

# Neighbors

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**AUGUST 2023**

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A regional newspaper serving Cass County, Michigan and the surrounding area, and distributed at homes and businesses in Dowagiac, Cassopolis, Edwardsburg, Vandalia, Jones, Marcellus, Decatur, Union, Sister Lakes, and Three Rivers, with mail delivery at homes on 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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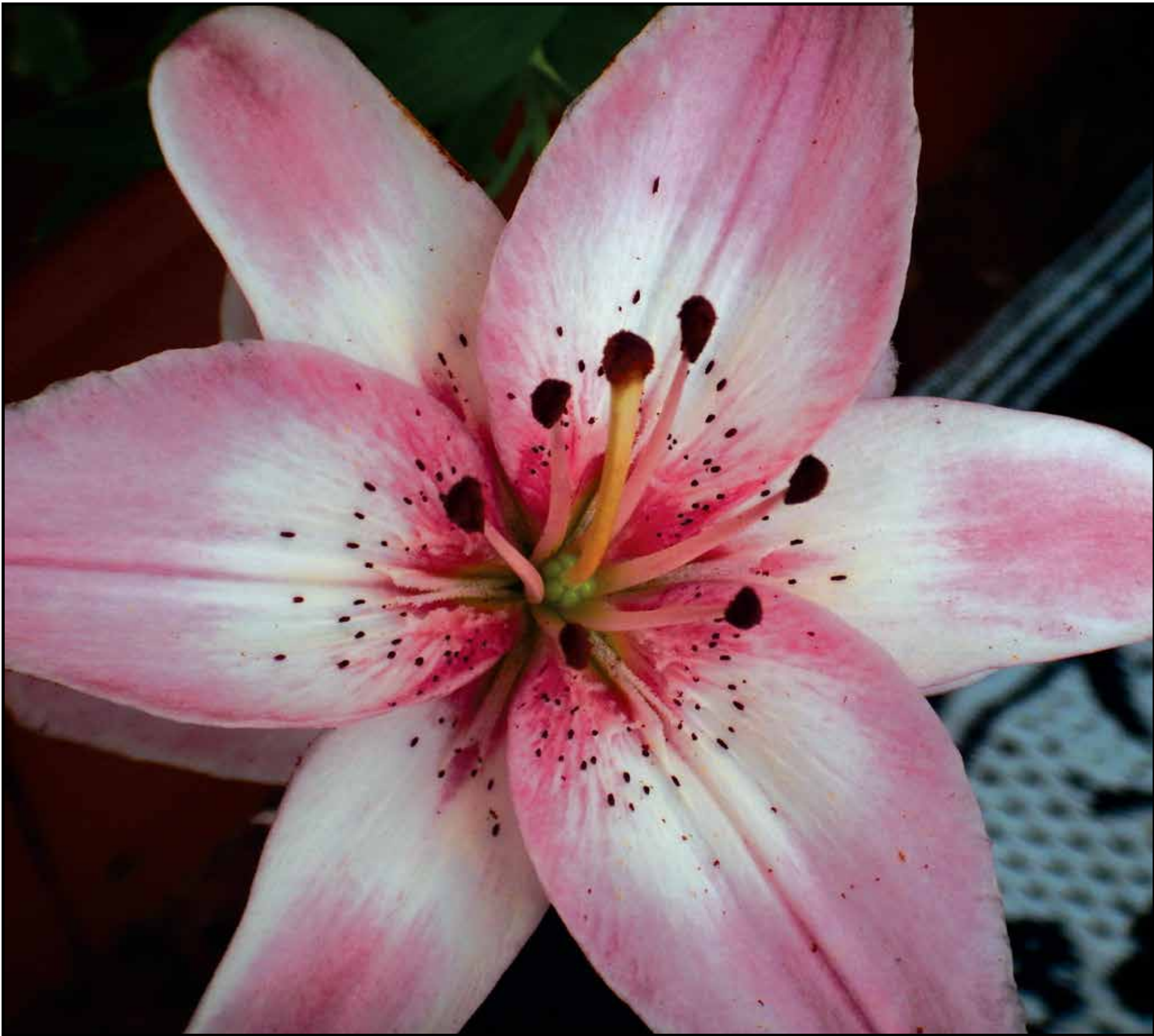
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## Field Trip: The Heddon Museum, Dowagiac



**Pages 9-11**



# Regional News

## CUMC 185th anniversary

The Cassopolis United Methodist Church (CUMC) continues to commemorate its 185th Anniversary. As in July, each Sunday in August will feature a guest musician and a time for members and guests to share personal stories of the impact of the church on their lives.

The featured August musicians will be Trudy Diamond, Ben Ngoma, Jeremy Panse and Madaline Schrock. The July musicians were Jonathan Clough, Carmalita Lawson, Jane Poe, Ryne Nickel and Vicki Follett.

Choosing to look at its over a nine week period rather than just one Sunday has brought joy to the congregation and visitors. It has made it possible for the Michigan Conference Bishop, past and present District Superintendents, and former pastors and members/attendees/ guests to join the congregation in worship and memories.

CUMC traces its history from 1832 from being a part of the Methodist Circuit Riders to being the Methodist Church Society in 1838, the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Methodist Church. In 1968, the denomination merged with the Evangelical United Brethren to become part of the global United Methodist Church.

A highlight of the August celebrations will be a dinner served immediately following the August 13, 10 am service. Both congregates and guests should make reservations for the dinner by calling the church office, 269-445-3107, by August 6, 2023.

Cassopolis United Methodist Church continues to warmly welcome past, present and future members and guests to its weekly 10 am worship services.

More information can be found on the Cassopolis United Methodist Church Facebook page, website, or by calling the church office, 269-445-3107.

### Celebrate Art and Nature August 13 At Russ Fest 2023

What better way to wind down with the end of summer, than a free festival celebrating the union of art and nature? That's the experience you'll find at Russ Fest 2023, which runs from 11 am to 4 pm Saturday, August 13, at Fred Russ Forest, 20379 Marcellus Hwy., Decatur. August 20 is the rain date.

Blue Dart Art, Cass County Parks and Recreation, and the Cass County Historical Society are teaming up to co-sponsor the festival, which will offer multiple art forms of entertainment beside the Dowagiac Creek.

Featured events include a show by Americana artists Molly Moon, and Riely O'Conner, of South Bend, from 1 to 3 pm; sets by DJ Sarah and Jill, who kick off the festival at 11 am; and vocal performances by Jillian Talbot, from the Dowagiac Union High School choir, at 11 am, noon, and 3 pm.

Eight visual artists will paint live, from noon to 4 pm, scattered throughout Russ Forest. The public is welcome to walk through the scenery, and watch as each painter creates an image of nature, from their own perspective. Conversation and discussions will be encouraged to help the audience learn how each artist creates their painting. "The intrigue will be in seeing the art in various stages of development," Ott said.

Cass County Parks and Recreation will provided transportation on the trails, for those who need it, and additional

speakers from the department, and the Cass County Historical Society, will join the artists in sharing their personal experiences in the park environment. "The large, dramatic images of Russ Forest will be seen and enjoyed by many people."

Drive Through Q will provide BBQ, and Judy Saltzman will host a bake sale. Bubble Art will be the free kids' craft from 11 - 2. The finished paintings done during Russ Fest will be shown in September and October, at the nearby Newton House, and then hang in November and December, at the COA Lowe Center, in Cassopolis.

A complete schedule follows below. For more information, or to arrange interviews

### Dowagiac area events

The Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce has released information on the following events in 2023:

**Rod & Roll Classic Auto Show,** August 19, 7 am - 4 pm

**Under the Harvest Moon Festival,** October 14, 10 am - 4 pm

**Christmas Open House Weekend & Theta Mu Craft Show,** November 10, 11, 10 am - 5 pm

**Small Business Saturday,** November 25, 10 am

**Candlelight Christmas Parade,** December 1, 7 - 9 pm.

For more information on these events, visit <https://www.dowagiacchamber.com/events/upcoming-events>.

### Beckwith Theatre 2023 season

The Beckwith Theatre, 100 New York Ave., Dowagiac, has announced its 2023 season. This year's shows are:

### The Outgoing Tide

on Sept. 8 - 17 by Bruce Graham - In a summer cottage on Chesapeake Bay, Gunner has hatched an unorthodox plan to secure his family's future but meets with resistance from his wife and son, who have plans of their own.

### Second Samuel

on Oct. 27 - Nov. 5 by Pamela Parker - In the small, Southern town of Second Samuel residents seem to care about each other until the town's shocking secret is revealed and they are driven to examine what caring really means.

Tickets are \$15 per person for all events and are reserved by calling the box office at 269.782.7653. Season tickets are available for \$60.

For more information visit [BeckwithTheatre.com](http://BeckwithTheatre.com), or call 782-7653.

### Edwardsburg Historical Museum

Local architectural design will be the focus of the season at the Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum. Cap that with a traditional "I'll Be Home for Christmas" display, and this year's exhibits promise eclectic photographic images and special touches by the museum's volunteers.

"Edwardsburg Architecture Throughout the Years" will include structures from the museum's geographic area, and will be captured in two parts. The first, focused on houses, runs through Aug. 20. The second highlight special buildings, including structures on the state and/or National Registry of Historic Places. Dates for that exhibit will be Aug. 22 through Oct. 31.

The final exhibit will be compiled by the museum's advisory design committee, headed by Laura Jamrog and Judy Montgomery. "I'll Be Home for







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# Regional News

Christmas” will include pieces from the museum’s collection and loaned items from community residents. It will run from Nov. 3 through Dec. 16.

Local architectural photography by Bonnie Elder and Maureen Barnosky will capture special features of up to 20 homes in the museum’s coverage area in the first exhibit. Included will be both homes that are historic in nature, and homes of more recently constructed. The exhibit will target everything from rural homes in the 1800s to homes in neighborhoods outside of the Village of Edwardsburg, including lake houses. Emphasis will be on architectural styles and information on the owners and builders, all put into a timeline. Additional pieces associated with the homes throughout the district will be presented.

The museum is open from 1 to 4 pm Tuesdays through Fridays, and 11 am- 2 pm on Saturdays through mid-December.

**Edwardsburg Historical Museum Speakers announced**

**Bill and Julie Stack, 7 pm., Aug. 17**  
Longtime Resident Bill Stack and his daughter, Julie, will speak about their lives in Edwardsburg when they speak at the museum in August. Bill is past commander of the American Legion, belongs to the Edwardsburg St. Peter’s Masonic Lodge, serves on the Mason Township Fire Board, and continues to volunteer for the Edwardsburg Fire Department, on which his son, Bruce, is fire chief and his grandson, Kevin, is a captain.

Julie Stack, who resides with her dad as his caregiver, has been an active member of the Edwardsburg Fire Auxiliary

since its creation.

**Tom and Marj Rea, 7 pm, Sept. 21**  
Tom and Marj Rea have been Edwardsburg residents since 1959. And they have a lot of stories to tell about their lives in the community.

He is a retired doctor and she, a retired nurse practitioner.

Dr. Rea practiced with Dr. Hansel Foley in Edwardsburg and then had his own medical office built on Gateway Drive in Edwardsburg in 1963. They lived at Eagle Lake where they reared their four children. In 1978, he coaxed Marj away from their home to spend the winter in the 1882-three-story Victorian brick house that needed repairs on Section Street. They purchased the house and, over the years, they did extensive renovations. They sold the house in 2006 after they moved to Woodfield Hills at Dailey Road and Pine Lake Street.

Dr. Rea sold his practice to Elkhart General Hospital in 1985 and, after five years, moved to the hospital’s Bristol office. Marj worked first for Cass County Health Department, then became a nationally certified women’s health nurse practitioner, working for the merged Cass-Van Buren Health Department.

Both have been extensively involved with community — with the Miss Edwardsburg Pageant, and the youth group at the former Edwardsburg Methodist Church. Marj Rea served on the Edwardsburg Public Schools Board of Trustees for nearly eight years and has been involved with the Monday Evening Club and the Edwardsburg Book Club. As a physician, Dr. Rea ‘helped out’ with the Edwardsburg sports teams, sang in

the community choir, sang in a barber-shop group, and was an associate medical examiner with Dr. Robert Knox for Cass County. He was president of the Edwardsburg Methodist Church Board, and as well as the Cass County Mental Health Foundation. Both he and his wife were instrumental in working with the Barn Swallow Theatre where he was board president for 13 years.

**Jack and Sue Rinehart, 7 pm, Oct. 19**  
Jack Rinehart, who as a former teacher and coach at Edwardsburg Public Schools, will be joined by his wife, Sue, to talk about their work and service to the community when they speak in October. Well known for their community

projects, including the Hope with Feet home repairs program through the Hope United Methodist Church, the Rineharts were reared here. She is a native, the former Susan Higley, and he was born in Mishawaka but grew up in Edwardsburg. He was a 1964 graduate of EHS. Sue graduated in 1971.

With a bachelor’s degree from Western Michigan University, he taught at Hanover-Horton High School, then Union City High School. He returned to Edwardsburg in 1985 where he taught, and was a coach for varsity wrestling, football, track and middle school level sports. He coached the Eddies to two state runner-up wrestling titles.



## Get Fit, Stay Fit

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# Regional Calendar

**Cassopolis Main Street Summer Band Lineup**  
**BEACH BASH @ STONE LAKE BEACH** (+ Food trucks, beer garden, kids area, kayak rentals, and fireworks!)  
**ROCK THE BLOCK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES @ STONE LAKE BEACH** (+ Food trucks & beer garden)  
**Saturday, Aug. 12** , 5-7 Head Honchos, 8-11 TBD  
**Saturday, Sept. 9**, 5-7 Roosters, 8-11 Memphis Underground  
**Saturday, October 7** (@Cass County Fairgrounds), 5-7 Dart Board Compromise, 8-11 pm. Dump Your Boyfriend

**Aug. 5 - John Denver tribute**, 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

**August 11 - 13 - U.S. 12 Heritage Trail Garage Sale.**

**August 13 - Dinner** at Cass United Methodist Church following 10 am service; reservations by Aug 6 at 445-3107

**August 13 - Russ Fest 2023**, 11 am - 4 pm, Fred Russ Forest, Decatur. Rain date August 20

**Aug. 25 - Karaoke + Contest (1990s theme)**, 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

**Sept. 22 - Karaoke**, 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

**Oct. 27 - Karaoke + Contest (costume contest)**, 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

**2023 CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY LECTURE & EVENT SERIES**  
**AUG 15 – History Lecture on “Cass County During the Cold War,”** Holden Green Tavern Cassopolis, 515 South Broadway, Cassopolis

**SEPT. 19 – Cassopolis Carnegie Library & Turtle Lodge tour**, 145 North Broadway, Cassopolis

**OCT. 1 – Annual Fall Festival** – 1 to 4:30 pm, Newton House, 20689 Marcellus Hwy., Decatur, free

Unless otherwise stated there will be a short Cass County Historical Society Business Meeting at 6:30 pm, with lectures or tours beginning at 7 pm. For more info Email – ccmihistoricalsociety@gmail.com

**NEWTON HOUSE FIRST SUNDAY August 6 - KIDDIES DAY PARADE**, 1 – 4:30 pm Open House and tour, 2 pm Costumes, decorated bikes, wagons, pets (leash or cage)

**September 3 - OLD TOOL DAY**, 1 – 4:30 pm Open House and tour, 2 pm Farm tools demonstrated, Bring something old and describe it's use

**October 1 - FALL FEST.** 1 – 4:30 pm Open House and tour, Food, activities, demonstrations, hay rides, vendors

**THE EDWARDSBURG HISTORICAL MUSEUM**  
**Aug. 10 - Aug. 13 -U.S. 12 garage sale.** Booth space will be available with details provided on the museum's

Facebook page.

Stephanie Knepple at 269-749-1384 to register.

**Sept. 30 - Tour the Edwardsburg Cemetery.** Transportation will be provided from the museum. Tickets available in advance

**Cass District Library August Programs 2023**  
For a list of June programs and events at the Cass District Library branches, visit their website at <https://www.cassdistrictlibrary.org/events-programs/>

**T'ai Chi** with Alyse Knepple , Mason/ Union Branch, Mondays 11 am. Alyse will offer a free inductor class, followed by four weekly classes which will cost \$40.00.

August 1-31 - **Math Scoops**, All Branches. Sign up at any branch location during the month of August and bring your completed packet back for an ice cream treat. Intended for those in preschool through grade 6.

August 5: 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, **LEGO @ THE LIBRARY**, Edwardsburg Branch, Patrons ages 5-17 are welcome to put their building skills to the test. Come to the library the first Saturday of every month for an open build time with the library's LEGO bricks and elements.

August 9: 1 pm, **Book Page Magnolia Wreath**, Main branch. Upcycle old book pages and create a beautiful magnolia wreath perfect for farmhouse decor or to leave up all year-round. All supplies are provided, this program is intended for ages 13+. Registration is required, call

August 9: 6-7:30 pm, **Live Concert: The Hillsiders**, MASON/UNION BRANCH. Enjoy live music outdoors. Bring a blanket or chair and enjoy Cajun food and hotdogs from local food truck, Kenan's with a Kick. This program is sponsored by the Mason/Union Friends of the Library.

August 10: 11 am, **Candy Sushi**, MAIN BRANCH. Get creative and roll your own “sushi” from candy and Rice Krispie cereal! This program is intended for tweens and teens: ages 10-18. Registration is required, call Stephanie Knepple at 269-749-1384 to register.

August 14 - September 9. **Art Contest** MASON/UNION BRANCH. Create an original artwork that reflects a family-friendly theme using any medium. Print your name, age category and phone number on the back of your artwork. Submissions may be turned in at any branch by September 9. Prizes will be awarded for each age category on September 16. Age categories: Pre-K- Kindergarten, Grades 1-2, Grades 3-4, Grades 5-6, Grades 7-8, Grades 9-12, Adult. This program is sponsored by the Mason/Union Friends of the Library.

August 15: 9 am, **Savage Readers Book Club**, Savage Bean Coffee Co. Enjoy a fresh cup of coffee and book discussion every third Tuesday of the month! This month we are discussing Unraveling: What I Learned About Life While Shearing Sheep, Dyeing Wool, and Making the

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World's Ugliest Sweater by Peggy Orenstein. Join Savage Readers Book Club hosted by Cass District Library and Savage Bean Co. Please contact Stephanie Knepple at 269-749-1384 for more details.

August 17: 5:30 pm, **Village Book Club**, EDWARDSBURG BRANCH. Village Book Club meets every third Thursday of the month. Join us for a book discussion of My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry by Fredrik Backman. Contact Molly Harwood at 574-314-6454 for more details.

**Dowagiac District Library**  
Dowagiac District Library's Summer Reading Challenge has started with weekly prize drawings (started this week), and the summer book sale is on during the Summer Festival, and there's Chalk Time every Saturday. More info here-- <https://www.dowagiadcl.org/events>

August 1 - **Teen Tuesday: BINGO**. Teen Tuesdays are for teens 6th through 12th grade and meet each Tuesday at 3 pm in the Pokagon Room on the second level of the library.

August 3 - **Story Squad**, 5:30. Children 6-9 are invited to join Story Squad.

August 3 - **Make & Share Cookbook Club**, 5:30 pm. To reserve your spot, call the library or email (Att: Erin) at [dowagiadclibrarystaff@gmail.com](mailto:dowagiadclibrarystaff@gmail.com)

August 4 - **Messy Time Friday!** 11 am, 782-3826.

August 5 - **Chalk Time**, 11 am

August 8 - **Preschool Story Time**, 10:30 am; geared toward children 3-5 years old.

August 8 - **Teen Tuesday: Teen Cooking 101**, 3 pm. \*Registration is required for this event. Sign up in the youth department by Friday, August 4.

August 10 - **Story Squad**, 5:30 pm, ages 6-9

August 12 - **Chalk Time**, 11 am. All ages welcome!

August 15 - **Preschool Story Time**, 10:30 am, children 3-5 years old

August 15 - **Teen Tuesday: Arts & Crafts**, 3: pm, 6th through 12th grade

August 17 - **Story Squad**, 5:30 pm, ages 6-9.

August 22 - **Preschool Story Time**. 10:30 am, ages 3-5 years old.

August 22 - **Teen Tuesday: Minute To Win It**, 3 pm, 6th to 12th grade.

August 24 - **Story Squad** 5:30 ages 6-9

August 26 - **TBR Book Club for Teens**, noon, for teens 13-18 years old.

August 29 - **Preschool Story Time**, 10:30 am, ages 3-5.

August 31 - **Story Squad**, 5:30 pm, ages 6-9 are invited

September 26 - **The Merchant of Venice** by William Shakespeare, 5 - 6 pm. To sign up, email Matt Weston at [mweston@dowagiadcl.org](mailto:mweston@dowagiadcl.org)



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United  
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The Cassopolis United Methodist Church is pleased to announce that 2023 marks our 185th anniversary. As always our members welcome their neighbors, friends and fellow community members to join them at 10 am on Sunday mornings for fellowship and celebration. The Church will be hosting special music and events throughout the year to commemorate all the faithful parishioners that have spanned the life of the Church. Please join us for the special August 13th celebration dinner which will be served following our 10 am service. For further information you may call the church office at 269.445.3107.



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# Business & Finance

## Three word phrases

By **Kerry Davis**  
*Kemner, Iott, Benz Agency*

There are some three-word phrases we love to hear from our children, and they most likely enjoy hearing them from us. I love you. You are right. I miss you. I am sorry. Got your back. Nothing is impossible. Then, there is reality and some three-word phrases that life deals us. Struggle is real; ups and downs; get over it; this will pass. And then there's the three-word phrase that is creeping up on us whether it's a positive or negative-Back to School.

Now, I'm pretty sure since Memorial

Day, the stores have been trying to get us back to school. However, most of us try to enjoy every ounce of summer first. Whether your kids are ready to go back or not, soon we will be falling in that back to school routine. One thing that I learned is there is a Back to School Budget that no one is usually prepared for. Planning early helped me get through those times with my kids. Well, maybe not the first one, but I was ready for it with the next two. Obviously, your budget and shopping list fluctuate depending on the age of your children. From crayons and pencils in elementary to notebooks, backpacks and calculators in high school to books, computers and furniture as they are off to college. I even have a friend whose daughter is in her first year of teaching and has an Amazon list of school supplies for her classroom.

The first thing to do is create your list of needs and then prioritize it. You want to put as much on the list as you can think of so there are no surprises. Here are some things to help with that. Most classrooms have a list of wants/needs. Picture money is usually at the beginning of the year. Uniforms or regular school clothes along with shoes. It's amazing how much they grow in the summer. If they play a fall sport, they may need new cleats, shoes or sport specific equipment. Also, as a high school coach, make sure they have an updated physical on file at the school. They may need a parking pass if they drive to school. These are some things off the top of my head. However, without fail, the first week of school, especially in middle school/high school age, they will come home with a list of a

few more things they need.

Once your list is made and prioritized, it's time to look for deals and then cross them off your list. If you start doing this in small increments, it's easier on the wallet than making the equivalent of an extra mortgage payment in September. If your kids are still growing, don't buy them a year's worth of clothes in the fall. You can spread that part of the budget throughout the year and assure they haven't grown out of things. If you're struggling making the budget happen and the list is overwhelming, communicate with the teacher or school and they may have suggestions for groups that can help with supplies. And, if you're reading this and it doesn't apply because you don't have kids or they are no longer school-aged, consider helping out a family, grandchild or a teacher if you have the means.

While some are dreading back to school and others are looking forward to their kids being back on schedule, either way it is approaching. We can go back to our three-word phrases to deal with it. While budgeting and making lists may not be everyone's 'bread and butter', we all learned that 'knowledge is power.' We can prepare for the things we know and save some money for 'just in case' and 'back to school' will be 'easy as pie.'

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Many states and local governments have laws that prohibit leaving an animal unattended in a motor vehicle under dangerous conditions, which includes hot days. Your car could be damaged or you could be charged with a crime.

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# For the Table

## Summer seafood ideas

by **Julie Frank**  
Owner, **Ploughman's Market & Deli**  
Cassopolis, MI

Whether you are enjoying the weekend at your lake-side cottage or just want to feel like you are on vacation, a delicious fish or seafood dish can create that relaxed vibe. Fish and seafood dishes are light, yet satisfying, and are even made better by cooking them on the grill. Enjoy these three recipes with a simple salad or slaw to round out your simple meal.

### Cayman Islands Fish

This is a traditional dish of the Cayman Islands. My step-father worked in the Cayman Islands for many years and the rest of the family were fortunate enough to visit several times. While visiting, my mother learned how to make the popular dish from a local islander. Crisp-tender peppers and onions combine in a light tomato sauce to create a slightly spicy, yet sweet, topping for flaky fish. The secret to the sauce is a bottled condiment called Pickapeppa Sauce, a Jamaica condiment, made from a blend of vinegar, spices, and tropical fruit and can be found at your local grocery store.

### Ingredients

- 6 Fish fillets (Orange Roughy, Tilapia or Grouper)
- 1 lime
- 3 tbs. grated onion
- ¼ cup thinly sliced yellow or sweet onion
- 1 thinly sliced green bell pepper
- 1 thinly sliced sweet red pepper
- ¾ cup canned petite diced tomatoes with juice (or fresh tomato, if in season)
- 1 ½ tbs. apple cider vinegar
- ½ cup prepared ketchup
- 3-5 tbs. Pickapeppa sauce
- 2 tbs. butter
- 2 tbs. olive oil
- Season salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 ½ cups plain bread crumbs
- Egg wash (1 egg whisked with ½ cup



evaporated milk)  
Vegetable or Canola oil to cook fish

### Directions:

First you will marinade the fish. Sprinkle seasoned salt and pepper on both sides of the fish, then squeeze a few drops of lime on both sides of the fish. Use a gentle hand, you do not want to drown the fish with lime juice, a light squeeze will do. Now pat on the grated onion and allow fish to chill in a glass dish for at least an hour (or up to 4 hours).

While the fish is marinating, prepare the topping. Heat the butter and olive oil in a sauté pan. Add the onion and cook for 2 minutes. Add in the peppers and cook for 2 minutes. Next, add in the tomatoes, vinegar, ketchup, and Pickapeppa sauce and cook the mixture until the veggies are crisp-tender. Add seasoned salt and pepper to taste.

Now get your dredge station ready by

putting the egg wash and bread crumbs in separate bowls. Season the egg wash and bread crumbs with a sprinkle of seasoned salt and pepper. Dip the marinated fish in the egg wash, allowing any excess to drip off the fish fillet. The grated onion may “wash” off at this point, it’s ok. Now dredge the fillet in the bread crumbs and shake off any extra crumbs.

To pan fry the fish, get a sauté pan hot, then add enough oil in a sauté pan to coat the bottom of the pan. Carefully put your fillet in the oil and cook for 3 minutes on each side. Two filets should fit in a pan at one time. Place the cooked filets on a paper towel lined plate to drain any excess oil. Repeat with the rest of the filets. Serve topped with the pepper sauce.

Alternatively, the fish could be baked without the egg wash and the bread crumbs. This would be a healthier version but not the traditional preparation.

### Grilled Shrimp w/fresh herb sauce Grilled Shrimp

- 1 pound, peeled & deveined large shrimp
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper to taste
- Zest of one lemon

Combine shrimp and ingredients in a bowl and marinade for up to one hour. Skewer the shrimp and grill for about two minutes on each side.

### Herb Sauce

- 4 cloves garlic
  - ½ cup cilantro, stems removed
  - ½ cup parsley, stems removed
  - ¼ to ½ seeded jalapeno
  - 3 Tbsp red wine vinegar
  - 1 cup olive oil
  - 1 or 2 pinches of kosher salt
- Pulse garlic, herbs, jalapeno in a food processor (or chop by hand). Add remaining ingredients and pulse just until combined. Allow the sauce to sit for at least an hour for the flavors to blend. Serve over the grilled shrimp.



### Crab Cakes

- 1 cup jumbo lump crabmeat (fresh, frozen, or canned)
- ¾ cup bread crumbs
- 1 egg, beaten,
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 Tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1 Tbsp worcestershire sauce
- 1 Tbsp seafood seasoning (such as Old Bay)
- Zest of one lemon
- 1 Tbsp lemon juice

Mix wet ingredients and seasoning in a large mixing bowl. Add the crab and bread crumbs. Mix carefully, so as to not break up the crab, until combined. Form into cakes (about ¼ to one cup) and refrigerate for about two hours to allow the cakes to set up. To grill, generously spray a grill pan, cook the crab cakes about five minutes on each side until nicely browned.

Alternatively, you can cook your cakes in a cast iron skillet on top of the grill. Use enough oil to coat the bottom of the cast iron and prevent sticking. Top with your favorite sauce. .

*Julie Frank grew up in the restaurant business starting as a dishwasher in her mother's restaurant making \$1.25 per hour. She left the family business and went into education for over twenty-five years. Julie has returned to her roots to open Ploughman's Market, Bakery, and Deli in Cassopolis, Michigan. She lives in Dowagiac, Michigan with her husband and a mischievous German shepherd.*



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# Our Children

## Make this the Year!

by **SANDY FLEMING**

We're headed into the home stretch of summer vacation, and now is the time to set the stage for school success in the coming months. If your student or students are doing fine in school, help them stay on track. If they are struggling, give them the boost they need for success. If they are bored or unhappy in school, find new ways to motivate them to do well. Their effort makes all the difference, and you can support them in lots of ways, but it takes effort on your part, as well.

### Check Your Attitude

There is great truth in the saying that "kids learn what they live." Take a close look at your own attitudes about school. Whether you know it or not, they are showing by subtle clues to your children. If you think school is hard or pointless, chances are very good that your kids will too. If you think teachers are unfair, the kids will look for unfairness wherever they go in the educational system. Teachers will be out to get them, problems will always be someone else's fault, and low grades are caused by teachers being unfair or expecting too much.

You don't even need to talk about your feelings for children to pick up on them. If they are in your mind, you are likely showing them to your offspring by facial expressions, vocal tones, or the way you handle problems.

This is the year to make sure that your kids are developing a positive attitude about school (and you may have some "unlearning" to do). Here are the best things you can convey to your kids (in no particular order):

- Success in school is critical to success in life. We all have to learn to do jobs after school is done.
- School is about learning how to learn. That's a skill that we all use every day.
- The goal of school is learning (not grades or test scores or even "passing" from one grade to the next). Celebrate gains in skills in all academic and social areas, like reading or writing better than the kid did before, mastering those troublesome math facts, understanding how states and countries work, developing writing or language skills, and so on.
- Teachers deserve respect because they want to help kids learn and have special skills to get the job done. Yes, I know this isn't always the case, but it mostly is. Usually if a child perceives unfairness, it's because the teacher is trying to hold him or her to standards that seem high.
- School is the job of a young person. It's just as important as earning money at a real job, and someday will make that real job possible.
- Everything that is taught in school has a purpose. Most of it is related to building a foundation of knowledge that allows further learning in the subject.
- There is no such thing as "doing nothing" during a class or school day. The teacher had SOMETHING in mind that the kids were supposed to be learning or practicing. Help your child see this by talking about what was done each day in each class or subject. Engage them in conversation

One way to bring home the idea that

school is important is to take time to talk each day with each of your children about their school day, their learning, and their feelings about themselves and their abilities. Nothing says "this is important stuff" like having parents pay attention to it. I'm sure you ask your kids about soccer practice and progress with their musical instruments as they prepare for concerts. Spend at least that much time talking about writing, reading, math, science, and social studies.

Another way to converse with students in ways that will help with school is to talk about events and issues in the world around us. Look together for reliable sources of information, and talk about things like political candidates, our country's leaders, and how you feel about the local tax initiatives. But don't just be negative – give them reasoned and logical information about both sides of an issue. The goal is to help them learn to analyze and think for themselves, not to create a clone of you and your opinions.

Family dinners are a great time for these talks. However, if family dinner is not in the usual schedule, try talking while you drive places. Turn off the devices for one or two trips per day and talk to each other. Most kids are pretty cool people, and you will be glad when you take time to get to know them. Plus, conversation skills are high on the list of skills that nurture other skills necessary for academic success, like logical thinking, self-expression, and organization.

### Put School Work First in the Family Schedule

It's easy to leave the homework until last when there are practices, games, lessons, and social events to run between, but your child is taking away a message from all this activity, and it may not be the one you want. When your after school hours are filled with non school activity, being "too busy" becomes an excuse to ignore or slack on school responsibilities. Be sure to build in a reasonable amount of time each day (at a reasonable hour for the age of your student) to do the work needed to get those good grades (more on that in a minute).

In other words, be intentional about keeping school work on the front burner instead of treating it like an afterthought. Give it the attention that is due to the most important thing your child is doing. And monitor the number and scheduling of extra curricular activities to make sure they don't interfere with the main business of a student's life: school.

### Putting in the Effort

Most children respond best to a structured schedule and that includes a specific time (and place) to do the homework. This year, how about instead of just insisting that homework gets done, insist on a specific amount of time be spent on academic pursuits regardless of what comes home from school? This is especially important if your child is struggling in school and behind in skills. If there is an expectation that kids will be spending an hour daily on academic work no matter what, they will be more likely to bring home the assignments needed from school. Even if there are no assignments from school that day, that does NOT mean learning should be put on hold. Here are some ways to fill that

academic time when there is no homework:

- Do extra reading or writing on your own projects.
- Play games with an academic focus. For example, a child who needs to learn multiplication facts can play Multiplication War with a deck of playing cards. Flip two cards for each player and multiply them. Highest score takes the cards and first person to have the deck (or the most cards) wins.
- Find sources of extra worksheets on skills your child needs to practice. Internet search tools are wonderful for this, or you can purchase a grade-level workbook to pull out for extra practice.
- Organize, copy, or even take notes over readings or videos.
- Reread textbook assignments.
- Prepare study guides by looking over previous readings and assignments and having your student predict what questions the teacher is likely to ask on the test, then answer them.
- Write down what was learned in each subject every day in a journal entry. This will later make a great study guide. In other words, there is ALWAYS something that can be done to build academic skills. Some experts recommend students spend a minimum of 10 minutes out of school work time per grade level daily, so your second grader could do 20 minutes, and your eighth grader should be looking at about an hour and 20 minutes. And that's to maintain when school is going

well. If your child is struggling, they will need additional practice time.

And for most students, at least part of this time should be supervised and monitored, and participated in by a parent or caregiver. Kids will learn a lot more if they are working directly with an adult, and you will uncover areas where help is needed since you'll have a close opportunity for observation.

### Planning Your School Schedule

So set some goals for yourself and for your kids to improve grades this year by improving attitudes and effort. Just remember that good learning goals are increasing behaviors that are conducive to learning, rather than measurable increases in grades. So avoid setting a goal of getting all As and Bs or raising the math score by 40 points. Instead, set goals that you and your student are completely in control of, like spending 60 minutes daily on math practice or writing down notes from class each and every day or turning in assignments completed and on time. These are the kinds of behaviors and habits that will help with learning, and if they are nurtured, good grades will almost always follow.

\*\*\*\*\*  
*Sandy Fleming is a private tutor and author living in Edwardsburg. Get some great ideas for learning at her websites: <http://learningnook.com> and <http://sandyflemingonline.com>. See you there!*

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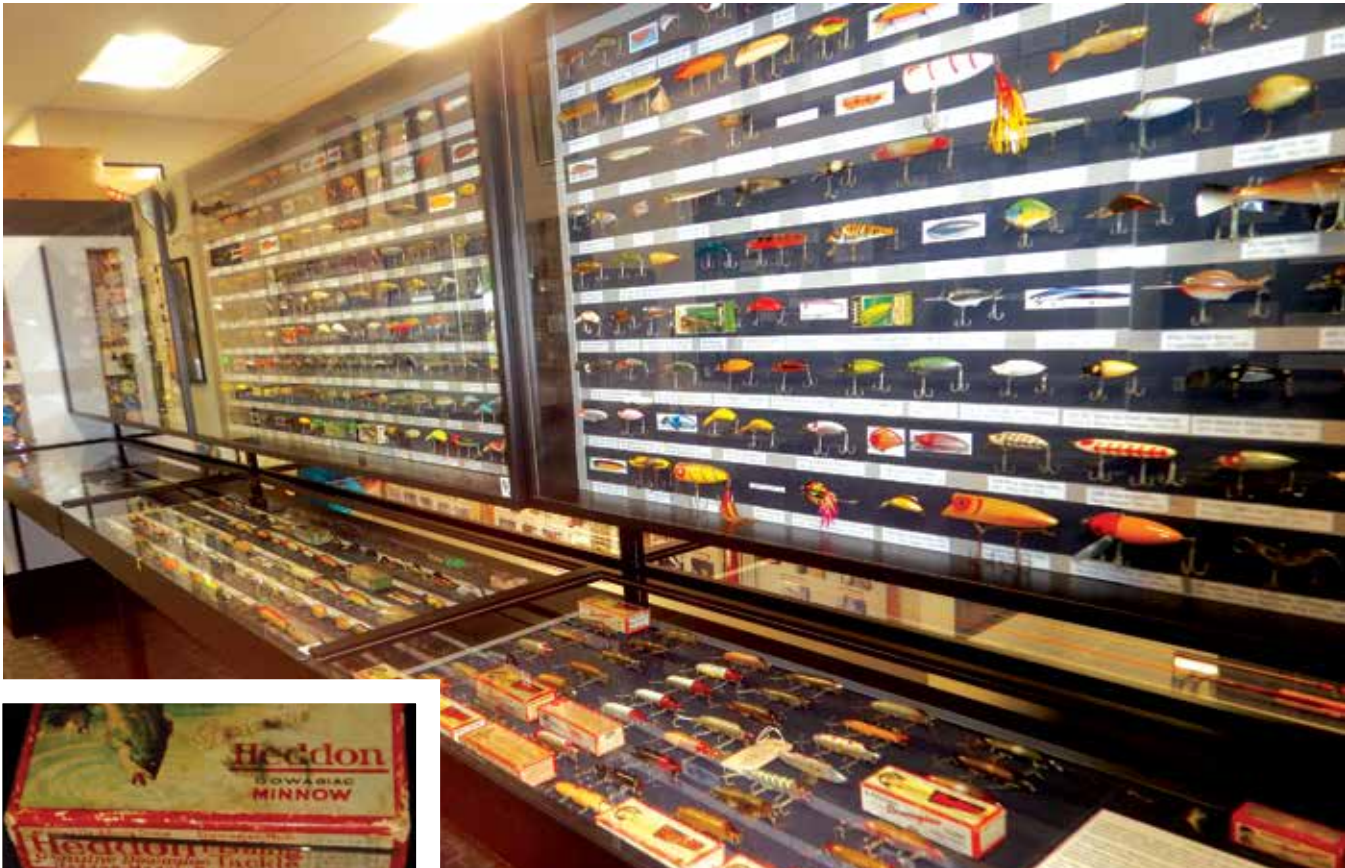




# Field Trip

## The Heddon Museum, Dowagiac

The Heddon Museum is located at 115 S. Front St in downtown Dowagiac. The museum is open Tuesday 10-5, Thursday 10-5, and Friday 10-5. Please note: They are run by a volunteer staff, and occasionally the hours of operation may change. Call 269-783-2560 to confirm your visit. Updated information can also be found on the Facebook page <https://heddon.dowagiadmuseum.info/>





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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](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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# Nature Notes

## Box turtles, Sandhill Cranes, Imperial Moth

Provided by  
**Jonathan Wuepper,**  
Manager of the :Local History Branch  
Cass District Library  
jwuepper@cass.lib.mi.us

An eastern box turtle was photographed on July 8 in Bainbridge Township by Alan Barchett who was out mowing his lawn. This particular box turtle has red eyes which signifies it is a male. Female box turtles have brown eyes.

Eastern box turtles are known for spending a majority of their time on land. They have a domed shell, technically called a carapace, which is colored brown with streaks of yellow or orange. The yellow and orange color patterns on the box turtle carapaces are so variable and unique to each individual turtle, they can be used to identify individual box turtles in the same way human fingerprints are used to identify individual people.

Box turtles prefer deciduous open woodlands with sandy soils and will come out into the open. Historically, areas containing oak savannah and oak-hickory forests with close access to water in Southwest Michigan would have harbored the highest concentrations of this species. Areas in Berrien County that currently have forests dominated by oaks are located near Lake Michigan, especially in Hagar, Benton, St. Joseph and Lincoln Townships, which are areas that contain healthy populations of eastern box turtles.

The main threats to not only eastern box turtles, but all turtles, are habitat loss due to suburbanization, incidents with motor vehicles (being crushed while crossing roads), and raccoons and skunks destroying box turtle nests and consum-

ing the eggs. Eastern box turtles are not on the Federal Endangered Species List, but are on Michigan's Threatened Species List, effective March 20, 2023, and are protected by law. They can't be taken from the wild or kept as pets without a license.

If you see an eastern box turtle, or any species of turtle, crossing a road it is legal to pick it up and move it to the other side of the road. Always move a turtle to the side of the road in the direction it was facing. The turtle cannot be kept or moved to any other location. Always wash your hands after handling a turtle because they may carry bacteria that cause salmonella.

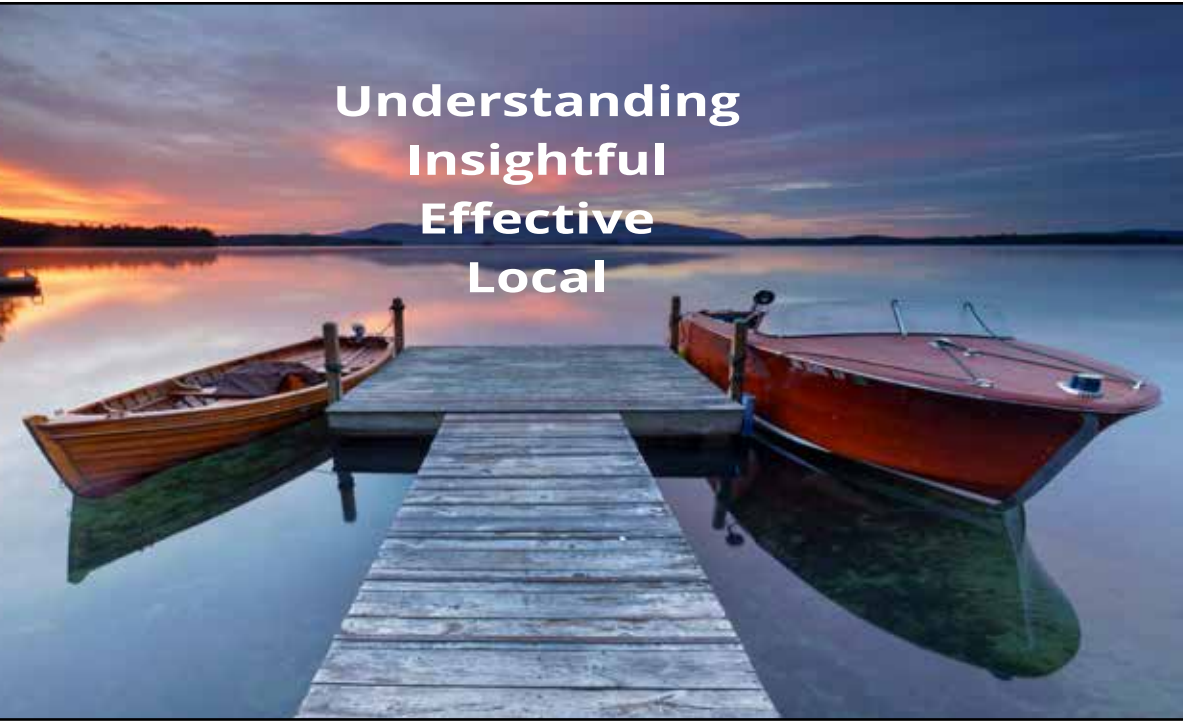
Jerry Schinkel sent me a photograph of a small flock of sandhill cranes, taken July 14 near the intersection of Jericho and Johnson Roads in Lincoln Township.

These 10 or 11 sandhill cranes may represent small family units of local nesting birds which nested in Grand Mere State Park, a location in which the species is known to nest in recent years. It won't be long before larger flocks of sandhill cranes will begin to gather in the area to prepare for the flight southward for the winter. Sandhill cranes have been overwintering in Southwest Michigan in increasing numbers within the last 10-20 years.

Finally, on July 19, I photographed an imperial moth in front of the Local History Library in Cassopolis. This moth is yellow with brownish spots and has a 3 to 6 inch wingspan.



*Top: Eastern box turtle, July 8, in Bainbridge Township, by Alan Barchett. This box turtle is a male as told by its red eyes. Female box turtles generally have brown eyes.*  
*Above: Sandhill cranes on July 14, near the intersection of Jericho and Johnson Roads, Lincoln Township. Photographed by Jerry Schinkel of Lincoln Township.*  
*Left: Imperial moth on July 19, Cassopolis, species of special concern in Michigan.*



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# Local History

## Cassopolis images from the great depression

*Provided by Jonathan Wuepper  
Manager Local History Branch  
Cass District Library*

From August 22-24, 1931 the village of Cassopolis held a three day celebration to commemorate its Centennial.

Pageants, historical reenactments, athletic events, music, food were scheduled events among the three day celebration. Highlights were a parade along Broadway Street, and a beauty pageant in which a Miss Cassopolis was chosen, crowned by Michigan Governor Wilber Brucker.

Governor Brucker was also a featured speaker at Lakeside Park at 2 pm on August 22, which drew hundreds of visitors.

A silent film was taken to memorialize these events. It is lost to history as to who exactly shot the footage. This was taken from a film that was initially silent, but when transferred to VHS tape in 1989, narration was added by Frank Woods (1921-2011) of Calvin Township.

In 1937, Dr. Phillip H. Langenbahn (1899-1974) filmed about 20 minutes of street scenes in downtown Cassopolis. His silent film was eventually turned over to Frank Woods, who narrated a VHS version, as he had done for the 1931 Cassopolis film.

The 1937 film is interesting because it shows a vibrant, bustling downtown Cassopolis. This is long before freeways, shopping malls, and light years before online shopping. This scene was not unique to Cassopolis, but common to small and medium towns across America at that time as well as large cities.

At press time, I have been unable to determine whether or not the master VHS tape containing both 1931 and 1937 film transfers with Frank Woods narration is owned by the Cass County Historical Commission, or by the Cass County Historical Society.



*Above: Standard Service Station, 1937, across from Pioneer Log Cabin, Cassopolis, Michigan.*

*Below left: Unidentified Standard Oil filling station attendant, 1937.*

*Below center: South end of the Pioneer Log Cabin, Cassopolis, on the afternoon of August 22, 1931. This cabin was constructed in 1923 in honor of the pioneers of Cass County, and to house pioneer relics of Cass County*

*pioneers. The cabin was just eight years old in 1931, and in 2023 is celebrating its 100th anniversary.*

*Below right: Michigan Governor Wilber M. Brucker (1894-1968; served 1931-1933), just after 2:00p.m. on August 22, 1931 speaking at Lakeside Park next to the Pioneer Log Cabin on the shore of Stone Lake, Cassopolis. The occasion was the centennial celebration and anniversary of the founding of Cassopolis, Michigan.*



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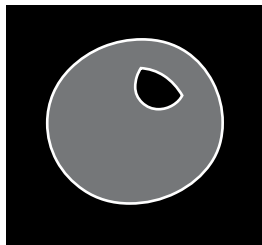
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## One foot in front of the other; repeat as needed



ne foot in front of the other; repeat as needed ... that's the mantra I use to work myself up for my daily walk, and that's why people have come to recognize that, with apologies to James Taylor, I have become the walking man. If you don't know that song, it's a melodic

ballad about a man who is constantly on the move, walking and looking for something, but we don't know what it is. We just know he's walking.

When I started walking a lot a few years back, I didn't know either, but I thought I was just looking for a smaller blob of belly "ploop" and a dramatically reduced systolic number on my trusty sphygmomanometer, but over the years that's changed a bit. For a brief while I was worried that I'd been infected by my beloved spouse's OCD (which in Phil World stands for Oh Come-on Darlin'), and that my exercise was becoming Godzilla eating the Tokyo of my otherwise serene summer days.

My neighbors tell me walking the way I do ... seven miles a day on average ... isn't just OCD, it's plain nuts. Most of my life I've been a therapy refugee, and though countless neighbors, colleagues, employees, acquaintances, frenemies and business associates have mentioned that I needed to see a shrink, I've walked around their comments and rationalized my way into avoiding the subject as best I could.

Recently I've crossed over and begun realizing the benefits of walking as a sort of therapy.

Bad day at work? Go for a walk.

Argument with the wife? Go for a walk.

Mother in law coming for a visit? Go for a walk.

One foot in front of the other; repeat as needed.

Maybe I could get the pharmacist to print that on the bottom of my worn out tennis shoe.

It's been quiet a revelation to discover just how cathartic and effective the solitude, exertion and introspection of just walking down the road has been on my busted up old psyche (not to mention the dramatic effect it's had on both my belly fat and hypertension).

I don't mean to say that walking heals what ails me, there are way too many things ailing me nowadays

to be cured by a simple stroll. Walking is more of a delaying tactic, a way of putting whatever mental and emotional turmoil I'm feeling onto a cranial shelf until I've finished torturing myself in the self-imposed agony of a long walk. I'll think about it all later. Maybe.

Not long ago, as I turned the corner off Walnut onto Monkey Run, it dawned on me that even though I was still in pain after laying on the floor at the vet's holding my dog's head as the vet was giving her "that" injection, that walking beside a corn field in the middle of Nowhere, Cass County might not be the best place to break down and cry like a little girl. Even though the birds were singing and the sun was shining and the temperature was close to perfect, my dog was still going to be gone and I still had another 8,000 steps before I'd get home to find a handkerchief to bawl into.

So I sucked it up and kept on walking.

One foot in front of the other, repeat as needed.

And just a couple weeks ago when I was so wrapped up worrying about my daughter losing her job that I nearly tripped over the busted asphalt on Sears Street and came dangerously close to face planting in the Brossmans' newly planted bean field, and even though the morning has turned from stinking hot to breezy and pleasant, and the sweat has stopped streaking down the side of my cheek and the sun wasn't scorching blisters onto the bald spot on top my head, I was still more than three miles from home and whether I was going to chew on the beans or not, there wasn't a damn thing I could do about helping my daughter out from that field.

So I sucked it up and kept on walking.

One foot in front of the other; repeat as needed.

Unfortunately it doesn't always work. To tell the truth, if I'm honest with myself (which I rarely am), it almost never works, it just delays the inevitable. I read once that delay is the deadliest form of denial, and recently I came face to face with that reality.

Last month my next door neighbor, Bad Patty, who was also one of my best friends, died quite unexpectedly. Her passing hit me pretty hard. For the last 23 years, almost every summer evening after all of the other neighbors and visitors would drift off to their own homes, she and I would often share a nightcap in her "Flamingo Room." We'd talk politics and religion and

kids and recipes and local gossip and music and our hippie days at "that" IU, and anything else that either of us wanted to talk about until we were about talked out.

Then, most evenings before I'd stumble across our side yards and slide into bed, we'd share a parting ritual (and usually laugh about it because often we'd often share it more than once before we'd call it a night).

"Last call?" one of us would ask the other.

Sometimes it really was last call ... other times we'd have a couple last calls before I'd leave. We were friends for a long time and friends through lots of shared beers.

In the past when someone close to me passed, I'd often try to write a eulogy as a method of coping with my feelings. So last month when Bad Patty took her last call, for days I tried, but the more I worked on it, the more I realized that I was failing at everything but making myself more miserable.

Maybe someday soon I'll be able to write about what a good person she was and how she got the nickname "Bad" Patty. Maybe someday I'll talk about how much she loved her kids and husband, how much she affected her friends, how she really meant it when she put on one of her '60s "peace" buttons. But the day I started writing this, it just hurt. So I went for a walk.

One foot in front of the other, repeat as needed.

Unfortunately, that was one of those days walking didn't help much. So I walked again the next day. And the next. And the next. And the next. And the next.

I've walked so much now I wore a blister on my heel, but it isn't just my heel, all of me is still pretty raw. My friend is gone, and I miss her, and day after day, walking just isn't making me feel any better.

In fact instead of time healing my wound, time (and the walking) has just wounded my heel. She'd have made a sarcastic comment about the bad pun and got us each another beer.

This has been one of the hardest columns I've ever written. Maybe tomorrow I'll feel better. Maybe.

But now I think I'm going to go out for a walk.

One foot in front of the other, repeat as needed.

*In memory of my friend "Bad" Patty Luecht  
December 8, 1952 - June 23, 2023.  
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