

Neighbors

JULY 2024

NOW IN OUR 21ST YEAR

FREE – Take one

A regional newspaper serving Cass County, Michigan and the surrounding area, and distributed at homes and businesses in Dowagiac, Cassopolis, Edwardsburg, Vandalia, Jones, Marcellus, Decatur, Union, Sister Lakes, and Three Rivers, with mail delivery at homes on Diamond, Eagle, Birch, Corey, Donnell, Indian, Magician, Shavehead, Baldwin, Long, Dewey, Cable, Juno, Christiana, Painter, Paradise, Stone, Buck, Lewis, Big & Little Twin and Bair lakes

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

Inside this month

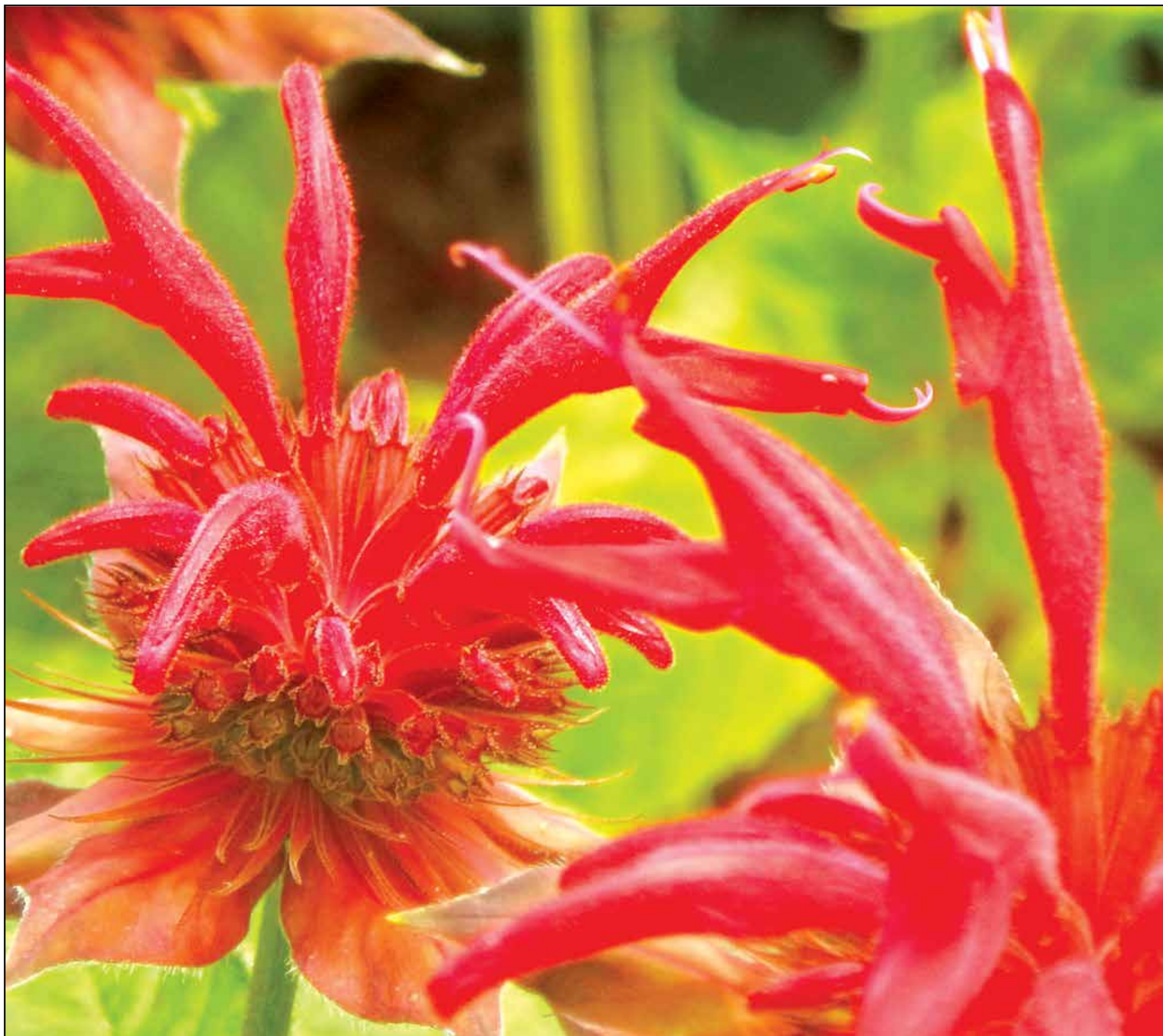
Regional News..... Page 2-4
Regional Events..... Page 5
Lake Life with Jane..... Page 7, 8
Field Trip..... Pages 10-12
Floyd's Postcards..... Pages 13-15
The Last Word..... Page 19
Neighbors is published monthly from March through November.

To contact Neighbors

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

www.cassneighbors.com

sailorphil@philvitale.com
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:
DeFries Gardens
County Park
New Paris, IN

Pages 10-12

Regional News

Cassopolis summer events

The village of Cassopolis has announced the following summer events:

Rock the Block – July 13 (Stone Lake Beach)

Beer garden. Music: 7-10 pm The 1985 Food Trucks: Taqueria Don Chepe (Mexican), Curly Q's BBQ (SWAT (Sweets & Treats), Cottage Inn (Pizza).

Rock the Block – AUG. 17 (Stone Lake Beach)

Beer garden, Music: 7-10 pm The Heavy Load. Food Trucks: Taqueria Don Chepe (Mexican), Dine and Dash Specialty Meats (BBQ), Roundbelly's Pizza (Woodfired Pizza), SWAT (Sweets & Treats).

Ghouls Night Out – October 5 (Cass County Fairgrounds)

Beer garden, Fall family fun (pumpkin carving, haunted barn, etc.). Music: 4-9 pm DJ Butters Pro. Food Trucks: Taqueria Don Chepe (Mexican), Drive Thru Q (BBQ), Cottage Inn (Pizza), SWAT (Sweets & Treats).

Corn and Sausage Roast

A traditional summer event has returned to the downtown Cassopolis area at Saint Ann Catholic Church at 421 North Broadway on Saturday, July 27 from 4 - 7 pm. The event will feature locally grown sweet corn, as well as sausage, side dishes, desserts, and beverages. Tickets may be purchased the day of the event. Cost is \$10 for adults, and free for children ages 5 and under.

For more information and advance ticket sales, contact the parish office at

445- 3000 or stannccass@gmail.com.

VanDyke Revue Band to perform

For the second consecutive summer, the VanDyke Revue Band of Buchanan will perform at the Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum. The event will be at 7 pm July 27, on the museum's back deck. There is no admission charge, and music lovers can enjoy the show from their lawn chairs or on blankets they spread on the ground. The band was founded in 1999 by Dave VanDyke and his father, John. Sensational Scoops of Edwardsburg will sell ice cream during the evening.

Cass County Fair July 28-Aug. 03

The 172nd annual Cass County 4H Fair will be held at the fairgrounds in Cassopolis from July 28. For more information call (269) 445-8265 or visit MyCassCountyFair.com

Diamond Lake sailing program

This summer, the Diamond Lake Yacht Club will host a series of classes and events through AUG. 1 to help introduce sailing to area residents of all ages. Small class sizes for children age 7 - 16 will be held Monday through Thursday, and evening classes and private lessons are available for adults. All classes will be held at the Diamond Lake Yacht Club, 21268 Shore Acres in Cassopolis.

Among the programs are:

KinderSail (Ages 5-6), July 1- 4 from 10 am to noon. Kindersail is a four-day session designed to give the youngest sailors (ages 5- 6) an easy, safe introduction to sailing. This two-hour per day course provides great exposure to sailing while starting to teach them fundamen-

tal sailing and safety skills. Program Cost: \$150 per student.

Morning Sail Camp* (Ages 7 -10), Monday – Thursday 9 am - noon. This class is in the morning to take advantage of the generally lower wind speeds for younger sailors. In this class, youth sailors learn the basic skills to sail a small boat independently. Sailors are taught the parts of the sailboat, the points of sail, capsiz recovery, and basic knot tying. Program Cost: \$160 members/\$200 non-members.

Afternoon Sail Camp* (Ages 11 to 16), Monday-Thursday 1-4 pm. In this class, youth sailors learn the skills to sail a sunfish single handed or a 420 with another sailor or improve their skills on an Opti. Program Cost: \$160 members/\$200 non-members.

Open Sail Camp* (Ages 7 to 16), Monday-Thursday 1-4 pm. All classes are focused on fun as opposed to racing. In this class, youth sailors learn the skills to sail an Opti, sunfish or a 420 with another sailor. On shore they will be taught how to correctly rig their sailboat, launch and then sail the craft.

Program Cost: \$160 members/\$200 non-members

Fun Sail (Open to all ages), Wednesday from 6-8 pm at the DLYC waterfront. Program Cost: Members \$32, non-members \$40. Signing up for multiple sessions is encouraged.

Wind and Wine cruises (18 and over, only those 21+ will be served an alcoholic beverage), Tuesday 6-8 pm. Class Size: 8.

Program Cost: \$64 for members, \$80 for nonmembers. Weekly Wind and Wine cruises are held throughout the summer.

Private Lessons (open to all ages), Monday 6-8:0. Program Cost: Members \$64/person, Nonmembers \$80/person For full details on all of the classes, and registration information, visit <https://www.diamondlakesailing-school.com/>

** The DLYC is offering a limited number of scholarships for youths who need financial assistance to attend. Please contact Louis Csokasy at lrcsokasy@comcast.net or Jackie Comeau Bankowski at jcmgm@aol.com for details.*

Dowagiac Farm & Artisan Market

The city of Dowagiac will host a Farm & Artisan Market on Wednesdays and Saturdays until October 5, from 9 am - 2 pm on the grounds of the Dowagiac Area History Museum, 201 E. Division St In September, the market will be held only on Saturdays. The market features produce and fruit grown in Cass and Berrien counties, along with booths of handcrafted merchandise.

Ed's Open Header Cruise

Join fellow auto enthusiasts, friends and family of the late Ed Kazlauskas, for the seventh annual Open Header Cruise on July 25, from 5:30 - 8:30 pm. The cruise coincides with Dowagiac's Music in the Park concert Series at the Dowagiac Library Event Pavilion at 206 Main St. The concert starts at 7:30 pm..All proceeds benefit the Cass County Cancer Service. For more information or to

FLOE DOCKS & LIFTS

PIER PERFECTION

CASSOPOLIS, MI
269.233.2222
pierperfection.com

EASY LEVEL™ SYSTEM ON LIFTS

EASY LEVEL™ SYSTEM ON DOCKS

Regional News

receive a registration form contact event organizer Curt Rohdy at 269-782-2524.

Rod & Roll Classic Auto Show

The annual Dowagiac Rod & Roll Classic Auto Show, organized and hosted by the Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce since 1990, will take place on Front Street in the Central business District-downtown on Aug. 17, from 7 am - 3 pm with classic cars and music. Show cars arrive between 7 and 10:30 am.

Under the Harvest Moon Festival

Dowagiac's fall festival celebrates Michigan's glorious autumn on October 12 from 10 am - 4 pm.

Hosted by the Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce, this event showcases vendors of handmade and artisan product, Michigan-grown produce, and antiques, and features activities for families.

Dowagiac Christmas Open House Weekend & Theta Mu Craft Show

The Dowagiac Christmas Open House Weekend will be November 14 - 16 from 10 am - 5 pm. Shopkeepers offer special activities and cheer as they present their finest in holiday merchandise during Christmas Open House Weekend, Ascension Borgess-Lee Hospital and the Chamber are proud to host the Dowagiac Christmas Celebration. Enjoy the relaxed pace of holiday shopping, the way it used to be.

Additionally, Theta Mu hosts their annual craft show at Dowagiac Middle School Saturday from 9 am to 3 pm.

Candlelight Christmas Parade

The Dowagiac Candlelight Christmas Parade will be December 6,

from 7-8 pm. In anticipation of the grand procession, South Front Street downtown will be closed to through traffic at 4 pm. The parade steps off at Front and Main streets, heading north on Front Street then circling the downtown.

Dowagiac Music in the Park

This summer, gather downtown from 7:30-9 pm on Thursday evenings for Dowagiac's Music in the Park concert series. Concerts will be held at the Dowagiac District Library Event Pavilion on Main Street, and are an event of the City of Dowagiac's Downtown Development Authority.

For event information visit https://www.cityofdowagiac.com/arts_recreation/entertainment/summer_concert_series.php. There will be no July 4 concert.

Festival, BBQ, Steve's Run

Dowagiac's second annual barbecue competition featuring an amateur division sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbeque Society will be held during the annual Summer Festival July 19 & 20 from 1-7 pm.

This community celebration is a family-friendly event, with music, children's entertainment, games and rides, and food trucks. Families can browse summer sales and the booths of artisans.

In addition, Southwestern Michigan College's annual Steve's Run will start downtown Friday evening.

Bubble gum, toys highlight season

Life in America's small towns conjures up baseball games and other team sports, board games, jacks and marbles, apple pie, bubble gum, bobbles, hot dogs, denim, t-shirts, and bicycles. There is no

shortage of those items in the Edwardsburg Area Historical Museum's first exhibit of 2024, Small Town Americana, which debuted in May.

Drawing on the museum's inventory and items loaned by museum members, the spirited display, which celebrates small-town life, runs through July 13. It will be followed by two other exhibits, Edwardsburg 1900-1920, which opens July 16 and closes on Halloween (Oct.31), and Christmas in Toyland, from Nov. 5 through Dec. 14.

The last two are still in the early planning stages, but display chairs Laura Jamrog and Judy Montgomery will pull items from the museum inventory for Edwardsburg 1900-1920. That exhibit will showcase the collection of Edwardsburg photos taken by George Andrus of The Edwardsburg Argus in the first two decades of the 20th Century. George and Charles Andrus, along with their grandfather, Henry Andrus owned the Argus. The collection of about 350 photographs, was donated in four large binders by Charles Andrus' son, Dean, soon after the museum was founded. They are images of people, buildings, streets, animals, and businesses, mostly in the Village of Edwardsburg. They will be complemented by various documents and items such as sheet music, and utensils, as well as mannequins outfitted in popular clothing styles from those decades.

The last exhibit, Christmas in Toyland, will be a colorful exhibit that will be, as Jamrog said, "all about being a kid again." All Christmas trees will be decorated, with toys everywhere throughout the museum rooms.

The museum will close on Dec. 14,

and re-open in mid-May, 2025.

Cass County Historical Society Lecture and event series

Unless otherwise stated, there will be a short business meeting at 6:30 pm with lectures or tours beginning at 7 pm.

JULY 16, 6:30 pm - Edwardsburg and Cass County Historical Societies' Show 'N Tell of artifacts, family heirlooms and tools. Bring your treasures to the Edwardsburg History Museum, 26818 Main Street, and share their history or have one of our experts weigh in! A short lecture will follow on George Redfield.

AUG. 17, 1-3:30 pm - Red Brick Schoolhouse on the corner of M-62 & Brick Church Road will host BACK To SCHOOL and BACK In TIME: Celebrate the Red Brick School and One-Room School Houses in our area. Come see what schools were like in the 19th and early 20th century.

SEPT. 17, 6:30 pm - A celebration of trains at the Dowagiac Depot, 200 Depot Drive. Train models, photos, and historic memorabilia will be on display as well as a juried artist show. Refreshments and speakers from the Historical Society and the Blue Dart Art group.

OCT. 13, noon - 5 pm - Annual Fall Festival - Newton House. Come to the Fall Festival at historic Newton House, 20689 Marcellus Hwy., Decatur. This is a free, family-friendly event featuring kids' activities, artisan vendors, free snacks, docent-led house tours, wagon rides through Fred Russ Forest Park with Civil War Reenactments and lectures.

EXPERIENCE

for today's market

JAN LAZZARA
RE/MAX 100
& BY THE LAKE



574.532.8001

JANLAZARRA.COM

LICENSED IN
INDIANA & MICHIGAN



Regional News

Back to School, Back in Time

The Cass County Historical Society will host "Back to School, Back in Time" at the Red Brick School House on M-62 and Brick Church Rd, Cassopolis, on Saturday August 17, from 1 - 3:30 pm. The event is to show what schools were like in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and to educate the community on the "one-room schoolhouse treasure."

The Red Brick schoolhouse was built in 1848 to replace a log cabin school there. The doors closed and its bell was silenced in 1960 with consolidation into a larger public school district. The school had operated for over 100 years and was one of more than 100 schools operating in Cass County in the early 1900s.

The inside of the schoolhouse currently reflects the styles and equipment



used in schools between the mid-1800s and the 1960s. This event will include several interactive stations for adults and children, including period music, art, a guest speaker, a mock classroom lesson and more.

The "Back to School, Back in Time" event is free and people of all ages will enjoy the many activities planned. Parking will be available at the House of Prayer Church across the street from the school.



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

Capture Precious Memories

Unique and Beautiful photo etched Markers, Memorials, Garden Urns and Benches - all etched in Genuine Granite.

Bolt Laserworks
WE MAKE IT SPECIAL...

Cassopolis, MI - Ph: (800) 438-2658 - www.boltlaserworks.com



Photo etched garden memorial

WWW.APOLLO MARINE.NET SUMMER SPECIAL

BOAT SHOW PRICING STILL IN EFFECT!



MOOMBA



AVALON



STARCRAFT



APOLLOMARINE.net

**We rent
Pontoon Boats!**

**We service all
area lakes!**



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

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

SALES • SERVICE • STORAGE

Regional Calendar

AREA EVENTS

JULY 12-13 - White Pigeon Days

JULY 13-14 - Underground Railroad Days, Vandalia

JULY 13 - Cassopolis Rock the Block summer concert series

JULY 16 - Edwardsburg & Cass County Historical Societies Show 'N Tell artifacts, Edwardsburg History Museum, 6:30 pm, ccmihistoricalsociety@gmail.com

JULY 18 - Tour of Smith Chapel, Niles 6:30 pm, ccmihistoricalsociety@gmail.com

July 19, 20 - Dowagiac Summer Festival & Dowagiac BBQ competition, 1-7 pm

JULY 19-21 - Centreville Covered Bridge Day

JUNE 22 - Dowagiac Home Tour, www.dowagiachamber.com/events/upcoming-events

JULY 25 - Ed's Open Header Cruise, 5:30 pm,

JULY 28-AUG. 3 - Cass County Fair, Cassopolis, MyCassCountyFair.com

JULY 31-AUG. 3 - Colon Magic Week

AUG. 4-10 - Branch County Fair, Coldwater

AUG. 12-17 - Berrien County Youth Fair, Berrien Springs

AUG. 15-17 - Bluegill Frolic, Marcellus

AUG. 17 - Cass County Historical Society "Back to school, back in time," Red Brick Schoolhouse, Cassopolis, 6:30 pm, ccmihistoricalsociety@gmail.com

AUG. 17 - Cassopolis Rock the Block summer concert series

AUG. 17 - Dowagiac Rod & Roll Classic Auto Show, 10 am - 4 pm, Front Street

AUG. 31 - Fireworks, Lions Park, Sister Lakes

SEPT. 15 -21 - St. Joseph County Fair, Three Rivers

SEPT. 17 - Cass County Historical Society celebration of trains, Dowagiac Depot, 6:30 pm, ccmihistoricalsociety@gmail.com

SEPT 15-21 - St. Joseph County Grange Fair, Centreville

SEPT 26-29 - Four Flags Area Apple Festival, Niles

SEPT 21 - Apple Fest & Craft Show, Coldwater

OCT. 5 - Ghouls Night Out, Cass County Fairgrounds, 4-9 pm

OCT. 12 - Under the Harvest Moon Festival, Dowagiac

OCT. 12 - Harvest and Wine Festival, New Buffalo

OCT. 13 - Annual Fall Festival of the Cass County Historical Society, Newton House, Decatur, ccmihistoricalsociety@gmail.com

NOV. 14-16 - Dowagiac Christmas Open House Weekend & Theta Mu Craft Show; open house 10 am - 5 pm, craft show Saturday, 9 am - 3 pm

NOVEMBER 30 - Small Business Saturday, Dowagiac

DECEMBER 7 - Christmas in Cassopolis

CASS DISTRICT LIBRARY

T'ai Chi with Alyse Knepple. Mondays at 11 am - Mason/Union Branch. Cost \$40.

Little Explorers, Mondays at 11 am, Edwardsburg Branch, Wednesdays at 10 am, Mason/Union Branch. No registration required, free to attend.

Storytime, Thursdays at 11 am. Main Branch.

Big Machines Day, July 8, 1 - 3 pm, Mason/Union Branch.

Tea Tasting with Apothica Teas - Registration Required, July 9, 1 - 2 pm, Edwardsburg Branch. Registration required, call 487-9215.

Adult Craft Club: DIY Custom Marshmallow Roasting Sticks - Registration Required, July 10, 1 - 2 pm, Main Branch. Join us each month for a new craft project at the Main Branch. Registration and payment of \$5 required, call Stephanie Knepple at 749-1384.

Light it Up! - July 10, 2:30 - 3:30 pm, Edwardsburg Branch. For ages 9-12, registration required, call 487-9215.

Cookies and Canvas - July 11, 1 - 2 pm. Main Branch. Registration required, call Stephanie Knepple at 749-1384.

Savage Readers Book Club, July 16, 9 am - Savage Bean Coffee Co. Contact Stephanie Knepple at 749-1384 for more details.

Repro Wildlife Encounter, July 16, 1 - 2 pm, Mason/Union Branch, 4 pm - 5 pm, Howard Branch.

Tea Party with Apothica Teas - July 17, 11 am - noon, Main Branch. Registration required, call Stephanie Knepple at 749-1384.

Bingo Night Fundraiser, July 17, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Mason/Union Branch. Tickets sold for \$6 per card at the door

Love Creek Nature Center: Amazing Mammals, July 18: 1 - 2 pm, Edwardsburg Branch.

Glow Painting Ages 6-11 - July 23, session 1 from 11 am - noon; session 2 2 - 3 pm - Edwardsburg Branch. Session 1 for ages 6-11, session 2 for 12-17. Registration required, call 487-9215.

Teen Pizza Taste Off, July 24, 1 - 2 pm - Main Branch. Registration required, call Stephanie Knepple at 749-1384.

Summer Reading Finale Party, July 25, 4 - 6 pm - Main Branch.

Main Branch Annual Book Sale, July 31 - August 2: 9 am - 5 pm - Main Branch. All books are priced at \$0.25, media is priced at \$0.50. August 2 is \$1 Bag Day- bags will be provided.

For a complete list and description of events visit the library's website at <https://www.cassdistrictlibrary.org/events-programs/>

Dowagiac District Library

Messy Time Fridays! Fizzy Chalk Fireworks, July 5, 11 am - Noon, 11 am, 782-3826.

Teen Matinee Monday, July 8, 3 - 5 pm, for teens 13 through 18

Preschool Story Time July 9. 10:30 - 11:30 am. For children 3-5 years old.

Teen Tuesday: Game Day! July 9m 3-4 pm. For teens 6th through 12th grade

Make & Share Cookbook Club, July 11, 5:15 - 6:30 pm. Reservation required, email (Attn: Erin) dowagiadistrictlibrary@gmail.com

Messy Time Fridays! Flyswatter Painting, July 12, 11 am - noon.

Story Sketching-The Wizard of Oz (2nd Session), July 13, 10 - 11:30 am, July 27 10 - 11:30am

Teen Matinee Monday, Teen Matinee Monday, 3 - 5 pm. For teens 13 through 18

Preschool Story Time, July 16, 10:30 - 11:30 am Dowagiac District Library (map)

Teen Tuesday: Arts & Crafts, July 16, 3 - 4 pm. For teens 6th through 12th grade

Trivia Night at the Library, July 16, 6 - 7 pm. For more information call (269) 782-3826 or email erin@dowagiadistrictlibrary.org.

STEAM for Tweens-Is It Blood? July 17, 4 - 5 pm. For ages 8-12. Register by July 15 at 782-3826 or email (attn: Pam) at dowagiadistrictlibrarystaff@gmail.com

Heated Tropes Book Club-It Ends With Us, Heated Tropes Book Club-It Ends With Us, 6 - 6:45 pm. Email Erin at dowagiadistrictlibrarystaff@gmail.com or call 782-3826.

Book Sale- 3 Days! July 19, 9 am-5 pm, July 20, 9 am - 2 pm, July 22, 9 am-1 pm *BAG DAY!

Indiana Joel's Magic Show, July 19, 10:30 - 11:15 am

Big Bubble Dance Party, July 19. Noon - 1 pm

Teen Matinee Monday, July 22, 3 - 5 pm. For teens 13 through 18

Preschool Story Time, July 23 10:30 - 11:30 am, for 3-5 years old.

Teen Tuesday: Arts & Crafts, July 23, 3 - 4 pm. For teens 6th through 12th grade.

Introduction to Medicare Class, July 23. 6 - 7 pm. Register by calling 782-3826, email erin@dowagiadistrictlibrary.org,

The Inkwell Explorers Book Club for Tweens July 25. 3 - 4 pm. For tweens 9-12 years old.

Messy Time Fridays! Elephant Toothpaste, July 26, 11 am - noon.

Story Sketching-The Wizard of Oz (3rd Session), July 27, 10 - 11:30 am

Teen Matinee Monday July 29, 3 - 5 pm. For teens 13 through 18

Preschool Story Time July 30, 10:30 - 11:30 am. For 3-5 years old

The Nicomachean Ethics by Aristotle (Books VI-X), July 30. 5 - 6 pm. To sign up, email Matt Weston at mweston@dowagiadistrictlibrary.org

TBR Book Club for Teens, July 31, 3 - 4 pm. For teens 13-18 years old.

Make & Share Cookbook Club, August 1. 5:15 - 6:30 pm. To reserve, email (Attn: Erin) at dowagiadistrictlibrarystaff@gmail.com

Messy Time Fridays! Exploding Planets, August 2. 11 am - noon

Teen Matinee Monday, August 5, 3 - 5 pm. For teens 13 through 18

Preschool Story Time, August 6, 10:30 - 11:30 am



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

Business & Finance

Homeowners insurance - how to get the best value

By **Kristen Goodwin**

Kemner, Iott, Benz Agency, an Acrisure Partner

For most people, their home is their largest investment. At some point, you may experience some type of loss or damage to your home whether it is theft, severe storms, fire or a liability loss. Understanding your homeowners insurance policy before a loss occurs will help make that experience less stressful. Most mortgage companies require you to buy a homeowners policy to qualify for a home loan.

What does my homeowners policy cover?

Most homeowners policies protect your home and personal property should you experience a loss from burglary, theft, fire, and/or severe storms. The personal liability on your policy protects you should someone be injured on your premises or you are responsible for damage to another person's property – your dog bites a visitor, your child throws a baseball through the neighbor's window, someone falls on your icy sidewalk.

Why is my insurance company insuring my home for more/less than the purchase price?

Your homeowners policy normally insures your home for the rebuilding cost. This can vary significantly depending on the market in your area.

If the market value is higher than the rebuilding cost, much of the real estate value is in the land. Since the land isn't at risk from theft, windstorm, fire and the other perils in your homeowners policy, you will not want to include this in the value of the dwelling. By including

the land value, you will pay a higher premium than you should.

In some housing markets, people can purchase a home for less than the rebuilding cost. If this is the case, your homeowners policy will insure the home for more than the purchase price of the home. By insuring your home at the "rebuilding" cost, you should qualify for replacement cost to cover the cost to replace your home and personal property, instead of "actual cash value" coverage, which will only cover the depreciated value.

What can I do to lower my homeowners premium? -

- Raise your deductible – The deductible is the amount of money you have to pay in the event of a loss.
- Ask about discounts – Talk to your agent about insuring your home and auto with the same company. You may be able to add a personal umbrella policy and/or life insurance policy for additional discounts. Insureds that are 55 or over may qualify for a mature discount. Some companies offer group discounts for members of credit unions, professional associations, employer groups, etc.
- Have you put a new roof on your home? You may qualify for a discount if you have replaced your roof. Most companies will require some type of documentation to apply this discount to your policy.
- Maintain a good credit record – your credit record has an impact on your insurance score. To improve your credit record, pay your bills on time, keep your credit balances low, and cancel any credit

cards you do not use. Unused credit cards show available credit and can have an adverse affect on your credit score.

Will my premium increase if I have a loss?

Some insurance companies offer a discount if you are loss free for five years as well as surcharging for claims. By maintaining your home and preparing for summer storms and winter weather, many claims can be avoided. Updating old electrical and plumbing systems can reduce the risk of fire and water damage. If you do have a claim, discuss your claim with your agent or claims representative. If your loss is small, you may save money

by paying for the claim yourself as opposed to seeing an increase on your homeowners policy.

How often should I review my homeowners insurance policy?

Review your policy at least once a year. This is a tool you can use to make sure you are properly insured, you are receiving discounts you qualify for, and you are not paying for something on your policy you no longer need. Also, contact your agent whenever you make any major purchases or additions to your home.

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
- S.E.A.T.
- Cardio Challenge
- Tai Chi
- H.I.L.I.T.
- 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

Cub Cadet

 <p>STARTING AT: \$2,299*</p> <p>XT1 LT42B LAWN TRACTOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 540cc B&S Pro Engine • 42" Stamped Deck • Tuff Torq® Transmission 	 <p>STARTING AT: \$3,299*</p> <p>XT2 LX46 LAWN TRACTOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 HP+ Kohler 7000 HD • 46" Fabricated Deck • Tuff Torq® Transmission 	 <p>STARTING AT: \$3,599*</p> <p>ZT1 50 ZERO-TURN RIDER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 HP+ Kawasaki FR691V • 50" Fabricated Deck • Hydro-Gear EZT 2200 	 <p>STARTING AT: \$6,599*</p> <p>ZTX4 48 ZERO-TURN RIDERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 HP+ Kohler KT-Pro 7000 • 48" Fabricated Deck • Hydro-Gear ZT 3100
 <p>STARTING AT: \$419*</p> <p>SCP 100 PUSH MOWER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 140cc Briggs & Stratton • 21" 3-N-1 Mowing Deck • 1.9 bu. dust blocking bag 	 <p>STARTING AT: \$499*</p> <p>SC300B SELF-PROPELLED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 163cc Briggs & Stratton • 21" 3-N-1 Deck • Front Wheel Drive 	 <p>STARTING AT: \$679*</p> <p>SC500K SELF-PROPELLED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 173cc Kohler Engine • 21" 3-N-1 mowing deck • High Rear-Wheel Drive 	 <p>STARTING AT: \$1,199*</p> <p>MUSTANG GARDEN TILLER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 208cc Troy-Bil® Engine • 18" Tilling Width • Dual-Direction Tine

Cub Cadet

Cass Outdoor Power Equipment

62101 M-62 South, Cassopolis, MI 49031 . 269-445-2231

1 Restrictions apply. See store for details. *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. For full warranty details, visit cubcadet.com or see your local dealer. See your local dealer for limited warranty details and information. Certain restrictions apply. Specifications and programs are subject to change without notice. Images may not reflect dealer inventory and/or unit specifications. † As rated by Kohler, all power levels are stated in gross horsepower at 3,600 RPM per SAE J1940 as rated by engine manufacturer. †† As rated by Kawasaki, horsepower tested in accordance with SAE J1995 and rated in accordance with SAE J2723 and certified by SAE International. Δ Commercial products are intended for Professional use.

EXCEPTIONAL FINANCING OFFERS AVAILABLE



Lake Life with Jane

Welcome to July!



Hello Neighbors and welcome to July, that HUGE month where we celebrate one of the most spectacular of all summer holidays just tailor made for lake life--the 4th of July! I've been on Diamond forever. We've evolved from having 850 family and friends bunking with us, chartering out groups to the sandbar with our boat and wave runners to play and party-kids and dogs included, and heading out at night to anchor and watch the incredible fireworks display. Thirty-three years of this, the little ones are adults ... some whom have kiddos of their own (mine included), two of the best furry four-legged first mates I could ever have are gone and missed but nevertheless, my rescue Poppy has taken to lake life like a natural.

Soooooo ... the Big Bang is just days away so you're probably busy and not reading this. If you are, it's probably all beat up and wrinkled, sections out of place, stained with salsa and drips of High Noon, just passed around the table over and over to anyone who happens to sit down to scan the ads (I know, who reads my fluff), and it will be used with the kindling to start the bonfire tonight.

The fact of the matter is, I struggle with this fluff. Do you want a recipe for Poppy Seed Muffins? How to prevent flies from ruining your outdoor food buffet (my husband still can't believe I actually used the word p*ss when describing what the little f***---do, but it's so disgusting I truly needed to get the message across. Did you get your food netting covers???)

Moving on-I didn't want to bombard you with photos of the red, white and blue traditional decorations and such, you can do your own thing, but this is my own thing and I just do it every year just like I put four little pumpkins on my window ledge every October. Maybe my kids will talk about it when I'm dead. I know you know how to set up your place for the fourth, and the cool thing is that decorations at the Dollar Store, Dollar General, and Michael's are so, so inexpensive. I save my stuff from year to year, but Miss Perfect is a closet slob and I spend an hour untangling everything and ironing the banners. This year I trashed it all and bought some new things and a storage bin. I'll write about it next July like I've been doing it forever.

One last little thing about flies, bees, ants and anything that may rain on your primary color parade. I know, I'm obsessed with filthy creatures contaminating the food and the surfaces on which we serve. We went thru the summer of the bees (Tip: Keep your tables wiped down with a solution of equal parts vinegar and water, and add a pot of marigolds or a vase of eucalyptus. They really hate the smell of dryer sheets so tuck one in your pocket). Then of course the flies and the ants. It's always about the sticky sweet stuff we leave behind, and it's not just the kids and their popsicles. Hello Margaritaville. So Martha advises that

you keep an old (or new) plastic trash can nearby sans plastic bag and fill it part-way with water. Rather than dispose of beverage bottles and cans in your regular outdoor trash, toss them into this. Before you close shop for the night, drain the can in some deep dark secret place on your property and dispose of bottles and cans responsibly. It's all about tossing that stuff to when you see it and not letting it linger around. And that overflowing trash can that everyone is pretending not to see is attracting big crowds of partying germ carriers you didn't invite. And wipe all those surfaces on your patio, porch or deck down at night with a spray bottle of vinegar and water and paper towels that you keep stashed and ready to use (or have the last ones who trickle in do it) so you wake up to a sanitary environment in which to have your coffee and mimosas.



My First Herb Garden

The hot topic this month is a little bit of gardening, specifically growing some of the things that you actually like to use in your cooking during the summer months. I love to garden and I think that's what led me to my love of cooking. You look at food in a whole new light when you start to use fresh ingredients like greens and veggies grown in your own backyard. There was a time when I grew every vegetable under the sun from broccoli to turnips to Brussels sprouts. My first garden at the lake had 17 tomato plants. I made a lot of salsa! Now my passion leans more toward flowers and landscaping but I'll always have my herb gardens and I grow some types of lettuces and spinach. And you got lunch! It really satisfies my creative urge to add some flowers to the mix and tuck a few beds away into areas of my yard to fit in seamlessly with the landscape. Perennial herbs that grow in our time zone are Thyme, Oregano, Chamomile, Mint, Chives and Tarragon to name a few. It doesn't surprise me that these particular herbs either become invasive, double or triple in size from season to season, or the seeds scatter and the plants pop up in other areas, as in the case of chives. Pretty cool! More on these herbs as we get to the recipes I'm going to share.



My plots and raised beds of vegetable gardens (or cabbage patches as my late mother-in-law called them) at the lake and in Chicago gave way to landscaping and making flower beds, trellises with climbing vines and roses and little woodland gardens with paths and statues. And I have found that there is no going outside to do one simple thing, not even water the geranium hanging on my back porch. I will see something else that needs my attention and down that rabbit hole I'll go. I'll come up for air and an hour or two has gone by. Lately I wish I had a whole day, even a whole afternoon to just spend doing what is needed, doing what I love. I find it to be so relaxing and calming yet just as strenuous as any workout I do in my HIIT classes. Gardening is not for the meek and mild; you are on your hands and knees, crouching and bending, lifting forty pound bags of topsoil and mulch, raking, digging and working quite a bit in not so favorable temperatures.

If you are older or have medical issues, you need to know your limitations. I have an elderly neighbor who has the most fabulous backyard filled with flowers and vegetables all along the border. She brought the seeds for the plants with her from Hungary when she emigrated here seventy years ago. The plants and flowers are still thriving. She turned 100 a few weeks ago. As she got older and more frail, she paused and sat in the shade when she needed a break in between weeding. Her flowers were mixed in with her veggies and planted very close so as to crowd out the weeds. This was a very popular practice at one time but it hampered air circulation around the plant which can cause mildew and fungus. For anyone, it really is important to take breaks, stay hydrated by all means, and get out of the sun and heat on super hot days.

I mentioned I also like to plant lettuce in containers because they are so easy and fast growing and I can make a nice fresh salad whenever I want without having to worry about pesticides, all the washing and wrapping and dealing with it getting old and bad in the refrigerator. Do you know lettuce grows like grass? You can cut it off at the top, like a lawn mower cutting grass, just use a serrated knife. It will continue to grow and you will get another cut, no need to pull the entire head out. Large containers work the best, place them where you want them where they get full sun and ideally rain, and if you toss in some flowers they can serve as a decorative patio pot. You don't need to worry about bunnies eating your lunch. A note: Neem oil is my go to for bugs, beetles, aphids, etc., It's safe on all things edible and you use it just once a month. As far as squirrels that like to play with their food more than eat it, they hate the smell of marigold and geraniums. You can also plant some lavender and a sprinkle of your coffee grounds in the morning is the perfect deterrent.



Moving on to recipes!

Creamy Yogurt Dip

I grow an abundance of parsley, mostly the flat leaf which has a more robust flavor and is a better option for cooking. Curly parsley, its cousin, is slightly bitter, especially the stems and is best used as a garnish. This is a Turkish recipe I stumbled upon and the presentation will amaze your company. It will make you forget your ho-hum hummus dip.

Ingredients:

1 5.3 oz container Greek yogurt, plain
1/3 c olive oil
3 garlic cloves, minced
1 handful flat leaf parsley leaves and tender stems, finely chopped
1 t fresh ground pepper
1 t paprika
1/4 t cayenne
3/4 t sea salt + more to taste
Assorted vegetables

Directions:

Spread the chilled yogurt on a salad plate.
Heat the oil in a saucepan for 3 minutes on medium high heat. Simultaneously, add garlic, parsley, pepper, paprika, cayenne and salt to a bowl. Pour the hot oil over the yogurt in a circular pattern being careful not to get splashed as it will sizzle. Serve with an assortment of vegetables such as peppers, radishes, rainbow carrots, sliced parsnips. Be original!!

Arugula Salad with Nasturtium and Lemon Vinaigrette

Nasturtiums are in my garden every year. I had always thought they were flowers until I couldn't find them one year and was led to the vegetable area of the nursery. They belong to the cress family (as in watercress) which is part of the mustard family. Complicated, I know. Nasturtium repels squirrels and rabbits and attracts hummingbirds, a win/win. The flowers and leaves are edible and have a refreshing, peppery taste.



This is my granddaughter, Madelyn holding a salad we made after picking some blossoms in the garden after she chomped on a few (she'll try anything). Simple and

See

JANE
next page

Lake Life with Jane

JANE

Continued from previous page

delicious, impress your guests dining al fresco on the patio with dishes, cloth napkins, wine and this gorgeous salad as the starter. It doesn't get any better on a midsummer day.

Ingredients:

- 2 T olive oil
- 2 T fresh lemon juice
- 1 t honey
- 1/2 t sea salt
- 1/2 t freshly ground pepper
- 4 c arugula
- 1 loose handful nasturtium leaves and stems, roughly chopped
- Nasturtium blossoms
- 1/4 c shaved Parmesan cheese

Directions:

In a large bowl, whisk together the olive oil, lemon juice, honey, S & P. Add the arugula and nasturtium leaves and gently toss. Top with the shaved Parmesan and nasturtium blossoms and a bit more pepper.



Blueberry Moscow Mule

Grab some invasive mint from your garden. Did I say it was invasive? Tip:

Keep your plant in it's pot and plant the entire pot in the ground with just the top inch above ground level. The roots can't spread and choke out everything in sight.

Jane's Signature Cocktail of the month is a cool, refreshing Moscow mule. Please tell me you have the copper mugs or has the MM craze faded? Blueberries are in season so greet your people at the patio door with a chilled drink and since it's a Signature Drink, they can't have another one.

Ingredients:

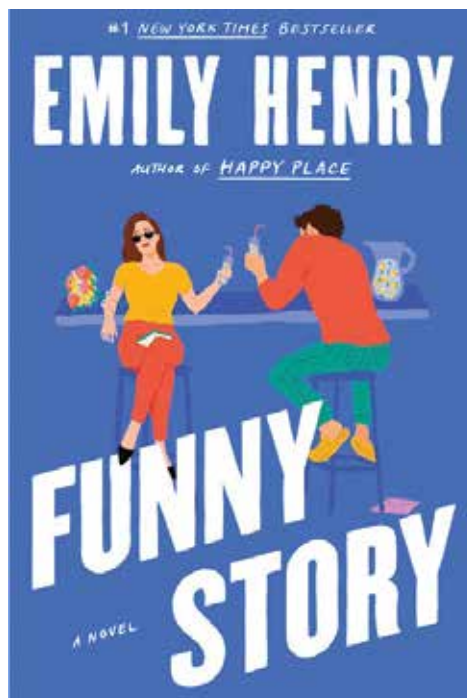
- 1/2 c fresh blueberries
- Juice of 1 lime
- 2 oz vodka
- 4-6 oz Ginger beer
- Mint leaves

Directions:

Add the blueberries and the juice of one lime to a cocktail shaker and muddle it until the flavors release and create a juicy base. Add the vodka and a handful of ice shakes and well for at least thirty seconds. Fill the mug (or whatever vessel you choose...I personally think this drink is so pretty it belongs in a highball glass) with ice and strain the mixture over. Top with the Ginger Beer by slowly pouring it over and then stirring gently to combine with the rest of the blueberry/lime/vodka mixture. Toss in some blueberries and mint for the garnish and enjoy!

Funny Story by Emily Henry

Jane's Imaginary Book Club is going a little mainstream this month. As much as I like to hop all over genres and dive into suspense, murder mysteries, historical fiction, etc., this latest book by who was not so long ago called the "up and coming Emily Henry" really lived up to



all the rave reviews and making the New York Times Best Seller list (as did her previous books.) And this is the thing. She's young and fresh. I read an interview a magazine did with her and now I can just visualize her sitting in her bathrobe eating cereal with her cat purring next to her while she pounds out best sellers on her Mac. I mean really? This is her fifth book since 2020. Oh to have her talent. And her editor. But I digress. This is a light read that will keep you turning the pages but also turning off the bedside lamp. The plot is not so surprising but her characters make it real and you have to love that it's set in Michigan. Her first book left me cold because she spends a lot of time on back and forth

dialogue that is funny but just not relatable because it's so clever. But you be the judge. I give this one 🌸🌸🌸🌸

By the way, book clubs are truly all about the booze, I mean food, so the sizzling yogurt dip was served and a Blueberry Moscow Mule. In a copper mug. My friend Diane found some at a garage sale.

Happy 4th of July!! Be safe!☐

Jane Boudreau is a writer, blogger and newspaper columnist who divides her time between homes in Chicago, on Diamond Lake and in Asheville, NC. You can contact her at bindy9@yahoo.com

Neighbors

Now in our 21st year serving Cass County.

For information on advertising Contact Fred Stein

269-228-1080

email Brazilstein@gmail.com

or visit us at www.cassneighbors.com

KRUPPS

POWERSPORTS & MARINE

kruppspowersports.com

Call or text us 269.663.8424 • 70440 M-62 Edwardsburg, MI 49112

SEA-DOO. ski-doo. can-am. MANITOU. VIAGGIO



LET KRUPP'S
HELP YOU
MAKE A SPLASH
THIS SUMMER!



Our Children

Don't let the screens take over!

by **SANDY FLEMING**

We're in the middle of summer, and relaxing is in full swing. However, there's a big difference between relaxing and allowing more screen time for the kids. They are NOT the same thing! Relaxing is disconnecting from stress and worry, taking time to learn and grow in ways that are appealing, and doing all the little things that bring pleasure and joy to our lives.

In too many cases, screen time brings just the opposite! People (not just kids) can easily become addicted to the fast-paced flow of stimulation. It seems like nearly everything is available at just the touch of a button. It quickly takes over our lives, and often gives much less than it takes.

Here's a simple test to see if there is too much screen time in your life: What are your hobbies and pastimes that do NOT involve electronics? What do you enjoy doing with friends and on your own? Ask each person in your family. If their answers are full of playful pursuits, like sports, music, art, outdoor hiking, and so forth, then chances are good that the balance is in the right place.

If a person says their favorite activity (alone or with friends) is online gaming, watching TV, using social media, or other online passions, it may well be time to unplug!

Take a good, hard look this summer and find out just how much time you and your family are spending staring at electronic screens. Count the hours used for video games, social media, television, videos, and other pastimes that use electronics. Yes, you even need to count using the phone and educational games if they involve digital devices. Keep the recommendations of various organizations in mind: no screen time except video chats with family for kids under 18 months, 1 hour daily of closely supervised, educational screen activities for 2-3 year olds, and a MAXIMUM of 2 hours daily for children ages 4 to 14.

You can also take a look at challenges your children are currently experiencing or facing to judge if screen time might be making things worse. Symptoms of too much screen time include difficulty sleeping at night, problems learning in school, and tantrums or other unacceptable behavior. Screen time has been directly related to these prob-

lems and more in study after study. Check reliable groups such as the American Academy of Pediatrics and the CDC for more information.

And yes, limiting screen time will be a battle in many families. It's tough for anyone to give up things that are a big part of your life! But the benefits (better sleep, better behavior, better learning) are all very much worth the fight. If you are having trouble navigating how to make this change on your own, consider getting some outside help from a counselor, teacher, or other trusted professional. It often helps if you implement these changes as a family...it's really, really hard to limit the kids' screen time when a parent is spending hours with electronics each day.

If you need guidance about HOW to shut down the screens in your home, consider these options:

- Remove charge/power cords and put them under lock and key. Give them out as rewards.
- Set the controls on your wifi router – most allow you to turn service off to specific devices at specific times, like bedtime.
- Remove tvs and computers (and game systems and tablets and phones and...) from all bedrooms.
- Have a cell-phone parking area at dinner and other family times. EVERYONE (adults included) parks their phones so they can pay attention to other things.
- Set new expectations that are clear and concise: X number of hours (or minutes) per day, and only AFTER other things are done, like chores, reading, playing outdoors, etc.
- Turn screen time into rewards for chores or academic work. Kids could earn tokens for doing other things during the day that can be used to "buy" screen time from time to time. And here's a hint: it's NOT a one-to-one trade! Make a 2- or 3-hour of desirable activity exchange for an hour or less of screen time.

How to fill those gaps once you free up all that time? Here are some great ideas:

Go Green, Not Screen

Outdoor activities are ideal replacements for screen time, especially for family time. Take everyone on a hike, have a picnic, go to a playground, or go for a walk in the neighborhood. The more you



do this, the less time you will have for electronics.

- Have a scavenger hunt: Make a list of things to find on your next outing. Try a photo scavenger hunt, too – take pictures of the things you need to find.
- Try geocaching: This world-wide scavenger hunt is fun for young and old, and is easy to get started. There's virtually no start-up cost, since you have what you need right on your cell phone.
- Play some low-level, non-competitive sports. Try out flag football, softball, beach volleyball, badminton, croquet or other old favorites. Check your local library – they may well have equipment you can borrow to try it out.
- Check out local campgrounds. It's usually inexpensive to stay the night, and you can often borrow or rent what you need if you want to try it out.
- Do some chalk art on the nearest slab of pavement where it is safe to do so.
- Check out the U-pick businesses in our area to get some great food.
- Head to the beach together! Or try boating. You can likely rent boats and equipment you need near lakes and rivers.
- Take up photography as a hobby – we all have fabulous cameras right in our pockets, and taking the pictures costs nothing. Put them into a digital scrapbook.
- Get into gardening. If you have space around your house, try your hand at growing some food or some flowers. If you don't have land for this, many communities have community gardens where all who work get to share in the bounty.

Fancy Cuisine Instead of Screens

Cooking with kids has tons of benefits. Take some time this summer to teach them how to cook, or learn more

about cooking as a family.

- Set a goal of trying a new dish each week. Older family members can take turns choosing and making it, while younger kids can help choose and assist in making.
- Get creative with inexpensive options. There are tons of dishes that you can make with simple ingredients, like eggs. If you are on a tight budget, see if you can track down recipes and ways to dress up inexpensive groceries. Your whole family will benefit.
- Try desserts from other countries. Head to the library for an international cookbook. You'll be amazed at the delicious finds you will discover!
- Let the kids help! Cooking is a life skill, and every child should have experience in the kitchen. Don't forget to have them help with the clean up as well.

Let Science Time Replace Some Screen Time

There's nothing like a bit of kitchen or home science to tempt kids away from their electronics. It doesn't take much, just a bit of research on your part and some household items that you probably have lying around.

Good science activities have lots of hands-on things for the kids to actually do (rather than watch), and you can make them even more valuable by having the kids come up with predictions, theories about why the experiment worked the way that it did, and how they can change just one element to find out how that affects the outcome. Remember to have them measure, count, and collect other kinds of data, too.

Take the Games Off-Screen

Put that closetful of games to work this summer – nearly every household has them! Drag out the board games, the card games, and even the lawn games. Each one holds a wealth of learning opportunities that aren't one bit electronic. Teach the kids card games that you loved growing up, and explore new games together as a family. You'll be exercising reading and math skills while they build all sorts of social skills.

Sandy Fleming is a private tutor and writer living in Edwardsburg. Grab some practical ideas for school and life success at her websites: <https://learningnook.com> and <https://sandyflemingonline.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

18599 Mason Street, Cassopolis Michigan 49031
www.BillsRoofRepair.com

Over 45 Years of Service!

M. Anderson
 (574) 341-9552
cell1013@yahoo.com

Specializing In:

- Homes
- Decks/Patios
- Driveways

HAMPSHIRE Country Club

Open to the Public Dogwood Hampshire

Two 18-hole courses
 29592 Pokagon Hwy, Dowagiac, MI 49047
 For info or a tee time call (269) 782-7476
<https://www.hampshire36.com>

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

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

Inspire-Create-Enjoy

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

Call or Text
 269-815-5415
www.VillwocksOutdoorLiving.com

VILLWOCKS OUTDOOR LIVING

NEW LEAF
 CUSTOM SHORELINE & LANDSCAPE SERVICE

269-462-0966
 SERVING SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN
www.newleaflandscapesmichigan.com
 NewLeafLandscapesSod&Sprinklers

Field Trip

DeFries Gardens County Park

New Paris, Indiana



Just a couple miles east of the town of New Paris, Indiana, if you don't miss it as you drive down rural CR 46 in Elkhart County, you'll find the delightful DeFries Garden, a small but delightful part of the River Preserve County Park.

Inside you'll find a spectacular array of seasonal wildflowers, perennials, and a year-round calendar garden that is a large-scale blooming model of the annual cycle.

Plantings are arranged to follow the time of year as much as possible to create blooms on that the date corresponding to the dates on the brick pathway that circles the garden. The pathway circling the inner garden is 365 feet around, one step for each day of the year.

The garden, which is at 17447 CR 46, New Paris, is open year around, and there is no entry fee. For more information and hours, visit <https://elkhartcountyparks.org/>



LIFT WITH YOUR FINGER, NOT YOUR BACK

Exclusive PowerFold® option lifts decks with the flip of a switch.

- Effortlessly raises FrontMount™ DuraMax® decks
- Access to underside of deck for easy maintenance
- Shortens length to simplify storage and trailering

Visit your dealer today for a demonstration!

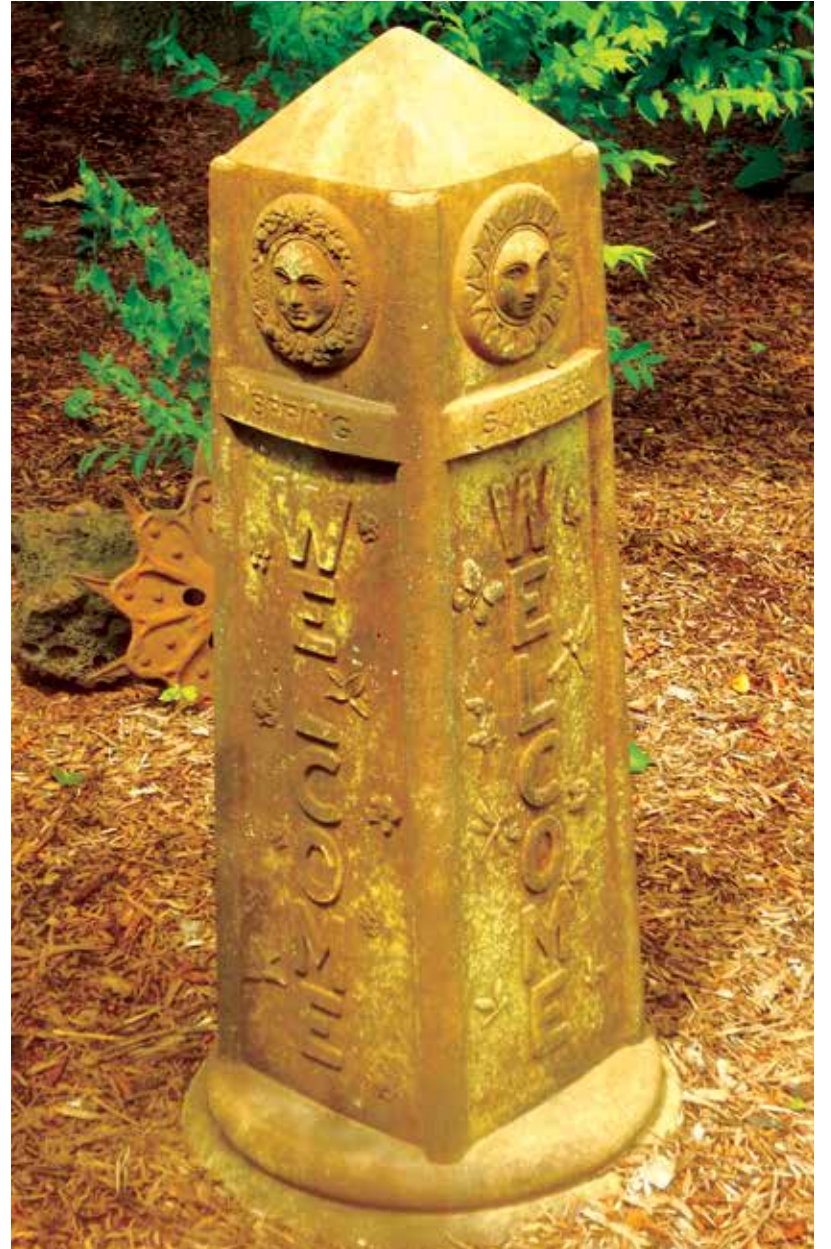
Cass Outdoor Power Equipment
62101 M 62
Cassopolis, Mi. 49031
269-445-2231

EQUIPPED WITH
PowerFold
ELECTRIC DECK LIFT



Committed to the Cut.®

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

Field Trip



What Your YES Vote Means
on the "Millage Renewal Proposition for Service to Older Citizens"

- **Sustained Programs:**
Ensuring fitness, social, and wellness programs continue.
- **Ongoing Support:**
Maintaining crucial transportation and meal services.
- **Aging with Dignity:**
Helping seniors live with dignity, independence, and joy.

Remember:
Voting **YES** on the millage renewal means **NO** increase in taxes, just a continuation of the support our seniors deserve.

Vote YES on August 6

This advertisement is paid for by the COA Millage Renewal Committee

**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

CAYMAS

2023 CX 20 PRO

LAST MODEL REMAINING!

Starboard Choice MARINE

MERCURY

\$ 64,499.99

!!! HUGE SAVINGS !!!

(269) 414-4351 - www.STBCM.com

Historic Postcards

Historic postcards depict rich scenes of area's past

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

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

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

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

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

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



Copyright 1908, P. Sander, N.Y.

JERDON
REAL ESTATE, INC.

MYSTATEMLS

Floyd Jerdon & Tom Jerdon
(269) 782-4000 www.jerdon.net

ELK PARK LLC.
Feed Store

60559 Calvin Center Rd.
Vandalia, MI 49095

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

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

Harding's
Friendly Markets

Cassopolis, Michigan

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

Ph: 476-2220
Cell: 506-6108

63474 Union Rd.
Vandalia, MI

SUN & SHADE AWNING

Retractable Awnings for Decks & Patios
Sales • Service • Installation

269-244-5307
www.sunandshadeawning.com
12291 Bidelman Road • Three Rivers, MI

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
jllandscaping.com

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

INFINITY
HOME SERVICES LLC
Jim Merkle

269-259-1127 Jim@infinitymichiana.com

Home Watch, Property Checks Home Management	Maintenance, Repairs Small Projects
--	--

infinitymichiana.com

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"

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

Historic Postcards



NORTH STAR

Landscape Design & Installation

Guiding the Way to Beautiful Landscapes!

Call Now to Schedule a Free Consultation!

866-445-9100

www.northstarlandscape.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

Auto-Owners INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

Kemner Iott Benz

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

Historic Postcards



NEIGHBORS
ADVERTISING
THAT WORKS
FOR YOU

Contact Fred Stein
(269) 228-1080
Brazilstein@gmail.com



DIAMOND LAKE SAILING SCHOOL

Classes Available for All Ages
 June 17th thru August 1st
 Register at diamondlakesailingschool.com

Small class sizes for ages 7-16 during the day, Monday thru Thursday. Evening classes and private lessons for adults.

CLASSES ARE HELD AT THE DIAMOND LAKE YACHT CLUB
 2136 Shore Acres Drive
 Casopolis, Michigan 49031
 Come Sail With Us!

O'Donnell's Docks LLC
 Southwest Michigan's Premier Dock & Lift Headquarters

CLEARANCE SALE

We overbought and need to clear the lot.
25 percent off all in-stock anodized aluminum dock sections. Retail price was \$891/section; 25 percent off the sale price now \$668. We have over 50 used boat lifts in stock!
WE ALSO REPAIR MOST MAJOR LIFT BRANDS
New boat lifts in stock up to 8000 lbs. along with jet ski lifts

It's Hot Out!
 Don't Leave Your Pet in the Car!

90° Even if the temperature outside is only 70°, the inside of your car may be as much as 20 degrees hotter!

102° On an 85° day, it only takes ten minutes for the inside of your car to reach 102°.

120° Within just 30 minutes, the car's interior can climb from 85° to a scorching 120°.

Many states and local governments have laws that prohibit leaving an animal unattended in a motor vehicle under dangerous conditions, which includes hot days. Your car could be damaged or you could be charged with a crime.

ASPCA

If you see an animal trapped in a car on a hot day, try to locate the owner or call 911! Stay by the car until assistance arrives.

Serving you for over 30 years!

Sales and service of all major docks, boatlifts and water front accessories.

For an online quote, go to www.odonnellsdocks.com

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

Authorized Dealer For:

SHOREMASTER lift tech Marine
HEWITT LSP
4EVER ALUMINUM PRODUCTS, INC.
POLYDOCK PRODUCTS
CRAFTLANDER

Nature Notes

Late spring and early summer sightings

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

On June 15 I found a Blanding's turtle in the uplands of Sarett Nature Center's Brown Sanctuary. When I first set eyes on the turtle, I identified it as a Blanding's turtle because it has a distinctive yellow throat.

Unfortunately the turtle went into its shell and would not come out, thus I could not photograph its yellow throat. However if you look closely you can see its yellow chin. I believe this individual is likely a female Blanding's turtle having recently laid eggs in the uplands of the Brown Sanctuary and was on its way back to the marsh adjacent to the Paw Paw River. Blanding's turtles spend most of their lives in water. Adult females venture out only to lay eggs in holes they dig with their hind legs. Blanding's turtles are active in Michigan from April until late October or early November. During the cold months they hibernate in ponds, marshes and other aquatic areas.

Blanding's turtles were found throughout Michigan but were more abundant in the Lower Peninsula. In recent decades the species has declined in our state due to habitat degradation, fragmentation and outright habitat loss. There is also a significant loss of turtle eggs in Michigan and elsewhere due to predation by raccoons, skunks and opossums. Those three mammal species have benefited from human habitation and are now more abundant now than they were prior to settlement, and are a detriment to turtle populations.

The Blanding's turtle may live to 70 to 75 years of age. Young Blanding's turtles don't reach sexual maturity until 14 to 20 years of age. These factors combined have led to the Blanding's turtle being placed on the list of Species of Special Concern by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. It is illegal to possess, collect or harm Blanding's turtles in Michigan.

Brad Anderson of Bridgman photographed a mated pair of summer tanagers on May 30 in Warren Dunes State Park. Summer tanagers have nested in Warren Dunes State Park for at least 12-15 years, and it is believed that this year at least one pair of this southern species is nesting within the park.



Above left: Blanding's turtle on June 15, 2024 in Benton Township. Photographed by Jonathan Wuepper of Royalton Township.



Below: Female (left) and male summer tanager on May 30 at Warren Dunes State Park. Brad Anderson of Bridgman.

Top right: Osprey on June 2, 2024 over Birch Lake, Porter Township, Cass County. Photo by Phil Vitale of Vandalia.

The summer tanager is a relatively common breeding species within the southeastern US. The northern edge of its range limit during the breeding season is southern Iowa, central Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, northern Virginia and Maryland. Summer tanagers are uncommon north of that range in summer which makes the pair, or pairs, at Warren Dunes noteworthy.

A few single summer tanagers are seen every spring, usually during April and May, when they overshoot their normal range. These individuals are usually seen for only a day or two before they retreat southward. Occurrences such as these typically number from one to a half-dozen sightings per year.

On May 30, Phil Vitale of Porter Township, Cass County, photographed an osprey as it was flying over Birch Lake.

Osprey have made a comeback in southern Michigan over the last 50 years. It had been extirpated, or nearly so, over the southern half of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan as a breeding species. Habitat loss and the harmful pesticide DDT were to blame. But since the banning of DDT, legal protection of the species and the maturing of second growth forests since the 1960s, the species has rebounded. Cass County has more nesting pairs of osprey than Berrien County due to a lower human population, resulting in less residential and commercial development, and numerous inland lakes.

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



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"

2024 TENT SALE
JULY 18TH - 20TH
THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY
CLOSED WEDNESDAY JULY 17TH TO PREPARE FOR OUR ANNUAL TENT SALE

Imperial Furniture
DOWAGIAC
Family Owned Since 1962

CLEANING OUT THE STORE AND WAREHOUSE OF "ONE-OF-A-KIND" AND DISCONTINUED ITEMS!

SOFAS, BAR STOOLS, LAMPS, TABLES, CHAIRS, PICTURES, BEDROOMS, HUTCHES, PILLOWS, DINING ROOM, MISC. HOLIDAY DECORATIVE ITEMS & MUCH MORE

Thursday & Friday 9am – 5pm
Saturday 9am – 3pm

57530 M-51 South, Dowagiac, MI
800-884-5020
www.imperialfurniture-dowagiac.com

Local History

Prospect Hill Cemetery restoration

Results of the Prospect Hill Cemetery Restoration Workshop - June 8, 2024

*Provided by Jonathan Wuepper
Manager Local History Branch
Cass District Library
319 M-62, Cassopolis*

Photos by Molly Harwood of Cass District Library

This free event was put on by Dr. Thomas Henthorn, Professor of American History at University of Michigan -- Flint Campus. Hosted and coordinated by the Village of Cassopolis and the Local History Branch of the Cass District Library, June 8. Between 25 and 30 participants came to help clean about 12 headstones at Prospect Hill Cemetery, Cassopolis, Michigan.

Important to know that you should not use brushes with plastic or wire bristle brushes to clean headstones! You will damage headstones if you do not use soft bristle brushes! You will also do damage to the headstones if you use "regular" over-the-counter cleaning cleansers. Never use a power-washer to clean headstones! Please follow the instructions below which were sent by Dr. Henthorn. These headstone cleaning guidelines are consistent with standards adopted by the National Park Service.

PBS Michiana (WNIT-TV) was present at the workshop and it became the topic of an episode of Education Counts Michiana. The episode can be found at this link <https://www.wnit.org/education-counts/cemetery-preservation-workshop.html>

Dr. Henthorn writes:

Cleaning Supplies

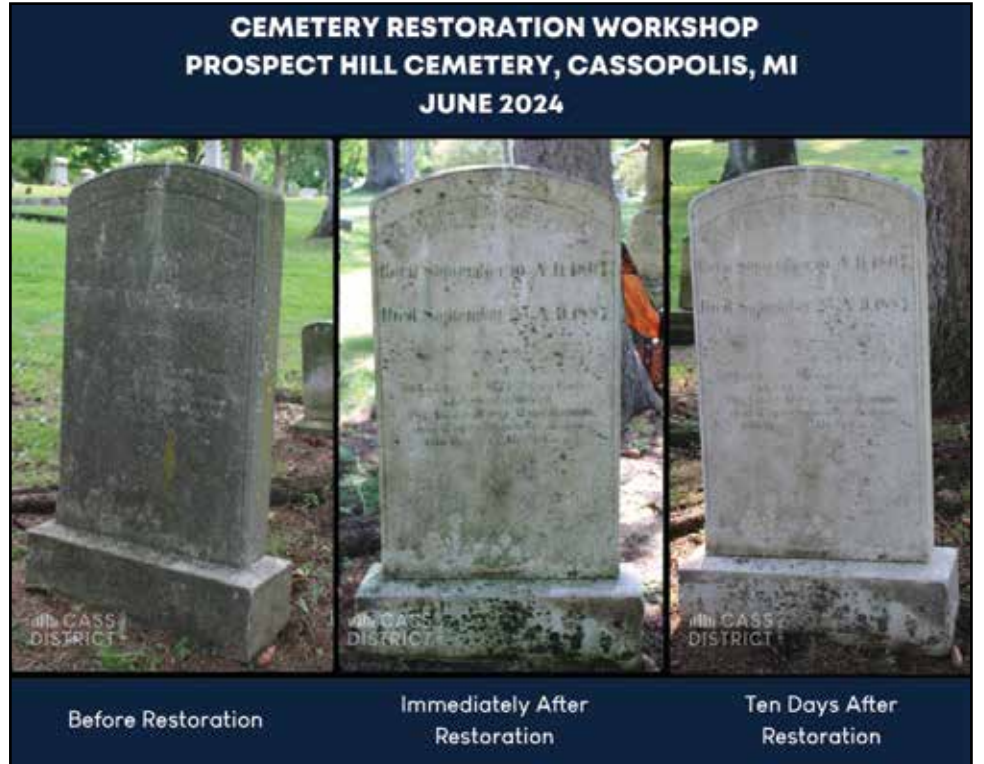
It is important to use the softest bristle brush you can find that still can provide a good scrubbing. We used Tampico Brushes. This is a natural bristle brush. A number of suppliers stock these and you can often find them from janitorial suppliers.

Our soap is a product called Orvus Paste. It is ph-neutral, sodium lauryl sulfate and free of bleaches, brighteners and enzymes (all of which can be harmful to the stone or soil). You can find it from a number of retailers such as Tractor Supply

The biocide we used is called D2. I always recommend people go back in two weeks and take a look at the stones they cleaned. This product doesn't work right away, rather, it kills the biological material slowly. So, it takes a little time to see the effects. You can find it from Holland Supply.

Professional Services

Cleaning is something anyone can do if they are properly trained. Repair work



Top: Broken headstone before restoration; Left: Broken headstone being lifted back into place; Right: Restored headstone.; Above left: Before, during and after cleaning photos of a limestone grave marker, Prospect Hill Cemetery.

should be performed by a professional. I am comfortable with the company below because I know they follow some specific standards such as The Secretary of Interior Standards for Preservation, National Center for Preservation Training and Technology, and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). So when evaluating a company's ability to repair, make sure you make sure the methods they use follow the aforementioned standards. If you see any power tools, that's a big red flag.

Carter Cemetery Preservation, (248) 408-0278, <https://ccpreservation.com>
Loving Legacy, (810) 584-5330, [loving-](https://loving-legacy.com)

legacymi@gmail.com

Additional Literature

The State of Michigan published a handbook on cemetery preservation that has the techniques we used during our workshop and has a helpful guide in the steps you should take in preserving historic cemeteries.

Workshops

My students and I run workshops at Glenwood Cemetery in Flint a few times every summer. During these workshops we cover the cleaning method and also do a few more repair demonstrations such as our epoxy & mortar repair technique for broken monuments.

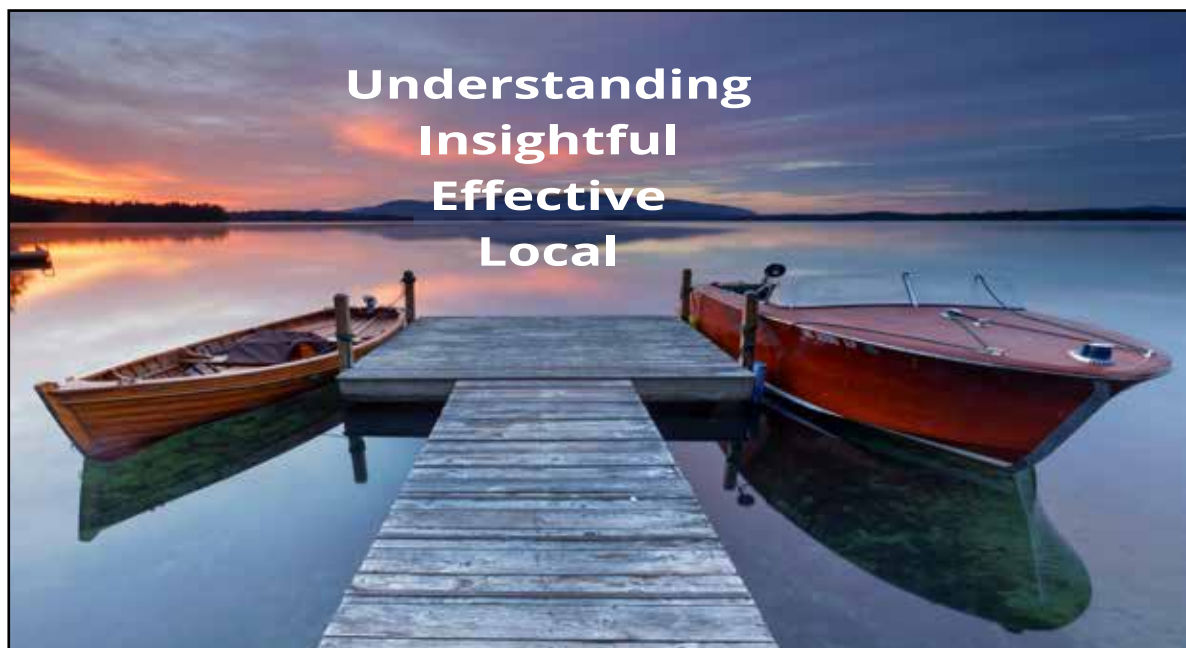
Questions

If you ever have additional questions I can answer to help you in your cemetery preservation efforts, reach out: Thomas Henthorn, Ph.D. – henthorn@umich.edu, Professor of History Wyatt Endowed Professor of Public History, Department of History, The University of Michigan-Flint, 260 French Hall, Flint, MI 48502, 810-762-3206

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



Understanding
Insightful
Effective
Local



THK LAW, LLP

**Estate planning
Elder law
Business counsel
Mediation
Litigation**

Cassopolis | South Bend | Elkhart
269.445.1818 | thklaw.com

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

Boats, Marinas, Piers, Sports

Apollo Marine..... 4.....423-6011
<http://www.apollomarine.net>
 Diamond Lake Sailing..... 15.....n/a
<http://www.diamondlakesailingschool.com>
 Eagle Lake Marine..... 13.....699-5103
<http://www.eaglelakemarine.com>
 Hampshire Golf..... 9.....782-7476
<http://www.hampshire36.com>
 Krupps Powersports..... 8.....663-8424
<http://www.kruppspowersports.com>
 O'Donnell's Docks..... 15.....244-1446
<http://www.odonnellsdocks.com>
 Pier Perfection..... 2, 11.....233-2222
<http://www.pierperfection.com>
 Pro Dock..... 18.....447-4796
<http://www.prodock.com>
 Starboard Choice..... 12.....414-4351
<http://www.STBCM.com>

Construction, Home Improvement & Repair

Anderson Power Washing..... 9.....574-341-9552
 Bill's Roof Repair..... 9.....591-57800
<http://www.billsroofrepair.com>
 BLT Mechanical..... 18.....476-4114
 Carter Motors..... 13.....476-2220
 Cass Outdoor..... 6, 10.....445-2231

Hearth & Home..... 18.....800-769-3031
<http://www.hearthandhome-sb.com>
 Imperial Furniture..... 16.....800-884-5020
<http://www.imperialfurnitureadowagiac.com>
 Infinity Home Services..... 13.....259-1127
<http://www.infinitymichiana.com>
 Saugatuck Gallery..... 9.....n/a
 Sun and Shade Awnings..... 13.....244-5307
<http://www.sunandshadeawnings.com>

Food, Restaurants, Markets

Hardings..... 13.....445-2607
 Jake's Country Meats..... 17.....445-3020
<http://www.jakescountrymeats.com>

Lawn/Landscaping

JL Landscaping..... 13.....445-2111
<http://www.jlandscapingsite.com>
 New Leaf Landscaping..... 9.....462-0966
<http://www.newleaflandscapesmichigan.com>
 Northstar Landscaping..... 14.....445-9100
<http://www.northstarlandscape.net>
 Villwocks..... 9.....815-5415
<http://www.villwocksoutdoorliving.com>

Medical/Health

Cass COA..... 6, 12.....445-8110
<http://www.casscoa.org>

Cass Medical Care Facility..... 5.....445-3801
<http://www.ccmcf.org>

Real Estate

Dennis Bamber.....Insert.....574-532-3808
<https://dennisbamber.cressyeverett.com/>
 Jan Lazzara Team..... 3.....574-532-8001
<http://www.janlazzara.com>
 Jerdon Real Estate..... 13.....782-4000
<http://www.jerdon.net>
 Lake Life Realty Group..... 20.....445-8877
<http://www.thelakelife.com>
 Michigan Lakes Team..... 19.....663-7700
<http://www.michiganlakesteam.com>

Misc.

Bolt Laserworks..... 4.....800-438-2658
<http://www.boltlaserworks.com>
 Elk Park Feed Store..... 13.....476-1775
 Kemner Iott Benz Insurance..... 14.....445-2425
<http://www.kemnerriott.com>
 McGann Hay Funeral Home..... 16.....574-232-1411
<http://www.mcgannhay.com>
 THK Law..... 17.....445-1818
<http://www.thklaw.com>
 Union Insurance..... 12.....641-5995
<http://www.unionsins.net>

Neighbors

Fred Stein
228-1080
 Brazilstein@gmail.com

HEARTH & HOME
 DESIGN CENTER, INC.

Drew Herendeen
 Hearth & Home Design Center, Inc.
 51129 IN-933
 South Bend, IN 46637
 drew@hearthandhome-sb.com
 hearthandhome-sb.com
 Office: 574-272-3030

Where great ideas begin & great products are found!

Making the climate comfortable since 1987

BLT Mechanical

James Baker - Owner

269-476-4114

HVAC A/C
 HEATING
 GEOTHERMAL




PRO DOCK
 DOCK, LIFT, AND BARGE SERVICES
INC.

269.447.4796
 prodockinc.com



BULMANN
DOCK & LIFT

Lift your lakefront expectations.
 www.bulmanndock.com



Thar be dragons there



The word anachronism seems to be popping into my head more and more as I age for some reason. I guess it's some kind of an ear worm, one of those terrifying songs that keeps repeating over and over again in your brain, and no matter how many times you try to

evict it by humming the melody from BINGO or ITSY BITSY SPIDER, the one you're stuck with keeps coming back to haunt you.

This anachronism thing is becoming particularly pesky, and every day it gets a little more Rod Serling on me, so that now it's morphed into something of a cross between the Matrix zeros and ones that kept raining down on poor John Wick, and the psychological equivalent of a vocabulary zombie attack.

I'm thinking Steven King would like it ...

In case you don't know, an anachronism is an error of chronology in which something, such as an object or event, is placed in the wrong time.

In my case, the something has become me.

Under normal circumstances I'd blame my damn cell phone, but I'm pretty sure I've already beaten that dead horse as dead as it's going to die. Besides, it's not just the phone that's driving me bat-dung crazy, it's pretty much all technology that has turned against me.

There was a day (ok, granted it was a long, long time ago) when I was something of a wiz. At the end of the last century, I had one of the first personal web pages of any of my friends (ok, I admit I had a lot of help from a computer engineer on that one). I was pretty adept at an early computer language that was basically called BASIC back in the pre-Gates/Jobs era, and I taught myself to use Microsoft Word, Photoshop, Pagemaker, Quark Express and InDesign, and have used one or more of them professionally since the 1980s ... and I still used some of them every day.

But somehow in the last 10 years or so, my grandchildren have figured out how to tech my socks off.

Sure, I know, kids are naturals at tech things like phone, and since I've always been a phone Luddite, that part got around me, but somehow they even got better at a lot of things I grew up with.

Take the TV remote. Please.

Maybe it's because I grew up in the day when tuning a TV involved a sharp, open-hand slap to the side of that cheap black-and-white box with that black-and-white picture on the screen for the few hours a day when there was actually programming. And I remember that the only way to turn up the volume was to stand up, walk over to the set and turn the tiny knob by hand ... how quaint, no?

Now the TV doesn't have knobs of any sort, and the remote doesn't have any words like "volume" or "channel" or even "on/off," just a series of weird icons that you have to either be proficient in Sanskrit or have worked at IKEA for 10 years to be able to understand.

I know I'm not a technophobe, a technophobe by definition fears technology (hence the "phobe" part of the word). Hell, I'm not afraid of my TV, I fall asleep right next to it almost every night.

But when I do my dreams aren't good.

Sometimes I dream about zeros and ones.

Sometimes I dream about evil icons.

Sometimes I wake up screaming.

Just the other night I dreamed that I lined the street in front of my house with the technology that most annoyed me. Cell phone, check. TV remote, check. Kindle, check. Nest camera, check. Ring doorbell, check. Computerized deadbolt, check.

Then I drove a steam roller down the street and smashed them all into the asphalt.

Wake up smiling, check.

Ok, here's a few good examples of how technology has annoyed me to hypertensive overload just this week.

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday I spent somewhere around 20 hours trying to buy airplane tickets to go on a fall vacation.

I used my computer, my cell phone, my tablet.

Over and over and over and over.

And couldn't get it done.

So I picked up the good old-fashioned, hard-wired desk phone and called the airline, only to be thrust into a bad-music-nightmare of hold/ignore for what seemed like hours until a woman (who's birth language was obviously not English) finally answered and told me their website was not compatible with my browser, so I should try their mobile app.

Wish one of my grandkids had been here.

Then, my beloved spouse told me that an old friend had given us their tickets to go see Carlos Santana, and that she'd transferred the tickets through Ticketmaster to us, and all we had to do was log on and move the tickets into our digital wallet.

Two hours of snarling, growling, yelling and cussing in a computer language a merchant marine would have been proud of and we finally had one ticket. Took another half hour to get the other.

Nearly ruined our dinner that night (thankfully our dinner companions helped us self-medicate at our favorite watering hole).

Then, the next morning, knowing we'd need a couple hours of sleep after the concert, I tried to rent a hotel room in Noblesville, where we were headed.

Nope, the computer said. "Something went wrong, please try again later."

Later didn't work either.

Ended up calling the hotel, only to get the airline woman's sister on the phone, but she input the wrong date for the room and told me her reservation system was down and I'd have to call back later to reserve a room ... but somehow I got a confirmation email showing the wrong date, so I had to call back again and talk to the twins' older sister, who finally got it figured out.

I remember when it used to be pretty easy to buy airplane tickets ... before technology got in the way.

And I remember when it used to be pretty easy to get tickets to a concert ... before technology got in the way.

And I remember when it was a snap to rent a hotel room ... before technology got in the way.

Kind of makes me wonder how much time I could save (and how many brain cells I could have saved) if I eschewed all of these labor-saving, high-tech, electronic wonders and just went back to doing things by hand.

But, alas, that's not even an option anymore.

And now, after booking that fall vacation (yes, I'm going sailing again) I just learned that the charter company that I rented the boat from doesn't use nautical charts at all anymore, but the boat has is equipped with a new, state-of-the-art, electronic GPS chart plotter.

I hope it shows the edge of the world (and not as an icon since my grandkids aren't coming along).

I have a sinking feeling that thar be dragons there.

Memories Made On The
Lake Will Last
A Lifetime

The Michigan Lakes™
REAL ESTATE TEAM



Broker/
Owner | Michelle
Scott

Call/Text: (574) 286-9050
Email: Mj.scott@comcast.net
Also Licensed in IN



Managing
Broker
(Sister Lakes)

Managing
Broker
(Grand Haven)

Call us at (269) 663-7700 for a **FREE Waterfront Property Market Analysis** and see how our **Chicago Marketing Plan** benefits **YOU**

(269) 462-0783
Kellymichiganlakes@gmail.com



Kelly
Smit

(773) 454-0528
PettersonProperties@gmail.com



Darren
Petterson

(708) 217-5087
ListedByLMP@gmail.com



Laura
Mitrick

(574) 904-1213
Ajurkovic44@gmail.com



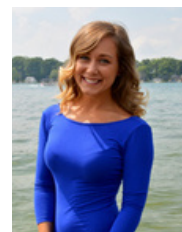
Angi
Jurkovic

(269) 207-1937
Rick @
Michiganlakesteam.com



Rich
Olson

(269) 462-5758
Haleymichiganlakes@gmail.com



Haley
Richter

(574) 292-2179
SallyL04 @
Comcast.net



Sally
Leonard

(574) 315-4283
Dyjscott @
gmail.com



Dylan
Scott

(269) 462-2290
Sellingthedream711@gmail.com



Dawn
Russo

10 Agents that specialize
in waterfront properties
on 120+ lakes here in
Southwest, MI

Superior Digitalized Marketing
to Chicago for our Sellers and
Invaluable Information for our
Buyers

60+ years of
experience selling
Waterfront Properties
only

www.MichiganLakesTeam.com



Exclusively serving **SELLERS & BUYERS** of Michigan Lake property.

SELL WITH PAUL

The Southwest Michigan lake home market is experiencing buyer demand at levels never seen before. Now is the time to sell your home with Lakefront Broker Paul DeLano.

Paul DeLano is Southwest Michigan's **number one lake property Realtor** since 2012. He employs a proven digital marketing system that targets Chicago and local buyers to your home, and has expertise in evaluating the best offer for your home in today's unique market, while generating the highest return on your investment.



PAUL DELANO
Owner / Lakefront Broker

269.445.8877
Paul@TheLakeLife.com

BUY WITH PEGGY AND MATT

A buyer's-only agent of lake properties, Peggy Gonyon has unsurpassed expertise as a certified Resort and Second Home Property Specialist at The Lake Life.

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



PEGGY GONYON
Lakefront Buyer Specialist

269.445.8876
Peggy@TheLakeLife.com



MATT DELANO
Lakefront Buyer Specialist

269.445.8872
Matt@TheLakeLife.com

The
LAKE LIFE
REALTY GROUP

TheLakeLife.com

69150 Sunset Boulevard • Union, Michigan 49130

Information provided by the Southwest Michigan Association of Realtors, with respect to sales of inland lake properties in Cass, Berrien, St Joseph Counties, MI, from 1.1.12 to 1.31.23.
When an agent represents the buyer and seller, 200% credit is granted. Results are for individual Realtors and exclude Realtors that group results through a team.

