

Information on COVID-19 Testing

submitted by Vicki McKay

Owosso, MI - Testing for COVID-19 has tremendous value when it comes to trying to contain the spread of the COVID virus. According to Dr. Joseph Bustamante, Chief Medical Officer at Memorial Healthcare, "The variety of testing platforms for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) available today can be rather confusing. There are some clear indications as to which test you should get and some not so clear reasons."



WHAT TYPES OF TEST ARE AVAILABLE?

There are essentially two broad categories of testing:

1. **Antigen test** (frequently referred to as a rapid test). This test detects protein fragments specific to the Coronavirus. It can be done in a clinic, doctor's office, or hospital. Turnaround time for results is usually very quick and in some cases, results can be reported within 15 minutes.

2. **PCR test.** PCR testing is considered the "gold standard" in SARS-CoV-2 detection. This test actually detects RNA (or genetic material) that is specific to the virus and can detect the virus within days of infection, even those who have no symptoms. The test can be done in a clinic, hospital, or even in your car. Turnaround time is longer, generally in the 2-3 day range but results can be in as little as 24 hours. When demand is high, results can take a week or longer.

WHO SHOULD GET A RAPID TEST?

Rapid tests are considered most accurate in a patient who is having symptoms of COVID-19. While the rapid test can get you results very quickly, the results may not always be accurate.

WHAT DOES A FALSE NEGATIVE OR FALSE POSITIVE MEAN?

In those who don't have symptoms, the false negative rate — meaning my test is negative but I actually have the disease — can be as high as 50%. This can have tremendous consequences as we try to contain the spread of COVID-19.

The false positive rate — meaning I test positive but I do not really have the disease — is quite low. So, if you test positive from a rapid test it is more likely you do have the disease.

WHAT IF I HAVE A NEGATIVE RAPID TEST BUT STILL HAVE SYMPTOMS?

Current recommendation is to have a confirmation test performed (the PCR test) if you still have symptoms and have had a negative rapid test. This is especially true if you've had a high-risk exposure. A high risk exposure is considered more than 15 minutes of contact with a COVID-19 positive individual in a 24-hour period and you have been within 6 feet of this individual.

HOW CAN I HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19?

- Wear a facemask.
- Social distance — maintain 6 feet distance.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

As always, if you are not sure what COVID-19 test is right for you, please talk with your healthcare provider.

Memorial Healthcare offers COVID-19 PCR testing by appointment only. Individuals should contact (989) 729-6422 to register and schedule an appointment at our drive-thru testing site or at an outpatient laboratory location. Testing is available for screening; for those experiencing mild to moderate symptoms (fever, cough, muscle aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea); or for those who have a known or suspected exposure. A provider order is highly recommended, however, Memorial Healthcare is prepared to assist with an order if needed. Due to high levels of testing at this time, results may exceed 72 hours.

To stay up-to-date on the latest COVID-19 information, visit www.MemorialHealthcare.org.

Rep. Filler Visits Ovid Twp

submitted by Claudia Barrett Pluger

At the Ovid Township Board meeting on November 12, 2020, State Representative Graham Filler presented a Special Tribute from the State of Michigan to Supervisor Palen for his eight years of service to the Ovid community.



Pictured here Sue Palen with her husband Greg and Rep. Graham Filler

Ovid-Elsie Area Schools

by Dawn D. Levey

ELSIE — The regular meeting of the Ovid-Elsie Area Schools board of Education was held Monday, November 16, 2020. The highlight of the evening was the recent order from the Michigan Department of Public Health and Human Services closing high schools as of Wednesday, November 18 for a duration of three weeks.

Dr. Ryan Cunningham, superintendent, and Randy Barton, assistant superintendent, presented the Return to Learn Plan, which reflects changes due to the orders from the MDPHHS and Governor Whitmer. As of Wednesday, November 18, 2020 high school classes and sports are on pause for three weeks. The decision before the board is k-8 instruction. Cunningham presented the results of 107 staff members who responded to a survey, 70% of staff recommended a pause in face-to-face for k-8 as well; and 65% recommended a longer pause possibly until January 4, 2021. Overall the COVID positivity rate is low in the district, however staffing issues are a concern because subs are not available. For example, there were 12 vacancies on November 16 and only 2 were filled. The reality the largest positivity rate, though low, is the middle school and elementary schools.

During the face-to-face pause the following resources will remain available; computer labs 8:15-11:30 am daily, lunches available to go; and a variety of other services. The final recommendation would be that the district take a pause in face-to-face learning with 100% remote learning k-12, until December 8, 2020. It was advised that teaching staff provide instruction during this time from their buildings. The District calendar will also be addressed. The request was approved.

It should be noted that it was later determined that teachers could teach remotely from their homes.

Officials approved a tentative agreement with the International Union of Operating Engineers, who represent the maintenance staff. In addition, contracts were offered Mark Topika as a member of the maintenance staff and Dr. Pete Faziani high school English.

Mr. Craig Coleman, Building and Grounds, reported that asphalt bids for the track had been received. After review the \$154,043 bid was awarded to Rieth-Riley Paving. The monies for the project were in the contingency fund from the 2020 summer construction projects. Coleman explained that the bid includes removal of the current track that is made-up of two layers, without removing the track the final project would not qualify for a warrantee. Construction will begin after the spring track season.

Officials received the 2019-2020 Financial Audit. The financial opinion was that Ovid-Elsie Area Schools received a clean unmodified audit opinion, the highest level attainable. A number of suggestions were presented, the Thompson Grant was not budgeted for either revenue or expenditures a letter may be received from the State Department of Treasury and may request an in-depth explanation. It was noted that this does not escalate to a material weakness. Currently the district has 3.8 million dollars in the fund balance and reflects the shortfall of \$240,000 during the 2019-2020 school year. The district is currently financially solvent. Officials accepted the 2019-2020 audit as presented.

Monthly action was taken to approve the consent agenda that included approval of the meeting agenda, the minutes of the October 19, 2020 meeting, the expenditures and the monthly financial reports.



**ENJOY YOUR
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HAPPY THANKSGIVING

**Deadline 4pm on
Wednesday
Nov 25th for
Dec. 6th Issue**

“Win A Turkey”

submitted by Ann Trierweiler

Through the month of November until December 12, 2020 all patrons of the Elsie Public Library who update their patron information, or any NEW PATRONS applying for a card, are eligible to sign-up to win a turkey.

There is one sign-up per person. The drawing will be held on December 14th

Please remember to check Facebook for special library virtual programs.

Open Mon. Nov. 23 - Tues. Nov. 24 -Wed. Nov. 25 for Walk-In Takeouts/Curbside Only 7am til 3pm

Closed for Thanksgiving Thursday, November 26th & Friday, November 27th

Have a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving Holiday
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It's time to get your Christmas Tree and support Ovid Boy Scout Troop 585 & 114!

We are offering a variety of Christmas trees at The Modern Woodman on the corner of M-21 and Main St. starting Friday, November 27 from 11am-8pm.

Saturday, November 28 from 11am - 8pm, and Sunday November 29 from 11 - 5pm. Sales will continue throughout December on Fridays from 5 - 8pm;

Saturdays from 11am - 8pm, and Sundays from Noon - 5pm.

FREE delivery on trees Dec. 4 from 5-7pm, Dec. 5 from 5-7pm, Dec. 11 from 5-7pm,

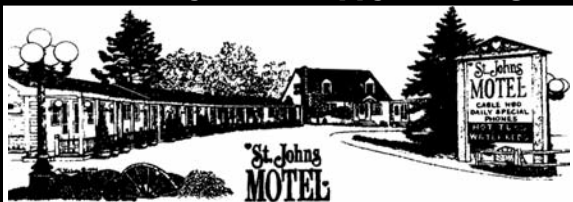
Dec. 12 from Noon-4pm. Max distance 10 miles from Ovid, please.

Call Steve Dennis at 989-862-4868 with any questions.

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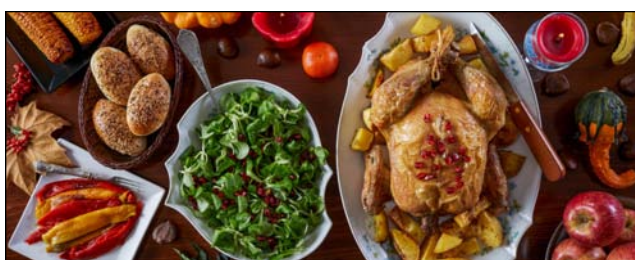
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517-651-6608



Social



Free Thanksgiving Dinners

The Laingsburg and Ovid Lions Clubs will be hosting Free Thanksgiving Dinners on Thursday, November 26th. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the annual free dinner events will be take-out only. The Ovid Lions dinner will be staged out of the Lions/VFW Hall located at 214 S. Main Street from 11am-1pm. To order please call by Monday, Nov. 23rd (989)666-0444, by email at lydenp@icloud.com or message on facebook: Lions Club of Ovid Mi. Cash donations will be accepted on that day to help with the funding of local families in need this holiday season. Monetary donations may also be dropped off at Ovid Service Agency.

To make the Thanksgiving Dinner pickup run smoothly, please do not get out of your car. Volunteers will bring the food to your car curbside. Workers will be following Covid guidelines and the process will be contactless. Follow signage for traffic flow. You want to be in front of the Lions /VFW hall facing South (towards M-21). The line will form on West Clinton street (The Weekly /Main Street Pizza) and turn on to Main Street.

The Laingsburg Lions Club will stage their event at the American Legion Post 248 from 1pm-3pm. To order please call (517)8965338 or (517)881-9518. Winners of the Beef Raffle will be drawn also on thanksgiving Day between 3:30 and 4pm.

Puzzles Wanted

submitted by Brenda Terpening

With the winter looming, many senior citizens are looking for puzzles to work on throughout the long days. The Clinton County Senior Center will accept any new or used puzzles they can pass along to seniors. You can drop off new or used puzzles to the Senior Center on Mondays between 9 am and Noon. Please leave them outside on the black bench in a bag or box and they will be picked up as quickly as possible. The Senior Center is located at 201 E Walker Street in St. Johns.



Happy Retirement Connie Stehlik

After almost 41 years, she is retiring from Mercantile Bank, formally Firstbank! She served our Ashley community until the branch was closed 4 years ago & has finished up her career at the St. Charles branch Thursday.

Thank you, Connie!!

Cards are encouraged, maybe add a note of a "memory" you have with her!
 C/O P.O. Box 182 Ashley, MI 48806



Letters to Santa

A Letters to Santa promotion has begun in Ovid. Kids can pick up their letter form at the Ovid Public Library. Once you have filled out your letter, return it to the library and they will scan it and forward to Santa at the North Pole. The letters will then be placed on display in the windows next to the Ovid Post Office thru the month of December. Gayla and Bonnie Ehlert will be at it again, creating window displays for the community to enjoy this Holiday season.

Dear Santa

My name is: _____

This year I have been: ☐ very good ☐ quite good ☐ a bit naughty

What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is: _____

because: _____

If your elves can't make it, I would also like: _____

I promise to leave you some: _____

on Christmas Eve

Merry Christmas!
 X X X

Library Sample

Ovid Public Library

The Ovid Public Library continues to be open to the public. We require your assistance to remain open. Please wear a mask.

Thanksgiving Holiday Hours:

Mon. Nov. 23 10 - 7 p.m.

Wed. Nov 25 10 - 5 p.m.

Closed Fri. Nov. 27

IF YOU DO NOT WEAR A MASK, PLEASE make a telephone appointment and the staff will place your outgoing materials in a bag for you to pick up in the foyer. This form of contactless interaction is the only way to keep us all safe. Leave your return materials in the foyer.

GIVING TUESDAY

December 1, 2020

25 Local Nonprofit Organizations Collaborate on #raiseUPshiassee Effort in Conjunction with #GivingTuesday

submitted by Kim Renwick

"Give Where You Live" is the theme for this year's #raiseUPshiassee campaign where twenty-five local nonprofit organizations have joined the #GivingTuesday global movement. This effort, named as such to "raise UP" awareness and focus on the needs of the people in Shiawassee County these nonprofit organizations serve. This means to "raise UP" not only funding, but also action by asking donors to give of their time, talents, treasures (\$). #GivingTuesday (occurring on December 1st this year) follows the widely recognized shopping events of Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday with the purpose of linking individuals worldwide with causes they feel connected to in order to strengthen communities and to encourage giving (typically online).

The local nonprofits participating in this effort include:

- American Red Cross-Shiawassee Service Center
- The ARC Shiawassee County
- Capitol Area Community Services
- Hunger Network through Catholic Charities
- The Clothesline
- Cook Family Foundation
- Devries Nature Conservancy
- Durand Union Station Inc/DUSI
- Fridgebot Foundation
- Friends of the Shiawassee River
- Girls on the Run Mid-Michigan
- Great Lakes Bay Health Centers-Shiawassee County
- Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts
- Owosso Muscile
- Respite Volunteers of Shiawassee
- SafeCenter
- Shiawassee Arts Center
- Shiawassee Community Foundation
- Shiawassee Council on Aging
- Shiawassee Family YMCA
- Shiawassee Hope
- Shiawassee Humane Society
- Shiawassee RESD-Great Start
- United Way of Genesee County-serving Genesee and Shiawassee Counties
- Voices for Children

"The #raiseUPshiassee effort is about more than just donating money. Local nonprofits also need to "Raise UP" volunteers", stated Kim Renwick of the Shiawassee Community Foundation. The raiseUPshiassee.org site allows donors to give monetary donations to any, some, or all the participating organizations as well as choose to volunteer their talents. Donors can also keep up with our raise UP efforts through social media with the hashtag #raiseUPshiassee.

This year's goal is \$100,000 in donations and 100 volunteer hours!

To donate or volunteer online, go to raiseUPshiassee.org.

For more information about the local #raiseUPshiassee campaign and how to get involved, individuals and businesses may contact Kim Renwick at the Shiawassee Community Foundation (989)725-1093.

#raiseUP

SHIAWASSEE

Rep. Frederick - We All Have Responsibility to Take Precautions to Protect Others

submitted by Christina Guenther

State Rep. Ben Frederick today called upon Mid-Michigan residents to follow COVID-19 safety protocols to protect their families, friends and neighbors.

"If each of us make a short-term behavior change, this surge can still be mitigated and reversed," said Frederick, of Owosso. "This isn't about whether you agree with government mandates. It's not political. It's about taking personal responsibility. Our personal response – our habits today and the way we approach this next critical period – will make the difference more than any government edict."

Frederick said Michigan is currently at about 75 percent of the hospitalization level experienced during the spring COVID-19 peak. Additionally, the Michigan Hospital Association and the Michigan State Medical Society have reported that increased community spread is resulting in more clinical staff, support staff and providers who must quarantine, making staffing challenges more significant than what healthcare systems experienced earlier in the pandemic.

"Most of us stated at some point that our first concern was to preserve our healthcare capacity and help meet the needs of our frontline workers," Frederick said. "As hospitals fill up and as healthcare workers ask for our help, it falls to us to be true to those words in our actions."

"We can only take comfort in the very high survival rates for younger folks with no preexisting conditions if our elders and the vulnerable are not continually being infected. If our healthcare workers, law enforcement officers, teachers and others are getting sick or quarantined because there is an unsustainable and rising positivity level in our communities, how can we possibly make progress and maintain those areas of social and community life we hold dear?"

Frederick said data shows the prime source of infections remains small and mid-size gatherings, typically multi-household get-togethers with family and friends, as people are most likely to relax their safety protocols.

"My family will continue to do the 'big three' – hand washing, face coverings and distancing," Frederick said. "We will approach gathering differently – for a time. We will approach Thanksgiving a bit differently, as well – for ourselves, our loved ones, our elders, the vulnerable individuals in our lives and the community we love, and for our selfless exhausted frontline workers serving us. Please join us."

Bannister ZCBJ Accepting Toys for Tots

submitted by Joanne Fornusek

Bannister ZCBJ Lodge #225 will be supporting Toys for Tots again this year. Because these are difficult economic times the needs are even greater than in previous years. The lodge hall will be open on Sunday, December 6th, from 1-2 pm to accept your donations of new items. If this is not convenient, please call Ed (989-862-5591) to set up a better time. Toys for Tots serve youth from newborn to 17 yrs. old. Members and non members are invited to contribute to a brighter holiday season for local children.

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Closed Tues. & Sun.
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Thanks to the LSW emergency response teams, McLaren Health and Hospice, the Laingsburg Lions Club, Visiting Angels and friends and families who helped to make my husband, George's transition easier.

Sincerely Thankful.
Linda Williams and family.



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Obituaries

Robin Lynn Harnick

Robin Lynn Harnick, age 55, of St. Johns, MI, passed away Wednesday, November 18, 2020, at Sparrow Health Systems, Lansing, MI.

Robin was born on April 15, 1965, the daughter of Ted and Clarice (Antes) Rademacher. Robin loved crafting and spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. She also enjoyed gardening and her dogs. Robin was known as "Grandma Robin" by all of her neighbors.

She is survived by her children: daughter Chassidy Martin and Mark Crumbaugh of Ashley, MI, son Jeremy and Samantha Martin of Indiana; grandchildren: Blaze Crumbaugh, Natalie Martin, and Talan Jones; mother Clarice and William Swanchara of Harrison, MI; siblings: Rick and Sue Rademacher of Elsie, MI, Roger and Linda Rademacher of Ovid, MI, Ron Rademacher and Deb Flanner of St. Johns, MI, and Kelly and Brenda Scheffler of St. Johns, MI; and uncle Ron Antes. She is also survived by her ex husbands: Rex Martin and Bob Harnick, and many nieces or nephews. She was preceded in death by her father.

Cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to Chassidy Martin for funeral expenses, anything remaining will be donated to the local foodbank.

Online condolences can be made at www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, MI.



Editorial

To Mask or Not to Mask

Letter to the Editor:

To mask or not to mask that is the question? Health professional are telling us that not only do masks protect others but also protect us from the COVID-19 virus. So, what is the problem? We have an opportunity here to make a temporary change in our life style for the common good and now until the vaccine is available protect others and ourselves. And as words have consequences, the actions of leaders have an impact as well.

This week at the DuPlain Township meeting Kam Washburn, Clinton County Commissioner, reported on the COVID numbers in Clinton County and they are dire and are going straight up and deaths are increasing. The actions taken at the court house and the jail is minimizing the spread -- washing hands, social distancing, and masking up. All of those attending the DuPlain Township Board meeting were social distancing to the best of their ability, and everyone was masked. As leaders they set the tone, there was no question meeting face to face and respecting everyone in attendance. I am challenging other municipal boards to also set the bar high and mask-up! Let's respect the virus and do all we can to protect others and ourselves.

Stay well and safe,
Dawn D Levey



Thank You, Thank You All

Letter to the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the voters of Duplain Township for electing me to serve as your township clerk for the past 16 years. It has been an honor and a privilege.

To Clinton County Clerk Diane Zuker and her election staff Deb Sutherland, Krista Martin and previously Donna Spicer who taught me patience in big block letters. I couldn't have succeeded without their knowledge and support.

To the township board members, past and present for their support and cooperation which made serving the residents of Duplain Township as well as Village of Elsie possible.

My election inspectors past and present who worked the elections from dawn into the night and especially this year with the Covid Pandemic, everyone that I asked to work answered the call working from 6:00 am on Tuesday until closing at 1:30 am on Wednesday and helping me move all of our equipment back to the township hall because we moved the polling location to the American Legion Hall because of the pandemic.

And to my wife Diane who was by my side through thick and thin acting as my deputy.

Respectfully, Richard Bates, Duplain Township Clerk, Retired

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Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:45 a.m.
Pastor Roger Numerich

Bannister United Methodist Church
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Pastor: Zella Daniel
Sunday Worship 11:00am

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11:00 - Worship

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Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group
Senior Minister: Chuck Emmert
Associate Minister: Andrew Goodrich
www.duplainchurch.org

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

St. Cyril Parish of Bannister

Mass: Sun 10:30am,
Wed. 9:00am

Confession:
Sun 11:30am

We Welcome You to Come...

Editorial



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

So now it sounds like winter has come on in a howling surge....this is after the late summer lull. The wind has been wreaking havoc around my house; things are bumping across the deck and thumping on the railings. No doubt, what leaves have stayed anchored to the branches are now drifted piles of leaves. My neighbors have pointed out to me that I'm fortunate because the wind does the raking for me. The leaves are piled in drifts on the eastern edge of the lawn. I look to the west and it is clear until I get to my snowball bush which is a clutter with leaves clustered around its base. Darn it, there goes the grape vines, that had been sitting on the burn pile.....they jumped the ditch and there they sit. Excuse me while I go drag them back away from the road. It is hard to believe that on the tenth of November I spent the afternoon running around the yard barefoot and working up space to plant some more garlic.

As you may have noticed, I have been trying to downsize a bit. My granddaughters are benefiting and so are my daughter and a couple of the church thrift stores. I'm thrilled because I keep finding more space.....my house should be much more spacious than it is. This week I downsized the contents of six good sized boxes and one tote bag to a mere half box. One fairly large box went to the thrift store. I also dispersed the contents of one fifty-five gallon sized leaf bag, I had stored baskets in it.....it is now empty and I kept one, Diane took one, Noah took a pair and there are five left for Ryan's perusal. If any are left they will go to the thrift stores.

My Thursday and Friday forenoons will be spent with Isabella this week. St Johns schools are online and both of her folks work and go to school full time. So we had a phone conversation that was rather enlightening.....Izzy equates GG with baking and bread making. So on Thursday morning we will be making dinner rolls.....her skill in shaping the rolls is a bit lacking. In the past she had done a very admirable job of it and now she is out of practice. She gently reminded me that she was only five years old.

Of course I erred and asked the little angel what kind of cookies we needed to make on Friday. Her response was, "GG I love ginger snaps" followed by, "after all I am five years old and know what to do". This choice did surprise me, I have never made a ginger snap before now and since snaps don't appeal to me I will probably steer her to chocolate chip or cut out sugar cookies. I was amused by her responses, first she admitted to forgetting how to form dinner rolls because she was only five and then she was five and knew what to do. Miss Izzy does tweak my interest levels.

To be honest, I am tired of listening to the news media.....but that is nothing new. Their slant on the news is often offensive, I wish that they would grow up and suck it up buttercup. I also wish that folks would read our real history, not the babble that has been streamlined to fit public consumption. I suggest that you dig out the old encyclopedias those published before the seventies and read. Better yet, read the United States Constitution and the Declaration of Independence dig into our past which hasn't always been squeaky clean but it is real. We have been around, a democracy for over two hundred and forty years.....we still operate under the same constitution where-as other countries ripe out the old and replace it (many times violently) every seventeen years. We are unique and we are a great nation, I love my country and she has many opportunities.

Don't abuse her or you will lose. May God bless America always, she is my home. Yes, we have amended our Constitution to fine tune it but it is still the same basics. May God bless you with good insight.
Crystal Mitchell ©2020



Religious Thoughts

by Phil Hoppersberger
Graham Community Church

"Precious"

"Lead on! The night is waning fast, and it is precious time to me."

So says a now fully aware Ebenezer Scrooge to his last visitor, a Grim Reaper apparition who is unmistakably Death himself. Like a masked executioner, Scrooge pleads with him to be quick, and calls his dwindling time "precious."

Precious isn't used much now, but a fitting description as the currency slipping through his stingy fingers is the only commodity Death trades in – Time. Do not miss Dickens' meaning. This Phantom is taking a life, and specifically, Scrooge is tonight's transaction.

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol is, word for word, the one holiday story you should read before you die. It is brilliantly brief, but do not mistake his lean writing for folly...it is timeless, pregnant with genius, and his reclamation tale takes only two hours to read!

So, what exactly is precious...to you? Think hard on that. Decide what is your most precious thing, and then consider how to safeguard it. If you're honest you'll see it can only be Time, and like Scrooge you are losing it...right now, this very minute slips away.

And what would God (who is outside of Time) consider precious? He says our faith in Jesus and His dripping blood (1 Peter 1:7 and 19), His promises (2 Peter 1:4), His love (Psalm 36:7), and the death of his godly ones (Psalm 116:15). These all fit hand and glove into Dickens' choice, and bring to mind two other precious-conscious writers.

In Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings, Gollum calls his magic Ring "Precious," and its power transforms his desire into deadly lust and corrupts him. Sin changes him into a horrific monster, as it does to us. Thankfully, Tolkien's friend, C.S. Lewis persuaded the doubtful author to publish his Hobbit tale, and then Lewis wrote of another "Precious."

"It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree helping each other to one or the other of these destinations. It is in light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all of our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, and civilizations—these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit—immortal horrors or everlasting splendors." Souls are precious too.

Dickens got it right. Time is precious, and the holidays remind us of that, but Lewis reminds us that only Jesus can help us get more Time, through faith in His precious blood sacrifice you get life eternal. And that's what Ebenezer means in Hebrew, Stone of Help.



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

Being Thankful this Thanksgiving

Dear Andy,

I volunteer at a local food bank and people would be surprised how many in our communities depend on the generosity and kindness of others in the community. Support for our local food banks and pantries are important, not only this time of year but throughout the year. Please remind our community to give their local foodbank. Many children are not in the school systems due to the COVID-19 virus and are missing their breakfast and lunch. (For some it may have been their only meals of the day.) Please remind those who can give to the food bank to call for instructions or make an inquiry as to specific needs. This Thanksgiving is going to be difficult for many in our community. I have been a Food Bank volunteer for 17 years. I am blessed to be a part of the giving to others.

Dear Volunteer,

Thank you for your commitment to your local food bank. We still need more volunteers in our local areas. Others can help by donating 2 hours a week, buying groceries or donating money. Call your local food pantry to see what you can do to make a difference. Following are some of the Food Banks in our area:

Laingsburg Area Food Bank: 210 Crum St, Laingsburg. Distribution hours are Monday between 1 - 3 p.m. and Thursdays between 6 -8 p.m....Call 517-651-5531

Elsie Area Food bank is open Monday/Wednesday from 8am to 9am. For more info call Ms. Lucille Stephens at 989-388-8717

Ovid Food Pantries Beacon of Hope Family Care Center. Pantry Hours: Tuesday 5:30pm...Sponsored by - Clinton County Service Center. For more information, please call. Capital Area Community Services – 989-224-6702

Perry, Morrice, Shaftsbury 203 W. Polly St Perry, 517-625-6155 ext 7 Leave a message to set up and appointment time.

St Johns Area Community Services 1001 S. Oakland St. Johns. Food Pantries Hours Monday - Friday: 8:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-3:30 p.m. Eligibility Clinton County residents. Documents Required Proof of residence. ie: drivers license, pictured id and mail posted to your address.

Any questions: Call 989-224-6702 Call your local food bank in advance for COVID-19 Safety Procedures and confirmation of hours.

There are many churches in your hometown that have a food pantry. Please call if you are in need or know of someone who is homebound. It is tough times for many during this Thanksgiving Holiday. With our abundance of food, no one should go hungry, especially if it is due to lost wages from the COVID-19 pandemic or unable to work for any reason. Now is the time we must be there for our friends and neighbors. Now is a perfect opportunity to count our blessings and be happy. Happiness is contagious.

The adage that "...it is better to give than receive" goes both ways in today's challenging times of unemployment and social restrictions. "It is ok to receive." It humbles us and teaches us to be grateful. Let's be thankful for our loving and generous neighbors; we are all lucky enough to live and thrive in a wonderful community. "Happy Thanksgiving" Andy

Reminder: There is a FREE Thanksgiving Dinner sponsored by the Ovid Lions. Pick up dinners at the VFW hall 214 Main St from 11am -1pm. Order in advance by calling 989-666-0444. Laingsburg Lions are hosting a FREE Thanksgiving dinner with pick up at the American Legion Post 248 from 1pm – 3pm. Order in advance by calling 517-896-5338. Free-will donations are welcome.

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Successful Hunting



Long's Deer

Grandpa and Grandsons Hunting Success: On opening day, November 15th, Grandpa Lynn Smith and brothers, Hunter and Nicholas Long each bagged a nice buck. Grandpa got his 6 pointer in the morning, grandsons Hunter (age 13) got an 8 point and Nicholas (age 15) bagged his first deer, a 6 pointer in the afternoon. All three were using a shotgun. Hunter and Nick are the sons of Mike & Valerie Long.

Cragg Deer

Randy Cragg of Laingsburg shot a 6 point buck with a 12 gauge shotgun on November 16, 2020 at Sleepy Hollow State Park.



Share your success stories with our readers! Email information and photo to news@meridianweekly.com or drop off at the office at 200 S. Main, Ovid.

Thompson Deer

Eight year old Gabe Thompson got his first deer while hunting with his brother Liam on Tuesday, November 17th at 8am in rural Ovid. Gabe used a shotgun to bag his 4 pointer. He is the son of Lance and Mary Thompson of Ovid.



Kusnier Deer

Dallas Kusnier, age 9, got his first deer, an 8 pint buck with a 44 caliber Marlin rifle, on November 16th while hunting with his grandpa Mike Kusnier in rural Ovid. Dallas is the son of Kansas and Liza Kusnier of Elsie.





DuBay Deer


Phillip DuBay, harvested 12pt 15", west of Bannister, 10/19 at 6:45pm with a bow. Buck scored 146!





Car Care Checklist

**Oil Change** Many motorists believe their cars' oil should be changed every 3,000 miles, however most late-model vehicles now can go 5,000 to 7,000 miles between oil changes. Check your owner's manual and get on a routine to good car care.

**Tires** Check tire pressures and tread depth. Check the pressure on all the tires—including the spare—with a quality gauge when the tires are cold. Be sure to look for recommended pressure on the driver's door jamb and NOT the tire wall!


**Battery** Ensure the battery cable connections are tight, and the terminals are free from corrosion. If the battery is more than three years old, it's a good idea to have it tested to determine how much life it has left.

**Wiper Blades** Wiper blades should completely clear the glass with each swipe. Make sure the windshield washer reservoir is filled.

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How to Inspect and Maintain Vehicle Belts

Responsible vehicle ownership involves taking inventory of the automobile and ensuring it is working at peak capacity. Hundreds of parts work together to keep vehicles on the road, but quite often drivers do not look under the hood until something is amiss.

Routine maintenance is widely acknowledged as a critical component of responsible vehicle ownership, but many motorists may not know how to care for their cars. Belts are one example of components that are integral to efficient, well-running vehicles. The automotive resource iDriveSafely.com indicates that belts are some of the most crucial moving parts in the engine. Belts transmit power between shafts, and all belts, from serpentine belts to V-belts to timing belts, all serve important functions.

- **Serpentine belt:** Firestone® Complete Auto Care says a serpentine belt is a long, snaking, winding belt that keeps parts such as the water pump, alternator, power steering pump, and air conditioning running smoothly. Serpentine belts transport power to automotive accessories. A failing serpentine belt can cause enormous and expensive headaches, including overheating and loss of steering power.
- **V-belts:** Also known as drive belts, these are usually found in older vehicles. Unlike serpentine belts, which run through various parts, V-belts run through one or two accessories. Older cars with many belts and whistles will have multiple V-belts, and should one break, it may not cause as much of an issue as if a serpentine belt were to falter.
- **Timing belt:** Advance Auto Parts says that most cars have interference engines in which the clearance between moving parts is so small that they can end up bumping into each other if they're not running on the same timing as one another. That is where the timing belt comes into play. It connects the crankshaft to the camshaft, helping them stay in sync. Failing to pay attention to a timing belt can result in an expensive engine repair.

Belts have finite service lives, and heat and wear and tear are usually their nemeses. It is important to look for fraying or cracking of belts. Even belts that look new may have worn out grooves that lose their grips on matching pulley grooves. Mechanics often use special gauges to check belts.

Belts also may need to be replaced due to oil or grease contamination that can damage the rubber or synthetic rubber. It is important to check the owner's manual and seek advice from a qualified mechanic about when belts should be serviced.

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Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP for Seniors)

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 December 1 through the 22nd, 2020.

THE PROCEDURE WILL BE DRIVE THROUGH THE FIRST DAY ONLY.

If you do not 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.

NOTE: Beginning on December 2, 2020 TEFAP (Quarterly food) will also be available for those that did not receive it in November.

Local Blood Drives Announced for December

The American Red Cross and country music star Martina McBride have joined together this holiday season to remind people to take care of one another, sharing comfort and joy with hospital patients through the gift of blood donation.

As the U.S. experiences a new surge in COVID-19 cases, the Red Cross is becoming increasingly concerned about the nation's blood supply — including convalescent plasma. A convalescent plasma donation collects plasma from COVID-19 survivors because antibodies to the disease in their blood may help patients who are currently fighting the virus.

McBride is reaching out to country music fans and all eligible individuals, "If nobody has ever asked you to give blood before, I'm asking you to give blood — especially during this trying time."

As a thank-you for helping meet the need for blood donations now through Dec. 15, Suburban Propane is offering blood, platelet and plasma donors a chance to win an Outdoor Living Experience, powered by Propane, to enable a lucky winner to enjoy socially distanced celebrations with family and friends this holiday season. The prize includes a propane-powered pizza oven, fire pit, outdoor heater and stipend toward propane.



Eligible individuals are urged to make an appointment to donate blood now to help patients in need. Find a donation opportunity using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling (800) 733-2767.

Local blood drives include:

-- From noon to 5:45 p.m. today at the Owosso Knights of Columbus, 1259 E. Main St.

-- From 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Dec. 2 at the Owosso Knights of Columbus, 1259 E. Main St.

-- From noon to 5:45 p.m. Dec. 8 at the Owosso VFW, 519 S. Chipman St.

-- From 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Dec. 9 at Perry High School, 2555 W. Britton Road.

Memorial Hospital Introduces Visitor Restrictions as COVID-19 Cases Explode

OWOSSO — As COVID-19 cases surge across Michigan and in Shiawassee County, Memorial Healthcare Monday instituted new visitor restrictions and safety precautions.

"The virus is spreading in our community at the highest rate the hospital has seen so far, and it threatens to strain Memorial's health care system," Memorial officials said in a press release.

According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, There are 272,034 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Michigan, including 1,378 in Shiawassee County, along with 34 deaths in the county.

MDHHS also says Memorial Healthcare has 18 hospitalized COVID-19 patients, including three in the ICU.

Memorial reported bed occupancy (for all patients) at 49 percent. Other area hospitals, including Ascension Genesys (90 percent), McLaren Flint (97), McLaren Greager Lansing (97), Sparrow (81), and Covenant Healthcare (83) were much higher.

Memorial officials said they are seeing an escalation in the positivity rate in the county. While testing capacity has increased, the percentage of positive test results is also on the rise.

The increase in local COVID-19 cases should not be underestimated, officials said.

Due to the heightened risk of infection in the region, Memorial Healthcare has implemented changes to its visitor policy and testing procedures. The precautions are aimed at helping to minimize the risk of infection among Memorial's patients, staff and the community.

The following limitations have been implemented.

One healthy caregiver/support person (17 and older) will be permitted for:

- Minor children requiring medical care.
- Family birth place (OB) (This must be the same person throughout the patient's stay).
- Pediatric (Same person throughout the patient's stay.)
- Surgical (individual must remain in the surgical waiting room or in their vehicle at all times).
- Testing requiring sedation: This individual must remain in the waiting room or in their vehicle at all times.
- Face coverings are mandatory for all caregivers and support individuals and successfully complete a health screening.
- There is no visitor access to the long-term care unit and The Meadows Assisted Living.

Nursing staff and attending physicians will work with families who have special circumstances, such as a critically ill or injured family member on a case-by-case basis.

Patients are encouraged to use the hospital's free Wi-Fi to communicate with family members and friends through a mobile device, tablet or laptop. Depending on the patient's unit, additional guidelines and restrictions may apply.

The complete visitor policy can be reviewed at memorialhealthcare.org.

In addition to the visitor policy, Memorial announced new testing procedures.

Due to increased demand, appointments are now required for Memorial's drive-thru COVID-19 nasal-swab PCR testing location. Daily appointments are limited to ensure a smooth testing process for patients and staff. In order to schedule an appointment, call (989) 729-6422.

Memorial Healthcare has introduced a guest services division to better coordinate patient and family needs. The guest services department can be reached 24 hours a day, seven days a week at (989) 720-2273.

Hospital officials also continue to remind people to take precautions, including wearing a face covering, cleaning hands regularly with soap and water, avoiding groups of people when possible, maintaining a 6-foot distance from others, avoiding indoor gatherings with more than one household, and staying home if you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 or otherwise not feeling well.



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Sports



Bella Strieff has 12 kills during the semi-final win over Perry

Wolfpack Ousts Perry, Lands Spot in Volleyball District Final

BATH -- Laingsburg's varsity volleyball team continued its successful 2020 season November 4, with a MHSAA District semi-final win over the Perry Ramblers.

Leading the way were for the Wolfpack wee seniors Sophia Dittrich (21 digs, 7 kills, 6 aces) and Jordan Langdon (23 digs, 1 ace). Freshman Bella Strieff (12kills) and Sophomore Ellie Baynes (8 kills) helped round out the victory.

Next up for the Lady Wolfpack was the host, Bath Fighting Bees in the district final match, where they lost to the Bees on Saturday, November 7, concluding a solid 2020 campaign.



Ellie Baynes blocking at net during district semi-finals against Perry

Photo by Burg Sports

MHSAA Pauses Postseason Football Playoffs

EAST LANSING — The Michigan High School Athletic Association suspended its fall postseason tournaments and winter practices scheduled to begin over the next three weeks after the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services issues an emergency order to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Volleyball and swimming both had one week remaining in their postseason. Eleven-player football had just completed the district round, while 8-player concluded its regionals over the weekend.

In the Regional featuring Laingsburg's Wolfpack and the Bath Fighting Bees, New Lothrop downed Bath -- which had ousted Laingsburg -- and was scheduled to play Detroit Edison in the Division 7 football regional championship this week.

"We understand the need for action, and we will explore all options to complete our fall tournaments when restrictions are lifted," MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said in a press release. "We will assess everything over the next three weeks relative to Fall and Winter sports and come up with a plan that keeps us connected to our goal, for months, of having three seasons that are played to their conclusions."

MSAC Honors for Ashley Bears

by Ashleigh Shaw

The Ashley Volleyball team had three players awarded with making the MSAC All Conference team this season. Alexa Burlingame, Ashleigh Jelinek and Sharla Juhas were awarded Honorable Mention. Sharla Juhas was also awarded Honorable Mention for Cross Country.



*Sharla Juhas
All Conference
Honorable Mention*



*Ashleigh Jelinek
All Conference
Honorable Mention*



*Alexa Burlingame
All Conference
Honorable Mention*

Hunting Access Program Property

The other day the Weekly Sportsman joined Bill Fischer from Frankenmuth to hunt some pheasants in Saginaw County. Before hunting the Saginaw State Game Area, where wild birds may be frequently flushed if conditions are right, the decision was made to warm the dogs up on a smaller tract of land just east of M-57 & M-52. This parcel of property consists of two large warm season grass fields surrounded by treelines and is enrolled in HAP (Hunter Access Program). Unfortunately, no pheasants were flushed. As a matter of fact, no wildlife was seen at all.

The HAP is a Michigan DNR administered private land public use program that was started in 1977 in Southern Lower Michigan where 97% of the land is privately owned. Expansion soon followed and private land in Northeast Lower and Eastern Upper Peninsulas was added to the program. HAP is considered to be one of the nation's oldest private land public use programs.

The concept is rather simple as the DNR pays landowners up to \$25 per acre to allow public hunting on their land. The landowner has complete control on what game species and seasons the land will be available and liability is covered by the State of Michigan.

The Weekly Sportsman loves the concept and idea of private landowners leasing their land to the state for public hunting, however, hunting on these lands has been less than productive.

The Weekly Sportsman has hunted HAP lands in Clinton, Shiawassee, Gratiot, and most recently the aforementioned property in Saginaw County. They always look promising in the parking areas with what appears to be very good habitat but seem to be devoid of all wildlife.

Even non game animals seem to be non existent and the landscape seems to be eerily quiet much like some of the wooded areas of Rose Lake State Game Area. It's probably just a simple supply and demand formula which shows the need for more land to be enrolled in the program.

As for the Saginaw State Game Area.... two hens were flushed prior to the weather changing with high speed winds and rain. Although no roosters were flushed that day after four hours of hunting on public land, the duo was still able to beat the statewide average of 12 hours of hunting per flush.

-WS



The Weekly Sportsman

*by Dan McMaster
theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com*

Victor Township Planning Commission NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR MASTER PLAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Public Act 110 of 2006, as amended, that a Public Hearing will be held by the Victor Township Planning Commission at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 8, 2020. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to submit a recommendation to the Victor Township Board of Review for adoption of the Victor Township 2020 Master Plan. The draft plan can be reviewed in print at Township Hall or on the Township website.

In order to maintain compliance with social distancing guidelines and the State Public Health Code Epidemic Orders and the Open Meetings Act (including 2020 Amendments), the meeting will be held in-person at Township Hall (only if permitted by State and Covid restrictions) and virtually, using an online video call platform. A link to the virtual meeting room and instructions to join the virtual meeting are included below:

Topic: Victor Township Planning Commission

Time: Dec 8, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mcka.zoom.us/j/94692345280?pwd=cUNqOFRXUg5MIFuWE5vRENYUfNxdz09>

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Find your local number: <https://mcka.zoom.us/j/94692345280>

Questions or written comments on the proposed Master Plan can be emailed to Senior Principal Planner, Chris Khorey, AICP, at CKhorey@mcka.com until 4:30 p.m. the day of the meeting.

Amanda Conklin, Township Clerk

Victor Township, Clinton County, MI 6843 Alward Road Laingsburg, MI Proposed Board Minutes from November 09, 2020 meeting

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

Attendance: Present: Mike Wall, Warren Malkin, Julie Townsend & Amanda Conklin Absent: Paula Willoughby

Agenda: Motion by Conklin to approve agenda. Supported by Malkin. All in favor. Motion carried

Minutes: Motion by Conklin to approve the minutes from the October 12, 2020 Board Meeting. Supported by Malkin. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

Approval of bills: Motion by Conklin to pay the bills in the amount of \$20,183.58 using checks #28036-28063 and e-checks #550-559. Voiding e-check 553. Supported by Townsend. All in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Conklin to disburse payroll and related payroll expenses for October 2020 in the amount of \$6,872.22 using checks #12152-12161 and EFT 133. Voiding check 12160 and EFT 133. Supported by Townsend. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reports:

Victor Township Planning Commission: Draft Masterplan can be viewed at <https://victortwp.org/departments/planning-commission/> The next PC meeting will be held electronically on November 30, 2020 at 5:30pm.

Unfinished Business:

1. **ISO Update** - None
2. **Janitorial Services** - None
3. **Opening Township Hall** - No change
4. **Master Plan** – Covered under PC report
5. **Jason Road Deed** – Covered at October 12, 2020 meeting

New Business:

1. **County Designated Assessor** - Motion by Wall to approve the inter-local agreement. Supported by Townsend. All in favor. Motion carried.
2. **Second Quarter Budget Report** – FY 2020 2nd quarter report provided at October 12,

2020

meeting. Clerk will forward second quarter to Supervisor Malkin as requested.

Extended Public/Board Comment: No progress on the petition to legalize ORV/ATV use on roadways.

Trustee Wall submitted a letter and requested it be placed on file with the minutes of the 11/09/2020 Board of Trustees Meeting.

Motion by Malkin to adjourn the meeting at 7:34pm. Supported by Wall. Motion carried.

Amanda Conklin, Clerk

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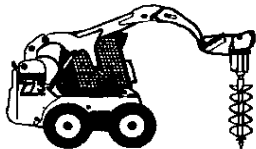
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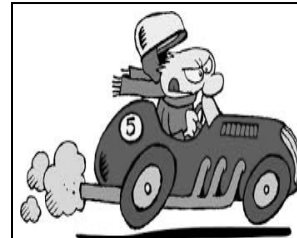
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