

Neighbors

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JULY 2022

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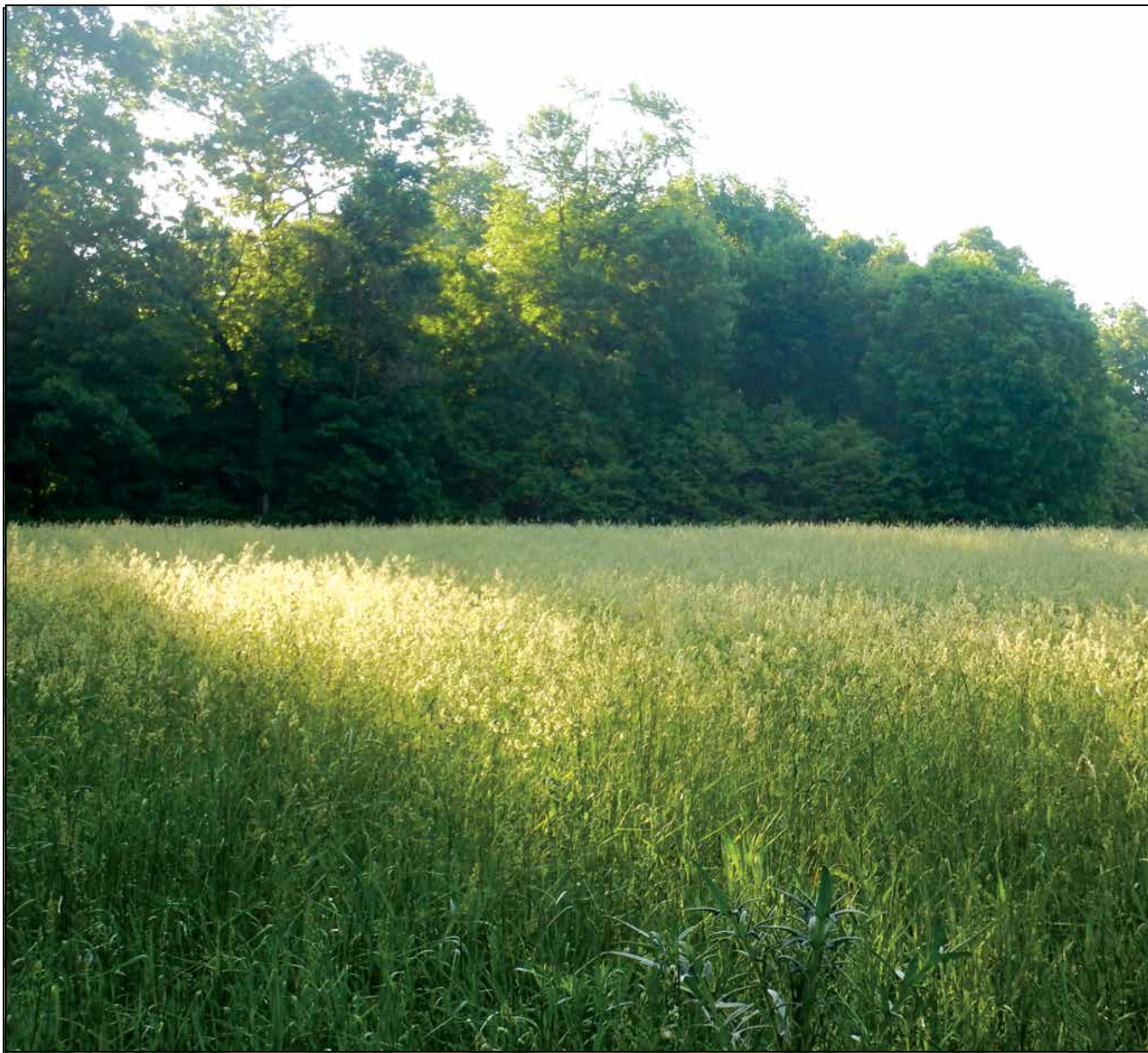
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**FIELD TRIP:
Glorious Summer
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REGIONAL NEWS

Cass Historical Society meeting

The July program for The Cass Country Historical Society will be held at the Pokagon Community Center on Daily Rd., Dowagiac on Tuesday, July 19, at 7 pm. There will be a brief business meeting prior to the program. The speaker will be Matt Bussler, Tribal Preservation Officer. His topic is "Chiefs of Cass County." The program is free and open to all.

Outdoor Adventures nature camps

St. Joseph County (IN) Parks is now taking registrations for "Outdoor Adventures" summer nature camps at St. Patrick's County Park.

The camps are offered for children entering kindergarten through 8th grade.

The programs include:

- July 6: Dune Day (ages 11-14)
- July 11-July 15: Wonders of Water (ages 10-11)
- July 18-July 22: What's Happening? Habitats! (ages 8-9)
- July 25-July 29: Treasure Hunters (ages 6-7)

For more information, or to request registration materials, call 574/654-3155, or visit www.sjcparks.org.

Wednesdays at Wolf Lake



Wednesdays at Wolf Lake.



The Bonine House today – Quaker abolitionists and UGRR stationmasters James E. and Sarah Bogue Bonine established the Bonine House at the corner of Penn Rd and M-60 in Vandalia. This house and other UGRR sites are open during Underground Railroad Days.

This year, the Van Buren Conservation District is partnering with Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery to provide an outdoor educational experience for children ages 4-10. This program will take place at Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery (34270 Co Rd 652, Mattawan, MI 49071), and will utilize all that the hatchery has to offer including fishing, pond studies, various educational hikes, scavenger hunts, nature journaling and tours of the facility.

Parents/guardians are required to attend for the entirety of the program and provide their own transportation. The event will be from 10 am - noon on July 13, and July 20.

Pre-registration is required and can

be filled out online, in the Van Buren Conservation District office, over the phone by calling 269-657-4030 x5, or by stopping in to the South Haven Memorial Library or any one of Van Buren District Library branches.

For more information contact the Van Buren Conservation District, Carlie Southland, conservation associate by calling 269-657-4030 x5, via email at education@vanburencd.org or visit the website VanBurenCD.org

Underground Railroad Days

Underground Railroad Days will be celebrated on Saturday and Sunday, July 8, 9 and 10 from 11 am to 5 pm www.urscc.org

Co-sponsored by the Villiage of Vandalia and the Underground Railroad Society of Cass County, this annual festival celebrates the legacy of the Underground Railroad in Cass County, particularly the area around Vandalia--Calvin, Porter and Penn Townships, known as "Youngs Prairie" at the time. The UGRR existed in this area from 1830 to 1860 and it is estimated about 1500 fugitive slaves (called freedom seekers now) passed through this area on their way to Canada. Many stayed for a time and worked on Quaker farms. They were targets of the infamous 1847 Kentucky Slave Raid.

The Village of Vandalia sponsors arts and crafts booths and a community church service on Sunday morning on the Village grounds. The Underground Railroad Society (URSCC) sponsors guided tour of Kentucky Raid sites. There are Open Houses at the Bonine House, the Bonine Carriage House and the Stephen Bogue House. The 102nd US Colored Troops present a 'living history' encampment. The Vandalia Youth Center hosts displays, and there are presentations at 1pm and 3pm. Music at the "Ramptown Cabin" in Milo Barnes Park is ongoing.

"OPENING NIGHT"

"Opening Night" is Friday, July 8, at 7 pm at Ross Beatty High School in Cassopolis. Vandalia resident Sally Connor will present her documentary "Paradise" about the Black resort on Paradise Lake in Vandalia, during its heyday.

Parking and all events are free, donations are appreciated. Call Beverly Young at 269-476-2344 for booth space.



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REGIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

Fireworks:
July 1 - **Dowagiac** Russom Park, dusk
July 2 - Cassopolis **Diamond Lake**, 10:30 pm, **Birch Lake**
July 3 - Decatur **Lake of the Woods**. 10 pm, Edwardsburg **Eagle Lake**

July 8 - **Opening Night For Underground Railroad Days**, 7 pm, Ross Beatty High School, Cassopolis

July 9-10 - **Underground Railroad Days**, 11 am - 5 pm, Vandalia

July 19 - **Cass County Historical Society** meeting with Matt Bussler on Chiefs of Cass County, 7 pm, Pokagon Community Center, Dowagiac

July 31 - August 6 - **Cass County Fair**, Cassopolis

Cass District Library
Let's Play Mahjong, Edwardsburg Branch, Tuesdays: 1 - 3 pm

Play, Learn, Grow, Edwardsburg Branch, Fridays: 10 am

3D Floating Ship Craft, Howard Branch, Week of July 4

Ocean Crafts, Mason/Union Branch, Week of July 4

Tie-Dye Fun, Main Branch, July 5 - 1 pm

DIY Giant Bubble Wands. Howard Branch, July 6 - 1 pm

"I Survived" STE am C amp: Tsunami, Edwardsburg Branch, July 6 - 11 am, Register for one or all of the "I Survived" STE am C amps at the Edwardsburg Branch. Intended for ages 6-10.

"I Survived" STE am C amp: Shark Attack, Edwardsburg Branch, July 7 - 11 am Intended for ages 6-10.

Libraries Love Lakes, Kraus Park, July 7: 3 pm - 4 pm,

"I Survived" STE am C amp: Titanic, Edwardsburg Branch, July 8 - 11 am. Intended for ages 6-10. Recommended for ages 10 and older.

Adult Craft Club - Sea Glass Suncatcher. Main Branch, July 13 - 1 pm Contact Stephanie at (269) 749-1384 for more information and to register.

Creative Kids, Edwardsburg Branch, July 13: 4 - 5 pm. Recommended for ages 6-11.

Sarett Nature Center: Reptile Roundup, Edwardsburg Branch, July 14 - 11 am, Howard Branch, July 14 - 1:30 pm

Libraries Love Lakes, Gunn Park, July 14: 3 - 4 pm

Sarett Nature Center: Reptile Roundup, Mason/Union Branch, July 19 - 1 pm

Sarett Nature Center: Owls, Main Branch, July 19 - 3 pm

Shark Tooth Necklace, Howard Branch, July 20 - 1 pm. Call (574) 314-6454 or visit any branch to register.

More Than a Book Club, Maple Cafe - Edwardsburg, July 21 - 10 am

Libraries Love Lakes, Kraus Park, July 21: 3 pm - 4 pm

Book Cafe, Edwardsburg Branch, July 22, Adults: 11 am, Children (ages 8-12): 1 pm

Sandscape Art, Mason/Union Branch, July 25 - 1 pm

Harry Potter Birthday Party, Main Branch, July 26: 5 - 7 pm. Call (574) 314-6454 to register.

Movie Afternoon - Atlantis: The Lost Empire, Howard Branch, July 27 - 1 pm

End of Summer Reading Celebration, Main Branch, July 28: 4 - 6 pm

Dowagiac District Library

Closed for Independence Day, July 4

Preschool Story Time, July 5, 10:30 am 11:30 am

Teen Tuesday: BINGO, July 5, 3 - 4 pm

Make & Share Cookbook Club, July 6, 5 pm 5:45 pm. To reserve your spot, email dowagiaclibrarystaff@gmail.com

Messy Time Friday! July 8, 11 am 12 pm

Sensory Story Time with Miss Susanne, July 9, 11 am 12 pm

Preschool Story Time, July 12, 10:30 am 11:30 am

Read & Share Book Group-The Murder on the Orient Express, July 12, 1 pm 2 pm

Teen Tuesday: Teen Cooking 101* July 12, 3 pm 4 pm
*Registration required by Friday, 7/8/22., Teen Tuesdays are for teens 6th through 12th grade

Ladies Library Booksale, July 15 - 18, Friday, 9 am-5 pm, Saturday 9 am-3 pm, Monday 9 am-2 pm (bag sale)

Exotic Petting Zoo, July 16, 10 am 2 pm

Preschool Story Time, July 19, 10:30 am 11:30 am

Teen Tuesday: Arts & Crafts, July 19, 3 pm 4 pm library.

Messy Time Friday! July 2, 11 am 12 pm

Preschool Story Time, July 26, 10:30 am 11:30 am

Teen Tuesday: You Never Know Tuesday! July 26, 3 pm 4 pm

The Federalist Papers, by Alexander Hamilton, et. al. July 26, 5 pm 6 pm. To sign up, email mweston [at] dowagiacdl [dot] org

Messy Time Friday! July 29, 11 am 12 pm

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LAKE LIFE WITH JANE

Summer's here when July comes!



by **Jane Boudreau**

Happy July, Neighbors! It always feels like we are in full summer swing when July hits, but we're also feeling the clock ticking towards Labor Day. So, I highly recommend you start having some fun now! Get outside and sit under the shade of a tree with a big 'ol glass of iced tea. I do this for about ten minutes and then I'm on my hands and knees pulling weeds, or twining vines around the arbor. I have never learned to really relax, have you? Try as I might I can't seem to live in the moment. There's always something to be done, or a long list of things to be done. I multitask and set the bar impossibly too high for everything I do. And when I'm running short on time my blood pressure goes straight up. So... I'm telling myself, especially with it being halfway through summer, that I'm going to sit in the shade, maybe with a White Claw, and count the butterflies hovering over my flowers and weeds.



This cute table decoration is my tried and true tabletop display. You have probably seen it in every Neighbor's July issue since I began writing here back in the Stone Age. I don't have these jars and the container anymore but you can use whatever you want. I just add food coloring to the water to represent the flag. In another tablescape, I added mini flags and candles. Shop your Dollar Store for all things USA, and remember to save all of it! Box it up and store it for next year. Things don't change much from year to year.

Thought I'd zoom in on a few things. This basket holds a mismatch of outdoor essentials and makes itself available to all at any time during the day or evening. A few catalogs to peruse through, bottled water, sunscreen and anything else I want to keep close at hand on the patio. I love these colorful citronella candles



which can be found at TJMaxx or Marshalls. I try to use citronella as opposed to an air fogger or bug repellent applied to the skin. If I do use a body spray I try to find the gentlest. Right now I'm liking Cutter Skinsations and I love Babyganics that my kids use on their little ones, so I know it won't aggravate my own sensitive skin. It has Aloe and Vitamin E. The key I believe, is to wash it off after you head in. Many find these repellents to be unsafe but I prefer to lean toward the lesser of the evils, and Lyme Disease is something I never want to have.

For a recent summer party I served Sangria. The fruitiness makes it a winner for summer and although I'm not sure where I got this recipe, after adding a few tweaks of my own, it was a big hit. Here's the recipe. Feel free to change things up any way you want.



Fruity Red Sangria

Ingredients:

- 1 orange, sliced
- 1 lemon, sliced
- 2 c chopped fruit- strawberries, pineapple, nectarines
- 1 orange, juiced
- 1/2 c brandy
- 2 T maple syrup or honey
- 1 bottle Spanish wine or Pinot Noir

3 c ginger ale

Ice

Directions:

Add sliced oranges and lemon to a large pitcher, then fruit. Pour in the juice of the orange, then the brandy and maple syrup. Follow up with the ginger ale and stir well. Place in the fridge for a minimum of four hours. Serve over ice and top with a splash of ginger ale. Garnish with a few rinds from the oranges and lemons. I used a large 2 gallon container as you see in this photo. I doubled the recipe.

Moving on with recipes, I wanted to



give you some ideas for grilled vegetables, and suggestions on how I grill them. We have a metal rack with openings in the bottom to get a good sear on. This works well if you are cutting them up on the smaller side. Otherwise, you can grill whole strips of squash, slices of peppers, and thick cut onion rings right on the grate. I like to sear them and then move them over to the side without direct heat just until barely tender (no one likes a soggy vegetable). Before putting them on the grill, give the a toss with a smidge of olive oil. If you want to make a side dish, toss them with some herbs and spices and serve them as they are or over a bed of greens. I love to make a salsa with them, in this case add some tomatoes to your mixed grill. Chop everything up, add your seasonings, some chopped fresh cilantro, and voila!

Grilled Pork Burgers



I promised this recipe last month. I was in awe of the flavor the first time I made them. You might think the coriander and curry sound odd but they add such an incredible flavor to the burger along with a subtle bite from the cayenne. The peaches are an integral part of this recipe. Use ripe but somewhat firm peaches. They will caramelize as they cook and add a nice sweet flavor to the meat. The spicy ketchup is a game changer, I think you will like it.

Ingredients:

- 2 1/2 lbs. ground pork
- 2 t ground coriander
- 2 t curry powder
- 2 t Worcestershire Sauce
- 1 t cayenne pepper
- 3 scallions, chopped
- 2 large garlic cloves, finely chopped
- S & P

2 T olive oil

3 peaches, sliced

6 hamburger buns

2-3 tomatoes, chopped

1/2 c ketchup

1-2 t Sriracha

1 head iceberg lettuce, torn into large leaves

Condiments of your choice

Directions:

In a large bowl mix all of the burger ingredients right up to the peaches. cover and place in fridge until ready to grill. The ketchup with Sriracha sauce is another unexpected twist to all the flavors. You can control the heat-make it to taste. And it's optional.

Fire up the grill and arrange the sliced peaches over the direct heat. Sear on both sides, about 3 minutes each, then move to the indirect heat side or the upper rack to cook until tender. Shape the pork mixture into 1/4 in. rounds to make 6 burgers. Sear on both sides and move them to the indirect heat side of the grill. Cook until the internal temperature is 170 degrees. Serves 6



If you haven't heard, downtown Cassopolis on Broadway is undergoing some major changes. We recently went to check out the two new restaurants, The Stone Lake Bar and Grill is very cool. We loved how big it is-you could definitely take the kids and your whole extended family here. We had a few drinks at the bar and the staff was hard working and friendly. We will definitely be back. Then we walked next door to the Holden Green Tavern. It has a great, classy vibe to it. The owners, Steve and Shelley, did a wonderful job bringing their dream bar and restaurant to life. I love all the antiques and vintage furniture, a lot of thought was given to the decor and atmosphere. We enjoyed chatting with Steve, he really likes to spend time walking around talking to his customers, making the place feel friendly and comfortable. We'll be back to check out the food, maybe I can get him to serve my pork burgers!

On this particular night there was a live concert going on by the Stone Lake pier. The band played a great mix of music-we caught some Motown jams, and the crowd was loud and happy. Keep an eye on the Events section of Neighbors to hear about all the good stuff happening on Broadway.

Have a great holiday, great July, and remember to stop and smell the flowers, not the weeds!

Jane Boudreau is a writer and blogger who lives on Diamond Lake and in Chicago respectively, along with a little place in the mountains of North Carolina. You can contact her at blndy9@yahoo.com Please do not use or print photos or recipes without permission.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Fun in and on the Water

Don't Let An Accident Sink Your Summer Fun!

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

Instead of the lazy days of summer, we find ourselves filling our days with our favorite summer-time activities. Unfortunately, summer is also a time when more mishaps occur. While motor vehicle accidents are the number one cause of serious injuries and fatalities, the second leading cause of summer fatalities is from drowning.

Here are some tips to help make you prevent a water-related accident.

Swimming and Diving – Never swim or dive alone or when the only other people in the water are non-swimmers. While their presence might seem reassuring, they would be of little help in an emergency.

Observe warning signs – “No Lifeguard on Duty,” “Dangerous Undertow,” “Beach Closed to Swimming.” Never allow children access to a pool, lake or pond without adult supervision. Teach children basic water tips. If a child is missing, look for them in the water first.

Know your swimming limitations and capabilities. Floatation devices can lead to overconfidence. Do not substitute an air mattress, inner tube, or other floatation object for swimming ability.

If you get caught in a current, swim with it or diagonally across it until you can get free or call for help. Do not attempt to swim against a current.

Always test water depth before diving. Do not dive into shallow or unfamiliar waters. If you are unable to see below the water's surface, don't dive. Keep your arms extended above your head when diving. A resulting neck injury can lead to paralysis.

Swimming Pool Owners – Never permit anyone to swim in your pool alone.

Make sure your pool is adequately fenced and has a self-locking gate to prevent children and pets from entering the pool area when no adult is present. If your

house serves as the fourth side of the fence around the pool, install door alarms on doors leading from the house to the pool and always use them.

Mark the deep and shallow sections of the pool clearly. Make sure the water filtration system and chemical treatment of pool water are adequate.

Avoid entrapment by keeping children away from pool drains, pipes and other openings. Ensure your pool has the proper drain covers.

Keep pool covers in good working order and make sure they are secure when in use. If you have a transparent solar pool cover, remove it completely before using the pool. Uncovering only one part of the pool has led to accidents in which people surfaced under the cover and drowned.

Do not allow running, pushing, or horseplay near the pool. Do not allow people to bring bottles, glasses, or sharp objects into the pool area.

Share safety instructions with family, friends and neighbors. Post emergency instructions, emergency telephone numbers, and pool rules. Have emergency equipment readily available and make sure someone in the pool area knows how to use it. Have a phone close by at all times when the pool is being used. Understand the basics of life saving so you can assist in an emergency.

Boating Safety – Before launching your watercraft for the first time, make sure it is ready to ride the

waves. Tune ups aren't just for cars. Evaluate how well your vessel will stay afloat and bring something to use to bail water.

Make a float plan and tell someone responsible where you are going and when you plan to be back. Here are two websites that explain what a float plan is as well as including a form you can complete: <http://www.floatplancentral.org> and <http://www.boatingsidekicks.com/float-plan/float-plan.htm>.

Equip your boat with basic safety equipment including a life jacket for each passenger, a throwable floatation device, a tow line, jumper cables, extra paddles, a fire extinguisher, and a first aid kit.

Know the “rules of the water” of the area in which you are boating. Be observant of and courteous to other boaters. Remember they are on the water for their enjoyment as well.

Make sure anyone who drives your boat is properly trained.

No matter what your water activities might be - Remember that lightning and water do not mix. Stay away from the water during electrical storms. Never swim or operate a boat if you are tired, overheated, under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or medications.

Check with your independent insurance agent to make sure you have the coverage you need for water related injuries or accidents. Don't assume your homeowners policy is all you need.



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OUR CHILDREN

Maximize summer by mininizing summer learning loss!

by **SANDY FLEMING**

Let's face it- the pandemic has been HARD on many, many students. Virtual learning and classes worked fine for some, but many did not have adequate access, supervision at home, or ability to benefit for many reasons. And it's not over. Schools are experiencing dramatic staffing shortages, kids are still coming down with COVID and other longer illnesses that make them miss a lot of school, and some schools even had to shut down a time or two all together. All of this missed instructional time adds up, and nearly every student has been affected. The result has been loads of students who just haven't been able to keep up with their peers and with grade level expectations. So what can parents do to help?

Change the Attitude

The first and most important step is to change our view of summer break. Yes, it's supposed to be a time for fun and relaxation, but that does NOT mean learning should stop all together and brains should be allowed to languish in shut-down mode all summer long. We need to change our community mindset from one of "learning happens only from September through June" to nurturing year-round learners. After all, in real life, jobs and adulating do not take a three month holiday when the weather gets nice!

This change starts with pushing learning and academics from the "Gee I hate to do this work and I need a break in summer" category into a new and improved category like "Learning is such a privilege that I don't want to waste a moment!" After all, that's what we adults all say we believe! We tell kids all the time that they need to get an education to improve their opportunities as adults no matter what career path they choose. We tell them that they are lucky to live in a country where school is available and accessible to everyone. And we tell them that they have so many more tools to make learning fun and entertaining than their grandparents and great-grandparents did that it's astounding.

How, exactly, can parents, grandparents, and caregivers make this change in attitude happen? It does take some work, and it mostly takes mindfulness. Pay attention to the messages you give to the kids around you, both the intentional out loud messages in the things you say and the subconscious, unintentional messages you send with your facial expression, your body language, your choices, and your demeanor. It's easy to say the right words. It gets tougher to show you prioritize education with your actions, especially when those actions add a bit to your workload. Here's a quickie checklist you can use to see how your messaging stacks up:

- ___ I always speak positively about my child's school, class, district, and teachers.
- ___ I talk to my child regularly about plans for the future as an adult.
- ___ I help my child take age-appropriate and realistic steps toward his/her career goals.
- ___ I model enthusiasm for academic work like reading and working with numbers.
- ___ I enforce school attendance except when kids are sick or bereaved. (We don't skip for vacations/ birthdays/hunting trips/out of town visitors, etc.)
- ___ I make sure I know what homework is due and keep a close eye on my child's grades.
- ___ If there is no homework, I still have my student work on improving academic skills daily.
- ___ I help my child set and work toward academic and learning goals.

Hopefully all of the adults in your

child's life (parents, grandparents, caregivers, and everyone else) can check off most of these points and all of them are checked off by someone your child is around regularly.

Inform Yourself

How much do you really know about what is required of your child in his or her current grade and the one coming up? Most states have a handy list of the requirements for each area of study at each grade level. If you need an overall reference, try <http://www.corestandards.org/> for the basics of reading, writing, and math skills. There's a comprehensive list of science standards for each grade level at <https://www.nextgenscience.org/> and a list for social studies/history/geography at <https://www.socialstudies.org/standards>. And before you say "My school/district/area/state does not USE Common Core Standards," or "I HATE Common Core Standards," let me explain that ALL states in the U.S. either use these standards or have written their own set modeled after them. You'll also be able to find the standards for your state at your state Department of Education's website. If your child attends school in the U.S., or if you use a homeschool curriculum designed in the U.S., it is based on these standards.

So once you've looked at the standards, what can you do? The short answer is try things out to see if your child can do all the things listed for the grade most recently completed. For example, your fourth grader should have mastered multiplication and division within 100 (CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.3.OA.C.7). Pretty straightforward, I would think. Kids should know how to do all of the basic multiplication and division facts fluently by the end of grade 4. If they don't know this, summer is a great time to fix the problem.

Your student's results from standardized testing will also help you gauge if they are keeping up with peers or not. Most of these tests provide information about how well your student's performance stacks up to others in the district and others in the state or nation who are in the same grade. If they score "proficient" or better, things are likely all right in that area. If they score low, then that skill area could use a closer look and perhaps some additional attention this summer.

It's also important to know what's going on with school work. How have the grades on the report card been? Hopefully A's and B's or 4's and 5's, or O's or S's, depending on the system your child's school uses. If the grades are not where you'd like to see them, make it your business to find out why. Sometimes children are struggling with the concepts. Other times they are forgetting to turn in their homework. Sometimes they are bombing tests. These are all separate problems, though they may well be related. Find the core problem and help your child work on that.

You often can also get suggestions from the teacher at the end of the school year. Just ask, and many will happily give you a list of skills that could be strengthened over the summer. Or take a good guess from what you've learned about grade level work coming up for next year. You can use one of the commercial review workbooks, or provide your own exercises that are tailored to your child's specific needs.

Keep Young Brains Active All Summer Long

Once you know if your student needs any extra help for weak areas, or just a general review of last year's work and preview of the coming work, you'll be all set to make a plan for summer learning. Sit down with your students, and give

them a say in how they want to arrange things, but be sure they pick out a consistent work time or amount of work to do each day. Put this in the same category as chores they are responsible for – they need to take care of this responsibility as well before they can go on with the things they want to do. If they prefer to work in the afternoon or evening, you can make the following day's free time contingent upon getting the required work out of the way. Your plan should focus on rewarding hard work (rather than consequences) because most everyone will be more cooperative and motivated by the idea of earning good things.

For example, you could set up an amount of time or amount of work done daily to earn video game time or time in the pool, or outings with friends. You'll find this is a whole lot more effective than trying to punish after the fact by taking away something fun for noncompliance.

The kids' daily work time should always include a minimum amount of reading time (half hour for most kids), as well as some writing (a paragraph or two at least daily), plus some practice with skills that seem weak to you or that you know will be coming up next year in math, reading, or writing. From there, you can fill in with science experiments, research on social studies or history projects, and so forth.

So what is a good amount of time to spend each weekday? If all is well with grades and your student is doing fine during the school year, an hour or so daily is good. When they complain (and they WILL protest), remind them that they still have all the rest of the day to enjoy. You can also make a provision for them to "bank" hours on productive days so they

can take a day or two off to be completely lazy or to go to the beach or something without disrupting their totals.

On the other hand, if your student has had school difficulties, low grades, or low standardized test scores, you may need to insist on some extra daily work this summer. It's doubtful that you'll need to schedule a full school day's worth of time (typically about 6.5 hours), but you might need two or three hours of work daily to make a dent in skill building that will help your child play catch up. Remember, summer is always the best time to improve skills because the target is standing still. When you try to build skills during the school year, the rest of the class keeps on moving forward at the same time, so your child must work twice as hard to "catch up" and most never do.

What if you can't supervise directly? The best solution is to leave "homework" that your child is likely to manage independently. You can also ask a care giver or older sibling to be available to guide or answer questions. Consider one of the commercial grade level review books, as well. They provide an organized way to cover skill review with a minimum of work on your part.


However you manage it, don't let the gift of summer learning become the curse of summer learning loss. EVERY child and teen needs some coaxing to keep learning in the summer time. Help them set the stage for a more successful year next year!

Sandy Fleming is a private tutor and writer from Edwardsburg, MI. Check out her websites at <http://learningnook.com> and <http://sandyflemingonline.com> for some great ideas to keep kids learning!



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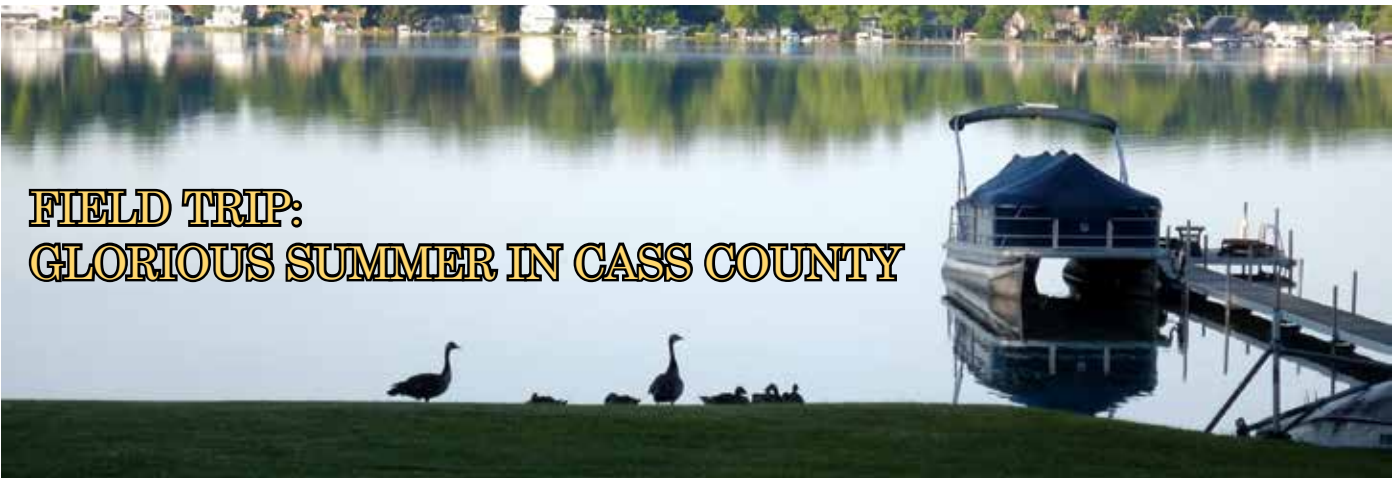
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HISTORIC POSTCARDS

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 specializes in marketing lake property, it was a natural fit that Floyd's interest be directed to the lake cards. The collection now numbers many thousands.

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

in its second printing by the publisher, Arcadia Publishing.

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

For more information or to get a copy of Jerdon's book, visit the website: www.arcadiapublishing.com

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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LOCAL HISTORY

Two historic sites in Casopolis

Provided by
Jonathan Wuepper
Branch Manager of the Cass District Library
jwuepper@cass.lib.mi.us

Wagner Funeral Home. 202 North Broadway. This home is an excellent example of mid-19th Century Italianate style architecture.

Originally home of Dr. Leander D. Tompkins & family. The home likely contained his offices. This building was built during the 1870s, and replaced an earlier frame home that was on the same site.

Dr. Tompkins came to Cassopolis in 1848, and with exception of attending medical school and serving in the Civil War, lived here until his death in 1902. After Dr. Tompkins' death, Mrs. Tompkins sold the home to the Connolly family which used it as a funeral home. It changed hands to the Wagner family in 2012.

Pioneer Log Cabin. 400 South Broadway. Constructed from logs donated by Cass County pioneer families, or their direct descendants, and cut from woodlots representing township in the county. The stone fireplace and stick chimney was built by Ab Ackerman, who was a well-known mason of Lagrange Township.

Construction of the cabin began on May 23, 1923 amid much pomp and circumstance including music from the Cassopolis Military Band. Speeches were given by Charles O. Harmon, Secretary of the Cass County Pioneer Society; Asa K. Hayden, Cassopolis Village President; and Julia Ann Tietzort, the first child born in the village in 1830.

The purpose of the pioneer log cabin is to house the artifacts of the Cass County Pioneer Society and to serve as a reminder of the hard way of life that our pioneers lived during the early years of the county.



Postcard. Left: Dr. Leander D. Tompkins home, now Wagner Funeral Home, June 1980. Cass District Library. Right: Cass County Pioneer Log Cabin construction, May 23, 1923.

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NATURE NOTES

More late Spring visitors to our area

*Provided by Cass District Library
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Janet King of Watervliet Township found a luna moth last month, the day of a lunar eclipse. I'm happy to feature King's luna moth photo because the species is not often seen due to its nocturnal habits. They range over the eastern half of the US and southeastern Canada. In Southwest Michigan, the luna moth's common host plants include the black walnut, shagbark hickory and stag-horn sumac.

The Hudsonian godwit is a tall shorebird that migrates from South America to its breeding grounds of the southern shore of Hudson Bay, Canada's Northwest Territories, and Alaska by way of the Great Plains. Every so often a few of these birds go a bit farther east than normal and end up in Michigan, and that is what happened on May 27 when Mary Jo Canaday located a single Hudsonian godwit feeding in a flooded field off Indian Springs Road in Buchanan Township. The bird was seen that day, and the following day by several observers before continuing its northward migration. It was photographed by several observers including Canaday, whose photos are featured in today's column.

The Hudsonian godwit stands at fifteen and a half inches tall with a wingspan of two feet, five inches making it one of our largest shorebirds.

The species is a true long-distance migrant and can migrate great distances, upwards to a thousand miles or more, without stopping. This remarkable fact accounts for the sightings along its migration route.

Scott Glenn of Lincoln Township sent in a photo of a male ruby-throated hummingbird that was visiting his feeder in early May.

The ruby-throated hummingbird nests throughout all of Michigan, and is equally as common in the Upper Peninsula as it is in the Lower Peninsula. The one exception is the southeastern area of the Lower Peninsula, with its urban landscape, has less abundant numbers of ruby-throated hummingbirds than other regions.

As is true with all 300+ species of hummingbirds, the male ruby-throated hummingbird has no role in nest construction or care of young. The adult male will mate with as many females as possible before departing south for the winter. Adult male ruby-throated hummingbirds in Michigan have been documented southbound as early as July, but most begin their southward trek during August.



Luna moth in mid-May, Watervliet Township, Janet King.



Hudsonian godwit on May 27, 2022 along Indian Springs Road, Buchanan Twp. by Mary Jo Canaday of Berrien Springs. This large, long-billed shorebird nests along the southern edge of the Hudson Bay, Canada's Northwest Territories, and Alaska. It migrates to and from its breeding grounds from its wintering grounds of South America via the Great Plains. Finding one in Michigan is a real treat.



Male ruby-throated hummingbird in early May, Lincoln Township. Photo by Scott Glenn.

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THE LAST WORD

by Phil Vitale
aka sailorphil

The summer of my discontent



Was there ever a day more glorious than the first day of summer? Was there ever a day more greedily welcomed than the first day of summer after a too-long winter and a wet, chilly spring? Was there ever a day more cathartic, more healing, more therapeutic than the first day of summer after the shared nightmare of our lingering pandemic?

Those were the thoughts that ran through my mind last week as I stepped out the door into my daily fitness walk on what happened to be the first day of summer.

The weather was, in a word, perfect. I couldn't ask for a better day. Warm without being hot; relatively low humidity; a skyful of sunshine and a handful of puffy, white clouds wisping across the blue heavens like an ivy-bound homer written on a check from Ernie Banks.

As the day wore thin and my sneakers' soles wore slick, my thoughts fell into the cadence of the walk and I found myself floating along the dirt roads in an almost meditative trance, my soul freely versing through the stanzas of the afternoon's ambiance.

As I frequently do when I walk, that day I found myself composing. Not music, words.

Sometimes when I walk, I mentally write poetry, timing the rhythm of my steps to the cadence of some obscure poetic meter, the exact rhyming pattern and name of which I most likely forgot seconds after I almost learned it when I was walking in a much younger man's shoes along the quiet college hallways of my past.

That day, though, even though the weather begged to be immortalized in iambic pentameter, I freed myself of that notion and instead began composing this column. Such a perfect day seemed like an equally perfect catalyst to blast me out of my procrastinatory Lazy Boy, since I'd whiled away way too much of the weekend on a sailboat followed by a deck chair next to a beer cooler (two of my best friends to spend a weekend with).

A million ideas ran through my mind as I began refining the ideas and words to expand the theme of the beginning summer into a newspaper column. At first I

thought about writing about the summers of my youth. Baseball. Smoking some of the Pall Mall straights stolen from my dad's pack while I was hanging out with Otis and Goose and Crowbar Freddy. The summer of that cute redhead from down the street, the one who was staying at her aunt and uncle's house ... the same uncle who was the head of the juvenile division of the local police department and didn't like my looks one little bit, so you just stay away from my niece young man!

Probably would have been an interesting column, but I rejected it when I remembered that I'm now a septuagenarian and the average age of people in America is around 39 years, and since I've got socks older than that I questioned how well my salad days might sit on the stomachs of Xers and Yers and all the other age groups that are inheriting what used to be my earth.

So at about the two-mile mark I switched my focus to a more generic column about how gently summer eases into the year. A couple of flowery adjectives and a couple of spritely worded metaphors and I'd have 25 or 30 column inches filled in no time. But that age thing gob-smacked me again and I realized first that most people of average age don't know what a column inch is, let alone how many words it takes to fill one, and secondly, that in a world ruled by Facebookers and Iphoners most wet-behind-the-ear-whippersnappers would probably have to Google the metaphors I'd use, that is assuming their fingers could hit those little letters fast enough and their attention span lingered long enough for them to bother. So that column got spiked (extra credit if you know what that term means in journalese).

So there I was about 3-1/2 miles into my walk and I was starting to get antsy. The warming sun and the walking had raised a sweat, and in terms of getting my column done before deadline, I still was nowhere.

Well, I obviously wasn't literally nowhere since I was still flexing shanks mares (another extra credit opportunity) gravely bound to planet earth, which I noticed was being lubricated by my own sweat (and it oddly looked like the froth from one of yesterday's beers) in sufficient quantities to irrigate 40 acres of soybeans.

Maybe it was the sweat that attracted the Kong-

Island-escapee-sized bugs, although I suspect they were attracted by the smell of fear that I was surely exuding about not having my column done yet (the old-timers of my day used to say all critters could smell fear). Whatever it was that did attract them, I suddenly found myself wading through a wall of buzzing, swirling, snarling, biting and stinging flying beasts, each one of which was at least as intent on drawing my blood as that burly guy I got into the bar fight with back when I used to drink a bit and smart off to burly guys in bars (I'm pretty sure that was a Tequila night, and I'm pretty sure that's when I started calling it Milk of Amnesia).

Jolted out of the glorious-summer-sweater nonsense at first bite, I broke into a run that would have left a orange-jump-suited Jackson State Prison escapee by the wayside. Unfortunately, even without a ball and chain on my ankle, at 70 I can only run about the distance from the Lazy Boy to the bathroom, so I drew up lame after much less than the furlong I'd hoped to lope.

Hands on my knees, panting, I waited for certain death, but they buzzed me off. Maybe they weren't interested in old blood, or maybe the antifreeze I'd had on the deck the day before had tainted my blood to the epicurean disaster of that of the overly fleshy (and overly verbose), sweaty and stinky old man I've become.

And once again I found myself walking alone down that long and winding road.

With two huge, welted bug bites on my back that itched and burned like I'd just gotten tasered by a burly Chicago cop who'd been smarted off to in a bar.

And, of course both bites were just far enough down onto my back that no matter how I stretched and wiggled, no matter what obscene-looking Yoga pose I endeavored to twist myself into, my arms and fingers couldn't quite reach the itch to scratch.

So, being the resourceful guy I am, I took out my knife, popped open the blade and snaked my arm behind me and scratched away. Too hard. Now I've got a couple of big scabs that'll surely turn into scars.

No problem there though ... I'll tell people they're from a sailing accident. They'll believe that. It is summer after all. Aah, glorious summer.



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A BUYER'S-ONLY AGENT OF LAKE PROPERTIES, Peggy Gonyon has unsurpassed expertise as a certified *Resort and Second Home Property Specialist* at The Lake Life.

- Peggy Gonyon focuses on just one area of realty: she **ONLY** serves lake home buyers.
- Peggy has extensive knowledge of Southwest Michigan's lakes and lake communities.
- Peggy has the network and the know-how to position your offer above the competition.



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Information provided by the Southwest Michigan Association of Realtors, with respect to sales of inland lake properties in Cass, Berrien, St Joseph Counties, MI, from 1.1.12 to 4.30.21.
When an agent represents the buyer and seller, 200% credit is granted. Results are for individual Realtors and exclude Realtors that group results through a team.

