

## Welcome Preston!

HARBOR, Inc. now has two employees! Preston McGregor joined the organization in March. She is helping with much needed organizational activities and will continue to improve our ability to respond to the community and provide services in an effective and responsive way. Let us know what you like, don't like, want more (or less) of, and we'll respond!



## HARBOR, Inc. Executive Committee



The HARBOR, Inc. Executive Committee is elected by the overall Board of Directors to serve for two year terms. This committee meets every three weeks and makes most of the day to day decisions with the Executive Director on activities of the organization. If you would like to speak directly with any of the Executive Committee, please don't hesitate! So that you can put a face to the name, here's a snapshot of a few of the people working to make things happen!

From Left: Danna Widmar, Al Dika, Michael Esposito, Kathie Breighner, Kathy Erber, Denise Simon, Dan Branson, Mary Ellen Hughes and Tom Gallagher

## Little Traverse Bay Watershed Plan Implementation

The Little Traverse Bay Watershed Protection Plan was completed in March 2004 by the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. Since then, various recommendations of the plan have been implemented. The Plan included an inventory from boat of features on the shoreline that could adversely affect the water quality of the lake. This included an inventory of Cladophora, a filamentous green algae that is often indicative of nutrient pollution. Cladophora is typically prevalent in June. If you would like more information, you can contact Kevin Cronk at 231-347-1181 ext. 109 or kevin@watershedcouncil.org.

## Events & Education

RSVP to Danna Widmar at [danna@harborinc.org](mailto:danna@harborinc.org) or call 231-526-5060

### Development Finance & Pro Formas

May 25, 2005 from 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm  
Harbor Springs Middle School Lg Group Mtg Room  
by American Planning Association Audio/Web Conference  
This program will unravel the mystery and help you understand development and the financial calculations that go into proposals and projects. Course Fee: \$10

### Dine Out for HARBOR, Inc.

June 4, 2005 from 8:00 am - 11:00 pm  
Anchor Restaurant  
The Anchor Restaurant, located on State Street next to the New York, is donating 10% of breakfast sales to HARBOR, Inc.

### Dine Out for HARBOR, Inc.

June 18, 2005  
Mary Ellen's Place  
Mary Ellen's Place, located on Main Street, is donating 10% of lunch sales to HARBOR, Inc.

### Planning, Environmental & Land Use Law

June 29, 2005 at 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm  
Harbor Springs Middle School Lg Group Mtg Room  
by American Planning Association Audio/Web Conference  
The legal landscape for planning is ever changing. In this annual review, planning attorneys review important U.S. Supreme Court, federal circuit, and state court case law that is relevant to a national audience. Course Fee: \$10

### HARBOR, Inc. Annual Meeting

August 10, 2005 at 7:00 pm  
Harbor Springs Middle School Lg Group Mtg Room

## Thank you to our contributors

### 2004 Contributors

Robert & Iris Allen  
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Ian & Sally Bund  
Michael & Martha Cameron  
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State of Michigan DEQ  
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Harbor Area  
Regional Board of  
Resources, Inc.

## The Community Conduit

## H.A.R.B.O.R., INC.

## Harbor Area Regional Board Of Resources, Inc

[www.harborinc.org](http://www.harborinc.org)

Spring 2005 Issue

## From The Executive Director

by Danna Widmar,  
Executive Director



area of Recreation and Open Space. As we proceed with this Initiative, many people have questions about the role of HARBOR, Inc. We are a non-profit organization, not a governing agency. We accept contributions from the community and provide services to local governments. We do not receive, nor could we request, income from property taxes via millage for operating the organization. We make decisions on where to spend resources based on an evaluation of how it fits our mission. We have a large Board of Directors who discuss and debate many topics.

Recently, our activities have become more specific. The research we conduct and the services we provide to the community have naturally become more specific as well. The mission is ever important in our day to day decisions.

In our upcoming activities with the Recreation and Open Space Initiative, HARBOR, Inc. has proposed starting with a joint Recreation Plan for the six townships and the City of Harbor Springs. This is an effort that recognizes that most of this area has complementary goals already outlined in individual recreation plans. Many are difficult to accomplish as an individual jurisdiction. This work is designed to provide information to determine if we can accomplish some things (trails, for example) collectively. Our local jurisdictions are ESSENTIAL to this. Support and encourage your Board of Trustees or City Council as they evaluate the data provided to them. You, too, will receive data, to help in making decisions on your own. Ultimately, we are looking to decide if additional recreation can and should be funded or if we should support our existing system a different way. You and your elected officials will decide. HARBOR, Inc.'s role is to provide as much information in an organized manner to help you decide. Join us! The process, the collective discussions and the thoughts of so many intelligent people will be as important as the outcome.

### HARBOR, Inc.

#### Mission Statement:

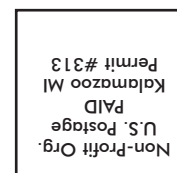
To bring together the Greater Harbor Springs Community by providing a platform for cooperation and communication; by encouraging participation through education and discussion; by facilitating the understanding and implementation of multiple plans and proposals; and by promoting, protecting, and maintaining the common vision for the Greater Harbor Springs Community.

## Online Survey Capabilities at [www.harborinc.org](http://www.harborinc.org)! Test It Out!

HARBOR, Inc. is implementing survey capabilities on-line to help with understanding your current views on the vision for the area and how to implement it! With on-line surveys we hope to get up-to-date data on opinions from the community. Currently, we have the capability to post questions with multiple choice and short answers. We will continue to expand those capabilities and are looking for a way to make the survey a representative sampling from the community. This requires your input since there are some limitations on computer and internet access in the community. Please take a minute to go to [www.harborinc.org](http://www.harborinc.org). Select the Survey link from the home page and answer a few questions about recreation, open space and your computer access capabilities. You will need to log-in (located on the left menu). At the log-in pop-up window select "Sign up here" (if you've never logged in before). Please email if you have trouble ([info@harborinc.org](mailto:info@harborinc.org))! With your help, we can make this a very powerful tool for the community.

Return Service Requested

HARBOR, Inc.  
Post Office Box 112  
Harbor Springs, Michigan 49740



# OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

## Current Area Projects

### Proposed Boat Launch Ramp at Cross Village Park

Cross Village Township Board of Trustees have a proposal to improve the existing Township park along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The location of the park can be viewed on-line at [www.harborinc.org/cc/envirom/myclink.asp?id=18](http://www.harborinc.org/cc/envirom/myclink.asp?id=18). The project is currently being reviewed by MDEQ and will then be reviewed by the Corps of Engineers as part of the permit application process initiated by the Township. Written comments are accepted by MDEQ on or before May 28th as part of the public record for the May 18th public hearing. Send written comments to the Land and Water Management Division, DEQ, 2100 W. M-32, Gaylord, MI 49735-9282; application #04-24-0045-P.

#### Current Conditions

- Total existing park area is 7.9 acres (344,000 sq. ft.), and total existing beach frontage is 1400 feet, including the existing portable ramp which is located in the middle of the swimming beach. Beach conditions range from sandy to rocky.
- The adjacent private property to the west is a conservancy easement.
- The adjacent private property to the east is substantially wetlands.
- The plover nesting area is primarily located in the westerly half of the site. Plovers forage up and down the shoreline
- There are natural artesian sources in the southerly bluffs that flow through the existing culverts, wetlands and ponded water to the lake.
- The shoreline is very dynamic with movement due to wind, waves and the changing lake levels.

#### Basics of the Proposal

- The proposed ramp facility extends across approximately 350 feet (25%) of the existing shoreline. The existing portable ramp will be removed as part of the project.
- The pier structures are constructed of rip rap and extend perpendicular to the shoreline. The eastern pier is a total of 288 feet in length from the shoreline into Lake Michigan (estimated from the ordinary high water mark). The western pier is a total of 150 feet in

length from the shoreline into Lake Michigan (estimated from the ordinary high water mark). The two rip rap pier structures occupy at total of approximately 18,800 sq. feet of Lake Michigan bottomlands and extend above the ordinary high water mark.

- The easterly 3.0 acres of the site accommodate the boat launch, a picnic area, a swim beach area and related entrance roadway, parking and turnaround.
- Approximately 16,000 cubic yards of material will be dredged for the project.
- Conservation easement is proposed as mitigation for loss of wetlands on the western portion of the site, including a total of 4.9 acres (60% of the site) and 700 feet of lakeshore.
- No rezoning is proposed.
- The proposed boat launch is being moved to the west to provide greater separation from the shallow water swim area.
- Some wetlands are proposed to be filled. The plants in the impacted wetlands have been mapped for transplantation. Threatened and endangered species on-site include: Lake Huron Pansie, Pitcher Thistle, and potentially Houghton's Goldenrod.
- The natural flow of water from the artesian sources in the southerly bluffs will continue to flow to and through the existing culverts, wetlands and ponded water to the lake.
- There will be a navigation light locating the channel and ramp for use after dark.



### Walstrom Marine Dock Expansion

Walstrom Marine has a dock expansion proposal for their east location (adjacent to Marina Village Condominiums). This summer, the City Council will initiate a process to consider the proposal and make their recommendation to the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The State DNR then has the final say as to whether or not Walstrom Marine will receive a bottomlands lease to proceed with the project. They will likely have a process that also includes an opportunity for public comment.

For your information, a map depicting the current proposal from Walstrom's is available to view on the City's website at [www.cityofharborsprings.com](http://www.cityofharborsprings.com) and click "City Maps".

You are welcome to mail your comments in to City Hall (City of Harbor Springs, P. O. Box 678, Harbor Springs, MI 49740), drop them off at City Hall, FAX them (231-526-6865) or e-mail them ([citymanager@cityofharborsprings.com](mailto:citymanager@cityofharborsprings.com)). A Public Comment Form is also available at City Hall if you stop in.

Local jurisdictions will begin a joint recreation planning process with assistance from HARBOR, Inc., the Frey Foundation and Partnerships for Change, a competitive state-wide planning services program. This process will give residents and property owners the opportunity to understand the acquisition, development and maintenance cost impact of proposed recreation resources in the area. It will also help clarify what it will take to keep existing resources in good condition while securing additional resources (that are desired or needed within the community).

#### How does this impact the average person?

Many people in the community have desires for additional facilities to meet individual needs. Often, inadequate funding is available to provide these facilities and services. Others in the community have concerns about how much of a cost impact it has on each household to provide more public facilities. This process is being undertaken to provide answers to these types of questions.

#### Why is it being done on a regional basis rather than on an individual township or city basis and why not simply rely on the county for regional answers?

The population within each township in the area is often too small to adequately fund some of the desired facilities without having an unreasonable cost impact on each household. The county, on the other hand, has a very large geographic area to work with. Since this is not the geographic or population center of the county, many decisions have to be made by Emmet County that meet the needs of the greater county-wide population. At the same time, the unique natural envi-

The work will include quantities of:

- Existing passive and active recreation resources
- Recommended passive and active recreation resources
- Proposed locations for new facilities
- Maintenance costs of existing facilities
- Current funding of existing facilities
- Potential funding of proposed facilities
- City and township general funds allocated toward recreation

Passive and Active Recreation Resources that will be quantified:

- Publicly accessible open space
- Beaches
- Boat access points
- View sites
- Paved non-motorized trails
- Cross country ski trails
- Snowmobile trails
- North country trail
- Baseball fields
- Softball fields
- Soccer fields
- Football field
- Basketball
- Track
- Tennis
- Downhill skiing
- Golf
- Public swimming pool

ronment, seasonal nature of residents, and character of the greater Harbor Springs area argues for an approach on some facilities that is specific to this area. A good example of this is trails.

#### Who is included in this study?

The City of Harbor Springs and the Townships of Little Traverse, West Traverse, Pleasantview, Friendship, Readmond and Cross Village have been invited to participate. Each is being asked to officially participate with at least one representative at meetings to represent the interests of that particular jurisdiction. The Board of Trustees of each jurisdiction had general discussions about this during the winter and some are having more detailed discussions now.

#### How was this area selected?

The selection of this area is based on some historical and current boundaries. These boundaries are generally the same as the Harbor Springs School District and correspond with the HARBOR, Inc. service area and the Emmet County Lake Shore Sub Area.

#### How do I keep informed and what if I feel my interests are not being fully represented?

Newsletters will be prepared and distributed every four months to all property owners in the area. Information can be provided by contacting HARBOR, Inc., your township, or the City directly. You can provide input at any point in the process. Written input is greatly appreciated since it is more easily transmitted to others involved in the process. Additionally, all meetings are open to the public and some meetings will have specific public input opportunities.

## Current Area Projects

### M-119 Non-Motorized Trail

#### Easements

Several easements have already been donated by local property owners excited about completing the trail! Most property owners who are contributing easements have draft documents in hand for review. If you believe you should have been contacted and have not been, please contact Danna Widmar, HARBOR, Inc. Executive Director at 231-526-5060 or [danna@harborinc.org](mailto:danna@harborinc.org) or Bill Dohm, Little Traverse Supervisor at 231-526-0351.



#### Funding

The proposed funding source for construction of the M-119 Non-motorized Trail is 80% Federal Transportation Funds (specifically designated for use on alternative transportation, not roads) and 20% State Funds. Local funding is currently not anticipated to complete the trail construction.

The Federal Transportation Funds are reallocated approximately every four years. Currently, reallocation is being considered by the US Senate after a year and a half delay due to disagreement about proposed budgets and allocations. The Senate will review the House of Representatives approved proposal and any alternate or compromise proposals of the Senate, then make a decision regarding reallocation of the funds. Once reallocation occurs, the State of Michigan will evaluate all of the specific competing proposals (include M-119) and prepare a funding schedule. MDOT is the applicant for M-119, therefore the funding outlook appears good. Keep your fingers crossed that the Senate gets this through soon!

### Nolan Property

Recently, Emmet County Commissioners, through silence, decided not to pursue acquisition of a 35 acre parcel in Readmond Township that was identified for purchase in the Emmet County Recreation Plan. The parcel is a waterfront property along M-119 at Island View Road. This parcel still has park potential.

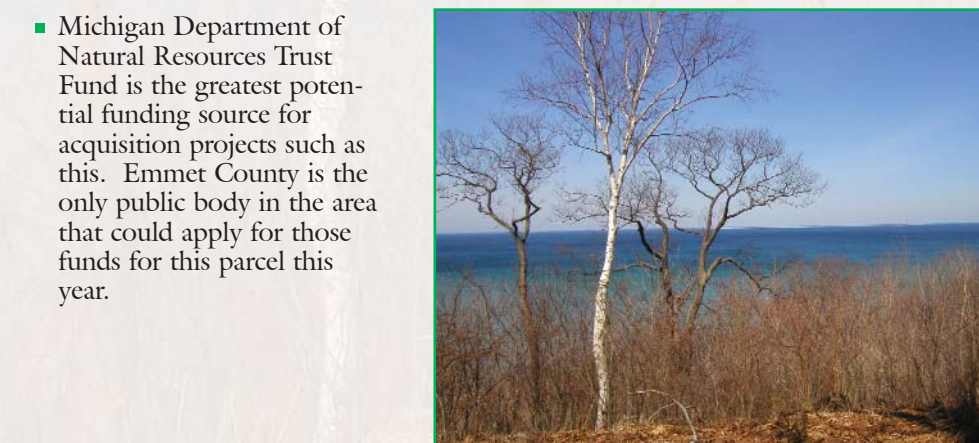


#### Current Conditions:

- The site is 35 acres including waterfront, natural bluff and frontage along M-119
- The existing setting appears park-like in nature.
- There is 750 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline.
- There is over 1000 feet of frontage on M-119
- The property is currently for sale for \$2.9 million.

#### Park Development Potential

- Existing setting is currently park-like with open areas, an existing drive and excellent views, therefore little change is necessary.
- The bluff provides excellent views and is very typical of the characteristics in the area but not available on many public lands for use by many residents. The large size of the parcel offers educational opportunities related to the views and the environmental features.



- Due to the large size of the property, a heavy buffer can be created to protect adjacent property owners.
- A path to the beach exists, however beach access would likely not be the primary draw to the site due to size of the bluff. A safe and appropriate walk could be constructed to direct users willing to make the trip to the water.
- Existing features on site such as the drive, pillars at the entry and the cottages could be retained to maintain the existing character of the site.