

'Hidden Cherries' book is a whole lot of fun for children

BY FORREST KARBOWSKI
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TRAVERSE CITY— Kids don't have to wait until one week in the summer to enjoy Cherry Festival— now they can enjoy it year round.

"Hidden Cherries," by Anne Lewis and Susan Hammon, is the first Official Children's Book of the National Cherry Festival. Jim DeWildt illustrated the book, which was also published by Lewis.

According to Lewis, the goal of the book is to "bring cherries to families, kids and grandparents." Within its pages, readers will hunt and search for 100 "Mr. Cherry" figures, as well as cherry-related items such as cherry pies.

"Honestly, the idea just popped into my head," Lewis said. "I think people will have a lot of fun with it."

Lewis and Hammon said they have been friends for several years, so working together on the book came naturally to them. Hammon teaches a second grade class in Frankfort, which she said helped her in writing the book.

DeWildt has been working in illustration and graphic design since 1974. He said he was introduced to Lewis by chance, and they set up a meeting to talk about the cherry book.

He said that the illustrations took six months to complete. The original concept for the book was just to find hidden cherries— Dewildt said that he stumbled upon the character of Mr. Cherry by accident.

"Hiding him was a fun challenge," DeWildt said. "The neat thing with Mr. Cherry is making the kids want to see what he's doing on the next page."

DeWildt also said that the book appeals across generations.

"The adults I've shown it to

are just as excited to find Mr. Cherry as the kids," he said.


"Hidden Cherries" will feature a golden embossed seal

on the cover to note its official status. The book will be available at the Festival Open Space Souvenir Tent and area bookstores.



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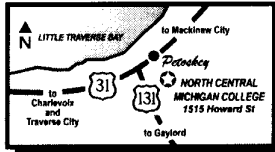
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