

N O R T H W E S T E R N M I C H I G A N C O L L E G E

WHITE PINE PRESS

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



Pg. 16







Photo courtesy of Ann Swaney / NMC Archives

Long before Northwestern Michigan College had the TC Swing Club, the college hosted both casual and formal dances, like the one pictured to the left. Between the mid-1950s and late 1970s, students attended gatherings where they had fun while “feeling groovy,” or dressed to the nines in suits and floor-length dresses for the winter and spring formals. Students enjoyed gallivanting in style in the annual Sadie Hawkins dance, where the men occasionally dressed in drag and entertained the crowd. In the late ‘50s through the early ‘60s, the French Club held an annual masquerade ball, offering a \$5 cash prize to the person that could guess the identity of a mystery attendee. The last dance on record was the Valentine’s Day formal in 1980.

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

# WHITE PINE PRESS

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## What’s Up on Campus?

The NMC Fall Festival, sponsored by Student Life, will be held on Oct. 10. Come to the North Hall lawn between 2–6pm to discover student groups, enjoy cider, play games, and more. (We even heard there might be trick-or-treating!)

The 2018 Fall Transfer Fair will have more than 20 university representatives at the Health & Science building between 9:30am–1pm on Oct. 11. Get answers to questions, discuss transfer requirements, and explore your options.

NMC Magazine is seeking submissions! Submitted works can include art, designs, essays, fiction, illustrations, nonfiction, photographs, poetry, sculptures, and more. The deadline is Oct. 19. There is no theme this semester, so set free your creativity! More info at [nmc.edu/nmcmagazine](http://nmc.edu/nmcmagazine).

The Hawk Owl Café, located at the Oleson Center, opens its doors early on weekdays. Students and staff are welcome to come hang out and relax starting at 9am. Food service hours are from 10:30am–7pm.

Cover photos by Emily Clements  
Cover design by Eli Watts

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# Alumni Spotlight: Bart Stupak

**Emily Slater** Staff Writer “Take every imaginable (college) course that you can. Grab whatever education you can.” That’s former U.S. Congressman Bart Stupak’s advice for college students today. In a world that is fast paced and ever evolving Stupak says, “I think college, especially colleges like NMC, give you flexibility and teach you how to adapt to that changing world and job market.”

Stupak, a graduate of Gladstone High School in the upper peninsula, moved to Traverse City in 1970 to attend Northwestern Michigan College’s law enforcement program. Stupak spent his time at NMC as acting president of the student council, a member of both the basketball and baseball teams, and a resident assistant. Taking advantage of the college’s summer courses, Stupak graduated in just 18 months.

He then accepted a job with the Escanaba police department and a year later became a state trooper. In 1984, Stupak pursued a bike thief and severely injured his knee in the process, effectively ending his career as a state trooper. Stupak’s commitment to taking advantage of educational opportunities made what could have been a devastating blow to his life easier. While working as a state trooper, he had earned his bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Saginaw Valley State University and his Juris Doctor degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. With these degrees, Stupak retired early from the police force and transitioned into practicing law.

As a Democrat, Stupak went on to win seats in both the State Senate (1988-1990) and House of Representatives (1992-2011), later becoming the longest serving representative for Michigan’s 1st congressional district. He acted as an advocate for protecting the Great Lakes, and strongly supported what he calls “whole life” issues.

“We believe there should be health care for all people. We believe people should have a decent wage,” Stupak says. “We believe that unions have a vital role to play in social and economic justice issues that come to the forefront. We believe in good education.”

For Stupak, “whole life” includes a pro-life stance, which seemingly puts him at odds with the Democratic party, though Stupak doesn’t think so, “A recent poll in *The Hill* shows 30 percent [of Democrats] as pro-life and another 12 percent finding the position of taxpayer funded abortions as very important to them.” Stupak says.

His pro-life views put him in the spotlight in 2009 when President Obama introduced the Affordable Care Act. Stupak favored the healthcare bill, but was adamant that abortions not be funded by federal money. When Obama promised to sign an executive order barring federal funding of abortions, Stupak withdrew his opposition to the bill and was met with outrage from Republicans and pro-life groups. “I just think it’s the polarization of our political system and even our government,” Stupak says, reflecting on both that divisive time in his career and the current political climate “If you’re a

true legislator, it’s very difficult to legislate anymore. Decisions are made by three or four people, and they just tell you what to do. I resented that.”

Stupak chose not to run for re-election in 2010. He was ready to move on from the crazy schedule of Congress. He works as an attorney for Venable Law Firm in Washington, D.C. “I still get to see my friends and all the people that I worked with, but the difference is that I set my own schedule. It’s great. I loved my time in the U.S. Congress and the Michigan Legislature. I’m glad I did it, I have no regrets, but I’m happy to have moved on to the next part of my career.” And while he might be out of Congress, Stupak still makes time for the issues he cares about and the people he believes in. He lobbies and lends his support to political candidates, including Michigan gubernatorial nominee Gretchen Whitmer, and 1st congressional district nominee Matt Morgan, both Democrats.

Stupak’s multiple careers have brought him from a little town in Michigan’s upper peninsula to our nation’s capital. He had to be flexible and adapt to the challenges life threw at him, finding balance within conviction and compromise. “I think a lot of that is just having confidence in yourself, and small schools like community colleges certainly give you that,” Stupak says. “You never know what lies ahead, so be prepared and grab whatever education you can. It’s the best safeguard against unforeseen circumstances.”



Photo courtesy of Bart Stupak



A bulldozer moves metal beams as a member of the crew hoses down the demolition site of West Hall on Oct. 3.





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Event Underwriters: Wayne & Terry Lobdell

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in person; or call 231-941-8082, ext 201  
[nationalwritersseries.org](http://nationalwritersseries.org)

**NWS... WHERE GREAT CONVERSATIONS BEGIN!**

## NMC Student Food Pantry: One Year In

**Emily Slater** Staff Writer The NMC Food Pantry opened in November 2017, and the numbers don’t lie about its success. Over the course of 11 months, it has served nearly 900 students—700 of those in the first six months alone.

Student Life office manager Shannon Friedgen says that convenience is the biggest draw for using the on-campus food pantry versus other food pantries in the community. “If students are living on campus, they can walk over and grab what they need when they put in their order.”

Available year round and to all NMC students living on or off campus, placing an order with the food pantry is quick and easy through the school website ([nmc.edu/food-pantry](http://nmc.edu/food-pantry)). “It’s almost an on-demand service,” Friedgen notes. “We pack the bags based on what the students are actually going to eat. No use filling a bag full of canned peas if no one is going to eat it.” An extension of the food pantry is the Grab and Go station in the library which is available without filling out the online form. “Students can grab food on their way. If

they forgot breakfast, we’ve got oatmeal they can grab so they don’t have to go to class hungry.”

Local bakeries and stores regularly donate bread to the pantry, and a new addition this year will be fresh vegetables available both through the online form and the library’s Grab and Go station. “We want to make sure they’re getting not only enough food to keep them active, keep them in school, keep their families fed, and we want to feed them high quality food.”

Thanks to ongoing food drives, community donations, and the NMC foundation, the pantry has had no trouble staying stocked despite the high number of students it serves. NMC staff can even allot a portion of their paychecks towards the pantry, an option many employees have taken advantage of, Friedgen says.

Paul Kolak, NMC counselor and driving force behind the food pantry says the food pantry is gearing up for another successful partnership with Kristy McDonald’s BUS231 class on the Food For Thought Food Drive starting in a couple of weeks and running

through Nov. 19. Students can donate in the red barrels around campus or at any staffed desk in the NMC Library.

In addition to the food drive, McDonald’s class also wrote to Jeff Owens, owner of the downtown store, Max’s Appliances. Owens, impressed by the efforts of students helping students, donated a brand new refrigerator to the food pantry. “As a class we are excited to fill the pantry in time for Thanksgiving, and to help spread the word about using and supporting this student resource!” McDonald says.

While the pantry is stocked, there is still a need for volunteers to help pack bags. “It doesn’t have to be an every week commitment or an every day commitment,” Friedgen says. “If someone is able to come in every two weeks and help out, it’s definitely appreciated. We would love to have additional volunteers.”

If you are interested in volunteering your time to the food pantry, stop by the Student Life Office located on the first floor in the Osterlin Library building.



Photo by Ann Hosler

Stations like this one in the Osterlin Library encourage student to grab healthy—and free—food.



# Teen Rocket Power



Tony Sauerbrey queues up some rocket-fueled videos for the Sept. 15 rocketry session.

**Randi Upton** High school teens of various ages Staff Writer attended the opening rocketry session of the Michigan Crossroads Council (MCC) Exploring Program, hosted by NMC's unmanned aerial systems program coordinator Tony Sauerbrey. Most sat quietly, enjoying videos of rocket launches (and failures) before they began building their own.

For the MCC Exploring Program, NMC teamed up with the Boy Scouts of America to provide introductory classes in the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. This is the third year of collaborating for this program.

College is expensive, and it is especially stressful when students have no idea what they want to study. This program has classes at least once a month, sometimes twice, exposing teens to a wide range of STEM fields. During the Sept. 15 session, students made model rockets while learning about how they are powered, and on Oct. 6 they will launch the rockets they had built.

Later classes include collaboration with Munson Medical Center, which will expose the teens to pharmacy technology and medical analysis systems. This year will also be the first that Inland Seas hosts a class, teaching water exploration. Other sessions include computer programming, a look at how technology is used in agriculture, chemistry, robotics, and automotive technology.

The entire 9-month program costs only \$34. This low cost makes this opportunity even more available to everyone. "We are committed to a mission of access to everyone," said Marguerite Cotto, NMC Vice President

for Lifelong and Professional Learning, and the college's representative of the Exploring program.

Saroiny Hosler, a freshman at Traverse City Central High School, said it was "exciting and fun to learn about things I wouldn't learn in school. I am really excited to be exploring science more now." The program is open to everyone from ages 14-20.

For more information regarding the Exploring Program, contact Mark Ewing at [mark.ewing@scouting.org](mailto:mark.ewing@scouting.org).



Photos by Randi Upton

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Tori Rhoades  
Liberal Studies bachelor's degree  
Pursuing master's in  
Occupational Therapy M.S.O.T.



# Negotiations Continue for Munson Nurses

**Randi Upton** All over Traverse City we have seen signs supporting Munson Medical Center's (MMC) nurses, heard rallying cries, and read news articles discussing bargaining, negotiations, and issues between the nurses and the hospital. What do nurses want? Set working hours without mandatory overtime, promotions, and a livable wage. When do they want it? A year ago, when negotiations began.

The MI Nurses Association website ([munsonnurses.org](http://munsonnurses.org)) states that the catalyst to push for unionization is the Safe Patient Care Act, which requires the hospital to record and maintain a strict patient-to-nurse ratio. This ratio varies across the hospital, depending on the department. In medical departments such as the ICU, where patients can be critical, the ratio should be one to two patients per registered nurse. At MMC, even in departments such as ICU and cardiac, there can be up to three to four patients per nurse. This overworks nurses and can put patients in danger.

According to a nurse who wished to remain anonymous, the ratio can often be as high as four patients to one nurse in critical care units. Nurses are expected to take breaks and lunch while on the floor caring for the patients, which just adds to the burnout and fatigue. Patients are just not getting the care they need, critical or not. "Patients are absolute first priority," the nurse said. "I have been a nurse for 22 years now. People are getting sicker, and we do not have the time to sit and explain an illness or treatment to a patient, which is the best nursing care."

Another issue is the mandatory overtime. Nurses (and most hospital employees) work three to four 12-hour shifts a week. This is standard in hospitals around the country. A lack of staffing and floating nurses means that when a nurse is done with their shift, a patient who needs care may not have another nurse assigned to them, so the nurse will have

to stay past their shift until it is remedied. This endangers patients; someone who is exhausted may overlook some things or make mistakes.

Nurses are reported to have sometimes worked these long shifts four to five days a week. Victoria Dixon, an operating room nurse at MMC says that scheduling is made six weeks in advance. When the schedule is made it shows the nurses scheduled as "holdovers" in between the shifts, which makes it a regular staffing practice. Dixon said that some nurses will volunteer for the extra hours, but in her department, it is used as regular staffing.

A tentative agreement was reached on Sept. 6 between MMC and the bargaining team to place a cap of four consecutive hours to overtime, and only if other staffing options have already been exhausted first. The agreement also guarantees an 8-hour rest period, as well as a cap of 16 consecutive volunteer hours.

On top of long shifts, many nurses live at least 30 or more minutes away from the hospital, adding a long commute onto hours worked. Their pay is so low they cannot afford to live in Traverse City. According to a Sept. 21 statement by the MI Nurses Association, the base rate for a nurse at Munson is just over \$54,000 a year. There are no incentives for promotion or a raise, and nurses sometimes go five years or more without a raise above the base salary. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that in 2017 the national average mean wage for a registered nurse was \$73,550; for Michigan, it was \$69,120.

The nurses formed a union in 2017, and have been in negotiations since. Dagmar Cunningham who has been a registered nurse for 40 years and with MMC for 24 of those years, says there are both economic and non-economic needs that are part of fair contract negotiations. Staffing, scheduling, fair pay scale, recruitment and retainment of nurses



Businesses around town show their support for Munson nurses with signs like this one at Landmark Books in the Village at Grand Traverse Commons.

are the main points in the fair contract. According to Cunningham, the negotiations have been rough but typical of a company attempting to maintain control of a union. They meet with the administration four times a month for about an hour. MMC's administration did not respond to proposals, leading the nurses to file charges against MMC, claiming it broke labor laws under the Unfair Labor Practice Act.

Cunningham has a positive, but realistic, view of the negotiations. She wishes that MMC would respond more and work with them on proposals, but steps have been taken, such as with prevention of mandatory overtime. Cunningham is also humbled by and happy about the support from the community. "After a long day at work, or a stressful day at negotiations, driving home

and seeing the yard signs and the stickers supporting us makes me feel renewed."

Traverse City mayor Jim Carruthers was present at the rallies, and wrote a letter to MMC CEO Ed Ness. It began by saying that he trusted Ness and has worked with him for years, then discusses the high cost of living being far above the stagnant nursing wages. Carruthers wrote, "I stand with the Munson nurses and their union, the Michigan Nurses Association, in their plight to make sure that Munson Medical center achieves its goals of providing superior quality care that meets many of the goals of this community."

Attempts have been made to reach out to MMC for comment, but it opted not to comment on the negotiations to the *White Pine Press*.



Photos by Annie Hindle





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# A Talk with Author Joe Hill

**Daniel Falor** Staff Writer On Oct. 10, as darkness falls across the land and the 7pm hour is close at hand, author Joe Hill will take the stage at the Traverse City Opera House to talk about his latest book, “Strange Weather”, as part of the National Writers Series.

The stories inside take a darker turn into the human psyche as they deal with human fears in a supernatural way. Ranging from memories taken without consent, to being stranded and losing hope of ever being saved, his characters are relatable enough to keep anyone sleeping with the light on.

“What you’re really fishing for [in a story] is a good character,” Hill says about his writing style. “It doesn’t matter how good the idea is, you really need to find your way to a character you want to spend time with.”

Believing many writers can get caught up in the story, and the hook, Hill strives to make the characters relatable to his audience. The readers are not the only ones who need to be invested in his characters, though.

“I keep relearning this lesson. I’ve known it since I was in my 20s. You need to find your way to a character you are excited to spend time with. A character who is a little bit of mystery, and you are excited to explore.”

Hill, who has been writing every day since he was 13 years old, didn’t start thinking about people reading his work until he was in college. Around age 20 he considered being published, but didn’t feel like he had found his voice as a writer until around age 30.

“You find your way to that voice, through a willingness to fail. To write a lot of stuff that doesn’t work. Then one day you write a story that still doesn’t work, but there was something in the opening paragraph that electrified you,” Hill says. “Suddenly you encounter a voice you enjoy, and it’s your own.”

Hill’s voice has made him popular in the horror and thriller genres. Each book takes a journey into darker places of the soul, bringing those thoughts and feelings to the forefront of the mind, even if it’s something many people

don’t see as horror in real life.

“I went to see a movie with my friend Chris,” Hill says. “It was opening night, and every time there was a scare, the whole room would scream. It was full of screaming teenagers, except for me and Chris, who would grab each other, and erupt into laughter.”

With a belief that horror and humor are closely related, Hill is able to find the comedic relief both in his own books and other media that most people find frightening.

“If you watch an episode of ‘Three Stooges,’ you see Larry bonking Curly with a sledge hammer, and you laugh. You watch ‘Texas Chainsaw Massacre’ and Leatherface starts smashing someone with a sledge hammer—you scream and cover your eyes, but it’s fundamentally the same scene.”

Whether it’s horror or comedy, Hill’s books keep readers coming, and will undoubtedly fill the seats of the City Opera House. With a final note of advice for aspiring writers, Hill quotes “Through the Looking Glass” by Lewis Carroll: “I often give myself good advice. I just so rarely take it.” [sic]



Images courtesy of Joe Hill.



# NMC Receives \$1 Million from Local Philanthropist

**Steven Tucker**  
Staff Writer

“Earth-to-space  
antennas”,

a lifesaving cancer center, high paying technology industry jobs, a healthier culture, and higher education. These are all things local philanthropist Casey Cowell works to bring to Traverse City. In early August, he donated \$1 million to NMC to help improve what he considers to be one of the city’s most valuable assets. Cowell has a genuine interest in the success of our community.

Cowell’s story begins in Detroit, where he played hockey and attended Henry Ford High School. He earned his bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Chicago. At 23 years old, Cowell and two friends invented a high performance, affordable internet modem. Out of this, U.S. Robotics was born. After beating out much larger, foreign and domestic competitors, his company would grow to earn billions of dollars. Currently, he is the head of Boomerang Catapult LLC, an activist investment company located in downtown TC. At his last count, Cowell’s efforts have brought 50 high paying jobs and more than \$5 million in annual compensation to the area.

I met with Cowell in his office on Front Street where he explained how he sees NMC as “a real cultural, educational hub... a center of gravity for communities, and I think they’re a bit under-appreciated.” But his donation to the school goes beyond the million dollar gift. His efforts to improve

the Traverse City area, and NMC itself, are not mutually exclusive.

This is not Cowell’s first contribution to NMC. He has donated time and money to the NMC Annual Fund, the Denny’s Museum Center, and the International Affairs Forum. For this donation, he gave six criteria for NMC to use for utilizing the funds.

The first point states that the college should take regional economic impact into account for every decision. “It’s an institution that can further the gains [the Traverse City area has] made in the economy and make it happen even further and faster,” Cowell explains. The next point says the donation should “improve regional healthfulness through wellness opportunities and education.” Another point is that NMC should further its career training so companies will look to this area as a source for skilled workers. This helps fulfill the next point, attracting high paying companies to the area. Finally, the school can use the money to broaden its audience through technology and make the region a destination for experiential and professional learning.

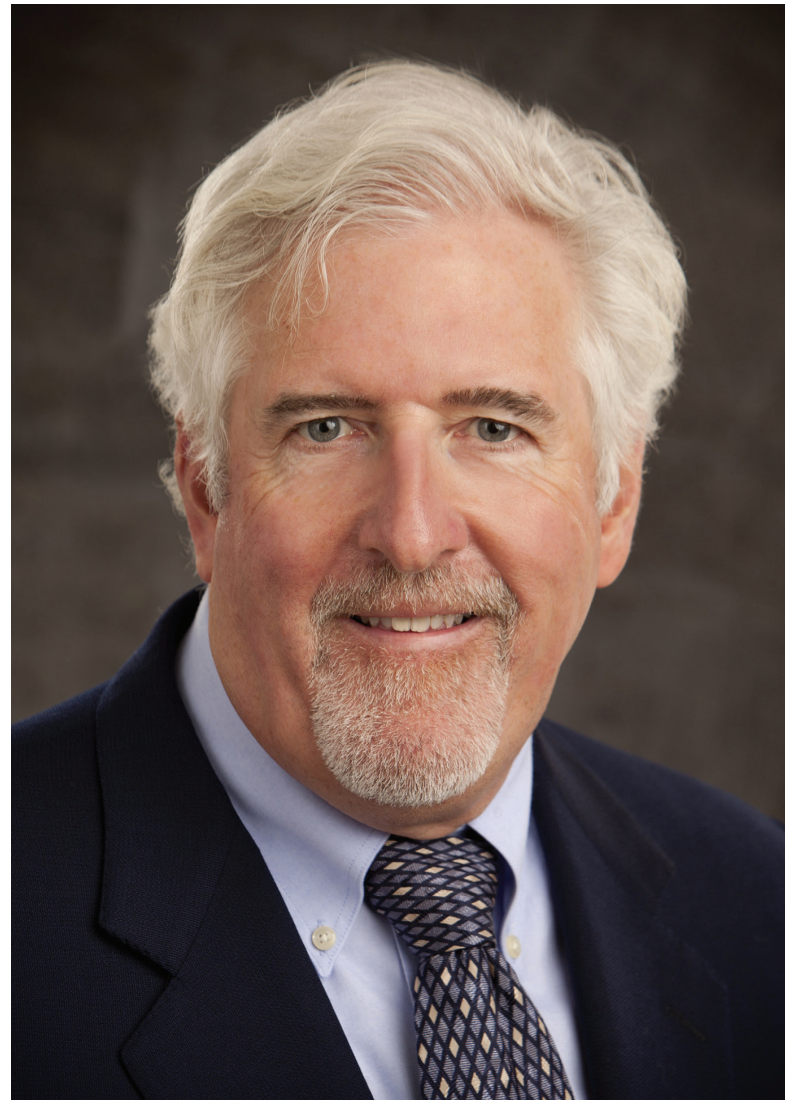
Cowell wants to make our area the best place possible to live, learn, and work. He explains how the area often loses the alumni of NMC to companies out of town, state, and country. “Some of our programs at NMC are so strong, and the students are so well-trained.” He explained that Traverse City benefits from bringing companies to the

area who can hire NMC grads into high-paying careers.

This narrative is reflected in other investments Cowell has made in Traverse City. He persuaded Atlas Space to locate its company here. Atlas Space currently makes the most advanced Earth-to-satellite communications technology. “You wouldn’t expect that to be in Traverse City. It just shows with some effort what can happen, because that’s really cool tech that can be the seed of a cluster around space-oriented companies and technologies. “Another example is Interactive Aerial, a startup company using drones for pipeline inspection that came from the minds of NMC engineering students.

As for improving healthfulness, Munson’s Cowell Cancer Center is another result of his efforts. Not only did he donate \$5 million to its creation, but he also helped raise an additional \$20 million. “For a community our size, we are extraordinarily fortunate to have Munson here,” he stated. “A key ingredient to having our place be a great place to live is having really good healthcare.” Cowell explained that the health of the community is dependent on the health of the individuals that live here. Healthier people means lower healthcare costs, better attitude, and better productivity.

“It’s great to be on a mission, whatever that is. If you can be on a mission you’re passionate about fulfilling, life is much more satisfying,” he said. Cowell, it seems, is always on a mission,



and currently that mission is the continued success of Traverse City. I asked what he would like to see the area look like in the future. “A place where no one drives cars, where most of the population walks or rides, and Traverse City is considered to be a great place to live

and work because there’s so many interesting enterprises—and we’re uniformly recognized as one of the healthiest populations and one of the most healthful cultures of any place in the world.”



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## Line 5 Update

On Oct. 3, the state of Michigan and Enbridge Energy announced a joint agreement regarding Line 5. The agreement calls for constructing a “multi-use utility tunnel” beneath the Straits of Mackinac, permanently shutting down the current segment crosses the Straits. Enbridge will pay for design, construction, and up to 99 years of maintenance on the tunnel, which is projected to cost between \$350 million to \$500 million.



# What’s the Buzz About Blue Light?

**Tamara Wiget** As electronics become integrated into our daily lives, so does awareness about blue light. It’s rare now to not have some kind of device, whether it be a smartphone, laptop, tablet, or even an old school desktop computer. The message people often receive is that *blue light is bad*. News sources such as CNN, Forbes, USA Today, and the Washington Post have all written on the ill effects of blue light. Amazon sells blue light blocking glasses for those who spend a lot of time on the computer. However, it’s possible that behind all the forewarnings and advantageous marketing, there’s another side to the story of blue light.

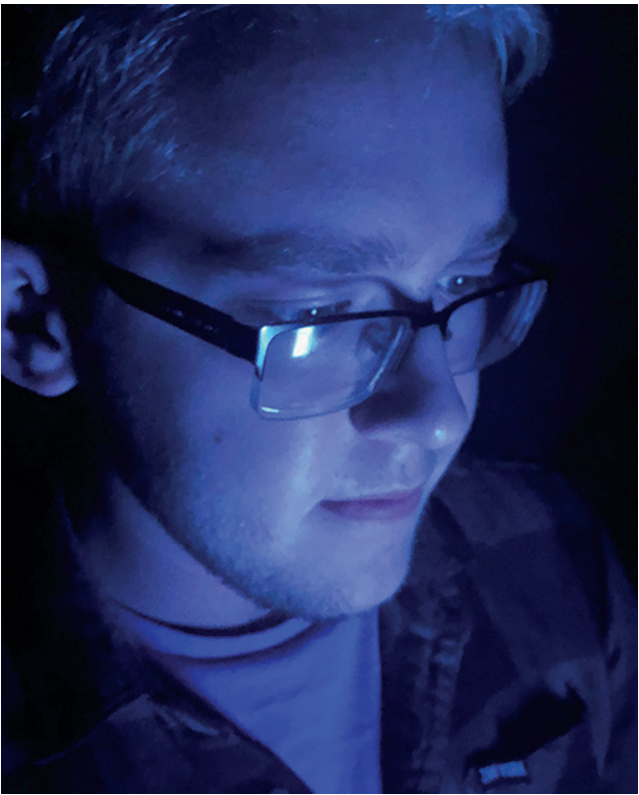
But first: what is blue light? Simply put, it’s part of the visible light spectrum. It’s a high-energy, naturally occurring light. In fact, blue light helps to regulate things like circadian rhythms and mood. Without it the human brain becomes dysfunctional, which is why it’s used to treat everything from acne, to depression, to even cancer. The problem is, it’s possible to have too much of a good thing. The American Macular Degeneration (AMD) Foundation states that “...the blue end of the light spectrum may also contribute to retinal damage and possibly lead to AMD.” Macular degeneration is a nasty condition in which the retina is damaged and sight slowly degrades. AMD can be treated, but there is no cure.

Lesser symptoms associated with blue light emitted from electronics include headache, eye strain, fatigue, and

suppression of the hormone melatonin, which helps to regulate sleep patterns. There are studies, such as one from the University of Toledo, suggesting that blue light can cause harm. In the study, researchers found that blue light exposure causes the death of photoreceptor cells, which do not regenerate. They experimented with other colors on the light spectrum, but blue light was the only one to be found harmful.

Despite this evidence, skeptics remain. Dr. David Cannon, an optometrist at Traverse Vision who has been practicing since 1982, is one. “Until we see double blind studies,” he says, “I’m neutral. I have no opinion.” An article published by the American Academy of Ophthalmology, “Should You Be Worried About Blue Light?,” takes a more defensive approach on the matter, stating that “taking preventive measures against blue light even though there is no evidence of damage could be more harmful than the blue light itself.” What measures may be most harmful, aren’t stated, but on this point, Dr. Cannon doesn’t agree. “If you feel like it helps,” he shrugs, “who cares?” The placebo effect can be powerful.

If you would like to play it safe with blue light, there are steps you can take to protect your eyes. It isn’t clear whether or not blue light is something to worry about *yet*, but when it comes to taking care of your eyes, it doesn’t hurt to keep “better safe than sorry” in mind.



- Wear sunglasses to protect your eyes from both blue and UV light
- Install a blue light filter on your electronic devices (Blue Light filter is a free Android app that you can turn on and off; newer Apple devices come with a blue light filter in the settings)
- Try blue light glasses, or get a coating that blocks blue light on your next pair of ophthalmic lenses
- Turn off electronics 1-2 hours before bed

# Starving Fine Artists

**Lyric Bell** In NMC’s Fine Arts building, there are no food vending machines. It’s a wasteland, without easy access to food of any kind. So, for both the artists and other students there for a humanities credit, you cannot scavenge for a quick bite between classes. Personally, I spent 8 to 12-hour days in Fine Arts last semester, hands covered in clay, glaze, or a dust mixture of both. If I didn’t pack a lunch or even a power bar, I didn’t have the

time to leave my three-hour class for lunch and/or dinner. Hidden by the bathrooms there is only a lavish collection of drinks, including the rare Pibb Xtra, varieties of Dunkin’ Donuts Cold Brews, and the best (or worst) Coca-Cola has to offer. If you cannot afford to buy a meal, or have no time to go off campus for lunch, you are literally a starving artist stereotype on the Northwestern Michigan College campus. Like I was, bandana and all.



NMC student Zeke Smith laments the lack of snacks in the Fine Arts Building



# The Importance of Voting



**Daniel Falor** Staff Writer If you are an unregistered voter in Michigan and you hear a call of how important it is for you to vote in the next election, heed the call. The midterm election will be held on Nov. 6.

Nonpartisan political organizations like the League of Women Voters (LWV) are doing their best to educate and advocate by encouraging participation in elections. On Sept. 25-26 representatives from the Grand Traverse chapter of LWV came to Osterlin Library to help students register to vote, and were pleased by the high turnout.

The deadline for registering to participate in the midterm election is Oct. 9. If you are age 18 or older, you are eligible to register and have a voice in the election. It takes less than five minutes to fill out the paperwork to become a voter.

The future is built on hope, truth, and the knowledge that each American can work together to move forward into a time of peace and prosperity. By talking to the non-voters and younger voters, previous generations are helping prepare for that brighter future.

## Register to Vote Now for the Midterm Election!

Verify voter registration status and see a sample ballot at: [mi.gov/vote](https://mi.gov/vote)

Obtain a voter registration application at your local Secretary of State branch, or by filling out the online PDF available at [mi.gov/vote](https://mi.gov/vote) (click "How to Register to Vote" from the side menu). Hand deliver the application to your city or county clerk.

**Election Date: Tuesday, Nov 6**

**Last Day to Register: Tuesday, Oct 9**





# What the Tech?!

## New Tech Getting Under Your Skin?

**John Velis**  
Contributing Writer

“How did the first day on the job go?” I asked.  
“Ah, you know. The usual stuff, safety videos and paperwork. I have never been chipped before and that was weird,” said Charlie, baiting me into a puzzled look.

He continued, “Yep, chipped me right before lunch. Right after I signed the consent form. Just a prick and now I have this little bump under my skin on my arm. I guess it was already programmed because I was able to get into my team room by just passing my arm near the sensor by the door and then it logged me into my computer, no user name or password required. All I had to do to buy my lunch in the cafeteria was pass my arm by the sensor and have it automatically debit my account.”

In full disclosure, Charlie and this conversation are both fictional, but the small device planted under Charlie’s skin is real and is already being employed today by a few companies. The technology, RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) tags, operate by sitting passively until put near a certain frequency of radio waves, at which point it transmits the information it carries. Most of us have already experienced this technology when we open a motel room door or the door to our office building. The difference is that the RFID device will move from being embedded in a plastic card to being embedded under our skin.

Many may push back at the thought of actually embedding a piece of technology in their bodies, but society has already moved past that instinctual pushback in the area of medicine. We currently accept the intrusion of all sorts of medical devices ranging from those that save our lives such as pacemakers, to others that provide convenience such as implanted contacts.

Will we all eventually have multiple RFID tags embedded under our skin, each providing

access to our work, home, banking, purchasing, or medical access? The reality of this technology is much simpler and less invasive. The tags are personal identifiers, similar to a driver’s license. Each is unique, guaranteeing and transmitting our identities. Institutions such as banks will register that identity against their databanks and technologies like computer and cars will be programmed to provide access to that identity.

Some will argue against this technology and the “Big Brother” implications. RFID tags can be scanned anytime and anywhere, even without our knowledge, to track our movements, or provide our identity to a person or organization that may want to exploit any information connected to us. This loss of anonymity may have benign consequences such as a store clerk being able to access our purchasing history and preferences, or it may provide a child predator just enough personal information to convince a young boy walking home from school to get into their car.

Ultimately, the adoption of new technologies, or their applications, is a function of cost and convenience weighed against risk. At least for now, this will be a choice that each of us can make for ourselves. However, it is not hard to push our minds into the future to a time when RFID tags, or a similar technology, will be required for all members of our society. Are you ready?

*John Velis is an instructor in the CIT Infrastructure program at NMC. Students who meet the prerequisite classes can enroll in Application Development (CIT195) or Systems Analysis and Design (CIT280) when spring registration opens in October.*

# Campus Quotes

Emily Clements Staff Writer

## What’s your opinion on vaping?



Kevin D’Alessandro  
Admissions Specialist  
“I would never do it. If people do it, they don’t bother me. I don’t smoke and I never have but if you do, then that’s your choice.”



Vicki Merchberger  
Culinary Arts  
“It’s not my taste. I don’t really like it.”



Lyric Belle  
English  
“If it helps people to quit smoking more harmful products then I’m totally for it. I don’t have any problems with it.”



Coda Mix  
Social Work  
“I don’t care what you do just don’t blow it in my face.”



Jason Smith  
Enrollment Services Representative  
“Smoking tobacco products in today’s society has no place. All conclusive research shows that it’s a self-destructive behavior, so why would you selectively choose something to harm yourself?”



# Steaming Up Gaming

**Daniel Falor**  
Staff Writer

Close the blinds and lock the doors before Steam's new gaming content fogs up the glass. On Sept. 14, the popular gaming platform released its first "100% uncensored" adult game for public download.

"Negligee: Love Stories," developed by Dharker Studios, is now available for purchase on Steam. A game that was previously turned down by Valve Corporation, developer of the Steam platform, because of its "sexually explicit" content, has now been given the go ahead, as some rules enforced by Valve have been lifted. "We ended up going back to one of the principles in the forefront of our minds when we started Steam," Valve employee Erik Johnson said in a June 6 post on the Steam blog. "If you're a player, we shouldn't be choosing for you what content you can or can't buy. If you're a developer, we shouldn't be choosing what content you're allowed to create." Previously, developers had to put solid black bars in front of any content that was deemed "unacceptable," and then give the players links to other websites to download patches. These patches would, in turn, remove the black bars and restore the game to its original format.

"This problem is not simply about whether or not the Steam Store should contain games with adult or violent content," Johnson explained. "Instead, it's about whether the Store contains games within an entire range of controversial topics—politics, sexuality, racism, gender, violence, identity, and so on."

To give gamers more freedom, Valve has decided that it is only right to allow everything in their store be available to the public. "Taking this approach allows us to focus less on trying to police what should be on Steam, and more on building those tools to give people control over what kinds of content they see," Johnson said. Doing this will give Steam's users complete control over what games they see recommended for them, and the option to hide suggestions they find offensive or inappropriate.

For those that wish to find the more "adult friendly" games, users must verify their age and read a detailed description of the game, so as not to be surprised by the content, before they can purchase the game on Steam.



Whether you want to control what your children are playing, or if you are old enough to let game content fog up your windows, Steam now provides even more options to suit everyone's gaming preferences.

## Music that is Sometimes Good but also Sometimes Not Good

**Liam Strong**  
Contributing Writer

MØL - JORD

I'm fascinated by how snow-covered fields look like hills of ash. I've had these dreams recently of a house burning, the aftermath a village of saplings. I imagine all of my things are there within the walls, not fighting against the welting flame.

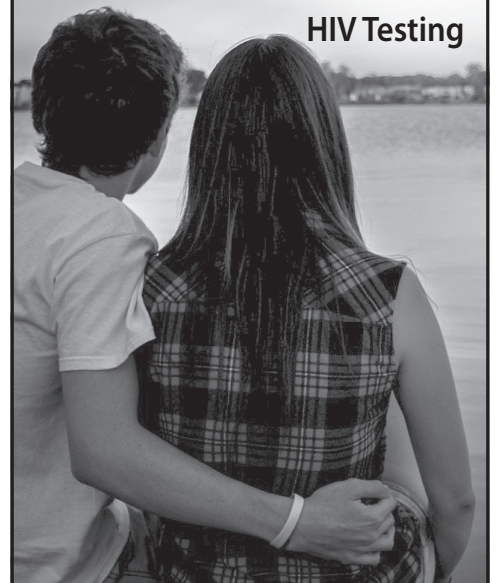
Listening to the lyrics of "Bruma," by Danish post-metal band MØL, invokes a series of caltrops to me: tripping on the acceptance of immaterialism, and the millennial resurgence of individuality as a form of invincibility and being able to do anything you set your mind to. Timelessness, as a variable, isn't absolute, despite its definition.

However, I wouldn't take any of this as pessimistic, but rather as relieving. Jostled between now and death is our grappling of the great unknown, which I think deserves to be considered beautiful because of its absurdity. It's a very human interpretation, but to consider something as inevitable is indicative of its largeness, and in turn, a sense of beauty. Humans, by nature, now more than ever, can't condone life as simple. I can't avoid this downfall, either; no one can, and whether we make strides toward this acceptance or not may never happen.

And I have to be okay with that.

## COMPASSIONATE CONVENIENT CONFIDENTIAL

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**231-995-6113**

Medicaid Accepted/Uninsured Welcome



# Shady Lady Theatre Review

**Tamara Wiget** It seems fitting that, with the recent Staff Writer release of the second “Mamma Mia!” movie, the musical has come to the Old Town Playhouse stage this fall. “Mamma Mia” is the story of Sophie Sheridan’s journey to finally meet her father just before her wedding day. Unfortunately for Sophie this is no easy task, as she has three possible dads. Since her mother, Donna (played by Christy Burich), refuses to speak on the subject, Sophie takes matters into her own hands—by inviting all three men to her wedding! This questionable move, of course, reopens old wounds and generally inspires chaos. Despite this heavy plot the story is mostly filled with lighthearted fun.

The show begins with Sophie (played by Katie Clark, whose fresh-faced freckles and auburn curls give her the youthful glow necessary for this lead role) sweetly lulling the audience with “I Have A Dream.” The tempo quickly shifts to the fast and furious pace that will move much of the show when Sophie’s friends, Ali and Lisa (Ciera Dean and Kristen Stewart) join her for the gigglefest that is “Honey, Honey.” From there the Abba-fest comes fast and furiously, with mere minutes of dialogue between numbers—perfect for fans who came to sing along.

It’s fortunate that fans are focused on the music, as the choreography is often either overlooked or overdone. Group numbers have bodies wildly swinging everywhere, but never quite in time with the music. Actors in solo numbers appear to be wondering what to do with their hands. The focus is on their voices, all of which have the ability to convey raw emotion. “The Winner Takes It All,” a song in which Donna releases all the rage she’s held inside for decades, is particularly furious and heartbreaking thanks to Burich’s husky but powerful voice.



Photo courtesy of Ian Stewart

There is one exception to the confusing choreography; Donna’s friends, eclectic Rosie Mulligan (Cynthia Van Maanen) and jet setting gold digger Tanya Chesham-Leigh (Sarah Bielman) quell Donna’s distress at finding her hotel overrun with former lovers Bill Austin (Patrick Gillespie), Sam Carmichael (Jeremy Hogue), and Harry Bright (Steve Ford) with their hysterical takes on classic dance moves to the tune of “Dancing Queen.” With the help of her friends, Donna finds the confidence to get her groove back.

The story has a happy ending, and I won’t spoil it for

the few who don’t already know it. But the show doesn’t end there. After several minutes of joyous applause from the audience, the cast retakes the stage, many in over-the-top costumes worthy of Abba themselves, to perform a few more numbers to which audience members can sing and dance along.

“Mamma Mia!” is playing at the Old Town Playhouse through Oct. 13. Tickets can be purchased at [oldtownplayhouse.com](http://oldtownplayhouse.com), or by calling the box office at (231) 947-2210.



## Movie Review: Cloverfield Paradox

**Mike Sims**  
Staff Writer

A surreal pallid of stillness is what I feel when discussing the “Cloverfield” series. The series initially started out as a found footage film, then escalated into something that few would come to expect. A monster franchise having the atmospheric quality of real horror? Yes indeed! In fact the “Cloverfield” series throws us into in a torrential windstorm of ambiguity, somehow holding the audience in suspense beyond what any average suspenseful film could hope to achieve.

Despite greatness coming from early installments in this series, the third film slips like a dimwitted monkey stepping on his own banana peel. “The Cloverfield Paradox” is a paradox of itself, the film is convoluted and has numerous subplots that require knowledge from previous “Cloverfield” movies to understand them. I can’t emphasize enough that you need to see the first and second beforehand. The film is not unwatchable per say, but it’s advisable to watch the rest.

The film is about a team of scientists attempting to unearth the secrets of technology inside a massive particle accelerator in space. Every major character has a different ethnic background, the main character is an African woman who hails from England, and she carries the team like you would expect Arnold Schwarzenegger to carry a special force unit in an action-packed movie. She is also perhaps the only half decent character throughout the entire duration of the film, since every other character has a rather awkward stereotype (some more noticeable than others). For those who are avid suspense freaks, prepare to plummet the aqueous depths of this series, just steer clear of the third unless you’re ready to see what the face of disappointment looks like... because it sure ain’t pretty.

Final Verdict: 5/10



## EVENTS CALENDAR

October 5 – October 18

**Rachel Lynn Moore**  
Staff Writer**Friday, October 5**

5-8:30pm: The M22Art2Art Tour opens, presenting dozens of artists between four different venues along M22. For more information, check out [m22art2art.com](http://m22art2art.com).

6-10pm: Hops & Harvest Festival Friday Night Fish Fry features fried fish, brats, live music, and local craft beers. The event is held on Front St. in Empire. Admission is \$5, food and drink are available for purchase.

7:30pm: Interlochen Arts Academy presents "Collage," a student show made up of performers from many disciplines. Tickets range from \$11-29 and the show will be in the Corson Auditorium at the Interlochen Center for the Arts.

8pm: Singer and songwriter Morgan James performs at the City Opera House. Student tickets cost \$15, others range from \$32.50-\$42.50.

**Saturday, October 6**

7:30am-Noon: Sara Hardy Downtown Farmers Market

10am-5pm: Alden Harvest Days, a fall festival in downtown Alden featuring local artisans, a pancake breakfast, games for kids, a farmers market, and more.

10am-6pm: Fall Sales and Happy Apple Days in downtown Traverse City. An annual event where many downtown businesses hand out local apples and hold sales on their merchandise.

10am-6pm: The M22Art2Art Tour continues.

Noon-4pm: The Linda O'Meara Day of the Arts is a day for celebration of every kind of art, held at the Dennon Museum. Admission is free for those 17 and under. More information can be found on the Dennon website.

Noon-10pm: Hops & Harvest Festival continues today with more food vendors and more live musicians. Saturday admission is \$20, which includes a commemorative glass and a drink ticket. Admission is free for kids under 16.

7-10pm: Right Brain Brewery hosts the Air Guitar Challenge for Child & Family Services. The event is free to spectate and costs \$20 to register to compete. All proceeds will be donated to Child & Family Services of NW MI. Prizes are available for the best air guitarists of all ages. Pre-registration is required, call (231) 944-1239.

**Sunday, October 7**

10am-3pm: The Harvest Days Classic Car Show will be held today, as part of the Harvest Days festival in Alden.

10am-5pm: The last day of the M22Art2Art Tour.

Noon-4pm: Jolly Pumpkinfest includes games and crafts for kids, a cider press, and live music, drinks, and more for adults. Admission is \$18 for adults and \$7 for kids.

Noon-6pm: The 12th annual Harvest Festivus will have special wines and ciders for sale by the glass, as well as live music, face painting, horse drawn carriage rides, and tours of the Left Foot Charley winery. This event is free to attend.

**Wednesday, October 10**

8:00am-Noon: Sara Hardy Downtown Farmers Market

1-2:30pm: "20 Tech Tactics to Secure Your Business" is a free seminar held by Advanced Computer Solutions at the Traverse City Chamber of Commerce. Become more familiar with modern tech risks and learn how to best prevent them from affecting your business. Register to reserve your spot at [mynorth.com/events](http://mynorth.com/events).

7pm: The National Writers Series hosts author Joe Hill at the City Opera House.

**Thursday, October 11**

7pm: Fulfillment Storytelling is an event where 5 local entrepreneurs and community leaders share true stories about finding fulfillment through vocation. A \$500 grant will be given to one audience member. Tickets are \$12 online, \$15 at the door, and will be held at The Workshop Brewing Co. For more information, check out [fulfillmentstories.com/next-event/](http://fulfillmentstories.com/next-event/).

7pm: The Dennon Museum hosts a free showing of "Dawnland," a film about indigenous child removal in the United States.

**Friday, October 12**

5-8pm: Musician Levi Britton plays at Rove Estate Vineyard & Tasting Room.

5-11pm: Bras for a Cause, a show where men model and dance in bras sponsored by local businesses, raises money to benefit the Munson Healthcare Women's Cancer Fund. Tickets cost \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, and the event is held at Streeters Ground Zero.

7pm-Midnight: Jesse Ray & The Carolina Catfish play at The Workshop Brewing Co.

**Saturday, October 13**

7:30am-Noon: Sara Hardy Downtown Farmers Market

10am-8pm: Co-Ed Broomball Tournament held by Grand Traverse Social Sports at Centre Ice Arena. The registration cost is \$40.00 for an individual player and \$300 for a team of 6-10 people. Register by Friday, October 5.

Noon-9pm: Taproot Cider House's annual Cider Day party includes pumpkin carving, cider pressing, donuts, hard ciders, a new menu, and live music. Check their Facebook page for specific event times and more details.

7:30pm: Pianist and composer Vijay Iyer performs at Milliken Auditorium presented by the Interlochen Center for the Arts. Tickets are \$35 per person and can be purchased on [tickets.interlochen.org/events](http://tickets.interlochen.org/events).

**Sunday, October 14**

3pm: The Traverse City Symphony Orchestra performs at the Interlochen Center for the Arts in the Corson Auditorium. Tickets range from \$25.50-\$61.50 and can be purchased through Interlochen's events site.

**Monday, October 15**

7pm: Here:Say Presents: School'd at The Workshop Brewing Co. Here:Say makes performers out of everyday people as they tell first-person stories about learning hard lessons. A donation at entry is appreciated, but not required.

**Wednesday, October 17**

8:00am-Noon: Sara Hardy Downtown Farmers Market

**Thursday, October 18**

8pm: Comedian Christopher Titus performs "Amerigeddon" at City Opera House. Tickets range between \$25 and \$45.





# The Cherryland Humane Society:

## A Growing Haven for TC Animals

**Emily Clements**  
Staff Writer

In July, the Cherryland Humane Society (CHS) in Traverse City received a call from animal control to see if they could help out with a animal hoarding situation in Kingsley. Thirty-nine animals were found in an abandoned Kingsley home, but only 36 were recovered alive. Twenty-three dogs and 13 cats were rescued from the home and brought to the shelter for veterinary care and rehabilitation.

Deane Widgren, office manager and volunteer coordinator, shares her experience of the rescue. “The dogs were super skinny, you could see every rib.” Widgren explains how there were piles and piles of feces up along all the walls. The dogs were so scared that they broke holes into the walls so they had a place to hide. The most heartbreaking part was that it seemed like none of the animals had experienced human interaction before. Widgren explains that “it was like they didn’t know what human touch, love, or snuggles is.” All of the animals have been taken care of and are doing much better now. The previous owners have been charged with animal neglect and cruelty.

Of the 36 animals brought in from the hoarding case, only 13 now remain: 12 dogs and one cat. The dogs are often taken outside in small groups so they can still play and interact with each other. Widgren admits that it has been a little more difficult trying to find homes for these animals, but that is only due to the fact that they are still trying to adjust. They are still scared and shy, but have come a remarkable way. “The community was such a huge support for the shelter and those animals. I actually cried. Two days after we posted about the case on Facebook, we had lines of car pulling up to empty food and cleaning supplies, it was amazing,” Widgren says.

CHS made some recent renovations and changes to its shelter that have drawn positive feedback from the community. The first series of changes took place in July 2015 when CHS officially became a no-kill shelter, a policy enforced by the shelter’s new administrator, Heidi Yates.

Back in spring 2018, an event called Fences for Fido was held as a local fundraiser to raise money for a new outside dog enclosure located at CHS. This fundraiser was run by Kathy from Pets Naturally, an avid supporter of the shelter. Multiple local businesses also lent a hand supplying food and beverages for the event.

Due to high turnout at Fences for Fido enough funds were raised to build the new enclosure, which took approximately three months to complete. But that is not the only recent renovation.

Tia Barbera, an animal behaviorist at CHS, implemented some new ideas and strategies inside the shelter. New decorations now alight the ceilings, such as twirling kites, floating paper butterflies, and the soft sound of wind chimes. Guests can also now feed dogs treats through a pipe set up on the outside of their cages, allowing more interaction between potential adoptees. For the cats, employees and volunteers spray the area with fresh new scents such as mint and citrus to keep their aroma curiosity satisfied. Although these changes may seem small, they appear to help enhance the animals’ moods.

Currently, there are approximately 100 cats and dogs in the shelter awaiting loving homes, and some that are not yet up for adoption.

The shelter is always looking for volunteers. The humane society is a fun environment and a great place to volunteer and work at. There are volunteer orientations the second Saturday of every month. People can sign up on the CHS website ([cherrylandhumane.org](http://cherrylandhumane.org)) or by contacting Deane Widgren, who can be reached via email at [dwidgren@cherrylandhumane.org](mailto:dwidgren@cherrylandhumane.org).



Photos by Emily Clements