

January 2, 2022

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12 PAGES

Make 2022 the Year of Waste Reduction

submitted by Ellen Link

Start the new year out right with the Greater Laingsburg Recyclers by turning “trash” into recyclable materials. Bring the items listed below to the next recycling drive on Saturday, Jan. 8, 9 am to 1 pm., at the new Greater Laingsburg Community Recycling Center. Look for our spiffy sign on Woodbury Rd. just south of old Grand River. A grand opening

with all the hoopla will be planned and announced as soon as possible so we can publicly recognize the many generous and far-sighted people who helped make this waste reduction resource for thousands of people in the vicinity a reality.

For now, recycling patrons will drive into the building and stay in their cars while volunteers unload their materials. Due to COVID and its variants (what's next?), we'll continue taking special safety precautions for a while, so volunteers will all be vaccinated and wearing masks.

Already we have good news to report! First, in addition to the usual monthly (second Saturday) drive in January we will try increasing the frequency of and options for recycling drives by adding a collection on Tuesday, Jan. 25, from 4 pm to 7 pm. With enough additional volunteers—and recyclers—we will add additional days, hopefully getting to twice a week! But to do that we'll need help, so please consider giving a few hours of your time once or twice a year (or more, if you like!) to sup-

port the cause.

But wait, there's more! We're also adding to the list of acceptable items! As of this month we will accept #5 “tub” plastics (e.g., yogurt, sour cream, etc.) and electronics (no TVs or monitor screens). And contrary to what we reported just last month, we'll also start taking glass (bottles and jars only), all colors, on a trial basis—if this doesn't work out, we may have to stop taking it again. Cross your fingers.

An updated list of the clean and dry materials accepted every month includes: newspaper and phone books; tin and scrap metal; aluminum (separate); corrugated cardboard (include brown paper bags here); boxboard; mixed office paper (no adhesives) and junk mail; magazines; books; #1 plastics, clear & green only (bottles and jars—no clamshells, e.g., take-out, berries and salad containers); and #2 plastics (milk jugs/cloudy separated from solid color containers). We also accept household batteries (please separate into regular, rechargeable and lithium) and empty inkjets from Canon, Brother and HP. The GLR cannot accept plastic bags or polystyrene/Styrofoam. However, the latter is accepted at the St. Johns Lions', Meridian Township and East Lansing sites; and stores like Meijer (check out the guidelines on their website), Kroger and Walmart take the bags.

You can visit our website--<https://recyclelaingsburg.wixsite.com/mysite> or Facebook page for this and more information—like how to sign up to volunteer for this worthy effort. Volunteering with the GLR, which is run completely by volunteers, is a great opportunity for Scouts, honor students, and others looking to do public service. As always, recyclers from any community are welcome. We rely on donations to cover our costs but they are not mandatory. For questions re: what we take or more information about anything mentioned, contact Terry or Ellen Link at (517) 651-2005 or Beth Lange at 651-6437. Happy New Year!



Memorial Healthcare Internal Medicine Welcomes Jason Ardelean to Team

submitted by Dianna Vsetula

Owosso — Memorial Healthcare is pleased to welcome Jason Ardelean, board certified Family Nurse Practitioner to our active medical staff.

Jason received his Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Detroit-Mercy and a Master of Science in Nursing/Family Nurse Practitioner from the University of Michigan-Flint. Jason has several years of nursing experience with a strong background in preventative health conditions including the treatment and management of acute and chronic illnesses.

Jason was born and raised in Owosso and is excited to provide personalized care for his patients. In his free time, Jason enjoys spending time with his family, traveling, and playing golf.

Jason will be joining Dr. Oscar Macal and Dr. Antonio Santiago at Memorial Healthcare Internal

Medicine in Owosso, starting on January 10, 2022. He is accepting new patients with most insurances.

For more information, please visit www.MemorialHealthcare.org



Jason Ardelean



State Rep. Ben Frederick receives the Michigan Dental Association's Legislative Achievement Award from MDA President Dr. Michael Maihofer, center right. They are joined by Lydia Frederick and former state Sen. David Robertson, the immediate past recipient of the award.

Rep. Frederick Honored

submitted by Christina Doerr

State Rep. Ben Frederick was recently presented with the Michigan Dental Association's Legislative Achievement Award.

The Michigan Dental Association (MDA) periodically presents the award to lawmakers who have demonstrated outstanding public service on behalf of the state's dental profession and patients.

In selecting Frederick for the award, Dr. Maihofer specifically noted Frederick's strong support of the Healthy Kids Dental program and said the Owosso representative has proven to be an “invaluable ally” in legislative efforts to establish a kindergarten dental screening requirement and to recognize five new dental specialties in Michigan.

“Rep. Ben Frederick has shown himself to be an extremely capable and effective legislator,” Dr. Maihofer said. “With this award we want show our appreciation for his exceptional contributions to the dental health of Michigan.”

Remembering A Few of Those We Lost in 2021



Joseph Houska
 February 9, 2021
 Lifelong Farmer
 Elsie Ambulance Volunteer



William “Bill” Strpko
 February 19, 2021
 WWII Veteran
 Lifelong Musician
 Local Historian



Ed Fornusek Jr.
 April 1, 2021
 Lifelong Member ZCBJ Lodge
 Ashley Country Christmas
 Postmaster



Bruce Field
 April 1, 2021
 Local Pharmacy Owner
 36 year Ambulance Volunteer
 Avid U of M Fan



Charles Moore
 May 31, 2021
 Moore Chevrolet Owner
 Community Volunteer-Sexton
 City Councilman



John Carroll Jr.
 June 17, 2021
 EMT Laingsburg
 Businessman
 Community Activist



Tim Zwick
 June 29, 2021
 Lifelong MSU Fan
 Businessman
 Sports Writer



Dick Ehlert
 September 16, 2021
 Community Giver
 Hard Working Businessman
 Dedicated Family Man

LORDY! LORDY!
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90
on January 14th



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Ovid Boy Scout Troop
585/114 Pasty Sale

Pasties will be available for purchase Beef for \$5, Fruit for \$4, on a first come, first serve basis on Saturday, January 8, 2022 from 3pm - 5pm at the Lions Hall in Ovid, MI. Pasties may be frozen to ensure quality.

These pasties are a delicious way to help support Scouting.



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Social

Adventures at the Elsie Public Library

submitted by Ann Trierweiler

The Elsie Public Library has programs in full swing for the new year.

Winter Reading Bingo

The Elsie Public Library is holding a 2022 Winter Reading Bingo Challenge and will begin on January 10th and end on February 26th. BINGO Sheets can be picked up at the front desk. Participants need to read 5 books (BINGO) to be entered into the drawing. Winners can select a prize out of the showcase or win a gift card to one of our local businesses.

St. Patrick's Day Book Hunt

The Elsie Public Library will be holding a book hunt from March 1st until March 31st. Sheets will be available at the front desk. Participants need to complete the sheet to be entered into the drawing. Winners can select a prize out of the showcase or win a gift card to one of our local businesses.

Story Time Videos

The Elsie Public Library posts storytimes on Facebook and on YouTube weekly.

Check Facebook for updates and notification of events and programs happening at the Elsie Public Library. If you haven't already...please LIKE us on Facebook!!

We are looking forward to seeing many new faces, as well as visiting with our tried and true friends and patrons. So, come on in, check out a good book, and join in the fun!!



Front Row – Nicholas Dean, Owosso Lodge, Rodney Ridgeway, Elsie; and Installing Grand Marshall Leonard Davis

Rodney Ridgeway Installed as Worshipful Master of Elsie Lodge

submitted by Dawn Levey

OWOSO – Saturday, December 18, four area Masonic Lodges participated in the tenth annual installation of officers held at Owosso Lodge 81, Owosso, Michigan. Lodges participating included: Byron Lodge #80, Owosso Lodge #81, Elsie Lodge #238, and Perry Lodge #350. Officers installed representing Elsie Lodge #238 were: Rodney Ridgeway, Worshipful Master; Clare Applebee, Senior Warden; Bruce Levey, Treasurer; and Colby Putnam, Junior Deacon.

Spitzley Graduates from United States Marine Corps Boot Camp

Private Luke Spitzley, 19, of Ovid graduated from the United States Marine Corps Boot Camp at Parris Island on December 3rd.

Spitzley successfully completed 13 weeks of intensive basic training at MCRD Parris Island as one of 67 recruits in training platoon 1101.

Following his 10 day leave he will report to Camp LeJeune in North Carolina for one month of Military Combat Training then Military Specialty Occupation School.

Luke is a 2021 Ovid-Elsie High School Graduate and is the son of Dale and April Spitzley of Ovid.



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A Look Back Through 2021

Mikayla Kelley Signs With Spring Arbor University

January 3, 2021



Back Row (l-r) Step-Dad, Dan Lightner, Spring Arbor Coach, Gerry Lobdell, OE Coach, Matt Fabius, OE Athletic Director, Jesse Johnson, Step-Mom, Erin Kelley and Spring Arbor Coach, Rich Bradley. Front Row (l-r) Mom, Susan Lightner, Mikayla Kelley and Dad, Zach Kelley.

Photo by Deb Price

Keck-Coleman Funeral Home Has New Owners

January 10, 2021



(l-r): Curtis Keck, Joe Coleman, Tyler McGeehan, Ashley and Ken Kutzli

Ashley's Drummond Honored on Academic All-State Football Team

January 31, 2021



OVID-MIDDLEBURY EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY

MINUTES

Draft

Regular Meeting

November 23, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order:

Chair Herendeen called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Roll Call:

Present: William Lasher, Kim Williams, Michael Herendeen, Nancy Hughson, Carolyn Stevens, Jennings West.

Others in Attendance: There were six others in attendance: Greg Palen-treasurer-arrived at 7:28 pm, Susan Swan- recording secretary; Chief Jerry Stevens, Arlene Pesis, Greg Atwood, Claudia Pluger.

Approval of Agenda:

Trustee Williams made a motion to approve agenda as presented. Trustee Stevens seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: Ayes: All Nays: None Carried

Approval of Minutes:

Trustee Stevens moved to approve the October 26, 2021 regular meeting minutes as presented. Vice-Chair West seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: Ayes: All Nays: None Carried

Financial Report / Payment of the Bills:

Greg Palen, Treasurer, presented a written financial report and reviewed it with the board.

Trustee Lasher moved to approve payment of Checks # 11514-11543 in an amount of \$3,960.73 for payroll and \$6,016.35 for vendors for a total of \$9,977.08. The motion was seconded by Trustee Williams.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Stevens, Lasher, West, Hughson, Williams, Herendeen Nays: None

Carried

Budget Amendment- 2021 Budget

Chair Herendeen made a motion to amend the budget by moving \$8,000.00 from Debt Services to Repairs and Maintenance and \$21,285.77 from Debt Service to capital outlay. Debt Service line item \$0.00, Repairs & Maintenance-\$23,000.00, Capital Outlay-\$41,061.37.

Public Comment: Opened 7:05pm.; Closed 7:05 pm None

Fire Chief Report:

Runs for the Month: (October 27 -November 23) 29 runs

Runs for the Year: 290 runs

Chief Stevens reviewed the different types of runs for the month.

Communications:

None

General Business:

1. Resolution 2021-03 Meeting Calendar for 2022

Resolution 2021-03

Meeting Calendar for 2022

Whereas, the State of Michigan requires by law the annual setting of meetings for the authority.

Therefore, be it resolved; the Board adopts the following dates for the calendar year 2022:

January 25	July 26
February 22	August 23
March 22	September 27
April 26	October 25
May 24	November 22
June 28	December 20

This resolution was offered by board member Trustee Stevens.

Supported by board member Trustee Williams.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Trustee Hughson, Vice-Chair West, Chair Herendeen, Trustee Stevens, Trustee Lasher, Trustee Williams

Nays: None

The Chair declared the Resolution adopted.

2. Equipment Status- No equipment needs or issues.

3. Other Pending Business-

Chair Herendeen contacted the OMESA's attorney, Scott Gould, to look into a district wide millage.

The attorney is investigating the legalities of OMESA providing ambulance service. There was discussion of per capita cost of ambulance for each municipal. The topic of the length of time to run the millage proposal.

Discussion about the rising cost of ambulance service. Possible 2.25 mils for covering the ambulance and fire service. Discussion of how the original proposal was written. The easiest would be to have OMESA contract out for ambulance service. The board discussed about the choosing of ambulance service if OMESA pays for ambulance service. Chair Herendeen hopes to have an idea of the wording by the December's meeting. Board continues discussion of different scenarios of cost of services.

4. 2022 Budget Review Treasurer Greg Palen review the 2022 budget. He suggested adding a line item for parking lot. He reviewed the income expectation for next year and the expected expenses for 2022. A budget will be available next month to approved.

Final Comments: None

Adjournment- Without objection, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:04 pm

Susan Tomasek Swan
Recording Secretary

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Obituaries

Frank Johnson

Frank Johnson, age 96, of Elsie, MI, passed away Wednesday, December 22, 2021, at Covenant Hospital, Saginaw, MI.

Frank was born in Saginaw County, MI on July 5, 1925, the son of Chester and Elsie (Campbell) Johnson. He graduated from Elsie High School.

Frank worked for Oldsmobile and went on to work and retired from Lear in Elsie. He was also a lifelong farmer. He enjoyed raising animals, hunting and fishing. Frank proudly served his country in the United States Army during WWII. He was a member of the Elsie American Legion.

He is survived by nieces and nephews: Kay McClelland, Jane Morton, Jim Kennedy and Lucy Maier, and Paul and Gayle Kennedy. He is also survived by many great-nieces and nephews, and great-great nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Chester and Elsie Johnson, sisters: Erma Criner, Edna Meadows, Ellen Waggoner, one brother Cy Johnson, nephew Dave McClelland, niece Carol Usman and great nephews Jeff & Scott McClelland.

Frank was buried next to his brother at Ford Cemetery and a celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to Chapin United Methodist Church, AA, or Disabled Veterans. Online condolences can be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes - Elsie, Michigan.



Nancy L. Hinkley

Nancy L. Hinkley, 85, passed away on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, in Venice, Florida.

Nancy was born August 22, 1936.

Nancy was born in Bannister, MI to Roy and Mary Saylor, and lived and worked in the Elsie area until 1987 when she and Don retired to Venice, FL. Don and Nancy were married in July 1954. They were together for almost 57 years until his passing in 2011. For many years she worked as a bookkeeper alongside Don in publishing the Elsie Sun, later renamed The Advertiser-News. She was a long-time member of the Bannister United Methodist Church, serving as director and accompanist of the children's choir, singing alto in the adult choir, and teaching Sunday school. After relocating to Venice, she became an active member of the Venice-Nokomis United Methodist Church, singing in the choir and serving as piano accompanist for the church's preschool. She also served her community by ushering events at the Venice Theatre, working at the local election board, and delivering food for meals-on-wheels. She loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and enjoyed gardening and watching football.

Survivors include her children Deborah (Randy) Higel of Venice, FL, Donna (Johnny) Winkler of Jacksonville, NC, and David V. Hinkley (Dianna) of Dover, FL; grandchildren Nicole Backes (John), Wesley Higel (Jen), John David Winkler, Juliet Hinkley and Jack Hinkley; and great-grandchildren Isaac, Ryleigh, Logan, and Amelia. Nancy is also survived by her brother, Dennis Saylor, of Bannister, MI.

Nancy was predeceased by her husband, Donald L. Hinkley, son Joseph L. Hinkley, sister Janet Bensinger, and brothers Vern and Robert Saylor.

A date and time for a memorial service has yet to be determined. Electronic condolences can be made at kays-ponger.com.



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Pastor: Zella Daniel
Sunday Worship 11:15am

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8:30am, & 11:00am
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www.duplainchurch.org

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www.laingsburgumc.org

St. Cyril Parish of Bannister

Mass: Sun 10:30am,
Wed. 9:00am
Confession:
Sun 11:30am

We Welcome You to Come...



Lions Cheese Sale Winding Down

The Ovid Lions Club will be selling cheese thru January or until its gone. All eight varieties are still available including Amish Creamery, Sharp Cheddar, Colby Jack, Pepper Jack, and Horseradish for \$8.00, Baby Swiss and the Variety Wheel for \$10. Call Doc O'Bryant at 989-834-2425 or Mary Perrien at 989-251-8517 or pick up at the Meridian Weekly during the following times, Tue & Wed 8:30am-noon and on Thurs from 8:30-4:00.

Rep. Frederick New Law Sets Aside Key Resources

submitted by Christina Doerr

State Rep. Ben Frederick's plan to help mid-Michigan compete for new job opportunities was signed into law this week.

The plan sets aside \$1 billion in an economic development fund dedicated to bringing new jobs to the state and offers \$484 million in relief to local employers that continue to struggle due to the COVID shutdowns. Each piece of the plan received broad bipartisan support when it was approved by the Legislature last week. It is funded entirely by federal COVID relief dollars allocated to the state.

The plan offers \$409 million in tax and fee relief for the businesses hurt the most by the pandemic and \$75 million to adjust personal property tax exemptions to account for inflation.

The \$1 billion will be set aside in a new fund the Legislature will be able to utilize to create incentives, conduct site preparation and offer workforce training opportunities to attract new and growing businesses. A measure sponsored by Frederick ensures the fund cannot be raided by the administration for other purposes. All money paid from the fund must be made by Legislative transfer.

Frederick pointed to the recent decision by Ford Motor Company to pass over its home state of Michigan for a large multi-billion-dollar investment in manufacturing as a signal that the state's old economic development tools are no longer effective. State officials even admitted

Michigan "was not actively involved" in a bid to host the new developments. Experts have since highlighted the lack of job-ready sites in the state when discussing the failure, and Ford itself pointed to a new selection method that takes far more factors into account than in previous decisions.



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Editorial... cont' on page 10



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

I wish you all a very Happy New Year filled with good health, much happiness, peace and prosperity. May your days be filled with wonderful adventures that help to shape your future and may it be one that you are proud to be a part and also willing to share with others. May you also have much laughter and embrace the simple pleasures that life brings your way. Love your families, support your friends, and follow your faith. God bless.

Seems as if the world has shifted gears since I last sat down to write. Today was busy, I had to be in Carson City at the dentist office at eight this morning. I spent an hour there and then headed home to make a seven layer salad for our family Christmas dinner at three. I still had some gift wrapping to do and I also had about twenty pounds of bananas to be mashed and put into the freezer. Then add a twenty-five pound case of salted hulled sunflower seeds to be divided up. I put the seeds in quart and gallon bags and I still need to finish up the last case and get them delivered to those as promised. My propane tank was filled today and I was able to catch my driver and give him a bag of goodies, I hope that he liked them.

In the morning I have to go back to work and get the church bulletins finished and delivered. Of course, I also need to get the Parable put together and hopefully ready for the mail by Monday. I have taken the time to review some of the information that I have been sent and sometimes just shake my head. And remind myself that I only put it together, I do not edit the contents because I don't know the writer's intent. It may be time for me to follow another venue.

Today was our family Christmas and it did get off to a good start. It was at my daughter's home, which is the homestead. We had four generations present and lots of presents and some good friends came also. The meal was delightful and so were the sweets that followed. Members of the fourth and second generations delivered the gifts from under the tree. Isabella was the queen bee and had a wonderful time bossing everyone and telling them not to unwrap their gifts until they were all distributed. A few did get unwrapped ...

Isabella was enthralled with the quantity and quality of gifts that she received... it works well for her, she is the only great grandchild, only grandchild, only niece and only great niece. Being number one in four different categories just enhances her expectations. She did receive a mountain of gifts and was good at her thank yous. I had to leave for a bit because I had venison to pick up and when I got back she had snagged the small purple flashlight while playing Bingo and gave it to me. I was pleased with her thoughtfulness.

My Charlie Brown tree looks a bit desolate now, it only has two gifts left under it and I never did find a tree skirt to dress it up. I keep watering it and the cats keep drinking the water. I'm amazed that they have not climbed it and I have only found decorations on the floor twice and one of those times was because I knocked it off when gathering the packages to be wrapped. Must be that the squirt gun is working well as a deterrent. The older cats move when they hear the trigger squeezed, they know what is about to happen... the little miscreant (Hebow) just pauses and glares at who the shooter might be and does as he pleases even though it tends to get him wet.

I did find some unicorn material and now need to whip up a new apron for Isabella. Ryan did tell me that the original apron that I gave Izzy is now too small. I am hoping that one without a bib on it will suit her just fine. She did tell me how helpful she had been, like sweeping the floors for Grandma Diane and helping Grandpa Brent shovel the snow off the deck and steps. She also added that she couldn't do for me because she hadn't been over for a long time to spend the night. Yes, she had been over to visit and decorate cookies four days ago...but that was not to spend the night. Point taken.

It would appear that I need to ask her over to spend the night and then we will see what happens. Maybe I should do that when I'm re-potting my house plants. Just think of the fun we will have playing in the dirt.

Encompass the little joys in life, they do grow in our memories and make us smile. Laugh and share your life with others, share your joy. God bless. Happy New Year.

Crystal Mitchell©2021



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

No Resolutions This Year!

Dear Andy,

Year after year I make resolutions to get organized, lose weight, spend more time with aging relatives, clean my closets, exercise more, eat less, get in shape, find a new job, build my relationships with friends and family, and of course save money. Seems like good ideas but every year it turns out about the same. Gained weight, missed birthdays, stuff everywhere, never enough money without going into debt. How can I make this a better year? What can I do to feel more accomplished? I am so frustrated with myself for not keeping my resolutions!

Patricia Procrastinator

Dear Patricia,

Webster's paraphrased definition of Resolution is... 'making a firm decision with a promise of being determined about changing a behavior or situation.' 'or Something that we perceive as not acceptable as is, or not good enough.' Most resolutions are unrealistic, we set ourselves up for being unsuccessful. It is no wonder we feel like giving up or a failure.

My recommendation is to NOT make 'Resolutions', but to 'Set Goals.' Achievable goals. Prior to setting new goals, first you must acknowledge, reward or recognize previous accomplishments. Congratulate yourself. List your achievements at home and at work. I bet you will find something in every category you listed. Write it down and don't say you didn't accomplish anything...plezzzzz, give yourself a little credit.

Did you plan a special birthday party for grandma? Did you go for a bike ride? Did you count the 4 pounds you lost when you cut out ice cream for 2 months? Did you count the credit card you got paid off? Did you count the meals you put on the table for your family? Did you count how many times you cut the grass? Did you count how many times you helped a neighbor with a project? Count your blessings, then you will be ready to make 2022 goals.

Instead of Resolution's - "Set Goals"... First step in setting goals is to determine if they are short term or long term. Then, write down your goals... writing makes you more accountable. It also is a good way to know when you have achieved them. Shouting them into the Universe at midnight on New Year's Eve might help; but write them down.

Remember Alice in Wonderland when the Cheshire cat told her, "If you knew where you were going, you would know when you got there." He also told her, "If you don't know where you are going, every road will take you there." Think about direction...there is a process: set your goal with a realistic date and a realistic plan to accomplish your goal.

Next, make achievable goals with a plan of action. Write it down! Instead of a resolution to lose weight, set a goal to lose 4 pounds a month, that is only 1 pound per week and 52 pounds for a year. Sounds achievable. Right? Check with your doctor if you need a specific plan or accommodations, but definitely - walking for 15 minutes 3 times a week could help achieve the weight loss goals. I challenge you to increase your time by a few minutes every week. I have challenged myself...I will get back with you in 6 months. My goal is to lose 1 pound a week by June 10, 2022 26 weeks away. This scares me a little, but I think I can do it... how about you?

Making positive changes can be a challenge but recognizing changes will improve your confidence and perception of your accomplishments. Many of us fail to reach our dreams or goals, due to our misguided perceptions and self-negativity. I must confess, I am guilty of what I coined as a "procrastination-perfectionism." We need to accept that it's ok not to be

perfect and it's ok to succeed. Get rid of the feeling that "this could be better" or that "it's not good enough."

Set goals in writing then when you accomplish them highlight with your favorite color. View it daily, post where you can see them. Try daily, weekly, and monthly goals. Make it a to-do list: ie. walking 15 minutes a day, an act of kindness every day, keep a box in the closet for goodwill, purge weekly. On the 1st when I pay my bills, list all the birthday dates to remember. It can cost less than a dollar to bring someone joy on their birthday.

Finally, NEVER GIVE UP! Keep trying. Change your goals or add new ones as needed. Be realistic about your goals and what you want. Did I say write them down? I would say good luck in 2022 but it just takes self-confidence and courage.

Note to all our readers: Goodbye to loved ones we have lost; Blessings of health and abundance for each of you; Treat your neighbors with kindness and love; Give to others; Express gratitude. Seek Joy. Make this your best year ever. Happy 2022 New Year to our wonderful community.

From Andy @ Ask_andy@aol.com

Village of Ashley Thank You

The Village of Ashley Country Christmas is very thankful that this year's event has been such a success. We've had a few bumps in the road, like a late contract and covid, but we've enjoyed a great success.

We couldn't do it without all our volunteers and our sponsors and we'd like everyone to know who our sponsors are. Please support our sponsors if you can. We wouldn't be able to bring this event to you with them.

Hutsons, Mid-Michigan Lime & Gypsum LLC, Tri County Electric Cooperative, USPPF Tri-Lakes, Dr. Paul & Susan Worley, Ashley Lions Club, C & C Propane, Thompson Floors of Corunna, B.C. Barns, Caroline Ross in memory of Robert, Uncle Johns Cider Mill, Ferrells, Alma Optics, Hofferbert Sales and Republic Services.

Thanks so much to our sponsors for such a great year.
Village of Ashley Country Christmas Committee.



PUBLIC NOTICE
30-Day Public Review Period Draft 2022 Park and Recreation Plan
Public Hearing February 7, 2022 Draft 2022 Park and Recreation Plan
City of Laingsburg

The City of Laingsburg is releasing the draft of the 2022 City of Laingsburg Parks & Recreation Plan ("Plan") for a thirty (30) day public review. The review is required by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources ("MDNR") as part of the Plan review process.

A draft of the Plan will be available for public review on January 7, 2022 at the following locations during their normal office hours:

Laingsburg City Hall, 114 N. Woodhull Street, Laingsburg
Laingsburg Public Library, 255 Grand River Rd., Laingsburg

The draft plan will also be available on the City of Laingsburg website www.laingsburg.us

Any persons wishing to comment on the Plan may submit their comments in writing by February 7th, 2022 via email to clerk@laingsburg.us or drop off at the address below, there is a drop box for 24/7 access:

City of Laingsburg
Attn: City Clerk
PO Box 178
114 N. Woodhull Street
Laingsburg, MI 48848

The following advertised meetings will be held at 114 N. Woodhull St, Laingsburg and have the draft plan on their agenda and will accept comments on the draft Plan:

7pm January 17, 2022 Planning Commission Meeting

5pm January 31, 2022 DPW Park and Recreation Committee Meeting

6pm January 31, 2022 Downtown Development Authority Meeting

7pm February 7, 2022 City Council Meeting

Public Hearing will be held to hear comments on the draft plan

Senior Spotlight



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Kimberly Bowen, RN, BSN

Senior Center Seeking Donations

submitted by Brenda Terpening

The Clinton County Senior Center, located at 201 E Walker Street in St. Johns is seeking donations for their various programs.

They are looking for puzzles (300-1000 pieces), fabric, batting and yarn. They are also accepting items for Bingo prizes their members can win. Things like canned fruit (green beans are not needed), peanut butter, jelly, hot chocolate, paper towels and bagged candy are items the members enjoy receiving but are seldom donated.

Donations can be dropped off on Monday's, Tuesday's or Friday's between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. If you need things picked up you can call them at 989-224-4257.

Senior Center Seeks Volunteers

submitted by Brenda Terpening

At the Clinton County Senior Center they have two Gift Shops that are open for their members and the general public to shop in. One gift shop has glassware, decorations, cards, etc and the other is full of homemade sewn items.

The center is looking for someone that would volunteer their time to make dish scrunchies. The center would provide the netting.

If you would be interested in helping the Senior Center, please call them at 989-224-4257. Please leave a message if no one answers and they will get back to you.



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Safe Ways for Seniors to Volunteer

Charitable organizations rely on the efforts of volunteers to meet their missions every day. People of all ages can volunteer, and a great number of volunteers are seniors.

A 2016 survey from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics found that nearly one-quarter of American volunteers are age 65 and over. That was never more apparent than during the COVID-19 pandemic, when many nonprofit organizations were suddenly forced to confront a volunteer shortage due to the adoption of social distancing guidelines that were designed to keep vulnerable populations, such as seniors, as safe as possible. One study from Fidelity Charitable found that two out of three volunteers decreased or stopped contributing time during the pandemic.



The rollout of various COVID-19 vaccines has allowed vaccinated individuals to return to a certain degree of pre-pandemic normalcy. However, the threat posed by strains of the virus like the Delta variant has made some seniors apprehensive about returning to volunteering. Though each individual should consider various factors before returning to volunteering during the pandemic, the following are some options seniors can consider as they aim to safely pitch in once again.

- Look for contactless opportunities. Interactions with the people they help and work alongside is what drives many volunteers to lend a helping hand. That's especially so for seniors whose children have grown up and moved out. In person interactions may be too risky during the pandemic, but seniors can still volunteer via contactless opportunities. For example, in lieu of delivering meals by hand, seniors who work with organizations such as Meals on Wheels can deliver prepackaged meals outside recipients' residences.

- Pitch in with fundraising. A report from Giving USA released in 2021 revealed that Americans gave more to charity in 2020 than in 2019. That increase came in spite of an economic downturn that saw millions of people lose their jobs or take pay cuts as companies scrambled to deal with lost revenue related to the pandemic. Though giving might have increased in 2020, many nonprofit organizations, including local community theaters, likely suffered due to cancellations and audience restrictions. As a result, many local nonprofit organizations are in need of financial support. Seniors who want to pitch in but stay safe can volunteer to help local organizations raise funds. Seniors can participate in fundraising efforts from the comforts of their own homes.

- Offer professional expertise. Many seniors retired after spending decades mastering their crafts, and that experience can be an invaluable resource to local nonprofit organizations. Seniors can offer professional advice and mentor youths remotely via apps like Zoom without putting their physical health at risk.

Seniors concerned for their safety can still lend a hand by volunteering with their favorite nonprofit organizations.



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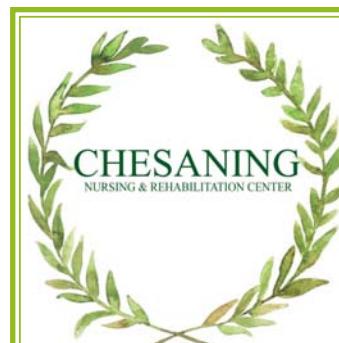
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Long Term Care Rehabilitation Center Hospice/Respite Care

A Look Back Through 2021

Let's Spread Some Love

February 7, 2021



Pictured here with the Valentine Love Box are (L-R)Shelby Bush (Activity Aide), Betsy Schack (Medical Records Coordinator), Tammy Fisher (Activities Director), Jessica Garcia and Angie Hill (Activity Aides).

Photo by Deb Price

Got Ya Covered

February 28, 2021



Anna Fausett is pictured here in the basement of her Ovid home sitting in front of her Juki Sewing Machine and Juki Serger. A peaceful summer scene mural provides a pleasant sight in her workspace. Photo by Deb Price

Bonnie Lucille Salon Opens in Laingsburg

February 28, 2021



Bonnie Lucille staff (l-r) Stylist, Kristen Harden, Owner/Stylist, Bethany Fulford and Stylist, Angela Regan.

Photo by Deb Price

Ovid Boy Scout Troop 585/114 Pasty Sale

The Ovid Boy Scout Troop is making and selling real Michigan pasties again!

Delicious handmade Michigan pasties will be prepared and baked by the Boy Scouts of Troop 585/114. We will have beef pasties for just \$5 each. We will also have sweet apple or cherry pasties for only \$4 each. Proceeds from the sales will help the Scouts attend summer camp and learn leadership skills.

Pasties will be available Saturday, January 8, 2022 from 3-5pm on a first-come, first-served basis at the Lions Hall on Main Street in Ovid. Pasties may be frozen to ensure quality.

These pasties are a delicious way to help support Scouting.

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**Planning
pays in
retirement**

**Personal savings are key
to living comfortably**

Michael doesn't see himself living on the beach when he retires, but he'd like to vacation there with his wife. He worries he isn't saving enough in the 401(k) account he has at work, but he isn't sure what more he can manage with two kids, a mortgage and credit cards.

Michael faces two dilemmas: Saving enough money for a comfortable retirement, and making those savings last his lifetime. Like most Americans, having money in retirement may depend on part-time jobs, personal savings and tax-advantaged retirement savings accounts.

A financial representative can help people like Michael understand their options, such as 401(k) and 403(b) plans, annuities, and individual retirement accounts (IRAs).

The key is to set goals and get started. The longer you wait to start saving, the more you will have to save to reach those goals.

Let's start the conversation.

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A Look Back Through 2021

Committees Gear Up for Festival Season

February 21, 2021



Happy 100th Birthday Scholastic Books

March 7, 2021



Ovid-Elsie Boys & Girls Are Conference Champs

March 21, 2021



Front Coach Matt Fabus. Back row (l-r): Ashland Particka, Lizzy Underhill, Emma Fox, Gracie Schultz, Morgan Douglass and Mikayla Kelley.



Front row (l-r): Clay Wenzlick, Coach Matt Fabus and Steven Zedemont. Back row (l-r): Tommy Terpening, Corbin Kelley, Evan Hehrer, Ian Hehrer.

Tapping Into Sweetness

March 21, 2021



Tim is pictured here in his Sugar Shack, checking out the boiling sap. Below he is collecting the sap from the trees, placing it in storage pails. He then does a testing procedure before the boiling process.

St. John's State-of-the-Art Cheese and Whey Plant

March 28, 2021



Quine Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

March 28, 2021



John Quine is seated here with his four sons (l-r) Daniel, Frank, Jim and Jerry Quine.

Fire Destroys Former Jumbo's Bar in Downtown Owosso

April 4, 2021



Sports

Ovid-Elsie Rated 6th, Wolfpack Gets Mention Among Top Lansing-Area Boys Cage Teams

A majority of the 38 area boys basketball teams are on break until after the New Year, so now is a good time to update everyone on how the area boys teams are doing so far.

Ovid-Elsie ranks in the Top Six according to Lansing media outlets.

There are only five area teams that undefeated after just two weeks+ of play. And eleven others with only one loss so far.

A few teams have separated themselves so far in the early 2021-22 season.

Williamston has looked fantastic so far. And Grand Ledge may have the best wins of the season (beating Holt on the road and Okemos at home). But other teams (Olivet, P-W, and Ovid-Elsie) have looked really good at the start, too.

Here's a look at the area's top 10 teams as we're in the holidays:

Honorable Mention: Fowler (3-1): The Eagles' only loss was to Potterville (a 36-31 loss on Dec. 14th). But the Eagles have good senior leadership (nine seniors) to help them to recover from that.

The CMAC is stacked again, but Fowler is one of the reasons why. Lots of time to improve.

Honorable Mention: Lakewood (3-1): The Vikings were blown out by Ionia 51-35, which is why they aren't higher on the list. But head coach Chris Duits has lots of experience that will help them in the GLAC.

10. Lansing Catholic (2-1): The Cougars started late because of the football team winning the Division 5 state title last month.

It showed against Williamston (they were crushed on Opening night). But they've rebounded and have played better since then.

9. Ionia (4-1): A close loss this week to P-W is why they aren't higher on the list. But head coach Scott Swinehart has a pair of three-year varsity players in Trevor Tooker and Gauge McQueen.

They'll need to lean on them if they want to win the CAAC White this season.

8. Potterville (2-0): The Vikings are only 2-0, but those wins are quality W's over Fowler and Dansville. Can they hang around in the brutally tough CMAC?? We'll see. But a good start so far.

7. Pewamo-Westphalia (2-0): The 43-38 win over previously unbeaten Ionia this week automatically puts them in the first poll. Ten players return this season.

Another CMAC title run and a run in the state tournament

is possible.

6. Ovid-Elsie (4-0): The Marauders are off to another good start. They have good wins over Fowler and Bath.

Staying healthy is key. If they do, they can win a district title (or maybe more) in Division 2.

5. Okemos (3-1): Their only loss was to Grand Ledge, but they have one of the best starting backcourts in the state in Will Young and Drayton Chase.

If they can find a third scorer, they will be even tougher to deal with in the CAAC Blue.

4. Olivet (4-0): Matt Seidl has the Eagles off to another great start. They are favored again to win the GLAC.

Even though they have only two seniors on the roster, they have lots of experience. That will help them in the long term.

3. Grand Ledge (2-1): The Comets have played only three games, But their wins over Holt and Okemos has the defending CAAC Blue champs higher up right now.

Isaiah Bailey and Teddy Williams lead this strong squad. Can they get out of the first round of the state tournament this year? Wait and see.

2. East Lansing (4-1): Ray Mitchell's team looks well-rounded so far. The defending Division 1 regional champs are looking to get at least that far this season.

Staying away from COVID-19 and injuries is key for them. They've won four straight since an opening night loss to North Farmington.

1. Williamston (3-0): The Hornets are clearly the best team in the area so far. The return of Mason Docks and nine seniors to a team that won a district title has expectations high this season.

If the Hornets want to make a deep run in the state tournament in Division 2, this is the year to do it. They have size, speed, and experience. Everything you need to go far in March.

Other teams to be on the lookout for are Holt (2-1, only loss to Grand Ledge), DeWitt (3-1), Perry (3-1), Laingsburg (1-1), and Webberville (3-2).

East Lansing (Division 1) and Webberville (Division 4) were the only area teams to win regional titles last season. Both of those teams are looking to get at least that far this season.

Other reigning district champions from last year are Holt (Division 1), Williamston (Division 2), Ionia (Division 2), Leslie (Division 3), Bath (Division 3), and Pewamo-Westphalia (Division 3).



Gabby Motz



Aden Baynes



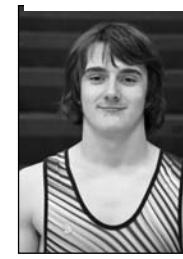
Sean Divine



Talan Parsons



Cole Workman



Max Spiess

Wolfpack, Marauder Wrestling Programs Draw Notice from Daily Media Outlets

Building a winning high school wrestling program isn't easy. Drawing attention from daily media outlets is no easy task, either.

Wrestling programs in Ovid-Elsie under coach Kyle Spiess, and Laingsburg under coach Shawn Baynes, are doing just that, however.

The Wolfpack returns a team that was a MHSAA Regional finalist last season under coach Baynes. Top wrestlers are Gabby Motz (112), Aden Baynes (135), Noah Gentner (135), Bryce Smith (145), Kyle Boettcher (152), Caleb Boettcher (160), Seth Sivak (171), Mikey Brooks (189), and Sean Divine (215).

The Wolves will be looking to build experience with Dustin Winans (119), Miguel Ramirez (125), Marlon Graham (130), Carter Schlaack (285).

Laingsburg was third at the 17-team Don Johnson Invitational at Lansing Eastern earlier this month. The Wolfpack were paced by Mikey Brooks, who won the 189-pound championship. Baynes is looking for his team to take the next step after reaching the regional finals and losing by one bout to Leslie. Sean Divine and Aden Baynes both were state individual qualifiers from a year ago and Gabby Motz is one of the best female wrestlers in the state. "Our goals are to go deep into the postseason," Baynes said. "The strengths of our team are experience and numbers."

The O-E Marauders were just 4-13 on season ago, yet coach Spiess returns Talan Parsons, a state runner-up at 103 pounds, posting a 24-1 freshman record. Also qualifying for the individual state finals was sophomore Cole Workman, who finished 19-6 as a freshman. And Max Spiess finished 12-4 as a senior at 135 lbs. Another key returnee is senior Gavyn Perry at 140 lbs.



Evan Morris kicking off for MSU

Ovid-Elsie Swim Team off to Solid Start in 2021-22

OVID-ELSIE — Coach Karl Dahlke's Marauder swimming team stands 2-3 in dual meets thus far — a solid start to the 2021-22 season for a young team.

Dahlke says his Marauders will "... be very young and inexperienced," but talented. "We are hoping to get a foundation built that can help the team in the future.

"We will focus on individual goals for each swimmer."

The strongest swimmer is senior Sam Harden, who excels in the breaststroke and individual medley. Gage Kvalevog, a junior, specializes in the freestyle and butterfly. Natalie Leavitt, a junior, competes in the freestyle and breaststroke events. Lindsey Washburn, a sophomore, handles the backstroke.

Ovid-Elsie Grad Continues Athletic Careers at Collegiate Level

A Marauder alumni is continuing his athletic careers at the collegiate level.

Evan Morris, at Michigan State, handled kicking duties with starting place-kicker Matt Coghlin banged up. Morris suited up for the first time this season in a November 27, 30-27 victory over Penn State. Morris handled kickoff duties, kicking four times for 223 yards. Morris had moved to tight end earlier this year after sporadically handling kickoffs as a redshirt freshman.



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The kindness and caring of many of our County residents, businesses, community groups, churches and individuals that came forward this year to adopt 228 low-income children from across the county was amazing. The greater the need, the greater the sharing that occurs. Please accept our thanks and sincere appreciation for your help with Christmas Wishers.

The holiday season is often difficult for many people for different reasons, but living in poverty increases the sense of hopelessness. When you add the very real threat of COVID...Through your actions, you have made December 25th a very special day of the year and a wish come true for many children and families.

Thank you for caring and sharing this Holiday Season.
Rebecca Zemla, Shiawassee County Center Coordinator

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Editorial

2022 New Year's Resolutions

The Weekly Sportsman has compiled a long list of resolutions for this upcoming year and several include this column and our community. The first on the list is to make sure the readership of the Weekly Sportsman is provided a column for all fifty-two Sundays of 2022. Next, per numerous requests, topics will include more on fishing, food plots, and making wildlife habitat improvements. Third, the Weekly Sportsman will use a recent appointment to the executive board of Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger to help efforts with collecting donated deer and having the processed venison distributed back locally to food pantries, kitchens, and shelters within our community. Please consider making at least one resolution this year that benefits others close to you or even the local community.



The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster

theweeklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

Laingsburg Rabbit Squirrel Derby

Unfortunately for the second year in a row the annual Laingsburg Rabbit Squirrel Derby has been cancelled. The Weekly Sportsman confirmed this earlier in the week when speaking with co-director Ron Fizzel. At this point it is unclear what the future holds for this once popular event for both youth and adult participants.

-WS

Will you be ready?

The return of Jesus Christ to earth is a future reality. Some say that Jesus has already returned, but He hasn't. Some say that it will never happen, but Christ's return is a sure thing because the Bible clearly predicts it.



Religious Thoughts

by Chris Hearn
www.letsmeetgod.com

2 Peter 3:3-7 says, "Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." 5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. 7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly."

No one knows the year or day that this will take place. Many have predicted when it would happen, but even though in time they were found to be wrong, still Jesus' coming will occur. If that happens during your lifetime, will you be ready? Will you meet the King as a follower of His or as a rebel?

Even if Christ's return happens after you die, still you will one day meet the Lord. Either way, sooner or later, you will be in the presence of God. At that time, God may ask you why He should let you into His Kingdom. If so, what would you say? What right would you have to enter into His Heaven?

The only answer to this is faith in Jesus Christ. Only Jesus died on the cross and rose bodily from the dead as the one, full and final payment for all of your sins. Jesus died and rose for everything bad you have ever done. For every evil thought, hurtful word, deed done in secret, He paid the price to God for it all.

1 Corinthians 1:30 says, "Christ Jesus...has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption."

More good news is that God wants you to be with Him for eternity.

Continuing on in 2 Peter, it says, "But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

- 2 Peter 3:8-9

Frederick: Six Grants Awarded to Local Job Providers for Workforce Training

State Rep. Ben Frederick announced six grants have been awarded to local employers from the Going PRO Talent Fund.

The Going PRO initiative awards competitive grants to employers to invest in training and enhancing the skills and talent of their workforce. Training must fill a demonstrated talent need experienced by the employer and lead to a credential for a skill that is transferable and recognized by industry.

Frederick, of Owosso, successfully fought for the program's funding to be restored for 2021-22 after the governor vetoed it in 2019.

"This is a phenomenal program that helps hardworking people advance their careers and increase their earning potential by gaining industry-recognized credentials. It also meets the needs of local employers searching for skilled individuals to fill vacant positions," Frederick said. "I worked to restore funding for this program because there is a real need for workforce training, especially for adult learners who want to advance their careers. It's great to see local employers taking advantage of this opportunity."

Grants awarded in the Shiawassee area include:

Midwest Bus Corporation in Owosso, \$35,292; Vibrant Life Senior Living in Durand, \$30,000; Jetool in Chesaning, \$21,383; Durand, \$28,700 and \$18,423 (two grants); Durand Senior Care and Rehab Center, \$12,000

Since the program's launch in 2014, the Going PRO Talent Fund has supported more than 150,000 workers with training.

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Happy Retirement Chief: Ovid City Council members, community residents, friends and family attended an Open House in honor of retiring Police Chief Al Goodrich on Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at City Hall. Al has served for over 40 years in policing the communities of Elsie and Ovid. Pictured here are (left to right) Kim Williams, Eric Starn and Holly Hubbard, Ovid City Council members along with Chief Goodrich and Bill Lasher, Mayor of the City of Ovid.

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