

# Children's events that bring out the kid in everyone

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**Cherry Beary Picnic at the Grand Traverse Picnic Area.** Complimentary cherry tickets are mandatory to attend, and can be picked up at Grand Traverse Pavilions by the first 250 participants.

Wednesday, July 9 marks the date for the Bicycle Rodeo, available to children ages 5-10 at the Horizon Outlet Center. Children must bring their own bikes and helmets to participate, Bathje said. Sign-up for the event starts at 9:30 a.m.

**Cherry Kids Town Fun Night** starts at 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 9 and lasts until 8 p.m. at F&M Park.

Entertainment will be provided by jugglers, magicians, puppet shows, clowns, the Great Lakes Children's

Museum and more, according to Bathje.

The event is free for children and parents, though some activities, such as making T-shirts and eating Moomers ice cream, will require some cash.

Children can create their own cherry desserts, get their faces painted, watch a puppet show and more at Fun and Games for Children on Thursday, July 10.

The event is geared toward children ages 5-12 and will last from 9 a.m. until noon.

On Friday, July 11, another celebrated event, the Sand Sculpture Contest will take place from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Clinch Park Beach.

Classifications are divided by age and number of people.

Individuals ages 3-5 can sculpt from 9-9:45 a.m., ages 6-8 from 9:15-10 a.m. and ages 9-12 from 10:15-11:15 a.m.

Groups of children ages 3-12 can sculpt from 10:30 a.m.-noon. Family groups, as well as groups and individuals ages 13 and up can sculpt from 12:30-4 p.m. Registration is 15 minutes before every category.

Only objects found on the beach can be used in the sculptures, with the exception of food coloring and buckets and shovels to aid in construction, according to Jennifer Steinman, director of the contest.

The week winds down with the Youth Chalk Art Contest on Friday, July 11 from 1-3 p.m. at the Open Space.



Record-Eagle file photo

## Fun and Games for Children is on Thursday, July 10.

Children ages 5-12 can participate, and chalk will be provided, Bathje said.

The Children's Fishing Pond, located at the Open Space will be available for

children daily from Saturday, July 5 until Saturday, July 12 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. A small fee is required, and all fish will be donated to the otters and bears of Clinch Park Zoo.

# Rubber duck race offers fun for fans big and small on July 10

BY SARAH HENRY

Record-Eagle staff writer

**G**rab your favorite Daffy, Donald or Daisy. It's time for the Annual American Lung Association of Michigan's Rubber Duck Race.

The Rubber Duck Race coincides with the Annual Corporate Duck Race, which both take place at 4 p.m. Thursday, July 10.

The race begins at Union Street Bridge and continues down the Boardman River to the Chamber of Commerce building where ribbons and trophies will be awarded to the swiftest of the rubber racers and motorized Mallards, according to Laura Sutherin, manager of the northern region of the American Lung Association.

Sutherin said volunteer George Meredith and a former manager hatched the idea for a Rubber Duck Race 16 years ago.

"George makes all the trophies himself and has continued to be enthusiastic and dedicated," she said. "Events like this could not continue without the dedication of our volunteers and fans."

Pre-race festivities begin at 3:30 p.m., which includes the judging of the corporate

ducks, Sutherin said.

Each duck will be carefully scrutinized for fashion flair and faux pas. Corporate ducks can enter 15 different categories, such as Jock Duck, Best Dressed Duck, Wackiest Quacker, Dorkiest Duck, Most Macho Mallard and, of course, Cherriest Duck.

It's not always smooth sailing down the river, however.

"One year we had a motorized duck that started out,

blew up and sunk," Sutherin said. "And one year, Munson Medical Center's corporate duck was in a bedpan and they had tied balloons to the duck and it went backwards!"

Local businesses can purchase life-sized decoy ducks at the American Lung Association office for \$100.

The ducks come in two varieties: motorized and floaters, Sutherin said.

Rubber ducks can be pur-

chased at any Traverse City Taco Bell, the American Lung Association office located at 153 1/2 E. Front St.; and Brick Wheels bike shop at 736 E. Eighth St.

First and second place winners of the Rubber Duck Race will take home mountain bikes donated by Brick Wheels, while third place receives a portable CD player donated by Meijer. Ribbons, trophies and other prizes will

be awarded as well.

"I love it when the first place trophy is as tall as the little kid," Sutherin said.

Corporate duck prizes are trophies and "duck" (duct) tape.

"Businesses always need duct tape," Sutherin said.

For more information, call 1-800-LUNG-USA or access the Web site at [www.alam.org](http://www.alam.org).

Sponsors for the races are WKLT Radio and TV 29&8.

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