



Lake Times

Volume 4



Fall Newsletter 2011

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We are pleased to announce that Summer's Gate Four and Eight, our recently completed model homes, have each achieved LEED Platinum level certification.

LEED Platinum is the highest designation possible in the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design program, and is the industry standard for sustainable home living. Not only will occupants live in a comfortable, healthy home, they'll save money doing so. In fact, these two homes, based on their respective Energy Star Reports, are each projected to have an annual heating cost of only \$379. Furthermore, annual utility costs are estimated to be only \$1,407 total, which includes heating, cooling, electric and water. Now that's efficient.

Summer's Gate four and eight were finished and furnished during the past summer months and their completion marks the final buildout of the successful Summer's Gate community. Summer's Gate four has sold, eight is still available - fully furnished and outfitted, for \$549,000. If you missed our Open Houses, please call Cottage Home and we'll host a private tour when you're back in town enjoying the fall colors.



NEW COTTAGE HOME SERVICES

A NOTE FROM BRIAN



Brian Bosgraaf

Thank you, thank you.

I recently had the opportunity to get away for a few days. I used this time to reflect and think about things.

It is astonishing how quickly time flies by. The pace of our lives keeps moving

faster, and we are getting inundated with more information, more interruptions and more distractions. All of this lends to the sense of speed in which time passes.

I was rewarded greatly by taking this brief week off. The biggest reward was the gratitude that settled in on my soul. I have so much to be thankful for, and the Cottage Home community is one of the facets of my life that gives me great joy. So, to all of you who make up the Cottage Home community – thank you.

Living the dream,

BB

You may notice a new vehicle buzzing around the lakeshore these days. Cottage Home has officially launched our services division, and our new Transit van announces such.

Due to so many requests for extended service from our clients, we determined that a services division was the best way we could assist them in fully enjoying their cottage.

So, whether you are a past Cottage Home client, or not, and whether your request is large or small, Cottage Home Services is happy to help with anything we can in regards to your lakeshore home. Need some minor porch repairs or paint touch up? Thinking of installing a new ceiling fan? Want assistance installing your storm windows or moving your patio furniture in for the winter? Give us a call. Our services division is ready to assist with anything from refinishing your front door and power-washing the exterior of the house, to servicing or even replacing your windows. Whatever it is that can make your life a bit easier and your time at the lake house a little more enjoyable, we're here.

And, as the leaves start turning color and the lakeshore takes on those cooler breezes, here is a reminder of a few key tasks that should be done at your cottage this time of year. These are our most popular service requests for Fall, so if you would like assistance in coordinating or completing any of these tasks, please let us know:

- Drain and winterize your outdoor shower.
- Make sure hoses are removed from your outdoor faucets so they do not freeze.
- Schedule an HVAC (and ERV if you have one) check up and change your furnace filters.
- Adjust the humidity control to avoid drying out your wood floors and doors.
- Now is also a great time of year to replace all of your smoke detector batteries.

Contact Stephanie with Cottage Home Services today, at 616.393.9460 x 6#, or services@cottagehome.com.



BLUFF RESTORATION 101

Designing and building our outstanding lake homes goes well beyond the sticks and bricks of typical construction. Proper construction requires extensive planning and site design – particularly when there is a bluff involved.

Cottage Home has extensive experience in bluff restoration. We've worked on dozens of properties to evaluate, design, construct and monitor the restored bluff. We're continuing to study and learn about these unique landforms. The irony of bluff properties is that the water (Lake Michigan) is what makes the site valuable, but it is also water (subsurface and precipitation) that makes these sites so sensitive. Water, both subsurface and surface drainage, is almost always what degrades a bluff over time, if it is not well cared for.

We've learned that every bluff is different, with unique features, impacts and challenges. The most important thing to consider when building on this sensitive property, is to design the site with a specific means of collecting and diverting the extra run off the house creates, and to revegetate the slope of the bluff with native species.

It's an important task, and that's why Cottage Home works with the region's most notable consultants and experts in the ecological, engineering and contracting industries, to ensure the stabilization of these natural landforms. Just another way that Cottage Home strives to our meet our goal of designing and building eco-friendly houses, which are integrated into a sensitive shoreline, by a sustainable business.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

We at Cottage Home are passionate about lakefront living, and the year-round fun opportunities it offers. We hope that you find some of these suggestions helpful as you decide how to spend your treasured time on the beautiful lakeshore.

NOVEMBER

MISTLETOE MARKET

18 | Opens November 18 and runs through December 11 – South Haven Center for the Arts – find handmade holiday items, home décor items and more from local artists. www.southhavenarts.org

DOWNTOWN HOLLAND HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

19 | November 19, 6pm-9pm – stroll the decorated (and heated!) streets filled with carolers, roasting chestnuts, and one-of-a-kind shops, galleries, and restaurants all offering holiday treats and free gift-wrapping. www.holland.org

SAUGATUCK & DOUGLAS HOLIDAY PREVIEW

19 | November 19, noon-9pm – welcome the holiday season in downtown Saugatuck & Douglas. A trolley will provide transportation between the two locations. www.saugatuckdouglas.com

SOUTH HAVEN ICE RINK

23 | Opens for the season on November 23 – South Haven Pavilion – rent skates or bring your own, the ice rink has open skating hours nearly everyday throughout the winter – visit www.shicerink.com for open skate dates and times.

4TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TREES

25 | Begins November 25 (with a holiday parade following that evening) and runs through December 3 – South Haven's City Hall on Phoenix Street – designer-decorated trees and wreaths on display, which are available for auction to benefit We Care, I.N.C. www.wecare-inc.org

SAUGATUCK TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

25 | November 25, 5pm – Wicks Park on Water Street – enjoy the twinkling lights as they are turned on for the season, music, refreshments, games for the kids and a visit from Santa Claus. For further information call (269) 857-1626.

SAUGATUCK & DOUGLAS HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDES

26 | Begins November 26, then continues each Saturday through December 17. For further information call (269) 857-1626.

DECEMBER

GRAND HAVEN JINGLE BELL PARADE

3 | December 3, 6pm – downtown Grand Haven. www.visitgrandhaven.com

SAUGATUCK CHRISTMAS PARADE

3 | December 3, 1pm – For further information call the Saugatuck-Douglas CVB at (269) 857-1701.

NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS

31 | December 31, midnight – over the harbor in Saugatuck.

ONGOING EVENTS

The Children's Museum

Open Thursday to Saturday, 10am-3pm. Fennville. www.fennvillechildren.org

Crane Orchards

An autumn family must – features u-pick fruit, hay rides, a corn maze, restaurant, bakery and cider mill Fennville. www.craneorchards.com

Holland Farmer's Market

Enjoy fresh, local produce and goods every Wednesday and Saturday, through November, 26 and the first two Saturdays in December, 8am-4pm. www.holland.org

Kal-Haven Trail

Offers over 30 miles of picturesque hiking, biking and snowmobiling trails – the trail begins in South Haven on North Bailey Avenue, and ends in Kal-amazoo on 10th Street. www.vbco.org/government364491.asp

Michigan Maritime Museum

Open Fridays and Saturdays from 10am-5pm thru December – five separate buildings offer a variety of engaging opportunities for the Museum visitor including permanent and changing exhibits on Michigan maritime history, a center for the teaching of boatbuilding and related maritime skills, and a regionally renowned research library. www.michiganmaritimemuseum.org

Kerstmarkt European-style Market

Holland's Eighth Street Marketplace – various days and times November 19 through Saturday, December 10 – shop for unique holiday gifts from 16 vendors and enjoy warm treats. www.kerstmarkt.wordpress.com

Saugatuck Center For The Arts

Arts and cultural performances, concerts, classes and workshops offered year round. www.sc4a.org

Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy

Visit and walk any one of their numerous beautiful nature preserves. www.swmlc.org



A NEW HAVEN FOR SOUTH HAVEN

As you may know, the work of the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy (SWMLC) is close to the heart of Cottage Home. Their goal "is to protect the diversity, stability, and beauty of southwest Michigan by preserving our natural and scenic lands." We are grateful to be a part of this organization which helps to make West Michigan such a great place to live and vacation.



Most recently, Cottage Home had the opportunity to assist the Land Conservancy in a new project at the Pilgrim Haven Natural Area. This property, which was a conservation gift to SWMLC from the estate of Suzanne Upjohn DeLano Parish, is actually the site of a 27-acre former church camp, and is located on Lake Michigan (off 18th Street) in South Haven Township. The first step in turning this site into a natural area public park was to build a bridge over the creek, and that's where Cottage Home was able to help. Through the donation and discount of materials and labor, our friends at Bay Equipment, deBest Inc., and Topp Construction assisted us in creating this new structure at a minimal cost.



The bridge was completed just in time for the recent SWMLC public visioning session held there to gain public input on the design for the park. The event had a great turnout, with more than 200 participants, and SWMLC anticipates having some general concepts drawn for the site by the end of the year.

You can learn more about the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, and keep up to date on this exciting project, by visiting www.swmlc.org. We encourage you to join Cottage Home by becoming a member of SWMLC and helping to further the cause of this great organization.

ONLY ONE REMAINING SUEQUEHANNA ZEN OPPORTUNITY

Suequehanna Four is the last site available for the new Cottage Home ZEN (Zero Energy Net) design/build process. Revolutionary design for lakefront living, the new ZEN home will literally produce more energy than it consumes. It will feature state-of-the-art sustainable energy techniques and a high-performance building envelope, to make it the first of its kind on the lakeshore - anywhere! Located in the area of Glenn, Michigan, Suequehanna is comprised of four carefully planned homes sites in a pristine natural setting.

In addition to the character of a small pond, Suequehanna Four shares expansive Lake Michigan vistas and a private beach, with a stepless access path. You'll be sheltered from the bustle of everyday life by the 365 acre Wau-ke-na nature preserve that borders Suequehanna to the east, and has brought deeded privacy to this rare property for many, many years.

Visit our website, cottagehome.com, or call 616.393.9460 for additional information on the last Suequehanna ZEN opportunity.



— VISIT US ONLINE AT: —
www.cottagehome.com

Cottage Home

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Well-Appointed Beach Houses & Cottages

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