EXHIBIT 38

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Fruit blossoms expected this weekend

By Brian Freiberger
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Attention, flower lovers.

Your chance to see cherry blossoms will be best this weekend as temperatures explode into the 80s Saturday.

Recently, cherry blossoms have been popping early, around Mother's Day and before, due to climate change.

But this year is considered more normal by Northwest Michigan Horticulture Research Center Coordinator Nikki Rothwell.

"(Varieties) golds are at 30%, and Emperor Francis is at 50%. The blossom will go really fast if it gets to 80 degrees," Rothwell said.

Some sweet cherries and apple blossoms have reached peak.

Rothwell is surprised how cold it has been this season and reports early freeze damage on sweets and tarts.

MSU has two new bio weather stations in Leland and Omena that have consistently been colder than most places in northern Michigan.

"We definitely have damage ... it's not looking terrible, and now my concern is pollination for sweet cherries opening and the bees aren't flying," Rothwell said. "We will have a good idea of what the crop will look like, in a couple of weeks. Everyone is trying to assess."

Nicole Sprinkles, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Gaylord, said to go along with the warmup, Saturday is followed by a brief cool-down before the temperature ramps up next weekend.

For peak cherry blossom weather, temperatures need to be cooler. The warmer, the faster they are gone.

"(Northern Michigan in general) will experience some rain that will help some dried areas get relief," Sprinkles said.

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Volunteers Larry Mawby, Larry Graves and Suzanne Redding, from left, work on a mobile mural which will be rotating to different locations within the village. More photos, coverage at Green Suttons Bay Beatification event can be found in Section 2.

Enterprise photo by Amy Hubbell

NP council discusses millage for Mill Pond dam

By Meakalia Previch-Liu
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A possible millage for the Mill Pond dam in Northport was part of a focused discussion during the Northport Village Council's work session last week.

The issue of whether the Mill Pond should be replaced or removed altogether has been a controversial one amongst community members, especially in recent years with calls for rewilding and restoring the natural resource.

Jered Ottenwess, Northport Village manager, began the discussion of a millage at the meeting last Thursday, and made clear that the village has the authority to levy a millage for the purpose of replacing the Mill Pond dam, which would be considered a public improvement.

In order to proceed with a millage proposal and to place the question on the ballot, the village would have to adopt a resolution approving ballot language and calling for the election and then submit that proposal to the county clerk by the election deadline. The millage, if approved, would be levied annually in accordance with the ballot terms. It would also provide a "legally sound mechanism for funding the project."

"That's why I brought this issue (forward) too because I don't see any other way that the village could realistically fund replacement of the dam," Ottenwess said at the meeting. "This also puts the question to a vote as opposed to the council trying to sort through the various interests that are involved ... let the voters decide with their pocket."

According to the village manager's May 1 memo, based on current "planning-level cost assumptions," a 0.90 mill levy over 20 years provides a reasonable

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G-L School dinged on cleanliness survey

By Brian Freiberger
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Glen Lake is considered a clean school.

But there are always things to improve upon.

The Association of Physical Plant Administrators (APPA) conducted a third-party review of the school's custodial needs, performance, supplies, equipment, and products, and gave Glen Lake a rating of 4.0, which suggests that the building "is generally close to meeting acceptable cleanliness levels."

"It's great to have a third party coming and questioning. We have an independent auditor tell us something we feel bad about, and we are going to remedy. We have great, hardworking people who are expected to do too much work," Glen Lake superintendent Jason Master said. "Our major takeaway is we need to hire some more people and provide additional support."

Some key concerns identified by the report are additional attention to surface cleanliness, floor maintenance, restroom hygiene, equipment and supplies, and safety protocols that need to be addressed.

"This assessment acknowledges the dedication of your custodial staff while

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Planners OK first work at Sugar Loaf

By Kate Ward
Special to the Enterprise

The first phase of redevelopment for the Sugar Loaf Mountain property was approved following a packed public hearing last week by the Cleveland Township Planning Commission.

The approval covers phase 1 of the project, which focuses primarily on preparing the property for safe public access. Plans include creating a formal parking lot area and initial trail improvements.

"Phase 1 is going to be the parking lot and just basically getting it set up for public use and safe public use," acting administrator Scott Sheehan said. "A lot of people are going to want to get out there and use it."

The trail improvements are tied to the planned "Legacy trail" that will eventually take hikers to the summit.

Phase one construction is anticipated to be completed by October, however the timeline will depend on contractor scheduling and construction progress.

Sheehan said that project organizers have already begun coordinating with contractors in order to get everything moving quickly.

The second phase of the project will be presented to the township for additional review at a later date. Phase two is expected to include amenities such as picnic pavilions and expansion of the trail system.

Sheehan said that the phase two

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Thank you Edith Ioppich of West Bloomfield for being a loyal subscriber

County Cancer Foundation celebrates 10 years

By Meakalia Previch-Liu
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April marked the 10-year anniversary of the Leelanau County Cancer Foundation operating as a nonprofit, and after more than a decade of helping families in the community touched by cancer, has much to celebrate.

The nonprofit officially organized in April 2016 and its operation is made possible through the efforts of volunteers, which includes its eight-member board of directors.

Since its inception, the foundation has given over half a million dollars to over 180 families and individuals in Leelanau County coping with cancer. In 2025, the foundation awarded $86,000 to approximately 82 families, allowing people to focus on their healing and helping to alleviate some of the financial burden that comes with a cancer diagnosis.

The nonprofit, through the donations of individuals, foundations, and fundraising events, has also been able to provide more financial contributions over the last two years, up to $3,000, to families. Ongoing monetary support from the numerous community partners and individuals they interact with make the reach of their services possible to this day.

In 2025, the decision was made that all of the proceeds from the annual Northport Run for Cancer Funds will be donated to the foundation to ensure funds go directly to Leelanau County residents. This year, the run will continue to honor that commitment to local residents fighting cancer instead of sending monies to the American Cancer Society.

According to the foundation, between July 2024 and July 2025, Munson Medical Center diagnosed 163 Leelanau residents with cancer. The assistance that county residents receive from the foundation for covering regular expenses like mortgage and rental payments, home and lawn maintenance, auto repairs, insurance bills and travel costs makes all the difference and serves as a reminder that their community cares, leaving a positive impact on individuals going through some of the most difficult times in their life.

Terry Gremel, the foundation's board of director chair, has been involved with the organization for over 10 years now and has seen just how much that financial support has made a difference in the lives of community members. She said it's an organization that she and others are proud to be a part of because of how many people they can help that are in need. And as more residents discover the nonprofit and what they do, they've been able to continue assisting those that have been referred to them.

"When you think back to before we were incorporated, there wasn't any assistance like this, so to be able to provide this for people — it's just a very special thing to be a part of," Gremel said.

Some individuals receive financial assistance from the foundation over time, Gremel explained, because if their cancer diagnosis and treatment last for years, then people are eligible every year for support.

"We help people for a full year after their last cancer treatment, whether it's surgery or chemo or radiation," Gremel explained. "As long as people are getting any kind of treatment, we'll continue to help them."

Suttons Bay resident Nancy Wick, 73, has been a recipient of financial support from the cancer foundation for the last couple years. Before her stage three Peritoneal cancer diagnosis, a rare form of cancer that develops in the abdominal lining, Wick was an active foundation member that supported their work by going to fundraising events like the Lá-Teá-Dah luncheon. She's always been grateful for the services they provided to the community, so when she found out suddenly that she had cancer, it came as a huge relief to know that she'd have support.

The assistance she's received from the nonprofit has helped her pay for important home costs like replacing her old furnace and the cleanup of multiple downed trees after a wind storm. The peace of mind Wick's gotten from this assistance while dealing with the challenges of her cancer diagnosis has allowed her to fully focus on her recovery amid treatment.

"What they have done, it lifts your spirit because you feel like you're in a pinch and not sure what way to fund the expenses that you have, and they pull through," Wick said. "There's like this little gift from heaven just placed on you and it is wonderful... you're going through stressful times and you feel like another stress got piled on top of you and then, all of a sudden, it gets lifted off of you and it's such a feeling of relief."

When first diagnosed two years ago, Wick said she was given 6-8 months to live and started her infusion therapy as soon as she could. After six months of treatment, her doctors looked at all of her testing, and she received the miraculous news that her cancer was no longer active. These days, Wick says she feels healthy now that the symptoms have subsided and encouraged that the disease is under control. The help from the community was part of the miracle, too, Wick said, and she couldn't be more thankful for it all.

"I've been surrounded by wonderful, supportive people that have helped me because I am widowed, so it has made things a little more challenging, but this community has just rallied and given so much support and help that I thank them for that, too, and I think they're part of the miracle," Wick said.

At last year's fundraiser gala, Shawna Layman was the winning bidder for the car barn tour offered during auction. Layman said as a teacher that educates others about topics like history and the importance of being part of your community and doing what you can to help others, it was equally important for her to do the same at events like the fundraiser gala.

"I try to do that as often as I can. My sister and my mother actually were part of the bidding process as well, so it's a fun thing to do as a family, but it's also a great way to give back," Layman said, adding that she and her family members plan to attend the gala event next month.

"A Gala of Grace," the foundation's annual fundraiser, is slated to be held on June 17 from 6 to 8 p.m. at French Valley Vineyard near Cedar. The event includes entertainment, food and drinks, and a live and silent auction. A wide variety of items are up for auction, with some of the most popular being the Cookie of the Month Club, where the winning bidder receives a few dozen cookies every month for a year made by the cancer foundation's board members. Other auction items include everything from a Sicilian-themed dinner for eight, pontoon rides, a Wild Game dinner, a tour of Dan McDavid's classic car barn, and more.

For more information about purchasing tickets for the upcoming "Gala of Grace," go to *leelanaucountycancerfoundation.org*.

Legal representation approved for YFC appeal

By Meakalia Previch-Liu
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The Leland Township board took action at its regular meeting Monday evening to authorize the supervisor to sign a letter of engagement agreement with Lauren Teechner of the Teechner Law firm in Traverse City to provide legal representation for the planning commission and ongoing Youth for Christ (YFC) permit matter.

The township's planning commission voted 4-1 to deny the special land use permit application to operate a Youth for Christ club center in downtown Leland on April 15 after months of deliberation.

The decision was followed by a notice of appeal made by Apollo's Properties, LLC. YFC legal counsel within the 10-day timeframe after the date of the planning commission's April 15 decision. The matter now goes to the Leland Township zoning board of appeals (ZBA) for further review.

Once the board of appeals reviews the matter and makes a decision, the applicant can then make another appeal to the Leelanau County Circuit Court if dissatisfied with the decision.

The approval of Teechner's legal services includes providing legal research, guidance, and advocacy related to the appeal submitted by YFC to the ZBA and advising the planning commission generally on matters before it. The firm's hourly rate for attorney services is the discounted municipal rate of $200 per hour.

Along with the approval of new legal counsel to handle the appeal, the township board also deliberated a total cost billed by Thomas Grier, an attorney with The Running Wise Law Firm in Traverse City that provided additional findings, analysis reports to the planning commission to make its final decision in April. The total bill for professional services from The Running Wise Law Firm is $12,612.49.

Grier submitted work preparing two sets of alternate proposed findings and conclusions for approval and denial of the YFC permit after the township board voted to approve the motion to authorize the planning commission chairperson, Lee Cory, to engage services of a planning expert not to exceed $2,000 at a special meeting on Feb. 27.

Leland Township Supervisor Clint Mitchell said within the discussion that took place when they approved $2,000 for a planning expert, they noted that the state law requires board approval of planning expert services.

Mitchell also made note of the fact that Grier relayed in written correspondence that he was aware of the $2,000 limit, however, after Grier had discussions with Cory, the planning commission chair, it was his

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Legal representation approved for YFC appeal

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understanding that the $2,000 represented funds available through the end of the fiscal year, March 31, and that there should be another $10,000 available and set aside for legal appeal purposes in the new fiscal year.

"I would note that this was the previous fiscal year, we expected that decision to be made by March 18 at that time, which was also in the previous fiscal year," Mitchell said at the meeting. "No one has authority to spend from a next fiscal year. Certainly nobody has authority to spend from a budget that's not been approved, and no one in the planning commission has the authority to approve a $10,000 expenditure which was 500% plus of what was approved by the board. I would also note that the budget for this year for legal planning is actually $7,500, not $10,000, and that's for the entire year."

Cory was present at the meeting and spoke during public comment regarding the issue of paying Grier's bill. Cory said she wanted to go on the record to make clear that prior to the board approving funds to hire Grier for planning expert services and prior to her or former zoning administrator Tim Cypher speaking, she spoke with Leland Township Clerk Lisa Brookfield.

Cory said when asking Brookfield how the board came to the conclusion to put the amount of $10,000 in the budget for the planning commission, it was relayed to her that it was in case of an appeal in litigation. With that knowledge, Cory said she then spoke to Cypher about the possibility of engaging outside counsel, which the planning commission had already voted to do. She described the notion that they'd be able to engage outside counsel to pursue the difficult legal situation for only $2,000 as being "absolutely ludicrous."

"Furthermore, being told that there was $10,000 in the budget I had no reason to question that because Lisa told me it was for the planning commission, so I took her at her word… when I talked to Tom (Grier) about it, I said 'Tom, I know we have $2,000 for this fiscal year, but I have been told that we have $10,000.' And Tom said that he would not go over the $12,000 amount that we had and he would do everything he could to be as fiscally as possible and as conservative in billing us as he could."

Mitchell's recommendation to the board was to approve a full payment of $2,000 that the board initially voted on at the special meeting on Feb. 27. Other board trustees also supported Mitchell's recommendation, including Greg Kuntz, who reiterated that only the board has the full authority to spend money to enter into contracts.

"To set the precedent that people can engage in work at fees that aren't committed to by the board, who's to stop them — that just can't happen. Individuals on our board don't have the authority to enter into contracts to take on debt, there's no reason why there should be an exception, none whatsoever," Kuntz said during discussion. "I don't know Mr. Grier, I'm sure he's an excellent lawyer, but a person that's been in municipal law for 34 years should know better."

Cleveland talks flood mitigation; OKs AI tool

By Kate Ward
Special to the Enterprise

Flood mitigation efforts at Little Traverse Lake, a decision over the use of ZoningOS and a proposed township millage increase dominated discussion during Cleveland Township's board meeting Tuesday night.

"We're looking at alternatives to try and mitigate the high water concerns and potential damage in the future," Supervisor Tim Stein said.

Stein said he met on May 4 with National Park Service (NPS) representatives and the Leelanau County Road Commission (LCRC) to discuss possible long term and short term solutions.

According to Stein, the NPS is working to establish a specific elevation threshold that, when met, would allow for limited beaver dam removal between Little Traverse Lake and County Road 669.

However, "there would not be carte blanche authorization of tearing out beaver dams," Stein said, noting that the area is under a wilderness designation.

Stein also discussed the possibility of installing "beaver deceivers" designed to maintain constant water flow beneath beaver dams without triggering the beavers to rebuild.

The township is also pursuing infrastructure improvements through the LCRC. Stein said that engineering work is underway with Gosling Czubak to evaluate culvert improvements near Little Traverse Lake Road.

"Our plan at this point is to put in double the current culvert capacity," Stein said, and explained that the proposed project would add two adjacent culverts near the existing system to increase outflow capacity during high water levels.

LCRC Managing Director Brendan Mullane later addressed the board with a broader presentation on county road funding and upcoming projects including work connected to Little Traverse Lake Road.

"I did hear back from EGLE, it sounds like they're interested in this culvert idea," Mullane said. "If the design can be done and approved, and they agree with it, then we think that will happen."

Mullane's presentation also focused heavily on road funding challenges and recent changes to state transportation funding. He discussed the state's new Neighborhood Road Fund, which will provide additional revenue for local roads without requiring as much from the township.

"This will certainly help matters, but it's not going to solve anything without township, local contribution," he said. "You guys have been very proactive in that, and a lot of things have gotten done in this township. That's a credit to this board."

During public comment, a couple residents spoke at length about recurring flooding concerns around both Little Traverse Lake and Lime Lake.

"For 30 years we had no water in our crawl space," Todd Bredin said. "The last 16, we have water every spring and most falls."

Bredin criticized portions of the Little Traverse Lake Association leadership, claiming some members have opposed culvert modifications out of concern that lake levels could drop too far.

"Listen to the engineers," he said.

Resident and county commissioner Gwenne Allgaier echoed concerns about property damage caused by prolonged high water levels and said some homeowners have experienced severe mold and moisture issues. She also referenced a 2018 study done by the University of Alberta that found 25% of the shoreline showed septage leakage.

"We need to make sure our lake is clean and that people's basements don't have to have two sump pumps running at all times," Allgaier said.

The board unanimously approved implementation of ZoningOS, the AI-powered zoning support tool for the township's website.

The software, designed by zoning administrator Scott Sheehan and software engineer Travis Kemp, is intended to help residents navigate zoning ordinances more easily by asking questions about regulations through an AI search system.

The software was introduced to the board at last month's meeting, when the contract was handed to trustee Jan Nowak for review.

"In my view, I think it's gonna be an asset for people," Nowak said. "I did go on our site and tried to look through ordinances… and it's cumbersome. This will really help as a lay person."

Earlier in the meeting, the board also unanimously approved placing a general operating millage increase proposal on the August 2026 ballot.

According to Stein, the proposal would restore the township's operating millage to 1 mill through an increase of 0.4630 mills for 20 years. The increase would generate an estimated $83,000 in its first year if approved by the voters.

"It's taking more money to run this township, and it's not getting cheaper," Stein said.

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