2026 - Volume 62 Number 4

The Michigander

"Family Fun Through Camping in Michigan"

2027 Campout Announcements

March 14-20, National Retiree Rally, Vidalia, LA
May 21-23, Spring State, Marshall, MI
June 27-July 3, National Campvention, Marshall, MI
September 3-6, Evart, MI
September 6-10, Retiree Rally, St. Louis, MI
September 10-12, Fall State, St. Louis, MI

Note: click on the blue link for registration forms; web version.

https://mifcrv.org/calendar/default.htm

Registration forms are published in the electronic edition posted on our website: www.mifcrv.org , ***Calendar of Events***
Please support the many activities scheduled for 2024.

Editor's Note: Please submit campout registrations (Word preferred) by email:
kkurburski@gmail.com
Be sure to include DOCUMENTATION for any pictures or clipart.

Michigander DEADLINE DATES

DEADLINES for submitting articles to the Michigander:

December 20 for the January issue
March 20 for the April issue
June 20 for the July issue
September 20 for the October issue

You can start **TODAY** by sending articles to kkurburski@gmail.com

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Editor's note: Please check your **Michigander Subscription** ***EXPIRATION DATE***

Send corrections to:
kkurburski@gmail.com
(Only if you are a subscriber for a Mailed copy)

***The Michigander* Subscription**

Subscription rate is $8 for 4 issues. Send your name, address, chapter name and check made payable to:
Michigan State Association of NCHA/FCRV and send to:

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https://www.facebook.com/groups/349029098472615/

The Michigander

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President's Message

Fellow Campers,

By the time you read this, the 2026 camping season will be over. What a camping season it has been. For me, I only took the trailer out 5 times during the year. But those 5 trips encompassed 63 calendar days. That's over 2 months, in a season that is only 4.5 months long! Added to that were two week-long cruises I took this year. It felt like I was gone more than I was home.

Part of me bemoans the end of the camping season and the approach of winter. Another part of me welcomes the break from all the packing, driving, and vehicle-and-trailer maintenance that are the less-fun aspects of camping. But the one thing that I always miss in the 7 months that I'm not camping is the camaraderie of my friends in FCRV. This is especially important to me as a solo traveler with a very small biological family and no spouse or children. It is this friendship that keeps me going camping and propels me to try to make as many campouts as possible each year.

Brian Fuller

MSA President

Chaplain's Corner

This year has been a year that our Country has been remembering the last 250 years and especially the last 50 years. Ida and I joined National Campers and Hikers Association somewhere around 1986. Our first campout was at Sandusky, MI (approximately 720 units) and a lot of adults and children. George and Stacie Champion told us about NCHA and invited us to the State Fall Campout.

We have been to many campouts since then, Hastings, Pontiac, Highland Recreation Area, Gladwin, Cheboygan, Davisburg, St. Louis, and Oklahoma City, OK, to name a few. We have made a lot of friends, played a lot of games, eaten at many awesome potlucks (and few nice restaurants), participated in a few noise parades, ate a lot of s'mores, and our children enjoyed many youth activities.

Take time this Fall to reminisce about your past. Remembering can be very rewarding, and some not so great. We need to focus on the good and let the bad go by the wayside. We also should remember those less fortunate and help when we are able.

Praying for everyone to have a fabulous Fall and remember to love one another as Christ has loved us. And may The United States of America long endure!

"I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35





SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

I am so happy to announce we have three (3) Scholarship winners this year. All are long time active FCRV members. Natalie Carey, Cindy Gurski and Katie Kurburski. Natalie's family are members of Nature's Nuts, Cindy's chapter is Eager Beavers and Traverse Bay Travelers is Katie's chapter.

Natalie Carey is attending Oakland University pursuing a degree to become a Registered Nurse. She is hoping to use her degree to work in a hospital setting and is especially interested in working in the emergency department, or maternity and pediatrics department.

Cindy Gurski is working on her Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education at Grand Canyon University. Her goal is to earn her teaching degree along with special education endorsements so she can work with students with diverse learning needs.

Western Governors University is the school of choice for our third scholarship winner, Katie Kurburski. Katie is continuing her nursing education to advance her knowledge to become a nursing educator. She would like to use her knowledge to educate others in her community.

Congratulations to all our winners, we hope you go far in your endeavors.

I would like to thank Chapter One, Tails-a-Wagon, for the generous donation to the Scholarship Fund in memory of their chapter and Don and Juanita Woolworth, the chapter's founders.

It's never too early to start thinking about next year's scholarship application. Some of the requirements to be eligible to apply for a Scholarship: the applicant **or** applicant's parents must attend at least one (1) Michigan FCRV campout this year and camped/stayed overnight one night. The qualifying campouts are: MSA State Spring or MSA State Fall campout.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Teens living at home planning to attend college or a trade school, upon turning 20 years of age, will need to request a 20-year-old honorary membership from the Michigan State Director to apply for a free membership. To be eligible for a National or Michigan FCRV scholarship, you must be a **member in good standing**. (See policy below)

Scholarship applications are available on the MSA website, www.mifcrv.org. Be sure to apply for a national scholarship; the contact information is at the bottom of the Michigan scholarship application. For questions contact: Jane Thornton, Scholarship Director 2084 Madsen Rd. – Saginaw, MI 48601 Ph. 989-777-5958 E-mail: scholarship@mifcrv.org.

Jane Thornton, Scholarship Director

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DASAT

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

I wrote this article earlier this year thinking it would be a good idea due to all the campgrounds we visit, sightseeing, and other travels in general we do.
Prior to the 2026 MSA Fall Campout, I had MSP Trooper Rogers review my article, and he wholeheartedly approved of it. He even commented I had information that he didn't for his Human Trafficking Presentation. Trooper Rogers' presentation was very informative and eye-opening.

With all the traveling we do these days, I thought sharing some basic information on human trafficking would be in order.

First off, what is Human Trafficking?

It's modern-day slavery involving male and female victims of all ages, single, married, or even couples. It's a crime involving the exploitation of a person or persons for labor or commercial sex through force, fraud or coercion. There are 2 types of Human Trafficking; Sex Trafficking and Forced Labor.

What is Human Smuggling?

It's different than Human Trafficking. The main difference is it involves crossing an international border (Canadian or Mexico border) illegally with a victim(s) who may or may not be a willing participant for financial or other material benefit. The transaction usually ends once their destination is reached. Human smuggling sometimes leads to human trafficking.

Human Trafficking is an underreported crime due to language barriers, fear of law enforcement, and fear of their traffickers. This keeps victims from getting help, making human trafficking a hidden crime.
Victims may not see themselves as victims of trafficking due to the trauma caused by the traffickers.

Michigan ranks consistently in the Top 10 states of human trafficking. Estimates vary slightly by report and methodology. Michigan is frequently cited as having one of the highest volumes of trafficking cases in the nation, often placing 6th to 10th place. One reason Michigan is a trafficking hot spot is its position as a travel hub and the Canadian border. Human Trafficking is a billion-dollar worldwide criminal industry.

SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING;

**Some signs of physical or sexual abuse can be burns, bruises, untreated injuries in various stages of healing, lack of medical care, and malnourishment.

**Inappropriate clothing for the current weather or work conditions.

**Appearing fearful, submissive, or lacking control over their own money or identification.

**Working in poor conditions with little or no pay.

**Living with an employer or in a second shared space.

**Tattooing and branding often on the neck and lower back areas, sometimes poor-quality homemade markings.

Traffickers look for people who are easy targets for a variety of reasons: psychological or emotional vulnerability, economic hardship, lack of a social safety net, unstable home life, and a history of abuse.

Traffickers may also use different methods to lure victims into trafficking situations, violence, manipulation, false promises of well-paying jobs, and romantic relationships.

STEPS TO TAKE IF YOU SUSPECT HUMAN TRAFFICKING;

**Don't intervene, never attempt to confront a suspected trafficker or alert a victim to your suspicions.

**Document details, note as much information as possible such as descriptions of traffickers, victims, vehicles and license plates, locations and specific behaviors.

**Report to authorities, call 911 if victim is in immediate danger.

**Contact the National Hot Line 1-888-373-78888

HOW ARE HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS TRANSPORTED;

Victims can be transported using a variety of public and private methods. Victims are transported and hidden in open and plain sight.

**Private or rental vehicles
** Ride-share services and taxis
**Buses
**Trains
**Aircraft
**Marine
**Commercial vehicles
**Moving vehicles

Human Trafficking is a violation of human rights. It flourishes by preying on vulnerable individuals. If you suspect a situation of trafficking, DO NOT INTERVENE YOURSELF!!

Call the National Human Trafficking Hot Line 1-888-373-7888
Text BE FREE or 233733
Report to ICE 1-866-347-2423

This article about Human Trafficking is basic information.

Resources:
DHS Blue Campaign
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
US DOJ Human Trafficking Hotline
FBI Human Trafficking Hotline
National Human Trafficking Hotline

Safe Travels

Tom Lewis
Michigan FCRV DASAT Director
989-640-1181
tcl_butch@yahoo.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FCRV Announces New Dates for 2027 Campvention

OCTOBER 27, 2026 — FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

NEW EVENT DATES
June 27 – July 3, 2027

ORIGINAL DATES
~~July 11 – 17, 2027~~

LOCATION (UNCHANGED)
Calhoun County Fairgrounds, Marshall, MI

10/27/2026 — FCRV has announced a change to the dates of the 2027 Campvention. The event, originally scheduled for July 11–17, 2027, will now take place **June 27 through July 3, 2027**, at the previously selected Calhoun County Fairgrounds.

The date change became necessary after the fairgrounds notified FCRV that the facility had been double-booked for the original Campvention dates. Unfortunately, the scheduling conflict was outside FCRV's control.

Following notification of the conflict, FCRV evaluated a number of alternatives, including relocating Campvention to other fairgrounds. While several options were considered, availability, increased facility costs, and the timing of the planning process made relocation impractical. After carefully weighing the advantages and disadvantages of each option, FCRV determined that changing the dates while remaining at the current fairgrounds was the best solution.

The new dates were also selected with the goal of avoiding an overlap with the July 4th holiday as much as possible.

> *"We understand that changing the dates may be disappointing and that, unfortunately, some members may no longer be able to attend. We share that frustration. However, after carefully evaluating all of the available options, we believe moving the dates and remaining at our current location gives us the best opportunity to provide a successful Campvention while avoiding substantially higher costs and additional logistical challenges."*
>
> **— Marci McIntosh, 2027 Campvention Host**

Pre-registered participants will be contacted as soon as possible, but can get in touch with the committee via email.

FCRV recognizes that this change is an inconvenience for members and appreciates their patience and understanding. The organization is committed to making the most of a difficult situation and looks forward to welcoming members to **Campvention 2027, June 27–July 3, 2027**.

Recipe Corner

October's Sweet Treat

Pumpkin Bars with Cream Cheese Frosting

Soft, warmly spiced pumpkin bars topped with a tangy, creamy frosting — perfect for fall potlucks and cozy gatherings.

PREP	BAKE	MAKES
10 minutes	30 minutes	About 24 bars



INGREDIENTS

For the bars

- 4 eggs
- 1■ cups granulated sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1 (15-ounce) can pumpkin purée
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda

For the cream cheese frosting

- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- ½ cup butter, softened
- 2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS

1. Heat oven to 350°F. Lightly grease a 9 × 13-inch baking pan.

2. In a large bowl, beat the eggs, sugar, oil, and pumpkin until light and fluffy.

3. In a separate bowl, combine flour, baking powder, cinnamon, salt, and baking soda. Add the dry ingredients to the pumpkin mixture and mix until smooth.

4. Spread batter in the prepared pan. Bake for about 30 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool completely.

5. For frosting, beat cream cheese and butter until smooth. Mix in confectioners' sugar and vanilla until creamy.

6. Spread frosting over cooled bars, cut into squares, and serve. Refrigerate leftovers.

Recipe credit: Paula Deen, "Pumpkin Bars with Cream Cheese Frosting." Original recipe and details: pauladeen.com.

A sweet little taste of fall to share with family, friends, and fellow campers!



Campout SCHEDULE —2027—

Date	Place	Event	Notes
March 14–20	River View RV Park and Resort *Vidalia, MI*	National Retiree Rally	
May 21–23	Spring State Calhoun County Fairgrounds *Marshall, MI*	Spring State	
June 27–July 3	Calhoun County Fairgrounds *Marshall, MI*	National Campvention	
September 6–10	St. Louis Campground *MI*	Retiree campout	
September 10–12	St. Louis Campground *MI*	Fall State	

Announcements

Submit Your Information
Please send in registration forms or campout announcements to be published in the next edition.

Publication Deadline
Articles and announcements are due by the 20th of the month prior to publishing.

Share Your Recipes
Please send in recipes to share with others, especially if they're yummy!

Happy Camping!



"GATHER ON THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI"

55TH FCRV INTERNATIONA RETIREE RALLY
RIVER VIEW RV PARK & RESORT
100 RIVER VIEW PKY
VIDALIA, LOUISIANA 71373
318-336-1400
(RALLY) MARCH 14-20, 2027
(EARLY DAYS) MARCH 11, 12, 13, 2027

FOR REGISTRATION ONLY

REG #_____
CHECK #_____
CASH_____
AMOUNT_____

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING: (PLEASE PRINT)
LAST NAME_____FIRST_____SPOUSE/OTHER_____
ADDRESS_____CITY_____STATE_____ZIP_____
MAILING ADDRESS OF OTHER _____#OF PEOPLE IN UNIT_____
CELL PHONE# 1_____CELL PHONE # 2_____
EMAIL ADDRESS_____COMFIRMATION SENT: PDF_____WORD_____EMAIL_____
MAILING ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE: _____
REGISTERING FOR CAMPING: ON GROUND_____OFF GROUND_____CAMP PASS_____
LENGTH OF UNIT:_____TYPE OF UNIT: MOTOR HOME_____ PULL BEHIND_____5TH WHEEL_____TENT_____
IS THIS YOUR FIRST RETIREE RALLY: YES_____NO_____ ARE YOU A VETERAN: YES_____NO_____
SPECIAL NEEDS: MUST HAVE ON FILE WITH THE REGISTRAR: LICENSE REGISTRATION INCLUDING HANDICAP PLATE, OR HANDICAP PLACARD. THIS AREA IS RESERVED FOR WHEELCHAIRS, WALKERS, OR THOSE WITH LIMITED MOBILITY PROBLEMS. NAME OF SPECIAL NEED PERSON_____
REGISTRATION FORMS: ALL THOSE ATTENDING MUST PRE-EREGISTERED BY FEBRUARY 15, 2027 DEADLINE TO SECURE YOU A SITE. AN ADDITIONAL FEE OF $35 WILL BE ASSESSED WHEN REGISTERING AT THE GATE.
EARLY DAYS: EARLY DAY FEE WILL BE COLLECTED BY RIVER VIEW RV PARK & RESORT. YOU MUST MAKE YOUR EARLY DAY RESERVATIONS WITH THEM. APPROXIMATELY $45 PER NIGHT. THEY SHOULD PUT YOU ON A SITE THAT YOU CAN STAY FOR THE ENTIRE RALLY. PLEASE LET THEM KNOW YOU ARE WITH THE FCRV RETIREE RALLY. THEY DO OFFER DISCOUNT RATES: VETERANS, GOOD SAMS, AARP, ETC.

INCLUDED IN THE FEE: FULL HOOK-UP, (30/50AMP), ICE CREAM SOCIAL, 2 MEALS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND A LOT OF FUN.

RATES:

2 PEOPLE IN UNIT:	**$385**	**AT GATE:**	**$420**
1 PERSON IN UNIT:	**$355**		**$390**

CAMP PASS STAYING IN UNIT ON GROUNDS AS 2ND FAMILY IN UNIT:

2 PEOPLE	**$145**
1 PERSON	**$115**

CAMP PASS STAYING OFF GROUNDS:

2 PEOPLE	**$145**
1 PERSON	**$115**

REFUNDS: ALL BUT $50 WILL BE REFUNDED IF NOTICE IS RECEIVED BEFORE TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE RALLY. AFTER THE RALLY DEADLINES OF FEBRUARY 15, ONLY THE CAMPING FEE WILL BE REFUNDED. REFUND REQUESTED AFTER RALLY STARTS WILL BE MADE AFTER THE RALLY.
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FCRV/NCHA RETIREE RALLY, NO CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED.
MAIL TO: MILDRED PAUWELS, P.O. BOX 193, DANA, N.C. 28724

I WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER FOR: _____

FAMILY CAMPERS & RVers 2027 CAMPVENTION

"Dreams Begin"

June 27-July 3, 2027

Calhoun County Fairgrounds

720 Fair St, Marshall, MI 49068

REGISTRATION:

Welcome to Campvention 2027. Everyone must complete a registration form, including second families and camp day passes. Submit payment with the completed form. All funds shall be in US currency, including checks and money orders. There will be room for you if you decide to come at the last minute. Simply bring this registration form with you.

**Refund policy: If you are unable to attend, all except $25 will be refunded AFTER the conclusion of 2027 Campvention.

Registration deadline May 15th - Pay before December 31, 2026, to receive a $30.00 discount ($395.00).

	Registration	At Gate
One Family in the Unit	$425.00	$450.00
Extra Family in the Unit (separate pay)	$205.00	$225.00
Week Drive-in Day Pass (6/27 - 7/02)	$205.00	$225.00
Drive-in Day Pass (per day)	$40.00	$50.00

Early Bird Days**:** June 25th(starting at noon) & 26th @ $35/night (pay upon arrival – cash/check)

Is this your first Campvention?: _____ Are you an FCRV Member?: _____ Member #: _____

Last Name: _____First Name: _____ Spouse/Guest:_____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN YOUR UNIT:

Adults: _____ Teens: _____ Youth: 9 – 12 _____ Youth: 5 – 8 _____ Total number of people in Unit: _____

**Please list the names and ages of all youth and teens on the back of this form.

CAMPVENTION PARKING: (There will be no special needs sites available at the gate.)

Check if you are requesting a special needs site: _____ (Valid Handicap parking proof must be presented upon arrival.)

Please note the LENGTH of camping rig behind type:

Motorhome _____ 5th Wheel _____ Travel Trailer _____ Pop-Up _____ Number of slide outs _____

Electricity: 30 amp_____ 50 amp_____ (50 amp is limited. Handicap first. Then first come, first served.)

**Bring extension cords. Water available. Bring hoses and Y connectors.

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION: Friday 6/25 (starting at noon) _____ Saturday 6/26 _____

CAMPVENTION HELP: Would you like to help with event(s)? Staff will follow up with a contact if yes: Yes _____ No _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FCRV Campvention 2027

Mail checks and completed forms to:

FCRV Campvention 2027

635 Atlantic St.

Milford, MI 48381

For inquiries please call Marci at 313-590-3092

or Linda at 248-797-5030

Confirmations will be sent via Email.

Please allow a month for processing.