

Neighbors

NOW IN OUR 20TH YEAR SEPTEMBER 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)

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Field Trip: Silver Beach, St. Joe, Michigan



Pages 9-11

Regional News

Historical Society Fall Festival

The Cass County Historical Society will host its Fall Festival on Sunday, October 1 from 1 – 4:30 pm at The Newton House 20689 Marcellus Hwy Decatur, MI 49045.

The event is a free, family-friendly event featuring outdoor games and activities, artisan vendors and demonstrations, docent- led tours of the Newton House, wagon rides through Fred Russ Forest Park, food trucks and more! Costume Contest with prizes for kids dressed as pioneers.

Fall Rummage & Bake Sale

First United Methodist Church of Dowagiac will host a fall rummage and bake sale on October 6 from 9 am to 4 pm and on October 7 from 9 am to 3 pm. The event will feature furniture, clothing - all sizes-men's, women's, and children, mattress like-new - twin extra-long, homemade baked goods and candies. On Saturday there will be a "bag sale," with bags at \$4 and buy two bags get a third free, and a half-price sale on items that are marked.

Dowagiac First United Methodist Church is located at 326 N Lowe St. If you have questions, please call Darlene at (269) 782-8551.

Cemetery tour schedules

A tour of the Edwardsburg Cemetery, complete with visits to graves of locally prominent residents, will be Sat., Sept. 30, sponsored by the Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum. The museum's recently created activities committee has organized the tour, which will be by pre-sales only. Tickets are \$5 each and are available at the museum on

Main Street.

Biographies of prominent residents will be featured and actors are sought for those re-enactments. The residents are Dr. Levi Aldrich, Cyrus Bacon, Richard Beckwith, Lottie Pickerl, Charles and Veronica (Vera) Pabreza, and Marjorie Federowski.

BJR Ranch of Dowagiac will provide wagon transportation. Tour start times from the museum are 1 pm, 1:30 pm, and 2 pm. Twenty wagon seats are available for each tour time. Seating also will be available at the cemetery. Tours are one hour in length from beginning to end. The museum will be open and refreshments will be served after each tour. For more information, contact the museum at 269-663-3005.

Dowagiac area events

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

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

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

Small Business Saturday, November 25, 10 am

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

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

Beckwith Theatre 2023 season

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

The Outgoing Tide on Sept. 8 - 17 by Bruce Graham - In a summer cottage

on Chesapeake Bay, Gunner has hatched an unorthodox plan to secure his family's future but meets with resistance from his wife and son, who have plans of their own.

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

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

For more information visit BeckwithTheatre.com, or call 782-7653.

Edwardsburg Museum Speakers

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.

As a physician, Dr. Rea 'helped out' with the Edwardsburg sports teams, sang in the community choir, sang in a barbershop group, and was an associate medical examiner with Dr. Robert Knox for Cass County. He was president of 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.

She is a native, the former Susan Higley, and he was born in Mishawaka but grew up in Edwardsburg. He was a 1964 graduate of EHS. Sue graduated in 1971.

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.







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Regional News

New plans for Brownsville School

After much thought, we are changing our plans for Brownsville School #1. Rather than restore this school, we will preserve the c. 1840 original building. We will repair the foundation, roof, floor, windows and anything else that needs repair, but will keep the original structure as is, as much as possible.

We have many reasons for this direction, but the primary one is our mission to tell the story of Underground Railroad and its legacy in Cass County. Integrated Brownsville School is a living legacy of the UGRR, and we want to keep this precious building as built, to tell that story.

We have many one-room schools in

Cass County. Red Brick and Geneva Schools have been restored. They are sitting empty, not used for anything. Other schools are available for restoring. These schools can easily tell the story of early Michigan prairie education, but needs someone to step up and lead this effort. URSCC is not in the one-room school business, we're about the UGRR.

We hope to complete repairs on Brownsville by mid-year 2024, and open to the public. We plan to hang photos of classes of Brownsville, and other integrated schools of Cass County on the walls, and display documents that tell the history of Brownsville School #1. We're beginning the process of making a



documentary about the Underground Railroad and its legacy in Cass County. We plan to debut this film at Brownsville during UGRR Days, 2024.

We hope you're not disappointed with this change of focus. You can walk into restored one-room schools all over Michigan, and in Cass County. But you can't walk into an original c. 1840 school, integrated from the day it was opened, until closed in 1957. URSCC thinks Brownsville School #1 was the first and longest integrated public school in Michigan, and perhaps the country. We

choose to let Brownsville tell its story on its own.

This project will cost at least 150K, and we need your support. Donate on www.brownsvilleschool.org or www.urscc.org or send a check to URSCC PO Box 124, Vandalia, MI 49095. Join Friends of Brownsville School (FBS) to get involved with this project on www.brownsvilleschool.org or reply here. Jennifer Ray, chair of FBS, will contact you. Thank you.

~Cathy LaPointe, treasurer URSCC

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TEAM

Regional Calendar

AREA EVENTS
October 7, 8 - Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone in concert, South Bend Symphony Orchestra's Harry Potter Film Concert Series, Morris Performing Arts Center, South Bend, 7:30 pm Saturday; 2:30 [m Sunday, <https://southbendsymphony.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket/#/> subscriptions

CASSOPOLIS MAIN STREET SUMMER BAND LINEUP AND CASSOPOLIS TOWN EVENTS 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, 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

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
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
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, Newton House

THE EDWARDSBURG HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Sept. 30 - Tour the Edwardsburg Cemetery. Transportation will be provided from the museum. Tickets available in advance

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

T'AI CHI WITH ALYSE KNEPPLE, MASON/ UNION BRANCH, MONDAYS: 11 am

Join Alyse Knepple at the Mason/Union Branch for T'ai Chi. T'ai Chi is a series of gentle physical exercises and stretches. Alyse will offer a free introductory class, followed by four weekly classes which will cost \$40.

AFTER-SCHOOL MAKER MONDAYS, EDWARDSBURG BRANCH, 2ND & 4TH MONDAYS: 2:30 pm

Enjoy creative expression through arts and crafts! Whether it be an art project, STEAM activity or mixed media craft, materials will be available for you to express your creativity and explore your artistic pursuits! Intended for ages 12- 18.

LEGO @ THE LIBRARY
EDWARDSBURG BRANCH, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2: 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Patrons ages 5-17 are welcome to put their building skills to the test. Come to the library the first Saturday of every month for an open build time with the library's LEGO bricks and elements.

PERENNIAL PLANT SWAP, HOWARD BRANCH, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2: 11 am - Noon.

Calling all gardeners! Are your flowerbeds crowded? Looking to add new varieties of perennials? Fall is a good time to divide and plant for next year. Bring healthy plants to the library for an informal perennial swap with other local gardeners and share your garden bounty.

RIBBON AND BEAD BOOKMARK CRAFT, EDWARDSBURG BRANCH, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, Noon - 6:30 pm

Drop in during branch hours and create a unique bookmark using a ribbon and beads of your choosing! Available while supplies last.

HISTORIC WALKING TOUR* LOCAL HISTORY BRANCH, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8: 10

am & Noon, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15: 10 am
In partnership with the Cass County Council on Aging (COA) embark on a thorough guided historic walking tour. Led by Local History Branch Manager, Jonathan Wuepper and COA's Ky'sha Mitchell-Johnson. Registration is required, please contact Ky'sha at 269-445-8110 to register.

BOARD GAMES AND BAGELS, HOWARD BRANCH, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9: 10 am - Noon

Kids, teens and families are invited to drop in any Saturday morning for a board game bonanza! Card games and puzzles are available too, or bring your own to play with others. Bagels will be provided!

ADULT CRAFT CLUB* MAIN BRANCH, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13: 1 pm

Join us each month for a new craft project at the Main Branch. This month make an adorable Pom-Pom Cactus! All supplies are provided. Registration is required, please contact Stephanie Knepple at 269-749-1384 to register.

ART CONTEST RECEPTION, MASON/UNION BRANCH, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16: 1 - 2 pm

Create an original artwork that reflects a family-friendly theme using any medium. Please print your name, age category and phone number on the back of your artwork. Submissions may be turned in at any branch by September 9. Prizes will be awarded for each age category on September 16. Soak up the creativity and unique works of art of Cass County artists at the Friends of the Mason/

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Union Library Art Contest Reception. This program is sponsored by the Friends of Mason/Union Branch Library.

SAVAGE READERS BOOK CLUB,
SAVAGE BEAN COFFEE CO., TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 19 - 9 am

Enjoy a fresh cup of coffee and book discussion every third Tuesday of the month! Join Savage Readers Book Club hosted by Cass District Library and Savage Bean Co. This month we will be reading Mr. Churchill 's Secretary by Susan Elia MacNeal. Please contact Stephanie Knepple at 269-749-1384 for more details.

DIY WOODEN TEARDROP EARRINGS* EDWARDSBURG BRANCH, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 - 5:30 pm

Create a custom pair of wooden teardrop style earrings. Paint and other materials will be available to decorate your unique and creative earrings! Registration is required, please contact 269-487-9215 to register.

VILLAGE BOOK CLUB,
EDWARDSBURG BRANCH, THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 21 : 5:30 pm

Village Book Club meets every third Thursday of the month at 5:30pm. Join us for a book discussion of The Miracle and Tragedy of the Dionne Quintuplets by Sarah Miller. Contact Molly Harwood at 574-314-6454 for more details.

MICHIGAN DOORMAT CRAFT*
MAIN BRANCH, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 - 5:30 pm

Accent any doorway with this DIY project! Simply use a stencil and paint to create your own Michigan doormat, all supplies will be provided. Registration and payment of \$10 is required, please contact Stephanie Knepple at 269-749-

1384 to register.

STORYTIME
Come each week for a new story, craft and fun activity! September 12- November 16, Tuesdays 11 am: Edwardsburg Branch + Howard Branch Wednesdays 10 am: Mason/Union Branch Thursdays 11 am: Main Branch Thursdays 6 pm: Howard Branch

*Registration is required.

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>

STORY SQUAD, August 31, 5:30 - 6:30 pm.

Children 6-9 are invited to join Story Squad, a new book club where an age-appropriate novel will be read aloud with a discussion to follow. Kids are encouraged to attend weekly so they won't miss part of the story! Due to capacity limits in our children's programming room, we kindly ask that only children 6-9 attend the program. Parents and younger children will be asked to enjoy other areas of the library during this time.

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME,
Preschool Story Time, September 5, 10:30 - 11:30 am. The Dowagiac District Library offers this weekly story time each Tuesday at 10:30 am. Preschool

Story Time is geared toward children 3-5 years old and will focus on developing early literacy skills and fine motor skills through listening to one or two stories and participating in fun-filled age appropriate crafts and/or learning activities.

TEEN TUESDAY: BINGO, September

5, 3 - 4 pm. BINGO! "B-4" you say BINGO is boring, give it a try! Winners receive snacks and/or candy prizes!

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

MAKE & SHARE COOKBOOK CLUB, September 7, 5:30 - 6:30 pm. The Make & Share Cookbook Club is held on the first Thursday of the month from 5:30-6:30 pm at the Dowagiac District Library. M

Make a recipe from the monthly cookbook selection, then join us at the library for a recipe share & book discussion. To reserve your spot, call the library or email (Att: Erin) at dowagiaclibrarystaff@gmail.com

STORY SQUAD, September 7, 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Children 6-9 are invited to join Story Squad, a new book club where an age-appropriate novel will be read aloud with a discussion to follow.

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME,
September 12, 10:30 - 11:30 am

TEEN TUESDAY: TEEN COOKING 101* September 12, 3 - 4 pm. English Muffin Pizzas: Teens will be making pizzas this month. A great idea for snacks or lunch!

*Registration is required for this event. Sign up in the youth department by Friday, September 9.

ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING & MEETING OF THE LIBRARY BOARD, September 12, 6 - 8 pm. The annual budget hearing at 6 pm followed by a meeting of the Library Board will be held in the Community Room. Regular meetings of the Library Board are every second Tuesday of the month. There will be time for public comment near the beginning and end of the meeting. Questions or comments can

be sent to Matt Weston, Library Director at [mweston\(at\)dowagiacdl.org](mailto:mweston(at)dowagiacdl.org).

If you need special accommodations per ADA or for other reasons please contact the Director at the email address above before the meeting and accommodations will be arranged.

STORY SQUAD, September 14, 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Children 6-9 are invited to join Story Squad.

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME,
September 19, 10:30 - 11:30 am

TEEN TUESDAY: ARTS & CRAFTS, September 19, 3 - 4 pm. Shrinky Dink keychains/magnets! Teens will have the opportunity to make their own keychains or magnets. Great for decorating backpacks and lockers!

STORY SQUAD, September 21, 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Kids are encouraged to attend weekly so they won't miss part of the story!

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME,
September 26, 10:30 - 11:30 am.

TEEN TUESDAY: ESCAPE ROOM, September 26, 3:00 - 4 pm.

This will be our first time doing an escape room at Teen Tuesday! Teens will have to work as a group solving puzzles to get through these printable escape rooms.

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE, September 26 - by William Shakespeare, 5 - 6 pm. To sign up, email Matt Weston at mweston@dowagiacdl.org

STORY SQUAD, , September 28, 2023 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Children 6-9 are invited to join Story Squad.



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Business & Finance

Is umbrella insurance for you?

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

We usually talk about umbrellas in April or May. However, in insurance, we talk about umbrellas every day. While they mean different things, both umbrellas protect us from things that could happen. We know that the physical umbrella protects us from the rain or the sun. The insurance umbrella can protect us from a wide range of unknown events. Umbrella insurance is a liability insurance that would pick up where the

limits of your homeowners, auto or commercial liability leaves off. We know that anybody can sue anyone for anything at any time. While it may seem like your current limits are sufficient, medical bills, lawsuits and legal fees can add up quickly. The umbrella policy can give you peace of mind knowing your assets are protected, now and in the future.

Personal umbrellas typically extend to cover all members of the household. There are some things that would increase your chances of an umbrella policy coming in to play. Following are examples of some of the reasons an umbrella policy would be beneficial:

- You own items that could lead to injury- pool, trampoline, etc.
- You have inexperienced drivers in your household- greater likelihood for at fault accidents.
- You own property and/or are a landlord.
- You own a business.
- You have significant assets or savings.
- You coach youth sports- the leagues may carry this, but you could be personally named and the league policy may not be sufficient.
- You are involved in activities that could injure other- boating, golfing, etc.

Most of us carry that umbrella in the car, just in case. We even physically carry it with us, and for me that guarantees I won't need it. We do this to protect ourselves from the rain...which is water...that will dry. For me, the only thing the rain will actually do that leaves any trace is making my hair curlier. If I take this

umbrella with me to protect my freshly-straightened hair from being curly, why would I not buy an umbrella policy that protects me along with my family from financial loss? That umbrella can save my house, savings, and other assets.

It's definitely worth contacting your insurance agent for a quote. You can usually buy one for the price of a few trips to the salon and you would be saving way more than your hairdo!

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Don't Leave Your Pet in the Car!

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

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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.**

It's Almost Time...

As the sun sets on summer and you soak up the beautiful weather this fall, it's time to make plans for taking care of your boat during the winter months! Let us help you!

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For the Table

Get ready for game day snacking

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

September ushers in the promise of cooler days, beautiful foliage, and—of course—the start of football season. And just as important as the game, are the snacks you will serve while tuning in or tailgating.. Here are a few new additions to your game day snack menu. First up is a stroganoff inspired meatball with a creamy horseradish sauce. The horseradish and grainy mustard gives the sauce “just enough” tang. Delicious! Next up is a classic dill vegetable dip. After all, you have to sneak in some vegetables. But with this tasty dip, no one will mind eating their veggies. Finally the line-up ends with a deeply chocolate cupcake made with beer! I chose a dark, thick porter with flavors of malt, dark chocolate, and coffee. The super moist cupcake takes on a hint of the porter’s malty flavor and they turn out light as a feather from the beer’s carbonation. Enjoy!

MEATBALLS W/HORSERADISH CREAM SAUCE

Ingredients:
Meatballs
1 lb. of ground chuck
1/3 cup bread crumbs
4 tbs. milk
3 tbs. grated onion
2 tbs. garlic powder
¼ tsp. paprika
½ tsp. rubbed sage
2 tsp. kosher salt
1 tsp. freshly ground pepper
1 egg, lightly beaten
Italian Parsley for garnish

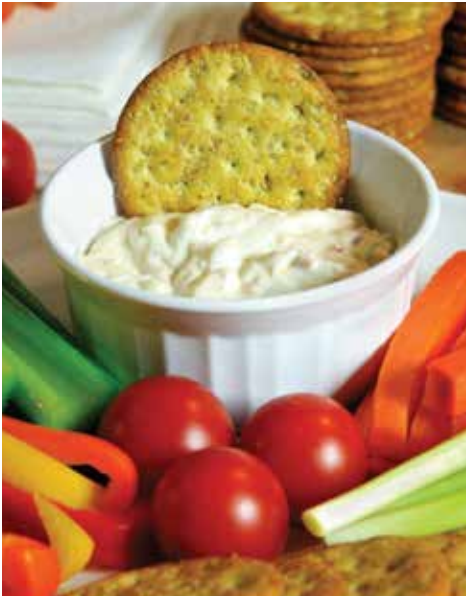
Sauce
2 minced shallots
2 tbs. unsalted butter
2 tbs. flour
2 cups warm beef broth
2 tbs. dry sherry
½ cup heavy whipping cream
3 tbs. prepared horseradish (or to taste)
2 tsp. grainy mustard

Instructions:
Mix bread crumbs with milk and allow to sit for 3-5 minutes. Combine all ingredients in a large mixing bowl and combine, your hands are the best tool for this job. Form the mixture into 1-1 ½ inch balls. Place the meatballs on a baking sheet and bake for 350 degrees for 20 minutes or until browned and no longer pink in the middle.



While the meatballs are cooking, prepare the sauce. Mince shallots and sauté in butter for 3-5 minutes. Whisk in flour to create a roux and cook for 3 minutes. Using a whisk, slowly add in warmed beef broth and sherry. Allow the sauce to cook until thickened. Add in heavy cream, horseradish, and mustard. Continue to cook on a low simmer until the sauce reduces down and thickens. Pour the sauce over meatballs and serve. These are delicious as an appetizer or served as a meal over noodles. This recipe makes 22-24 meatballs and can easily be doubled.

DILL VEGETABLE DIP



Ingredients:
2/3 cup Hellman's Mayonnaise (must be Hellman's)
1/3 cup sour cream
1 tbs. dehydrated minced onion
1 tbs. dry parsley flakes
1 tsp. Lawry's Season Salt
1 tsp. dill weed (heaping)
½ tsp. Worcestershire sauce
2 drops of Tabasco

Instructions:
Mix all ingredients and allow the dip to chill for at least three hours. The dip will last for up to two weeks refrigerated in a sealed container.

CHOCOLATE PORTER CUPCAKES

Ingredients:
1 ½ cups white sugar
½ cup plus 2 tbs. light brown sugar
2 large eggs
1 cup half and half
½ cup melted unsalted butter
1¾ cups all-purpose flour
¾ cup of good quality cocoa powder
1 ½ tsp. baking powder
1 ½ tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 cup of boiling porter style beer (such as Bell's Porter)

Instructions:
Heat oven to 350 degrees. Line cupcake pan with liners.
In the bowl of a stand mixer, combine

the dry ingredients—cocoa, flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt, and sugars. You may want to sift your dry ingredients if your cocoa has clumps, or just whisk the dry ingredients well. You can also use a hand mixer for this job.

In a separate bowl, combine the melted butter, half & half, eggs, and vanilla. Add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and beat on medium speed for two minutes. Scrape down the bowl and mix for another 30 seconds. Now add in the boiling porter style beer and mix until the mixture is smooth. Use a rubber spatula to scrape the bottom of the bowl to ensure the beer is well incorporated into the batter. The batter will be thin.

Fill the muffin cups about 2/3 full with the batter. I use a large glass measuring cup to fill the muffin cups. Bake the cupcakes for 22 minutes or until the cake springs back when lightly touched on the top. Cool in the pan on a rack for 5 minutes. Remove the cupcakes from the pan and cool completely before frosting. Frost them with Whipped Chocolate Ganache Frosting or the frosting of your choice.

For the Ganache Frosting:
Ingredients:
2 cups of semi-sweet chocolate chips
1 cup of heavy whipping cream

Instructions:
Place chocolate chips in a large mixing bowl. Heat the heavy whipping cream until simmering. Pour the heated cream over the chips and allow to sit for a minute. Stir the chips and cream until the chocolate is melted. Once the ganache is cooled to room temperature, use electric beaters to whip the ganache until light and area, about 3 minutes.



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Our Children

The art of conversation

by **SANDY FLEMING**

It's time to check your family's conversation health! Study after study is revealing that people in general, and kids in particular, are conversing with one another less and less frequently. How are things in your family? This is important because conversation skills are first built in family settings, like around the table or riding in the car. How much chatter is there at your house?

There are certain activities that lend themselves to conversation, and unfortunately, they are also times when it's easy to get lost in our own devices. Consider riding in the car, for example. It's the perfect time for talking, but too often, everyone is lost in their own thoughts (or electronics). Gone are the days when families played games together on the road. Nowadays, it's easy to turn on a video or pop in a music CD or fire up a video game to pass the time. The trouble is, these things are mostly solitary pursuits. Parents often choose them because they are usually more peaceful – if kids don't talk to one another, they usually are not bickering or fighting or complaining of boredom. However, it looks like we as a society are trading away important skills in favor of this short-term gain in peace and quiet. The sad fact is that kids are losing skills to get along with one another and to know what it means to truly get to know someone.

So do an evaluation over the next few weeks. How many times does your family engage in conversation together? You can count conversations between you and your partner if you have one, between you and one of the kids, or times when a bunch of you are all focused on communicating with one another. What you CANNOT count are times when you are giving directions, correcting behavior, admonishing someone, or otherwise trying to get some task accomplished. This sort of directive language is necessary when people share a home, but it does NOT count as conversation. I suspect if you were to record your life for a few weeks, you would be shocked and maybe disappointed at how little you and your family members actually converse with one another.

Dictionaries define "conversation" as a talk in which two or more people exchange ideas and information. The key word there is "exchange." That implies that everyone involved is both speaking and listening. Everyone involved is contributing and also benefiting from the talk. Conversation is not a one-way

street. A talk about events of the day, a discussion about something you have experienced together, an exchange about thoughts and feelings are all examples of conversations. Telling your child to clean up his or her things or correcting a person's behavior is not.

So once you've decided to bring more opportunities for conversation into your home, how can you begin? The first step is awareness, and you've already made that adjustment. Next, you probably need a good understanding of how to have a productive conversation. It's likely you personally already know these things, but chances are good that your kids do not, and they need to learn them. Here are some points to model for them so they can learn, too.

Celeste Headlee, radio and podcast host interviewed by NPR, gives advice in an article at <https://www.npr.org/2020/10/15/923962314/good-conversations-take-time-and-attention-heres-how-to-have-better-ones>. The take-away points included

- Focus ALL of your attention on the conversation. This means just talking with your conversation partners, and not talking while you text someone else, look at your email, or play a video game. The people in the conversation deserve your full attention.
- Pay attention to what is being said at the moment. It's really easy for your brain to race down another path, such as how you plan to respond or even the tasks that you need to do after the conversation is over. However, this will cause you to miss important ideas that someone else is expressing. Keep your focus!
- Ask questions that open up opportunities to talk. Questions with yes-no answers are ways to shut people down, not open them up. Be sure to phrase your questions so that they invite others to express themselves.
- Relating unimportant details (or correcting others when they relate a detail that you recall or understand differently) can sidetrack your conversation. Remember that comments that move the conversation forward will be more helpful than talk that circles around unimportant details.
- Offer to find out if someone asks something you do not know. Sometimes, we adults feel like we have to have all the "answers" and that is just not true.
- Above all else, listen to the others in the conversation. Listening is so much more than hearing and remembering what people say. It's also gaining insight

into their feelings about the topic, understanding their tone and so forth.

Remember the "rules" of good conversations: Stay focused on the people who are sharing, practice good listening skills, take turns talking, be respectful of everyone, clarify your understanding by paraphrasing what you believe you heard, and avoid arguing.

The next concern that pops up is "What will we talk about?" A better question would be "What will we talk about next?" Good conversation starters for a family will be topics that everyone can participate in easily. Try some of these ideas:

- What is your first memory?
- If you could visit any place in the world, where would you go?
- What superpower would you most like to have? Why?
- Tell me about the best day ever.
- If you could turn into any type of animal in the world, what would you choose and why?
- How could we solve ____ (problem)?
- What would you do if you had a million dollars?
- What would be your three wishes?
- What is the best dream you've ever had?
- How will you make the world a better place?
- What has been the best book/movie/video game you've seen so far?
- Where would you like to live and why?

One place where people often "fall down" in their efforts to converse with

children is getting the conversation started. One strategy to try is to avoid the blank walls of yes-no questions when you want to chat about something. Questions that can be answered with grunts or single words are hard to follow up! You may find that starting questions with words like "how" or "why" will be better than starting with "did" or "what" or "who." You can also encourage conversation by rewarding it. Try something like "Tell me three things you learned in school today" and let the kid go about their desired business after they've completed the task. Sometimes it takes a bit of work to get those rusty conversational wheels turning.

Helping kids learn to take part in true conversations will help them in nearly all aspects of life, from being better friends with peers to eventually finding and fitting in to a new job. They have the capability to learn to be more comfortable in new groups of people and to develop deep and lasting relationships. IF they learn how to have conversations. It's well worth the effort on our part! So put down the devices and make them put down theirs. Even if they grumble and complain. Even if they grunt at you and refuse to answer on the first few attempts. You can help them in spite of obstacles, and it's never too late to start a new family expectation. Start today!

Sandy Fleming is an educator, writer, and private tutor living in Edwardsburg. Visit her websites at <http://learningnook.com> and <http://sandyflemingonline.com>.



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Historic Postcards

Historic postcards depict rich scenes of area's past

In this issue of Neighbors, Jerdon Real Estate of Dowagiac, owned by Floyd Jerdon and his son Tom, has provided antique postcards of a few of the many lakes in our area.

Floyd and his wife Donna started collecting post cards more than 20 years ago, and since Jerdon Real Estate specializes in marketing lake property, it was a natural fit that Floyd's interest be directed to the lake cards. The collection now numbers many thousands.

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

in its second printing by the publisher, Arcadia Publishing.

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

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

In this edition of Neighbors we have selected postcards showing images of various places around Cass County. In future issues, we will couple additional cards from one or more of the area's lakes with views of nearby communities, lakes and countryside.



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Nature Notes

Late summer nature sightings in SW Michigan

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

Karen Pallas sent in a photo, taken July 26, of a black rat snake attempting to consume an eastern red squirrel as it was hanging off her garage, calling it "One of the coolest things I've seen at my house."

Pallas said the black rat snake "ultimately fell to the ground and released the dead squirrel." The red squirrel may have been too large for the snake to consume.

Black rat snakes are constrictors, meaning they squeeze their prey to death before consuming it whole. Black rat snakes are not venomous but do bite if they feel threatened.

Black rat snakes usually consume smaller prey than adult red squirrels such as mice, voles, chipmunks, young red squirrels not fully grown, young eastern cottontail rabbits, and small birds. As shown in Pallas's photo, black rat snakes are excellent climbers and often catch prey high in the forest canopy.

The black rat snake is the largest snake in Michigan, with adults reaching six to seven feet in length. The species reaches the northern edge of its range limit in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. It is found most frequently in Southwestern Michigan as opposed to the more urbanized Southeastern Michigan counties.

On August 7, an adult male ruby-throated hummingbird as it perched on a small twig over the garden of Hannah and Brad Anderson of Bridgman. Adult male ruby-throated hummingbirds are identified by their red iridescent gorget, also known as throat feathers. Adult females and juveniles of both sexes have white throats at this time. The young males hatched this year will acquire their red throat feathers during the forthcoming fall and winter.

Adult male ruby-throated hummingbirds depart our region for their southern wintering grounds before the adult females or young of the year. This is possible in part due to the fact that adult males do not take part in nest construction or raising of their young whatsoever.

Anderson photographed a juvenile bald eagle on August 11 perched on a dead tree in Warren Dunes State Park.



Bald eagles do not acquire their distinctive white heads and tails until their fifth year of life.

I also observed a juvenile bald eagle on the morning of August 6, as it sat in a dead portion of an eastern cottonwood tree next to the Lafarge Corp. cement terminal in St. Joseph.

Steve Frappier of St. Joseph photographed a buck white-tailed deer, with "velvet" antlers on August 2 as it wandered through the family backyard. 100 years ago this would have been unheard of by residents of Southwest Michigan as the white-tailed deer population had been wiped out by unregulated market hunting and habitat destruction.



Top photos: Black rat snake on July 26, attempting to consume a red squirrel at the home of Karen Pallas of Eau Claire.

Bottom left: Adult male ruby-throated hummingbird, August 7, perches in the garden of Hannah and Brad Anderson of Bridgman.

Above: A juvenile bald eagle sits in a dead tree in Warren Dunes State Park, captured by the camera lens of Brad Anderson, August 11.

Left: A buck (male) white-tailed deer wanders through the yard of Steve Frappier of St. Joseph, August 2.

Local History

The intersection of Broadway and Hilton

Provided by Jonathan Wuepper
Manager Local History Branch
Cass District Library

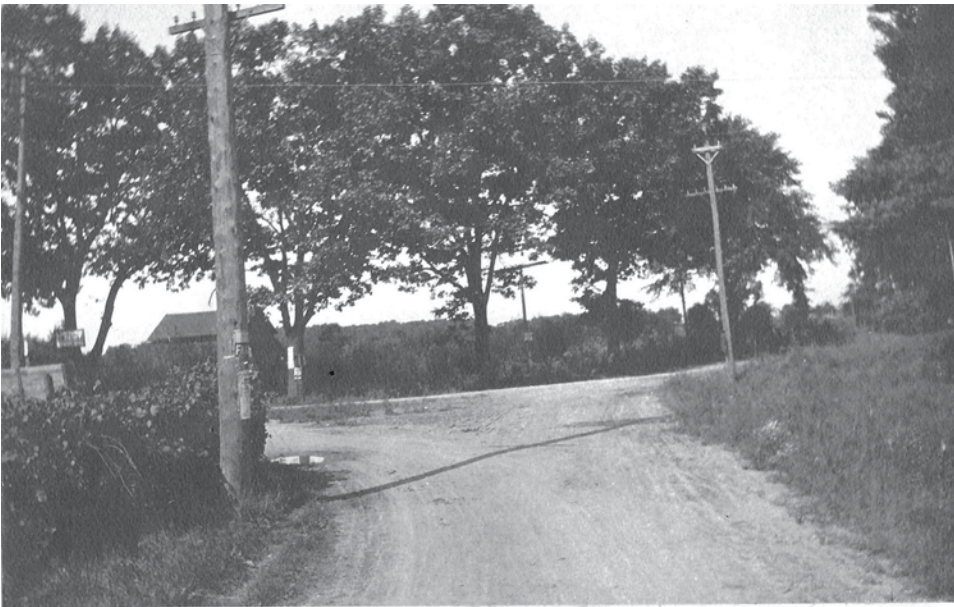
This month I'd like to feature another "then and now" scene, this time from the intersection of North Broadway and Hilton streets in Cassopolis, Michigan. The "then" shot was taken by Melissa Blanche Graham Harrison, "in the 1920s" according to the late Keith Harrison. I have narrowed the year to 1920-1922, as an additional photo from the same batch of photos batch of photos does not show the Pioneer Log cabin (built 1923) on the shore of Stone Lake.

The "now" photo was taken by yours truly on the afternoon of August 15, 2023. Both photographs are looking to the west.

I have included a screenshot of the land that is currently that intersection, as shown on a plat map of Cass County from the year 1860. Hilton Street was not yet built at that time, but the road we now know as M-62 and Broadway Street was in existence and is shown on the map. According to the map, the land on all sides of the road in 1860 was then owned by G.B. Turner, and where the road curves west was then about quarter mile north of the Cassopolis village limits.

"G.B. Turner" was George Brunt Turner (1822-1903) who was born in Franklin County, New York on March 1, 1822 and moved to Cassopolis in 1836. Turner worked as a lawyer apprentice in the law office of Alexander H. Redfield, also of Cassopolis. Redfield built the first brick building in the village in 1837 on the site now occupied by the Local History Branch of the Cass District Library.

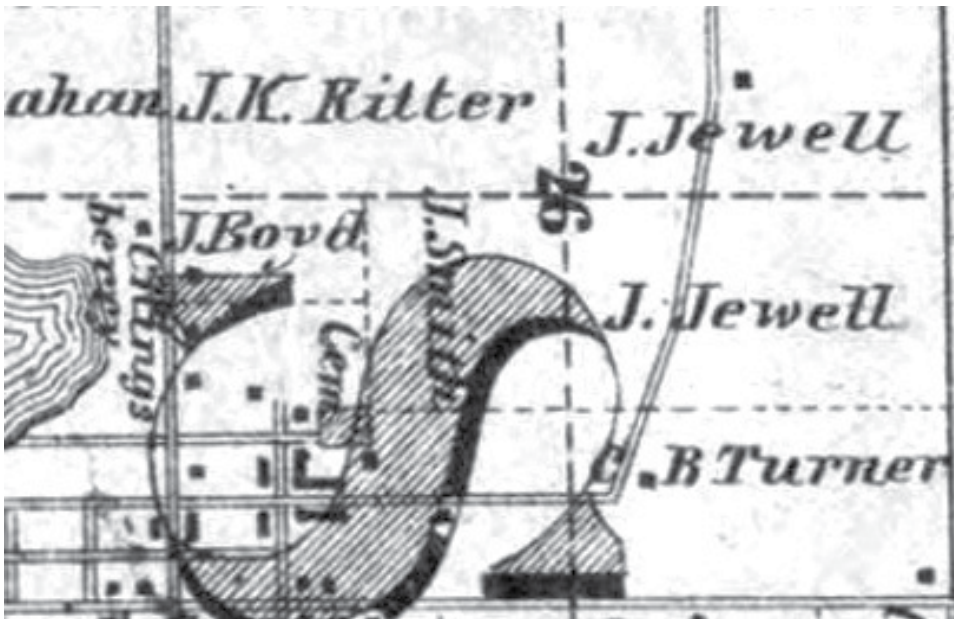
George B. Turner was admitted to the bar by none other than Judge Epaphroditus Ransom on September 27, 1844. Ransom's name may not be familiar to readers, but he was the Circuit Judge presiding over trials in the Southwest Michigan counties of Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, etc. during the 1830s and 1840s. Ransom presided over trials in the 1841 Cass County courthouse which later became the Colonial Theater during the late 19th and 20th Centuries (torn down 1968). Ransom is most noted as serving as the seventh Governor of the State of Michigan from January 3, 1848 - January 7, 1850 and was the first Governor to take the oath of office in Lansing after it became the State



← 90 Cass → Junction No Broadway and Hilton St. Capital.

G.B. Turner abandoned his law practice in 1850 due to ill health, and "removed to a farm". Sources say he lived on a farm in Jefferson Township from 1850 until he resumed his law practice in 1874, but I have found that Turner lived on the farm north of the Cassopolis village limits until sometime during the late 1860s to about 1870 when he then removed to Jefferson Township.

By 1872 Turner had moved to Jefferson Township and Major Joseph Smith had purchased the land surrounding the intersection of Broadway and Hilton Streets. Hilton Street had been built during the interim period of 1860-1872. The intersection still remained outside of the Cassopolis village limits in 1872.



TOP LEFT: View of the junction North Broadway and Hilton Streets, Cassopolis, Michigan, circa 1920-1922. Photo by Melissa Blanche Graham Harrison. **ABOVE:** Same viewpoint, August 15, 2023. Photo by Jonathan Wuepper. **TOP RIGHT:** Screenshot of that same intersection before Hilton Street was built in 1860. Taken from the 1860 Map of the Counties of Cass, Van Buren and Berrien, Michigan. Published by Geil, Harley & Siverd, in Philadelphia. Courtesy Library of Congress. **LEFT:** Screenshot of the intersection of North Broadway and Hilton Streets, Cassopolis, 1872. Taken from Atlas of Cass County, Michigan by C.O. Titus, of Philadelphia.

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If we make it to Sunday, happy anniversary Sandy



he other morning, it was a Monday, and I was sitting peacefully at my computer by the window checking my email and starting my routine for the day. I'd opened the sliding glass door beside me to let a breath of fresh air into the room, and I was sipping on my

first cup of coffee, when all of a sudden a noise came through the door that completely shattered my nerves. It was a loud, repeating, rhythmic noise that combined a slapping sound with a guttural grunting or gasping.

Nearly spilling my hot coffee, I jumped up from my desk chair and stepped out onto the deck ... in time to see two large, long, sleek swans taking off from the calm lake, straining and flapping frantically as their wings hit the water on either side of them as they tried to rise. Now I've seen and heard this before since swans are regular visitors to our lake, and when swans decide it's time to move, the racket can't be missed.

I stood and watched (and listened) for a while before returning to my coffee and computer, but the scene had unsettled me for some vague reason. Try as I might I couldn't concentrate. Something was disrupting my whole routine. As the morning wore on my anxiety grew, and by the time the grounds in the bottom of my cup ground themselves against my teeth, I knew I had to get up and go look around. Had I missed something when I was watching the swans? Why swans? Was there a clue I was overlooking?

I stepped back onto the deck to have a more thorough look around. The sun was just rising so I could see well enough. Nothing was out of place. The boats were where they belong, the pontoon boat tied to the pier, the sailboats resting on their lifts and the kayaks strapped to their holders. There weren't any fishermen or skiers or jet skis out on the lake; the water was calm and still except for an occasional ring where a fish or turtle had disrupted the surface.

There was simply nothing that I could see to account for my unease. But the feeling persisted, and I wasn't comfortable. I was surely missing something.

Trying to shake it off I hit the coffee pot again for another cuppa and tried to get back into the morning

ritual. Email, check. Bank account, check. Weather check, check. Check the Internet news, check. Check the date ... whoa Nelly. How can that be? Nonetheless, today's date drew a bingo ... something was disrupting my weird stuff-ometer, something other than the upcoming hay fever season, a string of stinking hot dog days and the inevitable end of summer.

I pulled up the whole monthly calendar, and there it was. Next Sunday will be our anniversary. If we make it to Sunday. Not a big deal ... There are plenty of days left to get a card, maybe some flowers, dinner reservations. No need for a gift; we rarely have exchanged gifts, and in fact we've both drifted past our anniversary without notice on more than once occasion in the past.

That happens when you've been married for a long time. A really long time. An unbelievably long time. If we make it to Sunday, we will have been married for an amazing 53 years. I spent the rest of the day thinking about that; not the number, the reality. We're not swans. How could we have stayed together this long?

One day at a time, that's how it's worked for the last 52 years, 359 days. Just need to get to Sunday.

The year we got married, 1970, I had just turned 18 in May and graduated from high school in June. That summer I met this cute girl with frosted hair (which I found exotic), green eyes (that flashed like a strobe light when the sun hit them just right). Like most 18 year old boys would have, I fell in love with this vixen.

We spent the summer in an atypical courtship; I had been working nights at a supermarket my senior year so my daylight hours weren't conducive to a normal relationship; she was busy with her own responsibilities as a nursing student and teaching Sunday School at her church, so our time together was limited.

But as it often does, one thing led to another (not necessarily in that order), and come August we ran off and got married (that's a different, really long and twisting story for another time).

No one expected we'd make it, and nearly everyone we know told us so in no uncertain terms. "You'll never make it," they said. In no uncertain terms

Of course there were rough times.

Times of no money.

Times that seemed overwhelming when we were raising two daughters and trying to work the kids, work

and college into our partnership.

Times when we felt trapped at home while our friends were going off to college, joining frats and sororities, partying all night and starting new careers in other states where we wished we could live.

Times when we fought and screamed and broke things and said the most awful things to one another.

Married people do that sometimes. Sometimes, we did that a lot more than we should have.

But somehow we stayed together.

For a long while we both half-jokingly told our friends and family we were staying together because neither of us were willing to take the kids (If you're reading this, just kidding kids, we didn't mean it, we've always loved you, we just weren't so sure we loved each other from time to time, but you probably knew that).

Over the years when someone would ask how many years we'd been married, I traditionally would answer by saying that "IF" we made it to August 27, we'd have so many years in ... with a big emphasis on the "IF."

"You'll make it," they'd usually say, prompting me to explain that when we got married just about everyone we knew said it'd never last. In no uncertain terms.

One day at a time, that's how it's worked for the last 52 years, 359 days. Just need to get to Sunday.

Anniversary after anniversary (at least on the anniversaries we both remembered and celebrated), we've found ourselves sitting over a nice dinner somewhere and we'd raise a glass of wine in an incredulous toast.

"Well, we made another one," we'd half joke.

Then I'd usually mess it up with my favorite line from Jaws, where the wife says to the shark sheriff, "Want to get drunk and mess around?" Call me a romantic. Sometimes the magic works, sometimes not so much, but when you've already got 52 years, 359 days in, it seems like you ought to be able to slide into next Sunday without too much trouble.

Still, I'm not taking anything for granted.

Most likely I'll forget to pick up that card, and I probably won't make to the florist, but like the swans, at least this far, we've had a pretty good life together, so we've got that going for us ... and I'm looking forward to saying, "We made another one."

If we make it to Sunday.

Happy anniversary Sandy.



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