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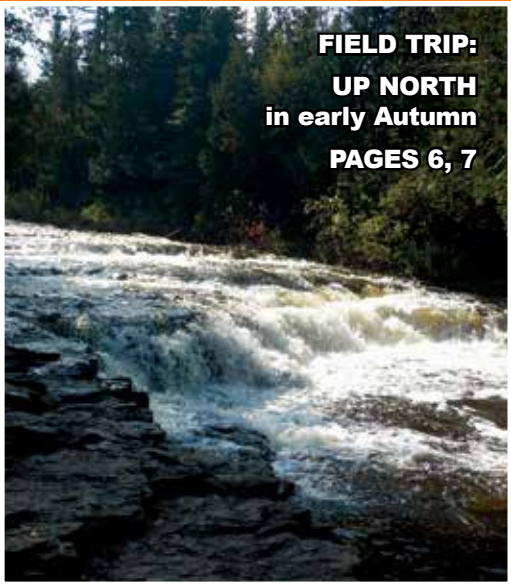
A regional newspaper widely distributed in Dowagiac, Cassopolis, Edwardsburg, Vandalia, Jones, Marcellus, Decatur, Union, Sister Lakes, Three Rivers, Elkhart and Mishawaka, with home delivery at Diamond, Eagle, Birch, Corey, Donnell, Indian, Magician, Shavehead, Baldwin, Long, Dewey, Cable, Juno, Christiana,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



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FIELD TRIP:
UP NORTH
in early Autumn
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REGIONAL NEWS

Holiday Bazaar

A Holiday Bazaar will be held on Saturday, Nov. 6, from 8 am - 2 pm at Our Lady of the Lake Church Social Hall & Narthex, 24832 US Highway 12 E. in Edwardsburg

The event will feature 80 + talented crafters, homemade baked goods and candies, unique gifts & seasonal decorations, chances for door prizes for the first 250 visitors, breakfast, lunch, and snacks.

For more information see facebook.com/ourladyholidaybazaar.

Cass County Historical Society

The Cass County Historical Society will host it's CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE, Nov. 7 from 1-4:30 pm, at the historic Newton House, 20689 Marcellus Highway.

For more information about the Cass County Historical Society, contact Allen F. Butchbaaker, 269-244-8479 or allen-butchbaker@gmail.com.

VBRGS Celebrates 1st Anniversary

On October 1 the Van Buren Regional Genealogical Society celebrated its one-year anniversary at the Hartford Public Library. HPL is home to the society and its vast collection of family and local history documents, records and photographs that are housed in the VBRGS Genealogy Room. The mutual collaboration between the library and the society has been a remarkable accomplishment and a wonderful addition to the library's services and offerings. So many people are interested in finding their roots, learning more about the place they live, or reading about local history and HPL

can now offer more of these resources. The genealogy/history collection encompasses information well outside of Van Buren County. Its main focus are the Michigan counties of Allegan, Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren, but the collection also houses information from other states and countries.

Joyce Beedie, President of the VBRGS, commented "People who are looking for their family history will travel many miles to find the information they seek and the VBRGS Genealogy Room attracts many out-of-town visitors. Over the past year 497 people residing in Michigan as well as from the states of Colorado, Wisconsin, Illinois, Arizona, Florida, Indiana and New York have visited the Genealogy Room. There are also many others who are assisted online and by phone who live all over the United States as well as other countries."

The VBRGS Genealogy Room is open during all regular library hours and volunteers are able to assist patrons in-person or remotely. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to visit the collection and attend our special events. Information is available at the society website www.vbrgs.org.

Tail Waggin' Hayrides

Enjoy this colorful time of year with your tail-waggin friend for a doggie hayride on Sunday, Nov. 7 from 2-4 pm. The fee for this program is \$4 per person, which includes hot cocoa and s'more. The park will also be collecting donations of a pet related item for PetsConnect! The event is at Bendix Woods County Park and hayrides will depart from the Van

Paris Shelter next to the playground. Pets must be on a 6-foot leash. Pets in costume are welcome and encouraged.

Bendix Woods County Park entrance is located on Timothy Road, south of S.R. 2 in New Carlisle, Indiana.

Cass County Parks Receives Gateway Foundation Grant

After more than ten years, accumulated fallen trees and other natural debris had made the Dowagiac River waterway impassable from Arthur Dodd Memorial Park to Pucker Street. Thanks to a \$4,050 grant from the Gateway Foundation, kayakers, canoers and fishermen are now able to float down the river from Dodd Park to Pucker Street with relative ease.

This grant "allowed for a professional team to go in and remove a labyrinth of tangled debris that community volunteers were not able to do," Parks Director Scott Wyman stated. "And we owe our sincere thanks to the landowners that were affected by this removal, as without their approval, this could not have been accomplished. We would also like to thank Marcy Hamilton of the Southwest Regional Planning Commission for writing the grant on behalf of the Cass County Parks."

Arts & Craft show

The Theta Mu's 24th Annual Arts & Craft Show will take place at Dowagiac Middle School on Saturday, November 13 from 9 am to 3 pm.

This event is held in conjunction with Dowagiac's Old-Fashioned Christmas Celebration weekend. The event is sponsored by Theta Mu Chapter

of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority.

Shop from the variety of homemade crafts from local artisans, baked goods, and direct sales vendors. There is something for everyone! Admission is free.

There will be a donut and lunch menu available for purchase.

For further information contact Sherrie at 1-269-580-2331, Erika at 269-591-0794, Michala at 269-262-6020, or email Michele at bmfroehlich6488@msn.com

All Trail Turkey Trot

The 54th running of the Dowagiac All Trail Turkey Trot will be run live this year with traditional years format (Gun/mass start at 1 pm). Participants are required to wear masks when checking in and picking up awards.

Registrations received by November 14, will receive a long sleeve custom designed technical shirt at the race check-in. There will be race day entries. Presently the restrooms at the middle school will be open pending any changes in MHSAA protocols. All spectators are encouraged to wear masks and social distance.

This event is sponsored by the Dowagiac Union High School Athletic Department and is being directed by Ron Gunn of Cairn Stone Adventure Tours. The start is located on the southwest side of the middle school parking lot. This is Pure Michigan's oldest Turkey Trot with the same race director.

For more information or to register visit the website <https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Dowagiac/DowagiacTurkeyTrot>.

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REGIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

Nov. 6 - **Holiday Bazaar**, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Edwardsburg, 8 am - 2 pm, facebook.com/ourladyholidaybazaar.

Nov. 7 - **Cass County Historical Society Christmas Open House**, 28689 Marcellus Highway, Decatur, 224-8479, allenbutchbaker@gmail.com

Nov. 13 - **Theta Mu's 24th Annual Arts & Craft Show**, Dowagiac Middle School, 9 am - 3 pm, 580-2331

Nov. 14 - 54th running of **Dowagiac All Trail Turkey Trot**, DUHS, 1 pm start, <https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Dowagiac/DowagiacTurkeyTrot>

Nov. 27 & 28 - **Deer management hunt**, Bendix Woods County Park (South Bend).

December 2-5 - **Barn Swallow Theatre presents Annie**, 7:30 pm (2 pm on Dec. 5)

Cass District Library Nov. 2021 Programs

Fall Flix, all locations, all Month - Check out some of your favorite movies, grab a blanket and participate in Fall Flix! Grab a Fall Flix BINGO card at any location. To participate, mark off a box that corresponds with a movie you watch during the month of Nov.. For each line of boxes checked off or "BINGO", you will receive an entry slip toward our Fall Flix prize! The winner will be announced in December.

Thank A Veteran, Edwardsburg branch, week of Nov. 1 - Stop by the Edwardsburg branch all week to make a thank you card for a veteran. Cards will be delivered to local veterans.

Thankful Banner, Mason/Union branch, week of Nov. 1 - What are you thankful for? Create a fall-themed thankful banner to display at home. Leaves and twine are included in this take and make kit. Kits are available while supplies last. Share your completed banner with us by sending pictures to mkistler@cass.lib.mi.us.

Knitting and Crochet Group, Edwardsburg branch, Wednesdays at 5 pm - starting Nov. 3 - Seasoned knitter? Interested beginner? Join us for a weekly meetup starting Nov. 3 to work on a current project or learn how to get started. Some supplies and instruction will be provided for newbies.

International Games Week, all locations, week of Nov. 8 - International Games Week is an initiative run by volunteers from around the world to reconnect communities through their libraries around the educational, recreational, and social value of all types of games. Stop by any branch all week to celebrate with games to go.

Wii Throwback Week, Edwardsburg branch, week of Nov. 8 - Do you remember the Wii? Wii do! Spend International Games Week at the Edwardsburg branch playing throwback Wii games. Recommended for ages 14-18.

Family BINGO Night, Main branch, Nov. 8 - 6 pm - Win prizes and enjoy playing BINGO at the library! Join us at the Main branch for a family game night.

DIY Fall Leaf Sign, Edwardsburg branch, Nov. 9 - all day, Main branch: Nov. 10 - 1 pm (adult craft club), Howard branch: Nov. 11 - 6 pm - Create your own fall sign with leaf wood cutout, paint and vinyl. Cost is \$5.00 per sign while supplies last. All materials will be

provided.

Woodshop Model Kits Take and Make, Howard branch, Week of Nov. 15 - These easy to assemble kits include parts for building one of the following: a racecar, a sailboat, a helicopter, or a fighter plane. Kits are available while supplies last.

Be a NASA Detective, Main branch, Nov. 15 - 6 pm - Discover the things we cannot see with our normal vision or sense with our normal senses! Learn about our Solar System, the Moon's phases, exploring science as art, investigating the insides of planets using hands-on objects and detecting tools, and using scientific tools such as a telescope and infrared thermometer to observe the properties of objects that are difficult to see with our own eyes.

Pompous Pumpkins, Edwardsburg branch, Nov. 16 - Don't settle for plain carved pumpkins this year. Drop in the Edwardsburg branch anytime on Nov. 16 to decorate a Pompous Pumpkin. Deck it out with jewels, feathers and glitter while supplies last.

More Than a Book Club, Edwardsburg branch, Nov. 18 - 10 am & 6 pm - Join us on Nov. 18 as we discuss The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion. Don Tillman is ready to find a wife and what better way to do that than an evidence-based survey called The Wife Project. Rosie fits all the qualifications but Don quickly rules her out. Find out why!

Free Birds Movie Night, Main branch, Nov. 22 - 6 pm - Join us for fresh popcorn and a showing of Free Birds. All ages are welcome.

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LAKE LIFE WITH JANE

Hey, it's fall y'all!

by **Jane Boudreau**

Hi Neighbors! It's fall, y'all! Well, actually last month was more the beginning. We had a great time at our annual pumpkin picking weekend at a place called Amazing Acres. Maybe you've heard of it. What a blast for the little ones. All sorts of activities like wooden structures to climb and huge slides to go down, a gigantic rope spider web, and corn maze (which was a first for me and so much fun). The grounds and paths are easy to navigate even while pushing a baby stroller, and we all enjoyed the kettle corn, nachos, and cotton candy. And of course, they have a ton of pumpkins to choose from. So I see I've regressed a little, mark this on your calendar for next year. This is just how we started out the festive, colorful, pumpkin spice mania beginning of fall.



I do a minimal job of decorating in October and November. Thanksgiving plans are underway early in the month. I also seem to be not so quick on the draw with Christmas decorating, so that goes slower and slower and slower each year-- much like me, and the trip up and down stairs is taxing. Then I add and delete. Okay, now I've gotten ahead of myself. Get into the present day, Jane.

If you've followed along with me over the years, you might know that I like to use natural elements for simple and inexpensive touches, such as this old wooden dough bowl that belonged to someone's great grandma most likely. Fall-ish fruit like pears and apples look perfect with some artificial leaves tucked in here and there. The pears might have to be replaced after a week or so, but the apples last longer. You will know they are ready to toss by the sharp aroma around them...but fear not, you can then display in-the-shell walnuts, pecans, almonds, and hazelnuts. Don't forget a nutcracker.



For the DIY creators out there, I made this simple banner a few years ago and it just seems perfect to hang in November beneath the mantel. I used the precut muslin shapes which you can buy at Hobby Lobby or Michael's, along with fabric paint and stencils. Fold them over a long piece of jute string and attach with a glue gun (or for lazy me, Gorilla Glue).

For some permanent decor, I'd like to share two areas I took creative license with that may inspire you. Obviously I can't rattle on about gardening so I'll stick with home decor this month. We renovated our kitchen a few years ago



and although I have cabinets on the opposite side from this as well as below the counter, I really wanted open shelves. It was picking up on trend years ago and while I'm not a big fan of trends, I knew this would be great for the many guests we have at the lake who need to find a plate, dish, or coffee cup. I have a purpose for the shelves as opposed to just display, although there is nothing wrong for that. I have some glass front cabinets for that as well as an old Hoosier hutch that belonged to someone's great grandma a long time ago. Maybe the same great grandma who owned the dough bowl? Geez, maybe it's my own great grandma, Fanny Hickey. And yes, that was her name.

I thought about barn wood which was the way most were doing their farmhouse/country kitchen but you are messing with debugging it and you never know if it's starting to rot inside. My carpenter used wood from a big box store, stained each lightly, and hung them on black brackets. It's a lot of fun to rearrange, add pieces, and edit a few times a year. I have mismatched dishes for more color and interest, and also if something broke, it can easily replace. I hope this is food for thought if you have plans for a redo.



My foyer was a challenge for a long time. It isn't large or wide so I couldn't use a traditional cabinet. I thought about having a bench but couldn't find a good fit. Then voila, this bench came from Pottery Barn and belonged to a rustic dining table. I jazzed it up a little but it usually holds a basket of dog leashes and the occasional newspaper. I tried to tie in the look with my kitchen as it's right off this hall and you look right at those open shelves. Nothing glamorous or expensive. More food for thought?



Fall on the patio overlooking the bay. Clearly we don't rake much. Enough said.



Sweet and spicy pan roasted carrots

I'm not going to go super heavy on recipes this month because you have Thanksgiving dinner and that alone is enough cooking for a month. So my mind has turned to root vegetables as they are in season, and everybody loves carrots, right? Even my dogs love them and they are a healthy treat. So this is a basic but delicious side dish you can make for your regular dinner, for company, or dare I say the T word?

Ingredients:
8 medium carrots (I love an assortment of rainbow carrots), tops on
2 T brown sugar
5 t melted butter
1/4 t ground cinnamon
1/2 t salt
1/8 t ground cloves
Dash of cayenne pepper
2 T chopped toasted pecans

Directions:
Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line a large rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper

Arrange carrots in an even layer and cover with foil. Roast for 25-30 minutes until just tender in thickest part.

Meanwhile stir brown sugar, butter, cinnamon, salt, ground cloves, and cayenne pepper in a small bowl until well combined.

Remove the carrots from the oven and pull off the foil. Drizzle the glaze over to coat well. Roast uncovered, until the carrots are tender and caramelized. Top with pecans.

Puff pastry zucchini tart

This is another simple and tasty recipe that I like to have in the late summer and fall when the last of the zucchini is still hanging around. Store bought works

well, of course. I serve it as a heavy appetizer.



Ingredients:
1 sheet of frozen puff pastry dough (I like Pepperidge Farm's)*
2-3 smallish zucchini, thinly sliced
3/4 c ricotta cheese
2 T grated Parmesan cheese
2 t lemon zest
2 t olive oil
1/4 t chili flakes
1/4 t salt

Directions:
Thaw pastry at room temp about ten minutes, but not to the point where it is getting sticky. On a floured surface roll out the pastry to fit a small baking sheet. Press a 1/4 inch border around the edge with a fork, and prick all over. Bake at 400 degrees for 10 minutes, pressing down any big puffs with a wooden spoon periodically.

Meanwhile, in a small bowl stir the cheeses together along with the lemon zest (you want only the yellow part). Spread on the warm puff pastry and then top with the zucchini slices, overlapping them slightly. Brush with olive oil and sprinkle with chili flakes and salt.

Bake for an additional 20 minutes until zucchini are cooked through and pastry is lightly browned. Cut into six slices with a serrated knife or pizza cutter and serve.

*As the puff pastry comes in two sheet packages, you may want to double the recipe for more servings.



Individual strawberry parfaits

I'm sharing this recipe because who doesn't like a trifle or parfait and it keeps

Continued on next page. See:
JANE

BUSINESS & FINANCE

'Tis the season ... be safe and happy

By **Charlie Retherford**
Kemner, Iott, Benz Agency

Seasonal ups-and-downs. Winter can be the best time of year but it can be also be fraught with danger. Decorating for the holidays may seem like a harmless endeavor but that is not always the case. An average of over 200 people injure themselves daily while decorating.

Falls from ladders while hanging Christmas lights can be very dangerous. Hanging outdoor lights may be safer to do in the warmer months to avoid slippery or cold circumstances. Better yet, let the neighbor win the Holiday lighting contest in your neighborhood. Whatever lights you put outside; be sure they are rated for outdoor use along with extension cords. Outlets should be GFCI* rated as well to avoid fire or shock issues from water infiltration. *Ground-fault circuit interrupter.

Indoor lights also need to be checked before use to be sure there are no breaks in the wires, etc. You should be careful how many strings of lights you plug into each other. Read and follow manufacturers recommendations and check to make sure all electrical lights and other decorations are UL approved. Keep all replacement bulbs out of reach of children and pets to avoid injuries from choking.

Lacerations, strains and sprains are also common injuries associated with decorating. Cuts from broken ornaments



and from knives while unwrapping gifts, back strain from lifting the tree or other large boxes, or tree needle pokes especially to the eyes. OUCH! Real trees may also cause allergic reactions due to the mold that is often growing on them.

You may not have considered safety when you positioned your Christmas tree but location is essential to safety. Obviously, it should not be near any heat source. Be sure to water real trees regularly to prevent extreme dryness. From 2013 through 2015, the average number of tree fires was over 100 and they caused over \$12,000,000 in property damage not to mention several injuries and even fatalities.

Be sure to check all smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to be sure they are in proper working order. Never burn wrapping paper in a fireplace. It could cause a flash fire and it usually burns very intensely.

We all look forward to mom and grandma's favorite dishes over the holidays but never leave food out for more

than 2 hours from service. Food should be kept colder than 40 degrees or warmer than 140 degrees between meals. Have seconds later and enjoy those awesome desserts in the meantime. That's much more fun than having food poisoning! Believe it or not, each year some children are injured by falling off Santa's lap. Never force a child who is afraid or overly excited to sit with Santa. You can hold him or her beside Santa for that all-important photo-op.

And always remember to look out after our four-footed friends. The season offers many pitfalls for our buddies. We need to keep all lights and strings out of their reach along with poisonous plants like Amaryllis, Poinsettias, Holly berries, Mistletoe or Yew. Do not let them drink from the Christmas tree water as it may have pesticides and be careful with chocolate, artificial sweeteners like xylitol, nuts, grapes, and raisins that can be deadly for some animals. Be sure they have a place where they feel safe during parties and try very hard to feed them a normal diet during the holidays.

Make sure you keep your walkways free of ice and snow as often as necessary. The hip or wrist you save may be your own! And be nice to everyone! You never know what they are dealing with.

All of us at Kemner Iott Benz wish all of you a very happy holiday season. Please let us know if you have any questions or if we can help with your insurance needs. Have a wonderful 2022!

LAKE LIFE WITH JANE

JANE

Continued from previous page

the berry vibe going. The best part is it takes little time to throw these together. You can get small jars just about anywhere, I have found them at Michael's in the candle and vase aisles. You can also use small canning jars or clear plastic

cups.

Ingredients:
1 pint heavy whipping cream
3 T sugar
2 t vanilla extract
2 c strawberries, sliced
4 c pound cake (your own or store bought), diced

Directions:
Whip the heavy cream, sugar and vanilla with an electric or stand mixer.

Do this on high until soft peaks form.

To assemble, start by adding pound cake cubes to the bottom of the jar. You can dice them up to fit. Next layer on the whipped cream and strawberries evenly to each jar. Repeat.

Serve immediately or store in refrigerator until ready to serve. You can also make this in a regular glass trifle bowl, but we made these for my daughters engagement party in individual plastic

cups with spoons, as it was a buffet style celebration with little seating room.

So that's a wrap for November. I'm wishing all of you a happy month as we cozy inside for a long winter's nap, and have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Jane Boudreau is a writer and blogger who spends her time between Chicago, Diamond Lake, and a little place in the mountains of North Carolina. Contact her at blndy9@yahoo.com.



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FIELD TRIP



Field Trip: **UP NORTH** in early **Autumn**



So, when life serves up a nasty plate of lemons, they say the best thing to do is make lemonade ... so when the October vacation we had planned once again got squished by Covid (see Last Word, page 15), we rolled with the punch and rented a nice cabin on a river up north for a week, about half way between Gaylord and Mackinaw City.

Even though it rained (roll with the punches) we spent a good deal of our time outdoors, hiking and driving (the tunnel of trees is really nice in October) and sightseeing, happy hour-ing (for more than an hour, admittedly), eating too much (what else do you do on vacation?) and generally hanging with our dog.

For the record, the colors were nice (not peak season but nice), the people were friendly (except for the big hairy guy at the right) and the wildlife was mostly harmless (left).



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OUR CHILDREN

Family Volunteer Day

by **SANDY FLEMING**

Perhaps of all the people in the world, children are among the most idealistic and the most optimistic. Take advantage of that youthful energy to teach lessons that will last a lifetime. You can influence future deeds and attitudes with some simple changes right this very minute. How? By getting in the habit of doing family volunteer outings.

Saturday, November 20, 2021 (always the Saturday after the third Thursday) is Family Volunteer Day -- a world-wide effort to get more families out and involved in volunteering. And while it's fun to think that your family is making things happen on a day when thousands and thousands of others are all working simultaneously, there's no rule that says you cannot volunteer other times as well or instead. The whole point is to get the family into the habit of giving service to others.

It's actually astounding how many organizations depend on volunteers to keep their doors open. And there are tons of ways to help (and a very wide range of levels of commitment). Look around on any given weekend, and you will see sponsorship races and walks in the spring, summer, and fall. You'll see various sales and fundraisers happening in the community. You will find groups hard at work giving opportunities to kids, meeting the needs of people with financial hardships, helping senior citizens with the more strenuous parts of daily life, visiting the sick and the elderly, keeping churches and other buildings in good repair, and much, much more. The opportunities are endless.

But perhaps more importantly, the example you set and the activities you choose to support with your time, effort, and money impact your personal children. You are setting an example of giving back to the community that will resonate with them throughout their lives. Kids who learn the importance of volunteering as children are far more likely to support important organizations and activities in their communities as adults. Make this little adjustment -- let the kids see you giving back to the community and get them involved in giving back themselves, and your actions will echo down through the years as they follow in your footsteps.

Here are tons of ideas about how you and your family can get involved.

Organized opportunities

There are countless organizations that have volunteer service as one of their core values or purposes. Some, like the Lions Club and the Optimists



Club, are adult organizations, but they will have events and opportunities for the whole family for their members. Many even have ancillary organizations for young people. Check into your local community opportunities by talking to the Chamber of Commerce or by searching your area online.

Others, like Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting, 4-H, Campfire, and Boys and Girls Clubs of America, are specifically focused on youth. Kids who are a part of these organizations develop a sense of purpose and belonging that goes far in developing what we all believe are solid adult values. Look for these groups to have branches, chapters, troops, or whatever they call their local groups in your town. Ask at your school, the library, or watch for signs during fundraising periods to find them. You also should be able to look on the internet- they all have regional offices and websites that can help you get in touch with existing groups or better yet, guide you in starting your own! What a way to put your money where your mouth is, so to speak. Each of these groups also offer less-intensive commitments than leading a weekly, biweekly, or monthly group of kids.

There are tons of other ways that caring adults can help- just reach out. Involvement in youth organizations is particularly nice, because many of the groups actually provide service opportunities for the kids as well as the adults who are working with them. They raise money, they provide service to others, and they organize informational campaigns as a part of their work. Kids not only will catch the volunteer bug, they also will develop outstanding leadership, planning, and organizational skills themselves. Adult

leaders can use their experiences as resume-builders, too.

Another avenue to search for volunteer opportunities in an organized group is to check local churches. They may have a youth organization that will be right for your child, and you may find a group of like-minded individuals there, too. Nearly all faiths have a core tenant about helping others in various ways, so it follows that nearly all religious organizations have avenues to help their participants meet that goal.

Personal opportunities to volunteer

You don't need to have the backing of an organization to get this job done. There are countless ways that you and your family can contribute to the community once or twice a year or once or twice each week. Check out these ideas that are perfect for families to be community-minded all on their own:

- Take some time to clean a public space. Nearly all roadsides, parks, playgrounds, and similar spaces need continual attention to pick up trash and garbage that others leave lying around. Be sure to teach the kids how to do this job safely- choose places to work with appropriate levels of traffic for younger kids, provide gloves or other means to pick up trash without touching it, and be sure to teach the kids not to touch anything dangerous, like drug paraphernalia or sharp items, but to call an adult to help.
- Volunteer to bring cheer to nursing homes, group homes, or hospitals. If you can, arrange some visits with the people in charge. There are countless residents and patients that have no family or friends to visit them from

time to time. Kids can go with you to play simple games, read aloud, sing songs, or just keep someone company. And during times when you cannot actually visit in person, you should be able to arrange a few phone calls, or send cards and letters. Kids can also mass-produce crafts that can be used as table decorations, wall decorations, placemats, and more. This is common during seasonal and holiday events, but even more meaningful if you do it just because, in, say, August!

- Check with your local Senior Center, churches, or even schools for contact information for senior citizens who are shut in or disabled. Adopt a new "grandmother" or "grandfather." Then shower him or her with attention, and go over to do simple tasks like leaf raking in the fall or shoveling snow in the winter.

- Investigate your local food pantry. They often need help with cleaning, organizing, and packing food bags and baskets. These are jobs that even young children can do with supervision.

- Older youth can help in community kitchens and with community meals. Those too young to help with the cooking or clean up can sometimes "wait tables" or help guests be seated.

- Check out <http://colorasmile.org>. This website offers coloring sheets that you can download and kids can color, then you can return them to the organization. They send them out to hang on refrigerators of lonely people all over the country.

- Get in the habit of doing nice things for the neighbors. Kids can offer to mow, shovel, rake, or even just take a plate of homemade cookies to the people who live nearby. You never know who will benefit from small kindnesses.

And I'm positive that you can think of many other opportunities around you. It doesn't take much to help the kids get the idea that volunteering and donating are important. Plus, you can also be more obvious about the charitable causes that you support. Instead of writing that check or making that online donation after the kids go to bed, get them involved! Let them watch and explain to them what you are doing and why.

They say it takes a village to raise a child. But what they don't say is how much the village benefits when that child is taught to give back regularly. Why not start a new habit this year for Family Volunteer Day?

Sandy Fleming is a writer and private tutor living in Edwardsburg. Visit her website at <http://sandy-flemingonline.com/>!



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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 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.arcadia-publishing.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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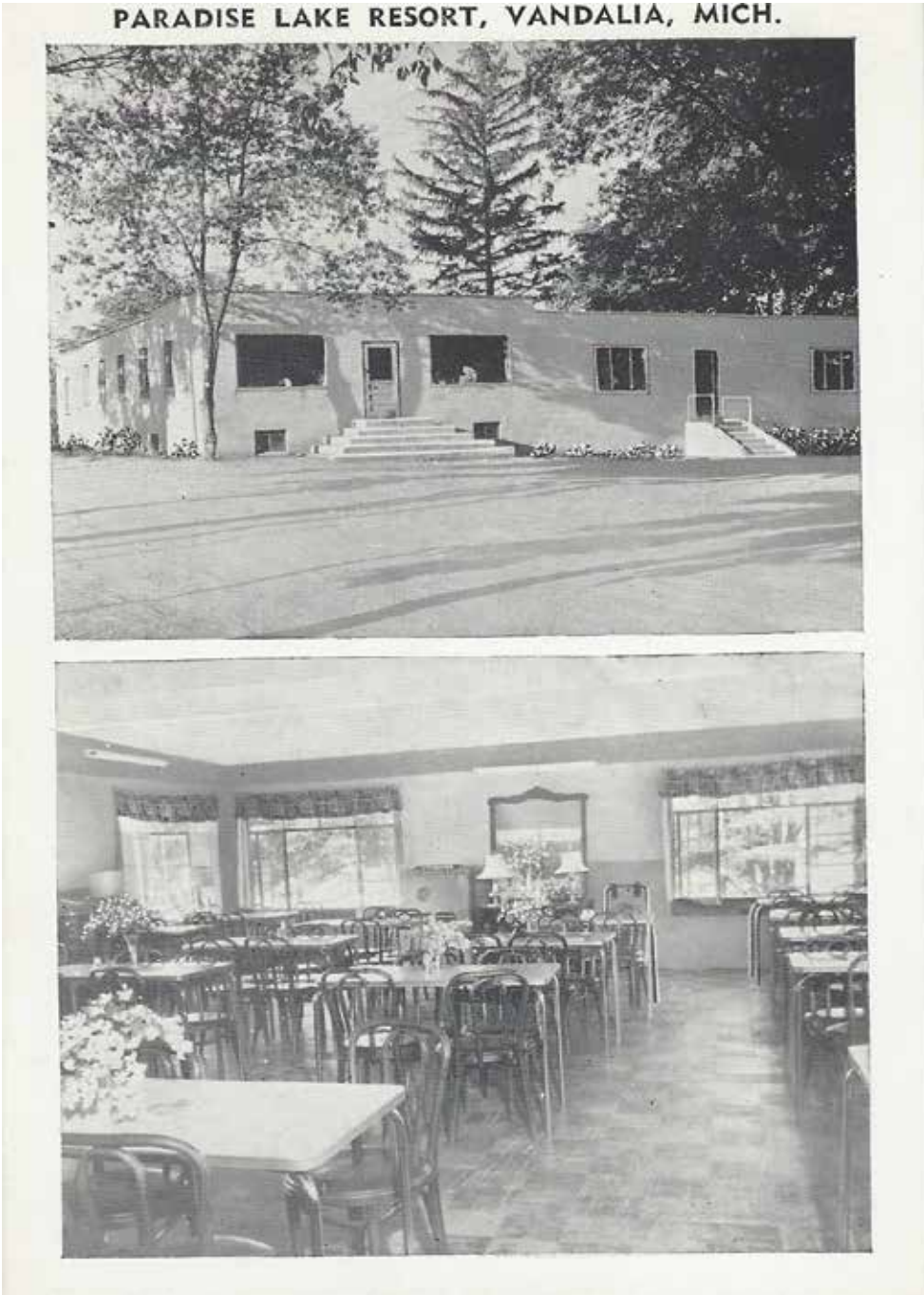
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NATURE NOTES

Unusual sightings this fall

Provided by Cass District Library
Local History branch

Brad and Hannah Anderson have had a bird feeding station on their Bridgman yard for at least 25 to 30 years and it was not until Sept 22 of this year that a thirteen-lined ground squirrel was seen beneath the feeders gathering seed.

What is interesting about the visit from the thirteen-lined ground squirrel to the Anderson's feeders is that the ground squirrel is a mammal of open country, and the Anderson's live in a forested area of Bridgman, which is an area inhospitable to the species. Prior to European settlement in North America, the thirteen-lined ground squirrel was found among the tall and shortgrass prairies of North America.

While the large, expansive prairie areas of North America were located to our west, a few smaller prairies dotted the landscape eastward into Northwest Indiana and Southwest Michigan. The thirteen-lined ground squirrel inhabited these prairies and sand dunes along the Lake Michigan shoreline. As local forests were cleared during the middle 19th century, the thirteen-lined ground squirrel thrived on the opening of the land. The species range expanded northward so that it included the entire Lower Peninsula by about 1900.

The species population both locally and statewide peaked during the early to middle part of the 20th century when deforestation was at its peak.

The individual at the Anderson's feeders is somewhat of a mystery, as the feeding station is not located within the mammals preferred habitat of open grassland. I speculate that this individual could have been displaced from Weko Beach, or a nearby railroad right-of-way and found its way to Anderson's food source. The month of September is the time that the species puts on a layer of fat under their skin, often doubling their spring weight in preparation for the upcoming hibernation through the winter months.

Beginning in October or early November, the thirteen-lined ground squirrel will seek out a ground chamber below the ground surface and will not emerge until the spring of 2022. During hibernation this mammals heart beat will drop from 300 beats per minute to as low as 5 per minute. Its body temperature, which is approximately 100 degrees Fahrenheit, will drop to 37 degrees.



Top: thirteen-lined ground squirrel on September 22, 2021, at bird-feeding station of Brad and Hannah Anderson, Bridgman. This is one of four species of mammals that inhabit Michigan that are true hibernators.

Bottom: Magnificent frigatebird on September 22, 2021 off New Buffalo beach on September 22, 2021, photographed by David Pavlik of Grand Rapids.

While many other mammals that inhabit Michigan are said to "hibernate", only four species are true hibernators. They are: thirteen-lined ground squirrel; woodchuck (groundhog); meadow-jumping mouse; and little brown bat.

With all the tropical storms hitting the southern US and Mexico this year, it is not surprising that a frigatebird was reported at New Buffalo on September 22 by David Pavlik of Grand Rapids.

There are five species of frigatebirds that inhabit the world, all in tropical oceans. The species most likely to show up in Michigan is the magnificent frigate-

bird, which is common in the Gulf of Mexico and south Atlantic Ocean. It is not impossible that another species, such as the great frigatebird, may have been blown off course and ended up over Michigan's waters.

Pavlik was able to take several photos of this large tropical bird, which has been known to turn up on the Great Lakes after such storms. While Pavlik's images lack color contrast, his photos capture the birds shape which is unmistakable. The bird in Pavlik's photos has a long, slender body, with a long tail, and a long, pointed wing span.

Frigatebirds feed by robbing other water and sea birds of their prey in flight. The Magnificent frigatebird may spend weeks, or possibly months in flight during migration without landing.

Michigan currently has 14 frigatebird records, 6 of which have occurred in Berrien County. Four were determined to have been magnificent frigatebirds, the other two are considered frigatebirds, but unidentified to species. Van Buren County has one record of magnificent frigatebird.

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LOCAL HISTORY

Historic Edwardsburg School featured

Provided by **Jonathan Wuepper**,
branch Manager of the Cass District Library
jvwuepper@cass.lib.mi.us

This month I'd like to feature the Edwardsburg School, built in 1861-1862, serving that community for around 60 years before being torn down.

The building was located on the north side of Church Street, between First and Lake Streets.

Cass County history books repeat the same information on the building: that it was constructed in 1861, costing \$3000, which adjusting for inflation would be about \$99,000 in 2021.

I recently found a column in the Cass County Republican newspaper (a weekly, published at Dowagiac), dated June 11, 1863 that provides more details of the building and students in its early years. I shall copy it here word for word.

The column was written by a "E. Mudge, principal". I have checked the US Census of 1860 and have been unable to find anyone in Cass or surrounding counties with that name. I was also unable to identify "Mr. Banfield" who was apparently in charge of the educational column for the Cass County Republican.

**From the Cass County Republican,
June 11, 1863:**

"Mr. Banfield: -- Our School Edifice is located in the little but pleasant village of Edwardsburg.

The structure is wood; the main building is fifty-two by thirty-two on the ground, and two stories high, having a wing in front for entry and a flight of stairs.

On the upper floor are a large assembly room and two recitation rooms; below, two rooms for primary and intermediate departments. The building will conveniently accommodate about two hundred scholars, and was erected at a cost of about \$2,200, and when fully completed, and the grounds properly enclosed, will be an ornament to the community.

As the building was not completed until in December last, the school for the present year has been but imperfectly organized. Three teachers, one male and two females, were employed during the winter. This term two teachers are in the school. Another year the organization will be more perfect. Three departments will undoubtedly be organized and those departments kept up throughout the year.

The present term has advanced eight weeks and will close the 3d of July.

The number of scholars in actual attendance in the High School department is 46; the average daily attendance so far during the term is 45. There have been 510 half-day absences, and 179 tardinesses. I report the following as praiseworthy for meritorious conduct, viz: --Mary Wiley, Mary Lee, Francis Snyder, Thomas Doby, and R.O. Robins.

The number attending the primary is 50, with an average attendance of 38, and an absence of twenty per cent.

We have classes in Mathematics from Mental Arithmetic to Davis Legendre.

Wishing you great success in the editorship of the Educational Column and hoping to hear from all the schools in the county through this medium.

I am yours obediently,

E. MUDGE, Principle.
Edwardsburg, June 9, 1863.



Above: Edwardsburg Graded School, built 1861-1862. Served School District number 3, covering Edwardsburg, in Ontwa Township, from the 1860s until 1886, then became Edwardsburg High School until circa 1923. Taken circa 1910, from George Andrus collection.

Left: Edwardsburg School, side view looking northwest. Although the building was approaching 50 years of age, it appears remarkably well kept from these photos taken about 1910 by the George Andrus family.



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THE LAST WORD

by Phil Vitale
aka sailorphil

When it rains on vacation, it really pours



here's something about Autumn that always brings me down. End of summer, cooler weather, falling leaves, boats and pier coming out of the lake, rakes, leaf blowers, snow blowers, snow shovels, grandkids back in school. Bummericity.

I mean, one minute there I was dressed in shorts and a tank top, right in the middle of sailing and swimming and fishing and happy hours in the sun on the deck, and the next minute I'm pulling on a sweatshirt and jeans and putting my toys into the shed or pulling a tarp over anything that's going to sit out.

Bummericity, big time. Often my wife and I (and our dog) have taken a fall vacation, a short break to break the chains of the inevitable and horrid autumnal ennui that ensues as summer painfully wanes toward winter.

This year we tried to charter a sailboat, one of our favorite respites from reality, but found ourselves thwarted again as the fickle fingers of cruel misfortune wound themselves into our lives and our charter was pandemically bumped at the last minute (we had literally started packing).

In a snit nearing epic proportions I began to scour the Internet, bouncing around my favorite sailing sites and pouring over thousands of various classified ads listing last-minute October sailboats for charter in exotic places like Central America and the Sea of Cortez ... only to find a raft of reluctant renters and a potful of prohibitive protocols stymieing my best laid plans.

Not to be denied, I grudgingly switched to Plan B. After a few hours I offered my grumpy spouse an alternative: let's stay closer to home. We haven't been "up north" for a while, why don't we find a place up near the bridge and just spend a week in the wilderness?

Since our dog has matured to a point where she can't easily climb in and out of our mini-van camper anymore (we literally stopped and bought a doggie ramp at a Pet-A-Saurus in Battle Creek on the way north), we compromised and rented a cabin on the Sturgeon River,

Left in the guest book at vacation rental on the Sturgeon River in northern Michigan

Couple of septuagenarians here because the sailboat we chartered at Vancouver Island got Covid-ed out of possibility. We came at the last minute to escape; to escape the disappointment of not sailing with orcas, to escape the exodus of snowbird neighbors fleeing our southern Michigan lake, and to escape the bittersweet juxtaposition of a beautiful autumn against the certainty of impending winter.

We arrived on an October day after a long drive in the rain, settled in and poked around, oohed and aahed the river into submission, then promptly went to bed. Took us two days to unwind. Seems like an eternity since we have had the luxury to leisure; since we actually found both a time and a way to relax.

I have decided the river in autumn is a metaphor for our life. As time and water rush past, we find ourselves orienting downriver, enjoying remembering the times, places, experiences and people who have contributed to a life well spent.

Peace, signed, sailorphil

a nice looking place that looked, on Google Maps, to be about 15 minutes north of the middle of nowhere but within driving distance of some of our favorite "up north" haunts from yesteryear trips.

After a short gestation period the idea hatched into a last-minute road trip and we found ourselves throwing frozen soups and stews into a cooler, loading hastily packed bags of sweatshirts and jeans and even throwing a fishing pole and a tackle box into the van in the early morning gloom.

In a cold, driving rain.

And then, as soon as we hoisted the dog into the van, we drove. And we drove. And we drove.

The first stop was at the aforementioned pet store, which fortunately lived next door to a Maynards in a strip mall, where I ducked in and bought a pair of cheap

gloves, having completely forgotten that it was going to be cold "up north."

Duh.

After hours of rain-hampered driving (interspersed with breakfast and lunch stops, pee breaks, point of interest stops, scenic overlooks, traffic detours, road-construction-generated slowdowns and common travel nuisances like school buses (why do those darn kids need to go to school during our vacation anyway?), a million delivery vans (Amazon is everywhere!) and a Satan-possessed GPS that insisted the shortest route involved muddy, potholed dirt roads through scrub forests that even possums wouldn't visit), we arrived and began unloading the van.

In the rain.

We oriented ourselves, Interneted a nearby restaurant for dinner and went to eat. Then it was dark.

And it was still raining.

Couldn't figure out the TV, but we didn't go north to watch TV so we stood (briefly) on the deck and looked and listened to the river flowing by for a while.

The next day it was raining (it rained part of every day) so we walked the dog up the ramp and drove to the nearby cities and attractions of Up-North-Pure-Michigan, stopping at the cabin every evening for dinner and a few hours of sleep before heading back out to find the tunnel of trees, the bridge city, two of the great lakes and an assortment of lighthouses, hiking trails, waterfalls, bars and, of course, a lot of shopping.

Over the course of the week we stayed, we discovered that "up north" has survived the pandemic and is still welcoming visitors. And by accident we also discovered that when the unlabeled bag of frozen spaghetti sauce thaws into chili, the best strategy is to put away the garlic bread and break out the crackers.

All in all it was a pretty good getaway. We saw pretty places. We got to unwind and relax by a campfire, and we got to reminisce about times and places and people of our shared past (mostly in the rain).

Probably would have been raining in Vancouver, too ... but orcas probably don't mind the rain.

Maybe we can go next year ... if it's not raining.



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