

Ovid Library to Host Local Author for Signing and Women's Book Club Event

submitted by Dave Stanton

Ovid – Nearly forty percent of American adults are obese, and Jon Stanton is one of them. The former Carland and Ovid resident has struggled with obesity most of his life, “I was already wearing adult-sized clothes in third grade,” he said, and now he’s written a book about what it’s like to grow up and live as a fat man. Stanton will be signing books on Tues., Jan. 14 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. and again from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Ovid Public Library, 206 N. Main St. He will also speak to the Women’s Book Club about the writing process from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The book is \$12 for a single copy or two copies for \$20. For those unable to attend, the book is available from amazon.com via Stanton’s website, www.hopefortheheavy.com.



“FAT: A Life Unfiltered” is a frank portrayal into the life of the obese, but with an emphasis on more humorous experiences of being overweight. “When you’re more than 100 pounds overweight for most of your life, funny things happen to you that don’t happen to thin people or even people who are just slightly overweight,” Stanton said. “It also affects your worldview, the decisions you make, how you form relationships – almost everything about your life is impacted in some way.”

Stanton said he wanted to keep most of the book humorous because laughter opens people’s hearts, allowing them to feel the pain and shame the extremely obese experience without being overwhelmed. The entire book isn’t funny, though. “I took time to discuss what goes on in our heads,” he said. “Nearly everyone I know who is as big as I am struggles with low self-esteem and negative self-talk, as well as denial. I couldn’t leave those things out of the narrative.”

Stanton has been as heavy as 430 pounds and as light as 200 pounds, within just a couple years of each other. From 2007-2009, he lost 230 pounds through eating better and exercising regularly, and he kept the weight off for over three years. He completed two half-marathons, a century ride (100 miles in one day) on his bike and appeared on NBC’s “Today” and the “700 Club” to tell his success story to others who struggle with weight. He also won the Governor’s Fitness Award from former Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm.

“Those were some of the best years of my life. I was speaking to groups regularly about healthy living, I met and married my wife, I was riding my bike 3,000 miles annually and felt great. But old demons are hard to keep at bay forever, and unfortunately, I eventually gained back more than 100 of those pounds.”

That, Stanton said, is why he wrote the book. “Battling weight all the time, especially in our food-saturated culture, is exhausting. I want to encourage people who have struggled, let them know they aren’t alone, and try to help people who have never struggled understand we aren’t just lazy, unmotivated creatures with no willpower.”

Many of the book’s stories took place in Shiawassee and Clinton counties, so area residents will recognize some of the names and places. Find out more about Stanton’s journey with weight at hopefortheheavy.com. For more information about the event, visit <https://tinyurl.com/stanton-ovid-library>.

Elsie Lions Honor Green’s 55 Years of Service



L-R Elsie Lion President Ike Hunt, Lion Velmar Green and Margaret Green,

submitted by Richard Easlick

The Elsie Lions Club held its annual Christmas dinner and the highlight of the evening was Lion Velmar Green accepting his 55 Year Lions Milestone Chevron Award from Elsie Lion President Ike Hunt. This Chevron Award is presented by Lions Club International. Velmar’s commitment to providing many years of service as a member of our association is honorable and commendable, as he has touched the lives of many. From the smallest project to the largest undertaking, Velmar’s years of service has made an impact in our community.

The Elsie Lions Club congratulates Lion Velmar Green on reaching this milestone and wish you many more happy and healthy years to come.

Time Capsule Set to Slumber

On Monday, December 30th, City of Ovid elected officials and community members gathered at City Hall to inspect the items that will be added to the time capsule, commemorating the 150th Anniversary of Ovid. On August 20, 2019, the 1969 time capsule was exhumed and then opened during the Carriage Days opening ceremonies on Friday, September 6, 2019 during a community birthday party to celebrate Ovid’s 150th. The contents inside included Centennial records, photographs, newspapers, books and a variety of other items. The contents did not fare too well as water had severely damaged the items inside.

A committee was formed to find and replace some of the



Councilwoman, Mary Perrien explains the information she learned from the Smithsonian as how to preserve a time capsule.



Community members looking over the items to be added to the time capsule.

Remembering A Few of Those We Lost in 2019



*Charles F. “Chuck” Klarich
January 27, 2019
Devoted husband, father,
grandfather & community
advocate*



*Melva “Jean” Yanna
May 1, 2019
Dedicated Advertising
Salesperson who is missed
by all who knew her*



*Larry E. Martin
June 23, 2019
Community leader,
instructor, politician,
devoted family man*



*Waneta Ann (Frisbie) Byrnes
June 25, 2019
Born and raised in Ovid.
Homemaker, wife and mother
who contributed to her
community in many ways.*



*Robert L. Leonard
November 10, 2019
Community Leader,
Businessman, Exchange
student host, a friend to
all who knew him*



*Rev. Fr. Raymond J. Urbanek
November 24, 2019
50 Year Priest
who served many in the
community and
surrounding areas.*

damaged items and to collect recent items to be added to the capsule. Councilwoman Mary Perrien explained to those in attendance that she had done some research on how to preserve time capsule items, and was given the advice that in order to preserve, do not to bury the capsule. She went on to explain that all of the items that were salvageable, replaced items from the 1969 capsule, and the newly added items would be placed in a safe container which will be sealed and stored at City Hall. “I am happy to see the young boy and girl scouts that are here tonight. I probably won’t be here 50 years from now when this time capsule is opened, but you guys will. You will be able to tell your friends and family that you were there on the night this capsule was sealed and put away for the long slumber ahead,” said Perrien.

A Look Back Through 2019

Elsie Area Ambulance Ends a Legacy with Class and Compassion

January 13, 2019

by Dawn Levey

ELSIE - Monday, January 7 former members of Elsie Area Ambulance Service, Inc. got together to reflect and remember the service they provided to the community. Three charter members attended and shared the early days of the service - John Kusnier, Russel Ginther, and Merle Baese. Thirty people attended the event.

The evening began with an emotional welcome presented by Bruce Levey, DuPlain Township supervisor and former EAAS member. In addition, Charlie Green also presented an emotional community thank-you as did Les Loynes, retired Fairfield township Supervisor. Other members of the community stopped in to say thank-you.



Front (l-r): Joanne Fornusek, Ann Trierweiler, Joyce Houska, and Dawn Levey. Back (l-r): Robert Ladiski, Duane Platner, Russ Ginther, Merle Baese, Bruce Levey, Eddie Fornusek, John Kusiner, John Madden and Joe Houska.

30 Year Anniversary for Barber Shop

February 17, 2019



Laingsburg Barber Shop Owner Carolyn Morse, Celebrates 30 Years

Rep. Filler Sworn In

January 27, 2019



Laingsburg New Grants

January 27, 2019



School and LEAF Board Member Patrick Dolan accepts the \$24,463.84 check from LEAF Board Member Carrie Rathbun Hawks at the Jan. 16 Laingsburg Community Schools' Board meeting.

Business Person and Unsung Hero of the Year Both Named

March 3, 2019



Sam Shango, owner of Sage Market, was named the Business Person of the Year and Dena Judd was named Unsung Hero.

Farming Family for 100 Years

March 17, 2019



(At left) Damien's Grandfather, Walt, Damien and son Case and Dad, Scott Miller. (At Right) Damien at D&K Farms facility on S. Fenmore Road in Elsie.



February 10, 2019

Bee's Motors Become Young St. Johns

ELSIE LIONS 27th ANNUAL WILD GAME DINNER



Monday, January 13, 2020
6PM

NEW THIS YEAR...Mike Brown will be scoring 2019 Deer Horns. Bring yours with you! Drawing for cash prizes, entry fee \$5 per set. Horns must be properly tagged. Bring dish to pass & own table service. Drinks, rolls & potatoes will be provided.

Guest speaker Katie Stawara

Elsie American Legion Hall

(1/4 mile south of downtown Elsie)

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A Look Back Through 2019

Elsie Dairy Royalty

April 21, 2019



Queen Court: 2nd Runner Up- Haley Johnson, Queen- Madalyn Horak, 1st Runner Up- Evelyn Fender.



Jr. Miss Court: Jr. Miss- Telexia Terpening, 1st Runner Up- Rian Kirby.



Princess Court - (l-r): 3rd Runner Up- Mia Personious Busch. Princess- Luella Davis, 2nd Runner Up- Lillian Miller, 1st Runner Up- Madeline Irland

City Apologizes to Librarian Sandra Chavez

May 5, 2019

Laingsburg Librarian Sandra Chavez accepts apology from city.



Witt and Hill Sign

April 21, 2019



Pictured here seated (l-r) Sean Witt, Erin's twin brother, Coach Inram from LLC, Erin Witt and her parents Pat & Donna Witt. Standing, OE Varsity basketball coach, Ryan Cunningham.



(l-r): LCC Girls Basketball Coach Layne Ingram, Georgia Hill and parents Katrina and Troy Hill.

1969 Time Capsule Opened

August 25, 2019



On Tuesday, August 20th, the 1969 time capsule was exhumed by Ovid's DPW Superintendent, Don Passmore. It was featured in Carriage Days opening ceremonies on Friday, Sept. 6th.

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Laingsburg Springtime Fest

May 12, 2019



John and Jinny Carroll, Laingsburg Springtime Festival Parade Marshalls

Elsie Parade Marshalls

July 21, 2019



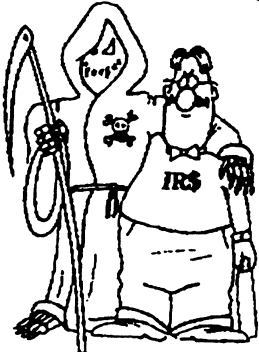
2019 Dairy Festival Parade Marshalls, Tom and Mary Hughey wave to the crowd during the parade.

August 4, 2019

Happy Birthday Ovid...#150



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Celebrating 90th Birthday

Dorothy Martinka is celebrating her 90th birthday on January 14th.

Cards of celebration may be sent to Dorothy at 8000 E. Cleveland Rd., Ashley, MI 48806.

A family dinner at Krzysiaks will commemorate the occasion.



Ovid Healthcare Names Royalty

August 18, 2019

Ovid Healthcare Royalty: On Thursday, August 15th, the 2019 Ovid Healthcare Royalty was crowned. The residents and staff chose by vote, King, Howard Kieffer and Queen, Sharon Ramero to represent the facility for 2019. They were featured in the Carriage Days parade on Saturday, September 6th along with Carriage Days Parade Marshals, Wells and Sue Monroe.



A Look Back Through 2019

Kvalevog Signs with Adrian College

June 16, 2019

Weston Kvalevog signed with Adrian College for Cross Country and Track & Field.

Seated - Dad Doug, Weston, Mom Jessica, Sisters Joby & Emberlyn. Standing - Brother Gage and Sister Tava



Sempsrott Signs with Tiffin University

June 16, 2019

Dominique Sempsrott signed with Tiffin University in Ohio for Track & Field.



Seated - Mom Shelley, Dominic, Dad Brian. Standing - Brothers Logan and Colton

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Pastor: Ava Williams

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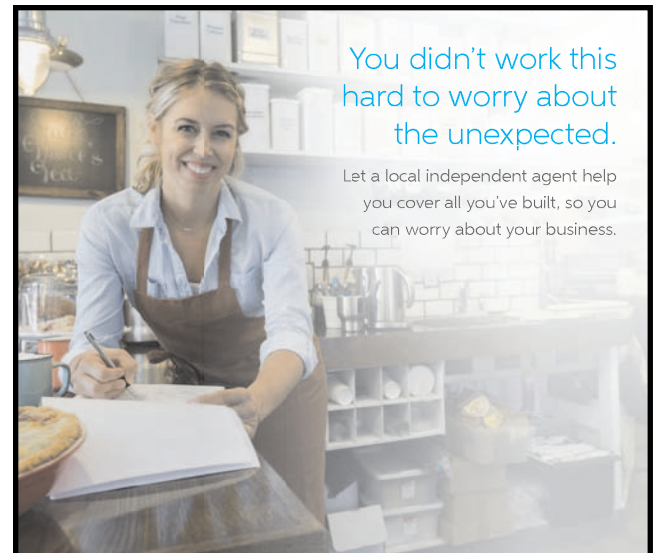
Wild Game Speaker



Conservation Officer Katie Stawara is a state police officer for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Her duties include enforcing laws and regulations pertaining to outdoor recreational activities such as: hunting, fishing, ORV, marine, and snowmobile use. CO Stawara graduated from Grand Valley State University in 2013 with a bachelor of science in biology. She joined the DNR in 2017 where she completed a 26 week state law enforcement academy and 23 weeks of field training. She is currently assigned to Shiawassee County in District 8 as a full time conservation officer and district recruiter.

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Editorial



Religious Thoughts

by Chris Hearn
tohearns@yahoo.com
www.letsmeetgod.com

What are your new year's resolutions? Do you have the standard? Lose weight? Exercise more?

We may look back on 2019 and the whole decade of the 2010s and think, "Yes, praise God, there were some great times, but there were also some times when I really messed up badly. I hurt some people in serious ways.

If so, let's remember the words of Scripture which in Hebrews 4:14-16 says, "...since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

God's throne is a "throne of grace." Isn't that a beautiful picture?

When we come asking for forgiveness, it's not a throne of judgment, nor is it a throne of wrath or "did you mess up again?" or "Wow! I've seen you do some doozies, but this one beats them all!"

When we come to the Lord, He has the desire and ability to forgive and restore. It's not like we come to Him and there is some sin that He won't forgive. He doesn't say, "Nope. Too big!" And there's not a sin that we've committed too many times." Or, "Sorry! You've used number of times that I'll forgive you for that sin. Quota's up! No more."

Why? Because God's throne is a throne of grace.

Nor are there any types of sin that God cannot restore us from. Now the first part we probably have down pretty well. God forgives me. Okay. But can God restore me despite my sin? Can God heal me of the affects of my sin?

Also, we should ask, "Can God restore me despite the sins of others that have been committed against me? Can God heal me of the affects of other peoples' sins against me?"

The answer to all of these questions is yes, He can. No doubts about it. Now in saying yes, I don't mean to say that you simply pray one prayer and God grants you full and immediate healing. If that does happen, praise the Lord! But if not, don't worry. God can heal and restore. But He may want to lead and guide you through a process first. Walk with the Lord. Take it day by day.

The Bible says that "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. *"The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."*

Lamentations 3:22-24

It doesn't matter when you are reading this. God's mercies are new for you, right now.

Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins. The righteous for the unrighteous. Jesus, who never sinned, died for us, who are sinners by nature.

We are able to come and receive forgiveness of our sins because of God's love, grace and mercy.

CACS Thank You

Letter to the Editor:

We, at Capital Area Community Services, Inc. in Shiawassee County, would like to extend our most sincere appreciation to ALL of the Shiawassee County residents, businesses, community groups, churches, Secret Santa and the Shiawassee County sheriff's Department for their assistance with Christmas Wishes this year. Because of everyone's combined efforts and contributions of time, money and gifts to Christmas Wishes, YOUR efforts made December 25th a very special day of the year for 463 children. Shiawassee County people rocks!

Thank you for caring and sharing this Holiday Season from all of the staff.

Rebecca Zemla

Shiawassee Co. Center Coordinator



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

It is already four in the afternoon on Christmas Eve, my daughter; Diane gave me the gift of her time today and helped to put my house back in order. We moved a lot of furniture and I did another sort and toss, and we finally got my tree ready for decorating. So I have been spending the afternoon trying to add a bit of color to my décor. Also I'm cleaning all of the bookshelves and tables; they are covered with dust from the remodel.....a lot of dust. All I can do is one thing at a time and I've been running around bare footed.....or in flip flops all day.....so of course my ankles are screaming at me for lack of support. You would think that I would think before I acted. Not today I haven't.....but it has been a wonderful day.

My drapes and curtains are up and really spruce up the living and dining rooms; they even seem to reflect a smidgen of good taste. Who'd have thought that I could pull it off? Right now there are too many tables and not enough seating and I seem to be misplacing items.....like the hammer which must have taken a hike when I was seeking out some small nails to hang up a few items. All I could find were framing nails.....I must be having too much fun. I have spent the day becoming reacquainted with the power of Old English, my furniture is looking phenomenal!!!!

Shortly William will be home from his dialysis session and then we will head over to Ashley for our candle light service and communion. My daughter and family will be meeting us over there and it will be nice to feel the glow and camaraderie of the season. Hopefully we will be singing the old Christmas hymns and embracing the hope that Christmas offers us all.

Tomorrow will be a fairly relaxing day for me. My son is making the feast, and so far he is spot on with his turkey prep. I will make the seven layer salad and get it into the refrigerator first thing in the morning, and then I hope to refill my bookcases with an interesting variety of books and a smidge of décor. I might study a bit.....and just enjoy the day. Of course there are some totes that need to ascend the stairs.....and they won't do it on their own steam.

All of the deliveries except one have been made.....I'm ready to get nestled in my bed and I don't care if the sugar plums dance in my head. Just some nice blissful uninterrupted sleep.....oops I don't have the pie dough made for Will's pies. Early in the morning should give him plenty of time to make his fillings and get them baked. The eggs are boiled, the bread is drying.....and I'm still trying to figure out how I can get everything put together in a cohesive eye appealing manner. I got dreams.....

Christmas morn was beautiful even though there was no snow; the horizon was filled with beautiful colors to announce the beginning of another day. Gradually all things came together and by late afternoon all was in place; minus the flying apple pie that did a spectacular flip and crash landed face first on the floor. The flip and crash was remarkable and the house filled with laughter.....my poor daughter was horrified.....Will and I not so much. She felt responsible.....we didn't see it that way.

So it is time to wish you all a Happy New Year.....may it be filled with blessings such as good health, much happiness, good humor, and financial stability. May you see the humor in flying pies that become inedible and may God bless you daily.

Crystal Mitchell©2019

Dana Blank Appointed to Michigan Board of Massage Therapy

Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced appointments to Boards and Commissions.

Dana M. Blank, of Ovid, is a language arts teacher at Ovid-Elsie Area Schools. She holds a Masters of Arts in Adult and continuing Education from Michigan State University. Ms. Blank is appointed to represent public members for a term commencing January 1, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2020. She succeeds Stacey Murray who has resigned.



A Pastor's Perspective

by LARRY SMITH

Foundations for a Successful Life

Last week we started a series concerning the meaning and purpose of life. We likened life to a jig saw puzzle and our circumstances to the pieces that must fit together to form the overall picture. We saw that the task becomes less confusing, less frustrating when we realize what life is really supposed to look like. Seeing "The Big Picture" enables us to fit our circumstances into a logical and reasonable pattern that can bring purpose and peace in spite of, not because of, circumstances. Having these "pieces" fitted properly together, whatever they may look like individually, becomes a life well lived – a truly successful life. In the weeks ahead I would like for us to consider this "Big Picture" of life, seeing what it should look like and perhaps why the pieces haven't fit together for us in the past.

The "Big Picture", the thing that the circumstances of our life fit into, the thing that causes them to make sense is called our "worldview." It's the bottom line of what we perceive to be truth. The problem is that my worldview may, or may not, reflect the truth. Truth is not what I create with my mind, or what I dream up, but facts as they actually are. So, if we are to get the pieces of life to fit together accurately, if we are to live the successful life, it is imperative that we recognize truth and live in conformity to it. Living in reality is living in accord with the truth. Dr. Neil Anderson says it like this; "Everybody believes in something and everybody lives according to what they believe to be true, but if what we believe isn't true, then how we live won't be right."

I once asked a 21-year-old man what his plans and goals for life were. He said that his intentions were to attend the University of Notre Dame on a football scholarship and then play in the N.F.L. He had failed to graduate from high school, was about 5'- 9 in. in height, weighed about 150 pounds and had never played organized football. He was believing something that wasn't true, and his life has demonstrated it. "Make believe" always catches up with us sooner or later. Now this is an extreme example, but how many times do we fail to live in reality?

Perhaps we are like another young man that I read of in a short story. This story took place in the late 19th century. He was a traveling salesman and while in Memphis he received a telegram from his mother-in-law saying that his wife was in labor for their first child, it wasn't going well, and that he needed to return home as soon as possible. Just as he boarded the train another telegram arrived. He looked at it for some time without reading it and then stepped out between cars, tore it into small pieces and scattered them in the wind. He returned to his seat and began to tell others that his wife had just delivered their first child, a boy and that both were doing well. He was congratulated by them and was cheerful for the remainder of the trip, but upon arriving at the train station he was met by those who informed him that both his wife and the baby had died in childbirth. Sometimes we lie to ourselves or hide from the truth in order to save our emotions, but truth and reality always catch up with us. To experience a successful life, it is imperative that it be based upon these two foundations. Therefore, our goal must be to discover truth and live in the light of reality.


DeWitt Garden Club

submitted by Susan Chiodi

The DeWitt Millennium Garden Club will begin taking orders for their annual fundraiser geranium sale beginning February 13th. The Club will be offering a variety of options and many lovely colors. All plants are top quality. Specific colors and pricing coming soon and will be posted on the DMGC Facebook page.

DeWitt Millennium Garden Club meets the second Thursday of the month at Redeemer United Methodist Church 13980 Schavey Rd. 6:30 pm. Please come visit! (Meetings are canceled if DeWitt schools are cancelled)

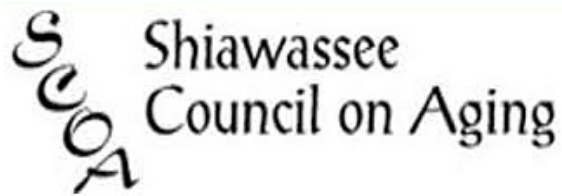
Senior Spotlight



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Shiawassee Council on Aging

submitted by Cynthia Mayhew

Shiawassee Council on Aging is distributing shelf stable meals to seniors in Shiawassee County. These meals are meant to be saved for consuming when there emergencies such as inclement weather, or power outages.

In order to qualify the individual must live in Shiawassee County and be 60 years or older.

Seniors who qualify may pick their shelf stable meal box up at the Shiawassee Council on Aging, 300 N Washington St, Owosso, MI.

Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. First Come First Serve, supplies limited.

Older Driver Safety Awareness

submitted by Mike Doyle

If you have an aging driver in the household, you're not alone. In Michigan, residents age 65 and older represent the fastest-growing segment of the state's driving population.

To highlight the issues surrounding aging drivers, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson urges residents to observe "Older Driver Safety Awareness Week." This nationally recognized event has been organized to promote the understanding of the mobility and transportation issues that affect older adults, such as how to assist drivers who can still drive safely and how to prevent transportation concerns from becoming a barrier that keeps seniors isolated at home.

"Everyone benefits when older drivers are safe," Benson said. "I encourage all Michiganders to visit the Safe Drivers Smart Options website for information and support about maintaining safety, mobility and activity for aging drivers and their loved ones and communities."

Older drivers, families and friends can begin the discussion by visiting the state's Safe Drivers Smart Options: Keys to Lifelong Mobility website at Michigan.gov/AgingDriver.

The website is a statewide response to the need for information on this important and challenging subject. It was developed through a collaboration of public and private agencies as a much-needed strategy to promote safety and mobility for Michigan's aging adults.

Recognized for excellence by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, the website provides accessible information and resources for drivers, their families and the professionals who work with them. Among the website's many resources are:

Older driver self-assessment driving tools and videos

Links to driver refresher courses and other community supports for older drivers

Information about how medications and health problems may affect driving and lists of resources available to drivers once they stop driving

Strategies for initiating conversations about when and how to transition to a non-driving lifestyle

Procedures for referring an unsafe driver for a driver reexamination

Information about the aspects of aging and how best to interact with older residents for audiences such as law enforcement, healthcare and other professionals




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MMDHD Hearing & Vision

submitted by Linda Gronda

Vision screening is required for all children entering kindergarten. The Mid-Michigan District Health Department offers free vision testing, as well as hearing screening tests for all children ages 3 to 21. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (989) 227-3125, Monday through Friday.

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Senior Spotlight

Social Security Expands Public Hours at Offices Nationwide

submitted by Vonda Vantil

Starting on January 8, 2020, Social Security offices nationwide will be open to the public on Wednesday afternoons, Andrew Saul, Commissioner of Social Security, announced. This change restores Wednesday public service hours that were last in place in late 2012. "I don't want someone to come to our office at 2:30 on a Wednesday only to find our doors closed," Commissioner Saul said.

In another move to improve service to the public, Commissioner Saul announced in his Open Letter to the Public at www.ssa.gov/agency/coss-message.html that the agency is hiring 1,100 front line employees to provide service on the agency's National 800 Number and in its processing centers. The agency is currently bringing onboard 100 new processing center employees and approximately 500 new teleservice representatives for the 800 Number. An additional 500 hires for the 800 Number will occur later in 2020.

"Improving service is my top priority. Increasing full public service hours at our nationwide network of more than 1,200 field offices is the right thing to do and will provide additional access," Commissioner Saul said. "The hiring of a thousand new employees to provide service through our National 800 Number and an additional 100 hires to process people's Social Security benefits at our processing centers around the country are steps in the right direction in our mission to greatly improve the service we provide."

Currently, a field office is generally open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to Noon on Wednesdays. Beginning on January 8, 2020, offices will remain open until 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, with typical field office hours from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

While the agency continues to improve both the access to and the experience with its services, it is important to note that most Social Security services do not require the public to take time to visit an office. People may create a my Social Security account, a personalized online service, at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Through their personal my Social Security account, people can check personal information and conduct business with Social Security. If they already receive Social Security benefits, they can start or change direct deposit online, and if they need proof of their benefits, they can print or download a current Benefit Verification Letter from their account.

People not yet receiving benefits can use their online account to get a personalized Social Security Statement, which provides earnings history information as well as estimates of future benefits. Currently, residents in 40 states and the District of Columbia may request a replacement Social Security card online if they meet certain requirements. The portal also includes a retirement calculator and links to information about other online services, such as applications for retirement, disability, and Medicare benefits.

Many Social Security services are also conveniently available by dialing toll-free, 1-800-772-1213. People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call Social Security's TTY number, 1-800-325-0778.

Community Invited to Health Needs Assessment Information Meeting

submitted by Melissa Neuhaus

Owosso – Memorial Healthcare, in collaboration with the Shiawassee County Health Department and the Shiawassee Community Health Needs Assessment Team, conducted a community health survey for our county this year. We are pleased to present the results of the survey and we are indebted to our community partners for their work in making this project happen. These results will assist local agencies to address the needs of Shiawassee County residents.

An informational meeting to announce these results has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 14 at Memorial Healthcare, 826 W. King Street, Owosso. The meeting will run from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm in the South Auditorium.

The Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio (HCNO) will be conducting the survey. Tessa Elliott, Community Health Improvement Manager at HCNO, will present to the group after a welcome by Brian L. Long, FACHE, President/CEO of Memorial Healthcare.

Memorial is looking for a wide variety of community stakeholders to attend including parents, leaders from business, healthcare, government, non-profit organizations, elected officials, educators, agriculture, law enforcement, and ministerial representatives. All community members are welcome to attend.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP by January 8 to Becky Dahlke, Community Resource Manager at: (989) 729-4856 or by email at RDahlke@memorialhealthcare.org.





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FREE Heart Health Class Offered

submitted by Melissa Neuhaus

Owosso– Memorial Healthcare invites area adults to participate in a FREE Heart Health Class. This class will teach participants how to reduce cholesterol levels and blood pressure through nutritional changes related to fat and sodium. Presenter is Marla Price, Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator at Memorial Healthcare.

The class meets quarterly on Wednesdays. January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 14, 2020 from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm at the Memorial Healthcare Community Wellness, Nutrition, and Diabetes Center in the Woodard Building (North Entrance), 317 S. Elm Street, Suite 202, Owosso.

There is no cost for this program. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED! Space is limited and early registration is encouraged. To register, please call: (989) 729-4700.

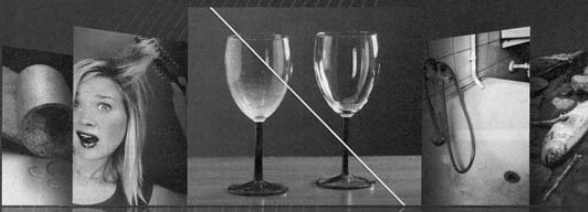


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**Victor Township, Clinton County, MI
6843 Alward Road Laingsburg, MI
Proposed Board Minutes from
December 9th, 2019 meeting**

The regular meeting of Victor Township was called to order by Supervisor Warren Malkin at 7:00pm.

In Attendance: Warren Malkin, Amanda Conklin, Mike Wall, Paula Willoughby, Julie Townsend

Public Comment: A township resident commented on how great the parking lot and lighting looks after construction and lighting upgrades.

Agenda: Motion by Willoughby approve the agenda as amended.

Supported by Malkin. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes: Motion by Willoughby to approve the minutes from November 11, 2019. Supported by Townsend. All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Conklin to accept the treasurer's report. Supported by Townsend. All in Favor. Motion carried.

Approval of bills: Motion by Willoughby to pay the November bills in the amount of \$94,500.56 using checks # 27646-27683 and e-checks #430-435. Supported by Conklin. All in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Willoughby to disburse payroll and related payroll expenses for November 2019 in the amount of \$5929.17. using checks #12402-12409. Supported by Conklin. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reports:

County Commissioner Adam Stacey spoke about the latest plan to fund the needed 911 emergency operation upgrades. They are proposing a .85 millage to fund it. This would be the first county millage in over a generation and a half.

Victor Township Planning Commission member; Kim Dutcher provided on the survey they mailed out with the tax bills. So far 121 surveys have been returned. He also noted planning commission meetings will continue to be held on the first Monday of each month, but will now begin at 7:15.

LSW: Minutes from October 16, 2019 meeting and the October 2019 activity report were reviewed.

Maintenance & Facilities: Clery Fence plans to install fence the week of December 9, 2019. Lenon Electric plans to begin installing new lighting in the firehall conference room and garage the week of December 30, 2019. Fire trucks will need to be moved out. Arrangements for that will be made between LSW and Lenon Electric. Motion by Willoughby to pay \$3200.00 deposit to Lenon Electric and \$1450.00 to Clery Fence. Supported by Townsend. All in favor. Motion carried.

Items of Public Interest: Tax Bills In 2017 the voters passed the EMS millage – this millage replaces the "Fire" millage. The amounts are the same 1.5. Neither millage was charged to residents last year in an effort to spend the "Fire" funds in the account. The Township Board voted to charge the millage this year. The only difference between the fire millage and the EMS millage is that the Fire millage could be use ONLY on FIRE Protection and the EMS millage can be used on emergency services rather than limiting it to FIRE only.

Correspondence: A letter from a resident regarding her interaction with Lansing Mercy Ambulance Service was reviewed and placed on file.

Unfinished Business:

1. Security System – Print Makers Service Inc attended the meeting to answer some questions regarding their quote. Office Administrator< Melanie McIntosh and Trustee Mike Wall will begin work on the Security RFP in December.
2. Policy & Procedures – Amendments were received by Trustee Townsend. Conklin will redraft and furnish to the Board at the January meeting.
3. Parking lot has been 100% completed
4. Ordinance 19.3 Fire, Ambulance & Inhalator Service Charges Ordinance – Township Attorney David Revore addressed the Board regarding the ongoing disorganization of the ordinances. It was suggested the board consider entering into contract with a company specialized in assisting with the organization of ordinances. Revore and Willoughby will review all of the fire and emergency services ordinances and work to draft one single ordinance to encompass all that currently exist.
5. Janitorial Services – Supervisor Malkin reported floors are not being properly mopped and parking lot trash can have not been emptied. Due to the weather and the can being uncovered it will be removed and placed in the pavilion concession stand for winter. Conklin will notify custodian of the mopping issues.
6. Update Signers Account revisions are being carried out.
7. Water Heater – Quotes are being accepted.

New Business:

1. 2020-2021 Budget Malkin provided the Board with a proposed draft budget. Willoughby suggested everyone review each line item and suggest a plan for the budgeted amounts.
2. Budget adjustments and corrections were presented to the Board and approved.

Extended Public/Board Comment:

Motion by Malkin to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 pm, supported by Wall.

Amanda Conklin, Clerk

Laingsburg News

Celebrate the New Year by Recycling the Old

submitted by Ellen Link

There are those who would argue that recycling will do nothing to stop the tsunami of climate change that has already begun. But if everyone—everyone—did whatever they could to protect and restore our environment, the transformation would be enormous. It may be late in the game but it's not too late for a "Hail Mary" pass or two.

So, you might ask, how can recycling help? It reduces the need to keep extracting, refining and processing raw materials—which creates so much of our air and water pollution. It saves energy, which in turn reduces the greenhouse gas emissions which are at the root of our climate change dilemma. And with every cardboard box and glass jar and magazine recycled it continues to remind one that the environment needs our attention and stewardship.

Michigan's residential recycling rate is only 14.5 percent, lower than every other Great Lakes state and one of the lowest in the country. The rest of our waste – \$435 million worth of reusable materials annually – goes straight into a landfill. You can help turn that around. If you aren't already recycling, please start now. Don't worry about going the whole nine yards right away; start with one thing, then another, and another. We're glad to help—to answer your questions, steer you in the right direction, and empty your vehicle when you bring your stuff. When you recycle, you'll find you're part of a large community of others who also care.

Recycling drives are held the second Saturday of each month (as they have been for 30 years now). Barring a blizzard

or below-10-degrees weather, the next one will be on Sat., Jan. 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in downtown Laingsburg. We hope you'll be there.

Materials accepted every month include newspaper and phone books, glass containers for food and beverage, tin and aluminum (can be mixed), scrap metal, electronics (no CRT monitors), corrugated cardboard and boxboard (include brown paper bags here), mixed office paper (no adhesives), books, magazines, and plastics #1-7 (please separate them into #1's, clear #2's, colored #2's, and #3-7 and keep lids separate). Household batteries continue to be accepted as well; please separate into regular, lithium, and rechargeables. Note: the GLR cannot accept plastic grocery bags or polystyrene/Styrofoam (this item is accepted at the St. Johns Lions', Meridian Twp. and East Lansing sites).

As always, recyclers from any community are welcome. A \$2-\$3 donation to help cover our costs is requested but not mandatory. For questions re: what we take or more information about anything mentioned, contact Terry or Ellen Link at (517) 651-2005 or Beth Lange at 651-6437. Let's all try to make 2020 a healthy, hopeful and sustainable new year.



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MCCLINTOCK PARK AMPHITHEATER

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Laingsburg at City Hall up to 2 P.M. local time, Thursday, January 30, 2020, at which time and place proposals will be publicly opened and read for McClintock Park Amphitheater.

The Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Builders Exchange in Lansing. Questions can be directed to Bob Ford of Landscape Architects and Planners, Inc., at (517) 485-5500 or bford@lapinc.net.

A Pre-bid meeting will be held Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 2 P.M. at Laingsburg City Hall, 114 N. Woodhull, Laingsburg, Michigan 48848.

State or Federal funds are being used to assist in construction, and relevant State and Federal requirements will apply.

The contractor and sub-contractor agrees to abide by the regulations of Executive Order 11246, HUD 4010 and the Section 3 Clause. The contractor and sub-contractor also agrees to pay, no less than, FEDERAL Davis Bacon wages, as identified in MI20190001 and MI20190044.

Bids must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond payable to the City of Laingsburg, in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid amount, which shall be forfeited to the City of Laingsburg if the bidder to whom the Contract is awarded fails to enter into a Contract within ten (10) days after the Contract is awarded. The unsuccessful bidders' checks or bid bonds will be returned upon final award of Contract, approved and executed. The successful bidder will be required to furnish both Labor and Material Payment and Performance Bonds in the amount of the Contract Award.

The City of Laingsburg reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive defects in bids, and to make the award in its own best interest.

CITY OF LAINGSBURG
By: Paula Willoughby, Treasurer

Sports

OE Wrestling at Ionia Invitational

submitted by Kyle Spiess

Ionia invitational was a ten team round robin tournament. This was a great meet for us so all our kids had 5 matches. This type of tournament gets us experience and that is what we need.

Placers for OE are Mason Spiess 1st at 103 who is ranked 6th in D3, Max Spiess 3rd at 119, Gavyn Perry 3rd at 125, Eric Perry 4th at 160 and Trenton Hurst 4th at 171.

Up next for OE is Imlay city invitational on January 4th. Our only home meets left this year are next, we will be home Wednesday January 8th for a conference quad that is also senior night and then Saturday January 11th for the Ovid Elsie Team tournament.



Gavyn Perry pins his opponent at the Ionia Invite.
Photo by Marie Spiess

OE Bowling

submitted by Matt Fabus

The Ovid-Elsie Keglers were in action on December 21st at Galaxy Lanes in Grand Blanc. Both teams recorded wins against Genesee.

The girls won 28-2. High scores included Madison Schneider 139, Chloe Taylor 158-173, Jocelynn Holton-Pugh 141, Mikayla Kelley 161, Lizzy Underhill 187.

The boys won 19.5-10.5. High scores were Ian Hehrer 172, Tom Terpening 142, Steve Zedemont 155, 181, Eian Bushard 182, Tray Terpening 147, 167, Corbin Kelley 154, 170.

On December 28th the teams bowled at Richfield Lanes in a Mix Doubles tournament, three Petersons and two Bakers to qualify.

104 teams of doubles bowled. Top 32 teams bowled in match play.

The team of Chloe Taylor and Tray Terpening made the field of 32. They faced Oxford who qualified 1st and OE 32nd.

The teams bowled two baker games and total pins moved on. Oxford 161-156 for 317 and OE 136 - 114 for 250.

Next up is January 4th at Fenton Lanes against Byron. January 5th at Capitol Bowl, boys at 8am; girls at 12 Noon.



Madison Schneider



Ian Hehrer



Chloe Taylor



Tray Terpening

Wolfpack's Hawes Can't Get Enough Basketball

LAINGSBURG — Gabe Hawes has been playing basketball longer than he's been in public schools. His progress is evident, and the accolades are starting to roll in.

Earlier in a season that is starting to look quite impressive for coach Daniel Morrill and the Laingsburg Wolfpack, Hawes was named the Owosso Argus-Press male Athlete of the Week.

"I was home schooled growing up until high school, so I've only been going to school for four years," Hawes said.

In the time since, Hawes has grown into one of the better basketball players in the area. In his first varsity season he was a part of a league championship roster where he mostly served as spot-up shooter.

Last year Hawes led the Wolfpack in scoring with 16.8 points per game and earned first-team all-Central Michigan Athletic Conference honors.

Coach Morrill -- himself a Wolfpack basketball alum -- loves what he's seen so far from Hawes. He praised how far Hawes has come from spot shooter to all around player and leader.

"Gabe is doing a tremendous job both as a player and a leader," Morrill said. "He's first one in gym, last to leave. He can't get enough of basketball, he works very hard at it and he's gifted."

Hawes just wants to help his team succeed any way he can. "If we're winning I'm happy."

Ashley Lady Bears Lose Tight Game To Coleman

by Ashleigh Shaw

The Lady Bears took on the Coleman Comets in a conference matchup on December 19th before the Holiday break. Ashley once again was short-handed and only had five players due to injuries. Although they only had five players at the end of the first quarter Ashley trailed by 9 and by halftime only trailed by one 25-24. The game continued to stay close, at the end of the third quarter Coleman lead by 7. Ashley struggled to take a lead at a key point and lost the game 60-42.

"We battled all night staying in the game for three quarters until we ran out of gas at the end. We have to continue to work on getting better at the little things as we still have too many unforced turnovers and struggled shooting 10 for 24 from the free throw line; those are precious points that we can't afford to give up" commented Coach Shaw.

Two players for the Bears had double doubles on the night as Isabelle Kremer scored 22 points had 12 rebounds also adding 3 blocks. Ashley Gavenda scored 15 points grabbed 11 rebounds and added 5 steals. Makenzie Stoneman chipped in 5 points and had 5 rebounds, Kellie Brown had 8 rebounds and Korryn Brown had 6 rebounds.



Isabele Kremer



Ashley Gavenda



Kellie Brown



Korryn Brown



Makenzie Stoneman

Ovid Public Library

When the days are too long and you need some company, come watch a movie at the Ovid Public Library. On Mondays at noon, the following movies will be shown at the Ovid Public Library.

January 6: Sleepless in Seattle 1993 105 minutes

January 13: Carefree 1938 83 minutes (with Fred and Ginger)

January 20: Part one of Gone with the Wind 1939

January 27: Part two of Gone with the Wind

For more information, please call the Ovid Public Library at 989-834-5800 or check us out on Facebook.



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Editorial

Winter 2020
Events



The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster

theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

Plenty of indoor and outdoor activities to keep you busy during the winter and early spring months. Clip out this column and attach it to your calendar or hang on the refrigerator.

1/01- DNR, Snowmobile Safety Class, DeWitt, ongoing, Barbara Beatty, 517-775-4520
1/09-12 Ultimate Fishing Show, Novi, showspan.com
1/10-11 Laingsburg Rabbit/Squirrel Derby, Laingsburg, 517-420-3716
1/11- KofC #788, Wild Game Dinner, Lansing, 517-321-2209
1/11- PF, State Meeting & Banquet, Bath, Brad Brunken, 810-224-0300
1/13- Elsie Lions, 27th Annual Wild Game Dinner, Elsie, Richard Easlick, 517-881-0024
1/17- SCI Lansing, Whitetails Awards Night and Chapter Dinner, Bath, lansingsci.com
1/18- SCA, Membership Dinner, Owosso, 989-725-7588
1/21- Friends of the Shiawassee River, Friends 2020 Annual Meeting, Owosso, 989-723-9062
2/07- RMEF, Saginaw Valley Chapter Banquet, Saginaw, Dan Johnson 989-312-2315
2/07-09 Birch Run Hunting & Fishing Expo, Birch Run, birchrunhuntfish.com
2/08- WTU, Michigan Deer Camp, Lansing, Jim Kurdziel, 231-894-1515
2/08- DeVries Nature Conservancy, Snowshoe Clinic, Owosso, 989-723-3365
2/21- RGS, Flint Roger Moore chapter Banquet, Fenton, Kevin Stewart, 810-516-7068
2/22- RMEF, Capital Area Chapter Banquet, Bath, Joshua Korson, 517-282-9523
2/22- NWTf, Timber Ghost Gobbers Banquet, Morrice, Jason Defrenn, 810-625-7567
2/27- DU, MSU Ducks Unlimited Dinner, Lansing, George Legacy, 517-625-5192
2/27-3/01 Outdoorama, Novi, showspan.com
2/28- PF, Genesee #112 Banquet, Grand Blanc, 810-695-5169 or 810-635-7988
2/29- QDMA, Clinton/Ionia Banquet, Fowler, Chad Thelen, 517-819-6344
3/06- RGS, Saginaw Valley Chapter, Saginaw, Russell Whelton, 989-297-0127
3/07- PF, Shiawassee #399 Banquet, Owosso, Bryan Gross, 810-869-4170
3/13-15 Gaylord Hunting Expo, Gaylord, gaylordhuntingexpo.com
3/13-15 Outdoor Life/Field & Stream Expo, Lansing, fieldandstreamexpo.com
3/13-14 SCI Flint, Outfitters Night, Fundraiser & Dinner, Flint, sciflint.com
3/14-15 MUCC, Chainsaw Safety Clinic, Rose Lake Shooting Range, 517-371-1041
3/19-22 Ultimate Sport Show, Grand Rapids, showspan.com
3/20- DU, Mid-Shiawassee Chapter, Durand, Tonya Conrad, 989-413-5519
3/20- HBA of Greater Lansing, 2020 Wild Game Dinner, Lansing, 517-323-3254
3/20- PF, Saginaw #526 Banquet, Frankenmuth, Jeanna, 989-652-2200
3/20-21 SCI, Outfitters Night, Fundraiser & Dinner Bath, lansingsci.com/fundraiser/
3/21- SCA, Earl Davenport Education Scholarship Dinner, Owosso, 989-725-7588
3/21- PF, Clinton #469 Banquet, Fowler, Dave Rademacher, 517-282-8758
3/21- PF, Gratiot #90 Banquet, Ithaca, Dean Havelka, 989-763-1575
3/21- CBM, Annual Banquet, Location Unknown, 517-679-6226
3/28- WTU, Chesaning Area Chapter Banquet, Chesaning, Chris Sloan, 989-284-9193
4/04- NWTf, Learn to Hunt Spring Turkey, Scouting and Shotgun Patterning, Rose Lake Shooting Range, Steve Sharp, 517-930-0947
4/17- NWTf, Mid Michigan Chapter Banquet, Bath, Michael Arnold, 810-650-3331
4/17- DU, Clinton County Chapter Banquet, St. Johns, Chris Mikula, 989-640-7104
4/24- DU, Red Cedar Chapter Banquet, East Lansing, Richard Jess, 517-862-2814
-WS

Meeting Dates and Times

City of Ovid - Meets the second Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held January 13th at 7pm at City Hall, 114 E. Front St., Ovid.

City of Laingsburg - Meets the first Monday of each month. The next meeting will be Monday, January 6th at 7pm at 114 Woodhull St. Laingsburg.

Woodhull Township - Meets the first Wednesday of each month. Because of the New Year Holiday the next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 8th at 7pm at 7315 W. Beard Rd., Shaftsbury.

Sciota Township - Meets the second Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held January 13th at 7pm at the township hall located at 3990 Leland Rd., Laingsburg.

Victor Township - Now Meets the second Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held January 13th at 7pm at 6843 Alward Rd., Laingsburg.

Village of Elsie - Meets the second Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be held January 14th at 7pm at 145 W.Main St., Elsie.

Go Positive - Meets January 14th at 6:45 a.m. at Agro Liquid in St. Johns. 3055 W. M-21.

Duplain Township - Meets the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be held January 8th at 7pm, at 145 W. Main St., Elsie.

Middlebury Township - Meets the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be held January 8th at 7pm at 7627 W. M-21, Ovid.

Village of Ashley - Meets the second Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be held January 9th at 7pm at 110 N. Sterling, Ashley.

Ovid Township - Meets the second Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be held January 9th at 7pm. at 1015 Baese Court, Ovid.

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1506

THE VILLAGE OF ELSIE is seeking lawn care bids for the 2020 lawn mowing season for the Riverside Cemetery. For more info and to download the bid packet, please go to www.elsie.org.

Packets need to be turned in to the Village Manager Shane Grinnell by 5pm, January 10th 2020.

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Let's get together soon!

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2019 Carriage Days Parade Marshalls



September 1, 2019

Wells and Sue Monroe
Carriage Days Parade Marshalls

100th Win



September 8, 2019

Brian Borgman, the Laingsburg Varsity football coach, got his 100th win for the Wolfpack in the season opening game against Perry which started on Thursday, August 29th and finished on the 30th due to weather conditions.

Kara Mahoney Signs Letter of Intent to Play Softball at LLC



November 24, 2019

Back Row (l-r) Stars Head Coach, Marc Kibby, Assistant Coach, Bill Cross, Sister, Andrea Mahoney and Wolfpack Varsity Softball Coach, Jeff Cheadle.
Seated: Father, Mark Mahoney, Kara and Mom, Linda Mahoney.

September 22, 2019

Lake Family Raises \$20,000 for Buck Family



Wylston & Scarlett Buck



The Lake Victoria Community, local businesses, high school teachers & organizations join forces to raise \$20,000 for Scarlett and her family.

2019 Ovid-Elsie Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony



October 6, 2019

(l-r): Debbie (Darling) Hurst, Lori (Ross) Larner, Donna (Cannon) Schafer, Karen Case, Teri Woodbury, Connie (Hettinger) Walter, Mary Perrien. 1983-84 OE Girls Basketball Team members who attended the 2019 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.



(l-r): Kirk Baese, Renae Huyck, Kevin M. Spiess. Huyck is holding the award for Maverick Darling who was unable to attend the ceremony.

Photos by Deb Price

Barton to Play Hoops for Indiana Tech



December 1, 2019

On Friday, November 22, 2019, Ovid-Elsie Senior, Lauren Barton signed a Letter of Intent to continue her basketball career at Indiana Tech, a Division 2 school in Fort Wayne. Lauren is pictured here with the Indiana Tech Assistant Coach (at left) Casey Morrisette, her Dad, Randy and Mom, Tracey.