



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA



Every year the big question for the Fourth of July is which town will go first in shooting off fireworks. Will it be Petoskey, or will it be Harbor Springs? This fun rivalry has been settled in a variety of ways over the years. Once upon a time, there was a tug-of-war across Little Traverse Bay. Whoever won that sporting event got to go first. This year, the decision was made by a shuffle board contest. And, Petoskey came out the winner.

This made me think about mediation. Would it not be wonderful if most disagreements, disputes, conflicts or whatever you want to call them could be resolved by merely having a tug-of-war or shuffle board contest? People could arrive at the mediation table with a positive attitude rather than a negative one. People could leave the mediation table not necessarily as friends but certainly not as foes.

Oh, well, have a wonderful fourth of July. Enjoy the fireworks, parades, picnics, Boston Pops concert on TV, or whatever you do for the birthday celebration of our country.

JEANS DAY AT CHEMICAL BANK

A big thank you goes to Board Member Julie Kuchnicki. She recommended that Northern Community Mediation (NCM) be the recipient of the money collected from people who wore jeans to work on June 16. As a result of her efforts, NCM will receive \$114 from Chemical Bank. Way to go, Julie.

USELESS FACT

In Germany there are fake bus stops outside many nursing homes to prevent confused senior citizens from wandering off.

REVENUE SHARING

We have received a grant in the amount of \$2,200 to go towards our School Attendance Mediation Program. One of the requirements to be awarded a grant from the Revenue Sharing Board is that the funding has an impact on gambling abuse. Numerous studies demonstrate a relationship between truancy and gambling. Jenny Proimos, et. al. state that "Previous studies have shown that pathological gambling is associated with alcohol, drug use, truancy, low grades..." The University Health Center identified 13 signs of teen gambling addiction. One of them was unexplained absences from school and declining grades. A study by Canadian pediatricians found that three signs of teenage gambling were falling grades, poor school attendance, and problematic behavior at school. These studies are independently substantiated over and over again.

TV STARS

On June 12 Case Manager Kirstyn Horan and her boyfriend Ben Slocum were invited to go up to the Emmet County Dark Sky Park for a taping of the TV show "Under the Radar." This program features the people, places, and things that make Michigan a great place to be. In its seventh season, the series airs weekly on WCMU. It is anticipated that the show about Dark Sky Park will air sometime in July. Be on the lookout. We just might see Kirstyn and Ben on TV.

DID YOU KNOW?

Both Beards Brewery and Petoskey Brewing recycle spent grain back to local farmers to feed livestock. In fact, both establishments are mindful of conservation and recycling. Our community and its environment thank both companies.

CONGRATULATIONS

Just in case you have not heard, Valerie Snyder has been appointed to replace The Honorable Frederick Mulhauser on the bench for 7th Probate Court. Judge Mulhauser retired as of May 31. In her position as judge, Judge Snyder will be a welcome addition to the court system in Charlevoix and Emmet Counties.

Congratulations also to NCM Board President Kate Scollin on her retirement from Preston Feather. Only two weeks into her retirement, Kate says that she has "already flunked retirement." She is now volunteering at the Petoskey Library front desk.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

If you want to judge a man's character, give him power.