

CHARACTER



Goal

Sustain an environment that supports a healthy lifestyle, including many opportunities to develop the physical, mental, intellectual, spiritual, cultural and social aspects that define the culture and character of our township

Background

We are already rich in character and culture.

Our small population sustains seven church congregations. Our Northport Community Arts Center, built with \$700,000 in private contributions plus \$300,000 from the Leelanau Township Community Foundation, delivers about 18 shows a year. A fitness facility once affiliated with the hospital is now privately sustained. Our library sponsors a book-discussion group

and, in the summer, guest lectures.

For our size as a village we get a lot done, staging an annual Fishing Derby, Smelt Fry, Fly-In Breakfast, Memorial Day Service, Fourth of July extravaganza that attracts some 10,000 people, Dog Parade, Wine-Tasting, Music-in-the-Park and evening gallery crawls. A new Winter Festival promises to bring zest to the winter months, also brightened by the soups suppers our churches take turns hosting during Lent.

Our streets are never "empty": Residents like to stroll to their errands. This is an area of many familiar faces because of all the community activities including the community band and the Village Voices. We all know a whole lot of people. Picking up the mail at the Post Office can take an hour to "meet and greet" all our friends.



photos by Sharon Kalchik

& CULTURE



Objectives

• Continue to provide affordable opportunities for residents to enjoy cultural events in the performing and visual arts via the NCAC, Music at the Park, the Community Band, the Village Voices and the Leelanau layers.

• Hold an annual recognition event for volunteers who enrich our lives through their efforts to preserve the environment, serve the less fortunate and improve individuals' health and welfare.

• Create a community "Calendar of Events" coordinated by the Chamber of Commerce to promote community activities as well as those sponsored by churches and other groups.

• Survey residents about their lifelong learning interests and provide at least two opportunities annually

to participate in activities like Beyond the Books and visual and creative arts programs.

• Enroll at least 10 percent of township residents in a "community challenge" to improve physical health through participation in activities such as walking and workouts at the David H. Warm Pool and Fitness Center.

• Publicize the work of the Omena Historical Society, the Northport Area Heritage Association and the Grand Traverse Lighthouse & Museum to preserve, restore and enhance historic features of our township.

• Provide at least two affordable opportunities annually for residents to participate in visual arts education such as painting/drawing, ceramics, sculpture, quilting, photography, and stage craft.



they seek their ongoing physician care in Grand Traverse County, with a third of those saying the specialists they need are unavailable in Leelanau County.

Regarding urgent care needs:

- Since urgent care needs arise 24/7, more staff is needed and therefore a greater population is required to keep an urgent care clinic in business.
- About 70 percent of residents seek urgent care in our county; others go all the way to Traverse City. The nearest urgent care clinics are about 20 minutes away, in Suttons Bay and Lake Leelanau.

Regarding emergency care:

- Leelanau Township's EMS teams – 6 people total – are currently able to perform basic life support and are supported by Suttons Bay-Bingham EMS, which provides advanced life support.

When a 911 call comes in from Northport, both units begin rolling. Our basic unit arrives first and provides in the first 5 minutes of care the same stabilizing services an advanced unit would. It then heads south toward Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, quickly “meeting” the advanced support unit heading north from Suttons Bay. The sick person is either transferred to the advanced unit, or the advanced team boards our basic unit for the rest of the ride to Munson.

- In 2004, about 100 individuals from Leelanau Township were transported in medical emergencies. With the closure of the Northport ER, that number has risen slightly and is expected to reach 150 transports in 2005.

That is far too low a number to support an advanced life support unit in Northport, since experts say teams need to work

with about 1,000 transports per year to keep their advanced life support skills fresh.

- The average EMS response time in Leelanau Township is 8.3 minutes, which is considered excellent.

Objectives

- Health care services will remain in Leelanau Township – or be added – based solely on how many people choose to use local services. For example, Mark Eichenlaub, a well-known physician's assistant, opened a clinic in Northport in spring 2005, providing primary care, lab services and referrals to Munson Medical Center.
- Likewise, the pool and fitness center formerly operated by the Leelanau Memorial Health Center will survive if it holds enough members to meet its expenses. A best new use for the hospital building would be one that is compatible with maintaining that center.
- EMS will remain swift and excellent, transporting the seriously ill to Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, recognized as among the top 100 U.S. hospitals.
- The changing age of our population combined with demographic changes in the County have resulted in plans for a new long-term care facility in a more central location. This allows our population to join other communities to support its use.

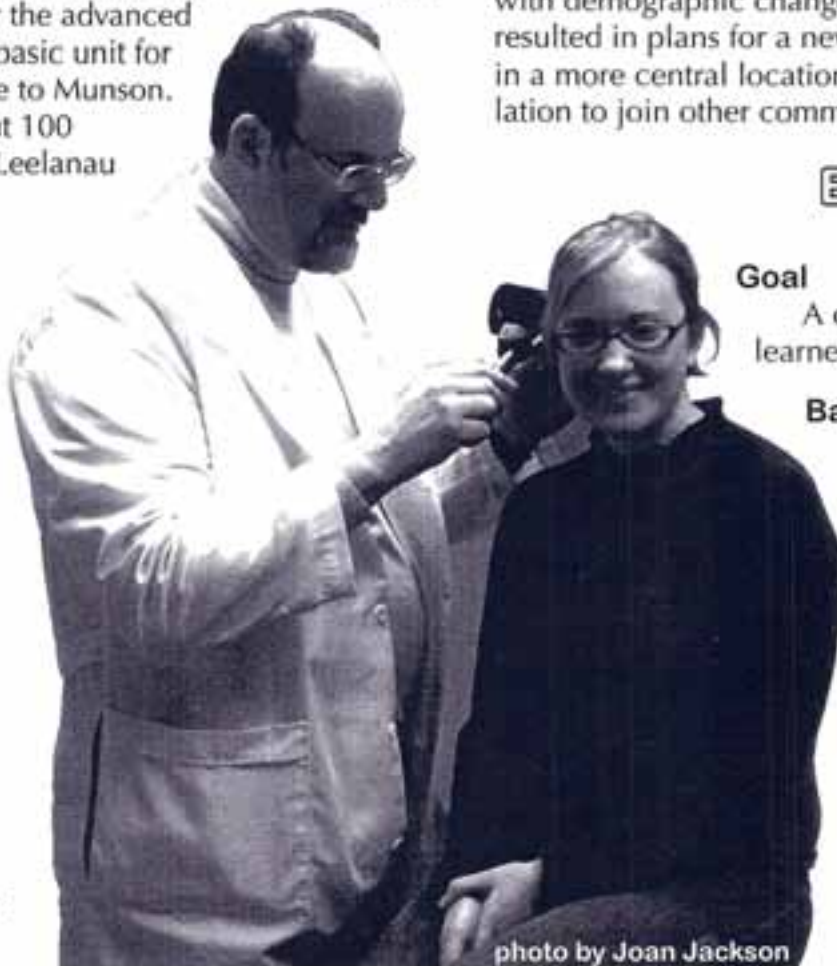


photo by Joan Jackson

Education

Goal

A community of life-long learners.

Background

A school has served the children of Leelanau Township since 1857. But the school has also served those children's parents, grandparents and even those residents who have never set foot in it. It provides a welcome vitality and energy. Its sports teams give us someone to root for. Its musical and theatrical

performances give us joy. And, its very existence gives us hope for the future.

Enrollment has never been huge: The school's biggest year was 1951-52, with 407 students. But in recent years enrollment has steadily slipped. The 2005 graduating class is 21, with total enrollment at 164.

The current superintendent has tried to merge our tiny district with Traverse City's big one, but the law was swiftly changed to prevent that possibility. The superintendent, retiring this year, has also suggested closing the high school, busing older students to other nearby schools.

Financially the school is on solid ground, spending about \$17,000 per student by being "out of formula." That means non-homestead tax revenues are so large that we receive no state money (which comes from homestead taxes). But as a new superintendent arrives this year, questions are being raised about how and whether the school can provide a rich education for the 21st century.

Meanwhile, adults in the area have enjoyed courses taught by volunteers at the school under the Beyond the Books program, begun in the fall of 2002 and organized by a committee of volunteers. In fall, winter and spring, three or four courses are taught on subjects ranging from mushrooming to investing. About 350 people have passed through 22 courses in the program, which charges each student just \$10 to cover the cost of administration.

In addition, the Leelanau Township Library conducts a monthly Book Club discussion.

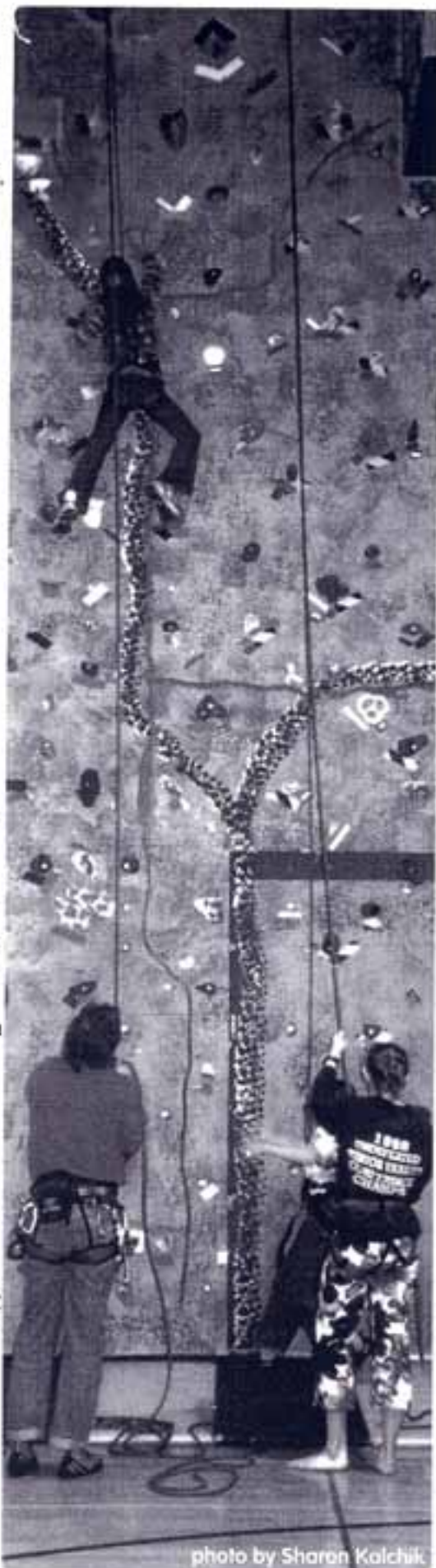


photo by Sharon Kolchik

And the Grand Traverse Lighthouse & Museum presents several lectures in the fall, winter and spring at the Northport School, on maritime and local history.

Objectives:

- Hire a director of early childhood education who is passionate, enthusiastic and positive, and who can coordinate programs, communicate with parents, investigate grant opportunities and possibly teach as well.
- Conduct home visits of children from birth to age 5.
- Offer a variety of parent-education opportunities regarding childhood development.
- Remodel the Discovery Center to bring it up to code to house infants and toddlers.
- Create a multi-age preschool for children 3 and 4 years old at the Northport Public School.
- Plan programs based on the Michigan Department of Education's "Early Childhood Standards of Quality" document and the "Michigan School Readiness Program" guidelines.
- Maintain a K-12 program in the Northport Public School.
- With kindergarten as a half-day program, support or enrich activities for the other half of the day.
- Provide a spot in the school for parents to gather, chat and drink coffee as they drop off their children.
- Continue and expand educational opportunities for all ages.
- Boost participation in Beyond the Books by increasing publicity, and by paying a part-time organizer.

What Next? What Next?

This vision for our future is not just idle chatter. Many citizens of our township have talked about change, argued about how it should look and taken early steps, both tentative and bold, to make it happen.

We the people who live and work here want to see Leelanau Township become a culturally, socially, economically and environmentally viable community with a diverse population in a healthy and safe rural environment in which conservation of the environment and economic development are compatible objectives...

We have a choice. We can sit back and hope for the best, or we can step up and work together toward our goals. That means showing up and speaking out at the meetings of local governments, boards and commissions that make policy – and can make change – for the place we love.

Let us join hands, hearts and minds to take charge of our future...

A NEW HORIZON FOR LEELANAU TOWNSHIP

CREDITS

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Original Members, 2002

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(disbanded after acquiring 2000 census data.)
Helena Travis, Gerald R. Woods, Rick Miller, Lowell Jackson

Communications

(disbanded after helping the township achieve a newsletter published three times a year.)
Mary Lyons, Ann Marie Mitchell, Pauline McClure, Mary Tonnenberger, Sharon Kalchik, Sue O'Connor

Helpful Others

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Special Acknowledgement to the following:

Visioning Report Writer:

Susan Ager – Susan is a featured columnist with the Detroit Free Press. She and her husband, Larry Coppard, live and work here in Northport. Susan volunteered to compile the committee reports and she created this comprehensive narrative. We are very appreciative of her willingness to share her talent!

Photographers:

Joan Jackson and Sharon Kalchik – Both Joan and Sharon donated their pictures to enhance "New Horizons". They both have roots that go back many generations in Leelanau Township.

Designer:

Tara Stoffel (tstoffel@villagepress.com)
– Tara is a Northport High School Senior, honor student, and trustee of The Leelanau Township Community Foundation. We are very proud to have her donate her skills to create this attractive document.

Printer:

MYERS PRINTING SERVICE of Traverse City.

Attachment A: Visioning Survey

This survey was distributed to people attending Music in the Park events during the summer of 2003. Of the 170 respondents, 64% are year-round residents, 19% are seasonal residents, and 17% are "other."

Taxes: 51% pay homestead taxes, 23% pay non-homestead taxes, 8% pay both

Children: 51% have children beyond school age, 30% have no children, 19% have school age children

Northport/Leelanau Township should make the following improvements: (Circle only those you wish to see done NOW and indicate the relative important of each improvement -- very, somewhat or not important)

- Build a municipal water treatment system in Northport (155)
Very Important 74% Somewhat Important 18% Not important 8%
- Facilitate the building of family housing to encourage young families and others who work here to settle here (158)
Very Important 65% Somewhat Important 26% Not important 9%
- Consider collaboration or consolidation of Northport Schools with another district (153)
Very Important 54% Somewhat Important 31% Not important 15%
- Find ways to encourage 18-30-year-olds to locate here (155)
Very Important 59% Somewhat Important 30% Not important 11%
- Create new job opportunities (162)
Very Important 64% Somewhat Important 30% Not important 6%
- Improve communication between citizens and local government, including the schools (156)
Very Important 67% Somewhat Important 31% Not important 2%

Please indicate other things you see as areas that are important to you, such as enlarging the marina, making Northport more accessible to the handicapped, etc. (The following is based on 80 responses.)

- Expand business, add Chamber of Commerce, economic development (16%)
- Improve marina, parks, beaches (16%)
- Focus on aesthetics, gardens, add rest rooms (15%)
- Need more sports, social activities, youth activities, spa (15%)
- No changed needed, keep quaint, no development, local flavor (14%)
- Merge village and township, listen more, reduce taxes, esp. non-homestead (9%)

Attachment B: Land Use Survey

This survey was distributed to Leelanau Township farmers in November of 2004. Of the 66 farmers in the township, 43 were contacted personally by members of the Land Use subcommittee. Twenty-seven farmers returned surveys.

Here is what the surveys indicated:

- 9 farmers lease additional land to farm; 4 lease parts of their land to other farmers.
- The farms range in size from 38 to 300 acres, while the smallest acreage being farmed is 7 acres and the largest is 150.
- 13 of the 27 farmers expect to retire within the decade, or have already retired, while 7 expect to keep farming longer than a decade.
- 16 farmers would like to keep the farm in the family, while 7 of those would also like to keep the land in Ag or Open Space. Ten would like to see their land kept in Ag or Open Space, regardless of whether it was kept in the family or sold. Three would like to keep the house and grounds and sell the rest of the land. Eight would like to sell everything, and 7 would consider an option to keep the land in Ag and not developed.
- 15 farmers ranked "slowing down the conversion of township farmland" as very or somewhat important.
- Almost all of the farmers – 23 – said the 10-acre minimum split is a bad idea. Only 2 called it a good idea.
- 15 like the Density Option idea, while 9 do not.
- 11 would like PA #177 applied on our lands, while 8 would not and 6 need more information.
- Only 3 farmers are enrolled in PA #116.
- Most farmers know Leelanau County has a PDR program, but only 11 would consider selling their development rights, and most (15) oppose using public funds or taxes to fund a PDR.

Attachment C: Health Care Survey

This survey was distributed to Leelanau Township residents in March of 2005. Of the 308 people who responded, about one-third are residents: 91% full-time (10 months of more), 9% part-time. Forty-nine percent have been residents for more than 20 years, 38% for 6-20 years, and 13% for 5 years or less.

1. Who is your primary care provider?

69% said Family Practitioner
34% said Internist

2. Where is your primary provider located?

59% said Suttons Bay
46% said Grand Traverse County

3. What is MOST important when choosing a primary care provider (pick up to 3)?

69% said Quality of Care
52% said Location: Convenient to Home

42% said Qualifications of Provider
38% said Accepts Insurance

28% said Attentiveness of Provider

4. Main reason you do not see a provider in Leelanau County (pick up to 3)?

48% said they were satisfied with their GTC provider

33% said no specialists available more locally

13% cited inconvenient location\

5. How important is it to have

"Urgent Care" available in Leelanau County?

79% said "very"

15% said "somewhat"

6% said "not at all"

6. Where do you go MOST FREQUENTLY to meet your family's urgent care needs?

54% said Leelanau Memorial Health Center (LMHC)

16% said provider elsewhere in the county

14% said provider in Traverse City

8% said Munson Medical Center Emergency Room

5% said a Traverse City urgent care facility

3% said "other"

7. How would you rate your ability to get non-emergency health care services after LMHC closes?

34% said "average"

18% said "below average"

17% said "excellent"

16% said "poor"

15% said "above average"

8. What is your primary reason for this rating?

56% said "location"

20% said "quality of provider"

7% said "hours"

5% said "transportation"

9a. Where do you currently use laboratory services?

58% said within Leelanau County

27% said Munson Medical Center

9b. What is your first choice for

Attachment C: Health Care Survey

laboratory services in the future?

62% said within Leelanau County

18% said Munson Medical Center

10a. Where do you currently use physical therapy services?

34% said within Leelanau County

9% said MCHC

10% said MMC

10b. What is your first choice for this service in the future?

60% said Leelanau County

19% said "don't know"

11% said MMC

8% said MCHC

11a. Where do you currently use mammography services?

39% said Leelanau County

26% said MMC

12% said MCHC

11b. What is your first choice for using this service in the future?

52% said Leelanau County

24% said MMC

22% said "other"

11% said "don't know or N/A"

6% said MCHC

12a. Where do you currently use X-ray services?

54% said Leelanau County

29% said MMC

8% said MCHC

12b. What is your first choice for using this service in the future?

63% said Leelanau County

21% said MMC

13a. Where do you currently go for cardiac specialty services?

28% said Traverse City

11% said "physician recommendation"

13b. What would be your first choice for using that service in the future?

55% said Traverse City

17% said "physician recommendation"

14a. Where do you currently go for cancer care?

33% said Traverse City

10% said "physician recommendation"

14b. What would be your first choice for receiving that care in the future?

57% said Traverse City

18% said "physician recommendation"

15a. Where do you currently go for orthopedic care?

43% said Traverse City

14% said "physician recommendation"

15b. What would be your first choice for that care in the future?

61% said Traverse City

20% said "physician recommendation"

16. What provider do you see for your preventive care and/or to meet your health improvement objectives (check all that apply)?

80% said primary provider

19% said massage therapist

16% said health/fitness center

14% said chiropractor



NEW HORIZONS

photos by Sharon Kalchik



Leelanau Township Community Foundation
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