

Ovid-Elsie Alternative High School Holds Commencement Ceremony



by Dawn D. Levey

ELSIE - Ovid-Elsie Alternative High School held the commencement ceremony for the Class of 2020 Tuesday, June 30, 6:30 pm at the Ovid-Elsie High School Football Stadium. Eight young adults met the criteria to earn a high school diploma: Ryan Betts, Lillian Hofacker, Shiann Jordan, Noelani Kvalevog, Gabe Lorio (valedictorian), Dylan Lowry, Tessa McCreery, and Kaden Orweller (salutatorian). It was an evening of firsts, the first time the ceremony has been held outdoors, first time graduates received their diploma at the time of graduation and all students presented their senior projects. It should be noted that social distancing practiced, attendance limits and masks as appropriate.

Ashley Country Christmas Cancelled for 2020



submitted by Lynn Schulz

The Ashley Village Council and the Ashley Country Christmas planning Committee are heartbroken to announce that there will not be a Village of Ashley Country Christmas this year. The Country Christmas has been the destination for the thousands of guests on the North Pole Express excursions operated by the Steam Railroading Institute since 2013. We have greatly enjoyed our guests from all over Michigan, the United States and the world arriving by train and driving into the festivities. Given the uncertainty of these times as to whether, or when, any larger events may be held, the recommendations of the health department and the village's insurance company, the difficult decision was made to not continue to plan the Country Christmas for this year.

We are hoping and planning for a bigger and better event next year.



DuPlain Township Proceedings

by Dawn D. Levey

DUPLAIN TWP - The regular meeting of DuPlain Township was held Wednesday, July 8, 2020 utilizing a conference call platform. The evening was highlighted by an election update and the County Commissioner's report.

Richard Bates, township clerk, presented an update on final August Primary, August 3, 2020, preparations. He noted that inspectors have been trained and are ready for the election cycle. Bates further noted that as of July 8, 306 absentee ballots have been requested and is increasing daily. This is up 50% compared to past elections. Finally, the State of Michigan will provide PPE for the election at no cost to the township.

Kam Washburn, County Commissioner, updated officials on the status of COVID-19 in Clinton County. July 8, 2020 was day 119 of the implementation of EOS operations. To date there are 214 confirmed cases and 12 deaths in Clinton County. Washburn further noted that ten days ago the county experienced a spike in the virus this spike was due to the Harper's Restaurant and Brew Pub situation resulting in 180 cases over 19 counties, 10 cases in Clinton County. Also, adding to the spike a day care center situation. The last 10 days have been very sobering, hospitalizations have not seen an uptick, and deaths did not spike. We must continue to be cautious.

Next, Washburn reported that the bonds for the 911 system were sold as slated and at a good rate approximately 1% and new equipment is beginning to arrive. The timing of the election was good, the market was unstable for a period of time and when the market settled down Clinton County secured an excellent interest rate.

Reopening County government services is going well, the cooperation between the departments has been excellent and compliant. The courts are up and running, jury selection will take place at Smith Hall at the Clinton County Fair Grounds, the necessary equipment to make this happen has been installed. The Clinton County Commission will be conducting the July meeting using a virtual platform and then will re-access the status of the August meeting.

Finally, Kam Washburn reported that the Re-launch Greater Lansing Campaign (Clinton, Ingham, Eaton) is progressing and now includes Shiawassee and Ionia counties, information for businesses on how to reopen safely is available. The guidelines change and are addressed daily, it is important to get this right. He commented that, this is tough for small businesses and the Harper's situation has slowed the process.

Dennis Baese updated officials on the Elsie Fire/Rescue Department there were 10 fire runs in June, five were in DuPlain Township of which two were billable. There were 19 rescue runs, 14 runs in DuPlain Township and to date there have been 32 fire runs, and rescue 117 calls

Public Comment: Doug Sturgis updated officials on community business activities, the Business Expo was scheduled for May but was not held due to COVID-19. The event will be replaced with a virtual platform July 19-25 on Facebook. The plan is to have 4-5 businesses highlighted per day.

Monthly action was taken to approve the agenda, the minutes of the June 10, 2020 meeting, and the monthly financial reports. In other actions officials amended the June expenditures because bills came in the day after the meeting reflecting an increase of \$54,115.83, with the majority due to the Clinton county Road Commission for road work, the final total for June expenditures \$58,025.93.

Related actions included the amendment of the budget to reflect unexpected expenses in treasurer's supplies and lawyer fees. Officials approved expenditures for the month of July in the amount of \$21,834.95.

Social

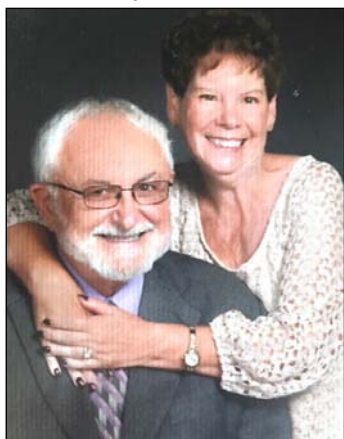
O'Bryant's Celebrate Golden Anniversary

On July 18, 2020, Mike and Dee O'Bryant of Ovid will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. High school sweethearts, Mike and Dee met when Mike was attending Haslett High School and Dee was attending Okemos High School. They were married at the Okemos Community Church on July 18, 1970.

Mike went on to graduate from Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1973. Shortly after, the couple made their home on Main Street in Ovid where over the years they welcomed three daughters, Amanda (Jeff) Carpenter, Sarah (Randy) Davis, and Ashley.

In the decades that have passed, the couple has been active in their community and many know "Doc and Dee". Now retired, they remain as busy as ever and enjoy rooting for their Spartans, spending time with their 7 grandchildren, and serving their community.

If you would like to join their family and celebrate them with a card shower, cards can be sent to Box 454, Ovid, MI 48866



submitted by Judy Hubler

Who were our early health care providers? Where was the first hospital in Clinton County? The first brick and mortar building used for a hospital was located at 108 Spring Street in St. Johns. Built in 1881 as a personal residence for Dr. Andrew J. Wiggins, it was eventually used for his Wiggins Sanitarium where he treated people for kidney, bladder and nervous diseases. In 1911 it became the Hart Clinic, also known as St. Johns Hospital, owned and operated by Drs. Arthur O. and Eugene Hart. At a much earlier date Dr. Oliver C. Joslen cared for patients in his home, known as the Joslen Infirmary located on the corner of Ottawa and State Streets.

The decision to showcase the medical professions was made last year, but it seems like a very timely subject. If you have photos related to this exhibit that might enhance our display please share them with us. Although our exhibits naturally focus on the past, we sincerely salute those in the medical field who are on the front lines of the current pandemic.

The Clinton County Historical Museum at 106 S. Maple, St. Johns, is currently closed until further notice due to Covid. Please contact pgs museum@gmail.com or call 989.224.2874 if you have any material related to this exhibit and/or are interested in helping out. Thank you!!



OID TOWNSHIP PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST NOTICE

On Wednesday, July 15, 2020, at 1 p.m., Ovid Township will be conducting their Public Accuracy Test for the August 4, 2020, Primary Election. This test will take place at the Township Administrative Offices, 1015 Baese Court, Ovid, MI. The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the Computer program used to tabulate the votes cast at the Election meets the requirements of law.

Claudia Barrett Pluger, Clerk

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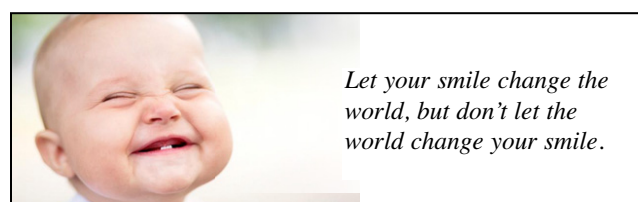


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Levi, Sawyer, Easton and coming soon Stella*

Rep. Filler Donates New Flag



submitted by Nicholas McLaren

State Rep. Graham Filler presents a state of Michigan flag to veteran Bob Paksi. The new replacement flag will be flown at Mount Rest Cemetery located at 701 East Steel St. in St. Johns. Also pictured are American Legion Post 153 officers Ervin Currie, Judy Winslow, and Mitch Louth.

Rep. Frederick Plan Heads to Governor

submitted by Rachel Doane

State Rep. Ben Frederick's plan to improve dual enrollment access for students and ensure full eligibility for high school seniors in the upcoming school year is on its way to Gov. Whitmer's desk following unanimous passage in the House and Senate today.

Under current dual enrollment laws, Michigan high school students may take approved postsecondary classes and are eligible for tuition reimbursement. Students taking classes in the summer months, however, are limited in reimbursement eligibility because the course must be within the school calendar year.

Frederick's plan would amend state law to allow students, if approved by the school district, to also receive reimbursement for dual enrollment courses taken during the summer months when high schools are not in session. This additional eligibility would be slated to begin in the summer of 2021.

The reforms also allow high school seniors seeking to participate in dual enrollment in the fall to be eligible with a GPA over 2.5 rather than the typically required SAT scores. This change affects the upcoming school year only and is in response to the interruption of standardized testing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's important to identify and eliminate roadblocks that discourage students from maximum participation in advancing their education," said Frederick, of Owosso. Frederick's plan is part of a package of bills created in partnership with state Rep. Bronna Kahle, of Adrian.

House Bills 4546-7 now move to the governor's desk for an expected signature.

ASHLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION VACANCIES

There will be four vacant positions on the Ashley Community Schools Board of Education to be filled on November 03, 2020.

• All vacancies are four-year terms.

Petitions may be picked up at the Gratiot County Clerk's office located at 214 E. Center Street in Ithaca.

Deadline for candidates to file is July 21, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. at the Gratiot County Clerk's Office.

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VFW

Main St., Ovid

Dinner served from
4 to 8pm.

Karaoke from 7pm
to midnight. \$1 per
song to raise money.



\$10 per adult

\$8 ages 5-12

\$1 ages 4 & under

*A \$5 Donation is appreciated if
you will not be eating. Tickets
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Anybody who is able to donate baked goods for the bake sale, items for auction (gift certificates, gift baskets, gardening items, quilts, decorative items, etc.), or anything for the benefit or to the family, please contact Heather or Holly Seelhoff, or Jennifer Cobb through Facebook; Cathy Larkins at 989-721-0015; or Christina Watson at 989-277-4289

*Thank you so much to everybody in advance for joining us, and any help you can give!
The family trulyly appreciates it!*

Obituaries

Gary Frank Noble

Gary Frank Noble, age 70 of New Lothrop, formerly of Ovid passed away Sunday, April 12, 2020.

Gary was born March 6, 1950 in Ionia, the son of Seth and Iva (Townsend) Noble.

He graduated from Owosso High School, class of 1968, attended Lansing Community College and proudly served in the United States Army.

Gary had a love for antique cars.

He married Suzanne Florene Lukas in Owosso on June 25, 1971; she predeceased him in 2012.

Gary was employed with Motor Wheel in Lansing for 20 years and as a welder with Simplicity in Durand for the past 22 years.

He is survived by his son Scott (Jennifer) Noble; grandson Seth Noble; fiancé Karen Santerre; siblings Barbara (Ralph) Soliz, Harold (Joyce) Noble and Larry (Sandy) Noble; other loving family members and friends.

Gary was predeceased by his wife, daughter Jamie Watson and his parents.

Graveside services were held 11am Saturday, July 11, 2020 at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens with Pastor Cal Emerson officiating followed by Military Honors.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the family.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at Nelson-House.com.



Lamont (Monty) Dale Green

Monty Green, age 70, passed away peacefully at his home on July 1, 2020.

Monty was born July 20, 1949, the only son, to parents John and Doris Green, of Elsie, MI. He loved Harley Davidson motorcycles, Jeeps, guns, Southern Gospel music, and gathering with his family. He loved knowledge and had an almost photographic memory of anything he read. He was a trivia nut. It was a rare occasion to hear him answer a question with "I don't know."

Monty loved road trips and has traveled with his wife Jessica to such places as Alaska, Colorado, Texas, Montana, Wyoming and any weekend trips we could manage. He loved Oldies music unless the children were misbehaving and then he listened to Polka, just to bug them.

Monty married Jessica Hilburn in Texas on October 17, 1981. He is survived by Jessica; his children: John Green, Carrie Elwood, Mike Green, and Angel Green; his siblings Jonadene, Luann and Larry Arbogast, Denise and Ron Saylor, Debbie and Jim Shedd, Dena and Mike Upton, and Dawn and John Bernat; as well as many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by both parents, his youngest son, Tony, and his youngest daughter, Tamara.

We will have a Celebration of Life on July 18th. If you are interested in attending, send me an email at jlgreen1962@yahoo.com for the address.

C. William "Bill" Marks

C. William "Bill" Marks passed Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at the age of 87.

He was born December 19, 1932 in Saginaw, the son of Charles Dennis and Jennie Louise (McPeck) Marks.

He married the love of his life, Betty Marie Murray, in Port Huron, MI on June 28, 1952. Bill and Betty celebrated 64 years devoted to each other before she passed on August 31, 2016.

Bill was a graduate of Arthur Hill High School and CMU and completed courses at several colleges, including Bethel, Owosso Bible, MSU, and U of M. Bill and Betty were members of the Free Methodist Church and were dedicated to Christian service. Bill also gave spiritual mentoring to several pastors, youth, and co-founded an Owosso Christian teen center.

Bill worked 38 years for an Owosso-based manufacturer, retiring as Operations Manager in 1994 and started his own consulting business after retirement. He enjoyed reading Louis L'Amour books and watching/collecting old movies, especially westerns. He was a history buff and theologian, possessing a quick wit and fun-loving sense of humor.

His lasting legacy is as a family man, friend, mentor, teacher, and "builder of character".

Surviving are three children, Ann M. Marks, Dennis and Lyn Marks, and Melanie Rae Marks; daughter-in-law, Carol (Jim) Demis; grandchildren, Steven Byrnes, Deidre Marks, Erica (Bruce) Clark, Amber Lynne Marks, Katelyn (Rev. Michael) Watson, and Erica (Aaron) Huck; great-grandchildren, Alastair, Keira and Rosalind Watson, Andrew Huck, and Lexi and Austin Clark; sister, Karen (Michael) Manial; brothers, Gerald (Sarah) Marks and Glen Marks, and 3 generations of nieces and nephews.

Bill was preceded in death by step-mother, Nona Marks Konefko; and sisters, Janet (Walter) Carlton and Kathy Austin.

Following Bill's wishes, cremation has taken place and private services will be held.

Memorials may be made to the Shiawassee Family YMCA.

The family was assisted with these arrangements by Keck-Coleman Funeral Home, St. Johns.

St. Johns Class of 1964 Annual Potluck Picnic

submitted by Jan Chick

Welcome the Classes of 1963 & 1965 to join us on Sunday August 30th. 2020 at 12:30 p.m at the Main Pavilion in the St. Johns City Park.

Bring a dish to pass & your own beverage. There are lots of outlets for crock pots & coffee pots, etc.

"ALL" paper products will be provided, plates, napkins bowls, silverware, table coverings, and name tags.

"Masks are required along with Social Distancing" ** this could change, because we are outdoors, depending on the number of Attendants.

Any questions please contact an Ernst-Chick 989-630-9021

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Pastor: Zella Daniel
Sunday Worship 11:00am

ELSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

160 W. Main St., Elsie (989) 862-5239

Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.
Pastor: Ava Williams

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Children's Sunday school: 9am
Adult Sunday school: 9am
and 11:45am
Worship: 10am
Pastor Brian West
laingsburgumc@gmail.com

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Joe Coleman

Pre-Arrangements have you wondering?

Please call us for answers.

Editorial



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

It is 8:00 AM and my first batch of specialty bread is sitting on the dining room table cooling off and getting ready to be bagged and tagged. The oven is halfway through baking the next twelve loaves and it is hot both outside and inside. I'd like to say that I'm perspiring.....ladies perspire and men sweat.....I'm sweating rivulets, my hair looks as if I just stepped out of the shower. Therefore cognitive reasoning tells me that I'm not a lady or my Mom was wrong and ladies do sweat.

You do need to understand that my poor Mom had her hands full with me, I was very much a tomboy and my sister was always a lady. I would do things like go down to the woods to pick wildflowers and come back a gunky mess because I had fallen into the river several times. I'd slip off the walking stones or lean too far in as I admired the water lilies. Or I'd be sitting under the wild grapes watching the muskrats play and forget what time it was and where I was supposed to be..... Mom was a very patient lady but her hair did gray early but that was not all my fault.....my oldest brother was a motorcycle maniac.

Yesterday we hosted a cookout because my kids had to work on the fourth.....Barb and Larry came down and brought some yummy chocolate cake and a deep fried turkey. I grilled potatoes, sweet potatoes, a beef roast, and chicken breast. Connie brought her decadent brownies; the kids furnished the ice and drinks. I managed to get a seven layer salad put together and William made deviled eggs to please Zach. Diane and Brent also brought over a swimming pool to keep the youngsters entertained. It was a tossup as to who was entertained because the adults surely had fun with the antics of the young'uns!!! They just didn't get the cooling effects.....

In my opinion, the St Johns' Farmer's Market went well.....I had a good number of sales and even have some special orders for the following Saturday. I thoroughly enjoyed speaking with other vendors and shoppers. You need to realize that I haven't been a vendor for the past two years and then it was not at St Johns.....I'm glad that Barb and Larry urged me to start again. Just wish that I had air conditioning and really do miss the blue spruce trees and their shade.

Lucky for me I got to speak with another of my readers.....mostly she was happy with my articles and enjoyed reading them. She was wearing a mask and did not like what I had written about masks. I explained that it was my opinion and how I felt about wearing them. I do understand why many folks wear them.....but I'm more concerned about rebreathing my expelled air and bacteria from my lungs. If in your jobs you must wear them please use a bit of common sense.....try lifting them away from your mouth and breathe in the air. It should keep you from having lack of oxygen issues and you will still have your mouth covered. Just insert your fingers at the bottom of your mask and pull it away from your mouth and take in some fresh air. Nurses remove them during their breaks.....but not around their charges. They use some good common sense.

I have to make pies for this Saturday morning at the Farmer's Market. I also have to make a scratch German Chocolate cake with homemade pecan coconut frosting for my son-in-law's birthday party on Friday evening. My grandchildren will be there and even Miss Izzy. She stopped to see me at the market and was thrilled because I gave her banana bread and chocolate zucchini bread. Not to be outdone.....Barb and Larry gave her a box of homemade chocolate chip cookies. She was delighted!!! Per usual Izzy was my little drama mama.....she ran halfway across the parking lot when she saw me and landed in my lap as she happily called for GG.

My life is good and I enjoy both talking and writing.....I just never learned how to be a social butterfly. I don't flit well. That being said I do try to be a good neighbor and to be helpful to others. Of course I have to keep trying to make up for the failures that happen along the way. May God bless you always and keep you safe. Use your common sense daily and smile.

Crystal Mitchell ©2020



A Note from the Superintendent

Dr. Ryan Cunningham

To the Ovid-Elsie Community

Ovid-Elsie Area Schools is well under way with this summer's bond work. We have had contractors in for the past few weeks and have already accomplished a great deal. Below is a summary of what is going on around the District:

Work Already Completed:

- 1)Agriculture, FFA and Wood Tech pole barn;
- 2)Demolition of all tile, drinking fountains, electric water coolers, unit ventilators, and theatrical lighting in the Auditorium;
- 3)New asphalt paving;
- 4)Sealing of existing asphalt pavement;
- 5)Replacement of High School unit ventilators;
- 6)Replacement of designated flooring in the Middle School and High School;
- 7)New fence installed around the football field and track; and,
- 8)Baseball field drainage updates.

Work in Progress:

- 1)New bus charging stations and asphalt pavement at the bus garage;
- 2)Creation of parking area near baseball field;
- 3)Drainage systems for track long jump area;
- 4)Gypsum board application to High School corridors;
- 5)Auditorium electrical upgrades;
- 6)Auditorium hand rails;
- 7)Installation of sound control panels in the Middle School cafeteria;
- 8)Kitchen upgrades;
- 9)New asphalt pavement at Leonard Elementary School;
- 10)Roof replacement at Leonard Elementary School; and,
- 11)New asphalt pavement at E.E. Knight Elementary School.

We still have a lot of work to do this summer but I thought a brief update was in order. Thank you to all of our maintenance crew for their hard work so far this summer and a special "thank you" to all of our construction partners. We will continue to update the community throughout the summer.

Stay safe, stay healthy and as always – Go Marauders!



Drone photo taken by Shane Grinnell of the EE Knight Elementary in Elsie upgraded parking lot.

Community Thank You

Letter to the Editor:

My wife, Lynn and I would like to commend Bonnie Ehlert for following through on her great idea of showcasing our local veterans in the Post Office building with photos and stories. Bonnie and her daughter Gayla put a lot of time and effort into their project. We think it would be well worth your time to stop by and read about our home town heroes that have served, helping to preserve our freedom.

Please take the time to read the reason Gayla thought the project was worthwhile. HER reason should be OUR reason to pay attention to what is going on in our country and put some serious thought into how to vote in November.

Thank You Bonnie and Gayla for a job well done!

Rich and Lynn Givens, Ovid



Religious Thoughts

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

Lights for the Lord

Jesus says, "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." -Matthew 5:14-16

Our lives can either be pointing people towards Christ or pushing people away from Him.

For example, if we are always negative about things, always complaining, then how is that kind of attitude going to attract anyone to the Lord?

What if we are always spending time gossiping? Or talking only about ourselves? Or if we put our interests before others (have a "me first" attitude), how are these things going to point people towards God? How we live can make a difference in how others perceive God, Jesus and Christianity.

As Jesus said at the beginning of this article, as believers and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we need to let the light of Christ shine through our lives. This means to act in godly ways no matter what the situation. Especially when those ways go against how some unbelievers says we should act.

For example, when we pray for or act nice to those who hurt us or insult us, we are letting God's light shine through us.

When we take the time to offer a listening ear to someone who needs to vent, unload or simply talk about their day, we are letting God's light shine through us.

When we go the extra mile to help someone in need, we are letting God's light shine through us.

God has where you are for a reason. At your home, place of work, school, the people you hang out with, neighbors, friends, relatives. You have been strategically placed there by God to be light and salt to them. To tell them about the Lord.

You can let the opportunity slide. Or you can take advantage of it and perhaps be used by the Lord to change someone's life for all eternity.

The choice is yours.

DONE A GOOD DEED LATELY?



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Tyler Luth!**

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You had goals and you met them!
You wanted the honor roll and
you did it every time. You worked
hard to graduate early and meet
your goals. We are very proud of
you and your accomplishments.
We couldn't be more proud. You
will go far. We love you!
Love, Mom & Dad!

Street Music in the Air
by Karen Anderson


Laingsburg - Last Wednesday, The Jack Clarkson Band, husband and wife entertained over 30 guests, the Farmers Market vendors and anyone else within hearing distance from 6 – 8:30 pm. Backup singers were Charlotte Ruppert, Sudden Impact and Marcia Whittemore from Ovid Trinity Church.

On Wednesday evenings, Jack and Tess Clarkson (weather permitting) will be entertaining or have arrangements for “Live Music” in the chained off area on Grand River for the summer and into the fall. Sponsor for this entertainment is long-time resident and farmer, John Liskey. Grateful recognition was given to Liskey for his support.

The DDA President, Mark Brink and Liskey talked how the music is a great way to support the City during this time of indoor COVID 19 restrictions; this out door event on Wednesday evenings is a perfect time to bring the community together with music and food . Brink stated,“ The DDA and community have discussed current and future plans for Laingsburg being the place to live safely and enjoy life.” In compliance of the COVID 19 restrictions, “We are trying to provide opportunities to continue to be a close community and offer what is needed for services and entertainment.”

The evening was full of family and friends enjoying the outdoor farmers market and outdoor seating with full service at the local eateries.





Tree Planted in Honor of Baumgras
submitted by Kathleen DeForest

Laingsburg- Dale Baumgras is standing next to a tree planted at McClintock Park in Laingsburg in memory of Marilyn Parker Baumgras. Marilyn's family came to the Laingsburg Area in the 1840's. She was always proud of being from Laingsburg.

*Character is like a tree and
reputation like a shadow. The
shadow is what we think of it;
the tree is the real thing.
~ Abraham Lincoln*





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Hole In One

submitted by Greg Beavers

Roger Curtis had his 3rd hole in one on #6 at Pine Hills (85 yds) witnessed by Larry Wright and Keith Lamroux on Tuesday 6-16-2020.



Hole In One

submitted by Greg Beavers

David Knoblock earned a hole in one on our 3rd hole from 159 yards it was with his 6 iron.

Witnessed by Marck Copeone and Garry Gleason

MHSAA Plans to Launch Fall Sports

Lansing radio station WVFN (The Fan) is reporting the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) is planning to launch fall sports as planned for the 2020-21 school year.

In its report, WVFN explains that preparations for the upcoming school year continue after schools were shut down in March.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer went into further detail with the "Return to School Roadmap" on June 30th, putting more emphasis on the safety guidelines in getting children back in to school in late August/ early September.

On July 1st, the Michigan High School Athletic Association gave an update on their plans for the upcoming fall sports schedule. MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl stated in the release that Governor Whitmer has entrusted the non-profit organization with numerous tasks, including the creation of plans, procedures and protocols for educational athletics before high school sports returns.

Uyl stated, "We appreciate the confidence and responsibility that has been given to the association, and we are already deeply engaged in doing our part to bring back athletics safely."

The current training guidelines allowed by the MHSAA allow for training outdoors except for Regions 6 and 8 (Northern Lower Peninsula and Upper Peninsula), who are allowed to have training indoors for gatherings no more than 50 people. Outdoor gatherings are allowed for 250 people in those regions as well. Those regions are currently in Stage 5 of the six-stage Michigan Safe Start Plan as of June 10th. Statewide, athletic training is still requiring physical distancing (no contact) when possible."

In Uyl's statement, he mentions that from the Roadmap that in-person learning and extra-curricular activities are much safer when the entire state is in Stage 5 or 6. Uyl made this point: "We must continue to do the right things NOW in all parts of our state to reach and remain in Phases 5/6 for August and beyond."

Since the school closure in mid-March, the MHSAA has been working on contingency plans for the upcoming school year. With the Roadmap as a guide, the MHSAA has three plans that will be the focus for the next several weeks heading closer to official practices starting in August:

1. The MHSAA's current plan is to play all scheduled fall sports in the fall.
2. The MHSAA will do everything within their control to safely have all three high school sports seasons in 2020-21, even if conditions change that would require creativity to provide each season.
3. Contingency planning that reflects the plan to play fall sports and offer all three seasons to be played with creativity. One possible contingency would be a swap of fall and spring sports based on concerns for indoor sports, with differing views on football.

Members of the MHSAA will be meeting with fall sports coaches statewide virtually and the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA) on a sport-by-sport basis for updates, ideas and feedback.

With Uyl's statement, the signs are positive for a return for high school students to the football field, the soccer pitch, the golf course and the gymnasium.



Residents Reminded to Stay Safe as Summer Temperatures Remain High

submitted by Lynn Sutfin

LANSING, Mich. – With temperatures across the state expected to remain in the 80s and above through next week, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is reminding all residents to stay cool to beat the heat.

MDHHS routinely reviews emergency department (ED) data for heat-related illness. During this past July 4 weekend, July 2 to July 5, 120 ED visits due to complaints that include heat exhaustion and heatstroke, sunburn and sun poisoning were reported. Daily temperatures this week are anticipated to again rise above 80 degrees, which generally correlates with an increase in ED visits for heat-related illness.

"It's important Michiganders stay hydrated and out of the sun as much possible to avoid serious health complications during this hot weather," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, MDHHS chief medical executive and chief deputy director for health. "Young children, older adults and those who are have medical conditions are at increased risk for heat-related illness, so be sure to check frequently on them and others in your community who may need additional assistance."

To prevent complications from the heat, residents are encouraged to:

Drink more fluids and avoid liquids with large amounts of sugar or alcohol.

Limit outdoor activities to when it is coolest in the morning and evening.

Spend time indoors in air conditioning.

Wear lightweight, light-colored and loose-fitting clothing.

Wear sunscreen, as sunburn affects a body's ability to cool down.

Check on elderly neighbors and relatives to determine if they need assistance.

For those without access to air conditioning, text or call Michigan 211 or contact your local health department to find out if there is a cooling center nearby. You can also spend some time at an air-conditioned store, shopping mall or other public building – even a few hours spent in air conditioning can help. Remember to follow guidance regarding COVID-19 precautions including wearing a mask or other face covering and practicing social distancing (keeping a distance of at least 6 feet from others).

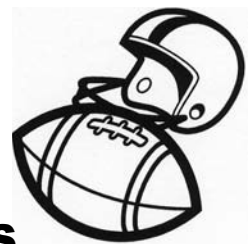
In addition to staying hydrated and out of the sun, residents are reminded to never leave children or pets alone in a car even with the windows cracked. Temperatures inside a car can easily be double the temperature outside, and because a child's body heats up three to five times faster than an adult's they are more susceptible to heatstroke.

Heat exhaustion and heatstroke are both forms of heat-related illness. Signs of heat-related illness vary but may include heavy sweating, muscle cramps, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting, fainting, an extremely high body temperature (above 103°F) and tiredness. Heatstroke occurs when the body is unable to regulate its temperature and can result in death if not treated promptly.

The heat can also combine with air pollutants to cause high ozone levels, triggering Air Quality Alerts. People who have asthma or other breathing problems should avoid outdoor activities if an Air Quality Alert is triggered in their area.

For more information about how to protect yourself and your loved ones from heat-related illness, see the MDHHS Heat Awareness and Safety Fact Sheet, or visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website.

Ovid-Elsie Youth TACKLE FOOTBALL Registration and Fittings



Sunday, July 12th, 2020 4-6pm
Wednesday, July 15th, 2020 6-8pm
 Held at the Football Field in Ovid

Participation Fee for Tackle Football
3rd thru 8th grades is - \$90/player

Registration for tackle football is open to all students who will be in 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, or 8th grade for the 2020-2021 school year.

If your child plans on participating in Football this year, you MUST register/fit them on either one of these two dates.

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Gov. Whitmer Extends Expiration Date to Sept. 30

submitted by Tracy Wimmer

Governor Whitmer signed Senate Bills 876-878, which codify her previous Executive Orders, further extending the renewal dates for driver's licenses, CDLs, state ID cards and vehicle registrations. Among the extensions outlined in the legislation, those with driver's licenses or vehicle registrations expiring after March 1 have until September 30, 2020 to have them renewed.

"I am pleased to continue to work with the Legislature to codify significant Executive Orders that help Michiganders cope with the COVID-19 pandemic," said Governor Whitmer. "These bills will give Michigan residents peace of mind and reduce the amount of person to person interaction necessary when renewing licenses and registrations."

"We are grateful for the support of the Legislature and Governor Whitmer in our work to ensure essential transactions can be conducted in our branch offices in a way that balances the health of staff and customers with the needs of Michigan drivers," said Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson. "We have been continually assessing the safest way to maintain branch operations and this legislation will go a long way toward those efforts."

Many transactions, including vehicle registration renewals, do not need to be conducted in person, and should be done online at Michigan.gov/SOS. Automobile, motorcycle and watercraft registration renewals also can be completed at one of the 122 Self-Service Stations located around the state. Residents needing to schedule an appointment can do so online at Michigan.gov/SOS or by calling 888-SOS-MICH. Advance appointments can be made up to 180 days ahead of time. Same-day appointments become available 24 hours prior to the appointment time.

Senate Bill 876-878 extends the renewal dates for certain licenses, state identification cards or enhanced drivers licenses or state identification cards that would have previously expired between varying dates to now be valid until September 30, 2020. All of the bills were sponsored by Senator Wayne Schmidt, R- Traverse City.

More Than Half a Million Transactions Processed Through Secretary of States's New Self-Service Stations

submitted by Tracy Wimmer

Michigan residents have completed 608,069 transactions on the Michigan Department of State's new self-service stations as of noon Monday, July 6, since the department began replacing legacy kiosks and expanding locations last fall.

Renewal transactions are available for many automobiles, motorcycles and watercraft, with tabs printed instantly for automobiles and motorcycles, and watercraft tabs mailed to customers. Transactions often can be processed on the machines in less than two minutes.

To date, 122 new self-service stations have been installed across the state, replacing 93 legacy kiosks. Plans are in progress to install another 28 machines. Machines are available in various Secretary of State branch offices as well as various Kroger and Meijer stores. All stations accept Visa, Discover, Mastercard and American Express, and some accept cash.

"Self-service stations are an incredibly fast, accessible, simple way to renew your vehicle registration and receive your tabs," said Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson. "Eligible customers can complete the transaction in minutes and are encouraged to use this simple and secure option located conveniently throughout the state."

Customers can scan the barcode on their renewal notice at the machine. But customers also can process transactions with their plate number and last four digits of their Vehicle Identification Number (VIN).

Transactions are offered in English, Spanish, Arabic and Vietnamese, and anyone eligible to process an automobile, motorcycle or watercraft renewal transaction online also can use the self-service stations.

Most self-service stations are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Visit Michigan.gov/SOSSelfService for details on self-service station usage and an up-to-date list of locations.

Seniors Food Program

submitted by Rebecca Zemla

Applications for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (Senior CSFP) are currently being taken by phone. This program provides nutritious food, on a monthly basis, to low-income residents of Shiawassee County who are 60 years of age or above.

Persons 60 years of age or older must meet the 130% Poverty index. Family size 1 - \$16,588; family size 2 - \$22,412; family size 3 - \$28,236. For each additional family member add - \$5,824. Distribution for Shiawassee County will begin July 7 through the 24th, 2020.

The process: STAY IN YOUR CAR. Please have your ID in your hand for verification. AT NO POINT WILL YOU LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE. If you don't already have someone designated to pick up your food, you may call the CACS office at 989-723-3115 and let us know who you are designating to pick it up. If you are not registered, please call the office at 989-723-3115 to pre-register. Available hours are 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Car Insurance Rate Relief Has Arrived For Michigan Drivers

submitted by Christina Guenther

State Rep. Graham Filler said Michigan drivers will finally begin to see the benefits of the state's car insurance reforms after the new law takes effect Wednesday.

The new law guarantees lower rates by giving drivers more choice on personal injury protection coverage, stopping price gouging on medical services for car accident victims, combating fraudulent claims and strengthening consumer protections.

Filler said Michigan's highest-in-the-nation car insurance rates have been one of the biggest hurdles holding back Michigan families and the state, adding the new law was designed to retain the best car insurance coverage and offer drivers more affordable options.

"Beginning this week, people in Michigan will finally have the opportunity to choose the level of car insurance coverage that best fits their needs and budget – just like they have always been able to do with their health, home and life insurance policies," said Filler, of DeWitt. "All the signs we've seen so far show that every Michigan driver can expect to see lower rates, regardless of the coverage options they choose."

In addition to the guaranteed savings provided under the new law, the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association (MCCA) announced it was reducing its annual per-vehicle assessment fee of \$220 to \$100 beginning July 1. The MCCA credited the reforms approved by the Legislature for the reduction, which put the fee at nearly a 20-year low.

Anyone interested in more information on the new law may visit www.ReduceMiRatesNow.com for a rundown of all the new coverage level options, educational guides and shopping tips to help people maximize savings. Filler also encourages residents to consult with a trusted insurance agent for further advice on choosing a coverage plan that is in the best interest of themselves and their families.

\$300M in Grants to Help First Responders, Local Gov't

submitted by Danelle Gittus

LANSING – State Treasurer Rachael Eubanks today announced two new grant programs that will provide an overall total of \$300 million to help first responders receive premium hazard pay and reimburse local governments for payroll costs incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Effective immediately, eligible local units of government can apply for a grant from the First Responder Hazard Pay Premiums Program and the Public Safety and Public Health Payroll Reimbursement Program.

The First Responder Hazard Pay Premiums Program offers \$100 million to fund additional compensation for first responders. Eligible first responders performed hazardous duty or work involving physical hardship related to COVID-19.

Cities, villages, townships, counties, public airport operators and certain ambulance operators can be reimbursed up to \$1,000 per eligible employee, with no single applicant receiving more than \$5 million. Applications from qualifying units of government will be funded on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Public Safety and Public Health Payroll Reimbursement Program makes available \$200 million to reimburse cities, villages, townships and counties for eligible public safety and public health payroll expenditures incurred from April 2020 to July 2020.

This program will potentially have two application rounds.

The first application round will be available for reimbursement of April and May 2020 eligible payroll expenditures. If funding is available after the first application round is completed, a second application round will be available for reimbursement of the June and July 2020 eligible payroll expenditures.

On July 1, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed Public Act 123 of 2020, which appropriated \$100 million for the First Responder Hazard Pay Premiums Program and \$200 million for the Public Safety and Public Health Payroll Reimbursement Program.

Both grant programs use federal funding available to the state of Michigan through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act.

Local Units of Government with questions about the grant programs can call the Treasury CARES Grant Programs Hotline at 517-335-0155 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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Lumbricus Terrestris

A worm is a worm right? WRONG!

Any kind of fisherman knows that when shopping for worms you want lumbricus terrestris over all other worms. Commonly called nightcrawlers, these segmented worms when hooked and dropped in the water. They are attractive to fish because of their unique and pungent smell. Add in some neon color and attach to a nightcrawler harness and they become almost irresistible for some bass, walleye, and panfish. Anglers even in Michigan streams often find the bait the perfect ticket for trout.

What about Canadian Nightcrawlers? Well, a nightcrawler is a nightcrawler but retailers often market their product as Canadian Nightcrawlers because that is where they were harvested. For some reason the countryside around Toronto is a hotbed for the natural production of night crawlers due to soil and climatic conditions. Locally the industry there is known as the "worm wars" as worm brokers compete fiercely with each other with land rentals(over \$1,000 an acre for the season) and the hiring of labor crews to pluck nightcrawlers off the surface at night by hand and artificial light. Sod farms, golf courses, and agricultural fields fill up at night with pickers who target the worms as they emerge to copulate. A machine hasn't been invented yet to harvest these little creatures so a pair of human hands is required to delicately pick them up and place them in cans strapped to the legs of human harvesters. A single person can harvest in excess of over 2500 worms in a good evening.

We all know that large Canadian Nightcrawlers aren't cheap and a dozen go extremely fast when the fish are biting. Usually, the normal practice is to hook the worms to a nightcrawler harness. The Weekly Sportsman has had these harnesses in the tackle box since youth and they do work. Usually a harness has two hooks behind a few beads and spinner blades with a leader. The concept is simple; hook the worm twice in the upper 1/3 of its body and cast into water 5 to 30 feet deep and either troll slowly or attach a bobber. The worm will stretch out and most fish just can't resist. As mentioned earlier, expect the supply to go fast with nibbles and striking fish. If you don't mind the cost and like fast action this is the route to go. If you are frugal or on a bait budget they can be chopped up to stretch through a fishing trip.

Many quickly think... maybe I should grow my own... become a worm farmer of sorts. The industry will tell you that nightcrawlers won't breed in captivity and it is impossible to replicate the 8-12 foot burrows they call home. Well, think again and ignore this part of marketing done by the fishing worm industry. It is easy and simple to create a nightcrawler worm farm with ventilated plastic containers containing moist shredded newspaper, rich organic dirt, leaves and other debris commonly found on the ground in the woods. It takes time but keep below 65 degrees and sort out the adults from the young every six months or so and eventually you will have plenty of nightcrawlers. Be patient as growth rate is usually an inch per year but 200 nightcrawlers can be responsible for 1 billion off-spring every three years. There are even shelf products for sale that safely help with altering the color and scent.

-WS

MDHHS Expansion of Visitation at Residential Facilities

submitted by Bob Wheaton

LANSING - Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Director Robert Gordon has signed two epidemic orders that provide for expanded visitations at group facilities while also requiring precautions that protect public health.

The orders allow expanded visitation in long-term care facilities including nursing homes, and in facilities for youth who are in child caring institutions or juvenile justice facilities.

Visitors to these types of facilities have been temporarily restricted to slow the spread of COVID-19. The new orders provide exceptions to those restrictions in limited circumstances as long as the facilities meet specific safety requirements -- such as requiring mask during visits.

"It's been very difficult for residents of these facilities to be unable to see their loved ones during the pandemic," Gordon said. "We are glad Michigan can now allow visits in some circumstances, but we continue to urge caution and require safety precautions like wearing masks during visits."

The orders are effective immediately.

One order applies to residential long-term care facilities, which include nursing homes, homes for the aged, adult foster care facilities, hospice facilities, substance abuse disorder residential facilities, independent living facilities and assisted living facilities. The order applies in limited circumstances and takes into account the importance of compassionate care for Michiganders who have terminal illnesses. It allows visits only with residents who are in serious or critical condition or in hospice care, or visits from family members or friends who assist residents with activities of daily living -- such as eating, bathing or dressing.

Laingsburg Schools

Laingsburg Community Schools Board of Education will conduct its new fiscal year board meeting on Wednesday, July 15, 2020. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm via Zoom, please go <http://www.laingsburg.k12.mi.us/> for login information.

The major tentative agenda items for this meeting include the following: adoption of regular meeting agenda, designation of depositories for school funds and signatory authorizations, designation of person for posting public notices of meetings, delegation of election duties, approval of organizational memberships, approval of annual retainer contracts, Superintendent's Report, Food Service price increase, personnel items and any other business that may properly come before the board.

The Board will meet for regular scheduled board meetings on the third Wednesday of each month.

July 15, 2020	January 20, 2021
August 19, 2020	February 17, 2021
September 16, 2020	March 17, 2021
October 21, 2020	April 21, 2021
November 18, 2020	May 19, 2021
December 16, 2020	June 16, 2021

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

The other order affects youth in congregate care facilities -- known as child caring institutions -- and juvenile justice facilities -- also known as juvenile detention facilities. Child caring institutions are defined as facilities receiving minor children for care, maintenance and supervision, usually on a 24-hour basis, in buildings maintained by the institution for that purpose and that operate throughout the year. They can include facilities for youth who are in foster care.

The youth congregate care order allows youth residents to have off-campus visits to a parent, foster parent or prospective adoptive parent if the person or persons being visited agree in advance to abide by safety measures as recommended by the CDC to reduce exposure to COVID-19. These measures must have been in place for at least two weeks prior to the scheduled visit. Additionally, the parent, foster parent or prospective adoptive parent must not have a known exposure to COVID-19 or have symptoms, unless that person has had a negative test result since the last known exposure.

Safety requirements that facilities must follow to allow visitors can be found in the epidemic orders for residential long-term care facilities and for congregate care facilities. The requirements in each order are different based on the needs of each population and safety concerns. For example, in long-term care facilities visitors must schedule an appointment.

Both orders require visitors to be assessed for COVID-19 symptoms, to wear mask or face coverings and to maintain social distancing, among other precautions. MDHHS is encouraging outdoor visitation when possible.

Information around the COVID-19 outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.



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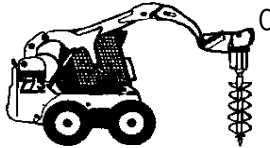
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LAFCU, CASE Credit Union Unite to Support Food Program's Soaring Need

submitted by Jan Jenkins

LANSING — Two Lansing-based credit unions have joined forces to help meet the soaring need of feeding the hungry throughout Greater Lansing in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

LAFCU and CASE Credit Union pooled their donations of \$2,500 each to the YMCA of Metropolitan Lansing and obtained a matching grant from Michigan Credit Union Foundation. The \$10,000 gift will provide 8,000 meals to adults through the YMCA's anti-hunger Healthy Living Mobile Kitchen Program, which saw a near seven-fold increase in need following Michigan's stay-at-home order to curb the spread of COVID-19.

"This funding is a godsend; it's phenomenal," said Jeff Scheibel, YMCA of Metropolitan Lansing president & CEO. "Although our facilities closed mid-March due to the pandemic, our charitable work escalated. LAFCU, CASE Credit Union and MCUF have helped bring a ray of hope to thousands of people by extending our adult program for nearly a month."

The YMCA program operates a bus retrofitted with a kitchen to deliver free, healthy meals to families in need. Closure of school food programs combined with widespread unemployment increased Y deliveries from about 4,000 after-school super snacks per month to nearly seven times that number of meals per month. In May, the five-person staff delivered 27,232 meals, of which 10,000 were for adults.

Beth Troost, Michigan Credit Union Foundation executive director, said, "It is inspiring to see two credit unions working together to help meet such a critical community need. It demonstrates how credit unions live a people-first philosophy. This initiative perfectly fits the impact goals of the MCUF Community Crisis Support Grants."

MCUF is a nonprofit foundation that helps credit unions improve Michigan communities through support of financial education, community reinvestment and professional development.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 feeding relief to mid-June, the YMCA had provided 86,965 meals to community members, more than eight times the 10,719 meals delivered for the entire 2019 summer.

Food for youth under 18 years old is federally funded. Corporate and private donations support the program's staffing, operate the bus, and pay for adult meals.

To distribute the meals, the Y Mobile Kitchen bus visits seven locations in Greater Lansing for 20 minutes each, Monday-Friday. On Fridays, it strives to provide food to last through the weekend.

For information about the Y program and how to donate to the YMCA COVID-19 Response Fund, visit www.lansingymca.org/hlmk or contact Casey Thompson, 517.827.9645.

Michigan families urged to catch children up on needed vaccines

LANSING, Mich. — Fewer Michigan children are currently up to date on their routine vaccines because of postponed well-child visits during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) urges families to get children and adolescents caught up on all recommended vaccines as soon as possible.

Because of the pandemic, it is especially important to ensure everyone is protected against vaccine-preventable diseases. Decreased immunization rates put Michiganders at risk for disease outbreaks. In May, a study was published in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report showing how COVID-19 has had a negative impact on routine vaccinations in Michigan. According to data from the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR), the percentage of 5-month-olds in Michigan who were fully up to date on all recommended vaccines decreased from about two-thirds during 2016-2019 to less than half in May 2020. In addition, only 53.1 percent of Michigan children 19 months through 35 months of age were fully immunized with recommended vaccines according to MCIR data.

It is important for caregivers to contact their health-care provider to get children caught up on needed vaccines," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health at MDHHS.

Ovid Public Library

The Ovid Public Library is currently offering curbside service only. Please call in your requests and you will be given a designated time to pick up your reading materials at the curb in front of the library. Curbside service hours will be Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 – 5:00. Other times may be made by appointment. Please call the library at 989-834-5800.



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Duplain Township PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Public Accuracy Test for the August 4th, 2020 Primary Election is scheduled for Tuesday July 14th, 2020, at 9:00 AM at the Duplain Township Hall located at 145 West Main Street, Elsie Michigan.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the computer program used to record and count the votes cast at the election meets the requirements of law.

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Duplain Township Clerk

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Memorial Healthcare Implements Disinfectant Spraying System to Fight COVID-19

submitted by Melissa Neuhaus

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Memorial Healthcare continues to take steps to protect our patients, employees and visitors by implementing the Clorox® Total 360® system. This revolutionary system uses an EPA-approved electrostatic sprayer to disinfect and sanitize hard surfaces throughout the hospital and its employed medical offices to reduce COVID-19 pathogens.

This addition to Memorial Healthcare's established enhanced cleaning of high-contact areas, mandatory mask use, social distancing, and hand sanitizer stations assures that you are entering a safe space for your health care needs.

For more information on what Memorial Healthcare is doing to keep you safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit <https://www.memorialhealthcare.org/keeping-you-safe/>.



Theresa Carnahan and Neil Millar, RN, Receive March and June 2020 EOM



(MARCH) Pictured (l-r): Carol Wirgau, Executive Director, The Meadows; Theresa Carnahan; and Jim Barb, Chief Experience Officer



(JUNE) Pictured (l-r): Jeremy Bernhardt, RN, Manager, ED; Neil Millar, RN; and Jim Barb, Chief Experience Officer

submitted by Melissa Neuhaus

Owosso, Michigan – Memorial Healthcare is pleased to announce our March and June 2020 Employee of the Month recipients.

Theresa Carnahan, Resident Care Assistant at the Meadows was selected as our March 2020 Employee of the Month. Theresa has been employed with Memorial Healthcare since 2018.

According to her winning nomination, "Theresa always carries out her responsibilities and does her best; however with recent staffing changes she has stepped up and shown how much more she is capable of. She has obtained extra responsibilities and has done so with a positive attitude and also encouraging others to follow the same positivity. Theresa is a cheerleader for the organization and shows what it means to be a highly engaged employee."

Selected for our June 2020 Employee of the Month was Neil Millar, RN, Shift Coordinator in the Emergency Department. Neil has been employed with Memorial Healthcare since 2015.

According to his winning nomination, "Neil has gone above all expectations by volunteering to work the front lines during the COVID-19 pandemic. He spent extra time and effort researching, developing, and implementing new mask technology for staff and patient isolation safety. Neil truly represents the power of innovation and values for 2020."

Memorial Healthcare has a strong track record of patient safety, including recently becoming the only mid-Michigan hospital to receive both an 'A' rating from The Leapfrog Group and four stars from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

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