



# Newcomers News

Published by the Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse  
(Antrim - Benzie - Grand Traverse - Kalkaska - Leelanau)

MAY  
2007

## DATES TO REMEMBER

SPRING DINNER  
*Tuesday, May 22*

PICNIC  
*Sunday, June 24*  
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BOARD MEETINGS  
*May 14, June 18*

BOOK CLUB  
*May 1, June 5*

BRIDGE  
*See p. 5*

EUCHRE  
*See p. 5*

GOLF  
*May 14*

MEN'S BREAKFASTS  
*May 9, June 13*

OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH  
*May 16*

PADDLE TRIPS  
*Starting in June*

SINGLES  
*May 10, June 22*

WALK IN THE WOODS  
*May 12*

**Find us  
on the web:  
gtnewcomers.org**

## The May program is our annual SPRING DINNER

Tuesday, May 22, 2007  
Traverse City Elks Club

6:30 - 7:30 PM Cash Bar  
7:30 Buffet Dinner

Come join the fun at the annual Spring Dinner to be held at the Traverse City Elks Club (Lodge #323) on Tuesday evening, May 22. Enjoy the company of fellow club members and swap true or embellished winter tales. It's time to get reacquainted and continue to enjoy life in this beautiful, northern Michigan area.

There will be a cash bar between 6:30 and 7:30 PM. A buffet dinner will start at 7:30. Dinner will include two entrees (prime rib and whitefish, and yes, you can have some of each), salad bar, redskin potatoes, vegetable, bread, cobbler dessert, and coffee or tea. If needed, vegetarian or special plates are available upon request. Mention special requests when you make your reservation..

Please make your reservations by sending a check payable to  
**Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse** by Monday, May 14.  
**The cost per person is \$24.**

Send to:

**Elaine Novak  
4019 East Shore Drive  
Grawn, Michigan 49637**

The Elks Club has requested we get our count in early so they can be sure to order enough food. So, again, please send to Elaine so she receives it by **May 14**. We are looking forward to seeing everyone!!!! Guests are welcome!!! Questions? Call Bud Dockter, 932-2394, or Brad Spencer, 946-3365

.....  
We extend a special thank you to George and Letha Cairns, our own Newcomers Club members and the Elks Club members sponsoring this event. Without them, we could be eating at McDonalds.

**2006-2007  
Board of Directors**

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mjalbert@chartermi.net

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dockter@charter.net

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gkobernus@chartermi.net

# PRESIDENT'S NOTE

**MAY 2007  
Matt Albert**



With the sun shining brightly and temperatures on the rise, spring is finally upon us, and my reign as your president is drawing to a close. I have truly enjoyed this "run" and wish to thank our Board of Directors for their dedicated service and leadership and, above all, their friendship, in keeping our club running smoothly. I also want to thank all of you, our members, for your support and attendance throughout this past year.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our Spring Dinner on May 22nd, to be held at the Elks Club, where we will be introducing the new Board of Directors. Also, note the date for our annual Newcomers Picnic, Sunday, June 24th. Details for this event will be forthcoming.

In closing, Judy and I look forward to our continued participation in future club activities with all of the wonderful friends we have made through Newcomers.

## 'Helping Hands' Request

The Newcomers Club 'Helping Hands' coordinator attempts to acknowledge happy and sad times in our members' lives. Cards can be sent for illness, family death, new baby, wedding, and special anniversaries. Please notify Marlene Steider at [marlenesteider@msn.com](mailto:marlenesteider@msn.com) or 922-2183 if you know of any of these circumstances.

**PLAN TO ATTEND  
THE ANNUAL PICNIC on SUNDAY, JUNE 24!  
Details in the June newsletter.**

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**The public is invited to all of our programs.  
Please bring guests, friends,  
and anyone else who would enjoy  
the information and the fellowship.**

## Please help recruit members!

Know someone who has just moved to the area?  
Contact **Sharon Finch**, City Hostess, with their names and she will do the rest.  
947-8403, [hsfinhtc@aol.com](mailto:hsfinhtc@aol.com)

## New Member Corner



**Michael & Kristina Henke** (Chicago, IL)  
**Dave & Mary Jankowski** (Washington, MI)  
**Jane Southard** (St. Louis, MO)  
**Dean & Diane Tobias** (full-time RVing)

## Back From Traveling!

Welcome back to all of you snow bunnies who fled to Florida, Arizona, and other parts of the south to avoid the cold weather. We missed your company and humor, but traffic was a lot easier. Except for the two daily 'mini-rush hours' driving was almost lonesome. When you're away for that length of time do you become a "newcomer" all over again? Okay, but don't forget to pay your dues!

Unlike previous years when we took short times away from home to visit people and get some sun, this year we decided on a longer period away from TC, although we are among the few who like the winters and the activities it offers. As I've mentioned in earlier columns, our son Marc, his new wife Laurel, and two-year old child Jane had moved to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. That's right, Africa! We decided that a trip to see them was in order. We hadn't yet met Laurel or Jane, so we wanted to introduce ourselves. We spent a couple of months planning our trip with the help of Candy Brody, a former Newcomer member, good friend, and excellent travel agent. In order to not be like fish and smell after three days, we broke our visit up into several segments.

After three days of visiting in Addis with Marc and his new family, Jody and I flew to Tanzania to go on a short safari. We landed at Kilimanjaro Airport and felt very exotic. We did not 'rough it', but stayed at excellent hotels each night. For four days we were driven by our guide through the countryside, the Ngorongoro Conservation area, and the Lake Manyara game area. The safari would by itself over-fill the space my editor allots me. Suffice it to say that during our days in the game areas we saw "The Big Five": lions, leopards, elephants, rhinos, and water buffalos. Leopards are the most difficult to see because they are very shy and nocturnal. We happened to catch one when he was mating. We didn't see his quest but heard a tussle and saw him climb a tree and relax with his legs hanging over the tree limb. (OK ladies, a typical man! At least he didn't turn on the TV and light a cigarette.)

We then returned to Addis. The next day the two of us and Marc and Laurel flew to Lalibela, an isolated town in northern Ethiopia. The main attractions here are the rock-hewn churches. In the 12<sup>th</sup> century King Lalibela had a dream of such churches and felt 'ordered' to replicate

them. According to the literature, he assembled some of the finest artisans and craftsmen available for the project. The churches were carved into the sides of mountains and into the ground. It has been said that they are more impressive than the pyramids and have been called the eighth wonder of the world. When I think of them being carved out of solid rock by hand with hammer and chisel, I concur. We visited as many of them as our stamina would allow. Both Addis and Lalibela are over 8,000 feet in elevation. The two of us weren't acclimated to the elevation and tired sooner than Marc and Laurel who, having lived in Addis for 6 months, were accustomed to it. (There was an article on altitude sickness in the April 21 TC Record-Eagle. I recommend that you read it or find other information on it before you visit any such place.)

A very unique experience that we had in Lalibela was a visit to a tej house (ok, it was a bar) where we had tej, a drink made with honey, served in flasks. There were three strengths: non-alcoholic juice, wine, and 'you-better-not-be-the-designated driver'. The place was literally a hole in the wall, yet we marched in like we knew what we were doing. (Having our driver with us helped.) The smell of incense almost knocked us over before we entered. The waiter was very nice. He apologized that because it was still Lenten fasting time there were no people dancing, singing, or partying. We sat on benches about a foot off the ground, inhaled the heady incense, and toasted our good fortune.



Marc, Laurel, and Bob at the tej house

*(Continued on page 6)*

# ACTIVITY GROUP NEWS

The calendar tells us that spring has arrived; hopefully by the time this newsletter has arrived, it really will be spring. We look forward to our outdoor activities such as golf, walks and paddling that will continue throughout the summer, as well as our many activities that continue on a monthly basis until June. The information is always listed in the newsletter or you may call the leader of the group. We have a wonderful group of leaders and without them we would not have the many activities that are offered. As always, we are looking for ideas for new groups.  
Susanne Bonner [susannebonner@aol.com](mailto:susannebonner@aol.com) 932-0943

## GOLF

**Monday, May 14, 1:00 PM**

Our golf league will begin on May 14 at Elmbrook. The first tee time is 1:00 PM.

We will play every other Monday at different courses. We do not keep scores nor use handicaps. You form your own foursomes from those who show up to play. You play as often as you like. We had a very good turn out last year and look forward to expanding our group this year.

For information or to sign up, please contact Dave Charlton, 223-4162 or [davidacharlton@hotmail.com](mailto:davidacharlton@hotmail.com). Details and the schedule for the rest of the season will be available at our first outing.

## WALK IN THE WOODS

**Saturday, May 12, 11:00 AM**

On Saturday May 12 we will enjoy one of the great natural areas in Northern Michigan, the **Seven Bridges**. There are 291 acres of pristine woodlands and meadows with trails crossing the beautiful Rapid River on the bridges. This area has been preserved for all to enjoy through the efforts of private individuals, local government and the State.

From Traverse City, take US 31 north to Acme. In Acme take M-72 east to Hill Rd. and turn left. Take Hill Rd. to Rapid City Rd., turn left and continue to the town of Rapid City. In town, turn right on Valley Rd. Follow Valley Rd. approximately 3 miles. The parking area for the natural area is located on the left hand side, 1 mile past Underhill Rd.

All are welcome including dogs on a leash. Walks will last between 1.5 and 2 hrs. Email Marlowe Bonner, [mbmarbon@aol.com](mailto:mbmarbon@aol.com), or call 231-932-0943, so you can be notified of any changes or cancellations. Last minute joiners are always welcome.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

**Wednesday, May 9, 9:00 AM**

The Men's Breakfast meets at the Omelette Shoppe next to the Wild Birds Unlimited store in Campus Plaza the second Wednesday of every month at 9:00 AM. Reservations are not required; just show up. Questions? Call George Kobernus, 933-9321.

## OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH

**Wednesday, May 16, 1:00 PM**

Join us for lunch at **GABBY'S**, 12930 West Bay Shore Drive, Elmwood Township. Please contact Gloria Brown, 947-5318, or [gbrown14@charter.net](mailto:gbrown14@charter.net) for reservations by Monday, May 14.

## DINNER OUT

We hope our members will enjoy 'dinner out' this month by attending the club's annual Spring Dinner on Tuesday, May 22, at the Elks Club in Traverse City. See page 1 for details.

## SINGLES

**Thursday, May 10, 8:00 PM**

On May 10 we will be attending Interlochen's Harvey Theatre for an 8pm performance of Fiddler on the Roof. Due to ticket sales in April, we have already purchased tickets for those who responded with interest. If you were missed in our phoning or e-mail, we apologize. Please call me if you did not receive notice and would like to be included in future e-mails for events with advanced ticket sales. Joanne (231-922-9672)

Note for June – Don't forget to add Friday, June 22 to your calendar for a great deck party potluck at Mary O'Brien's.

## BOOK CLUB

**Tuesday, May 1, 10:00 AM**

The Newcomers Book Club is nearing the end of this season's discussions. If you have been meaning to come, but have not found the time, you might want to take in either our May or June meeting. We meet the first Tuesday of the month at Horizon Book's lower level at 10:00 AM.

The book scheduled for May 1, 2007 is *The Syringa Tree* by Pamela Gien. This inspiring novel tells the story of two families and entwined lives. Its vividly takes you to gorgeous South Africa at the time of apartheid. Nancy Harris will lead the discussion.

June's title is *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. This is the true account of one man's quest to build a school for an impoverished Pakistan village in the Karakoram mountains. It is both a riveting and moving story proving that one person really can change the world. Leading the discussion will be Lori Brickman.

If you have questions or want to participate, please contact Letha Cairns at 231-271-6831 or at [gcairns@chartermi.net](mailto:gcairns@chartermi.net)

## CARDS

### **BRIDGE:**

Several levels of play are ongoing. Please see last month's newsletter for the schedules. Most activity will continue throughout the summer. The June newsletter will have the updated listings.

### **EUCHRE:**

Please see last month's newsletter for when the groups meet. If you are new to the area and wish to play and/or be a substitute, contact Karen Coquillard, 932-9883, to get your name on the lists. Our goal is to accommodate as many fun loving euchre players as possible. This activity may not continue throughout the summer. See details in the June newsletter.

## BUDDY GROUP UPDATE

Thank you to all who indicated interest in this group. The list will be forthcoming soon. It is hoped that some summer fun will be generated through its use.

It's not too late to be included. Refer to the January 2007 newsletter, p. 2, for more information. Send your name and interest areas to [bennettjj@charter.net](mailto:bennettjj@charter.net).

## PADDLING

Canoers and kayakers, beginning or experienced, will have many opportunities to paddle with other club members this summer. A detailed schedule will be printed in the June newsletter, but the tentative dates are listed below. All you need is a boat, paddle, and PFD.\* **You'll need to sign up for any of the outings you want to attend. That way you can be notified in case of cancellation.**

### **Rivers:**

Lois Goldstein and John Heiam, experienced paddlers, will host these river outings. If you have any questions about paddling techniques or concerns about being supported on the water, these are the outings for you! Contact them at 938-9655 or [lgoldstein@charter.net](mailto:lgoldstein@charter.net)

**June 28 - Lower Platte River.** We'll spend the day doing a leisurely paddle from M-22 to Lake Michigan, with an emphasis on finding and retrieving all the non-native debris left behind by other (careless) river users.

\*The group will launch across the river from the Riverside Livery on this outing. You can rent these items there if needed.

**July 19 - Manistee River, Hodenpyl Dam to Red Bridge.** Come join us on one of our favorite stretches of the Manistee, about 3/4 hour south of Chum's Corners. This section is rarely crowded, and there are several fun riffles along the way. The current is quick, but the river is wide enough to be easily negotiated by adventurous beginners. We'll stop halfway down for a lunch break.

### **Inland Lakes:**

Jody Bennett and Bob Luoma will host these outings. These are morning paddles (1½ to 2 hrs. long) followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant. Contact them at 932-9249 or [bennettjj@charter.net](mailto:bennettjj@charter.net).

### **June 20 - Lake Dubonnet**

Destinations to be determined later for the following dates:

**July 13  
July 30  
August 9  
August 21  
September 6**

**Please patronize our sponsors (see the list on the back cover of this newsletter). Be sure to tell them we appreciate their efforts in helping newcomers settle into their new lives here in the Grand Traverse area.**

(Continued from page 3)

We also visited a local open-air market while we were in Lalibela. Hundreds of people were there. Most of the vendors were squeezed into very small areas to display their goods. The heady aromas of local spices at times mingled with the smell of livestock. (Kind of like fudge and horses on Mackinac Island.)

Evidently Ethiopia doesn't spend much on advertising to attract tourists, because there were very few people from outside of Ethiopia other than those who were there for business purposes or for church related reasons. We recommend visiting Lalibela before it gets 'discovered'.

Being the non-hardy people we are, we again stayed in a hotel, Tukul Village. It was almost new and was traditionally designed in *tukuls*, circular stone and thatched huts with pointed roofs.



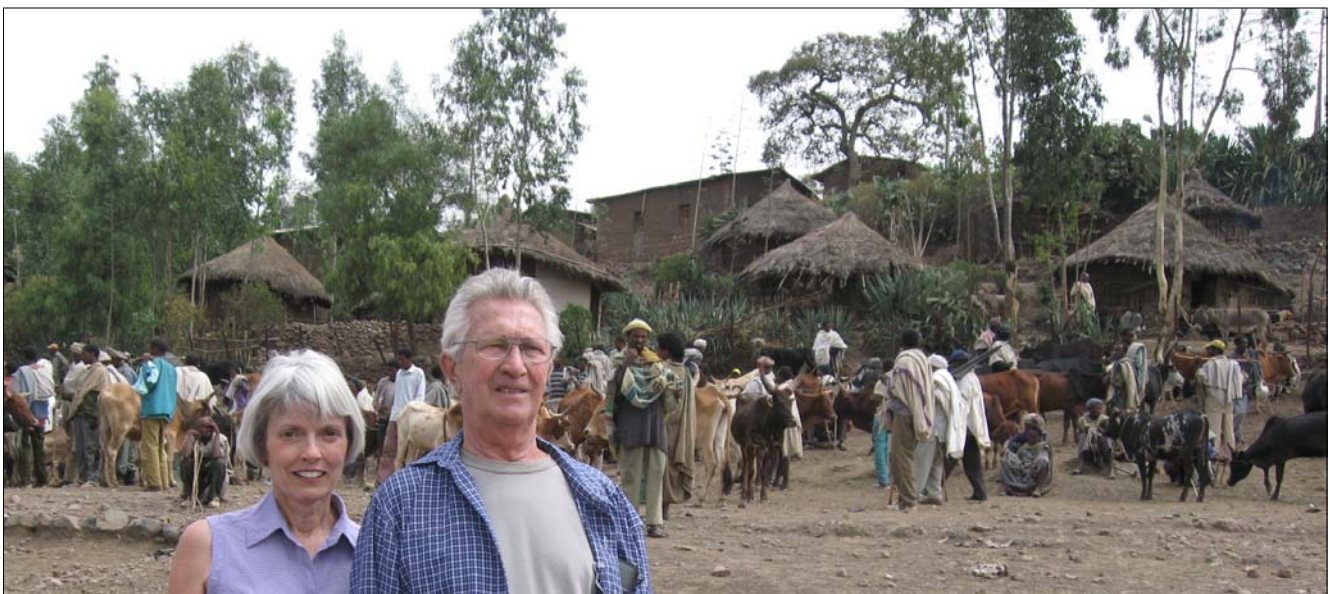
Tukul Village in Lalibela.

We again returned to Addis. During our final three days we visited two museums (saw "Lucy", the oldest known human skeleton), rode around the city on different errands, and babysat with Jane. We also had dinner in a great Italian restaurant. Because of the war with Italy, most Ethiopian people profess hatred of the Italians, but they did take to the Italian cuisine, and it is everywhere.

Prior to going to Africa and since getting back, we have read several books on Africa. Doing so added insight into what we were going to see and experience in Ethiopia. One I would recommend is *The Emperor*, a history of Haile Selassie up to the time he was deposed. It's a real insight into the problems with a monarchy and showed that it was not as efficient as one might expect. Millions starved while the Emperor and his nobles lived in luxury. I'm not sure the country has recovered yet. This is not unique to Ethiopia, of course, and it helps explain the weak infrastructure and slow progress in meeting the basic needs of the population. Regardless, the local people we met were extremely friendly - even when they weren't trying to sell us things. We never felt unsafe - except for the traffic!

Sadly we had to leave. (The 'fish and visitors' thing, you know.) It was good to come home to TC and our cats. So now it is good to be able to drink right out of the faucet again. It is good not to have the electricity go off at odd times. It is good to have a reliable internet. It is good to have supermarkets stuffed with everything we could ever want. It is good to have paved roads. But it is hard to be away from our family and such a beautiful place. We can't wait to go back. If we're invited, that is.

Staff Reporter Bob Luoma, shown below with his wife Jody Bennett outside the market in Lalibela, Ethiopia.



# NEWCOMER SNOW FUN

Lake Ann hikers: Bob and Judy Pelto, Georgia and Tom Stoerber, Ron Wallace, Judy Albert, Barb Hosek  
(Photo by Matt Albert)



You play, you pay: A good Samaritan talks with driver Bob Pelto as he and some of the other hikers push Bob out of the Lake Ann parking lot.  
(Photo by Judy Albert)

## Memorial Benefit Concert Scheduled at City Opera House Saturday, May 19, 8:00 PM

The Grand Traverse Area Community Living Foundation will sponsor a classical musical benefit concert at 8 PM at the City Opera House Saturday, May 19. The Jeff Haas Quintet and the legendary sax man, George Benson, will perform Beethoven's "Pathetique Sonata," the theme from the Karl Haas radio show, "Adventures in Good Music," as well as Debussy's "Arabesque," Mendelssohn's "Song Without Words," and classic jazz by Irving Berlin and a prose memorial to Karl Haas, father of Jeff Haas.

Proceeds from the concert will assist the organization in providing quality housing alternatives and independent living support for adults with Developmental Disabilities. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door beginning at 6:30. Tickets are available at the City Opera House, the Grand Traverse Area Community Living Center, or from Helen Childs (231-946-6966).

## Boardman River Clean Sweep Saturday, May 19, 9:00 AM—2:00 PM

Help clean a local river. 'Wet' or 'dry' volunteers are needed. Separate crews will start at different locations. Picnic afterward. Local businesses sponsor this event with prizes for a raffle, materials, and supplies for the picnic. Contact Norm Fred of the Cherry Capital Paddle America Club for more information, nrfred@yahoo.com, 947-2852 or Nancy Thornton, nthornton@centos.net, 263-7838.

## PLEASE !!!

Send news, articles, photos, letters, or ads to the newsletter editor, [bennettjj@charter.net](mailto:bennettjj@charter.net) or 932-9249. The deadline for the June/July/August newsletter is May 15.

# Patronize our sponsors

## Allstate Insurance

Mike Cox Agency, Kalkaska  
258-3252, 866-344-3252 ( free)

## Ameriprise Financial

William Lee, 935-1457, x19  
3337 S. Airport Rd. W., #4, TC

## Arbonne Products

Angel Craker, Regional V.P.  
649-2347

## Associates in Family Dentistry

Joseph M. Stayman, D.D.S.  
4020 W. Royal Dr., TC  
946-9644

## Auntie Pasta's Restaurant

2030 S. Airport Rd. , TC  
(Logan's Landing) 941-8147

## R. W. Baird & Co. Investments

1001 Bay St. , TC, 933-6050

## Banfield Pet Hospital

2544 Crossing Circle (next to  
Pet Smart), TC 922-9844

## BATA- Public Transportation

3233 Cass Rd., TC 941-2324

## Bellisimo Travel Services

Priscilla, 946-4313, TC  
13685 SW Bayshore, Ste. 114

## Bob's Furnace Svs.

2282 Cass Rd. , TC 941-4064

## Century 21 Northland

Julia Lilley, 929-7900 ext. 13 or  
231-534-4600 (cell)  
3337 S. Airport Rd., Ste. 2, TC

## Chase Bank

Jessica, 922-2499  
995 S. Airport Rd., TC

## Climatron Htg. & Air Cond.

3055 Cass Rd., Ste. 108, TC  
946-9650

## Companion Animal Hospital

1885 Chartwell Dr, TC  
935-1511

## The Copy Shop - Printers

514 E. Front St. 947-2080  
525W. 14th St. 941-9160

## The Dance Center

225 E. 14th St. TC 947-6820

## Dave's Garage

Foreign & Domestic  
911 Hastings, TC 933-0215

## Ecowater Systems of TC

1-800-599-0311 or  
ecowater.com

## Edward Jones Investments

Briant Sikorski, 947-3032  
12930 So. West Bay Shore, TC

## Epiphany Hair Salon

518 E Front St., TC 933-8010  
3779 M-72, Acme, 933-8010

## EXCEL Rehabilitation Services

3 locations: 2 in Traverse City,  
1 in Suttons Bay  
929-0303

## Exit Realty/Paramount

Brian Hagerty, 946-4404,  
cell 645-8185

313 E. Front St #104, TC

## Gaudette & Co CPA's

1107 East 8th St. 946-8930

## Goodyear Auto Service Center

436 W. Front St. 922-2600

## G.T. Ophthalmology Clinic, PC

929 Business Park Dr., TC  
947-6246

## G.T. Pavilions

1000 Pavilion Cr. , TC  
932-3000

## Grand Traverse Resort & Spa

231-534-6750, 1-888-437-2772

## Indulgence Salon

Linda Morris 357-3601  
411 S. Union St., TC

## Juice Plus

Nancy Kroupa, 946-7877 or  
944-4082, www.kroupa.com

## Kids Creek Children's Clinic

5024 North Royal , TC  
935-0555

## Legacy Financial Svcs.

Kelly Rowe 933-0631  
13919 S.W. Bay Shore Dr., TC

## Mary Kay Cosmetics

Pat Westbrook 929-1830

## Master Craft Cabinets/Grawn

276-0292  
www.mccwoodworking.com

## Northwestern Michigan College

1701 E. Front St., TC 995-1000

## Oakwood Veterinary Hospital

924 Hastings, TC 941-7241

## Oleson's Food Stores

New store: Hammond Rd./3 Mi.  
3850 N. Long Lake Rd.  
947-6510

## Old Towne Optical

Dr. Jeffrey Pulk, 946-0333  
515 S. Union, TC

## Omelette Shoppe

1209 E. Front St. ,TC  
124 Cass St., TC

## Oryana Nat. Foods Coop Mkt.

260 East Tenth, TC

## Pizza Hut

3030 US 31 South, TC  
947-2077

## Reynolds-Jonkhoff

## Funeral Home

305 6th St., TC 947-6347

## Schelde's Restaurants

Traverse City: Schelde's Grille,  
Travino, Freshwater Lodge

## State Farm Insurance

Mark Newhouse  
933-5400

## Stephen Gallager CPA

922-8995  
4020 Copperview, Ste. 104, TC

## Stone Mountain Carpets

Charlie Stiehl  
800-786-6333

## Traverse City Business News

929-7919

## Traverse City Record Eagle

## Newspaper

946-2000

## TC Optimist Club

Bill Bassett, 267-5102  
Kathy Olney, 946-3600

## Wells-Fargo Investments

Eric Braund,  
946-8708, 800-771-1226

## V 2 K Window Decor & More

Max Binkley, 938-1700



The Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse  
C/O Karen Spencer - Membership  
8165 S. Bingham Ridge Dr.  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
kspencera2@earthlink.net

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Email is the best way to get information to members between publications of the Newcomer News.