

Three parades take to the streets

Highlighting the roster of festival events are three colorful parades. **The AAA Michigan Heritage Parade** will step off at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9. This year's theme will celebrate America with a parade of antique autos, horses and marching bands.

The **Touchstone Energy Junior Royale Parade** will showcase the hard work of parents and elementary school students alike as 31 entries highlight our country's states. The parade will take to the streets at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 11. The prince and princess program, sponsored by Domino's Pizza, offers first-grade children the opportunity to represent their elementary school in one of the nation's largest kids-only parades. Registration begins at 4:30 p.m. at F&M Park for all children wishing to participate.

True pageantry and fun come alive in one of the midwest's largest parades, the **DTE Energy Cherry Royale Parade**, at 11:15 a.m. on Saturday, July 13. More than 150 specialty units will add to the pomp and pageantry of marching bands. DTE Energy will woe parade spectators with a 38-foot moving garden. The DTE Energy "Rooted in the Community" float features plants, trees and shrubs that will be donated to the Children's Community Garden in Traverse City.

Always a highlight, the **Second Time Arounders Band** features music of alumni band members throughout the area. Music, coupled with good old-fashioned fun, make this parade event a must-see year after year.

All three festival parades are broadcast live on the Festival Parade Network, ABC 29&8.

Special appearances by National Cherry Queen and her Court

National Cherry Queen Kelsey Hewitt will host five finalists during the National Cherry Festival—July 6 through 13. The selection of the National Cherry Queen will take place Friday, July 12 at the Park Place Hotel with crowning and scholarship presentation—underwritten in part by Huntington Bank—at 8 p.m.

A Coronation Reception hosted by the Park Place Hotel and starts at 6 p.m.. It will feature finger foods and dancing. Tickets are available by calling 231-947-4230.

The queen and her court will also play a part in presenting a Festival Fashion Show, sponsored by Davenport University, on Wednesday, July 10 at the historic Park Place Hotel. The Queen and her court are provided a wardrobe by Younkers.

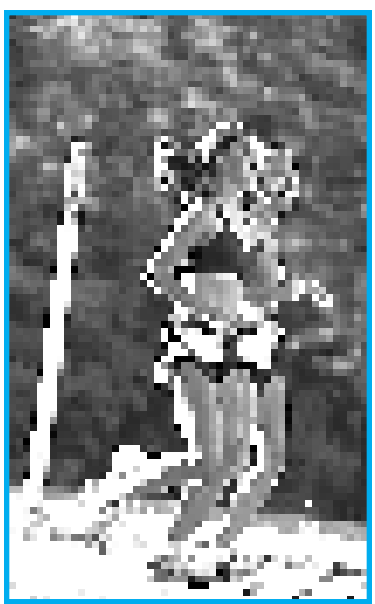


Festival hole-in-one may mean spending summer on the water

Golf enthusiasts are invited to visit the **Festival Hole-In-One** contest July 6 through July 13 at Bay Meadows Golf Course. The Hole-In-One contest is sponsored by Traverse City State Bank and Northwest Airlines along with Passageways Carlson Wagonlit Travel.

Preliminary competition, July 6 through 12, will be played on a specially-designed 125-yard hole. Daily winners will meet the final day of the festival, Saturday, July 13 on a 165-yard hole for a shoot out. Each daily winner will have three shots at their hole-in-one. The first finalist to get a hole-in-one will be awarded a 21 foot Baja boat provided by Cherryland Motor Sports and a Toyota Tundra Truck from Traverse Motors to tow the boat. Other prizes include a golf vacation for two, courtesy of Northwest Airlines and Passageways Carlson Wagonlit Travel. Daily winners are awarded a grand golf getaway at Garland, the Midwest's only AAA four-Diamond Resort.

Bay Meadows Golf Course is just two miles from downtown and offers golfers a choice of playing a nine-hole, family friendly length course or the Par 3 nine-hole course. It's home to Traverse City's largest driving, chipping and putting areas.



Opening weekend: Mecca for sporting enthusiasts

Opening weekend, July 6 and 7 promises to offer the season's hottest sporting events.

Kicking off the festival is **Beach Side Volleyball** and players will compete with two- and four-person teams on Saturday and Sunday beginning at 9 a.m. Beach volleyball, sponsored by AquaFina and Red Baron Pizza Products in cooperation with WKLT Radio, is held on the city volleyball courts west of the Festival Open Space Park. Pre-registration is required.

Touring enthusiasts will enjoy the pristine scenery of the Old Mission Peninsula during the **Old Mission Peninsula Bike Tour**, sponsored by the Traverse City Record-Eagle. Traveling the shores of East and West Grand Traverse bays, cyclists will ride the pristine Old Mission Peninsula, which separates East and West bays.

Upon completion, riders will refuel on a pasta lunch buffet. The tour begins at 9 a.m. on Sunday, July 7 at Traverse City Central High School. For more information and applications, call 231-947-4230.



Three races & fun run celebrate fitness and competition

Athletes of all abilities will take to the streets of Traverse City in three nationally acclaimed races on Saturday, July 13, 2002.

The **Festival of Races** will challenge 2,000 runners along the shores of Grand Traverse Bay, over cherry orchard-lined hilltops and through spectator-filled downtown Traverse City. The event features a 15K foot race and a 5K Community Walk. Races packet pick-up and late registration is from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, July 12 and 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 13 at Northwestern Michigan College. Also Friday evening, runners and their families have an opportunity to enjoy a festival pasta dinner beginning at 6 p.m. at the Traverse City Central High School in the cafeteria.

Families looking for a bit less competitive run can enjoy the **Jay's Foods Fun Run**. No pre-registration is necessary. The Fun Run begins at 4 p.m. at Traverse City Central High School.

Meijer Golden Mile competitors have hopes of breaking the world's fastest mile record. Some of the world's swiftest men and women milers are invited to run in one of the Midwest's most competitive mile races on Saturday morning, July 13. Cash awards are presented to the fastest athletes who are no longer eligible for NCAA competition. Racers finish in front of nearly 70,000 curbside spectators anticipating the start of the DTE Energy Cherry Royale Parade.

Festival visitors witnessed a record breaking sub-three-minute mile by Wheelchair Miler John Gilger in 1997.

A repeat performance may be in store for the **Thompson Pharmacy Wheelchair Mile** at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 13. Wheelers from across North America will compete in the world's fastest wheelchair event of this new century.

Top wheelers will be on hand for this event. In addition to the open division, an intermediate division for both men and women wheelchair racers will be held.

For more race information and applications, visit the Cherry Festival Web site at www.cherryfestival.org or call 231-947-4230.

