

GTB NEWS



A publication of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians All Rights Reserved ©

https://bit.ly/GTB_NEWS

September 2025
Waabagaa Giizis (Leaves Changing Moon)



Tribal Council Motions,
Meetings, & Attendance
Page 4 - 5

Housing
Page 7

Youth Service &
Education Department
Page 14 - 15

Public Safety
Page 20 - 21

**A CELEBRATION OF RESILIENCE, CULTURE, & COMMUNITY AT THE 2025
KCHI WIIKWEDONG ANISHINAABEK MAAWNJODOWIN CONTEST POWWOW**
MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 6 & PHOTOS ON PAGE 12 & 13 OR SCANN / FOLLOW THE LINK:
https://bit.ly/GTB_Photos



PRE-SORT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Traverse City, MI 49684
PERMIT NO. 23





Grand Traverse Band -
Government Offices
CLOSED FRIDAYS
Beginning Friday, July 11, 2025

In alignment with the 34-Hour Work Week Pilot Program
Please note: Government offices participating in the pilot
program will be closed on Fridays.

However, departments providing essential services—including the
Health Clinic (Providers Only), Dental Clinic (Providers Only), Pharmacy
(Providers Only), Law Enforcement (Officers Only), Fire Department, &
Tribal Council —will continue to operate Monday through Friday.

Emergency numbers are posted at office entrances. For
immediate assistance, refer to the emergency number list.



FOLLOW QR CODE OR LINK
FOR EMERGENCY NUMBERS.
https://bit.ly/GTB_EPN_073025

Chi Miigwech for your understanding.



Recovery and Healing Circle

Present Day Intergenerational Tribal Trauma and Healing

Intergenerational Trauma and Healing

12 Step Medicine Wheel

Wellbriety

Talking Circle

AA, NA

Emotional Regulation Skills

Where: Cultural Building

When: Wednesdays at 6:00PM

Bring Art, Photos, Articles, or any Anishnaabeg Art from an Elder to
share. Additional dates and times will be announced for the six-county
area.

For more information, contact Greg Petoskey at 231-360-8659



Grand Traverse Band -
Government Offices
CLOSED

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2025

In observance of National &
State American Indian Day

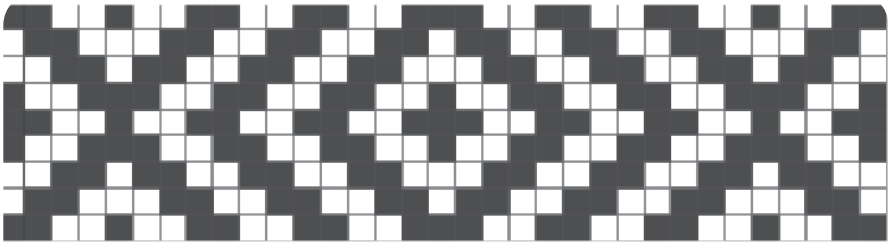
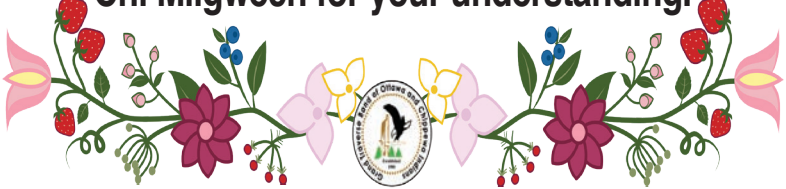
Government Offices will reopen at
8:00 a.m. Monday, September 29th!

Emergency numbers are posted at office entrances. If you need
immediate assistance, please use the emergency number list.



FOLLOW QR CODE OR LINK
FOR EMERGENCY NUMBERS.
https://bit.ly/GTB_EPN_073025

Chi Miigwech for your understanding.



Call for
Indigenous Artists

Anishinaabek:
The Original People of This Place
Beadwork Project

Submissions open now until June 1, 2026.



Scan here for more information & guidelines!
Compensation is available at the rate of
\$100 per 4" x 4" tile.

Questions? Please contact Katrina Furman,
Anishinaabe Curator at kfurman@grpm.org

GRAND RAPIDS
PUBLIC MUSEUM

Be curious.


grpm.org

Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and
Chippewa Indians
Annual Sturgeon Release Ceremony



September 13th, 11AM to 2PM
Hannah Park on Sixth Street
Downtown Traverse City

Please join us for our second annual ceremony to return Nm   (Lake Sturgeon) back into the Boardman-Ottaway River. The event will include a drum ceremony and prayers, food and drinks and a community release of hundreds of juvenile Nm  . Please bring a lawn chair.

For additional information, please contact GTB Natural Resources Department at (231) 534-7500



Sunday,
September 21, 2025

Hamlin Lake Boat Launch
3686 W Nurnberg, Rd, Free Soil, MI

Learn and Participate in
Manoomin (Wild Rice):
— Tool making —
— Harvesting —
— Processing —

With special presenter Roger LaBine,
of the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior
Chippewa Indians

9 am - 4 pm

PUBLIC WELCOME
(If space and resources become limited, Tribal
member participation in hands-on activities
will be prioritized)

HELP US MAKE THIS A WASTE-FREE EVENT

Please bring your own feast bundle
(re-useable bowl, cutlery, drinking cup)



PRIOR REGISTRATION REQUESTED
Use QR code or registration link below:
tinyurl.com/HamlinManoomin

Hamlin Lake

Sep. 21st
also marks 31 years since the
Little River Band of Ottawa
Indians federal re-recognition!

Presented By:

Little River
Band of
Ottawa
Indians

Grand Traverse
Bay Band of
Ottawa and
Chippewa
Indians

Lac Vieux
Desert Band
of Lake
Superior
Chippewa
Indians



Questions?

Contact LRBOI Natural Resources Department
alexisdegabriele@lrboi-nsn.gov (231) 398-2183



Join a Rally!

Eat Plants – Exercise Regularly – Limit Alcohol – Maintain a Healthy Weight

Join local experts, community advocates, and breast cancer survivors for a special gathering in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Featuring a unique blend of percussionists from local bands to “Beat the Drum” for breast cancer prevention, all are invited to enjoy the music and **raise your voice** to support this lifesaving message.

October 1, 2025, 12pm

The Village at Grand Traverse Commons PIAZZA
700 Cottageview Dr, Traverse City, MI 49684

The Let’s Beat Breast Cancer campaign seeks to raise awareness about four lifestyle steps that can reduce the risk of breast cancer and risk of recurrence.

THE FOUR STEPS ARE:

- Eat plant-based foods
- Exercise regularly
- Limit alcohol
- Aim for an ideal weight

*We look forward to joining together
for this important cause!*

Questions? More Info?
Call or text Darylin
231-252-5186



Native Food for Life Online

Program for Type 2 Diabetes, Prediabetes, and Gestational Diabetes

6-week course!



Join a free, 6-session online plant-based nutrition and cooking course offered by The American Indian Institute & PCRM – Instructed by: Darylin Berryman

We’ll meet virtually every Tuesday at 8pm beginning October 7, 2025.

This FREE 6-class series is designed to help anyone who wants to learn about nutrition for diabetes treatment and prevention. **Everyone, tribal and non-tribal, are welcome!**

Learn about the health benefits of a plant-based diet. View cooking demonstrations and learn new cooking skills. Receive advice and information from health and nutrition experts. Zoom link provided after registration.

Use QR Code or email or call to register.

Darylin.Berryman@gtb-nsn.gov, 231-534-7234



PhysiciansCommittee
for Responsible Medicine

Tribal Council Regular Session

August 20, 2025

http://bit.ly/GTB_Member

II. New Business. A- **FY2024 Tribal Council Audit Questions** Motion made by Tribal Council Treasurer Swallows and Supported by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl to approve answers to questions #1-6 as presented by the management staff of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (specifically, the General Counsel, Tribal Manager, and CFO.) **5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 1-ABSENT (Napont); 0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries**

II. New Business. B- **Chief Judge Applicant Nomination** Motion made by Tribal Council Member Frankenberger and Supported by Tribal Council Member Raphael to send a letter to Cesar Lozano to let him know that we are going to not select him for Chief Judge. **5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 1-ABSENT (Napont); 0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries**

Motion made by Tribal Council Member Frankenberger and Supported by Tribal Council Secretary Miller to Table the appointment of the Chief Judge nomination. **5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 1-ABSENT (Napont); 0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries**

II. New Business. C- **Tribal Judge Oath by Audiovisual Technology Resolution** Motion made by Tribal Council Secretary Miller and Supported by Tribal Council Member Raphael to approve Resolution #25-43.3789. **5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 1-ABSENT (Napont); 0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries**

II. New Business. D- **Title 18 Amendments** Motion made by Tribal Council Member Frankenberger and Supported by Tribal Council Member Raphael to approve Resolution #25-43.3788. **5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 1-ABSENT (Napont); 0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries**

II. New Business. E- **Health Services Job Description** Motion made by Tribal Council Member Frankenberger and Supported by Tribal Council Secretary Miller to approve the change to the job description for Physician Assistant to Medical Director. **5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 1-ABSENT (Napont); 0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries**

II. New Business. F- **Evaluating Pre-Settlement Fish Community Composition through Paleo Environmental DNA** Motion made by Tribal Council Member Frankenberger and Supported by Tribal Council Secretary Miller to refer to a Poll Vote. **5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 1-ABSENT (Napont); 0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries**

II. New Business. G- **ACER Supplemental Grant Extension** Motion made by Tribal Council Treasurer Swallows and Supported by Tribal Council Member Raphael to approve Resolution #25-43.3790 to bring in outside vendors to teach people about the modern maple syrup industry in Michigan, and highlight industry leaders

in sustainability, cultural engagement, and education; that brings awareness to the maple syrup industry and how this modern industry is based on traditional Anishinaabe tradition. **5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 1-ABSENT (Napont); 0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries**

Tribal Council Special Session

August 27, 2025

http://bit.ly/GTB_Member

II. Unfinished Business. A- **Chief Judge Application Nomination** Item was Tabled.

III. New Business. A- **FY2026 Budget Approval** Motion made by Tribal Council Treasurer Swallows and Supported by Tribal Council Secretary Miller to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 budget as presented, with direction that a summary review be brought forward to Tribal Council after the First Quarter. **4-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 2-ABSENT (Frankenberger, Rohl); 0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries**

Motion made by Tribal Council Treasurer Swallows and Supported by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl to approve Resolution #25-43.3795 Sales Tax. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries**

Motion made by Tribal Council Treasurer Swallows and Supported by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl to approve Resolution #25-43.3796 Tobacco Tax. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries**

Motion made by Tribal Council Treasurer Swallows and Supported by Tribal Council Member Napont to approve Resolution #25-43.3797 with a budget amount of \$188,021, and for this to be reviewed in September and potentially modified if needed for where the funding is allocated from. **4-FOR; 1-AGAINST (Frankenberger); 1-ABSENT (Miller); 0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries**

Motion made by Tribal Council Treasurer Swallows and Supported by Tribal Council Member Raphael to approve Resolution #25-43.3798 PNC Government Operations. **3-FOR; 1-AGAINST (Rohl); 2-ABSENT (Frankenberger, Napont); 0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries**

III. New Business. B- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** Motion made by Tribal Council Secretary Miller and Supported by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl to approve Resolution #25-43.3799 for funding in the amount of \$45,000 from the Office of Community Services for assistance services. **4-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 2-ABSENT (Frankenberger, Napont); 0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries**

III. New Business. C- **Tribal Opioid Settlement Funds (TOSF)** Motion made by Tribal Council Treasurer Swallows and Supported by Tribal Council Secretary Miller to approve Resolution #25-43.3800 for funding in the amount of \$25,000 from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for the State Tribal Opioid Settlement Funds. **5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 1-ABSENT (Frankenberger); 0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries**

III. New Business. D- **IHS FY2026 Buybacks** Motion made by Tribal Council Treasurer Swallows and Supported by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 IHS Buyback Agreement. **5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 1-ABSENT (Frankenberger); 0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries**

III. New Business. E- **Letter of Support on Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2025** Motion made by Tribal Council Treasurer Swallows and Supported by Tribal Council Secretary Miller to approve the letter as attached for Chairwoman’s signature and mailing to Michigan Congressional Delegation. **5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 1-ABSENT (Frankenberger); 0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries**

III. New Business. F- **GTED Board Vacancies** Motion made by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl and Supported by Tribal Council Member Napont to appoint Howard Martell to the vacant Seat 3, for a 4-year term. **5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 1-ABSENT (Frankenberger); 0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries**

Motion made by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl and Supported by Tribal Council Treasurer Swallows to appoint Mark Wilson to Seat 5, for

TRIBAL COUNCIL HYBIRD RECORDED SESSIONS						
Tribal a.m.	Council on the	Regular third	Sessions Wednesday	occur of every	at	9:30 month.
Tribal a.m.	Council on the	Special last	Sessions Wednesday	occur of every	at	9:30 month.
Sessions will be held in Council Chambers. Meetings are open to Tribal Members.						
Regular Council Sessions https://bit.ly/GTB-REG-TCRS25 9/17 • 10/15 • 11/19						
Special Council Sessions https://bit.ly/GTB-REG-TCSS25 9/24 • 10/29 • 11/26						

the 4-year term beginning in 2024.
5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 1-ABSENT (Frankenberger); 0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries

III. New Business. G- **Cooperative Agreement between BIA Midwest and GTB for Wildland Fire Management Non-Recurring Funds** Motion made by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl and Supported by Tribal Council Secretary Miller to Table. **5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 1-ABSENT(Frankenberger); 0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries**

III. New Business. H- **GTB Transportation Improvement Plan-Resolution #25-43.3801** Motion made by Tribal Council Treasurer Swallows and Supported by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl to approve Resolution #25-43.3801. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries**

III. New Business. I- **RTHawk Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity** Motion made by Tribal Council Treasurer Swallows and Supported by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl to approve Resolution #25-43.3794, by a Roll Call **Vote:**
Vice Chair Rohl: **YES**

Secretary Miller: **YES**
Treasurer Swallows: **YES**
Councilor Raphael: **YES**
Councilor Frankenberger: **YES**
Councilor Napont: **YES**
Chairwoman Witherspoon: **YES**
7-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries

III. New Business. J- **Election Board Vacancy** Item was Tabled.

III. New Business. K- **FY 2025 Historic Preservation Fund- Annual Tribal Historic Preservation Office Grant** Motion made by Tribal Council Member Frankenberger and Supported by Tribal Council Member Raphael to approve Resolution #25-43.3792 to seek approval and funding in the amount of \$90,774 from the National Parks Service for the annual formula grant funds for the Tribal Historic Preservation Office. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries**

III. New Business. L- **BIA One-Time Funding Request** Motion made by Tribal Council Member Frankenberger and Supported by Tribal Council Vice Chair Rohl to refer to a Poll Vote. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT;**

0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries

III. New Business. M- **Return EV Charger Rebates to EDC** Motion made by Tribal Council Secretary Miller and Supported by Tribal Council Member Frankenberger for Government to return the EV charger rebates to EDC when they are received. **6-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 0-ABSTAINING Motion Carries**

Motion made by Tribal Council Secretary Miller and Supported by Tribal Council Member Frankenberger to reaffirm the Motions made at EDC regarding the EV chargers at Leelanau Sands Casino. **5-FOR; 0-AGAINST; 0-ABSENT; 1-ABSTAINING (Swallows) Motion Carries**



WOMEN’S SURVIVOR
GET-TOGETHER

Every Monday
(August 18th -September 29, 2025)
(Except 9/1/25, Closed Labor Day)
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Are you a survivor of sexual
assault/trafficking, stalking, or
intimate partner domestic/dating
violence? Join us for a time to work
on crafts, write, socialize, & more,
with other survivors.

Location: Grand Traverse Band
Library in Peshawbestown, MI
Provided by the Grants to Indian
Tribal Government Project. For more
information, please call Yvette Weese
at (231) 534-7381.

MEN SURVIVOR
GET-TOGETHER

Every Tuesday
(August 19th - September 30, 2025)
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Are you a survivor of sexual
assault/trafficking, stalking, or
intimate partner domestic/dating
violence? Join us for a time to work
on crafts, write, socialize, & more,
with other survivors.

Location: Grand Traverse Band
Library in Peshawbestown, MI

Provided by the Grants to Indian Tribal Government Project. For
more information, please call John Sabatini at (231) 534-7024.



Oil & Water Don't Mix

Keep Oil Out of the Great Lakes

Aging pipelines threaten pristine waters of the Straits of Mackinac

Help to prevent a disastrous oil spill now



CELEBRATING RESILIENCE, CULTURE, AND COMMUNITY AT THE
2025 KCHI WIIKWEDONG ANISHINAABEK MAAWNJODOWIN CONTEST POWWOW

What makes a community truly strong? It’s the way we come together, through sunshine or rain, to honor our traditions, lift our voices in song, and celebrate the heartbeat of our people. This year’s Kchi Wiikwedong Anishinaabek Annual Pow Wow was a perfect example of that spirit in action.

Although Saturday’s schedule was shortened due to unpredictable weather, the spirit of the circle never dimmed. Our dancers, singers, and community members returned with even greater energy on Sunday, bringing a renewed sense of connection and celebration that filled the Pow Wow grounds with color, music, and the strong pulse of the drum. From historic dance categories making their return to the presence of world-class drumming talent, the 2025 Pow Wow proved once again that our traditions are alive, thriving, and growing stronger each year.

A GROWING TRADITION WITH
NEW HIGHLIGHTS

The Kchi Wiikwedong Pow Wow has always been more than just an event, it’s a living tradition that reflects both our heritage and our future. Each year brings fresh energy, new participants, and evolving opportunities to honor our ancestors while inspiring our youth.

This year marked a meaningful milestone with the return of the *Woodland Dance* category, a style deeply rooted in Anishinaabe culture. This dance had not been part of the competition since the event transitioned back into a Contest Pow Wow format in 2023. Its reintroduction was met with excitement and pride, offering dancers the opportunity to showcase their skills and honor the traditions passed down through generations. By bringing back this category, the Pow Wow reaffirmed its commitment to cultural preservation and education for all who attend, whether participating in the circle or watching from the stands.

WORLD-CLASS MUSIC AND
MOVEMENT

At the heart of every Pow Wow is the drum, its beat is the heartbeat of the people. This year, that heartbeat was set by our Host Drum *Meskwaki Nation*, who traveled from Tama, Iowa, to share their world-champion sound with our community. Their songs resonated across the grounds, carrying both ancient rhythms and contemporary pride.

Alongside the host drum, four other contest drums joined us, each bringing their unique voices and gifts to the circle. The combined energy of these drums filled the weekend with powerful music, guiding dancers through every contest and every step with purpose, precision, and emotion. The diversity of sound they brought reminded us that while each drum has its own story and tradition, they all come together to create a unified experience of celebration and healing.

LEADERS IN THE CIRCLE

Every successful Pow Wow is guided by strong leadership, and this year’s team rose to the occasion with skill and heart.

Arena Director *Cetan Thunderhawk* managed the challenging schedule with calm expertise, making the tough calls that kept the weekend running smoothly despite the weather-related interruptions.

The voices of the circle, MCs *Jackson “Rollingthunder” Tahuka* and *Michael Medawis*, carried not only announcements but also teachings, humor, and heartfelt words that kept the crowd engaged and informed. Their knowledge and charisma brought a sense of continuity and warmth to the entire event.

Our Head Dancers, *Joyce Petoskey* and *Devon Pitawanakwat*, set a standard of excellence and pride, leading every grand entry, special, and inter-tribal with championship-level presence. Their movements told the story of resilience and respect, reflecting the world-class talent within our own GTB community.

For the first time, the responsibility of judging was offered to Head Dance Judge Jose Koonce Santos-McCauley, who embraced the role with fairness and dedication. Judging at a Contest Pow Wow is no easy task, it requires not only an understanding of the technical aspects of dance but also respect for each dancer’s individual style and cultural expression. "Koonce" brought that balance to the circle, ensuring a fair and exciting contest for all participants.

A GATHERING FOR ALL

Pow Wows are more than competitions, they are reunions, teaching grounds, and spaces of connection. This year’s event was no exception. Families, elders, and youth came together to share stories, enjoy food from local vendors, browse beautiful handmade crafts, and celebrate a culture that has been passed down for generations.

In addition to the vibrant activities, visitors were able to catch a glimpse of the future vision for the Pow Wow grounds. Planned renovations include new covered seating to provide shelter and comfort, leveling of the terrain to make the circle more accessible and welcoming, and reseedling of the dance arena to create an even more safe,

beautiful and resilient space. These updates, along with more improvements on the horizon, reflect a commitment to creating a Pow Wow experience that grows alongside our community.

HONORING THE HANDS BEHIND
THE CELEBRATION

An event of this scale takes months of planning, countless hours of work, and the dedication of many. The Pow Wow Committee extends its deepest gratitude to the *Maintenance Department*, who prepared and maintained the grounds; the *Communications Department*, who helped spread the word and document the memories; and the *Strongheart staff*, whose efforts ensured the camping experience ran smoothly from the first shower to the last.

We also thank the volunteers, those who set up chairs, directed guests, supported our vendors, or simply stepped in where needed. It is through these many hands and open hearts that the Kchi Wiikwedong Anishinaabek Pow Wow continues to flourish.

KEEP THE SPIRIT ALIVE

As the drums quieted and the circle closed, what remained was more than just memories, it was the reaffirmation of who we are as a people and how far we have come. You can relive the colors, the smiles, and the moments of this year’s celebration by turning to **pages 12 & 13**, where we’ve captured the vibrant images of the 2025 Kchi Wiikwedong Anishinaabek Annual Pow Wow.

Chi Miigwech to everyone who joined us this year, we can’t wait to see how our circle grows next time!

WANT TO BE PART OF THE
TRADITION?

Do you feel called to help shape the future of this celebration? Are you interested in joining the Pow Wow Committee and having a hand in creating the next chapter of our community’s story?

Contact us at gtpowwow@gtb-nsn.gov to learn how you can get involved and ensure our traditions remain strong for generations to come!

Owning a home is more than a transaction; it’s a milestone that represents security, independence, and a legacy for future generations. For many Anishinaabe families, it is also a way to honor ancestors by caring for the land and creating a space where culture and community thrive.

Whether this is your first step toward homeownership or you are ready to make your dream a reality, this guide will help you prepare with confidence.



Step 1: Lay a Strong Foundation with Knowledge

Before building a home, you need a solid foundation—and the same is true for buying one. Homebuyer education is your first step.

Why it matters:

- ◆ **Learn what lenders look for.** Understand how credit scores, employment history, and savings influence your loan options.
- ◆ **Protect yourself from costly mistakes.** Education helps you spot predatory lending practices and avoid agreements that aren’t in your best interest.
- ◆ **Build confidence.** Knowing the process from start to finish helps you make clear, informed decisions.

Where to start:

- ◆ **[Are You Ready for Homeownership? \(HUD\)](#):** A free resource to help you assess readiness and plan your journey. 
- ◆ **[Pathways Home: For the Homebuyer \(NAIHC\)](#):** A Native-focused online course with tools and resources created specifically for Indigenous homebuyers. 

Step 2: Take an Honest Look at Your Readiness

Homeownership is a big responsibility. Taking a moment to assess your current situation will save you time and stress later.

What to evaluate:

- ◆ **Steady Income and Work History:** Most lenders look for at least two years of consistent employment. This shows you can reliably make monthly payments.
- ◆ **Credit Readiness:** Review your credit report (you can get one free each year at AnnualCreditReport.com) and correct any errors. A higher score often means lower interest rates.
- ◆ **Debt Levels:** List your debts, including student loans, car payments, and credit cards. Aim for a debt-to-income ratio that leaves room for a mortgage.
- ◆ **Savings for Down Payment and Closing Costs:** Even with assistance, most loans require you to bring some funds to closing. Planning early helps reduce financial stress.

Step 3: Explore Your Land/Lot Options


Where you choose to build or buy is as important as the house itself. For GTB members, there are unique opportunities to consider:

- ◆ **Fee Simple Property:** Land that is privately purchased and owned outright, rather than being held in trust by a tribe or the federal government. You have full ownership rights, meaning you can sell, lease, or transfer the land, and is subject to local zoning laws and property taxes.
- ◆ **Tribal Trust Land:** If getting a mortgage to buy/build a home on Tribal land, you will need a Bureau of Indians residential lease approved by the Tribe and BIA. This process is required by the banks and the HUD Section 184 home loan program. It can take several months for the lease approval and federal recording of the lease, additional time should be considered when planning for purchasing or building. (no cost)
- ◆ **GTB Tribal Lot Assignments:** If you are interested in obtaining a tribal lot, contact: **Rob Kalbfleisch, Tribal Land & Roads Manager – (231) 534-7716.** Rob can guide you through availability, eligibility, and the assignment process.

Step 4: Unlock Opportunities with Section 184 Loans

1st Tribal Lending (*ONLY lender GTB works with*) Section 184 Indian Home Loan Guarantee Program was designed specifically for Native American homebuyers.

Benefits include:

- ◆ **Low Down Payment:** As low as 1.25% – 2.25%, making homeownership more accessible.
- ◆ **Fixed Interest Rates:** Regular 30 yr fixed interest rates available. 
- ◆ **Learn more and find an approved lender:** [1st Tribal Lending Section 184 Program](#)

Step 5: Strengthen Your Skills with Pathways Home

The Pathways Home course, developed by the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC), goes beyond basic education.

What you’ll learn:

- ◆ **Credit Repair Strategies:** Steps to improve your score before applying for a mortgage.
- ◆ **Budgeting for the Long Term:** How to manage homeownership costs beyond the monthly payment.
- ◆ **Choosing the Right Mortgage:** Understanding different loan types, interest rates, and terms.
- ◆ **Closing Process Essentials:** What documents you’ll sign, how to read them, and what to expect at closing.


Many tribes, including GTB, require this course for housing assistance eligibility.

Step 6: Access GTB Down Payment Assistance

The Grand Traverse Band offers a Down Payment Assistance (DPA) Program to help eligible members cover one of the biggest upfront costs of homeownership.

What you’ll need to apply:

- ◆ Completed DPA application and release forms
- ◆ Tribal ID
- ◆ Proof of Pathways Home course completion
- ◆ Recent income documentation (pay stubs, tax returns, W-2s)
- ◆ Signed purchase agreement

Apply here: [GTB Down Payment Assistance Application – 2025](#) 

This program applies to new-site homes, modular, stick-built, and mobile homes, but NOT land contracts or lease-to-purchase agreements.

Question regarding Down Payment Assistance, please contact **Joe Kaubenaw** at (231) 534-7803.

Step 7: Plan Beyond the Keys

Buying the home is just the beginning. Successful homeownership means planning for the long term.

Key things to consider:

- ◆ **Taxes and Insurance:** Property taxes and homeowner’s insurance are ongoing costs that should be built into your monthly budget.
- ◆ **Utilities and Maintenance:** Factor in heating, water, repairs, and regular upkeep to avoid surprises.
- ◆ **Emergency Fund:** Set aside savings for unexpected expenses such as roof repairs, appliance replacement, or plumbing emergencies.
- ◆ **Avoid New Debt:** Try not to take on large new loans during the mortgage process or right after closing.

Honoring the Past and Building the Future

Homeownership for Anishinaabe families is more than ownership, it’s a way to plant roots, provide shelter, and create opportunity. By preparing thoughtfully and using the resources available, you are not just buying a house. You are building a home that carries your values for the future generations.

Content courtesy of the GTB Housing Department; article authored by Victoria Alfonseca - GTB Editor

CONTACT HOUSING	
After Hours Emergency Hot Line	(231) 866-1290
Lori Dudley - Administrative Assistant & Front Desk	(231) 534-7800
Joe Kaubenaw - Lead Occupancy Specialist & GTB Rental Info/ Down Payment/Homebuyer Education	(231) 534-7803 (231) 883-1328
Manny Menchaca - Maintenance Supervisor	(231) 534-7448 (231) 631-4594
Tarik Bouguettaya - Emergency Home Repair & Handicap Accessibility Program	(231) 534-7886
Steven Alberts - Program Director Procurement Coordinator	(231) 534-7804 (231) 360-3478
Lilyan Allard - Assistant Manager	(231) 534-7804
Jodi Lewis - Interim Department Manager	(231) 534-7218 (231) 357-2185

ELDERSD		September 2025 Waabagaa Giizis (Leaves Changing Moon)	
Antrim/GT Elders Events & Activities	Benzie Elders Events & Activities	Charlevoix Elders Events & Activities	Leelanau Elders Events & Activities
Monday's Office Tasks Friday's Offices CLOSED *Notes: Lunch Provided **11:30AM - 12:45PM	Monday's & Thursday's Office Tasks Friday's Offices CLOSED *Notes: Lunch Provided **12:00PM - 1:00PM	Monday's Office Tasks Friday's Offices CLOSED *Notes: Lunch Provided **12:00PM - 1:00PM	Monday's Office Tasks Friday's Offices CLOSED *Notes: Lunch Provided **12:00PM - 1:00PM
Monday; September 1st LABOR DAY GTB GOVT. OFFICES CLOSED 8:00AM - 5:00PM	Monday; September 1st LABOR DAY GTB GOVT. OFFICES CLOSED 8:00AM - 5:00PM	Monday; September 1st LABOR DAY GTB GOVT. OFFICES CLOSED 8:00AM - 5:00PM	Monday; September 1st LABOR DAY GTB GOVT. OFFICES CLOSED 8:00AM - 5:00PM
Tuesday; September 2nd Sew Activity 1:00PM - 3:00PM**	Tuesday; September 2nd Office Day 8:00AM - 5:00PM	Tuesday; September 2nd Craft Time 1:30PM**	Tuesday; September 2nd Gallagher's Farmers Market 1:00PM**
Wednesday; September 3rd Open Activity 1:00PM - 3:00PM**	Wednesday; September 3rd Office Day 8:00AM - 5:00PM	Wednesday; September 3rd Elder Bingo LSC Call for Ride	Wednesday; September 3rd Game Day/Board Games 1:00PM - 3:00PM**
Thursday; September 4th Thrifiting 1:00PM - 3:00PM**	Thursday; September 4th Office Day 8:00AM - 5:00PM	Thursday; September 4th Manicures 1:30PM**	Thursday; September 4th TC Store Run 1:00PM**
Tuesday; September 9th Elders Advisory @ 3-Mile 10:00AM - 4:00PM*	Tuesday; September 9th Elders Advisory @ 3-Mile 10:00AM - 4:00PM*	Tuesday; September 9th Elders Advisory @ 3-Mile 10:00AM - 4:00PM*	Tuesday; September 9th Elders Advisory @ 3-Mile 10:00AM - 4:00PM*
Wednesday; September 10th Farmer's Market 1:00PM - 3:00PM**	Wednesday; September 10th Open Activity 1:00PM - 3:00PM**	Wednesday; September 10th Scrabble 1:30PM**	Wednesday; September 10th Thrift Store 1:00PM**
Thursday; September 11th Craft Activity 1:00PM - 3:00PM**	Thursday; September 11th Office Day 8:00AM - 5:00PM	Thursday; September 11th Social Hour 1:30PM**	Thursday; September 11th Corn Hole 1:00PM**
Tuesday; September 16th Craft Activity 1:00PM - 3:00PM**	Tuesday; September 16th Open Activity 1:00PM - 3:00PM**	Tuesday; September 16th Craft Time 1:30PM**	Tuesday; September 16th Craft 1:00PM - 3:00PM**
Wednesday; September 17th Sew Activity 1:00PM - 3:00PM**	Wednesday; September 17th Tribal Council 9:00AM**	Wednesday; September 17th Bills Farm Market 1:30PM**	Wednesday; September 17th Lunch 12:00PM - 1:00PM
Thursday; September 18th Sew Activity 1:00PM - 3:00PM**	Thursday; September 18th NRD FAIR & FEAST @TRIBAL MARINA 10:00AM - 3:00PM*	Thursday; September 18th Card Games 1:30PM**	Thursday; September 18th Kalkaska Farmers Market BYOLunch 9:00AM**
Tuesday; September 23rd Thrifiting 1:00PM - 3:00PM**	Tuesday; September 23rd Farmer's Market 1:00PM - 3:00PM**	Tuesday; September 23rd Craft Time 1:30PM**	Tuesday; September 23rd Hanson's Store Run 1:00PM**
Wednesday; September 24th Craft Activity 1:00PM - 3:00PM**	Wednesday; September 24th Birthday Bingo 1:00PM - 3:00PM**	Wednesday; September 24th Bingo 1:30PM**	Wednesday; September 24th Birthday Bingo 1:00PM - 3:00PM**
Thursday; September 25th Birthday Bingo/Cake 1:00PM - 3:00PM**	Thursday; September 25th Office Day 8:00AM - 5:00PM	Thursday; September 25th Beach Ride 1:30PM**	Thursday; September 25th Lunch w/LTBB Elders @Odawa Casino 1:30PM**
	Tuesday; September 30th Manistee Meijer Run 1:00PM - 3:00PM**	Tuesday; September 30th Craft Time 1:30PM**	Tuesday; September 30th Craft Time 1:30PM - 3:00PM**
<i>*SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CALL AHEAD. ALL ACTIVITIES ARE DRUG & ALCOHOL-FREE!</i>			

Mino-Dibishkaan! Happy Birthday!

GTB News Staff & Membership Dept. would like to acknowledge this months Elders Birthdays!

Let us take a moment to recognize and celebrate the birthdays of our beloved elders this month. May each of these special days be filled with abundant joy, unforgettable memories, and an abundance of love, peace, and happiness!

Robert	Kewaygoshkum	1-Sep	Michael	Genaux	11-Sep	Michael	Bigjoe	21-Sep
Robert	Carlson	1-Sep	Carol	Gage	12-Sep	Kenneth	Menefee	21-Sep
Gary	John	1-Sep	Brian	Pierce	12-Sep	William	Wilson	21-Sep
Sherrilee	Craner	1-Sep	Vicki	Wayne	12-Sep	Keith	Williams	23-Sep
Evelyn	Rose	2-Sep	Wanda	Carlisle	12-Sep	Scott	Scholten	23-Sep
Michael	Chippewa	3-Sep	David	Crockett	12-Sep	Pamela	Pikaar	23-Sep
Anita	Lewis	3-Sep	Michael	Wayashe	12-Sep	Linda	Shafer	23-Sep
Kimberly	Moubray	3-Sep	Roger	Miller	14-Sep	Tamara	Alcock	24-Sep
Terrie	Willis	4-Sep	Ernest	Menefee	15-Sep	William	Martell	24-Sep
Craig	Napont	5-Sep	Tracy	Wabanimkee	15-Sep	Sandra	Warren	24-Sep
Steven	Koon	5-Sep	William	Russell	15-Sep	Melissa	Curtis	24-Sep
Michael	Antoine	5-Sep	Bobbi	White	15-Sep	Dean	Van Paris	24-Sep
Joseph	Belcher	6-Sep	Jaramie	Cabinaw	16-Sep	Mary	LeGault	25-Sep
Bryan	Molina	6-Sep	Shawn	Koeferl	16-Sep	Gregory	Bailey	25-Sep
Ronald	Waukazoo	6-Sep	Ellen	Ance	16-Sep	Elizabeth	Beckham	25-Sep
Phyllis	John	7-Sep	Joyce	Card	16-Sep	William	Beaver	25-Sep
Duane	Wright	7-Sep	Robert	Wright	16-Sep	Lincoln	Niewiadomski	26-Sep
Daniel	Traylor	8-Sep	Helen	Chippewa	17-Sep	Ruth	Bussey	26-Sep
Judith	Blackmer	8-Sep	Betty	Beckman	17-Sep	Mary	Burgess	26-Sep
Bonnie	Willis	9-Sep	Gerald	Dashner	17-Sep	Debra	John	27-Sep
Tanya	Raphael	9-Sep	Georgette	Castorena	17-Sep	Jeffery	Niewiadomski	27-Sep
Michael	Fox	9-Sep	Deborah	Leech	18-Sep	Catherine	Crowley	27-Sep
Elizabeth	Conner	9-Sep	Keith	Mosher	18-Sep	William	Bottrell	27-Sep
Melissa	Martinez-Sandoval	9-Sep	Keith	Cobb	18-Sep	Marietta	Smith	28-Sep
Carrie	Aldrich	10-Sep	Deborah	Running	18-Sep	Allen	Stevens	28-Sep
Wilfred	Mattson	10-Sep	Laura	Wallk	19-Sep	Nora	Anderson	29-Sep
Carolyn	Tighe	11-Sep	Joel	Miller	19-Sep	Bryan	Chippewa	29-Sep
Daniel	Wabsey	11-Sep	Christine	Katsma	20-Sep	Susan	Sicotte	29-Sep
Shirley	Raphael	11-Sep	Wilson	Paepke	20-Sep	Mark	Snyder	29-Sep
Perry	Ghering	11-Sep	Sheila	Wheeler	20-Sep	Darlene	Denemy	30-Sep
George	Seeley	11-Sep	Lawrence	Schaub	21-Sep	Rachelle	Trumbull	30-Sep
Judy	Crockett	11-Sep	Kay	Ance	21-Sep	Patricia	Sams	30-Sep

WANT TO JOIN AN ACTIVITY OR EVENT, OR NEED TRANSPORTATION TO THE EVENT?
ADVANCE SIGN-UP IS REQUIRED!

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR ELDERS SITE COORDINATOR TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Antrim/Grand Traverse

Tanya Tanner
(231) 534-7710
(231) 463-7858
tanya.tanner@gtb-nsn.gov

Delora Wilson
(231) 534-7769
(231) 492-9932
delora.wilson2@gtb-nsn.gov

Benzie/Manistee

CJ Minzey
(231) 534-7824
(231) 590-2018
clayton.minzey2@gtb-nsn.gov

Charlevoix

Barb Kenwabikise
(231) 534-7066
(231) 631-0281
barbara.kenwabikise@gtb-nsn.gov

Leelanau

Melissa Martinez
(231) 534-7743
(231) 631-6095
melissa.martinez@gtb-nsn.gov

Lisa Shawandase

(231) 534-7744
(231) 590-7264
lisa.shawandase@gtb-nsn.gov

Elders Department Manager

Delores Niigaanakwad (231) 534-7748 (231) 631-3908
delores.niigaanakwad@gtb-nsn.gov

NENAANDAWE'IWEJIG

TRADITIONAL HEALING

WITH

JOE SYRETTE

"We are all spirits living a human life. When we take the time to heal and acknowledge our spirit, then and only then will we know and understand our path and journey through life."

-Syrette

HEALING SESSIONS

DATES & TIMES

MAY

28th & 29th - Peshawbestown

*SWEAT on 28th at 6:00 pm

JUNE

3rd & 4th - Traverse City

24th - Peshawbestown

~~*SWEAT on 24th at 6:00 pm~~

NO SWEAT FOR JUNE

SEPTEMBER

2nd & 3rd - Charlevoix

16th* & 17th - Peshawbestown

*SWEAT on 16th at 6:00 pm

JULY

8th ~~& 9th~~ - Charlevoix

22nd* & 23rd - Peshawbestown

*SWEAT on 22nd at 6:00 pm

AUGUST

5th & 6th - Traverse City

~~10th & 11th - Peshawbestown~~

~~*SWEAT on 10th at 6:00 pm~~

GOVERNOR'S BOARD OF OTTAWA AND CHIPPEWIAH

Established 1988

GOVERNOR'S BOARD OF OTTAWA AND CHIPPEWIAH

Established 1988

PROTOCOLS

When seeking a Traditional Healer, please see list below to help you prepare for your healing journey.

All ages welcome!

- Bring enough Tobacco for a full Pipe bowl
- Refrain from Alcohol/Drugs 4 days prior
- *Optional: Gift with your request*
- Women on their sacred "moontime" (monthly cycle) cannot attend this session

HEALING REQUESTS

Requests for Anishinaabe names, colors, clans, teaching, doctoring for illness, dreams, spiritual guidance, etc. are appropriate requests.

CO-ED SWEATS

Co-Ed Sweat May 28th, June 24th, July 22nd, August 19th, & September 16th at 6:00pm in Peshawbestown. Limited capacity, **must pre-register by calling (231) 534-7247**

Reserve Your Spot in Co-ed Sweat Today!

(231) 534-7247

bit.ly/GTB_BH

GOVBehavioralHealth@gtb-nsn.gov

2300 N. Stallman Road

Peshawbestown, MI 49682

Learn More About Joe Syrette Here!

bit.ly/THHJS_Bio

FOSTER & ADOPTIVE FAMILIES NEEDED

You can make a difference in the lives of children and families!

By opening your hearts and homes you can help:

- Restore trust and hope to children in need
- Keep children in their community and maintain relationships
- Maintain cultural values
- Provide a safe and caring environment

Anishinaabek Family Services is looking for families to become licensed foster and/or adoptive homes for children in need of an out of home placement. Training and support are provided.

For more information or to become licensed, please contact Denise Johnson at 231-534-7124 or denise.johnson@gtb-nsn.gov

GOVERNOR'S BOARD OF OTTAWA AND CHIPPEWIAH

Established 1988

GOVERNOR'S BOARD OF OTTAWA AND CHIPPEWIAH

Established 1988

HUMAN SERVICES

FY25 Client Application

Scan QR Code or follow the link!

- Food Rescue (All community members - Mondays after 11am)*
- Food Pantry (application & appointment)*
- Food Assistance (application)
- Emergency Heat Assistance (application)
- Other Emergency Assistance (application)
- Weatherization Items (application & while supplies last)

QR CODE

<https://bit.ly/3zAPJVS>

MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

ANDREA 231-534-7910

*Food Rescue & Pantry Located:
Lower level of the Medicine Lodge

TALKING CIRCLE

ZOOM DAILY 10:30AM- 11:30AM

Zoom Meeting Code: **886 8701 6931**

Password: **sobertalk**

Join Scott via Zoom for a virtual talking circle Wellbriety meeting.

Questions, contact Scott

231-534-7247 or scott.scholten@gtb-nsn.gov

Disseminate culturally based principles, values, and teachings to support healthy community development and servant leadership, and to support healing from alcohol, substance abuse, co-occurring disorders and intergenerational trauma.

Seriously

Don't Miss Out!

CAUTION:

Don't let lack of transportation be the barrier between you and attending substance use treatment. If you do not have Medicaid and need assistance to getting to treatment in the six-county area, please call for more information.

Dan DeKorse 231-463-9536

dan.dekorse@gtb-nsn.gov

GTB NEWS 10

GTB CHARLEVOIX GYM

GRAND RE-OPENING!



NEW EQUIPMENT. NEW VIBES.
SAME STRONG COMMUNITY!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2025 |
4:00 - 6:00 PM

Delicious & Nutritious Food | FREE Strongheart Swag | Fresh Look + Fresh Energy

GTB Charlevoix Office
10085 Wa-Ba-Noong Mi-Kun, East Jordan

Questions? Call Leanne Alber at (231) 534-7551

LIVE • LOVE • KAYAK.

Kayaks Available for Tribal Member Use!

GTB Community can sign out (2) Kayaks with valid tribal ID, Phone Number, Address, and Signed User Agreement (2-Day Usage)

For More Information Call
(231) 534 - 7457

GTB STRONGHEART CENTER PRESENTS



FITNESS CENTER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

ARE YOU A GTB TRIBAL MEMBER & CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE GTB FITNESS CENTERS?
NO SWEAT!



- Fitness Center Financial Assistance to GTB Citizens, Within 6 County Service Area, That Do Not Live Near or Have Access to one of GTB Fitness Centers.
 - Antrim, Grand Traverse, & Manistee Eligible!
- Discounts Also Available for Spouses & Significant Others
- Limited Gym Membership During Winter Months

Gym Membership Assistance for GTB Citizens Within Antrim, Grand Traverse, & Manistee County That Don't Have Access to One of the GTB Fitness Centers & Are Interested in Joining a Local Gym. Discounts Are Also Available for GTB Spouses and/or Significant Others to Encourage & Support One Another on Your Wellness Goals!

Call Leanne or Dawn for the Details & Questions!
Contact: Leanne (Tana) Alber
(231) 534-7551 Leanne.Alber@gtb-nsn.gov

Dawn Shenoskey
(231) 534-7753 or text (231)313-8609

www.gtbindians.org/strongheart.asp

STRONGHEART CENTER

Hours Starting

NOVEMBER 1, 2025
UNTIL APRIL 2026

HOURS:

MON. - THUR.
6:30 AM - 8:00 PM

FRIDAY
6:30 AM - 7:00 PM

SATURDAY
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

CLOSED SUNDAYS & MAJOR HOLIDAYS

****SUBJECT TO CHANGE****

FRONT DESK: (231) 534-7457 **2700 STRONGHEART WAY, PESHAWBESTOWN**





View More Photos by
Scanning the QR Code
or Visiting our Flickr in
the Link Below:



<https://bit.ly/GTBPW25>



MEET THE LEELANAU YOUTH TEAM

THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER
18TH



CATHY CROWLEY
Student Support Advisor



TORIE CHIPPEWA
Youth Intervention Specialist



KAYLIE HUTCHEON
Truancy Intervention Specialist

**DINNER AND CHAT
5-6:30 @ M22
YOUTH BUILDING**



**CATHY - 231.534.7751
TORIE - 231.534.7230
KAYLIE - 231.534.7755**

MORE INFO:

All events are free and open to the Native American and Non-Native public. They promote Anishinabek culture, the musical arts, and health through Yang Style Tai Chi. Events hosted by the GTB Heritage Library, GTB Lifelong Learning, and the Institute of Museums and Library Services.

Events Subject to Change

September 2025

HERITAGE LIBRARY PRESENTS

FALL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Fall Music Lessons: Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays 10AM - 5PM @ Heritage Library

30-Minute Guitar, Piano, and Voice lessons by **appointment**. Zoom Lessons Available. Music lessons are open to children to adults ages 7 to Elder. The Heritage Library has 1 electric keyboard/piano, 2 children sized classical guitars, and 2 full sized classical guitars to borrow for lessons.

Children, Youth & Adults 10AM - 5PM according to teacher availability - First Come First Serve.

Fall Tai Chi Tuesdays & Thursdays: 12PM - 1PM @ Heritage Library

Enjoy the relaxing art of Tai Chi with Francis Carew, who teaches Yang style Tai Chi, a low impact exercise that improves cardiorespiratory function, hypertension, muscular strength, balance, mobility, flexibility, and mind-body awareness.

Medicine Bag Workshop: September 3rd, 17th, & 24th 5:30PM - 7:30PM @ Heritage Library

Discover the spirit of creativity and tradition at the Anishinaabek Makerspace! In this hands-on Medicine Bag Workshop, you'll craft your own personalized bag while learning about its powerful meaning in Anishinaabe culture. Supplies are limited so RSVP the Heritage Library to secure a spot.

Heritage Library Openhouse: September 18th 5:30PM - 7:30PM @ Heritage Library

Celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month with us and discover everything the Heritage Library has to offer. From exciting programs and engaging activities to valuable services and resources for all ages.



More Information:
Francis Carew (231) 534-7752 Francis.Carew@gtb-nsn.gov
Heritage Library - 2821 N West Bay Shore Dr. Peshawbestown, MI



Free Online Tutoring for GTB Students!

Need a certified tutor? We've got you covered!



GTB students in grades K-12 within our six-county service area can receive **FREE** online tutoring through Sylvan or Tutor Doctor. Parents and caregivers can choose the best fit for their student's needs.

Register Today!

Leelanau

Ms. Catherine: (231) 534-7751 | Cell: (231) 492-5337
Ms. Kaylie: (231) 534-7755 | Cell: (231) 631-1672

Grand Traverse

Mr. Tony: (231) 534-7747 | Cell: (231) 499-8218

Benzie / Manistee

Ms. Kim: (231) 534-7825 | Cell: (231) 463-5797

Antrim / Charlevoix

Ms. Melissa: (231) 534-7765
Ms. Dana: (231) 534-7356

Take advantage of this amazing opportunity to support your student's learning!

For additional assistance, contact: Dawn Shenoskey, Department Manager
(231) 534-7753 | Cell: (231) 313-8609

**PETER OLSON
SCHOLARSHIP**

The Peter Olson Scholarship is available to any Native American living in the Diocese of Gaylord - Peshawbestown, Petoskey, and Manistee - who is in college or graduate school. Applications are available by contacting Sister Susan Gardner, Director of the Native American Apostolate and Director Parish Life of St. Kateri Parish.

The applications will be presented to the board in September. They will decide the amount of money each applicant will receive. Checks take about two weeks to process.

Applications MUST be returned to Sister Susan by September 15, 2025

CALL 231-271-6651



Family UNO Tournament
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

All are welcome to join Life Long Learning in a light meal and awareness for Suicide Prevention Month for a fun-filled evening of Uno! (Mental Health Bags will be provided to GTB youth 10 and older from the 6 counties.)

at Traverse City Office/3 Mile Community room
Check-in/ Registration : 5:30pm
Games start at 6:00pm

To Pre register or for more Information
Kimberly.Hinmon@gtb-nsn.gov
or call: 231-463-7825



TIE DYE

With Youth Services

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH | 5-7PM

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AGES 5-10

YOUTH SERVICES LOCATED AT THE M22 BUILDING

LIGHT DINNER PROVIDED

PLEASE BRING A LIGHT- COLORED SHIRT, HOODIE, OR HAT

FOR BEST RESULTS WHITE WORKS BEST

Torie Chippewa

Cell: (231) 590-2395

Email: victoria.chippewa@gtb-nsn.gov



YOUTH SERVICES OPEN CENTER DAYS

Creating a safe open space for students to come hang out after school.

help with homework

crafting

PLAY BOARD GAMES

with library next door we have computer access and books!



please call or email a week in advance to let us know that your student would be attending.

Torie Chippewa
Youth Intervention Specialist
phone. 231534.7230
cell.231.590.2395
email.
victoria.chippewa@gtb-nsn.gov





GTB DENTAL CLINIC



STRONG SMILES START WITH HEALTHY GUMS THIS MONTH’S SPOTLIGHT: NATIONAL GUM CARE

Healthy gums are the foundation of a strong, confident smile and a vital part of overall wellness. For Native American families, caring for our gums is more than just a routine; it’s a way to honor our bodies, carry forward our traditions of wellness, and set a strong foundation for the next generation.

Our ancestors valued holistic health and balance, understanding that every part of the body plays a role in our well-being. Today, modern dentistry echoes that wisdom: healthy gums help protect our hearts, our nutrition, and our overall health.

WHY GUM HEALTH MATTERS

Your gums may not develop cavities like your teeth, but they are the gatekeepers of your oral health. When gum tissue becomes unhealthy, it can lead to more than just tooth problems. Unhealthy gums can:

- ◆ Become painful, red, or swollen
- ◆ Cause bleeding during brushing or flossing
- ◆ Lead to chronic bad breath (halitosis)
- ◆ Increase the risk of serious infections and systemic illnesses

Did you know? Gum disease has been linked to heart disease, diabetes, pregnancy complications, and weakened immune response. Caring for your gums is an investment in your family’s long-term health.

FROM HEALTHY GUMS TO PERIODONTAL DISEASE. WHAT HAPPENS?

Gum disease doesn’t happen overnight—it progresses over time, often silently at first:

- ◆ **Healthy Gums:** Firm, pink, pain-free, and snug around your teeth.
- ◆ **Gingivitis (Reversible):** The first warning sign. Gums may bleed during brushing or flossing, and you may notice mild swelling or tenderness. The good news? This stage is reversible with proper care.
- ◆ **Periodontitis (Irreversible):** The advanced stage. Gums pull away from the teeth, forming pockets that trap bacteria. Bones begin to break down, teeth become loose, infections can occur, and in some cases, teeth are lost. This damage is permanent and requires professional treatment to manage.
- ◆ **Advanced (Irreversible):** The most severe stage. Deep pockets form around teeth, significant bone loss occurs, and teeth can shift, become extremely loose, or fall out. This stage often requires specialized treatment and, in some cases, tooth removal and replacement.

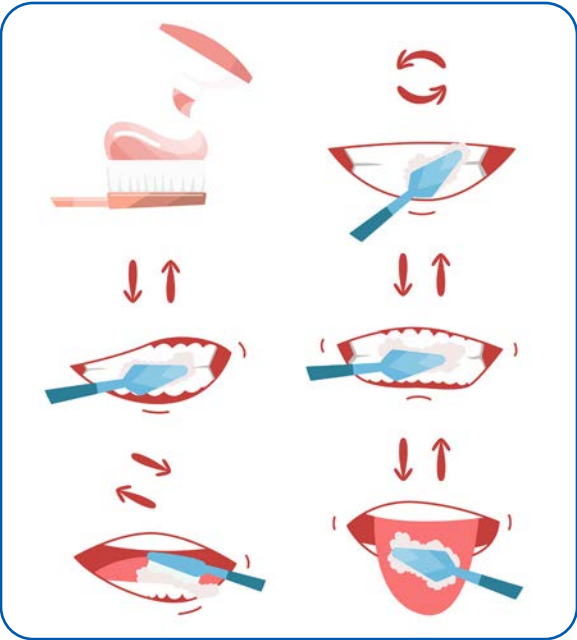
Left untreated, this condition can lead to painful abscesses, difficulty eating, and even the need for dentures.

DAILY STEPS TO KEEP GUMS STRONG

Just a few daily habits can help protect your gums and your family’s smiles:

- ◆ **Brush twice daily** for at least **two minutes** using fluoridated toothpaste.
- ◆ **Floss every day** to remove plaque and food particles between teeth.
- ◆ **Brush along the gumline**, not just the tooth surface.
- ◆ **Rinse with an antimicrobial mouthwash** (if recommended by your dentist).
- ◆ **Eat a balanced diet** rich in vitamin C and calcium to support gum health.
- ◆ **Visit your dentist regularly** to remove hardened plaque (calculus) and catch early signs of gum disease.

Remember: Brushing your teeth alone is not enough your gums need care, too!



MAKE THE PLEDGE FOR HEALTHY GUMS

This Gum Care Month, we encourage you and your family to take the pledge:

Commit to practicing excellent oral hygiene this September and carry those habits forward for future generation and to keep your mouth happy, healthy, and

clean for years to come. IMPORTANT UPDATE: CHANGES TO NEW PATIENT ELIGIBILITY

As part of our ongoing commitment to serving our community with the highest quality care, we want to inform you of an important update:

Starting October 1, 2025, the GTB Dental Clinic will only accept new patients who are enrolled Grand Traverse Band (GTB) members.

This change is being implemented due to ongoing staffing shortages and limited access to care. By narrowing our new patient pool, we can ensure improved access and faster service for GTB members, allowing us to better meet their oral health needs.

Exceptions still apply for:

- ◆ Spouses of GTB-member employees
- ◆ Dependent children under 18 yrs. old

These individuals will remain eligible for treatment with billable insurance.

We truly appreciate your understanding and patience as we work to make dental care more accessible for our tribal community.

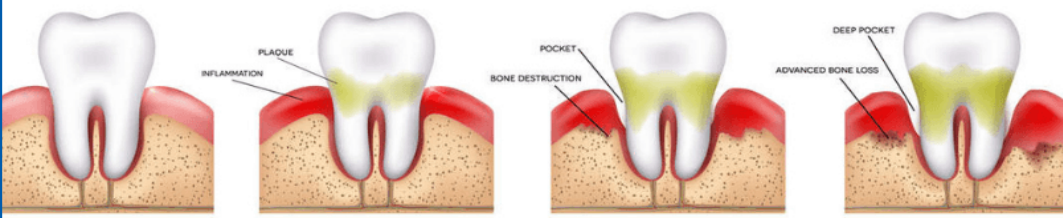
Appointment Courtesy: Please provide **at least 24-hour notice** if you are **unable to keep your dental appointment**. This allows us to offer that slot to another patient and helps reduce scheduling delays.

YOUR FAMILY’S PARTNER IN ORAL HEALTH

The Grand Traverse Band Dental Clinic is here to care for your entire family, from the youngest to the eldest. Whether it’s a routine checkup, deep cleaning, or advanced gum treatment, our dedicated team is committed to your health and your heritage of strong smiles.

**CALL US
TODAY TO
SCHEDULE YOUR
APPOINTMENT
(231) 534-7721**

Gingivitis VS Periodontitis



DayoDental



NOTICE TO ALL PURCHASE REFERRED CARE (PRC) CLIENTS

The Grand Traverse Band Health Services Department (Manoomin-Rice), is very thankful for all the benefits that the Purchase Referred Care (PRC) Program offers to our eligible PRC clients. We would like to provide information to you as the PRC Client of the program regulations for the PRC program. PRC is not an entitlement program, an insurance plan, or guarantee of payment. PRC is considered the payer of last resort and the direct healthcare services funded 100% by Tribal dollars. The priority levels of the program are directly from IHS.

We currently use Forest County Potawatomi (FCP) as our PRC Third-Party Administrator. You may have received the brown and white card that states it is the GTB Purchase/Referred Care Program. **FCP PRC is secondary** to all primary insurances: Medicare, Medicaid, Employer Insurance, Marketplace Sponsorship, etc.

PURCHASE REFERRED CARE (PRC) PROGRAM STAFF AND CLIENT VERIFICATION

The PRC program staff are the gatekeepers for the GTB PRC program, ensuring that every request for service is verified with a **complete PRC Client application and documentation-annually verified**. GTB PRC is not an insurance, and PRC Clients may be directed back to their providers primary insurance/or FCP PRC for assistance.

The GTB PRC program is for eligible GTB members as written below:

- 1. Must be a member of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.
- 2. Must reside within the GTB PRC Delivery Area (PRCDA): Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, and Manistee counties and furnish documentation to substantiate residency eligibility for a minimum of 90 days prior to eligibility being established:

Option 1-

A copy of your GTB Photo Tribal ID, & valid driver’s license or State of Michigan photo ID with the physical address listed on the application and one of the following in your name:

- ◆ A current utility bill
- ◆ A current bill received on a monthly basis
- ◆ Most recent year form W2
- ◆ Most recent year Federal Income tax return
- ◆ Michigan Voter’s registration card
- ◆ Current monthly bank statement

Option 2-

A copy of your GTB photo Tribal ID, and two of the following in your name:

- ◆ A current utility bill
- ◆ A current bill received on a monthly basis
- ◆ Most recent year form W2
- ◆ Most recent year Federal Income tax return
- ◆ Michigan Voter’s registration card
- ◆ A current monthly bank statement

Option 3-

A copy of your GTB Photo Tribal ID or valid Driver’s License or Michigan ID, and:

- ◆ Fill out an Affidavit for Certification of Residency for Co-habitants Resident Tribal Member (affidavits can be requested by contacting the Membership department).
- ◆ **Please note if a GTB member is living**

in the six-county area and homeless, we will work with you to offer case management services to assist with your healthcare needs.

- ◆ PRC needs to have a referral from a primary care provider on file to obtain a Pre-Authorization for specialized healthcare or dentalcare treatment plan.

IMPLEMENTING PRC REQUIREMENTS THAT WILL GO INTO EFFECT OCTOBER 1, 2025

- 1. **PRC ONLY** Clients living in Leelanau and Grand Traverse Counties, that have **PRC as their only healthcare coverage** (meaning ineligible for Medicare/Medicaid employer Insurance/Marketplace Sponsorship) will be required to:
 - ◆ Use the GTB Clinic, GTB Dental, and GTB Pharmacy as their primary care and pharmacy provider. Under certain circumstances requests for healthcare outside of the GTB Medicine Lodge will be approved by the GTB Clinic/Dental Healthcare Providers and documented via a referral and confirmed with PRC.
- 2. **PRC ONLY** clients with PRC as their only healthcare coverage that live in Charlevoix, Antrim, and Benzie must visit the GTB Clinic at least once per year for continued services from the PRC program.
- 3. **ALL PRC ONLY CLIENTS MUST CALL IN: ALL MEDICAL/ DENTAL/ AND OPTICAL APPOINTMENTS.**
- 4. **MEDICARE or Dually enrolled (Medicare & Medicaid) PRC CLIENTS:**
 - ◆ You do not have to call in your medical appointments to PRC, present your Medicare Card and your PRC Card at the time of service to your healthcare provider.
 - ◆ If you receive any bills for co-pays or co-insurance, send those to PRC via email PRC@gtb-nsn.gov or drop them off.
- 5. **MEDICAID PRC CLIENTS:**
 - ◆ You do not have to call in your medical appointments to PRC, present your

Medicaid Card and your PRC Card at the time of service to your healthcare provider.

- ◆ If you receive a bill that was not covered by Medicare or Medicaid from your provider, please ask the provider if the bill was submitted to FCP-PRC for payment.

FCP Contact: (715) 478-7448 or FCPINSURANCE@FCPOTAWATOMI-NSN.GOV

- 6. All requests for reimbursement for all PRC CLIENTS, except for *students who meet residency requirements but are enrolled in school outside the sixcounty area, must be for costs within the PRCDA-THE SIX-COUNTY AREA.
- 7. **ALL PRC CLIENTS MUST CALL IN THEIR OPTICAL AND DENTAL APPOINTMENTS AT LEAST 48 HOURS BEFORE THE APPOINTMENT TO RECEIVE TIMELY AUTHORIZATIONS. PRC APPOINTMENT HOTLINE: (231) 534-722 PRC EMAIL: PRC@GTB-NSN.GOV <https://www.gtbindians.org/contracthealth.asp>**

MEDICARE, MEDICAID, DISABILITY, AND VA APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

The PRC Benefits Coordinator, **David Wonegeshik**, is available to help you with your health benefits, and to assist you in completing Medicare, Medicaid, Disability, and VA applications.

Some PRC clients may be contacted for enrollment in advantage and premium plans for prescription coverage. Contact the **PRC Benefits Coordinator** at (231) 534-7354 / (231) 590-2029 or David.Wonegeshik@gtb-nsn.gov.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025

Effective 10/01/2025 the GTB Dental Clinic will only accept GTB Members, GTB-FCP-insured Employees, and spouses/dependents as new patients.

On behalf of the Department 8-Health Services,

Chi-Megwetch! Sonya Zotigh, GTB Health Administrator

AGRICULTURAL & FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

As summer winds down and the first signs of fall begin to appear, the GTB Agriculture & Food Sovereignty Department invites you to join us in celebrating the bounty of our land and the strength of our traditions. This month, we’re bringing the community together for farm-to-table meals, hands-on workshops, and a record-setting corn harvest—all designed to nourish our bodies, strengthen our connections, and honor the teachings passed down through generations.

TRADITIONAL SUMMER COOKOUTS: FARM-TO-TABLE ANISHINAABE STYLE!

Following the success of our first GTB Traditional Cookout in July and August, we are excited to offer one more gathering to close out the summer harvest season!

September 23
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
GTB Peshawbestown Farm
(North of the Strongheart Center at 2700 Strongheart Way)
See the flyer for more details

Hosts Clay Clifford and Tanya Raphael will be firing up the grill with favorites like bison burgers, grilled lake trout, and fresh summer sides. Guests are encouraged to bring a dish, a chair, and their appetite!

Each cookout is more than just a meal, it’s a chance to:

- ◆ Learn how to prepare traditional foods for modern summer cooking
- ◆ Enjoy freshly harvested produce from the farm
- ◆ Take home seasonal crops such as carrots, tomatoes, cucumbers, summer squash, and potatoes

By the September 23rd cookout, we’ll also begin harvesting our traditional corn, bring a bag or two, and if you have corn-braiding skills, even better! Did you see, the GTB Agriculture team at the GTB Health Fair and Pow Wow? We shared more of our seasonal produce to the community.



3RD ANNUAL DEER PROCESSING WORKSHOP HONORING THE WAAWAAKESH

October 7th, 5:00 – 8:00 PM, join us for an evening dedicated to honoring the Waawaakesh (white-tail deer), a vital source of nourishment for our people. The workshop will begin with a prayer of gratitude before moving into hands-on learning:

- ◆ Skinning, quartering, and breaking down a deer
- ◆ Demonstrating safe and respectful processing techniques
- ◆ Vacuum-packing meat for long-term preservation

Past workshops have drawn more than a dozen participants, and with good planning, we hope to once again share smoked venison jerky with attendees. Whether you’re new to processing large

game or looking to refine your skills, this is an ideal opportunity for individuals and families alike.



RECORD-BREAKING TRADITIONAL CORN HARVEST AHEAD

This year’s traditional corn crop at the Peshawbestown Farm is thriving, and early signs point to one of our best harvests yet. We extend deep thanks to Buddy Raphael and the Raphael family for providing the corn seed that continues to sustain our community.

Harvesting will begin during the September cookout, with the main crop ready by early October. To ensure the health of future crops, 25% of the best corn will be saved as seed, with clearly marked areas to guide community pickers.

Alongside the corn, Clay Clifford, GTB Traditional Agriculture Coordinator, has nurtured a vibrant 4 Sisters Garden (corn, beans, squash, and sunflower) using the traditional Hidatsa method. Expect abundant squash and beans as the season progresses.

Stay tuned for updates in future newsletters as the corn and squash harvest continues, and come be part of this rich tradition that connects us all to the land and to one another.



TRADITIONAL COOKOUTS

Celebrate Food, Culture, & Community

Thursday, August 28, 2025
Tuesday, September 23, 2025

5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Peshawbestown Gitigaan Garden
Located north of the Strongheart Center
(2700 Strongheart Way, Peshawbestown, MI)

Come enjoy a feast of traditional foods and Anishinaabe culinary knowledge.

What to Expect:

- Open to all ages – bring your family and friends
- Outdoor seating in the garden space
- Opportunity to learn and ask questions about traditional food preparation — a gathering rooted in health, heritage, and harvest

Contact:
William Derouin
William.Derouin@gtb-nsn.gov
(231) 534-7023

NATURAL RESOURCES

CWD TESTING OPTIONS
FOR DEER

Option 1: Deer harvested within the current CWD surveillance counties. (Baraga, Chippewa, Dickinson, Houghton, Iosco, Keweenaw, Luce, Mackinac, Ogemaw, Ontonagon, Schoolcraft)

- Deer heads from these counties should be submitted to the DNR for free CWD testing.
- Local DNR staff can provide tribes with the traditional full version of the CWD Survey Tags to affix to each deer head to be submitted for testing.
- Tribal deer harvesters should fill out the tag in its entirety, including the County, Township, Range, and Section of harvest to assist with disease surveillance efforts.
- The harvester/tribe should keep the bottom tear-off portion of the tag to track disease test results.
- Final test results will be posted to the DNR’s website www.michigan.gov/dnrlab And can be looked up using the CWD Survey Tag number on the tear-off piece of tag that was kept from the submitted deer head.



Option 2: Free self-sample shipping kit testing

- GTB hunters are also eligible for free CWD testing by using a free lymph node shipping kit that includes overnight shipping. Hunters must extract lymph nodes themselves to submit to Michigan State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (MSU VDL) for CWD testing. Kits can be picked up from GTB Natural Resources Department. Results from deer submitted to MSU VDL will be sent directly to the hunter from the VDL and will not appear on the DNR lab results webpage.

Link on lymph node extraction: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ic-lRqzoFKs>



LEELANAU
COUNTY
ELECTRONIC
WASTE DAYS

Bay Area Recycling for Community has partnered with [eRecycleTC](#) to provide Leelanau County residents with 8 Electronic Waste Collection days in 2025. This event is Free to Leelanau Residents and paid for by the Leelanau County PA-69 Tax! These days will NOT be on the same days as Leelanau County’s Household Hazardous Waste days, so please remember to sign up for the HHW days on the county website: <https://hhwappointments.as.me/schedule/063cf782>



Note: We do not have a shared database with Membership so information will need to be changed with us if you’re updating with them too!

As always, before utilizing your treaty rights, you should read and know your regulations before heading out into the field.

You can look for the most current season regulations on the GTB website at:
<https://www.gtbindians.org/>
scroll to ↳ the main tab, select *Departments*
scroll down ↳ and then select *Natural Resources*

Deer & Turkey Harvest Tags are Available!!!
(Please call or email to request)

Electronic Materials ACCEPTED:

- TV’s & Computer Monitors (CRT/Flat Screen/Rear Projections)
- Lap Top Computers, Tower Computers, Tablets
- Radios and Communication Equipment
- Cell Phones/Landline Phones
- Small Appliances such as Microwaves/ Toasters/Toaster Ovens/Vacuums
- Printers/Scanners of any size
- Wire of any type
- Speakers/Audio Equipment
- Key Boards/Mice
- Hair Dryers/Curling Irons
- Batteries of all size and type
- Small Refrigerators/Air Conditioners/ Dehumidifiers
- Electric Weed Whip/Electric Lawn Mowers
- And More!

Remember, we accept any device or accessory that uses an electrical plug or a battery!

Materials NOT ACCEPTED

- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). Please use this link to sign up for Leelanau County HHW Events (<https://hhwappointments.as.me/schedule/063cf782>)
- Large Refrigerators (coordinate directly with BARC for drop off or pick up, or your power supplier for Large Refrigerators and Freezers for a rebate)
- Mattresses (Please coordinate with Leelanau County or contact BARC at any time for drop off and pick up times)
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs/Light Bulbs, please take to HHW Event

Leelanau County E-Waste Registration
Please use the form below to sign up for this year’s electronic waste collection dates. These events will be held at these four locations:

- Suttons Bay** is at the Leelanau Government Center: 8527 E.

Government Center Drive, Suttons Bay, MI

- Peshawbestown** is in the parking lot of the Leelanau Sands Casino: 2521 N West Bay Shore Dr, Peshawbestown, MI 49682
- Glen Lake School** is at 3375 W Burdickville Rd, Maple City, MI 49664
- Elmwood Township** is at the Cherry Bend Community Park at 10071 E. Avondale Ln, Traverse City, MI 49684 Saturday, July 12th 2025 at Glen Lake School

Leelanau County E-Waste Registration
Scan QR Code or follow link



<https://mybarc.org/leelanau-county-electronic-waste-days/>

Leelanau County E-Waste Dates

- September 15th, 2025 in Peshawbestown
- October 4th, 2025 in Elmwood Township
- October 25th, 2025 in Suttons Bay

GTB 6-COUNTY SERVICE
AREA HOUSEHOLD
HAZARDOUS WASTE
(HHW) COLLECTION

ANTRIM COUNTY
Antrim County HHW drop offs are from **8-noon**. Please check the Antrim Conservation District HHW website or call **(231) 533-8363** for more information and a list of accepted items.

- Sept. 27th: Antrim County Road Commission

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY
Appointments are required. To Register or get more information please call **(231) 941-5555** or visit the Grand Traverse County HHW website.

- Sept. 13th: 9am - 2pm*

*Location TBD

LEELANAU COUNTY
Appointment needed in advance. To schedule an appointment or to see a list of accepted materials, please contact Leelanau County Planning and Community Development at **(231) 256-9812** or visit the Leelanau County HHW website.

- Sept. 22nd: Peshawbestown, Parking lot (*across from Leelanau Sands Casino*)
- October 11th: Elmwood Township Park

MANISTEE COUNTY
Dates have not been published yet for Manistee County. For more information, please visit the Manistee County HHW website.

Acceptable collection items vary county to county. To ensure your HHW items are eligible please read the full list of accepted items on your county’s website or call for information.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Back-to-School Means Back to Safety

September marks the return of backpacks, bus rides, and busy mornings across our community. With the excitement of a new school year also comes the responsibility of ensuring that students arrive safely each day. The Grand Traverse Band Public Safety Department is reminding families to review basic safety practices—whether children walk, bike, ride the bus, or are dropped off by car.

For those who walk to school, parents are encouraged to practice the route with their child. Safe walking means using sidewalks when possible, or walking against traffic if there are none. Children should stop at the curb, look left, right, and then left again before crossing, and never step into the street without making eye contact with drivers. Distracted walking—looking at a phone or wearing headphones—can turn an ordinary trip into a dangerous one.

Biking offers another healthy way to get to school, but it also requires preparation. Children should ride with traffic, in single file, and always stop completely before crossing streets. Bikes should be walked, not ridden, across intersections. Public Safety emphasizes that a well-fitted helmet is a must, and bright clothing helps riders be seen by drivers.

School buses remain one of the safest forms of transportation, but they are safest when children understand the rules. Young riders should wait six feet back from the curb, and if they must cross in front of the bus, they should do so at least ten feet ahead where the driver can see them clearly. Parents are urged to reinforce the importance of never walking behind a bus.

Even parents who drive their children to school play a critical role in safety. The department asks all drivers to obey school zone speed limits, put down distractions, and follow school-specific drop-off procedures. Back-to-school season is exciting, but it’s also a time to slow down, stay alert, and make sure every child in our community arrives safely.”

Safety on the Roads and Beyond as the School Year Begins

With buses back on the roads and children filling sidewalks, drivers and students alike are reminded that school safety is everyone’s responsibility. The Grand Traverse Band Public Safety Department is urging community members to be especially alert during morning and afternoon travel times.

Motorists are required by law to stop for school buses when red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended. Vehicles must stop at least 20 feet away, unless driving in the opposite direction on a divided highway. Passing a stopped school bus is not only dangerous but also carries serious fines and penalties. Drivers should also slow down in school zones, watch for crossing guards, and look carefully for children stepping out from between parked cars.

Students, too, are being asked to reduce distractions during their commute. The rise of “distracted walking”—children looking at phones or listening to headphones while crossing streets—has been linked to preventable injuries. Safety experts advise that children put devices away, walk facing traffic when sidewalks are not available, and always cross at designated crosswalks.

Bicycle safety is another area of focus. Under



Building Safe Habits on the Way to the Bus Stop

For many families, the day begins with a walk to the bus stop. While this daily routine may seem simple, it is an important time for children to develop safe habits that will serve them for years to come. The Grand Traverse Band Public Safety Department is encouraging parents and caregivers to be active teachers in this process.

One of the best ways to prepare children for the school year is to take a “practice walk” together. Walking the route at the same time of day children will normally travel helps identify hazards, practice safe crossing, and establish a consistent routine. Families are encouraged to choose sidewalks and lower-speed roads when possible, and to decide together on a route that will be followed every day.

Public Safety reminds parents that most children under ten should not be expected to cross streets alone. Adults or crossing guards should help younger students navigate intersections until they are ready. Along the way, parents can use the walk to explain the meaning of

stop signs, traffic lights, and crosswalk markings.

Distractions are a growing concern, not just for drivers but for pedestrians. Phones and headphones should be put away before walking. As fall days grow shorter, children should also use reflective gear or carry flashlights in the early morning and evening hours. In winter, snow may block usual walking paths, so families may need to plan alternate routes.

At the bus stop, students should arrive early, stand well back from the curb, and never walk behind the bus. If something is dropped near the bus, children must tell the driver before picking it up. When crossing in front of the bus, students should walk at least ten feet ahead and wait for eye contact or a signal from the driver before crossing.

Pedestrian safety is not a one-time conversation, parents should look for everyday moments to talk about safe walking, whether that’s heading to the park or simply walking through a parking lot. By practicing consistently, families can help make every trip to school a safe one.

Michigan law, bicyclists must follow the same traffic rules as drivers. This includes riding on the right side of the road, yielding at intersections, passing on the left, and obeying all stop signs and signals. If the lane is too narrow to share safely, cyclists are allowed to “take the lane” by riding in the center. Helmets and bright clothing remain essential for visibility and protection.

Safety means more than traffic rules, it’s about making smart choices, staying alert, and looking out for one another. Together, we can ensure that this school year is a safe and positive one for all.



FIRE & RESCUE



Photos by Duane Dodge

GTB National Night Out Brings Community Together

On Tuesday, August 5, community members gathered at the Grand Traverse Band government campus for the annual National Night Out, an event that celebrates safety, connection, and community partnership. Coordinated by GTB Firefighter/EMT Scott Moore, the evening drew a strong turnout of families, vendors, and local organizations.

Representatives from Michigan State Police, the Leelanau County Sheriff’s Department, Cherryland Utility Company, Suttons Bay Fire Department, Leland Fire, GTB Behavioral Health, and the Young Marines were all in attendance, offering information, resources, and demonstrations. Even Smokey the Bear joined the fun, posing for photos alongside GTB Police Captain David Crockett and Leelanau County Sheriff Mike Borkovich.

“This event is one of the highlights of the year for us,” said GTB Public Safety officials. “It’s a chance for families to meet the people who keep our community safe, to ask questions, and to learn more about the services available to them.”

The evening also featured food, children’s activities, and prize giveaways, with Master of Ceremonies Scott Scholten keeping the energy lively throughout the night. Attendees had the opportunity to connect directly with first responders,

reinforcing the sense of trust and partnership that National Night Out is designed to build.

National Night Out is a nationwide event that began in 1984, aiming to strengthen the relationship between law enforcement, emergency services, and the neighborhoods they serve. For GTB, it has become an annual tradition, highlighting the collaboration between tribal police, the fire department, and surrounding public safety partners.

“We are thankful for everyone who participated and attended,” said Moore, who coordinated this year’s event. “Each year the turnout grows, and each year we look forward to connecting even more with the families we serve.”

Public Safety encourages all community members to mark their calendars for next summer’s gathering, which promises to bring even more resources, demonstrations, and opportunities to connect.

“Events like this remind us that safety is not just about responding to emergencies,” Public Safety emphasized. “It’s about building relationships, sharing knowledge, and creating a strong, resilient community.”

View photo from the Nation Night Out by scanning the QR Code or visit: https://bit.ly/GTB_2NNO

September is National Preparedness Month

September is recognized across the country as National Preparedness Month, and the Grand Traverse Band Fire Department is encouraging families to take simple steps to ensure they are ready in case of an emergency. Preparedness doesn’t just apply to large-scale disasters—it begins at home with planning and awareness.

Community members are reminded to review their family emergency plans, check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and keep fire extinguishers accessible and up to date. Having an emergency kit with essentials like water, nonperishable food, flashlights, and medications can make a big difference when unexpected situations arise.

Preparedness also means communication. Families are encouraged to establish a designated meeting spot outside the home in case of fire, and to have important contact numbers written down in case phones are lost or batteries fail.

Emergencies are never planned, but preparation only takes a few minutes now can save lives later. Preparedness Month is a reminder for all of us to stay ready.

Fall Fire Safety Tips for Families

As summer turns to fall, the Grand Traverse Band Fire Department is reminding community members that fire safety remains a year-round responsibility. Cooler evenings mean more households are using candles, fireplaces, and outdoor fire pits, all of which can increase the risk of fire if not used carefully.

Fire officials encourage families to place candles away from curtains and never leave them burning unattended. Chimneys should be inspected before their first seasonal use, as built-up creosote can easily ignite. For those enjoying backyard fires, a bucket of water or hose should always be nearby, and fires should never be left smoldering overnight.

Autumn is also a good time to check smoke alarms and replace batteries if needed. The National Fire Protection Association reports that three out of five home fire deaths occur in homes without working smoke detectors.

Fire safety is simple when it becomes routine; a few small precautions can prevent accidents and keep our families safe this fall.

100 Employment	130 Services
105 Lost and Found	135 Events
115 For Sale	140 Legal Notice
120 Announcements	145 Mino-Dibishkaan
125 Miigwech	150 Bereavement

100 Employment

Government Operations

Behavioral Health Therapist (FT)

A Master's Degree in Psychology, Counseling, Social Work, Psychiatric Nursing, or related field required. State of Michigan full Licensure required. A min. of (2) yrs... Experience providing substance abuse and/or mental health counseling of high-risk populations including mental health, substance abuse & addictive disorders, and/or prevention/community education services required. Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CAADC), or ability to obtain within (1) yr. Must have a valid unrestricted driver license and be insurable by the GTB insurance carrier. -\$91,639/yr. - until filled

Bookkeeper/Assistant Program Director (FT)

Associates Degree in Accounting, Finance, Business Administration or Public Administration is required. Must have a minimum of 3 years of experience working in bookkeeping, prefer working with multiple federal grants/contracts. Must have a valid unrestricted Driver's license and be insurable by the GTB insurance carrier. -\$18.55/hr. - until 8.5.25

Chief Tribal Judge (FT)

Is a member of the Grand Traverse Band who has attained the age of eighteen (18) and/or is an attorney licensed to practice before the courts of a state in the United States. 5 years of experience in legal practice. Has not been convicted, within ten (10) years of such appointment, of any felony by a court of competent jurisdiction. Must have a valid unrestricted driver license and be insurable by the GTB insurance carrier. -\$DOE/yr. - until filled

Court Clerk/Assistant Probation Officer (FT)

Associate Degree in Criminal Justice, Paralegal, Business, or Administrative Services. A combination of education & experience may be considered in lieu of an Associate's Degree. General knowledge of applicable law, regulations, rules, policies, procedures & administration is required. Must have a valid unrestricted driver license and be insurable by the GTB insurance carrier. -\$22.71/hr. - until filled

Dental Hygienist (FT)

Associates Degree in Dental Hygiene and Licensure in State of Michigan. Twenty-four hours of biennial continuing education including four hours' HIV-AIDS and three hours' CPR training. Competence in operation of standard dental equipment: cavitron, prophjet, X-ray, radiograph processor, panelipse, dental chair and unit, sterilizers, hand scalers, and curesets. At least one year of experience as a full time dental hygienist preferred. -\$36.62/hr. - until filled

EHS Education & Family Services Coordinator (FT)

Must have a BA in Human Services or Social Work field. Must have experience in a supervisory position, with strong team

leadership skills. One to three years experience in working in an Early Head Start and/or Head Start program preferred. Previous experience in the field, with skills in classroom management, and curriculum planning. Must obtain CPR/First Aid certification. -\$44,595.20/yr. - until filled

EHS/HS Bus Driver - Part Time (PT)

Must have High School diploma or GED. Must be able to effectively communicate with children & adults in an appropriate manner. Must have First Aide Certification or obtain a CPR/First Aid certification (within 30 days). Ability to observe & evaluate children in a non-biased manner. Must be willing to & as well as obtain a CDA within first (2) yrs.. of hire. -\$18.55/hr. - until filled

EHS/HS Health & Disabilities Coordinator (FT)

Bachelor's Degree with strong emphasis in Health, Social Services, Psychology or Early Childhood Education. 1-3 yrs.. experience preferred. Advanced knowledge of applicable law, regulations, rules & procedures of the Head Start/Early Head Start program. Must maintain current CPR/First Aid Certification -\$44,595.20/yr. - until filled

(2) EHS/HS Home Visitor (FT)

An Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education required. A Bachelor's Degree & (1) yr. of direct experience preferred. (3) yrs.. of directly related experience. -\$19.98/hr. - until filled

Facilities Utility Worker 1st Shift (Temporary)

High school diploma or G.E.D. preferred. Experience in commercial building maintenance preferred. Carpentry, plumbing and electrical repair experience preferred. Knowledge of safety procedures and safety equipment recommended for use during the course of duty. -\$16.17/hr. - until filled

Facilities Utility Worker 2nd Shift (FT)

High school diploma or GED is preferred. Knowledge of safety procedures and safety equipment recommended for use during the course of duty. Must have good work habits, i.e., punctuality, and low absenteeis. -\$16.17/hr. - until filled

Housing Development Manager (FT)

Must possess a college degree in Business or related field. At least Five (5) years of increasingly responsible administrative experience in the development, planning, funding implementation and operation of governmental funded, low-income directed, housing assistance programs and at least (3) years in a management position. Must have a valid unrestricted driver license and be insurable by the GTB insurance carrier. -\$DOE/hr. - until filled

Housing Maintenance I (FT)

High School diploma or GED. Previous experience in the repair and maintenance of housing units. Must have a valid unrestricted driver license and be insurable by the GTB insurance. Must have appropriate endorsements for all vehicles required to

Advertisements, call **231-534-7008** or Email: GTBGovt.News@gtb-nsn.gov
Subject: “Classifieds”. Please have all submissions & payments sent by the 3rd Friday of each month. Classified rates: \$10 for 15 words or less, and 75 cents per additional word. Any thumbnail image costs an additional \$15. ***Postings are subject to change daily.**

Apply Online: <https://gtbindians.applicantpool.com/jobs/>
Request for Proposals (RFP): <https://gtbindians.applicantpool.com/internaljobs/>

(2) Housing Maintenance II (FT)

Must have a High school diploma or GED. Be certified in an area related to maintenance or building trades such as carpentry, plumbing, electrical or HVAC or have demonstrated experience/knowledge in one or more areas. Five years' experience in residential unit maintenance. Must have a valid unrestricted driver license and be insurable by the GTB insurance carrier. -\$21.75/hr. - until filled

On-Call Receptionist - Charlevoix

Must have High School Diploma or GED equivalent. Prefer (1) yr. experience in office management. Must have basic math skills & written skills. -\$14.22/hr. - until filled

On-Call Receptionist

Must have High School Diploma or GED equivalent. Prefer (1) yr. experience in office management. Must have basic math skills & written skills. -\$14.22/hr. - until filled

(2) Police Officer (FT)

Must be at least 21 Years of Age at the time of hire High School diploma required, Associates Degree preferred in law enforcement, criminal justice, corrections or related field. One-year prior experience working in a law enforcement setting preferred. Must be certified or certifiable by Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) required. Must obtain and maintain a BIA (Special Law Enforcement Commission Must become LEIN certified Must complete Field Training Officer (FTO) Program for continuation of employment. Must be thoroughly familiar with all applicable policies and procedures, Federal Regulations, GTB Tribal Police Department Policies and Procedures, Tribal and State Criminal Codes, Children's Code, Tribal Constitution, Michigan Motor Vehicle, GTB Personnel Policy, Police Department Organic Resolution and Code, and all other applicable rules, regulations and statutes. -\$21.58/hr. (non-certifiable) - \$27.58/hr. - until filled

PRC Manager/PD (FT)

Bachelor's Degree in Health Administration or equivalent education and experience. Minimum of and Associates Degree and five (5) years of experience in Purchased Referred Care. Minimum of five (5) years of experience with Health Database and Financial budget management skills. Must have a valid unrestricted driver license and be insurable by the GTB insurance carrier. -\$52,633/yr. - until filled

Purchased/Referred Care Representative (FT)

Must have a High School diploma or GED. Minimum of one-year post high school in Business Administration or health related fields. Must have a valid unrestricted Driver's License and be insurable by the GTB insurance carrier. -\$17.29/hr. - until filled

Revenue Cycle and Data Manager (FT)

Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration or Finance. Thorough understanding billing,

collections and payment posting, revenue cycle, & third-party payers. Thorough understanding of budget management and reporting for business planning and development, as well as program specific management and reporting. Thorough understanding of Database creation, data analysis, compiling and interpreting data from several systems. (2-3) years' progressive and successful billing cycle and data management experience preferred. Must have a valid unrestricted driver license and be insurable by the GTB insurance carrier. -\$69,450/yr. - until filled

Youth Intervention Specialist- Traverse City (FT)

High School diploma or GED certificate required. Associates degree is required in social work, education or related field. 1-3 years' experience working with Native American Youth. Must have a valid Michigan Driver's License and be insurable by the GTB insurance carrier. Must have and maintain current CPR/First Aid certification.. -\$19.52/hr. - until filled

(NON-GTB) SEEDS Various Positions

We're seeking passionate & ambitious people (16 & older) to help solve global issues with local solutions. <https://ecoseeds.org/about-us/jobs/>

Government Operations RFP

RFP - Benodjenh Housekeeping

GTB is requesting proposals from cleaning providers to clean Benodjenh Child Care center two to three days a week after Benodjenh working hours. Contract will be from the period to 5/31/26. Submit bid package to the following address: Dawn Shenoskey 2605 N. West Bay Shore Dr. Peshawbestown, MI 49682 Or email bid to: T r i s t a . e r i c k s o n @ g t b - n s n . g o v & dawn.shenoskey@gtb-nsn.gov -\$RFP - until 9.3.25

RFP - Dental Hygienist 2025

GTB is requesting proposals from Dental Hygienist Providers interested in providing as needed Dental Hygienist for our Community. Must be a Licensed Hygienist in Michigan to include a CPR license. Liability insurance is required. -\$RFP - until filled

RFP - Exhibition and Cultural Media Developer

GTB is requesting proposals from Exhibition and Cultural Media Developers. Must demonstrate experience in Indigenous arts, museum exhibit development, or cultural preservation. Skilled in traditional Anishinaabe craftsmanship (e.g., beadwork, leatherwork, regalia-making). Proficiency in graphic design and visual communication (Adobe Creative Suite or equivalent). Deep understanding of Anishinaabe culture, language, and community protocols. Ability to collaborate respectfully with Tribal staff, community members, and Elders. -\$RFP - until 9.30.25

120 Announcements

VACANCY ON THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

One (1) appointment to be filled by the Tribal Council by majority vote for a 2-year term starting August 31, 2025 going through August 30, 2027. Interested registered voters of the GTB membership who are not currently employed by the GTB government, EDC gaming enterprises, or the Grand Traverse Resort are encouraged to submit a letter of interest to the Legal Department. *Please note: you must reside in GTB's six-county service area to serve on this committee.* The Tribal Councilors' Salary Ordinance states that the establishment of the Compensation Committee is to address the questions of compensation, allowances and benefits for Tribal Council positions. The open committee positions will be filled according to 1 GTBC § 404(d) of the GTB Code: The Compensation Committee shall be composed of seven registered voters of the Tribe. (1) Two shall be selected by the Tribal Chair and have a term of offices for four (4) years. Three shall be selected by the Tribal Council by a majority vote and have a term of office for two (2) years. The other two committee members shall be selected by majority vote of the five selected members and have a term of office for three (3) years. (2) Vacancies shall be selected in the same manner as the position which was vacated by term of office, resignations or death.

Please send your letter of interest for the Compensation Committee appointment to:

Attention: Compensation Committee
c/o Legal Department
GTB of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians
2605 NW Bayshore Drive
Peshawbestown, MI 49682

150 Bereavement

John Norman John



Died June 29, 2025
NORTHPORT – John Norman John, 57, of Northport, passed away on Sunday, June 29, 2025, in Bingham Township. John was born on January 10, 1968, in Northport, the son of Allen and Charlene John A proud graduate of Northport High School, John was a dedicated basketball player who carried his passion for the sport throughout his life—always cheering on his beloved Michigan Wolverines. Known for his cheesy dad jokes and occasionally inappropriate sense of humor, John was the kind of person who could make anyone smile. He never hesitated to help those around him and was deeply dependable, always showing up when it mattered most. John had a long and

well-loved career of over twenty years as a blackjack dealer at Leelanau Sands Casino. He was proud of his work and even featured on promotional billboards for both Leelanau Sands and Turtle Creek Casinos. He had a lifelong love for Marvel comics and never outgrew his fascination with superheroes. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing, and especially camping with his grandchildren—who brought him immeasurable joy and pride. John is survived by his children, Delia Shawandase, Angelica Kilgore (Justin Kilgore), Isiah John, and stepdaughter Bailey Pettit; his grandchildren, Russell, Damien, Ava, Evie, and Silas. He was preceded in death by his dad Allen John Sr., grandparents Evelyn & Clarence Manitowash. Visitation will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. on Monday, July 7th. At 3 pm small service will be shared at the Martinson Funeral Home in Suttons Bay. The funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, July 8th, at Northport Indian United Methodist Church Camp Ground on Camp Haven Road with Pastor Samuel McClellan officiating. Burial in the Leelanau Township Cemetery will be announced at a later date. Please share condolences and memories with John's family at www.martinson.info.

Communications

Adobe

Interested in placing an advertisement in the GTB NEWS? Do you have photography, graphic design or print needs?

GTB COMMUNICATIONS IS HERE TO HELP!

GRAPHIC DESIGN

High Quality
Creative & Unique
Unlimited Changes
All File Formats Included

PRINT

Eye-catching Business Cards, Postcards, Brochures, and other print materials that distinguish and market your brand!

PHOTOGRAPHY

High Quality
Professional Equipment & Set Up
Digital & Print
Minimal Photo Editing

Contact Us

GTBGovt.News@gtb-nsn.gov
231-534-7008

Join Us For

WALKING THE RED ROAD

Overcoming Obstacles on the Path

Saturday, October 18, 2025 | 9 am - 5 pm

Diocesan Pastoral Center | 611 West North Street, Gaylord

A Free Conference for Native Americans and Non-Natives

This conference invites Native Americans and Non-Natives to unite together to honor the rich traditions of Anishinaabe spirituality, learn of the power of unconditional love, explore how to grow in Catholic faith and build a path forward. Hear three powerful speakers from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians—come for connection, conversation and prayer.

9-9:30 am | Registration/Hospitality

Enjoy a light breakfast and fellowship

9:30-10 am | Anishinaabe Opening Prayer and Ceremony

10-11 am | Seven Grandfather Teachings and the Connection to Faith

JoAnne Cook, a member of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, is a storyteller and lecturer on the Anishinaabe culture and tradition.

11-11:30 am | Questions and Discussion

11:45-12:45 pm | Lunch

Enjoy Indian Tacos and Wild Rice Soup catered by Raphael Food Truck from Peshawbestown

12:45-1:45 pm | The Healing Power of Kindness and Unconditional Love in the Face of Trauma

Eva Petoskey, Mindimooyenh Healing Circle Leadership Council and member of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

1:45-2:15 pm | Questions and Discussion

2:15-3:15 pm | A Young Odawa Girl's Journey to Healing

Arlene Kashata, a Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians Elder, educational diversity presenter and advocate for intergenerational healing for Tribal communities.

3:15-3:45 pm | Questions and Discussion

4 pm | Mass

Celebrant Bishop Jeffrey Walsh, Diocese of Gaylord

This FREE conference is organized by the Diocesan Native American Ministry. Free-will offerings to cover the cost of lunch will be accepted. Registration required. Seating limited.

Register by Wednesday, Oct. 8.

Call Sr. Sue Gardner at 231-271-6651 or visit:

DioceseofGaylord.org/NativeAmericanConference

don't worry
beach happy
recreational
cannabis



drive-thru
window

weekly deals
rewards
locally owned
231.534.7420



beach fire
cannabis

6038 W Turtle Creek Dr, Williamsburg, MI 49690

Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians



TRIBAL ID

NOW AVAILABLE BY MAIL



[HTTPS://BIT.LY/GTB_TID_MAIL](https://bit.ly/gtb_tid_mail)

(231) 534-7670
enrollment@gtb-nsn.gov







Grand Traverse Band News

Submissions due by
the 3rd Friday each month

Editor: Victoria Alfonseca
Victoria.Alfonseca@gtb-nsn.gov
Phone: (231) 534-7366

Find us on Facebook:
"facebook.com/GrandTraverseBand"

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel:
"Grand Traverse Band Communications"

2605 N West Bay Shore Drive,
Peshawbestown, MI
49682-9275

©, Grand Traverse Band News, all rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission of the editor is prohibited. The Grand Traverse Band does not assume liability for unsolicited materials. Materials submitted for publication become the property of the Grand Traverse Band. The right to edit or refuse to print is maintained. Subscriptions are \$24 per year. Please contact the editor for assistance.
CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR THE NEWSPAPER MUST BE DONE THROUGH THE MEMBERSHIP OFFICE.



Don't miss out!

\$42,000 GRAND FINALE

TOP PRIZE OF \$7,500

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31
11AM – 3PM
AT TURTLE CREEKCASINO

TURTLE CREEK CASINO
TurtleCreekCasino.com | 800.922.2WIN

Please see Players Club or the website for full promotional details. GTB Gaming employees are not eligible. Management reserves the right to alter or withdraw this promotion at any time. Owned and Operated by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.



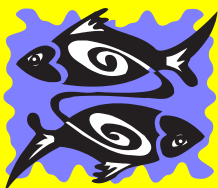
GTB NEWS 23

Anishinabek maanijwiding to honor our traditions and
our treaty rights preserved for us by the Gekaajig
21st Natural Resources Fair & Feast



Arthur Duhamel Marina

Saturday September 20, 2025
10 AM TO 3PM



The Grand Traverse Band Natural Resources Department would like to invite you to the
21st Natural Resources Fair & Feast. The theme of the Fair revolves around the responsible use,
management and preservation of natural resources for future generations.

Food, Fun and Give-Aways

Nearly Noon:

FEAST—Wild game, smoked fish, frybread, corn soup, fruits and salads, refreshments and more.

FUN ACTIVITIES ALL DAY LONG:

Trout Fishing Pond

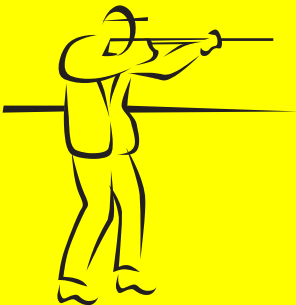
Bow Shoot

Paintball Shoot

Door Prizes and Raffle

Kids games

And Much Much More!



Hunting, Fishing, Trapping and Gathering licenses will be available for the 2025 season if you haven't
gotten one yet!!!

We are in need of demonstrations for the Fair particularly for the cultural aspects of hunting,
fishing, trapping and gathering. If you know how to tie flies, stretch fur, call game, taxidermy,
artwork—anything related to natural resources we want to hear from you!

For More Information Call the Natural Resources Department at 231-534-7500

