

# Neighbors

**NOW IN OUR 20<sup>TH</sup> YEAR**

**JULY 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

**[HTTP://WWW.CASSNEIGHBORS.COM](http://www.cassneighbors.com)**

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Neighbors is published monthly from March through November.

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**Field Trip: Dowagiac Area History Museum, - Pages 9-11**



# Regional News

## Dowagiac area events

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

**Summer in the City Festival**, July 14, - July 15, 10 am - 5 pm

**Steve's Run**, July 14, 6 - 9 pm

**Ed's Open Header Cruise**, July 27, 5:30 - 8:30 pm

**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:

**An Inspector Calls** on July 21 - 30 by J. B. Priestley - A classic, compelling mystery, which moves us to examine our consciences and remember to look after one another.

**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 resi-

dents 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**

The scope of local architectural design, both in homes and other buildings, will be the main focus of the 2023 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 entire 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 third and final exhibit will be compiled by the museum's advisory design committee, headed by Laura Jamrog and Judy Montgomery. "I'll Be Home for 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 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, and 11 am- 2 pm on Saturdays throughmid-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







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# Regional News

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, where he was a class officer, played football, and was a member of the first Eddies wrestling team. Sue graduated in 1971 and she and Jack met at Southwestern Michigan College after his service in the

U.S. Navy.

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, the first year as an assistant, the second, as head coach. The second year, he was named regional wrestling coach of the year.

**Summer Nature Camps**

St. Joseph County (IN) Parks is taking registrations for Outdoor Adventures

summer nature camps at St. Patrick's County Park in South Bend.

These camps are offered for children entering kindergarten through 8th grade. They include:

July 10-July 14: Slime Scientists (ages 6-7); July 17-July 21: Who Done it? (ages 10 - 11); July 24-July 28: Mud Monsters (ages 5-6).

For information, or registration, call 574/654-3155, or [www.sjcparks.org](http://www.sjcparks.org).

**Van Dyke Revue Band to perform**

The Van Dyke Revue Band will perform in Edwardsburg on Saturday evening, July 15, on the back deck of the Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum.

The performance will be from 7 to 9 p.m. There is no admission charge.

The band's rhythm guitarist and songwriter, Dave Van Dyke, nominated his hometown of Buchanan for Reader's Digest's "Nicest Place in America," in 2020. Buchanan won and Van Dyke was featured on national media, including the Today Show and the BBC. Dave and his father, John Van Dyke, founded the band in 1999. The band plays a variety of music, from the 1950s to today. Its regular playlist includes more than 200 songs, featuring older rock and roll, traditional country and bluegrass, blues, soul, music from the 80s and 90s rock, beach music, torch songs and dinner music.

### Underground Railroad Site Open

#### Mon-Fri 2-5pm

June thru September

(often on Sat/Sun--look for the OPEN signs)

#### The Bonine House

Penn Rd and M-60  
Vandalia, MI



\*\*\*You can take a self-guided DRIVING TOUR of 20 sites on the Underground Railroad! Maps in Milo Barnes Park, M-60 in Vandalia\*\*\*

[www.urscc.org](http://www.urscc.org)

## Get Fit, Stay Fit

The Cass County COA has outstanding fitness centers at both locations. Each center offers a variety of cardiovascular fitness machines and weight training equipment as well as In-Person and Zoom Fitness Classes. Trained instructors provide assistance, advice and class instruction to help you meet your fitness goals.

- Balance, Stretch & Stability
- Cardio Challenge
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- S.E.A.T.
- Tai Chi
- Yoga



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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, July 15**, 5-7 Top Secret, 8-11 The 1985

**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

**July 8 - Beach Boys Tribute "Captain Mike Show,"** 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

**July 14, 15 - Straight Up 80s variety show**, 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

**July 28 - Karaoke + Contest (classic rock theme)**, 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

**July 29 - Savage Mike acoustic duo w/vocals**, 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

**July 31, 2023 - August 6 - CASS COUNTY FAIR**, info tba, For info visit the website <https://mycasscountyfair.com/>

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

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**  
**JULY 18 – 1870s House/Heddon Museum, 1870s House** – 306 W. Division Street/Heddon Museum – 414 West Street, Dowagiac

**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**  
**July 2 - GARDEN PARTY**, 1 – 4:30 pm Open House and tour, walk around garden, 2 pm Garden talk. Refreshments and music

**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**  
**July 15 - Van Dyke Band** on the museum's back deck. Show.

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

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

**Cass District Library July 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/>

**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.dowagiacdl.org/events>

**JULY 1 - Chalk Time** 11 am - Noon

**JULY 7 - Messy Time Friday!** 11 am - noon. Get out the chalk and doodle on the sidewalk around the main entrance of the library.

**July 11 Teen Tuesday: Teen Cooking**, 3 - 4 pm. Banana Pancakes: Teens will be making 2-ingredient banana pancakes this month. A super easy and delicious breakfast idea! Registration is required for this event. Sign up in the youth department by Friday, July 7. 2nd Session on July 13, 5 -6:45 pm; 3rd Session July 27, 5 -6:45 pm

**JUL 13, JUL 27 - Story Sketching-Circe**, 5 - 6:45 pm; July 13, 5-6:45 pm; 3rd session July 27, 5 pm-6:45 pm

**JUL 14 - 17 Book Sale**, Friday, 9a m-5:30 pm, Saturday, 9 am-2 pm; Monday, 9 am-1 pm \*BAG Day!

**JUL 15 Chalk Time**, 11 am - 12:Noon

**JUL 18 Teen Tuesday: Arts & Crafts**, 3- 4 pm

**JUL 21, JUL 28, AUG 4 - Messy Time Friday!** 11 am - noon

**JUL 22 Chalk Time** 11 am - Noon

**JUL 25 Teen Tuesday: Taste Test Challenge**, 3-4 pm

**JUL 25 - The Taming of the Shrew** by William Shakespeare, 5 - 6 pm. To sign up, email Matt Weston at [mweston@dowagiacdl.org](mailto:mweston@dowagiacdl.org)

**JUL 29 Chalk Time** 11 am - Noon

**SEP 26 - The Merchant of Venice** by William Shakespeare, 5 - 6:00 pm. To sign up, email Matt Weston at [mweston@dowagiacdl.org](mailto:mweston@dowagiacdl.org)

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**Village of Vandalia  
Underground Railroad Days**  
July 8-9, 2023  
Vandalia, MI  
[www.urscc.org](http://www.urscc.org)

**Saturday and Sunday, July 8-9 (11am-5pm)**

- \* Guided tours of Kentucky Raid sites (Milo Barnes Park)
- \* 102nd U. S. Colored Troops Civil War soldiers camp (across from the Park)
- \* Bonine House, Carriage House, and Bogue House open houses
- \* Music at the "Ramptown Cabin" in the Park
- \* Displays in Vandalia Village Youth Center
- \* Presentations in Vandalia Village Youth Center
  - 2pm--Calvin Twp 1840s Brownsville School #1 (Jennifer Ray-- Sat/Sun)
  - 3pm--102nd USCT soldiers in the Civil War (Guy Turner--Sat only)
- \* Sale booths under the tent and on the Village Grounds
- \* Food available on the Village Grounds and in the Village Hall

**Saturday, July 8 (11am-3pm)**

**Classic Car Show**  
Street beside Vandalia Youth Center  
Prizes!! Plaques!!

**Sunday, July 9 (11am-1pm)**

**Community Church Service**  
Vandalia Village Grounds  
(under the tent)

**Underground Railroad Sites Open Houses**

- \* Bonine House-- 18970 M-60, Vandalia (Penn Rd and M-60, 1 mile west of Vandalia)
- \* Bonine Carriage House-- 18975 M-60, Vandalia (across M-60 from the Bonine House)
- \* Bogue House--20283 M-60 (Crooked Creek Rd and M-60, 1 mile west of Bonine House)



Bonine Carriage House



James E. Bonine House



Stephen Dague House



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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

## Summer heat and summer sun – Beware!

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

Michigan doesn't like to do anything mildly. We can go from a 20 degree low to a 90 degree high in the blink of an eye. In the winter, we might enjoy ice fishing, skiing, making snowmen, or just hibernating waiting to get out again!

That brings us to the summer. This is when all the outside people still enjoy the outdoors and even those hibernators just might show their face. In the summer, we are overwhelmed with all kinds of warnings about things-

- watch out for the currents in Lake Michigan, the algae bloom in Lake Erie
- don't have a bonfire when it's too dry
- make sure your pets (and kids) stay hydrated
- watch out for motorcycles
- wear sunscreen

While all of these are legitimate warnings, I want to focus on the last one-wearing sunscreen. I grew up in a time where sunscreen was more of an after-thought- literally. "Oh, we should have put sunscreen on her." By the time I had my kids, we were more diligent with it-for them. Now that I'm nearing (actually at) grandma age and have gone through a bout of melanoma, I am now a sun-screen cheerleader for everyone. The most common skin cancers are basal and squamous cell carcinoma. My dad had this on his ear, mainly the result of too much sun. It starts out like a red bump that might heal then come back. He fin-

ished some radiation treatment years ago. He now has half an ear, which is only beneficial when I cut his hair. Being that his was visible, it was easier to persuade my kids to let me lather them up.

My melanoma, which is less common but more dangerous, evolved from a mole. It was in a place high on the side of my leg that, thankfully for everyone, hadn't seen the sun in ages. They successfully removed it all with surgery. But, since I've had it, I now have to be extra careful with sun exposure.

While we can't control the tides, weather, algae, rainfall or forest fires in

Canada, we should control what we can control. Drink plenty of water, stay alert, and if you plan on enjoying our little piece of summer, put on that sunscreen.

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### It's Hot Out!

Don't Leave Your Pet in the Car!

A car can overheat **even** when the window has been left cracked an inch or two.

Young, overweight or elderly animals, or those with short muzzles or thick or dark-colored coats are most at risk for overheating.

Shady spots offer **little** protection on hot days, and move with the sun.

**90°**

Even if the temperature outside is only 70°, the inside of your car may be as much as 20 degrees hotter!

**102°**

On an 85° day, it only takes ten minutes for the inside of your car to reach 102°.

**120°**

Within just 30 minutes, the car's interior can climb from 85° to a scorching 120°.

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.

If you see an animal trapped in a car on a hot day, try to locate the owner or call 911! **Stay by the car until assistance arrives.**

## SPRING FISHING SEASON

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# For the Table

## Scrumptious summer desserts

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

**J**uicy red berries and plump peaches abound at our local farmers markets this time of the year. One of the best ways to enjoy Michigan's summer fruit is in a pie, of course!

Check out my recipe for strawberry rhubarb pie. The sweetness of the strawberries balance the sharp, tartness of the rhubarb. If fruit is not your ideal dessert, then you will love the Chocolate Toffee cake. Holes poked into the cake after baking are filled with indulgent caramel. The cake is topped with store bought whipped topping and bits of toffee. No need to make frosting for this cake. If it's too hot to mess with your oven, then the millionaire pie is for you. This pie is a throwback to the '70s. Some recipe versions list fruit cocktail and mayonnaise in the ingredients. But no worries, I updated the recipe, left out the mayonnaise, and added cream cheese, pineapple, sweetened cherries, and coconut. But the best part of this recipe is that no baking is needed.

### Strawberry Rhubarb Pie

**Ingredients:**  
Double Pie Crust, homemade or store bought  
3 cups Strawberries, cut in half or quartered if large  
3 cups Rhubarb, 1-inch diced  
¾ cup granulated sugar  
¼ cup cornstarch  
¼ cup orange juice  
Zest of one orange

### Instructions:



Chocolate Toffee Cake



Strawberry Rhubarb Pie

Stir the fruit, sugar, and cornstarch together until combined. Add orange juice and zest of orange. Let the mixture sit while you prepare the crust and preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Put your crust into a 9-inch pie plate. Pour the filling into the crust. Top with the second crust. Trim the crust if necessary. Tuck and crimp the edges to seal the crust. Cut two or three slits in the top of the pie for steam release. Brush the top crust with milk or egg wash and sprinkle with sugar if desired.

Bake for 45 minutes or until the filling is bubbling and the crust is nicely browned.

### Chocolate Toffee Cake

**Ingredients:**  
1 box chocolate cake mix  
1 jar salted caramel ice cream topping  
6 toffee candy bars (I prefer Heath Bars), chopped into bite size pieces  
2 8-ounce containers of whipped topping

### Instructions:

Prepare the cake mix according to the package instructions for a 9 X 12 inch pan. One tip for making your chocolate cake more decadent is to replace the water with leftover brewed coffee.

Allow the cake to cool slightly. Then with the handle of a small wooden spoon or a large plastic straw, poke holes into the cake in 1-inch intervals.

Heat the caramel in the microwave for 30 seconds so that it is pourable. Pour the heated caramel into the holes and over the top of the cake.

Next, spread whipped topping over the entire cake. Finally sprinkle with

chopped candy bar bits.  
Keep leftovers refrigerated.

### Millionaire Pie

**Ingredients:**  
1 graham cracker crust  
1 8-ounce block of cream cheese  
1 7 ounce jar of marshmallow creme  
1 8-ounce container whipped topping  
1 can of pineapple tidbits



Millionaire Pie

1 cup of maraschino cherries, quartered (reserve 2 or 3 for garnish)  
½ cup of toasted and chopped walnuts (optional)  
½ cup of sweetened coconut, toasted

### Instructions:

To toast the coconut, spread coconut on a parchment or foil lined baking sheet. Toast @ 350 degrees for about 5-8 minutes or until it begins to turn golden brown. Toss the coconut after a few minutes to ensure even browning. Watch the coconut carefully, it can burn easily.

For the pie filling, beat the cream cheese with an electric mixer, add the marshmallow creme until combined. Stir in the fruit, nuts, and cooled coconut. Finally, fold in the whipped topping. Pour into your prepared crust and chill for 5 hours or until firm. You can also freeze and serve as a frozen pie. Decorate the top with additional whipped topping, coconut, and cherries if desired.

*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

## Summer reading boost

by **SANDY FLEMING**

Summer is a great time to nurture reading skills in students of all ages. Everyone needs to pursue reading that they are interested in to stay motivated. Without the pressures of other school work and the demands to read to learn or to plow through heavy classical literature, summer is a great time to explore interests and just to simply enjoy reading at a level that is fun and not too demanding.

One of your best tools for encouraging kids to read is your local library. Make sure everyone's library cards are current (or get them if you don't already have them!). Now take advantage of your library's summer reading program! Nearly all libraries offer a summer program that rewards readers of all ages – usually adults can participate as well. Think what a great example that will set for your children and also what a benefit it will be to you to make time to read for enjoyment.

When kids see adults reading, they grow to understand that reading is a part of life. Studies show that the most successful adults are readers. They read for pleasure and also for education and self-improvement. They read to keep abreast of current events and to better understand history and issues. Reading also helps people with life skills like following directions, managing contracts and other paperwork, and keeping up with work-related and professional reading. And amazingly, just a few extra minutes per day of reading can make a big difference for kids. The annual report from Renaissance (<https://www.renaissance.com/wkar-download/>) found that kids who read just 6 extra minutes per day had increased test scores. It doesn't take much!

### Coaxing Reluctant Readers

There are a few strategies you can use to coax reluctant readers into putting more time in with books. Here are some to try if your student really does not want to read.

- Make reading the attractive option. Set aside some time each day when screens, devices, and phones are off limits. Start small, maybe 30 minutes daily. Get the electronics absolutely out of reach, then give a choice of something less desirable or reading, most kids will choose to read.
- Reward reading with an outside incentive. Many summer reading programs work this way. Kids earn points and can trade them for prizes or privileges when they read for a specific amount of time or get through a certain number of pages or books. You can tap into the program at the library, or check your local bookstore.
- Start reading a chapter book aloud to get past the exposition (the introductory parts that tell who and where), and stop reading right after the problem or conflict of the story is related. Leave the book lying around so kids can pick it up to find out what happens next.
- Try offering various types of books. Some reluctant readers can be tempted by graphic novels, anime, how-to books, topical nonfiction, biography, poetry, jokes and riddles, and so forth.
- Use the five-finger strategy to help kids choose a book within their independent reading level. This is the level of reading that is easy enough to be fun. Readers don't have to struggle to decode



Image by rawpixel.com on Freepik

the words, and so reading is usually more fun. Teach the kids to open the book to the middle on a page that is all words (or mostly words), and start reading (silently or aloud if you are monitoring). Have them put up a finger each time they come to word they don't know or read incorrectly. If they get to five fingers up before they get to the end of the page, it's a book to enjoy together with a confident reader reading it out loud. Remember that the independent reading level may be one or more grade levels below the child's grade placement level. Often, kids think they "hate reading" because they are struggling to make sense of the print!

- Guide kids into reading to get information they want. Have them read to satisfy curiosity or learn a new skill. Try reading and following directions for games, then putting them in charge of teaching the rest of the family.

### Making the Most of Whatever Reading They Do

Reading does little good if students don't use or interact with the information in some fashion. This leads to the visual version of "in one ear and out the other." Help students engage and connect with the material with specific strategies. Remind them that the whole purpose of reading is to get the information into their heads and to interact with it in some fashion!

- Be sure to discuss whatever your student is reading. Have them tell you what happened in the story or what they learned from their reading.
- Engage listeners when reading aloud (even the older kids!) by stopping the reading now and then to get feedback and make sure the listeners are paying attention. For younger children, try having a "secret word" for them to respond to when they hear it, like giving a clap when they hear a specific character name or patting their heads for a common word. For older students, try having them make predictions, especially at the turning points in the story.
- Have students make up other adventures for the characters in the story that happen before or after the events of the story take place.
- Have younger students spot rhyming words.
- Engage all levels by asking them to listen for "wrong words," then intentionally read a line incorrectly so it doesn't make sense with the story.
- Try having older students play teacher by making up a set of comprehension questions for an adult to try to answer. Be sure the kids make an answer key that tells where to find the information or support for the inferences in the book (like page numbers and supporting quotations).

### Try a Reading Game

Gamification is a great way to coax people into doing activities that they may not find rewarding on their own. Try

these ideas to get reading going in your house!

- Make a reading Bingo board. You can fill a blank bingo board (a five by five grid of squares) with various reading tasks, like "read a biography" or "read for 30 minutes," and give the Bingo board to the kids. See who can be first to get a row, column or diagonal checked off. Can anyone get a blackout by marking all of the items?
- Try a reading scavenger hunt. Make a list of things that might be in books, like reading a book about outer space or with a character that is an adult female. Who can be the first to check off all the items?
- Make up a reading treasure trail. Hide clues around the house or the play area. Make each clue a reading task, like read three books or read a book about animals, and add a sentence at the bottom of the clue to tell where to find the next clue. Be sure to put a great treat at the end of the trail!
- Younger readers love to build things

with their reading. Try making the head of a caterpillar or a train engine on construction paper, and then sections of the caterpillar or train cars that you can label with book titles. Post the beginning of the caterpillar or train on the wall, and add a piece for each book the kids read. Who can grow their caterpillar or train the longest?

- Make a trail game board on a poster or in a file folder. Let the students move one space around the game board for every book that is read, or each time they meet a reading goal for the day. Be sure to have penalty and bonus squares along the way to liven things up!
- Use a jigsaw puzzle to keep things moving...Award a puzzle piece for each reading goal that is met. Can the kids finish the puzzle by the end of the week, month, or vacation?

All of these tips and tools will help you keep the readers encouraged and motivated, but they only work as well as the adults who are implementing them. YOU need to be the example and the driving force, especially when kids are reluctant readers. The research shows, however, that even reluctant readers can become enthusiastic readers with a bit of coaxing. Take charge, and make a difference in your children's lives!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sandy Fleming is a private tutor and writer living in Edwardsburg. Grab more great ideas for motivating learners and helping kids learn at her website: <http://learningnook.com>.**

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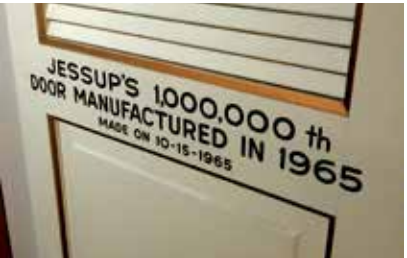
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# Historic Postcards

## 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](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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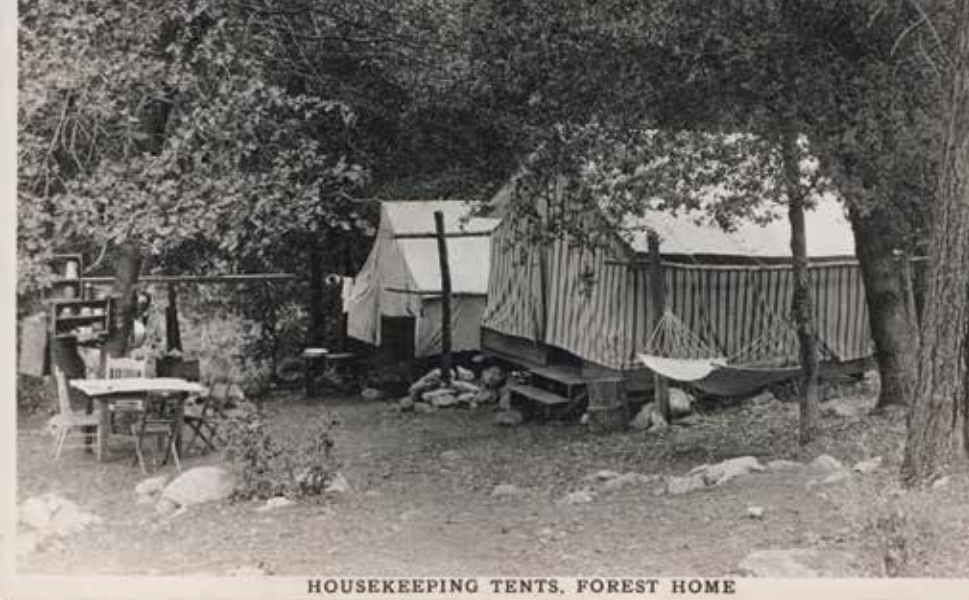
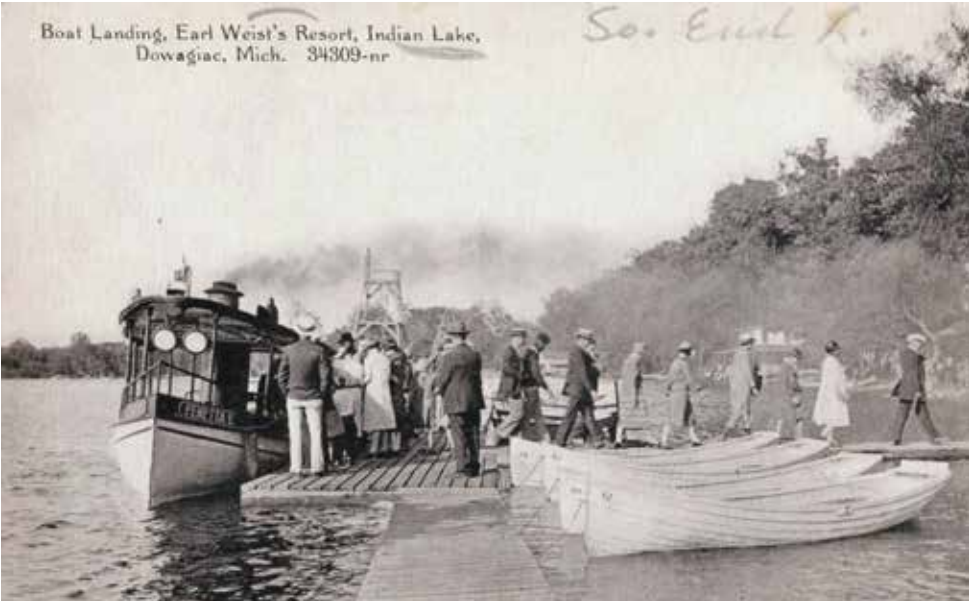
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# Historic Postcards





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# Local History

## Rare photo Cassopolis circa 1920-22

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

This month I'd like to feature a photo showing the buildings that were located along the east side of North Broadway Street, Cassopolis, north of the Cass County Courthouse and south of the livery barn, prior to about 1925.

The photo featured above was taken sometime between 1920-1922 by Melissa Blanche Graham Harrison Kemp (1884-1972), grandmother of the late Keith Harrison (1950-2023) of Cassopolis.

Very few photos exist of the businesses north of the courthouse and south of the livery barn which is the reason I chose to feature this photo. Shortly after this photo was taken, by 1925, the two buildings on the right were either moved off of the sites or torn down to make way for a new "modern" garage. We know this because the buildings in the photo were not shown on the 1925 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map and in their place was a brick garage. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Company mapped hundreds of villages and cities in the US to assess fire risk. These maps were published roughly every ten years, from the 1880s until the 1930s.

They were however shown on the previous Sanborn Map of 1909. Melissa Kemp also wrote in her notes that this photo and others of Cassopolis were taken in the early 1920s. She took two photos of the lakefront park prior to the construction of the 1923 pioneer log cabin. Putting these facts together and assuming all of Kemp's photos of



*East side of North Broadway Street, Cassopolis. Standing from approximately 145 North Broadway where the Local History Branch of the Cass District Library is located today. Photo by Melissa Blanche (Graham) Harrison circa 1920-1922.*

Cassopolis were taken during the same year (I believe they were), dating this photo to approximately 1920-1922.

The building on the left hand side in the photograph is believed to be the first store occupied by Charles E. Voorhis, noted 19th - Early 20th Century Cassopolis grocer. Several later photographs exist showing his store after he moved to the southeast part of Broadway and State Streets. Voorhis was born in Bradford, Pennsylvania on November 15, 1829 and came to Cassopolis with his wife, Emeline Crandall, in the autumn of 1851. He first worked as a laborer but soon peddled with hardware merchant Darius L. French. In 1862, Voorhis engaged in the grocery business. It is not known how long he worked out of the

Greek-revival building shown in the photo, for once source claims he and his partner, Charles Hartfeltner, bought out the Murray Baldwin building soon after starting up in the business, which stood on the opposite side of Broadway. In 1878 Voorhis moved his business to the southeast portion of Broadway and State and remained there until his death on August 11, 1910. The Greek-revival building probably had earlier (and certainly later) occupants and owners whose names have been lost to history.

The center building was for many years used as a blacksmith and harness making shop owned by Jordan P. Osborn (1823-1902). At the time the photo was taken, we know it was still being used as a blacksmith shop, because it says so on

the sign. Jordan P. Osborn was born in Economy, Wayne County, Indiana on August 6, 1823. His father was Rev. Charles Osborn who published the first anti-slavery newspaper in the United States. Jordan P. came to Cass County in 1842 and for a short time worked in Brownsville before coming to Cassopolis, where he resided until his death on June 19, 1902.

The brick building shown on the right with the automobiles in front likely housed a restaurant, and perhaps a boarding house, at the time this photograph was taken. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of 1909 show the building used as such, but earlier maps show that the building was used as a bakery (1892) and a barber shop (1884).

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# Nature Notes

## Frogs and turtles and snakes, oh my!

Provided by Cass District Library  
Local History branch

**P**eg Pinkowski of Baroda Township captured images of a male bullfrog on May 22, as it traversed its way across her yard. The American bullfrog is the largest of the frogs in North America, adult males average 8 inches in length.

The original range of the bullfrog covered most of the eastern US and southern Canada, but it has been successfully introduced in western North America, as well as Hawaii, Japan, parts of Europe and Southeast Asia.

The bullfrog is found throughout Michigan, including its offshore islands, with the exception of Isle Royale. The bullfrog is more plentiful in wetlands away from urban and suburban areas and is more plentiful in Southwestern Michigan rather than in Southeastern Michigan around Detroit.

Bullfrog tadpoles eat aquatic plants, but adult frogs are opportunists and will eat a wide variety of things including small mammals such as mice or bats, snakes, other frogs, small snakes, small birds, crayfish, fish, etc.

In Southwest Michigan, bullfrogs emerge from hibernation during the late spring when temperatures have reached the upper 70s or low 80s. Males primarily vocalize at night and their distinctive bass tone call sounds as though they are saying "jug-o-rummm," or "more-rum."

Bullfrogs and other species of frogs and toads in addition to other species of amphibians have declined over much of their native range, including in Southwest Michigan. Habitat loss caused by wetland drainage is one factor, but also the introduction of pesticides and herbicides into the ecosystem is another. Climate change has played a role in the reduction of amphibian populations.

Alan Burchett of Bainbridge Township photographed a female common snapping turtle on June 3, as she deposited eggs into a nest near Mill Creek. Female snapping turtles may travel up to three-quarters of a mile or more from water in order to find suitable ground on which to dig a nest. A snapping turtle nest is dug solely by the female, by using her hind feet. The female may start to dig, then abandon several holes before digging the final nest.

On average the female snapping turtle lays 40 eggs in one nest, although some females have been known to lay over 100 eggs in a nest. If the weather is



*Above: Male bullfrog, May 22, 2023, Baroda Twp, Peg Pinkowski. The bullfrog is the largest frog species in North America, it is still common in Southwest Michigan.*



*Right: Young black rat snake on the house of Mary Sweet, May 24, as it climbs the side of her house.*



*Left: Female common snapping turtle depositing eggs into a nest, June 3, 2023, Bainbridge Township. Photo by Alan Burchett.*



*Right: Adult black rat snake on May 7 in the yard of Mary Sweet, May 7, Bainbridge Township. Adult black rat snakes have black scales on the back and sides while the belly is white.*

generally warm and dry, the eggs will hatch after 65 to 95 days.

Mary Sweet of Bainbridge Township sent several photos of at least three black rat snakes in recent weeks. Two of the black rat snakes are adults as told by their black scales, and the other was of a young individual, as told by its overall tan color with brown blotching. Black rat snakes are the largest snake in Michigan, some adults reach 6 to 8 feet in length. The species is a constrictor meaning it squeezes its prey to death before consum-

ing it whole. It often raids squirrel and bird nests high up in the forest canopy. The black rat snake is non-venomous and

is a good climber. The southern half of Michigan's Lower Peninsula is the northern range limit of the black rat snake.

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## Finally it's here ... happy summer everyone!



ver the course of my life I have often dreaded the changing of seasons. When I was a young man (was I ever young?), the seasonal fluctuation was something I just had accept. Just like homework, taking out the trash, cleaning up after the dog and eating at least three butter

beans (even if they made me gag), I didn't get a vote. Not only that, but when it came to those sorts of "givens," my opinion didn't count (suck it up, buttercup), and however trite and overused the expression might be, nobody would listen even if I complained.

I remember (barely) back when I was in elementary school how much I dreaded the change of seasons, especially the end of summer and the arrival of autumn.

Autumn meant no more playing baseball until dark with the gang; no more riding my bike to the public pool; no more hanging out on my grandparents pier with a can-full of worms and an old fishing pole with a broken tip; no more fireflies flitting and blinking in a jar with holes poked in the top and half full of grass (I don't remember why we put grass in the jar, but in the kingdom of kid summer, it was mandatory).

Most of my great memories of being young were summer memories, and a lot of my least favorite memories of my childhood involved autumn and winter.

Once autumn arrived, I was done sleeping until the morning sun roused me. Once autumn arrived the whole ungodly ritual of shopping for school clothes would start, with mom trying her best to convince me that my favorite grass-stained blue jeans (the ones with the patches at the knees ragged and shredded) were not appropriate to wear to school. Once autumn arrived, the thought of time off (Christmas break and spring break and the end of the school year when summer would come again) was the only thing that kept me from packing my treasures into a bandanna, tying it to a stick and slinging it over my shoulder as I ran off to hop a freight train or join the circus.

It wasn't that I hated autumn, I hated what it represented. The start of the dreaded school year.

When school started the whole routine changed,

and I was expected to jump out of bed when the alarm went off (in our house there just wasn't a "snooze" option), get through the bathroom quickly (always a difficult thing to accomplish when you live with four other people in a one-bathroom house), dress, eat breakfast (bacon and eggs please mom), gather my books (oh my God I never finished my homework last night), hop on my busted up old JC Higgins bike and pedal to school before the 8:10 bell rang and I was late ... again.

Then for the rest of the day (days back then were least 45 hours long), some dowdy, middle-aged (or older) teacher would commence the droning and the monotony and the ridiculous waste of time (I mean, why would I ever need to know how to conjugate verbs or find the area of a rectangle?) until I thought I was going to die ... but thank the heavens, my primary-school purgatory was at least punctuated by one or two too-short breaks for things like lunch (don't even get me started on how the lunch ladies could always somehow manage to screw up a hot dog and a chocolate chip cookie), recess (my favorite class, usually involving Wiffleball or a frenzied game of football with one of those tiny, non window-breaking plastic toys), and the daily mandatory class migration to the washroom (so that old peanut-butter pants Larry could do his thing).

Other than that, I spent autumn watching the clock, an ancient, glass-covered relic that hung over the door in Mrs. Flack's third-grade classroom and ticked away the minutes in a most disturbing fashion, mechanically (and audibly) clicking backward half a minute before finally moving to the next minute, on and on until at long last 3:15 would finally tick into place and the bell would ring and we would be free to rush the doors like a hoard of invading huns, hop our bikes and pedal home for a quick treat before chores, and then if we could convince mom we really didn't have homework today, finally we'd round up the gang to share our horror stories of the school day and see what kind of mischief we might be able to get into before supper.

As bad as autumn was in kid world, winter was worse. Winter meant cheap, leaky black rubber Ball Band boots with those horrid articulated latches that wouldn't stay latched, gloves (or worse, mittens) with holes that let in the snow and cold until your fingers

turned purple and mom would make you run tepid water over them so you wouldn't get frostbite. Then there were those awful flannel-lined blue jeans and the rancid-smelling sweater grandma gave my older brother two years ago, and the doofus hat with the ear flaps that folded down, and the 40 pound canvas coat with the zipper that kept separating and the ripped pockets, and is this winter ever going to end and why is it gloomy all the time and why does have to it get dark before supper?

When spring would finally start to arrive, even though it would just tease us at first with a day here and there when the icicles would start to drip and the piles of snow beside the sidewalks and the streets would begin to shrink, and we began to start thinking about how we would spend our time, knowing that we'd be back outside with the gang soon instead of watching cowboy shows or mom and dad's stupid variety shows every evening. Spring meant school would be out soon and opening day was coming and fish were waiting and this year we're going to crush that cheesy baseball team from over on Victoria Street even if they do have two high school players on their team.

Spring meant hope. Spring meant the future ... and the future was summer, glorious summer ... with baseball and bikes and fishing and Dreamsicles and watermelon and corn on the cob and picking tomatoes out of Mrs. Billisits' garden and eating them like apples while we were running away with her chasing after us.

Back then summer didn't really arrive until almost July, but by the Fourth of July when the corn was knee high and everyone in the gang had burns from the cheap sparklers and lady-finger firecrackers, life was back to normal ... no, life was back to good ... again.

Looking back, I guess it wasn't so much the change of seasons that I dreaded, it was how much that change diminished my inherent right to the joys of youth. And looking back at all the years of punching a clock and paying the mortgage and all the other unpleasant parts of being a responsible adult, I would be willing to trade almost anything for one more summer as a kid.

Now summer has finally arrived, even though I'm in the autumn of my years, I'm going to do my best to enjoy it while I still can ... Happy summer everyone!



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