

Elsie Area Fire & Rescue Receives Canned Drinking Water to Prepare for Upcoming Wildfire Season

submitted by Assistant Chief Shane Grinnell

Elsie Area Fire & Rescue recently received canned emergency drinking water to help provide critical hydration to its responders during this year's wildfire season. On May 11th 2020, Main Beverage out of Owosso Michigan, a local Anheuser-Busch wholesaler partner, dropped off 3 pallets to the department to help support its wildfire response needs. Maintaining firefighters' hydration during long incidents or disasters such as wildfires is a major safety concern for many departments.



Assistant Chief Grinnell, Captain Arnett and Dave Niewiadomski, Sales Manager at Main Beverage.

Elsie Area Fire & Rescue is a part paid department that covers the townships of Duplain township, In Clinton County, Fairfield Township in Shiawassee County, and parts of Chapin Township in Saginaw County. Prior to October of 2018 Elsie Fire only provided fire coverage, but with the closure of the Elsie Area Ambulance Service Elsie Area Fire Department stepped up and placed two Medical First Response Units in service with many firefighters provided dual rolls as Firefighter/ MFR, EMT or Paramedics. Elsie Fire & Rescue took almost 100 fire calls, and almost 300 Medical calls last year.

"Firefighters lose a tremendous amount of fluid during high-intensity response such as battling fire such as wildfires & structure fires. Proper hydration is critical to ensure the safety of our firefighters and to keep them performing at their best," said Elsie Fire and Rescue Assistant Chief Shane Grinnell "Thanks to this water donation from Anheuser-Busch and the National Volunteer Fire Council, we have the resources to keep our firefighters hydrated and ready to respond."



The water was donated by Anheuser-Busch through a partnership with the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC). Anheuser-Busch has a longstanding tradition of providing emergency drinking water and supplies for disaster relief efforts. The company periodically pauses beer production each year to can emergency drinking water to be ready to lend a helping hand during natural disasters and other crises.

Building on this commitment, the brewer teamed up with the NVFC – the leading nonprofit membership association representing the interests of the volunteer fire, emergency medical, and rescue services – in 2019 to provide emergency drinking water to help firefighters stay hydrated and healthy when responding to wildfires and large incidents. To date, the program has donated over 1.6 million cans of water to volunteer firefighters across the country.

Learn more about the program at www.nvfc.org/water. Or www.elsiefd.com

We're Still Open

submitted by Roger Dershem

The St Johns Recycling Center has limited hours due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The hours at the center are Monday-Friday from 7am-Noon and are close on the weekend. The center is in need of a baler which would normally cost \$30,000, the center has been offered one for \$14,000 from a Michigan Company. Your continued support for the recycling center is very much appreciated. Tax deductible donations to aid in helping obtain the needed baler equipment can be sent to St Johns Lions Recycling Center, PO Box 511, St Johns, MI 48879. For more information please call Roger Dershem at 989-640-1313.



Memorial Day Events Cancelled

Due to the Stay-at-Home, Stay Safe Policy issued by our Governor, the traditional Memorial Day Services have been cancelled in Elsie, Laingsburg, Ovid and Greenbush Township.

In Elsie, a list of war dead from the Ovid and Elsie area will be on display near the Memorial Monument in Elsie on Monday, May 25th.

We will all miss the traditional gatherings, the speeches, the music by our high school and alumni bands and the special time spent together remembering those who lost their lives fighting for the freedoms we enjoy. We will look forward to returning to those traditions in 2021.

Elsie Village Council Proceedings

by Dawn D. Levey

ELSIE - The new normal regarding municipal meetings including the Elsie Village is teleconferencing their regular meeting was held Tuesday, May 12, 2020, 7 pm. The evening was highlighted by each vote taken being a roll call and updates to the Village of Elsie business office.

Tome Frink, village president, presented a request from the Elsie Food Bank which was permission to remove the bushes surrounding the building permission was granted. It was noted that the Food Bank will provide the labor to remove bushes and a few maintenance items.

Officials were updated on the Elsie Village business office activities. The office is closed to the public, the administrative assistant is working a few hours a week, Shane Grinnell, village manager, is working his regular hours and giving staff an opportunity to catch up on work and projects.

Grinnell further reported the monthly manager's meeting was conducted virtually discussion focused on what re-opening of offices to the public will look like. Grinnell encouraged discussion on a possible open date, officials determined June 1, 2020 as a target date, pending no further out breaks. Other changes to the office include: the glass lobby window has been replaced with a shut and locked window with a slot at the bottom of the window to pass paperwork and money through. There will also be a hand free two-way intercom system installed next to the window to enhance communication. Finally, the door into the office area will be locked.

Officials took action to approve the summer water usage to minimum of 5,000 gallons per month, effective May 1, expiring August 31. This is one month early due to Covid-19.

Shane Grinnell, village manager, updated officials on the status of a number of ongoing projects. First, grants for the police car and Department of Public Works sewer camera equipment are in progress. Due to the "Shelter in Place" order extension no action or meetings have been slated for the ordinance committee meeting to discuss code enforcement duties, procedures and duties; rental housing ordinance relating to inspections and updating the ordinance book. It was noted that committee members were asked to research and bring suggestions to the meeting when established. Officials were notified that last payment has been made on the water tower.

Police Chief Spagnuolo, requested that the ordinance committee consider updating or refining the lawn mowing violations ordinance there are a few areas that may need to be amended including the process of getting the property mowed and a possible administration fee.

Next, Grinnell, reported on the activities of the Department of Public Works. Mowing season has begun. DPW full-time employees Collin Freeman and Brad Sutliff have been working on a spread sheet/data base that records all street signs - intersection signs, dead end, etc., their condition, and location. When the project is completed the department will have a serial number for each sign, condition of said sign, and a replacement schedule for the sign. On a related issue, it was suggested that the street committee meet to evaluate the state of the street signs and to also consider a replacement schedule. Grinnell further noted that there are no in home work orders being addressed at this time due to the pandemic.

Ann Trierweiler, clerk, reported that the Memorial Day remembrance has been cancelled for 2020. On a related topic officials noted that the cemetery and the park look very good to the upcoming holiday.

Monthly action was taken to approve the meeting agenda with the addition of a request by the Elsie Police Chief regarding the ordinance committee, the April 14, 2020 meeting, the financial reports and the Elsie Police report. Action was also taken by officials to approve expenditures totaling \$44,300.29.

Laingsburg School Board Meeting

submitted by Krissy Pratt

Laingsburg Community Schools Board of Education will conduct a regular meeting on Wednesday, May 20, 2020. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm using Zoom.

The major tentative agenda items for this meeting include the following: 2019-20 Budget Update, 2020-21 Budget Update, Legislative Update, District Staffing Update, Shiawassee RESD 2020-21 General Fund Operating Budget Resolution, TowerPinkster and Christman Company bond design & construction timeline update, Personnel and any other business that may properly come before the board.

Board meetings are open to the public. Upon request to the Superintendent, the District shall make reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities to be able to participate in this meeting.



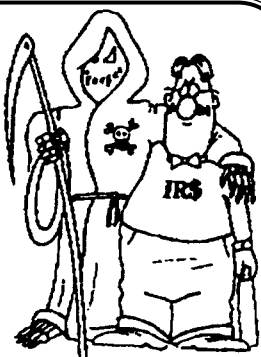
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Duplain Township Proceedings

by Dawn D. Levey

The regular meeting of DuPlain Township was held Wednesday, May 13, 2020, 7:30 pm via conference call, the access numbers are (425)436-6361, access code: 884665. It was noted that officials anticipate that the teleconference will also be utilized at the June 10, 2020 regular meeting.

Bruce Levey, supervisor, received an update from Charter/Spectrum indicating that they will add fourteen English channels to the Latino package, on or about June 1, 2020.

In addition, Levey reported that the Clinton County Road Commission has been applying spot gravel to the township roads as contracted. The gravel is making noticeable improvements to the roads.

The millage language for the Emergency Services renewal and the Road Maintenance request has been approved by the county. Levey requested officials think about the type of promoting of the millage proposals that should take place one month prior and one week prior to the August 4, 2020 election date. It was also suggested that the township establish a Facebook page to keep the public engaged in the happenings and events of DuPlain Township. Amy Bowen, treasurer, volunteered to begin the process.

Next, Richard Bates, township clerk, reported that the current absentee ballot envelopes no longer meet the United States Postal Service standards and now need to be reprinted. He further noted that the county will not take on the responsibility of printing the envelopes it will be up to the individual townships to secure a vendor for the envelopes. Bates has found a vendor and envelopes have been ordered for both the August primary and the November general elections, the cost \$1,000. It is anticipated that there may be reimbursement from the State of Michigan.

Levey, informed officials that Jeff Houska called asking for direction regarding developing a corporate swine operation on N. Hollister Rd, the operational plan must start with the USDA then Clinton County Zoning Commission, and then it will be presented to the township. This process will take approximately six months.

Monthly action was taken to approve the agenda with the addition of envelopes for absentee voter ballots, and the proposed Jeff Houska swine operation, the minutes of the April 8, 2020 meeting, and the financial reports. Action was taken to approve expenditures totaling \$26,663.69.

Mr. Douglas Sturgis informed officials that a community committee has been established to plan the Free Fall Festival it is in the early planning stages and a date has not been set. More information will be available at a later date.

Duplain Township Held Special Meeting to Approve Millage Language

by Dawn D. Levey

A special meeting of Duplain Township was held Thursday, May 9, 2020. The virtual meeting was called to order by supervisor Bruce Levey at 7:30 pm the purpose of the meeting was to approve the ballot language for two ballot proposals that will appear on the August 4, 2020 ballot.

Resolution 2020-09 – ballot language for the renewal of EMS millage:

DUPLAIN TOWNSHIP MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL EMERGENCY SERVICES

Shall the previous voted increase in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution in Duplain Township of 2.5 mills (\$2.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value) which expires in 2020, be reduced and renewed at up to 1.5 mills (\$1.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and levied for four (4) years, 2021 through 2024 inclusive, for the purpose of providing emergency services in the Duplain Township, raising up to an estimated \$99,681.98 in 2021.

Item number two Resolution 2020-10 – ballot language for the road improvement, repair and maintenance millage.

DUPLAIN TOWNSHIP MILLAGE PROPOSAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT, REPAIR, AND MAINTENANCE

Shall Duplain Township impose an increase of up to 1.25 mills (\$1.25 per \$1,000 of taxable value) in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution, subject to the required millage rollbacks, and levy it for four (4) years, 2021 through 2024 inclusive, to improve, repair, and maintain roads within Duplain Township, raising up to an estimated \$83,068.21 in 2021.

Both proposals were researched and discussed by officials and were passed unanimously.

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ZCBJ Lodge #225

submitted by Joanne Fornusek

For 43 years we have gathered in Bannister to celebrate our heritage at the Czechoslovak Harvest Festival. However, there is nothing more important to us than the health, safety and well-being of our members, volunteers, guests and the entire community. During these uncertain times, we cannot be confident that it will be safe to gather on Aug. 2nd so the decision has been made to cancel this year's Harvest Festival. We will miss visiting with all our guests and enjoying the ethnic food, music and dance that characterize this annual celebration and look forward to seeing you on Aug. 1, 2021.

The picnic meeting scheduled for July 12th at Reed Park and our outing to a Lugnuts baseball game on July 17th have also been canceled.

We congratulate the accomplishments of our 2020 graduates: Josie Nash, Brooke Faber and Alex Taphouse from high school; Sarah Sopocy from college and Richelle Korienek from nursing school.

We also congratulate special members Annie Smalec and Margaret Nemecek as their policies have matured.

We are sad to report the loss of Lucille Chovanec who died on April 27 at 100 years of age, Walter Strebel, who died on Aug 21st and Bernard Pesce who died on Mar. 25th. We extend prayers and sympathy to their family and friends.

Some of our adult members, friends and Yell! members are continuing to make face masks, head bands and surgical caps for workers in hospitals, nursing homes, medical centers, sheriff's department, correctional facilities, other essential workers and family members. So far we have provided 3300 masks, 97 surgical caps and 119 headbands and will continue sewing as long as the need exists.

Although we are not having regular meetings at this time, we still plan to support the United Way "Stuff the Bus Project" of Gratiot, Isabella and Clare Counties. This program provides much needed support to every elementary classroom in the three counties. The lodge adopted two classrooms and individual members have also been making contributions. If any member would like to make a donation, please make out your check to UWGIC and mail to Ed Fornusek, 11466 S. Mason Rd., Bannister, MI 48807. Thank you.

We pray that our members and friends, throughout the organization, are staying safe and healthy during these difficult times.

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Ordering TAKE-OUT...



Editorial continued on page 9...



Have a Question for Andy?
 Submit them to:
ask_andy@aol.com
 You can also mail or drop questions off to: Meridian Weekly
 P.O. Box 11, Ovid, MI 48866

Getting Organized

Dear Andy,

I am enjoying being at home with my family during this time of keeping our social distances. The days go fast. However, I am not accomplishing as much as I think I should or could considering the amount of time we are staying home. I would like to get more projects done around my house, but everything seems overwhelming after living 34 years in the same house with our children and now older children with children. Also, I am getting tired of cooking all the time. Ten of us. I feel like a short order cook and head dish washer. I need some advice on how to get through this 24-7 closeness.

We have always lived as an extended family. There are 4 extras in my house and 4 others who live next door. We are practicing good hygiene and wearing mask when we have had to go to doctor's appointments, grocery store, gas station and any other essential responsibilities.

The cousins are working on their school assignments most mornings and play in the afternoon and help with jobs within their abilities and age limitations. We usually have supper together every night and it after 10:00 before everyone gets settled and into bed. I previously worked outside the home and do not know when I ever had time to work. I am overwhelmed and just cannot seem to get organized or anything completed. I have so many things I would like to take time to do. Like, sewing, gardening, and reading and corresponding with my church friends and extended family so we can stay in touch during this time of isolation. Any ideas? Grandma stuck at the farm.

Dear Grandma, Right? Or is it Super woman?

You need to not be so tough on yourself. Time does go fast, especially when everyone is busy. First of all, it sounds like you are fixing all the meals. I would like to suggest you take turns. Your two daughters should take a turn, and the kids and even the men in your house. Sometimes the most difficult challenge into meal preparations is thinking of what to make. Have family meeting and pick out meals they would like to make. Then set up a schedule. Teach the kids how to make their own breakfast and lunch. Dad's can grill out or make French toast quite easily.

Everyone needs indoor responsibilities. Have an adult with one of the kids on their night. The fork might be on the wrong side and someone's grilled cheese sandwich might get over toasted but that is just part of the learning process. Make a rule that who ever cooks that night does not have to clean up. Grandma should never have to clean up...just the final touches they have not learned quite yet. Keep breakfast and lunch simple unless you eat a big dinner at noon time. Only have one hearty meal per day. Make a menu and schedule. Show everyone where to find items they may need to fix their choice so you can be doing something else while others are busy in the kitchen. Be grateful for what they can do. Don't complain. Just be happy that you had time to do some mending or pull some weeds.

Next, you asked about your projects and getting organized. Step one: When possible I like to take everything out of a

room, wash the walls, windowsills, base boards, work from top to bottom, from left to right. Everything should have a place. Work on one room or area at a time. Set up 4 boxes or plastic tubs. Label the boxes: goodwill, pack away, find a place for the item, and the most important one labeled TRASH.

I had not cleaned my office thoroughly for about 5 years. I was doing a project here and there with a lick and a promise. Last week, I took everything out and put it in another room. Cleaned the entire room and only put back what things where they needed to be placed. I sorted papers, placed them in file folders and labeled them with a black marker and alphabetized them. I still have 6 boxes and 4 files to go through. It takes time.

Suggestions for the sewing room: Organize by projects, label, and put into small plastic tubs, stack neatly in a hutch or on a shelf for easy access. Suggestions for the Kitchen: Take everything out of the refrigerator and freezer pitch old items, clean and organized. Cupboards and the Pantry: Take everything out, wash shelves and organized supplies so labels face forward. Bedrooms: Take everything out from under the bed and organize into flat tubs and slide them back under a nicely vacuumed floor.

Closets: Say "thank you for making me look good in that outfit" ... but it time to say goodbye to everything that does not fit or have not worn in 2 years. Separate and organize by style and color. I like to hang the top next to the slacks or skirt I am wearing together. I place a sweater with the dress that am going to wear. I zip lock jewelry and accessories, then hook it on to the hanger with my outfits so I do not have to look for it when I am ready to get dressed. Bathrooms: unfortunately, need a daily wipe and a weekly through cleaning with disinfectants. Daughters are great at cleaning bathrooms. Just ask.

Sound overwhelming? ...Yes it is, so don't do it all in a day or even a week. It took years to build up stuff. Take months to get things organized the way you wish or visualize. But, most of all take time for you. Put your feet up and read a book or a magazine, take time once a week to sit at the table with a cup of coffee and write some short notes to friends and family you wish to keep in touch with. Enjoy the sunshine or the rain. Appreciate life.

My best advice: Everyday take time to do nothing. Pray or meditate; let your mind rest so you can be healthy and calm for yourself and your family. Sounds like a wonderful family lifestyle choice. Stay Safe and Stay Healthy...this may be a new way of life for a while.

Thanks for writing to Andy at ask_andy@aol.com.

Back In The Day

Lainzburg Icon Robert (Per) Blackledge

Robert (Per) Blackledge was a Laingsburg HS and community icon

NOTE: The 1977 "Looking Glass" -- the annual Laingsburg High School yearbook -- was dedicated to Robert (Per) Blackledge, who was one of the most well-known members of the community during that era.

Per was a volunteer extraordinaire, a bus driver, an organizer and a leader. Many people remember his long stints as a statistician and scorekeeper for athletic events, and his years-long dedication to driving and chaperoning students on Saturday morning "bowling league" to Tri-Ami Bowl in Ovid.

Per was the inaugural member of the Wolfpack Wall of Fame at LHS when it was first introduced in 1997. The following account is reprinted from the Laingsburg Historical Page on Facebook.

1977 Looking Glass is dedicated to Robert (Per) Blackledge

Mr. Robert Blackledge, also known by many as "Per," was born May 20, 1918. He was the oldest child of four. Per comes



from an educationally-oriented family. Both of his parents were teachers. His father died in 1971 and his mother is alive and well at the age of 82.

Per started working for the Laingsburg Community Schools in 1948. At that time he was a substitute bus driver. Since then he has served as a mechanic, custodian, full-time bus driver, and in 1968 he and his wife, Edythe, were the Junior Class advisors. Mr. and Mrs. Blackledge have volunteered to drive and chaperone countless athletic trips, the Saturday bowling bus, and club and class trips. Many of these times he has not charged the school for this work.

Today Mr. Blackledge is the assistant transportation supervisor. He organizes buses and their drivers for field trips and athletic trips. Through the years Per has acquired the qualifications to become a "Jack-of-all-Trades."



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

I hope that your Mother's Day was happy and filled with affection and family. Yes, mine was.....my cousin Arden brought over his rototiller and finished up my garden. Remember when I was all excited because my son-in-law was tilling for me? I think that I mentioned that the pull rope frayed and had to be replaced? I know that I did mention that it took both family and friends to get it back together again.....sort of like Humpty Dumpty.....but we did get it finished. Then Diane had us over for dinner.....chicken parmesan with a side of spaghetti, cheesy biscuits and a tossed salad. Plus a hefty gift certificate from Simpsons where I had been fantasizing over some variegated Japanese iris, Columbines, and Delphiniums.....so now I am prepping a larger flower garden in the center of the driveway.

My truck is getting used to the trips to the Home Depot.....Brent had run out of two by fours and couldn't finish up the chicken coop. We stopped back at my place for a sheet of particle board, some treated four by four posts and while loading those, Brent found a small door which was the perfect match for the exterior coop door. He was ecstatic and asked if he could have it and I gave it to him.....but I did tell him that it would cost him some time in my garden. He wasn't concerned.....just pleased as punch that he had found the door.

It has been a very fruitful week for me. I was pleased when Carolyn Ferrell came out and gave me an estimate on taking down my three blue spruce trees.....they are failing quickly and need to be removed. Ferrell's do a wonderful jobwhich includes the brush removal, stumps will be ground and that area will be cleaned up and ready for new top soil. My neighbor Ed will be removing the wood and using it for his outdoor heater. So it is a win win situation and I do like those.

Yesterday afternoon Diane came over to help dig up a couple snowball bushes.....Of course they do grow beneath the bush which is twelve feet tall. First William and I held back the branches so that Diane could dig out young bushes.....she hit a snag and I switched places with her. It was like backing up into a dense field of twigs to get the last shovel full and the bush removed. It worked out well, so they held the bush branches and I backed into it to remove the second bush. Now wouldn't ya know it.....they won't fit in Diane's trunk so I delivered one to her and had a good visit while she planted it.

I also dug up some chives to share and have the other bush sitting in a bucket while it awaits the arrival of another garden. As we were digging up the bushes my cousins John and Kathy stopped by for a few minutes.....and yes we kept our visit at the required six foot space but no masks since we were out in the yard. I know folks who believe that the world pandemic has been caused by the 5G networks.....the outbreaks seem to follow within six months of installation. Grand Rapids had theirs installed last December and now they are having the higher pandemic rate. It does make me wonder if humanity is again causing acute problems through research and disregard for side effects.

It has been another good week and I'm pleased that my potatoes are up and thriving and both the rhubarb and asparagus need picking. I hope to get my garden plants into the ground this weekend. May your days and common sense be fruitful. God bless you.

Crystal Mitchell©2020

NOTICE CITY OF OVID

This notice is to inform the voters, who live in the City of Ovid, whom would like to vote by Absentee Ballot in the August 4, 2020 Primary Election and/or the November 3, 2020 General Election must first submit an Absent Voter Application.

Contact your CITY CLERK at the City Municipal Building located at 114 E. Front Street, Ovid, or call at 989-834-5550 and request that an application for an absentee ballot to be sent to you or to be placed on the City's permanent Absentee voter list.

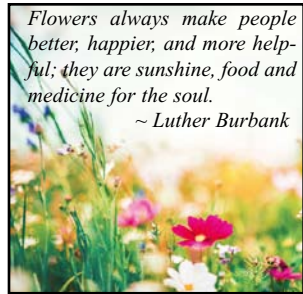
A written request can be made and must list your voting address within the City where you wish to vote, the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different, and your signature.

Josefina, Clerk
City of Ovid

Laingsburg Lions Raffle Tickets

Please contact a Laingsburg Lions Member or while you pick up some food at Twilliger's Tavern or essentials at Sage Market, Leonard's Hardware or at the Meridian Weekly, please purchase your Laingsburg Lions Springtime Raffle Tickets while you are there. \$10 each or 3 for \$20.

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ture, the patience and love

you showed your special
students, your love for your family and especially
me.

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Obituaries

Maureen Louise Beavers (Allen)

Maureen Louise Beavers (Allen), 69, of Laingsburg passed away May 9, 2020 after a long battle with MS. She passed peacefully with her sons, Chris and Greg, by her side at Sparrow Hospital.

Maureen was born July 12, 1950 and was a lifelong resident of Laingsburg. She graduated from Laingsburg High School in 1968 and went on to earn a Bachelor's degree from Michigan State University. She worked as a social worker for the State of Michigan in the Social Services department. She took pride in helping protect children and people of need for many years.

Maureen was very active with the First Congregational church in Laingsburg for many years where she taught Sunday school. She was an avid MSU fan and never missed a chance to cheer on her favorite team. In her retirement years, she enjoyed gardening and spending time with her family. She will be remembered for her soft spoken and gentle nature. Most described her as sweet, caring and welcoming to all. She had a quiet strength that brought comfort to her family during tough times. Maureen will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and all who knew her.

Maureen is survived by her sister Nancy and brother-in-law Steve Ashburn of Durango, Co; her son and daughter-in-law, Chris and Ame Walker of Charlotte, MI and grandchildren Marguerite, Levigh, Seth, Lacie, Wayde and great-grandchild Mathew; her son and daughter-in-law, Greg and Michelle Beavers of Laingsburg, MI and grandchildren Grant, Preston, and Cora. Maureen was preceded in death by her parents, Eleanor and Russell Allen, and her two brothers, Bruce and Neil Allen.

A small family service was held at Watkins Brothers Funeral Home in Laingsburg, MI. Burial to follow at the Laingsburg Cemetery. A celebration of her life will be schedule for the fall, where friends and family will be welcomed to share their stories and farewells. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to First Congressional Church (401 E Grand River Rd, Laingsburg, MI 48848) or the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (<https://www.nationalmssociety.org/>).



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Home Improvement

Did you Know?

Many lawns contain a mixture of the roughly one dozen types of different grasses. According to the lawn care experts at Scotts®, knowing which type of grass they have in their yard can help homeowners more effectively manage and care for their lawns. But with so many lawns containing a mixture of grasses, how can homeowners know exactly what’s making up that green carpet in their yards? Scotts® notes that lawns typically fall into one of two categories: warm-season grasses and cool-season grasses. Warm-season grasses are those that thrive in regions where the climate tends to be especially warm, such as the southern United States. Cool-season grasses are those that are at their best in climates that experience extreme temperature fluctuations. For example, cool-season grasses are most likely to be found in the northern United States, as much of this area of the country experiences cold winters and warm, and in some places very hot, summers. Homeowners who are uncertain about which type of grass they have can consult a lawn care professional for advice. Homeowners who learn which type of grass is in their yard can use that information to determine how frequently they should mow and water their lawns and which type of fertilizer is best-suited to their lawns.



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Prepare Your Home for the Next Natural Disaster

We all want our homes to be safe, comforting spaces that offer refuge and protection from the outside world. The global pandemic has taught us this, as well as the importance of preparation – not just for illness — but also for natural disasters like fires, floods, earthquakes, and tornados.

Making sure your house is a secure and resilient structure is critical no matter where you live, as global warming has altered the climates and weather events of many regions. Fortunately, thanks to advances in design and innovative materials, building a stronger, disaster-proof home is possible.

An alternative to traditional wood-framing, Nudura insulated concrete forms are an excellent option many engineers and designers are turning to. The steel-reinforced solid concrete cores range from four to 12 inches, providing far superior strength and safety compared to wood. Meanwhile the non-toxic, fire-retardant expanded polystyrene foam provides a fire protection rating of up to four hours.

Homes built with these ICFs are proven to survive natural disasters — houses that faced Hurricane Michael in Florida and Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans are still standing. ICFs even offer wind resistance of up to 250 mph (402 kph), equivalent to an F4 tornado.

Homes that use ICF construction have other added benefits, including enhanced insulation for lower energy bills, a reduced carbon footprint, and improved ventilation for better indoor air quality and lower susceptibility to mold. Concrete forms also require less maintenance over time, saving you the expense and effort of continuous upkeep and providing additional peace of mind.

Did You Know?

When planning spring landscapes, homeowners should always group plants with similar water needs together. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, grouping plants with similar water needs together helps to conserve water, which can be an especially useful strategy if or when drought restrictions go into effect in summer. Homeowners also can embrace additional strategies to landscape with water conservation in mind. For example, aerating soil helps to improve water flow to plants’ roots and reduces water runoff, helping to ensure that plants get all of the water they need while reducing the likelihood that homeowners will have to use excessive amounts of water to keep plants healthy. In addition, using low-water-using types of grass can help homeowners who live in areas prone to drought conserve water while still maintaining lush, green lawns.

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Spring Cleaning

Spring cleaning is a ritual in many homes, though some might be forgetting to address an area of their homes that can be especially vulnerable to insect infestations. According to PestWorld.org, kitchen cabinets and pantries used to store spices and baking items, such as flour, can make for inviting hideouts for various types of pests. These unwelcome guests include beetles, Indian meal moths and ants. To remedy this issue or prevent insects from becoming an issue, discard stale spices or dated baking items. Once such items have been removed from the cabinets and pantry and discarded, wipe down the interior of the spaces before installing fresh shelf paper. If the critters didn’t make their presence known in the cabinets, that doesn’t mean they haven’t made your kitchen home over the winter. Some might have opted to spend their winters behind appliances, including the stove and the refrigerator. As a result, it’s best to pull these appliances off the wall each spring, sweeping or vacuuming the dust and crumbs you find before mopping the floors.

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Home Improvement



Creating Your Own Backyard Oasis

Our backyards are some of the best places to spend the summer months, especially if you're practicing social distancing and are tired of being cooped up indoors. Fortunately, it's possible to transform your outdoor living space into a secluded, open-air retreat.

Bring the indoors out. We often hear about bringing the outdoors inside, but the reverse is also true when designing a luxurious extension of your home. Homey, lived-in touches can take your outdoor space from sterile and unfinished to cozy and inviting. Think patterned throw pillows, fluffy blankets for chilly evenings, outdoor rugs, colorful lanterns, and decorative accessories like painted terracotta pots or metal tins.

Invest in comfy furniture. What's the best part of your living or family room? Chances are it's your comfortable couch or recliner. To recreate the same feeling, splurge on some soft furniture that will make you want to stay outside for hours reading a book or working remotely. It doesn't have to break the bank either — you can DIY a cozy lounging bench with reclaimed wood and hand-sewn cushions with outdoor stuffing and fabric.

Add a relaxing pool or spa. Water has a calming effect and is often linked to our favorite memories at the cottage or on vacation. A pool or spa can help transport you somewhere far away without leaving your home. A pool can help you and the kids get some exercise while swimming laps, while a spa can soothe tired muscles after a long day hunched over your laptop. To reduce energy costs and increase longevity, consider using Nudura insulated concrete forms, which provide superior insulation. ICF pools also can be custom-made to accommodate any design, making them a very versatile and efficient way to build pools.

Go wild with greenery. Live plants can help you feel connected with nature, and tending to them can help you feel relaxed yet productive during isolation. A vertical garden can add visual interest, while trees and shrubs can provide shade and character. Aromatic herbs like lavender or rosemary offer pleasant scents and can spice up your cooking. And don't be afraid to cut some flowers from your garden to place in vases or pots for beautiful finishing touches.

Home Renovation Project

Investing in a home renovation project not only requires money, but also time and patience. While contractors, architects and designers can estimate how long a project may take, it is impossible to anticipate all of the scenarios that can affect that estimated timeline. Information from the real estate firm Keller Williams indicates an average kitchen remodel involving installation of new countertops, cabinets, and floors can take three to six months. But if ductwork, plumbing or wiring must be addressed, the job may take longer. A midline bathroom remodel may take two to three months. Adding a room to a house can take a month or two. The home improvement resource Renovation Junkies offers similar estimates, with the average home renovation taking between four and eight months. Homeowners need to consider time when planning their home projects.

Did You Know?

A flashlight is an invaluable part of any disaster preparedness kit, and it's a handy tool to have on hand in a car, at home or when traveling. You never know when you might need a flashlight, and it's helpful to have many on hand. When stocking up on flashlights for emergency kits, choose ones with light-emitting diode, or LED, technology. According to Popular Mechanics, LED flashlights are 70 percent more efficient than incandescent models. That means the batteries powering the light have the potential to last 10 times longer. Furthermore, LEDs do not have any fragile parts like incandescent bulbs. That makes them more likely to withstand shock or even endure being dropped.

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How to Design Your Dream Custom-Built Home

There are many advantages to designing your own home. Gone are the builder-basic styles, layouts that don't work for your family and exteriors you can't tell apart from your neighbors'. To help with your planning, check out these tips.

Find the right property. There are no limits to what you can create with a custom-built home, but the size and quality of your lot do impose restrictions. While you don't need to have everything decided when you purchase the property, make sure you have a general idea of what you need — your architect can help with this. Also, double check zoning laws, so you don't wind up not being able to build your dream three-story home on a residential street that only allows bungalows.

Consider your lifestyle. What kind of lifestyle do you want to live? What's important to you? From bigger elements like smart home automation and sustainability to smaller considerations like storage and organization, think of these things when designing the layout and built-in elements. For example, if you hate shoveling, now is the opportunity to make sure you have the shortest driveway possible.

Build for the future. Your needs and wants right now are at the top of your mind, but a custom home is a significant investment in time, money and energy. It's also likely you want this to be your forever home, so it's a smart idea to build for tomorrow. Think about how your family will evolve and what your future needs will be. Consider building materials that are designed to stand the test of time, like insulated concrete forms (ICFs) from Nudura. This alternative to wood framing is a greener option and offers disaster resilience against high winds and fire. The superior insulation also means more comfortable, uniform indoor temperatures and less money spent on heating and cooling your home.

Avoid the fantasy trap. This is your dream home, so it's okay to indulge on that outdoor fireplace or luxury bathroom tiles that you've been envisioning. But to keep your budget in check, focus on the priorities and items that will give you the best value for your dollar. Invest in features that will improve your everyday living and boost your property value, like energy-efficient construction or a finished basement.

Find more information about designing your new home with insulated concrete forms at nudura.com.



How Home Design Trends are Evolving for Social Distancing

COVID-19 has brought changes to everything, and home design is no exception. Experts are expecting to see lasting impacts on everything from the materials we use to the rooms we prioritize. Check out these and other noteworthy trends:

Houses over apartments: Many people who live in condos or apartments do so to be closer to the action — work, entertainment and shops — and never planned on spending much time at home. But the pandemic has changed that, and more people are going to want a home that offers plenty of room and outdoor space in case they need to self-isolate again.

Self-sufficiency: A hard lesson we've learned is that things and services we thought we could count on aren't necessarily a sure thing, so items that increase self-reliance will become very popular. Expect to see more homes with sources of energy like solar panels, sources of heat like fireplaces and stoves, and even urban and indoor gardens that allow you to grow your own produce.

Outdoor living: Between playgrounds closing and parks becoming overcrowded, many of us are turning to our balconies, patios and backyards for fresh air and nature. This means we're going to be investing more in our outdoor spaces, with functional kitchens, soothing water features, cozy firepits, and high-quality outdoor furniture to create a much-needed escape.

Healthier spaces: Thanks to spending more time indoors and reprioritizing our health, we'll turn to design to help ensure our homes are safe and healthy for our families. We'll see a rise in products like water filtration systems as well as materials that improve indoor air quality. For new homes and additions, alternatives to wood-framing like insulated concrete forms from Nudura, which offer improved ventilation for healthier indoor air quality and an environment that's less susceptible to mold, will be key.

Home office space: Business experts are suggesting many companies will see that working from home is not only possible but offers tangible benefits, like saving money on office space rent. With working from home on the rise, creating a

home office space that inspires productivity will be a major project many of us tackle. Luxury home office furniture that feels chic and blends into your décor as well as ergonomic chairs and desks will see a major boost.

Custom and quality: With the hit to the economy, people are going to be buying less, but what they do buy will be better quality, while at the same time making an effort to support American businesses. When it comes to design, trends will shift to locally made furniture, custom-built homes and pieces and materials that stand the test of time.

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Editorial continued on page 10

No one needs to tell us how drastically our lives have changed since a novel coronavirus appeared at our doorstep in mid-March.

Some say it was here a lot earlier than that; I believe I had the crud in mid-February, a mild case, and I can't wait to get tested to find out for sure.

As we continue to struggle to get back to some semblance of normality, it seems we take one step forward, then two steps back. We're all going stir crazy. Talk about "cabin fever."

There's no question -- I've heard this from several friends and acquaintances -- some of the things we miss the most are our sports teams. The games. The competition. The connectedness.

When they do get back to playing, the games won't look at all the same, it appears. Here's how Detroit media reported the scenario last week:

"The Detroit Lions are scheduled to open up the 2020 NFL season at Ford Field on September 13 against the Chicago Bears, but if projections continue on their current trajectory, don't expect the stadium to be filled to the brim, as usual.

"On Tuesday, Michigan governor joined Channel 95.5 radio show "Mojo in the Morning" to discuss the current state of COVID-19 and the government's plans regarding opening up the state again. While the state is slowly loosening the quarantine and allowing some businesses to go back to work, Whitmer is still being cautious when it comes to large crowds, and she doesn't believe we'll see full stadiums by the time the NFL season starts.

"We're making progress," Whitmer said. "There's reason to feel some confidence here, but we also have to measure (our) expectations and say, 'Life is going to be different. We're not going to be filling stadiums in the fall.'

"Whitmer wasn't given the chance to go into further detail, as she was cut off by the radio host, but the message there is pretty clear. Based on current expectations, if Lions football is played on time in September, it won't be in front of the typical 65,000 fans that fill Ford Field.

"Meanwhile, the NFL continues to go along business as usual. Obviously, team facilities aren't open yet, which means minicamp and OTAs are most likely going to stay virtual for the time being. However, last week, the league sent a memo to teams detailing protocols for reopening when possible, asking teams to have this protocol in place by the end of this week.

"Whitmer isn't the only state governor to be skeptical about a return to full stadiums in the fall, though. Last week, California governor Gavin Newsom had some sobering words about the idea of sports being normal anytime soon.

"It's difficult to imagine a stadium that's filled until we have immunity, until we have a vaccine," Newsom said. "It's difficult for me and imagine what the leagues do when or two of their key personnel or players are tested positive. Do they quarantine the rest of the team if an offensive lineman is practicing with a defensive lineman, and they are tested positive? What happens to the rest of the line? What happens for the game coming up next weekend? It's inconceivable to me that that's not a likely scenario."

Whitmer finished the radio interview trying to spread some home among Michiganders.

'Listen closely when I speak, because I'm telling you there's hope in all of this. We have absolutely pushed our curve down. We have saved lives. People are looking to Michigan because we've done it pretty well. We've got to keep doing it really well, and then we will really be able to feel good about what we've done, and we will re-engage and people can get back to work.'

In the meantime, we manage to get through every day in the most boring sense of the term "manage."

Dusting off the cobwebs in my memory bank, I can remember only one period of time I can compare this to. In the late 1970s and into 1980, the Ovid-Elsie Schools were embroiled in a controversy about some financial malfeasance. I don't remember all the particulars, but then-superintendent Donald Kenney resigned, a hastily-conceived millage request was defeated, and the O-E district was thrown into turmoil.

School opened for the '80-81 school year, but was drastically different. No busing; parents had to find a way to get their children to school. Very few, if any, extracurricular activities; most notably, all Marauder sports were axed.

Walking into O-E High School was like walking into a morgue. All the energy had been sucked out of the building.

It was a shame. This was an era of Marauder athletics that glittered with a stellar boys basketball program headed by Bob Foreback, a superior wrestling program under the guidance of Jim Maidlow, a baseball program headed by former MLB prospect Jack Nutter, and superior girls sports team coached by the late, great Mary Hudecek. Notable HS athletic careers -- Jennifer Litomisky comes immediately to mind -- were cut short.

I "escaped" my Ovid newspaper job in January of 1981, landing a gig with Saginaw Valley Newspapers with the help of my former publisher, the late Bill Sloat. But the memory of that hollow feeling -- that awful school year -- still lingers.

Back then, as we are now, we struggled through and made it back to better times in a few (relatively short) months. A millage passed. School -- the way it should be -- was back in session.

We will get through this. Stay the course. Better times are ahead.

History is a splendid teacher.

Memory is a way of holding on to the things you love, the things you are, the things you never want to lose.



My Turn At Bat

by Tom Turek

Memorial Honors Employees During National Nurses & Hospital Week

submitted by Vicki McKay

OWOSSO – During National Nurses Week (May 6-12) and National Hospital Week (May 10-16), Memorial Healthcare offers our deepest gratitude to the men and women of Memorial Healthcare for their continued, unwavering dedication in the face of an unprecedented pandemic. Memorial Healthcare's team of nearly 1,400 employees work relentlessly each and every day to provide high quality, compassionate care for our patients and their families.

"It is with sincere appreciation we join hospitals around the country in recognizing the special talents and skills of our nurses and all professions within Memorial Healthcare," says Brian Long, FACHE, President/CEO of Memorial Healthcare. "We are extremely proud of each member of our team. We recognize the important role they play in extending a sense of trust to our patients and our communities," adds Long.

There are few fields as challenging as health care — and none as rewarding. It is a quest that pushes the limits of knowledge, abilities and capacity to the core. In return, it enables those providing care to witness a wealth of everyday miracles.

"I cannot think of a better year to celebrate our nurses," says Daniel Mills, MSN, MBA, RN, CENP, Associate VP of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer at Memorial Healthcare. "Memorial's nurses have risen to the challenge, found innovative ways to care for our patients and are keeping each other safe. On May 12 we will celebrate the 200th birthday of Florence Nightingale. I think she would be proud that during this time of uncertainty we did not shy away from adversity, but instead we embraced our circumstances and found ways to excel at what nurses do best — care."

Those who care for the sick and injured recognize that no facility can invent this power to care. It's a core element of a commitment to excellence that flows through an organization. It comes from each person who has chosen healthcare as their profession. It also flows from others in their compassion, knowledge and experience. Just as hospitals rely on technology and medicine, in addition, Memorial Healthcare relies on the talents of its staff.

Memorial Healthcare is well known and respected on a national level for its high marks in quality, safety, and patient experience.

Memorial Healthcare has received four-stars from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in both overall star rating and Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers (HCAHPS) surveys, including scoring the highest marks of any mid-Michigan hospital in 9 of 10 categories, including cleanliness, care transition, responsiveness of staff and communication. These results place Memorial Healthcare on a national level with scores equal to large healthcare systems such as Johns Hopkins and Cleveland Clinic, a true testament to the dedication and commitment to our patients.

During National Nurse's Week and National Hospital Week, we at Memorial are taking the time to celebrate the power of caring and recognize the work of the wonderful people who make it possible. Our staff takes great pride in what they do, and we can all be immensely proud of the care they provide each and every day.



Victor Township, Clinton County, MI

6843 Alward Road Laingsburg, MI

Proposed Board Minutes from May 11, 2020 meeting

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

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

Agenda: Motion by Willoughby to remove Security System, Water Heater, Ordinance 19.3 and Website from the agenda. Supported by Wall. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes: Motion by Willoughby to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2020 Board Meeting. Supported by Wall. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Conklin to accept the treasurer's report. Supported by Wall. Roll call vote. All in Favor. Motion carried.

Approval of bills: Motion by Willoughby to pay the April 2020 bills in the amount of \$10,845.18 using checks #12098-12105 and e-checks #482-487. Supported by Wall. Roll call vote. Motion carried. Motion by Willoughby to disburse payroll and related payroll expenses for April 2020 in the amount of \$5201.50 using checks #12098-12105 and EFT 125. Supported by Conklin. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

County Officials: County Commissioner Stacey spoke about the Clinton County Covid Preparedness and Response Plan. It can be reviewed at <https://www.clinton-county.org/693/COVID-19-Information>

Reports: Master Plan should be ready in October. The Planning Commission will make their final updates to their bylaws at their next electronic meeting on June 1, 2020 at 7:15 pm.

The new cemetery signage has been delivered and maintenance will be installing them soon.

Unfinished Business:

1: Road Millage: Motion by Wall to adopt Resolution 2020-3-1. Supported by Conklin. Role call vote. All in favor. Motion carried. Conklin to forward to County Clerk by 05/12/2020.

New Business:

1.Covid 19 Response Plan: Motion by Malkin to cancel all June 2020 hall rentals and review monthly thereafter. Supported by Wall. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Willoughby to direct Office Administrator to begin working on a July 2020 reopening plan. Supported by Wall. All in favor. Motion carried. Extended Public/Board Comment: Road update by Malkin, gravel is almost complete. There will be no Road Commission meetings for the rest of this year.

Commissioner Stacey is running for re-election as Clinton County Commissioner.

Motion by Malkin to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm. Supported by Wall. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Amanda Conklin, Clerk

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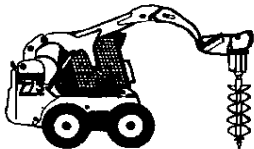
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Editorial

Victory Garden Seed Kits

A few weeks ago Victory Gardens were covered in this column. In an effort to assist those readers interested in starting a garden the Weekly Sportsman has joined in partnership to provide Victory Garden seed kits with Shiawassee Family YWCA, Greater Lansing Food Bank, and the United Way of Genesee County serving Shiawassee County.



The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster
theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS?

Victory gardens
are coming back!



Victory 2020

GROW A BIG GARDEN !

All of these groups have worked together very quickly in an effort to support Shiawassee families in receiving seeds for Victory Gardens.

Kits have been assembled with various kinds of seed from A to Z including acorn squash and zucchini. The seed kits come in two sizes; patio/container gardening and then larger size for family gardens. Kits are free to Shiawassee residents and can be picked up at the Shiawassee Family YMCA in Owosso. If you are interested in receiving a kit please call Emily 561-818-0234 with the United Way to schedule your pick up time. Please specify whether you would like a patio/container or family size garden kit.

All kits will provide enough seeds for numerous succession plantings so gardening can continue into the early fall season. If you have any growing questions after receiving your kit feel free to drop the Weekly Sportsman an email the-weeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

2nd Amendment Sanctuary County

Prior to daily lives and businesses being interrupted by the virus a few months ago many local governments in Michigan were passing resolutions declaring their county or municipality a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary. What does this mean? Isn't a sanctuary a safe haven for those breaking federal laws dealing with immigration or seeking protection for unpopular, improper, or illegal social behavior?

In this case, a 2nd Amendment sanctuary county is actually the opposite in meaning as local government officials pass a mostly symbolic resolution stating that local officials, including the sheriff and prosecutor, will continue to obey their oath of office to uphold and protect the constitution and in particular the 2nd Amendment. Think of it as a nationwide grassroots effort to let politicians in state capitols and Washington D.C. know that locally elected government officials across the country still support the constitution despite their best efforts to pass "Red Flag" and other gun control legislation in an effort to strip law abiding citizens of their rights. One only has to look to Virginia's legislature and their recent efforts to pass gun control legislation. Even Michigan's governor, Gretchen Whitmer, is supportive of "Red Flag" laws and similar legislation passed in Virginia.

To date 45 counties in Michigan have passed some form of resolution including Clinton County with Resolution 2020-2 in a 7-0 vote. Next month in June the Shiawassee County Board of Commissioners will probably have this item on their agenda. If you are supportive, or even opposed, to this sort of resolution please make sure to contact your county commissioner. The upcoming meeting agendas along with a list of all county commissioners can be found on the county's website www.shiawassee.net

-WS

In chapter 15 of the Gospel of Luke, Jesus tells three parables to show us how much God loves unbelievers.

One of these (the first one) is called, "The Parable of the Lost Sheep." In it, Jesus talks about the sheep herder who, even though he has 99 out of his 100 sheep, still goes off to find that one lost sheep. And he keeps looking for the sheep until he finds it. After that, he rejoices that his lost sheep was found and all 100 are back together again.

In the same way, God looks for those who do not know Him and reveals Himself to them. God's heart is that even if there are X number of people in the world who believe in Him, there is always room for one more. As long as someone is alive who does not know the Lord, God will continue to lovingly woo that person to accept a personal relationship with Himself.

Yes, people sadly reject God and go to Hell for eternity every day. A place where they will be forever separated from the conscious presence of the Lord. But this is not God's desire for anyone. God's desire for you is to believe in Him and have eternal life. This takes acknowledging one's sins and that our sin separates us from a holy God. That Jesus was and is fully God, that He lived a sinless life and died on the cross and rose bodily from the dead as the one full and final payment for all of our sins. Big and small. Past, present and future.

Are you a "lost sheep" today? Not sure if you are going to Heaven? Not sure if God has forgiven you of all of the bad things you have done? Come to faith in Christ today and be sure. Enter into a personal relationship with God, be forgiven, and enjoy His presence forever.



Religious Thoughts

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

There's good times and there's bad times, but there's still time.

- STEVE FROMHOLZ, AMERICAN SINGER

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