

# Farmers markets ramping up

By Brian Freiberger  
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Leelanau Farmers Markets are in full force as the harvesting and tourist season arrives.

Glen Arbor welcomed its first farmers market of the season last week along with Leland, Northport, and Empire. Suttons Bay is five weeks deep into its season.

As of Tuesday, Glen Arbor's farmers market tallied 41 vendors with 60 expected as the summer begins to heat up. Of the 41 vendors, roughly 25 were from Leelanau with the remaining from Grand Traverse or Benzie County.

Almost 100 people were waiting for the 9 a.m. start with over 700 people traveling through the local farmers market by noon.

Dana Boomer of Still Point Market says the weather has begun cooperating for these early farmers markets.

"The rest of the markets this past week, for the most part, are

really good. Last week the weather wasn't so hot. It rained Tuesday and Saturday and was super windy on Friday. But that is how it is. Today, it is absolutely gorgeous. Could not ask for better market weather," Boomer said.

Still Point Market is an Empire family business that harvests maple syrup, fruits and vegetables, culinary mushrooms, plants, and all sorts of things.

"The majority of what we sell, we grow," Boomer said.

Still Point Market participates in Glen Arbor on Tuesdays, Northport on Fridays, and Empire on Saturdays.

"The goal is to get the local products that we grow out to customers that can come and talk to the people that grew their food," Boomer said.

Rachel Alexander of Beulah-based Sleeping Bear Granola, travels north to catch the summer traffic through Leelanau County farmers markets.

"Leelanau offers a unique visitor experience and it's good to be able to tap into that," she said. "You just get lots of tourists here who appreciate quality and are here to enjoy what the local area has provided. So we're here to provide them with (Sleeping Bear Granola)."

Annie Lively of Lively Farms runs the farmers market stand for the family business.

"It's a nice way to ease into the day. It was busy early in the morning," she said. "It's great because we've gotten to know people now over the years, so people come and they look for us. It's a good way for us to get sales, but also it's just fun to get to know people ... It's relationship building as much as anything."

Lively Farms will be doing a soft opening at their new farm stand next week at 9990 S. Bow Road in Maple City.

"There probably will be some sort of grand opening (soon). Keep your eyes peeled for that. You gotta come (to the Glen Arbor farmers market) next week to get the information," Lively said. "We are still small as far as produce goes, but our lettuce is our best seller. Some people say that the stuff in the bag will last two weeks."



Glen Arbor Township Farmers Market happens every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enterprise photo by Brian Freiberger

Leland's farmers market runs every Thursday June 6 through September 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Immanuel Lutheran Church parking lot, 303 East Pearl St.

Northport's turn is every Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., June 7 through September 20

across from the marina at 105 S. Bay Street.

Suttons Bay and Empire are both on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Suttons Bay will go through October and Empire will go through Labor Day.

## Dalzell Ice Cream

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The shop offers a variety of ice cream flavors from Moomers in Traverse City and Guernsey Farms Dairy in Northville, along with soft-serve, vegan options, milkshakes, malts, and more.

According to local lore, the various different ice cream shops that has always graced the corner since the 1950s was the first in Leelanau County to serve soft served ice cream.

"It's always been run by a family. Families bought it, put their kids through college and sold it," local historian Alan Dalzell said. "It's getting a lot of publicity in Northport because there's no Dalzells in Suttons Bay anymore."

Dalzell was born in 1937 on a small farm north of Northport. His younger years were filled with tagging along with his father Donald Dalzell on the road delivering milk. The story of milk delivery in Leelanau County in a lot of ways is a story of consolidation.

Don shut down his milking operation for a delivery business sometime in the mid-1940s.

"The state was requiring pasteurized milk, and he didn't want to put in all that equipment, he just went to Traverse City and bought his milk as a wholesaler and then delivered. And then we used to, at first, we drove right

through Suttons Bay," Dalzell said. "We were the only house to house delivery in the county at that time."

Each community had their own milk delivery business before they all eventually closed and Dalzell dominated the milk delivering industry.

"With customers inside the city limits of Traverse city and then all the way down 22, all of Suttons Bay, all of Northport. Don took it over in 1954 after he was done with the Navy," Alan said. "My dad had a heart attack in June of that year, so when I was 17-16 years old, and I ran the business for a few months and even during school."

The Dalzell family name for nearly three-quarters of a century ran the milk game in Leelanau County. Three decades later the Dalzell Dairy brand is back in the form of ice cream.

From 1918 to 1993 the family served the community as milkmen. The Dalzell Dairy ice cream shop is a tribute to that era.

Thomas Roy, the great-great-grandfather of Fox, who established a dairy business in Northport in 1918, managing it until 1929. The business was then taken over by his son-in-law, Donald F. Dalzell, who ran it for 25 years before passing it on to his son, Donald J. Dalzell, in 1954.

Donald J. dedicated 39 years to the business, retiring in 1993.

## Shady Lane Cellars secures \$11K

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grape industry see first-hand how new approaches can help meet grower and winemaker needs in our climate," he said. "The project will help support the continued close collaboration between MSU Grape Team and Shady Lane. Vineyard Manager Andy Fles has been an accommodating host for many research projects, providing crit-

ical guidance to our team, as well as access to vineyards. Andy asks a lot of questions, helps us get the projects completed, and keeps our research grounded in the needs of growers and winemakers. We're excited to see what comes from this project."

The SARE program, funded by the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute for Food and Agriculture, has

the potential to influence the future of farming in the region. For an estate winery to earn such a grant is particularly meaningful to the team at Shady Lane Cellars.

"This project will allow us to be more sustainable," said Fles, "which is part of the goal of our SIP certification. Because these products are plant-based, we can regrow them."

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RSVP registration is required for all access to the property. Use the QR code or visit [www.newcommunityvision.org](http://www.newcommunityvision.org) to sign up.