

# Neighbors

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**APRIL 2026**

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**HTTP://WWW.CASSNEIGHBORS.COM**

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**Field Trip:**  
**Amatiste Do Sul Amethyst**  
**Mine & Restaurant**  
**Brazil**  
**Pages 8, 9**

# Regional News, Calendar

## Spring rummage & bake sale

First United Methodist Church of Dowagiac will host a spring rummage and bake sale on May 1 & 2 at 326 N Lowe St. in Dowagiac, MI 49047

The event will be held open May 1 from 9 am-4 pm and May 2 from 9 am-3 pm. On Saturday, visit the special "Bag Sale," with \$4/bag deals - or buy 2/get third bag free.

Baked goods will include homemade baked items & candies & gluten-free items, and sale items include new and gently used furniture, clothing, shoes, boots, handbags, kitchenware, home decor, books, records, DVDs, CDs, VCR, set of silver flatware, and more.

Questions: call Darlene Trussell - (269) 782-8551

## Cassopolis summer events

The Village of Cassopolis has announced its summer community event lineup, including Beach Bash, Rock the Block, Lakeside Live and Beach Blanket & Blockbusters. For events, dates, times and full details visit the website:

<https://cassopolismainstreet.com/>

## Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum 250th anniversary events

Elegance and simplicity describe filet crocheting in the Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum's opening display in 2026, in celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary.

The work is the Declaration of Independence, created by the late Lucille Brizendine (1928-2025) of Edwardsburg and Lawton, MI. The 53 by 33-inch creation that adorns the large bulletin board in the museum's gallery. Brizendine taught herself how to crochet as a young

woman, and her farm home in Edwardsburg was filled with numerous crocheted doilies and bedspreads, for which she received several awards. The opening display, "Riding and Writing for History," will run from April 14 through July 25 and celebrates the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Brizendine's crocheted work shows it being signed in the Assembly Room of the Pennsylvania State House in named Independence Hall.

Several exhibit clusters will make up the overall presentation, including patriotic-style memorabilia in two showcases. The second exhibit, which runs from July 28 through Nov. 7, will capture the essence of "Thimbles, Thread and Tea." It will celebrate Betsy Ross, who stitched the first American Flag, and remember the Boston Tea Party, a political protest in 1773, that opposed taxation without representation. The patriotic theme continues for the Christmas season with "Stars, Stripes, and Christmas Lights," which runs from Nov. 10 through Dec. 12. White lights on the 10-foot tree in the museum gallery will be boldly accented with red ornaments, blue ribbons, and American Flags. Smaller items of a patriotic nature will adorn the display cases.

The museum will close on Dec. 12 and re-open in April 2027.

## Myers to speak at Edwardsburg

To celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum's speaker series will focus on Michigan's role in the nation's history.

The Uptown Improvement Association (UIA) will join the museum in co-sponsoring a series of four lectures by Bob Myers, the former director of education and historical programming for the Historical Society of Michigan in Lansing.

Now semi-retired, Myers joined the HSM in 2017. Previously, he was the longtime curator for the Berrien County Historical Association in Berrien Springs. An author of several books, he has penned numerous articles for the Michigan History Magazine, the Chronicle, and the Michigan Historical Review. Many area residents have traveled with Myers as he continues to lead historical bus tours around the country. A graduate Alma College with a Bachelor of Arts in History, Myers has a Master of Arts in History from Western Michigan University.

All presentations are at 7 pm. There is no admission charge. Events include:

■ Thurs., June 18: "Lost on Lake Michigan: The Wreck of the Chicora." The new steamer, Chicora of St. Joseph, already had moored for the winter in Jan. 1895. Then its owners were asked by the Big Four Railroad to send the steamer to Milwaukee on a final voyage. It was a fateful decision.

■ Thurs., July 9: "Myths Busted: History Myths or Facts." Myths and tall tales are everywhere. But Myers asks which are true and which are false. He looks at historical legends to see what myths are known or only thought to be true.

■ Thurs., Aug. 20: "Disaster at Fort St. Joseph: Pontiac's Rebellion." In 1761, a young, inexperienced ensign from the 60th Regiment, arrived at Fort St. Joseph in command of its small British garrison.

Francis Schlosser insulted people from the time he set foot in the door and his actions ended disastrously.

■ Thurs., Oct. 15: "The Worst Colonel I Ever Saw": Francis Quinn and the Battle of Shiloh." Col. Francis Quinn of Niles led the 12th Michigan Infantry into action in the Battle of Shiloh. Michigan Gov. Austin Blair said he was "The worst colonel I ever saw." Join Myers as he follows Quinn and the command through one of the Civil War's deadliest battles.

## CVCC Annual Golf Outing

The Cass Vandalia Chamber of Commerce will host its annual golf outing on June 19, from 8 am - 2 pm at Four Lakes Country Club, 22786 US-12, Edwardsburg. For details or registration visit <https://www.cassvanchamber.com>.

## 2026 Elkhart Jazz Festival

The 2026 Elkhart Jazz Festival is scheduled for June 18-21 with music happening across multiple stages around town including indoor The Crystal Ballroom, the Library Atrium, and multiple outdoor festival stages. Passholders can enjoy performances by the Metz, Sportiello, Keller Trio, Dave Bennett Quartet, Connie Han Trio, Eric Rasmussen Quartet, Jessica Fichot Quartet and many more!

Tickets and passes are on-sale now, for informations contact The Lerner Box Office at 574-293-4469 or email [info@thelerner.com](mailto:info@thelerner.com).

## The Unexpected Guest & additional 2026 performances announced

The Beckwith Theatre Co. will present The Unexpected Guest by Agatha Christie on April 17-19 and 24-26 at the theater at 100 New York Ave in

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# Regional News, Calendar

Dowagiac .

Performances: will be both Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm, and both Sundays at 2 pm.

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

The Unexpected Guest is produced by a special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

Additional performances at the Beckwith this season will include:

**The Sunshine Boys** by Neil Simon August 21-23 and August 28-30

**Wait Until Dark** by Frederick Knott, October 9-11 and October 16-18

**A Christmas Carol** by Charles Dickens, December 3-5 and 11-13 .

Tickets to events can be purchased at online at [www.beckwiththeatre.com/box-office](http://www.beckwiththeatre.com/box-office) or by contacting the theater at [BeckwithTheatreMI@gmail.com](mailto:BeckwithTheatreMI@gmail.com), Phone (269) 782-7653.

**Auditions for 1776 at Beckwith**

Auditions for the show "1776" at Beckwith Theatre will be held on April 12, from 2-4 pm, April 13, from 7-9 pm and April 14, from 7-9 pm at the James Snow Community Room, 310 S Front St. in Dowagiac.

Actors need only attend one of the auditions. There is no plan to have call-backs. All auditions will consist of reading from the 1776 script. Optionally, actors may also deliver a memorized monologue from any work they choose. Those who are singing should bring accompanying music in digital format they can play from their device, or can be played from the internet. A Bluetooth speaker will be provided. A piano player will not be present.

Performance Dates for the show are planned for June 26-28, and July 3-5, 7:30 pm Fridays and Saturdays, 2 pm on Sundays.

"1776" is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com).

For more information contact the [BeckwithTheatreMI@gmail.com](mailto:BeckwithTheatreMI@gmail.com), 782-7653

**CASS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY LECTURES & EVENTS**

The Cass County Historical Society has announced the following 2026 lectures and events:

**Historical Bird Restoration Lecture & Board Elections** at COA, Cassopolis, April 21, 6 pm

**Tea Time at Newton House** - Decatur, May 9, 10 am – 3 pm / : 20689 Marcellus Hwy., Decatur

**Genealogy Guest Speaker** Jim Jackson, local genealogist, on "Putting it all Together" at the Dowagiac District Library, June 16, 6 pm

**Edwardsburg History Museum – Antiques Roadshow**, July 21, 6 pm, 26818 Main Street, Edwardsburg.

**Ed Lowe Foundation Tour of Penn Church** – Cassopolis, Aug. 17, 6 pm, 58220 Decatur Road, Cassopolis

**Jake's Country Meats Farm Tour**, Sept 15, 6 pm, 55721 Decatur Road, Cassopolis

**Annual Fall Festival** – Newton House, Oct. 19, 4 pm, 20689 Marcellus Hwy., Decatur

**November Lecture** – To Be Determined

**Christmas at Newton House**, Dec. 5, 1 – 4 pm, 20689 Marcellus Hwy., Decatur,

Unless otherwise stated, a short business meeting will start at 5:30 pm with lectures or tours beginning at 6 pm.

For more information email - [ccmihistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:ccmihistoricalsociety@gmail.com) or visit the website [www.ccmihistoricalsociety.org](http://www.ccmihistoricalsociety.org).

**Cass garden seeks sponsors**

The Cassopolis Community Garden is seeking sponsors for the upcoming season. By partnering with us, your business will support local food security and beautify our community.

The process is simple, complete the brief sponsorship interest form at the website: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeGRyVHaMOMryX>. After that you'll receive a professional invoice for your records/tax purposes and you can see your contribution spring to life.

**Lerner Theater 2026 events**

The Lerner Theater in Elkhart, IN has announced its 2026 schedule of events for adults and children, with music from artists like Abba, Queen, The Eagles, Celtic Women, Lord of the Rings, Pete Seger, and a variety of musicals, ballet, dance and eclectic performances. To see the entire list of events, dates and times and ticket information, visit <https://thelerner.com/events/>



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# Regional News, Calendar

**MISC. AREA EVENTS**

**April 17-19 and 24-26- The Unexpected Guest** by Agatha Christie, Beckwith Theater, Dowagiac, 7:30 pm Fridays and Saturdays, 2 pm on Sundays, [BeckwithTheatreMI@gmail.com](mailto:BeckwithTheatreMI@gmail.com), 782-7653

**May 1, 2 - Spring rummage and bake sale**, First United Methodist Church, Dowagiac, 782-8551

**Various dates** - Village of Cassopolis summer event schedule, <https://cassopolismainstreet.com/>

**June 19 - Cass Vandalia Chamber of Commerce annual golf outing**, 8 am - 2 pm Four Lakes Country Club, Edwardsburg, <https://www.cassvanchamber.com>

**June 18 - 21 - Elkhart Jazz Festival**, various locations 574-293-4469 or email [info@thelerner.com](mailto:info@thelerner.com)

**June 26-28, July 3-5 - 1776**, Beckwith Theater, Dowagiac, 7:30 pm Fridays and Saturdays, 2 pm on Sundays, [BeckwithTheatreMI@gmail.com](mailto:BeckwithTheatreMI@gmail.com), 782-7653

**August 21-23, 28-30 - The Sunshine Boys** by Neil Simon, Beckwith Theater, Dowagiac, 7:30 pm Fridays and Saturdays, 2 pm on Sundays, [BeckwithTheatreMI@gmail.com](mailto:BeckwithTheatreMI@gmail.com), 782-7653

**October 9-11, 16-18, Wait Until Dark** by Frederick Knott, Beckwith Theater, Dowagiac, 7:30 pm Fridays and Saturdays, 2 pm on Sundays, [BeckwithTheatreMI@gmail.com](mailto:BeckwithTheatreMI@gmail.com),

**782-7653 December 3-5, 11-13, A Christmas Carol** by Charles Dickens, Beckwith Theater, Dowagiac, 7:30 pm Fridays and Saturdays, 2 pm on Sundays, [BeckwithTheatreMI@gmail.com](mailto:BeckwithTheatreMI@gmail.com), 782-7653

**2026 EDWARDSBURG AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM (EAHM) April 2026**

**7 - Spring gardening workshop with Mark Dussel**, 6:30-8 pm, Cass District Library, Edwardsburg Branch; co-sponsored by the EAHM and Dussel's Farm Market and Greenhouses.

**14 - EAHM opens for the season. 14-July 25 - Display "Riding and Writing for Liberty."** Celebrating the 1776 signing of the Declaration of Independence and Paul Revere's Ride, EAHM

**May 2026**

**15-30 - Annual Perennial Plant Sale** fundraiser, EAHM.

**25 - Memorial Day Kids' Carnival-after parade**, EAHM

**June 2026**

**18 - Speaker: Bob Myers**, Historical Society of Michigan: "The Wreck of the SS -- -- Chicora", 7 pm, EAHM.

**24 - EAHM, Hacienda Fundraiser**, Mishawaka.

**July 2026**

**5 - "America's 250th Birthday Bash,"** A picnic with music by the Phat Tuesday Dixieland Band, 1-4 pm, EAHM.

**9 - Speaker: Bob Myers**, Historical Society of Michigan: "History Myths or Facts," 7 pm, EAHM

**21 - Cass County Historical Society meeting with an "Antiques Roadshow"** assessment of family heirlooms, 6 pm, EAHM.

**28-Nov. 7 - Display: "Thimbles, Thread and Tea."** Remembering Betsy Ross

and the Boston Tea Party during America's 250th anniversary, EAHM.

**August 2026**

**6-9 - U.S. 12 Historic Heritage Trail Garage Sale**, EAHM.

**16 - Open house after All-School Reunion**, 3 pm, EAHM

**20 - Speaker: Bob Myers**, Historical Society: "Pontiac's Rebellion," 7 pm, EAHM.

**SEPTEMBER 2026**

**17 - History Hounds film** presentation from the Historical Society of Michigan, "Exploring Michigan's Podunk Towns," 7 pm, EAHM.

**26 - Sauk Trail Festival: Echoes of Our Past**, 1775-1875; 10 a.m.-4 pm, EAHM.

**OCTOBER 2026**

**15 - Speaker: Bob Myers**, Historical Society of Michigan, "The Worst Colonel," 7 pm, EAHM. -

**31 - Witches on the Porch**, 6-7 pm, EAHM

**November 2026**

**10-Dec. 12 - Display: "Stars, Stripes, and Christmas Lights:** A red, white, and blue Patriotic theme for Christmas, EAHM.

**24-28 - The EAHM closes for Thanksgiving break**

**December 2026**

**3 - Christmas Tree Lighting**, 6:30 pm, followed by open house, EAHM.

**12 - EAHM closes and re-opens in mid-April 2027.**

**DOWAGIAC EVENTS**

[www.dowagiacchamber.com/](http://www.dowagiacchamber.com/) **AREA LIBRARY EVENTS**

For **Cass District Library** events visit <https://www.cassdistrictlibrary.org/events/>

For **Dowagiac District Library** events visit <https://www.dowagiacdl.org/events>.

For **Marcellus Township Memorial Library** events visit <https://www.marcellus.michlibrary.org/>

## Neighbors is for sale

After nearly 25 years publishing Neighbors, Fred Stein and Phil Vitale, the founders and operators, have realized we've become worn out septuagenarians, and we've started thinking about retiring.

For a long time it's been a lot of fun, financially successful, emotionally and professionally rewarding, and surprisingly not as hard as you might think, we're tired and old and we'd hate to see this thing just end.

So we're hoping someone with a bit more energy might be interested in carrying on in our place; maybe someone with a background in newspapers, magazines or advertising, a desire to own and run a community newspaper and be a part of this wonderful community.

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

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# Lake Life with Jane

## Welcome to 2026!

by **Jane Boudreau**

**H**ello Neighbors, and welcome to 2026! What an incredible winter we had, definitely the stuff for talk around the proverbial water cooler. Shorts and sandals in February, followed by a blizzard, and then horrific tornadoes all over the country—close to home here in Union City, and closer, in Edwardsburg. I'm hoping that we have a more mellow summer, the kind that you can spend every day sailing or lying on a hammock, sipping iced lemonade. The paper you're holding in your hands is a great way to start. So, shall we?



Colors are popping up in my garden thanks to many of the perennials that I've been planting over the past few years. While you can find bulbs and plants in abundance throughout the summer and fall, anywhere from garden centers to your grocery store, I'm finding some beautiful blooming plants that come up in the spring and early summer through some mail-order catalogues/websites. Whiteflower Farm, Eden Brothers, and Wayside Gardens are really fantastic places to get quality plants. With all the varieties, you'll have a unique and beautiful garden over time. Pictured here is Lenten Rose. I love these pretty flowers because I have areas that get shade part of the day, and these don't mind at all. Already up, they will stay right into early summer. Please check out these websites if you haven't already, for more beautiful plants that do well in our area!



Over the winter, I bit the bullet and threw myself into organizing an extra room in my basement for storage. I'm really fortunate to have such a large space, but it's unfinished, gloomy, and mostly windowless, as most old homes are. But still, it was as good a place as any to set up as a storage room for all of my excess "stuff." I really needed to free up overcrowded kitchen cabinets and linen closets, and every available place that I was stashing items I had no place for. Here's what I did:

1) I started sorting everything by categories; My holiday decor (Christmas, Halloween, and so on).

2) I then gathered up all of my small appliances, extra dishes, serveware, linens, and such, and packed what needed to be packed, and put aside what needed to be shelved. The hardest part was letting go of things I simply didn't need anymore, but by donating the excess blankets, throws, dishes, etc., I felt better.

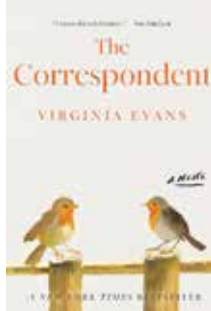
3) I used heavy-duty plastic storage bins from Home Depot, all the same size,

as they stack well. The handles snap tightly, and I've found them moisture- and bug-resistant, so I feel confident storing blankets and just about anything in them. I found the shelving racks on Amazon, and they were pretty easy to put together, each in about 20 minutes. These racks could fit in a large closet, pantry, or an attached garage. This was a three-day process, but so worth it! It gives me peace of mind, and I hope this gives you some inspiration. If you would like links for any of these storage items, feel free to email me.

And now to our regularly featured topics. I did quite a lot of reading this winter. I wish I could get into a Netflix series, mostly so I can jump into a conversation or understand a meme. If you have any suggestions, please let me know.

### Jane's Imaginary Book Club The Correspondent by Virginia Evans

This was actually the first book of 2026 that I cracked open, and I couldn't have asked for a better way to start my reading goal for the year. As the author's first novel, it is an exceptionally great book, very well written, and it held my attention from beginning to end, or, as you may call it, a page turner. I found out that Evans had submitted many, many manuscripts over the span of twenty years, only to receive rejection slips. Finally, this was selected, and she was quite surprised as she wasn't sure this was her best work. It's now a New York Times Bestseller. The novel's main character, Sybil Van Antwerp, is a 72-year-old divorced mother of two adult children, retired from a long, prestigious, and stressful career in law. Over the span of twelve years, the book is told through correspondence and their replies, and even quite personal letters to authors, such as Joan Didion. And this is how the book is written, through her letters and return correspondence, her thoughts, and flashbacks round things out. Again, this is a fabulous book, and I highly recommend it.



### April's Signature Drink Pomona Cocktail

Last month, while perusing Real Simple magazine, I came across this tall and sexy drink. Not only thinking about how delicious and refreshing it looked, but I could also envision how cool I'd look holding it. The article states that a version of this is served at Jose Andres restaurant, Zaytinya, in Washington, DC. Well, that name rang a bell, and you may know him as the wonderful, internationally recognized humanitarian chef who founded World Central Kitchen. His nonprofit is the first to bring meals to the front line during disasters and community crises. But I digress, the Pomona Cocktail is from his new cookbook, Zaytinya, which is the Turkish word for olive and the book celebrates the vibrant

food and traditions of the Eastern Mediterranean. Expect me to be sharing some interesting recipes with you this summer. But for now, let's get on with our cocktail and party, and remember, every guest gets one big, beautiful Ponomo, unless it's the gentleman himself, Jose, Andres, but with all of his good work, I doubt he'll be able to stay long.

### Polomo Cocktail

24 fresh mint leaves  
1/2 c ouzo  
1/2 fresh, unsweetened pomegranate juice  
6 T simple syrup\*  
1/4 c lemon juice  
3/4 c club soda  
4 orange peel strips

Place mint leaves, ouzo, pomegranate juice, simple syrup, and lemon juice in a large cocktail shaker. Fill with ice and shake 2-3 times until just chilled. Pour through a fine mesh strainer into 4 Collins glasses filled with ice. Top with club soda and stir briefly. Squeeze orange peel strips over cocktails, place in glasses, and serve. \*To make simple syrup: Combine equal parts hot water with sugar. Stir until dissolved. Can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks.

### April Recipes

I have strayed from my normal repertoire of compiling a few recipes that are cohesive by season, cooking method, ingredient, or into a whole meal. This month, I've decided to share just a few that I made this winter that I went back to several times, which pretty much summed up that they were winners. While we're still cooking indoors, and for those rainy or chilly evenings this summer, when we want something that will take us back to that time we never thought would end, consider these favorites of mine.

### Baked Garlic Dip

1 large garlic head  
5 T olive oil, divided, extra for topping  
1 c plain Greek yogurt  
1 T fresh lemon juice, plus more for topping  
1 t onion powder  
1/2 t sea salt  
1/2 t freshly ground pepper  
1/2 t crushed red pepper  
1/2 c chopped scallions  
2 T chopped fresh dill, plus more for topping  
1 T chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley, plus more for topping  
Toasted rounds of Italian bread, pita bread, chips, crackers, and assorted vegetables for serving



Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Slice the garlic head crosswise in half; brush the cut sides with 1 tablespoon of oil. Place garlic, cut sides up, in aluminum foil and wrap tightly. Roast until cloves are soft and caramelized, about 40-50 minutes. Unwrap and let cool 10 minutes. Squeeze garlic cloves from their skins into a food processor.

Add yogurt, lemon juice, onion powder, salt, black pepper, red pepper, and the remaining 1/4 cup of oil to the food processor and process until smooth, about 30 seconds. Add scallions, dill, and parsley, pulse until combined, about 8 pulses. Transfer dip to a bowl. Top with additional scallions, dill, olive oil, and a squeeze of lemon. Serve with toasted bread rounds, pita bread, crackers, or vegetable crudités. Dip may be refriger-

ated for up to 3 days.

### Monte Cristo Sandwich



The Monte Cristo is an American diner classic, and it was my order every time we ate at the long-gone Bennigan's. If you're lucky, you may stumble upon it in a variety of restaurant settings, and consider yourself lucky if you do. I have, however, searched out a recipe that, upon trying out, really brought back all those warm and fuzzy feelings of sitting in one of those big green booths at Bennigan's, waiting for that toasty, salty, sweet sandwich, dripping with cheese, while drinking a mug of beer with friends. Give this a try yourself, it's perfect for brunch, lunch, or dinner. Add in a salad, soup, or some fruit to round it off.

3 T mayonnaise  
2 T Dijon mustard  
8 slices of white bread  
1/2 lb. thinly sliced Swiss cheese  
6 oz. thinly sliced cooked ham  
6 oz. thinly sliced deli turkey  
3 large eggs, lightly beaten  
1/4 t kosher salt  
3 T unsalted butter, plus more if needed  
Confectioner's sugar, for serving  
Raspberry jam, for serving (optional)

In a small bowl, mix together the mayonnaise and mustard. Spread a spoonful of the mixture on each slice of bread. Follow with a slice of Swiss, then ham, and then turkey on all 4 slices of bread, trimming ingredients to fit. Top with the remaining bread slices.

On a rimmed plate, whisk together the eggs and salt; set aside. Heat the butter in a larger skillet over medium-low heat. When it begins to sizzle, dip two of the sandwiches into the egg mixture on both sides; the bread should be evenly coated but not soggy. Add the two sandwiches to the skillet, pressing each down firmly with a spatula. Cover and cook until golden brown on the bottom, about 2 to 3 minutes, then flip and cook until golden brown on the other side, about 1 to 2 minutes more. Transfer the sandwiches to a plate and repeat with the second batch, adding another tablespoon of butter if the pan looks dry. (I like to let the pan cool a bit, wiping it out before adding butter, as the sandwiches will toast more brown than golden). Dust the sandwiches lightly with confectioner's sugar, and cut them in half. Serve with raspberry jam on the side. Serves 4

### Pasta with Tomato-Poached Eggs



This is such a comfort meal, yet with the addition of a lightly poached egg and fresh basil, it's a luxury on warm sum-

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE, SEE**

**JANE**

# Our Children

## Kids, you're being watched!

by **SANDY FLEMING**

**S**cary thought, isn't it? But yes, if you have children (even the adult ones) or grandchildren, you most certainly are being watched. They learn a lot from the things we say and do, and also from the things we DON'T say and DON'T do. Do the things you are teaching them match with what you want to be teaching them? If not, it's time to clean up your act so your audience comes away with the messages and values that you want to instill.

### A Universal Activity

Around the world, and throughout every single culture, children are watching their parents. Psychologists have done studies that show that children pick up the adults' core values by exposure, imitation, and direct conversations. In other words, they not only listen to you, but they also watch you and try to do what you are doing.

In fact, children often take the actions they see you do more to heart than the long, serious conversations about values. They are watching!

### Passing on Your Values

One step that a lot of adults skip over by accident is the one where you clarify your own values and things you WANT To pass on to your children. Take some time right now to take stock of your internal workings. What is important to you? What do you want your children to learn from your time with them?

Here are some clarifying questions that can help:

- What aspect of your life makes you most proud?
- What part of your life makes you feel most fulfilled?
- What people in your life do you feel bring out the best in you?
- What situations in your life have made you feel most satisfied?
- What sacrifices have you made to get where you are today (such as what did you give up)?
- What made you feel guilty or regretful?
- When you have felt low, what was missing from your life?
- What aspects of your life make you feel sad or angry?
- If you could choose a new career, what would it be?
- How do you want to be remembered?
- Who do you respect and why?
- What do you value in friendships?
- What do you feel is most important in life?

Now, as you answer some or all of these questions, the things you think are important will come into clearer focus.

You can even rank them: Which are the most important? Which would have the same answers no matter when you think about them? Which are more fluid? Which have changed or could change, and which do you believe will be your values forever?

The next step is to examine your life and actions, particularly the parts that your children see or hear about. Making your actions consistent with your values is a key to passing the values on. It's also a key to feeling satisfied in your own life. A mismatch between your actions/choices and your core values sets you up for unhappiness.

For example, a common value that parents often want to pass on to their kids is the importance of education. We adults know that high school diplomas and postsecondary credentials vastly increase earning power. Most of us really and truly want our children to succeed in their work lives. However, telling them how important school is does not carry much weight if you are not SHOWING that you value the process by staying in close touch with teachers, volunteering or going to programs when you can, attending conferences, enforcing homework rules, and making sure kids get to school and get there on time routinely. Your actions may speak louder than you want them to if you pull kids out for family outings, birthdays, half-days, or other inconsistencies. How do you stack up for demonstrating how much you value their education? Do the kids see you pursuing learning in other ways, like reading books, taking classes, or picking up new skills?

### Teaching Values to Children

Research by psychologists and social scientists shows that there are several important keys to passing your values on to your children (and grandchildren). It hardly needs to be restated, but consistency between your actions and your words cannot be underestimated. There are even poems and sayings about it: From the "Children Learn What They Live" poem to sayings like "Daily deeds determine destiny." (Barney Matthews) and "Habits are cobwebs at first; cables at last." (Chinese Proverb), wisdom about consistency shows up nearly everywhere we look.

It's also called "leading by example" or "being a good role model." There's just no substitute for making your actions and your decisions match your values and beliefs.

When you consistently act on your values, especially in front of the kids but also at all points in your life, you teach

that your values work to help you. It's like having a solid anchor in a storm. The values become a point of reference and they steer your life in very observable ways.

Kids also learn best from people they love and admire. Building the kind of relationship where you can talk about values is crucial to instilling your values into your kids. Take time to converse regularly, about values and about other topics. Nurture an environment where your kids can ask questions, can come to you to talk about events near and far, and can learn to carry on conversations about challenging topics.

This means parents need to carefully consider their language and communications with children. It's very easy to fall into the trap of using nearly all "directive" language where you are telling kids what to do or giving instructions. You can recognize directive language by the expected outcome. Do you want or need the child to DO something in response to your message? If so, it is directive. Examples include "Clean up your room," "Eat your vegetables," and "Do your homework." These are not conversations (not even if they argue with you!) and they do not help teach values.

Instead, set aside some real time to actually have a give-and-take conversation. You can recognize these because there is no expected response or answer. You just ... talk. You share, your child shares, and everyone learns to know the other person better. That sets the stage for talking about important parts of life, like values.

You can also read books or watch

movies together. Take some time to talk about the values (good or otherwise) that are demonstrated by the characters. Why do characters make the decisions that they do? What values are they showing? What is the outcome of their values-based decisions, and did it work out well for them?

You can see that there are teachable moments all around related to values. Once you decide which are most important to you to teach to the children in your life, you stand a much greater chance of getting the job done. You'll be prepared to take advantage of those times when your child is receptive and ready to learn.

On the other hand, it's easy to share (on purpose or accidentally) your frustration with things related to school. Maybe your experiences weren't the best. Maybe you felt that you never were good at math or writing or other subjects. Keep negative comments and stories away from the kids – they can easily "catch" your attitude, even when your mouth is saying "Respect your teacher" and "Stay in school."

Passing on our values is one of the most important jobs we have as parents, grandparents, teachers, mentors, and friends. Being intentional about it will help, and so will building strong, positive relationships.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sandy Fleming is an educator, writer, and tutor living in Edwardsburg. Visit her websites at <https://learningnook.com> and <https://sandyflemingonline.com> to grab learning ideas, parenting insights, and much more!

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## JANE

CONTINUED FROM  
PREVIOUS PAGE

mer days for brunch or dinner. Serve with thick slices of Italian bread to soak up the egg yolk as it mingles with the tomatoes. Pure heaven!

8 oz. spaghetti

Salt and fresh ground pepper

2 large eggs, at room temperature

1 T olive oil, plus more for drizzling

1 shallot, finely chopped, about 1/4 cup

2 cloves garlic, finely chopped

1/2 t crushed red pepper

1 T capers, drained if brined, rinsed if salt-packed

1 28 oz. can of crushed tomatoes

2 is T unsalted butter

Fresh basil leaves

In a large pot of salted boiling water, cook the pasta according to the package directions until very al dente (about 2 minutes less than the instructions) and drain. Crack each egg into a separate small bowl (this will make them easy to slide into the tomato sauce later).

Meanwhile, heat olive oil in a medium saucepan over medium-low heat. Add the shallot and cook, stirring occasionally, until very soft and slightly golden at the edges, about 3 minutes. Stir in the garlic, crushed red pepper, and capers, and once aromatic, 15 to 20 seconds, stir in the tomatoes and butter. Season with salt and stir well.

Adjusting the heat as needed, bring the tomato sauce to a gentle simmer.

Working with one egg at a time, slide the eggs into the saucepan, so they have some space (1-2 inches) between them. Cover the pan with a lid and cook the eggs until the whites are set and the yolks are soft and still a little runny (or you may cook to your preferred doneness), about 10 minutes. With a slotted spoon, transfer the eggs to a plate.

Add the drained pasta to the tomato sauce and cook, stirring regularly with tongs, until the sauce thickens slightly and the noodles are al dente, about 2 minutes. Turn the heat off and season with salt to taste. Transfer the pasta to plates or bowls and top with the poached eggs. Finish with black pepper, basil leaves, and more olive oil drizzled over if desired. Makes 2 servings.

Thank you for picking up and reading the April edition of Neighbor's. We are a free newspaper, but we bring you a wealth of information about regional events, news, and all the happenings you want to know about. Ads that refer you to every need you might have this season, and articles to make turning the pages worthwhile! See you next month

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

<http://blondiesjournals.blogspot.com>

# 'bout boats and boating

## Regional influence has shaped boat building

By RUSTY COLLINS

**T**he modern identity of boat manufacturing in Michiana — and particularly in Southwest Michigan and the Elkhart, Indiana corridor — was largely shaped in the period following World War I. While earlier decades established the state as a hub for commercial shipbuilding on the Great Lakes, the 20th century marked a decisive shift toward recreational boating, innovation in materials, and the rise of brands that still define the marine industry today.

During World War I and again in World War II, Michigan's shipyards were heavily engaged in military production. Companies such as Defoe Shipbuilding in Bay City, and facilities in Detroit and along Lake Michigan produced patrol boats, subchasers, and other naval vessels. These wartime efforts accelerated advancements in hull design, propulsion systems, and manufacturing efficiency. Just as importantly, they expanded the skilled labor force and industrial infrastructure that would later transition into recreational boat production.

After World War II, pent-up consumer demand and rising middle-class prosperity created ideal conditions for the recreational boating boom. Michigan, with unmatched access to inland lakes and the Great Lakes, became a natural epicenter. One of the most important technological shifts during this period was the transition from wood to fiberglass construction in the 1950s and 1960s. Fiberglass allowed for mass production, reduced maintenance, and more consistent quality



ty — fundamentally changing how boats were built and sold.

Southwest Michigan quickly emerged as a core region for this recreational marine expansion. Towns such as St. Joseph, Benton Harbor, and surrounding areas benefited from proximity to Lake Michigan and an established manufacturing base. Companies in this region began producing runabouts, cruisers, and fishing boats tailored to the growing leisure market. The focus shifted from purely functional vessels to lifestyle products — boats designed for family recreation, watersports, and day cruising.

At the same time, the Elkhart, Indiana area — just across the state line — developed into one of the most concentrated marine manufacturing regions in the country. Already known for its strength in RV production, Elkhart's workforce and supply chain translated seamlessly into boatbuilding. This region became especially dominant in pontoon and deck boat manufacturing, which



exploded in popularity in the late 20th century.

Brands that are now industry staples either originated in or have strong ties to this Southwest Michigan-Elkhart corridor. Bennington, founded in Elkhart County, helped redefine the pontoon category by emphasizing luxury, fit-and-finish, and performance — transforming what was once a basic platform into a premium product. Similarly, Godfrey Marine (producer of Sanpan and AquaPatio models) played a major role in expanding pontoon versatility and market reach.

Other key players include Harris Boats, known for high-end pontoons with refined design, and Starcraft Marine, which has roots dating back to 1903 and produces both aluminum fishing boats and pontoons. Barletta Boats represents a newer generation of manufacturers focused on comfort-driven layouts and

upscale features—reflecting how consumer expectations have evolved. Most recently now Alera Marine has stepped into the market.

Southwest Michigan itself has remained active not only in manufacturing but also in sales, service, and customization, reinforcing the region's role in the broader marine ecosystem. The combination of local boating culture, access to major waterways, and proximity to manufacturing centers has created a tightly integrated market where innovation and customer feedback move quickly.

Today, the legacy of Michigan and the Elkhart region in boat manufacturing is defined less by large commercial shipbuilding and more by its leadership in recreational marine products. The area has become synonymous with pontoon innovation, high-quality construction, and a deep understanding of the boating lifestyle. What began as a wartime industrial base has evolved into one of the most influential recreational boat manufacturing hubs in North America — continuing to shape how people experience the water!



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



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# Field Trip

This is Fred, Phil's partner in Neighbors. Phil and I decided a while back that I should do the field trip this month, even though I'm not in Michigan right now.

I married a Brazilian girl, Ana, 30 years ago, and we typically spend the winters in Brazil. Brazil and the US are 6 months out of sync, winter in the US is summer in Brazil.

Well enough background.

Recently Ana and I drove to a little town by the name of Amatiste Do Sul, which translates to Amethyst of the South. This town bills itself as having the largest and best amethysts in South America.

Amethysts are a popular, durable purple variety of quartz (Mohs hardness 7), and the February birthstone, prized for their deep violet to soft lilac hues. They are often used in faceted jewelry, beads, and crystals.

Amethysts are found primarily in South America and Africa within volcanic geodes, and they are colored by iron and irradiation. They are historically associated with royalty, peace, and sobriety.

One of the highlights of our trip this winter was having lunch at a restaurant 200 feet inside a mountain, in an amethyst mine. There is also a church in town that has its walls lined with amethysts.

These photos are from this trip.




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# 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)



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

## Early spring visitors delight local photographers

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

**O**n March 1, a male pileated woodpecker made himself conspicuous to the lens of Brad Anderson by partaking the suet Brad and his wife Hannah and offered.

The pileated woodpecker is the largest woodpecker in Michigan. Discounting the almost certainly extinct ivory-billed woodpecker, the pileated reigns as the largest woodpecker in North America with a wingspan of about 26 to 29 inches and a total length, from head to tail, of about 16 to 19 inches. Plumages are similar to both sexes with the exception of a red mark on each side of the male's cheeks. I often refer to this red mark as the male pileated's "mustache".

The pileated woodpecker currently ranges across all of Michigan and nearby states, although it is less common in the southeast counties where less second-growth forest exists. At the time of European settlement, the pileated woodpecker was abundant across Michigan. From the late 1800s until approximately the 1950s it was nearly extirpated from the heavy farming region and cities from Muskegon to Bay Counties south to the state line. Since World War Two, there has been a gradual increase in the population of the species in the southern lower peninsula due to second growth forest. As of the mid 2020s, the pileated woodpecker is once again a breeding species in all of Michigan's 83 counties.

Along the wooded floodplain forests



Left: Male pileated woodpecker, March 1, at suet feeder of Brad and Hannah Anderson, Bridgman.

Above: Eastern fox squirrel, March 9, by Steve Frappier of St. Joseph.

of the St. Joseph River during mid-February of this year, I witnessed an adult pair of pileated woodpeckers in courtship activity, by drumming loudly and often during February and March. While adults pair bond for life, they continue the courtship drumming to reaffirm their nest site territory and ward off potential encroaching pairs or lone males.

Nesting begins in mid-to late April in our southern counties and in May in the Upper Peninsula. Cavity nests are excavated by both parents, usually in a dead or dying tree, and lined with wood chips. There, an average of 4 eggs are laid, and

are incubated by both male and female.

The diet of the pileated woodpecker is primarily insects during the warm months, supplemented by fruits, nuts and sap. The favorite food of the pileated woodpecker appears to be carpenter ants, both adults and larvae. In winter they feed on the larvae of ants, suet and fruit. The species is a permanent resident across its range, but individuals may wander in winter in search of food.

On March 9, Steve Frappier of St. Joseph captured a photo of an eastern fox squirrel. The eastern fox squirrel is common in open and semi-open areas in

Southwest Michigan. While it prefers oak-hickory forests, it is often found in suburban landscapes.

Speaking of squirrels, the groundhog, also called woodchuck, is also a squirrel. It is a true hibernator that emerges in February in our area. I saw my first woodchuck of the year on February 28, which was a roadkill on Cleveland Avenue just south of the Galien village limits.

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

# Local History

## Brief History of the Rosewarne School

by Jonathan Wuepper  
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 jwuepper@cass.lib.mi.us



While the precise year of the establishment of Milton School District Number 5, commonly known as the Rosewarne School, is unknown, it was likely created after WH Rosewarne returned to Milton Township.

Rosewarne apparently donated the land where the original school building was located. This was located off the south side of Bell Street, about one tenth of a mile southeast of the intersection of Bell and US-12 (then known as Chicago Road). A schoolhouse is shown at that location on the 1860 wall map of Cass, Van Buren and Berrien Counties, Michigan by Geil, Harley & Siverd.

It is interesting that when the next Cass County plat atlas was published in 1872, no schoolhouse is shown at that location, nor anywhere in the vicinity. However, the following was reported in the inaugural issue of the Cassopolis Vigilant newspaper dated May 16, 1872:

**COUNTY NEWS.**  
**MILTON.**  
 A new school house has just been completed in District No. 5, that is one of the best district school buildings in the county, and speaks well for the inhabitants who voted the means for so worthy an object.



This new frame building was located on the north side of Chicago Road (now US-12), section 7, Milton Township about one-half mile southeast of the Bell St-Chicago Rd intersection. This frame one-room school house served Milton District Number 5 for the next 83 years. The building still exists today, "hiding in plain sight" having been renovated and expanded, now serving as the First Church of God, Niles.

In 1955 a new three-room cinder block Rosewarne School was constructed at the cost of \$30,000, located northeast

of the Bell Street-US-12 intersection. On July 1, 1962 the Rosewarne School District Number 5 was consolidated into the Brandywine School District. The building was used by the Brandywine District as an elementary school, then for adult special education and adult alternative education programs.

In 1982 the cinder block three-room Rosewarne School was sold to the First Missionary Church of Niles. As of this writing, the building (and its additions) serve as the Niles Philadelphia Seventh Day Adventist Church.

**T**his month I would like to present a brief history of the Rosewarne School, Milton Township.

According to sources, William H. Rosewarne settled in Cass County about 1834, staying only a short time before returning to New York where he remained until his return in 1849.

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## Some days it just sucks being an adult



he horrible influx of simply awful weather we've been forced to endure for the past few weeks have put me in mind of similarly bad periods of temperamental, terrifying and terrible weather I experienced back when I was a kid (about a million years ago).

As a kid growing up in an era when most of the homes on the block were protected from the weather haphazardly at best. Wood roofs, asphalt shingles, maybe a storm door and windows. Maybe not.

On my block in winters, most of the homes were heated with wood-burning fireplaces and stoves, or with octopus-like coal furnaces that stretched across the entire basement from the coal bin that had a poorly insulated hinged door so the coal guy could back up to the house and dump coal down a chute into the bin (that part of the basement rarely got warm enough to use even when the furnace was fired up). In the winter the temperature never got above two-sweatshirts and flannel pajama levels and the frigidity of the toilet seat on that first trip to the bathroom in the morning ensured that no one was going to linger long enough to encourage hemorrhoid growth.

Back then, the two most popular car brands lining the street were either the hometown favorite Studebaker or the meager Volkswagen. It was cheap to buy, cheap to fix, and cheap to fill up with gas (even back when a gallon cost mere pennies). My dad was a Stude guy. Ours were always old, dull-colored and drafty, usually with rusted out quarter panels and floorboards that snow, slush and wind used to rush through to make sure that we never went for a drive in the winter without at least two pairs of socks and a pair of heavy Ball Band winter boots on. As for the neighbors who embraced the era of the original VW bugs they remember a heating system that rerouted engine heat from a rear-mounted 15-cc, 4-cylinder putt-putt of an engine, and that the heating line was shared with the defroster line, producing a result that caused the owners to keep extra gloves and hats on hand, and to keep an ice scraper nearby to clear the ice on the *inside* of the

windshield while they were driving.

On my block in the summer, central air conditioning was something only rich people on the other side of the tracks could afford. At my house, our central air conditioning system consisted of a rusty and rickety discount-store box window fan pointed out a lee-side window to try to take the hot, steam, rain-forest air out of our bedrooms at night) and hopefully to encourage cooler breezes to waft across us from the always open windows on the windward side of the house.

In winters I remember staying out all day long in near-zero temps, sledding down dead-man's hill and going home with my lips blue (and often bleeding from face planting into the busted up fence at the bottom of the hill) and my fingers and toes numb and nearly frozen to the material of my gloves and the two pairs of cheap socks that I'd tried to insulate my boots with. Mom would tsk-tsk and side-eye me as she stripped the frosty materials off my purple phalanges then she'd make me jump into the tub filled first cold, then warm water, a procedure my nurse-aunt told her would keep me from losing the digits altogether. Must have worked, I still have 10 of each (although even now they still sting like they're on fire when they get cold).

When the sun would finally break out in May or early June, I remember when a relative or a friend's parent would drive me and my brother Paul to Kugler's Beach at Barron Lake in the spring, and we'd dive into the cold water and stay in until it was time to pack up to ride home. Paul and I'd sit in the back of the '57 Fairlane convertible in our wet bathing suits and laugh at the cold wind through chattering teeth and stinging, purple lips. And I remember summers when I'd strip off my sweaty tee shirt and ditch my socks, and play sandlot baseball for six or seven hours in the sun-drenched middle of a 95 degree, full-sun summer day, wearing just a pair of gym shorts and moth-eaten, worn out, holey sneakers, and get home in time for supper with a just hint of sunburn across my shoulders and along the bridge of my nose (thankfully my Italian skin would mellow the color to a soft tan by morning, unlike most of my teammates who'd suffer with blisters and snake-skin peeling for a week after each game).

I remember some pretty serious storms both sum-

mer and winter when I was a kid, but what I remember liking about them was that they usually got us at least a day or two off school. Sure, I also remember dad making me shovel a path through waist-deep snow out to the Stude so he could get to work. And I remember spending a whole Saturday picking up a thousand sticks and blown-off shingles. But I didn't think much about weather and storms (although that Palm Sunday tornado back in '65 got my attention)

I used to laugh off other peoples' concerns.

"Everybody talks about the weather, 'I'd tell them, 'but nobody does anything about it.'"

I thought I was being smart quoting Twain, until I later learned that the quote had been mis-attributed to Twain, and was likely written by Twain's friend and collaborator Charles Dudley Warner. Whoever he was.

Well, I'm not a kid any more, and like it or not, at my age I seem to be spending a lot of time paying attention to the weather. I'd like to say I've gotten smarter as I've aged, but I'm not sure that's the reason. In fact, I can think of several other reasons my perspective has changed as I've settled into my dotage, and none of them are particularly exemplary. For one thing, frost-bite, blue lips and that old, cold toilet seat notwithstanding, I don't like being cold. Truth be told, when the mercury in my deck thermometer starts boiling and pops out of the top of the little tube, I don't much like being hot either.

Now that I'm older it's not Dad's house and Stude, it's my home and Subaru, and I actually had to buy it with my own money. And at least partially because of the weather, it seems I also have to buy insurance.

"Buy our insurance," they said to me, "then if your car or house get slammed by bad weather and you have to get them fixed, we'll pay for it."

Except maybe if it involves an act of God Then there's your deductible. And next year's premiums might go up. And, as an adult with grown kids, there's no one to shovel my snow or pick up my sticks, and since I'm self employed, I never get a day off work.

Dorothy was right. We're not in Kansas anymore, Toto, and as an adult I realize that the perfect storm is the one that went somewhere else.

Sometimes it just sucks being an adult.



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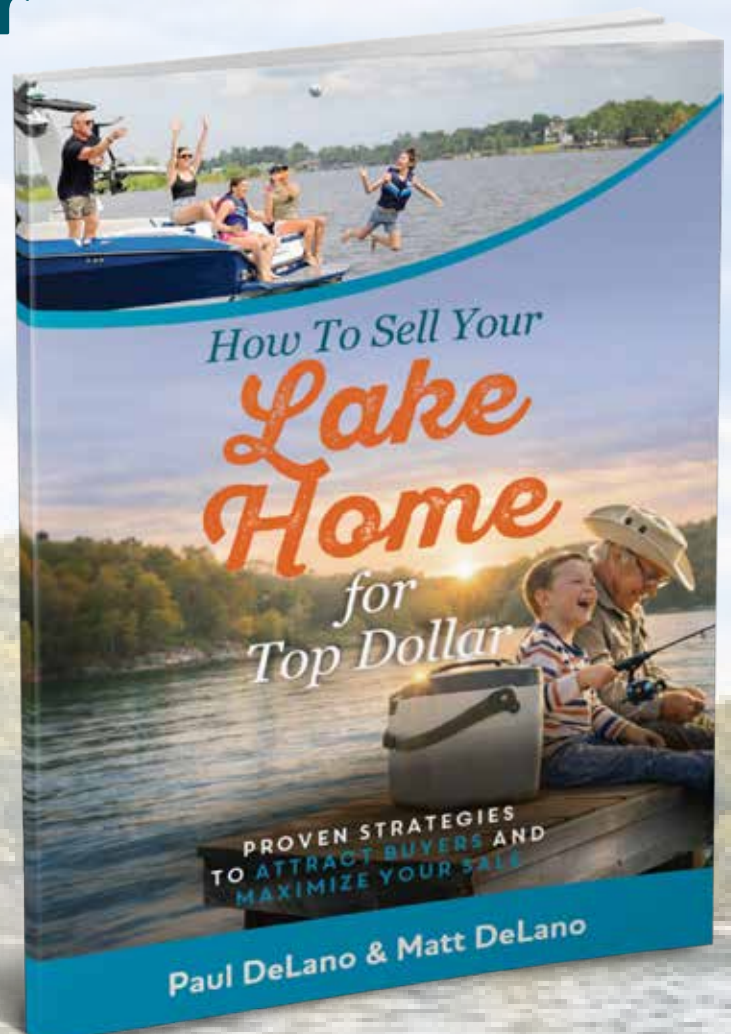


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