

Now in our 13th Year!

August 2016

FREE — TAKE ONE

NEIGHBORS

[HTTP://WWW.CASSNEIGHBORS.COM](http://www.cassneighbors.com)

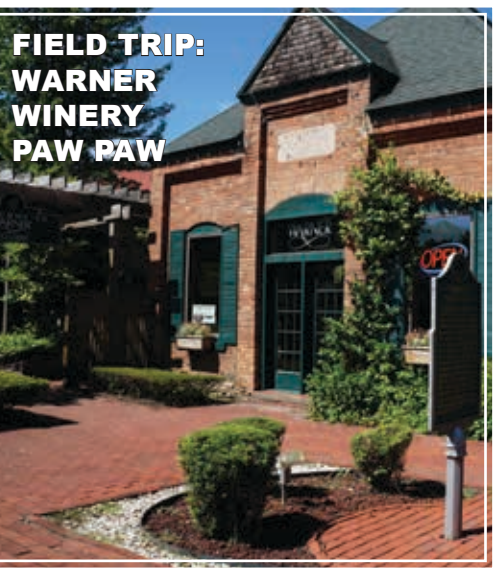
A Regional newspaper freely distributed in Dowagiac, Cassopolis, Edwardsburg, Vandalia, Jones, Marcellus, Decatur, Union, Sister Lakes, Three Rivers, Elkhart and Mishawaka, with home delivery at Diamond, Eagle, Birch, Corey, Donnell, Indian, Magician, Shavehead, Baldwin, Long, Dewey, Cable, Juno, Christiana, Painter, Paradise, Stone, Buck, Lewis, Big & Little Twin and Bair Lakes



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



Inside...

- Regional News Page 2
- Regional Events Page 3
- Floyd's Postcards..... Pages 16-18
- The Last Word Page 19

Neighbors is published monthly from March through December.

To contact Neighbors

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

<http://www.cassneighbors.com>

sailorphil@philvital.com
jack@beanstalk.net

REGIONAL NEWS

Free meals at CUMC

The Cassopolis United Methodist Church offers a FREE meal to all community members on the third Saturday of each month, from 4:30-6 pm. The meals are prepared in the church by church members, and menus range from hot ham & cheese sandwiches to chicken Parmesan with spaghetti.

All community members are invited and encouraged to come, enjoy a meal and fellowship with others. The church is at 209 S Rowland St., Cassopolis, with ample parking and handicap entrance at the back of the church, off O'Keefe St.

Eagle Lake Triathlon

The Eagle Lake Triathlon will take place on Saturday, Aug. 6, beginning at Eagle Lake Marina. Races will include a long-sprint triathlon, a short-sprint triathlon, a non-competitive kid's triathlon, and a competitive kid's triathlon. The first wave of races will begin at 8 am. Packet pickup will be Friday Aug. 5 from 4-7 pm or race morning from 6-7:30 am. For more info email info@eaglelaketri.com.

"Outdoor Adventures: Paddles, Poles, Discs and Arrows"

Registrations are now being accepted for "Outdoor Adventures: Paddles, Poles, Discs and Arrows" at St. Patrick's County Park in South Bend.

During Paddles, Poles, Discs and Arrows, campers will experience the best that the St. Joseph County Parks have to offer! They'll paddle canoes and kayaks, cast for bluegills, try out their archery skills and play a round of disc golf.

The camp, for eleven- to 13-year-olds, takes place on Wednesday, Aug. 10, from

9 am to 2:30 pm. Four other camps are offered at St. Patrick's County Park for other age groups.

For more information, or to request registration materials, please call 574/654-3155, or visit www.sjcparks.org.

Hundreds of old tractors and engines expected at show

Hundreds of old flywheel tractors and engines will be on display during the 33rd annual Antique Engine and Tractor Show at the Michigan Flywheelers Museum.

The show, which takes place Thursday, Sept. 8 through Sunday, Sept. 11, is one of the largest of its kind in the state. Collectors from across the country attend the event each year bringing a wide assortment of antique farm machinery for visitors to see.

"You will see just about every kind of equipment that was used for farming," said museum president Patrick Ingalls. "We never know what will show up but that's what makes the show interesting."

There's plenty to see besides old machines. A large outdoor flea market with over 200 vendors, daily equipment parades, demonstrations at the blacksmith forge, sawmill and shingle mill and one of the favorite activities - eating sweet corn cooked in a 1923 Nichols and Shepard steam traction engine made in Battle Creek.

"We do get a lot of people that tell us one of the main reasons they look forward to the show every year is for the steamed sweet corn," added Ingalls.

Other activities include antique and garden tractor pulls, kids events, Thing-A-Ma-Jig parade, consignment auction, valve cover races and more.

"We have a full schedule of activities"



Hundreds of antique engine and tractor collectors are expected to attend the 33rd annual Antique Engine and Tractor Show Thursday, Sept. 8 through Sunday, Sept. 11 at the Michigan Flywheelers Museum in South Haven.

said Ingalls. "This is a family-friendly event and there are plenty of things for kids to do like look for wooden nickels in our Sawdust Pile treasure hunt or play on the wooden tractor in The Barnyard which is our version of a playground."

This year's nightly entertainment starts with oldies rocker Joel Coburn on Thursday, entertainer Quentin Flagg on Friday and returning again this year - the Bronk Bros. on Saturday. All evening shows start at 8:30 pm.

Throughout the show, there will be performances by folk singer Joe Foster, Casco Band and the Michigan Fiddlers.

Saturday is considered "Kid's Day" at the show. Activities start with Valve Cover Races at 9:30 am followed by Kid-dies Pedal Pull at noon, a sawdust pile treasure hunt at 3:30 pm, and the John Dudley Magic Show at 7 pm. Tractor games will be held for those children who have access to riding lawn tractors, and

returning for its sixth year will be the "Kids Night Time Lawn Tractor Cruise" at 8 pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

One of the popular activities for young and old is the "South Haven Tractor Cruise." Scheduled for 4 pm Thursday, participants drive tractors of all makes and models into South Haven, cruise along the South Beach, and then stop downtown for an evening of dining and shopping.

Gates open at 8 am rain or shine. Admission to the show is \$7. Children 12 and under are free with a paid adult admission. Thursday is Senior's Day and admission is \$3 for those 62 and over. This is a pet-free event for those paying admission.

Rustic camping sites are available on a first-come basis. Cost is \$10 per night plus daily admission per person. Pets are allowed with exhibitors, campers and vendors only. Personal transportation vehicles, such as golf carts, will be charged a \$15 registration fee. ATVs, dirt bikes and firearms are not permitted.

For more information, contact 269-639-2010, michiganflywheelers@yahoo.com, or Facebook. A complete show schedule is available on Facebook or www.michiganflywheelers.org.

The Michigan Flywheelers Museum is located at 06285 68th Street, two miles east of South Haven.

COA to host "Go for the Gold"

On Saturday, August 20, the Cass County COA will host "Go for the Gold," an Olympics-themed dinner and auction in support of Meals on Wheels. Guests will enjoy Olympics-themed decor, live entertainment, and a delicious, Brazilian-themed dinner, based on this year's

NEW LEAF Complete Landscape Services

Dowagiac, MI
(269) 462-0966



Deck Cleaning, Concrete Sealing, Interior and Exterior House Cleaning
Preserve your investment by having your deck cleaned, sealed and/or stained.

Sprinkler Turn-on & Pump Hook-up

We will turn on the water to your lawn irrigation system, adjust heads, make sure all heads are working, program controller and give advice on proper operation.

Tree & Hedge Trimming

Consider having us professionally trim your ornamental trees & shrubs.

Field Stone Sea Wall

Protect your lakefront from soil erosion.

SOD • SPRINKLERS

Quality Work at Reasonable Rates!

Beach Clean-up
Spring/Fall Clean-up
Custom Mowing
Aeration & Thatching
Edging
Mulch, Stone, Sand & Topsoil
Seed & Sod
Landscape Restoration
Retaining Walls

Excavation
Concrete Removal
Junk Hauling
Tree Pruning
Shrub Pruning
Tree Removal
Deck Cleaning
Power Washing
Snow Plowing

Bill Personette, III

"Like us on Facebook and receive a 10% discount"

REGIONAL NEWS

Olympic games in Rio.

"Go for the Gold" will take place at the COA Lowe Center, 60525 Decatur Road, Cassopolis, from 5 to 9 pm on August 20. Tickets and tables for the event are available at \$40 per person, or \$320 for a table of 8. Sponsorship opportunities are available and range from \$100 to \$10,000.

For those interested in attending or sponsoring the event, contact the COA at 269-445-8110.

Cass County Fair schedule

The 165th Cass County Fair, which takes place until August 6, announces the addition of U.S.A. Motocross Freestyle Championship Series on Monday and Law Enforcement Officers Day on Wednesday. These new events join an already exceptional lineup, including the Monster Trucks, the Demolition Derby and much more.

Fairgoers can keep up-to-date on all the action by a "like" on the fair's Facebook page or by following mycasscountyfair on Instagram.

Fair week highlights will include:
Wednesday, August 3 – Law Enforcement Officers Free Admission with ID; Carnival rides open at 2 pm, Karaoke contest at 7 pm and on a new night the Super Kickers Extreme Bulls & Barrels at 7 pm at the Grandstand with DeWayne Spaw (starting prior at 7 pm).
Thursday, August 4 – Seniors Citizens' Day – Seniors ages 60+ receive free admission with ID; 4-H Pony show, Poultry show and at 10 am the Youth Market Livestock Auction. Demolition Derby (wagons, sedans, 2WD trucks, vans, sub-urbans, mini trucks, mini vans, mini cars) at 7 pm at the Grandstand.

Friday, August 5 – Homemakers Day, 4-H Day – Homemakers admitted free until 9:30 am; 4-H Day activities from 1 – 3 pm. Small Animal Sweepstakes, Showmanship Sweepstakes, SJO Super Cross Championship Series at 7 pm at the Grandstand and Fireworks at dusk.

Saturday, August 6 – Family Day, Noon to 6 pm, \$1 admission. Youth Small Animal Auction and more 4-H Horse & Pony and Draft Horse shows will take place. Carnival opens at noon with \$1 rides from noon to 6 pm. The Adult Alumni Sheep Showmanship Fundraiser at the Show Arena at 6 pm. Back by popular demand, the Monster Trucks at 7 pm at the Grandstand.

For additional information about the 165th annual Cass County Fair, visit www.mycasscountyfair.com. Hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday-Saturday. General admission is \$6, ages 5 and under are free, and \$1 per child 6-12 years of age.

Creating Confident Caregivers

Beginning Monday, August 8, the Cass County COA will offer its next session of Creating Confident Caregivers, a program for individuals who are caring for a loved one with dementia or another form of memory loss. This program is offered free of charge by the COA through a partnership with Region IV Area Agency on Aging.

The program will meet on Mondays from 10 am to 12 pm for six weeks, from August 8 through September 19. Classes will meet at the COA Lowe Center, 60525 Decatur Road, Cassopolis.

Advance registration is required. Contact Keryl Konkright, R.N., at 800-323-0390 or kerylc@casscoa.org to register or for more information. Respite

care for family members with dementia or memory loss issues is available free of charge during the class but must be per-arranged.

CASA Auction Hailed a Success

Cass County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for children) hosted its 10th annual dinner and auction Friday, June 24, at Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Edwardsburg. The program was held in the church's social hall. A Friends of CASA reception hosted by the Honorable Susan L. Dobrich preceded the dinner and auction in the church reception area.

Auction chairs this year were Denise Wierman, Beth Cripe, and Leslie Paul with assistance from the CASA board, volunteer advocates, and staff.

Approximately 175 people attended this year's event. This year's auction featured 11 live items, one raffle, and the "call to the heart," pure donations to help the program train new volunteers to be a voice for abused and neglected children in foster care. This year's fundraiser was very successful with net income in excess of \$55,000.

Walk for Life - "People Who Care"

Come join On August 27 from 9 am to noon and walk for Cancer fighters and survivors! Gather pledges and take a scenic walk is all it takes to make a difference in someone's life. Proceeds will go to the Cass County Cancer Service, Inc. to help people with everyday expenses. There will be water stops along the route.

A light lunch will be provided at the club after the walk. The walk will start at the Conservation Club, down Birch Road to the "swimming hole" then back.

For more information or to make a donation contact Connie Sue Hulse at (574) 333-8838.

Summer night sky program

Each year the St. Joseph County Parks offer several Women Experience the Outdoors programs. This summer, women are invited to St. Patrick's County Park to spend an evening absorbing the beauty of the night sky. A brief presentation will introduce participants to features of the night sky at this time of year, followed by refreshments and telescope observation. A member of the Michiana Astronomical Society will be on hand to answer questions and share their knowledge.

The program will take place on Friday, August 12 from 9 to 11pm at the Red Barn at St. Patrick's County Park. Cost is \$7/person. Registration and payment are required by August 8. To register or get directions, please call 654-3155.

St. Patrick's County Park is located on Laurel Road, north of Auten Road and west of U.S. 933 in South Bend.

On the cover

A stand of Purple Loosestrife adds a touch of color to a bend in the Paw Paw River. Purple Loosestrife is an invasive and harmful species of plant that has spread to many waterfront areas around Michigan in the past few years. The plant reproduces rapidly, crowding out native plant and animal species and offers very little (if any) food for wildlife.

Eradication of Purple Loosestrife is difficult, time consuming and often expensive, and as a perennial, simply cutting it down will have little effect on future growth.

Tri Lakes Marine, Inc.

is under new ownership, and Mike Kalass and his crew are ready to help with all of your nautical needs!

With quick and courteous service, reliable dockside pick up and delivery - Tri Lakes is your Full Service Marina!

Tri Lakes has a wide variety of new and used boats, trailers, outboards, docks and waterfront products.

Tri Lakes is open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm; Saturday from 9 am to Noon.

For more info, visit Tri Lakes Marine at:
13815 US 12 East, Union, MI
call 269-641-2154
www.trilakesmarineinc.com
or email Mike at
sales@trilakesmarineinc.com

REGIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

August 3-5 - Annual Book Sale, 9-5 pm, Cass District Library- Main Library, 357-7822

August 4 - Senior 9 - until noon in the Agnes Gregarek Community Building at the Cass County Fairgrounds, 445-8110.

August 6 - Eagle Lake Triathlon, Eagle Lake Marina, 8 am, info@eaglelaketri.com

August 6 - Beginner's Disc Golf Clinic, Ferrettie/Baugo Creek County Park, Osceola, IN, Free, 574-674-9765

August 6, 7 - Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Projects Open House, 10 am - 4 pm, South Riverfront Park, Niles, www.wmichedu/fortstjoseph

August 8 - 1 pm COA Lowe Center, Cassopolis, movie Mrs. Doubtfire, 445-8110

August 8-Sept 19 - Mondays, Creating Confident Caregivers, 10 am - Noon, COA Cassopolis, 445-8110

August 9 - Wii Games, 1 pm, Cass District Library- Main Library, 357-7822

August 10 - Paddles, Poles, Discs and Arrows Outdoor Adventure day ca St. Patrick's County Park, So. Bend,

574-654-3115

August 11 - Movie: Kung Fu Panda 3, 1 pm, Popcorn provided, free movie, Cass District Library- Howard Branch, 487-9214

August 12 - Summer Night Sky program for women, 9-11 pm, St. Patrick's County Park, South Bend, \$7/person, 654-3155

August 16 - Movie: The Angry Birds Movie, 1 pm, Popcorn provided, free movie, Cass District Library- Main Library, 357-7822

August 16 - Coloring Contest Entry Deadline, 7 pm, Have your entry submitted to Mason/Union branch before closing, Cass District Library-Mason/Union Branch, 357-7821

August 17 - 11am, COA Cookout at the Fairgrounds, \$3. Entertainment at 11 am, Lunch at 12 pm. Darlene Lowe Building. Call 445-8110 by Aug. 15 to make reservation. All regular programs at COA will be canceled for the day

August 18 - Introduction to Mah Jongg, 6 pm, Cass District Library- Edwardsburg Branch, 487-9215

August 20 - Go for the Gold, COA Lowe Center,

Cassopolis, 5 pm, 445-8112

August 23 - DIY Tic Tac Toe, 1 pm, Call to sign-up, for ages 8+, limited to 20 people, Cass District Library- Main Library, 357-7822

August 23 - 5 pm - The National Association of Retired Federal Employees SW Michigan Chapter 572 monthly meeting, Buffet in Benton Harbor. Jean Rowe at 782 2769 or email jeanrowe70@comcast.net

August 24 - Coloring Contest Awards Party, 6 pm, refreshments and presentation of awards, Cass District Library-Mason/Union Branch, 357-7821

August 27 - Walk for Life - People who Care scenic walk, Cass County Conservation Club, Union, 9 am - Noon, 574-333-8838

August 30 - Movie: The Jungle Book, 1 pm, Popcorn provided, free movie, Cass District Library- Mason/ Union Branch, 357-7821

September 8-11 - 33rd Annual Antique Engine and Tractor Show, Michigan Flywheelers Museum, South Haven, 8 am daily, \$7 (12 and under free) www.michiganflywheelers.org

September 14 - Elkhart ArtWalk, free, self-guided public

art exhibit and sale, 5-8 pm, downtown

September 27 - 5 pm - The National Association of Retired Federal Employees SW Michigan Chapter 572 monthly meeting, Super Buffet in Benton Harbor. Jean Rowe at 782 2769 or email jeanrowe70@comcast.net

October 25 - 5 pm - National Association of Retired Federal Employees SW Michigan Chapter 572 monthly meeting, Super Buffet in Benton Harbor. Jean Rowe at 782 2769 or email jeanrowe70@comcast.net

October 28 - Charity Run for Zachary Sweet, sponsored by the State Police, Warren Dunes State Park, Sawyer, 10 am, \$10/person, 313-401-3745 or lind-sayr@michigan.gov

November 16 - Elkhart ArtWalk, free, self-guided public art exhibit and sale, 5-8 pm, downtown

December 6 - 1:30 pm - National Association of Retired Federal Employees SW Michigan Chapter annual holiday dinner. No business meeting, new officers will be sworn in. Next meeting March 28, 2017. Jean Rowe, 782 2769 or e mail jeanrowe70@comcast.net

HEALTH & FITNESS

10 steps to help make fitness stick

By **BRENDA HARRIS**
Cass COA

How many times have you started a fitness program then only dropped it after a short time? Are you aware of the benefits from exercising? How it effects you physically and mentally? Exercise doesn't just simply happen —you have to put yourself into it. Ask yourself does my family or job comes first before taking care of myself? Your time is very important so take time for your health and well being and adjust the balance in your life. Changing the way you think about getting active could make all the difference. The 10 rules will help you make your fitness program stick!!

1. Do it for you

Before starting an exercise program, consider why you want to get fit. It may be for your health, to reduce stress or to shed a few pounds. Your reason for exercising should stem from your own desires, not

someone else's. Making exercise a part of your life isn't a matter of willpower or white-knuckled determination, but of doing something that's good for you.

2. Take baby steps

Don't expect success overnight. Try to reach for doable, moderate goals, both short & long term goals. As you achieve each goal, set new ones. Keep your goals in sight and that way you will reach success!!

3. Make exercise a given

Excuses such as "I don't feel like it," "I should pick up the dry cleaning," or "The kids need new sneakers," are just little ways we wiggle out of exercising. Choose a "special" time of day and be selfish about preserving the time for your body and general well-being.

4. Give yourself credit

Treat yourself to something that is special to you. When you reach that first goal deserve it!

5. Pace yourself

Increase your exercise load; but don't do it by going all out, no matter how good it feels. Overexertion can lead to muscle soreness or injury and that can lead to quitting

6. Build a support network

The good old BUDDY SYSTEM will work. Find a friend or group to exercise with, or join a class at your local club. Chat with some of your friends and tell them your goals and ask them to check in with you periodically.

7. Embrace Change

Boredom!!!! Who wants that, do a variety of activities each week and change to equipment that's a good fit for you.

8. Use the right equipment.

Whether it's sneakers, free weights, or a bicycle that you're buying, or just using at the club, make sure it's suited to you. Working out won't be fun if your clothes are chafing or your joints ache. Have a

professional help you choose equipment that's a good fit.

9. Educate yourself.

Knowledge can go a long way toward convincing you to staying physically active. It can also help you reach your highest potential. There's a wealth of easily available information about getting fit and stay fit. Go on line, magazines, books. Ask questions to fitness professionals.

10. Eat right.

If you put bad gas into your car, it won't go very far without giving you trouble or stopping. Just remember supplying your body with the proper nutrients will give you the energy and stamina to get physically fit; it could even enhance your performance.

Be patient, use your knowledge, set your goals, listen to your body, and commit yourself to a healthy way of life

Adapting to reality

By **BRENDA HARRIS**
Cass COA

"Mom had a fall." These are words we don't want to hear, that our loved one has fallen. The consequences can be moderate to severe injuries, from nasty bruises or broken teeth to hip fractures or head traumas.

Fall prevention is not as simple as installing grab bars. Fall prevention is, in many ways, a total mind/body change. One of the hurdles we go through is the emotional, admitting that our body can't do

what it used to do. Just saying the words, "I could fall," is a big break-through to reality.

The first step leads to the second step and keeps changing. This is where we need to set aside our own pride and sense of independence. Begin to act on it and plan and do necessary changes.

As we get older, we get set in our own ways. It is very difficult to accept and let someone help you, feeling that you are no longer taking care of yourself. It is very hard to set aside your own pride and sense of independence; and begin to plan to do the neces-

sary adaptations. The fear of the unknown in some incidents can cause a person to isolate themselves: They are afraid to get out of bed, afraid to get out and enjoy life-because they're afraid of falling again.

The challenge for each person who may fall, is like putting a puzzle together. It is identifying the pieces and putting them together. Which it all boils down to is a balance in your life style. Exercising faithfully, and choosing the right type of exercise, is critical to maintaining mind body wellness. Life itself is a challenge. We may develop limitations that are not only

physical but also emotional. There are also other conditions from mobility to vision to hearing impairments.

From pilates, to a gym workout on strength equipment, it all adds up to getting stronger and staying healthy raising awareness and attention to prevent falling and prepare for those that have. Just think, as you are reading this you are also aging. What have you done to stay healthy and free and from falls and even sickness? Yes you have choices in your life what is it going to be?



Fitness Close to Home

Fitness Centers offer cardio fitness machines and weight training equipment. Centers are led by trained instructors.

It's time to get in shape. Join today!

Cass County COA
Enhancing Life

Lowe Center
60525 Decatur Rd.
Cassopolis, MI 49031

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

(800) 323-0390 • (269) 445-8110
www.CassCOA.org facebook.com/CassCOA

~STEAK BY THE LAKE~

STACY'S FOOD & SPIRITS
Home of the 20 oz (plus)
Clydesdale Cut Prime Rib
~NIGHTLY SPECIALS~
Wednesday ~ 16 oz. Ribeye
Thursday ~ BBQ Ribs
Friday ~ Swordfish or 10 oz. Sirloin
Saturday ~ 32 oz. Sirloin for Two
Sunday ~ BBQ Ribs or Lake Perch

23018 S. Shore Dr.
5 miles East of Edwardsburg off US 12 on Eagle Lake Road
(269) 699-5113

Open Wed & Thurs, 5-9:30
Fri & Sat, 5-10:30
Open Sunday at 5 pm



Know what's below. Call before you dig.



There are more than 2.5 million miles of pipelines in the U.S.
811 is a free, nationwide service designed to keep you safe
when digging or excavating.

**Call 811 to have underground utilities located
before any digging project.**



LAKE LIFE WITH JANE

Wow, where did the summer go?

by JANE BOUDREAU

Hello Neighbors! August is here and although we have several more weeks of great weather, many of us are scratching our heads and saying, "Wow, where did summer go?" I feel that way about vacations and holidays, too. Could it be that we try to cram too much energy into playing outdoors, eating seasonal foods, getting together with friends and neighbors? The kids are out of school and we have to make time to keep them happy and then of course there is the planning and taking that long awaited vacation. Anyway, I was pondering this the other day and I decided there should be a fifth season. Just squeeze it in between mid August when we are just darn worn out, and the beginning of the crisp cool weather near the end of September. We start it off by admitting we are sick of grilled burgers and watering plants. The sound of lawn mowers at 8 a.m. annoys us beyond belief. We take down the hammock and hang up the fly swatter. We're back in the good old recliner watching American Ninjas Warrior. And then this fifth season ends with cooler air, darkness at 5 p.m., soup for dinner and apple pie for dessert. Putting away the patio furniture and changing the oil on the snow blower is the final chore. I'm liking this season. A grand excuse for doing absolutely nothing. What shall we call it?

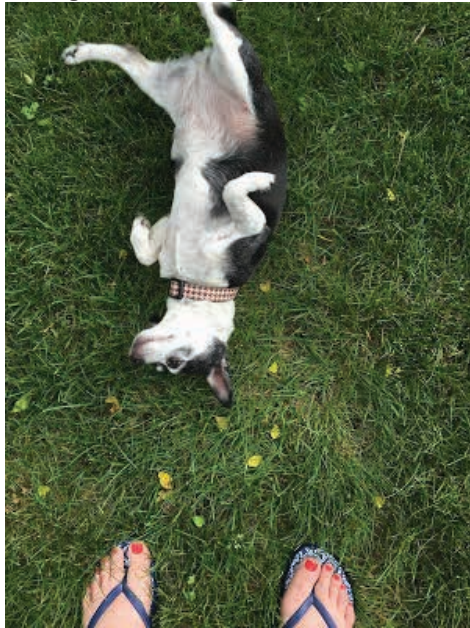


My sister once said that she dreams of spring and summer and planting her veggies and flowers while the snow flies. By August she could care less if they lived or died. I'm much the same way. I actually get a bit gleeful when I wake up to rain. Yay! I'm just going to stay in and be lazy. Watch some game shows, drink a few cans of Diet Pepsi and eat Doritos on the couch. Horizontally of course.

The sad thing is my pups love to be out. They lie in the sun sniffing the fresh air. They roll and wiggle on their backs in the green grass as well as anything decayed or smelling half dead. Neither likes the cold and it's an in and out deal for them. They never learned to walk



properly on a leash, or should I say they simply preferred to drag me along behind them. So they get lazy and fat and spend way too much time sleeping. I once read that cats generally sleep sixteen hours a day. No offense to the feline lovers out there but I can't imagine what they do during the remaining 8 hours beside lick



their paws. But I digress...I'm pretty sure Milo and Layla exceed those snoozing hours in the winter. I worry about

their weight and now that they are getting a little long in the tooth, arthritis setting in. I try to play fetch with them in the house but the broken lamps and seeing them skid into walls head first

really pains me. To help keep their weight stable my vet told me to give them boiled carrot pieces (not hot of course, but then again I'm the one who watches them bounce off walls trying to catch a ball). Surprisingly they like them but I'm too lazy to boil carrots several times a week.

Well la de da, I actually have a recipe for carrots just for you. I know that whole plate looks pretty darn good but I wanted to get a good shot of these decadent carrots (can carrots be called decadent? Let's just say tasty). They are incredibly quick and easy and even company worthy. Here you go:

Parsley Glazed Carrots

Ingredients:

4 cups carrots (sliced in half and then cut lengthwise very thinly into long spears)
S & P to taste
1/2 t sugar
1/4 cup water
2 T fresh lemon juice
2 T butter
2 T fresh parsley, chopped

Directions:

Add all ingredients except the butter and parsley to a sauce pan or skillet with a tightly fitted lid and cook over moderately high heat for approximately 7-10 minutes. Toss frequently in the last 3 minutest prevent burning. Remove from heat when they are lightly charred and tender. Toss with the butter and sprinkle with parsley. Serves 4-6.



Not just a will. A way.

Estate planning is more than having a will. It's a way to protect what matters most.

You've worked hard to build a life for you and your family here in southwestern Michigan. And Tuesley Hall Konopa will work equally hard to make sure the things that matter most to you are passed along to your loved ones. Estate planning is one of our firm's signature legal services and our experience will help assure your legacy is protected and your wishes honored.

To learn more about the estate planning capabilities of our firm as well as our business counsel and civil litigation/mediation services, visit our website or call us. We're right here in Cass County.

Right here for you.



TUESLEY · HALL · KONOPA LLP
attorneys

UNDERSTANDING. INSIGHTFUL. EFFECTIVE.

21550 Shore Acres Rd. · Cassopolis, MI · 269.445.1818 · thklaw.com



The beauty of this recipe is that the small amount of sugar caramelizes the carrots, and the bit of charring makes for a crispness and earthiness that is softened by the butter. I hope you try this as a side dish. It really is delicious.

I have another recipe for you that I was inspired to make after having several restaurant versions on a recent trip to Vancouver. You have a lot of flavors going on and it makes for a really nice lunch or dinner with some good bread. I've broken down the recipe into steps because it looks more daunting than it is. Feel free to make substitutions for the veggies. I made this version with rice noodles once and I've often added shredded cooked chicken to the greens. I hope you try it!

Chicken Quinoa & Veggie Salad

Ingredients:

(1) 2 c cooked and shredded chicken breast
2 cups of mixed lettuce or baby greens
1 T white wine vinaigrette (your choice)

(2) 1 1/2 c cooked quinoa
1 t olive oil
1 t melted butter

(3) 1 T olive oil
3 garlic cloves, chopped
1 T capers
1/4 c almond slivers
1/4 c roughly chopped red pepper

1 c English cucumbers, sliced
1/2 c feta cheese

Directions:

Place the vinaigrette in a large bowl and top with lettuce. Do not toss until ready to serve. In a small skillet, gently heat up the olive oil and add the garlic cloves, capers, almonds and peppers until



barely softened. Remove from heat. Toss salad and arrange 1/2 the lettuce mixture on a portion of a plate, then top with 1/2 of the chicken. Sprinkle almond topping over and garnish plate with cucumber and feta. Add a pinch of S & P. Well, that's it for this month. We have a little vacation time planned at our place in the mountains of North

Carolina. Have you ever seen the Blue Ridge Mountains? Gorgeous. And work on our lake house is finishing up. I'm excited to share my home with you and some of the cool ideas we came up with to make it a little more spiffier. I'll see you in September, or in the middle of our fifth season! How about some one-pot meal recipes? Putting the garden to bed? De~summerizing our

homes? Sounds great to me!
See ya soon!

~Jane

All photos are taken by and property of Jane Boudreau and can only be used with permission. Please feel free to email me at Blondiesjournal@gmail.com. You can also visit me at my blog BlondiesJournals.blogspot.com.



made affordable at
SMILE CENTER
Family Dentistry

Richard A. Pilat, D.D.S.
110 S. Broadway Cassopolis
269-445-5550
www.smilecentermi.com

Dr. Pilat is a General Dentist - Not a Specialist
New Patients and Emergencies Welcome






Casual Dining Atmosphere — Full Menu Dining
Take-Outs Available
Over 250 Brands of Beer, Cocktails
Banquet Rooms for Wedding Rehearsals and Parties

27 BEERS ON TAP
Largest assortment of imported beer in Michigan!

Open Tues. Wed. & Thurs-11 a.m.-9:30 pm
Friday & Saturday 11 am -10:30 pm
Sunday 11 am-9 pm
Closed Mondays

109 S. Front St., Dowagiac, MI
(269)782-5070
www.ZekesDowagiac.com





NORTH STAR

Landscape Design & Installation



Free Initial Consultation



Specializing in:

- ~Custom Design
- ~Professional Installation
- ~Patios, Walls, Walks
- ~Fire Pits, Outdoor Kitchens
- ~Ponds, Waterfalls, Water Features
- ~Problem-Area Resolution
- ~Seasonal Maintenance



Degreed Landscape Architects ~ Certified Nurserymen ~ Licensed Applicators
Over 34 Years of Experience

866-445-9100

Visit us on the web! www.northstarlandscape.net

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Home Sweet Home Equity

Provided by **Greg Schoenfeld**
Compass Wealth Advisors

Buying a home is a long-term commitment, so it's not surprising that older Americans are much more likely than younger Americans to own their homes "free and clear." On average, only about 36 percent of owner-occupied housing units in the United States do not have a mortgage. For units occupied by homeowners who are 65 and older, the rate is more than 6 percent.¹

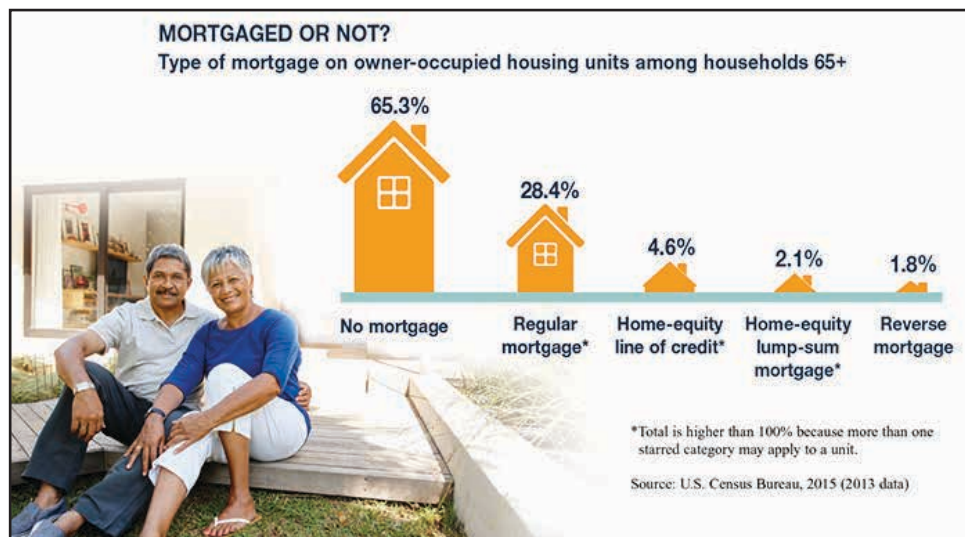
If you have paid off your mortgage or anticipate doing so by the time you retire, congratulations! Owning your home outright can help provide financial flexibility and stability during your retirement years. Even if you still have mortgage payments, the equity in your home is a valuable asset. Here are some considerations.

Enjoy Lower Expenses

If you are happy with your home and don't need to tap the equity, living free of a monthly mortgage could make a big difference in stretching your retirement dollars. It's almost as if you had saved enough extra to provide a monthly income equal to your mortgage. You will still have to pay property taxes and homeowners insurance, but these expenses are typically smaller than the principal and interest on a mortgage.

Consider Downsizing

If you sell your home and purchase



another one outright with cash to spare, the additional funds could boost your savings and provide additional income. On the other hand, if you take out a new mortgage, you may set yourself back financially. Keep in mind that condominiums, retirement communities, and other planned communities typically have monthly homeowners association dues. On the plus side, these dues generally pay for maintenance services and facilities that could make your retirement more enjoyable.

Borrow from Home Equity

If you stay in your home and want money for a specific purpose, such as remodeling the kitchen or fixing the roof, you might take out a home-equity loan. If instead you'll need funds over several

years, such as to pay for college or medical expenses, you might prefer a home-equity line of credit (HELOC). Home-equity financing may offer tax-deductible home mortgage interest and favorable interest rates because your home secures the loan. However, you are taking on another monthly payment, and the lender can foreclose on your home if you fail to repay the loan. In addition, you may have to pay closing costs and other fees to obtain the loan.

Shift into Reverse

If you are 62 or older and want to borrow money from the value of your home equity without making monthly payments, you might consider a Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM), commonly called a reverse mortgage. For

this type of FHA loan, you must own the property outright or have a small mortgage balance. The loan can be structured as a fixed-rate lump-sum payment, similar to a home-equity loan, or as an adjustable-rate line of credit, similar to a HELOC. A reverse mortgage also may be used to finance approximately half the purchase price of a new home, but you must pay the rest of the cost using other funds, such as savings.

A home-equity loan and a HELOC must be paid off after a set period, but you don't have to pay back a reverse mortgage as long as you continue living in the home and pay property taxes and insurance premiums in a timely manner. However, interest accumulates and the loan must be repaid after you stop living in the home for one year or more, so you or your heirs could eventually be forced to sell the home, risking exposure to the uncertainties of the housing market. Reverse mortgages typically involve higher fees than home-equity loans or HELOCs.

1) U.S. Census Bureau, 2015

The information in this article is not intended as tax or legal advice, and it may not be relied on for the purpose of avoiding any federal tax penalties. You are encouraged to seek tax or legal advice from an independent professional advisor. The content is derived from sources believed to be accurate. Neither the information presented nor any opinion expressed constitutes a solicitation for the purchase or sale of any security. This material was written and prepared by Emerald. Copyright 2016 Emerald Connect, LLC.

Pasture-Raised Pork - Great Lakes Fish

JAKE'S COUNTRY MEATS
Your Connection to Your Food!

SIXTH GENERATION FAMILY FARM
55721 Decatur Road, Cassopolis, MI
269.445.3020 | jakescountrymeats.com
Pork You Can Trust and Wild-Caught Great Lakes Fish

Neighbors

Advertising that works

contact Fred Stein

269-228-1080

jack@beanstalk.net

Coupon **JUST HAIR** Coupon

Styling for Men & Women
Certified organic salon

- Hair
- Manicures
- Pedicures
- Waxing

Mani/Pedi Specials with Mari
Mani \$15 - Pedi \$25
with this coupon

Open: Tues-Sat
269-445-8400
206 N. O'Keefe Street
Cassopolis, MI

Coupon

Red Diamond services

"Professional & personalized services so you can focus on the more important things in life."

- Buying & Delivering Groceries
- Car Detailing & Maintenance Drop off
- Pet Services: Pet Sitting, Veterinary & Grooming Appointments
- Business Assistant: Corporate Luncheons, Holiday Gift Shopping
- Senior Care (Non Medical): Meal Delivery, Transportation to Appointments, Refill Prescriptions

Time Is Priceless.

"Consider it done" when you call

Red Diamond services

Kate Crane
Owner

574.229.6722
4000 E. Bristol Street, Suite 3, Elkhart, IN 46514
www.RedDiamondServices.com

- **INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT**
401(K) rollover
- **ESTATE PLANNING**
Uniting all the pieces to benefit your goals
- **INCOME IN RETIREMENT**
Using a revolutionary tiered income approach (Finding solutions to the problems of cash flow and preserving income during down markets)

Helping you Build and Manage Your Wealth

COMPASS WEALTH ADVISORS

A Registered Investment Advisory Firm

574.522.3738
888.820.9100
Fax 574.522.1555

www.compasswa.com

100 South Main Street ■ Elkhart, IN 46516

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Countdown to college - how does insurance add up?

By VICKI BROSSMAN
Kemner-Iott Benz Agency of Cass County

Getting ready for college is an exciting and stressful time for students and their parents. A conversation with your insurance agent should be on the list of tasks to make sure the college student, their family and the family's assets are adequately protected in the event of serious injury or a liability claim.

■ Will my homeowners insurance cover my student's personal property?

Insurance companies consider a college student a resident of their parents' home, temporarily living elsewhere and will cover up to 10 percent of personal property, off premise. If you have \$80,000 of contents coverage at home, your student will have up to \$8,000 for their contents in their dorm room. If the value of their belongings exceeds the coverage offered through your homeowners policy, you might want to consider a separate renters insurance policy.

A good time to take an inventory of your student's belongings is when they are moving into their dorm or apartment. The inventory will be a tremen-

dous help should your student suffer a loss.

If your student is living off campus, a renter's insurance policy may be needed. Some insurance companies consider an apartment a permanent residence meaning there is no contents or liability coverage under a parent's homeowners policy. A student could be held liable for damage to the apartment they are renting or to someone else's property. It is important to remember that if you sign the lease, you will be held liable if someone is injured on your student's leased premises or by their property.

Renter's insurance usually costs less than \$250 a year for about \$15,000 in coverage and covers the possessions in the unit in the event of a loss. It also protects the individual from liability if he or she causes damage to the rental unit.

■ Will your student be taking a car to college?

If your student is not taking a car to college, you may be eligible for a reduced insurance rate. Many companies offer a "student-away-at-school" discount depending on how far the college is from home. You and your child will still have coverage when home for holidays and vacations as well as if he borrows a car while away at school.

Students taking a car to college need auto insurance coverage whether it's under their own policy or a parent's. If a parent co-titles the car or the student still lives at home when not at school, the student may be able to remain on the parent's insurance policy. You should notify the insurance company that the car will be garaged at a different location.

■ How will my current health insurance apply at college?

Under the ACA, children are allowed to stay on parent's health insurance until the age of 26. For

many students, this is the way to maintain coverage, but you need to make sure it fits your needs. Coverage could be completely waived if your student attends a college out of state. Your student could have higher co-pays and deductibles as well as limited availability of in network providers. Check with your insurance company to see if there are any limitations for your student.

Other options include an individual health plan or a plan offered by the college your student will be attending. The majority of colleges offer health insurance for college students. As your student prepares for school, sit down and compare your family health plan with the individual plan and student health insurance offered by the school. You may save money and have better coverage with the school plan.

■ What if my student studies abroad?

Studying abroad may present a multitude of insurance issues. Some of the areas where you need to make sure your student has coverage are: theft of personal property, trip cancellation/interruption, emergency medical evacuation and/or repatriation coverage, and health and/or hospitalization.

With the help of your insurance agent, you may discover your current coverages respond to all or the vast majority of your concerns and little need be done. If change is needed to assure your current protection will be there at time of need, you and your agent can make those choices at the best possible time — now, before that need arises.



Vicki Brossman
Kemner-Iott Benz

Neighbors

Fred Stein

269-228-1080

jack@beanstalk.net

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

Patti Badner
Account Executive

Knowing is...a Strong Foundation

Ask us about:

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

Auto-Owners
INSURANCE

Kemner Iott Benz

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

Cub Cadet
WELCOME TO STRONGSVILLE

ALL-AROUND STRENGTH.

<p>Z-FORCE[®] SX SERIES ZERO-TURN RIDERS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Steering wheel control and four-wheel steering from our patented Synchro Steer™ technology offers stability.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 2px;">STARTING AT: \$5,499⁹⁹</p>	<p>XT2 LAWN TRACTORS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Exclusive Performance Package with engine options, including fuel-saving Cub Cadet EFI on LX42.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 2px;">STARTING AT: \$1,799⁹⁹</p>	<p>SIGNATURE CUT[™] SERIES SELF-PROPELLED WALK-BEHINDS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Mow at your own speed with the MySpeed™ variable-drive system.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 2px;">STARTING AT: \$299⁹⁹</p>
--	--	--

EXCEPTIONAL FINANCING OFFERS AVAILABLE
OFFER SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY. SEE STORE ASSOCIATE FOR DETAILS.

FOR FULL PRODUCT SPECS VISIT CUBCADET.COM

YOUR INDEPENDENT CUB CADET DEALER—EXPERT SERVICE. LOCALLY OWNED.
THE ADVICE, SERVICE, SELECTION AND SUPPORT YOU NEED TO FIND THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOU.

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

*Product Price — Actual retail prices are set by dealer and may vary. Taxes, freight, setup and handling charges may be additional and may vary. Models subject to limited availability. Specifications and programs are subject to change without notice. Images may not reflect dealer inventory and/or unit specifications.
†Built using the highest quality components sourced locally and globally.
© 2016 Cub Cadet FULLLINE_3x8

EXCEPTIONAL FINANCING OFFERS AVAILABLE

FIELD TRIP

Warner Vineyards Winery and Event Center, Paw Paw, MI




MH
McGann Hay
FUNERALS | CREMATIONS | GATHERINGS
SINCE 1842

Granger Chapel

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

574-232-1411
www.mcgannhay.com

"The perfect location between Michigan and Indiana"

Pat & Tessa McGann, Birch Lake Residents, Eastside

O'Donnell's Docks LLC authorized dealer for **HEWITT** Gifts & Roll-a-Dock
19 QUALITY SINCE 71

Southwest Michigan's Premier Dock & Lift Headquarters

Hewitt Roll-a-Dock



Hewitt Roll-a-Dock combines superior strength with maximum stability. It can be extended to any length. Roll-a-Dock is low maintenance and corrosion-resistant.

The Classic Dock offers great appearance and flexibility. Perfect for those who want to make the most of their time on the water. Aluminum construction eliminates painting with little or no maintenance.





Hewitt Classic Dock

www.odonnellsdocks.com

12097 M-60 • Jones, MI • 269.244.1446
e-mail: info@odonnellsdocks.com

FIELD TRIP



INDOOR BOAT STORAGE

Summer trailer storage included

Service Above and Beyond



PUTTING THE 'SERVICE' IN CUSTOMER SERVICE

Repairs, Maintenance
Winterizing and more!

OPEN 8 DAYS A WEEK

"by appointment"
We're here when you need us!

SELL YOUR BOAT,

We Buy & Sell Boats,
Personal Watercraft & Boat Lifts

BUY A BOAT

Boats, Motors,
Lifts, PWCs & more!



Boat Butler llc

269-476-2222

or text 312-399-3688 DAVE

www.boatbutlermarine.com

Cassopolis, MI 49031

Lake Gift Items

Diamond, Birch, Donnell, Eagle, Stone, Kelsey, Shavehead

Village Floral Has all your lake needs.

We have coffee mugs, t-shirts, hoodies, signs,
coasters, photo frames,
aprons, and more.



VILLAGE FLORAL

150 S. Broadway
Cassopolis, MI

269-445-2393

VillageFloralCassopolis.com



August Fresh Flower Specials

Mini garden rose bunches -- \$9.98

Glad. bunch -- \$4.99

Daisy Bunch -- \$6.50


Summer fresh bouquets

FIELD TRIP




Gail Alexander
Broker/Owner

Waterfront Only
Call 269.240.0145
to start lake living



Gail@MichiganLakesTeam.com
MichiganLakesTeam.com

ITS TIME TO STEP UP TO MICHIGAN LAKES TEAM

For all of your lake real estate needs.

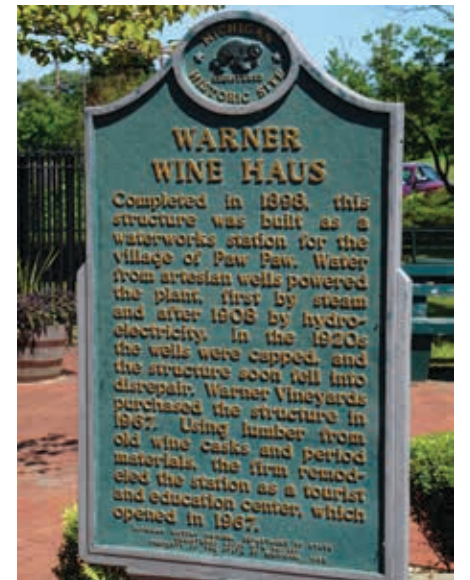
- We list water property only
- Very heavy and aggressive marketing both locally and in Chicago
- We sell 75% of our own listings with over 1,500 buyers in our data base

I am so confident with all I do to get your lake home sold that I will give you a \$25 prepaid Visa just for interviewing me before you list. Even if you list with someone else.



For the Record

The Warner Winery and Event Center is located at 706 S. Kalamazoo St. in Paw Paw. It is open seven days a week from 10 am to 6 pm on M-Sat and Noon - 5 on Sunday (excluding major holidays). Additional facilities are located in Holland, South Haven, New Buffalo and Marshall, MI. For more information visit the Website:/ <http://www.warnervineyards.com>



Sharing Life's Journey

Assisted care for your loved one is our specialty.

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




29601 Amerihost Drive
Dowagiac, MI 49047



leisure-living.com • 269-782-5300

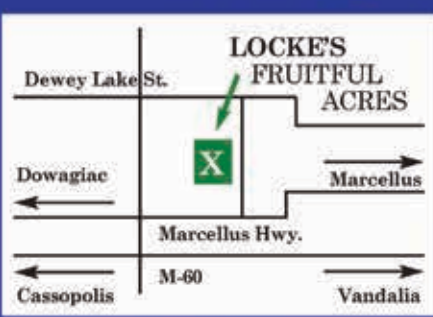
Locke's Fruitful Acres

The Country Market & Greenhouse



U-Pick or We-Pick Blueberries available in Mid-July

Come check out our jams, jellies and Honey and our large selection of gift items



Open Mon - Sat from 8:30 - 6
Sun from Noon - 6

51520 Gards Prairie Rd.
(269) 423-6536

Custom Window Coverings & so much more!

FREE In-Home Consultation & Installation!

50% OFF* (15 or more shades)
45% OFF* (6-14 shades)
40% OFF* (1-5 shades)

Double cell for the price of single cell shade



*some exclusions apply expires 8/31/16

1-888-882-8343
574-277-6800

Toscana Park, 327 Florence Ave., Granger, IN 46530
Locally owned and operated



at TOSCANA PARK

HISTORIC POSTCARDS

Historic postcards depict rich scenes of our area's past

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

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

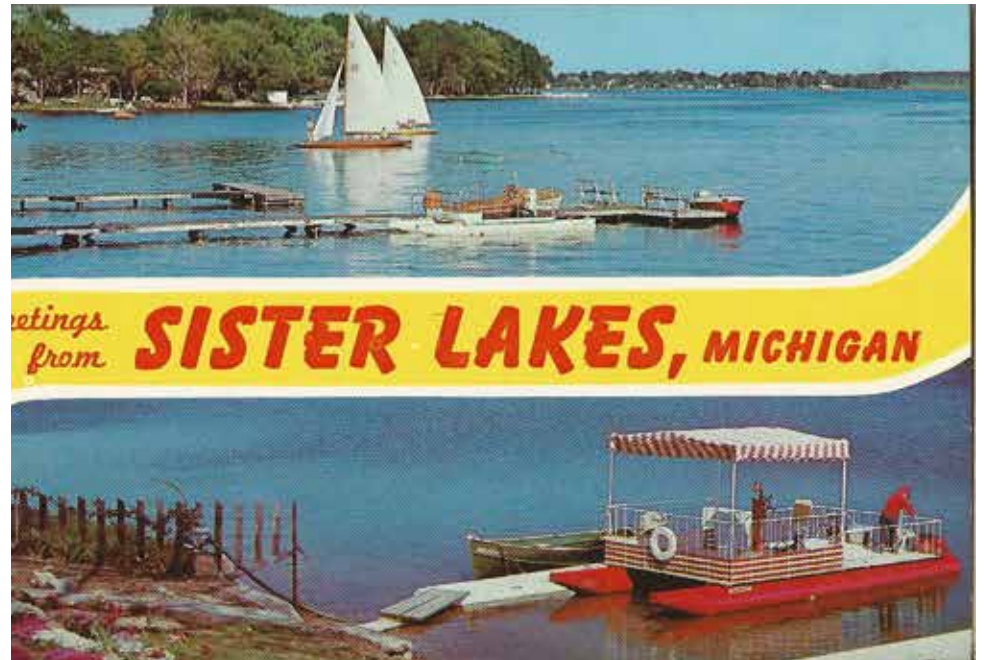
Jerdon has recently used many of his postcards featuring the Sister Lakes area in a book written by RL Rasmussen. The book, which retails for \$19.99, is in its second printing by the publisher, Arcadia Publishing.

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

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

In this edition of Neighbors we have selected postcards showing images of the Sister Lakes area.


In future issues, we will couple additional cards from one or more of the area's lakes with views of nearby communities and countryside.




Prime Property Care
Gavin Francis
313 North O'keefe St.
Cassopolis, MI 49031
(269) 591 9848

- Mowing
- Edging
- Spring/Fall Clean UP
- Hedges
- Gutter Cleaning
- Rock/Mulch Installation

gavinfrancis@rocketmail.com



Cass District Library
www.cass.lib.mi.us

Main Library
319 M 62 North
Cassopolis, MI 49031
269-357-7822
Fax: 269-357-7824

Discover Your Library

Books, Audiobooks, and eBooks	Adult and Children's Programs
DVDs, CDs, and Periodicals	Hoopla (movies, music, ebooks...)
Public Computers/Internet Access	Gale Courses (free online classes)
Wi-Fi Hotspot	Rocket Languages
Historical Resources	and so much more...

Main • Edwardsburg • Howard • Mason/Union • Local History

"Service beyond your expectations!"
"Where it's all about you!"



ADVANTAGE PLUMBING Inc.
PLUMBING • DRAIN CLEANING • Commercial & Residential

Don't let a leak ruin your day.
Call us and We'll be on our way!

(269) 687-7192 **24 Hour Service**

2400 North 5th Street • Niles, Michigan 49120



Nick Fryman's Construction
Quality. Reliable. Professional

Nick Fryman
Licensed Contractor/Owner

9518 Steimle Rd.
Eau Claire, MI 49111

269.329.9088

Free Estimates
Serving SW Michigan and Northern Indiana

5" & 6" Seamless Gutters
Gutter Covers
Rubber & Shingle Roofs
Roof Repairs
Siding
Soffit & Fascia
Replacement Windows



FAMILY HAIR CARE, NAILS, TANS

CLEOPATRA'S HAIR HUT

136 N. ROWLAND CASSOPLIS, MI.

445-2686



Harding's
Friendly Markets

Cassopolis, Michigan

Making the climate comfortable since 1987



BLT Mechanical
James Baker - Owner

269-476-4114


HVAC HEATING AC
GEO THERMAL




JL LANDSCAPING
For All Your Landscaping Installation Needs

Jim Leach
59818 Decatur Road
Cassopolis, MI 49031
phone/fax: 269.445.2111
email: jl_landscaping@yahoo.com
jllandscaping.com

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

GROVER'S SERVICE
PLUMBING
COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

61120 Cass Road
Cassopolis, MI 49031

Jim Grover
Master Plumber
(269) 268-2017



WrightWay
Lawn Service

Complete Lawn Care Maintenance

- Lawn Fertilization Programs
- Brush Hog work
- Spring & Fall clean-ups
- Mole Treatment
- Shrub trimming
- New Lawns Installed
- Aeration & Dethatching
- Snow Plowing

269-445-3302


22282 Loupee Dr. Cassopolis, MI

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



Ph: 476-2220
Cell: 506-6108


63474 Union Rd.
Vandalia, MI



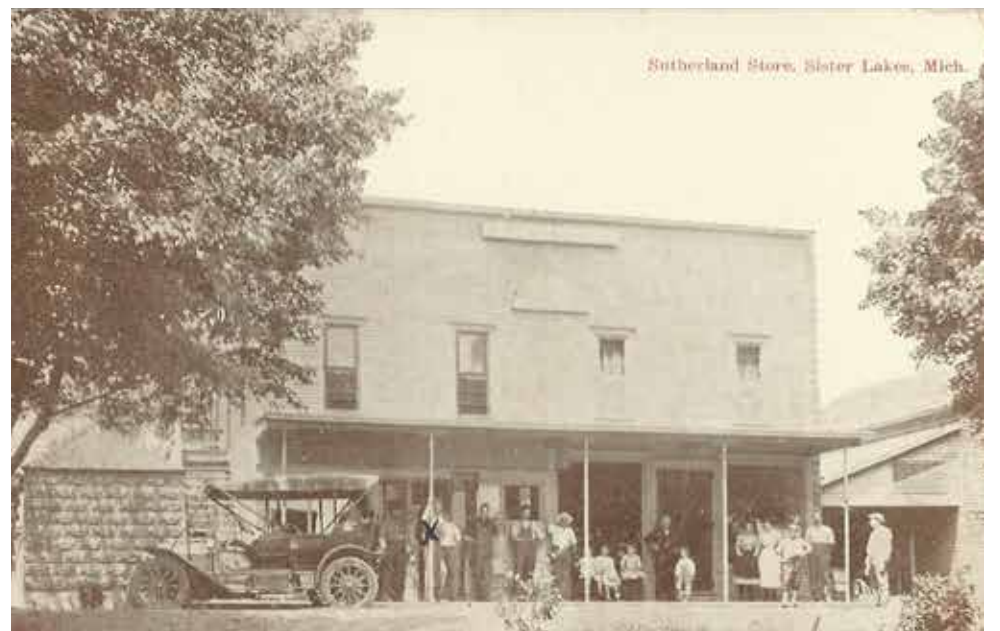
DIAMOND CONSTRUCTION
Remodeling • New Home • Restoration

Bob Bienz

63366 Kirtsey St.
Vandalia, MI 49095
269-739-4010
LICENSED & INSURED
FREE ESTIMATES!
diamondconstr@yahoo.com



HISTORIC POSTCARDS



STRONG
THROUGH EVERY
STORM
FOR 100 YEARS

For life's unexpected storms, Auto-Owners Insurance and your local independent agent will be there when you need us most - just like we have been for 100 years.

UNION
INSURANCE AGENCY LLC

SUE MCCAMMON
Owner/Agent

"For all your MI and IN Insurance needs"
Personal and Commercial

15479 US 12 (Next to post office) 269/641-5998
P.O. Box 79 sue@unionins.net 800/888-4095
Union, MI 49130 www.unionins.net FAX 269/641-5787

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

Imperial Furniture
D O W A G I A C
Family Owned Since 1962

AUGUST 20-SEPTEMBER 3

SMITH BROTHERS
FURNITURE

FACTORY AUTHORIZED
SALE

40% OFF*

*SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE
See Store for Details

Save on Sofas, Loveseats, Chairs, Ottomans & Sectionals

Choose in stock or special order from hundreds of styles & fabrics, or purchase off the floor from a large in stock selection.

(800) 884-5020 | Mon.-Fri. 9-6, Wed. 9-8, Sat. 9-5 | 57530 M-51 South, Dowagiac MI | www.ImperialFurnitureDowagiac.com

CASS COUNTY MEDICAL CARE FACILITY

- State of the Art Skilled Nursing Facility providing professional care with compassion and respect.
- Located on 140 acres among woods and fields
- Outstanding therapy dept. provides physical, occupational, and speech services.
- Generously staffed nursing department
- Variety of activities and home-cooked meals.

269-445-3801
23770 Hospital St. Cassopolis, MI 49031
www.ccmcf.org

HISTORIC POSTCARDS



WELL READ

That's what our readers are
and that's what this newspaper is

Want your message to be **WELL READ** in Neighbors?
Call Fred at 228-1080

Mroczek SOD FARM

KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS
269-646-2009
DECATUR, MI
www.mroczezsodfarm.com

TURF Services
269-782-6990
email: turfservicesmi@gmail.com
10559 Rangeline Rd. Berrien Springs, MI 49103
Hunter Nelson Rainbird

Quality Lawn Sprinkler Systems
Design, Sales, Service Since 1967
Mike Villwock **TORO**

Larry's Painting

269-445-3973
Cassopolis, Mi.
Licensed & Insured
Free Estimates

Specializing in Lake Cottages

New Cottages
Renovations
Boathouses / Carriage Houses
Narrow Lot Designs / Variance Approvals

TODD J. NUNEMAKER, ARCHITECT 574-773-7434

agapedesigns.com
visit for free design consultation

Martin Unlimited FENCE

Fence - Aluminum, Vinyl, Chain Link, Wood
Railing - Vinyl, Aluminum
Vinyl Brock Dock

A Tradition of Excellence

Douglas Martin
www.martinunlimited.net
doug@martinunlimited.net
(269) 445-8205 • (269) 228-0736

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

Howard Jack Goens

QUALITY PAINTING & PAPER HANGING

• Customer Satisfaction Guaranteed
• Insured

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

COUPON RATES Open to the public

Non-Holiday Weekdays
18-hole coupon rate:
\$46 - 2 golfers/cart

After 12 Noon on Weekends & Holidays
18-hole coupon rate:
\$52 for 2 golfers/cart
Must Present Coupon!

Tee time required until 2 pm
No photocopies accepted

Two beautiful 18-hole courses
Wed. & Fri. until 10 AM
18 holes/with cart \$20 p/p
After 10 AM - 3:30 PM \$22 p/p

Hampshire Country Club
29592 Pokagon Highway

CELEBRATING OUR 55th Anniversary
782-7476

Coupon

Vetter-McGill

Better Deals
Better Trade-ins
Better Inventory

15241 M.60 West Three Rivers, MI 49083
866-556-2928

Better Financing
Better Service
Better Website

YEAR-LONG SPECIAL
Buy one oil change and get one free*
To celebrate our 45 years in business!

*Excludes certain models

Vetter-McGill Chevrolet is located on M-60 just West of US 131 in Three Rivers, MI

Call us today at (269) **278-1485**
vetterchevy.com

Open Every Mon. & Wed. 9 am - 8 pm
Tues, Thurs. & Fri. 9 am - 6 pm
Saturday 9 am - 1 pm

OUR CHILDREN

Outdoor fun for all ages

by **SANDY FLEMING**

The last few lazy, hazy weeks of summer are upon us, so it's time to kick those kids outside. There's plenty to do, and the exercise will be good for everyone. If they are at a loss for ideas, try some of these suggestions!

For the Teens

■ **Make a Documentary.** Nearly every teenager has a cause, or can easily get excited about one. Maybe it's cleaning up the environment or tackling a community issue. Whatever it may be, put that idealism to work! Arm the youngsters with an inexpensive camera or even a cell phone, and send them out to document the problem and create a presentation about possible solutions.

They can use the pictures to create a digital display or a presentation, or print things out to create a report or a poster. The next step, of course, is to get some community attention for their project. Contact neighborhood or community leaders to see of presenting at a meeting or making a display is a possibility. Some other ideas include the local library or local church groups. It's important to help teens feel empowered and with just a little guidance, they really can make a difference. Imagine a world where people routinely have positive experiences with being part of the solution to a problem—it wouldn't be long before everything is improved!

■ **Set up an informal sports "camp."** Is your teen an athlete? Encourage your child to invite younger kids from the neighborhood to learn about their favorite sport. Teens can teach exercises and drills while they hone their own skills. Be sure to supervise this activity so no one gets carried away, but let your teen do the organizing and the leading.

■ **Get in shape.** Help your teen set up and stick to an exercise routine that takes them outside each and every day. It might be walking or running, biking or gardening. Encourage them to keep track of consistency and personal-best records. Be sure everyone stays hydrated and safe on those hot days, but let them have a good time. Getting active will help them create healthy life-long habits that will serve them well in the future.

■ **Hire them.** Nearly all kids want a bit of extra cash, and teens are a very

capable bunch. Find outdoor jobs they can do for you or for willing neighbors, such as weeding flower beds, washing cars, mowing or trimming around trees. Negotiate a payment for each job that seems fair to all, then let them work. It's never too early to build a work ethic and to reinforce the idea that earning money is an important part of getting what you want.

■ **Start a collection.** Use the cell phone camera to snap shots of items to collect and identify, like bugs, birds, trees, or flowers. Pictures can be organized into albums and tagged with names and other information to create a lasting memory of summer fun.

For Elementary Kids

■ **Learn some new games.** Use the internet with supervision or check out a games book from the library, and then put a kid in charge of choosing a fun-looking activity, learning it, and teaching it to family and friends. It's great practice for reading comprehension and communication skills, and it boosts independence, too!

■ **Try a scavenger hunt.** Make a list of items to find around the yard or the entire neighborhood and turn the kids loose to track them down. The hunt can ask for physical items to be collected, or it can be strictly paper-and-pencil where they check off or answer questions about the items on the list. Vary the fun by changing the nature of the items to find. Try asking for different sizes (something that is six inches tall or three feet around), different shapes (something round and something square), or different colors (try giving the hunters crayons from a big box and finding things that match their colors).

■ **Set up a treasure trail.** Have the kids write a series of clues that lead to the next clue and finally end with a surprise (like a treat or a coupon for some video game time). They can set up trails for each other, then follow the trail that someone else made for them. The older the kids are, the more elaborate and complex the trails can become. For young kids who are just learning to read, keep it simple, like "Look under the tree." Older kids can handle riddles, rhymes, secret codes and more to create more challenge.

■ **Put on a shadow show.** String up a rope or use a clothesline and hang up a light-colored bed sheet. Put the

audience on one side and the actors on the other side. Shine a light from behind the actors so that their shadows show up on the sheet for the audience. Act out a show with a lot of action and pantomime!

■ **Host your own Olympics.** This is a great summer to plan and host your very own backyard Olympics as the real deal happens down in Rio. Let the athletes compete in conventional contests like races and long jumps. You can even add some silly competitions like record number of hops on one foot or longest time holding a handstand. Be sure to arrange some ribbons or other prizes for the winners!

■ **Plan and plant a garden.** It may be a little late for a traditional vegetable garden, but there are plenty of flowering plants that could get set out when the weather is right. Pick a spot in the yard where the plants will be safe, and then decide on a shape for the garden, spade it up, and put in the plants.

For Young Children

■ **Explore a little world.** Give your child a large loop of yarn or string and a magnifying glass. Put the loop down on the ground and use the magnifying glass to see what lives there. Your child is likely to find various tiny creatures and a host of little plants, as well as being able to get up close and personal with grains of sand and little rocks. If you wish, give the child a notebook and a pencil to sketch their finds in a field journal. Move the string, and find out what is the same and what is different about the new spot.

■ **Go on a color hike.** Give the kids some crayons from a big box (you can stick to outdoor hues if you wish), then go for a walk to find things that match the colors.

■ **Do crayon rubbings.** Use crayons and white paper to make texture rubbings of different items around the yard or the neighborhood. You could even trade papers and try to identify where the rubbing came from.

■ **Start a rock collection.** Kids adore collections, and rocks are plentiful and free. Provide a box or other suitable container, and let them collect rocks. They could create a themed collection of rocks of a special color or shape, try to find rocks that are meaningful in some way, or simply see how many they can find.

■ **Follow directions.** Create a set of easy-to-read directions cards with instructions such as "run to the tree" or "go to the car." Have your child choose a card and read or listen to the instructions, then do as the card says. Increase the challenge level by doing two or more cards at once and forcing memory usage.

■ **Go on an attribute hunt.** Create a scavenger hunt for your child that has them searching for items that have specific traits, such as certain colors, sizes, shapes or textures. See how many of these things they can find outdoors.

■ **Use sidewalk chalk.** You can grab a box of chalk very inexpensively at most stores and use it on nearly any paved or hard surface. Let the kids show off their artistic creativity, create games to play on chalk outlines, and much more! Best of all, everything washes clean in the next rain and you can start all over again.

For the Whole Family

■ **Take a hike.** Walking is good for the soul, whether you hike in a park or take a jaunt around the neighborhood. Take time to note the wonders around you, and be sure to really listen to the kids. Remember, the most important gift you can give them is your time and attention!


■ **Create rock art.** Find some neat rocks and then paint them or use them in rock crafts. You can use tempera paints or chalk to color rocks, and if you like your creation and want to preserve it, try coating it with some inexpensive shellac or clear spray.

■ **Revive traditional games.** Check your garage or even your grandparents' garage, and find that old croquet set, the old badminton net, or other game equipment from bygone times. Now, teach those games to your kids.

Enjoy these last few weeks before the routines of fall settle in-time with the kids is precious, and time outside with kids is even more precious!

Sandy Fleming is an educational consultant and private tutor in Edwardsburg. Start the school year off right and tame the homework monster at your house! Visit <http://sandyflemingonline.com/how-to-eliminate-homework-hassles-in-30-minutes-a-day/> and put an end to homework hassles!

Danyelle Rife
57983 M-62
Cassopolis, MI 49031
Ph: (269) 782-5111 • Fx: (269) 782-4533



Linda's RESTAURANT
EST. 1979
Serving Lunch and Dinner

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

Starboard Choice
MARINE
68502 Dailey Rd.
Edwardsburg, MI 49112
Phone: 269-414-4351
www.STBCM.com



NATURE NOTES

Osprey and Sandhill Cranes

Pat Conrad of St. Joseph sent an update on the osprey nest that I have featured at various times this year, located on the Indiana-Michigan Power siren on Madron Lake Road near Buchanan.

As early as the middle of March both adults were seen rebuilding the nest atop the siren, and nearly four months later we see at least two young along with one parent, likely the mother, waiting for their next meal.

Osprey have quite a lot of habitat in Cass County and can be found along Dowagiac Creek, and other bodies of water.

On average, osprey lay three eggs per year. Its unclear to me if three young exist in the nest, but two healthy babies appear in the photo.

The young will likely fledge the nest in about a week to ten days. Notice the young have a buffy coloration on their chests. This will fade to white, a few weeks after they leave the nest.

Osprey reuse old nests sites whenever possible. This pair of adults have been using this pole for at least three years.

Southbound ospreys may appear in Southwest Michigan by the middle of August with the bulk of the northern population moving through in September. They spend the winter in southern US and Mexico.



Osprey young with mother in nest atop I&M Power siren, Madron Lake Road. Photos by Pat Conrad.

Janet M. King of Watervliet Township found two adult sandhill cranes, out foraging with their chick. King took some wonderful photos of the three cranes as they searched for food.

Cranes eat vegetable matter such as waste corn and roots, but they also feed on small animals such as frogs, salamanders and mice. Although they are never far from water, cranes rarely eat fish.

Sandhill cranes are doing quite well after populations plummeted during the early and middle 20th Century.

Through legal protection and the banning of certain pesticides such as DDT, numbers began to increase across the US and Canada. Osprey populations also recovered in part through the banning of DDT.

The sandhill crane chick will stay with his or her parents until sometime in late winter when the family group breaks up.

Most sandhill cranes migrate to the southern US for the winter months, but the species is being seen in southern Michigan during the winter, unless the weather becomes too severe.

In the winter of 2000-2001, I witnessed 72 sandhill cranes in a shallow area of Lake LaGrange, in a heavy snowstorm. The other experienced bird-watcher I was with at the time was ecstatic that sandhill cranes were present in good numbers that late in the fall/winter. Since

then sandhill cranes have been found regularly in southern Michigan throughout early and middle part of winter. The exception being the winter of 2013-2014 when higher than average snowfall and lower than average temperatures forced cranes southward until spring.

Those who have followed this column for years know that by early July, some shorebirds begin their southward, or "fall" migration. This week reports have been received of southbound shorebirds such as willet, marbled godwit, and American avocet, all seen along the Lake Michigan beaches in Berrien County. Don't get your winter coats out just yet, as fall migration is a longer process than spring migration. One might characterize fall migration as a more leisurely process for many bird species.

Report your sightings to Jonathan Wuepper at wuepperj@gmail.com



Adult sandhill cranes with chick.

LOCAL HISTORY

Thomas Bond's Civil War Diary

Provided by Cass District Library
Local History Branch

Thomas Faxton Bond was serving in the 19th Michigan Infantry during the Civil War. Bond was wounded in his back on May 15, 1864 and spent considerable time in hospital. His brother Frank died October 15, 1864.

During the 1860s the extended Bond family lived in and around Dowagiac, specifically in Wayne and Volinia Townships, likely living on property that is located between the current roads Fosdick and Crane Streets, northeast of Dowagiac.

It is believed that Thomas F. Bond lived in Volinia Township with his wife Clara, often referred to as "Darling", and his young child in 1864.

During December of 1864, T.F. Bond was in the Army Hospital at Louisville, Kentucky.

Bond's diary concludes at the end of December 1864.

Sunday, December 25, 1864 -- A stormy day and did not feel very well. but went over and put the hall in readiness for the meeting which was attended by very few, but a good sermon. I remained at the room for most of the afternoon felt lonesome and sad, without one word from my loved ones. But the time will come soon I hope when I can return to them.

Monday, December 26, 1864 -- A Gloomy day but were very busy preparing things to be sent in the

box, to distribute them through the Wards. The things were very nice indeed & the men seemed very much pleased with them, and wrote letters in return. I wrote one to Lettie E. Harison, and one to Robbie and Mary Grimes. I hope they will be pleased with them. Good news from Sherman that Savannah has fallen.

Tuesday, December 27, 1864 -- Still stormy and muddy [sic]. What a dreadful time to get about. Was not feeling very well at all and had a dreadful headache, in mom. Chaplian staid but a little while. Was not feeling well. Received letters from Clara. & Thede, Bess and Ed, and one from M. Daniels. My loved ones are well and Cynthia is getting better. What a comfort it is to get good letters from home, especially to me. Wrote Thede [Theodore Bond, brother] & a few lines to Clara.

[Editors note: transcription of surviving portion of letter, from Thomas F. Bond to Theodore Bond:

27 Dec 1864

Brown Hospital
Louisville, Ky.

Dear brother & Sister,

I have long intended to write you, especially since I heard of C's [Clara's] sickness. Don't you know it would be most impossible for one to write each one separately, & I knew you would hear how I prospered. I am looking anxiously every day for a letter from Clara, to know how you all get along. Have not heard from her since last Sunday week. She said that Father was not well, but did not say how he was complaining. Is it the trouble with his lungs again. [?].

Sister, I was very sorry to hear of your severe sickness and I hope ere this you have recovered. I wrote Clara last Sat. and sent you a Christmas present. What is the reason that none of you write a word

since I came back.[?] I wrote two letters to you all, but guess the first one written about Thanksgiving was lost. I wish you all would write as often as you can for I get lonesome and want to hear from home. My health continues about as when I was with you. Feel much better on some days than others.

There have been several storms, bad days & now trying to rain. I see by the news that there has been severe weather north. We have had some snow & a few cold days, but the mud is ankle deep now. Received the news last night of the fall of Savannah with 800 prisoners, 140 heavy guns, 13 engines, rising of 100 cars, 3300 bales of cotton & C. But Hardee got away with most of the men by crossing the Savannah River in the night. Success seems to crown our army in all directions. The prospect that Hood will loose his whole army, for he cannot cross the Tennessee, the water is so high & his pontoons have been carried away.

Many of the prisoners captured by Thomas forces near Nashville passed through this place and were bare footed, with their feet frozen, ragged and dirty. Isn't it dreadful to think of. But here comes mail call & I will go & see if I have a letter. Well, I have just got Clara's letter with yours enclosed, also, one from Bess and Ed & one from Daniels from Detroit. I am glad to hear that Cynthia is getting well again & hope she will come to stay with you a while. Wish you could have made a visit at Keeler, but this is a world of disappointment.

About the letters from Fathers, I tried to make all allowance for how I considered how different it is now from what it was when we were all there. Are glad they are all well & will reply to the childrens letter soon. Am in the hopes there will be a spell that you

can roll up your house. Thede, I want you to talk to Jim with tears in your eyes, as a brother should. A pity I think he can't write a letter once in a while. It would not only be a pleasure to me, but an advantage to him & hope he will condescend to write me in the future. [Rest of letter missing].

[Resume diary]

Wednesday, December 28, 1864 -- Rather a gloomy day, had the appearance of snow. Wrote to Cousin Em. Sent a picture, sent some papers to Clara. Wrote letters to Kate Hills in the afternoon & sent a picture. Wrote to Marcus Daniels in the evening. Not much news of importance. Remained in the room most of the day, not feeling very well towards night & did not rest well at all.

Thursday, December 29, 1864 -- A Gloomy day and felt rather lonesome. There was an examination through the Hosl. [hospital] and quite a number of men sent to them. Commences quite a thinning amongst the Cooks. Several very sick in the 7th Ward through the night. Nothing special of importance.

Friday, December 30, 1864 -- Cold and gloomy with some snow before night. Was not feeling well as usual. The Poor man that suffered all night in the ward died i the forenoon. The Ambulance brought up some papers from town. Got some of my photographs and wrote to Clara and sent one to her. How I wish I was with my dear ones again. Sent papers.

Saturday, December 31, 1864 -- A very pleasant day, distributed some papers in forenoon & in afternoon wrote letters to Mother Bond and Liz. and Ed. Sent Photograph to Mother. A very Cold night. Oh! for the time to come, when I can return to my blessed ones and remain.

[End of diary].

Pest control that works!
Specializing in termites
spiders, mice, rats and
bees
**Residential, Commercial
and Industrial**

RS Pest Control
Goshen, IN
1-574-534-7378
1-866-706-7378

INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

Boats, Marinas, Piers, Sports

Apollo Marine..... 19..... 888-996-BOAT
<http://www.apollomarine.net>
 Boat Butler..... 11..... 476-2222
<http://www.boatbutlermarine.com>
 Eagle Lake Marine..... 18..... 699-5103
<http://www.eaglelakemarine.com>
 Hampshire Golf..... 15..... 782-7476
 O'Donnell's Docks..... 10..... 244-1446
<http://www.odonnellsdocks.com>
 Pier Perfection..... 18..... 262-0082
<http://www.pierperfections.com>
 Starboard Choice..... 16.....
 TriLakes Marine..... 3..... 641-2154
<http://www.trilakesmarine.com>

Construction, Home Improvement, Home Repair

Acculevel..... 18..... 574-532-3257
<http://www.acculevel.com>
 Advantage Plumbing..... 13..... 687-7192
 Agape Designs..... 15..... 574-773-7434
<http://www.agapedesigns.com>
 BLT Mechanical..... 13..... 269-476-4114
 Budget Blinds..... 12..... 888-882-8343
<http://www.budgetblinds.com>
 Carters Motors..... 13..... 476-2220
 Cass Outdoor Power..... 9..... 445-2231
 Diamond Construction..... 13..... 759-4010
 Enbridge..... 5..... 811
 Fryman Construction..... 13..... 329-9088
 Goens Painting..... 15..... 423-7813
 Grover's Plumbing Service..... 13..... 268-2017
 Hearth & Home..... 18..... 800-769-3031
<http://www.hearthandhome-sb.com>
 Imperial Furniture..... 14..... 800-884-5020
<http://www.imperialfurnitureadowagi.com>

Larry's Painting..... 15..... 445-3973
 Martin Unlimited..... 15..... 445-8205
<http://www.martinunlimited.com>
 RS Pest Control..... 17..... 574-534-7348
 Saugatuck Gallery..... 18..... 857-1189
 Sun and Shade Awnings..... 16..... 244-5307
<http://www.sunandshadeawnings.com>

Dental/Medical/Health

Afdent..... 20..... 574-277-2220
<http://www.afdent.com>
 Cass COA..... 4..... 445-8110
<http://www.casscoa.org>
 Cass Medical Care Facility..... 14..... 4445-3801
<http://www.ccmcf.org>
 Forest Glen..... 12..... 782-5300
<http://www.leisure-living.com>
 Smile Center..... 7..... 445-5550
<http://www.smilecentermi.com>

Financial

Compass Wealth Advisors..... 8..... 888-820-9100
<http://www.compasswa.com>
 Kemner Iott Benz Insurance..... 10..... 445-2425
<http://www.kemneriott.com>
 Union Insurance..... 14..... 641-5995
<http://www.unionins.net>

Food, Restaurants, Liquor, Catering, Markets

Frankie's by the Tracks..... 19..... 273-9015
 Hardings..... 13..... 445-2607
 Jake's Country Meats..... 8..... 445-3020
<http://www.jakescountrymeats.com>
 Locke's Fruitful Acres..... 12..... 423-6536
 Lindy's..... 16..... 782-4533

Stacy's..... 4..... 699-5113
 Zeke's..... 7..... 782-5070
<http://www.zekesadowagi.com>

Lawn/Landscaping

JL Landscaping..... 13..... 445-2111
<http://www.jllandscapingsite.com>
 Mroczek Sod Farm..... 15..... 646-2009
<http://www.mroczeksodfarm.com>
 New Leaf Landscape..... 2..... 462-0966
 North Star Landscaping..... 7..... 445-9100
<http://www.northstarlandscape.net>
 Prime Property Care..... 13..... 591-9848
 Turf Services..... 15..... 782-6990
 Wright Way Lawn Service..... 13..... 445-3302

Real Estate

Michigan Lakes Team..... 12..... 240-0145
<http://www.michiganlakesteam.com>

Misc.

Cass District Library..... 13..... 445-3400
<http://www.cass.lib.mi.us>
 Cleopatra's Hair Hut..... 13..... 445-2686
 Just Hair..... 11..... 445-8400
 McGann Hay Funeral Home..... 11..... 574-232-1411
<http://www.mcgannhay.com>
 Red Diamond Services..... 8..... 574-299-6722
<http://www.reddiamondservices.com>
 Tuesley Hall Kanopa..... 6..... 445-1818
<http://www.thklaw.com>
 Vetter-McGill Chevrolet..... 15..... 278-1485
<http://www.vetterchevy.com>
 Village Floral..... 11..... 445-2393

ART SALE
 OVER 1,000 PAINTINGS & FRAMES
 "THE LARGEST SELECTION IN THE MIDWEST"
50-60% OFF
 SAUGATUCK GALLERY
 317 BUTLER STREET, SAUGATUCK PH: 269-857-1189
 IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN SAUGATUCK NEAR THE PARK
 OPEN 7 DAYS MAY-OCTOBER

Eagle Lake Marine
 YOUR PLACE IN THE SUN
DON & CHARMAYNE
 68777 Avenue A
 Edwardsburg, MI 49112
 Phone: (269) 699-5103
 Fax: (269) 699-7488
 Toll Free: 1-888-EAGLE-LA
 (1-888-324-5352)
www.eaglelakemarine.com

Hearth & Home
 DESIGN CENTER INC.
 51129 SR 933 NORTH
 SOUTH BEND, IN 46637
 574-272-3030
 1-800-769-3031
 FAX 574-272-6553
 HERB & MARY ANN HERENDEEN
 WOOD & GAS
 FIREPLACE & STOVES
 VENEER BRICK & STONE
 GAS LOGS & MANTELS
 OUTDOOR GAS GRILLS
 INSTALLATION
hearthandhome-sb.com

END OF SUMMER SPECIAL: 10% OFF

PIERS – BOAT LIFTS
FENCING – DECKS
POWER WASHING
 Shore Station, Brock Dock
 Forever Aluminum
 Max Dock Solutions
 Lake Shore Products, Inc.

JMS PIER PERFECTION, LLC
jms@pierperfection.com **269-262-0082**
 Josh Sedlar, Owner Call Today for a Quote
www.PierPerfection.com
 SERVING SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN FULLY INSURED

Acculevel
 Are you experiencing...
 • Wet Basement • Cracked Or Bowing Basement Walls • Sunken Concrete
 • Leaky Wall Cracks • Exterior Wall Cracks • Walkway Trip Hazards
 • Wet Crawl Space • Interior Wall Cracks • Tilting/Uneven Steps

Acculevel can help.
 Foundation Repair
 Waterproofing
 Crawl Space Repair

Call today for a free estimate
574-532-3257
 Labor & Materials Guarantee
 References Available

or visit www.Acculevel.com
 email: jim@acculevel.com

THE LAST WORD

Suffering through a hot breakfast with a Texan

My old friend Kim and I were having breakfast a couple weeks ago at a nearby restaurant and Kim was doing his best to explain to me why he had left this area and relocated to a home near Brownsville, Texas.

"It's because I can't stand the winters here," he said to me straight faced.

It was about 9:30 in the morning and we were sitting in an outdoor patio area for the meal, something he had strongly suggested. By the time the food came I was sweating pretty heavily.

Even though it had been just a short wait after ordering, if you remember late July this year, you'll remember that there were quite a few days that we call scorchers. This was one of them.

"Brownsville is about as far south as you can get in the United States, and we never have cold weather," he said.

Trails of sweat beads ran down my face. My shirt was so wet you'd have thought I'd just gotten out of the lake.

"I can stand hot weather ... heck, this is balmy to me," he said, smiling at my discomfort. "Down home, we don't hardly even turn on the air until it's over 90, and that's just for sleeping. With a quilt."

My toast was limp and soggy; my eggs had returned to an almost liquid state and my hash browns had welded themselves together as if there were some kind of mortar holding them.

Mutant, I thought as the hair on the back of my neck crisped and the light breeze caused it to break off and float

through the air over my plate. How can anyone be comfortable when it's so hot your fingernails sweat?

"I haven't shoveled snow since I moved," he said triumphantly. "I don't even own a snow shovel any more. And I'm pretty sure I burned my long johns."

Across the fence from the dining patio a moth hovering over the hot asphalt of the parking lot spontaneously burst into flames.

"I'd much rather have it hot than cold," he said, then spat onto the concrete as if the word "cold" had burned his tongue.

The spittle immediately came to a boil on the sidewalk and vaporized into a thin line of barely visible steam.

"I don't know how anyone can live in this climate," he continued. "In winter all you can do is wrap up, turn up the heat and lie on the sofa ..."

I forced a condescending smile, gritted my teeth and thought about ice fishing ... cross country skiing ... snowmobiling ... and, yes, even shoveling the drive.

"Yeah buddy," he drawled in an adopted-Texan accent, "give me a good hot summer day anytime."

Over in the back corner of the patio, in the shade under the porch, a miserable-looking hound dog rolled onto its side and emitted a long, slow, pained moan.

"Now August here is about as good as it gets, temperature-wise," he said as if he were trying to sell me a used Edsel with a dented front fender and 150,000 miles on the odometer.

I checked to see if he was wearing white shoes.

"I remember when I lived here there was one winter it was so cold that every time you spoke your words would freeze when they came out of your mouth and fall onto the ground ... and if you wanted to hear what someone had said you had to come back in the spring and wait for them to melt."

He chuckled at his own joke.

I cringed. I'd heard it before.

"I remember during the blizzard of '78 when we all ..."

He droned on and on, his voice as prickly as the hot air that emanated from his mouth and joined the wavy lines of heat that were coming off the table and obscuring my vision of him.

The sausage patties on his plate rose into a cone and a molten stream of lava-like gravy sputtered from the top and rolled down the sides.

Oblivious, he reached for the hot sauce and liberally sprinkled it onto the remaining food on his plate ... the food and hot sauce sputtered like cold water hitting red-hot charcoal.

"That winter I vowed that if I could ever get out of here I'd go as far south as I could," he said proudly.

"I'm never coming back here in the winter," he admonished. "Summer's not bad, but since I got here this year there's been several mornings in the 50s ... that's too cold. There was dew all over the tables and stuff outside ..."

That's when I actually felt sorry for him ... like so many of my "snow-bird" neighbors, his blood has thinned to the point that his internal freezing point is somewhere around mid-tepid-degrees

Fahrenheit.

Well our breakfast eventually ended and we parted, with me headed back to the lake to jump into a sailboat and let the breezes push me around, he to jump into an air conditioned plane bound for his beloved (and most certainly hot) south Texas kiln oven.

I probably won't see Kim again for a while; certainly not in the fall, winter or spring unless I go visit him, something us northerners sometimes do when we finally get worn down by the snow and the cold and we need a couple weeks of warmer weather to rejuvenate.

I know he feels sorry for me, stuck here in the snow belt, watching the summer slide away and knowing the cold is just around the corner ... but I have to admit I feel sorry for him, as well.

For all his bluster about the blistering heat; for all the nasty nattering about chattering teeth, bad-mouthing about blue-cold fingers and carping about chapped lips, when all is said and done we've got the best part of the deal.

Because no matter how cold it gets, we can always put on another layer, refill the pocket flask and toss another log into the fireplace ... but when the mercury erupts from the top of the thermometer in the shade on his Texas front porch, he can only get so naked.

And when we northerners do get fed up with a lingering winter, we can always head south for some sunny R&R ... but when a cold-weather hating Texan finally gets sunburnt ... the only option is turning up the AC and lying on the sofa.

Yahoo Buckaroo.

FRANKIE'S **BACK ON TRACK!**
56951 N. Main St.
Three Rivers, MI

By the Tracks

(269) 273-9015



Visit us
again
For the
First Time!

Frankie's Restaurant in Three Rivers has new owners. Over the past few months we've been working hard to return to the quality of the food and the quality of the dining experience to the levels that so many of us fondly remember from years ago. We hope you'll stop by and learn what we mean when we say that we're **"Back on Track!"**

Open M-Th 11-10, Friday & Saturday 11-11
Closed Sunday. Daily food & drink specials
follow us on Facebook at
[frankiesbythetracks](https://www.facebook.com/frankiesbythetracks)

SUPRA
2016



AVALON Luxury Pontoon



Apollo Marine is Open 7 days a week call or stop by today and START SAVING!



SOUTHSIDE OF GRAVEL LAKE
15355 96TH AVE
Lawton, Michigan 49065
269.423-6011

1-888-996-BOAT
We rent Pontoon Boats
Service to most area lakes!
WWW.APOLLOMARINE.NET

MONDAY-SATURDAY 11AM-9PM
SUNDAY 11AM-7PM



Lakeview
Diner

[Facebook.com/LakeviewDinerCass](https://www.facebook.com/LakeviewDinerCass)

"How fun to have a little diner like this in Cass!"

"Pass the word around...Cass has another option for lunch and dinner!"

"Amazing food. Quick service."

"Friendly and Fun Atmosphere! Love the Retro Look!"

(269) 445-3100

HAND DIPPED ICE CREAM HOMEMADE SHAKES SUBS PIZZA SALADS SPECIALTY SOUPS BURGERS FRIES

OUR CUSTOMERS LOVE US!
COME SEE WHY!