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"Serving the Local Communities"

Volume XXXVII No. 17

Sunday, April 25, 2021

Published Weekly



The centerpiece of the \$37.8 million bond issue being voted on May 4th is a new K-2 elementary school that would be located in the northeast part of the campus, on the East Access Road near Sharpe Road. If the measure is passed, then the Smith School would be used for the Early Childhood Development Center and the Recreation Department that are now housed in the Munn facility and the Munn building would be torn down.

Fowlerville School District voters to decide on \$37.8 million bond issue

By Steve Horton

Fowlerville School District voters will decide on a \$37.8 million bond issue at an election scheduled Tuesday, May 4. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

School officials have pointed out that the measure, if approved, would not raise the millage levy for bonded projects above the current 9.55 mills, but would extend the length of the bond issue another six years, from 2044 to 2050.

There are currently 2,744 K-thru-12 grade students enrolled in the district, along with over 100 children attending preschool classes.

The centerpiece of the proposal is a new 72,000 square-foot K-2 elementary building that would be located in the northeast part of the campus, on the East Access Road near Sharpe Road.

With a projected cost of \$29 million, it would feature 24 classrooms, rooms for special education, art, science, and music, and intervention spaces where teachers could instruct students on an individual basis. A gymnasium, cafeteria, media center, and administrative offices would also be included in the facility.

But the bond issue is not just about whether or not to construct a new school building. The 'why' behind the proposal, which involves the condition of two existing buildings (Munn and Smith), played a major part in the board of education's decision.

The genesis of the decision, said Superintendent Wayne Roedel,

continued on page 2

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**PUBLIC NOTICE
FOR RESIDENTS OF
HANDY TOWNSHIP
FOWLERVILLE SCHOOL
SPECIAL ELECTION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the Tuesday, May 4, 2021 Fowlerville School Special Election has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 28, 2021, at 1:30 p.m., at the Township Hall located at 135 & 137 N. Grand Avenue, Fowlerville. The public is welcome to attend.

Laura A. Eisele
Handy Township Clerk
(4-18 & 4-25-21 FNV)

**NOTICE TO THE ELECTORS
OF HANDY TOWNSHIP
FOWLERVILLE SCHOOL
SPECIAL ELECTION
ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

All Electors of the Fowlerville School District are hereby given notice that a Fowlerville School Special Election will be held in all Precincts of Handy Township on Tuesday, May 4, 2021. The Handy Township Clerk is currently available to issue ballots for all registered voters in the Fowlerville School District requesting an absentee ballot for the May 4, 2021 Fowlerville School Special Election on Thursdays between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the township office located at 135 N. Grand Avenue. For voters who are unable to visit during these hours, the Clerk will also be available on Saturday, May 1, 2021, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. or by appointment. Emergency Absentee Ballots are available on Monday, May 3, 2021 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Laura A. Eisele
Handy Township Clerk
(4-4, 4-11, 4-18 & 4-25-21 FNV)

**NOTICE TO ELECTORS OF
HANDY, CONWAY AND IOSCO
TOWNSHIP RESIDENT'S
2021 FOWLERVILLE
SCHOOLS SPECIAL
ELECTION
TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021**

Please take notice that the 2021 Fowlerville Schools Special Election will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021. The Polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

VOTING PRECINCT LOCATIONS:

Handy Township-
Precincts 1, 2, & 3, Vote at the Woodshire Place Banquet Facility, 6520 W. Grand River

Conway Township residents-
All Precincts vote at the Conway Township Hall, 8015 N. Fowlerville Rd.

Iosco Township residents-
Precinct 1, vote at the Iosco Township Hall, 2050 Bradley Rd.

Precinct 2, vote at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 8201 W. Iosco Rd.

Laura A. Eisele, Handy Township Clerk
Elizabeth Whitt, Conway Township Clerk
Julie Dailey, Iosco Township Clerk
(4-4, 4-11, 4-18, 4-25 & 5-2-21 FNV)

**Fowlerville School District
voters to decide, continued**

began with the age of the Munn building and the cost of upgrading it.

“Currently, Munn houses the Little Glad Early Childhood Center—which includes pre-school, before-and-after school care, and Head Start classes—and also the recreation department offices,” Roedel noted. “Our architects and construction consultants have told us that necessary upgrades or replacements to the heating and water systems, a new roof, and other mechanical systems will cost around \$20 million over the next ten years. That’s just to keep it functional.”

The rub, as they say, is that the core of the facility was initially built in 1955—being opened as the then new high school. A small classroom addition was put on the north wing several years later and then a major expansion of space occurred when the building was converted into the district’s middle school.

“The board was reluctant to put that kind of money into a building part of which was around 65 years old,” Roedel said. “So, we looked at our next oldest building—H.T. Smith, our K-2 elementary. We’d already put money into modernizing and upgrading it. It’s 64,000 square feet and has 24 classrooms, along with a gym/cafeteria and library.”

However, again the rub. The school was built in two stages in 1965 and 1968. The classrooms, noted Roedel, are 250 square feet smaller than what would be provided in the new building, the administrative office space is limited, and there is little room available for intervention spaces for one-on-one instruction—mainly reading and math.

By way of comparison, the superintendent pointed out that Kreeger Elementary, which houses the 3rd-thru-5th grades, is 77,000 square feet and has about the same number of students.

“On the other hand, Smith could easily be converted to pre-school use,” he pointed out. “It was built for younger kids, with bathrooms off the classrooms. There are some updates and remodeling we’d need to do to make sure the classrooms meet the child care code, but this would be relatively inexpensive compared to renovating Munn. There’s also room to house the recreation department and in the future we could house the transportation department to allow for necessary updates in technology and communication infrastructure for that service.”

Another major component of the bond issue is money to provide climate control, including cooling systems in all of the academic buildings. The cost is put at \$7.3 million.

More specifically, Kreeger Elementary and the Junior High would see the immediate installation of air conditioning, while the High School would be equipped with electrical upgrades to handle a new AC system at a future date.

Air conditioning would also be installed at the Smith building and would be included in the new K-2 facility.

In addition, the proposal would include money to decommission the Munn building, with the estimate being \$860,000 to remove the interior furnishings, tear down the building, and remove the debris.

**PART OF AN OVERALL PLAN TO UPGRADE
INFRASTRUCTURE AND BUILDINGS**

Voters may recall that the board sought a \$17.5 million bond issue in 2018, which was approved. That money, Roedel noted, was aimed mainly at upgrading the district’s infrastructure and included projects at each of the buildings as well as the outside grounds. As part of the overall project, the board also approved

an expenditure of \$3.5 million for energy savings.

A new roof for Kreeger Elementary, improvements to the heating system at the Junior High, the conversion to outside and interior LED lighting, new paving for the parking lots, the removal of the Carlson Building, security systems at the front entrances of the school building to control access, and upgrades to the computer systems were among the improvements financed by that bond issue.

In referencing that recent undertaking, along with what’s being proposed, Roedel pointed to the goal of keeping the district’s facilities and infrastructure up-to-date.

“The 2018 bond issue took care of a lot of infrastructure needs we wanted to address,” he said. “Now we’re looking at our buildings. Right now the core of Munn dates to 1955, Smith is the next oldest at around 55 years, then the Junior High was built in 1980, Kreeger in 1993, and the high school is our newest facility and was constructed in two phases in 1999 and 2007.

“If the bond issue is successful, it puts the district in a great place by providing a new elementary building rather than putting money into an old facility and having air conditioning for all of our K-thru-8th grade classrooms. As far as classroom instruction, our oldest K-12 building would be the Junior High.

“We’re fortunate that we’re able to have all of our buildings and our athletic fields on one campus,” he added. “I think our beautiful campus, with more-modern and updated buildings makes our school, as well as the Fowlerville community, a more attractive place for young parents thinking of moving here.”



**Michigan
Senate
Report**

By Lana Theis,
22nd District

**Senate panel moves bill allowing
online renewal of farm plates**

The Senate Transportation Committee on Wednesday gave unanimous approval to a Sen. Lana Theis bill that would allow owners of vehicles with farming-related license plates to renew registrations online.

“The past year revealed difficulties in many areas and aspects of our lives,” said Theis, R-Brighton. “One of the most frustrating disruptions is the achingly long wait times at secretary of state offices. Branch locations often close with little to no warning for indeterminate lengths of time, and some have been shuttered completely.

“On top of that, the average appointment time is four months out, while our farmers are reaching one of the busiest times of their year. It only makes sense, given these factors and the capabilities technology affords, that farmers be able to simply renew their farming-related license plates online, just like the rest of us.”

Senate Bill 220 would require the Michigan secretary of state to create an online renewal option for specialty farm plates, farm plates, logging plates and milk truck plates before Jan. 1 of next year.

The bill now advances to the full Senate for further consideration.

**NOTICE TO THE ELECTORS
OF IOSCO TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL ELECTION NOTICE
FOR FOWLERVILLE
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

All Electors are hereby given notice that a Special Election will be held in all Precincts of Iosco Township on Tuesday, May 4th, 2021. The Iosco Township Clerk is currently available to issue ballots for all Fowlerville School’s registered voters requesting an absentee ballot for the Special Election on Wednesday & Thursday between 1 p.m. & 5 p.m. at the Township Hall located at 2050 Bradley Rd., Webberville, MI. For voters who are unable to visit during office hours, the Clerk will also be available on Saturday May 1st, 2021 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.. Emergency Absentee Ballots are available on Monday, May 3rd, 2021, until 4 p.m.

Julie Dailey
Iosco Township Clerk
(4-11, 4-18, 4-25 & 5-2-21 FNV)

**NOTICE TO THE ELECTORS
OF CONWAY
SCHOOL ELECTION
ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

All electors are hereby given notice that a School Election for residents in the Fowlerville School District will be held in the township of Conway Tuesday, **May 4, 2021**. The Township Clerk will be available to all registered voters requesting an absentee ballot for the **May 4, 2021** election on **Saturday May 1, from 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Monday May 3 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.** Please visit Conway Township hall if you wish to obtain an absentee ballot. Please note that persons **must** vote in person no ballots will be allowed to leave the clerk’s office on Monday.

**CONWAY TOWNSHIP HALL
ELIZABETH WHITT, CLERK
8015 N. FOWLERVILLE RD., FOWLERVILLE**

Elizabeth Whitt,
Conway Township Clerk
(4-25-21 FNV)



Pictured here are, from left, in back row, Ian Hartke, Trevor Cockerill, and Will Bennett; middle row, Emma Wilber and Paige Fraizer; and in front, Brent Wood.



Fowlerville High School Bowling Team holds Awards Night

The Fowlerville High School Bowling team held their end-of-year Awards Night. Congratulations to all of the bowlers on the team for having a great season. Special congratulations to Trevor Cockerill for being named to All Conference Team.

Fowlerville Varsity Softball Team wins pair of games against Ionia

The Fowlerville Varsity Softball team won a pair of games against Ionia on Friday, April 16.

The Glads won the opener of the twinbill, mercying the Bulldogs in five innings by a 15-0 score. Halle Dargie was the winning pitcher, giving up 4 hits, no walks and struck out 7 bulldog batters. The Gladiators strung together 11 hits, including Grand Slams from Parker Douglass and Emmalee Felver. Felver also had a double, a stolen base and five RBIs.

The outcome was closer in the second game, with Fowlerville prevailing 6-3. Carlie Atcheson tossed a complete game in the nightcap, allowing 5 hits, no walks and striking out 5 batters. Atcheson went 2 for 3 at the plate with a double and 2 RBIs. Tori Briggs was also 2 for 3 in game two and had 2 stolen bases.

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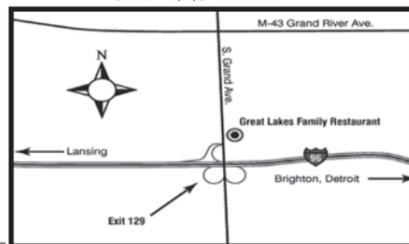
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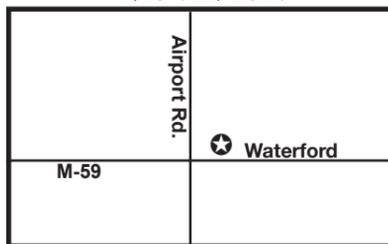
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Fowlerville High School News

OFFICE HOURS

Administration Office 7:00 a.m.– 3:30 p.m.
 Counseling Office 6:30 a.m.– 2:30 p.m.
 Building opens 6:45 a.m.
 * * *

Watch your emails from Mr. Lusk for school updates.
 * * *

Online/Virtual students: If you qualified for an Academic Award and have yet to pick it up, they are in the Main Office of the High School and can be picked up Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm.
 * * *

FHS is now accepting applications for the National

Honor Society. Stop by Mrs. Hardenbrook's room, D214 or download one from the high school's website. Applications are due by May 3rd, at 2:30 pm and they must be typed. See fowlervilleschools.org/High_School_page_quick_link_NHS.
 * * *

Seniors! Your fines must be paid off before graduation. Payments can be made in the Attendance Office. If you are unsure whether you have any fines, come down to the office and we can look it up for you.
 * * *

This year's Junior/Senior Prom will be held on Saturday, May 22nd from 7:00-11:00PM. The Junior Class will host Prom as an outdoor event at Fowlerville High School. Tickets will go on sale for Seniors the week of April 19th for the cost of \$50 each. Juniors can purchase tickets the week of April 26th. Prom will include an assortment of desserts, drinks, dancing, outdoor games, complimentary professional photos, and memories to last a lifetime. Only 250 tickets will be sold to the event. No outside guests will be able to attend this year. Fowlerville High School Online Junior/Senior Students will be able to attend. Students will have to come to the school to purchase tickets. Please direct any questions to: Amanda Tomassi at tomassia@fowlervilleschools.org
 * * *

Parents & Senior 2021 – Make sure to check the senior information page on the FHS website for Senior announcements, cap and gown ordering and timelines.
 * * *

This year a new Career Pathways website has been created to provide information on educational development plans, careers, career initiatives, skilled trades program information, as well as current job openings for high school students. Be sure to check out the "Career of the Week," where each week a different career is highlighted with a link to further information on that career. Fowlerville High School page – Career Pathway (quick link)
 * * *

Juniors and Seniors interested in the Co-op Program:

Are you currently working? Are you interested in finding out if you could earn high school credit while you work? You may be eligible for the high school co-op program. To learn more about the co-op program and requirements, please contact Mr. Hardenbrook: hardenbrookj@fowlervilleschools.org
 If you picked up forms last school year or have printed them out from the front page of the High School website under Co-op Information, filled out forms can also be turned into the main office.
 * * *

Ordering Transcripts (Michigan eTranscripts)

please visit the Fowlerville High School website for more information.
 * * *

Parents having trouble using MISTAR to view grades, e-mail questions to connect@fowlervilleschools.org
 * * *

FHS announcements: <https://goo.gl/VxuWJC>
 FHS Twitter: <https://twitter.com/FHSGlads>
 FHS YouTube channel: <https://goo.gl/iaJC3H>

Smith Elementary School News

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

IMPORTANT DATES:

May 31 – No School Memorial Day
 June 8 - K-5th Gd Full Day, 6-11th ½ Day of School
 June 9 – K-11th Gd ½ Day of School (Elementary Dismissal Time 12:02 pm)
 June 10 – K-11th Gd, ½ Day of School (Elementary Dismissal Time 12:02 pm)
 June 11 – K-11th Virtual Day For All
 * * *

Bond Proposal–Don't forget to vote May 4, 2021! This bond will NOT raise taxes and will be used to construct a new elementary building that would house grades K through 2 AND provide air conditioning in all pre-K through 8th grade classrooms.
 * * *

Kindergarten Round Up - If your child turns 5 by September 1, 2021, it is time to start thinking about registering him/her for school! We are requesting that parents complete the Pre-Registration process found on the FCS website. Go to fowlervilleschools.org and click on the Kindergarten Enrollment link and enter your child's pre-enrollment information. **Please call 517-223-6430 to make an appointment to come in to the H.T. Smith office to complete the registration process. Appointments are available every Friday from 8:00 to 2:15.**

The required items that you need to bring to your appointment are: your child's original birth certificate, current immunization record, vision screening (after 3 years of age) and proof of residency (this includes your driver's license and at least one other item, i.e., a piece of mail, purchase or rental agreement, voter's registration card, etc). We are holding a Virtual Round Up this year and that information has been posted to Fowlerville School's main webpage and also on H.T. Smith's link for you to access and learn more about our wonderful programs! We look forward to meeting the Class of 2034!
 * * *

Spirit Wear Fundraiser – This fundraiser goes until the end of the school year. You can order online anytime at www.BrideausApparel.com/fundraisers **FREE SHIPPING IS INCLUDED!** Ships directly to you! Help support H.T. Smith Elementary and get some great spirit wear for the family!
 * * *

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.**

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Fowlerville High School's "ATHLETES" OF THE WEEK



Jud Scott



Girls Track

Sarah Litz is a Junior on the Fowlerville High School Girls Track & Field team. Sarah is a returning State Finals Qualifying hurdler that was named a 2021 Captain. Against Mason on Wednesday, April 14, Sarah led the Gladiators with three first place finishes in the 100m Hurdles, 300m Hurdles and anchoring the Girls 800m Relay. Because of her performance, Sarah was awarded the Gold Baton for being the meet's most valuable runner. Sarah returned to the track at the Cougar Relays in Lansing on Saturday to win the 100m Hurdles and place second in the 300m Hurdles. Sarah's goals this season are to qualify for the State Finals in the 100m Hurdles, 300m Hurdles and the 800m Relay.

Avery Copeland is a Sophomore member of the Fowlerville High School Girls Track & Field team. Avery is coming off a very successful Cross Country season where she was a top member of the team. Against Mason on Wednesday, April 14, Avery competed in the 3200m run for the first time, then doubled back in the very next event to race for your team in the 1600m Relay. Because of her gutsy performances in back-to-back races, Avery was awarded the Purple Baton for being the meet's most improved athlete. Avery went on to set a personal record in the 800m run on Saturday at the Cougar Relays in Lansing.

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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Fowlerville Junior High School News

IMPORTANT DATES:

Teacher Appreciation Week- Mon. May 3-7th
 6th grade Mstep testing- May 3rd-6th
 7th grade Mstep testing- May 10th-13th
 Testing out Deadline- Fri. May 14th
 No School-Memorial Day break- Mon. May 31st

SPORTS FOR WEEK OF APRIL 26:

Wed., 4/28: BOYS' & GIRLS' TRACK vs DeWitt-HOME @ 4:30. Please PARK in either FHS parking lot in front of building or in bus lot behind FHS. ENTRANCE to track is through gates at north end of track. Walk on pavement between tennis courts & soccer field. NO ADMISSION CHARGE THIS SEASON. MASKS REQUIRED; SOCIAL DISTANCE. There may or may not be a small concession located in front of the OLD TRACK SHED. NO spectators on the infield of the track! Your cooperation is a must. Plenty of bleachers space to set & watch the meet. You may bring your own chairs & sit on hill near entrance to track.

POP CAN TAB DRIVE FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

Student Council will be collecting pop can tabs during the month of April. Students should give them to their first hour teacher. The tabs are then given to our local Girl Scout Troop who has collected over 1.5 million throughout the years. The troop donates them to the Ronald McDonald House. The class that collects the most will be given the opportunity to throw a pie in Mrs. Lillie's and Mr. Fitzgerald's face.

7TH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Fowlerville Girls Basketball 7th grade team played home and away games against Dewitt. Fowlerville B team came away with two wins. 32 – 25 at Dewitt with Chloe Dillon leading the way with 10 points and Michaela Gullledge also adding 9. 31-24 win at home with Isabella Pierfedericci pouring in 12. The B team managed to win every game except for one this season and did an unbelievable job representing each other and Fowlerville.

In the A games, Dewitt and Fowlerville won on each other's home court. At Dewitt Fowlerville pulled off the win 43-36. McKenna Maybee drew the task of covering their strong point guard and drew 3 offensive charges to help lead the Glads to victory. Ella Olrich had two 3-pointers to add to her 10 points. All 5 starters including Izzy Cox, Ky Dillingham, and Mariah Kirby added at least 9 points.

At home, the Glads lost a close one 38-30 and finished the game with only 4 players on the court. The girls played each quarter with only 6 players and played courageously throughout the whole game. Dewitt was a very strong team. Battles in future years will be entertaining to say the least.

The 7th grade girls finish their season against Charlotte in

one final game. The A team has managed a victory in every game except one as well.

8TH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL

The 8th grade girls finished their season with back to back games against Charlotte. Our first game was back and forth in a great game for the first half before we were able to pull away with the victory. Our second game we put a few new things in place and Charlotte could not handle the pressure on both sides of the ball and we won easily by a lot with only 6 girls total! Every single girl scored in both of the games. In the 2 games combined Tommi Kleinshmidt had 35 points, Molly Lamar and Lillie Redinger had 26, Val Curd had 10 points. The girls improved a ton from the previous season individually and as a team and are excited to play next year in the high school.

YEARBOOK INFORMATION

Yearbooks are on sale now for the 2020-2021 school year. Order in person or online - the school has a link online to order there. They are \$32 dollars. Checks made out to Fowlerville Community Schools

Also we have 11 yearbooks left from 2019-2020 if you did not get one. They can be purchased for \$32 from Mrs. Spisz in room D-19

We have 21 students that are current 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th graders that have not picked up their book previously ordered. If you are one of these students or know someone that is,

Michigan DNR Fishing Tips—

Walleye, Pike & Trout Season Openers

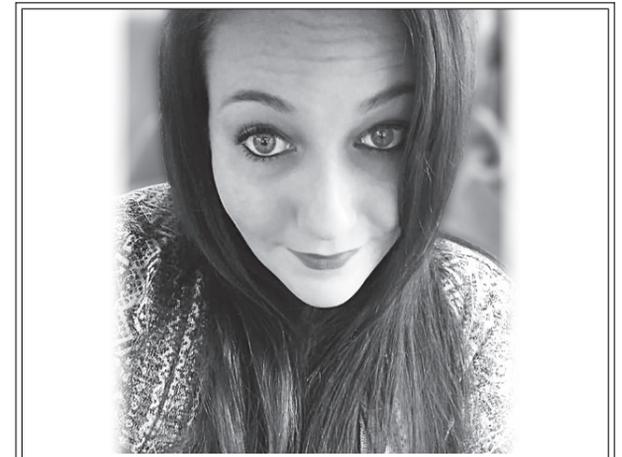
The walleye and pike season opener for the Lower Peninsula inland waters was this Saturday, April 24. The statewide trout opener on all Type 1 and Type 2 streams as well as all Type A and Type D trout lakes was also this Saturday, April 24.

All anglers 17 years of age and older are required to have a fishing license.

Fowlerville Girls Tennis Team opens season at Howell tournament

The Fowlerville Girls Tennis Team opened its season on Saturday, April 17, by placing third in the Howell tournament by scoring nine points. Emma Arnot (1 singles) and Gwenna Zanin (2 singles) each finished as runner ups.

please contact Mrs. Spisz at spizsm@fowlervilleschools.org She will put your book in the Junior High Office for pick-up. Although we have put this in the paper, sent emails, and tried to distribute during virtual picture day we still have some needing to be picked up by students that may be all virtual, moved, or are homeschooling.



The family of Kayla Lynn Pierce wish to express their deepest appreciation to those who have offered such kindness, love, meals, gifts, and messages of sympathy during our most difficult time. We are forever grateful, God bless you.

In Loving Memory of
Kayla Lynn Pierce
 5-17-1991 to 2-11-21

HANDY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS

The meeting of the Handy Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Alverson at 7:00 P.M. in the Handy Township Boardroom. Trustees present: Eisele, Shear, Roddy and Munsell. Absent: None. Also present: Handy Twp. Zoning Admin.-Bonnie Flanery, Township Attorney-Lisa Hamameh and resident Reed Wilmot. Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

To approve the agenda as amended.

To approve the minutes of 4-8-21 as presented.

To pay the bills of 4-19-21 in the amount of \$125,727.13.

To postpone decision on Capital Connection Charge Resolution.

To approve purchase of VOIP phone system for Township Hall Offices.

To adopt Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment #Z-2020-8, Municipal Property District.

To adopt Zoning Amendment # Z-2020-9, Rezoning of Properties.

To renew agreement with SLC Meters.

To close regular business session and go into closed session to discuss Attorney-Client Privilege letter at 8:28 P.M.

Returned to regular business session at 8:48 P.M.

To adjourn meeting at 8:48 P.M.

Laura A. Eisele
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- Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy
- Non-healing wounds
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Letter to the Editor

Strengthening the Absent Voter Ballot Chain of Custody

In late March the Republican Legislature introduced 39 bills to strengthen the absent voter ballot chain of custody and strengthen local clerks' responsibility to run elections without state interference. Democrats stated this legislation was dead on arrival. Surely with a Democratic governor many of the bills will be vetoed if they pass the Michigan House and Senate. However, there are many bills that deserve enactment.

With all the controversy occurring in our nation on election reforms after the 2020 elections due to changes made because of the Covid-19 Pandemic, I think it is important to look at what the bills in Michigan provide in protecting the chain of custody for absentee voter ballots. Elections must be secure

and vote counting must be accurate. One person should have one vote and every vote must be counted. There is nothing wrong with legislation that strengthens the chain of custody of absent voter ballots.

Senate Bill (SB) 273 amends the Michigan Election Law to create requirements for absent voter ballot drop boxes. For example, the drop box must be approved by the Secretary of State and the county board of canvassers. Starting June 1, 2022, a video recording device that meets certain specified requirements must be monitoring the ballot drop box. The bill makes it a felony for anyone other than the voter, a member of the voter's immediate family, or household to return the absent voter ballot. The bill also requires that once the ballots are removed from the drop box, the absent voter ballots must be taken to the clerk's office. SB 278 provides more detail for collection of absent voter ballots from drop boxes, such as who picked up the ballots, the location, and time picked up and the ballots transported in authorized containers.

SB 273 requirement that the absent voter ballots from the drop box be returned to the clerk's office will eliminate all the found ballots days after an election. One recommendation would be to require the location of all drop boxes in a municipality must be posted on the municipality's website. Critics contend that Republicans would block authorizing the use of drop boxes for absent voter ballots. I don't find this to be true. If the absent voter drop box can be secured and it aids communities in providing better service to residents then they will be approved. It comes down to secure drop boxes.

SB 280 amends the election law to require Initiative Petitions to be filed 200 days before an election. Existing law provides for 160 days. This bill would require the Secretary of State to complete the canvass within 100 days. For example, the Unlock Michigan Petition Initiative was filed in early October 2020. The Michigan Secretary of State has stated that her office does not need to finish the canvass until sometime in the middle of 2022, more that 21 months after filing. Just this week the Bureau of Elections approved the petition stating over 460,000 valid signatures were submitted of the needed 340,000. This canvass took 198 days. One recommended change would be to provide a provision that failure to complete the canvass within the 100 days makes it a valid petition and able to move along with the process.

SB 282 requires that only the Secretary of State, a designated voter registration agency, or a county, city or township clerk shall have access to the qualified voter file. This should be amended to also include designated deputy clerks to have access. The other designated deputy clerks who have access to the qualified voter file should also be identified and their identity published.

Probably the most controversial senate bill is SB 285 requiring photo ID to be submitted with an application for an absent voter ballot. Polls indicate that the majority of Michigan Voters support this requirement. You need valid ID to vote on election day. This requirement carries this over to the absent voter ballot. There is no requirement in this bill that the photo ID has to be in color, as some are saying. One recommended change would be to allow those voters who are not able to copy a driver's license or State ID, to write in their driver's license or State ID number on the application. This could be easily verified by the local clerk.

SB 286 has garnered some controversy. This bill sets a time of 5 p.m. on the Monday before the election that absent voter drop boxes be locked. After this time the absent voter may return their ballot to their local clerk's office. Currently there are no statewide requirements. This sets the statewide standard by which we all know when the use of absent voter drop box ends. This bill would allow election staff to focus their duties on election day responsibilities.

SB 287 prevents placing prepaid postage on any absent voter ballot return envelopes. The cost to return the ballot is a first-class postage stamp of 55 cents. Currently some

communities provide postage and others do not provide postage. This requirement would set a state-wide standard which is now lacking. Also, many ballots in the last election were turned in by hand given the concern that the Postal Service was having problems delivering the ballots.

SB 289 would amend the Management and Budget Act to add a new law that the Secretary of State cannot expend funds from the restricted revenues, including federal and matching revenues, if the amount exceeds that appropriated by the legislature. The bill provides that the funds, if not appropriated within 90 days, must be returned to the federal government. Although this bill is being opposed, I view this bill more as the legislature asserting its rights under the Michigan Constitution to legislatively appropriate funds and not relinquish spending power to the Executive Branch.

SB 300 allows early voting on the second Saturday before the election from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This makes it easier to vote for those voters who cannot vote on election day and choose not to vote by absent voter ballot.

SB 303 amends the current election law that if a voter does not have identification, they must be issued a provisional ballot that is processed according to section 523(a)(5). SB 304 specifies notice being given to the individual voting the provisional ballot has six days after the election to establish the voter's current address and lists documents that may be submitted as proof. Failure to do so would result in the ballot not being tabulated. SB 303 removes the right for the voter on election day to sign an affidavit. Since photo ID is required to vote on election day, the requirement that the absentee voter without identification vote a provisional ballot is not unreasonable if they have 6 days to return with a photo ID or other document. Many people if they forgot their ID would go home and come back with their ID.

SB 305 prohibits the name or likeness of an elected or appointed officer from appearing on or be used in any communication that is paid for with public money and involves an election related activity.

SB 309 makes changes to protection for election challengers such as the right to stand or sit behind the processing table, the ability of the challenger to read and observe the poll books, tabulators, and other election documents and materials to be used at a polling place or counting board.

SB 310 prevents the Secretary of State from sending or providing an absent voter ballot application, unless requested by the elector. During the 2020 election cycle voters were inundated with absent voter applications. All the absent voter ballot applications mailed out last year caused much confusion with the voters. Our Constitution allows us to vote by no reason absentee ballot. Elections in Michigan are run by local clerks. That authority must stay at the local level. While the State cannot restrict independent groups from sending out absent voter ballot applications to voters, it certainly can limit the State from also sending out absent voter ballot applications.

There are common sense bills that no one should have problems with.

SB 277 requires frequent updates by the county clerks to send local clerks updates on death certificates prior to an election.

SB 279 sets limits on the number of challengers political parties or others may have at absent voter counting boards to two for every 2,999 absent voter ballots to be counted and one additional challenger for every additional 2,999 absent voter ballots. This bill also allows replacement of the challengers.

SB 284 adds new language to the election law that a department, agency, commission, or board cannot accept from an individual or entity, either directly or indirectly, a gift of money, or other consideration to be used for an election related activity or election related equipment.

SB 292 adds provisions to the election law that election challengers must attend training every three years and submitting an affidavit that they attended the training.

SB 295 requires training for precinct inspectors.

SB 307 requires that if a ballot proposal appears on the ballot, the full text of the ballot proposal must be provided to that elector. This requirement addresses the 100-word limit on the ballot to describe the ballot proposal and allows a voter who is not aware of the full text a chance to read before voting, if they so choose.

SB 308 requires the Secretary of State to provide training in signature verification to all county, city, township clerks, and all election inspectors. There is no presumption that the signature is valid.

I encourage voters to go to the Michigan Legislature's website and look up the proposed bills. They are Senate Bills 273-311. So much of what we are hearing in the media on these bills are not accurate. Don't repeat misinformation.

Mark Fosdick
Fowlerville



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Caleb Jenkins Column



Thoughts on Leadership

Leadership is something we practice every day, so it is worth considering what constitutes good leadership and if we are having the impact we desire. We sometimes conflate positions of authority with leadership, but those two designators are not necessarily synonymous. We can demonstrate impactful leadership without holding what we consider to be a position of authority, and I think we all know people who hold such positions who are not good leaders. True leadership is not about a title or exerting dominance over someone else. At its fundamental and most important level, leadership is being purposeful in how we affect those around us and demonstrating wisdom in the decisions we make.

If we want to be effective leaders in our daily lives, then one of the most important traits we must understand and embrace is self-awareness. Few things alienate others and distort your cause more than a lack of self-awareness. I have seen a deficiency in self-awareness destroy leadership effectiveness in three primary ways.

First, there are those who think so highly of themselves that they miss the ways they negatively impact others. This can quickly wreck a team's morale and a leader's credibility. This most often seems to arise when a leader lacks confidence and/or empathy and subsequently compensates (tragically) with pride. Instead, a good leader is humble and understands how he or she appears to others.

Second, a leader with little self-awareness seldom stops to consider the opinions of others. Such an approach not only insults those with something to contribute but also limits the completeness of our solutions. When we first approach an issue, we can only see and understand certain aspects of it. If our problem-solving stops there, we will only generate a partial solution. It may seem good to us on the surface, but that is because it is all we know! If we want better answers to life's problems (and we should), then we must be willing to learn, listen, and ponder. You still get to make the final decision for yourself, but you will be much better equipped if you invest in comprehending the multi-faceted complexities of life's challenges.

Third, a trait of poor leadership and a lack of self-awareness is promoting a standard to which you do not hold yourself. Leaders, as the designator implies, should be leading the way! It is easy to recognize improvements that *others* should make; however, we should first reflect on ourselves. Are we setting the example? People can detect hypocrisy a mile away, so any exhortation you provide will fall by the wayside if you are not demonstrating it first.

As you probably noticed, these three points share a common connection to pride. There is perhaps no greater barrier to doing good than pride, and it can destroy our effectiveness as leaders. It is unnatural to our human condition, yet when we learn to set aside pride, there is greatness to be accomplished!

Kreeger Elementary School News

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

School Hours: 8:50 a.m. - 3:32 p.m.

NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT:

All pre-enrollments are done online www.fowlervilleschools.org

After you complete those documents please print and sign areas marked. Bring your child's original raised seal birth certificate, 2 proofs of Fowlerville Schools residency and if your child attended a school in Michigan his/her immunizations will be on the MCIR website.

CALENDAR OF KREEGER EVENTS

**End of Year Calendar Change

- 4-27-21 4th Grade M-Step Begins ELA
- 4-28-21 4th Grade M-Step Math
- 4-30-21 M-Step for Online Students
- 5-4-21 3rd Grade M-Step Begins ELA
- 5-5-21 3rd Grade M-Step Math
- 5-7-21 M-Step for Online Students
- 5-14-21 Spring Flower Sale Pick up
- 5-14-21 3rd & 4th Grade M-Step Online Students
- 5-31-21 NO SCHOOL Memorial Day Recess
- 6-10-21 Grades K – 5 Full Day, 6 – 11 1/2 Day
- 6-9-21 1/2 Day School – Grades K – 11 ***NEW**
- 6-10-21 1/2 Day School – Grades K - 11
- 6-11-21 Full Day School – Virtual - Last Day of Classes**

KREEGER SPRING FLOWER SALE: Friday, May 14th—Your flowers arrive at Kreeger Elementary, pick up time is from 9:30A.M. to 5 P.M.

Please note: *If you are unable to pick up your plants on this date and time, please make arrangements with friends or family to have them picked up. We are NOT responsible for any plants not picked up.*

LOST AND FOUND: We have overflow in the lost and found areas for each grade level. Please be sure to check with your child to see if they are missing hats, gloves, coats, boots, sweatshirts, water bottles or tennis shoes.

GLADIATOR WEAR: Gladiator spirit wear will be sold all year long please check out the following site for orders – www.brideausapparel.com/fundraisers.

ONLINE STUDENTS: If you are having technical issues you can email the Tech Department at fcstechassist@fowlervilleschools.org and they will get back with you.

UPDATED COVID INFORMATION: We have added a video from Livingston County Health Department on the Kreeger Webpage, it can also be found on the Fowlerville Community Schools main webpage. Please take a moment to check out this video for more information regarding quarantines.

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.



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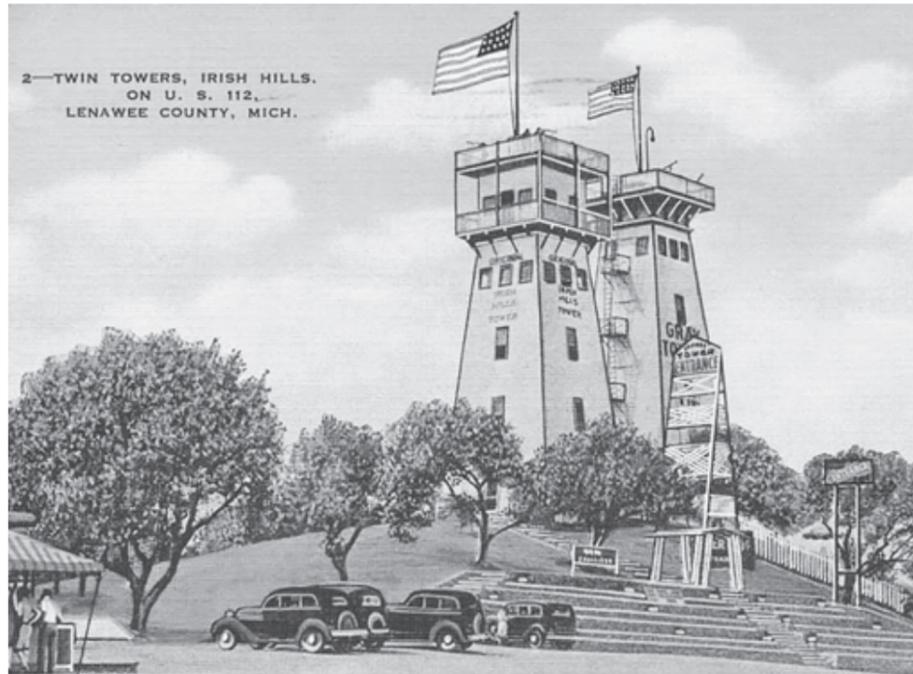


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Forrest Keith, Frederick Hewitt's son-in-law, stands next to the Michigan historical marker that was installed in 1957. A new historical marker for the tavern was installed by the Friends of Walker Tavern in 2007. Credit: Archives of Michigan.



One of the most popular early tourist attractions in the Irish Hills was the Twin Towers. Credit: Archives of Michigan.

Showcasing the DNR--

Revisiting the historic Walker Tavern and tourism in the 1920s Irish Hills

Editor's note: In celebration of the department's centennial anniversary, the Showcasing the DNR feature series will highlight one story each month during 2021 that recalls various accomplishments of the department over the past century.

By Laurie Catherine Perkins

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

By the time the Michigan Department of Conservation – the Department of Natural Resources' predecessor – formed in late March 1921, the Walker Tavern, located southeast of Jackson at the corner of U.S. Highway 12 and M-50 near Brooklyn, was nearing its 100th birthday.

Built in 1832, the tavern served as a wayside inn, bar and post office for travelers on the "Old Chicago Road." In the 1920s, the tavern would find new life as a roadside tourist attraction, and in 1965 it became a Michigan state park.

Today, the tavern is part of Cambridge Junction Historic State Park in Lenawee County, which the DNR manages.

A century ago, life was changing for many Americans. Shorter work weeks, higher wages and Henry Ford's new, affordable Model T paved the way for a new industry: automotive tourism.

Thousands of Michigan residents escaped city life, if only for a day, to visit more pastoral settings. Southeast Michigan's "Irish Hills," about 75 miles southwest of Detroit, became a popular destination.

In 1920, the Walker Tavern was owned by W. C. Dewey and facing an uncertain future. Franklin Dewey, the owner's cousin, wrote that the old tavern, in the right hands, could be "one of the most valuable monuments or museums in the state. ...The edifice is one of the most venerable in Michigan and is surpassed by few, if any, in historic associations."

Franklin's father, Francis A. Dewey, had been the tavern's third owner. He had meticulously documented its history. Unable to turn it into a successful business, the family was ready to sell the property, with the hope it would continue to be cherished and preserved.

Episcopalian priest Frederick Hewitt was familiar with the Irish Hills, having served the local community at churches in Clinton and Tecumseh. A longtime friend of Henry Ford, Hewitt shared Ford's interest in antiques. He purchased the historic tavern in November 1921 as a place to show and sell his collectables.

Hewitt opened the tavern as a museum on May 30, 1922. He grew his new business into one of the most famous tourist attractions in the Irish Hills. Going on buying trips with Henry Ford, Hewitt supplied the tavern with antiques and created a museum, gift shop and, later, a restaurant.

Spurred on by his early success, Hewitt purchased the Brick Walker Tavern just across the road in November of 1922. With the Brick Tavern ready to open the following year, Hewitt began to plan huge public events to bring in nationwide business. Among his first guests were a couple from Alabama.

In addition to Henry Ford and his wife Clara, Hewitt drew on his connections with college presidents, governors and other highly placed civic leaders to raise the profile of his new enterprise.

Irish Hills tourism in the 1920s

The scenic beauty of gently rolling hills and clear blue lakes around the Walker Tavern did not go unnoticed by others seeking to make the Irish Hills a tourist destination.

The newly-created Michigan Department of Conservation

purchased acreage on the south shore of Wamplers Lake. In 1921, it became Cedar Hill State Park, which is known today as Walter J. Hayes State Park.

The Department of Conservation wasn't alone in seeing the opportunity for tourism in the area. The locally based Michigan Observation Company built a 65-foot-tall viewing platform on a knoll halfway between Hewitt's Walker Tavern and Cedar Hill State Park. It opened to the public in October 1924.

Adjoining property owner and local farmer Edward Kelly, angered by the location of the first tower, immediately built a second tower. A "race to the top" ensued. Soon each of the "Twin Towers" had its own restaurant, gift shop, hotel and gas station along then-U.S. Highway 112.

Frederick Hewitt and his family owned and operated both historic buildings at the junction well into the mid-20th century, selling chicken dinners, postcards and antiques.

The post-World War II economy and subsequent baby boom revitalized tourism in the Irish Hills. New theme and amusement parks, based on popular television shows, were added to the mix of 1920s-era attractions. The Irish Hills was alive with tourists for a second generation.

Walker Tavern becomes a state park

In the mid-1900s, the DNR was looking to expand its statewide park system, and again turned to the Irish Hills as a possible location. Frederick Hewitt's daughter, Jeanne Keith, encouraged the department to look at the Walker Tavern and its 80 acres as a possible historic park.

In 1965, the Walker Tavern became part of Cambridge Junction Historic State Park, named for the community that once thrived at the intersection of old Chicago Road (U.S. Highway 12) and the La Plaisance Bay Pike (M-50). The park, known locally as the Walker Tavern Historic Site, continues to be an asset to tourism in the Irish Hills under the DNR's care.

"For 100 years, historic Walker Tavern has transported – through imagination and interactive experiences – thousands of visitors back to the settlement days of Michigan and Lenawee County," said local historian Dan Cherry. "The tavern, at the crossroads, continues to captivate and educate us about all the people who came before us and how they lived."

Walker Tavern today

The Walker Tavern Historic Site, which includes the tavern, a historic barn and a visitor center in the adjoining Hewitt home, is managed by the DNR's Michigan History Center.

Since 2008, the site has been supported by a very active and engaged friends of the park group. In addition to supporting the site's many educational activities, the friends organize a farmers market within the state park. Thousands of visitors



For more than a decade, the Walker Tavern Farmers Market has taken place on the park's grounds Sunday mornings from May to October. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the market did not run in 2020. Plans for the 2021 market are still under development.

come each summer for fresh produce and homemade crafts.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the farmers market is temporarily moving to Onsted for 2021, which makes it easier and safer to access the market. The market is scheduled to return to the park in 2022.

"We enjoy being a part of the history, beauty and nature that comes with being a part of the historic site," said local resident and market master David Brainerd.

Brainerd's wife, Marcy, described the market's customers by saying, "We have become a family and enjoy being a part of this community."

Others praise the efforts to preserve the history of the location.

"In all the years that I've been associated with the Walker Tavern Historic Site, I have seen it grow from just a small park on the corner into a thriving destination with a farmers market and programs for the public," said Laurie Bolak, a member of the Friends of Walker Tavern for many years. "I feel strongly that the history depicted at the site is so very important to preserve."

Laurie's husband, Frank, president of the Friends of Walker Tavern, agreed.

"Walker Tavern Historic Site is one of the great jewels of the Irish Hills," he said.

Thanks to a decade of support from Michigan's Recreation Passport program, major restoration projects at the Walker Tavern Historic Site have been completed. In 2019, the windows were removed and completely restored. In 2020, staff completed new interior renovations, including a large hand-stenciling painting project. This summer, the tavern's exterior will be repainted.

If you have never been to the Irish Hills, or perhaps not for many years, or if you were there only last week, take a trip, enjoy some of Michigan's natural and cultural resources and be a part of the next hundred years of the Walker Tavern's history.

The Friends of Walker Tavern invite you to become a friend and to follow the site's many events and activities at Michigan.gov/WalkerTavern.

Fowlerville senior signs letter to join Albion College's equestrian team

Amelia Otten, a senior at Fowlerville High School, signed a letter last Monday, accepting an invitation to join Albion College's equestrian team. She has also been awarded a \$23,000 academic scholarship to the school.

"I've been a member of the middle school and high school equestrian teams at Fowlerville and show my horse in 4-H," Otten said. "My specialty is Western riding."

She is also a member of the Gladiator girls track team.

Her plans are to major in nursing when she starts classes in August.

Albion College is a member of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association, a NCAA Division 3 school. Among its other members from both Michigan and Indiana are Adrian College, Olivet College, Alma College, Kalamazoo College Calvin College, Hope College, Saint Mary's College of Notre Dame, and Trine University.

Otten noted that Albion furnishes the horses for the equestrian team.



Amelia Otten signed a letter last Monday, accepting an invitation to join Albion College's equestrian team. Joining her were her parents Garret Otten and Nicole Armstrong.

On hand for the signing ceremony were her parents Garret Otten and Nicole Armstrong, her grandparents, high school athletic director Brian Osborn, her high school equestrian coach Michelle Carnevale, her track coach Megan Shrader, and her fellow members of the girls track team.

Osborn and the two coaches both offered remarks, congratulating her. Otten, in turn, thanked both coaches and her parents for their help and encouragement.

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League of Women Voters holding virtual town hall on redistricting process

The League of Women Voters of Brighton/Howell Unit is holding a town hall event to educate Michigan voters on the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission's process in drawing new legislative and congressional maps.

The virtual town hall will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 29th via Zoom. Guest Commissioner M.C. Rothhorn of the MICRC and League representatives will discuss redistricting in Michigan, the commission and opportunities for the public, including Communities of Interest, to provide input to the commission before it draws the maps.

"Redistricting in Michigan has been a very political process that has historically taken place behind closed doors and out of the public eye," said Ellen Lafferty, Chairperson. "This new independent process gives regular, everyday Michigan residents the ability to draw the state's legislative districts. We want the public to be empowered with information so they can participate in this important democratic process."

Leagues across the state have undertaken a widespread educational effort to help voters understand redistricting and to ensure the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is being what voters have asked: for citizens to

draw district lines instead of legislators or special interests, and for the commission to respect Communities of Interest.

Register for the event at <https://howelllibrary.libcal.com/event/7573653>.

New & Used Horse Tack Sale being held May 8 at Fowlerville Fairgrounds

A New & Used Horse Tack Sale is being held on Saturday, May 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Fowlerville Fairgrounds, 8800 W. Grand River Ave. Fowlerville. Entry fee of \$1. Vendors are welcome. Questions? Please call 517-223-8186.

For vendor form, go to fair's website at: www.fowlervillefamilyfair.com/upcoming-events.html

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FBA's Annual Mother's Day Basket Drawing

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The FBA is offering the Mother's Day Basket comprised of goodies and gift certificates from FBA Members and local merchants.

*To enter, complete ONE entry at any participating Business.
(One entry per person only.)

Drawing is the week of May 3rd

Winner will be contacted

MOTHER'S DAY BASKET PARTICIPANTS:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊗ Harmon Real Estate* ⊗ Carpet Depot of Fowlerville* ⊗ Sweet Sensations* ⊗ Biggby Coffee* ⊗ Kern Road Veterinary Clinic* ⊗ Fowlerville News & Views* ⊗ Shear Image* ⊗ Aleta's Flowers & Gifts* ⊗ Fowlerville Pharmacy* ⊗ The Shop* ⊗ Massage Rehab* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊗ Save-on* ⊗ White Barn Designs* ⊗ Therapeutic Massage by Erin Kelley* ⊗ Chiropractic Health Center, Dr. Tim Tersigni* ⊗ Old Glory Car Wash ⊗ Wal-Mart Fowlerville ⊗ Master Media Supply ⊗ KW Corporation ⊗ Lucky Clipper Barber Shop ⊗ Grampy's - Car Quest

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MOTHER'S DAY BASKET ENTRY FORM

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The basket will be on display at Harmon Real Estate!



Letter to the Editor

Identity Theft by Voter ID

Identity theft is one of the fastest rising crimes in America. Yet, now Republicans in the Michigan Legislature want to require voters to include a photo copy of their driver's licenses, or ID card in the envelope with their absentee ballot. What circumstance could be riper for identity theft than to have more than a million copies of voter's identification cards floating around city clerks' offices across the state.

Republican legislators have alleged that the 2020 election was fraught with "irregularities", and even fraud, not by voters, but by election workers e.g. disenfranchising voters, double counting votes, failure to verify signatures etc. Not a single case of voter fraud was ever even alleged in the 2020 election, but now they want to allow these same election workers to have copies of hundreds of thousands, even millions of voter identification cards.

Do we really trust that this multitude of copies of ID's will be duly, promptly, and properly shredded, and that none will fall into the hands of bad intent? Shall we ask Republican bureaucrats like Seminole County, Florida tax collector, Joel Greenberg who is currently under indictment for using expired, and relinquished IDs of the citizenry to create false IDs for minors, to be used in sex trafficking.

The photo ID is a highly overrated means of confirming one's identity, as the photo itself can easily be faked with modern computer technology. A signature alone, however, has been shown to be 98.5% as reliable as a fingerprint in confirming identity. Additionally, what ever happened to our right to a secret ballot; one that does not directly link our votes to our identity. What will happen to our ballots if there is a perceived discrepancy between the copy of the photo ID that we send in with our ballot, and the signature on file in the clerk's office; which would take precedent in confirming our identity, or would our ballot simply be discarded out of hand? That is voter disenfranchisement, and precisely the opposite of what they say they are trying to protect.

Requiring voter photo ID is an idea that invites identity theft, fraud, corruption, and does nothing to secure our election process in any way other than to provide Republicans with a means of disenfranchising Democratic voters, which is what they are attempting to do since they cannot win in the free marketplace of ideas without doing just that; obstruct, and disenfranchise voters.

Paul W. Richardson
Brighton

Smith Elementary highlights 'Classroom of the Week'

With so many events at Smith Elementary School not taking place this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the safety measures that are in place, Principal Kathy Gibson and staff are going to highlight a 'Classroom of the Week.' Shown here are students from Mrs. Molly Moulton's second-grade class.

From left, front row- Crew Collins, Xander Feeley, Amelia Briggs, Bella Aldrich, Ella Roberts, Macy Crowell; middle row- Bryce LaVigne, John Campos, Izzy Lassila, Gigi DeVries, Abby Crooks, Carson Daybird; back row- Marie Showerman, Owen Pisella, Teagan Merritt, Avery Clemons, Riley Esch, Ivan Swartz, and Mrs. Moulton. Not Pictured: Mila Gonzalez, Zach Hocking, Renee Seiter, Joseph Kusmeirz, Kenadie Olszowy, and Gavin Sudekum.

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Pastor Tom Tarpley

Freedom in Following Christ

Reading through the Old Testament can be challenging and somewhat frightening, especially in the first four books. There are so many laws and ceremonies that the people must follow to comply with what God requires until it is practically impossible to live without violating some of them. The problem with this form of legalism is, if you violate one law, it's the same as breaking all of them.

For example, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments to share with the people. Can we go through life without breaking one of them? Do these commandments have the power to save us? No, that was not their purpose.

The Ten Commandments' purpose is to identify the things that are offensive to God, otherwise known as sin. Once we understand what displeases God and have the right relationship with Him, we must do our best to avoid participating in the things we know He opposes.

Thank God for sending Jesus into the world to be the sacrifice for our sins. We are now free from the law to enjoy a personal relationship with God that was not available before the Word became flesh and lived among us.

However, some people still try to live by the strict guidelines of the law. Their lives are under the control of the *dos and don'ts* of religion, and they spend countless hours trying to live up to a legal standard they have set for themselves that is impossible to live up to one hundred percent.

Freedom in Christ is living in such closeness to Jesus that His desires become our desires. When our relationship with Jesus becomes the most important relationship we have in life and living to please Him is our number one priority, we will experience the joy of absolute freedom.

Galatians 5:1 says: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." Trying to live by too many rules and regulations restricts us from experiencing the freedom Jesus died to give us. True freedom is knowing that salvation is by grace, not by works.

We do not experience Freedom in following Christ because of our circumstances or how many laws and rules we keep. The freedom we gain in following Christ is a state of mind, not a position or condition of the body. "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). "It is for freedom that Christ has set you free" (Galatians 5:1).

In some ways, it may seem as if it is easier to live by a set of rules rather than to commit ourselves wholeheartedly to following the Lord. But living by the law is not living at all: "The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life" (2 Corinthians 3:6).

"We must fight against any impulse to conform to a legalistic mindset because that only leads us back into bondage. Rather, our service to God must be out of love and obedience to Him because that is life at its absolute best" (Dr. Charles Stanley). That is the kind of life that offers us freedom.

For many years, before I became a committed follower of Jesus, my primary goal in life was to make a lot of money. I wanted to have enough money to do whatever I wanted, whenever I wanted. I dreamed about becoming rich all the time. I spent hours working on plans I thought would bring me the fortune I craved. Without realizing it, I became a slave to the lust of the flesh. I became a slave to my worldly desires, and my life was miserable. The more money I made, the more I spent and the more I wanted. Regardless of how much money I made, it was never enough.

One day after praying for God's Will to be done in my life, He showed me that I was trying to live in two worlds.

I wanted to serve God, and at the same time, I wanted to please my flesh. He brought Luke 16:13 to my attention.

"No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the

other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money."

That was the day I chose to devote the rest of my life to serving God. I walked away from a career in sales that was beginning to reap the financial benefits I had been striving to achieve. For the first time in my life, I felt a sense of freedom which gave me a feeling of peace and serenity. I started reading the Bible more often and spending more time in quiet meditation with God. Two years later, I enrolled in Asbury Theological Seminary, where God would continue to move me slowly toward the goal He planned for me long before I was ever born.

I stepped out in faith to follow Christ, not bothering to wonder about where it might take me. In doing so, I have been to some places and done some things for God that I never believed were possible.

Following Jesus and unconditionally surrendering my will to Him freed me of the responsibility of finding happiness in the material and physical things of this world.

Because pleasing God became my top priority in life, I began to lose interest in my old habits and the things I thought would bring me happiness. My desire became the same as Jesus's was while He was on earth, to please God and walk humbly alongside Him.

Since my surrender, I have been set free from any encumbrance to become who God created me to be.

The joy I have in my heart today from living in obedience to God's Word is more significant than any other feeling I have ever experienced in life.

There is freedom in following Christ, but only if we are truly devoted and willing to surrender everything to Him.

Some Special Recipes

By Dawn Horton

Lifelong Fowlerville resident Kami (Braun) Kargel enjoys cooking and trying new recipes. And, when doing so, she likes sharing her creations with others. She is a parapro at the Fowlerville High School. She also enjoys using her steam pot to create fast and delicious meals for her husband, Chris, and sons, Ryan and Grant.

BANANA CHOCOLATE CHIP MUFFINS

Makes 12 muffins

- 1-1/3 cup mashed ripe bananas (about 3 or 4 medium bananas)
- 1/3 cup melted butter (slightly cooled)
- 2/3 c. packed light brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 t. vanilla extract
- 1 t. baking soda
- 1/2 t. cinnamon
- Pinch of salt
- 1 1/2 c. all-purpose flour
- 3/4 c. semi-sweet chocolate chips



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease muffin tin well, do not use muffin liners. Peel bananas and mash with a fork in a large bowl until no lumps remain. Add melted butter and mix.

In a small bowl beat sugar, eggs and vanilla with a whisk. Stir into banana mixture until combined. Combine Flour, salt, cinnamon and baking soda in a small bowl. Add to banana mixture and stir until just combined. Do not over mix. Fold in chocolate chips. Divide into muffin tin. Bake for 18-20 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean.

--Kami Kargel

KOREAN GROUND BEEF RICE BOWLS

Serves 4

- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 3 cloves of garlic (minced)
- 1/3 c. packed brown sugar
- 1/3 c. reduced-sodium soy sauce
- 2 t. sesame oil
- 1/4 t. ground ginger
- 1/4 t. crushed red pepper flakes
- 2 c. cooked brown or white rice
- Sliced green onion and sesame seeds for garnish



Brown beef and garlic in a large skillet breaking it into crumbles over medium heat until it is no longer pink. In a small bowl whisk sugar, soy sauce, sesame oil, ginger and red pepper flakes. Pour over the ground beef in skillet and simmer for two minutes. Serve over hot rice and garnish with green onions and sesame seeds.

--Kami Kargel

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An established pollinator habitat offers space to a butterfly. Credit: Rob Davis



Sheep graze under the shade of solar panels in Lenawee County, an example of agrivoltaics. Credit: Charles Gould.

Will crops grown under solar panels be wave of future?

By Sheldon Krause
Capital News Service

A new report about combining solar power and farming practices has advocates saying the practice could take hold in Michigan, boosting productivity while providing much needed refuge for bees and other pollinators.

The report from *The Counter*, a newsroom covering in-depth stories on food in America, discusses the rising prevalence of “agrivoltaics,” the practice of growing crops

underneath solar panels.

The process appears to be a win-win for crops such as tomatoes and jalapenos that respond well to lower light levels, the report said.

That’s because the crop’s natural photosynthesis can provide a slight cooling effect for the solar panels, allowing them to run 1-3% more efficiently.

Similarly, the reduced level of direct light on some crops is extremely beneficial, it said. For example, the productivity of tomatoes grown under solar panels doubled while conserving 65% more water.

Also encompassed in the term agrivoltaics is the use of solar arrays to aid in livestock farming, often using solar panels to provide shade for the animals.

Charles Gould is a bioenergy educator with Michigan State University Extension in West Olive. He says he thinks agrivoltaics could be the future of renewable energy.

“I think that this is the future. Solar requires land, and oftentimes the best place for a solar project happens to be land that’s growing crops,” Gould said.

“If we’re going to take land out of production, we need to maximize its value, and the way we can do that is grow crops or raise livestock underneath those solar arrays,” he said.

Gould pointed out that there’s a farm in Michigan that uses solar panels to give sheep shade as they graze.

Sharlissa Moore, a professor at MSU specializing in social and policy issues relating to renewable energy, also sees future potential in making dual use of solar arrays.

“It’s not a question of it happening in the next couple of years, it’s how many years out are we before solar becomes

even cheaper and it starts to actually become cost-feasible to do this,” she said.

With agrivoltaics, solar panels often have to be raised off the ground higher than they normally would be.

Moore said the added height of the solar panels sometimes can make the benefits of agrivoltaics economically unrealistic.

“We don’t have great numbers for this, but (raising the solar panels) is going to increase the overall cost by around 9 or 10%, which is a lot in renewable energy where the margins are slim,” she said.

Moore added that the estimate can change a lot, based on scale.

Gould says that the costs may be worth it in the long run, and may be necessary for garnering public support.

“I think what we’re going to see is that there are people who are opposed to solar projects because they are being put in land that’s currently in crop production,” he said.

“I think what we’re going to see is the compromise — the compromise here is that people, like zoning boards and the general public, are going to be more amenable to solar projects if that racking system is raised so that farm machinery and animals can graze comfortably underneath them,” he said.

Gould said there would be a tradeoff because the general public will want the land to stay in agriculture, meaning increased costs to raise the solar arrays.

Both Gould and Moore said they see additional promise with pollinator habitats — the practice of turning solar arrays into sustainable habitats for pollinating insects.

Gould said pollinators are “really, really critical to agriculture because we’re losing pollinating insects.”

And Moore said, “Pollinator habitat is much closer to being feasible than agrivoltaics. What I expect to start happening in the near term, particularly because some of it is being mandated by the Michigan government, is to build pollinator habitat on these solar sites.”

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Fowlerville Police Report

for the Village of Fowlerville Council Meeting

Monday, April 26, 2021

The Fowlerville Police Department responded to 513 calls for service over the past two weeks.

Total citations issued this period: 8 moving and parking citations.

Warrant Authorized/Declined

Incident #21-00353 – Organized Retail Fraud, Violation of Controlled Substance Act, Stolen Plate, CCW Violation, Driving While License Suspended – Warrant Authorized - FELONY

• 36 y/o male, Howell, April 8, 2021 at 2047 hours

Incident #21-00357 – Assault & Battery – Warrant Authorized

• 37 y/o male, Fowlerville, April 9, 2021 at 2204 hours

Incident #21-00301 – No Motor Vehicle Insurance – Warrant Authorized

• 28 y/o male, Fowlerville, March 25, 2021 at 0207 hours

Incident #21-00371 – Domestic Violence X 2 – Warrant Authorized

• 24 y/o male, Webberville, April 14, 2021 at 2041 hours

Incident #21-00284 – Organized Retail Fraud, Receiving/ Concealing Stolen Property, Violation of Controlled Substance Act and Felon in Possession of a Firearm – Under Review

• 39 y/o male, Howell, March 18, 2021 at 1514 hours

Officers Investigated the Following Types of Complaints:

- 21-Assist to EMS/FAFD
- 2-911 Hang up
- 1-Alarm
- 7-Animal complaints
- 3-Assist to Other Agencies
- 101-Area checks
- 1-Assault report
- 105-Building and property checks
- 1-Burglary in progress
- 6-Citizen assist
- 1-Civil complaint
- 2-Community Policing
- 4-Court Prosecutor Activity
- 2-DHS Referrals
- 3-Disturbance/Trouble
- 3-Domestic physical in progress
- 1-DWLS
- 11-Follow up
- 7-Foot Patrol (Subdivisions and Downtown area)
- 29-General Non Criminal
- 2-Hazard
- 1-Info general
- 2-Intimidation/threats
- 2-Juvenile complaints
- 1-Larceny
- 14-Liquor inspections
- 1-Littering
- 1-Meeting
- 1-Mental CMH
- 1-Misc complaint
- 2-Motorist assists
- 1-Ordinance investigation
- 2-Parking/traffic complaints
- 5-Patrol information
- 4-PBT Requests
- 4-PDA
- 1-Retail fraud
- 11-School events
- 46-Subdivision patrols
- 1-Subpoena service
- 7-Suspicious Situations
- 47-Traffic detail
- 37-Traffic stops
- 1-Vin inspection
- 1-Warrant attempt
- 2-Warrant arrest
- 3-Welfare Check

The above statistical information is retrieved using the computer aided dispatching module, provided by Livingston County Central Dispatch. All supporting statistical documentation can be provided upon request.

Assists to Other Agencies:

Officer Richmond was requested to assist the LCSO with a warrant arrest. The suspect was located at the address and was arrested without incident.

Officer Edmonds was requested by the LCSO to assist them with an Operating While Intoxicated (OWI). Officer Edmonds stood by for officer safety and then cleared when his assistance was no longer needed.

Officer Spencer assisted the LCSO with a hit and run accident that happened just outside the Village. Officer Spencer stood by until the scene was secure.

Additional Information:

I attended the online Chiefs of Police meeting where we discuss issues and concerns within our County. We also discuss training opportunities, noteworthy cases, changes in laws, and general pass along information.

Please find the attached Fowlerville Police Department's Year End Report for 2020. As all of you know, the past year was a trying year for us all. We were dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, an increase in mental health calls, illicit drug related calls, retail fraud/organized retail fraud calls, domestic violence/assault related calls. With all of this going on we at the Fowlerville Police Department were still able to provide the same high level of police services our great community deserves and expects. Thank you all for all of your support and praise during the last year and we all look forward to a promising 2021!

Respectfully Submitted
John J. Tyler, Chief of Police



Michigan House Report

By Bob Bezotte,
47th District

This past week, I introduced another bill into the House. This bill will establish the action of having an individual who has been convicted of a life sentence to be housed in a state facility after conviction. Currently there is a five-to-nine week period between a conviction and sentencing for life sentenced individuals. They are often housed in county jails waiting for the sentencing to take place. Not only is there a significant cost in our counties for lodging these individuals, but they are a group that can tend to be disruptive while in jail with other inmates and workers. They are often a flight risk and sometimes must be watched closely for suicidal tendencies.

I have heard from many of you over the past few weeks on the idea of vaccine passports. Recently, State Representative Sue Allor introduced a bill addressing this issue (HB 4667). Specifically, it would prevent government in Michigan from creating, managing, or incentivizing the implementation of a vaccine passport. Please know that I am in full support of Rep. Allor's bill and look forward to voting on this bill on the House floor.

Thank you to the Fowlerville 4th of July Committee for allowing me to be a judge for the 16th annual Chili Cook-Off this year. The money raised from the cook-off helps fund the Fowlerville 4th of July fireworks and other activities held during the local Independence Day celebration. This was a great event and I enjoyed trying all the different chilis and soups!

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at 517-373-8835 or RobertBezotte@house.mi.gov.

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for details

SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED IOSCO TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES APRIL 15TH, 2021

The regular meeting of the Iosco Township Board was held on Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 8:00pm. Members Present: Bonnville, Dailey, Parker, Hardies. Members Absent: Miller. The following action was taken: 1.) Motion to have Trustee Parker Chair the meeting in the absence of Supervisor Miller. 2.) Motion to approve the Agenda. 3.) Call to the Public. 4.) Motion to adopt the amended Township Board Meeting Minutes from March 18, 2021. 4.) Clerk's report. 5.) Treasurer's report. 6.) Motion to pay \$40,292.35 in Township bills. 7.) Fire Board update was heard. 8.) Planning Commission and Zoning updates were heard. 9.) Resident Miranda DeVries spoke on her, along with other residents, desire for an ordinance that would allow for ORV use on Iosco Township roadways. 10.) Motion to approve Surf Broadband Solutions Right-Of-Way Telecommunications Permit (Metro Act Unilateral Agreement). 11.) Motion to waive Surf Broadband Solutions \$500.00 permit fee. 12.) Motion to spend no more than \$2000.00 to send out postcards to Iosco Township residents to encourage them to show their desire for Fiber Optics in their area. 13.) Motion to correct the mathematical errors on the 2021-2022 budget. 14.) 2nd Call to the Public- the public was heard from. 9.) Motion to adjourn at 8:37p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Dailey
Iosco Township Clerk
(4-25-21 FNV)



Industrial & Construction Equipment



ONLINE AUCTION: TUESDAY, MAY 4

Inspections:
Monday, April 26 (9am-5pm)
Monday, May 3 (9am-5pm)
2440 W Highland Rd, Howell, MI
Load Out: Thursday, May 6 (10am-2pm)
Sale Manager: Neil Sheridan (517) 749-7616

SHERIDAN
REALTY & AUCTION CO.
(517) 676-9800
SheridanAuctionService.com

NOTICE OF DISPOSAL
 The following people who have units at Webberville Mini Storage will have their units sold anytime after **May 2, 2021** if they are not paid in full:

Troy Koontz	Autumn Cleary	Cory Smith
Mike Tyrell	Carly Stenfelt	Sheryl VanOstrum

Units must be paid on or before May 2, 2021 to reclaim.
WEBBERVILLE MINI STORAGE
517-521-3078



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 Serving Livingston County & Surrounding Areas
 Flexible Schedule or at Customer's Convenience
 Multiple Rate Job Discount
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 Set the thermostat where you want for a more comfortable home.



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 Webberville, MI
 517-468-3685

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 TITANIUM HDX
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Webberville Report



Senior Spotlight—Keith Haynes

By Hayley Williams

“If I could give advice to Keith it would be to always keep a positive attitude, life is always changing,” said Coach Derek Wisuri. “The only thing that will be constant is God’s love for you.”

Keith Haynes has gone to Webberville Schools since kindergarten. He does a lot for the school and has participated in many things. The activities he has taken part in include football and wrestling. He also is actively involved in FFA where he is vice president, and he volunteers as a leader for the youth at United Brethren Church.

“I will remember FFA the most and the family feel from FFA,” said Haynes. “I will remember the people I met and who I worked with.”

Some of his accomplishments include being a member of the agricultural issues team that placed third nationally, earning his State Degree, and receiving multiple state proficiency awards.

“I am impressed with Keith’s sincerity, kindness, and devotion,” said FFA Advisor Colleen Scott Keiser. “He is an outstanding contributor and will carry this work ethic into his future endeavors.”

You can definitely tell by who Haynes is that he had a great family support system. Haynes is the son of Tracy and Lynn Haynes, and his siblings are Kat Haynes who is a senior at Webberville, Bethaney Miller, Kenny Rood, and Keatan Rumsey.

“My family has always been very supportive of me and my goals,” said Haynes. “Whether it was making sure I had the equipment I needed for sports or helping me in my FFA career.”

When he is not at school or work, you will find him at UB Church. Haynes always loved being a part of their youth group and, after he turned 18, he decided it was time to take it to the next level and become an adult leader. Haynes leads a small group of middle school boys on Wednesdays and is always helping with the regular youth group.

Haynes involvement in FFA has extended through his whole middle and high school career where he has been participating in leadership and skills contests. Even when he did not advance, he was always there to help lead and teach. He has strengthened many friendships throughout the course of his involvement.

“One of my favorite memories with Keith? There’s a lot to choose from,” said friend Jake Bales. “I’m going to go with a more unexpected one and say chopping hay with him last summer. Not many kids love agriculture like he and I do, and it was awesome to work on the same farm.”

Haynes currently has a job at Jorgensen Farm Elevator and after high school he plans to continue to work there. He will slowly move up the ladder of the farm and take on more responsibilities as he gets older. He plans to be a custom applicator there.

“My role models are my dad and my boss Mike Turner. They have both taught me so many life skills that I can use every day. They also instilled a great work ethic in my life,” said Haynes.

He is excited to graduate but not to leave his friends. “If I had to give advice to underclassmen it would be to not only get all your work done but to also be yourself,” said Haynes. “You don’t need to fit in with everyone else. Just be yourself and don’t change yourself to fit in.”

Williamston Area Senior Center

201 School Street - 517-655-5173

APRIL 2021 EVENTS

Please check our website www.williamstonseniorctr.com or our Facebook for specific announcements of upcoming activities as we hopefully begin to resume our normal activities after Covid-19.

We have been seeing a decline in the Covid-19 infections and the meeting guidelines are being relaxed a little but are subject to change. In an effort to start to increase our service to seniors in the month of April we will be providing the following events on Tuesdays from 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm.

Wednesday, April 28, 2021 we will restart our monthly Movies for Seniors.

Every Tuesday and Wednesday, in April from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon – Coffee Hour at the Senior Center. Free coffee and socialization.

Starting, April 15, 2021 we will be adding Thursdays as an additional Coffee Day to our calendar of events.

Covid-19 Guidelines will be Enforced – wearing proper face covering, social distancing. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant will be provided on the premises.

Any Williamston area senior who may need meals can pick up a five-day supply of frozen meals here at the Williamston Center every Wednesday. To participate in this temporary meal program please contact the Tri-County Office on Aging at 517-887-1393 to set up a time to pick up your meals at the Williamston Area Senior Center on any Wednesday.

Other April Activities at the Senior Center –

–**Tuesday Knitters Group** meets from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and the

–**Wednesday Needle Craft Group** meets from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

NIESA Fire Report (Northeast Ingham Emergency Service Authority)

On Wednesday April 14, 2021 NIESA responded to three emergency medical calls. Two of the calls were in the City of Williamston, and one was in Wheatfield Township.

Thursday April 15, 2021 NIESA had two calls. One was an emergency medical call in Wheatfield Township, and the second was a smoke investigation in Locke Township.

On Friday April 16, 2021 NIESA responded to four emergency medical calls. One response was in the City of Williamston, one in the Village of Webberville, and two were assists to Lansing Mason Ambulance in Dansville.

Saturday April 17, 2021 NIESA had four calls. All were emergency medical calls, with one in the City of Williamston, one in Wheatfield Township, and two in the Village of Webberville.

On Sunday April 18, 2021 NIESA responded to two emergency medical calls. Both responses were in the City of Williamston.

Monday April 19, 2021 NIESA responded to two calls. One was a fire response in Leroy Township for a utility pole problem, and the second was an emergency medical call into Wheatfield Township.

On Tuesday April 20, 2021 NIESA had two calls. One was a medical emergency in Leroy Township, and the second was a vehicle accident in Leroy Township.

Webberville Kindergarten/Preschool Round-Up rescheduled for May 6

Webberville Elementary School is hosting Kindergarten and Preschool Round-Up on Thursday, May 6, 2021. Round-up will occur from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the elementary school building located at 202 North Main Street, Webberville, MI.

Children turning age 5 on or before September 1st may begin kindergarten. Please call the elementary office at 521-3071, extension 7935 to pre-register your child. We look forward to meeting our newest Webberville STARS!

Preschool registration will be held at the same date/time. **Online registration is required**, with applications available at inghampreschool.org



U.S. Congress Report

By Elissa Slotkin,
8th District, U.S. House
of Representatives

Introduces Bipartisan Bill to Better Connect Veterans with Critical Services

U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin (MI-08) is introducing the bipartisan Solid Start Act, a bill to ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs proactively reaches out to service members in their first year transitioning back to civilian life to connect them with critical benefits and services they have earned. U.S. Rep. David Joyce (OH-14) is the Republican co-lead. The bill would make permanent a pilot program at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in which the VA contacts veterans multiple times by phone in the first year after they leave service to check in and help connect them to programs and benefits. Slotkin also spearheaded the bill in the 116th Congress.

“The Solid Start program continues to be an important asset to veterans just as they leave the military and are transitioning back to civilian life,” said Slotkin. “It’s shocking to me the sheer number of veterans across Mid-Michigan who simply aren’t aware of the services and benefits available to set them up for a successful transition.

“As a military spouse and step-mom, and as someone who served alongside our troops in Iraq, I know how tough this adjustment can be, and it shouldn’t be up to brand new veterans to navigate the bureaucracy at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) right as they’re trying to settle into civilian life. We owe it to our service members to do everything in our power to help them start this new chapter off on the right foot. The Solid Start program will help connect at-risk veterans with everything from mental health treatment to career training and development, and making it a permanent program is a

critical step in bridging the communication gap between our service members and the VA.”

Newly separated veterans encounter changes in job status, lifestyle, housing, health care, and location. The rate of suicide among veterans within their first year of transition is nearly two times higher than the overall veteran suicide rate. In 2017, among veterans who died by suicide, 62% had not been in contact with the Veterans Health Administration in the preceding two years, and 40% of veterans responding to a recent survey by the American Legion were not sure whether they were eligible for VA mental health services.

In 2019, the VA launched the Solid Start program, which was designed to ensure that separating service members receive multiple outreaches from the VA within one year of separating from the military to ensure they are aware of the VA benefits and programs that are available to them. The program also prioritizes outreach to veterans who accessed mental health resources prior to separation in order to quickly connect at-risk veterans to services.

Slotkin’s bill would codify the Solid Start program to make it permanent. The bill also ensures that the VA continues to improve upon the program by authorizing sufficient funds to support the program and specifying key requirements under the program, including:

- Calling each veteran three times within the first year after separation
- Prioritizing outreach to veterans who accessed mental health resources prior to separation
- Ensuring that calls are tailored to the needs of each veteran by conducting quality assurance testing
- Collecting up-to-date contact information during the transition process
- Encouraging transitioning veterans to authorize alternate points of contact who can reach them in the event the veteran is unavailable for direct outreach from the VA
- Following up on missed phone calls through mailings and other outreach to ensure the veteran still receives similar information
- Including Solid Start information in VA booklets, on the VA website and through other resources
- Striving to reach veterans who separated prior to the beginning of the Solid Start program, to offer them similar explanations of resources

As a military spouse and Army step mother, Slotkin has prioritized legislation around supporting veterans during her time in Congress. Earlier this month she introduced the bipartisan Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act, a bill aimed at addressing the specific needs of veterans exposed to open-air toxic burn pits while serving in the Armed Forces.

LEROY TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR A REZONING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Public Act 110 of 2006, as amended, that a public hearing will be held by the Leroy Township Planning Commission at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at the Leroy Township Hall, 1685 N. M-52, Webberville, MI.

RE: The public hearing is to hear and consider a rezoning of parcel number 33-08-08-22-100-003 approximately 2.00 acres from (A) Agricultural to (C-1) Neighborhood Commercial. The property is located on the Southwest corner of N M-52 and Holt Road, Webberville, MI

PROPOSED USE: Year round farm market.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that information regarding the proposed Zoning Amendment and Special Use may be examined at the Township Hall, 1685 N. M-52, Webberville, Michigan during regular business hours. Written comments on the proposed zoning amendments can be sent to the Township at the above address until 4:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.

LEROY TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Wilma J. Whitehead
Township Clerk
(4-25 & 5-16-21 FNV)

58± ACRES
LIVINGSTON COUNTY

W Schafer Rd

Pingree Rd

Parcel # 4714-06-200-003
Parcel # 4714-06-200-002

BOUNDARIES APPROXIMATE © Pictometry.com

ONLINE AUCTION: WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

Sells subject to oil and gas lease.
Sells subject to an active oil well on the property.
Inspections: Walkover inspections welcomed during daylight hours.
6123 Pingree Rd, Pinckney, MI
Sale Manager: Doug Sheridan (517) 749-7976

SHERIDAN
REALTY & AUCTION CO.
(517) 676-9800
SheridanAuctionService.com

GEYER Auction Service

Starting Saturday, May 8th,
Early Produce, including Asparagus,
& Vegetable Plants will be part of
our regular Hay Auction.
The bidding starts at 9:30 a.m.

LIVE OUTDOOR
CONSIGNMENT AUCTIONS
2nd & 4th Sunday of each month
Starting at 10:00am

ONLINE AUCTION
1st & 3rd Sunday of each month
Starting at 7:00pm

Accepting Consignments
Call **517-655-6343**

3040 Dietz Road, Williamston
(S. off Grand River between Webberville & Williamston)
Hours: 8:00am - 5:00pm Monday - Friday,
8:00am - 2:00pm Saturday
www.geyerfarmservice.com

NEIGHBORHOOD CLASSIFIED SECTION

Call (517)223-8760

Office Located at 206 E. Grand River, Fowlerville MI
Fowlerville News & Views



-DEADLINE THURSDAY BY 3PM-

DIRECT CARE STAFF NEEDED: To take care of disabled adults in Howell. DL/ID, GED/Diploma needed. Call Shelbey at 810-588-3724.

EVANS GARAGE DOOR REPAIR AND INSTALLATION. Spring replacement. Wayne Dalton garage doors and Lift Master garage openers. "Our Business is Up & Down." Call anytime 517-223-9905.

SMALL ENGINE REPAIR: Lawn Mowers, Rototillers, Pressure Washers, and Most Other Small Engines. Fowlerville. Call Steve @ 517-294-2018.

PAINTING/POWER WASHING. Houses (Interiors and Exteriors), Decks. Trailer Homes. New Construction, Repaints, References, Written Contracts. Free Estimates. Guarantees. 517-599-6166.

TRAILER REPAIR: Wheel Bearings, Lights, Axles, Springs and Most Other Trailer Services. Fowlerville. Call Steve @ 517-294-2018.

CASH 4 CARS!!!
WE BUY ALL CARS/TRUCKS/SUV'S
-RUNNING OR NOT-
2200 N BURKHART. HOWELL MI
(810) 691-5030 stop by or we can come to you
CASH4CARSAUTOSALES.COM

GARDENING: All work outdoors. Plus room & board. Call 517-927-8050.

DRIVEWAY GRAVEL INSTALLED. 5 yards minimum, grading and skidsteer work. Insured. 30 years experience. Call Chris at 517-204-5127.

NOW HIRING! Shaner's Cutting Edge is seeking good & dependable lawn care crew members. Zero-turn mower experience is a plus! Call (517) 223-7523. \$12/hour to start.

PARKER ANGUS BEEF. \$3.25 per pound hanging weight. We pay processing. 517-223-7871.

TREES FOR SALE: Balsam, White Pine, etc. Under 1 foot \$5, 1 to 2 feet \$12, 2 to 3 feet \$17, 3 to 4 feet \$25. Larger sizes call for price. Installation available. Best deals guaranteed. 517-927-8050.

FOR RENT- Fowlerville, country 2 bedroom, Limit 4 people. \$1200 month. NO PETS. Kanehomes@hotmail.com
John Kane, Broker, Chase Lake Road.

1968 Sears Sewing Machine in Maple Cabinet, works, supplies and all parts.

\$35.00 or best offer, moving.

Cherrywood Curio Cabinet, glass front, sides and shelves, lighted, beautiful.

\$250.00 or best offer, moving.

Contact 517-303-4311

MAHAR'S GREENHOUSES: Come See What's Blooming! Beautiful Hanging Baskets, Flowers & Vegetables and More! 4621 Beard Rd., Byron. Sunday thru Friday (10 to 5) and Saturday (10 to 6). [989-634-8171](tel:989-634-8171). *Follow Us on Facebook.*

HAY ELEVATOR- Runs well, has gas motor. Stored inside. \$500
John Kane 517-204-2451.

FOWLerville GROOMING SHOP looking to hire a new groomer with at least 1 year experience and all their own tools. Call 517-798-7124 day or night.

NOTARY PUBLIC - Let me come to you for all your legal signature needs! Support a veteran owned small business. Call Steve Grima 313-412-0811.

24/7 PRIVATE PROPERTY SECURITY

Over Night Marked Vehicle Presence

CRIME WATCH & PREVENTION FOR:

Business • Home • Farm • Construction Sites

Cemeteries • Hunting Land • Camps • Parks

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AFFORDABLE PARKING LOT PATROL

(810) 429 4123

Fowlerville Fire Department Report

April 15th

No calls received today.

April 16th

12:30 am. Medical emergency on Church Street in the Village.

6:57 am. Medical emergency on Owosso Road in Conway Township.

4:00 pm. Medical emergency on North Grand Avenue in the Village.

5:12 pm. Medical emergency on Stow Road in Handy Township.

BUSINESS SERVICES

AUTOWISE- Lawn Mower & Garden Tractor Repair, Small Engine Repair. Pick-up and Delivery available. 517-294-0806. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

TRASH REMOVAL: Estates, Pole Barns, Houses, Mobile Homes, Basements, Garages, Commercial Buildings. Full service. "We do all the work." Also, tearing down sheds, garages, mobile homes, and RVs. Call Jay at 517-980-0468.

AUSTIN HARDWOOD FLOORING: 25 years experience. Refinishing. Veteran owner, local contractor, affordable rates, senior discounts. Free Estimates! (517) 375-6143.

BRENDA'S PET GROOMING--Quiet home setting. Saturdays only. Iosco Road, Webberville. By appointment only. Please call 517.294.0209.

BOB'S HANDYMAN SERVICE [517.604.0138](tel:517.604.0138) "I can fix it". Remodeling, frame/trim/tile work, roofing, painting, bathrooms etc.

D&R ROOFING & SIDING: New homes, tear-offs, recovers, gutters, flat roofs. Call Don at (517) 548-3570 or (517) 376-2064.

EXCAVATION SERVICES—
Driveway Grading & Stone,
Debris Removal & Cleanups
Trenching, Grading Topsoil & Seeding
Ditch Cleaning & Brush Hogging & Site Clearing
Stump Grinding
517-375-2789.

APPLIANCES HAULED AWAY. \$15 each. Also furniture. Call 517-546-0862.

WANTED—DISABLED VEHICLES & SCRAP METAL. Paying more than scrap prices for most vehicles. Call John 517-225-8291.

April 17th

12:30 am. Medical emergency on Pinegate Drive in the Village.

1:00 am. Medical emergency on North Grand Avenue in the Village.

6:57 pm. Fire alarm activation on South Grand Avenue in the Village.

April 18th

7:14 am. Medical emergency on Sober Road in Conway Township.

10:59 am. Medical emergency on Stow Road in Conway Township

1:49 pm. Medical emergency on Moyer Road in Conway Township.

4:31 pm. Medical emergency on Nicholson Road in Handy Township.

5:35 pm. Medical emergency on Nicholson Road in Conway Township.

6:11 pm. Medical emergency on Chase Lake Road in Conway Township

April 19th

2:43 am. Medical emergency on North Street in the Village.

5:00 pm. Medical emergency on North Grand Avenue in the Village.

8:57 pm. Medical emergency on Church Street in the Village.

April 20th

3:32 pm. Medical emergency on Sharp Road in Handy Township.

April 21st

No calls received today.

IOSCO TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING MAY 11TH, 2021 AT 6:45 PM

The Iosco Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to discuss an amendment to the 2019 Iosco Township Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendment will be to: Article 20.22.

Residents can attend the hearing at the Iosco Township Hall, located at: 2050 Bradley Road, Webberville, MI 48892.

Hearing begins at 6:45 PM on Tuesday, May 11, 2021.

Julie Dailey
Township Clerk
(4-25-21 FNV)

CASH 4 CARS AUTO SALES 810-691-5030 BUY - SELL - TRADE

- 2005 FORD FREESTAR SES VAN,** AUTO, 6CYL, 3.9L, 167K, POWER W/L, AC, CD, CRUISE, CLEAN, RUNS GOOD.....**\$2499**
- 2002 FORD WINDSTAR VAN,** AUTO, 6CYL, 190K, SEATS 7, POWER W/L, CD, AC, CRUISE, BODY IN FAIR CONDITION, DRIVES GOOD.....**\$1999**
- 2003 DODGE CARAVAN SE,** AUTO, 6CYL, 3.3L, 149K, POWER L/W, AC, CD, CRUISE, CLEAN, RUNS WELL.....**\$3200 OBO**
- 1998 FORD WINDSTAR, AUTO,** 6CYL, 3.9L, 193K, POWER L/W, AC, CLEAN, 1 SLIDER, REMOTE START, RUNS GOOD, SOME RUST....**\$1299**
- 2007 CHEVROLET SILVERADO,** 6CYL, 4.3L, 156K, 2WD, TIRES LIKE NEW, AC, VERY CLEAN, BODY IN GREAT CONDITION - BESIDES THE DENT, RUNS GREAT!.....**\$4999**
- 2003 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 2500 LS,** AUTO, 8CYL, 6.0L, EXT. CAB, 2WD, POWER W/L, 185K, AC, CD, CRUISE, CLEAN, DRIVES WELL.....**\$4499**
- 2001 GMC SONOMA EXT. CAB,** AUTO, ONLY 128K, 6CYL, 4.3L, 2WD, CLEAN, RUNS GOOD, NICE CAP ON BACK.....**\$2499**
- 2002 GMC SONOMA SLS,** AUTO, 6CYL, 4X4, QUAD CAB (4 DOOR), 186K MILES, CLEAN, DRIVES GOOD, POWER L/W, AC, CD, SOME RUST, NICE CAP ON BACK.....**\$2999**
- 2003 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LT,** AUTO, 4X4, 6CYL, 200K, POWER W/L, AC, CD, CRUISE, CLEAN, RUNS GOOD.....**\$3299**
- 2005 JEEP LIBERTY LIMITED,** AUTO, 4X4, 6CYL, 3.7L, POWER W/L, 200K, AC, CD, CRUISE, CLEAN, SUN ROOF, RUNS WELL.....**\$3499**
- 2003 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LT,** AUTO, 4X4, 6CYL, 4.2L, 3RD ROW, POWER W/L, AC, CD, CRUISE, 143K, CLEAN, ONE OWNER, WELL MAINTAINED, DRIVES GREAT.....**\$5499**

We Have Cars/Trucks Arriving Daily. Come Take a Look!!!

cash4carsautosales.com WE BUY CARS

- 2005 HYUNDAI ELANTRA,** AUTO, 4CYL, 2.0L, POWER W/L, AC, 214K, CLEAN, RUNS AND DRIVES GOOD.....**\$2200**
- 2003 FORD FOCUS WAGON,** AUTO, 4CYL, POWER L/W, 174K, CLEAN, AC, CD, SOME ROCKER RUST, RUNS GOOD.....**\$1400**
- 2001 CHEVROLET MALIBU LS,** AUTO, 6CYL, 156K, POWER L/W, INTERIOR IN FAIR CONDITION, NOT PERFECT - BUT RUNS GOOD.....**\$1299**
- 2003 CHEVROLET IMPALA LS,** AUTO, 6CYL, 3.8L, 138K MILES, POWER W/L, AC, CRUISE, CLEAN, RUNS WELL.....**\$2499**
- 2010 FORD FOCUS SES,** AUTO, 4CYL, 2.0L, POWER W/L, 143K, AC, CD, CRUISE, CLEAN, RUNS AND DRIVES WELL.....**\$2999**
- 2008 FORD FOCUS SE,** AUTO, 4CYL, 2.0L, 2 DOOR, POWER W/L, AC, CD, CRUISE, 162K, CLEAN, DRIVES WELL.....**\$2499**
- 2003 CHEVROLET MALIBU LS,** AUTO, 6CYL, POWER L/W, AC, CD, CLEAN, 169K, RUNS AND DRIVES GOOD.....**\$1999**
- 2006 HONDA ACCORD,** AUTO, 4CYL, 181K, POWER L/W, AC, CD, CRUISE, CLEAN, RUNS AND DRIVES GREAT.....**\$3999**
- 2009 SATURN VUE,** 4CYL, FWD, AUTO, POWER L/W, AC, 157K, RUNS AND DRIVES GOOD.....**\$3899**

If You Don't See What You Want - Stop In And Let Us Know And We Will Look For You.

2200 N BURKHART • HOWELL

1/2 mile north of the Tanger Outlet Mall Entrance

810-691-5030

Fowlerville District Library News

Special Announcements

The library is opening to 30% capacity. Appointments will no longer be required and we will continue to offer curbside service.

Face masks are still required for all library patrons and staff, as well as maintaining the social distancing of 6 feet.

Monday-Thursday

9:30am – 7pm

Friday

9:30am – 5pm

Saturday

10am – 2pm

How to Use Curbside Service

Step 1: You can make requests: by calling the Library directly, emailing us or make your holds through the FDL's card catalog (Max 10 items) –Not sure what you would like to read? Use our reader's advisory at the desk, they can help! All you need is to give them a subject, author, or genre, and they will do the rest.

Step 2: One hour after your request has been made, please come to the Library and park in the curbside pickup designated parking located in front of the side yard.

Step 3: From your car, call the Library and someone will come out with your requested materials.

Step 4: Please present your library card or driver's license and your materials will be given to you.

Upcoming Programs for April and May

All programs are intended for Fowlerville School District residents.

All programs are on Zoom unless otherwise indicated. Registration is required unless otherwise noted. To register for any FDL's programs please contact us by phone, Facebook, or email with your contact information including a valid email address. Zoom links will be sent out the day before the event.

Take and Make Craft Kits– K-5th Graders

Crafts change weekly and are available while supplies last. Each kit comes complete with all supplies need and instructions. This activity requires no sign-up. Please call or stop in to find out about this week's craft.

ASL Storytime Live!– Every Thursdays 10 AM FDL's Facebook Page

Meet our new Youth Librarian, learn signs, sing songs, and play in this interactive story time!

Button Bouquet Craft Kits and Zoom Tutorial– Thursday, April 29, 2021 6:30 PM – Adults – Zoom

Take home a button bouquet kit and sign up to attend a Button



Springtime card samples

Bouquet Zoom tutorial. Learn how to make a button bouquet and chat with friends while doing this fun and relaxing craft. Kits will be available for pickup beginning Tuesday, April 20, 2021 and includes all supplies needed to make a button bouquet.

Springtime Cardmaking on Zoom– Thursday, May 6, 2021 6:30 PM – Zoom

Join library staff members Mary and Zoe, as they guide you through making four different cards. Kits will be available for pickup beginning Tuesday, April 20, 2021 and includes all supplies needed to make four different cards.

Beginner Gardener Series – Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 6:30 PM –Adults – Zoom

Learn to garden with Master Gardener Nan-Marie Fox. May's topic is transplanting starters into the garden.

Beyond the Book and Movie – Thursday, May 20th, 2021 @ 6:30 PM – Adults – Zoom

Adults – May's selection: A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman. Please read the book and watch the movie at home, then meet up with friends on Zoom to discuss them both. Everyone who signs up will get an opportunity to check out the movie and watch it on their own. Registration is required. Sign up with a valid email address to receive a book and a Zoom link. Registration is done in person inside or through curbside service at the Library. Books will be available to check out.

For more information regarding any of our programs or services please call us at (517) 223-9089 or check out our Facebook page.

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CONWAY TOWNSHIP LIVINGSTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Conway Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at its regular meeting on May 10, 2021, commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Conway Township Hall located at 8015 N. Fowlerville Road, Fowlerville, Michigan 48836, to review the proposed amendments to the Conway Township Zoning Ordinance, as follows:

1. Sign Standards. Replace Article 17 with new sign standards consistent with recent case law.
2. Site Development Requirements. To clarify site plan review and other development requirements applicable to certain uses in the AR, R, C, and I districts set forth in Articles 7, 8, 10, and 11.
3. Shared Drive. Revisions to Section 16.06(A) to remove site plan requirement; 16.06(F) to require construction of the shared driveway prior to issuance of a land use permit for a building.
4. Keeping of Animals/RTFA. Revise Sections 6.22 (A), (B) to include references to, and exclusion of, uses per the Right to Farm Act.
5. Airport Approach. Revise Section 6.23 to reference and incorporate the January 7, 2020 airport approach regulations and maps.

The Planning Commission reserves the right to modify or alter the proposed ordinance amendments at or following the public hearing and to make its decision accordingly.

Written comments concerning the above matter may be submitted to the Conway Township Clerk at any time prior to the public hearing and may further be submitted to the Planning Commission at the public hearing. The complete text of the proposed amendments may be examined at the Township Hall during regular Township business hours, which are 9-3 Tuesdays and Wednesdays, or on the Township's website, www.conwaytownship.com, after the publication of this Notice and until and including the day of the meeting. The complete text of the proposed amendments may be further examined at the meeting.

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

The complete text of the Conway Township Zoning Ordinance, as amended, may be examined at the Township Hall, 8015 N. Fowlerville, Fowlerville, MI 48836, during regular Township business hours, which are 9-3 Tuesdays and Wednesdays, or on the Township's website, www.conwaytownship.com.

Elizabeth Whitt
Conway Township Clerk
(4-25 & 5-2-21 FNV)

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SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, JUNE 5th, 2021 9TH ANNUAL 5K/1-Mile RUN FOR THE IMPACT

LOCATION: Starts/Ends at the Family Impact WELLNESS Center – 9430 W. Grand River, Fowlerville, MI. Our 5K Course runs through the United Brethren Church Community Fields - through the bean fields - into the wooded trail and then loops back to start!

DATE/TIME: Saturday, June 5th, 2021. On-site Registration begins @ 8am. 5K Chip-Timed Race starts @ 9am and 1-Mile event follows.

VIRTUAL RUN OPTION: May 29th- June 12th - You pick your place and time to run/walk a mile or a 5K, alone or with friends. **Pre-register by May 28th** at runsignup.com (see below). Record your time and a picture on the Family Impact Center Facebook Page (<https://tinyurl.com/FICrun2021>). Info on T-Shirt pick-up will be emailed to you.

ACTIVITIES: Drawings, Supervised Fun games/activities for 3-7 year olds, Participant Refreshments, Music with DJ, and Course Photographer.

AWARDS: Participatory medals to all 1- Milers. 5K Medals for 1st-3rd places in 14 age categories, and M/F Overall, M/F Grand Masters (50-64), and M/F Great Grand Masters (65-over).

WHY: Help support the ongoing work of the Family Impact Centers, which is in its 19th year of providing Client-Choice Food Pantry, Educational Resources, Support Groups, Clothing, Counseling Services, and Mentoring Programs for area families. With the opening of our Family Impact Wellness Center 5 years ago, we are now able to provide a beautiful place to hold a variety of support services/classes. This is possible due to community volunteers, the generous support of local businesses/churches, and of course YOU!

Our focus for this run/walk continues to be on Health and Wellness. Our race is endorsed by the Michigan Fitness Foundation! We encourage you to participate with other

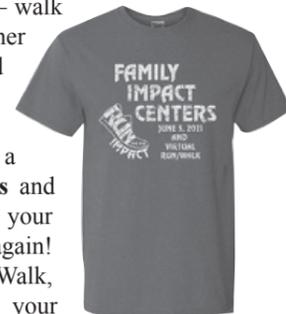
community members and run – walk – play and talk as we join together both in support of those in need and to promote health and wellness for all.

2021 GOAL: We have a goal of over 221 participants and we need you, your family and your friends to attend in force once again! **Register** for the Run or the Walk, **donate** and **attend** to show your support.

On-Line: www.michiganfitness.org/pmfs-calendar
<https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Fowlerville/RunfortheImpact3>

Download form: www.Playmakers.com and www.familyimpactcenters.com.

If you have questions or want to VOLUNTEER, please contact Race Director Sheila Larson 517-861-9139 or Volunteer Coordinator Stephanie Shafer 989-413-1217.



Container Gardening for Kids

Overview: A container garden makes a great first garden project. All you need is something that can hold soil with small holes in the bottom for excess water to drain.

Materials:

- Container (a 3- or 5-gallon bucket works great)
- Potting Soil
- Seeds or young plants

Approximate Time to Complete: 30 minutes

Location: Indoor or Outdoor

Ages: All Ages

Season: Spring through Fall

Instructions:

Container gardens are a great first garden project for gardeners of all ages. The following instructions are for planting a container garden in a bucket, but you can make a container garden from any object that holds soil that you can drill drainage holes in – even an old shoe or boot.

1. Start by deciding if you want to plant edible crops or if you want to stick to ornamental plants. The reason to determine this ahead of time is that if you want plant edibles, you need to be extra careful to choose buckets that are food grade safe.
2. Next collect your buckets. If you have chosen to make an edible garden, look for buckets that are labeled “Food Grade Container” at the hardware store, or you may also want to check with local restaurants or grocery stores to see if they might have buckets they can donate to you. Many bulk food items are delivered in buckets and so they may have some on hand. Common sizes for buckets are 3 gallons and 5 gallons.
3. Pick out your plants. You can start your garden by planting seeds or by selecting young seedlings. If you have a 3-gallon bucket, look for smaller plants that stay compact such as herbs, lettuce or seasonal annuals. If you have a 5-gallon container, you can grow just about any type of annual vegetable or landscape plant because you have more room for roots;



however, the ultimate size of your plant will determine how many will fit in each bucket. For example, you would only want one cherry tomato or one cucumber plant per 5-gallon bucket.

4. If you are planting several different types of plants in one container, make sure they have the same sunlight and water requirements. For example, thyme, rosemary and sage like full sun and very well-drained soil. Basil and dill like full sun, too, but need consistently moist soil.
5. Pick out your potting soil. You will want to use a well-draining potting mix that absorbs water but also drains well. Don't use soil from the yard or garden, because it likely drains poorly and may contain plant disease organisms.
6. Drill 5 to 7 holes in the bottom of your bucket. The holes should be about ¼ to ½” in diameter. If you want, you can also decorate the outside of your container with paint, waterproof markers or by adding other decorations. It is usually easier to decorate before you add soil. Moisten your soil before placing it in your bucket. To make sure your soil mix is evenly moist, it is best to slowly add water and mix it thoroughly before placing it in the bucket. If you do not do this ahead of time, you may end up with pockets of soil that stay dry and will have more settling of the soil over time.
7. Place your soil in your bucket and plant. If you are planning on planting seeds, add soil to about 1 inch below the rim then follow the directions listed on the seed packet. If you are planting seedlings, add soil until reaching the size of the seedling pot plus about 1 inch. For example if you are planting seedlings currently in a 4-inch-tall pot, add soil until you have about 5 inches left. Then take the seedlings out of the pot, place them in the container and carefully add soil around the roots. You want to end up with the soil about an inch or so below the rim. If your soil is too high, it will be difficult to water your containers. However, also avoid having your soil too low, because then you will not have good air movement around your stems and you may end up having problems with disease.
8. Gently water your new garden until water begins to drain from the bottom. Place your containers in a spot to match your plants' sunlight needs.
9. Enjoy! Check on your container garden daily and look for changes and growth. Monitor to determine watering needs. The best way to determine when your new container garden needs water is to put your finger in the soil and check to see if it is dry. Also keep an eye out for pest problems and nip them in the bud early.

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Rep. Bollin backs plan demanding more integrity, real accountability

State Rep. Ann Bollin of Brighton Township and the Michigan House last week announced a sweeping, bipartisan reform plan that will greatly improve ethics and transparency laws for government officials.

The comprehensive list of reforms includes improvements to public record laws, ethical standards, financial disclosure requirements, bans on conflicts of interest, and more.

“When I talk to people in our community, I often hear about how sick and tired they are of the old political games,” said Bollin, chair of the House Elections and Ethics Committee. “The ethical standards for state officials are disgracefully low in Michigan. People are losing faith in their government and the time for real change is overdue. I am glad we’re taking action now to raise the bar and earn back the trust and confidence of our residents.”

Some of the reforms that were announced have already begun moving in the state Legislature, including the expansion of the Freedom of Information Act and changes to the “lame duck” legislative session.

Other reforms are new, including gift restrictions, lobbying disclosures, new penalties for state legislators who fail to show up for the job or act unethically, and permanent, independent ethics committees in the Legislature to investigate complaints and ensure compliance.

Rep. Bezotte voices support for ethics reform package introduced in House

Rep. Bob Bezotte, of Howell, has voiced support for the bipartisan ethics reform package introduced by the Michigan House last Tuesday. The plan, he said, will greatly improve ethics and transparency laws in state government through bills that expand the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), end partisanship during the legislative ‘lame duck’ session, prohibit legislators from lobbying out-of-state, and more.

“Michigan continues to fall behind every other state in terms of government transparency,” said Rep. Bezotte. “This

reform package is timely, necessary, and helps prove to all Michiganders our commitment to restoring their confidence in state operations. Our salaries and legislative priorities are funded on their dime, and it is high time the governor’s office and state legislators are held to higher standards.”

The plan focuses on three major points overall: Greater transparency, better standards, and improved accountability. Other measures in the package would expand penalties for lobbyists who accept unlawful gifts, prohibit legislators and department heads from becoming lobbyists for two years after their position ends, and require financial disclosures for state legislators.

The announced reforms have already been drafted into legislation and were formally introduced this week.

Donations being accepted for upcoming Grandma’s Attic Sale at fairgrounds

The Livingston Centre Historic Society will accept donations Mon. - Wed., May 10-12, for the annual Grandma’s Attic Sale to be held inside the commercial building near the front of the Fowlerville Fairgrounds. As you continue spring cleaning and pandemic organizing, please consider donating to benefit the Historic Village, located inside the Fairgrounds on the north end. For more information about drop-off, please call Marj C. at 517-223-3831.

Accepted items include smaller furniture (please, no sofas nor overstuffed chairs), clothing and jewelry, kitchen and household, toys, tools and hardware items, fabrics and crafts, books and dvd’s (please no VHS tapes), smaller sporting goods, collectables and vintage items. The Historic Society appreciates your donations of good condition, usable items. Please make sure all pieces and parts are included and that everything works.

Unfortunately, in addition to the items noted above, the following items will NOT be accepted: TV cabinets/ consoles and monitors, large exercise and sports equipment, computers and other electronics, handicap bathroom equipment, mattresses and large headboards.

Your generosity will help restore and preserve Livingston County’s history.

Livingston County Genealogical Society holding ZOOM meeting May 6

The Livingston County Genealogical Society will meet via ZOOM, Thursday, May 6th at 7pm. The Learners Group will begin at 6pm. Tom Koselka will present “Finding Records of Your Detroit & Wayne County Ancestors.” All are welcome; you do not need to be a member to attend. Meetings include a short business meeting, and the speaker program. Please send an email to ContactLCGSMI@gmail.com and request an invitation to this zoom meeting.

Fowlerville High School CTE Student of the Week



Photo by Amy Hacker

Karla Hacker

Congratulations to this week’s Career Technical Education Student of the Week at Fowlerville High School, Karla Hacker! Karla is being recognized for her efforts in the Medical Assistant program through the Wilson Talent Center. After completing the Health Foundations course as a junior, students are then able to select from three different specialized healthcare programs offered, one of which is the Medical Assistant program. Here students are given the opportunity to expand upon the knowledge they learned in their first year, and also gain real experience out in the field.

Karla has most enjoyed learning the many skills that have been taught in class along with making new friends, as this program brings in students from different high schools in the area. She has also really enjoyed the fact that the learning style of the class is almost all a hands-on approach.

Becoming a NICU nurse is Karla’s future career goal. She feels this class has helped to prepare her by giving her a headstart in the healthcare field. Being able to be part of a program that includes studying medical terms, along with learning some of the basic information needed in healthcare has provided a valuable opportunity.

When asked about some specific things she has learned, Karla stated, “In this class I have learned how to give shots, take vital signs, and perform an EKG. I have also learned how to work with others as a team.”

To those considering this program, Karla stated, “Go for it! It was the best decision I have ever made. Although you are still in high school this class is like a college course. You’re earning a certification at the end of the school year. Be ready to study hard.” Congratulations once again to Karla Hacker!

19th Annual 2021 Fowlerville Area Business Directory IS COMING SOON!

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Tentative offer made by Fowlerville Fire Authority to purchase land for new station

A tentative offer has been made by the Fowlerville Fire Authority to purchase land for a new station.

The site is approximately 5.7 acres on West Grand River, west of Gregory Road, and is part of property owned by the Fowlerville United Brethren Church.

The offer has been accepted by the church, with the purchase agreement being \$38,000-per-acre.

“The site is approximately 315 feet west of Gregory Road, beginning at the county drain and going west on Grand River to the old farmhouse,” the Authority noted in a news release. “Geographically, it’s almost perfectly centered width-wise in Handy Township and length-wise when considering Conway and Iosco Townships.”

The new station would replace the downtown hall on North Grand Avenue.

Fire Department officials have been looking for a parcel that was two or more acres for a new facility, noting that the

current station was too small and did not allow for expansion.

“The proposed site will allow for future expansion and training,” the release stated, adding that, “It was crucial to the fire board to have a station located north of the railroad tracks due to unexpected train delays or blocked crossings.”

The department, in addition to the Downtown station, has another station on South Fowlerville Road, south of the railroad tracks.

The Fire Authority has hired Brivar Construction, who will have 90 days to complete due diligence for the property site. “This will allow time to perform a survey and to assess soil borings, wetlands, flood plain, property split, appropriate zoning, and other needed information,” the release stated. “A 30-day extension will be granted, if needed.”

After the crucial elements of due diligence are agreed to be satisfactory, the final closing of the property will take place.

The Fire Authority earlier this year offered to purchase 3.29 acres on West Grand River from the Fowlerville Agricultural Society—the non-profit entity that owns the fairgrounds. The offer, however, was turned down in a vote by the Society membership at a special meeting.



Savvy Senior Column

By Jim Miller

Keeping Your Balance as You Age

Dear Savvy Senior,

What can you tell me about balance exercises? I’ve fallen a few times over the past year and have read that balance exercises can help me regain my steadiness, but I’m not exactly sure what to do.

Unsteady at 70

Dear Unsteady,

Most people don’t think much about practicing their balance, but they need to. As we age, our balance declines if it isn’t practiced, which can lead to falls that often result in a broken bone.

Every year more than one in four people age 65 and older fall, and the risk increases with age. Here’s what you should know about balance problems, along with some different exercises that can help you improve it.

Aging Affects Balance

Balance is something most people take for granted until it’s challenged by a medical condition, medication or advanced age, which dulls our balance senses and causes most seniors to gradually become less stable on their feet over time.

Poor balance can also lead to a vicious cycle of inactivity. You feel a little unsteady, so you curtail certain activities. If you’re inactive, you’re not challenging your balance systems or using your muscles. As a result, both balance and strength suffer. Simple acts like strolling through a grocery store or getting up from a chair become trickier. That shakes your confidence, so you become even less active.

Balance Exercises

If you have a balance problem that is not tied to illness, medication or some other specific cause, simple exercises can help preserve and improve your balance. Here are four exercises you can do that will help:

One-legged stands: Stand on one foot for 30 seconds, or longer, then switch to the other foot. In the beginning, you might want to have a wall or chair to hold on to. Or, for an extra challenge try closing your eyes, or standing on a throw pillow or Bosu ball (an inflated rubber disc on a stable platform).

Heel-to-toe walking: Take 20 steps while looking straight ahead. Think of a sobriety test.

Standing up: Without using your hands, get up from a straight-backed chair and sit back down 10 to 20 times. This improves balance and leg strength.

Tai chi: Research has shown that the Asian practice of tai chi – which uses a combination of slow, graceful movements, meditation and deep breathing – can help reduce the risk of falls.

For more information on different balance exercises you can do at home, there are a variety of balance and strength exercises and beginner Tai Chi DVDs you can purchase at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or through Amazon Prime video.

There are also senior fitness programs, like SilverSneakers ([silversneakers.com](https://www.silversneakers.com)) and Silver&Fit ([silverandfit.com](https://www.silverandfit.com)), that offer online classes that can guide you through a series of exercises you can do at home during the pandemic.

See a Doctor

I do, however, want to emphasize that if you’ve already fallen, are noticeably dizzy or unsteady, or have a medical condition affecting your balance, you need to see a doctor. They might refer you to a physical therapist or to an appropriate balance-training class in your community. It’s also important to know that many medicines and medical conditions – from Parkinson’s disease to diabetes to inner-ear disorders – can affect balance.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](https://www.SavvySenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of “The Savvy Senior” book.



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