

Tunnel of Trees Art Trail returns Aug. 22

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Harbor Light News Staff

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Building on the overwhelming success of the first year of Tunnel of Trees Art Trail, join the Good Hart Artist Residency in a weekendlong celebration of creativity from Harbor Springs to Cross Village. Picturesque M-119 serves as the inspiration and anchor highlighting the many artists, artisans and creative businesses in northern Emmet County.



(Adobe Stock photo)

The festivities kick off on Friday, August 22 at 5 p.m. at Bliss Gardens Farm and Community Kitchen with a community dinner featuring pulled pork from Stiggs Brewery & Kitchen, garden-inspired sides from Turtle Moon Farm, and swing dancing with the Foghorn Jazz band. Tickets at goodhartartistresidency.com.

The main event is Saturday, August 23 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. as you follow the Tunnel of Trees Art Trail, which boasts 32 stops at art galleries, museums, private studios, businesses, and nature preserves, representing over 70 painters, photographers, sculptors, woodworkers, potters, jewelers, and more, with many of the artists live on site.

“As a local artist I am so happy to have the opportunity to talk about my work and process in a relaxed setting with art lovers. It is a unique opportunity for meaningful connection,” said Edy Stoughton. Visitors can connect with Stoughton and her drawings at artist Nancy Higley’s studio, which bookends the trail outside Cross Village. From the Harbor Springs History Museum’s exhibit on Odawa quill work at the south end, to Higley’s fused glass studio at the north end, the trail has something for every art enthusiast, inclusive of age, taste, and expertise.

Witness live artist demos on the trail at Pond Hill Farm, OTIS Harbor Springs, Trillium Woods Coffee, Peninsulas, Legs Inn, Three Pines Studio, and Little Traverse Conservancy’s Thorne Swift, Elmer Johnston, and Woollam Family Nature Preserves. Stretch your legs or take a dip in the lake at the Woollam Family Preserve, where plein air artists will be tucked into the dunes, on the half-mile trail to Lake Michigan.

Bring the whole family to engage in children’s art activities at Thorne Swift and Elmer Johnston preserves and Trillium Woods Coffee. Register early for plein air workshops at Angell Farm with painter Susan Glass. In Good Hart, visit the King House to meet artists representing traditional and modern Odawa art, and browse the Local Art Show at the Good Hart Artist Residency, featuring the work of 27 local artists.

The celebration finishes on Sunday, August 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. as the Local Art Show at the Good Hart Artist Residency's studio and residence concludes.

All events on Saturday and Sunday are free, and supporting the artists and businesses along the way is encouraged. Event descriptions, artist and sponsor lists, and map of locations are at goodhartartistresidency.com; a printed brochure with map is available at the Harbor Springs Chamber of Commerce or participating galleries.

"We were blown away by all of the positive comments people shared with us about their experiences on the first art trail," says Sue Klco, Board Chair, Founder, and Acting Director of the Good Hart Artist Residency. This year, the Art Trail received a grant from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, and support from underwriter Petoskey Area Visitors Bureau and sponsors along the trail, like Berkshire Hathaway Home Services and the Village Mart. "We are a small nonprofit organization and this is a huge undertaking, but we treasure this opportunity to build community through art, and to bring more attention to all of the talented artists inspired by this area."