



September 5, 2024

Dear Community Member,

It is hard to believe the summer is over, however, it ended with a beautiful Labor Day weekend in Topinabee.

This Annual Report is being sent a bit later than usual as we have good news to share.

Topinabee has been very busy this year with visitors enjoying our beautiful trails and sandy beach, along with our wonderful library and its events like the Mermaid Visit, and Storytime. The very popular Fire Fighter's Annual Chicken Barbeque was the highlight of the summer selling nearly 900 dinners. During the BBQ there was entertainment and an ice cream truck vendor at the library so visitors could enjoy their dinners and the views of Mullett Lake under the pavilion.

This increase in visitors in the Topinabee area has also at times created congestion and parking challenges thus rekindling concerns for pedestrian safety and walkability. Topinabee lacks defined walking areas, curbing, and traffic calming features that aid in protecting pedestrians. If you have driven around the areas in Northern Michigan, you will find several local communities are in the process of adding or have added these safety features.

As a result of this, the TDA Directors attended the August meeting of the Mullett Township Board of Trustees and presented a proposal and ideas on how to make pedestrian safety a priority. We also provided access to agencies and grant funds that can support safety enhancements in Topinabee AND help the Board of Trustees develop a Master Plan for Mullett Township. The full presentation can be accessed on the TDA's website at www.topinabee.org.

One of the agencies, Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG), a membership-based agency, supports communities in infrastructure improvements, master planning, and grant writing. To expedite and enable the Mullett Township Board of Trustees to access grants and to jump start the creation of a Master Plan for Mullett Township, the TDA committed a donation of \$1,000 to Mullett Township to fund the Township's NEMCOG membership. The Board of Trustees voted unanimously to engage NEMCOG to move forward in developing a Five-Year Master Plan.

We are excited and proud of our Board of Trustees (all newly elected in 2020) for taking this bold step as it has long been an objective of many in the community. Having a Master Plan for the township will better guide the Board of Trustees in its use, enhancement, and development of Township properties, including a pedestrian safety plan for Topinabee. We look forward to working closely with the Board of Trustees in supporting their plan.

In other news, there is now a plaque next to the new Topinabee Christmas tree that was donated by the TDA and the Topinabee Firefighters Association. The plaque acknowledges the joint tree donation.

Topinabee's Christmas Tree lighting is scheduled for Saturday, November 23, from 5-6:30 pm. The TDA is proudly supporting the cost of Santa's visit.

The library is increasing their monthly events throughout the year so be sure to follow their plans online at <https://mullett-townshipmi.gov/my-calendar/>

Noka's Café has new owners, and we are looking forward to meeting them and featuring them on our website at www.topinabee.org.

The Little Traverse Conservancy recently held a ribbon cutting at their new Melvin Family Hiking & Biking Trails property 3151 Bennett Road, just up the hill from Topinabee. Details can be found at <https://landtrust.org/explore/melvin-hiking-biking/>

The Burt Lake Trail development continues, and we look forward to it someday connecting to Topinabee on the North Central State Trail. More details can be found at <https://www.trails council.org/burt-lake-trail-2/>

We are pleased to inform you that we have appointed two new Directors to our Board. Marie Frick of Topinabee, and Betsy Miller-Jones of Grandview Beach.

Our Board members are Patrick Shawl, Claudia Holland, Mary O'Hare, Tom O'Hare, Graham Tillotson, John Gross, Lori Hoehn, Ken Hoehn, Marie Frick, Betsy Miller-Jones.

We look forward to 2025 and wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable upcoming holiday season.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement.

Sincerely,

Topinabee Development Association

Enclosure: Membership Form

Topinabee Development Association, PO Box 301, Topinabee, MI 49791

Email: Topinabeecommunity@gmail.com

www.topinabee.org

A registered 501c3 Nonprofit Organization

The TDA supports projects in Topinabee with monetary donations, dues and volunteer activity. Members participate in village beautification, project leadership and support for the township representatives.

Other continuing activities include:

- Continued dialogue with Top of Michigan Trails Council
- Engagement with Northern Lakes Economic Alliance (NLEA)
- Building a relationship with Cheboygan County Economic Development
- Supporting the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG)
- Regular communications with local elected officials at the Township, County and State levels
- Maintaining regular updates on the www.topinabee.org website and highlighting the positive community impact demonstrated by local volunteers and businesses.

Be a part of our future.....Join the TDA today! We can't do it without you!

2025 Membership Form

YES! I want to stay informed about activities in Topinabee!

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone _____

City, State _____ Zip code: _____

Our suggested membership donation is \$15 each year; however, we appreciate and encourage any donation amount. Thank you.

\$15 \$20 \$25 \$50 \$Other _____

Please remit in the enclosed envelope!