

**78th Annual
Copper Country
Strawberry
Festival**



**July 10 & 11, 2026
Chassell, Michigan
"The Strawberry Capital"**

**Sponsored by
The Chassell Lions Club**

Dedication

David Strong

May 12, 1952 - September 24, 2025



David Rand Strong was born on May 12, 1952 to Alfred and Esther (Niemi) Strong. Dave graduated from Hancock High School. He attended Michigan Tech University where he studied mathematics. Dave completed several degrees from MTU including two Master's degrees. Dave's career began in Kimberly, Wisconsin where he taught high school math and physics. He moved back to the area and taught math for six years at Hancock High School. The majority of his career was spent at MTU, first in the Financial Aid Office and later as a Senior Programmer/Analyst. Dave retired from MTU in 2012 and went to work for the University of Michigan, Flint as a Financial Aid Systems Manager until 2019.

Dave married Jacalyn Dorvinen in 1977 and they celebrated 48 years together. Family and faith were very important to Dave. He was a life-long member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church where he served as an usher and reader for 58 years. He was his children's biggest fan and supporter, and Dave's grandchildren were his joy. "Papa" was always up for side-by-side rides and the first one to volunteer for swimming with the kids.

A proud member of the community, Dave was active in many organizations including the Chassell Lions Club, the Hancock All School Reunion Planning Committee, the Huskies Club, the Blue Line Club and the MTU Film Board where he served as an advisor. He could be found where he loved doing things best-at the Simar Manor "hunting" camp, on the lake, at any hockey game, on the pickleball court or spending a few months enjoying the sunshine in the Villages, Florida. Dave was a well-known aficionado of 60's music and trivia. As a silver lining, local radio listeners will be happy to know that they now have a chance at winning daily trivia contests!

Dave was a dedicated member of the Chassell Lions for 37 years and loved being a Chassell Lion! No matter what needed to be done, you could always count on him. Every Strawberry Festival, Berry Cleaning, annual Halloween Party, Highway Cleanup, Ringing the Bell for the Salvation Army, and monthly General Membership Meetings always included Dave. He wore a smile on his face and a desire to help at all times.

Dave is survived by his wife Jacalyn and their children Darcy (Monique) and Abbey (Chris Pettinelli) and grandchildren Cora, Rian, Kasen and Aiden. Dave had a special bond with his "hunting" buddies Don Morin, Bob Perrault, Pete Wickley, Zip Parker, Richard Salani and Bill Largent. Dave leaves a big hole in their lives and will be dearly missed by his many family members, friends, church and community.

"To give real service you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity."

~Douglas Adams

~ Schedule of Events ~

Friday, July 10, 2026

- 9:00 am - 8:00 pm** Serving of Strawberry Shortcake along with various food vendors.
- 10:00 am - 8:00 pm** Over 70 Outdoor Arts & Crafts Vendors
- 11:00 am - 2:00 pm** Live music by Toni Saari
Sponsored by Tarvis Lawn Care & Maintenance
- 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm** Chassell Heritage Center Open House
42373 Hancock Street, Chassell
- 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm** Old Fashioned Cake Walk in the Open Pavillion
by *The Chassell Womens Club*
- 6:00 pm** Children's Parade in the Open Pavilion
Sponsored by Lou Ellyn Helman in Ron's Memory
- 7:00 pm** Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem, Introduction of Queen Candidates, Sweepstakes Award, Citizen of the Year & Youth Citizen of the Year Awards, Strawberry Auction.
Sponsored by Keweenaw Chevrolet GMC
- 8:00 pm** Queen Crowning (time is approximate)
- 9:00 pm - 1:00 am** Dance at the Chassell VFW Post 6507 - music by "NINEOSIX"

Saturday, July 11, 2026

- 7:00 am - 10:00 am** Breakfast at the Chassell School by the Class of 2028.
- 9:00 am - 4:00 pm** Serving of Strawberry Shortcake, along with various food vendors.
or until sold out
- 9:00 am - 4:00 pm** Over 70 Outdoor Arts & Crafts Vendors
- 11:00 am** Strawberry Festival Parade (Registration 9:30 - 10:20 am - **No Entry Fee**) *Sponsored by DP Construction and LJJ Construction*
- After Parade** BBQ Chicken by Chassell Firefighters and First Responders *Sponsored by Aire Care*
- After Parade** Live Music by "Lightning Ridge" in the open pavilion. *Sponsored by Keweenaw Petroleum Services*
- 12:00 noon - 3:00 pm** Chassell Heritage Center Open House
42373 Hancock Street, Chassell
- 12:00 noon - 3:00 pm** At the Chassell beach, The Michigan Tech Great Lakes Research Center (GLRC): Hands on demonstration on how the Great Lakes are studied by scientists. All ages welcome!.
- 2:00 pm** Children's Activities in the Park *Sponsored by Barbara Worrall in Memory of Gary Worrall*
- 2:00 pm** Parade Winners Announced (Open Pavilion)

www.CopperCountryStrawberryFestival.com

**FREE
Strawberry
Festival
Shuttle Bus Stops**

- 1. Holy Trinity Church**
- 2. Centennial Park
(Strawberry
Festival)**
- 3. Krist Food Mart**
- 4. Chassell School**

**And other drop-off
locations by request**

Massie Road

1

US 41

2

Chassell

Chassell-Painesdale
Road

3

**Shuttle Hours
(2 smaller
buses running)**

**Saturday ONLY:
before the parade
9:30-10:45ish am**

**after the parade:
12ish-3:00 pm**

**A big THANK YOU to
Lamers Bus Lines for
helping us provide
this service.**

4



Browse, Filter, and
Favorite our vendors at
the Strawberry Festival
Market with FairMapr.
Simply scan the QR code,
and start planning your
market experience today!

~ Activities ~

In the Park...

STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE is the tastiest tradition at the Festival. The dessert is prepared and served throughout the weekend by the Chassell Lions.

BRATS, HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS, CHEESE-BURGERS & FRESH CUT FRENCH FRIES are available at the Chassell School Sports Booster Club booth.

CHICKEN BARBEQUE (After the parade on Saturday ONLY) famous chicken barbeque is available from the Chassell Firefighters and First Responders, including sides and a drink. Sponsored by Aire Care

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW AND SALE will be held in the Centennial Park. Featured items often include hand-woven rugs, jewelry, paintings and much more.

CHILDREN'S FUN Time to scramble for treasure! On Saturday afternoon children will gather at the volleyball court in the Park to hunt for coins of all amounts, toy animals, and eggs filled with simple strawberry trivia questions and fun stunts such as "What sound does a strawberry make?" Dollar bills will be awarded to winners. Are you a good guesser? Strawberry-decorated water bottles filled with all kinds of goodies will provide a challenge...and you can take them home! This year we will add a treasure hunt with strawberry stones painted by Ellie and Abby Worrall with dollar bill rewards. All participants will be treated to strawberry cookies for a sweet ending. This event is sponsored in memory of Gary Worrall who loved strawberries, children, and volunteering for the Chassell Lions Club.

OLD FASHIONED CAKE WALK sponsored by the Chassell Womens Club returns again this year, with beautiful, homemade cakes donated by the members. The Cake Walk begins at 3:30 on Friday in the open pavilion. The cost of participation is \$2.00 per round. Come on out, win a cake and have a "Strawberry Good Time!" Fun for the whole family...children especially are encouraged to participate.

At the School

ON SATURDAY MORNING JULY 11TH The Chassell High School Class of 2028 will serve breakfast at the Chassell School from 7:00 am-10:00 am

Food Vendors in the Park

Besides the Chassell Sports Booster Club's food booth and BBQ Chicken by the Chassell Firefighters & First Responders, the following food vendors in the park are:

- Curious Pig (Smoking food with a twist)
- KLR Indian Tacos, fry bread, sweets, loaded variety nachos, chili cheese bacon fries, spicy Korean pork, root beer floats.
- Copper Island Bagels
- Bosio Biscuit Company
- Bronson's Concessions LLC
- KLR Iced Coffee and Bubble Tea

~ Activities ~

Parades...

THE CHILDREN'S PARADE is held at 6:00 on Friday evening. The parade takes place in the Park Pavilion. Various prizes are given for the most creative entries. See website for parade categories. *Sponsored by Lou Ellyn Helman in memory of Ron.*

THE STRAWBERRY PARADE begins at 11:00 am on Saturday at the south edge of Chassell and moves north along U.S. 41. Participation is open to all, with cash prizes awarded to the most creative entries in various categories. Registration 9:30-10:20 AM and NO Entry Fees. Various prizes are given for the most creative entries. See website for parade categories. *Parade sponsored by DP Construction and LJJ Construction.*

Please check our website

www.CopperCountryStrawberryFestival.com
for parade categories

Music & Dance...



THE FRIDAY EVENING DANCE from 9:00 pm - 1:00 am will be sponsored by the VFW. The Dance begins at the VFW after the Queen Crowning and is open to the public. Music will be provided by NINEOSIX.

PARADE BANDS include Kingsford Middle School Band, Lake Linden-Hubbell Jazz Band and the Chassell Schools Band.

MUSIC AFTER THE PARADE - On Saturday at 12:00, right after the Parade, come to the open pavilion to enjoy music from the band Lightning Ridge. The band consists of Bill Kautto, Mike Urbis and Chuck Peterson. Lightning Ridge has entertained Festival goers before and we are excited to welcome them back. They will perform their "Through the Years in Music Show." They will share a variety of music including Country, Folk, Bluegrass and Old Rock and Roll. A special guest will also be featured!



At the Museum, “The Old School”...

Friends of Fashion Show

August 2, 2026: “The People of Paradise Come Alive”

The Friends of Fashion will present this year’s summer show entitled ***“The People of Paradise Come Alive.”*** The show will be held at the Chassell Heritage Center on **Sunday, August 2nd at 2:00 p.m.** We are dedicating this year’s summer show in memory of Dave Bezotte, a founding member of the Heritage Center Museum since 1992. Four years ago Dave shared with the museum the struggles and history of the French Canadian families. Dave was related to many of these families. The French Canadian residents settled on the hill above and west of Chassell...along the Paradise Road. They emigrated from the Province of Quebec and formed a close knit neighborhood along the Paradise Road. They shared their skills in logging, farming, music and their faith, worshipping at St. Anne Church in Chassell. We are revisiting that show and refreshing the memories shared by Dave.

The French Canadians were very devout in their worship. On Sunday mornings all of the neighbors would get into their buggies or sleighs, depending on the season. They formed a long train heading down to Chassell for Sunday mass at St. Annes Church. Some of the people in the photo below were Dave Bezotte’s great-great aunts and uncles.

We invite you to enjoy our show. Please join us and learn about the French Canadians and their fascinating stories. It will be a fun afternoon filled with history, photos, music, and vintage clothing. Tickets are \$10, available at the door, cash only. Advance tickets can be purchased at the Heritage Center or Tim’s Chassell General Store.



~ In Appreciation ~

David Bezotte **1949-2005**

David was a vital member of the Chassell community for many years. Dave was raised in Chassell, attended and graduated from the Chassell School, worked briefly for Chassell Township and was a life-long member of St. Anne Church. Even after Dave moved to Houghton, he was still actively involved in Chassell in many ways.



Dave sharing his love of violin music

For more than 60 years Dave provided the music at St. Anne Church. He played the organ twice each weekend and often provided the music at weddings and funerals. A rough estimate is that Dave provided music at St. Anne Church almost 7,000 times

Dave was passionately committed to preserving both Chassell history and the culture of the French Canadian community. Dave was a founding member of the Chassell Historical Organization. He helped to schedule events for the Summer Thursday Evening Presentations at the 'Old School.' Dave also provided the music for the well attended Friends of Fashion shows. His background in Chassell history made him an important resource for providing accurate information for the Chassell Heritage Center. Dave also helped to write a history of St. Anne Church for its Centennial.

Dave's compassionate nature led to his serving as the St. Anne Conference president for St. Vincent de Paul. Above everything else, Dave was a kind and caring friend. His presence is greatly missed but his legacy lives on in our Chassell community.



Ray Bosley, Dave Bezotte and Mark Oliver performing at the Chassell Heritage Center

Area Berry Farms



Circle K Farm

37870 Tapiola Road, Chassell
906-231-5813
U-Pick/Fresh Picked Strawberries



Crane Berry Farm

44416 Paradise Road, Chassell
906-523-6191
U-Pick/Fresh Picked Strawberries



Gierke Blueberry Farm

37915 Klingville Road, Chassell
906-523-6112
U-Pick Blueberries



Mackrain Berry Farm

21937 Massie Road, Chassell
906-523-4705
U-Pick/Fresh Picked Strawberries



Makinen Centennial Farm

40326 Lower Worham Rd, Chassell
906-370-7880
U-Pick/Raspberries



Niemela Family Growers

39466 North Tapiola Road, Chassell
906-523-4362
U-Pick/Fresh Picked Strawberries



Opa's Berry Farm

38554 Klingville Rd
906-523-4679
U-Pick Blueberries



Rautio Family Farm

15245 Walstrom Rd, Atlantic Mine
906-231-4895
U-Pick/Fresh Picked Strawberries
U-Pick Blueberries



2025 Parade Results

COMMERCIAL

1st – Amy Js

2nd – Sticks & Stones

PATRIOTIC

1st (tie) – Republican party

1st (tie) – Democratic party

STRAWBERRY

1st – Canal View - Houghton County

2nd – Joey

ANTIQUE

1st – Hanka Homestead

EQUESTRIAN

1st – Andrew Kilpela

MUSIC

1st – Jeffers Drum Club

2nd – Copper Country Clown Band

COMMUNITY

1st – CCISD

2nd – Yoopers for Ukraine

BEST IN SHOW – Palosaari Corn Maze



The Chassell VFW will be selling brats, hot dogs, chips and pop at their outside booth on the main street in Chassell. This will take place Saturday, July 11th from 10 am - 2 pm or until sold out.

2025 Children's Parade Results

INFANTS/TODDLERS

- 1st – Minnie
- 2nd – Joyce & Rosie McFall
- 3rd – Esther Jaehnig

PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN

- 1st – Gideon Johnson
- 2nd – Vera Porter

1ST/2ND GRADE

- 1st – Owen Elenich

3RD/4TH GRADE

- 1st – Havock

5TH/6TH GRADE

- 1st – Rogue Pelto
- 2nd – Ada Maki
- 3rd – Josie

BICYCLE

FAMILY/GROUP

- 1st – Crane Berry Farm Cousins
- 2nd – Geshel Family
- 3rd – Winter & Willow Waara

BEST IN SHOW – Crane Berry Farm Cousins:
Kinsley, Delaney & Jovi Deyaert, Wyatt Bates,
Grace Johnson





BRADEN ARCHAMBEAU

Chassell's Outstanding Citizen of the Year 2025

1968	Peter Collins	1997	Francis & Yvonne Lancour
1969	John Karppi	1998	Sandra Engel
1970	William Soumis	1999	Albert Chaput
1971	Frank Misslitz	2000	Ernie Griff
1972	Swande Godell	2001	Joyce & John VanWestenburg
1973	Allen Durham	2002	Hazel Tepsa
1974	Elmer Hill	2003	Ron & Lou Helman
1975	H. Ken Hamar	2004	Jim Belleville
1976	Mildred Destrampe	2005	Paulette Archambeau
1977	Joe St. Amour	2006	Peter & Marlene Houle
1978	Harry Carlson	2007	David Bezotte
1979	Raymond L. Smith	2008	Judy Ojanen Evert
1980	W.W. "Swede" Intermill	2009	Bill & Nancy Johnson
1981	Bruce Buell	2010	Walt & Dave Kalliainen
1982	Henry W. Ohtonen	2011	Dan Crane
1983	Earle & Anne Warner	2012	Doug Hamar
1984	Harold Haapala	2013	Luanne Hamel
1985	Esther Intermill	2014	Harold & Donna Byykkonen
1986	Mildred Pyorala	2015	Dorthey Behrend
1987	Bill & Nancy Leonard	2016	Bill & Sunny Cole
1988	Marvyl Wilson	2017	Al & Mary Eckhart
1989	Walter & Joanne Kuntze	2018	Dean Latendresse
1990	John & Joan Hamar	2019	Lois Berg
1991	Evelyn Palosaari	2020	- COVID
1992	Butch & Erma Burkman	2021	Pam Hiltunen
1993	Walter Soumis	2022	Shelby Turnquist
1994	Steve Palosaari	2023	Dan Palosaari
1995	Art & June Michaelson	2024	Tim Viola
1996	Jim Tervo	2025	Braden Archambeau



Mariah Juntunen

Chassell's Outstanding Youth Citizen of the Year - 2025

Parade of Royalty

1949	Lucille Tormala	1988	Kimberly Brogan
1950	Marilyn Francois	1989	Raeanne Gourneau
1951	Joanne Peterson*	1990	Karen Hietala
1952	Jane Kaiser	1991	Jennifer Kangas
1953	Jo Ann Drake	1992	Shannon Burcar
1954	Margaret Mackrain*	1993	Georgina Gill
1955	Marvyl Intermll	1994	Heather Van Hoey
1956	Sandra Vivian*	1995	Ashley Stevens
1957	Mary Ellen Bernard*	1996	Christina Zimmerman
1958	Gemma Lou Guidotti	1997	Cynthia Sever
1959	Rose Marie Johnson	1998	Katie Stanaway
1960	Marlaine Cossette	1999	Jessica Hansen
1961	Sarah Lantto*	2000	Anna Baker
1962	Eva McIntyre	2001	Rebecca Ann Weber
1963	Linda Pokela	2002	Nicole Roth
1964	Linda Mikkola	2003	Marta Loman
1965	Susan M. Makela	2004	Samantha Rogers
1966	Anita M. Koivunen	2005	Autumn Winsor
1967	Olivia K. Kokko	2006	Tara Sotirin
1968	Camille L. LaTendresse	2007	Kiersten Birondo
1969	J. Lyn Swanson	2008	Helen Richards
1970	Mary Lynn Johnson*	2009	Rosanna Chopp
1971	Sara Rankinen	2010	Ellie Lesatz
1972	Marilyn Frennette	2011	Rachel Crane
1973	Joni Andreini	2012	Alisha Tilson
1974	Jaye Coon	2013	Kaitlyn Hietala
1975	Shirley Ross	2014	Shawnia Taisto
1976	Donna Kuusisto	2015	Maria Sliva
1977	Susan Rossberg	2016	Jessica Berryman
1978	Valerie LaTendresse	2017	Emilie Jacques
1979	Kristine Kyro	2018	Sydney Danison
1980	Deborah Ohtonen	2019	Lily Ashburn
1981	Darlene Hakala	2020	Annika Siegel
1982	Juliann Jenkins	2021	Madison Mattila
1983	Tamara Huhta	2022	Micaela Geborkoff
1984	Amy Ryan	2023	Romy Kus
1985	Amy Briggs	2024	Nora Keranen
1986	Kristin Jacobson	2025	Cecelia Butler
1987	Lynne Shetron		

*Denotes U.P. Queen as well.

Sweepstakes Winners

Outstanding Flat of Strawberries

1949	James Sorvala	1988	Ken Tervo
1950	Harold Peterson	1989	Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
1951	Waino Palo	1990	Ken & Esther Tervo
1952	Edward Lahti	1991	Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
1953	Mike Fasana	1992	Norman & May Forsman
1954	Oscar Romppainen	1993	Crane Berry Farm
1955	James Sorvala	1994	Dennis & Martha Sohlden
1956	Frank Jarvi	1995	Henry Ohtonen
1957	Allan Tapani	1996	Dennis & Martha Sohlden
1958	Allan Tapani	1997	Albert Chaput
1959	Frank Jarvii	1998	Henry Ohtonen
1960	Robert Baccus	1999	Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
1961	Allan Tapani	2000	Albert Chaput
1962	Ray Jarvi	2001	Henry Ohtonen
1963	Ed Lahti	2002	Henry Ohtonen
1964	Ed Lahti	2003	Henry Ohtonen
1965	Rudy & Ann Jarvi	2004	Crane Berry Farm
1966	Ed Lahti	2005	Crane Berry Farm
1967	Earle Sohlden	2006	Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
1968	Ken Tervo	2007	Crane Berry Farm
1969	Rudy Jarvi	2008	Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
1970	Rudy & Ann Jarvi	2009	Crane Berry Farm
1971	Rudy & Ann Jarvi	2010	Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
1972	Roy Bakkila	2011	Crane Berry Farm
1973	Henry & Cathy Ohtonen	2012	Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
1974	Henry & Cathy Ohtonen	2013	Crane Berry Farm
1975	Ed & Ruth Lindgren	2014	Crane Berry Farm
1976	Roy & Mary Ellen Bakkila	2015	Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
1977	Roy & Mary Ellen Bakkila	2016	Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
1978	Henry & Cathy Ohtonen	2017	Crane Berry Farm
1979	Roy & Mary Ellen Bakkila	2018	Crane Berry Farm
1980	Henry & Cathy Ohtonen	2019	Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
1981	John & Beverly Tapani	2020	COVID (no winner)
1982	Albert Chaput	2021	Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
1983	Henry & Cathy Ohtonen	2022	Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
1984	Gary Swagart	2023	Henry & Cathy Ohtonen
1985	Henry & Cathy Ohtonen	2024	Rautio Berry Farm
1986	Henry & Cathy Ohtonen	2025	Crane Berry Farm
1987	Albert Chaput		

Strawberry Queen '25



CECELIA BUTLER

2025 First Attendant:

HELENE RINKINEN

2025 Miss Congeniality:

PAIGE DANISON

2026 Queen Candidates

Callie Knuuttila is the daughter of Bretton Knuuttila and Melanie Storm. She recently graduated from Houghton High School where she was treasurer of the National Honor Society. She qualified for the national competition in Business Professionals of America in Nashville for her interview skills. She was president of the Youth Advisory Council of the Keweenaw (YAC) and secretary of her senior class. Callie has been involved with the Student Leadership Advisory Council of the Keweenaw (SLACK) and completed an internship at UPWard Legal. Callie is a Joyce Ivy Scholar because of her academic and extracurricular resumé. Last year she attended the Yale University Young Global Scholars Program. Callie donates her time baking pies and cookies for Little Brothers, helping with Toys for Tots and handing out flowers and cards to nursing home residents. She was the captain of the girls varsity soccer team and received the Keweenaw Chamber of Commerce Youth Contributor of the Year award. She is employed as a waitress at Applebees. Callie hopes to study psychology and become a defense attorney or a government representative. Callie is sponsored by J Jukuri Spa and Salon.



Callie

2026 Queen Candidates

Portage Health Anesthesia sponsors **Delaney Salmi**. A 2026 graduate of Houghton High School, Delaney is the daughter of Mike and Kim Salmi. She was Battalion Commander and Command Sergeant Major in JROTC. The discipline and structure she found in JROTC is a huge part of her life. Delaney was president of the National Honor Society and belonged to the Key Club and Pep Club. She volunteered with elementary fun days and reading nights, parades, the American Legion, 31 Backpacks and at the Portage Lake District Library. Delaney has traveled to more than thirteen countries and has played softball for many years. This year she joined the swim team and although she had no experience, it ended up being one of her favorite sports. Delaney plans to work as a CNA this summer. She will attend the University of Michigan to study nursing. She will also be in the Army ROTC program and plans to commission as an Army officer after graduation to service active duty as a nurse. Whatever Delaney ends up doing in the future, she wants to make a difference to others.



Delaney



Dusty

Dusty Lippold is the daughter of Diane Esterline and Michael Esterline. Dusty is a recent graduate of Chassell High School where she was an honor student. She was an active member of the National Honor Society for three years. Dusty has a strong interest in math and science. She was involved with volleyball for several years and played on the KVBC 18's team.

Dusty completed many hours of community service through the National Honor Society. She volunteered with the Copper Country Humane Society and assisted with roadside clean-ups through the VFW. Dusty regularly helped with school events and created gifts for Little Brothers, Friends of the Elderly. Dusty is a barista at Biggby Coffee. Dusty attended Gogebic Community College while in high school. She is originally from St. Louis, Missouri. She plans to move back to Missouri to attend Maryville University where she has been accepted into the Doctorate of Physical Therapy program. She is passionate about helping others regain strength, mobility and improve their overall quality of life. Dusty's sponsor is Chassell VFW Post 6507 and Auxiliary.

2026 Queen Candidates



Lilli

Houghton Walmart sponsors **Lilli Girtz**. Lilli is a member of the Houghton High School Class of 2026. She was involved in JROTC for five years. She helped lead the program alongside other cadets and assisted in organizing events. Lilli received the Superior Cadet Award as well as recognition for her academic achievement. She volunteered through JROTC by

serving veterans on Veterans Day at Applebees. Lilli has placed American flags at the cemetery to honor veterans. She volunteered with Habitat for Humanity where she helped with various stages of home construction, including on her own home. At Evangel Community Church Lilli has helped to care for infants and young children in the nursery. Some of her hobbies include spending time with friends and family, reading, and hiking to waterfalls. Lilli plans to attend Gogebic Community College this fall to study medical coding and billing. She hopes to work in a local hospital or dental office. Lilli works as a cashier at Walmart. This job has helped her to build strong customer service and organizational skills in a fast-paced environment. Her long-term goal is to build a stable career in the healthcare field. Lilli is the daughter of Lori Mills and Daryl Usitalo.

Lexi Burns is the daughter of Cat and Brent Burns. Lexi is a recent graduate of Houghton High School where she was president of her senior class and vice president of the Pep Club. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club International and the Travel Club. Lexi received both a Leading Scholars Scholarship and a Copper Shores Scholarship



Lexi

through Michigan Technological University. Lexi is employed as a bartender at the Keweenaw Brewing Company. She has volunteered her time with holiday meals for Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly for more than eight years. Lexi played softball, basketball and volleyball throughout high school. She enjoys playing golf, juggling and spending time on the water in the summer. Lexi will be attending Michigan Technological University this fall to study exercise science. She plans to study abroad in the summer of 2027. Lexi is sponsored by Roy Family Chiropractic.

2026 Queen Candidates

Calumet Sewing Center sponsors **Nynna Jarvi**. Nynna will be a senior at Calumet High School this fall. She is a member of the National Honor Society and has been an Honor Roll student for three years. She has served as a member of the Prom Committee and the SADD Chapter. Nynna is also a member of the Pep Club and has been in cheerleading and



Nynna

bowling throughout high school. Nynna has helped at high school track meets and with extra activities for first grade students. She has baked for sales at school functions and participated with the Copper Shores Puppy Parade. She marched in the Bridgefest Parade to advertise for a Big Annie statue in Calumet. Nynna volunteered her time for both a Copper Shores Family Health Fair and the NHS Mental Health Fair. She is a talented artist, especially with animal paintings. She made her own art business out of her passion and has sold paintings all over the country. Nynna has won many art contest awards. She also enjoys sewing and knitting. Nynna is employed at AmericInn by Wyndham and the Copper Scoop. She plans to attend college to study art education. Her goal is to then pursue a masters degree in art and design. Nynna is the daughter of Bridget and Jamie Jarvi.



Lily

Lily Joan Etelamaki is the daughter of Doug and Tanya Etelamaki. She is currently an honor student at Adrian College where she is a track and field student assistant. Lily graduated from Chassell High School in 2025 where she was class president and vice president of the National Honor Society. She participated with the Student Leadership

Advisory Council of the Keweenaw. Lily received the English Award at Graduation and was Valedictorian of her class. She has been an active member of the Trap Rock 4-H Club where she volunteered with Spring Discovery and made holiday cards for veterans. She was a teen leader for the club and last year received a Senior Youth Exhibitor of the Year Award. While at Adrian College Lily has helped with Meals on Wheels and Campus Beautification. Lily is passionate about running.

2026 Queen Candidates

She is on the Adrian cross country and track teams. She broke into Adrian's Top 10 for the 5K during her first collegiate indoor track season. Her other hobbies include traveling, crafts, spending time with friends and family and going to concerts. Lily is majoring in Business with a concentration in Sports Management. Her goal is to work for a Division 1 college. She then hopes to work in social media marketing for a professional sports team. Ed's Auto Salvage is Lily's sponsor.

Raegan Resing is the daughter of Kristina and Ryan Resing of Chassell. Raegan graduated from James Wood High School in 2025 where she was a member of the National Honor Society. She was awarded Student of the Month and played on the volleyball team throughout high school. Raegan volunteered as a coach for the middle school girls cheerleading team. She helped the girls to learn stunts and build confidence and worked to create a safe and healthy practice environment. She was a youth leader at her church and taught 3-4 year olds each Sunday. Raegan will be volunteering with the Friends of Fashion this year. Some of her hobbies include watching sunsets, shopping and spending time with her friends. Raegan enjoys going to open gyms and playing volleyball for fun. Raegan is currently attending Gogebic Community College where she is studying radiography. After graduation her goal is to work at Portage Health. Raegan is employed at Dunkin' Donuts/Baskin Robbins. Her sponsor is the Chassell Womens Club.



Raegan



2026 Queen Sponsors

J Jukuri Spa and Salon

Sponsoring Callie Knuuttila

Portage Health Anesthesia

Sponsoring Delaney Salmi

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Michigan Tech Great Lakes Research Center

The Michigan Tech Great Lakes Research Center (GLRC) will bring cutting-edge underwater exploration to the 2026 Copper Country Strawberry Festival. Festivalgoers will have the unique opportunity to see and operate remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) used in real-world aquatic research. “These ROVs are essential tools for exploring and understanding the Great Lakes ecosystem,” said Jamey Anderson, Assistant Director of the GLRC. “By engaging the public with hands-on demonstrations, we’re not only showcasing our research but also inspiring curiosity and stewardship for our freshwater resources.” The GLRC’s outreach aims to connect the community with the science behind preserving the Great Lakes, offering an exciting, educational experience for all ages.

What to expect:

- No registration needed.
- Meet at the Chassell Beach
- Time from 12 noon - 3 pm.
- Allow participants to control/drive an Outland 1000 ROV (image below)
- Multiple live controllable cameras for navigation and exploration, can feed to larger/multiple monitors
- Manipulator arm to grab/hold items if needed

MTU Center for Science & Environmental Outreach

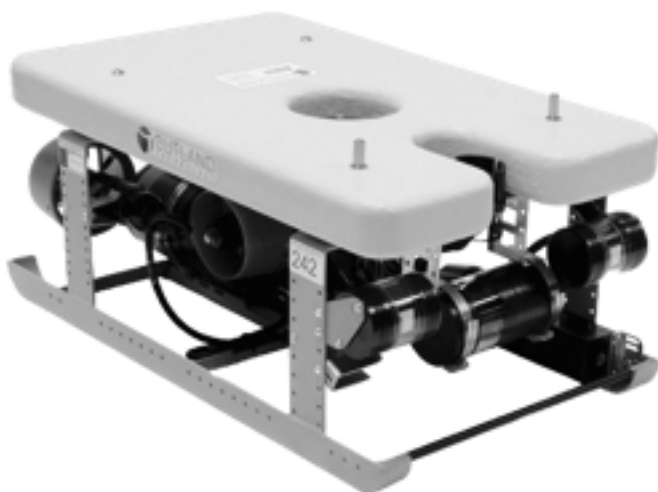
<https://blogs.mtu.edu/cseo/>

Michigan Tech’s Great Lakes Research Center

<http://greatlakes.mtu.edu/>

Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative

<http://lakesuperiorstewardship.org/>



2026 Scholarship Winners



Dusty Lippold



Diana Torola

~Remember When~



Marilyn Flannigan and Sylvia Gagnon

Free Community Concert

Friday, July 24th from 7:00-8:30 pm

at the Centennial Park Pavilion

Featuring: **Bling Cro\$by**

Music on and off the beaten path, covers and originals. Enjoy a wild mix from country favorites to beloved rock tunes and originals written by band members.

Come and have fun!

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~Remember When~

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February 22, 1988

To the Citizens of Chassell, Michigan:

I am pleased to send warm greetings for the centennial of Chassell.

Each city and town of our great country is unique, but all are bound together in the love of these United States. We are fortunate to live in a nation of strong and proud communities where everyone has a chance for success and the blessings of liberty and freedom can be enjoyed by all, regardless of background.

As you commemorate this anniversary, you have a splendid opportunity to renew your commitment to preserving the spirit which has forged America into a land of wonder. I am proud to join you in making such a commitment on this historic occasion for the people of Chassell.

With hearty congratulations and best wishes for continued milestones,

Ronald Reagan



News from the Chassell Historical Organization

Board members Ed Kautto, Steve Spahn, Mat Moore and Keith Meyers worked on removing the overhead steam lines in the former shop classroom over the past year. Providing this work will save the CHO money as we seek to develop additional exhibit space for a more significant lumbering exhibit.



A major milestone was achieved when Byron Heating and Air Conditioning installed a new basement furnace. This will help to dry out the space and address heaving in the floor. The CHO has a capital campaign in process to help fund this project. We encourage interested individuals to contact us if you are interested in contributing toward this project's completion.

Sandi Engel and the Friends of Fashion held a successful show last August titled "A Historical Revue of Ford and Fashion." Parked outside the museum, the show featured the Twenty Millionth Ford which is owned by Chassell resident Rod Liimatainen.

The CHO Board worked with Haley Goodreau at Goose Collective on a z-fold promoting the Chassell Heritage Center which includes a map for the Chassell Historic Trail. The trail railing sustained damage this past winter in a few

places. The Board would like to thank Dan Palosaari for donating his time and materials to make the needed repairs.

The CHO Board also thanks Board Member Ed Kautto. He volunteered considerable time this past spring to complete interior painting and grounds work at the Heritage Center.

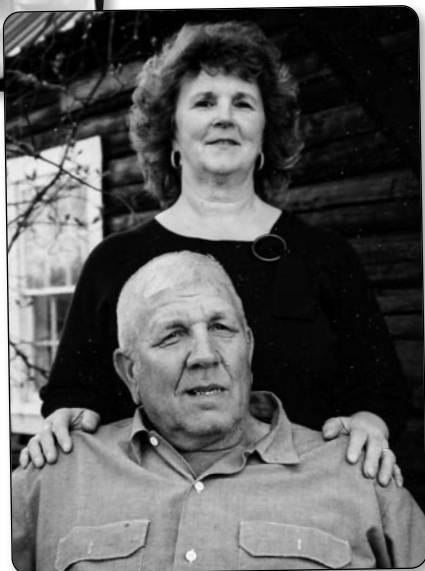
The Board thanks the Chassell residents who attended our Mix & Mingle Event in June, with a huge thanks to the CHO Vice-President for coordinating this event.

The Chassell Historical Organization invites you to visit the Chassell Heritage Center at 42373 Hancock Street during the Strawberry Festival and throughout the summer on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Be sure to check out our Thursday evening programs at 7:00 pm during July and August! We will also be hosting a special outdoor concert at Centennial Park on Friday, July 24th, featuring Bling Crosby. Please enjoy a walk on the Chassell Historic Trail which interprets the history and operation of the Sturgeon River and Worcester Lumber Companies that operated along Pike Bay from 1888 to 1928, respectively. The trail begins at the southwest corner of the parking lot near the 4th Street entrance to Centennial Park.

~Remember When~



Lorna Kaspala



Cathy & Henry Ohtonen

What's New in Chassell

Since last year's Festival, two Eagle Scout projects by Max and Evan Massaway with significant volunteer hours, have brought important improvements to the Chassell Bark Park and Misslitz Field.



With 251 hours donated by 26 volunteers, Max's project built a gazebo at the Bark Park, cleaned up the small dog park, and added agility features. The township complemented this work by having JCS address fencepost heaving that occurred since the fencing was installed in 2019. Evan's projects improved Misslitz Field with the help of 42 volunteers who donated 192 hours of their time. They cleared tree growth along the outfield fence, installed new spectator benches, removed the former batting cage frame and cleaned up and painted the dugouts. The township complemented this work by having JCS extend the height of the fence along the first and third base lines, adding a gate to provide equipment access to the field and adding fencing to enhance protection of the dugouts. Steve Szyzskowski shot elevations for the re-crowning of the infield and with material brought in by Superior Sand and Gravel, Dan Palosaari re-crowned the infield with a skid-steer to provide for better drainage. He also



What's New in Chassell continued . . .

improved the parking area outside the first base side of the field. The township thanks Steve and Dan for these volunteer efforts as well as Max and Evan and all of the volunteers they mobilized for their projects.

Considerable damage occurred in the drainage near the Chassell Trails grooming garage during last summer's floods. Rock, sand and silt moved by the flood in the creek bulldozed a bridge off of its foundation and filled a culvert with material. Chassell Recreation Club members Steve Spahn, Brian Waters and Keith Meyers spent many hours clearing material



from the drainage that accumulated upstream from Hancock Street. Keith secured permitting from EGLE to dredge out the accumulated materials. Dan Palosaari volunteered his time and equipment to dredge the creek channel, install a new culvert and move the bridge onto a new foundation. Jim Vaught, Steve, Brian and Keith helped with moving the bridge. Their work was completed just in time for this past winter's ski season.

Keith successfully secured 501(c)(3) non-profit status for the Chassell Recreation Club. This allows individuals and organizations to make tax deductible contributions to support the trail system. The township and Recreation Club want to thank the Larson family for allowing the ski trail to be extended onto their property to enhance the skier experience for people using the trail.

The township, with proposal work by Lynn Geirke and Keith, was successful in securing a \$106,200 MDNR Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant. This will allow additional improvements to the Sturgeon River Launch site on US 41. These funds, coupled with a

What's New in Chassell continued . . .

25% match from the Chassell Recreation millage, will add a vault toilet to the site, improve access near the launch dock headwall and improve parking. As a final deliverable called for in its MDNR Spark Grant, the township self-funded the new adjustable boat ramp dock at Centennial Park, installed by Jam Services.

Chassell Township has been awarded a Visit Keweenaw Destination Development grant that is helping to fund a bicycle skills park and beginner level mountain biking trail. This trail is being constructed by Ebb & Flow Trailworks behind the Chassell Heritage Center. The park and trail will be opening this summer. The Township has also recently received a Keweenaw Community Foundation grant which will allow for the updating of the signage for the Chassell Trails. A big thank you to these two financial contributors for their support!



New shelter at the Bark Park.

~Remember When~



2025 Lions Halloween Party Winners

Infant to 2 Years Old:

- 1st: Daisy Durocher - Jurassic Park
- 2nd: Lettie Lyberg - Men in Black
- 3rd: Jovi Deyaert - Ketchup & Fries

3 & 4 Year Olds:

- 1st: Foster Lyberg - NASA
- 2nd: River Cowell - Wizard of Oz
- 3rd: J.J. Noll - Jelly Beans

Kindergarten - 2nd Grade:

- 1st: Henry Noll - Dumpster Fire
- 2nd: Hadley Wadaga - LOL Ball
- 3rd: Tempy Kuen & Loralie Crowley - KPop Demon Hunters

3rd - 4th Grade:

- 1st: Elias Noll - Culvers
- 2nd: Lena Zimmer - Owl
- 3rd: Obadiah Roth - Mummy

5th - 6th Grade:

- 1st: Eero Maki - Bob Ross
- 2nd: Nora Zimmer - Toucan
- 3rd: Naya Morrison - Pennywise

7th - 8th Grade:

- 1st: Moira O'Brien - TV Head
- 2nd: Ezra Noll - Guy on Toilet
- 3rd: Caleb Noll - 5 Nights at Freddy's

9th Grade - Adult:

- 1st: Amber Tuttle, Amy Ahola, Erica Bates - Hocus Pocus
- 2nd: Laura Meyer - Handmaid's Tale
- 3rd: Kari Noll - Six Seven

Overall Winners:

- 1st: Foster Lyberg - NASA
- 2nd: Daisy Durocher - Jurassic Park
- 3rd: Elias Noll - Culvers



Chassell Heritage Center

42373 N. Hancock St., Chassell, MI 49916
Phone 523-1155

Chassell Heritage Center Summer 2026

Free Admission - Donations Appreciated

We are pleased to announce that the Chassell Heritage Center will be open for the summer season this year.

We will be open July and August and our hours will be as follows: Tuesday 1-4 PM, Thursday 4-9 PM and Saturday 1-4 PM.

Our opening day is Tuesday, July 2nd

**Strawberry Festival Open House at the
Chassell Heritage Center:**

Closed on Saturday, July 4th for the holiday.

Closed on Thursday, July 9th for the community strawberry cleaning at the Chassell Pavilion.

Open Friday, July 10th, from 12 Noon to 6 PM

Open Saturday, July 11th from Noon to 4 PM

There will be no Friends of Fashion Show on the Saturday of Festival, but it will be held on Sunday, August 2nd at 2:00 PM.

— Thank you.



Chassell Heritage Center Summer Programs 2026

Thursdays at 7:00 pm

July 16 – Pasi Lautala family: Trio Tumpelot & Majority Finn – Trio Tumpelot plays folk and dance hall music from Finland and elsewhere. Majority Finn plays Finnish music from the last century to today, including originals written by the band members. Come and enjoy a fun show highlighting Finnish culture and great music.

July 23 – Terry Hillstrom & Friends – A lively night with a lively group playing your favorite country classics. Your feet will be stompin' and your hips will be rockin'!

July 30 – Toni Saari: On vocals and acoustic guitar. Toni will bring a night of popular folk, rock and country music spanning four decades. A program not to be missed!

August 6 – Birding in the Keweenaw – Tom Oliver of the Copper Country Bird Club and Mat Moore, an avid local birder, will give a slide presentation about birding in the Keweenaw and highlight key birding spots in the Chassell area just in time to prepare for fall migration.

August 13 – Mark Worrall: Railroad Carferries of the Keweenaw and Near Environs – This talk will focus on the industrial railroad carferries operated by logging and mining railroads including the railroad carferry that operated between Houghton and Hancock for a brief time.

August 20 – Jim Tolan: Alberta Village, Ford Center – Are you curious about the Alberta Village site and Ford's history there? Come to the talk by Jim Tolan: Looking Back on Alberta as We Look Ahead. Learn about the site's history and the exciting, new chapter unfolding with Michigan Tech to bring transition and growth.

August 27 – Bill Kautto & Friends – An entertaining evening of country music favorites old and new. You'll be dancing in your seat - or maybe even out of your seat!

From US 41 in downtown Chassell, turn west on 2nd Street.

Phone 906-523-1155

www.chassellhistory.org

Remembering Dave Strong



Dave & Jackie Strong

This past year long time Chassell Lion Dave Strong passed away unexpectedly. Many Lion members and other community members donated to the Lions in Dave's memory. With those funds, the Lions worked with the Copper Country ISD's Career & Technical Education (CTE) program to design and build picnic tables in Dave's memory. The CTE construction class built special picnic tables that provide access for people who use wheelchairs on one end. The CTE welding class designed and made plaques that honor Dave's memory to place at the center of each table. This project was a great example of collaboration among the Chassell Lions, the Copper Country CTE programs and the local community.





Picnic tables built in Dave's honor.

~Remember When~



Little Libraries

Did you know that reading for just six minutes a day can reduce stress by 68 percent? Access to books at home significantly boosts literacy rates. Engaging with books can improve mental health and reduce stress in children. Chassell residents love to read! The six Little Libraries in town have continued to be well used in the past several years. Children's books are found outside of the Chassell School, adult and children's books are across from the post office near St. Anne's garden and shrine, and adult, teen and children's books are found at Centennial Park.



The new larger Little Library at the park was designed and built by Chassell middle and high school shop students under the supervision of teacher Diane Esterline. Students Tanner Elenich, Jess Tikka, Jamie Larson and Aiden Kilpela participated in creating this new Little Library. The head of maintenance at the school, Norman Thomas, also assisted with the project. Lions President George Stockero and former shop teacher Mike Randell introduced the idea for the project. Books for the libraries are donated by users, the Hancock Library, First Methodist Church in Hancock and other members of the Copper Country community. The Little Libraries project is led by Chassell Lions member Barb Worrall who is assisted by her son when he visits from Grand Rapids.

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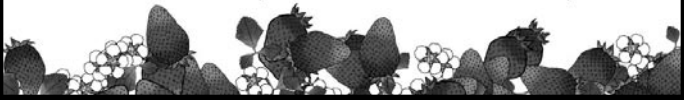
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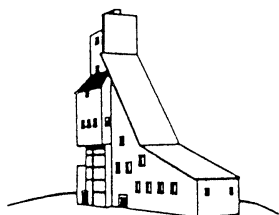
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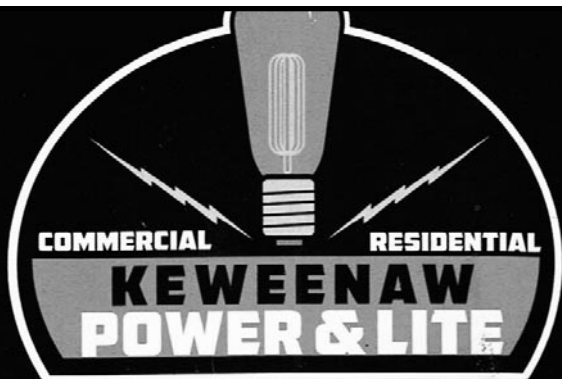
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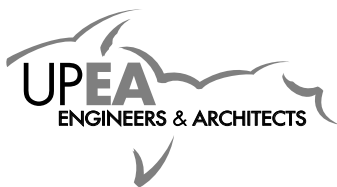
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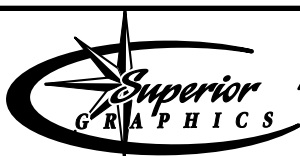
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