

Light the World With Love

The Duplain Church of Christ and Country Kitchen have joined together in an effort to brighten the Christmas Holiday. A "Light the World With Love", Free Community event will be taking place on Saturday, December 19th from 5:30pm-7:30pm at County Kitchen. This event will be an "Enjoy From Your Vehicle" venue. It will feature Church families singing Christmas Carols, a Live Nativity and Jolly Ole St Nick himself. There will be a Giving Tree filled with hats, mittens and small toys for the kids to take. Car Hop Service will also be available with a special to go menu from Country Kitchen.

The first 100 cars will receive a Family Gift, compliments of DuPlain Church of Christ. Free hot chocolate and coffee will also be provided. County Kitchen is located at 8875 E. M-21 in Ovid.



Christmas Window Displays

Gayle and Bonnie Ehlert have been at it again. Stop by and see the beautiful Christmas window displays next to the Post Office in Ovid. Be sure and stop by in the evening when you are out looking at decorated houses in the area. These displays are truly amazing and worth the trip.



Class of 2020 Bricks

submitted by Dana Blank

The Class of 2020, as we know, was cheated out of many things due to the pandemic. We were supposed to go to Chicago for our senior trip. The kids and parents raised money since the summer of 2016 and through the years for the kids to take this trip. The pandemic stopped that. The money raised went into a tribute to the class in the form of a brick memorial. It has every single student represented with his/her own personal brick. Additionally, it has an overview of some of the celebrations and struggles this class has had to deal.

I am thrilled it is going in before the end of the school year. Larry Bosom (Five-Star Masonry) did not think he could get it in... but the weather shifted in our favor and he's out there today putting them in for the kids.



Elsie Village Proceedings

by Dawn D. Levey

ELSIE – The Elsie Village Council held the last meeting of 2020, Tuesday, December 08, 2020, virtually to adhere to the guidelines outlined by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Officials were not excited about the new venue.

Shane Grinnell, village manager, introduced Christin Collom, Director of Clinton County Central Dispatch, reported on the status of the radio infrastructure upgrade for Elsie Police, Fire and Rescue and Department of Public works. The county will be replacing mobile and portable radios throughout the county. Officials were presented lease agreements for the DPW and the Police Department. Clinton County is requesting a 10% match with 1.6 million dollars provided by the bond by the County, and approximately by the municipal governments \$126,000. Clinton County will maintain the lease on equipment for the ten years of the bond. The investment by the Village is approximately \$5,500. The new system aligns with the State system. Officials approved the lease agreements. On a related issues officials were presented a second agreement that is required by the State of Michigan for access to the system, the agreement outlines the rules and regulations for use.

Tom Frink, Village President, made committee appointments: most will remain the same with Sam Frink replacing Jim Hyland. Budget and Finance – Dorothy Ornelas, Sam Frink and Joe Ondrusek; Personnel: Todd Carroll, Joe Cory Witt and Jason Freeman; Park & Cemetery: Todd Carroll Sam Frink, and Dorothy Ornelas; Police: Todd Carroll, Joe Ondrusek, and Jason Freeman; Streets/Sidewalks: Joe Ondrusek, Sam Frink, and Kory Witt; Budget: Sam Frink, Joe Ondrusek, and Dorothy Ornelas; Elsie Fire/Rescue: Tom Frink and Clinton Area EMS representative Kory Witt. Appointments were approved unanimously.

Ann Trierweiler, village clerk, presented the 2020-2021 calendar for approved. After a brief discussion officials approved the meeting calendar.

Shane Grinnell, Village Manager, reported that the office is currently closed due to current COVID restrictions for the next 12 days. It was noted that workshop meetings can be held but cannot be public. DPW employees are working every other day unless there is a village emergency. The Village is to develop a COVID response plan so that if there is an employee outbreak that results in a quarantine there is a contingency plan. The Village has been receiving complaints that the Christmas lights were not up. Part of the problem is the work schedule and the new lights were back ordered but have been shipped.

Grinnell noted that three code violations have been addressed and letters sent. Also, the new police car is in and equipment is being installed and lettering is being completed, should be in service in a few weeks.

An electrician has been looking at the Elsie Area Food Pantry and will be installing a few GFI's and emergency lighting. It was noted that the lease agreement is still in progress. The Food Pantry lease agreement was added as an action step to the agenda.

Officials discussed the need for a number of committees to meet to prepare for the business of the Village and what are the options with the current limited gathering orders from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The committees that need to meet include Budget and the Ordinance committees. Officials discussed the definition of a workshop or committee, when can a quorum be present or not. Committee meetings are less than four council members present, a workshop as defined in the Open Meetings Act Handbook is as follows. "A board quorum also may meet for a workshop, seminar, informational gathering, or professional conference designed to convey, to the conference participants, information about areas of professional interest common to all conference participants.³⁶ These kinds of meetings involve a conference designed primarily to provide training or background information and involve a relatively broad focus upon issues of general concern, rather than a more limited focus on matters or issues of particular interest to a single public body.³⁷ However, when gatherings are designed to receive input from officers or employees of the public body, the OMA requires that the gathering be held at a public meeting.³⁸"

It should be noted that many municipalities are dealing with this issue to insure that no violations take place and to insure that the functions of the municipalities can continue during the pandemic. One possibility is to open the meetings to the public through a virtual venue.

Ann Trierweiler, clerk, notified officials that no in-person council meetings can be scheduled until April 2021, due to the current COVID restrictions. Officials will look into a ZOOM venue for the next meeting.

Monthly action was taken to approve the meeting agenda with the addition of Clinton County Central Dispatch, the November 10, 2020 minutes, monthly financial reports, and the Elsie Police Department report. Action was taken to approve expenditures totaling \$39,621.37.

Social

Ovid Public Library

The Loving Hands Group has been busy this year creating hats, mittens, and scarves. They have so many they want to share them with the community, so they brought them to the Ovid Public Library where they are available without cost for anyone who has a use for them.

The Library is also redistributing Gently Used Coats. All sizes of coats are needed. There are many coats already at the library available without cost for anyone who has a use for them.

Ovid Public Library: Open Hours Mondays 10:00 – 7:00; Wednesdays 10:00 – 5:00; Fridays 10:00 – 5:00.

The Library will be closed for the Holiday on Friday Dec. 25, 2020 and Fri. Jan 1, 2021.

For further information, please call the library at 989-834-5800 or check our Facebook page.

Laingsburg School Board Meeting

submitted by Krissy Pratt

Laingsburg Community Schools Board of Education will conduct a regular meeting on Wednesday, December 16, 2020. The meeting will begin at 7:00p.m. and be held virtually via Zoom, please visit our website for log-in information.

The major tentative agenda items for this meeting include the following: 2020-21 Budget Update, Legislative Update, Bond Construction and Finance Update, Personnel, Reaffirm the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan and any other business that may properly come before the board.

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

Lions Cheese Sale Returns

The Ovid Lions Club will be holding a cheese sale fundraiser once again. The popular fund raising event is going on now. There are eight varieties to choose from including: Amish Creamery, Sharp Cheddar, Colby Jack, Pepper Jack, Chipotle and Horseradish, selling for \$8.00 a pound. Baby Swiss and a Variety Wheel are offered at \$10.00 per one pond package.

To order please call Doc O'Bryant at (989)834-2425 or Mary Perrien at (989)251-8517. Cheese is also available at the Meridian Weekly during the following hours, Tuesday and Wednesday 8:30am-Noon and on Thursdays from 8:30am-4pm.

This delicious cheese also makes a great gift. Get yours today and help support your local Lions Club.

FREE Coping with Stress Zoom Event

submitted by Melissa Neuhaus

Owosso, Michigan – Memorial Healthcare's Behavioral Health experts, Licensed Medical Social Worker, Melissa Rosello and Registered Nurse, Joyce Cross will be hosting a FREE community Zoom presentation on how to reduce stress during the holiday season by sharing coping techniques. This presentation is open to anyone experiencing stress, or for those who have a loved one who is experiencing difficulties during the COVID-19 pandemic. No registration necessary.

This event will be held on Wednesday, December 16 at 6:30 pm.

Via Zoom: <https://bit.ly/121620ZoomLink>

Via Phone: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 896 6481 567

Passcode: 624403

For more information, please contact Community Resource Manager, Becky Dahlke at: rdahlke@MemorialHealthcare.com.



Santa Claus is Coming to Town

submitted by Madison McIntyre

Hazel I. Findlay Country Manor, 1101 S. Scott Rd., St. Johns is having a winter lights display running throughout the month of December.

Santa will be there collecting letters while he visits Hazel I. Findlay. December 11th and 18th from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

He will also have cookies and hot chocolate to share with all the good boys and girls.

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DuPlain Township

by Dawn D. Levey

DUPLAIN - 2020 is coming to a close and the DuPlain Township Board held their meeting Wednesday, December 9, 2020, with a virtual meeting format.

Officials were updated on the transition to new clerk, Sandra Frink, the paperwork to be established has been submitted and she is currently waiting for necessary paperwork from Burnham & Flowers Insurance Company. The transition is continuing smoothly.

Bruce Levey, supervisor, reported that after speaking with the Michigan Township Association regarding the survey and boundary issues in Rochester Colony. It was determined that this is a matter between the homeowner and DuPlain Church Christ and the scope of township involvement is very limited.

Annual action was taken was to approve the 2021 Poverty Exemption guidelines. Dr. Mark Holley, assessor, noted that the Federal numbers reflect a slight increase. In addition, Holley reported that the December Board of Review is slated for Tuesday, December 15, 9 am., presently one action item will be addressed.

Due to the cancellation of the board meeting there was no Elsie Area Fire/Rescue report. A Clinton Area Ambulance update was presented it is projected that the per capita service request will be \$6.00 and a request for a \$2,000 contribution from each municipality for cot purchases thus reducing the strain on capital outlay, noting that the infrastructure is in need of equipment replacement. The next meeting of CAAS is Thursday, December 17, 2020.

Levey, reported on the proposed tomb stone repair at the DuPlain Township Cemetery in Elsie. Mid-Michigan Monument of Owosso, evaluated the six stones damaged when tree fell on them earlier in the year. The estimated repair is \$575 which will be sent to the insurance company. The representative from Mid-Michigan Monument also did a walkthrough of the cemetery and other stones that were damaged and in need of repair as general maintenance. The estimated cost for five additional stones is \$75 each with a cost of \$375. Officials approved the quotes.

Officials were presented a proposal and an agreement from Tri County Electric for the installation of high-speed fiber internet access. After reviewing the documents a roll the proposal was approved.

Laingsburg Winterfest Updates

submitted by Allison Cummings

Business Decorating Contest (Monday, November 30 - Sunday, December 6th):

1st Place (by Judges Panel) - Winner of the Wolfpack Trophy, Laingsburg Animal Hospital

Popular Vote (by Facebook Voting) - Winner of the Winterfest Trophy, Spirit Expressions

Dance Family

Thoughtful Tree Contest (Monday, November 30 - Sunday, December 6th):

1st Place (by Facebook Voting) - VISA Gift Card: Thoughtful Tree# 4 - Power of Prayer Tree Service - The tree was on display in The Laingsburg Dairy Den

2nd Place (by Facebook Voting) - Honorable Mention & Tree on the LBCA Website for 2021

Thoughtful Tree #6 - Mike & Sons Asphalt - The tree was on display at Mike & Sons Asphalt in downtown Laingsburg. All 6 trees were donated fully decorated, to families in need. Trees were donated to the contest by Nash Nursery and were decorated by contest participants/volunteers.

Home Decorating Contest (by Judging Panel & Facebook Voting - Monday, November 30 - Saturday, December 5th): 1st Place - Visa Gift Card & Ride in Santa's Light Parade: Contestant #7 - Jeff Nemets of 4119 Leland Rd., Laingsburg

2nd Place - Visa Gift Card & Ride in Santa's Light Parade: Contestant #4 - Karie Sustaita of 7160 Tyrrell Rd., Laingsburg

3rd Place - Honorable Mention & Home on the LBCA Website for 2021: Contestant #5 - Christopher Phillips & Greg Hunt of 303 E. Grand River Rd., Laingsburg.

Many of the light shows will be up all season for viewing, in addition to the Lake Victoria Light Show.

A huge Thank you, to Dave & Kathy Pursel, of the Lake Victoria Light Show for being our Guest Judges. They are also collecting monetary donations for the Laingsburg Food Bank at their display -- any viewers, please consider donating.

Santa's Light Parade (Saturday, Dec. 5th): Santa's Light Parade was largely attended. We had several entries in the parade including Laingsburg Police Department, Laingsburg Fire Department, Perry Fire Department, Gaffner Towing & Recovery, Smith Sand & Gravel, Laingsburg Dinos, Firefly Ridge CSA Farm, Wirotek Lighting, Shiawassee Firefighter's Memorial, and Pine Hills Golf Course. The streets along the parade route were lined with cars. The parking lots were full of parade watchers in their cars. The majority of attendees were doing their best to social distance and wear a mask while still enjoying the magic of Santa's Light Parade. The Grinch made an appearance, having stolen Santa's Firetruck and leading the parade with the police chasing him down. Santa & Mrs. Claus ended the parade wishing everyone a safe and wonderful holiday season.

Story-time Magic with Mrs. Claus (Sunday, Dec. 6th): An LBCA & Laingsburg Public Library event, Mrs. Claus and Santa joined us in Laingsburg to read a story over Facebook Live. It can be seen on the Laingsburg Public Library Facebook page as well as the LBCA Facebook page.

The Grinch Mailbox, Santa Mailbox, & Santa Selfie Station: The Grinch has been receiving dozens of letters and will continue to receive letters until Christmas, December 25th. The Grinch Mailbox, sponsored by Firefly Ridge, is outside of the Laingsburg Public Library. We encourage people to include their return address to receive a letter back from the Grinch.

The Santa Mailbox is located outside of the Laingsburg Post Office. USPS offers Operation Santa to ensure all letters get to Santa in a timely manner. This Mailbox will be out until Christmas, December 25th. Next to the Santa Mailbox, is the Santa Selfie Station. Sponsored by Mr. Sandless & Just 4 Fun Ink, you can take a selfie with Laingsburg's own Santa & Mrs. Claus-lifesize photo cutout. This selfie station will be out until Christmas, December 25th.

During this time it was the LBCA's mission to support our community, businesses, and non-profits. Winterfest has a long tradition of community, giving, and the spirit of the holiday season.



Bannister ZCBJ Hall Members Receive Holiday Donations

submitted by Joanne Fornusek

During these difficult times it is so heartwarming to see our local community come together to support those who might need a little extra help this holiday season. Hundreds of toys, non perishable food items and cash donations were dropped off at the ZCBJ Hall by Lodge members, neighbors and friends. A large amount of food was also donated by the math students of Alma High School.

The lodge thanks everyone for their wonderful generosity and wishes you a happy and healthy holiday season.



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- * BLUEGILL FILLETS
- * LANGOSTINO MEAT
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Will Recycling Survive 2020?

submitted by Ellen Link

If you've missed having the opportunity to recycle in Laingsburg, rest assured the Greater Laingsburg Recyclers have missed being able to offer that service. But you should also know that we haven't given up.

As we stated earlier, our hopes for continuing to offer recycling here depends on our being able to establish decent working conditions for ourselves. After 31 years our aging volunteers wanted a little shelter from the elements with access to bathroom facilities. Unfortunately, the pandemic forced us to close long before we could get that ball rolling. But the chance to win a grant from the state to establish a permanent recycling site in Laingsburg, one that could expand to meet the needs of the wider community and provide additional recycling possibilities, is still within our reach, and we've continued to work towards that goal.

We've been selected by the state as having a project worthy of a grant but it hinges on our fulfilling certain additional requirements beyond what we've already established, like secure funding for ongoing operations. And since they wouldn't be able to grant us as much money as initially requested we'll have to raise additional funds to build the facility. So we will continue to explore ways to meet these challenges, but we believe it can be done. You should know that this hoped-for recycling facility would actually be operated by a partnership of the city of Laingsburg, Laingsburg Schools and the GLR. If only Santa could come to our rescue! We hope 2021 will bring us good news, so stay tuned.

In the meantime, recycling at other centers has undergone several changes as well. MSU Recycling has shortened its hours and, for plastics, now only takes #1 and 2 bottles and jugs; check their web site for times and other materials. East Lansing has temporarily closed its recycling site. Granger Recycling on Wood Rd. continues to operate 24/7 but does have some restrictions on materials. The Haslett recycling site at 5976 E. Lake Drive is open to all, Mon-Fri with varying hours. If you have any questions or if you feel physically unable to take your materials elsewhere, call us for assistance (Ellen or Terry Link, 517-651-2005). We wish everyone healthy, happy, environmentally friendly holidays.



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Memorial Hospital Will Serve as Sole COVID-19 Vaccination Distributor in Shiawassee County

OWOSSO — When the vaccine for COVID-19 rolls out, Memorial Healthcare will serve as the sole administrator for Shiawassee County, and hospital officials said they are ready for the role.

Memorial has obtained ultra-cold storage for the vaccines and a detailed plan to administer the vaccines for those who choose to take it and meet eligibility requirements, according to a statement released by the hospital Wednesday.

Vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna require specialized storage, handling and administration protocols, and state officials expect COVID-19 vaccines to be made available as early as this month, pending federal Food and Drug Administration approval.

At the same time, the Shiawassee County Health Department will lead the massive county-wide effort to ensure residents have access to the vaccine.

"There is hope on the horizon with the upcoming vaccine. We are embarking on what will become the largest mass vaccination campaign the world has ever seen, even larger than the polio campaign of the 1950s," Shiawassee County Health Director Larry Johnson said Wednesday in an email. "The health department will be leading the effort working with multiple local partners, including Memorial Hospital. Frontline health care workers and residents and staff of long-term care facilities will be among the first to receive the vaccine.

"Daily meetings are occurring for the planning of this monumental logistical effort. The first doses could arrive before the end of the year. We hope to be vaccinating the general public by March with the vaccine being widely available to all who want it by June," Johnson continued.

"We need to vaccinate 70 percent of the population to achieve herd immunity and eradicate this virus. We all need to do our part by practicing social distancing and wearing masks. There is much to be hopeful for and I truly believe we are closer to the end than the beginning of this pandemic."

According to Michigan's vaccine distribution plans, health care workers will receive priority voluntary access to the limited supply of the vaccines in the state. Memorial Healthcare employees and other health care workers, and long-term care residents will be among the first in the county to be eligible.

"The arrival of this vaccine is a long-awaited turning point in our ability to manage COVID-19 in the community and to protect the health and safety of our valued providers and staff," said Brian Long, president/CEO of Memorial Healthcare. "Preparing for this moment has been a massive undertaking, from procuring equipment to developing new strategies and procedures to educating our workforce. I'm incredibly proud of the way our team has mobilized to meet this moment."

Memorial is one of a few dozen hospitals in the state with the ability to store and administer both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, the release states. The Pfizer vaccine must be stored at a temperature of minus-90 degrees, requiring a specialized ultra-cold freezer or dry ice. With the specialized equipment, Memorial has the capacity to store up to 6,000 doses of the vaccine.

The number of doses that will be distributed to Memorial hasn't been determined. Once received, the hospital will be able to begin administering vaccines to high-priority health care workers within 24 hours.

In addition to storage, Memorial has made plans for the handling and administration required for the vaccine while maintaining social distancing and restrictions on indoor gatherings for those eligible in the first phase of vaccinations. For example, the Pfizer vaccine must be reconstituted and administered within four hours or discarded. Appointments for priority vaccine recipients will be required to ensure every dose prepared can be administered per the established time frame.

The vaccine is available on a voluntary basis, and it will be provided at no cost to any eligible individual.

To stay up to date on Memorial Healthcare's COVID-19 activities, visit memorialhealthcare.org/coronavirus-covid-19-updates-what-to-know/.

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccines and relevant data, visit cdc.gov.

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Duplain Church of Christ

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Sunday School
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Worship Service
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
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www.duplainchurch.org

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Pastor: JD Paik

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Children's Sunday school: 9am
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Pastor Brian West
laingsburgumc@gmail.com

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Editorial

Wahoo, a new week has begun and I have managed to get another project finished in time for gift giving. I spent much of Sunday melting, pouring and fluffing hot wax.....I did this so that I might finish making four ice candles. To be honest, I am very pleased with the results...even though my son wanted to know why they weren't all the same height. Had I been using my noodle I would have told him that I was using my artistic license. Even though each of the candles started out with the same size container, they each have a different height. The difference was caused by the ice at the base. Yes, it is rather time consuming to make the ice candles, but I find it most satisfying even though they are a bit irregular they are still quite beautiful. The irregularity adds ambience as the candles burn and always with a plate beneath them...I save the wax and get to do a do-over. (If I keep one).

Today after getting lowlights put into my hair I will be making a run up to Clare with Rolayne. My hair is quite light now, it is past a few gray hairs a decade ago and is into a full on silver white. So adding some low lights gives me a boost and reminds myself that chronologically I may be ancient by my grandchildren's standards but I am still quite viable. The change also keeps my sassiness going.

The trip to Clare was fun and it helped us ladies get reconnected. The shopping at the Collinsville Store was delightful and it was very satisfying to share the event with someone who appreciated the possibilities. Per usual I spent more than I had intended but came back with some treasures. I brought back a Curious George kaleidoscope made with a metal tube which has proven to be a great delight to me. Yup, I must be well on my way to my second childhood or possibly I have not yet left my first. At any rate I think that it was a very good outing for both of us. Friends are fun.

Tuesday was a bit odd....right from the start. Prudence and I made a dash to the animal clinic out by the high school. I needed to pick up a prescription for Pru, to keep her from itching herself until her skin becomes bare. It is a seasonal struggle for her and hits like gangbusters, poor Pru is quite wretched. I had called into the clinic and let them know that I was there; they kindly were bringing her meds to the truck. Another vehicle pulled up beside me, I noted that the gal who was wearing a mask appeared to be rummaging around in her vehicle. Next thing I knew she approached me and told me that her two year old had used a box as a toy and wanted to know if I had a box....I looked at her and told her no. She was holding the base of a ceramic Christmas tree in one hand.....I told her that I had come to the clinic for meds for my dog. She then told me that she was to have met someone to do the exchange.....she drove off as I received the meds. It was an interesting but strange event.

Shortly after eleven that morning I had another weird incident happen. A young man who was marking tree limbs to be trimmed around the power lines parked his truck on the road with the tailgate of his truck sitting a few feet to the east of my mail box. My problem tree is a cottonwood that is a mess. Drat, they won't remove it. The young man was discussing what and when the tree would be trimmed. I noticed that the mail truck was zipping down the road, so the young man ran out to move his truck. The mail carrier never slowed down and just passed the truck. The mail truck did not even slow down. I was irritated immediately....the flag was up and ignored. It was also visible. I called the post office and spoke with the post master, I asked if he could contact his carriers and he affirmed that he could. I told him what had happened, and he promised to have the issue addressed on that day. Later the post master drove out and picked up what I had put in the mailbox and honked his horn twice to get my attention. I appreciated that, I like to have my bills paid on time and do take into consideration the tendency of the mail to be a bit wonky at times. Like I said it was a weird day.

May your days be filled with interesting measures and intriguing results? May you also be able to focus upon life's pleasures be they small or great. Enjoy the ambiance of God's blessings. Most of all, enjoy your family and friends....near and far. God bless.

Crystal Mitchell©2020



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

Too Much Stress

Dear Andy,

I am feeling so much stress these days. I am having trouble making decisions and I just cannot seem to relax. I am a stay at home mom. Helping with online school assignments with my 3 children. Making 3 meals a day. Keeping my home clean and safe for my family. Planning Holidays. Postponing vacation plans. Ordering groceries and everything else we need online to keep safe. Keeping the kids entertained with limited television. And, working part-time online. I just want to go back to normal. Any suggestions to relieve my stress?

Stressed out, Mom

Dear Stressed out Mom,

You're not alone. This is a stressful time we live in. First of all, know that it is temporary; Scientists and experts are working day and night to get a handle on our situation. (ie COVID-19). We are reminded every day with commercials, mailings and news and the fact that we are all worried about our families' health even in "normal" times.

My go to stress reliever is yoga stretches in the morning and at night. Does not sound as bad as it seems. Google: Wall or Chair Yoga to get some stretching ideas. Mostly, it's also taking time for yourself...take time to sit and relax when you have your morning coffee...make a list each day...even if it sounds almost the same but prioritized the order and the time frames. Use a yellow highlighter to cross off the items you have finished. When I look back on my list, it gives me a sense of accomplishment.

Most important to take care of you so you have the emotional strength to take care of others. Small acts of selfcare such as a hot lavender Epsom salts bath at the end of the day instead of just plopping into bed. One of my favorite stretches at night before bed is sitting on the floor, placing my legs up against a flat wall with my bottom as close as I can and massage and stretch my legs or just lay there and let myself heal from the day.

Eating good healthy foods such as leafy greens, lots of steamed veggies and fresh fruits can give you the power you need to get through the day. You do not have to have a 3-course meal for every meal. One of my favorite indulgences includes rich dark chocolate from a specialty store, hidden just for me.

And, most importantly, you can delegate to your school aged children to help in the kitchen or take a turn. You do not need to be their waitress all day, every day. Pizza or take out, drive-through and pick up meals are another "go-to stress reliever" and a chance to get out. Teaching your children life-long skills includes you delegating and giving them directions as they help out, too.

Finally, music can be relaxing, a distraction, or a fun time to dance and exercise with your children. Go outside into the fresh air with your children. Go for a walk, in a near by park or your neighborhood. Wear a mask and stay safe. Enjoy your family by playing board games or just having fun together during this abundant time of activities and time.

Keep me posted. I hope this will help. Enjoy your family. Time goes fast. Andy. @ask_andy@aol.com

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-Pope Francis

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Home Improvement

Don't Miss a Beat During a Power Outage

Short-term power outages can be a minor inconvenience. A long-term power outage can cause a major disruption to daily life.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration's Annual Electric Power Industry Report says interruptions in electric service vary by frequency and duration across the many electric distribution systems that serve the country. In 2016, the most recent year for data, customers experienced an average of 1.3 interruptions and went without power for around four hours.

When a storm strikes or an accident knocks out electric power lines or other infrastructure, it may take much longer for power to be restored. During Superstorm Sandy in 2012, more than eight million people lost power and outages lasted for days in some major cities. Outlying areas were without power for weeks, according to National Geographic. It's important to know how to handle a power outage to keep everyone safe and comfortable until power can be restored.

Invest in a generator

If you live in an area that is affected by frequent power outages, a power generator may prove a worthwhile investment. Generators come in two basic types. A portable generator can be rolled into place and uses gasoline as fuel. Plug in a set number of household items, depending on the amount of power the appliance can accommodate. A whole-house generator can be hard-wired to a home's electrical system and automatically

engage should a power outage occur.

Prepare in advance

In anticipation of a power outage, stock up on battery-powered devices like flashlights, lanterns and radios. Charge mobile phones and other devices so they're at 100 percent power.

Keep a cache of nonperishable food available and plan to use any perishable items that are in the refrigerator first. A refrigerator can keep food cold for about four hours after power has ceased, states Ready.gov, while a freezer can keep the temperature for about 48 hours if full. Packing these appliances with ice or frozen bottles of water can help.

Purchase books, board games and puzzles to have activities to pass the time until power resumes.

During a power outage

Report the power outage to the power company if it seems localized; otherwise, wait for updates to see who is affected.

Try to remain cool or warm if the HVAC system is not functioning. Pool resources by having everyone in the family gather in one room of the house. Older adults and children are especially vulnerable to extreme temperatures.

Maintain food supplies that do not require refrigeration, including two gallons of bottled water per individual. People who take refrigerated medications should only ingest drugs that have been at room temperature until a new supply is available, advises the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Power outages routinely occur and require planning and safety precautions until power is restored.



6 Steps to Organize Your Home Office

Remote working has become popular in recent years, but the "working-from-home" economy bloomed exponentially as the world was forced to confront the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Stanford economist Nicholas Bloom, as of summer 2020, 42 percent of the United States labor force was working from home full-time.

The need for home office spaces has increased as more people work from home. Many people have retrofitted various spaces around their homes into areas to get work done. More organized home work spaces can increase productivity. Individuals can follow these guidelines to create effective, organized home offices.

Begin with the desk

The desk is the primary spot where work will take place. The right desk accessories can provide visual appeal and also serve practical purposes. Have cups for holding pens and pencils, baskets and bins for larger items, and store whatever you can elsewhere so it does not lead to clutter on the desk. Store wireless printers in a cabinet or even on a bookshelf so it doesn't take up real estate on the desk.

Create a printing station

While you're moving that wireless printer elsewhere, designate a space to serve as the central printing hub. This way children who need to print assignments for school will know where to go as well. Printer supplies like extra ink cartridges and printer paper can be kept in decorative storage boxes nearby.

Increase your shelving

Shelving can help keep items organized and off the desk in home offices without closets or drawers. Look for shelves that blend in with decor but are sturdy enough to be functional.

Organize paperwork

Figure out a system that works for you to help tidy up papers you choose to save. While some papers can be scanned and stored as digital files, color-coded file folders can organize statements and other important documents. This makes it easy to find the folder you need when looking for certain documents.

Establish a charging station

Repurpose certain items, such as a desk organizer, into an easily accessible electronics charging station where phones and tablets can charge at one time.

Make essential binders

HGTV suggests making binders that can store the most important papers for easy access — even in an emergency. Set up a binder for automotive paperwork, including repair receipts, a medical binder where key medical records are kept, a binder for manuals for devices in the home, and one to store financial planning documents.

These organizational tips can help remedy common problems around a home office.

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Stuff the Bus Event Helps Laingsburg Area Food Bank

submitted by Linda Culpepper

On behalf of the Laingsburg Area Food Bank, I would like to give great thanks to the Laingsburg Business and Community Association for organizing the Stuff the Bus event on December 5, 2020.

The event definitely packed the bus and packed tables at LAFB!

Would also like to thank Greg Beavers, LBCA president, along with Dena Judd, who helped unload the bus and helped put items away. Would like to thank T-Rex, Dena Judd, and Dean Veith for providing Christmas music as people came to stuff the bus. Thanks to Carla Water for driving the bus!

The Laingsburg Area Food Bank would like to thank the Laingsburg community for its generosity and help for those in our community who are facing hard times.



Linda Marshall, Laingsburg resident, helped Stuff the Bus on December 5, 2020. T-Rex was glad to accept the donations for the Laingsburg Area Food Bank. (Photo by Linda Culpepper)

Photos by
Lindsay Culpepper



Help is Needed

Toys are still needed for the Toys for Tots Drive currently underway by the Elsie American Legion Post 502. The need in the community is greater than ever. The Post will be collecting toys and getting ready for family distribution on December 21st and 22nd. Please contact Post Commander, Gene Nethaway at (989)834-2438 to make arrangements to deliver your toy donation on one of these days at the Hall. Donations may also be dropped off the The Weekly in Ovid on Tuesday or Wednesday from 8:30am to noon or on Thursday from 8:30-4pm.



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Duplain Township Property Owners Receive Second Winter Tax Bill

by Dawn D. Levey

DUPLAIN - To clarify the confusion in DuPlain Township regarding the Winter tax bill Supervisor Bruce Levey reported that due to an issue surrounding the Elsie Public Library filing of the L-4029 with Clinton County for the newly approved millage, an updated Winter tax bill was sent. Property owners are asked to disregard the first bill that is white in color.

Unfortunately, the misfiling will result in additional costs for reprinting, postage and time incurred, which the Library Board has agreed to reimburse. Also, approximately 96 property owners have paid their Winter taxes and now must draft a second check, and mortgage companies are going to have to make adjustments.

Kam Washburn, Clinton County Commissioner, commented that the millage issue regarding the Elsie Public Library, caused a lot of things that had to happen in a hurry. If the taxes had not gone out early, they could not have been sent out a second time. This was a very complex process to ensure that the millage could be collected in the Winter Taxes. A special meeting of the Clinton County Board of Commissioners, which involved legal counsel had to be held to ensure that the proper paper work was completed. Also, State Treasury forms had to be redone and resubmitted.

Amy Bowen, DuPlain Township Treasurer, handled the situation quickly and efficiently and had to do double duty and will now have to field calls as will the supervisor and the county commissioner to explain the situation. All of the amended tax bills have to be resent. All parties involved apologize for the confusion and inconvenience.

At the November 2020 General Election voters approved the 1.9 mill request which took immediate effect. The approved millage will generate approximately \$130,000 annually for the Elsie public Library.

DuPlain Township Treasurer will hold office hours for tax payments Thursday, December 31, 9am-5pm (closed from 12 pm-1pm for lunch) and Monday, March 1, 2021 9am-Noon and 1 pm-5pm. There is a drop box located on the west side of the DuPlain Township Hall, no cash please, and receipts will be mailed.

SPORTS

Maruader, Wolfpack Athletes Dot All-Area Boys Soccer Team

OWOSSO -- A bevy of Laingsburg and Ovid-Elsie athletes have been honored on the All-Shiawassee Area Boys Soccer Team, as named by the Owosso Argus-Press.

Matthew Williams of Byron is the All-Area Player of the Year. Williams, who racked up 103 goals and 39 assists in his decorated four-year varsity career, continued to deliver instant offense even during the COVID-19 pandemic. He scored 23 goals with 10 assists as a senior forward and repeated as Boys Soccer Player of the Year.

Locally, the following players were named to the prestigious honor squad:

Jackson Thornton, Ovid-Elsie. Thornton, an Ovid-Elsie senior striker, scored 14 goals with two assists for the 9-3-1 Marauders, who crafted a 7-0-1 record in the MMAC en route to its fifth straight league title. Thornton was named a first-team selection in the MMAC.

Cam Salas, Laingsburg. The senior forward registered a team-high 13 goals with four assists for the Wolfpack.

Kade Clone, Laingsburg. The senior forward scored eight goals with two assists in 2020.

Nate Reser, Ovid-Elsie. The senior goalie boasted a 1.08 goals against average. He was a first-team selection in the MMAC.

Camren Cuthbert, Ovid-Elsie. The senior midfielder was credited with four goals and seven assists this season. He was named to the MMAC first-team unit.

Colin Fluharty, Ovid-Elsie. The junior defender was a big part of the Marauders' defensive wall. He was voted a first-team selection in the MMAC.

Honorable Mention: Dylan Hulliberger, Laingsburg, So.,MF

Joshua Swender, Ovid-Elsie, Sr., W. Swender was also a 2nd Team All-MMAC selection.

Noah Fahey, Ovid-Elsie, Sr., MF. Fahey was also a 2nd Team All-MMAC selection.

In addition, Brandon Grieder (2nd Team), Ian Hehrer (Honorable Mention) and Chandler Whitford (Honorable Mention) were all named to the All-MMAC honor contingent.

Said Marauder coach Justin Fluharty, "We had a lot of deserving players this year for the all-league honors, I wish I could have gotten them all recognition. The team played strongly all year and I am proud how the boys finished our season."



Jackson Thornton
Ovid-Elsie
1st Team MMAC
All Area



Nate Reser
Ovid-Elsie
1st Team MMAC
All Area



Camren Cuthbert
Ovid-Elsie
1st Team MMAC
All Area



Colin Fluharty
Ovid-Elsie
1st Team MMAC
All Area



Joshua Swender
Ovid-Elsie
2nd Team MMAC
All Area



Noah Fahey
Ovid-Elsie
2nd Team MMAC
All Area



Brandon Grieder
Ovid-Elsie
2nd Team MMAC



Ian Hehrer
Ovid-Elsie
Honorable Mention
MMAC



Chandler Whitford
Ovid-Elsie
Honorable
Mention
MMAC



Cam Sala
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Kade Clone
Laingsburg
All Area



Dylan Hulliberger
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COVID-19 Quarantine Guidance Update

submitted by Leslie Kinnee

Ithaca, Stanton, St. Johns- Mid-Michigan District Health Department is changing its COVID-19 quarantine guidelines to align with those made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on December 2, 2020.

The previous 14-day quarantine period was based on earlier data that estimated the COVID-19 incubation period. However, recent data found 90 to 99 percent of COVID-19 infections occur within 10 days of exposure.

While the 14-day quarantine period for those who have been exposed to COVID-19 is still standard, it can be reduced to 10 days if the following two conditions are met:

- The individual does not develop any symptoms or clinical evidence of COVID -19 infection during the 10 days after their last exposure.

- The individual continues to monitor for symptoms for 14 days after their last exposure. If symptoms develop, they should get tested and self-isolate while waiting for their results.

Testing locations can be found at www.michigan.gov/coronavirus or by calling 211. If you test positive for COVID-19 you should follow home isolation guidelines. If you test negative, you still need to complete the 14-day quarantine.

Individuals exiting quarantine should continue to social distance, wear a mask, and avoid crowds.

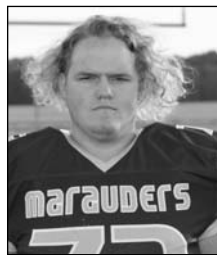
The shortened quarantine period should be considered with caution for those living or working in congregate living settings or those working with high-risk individuals due to the increased risk of transmission with the shortened quarantine. Refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for information regarding these risks. There may be conflicts in the length of quarantine for employers who fall under Michigan Public Act 238 or Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration rules. Employers should refer to these sources when determining whether employees need to wait 14 days to return to work.

Sports

Editorial



*Cal Byrnes
2nd Team
MMAC*



*Keigan Ormes
2nd Team
MMAC*



*Landon Stoneman
2nd Team
MMAC*



*Logan Thompson
2nd Team
MMAC*



*Jacob Schaub
Honorable Mention
MMAC*



*Alex Eichenberg
Honorable Mention
MMAC*



*Kevin Ley
Honorable Mention
MMAC*



*Max Spiess
Honorable Mention
MMAC*

Ovid-Elsie 2020 All-MMAC Football

OVID-ELSIE -- Coach Travis Long's 2020 edition of the football Marauders turned some heads with a youthful, speedy, tough-nosed style of play that kept O-E at or above .500 for much of the campaign.

The Mid-Michigan Athletic Conference (MMAC) took notice.

No fewer than 9 Marauders were given special consideration for their contributions on the field in 2020, named to the All-MMAC honor squad.

The Marauder honorees included:

#8 Eddy Evans RB/DB Junior. 1st Team All-MMAC Defensive Back. He was also our best defensive back in coverage this year. He had 12 tackles, 1 TFL, 5 interceptions, and recovered 2 fumbles. Eddy was our best offensive player this year. Carried the ball 97 times for 620 yards and 6 TDs.

#2 Cal Byrnes RB/DB Senior. 2nd Team All-MMAC Defensive Back. 1st year playing football, compiled 23 tackles, 2 interceptions, and 1 forced fumble. Ran the ball 34 times for 273 yards and 2 TDs.

#72 Keigan Ormes OC/DE Senior. 2nd Team All-MMAC Offensive Line. Senior Captain started at Center past 2 seasons. Team offense compiled 1580 yards.

#44 Landon Stoneman RB/LB Sophomore. 2nd Team All-MMAC Linebacker. 46 tackles, 5 TFL, 1 fumble recovery

#25 Logan Thompson RB/DB Sophomore. 2nd Team All-MMAC Running Back. 89 rushing attempts, 296 yards, 4 TD. 17 tackles, 1 TFL, 1 PBU

#34 Jacob Schaub TE/DB Junior. Honorable Mention All-MMAC End/WR. Caught 14 passes for 182 yards and 1 TD. 30 tackles, 1 sack, 2 TFL, 1 fumble recovery for a TD.

#7 Alex Eichenberg TE/DE Junior. Honorable Mention All-MMAC TE. 8 receptions, 111 yds. 10 tackles, 2 sacks, 4 TFL, 1 PBU

#50 Kevin Ley OG/DT Sophomore. Honorable Mention All-MMAC Defensive Line. Started at Left Guard all 7 games, Team Rushed for 1157 yards. Started at Defensive Tackle 26 tackles, 3 sacks, 4 TFL's.

#3 Max Spiess RB/NG Junior. Honorable Mention All-MMAC Defensive Line. Started at Nose Guard - 20 tackles, 1 sack, 1 fumble recovery.



*Eddy Evans
1st Team
MMAC*

Last Minute Local Gifts

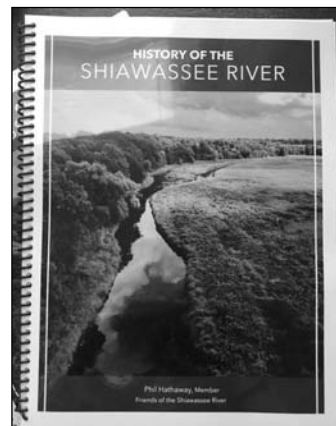
The Weekly Sportsman knows how challenging and stressful holiday gift shopping is and with COVID it has become even more complicated.

Therefore, the Weekly Sportsman would like to suggest two locally authored and published books released this year that can be purchased without going into big box stores. One is even available via Ebay and can be shipped directly to your home or to the gift recipient.



The Weekly Sportsman

*by Dan McMaster
theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com*



*History of the Shiawassee River
by Phil Hathaway*

The first book for you to consider is the History of the Shiawassee River authored by local river historian and enthusiast Phil Hathaway. The book was written in almost a reverse engineered process as Phil originally began documenting the history of the Shiawassee River with the purpose of creating a three-part speaker series to accompany a traveling Smithsonian Exhibit about water hosted by the Shiawassee Arts Council. The book is a treatise on the entire history of the Shiawassee River starting with glaciers and ending with its current use as a recreational water trail. In between the reader will learn the role the river has played with Native Americans, settlers, pioneers, farmers, abuse by industry and waste water systems, and then finally recovery and healing. Almost every page is filled with charts, sketches, pictures, maps, etc. Written in a very clear and succinct manner this book not only explains the history of the river, along with the development of Shiawassee County, but it also gives identity to the communities that exist today along the river.

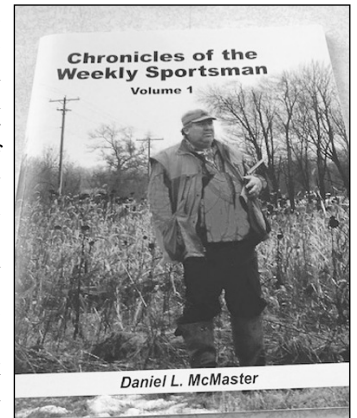
Anyone interested in local history, conservation, water recreation, and or the environment needs to receive this in their stocking or under the Christmas tree. The only complaint, albeit a minor one, is the spiral binding which makes it cumbersome at times. With a price tag of only \$25 this may be ordered and purchased from the office of Friends of the Shiawassee River in Corunna or the Shiawassee Arts Center (SAC) in Owosso. Speaking of the SAC, The Chronicles of the Weekly Sportsman may now be purchased there along with other works from local authors.

Cost is only \$24.99 and when purchased at the SAC a portion of the funds goes to their operation. Other locations to purchase The Chronicles of the Weekly Sportsman include The Weekly in Ovid, Mid-Michigan Guns & Gear in Bath, and Moose Creek Sports in Lansing. In addition, the book can be purchased on Ebay and mailed to you or the intended recipient.

Consider giving both to that someone special as they will serve as a treasured resource that can be read and enjoyed over and over. Please call locations before visiting because of possible limited hours of operation.

The Friends of the Shiawassee River, 538 N Shiawassee St., Corunna 989-723-9062
The Shiawassee Arts Center, 206 Curwood Castle Dr., Owosso 989-723-8354
The Weekly, 200 S. Main St., Ovid 989-834-2264
Mid-Michigan Guns & Gear, 13630 Main St., Bath 517-285-0371
Moose Creek Sports, 2400 S Cedar, Lansing 517-487-2660
Ebay.com, search "Chronicles of the Weekly Sportsman"

-WS



Chronicles of the Weekly Sportsman by Daniel L. McMaster

With COVID-19 Pause Extended Michigan Prep Football Teams Continue to Wait

LANSING -- A 12-day extension to a three-week pause on sports and in-person learning and other restrictions was announced Monday, December 7 by Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

It did not come as a surprise to Michigan prep football teams still in the playoff hunt. Locally, New Lothrop is eager to get ready to play Detroit Loyola in a Division 7 regional championship game. The 11-player playoffs still have three rounds left to finish, while 8-player football still has two rounds to play.

A partial three-week shutdown began Nov. 18 and was to extend through today, but Whitmer announced Monday the pause for high school sports would be extended at least 12 more days to Dec. 20. Whitmer cited concerns over hospital capacity and rising death rates.

New Lothrop (8-0) had been scheduled to face Loyola (8-1) Dec. 15 at Madison Heights Bishop Foley. The team was hoping practice could start Wednesday, but that plan will have to be pushed back.

MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl expressed disappointment in a statement released Monday afternoon, but also said there is still a plan to finish the fall season and start winter. The extension also affects the girls swimming and diving finals and volleyball. Each one week left to complete.

Uyl said in the statement the MHSAA Representative Council will meet Wednesday to plan a finish for fall and restarting winter. Winter sports practices, which were slated to begin Wednesday, will have to be put on hold until at least Dec. 21.



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