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# NEIGHBORS

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A regional newspaper widely distributed in Dowagiac, Cassopolis, Edwardsburg, Vandalia, Jones, Marcellus, Decatur, Union, Sister Lakes, Three Rivers, Elkhart and Mishawaka, with home delivery at Diamond, Eagle, Birch, Corey, Donnell, Indian, Magician, Shavehead, Baldwin, Long, Dewey, Cable, Juno, Christiana, Painter, Paradise, Stone, Buck, Lewis, Big & Little Twin and Bair lakes



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FIELD TRIP: ORIGAMI IN THE  
WELLFIELD GARDENS



ELKHART, IN  
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# REGIONAL NEWS

### Edwardsburg to host art fair

Edwardsburg's will host an Art Fair on August 7 at the Edwardsburg American Legion, 25980 US HWY 12 from 9 am to 3 pm. The Fair will feature over 30 vendors displaying arts and crafts, and paintings, jewelry, candles and more will be up for sale. Food and beverage will be available for purchase.

### Cass County Historical Society

On June 15, at 6:30 pm, the Cass County Historical Society will have its annual meeting at the historic Newton House, 20689 Marcellus Highway. The program will be SHOW AND TELL, so bring your historic artifacts to

share stories about. Also, the annual meeting will have election of officers, introduction of the replaced by-laws and operating agreement with the Cass County Historical Commission. The Newton House will be open at 6 pm for a tour of the newly decorated interior. The next meeting is scheduled for July13, with a speaker from the St. Joseph County Historical Society on the Land Office at White Pigeon. Donations are being accepted for repainting the exterior of the Newton House. For more information about the society, contact Allen F. Butchbaker, 269-244-8479 or allenbutchbaker@gmail.com

Firework's Island, Note: Rain/Wind delay date will be Sunday July 4  
4. 2021 Diamond Lake Triathlon, Date: Saturday July 17, 7:30-10:30 am (EDT) at Diamond Lake Marina  
Note: The status of lake events may change without much advance notice as the result of any new government COVID-19 mandates.  
If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact dlcassopolis@gmail.com.

(Kindergarten – 1st grade; ages 5-6)  
“We offer campers a variety of activities,” says Amal Farrough, Interpretive Services Manager. “Depending upon the age group activities may include fishing, archery, hiking trails, and creek stomping and other outdoor fun! We are making adjustments due to Covid and will plan our activities to include sanitation and safety practices to protect our day campers and staff.”  
For more information, or to request registration materials, please call 574/654-3155, or visit www.sjcparks.org.

**Editor's Note: Due to the changing nature of the pandemic, it is advisable to check with event organizers for appropriate protocols and safety procedures prior to attending any event.**

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**Upcoming Diamond Lake events**  
Upcoming events planned at Diamond Lake include:  
1. 2021 Annual Public Meeting (all lake residents welcome), Date: Saturday June 12, - 10 am-11:30 am (EDT) at the Diamond Lake Yacht Club or remotely via Zoom  
2. 2021 All-Lake Garage Sale , Date: Friday June 18, - 9 am-2 pm (EDT), and Saturday June 19, 9 am-noon (EDT).  
3. 2021 Diamond Lake Association Fireworks, Date: Saturday July 3, at 10:30 pm (EDT) at

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 <p><b>XT2 LX42</b> LAWN TRACTOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 18 HP<sup>††</sup> Kawasaki</li><li>• 42" Fabricated Deck</li><li>• Tuff Torq<sup>®</sup> Transmission</li></ul> <p>PRICE: <b>\$2,699*</b></p>	 <p><b>XT2 LX46</b> LAWN TRACTOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 21.5 HP<sup>††</sup> Kawasaki</li><li>• 46" Fabricated Deck</li><li>• Tuff Torq<sup>®</sup> Transmission</li></ul> <p>PRICE: <b>\$2,899*</b></p>	 <p><b>XT2 SLX50</b> LAWN TRACTOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 21.5 HP<sup>††</sup> Kawasaki</li><li>• 50" Fabricated Deck</li><li>• Tuff Torq<sup>®</sup> Transmission</li></ul> <p>PRICE: <b>\$3,299*</b></p>	 <p><b>ZT1 46</b> ZERO-TURN RIDER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 22 HP<sup>†</sup> Kohler 7000</li><li>• 46" Fabricated Deck</li><li>• Hydro-Gear<sup>™</sup> EZT 2200</li></ul> <p>PRICE: <b>\$2,999*</b></p>
 <p><b>ZT2 60</b> ZERO-TURN RIDER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 24 HP<sup>††</sup> Kawasaki FR730</li><li>• 60" Fabricated Deck</li><li>• Hydro-Gear<sup>™</sup> EZT 2800</li></ul> <p>PRICE: <b>\$4,299*</b></p>	 <p><b>ZT3 60</b> ZERO-TURN RIDER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 24 HP<sup>††</sup> Kawasaki FS730V</li><li>• 60" Fabricated Deck</li><li>• Hydro-Gear<sup>™</sup> EZT 3100</li></ul> <p>PRICE: <b>\$5,099</b></p>	 <p><b>XT3 GS</b> GARDEN TRACTOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 22.5 HP<sup>†</sup> Kohler Command</li><li>• Deck sold separately</li><li>• 42" - 54" deck options</li><li>• Heavy-Duty Shaft Drive</li></ul> <p>PRICE: <b>\$4,599*</b></p>	 <p><b>XT3 GSX</b> GARDEN TRACTOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 25 HP<sup>†</sup> Kohler Command</li><li>• Deck sold separately</li><li>• 42"- 60" deck options</li><li>• Heavy-Duty Shaft Drive</li></ul> <p>PRICE: <b>\$5,599*</b></p>



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<sup>†</sup> Restrictions apply. See store for details. \* Product Price -Actual retail prices are set by dealer and may vary. Taxes, freight, setup and handling charges may be additional and may vary. Models subject to limited availability. For full warranty details, visit cubcadet.com or see your local dealer. See your<sup>††</sup> local dealer for limited warranty details and information. Certain restrictions apply. Specifications and programs are subject to change without notice. Images may not reflect dealer inventory and/or unit specifications. † As rated by Kohler, all power levels are stated in gross horsepower at 3,600 RPM per SAE J1940 as rated by engine manufacturer. †† As rated by Kawasaki, horsepower tested in accordance with SAE J1995 and rated in accordance with SAE J2723 and certified by SAE International.

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# CASS LIBRARY EVENTS

## June 2021 Programs - Cass District Library Programs

All program information can be found at [www.cassdistrictlibrary.org](http://www.cassdistrictlibrary.org). Program guides and calendars are available at all branch locations.

June 4, 1 - 3 pm - Cassopolis Beach Bash Children's Tent: Visit our tent at the Cassopolis Beach Bash! Sign up for our Summer Reading Program, "Tails and Tales" and grab some fun activities to go.

June 5, 9 am - Cass County Council on Aging Track - Super Fun Color Run: Kick off the Summer Reading Program "Tails and Tales" by participating in the run/walk. Individuals and families invited to participate in this free event. Wear clothing that you don't mind getting covered with color! Registration is required, last minute registrations will be accepted at the event from 8:15 - 8:45 am on June 5. For more information, visit [www.cassdistrictlibrary.org/super-fun-color-run-2021](http://www.cassdistrictlibrary.org/super-fun-color-run-2021)

All Month, all branches - "Tails and Tales" StoryWalks®: Enjoy the outdoors and participate in a StoryWalk®! There will be four different StoryWalks® rotated and featured at each branch location throughout the summer.

All Month, all branches- MiLibraryQuest: Summer Edition is an opportunity for teens across the state to learn about unique animals and Michigan libraries! Teens will find descriptions of a variety of animals spread across the websites of participating libraries which they will enter into their digital field journal for an opportunity to win a prize!

**Main, Branch 319 M 62, Cassopolis**  
Week of June 7 - Sidewalk Chalk Challenge: Draw what comes to mind when you think of "Tails and Tales" at your branch. Pictures of the completed sidewalks will be posted to the Facebook page for voting. Sidewalk chalk will be provided.

Week of June 7 - Zoo Animal Beaded Necklace Craft: Create a zoo animal necklace! Kits are available at all

locations while supplies last.

June 9 - 1 pm - Adult Craft Club: Space is limited and registration is required. Supplies will be provided. Contact Stephanie at (269) 749-1384 ext. 106 for more information and to register.

Week of June 14 - Safari Animal 3D Pony Bead Craft Kit: Create a safari animal stand-up with pony beads! These are easy to assemble and include self-adhesive foam and plastic pony beads. Kits available at all locations while supplies last.

June 15 - 3 pm - DIY Tie-Dye Shirts: Bring your own white cotton shirt and join us for tie-dye fun! Tie-dye supplies provided.

June 16 - 9 am - The Breakfast Club: Join us once a month at the Main Branch for breakfast and book club! Breakfast will be provided. This book club is intended for adults. Contact Stephanie at (269) 749-1384 ext. 106 for more information.

June 16 - 1 pm - Photobooth Bookmarks: Turn your Instagram pictures into a photobooth-style bookmark! Join us in the computer lab at the Main Branch to create a bookmark with your pictures. Printing supplies will be provided.

June 21 - 6 pm - Pizza and Pages: Join us for a fun teen book club and free pizza! This book club meets once a month. Contact Stephanie at (269) 749-1384 ext. 106 for more information.

June 22 - 4 - 6 pm - Barnyard on the Go: Join us and some of the animals from Hidden Acres for Barnyard on the Go! Learn all about their "tails and tales" and meet some new furry friends.

June 23, 30 - 3 pm - Poppin' Wednesdays: Pop on in for

teen gaming with throwback Wii games and a popcorn snack. This fun teen gaming club meets every Wednesday afternoon.

Week of June 28 - 4th of July Wine Charm Craft Kit: Choose from a variety of flags, stars and hearts. Kits are available at all locations while supplies last.

### Edwardsburg Branch, 26745 Church St

All Month - "Tails and Tales" StoryWalks®: Enjoy the outdoors and participate in a StoryWalk®! There will be four different StoryWalks® rotated and featured at each branch location throughout the summer.

All Month - More Than A Book Club: Stop by the Edwardsburg Branch to pick up a monthly book bundle. There will be a featured title each month but this "no pressure" book club allows you to read at your own leisure and keep track of your thoughts to share when we meet again. Bundles include suggestions, read-alikes, activities, and more. Contact Cindy at (269) 467-0649 ext. 303 for more information.

All Month - Nature Adventure Challenge: Try this Nature Adventure Challenge throughout the month of June. Scratch off an exciting adventure to do each day to engage your children's imagination.

All Month, starting June 5 - Book Bundles: Stop by the Edwardsburg Branch to grab a Book Bundle for Early Learners - 5th grade. Themed bundles will include books, activities and reading lists to keep kids entertained and prevent summer slide.

All Month - MiLibraryQuest: Summer Edition is an opportunity for teens across the state to learn about unique animals and Michigan libraries! Teens will find descriptions of a variety of animals spread across the websites of participating libraries which they will enter into their digital field

journal for an opportunity to win a prize!

Week of June 7 - Sidewalk Chalk Challenge: Help make our branches "pop" with a sidewalk chalk challenge! Draw what comes to mind when you think of "Tails and Tales" at your branch. Pictures of the completed sidewalks will be posted to our Facebook page for voting purposes. Sidewalk chalk will be provided during operating hours.

Week of June 7 - Zoo Animal Beaded Necklace Craft: Create a zoo animal necklace featuring a monkey, elephant, zebra or tiger charm - oh my! Kits are available at all locations while supplies last.

Starting June 11 - Fridays at 8 am - Roaming Readers: Reading CAN do a body good, especially if you exercise at the same time. Join us for a brand new book club at the Edwardsburg Branch on Friday mornings. Participants will walk and listen to an audiobook then have a discussion afterwards. Stop by any location for assistance setting up your phone or tablet to use our Hoopla service prior to the first meeting. Call Cindy at (269) 487-9215 ext. 303 for any other questions.

Week of June 14 - Tiny Dancers (Homopolar Motor): STEM-ulation for Teens: Learn about electricity with this simple science experiment. Build a homopolar motor using copper wire, magnets and a battery. This experiment requires some adult supervision and should not be attempted by young children. Kits are available for pickup while supplies last.

Week of June 14 - Safari Animal 3D Pony Bead Craft Kit: Create a cute safari animal stand-up by adding some flair with pony beads! These lions, giraffes and zebras are easy to assemble and include self-adhesive foam and plastic pony beads. Kits are available at all locations while supplies last.

**Continued on next page**

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**TEAM**



# REGIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

June 2 - Dowagiac Farm & Artisan Market, 9am - 2 pm

June 15 - Cass County Historical Society annual meeting, Newton House, 6:30 pm, 244-8479

June 18, 19 - Diamond Lake All Lake Garage Sale, 9-2 Friday, 9-noon Saturday

June 20 - Diamond Lake annual public meeting, 10 am, DLYC or Zoom

July 3 - Fireworks, Diamond Lake, Birch Lake, dusk

July 16 - Dowagiac Summer in the City Festival, 10 am - 5 pm

July 17 - Diamond Lake

Triathlon, Diamond Lake Marina, 7:30 am

August 1 - 7 - Cass County Fair

August 7 - Edwardsburg Art Fair, American Legion, US 12

August 21 - Dowagiac Rod & Roll Classic Auto Show, 7 am - 4 pm

October 9 - Dowagiac Under the Harvest Moon Festival, 10 am - 4 pm

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Due to the pandemic all events are subject to change or cancellation. Please check with event organizers prior to attending any events.

**Cass Library events - Continued from previous page**

Week of June 17 - 3 pm - DIY Tie-Dye Shirts: Bring your own white cotton shirt and join us for tie-dye fun! Tie-dye supplies will be provided. Get creative with colors and rubber bands to make a custom shirt design.

Week of June 21 - DIY Pinback Buttons: Customize your own pinback button! Use our machine to create your own unique button design. Paper, art supplies and button tools will be provided.

Week of June 28 - Break-In Bags: STEM-ulation for Teens: Do you love solving riddles and puzzles? Try Break-In Bags! They are like a mini escape room in bag form. Instead of trying to break out, you will need to break in to collect the surprise inside. Kits are available for pick-up while supplies last.

Week of June 28 - 4th of July Wine Charm Craft Kit: Adorn your wine glasses in patriotic style! Featuring stars and stripes in red, white and blue, this wine charm craft kit is a fun adult DIY beading activity. Choose from a variety of flags, stars and hearts. Kits are available at all locations while supplies last.

**Howard Branch, 2341 Yankee St**  
Week of June 7 - Sidewalk Chalk Challenge: Help make our branches "pop" with a sidewalk chalk challenge! Draw what comes to mind when you think of "Tails and Tales" at your branch. Pictures of the completed sidewalks will be posted to our Facebook page for voting purposes. Sidewalk chalk will be provided during operating hours.

Week of June 7 - Zoo Animal Beaded Necklace Craft: Create a zoo animal necklace featuring a monkey, elephant, zebra or tiger charm - oh my! Kits are available at all locations while supplies last.

Week of June 14 - Safari Animal 3D Pony Bead Craft Kit: Create a cute safari animal stand-up by adding some flair with pony beads! These lions, giraffes and zebras are easy to assemble and include self-adhesive foam and plastic pony beads. Kits are available at all locations while supplies last.

June 17 - 1 pm - DIY Tie-Dye Shirts: Bring your own white cotton shirt and join us for tie-dye fun! Tie-dye supplies will be provided. Get creative with colors and rubber bands to make a custom shirt design.

Week of June 28 - 4th of July Wine Charm Craft Kit: Adorn your wine glasses in patriotic style! Featuring stars and stripes in red, white and blue, this wine charm craft kit is a fun adult DIY beading activity. Choose from a variety of flags, stars and hearts. Kits are available at all locations while supplies last.

June 29 - 3 pm - Avocado Pillow Craft: Join us at the Howard Branch to create an avocado-shaped pillow! Pre-cut fleece fringe and polyester fiberfill stuffing will be provided. Registration is required for this program. Stop by the Howard Branch to register or call McKinzie at (574) 314-6454 ext. 113.

**Mason/Union Branch, 17049 US 12**  
Week of June 7 - Sidewalk Chalk Challenge: Help make our branches "pop" with a sidewalk chalk challenge! Draw what comes to mind when you think of "Tails and Tales" at your branch. Pictures of the completed sidewalks will be posted to our Facebook page for voting purposes. Sidewalk chalk will be provided during operating hours.

Week of June 7 - Zoo Animal Beaded Necklace Craft: Create a zoo animal necklace featuring a monkey, elephant, zebra or tiger charm - oh my! Kits are available at

all locations while supplies last.

Week of June 14 - Safari Animal 3D Pony Bead Craft Kit: Create a cute safari animal stand-up by adding some flair with pony beads! These lions, giraffes and zebras are easy to assemble and include self-adhesive foam and plastic pony beads. Kits are available at all locations while supplies last.

June 15 - 1 pm - DIY Tie-Dye Shirts: Bring your own white cotton shirt and join us for tie-dye fun! Tie-dye supplies will be provided. Get creative with colors and rubber bands to make a custom shirt design.

June 24 - 1 - 3 pm - Barnyard on the Go: Join us and some of the animals from Hidden Acres for Barnyard on the Go! Learn all about their "tails and tales" and meet some new furry friends.

Week of June 28 - 4th of July Wine Charm Craft Kit: Adorn your wine glasses in patriotic style! Featuring stars and stripes in red, white and blue, this wine charm craft kit is a fun adult DIY beading activity. Choose from a variety of flags, stars and hearts. Kits are available at all locations while supplies last.

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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## Things to think about before you file a property claim

By **Kristen Goodwin**  
Kemner, Iott, Benz Agency

**W**hen you file a claim, you are asking the insurance company to help pay for repairs and other expenses covered by your policy.

### Should I file a claim?

There are times when you should file a claim. If someone was hurt and there is a chance of litigation, it is always prudent to file a claim.

Is the cost of repair or replacement over the cost of your deductible?

Catastrophic damage is always reason to contact your agent to file a claim, as soon as possible.

### When not to file a claim

Are your repairs or replacement less than your deductible? If so, it would not be cost effective to make a claim. Paying out of pocket if the amount is close to your deductible is advisable.

Is the claim due to poor maintenance? If you file a claim due to damage resulting from lack of maintenance, it may be denied.

### Will my insurance premiums increase?

Filing a claim can cause an increase in your premiums depending on how often you have had claims and how severe the damages were. Talk with your agent to go over your prior claims before you make a new one.

### What happens after I file a claim?

Your agent will file the claim with the insurance company.

An insurance adjuster will be assigned to your claim and contact you for additional details.

After the adjuster has all the information, they will determine the pay out of the claim and a check will be issued.

### Before a claim

Imagine trying to list every possession you own along with each item's worth after your home has been destroyed by fire or a natural disaster. The task will feel overwhelming and would be impossible by memory.

### Here are some ideas:

Find out what your coverages are before a loss. Are your possessions covered for the replacement value or only the depreciated value? Also, you may need special coverage if you have expensive collections. Some unique items to consider are musical instruments, guns, sports equipment, electronics, hearing aids, etc. Talk with your agent to discuss what is right for your situation.

Take photos and/or videos of each room and what it contains including closets, cupboards and drawers. If possible, scan receipts to keep with your home inventory. You would be surprised at how items can add up. Take special note of valuable items.

Photograph the outside of your house and include outdoor furniture and decorations.



Electronics are major purchases. List and photograph model and serial numbers for electronics including televisions, stereos, computers and mobile devices.

Lay out a set of dinnerware, silverware or other valuables and photograph. Include a picture to show the brand and pattern. Then count the number you have of each and photograph to show the number of sets you own.

Take photos of things that cannot be replaced. (family photographs, mementos, heirlooms) Although these items are irreplaceable, make copies so you will have a record of the items. Remember these items may not be assessed at the value you give them. If they are valued as antiques or works of art, be sure they are listed separately with assigned values.

Inventory the garage and include sports equipment, tools, and power

equipment.

Talk with your agent for assistance in determining the value of your home. Don't forget updates and renovations including windows, hardwood floors, finished basement, decks etc.

Store the home inventory off premises. E-mail a copy to yourself and use cloud storage to keep copies electronically or save on a flash drive and keep it in a safe deposit box. Don't save the inventory only on a computer drive that could be destroyed.

Consider which of these ideas work in your situation. Planning can prevent frustration at the time of a loss.

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# LAKE LIFE WITH JANE

## June, the perfect summer month!

by **Jane Boudreau**

**H**ey Neighbors! If you are reading this then June is here! Yay! I've always thought it was the perfect month of summer. Mild temperatures, clear blue skies, the vibrant colors of flowers popping up everywhere, lush green grass, trees and plants. After June has come and gone we can feel entitled to stay inside with the air conditioning running, the sprinklers on outside, drinking ice tea and watching baseball. Our dear and gentle friend, June, has headed out and its up to us to sail on into the dreaded dogs days of summer. But for now we are having fun and I love a good time!

Do you have a lot of planting going on or are you one who has perennial plants that come back every year to reward you with their faithfulness? I've gotten in the groove of planting them over the past ten years or so and I could kick myself for not having done this sooner. I never realized how planting them would free up my time for years to come and that they would multiply and spread over time. I've learned how to dig up these plants and divide them to fill in other garden spaces. How economical is that? Don't forget free flowers for your vases indoors!

Of course you may want pops of color here and there other than garden beds and that's when we have beautiful annuals to rely on. The petunias you see in this picture are a variety that really spreads out, you can barely see the pot. My husband loves his boxwood hedges and I love pots of flowers wherever I can sneak them in. Pretty colors on your patio and deck can transport you right into the middle of a gorgeous garden without the work and weeding. We have a very large patio at our lake house and these are some of the things I've learned over the years about planting flowers in pots:

\*\*\*\*\*

1) Buy good potting soil. Yes, spend a few extra dollars because you can reuse it from year to year. In the fall remove the spent flowers and the soil around its roots. You can then store the pot with the remaining soil and the following spring add a bit more, mixing up well. If storage space is a premium, empty the soil into a large plastic container, maybe a large storage bin with a lid from a Dollar Store and just keep it next to your shed or in the garage until spring. Adding a bit of peat moss helps a ton. Then stack your pots to save space.

2) Pots. I love simple clay or ceramic pots but they dry out very fast and that mean more time and money watering. If you are a traditionalist, find a smaller plastic pot that will fit into the clay pot snugly. Voila! Your plants stay moist and no one will see the plastic as the flowers spill out. A reminder, never leave clay pots out over the winter, they will freeze and crack. Your garage or shed is best.

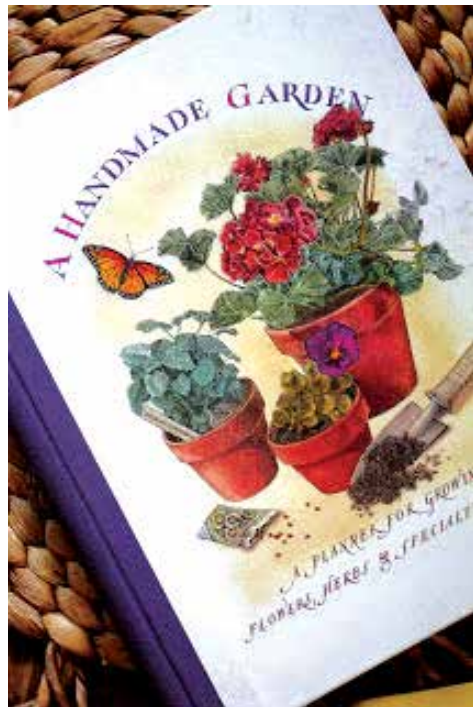
3) Arrange your pots in groups, one here and there just won't have the same impact. This not only applies to the surface of your space, but on tables as well. Odd numbers work well, I'm not sure why, but they do. As far as the effect you want to achieve, you can arrange them by coordinating the colors of the flowers or by the shape and size of the pots. Use your imagination.

4) Height is everything when using planters near your seating area(s). Unless you are an elf you aren't going to see your pretty blooms sitting on the



ground even when sitting. Metal plant stands, the kind they you just fit your plant into according to diameter, can be found just about anywhere and very inexpensively, so elevate a few pots. I am really loving urns now as well. For the longest time I thought they were too expensive (not true, try Amazon.com) and that they would require about 40 pounds of potting soil. No, no, Nanette! Stick something-anything down into the pot to take up space; a large rubber ball or a few small ones. I've used small flower pots or pieces of broken clay pots. Anything to take up room so you don't waste soil. If you plant to move the pot around you want to fill it with something lighter.

5) Buy a bag of shredded bark mulch and scatter some on the soil in your pots soon after planting. You'll keep moisture from evaporating and thus save time and money.



At this time of year I'm really at the mercy of my planner. You can find these books anywhere but if you want a wide choice to suit your purpose and style, again, check out Amazon. And the reason for this is I didn't have any interest in gardening until I was married and had kids. I figured if they were going to be outside playing all day so was I. I found it thoroughly enjoyable getting my hands and knees dirty. The seed catalogs that arrived in the winter had me making lists and diagrams. I went to the library and read up on everything from simply throwing a handful of seeds into the ground, to making compost. And I learned to push myself. I have allergies but I took a little pill to hold them off while I enjoyed my time outdoors. I have a bad back but I've learned to use a cart

for heavier items and to take breaks for stretching. Once you learn the right ways to use your body you can actually strengthen your core muscles, and by doing that my back has improved. Just be easy on yourself.

I like a planner because I'm not all that great with identifying perennials that pop up just by recognizing the leaves or flowers. Now I have a record of my plantings. If something doesn't work well, I make a note of it. The other way around, too. I take pictures, print them, and tape them in so I can be reminded how well they did. If you can get a book with folders that's a plus, too. You may want to keep the picks with instructions or empty seed packs.

I'm very much a garden enthusiast as you can see. I like to gather information, and I love a pretty setting. But ... I can be veeeeeeery lazy so I keep my work quite simple and I think you'll know what works for you. Next month I'll talk garden beds. That a whole other story.



There's nothing I like better than spending a summer afternoon driving down the old dirt or gravel back roads to wherever they take me. Look at this perfect Michigan sky and the corn ... must be after the 4th of July as it's definitely knee high. It reminds me of growing up on the prairies of Illinois with wheat fields as far as you could see. But I have a hidden agenda. I look for yards sales, barn sales, junk at the end of a driveway if I really must confess! I love old and dusty, vintage and battered. I really enjoy finding new purposes for pieces of furniture or odds and ends and I like bringing something from way back when back to life with some fresh paint and then a little distressing with sand paper to keep that 'old' feeling. It's all out there waiting for you in the country. I'll share more as time goes on.

One day while taking a drive in the country I spotted what looked to be like birdhouses hanging on a fence post. I pulled into the driveway and there was a man sitting there strumming his guitar. He wasn't old by any means but he had the longest darn beard I've ever seen. And just as much as I like to take what's



around and give it a new breath of life, he was the same. He made birdhouses with scraps of wood, tree branches a nice touch of leather. Most of the leather was from old horse reins so it was really cool to have this sort of history.

Anyway I bought this birdhouse. We hung it up in late fall so the earliest birds come spring could spot it and sign the lease. Well, long story short, we didn't take much notice of the birdhouse until that May. I was looking at how intricate and stable that nest was, how it fit so compact and perfect above the ... what? The crazy birds built their nest on top of the house! When we were not scratching our heads in disbelief, we were laughing hysterically. Some friends and neighbors offered possible reasons for this clear refusal to respect our hospitality. The birds were the 'outdoor' type. They loved to sleep under the stars. They were actually house guests and there was a family living inside (there wasn't). We never got a look at the birds but we wager it was a species that was too large for the opening. I am keeping an eye on who decides to rent it out next. And whether they choose to share the rooftop.

There's a lot more to think of when we begin to spend more time outside. This is about prevention of sun damage and also a little pampering. Men, you may find some of this helpful. :) And yes, that's yours truly above after a recent cut that I badly needed.

First, protection. I know you know the scoop. Sunscreen. I've been pretty good about it over the years but one thing I could never get used to is wearing sunglasses. I'm paying the price for some extra lines around my eyes that I don't see my sun glass wearing friends having. But it's never too late. Wear them.

I've always hated putting goop on my skin after showering. We can now get sunscreen in a spray formula that's lighter than silk and smells lovely. In particular, Coppertone Sport, a long time respected product that you can find in your local drugstore. With an SPF of 100, I really can't imagine anyone being harmed by the rays. Redheads take note! Another fave is Acure Organic which is a brand offered by the people who make products such as Method and Mrs. Meyer. Finally, The Honest Company provides a safe and gentle sunscreen spray that's great for kids as well. Ditch the cream. You can cover lot more area with a spray and keep your hands clean, too.

When it comes to keeping my face moisturized and safe from the sun's rays I am loving Cera Ve products which are pretty new and tops with my dermatologist who treats me for eczema and atopic dermatitis. Their facial lotion has a sunscreen in it and they have other skin-friendly products like shower gel

*Continued on next page. See:*

**JANE**



# LAKE LIFE WITH JANE

## JANE

*Continued from previous page*

and my favorite, make up remover cloths. Quick, quick quick. Find all of these at your local drugstore as well.

Finally, I love a good hair mask. I know, we're out having fun in the sun and you're acting like you are at a spa. But the heat from the sun makes a hair mask work overtime. I use Macadamia Natural Oil Deep Repair. You can find it at Drugstore.com. It smells heavenly. Don't be shy ... comb it through your hair and you'll look like you just jumped out of the shower, lake or pool. Or ... you can tell your friends or neighbors that you love deep conditioning your hair. Maybe they'll want to try it! Most of all, I hope I'm making YOU want to try this! :-D



I love having a recipe for you, one that celebrates the season and fits into your menu plans and entertaining. You are going to love this Watermelon Salsa. I have a fancy grocery store nearby that sells 8 ounces of mango salsa for \$6.99. My recipe is going to give you more than you need. Just refrigerate it and come up with other uses (tacos, topping for chicken or pork, mixed in with rice or served in a salad, just to name a few). I really hope you tear this out of your paper. Stick it on your fridge to remind you to pick up the ingredients. I brought it to a Mother's Day event and it was devoured. Here you go:

### Watermelon Salsa

**Ingredients:**  
1/2 seedless watermelon, cubed small (about six cups)  
1 yellow pepper, seeded and diced  
1 red pepper, seeded and diced  
1 jalapeno, seeded and diced

1/2 red onion, chopped small  
1 large palmful (about 1 cup) chopped cilantro, stems removed  
1 lime, halved and juiced  
1/2 teaspoon of salt & pepper each

**Directions:**  
Toss the fruit and vegetables together in a large bowl along with the cilantro. Squeeze the lime over, add the salt and pepper and stir well. Chill for at least 2 hours. Serve with tortilla chips.

Serves a mammoth crowd.

I think this makes for a nice spring salad, light for lunch, or doable for dinner. I had a loaf of good artisan bread, and we used globs of butter instead of the traditional Italian olive oil and Parmesan mixture for dipping. A contrast of the two recipes.



This is a really nice salad or main dish that can be served hot or at room temperature. It's a lot easier than it looks. I changed the recipe tremendously based on what I thought would yield much more flavor, and to eliminate some unnecessary steps. This is my version.

### Pan Seared Scallops with Bacon and Spinach

**Ingredients:**

2 slices of bacon, cooked and crumbled.  
1 T reserved bacon drippings  
2 large shallots, diced small  
2 cloves garlic, diced small  
1/2 lb. fresh scallops, coarsely chopped  
1 12 oz. package of fresh baby spinach  
Juice of 1 lemon half  
1 T olive oil combined with 1/4 t balsamic vinegar

**Directions:**

In a large skillet heat the reserved bacon drippings. Sauté the shallots for about 2 minutes over low heat. Do not cook until they are wilted, you want a little crunch. Add the garlic and cook an additional minute. Add the scallops and stir until cooked through, about 2 minutes. Remove mixture from pan and keep covered and warm. Add 1/2 of the spinach to the pan and add the lemon

juice. Toss until barely wilted. Add the remaining spinach and the balsamic mixture. Toss gently until heated through but not wilted--again you want a slight crunch. Remove the spinach to 4 salad plates. Top with the warm bacon bits, shallots, and scallops. Garnish with a lemon wedge if desired.

Serves 4



### Chicken, Sweet Sausage and Veggies

A quick recipe and then I'll wind things up. Sometimes chicken breasts can be so unappealing. I know there are a thousand ways to make them but I think I only know of three, especially if I want the chicken to be moist and have a lot of flavor to liven it up. So I made this up the other night and I'm just going to

sum it up quick for you as I don't think you need to measure much. Let's call it Chicken with Sausage and Peppers.

I started by browning four boneless, skinless chicken breasts in an oven proof skillet which has a tight fitting lid to be used later. Do this with about two tablespoons of olive oil. I then layered red onion, green peppers and about three chopped garlic cloves. Seasoned this with a nice palmful of dried Italian herbs (basil, oregano, rosemary, or a mix ... Emeril has a great one). I also added some red pepper flakes for kick. Top the whole mess with ground Italian sausage just scattered over, about a half pound. Cover and bake at 350 for about 30 to 40 minutes. Serves 4.

This was such a great combo of flavors and the juices from the sausage guarantee a very moist chicken. You can have a side of pasta and salad as a side dish. We loved this. Keep the recipe on hand!

I'm getting ready to come up to the lake, hopefully straight through until late fall. It used to be weekends in the summer, now it has evolved to more time here than Chicago, and I'm happy with that. I do miss family and friends, but it's so great to be in the country, enjoying the fresh air.

Happy Summer to all! If you happen to drive by and see me, Poppy, and Layla, give us a wave! Until next time ...

**~Jane**  
*Jane Boudreau is a blogger and writer who spends her time between Chicago, Diamond Lake, and a little place in the mountains of North Carolina. All pictures are property of Jane and cannot be used without permission. You may contact her at [blndy9@yahoo.com](mailto:blndy9@yahoo.com)*

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# OUR CHILDREN

## Incentivizing reading this summer

by **SANDY FLEMING**

Let's face it: lots of kids have got ground to make up this summer. The school year has been challenging for everyone, and for some, almost a loss. Most kids need to play catch up or at least avoid losing even more ground over the summer vacation. This is most definitely NOT the year to "let them slide" or they are likely to feel the effects in spades come fall. One easy way to keep their brains active is by encouraging summer reading in lots of forms.

In an ideal world, the kids would be clamoring around you on the first day of vacation, begging for something to read. Can't you just hear them winding up? No? Sigh. So parents need some ways to motivate the kids to read and keep their brains from atrophying over the summer months. Much like you insist that they brush their teeth and eat reasonably healthy food most of the time, you also can mandate a steady diet of reading during the summer months. In fact, you should!

Let's make it more fun this year by spicing reading up with some incentives. No matter what age and stage your student is in, here are some great ideas to help get them excited about reading.

### Toddlers and Preschoolers

These youngsters seldom need much encouragement to ask for story time. Hopefully your house is chock full of books of all sorts, and it's easy to grab one during quiet moments. Your child likely has favorites, so read them as often as requested. All that repetition may seem boring to us adults, but it's EXTREMELY important to the kids. They learn a huge amount from hearing the same book over and over. Some examples (and this is by no means a complete list) include the fact that stories are predictable. They do not change. Print gives us a way to leave an indelible message that anyone else can access. And here's an important tip: Resist the temptation to shorten the story or change the words as you read. This will undermine a very important piece of that learning. Print and pictures work together to tell the story. Each time you read a favorite, your child is noticing something new. These repeated stories exercise the memory, too. When kids hear the same story, they recall what they heard before. Like most other skills, memory improves with use. Don't handicap your future school-aged child by denying them this growth opportunity.

Ready to explore new things? Head out to your local library. Toddlers and preschoolers will adore the fact that nearly all libraries have a special section of books and toys just for them. Many host story times where adults other than parents share the story. Not only do kids learn about the wide variety of literature, they sample new language, new ways of looking at the world, and new information for their young minds to soak up. Be sure to get a library card for every member of your family who is eligible- there's something magical about checking out your very own books and being responsible for them.

If you have one of those kids who seems to be constantly imitating a torna-



do, you may be wondering how to get them to sit still and listen to a story. The short answer is, you might not be able to right now. But does it matter if your audience is sitting snuggled up on your lap or playing with blocks across the room? No, it does not. They still benefit from your attention, the language they hear, the ideas they encounter, and much more. And you can still play a host of listening games with the kids even as they are playing with something else. For example, try leaving off a rhyming word and have them fill in the blank. Try changing a word for its opposite and see if they can catch you in the act. Try going on a scavenger hunt with your ears and clapping each time you hear a word that starts with T. The list goes on and on, so be creative! And be sure to chat about the books. Reading aloud goes so much farther than just reading the words on the page. Talk about the pictures, ask kids to predict what may happen next, recall something that happened earlier in the story, or have them tell what they believe the author wanted readers to learn. Ask them about the plot, the characters, and the setting. You are setting the stage for improved understanding of books in general and how to read when the time comes.

### Elementary School Kids

Once kids get to school age, they've reached the age of games and competitions. You can do a lot with reading as a competitive sport! Try reading one of those tongue-twister books like Fox in Socks and timing the reading. Who can read the farthest or fastest without making a mistake? Who can memorize the largest amount of a familiar book? Who can retell the story with the most detail?

Try a reading board game, too. You can set these up in file folders by drawing a trail game board on the inside of the folder and penciling in penalty (small ones) and bonus (big ones!) squares. Use sticky page markers with names as playing pieces, and they will stay put between sessions. Decorate the whole thing and you're all set. Each time your child reads a book or the target amount of pages or chapters, move one spot on the game board. Who can reach the finish line the fastest?

Books are great for scavenger hunts,

as well. Make a list of things to find appropriate for your child's age and stage, like words with a certain number of syllables, specific sounds or rhymes, the name of a girl or boy, a color word, and so forth. Now, send the kids on a search to find these things as they read. Who can hit all of the items by the end of the day or week?

Turn favorite stories into skits or puppet shows. You can make this into a weeks-long project if you wish. Older students can write their lines and stage directions, then make props and finally act out the story. Younger kids will be a bit more impromptu, but no matter how much time and effort they put into the project, they will be working on sequencing, summarizing, and a host of other important literacy skills.

### Middle and High School Kids

This age group doesn't have to give up reading, though some threaten to. It's worth finding keys to motivate them, though, because this is the age group that has potential to become life-long readers. They are likely reading adult level books and articles now, so keeping them in interesting reading material is crucial. If you lost the habit of making regular library trips, this is the time to pick it back up. Libraries often have the latest and greatest fad books that teens like, or if they don't have them on hand, many will be part of an interlibrary loan system and can get them from larger libraries.

Be sure to have the kids read lots of all types of genres, too. Sure, read the fiction that appeals, and ask the librarian to recommend books similar to ones you already know they like. But also encourage nonfiction, biographies, how-to books, poetry, and all the other types of reading. Don't overlook the classics. Familiarity with this body of work is crucial for success on the big tests in high school and in college, because the classic pieces of literature are a part of our culture. Kids will recognize quotes and be able to pull comparisons out for their writing projects if they are familiar with these books. Many schools provide a suggested summer reading list, and if you've got one, be sure to insist that the kids read from it. If your school does not provide a list, try the one published at <https://imaginationsoup.net/free-summer-reading-programs-kids/>.

It's pretty comprehensive, and broken down by grade levels for younger kids. Commercial Reading Incentive Programs Many businesses have your family's best interests at heart- they run reading incentive programs that you can participate in for free. Check your local library for a starting point- they are likely to have prizes and activities throughout the summer that will help motivate the kids to get some reading in.

Pizza Hut is once again offering its Camp BookIt program. Kids can earn free personal pan pizzas as well as other prizes and incentives, and the program offers activity ideas and other support for parents. Get more info at <https://www.bookitprogram.com/book-it-for-parents>.

The Scholastic Summer Reading Program is already up and running, so you'll want to check this one out right away. Visit <https://www.scholastic.com/site/summer/home.html> to get the details. And by the way, this is a super resource to find reading levels of a huge array of books if you want to make sure some of your child's reading menu includes on grade level text. The Scholastic Book Wizard is an under-utilized resource. Find it at <https://bookwizard.scholastic.com/>.

Edventures offers some fun printables, including a reading genre bingo game, that you can download for free to encourage your youngsters to crack a few books. Find them at <https://www.kcedventures.com/blog/summer-reading-books-from-different-genres-free-printables>.

The folks at Chuck E. Cheese have a reading incentive program and reward certificate - can't tell if there are any prizes this year or not, but it's still fun! Visit <https://www.chuckecheese.com/family-fun/rewards-calendar/>.

Just for the middle and high school crowd, the New York Times holds an annual summer reading contest. Kids get to read one NY Times article on line per week and then can write a short piece about what they learned or why they chose that article. You can get all the rules and sign up information at <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/15/learning/our-12th-annual-summer-reading-contest.html>.

Does your teen prefer free audio books? Check out SYNC's free program for young adults at <https://www.audiofilemagazine.com/sync/>.

There are prizes to be earned with HE Buddy's program. Get the details at <https://www.heb.com/static-page/article-template/H-E-Buddy-Reading-Club>.

### The Final Word

No matter whether you help your child participate in a formal reading program or create something on your own, it's very important to make sure some reading happens this summer. Reading builds mental muscle, and your young readers are likely to be improving their grades for the coming year as well as learning and having fun. Ready? Get Set! Read!!

\*\*\*\*\*

*Sandy Fleming is a private tutor and freelance writer in Edwardsburg. Visit her website at <http://sandyflemingonline.com> to snap up more great ideas to help kids learn and grow, or to get information about tutoring services.*



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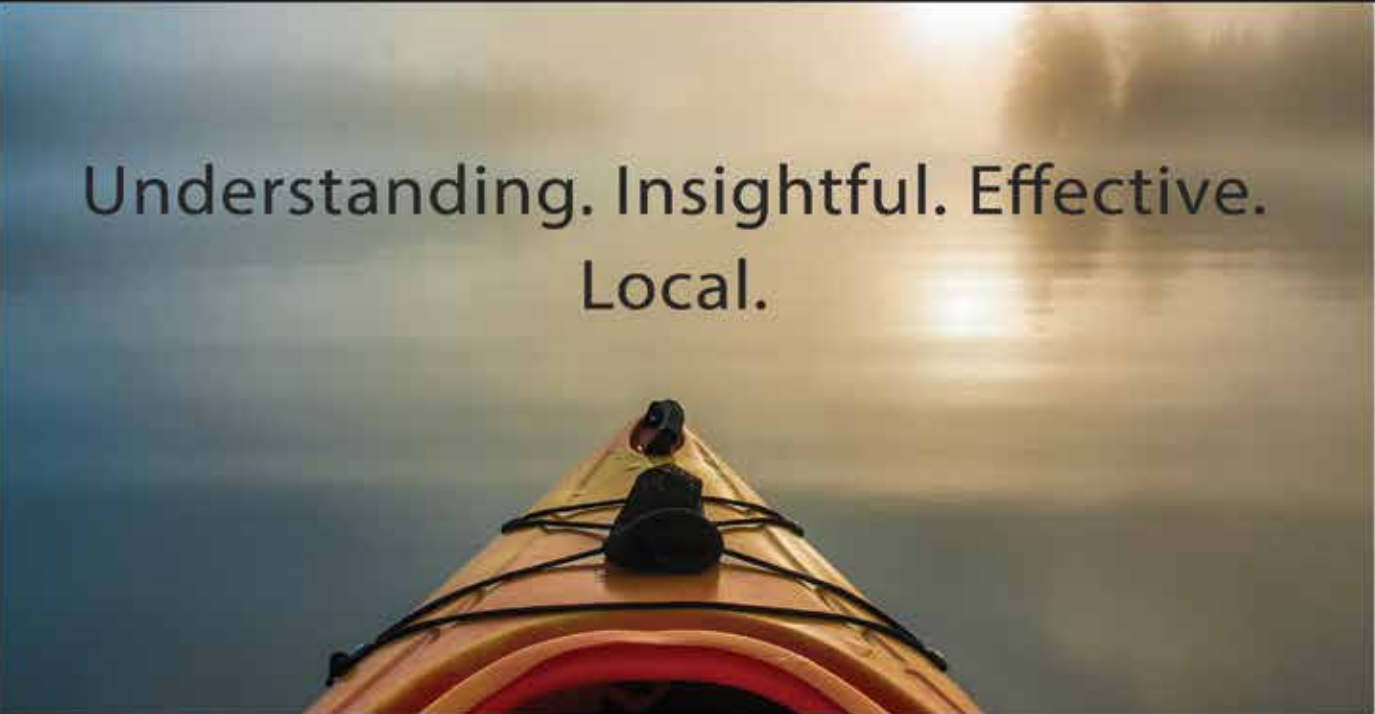
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# HISTORIC POSTCARDS

## Historic postcards depict rich scenes of 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 special-

izes 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 various places around Cass County. 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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A large advertisement for McGann Hay. The background is a lush green landscape with a prominent waterfall cascading over rocks into a pond. Two swans are swimming in the pond in the foreground. Overlaid on the right side of the image is a white box containing the business name and contact information.

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A large advertisement for O'Donnell's Docks LLC. The top half features the company name and tagline over a sunset background. Below this is a photograph of a modern dock system with several motorboats moored. The bottom half contains contact information, a QR code, and logos for various brands they serve.

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# NATURE NOTES

## More S

*Provided by Cass District Library  
Local History Branch*

**K**arl and Kristan Kroening of Stevensville are hosting a family of barred owls that have successfully nested in a hollow tree in their backyard. On May 11, Kristan Kroening took a nice photo of a young barred owl that was patiently waiting for its next meal at the entrance to the nest cavity located in a sugar maple tree. She said this baby owl was one of at least two that are present inside the tree.

Barred owls are found among the larger forest tracts of Southwest Michigan. The species has been on the increase over the last 30-40 years as second growth forests have regenerated over areas that had been croplands, pastures and orchards during the late 1800s and early 1900s. As late as the 1950s, barred owls were considered absent or rare across much of the southern Lower Peninsula of Michigan, which had suffered the most deforestation since settlement began. Barred owls rarely venture away from wooded areas.

The barred owl nests in natural cavities such as where tree limbs have broken off, or in the tops of broken trees. There is actually not much of a nest inside the tree, just a scraping away of debris at the bottom of the cavity is all the barred owl does to prepare the nest site.

In southern Michigan, the female barred owl lays 2-3 eggs during late February through March. Most literature says that fledglings leave the nest at our latitude during June, but I have seen young outside the nest as early as mid-May at Warren Woods State Park. The young of the year will leave their parents in October or November of this year to seek out new territories of their own. Barred owls are permanent residents and non-migratory.

While I have received many photos of Baltimore orioles this spring, I deem one taken by Scott Glenn of Lincoln Township the best! It was taken May 7 by Glenn, as a male Baltimore oriole helped himself to some grape jelly placed out especially for the returning orioles that are calorie starved after their long migration back from their wintering grounds. Aside from jelly placed out by humans, orioles feed primarily on insects among the treetops. Male orioles typically arrive 4-5 days before their female counterparts.

Nesting in southern Michigan takes place from the middle of May through late June, and by July and August the birds leave their nesting areas and begin to gather strength for the return flight back south. The Baltimore oriole construct a nest of fibrous material woven together that hangs from tree branches. These nests are commonly seen after the foliage has fallen off the trees in the fall.

Baltimore orioles spend the winter from central Mexico, south through Central America into northern South America.

Another long distance migrant bird species which I receive many photos of in spring is the rose-breasted grosbeak. A male was photographed on May 11 at the backyard birdbath owned by Jeffrey and Beth Wolf of St. Joseph Township.

Breeding season is now underway for the rose-breasted grosbeak in Michigan and it will continue into July. The species prefers woodlands and forest edges. It is a frequent host of brown-headed cow-



*Park by Rick Thomas of Stevensville.  
Above left: Immature bald eagle over Shoreham, April 15, 2021, by Caitlin Koska.*

*Top left: Baby barred owl on May 11, 2021, on property of Kristan Kroening, Stevensville. Photo by Kristan Kroening  
Top center : Male Baltimore oriole on May 7, 2021, Lincoln Township, at jelly feeder of Scott Glenn (who took photo).  
Top right: Male rose-breasted grosbeak on May 11, 2021 at the birdbath of Jeffrey and Beth Wolf, St. Joseph Township. Beth Wolf photo.  
Above right: Male hooded warbler on May 7, at Warren Dunes State*

birds.

Rick and Vicki Thomas of Stevensville located male hooded warbler on May 7 on the Yellow Birch Trail at Warren Dunes State Park. The hooded warbler is only 5 and 1/2 inches in length and nests among the understory of mature wooded swamps and dry forests. In Berrien County, additional reliable locations at which to find this species are at Warren Woods and Grand Mere State Parks, and Love Creek Nature Center. I have found it in Cass County in the Crane Pond State Game Area and Dowagiac Woods. It winters in South America.

May is the time of year during which I receive a great volume of wildlife photos and reports, but space does not permit me to run each photo or mention every report. However I do appreciate all the reports I receive and they add to the general knowledge of the abundance of different species in our area. Thus each report does have value whether it is mentioned in this column or not!

Caitlin Koska of Shoreham photographed two bald eagles, one being an adult with a white head and tail, and the other being an immature bald eagle as it does not have a white head or tail.

Judging from the amount of white on the belly and head, I think the bird is between two and three years of age. Bald eagles do not acquire their distinct white head and tail feathers until their fifth year of life.

This young eagle appears to be carrying some sort of prey in its talons, and in addition to the prey a piece of vegetation seems to be attached somehow either to the eagles talons directly or to the prey of which it is carrying.

In one of Koska's photos, you see the adult eagle attempt to take the contents of the younger eagles' talons. At least that what I initially thought. It is also possible that the two eagles are engaging in a courtship display. However since bald eagles don't nest until they are at least five years old or older, I am uncertain as to whether this was actually happening.

When a pair of bald eagles get ready to nest in the spring, they perform an elaborate and complex aerial courtship, in four stages: a vocal display; chase display; an undulating roller-coaster flight, and a grand finale.

During the grand finale the pair will fly to great heights, lock talons, and then tumble downward and separate just before reaching the ground.

Once again, I'm not convinced this behavior was in progress when Koska's photo was taken, but it is possible.

Bald eagle populations have been increasing since the late 1970s. The species has been documented breeding in multiple locations along major waterways in Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties in Michigan and in St. Joseph County in Indiana.

On April 25, Marie Rust of Brighton, Michigan located a male yellow-headed blackbird at the Three Oaks Wastewater Ponds. The bird has remained there through at least April 30.

The yellow-headed blackbird is common out on the cattail marshes and prairies of Wisconsin and Illinois westward. Winters in Mexico and Central America. There is a population of yellow-headed blackbirds that nest in Michigan in the Saginaw Bay area and at the Muskegon wastewater facility.

In Southwest Michigan the yellow-headed blackbird is an uncommon spring and fall migrant. Berrien County usually tallies one or two reports each

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



# NATURE NOTES

NATURE

Continued from previous page

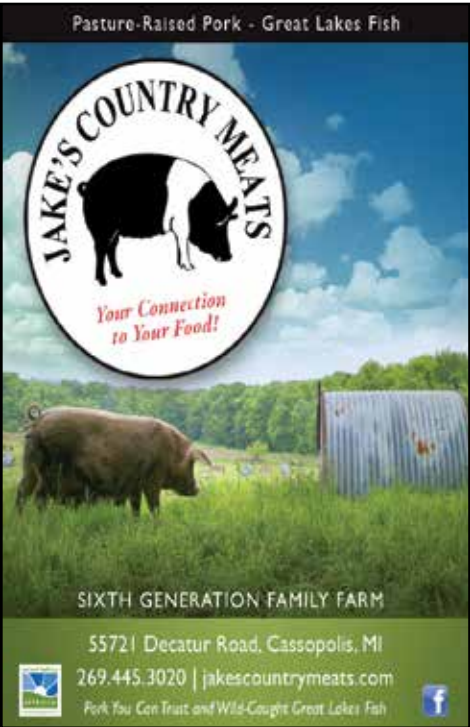
year, of single migrant birds lasting from one to a few days in length.

Males are very distinctive, being roughly the size of our common grackle and all black bodies with a stark yellow hood and white wing patch. The song of the male yellow-headed blackbird is described best as unmusical, like a miniature chain saw.

The female looks quite different than the male, being overall smaller, brownish and the yellow confined to her throat and chest feathers.

On April 28 and 29 a male summer tanager turned up at the feeders of Mark and Diane Kite of Lincoln Township. The summer tanager is a songbird of the southeastern US which summer range extends north to southern Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

The summer tanager is an uncommon species in Berrien County. It is seen every year but in low numbers. Most



Above: Adult and immature bald eagles engaged in possible courtship display over Shoreham, April 15, 2021. Photo by Caitlin Koska of Shoreham.



Top right: : Male yellow-headed blackbird at Three Oaks Wastewater Ponds, April 25, 2021 by Marie Rust of Brighton.



Right: Male summer tanager molting into its summer plumage, April 29, 2021 at Lincoln Twp. feeders of Diane Kite.

observations involve individuals that overshot their migration by a few hundred miles, and came too far north.

Then there are others such as pairs of summer tanagers that have nested successfully in Warren Dunes and Grand Mere State Parks for over a decade.

Brad Anderson of Bridgman has documented adult summer tanagers carrying food to a nest side in Warren Dunes State Park in years past, proving the species has bred in this part of the state.

On April 29 and 30, a piping plover showed up in a pool of water along Basswood Road across from the now closed Forest Lawn Landfill. It was initially discovered by James Lankford of Berrien Springs, but seen by several others during its stay before moving on to its breeding grounds somewhere along the Great Lakes shoreline. Although photos of the bird were taken, none of them were

of good enough quality to publish.

This sighting is significant because it is the first time a piping plover has ever been observed in Berrien County other than on a Lake Michigan beach. Interestingly, another piping plover was seen at the Three Oaks wastewater Ponds on the evening of April 30 by Mary Jo Canaday of Berrien Springs.

Report your sightings to Jonathan Wuepper at wuepperj@gmail.com.

## LOCAL HISTORY

### Now & Then photos show 100 years of history

Provided by **Jon Wuepper**,  
Branch Manager of the Cass District Library, 145  
North Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031, jwuepper@cass.lib.mi.us

Now and Then photographs are featured in this month's issue of Neighbors. Pictured "then" is the intersection of North Broadway Street where it curves west, as Michigan Road 62 toward Dowagiac, and as it turns east as Hilton Street, as it appeared about 100 years ago in the early 1920s. The circa 1920 photo was taken by Cassopolis resident Melissa Blanche Graham Harrison. Written on the bottom of this photo is "Major Smith Farm" and "Smith residence." This refers to Major Joseph Smith (1809-1880), a prominent early pioneer of Cass County who owned and farmed the land directly north of this intersection circa 1865, until his death in 1880.

I recently took a contemporary photograph from nearly the exact spot as Melissa Harrison stood, on a crisp Tuesday morning in mid-May 2021. The white, two-story farmhouse owned by Joseph Smith seen in the circa 1920 photo survived until the middle 2010s, when it was torn down.

On the right side of the 1920 photo you can see a barn with three ventilation



THEN: Broadway Street, aka M-62, looking north from the (then) village limit of Cassopolis, circa early 1920s. Taken by Melissa Blanche Graham Harrison. Courtesy of Keith Harrison. Hilton Street goes off to the right (east), Michigan Road 62 continues to the left (west).



NOW: Same view as previous photo. Taken a few minutes before 7:00am on Tuesday, May 11, 2021. Roughly 100 years after the Harrison shot was taken.

towers attached to the roof. This structure is still standing, although only one vent tower remains. View of the barn from the road is hidden by foliage in the 2021 photo.

It was in 1831 that Broadway Street was laid out along with the rest of the original village of Cassopolis. It was reported in "History of Cass County" (Matthews, 1882) that by 1835, Broadway Street was still not cut through the original timber from the approximate location of where the Local History Branch Library is currently located, northward to the north edge of the village limits, which at that time ended at Cemetery Street.

The intersection we see in the photos was most likely first created in the 1840s when Broadway Street was extended north from Cemetery Street to intersect the "LaGrange Prairie Road" (Today known as M-62).



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# THE LAST WORD

by Phil Vitale  
aka sailorphil

## Old dog learns new tricks; man doesn't bite dog

**Y**ou can't teach an old dog new tricks. Everyone knows that old adage, and at some point we've heard it frequently enough that to some degree, we have come to believe it as a basic truth.

So when the doc smirked at me after I asked how, after my shoulder surgery, was I supposed to put on a shirt, tie my shoes, brush my teeth and wipe my ... ahem ... nose ... left handed, I was a bit surprised when he chuckled and told me he was sure I'd figure it out by myself.

Yo, doc, I'm an old dog. Ask anyone. And trying to do these things left handed is definitely going to fall into the new trick category.

So when I awoke in the hospital after my shoulder replacement and found my right arm ... my fighting arm ... pretty useless (I'm sure glad the staff there were good to me and I never once felt the need to bust some chops), I found myself situationally motivated to try to learn some new tricks.

Funny where a few hours of enforced idleness will send your thoughts. Staring at the ceiling in that overly sanitized room with no visitors (COVID protocols), not a single TV channel that would get a Cubs game, and nothing but a couple of 1940s Raymond Chandler novels to occupy my time, my thoughts turned away from practical issues like putting on a shirt, tying my shoes, brushing my teeth, wiping my ... ahem ... nose ... and the like.

At first, still groggy from the anes-

thesia, my thoughts were a bit more emotionally directed, spattered with considerations of brushing against mortality, of the desire to leave deep, important messages to everyone who matters in my life, and of the fears that my regular chores and responsibilities were not going to be met to the proper standards.

I never got around to trimming that tree outside my office window, and I'm pretty sure no one in my family will be able to figure out how to get the trimmer started ... so that's not going to get done this summer.

There wasn't enough time to get my wife's sailboat into the water and rigged (mine's a loss for the season unfortunately), but thankfully the neighbor can help her ... just hope he knows that he has to rub a bar of soap on the channel the sail rides in when you raise it or else it will jam and she'll never be able to hoist the sail herself.

And my poor dog!

Who's going to be there for her when she absolutely has to go outside at 5 am (whether she really HAS to go out or not), and who's going to sit on the floor with her and give her treats and rub behind her ears and look into her eyes and tell her she's the best dog ever.

There are standards to maintain, after all.

Couple hours later, when the anesthesia's worn off and I'm buzzing around the ceiling of that off-white room, numbed and overhopped on drugs that were better than anything the 60s ever offered, the sappy emotionality melted and for a while I found myself watching a Cubs game on a blank TV that didn't

have sound.

When I looked at the clock (not really sure there was a clock in the room, but humor me here), I saw it was time to take the dog out for her after-dinner visit to the weeds across the road.

Just then, they brought my dinner, and in typical hospital style, there was soup on the tray ... a cruelly ironic thing to serve a right-handed man who's right hand is immobilized.

Back to that old dog, new trick adage (remember that, that's where I started with this a dozen paragraphs ago).

Enraged by the inhumanity of this impractical joke, I decided I was larger than their cruel humor ... I'd overcome my shortcomings and just show them by eating all the soup, damn it.

I was probably panting with fatigue 15 minutes later and my beard and hospital gown were soaked in soup, when I triumphantly raised my spoon and shouted empty echoes into that lonely, sterile room, "Man bites dog!"

Maybe it was the narcotics, but I was pretty damn proud of myself.

I'd mastered the soup spoon.

With one hand!

Bring on the shirt buttons, shoestrings, toothbrush and ... ahem ... implements of nose wiping!

Of course my elation was deftly deflated the next morning (which, incidentally was the second time in my life I found myself in a hospital on my birthday, the first having been the day I was born, but I don't remember that much), when, after the 75th time the phleboto-mist (a vampire with a degree) came by and drew blood, the Patient Care

Provider (they used to be called aides and orderlies) came in to jam more pills down my throat, take my vitals for the post-op lawsuits, and the hospitalist (a fancy name for an in-house doctor who visits a couple times so the bill can be sufficiently escalated that the hospital administrator's payment on his new Porsche will be covered), and after what seemed to be a completely meaningless walk 20 yards down the hall so an occupational therapist and a physical therapist could tell me (in therapeutic harmony) how many visits I'd need in the next six months before I'd be able to deal with those buttons, shoe ties, toothbrushes and ... ahem ... wiping things ... and I was again reduced to a gelatinous state when they handed me my pants and shirt and shoes and told me I could get ready to go home.

And then they left the room.

I looked at the pile of clothes and shirt buttons and the shoestrings (and the ... ahem ... other things) and thought about my dog.

Old dog. Like me.

And then I remembered conquering the soup in a flashback that Tim Leary would have been proud of.

Somehow I got my new shoulder shirted (hey, wasn't that just numb ... why does it hurt so much now?), got my shoes tied, my teeth brushed and my ... ahem ... nose ... wiped (a requirement to be released) and settled in to wait for the wheelchair to freedom.

And as I waited for my wife to retrieve me, my thoughts turned back to my dog. "I did it baby," I esp-ed to her. "I learned some new tricks."

"And I promise I won't bite you."

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