



MICHIGAN
BLUE

MICHIGAN'S WATERFRONT LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

Coastal Treasures

Now & Later: From snowy pursuits to warm-weather dreams

Heartfelt Art: A Charlevoix painter's works captivate with Great Lakes colors

For Your Inspiration: Lakeside home tours | Kitchen & Bath "design stars"

Exploring Grand Rapids | Rafting icy waters | Restoring classic boats



DESIGNERS' NOTEBOOK

Home-related tips, trends, and tidbits

TIFFANY TREASURES: Tiffany Home & Accessories' aqua color-block collection, now at Tiffany's new location at the Somerset Collection in Troy, has beachy appeal. tiffany.com

COOKING UP AQUA: BlueStar, manufacturer of appliances, announced its first-ever Color of the Year: Light Aqua Green, which invites tranquility into the kitchen. Available at Witbeck Appliance, West Bloomfield, and Big George's Home Appliance Mart, Ann Arbor and Petoskey. bluestarcooking.com

GROW YOUR OWN: Starting a garden soon? "Backyard Homesteader: How to Save Water, Keep Bees, Eat from Your Garden, and Live a More Sustainable Life," by Alison Candlin, is all you need if your goal is to provide your family with homegrown food. On sale March 2. gibbs-smith.com

DO THE WAVE: Fayette Studio is offering new rug patterns. Cottage homeowners/designers may be particularly interested in the WAVE series, which was created with ebbs and flow in mind. faytestudio.com

BLACK IS BACK: Black finishes are looking especially great on things like cabinetry pulls. Ashley Norton's black finishes give designers, builders, and homeowners a modern alternative to the silver finishes that once dominated the market. ashleynorton.com
— *Compiled by Megan Swoyer*

Have news that pertains to waterfront living that you'd like to share? Send a message to MSwoyer@Hour-Media.com.

Heartfelt Art

A painter captures the magical allure of northwest Michigan

By Megan Swoyer | Photography by Michael Murphy IV

Have you ever wished you could make a billion stops when driving from, say, point A to point B through northwest Michigan's Emmet and Charlevoix counties? Zipping past the region's beautiful, colorful charms, I often feel a strong desire to pull over and soak up the Caribbean greens of Walloon Lake or the serene blues of Lake Michigan. The next minute I'm dying to touch the bark of the slender, white-as-snow birch trees along M-119, and then take in the cheery reds of the cute buildings in tiny Good Hart. Oh, and is there time to pull up a chair beneath those striped umbrellas on the inviting patio at the Inn at Bay Harbor?

There never seems to be enough hours in the day to thoroughly relish all of the north country's eye-catching beauty, these visual moments that become treasured keepsakes in my mind.

If you've tried to pack in as many stops as possible during a visit to this magical oasis and still feel like you haven't gotten

enough, you may want to check out the works of artist Larissa Flynn. The Charlevoix-based painter has uniquely captured many of the area's enchanting vignettes, from pure water vistas to inns and highway/road trip scenes. Like quiet, fleeting glimpses of soulful Michigan, her canvases showcase quintessential Great Lakes State splendor.

"Four years ago I started to explore plein-air painting," says Flynn, who's the exhibit curator at the 12-year-old Charlevoix Circle of Arts, a nonprofit organization that strives to cultivate a more inspired and educated community through the arts. Flynn, who grew up in southeast Michigan, spent many summers as a child visiting her grandfather in the area. "He built an A-Frame in Cross Village and we would go and stay there," she recalls. "We loved sunset swims in Good Hart, and I wouldn't dump the beach sand out of my shoes so that when I got home, I'd still have sand from the shore."

As an adult, she took a summer job in



PAINTING PHOTOS BY LARISSA FLYNN