

Neighbors

NOW IN OUR 20TH YEAR

MAY 2023

FREE — Take one

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)

Inside this month

Regional News	Page 2, 3
Regional Events	Page 4
Field Trip.....	Pages 9-11
Floyd's Postcards.....	Pages 12-14
The Last Word.....	Page 19

Neighbors is published monthly from March through November.

To contact Neighbors

(269) 228-1080
(269) 476-1680

www.cassneighbors.com
sailorphil@philvitale.com
Brazilstein@gmail.com



Post Office: Please deliver as soon as possible!

Cass Co. Neighbors
21308 Sail Bay Dr.
Cassopolis, MI 49031

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Milford, IN
Permit No. 2

Field Trip: Shedd Aquarium Chicago

Pages 9-11

Regional News

Dowagiac area events

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

Memorial Day Parade, May 29, 10:30 am - Noon

Music in the Park, June 1, 7:30pm - 8:30 pm

Dowagiac Farm & Artisan Market June 3, - October 14, 9 am - 2 pm

Dowagiac Home & Garden Tour, June 24, 9 am

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:

Jeeves in Bloom on June 2 - 11 , adapted by Margaret Raether - The nearly perfect valet Jeeves and his comically flawed employer Bertie Wooster get entangled in comic situations both romantic and financial.

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 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. 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, will run from May 16 through Aug. 20. The second will highlight special buildings, including structures on the state and/or



On April 17 the Cass/Van Chamber of Commerce presented a check to the Cassopolis RoboRangers to support their competition in FIRST Robotics, a global robotics community preparing young people for the future. The presentation took place in the RoboRangers shop located in Ross Beatty High School. Pictured from the Cass/Van Chamber are members Eugene Wagner of Wagner Family Funerals and Jeff Nelson of Bolt Laserworks. The Cassopolis RoboRangers Team 4325 was formed 12 years ago and was the first team in Cass County. In that short time they have qualified for State competition 5 times, including 2023 and the World Competition twice. They have won a total of 17 awards. They are a community-funded, mentor-based program. To learn more visit www.RoboRangers.org. To make a donation send a check payable to Cassopolis Schools – Robotics to Ross Beatty High School, 22721 Diamond Cove St., Cassopolis, MI 49031.

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

CASSOPOLIS, MI
269.233.2222
pierperfection.com

EASY LEVEL™
SYSTEM
ON LIFTS

EASY LEVEL™
SYSTEM
ON DOCKS

Regional News

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 architectural exhibits will be complemented by an evening lecture on June 15 by Edwardsburg Native and Architect Tony Leininger.

The museum is open from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays from mid-May to mid-December each year.

Edwardsburg Historical Museum Speakers announced

Tony Leininger, 7 pm, June 15

Architecture in rural areas often has been labeled 'vernacular,' meaning that it combined defined architectural styles with what was functional and locally available in terms of materials. That will be the focal point of a June presentation by Tony Leininger, who grew up in Edwardsburg and, because of needed additional space, recently based his business in Niles.

Leininger was reared on Eagle Lake, where he watched the construction of his family's home, and which, he says,

instilled in him 'my love for architecture.'

An Edwardsburg High School graduate, he received his bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Cincinnati in 1985.

He founded the CARMI Design Group and has decades of architectural and engineering experience. He has designed and managed the construction of various projects throughout the Midwest. He has received numerous awards for his work.

His lecture will focus on the works that are on display and encourage those in attendance to be part of the dialogue. Because he says that he 'loves porches,' they will be included in his presentation.

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, 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.

He has been actively involved in mission work for Hope Church, serving in the states, as well as in the Caribbean Sea. He and Susan have reared six children and will share stories and recollections of their lives here.

Call/Text with any
Real Estate Needs

574-532-8001

jan@janlazzara.com

www.janlazzara.com



Top Agent Since 2007

Licensed in
IN and MI



Real Estate
Beyond Your
Expectations!!

Be Smart...Be Positive...But Most of All
Stay Safe ~ I'm here for you!

Expert in Luxury & Lake Real Estate

THE

Jan Lazzara



TEAM

RE/MAX 100 & by the Lake

Regional Calendar

Cassopolis Main Street Summer Band Lineup BEACH BASH @ STONE LAKE BEACH

(+ Food trucks, beer garden, kids area, kayak rentals, and fireworks!)

Friday June 2, 3-5, 7-8 DJ H2, 5-7 Starlord, 8-11 Blammo

Saturday June 3, 3-5, 7-8 DJ H2, 5-7 Zero, 8-11 Ultrafab

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 P.S. Dump Your Boyfriend

May 5, 6 - 62ND ANNUAL MLSA CONFERENCE

Protecting and Restoring Michigan's Lakes and Streams. Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville, MI. <https://mymlsa.org/mlsa-events/annual-conference-2023/>

May 19 - Karaoke, 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

May 19, 20 -SPRING VINTAGE, ANTIQUE, AND CRAFT MARKET, Michiana Event Center, 455 East Farver Street, Shipshewana, IN, <https://www.michianaevents.com/event/spring-vintage-antique-and-craft-show>

May 27 - The music of Lennon & McCartney, 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

June 9 - Lip sync contest, 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

June 10 - Kalita - master of magic & escape, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

June 17 - Lip sync contest, 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

June 24 - Elton John, Billy Joel tribute, 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

June 30 - Karaoke + Contest (country music theme), 7 pm, Marketplace Theatre, 114 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, 235-9747

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

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

MAY 23 – Living off the Land, Pokagon Tribe – Dowagiac, tickets required, seating limited, Pokagon Community Center, 27043 Potawatomi Trail (on Daily Road), Dowagiac

JUNE 19 – Billieville, Ed Lowe Foundation - Ed Lowe Foundation complex, 58220 Decatur Road, Cassopolis. N

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 Society Business Meeting at 6:30 pm with lectures or tours beginning at 7 pm. Email – ccmihistoricalsociety@gmail.com

THE EDWARDSBURG HISTORICAL MUSEUM

May 19 through June 10 - Plants, reblooming daylilies and multi-colored peonies will be featured along with traditional perennials, patio and cemetery pots, and more flowers, including hostas, from the grounds of the Victorian-style Barber house on Section Street. More than 100 pots of zebra grass and daylilies for sale during museum hours

Memorial Day - Children’s carnival (for children under 10), 11:30 am - 2 pm, activities include ‘gone fishing,’ a duck pond, pick-a-pop, Velcro target, and a bean bag toss. Tickets are 4 for \$1.

June 21 - Hacienda Day fundraiser, Mishawaka Hacienda on Grape Road. Participants must produce a coupon (available at the museum) in advance of ordering a meal. The restaurant donates 20 percent of the proceeds to the museum. Coupons also can be presented that day for gift cards for later use.

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

Cub Cadet



SC 300 HW SELF-PROPELLED

- 159cc Cub Cadet® OHV
- 21" 3-N-1 Dec
- MySpeed Drive Contro

STARTING AT:
\$409*



XT2 LX46 LAWN TRACTOR

- 23 HP† Kohler 7000 H
- 46" Fabricated Dec
- Tuff Tor® Transmission

STARTING AT:
\$3,699*



XT3 ENDURO SERIES GARDEN TRACTORS

- 22.5-25 HP† engine
- 42" - 54" deck option
- Heavy-Duty Shaft Driv

STARTING AT:
\$5,299*



ZT1 42 ZERO-TURN RIDER

- 22 HP† Kohler 7000 V-Twi
- 42" Stamped Dec
- Premium Sea

STARTING AT:
\$3,699*



ZT1 54 ZERO-TURN RIDER

- 24 HP† Kohler 700
- 54" Fabricated Dec
- Hydro-Gear EZT 220

STARTING AT:
\$3,999*



ZT-2 ULTIMA SERIES ZERO-TURN RIDER

- Lap-Bar Steerin
- 50" - 60" deck option
- Hydro-Gear EZT 280

STARTING AT:
\$4,899*



ZTX4 SERIES ZERO-TURN RIDERS

- 23 - 24 HP† Kohler Engine
- 48" - 60" deck option
- Heavy-duty steel fram

STARTING AT:
\$7,214*



PRO Z 560 L KW COMMERCIAL ZERO-TURN Δ

- 27 HP†† Kawasaki FX850
- 60" Fabricated Dec
- 12cc Parker HTJ, ROP

STARTING AT:
\$13,319*

FOR FULL PRODUCT SPECS **Cub Cadet** VISIT CUBCADET.COM

Cass Outdoor Power Equipment

62101 M-62 South, Cassopolis, MI 49031 . 269-445-2231

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

EXCEPTIONAL FINANCING
OFFERS AVAILABLE!



Regional Calendar

Cemetery. Transportation will be provided from the museum. Tickets available in advance.

Cass District Library May Programs 2023

T'ai Chi with Alyse Knepple, Mason/Union Branch, Mondays at 11 am. Free introductory class, followed by four weekly classes which cost \$40.

DAR Information Night, Edwardsburg Branch, May 2 - 6 pm

LEGO @ The Library, Edwardsburg Branch, May 6, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, Ages 5-17 welcome

Mother's Day Card Workshop, Mason/Union Branch, Week of May 8, create a floral card. Supplies will be provided.

Bird House and Feeder Take and Make Kits, Howard Branch, Week of May 8! Take and make kits are available while supplies last.

Mother's Day Photo and Frame, Main Branch, May 11: 5 - 6 pm. Stop by the Main Branch to have your picture taken and customize a frame for your photo.

Savage Readers Book Club, Main Branch, May 16 - 9 am, hosted by Cass District Library and Savage Bean Co.

Teen Henna Party - Registration and Payment Required, Edwardsburg Branch, May 16, 3:30 - 5:30 pm, Cost is \$5 per person. Call 269-487-9215 or stop by any branch to register.

Village Book Club, Edwardsburg Branch, May 18 - 5:30 pm. The Village Book Club will

meet every third Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm. This program is intended for adults.

Bird Button Art - Registration Required, Edwardsburg Branch, May 23 - 5:30 pm. Call 269-487-9215 or visit any branch to register.

DIY Welcome Sign, Howard Branch, May 25 - 6 pm. Space is limited, registration required. Cost is \$10 per person. Call 269-487-9214 or stop by any branch to register.

Dowagiac District Library

May 4 - Make & Share Cookbook Club, 5:15 - 6:30 pm, to reserve, call the library or email Erin at dowagiaclibrarystaff@gmail.com

May 4 - Story Squad, 5:30 - 6:30 pm, for children 6-9 Parents and younger children will be asked to enjoy other areas during this time.

May 8 - Computer & Tech Help, 10 am - noon

May 9 - Preschool Story Time, 10:30 - 11:30 am, geared toward children 3-5 years old.

May 9 - Read &Share Book Group- the Chocolate Chip Cookie Mystery by Joanne Fluke, 1 - 2: pm. To sign up email dowagiaclibrarystaff@gmail.com

May 10 - Sharon Emery- Author Talk & Book Signing, 6 - 7 pm, Please sign up at the front desk, or call 269-782-3826. Space is limited. This is a free event for the public.

May 11 - Story Squad, 5:30 - 6:30 pm, for children 6-9

May 13 - Saturday Story Time, 10:30 - 11:30 am

May 15 - Computer & Tech Help, 10 am - noon

May 16 - Preschool Story Time, 10:30 - 11:30 am. for children 3-5 years old.

May 16 - Teen Tuesday: Arts & Crafts, 3 - 4 pm in the Pokagon Room on the second level of the library.

May 18 - Story Squad, 5:30 - 6:30 pm for children 6-9

May 22 - Computer & Tech Help, 10 am - noon.

May 22 - OMG Book Club for Tweens, 3 - 4 pm, for tweens 9-12 years old.

May 23 - Preschool Story Time, 10:30 - 11:30 am, for children 3-5 years old.

May 23 - Teen Tuesday: Board Game Day, 3 -4 pm, for teens 6th through 12th grade in the Pokagon Room on the second level of the library.

May 25 - Story Squad, 5:30 - 6:30 pm, for children 6-9 t.

May 27 - Saturday Story Time, 10:30 - 11:30 am.

May 30 - Preschool Story Time, 10:30 - 11:30 am, geared toward children 3-5 years old.

May 30 - The Prince by Niccolo Machiavelli, 5 - 6:00 pm. To sign up, email Matt

Weston at mweston@dowagiacdl.org

June 6 - Computer & Tech Help, 10 - 22 am

June 27 - One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey, 5 - 6 pm. To sign up, email Matt Weston at mweston@dowagiacdl.org

July 25 - The Taming of the Shrew by William Shakespeare, 5 - 6 pm. To sign up, email Matt Weston at mweston@dowagiacdl.org

PENN TOWNSHIP

SPORT COURT PARK GRAND OPENING

&

FIRE DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY

OPEN HOUSE/FUNDRAISER

GAMES, PRIZES, AND MORE!

LUNCH PROVIDED BY FIRE DEPARTMENT (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST, DONATION ONLY)

10:00AM-2:00PM

Saturday, June 3, 2023

60717 S MAIN ST, VANDALIA

SEE PENNTWP.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION, AND TO SEE A LIST OF OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!

KRUPPS

POWERSPORTS

CALL OR TEXT US 269.663.8424 • 70440 M-62 EDWARDSBURG, MI 49112

SEA-DOO ski-doo can-am MANITOU VIAGGIO

CALL TODAY FOR NON-CURRENT SPECIALS!

Business & Finance

Planning to grow and controlling how we grow

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

We all know “April showers bring May flowers.” While the flowers don’t get to choose when the rain happens, where they grow, how many flowers will surround them or who will benefit from their beauty, we, as people, do. We have control of how we grow.

Growth doesn’t always come naturally or without planning. Being intentional in our thoughts and actions will lead us in the right direction. Creating a growth plan for yourself will help you get where you want to be, whether it’s financially, personally, or a bit of both. Starting your growth isn’t black and white. Your plan means you need to be aware of areas you need to grow.

First, think of current areas you are effective in, and do you want to expand on those or focus on areas you are weaker? Choose where you want to grow from this list and focus on one goal at a time. The next part is key because I think we all identify areas we know are weaknesses or where we want to improve. This can be overwhelming because there is infinite ways we could tackle these issues. Some are at no cost financially and others may take some budget adjustments.

That second step is figuring out how you want to grow - taking a class, getting a mentor, becoming a member of an organization, listening to podcasts, or reading books. Personally, I like to start on my

own and read or self-study a subject before jumping in completely. I also utilize lists. Being a little old school, I prefer a written list, but I am expanding my lists to the digital world. Making a list helps me stay on task and my goals seem less overwhelming because they are broken down. Plus, I enjoy crossing things off. I can see progress and the end goal in sight at the same time.

Finally, keeping that goal of growth in sight will help you achieve it. Some people keep a white board or make a picture collage as a visual reminder. My youngest spent his final high school years

during Covid. He transitioned to online learning and struggled, as many did.

What we both learned from this is that he is a learner that needs to see his goals in front of him. While taking an online class or doing the work from it, he could see no end in sight and easily lost track of the goal. With the help of some great teachers, they put together some physical homework packets and we had a pick-up/drop-off area. He would whip

through the homework packets because he could see his goal and what it was going to take to achieve it.

In the end, we have choices, and it is never too late to start growing. We can go through life like the flower- waiting for everything to happen to us. Or we can utilize our skills and abilities, improve in our area of choice, and surround ourselves with people who will help us grow.

Pasture-Raised Pork - Great Lakes Fish

JAKE'S COUNTRY MEATS

SIXTH GENERATION FAMILY FARM

55721 Decatur Road, Cassopolis, MI
269.445.3020 | jakescountrymeats.com

Pork You Can Trust and Wild-Caught Great Lakes Fish

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.

ASPCA

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

THE TIME IS NOW

Starboard Choice

M A R I N E

CAYMAS

BOATS

68502 Dailey Road - Edwardsburg, MI 49112
269-414-4351 - www.stbcm.com

We Know Insurance.
You Know Us.
Let's Talk.

Patti Badner
Account Executive

Knowing is...a Strong Foundation

Ask us about:

- Personal & Business Insurance
- Health Insurance
- Auto Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Bonds

Auto-Owners
INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

Kemner Iott Benz

269-445-2425 | 800-228-7855 | kemneriottbenz.com

For the Table

Cooking for mom

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

There are many ways to make mom feel special this Mother's Day. A potted plant, a spa gift certificate, or a luxurious piece of jewelry would all be terrific choices. But what moms really want is a day off. So let her put her feet up and sip her favorite drink while the family cooks up this impressive menu.



Shrimp Fettuccine
Lemony Shrimp Fettuccine is the perfect extravagance to celebrate mom. While this dish tastes as if you toiled all day, it is actually fast and easy to prepare. The addition of wine, shallot, and lemon brightens the traditional Alfredo sauce. Perfectly cooked shrimp are perched atop a bed of pasta bathed in a creamy, cheesy, garlicky, and lemony sauce.

Ingredients:
1 pound fettuccine noodles
1 pound large shrimp, peeled and deveined
1 large shallot, finely minced
1 clove of garlic, finely minced
2 tbsp. butter, unsalted
½ cup dry white wine
2 cups heavy cream (or whipping cream)
Zest and juice of one lemon
1 cup grated Parmesan cheese, plus more for grating over the top
1 cup of reserved pasta cooking water
1-2 tbsp. Olive oil to sauté the shrimp
Salt and pepper to taste

Instructions:
First cook your pasta in a large pot of boiling salted water. Cook about 2 minutes less than suggested on the package, as the pasta will finish cooking in the sauce. Reserve 1 cup of the water that the pasta cooked in.
While the pasta cooks, heat a tablespoon of oil in a non-stick pan over medium-high heat. Season your shrimp with salt and pepper and cook until they are opaque. This will take about 4-5 minutes. Depending on the size of your pan, you may need to do this in two batches. Remove them from the pan and reserve while you make the sauce.
Add two tablespoons of butter to the pan and add the shallots, cook them until they are softened about 3 minutes. Next add the garlic and cook for a couple of minutes. Now add ½ cup of white wine and cook until it is reduced by half. Now pour in the cream and allow the cream and wine mixture to simmer on medium heat for about 5 minutes. Stir in the

cheese, lemon zest, and lemon juice; then check for seasoning. Add salt and pepper if needed, remember you will probably add in some of the pasta water to thin the sauce and it has salt. Now add the noodles and mix. I like to use my tongs for this part of the job. Add pasta water as needed to create a smooth sauce. Add in the reserved shrimp. I always seem to need at least half a cup of pasta water to get a silky sauce. Serve with a sprinkle of chopped flat leaf parsley and a bit more grated cheese. Serve and eat immediately. This dish does not really warm well, but if you need to warm-up, add a couple tablespoons of water and/or cream and heat gently.

Panzanella Salad
Panzanella salad is a rustic Tuscan salad, when translated, means bread salad. Italian peasants created this dish as a way to use up their stale bread. Different from the usual lettuce salad, vegetables are used to flavor the star of the salad, which is the bread. This version uses tomatoes, red onion, arugula, and basil. Promise me that you will not forget the basil!

Ingredients:
3 cups of cubed French or other hearty bread
2 Tbsp of olive oil
Sprinkle of kosher salt
Sprinkle of garlic powder
1 cup of cherry tomatoes, cut in half
½ red onion, thinly sliced
1 ½ cup baby arugula
4-6 thinly sliced basil leaves
White balsamic dressing, or vinaigrette of your choice*

Instructions:
Mix tomatoes, onion, and basil in a large salad bowl, mix with 3 Tbs of your dressing and allow to marinate while your bread toasts. To make the bread croutons, toss the cubed bread with olive oil, garlic powder, and salt. Spread on a foil lined sheet pan and toast in a 350 degree oven for about 8-10 minutes. Remove from the oven and allow to cool slightly. Add arugula and toasted bread to the marinating vegetables and toss to combine. Add more dressing a tablespoon at a time if needed. Sprinkle with kosher salt and freshly ground pepper as desired.

*I prefer a slightly sweet vinaigrette here. My favorite is Briana's Homestyle Blush Wine Vinaigrette.

Banana Pudding Cheesecake
This no-bake cheesecake is the perfect warm weather dessert. Freshly sliced bananas and vanilla wafers combine to create a light and not-to-sweet treat. Follow the exact ingredient list and instructions to ensure the cheesecake sets up perfectly.

Ingredients
Crust:
2 cups of vanilla wafer cookie crumbs
3 Tbsp granulated sugar
½ cup melted butter

Cheesecake filling:
3-8 ounce blocks of cream cheese at room temperature (full fat, not light or spread)
1 —jar of marshmallow fluff
½ cup sour cream (full fat, not light)
1 container of whipped topping, such as cool-whip
1 cup powdered sugar
2 tsp vanilla
4 large bananas sliced



Sprinkle of ground cinnamon, optional

Instructions:
To prepare the crust, combine the cookie crumbs, sugar, and butter. Pour into a 9 inch springform pan and pack the crumbs together tightly. I use a measuring cup to pack the crumbs on the bottom and up the sides of the pan. If you do not have a springform pan, a 9 X 12 pan would also work. Place in a 350 degree oven for 10 minutes. Cool the crust completely before adding the filling.
After the crust is cool, layer the sliced bananas on the baked crust. If desired, sprinkle ground cinnamon very lightly over the bananas. You should have enough for a double layer of bananas. Next using a hand-held mixer or a stand mixer with the whisk attachment, beat the cream cheese until smooth. It is critical that the cream cheese is at room temperature, otherwise you may get lumps in

the filling. Next, mix in the marshmallow fluff, powdered sugar, sour cream, and vanilla. Beat until combined and fluffy, scraping the sides of the bowl as needed.
Finally, fold in the prepared whipped topping, carefully as to not deflate the airy filling. Pour the filling into the crust and smooth the top. Refrigerate for at least 4 hours to ensure the filling is set. To cut, dip your sharp knife in cold water to ensure clean slices. Garnish with more sliced bananas, whipped cream, and a vanilla wafer. Keep refrigerated for up to two days.
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.



Our Children

Heading off the summer slide

by **SANDY FLEMING**

You probably have noticed that classes usually begin in the fall with a review. Lately it seems like this review period has lengthened from the two weeks or so that you recall to four and sometimes even six weeks! What is going on? The simple answer is that studies since 1996 have shown that kids lose a substantial percentage of their learning in both reading and math after the long summer break. Things have gotten even worse since Covid. The problem is more pronounced for younger kids, too. One study cited by Scholastic from 2022 showed that elementary kids lost 20 percent of their reading skills and 27 percent of their math skills over that summer. That is around a quarter of their progress!

It's like taking four steps forward, then taking a step backward. In other words, it really slows things down. It also makes it really hard for students to be successful, especially during the first few weeks of the school year. For many, it leads to a shaky foundation of skills moving forward, which makes it even harder to learn what is needed at their new grade level. That sets up a cycle of failure that can persist for years or even for the rest of their lives.

So is your child at risk? The answer is probably "yes." Kids who are in elementary school are most at risk, because they are learning crucial skills that form the foundation for all other learning, like the basics of reading, writing, and math. The research also shows that children from low income families are also at risk for summer slide. In fact, family income is a valid predictor of who will be successful in high school and beyond. So if your kids fall into either of these categories (or both!), parents need to be as proactive as possible. Take action this summer to minimize the summer slide, and help your child increase school success for years to come!

What can you do this summer? Glad you asked! Here are some easy and practical ideas. Mostly, it just takes keeping brains active. Since this may not be your student's preferred activity, you might need to classify it as a "chore" or something that they need to do before enjoying free time. It's important, though! Just as seeing to personal hygiene and learning to care for a home are important, parents may need to enforce actively using skills and brain power until children mature enough to realize the importance on their own.

Reading

- Summer reading should be high on everyone's list. No matter what age, stage, or point in their school career, be sure your kids are spending some time reading books and other materials that will challenge their thinking skills. Allow as much choice as you can, and make sure at least some of the reading materials are at a level your child can read on their own. Read aloud to your kids as much as you can, too. You can read books and articles that are beyond their independent comprehension range. Reading aloud also offers you opportunities to discuss the material and get them to voice their thoughts and understandings.
- Participate in a summer reading program. These will offer some structure and goals that are tough to match on your own. Your local library will have a good one, and there are a few based out of other organizations or online. Check your favorite book store, or do an Internet search for age-appropriate reading programs. These often have built-in motivational pieces or



even prizes, so kids will feel they are "getting something" out of it, too.

- Let them see you reading! Often, there are companion adult programs you can participate in. Your example is crucial, though, and they need to see that adults read without being forced. Reading is supposed to be fun and educational, so let them see you using the skill regularly to fill some leisure time or to accomplish your personal goals.
- Be sure they are responding to at least some of the books they read. This can be simply telling you about the story or content, or it can be some sort of physical response, like a publicity poster or a book review. It's important that they take in the information and use it in some fashion.
- Have them read to learn new things, like find new dessert recipes or learn a new game or skill. Be sure the learning sticks by having them use the skill or teach the process to others.

Writing

- Writing is important, too, and it's often overlooked in the summer months. You might want to have kids keep a journal about great things that happen or how they are feeling several times each week.
- Have them write (really write!) letters to distant friends or relatives.
- Have kids write down directions or instructions to get something done that they want done.
- Play games and do puzzles. Grab an age-appropriate book of word puzzles for them to do (crosswords, word searches, secret codes and the like). Play Mad Libs or fill-in stories.
- Play spelling games like hangman, Boggle, Scrabble, and so forth. These will build spelling skills.
- Have the kids write messages in secret codes.

Math

- Let the kids see you using math in day to day life. This can be anything from using money, making budgets, and calculating change to managing your bank account or credit cards. Pull back the curtain and think out loud as you calculate elapsed time or the mileage your car is getting, or how long it will take you to get to your destination.
- Give them a fictitious project (like planning a party or redecorating a room) with a budget, and have them figure out how to purchase needed supplies and other items.
- Solve math puzzles and riddles.
- Use the Internet to find age-appropriate math worksheets to do from time to time.
- Have a measurement scavenger hunt where you have them find items that match a list of sizes.
- Cook together. Practice halving, doubling, and tripling recipes. Play with the

measuring cups to learn about equivalent fractions.

- Use colored candies, cereal pieces, or small building toys where different pieces come in different colors. Use sets of each color to compare set sizes, make fractions, create ratios, and calculate percentages.
- Make scale drawings of rooms or yard. Use these as the basis for treasure maps.
- Go on a shape hunt. Find 2-D shapes like squares, circles, triangles, and rectangles with younger kids. Find 3-D shapes like spheres, cylinders, and cubes with older kids. Middle and high schoolers can use shape vocabulary to describe cross sections of real-world items, and try to calculate perimeter, area, and volume.
- Use the summer months to make sure those math facts are memorized!! This is

the single biggest math thing you can do to help your student be successful in math. Young kids (Gr. K-3) should be getting fluent with addition and subtraction (without counting on fingers), and older kids should be getting good with multiplication and then division. Double check to make sure your middle school and high school students STILL know them...it's easy to get rusty when relying on a calculator.

- Count money and make change every chance you get.

And Important but Tough to Categorize

- Play board games and traditional card games. Play dominoes and checkers and chess. All of these things build reasoning, strategy, planning, and a host of other important skills that support learning.
- Plan and implement larger projects that take making supply lists and action plans.
- Set goals and then work to fulfill them.
- Do craft projects.
- Indulge in imaginative play.

It won't take much to keep kids' brains active this summer! Just make your plan now, and then stick to it!! You don't want grass to grow around thinking skills just because school is not in session. Set the examples and the expectations, and they will all be much better off when school starts again after vacation!

Sandy Fleming is a private tutor and author living in Edwardsburg. Check out her websites at <http://learningnook.com> and <http://sandyflemingonline.com> for fun learning ideas and suggestions for all ages.

O'Donnell's Docks LLC

Southwest Michigan's Premier Dock & Lift Headquarters



Serving you for over 25 years!

For an online quote, go to www.odonnellsdocks.com



12097 M-60 • Jones, MI
269-244-1446
info@odonnellsdocks.com

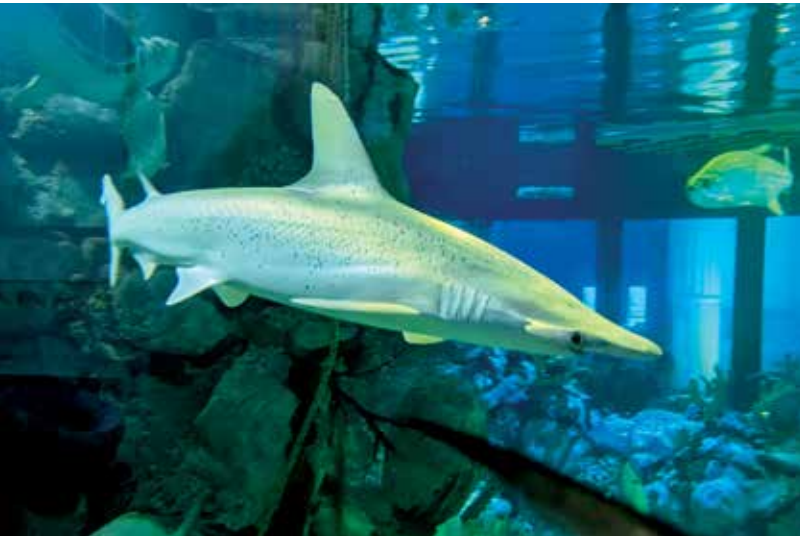
Authorized Dealer For:



Field Trip

The Shedd Aquarium

Chicago (on the waterfront)
<https://www.sheddaquarium.org/>





TIME ISN'T ALL YOU'LL SAVE.

With its heavy-duty construction, long service life and minimal maintenance, a Grasshopper zero-turn mower's timesaving performance is only the beginning. You'll enjoy lower operating costs, too.

GRASSHOPPER
IT'S SO MUCH MOWER®

ASK ABOUT **ZERO%** FINANCING*

Cass Outdoor Power Equipment
62101 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031
(269) 445-2231



*WAC. See store associate for details. © The Grasshopper Company



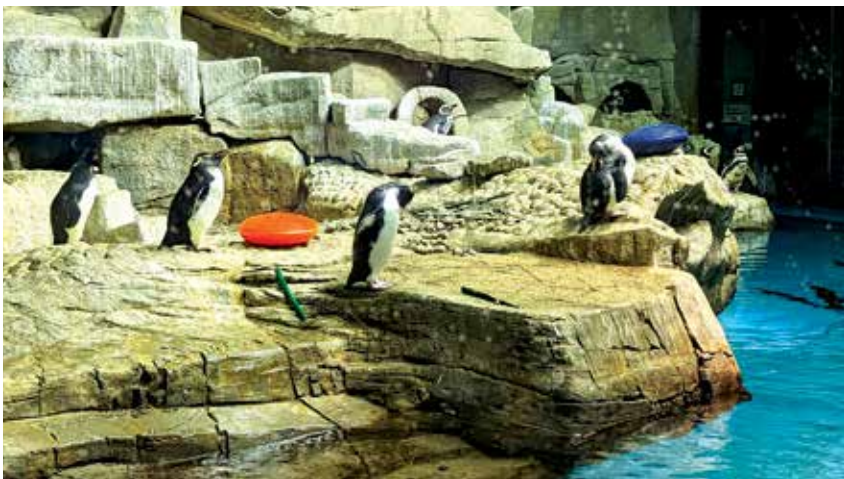
we protect your house.
because to you
it's home.

simple human sense.

Union Insurance Agency
Licensed in Michigan and Indiana
15479 US 12 Union, MI 49130
269-641-5995
ashley@unionins.net

Auto-Owners
INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

Field Trip



Your Summer Fun Center

THE ULTIMATE PACKAGE FOR LIFE ON THE SHORELINE

Enjoy life on the waterfront to the fullest with ShoreStation's complete line of remarkable dock, boat lifts, and canopy equipment. Transform the shoreline into your sanctuary of fun and relaxation with ShoreStation's Classic Dock, boasting seemingly limitless dock styles, layouts, and accessories. ShoreStation's reliably fast freestanding and permanent boat lifts make launching and lifting simple, while also protecting your investment. Three hundred sixty degrees of watercraft protection comes in the form of ShoreStation's REVOLUTION™ Series Canopy and ShoreScreen™ Power Curtain.

Elevate life on the water, experience the ShoreStation difference.

Visit Pier Perfection Inc. Today!
PierPerfection.com



ShoreStation®

PIER PERFECTION INC. • 1105 E. State St. • Cassopolis, MI • 269.233.2222 • PierPerfection.com

Field Trip





CASS COUNTY

Outpatient Therapy Services

CONTINUING COMMUNITY CARE

Our Outpatient Therapy Services offers OT (Occupational Therapy, PT (Physical Therapy) and ST (Speech Therapy).



269-445-3801

23770 Hospital St.
Cassopolis, MI 49031

www.ccmcf.org



Imperial Furniture

DOWAGIAC

Family Owned Since 1962



Furnishings for Your Home and Cottage

Living Room • Bedroom • Dining Room • Mattresses
Unique Accessories • Gifts & Home Décor

Mon.- Fri. 9am-5pm, Sat. 9am-3pm • 57530 M-51 South, Dowagiac MI
(800) 844-5020 • www.ImperialFurnitureDowagiac.com

NORTH STAR

Landscape Design & Installation

Invest in BEAUTY that GROWS!




Call Now to Schedule a **Free** Consultation!

866-445-9100


www.northstarlandscape.net

REALLY.
COMFORTABLE.

Mowing



With the industry's smoothest ride, most comfortable seat and an operator station designed to erase fatigue and help you stay productive, a Grasshopper zero-turn mower lets you relax and enjoy the ride.



IT'S SO MUCH MOWER®

ASK ABOUT **ZERO%** FINANCING*



Cass Outdoor
Power Equipment

62101 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031

(269) 445-2231

* WAC. See store associate for details. © The Grasshopper Company

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.

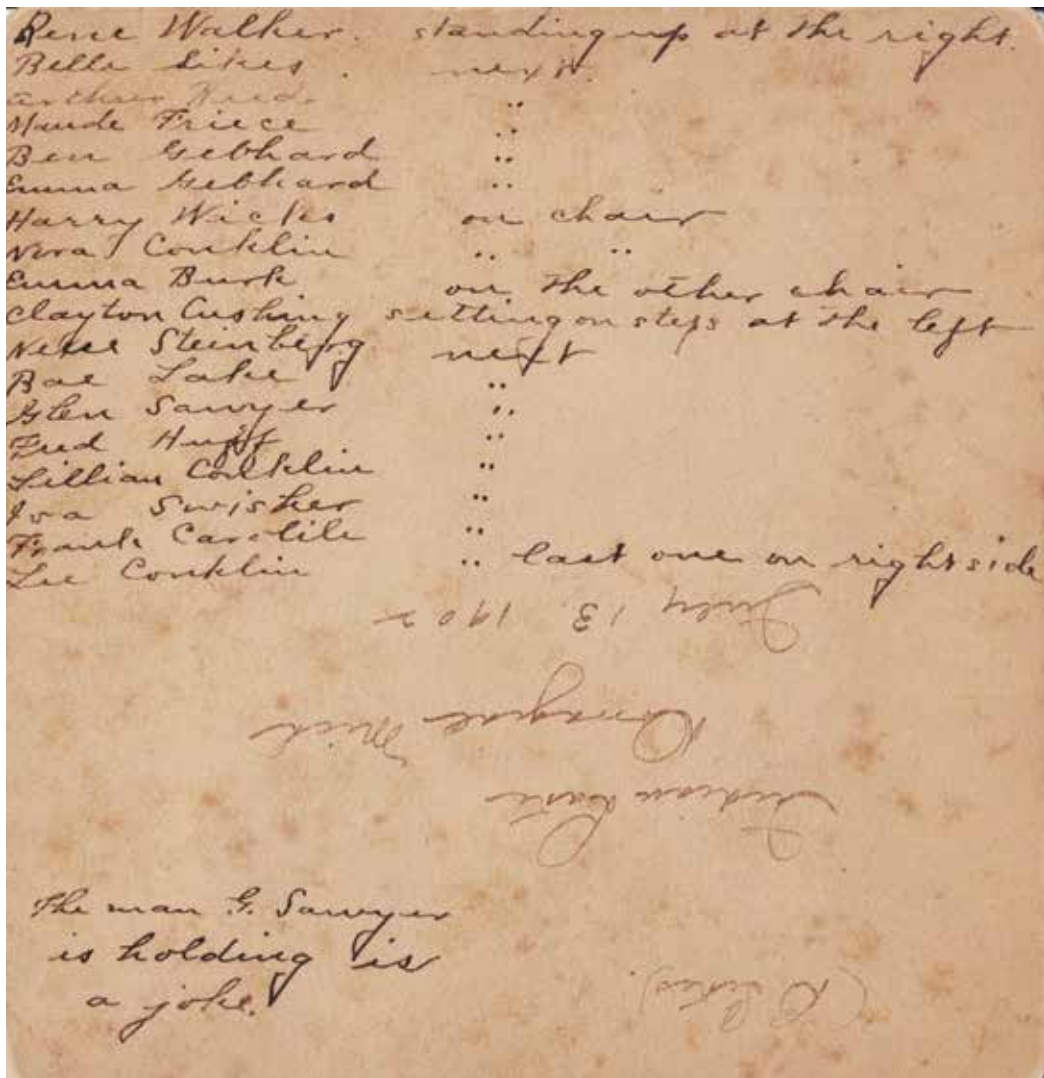
Jerdon has recently used many of his postcards featuring the Sister Lakes area in a book written by RL Rasmussen. The book, which retails for \$19.99, is in its second printing by the publisher, Arcadia Publishing.

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.arcadipublishing.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.



JERDON
REAL ESTATE, INC.
MYSTATEMLS
Floyd Jerdon & Tom Jerdon
(269) 782-4000 www.jerdon.net

ELK PARK LLC.
Feed Store
60559 Calvin Center Rd.
Vandalia, MI 49095
John Baker
Ph: (269) 476-1775
Cell (574) 333-6877
Hours of Operation
M-F 8AM to 6PM
Sat 8AM to 2 PM
Sun Closed

Harding's
Friendly Markets
Cassopolis, Michigan

Carter's Electric Motors
Service and Sales
Specializing in sprinkler pumps

63474 Union Rd.
Vandalia, MI
Ph: 476-2220
Cell: 506-6108

SUN & SHADE AWNING
Retractable Awnings for Decks & Patios
Sales • Service • Installation
269-244-5307
www.sunandshadeawning.com
12291 Bidelman Road • Three Rivers, MI

JL LANDSCAPING
For All Your Landscape Installation Needs
Jim Leach
59818 Decatur Road
Cassopolis, MI 49031
phone/fax: 269.445.2111
email: jl_landscaping@yahoo.com
jllandscaping.com
BOBCAT WORK
RETAINING WALLS
STONE & BLOCK
BRICK & FLAGSTONE PATIOS
SOD & SEEDING
CONCRETE LANDSCAPE EDGING
FIREWOOD
INSURED

INFINITY
HOME SERVICES LLC
Jim Merkle
269-259-1127 Jim@infinitymichiana.com
Home Watch, Property Checks
Home Management
Maintenance, Repairs
Small Projects
infinitymichiana.com

QUALITY
WINDOW TREATMENTS
Visit Us At:
www.qualitywindowtreatmentsin.com
574-243-4959
QWTMike@gmail.com Call or email for a free consultation!

Mroczek
SOD FARM
KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS
269-646-2009
DECATUR, MI
Big & Little Rolls www.mroczezsodfarm.com

Historic Postcards





Give Your Boat New Life

REPOWER NOW



APOLLO MARINE
South side of Gravel Lake
15355 96th Avenue, Lawton, Mi 49065
www.apollomarine.net
423-6011 1-888-996-BOAT
SALES • SERVICE • STORAGE

We serve all area lakes

We rent pontoon boats

SELLING / BUYING

SILVER BULLION **GOLD BULLION**



COINS, BARS & ROUNDS

FREE GIFT WITH BULLION PURCHASE



Hopman JEWELERS

100 N. Main St. | Elkhart, IN 46516
(574) 293-3632
www.hopmanjewelers.com

Historic Postcards





Diamond
Lake
Marina

Over 70 Years of Keeping
Residents on the Water

Hydraulic Atlas Lifts

Watercraft Rental

PWC Lifts

Watercraft Refurbishing

Watercraft Storage

Watercraft Repair

269-445-2191



MH
McGann Hay

FUNERALS | CREMATIONS | GATHERINGS
SINCE 1842

Granger Chapel

• Large Rooms • Children's Room
• Spacious Cafe/Lounge

574-232-1411
www.mcgannhay.com

"The perfect location between
Michigan and Indiana"

Local History

Early newspaper clippings discuss this area

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

Early pioneer newspaper chronicles area's early development. By Jonathan Wuepper, manager, Local History Branch, Cass District Library.

Published in the (then) village of South Bend, Indiana, the inaugural issue of the North West Pioneer and St. Joseph's Intelligencer ran off the printing press on November 16, 1831. The first issue is missing but subsequent issues, save two, published weekly from November 23, 1831-December 8, 1832; and March 30-August 24, 1833 are intact and are available on microfilm at the Cass District Library's Local History Branch in Cassopolis. The newspaper title was changed beginning with the May 23, 1832 issue to the St. Joseph's Beacon and Indiana & Michigan Intelligencer. Note that "St. Joseph's" in this case refers to the St. Joseph River valley, not the village at the mouth of the St. Joseph River, Berrien County, then called Newberryport.

It is an interesting side note that this South Bend pioneer newspaper was the first newspaper published between Ann Arbor, Michigan Territory, and Galena, Illinois (on the Mississippi River). It is also worth mentioning Chicago's first newspaper, the Chicago Democrat, would not appear off the press until November 26, 1833.

During the early 1830s Southwest Michigan and Northwest Indiana was

considered the frontier of America. It was in the best interests of the owner and editors of newspapers to promote settlers moving into Indiana and Michigan Territory. In 1832 the North West Pioneer ran descriptive essays on the counties in the St. Joseph River Valley to promote settlement. Here is the Cass County write-up from the St. Joseph's Beacon, September 22, 1832 issue:

In the issue dated July 11, 1832, we

Cass County—is not inferior to any in the Territory. Its general appearance is much the same as that of St. Joseph, but is better timbered, with oak, ash, elm, sugar, black and white walnut and hickory. This County includes within its boundaries, Four mile, Beardsley's, M'Kenney's, La Grange, Pokagon and Young's Prairies, besides many other smaller not known by any particular name.

Cassopolis—the seat of Justice for this county is well situated on the bank of clear Lake, and has improved very rapidly since it was laid out, containing two houses of pub-

see the first known obituary, or death notice ever published for someone from Cass County, Michigan. Lewis Cass Edwards, son of Colonel Thomas A.H. Edwards. The latter Edwards had the honor of having the village of Edwardsburg named after him in 1831.

DIED—In the village of Edwardsburg, Cass County, Michigan Territory, on Saturday Evening, June 30th LEWIS CASS, youngest son of COLONEL THOMAS A. H. EDWARDS, after a painful illness of 36 hours, aged 2 months and three weeks.— (COMMUNICATED.)

In the April 25, 1832 issue, it was reported that a new town had been laid out (platted) on the banks of the Elkhart River:

A NEW TOWN—By an advertisement, for a sale of lots, to be found in to-day's paper, our readers will perceive that another town has been 'laid out' in the St. Joseph country. It is called **ELKHART**, situated on the bank of the Great St. Joseph, at the mouth of Elkhart River, in the fertile and promising County of Elkhart, Ind. From the numerous villages which are daily assuming a proud stand among us, emigrants to this favored region cannot fail satisfying their expectations to their 'hearts content.'

To give one an idea of the area covered by this pioneer newspaper, one only has to look at the papers agent list, published weekly. How many places can you recognize? The "LaGrange" listed here is located in Cass County, Michigan Territory, not to be confused with LaGrange, Indiana. This list ran for sev-

eral weeks during the spring and summer of 1832. One village that is surprisingly absent from the list is Niles, Michigan Territory. Platted in 1829, Niles was a major stop on the Detroit to Chicago Road, not to mention an important port on the St. Joseph River.

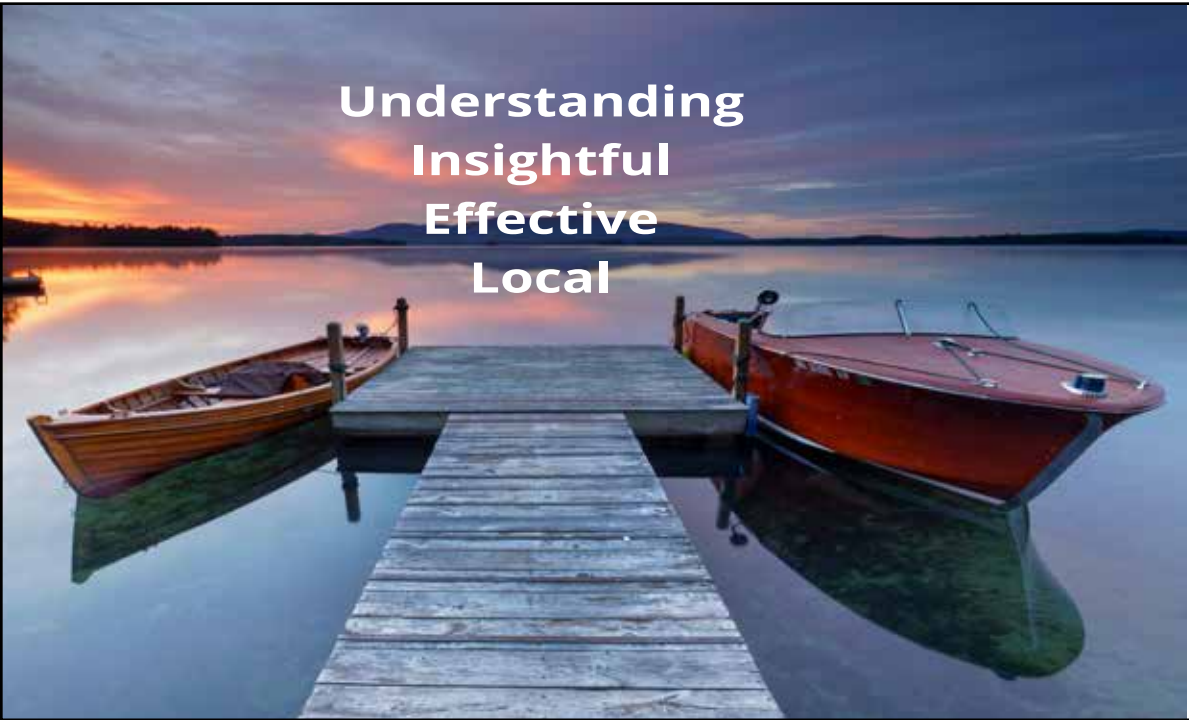
Agents for the Beacon.
The following gentlemen are requested to act as agents for us, in procuring Subscribers, &c.
E. PENWELL, Esq.—Pleasant Plain.
MR. BISSEL.—Goshen.
CHARLES EGHERT—Terre Coupe.
AARON STANTON—Door Prairie.
M. C. WHITMAN—La Grange.
ROBERT CLARK, Esq.—White Pigeon.
MAJ. EDWARDS—Beardsley's Prairie.
SAMUEL HANNA, Esq.—Fort Wayne.
T. J. LARSH, Esq.—Richmond.
JAMES DEFREES—Piqua, Ohio.
MR. BRITTAIN—Newberryport, M. T.
MR. HARRIS—Christiana Mills.
GEORGE KESLING, P. M.—Lebanon O.
WILLIAM STEVENS—Eaton, O.
EPHRAIM SEELY, Esq.—Greenfield, Ind.
MR. ADAMS, P. M.—Adamsville, M. T.

Neighbors

for advertising that works
contact **Fred Stein**

269-228-1080

Brazilstein@gmail.com www.cassneighbors.com



Understanding
Insightful
Effective
Local



THK LAW, LLP

Estate planning
Elder law
Business counsel
Mediation
Litigation

Cassopolis | South Bend | Elkhart
269.445.1818 | thklaw.com



**APOLLO
MARINE**

SALES • SERVICE • STORAGE

South side of Gravel Lake
15355 96th Avenue, Lawton, Mi
49065

www.apollomarine.net
423-6011
1-888-996-BOAT

We serve all area lakes
We rent pontoon boats

Boat Show pricing still in effect on all inventory

Nature Notes

Early spring bird visitors

*Provided by Cass District Library
Local History branch*

On April 5 Min Ke of St. Joseph Township photographed an adult bald eagle, as it rested atop a large tree behind his house, along the Hickory Creek floodplain.

The bald eagle is found throughout the year across Southwest Michigan, numbers are greatest between March and mid-May as hundreds migrate from the south to northern Michigan and Canada where they will nest.

As regular readers of this column know, in recent years bald eagles have reoccupied several nesting sites across Southwest Michigan, most notably areas along the St. Joseph River in Berrien County. While the bald eagle in Min Ke's photo was most likely a migrant, observers should look for eagles that are carrying nesting material. Although bald eagles are reclaiming areas of their former nesting territory in southern Michigan, most of the state's breeding population is still located in the Upper Peninsula and the northern half of the Lower Peninsula because of greater habitat availability.

Bald eagles construct nests high up in a large tree, quite often with a commanding view of the surrounding area. Look for eagles transporting branches with their talons, which is indicative of nest building or repairing. Bald eagles are known to pair-bond for life and will reuse the same nest site for several years. One such nest is located at Lake LaGrange, located between Dowagiac and Cassopolis. A pair of bald eagles have nested at this location for approximately the last 15 years. The Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy recently announced an effort to conserve this 425-acre wetland property, which in addition to the eagle nest, contains additional protected plant and animal species.

Brad Anderson of Bridgman photographed a yellow-bellied sapsucker on April 10 at Warren Dunes State Park. The photo angle is nice because it captures the bird's yellow-belly in the sunlight.

The yellow-bellied sapsucker is a species of woodpecker that migrates through our region from late March through May 20. It nests in coniferous forests in Canada and northern Michigan, south roughly to an imaginary line running west-east from Muskegon to Bay City.

As its name suggests, the bird feeds on sap from many different tree species. Sapsuckers also feed on nuts, berries,



Top left: Adult bald eagle on April 5 along Hickory Creek floodplain, St. Joseph Township. Photo by Min Ke of St. Joseph Twp.

Left: Yellow-bellied sapsucker, on April 10, perches atop an eastern cottonwood tree at Warren Dunes State Park. Brad Anderson.

Above: Male purple finch taken April 13 by Lynn Bassleman at her bird feeder in Royalton Township.

and insects that are attracted to sap. Yellow-bellied sapsuckers migrate south to their wintering grounds of the Southeastern US beginning in August. Numbers in Southwest Michigan peak during October. A small number will remain here for winter. There are zero breeding records for Berrien County. In my April 8 column I featured a

photo of a male house finch. This week I am presenting a photo of a male purple finch taken by Lynn Bassleman of Royalton Township on April 13. Purple finches appear similar to house finches. The males of both species are often confused, but the male house finch is streaked on the sides while the male purple finch is not. The male purple

finch looks as though it was dipped into a glass of raspberry juice and is overall a bit more stockier than the male house finch. Purple finches are also uncommon migrants in Southwest Michigan while the house finch is common to abundant. The purple finch nesting range is in Canada and northern Michigan.



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
 - H.I.L.I.T.
- S.E.A.T.
 - Tai Chi
 - Yoga

Sharing Life's Journey

Assisted care for your loved one is our specialty.

Our communities are thoughtfully designed to cater to the unique needs and demands of today's seniors. Our care programs are designed specifically for each individual, providing the highest level of service when it's most needed. As your needs change, we change with you. It is our privilege and honor to share in life's journey.



Forest Glen
Assisted Living

29601 Amerihost Drive
Dowagiac, MI 49047



Leisure Living
MANAGEMENT

leisure-living.com • 269-782-5300

ART SALE

LARGEST SELECTION IN THE MIDWEST!
"Unbelievable Low Prices"



100'S OF HAND-PAINTED OILS - SINCE 1981
SAUGATUCK GALLERY
 317 BUTLER STREET • DOWNTOWN SAUGATUCK

HAMPSHIRE Country Club

Open to the Public
 Dogwood Hampshire
 Two 18-hole courses
 29592 Pokagon Hwy, Dowagiac, MI 49047
 For info or a tee time call (269) 782-7476
<https://www.hampshire36.com>

TURF Services

269-782-6990 10559 Rangeline Rd.
 email: turfservicesmi@gmail.com Berrien Springs, MI 49103
 Hunter Nelson Rainbird
Quality Lawn Sprinkler Systems
 Design, Sales, Service since 1967
Mike Villwock 



Drew Herendeen
 Hearth & Home Design Center, Inc.
 51129 IN-933
 South Bend, IN 46637
 drew@hearthandhome-sb.com
 hearthandhome-sb.com
 Office: 574-272-3030 

Where great ideas begin & great products are found!



NEW LEAF

CUSTOM SHORELINE & LANDSCAPE SERVICE
269-462-0966
 SERVING SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN
www.newleaflandscapesmichigan.com
 NewLeafLandscapesSod&Sprinklers




CHARMAYNE NASCO-DALY
 68777 Avenue A
 Edwardsburg, MI 49112
 Phone: (269) 699-5103
 Toll Free: 1-888-EAGLE-LA
 (1-888-324-5352)
www.eaglelakemarine.com

BILL'S ROOF REPAIR

Commercial & Residential Roofing and Roof Repair Specialist

Flat Roofs
Slate
Concrete
Clay Tile
Chimney Caps
Rolled Roofing
Gutters
Mortar Joints
All Types of Roofing

Metal
Wood Flashing
Vent Pipes
Siding
Trim
Fascia
Skylights
Shingles

EXCEPTIONAL CRAFTSMANSHIP
CALL FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE

Lifetime Labor Warranty
45 Years Experience

1-866-217-ROOF
www.BillsRoofRepair.com



18599 MASON ST., CASSOPOLIS USDOT 1669521



PIER LOGIC

Our Services Include:

- Barge IN/OUT service for docks and lifts
- New Dock Sales
- New Lift Sales
- Inside/outside storage (shrink wrapped)
- Heated Storage
- General boat maintenance
- Pontoon Acid Wash
- Boat detailing and hot pressure washing
- 24-hour Lift/dock emergency service
- Beautiful NEW showroom

ONE CALL DOES IT ALL

With **ONE CALL** you can have your dock/lift delivered and set, and get your boat delivered

ON THE SAME DAY!

No more calling multiple companies to coordinate schedules, then waiting until everything finally gets done ...



SUNSTREAM

PIER LOGIC

is a full service marina featuring the **SUNSTREAM** line of products including **SUNSTREAM** Hydraulic Lifts and **SWIFTSHIELD** Boat Covers



PIER LOGIC
 (Formerly Corey Lake Storage)

59442 County Line Rd, Three Rivers MI
 269-222-1155 www.pierlogic.org

That's right, folks! Pier Logic LLC has bought the former Corey Lake Storage facility and now is the new home to Pier Logic Marine and Storage! This is a great opportunity to expand our great service beyond the lake!

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

Boats, Marinas, Piers, Sports					
Apollo Marine.....	13, 15	423-6001	Goens Painting.....	18	423-7813
http://www.apollomarine.net			Hearth & Home.....	17	800-769-3031
			http://www.hearthandhome-sb.com		
Diamond Lake Marina.....		445-2191	Imperial Furniture.....	11	800-884-5020
Eagle Lake Marine.....	17	699-5103	http://www.imperialfurnitureanddowagiac.com		
http://www.eaglelakemarine.com			Infinity Home Services.....	12	259-1127
Hampshire Golf.....	17	782-7476	http://www.infinitymichiana.com		
http://www.hampshire36.com			Quality Windows.....	12	574-243-4959
Krupps Powersports.....	5	663-8424	Saugatuck Gallery.....	17	n/a
O'Donnell's Docks.....	8	244-1446	Sun and Shade Awnings.....	12	244-5307
http://www.odonnellsdocks.com			http://www.sunandshadeawnings.com		
Pier Logic.....	17	222-1155	Food, Restaurants, Markets		
http://www.pierlogic.org			Hardings.....	12	445-2607
Pier Perfection.....	2, 10	233-2222	Jake's Country Meats.....	6	445-3020
http://www.pierperfection.com			http://www.jakescountrymeats.com		
Pro Dock.....	19	447-4797	Lawn/Landscaping		
http://www.prodock.com			JL Landscaping.....	12	445-2111
Starboard Choice.....	6	414-4351	http://www.jlandscapingsite.com		
http://www.STBCM.com			New Leaf Landscaping.....	17	462-0966
Construction, Home Improvement & Repair			http://www.newleaflandscapesmichigan.com		
Bill's Roof Repair.....	17	866-217-ROOF	Northstar Landscaping.....	11	445-9100
http://www.billsroofrepair.com			http://www.northstarlandscape.net		
BLT Mechanical.....	18	476-4114	Turf Services.....	17	782-6990
Carter Motors.....	12	476-2220	Medical/Health		
Cass Outdoor.....	4, 9, 11	445-2231	Cass COA.....	16	445-8110
Diamond Lake Concierge.....	18	574-520-2216	http://www.casscoa.org		
http://www.diamondlakeconcierge.com					
			Cass Medical Care Facility.....	11	445-3801
			http://www.ccmcf.org		
			Forest Glen.....	16	782-5300
			http://www.leisure-living.com		
			Real Estate		
			Jan Lazzara Team.....	3	574-532-8001
			http://www.janlazzara.com		
			Jerdon Real Estate.....	12	782-4000
			http://www.jerdon.net		
			Lake Life Realty Group.....	20	445-8877
			http://www.thelakelife.com		
			Michigan Lakes Team.....	18	663-7700
			http://www.michiganlakesteam.com		
			Misc.		
			Elk Park Feed Store.....	12	476-1775
			Hopman Jewelers.....	13	574-293-3632
			http://www.hopmanjewelers.com		
			Kemner Iott Benz Insurance.....	6	445-2425
			http://www.kemnerriott.com		
			McGann Hay Funeral Home.....	14	574-232-1411
			http://www.mcgannhay.com		
			THK Law.....	15	445-1818
			http://www.thklaw.com		
			Union Insurance.....	9	641-5995
			http://www.unionsins.net		



MIKAELA SCOTT
GENERAL MANAGER

+1 574-520-2216
DIAMONDLAKECONCIERGE@GMAIL.COM
62190 CARLTON AVE CASSOPOLIS MI, 49031
DIAMONDLAKECONCIERGE.COM

Monday is the Best Day of the week because...
We have all week to work! Author J F

Howard Jack Goens

QUALITY PAINTING & PAPER HANGING

• Customer Satisfaction Guaranteed
• Insured



Phone: (269) 423-7813
509 Maple Street
Decatur, Michigan 49045

Making the climate comfortable since 1987

BLT Mechanical
James Baker - Owner

269-476-4114

HVAC A/C
HEATING
GEOTHERMAL



Memories Made On The
Lake Will Last
A Lifetime





Broker/
Owner

Michelle
Scott

Call/Text: (574) 286-9050
Email: Mj.scott@comcast.net
Also Licensed in IN

Managing Broker
(Sister Lakes)

(269) 462-0783
Kellymichiganlakes@gmail.com



Kelly Smit

Managing Broker
(Grand Haven)

(773) 454-0528
PettersonProperties@gmail.com



Darren Petterson

Call us at (269) 663-7700 for a **FREE Waterfront Property Market Analysis** and see how our **Chicago Marketing Plan** benefits **YOU**

(708) 217-5087
ListedbyLMP@gmail.com



Laura Mitrick

(574) 904-1213
Ajurkovic44@gmail.com



Angi Jurkovic

(269) 207-1937
Rick@Michiganlakesteam.com



Rich Olson

(269) 462-5758
Haleymichiganlakes@gmail.com



Haley Richter

(574) 292-2179
SallyL04@Comcast.net



Sally Leonard

(574) 315-4283
Dyjscott@gmail.com



Dylan Scott

(269) 462-2290
Sellingthedream711@gmail.com



Dawn Russo

10 Agents that specialize in waterfront properties on 120+ lakes here in Southwest, MI

Superior Digitalized Marketing to Chicago for our Sellers and Invaluable Information for our Buyers

60+ years of experience selling Waterfront Properties only

www.MichiganLakesTeam.com

A relaxing spring day in downtown Chicago



he attractive young woman working as the desk clerk at the Knickerbocker Hotel in Chicago was all springtime sunshine smiles and soft-spoken pleasantries when my wife and I arrived to check in for a quick overnight stay so we might venture out to various museums, tourist traps, (and

an occasional tavern), walk the downtown and spend too much money on an early spring getaway from what had become an endless succession of dreary, gray, ennui-filled sameness. She took our info, scanned my id, gave us the Wi-Fi password and handed over the plastic, credit-card sized technological snippet that has at some point in the past few years internationally replaced the metal keys we used to use to get into a hotel room.

"If there's anything you need, just let me know," she said accommodatingly. "I'll be happy to help."

Wanting to get started on our mini-holiday, we hastily dropped our bags and bolted back out into the street to grab a cab for the first of what we hoped would be many exciting and interesting mini-excursions into the heart of the nation's spectacular second city.

Luck was with us that morning, and the weather, which had been forecast to be rainy, cold and windy (go figure, huh?) was even more than spectacular, with buckets of sunshine pouring down, temps so unexpected it made my sweatshirt sweat, and a near total absence of lake breeze that in springtime Chicago can frequently turn a short walk into a trailer for the movie "Twister."

Luck was also with us when we discovered the cabbie the bellman had hailed for us spoke English, sort of, although there was a distinct eastern European twang as he shouted and gesticulated wildly at all of the "idiots, imbeciles, and morons (and worse) who were intentionally in the way, had no idea where they were going, and definitely should never have been allowed to drive the streets of Chicago in the first place.

A short (but exhilarating) drive later, he dropped us at the entrance to the Shedd Aquarium, wished us a good visit, overcharged us and disappeared into the swarm of traffic swirling dizzily down Lake Shore Drive.

We swam our way to the entrance, forked over our entry fee (OMG, \$89 bucks for two seniors? I didn't want to eat the fish, just look at them!), and joined the throng of people like us who were all willing and eager to sardine into the darkened passages and exhibits, which we quickly discovered were filled with schools of screaming, squealing and screeching grade-school students who, despite dozens of warnings and admonitions not to, seemed universally intent on either banging on the aquarium glass or trying to reach into the tanks to "pet" the fish. We both turned our hearing aids to their lowest settings, and as valiantly as possible, shouldered on ... until we ... just couldn't any more.

Don't misunderstand, the aquarium is wonderful. The exhibits are outstanding, the variety is astonishing, and the endless array of fish and animals are in natural-looking habitats that are clean and well maintained ... but as visiting septuagenarians hoping to immerse ourselves in the solitude of the depths, we instead landed in the midst of a pre-teen tempest, and since we are often hard-pressed to abide the cacophony of even our own grandchildren, we discovered that the encounter with such raw energy was simply overwhelming.

It was shortly after the Beluga Whale exhibit we bolted (I don't think the exhibits were in alphabetical order, I'm sure we would have withstood well past "Beluga" but not as far as "Whale"), and found ourselves resetting our hearing aids as we basked in the warm sunshine on the lawn beside Lake Michigan and soaked up the views of the city's magnificent skyline.

Gingerly (and quietly) we tiptoed across the grass to the entrance of the Field Museum next door, a place my memories called up visions of musty smelling, quiet and peaceful sanctuary, far away from the maelstrom of pre-teen, cyclonic confusion we had just fled.

Unfortunately we didn't last long there, either. This time it wasn't the noise that drove us out; quite the opposite, it was the "too" quiet. Dozens of dioramas with authentic artifacts from ancient times and exhibits of dino bones, fossils and forgotten histories lulled us toward somnambulance, and we became zombie-like meanderers moving from room to room, silently worrying security might mistake us for animated exhibits ourselves, and so they might refuse to let us leave.

And then we suddenly found ourselves in yet another taxi as yet another non-native American pigeon-Englished his epithets out the window at the idiots, imbeciles, and morons (and worse) who were intentionally in the way, had no idea where they were going, and definitely should never have been allowed to drive the streets of Chicago in the first place.

Up to the room, feet up, deep breaths, relax before going out for a nice dinner on the town ... better try the TV just to make sure it works, because this is probably going to be an "early-to-bed" night.

Click on the remote (of course there is no dial on the TV), and the screen lights up with the hotel channel. Unfortunately, there is no obvious way to change the channel from their self-serving commercial to any of the 700 stations that the "guide" says are available.

Can you say "hypertension?"

After half an hour of pushing every button on the remote control while threatening, begging and swearing (admittedly at my inability and/or incompetence to master such a simple task), I once again found myself talking to the attractive young woman at the front desk.

"I know I'm an old man, and that technology has long ago passed me by, but I'm usually up to the challenge of a TV remote control," I admitted impotently as I showed her the offending AI demon, "and I can't make it change from the hotel channel to a real station ..."

She giggled and called an engineer on what looked like a hybrid cell phone and walkie talkie.

"I'll send someone up right away," she condescended. Back to the room, one more click and ... VOILA!

Somehow, the television has healed itself and it was now working perfectly. So back down to the front desk to apologize, cancel the engineer and own up to my age-induced incompetence.

"No problem," she said, the smile never wavering. "Happens all the time. I'll cancel the tech call ... might I suggest that you just relax and head on over to the hotel lounge for happy hour."

Ok, she got me there (I'm a sucker for happy hour).

The lounge was quiet and nearly empty, the beer was cold, the TV worked and they gave us free peanuts. What better way to wind down after a long spring day?

I knew I'd love spring in downtown Chicago.



PRO DOCK
DOCK, LIFT, AND BARGE SERVICES
INC.



269.447.4796

prodockinc.com

Exclusively serving **SELLERS & BUYERS** of Michigan Lake property.

SELL WITH PAUL

The Southwest Michigan lake home market is experiencing buyer demand at levels never seen before. Now is the time to sell your home with Lakefront Broker Paul DeLano.

Paul DeLano is Southwest Michigan's **number one lake property Realtor** since 2012. He employs a proven digital marketing system that targets Chicago and local buyers to your home, and has expertise in evaluating the best offer for your home in today's unique market, while generating the highest return on your investment.



PAUL DELANO
Owner / Lakefront Broker

269.445.8877
Paul@TheLakeLife.com

BUY WITH PEGGY AND MATT

A buyer's-only agent of lake properties, Peggy Gonyon has unsurpassed expertise as a certified Resort and Second Home Property Specialist at The Lake Life.

Agents Peggy Gonyon and Matt DeLano focus on one area of realty: **they only serve lake home buyers.** Peggy and Matt possess extensive knowledge of Southwest Michigan's lakes and lake communities, and have the network and the know-how to position your offer above the competition.



PEGGY GONYON
Lakefront Buyer Specialist

269.445.8876
Peggy@TheLakeLife.com



MATT DELANO
Lakefront Buyer Specialist

269.445.8872
Matt@TheLakeLife.com

The
LAKE LIFE
REALTY GROUP

TheLakeLife.com

69150 Sunset Boulevard • Union, Michigan 49130

Information provided by the Southwest Michigan Association of Realtors, with respect to sales of inland lake properties in Cass, Berrien, St Joseph Counties, MI, from 1.1.12 to 1.31.23.
When an agent represents the buyer and seller, 200% credit is granted. Results are for individual Realtors and exclude Realtors that group results through a team.

