

**TEEN NIGHTS**  
AT THE  
*Ovid Inn*

 Every Wednesday  
July 16 - August 20  
 Open House  
3 PM to 5 PM  
**SNACKS, GAMES,  
FRIENDS & MORE**  
Free Admission | Ages 12 - 18

## Ovid Inn Teen Night

Calling all teens ages 12-18! The Ovid Inn will be hosting a Teen Night every Wednesday beginning July 16th thru August 20th from 3:00pm-5:00pm. Admission is free and includes all-you-can eat popcorn, Free Wi-Fi, pool and ping pong, music dancing and games. Gather up your friends and attend this mid-week destination to chill, connect and have a blast.

## Ovid-Elsie Interim Superintendent Looking to Stay?

The Ovid-Elsie Board of Education held a Special Meeting on Wednesday, July 2nd. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Superintendent Contract Language of Dr. Wayne Petroelje, the interim superintendent. Most of the meeting discussion was held in Closed Session.



Board President, Brooke Woolley provided the following statement to the Meridian Weekly on July 3rd. "The Board of Education completed a Superintendent search through MASB and hired Mark Horace to begin as Superintendent effective July 1, 2025. Our legal counsel, Thrun Law Firm, was present at the special meeting to share an attorney-client privileged opinion letter concerning Mr. Petroelje's employment. No decisions or motions were made at the completion of the Wednesday, July 2nd meeting."

In a follow up statement to the Meridian Weekly on Wednesday, July 9th, Board President Woolley stated, "Informal attempts to resolve Dr. Petroelje's employment status have not been successful. Accordingly, the Board will consider severing Dr. Petroelje's employment at its next meeting on Monday, July 21, 2025."

## 'Great Love' Sparks Newly Renovated Events and Dance Business in Laingsburg

LAINGSBURG -- A longtime, greatly-loved Laingsburg business is getting a major facelift.

Emphasis on "great love." And in a new location, to boot. "Do small things with great love," says Spirit Expressions founder and owner Jen West.

People that know Jen well, know she practices what she preaches. Those qualities will come shining through with the opening of the new Spirit Expressions Studio of Dance -- and accompanying business, Small Things Event Space -- with the Grand Opening set for this Thursday, July 17 (4 p.m. to 7 p.m.).

"My sister Amy and I were brainstorming and she brought up Mother Teresa because she knows I'm a fan," Jen West explains. "The name came from her quote, 'Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.' It encapsulates what we do here, both with dance classes and events."

"We are rooted in love."



The old location, "up the hill" at 268 E. Grand River Ave., was extensively renovated and expanded in size a few years ago by Spirit Expressions. "I bought the studio from my mentor and friend, LeDonna Fair in 1999," West explains. "We just finished our 26th dance season."

The new location, at 105 E. Grand River Ave. (below the hill) is historic in its own right. It is a centerpiece of photos of the downtown area since it was first developed (founded in 1837, Laingsburg was officially recognized as a village in 1871).

Since the 1950s -- the building was home to Brya Hardware, then Webster Hardware, and Klotz Floors Co. It sat vacant for a few months, before Jen and her team had a vision. She says, "Paula Willoughby was the first from the City of Laingsburg to direct me in finding grant opportunities. She was excited to help and enlisted the help of Cassy Brown, Kim Hamilton and Olivia Graham. They were all tremendous supporters."

"After their initial investment of time, we met with SEDP's Justin Horvath, who is a cheerleader for small businesses. He connected us with so many others from Shiawassee County and the state. We received a RAP 2.0 grant and this project would have been impossible without it."

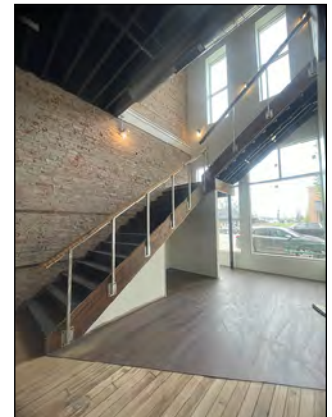
RAP 2.0 is a State of Michigan initiative which supports projects aimed a boosting population growth and tax revenue by rehabilitating vacant, blighted and historic buildings. It was launched by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in 2023.

The new location will three beautiful studio spaces for dance classes during the week. The 2nd floor studios have a removable wall in order to make it into one large studio, the size of the auditorium stage. The large space is also perfect for open houses, showers, birthday parties, family reunions, community building events, and fundraisers. An elevator is fully accessible for everyone. The facility has a catering kitchen with a large warming oven and lots of refrigerator space. There are four bathrooms, a workout area, and a large waiting room complete with cubbies for backpacks and coats.

Says Jen, "We hope to continue in our work of community building through dance and now through offering an event space. We hope to give our dancers a firm sense of their unique gifts that not only make them incredible dancers, but make them incredible people. The world needs them and those unique gifts."

The move actually started May 17th. It's been a slow opening as they've added appliances, fitness equipment, and seating. "We are not completely settled or moved out of our former space, but we are getting close," the longtime proprietor says.

The formal ribbon cutting is set for 4 p.m. this Thursday. "We'll cut a ribbon at 4 p.m. and then we have dancers that will be giving tours," Jen enthuses. "We'll have snacks to celebrate. We hope you can join us and then head to Music in the Park."



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## Independent Painting

*submitted by Linda Ruehle*

The Shiawassee Arts Center will be offering a new six week session of Independent Painting with Philip Ruehle, MFA, Artist/Instructor. Beginning Wednesday, July 23- August 27, Noon - 3pm. Pre-registration and payment required. SAC Member-\$145 / Non-Member-\$155. Call 989-723-8354 for registration or questions regarding any classes. The Arts Center is located at 206 Curwood Castle Drive, Owosso. The classrooms are handicapped accessible.

Receive one-on-one instruction while exploring the painting genre of your choice (still life, landscape, portraiture, non-objective abstract, etc.). This is a great opportunity to experiment with something new or to improve upon something with which you currently find challenging. Students need to bring their own supplies. Mineral spirits will be provided. New session will follow.



## Ovid Library

It's hard to believe but there's only two weeks of our Summer Reading program left. We've had lots of fun so far creating lots of amazing art, playing games, and meeting some cool animals. Next Monday, July 14 at 10:30 will be another Story hour/ craft day for the littles. Tuesday, July 15 at 10:30 is Painting with Marilyn. This event is only open to those who are already signed up. We have a waiting list for this event if you would like to put your name on it. If you are already signed up for this event and can no longer attend please let us know as soon as possible. On Wednesday, July 16 will be a craft day for the junior kids and we will have a special visitor that day. Dave Raber will be coming to show us his ukuleles and explain how he makes them. He may even give us a short concert!

For our final week of the Summer Reading Program, we will have a story hour on Monday, July 21 at 10:30 for the littles. Wednesday, July 23 will be our Color Fun Run. This will take place at Gumear Park at 10:30. Please be sure to wear old clothes (or a white t-shirt if you want to have a cool colorful shirt when you are done). We would appreciate it if you did not go to the library after the run in your color run clothes! And for the final event of the summer, the Ovid-Middlebury Fire department will be bringing a fire truck and spraying the kids.

For our adult readers, Booktasting will be held on Monday, July 14 at 1:00. This is the place to find out what everyone is reading and to let them know what books you have been enjoying.



## Laingsburg Blood Drive

The Laingsburg Knights of Columbus will hold a Blood Drive on Monday, July 21st from 1:00pm-7:00pm at St. Isidore Catholic Church. Walk-Ins will be accepted but it is recommended that you schedule an appointment online at [redcrossblood.org/give.htm/find-drive](http://redcrossblood.org/give.htm/find-drive), zip code 48848 or call 800-Red Cross. The church is located at 310 Crum Street, Laingsburg, MI 48848.

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## Elsie United Methodist Church Presents: Movies, Art and Praise - A Free Summer Series for Kids

*by Dawn Levey*

ELSIE, MI — This July, Elsie United Methodist Church invites area children to a special summer event series called "Movies, Art, and Praise," held every Thursday through July 31, 2025, from 9:00 AM to Noon at 160 W Main Street, Elsie, MI.

Each week features a new, family-friendly movie with a meaningful theme, followed by praise songs, refreshments, and an engaging hands-on art activity. This enriching program is designed to nurture creativity, faith, and friendship in a fun and welcoming environment Weekly Themes & Activities

Week 1: July 10: Theme: All Emotions Are Important Movie: A story highlighting how every feeling is a gift. Art: Polymer Clay Sculptures

Week 2: July 17: Theme: Friendship – We May Be Different, But We Can Be Friends Movie: A wildlife adventure exploring acceptance. Art: Painting

Week 3: July 24: Theme: Teamwork & Looking Beyond Appearances. Movie: Unlikely friendships in a Viking tale. Art: Multimedia Collage

Week 4: July 31: Theme: What It Means to Be a Hero. Movie: Kids imagine their own superheroes. Art: Writing and Creating a Superhero

No pre-registration required! Just come and join us for one or all four Thursdays. This event is open to the public and perfect for children seeking fun, faith, and friends during the summer.

For more information, please contact Elsie United Methodist Church at 989-862-5239.

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## St. Johns Welcomes the Schrock Bros Band with Madcat to the Stage on July 16th

A concert like no other will take place on the stage of the William E. Tennant Performance Shell in the beautiful St. Johns City Park on Wednesday, July 16 at 7:00 p.m. The incredible Schrock Bros Band will be performing on the St. Johns' Concert in the Park series. This West Michigan based Americana/blues/original/roots/rock band features soulful lead vocals, family harmony, and solid musicianship.



But that's not all! Performing with the Schrock Bros Band will be the Grammy Award winning Peter Madcat Ruth, who has established an international reputation through his exhilarating, riveting virtuosity on the harmonica. Together, the musicians will present a high-level performance that will resonate with everyone in attendance.

"This will be quite an evening," reflects Bill Tennant, concert coordinator. "This group performed for us last year for the first time. It was a highlight of our season – we just had to have them back. The concert will not only appeal to blues aficionados, but to everyone who likes really good music."

The Schrock Bros perform original music peppered with a collection of nuggets from the Americana archives. Over the past 10 years the quintet has performed at a multitude of festivals, concerts, clubs and special events throughout the US.

The Schrock Bros include, Andrew – a gifted soulful singer/songwriter who holds down the bass lines, Jasen – the lead singer who plays acoustic guitar, and Mark – a singer/songwriter who plays electric guitar and mandolin. Peter Madcat Ruth -will be on vocals and harmonica, along with Michael Shimmin – a statewide recognized percussionist on drums.

The Concert in the Park series is co-sponsored by the Clinton County Arts Council and the City of St. Johns. Studio Retreat and Art Gallery, in downtown St Johns, will also be recognized at this concert for their donation to the addition building fund. .

The concerts are open to the public free of charge – donations are graciously accepted. The Lion's Club food trailer will be available this year and as always, all concerts are presented rain or shine.

So, set your GPS to: 801 W Park St, St Johns - bring a chair or blanket and enjoy! The CCAC receives funding from the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.

## 30th Annual River Cleanup



tions—thanks to the extraordinary commitment of local volunteers.

"We are delighted to collaborate once again with our dedicated volunteers and community partners, whose commitment to the river is unwavering," said Kim Lazar, Community Engagement Director for the Friends. "The impact we make together—removing trash and restoring riverbanks—is truly inspiring. We are deeply grateful for the continued support."

Spanning nearly 70 miles across three counties, the River Cleanup gives participants the flexibility to choose their own section of the river, their schedule, and whether they volunteer individually or in groups. To sign up, visit [www.shiawasseeiver.org](http://www.shiawasseeiver.org) and click on the Events tab.

Participants are encouraged to share photos of their efforts by emailing [info@shiawasseeiver.org](mailto:info@shiawasseeiver.org) or posting them to the River Cleanup Event page on Facebook.

This year's event is proudly sponsored by Merit Labs, Inc., whose generous support helps make this important initiative possible.

About the Friends of the Shiawassee River

The Friends of the Shiawassee River is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization governed by a local board of directors and supported by volunteers and donors. Its mission is to help the community Care for, Share, and Enjoy the Shiawassee River. Through cleanups, education, and advocacy, the Friends work to protect the river's natural resources and promote responsible use and appreciation throughout the watershed.

## Vieyra's Market Now Open in Downtown Ovid

by Deb Price

Elsie residents, Antonio & Maria Vieyra have opened an authentic Mexican Grocery Store in the former Miller Realty Building. The store features a wide variety of Mexican grocery items as well as fresh produce, including Nopels (fresh cactus), fresh home-made salsas, dried chili peppers and a wide variety of Mexican spices. If you are looking for something sweet, they have Pan Dulce (Mexican sweetbread). When it comes to beverages, they have them and they are ice cold including, Jarritos. They also have fresh Aqua Fresca on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays. They offer fresh meat on the week-ends, lunch & dinner food specials on Tuesdays and Fridays. The couple also have a food truck that will be on location in front of the market location every Sunday from noon-7pm. "We are extremely pleased with the reception from the community thus far and we look forward to becoming a part of the community," explained Maria

Store hours are Noon-7pm Sunday thru Friday and 10am-3pm on Saturdays. Stop by and say hello. They are located at 203 S. Main St., Ovid. They will be accepting EBT Cards soon.



Vieyra's Market Family Members (l-r) Maria & Antonio Vieyra, Natalia Guajardo, Daniel Vieyra and Monica Martinez.

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Obituaries

Lucy Medina

Lucy Medina, age 72, of Ovid, MI, passed away Saturday, July 5, 2025, at Pleasant View Senior Living, Corunna, MI.

A Memorial Service at Smith Family Funeral Homes - Houghton Chapel, Ovid, MI, at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, July 12, 2025. Visitation will be held on Saturday from 11:00 A.M. until the time of service at the funeral home. Burial will take place at Mt. Rest Cemetery, St. Johns, MI at a later date.

Lucy was born on May 5, 1953, the daughter of Daniel and Irene (Salinaz) Medina. She graduated from Ovid-Elsie High School. Lucy married Donald E. Hunt on October 10, 1985. They spent many wonderful years together until his passing on September of 26, 1999.

Lucy was a bus driver for Ovid-Elsie Area Schools for many years where she was also a recess aide at Leonard Elementary. After retirement, from Ovid-Elsie, she was a bus attendant for Dean Transportation. Lucy excelled at art and she loved drawing, ceramics, painting, and quilting. She loved to cater meals for her friends and family's events. She was a member of Life in Christ Church in Owosso where she was very active and volunteered for many events.

She is survived by her son Tino and Amber Medina of Ovid, MI; grandchildren: Aarial and Eric Schreiner of Ovid, MI; Marcus Medina of Ovid, MI; and Alex Medina of Ovid,MI; great-grandson Kal Schreiner; her siblings: Pete and Diane Salinaz of DeWitt, MI; Daniel Jr. and Francis Medina of Owosso, MI; Victor and Jamie Medina of Ovid, MI; Raymond and Josy Medina of Ovid, MI; and Caroline and Roberto Hernandez of Ovid, MI; her brother-in-law Frank Chontos of Riverview, MI, step-children: David and Sue Hunt, and Margo Hunt; and step daughter-in-law Deidrie Hunt. She is also survived by many step-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents Daniel and Irene Medina, husband Donald Edward Hunt, her sister Carmen Chontos, her brother Jesse Medina, and step-son Matthew Hunt.

Memorials may be made to Angel's Hands Community Outreach, 110 North Saginaw Street, Owosso, MI 48867. Online condolences can be sent to [www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com). The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes - Houghton Chapel, Ovid, Michigan.



Roxanne (Ackels) Baumgras

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Roxanne (Ackels) Baumgras of Shepardsville, Michigan on July 8, 2025.

There will be a celebration of life at Smith Family Funeral Homes-Osgood Chapel, St. Johns, Michigan, on Saturday, July 12, from 2:00 - 6:00 P.M. A cremation has taken place and burial will take place at a later date at Maple Grove Cemetery, Ovid, Michigan.

Roxanne was born on July 7, 1955, to Wayne and Connie (Smith) Ackels. She married Robert Baumgras on May 11, 1979, in Owosso, Michigan.

Roxanne dedicated her life to her family, community and caring for others. She worked 25 years as a paraprofessional for the Ovid-Elsie school district, where her kindness and patience made a lasting impact on her colleagues and countless students.

Roxanne's greatest joys in life were her family, especially her three granddaughters. She loved gardening, camping, visiting the Upper Peninsula and scrapbooking. She is survived by her loving husband Bob, four daughters: Kristi (Chad) Fisher, Becca Baumgras, Rachel Baumgras, and Aimee (Kenny) Burch. She is also survived by her sister Melanie Lyon, and three granddaughters: Haven, Kiera, and Avah. A special mention of Jeremy Canze and nephews: Ben (Jaime) Cox, and Randy (Erin) Lyon. She was preceded in death by her parents Wayne and Connie Ackels, her aunt Sue, uncle Max, aunt and uncle Richard and Reba Rummell.

The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to Brook and Kim, and all the staff at Welcome Home Assisted Living for the tremendous care they provided, as well as Holly at Swan Care Hospice.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association. Online condolences may be made at [www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com). The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes - Osgood Chapel, St. Johns, Michigan.



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Minister:  
Pastor Kendra  
Holcomb-Densmore  
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Religious Thoughts

by Chris Hearn  
[www.letsmeetgod.com](http://www.letsmeetgod.com)

“If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. 13 And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him...

15 But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so. The brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. 16 How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?” (1 Corinthians 7:12-13, 15-16)

It's comforting for us to know that a believer can come out of a non-Christian home. That is my story.

While I grew up in a good, loving and safe home, it wasn't a Christian home. As a child growing up I don't remember ever going to church. Not even on Easter or Christmas. Again, the home was good, even great in some ways, but it was a secular home. Nonetheless, my girlfriend in college shared a bit with me and we went to church together a few times. Also in college my roommate witnessed to me and there I came to know the Lord. During this time, no one in my family became a Christian and so witnessed to me. I don't know for certainty that anyone secretly or behind the scenes was even praying for me. I strongly doubt it.

And yet, God brought me to true faith in Him.

So I offer that as a testimony of hope for those whose spouses don't believe or for those who are praying and waiting for their kids to come to faith in Christ. Don't give up hope. Don't give up on God. It can happen. This is true for all the relationships that we have with those who do not know the Lord- parents, siblings, cousins, co-workers, neighbors, friends.

Christ's death and bodily resurrection from the dead pays the price in full for all of our sins. Big and small. Past, present and future.

Hebrews 7:27 says that Jesus was sacrificed for our sins , "...once for all when he offered himself." And Hebrews 9:28 that, "...Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many."

It doesn't matter when one comes to faith in Christ. Whether as a child or on their death bed. There is one way to come to faith in God and that way is the same no matter how young one is, or no matter how close one is to dying. No matter how much or little they have sinned. It doesn't matter.

Everyone comes to God through faith in Jesus- that Jesus is fully human and fully God. That He died on the cross and rose bodily from the dead as the one, full and final payment for all of our sins; bridging the gap that our sins have created before us and a holy and perfect God.

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# Editorial

## A Special Thank You



*Gratitude to each person who has contributed to our Small Things Event Space building project in ways big and small. I would like to say thank you to:*

*SE Growth: Shawn Elliott and his entire crew have been amaz-*

*ing. His sub contractors were great!*

*Our donors: They added added a level of love that is unmatched!*

*Studio Intrigue: There were several architects on this project that helped me think through our space needs.*

*City of Laingsburg: I wouldn't have jumped without their support. Paula, Cassy, Kim, Olivia, you did not run when I was overwhelmed by the paperwork and I am so grateful.*

*Laingsburg City Council and Mayor Jeff Geasler: You are all lovers of this community and I appreciate the care you take in decision making.*

*SEDP (Shiawassee Economic Development) Justin Horvath, Emily Marrah, you believe in us small businesses in a way no one else does.*

*Shiawassee County and the State of Michigan: Our grant handlers changed over time, but Tori, Zoey, Chuck Donaldson, and Bryan Dryer were very helpful.*

*LBCA (Laingsburg Business and Community Association): You are all so invested in this community and your support means the world, especially Ed Tyler and Gail Geasler. Your work matters.*

*My dance family wrote letters of support, testifying to what we do here. This group was so good at checking in as the project developed.*

*My busy mom group at church encouraged me when I was scared.*

*My cousin, Amy, for helping me talk through decisions.*

*My sister, Amy, for helping me come up with a meaningful name that matters.*

*My dad, John, for helping both financially and as emotional support.*

*My moving crew: Hillarie, Logan, Curtis, Tucker, Ethan, Emma, and Ernie -- I couldn't have done it without you!*

*My friends and family who always offer support and confidence in this project.*

*This community has been an incredible support over many, many years.*

*My husband, Ernie, is the biggest supporter of my dreams, even when it's scary and hard. He shows up big with good questions or a ladder, whatever make the most sense in the situation.*

*My team, for writing messages under the floor for all of our future dancers.*

*My daughter, Emma, for working hard on our marketing campaign.*

*God ... for planting me here.*

*Sincerely, JEN WEST  
Spirit Expressions Studio of Dance  
Laingsburg*



## A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

Got up this morning, threw clothes into the dryer, fed the cats, washed the tote that I had used to travel with blueberries, filled the canister with dried onions and sat down at the computer. It only took me about ten minutes. It definitely was a very efficient start to a new day! Too bad that my fingers aren't remaining on their home keys and I keep getting lines of gobbledygook... Looking back on this past week I would call it a very productive one. On Monday I had my yearly check up and Dr Andersen was pleased with the results, as was I. Lost weight(hope that I don't find it), good blood pressure, A1C where it belongs and no new prescriptions needed. He calls me his 'poster child' for living an active life. Activity is a good thing, productive activity is even better. While I was waiting for my 8:00 AM appointment, I got a phone call from Yoder's Kountry Store. The three lugs of blueberries were in and I needed to pick them up Monday afternoon. I told the gal that I would be up to Clare by mid-afternoon. I first had to get my hair cut in St Johns.

So from Ithaca to home to pickup my empty totes and then onward to St Johns for my hair cut and a bit of pampering. I made it up to Clare by two and was reminded that lugs weigh thirty pounds, not twenty. Every day seems to be a learning experience... I stopped in St Louis to see Robin and gave her a bowl of fresh blueberries. While there visiting I was entertained by her puppy Clare and her buddies, I remember Bartley (Golden retriever sized canine) and the antic of his Yorkie puppy buddy. The three were hilarious... Robin was being the dog sitter for a few days. We sat at the kitchen table and drank iced tea and gabbed. It was a refreshing stop. Then off to St Johns to drop off Margie's lug and had another laugh stop then to the grocery store to pick up a few necessities for MG's Perx & Pastries. Final delivery was at Diane's and I was wiped out by then. Pru was happy that I had remembered where my home was. I think that I got home at 7:30, fed the cats and Pru. Settled down and cleaned blueberries. It was a long but fruitful day.

Tuesday was a little slow but Diane and I were launched into a dust and clean mode. We realized that we had too much stuff in the back room. It was moved and scrubbed so if you need a twenty gallon water heater, or a propane floor lamp, or an old fashioned magazine rack with floor lamp, and I believe there is a portable air conditioner in the mix just stop by and pick them up. Have you been flooded with the influx of mosquitoes? When they bite they leave huge welts... Of course I now feel like "Sir Scratch A-Lot". I woke up in the middle of the night and had to apply Benedryl to stop the aggravation. I even used the oak post that stands between the living and dining area like an old bear to scratch my back to get a bit of relief.

I had Wednesday off at the shop. That being said I did manage to lighten the load at the house. The twins, Broody and Jake were my muscle. The teenagers shifted stuff from one floor to the next. They carried down five mattresses and a couple of metal frames from the upper bedrooms. The frames on sitting on the deck waiting for pick up and the other stuff hit the pile. I sat in Will's old room for about two hours just sorting old computer stuff and pitching it. Broody and Jake carried down six heavy garbage bags and an old computer chair down for me. They also carried the new oak dresser out to the deck for Karen to pick up. Of course she didn't pick it up here, the twins loaded it. Karen and Spenser had to unload it when they got home. Poor Broody and Jake had to maneuver the queen bed up the narrow stairwell. They did a good job and saved me an eternity of effort and work. I was surprised that they didn't know how to re-assemble it. Fortunately they both had a serious dose of common sense and understood the procedure well. Yes, it is sitting up there ready to be made, I first had to buy some queen sized sheets... As you can see I have been rather busy. Life is good and I have been blessed many times over. May God bless you with purpose and friends to help you reach your goals.

Crystal Mitchell©2025

## Elsie Village Council Proceedings

submitted by Dawn D. Levey

ELSIE – The regular meeting of the Elsie Village Council was held Tuesday, July 8, 2025. Officials were updated on the Elsie Dairy Festival which was to kick-off Thursday, July 10, 2025.

Brooke Wooley, Dairy Festival Committee, presented officials with a donation toward security, and extended an invitation to officials encouraging them to participate in the opening of the ceremony at 7 pm, Thursday, July 10, 2025. A few questions followed. In addition, there was increased participation in the Dairy Festival Pageant.

Dorothy Ornelas, Heroes Park Committee, gave officials an update of the brick installations and an invitation for the Car Show slated for August 23, 2025. Bricks have been ordered and will be arriving soon. People interested in helping with the project are encouraged to watch the newspaper and social media for dates and times.

Ed White, Elsie Village Park improvement coordinator, reported that two basketball hoops have been installed and the court painted, pickle ball court was painted as well. He requested permission to put a barrel at the Village Business office for donations of basket balls and soccer balls. The balls will be logged up and will be available for participants to be used at the park.

Officials retired in closed session at 7:14 pm to discuss a real estate sale. Returned in open session 8:15 pm. No action was taken.

Destinee Bryce, village manager, reported that preparation for the Dairy Festival has been a challenge due to issues with equipment. Many financial challenges on the horizon, these issues must be kept in the for front so officials are aware of the financial status of the village.

Chief Bryce, present the monthly police report, 15 traffic stops and 5 tickets issued. Police activity included numerous traffic stops, one assault, one domestic and one juvenile runaway. The department will be fire arm qualifying at Ashley Sportsman's Club. Code violations are being addressed as time allows. Michigan Treasury has been helpful in keeping the Village up to date on grant opportunities.

The manager's report included the following: the Village of Elsie Deficient Elimination report was filed for the month – cash inflows and out flows are being added to the report as requested. A request was received by a third-party for export of the 2025 taxbase a fee of \$500 will be charged by the Village for the information.

DPW, Chris Ormes, updated officials on the department's activities. The panel has been replaced and working well, and is providing a wealth of information regarding the well. One more panel needs to be replaced. Well one still is having issues. Staff is preparing for the Dairy Festival. The DPW is in need of a front-end loader prior to an excavator. A priority list of capital outlay items is being developed.

Public comment focused on the increase of the water bills and the lack of quality water. Bills reflect the mandate from Michigan Rural Water and USDA. Officials noted that the water tests as drinkable. Residents are being charged for their true water usage. The goal is getting to the point that water quality can be improved, the funds are simply not there. There is a plan to utilized the revenue raised by the increase in water bills to improve water quality. Officials utilize the same water residents do.

Douglas Sturgis, village resident, commented that he would like to see the plan. If you cannot see it physically there is not a plan.

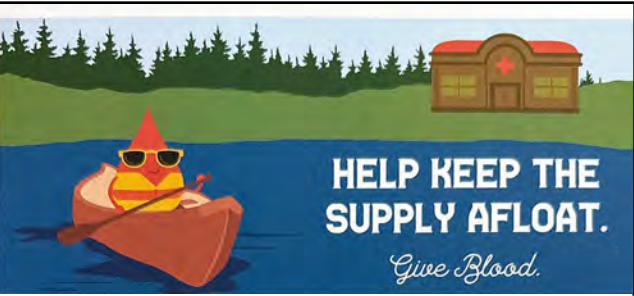
Don Peterson – requested information, why are the water bills so high. "I am paying for water I cannot drink." Other residents had the same comments; the consensus was that the water needs to be drinkable.

Additional public comment focused on the semis and heavy trucks are not detouring as directed due to the Elsie Dairy Festival. They are utilizing side streets and causing major issues and damage. The Elsie Police Department will be monitoring the situation.

Officials received a request from Elsie United Methodist

Cont'd page 7






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*Give Blood.*

**Elsie Lions Club Blood Drive**  
United Methodist Church  
160 W. Main Street, Elsie


**Tuesday, July 15, 2025**  
11:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.


Sponsored by Elsie Lions Club  
To schedule an appointment log onto RedCrossBlood.org  
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Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



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# Unforgettable Day Trip for Ovid-Elsie Students

*submitted by Mark Horak*  
A group of Ovid-Elsie Middle and High School students had the opportunity to experience the sights, sounds, and energy of downtown Detroit during a special field trip on July 9. Traveling by school bus, the students spent the day exploring some of the city's most iconic landmarks and enjoying a Detroit Tigers baseball game at Comerica Park. The day began with a ride on the Detroit People Mover, giving students a unique aerial view of the city's downtown. From there, the group visited the Renaissance Center and took time to walk along the scenic Detroit Riverwalk, where they enjoyed lunch and time to relax and connect with their peers. The highlight of the afternoon was attending the Detroit Tigers game, where students cheered on the home team from their seats in the



stadium. The tickets were generously provided by the Tigers organization, making it possible for the students to enjoy a major league baseball game—some for the very first time. “This was a meaningful day for our students,” said Superintendent Mark Horak. “It combined fun, exploration, and a chance to see new places. We are incredibly grateful to the Tigers organization for helping make this opportunity possible.” “This trip was more than just a game,” said chaperone and Board member Becky Williams. “It was about creating memories, building relationships, and showing our students what’s out there beyond the classroom.” Photos from the trip captured smiling faces, moments of discovery, and the pure joy of a summer day spent in Michigan’s largest city. Ovid-Elsie Schools hopes to continue providing similar experiences in the future, celebrating the growth and potential of every student.



**Laingsburg & Ovid Lions Clubs**

**2025 Golf Outing - 4 Person Scramble**

**Saturday, August 9**      **\$65.00 Each - 18 Holes & Cart**

**9:00 AM - Shotgun Start**      **Burgers & sides**

**Pine Hills Golf Course**      **Raffle Prizes & Skins Game**

**6603 Woodbury Rd.**      **1st Place Prize = \$100**

**Laingsburg, Michigan**      **2nd Place Prize = \$80**

**www.pinehillsmi.com**      **3rd Place Prize = \$60**

**All Alcoholic Beverages Must Be Purchased On-site**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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www.bearlakecamp.org

2025 GOLF OUTING REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable To: LAINGSBURG LIONS CLUB

Send Payments To: 6858 Victoria Shore Dr. - Laingsburg, MI 48848

You can pay with Venmo - @TERRYFOREGOLF

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# Changes to the Movie, Art and Praise Summer Series

submitted by Dawn D. Levey

ELSIE – After listening to participants the following changes are being made to the Elsie United Methodist Church, summer activity series. The program will begin at 10 am with a family-friendly movie, followed by music and dance, art projects and a light lunch, wrapping up at approximately noon. Of course, popcorn and beverages will be served during the film. The Thursday dates are July 17, 24, and 31. All are welcome.

# Michigan Department of State Releases 2024 Election Data

Michigan ranked #3 in the nation for eligible voter turnout, over 60% of total votes cast early or by mail

LANSING, Mich. – Today, the Michigan Department of State (MDOS) released a new report on county-level voter turnout from the state's first presidential election after Michigan voters passed new accessible voting options under Proposal 2022-2. In 2024, Michigan broke its 2020 turnout record with more than 5.7 million votes cast and was ranked third in the nation with 74.6% of eligible voters casting a ballot. Voters cast over 60% of ballots early or by mail – trends that were evident statewide and not correlated to previous turnout rates or partisan support.

The new 2024 election report, Access Matters: Michigan #3 in Voter Turnout, shows statewide total turnout of 5,706,503, breaking Michigan's previous record turnout in the 2020 Presidential Election (5,579,317). Over 1.2 million Michigan voters in the 2024 General Election cast a ballot at their in-person early voting site and over 2.2 million voted by mail. As of Dec. 5, 2024, over 25% of active registered Michigan voters had joined the permanent vote by mail list.

For more information on Michigan elections, visit Michigan.gov/Vote.

# Elsie Village Council cont'd from page 5

Church for a street closure August 5, 2025, National Night Out, 4p-9p, Church Street from W. Main to W. Pine streets. They are planning a community event that evening.

Finally, a number of residents voiced their concerns regarding fireworks in the Village on the Fourth of July. A park idea was suggested. Perhaps encourage residents to use designated areas at the Elsie Village Park and make the fireworks a community event. It would be more respectful to the neighbors. Further research will be needed regarding the state law and the possible restrictions.

Officials took monthly action to approve to approve the minutes of the June 2025 meeting, the meeting agenda with the addition of property sale which will be discussed in closed session and the treasurer's report. Officials approved expenditures totaling \$124,255.33.



You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." – C.S. Lewis

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JULY 25TH  
6PM TEE OFF

\$35 PERSON \$60 A COUPLE

COME, JOIN US FOR OUR BEER AND WINE TASTING! IT WILL BE SET UP AS A FOUR PERSON SCRAMBLE. EACH PLAYER WILL RECEIVE 10 DRINK TICKETS TO USE AND WE WILL HAVE THREE STATIONS SET UP AROUND THE COURSE.

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—Ralph Waldo Emerson



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Open Enrollment July 7 - August 1, 2025

Limited Openings K-12 for the 2025-26 School Year

Laingsburg Community Schools is an award-winning, technologically advanced district supported by a community that's committed to its students and their quality of life.

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1st - 20

2nd - 13

3rd - 13

4th - 20

5th - 19

6th - 15

7th - 10

8th - 10

9th - 15

10th - 25

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  - Proven track record of student academic success in all state assessments.
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    - "Partnership with Lansing Community College, Baker College, and the University of Michigan-Flint through our Early College Program."
- Numerous Career & Technical Education and Advance Placement opportunities.
  - Public-private partnerships to creatively fund innovation.

Our schools are among the best in the state.

Become a member of the Wolfpack and you'll see why.



Applications available on our website at [www.laingsburg.k12.mi.us](http://www.laingsburg.k12.mi.us)



# Sports

## Proud Ovid-Elsie Wrestling Tradition Carries on Under Coach Sillman

OVID-ELSIE -- The storied varsity wrestling program at Ovid-Elsie High School is getting a makeover.

Spencer Sillman was announced as the Marauders' new head coach last week by O-E Director of Athletics Shaun McKinney.

"We are extremely excited to have Spencer on board," explained McKinney. "Spencer comes to us from Mayville Middle School and Caro High School. Spencer will also be the PE teacher at Leonard Elementary School.

"He is extremely passionate about the position and speaks extensively about the youth program. It was clear that Coach Sillman was the right choice to continue to push our Wrestling Program in the championship direction."

A 2018 graduate of St Johns HS, Sillman is a two-time Team State Finals runner up, and a former All-League and All-Academic honoree.

Collegiately, he graduated from Adrian College in 2023, where he was a MIAA champion and the Mid-States Conference runner-up, and a four times member of the Dean's List.

Previously, he a physical education teacher at Mayville, the Middle School wrestling coach at Mayville, and an assistant varsity coach at Caro HS.

Sillman takes over from Marauder mentor Kyle Spiess, who in turn had wrestled under legendary coach Jim Maidlow before graduating from O-E in 1993. One of the annual highlights of Spiess' career was the "Brothers Brawl" where O-E would take on the Perry Ramblers, coached by another Maidlow protege, Jason Spiess, a 1991 O-E grad and Kyle's brother. A third Spiess brother, Kevin, was coached by Maidlow to a State Championship in 1998.

Most recently, Talon Parsons was a two-time State Champion while wrestling under Kyle Spiess in 2022 and 2024.

Kyle was named the Marauder head coach in June, 2017, and now gives up the flagship to Sillman.



Coach Sillman

## O-E's Run to Girls Soccer Title Vaults Campbell to Player of the Year Honors; 15 Marauder and Wolfpack Players Feted

OVID-ELSIE -- The Lady Marauders' 2025 girls soccer run to the MMAC title has helped vault Dannika Campbell to All-Area Player of the Year honors.

Coach Jerome White's O-E team ran to a 13-5-1 overall record enroute to another Mid-Michigan Activities Conference (MMAC) championship. The great run finally ended in a MHSAA District 3 semifinals loss to the Eaton Rapids Greyhounds -- but not until penalty kicks came into play.

Campbell led an abundant list of Ovid-Elsie and Laingsburg players -- 15 in all -- that dominated the All-Shiawassee Area Team, as named annually by the Owosso Argus-Press.

Campbell -- who doubles as a standout placekicker for the Marauder football team -- tied for second on the Marauders in goals (12) and led the team in assists (15). Her 12 goals were a career-high.

Campbell, a junior center midfielder, was 3rd Team All-State in 2024 in addition to her 2025 accolades.

Also named to the All-Area First Team were:

-- McKenzie Keck, Ovid-Elsie (junior, centerback, forward) tied with Campbell for second on O-E in goals (12) and was second in assists (12). A position change midway through the season didn't stop her production.

-- Claire Fruchey, Ovid-Elsie (freshman, center-midfielder, one of four freshmen to crack First-Team All-Area, Fruchey found the back of the net 11 times with four assists. Like Keck, she also switched positions as she moved to midfielder.



Dannika Campbell

-- Madalyn Bushard, Ovid-Elsie (freshman, forward), was second in the area in goals with a team-high 16 as a freshman.

-- Payge Woodworth, Laingsburg (sophomore, forward), led the team in goals (13) and assists (9) and was a major contributor to the Wolfpack's run to the Division 3 regional finals. She scored both goals in the team's regional semifinal win over Adrian Lenawee Christian and was first-team all-conference in the Central Michigan Athletic Conference as well as first-team all-district.

-- Kierra Rusz, Laingsburg (freshman), was also a key factor in Laingsburg's postseason run, scoring the game-winning goal in the team's win over Bath in the district final. She found the back of the net eight times this season with six assists. She was first-team all-CMAC and first-team all-district.

-- Madison Phillips, Laingsburg (junior), had the best season of her career to this point, matching the goal total (seven) from her first two years combined to go along with eight assists. She was second-team all-conference and first-team all-district.

-- Gwen Clark, Laingsburg (freshman), had 11 goals, second on the Wolfpack as a freshman this season. She was second-team all-conference and first-team all-district.

The 1st Team also included Zadie Schmidt, Byron (junior, forward) and Montana Spaulding, Durand (sophomore, forward).

Named to the All-Area 2nd Team were:

-- Sarah Newman, Ovid-Elsie (junior, goalie), had nine and 1/2 clean sheets and 74 saves for the Marauders this season.

-- Maddison Thornton, Ovid-Elsie (senior, center-midfielder), was recovering from injury this season but still managed five goals and three assists. She eventually was able to give the team at 60 minutes per game.

-- Samantha Guzman, Laingsburg (sophomore), scored four goals with four assists. She was first-team all-CMAC and first-team all-district.

-- Allie Brasseur, Laingsburg (freshman), scored six goals with six assists and flashed a ton of potential for the Wolfpack.

Gwendolyn Bell, Durand (junior, defender)  
Reagan Muphree, Byron (junior, defender)  
Elizabeth McCroan, Owosso (senior, midfielder)  
Ainsley Lintner, Owosso (sophomore, defender)  
Miyah Treidel, Byron (junior, goalie)  
Lila Anderson, Byron (freshman, midfielder)

Honorable Mention selections included:

Jessica Ward, Byron (sophomore, defender)  
Sierra Flannery, Byron (sophomore, midfielder)  
Kendal Tokar, Ovid-Elsie (freshman, centerback)  
Izzy Jameson, Owosso  
Addison Rusz, Laingsburg (senior)

## Lady Wolfpack Soccer Players Honored on 2025 All-CMAC Team

LAINGSBURG -- A 15-7 season, CMAC championship and run to the Regional Finals will have the prep soccer world sitting up and taking notice.

And to do all that, while graduating just five seniors and landing 13 players on the All-Conference Team ... well, let's just say the term "optimistic" is a buzzword floating around first-year coach John Hill's program right now.

The Wolfpack girls soccer team won their first district title since 2022, beating Bath in the District Finals, then reaching the Regional Final -- equaling their best ever run in the MHSAA tournament.

Showcasing the list of honorees were a pair of All-Staters in MHSAA Division 3: Payge Woodworth and Kierra Rusz.

The five outgoing seniors -- Emilee Mertens, Addison Rusz, Samantha Knoblauch, Ivy Collier and goalkeeper Erin Pohlod -- won two District titles during their career and headed up Laingsburg's post-season honors.

Named First Team All-CMAC were:

-- Ivy Collier: one goal and three assists this season; 17 goals and 22 assists for her career.

-- Addison Rusz: two goals and three



assists this season; 12 goals and 9 assists for her career.

-- Samantha Gutzman: 4 goals and 4 assists in 2025.

-- Payge Woodworth: 13 goals and 9 assists to lead the team in 2025.

-- Kierra Rusz: a freshman with 8 goals and 7 assists to start her career.

Second Team All-CMAC plaudits went to:

-- Emilee Mertens: two goals and four assists this season; 5 goals and 8 assists career.

-- Madison Phillips: Seven goals and eight assists in 2025.

-- Allie Brasseur: Six goals and six assists this season.

-- Gwen Clark: 11 goals and two assists this season, her first with the Wolfpack.

Feted as Honorable Mention-All-Conference were:

-- Erin Pohlod: Six shutouts and 54 saves in goal this season.

-- Kendal Hoard: Three goals this season.

-- Aleigha Highfield: one goal while primarily playing defense as a freshman.

-- Ella Dorman: Did not make the scoring column but was a solid possession player for the Wolves all season.

All-District awards were taken home by Addison Rusz, Mertens, Pohlod, Phillips, Gutzman, Woodworth, Brasseur, Clark and Kierra Rusz. All-Region awards went to

Madison Phillips, Samantha Gutzman, Payge Woodworth and Kierra Rusz.

In team voting, Coaches Awards were as follows:

-- Rising Wolf (Most Improved) - Ella Dorman.

-- Guardian of the Pack (Defensive Award) - Samantha Gutzman.

-- Iron Fang (Grit Award) - Ivy Collier.

-- Pride of the Pack (MVP) - Payge Woodworth.

-- Leadership Award - Addison Rusz.

-- Wolfpack Award - Emilee Mertens.



## Excellence in Healthcare

Ben Frederick, associate vice president of advocacy, government relations, and business development at Memorial Healthcare, recently received the Michigan Health & Hospital Association's (MHA) Healthcare Leadership Award at MHA's Annual Membership Meeting. This prestigious award recognizes healthcare leaders who have demonstrated exceptional advocacy for the health and well-being of their healthcare organization and the community.

Nominees for this award were judged in two categories: organizational contributions as well as leadership and culture contributions. The winner of the award was selected through a workgroup of MHA members. Frederick was nominated by Brian L. Long, president and CEO of Memorial Health System, and Tom Kurtz, president and CEO of Memorial Healthcare.

"At Memorial Health System, we are driven by a shared commitment to serving our communities in innovative, sustainable ways—beyond the walls of the hospital—while preserving our identity as a strong, independent healthcare organization," said Long. "Ben's leadership in advocacy and government relations has been instrumental in advancing that mission."

Since joining Memorial Healthcare in early 2023, Frederick has secured annual funding to support hospital operations and birthing services. He also led efforts to earn a grant from the Michigan Health & Hospital Association for behavioral health support and several maternal health grants. He has worked to strengthen the hospital's student partnership with the Shiawassee RESD's Health Science Academy program and secured changes in insurer policies to allow for proper hospital reimbursement and improved patient experience, among many other notable successes.

"This is an award that is received only due to the support and excellence of our entire team and serves as a reflection of Memorial's outstanding commitment to continuous improvement and community relations," said Frederick. "I'm honored to be serving on behalf of my hometown hospital as we continue to ensure world-class care is available for our patients."

To learn more about the MHA Healthcare Leadership Award, visit:

<https://www.mha.org/about/awards/healthcare-leadership-award/>

For more information about Memorial Healthcare, visit:

<https://www.memorialhealthcare.org/>



*Ben Frederick*

## Michigan's Early On Program

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP) today announced that Michigan has received the highest possible distinction for the state's early intervention system for infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities, known as Early On. This marks the second consecutive year Michigan has earned this recognition.

"This distinction reflects the dedication of our Early On providers and partners across Michigan—and our unwavering commitment to ensuring families can access support when they need it most," said Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffiea, director of MiLEAP. "We're proud of the strides we've made and remain focused on expanding access, improving outcomes and making sure every child has the strong start they deserve."

Early On is Michigan's early intervention system designed to support infants and toddlers, birth to age three, who have developmental delays, disabilities, or health conditions that put them at risk. The program connects families with essential social, health and educational services that promote children's development and help them reach their fullest potential.

Early On also empowers family members and caregivers with the resources and support needed to enhance children's learning and development through everyday opportunities and routines.

In recent years, Michigan has continued to build on its commitment to early intervention for more children and families. Early On received \$23.67 million in the state's fiscal year (FY) 2024-25 budget, and the Governor's FY 2025-26 Executive Recommendation proposes an additional \$28.4 million to expand access and deepen support for families during the critical early years of a child's development.

The "Meets Requirements" rating from the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) for implementation of Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is based on a combination of compliance indicators and results indicators, including child outcome data and completeness of reporting. Michigan's overall score for the 2025 determination (reflecting 2023-24 program year data) is 87.5%, exceeding the 80% threshold required for a "Meets Requirements" distinction.

Compliance Score: 100% (16 out of 16 possible points).

Results Score: 75% (6 out of 8 possible points).

Data Completeness: 81.61%, up from 75.68% last year, and a significant improvement from 56.16% two years ago.

This distinction represents more than just strong performance—it reflects meaningful impact for Michigan's children and families. For families, it means timely access to coordinated services, greater support in navigating their child's needs, and the reassurance that they are not alone. For children, it ensures early access to developmental opportunities and support that help them learn, grow, and thrive during their most critical years of development.

"Behind every data point is a family with a child full of potential and a team committed to opening doors," said Sophia Lafayette-Lause, director of Early Learning and Family Supports at MiLEAP. "We're proud of the work we've done that brought us this far, and even more hopeful about the opportunities we're creating together for families across Michigan."

MiLEAP's Office of Early Education, Birth to Five Early Childhood Special Education will continue partnering with local service areas to improve outcomes for infants and toddlers through targeted strategies, supports and services.

For more details and the full determination report, visit the MiLEAP Early On website and navigate to Federal Reports/Performance section.

## A Beautiful Noise: The Neil Diamond Musical

Date/Time: Tues, Sept 16 – Sun, Sept 21, 2025

Location: Cobb Great Hall

Tickets: From \$56

Ticket Office: [whartoncenter.com](http://whartoncenter.com)

517.432.2000 or 1.800.WHARTON

EAST LANSING, MI – Producers Ken Davenport, Bob Gaudio, and NETworks Presentations are thrilled to announce that individual tickets for the smash-hit musical, A BEAUTIFUL NOISE: THE NEIL DIAMOND MUSICAL, are on sale now. A BEAUTIFUL NOISE makes its East Lansing premiere at Wharton Center for Performing Arts from September 16-21. Tickets will be available at Wharton Center's Ticket Office, online at [whartoncenter.com](http://whartoncenter.com), or by calling 517.432.2000 or 1.800.WHARTON.

Created in collaboration with Neil Diamond himself, A BEAUTIFUL NOISE is the uplifting true story of how a kid from Brooklyn became a chart-busting, show-stopping American rock icon. With 120 million albums sold, a catalogue of classics like "America," "Forever in Blue Jeans," and "Sweet Caroline," an induction into the Songwriters and Rock and Roll Halls of Fame, a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, and sold-out concerts around the world that made him bigger than Elvis, Neil Diamond's story was made to shine on Broadway—and head out on the road across America.

"Some of my most thrilling nights have been while I was on tour, bringing my music to audiences across the world," said Neil Diamond. "Having A BEAUTIFUL NOISE go on tour is an honor, and I can't wait for audiences across North America to experience this show. I hope they enjoy it as much as I have."

A BEAUTIFUL NOISE: THE NEIL DIAMOND MUSICAL is directed by Tony Award® winner Michael Mayer (Spring Awakening, Hedwig and the Angry Inch), choreographed by Olivier Award winner Steven Hoggett (Once, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child), and written by four-time Academy Award nominee Anthony McCarten (Bohemian Rhapsody, The Two Popes).

For more information, visit [www.abeautifulnoisethemusical.com](http://www.abeautifulnoisethemusical.com)

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A BEAUTIFUL NOISE: THE NEIL DIAMOND MUSICAL has raised \$750,000 for the Parkinson's Foundation. For more information on how you can help, visit [www.abeautifulnoisethemusical.com/partners](http://www.abeautifulnoisethemusical.com/partners).

## MiLEAP Partners with the Small Business Association of Michigan to Expand Benefits Access for Child Care Professionals

\$4.4 million investment will provide access to health, life and retirement benefits for child care employees statewide, strengthen Michigan's early childhood workforce

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP), in partnership with the Small Business Association of Michigan (SBAM), today announced a \$4.4 million investment to pilot Nurture Benefits, a new program designed to expand access to essential workforce benefits—including health, life and retirement options—for child care professionals across the state. The program aims to grow and stabilize Michigan's early childhood workforce by making it easier for child care providers to attract and retain career professionals.

"Child care professionals are the workforce behind the workforce," said Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffiea, director of MiLEAP. "This pilot recognizes their value and responds to a long-standing need, helping ensure those who nurture our youngest learners have access to the essential benefits that support career growth and security."

The program builds on the state's continued progress in strengthening early childhood systems and reflects MiLEAP's commitment to ensuring that all children have access to safe, high-quality care while uplifting the professionals who provide it and the working families who rely on it. The program is funded through a larger \$33 million federal Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Renewal (PDG B-5) grant investment awarded to Michigan by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"Expanding access to safe, high-quality, and affordable child care in Michigan begins with supporting the people who make it possible," said Emily Laidlaw, deputy director of Early Education at MiLEAP. "This pilot program empowers child care providers to build strong, dedicated teams while creating a dependable early learning system that Michigan families can count on for years to come."

"Access to affordable health, life, and retirement benefits is one of the biggest barriers facing child care professionals—and it's a barrier that directly impacts Michigan's small businesses," said Brian Calley, SBAM President & CEO. "When child care providers can offer robust employee benefits, they're better able to attract and retain staff, which in turn helps working parents stay in the workforce. Through this partnership, we're proud to support the people who make it possible for small businesses to thrive."

Administered by SBAM, the Nurture Benefits pilot will allow licensed child care employers to apply on behalf of their facilities to offer benefits to employees. The program will be available to any licensed or license-exempt child care provider in Michigan working 30 hours or more per week. Open enrollment is expected to begin in fall 2025, with benefits effective starting January 1, 2026.

For more information about the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Renewal (PDG B-5) and MiLEAP's efforts to advance early childhood education in Michigan, visit MiLEAP's Office of Early Education webpage.



## Beat the Bite: MDARD Offers Tick Safety Guidelines

submitted by Lynsey Mukomel

LANSING – As warmer weather draws Michiganders outdoors, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is reminding residents to stay vigilant against ticks – tiny pests that can pose serious health risks to both people and animals.

“Keeping ticks out of your yard and pasture is a simple but powerful way to protect yourself, your family and your animals,” said MDARD Director Tim Boring. “Whether through integrated pest management strategies or responsible pesticide use, preventing tick bites starts at home.”

Michigan is home to more than 20 tick species, some of which can carry dangerous pathogens such as the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. While not every tick is infected, bites from pathogen-carrying ticks can lead to severe health issues for both people and animals if not promptly diagnosed and treated.

Simple integrated pest management practices can help minimize ticks on your property:

Trim back tall grasses and brush around homes, barns/sheds and along lawn and pasture edges.

Create a 3-foot barrier of wood chips or gravel between property and wooded areas to limit tick movement.

Keep lawns and pastures mowed and regularly remove leaf litter.

Stack firewood neatly in a dry area to deter rodents, which are common tick hosts.

Place patios, decks and playsets in sunny, dry areas, away from wooded edges, shrubbery, and tall grasses and weeds.

If you choose to use insect repellents or other pesticides to further protect against ticks, MDARD urges residents to do so responsibly:

Always follow label directions and wear personal protective equipment or clothing when specified by the label.

Store all pesticides in original, labeled containers out of reach of children and pets.

Use only the recommended amount – more is not better and may pose health risks.

Wash your hands and clothes thoroughly after use.

Use the Environmental Protection Agency website to help choose an insect repellent.

If hiring a professional, find a licensed pesticide applicator at [Michigan.gov/MDARDPABL](http://Michigan.gov/MDARDPABL).

“Preventing tick bites is the best way to prevent tick-borne diseases, including Lyme disease and anaplasmosis,” said Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Chief Medical Executive Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian. “Make sure you perform thorough tick checks, and if you find a tick attached to your body, promptly remove it. Monitor your health and, if you experience fever, rash, muscle or joint aches or other symptoms, or if you suspect a tick has been attached for more than 24 hours, consult with your medical provider.”

In addition to these strategies, animal owners should contact their veterinarian about tick preventatives and other treatments to keep their animals safe and healthy. Performing regular tick checks on pets, companion animals, and livestock is also important. Look around your animals’ eyes, ears, limbs, tail and feet for any ticks. If a tick is found, safely remove it as quickly as possible.

For more information about tick identification, removal and tick-borne illnesses, visit [Michigan.gov/Lyme](http://Michigan.gov/Lyme) or Michigan’s Emerging Diseases webpage.

## Michigan Wheat Program Summer Field Day

submitted by Jody E. Pollok-Newsom

Lansing – A new “doubleheader” ag event is coming together on Weds., June 25, at the Michigan State University research farms as the Michigan Wheat Program’s Summer Field Day joins forces with the MSU Weed Tour!

This will be the 13th annual Michigan Wheat Program Summer Field Day, and it takes place at the MSU Plant Pathology Research Center, 3735 College Rd. in Lansing with check-in beginning at noon and the program at 1:00 p.m. For an “extra inning,” attendees are invited to drive to the Mason Research Farm after the conclusion of the wagon tours for a walking tour of wheat research plots, staffed by researchers Eric Olson, Dennis Pennington and Manni Singh.

“We thought we’d try something different, to make our wheat farmers’ visits to the MSU campus on June 25th even more productive,” said Jeffery Krohn, chairman of the nine-member Michigan Wheat Program board and a wheat farmer from Owendale. “The traditional Wheat Summer Field Day with wagon rides to the fields to learn about the Michigan Wheat Program-funded research work, begins at 1:00 p.m.”

Researchers stationed at the plots will describe their specific project, its history, why it was undertaken and a close-to-harvest view of how the project worked out.

“We, as growers, also get to share our experiences in the field,” Krohn said. “You never know what conversation will spur a good idea for the next research proposal.”

Following is the afternoon schedule for the 2025 MI Wheat Field Day: 12 noon Registration, Check-in

12:30 p.m. Plant Diagnostic Station – Dr. Jan Byrne, MSU Plant Diagnostics Center

1 p.m. Welcome and Introductions – Jeff Krohn, MI Wheat Program Chairman

1:10 p.m. Round #1: Plot Presentations via wagon tour (20-minute stops)

Wheat disease management and update – Dr. Marty Chilvers

Managing FHB risk with resistant varieties – Dr. Eric Olson

Wheat agronomy: Optimizing planting decisions – Patrick Copeland, Wallas da Silva, Paulo Arias, Dr. Manni Singh

2:40 p.m. Round #2: Plot Presentations via wagon tour (20-minute stops)

Soil fertility: More inputs or the right inputs – Dr. Kurt Steinke, Lane Suplito

Fall vs. spring herbicide: What’s the best option? – Dr. Christy Sprague, Kaddi Gewirtz

Key growth stages, management timing – Dennis Pennington

4:10 p.m. Evaluation, RUP and CCA-Jenna Falor & Monica Jean, MSU Extension

Presentation and closing comments – Jeff Krohn

Following closing comments, participants may choose to participate in the “extra inning,” by driving to the Mason Research Farm, 1614 Okemos Rd., Mason. Three research teams will be located in plots there to describe their projects and results to date.

4:30 p.m. Walking

tour of plots at Mason Research Farm including plot presentations:

Wheat varieties available to Michigan wheat growers – Dennis Pennington, Dr. Eric Olson

It’s a cover-up! Wheat canopy closure – Dr. Manni Singh, Palo Aries

Developing new wheat varieties for Michigan – Dr. Eric Olson

Register for the Michigan Wheat Program 2025 Summer Field Day and the 2025 MSU Weed Tour on the homepage of the Michigan Wheat Program at [www.miwheat.org](http://www.miwheat.org). Scroll down to the Action Needed/Sign Up section and click there to get signed up today.

The MSU Weed Tour begins at 8:30 a.m. with check-in and field tours at 9:30 a.m. There is a cost, including covering the 2025 Weed Guide for the Weed tour. For advance registration (due June 19) Weed Tour cost is \$30. Cost for same-day registration for the Weed Tour is \$40.

Questions on the Wheat Field Day may be directed to Jody Pollok-Newsom at [jody@miwheat.org](mailto:jody@miwheat.org) or call 1-888-WHEAT01. For more information about the Weed Tour, contact Erin Burns at [burnser5@msu.edu](mailto:burnser5@msu.edu).

The Michigan Wheat Program is a check-off organization funded by the state’s wheat farmers who grow wheat in 50 of Michigan’s 83 counties. Research and grower education are top priorities for the organization.

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# CLINTON COUNTY LEGALS

## Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on August 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Keith Allen Harter and Donna Harter, husband and wife  
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns  
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Athene Annuity and Life Company  
Date of Mortgage: May 3, 2007  
Date of Mortgage Recording: May 11, 2007

Amount claimed due on date of notice: \$125,136.82

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Saint Johns, Clinton County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 1 and the North 35.00 feet of Lot 2 and 1/2 of the vacated alley adjacent, all in Block 3, Brown's Subdivision of OutLot J of the Original Plat of the City of St. John's, Clinton County, Michigan. Common street address (if any): 1001 S Clinton Ave, Saint Johns, MI 48879-2327

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. This notice is from a debt collector. Date of notice: June 29, 2025  
Trott Law, P.C.  
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
(248) 642-2515

1565573  
(06-29)(07-20)

## NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE.

Brian T. Stiebe, (the "Owner") having failed to pay assessments required under the terms and conditions of the Bylaws of Nottingham Fields Condominium (the "Lien Claimant"), a condominium project as established by the Master Deed, recorded October 2, 2006 in Document Number 5106948, both inclusive, as amended, Clinton County Records, as evidenced by a Statement of Lien dated June 28, 2023, and recorded June 30, 2023 in Document No. 5336551, Clinton County Records. As of the date hereof, there is outstanding and unpaid on account of said assessment the sum of Two Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-One and 09/100 Dollars (\$2,731.09), which sum is exclusive of interest, costs, attorney fees, expenses of collection, and future assessments. Under the power of foreclosure described in said Bylaws and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that lien of the Lien Claimant will be foreclosed by a sale of the premises at public venue at the Clinton County Courthouse in St. Johns, Michigan at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 13, 2025. The premises are located in the Township of Watertown, Clinton County, Michigan and are described as: Unit No. 42, Phase 2, 15197 Loxley Lane, Lansing, MI 48906, a unit in Nottingham Fields Condominium as established by Master Deed, recorded October 2, 2006, in Document Number 5106948, both inclusive, as amended, Clinton County Records, subject to, in accordance with, and together with all rights, privileges, duties and restrictions imposed, reserved or granted in said Master Deed, and also subject to easements and restrictions of record. The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA '600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be thirty (30) days from the date of sale. NOTTINGHAM FIELDS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION  
Dated: July 8, 2025 By: McKenna S. Rivers (P86383) Attorney for Lien Claimant 313 S. Washington Square Lansing, MI 48933 (517) 371-8100

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**AMMENDED PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING REGARDING PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE STATE OF MICHIGAN 29TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT - FAMILY DIVISION COUNTY OF CLINTON**

CASE NO: 25-32460-NC

In the matter of Evan Matthew Anderson TO ALL PERSONS, whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

**TAKE NOTICE:** Evan Matthew Anderson has filed a petition for name change.

A name change hearing will be held on 07/28/2025 at 9:30 a.m. at 100 E. State Street, 4th Floor Courtroom 4301, St. Johns, Michigan 48879, before Judge Lisa Sullivan to change the name of Evan Matthew Anderson to Evan Matthew Tacey

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