

# Greater Port Austin Area Chamber of Commerce

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

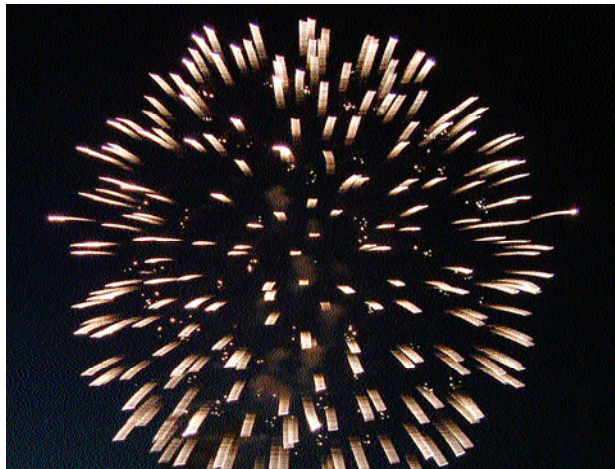
JULY 2008

## Some Highlights from the Fourth of July Weekend

Having July 4th attached to a weekend plus picture-perfect weather added up to thousands of extra people in Port Austin for this year's biggest summer holiday!

Record crowds enjoyed the over 100 parade entries, including the Huron Medical Center float winner, a few of the "Deal Beauties" and the MSU cheerleaders - along with Sparty, who delighted the crowd when he took a break along the parade route. The evening's awesome fireworks display brought even more people into town. Many enjoyed music and a barbeque dinner at the beer tent.

Saturday's Farmers Market found a record-breaking turnout of well over 200 vendors and 10,000 visitors. Over 100 people turned out for the Old Time Base Ball game at Gallup Park in the afternoon. **A GREAT WEEKEND!**



## Fishing Tournament tallies over 1700 pounds of fish



“Riptide” took first place in this year’s Thumb Area Off Shore Challenge Fishing Tournament and winning \$4,200 for their efforts. The team’s two-day catch totaled over 104 pounds.

Besides the thirty teams of fisherman, the weigh-ins attracted dozens of additional spectators. An impressive 274 trout and salmon were caught, weighing in at a total of 1,740 pounds.

Dave Dybowski said he was pleased with the turnout and noted that this Fishing Tournament is unique in that it pays out ALL of the tournament registration money in prizes to the participants.

He added, “We would like to send a shout-out to all of the tournaments sponsors - we couldn’t do it without them! And our volunteers and the Village DPW Crew did an awesome job of helping everything run so smoothly. Thank You!



## Added Attraction at Farmers Market

Chef Jeff Gabriel of the Farm Restaurant has delighted visitors to the Farmers Market this year by offering a cooking demonstration every Saturday from 11 am to noon. Last Saturday featured “Smoking and Barbequing.”



## Harbor Festival and Water Trail Festival activities combine for a great weekend turnout

Hundreds turned out for the festivities at the Harbor and Veterans Waterfront Park the first weekend of June. Especially popular were the free kayak trials, the fishing clinic and the puppet show.

The kayakers who registered for the festival found the Water Trail enjoyable to explore and the camping fun, despite the finicky weather. They had a chance to talk “kayaking” at the catered dinner, group paddles and the bonfire on the beach.

Thank you to all the businesses who offered specials, discounts and hospitality to the kayakers. They noticed and made a point to comment on what a warm welcome they received everywhere they went. They had a great time and plan to return to the area - so THANK YOU!

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources was also impressed with the collaborative efforts of the Greater Port Austin Area Chamber of Commerce, the Tip of the Thumb Heritage Water Trail group, the Village of Port Austin and the Port Austin State Harbor in bringing so many activities to the Harbor area as part of the State’s “GO-Get Outdoors” Project and are using it as a model for the State Park system’s efforts to increase cooperative activities between the DNR and local chambers, organizations and governmental units.



*Chef Gabriel prepares for a cooking demonstration at Farmers Market.*

## Fourth Annual KIDS DAY at Farmers Market is a huge success!

Nearly 1,000 children participated in the 4th Annual Kids' Day at the Port Austin Farmers Market this year.

"It was a great day for Kids and their families - they had a ball!" noted Market Manager, John Pridnia.

As part of the Kids' Day, there was a special "Fun & Fitness Fair" geared toward children to encourage more activity and healthy snacks.

The Fair was coordinated by the Port Austin Community Players along with fair partners and sponsors: Huron Medical Center, North Huron Elementary School, Girl Scout Troop 759, the Port Austin Stompers and, of course, Port Austin Farmers Market and the Chamber.

Children could pick up a special "Passport" at the PACP tent that they then had "stamped" at the various stations throughout the Fair. The most popular activity stations were the Inflatable Moon Walk, Slide, Bungee Pull and Obstacle Course. All of the Fair activity centers were free.



Knoblock Riding Stable provided free horse and wagon rides, Maplewood Farms provided free pony rides and animals to pet, and clowns made balloon animals - among other fun things for kids and their families.

Free drawings were held throughout the day for gift baskets donated by the employees of Huron Medical Center. Two bikes were donated by Ace Hardware of Bad Axe - the bike winners were Therese Drettman and Joshua James.

The "Fun & Fitness Fair" portion of the Kids' Day was partially funded through a grant from the Huron County United Way.



*"The Pool Hustlers" came in first place in the Championship Round of the 16th Annual Bocce Ball Tournament in Port Austin. Team members are Kevin Slawick, Eric Reinke, Chad Ziel and Henry Ziel*

## Pool Hustlers recapture Bocce Ball title

"The Pool Hustlers" out-hustled the competition to be crowned champions of this year's Bocce Ball Tournament held at Gallup Park in Port Austin.

Fifty teams were registered for the 16th annual tournament, which was sponsored by the Greater Port Austin Area Chamber of Commerce on June 17 and 18.

This was the second time "The Pool Hustlers" have claimed the championship; they also won in 2006.

"Town & Country Casuals" came in second - again! They missed out on capturing the title last year by being beaten by "Sperry Topsiders." The team did come in first in 2005, however, but the title has eluded them since.

In the Consolation Round, "The Good Days" took first place by beating the "Wild Turkeys" in the final game of that round.

Once again, Del Ruth provided the colorful commentary, while Charlie Parks headed the field crew and Dave Dybowski headed the set-up crew. Pam Gabriel was in charge of grilling the delicious burgers and brats, and Laura Mayes coordinated the beverage concessions.

A special Thank You goes out to the DPW crew - Dick Babcock, Bob Horetski and Walt Ventline - for their extra efforts in helping to make the event a success again this year.

Despite the rain on the first night, there was a good turnout and everyone had a lot of fun both nights of the tournament.

## Mark Your Calendar - July 2008

### July

- 9** Thumb Area Charter Captains Association, Annual Kids' Day (winners of special drawing)  
**12** Annual "Port Austin Run" - 8k & 2 mile run, and 2 mile walk - (Youth For Christ benefit event)  
**18-20** Kayak & Yoga Weekend Retreat  
**19-20** Civil War Encampment - at Huron City Museums  
**25-27 and Aug 1-3** "Sleepy Hollow" - Musical at Port Austin Community Playhouse - Summer Youth Theatre Production  
**26** Bards of Bird Creek - Poetry Reading at Bird Creek County Park, 7 pm  
**26** Nature Discovery Program with Live Creatures at Huron County Nature Center

---

### COMING SOON:

- \* August 9 - Blues at The Bank 1884
- \* August 8-10 - Yard Sale Trail
- \* August 10 - summertime Open Euchre Card Party at the American Legion
- \* August 14 - Kelly Miller Circus, behind Antiques to Zebras - sponsored by the Port Austin Area Historical Society

Reminder to all who have upcoming events - please provide details to the Chamber so that we can help promote your activities!

### 2008 Chamber Board Members

President:	Dave Dybowski - 553-4535
Vice President:	Michel Ricou - 738-8729
Treasurer:	LaNette Wiese - 874-4500
Secretary:	Lori Babcock - 550-7936
Trustee:	Laura Mayes - 738-5136
Trustee:	Steve Schmidt - 738-5235
Trustee:	Pam Gabriel - 738-5254

### Annual Chamber Election in September

Reminder: There will be three openings up for election at the annual meeting in September: President, Secretary and two Trustees. Those currently serving in those positions (Dave Dybowski, Lori Babcock, Laura Mayes and Pam Gabriel) do not plan to seek re-election, so please consider running.



## First ever "Tour di Lago" Bike Tour attracts many participants

"We were pleased with the turn out," said Mary Barnes, one of the organizers of the first-ever "Tour di Lago" Bike Tour.

The bicyclists started off at Veterans Waterfront Park and then made their way to either Grindstone City (short tour) or Lighthouse County Park (long tour) and back to Port Austin.

The bike tour was part of the new festival "Bocce on the Bay Festival of Lights" that took place the weekend of June 20-22. Italian-themed music and dancing, Italian food and desserts, bocce ball, a spaghetti sauce cook-off and a lighted boat parade were some of the many activities making up the Italian-inspired weekend, organized by Friends Promoting Port Austin.

"Next year will be even better," Barnes added. "We've received many good suggestions for next year's tour, so we hope to expand upon what we did our first year out."

### Greater Port Austin Area Chamber of Commerce

Phone: (989)738-7600  
E-Mail: [pacofc@airadv.net](mailto:pacofc@airadv.net)  
Web: [www.portaustinarea.com](http://www.portaustinarea.com)

#### Office hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday  
from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.