

From: [Chet Janik](#)
To: [Alison Middleton](#)
Subject: FW: Millage, Early Childhood
Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:54:52 AM

From: Amanda Kruk <manda.kruk@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:32 AM
To: Board of Commissioners <boc@leelanau.gov>
Subject: Millage, Early Childhood

Hello,

I am a Northport year round resident, Amanda Kruk of 208 S. Shabwasung St. My husband and I raise three children here. I have two topics to discuss.

For the past 8 years, I have benefitted from Parenting Communities' events, playgroups, and home visits. The benefits were: meeting new friends for me and my kids, discovering hiking trails and parks unknown to me as a new resident, learning about parenting and gaining knowledge and access to resources such as books, calendars of events, articles, lactation consultant, etc., having somewhere to go as a stay at home mom, snacks and free books provided for my kids to take home and enjoy, bike riding classes through Norte, and more. Since the Leelanau Childrens' Center of Northport closed, Parenting Communities was my ONLY source of pre-K parenting resources like this. During the playgroups, Hollie Anderson would initiate conversations between the parents/guardians that were informative and important. The parents would learn from each other and Hollie had lots of advice and insight with her background in Infant/Toddler mental health, human development & family studies, and early childhood education. It was very different from a story time at a library, which is indeed an important resource, but does not provide the parenting education and community as a specialized Parenting Communities event would. Last year, I voted YES for the millage knowing that my youngest child was soon to turn 5 and start Kindergarten and our time with Parenting Communities was mostly over. I still voted YES knowing that the needs of my family would diminish. I knew what I was doing when I voted YES. I would very much appreciate the BOC to respect my vote.

My second topic is even more pressing as it is fundamentally important to our society and government: I am very concerned by the precedent the BOC is trying to put in place by finding the peoples' vote "wrong" and revoking the millage. Please put it on a ballot if you think the community would be better served with a "second chance" at voting on this millage. In the meantime, please encourage our community to stay informed and show up to election days even on "off years."

Thank you,
Amanda Kruk
Northport

