

# 2025 vacationland Port Huron



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# St. Clair County Parks & Trails



**A PARK** *for every* **SEASON**



- Fish the Belle River at Columbus County Park
- Stroll the boardwalk at Blue Water River Walk County Park
- Spend an afternoon lounging on the beach at Fort Gratiot County Park
- View Lake Huron from atop the Fort Gratiot Light Station, Michigan's oldest lighthouse!
- Hike or bike the 640-foot Mill Creek Trestle on the 12-mile Wadhams to Avoca Trail
  - Explore the mountain bike trails at Woodsong County Park
- Cool off at the Splashpad, or explore the Historic Village and the St. Clair County Farm Museum at Goodells County Park
- Coming Soon - North Channel County Park in Clay Township

**St. Clair County Parks are open year round and offer four seasons of fun!**  
**Experience this and so much more - For more information, call or visit our website**

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***Endless Possibilities....***

***Your Path to Parks and Trails***



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**[www.stclaircountyparks.org](http://www.stclaircountyparks.org)**

Welcome to Port Huron and Michigan's amazing Thumbcoast. From Harsens Island to Port Sanilac and beyond, you'll walk on the bluest of shorelines, discover fantastic land and water trail systems and communities that reflect all the best in our great state. Plan your stay with a complete list of events and activities that you can enjoy as well. Who knows, you may even decide it's time to embrace a new life on the fresh, blue waters of the Port Huron Area.



Book designed by:  
*Angelica Finnesy, Radiofirst*  
*Jessica M. Hazel, Freelance Designer*

# Welcome to *Vacationland*



Photo Credit: Joe Morgulec



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# Marina Facilities in Port Huron



Photo credit: Andrew Jowett

Visit Port Huron and discover one of the largest marina facilities on the Great Lakes. Located on the beautiful Black River with dockage available for over 350 vessels in the immediate area. James C. Acheson Marina and Desmond Marine are conveniently located at the mouth of the Black River.

The newly named James C. Acheson Marina offers transient and seasonal slips along the Black River, in the heart of downtown Port Huron near parks, shopping, dining, and walking trails. The Marina has the State reservation system for their docking facilities. Fuel and pump out services are available.

UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

Our marina is home to 264 slips with docks fitting anywhere from pontoon boats to up to 50-foot vessels.

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# Boat Harbors and Marinas

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<b>Port Sanilac State Harbor</b>	Portsanilacharbor.com 810-622-9610
<b>Port Sanilac Marina</b>	Portsanilacmarina.com 810-622-9651
<b>Lexington State Harbor</b>	Michigan.gov/lexington-harbor 810-359-5600
<b>Lexington Marina</b>	Lexingtonmarina.com 810-359-5410
<b>Desmond Marine Port Huron</b>	Desmondmarine.com 810-984-9746
<b>Bridge Harbour Marina Port Huron</b>	Bridgeharbour.com 810-982-2492
<b>Bridgeview Yachting Center Sarnia</b>	800-265-0330
	Bridgeviewmarina.com 519-337-3888
<b>Sarnia Bay Marina</b>	Sarniabaymarina.com 519-332-0533
<b>St. Clair Boat Harbor</b>	Stclairboatharbor.com 810-329-4125
<b>Marine City Marina</b>	810-420-5106
<b>Algonac Harbor Club</b>	Algonacharborclub.com 810-794-4448

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# JAMES C. ACHESON MARINA



- James C. Acheson Marina is located on River St. at the end of Stone St. with 95 slips that can accommodate up to 135ft. Dockside facilities are electricity, water, ice, restrooms, and showers.
- 3 On-Site golf carts to shuttle to and from Downtown Port Huron.
- Transient docks. Central Reservation System rates apply. Reservations may be made by calling 800-44-parks or (810) 984-9746. Price is \$1.24/foot.
- Gas -- Diesel -- Pump-out service is available at the JCA Office.
- VHF Marine Radio Channel 9 "I.D. Port Huron Harbormaster".
- For more info please visit [www.jcamarina.com](http://www.jcamarina.com) or stop in at 525 River St, Port Huron, MI 48060



*Gateway to Michigan's Thumbcoast*



# Port Huron

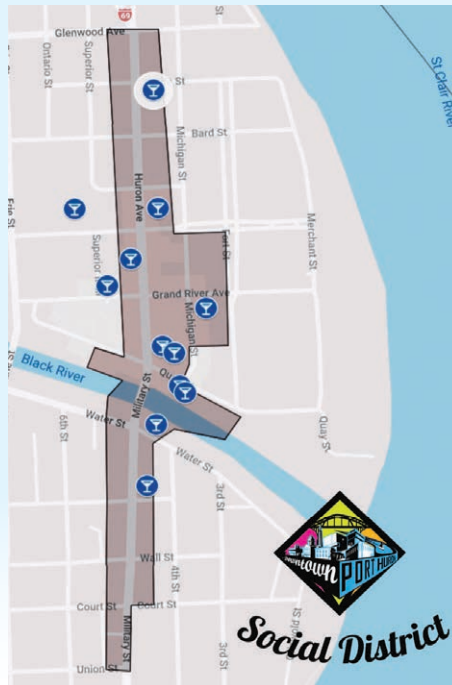


Photo Credit: Andrew Jowett

The Maritime Capital of the Great Lakes, Port Huron has become a premier destination of travelers from all over the world. Serving as an international crossing site with the Blue Water Bridges connecting the United States and Canada, Port Huron's popularity continues to grow.

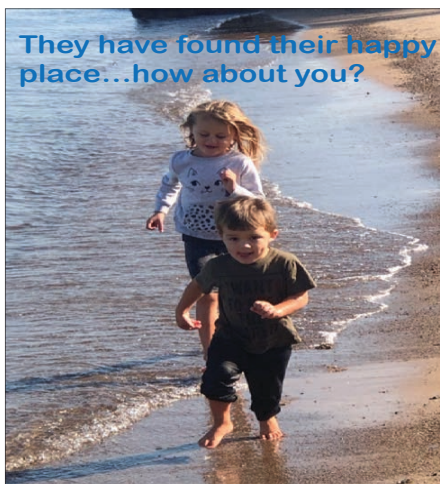
Known for its stunningly blue waters, Port Huron's waterfront experience is unmatched. With its sandbars and beaches, Port Huron is a boater's paradise. You will find hundreds of boaters on sun-filled summer days dotting the coast of Lake Huron and cruising the St. Clair River. If you're a boat watcher, you won't find a better spot on the Great Lakes than under the Blue Water bridge to watch freighters pass by, it will feel almost as if you can reach out and touch them.

Port Huron has an extensive trail system for both land and water, as well as one of the best park systems anywhere in Michigan. You will also want to visit one or more of the fantastic museums in the area. On your visit you might also start to dream about starting a new chapter in life on Lake Huron. Find out more at [Porthuron.org](http://Porthuron.org) and start your journey today.



## Social District Stroll Downtown with a cocktail!

The Social District allows patrons ages 21+ to enjoy a drink while safely strolling through Downtown Port Huron at participating establishments.



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# Port Huron Farmers Market

Join us every Saturday from May 10 to October 25 at the Port Huron Farmers Market, open 8 AM to 2 PM, at **100 Merchant Street**, in the heart of downtown Port Huron! With over 30 vendors, you'll find the freshest local produce, plants, flowers, and Michigan-made and grown products, all from the hands of our region's best farmers and artisans.

Whether you're looking for farm-fresh ingredients, handmade goodies, or a vibrant community atmosphere, our market has something for everyone. Shop fresh, support local, and connect with the Port Huron community while enjoying the best that Michigan has to offer. There's no better way to kick off your weekend! See you at the market!



Join us every  
**Saturday,**  
May 10 to  
October 25!



## Port Huron Farmers Market

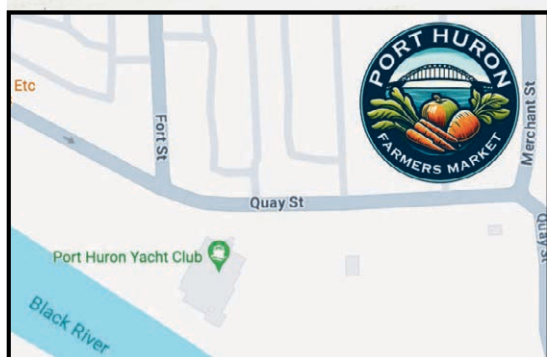
With over 30 vendors, find the freshest local produce, ingredients, flowers, and Michigan-made and grown products all from the hands of our region's best farmers and artisans. Shop fresh, support local and enjoy the best that Michigan has to offer.

**Opening May 10<sup>th</sup> – Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Saturdays 8am – 2pm**

**100 Merchant St, Port Huron, MI**

**Food Programs Accepted:**



**cityofporthuronfarmersmarket@gmail.com**  
**810-984-9718**



# Blue Water River Walk

The Blue Water River Walk is almost one-mile of St. Clair River shoreline immediately south of the mouth of the Black River in Port Huron, Michigan. It is less than a mile downriver from the Blue Water Bridge to Sarnia and the southern end of Lake Huron. Owned by the Community Foundation of St. Clair County, the Blue Water River Walk is open to the public year-round.

The shoreline used to create this beautiful River Walk was donated to the Community Foundation of St. Clair County by local philanthropist James C. Acheson at Christmas of 2011.

**Observation Dock:** the old railroad ferry dock, which dates back to the early 1900's, has been fully restored and re-opened to the public. Once used to help transport goods back-and-forth to Sarnia, the Ferry Dock is now a beautiful patio overlooking the St. Clair River.

**Pedestrian Trail:** using partial funding from the Transportation Enhancement Grant Program of MDOT, the Community Foundation raised matching private donations that allowed us to build a 10' wide asphalt pedestrian trail along the entire length of the shoreline. This trail is a key component of the Bridge to Bay Trail system.

**Outdoor Classroom:** At the north end of the River Walk, just north of the Observation Dock, is our Outdoor Classroom. Intended as a true interactive learning environment, the Outdoor Classroom is meant to teach the public about the St. Clair River ecosystem and the plant and wildlife habitat found along the River Walk.

**Shoreline & Habitat Restoration:** Approximately 4,300 feet of St. Clair River shoreline was completely restored and rehabilitated in 2013, utilizing the grant funding from the GLRI. In the spring of 2014 we completed our shallow water habitat restoration efforts. During this work, and including the Pilot Phase work done in 2012, almost 7,000 tons of debris was removed from the site.

**County Wetlands Park:** Our partners at St. Clair County Parks & Recreation received a \$1 million grant to develop a new wetlands park on the very southern end of the River Walk.

**Fishing Pier:** To help enhance public access for fishing and recreation, the Community Foundation built a fishing pier on the southern end of the River Walk.

**Public Art:** One of the many fantastic enhancements of the Blue Water River Walk is public art. Adding public art and artifacts is another way we have been able to embellish our River Walk and make it more interesting for visitors.



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# YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

If you are struggling with a mental health condition, substance use disorder, or an intellectual/developmental disability, the caring team at St. Clair County Community Mental Health is here to support you.

**Crisis Line:**  
1-810-966-2575

**Access to Services:**  
1-888-225-4447

CONVENIENT LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT ST. CLAIR COUNTY



**St. Clair County  
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Providing Opportunities for Health, Wellness, & Connection

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



Now accepting individuals with private insurance, Medicaid, and without insurance.



# 10¢ Trolley Tours

The one hour trolley tour runs June - August and includes a swing by various local points of interest. The tour, which is only 10 cents, takes you through the heart of Port Huron and along the riverfront for a panoramic glimpse of the Blue Water Bridges, the Thomas Edison Depot and Statue and the Fort Gratiot Light Station. The starting point for each run is downtown Port Huron at 331 Huron Avenue, with additional pickup points designated along the route such as at the Blue Water Convention Center and Vantage Point. For more information, visit [bwbus.com/routes/trolley.htm](http://bwbus.com/routes/trolley.htm).



# Town Hall

The Town Hall lectures and celebrity performances can be entertaining, thought provoking and inspiring. Port Huron Town Hall, a non-profit corporation, was founded in 1955 with the object of presenting lectures and entertainment for cultural, educational and charitable purposes. Port Huron Town Hall has presented over 300 programs and has given a total of \$155,000 to designated non-profit organizations dedicated to St. Clair County. The 2025 season speakers are:

## September 8

**Tara Lipinski** - Internationally Acclaimed Figure Skater

## October 13

**Ben Nemtin** - Motivational Speaker, Author, Traveler

## November 10

**Jonna Mendez** - International Spy, Consultant, Author

## December 8

**Devin Scillian** - Former News Anchor, Musician, Songwriter

Season tickets consist of four performances with the option to attend a luncheon directly following the event. Prorated series and individual lecture and/or luncheon tickets are limited but will be sold subject to availability. All performances begin at 10:30am at McMorran Place Theater. Call **(810) 985-6166** or visit [mcmorran.com](http://mcmorran.com) for more information.

# Blue Water Area Transit

Dial-a-Ride, ADA and scheduled runs serving the city of Port Huron and the Townships of Burtchville, Ft. Gratiot and Port Huron

**MON - SAT Service until 11pm**

Also, Commuter Routes to Macomb County Smart Bus  
(Marysville service Mon/Wed/Fri 6:30am - 5pm)

**Historic seasonal Trolley route every summer  
Noon till 4pm Monday thru Saturday --10 cents!**



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download the free Transit App!



# 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Sturgeon Celebration



Friends of the St. Clair River's Sturgeon Fest offers close encounters with the Great Lakes' living dinosaur with a live sturgeon touch tank, hands-on activities, Native American drum ceremonies, food, live music, and entertainment. Festival admission and activities are free.

The Sturgeon Cruises aboard Port Huron's sightseeing boat, The Huron Lady, takes guests on the St. Clair River and Lake Huron to interact with biologists catching, tagging, measuring, and releasing sturgeon underneath the Blue Water Bridges. The cruise features a live sturgeon aquarium experience and watching sturgeon research activities from the U.S. Fisheries and Wildlife Service's vessel, the N'me (Anishinaabe for Lake sturgeon). Throughout this narrated



Photo credits: Friends of the St. Clair River

cruise, guests can ask questions to the biologists studying sturgeon and learn about their Great Lakes research. Over 10,000 Lake sturgeon call underneath the Blue Water Bridges home which makes it possible to see these gentle giants. Huron Lady Sturgeon Cruises are at 11am and 1pm, tickets are \$35 and available at [www.huronlady.com](http://www.huronlady.com).

## 12th Annual Sturgeon Festival

Saturday, June 7th

10am – 3pm

### Activities:

Huron Lady Sturgeon Cruises - 11am & 1pm, \$\$

Live Sturgeon Touch Tank - All day,  
Lighthouse Beach

Native American Drum Ceremonies - 10am & 2:30pm

Sturgeon Hand Release - 2:30pm,

Lighthouse Beach Kids Activities - All day, Pavilion

Food Trucks, Live Music, Giveaways, and More!

Affectionately known as the "Gentle Giants of the Great Lakes", sturgeon are phenomenal to see up close. They can weigh over 100 pounds, grow over 6 feet, and live to be more than 100 years old. Once on the brink of extinction and added to Michigan's Threatened Species list, Lake sturgeon are making a comeback and have become a spotlight for restoration work completed in the St. Clair River.

For festival details visit [www.SturgeonFestival.com](http://www.SturgeonFestival.com)




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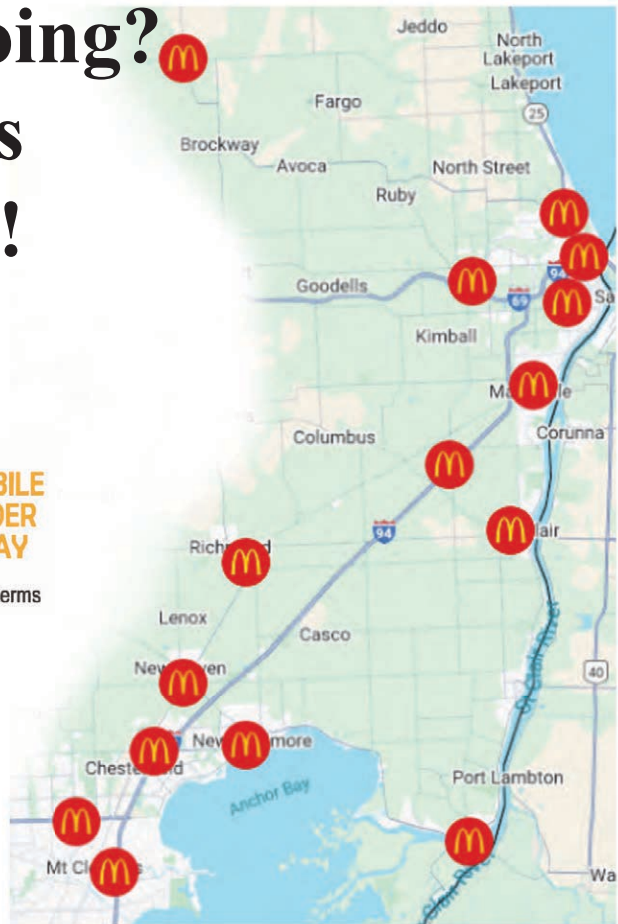


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**St. Clair, MI 48079**  
Love's Truck Plaza (Exit 262)  
(810) 385-1301 (office)

**Yale, MI 48097**  
105 N. Main St.  
(810) 387-2112



Photo Credit: Peter Michael Photography Studio

# Blue Water Sandfest

The Blue Water SandFest has become a favorite summer attraction in the Blue Water Area. This year, SandFest returns to the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse on **August 1st – August 3rd**. The family-oriented event features Master and Advanced Amateur Sand Sculptors from across North America. Live music entertainment and hands-on activities are part of the fun throughout the three day event.

## August 1st - 3rd

To avoid traffic and parking congestion in the neighborhood around the park, free parking is available at the St. Clair County Community College Welcome Center parking lot where the Blue Water Trolley will be available to provide free transportation to and from the event throughout all three paid admission days.

All proceeds raised from the event are used for restoration work at the Fort Gratiot Light Station Park.

For more information and a schedule of events, visit [bluewatersandfest.com](http://bluewatersandfest.com).



## Port Huron Township



### 40th St. Pond

William P. Thompson Pond Free Fishing Clinic  
June 7<sup>th</sup> (Rain Day June 8<sup>th</sup>) 11:00am - 3:00pm

### Memorial Park

On Beach Rd.

Fall Festival on Sept 20<sup>th</sup> (Rain Day Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>)  
(games, pony rides, water rides & fireworks at dusk)

### Baker's Field

On Strawberry Lane - new park with access to the Black River, including a new ADA Kayak launch, Walking Paths, Fitness Court, and Pickle Ball Courts



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

# Blue Water Cruise Weekend

Blue Water Cruise Weekend is one of the most anticipated weekends in the Port Huron Area.

**Friday, June 27th**

**Cruise Night**

**Saturday, June 28th**

**Car Show**

On Friday night, up to 50,000 spectators will turn out to view the car cruise along M-25 from Port Huron into Fort Gratiot Township. Businesses along the route will welcome the cars and spectators, with many setting up tents in their parking lots and inviting cruisers and viewers to park and enjoy the event.

On Saturday, car enthusiasts get a chance to see those vehicles up close. The Keith Peterson Memorial Car Show will be held from 10a – 3p at Birchwood Mall in Fort Gratiot. The show expects over 150 vehicles and will have on stage entertainment with music, trophies and raffles throughout the day followed by fireworks at dusk.

For more information, visit **bwcrui** on Facebook.

# Mainstreet Memories

If you're a car enthusiast, mark your calendars for the Mainstreet Memories Wheels on the Waterfront car show.

**Saturday, July 26th**

Located on the Acheson Ventures Waterfront property at 300 Oak Street in Port Huron, the show runs from 10a–4p, with parking opening at 7:00a. This is a non-judged car show where "it's about community not competition" and there were over 800 cars at the show in 2022.

Visit their website, [mainstreetmemoriesph.com](http://mainstreetmemoriesph.com), for more information and to register. While you're there, be sure to check out pictures and videos of past shows and follow them on **MainstreetMemoriesPH on Facebook**.



## LIUNA! LOCAL 1075

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## LIUNA! LOCAL 1075

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# Fort Gratiot Lighthouse

## Michigan's Oldest Working Lighthouse

The original Fort Gratiot Lighthouse was established in 1825 to guard the juncture of Lake Huron and the St. Clair River. That lighthouse was destroyed by a storm in 1828 and the current lighthouse, the oldest in Michigan, was built north of the fort in 1829. The white painted brick tower was extended from 74' to its present 86' in the early 1860s. The green flashing light was automated in 1933 and updated in 2016 and can be seen from 16 miles out in Lake Huron.

The entire campus has undergone a historic restoration

under the ownership of St. Clair County Parks & Recreation Commission and the Port Huron Museum.

Weather permitting, the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse is one of the few operating lighthouses that allow visitors to climb the tower and step out onto the catwalk for a breathtaking view. From the gallery, visitors can view the Blue Water Bridge, the mouth of the St. Clair River, Point Edward, Ontario and Lake Huron to the north.

Learn more at [phmuseum.org/fort-gratiot-lighthouse](http://phmuseum.org/fort-gratiot-lighthouse).



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Photo Credit: Andrew Jowett

# McMorran Plaza

The completely redesigned plaza and beer garden is the place to be this summer. The addition of synthetic turf, a splash pad and elevated stage makes this a perfect venue for family friendly activities.

The Plaza's outdoor Summer Concert Series will start in June and has scheduled entertainment every Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening. Patrons to McMorran can enjoy food and drink from Casey's on the Plaza while enjoying the live entertainment. And, as part of the downtown social district, alcoholic drinks from Casey's on the Plaza can be purchased in to-go cups allowing visitors to carry their beverage with them through the downtown Main Street area to check out other entertainment or experiences in downtown Port Huron. Visit [www.mcmorran.com/plaza](http://www.mcmorran.com/plaza) for the most up-to-date event information.

## May

- 5/30 Los Gringos 7-10pm
- 5/31 Y'all Band 7-10pm

## June

- 6/5 Thirsty Thursday Q Country\*
- 6/6 Alter Ego 7-10pm
- 6/7 Rhoades Band 7-10pm

- 6/12 Thirsty Thursday Q Country\*
- 6/13 Glenbrooke & The Wild Weeds 7-10pm
- 6/14 Big Pappa & The Machine 7-10pm
- 6/19 Thirsty Thursday Q Country\*
- 6/20 Kathleen Murray band 7-10pm
- 6/21 Northbound 7-10pm
- 6/26 Thirsty Thursday Q Country\*
- 6/27 Bandwagon 7-10pm
- 6/28 Metro Soul Band 7-10pm

## July

- 7/3 Thirsty Thursday Q Country\*
- 7/5 Paul & Oates 7-10pm
- 7/10 Duo Henhouse Boys 7-10pm
- 7/11 Big Pappa & The Machine 7-10pm
- 7/12 Air Margaritaville 7-10pm
- 7/17 Thirsty Thursday Q Country\*
- 7/18 Blue Blaze 7-10pm 7/19 Northbound 7-10pm
- 7/24 Thirsty Thursday Q Country\*
- 7/25 Glenbrooke & The Wild Weeds 7-10pm
- 7/26 Elektrik Dream 7-10pm
- 7/31 Thirsty Thursday Q Country\*

## August

- 8/1 Ian Smith & Co 7-10pm
- 8/2 Battle of The Country Bands 6-10pm

- 8/7 Thirsty Thursday Q Country\*
- 8/8 Big Pappa & The Machine 7-10pm
- 8/9 Blue Blaze 7-10pm
- 8/14 Thirsty Thursday Q Country\*
- 8/15 Dusk til Dawn 7-10pm
- 8/16 Bandwagon 7-10pm
- 8/21 Thirsty Thursday Q Country\*
- 8/22 Glenbrooke & The Wild Weeds 7-10pm
- 8/23 Rhoades Band 7-10pm
- 8/28 Thirsty Thursday Q Country\*
- 8/29 Metro Soul Band 7-10pm
- 8/30 Bernadette Kathryn and Her Lonely Days Band 7-10pm

## September

- 9/4 Thirsty Thursday Q Country
- 9/5 86 Noodles 7-10pm
- 9/6 Y'all Band 7-10pm
- 9/11 Thirsty Thursday Primetime DJ
- 9/12 Los Gringos 7-10pm
- 9/13 Set N Stone 7-10pm
- 9/18 Thirsty Thursday Q Country\*
- 9/19 The Gobies 7-10pm
- 9/20 Blueskye Band 7-10pm
- 9/25 Thirsty Thursday Q Country\*
- 9/26 Paul & Oates Band 7-10pm
- 9/27 Travis Tritt Pre-party Northbound 6-7:50pm

\*Thirsty Thursday is 4:30-6pm



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# Huron Lady Cruises



Huron Lady Cruises in Downtown Port Huron offer a one-of-a-kind experience in the Blue Water Area. Hop aboard the Huron Lady II and take a 90-minute narrated cruise of the St. Clair River and hear the story of Port Huron and Sarnia's waterways. The cruise will take you into Sarnia Ontario's "North Slip" for an up-close look at Great Lakes and ocean-going freighters docked for repair or to load cargo. You'll travel under the twin Blue Water Bridges that connect Port Huron, Michigan to Sarnia, Ontario and out into beautiful Lake Huron for a cruise past the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse, Michigan's oldest working lighthouse. On the way back down the river to the Huron Lady dock, you'll hear more history of the area and learn about Thomas Edison-one of Port Huron's historic figures.

Get ready for a high-energy night of country tunes and river cruising with Q Country 107's Redneck Yacht Club on the

Huron Lady II. A DJ will keep the party going with the best country hits, while you enjoy refreshing drinks and panoramic views of the St. Clair River. This special event, happening on select Fridays this summer, is your ticket to a fun-filled evening and lasting memories.

The Huron Lady II also provides additional specialty cruises and private charter options. A full bar and catering menu are available to create a special event that will have your guests talking for years to come.

The Huron Lady II is Coast Guard inspected and operated by a Great Lakes certified captain and friendly crew. Cruises run from Memorial Day Weekend through the end of September. Visit [huronlady.com](http://huronlady.com) or call (810) 984-1500 for more information.



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# Art on the River

Art on the River is a three-day art and music festival which features many local artists, crafters and bands! Hosted by Citizens for a Vibrant Community, Art on the River is the second weekend in June near Downtown Port Huron, along the shores of the St. Clair River on Merchant Street and in Kiefer Park.



**Friday, June 6th - 3pm to 11pm**  
**Saturday, June 7th - 10am to 11pm**  
**Sunday, June 8th - 10am to 4pm**

Art on the River is a family friendly event with art workshops, hands-on art, music to dance to and food to enjoy.

This year Art on the River features Margaret (Candy) Paeth as the featured artist. Candy is a member of the Blue Water Art Association and features her art all around the Blue Water Area. Candy is supported by the Arts Council of the Community Foundation of St. Clair County. Special guest artist is Anthony Strubic. Tony is the Great Lakes Maritime Artist. His drawings feature many of the freighters that travel the great lakes. Tony is sponsored by Advia Credit Union.

Art on the River has a huge band line up for 2024. Headliners include Brotha Earth (known as Rare Earth early on in their careers) and Bobby Murray band. Bobby is known for playing guitar for Etta James and has several Grammy awards!

To see everything about Art on the River, please check our website at [artontheriverph.com](http://artontheriverph.com) or visit the **Facebook page @ArtontheRiver**.

# Float Down

It's the Blue Water Area's favorite unorganized, unsanctioned, and unsponsored event ... it's called the Port Huron Float Down, and it somehow seems to take place every third Sunday in August, despite a cancellation each and every year by the United States Coast Guard.

**Sunday, August 17th**

The event sees 3,000 or more people gathering at Lighthouse Beach in the early afternoon and floating down the St. Clair River to Marysville. There's even a website, but those who run it at [porthuronfloatdown.com](http://porthuronfloatdown.com) say they are in no way organizing, sponsoring, planning, or promoting the community event.

According to the site, the Float Down is a tradition steeped in history, even though it's impossible to know who the first people were to float down. The event, as it's known today, dates back over 30 years. In 1986, a storm put an end to the fun, and it was officially ended by the United States Coast Guard in 1987. Although people continued to float every year, the Float Down did not officially resurface until 2008.

The traditional course of the Float Down is launching at Lighthouse (Conger) Beach, and then floating 8-miles downstream to Chrysler Beach in Marysville. The current moves quickest under the Blue Water Bridges, and then pulls you out towards the center of the river, near the mouth of the Black River. If you want to watch, the Edison Parkway, the Flag Plaza, the Blue Water Bridges, Pine Grove Park, Kiefer Park, or Lincoln Park are all the best places to watch the floaters

If you decide to float down the St. Clair River in August, there are several things you must consider before jumping in. The current is swift and the water is cold. All floaters should have a reliable inflatable and a paddle so they are able to stay out of the shipping channel. It's wise to choose a float that can keep you dry and out of the water to prevent heat loss or hypothermia. Floaters should have a Personal Floatation Device or a Life Jacket. Children should wear them at all times and adults should at least keep them at an arm's-length reach at all times. Most importantly, if you cannot swim, do not enter the water. There are no lifeguards or safety personnel.

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# 2025 Bayview *Mackinac Race*

## **The World's Longest Continuously Run Long Distance Freshwater Yacht Race**

This year's Port Huron to Mackinac race will be the 101st consecutive year when the sailboats leave the starting line in southern Lake Huron on Saturday, July 20th. OVER 200 boats are expected to compete in this year's race. The boats are measured to determine handicaps, which are subtracted from their elapsed sailing time, except for the scratch boat. The scratch boat is the fastest boat in the fleet and is granted no time allowance handicap.

The Port Huron to Mackinac race features two courses:

- The Shore Course (smaller boats) 235 miles
- The Cove Island Course (larger boats) 298 miles

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# Freighter Watching

Whenever I show someone new around town, the conversation inevitably turns to the elephant in the room, or should I say, elephant in the river. So, I've compiled some answers below regarding one of the area's favorite past times, freighter watching.

**Wow, that's a big boat!**

Technically it's a ship, and yes, it's big. They range in size from about 500 to 1,000 feet in length and 67 to 105 feet wide.

**What's inside?** Most freighters on the Great Lakes are bulk carriers, meaning they carry a large volume of relatively low value cargo that is used in the production of more complex, higher value products. Common commodities hauled on the lakes include iron ore, salt, sand, limestone, coal, and grain.

**Where are they going?** Generally speaking, the bulk commodities are often loaded on the upper Great Lakes and then transported to the population and industrial areas on the lower lakes. Iron ore, for example, is mined in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Northeast Minnesota.

**Why do you see so many around here?** The St. Clair River is a very popular trade route as it connects Lake Huron to Lake St. Clair. Freighters destined for Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, or



*Story by Caleb Gordon*

even the Atlantic Ocean must first pass through Port Huron as part of their journey.

**So these ships can go into the ocean?** There are size limitations along the St. Lawrence Seaway, so only smaller freighters (less than 740 feet) can make it all the way to the Ocean.

**How can I tell what ship is from what country?** Each vessel has a unique name, often in honor of a person, company, or place. On the stern of the ship, the home port is also displayed, as well as a flag from the country of origin.

**Where's the best place to view these ships?** Port Huron's Thomas Edison Parkway, beneath the Blue Water Bridge, is a favorite spot to park and watch the ships go by.

**How can I learn more about freighters?** To learn more about the history of the Great Lakes and the ships that sailed on them, visit the Port Huron Museum's James C. Acheson Marine Gallery on the second floor of the Carnegie Center. The Fort Gratiot Light Station County Park is on the grounds of a former coast guard station and home to Michigan's oldest lighthouse. You'll also want to visit the Huron Light Ship, a former "floating lighthouse" now on permanent display near Pine Grove Park in Port Huron.



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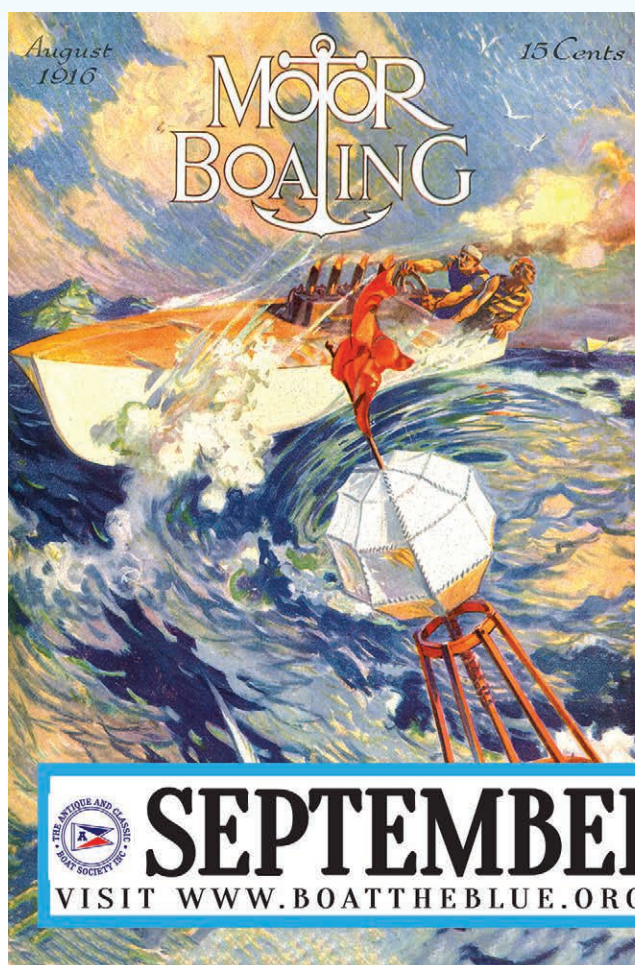
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## Port Huron Antique & Classic Boat Show

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<p><b>September 5th</b> Boat Ride to St. Clair, lunch at Voyageur @ 11:30am Live Band 4pm-8pm Evening Cruise on the Huron Lady II 6:10pm-8:30pm</p>	<p><b>September 6th</b> 11am-1pm Kids Events 11am-2pm Cruiser Tours 11am-2pm Free Boat Rides 3pm America's Best Frisbee Dog Show 4pm-5pm Afterglow Party &amp; Awards Ceremony</p>
---	--

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# Fort Gratiot

Keewahdin Beach

Fort Gratiot has everything you need for a great visitor experience. Enjoy one of Lake Huron's best beaches at Fort Gratiot County Park. Continue your water experience by kayaking the Island Loop National Water Trail, the Fort Gratiot Sojourn, or the Lake Huron Paddle. Or watch model sailboats compete on Fort Gratiot Pond where you'll find one of the many walking/biking trails that run through Fort Gratiot.

Don't leave your dog behind! Fort Gratiot has the Canine Commons Dog Park for a free, fun way to meet new friends both furry and not.

You will always find your favorite restaurant or shopping location in Fort Gratiot so there's no need to over pack. With an outstanding shopping district and familiar national brands, everything you need for a great vacation is right in Fort Gratiot. **For more information visit [fortgratiot.us](http://fortgratiot.us).**

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**Fort Gratiot County Park** - Fort Gratiot County Park is located in the northern part of St. Clair County, just off M-25 on Metcalf Rd. This 30 acre park offers breathtaking views of Lake Huron and 852 ft of lake shoreline/beach. Current facilities at the park include beach access, restrooms, picnic areas and a children's playground and .85 miles paved of walking trails.

**North River Road Park** - 3055 North River Rd, features two tennis courts which are also striped for pickle ball, a riverfront picnic pavilion and an ADA accessible kayak and canoe launch.

**Parker Road Parks** - Located on Parker Road north of Keewahdin, the parks are filled with trails, a bike path, disc golf, a fishing pond, RC model boat pond, the Canine Commons Dog Park and more.



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**June 27th-28th**  
**Blue Water Cruise Weekend**  
 Friday - **Cruise Night**  
 Saturday - **Car Show**

**September 27th**  
**Scarecrow Saturday**  
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# Marysville

The city of Marysville continues to be a great place to raise a family and visit any time of the year. Come experience Marysville's wide variety of outdoor recreation. Chrysler Beach sits on the banks of the St. Clair River, with a fishing pier, public boat launch and extended boardwalk perfect for a scenic walk or bike ride.

Across the street from the beach is Marysville City Park. With extensive playgrounds, including special needs equipment, splash pads and plenty of green space you can relax and play while enjoying beautiful water views and the occasional freighter passing by. If your child participates in baseball/softball, check into Marysville's invitational tournaments that attract teams from all over the Midwest. It's also home to the St. Clair County Community College Lady Skippers softball team stadium. You will also find tennis and basketball courts.

Marysville city park also features a real decommissioned train on the grounds that kids of all ages can play on and explore.

If you're a golfer, Marysville golf course, along the St. Clair River, offers a picturesque challenge for any skill level and is one of the top municipal courses anywhere in Michigan. Make sure the next 100 years include a visit from you!



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*City of Marysville*

**2025 EVENTS**

5/2	Farmers Market (Fridays May-Oct 9:00am- 2:00pm)
6/8	Wills St Claire Car Show
6/18-8/13	Concerts (Wednesdays 7:00pm-9:00pm)
8/8	Family Night
8/22-8/23	Hot Wheels Weekend
10/4	Fall Event
11/24	Christmas in the Park
12/6	Christmas Parade

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# Hot Wheels Weekend



The Marysville Hot Wheels Weekend is a celebration of the American Car Culture! Started in 2016 by the Marysville Business Council, this weekend has quickly grown to be one of the elite automotive events of the summer in the Blue Water Area. It features a car cruise, drive-in movie, national recording artists, pop-culture and automotive celebrities, pin-up girl contest and one of the largest car shows in St. Clair County.

**August 22nd-23rd**

**Entertainment by:**

Kitten & The Tonics

Los Gringos

Blue Blaze

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The Bellfuries

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Join us for free family entertainment on the third weekend in August every year in beautiful Marysville, Michigan! Whether you're a "Shade tree mechanic" or fully restored dream car owner, the Marysville Hot Wheels Weekend staff hopes to make every car enthusiast feel welcome to show off their automotive pride and joy.

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**Jun 20** The Dave Matthew's Tribute Band – 8:00 pm

**Jun 21** Power of Love – Huey Lewis & The News Tribute – 8:00 pm

**Jun 28** Let's Hang On – America's #1 Frankie Valli Tribute – 4:00 & 7:00 pm

**Jul 4-5** Almost Queen – A Tribute to QUEEN – 8:00 pm

**Jul 19** Double Vision – The Foreigner Experience – 8:00 pm

**July 27** The World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra – 2:00 & 5:00 pm

**Aug 1** Pandora's Box – The Ultimate Aerosmith Tribute – 6:00 & 8:45 pm

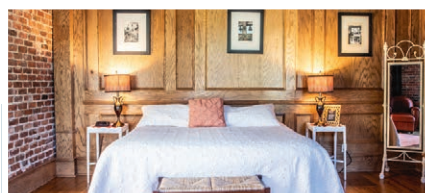
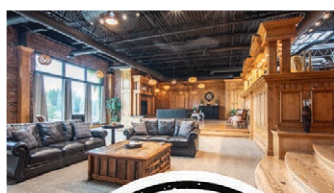
**Aug 16** Brass Transit – The Musical Legacy of Chicago 5:00 & 7:30 pm

**Aug 25-26** Ted Nugent – Stranglehold 50th Anniversary Tour – 8:00 pm

**Aug 29** Thunderbeard - Tribute to ZZ Top - 8:00pm

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The Village of Lexington offers an appealing combination of sophistication and history, along with a touch of nostalgia for a way of life of years gone by. The area features unique shops, cultural entertainment and family dining, along with B&Bs and a wealth of quaint cottages.

The historic downtown shopping district leads you to a State Harbor of refuge with a limestone seawall, featuring a walkway surrounded by breathtaking views of Lake Huron. The clean open beachfront area provides swimming, boating, kayaking and other water activities. Bike paths through the village and up to the Thumb area are just a part of Lexington’s recreational opportunities. Lexington’s Tierney Park and Lester Park are filled with tennis courts,

walking trails, soccer fields a pickle ball court and lakeside benches to relax and enjoy the view. Nearby golf courses and driving ranges will please the golfer in the family. State parks, RV facilities and camping are only a few miles from Lexington.

One of the most popular events is the celebration of Independence Day with a harbor front display of the fireworks and an All-American Parade in July. The annual Lexington Fine Arts Street Fair is held in August, bringing over 125 artists and fine crafters to the streets of the downtown area. A Bach Festival, classic cars shows, motorcycle shows and tractor shows are also on their busy summer schedule. Thumbfest, a celebration of traditional music, is held in September.

For more information, visit [lexingtonmichigan.org.best](http://lexingtonmichigan.org.best). A schedule of events and details can be found at [lexingtonmichigan.org](http://lexingtonmichigan.org).



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# Lexington Calendar of Events

## May

- TBD Captains Meeting 7pm
- TBD Lexington Fishing Tournament 6am
- 23-24 Moore Public Library Book & Plant Sale
- 26 Memorial Day Parade 11am

## June

- 14-15 Lakeside Craft Show 10am-5pm
- 14 A&W Antique Tractor Show 9am-3pm
- 14 Ice Cream Social
- 15 A&W Classic Car Show 9am-3pm
- 20 Music in the Park - 7:30pm (Katmandu)
- 27 Music in the Park - 7:30pm (Devin Scillian)



## July

- 4 Independence Day Fireworks Dusk
- 5 Independence Day Parade 11am
- 4 Music in the Park 7:30pm (Creole Du Nord)
- 6 Firemen's Pancake Breakfast 7am-Noon
- 11 Music in the Park 7:30pm (Mainstreet Soul)

- 18 Music in the Park 7:30pm (Parallel Fifth)
- 19 Lakeshore Garden Walk 10am-4pm
- 25 Music in the Park 7:30pm (Captured Detroit)

## August

- 1 Music in the Park 7:30pm (Thornetta David)
- 2-3 Lexington Fine Arts and Craft Fair
- 2-3 Moore Public Library Book Sale
- 8 Music in the Park 7:30pm (The Gobies)
- 8-10 Antique Yard Sale Trail
- 15 Music in the Park 7:30pm (Dabe Bennett)
- 17 Lakeview Hills Golf LBA Fundraiser
- 23 Margarita Fest 7pm
- 30 Thumb Fest 10am-10pm

## September

- 21 Scarecrow Contest Begins
- 12-14 Bach Festival

## October

- 17-19 Halloween Extravaganza @ Camp Cavell
- 25 Scarecrow Contest Ceremony
- 31 Community Trick or Treat 6pm-8pm

## November

- 6-9 Holiday Market Squares
- 8 Moore Public Library Craft Supply Swap

- 15 Girlfriends Day Away Fashion Show 10am-Noon
- 15 Girlfriends Day Away Merchant Activities
- 30 Wreath Contest



## December

- 1-6 Wreath Contest
- 6 Christmas Tree Lighting & Merchant Walk
- 6 Tree Lighting Ceremony 7pm
- 13 Old Fashioned Christmas Horse Parade 2pm

## January

- 9-11 Snow Flake Sales
- TBD Lexington Ice Fishing Contest

## February

- 6-7 Winterfest Weekend
- 7 Chili Cook Off 12pm
- 7 Polar Bear Plunge 2pm
- TBD Lexington Ice Fishing Contest

## March

- 14-17 St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

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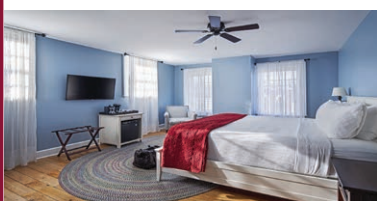


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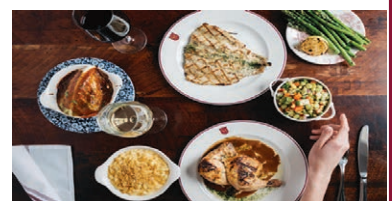
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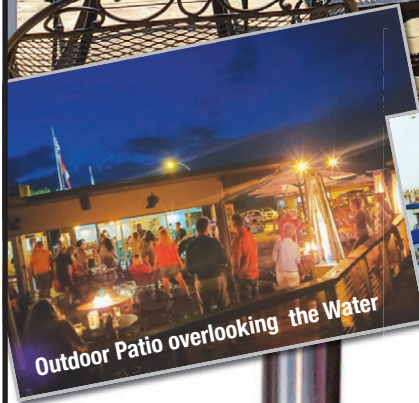
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# 2025

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# EVENTS

Events are subject to change.

## MARCH

- 16** St. Patrick's Day Irish Festival at Huron Shores Golf Club. (12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

## APRIL

- 19** Easter Egg Hunt at Sanilac County Historic Museum (11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

## MAY

- 09** Season opening of Farmers Market  
**23** Season opening of Live Music at The Alli Bar (7:00 p.m.)  
**25** Season opening of the Barn Theater  
**26** Blessing of the Fleet at Harbor Park (12:00 p.m.)

## JUNE

- 07** Season opening of Music in the Park  
**20** Summer Music Festival at Sanilac County Historic Museum

## JULY

- 05** Independence Day Parade (2:00 p.m.) & Fireworks (Dusk)  
**19** Alli Bar Palooza Fest (12:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.)

## AUGUST

- 1-2** 11th Annual Port Sanilac Blues Festival at the Harbor Park (12:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.)  
**10-12** M25 Yard Sale Trail  
**15-16** 3rd Annual Elvis Weekend at the Alli Bar (7:00 p.m.)  
**16** Antique Boat, Camper, & Car Show on Main Street (9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

## SEPTEMBER

- 19** Flannel Festival at Sanilac County Historic Museum (7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)  
**26-27** Oktoberfest at the Alli Bar

## OCTOBER

- 04** 3rd Annual Chili Open Cancer Fundraiser Golf Outing and Chili Cookoff at Huron Shores Golf Club  
**11** Haunted Village at Sanilac County Historic Museum  
**18** Haunted Village at Sanilac County Historic Museum  
**31** Trunk or Treat & Golf Cart Parade (5:00 p.m.)

## NOVEMBER

- 29** Festival of Lights Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at Firehouse Park (5:30 p.m.)

**FARMERS MARKET**  
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**JUNE 21** Ryan Entertainment (Light Rock)  
**JUNE 28** 2 1/2 Men (Light Rock)  
**JULY 05** DJ  
**JULY 12** The Humbuckers (Country, Folk)

- JULY 19** Dynasty (The Best of 60s/70s Rock)  
**JULY 26** Denny Dwyer & Friends (Island Music)  
**AUGUST 1 & 2** Port Sanilac Blues Festival  
**AUGUST 09** Steve Washburn (Acoustic 60s/70s Rock)  
**AUGUST 16** 10 Beach Drive (Tropical Rock Favorites)  
**AUGUST 23** Steve London: A Tribute to Dean Martin  
**AUGUST 30** Random (Light Rock)

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# Sanilac County Historic Village & Museum

Discover the Legacy of Sanilac County at Sanilac County Historic Village & Museum

For over 60 years, the Sanilac County Historical Society has served as a cornerstone of community heritage and grassroots success. Entirely self-funded and volunteer-driven, the Society has transformed its humble beginnings into a 10-acre campus featuring 17 historic buildings—now known as Sanilac County Historic Village & Museum. Each building tells a unique story of local and national significance.

At the front of the Historic Village stands the museum: The Loop-Harrison Mansion, an 1872 Victorian home that once belonged to Sanilac's pioneering physician and Civil War veteran, Joseph Loop and wife Jane. Surrounding the mansion are treasured landmarks such as Croswell-Lexington's Huckins Schoolhouse, the Forestville Church,

and the Deckerville Train Depot, which now proudly displays a WWII troop kitchen car on newly laid rails.

More than just a museum, the Sanilac County Museum is an active hub of community life. Hosting over three dozen annual events—from historical tours and educational lectures to live concerts and holiday celebrations—the Museum connects the past with the present. It also opens its scenic grounds for private rentals, making it a sought-after location for weddings, receptions, and gatherings of all kinds.

The Sanilac County Museum's enduring success is a testament to the passion of its volunteers, members, donors, and generations of supporters. In partnership with groups like the Barn Theatre and Port Sanilac Farmers Market, the Museum remains a vibrant guardian of Sanilac County's rich cultural heritage.





Photo Credit: Peter Michael Photography Studio

St. Clair is located at the center of the memorable Blue Water Area. It is an area rich in history dating back to pre-Revolutionary War times and was a major stop for the underground railroad of the Civil War era.

Palmer Park, in the center of St. Clair, has the world's longest freshwater boardwalk where visitors can enjoy the serenity of a beautiful sunrise or watch as 1,000' lake freighters pass by.

Pickerel (walleye) and perch fishing are especially popular here. If you're like most fishermen, you'll be excited to find yourself in the same spots the locals have favored for years. As a boating enthusiast, you'll fall in love with the Saint Clair Boat Harbor with its 120 boat slips. And, if you're a golfer, don't forget the clubs, there are a number of popular courses.

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# St. Clair Calendar of Events

Visit [stclairchambermi.com](http://stclairchambermi.com) for more information.

## May through October

2025 Rockin' in the Plaza Concerts

**June 28th & 29th**

St. Clair Art Fair

**July 4th**

Fireworks @ dusk – Palmer Park

## November

Lighted Santa Parade  
& Community Tree Lighting

**January 2026**

St. Clair Chamber of Commerce  
Icy Bazaar & Fireworks



St. Clair Powerboat Races



Photo credit: Joe Morgulec





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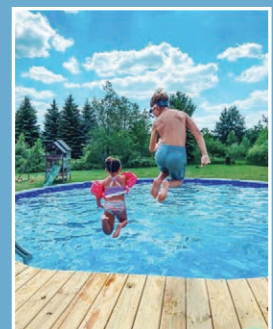


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The city of Saint Clair is home to the longest freshwater boardwalk in the WORLD! As part of the Urban Renewal project back in the 1960's, "Palmer Park" was redeveloped. The boardwalk was expanded to enhance riverfront access, and Saint Clair earned its title as the home of the world's longest freshwater boardwalk.

To this day, residents and visitors alike head downtown to see thousand-foot freighters, enjoy the diverse population of birds, and to take in the finest views of the residential Canadian shoreline!



Photo credit: Peter Michael Photography Studio



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# Richmond

The City of Richmond is a growing city and is linked by the I-94 Expressway, M-9, and the Gratiot Avenue corridor for easy access to the Detroit/Flint/Port Huron Metropolitan Areas. Richmond offers a wide variety of recreational activities for the outdoor enthusiast through its many municipal parks. The Macomb Orchard Trail, a 23.5-mile linear park, begins in Richmond and connects to a network of trails. The trail is an integral part of the Great Lake to Lake Route 1 trail, which spans from Port Huron to South Haven. Join us for fun and fitness!

The Annual Richmond Area Good Old Days Festival is the highlight of summer. It offers a wide variety of events throughout each of the four days including the State's largest marching musical parade. For more information visit [richmondgoodolddaysfestival.com](http://richmondgoodolddaysfestival.com).

The retail business districts offer turn of the century charm and unique modern Main Street architecture. The pedestrian friendly downtown is the perfect location for shopping and services. Special events are held year-round.



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## Calendar of Events

### June 6-8

Richmond Little  
League Blue Devil  
Invitational Tournament

### June 28-29

Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical  
Society Heritage Festival,  
Fiber Festival  
& Log Cabin Day

### July 26

Richmond Recreation Department's  
Community Garage Sale

### August 13

Richmond Recreation Department's Kids,  
Trucks & Tractors Event

### August 23

Community Shred Day

### September 4-7

Richmond Area  
Good Old Days Festival

### September 27

Richmond Area Historical  
and Genealogical  
Society Cemetery Walk

Please visit our website at [cityofrichmond.net](http://cityofrichmond.net) for more information on the City of Richmond, or contact us at (586) 727-7571 or email at [info@cityofrichmond.net](mailto:info@cityofrichmond.net).





Photo credit: The City of Marine City

# Algonac

Algonac is situated on the largest fresh-water delta in the world and is nicknamed the “Venice of Michigan” due to the many canals that wind throughout the city and the beautiful boardwalk along the St. Clair River. Algonac’s nautical history includes being the birthplace of Chris Craft Boats and former home of Gar Wood, a well-known builder and racer of power boats. Algonac hosts an annual festival in the summer, the Pickerel Tournament, which includes a fishing tournament, carnival, and fireworks.

**June 21st**  
Annual Antique & Classic Boat Show

**July 3rd-6th**  
Algonac Pickerel Festival

The Algonac State Park also a popular attraction in the summer, with a beach on the St. Clair River located just across M-29. Further south the M-29 corridor is the St. John’s Marsh area. The marsh wildlife refuge that offers open and managed hunting. It’s home to many different water fowl and close to 160 different kinds of prairie wildflowers and grasses.



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# Marine City

Marine City, also situated on the St. Clair River, is about 30 minutes downriver from Port Huron and 15 minutes off the I-94/26 Mile Road. You will find fine art, antiques, gifts and accessories at the quaint shops on the historic waterfront shopping district and along the M-29 corridor. Be sure to bring your appetite. Fresh fish from the Great Lakes, sizzling steaks, specialty candies or yummy baked goods are local options for dining both on and off the water.

Marine City has live theaters and movie theater, along with free riverfront concerts, festivals, and even a beach! There are summer and winter parades, holiday activities and events for every season. The annual Merrytime Christmas draws people from all over Michigan for an old-fashioned river town Christmas celebration.

It’s a perfect place for a romantic getaway or a family fun or girl’s weekend away. Take a stroll, book a tour at one of the museums, swim in the cool, fast waters of the St. Clair River, fish, take a powered parachute ride, or spend a lazy afternoon watching freighter pass by.



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The coast is just the beginning of what visitors will find on the Canadian side of the St. Clair River and Lake Huron. Ontario's Blue Coast is ideally located in the heart of the Great Lakes region with Sarnia and Lambton County bordered by the sparkling blue waters of southern Lake Huron and the St. Clair River. These blue waters are reminiscent of the Caribbean but you won't have to travel quite so far to soak up the scenery.

Check out Canatara Park & Beach, an International Blue Flag Designated Beach or travel the Cheers to the Coast Trail, stopping to visit the many craft breweries, wineries, hard cider and mead producers in the area. Attend a festival or

one of the area's special events, including professional theatre productions at the Victoria Playhouse Petrolia. Enjoy boutique shopping or sample the diverse culinary offerings of the many establishments throughout the area.

Just outside Sarnia, the Blue Coast offers unparalleled recreation with 20 golf courses, unique museums and in-water events including high-speed boat racing, sailing and fishing for trout, salmon walleye, bass and more. Parks are found all along the shoreline of the river and lake, providing ample opportunities for day trips. The area is popular for extended stays, with varied accommodations available ranging from campsites to resort hotels.

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It's time to escape the ordinary and discover the best of Ontario's Blue Coast in Sarnia-Lambton. With stunning beaches, award-winning breweries, and a thriving arts scene, you can explore the charming waterfront cities throughout the county, from small villages with big excitement like Petrolia, Grand Bend and Point Edward, to the big city vibes and amenities of Sarnia. Plus, with the favorable exchange rate you can save big time on your next visit across the border to Sarnia-Lambton!



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# SARNIA EVENTS

## SOUNDS OF SUMMER

*June 2<sup>nd</sup> - August 22<sup>nd</sup>*

## CANADA DAY

*July 1<sup>st</sup> at Canatara Park*

## KIDS FUNFEST

*August 16<sup>th</sup> at Canatara Park*

## FRIGHT NIGHT AT CANA-SCARE- A PARK

*October 25<sup>th</sup>*

## CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM

*Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>*



Photo credit: Jessica Carpo



Photo credit: Alyssa Bullen



Photo credit: Jessica Carpo

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# Western Communities

## Capac

The front door to Michigan's Thumb! Upon your arrival you will be immersed in a small town with an abundance of shopping and nearby entertainment. The Village of Capac has lots to offer including outdoor dining, shopping, ice-cream, local events, and that small-town charm. Located approximately 30 miles west of Port Huron and 50 miles north of Detroit. Come experience the historic presence of Capac's downtown buildings and businesses and see all that Capac has to offer.

## Yale

Yale is a quaint little town in the Thumb that celebrates its heritage with parades and festivals.

This year's Annual Bologna Festival will be July 28-30. An annual celebration since 1989, is one of the events that reminds visitors of what's special about small-town America. In honor of their bologna making history, Main Street is shut down for the 3-day event which includes classics such as Outhouse Races, Horseshoe Tournaments and the Big Bologna Parade. For information on Yale activities and events, visit [yalechamber.com](http://yalechamber.com).

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# Memphis

Memphis is on the western county line, is technically an island, as you have to cross a bridge on all sides to get into town. It's known as home to "The Thing", a self-propelled vehicle, powered by a steam engine, built in 1884-1885 by Thomas and John Clegg in their Memphis machine shop. The historical marker states that The Thing was "the first recorded self-propelled vehicle in Michigan (and perhaps the country)" and that "It ran about 500 miles".

In addition to these unique facts, you'd also find that Memphis is a pleasant place to live. It's proximity to the suburbs of Detroit makes it a great place to call home and still have access to the big city.

The Memphis Chamber of Commerce hosts an annual Memphis Days Festival the first full weekend of August. The festival includes carnival games, kids events, a parade down main street, a 5k race, and vintage baseball to name a few of the activities.

For more information, visit [facebook.com/memphismichamberofcommerce](https://facebook.com/memphismichamberofcommerce).

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# Wadhams

Wadhams is a small community located about five miles west of Port Huron, on the banks of the Black River. Due to its easy access to I-69 and I-94, it continues to thrive and accommodates the needs of residents and area travelers.

This small town has everything a community needs - restaurants, banks and other businesses - as well as a large travel center for those passing through.

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Photo credit: Angelica Finnesy



Photo credit: Staci O'Brien



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# Public Beaches

Location:	Beach:
Algonac/St. Clair River	Algonac State Park
Fort Gratiot/Lake Huron	Fort Gratiot County Park Keewadhin Road Beach
Lakeport/Lake Huron	Lakeport State Campground
Lexington/Lake Huron	Lexington Public Beach
Marine City/St. Clair River	Marine City Beach
Marysville/St. Clair River	Chrysler Park Beach
Port Huron/Lake Huron	Conger Lighthouse Beach Holland Road Beach Lakeside Beach



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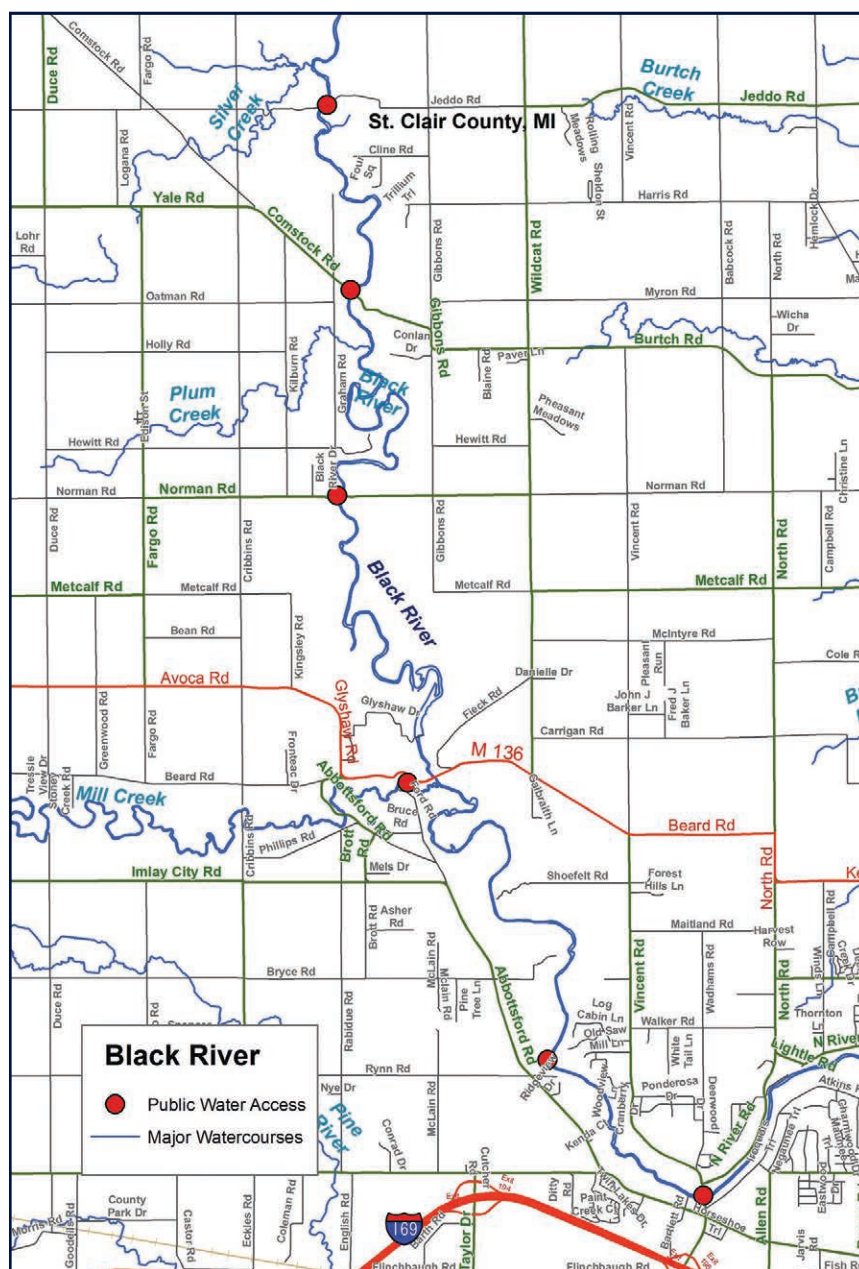


**phmuseum.org**

# Port Huron State Game Area



Photo credit: Sarah Mertz



## Paddling the Port Huron State Game Area

Natural scenes that you may have thought could only be found in northern Michigan are just a short drive west of Port Huron. The Port Huron State Game Area is over 6,000 acres and located along the Black River in Clyde and Grant Townships. The site offers opportunities for small game hunting, fishing, hiking, and nature study. The best way to take advantage of all the game area has to offer is by canoe or kayak. Since it is protected state land, many miles of the river are undeveloped and it's more likely that you'll encounter a bald eagle than a fellow human being.

Information on weather conditions as well as the depth and speed of the water at the Jeddo Bridge gauging station is available at <https://waterdata.usgs.gov>. Access to the river is possible at the Jeddo Bridge, Comstock Bridge, Norman Bridge, M-136/Beard Bridge, Woodsong County Park and Wadhams Bridge (listed from north to south according to the map to the left).

For a full list of possible routes, including their length and difficulty, visit [bluewaysofstclair.org/routes.asp](https://bluewaysofstclair.org/routes.asp).

# Island Loop Route National Water Trail

The Island Loop National Water Trail is the first national water trail in Michigan and one of only fourteen in the nation. The 10.2 mile long trail provides boaters and paddlers with a one-of-a-kind opportunity to navigate four bodies of water, pass by Michigan's oldest lighthouse and travel underneath the Blue Water Bridges.

Most of the water trail meanders through Fort Gratiot Township, Port Huron Township and the City of Port Huron, traveling the Black River, the Black River Canal, Lake Huron and the St. Clair River. With the exception of the waters under the Blue Water Bridge and in the St. Clair River, waterways along the route are calm and slow but you should wear a life

jacket (PFD) at all times. Also be sure to have your ID with you, as the waters of Lake Huron and the St. Clair River are patrolled by Border Patrol Agents and they can stop you at any time and ask for proof of your citizenship.

Begin your journey either at the new Bakers Field Park in Port Huron Township or at the North River Road Park in Ft. Gratiot Township. Both sites have an ADA accessible kayak launches. Head downriver then east on the canal that links the Black River to Lake Huron. Enter Lake Huron after passing under the Taintor Gate. The Taintor Gate is open 96% of the time but be aware that it closes automatically when there is a strong North or Northeast wind.



Once in Lake Huron, head south and paddle under the Blue Water Bridges and into the St. Clair River, along the international border with Canada. The St. Clair River section should only be attempted by experienced paddlers on a calm day. The water can be quite rough and the paddle is best attempted in the morning. Finish by entering the mouth of the Black River to the west, paddling through the City of Port Huron and then you're back to where you started from.

# Blue Water Fishing

You don't need a boat to fish, but if you have one there are many boat launches throughout the area. In many of the Blue Water communities, there are long stretches of public seawall available to the shore fishermen. Whether you're catching fish out of your boat or from the shore, it will require a stop at one of the local bait and tackle stores to get the "good stuff" and info on local tried and true techniques and advice on fishing from the seawalls. Depending on the time of year, you could catch King salmon, Chinook salmon, Atlantic salmon, Steelhead, Brown Trout, Lake Trout, Walleye, Silver Bass, Small Mouth Bass, Sturgeon, Whitefish, Muskie, Northern Pike, Suckers, and Carp.

## Types of Fish to Catch in the Blue Water Area:

### **Port Sanilac:**

Atlantic, Chinook and Coho Salmon

### **Lexington:**

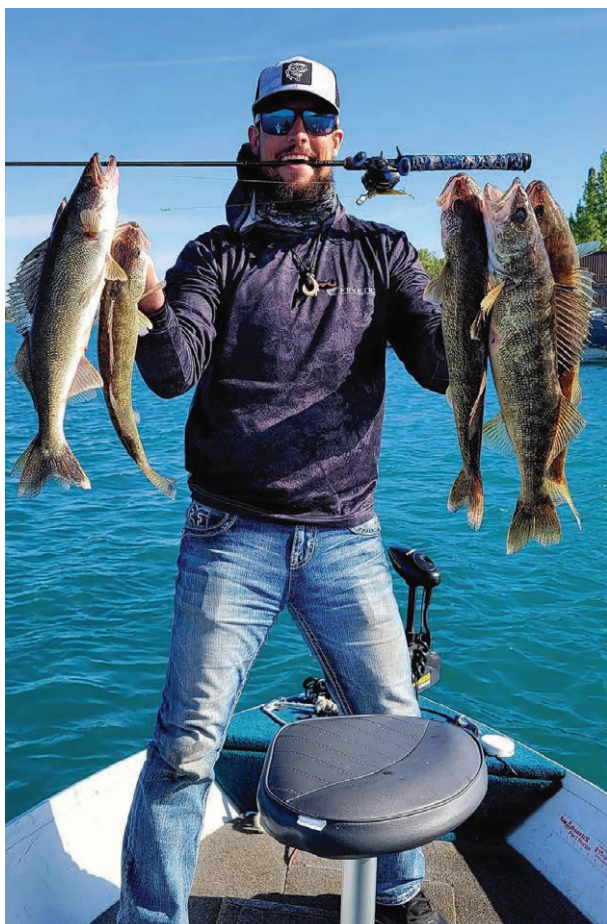
Atlantic, Chinook, Coho, Pink, Steelhead, Lake Trout, Steelhead, Walleye, Yellow Perch

### **Port Huron:**

Steelhead, Walleye, Smallmouth Bass

### **Algonac:**

Steelhead, Walleye, Smallmouth Bass, Lake Sturgeon



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## Wadhams to Avoca Trail

Photo Credit: Peter Michael Photography Studio

# Blue Water Area Trails

### Wadhams to Avoca Trail

The 12 mile long Wadhams to Avoca trail begins just west of Port Huron and ends in the small community of Avoca. Built in the late 1800s by the Flint and Pere Marquette Railroad, the former railroad grade was purchased by the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission in 1999 to be developed into a pedestrian pathway. Access points, including parking lots and restrooms, are located at Wadhams Road, Lapeer Road, Imlay City Road, and at M-136 in Avoca. As you trek west along the Wadhams to Avoca Trail from Port Huron, you'll notice the landscape of St. Clair County change from suburban to rural to wilderness. The eastern half of the trail is paved, while the western portion is made of limestone fines to accommodate horseback riders. The pinnacle of your journey west will be the Mill Creek Trestle, a 640 foot long and 60 foot high former railroad bridge that offers spectacular views of the Mill Creek and beyond.

### Bridge to Bay Trail

The Bridge to Bay Trail is a 54 mile long network of trails through several communities on St. Clair County's shoreline. The trail starts near the Blue Water Bridge in Port Huron and travels south to Anchor Bay on Lake St. Clair. It passes through the waterfront communities of Marysville, St. Clair, Marine City, and Algonac. Along the way you'll encounter parks, beaches, museums, lighthouses, shops, and restaurants. Many miles of the Bridge to Bay trail are paved pathways for hiking and biking. Other portions of the trail consist of dedicated bike lanes and sidewalks. Some sections remain under development, and completing the gaps in the trail network remain a priority for local

stakeholders. A portion of the Bridge to Bay Trail in Port Huron consists of the Blue Water River Walk, a prime example of the ongoing effort to restore our shoreline. Starting at the mouth of the Black River and ending at the Seaway Terminal, the Blue Water River Walk tells the story of our river's industrial and natural past.

### Pine River Nature Center

St. Clair County Regional Education Service Agency's Pine River Nature Center is located on Castor Road immediately south of Goodells County Park. The 80 acre nature center has over three miles of hiking trails that are open year round from dawn to dusk. The nature center is also a popular spot for bird watchers with more than 70 species of birds sighted at the property. Numerous educational programs for area students and the public take place inside the nature center's 5,000 square foot log cabin which features interactive nature displays. More information on the Pine River Nature Center can be found at [sccresa.org](http://sccresa.org).

### Columbus County Park

Located along the Belle River off of Bauman Road near Richmond in St. Clair County's Columbus Township, Columbus County Park offers four season fun for the whole family! With over 400 acres to explore, Columbus County Park is sure to give you that "Up North" feel. Hiking trails offer scenic views of the Belle River as well as native hardwood forests. Mountain bikers and horseback riders will also find many miles of trails to enjoy. Columbus County Park also features a sledding hill, disk golf course, and modern facilities available for rent. The park is open daily 8am to 9pm May through September and 8am to 8pm October through April.

# Calendar of Events

*From festivals to races, there's something for everyone to enjoy in the Blue Water area all year long.*

## May

- 26 Memorial Day Parade, Lexington at 11am
- 26 Blessing of the Fleet at Harbor Park, Port Sanilac 12pm
- 31 Emmett KOA Family Day Craft & Vendor Show

## June

- 5 Brenden Pavlov, Music in the Park, Algonac 7pm
- 6 Thurston Howell – A Premier Yacht Rock Spectacular, Lexington Village Theatre 8pm
- 6-8 Michigan Lavender Festival, at Eastern Michigan Fair Ground, Imlay City

- 6-8 Richmond Little League Blue Devil Invitational Tournament
- 6-8 Art on the River, Downtown Port Huron
- 7 Random (Light Rock) Music in the Harbor Park, Port Sanilac 7pm
- 7 Free Fishing Weekend for Michigan
- 7 Sturgeon Fest, Fort Gratiot Lighthouse Park 10am-3pm
- 8 Wills St. Claire Car Show, Marysville
- 12 Stingray Band, Music in the Park, Algonac 7pm
- 12-15 Summerfest Carnival and Fireworks, Marysville
- 14 Beer, Wine, and Cocktail Festival, Algonac

- 14 Bourbon Day Bayside Tasting Event, The Pink House, New Baltimore
- 14 A&W Antique Tractor Show, Lexington 9am-3pm
- 14 Ice Cream Social, Lexington
- 14 Ourselves (Folk) Music in the Harbor Park, Port Sanilac 7pm
- 14-15 Lakeside Craft Show, Lexington 10am-5pm
- 15 A&W Classic Car Show, Lexington 8am-3pm
- 18 21st Annual Crosswell Fair
- 18-22 New Baltimore Fishfly Festival
- 19 The American Ride – Toby Keith Tribute, Music in the Park, Algonac 7pm



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# Calendar of Events

## June (cont'd)

- 19 New Baltimore Fireworks
- 20 Music in the Park, Lexington 7:30pm
- 20 The Dave Matthew's Tribute Band, Lexington Village Theatre 8pm
- 20 Summer Music Festival, Sanilac County Historic Museum
- 21 Ryan Entertainment (Light Rock) Music in the Harbor Park, Port Sanilac 7pm
- 21 Power of Love – Huey Lewis & The News Tribute, Lexington Village Theatre 8pm
- 21 Algonac Antique & Classic Boat Show, Algonac Harbour Club
- 21 Bass Season Opens, New Baltimore

- 23 Detroit Fireworks
- 26-29 T.J. Schmidt & Company Carnival at Birchwood Mall, Fort Gratiot
- 26 Elvis Tribute – Darrin Hagel, Music in the Park, Algonac 7pm



- 26-29 Thumb Festival, Sandusky
- 27 Music in the Park, Lexington 7:30pm
- 27 Cruise Night, Fort Gratiot
- 27 Fireworks, St. Clair Shores

- 28 Keith Peterson Memorial Car Show at Birchwood Mall, Fort Gratiot 10am-3pm
- 28 2 ½ Men (Light Rock) Music in the Harbor Park, Port Sanilac 7pm
- 28 Let's Hang On – America's #1 Frankie Valli Tribute, Lexington Village Theatre 4pm & 7pm
- 28 Fort Gratiot Fireworks @ Dusk
- 28 Frankenfest at Fort Gratiot Lighthouse
- 28 Porchfest, Port Austin at 1pm
- 28-2 Richmond Area Historical & Genealogical Society Heritage Festival, Fiber Festival, & Log Cabin Day
- 28-29 St. Clair Art Fair



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# Calendar of Events

## July

- 3-6 Algonac Lions Club 87<sup>th</sup> Pickerel Tournament
- 4 Independence Day Fireworks, Lexington @ Dusk
- 4 Music in the Park, Lexington 7:30pm
- 4 St. Clair Fireworks, Palmer Park @ Dusk
- 4-5 Almost Queen – A Tribute to QUEEN, Lexington Village Theatre 8pm
- 5 DJ Music in the Harbor Park, Port Sanilac 7pm
- 5 Independence Day Parade, Lexington 11am
- 5 Independence Day Parade, Port Sanilac 2pm
- 5 Independence Day Fireworks @ Dusk, Port Sanilac
- 5 Independence Day



Photo credit: Staci O'Brien

- Fireworks, Algonac
- 6 Fireman's Pancake Breakfast, Lexington 7am-12pm
- 9 Rotary International Parade, Port Huron 6:30pm
- 9-12 Blue Water Festival, Port Huron's Boat Week

- 10 Meldrum Brothers, Music in the Park, Algonac 7pm
- 10 Port Huron Fireworks
- 11 Music in the Park, Lexington 7:30pm
- 12 The Humbuckers (Country, Folk) Music in the Harbor Park, Port Sanilac 7pm
- 12 River Classic Car Show, St. Clair
- 12 Bayview Mackinac Race start
- 14-19 St. Clair County 4-H & Youth Fair
- 18 Music in the Park, Lexington 7:30pm
- 19 Dynasty (Best of 60s & 70s Rock) Music in the Harbor Park, Port Sanilac 7pm
- 19 Double Vision The Foreigner Experience, Lexington Village Theatre 8pm



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# Calendar of Events

- 19 Lakeshore Garden Walk, Lexington 10am-4pm
- 19 Alli Bar Palooza Fest, Port Sanilac 12pm-10pm
- 22-26 Eastern Michigan State Fair, Imlay City
- 25 Music in the Park, Lexington 7:30pm
- 25-27 Yale Bologna Festival
- 26-27 St. Clair Classic Offshore Powerboat Races
- 26 Main Street Memories Car Show, Downtown Port Huron 2pm-8pm
- 26 Richmond Recreation Department's Community Garage Sale
- 26 Denny Dwyer & Friends (Island Music) Music in the Harbor Park, Port Sanilac 7pm



Photo credit: Sarah Mertz

- Ultimate Aerosmith Tribute, Lexington Village Theatre 6pm & 8:45pm
- 1-2 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Port Sanilac Blues Festival at Harbor Park. 12pm-10pm
- 1-3 Blue Water Sandfest, Fort Gratiot Lighthouse
- 2-3 Maritime Days, Marine City
- 2-3 Lexington Fine Arts and Craft Fair

- 2-3 Moore Public Library Book Sale, Lexington
- 3-9 Sanilac County Youth Fair & 4H Fair, Sandusky
- 5 Touch a Truck, Algonac
- 7-10 Cheers to Chesterfield
- 7-10 Memphis Days
- 8 Family Night, Marysville
- 8 Music in the Park, Lexington 7:30pm
- 8-10 Imlay City Summerfest
- 8-17 Cheeseburger Festival, Caseville
- 8-10 Antique Yard Sale Trail
- 9 Steve Washburn (Acoustic 60s/70s Rock) Music in the Harbor Park, Port Sanilac 7pm
- 10-12 M25 Yard Sale Trail
- 11-17 Armada Fair





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# Calendar of Events

- 13 Richmond Recreation Department's Kids, Trucks, & Tractors Event
- 15 Music in the Park, Lexington 7:30pm
- 15-16 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Elvis Weekend at the Alli Bar, Port Sanilac 7pm
- 16 Antique Boat, Camper, and Car Show on Main St Port Sanilac, 9am-4pm
- 16 Sarnia Kids Funfest
- 16 Brass Transit – The Musical Legacy of Chicago, Lexington Village Theatre 5pm & 7:30pm



Photo credit: Andrew Jowett

- 16 Blue Water Traditional Pow Wow, Fort Gratiot Lighthouse
- 16 St. Clair Jazz Festival
- 16 10 Beach Dive (Tropical Rock Favorites) Music in the Harbor Park, Port Sanilac 7pm
- 17 Port Huron Float Down
- 17 Lakeview Hills Golf LBA Fundraiser, Lexington
- 22-23 Hot Wheels Weekend, Marysville
- 22-24 Fall Harvest Days, Goodells
- 23 Community Shred Day, Richmond
- 23 Lexington Margarita Fest 7pm
- 23 Steve London: A Tribute to Dean Martin Music in the Harbor Park, Port Sanilac 7pm



Photo credit: Andrew Jowett

- 25-26 Ted Nugent – Stranglehold 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour, Lexington Village Theatre 8pm
- 29 Thunderbeard – Tribute to ZZ Top, Lexington Village Theatre 8pm
- 30 Thumb Fest, Lexington 10am-10pm
- 30 Random (Light Rock) Music in the Harbor Park, Port Sanilac 7pm

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# Calendar of Events

## September

- 1 Labor Day Harsen's Lions Club Turkey Shoot
- 4-7 Richmond Area Good Old Days Festival
- 5-6 Boat the Blue Antique & Classic Boat Show, Port Huron
- 5-7 Woods-N-Water Outdoor Weekend
- 6-7 Algonac Art Fair
- 7 St. Clair Rotary Turtle Race, St. Clair
- 12-14 Lexington Bach Festival
- 14 Metro Boat Show
- 19 Flannel Festival at Sanilac County Historic Museum, 7pm-9pm
- 19-20 New Baltimore Countryfest
- 21 Scarecrow Contest Begins, Lexington



Photo credit: Staci O'Brien

- 21 New Baltimore Lions Club Car Show
- 26-27 Oktoberfest at the Alli Bar, Port Sanilac
- 27 Travis Tritt, McMorran Theatre, Port Huron
- 27 Richmond Area Historical & Genealogical Society Cemetery Walk
- 27 Scarecrow Saturday, Fort Gratiot 11am-2pm

## October

- 4 Fall Event, Marysville
- 4 Witch Walk, New Baltimore
- 4 3rd Annual Chili Cookoff & Cancer Fundraiser at Huron Shores Golf Club
- 9 Pierogi Fest, Algonac
- 11 Haunted Village, Sanilac County Historic Museum
- 17-19 Halloween Extravaganza at Camp Cavell, Lexington
- 18 Haunted Village, Sanilac County Historic Museum
- 18 Halloween in the 'Nac, Algonac
- 25 Fright Night at Cana-Scare-A Park, Sarnia
- 31 Community Trick or Treat, Lexington 6pm-8pm
- 31 Trunk or Treat & Golf Cart Parade, Port Sanilac 5pm

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# Calendar of Events



- 31 Halloween Bonfire & Trunk or Treat, Algonac

## November

- 6-9 Holiday Market Squares, Lexington  
8 Moore Public Library Craft Supply Swap, Lexington  
15 Girlfriends Day Away Fashion Show, Lexington 10am-12pm  
15 Girlfriends Day Away Merchant Activities, Lexington  
24 Christmas in the Park, Marysville  
28 Sperry's Santa Parade, Downtown Port Huron at 6pm

- 29 Festival of Lights Christmas Tree Lighting, Firehouse Park Port Sanilac 5:30pm

- 30 Wreath Contest, Lexington

## December

- 1-6 Wreath Contest, Lexington  
5 Christmas in the 'Nac & Living Nativity, Algonac  
6 Christmas Parade, Marysville  
6 32nd Annual Lighted Implement Parade, Sandusky  
6 Merrytime Christmas, Marine City  
6 Armada Holly Days Christmas Parade at 6:30pm



- 6 Christmas Tree Lighting & Merchant Walk, Lexington  
Tree Lighting Ceremony, 7pm  
13 Old Fashioned Christmas Horse Parade, Lexington 2pm

## January 2026

- TBD St. Clair's Icy Bazaar  
TBD Port Huron's Chilly Fest

## February 2026

- 6-7 Winterfest Weekend, Lexington  
7 Chili Cook Off, Lexington 12pm  
7 Polar Plunge, Lexington 2pm  
14 Fire, Ice, and Spice, Marine City

## March 2026

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## ABOUT PETER MICHAEL...

Peter Michael earned an Associate's degree in photography and graphic/web design from MCC before transferring to the College for Creative Studies of Detroit, receiving a degree in photography. Peter's passion for photography has been exhibited throughout the area and state wide.

His professional portfolio is wide ranging, including senior photos, engagement pictures, head shots for the staff at Advia credit union, event photography for the Rhonda Walker Foundation, Charlotte motor speedway, Ferrari of Michigan, M.L. Chartier, MMC, M1 Concourse, PTM Corporation, Consulate General of Italy, Disney Smart Shelf Company, Paula Tutman's Children's Tooth Fairy Foundation, Crain's Detroit Magazine, Metro Times, Port Huron High School, St Clair High School, Marine City High School, Marysville High School & RadioFirst.

Peter also specializes in architectural photography for a Michigan based architectural firm that designs glass structured buildings at the University of Michigan, Michigan State, University of Chicago, Loyola University Chicago, Willis Sears tower, Delta Dental Head Quarters, Greektown Casino, Barton Malow, Verizon, and WXYZ Detroit. He has also done work as a Media Photographer at the North American International Auto Shows of Detroit and Chicago.

Another exciting area that Peter has mastered is aerial photography & video using his own custom built racing drones to capture truly unique bird's eye view video fly throughs. He has used this technology to showcase events such as the Port Huron to Mackinac sailboat races to skyline views and real estate development in Detroit. Peter has also taken aerial drone videos for HGTVs House Hunters and videos of real estate properties along with 360 virtual reality tours for unique properties. Contact Peter at any of the following websites or social media addresses. **PeterMichaelPhotography.com** and **ThumbCoastAerial.com** and also follow on Instagram @petermichaelphotography @thumbcoastaerial.





# Blue Water Bridge Crossing

The Blue Water Bridge is an international crossing between the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada. As you enter either country you will be stopped and questioned prior to entry into that country. Each person in your vehicle must be able to prove their citizenship. For a complete list of Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative-compliant documents, visit the United States Department of Homeland Security at [dhs.gov/files/crossingborders/travelers.shtm](https://dhs.gov/files/crossingborders/travelers.shtm).

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Terry Kuhns

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Rev Julia DiFiore M Div

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