The first Campus Day was held in the fall of 1955, just after NMC moved to its current campus. Classes were cancelled for the day, and the combined efforts of students and faculty saved the college money in clearing and developing the wooded area around campus, as well as sprucing things up. Major projects were completed, such as washing windows, painting, raking, and clearing land. Heavy work, including the removal of tree stumps, was done by hand until 1957, when the college purchased a bulldozer that students nicknamed “Ezmeralda.”

Starting in 1965, Campus Day moved to the spring. This timed the cleanup with both commencement and the NMC Barbeque. It has been resurrected several times since 1991, primarily with faculty and staff as volunteers.

Register to Vote Now For the Midterm Election

Verify voter registration status, find your polling location, and see a sample ballot at mi.gov/vote.

Register at NMC!

Register in person at the Osterlin Library between 10am–2pm on Tuesday, Sept. 25 and Wednesday, Sept. 26.

Register by mail!

Obtain a voter registration application at your local Secretary of State branch, or by filling out the online PDF available at mi.gov/vote (click “How to Register to Vote” from the side menu). Hand deliver or mail the application in to your city or county clerk.

Election Day: Tuesday, Nov. 6

Last Day to Register: Tuesday, Oct. 9
Alumni Spotlight: Larry Inman

Larry Inman graduated from Trenton High School in 1972, with his eye set on becoming a police officer. Northwestern Michigan College had one of the top law enforcement programs in the state, so he and a friend decided to make the move to Traverse City and enroll in NMC together. “It was a different culture from high school to college,” Inman said. “That’s when you grow up, when you’re leaving the house. It turns you from a kid to an adult when you go to community college. It was a great learning experience and the transferable credits were very strong, because NMC was highly recognized by other universities for their great academics.”

Though he finished his bachelor’s degree in law enforcement from Northern Michigan University, there was little opportunity to be found in his chosen career path. “At that time, most police departments were not hiring. They were laying off, there was a recession. I thought, ‘I gotta do something, I’ve got to find something.’” Inman stressed that you should be prepared to take a different path in both your career and your life. “You have to think about ‘if I don’t get this job in the direction that I want to go into, what would be another option I can think about?’ You have to prepare for that option.” Inman changed career directions. He was hired at Empire National Bank (now Huntington National Bank) in Traverse City and returned to NMC, taking night classes to earn his banking certificate. “Just about every banker in Traverse City was there, and we all got certificates in this business banking degree that they had.” He moved through the ranks quickly at work, eventually becoming vice president of the bank.

While working for the bank, Inman was deeply involved in the community, both in Grand Traverse County and the broader Michigan area. He was the recipient of both NMC’s Outstanding Alumni Award and NMU’s Distinguished Alumni Award in 2005. Inman sat on multiple boards, was a county commissioner for over 20 years, and helped run three successful campaigns for former Governor John Engler. When questioned about this breakneck schedule, he responded with a chuckle, “I had a big passion for it, but really, I was young enough and had the energy for it. I’m not sure I could do it today.”

He eventually retired from the bank in 2007 and it did little to slow him down. Inman continued to work throughout the area, but had one goal in the forefront of his mind: “When I went down to Lansing, I’d always look at the capital and say, ‘One day, one of my goals in life is to work at the capital; to be a state representative.’” In 2014, he achieved that goal and is currently running for his third term as state representative of the 104th District as a Republican. His time in the state House has included being an integral part of acquiring approval for the funds necessary for NMC’s West Hall Innovation Center project. “The college is a part of my family, and I really worked hard to get this project here,” Inman said. “It’s going to change the complexion of the campus and provide new resources for the students. That right there is my little pride and joy.”

Through all his work, Inman’s love and appreciation for NMC has only deepened. “When you think back on your life, and what part of it made you successful...well, a big part of that was Northwestern Michigan College,” he said. “You become a part of the community. You meet people that become friends for life. You come back annually for the barbeque, and seeing everyone you went to school with is kind of cool. Northwestern Michigan College becomes a part of your life.”

Transfer more of your credits!

We pride ourselves on being one of the most transfer-friendly universities around. We accept up to 90 transfer credits, including both classroom and some work experience credits. We have programs that can help you earn your bachelor’s degree in as little as one year. And we offer transfer scholarships up to $6,000!

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Welcome to NMC

Students relax in the Health & Science lobby on Aug. 24.

Can I schedule an appointment for a class or piece of writing not in conjunction with NMC?

Yes. We work with students taking classes at the University Center frequently. But if you want to bring us a resume and cover letter, a scholarship essay, or your short story you’ve been secretly working on, we will gladly help you. Assistance is not limited to just articles and class papers.

How long does an appointment usually take? I only have so much time to get to my next class?

Generally, appointments run from 20 to 30 minutes. However, if you think you need to schedule more time, we can make an hour long appointment for you, too.

Where are you located and what hours is the WRC open?

The WRC is in Scholars Hall room 221 (the second floor). We’re open six days a week (never Saturday), with hours on Sunday in the Osterlin Library’s reference section. See our hours online at nmc.edu/writing-center.

How can I contact you?

• Phone: 995-1189
• Email: writingcenter@nmc.edu
• Web: nmc.edu/writing-center

OSTERLIN LIBRARY
by Tina Uleich, Director of Library Services
What’s LNAF?
The Long Night Against Procrastination is an event held in the library at the end of every fall and spring semester when the library stays open until 2am. There’s free pizza and tons of food. Librarians, Writing and Reading Center staff, and tutors available to help, a raffle at midnight, and lots of time to finish the paper or project you’ve been avoiding. Also... food.

WRITING AND READING CENTER
by Liam Strong, Writing Center Reader
What kind of help can I get?
The Writing and Reading Center (WRC) offers peer assistance with all types of writing at any stage of the writing process. You’ll receive help with comprehension, brainstorming, revision, organization, citations, and grammar.

Can I just come in anytime?
You can come as a walk-in, but it’s preferred to schedule an appointment in advance to secure you a time that works best for both you and one of our readers. You can also schedule a phone conference by filling out our online phone appointment form.

Will my credits transfer?

The Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA) ensures that all 30 credits of the general education requirement for NMC’s Associate in Science and Arts (ASA) transfers as a block of credits that are applied in a blanket fashion to the general education requirements for any public university in Michigan.

We have transfer guides on the Academic and Career Advising Center (ACAC) webpage (nmc.edu/advising) that list NMC courses that will meet requirements of many majors at Michigan universities. The page links to course equivalencies so you can check how individual courses transfer from NMC.

Where should I transfer?

Here are some factors to consider:
• Major program of study
• In or out of state
• Public or private school
• Size of institution
• Cost
• Culture or reputation of school
• Location of school

How will my SAT scores affect me as a transfer student?

Once you complete a certain number of college credits (around 24–30 credits), most schools aren’t going to look much at your SAT scores, if at all. As a transfer student, schools are most interested in your college GPA.

How can I raise my GPA?
The best way to raise GPA is to get high grades. Look at your study habits, and determine what you’re doing when you’re most successful, and how to mitigate what you’re doing when you’re least successful. Think about skills, such as time management, being proactive, or organization, that would help you to grow. If you aren’t sure how to identify or work on these skills, NMC has resources to help. Communicate with instructors, and ask questions.

Another way to raise GPA is to re-take courses with lower grades. An advisor can help you understand the possible impact on your GPA. If you’re transferring, be aware that the receiving institution may calculate your GPA differently than NMC.

Financial Aid Won’t cover my classes next semester. What’s going on?

It could be several things. It is important to work with Student Financial Services when you have questions about your aid. Financial aid won’t cover courses that don’t go toward requirements of your declared program of study at NMC. Use MAP, located in MyNMC Self Service, to identify courses that go toward your program, and work closely with an advisor.

I have a hold on my account and can’t register. What do I do?

There are many different holds that can affect registration. The ACAC primarily works with two holds affecting registration: first semester advising or probation.
• First semester advising holds require students to review academic options with an advisor before registering.
• Probation holds occur anytime your cumulative GPA falls below 2.0. We’ll come up with ideas to achieve your goals at the required advisor meeting.
• Other holds affecting your account are seen on your study transcript, along with a contact number for the department that placed the hold.

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Yes. We work with students taking classes at the University Center frequently. But if you want to bring us a resume and cover letter, a scholarship essay, or your short story you’ve been secretly working on, we will gladly help you. Assistance is not limited to just articles and class papers.

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Welcome to NMC

Ann Hosler

Editor in Chief

In our Aug. 24 issue, we asked several campus services to identify frequently asked questions that will benefit your experience at NMC. With an overwhelming response we couldn’t print everything. Here’s more great information from Academic Advising, Osterlin Library, and the Writing & Reading Center.
Checking Out Osterlin Library

Emily Slater  Osterlin Library is already a top contender for the best study spot on campus—a wall of windows looking out at NMC’s beautiful tree-filled lawn, access to all course textbooks, free printing and copies, Wi-Fi, computers (you can even check out Chromebooks!), and a cafe for important study break snacks. A new online catalog and self-checkout system added this summer aims to maximize your library experience by making searching for and checking out books quick and convenient.

The new online catalog (found at nmc.edu/library) allows you to search for any book in Osterlin. You can put books on hold to pick up at the front desk the next time you’re in the library and renew ones you’ve already checked out. Found what you need at the library but in a hurry to leave for your next class? Bypass the front desk line and use one of the two new self-checkout kiosks. It’s as simple as scanning your student ID card, plopping down your stack of books on the machine (the scanner can read multiple book barcodes at once, making the already simple process a total breeze), and choosing a print or email receipt. You’ll also receive due date reminders and late return notices by email.

NMC librarian Mary Beeker, who headed up the ambitious project this summer, said the new system has been a slow roll-out, but she has high hopes for what it could mean in the daily life of current students. “When it gets busy, I want them to have an easy way to get in and out. There’s been reports of libraries having a bump in usage (after the installation of self-checkouts),” she commented “Students might be a little bit embarrassed to check some books out, but we’re all about the freedom to read and intellectual curiosity.” Beeker hopes that shyness will be alleviated by using the self-checkout machines.

How does this new system factor into the future of Osterlin? “We did this in preparation for moving into West Hall when they renovate. We’re hoping that we can be a 24-hour library,” Beeker said. Open 24 hours! Consider that a lock on the best study spot on campus.

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Our liberal studies bachelor’s degree not only fits your busy life, it helps you achieve your unique career goals. The flexible program lets you focus on topics most relevant to you, while giving you the critical knowledge and decision-making skills you need to succeed in any field. Contact us to learn more.

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• Advanced networking. Create job connections by interacting with faculty who are experts in their field, student professionals, and industry leaders
• Seamless transfer. Meet with an advisor to see how your NMC credits can apply to a GVSU degree.
NMC Car and Truck Show

Bumper to bumper, 126 freshly waxed and polished cars filled the lawn of NMC’s automotive technology facility at the 13th annual Mike McIntosh Memorial Car & Truck show. Special edition cars, European imports, hot-rods, and many classic muscle cars had hoods proudly propped open and engines revving all around. Overlooking the scene was a ’50s Coast Guard search and rescue boat.

Center stage at this year’s event was Barney, a 1963 Ford Galaxy that the NMC Motorsports Club cloned to replicate Barney Fife’s (Don Knotts) squad car from “The Andy Griffith Show.” The event began at 11am with a roar when Barney came to life with the sound of his massive, uncorked 427 v8 engine, drowning out the PA system playing the theme of the show that made it famous.

Barney was donated to NMC six years ago, and a student noticed it was the same model Barney Fife drove in “The Andy Griffith Show.” The Motorsports Club, with the help of donations from local sponsors, built the car to match Barney’s cruiser, complete with sirens and a cherry top. It has a beautiful red interior lined with polished chrome. Barney started with a Ford 390 v8 that students bored out to 427. They also modernized the brakes and ignition system that makes their replica better suited to catch the bad guy than the original.

Also among the many unique vehicles was a 1929 Hupmobile sedan. Hupp was an automotive manufacturer based in Detroit between 1909–1939. This particular car looked sharp in black and chrome, showing off a clean 350 Chevy engine inside.

A 1968 Plymouth Roadrunner, also built in the Motor City, was the first of its model that launched with a specially made 383 v8. This car, complete with its original Looney Tunes badging and “Hemi Orange” paint job, is an immaculate example of classic American muscle by Mopar. This specific car has been owned by the same family for three generations. Purchased new and stored for 18 years, this Roadrunner only has 4,100 miles on it.

Coyote falls prey to the 1968 Roadrunner

Photos by Ann Hooper

Steven Tucker
Staff Writer

The Car & Truck Show is named for late NMC automotive instructor Mike McIntosh, who held the first event in 2004. It has since been run in his honor by Wayne Moody. Proceeds benefit the automotive technology program and gives both students and local car enthusiasts a chance to show off their cars to an appreciative crowd. The event also included a silent auction, which this year included a ’99 Ford F-150 and an ’03 Honda Element.

The largest vehicle at the car show was actually a boat. Originally a 1955 Coast Guard patrol boat built in Maryland, it ran on the Great Lakes as a search and rescue boat. It is powered by its original 671 Detroit Diesel and Allison transmission, and is equipped with a fire suppression system, as well as a water pump that moves 200 gallons per minute. NMC student Roland Schultz currently owns the boat. He acquired it after it was used as an icebreaker. After a lot of work, Schultz restored it to its original condition complete with original sirens, lights and radios. He has estimated that there was over 300 hours put into the restoration. Describing what it was like to be on the water in the 63-year-old vessel, Schultz said, “It does about 18-20 knots, so it gets up and goes, but it’s a loud sun of a gun. You need to bring earplugs with you if your trying to go anywhere.” He is currently working on a 1942 Coast Guard vessel.

Awards were given at the end of the show. The Student Pick of the Show went to the 1968 Roadrunner. Additional awards were given for the public top 30 picks, which included both Barney and the Roadrunner.
Two special Camaros—a 2010 Transformers edition and a 2013 Deadpool edition, complete with butterfly doors—sat in one corner of the show. Next to them was a beautiful Ford Fairlane that looked as though it was fresh off the 1950s factory floor. Carefully poised to show off its retractable hardtop, sunshine gleamed on its chrome trim and seamless curves of red and white interior, putting modern cars to shame.

Two recent barn finds were parked over lifts inside the autotech building. They were donated to NMC by Jerry Heim, an NMC graduate who bought the cars 40 years ago and left them parked indoors. These old Fords were washed up and wheeled out for the show. According to a note on the windshield, we may get a car chase featuring Barney and these perfectly preserved specimens in the future.

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"Barney" was replicated to perfection by the NMC Motorsports Club.
When people look for an alternative operating system (OS) that isn’t Microsoft Windows, they balk upon discovering they can’t do what they want on Linux—play games.

Steam, the primary gaming platform for many years, released a beta version of their Steam Play client on Aug. 21. Steam Play runs games on Linux and Mac systems. The Steam Gaming on Linux group has been testing Windows games and found that many work flawlessly using Steam’s Play. Out of nearly 4,000 games tested, 55.1 percent currently function, despite Steam current official support of 27 titles. Considering the Steam Play client is still in beta, these numbers are quite impressive, and it will likely improve as it approaches full release.

It is no secret that I do not like Microsoft Windows. The latest iteration, Windows 10, poses serious privacy risks to its users under the guise of better user experience. Microsoft has added a considerable amount of telemetry (the information that is sent back to their servers) to their latest OS. This exposes system information to the Internet, such as the software you run and your system settings. Users can change telemetry to the basic setting, but the default setting is for full telemetry data to be sent. There is nothing you can do to fully stop the collection of information while using Windows 10.

Since the release of Windows 10 on July 29, 2015, its usage has only reached a meager 33 percent of systems in use on the Internet according to netmarketshare.com. This may seem to be a high amount, but Windows 7, which has been used as the primary OS for computers since October 2009, is still being used by 42 percent of systems. Unfortunately, Microsoft will end support for Windows 7 on Jan. 14, 2020. Users will no longer receive updates, leaving security holes and exploits unpatched, and systems will be vulnerable to viruses and hackers.

The problems with Windows 10, as well as the forthcoming end of support for Windows 7, is good news for non-Windows operating systems. Apple has seen great growth with users since the release of in the past three years, reaching 10 percent market share for the first time in over 30 years. Additionally, Linux, which is an open source, and primarily cost-free OS, is nearing 3 percent market share. This is good news for me, a long-time Linux user.

If gaming is the reason that you have not disconnected from Windows, now might be the time to try out a distro of Linux. With the changes to the Steam Play client, gaming on alternate operating systems is becoming a viable option. The client allows a Linux or Mac system to run almost every Windows-only game. Steam Play Compatibility Reports (spcr.netlify.com) is a website where you can check your favorite games for functionality.

Check out distrowatch.org and find a version of Linux to give it a try. You’ll be surprised by what an alternate OS has to offer.

David Hosler is an instructor in the CIT Infrastructure program at NMC. Students who meet the prerequisite classes can enroll in the spring-only Linux Administration course (CIT256) when registration opens in October.
With signs in hand and voices to be heard, they marched and shouted for what they wanted: Fair, equal wages and safe staffing levels to attract and keep skilled nurses so they can give patients the care they need.

On Thursday, Sept. 13, nurses, family, friends, babies and dogs alike all gathered on the streets for the Rally for a Fair Contract. Nurses are calling for a fair nursing contract for the best quality patient care. This is not just an issue in the hospital—it affects the whole community. “Munson Medical Center nurses are our neighbors and our friends. They play a vital role in supporting healthy lives throughout our region,” stated Jim Carruthers, mayor of Traverse City, in a press release on minurses.org. The rally went from 11th Street down to Union Street where local police guided traffic to allow the rally to cross the street. Passing cars honked to show support, filling the rally with even more energy.

Meghan Griffiths was at the rally supporting her mother and the other nurses. “This is important to me because my mom is a nurse and she deserves equal pay, equal rights, equal everything. It’s not fair that they work their butts off for so little,” Griffiths said. With strong community support and dedication from the nurses, it won’t be long before they get what is crucial for keeping a healthy livelihood for the patients at Munson.

Munson Nurses Rally to Unionize

Prajakta Nivargi
Business Administration
“I am going to miss going on hikes and going to the beach. I am a very outdoorsy person. We have barbecues on the beach and I’m going to miss cooking cuisines.”

Lindsay Reed
Records & Registration
“Being homework free and able to spend more time with friends.”

Patty Nuno
Pre-Veterinary
“Late night swimming and jumping off the cold docks in Suttons Bay.”

Iryna Narolska
Business
“I’m going to miss s’mores, not having homework, and the stress-free season.”

Suzanne Rizzo
Psychology
“Going to the beach and hanging out. I’m also going to miss gardening, I’m a master gardener.”

Meghan Griffiths
Nursing
“I’m not going to miss anything about summer. I don’t like the heat or the bugs. I’m more of a winter person.”

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What will you miss most about summer?

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What will you miss most about summer?
“Disenchantment” by Richard Preston

A mysterious cave. A church administering vaccines with dirty needles in a small African village. A man spewing blood and black vomit on a packed aircraft. It all starts with a headache.

In “The Hot Zone”, Richard Preston tells the true story of a new filovirus strain emerging from the heart of Africa in the 1980s, hot on the heels of the outbreak of the AIDS virus. With a mortality rate of 90 percent, the human population becomes easy prey for the insatiable virus; a hospital can quickly become a morgue. American pathologists are fascinated, but it isn’t until a mysterious disease sweeps through monkeys in a research facility that they begin to contemplate the potential hazards of a new filovirus sweeping the nation.

Destroying a Level 4 “hot agent” is no easy task. It will take the combined forces of the United States Army and the Centers for Disease Control to give the American people a fighting chance against this unknown predator. Preston keeps you awake at night wondering if you’re having a migraine, or if you have a filovirus coursing through your veins, waiting to spew out of your every orifice.

“Spillover” by David Quammen

What do horses in Australia, bats on multiple continents, and monkeys in Africa have in common? Two decades after “The Hot Zone” brought viruses to the forefront of collective consciousness, David Quammen’s “Spillover” picks up where Richard Preston left us hanging. His story takes readers on a wild ride in order to explore the zoonotic origins of various viruses that have ravaged humans in order to surmise from where “the Next Big One” will come.

Zoonosis, the transfer of diseases from animals to humans, has given us nightmares such as Ebola, Marburg, Hendra, and one of the worst epidemic in modern human history: HIV. Quammen hops from continent to continent, chasing down scientists who have come face-to-face with death and lived to tell about it in the hope of learning what defenses we have not if, but when the next pandemic comes out of hiding with only one mission: to destroy.

Disenchantment

Mike Sims  Staff Writer

Viewing the Netflix series “Disenchantment” left a rather stupefied comprehension that any sort of figment of imagination one might have conjured for the show was slowly yet meticulously being dismembered in ways previously thought outright impossible! Matt Groening, the famous and charismatic cartoonist known for two timeless cartoon classics, “The Simpsons” and of course “Futurama,” has decided to plunge us all to the past whereas “Futurama” took us 1,000 years far into the future.

“Disenchantment” bears similarities to “The Simpsons” universe that it’s as if the show itself connects like a sibling to a long lost older drunken brother whom we’ve been quite fond of if not adored for years. Our main character is Bean, a teenage rebel who has an insatiable appetite for getting herself into situations that inevitably result in some punishment by her father, King Zog. Bean is often drunk with both adventure and alcohol. Her best friends are Elfo, an elf ironically seeking misery (most likely a masochist) and adventure, and Lucci, a demon who sought in his words “to do bad things.”

The entirety of the show is lackadaisical. There is hardly anything that beckons for more. It draws out so little yet folds too much at the same time. It’s almost as though every scene perpetuates the blemishes of our reality while enforcing a blank slate that seemingly will never be drawn. If such is the case, then it’s truly a damnable shame. “The Simpsons” articulated with passion and was riffing a KO punch throughout the ’80s and ’90s. “Disenchantment” will simply be the unfortunate forgotten sibling in Matt Groening’s trifecta family.

FINAL VERDICT 6.5/10
Monster Fish

Dylan Jewell
Staff Writer

At the Dennos Museum, the aptly titled Monster Fish brings the surreal wildlife of exotic river basins onto dry land right here in Traverse City. This highly interactive exhibit, curated by National Geographic and narrated by biologist Zeb Hogan, host of the titular show on which the exhibit is based, allows visitors the unique opportunity to be immersed in the profound beauty lurking in a world existing entirely out of our depth.

The highlight of the exhibit is the life-sized replicas of the colossal freshwater giants. The displays offer a rare chance to view these wonders of nature up close and in incredible detail. The gargantuan recreations of the Goonch, a species of catfish, and the Pirarucu are both extraordinary and confounding to behold in person.

The visuals at Monster Fish are captivating, and they teach about underwater ecosystems and wildlife sustainability in entertaining, memorable ways. Visitors are invited to play several hands-on, interactive games placed throughout the exhibit. The games put you in the shoes of a field researcher, using ID techniques to determine the species of a catfish specimen, tagging stingrays to track their movement, or consulting architects on how a potential dam could affect the fish.

Another good reason to visit the Dennos is the Linda O’Meaza Day of the Arts, an event in conjunction with the annual local arts event Draw NoMI. Day of the Arts is an opportunity for locals to collaborate with skilled artists in the area in all forms of visual and performance art. The event takes place on Saturday, Oct. 6 from Noon to 4pm, and includes free museum admission to everyone 17 and under.

The Monster Fish exhibit will be open for viewing until Oct. 7. Visit dennosmuseum.org for additional information.

Events Calendar

Saturday, Sept. 22
7:30am–Noon: Sara Hardy Downtown Farmers Market
8:30am–4pm: National Public Lands Day at Sleeping Bear Dunes. Park entrance fees are waived on this day.
4pm–10pm: 7 Monks Taproom 7th Anniversary party. Enjoy music, including The Go Rounds, and tents featuring some of the bar’s favorite breweries. Tickets are $7 each.

Monday, Sept. 24
11:30am: West Hall Innovation Center & Library Groundbreaking Ceremony at the east entrance of West Hall.
12:30pm: Shirley S. Okerstrom Fine Arts Building Rededication Program in F115 of the Fine Arts building.

Wednesday, Sept. 26
8am–1:20pm: Sara Hardy Downtown Farmers Market

Thursday, Sept. 27
7pm: World renowned architect Peter Bohlin presenting at Milliken Auditorium. Tickets available at dennosmuseum.org.

Friday, Sept. 28
6pm–11pm: TC Germanfest, at 1003 S Maple St, held by Trinity Lutheran. The age 21+ event has live music, dancing, food, and drinks. Tickets range from $20-$60 on MyNorthTickets.com.

Saturday, Sept. 29
7:30am–Noon: Sara Hardy Downtown Farmers Market
10am–4pm: Acme Fall Festival at Flintfields Horse Park in Williamsburg

Sunday, Sept. 30
9am–3pm: “Clean Up Green Up: Recycle, Repurpose, and Reuse” held at TC West Senior High School. This is a free event to divert items eligible for reuse and recycling from landfills. Find a detailed list of accepted items at cleanupgreenup.com or call 231-633-1277.
11am–4pm: GT Area Rock & Mineral Club Annual Show, held in the VFW Hall at 3400 Veterans Dr. There is a $2 suggested donation for entry.

Monday, Oct. 1
8:30pm–10:30pm: American folk musician McKain Lakey performs at Rare Bird in downtown TC.

Wednesday, Oct. 3
8am–Noon: Sara Hardy Downtown Farmers Market

Recurring Events
Monday, 5pm–9pm: Service Industry Night at The Towne Plaza. Anyone working in the service industry receives 50% off food and 20% off beverages.
Wednesday, 8pm–10pm: “Sporcle Trivia Live!” Free-to-play trivia night at Monkey Fist Brewing Co.
Thursday-Saturday, 7:30pm: “Mamma Mia!” at the Old Town Playhouse, showing from Sept. 20 through Oct. 13.
Sunday, 2pm: “Mamma Mia!” at the Old Town Playhouse, showing from Sept. 20 through Oct. 13.
Slabtown Sinks Its Teeth into Greatness

Annie Hindle  Staff Writer

Slabtown Burgers was nationally recognized in July as a steady line of anxiously waiting customers queued out the door.

Like most restaurants in Traverse City, it’s normal for the flow of hungry people to surge in the summer, but Slabtown didn’t slow down after peak tourist season. Its owners, Jeff and Toni Pownall, noticed the unusually long line was still around as the season faded. To their surprise, they discovered that their little burger joint had been voted into TripAdvisor’s top five “Best Burgers in America.”

Slabtown Burgers is located on Front Street near downtown Traverse City, in the historic Slabtown neighborhood. Pownall opened his quaint little restaurant 10 years ago, with no major goals in mind except to provide for his family and put food on the table through hard and honest work. Pownall had previously worked in real estate, and after the stock market crash in 2007, he and his wife decided to open a restaurant as an alternate form of income. Once they decided to open a burger restaurant, they researched the Slabtown neighborhood, which was the inspiration for the restaurant’s name. They decided that the house Slabtown Burgers is now in was in the perfect location because of the rich history connected to Traverse City.

The house itself is over 100 years old. It was built around the year 1892. Pownall purchased it during his real estate days and has now owned it for 14 years. He kept the house as close to the original state as possible, with the intent of maintaining its history. “Throughout the years, people have brought in pictures and things to add to our collection of the historic decorations we have hanging up on the walls,” Pownall stated. His wife found many historical pictures herself. All the pictures and old news articles are of the Slabtown Neighborhood, back when Traverse City was a lumbering community. Some of the pictures depict when the Bohemian immigrants came to Traverse City during the lumber era and built their homes out of the slabs of wood that remained from the lumbering mill. Hence, the inspiration of the name Slabtown.

After years of hard work, the Pownalls have made a very successful business, all driven by the need to provide for his family and the desire to bring great, quality food to the Traverse City community. Slabtown has a friendly and high energetic atmosphere. It’s full of workers that show their love for their job everyday through smiles, hard work and their dedication to making each customer walk out smiling with a full belly! Their menu hosts a variety of award-winning burgers, shakes, soups, fresh-cut fries, salads and many other options to meet your gastronomic desire. Bring in your family to support local business and enjoy mouth-watering burgers, while soaking in a little bit of history as well.

Valerie Reeves  Staff Writer

Grocery Store Offers Taste of Latin America

Ever wanted to cook an authentic Latin American dish but didn’t know where to get the ingredients? Well, worry no more, mi amigo! Just come pick up your tamales and plantain bananas at T.C. Latino Grocery.

In operation for eight years, T.C. Latino Grocery is Traverse City’s first family-owned imports grocery store. Despite specializing in foods from Latin America, the store carries products from many different countries across the world. These items are first bought from a supplier in Chicago, then are shipped to Traverse City for sale at the store.

“We sell items from Mexico, Latin America, Asia, and Jamaica,” Sandra Mendez, who co-owns T.C. Latino Grocery with her husband, Adolfo, explained.

When walking into the store, one is first met with the pleasant aroma of exotic spices. A small TV plays a program in Spanish. Authentic snacks, candies and other foods line the walls, and baskets full of fresh produce sit to the left of the counter. Another counter sells fresh cuts of various types of meat. But food isn’t all this store sells. Jewelry, authentic piñatas, Catholic candles and other household items can be found as well.

What was the inspiration behind this little slice of Latin America in Traverse City? “There was lots of need for an imported grocery store when we first opened,” Sandra said. “Many people didn’t have anywhere to go for their groceries. The nearest imported grocery store was all the way in Grand Rapids.”

Before opening T.C. Latino Grocery, Sandra and Adolfo met and fell in love in Traverse City. Adolfo moved from Holland, Michigan to Traverse City for work reasons, while Sandra, the daughter of migrant workers, frequently visited the area when her parents came up to work. In September 2010, the couple opened T.C. Latino Grocery.

When asked what it was like running an import grocery store in Traverse City, Sandra smiled. “We have been well-received by the community. People have been very friendly and accepting overall.” Although the focus of the store is the Latino community, the atmosphere is diverse and welcoming. “Both migrants and locals of all backgrounds have come here to shop. In the summer, out-of-towners who are familiar with our culture come in. We are open to anyone who would like to shop here,” Sandra said.

Next time you are looking to try a new snack or learn more about Latino culture, stop by T.C. Latino Grocery at 1456 W. South Airport Road in Traverse City. It’s more than a store, it’s a cultural experience!