

Hello



FEBRUARY!



**Around The Shores
February 2026**

Shorebirds

November & January Minutes (Sort of)

by Douglas P. McFarlen

It has been an interesting time for the Shorebirds. Please bare with us as we work to get things squared away so we can still serve the members of Michigan Shores Cooperative.

Minutes of November meeting. The SB secretary was not present due to health issues. So! I will report on what happened at the meeting, as I observed it.

We had a quorum present. The minutes were not available (see above). Treasurer's report was given, and approved. We discussed the upcoming events, Thanksgiving, Mennonites visit, Christmas Dinner, and New Years party.

The nomination committee report was an eye opener. Basically they only got one member to agree to serve, Carol Reznich to be treasurer. All other offices are still open.

This was discussed by the committee chair Louise Brodie. This lead to new meetings to solve the obvious problems.

Minutes of January Meeting: Meeting called to order at 10:03am. Treasurer's report given, and approved. No secretary's report was given (see above remarks). I started taking some minutes, however things got intense with people wanting to dissolve the SB etc. The bottom line is we are going to reorganize and keep it going. So far we are making progress, the activities have been well attended, and people are signing up for events, and chores: Thank YOU!

We are going to have a general SB meeting on 9 February 2026 at 10:am. Stay tuned! Fliers will be posted.

From Frankfort Past History, by Al Hyams (former member who was one of the original members from the beginning, him and his wife Gerry lived in unit 316)

Hefferan Hill is the name of the slope that runs along Michigan Avenue to the main street of Frankfort years ago before it was paved. In the wintertime, the snow was thought to be the ultimate adventure for Frankfort youngsters to challenge the hill by sliding down with a great speed on a "jumper" which in no way was considered A sled. The jumper was carried on the one arm and consisted of a board seat attached to a single narrow runner. To use it required balance above all else. Many older Frankfort residents of today will fondly recall that they all obtained courage by riding a jumper down Hefferan Hill. The information above was given to Al Hyams by passed on Frankfort resident, Chester Nugent who crafted quality winter jumpers in his Frankfort carpentry shop.



Fire Evacuation Procedures:

Michigan Shores do not do fire drills, so reviewing the fire evacuation procedures regularly is very important.

1. **Fire Zones:** Each floor is divided into three zones:
 - **North Zone:** Apartments between the fire doors and the North stairwell.
 - **Central Zone:** Apartments between two sets of fire doors with the elevator in the center.
 - **South Zone:** Apartments between the fire doors and the South Stairwell.
2. **Checking for Fire or Smoke:**
 - Before opening any door, touch the metal handle. If it is hot, do not open.
 - If there is evidence of fire or smoke, close the door immediately and:
 - Stay in your apartment and go onto your balcony/patio, closing the sliding door.
 - If in the first-floor hallway, exit through the dog run door.
3. **Evacuation Procedures:**
 - **Second and Third Floors:**
 - North and South zones: Use side stairwells. If unable to use stairs, wait on the stairwell landing for fire department assistance. Exit through Fire Evacuation Doors to the Circle Garden. If blocked by snow/ice, go to the *Link* for further instructions.
 - Central zone: Use the center stairwell next to the elevator. Exit through the front doors. If unable to use stairs, wait on the stairwell landing for fire department assistance.
 - **First Floor:**
 - North and South zones (lake side): Exit through Fire Evacuation Doors to the Circle Garden. If blocked by snow/ice, go to the *Link* for further instructions.
 - North and South zones (garden/pond side): Exit through patio doors. Lake side members may partner with garden/pond side members for evacuation.
 - Central zone: Exit through the front door. Garden/pond side members may use patio doors.

4. **Gathering Point:** After evacuation, all members and pets will gather at the Circle Garden on the brick walk for identification. No one may re-enter the building until authorized by the fire department.
5. **Alternative Shelter:** If re-entry is unsafe, members will be transported to St. Ann Catholic Church by the fire department.
6. **Buddy System:** Members are encouraged to establish a buddy system to assist neighbors, especially those with mobility challenges.
7. **General Guidelines:**
 - Evacuate as quickly as possible.
 - Dress appropriately for outdoor conditions before leaving your apartment.
 - If unable to evacuate, stay in your apartment or move to the balcony for safety and wait for assistance.

Clear, calm reminders save lives, especially in senior communities.

So, in brief:

If you hear the fire alarm, take it seriously, even if you don't see smoke.

Leave your apartment immediately if it is safe to do so.

Do not stop to gather belongings, your safety comes first.

Before you open the door, feel it to see if it's hot, if it is, do not open it, if it is cool, open slowly and look for smoke.

Evacuate safely by using the nearest stairway, never use the elevator.

Stay low, if there is smoke, crawl if needed.

Follow **exit** signs. Close doors behind you, if possible, it helps slow the fire).

If you use a walker, wheelchair, or need help, go to your patio or balcony and fire rescue will assist from there. Do not attempt the stairs alone, if it is unsafe to do so.

Once you are outside, gather in the circle driveway. If it is winter, make your way to one of the garages.

Do not re-enter the building, and stay clear of fire trucks and firefighters.

Never assume a false alarm.

Never hide in your apartment unless instructed by emergency personnel.

Never re-enter to retrieve pets or belongings.

Prepare Ahead

Know at least two ways out of your apartment, if possible.

Review the fire evacuation chart (purple diagram) on the back of your apartment door.

Keep hallways and exits clear at all times.

If you have a pet in your apartment, please display a red and white sticker that lets emergency personnel know there is an animal in your unit.

If you do not have one of these stickers, please see the office.



Updated January 23, 2026

What 21 Years working at Michigan Shores Has Taught Me

When I started working at Michigan Shores 21 years ago, I thought I was taking a job. What I didn't realize was that I was joining a community, collecting a lifetime of stories, and quietly earning a degree in patience, humor, and humanity.

Over the years, I've learned a few important things.

I've learned that our residents are some of the funniest people you'll ever meet, especially when they don't mean to be. I've heard jokes that could never be printed here, stories that start with "Don't tell anyone I told you this," and advice I didn't ask for but definitely needed.

I've learned that time moves quickly. One day you're welcoming someone to their new apartment, and the next you're realizing you've known them longer than some of your own relatives. Birthdays, anniversaries, losses, celebrations—we share it all, often quietly, sometimes loudly, always together.

I've learned that independence matters. Whether it's fixing something themselves before calling maintenance or insisting they "don't need help yet," that sense of dignity is powerful—and deserves respect.

I've learned that change is hard. New policies, new faces, new routines... but with patience, kindness, and a little humor, even change eventually finds its place.

I've learned that this building is more than walls and hallways. It's morning coffee conversations, doors left open just a crack, holiday potlucks, and neighbors checking on neighbors. Its friendships formed later in life and turn out to be some of the strongest.

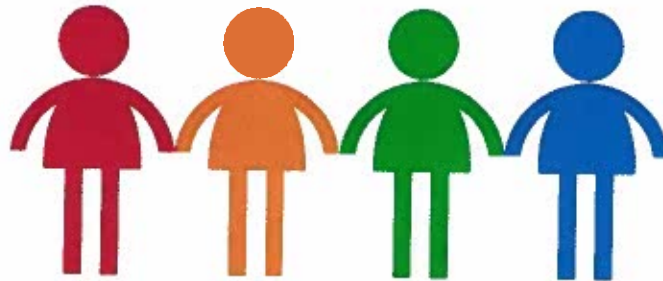
I've learned that listening is often more important than fixing. Sometimes what someone really needs isn't a solution, it's someone to hear their story for the tenth time and smiles like it's the first.

And finally, I've learned that working here isn't just what I do, it's part of who I am. This community has shaped me just as much as I hope I've helped shape it. I've laughed here, cried here, grown here, and been incredibly grateful to be part of something so special.

Thank you to the members who have trusted me, challenged me, teased me, and taught me over the last 21 years. It has truly been an honor to walk this journey with you.

Here's to many more stories, shared laughs, and moments that remind us all that home is about people—not just a place.

~ Shirley Robert, *Cooperative Manager*



FEBRUARY SMILERS

Today I learned that 90% of bald people still have a comb. I guess they don't know how to part with it.

When you use the restroom in Italy, maybe European.

What if the grocery stores close and we have to hunt for food?

I don't even know where little Debbie lives.

The worst part about parallel parking is the witnesses.

The problem with political jokes is sometimes they get elected.

~ Dodie B. #310

COMMUNITY OUTREACH SPEAKER

Josh Stoltz, the Executive Director of Grow Benzie, will join us here at Michigan Shores on February 10th at 10am in the Great Room.

Josh grew up in Benzie County and returned to lead Grow Benzie ten years ago. Before returning home, he ran marketing and sales ventures in Arizona and Florida.

He also received a Mandela Washington Fellowship to study food systems in Mozambique and a Rotary Changemaker Fellowship

to study systems change in England and Russia.

Now he is leading Grow Benzie, our county's Rural Prosperity Incubator. This is a non-profit organization that helps local initiatives prosper by providing shared business services and collaborative space. Josh will share his knowledge and excitement about this work that is strengthening local non-profits and enterprises.

Maybe you've driven by the Grow Benzie property on highway 115 on your way to Benzonia.

Perhaps you've wondered: what is that? Now is your chance to learn and ask questions from the director himself. So do save the date.

February Birthdays

08 – Joe G. (301)

09 – Linda K. (207)

12 – Mary S. (112)

14 – Delores J. (311)

22 – Lynn V. (314)

25 – Sue G. (106)

Happy birthday from all of us at MSC! If we missed your birthday, we're sorry, please let the office know.

Dates & Events in February 2026

10 – 10 a.m. – Josh Stoltz speaker in The Great Room
12 – Lincoln's Birthday
14 – Valentines Day
16 – Presidents' Day – No mail
18 – Ash Wednesday, First of Ramadan
22 – Washington's Birthday
24 – 10:00 a.m. Regular Meeting of the Board
25 – Sue Garrison's 90th Birthday party in The Great Room from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Member participating in the replacement of Air Conditioner program.

A few years ago, the board of directors approved a partnership with the members, to replace working air conditioners in their units, for a subsidized cost. The cooperative agreed to pay the first \$1,000 towards a new AC unit installed in the apartment, and the members paid the difference, which has averaged a little under \$900.

The cooperative committed to replacing up to 5 units per year. To date, we have replaced 15 original AC units in apartments,

plus the common spaces on 2nd and 3rd floor, and the office.

This year the program is again, 5 members apartments, plus the north and south guestrooms.

We have 5 spots available each year, two of these are already filled for 2026. We have three (3) open spots.

If you would like to participate in the program, please let me know before February 15th, 2026. The members' portion will be due at the time of ordering the AC units, we anticipate installing them in late spring, in time for the hot summer days.

~ Shirley R.

Garage Door Damage – Notice to Residents

Recently, the south garage door was damaged after being struck by a vehicle entering the garage. A notice was previously sent asking the party responsible to contact the office so the repair could be handled through insurance.

As of today, no one has come forward, and the cooperative has paid \$633.60 to our garage door service company for the repair.

If you accidentally caused this damage, please contact the office as soon as possible so we can work with your insurance company to reimburse the cooperative for the repair cost. Accidents happen, and we appreciate your honesty and cooperation in helping keep shared expenses fair for everyone.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

The damage was done around January 12th or 13th. We will be reviewing security camera recordings that could tell us what car caused the damage, but wanted to give the person a chance to let us know.

~ Shirley R. (office)

2025 Maintenance Work Orders

Each member should have received an email on January 23rd, 2026 with a report showing the maintenance work order requests turned into the office, for their unit.

The maintenance requests for the individual units detail various issues reported by members, along with their resolutions and statuses.

- **Total Requests:** 175 maintenance requests logged from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025.
- **Status of Requests:** All requests are marked as "Work Completed."
- **Categories of Issues:** Requests cover various categories such as Plumbing, Electrical, Heating/Air Conditioning, and Other.

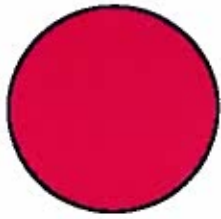
Thanks to Dave for the efficiency in the quick turnaround on requests.

Members play an important role in turning in work orders promptly, so issues can be addressed in a timely manner.

~ Shirley R. (Office)



Red Round Stickers on Artwork



You will start noticing red round stickers on some of the common space hallways and rooms.

Please do not remove these stickers. We are in the process of an exciting project, marking the Michigan Shores inventory of hallway & common space artwork.

We promise they wont stay on forever, but the initial marking of the artwork is paramount in the committees' efforts to determine ownership of common area artwork.

Thanks!

Michigan Shores Book Club

We will be meeting Monday February 16, 2023 at 3:00 PM in the Board Room. Up for discussion is "The Widows War" by Sally Gunning. This is a story about the reaction of a woman who is widowed, being left to her son-in-law to "manage". It is an interesting story about a time when women could not own property, or any thing else! An

interesting step back into another world.

Future reads are:

March: The Frozen River by Ariel Lawton

April: Twice by Mitch Albom

May: Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Please feel free to join us! More and various viewpoints make for interesting discussions!

Telfer Mook – Founder of Michigan Shores Cooperative

We all know about—and greatly admire—Telfer’s forty years in the missionary field and his fabulous experiences teaching Japanese schoolchildren during World War II. But since he is among close friends today, I thought I would tell you about some of the other parts of his life.

Telfer was born in the small town of Metuchen, New Jersey. Growing up there, he aspired to become a teacher—and when you get right down to it, that’s exactly what he became: a teacher. He also happened to be a darn good tennis player.

He studied pre-law at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. At the same time, Jane was attending Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, about one hundred miles south of him. When they met—on a blind date—she was a freshman and he was a sophomore.

This was no high-speed romance. Over the next five years, he saw her only seven times. But, as many of us did in those days, they relied on the postal service to strengthen their relationship.

After Dartmouth, Telfer received a fellowship at Trinity College at Cambridge University in England, while Jane attended the Sorbonne in Paris. Eventually, when he returned to the United States and entered Yale Law School, they decided to save on postage—and got married.

Jane grew up in Des Moines, Iowa. After passing the bar, Telfer began practicing law there with Jane’s brother, a Harvard Law School graduate. He specialized in family partnership tax law. Ask him sometime to tell you the story about two farmers’ wives who cured sore throats in 8,000 turkeys using 55 gallons of Argerol.

During his Des Moines career, while in the midst of a fight to reform a corrupt city hall into a city-manager form of government, Telfer received a visit from Hubert Humphrey. Humphrey, who had admired Telfer’s work from afar, asked him to run for Congress. Wow.

Almost the very next day, his minister—who had accepted a call to become senior pastor at the prestigious First Congregational Church in suburban Chicago—asked Telfer to come with him as his associate. Wow, again. With no theological training and a career as an attorney, Telfer nevertheless said “yes”—a measure of both his confidence in himself and his faith in others.

While in Chicago, he attended seminary at the University of Chicago and, as he likes to say, while holding a full-time job, managed to compress three years of schooling into five.

Next, he went to Concord, Massachusetts, to serve a church that had only eight pastors in its first 230 years of existence. For the first one hundred years, there were only two—now that is what you call long-term employment.

After three years in Concord, Telfer was asked by the Overseas Mission Board to serve as a missionary in South India. This would certainly break Concord's long-term tradition, but the church agreed he could go if they would sponsor him. And so, they were off to "India's sunny clime," marking the beginning of forty years in the missionary field.

Telfer retired in 1983 to his summer place on Crystal Lake.



LIBRARY NOTES *by Janey*

I am going to get right to listing books as we have had another WOW month! Great variety!

Mystery:

The Girl From Devils Lake - J.A. Vance
Paradox - Catherine Coulter
East Of The Mountains - David Guterson
We Solve Murders - Richard Osman
The Shop On Hidden Lane - Jayne Ann Krentz
Sharp Force - Patricia Cornwell
Unfinished Business - J.A. Vance
With My Little Eye - Joshilyn Jackson

Bio:

Edison - Neil Baldwin
On Call - Anthony Fauci

Inspirational:

Perfectly You - Mariann Atencio
90 Minutes in Heaven by Don Piper
The Good Fight - Holmes/Roth

Misc:

Cookbook: The Anti-Inflammatory Diet

Michigan: Odd Ball Michigan - Jerome Pohler

Politics: Dallas 1963 - Minutaglio/Davis

NonFiction:

The Junction Boys (Bear Bryant) - Jim Dent
The Last Outlaws - Tom Clavin
The Road - Cormac McCarthy
Missoula - Jon Krakauer
Into The Wild - Jon Krakauer
Where Men Win Glory - Jon Krakauer

Random Acts Of Medicine - Anupam Jena
My Life Saving Cold Cases - Paul Holes

Readers Digest Fiction Favorites:

Perfect Storm - Paige Shelton

Welcome To Murder Week - Karen Dukess

I Need You To Read This - Jessa Maxwell

Yours Eventually - Nora Maznavi

2026

FEBRUARY

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Knitting group 1pm second floor	Exercise at 1pm Tues & Thurs 2:00 bridge Tues		Mahjongg 2pm third floor		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 10:00 Brunch
8	9 10:00 Shorebirds Meeting	10 Josh Stoltz Executive director of Grow Benzie	11	12	13	14 Valentines Day
15	16 Presidents Day 3:00 Book Club	17	18 Ash Wednesday First day of Ramadan	19	20	21 6:00 Potluck Dinner
22 George Washington's Birthday	23	24 10:00 Board Meeting	25 Sue Garrison 90 th Birthday Celebration 3-5	26	27	28

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Coffee Hour 9-10 am Great Room

Happy Hour 5-6pm in Great Room