

# Neighbors

## Inside this month

Regional News.....Page 2, 3  
Regional Events.....Page 3  
Lake Life with Jane.....Page 5  
Field Trip.....Pages 7, 8  
Floyd's Postcards.....Pages 10-12  
The Last Word.....Page 15

**MAY 2026**

**NOW IN OUR 23<sup>rd</sup> YEAR**

**FREE – Take one**

A regional newspaper serving Cass County, Michigan and the surrounding area, with distribution at homes and businesses in Dowagiac, Cassopolis, Edwardsburg, Vandalia, Jones, Marcellus, Decatur, Union, Sister Lakes, and Three Rivers, and 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**

Neighbors is published monthly from April through October

**To contact Neighbors**

**(269) 228-1080**

**(269) 476-1680**

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

[onlinebarker@gmail.com](mailto:onlinebarker@gmail.com)

[Brazilstein@gmail.com](mailto:Brazilstein@gmail.com)



**Post Office: Please deliver as soon as possible!**

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

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

## Field Trip

**Abraham Lincoln Museum and Tomb**  
Springfield, IL

Pages 7, 8

# Regional News

**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/>

**Perennial plant sale starts May 15**

The yearly perennial plant sale, sponsored by the Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum, will be May 15-30 at the museum on Main Street.

More than 1,500 plants will be available in more than 90 varieties, including perennial favorites such as peonies, roses, hydrangeas, hosta plants, and day lilies. The sale is supported by Dussel's Farm Market and Greenhouses in Cassopolis and is one of three fundraising events held each year to support the museum's operations. The sale also includes donated plants from community residents as well as annual flowers in patio and cemetery pots in three sizes.

The sale is manned daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. by museum volunteers.

**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>.

**Beckwith Theatre performances**

The Beckwith Theatre Co. will present these performances this season:

**1776** June 26-28, and July 3-5, 7:30 pm Fridays and Saturdays, 2 pm on Sundays.

**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. 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:

**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** – TBA

**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 information visit [www.ccmihistoricalsociety.org](http://www.ccmihistoricalsociety.org).

**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 will join 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. All presentations are at 7 pm at the Edwardsburg Branch of the Cass District Library. 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. Myers asks which are true and which are false.

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

**2026 Elkhart Jazz Festival**

The 2026 Elkhart Jazz Festival will be June 18-21 with music across multiple stages around town including The Crystal Ballroom, the Library Atrium, and multiple outdoor festival stages.

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).

## HAMPSHIRE Country Club

Open to the Public     Hampshire

Dogwood     Two 18-hole courses

29592 Pokagon Hwy, Dowagiac, MI 49047

For info or a tee time call (269) 782-7476

<https://www.hampshire36.com>

## Neighbors

### Fred Stein

**228-1080**

[Brazilstein@gmail.com](mailto:Brazilstein@gmail.com)







CASSOPOLIS, MI

269.233.2222

pierperfection.com



EASY LEVEL™  
SYSTEM  
ON LIFTS



EASY LEVEL™  
SYSTEM  
ON DOCKS

# Regional Calendar

### MISC. AREA EVENTS

**Various dates** - Village of Cassopolis summer event schedule, <https://cassopolismain-street.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

### EDWARDSBURG MUSEUM (EAHM) MAY 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

**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, Edwardsburg Branch of Cass District Library

**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, Edwardsburg Branch of Cass District Library

**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, Edwardsburg Branch of Cass District Library.

### 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, Edwardsburg Branch of Cass District Library.

**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/)

### 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/>



**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: [wrg1grant2@gmail.com](mailto:wrg1grant2@gmail.com)

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

Over 45 Years of Service!



**Imperial Furniture**  
DOWAGIAC  
Family Owned Since 1962

*Furnishings for your Home and Cottage*

Living Room • Bedroom • Dining Room • Mattresses • Unique Accessories  
Gifts & Home Decor • Special Orders Always Welcomed

57530 M 51 S Dowagiac, MI 49047 • HOURS: M-F 9-5, Sat 9-3

(269) 782-5020 | [www.imperialfurniture-dowagiac.com](http://www.imperialfurniture-dowagiac.com)  
800-884-5020



**MICHELLE SCOTT**  
BROKER/OWNER  
(574) 286-9050  
[Mjs.scott10@gmail.com](mailto:Mjs.scott10@gmail.com)  
[michelle@michiganlakesteam.com](mailto:michelle@michiganlakesteam.com)



**KELLY SMIT**  
SISTER LAKES ASSOCIATE BROKER  
(269) 462-0783  
[kellymichiganlakes@gmail.com](mailto:kellymichiganlakes@gmail.com)



**DARREN PETTERSON**  
LAKE ASSOCIATE BROKER  
(773) 454-0528  
[darren@pettersonproperties.com](mailto:darren@pettersonproperties.com)



**HALEY RICHTER**  
LAKE AGENT  
(269) 462-5758  
[haleymichiganlakes@gmail.com](mailto:haleymichiganlakes@gmail.com)



**DAWN RUSSO**  
LAKE AGENT  
(269) 462-2290  
[sellingthedream711@gmail.com](mailto:sellingthedream711@gmail.com)

## Selling Waterfront Properties Since 2023

**WATERFRONT ONLY WEBSITE**  
for 120+ Lakes In Southwest Michigan

**FREE Waterfront Property Market Analysis**

*Let Us Show You How Our Superior Marketing Plan To Chicago Benefits You*

**Call (269) 663-7700**



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



# Lake Life with Jane

## Happy May - It's officially summer!

by **Jane Boudreau**



**H**ello Neighbors, and Happy May! What a transitional month we have in front of us. We start off the month in spring, and we're going out with a bang! It's officially summer on the lake! Haul out that patio furniture for the patio, deck, or porch. Clean up the beach, and hose off those coolers. If you didn't clean your grill before winter (shame on you!), do it now. If you're a perfectionist like me, start stocking up in paper plates, napkins, and bottled water. If you saved your patriotic decorations from last year's Fourth of July, they work for Memorial Day as well. If you're having company for the holiday, you might want to start on a menu and a shopping list (I don't have any holiday recipes for you in this issue, sorry).

In these uncertain times, it's hard to find peace of mind. For me, there's always something to worry about, and I think it's true for everyone. We stress out tremendously if we follow the news; we deal with financial struggles and health issues. We worry about our kids, But...getting by day by day isn't always easy. For a very long time, we've heard the phrase, "live in the moment," and "it's the little things..." Now I've picked up on a simple but beautiful and effective way to focus and sometimes capture a great moment. If you're on social media, you may already have seen something like it on Instagram or TikTok, where someone lists their 'small joys', in words or photos. A girl I follow on Instagram lists some small joys in words and photos from her weekends, and then asks readers to share their own. Some of the comments are amazing. Sitting with a friend while they're undergoing chemo. A first-time hiking trip in Colorado, a peaceful walk on the beach with their dog. Last year I spent a lot of time looking for small joys, I was looking for small joys at every turn as I awaited back surgery. I was pretty much immobile and spent much of my time sitting outside, watching Poppy up to her usual antics. I'd drink my coffee, read, listen to the birds, and in the evening, sip a scotch and stare out at the dark sky. I wasn't unhappy. Every once in a while, a breeze would pick up, and the branches of the many walnut trees around me would gently sway. Candles flickered, and crickets chirped, and I would think... these are the small joys

### Common Snowberry

I found this bush at Home Depot and actual-



ly forgot I had planted it last fall. I found it this morning looking all pretty like this!! This baby can get huge, so I planted it about 3 feet from my house and plan to keep it pruned. The little berries are great for attracting all sorts of birds. I'm so excited to see what happens this summer. Check to see if any of your big box stores have it if it sounds appealing to you.

### Jane's Imaginary Book Club

#### Life: A Love Story

Elizabeth Berg has been one of my favorite authors for over thirty years. She's the New York Times Bestselling author of many novels and has been published in over 31 countries. When I mention her books on my blog or social media, very few of my followers don't know of her. So, here I thought I'd give a short review of her latest book, *Life: A Love Story*. This novel is truly a life lesson, and the story is told through a letter left by 92-year-old Flo after she has passed away to her former, younger neighbor, Ruthie, whom she had known since Ruthie was a little girl. The letter is the map of the story; it stops, and we are reliving Flo's life with Ruthie, or in the weeks and days before she dies. Other characters play equally poignant parts in Flo's life, and they are unforgettable. Berg has a way of creating compelling characters. They are well developed, and it's easy to become emotionally engaged, as I did, with Flo and Ruthie. This is a book that really is all about its title. I hope you pick it up.



### Blood Orange Martini

#### May's Signature Cocktail



I came upon this drink while perusing one of my favorite websites, Liquor.com. You really should check it out. There's a wealth of information, and particularly for me, I find a strange fascination in the history of drinks that have stood the test of time, such as the Old Fashioned, Tom Collins, Daiquiri, and Pina Colada, to name a few. So here we have the Blood Orange Martini. If you are having a get-together, serve the martinis on an elegant tray or arranged on a buffet. If guests have manners, they will know it's a celebratory drink. If they ask for another, they have no class and no business being at your party. And so the recipe:

2 oz. vodka  
1 oz. blood orange juice, freshly squeezed  
1/2 oz. orange liqueur, like Cointreau

Ice  
Blood orange slice for garnish

Fill a shaker with ice, and add vodka, blood orange juice, and orange liqueur. Shake well until chilled and strain into a chilled martini glass. Garnish with a slice of blood orange.

Not quite ready to bring on the full summer menu? I'm leaning towards light and easy (we want to be swimsuit-ready, yet we still want something a bit substantial for dinner). Chicken is a good bet with so many ways to work it into your meal plans. Here I have two delicious recipes which I think are great for late summer/early summer, and beyond.

### Balsamic Strawberry Chicken Salad



I consider this the ultimate dinner salad. It comes together quickly and you can make the dressing a day or two before, as the flavors have a chance to become friends and meld together. Taste and adjust the seasonings before using. Double the recipe, and you can use it to sauce up other meats and in tossed salads.

1 T olive oil  
1 T balsamic vinegar  
1 t granulated sugar  
1 T fresh tarragon, roughly chopped  
1/4 t kosher salt  
1/4 t freshly ground black pepper  
2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts  
6 c loosely packed fresh spinach  
6-8 large strawberries, hulled and quartered  
1 avocado, peeled, seeded, and cut into slices  
3-4 thinly sliced rings of red onion  
1/4 c feta cheese crumbles  
2 t sliced almonds

Whisk together the olive oil, balsamic vinegar, sugar, tarragon, salt, and pepper until blended. Place the chicken breasts in a shallow bowl, and pour half of the dressing over, ensuring the chicken is nicely coated. Cover the bowl and refrigerate at least 30 minutes or up to 2 hours. This step allows the chicken to absorb the flavors of the dressing.

Spray a grill pan or a cast-iron skillet with cooking spray and heat it to medium-high. When it sizzles, carefully place the chicken pieces on the grill pan and let them cook for 3 minutes without moving them. This creates a good sear. Flip the breasts and cook another 3 minutes. You should see golden brown grill marks forming. Flip once more for even cooking. Reduce the heat to medium-low and continue to cook for another 15-20 minutes, depending on how thick your meat is. A quick-read meat thermometer should register 160 degrees for poultry\*. Once the chicken is done, remove it from the pan and let it rest for 5 minutes. This allows the juices to redistribute throughout the meat, keeping it tender.

While the chicken is resting, arrange the spinach, strawberries, and red onion in a large bowl. Lightly toss them with

the remaining dressing. Slice the chicken into about 1/4-inch-thick slices and add to the salad bowl. Finally, add the avocado, and sprinkle the feta cheese and sliced almonds over, and serve.



### Honey Garlic Sheet Pan Dinner

You can't go wrong with a sheet pan dinner for little fuss and little clean up. I like this chicken version because it uses chicken thighs and legs, which don't dry out as chicken breasts sometimes do. I like to serve this dish with a baguette of toasted garlic bread.

2 lbs. bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs  
1 lb. baby potatoes  
3 large carrots, peeled and cut into 2-inch pieces  
1 head of broccoli, cut into florets  
3 T olive oil, divided  
3 T honey  
4 cloves of garlic, minced  
2 T soy sauce  
1 t soy sauce  
Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a small bowl, whisk together the honey, 2 tablespoons of olive oil, minced garlic, soy sauce, and paprika.

Place potatoes and carrots on the sheet pan. Drizzle with the remaining olive oil, season with salt and pepper, and toss to coat. Spread into an even layer.

Arrange chicken thighs on top of the vegetables. Brush generously with half of the honey-garlic mixture, and season with salt and pepper. Roast for 25 minutes.

Remove baking sheet from the oven and add the broccoli florets. Brush the chicken with the remaining honey-garlic sauce. Return to the oven and roast for an additional 10-12 minutes until the chicken reaches 165 degrees and the vegetables are tender. Let rest for 5 minutes before serving.

This is it for May, my friends! As you open up Neighbors, I hope that the last of the cool weather is still around, and that you're spending more and more time outdoors. Look around and count those small joys because they're there; we just have to slow down to see and feel them. And finally, Happy Memorial Day! God bless and honor all of the thousands upon thousands of military personnel who died for our country. See you in June!

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

# Our Children

## Supporting anxious kids

by **SANDY FLEMING**

**F**rom my vantage point, working as a tutor and volunteering with youth organizations, I thought I was noticing a significant uptick in children and teens experiencing anxiety. When I did some research, the actual figures are pretty astounding. According to the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/children-mental-health/data-research/index.html>, as of 2023), 10 percent of elementary aged children and 15 percent of teens struggle with diagnosed anxiety conditions. Even young children, ages 3-5, are not immune, with over 2 percent of that group struggling with anxiety. Other sources do indicate a marked rise in anxiety across age groups, particularly noticeable since the pandemic. And these are just the kids who have an official diagnosis. The numbers do not reflect anxious kids whose families have not yet sought medical or psychological assistance.

Granted, studies are also indicating an overall rise in anxiety in our society for everyone. This is not just true in the United States, but holds in cultures around the world. That fact, however, does not negate the need for supporting children and teens who feel anxious.

The very first thing I need to say is that I am NOT a mental health professional. If you suspect your child needs mental health treatment for anxiety, you should seek out that help from a mental health professional or program.

That being said, the term 'anxiety' can cover a lot of nonclinical ground. People can easily have uncomfortable levels of anxiety without being diagnosable. These are the kids and teens that you might be able to support from home with a few changes to family routines and the way in which you respond to their concerns. But please, please, please seek mental health help if you even think it might be needed. Like many problems, it is so much easier to address anxiety earlier rather than later.

Also remember that some anxiety is normal, particularly in predictable situations. Anxiety keys up our bodies for peak performance, when things are working as they are supposed to. People naturally feel anxious when they go into new situations, when they are about to take a test, when they try new activities, and so forth. This kind of anxiety is normal and healthy and good. It's when the anxiety takes over or interferes with performance that you'll want to take notice.

### Recognizing Anxiety in Children and Teens

Pediatricians recommend screening for anxiety problems starting at age 8. The tricky part is that kids and even teenagers don't always come to a parent and say "I'm feeling anxious!" They have more subtle ways of communicating that there might be a problem. A lot of children and even some teens simply do not have the self-awareness and/or language skills to name what's going on inside themselves. Instead, anxiety troubles show up in other ways.

- Reluctant to participate in normal, expected activities for age group
- Tantrums or outbursts. These may be completely unrelated to the underlying anxiety.
- Fear or worry that seems out of proportion with the circumstances or events
- Physical symptoms including stomach aches, headaches, bowel troubles, nausea or vomiting, muscle aches, and more

- Behavioral symptoms such as unexplained or easily-triggered crying or irritability

In other words, you know your child or teen! Watch for changes in usual behavior and physical well-being. Watch for acting out behavior or tantrums that are unexpected and outside the norm. Watch for avoidance of previously acceptable activities, and watch for increasing isolation or changes to school performance.

So when SHOULD you seek outside help for anxiety for your child or teen? The first clue is persistence. If the inordinate anxiety or symptoms lasts over the course of months, you might want to get things checked out professionally. The second clue is if the anxiety seems way out of proportion with the situation. The third clue is to notice if the anxiety seems to be interfering with everyday life. Pay attention, and talk to your pediatrician or other health care provider if you have deep concerns.

### How to Support a Student with Anxiety

So what should you do if your child is showing symptoms of anxiety? The first step is noticing a problem.

Awareness is critical to helping. You won't act on something you don't notice. The first step may well be to limit or manage screen time differently. Study after study has linked excessive screen time with anxiety in children (and adults!). Social media and video games are listed as the most likely to cause anxiety, while extended video viewing and scrolling is more strongly connected with depression. Doctors also see a marked increase in anxious behaviors in kids who over-indulge in screen time only on the weekends. Examine your child's or family's use of electronics, and make changes if needed. Current recommendations are ZERO screen time (except possibly video chatting with absent family members) for children under age 2. Children from 2 to 5 years old should only be allowed up to 1 hour of high quality, educational screen time daily. School-aged children (6 and up) should be carefully restricted such that they have a healthy balance of school, play, chores, eating, exercise, outdoor time, and especially sleeping.

Other screen recommendations include avoiding use of digital devices to sooth upset children or to occupy them for lengths of time, turning off ALL screens (including television) for at least 60 minutes before bedtime, creating screen-free activities (like meal times) and areas (like bedrooms) where digital devices are strictly banned, co-watching or playing with digital devices together with parent and child, and working with all family members to create a family media policy that applies to children and adults alike. There's a good example at <https://healthychildren.org>. Sometimes making simple changes such as following these recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics, might be enough to help your child regain mental health stability.

There are other ways to help, as well. Most involve basic parenting recommendations that sometimes fall by the wayside as children grow up. Try these suggestions:

- Keep a predictable and steady routine in your home. Children usually feel much better when they know exactly what will be happening and when. Not only does this include steady family meal times and bed times, but it also extends

to preset homework times, weekly chores and expectations, and routines such as putting important items in their proper places. Lay out clothing and gather school supplies the night before class to avoid that stressful, last-minute mad rush out the door.

- Make sure household rules are consistently enforced. Your children may grumble, but ultimately they will feel more secure if they know what the rules are and that the rules will always be followed. No special exceptions for company, weekends, or visiting the non-custodial parent's house. Get on the same page with the other adults in the family (whether they live with you or not) so that the child or teen always needs to meet the same expectations.

- Keep bedtime (and nap time if it applies) as sacred times of rest. Children who get regular needed sleep are less likely to feel anxious and upset. The younger the child is, the more important this sleep habit will be to their well-being. Practice good sleep hygiene, too. Keep the electronics out of the bedrooms, set up a consistent wind-down bedtime routine, and so forth. Sometimes clocks and timers can help you get this job done.

- Spend time talking to your child or children each day. Give each one a chance to be heard and a chance to express himself or herself. Remember that conversation is more than just giving directions. It's a time for telling about the day, giving and taking, and expressing oneself.

- Create a safe space for expressing worries, concerns, and feelings. Acknowledge them and never, ever ridicule them. Talk through the feelings together.

- Teach relaxation strategies, like deep breathing or progressive muscle relaxation. These will give your anxious child tools to use when their feelings seem overwhelming. One simple strategy to teach is called "palming." Remove glasses and be in a setting where closing your eyes for a few moments is ok. Rub the palms of the hands together quickly to create a warm feeling from friction. Close the eyes, and put the warm palms on the eyelids. It feels very soothing! Give it a try!

### Activities to Relieve Anxiety

When conversing, try to avoid "leading questions" where the child is encouraged by your wording to give you answers that may or may not be true. For example, instead of saying "Are you worried about the test?" try "How are you feeling about the test?" Make it part of your normal routine to ask about and validate the feelings, or tell them that the feelings are normal and ok.

Use a Worry Box. Choose (and decorate if you wish!) a container to hold written down worries. You can write for a young child or an unskilled writer. Have your child express his or her concerns in writing, then put the paper into the Worry Box where it will be worked out. You can also tear up these worries as a symbolic way to let go of them.

Manage big fears with gradual exposure. Praise and reward any movement toward managing the anxiety-causing activity or circumstance, such as participating for a shorter time or moving closer to the source of the worry.

Above all, model calm behavior. If you are feeling anxious, acknowledge that feeling and talk about how you are managing to do what you need to do anyway. This sort of narration will serve as

an example to the kids about how adults manage their stress.

### Hints for School Anxieties

Talk to your child's teacher if the inordinate anxiety seems to be related to school. Also let him or her know if your child is struggling at home. Be sure to share changes to home life that could produce anxiety, such as illness, death in the family, new siblings, changes to the residence, and so forth. Communication is always your first step.

Work with the teacher to find a safe space and a safe person that your child trusts to express worries or fears to. A quiet corner, a different room, or other space to calm down may help. Some schools have counselors on staff who might be able to help your worried child calm down or get past anxieties.

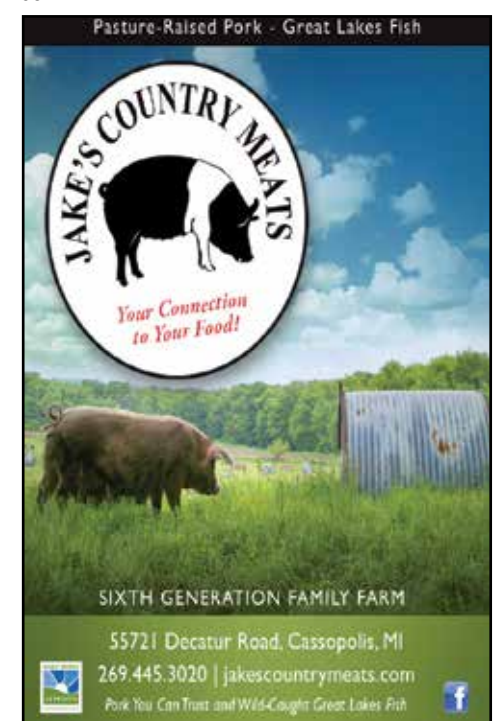
Work with the teacher to create a visual schedule that your child can follow. Just like in the home setting, routines and schedules can be an antidote for worry and anxiety. This can be a posted schedule for all to see, or it could be a pocket or desk card just for your child.

The teacher may be able to assign a peer to be a "buddy" to your child to help him or her feel more secure. This other student might be able to be a special friend to your child to help him or her overcome anxiety.

Ask the teacher to give you a notice of changes to the school schedule or routine. Most children feel better when they know in advance that something unusual is going to happen. For a child experiencing anxiety, even positive changes like surprises, extra recesses, or class parties can trigger very uncomfortable feelings. For example, one child knew that the class was going to participate in a big culminating activity for their pioneer unit in social studies. The child was terrified that the teacher would forget to send the class to lunch that day! Having the schedule of the planned event helped to eliminate that particular worry.

Sometimes additional responsibilities can help with anxiety by building confidence or by distracting from the root worry. The teacher may be able to come up with a job or two for the child to do in class to help them feel better about themselves and about the situation.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Sandy Fleming is a private tutor and writer living in Edwardsburg. You can visit her websites for more fun ideas about helping children thrive inside and outside of school! Visit <https://learningnook.com> and <https://sandyflemingonline.com>.



# 'bout boats and boating

## History of the outboard motor

By RUSTY COLLINS

**T**he evolution of outboard motors is a story of mechanical ingenuity, changing lifestyles, and relentless performance gains. From crude early engines clamped to rowboats to today's digitally controlled high-horsepower machines, the outboard motor has transformed recreational boating, fishing, and marine commerce.

The modern outboard traces its roots to the early 1900s, when inventors sought a lightweight propulsion system that could be mounted externally rather than integrated into a boat hull. In 1909, Ole Evinrude introduced one of the first commercially successful outboard motors, a small single-cylinder engine producing roughly 1.5 horsepower. Built to be practical, portable, and easy to service, Evinrude's design opened boating to ordinary people in ways previously unimaginable. Soon, companies like Evinrude, Johnson Outboards, and later Mercury Marine began refining the concept.

During the 1920s and 1930s, outboards became more reliable and powerful. Twin-cylinder engines emerged, magneto ignition improved starting, and manufacturers introduced reverse gearing and better cooling systems. These early motors were primarily two-stroke engines, valued for their simplicity, light weight, and favorable power-to-weight ratio. As fishing and pleasure boating expanded, outboards became a symbol of mobility and recreation.

Following World War II, innovation accelerated dramatically. Wartime advances in metallurgy, machining, and

fuel systems found their way into civilian marine products. The 1950s and 1960s saw major horsepower increases, with engines growing from modest 10-20 horsepower units into serious 100-horsepower performers. Mercury Marine became known for performance, while OMC, parent of Evinrude and Johnson, dominated volume production. Outboards became common on fishing boats, ski boats, and emerging pontoon designs.

The 1970s and 1980s brought a horsepower race. V4 and V6 outboards reshaped performance boating, and offshore racing pushed engineering further. Power trim and tilt, hydraulic steering, oil injection, and electronic ignition became mainstream. Japanese manufacturers including Yamaha Motor Company, Suzuki, and Honda entered the market, intensifying competition and raising standards for durability and precision.

A major turning point came in the 1990s and early 2000s as emissions regulations tightened. Traditional carbureted two-strokes, though powerful, were increasingly challenged by environmental concerns. This drove the rise of cleaner technologies such as direct fuel injection and four-stroke outboards. Engines became quieter, more fuel-efficient, and dramatically lower in emissions. Models like the Mercury Verado and advanced four-strokes from Yamaha helped redefine consumer expectations.

Today's outboards are highly sophisticated systems. Digital throttle and shift controls, fly-by-wire steering, integrated GPS features, joystick docking, and computerized engine management are now common. Horsepower once unimag-

inable—400, 500, even 600 horsepower per engine—is available from manufacturers such as Mercury Marine and Yamaha Motor Company. Multiple-engine setups can propel large offshore boats at extraordinary speeds while maintaining reliability that early inventors could scarcely imagine.

Equally significant is the diversity of today's outboard market. Portable electric outboards are growing in popularity, while electric propulsion companies are challenging assumptions about the future of marine power. At the same time, traditional internal combustion engines continue advancing through improved efficiency, lightweight materials, and hybrid possibilities.

From Ole Evinrude's modest single-cylinder engine to today's computer-controlled powerplants, the outboard motor has evolved from a mechanical novelty into one of the most influential technologies in recreational marine history. Its development mirrors broader industrial progress: more power, greater efficiency, cleaner operation, and smarter control. More than a century after its birth, the outboard remains central to boating culture, and its evolution is far from complete.



Rusty Collins is the general manager of Boat Butler Marine. Contact him at rusty@boatbutler-marine.com

### 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:

**269-228-1080**



SERVICE ABOVE & BEYOND

INDOOR BOAT STORAGE  
CERTIFIED ENGINE SERVICE  
BOAT REFURBISHMENT

269-476-2222  
BOATBUTLERMARINE.COM

### NEW LEAF

YOUR EXPERTS IN  
LAWN SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

Start ups      Replacement heads  
Maintenance      Blow outs

Landscape Design and Installation  
Lawn & Bed Maintenance



CALL or TEXT  
269-462-0966  
www.newleaflandscapesmichigan.com

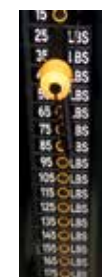


### CASS COUNTY Outpatient Therapy Services

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)

# Field Trip



## THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN MUSEUM, LIBRARY AND TOMB

Springfield, IL



The **Abraham Lincoln Museum and Library** (next door) are located at 212 N. Sixth St., in Springfield, IL, a roughly 4-1/2 drive from Cass County, MI. Lincoln's tomb, boyhood home and several other historical sites are within a short drive through the historic downtown. The museum is open from 9 am - 5 pm, daily, closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Tickets costs are Adults \$15, Seniors (62+) \$12, Military (ID required) \$10, Children (5-15) \$6, 4 and younger, Free; Student (ID required) \$12. Ticket price includes admission to all exhibit areas on the campus and both theater presentations. Admission is good all day. The museum experience is all self-guided. Most guests spend around 2.5 hours. Guests are encouraged to purchase tickets online in advance. Tickets are non-refundable and non-transferable. Last tickets sold at 4 pm..

For full details and to plan a trip visit <https://presidentlincoln.illinois.gov/>




*MH*  
**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"*

**YOUR GRASSHOPPER SERVICE DESTINATION.**



Grasshopper zero-turn mowers are built to last, but when service is needed, we can help. With a full line of repair and tune-up services, OEM parts and more, we're standing by to help keep your mower in peak condition.

**GRASSHOPPER**  
IT'S SO MUCH MOWER®

**CASS OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT, INC.**  
62101 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031  
**(269) 445-2231**  
<https://cassoutdoorpowerequipment.com/>

© The Grasshopper Company

# Field Trip



# Your Summer Fun Center

## THE ULTIMATE PACKAGE FOR LIFE ON THE SHORELINE

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

Visit Pier Perfection Inc. Today!  
**PierPerfection.com**



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



Summer is on its way.  
Is your home or rental property ready?

We help homeowners and property owners prepare, inspect, and oversee homes and rental properties before the busy season begins.

**SERVICES INCLUDE:**

- Seasonal home inspections and repairs - interior and exterior.
- Grounds maintenance and clean-up.
- Identifying maintenance issues before they turn into costly repairs.
- Property watch while you're away with inspection reports.
- Vendor and project coordination and oversight.
- 24/7 emergency services available.
- In-house HVAC team providing installation, repairs, and maintenance.
- In-house full-service plumbing team licensed in Michigan and Indiana.
- Shopping and pantry-stocking before you or your guests arrive.
- Event set-up / tear-down and heavy item hauling.
- And so much more!

A Division of  CRESSY  
COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

Let's Get You Scheduled

We handle the details so you can live and rent with confidence, protect your investment, and avoid surprises during peak season.

574.227.1040 | [www.CressyConcierge.com](http://www.CressyConcierge.com)

# O'Donnell's Docks LLC



**CRAFTLANDER HYDRAULIC LIFTS**  
Available in 4,500 lb, 6,000 lb, and 8,000 lb capacities

**Spring Sale**  
Price \$8300



**30 SECONDS FOR 60 INCHES OF TRAVEL**

**SERVING YOU FOR OVER 30 YEARS NEVER UNDERSOLD**

- HEAVY-DUTY ENGINEERING
- EFFORTLESS OPERATION
- RELIABLE HYDRAULIC SYSTEM
- BUILT FOR CONVENIENCE



**MORE SPRING SPECIALS**

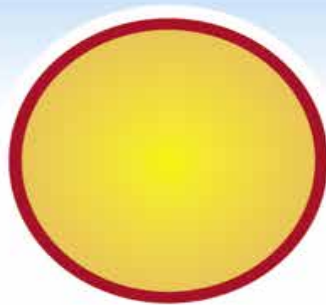
**25% off 4'X10' in-stock HD anodized aluminum dock sections**  
retail 931.00 SALE 25% off now just 698.00 per section

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



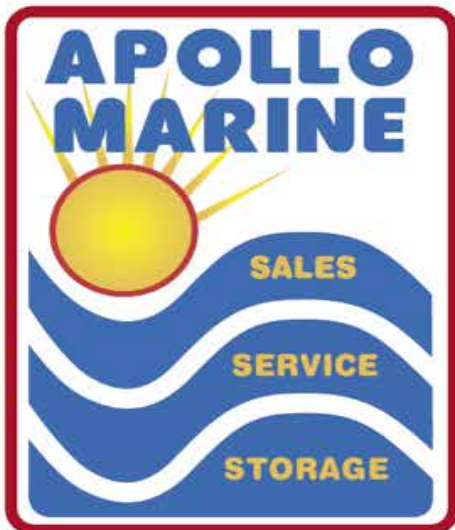
12097 M-60 • Jones, MI  
269-244-1446  
info@odonnellsdocks.com

Authorized Dealer For:



# APOLLOMARINE.net

**We rent Pontoon Boats!**  
**We service all area lakes!**



South side of Gravel Lake  
**15355 96<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
**Lawton, MI 49065**  
**269-423-6011**  
**1-888-996-BOAT**

**SALES • SERVICE • STORAGE**

# 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

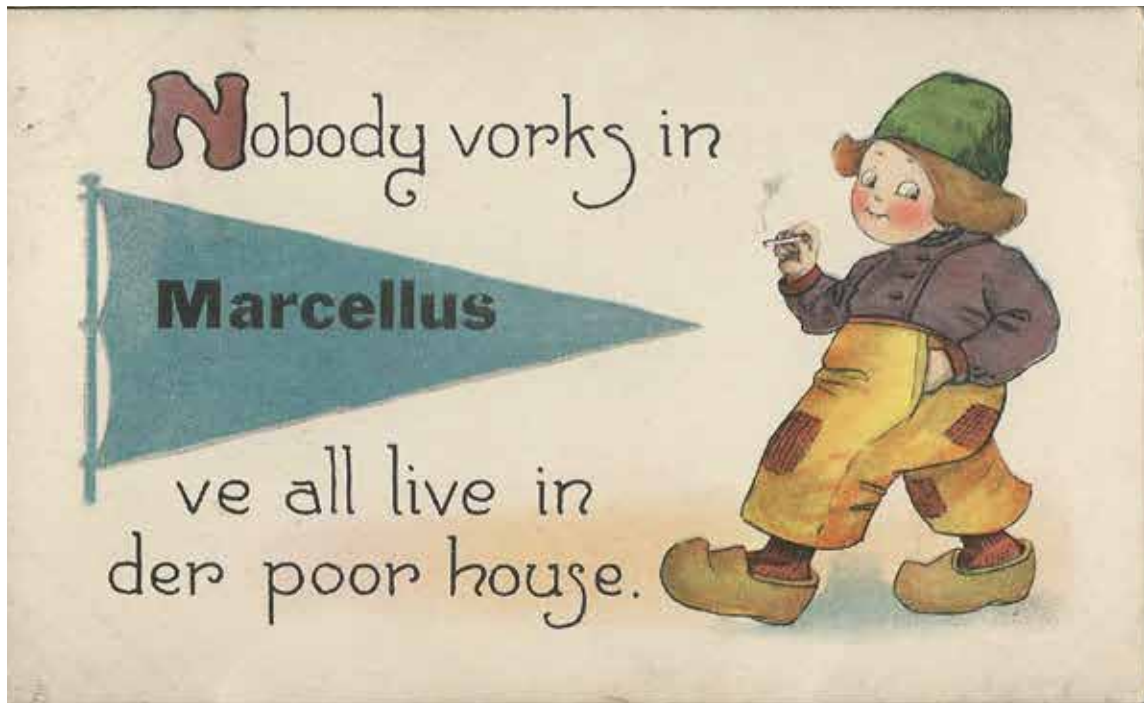
book, which retails for \$ \$39.95, is in its second printing by the publisher, Arcadia Publishing.

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.arcadia-publishing.com](http://www.arcadia-publishing.com)

In this edition of Neighbors we have selected postcards showing images of various plac-

es 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

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


Hours of Operation  
 M-F 8AM to 6PM  
 Sat 8AM to 2 PM  
 Sun Closed

**JERDON**  
 REAL ESTATE, INC.

MyStateMLS

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

**Eagle Lake Marine**  
 YOUR PLACE IN THE SUN



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)

**JL LANDSCAPING**  
 For All Your Landscape Installation Needs



Jim Leach  
 59818 Decatur Road  
 Cassopolis, MI 49031  
 phone/fax: 269.445.2111  
 email: [jl\\_landscape@yahoo.com](mailto:jl_landscape@yahoo.com)  
[jllandscaping.com](http://jllandscaping.com)

BOBCAT WORK  
 RETAINING WALLS  
 STONE & BLOCK  
 BRICK & FLAGSTONE PATIOS  
 SOD & SEEDING  
 CONCRETE LANDSCAPE EDGING  
 FIREWOOD  
 INSURED



**Harding's**  
 Friendly Markets

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

Cassopolis, Michigan

Making the climate comfortable since 1987

**BLT Mechanical**  
 James Baker -Owner

269-476-4114

**HVAC** A/C  
 HEATING  
 GEOTHERMAL



**HEARTH & HOME**  
 DESIGN CENTER, INC.

Drew Herendeen  
 Hearth & Home Design Center, Inc.  
 51129 IN-933  
 South Bend, IN 46637  
[drew@hearthandhome-sb.com](mailto:drew@hearthandhome-sb.com)  
[hearthandhome-sb.com](http://hearthandhome-sb.com)  
 Office: 574-272-3030



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



**LOVERIDGE'S  
Island Park Hotel  
▼ FISH LAKE ▼**

Only Hotel on the Lakes. Under Personal Management of the Owner & Prop.

**Ample Guest Accommodation**  
By Day or Week. Good Fishing, Boating and Bathing; boat livery. Bait.

Cottages & Tenting Privileges to Rent. 'Bus to and from Trains

TELEPHONE NO. 45

**H. L. LOVERIDGE,**  
MARCELLUS, MICH.

(A number of desirable building locations, adjoining the grounds, for sale.)





*North Star*  
**Landscape Design & Installation**



Imagine THIS in Your Own Back Yard!

*Guiding the Way to Beautiful Landscapes!*

**866-445-9100**  
[www.northstarlandscape.net](http://www.northstarlandscape.net)  
FREE Initial Consultation!

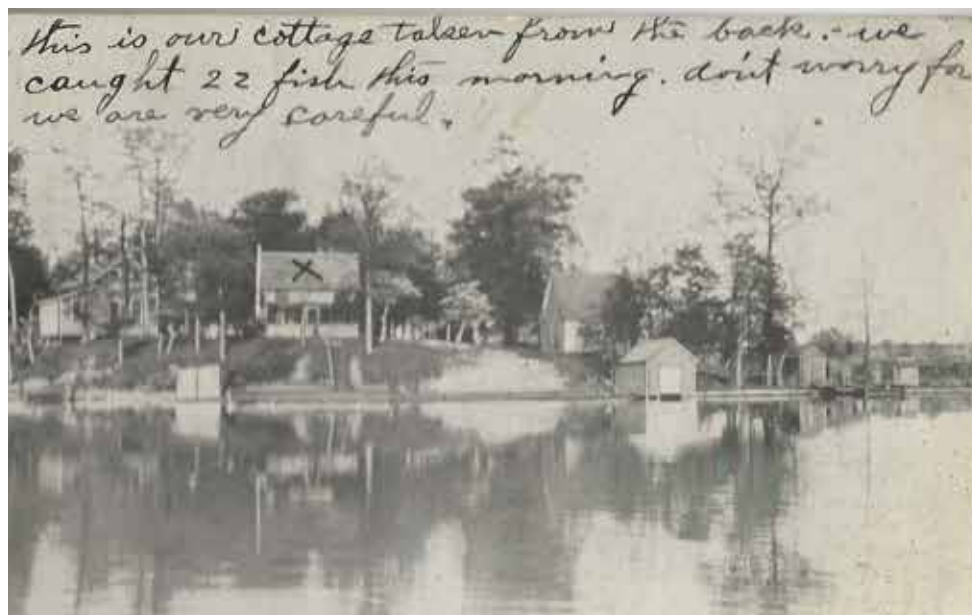


we insure your car.  
because some people never learned to park.  
simple human sense.

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

**Auto-Owners**  
**INSURANCE**  
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

# Historic Postcards



**THK**  
THK LAW, LLP

Estate Planning  
Business Counsel  
Elder Law  
Litigation

Cassopolis | South Bend | Elkhart  
269.445.1818

thklaw.com

Are **DEER** eating your plants?

Protect your landscaping with deer repellent to keep them away.

We treat for that and more | CALL FOR A **FREE ESTIMATE**

**ARBOR TURF SOLUTIONS**  
(269) 228-0771  
ArborTurfSolutions.com | Arberturfsolutions@gmail.com

- Plant Health Care  
assessments to address overall tree/plant health and address concerns from recent storm damage
- Premium Fertilization  
customized for your lawn, landscaping, and trees
- Provided by an ISA Certified Arborist  
30+ years of experience in tree and turf science

**REALLY. COMFORTABLE.**

**Get Fit, Stay Fit**

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

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

**Cass County COA**  
Enhancing Life

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

(269) 445-8110  
www.CassCOA.org  
facebook.com/CassCOA

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

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

**IT'S SO MUCH MOWER®**

ASK ABOUT **ZERO%** FINANCING\*

**Cass Outdoor Power Equipment, Inc.**  
62101 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031  
**(269) 445-2231**  
<https://cassoutdoorpowerequipment.com/>

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

# Nature Notes

## Northern Flickers and Field Sparrow spotted

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

**R**ichard Thomas of Lincoln Township submitted photographs of two male northern flickers, taken March 30, on a silver maple tree in his yard. The male flickers appeared to be having a dispute over potential nesting territory, by staring at each other and making some aggressive moves.

We can tell that both of these birds are male flickers by the black "mustache" on their faces, lacking on the females. The northern flicker is a species of woodpecker, ranging across Michigan and the eastern half of North America during the summer months. The northern flicker is the second largest woodpecker found in Michigan, with a wingspan of 16 to 20 inches. Only the pileated woodpecker is larger.

During winter it retreats from Canada and the northern portions of the lower 48 states. The majority of northern flickers spend the winter south of the Ohio River, but they can be found in winter months in fair numbers north to the Muskegon-Bay City in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan.

The northern flicker flourishes in a wide variety of habitats including woods, swamps, suburban settings and urban areas with trees, making it the most



Left: Two male northern flickers having a territorial dispute, March 30, Lincoln Twp. Photo by Richard Thomas.



Right: Field sparrow, March 30, Warren Dunes State Park. Photo by Brad Anderson of Bridgman.

abundant species of woodpecker in Michigan during the nesting season.

Like most woodpeckers in our region, the flicker eats primarily ants and other insects, but also consumes seeds, nuts, and grains. In winter, flickers may eat suet.

Flickers return to Michigan in late March and April. Nesting begins during late April in southern Michigan and June in the Upper Peninsula. An average of six to eight eggs, the largest clutch of any woodpecker in Michigan, are laid inside a nest hole of a dead or dying tree.

Southward flicker migration begins in September, peaking in October. By November, most flickers have departed Canada and northern Michigan.

Brad Anderson of Bridgman submitted a photo of a field sparrow, taken March 30 at Warren Dunes State Park.

The field sparrow is easily identified by its pink bill, white eye ring, rusty cap and buffy breast. Field sparrows are found in large, unmowed fields, prairies, pastures, and shrubby areas.

The song of the field sparrow is akin to a bouncing ball, each bounce faster

than the previous one.

Field sparrows migrate south of the Michigan state line for the winter. They arrive back in Berrien County by March 15. A three-to-four egg clutch is laid in a ground nest by late April. Many field sparrow nests fall prey to house cats, blue jays, and raccoons. The field sparrow nest is also a common brown-headed cowbird host.

Most field sparrows depart Berrien County by late October, occasionally a few may spend the winter.

# Local History

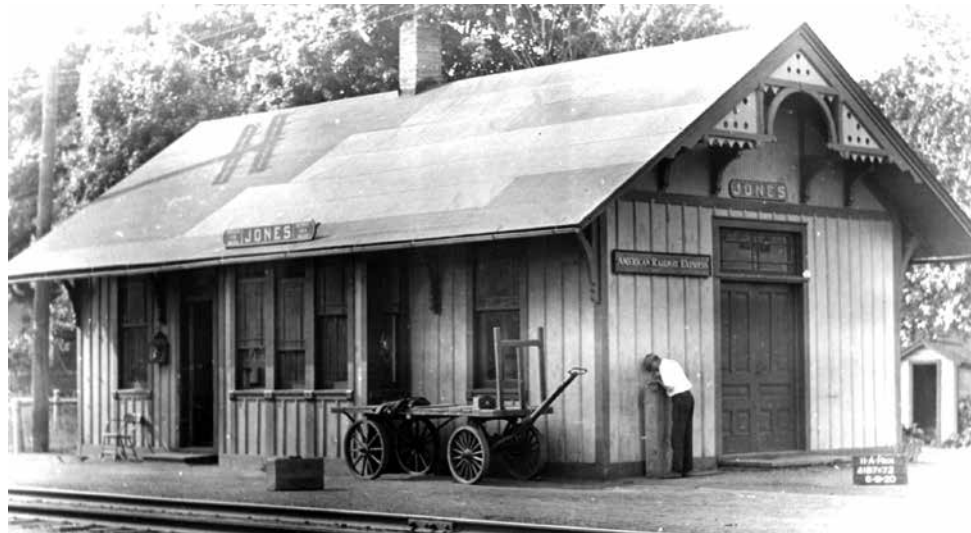
## A brief history of early Jones, MI

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

**T**he village of Jones in Newberg Township, Cass County, Michigan has an interesting early history. The area was first settled by William D. Jones, who was born in New York about 1777 and moved to the wilderness of Cass County about 1835 with his family. W.D. Jones resided near the north shore of Bair Lake, just off what is today Bair Lake Street.

On the night of June 18, 1858, tragedy occurred when the new brick Jones homestead, still under construction, caught fire. Workmen and the Jones children managed to escape, but sadly William D. and his wife, Mary Polly Bair Jones (1787-1858) perished in the flames. After the fire, son Edward Hodges Jones (1830-1907) took over the family farm.

On February 9, 1870, Edward H. Jones sold a strip of land through his property in sections 34 & 35 of Newberg Township, to the Michigan Air Line Railroad Company. The railroad began operating through Newberg Township in December 1870, and soon after a store and a blacksmith shop were built just north of the railroad. These and other buildings are shown in sections 34 & 35 of Newberg Township on the Atlas of Cass County,



Top right: Embryonic Jones, sections 34 & 35, Newberg Twp from Atlas of Cass County, Michigan by DJ Lake (1872). Note the east-west road was Bair Lake Road.

Top left: A postcard showing the Jones depot, with the locomotive steam engine number 8105 beside.

Left: Michigan Air Line Railroad Company depot at Jones, June 9, 1920. Credit: Cass District Library collections.

Michigan by C.O. Titus, in 1872.

The actual plat of Jones was not surveyed until after the first buildings sprung up, in 1875 by Edward Jones, but not officially recorded until 1897. Many historical sources incorrectly state that William D. Jones (who died in 1858) platted the village of Jones. This is FALSE. It was platted by Edward H. Jones!

Note that the village in its early days was known as "Jones' Crossings." It is not known when the name was shortened simply to "Jones".

On August 19, 1870, ten railroad workers were censused at or near the Edward H. Jones farm. According to "A Twentieth Century History of Cass County, Michigan" by Lowell Glover



(1906): "the first business structure at this point [Jones Crossing] of the newly built Air Line railroad was a store put up in 1871 by H. Micksel."

The Post Office at Jones began on December 19, 1881 with Edward H. Jones as Postmaster. There had been a previous post office, aptly titled Newberg, elsewhere in the township as far back as the 1850s.

On 11, 1943, the final freight train operated by Michigan Airline Railroad passed through Cass County. The tracks were salvaged for scrap later that year. Passenger trains along the Three Rivers-Jones-Vandalia-Cassopolis route ceased in 1928.

Note: I would like to acknowledge the late Lorraine Griner for compiling the photos used in this article.

# INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

<b>Boats, Marinas, Piers, Sports</b>		
Apollo Marine.....	9	423-6011
	<a href="http://www.apollomarine.net">www.apollomarine.net</a>	
Boat Butler.....	6	476-2222
	<a href="http://www.boatbutlermarine.com">www.boatbutlermarine.com</a>	
DM Canvas.....	14	244-5307
Eagle Lake Marine.....	10	699-5103
	<a href="http://www.eaglelakemarine.com">www.eaglelakemarine.com</a>	
Hampshire Country Club.....	1	782-7476
	<a href="http://www.hampshire36.com">www.hampshire36.com</a>	
O'Donnell's Docks.....	9	244-1446
	<a href="http://www.odonnellsdocks.com">www.odonnellsdocks.com</a>	
Pier Perfection.....	2, 8	233-2222
	<a href="http://www.pierperfection.com">www.pierperfection.com</a>	
Pro Dock.....	15	447-4796
	<a href="http://www.prodock.com">www.prodock.com</a>	
<b>Construction, Home Improvement/Repair</b>		
Bill's Roof Repair.....	3	591-57800
	<a href="http://www.billsroofrepair.com">www.billsroofrepair.com</a>	
BLT Mechanical.....	10	476-4114
Carter Motors.....	10	476-2220
Cass Outdoor.....	7, 12	445-2231
Cressy Concierge Service.....	9	574-227-1040
	<a href="http://www.cressyconciierge.com">www.cressyconciierge.com</a>	
Hearth & Home.....	10	800-769-3031
	<a href="http://www.hearthandhome-sb.com">www.hearthandhome-sb.com</a>	
Imperial Furniture.....	3	800-884-5020
	<a href="http://www.imperialfurnitureadowagiac.com">www.imperialfurnitureadowagiac.com</a>	
Mendoza Painters.....	14	574-320-1004
<b>Food, Restaurants, Markets</b>		
Hardings.....	10	445-2607
HS Granite.....	14	288-8028
	<a href="http://www.hsgranitestone.com">www.hsgranitestone.com</a>	
Jake's Country Meats.....	5	445-3020
	<a href="http://www.jakescountrymeats.com">www.jakescountrymeats.com</a>	
<b>Lawn/Landscaping</b>		
Arbor Turf Solutions.....	12	228-0771
	<a href="http://www.arborturfsolutions.com">www.arborturfsolutions.com</a>	
Grimes Tree Service.....	10	783-6493
JL Landscaping.....	10	445-2111
	<a href="http://www.jlandscapingsite.com">www.jlandscapingsite.com</a>	
New Leaf Landscaping.....	6, Insert	462-0966
	<a href="http://www.newleaflandscapesmichigan.com">www.newleaflandscapesmichigan.com</a>	
North Star Landscape.....	11	445-9100
	<a href="http://www.northstarlandscape.net">www.northstarlandscape.net</a>	
<b>Medical/Health</b>		
Cass COA.....	12	445-8110
	<a href="http://www.casscoa.org">www.casscoa.org</a>	

Cass Medical Care.....	6	445-3801
	<a href="http://www.ccmcf.org">www.ccmcf.org</a>	
<b>Real Estate</b>		
Dennis Bamber.....	Insert	574-532-3808
	<a href="https://dennisbamber.cressyeverett.com/">https://dennisbamber.cressyeverett.com/</a>	
Jerdon Real Estate.....	10	782-4000
	<a href="http://www.jerdon.net">www.jerdon.net</a>	
Lake Life Realty.....	16	445-8877
	<a href="http://www.thelakelife.com">www.thelakelife.com</a>	
Michigan Lakes Team.....	3	663-7700
	<a href="http://www.michiganlakesteam.com">www.michiganlakesteam.com</a>	
<b>Misc.</b>		
Elk Park Feed Store.....	10	476-1775
McGann Hay Funeral Home.....	7	574-232-1411
	<a href="http://www.mcgannhay.com">www.mcgannhay.com</a>	
THK Law.....	12	415-1818
	<a href="http://www.thklaw.com">www.thklaw.com</a>	
Technicos Appliance Repair.....	3	783-5352
	<a href="http://www.technicosrepair.com">www.technicosrepair.com</a>	
Union Insurance.....	11	641-5995
	<a href="http://www.unionsins.net">www.unionsins.net</a>	

## MENDOZA PAINTERS

**ALL PAINTERS ARE NOT EQUAL**

**WE ARE A TEAM OF TEN EXPERIENCED, PROFESSIONAL PAINTERS**

**SERVING CASS COUNTY AND THE SURROUNDING AREA**



**574-320-1004**

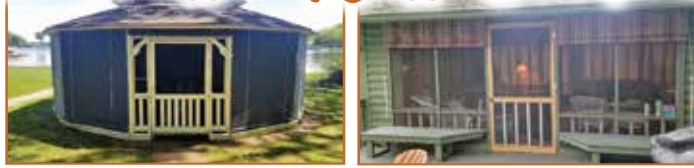
**574-275-5656**

**PPMENDOZA2017@GMAIL.COM**



O: 269.244.8020 | C: 269.506.3276

PROTECT YOUR PORCH WITH  
*Sunbrella-Roll-Curtains*



### CUSTOM CANVAS COVERINGS

Sunbrella roll curtains  
outdoor furniture covers  
boat covers  
pontoon covers

12291 BIDELMAN RD. | THREE RIVERS, MI 49093



HS Granite & Stone

Your Kitchen Deserves  
More Than Ordinary.



- ✓ Quartz Countertops
- ✓ Granite Countertops
- ✓ Custom Cabinetry

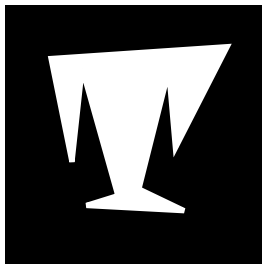
Precision Fabrication  
& Expert Installation

Locally owned and serving  
Cass County and  
surrounding areas.

Walk-ins Welcome, Appointments Appreciated

Visit Our Showroom:  
201 W State Street • Cassopolis  
Call 269-228-8025  
[HSGraniteandStone.com](http://HSGraniteandStone.com)

## Chat GPT-ing to disabled chickens and dried up waterfalls



his is a round-about kind of story about a pop-up, semi-surprise road-trip vacation that got changed half a dozen times before we even walked out the door ((let alone start the engine), didn't come close to being what it was billed to be, and ultimately taught me to

mistrust cute, young waitresses and to completely believe claim that Ai is not only misleading but evil.

The whole thing started somewhere back in the middle of this past winter while I was sidelined for days on end, reading mental-floss novels and cheating at New York Times crossword puzzles while I shifted and moaned in my trusty recliner, leg elevated above the level of my heart so I could recuperate from a total knee replacement surgery. As awful as that might sound, there was at least one positive side to my involuntary inactivity since throughout the on-again, off-again blizzard burials of my sidewalks and driveway during January's repeated blasts of winter woe, my beloved spouse (BS for short) was forced to woman-up and solo man the shovel detail that I usually have to be a part of.

Anyway, after one particular day of shoveling when the snow kept falling and falling and falling, and when poor BS had to shovel three or four times just to keep up with the volume, she approached me after shedding the 179 layers of wool, silk, long Johns, Carharts and muck-luks and announced that when I was well enough to travel, we were going on a vacation somewhere warm.

Being in no shape to fight, I agreed.

In other circumstances we would have probably opted for renting a sailboat someplace where the water is the temperature of a warm bath and where bartenders in cutoffs and flip flops serve exotic cocktails like mucho-mango-margaritas brimming with oversized umbrellas and fresh lime wedges the size of half a steel-belted Michelin, but considering my surgically-induced list to port we decided it might be prudent to search for some less leg-strenuous alternatives.

Now my surgeon had told me that by April (no April fooling) I might be stable enough to handle a routine trip, as long as I didn't jump up and down, trip and fall

into traffic or sign up as a contestant in a competitive butt kicking contest ... so we started thinking about what kind of vacation non-sailors take that would be warm enough in April (an iffy month weather-wise pretty much everywhere except the Caribbean) if we were going to have any hope of de-icing our way into spring.

We'd just been to the southeast, camping across 12 states during all of October, so that part of the country got poo-pooed, and after we talked about it for a while and considered a northwest-coast trip. We've never been up there, we reasoned, and people say it's cool and rainy all the time anyway, so why not fly to Vancouver, rent a car and road trip our way down-coast for a spring dance in San Fran's disco, then fly home ... but then, all of a sudden the USA TSA fiasco-ed itself screwy at nearly every airport in the country, derailing our train of thought, so BS declared us TSA-ed right out of that trip.

I half-heartedly suggested Europe but was overruled on the grounds of my half-hearted, limping gait on cobblestone streets, and the exaggerated out-of-pocket Medicare deficit that was swirling our discretionary travel bubble down the drainpipe in fast and loud slurps and gurgles. As BS shoveled us past February and into March I slowly healed but continued to procrastinate on making any real plans (one of my less endearing traits I'm told), and she came up with a brainstorm: ask Chat GPT! Then out of nowhere she picked Missouri (I have no idea where that came from) and told her Chat buddy to map us a trip to Big MO so we could see waterfalls.

Voila, Chat said. Waterfalls, hotels, food, scenic routes. The whole shebang, compliments of Ai.

I was skeptical. I'd never heard of Chat GPT, but if 55 years of marriage has taught me anything, it is to not argue with a woman with cold feet and fingers when she picks what she thinks will be a warm spot for vacation. Then, before I could even accede, she invited some neighbors (and their dog, Forest) to join us ... and they accepted (even Forest). So it was settled, and the next thing I knew I was driving through Springfield Illinois on my way to the Ozarks in search of waterfalls.

At least there was no snow. So far, so good.

When we stopped for dinner the first night I looked at the six-BBQed chicken-wing special, and I asked the cute, young waitress if the wings were full wings or just

pieces. She blinked. And smiled. No one home.

I explained that chicken wings usually consist of three pieces, a drummie, a flipper and that little, mostly useless connector that rarely has enough meat to chew off the bone. I even made a triangle with my fingers to illustrate. She blinked. And smiled. No one home.

I asked if she'd ever butchered a chicken, hell, if she'd ever even seen one or ordered a chicken wing dinner at KFC. She blinked. And smiled. No one home.

I never knew it was that hard to order chicken wings. The waitress told me she was learning a lot more about chickens than she ever had before. The Missourians at the surrounding tables were in stitches. I gave up and ordered, then as I'd feared, I ended up with three flippers and three drummies, not six wings. Not good so far. What had Chat GPT gotten me into.

The next day we went to the first Chat-generated trip to see a waterfall. Chat said it was a 1.2 mile hike to the falls. Damn liar if you aske me. Eventually we made it back to the parking lot, exhausted. My Fitbit said I'd walked over 4-1/2 miles. Never found waterfalls, just a bunch of other hikers looking at their phones and asking if we knew how much farther it was to the falls. Not good at all. Losing all faith in Chat GPT.

For the next six days we hiked around the mountains where Chat GPT said we'd see waterfalls. Found some small creeks and rivers that squeezed between rocks creating rapids. Nothing I'd call a waterfall. Decided that Chat GPT is probably getting a kickback from the Missouri tavern owners association and the makers of bunion pads and hiking boot insoles.

On the seventh day of the vacation it started pouring rain, which allowed me to point out (as nicely as I could) that at least we were seeing water falling ... out of the sky instead of off a mountain, but what the hell, at least we saw some water fall. BS wasn't smiling.

Finally, the day after the rain, before we had to return to Michigan, we found a waterfall. It was about 20 miles from the state park cabin we were staying in, and it was on the Chat list. It was nice enough, I guess. BS liked it. Forest liked it. As for me, not so much, only barely better than the drum/flipper fiasco.

No offense to my own BS, but in the future I'm going to call a pre-emptive BS on Chat GPT vacations.



WE ARE  
YOUR LOCAL



AUTHORIZED DEALER

BULMANNDOCK.COM



# The insider resource for Southwest Michigan lake properties.

WE EXCLUSIVELY SERVE LAKEFRONT SELLERS AND BUYERS

## Sell smarter for top dollar.

Use proven strategies to attract premium buyers and maximize your return. Unlock your copy of **How to Sell Your Lake Home for Top Dollar** and avoid costly mistakes that sideline sellers.

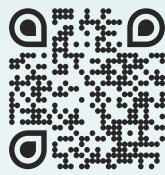


THE SELLER'S  
PLAYBOOK

*download  
your free copy*

## Know your home's value.

Algorithms miss the nuances of lakefront living. Our **Pin Point Price Analysis** uses hyper-local data to strategically position your home for maximum attention and competitive offers.

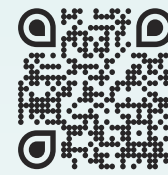


PIN POINT  
PRICE ANALYSIS

*get your  
custom report*

## Follow your lake's activity.

**Lake Market Watch** delivers weekly updates on new, pending, and sold listings—plus monthly deep-dive reports. Clear, data-driven insights delivered to your inbox.



CUSTOM  
LAKE WATCH

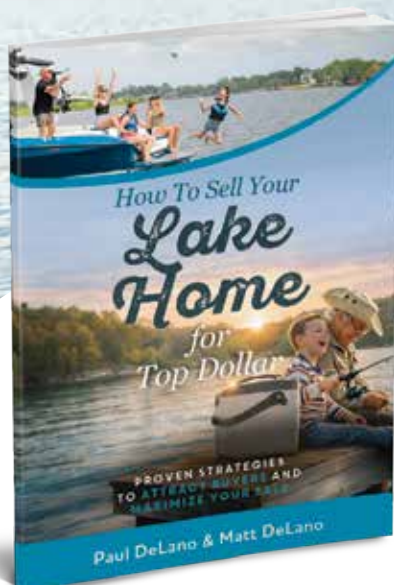
*access listings  
on your lake*



# LAKE LIFE

R E A L T Y

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



**Paul DeLano**  
Broker/Owner  
269.445.8877  
[paul@thelakelife.com](mailto:paul@thelakelife.com)



**Matt DeLano**  
Lakefront Buyer Agent  
269.445.8872  
[matt@thelakelife.com](mailto:matt@thelakelife.com)



**Drew Vinton**  
Lake Michigan Agent  
269.982.0800  
[drew@thelakelife.com](mailto:drew@thelakelife.com)