

Fowlerville NEWS & VIEWS

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Sunday, January 22, 2023

Published Weekly



Dawn Mervyn, a local resident, is retiring from the U.S. Postal Service after a 34-year career. She's worked as a clerk at the Fowlerville Post Office for the past seven years.

Fowlerville lady retiring after 34-year career with the U.S. Postal Service

By Steve Horton

A familiar face at the counter of the Fowlerville Post Office will soon be gone.

Dawn Mervyn is retiring from the U.S. Postal Service after a 34-year career—the last seven of them spent at the local facility.

Her last day of work will be Monday, Jan. 30th.

Dawn began at the Cohoctah Post Office, near her home, in the spring of 1989, and remained there for a few years.

"After that I went to Webberville, then Brighton, Williamston and finally Fowlerville," she noted. "I also filled in at Morrice, Shaftsbury, and Pinckney.

"I've been a postal service clerk my entire career," Dawn said.

She cited the upgrading of technology as being the biggest change she's witnessed during her career, along with the postoffice offering more products and services.

"I started out when you still did things manually," she recalled.

"Then it was semi-manual and after that we've had two or three

Continued on page 11

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Caleb Jenkins Column



Fixing the National Debt: The Buck Stops with Us

If we want to improve national competitiveness and wellbeing, then we have to talk about the national debt. But that can be a divisive subject. It seems that most people acknowledge that the debt is a problem, but does it supersede other pressing issues that would be affected by addressing the debt? Ultimately, tackling the national debt is a simple math problem. Revenue (R) minus spending (S) equals a surplus to pay down the debt or a deficit that increases the debt. The government must raise enough money and constrain spending sufficiently to pay for fiscal responsibilities in the budget while retaining a surplus that it dedicates to debt payments.

Put another way, $R > S = \text{Debt solution}$. Any grade

school student could understand this dynamic, so why does the national debt remain such a contentious and seemingly complicated issue? We can agree on this mathematical explanation because the abstract principles do not change, but applying this formula is contentious because it suddenly affects our actual lives. It becomes a question of preference, not math. Even if we all agree on what is required to address the debt, namely the formula above, there are competing priorities and policy preferences. Politics is not as scientifically formulaic as we might like.

The federal budget has produced a deficit each year since 2001, so the formula currently looks like $R < S = \text{Debt increase}$. To turn this around, we must increase revenue and/or decrease spending. Raising taxes is the primary way to increase revenue, and while this is one possible solution, it also has a depressing effect on economic production and efficiency. This dynamic also means that cutting taxes is difficult. While doing so benefits the taxpayer and can boost some aspects of the economy, it does not contribute to paying off the national debt. Which is the higher priority?

The other tactic is to reduce spending, but this idea faces similar tradeoffs. What expenditures and conveniences are we willing to give up? What near-term investments are we willing to sacrifice to pay off the debt? The answers to these questions are not as straightforward as we might initially think because they are rarely fair. Many people seem willing to slash funding for others' priorities while seeing their

priorities as worth the expense. That may be true, but I suspect others feel just as strongly about their priorities. Whether focused on increasing revenue or decreasing spending, we must contend with a tradeoff between immediate benefits versus long-term stability. Which is more important to you?

Addressing the national debt is unfortunate because it means we must fix what others broke. While this may be unfair, we cannot continue contributing to the problem. As frustrating as it might be,

leave the past in the past. We cannot change it. We should focus instead on what we can affect in the present and future. We are not culpable for others' previous decisions, but we are responsible for the decisions we make going forward. Dealing with the national debt will not be easy, but it is necessary for a stable economy, national security, and to alleviate the burden from our children and grandchildren.

Next week, I hope to share a few more details about the current status of the national debt to better frame the challenge and then discuss a way forward. We may have inherited the problem, but let's end it here. Let's not pass the buck to another generation.

Kreeger Elementary School News

ATTENTION NEW STUDENTS:

All pre-enrollments can be 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. Please call the office at 517-223-6330 when finished so that we may finalize the enrollment.

CALENDAR OF KREEGER EVENTS

2-8-23	Count Day
2-9-23	Student Council Meeting
2-9 thru 2-14	Valentine Grams
2-20-23	NO SCHOOL -Presidents Day
3-1-23	Flower Fundraiser Begins (more info soon)
3-2-23	End of 2 nd Trimester

VALENTINE GRAMS

Kreeger will be selling candy grams for Valentine's Day this year. Sales will start on 2/9 thru 2/14/2023. Students should have brought home a form. Send money along with the form in an envelope with your child's name and teacher's name.

KREEGER SPIRIT WEAR

You can place orders all year using the following link: <https://brideausapparel.com/fundraisers/kreeger-holiday-fundraiser-2022/>

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Livingston Conservation District

2023 Spring Tree Seedling Order Form ~ Order deadline April 1st @ 5:00p.m.

All orders must include payment for processing. Mail order form and payment to: LCD, P.O. Box 916, Fowlerville, MI 48836

Tree Pick-up will be Saturday, April 15, 2023, 9:00am-1:00pm. You will receive a postcard in the mail with instructions for the pickup of your order.

Orders will not be delivered, it is your responsibility to pick up or arrange for pick up of your order on the designated date and at the designated location.

The delivery location will be at the Munsell Farm barn located at 301 Smith Rd, Fowlerville, MI 48836, just north of Mason Rd on Smith Rd in Fowlerville (same location as last year. Please contact us prior to ordering with any questions. (2-2 indicates the tree seedling has spent two years in a seed bed and two years in a transplant bed. Likewise, 3-0 indicates three years in a seed bed and zero years in a transplant bed. Transplants have a larger root system than regular seedlings.) The Livingston Conservation District distributes only the best nursery stock at an affordable price. *Size of seedling varies by specie. Please pay attention to the sizing for each specie.*

For a description and picture of all products and to order online, visit www.livingstoncd.org

CONIFERS	Size	10	20	50	100	Quantity	Cost
2-1 White Pine	8"-14"	\$38.00	\$60.00	\$125.00	\$210.00		
2-1 Norway Spruce	14"-24"	\$38.00	\$60.00	\$125.00	\$210.00		
2-1 White Spruce	12"-18"	\$38.00	\$60.00	\$125.00	\$210.00		
2-1 Colorado Blue Spruce	8"-12"	\$38.00	\$60.00	\$125.00	\$210.00		
2-1 Concolor Fir	7"-12"	\$38.00	\$60.00	\$125.00	\$210.00		
Fraser Fir	7"-12"	\$38.00	\$60.00	\$125.00	\$210.00		
2-0 Douglas Fir	18"-24"	\$38.00	\$60.00	\$125.00	\$210.00		
DECIDUOUS TREES	Size	10	20			Quantity	Cost
2-0 Sugar Maple	12"-18"	\$55.00	\$75.00				
1-0 Red Maple	12"-18"	\$48.00	\$68.00				
2-1 Red Oak	12"-18"	\$55.00	\$75.00				
2-0 White Oak	12"-18"	\$55.00	\$75.00				
SHRUBS/BUSHES	Size	10	20			Quantity	Cost
2-0 White Flowering Dogwood	12"-18"	\$50.00	\$75.00				
1-0 Red Bud	12"-18"	\$50.00	\$75.00				
1-0 Red Raspberry - Latham	#1	\$60.00	\$85.00				
1-0 Butterfly Bushes	12"-18"	\$50.00	\$75.00				
1-0 Common Lilac	12"-18"	\$50.00	\$75.00				
PLANTS	Age	10	20			Quantity	Cost
Albion Strawberry (everbearing)	1 yr	\$30.00	\$50.00				
Flavorfest Strawberry (June bearing)	1 yr	\$30.00	\$50.00				
Jersey Knight Asparagus	1 yr	\$30.00	\$50.00				
MARKING FLAGS						Quantity	Cost
Red Flag Markers 24"	10 for \$3.00	30 for \$7.00	50 for \$10.00	100 for \$16.00			

Name:

Address:

City:

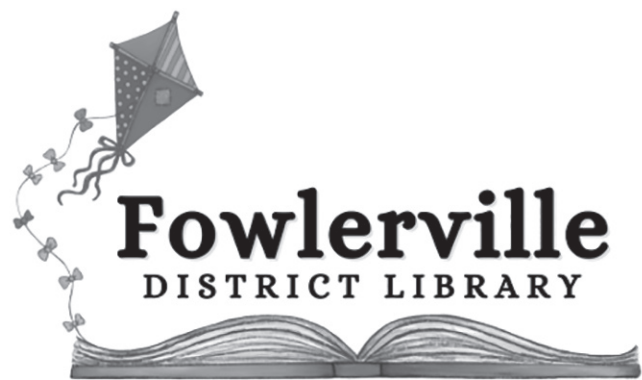
Email:

State:

PH#

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Subtotal	\$
6% sales tax	\$
Optional Donation	\$
TOTAL	\$



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Upcoming Events

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

For programs that require registration, please register online at <https://www.fowlervillelibrary.net/attend/#/events/> or call the library at (517) 223-9089. All programs are free!

STORYTIMES

Toddler Storytime (Ages 1-3)

Get ready to move and groove to some cool tunes and stories while developing early literacy skills!
Tuesdays & Wednesdays, Jan. 3 - April 26 • 10am

Preschool Storytime (Ages 3-5)

Have fun singing songs, reading stories, dancing, and playing!
Tuesdays & Wednesdays, Jan. 3 - April 26 • 11am

KIDS & FAMILY

Homeschooling Cooperative (drop-in)

Engage with other homeschooling families for fun educational and social opportunities.
Every Monday, starting Jan 9 • 12:00pm – 1:30pm

My First Escape Room: Pokemon! (Ages 5-9) (registration required)

Can you catch them all in this interactive escape room? Perfect for younger kids with curious minds who love puzzles! *registration required. Sign up by visiting or calling the library.

Friday, Jan. 27 • 4pm, 4:30pm, 5pm, 5:30pm, 6pm
Saturday, Jan. 28 • 11am, 11:30am, 12pm, 12:30pm, 1pm

TEENS

Dungeons & Dragons (Ages 12-18)

Come play D&D 5th Edition! No prior experience needed.
Wednesdays, Jan. 4 – Apr. 26 • 2:30-5pm

Teen Craft Wednesday

Every Wednesday, Mary will lead you through making fun crafts, such as jewelry. All are welcome.

Program room, West (right) door.

Wednesdays • 2:30-5pm

Free Gaming (Age 10-18)

Play Trading Card Games like Magic or Yu-Gi-Oh, crack open a board game, or fire up the Switch.

Fridays, Jan. 6 - Apr. 28 • 2:30-5pm

Twitch Streaming (Online)

Join Connor and Tally and get sneak peeks at our new games!
twitch.tv/fowlervillelibrary

Mondays Jan. 2 - Apr. 24 • 3:30-4:30pm

Pokemon Go (Age 10+)

Meet up with fellow PoGo players! Win raids, do events, and register friends!

Tuesdays, Jan. 3 – Apr. 25 • 2:30-5pm

ADULTS

LITERARY CORNER:

Weekly Adult Writers Group

Take a break from the busy week and have fun with some creative writing prompts.

Tuesdays, Jan. 10 - Apr. 25 • 2:30pm

Monthly Book and Coffee (registration required)

Traditional book club with Coffee and dessert
4th Mondays • 2pm

Jan. 23 - The Guardians by John Grisham

Monthly Beyond the Book (registration required)

Book discussion plus movie or documentary
4th Thursdays • 6:30pm

Jan. 26 - Lord of the Flies by William Golding

Fowlerville Junior High School News

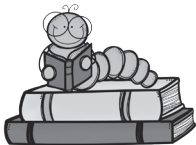
SPORTS FOR WEEK OF JANUARY 23:

Mon., 1/23: GBB vs Portland-4:30; 7H,8A; bus-3:00

Wed., 1/25: GBB vs Haslett-7A, 8H 7th game at HMS at 5:30; bus- 4:00

Fri., 1/27: FJH WRESTLING INVITE -5:00-HOME @ FHS. No passes accepted for admission. Admission is \$5 - adults; \$2- Grades K-8 & Sr. Citizens (over 65)

Please note: Due to the small number of teams in the GBB league, several changes are being made during the season to accommodate the teams we have. Please be patient & cooperative.



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SATURDAY 10AM – 2PM

SUNDAY & MONDAY – CLOSED

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Fowlerville Fire Department Report

January 12

11:18 a.m. Medical response on Rifle River Dr in Handy Township.
1:18 p.m. Medical response on Munsell Rd in Iosco Township.

January 13

12:17 a.m. Carbon monoxide investigation on Alans Dr in Handy Township
6:08 a.m. Assist to Livingston County Sheriff on Bull Run Rd in Iosco Township.

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David Palan
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Mike Heidt
PHARMACIST

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Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9am-6pm,
Sat. 9am-2pm, Sun. Closed

9:08 a.m. Smoke alarm investigation on Terry Ln in Handy Township.
11:05 a.m. Fire alarm investigation on N Hibbard St in the Village.
2:17 p.m. Medical response on Spencer Rd in Conway Township.

January 14
8:43 a.m. Medical response on Majestic Acres Dr in Iosco Township.
9:48 a.m. Medical response on Nicholson Rd in Handy Township.
6:37 p.m. Grass fire on W Sharpe Rd in Handy Township.
8:08 p.m. Odor investigation on Elliott Rd in Iosco Township.

January 15
7:31 a.m. Medical response on Hazelnut St in Conway Township.
8:19 a.m. Carbon monoxide investigation on Sober Rd in Conway Township.
1:07 p.m. Mutual aid to Howell for grass fire.

January 16
1:16 a.m. Medical response on Pinegate Dr in the Village.
8:27 a.m. Medical response on Glen Mary Dr in Conway Township.
8:40 a.m. Medical response on Kalamazoo River Dr in Handy Township.
9:19 a.m. Medical response on W Allen Rd in Handy Township.

January 17

6:39 a.m. Medical response on Nicholson Rd in Handy Township.
9:45 a.m. Medical response on N Hibbard St in the Village.
2:52 p.m. Medical response on Hayner Rd in Conway Township.
4:42 p.m. Carbon monoxide investigation on Iosco Rd in Iosco Township.
5:57 p.m. Personal injury accident on Cemetery Rd in Handy Township.

January 18

9:42 p.m. Odor investigation on N Grand Ave in the Village.



Michigan House Report

By Bob Bezotte, 50th District

Committee assignments for the 2023-24 legislative session have now been announced, and I’m pleased to report I have been assigned to three key policy committees. I will serve on the Criminal Justice Committee, the Local Government and Municipal Finance Committee, and the Military, Veterans, and Homeland Security Committee.

Each of these issue areas are close to my heart. My background in law enforcement and experience as a Livingston County Commissioner will serve me well on the Criminal Justice and Local Government committees. As a veteran, it is my honor and privilege to look out for the best interests of other veterans and active-duty members of our military. I’m looking forward to the work ahead.

Thanks to fiscally conservative leadership and a large increase in state revenue, the House Fiscal Agency recently announced that an income tax reduction will automatically be triggered for the 2023 tax year. Estimates indicate the rate will drop from the current 4.25% to as low as 4.05%.

The only thing that could prevent the tax cut is if Democrats who are now in control of the Legislature choose to block it by making changes to the law. That would be a mistake.

The state is experiencing a historic budget surplus while hardworking Michigan taxpayers struggle to afford groceries and gas. People need tax relief now.

Tax season is upon us.

Michigan taxpayers can begin to file state individual income tax returns on Monday, Jan. 23, according to the Michigan Department of Treasury.


Individuals can file their state income tax return online, with a tax professional or by mailing in paper forms and documentation. All state of Michigan income tax returns and payment of any taxes owed must be received by April 18, 2023.

To learn more about Michigan’s individual income tax, go to www.michigan.gov/incometax.

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

Dick Scott
MOTOR MALL

Fowlerville High School’s “ATHLETES” OF THE WEEK



Girls JV Basketball

Michaela Gulledge - Michaela is a key post player this year on the girls JV basketball team. She can also play on the perimeter if needed and her ability to out rebound the opponent makes her a great asset on the court. Michaela is also one of the players who can finish at the offensive end in transition and always steps up when asked and needed. Michaela will be a force to reckon with in the future of the program.

McKenna Maybee - McKenna is a very versatile player. She is not afraid to drive to the basket on taller players and can play a post position or a perimeter position depending on what is needed. She has a great outside shot and creates offense by her ability to shut down the opponent defensively and create turnovers. McKenna is someone to watch in the future of Glads Basketball.

JUD’S FOOTBALL FORECAST

SATURDAY, JAN. 21 Jacksonville <u>24</u> vs. Kansas City <u>28</u> NY Giants <u>24</u> vs. Philadelphia <u>27</u>	SUNDAY, JAN. 22 Cincinnati <u>28</u> vs. Buffalo <u>31</u> Dallas <u>21</u> vs. San Francisco <u>28</u>
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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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BODY SHOP OPEN: Mon. thru Fri. 8am-6pm



Fowlerville JV Girls Basketball Team falls short against Williamston, 28-23

The Fowlerville JV Girls Basketball Team fell short against the Williamston Hornets last Thursday, losing the game 28-23. The Glads were only 1 for 7 from the free throw line which affected the outcome of the game. Mariah Kirby led the offense with 10 points while McKenna Maybee and Michaela Gulledge added 4 points a piece. Ellan Olrich chipped in 3 points while Molly Lamar added 2.



Jud Scott

Fowlerville Varsity Boys Basketball Team loses league game to Williamston

The Fowlerville Varsity Boys Basketball Team traveled to Williamston for a league game on Friday night, Jan. 13, and lost to the Hornets 64-46. The Glads are now 2-6 overall and 0-4 in the CAAC Red. Brendan Ray led the way for Fowlerville with 19 points, Wyatt Soli added 10, and Griffin Gonzalez scored 7 points and grabbed 6 rebounds.

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Smith Elementary School News

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

IMPORTANT DATES:

January 23-27- Color Week
January 27-PTC Popcorn Day
February 14-16 – Farm Science Lab
February 15- PTC Meeting (4:00 pm in the Cafeteria)
February 20 – NO SCHOOL – President’s Day
February 24-PTC Popcorn
March 3 - End of Second Trimester K-5
March 9 – K-5th ½ Day (Dismissal 12:02) Parent/Teacher
Conferences 1:00-4:00 & 5:00-7:30
March 27 – 31 – NO SCHOOL – Spring Recess
April 3 – School Resumes
April 7 – NO SCHOOL – Good Friday
* * *

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

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONWAY TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Monday, February 13, 2023
7:00 p.m.

**Fowlerville Middle School
7677 Sharpe Rd
Fowlerville, MI 48836**

The Conway Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at a regular meeting on Monday, February 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. The location of the meeting and public hearing has changed, and will take place at Fowlerville Middle School, 7677 Sharpe Rd., Fowlerville, MI 48836. The public hearing is for the following purpose:

To consider an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance imposing a temporary moratorium on commercial wind and solar energy projects in the Township and repealing the Township’s existing wind and solar energy regulations.

This notice is posted in compliance with 1976 PA 267 as amended (Open Meetings Act), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A copy of the proposed moratorium and amendment may be obtained during regular business hours and the Township may charge a reasonable fee for copies.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services who are planning to attend the meeting should notify the Township Clerk, Elizabeth Whitt, at (517) 223-0358 ext 103, or at clerk@conwaymi.gov, within a reasonable time in advance of the meeting.

Township of Conway
Elizabeth Whitt, Clerk
(1-22 & 1-29-23 FNV)

‘Midnight in the Tropics’ fundraiser to support two Livingston County charities

‘Midnight in the Tropics’, Livingston County’s premier fundraising event, is back for another fun-filled night while benefiting the community. The signature event kicks off at 5 pm on Saturday, February 4th, at Crystal Gardens Banquet Center in Howell.

Livingston County Sunrise Rotary Club organizes the fundraiser each year to benefit two local charities and the Livingston Sunrise Rotary Foundation, which distributes grants to other charitable organizations in the community throughout the year.

This year, the two beneficiaries are The Connection Youth Services and Habitat for Humanity. Both organizations provide vital support to the Livingston County community.

The Connection Youth Services consists of three programs (Emergency Shelter, Transitional Living, and Street Outreach) that strive to build positive relationships between youth, their families, and their community.

Habitat for Humanity’s A Brush With Kindness Program provides repairs and updates to families’ existing homes to ensure safety and accessibility.

There’s something for everyone at ‘Midnight in the Tropics’,

Livingston County Homeless Continuum planning ‘Community Connect 2023’ on Feb. 4th

The Livingston County Homeless Continuum of Care is busy planning ‘Community Connect 2023’ which will be held on Saturday, Feb. 4, at the 2/42 Church in Brighton.

“We’re looking forward to bringing our residents another day of connection with services, free resources, and plenty of helpful information,” organizers said. “If this is the first time you’ve heard of Community Connect, it is a free one-day event with 50+ public service and agency exhibitors who provide residents with helpful basic need information, free personal care items, and services like health screenings and haircuts.”

Over 300 people regularly attend the event and 2023 will be its 16th year running.

Be sure to follow the event on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LivCountyCommunityConnect/ to stay up-to-date with all that will be offered at the event. There, you will find basic information about the day, along with promotional materials you are free to share widely.

Volunteers are also being sought to help make this day possible. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities available from guest guides/helpers at the event, event set-up and tear down, traffic directors, and more.

Head over to Volunteer Livingston at www.volunteerlivingston.org/ to sign up.

including an expansive silent and live auction, various games and raffles, a live band, a buffet dinner, open bar and so much more. Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson will return as auctioneer for the live auction, with numerous exciting items up for grabs, such as incredible vacation trips, exclusive experiences and more.

Tickets are currently available to the public, with limited space remaining as the event often sells out. The community can support the event and beneficiaries by purchasing tickets and sponsorships or by donating silent and live auction items.

More information and the online tickets and sponsorship purchasing page can be found at www.midnightinthetropics.com.

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LEASE! Nice large farm home for lease with 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, large kitchen and 1st floor laundry. Features car port for parking, lawn care and large lot. 1st months rent plus security deposit equal to 1st months rent, 1 year lease. No smoking and no pets. \$1,295.00

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

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Accountability, Honesty and Integrity: Do They Really Matter?

By Jace Arledge

Growing up, I learned at a young age that if I was involved in any kind of questionable behavior and got caught, I needed to be accountable for my actions. That being honest brought on integrity and...well you get the picture.

Unfortunately, I think these words have lost their power and effect. Let's look at them:

ACCOUNTABILITY: *an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one's actions*

HONESTY: *fairness and straightforwardness of conduct*

INTEGRITY: *firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values*

--Merriam-Webster Dictionary

With the access one has to social media, you would think it hard for one not to be accountable or honest about things that happen, especially if it is on tape and viewed. So why is it so hard to "fess up" or "own up" to what is proven? As a parent

I have tried very hard to be articulate to my children that it is easier to tell the truth than to cover a lie. You can't remember the lie/lies that have been told. But the truth, well that is the easy part. Tell it like it happened.

I'm not saying that I haven't told some "white lies." I think we all have at one time or another. But when it affects others, this is where it is important to tell the truth and be upfront, not have others try and pull it out of you.

My kids, when asked if or why they did something, would always reply "I don't know" or "Wasn't me." Oh my hackles rose when I would hear those particular words come flowing from their mouths. That upset and disappointed me even more than what they did. I hope, as they grow in years, that wisdom provides the importance of being truthful.

There was a saying, and I hope that I get it right... "I would trust a thief before a liar. With a thief, I can "see" what they have done, with a liar you never know."

That's the gist of it anyway.

Stay Kind and Love Unconditionally

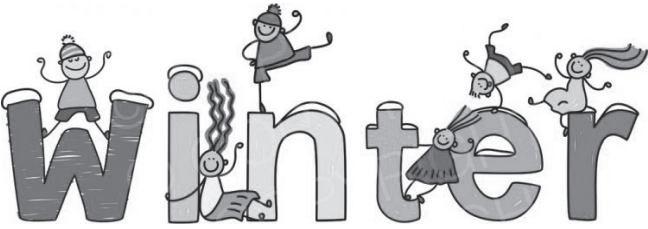
Til Next Time...

Livingston Link-Up is free event being held at 2/42 Church on Feb. 3rd

The Livingston Link-Up invites business professionals, medical personnel, care providers, and those who assist residents in need to their free event Friday, February 3rd from 4 – 6:30 p.m. at 2/42 Community Church in Brighton (7526 Grand River Ave.) This is the perfect opportunity for professionals and organizations to meet up with the people and groups working on local issues. Your referrals, insights, volunteerism, and financial support might be the missing link in solving some of our shared community challenges!

"This event provides an opportunity for Livingston County agencies and organizations to network and build relationships that will last beyond the event and lead to collaboration across sectors which further supports our residents in need," said Amy Johnston, the Community Collaborative Planner for the Livingston County Human Services Collaborative Body.

This networking event is sponsored by the Bank of Ann Arbor - Livingston and The Livingston County United Way.



HANDY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS

Monday, January 16, 2023

The regular meeting of the Handy Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Alverson at 7:00 P.M. Trustees present: Clerk Eisele, Trustees Munsell & Roddy, and Treasurer Shear. Absent: None. Also present: Twp. Atty. Saarela, Zon. Adm.-Flanery, Jeffrey Staley-Maner, Costerisan, Brian Jonckheere and Ken Recker-Livingston Cty. Drain Commission and resident: Chuck Wright. 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 presented
- To approve the minutes of 12-19-22 as presented

To pay the bills in the amount of \$73,552.52

To accept the Handy Twp. 2021-2022 audit

To adopt poverty exemption income guideline & asset test, approve waiver of penalty for late filing of property transfer affidavits and permit letter appeals to the 2023 Board of Review

To adopt Zoning Amendment Ordinance #2020-01, Organized Event Buildings

To accept budget amendments to the 2022-2023 budget

To approve the quote from Hamp Mathews RE: Hogback Road landfill

To adjourn meeting at 8:58 P.M.

Laura A. Eisele
Handy Township Clerk
(1-22-23 FNV)

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Livingston County Catholic Charities’ annual Christmas Blessing Project helps area senior citizens

Livingston County businesses, churches, organizations, schools, and local community members provided basic needs items, Christmas cheer and friendly visits to local home-bound and low-income seniors through Livingston County Catholic Charities’ annual Christmas Blessing Project. This project is a tremendous undertaking in our community to provide love, help and hope to vulnerable county seniors.

The winter months and holiday season are a difficult time of year for our vulnerable county seniors who, not only have to contend with higher utility costs that affect their ability to purchase food or life-saving medications on their limited incomes, but also battle isolation. We often hear that those the Christmas Blessings Project serve are so overjoyed when they receive their special Christmas delivery and cheerful visits because it is typically an exceptionally lonely and stressful time of year for them.

This year’s Christmas Blessing Project provided food boxes, cleaning products, hygiene items, paper products and more through 214 boxes to 280 county seniors and their families. 143 volunteers and a number of staff spent 414 hours soliciting, receiving, packaging and delivering the overwhelming amount of donations.

The Board and staff at LCCC are grateful for the outpouring of love, generous donations and help from our community. It is truly heartwarming and signifies the incredible county we live in.

We gratefully share the list of the many donors and hope that you will support them in return. We are stronger as a community when we work together and support each other.

We especially thank our project sponsors, The Catholic Foundation of Michigan, Weingartz, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Griffith Realty, Meijer, Livingston Sunrise Rotary Foundation, Village Manor Retirement, Pinckney Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, Dave’s Hot Chicken, Hartland Lions Club and K of C Council’s (2659, 7304, 8169, 8605, 1176, and 12295).

Also, helping out were Julie Amman, John & Kathi Backhuus, Roben Baker, Brighton District Library, Roger & Rosemary Cahaney, Catholic Foundation of Michigan, Carlos & Donna Chacon, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Costco Wholesale, Dan Hall, Pinckney Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram,

Dave’s Hot Chicken, Dearborn Hams, Extreme Machines, Ron & Darcyne Foldenauer, Eugene Gierlach, Griffith Realty, Anthony Groves, Habitat for Humanity, Hamburg Senior Center, Kristy Hancock, Hartland Lions Club, Hartland Senior Center, Holy Spirit Catholic School Families, Mark Hoonstra, Inn at the Canyons, Irv & Julie Karwick, Kem Krest, Kensington Woods Schools, Linda & Gary Kinneer, Bette Klann, K of C #2659, K of C #7304, K of C #8169, K of C #8605, K of C #11761, K of C #12295, Gary Kozyra, Bob & Kay Kuch, Tony & Meghan Kuch, Frank & Paula Krupansky, Maureen Kunz, Rob and Debbie Kwapisz, Amy Lamoreaux, Chris Larson, Kate Lawrence, Light of the World Academy, Livingston County Catholic Charities Office Staff, Livingston County Women’s Chorus, Livingston Sunrise Rotary Foundation, Marion Township Hall, Chuck & Mary McFadden, Charlie McNulty, Meijer, Michigan Sports Academy Livingston, Linda Myers, Navigator School, David Park, Pathfinder School, Joan & Dale Pepper, Pinckney Senior Center, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Jim & Charlotte Ratke, Robert & Cathryn Phillips, Michael & Joleen Rebarchik, Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church, St. Agnes Christian Services, St. Agnes Parishioners, St. Augustine Parishioners, St. Augustine Catholic School Families, St. Augustine Church, St. Vincent DePaul Conference, St. John Parishioners, St. Joseph Catholic School Families, St. Mary Catholic School Families, St. Patrick Parishioners, St. Patrick Women’s Prayer Group, Fr. Nathaniel Sokol, Gerald Solai, Trinity Health Family Medicine Residency Program, United Way, Village Manor Retirement, Nancy Wakeman, Weingartz, Jerry & Vicki Weyland, Chris & Dennis Wysocki, Linda Zaremba and several anonymous donors.

This project is an example of true collaboration between the community, LCCC, and many other concerned individuals and organizations. We are truly thankful for this support on behalf of the people that we serve. Thank you and God Bless!



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Fowlerville JV Wrestlers win home tournament on Jan. 14th

The Fowlerville JV Wrestlers had a great day on Saturday, Jan. 14, defending the home turf. The Glads entered 12 wrestlers and scored 161 points. Mason entered 15 wrestlers and scored 149 points. Yale brought 10 wrestlers and scored 91 points.

Individual placers taking first were: Caleb Cyman, Chase Aitchson, Vincent Saunders, Xavier Littrup-Dean, Douglas Braidwood, Jacob Esch, and George Daniel. Second place finishers were Ayden Goodwin, Kyle Fetterly, Clayton Dominowski and Brayden Packer. The lone third place finisher was Zach Petrovich.

TOWNSHIP OF HANDY NOTICE OF ADOPTION: ORDINANCE TO ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING ORGANIZED EVENT BUILDINGS

To the residents and property owners of the Township of Handy, Livingston County, Michigan, and all other interested persons:

On January 16, 2023, the Township of Handy (the "Township") adopted an Ordinance to Amend the Township's Zoning Ordinance Regarding Organized Event Buildings ("Ordinance"). A summary of the Ordinance is provided below. A true copy of the Ordinance, including any exhibits, is available for inspection at the Township Hall, 135 N Grand Ave, PO Box 189, Fowlerville, MI 48836.

The ordinance amends sections 1.16, 9.3, 10.3 and adds a 16.6EEE to permit organized event buildings (rooms or structures for holding public and private events) as a special land use in the NSC and AC zoning districts along with specific design standards and requirements.

LAURA EISELE, Clerk
PO Box 189
Fowlerville, MI 48836
(517) 223-3228
(1-22-23 FNV)



Robert Gerald Tomlin

Robert Gerald Tomlin, 79, of Flint Township formerly from Fowlerville, passed January 14, 2023. He was born March 19, 1943.

He was preceded in death by his wife Patricia, daughter Tracy, and parents Gerald and Evelyn Tomlin.

Father of Wendy Biroth, two stepsons Randy and Scott Albright, grandparent to Cody and Tyler Biroth, Emily, Jake, Josh and Lexi Albright, brother to Karen Oliver, Eugene Tomlin, late Joyce Howerton, Carole Gilboe, and Joan Kopkel.

Robert retired from Ford Motor Company in 1999 after serving 50 years. He also retired from Harness Racing which was his and his wife's passion. A graveside service was held at Greenwood Cemetery on Friday, January 19, 2023 at Noon. Arrangements entrusted to Herrmann Funeral Home. Online condolences may be expressed at pjherrmannfuneralhome.com.

Fowlerville Girls Wrestling Team hosts tournament, places second

The Fowlerville Girls Wrestling Team hosted the largest girls tournament in the state up to this time and had a great time. The meet was held on Friday, Jan. 13th.

Team Scores 1. Hastings with 11 girls scored 133 points. 2. Fowlerville with 8 girls scored 88 points 3. Midland with 7 girls scored 78 points. Eaton Rapids with 6 girls scored 70 points.

Fowlerville Individual placers were Maggie Buurma 1st, Kiely Davis 4th, Natalie Loomis 4th, and Cayden Taylor 4th.



Deborah (Debi) Jean Devine

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Deborah (Debi) Jean Devine—lost this past Saturday, January 14, 2023, at age 69, in Fowlerville, Michigan.

Debi was born June 24, 1953, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to her parents William and Gladys Horton. There, she lived with her brothers Donnie and Dale, all of whom she will be lovingly reunited with in death. After moving to Michigan, Debi found the love of her life and husband, Kerry (Pat) Devine, where they spent an incredible 47 years together.

Debi is survived by those she loved and supported unconditionally, including her children Keri and John Kinnunen, Kayla and David Martinez, William (Billy) Devine, and John and Andi McFadden, as well as her grandchildren Megan, Matthew, Brody, Tyler, Cici, Leah, Lilah, Kerissah, Teagan, Presley, Tayden, and Malcolm, and her brother Robert (Bob) and Ilona Horton.

Hardly a day ever passed when Debi's beautiful family didn't feel her support in one way or another; she was always everyone's biggest fan. Even her hobbies embodied who Debi was as an encouraging soul, from cheering on the Spartans and the Detroit Tigers to spending time with her family and precious grandkids. She also spent much time as a cake decorator and, of course, on Facebook. Her energy will be missed dearly by those touched by her love.

In place of flowers, donations can be made to the Devine family to help with funeral and medical expenses. Visitation with family and friends took place on Thursday, January 19th from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Herrmann Funeral Home. Online condolences may be expressed at pjherrmannfuneralhome.com

**HIS FIGHT
IS
OUR FIGHT
#RowenStrong**

SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER DINNER
FEBRUARY 5TH, 2023

On November 16th, 2022, Livingston County resident, Rowen Jordan turned 2 years old. On that same day, he was diagnosed with cancer, stage 4 metastatic neuroblastoma. Rowen is currently undergoing oncology treatment at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital with Michigan Medicine. Rowen has two loving parents who are needed to care for him 24/7. As an effort to support them through this journey, please join us for his benefit.

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Fowlerville High School News

OFFICE HOURS

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

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES TO NOTE:

February 1 Final Semester grades available in MiStar
February 11 Winterfest Dance 7:00-10:00 pm
Feb 20 Holiday break

Doors at FHS will be open at 6:45 a.m. on school days. After school hours if your student is not participating in a sport, math lab, credit recovery or meeting with a teacher they should make arrangements to leave the building by 3 p.m.

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

There will be a Lunch and Learn on Wednesday, January 25th for those interested in a potential career in Law Enforcement. Come join us in the Media Center during all three lunch periods to meet Jeff Soli who was a Police Sergeant with the Fowlerville Police Department and is now the FCS Director of Security.

Fowlerville Wrestling Team wins triangular meet on Wednesday

The Fowlerville Wrestling Team won a triangular meet held this past Wednesday, Jan. 18th. The scores were: Fowlerville 54-St. John’s 30 and Fowlerville 57-Ionia 15. Undefeated wrestlers for the Gladators included Levi Baker, Connor Kiernan, Jesse Johnson, Brock Foster, Richard Davis, Connor Stankov, Dalton Daniel, and George Daniel.

The opening reception for the MSUFCU art show is next week, Wednesday Jan. 25th. <https://msufcuart.com/>
The following students have a piece in the show: Brielle Culbertson, Aislyn Long, Luka Murphy, Molly Kilpela, Akira Ball, Leah Clark, Emily Pounds
There is a People’s Choice component, anyone who visits the show from Jan. 25th-Feb. 22nd, can vote on their favorite piece!

An Admissions Representative from Lansing Community College will be here on Thursday, January 26th. She will be here to answer all your questions about their over 200 associate degree and certificate programs.

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

Spring 2022 Fowlerville High School Local Scholarship Winners:

Attention class of 2022 Senior Honors Night Scholarship winners. Congratulations again for being the recipient of a Fowlerville Community Scholarship as well as successfully completing the first semester of school/training after high school. Scholarship winners from the Spring 2022 Senior Honors Night can claim their scholarships by completing the *Scholarship Winners Request Form that can be found on the Fowlerville High School website-click on Counseling Department-scroll to the bottom and click on 2022 scholarship winners.*

In addition to the request form, winners must provide a copy of their semester 1 college/trade school transcript showing successful completion as well as evidence of semester 2 enrollment (semester 2 class schedule). Please submit the completed form and required evidence in person to the counseling office or to hardenbrookj@fowlervilleschools.org. Deadline to complete requests is March 1, 2023.

Credit Recovery is designed to help students make up credits while also gaining the knowledge that he/she may have missed in the regular classroom setting. The Odysseyware lesson design fosters ongoing collaboration between learners and teachers, enabling students to progress and practice at

their own pace and receive support and guided instruction as needed. Credit Recovery begins in February for Semester 2. Announcements will be made when it specifically begins for each semester. Space is limited. Please see the link to the registration form. Completed forms can be turned in to Mr. Hardenbrook in the counseling office

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

Are you currently working? Are you interested in finding out if you could earn high school elective credit while you work? You may be eligible for the high school co-op program. For more details, requirements, answers to most questions and the application paperwork for the 2022-2023 school year please see the Fowlerville High School website-click on “Co-op information” in the menu on the right side of the page. Applications can be printed from the FHS webpage or picked up in the counseling office. Please follow the procedure flowchart under the link “How to get into the Co-op Program”. Completed applications should be returned to the counseling office. Additional questions should be directed to Mr. Hardenbrook at hardenbrookj@fowlervilleschools.org

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

Fowlerville student named to Harding University Dean’s List

Ryanne Maddox, a senior from Fowlerville who is studying management & management and business ethics, is among more than 1,200 Harding University students included on the Dean’s List for grades achieved during the fall 2022 semester. The list is published each semester by Dr. Marty Spears, University provost, honoring those who have achieved high scholarship. To be eligible, a student must be carrying 12 or more hours with a 3.65 or higher grade-point average and no incompletes. Harding University is a private Christian university located in Searcy, Arkansas. Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, it is the largest private university in the state.



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Livingston
County
Comments

By: Doug Helzerman,
District 1
Commissioner

A popular NFL athlete collapses in a nationally-televised contest. The first, natural, and almost universal response is prayer. It is very interesting because prayer is banned in most publicly funded institutions. It is downplayed and mocked in almost every classroom of higher learning. When these educated people face a tragedy or an unexpected emergency, their real innate beliefs come to the surface. It is self-evident, for those who prayed for Damar Hamlin, that there is a God who hears and answers prayer even though their “rational” mind has been taught otherwise.

The Board of Commissioners has decided to change the regular agenda item of a “Moment of Silent Reflection” to a “Moment of Prayer.” Monday’s agenda included a discussion item to consider this matter. In another meeting Commissioner Drick had previously moved to make this change.

After discussion, I offered a resolution that I thought would meet with the approval of all the members. There were several amendments that were approved and the final version was passed with a vote of 7 to 2. These are the guidelines that were approved:

- a. This is intended to allow prayer and not in any way demand a prayer.
- b. The chair shall solicit volunteers for the responsibility of praying.
- c. Prayer may be verbal or silent.
- d. Commissioners may choose to pray themselves.
- e. This practice will not limit anyone’s ability to say a prayer in their time during the call to the public portion of the meeting.
- f. This portion of the agenda should not exceed 3 minutes without the chair’s approval.

g. The Chair shall have discretion in this matter for all questions not covered in this policy.

I agree that prayer should always be allowed but never forced.

I have not met anyone whose opinion about God could be easily swayed. No outside force can change one’s truly held personal beliefs. Any true change of opinion can be made only by the person himself.

Our Constitution has acknowledged this truth and has taken it to the next step. These closely held opinions may be said and acted upon in public settings not just in one’s own mind and/or on one’s private property ... hence freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of peaceable assembly. These liberties have a natural boundary of the Golden Rule and of truth. (No one is free to lie; no one is free to do evil to another person.) Freedom OF religion is not freedom FROM religion. Separation of church and state is not separation of state and religion. There can be no singling out of one religion as the **only** established religion that may limit the full freedom for opposing religious points of view.

Belief in a Creator is “self-evident” as the signers of the Declaration of Independence asserted for many simple reasons.

The county lawyers have approved the legality of the language and intent of this resolution. They have successfully defended in court the right for prayer to be officially included on the agenda of public meetings.

I am happy to hear your input 517-375-4869 or dhelzerman@livgov.com.

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Fowlerville lady retiring, continued

new computer systems that were installed that had to be learned.”

A constant through the years, however, has been dealing with the public.

“It’s been interesting,” she said. “I’ve tried to help customers and give them the best service I could for what they were asking,” she said. “There have been those people who were upset about something, but for the most part it’s been fun.”

Dawn grew up in Plymouth, graduating from Plymouth

Salem High School. “I started working for my father, Richard Anderson, when I was 14,” she recalled. “He owned Plymouth Glass Company. It was a retail business and he did residential and automotive glass.”

She and her husband Ralph moved to their home in Cohoctah Township 42 years ago and subsequently raised two sons—Ryan and Sean.

“I had different jobs when my kids were growing up, trying to fit my schedule around what they were doing,” Dawn noted. “I worked at an insurance company and for a couple of different stores. I was also the zoning administrator for Cohoctah Township for ten years.”

Still, another job was with Lansing Community College. “I was taking classes, with the goal of getting an associate degree in business administration,” she said. “I was racing my son who was going to graduate from high school. The college asked me if I wanted a job and hired me while I was going to school.”

Dawn added that she also assists her husband with his business—Quality Tooling Machine—doing the book work. “He builds and repairs plastic injection molds and dies that make specific tools,” she noted. “The tools are mostly for the automotive industry but he has a few customers in the medical field. He has his shop in the old May Scofield

building in Howell.” As for her impending retirement, Dawn plans to spend more time with her seven grandchildren, including visits to the cottage near Alpena that she and her husband have been fixing up, as well as more time hanging out with her 92-year-old father. “I like to garden and will continue assisting my husband with his business, although he’s talking of retiring,” she said. “I’ll miss the customers I’ve come to know,” Dawn added. “Also, I work with a lot of good people, so I’ll miss them. But it’s time to start playing more with the grandkids and having more time to do other things I enjoy.”

To everyone who called, sent a card, stopped in to see me at FIC or responded on facebook: Thank you so very much for your kind words! It was overwhelming and means more to me than you will ever know!

With prayers for God’s richest blessings to you and your family in 2023,

Barb Dine

From Unapproved Minutes Of the January 17, 2023 Conway Township Regular Board Meeting 7:00 pm

REGULAR MEETING

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

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

The following Motions and Resolutions were made:

1. Consent Agenda approved. Roll call; motion approved.
2. Motion to approve the Board Meeting Agenda with additions. Motion approved.
3. Motion to instruct the Planning Commission (PC) to conduct two open to the public workshops with current committee prior to next PC Meeting. Roll call. Motion approved.
4. Motion to retain the current committee for any/all future Master Plan and Ordinance revisions, indefinitely. Roll call. Motion failed.
5. Motion to purchase or dedicate a laptop. Roll call. Motion failed.
6. Motion to terminate law firm of Cooper Riesterer PLC and Mrs. Abbey Cooper. Motion died.
7. Motion the retain the law firm of Foster and Swift. Roll call. Motion failed.
8. Motion to forward attorney statements by email to all Board of Trustee members Roll call. Motion approved.
9. Motion we accept the bid from Timbertec to remove trees at Coughran Cemetery. Motion tabled.
10. Motion we accept and sign Surf Air Wireless LLC’s METRO Act Agreement. Motion approved.
11. Resolution 230117-01 regarding expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act funds for Broadband. Resolution died.
12. Motion to enter into a closed session. Motion approved.
13. Motion to return to open session. Motion approved.
14. Motions to adjust several budget items. Motions approved.
15. Motion to appoint Steve Weiss to the Board of Review. Motion approved.
16. Motion to appoint Brett Cordes to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion approved.
17. Resolution 230117-02 to extend the term of the current moratorium. Resolution carried.
18. Motion to add the messaging option to our website contract. Motion approved.
19. Motion to accept the bid from Timbertec LLC in Coughran Cemetery. Roll call. Motion approved.
20. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:18pm. Motion approved.

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

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Savvy
Senior
Column

By Jim Miller

for a Special Enrollment Period to change your Medicare health and drug coverage.

There are a number of circumstances in which you may have a Special Enrollment Period, such as if you moved outside of your plan’s service area, your Medicare Advantage Plan terminated a significant amount of its network providers, or you are enrolled in a State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program.

Those with Extra Help – the federal program that helps pay for drug costs – also have a Special Enrollment Period to enroll in a Part D plan, or switch between plans once per quarter in the first three quarters of the year.

If you need to make changes to your coverage but aren’t sure whether you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period, contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), which provides free Medicare counseling. To find a SHIP counselor in your area visit ShipHelp.org or call 877-839-2675.

Also, be aware that if you’re enrolled in a Medicare plan by mistake or because of misleading information, you may be able to disenroll and change plans.

Typically, you have the right to change plans if you joined unintentionally, joined based on incorrect or misleading information, or, through no fault of your own, were kept in a plan you did not want.

To get help, call Medicare at 800-633-4227 and explain to a customer service representative how you joined the plan by mistake and to request retroactive disenrollment or a Special Enrollment Period.

Fall Open Enrollment

As you noted in your question, there’s also the Fall Open Enrollment Period that allows all Medicare beneficiaries – those with original Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans – to make changes.

Continued on next page

ZBA Meeting

The Conway Township Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will be meeting January 23, 2023 to elect officers and conduct regular business. There is no application before the ZBA at this time.

In accordance to the Open Meetings Act these meetings and all Conway Township meetings are open to the public.

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: Conway Township Clerk, 8015 N Fowlerville, Fowlerville, MI 48836 or call 517-223-0358, between the hours of 9 am and 3 pm Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Elizabeth Whitt

Conway Township Clerk

(Posted 01/18/23 & published 01/22/23 FNV)

When Can I Change My Medicare Coverage?
Dear Savvy Senior,
Is it possible to make changes to my Medicare coverage now? I know we’ve passed the fall open enrollment period, but I’ve heard that there are other times of the year beneficiaries can make changes. What can you tell me?

Changed My Mind

Dear Changed,

Yes! The annual Medicare open enrollment period isn’t your only opportunity to swap out Medicare coverage. There are other opportunities, but the timing of when you can make those changes depends on your specific circumstances and the kind of Medicare coverage you have. Here’s what you should know.

Medicare Advantage Change

If you’re enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan, you may be able to use the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period, which occurs each year from Jan. 1 through March 31.

During this period, you can switch from your current Medicare Advantage Plan to another Medicare Advantage Plan or to original Medicare with or without a prescription drug plan. You can only make one change during this period, and it will be effective the first of the next month after you make the change.

Special Enrollment

Depending on your circumstances, you may also qualify



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MARION TOWNSHIP
SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED
MINUTES
JANUARY 12, 2023

The regular meeting of the Marion Township Board was held on Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 7:30 pm. Members Present: Hanvey, Andersen, Durbin, Lloyd, Donovan, Lowe, and Beal. Members Absent: None. The following action was taken: 1) Call to Order. 2) Call to the Public. 3) Motion carried to approve agenda; motion carried to approve consent agenda. 4) Motion carried to adopt resolution to approve Winterwood SAD for chip sealing and scheduled public hearing for the roll on February 9, 2023 at 7:30 pm. 5) Motion carried to adopt a resolution to approve Burnham & Flower property & liability insurance package totaling \$42,622. 6) Motion carried to adopt a resolution to adopt annual exemption option set forth in 2011 PA 152, as presented. 7) Motion carried to adopt a resolution to approve the poverty exemption policy and guidelines for 2023 income and asset tests, as presented. 8) Motion carried to adopt a resolution to allow residents to file letter appeals to the 2023 Board of Review. 9) Motion carried to require payment in full and not allow time payments for sewer and water REUs; time payment in progress for Hasenbush will be allowed. 10) Motion carried to reappoint Larry Grunn to the Planning Commission for a three-year term. 11) Motion carried to appoint Barbara Fillingner, Cheryl Range, and Charlie Aberasturi to the Board of Review for a two-year term. 12) Motion carried to accept recommendation from the LCRC for County Farm Road and ask for a contract; motion carried to have the LCRC provide estimate for Coon Lake Road to the eastern township line chip sealing. 13) Motion carried to approve invoice from Du-Bois-Cooper for \$19,260 for Spangler project. 14) Motion carried to postpone action on Solar Ordinance adoption until additional information is obtained from the LCDC, overlay district, changes to individual solar equipment, and require applicants to provide a three-year cash bond. 15) Correspondence & Updates. 16) Call to the Public. 17) Motion to adjourn at 9:03 pm.

Tammy L. Beal, MMC
Township Clerk
Robert W. Hanvey
Township Supervisor
(1-22-23 FNV)



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Savvy Senior Column, continued

The Fall Open Enrollment Period occurs each year from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7. During this period, you can join a new Medicare Advantage Plan or stand-alone prescription

**Village of Fowlerville
213 South Grand Avenue
Fowlerville, MI 48836
517-223-3771
Regular Village Council
Meeting Minutes-
*Synopsis
Monday, December 19, 2022**

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

The Village Council Meeting was called to order by President Hill at 7:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers.

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

Others Present: John Tyler, Chief of Police, Kathryn Rajala-Gutzki, Manager/Clerk, David Stoker, Village Attorney.

Employees: Cathy Elliott, Jamie Hartman, Michelle Lamb, John McCurdy, and Kristina Nightingale.

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

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

MOTION CURTIS, SECOND MILLS, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 22-37, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE VILLAGE OF FOWLERVILLE PERSONNEL MANUAL REGARDING HOLIDAYS. ROLL CALL VOTE. AYE: CURTIS, MILLS, MAYHEW, HELFMANN, HEATH, AND HILL. NAY: NONE. ABSENT: BELL. UNANIMOUS VOTE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION CURTIS, SECOND MILLS, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 22-38, A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE ANNUAL EXEMPTION OPTION AS SET FORTH IN THE 2011 PUBLIC ACT 152, THE PUBLICALLY FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRIBUTION ACT FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2023, TO MARCH 31, 2024. ROLL CALL VOTE. AYE: HELFMANN, HEATH, CURTIS, MAYHEW, MILL AND HILL. NAY: NONE. ABSENT: BELL. UNANIMOUS VOTE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION CURTIS, SECOND HEATH, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 22-39, A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE VILLAGE OF FOWLERVILLE PERSONNEL MANUAL REGARDING OFFICE HOURS, ROLL CALL VOTE. AYE: CURTIS, HEATH, HELFMANN, MAYHEW, MILLS AND HILL. NAY: NONE. ABSENT: BELL. UNANIMOUS VOTE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION CURTIS, SECOND MAYHEW, TO APPROVE THE LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF FOWLERVILLE AND THE TEAMSTER'S LOCAL UNION NO. 243, REGARDING HOLIDAYS. ROLL CALL VOTE. AYE: CURTIS, MAYHEW, MILLS, HELFMANN, HEATH, AND HILL. NAY: NONE. ABSENT: BELL. UNANIMOUS VOTE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION CURTIS, SECOND MILLS TO APPROVE THE 2023 MEETING DATES CALENDAR WITH NO MEETING THE FIRST MONDAY IN JANUARY 2023 AND APPROVE AS AMENDED. VOICE VOTE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION CURTIS, SECOND MAYHEW, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:02 P.M., VOICE VOTE. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathryn Rajala-Gutzki, CMMC, MiPMC
Village Clerk/Manager
(1-22-23 FNV)

drug plan (Part D) plan. You can also switch between Original Medicare with or without a Part D plan and Medicare Advantage.

You can make as many changes as you need during this period, and your last coverage choice will take effect Jan. 1.

Supplemental Security Income program has provided 50 years of support

By Hillary Hatch,
Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program helps support many American families. As we celebrate 50 years of SSI, it is a great time to briefly share the history of SSI and information on how to apply.

On October 30, 1972, President Nixon signed SSI into law. In January 1974, we began paying SSI to people who met the eligibility requirements.

Fifty years later, SSI remains a lifeline program for millions of people and households with limited income and resources. SSI also helps children and adults under age 65 who have a disability or are blind and who have income and resources below specific financial limits. People age 65 and older without disabilities—who meet the financial qualifications—may also receive SSI payments.

You can let us know that you want to apply for SSI online at www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/start.html. This process only takes about five to ten minutes, and no documentation is required to start. We will need the following basic information about you or the person you're helping:

- The name, date of birth, Social Security number, mailing address, and phone number of the person who is interested in applying for SSI. (Providing an email address is optional.)
- If helping another person, we need your name and phone number. (Providing an email address is optional.)

Once you provide this information and answer a few questions, we will schedule an appointment to help you apply for SSI. We will send a confirmation with the appointment date and time by mail and email (if provided). In some cases, we may call you to schedule the appointment.

If you're unable to begin the process online, you may schedule an appointment by calling 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. local time, Monday through Friday. You may also contact your local Social Security office. You can find the phone number for your local office on our website.

Once your SSI application is submitted, you can check the status online by creating a personal mySocial Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. SSI will continue to support families for many years to come.

Please share this information with your friends and loved ones who may need it – and share it on social media.

Hillary Hatch is the Public Affairs Specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525 or via email at hillary.hatch@ssa.gov



**Ingham
County
Comments**

By: Monica Schafer,
District 15
Commissioner

It is truly an honor to be elected to represent Locke, Leroy, Williamstown Township and the eastern parts of Meridian Township, the Village of Webberville, and the City of Williamston, which is known as District 15, as your next Ingham County Commissioner.

It is finally official with the swearing-in of the five new and 10 returning Ingham County Commissioners during an Ingham County Organization Meeting on January 3rd.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated previous County Commissioner, Randy Schafer (no relation), who served for 38 years as a loyal servant to his constituents and liaison to the county administration. His shoes are too big to be filled, and knowledge gained over serving for 36 years is unattainable. I am blessed to have Commissioner Randy Schafer's support as a friend, campaign advisor, and strong mentor for the last nine months of campaigning.

I will genuinely try to be as loyal of an advocate for our district while working with others at the Ingham County Board of Commissioners as I can. My committee assignments will be as a member of the Law & Courts Committee and Human Services Committee. The appointed boards that I will represent District 15 are the Ingham County Chapter of Michigan Township Associations, the Tri-County Aging Consortium, and the FOIA Appeals Committee. I'm ready to pull my sleeves up and get to work!

You can contact me through email at MSchafer@ingham.org. I will also continue to host Coffee Hours throughout the district on Mondays. Thank you for this opportunity to serve!



Monica Schafer, left, was sworn into office by Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum earlier this month.

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References Available

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Euchre Fun Night planned at the Webberville Library on Jan. 28th

The Friends of the Webberville Library is sponsoring a Euchre Fun Night fundraiser on Saturday, Jan. 28. Registration at 6:00 p.m. and playing begins 6:30 p.m. at the Webberville Cultural Center. The entry fee is \$10 a person to play. Prizes will be awarded and there will be a 50/50 drawing. Snacks and beverages will be provided. You are welcome to bring your own snacks and non-alcoholic beverages.



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Webberville Report



Senior Spotlight—Samantha Peach
By Brooke Bayard

Samantha Peach is the daughter of Kimber and James Peach and sister to Alex and Jessica Lelevec. Peach has been involved in Band since she was in sixth grade, Cheer for 4 years, and Girl Scouts for 13 years. After school she wants to be a K9 officer or a voice actor.

"I was in cheer for three years back in elementary but I had decided to leave," Peach said. "I had debated going back into it during middle school, but ended up not joining. However, for this final year I decided to get back into it and it's been very fun. I've made many new friends during it.

"I've got many memories at these schools, so picking a favorite is a struggle," she noted. "I'd have to say that when we danced the Cupid Waltz in 9th grade was one of the best memories. We all had lots of fun that day."

"Samantha and I had mutual friends, and had ended up sitting with them while on break at band camp," noted Magdalena Monroe. "We talked and found out we had many common interests. After that we started talking more and became close friends. Samantha's really funny and a supportive person to be around."

"A very fond memory I have of Samantha is when we had gone to a friend's birthday party together," Monroe recalled. "It was a sleepover, and everybody else had already headed off for the night, but the two of us were awake. We just laid on the floor, and then she started pointing at the ceiling and just kept saying "dinosaur" over and over again. We giggled over that for a long time."

"Samantha is an extremely helpful and kind student, and has come a long way as a flute player in the band. Fond memories of her improving over the years, and how much she has elevated and given younger students a great example," said band director Gary Franks.

"Like a large majority of flute players, Samantha struggled to get the fingerings down for playing when she first started, however she did eventually get past that, and hasn't dealt with that issue in a very long time," he noted, adding that "Samantha stands out in the class because of how serious she takes rehearsal. She's ready when I call to the podium, and keeps trying until she gets the piece right. She puts forward a lot of effort into the band."

Peach said that in the past she procrastinated with her studies, but has worked at doing better this year.

"I just generally didn't do my work that much, which has caused me a lot of problems this year," she explained. "I can't do some of the classes I'd prefer because I didn't do well in past years. If I had any advice for new students, it would be to just get your work done on time, and it'll really make you happier in the long run than whatever you're procrastinating for."

As for what's ahead, Peach said that in ten years she'd like to be a K9 officer. "I had watched some K9 Takedown videos awhile ago, and that got me interested into the idea," she said.

"I hope that Samantha chooses to have a career where she'll work around and with people, she's got a calm and kind demeanor that would be great for jobs where you have to communicate and cooperate with each other," said Franks

"I think Sam will become a rather well known streamer and content creator, I think she'll still be doing cosplay, and I think she'll be very successful with those choices. I hope for her to be living the best of her life in 10 years, I hope for her to be happy and living without too many issues," Monroe said of her friend's future.

NIESA Fire Report (Northeast Ingham Emergency Service Authority)

On Wednesday January 11, 2023 NIESA responded to two calls. Both responses were emergency medical calls, with one occurring in Williamstown Township, and the second in Leroy Township.

Thursday January 12, 2023 NIESA had six calls. One response was for a fire alarm activation in Williamstown Township which was a faulty alarm. The remaining five responses were emergency medical calls. Two of the calls were mutual aid responses into Meridian Township, the remaining calls occurred in Leroy Township, Locke Township, and the City of Williamston.

On Friday January 13, 2023 NIESA responded to three calls. Two of the responses were for vehicle accidents, with one occurring in Locke Township, and another in Leroy Township. NIESA also responded to an emergency medical call in Williamstown Township.

Saturday January 14, 2023 NIESA had another three calls. One response was for a utility pole issue in the City of Williamston. The remaining two calls were emergency medical responses with one occurring in Leroy Township, and another in Williamstown Township.

On Sunday January 15, 2023 NIESA responded to four emergency medical calls. Three of the responses were in the City of Williamston, and the fourth was in Wheatfield Township.

Monday January 16, 2023 NIESA had seven calls. One response was a carbon monoxide alarm activation in the City of Williamston. It was determined the alarm was faulty. The remaining six calls were emergency medical responses, with four occurring in the City of Williamston, and two in Williamstown Township.

On Tuesday January 17, 2023 NEISA had three responses. All of the calls were emergency medical calls. One response was into Leroy Township, and the remaining two calls were into Williamstown Township.

Williamston Eagles
Upcoming Events

Kathy Ford & Band Peforming Jan. 28th
On Saturday, January 28th, join us for Kathy Ford and her entire band for a night of fun! Kathy and the band provide a wide variety of music and are sure to play your favorites! Kathy has been entertaining Lansing and mid-Michigan for over 38 years and has opened for many acts, including Waylon Jennings, Randy Travis, Tammy Wynette and more! There is a \$5 required donation at the door to help cover costs. The doors open at 3pm and the music starts at 7pm. Dance the night away or sit and relax. Food is available from 5 until 8pm. Open to the public and plenty of free parking! Located at 835 High St in Williamston. Call 517-655-6510 for more information.

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January 14, 2023 Prices

Auctioned Item	Quantity	Price
Square Hay	2051	\$2.00-\$10.75
Round Hay	288	\$17.50-\$72.50
Large Square Hay	12	\$47.50 each
Square Straw	444	\$2.75-\$3.50
Round Straw	4	\$35.00-\$50.00
Wood	11	\$32.50-\$105.00
Dozen Eggs	50	\$4.00-\$5.00
Dozen Duck Eggs	7	\$5.25 each
Chickens	74	\$1.00-\$17.00
Guinea Hens	4	\$16.00-\$32.00
Rabbits	3	\$6.00-\$8.00
Goats	2	\$27.50-\$45.00
Feeder Pigs	1	\$5.00 each
Potbelly Pigs	1	\$22.50 each

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Letter to the Editor

I find myself very distraught to have to write this letter. I never thought the local townships, Livingston County nor even the State of Michigan would treat the people they were entrusted to serve in this manner. Just to be clear....I am wholeheartedly against any Large Scale Utility Solar Complexes on agricultural land.

I am finding this letter difficult to write just because of the negative emotions, the feelings of betrayal and deceit we have all felt with how these projects are unfolding, the propaganda and bullying tactics the power developers are using, and the total lack of transparency and ethics from many of our local leadership.

I am an active voter. I vote on issues important to me and not necessarily party lines. I find myself in a unified alliance with my fellow neighbors and residents of the several small townships, of both party affiliations, against any Large Scale Industrial Utility Solar Complexes in our communities.

I find myself disappointed in our local leadership that the residents of our townships—our neighbors, our families, our friends—are only just now finding out that up to 4 Large Scale Utility Power Companies have been signing leases with large agricultural landowners in our communities for the past two years at least.

I am disappointed that more wasn't done to educate and communicate with the public. I am disappointed in that our local leadership did not do more to protect their citizens of the townships they took an oath to protect. Shame on those who would not recuse themselves for perceived conflict of interests. Shame on those that continue to put themselves in situations that could be deemed unethical.

Shame on myself, for not paying closer attention to my local government, and by turning a blind eye, allowing this to happen. I have been woken up, as have my neighbors and fellow residents of our townships. We are now paying attention. We are watching. This will not, cannot happen again.

The power companies are very good about changing the narrative. It feels like we are talking about Hansel and Gretel and the Evil Witch in the woods, while they are only talking about Goldilocks. We are warning that there is a literal Witch in the Woods with treats that wants to eat your children, and the Media asks "but what about that Porridge, they heard it was good."

They bring in paid actors to speak in their behalf, spend untold amount of money for ads in the paper, misleading media articles and donations to groups, so they can all tout the BENEFITS and Wonder Drug of SOLAR. But that's not what we are talking about is it? Let's be very clear. We are not talking about the Solar Panels that go up on your roof, or a couple solar panels on your homestead. We are not even talking about a small-scale Community Solar Array on the local grid to help lower costs in our townships. No. What we are talking about is the Large Scale Utility Solar Power Plants that will take up literally 1,000's of acres of our community with no power generated being utilized locally.

And it's not just one township and not just one project we are talking about either. There are presently 4 Large Scale Utility projects in the adjacent townships trying to get a foot hold. Ranger Power and DTE are planning two in Cohoctah Township alone and across the border into Conway, another one to the north in Antrim, to the south in Marion Township, 187 windmills planned from Leroy, Webberville, White Oak down to Stockbridge, and just recently, even Granger Waste Management just entered the foray by purchasing property in Locke and Perry Townships with the plans to add even more Large Scale Utility Solar Facilities in our area, all of which, every last bit, on prime agricultural land.

If all of these are built as they are planning, nearly 7,000 acres, or to put it another way, nearly 10 square miles would be utilized. Driving these roads, it would take nearly 20 minutes just to drive out of it.

The great Samuel Clemmons/Mark Twain is credited with saying.... "History don't exactly repeat itself, but it sure do rhyme." History has proven time and again what happens

to civilizations when food is scarce. Living in a farming/ agricultural community, we see this up close. We just went through a pandemic, where farmers and agricultural workers were considered ESSENTIAL workers, meaning, they were needed, ESSENTIAL in keeping our Community, our SOCIETY, afloat.

Grocery prices have soared to highs not seen in generations. With the price of eggs recently, my wife and I kid that we need to guard our chickens like we have the golden goose.

Now these solar farms would take that very land away from all of us for the next 30 years, which for some of us would be the rest of our lives, for corporate profits. The paid lobbyists for Solar like to say that there are no negative impacts to having solar on agricultural land. But that's not true is it? According to the MSU Extension, just shading the ground in such a large capacity will impact the soil and make it harder to convert back to agriculture. Dr. Sarah Mills of MSU's Energy Dept. and who has a heavy hand in solar ordinances, stated that there are definite Environmental, Agricultural, Wildlife, Property Value and Township Impacts with Large Scale Utility Solar Farms.

According to MSU Extension, Large Scale Utility Solar should be built on Brownfields, Industrial and Commercial FIRST.

Just this year four different Large Scale Utility Solar complexes were fined for violations to the EPA Clean Water Act for large-scale construction practices. A home was recently sold adjacent to the Large Scale Utility Complex in Shiawassee County, and sold for 40% less than its value. It wasn't a study, not a poll, it was a real sale for 40% loss in value. That's it.

We don't care if its Solar, Wind, Green Energy, Oil, Coal, a Factory or even a Large Scale Parking Lot... it all means the same thing. Anything LARGE SCALE, negates any possible benefit. A few solar panels on your house doesn't impact the local wildlife, but thousands of acres will decimate local populations. An acre of solar panels won't impact the watershed, but thousands of acres will potentially flood the neighboring residents and communities though an already overtaxed and ailing drainage system.

These corporations and corporate landowners are targeting small townships with little or no zoning boards, using misinformation, propaganda and bullying tactics to literally make millions. Meanwhile, the rest of us, the neighbors, the residents and the small farmers, will suffer the most. These corporations and corporate landowners want us afraid, naive and ignorant. And maybe we were.

I admit I was naive to believe our local government had our best interests at heart and were beyond reproach. I'll admit I was woefully ignorant of how low and unethical these corporations would stoop with the use of non-disclosure clauses, propaganda and "Good Neighbor" agreements to buy residents favor. And once, I might have even been afraid. Afraid to stand up to Big Money and Large Corporations, but not anymore. Not now. I refuse to be afraid anymore.

I believe in small town people standing up to large corporations. I believe in saving the farmland against the invading industries. I believe in a community where neighbors protect neighbors. I believe in saving a community where our children and future generations would love to call Home.

So, thank you to those trepid few who went door-to-door, warning us the wolves were in the field. Thank you to those in the local governments, sitting (added this word) on the boards and planning commissions, who have listened to your residents, your neighbors and your communities, heeded their

warnings and made the choice to educate yourselves, promote communication and discussions about the well-being of your communities and above all else, chose to remain ethical. Ethics may not have any place in Business and profits, but here, in our communities, Ethics still matter.

Thank you--

Clint Beach
Cohoctah Township/Border of Conway

Williamston Farmers Market Bottle & Can Collection set for Feb. 5th

Sowing Growth, the non-profit organization that operates the Eastern Ingham Farmers Market in Williamston, will be collecting Michigan-returnable bottles and cans at McCormick Park's large parking lot on Sunday, Feb. 5th. Collection dates in the off-season are the 1st and 3rd Sundays each month in 2023 from January through April, from 11am to 1pm.

This popular fundraiser is a win-win: you don't have to do the icky-sticky job of taking the bottles back to the store, and you're supporting the Farmers Market which has no other funding sources other than grants and donations.

Upcoming collection dates in the off-season are: February 5 & 19, March 5 & 19, and April 2 & 16, between 11am and 1pm. If your business collects bottles and cans, consider donating them. Special collections can be made directly at your business address during the week. Just call or email any member of the Sowing Growth Board of Directors (listed on the website: www.EasternInghamFarmersMarket.org) or contact the Market Manager Tom Cary to make arrangements for special pick-ups.

For more information about Sowing Growth, the non-profit organization that operates the Eastern Ingham Farmers Market in Williamston, to become a vendor, to be added to the newsletter email list, to volunteer or to donate to the Market, visit the Market website www.EasternInghamFarmersMarket.org, visit its Facebook page or contact Market Manager Tom Cary (517-618-1630) or EasternInghamFM@gmail.com.

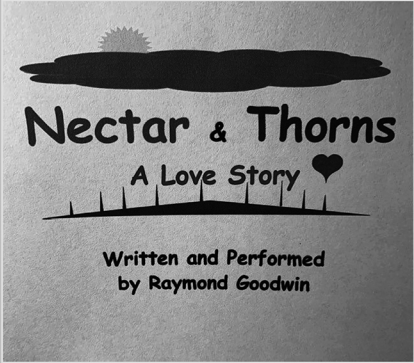
Livingston Fine Art Association meeting on Jan. 31 in Howell

The Livingston Fine Art Association monthly meeting will be held Tuesday, January 31st, at the First Presbyterian Church, Howell. Doors open at 6:30pm, with the meeting beginning at 7:00pm. Use the rear entrance under the green canopy.

There will be an informational art program. A short business meeting and a discussion of members artwork will follow. All artists and those interested in the arts are invited.

See our website at: <https://lfaaofmi.com> or find us on facebook.

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NOTICE OF SALE
A liquidation sale will be held on **Tuesday February 7, 2023 at 10:00 am** to dispense of the items stored in the following unit:

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Justin McCallum Unit P-255
This sale is subject to cancellation without notice.

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State Sen. Lana Theis, R-Brighton, was joined by staff, along with friends and family as she was formally sworn into the Michigan Senate during a ceremony at the state Capitol on Wednesday, Jan. 11.

State Sen. Lana Theis sworn into office; receives new committee assignments

State Sen. Lana Theis was sworn in as the senator for the 22nd District during a ceremony at the state Capitol on Jan. 11th. The senator’s office is now open, and Wednesday’s ceremony marked the official beginning of the 102nd Legislature.

“I am humbled to be chosen by the residents of the 22nd District to be their voice in the Capitol, and my team and I am are eager to get to work building a better Michigan,” said Theis, R-Brighton.

Meghan Reckling will serve as chief of staff and Theresa Grace as constituent relations director and veterans affairs coordinator. Daniel Waun joined the office late last year and will serve as director of communications and legislative affairs.

The senator’s office is in the Senate’s Binsfeld Office Building, Suite 7400, located at 201 Townsend Street in Lansing. Residents may contact the senator by phone toll-free at 855-347-8022 or 517-373-2420, via email at SenLTheis@senate.michigan.gov, and by U.S. mail at Senator Lana Theis, P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909.

Theis also received her committee assignments for the 102nd Legislature. She will serve on the following committees during this term:

--Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, Minority Vice-Chair.

--Committee on Finance, Insurance and Consumer Protection.

--Committee on Appropriations.

Along with the following Appropriations Subcommittees:

--Pre-K-12, Minority Vice-Chair.

--Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and the Department of Insurance and Financial Services, Minority Vice-Chair.

--Military, Veterans, and State Police, Minority Vice-Chair.

--Department of Health and Human Services.

--Agriculture and Natural Resources.

“Committee work is a critical part of the legislative process,” Theis said. “It allows residents or businesses that could be affected by proposed legislation a chance to voice their support, opposition, or concerns, which in turn helps committee members make more thorough, informed decisions.

“I look forward to working with my new colleagues and representing the people of the 22nd district.”

Additional information and resources can be found on the Theis’ website: SenatorLanaTheis.com.

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Williamston Area

Senior Center

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January 2023 Events

***Monday, January 23rd**- Euchre 9am-Noon, National Pie Day-Donation of pies from Red Cedar Lodge at Noon, and What's Happening in Williamston with Mayor Tammy Gilroy at 12:30pm

***Tuesday, January 24th**- Euchre 9am-Noon, Presentation from Mindfulness Therapy Dogs at 12:30pm, and Knitters Group 1pm-3pm

***Wednesday, January 25th**- Euchre 9am-Noon, Drum Circle with Ian Levine at 12:30pm, Opposite Day (Wear non-matching outfit!), and Needle Work Group 1pm-3pm

***Thursday, January 26th**-Euchre 9am-Noon, Ukulele Lessons with Ben at 11am, Michigan's Birthday Party with Dobie Road at Noon

***Friday, January 27th**- Bus Trip to Brookdale Living at 11am (Sign-up Required)

***Monday, January 30th**- Euchre 9am-Noon, "In the Kitchen with Susie"-No Bake Cookies at 12:30pm

***Tuesday, January 31st**- Euchre 9am-Noon, Backward Day (Wear your clothes backwards), Tai Chi at 12:30pm, and Knitters Group 1pm-3pm.

Howell Garden Club meeting Jan. 25th

The Howell Garden Club meeting will be held Wednesday, January 25, at 6:30 p.m. at the Marion Township Hall, 2877 West Coon Lake Road, Howell. At 7:00 p.m., Brent Crain, M.S.U. Extension agent for Livingston County, will present a program on conifers. There will be pictures and information on the placement, needs, trimming and long-term care of these foundations of our landscapes. The public is welcome to attend, and refreshments will be served. Call 517-548-2382 for questions and information.



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Year of The Rabbit

The Chinese zodiac of twelve animal signs represents twelve different types of personality. The fourth animal in the zodiac is the rabbit. You are a rabbit person if you were born in one of these years:

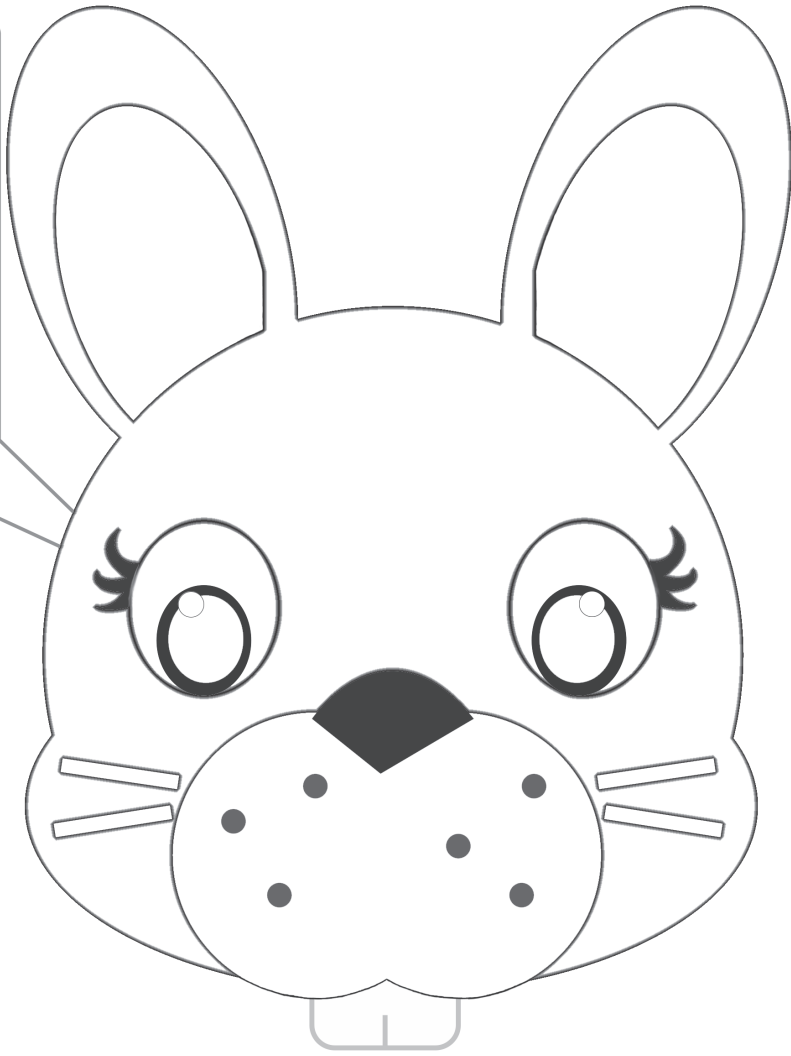
2035, 2023, 2011, 1999, 1987, 1975, 1963

Do you know anyone who belongs in the year of the rabbit?

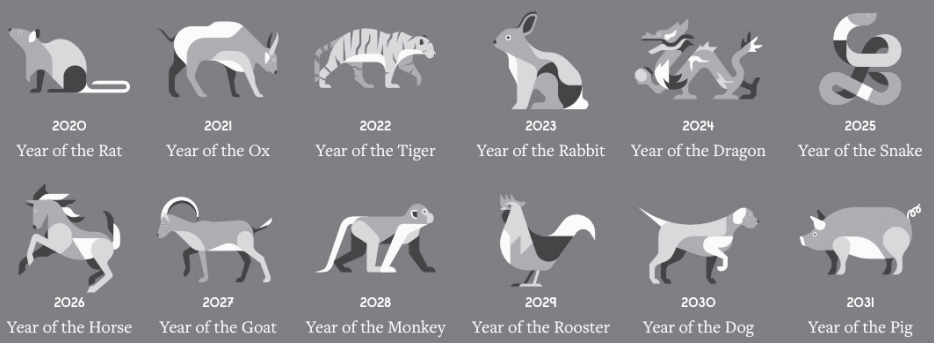
Rabbit People

are talented and have good communication skills. They are gentle, easy-going, and have excellent taste.

Rabbit people get along well with goats, pigs, and dogs.



Education.com



Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year 2023 will fall on Sunday, January 22nd, 2023, starting a year of the Rabbit. As a public holiday, Chinese people will get 7 days off from work from January 21st to January 27th in 2023.

Chinese New Year 2023 is a Year of the Rabbit, more specifically, Water Rabbit, starting from January 22nd, 2023, and lasting until February 9th, 2024.

The date is decided by the Chinese Lunar Calendar, which is based on the cycles of the moon and sun and is generally 21–51 days behind the Gregorian (internationally-used) calendar.

The date of Chinese New Year changes every year, but it always falls between January 21st and February 20th. The day of Chinese New Year is a new moon day, usually the second after the winter solstice.

China's public holiday for Lunar New Year is 7 days, from Chinese New Year's Eve to the sixth day of the lunar calendar new year.

Offices, banks, factories, shops, and most non-essential services will close doors for a week's holiday. Hotels and large retail outlets stay open and may even be busier than usual! School holidays are four weeks long and migrant workers abandon their factory and construction jobs for weeks to return home.

Holidays in Hong Kong, Macao, and other Asian countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, and Korea are 1 to 3 days.

Celebrations of Chinese New Year traditionally last for 16 days, starting from Chinese New Year's Eve to the Lantern Festival. The most notable dates of the Lunar New Year 2023 are these three days:

- Chinese New Year's Eve on January 21st, 2023
- Chinese New Year's Day on January 22nd, 2023
- The Lantern Festival on February 5th, 2023

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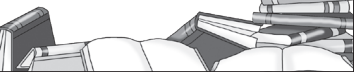
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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Livingston County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on March 8, 2023. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by Brett Anthony Morgan to First National Home Mortgage dated March 30, 2018 and recorded April 9, 2018 as Instrument No. 2018R-009348, Livingston County, Michigan. Said Mortgage is now held by Citizens Bank NA f/k/a RBS Citizens NA by assignment and/or merger. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of \$173,859.28. Said premises are located in Livingston County, Michigan and are described as: Land situated in the Township of Iosco, County of Livingston, State of Michigan Described as follows: Commencing at the East 1/4 corner of Section 20, Town 2 North, Range 3 East, Iosco Township, Livingston County, Michigan, said corner being South 88 degrees 27 minutes 09 seconds East 2639.30 feet from the center of said Section; thence North 88 degrees 27 minutes 09 seconds West 354.50 feet along the East-West 1/4 line of said Section and the centerline of Coon Lake Road to the place of beginning; thence continuing North 88 degrees 27 minutes 09 seconds West 635.15 feet along said East-West 1/4 line and said centerline; thence North 00 degrees 35 minutes 46 seconds East 520.00 feet; thence South 88 degrees 27 minutes 09 seconds East 497.48 feet; thence South 01 degrees 32 minutes 51 seconds West 300.00 feet; thence South 88 degrees 27 minutes 09 seconds East 146.30 feet; thence South 01 degrees 32 minutes 51 seconds West 219.93 feet to the place of beginning being a part of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 28, Town 2 North, Range 3 East, Iosco Township, Livingston County, Michigan. Commonly known as: 10080 Coon Lake Rd. Webberville, MI 48892 Parcel I.D. Number: 4709-20-200-019 Said property is commonly known as 10080 W Coon Lake Rd, Webberville, MI 48892. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Please be advised that any third party purchaser is responsible for preparing and recording the Sheriff's Deed. If this is a residential Mortgage, the following shall apply: ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU: ARE A DEBTOR IN AN ACTIVE BANKRUPTCY CASE; ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A BANKRUPTCY STAY; OR, HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY AND YOU HAVE NOT REAFFIRMED THE DEBT, THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. Dated: January 17, 2023 Attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage: Thomas E. McDonald (P39312) Brock & Scott, PLLC 5431 Oleander Drive Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (844) 856-6646 File No. 22-06079

(01-22)(02-12)

(1-22, 1-29, 2-5 & 2-12-23 FNV)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE
BY ADVERTISEMENT.

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in LIVINGSTON County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on February 22, 2023. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Robert Thomas Pignanello and Rashell Lynn Pignanello, husband and wife, whose address is 18551 Williamsville Road, Gregory, Michigan 48137, as original Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, acting solely as a nominee for Mortgage Solutions of Colorado, LLC., being a mortgage dated October 25, 2017, and recorded on November 8, 2017 in Document Number 2017R-032913, Livingston County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to SERVIS ONE, INC. DBA BSI FINANCIAL SERVICES, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated January 10, 2023 and recorded on January 13, 2023 in Document Number. 2023R-000771, Livingston County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED AND 47/100 DOLLARS (\$168,100.47). Said premises are situated in the Township of Unadilla, County of Livingston, State of Michigan, and are described as: Property located in Section 28, Town 1 North, Range 3 East, Unadilla Township, Livingston County, Michigan, Commencing at the West 1/4 corner South 2 degrees 33 minutes 53 seconds East 1325 feet; thence South 87 degrees 52 minutes 06 seconds East 986.51 feet; thence South 50 degrees 46 minutes 50 seconds East 97 feet; thence North 39 degrees 13 minutes 10 seconds East 198.33 feet; thence South 50 degrees 46 minutes 50 seconds East 379.86 feet; thence South 39 degrees 13 minutes 10 seconds West 33 feet; thence an arc right, radius 481.85 feet, chord bearing South 26 degrees 29 minutes 27 seconds East 396.41 feet; thence South 2 degrees 12 minutes 05 seconds East 59.68 feet for the point of beginning; thence South 2 degrees 12 minutes 05 seconds East 125.27 feet; thence North 87 degrees 52 minutes 18 seconds West 363 feet; thence North 125 feet; thence South 87 degrees 52 minutes 18 seconds East 358.18 feet to the point of beginning. Street Address: 18551 Williamsville Road, Gregory, Michigan 48137. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: January 22, 2023. For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Kenneth J. Johnson, Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 18, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 22 4737

(01-22)(02-12)

(1-22, 1-29, 2-5 & 2-12-23 FNV)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
LIVINGSTON COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
22-20989-DE

Court address and telephone no.
204 S Highlander Way, Suite 2, Howell, MI 48843
(517) 546-3750

Estate of William Matthew Pickering

TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, William Matthew Pickering, died April 12, 2022. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Veronica Music-Pickering, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 204 S Highlander Way Suite 2, Howell, MI 48843 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 5-25-2022

Attorney:
Ryan J. Plantrich, Esq. P80002
41000 W. 7 Mile Road, Suite 200
Northville, Michigan 48167
(248) 347-2950

Personal Representative:
Veronica Music-Pickering
11360 Matthew Lane
Hartland, Michigan 48353
(586) 872-1376

(1-22-23 FNV)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
LIVINGSTON COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

Court address and telephone no.
204 S Highlander Way # 2, Howell, MI 48843
(517) 546-3750

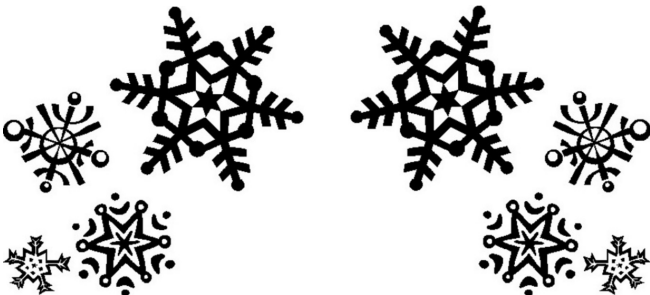
Estate of Joseph E. Thomas, Jr. a/k/a Joseph Edward Thomas, Jr.
Date of Birth: June 22, 1950

TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Joseph E. Thomas, Jr. a/k/a Joseph Edward Thomas, Jr., died October 2, 2022. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Cheryl A. Thomas, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 204 S Highlander Way #2, Howell, MI 48843 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Attorney:
Law Office of David P. Sutherland
David P. Sutherland P47304
18720 Mack Ave., Suite 200
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
(586) 552-8777

Personal Representative:
Cheryl A. Thomas
6888 White Pines Drive
Brighton, MI 48116
(248) 345-1795

(1-22-23 FNV)





U.S. Congress Report

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

Federal Funding for Local Projects Announced

U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin (MI-07) last week announced that she had secured more than \$24.5 million in federal funding for 15 key community projects across mid-Michigan. The initiatives include 7 in Ingham County, 4 in Livingston County, and 4 in Oakland County, and range from expanding EMS services in Ingham and Livingston Counties, as well as providing new training equipment for the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office, among others.

“After receiving 90 proposals and vetting them carefully, our office has been advocating for these 15 projects for the better part of a year, working closely with local leaders across the District to make the case for federal funding that would benefit communities across mid-Michigan,” Slotkin said.

“With almost \$25 million in federal funding secured, these projects will help cities like Lansing and Howell expand their fire department and ambulance services, provide new training equipment for our local law enforcement, rebuild critical infrastructure in Oakland County, and improve trails and parks that Michiganders across the state use every day. I’m proud to have brought this funding into our area and look forward to coordinating with the officials overseeing these projects to make sure that the funds are delivered as quickly as possible.”

Projects in Livingston County and the eastern part of Ingham County include:

Project Sponsor: City of Howell
Recipient Address: 611 E. Grand River Avenue, Howell
Funding Secured: \$750,000
Request Purpose: Depot Lot Reconstruction

Recipient explanation of request and justification for why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds: The City of Howell has submitted a proposal for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Howell Depot Lot, to provide a safe and usable space including the addition of 40 spaces for visitors, for access to downtown businesses and community recreation activities, including a winter ice rink.

Project Sponsor: Green Oak Charter Township Fire Department
Recipient Address: 10001 Silver Lake Road, Brighton
Amount Secured: \$750,000
Request Purpose: Aerial Ladder Truck

Recipient explanation of request and justification for why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds: The Green Oak Charter Township Fire Department submitted a proposal to replace a 27-year-old aerial ladder truck. The Township notes that the truck”is in need of replacement due to increased maintenance costs and decreasing reliability.”

Project Sponsor: Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority
Recipient Address: 5303 S. Cedar Street
Funding Secured: \$900,00
Request Purpose: Livingston County Regional Trail Connections

Recipient explanation of request and justification for why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds: The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority proposed an engineering design project for trail connections to improve the trail network throughout Livingston County and better connect secondary trails, recreation areas, and population centers into the primary Great Lake-to-Lake Trail. The would provide connections to four regional parks: Brighton State Recreation Area, Huron Meadows Metropark.

Project Sponsor: Livingston County Emergency Management Services
Recipient Address: 1911 Tooley Road, Howell
Funding Secured: \$1,169,950
Request Purpose: Power Loading Ambulance Equipment

Recipient explanation of request and justification for why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds: Livingston County Emergency Management Services’ has submitted a proposal for power loading ambulance equipment. Livingston County EMS notes that that one in four EMS workers suffers a career-ending back injury within the first four years of their employment, and that lifting a loaded cot into an ambulance can pose injury risks to patients. This project would preserve the wellbeing of the County’s EMS employees and increase patient safety.

Project Sponsor: Ingham County Fairgrounds
Recipient Address: 700 E. Ash Street, Mason
Amount Secured: \$2,500,000
Request Purpose: New Grandstand
Recipient explanation of request and justification for why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds: The Ingham County Fairgrounds has submitted a proposal for a new grandstand. The previous grandstand was demolished in 2015 due to structural deficiencies. Since then, the Fairgrounds has rented portable seating solutions that do not meet the demand.

Project Sponsor: Ingham County Parks
Recipient Address: 700 E. Ash Street, Mason, MI 48854
Funding Secured: \$2,750,000
Request Purpose: Holt-Mason Trail Connection
Recipient explanation of request and justification for why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds: Ingham County Parks has submitted a proposal for the final, 1.5-mile phase of a trail that will go along Cedar and Howell Roads from College Road to Kearns Road. The project would include a safe pedestrian crossing over the highway which will provide a safe route between Holt and Mason for trail users. It would also provide an alternative transportation route next to DART Container, a large employer in Ingham County.

Project Sponsor: Stockbridge Community Schools
Recipient Address: 100 Price Avenue Ste. A, Stockbridge
Funding Secured: \$2,500,000
Request Purpose: School-Based Area Health Center
Recipient explanation of request and justification for why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds: Stockbridge Community Schools submitted a proposal for a School-Based Area Health Center that will serve youth and residents of Stockbridge Stockbridge Township, the Village, and the five neighboring rural townships (White Oak, Bunker Hill, Waterloo, Henrietta, and Unadilla). The Center would provide direct medical and mental health care services to individuals and small groups, provide local access to laboratory services, monitoring and management of patient chronic diseases, annual health examinations, and specialty clinics for the needs of various patient populations.

State has \$9.2 billion surplus to help navigate a likely economic downturn

By Laina G. Stebbins
Michigan Advance

Michigan’s fiscal experts came together earlier this month for the year’s first Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference (CREC), where top officials from the Treasury Department and the nonpartisan House and Senate fiscal agencies presented revised economic and revenue forecasts for Michigan.

The top takeaways: Michigan continues to recover well financially from the COVID-19 pandemic, but a mild recession in the coming year should be expected.

“We have received positive news,” state Treasurer Rachael Eubanks told reporters after the conference. “ ... Today’s numbers show that Michigan’s continued strong recovery from the pandemic-driven recession ... has translated into strong revenues that have once again exceeded expectations.

“[But] there is uncertainty in the near term. The presentations we heard today indicate an expectation for a mild recession in the year ahead. As the economy moves into this next chapter, we need to be cautious and deliberative in our policy choices,” Eubanks said.

The new numbers released on Jan. 13 indicate that Michigan has a surplus of \$9.2 billion, which includes \$5.8 billion in one-time money and \$3.4 billion in ongoing funds. This is expected to help the state navigate through the projected mild economic downturn that could come later this year. Republicans have been raising concerns about a recession since last year.

The fiscal outlook will help inform Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s Fiscal Year 2024 budget proposal, which is expected to be released next month. Michigan’s next budget year starts Oct. 1.

“I feel rather optimistic seeing these numbers,” state Budget Director Chris Harkins told reporters. “I think we see ... the potential for some recession in the forecast, but it’s mild. And all three of our agencies look forward [to] see continued growth for the state over the coming trend years, and I think that shows us a lot of positive outlook.”

During Whitmer’s first term, she clashed with the GOP-led Legislature over the budget several times, as they differed on infrastructure, health care, environmental and education priorities. With Democrats in charge of both the House and the Senate this session — combined with a giant surplus — negotiations are expected to be far easier this year.

State officials have adopted revised estimates for General Fund/School Aid Fund revenue that, compared to what was predicted in May, are about \$1.2 billion higher this fiscal year and \$1.2 billion higher next fiscal year.

Sales tax growth was huge in 2022 because of high inflation, exceeding previous estimates by about \$485 million. Inflation remains high at 4.6% currently but is expected to slow over the next three years to 2.7% in 2025.

Michigan’s wage and salary income growth is expected to grow in line with the national average, while the state’s unemployment rate is forecasted to trend slightly above the national rate through 2025.

Something experts noted at the conference is that 2023 is the first year that the income tax rate will be reduced if GF/GP revenue growth exceeds defined levels. This is due to Public Act 180 of 2015, signed by former Gov. Rick Snyder, which amended the Income Tax Act.

The impact of this possibility has not yet been calculated, as fiscal experts are still waiting for numbers in the state’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report to do so.

But adjusting the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) would not affect these numbers, officials said.

Bills were introduced last week in both chambers of the Michigan Legislature to boost the state’s EITC. Whitmer has voiced her support for the new Democratic majority-sponsored measures that lawmakers have been trying to pass for years without a deal with GOP leadership.

Until the next CREC in the spring, experts will be monitoring inflation, consumer spending and other variables to see if any shifts.

The Lansing-based Michigan League for Public Policy (MLPP), which released its own 2024 state budget priorities on Jan. 13th, heralded the CREC news as an opportunity for strategic investments in effective programs like the EITC.

“These estimates highlight some risks in the forecast, and concerns over an economic contraction show the need to invest now in effective programs — like the EITC — that help keep working Michiganders and families afloat,” said Monique Stanton, MLPP president and CEO.

“Despite high tax revenues last year, a 2015 law requiring an income tax rate cut when general fund revenue substantially exceeds inflation may have been triggered, which would make it more difficult to pay for the goods and services our communities need in the coming years. So as policymakers work to craft their budgets in the coming weeks and months, we hope they’ll put the people they serve, not wealthy corporations, at the center of their work,” Stanton added.

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Results of DNR survey show wolf population remains stable

Wildlife biologists from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources have released their findings of the latest Michigan gray wolf survey.

The survey, conducted in early 2022, shows the wolf population in the Upper Peninsula remains stable, as it has for more than a decade.

“These results show a continued trend of statistical stability, indicating that gray wolves may have reached their biological carrying capacity within the Upper Peninsula,” said Cody Norton, the DNR’s wolf specialist. “Wolf presence has only been confirmed twice genetically in the Lower Peninsula in recent times; in 2004 and 2014.”

The survey, which is conducted every other winter, covers the U.P., including Drummond, Neebish and Sugar islands, with Isle Royale excluded. The wolves on Isle Royale are managed by the National Park Service.

Completing analysis of the field data collected during the

DNR’s 2022 wolf survey was delayed during the past year as wildlife biologists focused on updating the state’s Wolf Management Plan.

The plan was updated using all pertinent social and biological scientific knowledge on wolves to date.

The minimum wolf population estimate from the 2022 survey is 631 wolves, plus or minus 49 wolves. A total of 136 packs was estimated with an average number of individuals per pack calculated at 4.5.

“Our minimum wolf population estimate is not statistically different from the last estimate in 2020,” Norton said. “All of the estimates since 2011 have not differed statistically.” However, wolf density appears to have shifted over time.

“The density of wolves may have decreased in some areas of the west U.P. and increased in some parts of the east U.P.,” DNR wildlife biologist Brian Roell said.

This may be linked to significant winter weather events during 2013-2015, which greatly reduced deer densities in mid- and high-snowfall zones of the region.

Trending results

The wolf population in the U.P. showed mostly steady



A gray wolf is shown in Marquette County. Credit: Michigan Department of Natural Resource

growth from 1989 to 2011. From 1994 to 2007, the population grew at an average annual rate of 19%. From 2003 to 2007, the average annual growth rate was 12%.

The growth rate was expected to decline as the population moved toward the maximum level the U.P. can sustain.

Since 2011, the minimum estimate for the wolf population has remained stable ranging from 618 to 695. A minimum estimate of 695 wolves occurred in the U.P. during the winter of 2020.

Lower Peninsula

In October 2004, a wolf that had been captured and radio-collared in the eastern U.P. was captured and killed by a coyote trapper in Presque Isle County of the northern Lower Peninsula. This event represented the first verification of a wild wolf in the L.P. in at least 69 years. However, winter track surveys during 2005-2010 failed to indicate the presence of any wolves in the LP.

In 2014, biologists from the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians captured what appeared to be a wolf on a trail camera and were able to collect a scat sample. DNA analysis of the scat confirmed that the animal was a wolf. Although it is possible that wolves occur in the LP, but as of January 2023, no wolves are known to exist there.

New dashboard

The DNR has produced a new online dashboard, making incidence of wolf-dog conflicts more accessible for viewers. The dashboard includes mapped data points of conflicts and a database of incidents over many years.

The improvement in presenting the data was suggested during meetings in 2022 of the Wolf Management Advisory Council and sections of the recently update Michigan Wolf Management Plan.

Changing legal status

The legal status of wolves at both the federal and state level has changed several times, which impacts the ability of all agencies to manage wolves. Regardless of changes in legal status, wolves in Michigan have surpassed federal and state population recovery goals for 22 years.

Gray wolves are currently on the federal list of threatened and endangered species. Consequently, they cannot be killed legally unless in defense of human life.

Regardless of the federal listing status, the Michigan DNR will continue to have management responsibility for wolves in the state. It is the regulatory authority over lethal take of wolves that varies with the changing status of wolves. Implementing some portions of the Michigan Wolf Management Plan are curtailed given the federally endangered legal status of wolves.

Find out more about wolves and the Michigan Wolf Management Plan at Michigan.gov/Wolves.

OLSHA holding ‘Walk for Warmth’ at Hartland Center on Feb. 11th

OLSHA is holding its ‘Walk for Warmth’ on Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Hartland Educational Support Service Center, 9525 E. Highland Road, Howell.

The mission of this family-friendly event is to raise funds to support those in need in Livingston County to stay warm and safe in their homes during the coldest months. By walking alongside community supporters and first responders, you can help these dedicated individuals continue to assist families in local neighborhoods. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. and the walk begins promptly at 9 a.m.

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