

Reed City, Mi

THIS AREA HASN'T CHANGED MUCH SINCE IT WAS INCORPORATED AS A CITY 75 YEARS AGO—AND THAT'S WHY MARTHA JONES LOVES IT. BY STEPHANIE EMMA PFEFFER



POPULATION
2,430

Splendor in the Michigan grass: Martha, Corey, 17; Bruce, Caitlin, 19; Kelsey, 14, enjoy Michigan's greenery.

WHAT MY TOWN IS KNOWN FOR Reed City emerged at the crossroads of an old railroad system that connected tracks running north and south with those running east and west. These days the "Rails to Trails" have been paved with an 8-foot-wide strip of blacktop for hiking and biking.

HANDS-ON FUN On Saturday mornings in the summer local painters, sculptors and craftspeople share their creativity with the rest of us during Art in the Park. One year Caitlin, Kelsey and I made stepping stones out of concrete and tiles.

WORKING TOGETHER When our state's famous multiple-day bike race, the Michigander, comes through town, tents spring up overnight on the Reed City High School track.

Think your town is unique? Let us know why we should profile it—and your family—in an upcoming issue. Send an e-mail and family photo to hometown@familycircle.com.

Community groups like the VFW and Ministerial Association join forces to feed hundreds of bikers and participants.

OLD MEETS NEW The town plans to honor our railroad past by reconstructing the train depot near the spot it once stood. But instead of trains gathering there, people will—the building is going to be used as a community center and free concert space.

BARELY ON THE MAP Our town is so small that it has only two traffic signals. The nearest big city is Grand Rapids, 65 miles away! But the kids frequently go there with their traveling sports teams. They also like to see the Grand Rapids Griffins play hockey at the Van Andel Arena.

PROTECTING THE PLANET Because this area of the country is so beautiful, residents do their part to preserve it. Bruce is a wetlands consultant who specializes in environmental protection laws. He helps people improve their old properties or build new ones without hurting the Earth. ●