

Omena has a private, bite-size bridge walk

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The Omena Mayor and three Omena Village Council members attended the Sixth Annual Omena Bridge Walk over Krist Creek on Labor Day along with about 54 of their human constituents. Mayor Sweet Tart McKee, a Norwegian Forest cat, was joined by Village Council members Brit Walker, a Black lab, Schatzi Putnam-Bradley, and Bailey Kondrat. Both Schatzi and Bailey are mixed breed rescue dogs. Penny Labriola, the only chicken on Village Council, was represented by her owner, Lilia. Brit wasn't so sure about the bridge and opted to just jump over Krist Creek. Since Kathy Miller was busy being the hostess for the event, Council member Riley Miller opted to stay at home.



JIM AND SUSIE Morrison are shown at the Omena Bridge Walk.

In spite of forecasts of rain for Labor Day leading up to the holiday, the rain held off until late evening, and the weather was perfect for the Bridge Walk. The crowd was comprised of walkers who have been at every event, some first timers, and everything in between. Julie Schum, Joan Kalchik-TenBrock's daughter who was here visiting, was among the first time Bridge Walkers.

While the Mackinac Bridge Walk announced the idea of "Double Crossers" — those who walked over and back — for the first time this year, Omena Bridge Walk attendees have always been Double Crossers. Almost everyone goes over and back. The younger attendees often cross multiple times.

Kathy welcomed everyone to the Walk and took a moment to remember that the event was the creation of the late Bob Krist, who loved doing something different and loved getting people together for a good time. The first bridge was just a split log across his creek. After the first Walk was such a success, he installed the bridge that is there now. After this year's Walk, everyone enjoyed well deserved coffee and pastries. A good time was had by all.

Julie and David DeWitt had a fun Labor Day weekend with their guests, Julie's brother and sister-in-law, David and Pam Brinker from Naperville, Ill., and friends Bob and Cathy Foley from Indianapolis. In addition to the challenging Omena Bridge Walk, they traversed down 300-foot Pyramid Point and climbed back up — in under 20 minutes — and survived!

Dennis and Kathy Turner were among those who were not able to make to this year's Bridge Walk, because they were recently visiting Yellowstone National Park. While there, they encountered another small world story. When they got to Old Faithful, they were amazed to see seasonal Omena residents, Jeff and Cindy Standley. Unlike the weather we've had here, it was cold and snowy there. Cindy said she knew exactly how to pack in layers of clothing- just like

they were going to Omena .

The Northport Arts Association (NAA) is continuing its busy schedule into September and October, providing lots of opportunity for classes and exhibits. Upcoming classes include Zentangle with Kerry Bowe on Sept. 11, a three-day collage class with Edee Joppich, Sept. 17-19, and acrylic pouring with Debra Welty, a two day class on Oct. 10 and 17. More information is available on the NAA website, northportartsassociation.org

The current Gallery Exhibit at the Village Arts Building (VAB) in Northport, which runs through Saturday, features Florence Winans, Debra Howard, Debra Welty, Tom Woodruff, Barbara Waddell and Sherie Waddell. On Saturday at 3 p.m., Debra Howard will give a presentation on her art and her experiences of plein air painting in Michigan, in Leelanau County and her journey as a plein air painter. She has been the NAA's visiting artist from Crissfield, Md., and is a professional plein air artist painting her art on location wherever she finds interesting and sets up her easel.

Just because Labor Day is over doesn't mean the fun stops in Leelanau County. On Friday, Sept. 21 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., the Leelanau Early Childhood Development Commission will hold a fine arts and crafts auction to raise funds for their Parenting Communities Program. Parenting Communities in Leelanau County provides services to Leelanau County families with children, prenatal through age five.

Tickets are \$50 per person, and event participants will enjoy generous appetizers and be served wine in the intimate and rustic Leland Lodge Wine Cellar (first glass of wine is included in the ticket price), then peruse an amazing collection of fine arts and crafts on display for purchase in the picturesque setting of the Leland Lodge overlooking Lake Leelanau.



ABOUT 55 people attended the walk.

Funds raised by this event will go to the Parenting Communities program and the comprehensive child and family support it provides. For more information on Parenting Communities, go to <https://www.facebook.com/PCLeelanau/>.

Saturday, Sept. 29 will mark the 6th annual Leelanau UnCaged. That's when downtown Northport closes its streets from noon to 10 p.m. to host dozens of musical performers, dancers, artists, and food vendors. It is fun for the whole family and it's free admission for all.

Happy Belated Birthday to the Mayor! Sweet Tart celebrated her 9th birthday on Sept. 1. Kanda and Harold McKee found her under a bush off the Tart Trail on Oct. 17 that year. She was a scared, tiny kitten, and it took them several hours to coax her out. It also happened to be Sweetest Day that year — hence, the name Sweet Tart. They soon realized the connection to sweet and tart cherries, so the name has a double meaning.

Happy Birthday this week to Marcia Biskupski, Dick Smith, Caroline Oberndorf, Susan Krusel, Fred Holtz, Jaron Huffman, Bill Sulau, and Terri Harris.

Happy 60th Anniversary to John and Barb Harris. Happy Anniversary also to Eric and Kristi Hallett, Kathy Schaeffer and Gary Roll, Tim and Dorella Mulligan, Gary and Carol Silverman, Allan and Joanne Dalzell, Carter and Amy Oosterhouse, and to Tony and Amanda Brown.

Bittersweet time for business owners

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Labor Day is bittersweet for me. It's the end of summer, which has been a lot of work for anyone in the retail or hospitality fields. This is the time when business owners realize enough to stay open for the off-season. As I've said before, some business owners give a sigh of relief and are glad that it's over. However, I think most would like to have a bit of a reprieve as I said before and then have it start over again. As much work as it is and as hectic as it becomes, it's still fun.

I'm writing this before Labor Day so I'm not sure how the Bridge Walk went. I hope it went well and I am confident that it did and that the Empire Area Community Center does its normal great job. I look forward to going on the bridge walk.

On Saturday Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and the Grand Traverse Astronomical Society will host the next star party from 9-11 p.m. at the Dune climb. View objects in space at telescope stations. For information call 326-4700 extension 5005 for cancellation and information.

We will never forget. On Sept. 11 — Tuesday — at 8:30 a.m. the Glen Lake Fire Department will host its annual commemoration. The Memorial recognizes the 343 firefighters and medics who died on 9/11. Speakers include retired U.S. Navy captain Phil Klintworth and Glen Lake Reformed Church Rev. Dan DeVries. The 9/11 Memorial Garden is open to the public.

Also on Tuesday but at 7 p.m., the Glen Arbor Women's Club will host speaker Dr. Mary Beth Hardwicke at the Glen Arbor Township Hall. Glen Arbor Women's Club members and guests are welcome, please RSVP by

today to glenarborwomensclub@gmail.com.

Happy Birthday wishes to Karen Kramer, William Howard Taft, and to Marilyn Rank on her 90th.

Happy Anniversary wishes to Sylvia and Bob Jones, Mel and Chris Martin, Ronnie and Ross Hazelton, and Mel and Chris Richardson.

Although it seems like the end, there's still a lot of people still around. This is really the locals' time of year. Almost everything is still open and we can get in.

Politics have gotten real weird, something for some to think about. "They told me I was gullible...and I believed them."

Be safe, be happy and continue to be polite. Go patriotism, especially on 9/11.



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