, 318 N. James St.

##### Holiday Arts & Crafts Show, Ludington

10am-3pm. Ludington Area Senior Center, 308 S. Rowe St.

#### Nov 9

##### Benzonia Academy Lecture Series, Benzonia

4pm, \$5 donation. "The Paradoxes of an Anishinabe Anthropologist" presented by Katrina Furman, MPA. First Congregational Church of Benzonia, 901 Barber St. Info/Zoom link: [benziemuseum.org](http://benziemuseum.org) or 231.882.5539

#### Nov 9-12

##### Charlotte's Web, Scottville

6:30pm on 9, 10, 11. 2pm on 11, 12. \$15-25. Center Stage Theater at West Shore Community College, 3000 N. Stiles Rd. Tickets: [www.westshore.edu/performing-arts/](http://www.westshore.edu/performing-arts/)

#### Nov 11

##### Christmas Expo, Ludington

10am-3pm. Craft show. Cornerstone Baptist Church, 121 Nelson Rd.

##### Kip Moore in Concert, Manistee

8-10:30pm, \$70-85. Little River Casino Resort, 2700 Orchard Hwy. Tickets: [lrcr.com](http://lrcr.com).

#### Nov 12

##### "The Grief and Tears to Smother" Album Release Party, Manistee

Event time & price TBD. Traditional songs & ballads of the Irish diaspora performed by Ben Traverse & Nick Veine. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Tickets: [ramsdelltheatre.org](http://ramsdelltheatre.org)

#### Nov 18

##### Christmas in Onokama 1st Annual Artisans Market, Onokama

10am-3pm. Onokama Consolidated Schools, 5016 Main St. Juried show includes high school student artwork. See press release page 4.

##### Holiday Kickoff Craft Market, Ludington

9am-3pm. Arts & crafts stalls, food concessions & baked goods. Fundraiser for Ludington Competitive Cheer. Ludington Elementary School, 5771 W. Bryant Rd.

##### Christmas Shoppe Arts & Crafts Fair, Ludington

9am-3pm. Mason County Reformed Church, 45 S. Amber Rd.

##### Metropolitan Opera Live/Encore in HD presents X: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MALCOM X (Anthony Davis), Manistee

1pm, \$15-25. Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts, 101 Maple St. Tickets: [ramsdelltheatre.org](http://ramsdelltheatre.org)

##### Thunder from Down Under, Manistee

8-10:30pm, \$25-40. Little River Casino Resort, 2700 Orchard Hwy. Tickets: [lrcr.com](http://lrcr.com).

#### Nov 19

##### Friends of Ludington State Park Guided Hike, Ludington

2pm, Free. Led by 2 volunteers & starting from the Warming Shelter. Ludington State Park, 8800 M-116. MI Recreation Passport required for vehicle entry.

##### Celebration of Lights, Onokama

6pm, Free. Lighting of the Community Tree & Reading of Memorial Names. Farr Center, Main St.

# My Perfect Autumn Playlist

By GORDON BERG

If you're like me, you live for summer. Here in Northern Michigan, summers are phenomenally glorious. Slow sunsets. Campfires on the beach. Warm days. Cool nights. And just when you settle into summer's rhythm, it's over. Poof. Gone.

So, I prefer to think of summer as many months longer. Spring, therefore, becomes the harbinger of summer as the days get longer and the whole of life wakes up and becomes fresh and new. It's thrilling.

Meanwhile, fall is not a separate season but more of a long goodbye to summer. One last gift of brilliant colors. There's a briskness in the air. But the flip side of all that is that there's a sadness to autumn, too. It is the bittersweet season.

Such is the yin and yang of fall. It invites us to look more deeply within, to celebrate the splendor of our lives while embracing the profound changes there, too.

Many songwriters have found ways to tap into those contrasting feelings. And, so to celebrate the end of summer and all the changes in the air, here's a very short list of my favorite autumn songs.

### "When Fall Comes to New England" by Cheryl Wheeler

Wheeler's lyrics are so evocative. Every time I hear this exquisite song, my mind substitutes the words "Northern Michigan" for New England, as in the opening line, "When fall comes to New England, the sun slants in so fine." Picture "...leaves are Irish Setter red" and "... winter warnings race across the sky." Her lyrics resonate with anyone who lives along the western coast of Michigan.

### "Urge for Going" by Joni Mitchell

Joni Mitchell is one of the greatest songwriters of the latter half of the 20th century. "The Urge for Going" captures the restlessness of fall. "The geese in chevron flight ..." are harbingers of change. Changes in seasons. Changes in relationships. "... All her empires are falling down and winter's closing in." If ever there was a song to turn you into a snowbird or remind you that it's time to

shore up your supply of firewood, this is it. Tom Rush's version of Mitchell's song is equally haunting.

### "Autumn in New York" as sung by Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong

A jazz standard written by Vernon Duke in the summer of 1934, during the height of the Great Depression. Duke could have been tempted to write a light-hearted piece about the beauty of New York in the fall. Instead, he chose to be honest. Yes, life there offers "... the thrill of first nighting," and "...the promise of new love." But it's also "mingled" with pain and "dreamers with empty hands." Many of us can relate. The beauty of fall around us contrasts with the lingering pain of the pandemic and wrestling with inflation. Duke recognizes these difficulties are real. But at the same time, he reminds us ... so is love. "Lovers that bless the dark on benches in Central Park." It's autumn in New York. Or Bear Lake. Or Scottville. "It's good to live it again."

### "Harvest Moon" by Neil Young

Fall is about falling in love. Maybe it's with someone new. Maybe it's a reminder of why we fell in love with that certain someone so many years ago. This song invites us to celebrate tender moments. Closeness. A full moon. Dancing. "Let's go out and feel the night." Yeah. Slow dance in the kitchen with your honey to this as you chase away the chill of an autumn night.

### "When October Goes" as sung by Barry Manilow

Johnny Mercer wrote numerous songs considered to be part of the Great American Songbook. Standards like: "Moon River," "Days of Wine and Roses," and "Autumn Leaves" (more on that below). He was a maestro of songwriting. He also was an admirer of Barry Manilow's work. After Mercer passed away, his widow asked Manilow to sift through a stack of his unfinished poetry. Manilow heard the melody in Mercer's "When October Goes"



lyrics to complete this contemporary standard.

### "Autumn Leaves" as sung by Eva Cassidy

Summer loves. Looking back. The yearning. The longing. It's all right here in this beautiful song composed by Joseph Kosma, with original French lyrics by Jacques Prévert. English lyrics were written later by Johnny Mercer. Eva Cassidy was fairly unknown in 1996 when she passed away from melanoma at age 33. Check out her versions of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and "Fields of Gold". Each is as beautiful as her version of "Autumn Leaves".

### "Changes" by Phil Ochs

"Sit by my side. Come as close as the air. Share in a memory of gray. And wander in my words. Dream about the pictures that I play of changes." You can't help but lean in a little more closely to hear what's next. Listen to Gordon Lightfoot's version made all the more poignant with his passing a few months ago.

### "Autumn Serenade" as performed by John Coltrane and Johnny Hartman

Written by Peter de Rose and Sammy Gallop. This is one of those songs I would

love to have seen performed live in an intimate jazz club somewhere in New York, with smoke in the air and the clatter of cocktail glasses in the background.

### "Try to Remember" by Harry Belafonte

From The Fantasticks — the world's longest-running off-Broadway musical. Written by Harvey Schmidt and Tom Jones. Belafonte passed away this year. What better voice than his to help us remember better days and how to grow from loss.

### "When Summer Ends" by Silly Wizard

A hauntingly beautiful instrumental by this brilliant Scottish band. If it were the only song I heard in October, my autumn would be complete.

One more song to round out the playlist. A Jimmy Buffett/Mac McAnally song that celebrates the end of a chaotic tourist season. "When the Coast Is Clear."

Gordon Berg is a descendant of Manistee's Bergs, Swansons and Martinsons. His debut book, "Harry and the Hurricane", is about his father's life as a young boy and how he survived the Miami Hurricane of 1926. Harryandthehurricane.com

## Grave Mission

continued from Page 1

a tackle box (I did not open it), statues, family photos, medals, a football, coins, etc.

I particularly like to take a little extra time at the graves of military veterans to learn in what branch they served and if their headstone provides any distinction of their rank, any wars they served in, any particular honors, and to take note of any coinage left at their grave. While doing research, I learned that particular coins left at a military grave signify different relationships. A penny means someone visited the grave. A nickel signifies the visitor served with the deceased at boot camp, while a dime means the visitor and the deceased served together at some point. Sadly, a quarter means the visitor was physically with the deceased when they passed away.

While grave hunting, if we come across one that is within the last year, I take a picture so that later I can check to see if the person is even listed in the particular cemetery on Find a Grave. If they are not listed, I will create a memorial for the person and include the picture. Once we get home, I crop my photos and then upload them to the corresponding person. We easily spend an average of three hours at the smaller cemeteries, but as long as we help someone see where their loved one rests and/or acknowledge someone who was not listed, we've done our part in our mission.

Valerie Chandler lives in Wellston with her husband Matthew and their border collie/Australian shepherd. A citizen and employee of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, she is also a cancer survivor who loves to spend time with her family and has many interests.



Resting place of Clarence Gillespie. He was a Vietnam Navy veteran.



Headstone with encased metal locket.



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Contributors: Gordon Berg, Valerie Chandler, Joshua Elie, Richard Gallas, Louisa Loveridge Gallas, T. Genter

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