

# Neighbors

OCTOBER 2025

NOW IN OUR 22<sup>nd</sup> YEAR

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, 5
Lake Life with Jane .....	Page 6
Field Trip.....	Pages 10-11
Floyd's Postcards.....	Pages 13-15
The Last Word.....	Page 19

Neighbors is published monthly from April through October

To contact Neighbors  
(269) 228-1080  
(269) 476-1680

[www.cassneighbors.com](http://www.cassneighbors.com)

sailorphil@philvitale.com

Brazilstein@gmail.com



### SPECIAL NOTICE TO OUR READERS

Due to the rising costs of production and distribution and the seasonal decline in advertising, we will not be publishing a newspaper in November this year or in March next year. Our regular publication is planned to resume in April, 2026. We wish you a joyful holiday season and winter. See you in the Spring.

Fred and Phil

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:

Farewell  
to a HOT  
Summer

Pages 10-12



# Regional News

## Fall plant workshop

"Putting the Garden to Bed: Fall Strategies for a Flourishing Spring," will be the workshop topic covered by Mark Dussel when he speaks in October in Edwardsburg.

The owner of Dussel's Farm Market and Greenhouses, Cassopolis, will cover everything from weeds to mulch to soil health and more from 6:30 to 8 pm, Tues., Oct. 21, at the Ontwa Township Hall.

The event is sponsored by the Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum, whose annual perennial plant sale Dussel's business supports. There is no admission charge.

The workshop is designed to help gardeners reduce their spring workload to improve plant health with key considerations for Zone 5b, which is in the Edwardsburg area zip code. Included will be fertilization and soil health, protection, bulb planting, pruning, lawn and landscape preparation, tools and equipment, and planning for various seeds and structures such as cold frames or row covers to extend the growing season.

## Wright to speak Oct. 16

Owen Wright, a veteran businessman and public servant of the Cass County-Edwardsburg area will speak on "People and Events in Mason Township" at 7 p.m., Thurs., Oct. 16, at the Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum.

His presentation will draw on his vast experiences as a construction company owner, a former Mason Township supervisor, and lifelong resident whose family helped settle Cass County.

Wright graduated from Constantine High School and attended Earlham

College to study engineering. He became vice president and general manager of John Wright and Sons Inc. in 1965. It was a family partnership founded by his father in 1956. The Osceola-based company specialized in construction throughout Michiana, including condominium and apartment projects, shopping centers, and home building. Wright purchased 60 acres on Redfield Street in 1978 and, in 1986, began developing the Maple Glen subdivision. Upon his retirement in 2003, he closed his business.

Wright served as president and a board member of the Edwardsburg Area Chamber of Commerce. He was also president of the Cass County chapter of the National Management Association and, in 1989, was named the chapter's manager of the year. His public service includes the Cass County Board of Public Works. He served as the zoning administrator of Mason Township and was also a township trustee for four years. He was elected Mason Township supervisor in 1996, serving until 2004.

His presentation will focus on the extensive contributions of two long-time Mason Township public servants, the late Waldo (Soapy) Ehret, a trustee for 42 years, and the late Supervisor Robert Smith. He will also cover the history of the township hall, which, as the District 5 Schoolhouse, is on the state and national historic registers.

## Cass County CROP Walk

Representatives of churches across the county are planning for the Oct. 5 CROP Walk to support local food pantries and Church World Service (CWS) global programs. This year's theme, "Chickens, Beans, and Big Dreams" aptly

describes the work of CWS programs, like providing sustainable farming practices (drought resistant beans and water access) to prevent failed harvests caused by climate change.

This year's event will be held at the Cass County COA pavilion in Cassopolis, register at 1:30 pm, walk at 2 pm. All are welcome to join, including dogs, to meet other Christians across the county and to help provide chickens, beans, and big dreams for our neighbors near and far. For more information or to obtain sponsorship forms, contact edwardsburgpc@gmail.com or call (269) 663-6815.

## Christmas program at CUMC

Community women are invited to the musical performance "Christmas by Candlelight" by singer/pianist Jonathan Clough at Cassopolis United Methodist Church (CUMC) on December 8 at 6 pm. Dessert will be served prior to the program. RSVP to Liana at 445-3107 or Char at 268-7066

## Fall rummage & bake sale

The First United Methodist Church, 326 N Lowe St, Dowagiac, will have a fall rummage and bake sale on October 10 from 9 am - 4 pm and October 11 from 9 am - 3 pm.

Saturday will feature a bag sale, buy 2, get 1 bag free. Items for sale will include fall & harvest decor Halloween items, tools, books, furniture, kitchen-ware, clothing, beds and more.

For more information call Darlene at 782-8551.

## Cass County Historical Society Lecture & Event Series

The Cass County Historical Society

has announced the remainder of its 2025 lecture and event series. Events include:

### Newberg One Room School House - SEPT.

16, 6:30 pm, 13020 Born St, Jones. Visit the 1856 one-room schoolhouse for a unique opportunity to hear firsthand memories from former students who attended this historic school.

### Annual Fall Festival - Newton House - OCT.

11, 11 - 3 pm, 20689 Marcellus Hwy., Decatur, MI 49045 (Adjacent to Fred Russ Forest Park). Come to the annual Fall Festival at Newton House, a free, family-friendly event featuring kid's activities, pie-eating contests, puppeteers, free snacks, house tours, wagon rides through Fred Russ Forest Park with Civil War reenactments.

### Christmas at Newton House - DEC 6, 1

- 4 pm. Experience the magic of the season at historic Newton House, beautifully decorated for the holidays. This exclusive, ticketed event offers a festive escape in a historic setting. Watch our FB page and website for more details!

For more information, email - ccmihistoricalsociety@gmail.com or visit www.ccmihistoricalsociety.org.

## Lerner Theater events listed

The Lerner Theater in Elkhart will host the **World Ballet Company**: The Great Gatsby on Friday, October 3 at 7 pm. Tickets are on sale now at \$89, \$75, \$55 or \$39 plus fees.

For more information see <https://worldballetcompany.com>

The Lerner will also present Mutts Gone Nuts: Unleashed! on November 14, at 7 pm.

Come see the world's most talented four-legged performers in a funny, comedy dog spectacular! The all-star lineup



**FLOE**  
DOCKS & LIFTS



**PIER**  
**PERFECTION**



**CASSOPOLIS, MI**  
**269.233.2222**  
**pierperfection.com**

**EASY LEVEL™ SYSTEM**  
**ON LIFTS**



**EASY LEVEL™ SYSTEM**  
**ON DOCKS**



# Regional News

includes a Guinness World Record holder, an America's Got Talent fan favorite, and a host of rescue dogs that will dance, their way into your heart.

All-In Price: \$44.75, \$39.10, \$30.90, \$22.60. Tickets are on sale now.

For details on events visit <https://thelerner.com>.

## Beckwith Seeks Volunteers

The Beckwith Theatre Company is seeking volunteers to join its team in Dowagiac. From backstage crew and ushers to set builders and marketing helpers, there are opportunities for everyone to be part of creating memorable live theatre experiences.

"Our volunteers are the heart of Beckwith Theatre," said Jennifer Shoemaker, President of the Board of Directors. "Whether you've been in theatre for years or have never set foot on a stage, your time and talents can make a big difference. Volunteering here is not only fun and rewarding, but it is also a wonderful way to meet people and give back to the community."

The Beckwith Theatre is completely volunteer-run, and relies on volunteers for every aspect of production and operations, including:

- Front-of-House: Greeting guests, selling tickets, selling concessions, and ushering.
- On Stage: Directing and acting.
- Backstage Crew: Assisting with costumes, props, lighting, and sound.
- Set Construction & Painting: Helping design, build, and paint sets
- Marketing & Outreach: Distributing posters, assisting with social media, fund-raising, events, and organizing communica-

ty engagement.

- Administrative: Organizing, cleaning, and mailings.
- Other areas where you can shine!

No prior theatre experience is required, and training will be provided. Flexible schedules mean volunteers can commit to a single production, an occasional shift, or ongoing roles throughout the season.

Those interested in volunteering can email [beckwiththeatreMI@gmail.com](mailto:beckwiththeatreMI@gmail.com), call (269) 782-7653, or stop by the theatre at 100 New York Ave., Dowagiac, MI, during any performance weekend to learn more.

Located in the heart of Dowagiac, Beckwith Theatre Company is a non-profit community theatre dedicated to enriching the region through the performing arts. Known for high-quality productions and a welcoming atmosphere, Beckwith provides a platform for local talent and fosters a love of theatre for audiences of all ages.

## Deer management program at Spicer Lake Nature Preserve

St. Joseph County (IN) Parks will implement a deer management program at Spicer Lake Nature Preserve in New Carlisle, Indiana this November.

The deer management hunts will take place November 15 and 16, 22 and 23 and December 6 and 7. Spicer Lake Nature Preserve will be closed to the public on those dates. To emphasize deer population reduction, the management program will be an antlerless hunt.

Five hunters (including one alternate) will be selected by lottery for the following above dates to participate.

Hunters must possess a valid multi-season antlerless license. Applications for the lottery will be available on the St. Joseph County Parks web site. The deadline for applications is October 11.

Participants must attend a mandatory meeting with IDNR Conservation Officer and park staff. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 29 at 6 pm at the Spicer Lake Nature Center.

In addition to being a county park, Spicer Lake is also a state dedicated nature preserve, a classification given to high quality ecosystems. Review and approval for the deer management program was required by the Division of Nature Preserves of the IDNR.

More information and Hunter

Application Forms are available at [www.sjcparks.org](http://www.sjcparks.org).

## Murdered to Death at Beckwith

The Beckwith Theatre Company will present *Murdered to Death*, a play by Peter Gordon, on October 3 and 4 at 7:30 pm and October 5 at 2 pm.

Tickets are \$15 (Reserve online at [www.beckwiththeatre.com/box-office](http://www.beckwiththeatre.com/box-office))

*Murdered to Death* is produced by a special arrangement with Dramatist Play Service, Inc.

Beckwith Theatre Company is located at 100 New York Ave.

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

## HEY I'M WORKIN' HERE!



For advertising that works ...

call Fred at 228-1080

**READY, SET, STORE!**  
**IT BRINGS A TEAR TO OUR EYES TOO -**  
**WINTERIZATION & STORAGE SEASON**  
**IS UPON US. LET US HELP YOU WRAP**  
**UP YOUR SUMMER TIME FUN!**



CALL US AT 269.663.8424 OR STOP IN 70440 M-62 EDWARDSBURG, MI 49112

**KRUPPS**  
**POWERSPORTS & MARINE**

**FIRST TIME CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE**  
**\$100 OFF PONTOON SHRINK WRAP**  
**OR**  
**\$50 OFF PWC SHRINK WRAP**

**FULL SERVICE**  
**WINTERIZATION**  
**SHRINK WRAP**  
**STORAGE**  
**AVAILABLE FOR PWC'S,**  
**OUTBOARDS & I/O'S**

# Regional Calendar

## MISC. AREA EVENTS

**WORLD BALLET COMPANY: THE GREAT GATSBY** - October 3, 7 pm, Lerner Theater, Elkhart, \$39-\$89, <https://worldballetcompany.com>

## Church World Services CROP

**WALK** to support local food pantries, Oct. 5, 1:30 pm, COA Pavilion, Cassopolis, [edwardsburgpc@gmail.com](mailto:edwardsburgpc@gmail.com), 663-6815

## FALL RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE,

Dowagiac First United Methodist Church, October 10 (9 am-4pm) and 11 (9am-3 pm). 782-8551

## CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT

music program and dessert, Dec. 8, 6 pm, Cassopolis United Methodist Church, RSVP 445-3107 or 268-7066

## CHRISTMAS AT THE BONINE HOUSE

- Dec 1-14, 1-6 pm.

## BECKWITH THEATRE LOCAL PLAYWRIGHT'S FESTIVAL

Feb 6-8, 2026; entry deadline Oct. 13, 2025 782-7653

## DOWAGIAC EVENTS

[www.dowagiachamber.com/events/upcoming-events](http://www.dowagiachamber.com/events/upcoming-events)

## UNDER THE HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL

October 11, 10 am - 4 pm

## CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

WEEKEND & THETA MU CRAFT SHOW, November 14, 15, 10 am - 5 pm

## SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY,

November 29, 10 am

## CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS PARADE

December 05, 7 - 8 pm

**ICE TIME FESTIVAL**, February 07, 2026, 10 am - 4 pm

**CASS CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWBERG ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE** - SEPT. 16, 6:30 pm, 13020 Born St, Jones.

**ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL** - OCT. 11, 11 - 3 pm, Newton House, 20689 Marcellus Hwy., Decatur,

**CHRISTMAS AT NEWTON HOUSE** - DEC 6, 1 - 4 pm.

**EDWARDSBURG MUSEUM OCTOBER 16—SPEAKER: OWEN WRIGHT, 7 pm. OCTOBER 31—WITCHES ON THE PORCH**

**NOVEMBER 4-DECEMBER 13: DISPLAY: "TIS THE SEASON.'**

**DECEMBER 4-CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**, 5:30 pm, followed by open house.

**DECEMBER 13: MUSEUM CLOSES UNTIL SPRING 2026**

## CASS DISTRICT LIBRARY

**01 Oct - Storytime**, 11 am - noon, Mason/Union Branch

**01 Oct - Spooky DIY Doormat**

5:30 - 6:30 pm, Main Branch

**02 Oct - Storytime**, 11 am - noon, Main Branch

**04 Oct - Young Inventors**, 10:30 - 11:30 am, Howard Branch

## 06 Oct - T'ai Chi with Alyse Knepple

11 am - noon, Mason/Union Branch

**06 Oct - Cardio Drumming**, 5 - 6 pm, Howard Branch

**07 Oct - Storytime**, 11 am - noon, Edwardsburg, Howard Branch

**07 Oct - Storytime, Stoneware Candy Bowl with Bee Crafty**, 5:30 - 6:30 pm, Howard Branch

**08 Oct - Storytime**, 10 - 11 am, Mason/Union Branch

**08 Oct - Adult Craft Club: Dryer Hose Pumpkin**, 1 - 2 pm. Main Branch

**08 Oct - Pokémon Club**, 4 - 5 pm, Main Branch

**08 Oct - Books & Brews**, 5:30 - 6:30 pm Cassopolis Beer Company

**08 Oct - Bingo Night**, 6 - 8 pm, Mason/Union Branch

**09 Oct - Storytime**, 11 am - noon, Main Branch

**09 Oct - Reflections of Church Street**, 5:30 - 6:30 pm, Edwardsburg Branch

**13 Oct - T'ai Chi with Alyse Knepple**, 11 am - noon, Mason/Union Branch

**13 Oct - Artistic Adventurers**, 11 am - noon, Main Branch

**13 Oct - Cardio Drumming**, 5 - 6 pm, Howard Branch

Howard Branch

**14 Oct - Storytime**, 11 am - noon, Edwardsburg, Howard Branch

**15 Oct - Storytime**, 10 - 11 am, Mason/Union Branch

**15 Oct - Teen Space: Pet Ghost**, 3-4 pm, Edwardsburg Branch

**15 Oct - Jeff Morrison Presents: Gargoyles, Grotesques, Graveyards, and Ghosts**, 6 - 7 pm, Main Branch

**16 Oct - Storytime**, 11 am - noon, Main Branch

**16 Oct - Village Book Club**, 5:30 - 6:30 pm, Edwardsburg Branch

**20 Oct - T'ai Chi with Alyse Knepple**, 11 am - noon, Mason/Union Branch

**20 Oct - Homeschool Hangout**, 1 - 2 pm, Edwardsburg Branch

**20 Oct - Cardio Drumming**, 5 - 6 pm, Howard Branch

**21 Oct - Savage Readers Book Club**, 10 - 11 am, Savage Bean Coffee Co.

**21 Oct - Storytime**, 11 am - noon, Edwardsburg, Howard Branch

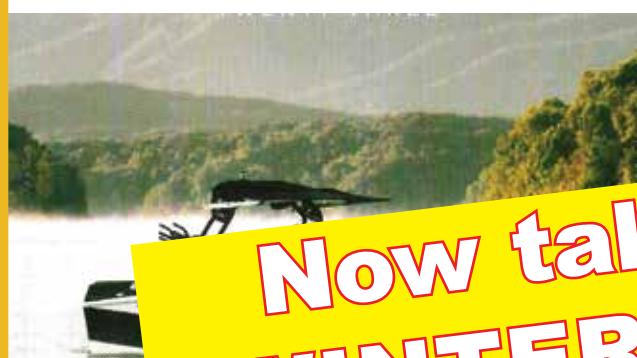
**22 Oct - Storytime**, 10 - 11 am, Mason/Union Branch

**23 Oct - Storytime**, 11 am - noon, Main Branch

**WWW.APOLLO MARINE.NET AUTUMN SPECIAL**

**END OF YEAR BLOWOUT SALE! ON ALL REMAINING INVENTORY**

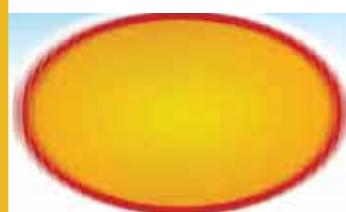
**Now taking reservations for WINTER - INDOOR STORAGE**



**MOOMBA**

**AVALON**

**STARCRAFT**



**APOLLOMARINE.net**

**We rent  
Pontoon Boats!**

**We service all  
area lakes!**



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

**269-423-6011  
1-888-966-BOAT**

**SALES • SERVICE • STORAGE**

# Regional Calendar

**23 Oct - Boo-Tiful Mask Workshop**  
4 - 6 pm, Edwardsburg Branch

**27 Oct - T'ai Chi with Alyse Knepple**, 11 am - noon, Mason/Union Branch

**27 Oct - Cardio Drumming**, 5 - 6 pm, Howard Branch

**28 Oct - Storytime**, 11 am - noon, Edwardsburg, Howard Branch

**29 Oct - Storytime**, 10 - 11 am, Mason/Union Branch

**29 Oct - Library Spooktacular**, 6 - 7 pm. Main Branch

**30 Oct - Storytime**, 11 am - noon, Main Branch

To see September events visit <https://www.cassdistrictlibrary.org/events/>

## DOWAGIAC DISTRICT LIBRARY PRESCHOOL STORYTIME.

**TUESDAYS:** 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.

## TODDLER STORY & PLAY TIME.

**THURSDAYS:** 10:30-11:15 am. Children ages 1-3 and their parents or caregivers are invited to Toddler Story time at Dowagiac District Library.

**MAKE & SHARE COOKBOOK CLUB. (THURSDAY, October 2)**; 5:30 - 6:30 pm. October's Book: Food to Die For: Recipes

and Stories from America's Most Legendary Haunted Places by Amy Bruni. Create a recipe from the monthly cookbook selection, then join us at the library for a recipe share & book discussion.

**S.T.E.A.M FOR TWEENS. (WEDNESDAY, October 1 & WEDNESDAY, October 15)**; 4 pm. Children ages 8-12 are invited to join this science program designed to engage young minds to think like a scientist. Space is limited, please register by calling 269-782-3826 or email (att: Pam) at [dowagiadlibrarystaff@gmail.com](mailto:dowagiadlibrarystaff@gmail.com).

**FLU SHOT CLINIC. (TUESDAY, October 7)**; 11 am-3 pm. We will be partnering with Family Fare Pharmacy of Dowagiac to provide a flu shot clinic on Tuesday, October 7 from 11am-3pm. Please bring your prescription insurance card to participate. No registration is required for this clinic.

## ADVENTURES IN BOOKLAND BOOK CLUB FOR KIDS. (WEDNESDAY, October 8)

4-5 pm. October's Book: Saving The Sun Dragon by Tracey West. The Adventures in Bookland Book Club is for kids 6-8 years old. For more information, stop by the Youth Services desk located on the second floor of the library.

## SIP & SHARE BOOK CLUB AT SISTER LAKES BREWING.

(WEDNESDAY, October 8); 6 -8 pm. October's Book: Read a Banned Book. Join us for the Sip & Share Book Club at Sister Lakes Brewing Company. This event is being held at Sister Lakes Brewing Company 92500 CO RD 690 Dowagiac, MI 49047. For further information, please call Erin at 269-782-3826 or email [erin@dowagiadcl.org](mailto:erin@dowagiadcl.org).

**HALLOWEEN TRIVIA NIGHT. (THURSDAY, October 9)**; 5:30 - 7pm. Join us at the library for a spooktacular Trivia Night! Bring yourself or a group of friends and get ready to put your Halloween knowledge to the test during this frightfully fun evening. This program is intended for patrons 12 and up.

**LITTLE BEAKERS. (SATURDAY, October 11)**; 11 am -12 pm. Little Beakers is a science program designed for kids ages 4-7 and will meet once a month to encourage scientific inquiry with the younger children.

## RECIPE ROCK STARS. (TUESDAY, October 14)

; 3:30 - 5 pm. October recipe: Pumpkin Fluff. Recipe Rock Stars is a fun beginner cooking program that dishes out simple recipes and cooking basics. This program is for teens 6th through 12th grade and meets the second Tuesday of each month at 3:30 pm in the Pokagon Room on the second level of the library.

## NATURE NOVELLA-HEDDON PARK. (THURSDAY, October 16)

; 3 - 4pm. October pick: The Ten Thousand Doors of January by Alix E. Harrow. Meet us in one of Dowagiac's beautiful parks and we'll chat about our latest read while surrounded by trees and fresh air. Don't forget your trusty folding chair and a refreshing drink. October will meet at Heddon Park.

## CRAFT NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY. (THURSDAY, October 16)

; 5:30 - 6:45pm; Halloween Cemetariums. For further information, please call Erin at 269-782-3826 or email [erin@dowagiadcl.org](mailto:erin@dowagiadcl.org).

**CREATIVE KIDS CLUB. (FRIDAY, October 17)**; 10:30 -11:30 am. Creative Kids Club is an arts and crafts program designed for kids ages 4-8 and will meet once a month to encourage artistic expression with the younger children.

**THE INKWELL EXPLORERS BOOK CLUB FOR TWEENS. (WEDNESDAY, October 22)**; 4 - 5 pm. October's Book: Felix Powell, Boy Dog by Erin Entrada Kelly. The Inkwell Explorers Book Club is for tweens 9-12 years old. For more information, stop by the Youth Services desk located on the second floor of the library.

## LECTURE BY THE MICHIGAN PARANORMAL SOCIETY. (WEDNESDAY, October 29)

; 6 - 8 pm. Believe in ghosts? Join T. M. P. S. (The Michigan Paranormal Society), for a lecture on the paranormal. See what it takes to be a ghost hunter and view the evidence they have collected to prove that the things that go bump in the night do indeed exist! \*Must be 16 or older, or have parental approval to attend the lecture.

For more information on these events, visit <https://www.dowagiadcl.org/events/>

## MARCELLUS TOWNSHIP WOOD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

To see September events visit <https://www.marcellus.michlibrary.org/>

**O'Donnell's Docks LLC**

**WE CLEAN BOAT LIFT COVERS**





We have replacement lift covers and we can repair most lift brands

**LATE SUMMER SPECIALS**

**25% off 4'X10' in-stock HD anodized aluminum dock sections**  
Retail \$891 - SALE PRICE \$668

**15% off in-stock boat lifts**

**Serving you for OVER 30 YEARS!**

For an online quote, go to [www.odonnellsdocks.com](http://www.odonnellsdocks.com)





12097 M-60 • Jones, MI  
269-244-1446  
[info@odonnellsdocks.com](mailto:info@odonnellsdocks.com)  
Authorized Dealer For:

**SHOREMASTER** **lift**  
**tech** **Marine**

**4EVER ALUMINUM** **POLYDOCK**  
PRODUCTS, INC. **CRAFTLANDER**



**What are you looking at?**

This newspaper ad has attracted your attention and you're looking at it right now. Just imagine how many people might be looking at your ad in this spot.

For information on advertising here, call Fred at (269) 228-1080 or email him at [Brazilstein@gmail.com](mailto:Brazilstein@gmail.com)

# Lake Life with Jane

## A short reprieve before the holidays

by **Jane Boudreau**



**H**ey Neighbors! Welcome to October! Consider this a short reprieve before the holiday busyness beginning next month, a welcome and festive reprieve, shall we? I personally love fall; the crisp, cool weather, the changing leaves that fall, creating a colorful carpet that crunches underfoot, and those late-afternoon bonfires rather than the late-night summer ones. Have you put your garden to bed? I love that saying! After all the tending to, physical work, cleaning out, and cleaning up, it's a bit of a relief to cut down my plants close to the ground, cover them with mulch, and say, "Night, night, garden. See you in the spring." A lot of us must be feeling a bit that way. Out come the heavier clothes, blankets, pillows, throws. We surround ourselves with deeper, richer colors that mimic the colors outside our windows (have you noticed that in my photos?). The season is a riot of color with the mums, pumpkins, and leaves. How can you not love it? I still firmly believe in not rushing seasons, bemoaning the weather we had longed for just as it's settling in. That's the curse and the beauty of life in the Midwest.



Next month would have been the final issue of Neighbors before it takes its usual break until Spring, but since Neighbors isn't going to be published in November, I'm changing things up a bit. I have shared some recipes in the past that were favorites of mine and well received. And my Imaginary Book Club took a break; instead, I rounded up some new publications across a variety of genres. Don't say I left you high and dry. I also thought I'd clue you in on my favorite book, which I reviewed in hopes that if you haven't read it, you might consider it again. It's that good. So read on and enjoy!

### Cranberry Thyme Spritz

This is a festive little drink, but I actually chose it for its vibrant color and for the gorgeous cranberries com-



ing into season just about now. The weather is still perfect for spritzers, which I've been enjoying all summer long (they're perfect for day drinkers!), and you'll feel in fashion if you've started pulling out your cardigans.

### CRANBERRY THYME SPRITZ

#### Ingredients:

1/2 c honey  
2 c fresh cranberries  
2 sprigs fresh thyme  
1 inch fresh ginger, sliced  
8 oz. vodka  
4 oz. elderflower liquor  
1/3 c grapefruit juice  
1 fresh grapefruit, sliced, for garnish  
1/4 c fresh lime juice (2-3 limes)  
4-6 ginger beers  
Star Anise for serving (optional)

#### Directions:

In a medium pot, bring 1/2 cup of water, the honey, cranberries, thyme, and ginger to a boil over high heat. Boil 5 minutes or until the cranberries begin to burst. Remove from heat and let cool. Remove the thyme and ginger. If desired, strain out the cranberries.

In a large pitcher, combine the cranberry juice, simple syrup, vodka, elderflower liquor, grapefruit juice, and lime juice. Chill until ready to serve.

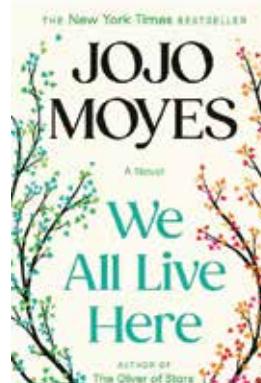
Add the ginger beer just before serving. Garnish each drink with a grapefruit slice and star anise if desired.

### JANE'S IMAGINARY BOOK CLUB

This month, as I said, I've taken the liberty of deviating from the path of our normal book club to bring you an offering of a few new books on the horizon that I've had my sights set on. This might give you a little jumpstart on your New Year's reading when Your's Truly is not around. Ahem! I'm highlighting Jojo Moyes' 2025 novel, *We All Live Here*, as my personal choice for the best Book Club read this year, which I reviewed in June. If you love a good British RomCom with a gutsy, smart gal who wears her heart on her sleeve, along with a cast of quirky relatives and strangers, this is a book you will want to never end. It reminded me of a Neil Simon play. R-rated. And if you are ever in doubt of where to find a good read, check Reese's Book Club (we're in competition). That's Reese Witherspoon, by the way. Her book choices are available at Target. I think they have something they cooked up, and I find this to be a great way to narrow down the playing field. At least I know she and I have similar tastes in reading, and a few million others. I was pleasantly surprised recently to find that Target's prices on books are comparable to Amazon's.

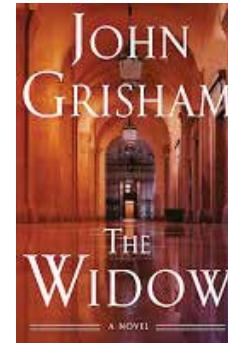
With my ear to the ground on my social, virtual brunching with my blog friends, and the random magazine review, this is a small sampling of new publications we might want to consider as the days get shorter~

- Both Things Are True Kathleen Barber (Romance)
- Amity Nathan Harris (Historical Fiction)
- The Widow John Grisham (Mystery)
- All the Way to the River Elizabeth



Gilbert (Non-Fiction)

- Her First Mistake Kendra Elliot (Thriller)



bacon and date. Drizzle a little of the honey and rosemary over it. Serve with thin toasted bread rounds or crackers. Serves 8.



### SWEET AND SPICY PAN-ROASTED CARROTS

My mind has turned to root vegetables as they are in season, and everybody loves carrots, right? Even my dogs love them, and they are a healthy treat. This is a basic yet delicious side dish that you can make for your regular dinner or for company.

#### Ingredients:

8 medium carrots (rainbow carrots if you can find them), tops on  
2 T brown sugar  
5 t melted butter  
1/4 t ground cinnamon  
1/2 t salt  
1/8 t ground cloves  
Dash of cayenne pepper  
2 T chopped toasted pecans

#### Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line a large rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper

Arrange carrots in an even layer and cover with foil. Roast for 25-30 minutes until just tender in the thickest part.

Meanwhile, stir brown sugar, butter, cinnamon, salt, ground cloves, and cayenne pepper in a small bowl until well combined.

Remove the carrots from the oven and pull off the foil. Drizzle the glaze over to coat well. Roast uncovered, until the carrots are tender and caramelized. Top with pecans.



### JANE'S CHILI

Everyone has their own chili recipe; some keep it in a can in the pantry. I'm always impressed by the diversity in how people put together protein, vegetables, and starch, with a tomato base, and create something so filling and satisfying. And aren't Fall chili cook-offs fun? Not that I've ever won one! There's a lot of

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE, SEE JANE**

# Our Children

## You are being watched

by **SANDY FLEMING**

**Y**ou Are Being Watched. Sounds a bit ominous, right? But it is true. Your actions and behavior are under scrutiny nearly every time you interact with others, but especially when you come in contact with children. If you are parent, you are under the microscope, so to speak, twenty-four-seven.

And it is amazing what the little darlings pick up from each of us (parent, friend, neighbor, relative, passer-by in the store, wherever). We've all heard that parents have the huge job of "raising their kids", but we often overlook the idea that we ALL play a role in what the kids are learning. After all, it truly does take a village to shape a young person's beliefs and attitudes about life.

Actions speak far louder than words, too. Before you interact with others, or even before you take any actions at all, remind yourself that you just never know who is watching and what they are learning. It's important to make sure your actions and words reflect your values. This is how we teach the next generation.

### Matching Outside to Inside

We all have a set of core beliefs that govern how we perceive the world and how we interact with it. Our values probably sound lofty if we say them out loud: things like honesty, happiness, hope, love, charity, and goodness are high on the list. We want to treat others with respect, to be kind, and to be truthful. Sometimes our values are wrapped up tightly with our religious faith, and sometimes they are not, but they are always a big part of who we believe ourselves to be.

One study from the National

Institute of Health indicates that a strong conflict between a person's value system and their own actions and choices can worsen conditions such as depression and anxiety. This mismatch is called "cognitive dissonance" and it is a very, very uncomfortable feeling.

It's such a common situation that our language is full of proverbial words of wisdom that are polar opposites in meaning. Think about the conflict between "Don't judge a book by its cover" and "Clothes make the man." One highlights the value of dressing properly, while the other cautions against using appearances to draw conclusions. Depending on the people and the situation, both are actually true, but which one you gravitate towards says a lot about your values.

Check your inside and your outside for a mismatch. Do you believe in honesty, yet tell white lies or larger fibs to smooth things over with the boss or with others? Do you tell yourself that you believe all people deserve respect, but have one or more groups of people that you feel are less important or less capable as a group? These kinds of conflicts can show up in your actions. Do your actions usually match your beliefs?

The mismatches can lead to a "do as I say, not as I do" situation with the children in your life. Kids will invariably follow the examples you set rather than the value you are trying to teach if the two are in conflict. If you see behaviors in your children that seem to go against the core values you hold, double check what others see you doing and saying. You might find the actions and the values are not as in line as you believe they are.

### Self vs. Other

One underpinning for our personali-

ties is whether we believe in getting ourselves ahead at all costs, or if we believe that humankind is in this world together and what advances another also advances myself. Most of us will say that we believe we should help our fellow man, but we all put some kind of priority system on that value. Maybe we believe that people should help themselves first, then their families, then their friends and neighbors, and so on in ever-widening circles. Maybe we believe that we should do all in our power to make life easier for the poor. There's not really a right or wrong here, just a value that should be consistent with your actions. What value are you trying to live out? Do your actions match?

There are two proverbs for this value, as well. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" is a common thread in just about every major world religion (no, Christians didn't come up with it first!), but another proverb says "Nice guys finish last!" The two of them cut to the core of your value of self vs. others.

### Ambition vs. Security

Here's another area that can cause a mismatch between values people hold dear and values they actually use to govern their lives. Ever hear the proverb "Hitch your wagon to a star"? It means to dream big and go after those dreams with everything you've got. Another one is "nothing ventured, nothing gained." Do you value taking the risks, moving forward, and trying to make things better? Or are you more in the camp of "Don't bite off more than you can chew"? Maybe "better safe than sorry" resonates with you more. Understanding where your values are on this spectrum will help you match your actions to your beliefs.

### Independence vs. Interdependence

Another fault line in many value systems is the tension between being independent and being a part of a community that gives and takes, rising and falling together. Again, our proverbs sum it up nicely: "Two heads are better than one," "Paddle your own canoe," "Many hands make light work," "Too many cooks spoil the broth," "The best place to find a helping hand is at the end of your own arm," and "If you want to go quickly, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together." Where do you stand on this continuum? Make sure your actions match your beliefs so that others will see where you stand.

Values in our society are clearly split, and one can find a proverb or quote to support nearly any stance. What do you truly believe? What values do you hold dear and want to teach your children? It is very, very important that your actions uphold your values as much as possible. Your actions send messages about what you value. It doesn't matter how much you talk about positive thinking, but rather how often people see you acting like you believe those things.

Send clear messages out into the world, in your family, in your neighborhood, and in your workplace. It's the best way to create a lasting legacy that is in line with your real thinking. After all, "Actions speak louder than words," and "If you talk the talk, you should be able to walk the walk," as the sayings go.

**Sandy Fleming** is an educator and writer living in Edwardsburg. Check out her websites at <https://www.learningnook.com> and <https://sandyflemingonline.com> to snatch up learning and parenting tips.

### JANE CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

heated competition there! Here's just one of my many versions. Enjoy.

#### JANE'S CHILI

##### Ingredients:

1 1/2 lb. ground beef  
1 large onion, chopped  
1 green bell pepper, chopped  
1 red bell pepper  
1 medium jalapeño pepper, seeded and finely chopped  
3 cloves garlic, finely chopped  
1 28 oz. can diced tomatoes  
1 15-oz can of black beans

1 c beef broth  
1 T Worcestershire sauce  
2 T chili powder  
1 t red pepper flakes  
1 T sugar  
2 t ground cumin  
2 t ground cinnamon  
S & P to taste  
Sour cream, cheddar cheese, radish slices, sliced avocado, sliced red onion, jarred spicy peppers, or any other toppings you prefer.

##### Directions:

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Meanwhile, brown the beef in a large Dutch oven over medium heat, breaking it up thoroughly with a wooden spoon

until it is cooked through. Remove to a bowl or plate. Sauté the onion, peppers, and garlic over low heat until just tender. Add the tomatoes, beans, broth, Worcestershire sauce, beef, and remaining spices, along with salt and pepper to taste, stirring well to incorporate. Place in oven, covered, for 1 hour. Remove from the oven, stir, and scrape down the sides of the Dutch oven. Adjust the seasonings and return the dish to the oven for an additional hour. Remove and serve with toppings.

\*And now, the addition of cinnamon. Just do it for crying out loud! I learned this from a Canadian friend, and she said it's pretty common to add cinnamon to

dishes, such as tomato-based sauces like marinara or Bolognese, and, of course, chili. It's very subtle. I've never looked back.

So, it's a wrap! I hope you've enjoyed a little recap of a few things you may have missed (or forgotten), and that you have some new book in mind for these when you're more inclined to be inside rather than out. And you have to give that spritz a try! Doesn't feel strong, but watch out! Until next month.

**Jane Boudreau** is a writer, newspaper columnist, and blogger who lives on Diamond Lake, in Chicago and Asheville, NC. You can reach her at [blndy9@yahoo.com](mailto:blndy9@yahoo.com)



THK LAW, LLP

Estate Planning  
Business Counsel  
Elder Law  
Litigation

# 'bout boats and boating

## Let's talk upgrades!

By RUSTY COLLINS

**A**s the season winds down we start to think about the only logical thing, next summer! Looking at the not-so-distant future, the fall/winter is a great time to add those upgrades we may have been thinking about all season.

Here's a list of some popular upgrades we are seeing that can make your time on the water much more enjoyable! Although I am not associated with any of these brands or sponsored by them, I am listing them here because I have seen them in action and they have proven to be worthwhile.

### SureShade Power Bimini

The Sure Shade power bimini has been around for a while but it has recently become more affordable. With the push of a button the Bimini deployment takes the hassle out of enjoying a break from the sun. These units have proved their reliability and robust design over the year giving customers a decade or more of trouble-free shade!

Popular on pontoon boats, the power Bimini units can also be installed on deck boats and other vessels as well.

### Outboard EFI engine software

Do you want more power from your outboard? Outboard EFI may have the answer. A software upgrade to your engine's computer could potentially unlock up to 30 percent more horsepower! Not to mention improved throttle response and fuel efficiency all while



keeping your motor healthy and safe.

The most popular programs are the Yamaha 50 to a 75 hp, as well as the Yamaha 200 V6 models capable of producing over 300 hp!

### Bluave Marine Audio

If you like to rock, look no further. Bluave marine audio is made for the open air environment of a boat. Developed by boaters for boaters, nothing



is left to be desired. Designed and headquartered in the USA.

Be the envy of the sandbar with major power behind your favorite music!

### Light up the Night!

LED lighting is endless. We have done some huge setups that light up 360° in the water, all the way to adjustable interior mood lighting. Get it done right using at ITC controller! Endless opportu-



nities.

### Vinyl Wraps

Bring creativity to life with vinyl wrap and your boat! Complete color changes available taking your older faded boat or pontoon to a new life using quality 3M materials that are made to withstand the harshest environments. We have units that are a decade in with vinyl wraps still looking great!

Final note: Whatever your dream boat looks like, call your marine provider, get the ball rolling!

But most importantly don't forget that basic maintenance! Water pumps, fuel filters and spark plugs should be completed as recommended! And your service providers should be recommending them as needed to keep you on the water!



Rusty Collins is general manager of Boat Butler Marine. Contact him at [rusty@boatbutlermarine.com](mailto:rusty@boatbutlermarine.com)



SERVICE ABOVE & BEYOND

INDOOR BOAT STORAGE  
CERTIFIED ENGINE SERVICE  
BOAT REFURBISHMENT

269-476-2222

[BOATBUTLERMARINE.COM](http://BOATBUTLERMARINE.COM)

Imperial Furniture  
DOWAGIAC

JOIN US IN OCTOBER TO SUPPORT CASS COUNTY CANCER SERVICES!

Stop in to Imperial Furniture:  
Donate \$50.00, Receive \$100 Coupon  
Donate \$25.00, Receive \$50 Coupon



Thank you for your support of this local organization!

\*See store for details.

MONDAY-FRIDAY 9-5, SATURDAY 9-3  
57530 M-51 SOUTH, DOWAGIAC MI (800)884-5020  
[WWW.IMPERIALFURNITUREDOWAGIAC.COM](http://WWW.IMPERIALFURNITUREDOWAGIAC.COM)



CASS COUNTY  
Outpatient Therapy Services  
CONTINUING COMMUNITY CARE

Patient-Centered, Individualized Care - CLOSE TO HOME!

Physical Therapy  
Occupational Therapy  
Speech Therapy  
All Age Groups  
Most Insurance Accepted



Conveniently located at the Cass County Medical Care Facility, 23770 Hospital St., Cassopolis

269-445-3801

[Casscountyoutpatienttherapy.org](http://Casscountyoutpatienttherapy.org)

**Cub Cadet.**

# YOUR BEST YARD AWAITS.

## THE XT2® ENDURO SERIES®



XT2® Enduro Series® tractors are ideal for more challenging terrain, hauling and all-season attachment use. Every inch of the XT2® has been designed to enhance your mowing experience with features such as heavy-duty fabricated AeroForce™ decks, Tuff Torq® transmissions, soft-touch steering wheel and adjustable high-back seat with armrests.

LX42 WITH 42" DECK

**\$3399**

SLX50 shown - \$3,799\*



**XT1® LT42**  
**with INTELLIPOWER®**

Get started with the XT1 LT42IP equipped with a 42" stamped twin-blade cutting deck.

**\$2399**



**XT1® LT50**

Enjoy the strength and performance of a 50" heavy-duty AeroForce™ triple-blade cutting deck.

**\$2949**



**XT2® LX46**

Take a step up to the XT2 LX46 featuring a 46" heavy-duty AeroForce™ fabricated twin-blade cutting deck.

**\$3599**

FOR FULL PRODUCT SPECS, VISIT **CUBCADET.COM**



**YOUR INDEPENDENT DEALER – EXPERT SERVICE. LOCALLY OWNED.**

The advice, service, selection and support you need to find the right fit for you.

**CASS OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT INC.**  
62101 M-62 S  
CASSOPOLIS, MI 49031  
269-445-2231

\* Restrictions apply. See dealer or cubcadet.com/en\_US/financing for details.  
Actual retail prices are set by dealer and may vary. Taxes are additional and vary by location. Freight and PDI charges may be additional and vary by dealer.  
Models subject to limited availability. Images may not reflect dealer inventory and/or unit specifications.  
Tuff Torq® is a registered trademark of Kanzaki Kogyo Kogyo Co. Ltd.  
© 2025 Cub Cadet XT-ENDURO\_F

**EXCEPTIONAL FINANCING  
OFFERS AVAILABLE!**



# Field Trip



## Farewell to a hot Summer



**McGann Hay**  
FUNERALS | CREMATIONS | GATHERINGS  
SINCE 1842

**Granger Chapel**

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

**574-232-1411**  
[www.mcgannhay.com](http://www.mcgannhay.com)

*"The perfect location between Michigan and Indiana"*



## THE CLEANEST FINISH. PERIOD.

Let the world see those picture-perfect stripes with a PowerVac™ Collection System. It effortlessly picks up clippings, leaves and debris, leaving nothing but a velvety finish behind.

**CASS OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT, INC.**

62101 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031

**(269) 445-2231**

[https://cassoutdoorpowerequipment.com/](http://cassoutdoorpowerequipment.com/)

© The Grasshopper Company



# Field Trip



## Why Buy New When You Can Renew (Redo)

Diamond Lake Marina can redo (refurbish) your watercraft (Pontoon, Jetski, Power Boat) over the Winter.



**Woven/Weave Flooring**

**New Upholstery**

**Stereo/Speakers**

**Buff/Polish Tubes**

**LED Lighting**

**Power and Non-Power Biminis**

**References upon request**

**Now Taking Reservations for Indoor/Outdoor  
Storage and Winterization**



1120 Follet Drive

Cassopolis, MI 49031

269-445-2191

[diamondlakemarina.com](http://diamondlakemarina.com)

## NEIGHBORS:

**Now in our 22<sup>nd</sup> year serving Cass County.**

Neighbors is delivered to homes on 22 lakes in Cass County and available at over 100 businesses around the area. Neighbors is published for seven months per year, from April thru October. Distribution is usually the first Wednesday of the month, and closing for ads and content is the third Friday preceding month of publication.

## NEIGHBORS ADVERTISING WORKS!

**For information on advertising call Fred at 269-228-1080  
or visit <http://www.cassneighbors.com>**

# Field Trip



Pasture-Raised Pork - Great Lakes Fish

SIXTH GENERATION FAMILY FARM  
55721 Decatur Road, Cassopolis, MI  
269.445.3020 | [jakescountrymeats.com](http://jakescountrymeats.com)

 Pork You Can Trust and Wild-Caught Great Lakes Fish 



## 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](http://PierPerfection.com)



**ShoreStation®**

PIER PERFECTION INC. · 1105 E. State St. · Cassopolis, MI · 269.233.2222 · [PierPerfection.com](http://PierPerfection.com)

# Historic Postcards

## Historic postcards depict rich scenes of the past

In this issue of Neighbors, Jerdon Real Estate of Dowagiac, owned by Floyd Jerdon and his son Tom, has again provided antique postcards of a few of the many lakes and towns 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 used many of his postcards featuring the Sister Lakes area in a book written by RL Rasmussen. The book, which retails for \$ \$39.95, is in its second printing by the publisher, Arcadia Publishing.

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

For more information or to get a copy of Jerdon's book, visit the website: [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com)



Greetings from EDWARDSBURG, MICH.



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.

### Carter's Electric Motors

Service and Sales  
Specializing in sprinkler pumps



63474 Union Rd.  
Vandalia, MI

Ph: 476-2220  
Cell: 506-6108



ELK PARK LLC.  
Feed Store  
60559 Calvin Center Rd.  
Vandalia, MI 49095

Now selling live bait  
Hours of Operation  
M-F 8AM to 6PM  
Sat 8AM to 2 PM  
Sun Closed

John Baker  
Ph: (269) 476-1775  
Cell (574) 333-6877

**JERDON**  
REAL ESTATE, INC.

**MY STATE MLS**  
Floyd Jerdon & Tom Jerdon  
(269) 782-4000 [www.jerdon.net](http://www.jerdon.net)



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](http://www.eaglelakemarine.com)



Jim Leach  
59818 Decatur Road  
Cassopolis, MI 49031  
phone/fax: 269.445.2111  
email: [jllandscape@yahoo.com](mailto:jllandscape@yahoo.com)  
[jllandscapsite.com](http://jllandscapsite.com)



**Harding's**  
Friendly Markets

Download the  
"HARDING'S MARKETS" app  
for weekly specials

Cassopolis, Michigan



269-476-4114  
HVAC  
A/C  
HEATING  
GEOTHERMAL



Where great ideas begin & great products are found!

**GRIMES  
TREE  
SERVICE** (269) 716-0241  
(269) 783-6493

Specializing in  
storm damage cleanup  
and removal of  
dangerous trees  
in difficult locations

Mile High Quality at  
Sea Level Prices  
53 Years of experience  
"A+ References"

# Historic Postcards

Main St. South Side, Looking East, Edwardsburg, Mich.

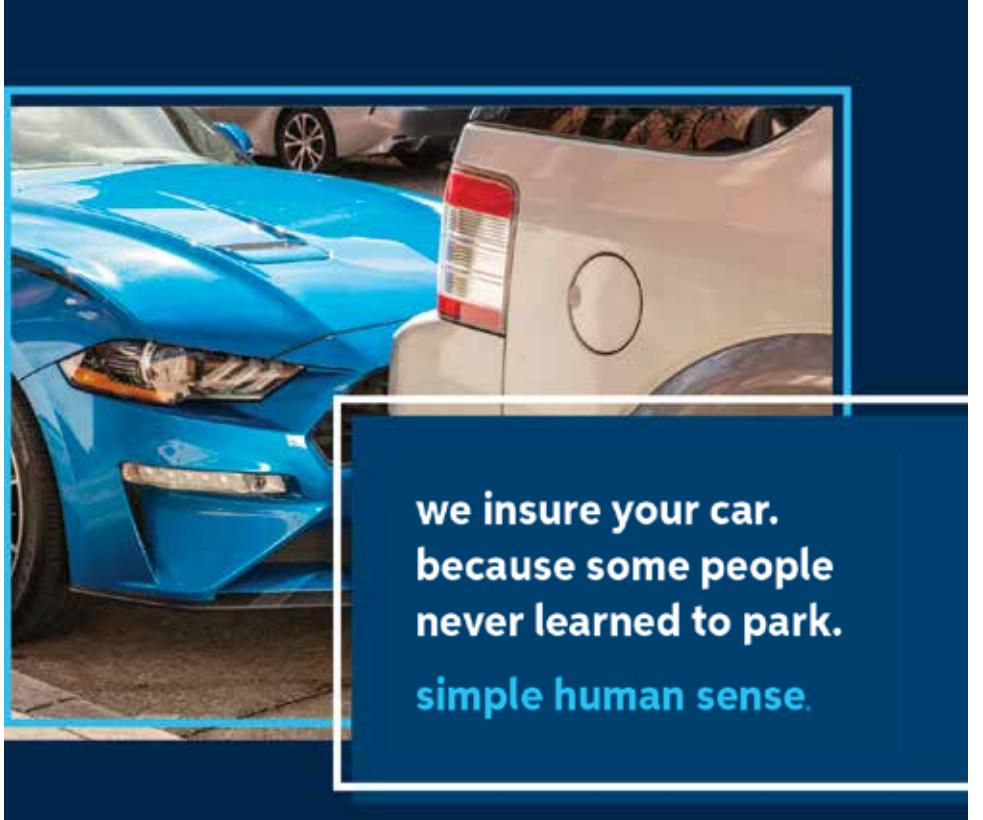


Pleasant Lake Resort - Swimming, Dancing-Special in B. Q. Chicken - Edwardsburg, Mich.



5. ~~W.E.K.~~ 6. FRENCH'S LANDING, EAGLE LAKE, MICH.

The advertisement features a large, stylized compass rose in the upper center, with the words "NORTH" on the left and "STAR" on the right. Below the compass rose is the text "Landscape Design & Installation". The middle section contains seven smaller images of flowers and a waterfall. The bottom section has a green background with the text "Guiding the Way to Beautiful Landscapes!" and the phone number "866-445-9100". The website "www.northstarlandscape.net" is at the bottom.



we insure your car.  
because some people  
never learned to park.  
**simple human sense.**

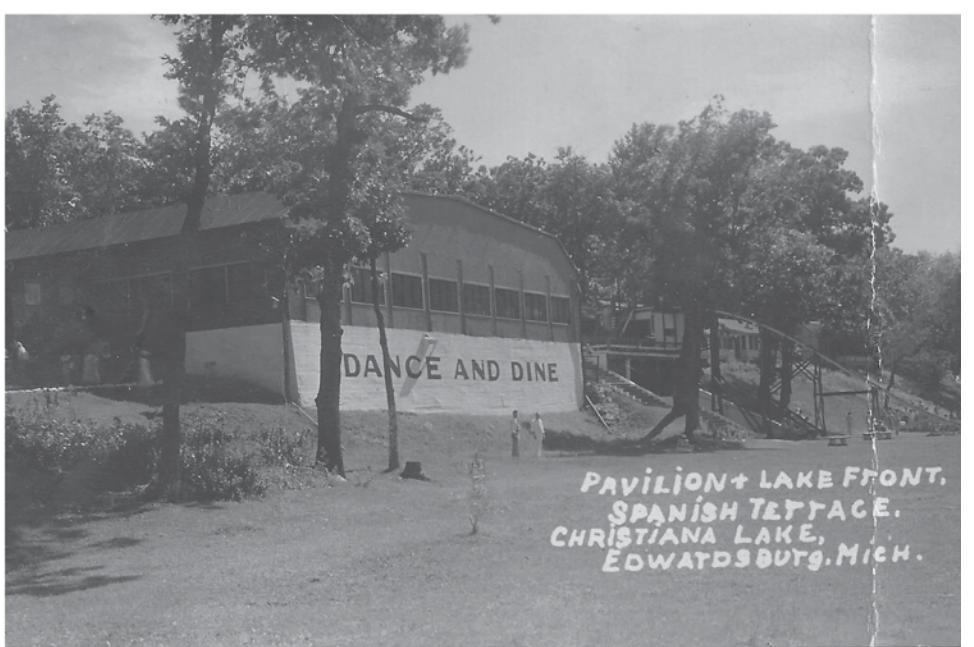
## Union Insurance Agency Licensed in Michigan and Indiana

15479 US 12 Union, MI 49130  
269-641-5995  
ashley@unionins.net

# Auto-Owners<sup>®</sup>

## INSURANCE

# Historic Postcards



**ARBOR TURF  
SOLUTIONS**  
(269) 228-0771

**Fall is the time to fertilize your trees.**

**CERTIFIED ARBORIST**  


Help them recover from the hot/dry summer and build a strong foundation for the coming season.

Call us for a free estimate for deep root fertilization:

- develop a strong root system for next Spring
- improve overall tree vigor and growth

[Arborturfsolutions.com](http://Arborturfsolutions.com) | email: [arborturfsolutions@gmail.com](mailto:arborturfsolutions@gmail.com)

**BE PROUD TO SHOW  
YOUR STRIPES.**

**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.T.
- S.E.A.T.
- Tai Chi
- Yoga

**Cass County COA**  
Enhancing Life

**Lowe Center**  
60525 Decatur Rd.  
Cassopolis, MI 49031

(269) 445-8110  
[www.CassCOA.org](http://www.CassCOA.org)  
[facebook.com/CassCOA](http://facebook.com/CassCOA)

**Front Street Crossing**  
227 S. Front Street  
Dowagiac, MI 49047

Manicured and clean, even stripes that look as though they were painted on. Ask for a demonstration, and take pride in your stripes.



**ASK ABOUT **ZERO** % FINANCING\***

**Cass Outdoor Power Equipment, Inc.**

62101 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031

**(269) 445-2231**

[https://cassoutdoorpowerequipment.com/](http://https://cassoutdoorpowerequipment.com/)



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

# Nature Notes

## Juvenile heron, deer in velvet, summer tanager

by Jonathan Wuepper  
Manager  
Local History Branch  
Cass District Library  
145 North Broadway St.  
Cassopolis, MI 49031  
jwuepper@cass.lib.mi.us

**O**n August 11, a juvenile little blue heron was discovered in the marshes along Bond Street in the City of Niles by Joshua Duis of that place. Juvenile little blue herons appear snowy-white from the time they are full-sized and leave the nest until April of the following year. The individual photographed by Duis was hatched in 2025 somewhere down south, and wandered north last month.

By next April, this little blue heron will have molted into its adult plumage of a slate-blue body with a reddish-brown neck. Little blue herons stand about 24 inches tall while the great blue heron stands at 46 inches tall.

Juvenile little blue herons could be easily confused with the snowy egret which is also white and 24 inches tall, except it has black legs and yellow feet and a black bill.

The little blue heron's breeding range is the Atlantic coast from Maine south to Florida and the Gulf Coast. It also breeds across the southern US, south to South America. Breeding pairs have been discovered as far north as southern Indiana, Illinois and Ohio.

After young little blue herons fledge the nest, there is a post-breeding dispersal of young and adult herons from their traditional nesting range. In some cases, little blue herons fly north, which was the case this past August, and end up in marshes, lakes and other wetlands in our area. Eventually those that ended up north of their range fly south for the winter.

In Berrien County, most post-breeding little blue herons arrive here in July and August. The majority that arrive locally at that period are juvenile birds having hatched earlier that spring or early summer. Occasionally a little blue heron may turn up locally during September.

The winter range of the little blue heron is the Atlantic Ocean coast from Virginia south to Florida and the Gulf Coast south to South America. It also winters on the Pacific coast of Mexico



*Top left and right: Juvenile little blue heron along Bond Street marshes, Niles, August 2025. Photos by Joshua Duis of Niles.*

*Above left: Buck white-tailed deer with "velvet" antlers, Bridgman, August 15 by Brad Anderson.*

*Above right: Male summer tanager on nesting territory, August 21, Warren Dunes State Park. Brad Anderson.*

south to South America.

In spring little blue herons that overshoot the northern breeding range have been recorded in Berrien County from about April 10 to the first days of June. These spring overshoots usually spend a day or two locally before going south. They are even fewer in number than little blue herons appear locally during post-breeding dispersal.

Little blue herons are not recorded

every year in Berrien County. Several years may lapse between sightings.

Brad Anderson of Bridgman photographed a buck white-tailed deer in his front yard on August 15. In Anderson's photo you can see the "velvet" on the animal's antlers.

Anderson also sent a nice photo of a male summer tanager, which along with his mate, bred at Warren Dunes State Park again this year. The summer tana-

ger is the southern cousin of our scarlet tanager. Southern Michigan is a couple hundred miles north of the summer tanager's primary nesting range. At least one pair of summer tanagers have nested at Warren Dunes State Park for approximately the last ten years.

Report your wildlife sightings to Jonathan Wuepper at [wuepperj@gmail.com](mailto:wuepperj@gmail.com).

Inspire-Create-Enjoy

Landscape Design  
Landscape Install  
Lawn & Bed Maintenance  
Sprinkler Systems  
Outdoor Power Equipment  
Garden Center & Farm Market

Call or Text  
269-815-5415  
[www.VillwocksOutdoorLiving.com](http://www.VillwocksOutdoorLiving.com)

**VILLWOCKS**  
OUTDOOR LIVING

**NEW LEAF**  
CUSTOM SHORELINE & LANDSCAPE SERVICE  
**269-462-0966**  
SERVING SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN  
[www.newleaflandscapesmichigan.com](http://www.newleaflandscapesmichigan.com)  
[NewLeafLandscapesSod&Sprinklers](https://www.facebook.com/NewLeafLandscapesSodSprinklers)

**SAUGATUCK DECORATOR OUTLET**  
AFFORDABLE ART FOR HOME OR BUSINESS  
**HUGE NEW SELECTION NOW**  
**50% OFF EVERYTHING**

317 Butler Street, Saugatuck (near the park)  
**Open 7 days a week**  
Off-Season hours vary

**D & M CANVAS**  
Sunbrella Roll Curtains, Custom Canvas Coverings  
Outdoor Furniture Covers, Boat Covers, Pontoon Covers  
**O: 269.244.8020 C: 269.506.3276**  
12291 BIDELMAN RD. THREE RIVERS, MI 49093

**TECHNICOS**  
QUALITY REPAIR SERVICE

**Appliance Repair**  
**269-783-5352**  
Call or Text

Will Biek, Owner  
Master Technician

[www.technicosrepair.com](http://www.technicosrepair.com)  
[will@technicosrepair.com](mailto:will@technicosrepair.com)

**BILLS ROOF REPAIR**  
"A man & his business committed to Christ"

**Lifetime Warranty on ALL Labor Performed**

Dawn Jones  
O: 269-591-5700  
TF: 866-217-7663  
E-Mail: [wrgrant2@gmail.com](mailto:wrgrant2@gmail.com)

18599 Mason Street, Cassopolis Michigan 49031  
[www.BillsRoofRepair.com](http://www.BillsRoofRepair.com)

# Local History

## Brief History of the Salisbury aka Daily School

by Jonathan Wuepper  
Manager, Local History Branch  
Cass District Library  
145 North Broadway St.  
Cassopolis, MI 49031  
jwuepper@cass.lib.mi.us

This month I would like to write about the early history of the Salisbury School, aka the Daily School, which was School District Number 2, Jefferson Township, Cass County.

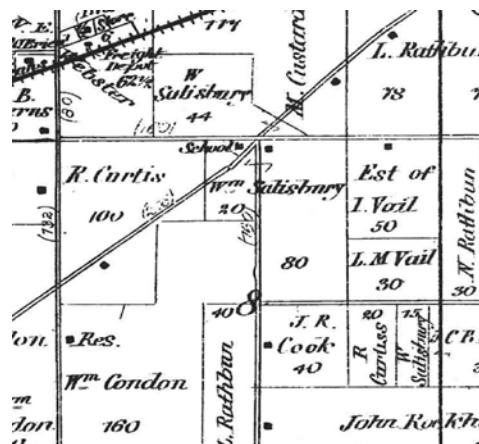
Sandra Sager of Niles donated a photo of the Salisbury School to the Local History Branch this past month and thus I began to find out as much as possible about when it started.

In the library files I located a type-written paper titled "A History of Jefferson Township" by Marie Huffman dated 1953. Huffman was a teacher at the Red Brick School in Jefferson Township from 1944 to approximately 1960. Huffman stated: "The only other school in the [Jefferson] township [as of 1953] is the Salisbury, on M-60 near the village of Dailey. This school was originally in a log building on the farm of John Condon but was moved to its present location on the road because of convenience."

I failed to find any newspaper references to support Huffman's claim of the school starting on Condon's property, but According to the History of Cass County, Michigan by Matthews (1882), chapter on Jefferson Township, page 376: "The second schoolhouse was built on the farm now owned by John Condon, also of logs." Schoolhouses were commonly constructed of logs in this part of the country up until the 1860s-1870s. After several years of use, a log school house was often replaced by a sturdy, frame building, or if enough funds were available, a brick structure.

While the original log schoolhouse was constructed on the Condon property, I have not found a reference to it being called "the Condon School".

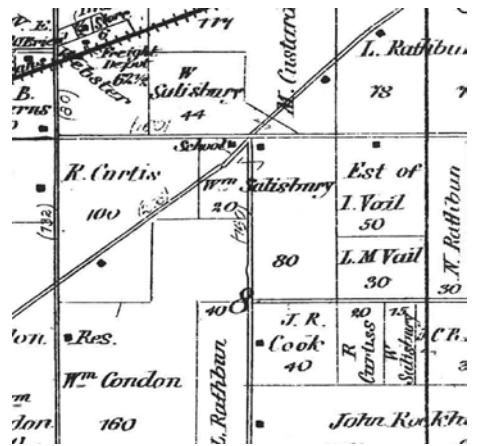
The 1860 map titled "A Map of the Counties of Cass, Van Buren and Berrien, Michigan" by Geil, Harley and Siverd shows the schoolhouse on section 8 of Jefferson Township at the intersection of what is now Hospital Street and M-60. Thus, we can surmise that the log buildings' move from the Condon farm to that place occurred before 1860. If the frame school building was indeed built in 1870, then the school house on this map likely represents the original log school house.



Above: Screenshot from the 1860 Cass County map showing the Salisbury (aka Dailey) School at the corner of modern day Hospital Street and M-62. The schoolhouse is marked here by a "S.H." in the north-central point of section 8.

Also of note is that John Condon (1849-1928), age 15 as of 1860, did not own land in the vicinity of the school. At that date, John's father, William Condon (1815-1889) owned 120 acres 1/2 mile south of the school. Thus, it seems likely that William, not John Condon, donated the first tract of land used by Jefferson School District Number 2.

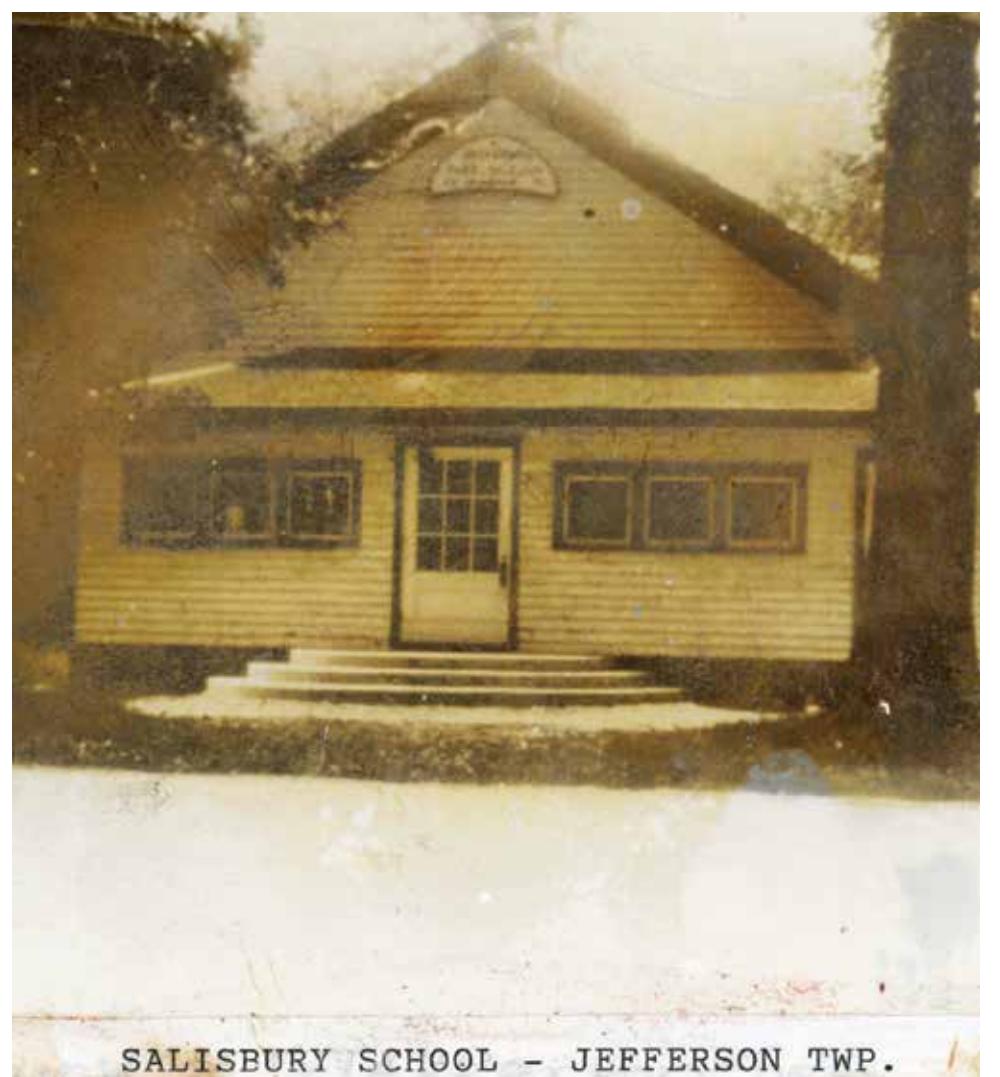
William Salisbury (1823-1910), for whom the school was named after, didn't acquire the land surrounding the school until 1865.



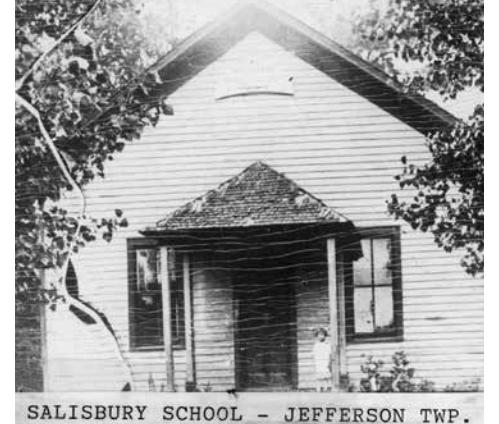
Above: Screenshot showing Salisbury School, Salisbury Corner's and vicinity in Section 8, Jefferson Twp. From "Atlas of Cass County, Michigan" by C.O. Titus (1872).

The Salisbury School district closed in 1957-1958 when it was incorporated into the Cassopolis School District.

When Kenneth Hartman compiled "Cass County One Room Schools" in 2001, he stated the Salisbury School was "a private residence". Sometime after 2001 the school house was razed.



Salisbury/Dailey School. Undated photo, likely post World War II. Note difference in front of the building including the steps. Credit: Cass Co



SALISBURY SCHOOL - JEFFERSON TWP.

Salisbury, aka Dailey School, Jefferson Township School No. 2, photo circa 1920s-1930s. It was located in Section 8 at Hospital Street and M-60. It was named after William Salisbury who owned the surrounding land. It was also known as the Dailey School, being located about 1/2 mile southeast of the burg called Dailey. Snapshot was owned by Richard Adam, who went to school there in the mid-1920s. Credit: Cass District Library.

Salisbury School, date unknown, likely taken during the 1930s. 1870 is the year the building was constructed. Note wooden shingles. Credit: Cass County Historical Association.

## DIAMOND LAKE ORCHARD

### Apples, Cider & Honey

- Apples picked daily
- Orchard opens Aug. 18th.
- Open every day 10 to 6.
- Self-serve
- Cider pressed daily
- Honey from hives onsite
- Sorry no u-pick

South of Diamond Lake at  
62216 Eaglepoint Rd.

Call  
**269-470-4548**  
for more information

or visit our website at

[diamondlakeorchard.com](http://diamondlakeorchard.com)

### WINERY

● Wine tasting starts  
August 23.

● Open Saturday  
and Sunday  
from 1 to 5 pm  
until the end of  
Apple Season!



# INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

## Boats, Marinas, Piers, Sports

Apollo Marine	4	888-966-BOAT <a href="http://www.apollomarine.net">http://www.apollomarine.net</a>
Boat Butler	8	476-2222 <a href="http://www.boatbutlermarine.com">http://www.boatbutlermarine.com</a>
Diamond Lake Marina	11	445-4351 <a href="http://www.diamondlakemarina.com">http://www.diamondlakemarina.com</a>
DM Canvas	16	244-5307
Eagle Lake Marine	13	699-5103 <a href="http://www.eaglelakemarine.com">http://www.eaglelakemarine.com</a>
O'Donnell's Docks	5	244-1446 <a href="http://www.odonnellsdocks.com">http://www.odonnellsdocks.com</a>
Krupps Power Sports	3	663-8424 <a href="http://www.kruppspowersports.com">http://www.kruppspowersports.com</a>
Pier Perfection	2, 12	233-2222 <a href="http://www.pierperfection.com">http://www.pierperfection.com</a>
Pro Dock	18	447-4796 <a href="http://www.prodock.com">http://www.prodock.com</a>

## Construction, Home Improvement & Repair

Bill's Roof Repair	16	591-57800 <a href="http://www.billsroofrepair.com">http://www.billsroofrepair.com</a>
BLT Mechanical	13	476-4114
Carter Motors	13	476-2220
Cass Outdoor	9, 10, 15	445-2231
Hearth & Home	13	800-769-3031 <a href="http://www.hearthandhome-sb.com">http://www.hearthandhome-sb.com</a>
Imperial Furniture	8	800-884-5020 <a href="http://www.imperialfurnituredowagiac.com">http://www.imperialfurnituredowagiac.com</a>
Saugatuck Gallery	16	N/A

## Food, Restaurants, Markets

Diamond Lake Orchard	17	470-4548 <a href="http://www.diamondlakeorchard.com">http://www.diamondlakeorchard.com</a>
Hardings	13	445-2607
Jake's Country Meats	12	445-3020 <a href="http://www.jakescountrymeats.com">http://www.jakescountrymeats.com</a>

## Lawn/Landscaping

Arbor Turf Solutions	15	228-0771 <a href="http://www.arborturfsolutions.com">http://www.arborturfsolutions.com</a>
Grimes Tree Service	13	783-6493
JL Landscaping	13	445-2111 <a href="http://www.jlandscapingsite.com">http://www.jlandscapingsite.com</a>
New Leaf Landscaping	16	462-0966 <a href="http://www.newleaflandscapesmichigan.com">http://www.newleaflandscapesmichigan.com</a>
North Star Landscape Design & Installation	14	445-9100 <a href="http://www.northstarlandscape.net">http://www.northstarlandscape.net</a>
Villwicks Outdoor Living	16	815-5415 <a href="http://www.villwoksoutdoorliving.com">http://www.villwoksoutdoorliving.com</a>

## Medical/Health

Cass COA	15	445-8110 <a href="http://www.casscoa.org">http://www.casscoa.org</a>
Cass Medical Care Facility	8	445-3801 <a href="http://www.cemcf.org">http://www.cemcf.org</a>

## Real Estate

Jerdon Real Estate	13	782-4000 <a href="http://www.jerdon.net">http://www.jerdon.net</a>
Lake Life Realty Group	20	445-8877 <a href="http://www.thelakelife.com">http://www.thelakelife.com</a>
Michigan Lakes Team	19	663-7700 <a href="http://www.michiganlakesteam.com">http://www.michiganlakesteam.com</a>

## Misc.

Elk Park Feed Store	13	476-1775
McGann Hay Funeral Home	10	574-232-1411 <a href="http://www.mcgannhay.com">http://www.mcgannhay.com</a>
THK Law	7	415-1818 <a href="http://thklaw.com">thklaw.com</a>
Technicos Appliance Repair	16	783-5352 <a href="http://www.technicosrepair.com">http://www.technicosrepair.com</a>
Union Insurance	14	641-5995 <a href="http://www.unionsins.net">http://www.unionsins.net</a>

# Neighbors FOR SALE

After more than 20 years of publishing Neighbors, Fred and Phil, the founders and operators of Neighbors, have realized that we've become a couple of old, worn down septuagenarians, and it's time to think about retiring.

It's been a lot of fun for a long time, and we'd hate to see this thing just end.

So we're hoping somewhere in this wide world is someone with a bit more energy who might be interested in carrying on in our place; someone with fewer miles; someone with a background in newspapers, magazines or advertising; someone with skills in publishing and a desire to own and run a newspaper and to be an integral part of this wonderful community.

For us, it's been financially successful, emotionally and professionally rewarding, and surprisingly it's not been as hard as you might think.

If you think this might be for you, qualified buyers should contact Fred for more information at:

**269-228-1080**



WE ARE  
YOUR LOCAL



BULMANNDOCK.COM



# The Last Word

by PHIL VITALE  
aka SAILORPHIL

## Memories of fall in the autumn of my life



s a kid, autumn was always my least favorite season of the year. As a kid, fall meant a lot of bad things to me. As a kid, fall meant summer was over, so no more fishing off grandpa's pier. No more escaping the grownups by rowing the boat across the lake. No more splashing and wading and swimming. No more baseball or riding my bike to the pool. No more hanging out with the gang behind the garage and lighting up a cigarette I stole from my dad's pack of Pall Malls. As a kid, fall meant no more ice-cream man ringing his bike-bell and pedaling his makeshift vending cart down Eckman Street on a hot summer night and handing out orange Dreamsicles and melting popsicles. As a kid, fall meant no more lightening bugs in a washed-out peanut butter jar with holes in the top and crass in the bottom.

And worst of all, as a kid, fall meant no more sleeping in until I woke up with the sun streaming through the curtains on a warm morning. Nooooo, as a kid, fall meant being jarred awake in a dark bedroom by the ear-splitting, happy-jangling bell on top of a cheap, wind-up Big Ben alarm clock from the five and dime (a prehistoric Dollar Store).

As a kid, fall meant mom hollering at my brothers and I to get out of bed, get dressed (and no shorts or ratty tee shirts) and get downstairs for breakfast. FAST! As a kid, fall meant fast-slurping Sugar Crisp and crunching a couple pieces of crispy fried bacon, throwing on my worn, neck-tattered fall jacket, grabbing the books I'd brought home (but probably never looked at) and dashing out the door towards James Monroe School where I'd hang outside the door with my school chums (who weren't any happier about fall than I was) until a faceless janitor would unlock and swing open the giant, heavy doors so we could run to our lockers, stash our coats (usually on the floor, those hooks hardly ever got used), trade the unused books we'd carted home for a pencil stub and a badly organized notebook covered with ink stains and graphite graffiti and trudge to class and land in our seats seconds before the "late" bell rang.

As a kid, fall meant "Good Morning Mrs. Flack. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of

America ..." then sitting through the (usually meaningless) morning announcements the principal or one of his minions read over the PA while I stared out the window as the sun teased the tops of the trees and tortured me with a daily reminder that for the next six months I wasn't a kid enjoying my life.

I was no longer a kid, I was a pupil.  
And as a kid, I hated being a pupil.  
Which meant I hated autumn.

Even though I was still a pupil through the upcoming winter and most of the spring, the pain of pupil-dom in those other seasons was dulled compared to the awful pain fall brought. For me it was more like the sharp pain of pulling the hairs off my skinned knees when I was ripping off a Band Aid the day after I'd made that great slide into second and tore up my blue jeans (which always earned me a stern talking to when mom got ready to do the wash ... which was also a pain).

Even though it meant the unbridled joy and adolescent lust of that berzerker Halloween holiday night was coming, that was a sadly impotent respite from the realities of spelling tests and story problems, history lessons and cursive handwriting, ugly gym uniforms and lunch in a stinky cafeteria that served chalk-dust soup, cold bologna sandwiches and stale potato chips without even a Grape Nehi to wash it all down.

Did I mention that I hated fall as a kid?

Winter by comparison was just a dull ache that lingered way too long in 1950s South Bend (and besides, in winter at least we could throw snowballs and remember last summer's hot baseball pegs to first). Winter meant eating cold cereal on Saturday mornings under a cover on the couch and watching cartoons until noon, then reading the latest Mad magazine until the sun finally got up and my brothers and I could put on the flannel jeans and the Ball Band boots and the dime store, threadbare cotton gloves with the fingertips missing so we could grab the Flexible Flyer and the Snow Disc and trudge to the sledding hill.

And spring was the light at the end of the tunnel. Just a couple weeks away, over there, almost within reach, I could almost see the end of the school year when I'd get paroled from Mrs. Flack's droning and I could run willy-nilly past the scowling janitor who'd have to collect all the papers and busted up lunch boxes

we'd toss into the air as we streamed into the freedom of a new summer on that last day of school.

But, nooooo. Back to reality, young man, Mrs. Flack would have droned. It's just October. Fall's reared its ugly head. Summer's over and no amount of wishing would bring another summer for what was certainly an eternity to a 10 year old boy.

Six months at hard labor.

Freedom was over.

What just last month was time for playing and bikes and baseball and fishing and fireflies and fun was fall-consumed by Mrs. Flack-assigned homework essays about how I spent my summer.

Insult to injury.

Lemon juice in a paper cut.

Fall had fallen and there was no reprieve.

Time for shoulder to the wheel.

Nose to the grindstone.

Push the boulder up the hill.

And then there were all the damn leaves in the yard. Not the fun kind of leaves that you could pile up and jump into and toss up in the air and stuff into your little brother's shirt to make him look like a scarecrow.

October leaves were much more sinister. October leaves were the kind of leaves dad said had to be hand-raked (we didn't have leaf blowers back then, at least not in my neighborhood) onto either a heavy, canvas tarp or into a big cardboard box, toted to the curb and lit with a kitchen match into a smokey, stinky fire that you had to stand over (no matter how much the smoke got into your eyes and lungs) until it was completely burned out, then fetch bucket after bucket of water from the spigot on the wall to slough it onto your pants then the fire so it didn't burn down the whole neighborhood.

And now, here I am, an old man who doesn't have to go to school any more. An old man who can write the check for some young kid or landscape service to pick up the leaves. An old man who can escape to warmer climates if I want. An old man who's looking at fall with an old man's eyes and an old man's memories.

And in retrospect if I were to tell the truth (which only rarely happens these days), and school days and leaf duties notwithstanding, in I'd trade it in a second to be 10 year old boy again.

Happy autumn. Hope to see you in the spring.



Call (269) 663-7700

Michelle  
Scott



Broker/ Owner

(574) 286-9050

Mjs.scott10@gmail.com

Also Licensed in Indiana

Kelly Smit  
Managing Broker  
(Sister Lakes)



(269) 462-0783  
Kellymichiganlakes @  
gmail.com

Darren Pettersen  
Managing Broker  
(Sister Lakes)



(773) 454-0528  
PettersonProperties @  
gmail.com

Haley  
Richter



(269) 462-5758  
Haleymichiganlakes @  
gmail.com

Dawn  
Russell



(269) 462-2290  
Sellingthedream711 @  
gmail.com

Memories Made On The Lake Will Last A Lifetime

WATERFRONT ONLY  
WEBSITE for 120+ lakes  
in Southwest Michigan

Superior Marketing System to  
Chicago for our *Sellers* and  
Invaluable Information for our  
*Buyers*

**FREE** Waterfront Property  
Market Analysis and see  
how our Chicago Marketing  
Plan benefits *YOU*



[www.MichiganLakesTeam.com](http://www.MichiganLakesTeam.com)



# *Exclusively serving* **S E L L E R S A N D B U Y E R S** *of Michigan lake property.*

## *Sell* *with Paul*

As Southwest Michigan's number one lake property Realtor since 2012, **Paul DeLano** employs a proven digital marketing system that targets Chicago and local buyers. He 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**  
**BROKER / OWNER**  
269.445.8877  
paul@thelakelife.com

## *Buy* *with Peggy AND Matt*

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



**Peggy Gonyon**  
**LAKEFRONT BUYER AGENT**  
269.445.8876  
peggy@thelakelife.com



**Matt DeLano**  
**LAKEFRONT BUYER AGENT**  
269.445.8872  
matt@thelakelife.com

  
**LAKE LIFE**  
REALTY

**thelakelife.com**  
69150 SUNSET BLVD UNION, MI 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 6.30.24. 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.

