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Volume XL No. 1

Sunday, January 7, 2024

Published Weekly

**Kids &
Moms enjoy
Fowlerville
District
Library during
holiday break**

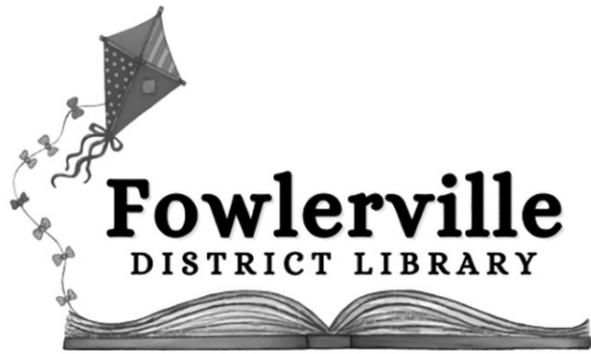
The Fowlerville District Library is a busy place throughout the year with its variety of activities and offerings. But it was also a favorite place to spend some time for kids and moms during the recent Christmas and New Year holiday break.

Among those stopping by last week were, from left Carter, Marcelina, and Olivia Jenks of Fowlerville. Carter is five years old and Olivia is three months old.

"We come here often," said Marcelina. "We especially like Storytime with Storm."

Coloring some pictures was keeping these young ladies busy, while their mother was gathering a few books to check out and read at home. From left were Rose, age 7; Kala; and Rue, age 11. They are from Webberville.





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Upcoming Events

Monday – Wednesday: 9:30 am to 7:00 pm
 Thursday: 9:30 am to 8:00 pm
 Friday: 9:30 am to 6:00 pm
 Saturday: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
 Sunday: Closed

For any questions, or to register for programs, call us at 517-223-9089

STORYTIMES

Family Storytime (Ages 1-5)

Have fun singing songs, reading stories, dancing, and playing!
 Tuesdays & Wednesdays, Jan 9 & 10 • 10am

PJ Storytime (Ages 1-5)

Wear your pjs for an evening storytime. We will have snacks & crafts. Bring a blanket and stuffie to be extra cozy. Jan 8 • 6pm

KIDS & FAMILY

Perler Bead Party (Ages 7-12)

Join Storm to make your own Perler Bead creation.
 Friday, Jan 12 • 4 – 5pm

Chess Club

Join the Chess Club! The Mid-Michigan Jr. Chess Club will meet. All levels are welcome from beginner to advanced!
 Saturdays Jan 13-27 • 1-3:30pm

Kids Krafternoons (Ages 7-12)

Drop in and get crafty with a new and exciting craft each month! Supplies provided.
 Monday, Jan 8 • 4-5pm

Lego Club (Ages 7-12)

Build your own Lego creations and complete challenges
 Thurs, Jan 11 • 4pm

My First Escape Room-Sponge Bob (Youth)

Where's Gary? Can you find him? No prior knowledge of Sponge Bob is required. Sign up for a time slot. Fri & Sat Jan 19 3:30, 4, 4:30, 5 & Jan 20 10:30, 11, 11:30 12pm

Crochet Kits

Stop by the library on the 15th of the month to grab a themed crochet amigurumi kit. Provide your own hook and everything else is included. While supplies last.

Cozy Crafting by the Fireplace

Join Mary to work on your craft or learn to knit and start a beginner project. Help is also offered for the aforementioned crochet kits. Monday, Feb 5 • 3-5pm

Homeschool Social

Meet for learning, fun and snacks. Mondays, Jan 8-29 • 12-1:30 pm

New Graphic Novel Club (Ages 7-12)

Join Storm for a discussion on Bad Guys #1. Jan. 22 • 4-5pm

Book Boxes (All ages)

Fill out the online form by visiting the events page on our website. Let the librarians pick a surprise selection of books for you. Register the first two weeks of every month to get next month's box, which will be ready to pick up the first of the following month.

TEENS

Teen Crafting (Teens)

Join Mary and drop in to make crafts such as flower pounding, resin jewelry, fairy making, diamond painting, and much more!
 Wednesdays, Jan 10-31 • 2:30-4:00 pm

Twitch Streaming (All Ages)

Join Connor and Tally and get sneak peeks of new games!
 twitch.tv/fowlervillelibrary
 Mondays, Jan 8 – 29 • 3:30-4:30pm

Board Games with Connor (Age 10+)

Join Connor and friends for some after school fun.
 Tuesdays, Jan 9-30 • 3-5pm

Dungeons & Dragons (Ages 12-18)

Come play D&D 5th Edition! No prior experience needed.
 Wednesdays, Jan 10-31 • 2:30-5pm

Switch Free Play (Ages 10-18)

Open gaming time with the library's Switch.
 Fridays • 2:30-5 pm

Jr. High Yoga with Mrs. Duke (Ages 11-15)

Come after school and give yoga a try.
 Wednesday, Jan 16 - Feb 6 & 20 • 3pm

ADULTS

Senior Day

55 or better is invited to join us for a baseball presentation including the late, great Charlie Gehringer followed by live music from the Jazz Cat Trio. Snacks will be provided.
 Friday, Jan 26 • 12pm

Yoga with Vanessa (Adults)

Join Vanessa Duke for yoga class, no cost, just bring your mat or use one of ours.
 Wednesdays, Jan 10-31 • 5pm

Jam Session

Join Mr. Damerow for some musical collaboration. Bring your horn, keyboard, harmonica, or whatever you have and join the fun. Tues. Jan 16 & Feb 20 • 5:00 – 7:30pm

Cardmaking

Join Mary to make 4 greeting cards with the theme of "Valentines". Registration is required. Thurs Jan 18 • 6:30 pm, Fri Jan 19 • 11am

Scrapbooking (Adults)

Join Mary to scrapbook your favorite photos. Stay the whole time or for just a few hours. Snacks will be provided. Everyone gets their own table. Registration is required. Sat Jan 20 • 10:30 – 3:30

Awesome Monday Book Group (Adults)

This is a traditional book discussion group. You can get a copy of the book at the front desk. Next meeting, we will discuss Firekeeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley Jan 22 • 2 pm

Beyond the Book Discussion Group (Adults)

Book discussion plus movie or documentary. Books are available at the front desk. Next meeting, we will discuss DEVOTION by Adam Makos Fri Jan 12 • 6:00 pm

Sewing with Patty (Adults)

By special request evening hours have been added. Bring your sewing machine and get ready for some fun. Registration Required.
 Wednesday Jan 17 • 6 pm
 Friday Jan 12 • 11am

FDL Oral History Project

Record your history with us as we capture the memories and stories of our residents. Call to schedule an audio interview, which can be done by a family member or staff member and can include video.

Recordings will become part of the FDL historical collection.

Join Marion Cornett in the historical room to discuss local history. Wed. 10-12pm • Jan 3-31

The library will be closed on January 15 in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

Fowlerville Junior High School News

SPORTS FOR WEEK OF JAN. 8:

Mon., 1/8: GBB tryouts/practices begin: 8th - 2:30-4:00 in FJH gym. 7th - 2:30-4:00 in Munn gym
 GBB PRACTICE EVERY DAY! IF QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT COACH.

Mon., 1/18: 6-7-8 BOYS/GIRLS Wrestling practices begin: 5-7pm at FHS. Practices daily in designated room at FHS. If questions, please contact Coach Sean Harvey.

For both GBB & wrestling, CURRENT PHYSICALS MUST BE ON RECORD & REGISTRATION at the FINAL FORMS site must be completed.

CCH practices continue on assigned days in the FHS cafeteria.

Caleb Jenkins Column



Avoiding the Resolution Trap

With the dawn of a new year, many people outline resolutions for how they want 2024 to look. A resolution could be as straightforward as taking a long walk once a week, or it could be a more sweeping review of life's priorities and philosophical underpinnings. Regardless of what form the resolutions take, they serve as a strategic vision for the year. This is an opportunity to reflect on life and determine what we need to change and what we need to keep the same. To stay on the path of personal progress, we need firm guideposts upon which we can fix our gaze.

Of course, constructing those guideposts through resolutions is only the first step in the battle. Once they are in place, we then must follow them! Probably the biggest resolution cliché is the gym commitment. For the first several weeks of January, gyms are packed as people charge into their workout resolutions, but as we get closer to February, gyms gradually return to the normal threshold of visitors.

When it comes to setting and sticking to a strategic vision, the key to success is denying the temptation of short-term ease in exchange for long-term benefits. As the old saying goes, we must maintain a perspective that allows us to see the forest through the trees. Immediate benefits will tempt us to indulge now, but if we do, we forfeit greater results in the future. Furthermore, the exchange between current and future challenges is often unbalanced. Meaning, the sacrifices we make now usually pale in comparison to the sacrifices we will make later if we indulge now to our future detriment.

Some may scoff at what they perceive as simple platitudes, but I am not talking about stoicism or mimicking a happy Sisyphus. Rather, I am simply emphasizing the need to keep the big picture in view to grasp success. In this way, it is a very grounded, realist argument. It is one that applies to individuals and resolutions, but it also applies to national strategy and policy doctrine. And as we ponder 2024 resolutions for ourselves, it is worth considering what policies fit this category.

What policies are supported because of immediate convenience but will result in long-term negative outcomes? Surely, there are many, thanks in part to the contention inherent in representative policy making. But I want to highlight three that I think are among the most glaring as we enter 2024.

The first tradeoff is the national debt. This is a great temptation because there are so many things that seemingly deserve funding. It is easier to incur more debt than say no to deserving causes. However, as examined at length last year, avoiding harsh realities now will lead to even more long-term inflation and unstable trust in the American economy, which ignites a greater ripple of effects.

The second tradeoff is isolationist retrenchment. This topic stirs up many emotions in people, and that is understandable. Many view the issue through extremes, assuming that one side wants to disconnect from the rest of the world completely while the other side wants to start a war with anyone who looks at us sideways. However, there is a middle ground that protects the global commons in a responsible manner. Many of the contentions we see around the world may not seem to impact us directly now, but they present compounding problems in the future. For example, most Americans probably know little about the current standoff between China and the Philippines in the South China Sea and assume it is of little interest to the United States. But it is of interest when one considers that one third of global shipping goes through the South China Sea, including \$208 billion of trade value for the United States. Global leadership and protecting the global commons need not and should not mean nation-building, adventurism, or imperialism, but there is still very much a need for U.S. leadership in the world.

Similarly, the third tradeoff is tariffs and trade policy. There is a place for tariffs or trade restrictions when it comes to national security, but we must tread carefully when inflicting tariffs to cut competition. Other nations will respond accordingly, meaning we will hamper our own ability to sell goods and services. This leads to reduced economic growth for both nations and, perhaps more importantly for day-to-day application, higher cost for inferior goods. Instead, we should invest where we have competitive advantages and out-compete other nations where it matters.

So much more could be said on these topics, and I probably opened a can of worms by not addressing more of the minutiae. But as we take on 2024 together, I hope we will maintain a strategic outlook, both for ourselves and for the nation that we share.

Fowlerville High School News

OFFICE HOURS

Administration Offices 7:00 a.m.– 2:30 p.m.
 Building opens 6:45 a.m.

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES TO NOTE:

1-8 School Resumes

Fowlerville High School would like to inform parents/guardians of a new resource for information. Our “Virtual Counseling Office” has links for future planning, mental health and community resources, scheduling options and setting a meeting with a counselor and much more. This information can be found on Fowlerville High School Webpage under the Counseling Department.

Fowlerville Community Schools, in a joint effort with all Livingston County Schools, would like to invite all families to our first monthly mental health series for parents. Each month, every school in Livingston County will host the same parent meeting designed by the Cook Center at 6:30 pm.

The series will cover several topics that parents and children are battling. Topics include:

- Jan 11 @ 6:30 pm - Effects of screen time
- Feb 8 @ 6:30 pm - Building your child’s confidence.
- March 14 @ 6:30 pm - Bullying
- April 11 @ 6:30 pm - Substance abuse and vaping

In each meeting, parents will learn simple strategies to help you respond to your child when they are facing these challenges or learn more about each one if it is ever needed. The cost is completely free to all families and is a valuable resource.

There are two options for attending the parent meetings. You can attend in person at our High School Media Center or virtually via the links provided in the attachments. We know your lives are busy, but we hope that you may be able to find the time to attend this informational series. Attending in person will allow you to connect with other families as we all navigate raising confident and healthy children. Please contact Amanda Robertson, our mental health specialist, with any questions you may have at atrobertsona@fowlervilleschools.org. We hope to see you all there!

CLASS OF 2024 PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND STUDENTS:

Class of 2024 FAFSA Update. The Federal Government has announced that the updated FAFSA will be open for applicants by 12/31. Before you stop reading, please remember that Michigan is a state that uses the FAFSA application for all State Scholarships and Grants as well as some college scholarship opportunities. This is free money that does not need to be paid back and can be used at trade schools, certificate bearing programs, community colleges, as well as 2–4-year universities and colleges.

At the start of the year, we were informed that all a student would need to complete their portion of the FAFSA was their contributor’s (Parent/Guardian) name and email. With this information, we walked the students through Step 1: Getting their Student Aid ID. We also booked a financial aid specialist to host a workshop during the school day to walk students through completing their application. Unfortunately, the Federal Government is now requiring students to have their contributor’s social security number among other items. Knowing parents/guardians would not want their students to have this information we need to pivot our plans.

In lieu of the in-school workshop, we have booked an online event with a financial aid specialist to be held on 1/17 at 8pm. This way the specialist will be able to walk you and your student through the process from the comfort of your home without the concern of your social security information being in the hands of a high school student. This event is only for Fowlerville seniors and their families (please see email from 12/4 for FAFSA and workshop links). All questions can be answered, especially ones like who should be the contributor, divorced families, guardianship as well as tips and tricks to get the most aid.

It is our goal that all graduating seniors have the tools available to take their next steps after high school. One of the most difficult conversations we have with students and their families is about missing deadlines for things like financial aid, or when a student changes their mind from entering the workforce and wants to attend a trade school or community college and have not taken the necessary steps to help pay for it.

We hope you take advantage of this opportunity. We appreciate your time and are excited for the class of 2024.

If you have any questions, please email: hardenbrookj@fowlervilleschools.org

SENIOR LOCK-IN

The Class of 2024 is looking forward to making their Senior year one full of memories that will last a lifetime! The seniors have created an Amazon wishlist that is full of practical items that will be raffled off during the Senior Lock-In. Any donations from the Amazon Wishlist below will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support of our Seniors! See News & Views on the Fowlerville HS page for qr code.
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/dl/invite/bfNkDND?ref_=wl_shar

Anyone wishing to donate to the Micro food pantry please go ahead and put canned goods etc. into the pantry. Self-serve and self-fill. The pantry is located on 2nd St and Grand River next to State Farm.

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Livingston County Health Department to Offer Free Radon Test Kits this January for ‘Radon Action Month’

January is ‘National Radon Action Month’ – an opportune time for Livingston County residents to test for radon in their homes, a health risk facing millions of Americans. Because families spend more time indoors during the winter months, January is a good time to test for this radioactive, invisible, and odorless gas. Exposure to radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that approximately 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year are radon-related. Radon comes from the natural (radioactive) breakdown of uranium in soil, rock, and water and gets into the air you breathe. Radon enters buildings through openings in the foundation floor or walls (sump openings, crawlspaces, floor/wall joints, cracks, etc.). Radon can become trapped in buildings and lead to elevated and harmful radon levels.

One in eight Michigan homes is likely to have an elevated radon level. According to a study conducted by the Michigan

Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, radon is present in elevated levels in about 40% of Livingston County homes. Radon is tasteless, odorless, and colorless, and it has no warning symptoms (it does not cause headaches, nausea, fatigue, etc.). Testing is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk for health issues caused by radon.

The Livingston County Health Department (LCHD) has short-term radon test kits available free of charge during the month of January. Test kits can be picked up at the Environmental Health Division office, located at 2300 East Grand River Avenue, Howell.

Kits may also be picked up at participating local city and township offices, while supplies last: City of Brighton, Brighton Township, Cohoctah Township, Conway Township, Deerfield Township, Genoa Township, Green Oak Township, Hamburg Township, Hartland Township, City of Howell, Iosco Township, Marion Township, Oceola Township, Putnam Township, Tyrone Township, and Unadilla Township.

Test kits are being offered for free at LCHD through the month of January but may also be purchased throughout the year. Kits are also available for purchase at local hardware stores, home improvement centers, or directly from a radon test kit provider.

The EPA recommends that houses with radon levels of 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) or more be fixed to prevent accumulation of the gas indoors. Radon can be corrected by qualified contractors for an estimated cost of \$1,500 to \$3,000.

For more radon information, contact LCHD at (517) 546-9858, or the Michigan Indoor Radon Program at 1-800-RADON-GAS. Radon information can also be accessed online at <https://milivcounty.gov/environmental-health/housing-indoor-air/radon/> or www.michigan.gov/radon.



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DROP IN EUCHRE - EVERY MORNING 8:30 am to noon
DROP IN EXERCISE - EVERY MORNING 10 am – 11 am
GLEANERS PANTRY HOURS: Tuesday – Thursday 9am – 2 pm
Monday, January 8- Blood Pressure Check 9:30-10:30am and Board Games 12:30pm
Tuesday, January 9- Dice Games – Noon
Wednesday, January 10- BINGO Noon – 2pm
Thursday, January 11- Hook & Needle Crafts 12:30 – 2 pm
Friday, January 12- Board Meeting 10am and BINGO Noon – 2pm
Saturday, Jan. 13- Euchre Tournament 2-5pm
Monday, January 15- Board Games 12:30pm
Tuesday, January 16- Dice Games – Noon
Wednesday, January 17- BINGO Noon – 2pm
Thursday, January 18- Birthday POTLUCK 11:30am-2pm
Friday, January 19- BINGO Noon – 2pm
Monday, January 22- Community Meeting 11am and Board Games 12:30pm
Tuesday, January 23- Dice Games – Noon
Wednesday, January 24- BINGO Noon – 2pm
Thursday, January 25- Buck & Carolyn 12:30-1:30pm
Friday, January 26- BINGO Noon – 2pm
Monday, January 29- Board Games 12:30pm
Tuesday, January 30- Dice Games Noon
Wednesday, January 31- BINGO Noon-2pm

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS OF HANDY TOWNSHIP TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Handy Township Board scheduled for Monday, January 15, 2024, has been **rescheduled to Monday January 22, 2024**, at the same time of 7 p.m. in the Handy Township Board Room, 135 N. Grand Avenue, Fowlerville, (please use rear entrance of the building to the boardroom). The Public is always welcome to attend.

Laura A. Eisele, Handy Township Clerk
 (1-7, 1-14, 1-21-24 FNV)



Where's the Snow?

By Susan Kretchman

Anyone who knows me well can tell you how much I really like snow. I'm not certain why these beautiful frozen crystals intrigue me, but they do. I am amazed how millions of water droplets falling from clouds turn into either a light dusting on the earth below or a winter blizzard that brings a halt to everyday life.

Each flake we see during a snowfall has begun with a tiny droplet of cold water attaching itself to a dust particle or a dot of pollen as it makes its journey. The flake will form six sides to its shape, not four and not seven—six—every single one. And, depending on the temperature and humidity of the day, the final snowflake from origin to landing may alter. That's pretty cool! (no pun intended)

Snowflakes are not the only original creation to marvel. You and I are unique creations, too. Just as science can reveal mysteries behind a snowflake's formation and ultimate pattern, God's Word illuminates the wonder and awe of how each human is created and formed. We find a beautiful description in Psalm 139: 13-16:

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. (New International Version)

There you have it! If you've ever wondered, God created you. He knit you together. He made you. You were not unhidden from Him. He wove you. He saw you before you were formed, while in the process of growing in the womb, and life was mapped out for you ahead of your arrival outside the womb.

You are you and no one else is identical to you. Even identical twins, though formed from one egg, have slightly different DNA. THESE facts alone cause me to truly pause and take in how unique and magnificent our Creator is as the one who formed the earth, spoke into existence all that we can see, touch, and smell...and made male and females in His image to enjoy all of creation...and above all to take pleasure in having fellowship with Him.

Knowing that no two snowflakes or no two humans are exactly alike is proof enough for me that each one of us matters to God! I didn't grow up reading the Bible like I do now, so as a young adult when I FIRST stumbled upon hearing someone read the above verses from Psalm 139, I was blown away! My hope and prayer for anyone reading my words today is that you will be encouraged, intrigued, and assured that your life has purpose, and no matter the number of days "ordained" for you by God, you have importance and value.

Snowflakes hit the ground and eventually melt into the earth. You were born into a world, created by an awesome God, and one day you will return to the earth, too. In the meantime, what will you pursue? How will you enjoy the beautiful gift of life that you've been given?

I plan to dig deeper to know God more intimately, and, if we ever get a good snow storm I will reflect on my own uniqueness and purpose as I live out "all the days ordained for me."

Michigan Young Birders' Camp being offered June 23-28 at Alma College

The Hartland Audubon Nature Club encourages Livingston County young people between the ages of 13-18 to participate in the Michigan Young Birders' Camp hosted by the Michigan Audubon Society.

The Michigan Audubon Society organizes exciting outdoor experiences, from bird banding to exploring state-wide habitats, designed to increase interest in the natural environment, conservation, and ornithology. Participants will learn bird identification tips and techniques and hear from guest speakers on bird-related topics. In addition to a new respect for nature, the camp becomes a life-changing experience for many of the attendees.

The week-long overnight camp will be based at Alma College from June 23 -28 and the application period is currently open. The cost is \$650 which includes food, lodging and transportation to numerous nature centers, wildlife refuges, and museums. No money is required to apply but the applicant will be contacted to discuss subsequent action. The Hartland Audubon Nature Club is proud to have donated to the need-based scholarships.

Enrollment is limited so if you are interested, apply now. Go to the Michigan Audubon Society website, michiganaudubon.org or call (517) 580-7364 for more information.

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Fowlerville High School Featured Student

Savannah Sauls

The Fowlerville High School featured student this week is Savannah Sauls, a freshman. She is the oldest of Faith and Daniel Sauls's five children. Her four younger siblings are Andy, Oliver, Lilly, Gemma. She also has a German Shepherd.

Savannah is currently taking Physical Science, French II, Freshman Literature & Composition, Leadership, Algebra I, and American History.

She said that her favorite class is History, explaining that she "finds it interesting". Something she enjoys most about school is "seeing my friends," she said.

Savannah is also involved in Sideline and Competition Cheer. She said this will be her 10th competition season. Her favorite part about cheer is stunting. She also said she likes "how your team becomes your family."

Her plans after high school are to attend college and pursue a career in teaching. She said she "has wanted to be a teacher since first grade." A college she has in mind of attending is University of Michigan.

Outside of school and cheer, she enjoys spending time with family and friends. She also enjoys reading. Her favorite books are both the Harry Potter series and the Percy Jackson series. Savannah also likes to travel. Her favorite place she has gone to is up north in Mio.

One of Savannah's teachers said that "Savannah is always very nice in the hallways. She works hard in class and is always willing to participate in class discussions. She also helps other students with their work when they ask."

2024 Farmer Education Day

AGENDA

February 6, 2024

8:30am – 3:00pm

Livingston Educational Service Agency (LESA)

1425 W. Grand River Ave
Howell, MI 48843

NO FEE for the program. A free will donation will be accepted to help cover the cost for lunch.

4 RUP credits are available for those who attend the entire program
MAEAP Phase 1 Credit approved

RSVP by January 30th, 2023
Questions?

Contact Stacey Coddington at
(517) 546-8124 or
scoddin@ctyfb.com

LIVINGSTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU



- 8:30am – 9:00am **Registration/Welcome**
Clark Humrich, Chairman - Livingston Conservation District & Ray Moses, Director & Membership Chairman – Livingston County Farm Bureau
- 9:00am – 10:00am **2023 On-Farm Research Results – Soybean and Corn on-farm research targets**
Phil Kaatz, MSUE Senior Extension Educator-Forages and Field Crops
- 10:00am – 10:15am **Snack Break**
- 10:15am - 11:15am **Cash Crop Weed Control with Cover Crops**
Madelyn Celovski, Conservation Agronomist Educator, MSU Extension
- 11:15am - 12:15pm **Assessing Forests, Wetlands, and Habitats for Conservation FWH MAEAP Verification-**
Andrea Wendt and Donna Kanan, Conservation Specialists
- 12:15pm – 1:00pm **Lunch**
Catered by Showerman Family Cooking
- 1:00pm – 2:00pm **Woodlot Disease and Invasive Pest Management**
Jason Darling, Registered Forester. Owner -- Darling Forestry LLC.
- 2:00pm – 2:30pm **Transportation Regulations and Agricultural Vehicle Safety**
Deputy Bryan Harminson—Livingston County Sheriff Department, Howell, MI
- 2:30pm – 3:00pm **Mending the Stress Fence**
Misty Oebel, Health and Farm Stress Educator, MS and Tanner Derror, Health Extension Educator, MPH—MSUE
- 3:00pm – 3:30pm **Livingston County Farm Bureau update
Livingston Conservation Updates
Closing Comments/Questions**

LEGAL NOTICES

FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Livingston County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, February 7, 2024.

The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Francisco Cervantes Jr., A Single Man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. acting solely as a nominee for Loandepot.com. LLC, Mortgagee, dated January 25, 2021, and recorded on February 8, 2021, as Document Number: 2021R-005996, Livingston County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated November 30, 2023 and recorded December 11, 2023 by Document Number: 2023R-022460, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Four and 29/100 (\$179,504.29) including interest at the rate of 2.75000% per annum.

Said premises are situated in the Township of Handy, Livingston County, Michigan, and are described as: Parcel 3: Part of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 9, Town 3 North, Range 3 East, Handy Township, Livingston County, Michigan, described as follows: Beginning at a point on the North Section line, South 87 degrees 50 minutes 15 seconds East 897.61 feet from the Northwest corner of said Section 9; running thence South 87 degrees 50 minutes 15 seconds East 150.00 feet along the north Section line; thence South 00 degrees 24 minutes 58 seconds East 297.00 feet; thence North 87 degrees 50 minutes 15 seconds West 150.00 feet along the North Right-of-Way of Brandi Lane (66 foot wide); thence North 00 degrees 24 minutes 58 seconds West 297.00 feet to the point of beginning.

Together with a non-exclusive easement being more particular described as follows: A 66 foot wide non-exclusive private road easement being described as follows: Part of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 9, Town 3 North, Range 3 East, Handy Township, Livingston County, Michigan, described as follows: Beginning at a point on the centerline of Nicholson Road and the West Section line, South 00 degrees 36 minutes 58 seconds East 330.03 feet from the Northwest corner of said Section 9; running thence South 87 degrees 50 minutes 15 seconds East 1569.53 feet along the centerline of Brandi Lane (66 foot wide) for ingress and egress for the above described parcels and adjacent property owners to the center of a 75 foot radius cul-de-sac and the terminus of Brandi Lane; thence continuing South 87 degrees 50 minutes 15 seconds East 151.66 feet along the centerline of a 66 foot wide easement for ingress and egress, for the property lying Easterly thereof, and the end of said easement Commonly known as: 9844 BRANDI LN, FOWLERVILLE, MI 48836

If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

Dated: January 7, 2024

Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C.
Attorneys for Nationstar Mortgage LLC
43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180,
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200
Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Case No. 23MI01022-1
(01-07)(01-28)

(1-7, 1-14, 1-21 & 1-28-24 FNV)

NOTICE OF CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION LIEN FORECLOSURE SALE

WHEREAS, default has been made in the terms and conditions of the Master Deed of Jonathan's Landing Community Association dated May 9, 2002, signed on Jonathan's Landing I- May 9, 2002, and recorded on May 17, 2002, in Liber 3398 Page 830, et seq., inclusive, Livingston County, Michigan, Register of Deeds, and any amendments thereto, and designated as Livingston County Condominium Subdivision Plan No. 250 (the "Master Deed"). Said default under the Master Deed has resulted in the recordation of a "Notice of Lien for Nonpayment of Assessments" by Jonathan's Landing Community Association, said Notice of Lien for Nonpayment of Assessments being dated October 23, 2023, signed on October 19, 2023, and recorded on October 23, 2023, in Document No. 2023R-019598, Livingston County, Michigan, Register of Deeds (the "Lien") on which Lien there is claimed to be due, as of the date hereon, the sum of THREE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTEEN AND 89/100 DOLLARS (\$3,813.89). Under the power of sale contained in the Michigan Condominium Act of 1978, MCL 559.208(2), and Article II, Section 2.5 of the Condominium Bylaws, attached as part of said Master Deed, please take notice as follows:

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Lien will be foreclosed by a sale of the lien premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Livingston County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on Wednesday, February 7, 2024. The amount due on the Lien may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the premises. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Said premises are located in the Township of Howell, County of Livingston, State of Michigan, and more particularly described as: Unit 89, Building 16, Jonathan's Landing 1 Condominium, a condominium according to the Master Deed recorded in Liber 3398, Page 830, et seq. Livingston County Records and designated as Livingston County Condominium Subdivision Plan No. 250, together with rights in general common elements and limited common elements as set forth in the above described Master Deed (and Amendments thereto, if any) and as described in Act 59 of the Public Acts of 1978, as amended.

Owner(s) of Record: Kelli Turrall
Property Address: 3401 Kneeland Circle, Howell, MI 48843
Parcel ID No. 4706-28-402-191

Attention homeowner (or condominium co-owner): If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Lien at the telephone number stated in this Notice. The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale pursuant to MCL 559.208(2) unless the property is determined abandoned, then, in that event, the redemption period shall be one (1) month from the date of such sale pursuant to MCL 559.208(2), after which Kelli Turrall and all persons claiming through or under him shall be forever barred from all equity of redemption. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, the owner, Kelli Turrall, will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the foreclosure sale or to Jonathan's Landing Community Association for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Dated: December 28, 2023

By: Jonathan's Landing Community Association, a Michigan Nonprofit Corporation

For any inquiries, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Lien set forth below:
Melissa Francis, Esq. Hirzel Law, PLC
37085 Grand River Avenue, Suite 200
Farmington, Michigan 48335
Phone: (248) 478-1800
Hirzel Law, PLC File No. 16227

(01-07)(01-28)

(1-7, 1-14, 1-21 & 1-28-24 FNV)

Authors explain motives for writing about environmental issues

By Eric Freedman
Capital News Service

Books usually speak to readers through words and, sometimes, illustrations.

But we can learn what motivated their authors by speaking

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Livingston County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on February 7, 2024. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Robert Limbright, an unmarried man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): UNITED SHORE FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC D/B/A UNITED WHOLESAL MORTGAGE, LLC

Date of Mortgage: June 25, 2021

Date of Mortgage Recording: July 1, 2021

Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$158,019.24

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Cohoctah, Livingston County, Michigan, and described as: Part of the West 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 16, Town 4 North, Range 4 East, Cohoctah Township, Livingston County, Michigan, described as follows; Beginning at a point on the South 1/8 line of Section 16 which is North 0 degrees 28 minutes 50 seconds East along the West line of Section 16, as occupied, 1315.13 feet to the South 1/8 line of Section 16; thence South 89 degrees 24 minutes East along said South 1/8 line 659.90 feet from the Southwest corner of Section 16; thence South 89 degrees 24 minutes East along the South 1/8 line of Section 16 a distance of 658.10 feet to the West 1/8 line of Section 16; thence South 0 degrees 13 minutes West along said West 1/8 line of Section 16 a distance of 662.10 feet; thence North 89 degrees 24 minutes West 658.10 feet; thence North 0 degrees 13 minutes East 662.10 feet to the point of beginning.

Common street address (if any): 9284 Schrepfer Rd, Howell, MI 48855-8312

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: January 7, 2024

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1519020

(01-07)(01-28)

(1-7, 1-14, 1-21 & 1-28-24 FNV)

directly to them, as Great Lakes Echo correspondents did in interviews this year about new books about environmental issues in the region.

"The pollution problems of the Great Lakes are really people problems," John Hartig, the former manager of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, told Great Lakes Echo correspondent Jada Vasser.

Hartig wrote "Great Lakes Champions: Grassroots Efforts to Clean Up Polluted Watersheds" (Michigan State University Press, \$24.95). The book profiles residents of the region who've led local fights for environmental protection. "They're well-respected in the community and they have trust," he said of the activists he wrote about.

For Michael Schumacher, whose latest book is about shipwrecks near Isle Royale and along Minnesota's shoreline of Lake Superior, the goal is telling stories of ill-fated ships

Continued on next page

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT.

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Livingston County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on February 7, 2024. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): William A. Wolf, unmarried man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): KEYBANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Date of Mortgage: November 13, 2018

Date of Mortgage Recording: January 15, 2019

Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$161,445.31

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Hamburg, Livingston County, Michigan, and described as: A parcel of land in the Southeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 and the Northeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 35, Town 1 North, Range 5 East, Hamburg Township, Livingston County, Michigan, described as follows: Beginning at a point South 01 degree 32 minutes West 1155.20 feet from the Northwest corner of the Southeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of said Section 35; thence South 85 degrees 05 minutes 10 seconds East 523.52 feet; thence South 03 degrees 34 minutes East 279.70 feet along Merrill Road; thence North 86 degrees 34 minutes 10 seconds West 547.77 feet; thence North 01 degree 32 minutes East 291.30 feet to the point of beginning.

Common street address (if any): 11600 Merrill Rd, Whitmore Lake, MI 48189-9390

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: January 7, 2024

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1518755
(01-07)(01-28)

(1-7, 1-14, 1-21 & 1-28-24 FNV)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Livingston County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on January 17, 2024. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Robert D Lykins and Michele S Lykins, husband and wife

Original Mortgagee: ABN AMRO Mortgage Group, Inc.

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for the benefit of the Freddie Mac Seasoned Credit Risk Transfer Trust, Series 2021-3

Date of Mortgage: July 28, 2003

Date of Mortgage Recording: April 15, 2004

Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$81,382.16

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Handy, Livingston County, Michigan, and described as: Parcel B: Part of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 20, Township 3 North, Range 3 East, Michigan Meridian, Township Handy, Livingston County, Michigan, described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest corner of said Section; thence North assumed bearing 1584.84 feet along the West line of said Section to the point of beginning; thence North 267.99 feet along the West line; thence South 89 degrees 05 minutes 45 seconds East 406.40 feet; thence South 267.99 feet; thence North 89 degrees 05 minutes 45 seconds East 406.40 feet to the point of beginning.

Common street address (if any): 2316 N Cedar Rd, Fowlerville, MI 48836-9100

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: December 17, 2023

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1516960
(12-17)(01-07)

(12-17, 12-24, 12-31-23 & 1-7-24 FNV)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Livingston County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on January 31, 2024. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): David Hacke and April Hacke, husband and wife

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Date of Mortgage: October 14, 2008

Date of Mortgage Recording: November 19, 2008

Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$159,288.99

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Howell, Livingston County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 131, Rolling Oaks Subdivision No. 2, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 36 of Plats, Pages 27 through 33, Livingston County Records.

Common street address (if any): 1215 Valley Forest Ct, Howell, MI 48855-6792

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: December 31, 2023

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1518717
(12-31)(01-21)

(12-31-23, 1-7, 1-14 & 1-21-24 FNV)

Motives for writing about environmental issues, continued

and their role in Great Lakes history.

The latest reflection of that interest is "Too Much Sea for Their Decks" (University of Minnesota Press, \$24.95).

"Cities were built on the backs of these boats," Schumacher told correspondent Mya Smith. "Lumber was being transported from northern Michigan down to Chicago, which was very important."

For author Ted Rulseh, the growing ecological damage from human activity, including poor septic systems and the failure of some property owners to properly tend to their land is a worrisome threat to the Great Lakes and other waters of the Upper Midwest.

His book "Ripple Effects: How We're Loving Our Lakes to Death." (University of Wisconsin Press, \$26.95) highlights that concern.

As Rulseh told correspondent Emile Rizk, "People will buy lake property, and the chainsaw comes out before the furniture goes in the house. I want people to appreciate the lakes more and understand the role that each of us plays in taking proper care of the lake."

Similarly, Lianna Leddy takes on the poisonous legacy of uranium mining in her First Rivers community in Ontario.

Her book is "Serpent River Resurgence: Confronting Uranium Mining at Elliott Lake" (University of Toronto Press, \$29.95).

One goal, Leddy told correspondent Daniel Schoenherr, was to shed light on the problem as Canadians debate proposed new mining operations. "One of the reasons why I thought my project deserved to be turned into a book was to talk about these issues."

For author David Dempsey, "Half Wild: People, Dogs and Environmental Policy" (MSU Press, \$27.95) was a departure from his usually somber books about environmental issues and policymaking.

"We have this kind of binary approach to the environment where we say humans are here, nature's there," he told correspondent Vladislava Sukhanovskaya while discussing

his book that provides an overview of his advocacy career, mixed in with stories about dogs he's owned.

People are drawn to environmental concerns "because of some personal connection, whether it be the neighborhood they grew up in, the forest they've walked in, the lakes where they've smoked salmon. So, it's a natural thing to tie environmental matters to personal experiences," Dempsey said.

Sukhanovskaya also interviewed Maureen Dunphy about her collection of essays, "Divining: A Memoir in Trees" (Wayne State University Press, \$19.99).

Dunphy described the important role that trees have played in her life and emotional well-being. She recalled how being alone in a tree house when she was an elementary schoolgirl eased her anxieties.

"That experience of me making the effort to climb up into the tree, being in the tree alone, breathing the air, not having anything there but my thoughts, and everything looked different below me," she said.

In his collection of essays, longtime outdoors guide Douglas Wood also emphasized the connection between healing and nature.

In "A Wild Path" (University of Minnesota Press, \$24.95), Wood told correspondent Shealyn Paulis, "Kids go through their childhood without a connection to nature, without green spaces to walk in or to listen to the songs of birds, without hearing sounds of the night and seeing stars.

"It's a very unnatural way and unhealthy way to grow up," Wood said.

Shop & Dine Local



GREAT LAKES COWBOY CHURCH

COME FOR COFFEE STAY FOR THE LORD'S PRESENCE
134 Free St • Fowlerville
10:30am Sunday Church For Everyone
 Communion & Healing Service Every Sunday
 Chuck Wagon (pass a dish) Lunch the last Sunday
 Inner Healing by appointment info@roacrm.org

Kreeger Elementary School News

CALENDAR OF KREEGER EVENTS

1/8/24	School Resumes
1/15/24	No School – MLK Day
1/19/24	½ Day- dismissal 12:02pm
2/5-7/24	4 th grade Hearing Screening
2/8,9,12,13,14/24	3 rd and 5 th grade Vision Screening
2/19/24	No School – President's Day
3/1/24	End of Second Trimester
3/7/24	½ Day, 12:02 dismissal - Conferences 1-4pm; 5-7:30pm

* * *

Hearing and Vision Screening Information

Livingston County Health Department is providing Hearing Screening for 4th grade students from February 5th thru 7th and Vision Screening for 3rd and 5th grade students February 8th, 9th, 12th, 13th, and 14th. Please call the school at (517)-223-6006 if you **do not** want your child screened. If you have a concern and would like your child tested technicians will accept parent/teacher requests on the first day of screening (Please call and we will add you to the list). Any other questions regarding Hearing or Vision Screening may be answered by calling the Health Department at (517)-546-9850.



Michigan House Report

By Bob Bezotte, 50th District

As we kick off the new year, may the coming days be filled with hope, joy, and opportunities. I wish each and every one of you a 2024 filled with abundance, laughter, and beautiful moments shared with your loved ones.

On Dec. 27, the nonpartisan Office of the Auditor General released a new audit that further exposes the dysfunction at Michigan's Unemployment Insurance Agency during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. It is the OAG's fifth and final audit of the UIA in response to a 2020 request by legislative leaders.

Despite the Whitmer administration's claim to have fixed problems at the troubled agency, the audit released today shows the UIA failed to investigate and address fraud and improper payments as recently as 2022 — years after the start of the pandemic.

The audit found that between January 2020 and October 2022, the agency did not attempt to identify a large share of imposter claims and did not attempt to recover many payments and penalties. The report revealed the agency made \$245.1 million in payments to ineligible individuals, even after the agency found that an individual was dead or in prison.

This audit sheds light on the continued failures at the unemployment agency and emphasizes the need for reforms. It's clear that we need to find solutions that prevent fraud, add accountability, and improve service to the businesses and workers who pay into this system.

January is Radon Action Month in Michigan, and residents are encouraged to learn more about this environmental hazard and test their homes during the winter months.

You cannot see, smell, or taste radon, and there are no short-term side effects that could cause alarm or warn of its presence. However, long-term exposure to radon increases the risk of developing lung cancer, which accounts for more deaths in both men and women than any other form of cancer in the U.S., according to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

Behind smoking, radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer and is considered a leading environmental cause of cancer deaths in the U.S.

Residents are encouraged to test for radon every two to five years. If a radon mitigation system was previously installed in the home, residents are encouraged to test every two years to make sure that radon levels remain in the acceptable range.

In Michigan, one in every four Michigan homes is projected to have radon levels exceeding the federal action level of 4 picocuries per liter of air (4 pCi/L).

For comprehensive information and resources on radon testing, visit Michigan.gov/Radon or reach out to EGLE's Indoor Radon hotline at 800-723-6642 (800-RADONGAS).

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office by calling (517) 373-3906 or emailing RobertBezotte@house.mi.gov. I am always happy to hear from people in our community.



Fowlerville High School's "ATHLETES" OF THE WEEK



Jud Scott



JV Girls Basketball

Ireland Curtis - Ireland is a freshman that currently leads the JV team offensively. She generally produces double digit games on the offensive side and can play down low or hit the 3 ball with confidence and ease. Ireland also handles the ball fluidly if needed. She also is a force blocking defensively, blocking her opponents shots and dominating the boards. Ireland's future is very bright in the program.

Avery Borg - Avery is another freshman on the JV team who handles the responsibilities of being the point guard. Avery has a consistent outside shot and is not afraid to attack the basket off the dribble. Her defensive skills and leadership at the point guard position make it very difficult to pull her off the court. Avery also has a bright future ahead with the basketball program.



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Committee seeks to restore local control of utility scale solar & wind projects

A bipartisan group of individuals from across the state has launched “Citizens for Local Choice,” a ballot committee formed to restore voters’ rights in land use decisions for industrial wind and solar operations, which were taken away in House Bill 5120, now Public Act 233 of 2023.

Organizers noted that, as passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, the new law significantly restricts local governments from participating in the decision-making process regarding utility-scale wind and solar projects in their communities. Unless a local government abides by all of the mandates in the new law, decision-making authority now rests with the three-member, Michigan Public Service Commission.

The Michigan House of Representatives and Senate have passed a package of bills in November, known as the Clean Energy & Jobs Act, that is intended to hasten the transaction of the state’s electrical energy from fossil fuels to renewable sources—mainly wind and solar power. Part of the legislation include bills that will take away local control over large-scale wind and solar farms, including the ability to reject them.

The Act requires that 60 percent of the state’s energy come from renewable sources by 2030, with a target of 100 percent clean energy by 2040.

The voting was along party lines, with the Democratic Party majority prevailing in both chambers. The legislation was subsequently signed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

The new law gives the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) the ultimate permitting authority over the siting of wind projects with generation larger than 100-megawatts, and solar and battery storage projects with generation larger than 50-megawatts.



Livestock using solar panels in their pasture as shelter from the sun.

The move to take away the zoning approval process from local municipalities over large wind and solar projects was met with opposition, mainly from officials and residents in rural areas where the bulk of the utility-scale developments will likely be located. Both the Michigan Townships Association and the Michigan Association of Counties were among the organizations opposing these bills.

Supporters of giving the state permitting authority over large renewable projects, on the other hand, said it is necessary to overcome opposition campaigns which have derailed wind and solar farms in some Michigan communities and to meet the clean-energy goals that are a core part of the Act. They include environmental groups and some unions.

Citizens for Local Control, headquartered in Deerfield, has been among the groups opposed to the legislation.

“We refuse to sit on the sidelines as local control gets stripped from our communities. We are committed to this effort and believe we have a real chance to rightfully restore control back into the locals’ hands,” said Norm Stephens, committee member for Citizens for Local Choice. “This will no doubt be a tough battle, but it is a battle that thousands of Michigan voters and I are ready to take on.”

The ballot effort is a proposed initiated law to allow local units of government to retain local authority to regulate the development of solar, wind, or energy storage facilities in their jurisdictions by repealing laws that would allow the Michigan Public Service Commission to override local energy facility development decisions.

If enacted, this proposal will allow local ordinances to continue to regulate setback distance, structure height, shadow flicker, and the amount of light and sound emitted by energy facilities and allow local units of government to approve and manage proposals to construct energy facilities.

The committee officials said in their news release that they are in the process of submitting language for consideration by the Board of Canvassers. Upon approval, the Committee will have 180 days to collect and submit the required 356,958 valid signatures from registered voters. The required number of signatures would need to be submitted by May 29th in order for the initiative to be placed on the November 2024 ballot; otherwise, the initiative would advance to the November 2026 ballot. Those interested in getting involved in the effort can visit www.micitizenchoice.org for more information.

Livingston County Genealogical Society meeting via zoom on Jan. 11th

The Livingston County Genealogical Society will meet via zoom on Thursday, Jan. 11, at 7pm. Laressa Northrup will present “Religious Groups in Colonial Pennsylvania”. A link to this virtual meeting may be found on our Facebook page for the Livingston County Genealogical Society a few days before the Jan. 11th meeting. All are welcome.

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Smith Elementary School News

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January 8 – School Resumes
January 15 – NO SCHOOL MLK Jr. Day
January 19 – Half Day for K-5 (Dismissal Time 12:02)
February 19 – NO SCHOOL President’s Day

Recess, Temperatures & Proper Clothing – With winter temperatures upon us lately, please make sure your child brings warm outer wear to school, such as mittens, scarf, hat, snow pants, boots and winter coat. Per our student handbook, students are expected to go outside for recess when the temperature is 10 degrees or higher. Please Note * A very helpful plan is to also keep an extra set of clothing in your child’s backpack at all times, just in case they get their clothes wet while outside, spill something on themselves at lunch or have an accident at school.

Clothing Donation – The Smith office is very low on stretch waistband sweatpants or athletic type pants. Unisex sweatpants are the best option. Sizes used most often are 6 to 8 & occasionally 5T & 10. We are very low on small and medium size boys & girls underwear. We really appreciate any and all clothing donations. Our community is the best!

Medication –If your child requires any prescription or non-prescription medication during the school year, a parent or guardian must bring the medication in to the Smith Office to drop it off and complete the necessary paperwork. This includes ALL prescription and over the counter medications. **School Board Policy states that children are not allowed to transport medication.**

FYI- Each school building in the Fowlerville Community School District has a Child Study Team / Response to Intervention process in place, which is a vehicle for staff members to review student performance, concerns, and collaboratively develop interventions. If you have concerns about your child’s development and are interested in more information on special services, contact his/her building Principal.



U.S. Congress Report

By Elissa Slotkin, 7th District, U.S. House of Representatives

Secures more than \$11.8 million for constituents in 2023

As the year comes to a close, U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin (MI-07) announced that her team returned \$11,833,472 to constituents in 2023, thanks to the hard work of her constituent services staff.

The returns mark the highest amount Slotkin’s constituent services team has secured in a calendar year since she took office, bringing the total amount returned to constituents to \$18,191,675 since 2019.

One reason for the record-setting year is due cases that qualified for the Internal Revenue Service’s Employee Retention Credit, which is available for certain businesses and tax-exempt organizations affected during the pandemic.

“My constituent services team has years of experience navigating the federal government, and they have a passion for helping Michiganders get the most out of their government,” said Slotkin. “They know how to navigate bureaucracy better than anyone, and they care deeply about helping people in an otherwise automated world. So if you’ve been struggling with a federal agency, please know we have an entire staff in Lansing ready and waiting to help. Let us bang pots and pans for you – we’re ready to work.”

Michigan’s 7th district residents who need help getting information or refunds from a federal agency can contact the office through Rep. Slotkin’s website or over the phone by calling (517) 993-0510.

The best way to start the process is by completing a privacy release form on the website.

Completing this form allows Congresswoman Slotkin’s office and federal agencies to exchange details of a constituent’s case while complying with federal privacy laws.

Slotkin’s office can also assist with requesting D.C. tours and tickets, receiving a milestone birthday or anniversary greeting, or requesting that a flag be flown over the U.S. Capitol. Visit <https://slotkin.house.gov/> for more information.



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<p>\$245*</p> <p>OIL FURNACE MAINTENANCE</p> <p><small>Up to 1.25 Hours Labor Clean Heat Exchanger & Flue Pipes with Vacuum Replace Nozzle & Oil Filter • Check Electrodes Check Heat Exchanger Combustion Efficiency Testing</small></p> <p><small>*Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at time of service. Furnace must be in operating condition. Prior sales excluded. Offer ends 3-31-24.</small></p>	<p>\$265*</p> <p>OIL BOILER MAINTENANCE</p> <p><small>*Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at time of service. Boiler must be in operating condition. Prior sales excluded. Offer ends 3-31-24.</small></p>	<p>\$50 OFF</p> <p>WATER HEATER INSTALLATION</p> <p><small>*Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at time of service. Prior sales excluded. Offer ends 3-31-24.</small></p>
<p>ANY APRILAIRE OR LENNOX HUMIDIFIER WATER PANEL BUY 1, GET THE 2ND 1/2 PRICE*</p> <p><small>*Pick-up counter only. Not valid with any other offer. Present coupon at time of service. Prior sales excluded. Offer ends 3-31-24.</small></p>	<p>APRILAIRE OR LENNOX MEDIA FILTER \$10 OFF</p> <p><small>Excludes MERV 16 & 501 Conveniently located off new Latson Rd. Interchange</small></p> <p><small>*Pick-up counter only. Not valid with any other offer. Present coupon at time of service. Prior sales excluded. Offer ends 3-31-24.</small></p>	<p>\$200* OFF FURNACE INSTALLATION OR A/C INSTALLATION</p> <p><small>*Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at time of service. Furnace must be in operating condition. Prior sales excluded. Offer ends 3-31-24.</small></p>

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My mother worked in Washington, D.C. during World War II

By Karen Grab

World War II upended a lot of lives, both for those serving in the military and on the homefront. It was the younger generation that experienced much of the changes, leaving their respective hometowns or, if they remained at home, taking on new jobs to assist in the war effort.

Among those of that younger set was my mother, Dorothy Karpenske (Seeley) who worked as a secretary for the federal government in Washington, D.C. during the war years—1942-1944.

Dorothy was born in 1921 when Warren G. Harding was

the U.S. President and Calvin Coolidge was Vice President. Back then gas cost 26 cents-a-gallon and you could purchase a home for \$7,000. She grew up in Amery, a small town in Wisconsin.

My mother was always a very detailed person and having taken two years of typing and shorthand in Amery High School, she set her sights on a career in business. After graduating in 1938, she supported herself with various jobs before attending a business college in Superior, Wisconsin.

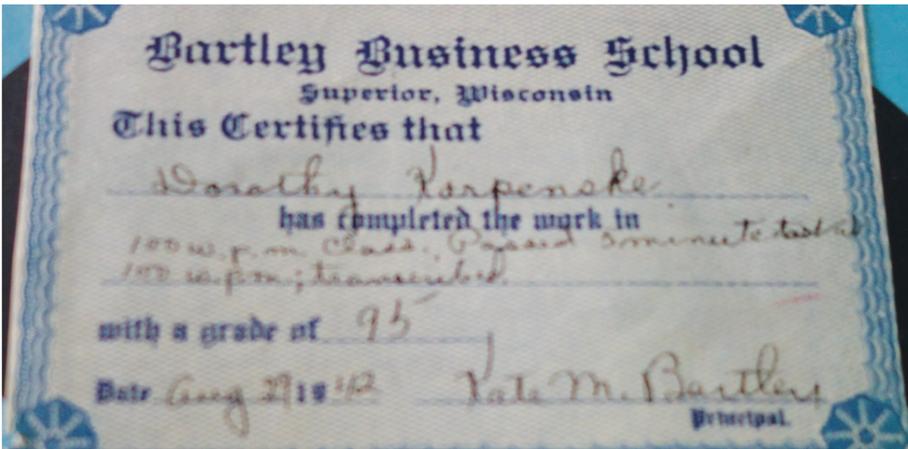
She took classes at Bartley Business College in 1942—from March to August. She was 21. At that time she typed 60 words-per-minute and took dictation at 100 words-per-minute. She also had beautiful handwriting.

The United States had entered World War II a few months earlier after the Pearl Harbor attack on Dec. 7, 1941.

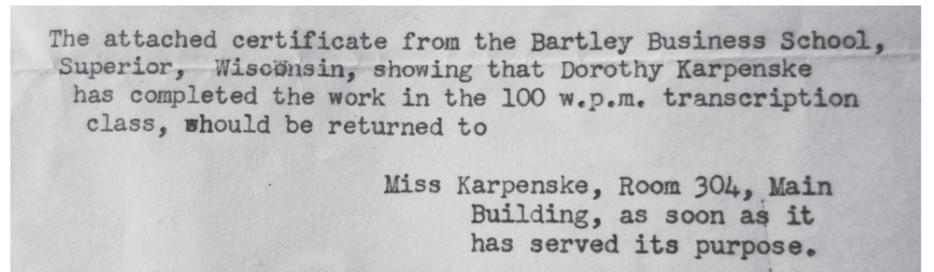
The school sent her and a group of other girls to work for the government in Washington, D.C. She was assigned to the Statistical Division of the Civil Service Commission. She started out in the steno pool and worked for various division heads. When the Statistical Division was set up, she became secretary to the Head Statistician. There she took dictation, typed, filed, answered the telephone, made appointments, etc. She also helped to put out the Monthly Employment Bulletin for the U.S. Government.



Dorothy Karpenske (Seeley) was 21 when she moved to Washington, D.C. in 1942 to assist in the war effort. She worked as a secretary.



This is her certificate from Bartley Business College.



This paper lists a skill that she was qualified to perform after attending the business college.



Here's Dorothy Karpenske with her friend Joyce at the Jefferson Memorial. Joyce was a co-worker.



Dorothy is shown here in front of the U.S. Capitol and dressed so professionally.



Norma and Dorothy with the U.S. Capitol building in the background. Norma was a co-worker.



This is Mrs. Nickell's boarding home where my mother stayed while in Washington, D.C. during World War II.



My mother's sister Stacy and her niece Frances are shown walking together in Washington, D.C.



Dorothy and Marcy in front of the United States of America sign at the Civil Service Commission Building where they both worked.



A photo of the Civil Service Commission Building.



Midge and Dorothy with this 1940's classic car. Midge went to business college with mom and was part of the group who came to Washington, D.C. in 1942.

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Consumers Energy continues natural gas investment to reduce long-term costs

Consumers Energy is continuing its \$1 billion annual investment in the company's natural gas delivery system as part of its Natural Gas Delivery Plan, resulting in miles of aging and outdated pipeline replaced every year and reducing long-term costs for customers by providing cleaner, more reliable natural gas for decades to come.

"While exploration of other affordable, clean energy alternatives continues, natural gas remains the most cost-effective means of heating homes and businesses in places like Michigan," said Chris Fultz, vice president of gas operations for Consumers Energy. "We take seriously our responsibility to provide that gas to millions of customers that need it from us, and that is why we're making our system stronger, safer and more affordable than ever before."

The work to increase reliability of the company's natural gas storage and delivery systems has resulted in:

- Upgrades to transmission infrastructure, including the Mid-Michigan Pipeline.
- The removal of pipe made from vintage materials, in some cases more than 60 years old.
- The replacement of outdated mains and services with streamlined processes.
- The support of hundreds of construction jobs each year.

To continue facilitating these improvements — including the replacement of 30 miles of pipeline crossing three counties in 2023 alone — the company has filed a natural gas rate case with the Michigan Public Service Commission. While some customers could potentially see a small increase on their bill, the average customer would still be paying less than \$3 a day to feed their family and heat their home.

"Our ultimate goal is to keep costs as low as possible for our customers in the years to come, but we have to make these investments in the short term to achieve that goal," said Holly Bowers, vice president of gas engineering and supply for Consumers Energy. "We understand the significant burden even a small increase can be for our most vulnerable customers, and that is why we've also continued to invest in and develop programs and opportunities that can reduce that burden and provide assistance in other meaningful ways."

Consumers Energy provided more than \$25 million last winter to help homes and businesses with rising energy costs, and recently announced a more than \$1 million investment in a series of initiatives to improve quality of life and reduce bills for customers in historically disadvantaged communities.

Those in need of help should contact 2-1-1, a free service that connects Michiganders with nonprofits to find help with basic needs, from energy bills to food and shelter. Consumers Energy customers also should call 800-477-5050 if they are facing challenges with their bill.

Many people can manage their winter bills by starting with tips at home or work. Learn more at ConsumersEnergy.com/coldweather.

- Have your heating system tuned and inspected by a service professional. Heat losses from a poorly maintained system can range between 1-2 percent a year.
- Clean or replace your furnace filter often during the heating season. If your furnace can "breathe" more easily, it will use less energy.
- Dial your thermostat down at night and add an extra blanket for warmth.
- Make sure your attic, basement, garage and exterior doors are closed to prevent cold drafts from getting in and heat from getting out.
- Turn on your ceiling fan. Ceiling fans set at a slow speed push warm air away from the ceiling and move it around the room without creating a chilling breeze.

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Mass Times
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Thursday: 10:00 am
Friday: 8:30 am
Saturday: 4:30 pm
Sunday: 8:30 am & 11:00 am
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Sunday School September - May 9:30am

Trinity United Methodist Church

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Pastor Missy Noll

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Sunday School 9:30am
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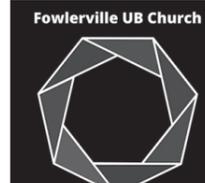
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Infant, Toddler, and
K-5th grade programming
at 9:00 am & 10:45am

Webberville United Methodist Church

4215 E. Holt Rd.,
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Pastor Paula Vergowven

All Ages Sunday School 9:30am
Worship Service 11:00am
Church: 521-3631
www.webbervilleumc.church

IOSCO TOWNSHIP TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING DATES: 2024-2025

Note: New Start Time of 7:00 p.m. Beginning April 2024

The Township Board meets at **7:00 p.m.** on the 3rd Thursday of every month: at the Township Hall. The Township Hall is located at 2050 Bradley Rd., Webberville, Michigan.

March 21st, 2024	April 18th, 2024
May 16th, 2024	June 20th, 2024
July 18th, 2024	August 15th, 2024
September 19th, 2024	October 17th, 2024
November 21st, 2024	December 19th, 2024
January 16th, 2025	February 20th, 2025
March 20th, 2025	April 17th, 2025

IOSCO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING DATES: 2024-2025

The Planning Commission meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month: at the Township Hall. The Township Hall is located at 2050 Bradley Rd., Webberville, Michigan.

March 5th, 2024	April 9th, 2024
May 14th, 2024	June 11th, 2024
July 9th, 2024	August 13th, 2024
September 10th, 2024	October 15th, 2024
November 12th, 2024	December 10th, 2024
January 14th, 2025	February 11th, 2025
March 4th, 2025	April 8th, 2025

Due to a scheduling conflict the March Planning Commission meetings will be the 1st Tuesday of the month.

Julie Dailey
Iosco Township Clerk
(1-7-24 FNV)

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Sunday Worship 9:45am
Sunday School 11:15am

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Ingham County Comments

By: Monica Schafer,
District 15
Commissioner

Growth: Looking Back at 2023 & Looking Forward to the Future

One word that summarizes what I have experienced as your Ingham County Commissioner this year is growth—growing and persevering through the ups and downs of political office while focusing on doing the greatest good for the communities I serve. I learned the value of collaborating on bipartisan projects that benefit our District 15 and Ingham County, and I am continuing to work on a couple of joint projects that bring hard-earned tax dollars back to our district and serve the quality of life needs of all Ingham County residents.

I continue to focus on the vital needs of our 60+ community. I have and will continue to vote for initiatives that will improve the health, safety, and well-being of this community that has given and continues to give much to the historical richness of the townships and cities in which we all reside.

I will continue to be a voice of strong support for our public safety servants and those who work to keep our public spaces safe and secure, as well as for mental health awareness and fiscal responsibility. I have and will continue to advocate for the responsible use of resources and help district constituents utilize and navigate the resources available to them from the county.

Again, safety and security are and will always be a cornerstone of my public service. 2023, I have stood firm in allowing all public servants in Ingham County to protect the

NIESA Fire Report (Northeast Ingham Emergency Service Authority)

On Wednesday December 27, 2023 NIESA responded to four calls. Two calls were in Williamstown Township and both were medical responses. One call was in Locke Township for a vehicle accident. One call was in the City of Williamston for a structure fire.

On Thursday December 28, 2023 NIESA responded to eight calls. Two calls were in Williamstown Township and both were medical responses. Three calls were in the City of Williamston and all were medical responses. One call in Locke Township was a medical response. One call in Leroy Township was a vehicle fire. One call in Wheatfield Township was a medical response.

On Friday December 29, 2023 NIESA responded to two calls. One was in Wheatfield Township for a medical response. One was in Leroy Township for a vehicle accident.

On Saturday December 30, 2023 NIESA responded to four calls. One call was in the Village of Webberville for a medical response. One call was in Williamstown Township for a medical response. One call was in Leroy Township for a medical response. One call was in the City of Williamston for a medical response.

On Sunday December 31, 2023 NIESA responded to four calls. One call was a mutual aid to Onondaga for a structure fire. One call was in the City of Williamston for a medical response. Two calls were in Leroy Township with one a medical response and the other a vehicle accident.

On Monday January 1, 2024 NIESA responded to three medical response calls. Two calls were in the City of Williamston and one was in the Village of Webberville.

On Tuesday January 2, 2024 NIESA responded to five calls. One call in the City of Williamston was a medical response. One call in the Village of Webberville was a medical response. Two calls in Williamstown Township were both medical responses. One call in Leroy Township was a medical response on I-96.

public and do their job without political sway. Enjoying the many attractions through Ingham County and tucking our children or grandchildren in at night with comfort should be the goal that all elected public officials should strive to accomplish.

I will be continuing to be a voice of reason for the Law and Courts Committee, the Tri-County Aging Consortium, Community Service Administration (alternate), Ingham County Chapter of Michigan Townships Association, FOIA Appeals Committee, and the Environmental Committee with the Michigan Association of Counties in 2024.

I will also transfer from the Human Services Committee to the Ingham County Services Committee. The County Services Committee works in conjunction with the Ingham County Controller to ensure adequate and full implementation and administration of standing board policy affecting the various county departments, offices, and agencies. This transfer will allow me to dive deeper into Ingham County services and obtain broader knowledge to better serve the district's residents.

Many constituents have asked me if I will run again in 2024; I am formally announcing that I will submit my name for re-election. It has been a blessing to represent my community and be a voice that works together for the greater good of Ingham County and District 15. I have grown tremendously and will continue to advocate for the unique needs of all in our district. I have and continue to seek the support of strong, seasoned mentors, especially previous County Commissioner Randy Schafer and other commissioners and commissioners of neighboring counties. I am not done serving the people of the

Savvy Senior Column

By Jim Miller

How to Ease the Winter Blues

Dear Savvy Senior,

What can you tell me about seasonal affective disorder? I've always disliked winter, but since I retired and am home a lot more, the gray, cold winter months make me feel really blue.

Sad Sam

Dear Sam,

If you get depressed in the winter but feel better in spring and summer, you may indeed have seasonal affective disorder, or SAD, a wintertime depression that affects roughly 5 percent of Americans.

In most cases, SAD is related to the loss of sunlight in the winter months. Reduced sunlight can upset natural sleep-wake cycles and other circadian rhythms that can affect the body. It can also cause a drop in the brain chemical serotonin, which affects mood, and can increase the levels of the hormone melatonin, which can make you feel more tired and lethargic.

If you think you may have SAD, a trip to your doctor's

Continued on page 18

district. My growth within the last year has equipped me to be a stronger advocate and a voice of reason and revealed the need to work together across party lines for the good of Ingham County.

Coffee hours will be hosted weekly at different locations throughout the district in 2024; details and locations can be found on my Facebook page, "Monica Schafer, County Commissioner," or my website, MonicaSchafer.com. Please stop by and meet with me to discuss any of your concerns or topics of interest for Ingham County. Call me directly at 517-230-2298 to set up a meeting time for your convenience.

I will always be a voice for District 15, serving Ingham County with **Honesty and Integrity**.

All my best in 2024.

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Lic. in MI - Edmund Joel Nogaski, Broker - Broker Phone Number: 231-330-4107

CONWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

Tuesday January 16, 2024

A regular Township Board meeting will be held on January 16, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., at the Conway Township Hall located at 8015 N. Fowlerville Road, Fowlerville, MI 48836.

Elizabeth Whitt
Conway Township Clerk
(1-7-24 FNV)

Webberville students put on Operation Christmas Cheer

Written in collaboration with Fiona Chuba

Webberville students began to spread the holiday good tidings during the first weeks of December as part of the school's annual Operation Christmas Cheer. Students in grades

Webberville Report



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December 30, 2023 Prices

Auctioned Item	Quantity	Price
Square Hay	823	\$4.50-\$7.75
Round Hay	65	\$27.50-\$80.00
Large Square Hay	2	\$52.50 Each
Square Straw	72	\$1.25-\$4.00
Wood	11	\$37.50-\$57.50
Oats	10	\$12.00 Each
Chicken Eggs	73	\$3.50 Each
Quail Eggs	36	\$1.00 Each
Chickens	15	\$11.00-\$45.00
Ducks	2	\$10.00 Each
Pigeons	10	\$2.00-\$8.00
Quail	5	\$8.00 Each

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Online Auction
3rd Sunday of each month starting at 7:00pm

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Wednesday & Thursday 9-6, Friday 9-5 • Saturday 9-Noon

PK-12 hand wrote notes and decorated hundreds of Christmas cards to be given to area seniors. Freshman Jane Wilder said that, "I think it is a very generous gift from our Webberville Spartans, to our senior citizens, who might need some extra Christmas cheer this holiday season."

On Friday, Dec. 15th, Webberville HS Choir and MS/HS Journalism students headed out to the Okemos area to hand deliver cards to senior residents. They visited The Willows, Brookdale Meridian, and Medilodge of Okemos where

Christmas carols were sung, and the holiday cards were handed out.

Junior Jaidyn Josselyn said that, "I thought it was nice to see their faces light up when we started singing, and you could even tell there were some retired musicians."

Not only were cards given to the senior living facilities, but over a hundred cards were distributed by Meals on Wheels of rural Ingham County. A big thank you to Webberville Woman's Advance Club for supplying holiday cards and their support.



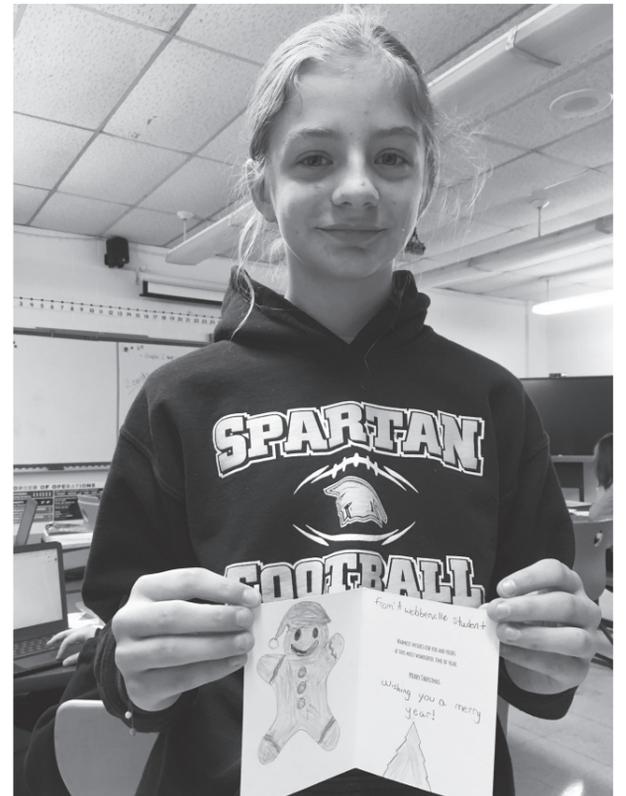
Seventh grade journalism students Netalia Ritz, Gracelynn Muns, and Allison Dodds handing out cards to the seniors at The Willows.



Eighth grade Tayven Bucchanon creating a card.



Senior Maddie Derian and sophomore Ethan West add a short message and a drawing to their cards.



Sixth grade Jada Driver showing off her card.



Allison Dodds and several journalism students pass out holiday cards to residents at Medilodge of Okemos.



Webberville High School choir and MS/HS Journalism students stop to pose for a picture with the residents of Brookdale Meridian.

Webberville High School students put on Fine Arts Holiday Showcase

Friends and family gathered at Webberville High School on Wednesday, Dec. 20th to enjoy the Holiday Fine Arts Showcase put on by the students. The evening began with the Intermediate Band playing four pieces. High School students Samantha Peach and Maeve Chapman as part of the LINKS program conducted two of the pieces that evening. There was a silent auction during intermission where guests could bid on donated items to support the Senior Band's spring trip to Chicago. Then guests were entertained by three pieces performed by the Senior Band. The instrumental music program is directed by Mr. Gary Franks.

Those attending then were able to admire the drawings of art students before gathering to enjoy the vocal performances. Led by Ms. Kara Tredway and accompanied by Debbie Wakeman on piano, the Middle School Choir took the stage to perform three pieces. Then the High School Choir sang

four pieces with soloists Jaidyn Josselyn and Ethan West. The choirs joined together with soloists Keifer Goble and Brenna Williams for a final song "Peace, Peace" inviting elementary students and alumni to join them. The evening was enjoyed by all!



These were among the donated silent auction items.



Senior Band.



High School Drawing Class members were, back: Gavin Howery, Shad Pressel, Kyle Kubiak, Michaela Wick, Elle Snyder. Front: Katelyn Banning, Alexis Beverly, Bella Crampton, and Valerie James.



High School LINKS students junior Maeve Chapman and senior Samantha Peach conducted the band.



The Senior Band members shown here were, front: Clarinets Elle Snyder, Ayla Haas, Ceci Bedwell, and Maggie Monroe. Back: Thomas Cloudman, Jolie Bryan, Ethan West, and Garrett Banks.



The Intermediate Band performed four pieces.



High School Choir members Naomi Toland, Alexis Brown, and Sean Piper.



High School Choir with accompanist Debbie Wakeman.



The Middle School Choir sang three pieces.

Williamston Area Senior Center

201 School Street - 517-655-5173

January 2024 Events

Monday, January 8th - Euchre 9am - 11:45am, Blood Pressure Screening at 10:30am, Katherine from DPT presents on knee safety and injury screening at 12:30pm

Tuesday, January 9th - Euchre 9am - 11:45am, NATIONAL CROSSWORD PUZZLE DAY, field trip and lunch at American House in Haslett at 11am



LINDA WALKER
ATTORNEY AT LAW

Hello Friends,
I have sold my office building in Fowlerville, but can still be reached if needed at

517-223-8078

lindawalkeratty@sbcglobal.net

Wednesday, January 10th - Euchre 9am - 11:45am, Chair Exercise at 11am, Quarter Bingo at 12:30pm, Needle Work Group 1-3pm

Thursday, January 11th - Euchre 9am - 11:45am, INTERNATIONAL THANK YOU DAY, Drum Circle with Ian at 12:30pm

Monday, January 15th - Euchre 9am - 11:45am, Willows and Oasis Advisors sponsored lunch and presentation on senior living resources at 12:30pm

Tuesday, January 16th - Euchre 9am - 11:45am, NATIONAL HAT DAY - wear your favorite hat, Lunch with a board member, Mind Benders with Jackie from CADL Williamston

Wednesday, January 17th - Euchre 9am - 11:45am, Chair Exercise at 11am, Mindful music and coloring at 12:30pm, Needle Work Group 1-3pm

Thursday, January 18th - Euchre 9am - 11:45am, Tech with Drew at noon, Chair Volleyball at 12:30pm

Monday, January 22nd - Euchre 9am - 11:45am, Chair Massage at 10:30am, Winter Decor Craft with Pat at 12:30pm

Tuesday, January 23rd - Euchre 9am - 11:45am, Wii Bowling at 12:30pm

Wednesday, January 24th - Euchre 9am - 11:45am,

BELLY LAUGH DAY, Chair Exercise at 11am, Popcorn and Comedy Movie "Grumpy Old Men" at 12:30pm

Thursday, January 25th - Euchre 9am - 11:45am, Dave Trojan presents "Aviation Archeology in Michigan" at 12:30pm

Monday, January 29th - Euchre 9am - 11:45am, NATIONAL PUZZLE DAY, Play Charades at 12:30pm

Tuesday, January 30th - Euchre 9am - 11:45am, Quarter Bingo with Chief of Police Jeff Weiss at 12:30pm.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT TOWNSHIP OF CONWAY, LIVINGSTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO THE RECORD OWNERS OF THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY CONSTITUTING THE **PROPOSED SECLUDED ACRES SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT**, which properties in proposed district consist of all units in the Secluded Acres Site Condominium, Livingston County Condominium Plan No. 223, abutting the private roads located in the condominium commonly known as Secluded Ridge Drive, Hidden Circle Drive, and Hidden Knoll Court ("Secluded Acres Roads") AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

Units 1-52 of the Secluded Acres Site Condominium, Livingston County Condominium Plan No. 223, associated with Parcel Identification Numbers 4701-02-101-001 through 4701-02-101-055, 4701-02-101-057 and 4701-02-101-058.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Township Board of Conway Township, acting on a petition signed by the record owners of more than seventy one percent (71%) of the total number of units of the Secluded Acres Site Condominium owning the frontage along Secluded Acres Roads, has set a first public hearing to consider the establishment of a special assessment district for the purpose of improvements and repairs to Secluded Acres Roads, and to defray the cost thereof by special assessment pursuant to Public Act 188 of 1954 against the properties specifically benefited thereby. The proposed cost for said improvements of Secluded Acres Roads are on file with the Township Clerk and will be available at the public hearing. Periodic redeterminations of costs may be made without further notice.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board will meet and hold a public hearing at the Conway Township Hall at a regular meeting of the Township Board on **January 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.** to hear objections and favorable comments to the proposed special assessment district.

Any objection to the improvement pursuant to MCL 41.723(1)(b) must be made in writing at or before the first public hearing. A determination by the Township Board of the sufficiency and necessity of the request is not subject to attack except in an action brought in a court of competent jurisdiction within 30 days after the adoption of the resolution determining such sufficiency. If the Township Board determines the sufficiency of the petition and approves the making of the improvements, a special assessment may be levied against properties that benefit. An owner of or party of interest in property to be assessed, or their agent, may appear in person to protest the special assessment, or may appear by letter filed with the Township Clerk at or prior to the time of the hearing. A hearing for the purpose of confirming the special assessment roll will be held, sometime in the future pursuant to notice given as required by law. Public Act 188 of 1954, as amended, provides that the appearance and proper protest of the special assessment at the public hearing held for the purpose of confirming the special assessment roll is required before the Michigan Tax Tribunal may acquire jurisdiction of any dispute involving the amount of the special assessment. After confirmation of the special assessment roll, all assessments on that roll shall be final and conclusive unless action contesting an assessment is filed in a court of competent jurisdiction within thirty (30) days of confirmation.

Conway Township will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the meeting to individuals with disabilities, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, upon reasonable advance notice to the Conway Township Clerk by writing or calling the following: 8015 N Fowlerville, Fowlerville, MI 48836 or call 517 223-0358, between the hours of 9-3 Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Elizabeth Whitt,
Clerk Conway Township
8015 N. Fowlerville Road
Fowlerville, MI 48836
517-223-0358
(12-31-23 & 1-7-24 FNV)

Plainfield United Methodist Church hosting chicken supper on Jan. 13th

The Plainfield United Methodist Church is hosting a 'take out only' chicken supper on Saturday, Jan. 13th from 5pm until sold out. Free will offering. Located on M-36 north of Gregory.



Williamston Farmer's Market collecting bottles & cans on Sunday, Jan. 7th

The Eastern Ingham Farmers Market in Williamston is holding its bottle and can fundraiser this Sunday, Jan. 7th. Simply bring your Michigan-returnable bottles and cans to the large parking lot of McCormick Park at 123 High Street anytime between 11am and 1pm. Stay warm in your car, pop the trunk and volunteers will cheerfully collect your generous donation.

Other bottle and can collection dates which are held on the first and third Sundays during the off-season will be: January 21; February 4 and 18; March 3 and 17; April 7 and 21 and May 5.

Market volunteers are always welcome and needed to work two-hour shifts for the bottle collections on those Sundays during the off-season. Just contact Jane Reagan (517-525-4177)

If your business collects bottles and cans, consider donating them as well. Special collections can be made directly at your business address during the week. Just call Jane to make arrangements for special pick-ups.

For more information about Sowing Growth, the non-profit organization that operates the Eastern Ingham Farmers Market in Williamston, to become a vendor for the 2024 season, to be added to the newsletter email list, to volunteer or to donate to the Market, visit the Market Facebook page or contact Market Manager at EasternInghamFM@gmail.com.

COACHES VS. CANCER TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13TH



5:30 PM

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FOWLerville GIRLS BASKETBALL
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THOSE THAT HAVE LOST THEIR BATTLE

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VBRIGGS1108@ICLOUD.COM

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Michigan Governor's Report

By Gretchen Whitmer

At the beginning of 2023, I laid out our agenda to deliver on the issues that make a real difference in people's lives in my State of the State Address. Over the course of the year, we delivered on nearly everything I proposed thanks to our new legislative majority that had one of the most productive terms in Michigan history.

Together, we rolled back the retirement tax and quintupled the Working Families Tax Credit to put money back in people's pockets. We passed commonsense gun violence prevention legislation and expanded rights for women, working people, voters, and the LGBTQ+ community. We enacted a 100% clean energy standard and brought good-paying manufacturing jobs and supply chains back home to Michigan as we lead the future of cars, chips, and clean energy.

We did a lot in 2023, and I am so grateful to every Michigander and to our legislature for working hard to move our state forward.

Let's keep our foot on the accelerator and make Michigan the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

Check out our accomplishments in 2023 below!

Lowering Costs

Since 2019, I have been focused on lowering costs and putting more money back in people's pockets. This year, I signed over \$1 billion in tax cuts to help Michigan families pay bills and put food on the table.

- Quintupled the Working Families Tax Credit, putting hundreds more dollars back in the pockets of 700,000 working families, directly benefiting almost half the children in Michigan — 1 million kids.
- Rolled back the Retirement Tax, saving half a million households an average of \$1,000 a year.
- Lowered the cost of higher education by thousands by expanding the Michigan Reconnect program to offer any Michigander 21 and up a tuition-free path to an associate degree or skills training and started distributing the Michigan Achievement Scholarship, saving students thousands of dollars off the cost of college in Michigan.
- Put cost-saving provisions of the Affordable Care Act into state law, allowing young people to stay on their parent's insurance until they turn 26 and guaranteeing protections for pre-existing conditions.

Growing Michigan's Economy

In 2023, Michigan was ranked as a national leader in business, EV investments, workforce training, and more. Right now, Michigan is one of the best states to find a job. We're creating tens of thousands of good-paying jobs and achieving near-historic lows in unemployment. We're on track to grow Michigan's economy even more, bringing home supply chains of cars, chips, and clean energy and ensuring every community can thrive.

- Attracted good-paying jobs and billions in investments to Michigan from companies like Ford, Toyota North America, and DENSO, making Michigan a leading innovator in the future of mobility and clean energy.
- Continued rebuilding Michigan's roads and bridges and critical infrastructure like clean water and high-speed internet. Since I took office, we have fixed 20,000 lane miles of road and 1,400 bridges, while supporting more than 100,000 jobs.
- Paid down \$18 billion in debt since taking office and brought Michigan's rainy-day fund to an all-time high.

Investing in Michigan's Kids & Schools

This year, we made the largest investment in students and schools in Michigan history to better the classroom experience, support our educators, and improve outcomes.

- Kept the funding gap between schools closed.
- Delivered free breakfast and lunch for all 1.4 million public school students, saving families over \$850/year on groceries per kid.
- Expanded the Michigan Reconnect program to every Michigander 21 and older, enabling 350,000 more students to pursue an associate degree or skills certificate and get on a path to a good-paying, high-skill job.
- Started distributing the Michigan Achievement Scholarship, saving students thousands of dollars off the cost of college in Michigan.
- Took the first steps toward free Pre-K for all, saving families \$10,000 a year, and surpassed our Caring for

MI Future goal, opening over 1,000 new childcare programs since May 2022.

Keeping Michigan Safe

This year, I invested millions of dollars to give state and local law enforcement the resources they need and signed bipartisan, commonsense gun violence prevention bills that keep firearms away from bad actors.

- Signed the bipartisan 'Make it in Michigan' budget, supporting thousands of police officers, firefighters, and first responders bringing our investment in public safety to \$1.5 billion since taking office.
- Passed bipartisan, commonsense gun violence prevention legislation: background checks, safe storage, extreme risk protection orders, and stronger protections for survivors of domestic violence.
- Removed over 500 illegal guns off the streets as a part of the Operation Safe Neighborhoods program.

Protecting Our Environment

In 2023, we faced climate change head-on while working to protect clean air and water and create good-paying jobs for Michiganders.

- Established a 100% Clean Energy Standard, making Michigan a national leader in the fight against climate change.
- Enacted the strongest labor standards in the nation so that we can produce more clean energy in Michigan and ensure Michigan workers earn good wages while doing it.
- Signed historic clean energy legislation, lowering household utility costs, creating tens of thousands of good-paying jobs, and protecting Michigan's public health.
- Signed bipartisan legislation protecting children from lead poisoning by installing water filters in childcare centers and schools.

Protecting Our Freedom

This year, I expanded access to reproductive health care, took action to protect the LGBTQ+ community, and protected Michiganders from discrimination.

- Signed legislation to repeal the 1931 abortion ban, ensuring that Michiganders can make their own decisions about their bodies.
- Signed the Reproductive Health Act, which repeals politically motivated, medically unnecessary statutes that criminalized nurses and doctors, forced health care providers to close, raised costs for patients, and restricted access to abortion.
- Expanded the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to pro-

Fowlerville Fire Department Report

December 28

8:39 a.m. Medical response on Owosso Rd in Handy Township.

10:37 a.m. Medical response on Grandshire Blvd in the Village.

2:00 p.m. Medical response on E Grand River Ave in the Village.

3:07 p.m. Medical response on S Collins St in the Village.

6:07 p.m. Medical response on Munsell Rd in Iosco Township.

8:04 p.m. Medical response on Pinegate Dr in the Village.

December 29

12:43 a.m. Medical response on W Coon Lake Rd in Iosco Township.

11:09 a.m. Medical response on Sargent Rd in Handy Township.

December 30

1:20 a.m. Medical response on N Ann St in the Village.

December 31

7:13 a.m. Medical response on Munsell Rd in Iosco Township.

9:07 p.m. Medical response on Cass River Dr in Handy Township.

January 1

11:11 a.m. Medical response on N Grand Ave in the Village.

3:01 p.m. Medical response on Fowlerville Rd in Handy Township.

4:31 p.m. Medical response on Meadownlawn Ave in the Village.

January 2

8:59 a.m. Medical response on Owosso Rd in Handy Township.

9:53 a.m. Fire alarm investigation on N Hibbard St in the Village.

12:36 p.m. Reported structure fire (unfounded) on Hogback Rd in Handy Township.

1:29 p.m. Medical response on Autumn View Ln in Iosco Township.

January 3

1:05 p.m. Medical response on S Collins St in the Village.

hibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

- Expanded workers' rights to come together for better wages, benefits, and opportunities.
- Signed bipartisan legislation expanding and protecting voting rights so every Michigander can cast their vote and have it counted.

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Michigan moose are largest member of deer family worldwide

Did you know that the moose, found right here in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, holds the title for being the largest member of the deer family worldwide? These gentle giants tip the scales between 725 and 1,100 pounds, stretching up to an impressive 6.5 to 9 feet in length, and can run up to 35 miles per hour!

Moose are early risers and big eaters, devouring 44 pounds of food daily during the dawn and dusk hours. In the summer, they graze on a buffet of aquatic vegetation and tender aspen, maple and birch leaves. Come winter, it’s all about conifer twigs and buds. Given their fondness for aquatic plants, it’s no surprise moose are excellent swimmers, often spotted in marshes and cedar swamps and near waterways. Despite their impressive size, they have poor vision, but they more than compensate with keen hearing and an acute sense of smell.

History of Moose in Michigan

Moose are native to Michigan and occurred throughout all except the southwestern Lower Peninsula prior to European settlement. Moose disappeared from the Lower Peninsula in the 1890s, and only a few scattered individuals remained in the Upper Peninsula.

The interaction of several factors probably caused the decline of moose in Michigan. Extensive logging during the early 20th century eliminated millions of acres of moose habitat. Loggers, miners and other settlers also took these large animals for food. Another factor thought to have contributed to the decline of the population was brainworm (*Parelaphostrongylus tenuis*), a nematode carried by white-tailed deer. Although the brainworm has little effect on white-tailed deer, it can cause a fatal neurological disease in moose. As the Michigan deer population expanded rapidly in the more open and brushy habitat created by the logging and forest fires that followed European settlement, the incidence of brainworm in the moose population likely increased.

The state’s first attempt to reintroduce moose in the Upper Peninsula mainland occurred from 1934 to 1937, when biologists trapped and transported 71 moose from Isle Royale to the mainland. Most of these moose were released in Keweenaw, Marquette and Schoolcraft counties. Of the remaining moose, officials sent two to the Detroit Zoo and six to the Cusino Wildlife Experimental Station for study of basic moose biology. These studies revealed information on the dates of the rutting season, gestation period, rate of growth from birth to maturity, types of food eaten and food preferences, and antler development. At the time of capture, the Isle Royale moose population was very high and moose had depleted the forage on the island. As a result, moose brought to the mainland were in poor physical condition, and some developed serious infections after release. Many of the introduced moose died from what was described at the time as “circling disease,” most likely caused by the brainworm parasite.

Although citizens reported observing moose across the Upper Peninsula in 1941, poaching continued as a threat to the population. The poor condition of the translocated moose, combined with poaching and high deer numbers, contributed to the failure of this initial attempt to reintroduce moose on the mainland.

During the 1950s and 1960s, citizens occasionally observed moose in the Upper Peninsula, primarily in the eastern counties. In the 1970s, biologists recognized changes in the Upper Peninsula that were promising for moose. Most notable was a decline in deer numbers in the northern portions of the Upper Peninsula.

In the mid-1980s, the DNR translocated 59 moose from Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada and released them in Marquette County. The goal of the moose reintroduction was to produce a self-sustaining population of free-ranging moose in the Upper Peninsula.

All of these moose were fitted with mortality-sensing radio collars to help monitor the outcome of the reintroduction. The translocated moose population increased through the late 1980s and early 1990s in spite of a few losses each year to brainworm and several other natural causes, including falls off cliffs, fights during the rut and complications while giving birth. Calf production and survival through the first year of life were very good, confirming that the habitat was suitable. Poaching losses were virtually nonexistent, perhaps because

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the citizens of the Upper Peninsula were involved with the project and had adopted the new moose population as their own.

Moose are currently found in two areas of the Upper Peninsula: the reintroduced population in Marquette, Baraga and Iron counties, and a smaller remnant population in the eastern UP, found primarily in Alger, Schoolcraft, Luce and Chippewa counties.

During the most recent moose population survey in January 2011, the DNR counted an estimated 433 animals in the western Upper Peninsula. No formal survey of the eastern U.P. moose population is conducted, but local biologists estimate there are about 100 animals, based on field observations and reports from the general public.

To learn more about the Mitten’s mighty moose, visit Michigan.gov/Moose.

Savvy Senior Column, continued

office is the best way to diagnose it or you can take a SAD “self-assessment” test at the Center for Environmental Therapeutics website at CET.org/assessments. If you find that you have SAD, here are several treatment options and remedies that can help.

Light therapy: The most effective treatment for SAD is sitting in front of a specialized light therapy box for 20 to 30 minutes a day, within the first hour of waking up in the morning. Light therapy mimics outdoor light to cause a change in brain chemicals linked to mood.

While you can buy a light box without a prescription, it’s best to use it under the guidance of a health care provider and follow the manufacturer’s guidelines. Most health insurance plans do not cover the cost.

The best light therapy lamps provide 10,000 lux of illumination, many times stronger than typical indoor light, and have a diffuser screen that filters out ultraviolet rays and projects downward toward the eyes.

Some top-rated light therapy products include the Carex Day-Light Classic Plus Bright Lamp (\$145); Northern Light Technology Boxelite-OS (\$205); and the budget friendly Verilux HappyLight Luxe (\$70), all of which are available at Amazon.com.

Cognitive behavioral therapy: Even though SAD is considered to be a biological problem, identifying and changing thought and behavior patterns can help alleviate symptoms too. To help you with this, choose a therapist who specializes in cognitive behavioral therapy and who has experience in treating SAD. To locate someone in your area, Psychology Today offers a search tool at PsychologyToday.com/us/therapists/cognitive-behavioral-cbt.

Antidepressants: Some people with SAD benefit from antidepressant treatments too. Some proven medications to ask your doctor about are selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and the extended-release antidepressant bupropion.

But keep in mind that it may take several weeks to notice full benefits from an antidepressant. In addition, you may have to try different medications before you find one that works well for you and has the fewest side effects.

Lifestyle remedies: Some other things you can do to help alleviate your SAD symptoms include making your environment sunnier and brighter. So, open up your blinds, sit closer to bright windows and get outside as much as you can. Even on cold or cloudy days, outdoor light can help, especially if you spend some time outside within two hours of getting up in the morning. Moderate exercise such as walking, swimming, yoga and even tai chi can also help alleviate SAD symptoms, as can social activities.

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The Pigeon River flowing through Pine Grove State Forest Campground in the Pigeon River Country State Forest.



The Pigeon River Country State Forest is home to one of the largest free-roaming elk herds east of the Mississippi River

Fifty years of collaboration to preserve ‘The Big Wild’

By Casey Warner

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

In the middle of Michigan’s northern Lower Peninsula, just a few miles northeast of Gaylord, lies a special place known as “The Big Wild.”

This unique, rustic area known for its seclusion from civilization – a young Ernest Hemingway called it “wild as the devil” and “the greatest I’ve ever been in” – became the Pigeon River Country State Forest in 1919.

The forest began as 6,468 acres of tax-reverted land and has grown to 109,000 acres, 12 miles wide and 20 miles long, making it the largest block of contiguous undeveloped land in the Lower Peninsula. It’s home to one of the largest free-roaming elk herds east of the Mississippi River and offers abundant opportunities to explore the outdoors.

Michigan residents have long valued the Pigeon, as it’s often called, for its natural splendor and wild character. And 50 years ago, when controversy arose around use of the forest, a group of those residents was called upon to help decide how to manage it.

In the 1960s, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources began leasing state land, including much of the Pigeon River Country State Forest, for oil and gas exploration.

Oil was discovered in the Pigeon in early 1970, and later that year, more than 700 people attended a DNR public hearing on oil and gas issues, most opposed to continued development in the forest.

When lawsuits were filed over oil and gas drilling in the Pigeon River Country State Forest in the early 1970s, the DNR put a special management plan in place for the forest.

The council’s early years

In December 1973, the Michigan Natural Resources Commission approved a Pigeon River Country Concept of Management. The plan included creation of the Pigeon River Country Advisory Council, with members representing conservation, oil and gas, and recreation viewpoints.

In 1974, DNR Director A. Gene Gazlay appointed the first members of the Pigeon River Country Advisory Council.

Gazlay’s charge to the advisory council framed it as a “broadly representative citizen advisory body” and “a key provision of the conceptual management plan developed by the Department and approved by the Commission.”

The council’s duties and responsibilities, as outlined by Gazlay, include seven objectives. Among those, helping the DNR “in framing management programs which will assure wise future use of the Forest’s varied resources, minimize and

harmonize conflicts to the extent possible, and above all, insure wise conservation of the special resource values for present and future generations to use and enjoy.”

One of the council’s first members, and vice-chairman at its first meeting, was Dave Smethurst, avid Gaylord-area trout fisherman and one of the founding members of the Headquarters Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Smethurst, who passed away in 2021, talked about the formation and original members of the Pigeon River Country Advisory Council in the video “Advisory Council: A Bold Idea.”

“Smart, experienced, knowledgeable people ... It was all these smart people coming together and saying, how can we make this work? I don’t know that the forest could have succeeded, I’m sure it couldn’t have succeeded as well, without the advisory council because controversial issues, the department could hand off to the advisory council for advice, and it wasn’t the ‘damn DNR’ doing it, it was a group of citizens,” Smethurst said.

The Concept of Management created the council with diverse membership drawn from conservation, oil and gas, and recreation interests.

In the book “Pigeon River Country: A Michigan Forest,” Dale Clarke Franz called it “the state’s pioneering experiment in involving people of opposing views in the long-term management of its natural resources.” Franz also wrote, “As a result of the controversy, an advisory council of citizens was established and given an official role in setting forest policy. Many people opposed to hydrocarbon development were appointed to the council. They were ultimately unable to prevent drilling, but at least sat down with representatives of other points of view, including members of the hydrocarbon industry, in an effort to make the best decisions possible.”

Later in the book, he added, “In retrospect, they were exciting times, when ordinary citizens began to sit in rooms with the highest-level politicians and representatives of one of the most powerful industries on earth, not making speeches but talking to each other.”

Ned Caveney, who was appointed area forester for the Pigeon River Country State Forest in January 1974, recalls the first advisory council meetings that began in July that year.

Caveney said that, at the outset, he was “very concerned at how well this would all work” and questioned whether the group could really be successful at meeting all the management objectives it was charged with, but “the Concept of Management and the Charge to the Council were the important guiding documents.”

During four council meetings that took place over six days in 1974, Caveney said, “It was evident that the majority of the council members took their role very seriously.”

One controversy resolved, another emerges years later

In 1980, the debate over oil drilling in the Pigeon came to a close with a compromise settlement that formalized the advisory council, protected the northern two-thirds of the forest from oil and gas development, and laid out many provisions for development in the southern third of the forest.

“Nobody had won a clear victory, but neither had the forest suffered a clear loss,” wrote Dave Dempsey in the book “Ruin and Recovery: Michigan’s Rise as a Conservation Leader.”

One outcome of the oil and gas controversy was the 1976 creation of the Kammerer Land Trust Fund, precursor to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, under which royalties from oil and gas would be directed to a land trust fund to acquire recreational lands.

In addition to oil and gas development, the Pigeon River Country Advisory Council has provided input to the DNR on many issues including road access and equestrian use of the forest.

As stated in the advisory council’s charge document, the group’s charge “is necessarily broad and general. Many of the problems and issues to which the Council will address itself are identifiable now; others not presently foreseen undoubtedly will arise. The Department welcomes the Council’s sharing in the stewardship of this State Forest and its wonderful wealth of resources.”

John Walters, currently a member of the Michigan Natural

Resources Commission, was appointed to the Pigeon River Country Advisory Council in 2008, representing Trout Unlimited, and served as the council’s chair from 2010 to 2018.

Walters recalls that he and fellow advisory council members addressed many issues, ranging from gas and oil to forestry, wildlife, fisheries and acceptable uses of “The Big Wild.”

“However, one event stands out above all other issues,” he said. “On June 23, 2008, an event occurred that changed my life and perhaps others on the council, as well.”

On that date, the Song of the Morning Dam malfunctioned, draining the impoundment and sending tons of sediment downstream on the Pigeon River, killing over half a million trout.

The DNR filed a lawsuit against Golden Lotus, owner of Song of the Morning Ranch. Trout Unlimited and the Pigeon River Country Association joined together to also file a lawsuit against Golden Lotus. The advisory council fully supported the lawsuit, with four council members, including Walters, party to the case. The main objective of this team was to get the Song of the Morning Dam fully removed.

While initially expected to be a two-year process, with litigation and negotiation, the lawsuit took six years to resolve.

“The team routinely updated the entire council with the progress of the case. Never did the council waiver, full steam ahead. This process tested the team’s negotiation skills, and patience, but they were steadfast to seek full dam removal,” Walters said. “The team also recognized that if/when they prevailed, they would have to work with Song of the Morning on a dam removal project and sediment management plan.”

In April 2015, when the judge ruled in favor of Trout Unlimited and the Pigeon River Country Association, Walters said each side met in the aisle, shook hands and said, “Now the real work begins.”

In May 2015, the dam drawdown began. “We can all be proud of a successful dam removal, free-flowing Pigeon River, fish and macroinvertebrate passage and cold water flowing past Song of the Morning Ranch,” Walters said. “It was very important to the team that the Pigeon River Country Advisory Council fully supported these efforts and did not waiver throughout the lengthy process.”

Into the future

Today, the Pigeon River Country Advisory Council is comprised of 18 citizen members, three ex-officio members from the DNR and one ex-officio member from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

“Over the 16 years that I worked with the council I am proud of how effective the council was. They made a difference helping the DNR deal with many controversial issues, most noted were oil and gas development and the elk management plan,” Caveney said.

“At 50 years we can celebrate the contribution of a lot of dedicated people that served many years. We can also ask how successful have we been in meeting those seven objectives as we look forward to the next 50 years.”



A ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating a dam removal on the Pigeon River at the former Song of the Morning dam site.



Debate over oil and gas development in the Pigeon River Country State Forest led to creation of the advisory council. Today, royalties from oil and gas development on state-managed lands go into the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, used to acquire recreational lands and develop public recreation facilities.



Snow plow at work clearing a highway.

Reducing salt use on snowy roads proves challenging

By Kenzie Terpstra
Capital News Service

With the winter season now here, counties across Michigan are currently preparing to handle the inevitable dumping of snow, especially on roadways.

Technology and processes employed have helped plows become more efficient, said Bradley Wieferich, the director of the Department of Transportation.

“There are so many different sensors and factors that (plow drivers) have to weigh in on their job,” Wieferich said.

He said plow operators are constantly looking at factors such as wind speed, relative humidity and temperature while clearing the roads.

In addition to technology, rock salt is a major contributor to keeping roads clear of snow and ice, according to Wieferich.

“Salt, at the end of the day, is what we have to melt snow and ice – it’s needed for safety,” Wieferich said.

However, the salt left on roads after snow and ice removal eventually washes into ditches or waterways, and the department is working to minimize the use of salt to protect the state’s watercourses, Wieferich said.

“We’re looking into some agricultural byproducts that might help lower the temperature at which salt is going to be effective, which would be a big benefit,” he explained.

Jeff Cranson, the director of communications at MDOT, said the vast majority of state roads are plowed under contracts by cities and counties.

Craig Bryson, the senior communications director at the Road Commission of Oakland County, said the county is always looking at alternatives to salt.

“A lot of the agricultural byproducts like beet juice all have an odor to them,” Bryson said. “They also attract wildlife to the roads.”

Bryson said Oakland County, traditionally, has the highest number of car crashes involving deer – over 2,000 last year – and the use of these agricultural alternatives to salt may attract more deer to the roads, putting drivers at even greater risk.

The combination of rock salt and liquid brine, which contains naturally occurring saltwater, has been both the best-performing method of snow and ice removal and the most cost-effective, according to Bryson.

“We have three brine wells in the county, so we pump the brine out of the ground and it’s essentially free to us after the cost of building the wells,” Bryson said.

Bryson said the use of wing plows – which fold into the side of trucks and swing out for use – enable drivers to clear the width of the truck and an additional lane at the same time.

Jerry Byrne, the managing director of the Kent County Road Commission, said the agency blends different products to aid in de-icing the roads, usually involving chlorine-based materials.

“We’re using more liquids with the rock salt so it activates quicker. There’s less chance of it being either bounced off the roads or carried off the roads with vehicles,” Byrne said. “It lowers the freeze points so it activates quicker.”

Byrne said that while his road commission hasn’t found a complete alternative to rock salt, the use of blended products and proper placement make the process more efficient.

Marquette County, the largest county geographically in Michigan, has an average snowfall of more than 200 inches, according to Peter Duex, the managing director of the county’s road commission.

“We simply cannot afford to melt all the snow on our roadways,” Duex said. “We don’t use much salt – we use it to blend together with our ice control sand to keep it unfrozen and ready for use when traction is an issue.”

Duex said his road commission focuses on de-icing and traction sand efforts on hills, curves and intersections.

Ross Olsen, the director of operations for Marquette County’s road commission, said truck loons are new to the area.

Olsen said the loon turn design is essentially a run-off lane for trucks making a “Michigan left” turn. That allows larger vehicles to safely make a U-turn and requires special attention from plow trucks after big storms.

Meanwhile, the State Police advised motorists to replace worn tires and check air pressure regularly, keep an emergency preparedness kit in their vehicle and have their radiator system serviced before winter.



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