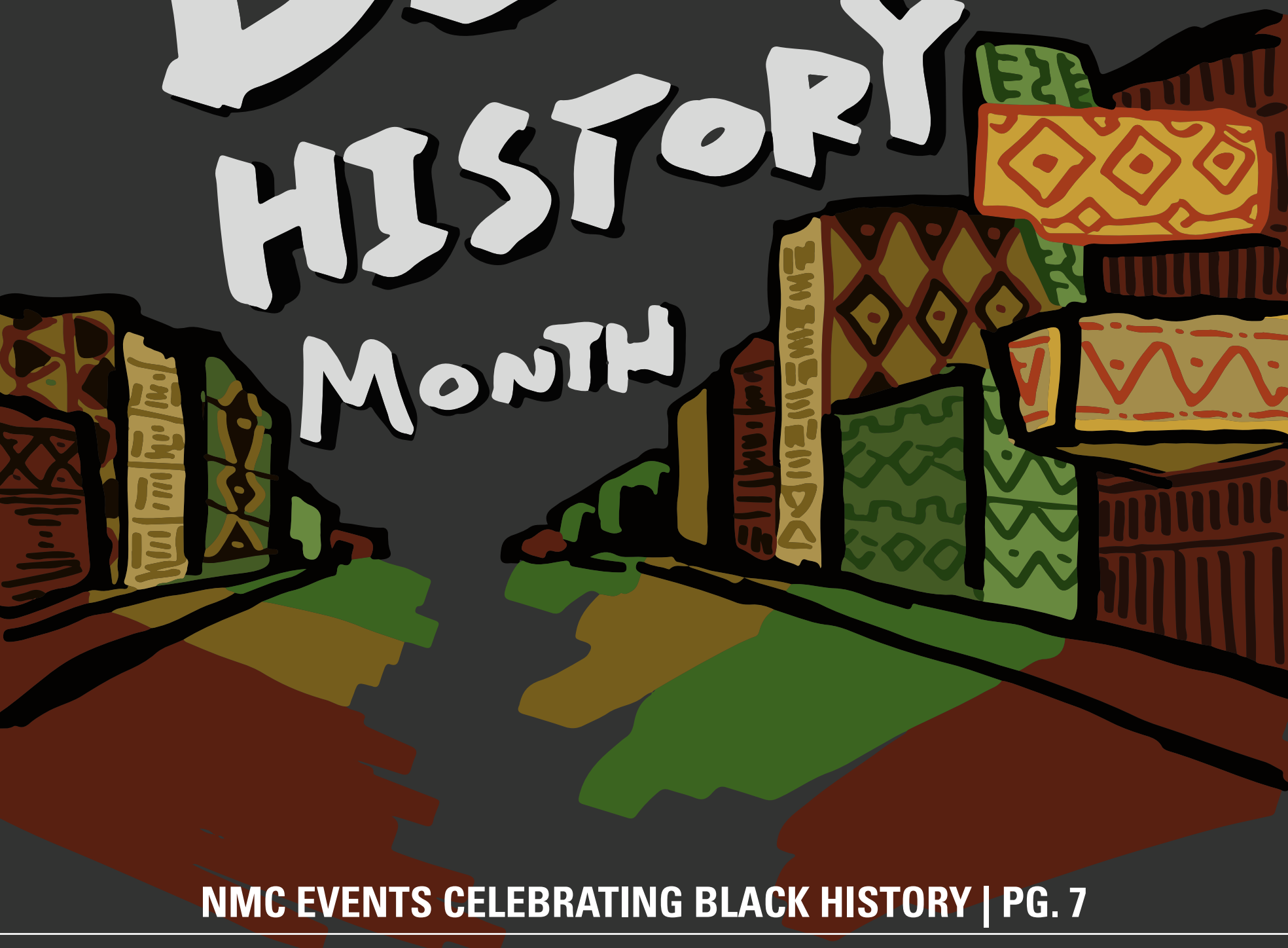


# WHITE PINE PRESS

*We hew to the line; let the chips fall where they may.*

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH



**NMC EVENTS CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY | PG. 7**

# From Combat to Counseling:

## NMC Student Uses Social Work Skills to Help Veterans

**John Osmond** Staff Writer “When I first stepped off the plane in Kuwait my first words were ‘Holy hell, it’s hot,’” said Chuck Cleghorn, NMC student and army veteran. That was back in 2004, when Cleghorn arrived for his first tour in Iraq. Now a student at NMC, he is pursuing a degree in social work and help other veterans and soldiers like him.

“My end goal is to be hired onto the local vet center in town, because I want to work with combat veterans like myself.”

Cleghorn says he has had two callings in his life: the military and helping veterans. His military career spanned more than 18 years, in both the Army Reserves and active duty.

“I’m a firm believer that everyone has a calling in life and my true calling was the military. That was what I wanted to be since I was a kid.”

Born just outside of Springfield, Ill., Cleghorn played high school baseball and was awarded a scholarship to go to a university, but he opted to join the reserves in 1996 instead. During basic training, Cleghorn was drawn to the bond veterans have.

“The comradery and the brotherhood... It’s a bond... even when you’re a veteran, it’s that instant connection when you meet with other vets. ‘What can I do to help you?’...we help each other regardless.”

In the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Cleghorn opted to serve in active duty, placing him on the front-lines of America’s war in Iraq. His first deployment was in June 2004.

“The hardest part was not being able to talk to my family. I would go months without being able to talk to my wife and daughter.”

Cleghorn’s specialty was a 91 Bravo, or a wheeled vehicle mechanic. Many of his missions in Iraq included convoy security and going from house to house looking for enemy combatants.

Of his 11-year career in active duty, six of those years were spent in Iraq. “I did all of my tours in Iraq. I’ve been all over that country.” During one tragic deployment, five men in his unit were killed in action. Despite the devastating emotional toll Cleghorn remained focused and driven. “My mindset was always ‘I just wanna get home. I don’t wanna be a casualty over here.’ But you had to keep your mind on the mission,” he said. Cleghorn was in two IED explosive blasts that left him with a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and forced him to medically retire. “[The Army] told me I could not do anything, and for the longest time I labeled myself a disabled vet. That hurt because I wanted to do so much more after I got out of the army.”

Cleghorn left Iraq in 2010, but his return to the civilian world was almost as traumatic as the warzone he left.

“After I got out of the army, I ended up going down a dark road. With a TBI and severe PTSD, I have nerve damage in my spine and [The Army] was telling me I couldn’t do anything. I couldn’t even go to school, I couldn’t even work at McDonald’s. That’s very disheartening as a young male. My depression just went through the roof.”

After moving from Fort Riley, Kan. to Traverse City in 2017, Cleghorn visited the Grand Traverse County Veteran Center on Cedar Run Rd. There, he began seeing a social worker to talk about what he experienced overseas.

“In 2017 I went into [mental health] in-treatment in North Chicago for seven weeks. That’s where I found my calling as a counselor to help other vets. I had to really prove to myself that I could do it.”

Cleghorn found that the comradery he learned in basic training could be applied in the civilian world.

Now a fulltime student at NMC, Cleghorn continues to strive toward his goal of helping veterans come to terms with their time in the armed services. He has fought many battles and continues to help veterans like himself.

“The biggest stigma with vets is we’re bullheaded. We don’t like to talk and we need to. We need to find a friend, we need to find somebody to talk to because if you don’t talk nobody’s gonna know. That’s what they told me in North Chicago; if you hold it all in and keep your rucksack full, you’re not gonna fix anything.”



Chuck Cleghorn, Now and during his service in Iraq

### NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

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# NMC Receives \$2.7 Million Grant to Convert to Geothermal Energy

**Aidan Pool**  
Staff Writer

A \$2.7 million grant has been approved for NMC to convert the power plant on campus to a geothermal powering system for the West Hall Timothy J. Innovation Center. The grant comes from a federal earmark.

Geothermal power is a type of renewable energy from within the earth. Used to heat buildings and generate electricity, the geothermal system works because the earth's crust is warm year round. How warm is the earth's crust? It is estimated that if you dig a 20-foot hole, the temperature there would be about 60° F, and the further you dig, the warmer the earth gets.

The project would replace NMC's existing centralized steam power plant and decentralized air handling units with 14 new air handling units in six buildings. The new system would use geothermal pumps, piping, and an underground valve vault to distribute the energy. The current system consists of four old style steam boilers, three of which have been in place since the 1970s. The expected life of those boilers was about 20 to 30 years. They are still in use, however in a much smaller capacity than what was expected when they were first constructed almost 50 years ago. With proper maintenance, the boilers could last even longer than they already have.

The proposed system would serve six buildings on campus and is expected to reduce site carbon emissions by 96% and natural gas consumption by 94%.

"Geothermal heating and cooling systems in some applications can use as little as 30% of total energy that a traditional system would use in the same application," says Patrick Quinlan, director of campus services. "It's the most efficient way to cool a space, and also greatly reduces the heating gas bill by using the heat of the earth and electricity to provide building heat."

When thinking about installing a source of renewable energy, the price tag can give one sticker shock. While the initial cost of the geothermal system looks like a large sum, in the long run it is actually cheaper than a traditional system.

"They are more expensive to purchase and install, but typically return the investment costs as savings well before the life cycle of the machinery is up," Quinlan explained.

The expected life cycle payback period is more than 13 years. This may seem like a long time, but consider the expected lifespan of the geothermal system: 25 to 50 years. If NMC can replicate a similar lifespan to that of the old boiler system, the geothermal system will kill two birds with one stone. With NMC making the switch to more environmentally

friendly power options, could the college eventually see campus wide geothermal power?

"We are always looking at ways to increase our use of green energy, which is driven by NMC's value of stewardship, including environmental stewardship," says Diana Fairbanks, the Associate Vice President of Public Relations, Marketing, and Communications.

Because of its cost efficiency, eco-friendliness, and production of the same amount of energy as the traditional system, we can hope to see more geothermal energy usage at NMC very soon.



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Northwestern Michigan College



# GALA *to give*

ON FRIDAY, JAN. 27, \$5,000 WAS RAISED TO GIVE SCHOLARSHIPS TO LOCAL CHILDREN AND FUTURE HAWK OWLS FOR NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN'S COLLEGE FOR KIDS PROGRAMS. NMC STUDENTS, STAFF, AND ALUMNI SHOWED UP TO NMC'S GREAT LAKES CAMPUS AT THE HAGERTY CENTER IN THEIR FINEST DRESSES AND SUITS TO HAVE A GOOD TIME AND CONNECT WITH THEIR PEERS AT THE VERY FIRST GALA TO GIVE.

THE GALA TO GIVE, A 1920S-THEMED NIGHT OF DANCING, GOOD MUSIC AND SOCIALIZING, WAS HELD BY NMC'S STUDENT SUCCESS AMBASSADORS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION.



SARA

-STAFF

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SUCCESS AMBASSADORS LANDON DeHEER, TAYLOR HALL AND MAHLI BRAAK WERE THE MAIN MASTERMINDS BEHIND THE EVENT, PULLING TOGETHER GORGEOUS DECORATIONS, A KILLER MOCKTAIL BAR, AND A FUN RAFFLE WITH LOCAL ART AND ACTIVITY PRIZES. ON TOP OF THAT WERE FANTASTIC TREATS AND FOOD PREPARED BY THE GREAT LAKES CULINARY INSTITUTE WHILE THE NMC AUDIO TECH PROGRAM SET THE TONE WITH GREAT MUSIC.

ACCORDING TO BRAAK, HER MAIN INSPIRATION FOR THE GALA WAS “TO THROW AN EVENT THAT GAVE BACK IN ALL DIFFERENT ASPECTS ... (ALLOWING STUDENTS TO) DRESS UP AND ENJOY THEMSELVES BUT ALSO GIVE BACK TO OUR NMC COMMUNITY.” THROUGH BRAAK, DeHEER AND HALL’S HARD WORK, ALONG WITH MANY OTHER STUDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS, THE MONEY RAISED WILL ALLOW AT LEAST 10-20 CHILDREN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE THEIR INTERESTS THROUGH NMC’S COLLEGE FOR KIDS. AN NMC ENRICHMENT PROGRAM, COLLEGE FOR KIDS OFFERS PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES, FROM 3 YEARS OLD TO GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL. IT ALLOWS YOUTH TO EXPLORE EVERYTHING FROM ART AND CHOIR TO STEM AND MARINE-RELATED EDUCATION.



JOE LOBB, A CURRENT NMC STUDENT, ATTENDED THE GALA AND HAD A GREAT TIME ON THE DANCE FLOOR. “IT WAS REALLY WELL PUT TOGETHER,” LOBB SAID, NOTING THAT HIS FAVORITE PART WAS THE LIVE MUSIC. WHEN ASKED HIS THOUGHTS ON THE FUNDRAISING ASPECT, HE ADDED, “I THINK IT’S GREAT. I THINK [COLLEGE FOR KIDS] IS A GOOD PROGRAM.”

BRAAK IS HOPEFUL THE EVENT WILL CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE. “WE HOPE THAT IT WILL BE AN ANNUAL EVENT. BUT WITH THE LEADERS OF THE TEAM THAT PUT THIS TOGETHER LEAVING THIS SEMESTER, WE AREN’T SURE WHO IS GOING TO TAKE OVER.”





# East Hall Housing and a Student-Made Solution

**Sara Bagley**  
Staff Writer

Northwestern Michigan College's East Hall replicates dorm life at any other college across the state or the nation. With two beds per room, shared bathrooms and a community area downstairs, it's a pretty good home base

for any student starting at a college away from home. But what happens when that's the only home a student has?



Photo Credit/SARA BAGLEY

Despite its perks and proximity to the Timothy J. Nelson West Hall Innovation Center, East Hall has one big drawback: per housing the contract, students can't stay over the break between semesters. Currently, there is no policy to help students who might face homelessness for that freezing month between NMC's fall and spring semesters.

Taryn Indish (she/they), a 19-year-old student at NMC, saw this lapse in resources and worked to find a way to bridge the gap. "My project was not my own," they explained. "It was me seeing a lack, a need, remembering a terrible situation I once went through, recognizing it in others and finding a way to connect community resources to those who need it."

In the fall of 2021, Indish was a resident of East Hall, and faced the same crisis when the semester break arrived.

"I went to every person to find resources or options. Nobody had anything. I wasn't old enough for the NMC apartments, I didn't have enough credits for North Hall." It was either their car in the cold, or sifting through the 150 messages they'd sent to renters on AirBnB.

"You couldn't pay extra. You're just out."

Indish moved off campus in late November 2022, but when it came time to prepare for the winter season, they jumped to action. They searched on Facebook groups like Overheard in Traverse City for community members who were willing to open up their homes to students in need, and began to seek out any students who were facing homelessness between semesters. Indish put up posters all across campus, advertising resources with the encouragement of the dean and other NMC staff. Understanding the depth of the situation, they even went so far as to say they'd be homeless through the break, trying to find any students who could relate. "I really tried to approach it from every angle," Indish said. "I didn't care about the stigma of homelessness or people's perceptions of me."

In the end, Indish secured 10 places to stay for students, ranging from

rooms in a home to AirBnB's. They directly connected three students to housing, including someone who stayed in Indish's own place, and created the possibility of this program continuing on with a local AirBnB owner already talking about making it an annual arrangement.

Indish was excited about this response. "The amount of students facing this crisis changes year to year. I believe it's worth it to maintain those relationships to have that resource," said Indish. NMC's dean of students, Lisa Thomas, was receptive and ready to help. She opened up the emergency fund, which allowed students to apply for up to \$500 to help with potential rent costs or other living costs over the break.

According to NMC's housing department, 58% of students who currently live on campus are residents of East Hall, a total of 161 people. Given that North Hall requires one to have accumulated 24 or more credits, be over 21, or be a past resident of East Hall, it's clear where students often end up during their first years at NMC.

Marcus Bennett, Special Assistant to the President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, noted that during his time at NMC he could recall two cases of students needing assistance with this struggle and that the Student Life office had been helpful in the past.

"We are fortunate to have a safety net to help those few students in need. Of course, we're always open to exploring ways to help our students succeed," Bennett said. "Taryn saw a need and assisted those students. She did a good thing. It's exciting to see NMC students leading in the community and applying creative problem-solving skills. We wish Taryn the best!"

If even a few students of those 161 were helped, that's enough for Indish. "People are at the brink of homelessness at any point. I want to make sure that no one has to endure what I have in my life," Indish said. They plan to continue this initiative while they're a student at NMC.



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# Embrace the Dream

## Dennos Celebrates Prominent Black Leaders for Black History Month

**Gabbi Chavarria**  
Editor in Chief

February is Black History Month, and NMC and the Dennos Museum are working together to bring Traverse City a range of art and film to celebrate the voices of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color). Marcus Bennett, Assistant to the President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, will be attending and hosting some of the events listed below. "I'm going to try and make it to as many as I can while hosting others," Bennett said.

One event that Bennett was interested in attending is being held by Student Life. On Feb. 15 from 7pm-8:30pm, Leslie McCurdy will perform a one-woman play on the life of Harriet Tubman. *The Spirit of Harriet Tubman* will be performed in Milliken Auditorium. McCurdy and a trunk of costumes will bring Tubman and the beginnings of the Underground Railroad to life. The play lasts approximately one hour, followed by a short question-and-answer session with the performer.

Alvin Hall, author of *Driving the Green Book*, will speak at the Traverse City Opera House on Feb. 23. In *Driving*, Hall took a road trip using the historic Green Book, a guide for Black Americans during the Jim Crow era which listed places where they could safely dine or stay overnight. Hall interviewed people who lived through those times to get a feel for what it was like to travel when Jim Crow laws made traveling a risky proposition.

Bennett is also gearing up for the Food For the Soul menus that will appear in the cafeteria this month. The menus feature soul food that has strong historic significance in the Black community. Menus will be posted weekly on the Embrace The Dream page on NMC's website.

This is NMC's second year in a row running the Embrace the Dream project.

"You can say things, but you have to bring people along with you," said Bennett in reference to the school's commitment to raising up BIPOC students. "If you go back to the summer of 2020, when the country was protesting, [Nick Nissley, President of NMC] put out a charge that created a group, and that group created a Strategic Plan to include DEI, which led to my role," Bennett said, adding "I think the college is making great strides and we've moved fast. A lot of other institutions have put out a lot of statements, but NMC has acted."

While there is no current Black student group at NMC, there has been in the past and the hope is that there will be again.

"The college sees a lot of students transfer out or finish after a few years, so people move on and some of the clubs and organizations fall off," said Bennett. Currently, Food For the Soul is trying to create a BIPOC group on campus. "We're hoping to expand [Food For the Soul] as a launching point for the student group to grow from."

February may be short, but the impact Black History Month has on DEI initiatives at the college carries over.

"I think it's important in terms of looking back and trying to create a culture of diversity, equity, and belonging at the college," Bennett said. "It gives the public the opportunity to see into the past and inform the present. With the college making DEI a part of their strategic plan, this offers us a chance to come together and bridge the gap."

EMBRACE  
the DREAM

### UPCOMING EVENTS

EMBRACE  
the DREAM

#### Food for the Soul

15th

11:30am-1:30pm & 4:00pm-6:00pm

Meal: country fried steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, red beans and rice. Dessert: yellow pound cake. Drink: Arnold Palmer (tea and lemonade).

23rd

11:00am-1:00pm & 4:00pm-6:00pm

Meal: fried okra, baked beans, collard greens with and without ham, cornbread. Dessert: sweet potato pie, banana pudding. Drink: southern sweet tea.

28th

4:00pm-6:00pm

Meal: country ham, coleslaw, candied yams, mac and cheese. Dessert: red velvet cake, marble cake. Drink: Arnold Palmer (lemonade and tea).

#### Disrupt and Dismantle

15th

Displacement In The Mermaid City  
Screenings at 1:00pm & 2:30pm

Soledad O'Brien investigates a city redevelopment plan in Norfolk, Va., that would tear down public housing and displace low-income residents in an effort to "revitalize" the area.

22nd

The Cost Of Black Motherhood In Mississippi  
Screenings at 1:00pm & 2:30pm

Soledad O'Brien talks to Black moms and their advocates in Mississippi to find out how the government and healthcare system can address high maternal and infant mortality rates in the state.

#### Alvin Hall Speech

23rd

City Opera House at 7:00pm-9:00pm

Alvin Hall wrote *Driving the Green Book*, an account of a 2000-mile journey across the country, using the Green Book as his guide to help him understand the experience of African Americans through the 1960s. Alvin will talk about his experience at the City Opera House.

#### The Spirit of Harriet Tubman

15th

Milken Auditorium at 7:00pm-8:00pm

On a barren stage with only a trunk of costumes, Leslie McCurdy thrills her audience with her passionate portrayal of The Spirit of Harriet Tubman. Free, sponsored by NMC Student Life.



# Lights On, Lights Off: How a Lighting Ordinance Affects Traverse City

**Sara Bagley**  
Staff Writer

“They’re shining into our bedrooms, into our yards, lighting up our yards,” described Amelia Hasenohrl, who has lived in Traverse City for 29 years. The lights she’s speaking of? Lamp posts installed around the Immaculate Conception

Elementary school, built right across the street from her house. “It’s not just me, it’s the neighbors down Spruce street, down Second street. My house is lit up like a spotlight.”

Hasenohrl’s legal feud with Immaculate Conception School is nearing an end with a signed order from Kevin Elsenheimer, a judge in the Local 13th circuit court, demanding that the school turn down its lights in compliance with the city’s lighting ordinance, but the case has put Traverse City’s lighting ordinance, passed in 2017, into the spotlight.

Jerry Dobek — accomplished astronomer, head of NMC sciences department, and former longtime member of the Grand Traverse County Planning Commission — wrote the ordinance. Having written many ordinances in Michigan and across the country, Dobek was the first one that Russ Soyering, former city planning director, thought of.

“We wanted to have a lighting ordinance. There was a one-line sentence in the old zoning ordinance. It didn’t have any numbers or parameters. We wanted to develop an ordinance that had parameters,” Soyering explained. “The goal is providing quality of life for people in the city sleeping at night. Soft, subdued, uniform lighting wouldn’t cause interference for people enjoying the sky or trying to sleep.”

Dobek got to work right away. With Soyering’s contributions and the feedback from electrical engineers, he wrote a strong ordinance complete with definitions and specifications, and even included exceptions for things like holiday decorations.

Much of the ordinance focuses on the brightness of lights, as well as which

direction lights are facing.

“My primary focus on setting up these ordinances is safety and security. We need light to see, but we need light on the ground” says Dobek.

Dobek, along with Soyering, both emphasize the importance of softer, subdued lighting. A pattern of blazing lights with patches of complete darkness in the middle not only could be a safety hazard, but is also bad for visual acuity, or the eye’s ability to adjust and see in dark spaces. The ordinance currently allows for an average of one footcandle per each lamp post. A single footcandle (defined by how much light a lit candle provides for a square foot around it) is “50 times as bright as a full moon,” says Dobek. “Soft, intentional lighting is so much more energy efficient.”

Dobek summed up the danger of light pollution with one simple sentence. “Light is good. Too much light isn’t.” He’s a founding member of the local chapter of the International Dark Sky Association (IDA). The goal is “to bring awareness about light pollution.” Even today, Dobek still advocates for protection for the Traverse City night sky, fighting against the issue of skyglow (brightness in the sky in a populated area as a result of light pollution.) His goal is to keep the night skies beautiful and visible for many generations to come.

Despite the strength of the ordinance, the city aims to make edits with the intention of clarifying possible inconsistencies, including limits on allowable intensity of lights. The ordinance would take the current limit on lamp posts and general lighting fixtures and raise it to 1,125 lumens.

This change comes following disagreement about the 2,250 lumen guideline, which is written into the ordinance in reference to statue spotlights, flag lights, and tunnel lighting.

Hasenohrl, however, is appalled at the suggestion. “There’s no science, no research. [If] the intent is to minimize light trespassing and protect sky view, 1,125 lumens is not going to do that. 1,125 lumens could light an entire football field,” Hasenohrl said, adding “If these lights were allowed, think of every neighborhood across the city. Nobody would be protected.”

At this point, the ordinance has been sent back to Traverse City’s planning commission, which is consulting with experts on the proposed changes before a final decision is made.



Photo Credit/SARA BAGLEY

The Immaculate Conception School lights up the Traverse City night sky, Feb 5.

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