

# Around the Shores Newsletter

May 2026



**The Frankfort High School  
Student Service Day May 5th.**



Michigan Shores is honored to host 10-12 students to work on our premises. The students always enjoy this day so much.

Every year members have volunteered to supply some drinks and cookies to the students.

Many thanks to these members for their contributions:  
Dennis Johnson, Soda. Linda Miner, Melanie Beagle & Janey Warriner, cookies. Debbie Clement for potato chips.

**Exercise Class**

As a compromise to the current Tuesday and Thursday 1:00 workouts I'd like to try to run both exercise CDs back-to-back.

The easier one and then harder one starting at 1:00 so stretching and strength will be at 1:00 it is the old CD, and the Cardio Chair workout will start at 1:40 please come to one or both as your schedule permits. I hope this works for everyone.

Side note I will be here this week to start the CDs, but I'm headed to Colorado next week to move my daughter out of the dorm and then I will be back to help with playing the exercise CDs.

Very respectfully,  
Eric Garrison

## **MAY SMILERS**

New research is out today that confirms swimming is the best form of physical activity. It is absolutely critical for your body, especially if you are drowning.

\*\*\*\*

I just purchased an original  
Van Gogh coffee table.

I know it's original because there is a bit of veneer missing.

\*\*\*\*\*

If you're happy and you know it stay in bed. If you're happy and you know it stay in bed. If you're happy and you know it, getting up will surely blow it, if you're happy and you know it stay in bed.

\*\*\*\*\*

In the United States, Mothers' Day is the day when the least amount of crimes is committed, which says a lot about how many moms are out there committing crimes.

My mind is exceptionally quiet today. I'm suspicious that I am up to something, and I don't want to let myself know.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dodie #310

### **May Birthdays**

09 – Tom W. (210)

13 – Eric R. (317)

14 – Larry B. (117)

14 - Doug McF. (103)

22 – Dale D (208)

27 – Dan R. (206)

## **Dates & Events in May**

01-07 David vacation  
05 – Frankfort High School students serve day  
05 – National Teachers Day  
06 – National Nurses Day  
07 – Footcare 1pm – 6 pm  
11 - Shorebirds Meeting& Frankfort Fire Chief  
11-15 Frankfort Spring Clean-up week  
13 – Crystal Water Works activate sprinklers  
14, 15 & 18<sup>th</sup> – Shirley off  
16 – Armed Forces Day  
19 – 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee meeting 11:00 a.m.  
22 – Shirley off  
25 – Memorial Day – no staff  
26 - 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee meeting 11:00 a.m.

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church is collecting items for the H2A migrant workers who come each summer to work in the fields and orchards. We are looking for:

- gently used sheets and towels
- Personal care items including shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, shaving cream, shavers, toothbrushes, and soap

Residents can leave items at my apartment (204), and I'll take them to the church.

Thank you, Ginny Istnick

## **Michigan Shores Book Group**

Meeting is 3rd Monday of each month in the 3rd floor conference room. The book for this month is "Braiding Sweet Grass". We will concentrate on the first half of the book as it is long and dense.

Everyone is welcome, so come and join us for an afternoon of stimulating conversation!

## Kentucky Derby Party



Saturday, May 2, 2026 5:30 in the Great Room.  
BYOB and an appetizer to share!  
Join us for an evening of exciting horse racing, and fun.  
Everyone is welcome! Come one, come all!  
Tickets for the race (winner takes all) are \$5.00. (We draw the tickets, so don't try to handicap the race).

~ Mary P. (214)

## The Michigan Shores Outreach Speaker

Brian Norton, an adult leader of the Frankfort Robotics Team, and a few of the students. This team, FPRO, made up of Junior High students took second place in their division at the state championships in Saginaw.

They competed against 40 teams in this division. The team's performance throughout the year has earned them a place at the Houston World Championship Competition. They will be able to share with us the excitement of that recent experience as well as their robotic creations. To accommodate their school time, we are meeting in the Great Room at 3:30 pm on Tuesday, the 12th of May.

Come and appreciate the creative spirit of some of our Frankfort-Elberta young "engineers!"

~Carol E. (215)

# FIRE!!!

I hear that you get more attention if you yell fire instead of help.

I have signed up for table decorations for the month of May. I have done it before. One month I had blue stuff, one was light up pumpkins and one shiny shamrocks.

I thought this month that it might be fun if everyone helped. Look around your apartment and find something to put on a table. It can be beautiful or ugly. It can be useful or a tchotchke. It can be serious or silly. It can be valuable or from the dollar store.

I will start by putting out some items May 1st and I hope many of you add to the tables. I think it could be fun. Thanking you in advance.

Joan McFarlen

## *LIBRARY NOTES by Janey*

Something fun in donations this month is a series of **Legal Thrillers** by Michigan author Robin James.

You will find these on the bottom shelf under Mysteries.

They include:

Seasonable Doubt	First Degree
Imminent Harm	Guilty Acts
Burden of Truth	Vow if Justice
Blood Evidence	Dead Defense
Client List	Imminent Harm
Dead Law	Shadow Justice
Silent Witness	Mercy Kill
Cold Evidence	

### **Mystery:**

The Lioness by Chris Bohjain

The Widow by John Grisham

Fight For Flight by Fern Michaels

Lincoln Lawyer by John Connelly

The Narrows by John Connelly

### **NonFiction**

The Let Them Theory by Mel Robbins

### **Fiction:**

The Nantucket Restaurant by Pamela Kelly

# 2026 SPRING GARAGE SWEEP



## **NORTH GARAGE**

**Wed. May 20th,**

starting at 9a.m.

Please remove your  
vehicle from the  
garage the night  
before or by 8:30a.m.

## **SOUTH GARAGE**

**Thursday, May 21st**

starting at 9a.m. Please

remove your vehicle  
from the garage the  
night before or by  
8:30a.m.

This is a wonderful time to organize your space in the front of your parking area. Unwanted items can be placed in the dumpster; larger items can be placed on the side of the dumpster. **Please park your car in the circle drive or parking spaces immediately outside the garages.**

Let us all work together to keep our garages organized, clean & safe. You can return to your garage parking spot anytime after 2pm on the scheduled day of your garage sweep.

Shorebirds 4-13-2026  
Quorum Reached (18), 10:03 am call to order

**Minutes for March**

Bev moves to accept the minutes as read  
Jo seconds  
The motion passes by unanimous voice vote

**Treasurer report**

Carol reports that the bottles and cans gave us 29.10.  
Total of 1440.95

Bev moves to accept the minutes as reported  
Marty seconds  
The motion passes by unanimous gift vote

**Committee reports**

Fred and Carol take the recycling for April. The collection money will be given to the fire department. Doug will bring the Fire Dpt wish list. He thinks we

April potluck will be run by Bev and Carol R.

Tomorrow there is a representative Jim Throop will report on the conservation district. 10:00.

Carol & Fred is open to ideas for speakers for us.

There is some confusion over battery recycling that needs to be clarified.

**Brainstorming ideas**

Volunteers needed to run brunches and potlucks. The sign up sheet is across from the kitchen. We have had good attendance with the potlucks so far. Mary P and MaryJane are doing the KY derby party (first Saturday in May). Mary and Lin will do the strawberry social as a pop up when the berries are ripe! A barbeque would be great in summer. June is the anniversary party. The link for the board meetings needs to be put on the agenda for people to zoom in. The building and grounds will be looking into microphones and speakers to improve the sound on zoom in the great room TV. Louise will make a sign that tells people to be quiet that will hang in the great room during board meetings. Buildings and grounds are looking for volunteers. Discussion was had regarding the examination of the By-Laws and Policies. Appreciation was stated for the opportunity to chat about these ideas in a group setting.

Adjourn at 11:15

## Questions and Answers from the Cooperative Manager

### Do the members have access to financial reports, board meetings and audits?

#### Access to Financial Reports and Board Information.

We have received several inquiries regarding member access to the cooperative's financial and board-related information. We would like to confirm that all members have full access to the following:

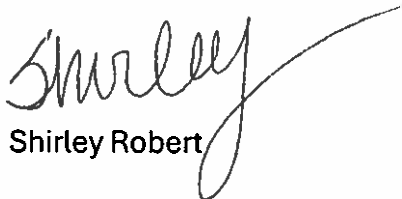
- Monthly financial reports
- Board Meeting Minutes (Regular Meetings)
- Year-End financial statements
- Financial reviews and audits

All financial reports and year-end statements are maintained in binders located in the library on the second floor for member review. Financial audits are conducted on a rotating schedule: two consecutive years of financial reviews, followed by a full audit in the third year. These audits reports are also available in the library, but typically aren't available until around mid-May.

To ensure that all members continue to have consistent access to these materials, we kindly ask that no documents be removed from the binders. Removing reports may give the impression that records are missing or unavailable to others.

Additionally, approved board meeting minutes are distributed to all members via email following each board meeting (once approved).

We appreciate your cooperation in helping maintain transparency and accessibility for all members.

  
Shirley Robert



**Is our water fountain and bottle refill station in the lobby filtered water?**

*No, it is not filtered water, the unit is filter less. However, it does have a built-in chiller which dispenses cold water.*

**Details:**

Elkay EZWSRK | Retrofit Bottle Filler Kit For use with EZ-style fountain | Filterless, Stainless Steel

**Key Specifications:**

- **Operation:** Touchless, sensor-activated bottle filler with 20-second automatic shut-off for hygienic use.
- **Flow Rate:** Provides up to 1.5 GPM for non-refrigerated connections, ensuring fast and efficient filling.
- **Filtration:** Non-filtered.
- **Green Ticker™:** Displays the number of 20 oz. plastic bottles saved from waste, promoting sustainability.
- **Antimicrobial Protection:** Key plastic components include silver ion antimicrobial agents to inhibit mold and mildew.

04/21/2026

**Volunteers Needed – 35th Anniversary Celebration!** Michigan Shores will be celebrating its 35th Anniversary on Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., and we're looking for members who would like to help plan this special event. A small Anniversary Celebration Committee will help organize ideas for the celebration, such as food, decorations, memories from the past 35 years, and activities for the day.

You don't need any special experience, just a willingness to help make this milestone celebration fun and memorable for our community! If you are interested in serving on the 35th Anniversary Committee, please contact the office by May 10th, 2026. The committee will meet on May 19<sup>th</sup>, May 26<sup>th</sup> and go from there for more meetings.

Let's celebrate 35 great years at Michigan Shores together!

Thank you to Barb & Joe Graunke who have volunteered to provide both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages to this special occasion, we appreciate you.

If anyone else would like to contribute to something, please let me know.

Committee members & Volunteers so far:

Mary Peters

Linda Johnson

Shirley Robert

Janet Crawford

Lee Muehlmann

David Baker

Sarah Thompson

Dennis Johnson

Barb & Joe Graunke will sponsor both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

Suz McLaughlin will provide appetizers, sponsored by Suzy Voltz for up to \$500.

I will have a list of services and event help needed soon.

~ Shirley Robert

- **Lake Superior is actually not a lake at all, but an inland sea.**
  - **All of the four other Great Lakes, plus three more the size of Lake Erie, would fit inside of Lake Superior.**
  - **Isle Royale is a massive island surrounded by Lake Superior. Within this island are several smaller lakes. Yes, that's a lake on a lake.**
  - **Despite its massive size, Lake Superior is an extremely young formation by Earth's standards (only 10,000 years old).**
  - **There is enough water in Lake Superior to submerge all of North and South America in 1 foot of water.**
  - **Lake Superior contains 3 quadrillion gallons of water (3,000,000,000,000,000). All five of the Great Lakes combined contain 6 quadrillion gallons.**
  - **Contained within Lake Superior is a whopping 10% of the world's fresh surface water.**
  - **It's estimated there are about 100 million lake trout in Lake Superior. That's nearly one-fifth of the human population of North America!**
  - **Lake Erie is the fourth-largest Great Lake in surface area, and the smallest in depth. It's the 11th largest lake on the planet.**
  - **There is alleged to be a 30- to 40-foot-long "monster" in Lake Erie named Bessie. The earliest recorded sighting goes back as early as 1793.**
  - **During the War of 1812, the U.S. beat the British in a naval battle called the Battle of Lake Erie, forcing them to abandon Detroit.**
  - **The shoreline of all the Great Lakes combined equals nearly 44% of the circumference of the planet.**
  - **If not for the Straits of Mackinac, Lake Michigan and Lake Huron might be considered one lake. Hydrologically speaking, they have the same mean water level and are considered one lake.**
  - **Goderich Mine is the largest salt mine in the world. Part of it runs underneath Lake Huron, more than 500 meters underground.**
  - **Below Lake Huron, there are 9,000-year-old animal-herding structures used by prehistoric people from when the water levels were significantly lower.**
  - **There are massive sinkholes in Lake Huron that have high amounts of sulfur and low amounts of oxygen, almost replicating the conditions of Earth's ancient oceans 3 million years ago. Unique ecosystems are contained within them.**
  - **Lake Huron is the second largest among the Great Lakes, and the fifth largest in the world.**
  - **In size, Lake Michigan ranks third among the Great Lakes, and sixth among all freshwater lakes in the world.**
  - **Lake Michigan is the only Great Lake that is entirely within the borders of the United States.**
  - **The largest fresh water sand dunes in the world line the shores of Lake Michigan.**
  - **Singapore, Mich., is a ghost town on the shores of Lake Michigan that was buried under sand in 1871. Because of severe weather conditions and a lack of resources due to the need to rebuild after the great Chicago fire, the town was lost completely.**
  - **In the mid-19th century, Lake Michigan had a pirate problem. Their booty: timber. In fact, the demise of Singapore is due in large part to the rapidly deforested area surrounding the town.**
  - **Lake Ontario is the smallest of the Great Lakes in surface area, and second smallest in depth. It's the 14th largest lake on the planet.**
  - **The province Ontario was named after the lake, and not vice versa.**
  - **Babe Ruth hit his first major league home run at Hanlan's Point Stadium in Toronto. It landed in Lake Ontario and is believed to still be there.**
  - **A lake on Saturn's moon Titan is named after Lake Ontario. It's called "Ontario Lacus."**
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**City of Frankfort - 2026 Spring Cleanup week  
Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup>.**

The City of Frankfort holds an annual spring clean-up in mid-May. Spring clean-up is an opportunity for residents to dispose of "bulk items" that are not generally included in garbage collection such as furniture, small appliances, boxes, etc. However, hazardous waste (paint, gas, chemicals, etc.), electronics (computers, stereos, etc.), building materials (wood, lumber, drywall, etc.) and landscape waste (trees, branches, logs, leaves, etc.) are not included in this program.

Please have your stuff at the top of our driveway by Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Let the office know if you need help moving something.



Posted April 17, 2026

## **Last month I asked our members if they remember any stories about a ghost named “Mary” who lives in the Allen LaRue Mansion?**

Seems quiet a few of you are familiar with the story.

Here’s a short, historically grounded article, built around what can be verified, while carefully framing the ghost story as local lore (since hard documentation of the mansion and 1979 article is extremely limited online and likely buried in physical archives.

### **THE ALAN LE RUE MANSION AND THE LEGEND OF MARY**

Tucked into the quiet lakeside town of Frankfort, Michigan, the so-called “Allen LaRue Mansion” has long occupied a curious place between local history and legend. While official records about the home and its original owner remain sparse, the structure itself fits comfortably among the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century homes that define much of Benzie County’s architectural character – large, wood-framed residences often tied to the lumber and shipping prosperity of the era.

Like many homes of its kind, the mansion’s documented past is fragmented. The name “Allen LaRue” does not prominently appear in widely digitized historical records, suggesting that deeper research – through deed registries, local historical societies, or archived newspapers – would be required to fully trace ownership. In communities like Frankfort, much of this kind of history still lives in physical archives rather than online databases.

What has endured more vividly is the story of Mary.

### **THE 1979 NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT**

According to local recollections, a 1979 article in the Benzie County Record Patriot referenced claims that a spirit named Mary haunted the house. While the newspaper itself has a long history documenting the region, stretching back through earlier titles and mergers, its older editions are not fully digitized, making the original article difficult to access without visiting a library or archive.

The story, as it’s been passed down, describes Mary as a lingering presence tied to the home, possibly a former resident or someone connected to a tragic event. Details vary depending on who tells it: some accounts suggest footsteps and unexplained noises, while others speak of sightings or a lingering feeling in certain rooms.

### **SEPARATING HISTORY FROM FOLKLORE**

What makes the Allen LaRue Mansion especially intriguing is the way its story reflects a broader pattern in small town history. Across northern Michigan, older homes often accumulate legends over time, particularly when ownership records fade or when dramatic events are remembered imperfectly.

Without primary documentation, Mary’s story sits firmly in the realm of folklore rather than verified history. Still, that doesn’t diminish its cultural value. In fact, these kinds of stories often preserve emotional truths about a place, echoes of past lives, losses, and the community’s collective imagination.

### **WHAT WE CAN STILL DISCOVER**

For those interested in digging deeper, several avenues could reveal more about the mansion:

1. Property records in Benzie County could confirm ownership history.
2. Local libraries or historical societies may hold the original 1979 newspaper issue.
3. Longtime residents often carry oral histories not found in written sources.
4. Newspaper archives (many not digitized) may contain references to the house or its occupants.

The Benzie County Record Patriot itself remains a key resource for uncovering these stories, with decades of local reporting that capture both fact and folklore.

### **A LIVING MYSTERY**

Whether Mary was ever real, or whether her story grew from imagination and retelling, the legend continues to give the mansion a life beyond its physical structure. In a town like Frankfort, where history and storytelling intertwine, the house stands as a reminder that not all history is written down. Some of it lingers, just out of reach.

Some comments from our own members:

**Bev Popp** – *“Absolutely heard of this, a few stories of weird happenings, a couple, close friends of our bought it several years ago and operated a bed and breakfast.*

**Terri Jones** – *“the LaRue house is in Elbert and has a Mary Ghost rumor from the 1970’s.*

**Dodie Bedell** – *“The LaRue’s raised their family here. It as more of poltergeist, I think. Before this, my colleague told me about living in one of those mansions on Leelanau which had a spirit that was definitely not a friendly. I am not 100% sure, but I think it was the LaRue’s who then moved into an old house in Elberta, remodeled and it has since been a B&B, apparently without ghosts.*

**Suzy Voltz** – *“The Texas billionaire, Andy Beale, Beale Bank, owns it now, is originally from Lansing. Married to a Russian girl. Hired a deputy sheriff to park in front of the house, \$36,000. Every night all summer for two summers. He looked at a house on the west shore that was for sale.”*

**Dan Remahl** – *“Read it years ago. I had an opportunity to speak with the sister of the prankster ho was behind it. A fun story.”*

Thanks for all your contributions!

~ Shirley R. Office.

# Coffee Service Update



**Attention Members:**

Starting immediately, coffee will be served  
**Monday through Friday ONLY.**

**No coffee service on weekends.**

Feel free to bring your own coffee and enjoy  
the Great Room on Saturdays & Sundays.

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***Thank you for your understanding.***

2026

MAY

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Knitting group 1pm second floor	Exercise Tues & Thurs 1:00 stretch and 1:45 cardio		Mahjongg 2pm third floor		
					1 David vacation	2 6:00 Kentucky Derby Party
3	4 David vacation	5 Frankfort High School students David vacation	6 David vacation	7 1-6 Footcare Clinic David vacation	8 Shirley Vacation	9
10	11 10:00 Shorebirds 10:45 Fire Chief City Spring clean	12 City Spring clean	13 Sprinklers activated City Spring clean	14 City Spring Clean Shirley Vacation	15 Armed Forces Day City Spring Clean Shirley Vacation	16 6:00 Potluck Dinner
17	18 3:00 Book Club Shirley Vacation	19 11:00 35 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee	20 North garage sweep	21 South garage sweep	22 Shirley Vacation	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26 11:00 35 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee	27	28	29	30
31						

Birthdays: 09 Tom W(218) 13 Eric R(317) 14 Larry B(117) 14 Doug M(103) 27Dan R(206)

Coffee Hour 9-10 am Great Room  
Happy Hour 5-6pm in Great Room