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"Serving the Local Communities"

Volume XXXVIII No. 52

Sunday, December 25, 2022

Published Weekly

'Tis the Season for Giving

Family and friends gathered around the Christmas tree to exchange gifts is a staple of the holiday season, but another important tradition is the donations by individuals, churches, service groups, and non-profit organizations that help those in need. These gifts include clothing, toys, food, or money to make those purchases.

The Livingston County Marine Corps League's Toys for Tots program is one such effort that has a long history of helping others. A more recent one is the Fowlerville Business Association (FBA) and Fowlerville Rotary Club raising money with a silent auction during their annual holiday party and giving it to the Family Impact Centers.

As for the former program, families who need assistance contact the Marine Corps League, with the parents or guardian filling out a form, and then scheduling an appointment to select age-appropriate gifts for their children. Drop-off boxes where toys can be donated are located at various locations in the county, including auto dealerships like Dick Scott Motor Mall. This past Monday, Dec. 19, Dave and Yvonne Mester, on behalf of the League, picked up the toys from the local dealership and other area locations to take to the distribution site.

The following day, FBA president Paul Harmon, FBA administrator Patti DuFore, and Rotary president Brent Pietila presented Barb Dine, the executive director of the Family Impact Centers, with a check for \$2,000 to help area families.



The staff at Dick Scott Motor Mall in Fowlerville show some of the toys and other gifts that were dropped off at the dealership for the Livingston County Marine Corps League's Toys for Tots program. From left, front row, were Delpha Nickolenko, Lisa Varney, Jennifer Varilone, and back row, Nelson Cypher, Rick Tavormina, and Jud Scott.



The Fowlerville Business Association and Fowlerville Rotary Club raised \$2,000 during their recent holiday party to donate to the Family Impact Centers. The monetary gift was given to the local agency this past Tuesday. From left were Patti DuFore, FBA administrator; Paul Harmon, FBA president; Barb Dine, Family Impact Centers executive director; and Brent Pietila, Rotary president.

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Laying the Wreaths were, from left, Butch Ogden, Bobby Brite, Steve Sheldon, Jim Martin, Tom Phipps, and Steve Grima.



Laying the Wreaths were, from left, Krista Belcher, Maria Woolford, Diane Synnott, Billee Bergin, Rebecca Kuzdek, Maria Fragale, and Carol Johnson. In back were Rev. Jason Woolford, who gave the opening prayer, and Rep. Bob Bezotte, who was a main speaker at the ceremony.



Playing TAPS was Gavin Tschirret, a senior at Fowlerville High School and member of the band.

‘Wreaths Across America’ observed at Greenwood Cemetery on Dec. 17

By Steve Horton

This past Saturday, Dec. 17, a ‘Wreaths Across America’ ceremony was held at Fowlerville’s Greenwood Cemetery. The event was part of a nationwide observance that took place at hundreds of sites throughout the United States.

‘Wreaths Across America’ is held to remember and honor those who have served or are serving in the military along with first responders and to also teach the younger generation of the service and sacrifices made to protect the nation and its liberties.

While the observance has been taking place for several years, this was only the fourth time that it’s been held at Greenwood Cemetery.

The Fowlerville 4th of July Committee and the Village of Fowlerville were co-sponsors of the event.

Prior to the event, individuals, businesses, and organizations were invited to sponsor wreaths—which are purchased through the national ‘Wreaths Across America’ organization—so that they could be placed at the gravesites of the veterans in the cemetery.

The program started off with a prayer by Rev. Jason Woolford. Jason was a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps. He is the president of Mission CRY which is headquartered here in Fowlerville. To date they have given over 400 million in donated bibles to 178 nations worldwide.

The Legion Riders of American Legion Post 141 then posted the colors, followed by the singing of the National Anthem by country music star Kari Holmes, and opening remarks by Brandon Denby, the Livingston County Register of Deeds and chair of the 4th of July Committee who served as the emcee of the program.

The main speaker for the ceremony was State Rep. Bob Bezotte, who is a veteran. His remarks were followed by the ceremonial placing of wreaths to honor all those who have served and are serving in the different branches of the military or as first responders and also those whose last known status was as a prisoner of war or missing in action.

Butch Ogden the Post Commander for VFW Post 6464, located here in Fowlerville, who served as Sergeant in the U.S. Army laid a Veteran’s wreath in honor of the over 81,000 United States Servicemen from all branches of the service whose last known status was either Prisoners of War or Missing in Action. These individuals have never returned to their families and homes. We shall not forget you.

Bobby Brite, commander of Howell American Legion Post 141 who served as Sergeant First Class with the United States Army laid a veteran’s wreath in memory of those who served and are serving in the United States Army.

Steve Sheldon who served as Private 1st Class in the United

States Marine Corps laid a Veteran’s Wreath in memory of those who served and are serving in the United States Marine Corps.

Jim Martin who served as Petty Officer 3rd Class in the United States Navy laid a Veteran’s Wreath in memory of those who served and are serving in the United States Navy.

Tom Phipps who served as Staff Sgt. in the United States Air Force laid a Veteran’s Wreath in memory of those who

Continued on next page



Singing the National Anthem was country music star and local resident Kari Holmes.



Members from the David Murningham Detachment 161 of the Livingston County Marine Corp League served as the Honor Guard.



The Legion Riders of American Legion Post 141 posted the colors at the start of the ceremony and then retired them at the conclusion of the event.



The 4th annual ‘Wreaths Across America’ was held on Saturday, Dec. 17, at Greenwood Cemetery to honor those who have served or are now serving in the U.S. Military or as First Responders.



Members of the Fowlerville 4th of July Committee sponsored the ceremony. Those present were, from left, Brandon Denby holding daughter Adeline, Gary Helfmann, Dale Brewer, Mike Brunger, Dave Mester, Mary Helfmann, Michelle Soli, Melissa Salgado, and Jim Mayhew.

‘Wreaths Across America’, continued

served and are serving in the United States Air Force.

Steve Grima, who served as a Petty Officer 3rd Class in the United States Coast Guard and Merchant Marines, laid a Veteran’s Wreath on behalf of all of those who served and are serving the United States Coast Guard and Merchant Marines.

This year a Special Recognition Wreath was placed in honor of women who have served or are now serving in the military.

“Women have been involved in the U.S. military since 1775, originally in the civilian fields such as nursing,” Denby noted in the tribute.

“Deborah Sampson, unhappy with her limited role in the American Revolution, became one of the first women to enlist, and she did so while disguised as a man,” Denby said. “She ultimately served in a light infantry unit, fighting in many battles. Injuries finally put her in a hospital where her secret was discovered. Her commanding officer, General John Paterson, honorably discharged her and thanked her for her service. Many women contributed to the American Civil War, whether it was through nursing, spying or physically fighting on the battlefield. “They too many times had to be disguised as men.

“Women have had to disguise and fight their way into defending our great nation, all the while fending off ridicule and even more serious mistreatment including physical and sexual abuse within their own ranks,” he continued.

“The women of our military have stood strong through much adversity and today’s military is much more integrated along gender lines than ever before,” he pointed out, adding that “Women are no longer excluded from any type of combat mission. They are pilots, vehicle drivers, mechanics and infantry officers. Overall percentages have roughly doubled in the last generation. Women now represent one of every six Americans in uniform or over 16 percent of our total force.”

The women were then introduced and then laid their Wreath. They were Krista Belcher who served as a Sergeant in the Marine Corps, Maria Woolford who served as Corporal in the United States Marine Corps and currently serves as a Sergeant in the Michigan Army National Guard, and Diane Synnott who served as Sergeant First Class in the United States Army and later served as a nurse with the United States Army

“These three women are extraordinary and it is fitting that they would represent all women who have served and those who continue to serve our United States Military,” said Denby.

Next was Billee Bergin who served as Sargent in the Michigan Army National Guard laid a Veteran’s Wreath in memory of those who served and are serving in the Michigan Army and Air National Guard.

Officer Rebecca Kuzdek of the Fowlerville Police Dept. and Maria Fragale of the Fowlerville Fire Dept. who served as Master at Arms Petty Officer 2nd Class in the United States

Navy laid a Wreath in memory of all who have served and are serving our community as first responders.

Carol Johnson, a Gold Star mother, laid a Gold Star Veteran’s Wreath. Denby noted that she did so “not only in honor of her family but with the greatest of respect and admiration for all of those families who have felt that loss and all of those who have stood tall in the face of danger for this great country and have given the ultimate sacrifice.”

“Beginning with Ms. Johnson and extending to all Gold Star and Blue Star families, we can’t thank your families enough for your sacrifices,” he said.

Next in the program was the performing of military honors by the Honor Guard from the David Murningham Detachment 161 of the Livingston County Marine Corp League.

The ceremony ended with the playing of TAPS by Gavin Tschirret, a senior at Fowlerville High School and member of the band.

“We encourage everyone here today whether placing a wreath or not, to stop by a veteran’s gravesite, and say the veterans name aloud,” Denby said. “Take a moment to thank them for their service to our country. It’s a small act that goes a long way toward keeping the memory of our veterans alive.

“And remember we’re not here today to “Decorate Graves.” We’re here to remember, not their deaths, but their lives. Each wreath is a gift of appreciation from a grateful America.

“These live balsam fir wreaths symbolize our honor to those who have served and are serving in the armed forces of our great nation and to their families who endure sacrifices everyday on our behalf. To our children, we want you to understand the freedoms you enjoy today have not been free but have come with a cost that someday, you may have to pay yourself.

“As a nation standing together, we can defeat terrorism, hatred and injustice. Thanks to our veterans, we have the freedom to do just that.”

The final speaker was Mary Helfmann, a member of the Fowlerville 4th of July Committee and trustee for the local Wreaths Across America, who thanked the sponsors of the event and those who helped put on the event.

She pointed out that 420 wreaths had been purchased by donors for this year’s event. This is in line with the number of veterans’ who are buried in the cemetery. The goal of the committee, when it started participating in the event, was to eventually be able to lay a wreath at each of those gravesites.

Opening Remarks

By Brandon Denby,
Chair of the Fowlerville 4th
of July Committee

Today is National ‘Wreaths Across America’ Day. At this very moment our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is being carried out at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as 3,400 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad.

Thank you all for joining us here in Fowlerville today.

We are all proud to be Americans that live in a free society made up of many people, from many walks of life. The freedoms we enjoy today have not come without a price. Lying here before us and in cemeteries throughout this nation are men and women who gave their lives so that we can live in freedom and without fear.

Because of them we can worship as we see fit.

Because of them we can raise our children to believe as we do.

Because of them we can travel to all ends of this great nation, without permissions.

Because of them we are free to vote for whomever we feel should lead us without explanation.

It’s because of them we have the right to succeed or fail at whatever endeavor we wish to pursue.

The United States of America was founded on the ideals of Freedom, Justice and Equality. Our nation stands as a shining beacon of liberty and freedom to the world. Today we thank those who gave their lives to keep us free and we shall not forget you. We shall always remember.

Today, many of you here, are Veterans of wars and conflicts that America has had to fight to protect the innocent and oppressed. This nation has always been the first to stand up for the freedom of people from around the world. Many of you here today have answered that call and served your country well. We are here today to say “Thank you,” and we are honored to know you.

There are many men and women serving today in all branches of the military, they are part of the best-trained, best-equipped force in the world. We honor them and their families for the sacrifices they make each day to keep our country safe from terrorism, hatred and injustice.

Quoting our 40th United States President Ronald Reagan. Quote “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children’s children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.”

Today, we show a united front of gratitude and respect across the United States of America as we REMEMBER the Fallen, HONOR those who serve and TEACH our children the value of freedom.

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Fowlerville Community Theatre staging a murder mystery dinner play at Howell Opera House Jan. 13-14

The Livingston Arts Council and the Fowlerville Community Theatre have teamed up once again to bring you Dinner and a Show this coming January 13 & 14. It will be held at the Howell Opera House, 123 W. Grand River.

“Death by Dessert” takes place in New York’s Little Italy. The Donnaduce family and the Duccedonni family

have been feuding for a generation, while operating two competing Italian restaurants that share a common wall. At the start of the play, the building’s landlord is dead at center stage and everyone is suspect—from the Old-World Italian grandmother and Mafia don grandfather to the passionate chefs and bumbling waitstaff.

Doors open at 6:30 pm - Dinner at 7:00 pm - Show at 7:45 pm. Each performance has its own menu.

January 13, 2023 Menu
- Chicken Marsala

- Classic Tiramisu & Italian Pizzelle Cookie

Tickets are \$60 a person and can be purchased at <https://howelloperahouse.ludus.com/200431108>

Reserved seating - all ticket sales are final, no refunds. Sales end on January 6, 2023.



Michigan House Report

By Bob Bezotte, 47th District

Hello neighbors,

This week, I’d like to provide you with some local, Lansing, and statewide updates, and reminders.

Thank you to the Fowlerville 4th of July Committee for bringing Wreaths across America to our community for the fourth time. The event, at which I had the honor of speaking, was a major success. I again thank those who have been part of the United States military. Whether you’re a veteran like myself, or an active-duty service member, I thank you and your family for your efforts on behalf of our great country.

As mentioned earlier this month, House and Senate legislative districts in Michigan have been altered by a state-appointed committee. The new maps will take effect Jan. 1, 2023. The intention was to draw new districts fairly, with the interests of communities at the forefront. The redistricting process, as we witnessed, is complex. Knowing your House, Senate, and U.S. Congress members is of utmost importance, as they are your representation in Lansing and Washington, D.C.

Some House districts, due to redistricting, are changing drastically. I have been serving the 47th House District, which included a portion of Livingston County - Fowlerville, Howell, and the townships of Hartland, Tyrone, Unadilla, Cohoctah and Handy. Thanks to your unceasing support, beginning Jan. 1, I will serve the 50th House District, which includes much of the same areas: the Village of Fowlerville, the City of Howell, and the Townships of Conway, Handy, Iosco, Unadilla, Cohoctah, Oceola, Deerfield, Howell, Marion, Hartland, and portions of Tyrone and Putnam.

I am fortunate to call Livingston County my home for so many reasons. Thank you for the opportunity to continue representing this amazing region of Michigan.

This term, I served as the vice chair of the Local Government and Municipal Finance Committee, and as a member on the communications and technology; insurance; and military, veterans, and homeland security committees. I take these positions with great pride. We in the Legislature are still working on new committee assignments for the upcoming legislative term. I will make sure to include that information in a future column as soon as such details are finalized.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office. On Jan. 1, my office will move to Room S-899 of the Anderson House Office Building where I can be contacted by phone at a new number, (517) 373-3906. My office email address, RobertBezotte@house.mi.gov, will stay the same. I am always happy to hear from my neighbors in our community. I wish you all a safe and healthy holiday season filled with joy!

Fowlerville High School’s “ATHLETES” OF THE WEEK

Jud Scott



Boys JV Basketball

Sam Shrader is a Freshman guard on the Fowlerville Junior Varsity Boys Basketball team. Sam was named a co-captain and has started at shooting guard in all five of the team’s contests to start the 2022-2023 season. Sam burst onto the scene in the team’s home opener against Lansing Eastern, scoring 19 and leading the team to a league victory. Sam returned to the court three nights later and scored 20 in a tough overtime loss to Owosso. Sam is also a strong defender that imposes problems for opposing teams with his height and wingspan. Sam is already building a strong reputation within the CAAC and has caught the attention of opposing coaches as they build defensive gameplans around him. As good as Sam is on the court as a basketball player, he is equally great off the court as a student and member of the Fowlerville community. Sam has an extremely bright future and will be a valuable asset to the basketball program for years to come.

Spencer Rose is a Sophomore guard on the Fowlerville Junior Varsity Boys Basketball team. Spencer has started as a forward in all five of the team’s contests to start the 2022-2023 season. Spencer has been called upon to play out of position, and he has embraced his role. Spencer has played solid defense for the team and is one of the team’s top rebounders this year. Spencer proved this summer, and during his Freshman campaign, that he has the attributes to be an explosive offensive threat. Spencer had a season high of 7 points against Owosso. For a Junior Varsity basketball player, Spencer is still rather inexperienced; however, his potential is through the roof. Spencer is an extremely gifted athlete with a willingness to listen to his coaches, which is a formula for success. Spencer has an upbeat attitude and keeps his teammates smiling and laughing throughout practice. Spencer also has a very bright future and can be a valuable member of the basketball program for the next two-plus years.

JUD’S FOOTBALL FORECAST

THURSDAY, DEC. 29
Dallas 24 vs. Tennessee 17

Cleveland 28 vs. Washington 24
Pittsburgh 21 vs. Baltimore 24
Jacksonville 31 vs. Houston 17
San Francisco 28 vs. Las Vegas 24
NY Jets 21 vs. Seattle 31
Minnesota 21 vs. Green Bay 24
LA Rams 17 vs. LA Chargers 31

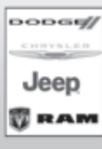
SUNDAY, JAN. 1
Arizona 14 vs. Atlanta 21
Chicago 24 vs. Detroit 31
Denver 17 vs. Kansas City 28
Miami 27 vs. New England 28
Indianapolis 21 vs. NY Giants 28
New Orleans 17 vs. Philadelphia 28
Carolina 17 vs. Tampa Bay 31

MONDAY, JAN. 2
Buffalo 28 vs. Cincinnati 24

Every week through the season two Fowlerville H.S. athletes will be saluted for their efforts. Athletes will be selected by the coaching staff and Athletic Dept. For that “Winning Deal” on a new or used car or truck, see Dick Scott Motor Mall.

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 - Classic Tiramisu & Italian Pizzelle Cookie
- January 14, 2023 Menu**
- Beef Manicotti
 - Chef’s Choice sautéed Vegetable Medley
 - House Made Breadsticks

Firekeepers Casino bus trip, breakfast planned by St. Agnes on Jan. 19th

The next scheduled trip to Firekeepers Casino by St. Agnes is Thursday, Jan. 19. Organizers will be serving breakfast at 9am at St. Agnes Church, 855 E Grand River Avenue, Fowlerville, in the Lothamer Parish Center prior to leaving Thursday morning. Breakfast menu is scrambled eggs and biscuits & gravy.

They will be then going to Firekeepers Casino in Battle Creek. The cost is \$50 and includes round trip bus transportation, \$30 in free slot play and \$5 to use toward dining, slot play or use in the gift shop. Returning guests who bring their Red Hot Rewards Club card will get credits and points added to their existing card. Guests need to bring a valid ID to receive the group package. Those without Red Hot Rewards Cards will be issued them prior to entering casino.

An Indian Trails chartered bus will leave the St. Agnes Church parking lot at 10:00 am. Anticipated arrival time back in Fowlerville is 5:30 pm. To pre-register: call the office at 517-223-8684 or email Lisa at stagnesfowlerville@sbcglobal.net. First come first served, and ALL are welcome to join us for a fun day out!

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Caleb Jenkins Column



Christmas Spirit despite the Christmas Rush

When we think about what Christmas should be like, I suspect many of us envision an idyllic setting defined by tranquility and a touch of nostalgia. The glowing ideal for the season stems from our recollections of years past, whether those memories are accurate or softened by the passage of time matters little. Those experiences, good or bad, contribute to our folk interpretation of the holiday season and shape our vision of a perfect Christmas. This vision is generally reinforced by the plethora of Christmas-oriented books, movies, music, and other media.

Sadly, the realities of the Christmas season rarely match the ideals. After Thanksgiving, the Christmas rush begins in earnest, as we scurry to wrap up work, school, and chores for the year; finish buying presents; prepare family feasts; dedicate additional time for family and friends; and participate in community and volunteer events. And before we barely get a chance to think about it, another Christmas is over.

The challenge is that each of those tasks is good and important in its own right. How can we get everything done while not trapping ourselves in the general rush of the season? I think the key is to keep in the forefront of our minds the true meaning of the season. It is a time for love and care for others, most perfectly demonstrated by God's love and Gift to us.

We may not be able to escape the busy nature of the holiday, but even during the hectic rush, we can ponder and embrace the spirit of the holiday. We push ourselves to do so many things leading up to Christmas. Many of those things may be inescapable and important, but we should stop and consider if we are using our time wisely. What is truly important? If

we look back in five years, what will we wish we would have done differently?

There should be no guilt in enjoying the Christmas season and focusing on what is truly important. Christmas is not a competition. There is no prize for the one who suffers the most! As Americans, we are funny like that. We sometimes wear our self-imposed struggles like a badge of honor, but this season should be a time to rejoice! Many of us are busy, and perhaps the reality of Christmas does not match our ideal. But if we reflect on the true meaning of the season and remain purposeful in thought and action, we can still have joy.

Merry Christmas, and may God bless you all during this festive season and in the coming year!

Fowlerville Fire Department Report

December 15

- 6:21 a.m. Tree down on S Kane Rd in Iosco Township.
- 6:52 a.m. Medical response on Nicholson Rd in Conway Township.
- 7:07 a.m. Mutual aid to Howell for structure fire.
- 6:07 p.m. Medical response on Cedar River Dr in the Village.

December 16

- 3:38 a.m. Medical response on Bull Run Rd in Iosco Township.
- 7:26 a.m. Medical response on Owosso Rd in Conway Township.
- 7:56 a.m. Carbon monoxide investigation on Pinnebog River Dr in Handy Township.
- 8:18 a.m. Fire investigation on N Grand Ave in the Village.
- 11:15 a.m. Medical response on Elliott Rd in Iosco Township.
- 3:16 p.m. Vehicle fire on E-196 in Handy Township.
- 7:14 p.m. Medical response on Eagle Ridge Ln in Handy Township.

December 17

- 1:36 p.m. Medical response on Sherwood Rd in Conway Township.

December 18

- 10:56 a.m. Medical response on N Grand Ave in the Village.
- 6:21 p.m. Medical response on Stow Rd in Conway Township.
- 7:59 p.m. Electrical hazard on Nicholson Rd in Handy Township.

December 19

- 5:30 p.m. Mutual aid to Hemlock for large grain fire.
- 8:57 p.m. Medical response on Wheeler Rd in Handy Township.

December 20

- 6:43 p.m. Medical response on Bull Run Rd in Iosco Township.
- 7:54 p.m. Grass fire on W Grand River in Handy Township.

December 21

- 9:59 p.m. Medical response on Hannah Jane Dr in Handy Township.

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My Christmas

by Karen Colton

Christmas Day is nearing,
my cards are on their way,
The gifts are wrapped, cookies baked,
my house is a display,
The parties have been organized,
the tinsel's on the tree.
"What is it, Lord? What's that you say?
You'd like a word with me?"
"Well, all right, if You're sure
it won't take very long.
The Christmas play is shortly
and I must learn this new song."
"My child," God said, "I love you
and you know how much I care.
I've sure missed hearing from you
and the time we usually share.
For I've watched you as you hustled
and bustled to and for,
Overworked and overwrought
and I've longed to tell you so.
Christmas is a time of peace,
a time of love and joy.
Nor baubles, bangles, food and drink
or your son's brand new toy.
I want for you to have gifts, your tree,
your friends, your fun -
But also to remember that
for you I gave My Son
So you could live and love and hope
and have all of life's best.
Let Jesus fill your Christmas
and you're sure to have the rest."
"Oh, Lord, will You forgive me
as unto You I call?
For I see now Christ is Christmas,
the meaning of it all.
And as I spend this Christmas time
enjoying everything,
I'll not let my heart be swayed
from honouring Christ, my King."

Submitted by Olivia Verfaillie

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Charming 5-bedroom, 2 bath farm home on 30 beautiful acres with woods, pond & loads of wildlife. Features include nice original wood trim, large kitchen with natural wood fireplace, kitchen appliances & plenty of cabinets. Spacious dining room with wood floors, 1st floor laundry and detached garage for all your storage needs. Updated roof, new carpet throughout upper level and well pump. Country living at its best! \$499,000.

New Construction! Beautiful new Cape Cod with over 3,000 sq.ft. of finished living space on 5.3 acres. Features include 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, 1st floor master bedroom and 1st floor laundry. Large living room with gas fireplace, ceramic tile floors in the kitchen, dining & baths. Finished daylight basement, 3 car attached garage, full covered front porch & Generac generator system. Williamston schools. \$499,900.

Nice 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch home in a country subdivision with over 1/2 acre lot. Features include 1st floor laundry, central air, all kitchen appliances and full basement plumbed for a 3rd bath. Updates include fresh paint throughout, new furnace, roof and carpet. Attached 2 car garage & landscaped yard. Shows Great. \$242,500.

Good location in the Village of Pinckney for this 4 bedroom, 2 bath home with oversized 3 car garage & double lot. Updates in the last 7 years include furnace, central air, water heater, roof & some windows. Bring your ideas and make this your home. \$250,000.

LEASE! Large 5 bedroom, 1 bath farm style home on 1 country acre in the Webberville area. This well maintained home features central air, all appliances including washer & dryer, new carpet and 1 car detached garage. No smoking & no pets. First month's rent \$1,300 plus security deposit equal to 1st month's rent. Non refundable cleaning fee of \$300.

----- VACANT LAND -----

Two beautiful square 40 acre parcels with nice hilltop settings. Enjoy the best of what nature has to offer with woods, open land and rolling hills. Beautiful sand percs. Priced from \$399,900-309,900.

Nice 5 acre parcel zoned B-1 commercial on M-52 with high visibility. There is existing well & septic located on the property that may be usable. \$129,900

Nice country 1+ acre parcel on a paved road in the Morrice schools. Located just 2 1/2 miles to town. \$19,900.

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Letter to the Editor

To those who may be interested:

My name is Gwen Ives Kato and I was raised on Mohrle Road with my two older brothers. Our dad, Carl Ives, began farming at 24 years old and purchased the original farm and 80 acres soon after my parents were married in 1956. My father included the entire family in the farming operation, mom worked right alongside dad, doing field work, managing parts runs, finances, meals, and much more. WE are a farm

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family.

I threw hay/straw bales all summer long, milked cows through high school and drove every tractor & piece of equipment on the farm. At 18, it was time for me to move on and I was away from the farm for 20 years. I would come home to visit during the years I was away and farming progressed. Dad embraced gmo's and I vividly remember the year he quit growing sweet corn after he forgot about it and sprayed it along with the other crops -- oops, no sweet corn!! During this time I married and had two kids. My husband wanted to give our kids the opportunity to grow up on the farm and live near their grandparents, so in 2000, we decided to return home.

For four years I raised the newborn calves for the dairy. In 2004 I planted an acre of u-pick raspberries and many vegetables for small farmers markets which were just starting to pop up in surrounding areas. I attempted organic, but knew it was impossible with all the sprays surrounding my farm—even with the designated buffer zone. I managed beehives, raised pastured meat chickens & hens for many years. A hoop house was added to extend the veggie growing season, fruit trees, other berries and grass fed sheep.

We were productive for 10 years, selling farm goods in the community. I couldn't keep my bees alive to produce the berries and ended up having to purchase them yearly. In 2014, I couldn't make it viable anymore and I made the decision to go off the farm for my livelihood. Our kids had grown and moved on. It was tough to do, but we ended up selling our home, downsizing, and moving in 2020.

I am now a Realtor in Livingston County and I've had over 150 transactions in the greater Livingston County area. A home is appraised and value given by the house's condition, size, quality, and the amount of land it sits on. What an appraiser also takes into consideration is any surrounding nuisances, such as noise levels, smells i.e., hog farms, shooting ranges, dirt bike trails, landfills, airports. Even having outbuildings does not add much value to a property. Personally, I wouldn't mind a quiet solar array near me, as barriers can be planted to hide the view. There have been appraisal and real estate studies to confirm the findings that homes can retain their value with solar farms around them nationally.

Locally, Cohn Reznick, a national accounting firm, conducted a property value impact assessment on the proposed Headland project in Conway and Cohoctah Township. This study (www.cohnreznick.com) examined the likelihood of Conway and Cohoctah Township residential properties seeing an adverse impact based on proximity to a solar project. They reached conclusions by examining several other similar (rural) areas throughout the midwest where these projects exist, and what effect that they have or have not had on home values. Their findings indicate that neighboring properties in Conway and Cohoctah Township are not likely to be impacted by proximity to the Headland Project.

During my 22 years back on the farm, I wasn't blind to the difficulties. I could see how expenses and productivity

were challenging for our family. My father, mother, and brother were all continuing to get older and experts considered us a "terminal farm" with no descendants remaining to leave the farm to. When Ranger Power presented the Headland Solar Project, it felt right to at least hear them out.

Mom was 90 years old at the time and said, "Dad always signed the farm up for utility leases through the years, so that maybe someday his kids wouldn't have to work as hard as he has his entire life." The decision was easy for mom. For me and my brothers, it seemed harmless to learn more while waiting 3 more years for any decisions.

Mom has passed away now and my brother who is still farming is likely torn. He may still want to farm and possibly still can. Our other brother is happy to give solar a chance. Farming is extremely difficult & costly today, and solar projects allow families like mine to ensure that our father's legacy and land will remain into the future. I loved my upbringing on the farm and my own small organic farming venture. But now? We must find a way to continue to pay the taxes. I don't want to sell the farm, but how long can one brother continue to make this work? I believe in personal property rights for a farmer and it's about the timing, and I think the timing is now.

Solar farms require no fertilizer or routine pesticide application, which improves our soil and water quality and that of the surrounding community. We can plant pollinator-friendly grasses and flowers underneath the solar panels that would benefit the bee population in Conway Township in a way that would have helped my u-pick raspberries thrive and that will allow for the harvest of honey. There are also opportunities for sheep grazing and ensuring that the land is not subdivided and used for non-agricultural purposes. Now of course, Headlands Solar can't get shepherds and beekeepers to cover all the land, but giving the remaining soil a chance to rest is also a great opportunity.

Forty of my 60 years have been spent on this land that I care about. It has been heartbreaking to hear accusations of "selling out" when this actually presents an opportunity for long-time local farmers and for our larger community. I wasn't able to express my thoughts rationally at any of the public meetings where a very vocal group of people insist on rudeness and spreading misinformation. Whether you agree with the solar proposal or not, Conway Township is being presented with an opportunity to practice what it means to be a good neighbor. Bullying others, as I know members of our basically 'volunteer' township board, has been, and I personally on Social Media for their opinions and resisting facts in an effort to stoke fear is exactly the opposite.

The reality is, Conway could be a leader in Michigan as we all transition to renewable energy, along with improving the soil for future agriculture endeavors. I would encourage this community to embrace solar farms in order to preserve our agricultural community and ensure we leave clean water, soil and air for future generations.

Gwen Ives Kato

MARION TOWNSHIP SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES DECEMBER 15, 2022

The regular meeting of the Marion Township Board was held on Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 7 pm. Members Present: Hanvey, Andersen, Durbin, Lloyd, Donovan, Lowe, and Beal. Members Absent: None. The following action was taken: 1) Call to Order. 2) Call to the Public. 3) Motion carried to approve agenda as amended; motion carried to approve consent agenda as amended. 4) Motion carried to change Board of Trustees meeting time to 7:30 pm and approve meeting schedule as amended. 5) Motion carried to adopt a resolution to approve the Hidden Valley Road Maintenance SAD roll, as presented. 6) Motion carried to adopt a resolution to schedule a public hearing on 1/12/23 for Winterwood Drive Chip Seal SAD, as presented. 7) Motion carried to adopt the Marion Township Ordinance Extending the Moratorium on Commercial Solar Facilities No. 22-003, as presented. 8) Motion carried to approve the Fire Station lease as presented. 9) Motion carried to authorize the township office to be closed on Tuesday, 12/20/22 from 12 noon-2 pm. 10) Correspondence & Updates. 11) Call to the Public. 12) Motion to adjourn at 7:42 pm.

Tammy L. Beal, MMC
Township Clerk
Robert W. Hanvey
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Livingston Dems donate nearly 10,000 meals through Gleaners

Many Livingston County families will have a brighter holiday season, thanks to the generosity of Livingston County Democrats, said the county chair Judy Daubenmier.

The party's annual food drive for Gleaners Community Food Bank resulted in the donation of checks, on-line donations, and nonperishable food that translates into 9,766 meals.

"Livingston County Democrats have once again shown their generosity to people who need a helping hand," said Daubenmier. "This annual tradition for our party is one way for us to put into action our core value of compassion for others.

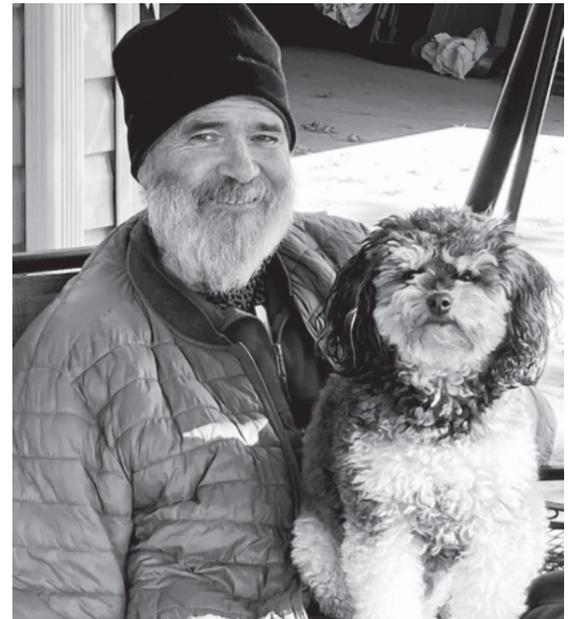
"Livingston County is fortunate to have a great partner such as Gleaners to work with to make this drive successful," she added.

The party's annual Gleaners' drive ended Monday, Dec. 19. The collection effort has been an annual holiday tradition for the party for many years, resulting in the donation of thousands of meals.

Gleaners distributes food to those in need from its location

in Brighton at 5924 Sterling Dr, between Brighton and Howell, but it also supplies food to 534 partner agencies such as soup kitchens and food pantries in Livingston County and the rest of southeast Michigan.

—Area Deaths—



Robert 'Bob' Lynn Shanks

Robert (Bob) Lynn Shanks, 70, passed away peacefully after a hard-fought battle with brain cancer on Saturday, December 17, 2022, at his home in Webberville, MI, with his family by his side. He was born on June 12, 1952, in Lansing, MI, to Robert and Geraldine (Selfridge) Shanks.

Bob was a lifelong resident of Webberville. In 1989, he married his wife Kathy (Chelf) Shanks. He is preceded in death by his parents Robert and Geraldine and his son Jason Szyszka. He is survived by his daughters Bobbi Shanks, Lindsay (Tom) Surline, Andrea (Dan) Marvin, and son Dustin Shanks. He also leaves behind grandchildren Jake, Josh, Chrystian, Makayla, Cooper, and Audrey.

Bob retired from the General Motors Proving Grounds in Milford, MI, after working there for 30 years. He also served in the National Guard.

He liked to live slow and drive fast. He loved "going North" to spend time fishing and relaxing at the family cabin in Houghton Lake, MI. He took his side-by-side to happy hour at Papa's Bait every day with his buddies. And he spent many years racing cars he built with friends at Mid Michigan Motorplex in Stanton, MI.

Bob will be missed dearly by so many friends and family.

A "Receiving of Friends" will be held from 12-3:00pm on Tuesday, December 27, at Herrmann Funeral Home in Fowlerville, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society or Sparrow Hospice. Arrangements entrusted to Herrmann Funeral Home. Online condolences may be expressed at pjherrmannfuneralhome.com



Thomas William Beavers

Thomas William Beavers was born on January 27, 1970 to Margaret Wiles and Thomas Beavers in Howell, MI. He passed away at the age of 52 on December 17, 2022.

Thomas had a big heart, loved helping others, and had a passion for animals and the wilderness. He always knew how to put a smile on your face when you were having a bad day by making jokes and being goofy, which will be missed and cherished by many.

He is survived by his sisters: Hanna Rectenwal, Kristen Burman, and Carmen Beavers; his nieces and nephews: Brett, Autumn and Jenelle Rectenwal, Andrew and Joy Beavers, Nathaniel Jones, Sloan Smith and Evan Pearson. Also left behind are his beloved dogs TinkerBell, Sonic and Roxy.

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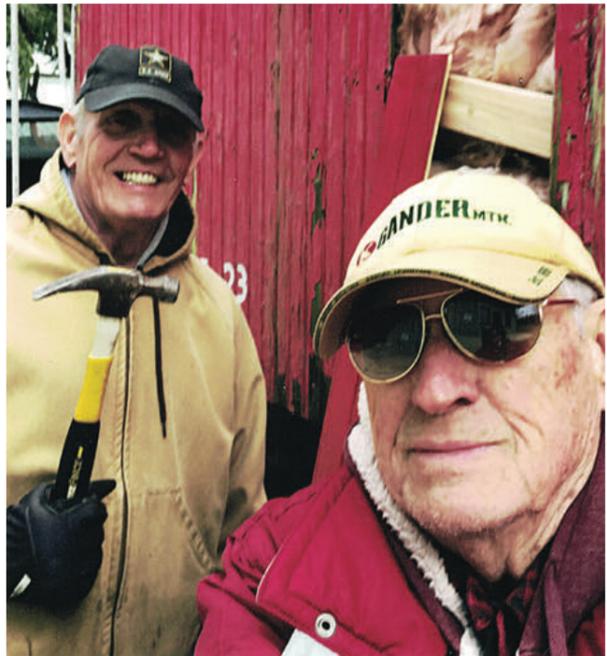
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Local man operates model train at community event, also repairs caboose

Over 500 people showed up at the First Baptist Church during the recent Christmas in the Ville event in Fowlerville. While there they ate cookies, drank cocoa, and watched David Thompson run his model train. Here he is shown cleaning the track while some visitors watch.



When he's not operating his model train, David Thompson helps maintain the train depot at the Livingston Centre Historic Village, located on the Fowlerville Fairgrounds. The exhibit includes a train caboose. He and Steve Whitney recently made repairs to that train car.

Fowlerville High 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:

Jan 4 Return to school

Any student who has accrued more than 5 absences in any class at FHS, may or has lost credit for a course will be receiving an email and an appeal letter. A student may appeal against this loss of credit by completing the attendance appeal form and returning it to the Attendance/Main office. Please note that this process has changed. Parents/guardians will receive an email stating that their student has accumulated absences in one or more classes, and as a result, the student has lost credit. The same email will have a link to the attendance appeal form. To have the attendance appeal considered, the form must be completed and returned to the Attendance/Main office along with supporting documentation by January 24, 2023. As always, we encourage parents to monitor their student's attendance via the parent connect website at connect@fowlervilleschools.org, and if you have any questions, please be sure to contact the attendance office at 517-223-6044.

After School Tutoring: Fowlerville High School is very excited to now offer after-school tutoring Monday-Thursday from 2:20-3:20 in all subject areas starting on Monday 12/12. The tutoring will be held on Mondays & Tuesdays** in Mr. O'Connells Room, Rm D206, and on Wednesdays and Thursdays in Ms. Blythes's room, Rm B203. There is no sign-up required and all students are welcome. We will have students sign in and sign out when they attend. Transportation will not be provided.

The Fowlerville Ski and Snow Board Club will begin in January. The club is open to 5th through 12th grade students and families. We ski/board at Mt. Brighton every Wednesday beginning January 11th and throughout the month of February. For further information, please contact Ms. DeLuca 517-223-6250 or delucac@fowlervilleschools.org

Yearbooks are on sale now and selling quickly. Students and parents can purchase a yearbook for \$65.00 through jostens.com/yearbooks or go to the FHS website and click on the link.

Spring 2022 Fowlerville High School Local Scholarship Winners:

Attention class of 2022 Senior Honors Night Scholarship winners. Congratulations again for being the recipient of a Fowlerville Community Scholarship as well as successfully completing the first semester of school/training after high school. Scholarship winners from the Spring 2022 Senior Honors Night can claim their scholarships by completing the *Scholarship Winners Request Form* that can be found on the Fowlerville High School website-click on Counseling Department-scroll to the bottom and click on 2022 scholarship winners. In addition to the request form, winners must provide a copy of their semester 1 college/trade school transcript showing successful completion as well as evidence of semester 2 enrollment (semester 2 class schedule). Please

submit the completed form and required evidence in person to the counseling office or to hardenbrookj@fowlervilleschools.org. *Deadline to complete requests is March 1, 2023.*

Credit Recovery is designed to help students make up credits while also gaining the knowledge that he/she may have missed in the regular classroom setting. The Odysseyware lesson design fosters ongoing collaboration between learners and teachers, enabling students to progress and practice at their own pace and receive support and guided instruction as needed. Credit Recovery begins in February for Semester 2. Announcements will be made when it specifically begins for each semester. Space is limited. Please see the link to the registration form. Completed forms can be turned in to Mr. Hardenbrook in the counseling office

Juniors and Seniors interested in the Co-op Program for 2022-2023 School Year:

Are you currently working? Are you interested in finding out if you could earn high school elective credit while you work? You may be eligible for the high school co-op program. For more details, requirements, answers to most questions and the application paperwork for the 2022-2023 school year please see the Fowlerville High School website-click on "Co-op information" in the menu on the right side of the page. Applications can be printed from the FHS webpage or picked up in the counseling office. Please follow the

procedure flowchart under the link "How to get into the Co-op Program". Completed applications should be returned to the counseling office. Additional questions should be directed to Mr. Hardenbrook at hardenbrookj@fowlervilleschools.org

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 Comments

By: Doug Helzerman,
District 4
Commissioner

Merry Christmas. This is the happiest season of the year, even considering all the added stress that comes with all of the special gatherings and celebrations. Although many have other customs and ways of adding joy to long dark nights of December, the birth of Christ and His life, sacrificial death for sin, and his triumphant resurrection give much more real meaning to Christmas celebrations.

The Board of Commissioners has voted on an overall framework of how to divide the federal ARPA funds.

Internal county expenses:

Drain	Infrastructure Projects	\$6,175,870
Sheriff	Service Enhancement Projects	\$1,750,000
Clerk	Microfilm Conversion	\$243,125
Fiscal		
Services	County Services Addressing Legacy Costs	\$5,000,000
Facilities		
Services	Facilities Replacement Projects	\$1,622,147
Animal Shelter	Animal Shelter New-Facility Expansion (only)	\$1,850,000
Courts	On Base Implementation (only)	\$1,235,936
EMS	Rural Ambulance Bases (only)	\$1,850,000
911 IT	Tower Repair and Replacement (only)	
	Safety/Education/Municipal Open Access Broadband (only)	\$1,500,000
		\$12,551,365

Projects from external requests not covered by the above are allocated \$1,260,000.

- a. \$450,000 shall be allocated for use only to support the senior centers in Livingston County, and the United

Way

- b. each of the five school districts in Livingston County shall receive \$30,000, for a total of \$150,000 for implementing Reaching Higher, Inc. programs;
- c. the Livingston County Senior Nutrition shall receive \$100,000
- d. the Community Mental Health Authority shall receive \$40,000
- e. the Bountiful Harvest shall receive \$20,000
- f. the Livingston Family Center Emergency Shelter project shall receive \$20,000
- g. the Howell Nature Center shall receive \$20,000 for the outdoor teen activity center
- h. the Family Emergency Readiness Expo shall receive \$4,000
- i. the Salvation Army shall receive \$56,000 for the summer lunch break program
- j. \$400,000 in funds to be allocated at a later time.

Tuesday, the 27th, we will be deciding to move forward on the phase one and two of the fiber internet open access projects which are considered “middle mile”, meaning that a private company will need to connect to this line in order to provide “last mile” internet service to individual homes. I am hoping that we will be able to select the company to finish this project that will at the same time lay lines providing both middle and last mile service. There are other State and Federal grants that will be available for last mile service. I have favored direct pass of ARPA funds to townships that would then in turn use the funds for last mile direct connections, servicing a high percentage of those without high speed internet.

I look forward to hear your comments and concerns. Have a safe and prosperous New Year.

Doug Helzerman 517-375-4869



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From left, Officer Coln, Nathan Meloche, Katie Bollwhan, Jason York, Aleeyah Phillips, Kendra Clemons, Jason Botruff, Trevor Hale, Trevor Robertson, Jack Shu, Sean Donohoe, Mike Takovich, and Chris Joseph.

**Village of Fowlerville
Holiday Hours**

In observance of the Holidays, The Village of Fowlerville Municipal Offices will be closed from Friday, December 23rd through Monday, January 2nd.

Wishing you all the joys of the holiday season and happiness throughout the coming year!

~The Staff at the
Village of Fowlerville Offices

(12-25-22 FNV)

Merry Christmas!

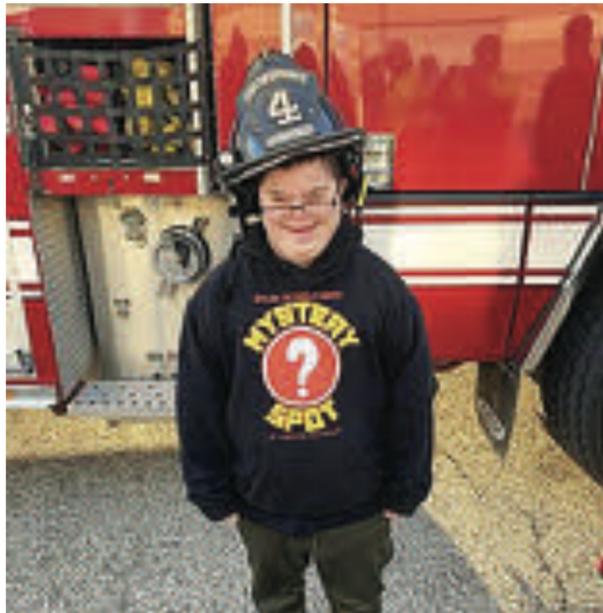


This student enjoyed sitting in the cab of the fire truck.

First Responders visit Mrs. Esch's Life Skills Class

Fowlerville School Resource Officer Coln brought some of his first responder friends to Fowlerville High School to explain how all three agencies—Fowlerville Police Dept., Fowlerville Fire Dept., and Livingston County EMS—work together to help the public.

Thank you, to these first responders for coming to our Life Skills Class to talk to us about your roles!! We appreciate all of your hard work in keeping our community safe!!



This student got to try on a fire hat.

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**Village of Fowlerville
Notice to the Public**

The Village of Fowlerville Municipal Offices has adopted new hours of operation.

Effective January 1st, 2023:

Monday: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Thursday: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Friday: CLOSED

In case of an emergency, please direct your call to our DPW on-call team at 517-712-2478.

(12-25-22 FNV)

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Visiting Dollywood

By Karen Grab

I had just bought a new 1989 Chevy Celebrity and my brother John and I decided to go to Dollywood, the theme park in Tennessee that was created by country music legend Dolly Parton.

We took the trip in May. Heading south on I-69, we stopped in Jefferson, Indiana to spend the night. We spotted a Bob Evans restaurant which is where we ate dinner and breakfast.

We had continued our journey on 65 South and then 40 East when we saw the sign to Loretta Lynn's home. We had to get a picture! Doo, Loretta's husband, was feeding the horses in the distance.

Shoney's is a popular restaurant in the South, and after seeing Loretta's home, we had some lunch near Hurricane Mills where she lived.

We arrived at Dollywood late in the afternoon and got a room at the Smoky Meadows Lodge on 904 North Parkway in Pigeon Forge. We ate at Cracker Barrel and planned for the next day.

The theme park, located at 2700 Dollywood Park Boulevard, was amazing. Back then it cost \$16 to enter with a visitor's guide. Today it is \$89 for a one-day pass. There are senior discounts and children ages three and under are admitted free.

There is Granny's Restaurant, candle making, crafts, Dolly's "Rags to Riches Museum," a train ride on the Dollywood Express that takes you around the park, and many shows at the Celebrity Theatre. Dolly sings there when she is in town.



Dolly Parton waving with her famous butterfly in the background.

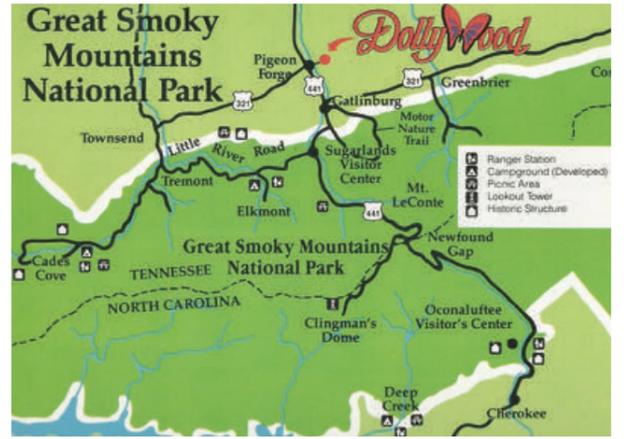


Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails free books to children from birth until they begin school. You can sign up online at www.imaginationlibrarywashington.org

John and I went on the "Daredevil Falls" water log ride. It is quite a thrill going down the falls and having the water coming at you! John lost his hat, but he did find it.

In 2005, we (myself, John, my mother Dorothy, and husband Ed Grab) went down for a visit during the Christmas season. It was cold but the decorations were all around and the trees all lit up! So glittery, with Christmas music playing throughout the park.

The place oozes with country charm and it's been voted number one for theme parks in the U.S for adults and children. It is surrounded by the rustic beauty of the Smokies. You will take a magical trip to this special place that Dolly created for everyone to enjoy! Do not forget a souvenir as you leave and that is your last stop!



A map of Dollywood.



Here I am (Karen) at Loretta Lynn's home. We stopped for a photo enroute to Dollywood.



This group photo was taken during our 2005 visit to Dollywood at Christmastime. It includes myself (Karen), my mother Dorothy, and my husband Ed Grab.



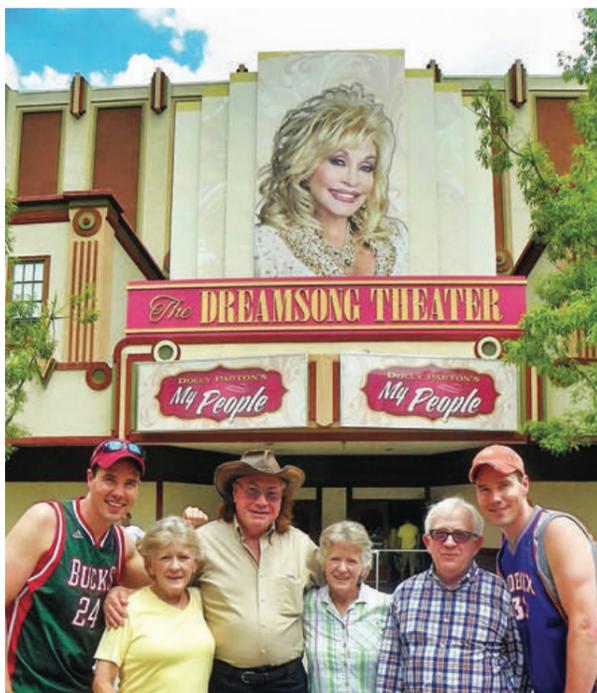
A replica of Dolly's childhood home built by her brother Bobby. Here I am, Karen, waving from the porch.



This 110-ton coal-fired steam train, called the Dollywood Express, takes you on a five-mile trip around the park.



John Seeley, my brother, had a camcorder and recorded activities and attractions at the park.



Celebrities come to visit Dollywood. This picture is from the Lane Twins who I met at Twins Days. Gary Lane is on the left and Larry Lane is on right. Also shown are Leslie Jordan and his twin sisters Janet and Cricket along with Dolly's Uncle Pete in the cowboy hat.



Downtown Dollywood decorated for Christmas.

Livingston County Catholic Charities receives grant from Pulte Foundation for Adult Day Service Program

Livingston County Catholic Charities (LCCC) announced that The Pulte Family Charitable Foundation has awarded a grant of \$24,670 in support of the Be Our Guest Adult Day Service Program. This special funding will assist the program that provides a valuable resource for individuals and families dealing with dementia and Alzheimer’s, as well as other chronic health concerns (Parkinson’s, Lewy Body Disease, etc.).

The Mission of The Pulte Family Foundation is, “Guided by the belief in the inherent dignity of all persons, the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation works to meet the basic human needs of the most marginalized members of the human family, including socio-economically disadvantaged youth; the aged; persons with physical, emotional and mental disabilities; and those with the fewest material resources. In addition to the above, the Foundation seeks to serve religious communities and correlative organizations of Judeo-Christian beliefs.

“To this end, the Foundation strives to enact through its grantees the seven-corporeal works of mercy: feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; clothe the naked; care for captives; shelter the homeless; visit the sick; and assist the mourning.”

Be Our Guest provides a supportive and caring environment for memory impaired adults who would benefit from a structured day club-like setting. The goal of Be Our Guest is to provide meaningful services that enrich the lives of older adults, families, and caregivers. Be Our Guest not only positively impacts the adults that attend the program but also provides respite for caregivers who may be balancing many responsibilities, including the full-time job of caring for a loved one. With the exorbitant cost of in-home care and independent living centers, many families are left with little to no option when it comes to caring for a loved one. Be Our Guest seeks to fill this void and alleviate this stress from caregivers in the county.

In addition to providing a safe environment for older adults dealing with forms of dementia or Alzheimer’s, Be Our Guest also actively engages guests to enrich and stimulate their minds and memory. Be Our Guest provides activities for guests such as art therapy, music therapy, petting zoos, exercise classes, gardening and more. Frequently the program tailors activities to the likes and abilities of the guests.

The LCCC team, our participants, and families are deeply grateful to have support of The Pulte Family Foundation through their investment into our community, our families, and vulnerable populations.

Smith Elementary School News

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm
School Hours: 8:50 am – 3:32 pm

IMPORTANT DATES:

- December 22 to January 3 – NO SCHOOL Winter Recess
- January 4 – School Resumes
- January 12- Family Fun Math Night 5:30-7:00
- January 16 – NO SCHOOL – MLK Jr Day
- January 18 – PTC Meeting (4:00 pm in Cafeteria)
- January 20 – K-5th Grade ½ Day (Early Dismissal at 12:02 PM)
- January 23-27- Color Week
- January 27-PTC Popcorn Day

Color Week-Let’s break up the dreary winter by wearing colors the week of Jan 23-27.

- Monday- Red
- Tuesday – Yellow
- Wednesday-Green
- Thursday-Blue
- Friday-Purple

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. **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.

Livingston County Catholic Charities receives grant from DTE Foundation for senior services program

Livingston County Catholic Charities (LCCC) announced that the DTE Foundation is investing in the county by bestowing a grant to its Community Liaison Senior Services Program. LCCC’s program provides critical senior outreach services that help to connect seniors, a vulnerable population, to crucial resources and services.

This grant will strengthen LCCC’s ability to be a valuable partner and asset for seniors and their families as they work to provide a stable, safe and comfortable living environment for the senior. The vast majority of the seniors LCCC serves through the Community Liaison Program live at or below 150% of the national poverty level with many more living just above that level. This program is offered free to county seniors, though we do ask for a donation if able.

With the number of seniors growing each year in Livingston County, affordable, dedicated support for them is more needed than ever before. In addition to connecting seniors to local, state and federal resources, the Community Liaison Program also provides educational presentations and assists with paperwork and applications to meet social, emotional and/or physical needs such as adult day care, counseling, homebound meals, housing repairs, in-home services, legal services, long-term care, low-income support, prescription assistance, social security, transportation, and VA benefits.

The LCCC team is very grateful for the support

of DTE Foundation through their investment into our community, our families, and our elders. Many seniors in this program, as described, live at or below the national poverty level. With the inflation facing our country, these seniors are facing even more hurdles and difficult financial decisions. The gift from the DTE Foundation supports our ability to continue to serve and support the elderly and their caregivers in a safe and caring manner.



SCHOOL OF CHOICE FOWLERVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS SECOND SEMESTER

Fowlerville Community Schools has unlimited School of Choice openings for K-12th grade students who live outside Fowlerville School’s district boundaries. Students would begin on the first day of second semester Monday, January 23rd. Applications are available on the District’s web page fowlervilleschools.org or by calling (517) 223-6016.

(12-25-22 & 1-1-23 FNV)

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Webberville Woman's Advance Club held Christmas meeting

The Webberville Woman's Advance Club met at Webberville United Methodist Church on Dec. 12th at 12:30pm for a Christmas luncheon. At the last meeting, a menu sign-up sheet was presented for each participant to choose an item they would provide. Thirteen members were in attendance and there was a delicious array of food for our selection.

Webberville Report

Before the meeting began, Club President Nancy Webb passed around clippings of how different cities celebrated New Year's Eve. All were very unique and interesting.

The meeting was called to order about 1:45pm and Nancy read the minutes from the last meeting. The program was about doodling and Nancy showed a poster board of some of her doodles and read the meaning of each one from the book "Doodling Interpretations" by Michael Watts. Some members shared how they doodle, while others don't doodle at all.

Sally Brody gave a report that a thank-you was received from the Food Bank for donations and also from Operation Christmas Cheer for the Christmas cards donated to the Webberville School Choir and Journalism Class.

Janice Wheeler reported there would be live reindeer on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at the Library from 6:00-7:30pm and there will be cookies and cocoa. Also, the Silent Auction was a success.

The Club members then shared their plans for Christmas. The next meeting will be March 20, 2023 at 1:30pm at the Webberville United Methodist Church. The guest speaker will be author Susan Frazier who will talk about her book on quilts.



Senior Spotlight— Lauren Bosworth

By Valerie Grosser

Lauren Bosworth is the daughter to Nick and Jeannie Bosworth and the younger sister to Cassie who is graduating this year alongside her.

Bosworth's hobbies include video games, traditional art, and digital art. She once had her art featured in the Governor's Traveling Art Show. Her goal is to continue attending Cleary University (where she is currently dual enrolled and has made the Dean's list) while aiming to become a procurement manager. Once college is out of the way, she wants to move to Albany, New York for better career opportunities. Bosworth has a very bright future ahead of her.

Mr. Wilson (Webberville's art teacher) has been her favorite teacher since middle school. "His fun projects and great sense of humor has made his classes really fun," she said. "I will miss his mentorship and having his help on my art projects."

"Lauren is definitely one of my most creative and talented students, always a pleasure to work with," Wilson replied, adding that he finds it enjoyable to watch her explore sculpting and other media.

"She will be successful at whatever she chooses to pursue in the near future," he said.

Bosworth has had many accomplishments during her years at Webberville. She started taking higher classes in sixth grade and then completed all of her high school credits in tenth grade. At the same time she receives her high school diploma, she aims to also get an associate's degree in business.

"She's very smart, and a good friend. I can really see her as a procurement manager one day," said her friend Titus Modert. "She's smart, like really smart. She makes me feel dumb. Whenever I need help she's always the one I go to because she's really helpful."

Lauren and Titus have been friends since kindergarten. They also have been doing 4-H together for a long time.

"My favorite memory with her has to be at a birthday party when we played this one game with each other," he said. "She's also really fun to play Uno with."

Bosworth has many memories from her school days at Webberville. "During my junior art class I would play Uno a lot," she said. "I also played 'Go Fish' and Poker, too. They're nice memories to look back on."

She said that she will miss Webberville, but can't wait for the future that lies ahead of her.

As for her advice to underclassman, she said "Don't change who you are. You don't have to be perfect. Just be you."

Public so bring your family and friends to ring in 2023 with us! Doors open at 3pm. Plenty of free parking and no cover charge! Champagne toast and balloons drop at midnight! Club is located at 835 High St in Williamston. Food special to be determined. Call 517-655-6510 with any questions.

Euchre Tournament

Euchre resumes at the Williamston Eagles Club on Friday January 6th and again on January 20th. Registration starts at 6:30 pm and play starts at 7. Cost to play is \$10.00 per person. You don't need a partner; we draw for partners before the game and rotate accordingly. Come down and show us your Euchre skills and maybe even win a prize! Club is located at 835 High St. Call 517-655-6510 for more information. Everyone is welcome to join.

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NIESA Fire Report (Northeast Ingham Emergency Service Authority)

On Wednesday December 14, 2022 NIESA responded to one call. It was a fire response for a utility pole issue in the City of Williamston.

Thursday December 15, 2022 NIESA had six calls. All of the responses were for emergency medical calls, with two occurring in Williamstown Township, two in the City of Williamston, one in Wheatfield Township, and one in the Village of Webberville.

On Friday December 16, 2022 NIESA responded to seven calls. One was a mutual aid fire response into Meridian Township for a structure fire. Another two responses were for vehicle accidents, with one occurring in Williamstown Township, and the second in Leroy Township. The other four responses were emergency medical calls. The first response was into the City of Williamston, the second was a mutual aid response to Meridian Township, the third was into Williamstown Township, and the fourth was into Locke Township.

Saturday December 17, 2022 NIESA had four calls. Three of the responses were emergency medical calls, with two occurring in Leroy Township, and one in Wheatfield Township. NIESA also responded to fire alarm activation in the City of Williamston.

On Sunday December 18, 2022 NIESA responded to four emergency medical calls. Two of the calls were in Williamstown Township, another was in the City of Williamston, and the fourth was in Leroy Township.

Monday December 19, 2022 NIESA had four calls. Three of the responses were emergency medical calls, with one occurring in Locke Township, another in Wheatfield Township, and the third in the City of Williamston. NIESA also responded to a MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) activation. NIESA sent an Engine and crew to The Anderson's in Hemlock, Michigan to assist with a grain fire.

On Tuesday December 20, 2022 NIESA responded to six calls. Five of the responses were emergency medical calls, with three occurring in the City of Williamston, one in the Village of Webberville, and another in Williamstown Township. NIESA also responded to a fire call in Wheatfield Township on Meridian Road for cattle which had jumped out of a livestock trailer.

Williamston Eagles Upcoming Events

Kathy Ford and Raz

Kathy and Raz will be back on January 8th and again on January 22nd, for another afternoon of fun! Join us at our usual time; 5 until 8 pm at the Williamston Eagles Club at 835 High St. Our required donation for both dates is \$5.00 at the door to help cover the band cost. Relax and listen to the music or kick up your heels on the dance floor! Food special to be determined. Unwind with us after the hectic holidays! Doors open at 3pm and everyone is welcome! Call 517-655-6510 with any questions.

New Years Eve Party

Make plans to spend your New Year's Eve with us at the Williamston Eagles Club! Parkside Wes Band will be playing your favorites December 31st, 8pm until 1am! Open to the

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Jul, Yule, Christmas, Dongzhi – Whatever you celebrate or don't, may it be Merry and Bright

By Jace Arledge

Christmas celebrations take many different forms, as countries around the world mark the festive season with their own traditions and practices.

But of the nearly 200 countries on Earth, a handful of non-Christian nations don't recognize Christmas and have no form of public holiday or observation to mark the nativity of Jesus Christ.

At least 40 countries don't have official public holidays at Christmas, though more than half of these nations do have at least some form of public observation, such as the occasional Christmas tree.

Today we celebrate the magical season that happens at the end of EVERY year and has happened for many thousands of years. So, whether you celebrate, Jul, Yule, Christmas, Dongzhi or nothing at all shouldn't matter, because Christmas is something you carry in your heart, right?

Each year that I age, I grow closer and closer to the idea that it's not about gifts, food or decorations, it's about love, acceptance, and joy—those things that money can't buy. Perhaps when we have young children, we work hard at creating an atmosphere that has been passed down from generation to generation and then pass the torch onto our children in hopes that they keep the flame alive. Yet what happens if your child grows up and either doesn't have children or doesn't believe in the societal norms of what Christmas looks like? Have we failed? Have we grown? Have we done a good job as a parent?

I think one needs to reassess the real reason for the season... No, I don't mean the birth of Christ, as we all know that was thrown in many years after the Yule/Christmas holiday. We see when we research:

No one knows for sure on what day Christ was born. Dionysius Exiguus, a sixth-century monk, who was the first to date all of history from December 25th, the year of our Lord 1. Other traditions gave dates as early as mid-November or as late as March. How did Christmas come to be celebrated on December 25th? Cultures around the Mediterranean and across Europe observed feasts on or around December 25th, marking the winter solstice. The Jews had a festival of lights. Germans had a yule festival. Celtic legends connected the solstice with Balder, the Scandinavian sun god who was struck down by a mistletoe arrow. At the pagan festival of Saturnalia, Romans feasted and gave gifts to the poor. Drinking was closely connected with these pagan feasts. At some point, a Christian bishop may have adopted the day to keep his people from indulging in the old pagan festival. (Christianity.com)

The celebration of Christmas started in Rome about 336, but it did not become a major Christian festival until the 9th century and was intertwined with many Pagan celebrations. Christian stories replaced the tales of Pagan lore. Candles continued and continue to be lit. Over the years, gift exchanges became connected with the name of St. Nicholas, a real but legendary figure of 4th century Lycia (a province of Asia). A charitable man, he threw gifts into homes. Which is why when you tell your kids "there IS a St Nick!" you aren't telling a fib!! And of course, *La Bafana*, the Christmas Witch, that's another one for you to research.

As for the Christmas tree, its origin is not an exact science. Some say it started in Germany and then that Martin Luther had a hand in it. From there it made it's way to England. Interestingly, the Pilgrims who came to this country on the Mayflower (to escape religious persecution, that's another research project for you to look into) forbade anyone to put up a tree because William Bradford thought them "too Pagan." Yet we do that today.

I guess my point with this article is that "Christmas is about celebrating YOUR traditions, YOUR joys, YOUR memories." If it includes a Christmas tree, mistletoe, Yule log, candles, presents or not, wine, song, silence, 1 or 12 days, make it MERRY and BRIGHT and full of LOVE for your family and others.

Just like I have said all year, diversity is 'the spice of life.' The only way we will continue to grow and learn and become one with our brothers and sisters is by embracing the differences we have and celebrating each other no matter what. The more we learn, the more we know.

This Christmas, learn something new that you didn't know about someone else. Step outside the 'Christmas society says so' box and celebrate.

¡Feliz Navidad!

Joyeux Noël!

Buon Natale!

Счастливого Рождества! (Schastlivogo Rozhdestva!)

God Jul!

Wesołych Świąt!

圣诞节快乐! (Shèngdànjiékuàilè!)

Nollaig Shona!

‘Веселого Різдва



*** In the last few months or so, I have had friends who have lost family members, some way before their time (really any death to me is way before someone's time because I am selfish like that). Many of the families I drive on the school bus have been ill and now, since the 18th of December, I have been the sickest I have been in many years. I miss my kids and my friend Pam "Cookie" who rides with me on the bus helping one of our riders. They have been family. Mr. Jace will be back in the New Year feeling better!! Merry Christmas to you and yours!!

Stay Kind and Love Unconditionally

Til Next Time...

Citations taken from these sources:
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 The Board meets three times per year to make an independent judgment based on the facts and on law regarding decisions of the assessor.
 The deadline to apply is January 9, 2023, at 5pm. The Conway Township Board will be looking to fill this position at the next Board of Trustees meeting on January 17, 2023, at 7 p.m.
 Conway Township residents interested in applying for this position should send a resume to Conway Township Clerk, P.O. Box 1157, Fowlerville MI 48836, by email to clerk@conwaymi.gov, or deposited in the Township Hall drop box.
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Dozen Eggs	66	\$3.25-\$3.75
Chickens	103	\$0.50-\$9.00
Rabbits	8	\$1.00-\$6.00
Feeder Calves	7	\$200.00-\$750.00
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 By Steve Horton
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From the Christmas Past File & Right to Work Law passed 10 years ago




Savvy Senior Column

By Jim Miller

Tips for Being a Long-Distance Caregiver

Dear Savvy Senior,
 What tips do you recommend for long-distance caregivers? I help take care of my stubborn 86-year-old mother who still lives at home about 150 miles from me.

Need Advice

Dear Need,

Providing care and support for an aging parent who lives far away can present a variety of challenges that can make the job difficult and stressful. Here are some tips and resources that may help you.

Long-Distance Caregiving

When it comes to monitoring and caring for an aging parent from afar, you have a couple of options. You can hire a professional to oversee your mom's needs, or you can manage things yourself by building a support system, tapping into available resources, and utilizing technology devices that can help you keep tabs on her.

If your mom needs a lot of help, you should consider hiring a geriatric care manager who will give her a thorough assessment to identify her needs and will set up and manage all aspects of her care. But geriatric care managers are expensive typically charging between \$100 and \$250 per hour after an initial assessment of \$150 to \$750 and are not covered by Medicare.

To find a geriatric care manager in your mom's area, visit AgingLifeCare.org or contact the nearest Area Agency on Aging (call 800-677-1116) to see if they have a list of providers.

If, however, your mom only needs occasional help, or if you can't afford to use a care manager, here are some things you can do yourself to help her.

Create a care team: Put together a network of people (nearby friends or family, neighbors, clergy, etc.) who can check on your mom regularly, and who you can call on from time to time for occasional help. Also put together a list of reliable services you can call for household needs like lawn care, handyman services, plumber, etc.

Tap local resources: Most communities offer a range of free or subsidized services that can help seniors with basic needs such as home delivered meals, transportation, senior companion services and more. Contact the nearby Area Aging Agency to find out what's available.

Use financial tools: If your mom needs help with her financial chores, arrange for direct deposit for her income sources, and set up automatic payments for her utilities and other routine bills. You can also set up her online banking service, so you can pay bills and monitor her account anytime. Or, if you need help, hire a daily money manager (AADMM.com) to do it for you. They charge between \$25 and \$100 per hour.

Check essential documents: This is also a good time to make sure your mom has the following essential legal documents: a will; a living will and health-care proxy, which allows you to make medical decisions on her behalf if she became incapacitated; and a durable power of attorney, which gives you similar legal authority for financial decisions, if needed.

If she doesn't have these documents prepared, now is the time to make them. And if they are prepared, make sure they're updated and know where they are located.

Hire in-home help: Depending on your mom's needs, you may need to hire a part-time home-care aide that can help with things like preparing meals, housekeeping or personal care. Costs can run anywhere from \$12 up to \$25 per hour. To find someone, try websites like Care.com or CareLinx.com.

Utilize technology: To help you keep tabs on your mom from afar, there are various technologies that can help. For example, there are medical alert systems, video camera monitors, wearable activity trackers, and electronic pill boxes that can notify you if she has taken her medications. And to help you coordinate her care with members of her care team there are websites like LotsAHelpingHands.com.

For more tips, call the National Institute on Aging at 800-222-2225 and order their free booklet "Long-Distance Caregiving: Twenty Questions and Answers."

Send your senior questions to: *Savvy Senior*, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

Happy Holidays from Social Security

By Vonda Van Til,

Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

The holiday season brings us feelings of warmth and joy. At Social Security, we want you to know we share the same joy when it comes to serving you, whether it be in person, by telephone, or online. Our online services are available to help you do business with us in an easy, convenient, and secure way. It all starts with a personal *my* Social Security account. More than 70 million people have signed up for their personal account to conduct their business online!

You can create a personal *my* Social Security account to:

- Apply for retirement, spouses, or disability benefits.
- Apply for Medicare.
- Check your application status.

If you receive benefits, you can use your personal *my* Social Security account to:

- Change your address. (Social Security benefits only)
- Set up or change your direct deposit information. (Social Security benefits only)
- Instantly get proof of benefits.
- Print your SSA-1099.

If you do not receive Social Security benefits, you can use a personal *my* Social Security account to:

- Get personalized retirement benefit estimates.
- Get your *Social Security Statement*.
- Get estimates for spouse's benefits.
- Get instant proof that you do not receive benefits.

You can use our services on-the-go or from the comfort of your home. Please visit www.ssa.gov/myaccount to view the services available to you. We want you to have a safe, happy holiday season and know that we are here for you.

Vonda Van Til is the Public Affairs Specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525 or via email at vonda.vantil@ssa.gov

Governor signs bipartisan affordable housing legislation

By Jon King

Michigan Advance

A bipartisan package of bills to provide more affordable housing across Michigan has been signed into law by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

Sponsors say the bills will create more affordable housing options, particularly in cities, which in turn will help alleviate the shortage of affordable housing for Michigan families.

"Investments in affordable housing lower costs for families and make Michigan communities more attractive, easier places to live," said Whitmer. "They attract job seekers, spur economic activity, and make it easier to raise a family. I am proud to sign bipartisan bills to expand affordable housing in Michigan and make our state a place where anyone can afford to live, work, and raise a family."

Senate Bill 362, sponsored by Sen. Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids), establishes attainable housing districts and provides certain tax exemptions for residential rehabilitation projects, while Senate Bill 364, sponsored by Sen. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield), supports the development and rehabilitation of residential housing and expands incentives for neighborhood enterprise zones.

"We urgently need more housing options in Michigan," said Moss. "Our bipartisan legislation helps homeowners to make affordable upgrades to their existing homes and assists communities to construct new housing at attainable price

Continued on next page

Fowlerville News & Views

"Weekly Community & Business Guide"

Published on Sunday
 by H&H Publications LLC

Stephen L. Horton - Publisher & Editor
 Dawn M. Horton - Assistant Publisher
 Lisa Tomczyk - Advertising Designer
 Tarah Wasilenski - Advertising Designer



Member of the Michigan Press Association



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PO Box 937

206 E. Grand River Suite 200
 Fowlerville, Michigan 48836

Affordable housing legislation, continued

points.”

Senate Bill 422, sponsored by Sen. Ken Horn (R-Frankenmuth), supports the establishment of residential housing districts in certain local governmental units by providing exemptions from certain taxes for residential facilities and housing, while Senate Bill 432, sponsored by Sen. Wayne Schmidt (R- Traverse City), creates a state housing development authority, establishes certain funds to support housing development, land acquisition and development.

It also establishes acceleration and foreclosure procedures, provides tax exemptions, authorizes payments instead of taxes by certain entities, and authorizes the making and purchase of loans, deferred payment loans and grants.

Other housing-related legislation signed into law include House Bills 4378 and 4379, sponsored by Rep. Alex Garza (D-Taylor), which ensure individuals who need whole-home generators for the continuous operation of medical equipment are not financially penalized.

News article was reprinted with permission from Michigan Advance, an online news publication. www.michiganadvance.com.

Livingston County Genealogical Society to meet via zoom Jan. 5th

The Livingston County Genealogical Society will meet via zoom on Thursday, Jan. 5th, at 7pm. You are invited.

Our presenter will be Adam Oster: “Using Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.” Sanborn Fire Insurance maps are a source for researchers into U.S. towns and villages in the 19th and 20th centuries. Adam Oster is a Community Engagement Librarian for the Library of Michigan. With his permission, we will view his program given last year, and then go online to the National Archives website and view some Livingston County maps.

A link to this virtual meeting may be found at the website for the Livingston County Genealogical Society, <https://milcgs.wordpress.com/> or you may find us on Facebook; there will be a link to this meeting a few days before January 5th, 2023. All are welcome.”

Fowlerville Varsity Boys Basketball falls to Mason in league game, 65-40

The Fowlerville Varsity Boys Basketball Team traveled to Mason last Friday, Dec. 16, for a league game and lost 65-40. Mikey Hatfield led the Glads with 10 points. Brendan Ray and Dillon Wieas each added 8. Wieas also had 9 rebounds. They are now 1-3 overall and 0-2 in CAAC Red play.

Williamston Area Senior Center

201 School Street - 517-655-5173

December 2022 Events

Monday, December 26th– Euchre 9am-Noon, and Christmas Bingo & Guess Who at 12:30pm

Tuesday, December 27th– Euchre 9am-Noon, Chair Exercise at 12:30pm, and Knitter Group 1pm-3pm

Wednesday, December 28th– Euchre 9am-Noon, National Card Playing Day, and Euchre Party (The Legend) at 12:30pm

Thursday, December 29th– Euchre 9am-Noon, and Saran Wrap Ball Game 12:30pm

***Programs Subject to Change**

Fowlerville Wrestling Team wins tournament on Dec. 17th

The Fowlerville Wrestling Team won a tournament last Saturday, Dec. 17, topping four other schools.

Team finish: Fowlerville 166.5 points, Springport 105, Homer 98, Corunna 93, and Dexter 84.

Individual finishes: Matthew Jeffrey 1st, Ben Blyveis 1st, Layne O’Neil. 1st, Dalton Daniel 2nd, Braydon Packer 2nd, Richard Davis 2nd, Jesse Johnson 3rd, Waylon Lamkin 3rd, Maggie Buurma 4th, Vincent Saunders 4th, Douglas Braidwood 4th, and George Daniel 4th.

JV Individual finishes: Caleb Cyman 1st, Chase Aitchison 1st, Justin Gutierrez 2nd, Natalie Loomis 2nd, Hannah Blyveis 2nd, Xavier Littrup Dean 2nd, Kiely Davis 2nd, and Zach Petrovich 3rd.

Fowlerville JV Girls Basketball Team loses to Mason by close 29-28 score

The Fowlerville JV Girls Basketball Team lost to the Mason Bulldogs last Thursday by a close 29-28 score. Turnovers and free throw percentage plagued the Glads. Leading the offense was Kaitlyn Seiter with 9 points while McKenna Maybee added 8. Ella Olrich chipped in 6 and Molly Lamar scored 5.

Shop & Dine Local

Notice to Conway Township residents Position available for Zoning Board of Appeals

The Conway Township Board of Trustees is currently looking to fill three openings on the Zoning Board of Appeals. There is a vacancy for one regular member and two alternate positions.

The purpose of the Zoning Board of Appeals is to hear and decide on questions in administering the zoning ordinance. Receiving the variance applications and supporting documents and performing an on-site evaluation when needed to make a determination on the variance request.

The Zoning Board of Appeals meets on an as-needed basis.

The deadline to apply is January 9, 2023, at 5pm. The Conway Township Board will be looking to fill these positions at the next Board of Trustees meeting on January 17, 2023, at 7 p.m.

Conway Township Resident interested in applying for these positions should send a resume to Conway Township Clerk, P.O. Box 1157, Fowlerville MI 48836, by email to clerk@conwaymi.gov, or deposited in the Township Hall drop box.

Elizabeth Whitt
Conway Township Clerk
(12-25-22 & 1-1-23 FNV)



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IOSCO TOWNSHIP SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES December 15th, 2022

The regular meeting of the Iosco Township Board was held on Thursday, December 15, 2022, at 8:00 P.M. Members Present: Bonnaville, Dailey, Hardies, Miller, & Parker. The following action was taken: 1) Motion to approve the agenda. 2) 1st. Call to the Public: There were no requests to be heard. 3) Motion to adopt the Township Board meeting minutes from November 17, 2022. 4) Clerk's report 5) Treasurer's report. 6) Motion to pay \$256,255.01 in Township bills. 7) Recreation update was heard. 8) Fire Board update was heard. 9) Planning Commission update was heard. 10) Assessor/ Zoning Administrator's report was heard. 11) Motion to allow Assessor Allen to spend up to \$200.00 on an additional 1/3-page notice to explain the increase in residents' taxable value due to the rate of inflation being greater than 5%. 12) Motion to amend the budget \$16,640.00 under Professional Contracted Services at allot for the Livingston County Sheriff's contract. 13) The Board discussed the current contract with the Livingston County Sheriff's Department and agreed to continue the service for 2023. 14) 2nd Call to the Public: There were no requests to be heard. 15) Motion to adjourn at 8:59 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Dailey
Iosco Township Clerk
(12-25-22 FNV)

Chiropractic Health Center of Fowlerville

NOW OFFERING: DEEP-TISSUE LASER THERAPY

What is Deep-Tissue Laser Therapy?

Laser Therapy is the use of laser energy to create therapeutic results, including, improved healing time, pain reduction, increased circulation, decreased swelling, and faster bone repair.

This Therapy also helps relax tight muscles that create chronic pain, joint problems and decreased mobility.

What conditions does it treat?

- Soft tissue injuries
- Tendonitis
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- Back and neck pain
- Repetitive strain injuries
- Carpal tunnel syndrome
- Muscle pain
- Plantar fasciitis
- Tennis elbow
- Arthritis
- Nerve Pain
- Shingles
- Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy
- Non-healing wounds
- Lymphedema
- Whiplash
- Bell's palsy
- Fractures
- Headache & migraines
- Herniated Disc
- Sciatica
- Skin problems
- Bursitis
- Jaw pain / TMJ

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



Consumers Energy to study impacts of its dams on local communities

Consumers Energy is funding an independent study during the first half of 2023 to determine the contribution of its 13 river hydro facilities to local communities near those dams across Michigan. That study will build on information

gathered during community engagement meetings held in 2022 to help determine the future of its dams.

“Consumers Energy is committed to being a good neighbor and working transparently as we make informed decisions to reach the best outcomes for our customers, stakeholders and the communities we serve,” said Norm Kapala, vice president of generation operations at Consumers Energy. “We know our dams play significant roles in Michigan, especially in the economies of the communities near our facilities, and we share with local leaders and others the desire to quantify those impacts before developing long term strategies regarding the future of those facilities.”

The 30-to-40-year federal licenses to operate the dams Consumers Energy owns and operates on the Muskegon, Manistee, Grand, Kalamazoo and Au Sable rivers are set to expire beginning in 2034.

Consumers Energy is considering four options for each of its 13 dams: Relicensing the river hydro dam and continue generating electricity, selling the dam to a third party, removing the dam, or replacing the dam with an alternative structure that maintains some level of reservoir.

The energy provider hired Public Sector Consultants (PSC), a Lansing-based nonpartisan consulting firm that specializes in public policy research to perform the economic study. PSC has longstanding expertise in studying energy and the environment, economic research, public engagement, and group facilitation. The firm conducted the 2022 community river hydro in-person listening sessions



and will build on the feedback from those meetings for this current work.

PSC will begin by engaging each of the local communities to identify and review available data to ensure the studies find all contributing factors that influence the local economies around Consumers Energy’s dams. They will produce individual studies for each dam to better understand the unique economic contributions – including additional data on how the hydro facilities and their associated reservoirs contribute to the recreational and tax bases of the communities -- of all 13 hydro sites.

“A common theme we heard during our 27 community engagement meetings with communities and stakeholders is to know more about how much of the economic activity in the communities around our dams are associated with the hydro facilities,” said Kapala. “We have listened to the community members and we are working on this economic contribution study to answer those questions to better understand those impacts.”

Consumers Energy makes decisions based on the Triple Bottom Line that ensures benefits for people, the planet and Michigan’s prosperity. Factors Consumers Energy considers in determining the future for its dams include regulatory compliance, safety, community impacts, operating costs and environmental impacts.

For more information about the process to determine the future of Consumers Energy’s river hydro facilities, visit ConsumersEnergy.com/HydroFuture.

STATE OF MICHIGAN COUNTY OF LIVINGSTON MARION TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE MORATORIUM ON COMMERCIAL SOLAR FACILITIES ORDINANCE NO. 22-003

Section 1: Title

This ordinance shall be known and cited as the Marion Township Commercial Solar Facilities Moratorium Extension Ordinance.

Section 2: Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to extend the temporary moratorium on the application for, processing of, and construction of commercial solar energy collection facilities to provide time to further determine the extent such facilities impact the public health, safety and general welfare of the residents of the Township, implement the regulation of such facilities under the Township’s Zoning Ordinance, and determine how such facilities are consistent with the Township’s Master Plan and proposed land uses.

Section 3: Definition

In this Ordinance, the term “solar facilities”, singularly or plural, is used to refer to solar generating equipment designed to manufacture electrical power from the sun wherein such electrical power is handled on a commercial basis.

Section 4: Need for Study

Whereas the Township has addressed the issue of commercial solar facilities in its Master Plan updated in 2022, and is in the process of creating zoning ordinances to regulate the construction or existence of commercial solar facilities, the Township desires additional time to study the community impact, zoning, regulation and placement of such facilities in the Township. Further, the Township needs to explore what, if any, regulations should be implemented regarding the existence, placement, or construction of such commercial solar facilities.

Section 5: Application and Term

This moratorium is immediately placed on the filing, submission, processing, acceptance, review, or any determinations as to any pending or future applications seeking the review, approval, construction, or installation of commercial solar facilities. The acceptance or processing of any pending or future applications by the Township would cause unnecessary confusion for any applicants and/or the Township. This moratorium shall last until March 31, 2023, unless modified, extended or terminated by the Township. The Township shall review this moratorium and the issue of commercial solar facilities prior to March 31, 2023.

Section 6: Publication

This Ordinance and its related rules, regulations, provisions, requirements, orders, and matters established shall take effect immediately upon publication, except any penalty provision shall take effect thirty (30) days after the Ordinance is first published, pursuant to MCL 41.184 (2) (a).

Section 7: Repealer

All Ordinances, or parts of Ordinances, in conflict with this Ordinance are repealed only to the extent necessary to give all provisions of this Ordinance full effect, including but not limited to Ordinance 21-01.

Section 8: Validity of Ordinance

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The Township of Marion declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and each section, subsection, clause, or phrase hereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase be declared unconstitutional.

Section 9: Purchase of Copy of Ordinance

This Marion Township Ordinance No. 22-003 can be purchased, examined, or inspected at the Marion Township Hall, 2877 W. Coon Lake Road, Howell, MI 48843, Monday through Thursday between the hours of 9am and 5pm.

Motioned by: Les Andersen Supported by: Dan Lowe
Roll call vote:
Yeas: Hanvey, Lowe, Durbin, Beal, Lloyd, Donovan, Andersen
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Tammy L. Beal, MMC
Marion Township Clerk
(12-25-22 FNV)

Date adopted by the Township board: December 15, 2022
Date published in Fowlerville News & Views on: December 25, 2022
Effective date: December 25, 2022
Date filed with Livingston County Clerk: January 5, 2023
Date recorded in township’s ordinance book: December 25, 2022

CONWAY TOWNSHIP

Conway Township Office will be open Wednesday, Dec. 28th, 9am to 5pm to collect Tax Payments.
Office located at 8015 N. Fowlerville Rd.

Debbie Grubb,
Conway Township Treasurer
(12-25-22 FNV)

Acoustic Café 2023

**Fridays - 7:00 p.m. door
Performance at 7:30 p.m.**

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January 27	\$15
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February 3	\$15
Matthew Ball “The Boogie Woogie Kid” with Swing Dance Performers	
February 10	\$15
Jill Jack’s Acoustic Trio	
February 17	\$15
The Swift Brothers An evening of songs & stories	
February 24	\$15
Kari Holmes - Nashville American Records Recording Artist	
March 3	\$15
Livingston Lamplighters “A Little Bit Irish”	

Advanced tickets are available on our website: howelloperahouse.com
You may also make your purchase at the door.
For question please call 517-540-0065.

Showcasing the Michigan DNR

Winter as she comes

By John Pepin

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

“Light from the streetlamp seems to shine bitter after the autumn has been here and gone,” – Steve Forbert

I was heading west along the highway, with the wipers slapping raindrops off my windshield. The rhythm was something I could feel.

In the distance, along the horizon, I saw a wide stretch of white-gray clouds rolled up on their leading edge, heading toward me.

The color and apparent texture of the clouds reminded me of a heavy woolen sweater, but there was nothing going to be warm about this.

Rather than a soft comforting sweater or blanket, this formation was bringing a harsh and swift delineation between this relatively warm November afternoon and a rather dramatic sinking into the icy clutches of wintry weather.

The change was abrupt and would soon bring snow showers.

Within a couple of days, more than a foot of fresh snow would be on the ground in many parts of the region.

I watched a doe move slowly between the trees amid the falling snow. She dipped her head low to eat some of the snow.

We tossed October’s jack-o-lanterns out into the backyard along with a small bag of store-bought apples. In some parts of the state, feeding deer recreationally is not allowed, but it is where I live.

I wanted to watch the deer in the snow. It didn’t take long before a yearling appeared at the edge of the woods.

The deer approached cautiously, walking in, following in the tracks of another deer that had been there sometime during the previous nighttime. The deer followed its nose to the place where the food was being covered with falling snow.

When it got close enough to see the pumpkins, it stopped and backed up. It appeared this might have been the first time the deer had ever seen a pumpkin. It sniffed around at the snow off the edges but didn’t move any closer.

Within a minute or so, a doe approached and did not hesitate to begin eating one of the apples. The deer crunched the fruit between its teeth and the juice from the apple dripped off both sides of the deer’s mouth.

Standing, watching, chewing, listening.

Now the yearling was more willing to approach. It began chomping an apple of its own. In a couple of minutes, both deer had wandered back into the woods.

It wasn’t long before they soon returned, bringing with them another doe and two more yearlings. I wondered whether they

specifically left to retrieve these other deer, or had simply come across them in their travels and they followed along.

I also wondered how they would communicate that exactly.

One of the yearlings jumped around and ran a wide circle trail in the snow. It acted like a cartoon deer in a Christmas special on television. I expected to hear it talk or even sing.

Another yearling nuzzled its head up underneath one of the does and appeared to be trying to drink milk. It seemed late in the year to see this behavior, but I was seeing it, nonetheless.

The does started crunching into the frozen jack-o-lanterns. One stuck its head inside the opening at the top of one of the pumpkins to eat.

Eventually, the two does were standing face-to-face with one of the bright orange pumpkins sticking up out of the soft, white snow between them.

As the doe on the left put its head down and crunched a bite, the doe on the right extended its front left foot and slid its hoof down the front side of the deer, attempting to push

Continued on next page

**From Unapproved Minutes
Of the December 20, 2022
Conway Township
Regular Board Meeting
7:00 pm**

REGULAR MEETING

Supervisor Grubb called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

Present: Clerk Elizabeth Whitt, Supervisor William Grubb, Treasurer Debra Grubb, Trustee Amy Crampton-Atherton, Trustee George Pushies

The following Motions and Resolutions were made:

1. Consent Agenda approved. Roll call; motion approved.
2. Motion to approve the Board Meeting Agenda with additions. Motion approved.
3. Motion to establish a joint work group of the Planning Commission and the Solar Committee. Roll call; motion Approved.
4. Motion to terminate contract with Community Image Builders. Roll call; motion approved.
5. Motion to request the Solar Committee to conduct a thorough review and supply written comment of the information supplied made by Pushies, supported by Whitt. Roll call; motion approved.
6. Motion to direct the Planning Commission, to re-establish the 1,000’ setbacks along any side of any land abutting any solar or other electrical generating facility. Remove any/all language allowing any Planning Commission waiver made by Pushies, supported by Whitt. Roll call; motion approved.
7. Motion to send all current information (on proposed fiber optic build out) to the attorney for review. Motion approved.
8. Resolution 221220-01 to set Trustee Compensation. Roll call; motion approved.
9. Motion to approve the reappointment of Rich Ralston and Rick Fyrckiak, and newly appoint Rick Hohenstein to the Board of Review. Motion approved.
10. ZBA appointment postponed to January 17, 2023, meeting.
11. Motion to appoint Richard Hohenstein to the Cemetery Committee. Motion approved.
12. Motion to appoint Steven Weiss to the Conway Township Planning Commission. Roll call; motion failed.
13. Motion to appoint Shawn Morrison to the Conway Township Planning Commission. Roll call; motion approved.
14. Motion to reappoint Lucas Curd and Kayla Poissant to the Conway Township Planning Commission. Roll call; motion approved.
15. Motion to adjourn at 10:35 p.m. Motion approved.

Elizabeth Whitt
Conway Township Clerk
(12-25-22 FNV)

**Village of Fowlerville
213 South Grand Avenue
Fowlerville, MI 48836
517-223-3771
Regular Meeting Minutes
*Synopsis
Monday, November 21, 2022**

*A Synopsis is a brief summary of the motions that were made at the meeting. The complete set of minutes can be viewed on the website at www.fowlerville.org

Trustees Present: Bell, Heath, Helfmann, Mayhew, Mills and President Hill.

Absent: Curtis.

Also, present: Chief of Police, John Tyler, and Village Clerk/Manager Kathryn Rajala-Gutzki

MOTION BELL, SECOND HEATH, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION HEATH, SECOND MAYHEW, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, CONSISTING OF ITEMS 6.a. THROUGH 6. f., AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION HEATH, SECOND BELL, TO ACCEPT THE 2021/2022 FISCAL YEAR CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (AUDIT). ROLL CALL VOTE. AYE: HEATH, BELL, HELFMANN, MAYHEW, MILLS, AND HILL. NAY: NONE. ABSENT: CURTIS. UNANIMOUS VOTE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BELL, SECOND HELFMANN, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 22-33, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2022/2023 FISCAL YEAR GENERAL FUND BUDGET AMENDMENTS. ROLL CALL VOTE. AYE: BELL, HELFMANN, MAYHEW, MILLS, HEATH, AND HILL. NAY: NONE. ABSENT: CURTIS. UNANIMOUS VOTE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION HELFMANN, SECOND MAYHEW, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 22-34, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2022/2023 FISCAL YEAR ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE GREENWOOD CEMETERY FUND. ROLL CALL VOTE. AYE: HELFMANN, MAYHEW, MILLS, HEATH, BELL, AND HILL. NAY: NONE. ABSENT: CURTIS. UNANIMOUS VOTE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BELL, SECOND HELFMANN, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 22-35, A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF FOWLerville, MICHIGAN TO ESTABLISH THE DATES FOR THE VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR THE 2023 CALENDAR YEAR, BEING THE FIRST AND THIRD MONDAY’S OF EACH MONTH. ROLL CALL VOTE. AYE: BELL, HELFMANN, MAYHEW, MILLS, HEATH, AND HILL. NAY: NONE. ABSENT: CURTIS. UNANIMOUS VOTE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BELL, SECOND MAYHEW, TO APPOINT TRUSTEE HEATH AS PRESIDENT PRO TEM UNTIL NOVEMBER 20, 2023. ROLL CALL VOTE. AYE: BELL, MAYHEW, MILLS, HELFMANN, AND HILL. NAY: NONE. ABSTAIN: HEATH. ABSENT; CURTIS. UNANIMOUS VOTE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BELL, SECOND MILLS, TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE APOINTMENT LIST, UNTIL NOVEMBER 20, 2023, AS PRESENTED. ROLL CALL VOTE. AYE: BELL, MILLS, HELFMANN, HEATH, MAYHEW, AND HILL. NAY: NONE. ABSENT: CURTIS. UNANIMOUS VOTE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION MAYHEW, SECOND HELFMANN, TO APPROVE THE COMMUNITY EVENT APPLICATION FOR THE CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLE EVENT. ROLL CALL VOTE. AYE: MAYHEW, HELFMANN, HEATH, MILLS, BELL, AND HILL. NAY: NONE. ABSENT: CURTIS. UNANIMOUS VOTE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BELL, SECOND MILLS, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:00 P.M., VOICE VOTE. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathryn Rajala-Gutzki, CMMC, MiPMC
Village Clerk/Manager
(12-25-22 FNV)

**HANDY TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD
MEETING SYNOPSIS
Monday, December 19, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Handy Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Alverson at 7:00 P.M. Trustees present: Eisele, Roddy, Shear and Munsell. Absent: None. Also present: Twp. Atty: Hamameh, Zoning Adm. Flanery, Paul Harmon-Harmon Real Estate and resident: Chuck Wright.

At the regular Handy Township Board meeting the following motions were made:

- To approve the agenda as amended
- To approve the regular and special meeting minutes of 11-1, 12-1-22 and 12-5-22 as presented and amended
- To approve the bills in the amount of \$79,982.03
- To enter into an agreement for listing Handy Township Property with Harmon Real Estate
- To renew maintenance agreement with SLC Meters
- To approve DTE Easement
- To renew farmland lease agreements with Griffes, Palmer and Culver
- To object to issuance of liquor license for 535 Nicholson Rd.
- To approve resolutions for work on Handy Drains No. 7, 13 and 5
- To approve reappointments to the Handy Township Planning Commission, ZBA and BOR as recommended by the Supervisor
- To adjourn meeting at 8:36 P.M.

Laura A. Eisele
Handy Township Clerk
(12-25-22 FNV)

Winter as she comes, continued

the other doe back.

This happened a couple more times, but the competing doe didn't stay away for more than a few seconds. I again wondered if that first doe I had seen that day had invited the second to come to the food pile to eat.

If it had, why do it if you are then going to compete with your dinner guest for food?

By this time, one of the yearlings had wandered off somewhere out of my view. The other stood between the two does and continued to eat with them.

When I slipped out the back door and moved closer, the deer saw me. At first, it appeared they intended to dash away. But when I looked to my left into the woods and then at the ground, they went back to eating and were undisturbed by my presence.

Deer are beautiful, graceful animals, albeit in kind of a subtle, unassuming way.

It would not be long before night would fall on the scene.

I returned in the very early morning, stepping outside into temperatures more often expected during January or February. The moon cast a beautiful bluish-white light over everything.

With the reflection of this light off the snow covering the ground, the scene appeared magical and out of this world somehow, as though this was a landscape on a whole other planet. There were stars shining, big and bright in the



Snowfall is shown on colored leaves and trees as the line between autumn and winter blurs. Credit: Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

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black sky.

The icy temperature made everything even clearer. There was no distance whatsoever between the snow and ice and the cold of the air.

I wondered what it being this cold this early in the season – not even winter yet – would mean for the weeks and months ahead.

According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, "Michiganders should be prepared to pull those puffy coats out of storage and bundle up with full force."

With the morning barely born, I was back out on the highway again. This time headed to the east toward what would eventually be the rising sun.

Smoke drifted in long, trailing plumes that curled at their ends. I knew these formations well. I remembered them especially from my young days as a kid who walked to and from school all winter long.

It was a little more than six blocks to school. The trip seemed like a long way, but I eventually started to enjoy it as I found shortcuts and distractions, like sliding down steep and ice-slicked roads and sidewalks on my feet.

We kids knew the neighborhoods inside and out. We had shortcuts through vacant lots, in between buildings, across parking lots and over fences.

Locations would take on names for "significant" occurrences that took place there, like "the place where we found that dead pigeon."

We knew which residents who lived along the streets were grumpy, irritable or nice.

I remember walking past the old inn, which was located about halfway on my journey. There was a big brick chimney that belched smoke.

Starlings would sit and talk along the rain gutters at the edge of the roof, from early in the morning until late afternoon when I was on my way back home.

They are good mimics, and listening to them you can hear sounds of other birds and sometimes even human creations, like mimicked sounds of car back-up alarms.

This morning, it was 14 degrees all around me. As cold as it was, I knew I had been out on much colder mornings, even way back, as a kid.

I remember I'd climb up to look out the bathroom window to see the temperature reading on the bank clock before I'd get ready for school. I remember seeing those minus signs in front of the numbers in the teens or 20s that made me shake.

No matter what, 14 degrees – and probably much colder farther inland – was cold for November.

The lake was still and flat, with a frosty mist floating over it. The reflection of lights from the town looked strange. The icy, blue-gray surface of the lake looked like steel or aluminum.

Everything seemed to be moving much slower than usual, presumably because of the cold that had gripped it. I shook a bit watching out the window as I drove, even though the heater was blowing warm air my way through the dash vents.

The changing of winter's guard has seemingly taken place a good month before the first day of winter. Time to trade in my leaf rake and grasscutter for a shovel and snow thrower.

The time for trying to squeeze just a little more autumn out of my year is done. The zesty orange of those warm mellow days, of pumpkin spice and apple cider, has shriveled up and dried on the vine.

It won't be long before it turns black and drops to the ground to decompose.

A few months from now, with the budding of spring, it will be born again – new growth on the branches, hope in my heart, blood in my veins and another wintertime fading fast in my rearview mirror.