

# Pony-up with some pals

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There's nothing like horseback riding with friends.

The Pony Pals, a new 4-H horse-riding club established two years ago, aims to teach youth the basics of equestrianism while providing a space to socialize.

The idea for Pony Pals emerged from a combination of demand and Leelanau's equestrian history.

Local Realtor Kim Creamer, who is also the proprietor of Pony Pals, started the club primarily because of her sister Sarah Swinger's eight horse-obsessed children.

"(Sarah) asked me if I would start another 4-H club. I also have two nieces that are kind of getting into horses," she said.

Creamer has intermittently led 4-H clubs for nearly four

decades on the peninsula. With an abundance of horses in the stables at Breezy Meadows Farm, she generously offers them for the club to use on a weekly or biweekly basis throughout the summer for riding lessons and trail rides. The Pony Pals club currently consists of 15 kids, aged eight and above. The club's popularity has resulted in a growing waitlist.

"Unfortunately, I can't take everyone I wish I could," she said. "There's more little ones coming up. So that's what makes it so hard for me ... I've got siblings that all wanna be in the club as well and I'm trying to limit it," Creamer said.

Pony Pals is located at Breezy Meadows farm and as the name says, a nice breeze blows almost constantly around the farm that is located five miles from Traverse City.

Pony Pals functions as both a



The Pony Pals gather in Lake Leelanau for a cherry orchard ride on ponies. From left to right: IN the group photo Marianna Creamer, Cami Creamer, Kimberly Creamer, Henry Sutherland, Amy Sutherland, Rose Spinniken, Sarah Swinger, Eliza Swinger, Clare Penning, Claus Penning, Irene Spinniken, Sena Penning, Adele Swinger. Absent: Natsha Martinson (co-leader), Teagan Martinson, Ava Martinson, Genevieve Martinson, Ophelia Wengreen, Zoe Walker Creamer.

4-H club and a private business, serving as a gathering place for people to ride ponies and spend time together.

Creamer first got involved with 4-H as a young girl. Her parents made it a requirement before she could get her first pony.

"I did that and then I've just had horses ever since and I just think 4-H is a wonderful pro-

gram. I just wanted to give back since I've been a member and then I became a leader," Creamer said. "I'm teaching the kids of the kids that I taught. So it's kind of come full circle and it's just a lot of fun. The kids are great. I have a great group of parents, which makes my life so much easier because they all pitch in and they show up and they participate."

Leelanau was known for various horse clubs decades ago. In 2023, however, only Pony Pals and Hidden Beech Equestrian remain.

"We definitely could use more horse leaders in the county. Back in the day there would be five, six, seven horse clubs in the county over at Myles Kimberly Park," Creamer said.

# 'Canine Couture' Saturday in Northport

Northport is going to the dogs Saturday for the annual Northport Dog Parade and Animal Lovers exhibit.

The noon parade is a fun yearly tradition that was originated by village resident David Chrobak.

Each year the committee picks a theme and prizes will be awarded for various categories.

This year, there will be an award in David's honor for most

original costume in the parade.

"Canine Couture, A Doggie Fashion Show" is the theme this year. People start lining the streets early in the morning to see the dogs and their owners hit the red carpet when the parade begins at noon.

Along the parade registrations, business owners and individuals in the community come together and help sponsor this event each year. Funds raised

by the annual dog parade goes to local charities each year.

This year, they will go to the Cherryland Humane Society, Great Lakes Humane Society and the Fisher fund.

Along with the Dog Parade, the Northport Arts Association (NAA) is having an animal lovers exhibit featuring artwork of pets, domestic animals and wildlife in paintings, photographs, sculptures and other

media. The NAA will be featuring Kat Dakota pet portrait artists and special guest Pet Supplies Plus, who will have pet freebies at the Village Arts Building while supplies last.

In addition to Dakota, participants include Robert Bayer (photography), Judy Kelly (painter), Barbara Waddell (multi-media), Esther Send (photography), Anna Rapson (multi-media), Tina Greco (pot-

tery), Denice (cq) Goldschmidt (painting), Kelly Switzer (wildlife and pet portraits), Sue Quinlan (pastel/painting), Marjorie Farrell (painting) and Sheen Watkins (photography).

The exhibit kicks off at 9 a.m. on Saturday. Pets are welcome in the gallery on a leash. The exhibit continues through Aug. 26, Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 4 p.m.

If your business has openings, contact [nevin@leelanaunews.com](mailto:nevin@leelanaunews.com), [kendra@leelanaunews.com](mailto:kendra@leelanaunews.com) or [adassist@leelanaunews.com](mailto:adassist@leelanaunews.com) to discuss your ad.

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