

# NEIGHBORS

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REGIONAL NEWS

close to 40 exhibits and demonstrations. Besides the hands-on activities, students can stroll through Olde Town filled with places like Old Tyme Jail, Farm Machinery Repair Shop, a migrant farm camp, Peaceful Knoll Church and a log cabin. The shingle mill, blacksmith shop and sawmill will all be open and running as well.

If you are interested in attending Farm History Day with a large group, the museum asks that you call 269-637-5077 or email [michiganflywheelers@yahoo.com](mailto:michiganflywheelers@yahoo.com).

The Michigan Flywheelers Museum is located at 06285 68th St. in South Haven. It is open on Wednesdays and

weekends from Memorial Day through the end of August as well as for special events. Tours are given by appointment. For more information, 269-639-2010, [michiganflywheelers@yahoo.com](mailto:michiganflywheelers@yahoo.com), [www.michiganflywheelers.org](http://www.michiganflywheelers.org) or Facebook.

**Pioneer Log Cabin Day Festival**

The Log Cabin Museum at 1700 on highway M-60/M62 in Cassopolis is open Memorial Day through Labor Day on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 12:30 to 4:30 pm.

The Pioneer Log Cabin Day Festival will be June 30, from Noon to 4 pm. The festival is free and all are welcome.

**Cottage Food Law Workshop**


Michigan's Cottage Food Law, which took effect July 2010, will allow those with an entrepreneurial spirit the opportunity to sell certain homemade food products to the public.

Michigan Cottage Food Law workshop will be offered 1-3 pm Thursday, May 30, at Berrien County MSU Extension, 1737 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor, MI 49022.

Learn how to prepare and sell foods to the public under Michigan's Cottage Food Law. This two-hour workshop combines the business and food safety aspects of preparing and selling cottage foods safely and successfully. Michigan

Cottage Food Law allows residents to manufacture certain low-risk foods in home kitchens and store those products at home. Topics include preparing, packaging, labeling, storing and transporting cottage foods.


There is a \$20 fee to attend this workshop. Deadline to register is May 28. Cancellation fee of \$10 after May 16. Participants receive a certificate of participation. Register at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/cflberrien52019>. Persons with disabilities may request accommodations by calling 927-5674 by June 14.



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# REGIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

May 1 - Dowagiac Area History Museum Spring Lecture program on the Heddon Museum, 783-2560

May 1 – Ross Beatty High Art Show Open House, 6-7:30 pm, Light refreshments. Cass District Library- Main Library, 357-7822

May 3, 4 - Michigan Lake stewardship Association (formerly Michigan Lakes and Streams Association) 58th Annual Meeting, Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville, MI, mymlsa.org

May 4-17 - Dogwood Fine Arts Festival, 9 am - 5 pm, Dowagiac, (866) 490-2847, www.DogwoodFineArts.org

May 4 – Free Comic Book Day, Open business hours, First come, first served while supplies last. Sponsored by BuyMeToys.com Cass District Library- All Locations, 1-866-808-7323

May 4 – Spider-man Into the Spider-verse, 10:00 am, Join us for this family friendly movie! Popcorn also provided. Cass District Library-Main Library, 357-7822

May 6 – USCGC Mackinaw Ship Presentation, 6:00 pm, Mike Fornes presents an entertaining and informative program about the USCGC Mackinaw. Free and open to the public. Cass District Library-Howard Branch, 487-9214

May 7 – The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part, 6:00 pm, Join us for this family friendly movie! Popcorn also provided. Cass District Library-Edwardsburg Branch, 487-9215

May 8 – Ceramic Teapot Flower Planter, 1:00 pm, Call 357-7822 to register, space is limited to 10 adults. Cass District Library-Main Library, 357-7822

May 9 – Bumblebee, 6:00 pm, Join us for this family friendly movie! Popcorn also provided. Cass District

Library-Main Library, 357-7822

May 9 - Cass County Medical Facility Auxiliary's 57th Spring Luncheon, 11:30 am, \$7, in the dining room of the CCMCF, 23770 Hospital, Cassopolis. Reservations by May 3, Joyce Settle 445-3198

May 10 - Farm History Day, 9 am - 2 pm, Michigan Flywheelers Museum, 06285 68th St, South Haven, http://www.michiganflywheelers.org

May 11 - Cass County Household Hazardous waste collection, Cass County fairgrounds, Cassopolis, 445-4438

May 13 – The Uses and Benefits of Lavender, 6:00 pm, Don't miss this free presentation from Shades of Lavender Farm! Cass District Library-Howard Branch, 487-9214

May 14 – Family Story Time: Wiggly Worms, 6:00 pm, Join us for stories, songs, and fun activities about the weather. Cass District Library-Howard Branch, 487-9214

May 21 – The Kid Who Would Be King, 6:00 pm, Join us for this family friendly movie! Popcorn also provided. Cass District Library-Howard Branch, 487-9214

May 21 - Cass Historical Society program Boys in Blue, Cass District Library - Main Branch, 6:30 pm

May 22 – How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World, 6:00 pm, Join us for this family friendly movie! Popcorn also provided. Cass District Library-Mason/ Union Branch, 357-7821

May 24, 25 - Rummage & Bake Sale, 9 am to 3 pm Friday, 9 am to Noon Saturday, ½ off marked items and \$4 bag sale on clothing and unmarked items, Dowagiac First United Methodist Church, 326 N.

Lowe St, 782.8551.

May 25 - Oshke-Kno-Kewewen Traditional Pow Wow, 9 am, 782.8998, http://www.PokagonPowWow.com

May 25 – Super Fun Color Run: Warriors Against Trauma Registration Due, Open Business Hours, The run/walk is free on June 8; however, if ordering a t-shirt your registration and \$10 payment is due today. Cass District Library-Main Library, 357-7822 May 27 - Dowagiac Memorial Day Parade, 10:30 am - Noon, 782.6306

May 28 - 5 pm, National Association of Retired Federal Employees SW Michigan Chapter 572 monthly meeting of the year at the Super Buffet, Benton Harbor (next to Big Lots). All retired/current federal employees, spouses/families welcome. Jean Rowe, 782 2769 or e mail jeanrowe70@comcast.net

May 30 - Michigan Cottage Food Law workshop, 1-3 pm, Berrien County MSU Extension, 1737 Hillandale Rd., Benton Harbor, 927-5647, https://events.anr.msu.edu/cflberrien52019

June 7, 8 - Swap Meet, 8 am, Michigan Flywheelers Museum, 06285 68th St, South Haven, http://www.michiganflywheelers.org

June 8 - 2019 Diamond Lake Association Annual Meeting (all lake residents welcome) 10-11:30 am, Diamond Lake Yacht Club; dlacassopolis@gmail.com, www.dlacassopolis.org

June 8 - Cass Area Artists' ART SHOW, 10 am - 4 pm at Sinclair Station, Cassopolis, 228-8047

June 13-16 - Youth Play 'King Midas and the Golden Touch, Barn Swallow Theatre, Edwardsburg, 7:30 pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday, 228-6672

June 18 - Cass Historical Society program Potawatomi history and culture, Cass District Library - Main Branch, 6:30 pm

June 21 & 22 - Diamond Lake All-Lake Garage Sale, 9 am - 2 pm Friday, 9 am - Noon Saturday; dlacassopolis@gmail.com, www.dlacassopolis.org

June 25 - 5 pm, National Association of Retired Federal Employees SW Michigan Chapter 572 monthly meeting of the year at the Super Buffet, Benton Harbor (next to Big Lots). All retired/current federal employees, spouses/families welcome. Jean Rowe, 782 2769 or e mail jeanrowe70@comcast.net

June 30 - Log Cabin Day Festival, Cassopolis, 12:30 - 4:30 pm

July 6 - FIREWORKS at Diamond Lake, Birch Lake, dusk (rain date July 7).

July 16 - April 16 - Cass Historical Society program Down the Sauk Trail, Cass District Library - Main Branch, 6:30 pm

July 19, 20 - Summer in the City Festival, 10 am - 5 pm, Dowagiac, 782.8212, VPhillipson@Dowagiac.org

July 20 - Cass Area Artists' ART SHOW, 10 am - 4 pm at COA, Cassopolis, 228-8047

July 20 - 2019 Diamond Lake Triathlon, 7:30 - 10:30 am, Diamond Lake Marina; dlacassopolis@gmail.com, www.dlacassopolis.org, https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Cassopolis/DiamondLakeTriathlon

July 23 - 5 pm, National Association of Retired Federal Employees SW Michigan Chapter 572 monthly meeting of the year at the Super Buffet, Benton Harbor (next to Big Lots). All retired/current federal employees, spouses/families welcome. Jean Rowe, 782 2769 or e mail jeanrowe70@comcast.net



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# REGIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

July 25 - Ed's Open Header, "Cruise for the Cause" 5:30 - 8:30 pm, Dowagiac, proceeds will be given to the Cass County Cancer Service, 782-8212	Benton Harbor (next to Big Lots). All retired/current federal employees, spouses/families welcome. Jean Rowe, 782 2769 or e mail jeanrowe70@comcast.net	federal employees, spouses/families welcome. Jean Rowe, 782 2769 or e mail jeanrowe70@comcast.net	0000
July 27 - Steve's Run, 9 am - 1 pm, Southwestern Michigan College, 782.1000, <a href="http://StevesRun.SWMich.edu/">http://StevesRun.SWMich.edu/</a>	August 31 - Kee-Boon-Mein-Kaa Pow Wow, 9 am, <a href="http://PokagonPowWow.com">http://PokagonPowWow.com</a> , 782.8998	October 6 - April 16 - Cass Historical Society Fall Festival at Newton House, 1-4:30 pm	November 15, 16 - Christmas Open House Weekend, 10 am - 5 pm, Dowagiac, 782.8212.
July 28-August 3 Cass County Fair <a href="http://MyCassCountyFair.com">http://MyCassCountyFair.com</a> , 445.8265	September 5-8 - Antique Engine & Tractor Show, Thursday – Saturday 8 am to 8 pm, Sunday 8 am to 4 pm, Michigan Flywheelers Museum, 06285 68th St, South Haven, <a href="http://www.michiganflywheelers.org">http://www.michiganflywheelers.org</a> .	October 12 - Under the Harvest Moon Festival, 10 am - 4 pm, Dowagiac, 782.8212.	November 30 - Small Business Saturday, 10 am - 11 pm, Dowagiac, 782-8212
August 17 - Rod & Roll Classic Auto Show, 7 am - 4 pm, Dowagiac, 782.8212	September 17 - Cass Historical Society program Bonine House and Carriage House, Cass District Library - Main Branch, 6:30 pm	October 15 - Cass Historical Society review of year, Cass District Library - Main Branch, 6:30 pm	December 3 - 1:30 pm The National Association of Retired Federal Employees SW Michigan Chapter 572 will hold their annual holiday dinner at Coach's Bar & Grill, Stevensville. All retired/current federal employees, spouses/families welcome, no RSVP needed. No business meeting, new officers will be sworn in. Next meeting is March 24, 2020. For information call Jean Rowe, 782 2769 or e mail jeanrowe70@comcast.net
August 20 - April 16 - Cass Historical Society annual picnic, Russ Forest pavilion, 6 pm	September 24 - 5 pm, National Association of Retired Federal Employees SW Michigan Chapter 572 monthly meeting of the year at the Super Buffet, Benton Harbor (next to Big Lots). All retired/current	October 22 - 5 pm, National Association of Retired Federal Employees SW Michigan Chapter 572 monthly meeting of the year at the Super Buffet, Benton Harbor (next to Big Lots). All retired/current federal employees, spouses/families welcome. Jean Rowe, 782 2769 or e mail jeanrowe7@comcast.net	December 6 - Candlelight Christmas Parade, 7 - 9 pm, Dowagiac, 782.8212
August 27 - 5 pm, National Association of Retired Federal Employees SW Michigan Chapter 572 monthly meeting of the year at the Super Buffet,		October 27 - Trunk 'n Treat, 6 - 7 pm, Dowagiac, 782-	

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# PASTA ITALIA CON CHEF DONATO

## The worlds best meatballs

**I** by Chef Dennis Bamber  
always enjoy making meatballs different ways. I also like my food to have a lot of flavor, something I learned from my mom. I recently made meatballs this way, and whoa, they were tasty, Give these a try. Quick easy and delicious.

- INGREDIENTS**  
2 LBS OF GROUND BEEF  
1 RED ONION CHOPPED VERY FINE  
6 GARLIC CLOVES CHOPPED VERY FINELY  
1 CUP OF FINELY-CHOPPED FLAT LEAF ITALIAN) PARSLEY  
1/2 CUP OF ROMANO CHEESE  
1/2 CUP OF PARMESAN CHEESE  
1 TABLESPOONS OF BLACK PEPPER  
1 TEASPOON OF SALT  
4-6 OUNCES OF FINELY-CHOPPED PROSCIUTTO  
3 EGGS  
1 CUP OF BREADCRUMBS

**DIRECTIONS**  
Mix all the ingredients together and form into balls less than the size of a tennis ball; put on a greased cookie sheet and bake in a 350 degree oven for 30-40 minutes.  
You can eat these just out of the oven, or put into your favorite tomato sauce and simmer for 45 minutes before serving

**Braciolo and Cavatelli**  
Growing up on a holiday or my birthday, my mom would ask me what I wanted for dinner. Almost always I said Braciolo and your homemade Cavatelli, and I'll even crank the machine for the Cavatelli.

I recently made this dish for company. It's not hard but it does take a little time, but worth it. There are numerous variations of this dish, some use chopped egg, Sicilians like raisins in it Here is a basic version that I feel brings out the flavor of the slow cooked meat.  
For this dish, I used sirloin, but some use flank steak or round. My mom often made it with veal which was super tender.

- INGREDIENTS**  
8 pieces of sirloin cut into 4 x 6 squares  
1/2 inch thick and pounded to 1/4 inch thickness  
Butcher twine and/or toothpicks

**O**KAY, BUT  
**THEY ARE**  
**WORTH**  
**TRYING ...**



- 2 cloves of finely minced garlic  
1/2 cup of pine nuts minced  
8 pieces of very thinly sliced prosciutto  
4 tablespoons of olive oil  
1/2 cup of chopped Italian parsley  
2/3 cup of pecorino Romano cheese grated (you could use Parmesan)  
Pot of Tomato sauce-see last month's Neighbors for my recipe or use your own Pasta

**DIRECTIONS**  
Lay the meat flat, season both sides with salt and pepper and put a piece of prosciutto on top--  
Mix the garlic, cheese, parsley, pine nuts



in a bowl with the olive oil. Adding a tablespoon at a time until moist and binding together,  
NOTE- some recipes call for some breadcrumbs to keep the mixture together and some also add grated provolone cheese. Okay to add.  
Spoon a healthy amount of the mixture evenly on the meat and roll up like a small jelly roll. Using the twine, start at one end, crisscrossing the braciolo and the tie at the far end. If you are not comfortable with using the twine, use toothpicks instead. If the ends are not sealed, add toothpicks to seal the ends.  
Put some olive oil into a large skillet

and turn heat to medium high. When the oil gets hot, using tongs, brown the Braciolo on all sides. When brown, put the Braciolo into your pot of simmering tomato sauce and let simmer for 2-3 hours, stirring occasionally.  
Bring a pot of water to a boil, salt and cook your pasta until al' dente. While the pasta is cooking, remove the braciolo onto a platter and cut and remove the string with scissors. Don't worry, it will stay together and the filling will not come out. Serve either on the side with the pasta, or put a braciolo on top of the pasta for each serving.

*~Buon appetito*  
**Dennis Bamber** is an avid cook. He grew up in the restaurant business and has traveled extensively worldwide as well as being a partner in a business in Paris for 9 years. He is a second generation Italian-American. He is currently a Realtor with Cressy & Everett, Licensed in Michigan and Indiana, and specializes in lake property.



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# LAKE LIFE WITH JANE

## Pleasant surprises and changes

by **Jane Boudreau**

**H**i Neighbors! I hope you are enjoying these gorgeous spring days as much as I am. A long time ago I wasn't too crazy about spring, at least not as much as the other three seasons. Why? I guess because the weather was always so iffy; the sun could be shining yet the wind could slice through you like a knife, and of course, a ton of rainy days. But I'm enjoying spring a lot more these days. The things I once couldn't count on are pleasant surprises and changes. Even the rainy days tell me to just stay in warm and dry, do some cooking, baking, or tidying up, and be happy the earth is getting a good drink of water.

My tulips and daffodils have been springing to life and it's nice not to have to buy supermarket bouquets. I try to plant different varieties every year so they keep coming for a few weeks but that always depends on if I get them in the fall before. I know many of us sort of peter out on gardening at the end of the summer and just like to put out some potted mums and pumpkins. And sometimes we go from summer straight to winter like we did this past fall. Still--you reap what you sow. So I took a little spin around the Internet to compile a simple list of fall bulb planting tips. I know, sounds strange that I'm writing about fall in May, but if you're feeling a little wistful looking at your neighbors spring garden beds with all of those happy colorful faces bobbing in the breeze, clip this little list, hang it in your shed or near your potting table ... whatever floats your boat. Next year at this time you will be patting yourself on the back.



\*\*\*Be prepared to plant bulbs once the ground is cool and the temperatures range between 40 to 50 degrees. Try to plant at least 6 weeks before the ground freezes. That doesn't give us a large window but in my experience, I've noticed if I plant bulbs too early they actually start to send out shoots before we reach a freeze. Play that by ear.

\*\*\*Garden centers tend to start selling bulbs early so as to make way for holiday items. If you purchase them early, you will have to keep them refrigerated until planting time. That's a No from me, I put up with Styrofoam containers of earth worms in my fridge for years back in the kid's fishing days and I vow to never again having anything remotely alive in my refrigerator. I would suggest you purchase them later in the season if possible, maybe they'll be on sale, or you can order them from a bulb company which sends them out to you when your area (or zone) is ready for planting. I'm going to list some of my favorite companies. It's sort of nice to sit on your patio in the summer sipping a margarita and thumbing through catalogs featuring varieties of spring flowers you never knew existed. A lot of places let you order now and they ship later so you can just get that out of the way

\*\*\*Keep the bulb labels together. You will not be able to tell one color or type



from the other.

\*\*\*Plant your bulbs in well drained soil. They love sun but don't worry, when they bloom your trees may still be bare. Aim for six hours of full sun.

\*\*\*When you plant, loosen the soil well. Add compost or peat moss if it's a new bed. I add some every year (or try to), just to keep that soil enriched. Just work it around the hibernating or new bulbs with a trowel or hand rake.

\*\*\*Some people seem shocked when they see me with bags containing 50- 100 bulbs inside. But this is how I do it. I make a large, deep hole, three times deeper than the size of the bulb, and then I plant them in groups of ten. Make sure you have the fuzzy root end faced down. There you go, you get a lot of bulbs for your buck!

Some of my favorite mail order companies:

\*\*\*Brecks; [www.brecks.com](http://www.brecks.com)

\*\*\*Spring Hill Nurseries; [www.Springhillnursery.com](http://www.Springhillnursery.com)

\*\*\*Michigan Bulb; [www.michigan-bulb.com](http://www.michigan-bulb.com)

\*\*\*Burpee; [www.burpee.com](http://www.burpee.com)



Of course we can't be completely involved in our lawn and garden care throughout the month, the inside of our homes needs a little refreshing, too. I tend to be pretty neutral with color in my decor. I'm just starting to add some light stripes and florals here and there. On the other hand, my porch and patio furniture has brightly colored cushions and pillows, so I get a little of what I like where I want it.

I'm finding pale blue is a nice summer addition. It reflects the sky and water so it flows seamlessly. I've been having fun with a little bit of a beach feel at the lake. Just here and there in the main rooms. In the guest rooms I like to really jazz it up with buoys, fish, netting, whales ... you name it. It's my home on the water, but to guests, it's a little bit of vacation.

Very simple changes would be to hide away dark throws and pillows and toss in

some blue, white, or whatever makes you feel all sunshiny inside. Pick out a few candles with refreshing fragrances and burn them in the daytime as well as evenings. Fill a bowl with shells (you can actually buy bags of these at craft stores). A piece of driftwood or vase of dried pussy willow unites the indoors with the outdoors. And open those windows!



I've been seeing a lot of different containers at craft stores that make for interesting vessels for plants and flowers, indoors and out. Whether used as vases or planters, there's some nice variety out there. I'm a little bit of a traditionalist about the good old fashioned clay pots but there are downsides to that. Clay can really draw the moisture out of the soil and roots so you have to water more frequently. I think I solved that problem for the most part last summer by keeping my flowers in plastic pots and placing them in clay, that way the soil never came in contact with that drying clay. Yeah, a little more work and cost. So, I'm feeling pretty good about seeing some of these metal containers here and there. You have to have drainage though so be prepared to do a little drilling into the bottoms. I've tried filling the bottoms of pots with stones and rocks but if you really get a downpour and it doesn't drain out, your plant will simply rot. So--get out there and have a look at all the summery good stuff in bargain stores like TJ Maxx, Marshall's, HomeGoods, and Michael's to name a few. And remember, these are the sort of things you can use summer after summer if you take care of them.

And on to the recipes. I went

through some of my blog posts to reacquaint myself with some of the salads I made years ago and had fallen to the wayside. Each picture brought back the memories of how they tasted, how simple they were to make, and in a few cases, some rave reviews. These are perfect for this time of year when you want a nice side dish to go along with a simple lunch or a burger dinner. Bring a bowl for the buffet at a party and be ready for the compliments.



### Fiesta Bean Salad

This is light, refreshing but packs a nice little punch with the nuttiness of the beans. You will love having this as a side or with a chunk of good bread as a nice lunch. It's easy to toss together and is as good cold as it is at room temp.

#### Ingredients:

2 cloves garlic, minced  
3 T fresh lime juice  
1 T olive oil  
1 t cumin  
pinch of red pepper flakes  
pinch of salt  
15 oz. can black beans, rinsed and drained  
1 c canned chickpeas, rinsed and drained  
1 c cherry tomatoes, halved  
1/4 c red onion, finely chopped  
1/4 c cilantro, chopped  
1 medium avocado, diced

#### Directions:

In a large bowl combine the garlic, lime juice, oil, cumin, red pepper flakes and salt.

Add everything else except the avocado and mix well. Chill at least one hour. Before serving gently mix in the avocado.



This is utterly simple to make and looks absolutely beautiful on your table or buffet. It's tart, creamy and just delicious. Enjoy!

*Continued on next page. See:*

**JANE**



# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## Insurance and summer activities

By **Charlie Retherford**

Ah, finally! Warmer weather is upon us. The trees have buds and before we know it, everything will be green again. The dingy grays and browns of winter will be behind us for several glorious months. I have a few friends that will disagree with my preference for all but the hottest days of summer, but they always seem to “suffer through” the warmth by dreaming of the snowiest of winter days. It is now the time of year for those of us who relish warm, gentle rains while sitting on the porch or the rustle of curtains as the summer breeze makes its way through open windows.

Springtime is when folks become restless and there is a sense of wanderlust in the air that will lead many of us to destinations near or far. Some will spend precious vacation time in hotels or Airbnb homes in places like Lake Tahoe or Hawaii. Others will opt for the “closer to nature” choices like campgrounds, State and National parks or their nearest friend’s backyard. It all sounds wonderful; doesn’t it? What could possibly go wrong?

We are all counting down the days to our vacation or the next big summer party. But, at the risk of “raining on your parade”, now is really the time to make sure you have adequate insurance coverage in place to protect yourself from those fun, but risky warm-weather activities. Even though we believe that will never happen to me, having the proper

coverage in place can lessen the severity of any unfortunate event. You may want to ask yourself the questions below to see if any of them could apply to you.

How many things can go wrong on vacation?

Besides forgetting your swim suit at home, did you return to the hotel room only to find it had been ransacked and your wife’s jewelry was missing? Does your insurance policy have a limit on how much jewelry is covered for a theft loss unless it is individually scheduled on the policy?

Did you rent a car when you arrived at your destination? If you are involved in an accident, how much coverage will your own auto policy provide? Should you have purchased the insurance offered by the rental car company?

Did your daughter spill grape juice on the white couch in the Airbnb? Whose insurance policy will cover that?

Right about now, someone is thinking those things cannot happen to them because they go camping and stay in their own accommodations; so, they won’t have to worry about grape juice.

They might forget that when they tie the dog’s leash to the tree in front of their campsite, it presents a trip-and-fall hazard for neighboring campers.



Maybe they let their 12-year-old granddaughter drive the golf cart around the campground. There should not be a problem since she is a very good driver, right?

And did they really forget how tall their 5th wheel is? It looks like it was taller than the overhang at the gas station! What would your policy cover?

Your neighbor spends all his vacation at home ... on the lake ... in his boat.

He hits an unseen object in the water and his favorite “pastime” is suddenly 15 feet deep in the murky waters of the lake. He has collision coverage for the boat, but will that pay the recovery cost? He allowed his 22-year-old nephew to borrow the pontoon boat and, unfortunately, someone was injured during a boating accident while his nephew was at the helm. Could your neighbor be held responsible? If so, would he have coverage? Did you ever wonder if your neighbor would have proper insurance coverage if he chose to take his boat out on the ocean?

Instead of going away during the 4th of July weekend, you have decided to stay home and host a large party to cele-

brate the holiday.

In preparation for the event, you decide to burn a large leaf pile while mowing the yard. Unfortunately, the fire spreads through the dry grass and catches your riding mower on fire. Thankfully no one is hurt but your mower is, ahem, toast. Will your homeowner’s insurance policy pay for it?

One of your party guests accidentally hits your garage with his car as he is backing out to leave. It turns out he does not have current auto insurance. Will any of your policies pay for the damages?

You have alcoholic beverages for yourself at your home during the party but you asked all your guests to bring their own. If one of them had too much to drink and was involved in an auto accident on the way home, could you be held responsible?

Pretty scary, right? An annual or semi-annual review of all your insurance policies is definitely worth the time it takes. If you had any doubt about your present coverages while reading the above scenarios, please contact your insurance agent and make sure you have the appropriate coverage for your particular circumstances. You can also call any of us or stop by the office at Kemner Iott Benz and we will be happy to help.

We wish all of you the safest and most enjoyable summer!

But just in case it does “rain on your parade,” remember to keep your umbrella handy.

### JANE

Continued from previous page

#### Emily's Grape Salad

**Ingredients:**

- 8 oz. softened cream cheese
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 t. vanilla
- 2 lbs. seedless red grapes
- 2 lbs. seedless green grapes
- 3 T. brown sugar
- 3 T. chopped pecans

**Directions:**

- 1) Beat cream cheese, sour cream, sugar and vanilla until smooth. Add grapes and toss to coat.
  - 2) Transfer to a serving bowl, cover and chill. Before serving, sprinkle over the brown sugar and pecans.
- This is heavenly and super simple to make. :)

This is a delicious salad that can be served with a meal, on a buffet, or as a dip/spread at a party. Simply toast up some pita bread, slice it into triangles and serve. Include a an appetizer knife or spoon to scoop it up with. The flavors are insane good!



#### Layered Greek Salad

**Ingredients:**

- 2 large tomatoes, diced
- 2 cups cucumber, peeled and diced

- 1/2 cup red onion, diced
- 1/2 cup green pepper, diced
- 1 cup crumbled feta cheese, divided
- 2 T. dried oregano, divided
- 3/4 cup chopped fresh parsley, divided
- 16 oz. (or 2 cups) plain Greek yogurt
- 1 1/2 t. salt and pepper each
- 1 cup chopped romaine lettuce
- 1/2 c. red pepper, diced
- 1/4 cup sliced black olives

**Directions:**

- In a casserole dish at least 3 inches deep, layer tomatoes. Top with cucumbers (in order, in layers), red onion and green peppers. I smooshed the layers down with a spatula to make room for everything. Sprinkle with a pinch of the salt and pepper.
- Now do a fine layer of half the feta cheese, half the oregano and half the parsley. Add dollops of the yogurt over this and press it down with a spatula. A tip--press and spread like you are frosting a cake. Do not lift the spatula up and down or it will pull up the layers and make a holy mess. Sprinkle with another bit of S & P.
- Finally, make a layer of the romaine lettuce, remaining feta, olives, red pepper, oregano and parsley. Chill for 1 hour. Serve cold or room temp with crackers or pita chips. Serves 10,000. :)

I hope you are all having a great month so far. Next time I see you we will be on out way into summer and we know how fast that goes. I hope you're lying on a hammock or a beach towel reading Neighbors! No worries, I've made do with soaking my feet in a kiddie pool!

Happy Days to you!

Jane Boudreau is a writer, blogger and long-time resident of Diamond Lake. She divides her time between Chicago, Michigan, and a little place in the mountains of North Carolina. You can contact her at [blndy9@yahoo.com](mailto:blndy9@yahoo.com)

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# OUR CHILDREN

## Don't let exams catch kids off guard!

by **SANDY FLEMING**

Every year, I am amazed by the number of my students who seem oblivious to the fact that there will be semester and year-end exams in middle school and high school. These happen every semester and every June like clockwork and are very predictable. Nearly every teacher will have a final exam, so now is the time to get prepared.

**Don't Wait Until the Last Minute!**

It's common for young people to put off studying for finals until the teacher announces the date and time of the test, or until the teacher provides a study guide. Don't let your student make this mistake. These are big tests, and often account for a significant portion of the class' final grade. They will be covering at least the material from the last several units, from the second semester, or in some cases, the entire year. That's a lot of ground to cover in review in just a few days.

It's a much better strategy to start preparing now. It's quite possible the teacher will tell what will be covered if asked early. And if not, it's a good idea to think in terms of the semester or even the year's worth of content.

Gather up those notes, reread those chapters, look over those tests and projects, and start today. Set up a schedule that makes sense with the rest of life. Students have about a month to get ready if they start in early May, so look at the content and divide it up into weekly and then daily sections. Plan to spend some time each day to study and spend time with at least a few classes. Review and refresh, and the exams won't seem nearly so scary.

**"But How Will I Know What Will Be on the Test?"**

Teachers actually give lots of clues about what tests are likely to cover. The clues are also in the textbooks and reading material. Every class has goals and important material, and that's what will be on the test. If it's a math class, plan to review the skills and concepts covered in the past few months. Learn the vocabulary, the formulas, and the processes to solve those types of problems. Practice extra problems of each type, even if you have to search them out in other textbooks at the library or find them on the internet. In English class, review the ideas about writing that you've been learning, review the vocabulary, and review the important aspects of literature, like the stories' themes, plots, char-

acters, settings, and literary devices the authors used. For your science class, learn the big and important concepts. Study the diagrams and the processes. Do some practice math-related problems. In social studies, review the big ideas and important dates.

Each day, teachers have a purpose for the class time. Look at your notes from the class and try to figure out what the purpose was. Some teachers will even say "This will be on the test" so be sure to write those things down.

Many text books give clues, as well. Look at the beginnings of the chapters for an overview that highlights the important ideas. Review the questions at the ends of the sections or chapters. These concepts are likely to turn up on the tests as well. Go over the highlighted vocabulary. These words are almost always crucial to understanding the material in the class and frequently are just as crucial to doing well on the tests.

And be sure to go over the old tests from the class if you have access to them. If it was important enough to be on a quiz, a chapter test, or other big assessment, then it probably is important enough to be on the final exam.

**"But I Don't Have a Study Guide"**

That's easy ... Make your own! Creating your own study guide is one very good way to go over the material. Students need not wait for an assignment to start studying. In fact, the farther students progress in school, the more independence in studying is expected of them. This means that at some point, they will encounter a teacher that does not provide study guides because they expect students to do this on their own. So there's no time like the present to begin to learn the process of creating a study guide.

The first step is to create an organized look at the content of the class. This can be in the form of a traditional outline or a graphic organizer that shows connections between topics. If there is a textbook for the class, the job is actually pretty easy. All textbooks are written from outlines, so it's a simple matter to make chapter titles into main points, section and subsection titles into subpoints, and add the details from the paragraphs. Be sure to add in information from class notes that may not be in the text, and be sure to examine the illustrations, pictures, graphics, and captions from all sources. Some teachers just love to grab information from these as well, to make sure students pay attention to them.

It's a good idea to create a glossary for the course. Use the highlighted vocabulary from the readings and add in any other words you found difficult. Look up the definitions for everything, and then put these into your own words (paraphrase them). That will help you remember the words more effectively, and it will also highlight words that you don't understand well.

Make a question-format study guide by looking at the main points of the course content (from the book and from the lectures) and framing questions that ask about the most important things. Write these questions down, and then go back to them a few days later and try to answer them.

Make study notes by writing down the important points in the order they were presented, and including diagrams and sketches as needed. Try making your own timeline for events or processes. Create your own infographics to summarize concepts, too.

And once you have your study guide, use it! Go over the material several times a week until it's time for the test. What if the teacher provides a study guide later on? That's great! Compare yours to the teacher's and see if there are any differences. Incorporate the teacher's ideas into your study guide and keep going!

**Pay Attention to Vocabulary**

I've mentioned it a few times, but it deserves its own section because it's so important. Many students make the mistake of ignoring class and subject-specific vocabulary, to their dismay when it comes test time. Make sure you have a complete list of course-specific vocabulary and study it just like you would for a vocabulary test in English class. Even if the test does not contain specific questions about these words, you can bet that they will be used in other questions. You will be lost if you don't know the difference between circumference and perimeter in geometry!

There are several study strategies that are tried and true for vocabulary work. Try a few of these out and see which work best for you.

- Use the words in sentences.
- Write the definitions.
- Put the word on one card and the definition on another card and play memory matching games.
- Put the words on cards and drill them daily by saying the definition. When you get them right ten times, move the card to a new pile and drill it weekly. If you miss it in that pile, put it back in

the daily pile and try again.

- Put the definitions on cards and say the words that match. Use the same system as above to make sure they stay learned once you've mastered them.
- Write the word five times.

Vocabulary work is so important to learning that you should be constantly working to learn the words in each class. Don't skimp on this one; it's foundational to learning.

**Wrapping Up**

If you start now (or even earlier next time), you can avoid those last minute cram sessions. Staying up until the wee hours of the morning studying for the test is almost never a good idea, and it is seldom an effective way to get a good grade. Plus, if you are intentional about studying in this way all semester or year long, you will really learn the information from the class and it will stay learned. That will make the next class in the sequence that much easier because you will have the foundation you need to move on. This is especially crucial if you plan to go on to higher education of some sort after high school. Follow these steps and no one will need to say "Good luck on exams" to you. You will be in charge of your learning and the exams will be just fine.

*Sandy Fleming is a private tutor, writer, and virtual teacher. Grab some great summer classes online at <https://outschool.com/teachers/Sandra-Fleming#usYP7PNdbz>.*

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# HISTORIC POSTCARDS

## Historic postcards depict rich scenes of our area's past

In this issue of Neighbors, Jerdon Real Estate of Dowagiac, owned by Floyd Jerdon and his son Tom, has provided antique postcards of a few of the many lakes in our area.

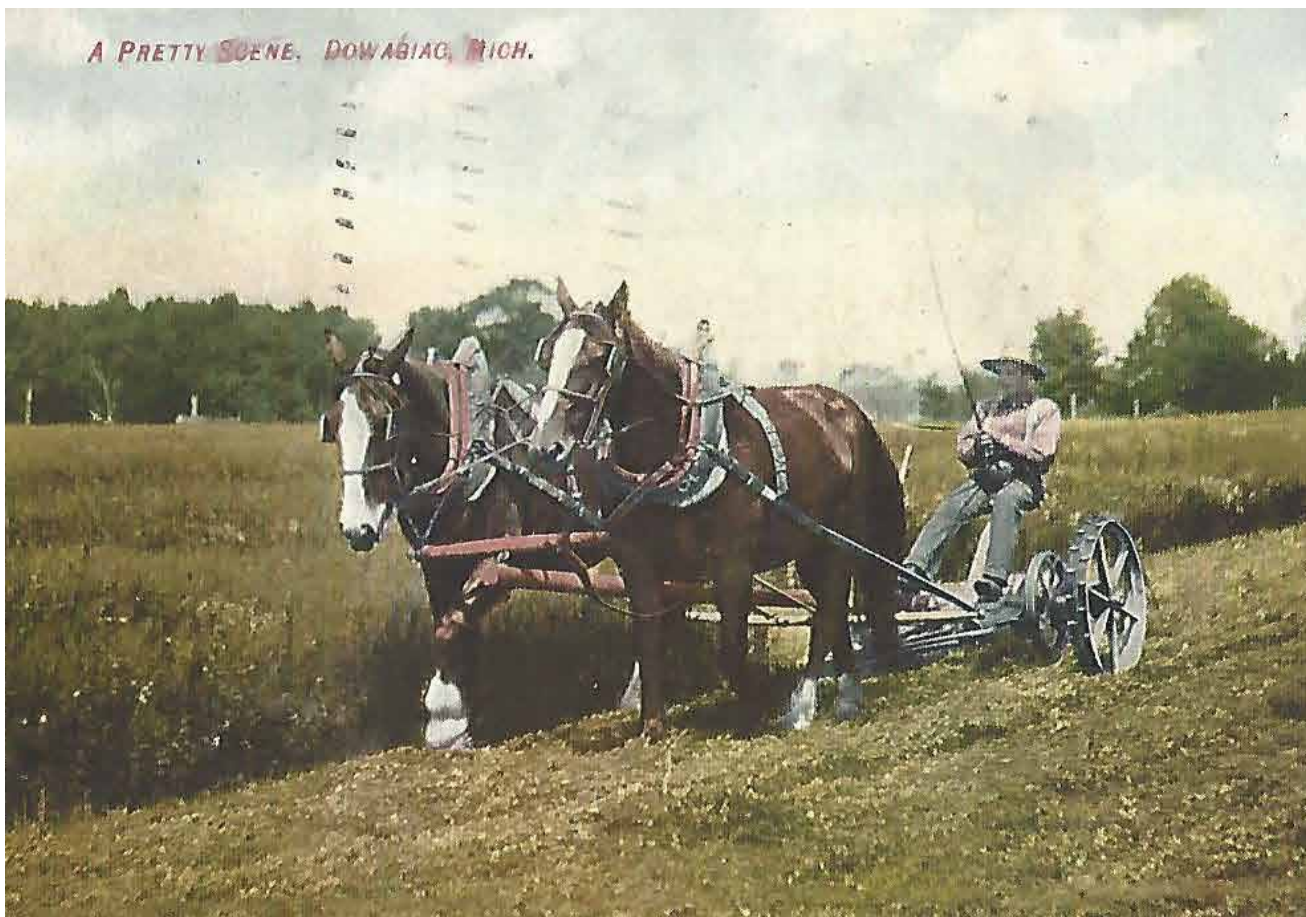
Floyd and his wife Donna started collecting post cards more than 20 years ago, and since Jerdon Real Estate specializes in marketing lake property, it was a natural fit that Floyd's interest be directed to the lake cards. The collection now numbers many thousands.

Jerdon has recently used many of his postcards featuring the Sister Lakes area in a book written by RL Rasmussen. The book, which retails for \$19.99, is in its second printing by the publisher, Arcadia Publishing.


Among other places, the book may be purchased at the Jerdon Real Estate office on M-62 West, and at Whistlestop Gifts, which is operated by the Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce.

For more information or to get a copy of Jerdon's book, visit the website: [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com)

In this edition of Neighbors we have selected postcards showing images of Dowagiac and the near-by area. In future issues, we will couple additional cards from one or more of the area's lakes with views of nearby communities, lakes and countryside.



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# NATURE NOTES

## Peepers and thrushes and woodpeckers, oh my

Provided by Cass District Library  
Local History Branch

One of the most recognizable sounds of springtime is that of the spring peeper frog calling on warm evenings. It is not often I get a chance to run a photo of a spring peeper.

In Brad Anderson's photo, you can see the "x" on the back of spring peeper frog. They do have suction cups on their toes, enabling the species to climb, although most of their lives are spent on the forest floor.

Spring peepers are the first frogs to emerge from hibernation in our area. Temperatures fluctuate during March and April, often dipping well below freezing. In order to survive temperature fluctuations in early spring, spring peeper frogs can survive being frozen, a fact that still baffles scientists to this day.

The brown creeper is a small songbird, often overlooked, that inhabits our region from October through May. Brown creepers creep along tree trunks in search of insects, spiders and other invertebrates. In winter they supplement their diets with acorns and beechnuts. During cold spells the brown creeper will come to suet feeders.

Brown creepers migrate north into Canada and northern Michigan where they nest. Most depart Southwest Michigan by the end of May but a very few may remain along the temperate Lake Michigan dunes.

Hermit thrushes are migrating through the area in good numbers. In summer they inhabit northern forests, from the northern half of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, north through Canada to the tree line.

Southwest Michigan is on the regular migration route of the hermit thrush during spring and fall migrations. The main wintering grounds of the species is the southern US, but a very few hermit thrushes spend the winter in southern Michigan, usually near dense cover and open water.

Hermit thrushes are brown-backed with a rufous colored tail. Often times the hermit thrush bobs its tail, a trait which helps with its identification.

Now is the time to put up your hummingbird feeders! The first ruby-throated hummingbirds of the year typically arrive around April 20 in Berrien County, but they are not commonly seen until the first week of May.

Mark Parren took some outstanding photos of a male pileated woodpecker, as the bird was in flight over his Sodus Township backyard on March 29.

Pileated woodpeckers are the largest



Top left: Spring peeper frog, Bridgman, April 8, 2019. Brad Anderson; Top Right: Hermit thrush, Warren Dunes SP, April 13, 2019. Brad Anderson; Above: 3 pics of a male pileated woodpecker in flight over the backyard of Mark Parren, Sodus Township, March 29, 2019.

woodpecker species to inhabit Michigan, easily identified recognized by their wingspan of two and a half feet, black and white appearance with a brilliant red crest. Male pileated woodpeckers have a red mustache behind the bill, lacking on the females. Both male and females have a red crest, but on the males red extends to just above the bill while the female has a gray forehead.

The species is now found throughout Southwest Michigan, among the large forest tracts of Warren Woods and Warren Dunes State Parks, Grand Mere State Park, and along the wooded areas surrounding our local rivers and streams. Pileated woodpeckers are also being

found in woodlots, and wooded subdivisions, suggesting that the species is somewhat successful at adapting to human development.

Pileated woodpeckers are permanent residents and do not migrate, though they may wander during the winter months in search of food. By April nests are built by excavating a hole inside a tree, and lined with wood chips. Eggs usually two or three are laid in April or May.

Young pileated woodpeckers fledged the nest in June or early July and will stay with parents until October.

Brad Anderson was out in his yard last week, and moved his bat house

which he thought was unoccupied, and was surprised when several big brown bats flew out, and at least one stayed near the ground and was photographed.

Anderson repositioned the bat house, and it is likely the bats will return. Anderson says in past years up to 20 bats have used the house.

A couple of weeks ago I mentioned that I found a western meadowlark, calling along Rocky Weed Road. The bird is still present along the south side of the road, about a half mile east of Edison

Continued on next page. See:  
**NATURE**

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# NATURE NOTES

## NATURE

Continued from previous page

Road. To date, more than 30 birdwatchers have come to see this species, uncommon to our area.

At least one common raven continues to be seen along Blue Star Highway and I-196 in Covert Township, and in extreme northern Hagar Township in Berrien County.

This northern cousin of the American crow has been reclaiming its former range over the last few decades, moving southward into places like Muskegon State Game Area and the Allegan State Game Area.

Last year, a pair of common ravens were seen at the Nature Conservancy's Ross Coastal Plains Preserve in Covert Township, Van Buren County where they are believed to have nested. Earlier this year a raven was spotted at Warren Dunes State Park, though that sighting probably represented a passing bird.

Ravens are larger and bulkier than the American crow and have large, wedge shaped tails. Vocalization of the raven varies but most often, a deep "croak" signals its presence.

*Near right: Brown creeper at Warren Dunes State Park, Brad Anderson, April 2019.*

*Top right; Big brown bat resting after being scared out of a bat house in Bridgman. Brad Anderson photo.*

*Bottom right: Western meadowlark along Rocky Weed Road, Royalton Township. Photo by David Lawrence of Berrien Springs.*





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# LOCAL HISTORY

## Vandalia High School

Provided by Cass District Library  
Local History Branch

The Vandalia High School was constructed in 1872-1873, at a cost of \$6,500 (which is \$138,000 in 2019), and was reportedly one of the finest school buildings in the state for that time.

The accompanying photograph of the Vandalia School is believed to have been taken in 1873, being the first year that the school was used. Notice that the class is integrated, which is significant for that era.

The building is believed not to have been completed at the time the photo was taken, according to a quote by former Vandalia school teacher Nellie O'Dell, who lived to the age of 105, passing away in 1982.

First through 12th grades were taught in the school until 1945, the year that high school students from Vandalia began attending Cassopolis High School.

Nellie O'Dell began the first grade, age 5, at the Vandalia School in 1882. She graduated in 1892 with honors and began teaching in the building that fall, at age 17 (some sources say age 16). Mrs. O'Dell continued to teach in Cass County schools for the next 70 years, retiring at age 86.

The building was located on the Vandalia public square, surrounded by Wood Street to the north, South Street to the south, Marble Street to the east, and Main Street to the west.

Later photos of the building taken during 1910s onward show that the outside bricks were painted red, and the trim around the windows and doors were white. In the 1873 photo the trim was not yet in place.

The building sat vacant for about 10 years before being torn down in the late summer of 1971, 98 years after its completion.

*Pictured at right: Vandalia High School, circa 1873.*



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