



Construction at Laingsburg Schools will continue throughout the summer

Laingsburg Schools' Construction Plan Enters Phase 2 as Summer Heats Up

LAINGSBURG -- Daily work is underway as the Laingsburg Community Schools' ambitious construction plan enters Phase 2.

The LCS District Office issued a June 18 deadline for bid packages pursuant to phase 2b, which includes architectural, masonry and MEP (mechanical, electrical, plumbing) systems.

Ground was broken in late May at Laingsburg High School for a large new addition, north of present gym complex. This will house, among other things, a long-desired auditorium, a new auxiliary gymnasium and locker rooms.

All four facilities -- LHS, middle school, elementary school and Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) -- have barricades constructed to begin work on security vestibules at the main entrance of each building.

"Construction is progressing nicely," explains superintendent Matt Shastal. "All secure entrances, office renovations and air conditioning units for the elementary classrooms will be completed by the opening of school this August. The site work for our new performing arts center and auxiliary gym are also underway. We should begin foundation work in the coming weeks and we hope to have the addition closed in by December / January. Our bids for the remaining work (interior renovations for the band room, wrestling room, finishes for our auxiliary gym and performing arts) closes on June 18."



Having Your Ducks in a Row: On Monday, June 8th, this family enjoyed an evening stroll while following golfers on the Guys & Dolls League at Pine Hills in Laingsburg. Photo by Pam Morgan

Elsie Village Council Proceedings

by Dawn D. Levey

ELSIE - The first face-to-face meeting since March 2020 was held by the Elsie Village Council, Tuesday, June 9, 2020. The highlight of the meeting was updating officials on the activities of Village departments.

Shane Grinnell, village manager, reported that the Village business office began normal office hours Monday, June 1st, though it got off to a slow start the office is now beginning to get busy. It was noted that the service window in the business office has been replaced with a locked window and at the bottom is a slot for bills or paperwork to be submitted. There is also a touch free intercom system.

Tom Frink, village president, welcomed newly appointed trustee, Cory Witt to his first face-to-face meeting of the village council. Frink announced that a new police officer has joined the Elsie Police Department, Officer Zach Travonen.

Shane Grinnell, village manager, presented a number of requests involving the use of Village property for events. There is a community group working on a Village wide garage sale July 9-11, the time period the Dairy Festival is usually scheduled. The Lions Club would like to use the Village Parking lot for their food trailer lot for this event. Village officials were happy to approve the request and encouraged the community group to continue planning Village activities.

Officials also approved a request from the Elsie United Methodist Church to block off Main Street from Church Street to the middle of the block Sunday, June 28, 9-11 am for an outside church service. If the attendance is too large or the service conflicts with residents or the Elsie First Baptist Church the event would be moved to the Elsie Village Park.

Tom Frink, Village President, informed officials that Ms. Bonnie Ott, zoning administrator, submitted her desire to resign from the position, which was accepted with regrets. The position will be posted interested parties should send a letter of interest to the business office then candidates will be interviewed by the Personnel Committee. The Village Manager will serve as interim Zoning Administrator.

Grinnell reported that the 2020 Tax season is upon us tax bills will be mailed to village residents and businesses after July 1, 2020, with taxes are due by September 14, 2020.

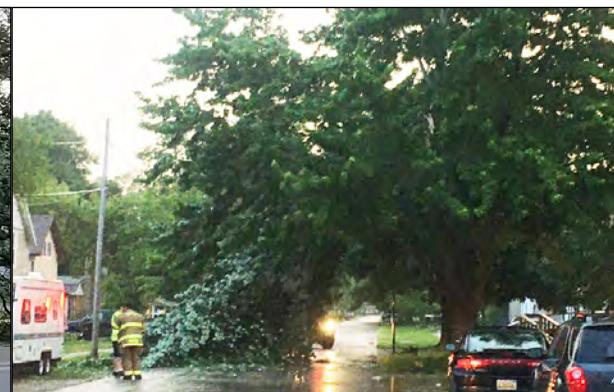
Next, Grinnell updated officials on the grant that was submitted for the sewer camera to be utilized by the Department of Public works, funds were denied and unlikely to be available this year. The cost of the camera is \$10,500. Alternate funding possibilities - Plan B: Village of Elsie \$3,500; Ovid-Elsie Area Schools \$3,500; and Maple Rapids DPW \$3,500. Plan C: Village of Elsie \$2,625; Ovid-Elsie Area Schools \$2,625; Maple Rapids DPW \$2,625 and Ashley DPW \$2,625. The Village of Elsie would house the equipment. Officials approved plan C with all entities paying \$2,625

The Department of Public Works has been busy mowing, caring for the grounds and Round-up sprayed for weed control. Three of the four of the employees have taken vacations on and off, however the department is back to full staff. The DPW recently completed a major flush to the water system, approximately 600,000 gallons of water. There will be routine flushes completed the 2nd week of July, August, September, and October, and flushing the dead-end section every Thursday.

Grinnell, also reported that there are problems with two manhole covers on S. Ovid Street. This is a major issue and will involve conferring with the manufacturer, East Jordan. and the insurance company. It was noted that MCL 691.1403 that states that no government agency is liable for damages or injuries caused by defective highways. It was noted that two vehicles have lost tires. The area has been barricaded to prevent further damage.

Joe Ondrusek, chair, set meeting dates for the ordinance committee Tuesdays, June 16 and 23, 6 pm at the Village. An alternate site, if there are too many attendees to safely meet, the Elsie EMS Base will be utilized.

Monthly action was taken to approve the agenda with the addition of ordinance committee meetings, United Methodist Church property use, and resignation; the minutes of the May 12, virtual meeting, financial reports and the Elsie Police Department report. Officials took action to approve expenditures totaling \$42,716.23.



High winds and heavy rain brought the temperatures down in the area but created havoc on Thursday, June 11th in the process. Down trees were found in Ashley and in the City of Ovid. Once the rains subsided, a beautiful rainbow was present. Photos by Chuck Prikasky, Deb Price and Jaclyn Smith

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Social

Ovid Public Library
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 This service is part of the library board's reopening policy for the safety and good health of patrons and staff. The CDC recommends 24 hours for the virus to become less dangerous, so the curbside service hours will be Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 – 5:00.
 Other times may be made by appointment. Please call the library at 989-834-5800.

Shepardsville UMC
Re-Opening June 14th
submitted by Judy Hazel
 Shepardsville UMC will be re-opening Sunday, June 14 for regular church service at 10:00 a.m. We have put Covid precautions in place. Masks recommended but not mandatory. Please come and join us as we celebrate gathering and worshipping God. We are located at 6990 Winfield Road, Ovid.



Happy 64th Anniversary to the Best Parents Anyone Could Ask For!

Your always there when we need you. We thank you for everything you have done for us and continue to do! Wishing you many more years together.

Love, Jenifer, Lisa, Melissa and Nadine

Harold & Joanne Zimmerman

Elsie Public Library Adventures
submitted by Ann Trierweiler
 Come join us for unique programs and great reading. This summer let us help you enjoy "Imagine Your Story!!!" at the Elsie Public Library! Involving fairytales, fantasy and folklore.
 Any patron may register for the Summer Reading Program online now, but it will officially begin on June 15, 2020, and end on August 15th. We will be using a new online program called Wandoo Reader, through DEMCO. You can sign up to participate in the annual reading challenge from our website (elsiepubliclibrary.weebly.com). Also, tune into Facebook to catch our weekly storytime, which will be posted at 2 pm on Thursdays. So, sign-up to be eligible to win amazing prizes. Rules may be found on our Facebook page or website!
 The Elsie Public Library is now open in Phase 1, which includes Breezeway Pickup. Items can be ordered by phone or by using our online form, which is found on the website. Check out our eCatalog for new books and movies. Please remember that some items might not be available upon the time of request.
 Until we can get things back to normal, check out our new digital resources: Monday Morning Digital Storytime on Facebook and if you like AUDIOBOOKS, COMICS OR MAGAZINES check out the new RBDigital link, which can be found on the opening page of our website. (elsiepubliclibrary.weebly.com).
 For more information about any and all programs or other Summer 2020 activities, please visit the Elsie Public Library website, check FACEBOOK or call 989-862-4633.

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Photo of Eden Dam after it broke devastating the Sanford area

Elsie American Legion Post 502

submitted by Cmdr. Gene Nethaway

Our American Legion Post and the Dollar General in Elsie have started taking donations to help the people that went through the floods when the Eden Dam broke and eventually 5 Dams broke. I've contacted the commander of the Sanford American Legion Post that is handling donations and they are requesting that the people are asking for the following items: they're asking for cleaning supplies (such as soaps, bleach, dish soap and etc), drinking water, hygiene items (baby wipes, tooth paste hand soap and etc.), insect repellent and sun block. You can also donate money and we will take these items up there directly to them and they will get the items out to the people in need. The Elsie Dollar General is open 7 days and has a money donation container and a box if you purchase items. The American Legion will have boxes outside or come inside on the north side of the Post in the Meeting room where we are collecting the items on tables.

As their needs change, we will keep everyone notified as to what their new needs are. Thank you in advance for caring about our fellow Michiganders that is in need of support. If you have any questions contact Gene Nethaway at (989) 834-2438.

Rep. Filler Presents Tribute to EMT

submitted by Shane Carnagie

State Rep. Graham Filler presents an official state tribute to Susan Payne, an EMT with CORE Safety Group, LLC, which has been working with Shambaugh & Son, L.P. to provide services to MWC. "Susan has been an inspiration to our community during this time," Filler said. "Despite the challenges that come with being an EMT during a global pandemic, Susan has gone above and beyond to ensure the health of those on the job site and keep everyone safe during the course of their duties. My hope is that she'll always remember this document as a symbol of appreciation from our grateful community."



St. John's Lions Club Recycling Center Expands Hours

submitted by Roger Dershem

The St. John's Lions Club Recycling Center, 605 N. Swegles St., St. Johns is now OPEN 24 hours Monday thru Friday. No Weekends.

Accepted materials: #1 clear plastic bottles, #2 natural plastic bottles, #2 colored plastic bottles (no other plastic expect bottles); cardboard, newspapers, styrofoam and metal. Eye glasses and ink cartilages.

We also accept refrigerators, freezers, washers and dryers. Absolutely NO TVS and NO TRASH.

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Obituaries

Clare Dean Parker

Clare Dean Parker, 78, of Owosso, MI, passed away Monday, June 8, 2020, at Covenant Medical Center, Saginaw, MI of natural causes.

Clare was born in St. Johns, MI on February 20, 1942, the son of Henry and Opal (Kosht) Parker. He attended Ovid High School. In his teens, Clare joined the U.S. Navy. In the early 1960's, he was aboard the USS William M. Wood, a destroyer in the 6th fleet, in the Mediterranean Sea.

Clare worked at Oldsmobile and was a carpenter for most of his life. He was a member of American Legion Post #502, Elsie.

Clare is survived by 2 sons: Clint Parker and Eric (Laurie Lynne) Parker both of Ovid; daughter Maggie Parker of VA, step-son Jon Elwell of VA, 6 grandchildren and one great grandchild on the way. He is also survived by sister Sandy Kettler of Ovid, brother Keith (Patti) Parker of Ovid, 4 nephews: Gregg (Holly) Criner, Gary (Bob Sauer) Criner, Kristopher Parker, and Kelly (Jodi) Parker; and niece Kimberly (Kip) Scott.

Per Clare's wishes, cremation has taken place and there will be no services. Burial will take place at Maple Grove Cemetery, Ovid at a later date.



The family requests that memorials be made to the Elsie American Legion Post #502 or to the charity of your choice. Online condolences may be left for the family by visiting Clare's obituary at www.smith-familyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes - Houghton Chapel, Ovid, MI.

Wilfred "Bill" Dean Smith

Wilfred "Bill" Dean Smith of Alma, Michigan passed away of natural causes at his home on June 4, 2020, at the age of 76 years. Bill was known to many as "Doc Smith".

On July 27, 1943, Bill was born to Elmer and Josephine (Rasmussen) Smith of Laingsburg, Michigan. He attended Laingsburg Schools until the eighth grade and then graduated from Ovid High School in 1962 as president of his class. Bill went on to attend Michigan State University and earned his Doctor of Veterinarian Medicine in 1967. He moved to Alma, Michigan in 1968 to join in partnership at State Road Animal Hospital. Bill eventually became owner until his "retirement" in 1993 to focus on his farm.

Bill was an accomplished horseman and had a lifelong passion for raising, training, and driving horses. He was happiest holding a pair of lines in his hands. For thirty years he raised Morgan horses, and then transitioned to raising Percheron draft horses and Corriedale sheep with his wife Cary at their home, Serenity Farms. Bill enjoyed sharing his vast knowledge of horses with his family and the many friends he made over the years in the horse industry. Horses and horse people were always a part of Bill's life, and he cherished his memories from the many fairs, horse shows, and field days.

Bill was a 4-H alumnus, former FFA State Officer, board member of the Gratiot County Fair for Youth, Gratiot County Sheriff Posse, and he was instrumental in establishing the Gratiot County Animal Shelter. Bill was a past member of the American Veterinary Association, the Michigan Draft Horse Breeders Association, the Percheron Horse Association of Michigan, and the American Morgan Horse Association.

Bill is survived by his wife of 27 years, Cary Ann (Wilmore) Smith; his children: Julie (Carl) Gelderloos of Boulder, Colorado, Patricia (Daniel) Macha of St. Louis, Michigan, Nakia (Mark) Carter of St. Louis, Michigan, and Alex Strouse of Sanford, Michigan; his grandchildren: Amanda (Travis) Siddall, Benjamin Gelderloos, Dylan Macha, Keith Gelderloos, Mason Carter, and Elliot Carter; his brother Doug (Laura) Smith, sisters-and brothers-in-law: Mary Smith, Linda Smith, Kim (Chris) Wood, Darin (Susan) Wilmore, Michael Wilmore, and Devin Wilmore; special nephews Eric, Wayne, Chris, Phil & Matt Smith; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers: Thomas Smith and Jody Smith; and his granddaughter Amber Fisher.

We rejoice in knowing that he is walking again and driving a team of horses in the eternal green pastures of Heaven.

A Private Memorial Service will be held later this summer. Memorial contributions may be made to the Gratiot County 4-H Council (219 N. State St., Alma, MI 48801).

To leave an online condolences for the family please visit www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Ithaca, MI.



**In Loving Memory of
My Dear Wife
Hazel Paulette Glosch
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**I miss you Cookie.
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Ed**



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<p>Bannister United Methodist Church 103 Hanvey Street Pastor: Zella Daniel Sunday Worship 11:00am</p>	<p>ELSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  160 W. Main St., Elsie e(989) 862-5239</p> <p>Worship Service: 9:30 a.m. Pastor: Ava Williams</p>	<p>St. Cyril Catholic Church Bannister</p> <p>Mass: Sun 10:30am, Wed. 9:00am, Word & Communion Every 3rd Friday at 9am Confession: Sun 11:30am We Welcome You to Come...</p>	<p>LAINGSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 210 CRUM ST. 517-651-5531 Children's Sunday school: 9am Adult Sunday school: 9am and 11:45am Worship: 10am Pastor Brian West laingsburgumc@gmail.com</p>
<p>Duplain Church of Christ 5565 E. Colony Rd. (3 mi. W. of O-E H.S.) Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group Senior Minister: Chuck Emmert Associate Minister: Andrew Goodrich www.duplainchurch.org</p>			

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Pre-Arrangements have you wondering?
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Editorial cont' on page 9



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

It has been another grand week.....filled with many unexpected and delightful times. Started on Sunday afternoon when we ended up having a cook-out. Yes, it was at my home and I only had to fix potatoes to be grilled, make the tossed salad and fix the watermelon for dessert. William prepped and grilled the chicken and dogs. Connie brought over some silo cookies made with white chocolate chips, dried cranberries and nuts.....they were a hit. We laughed and talked and my son-in-law, Brent fixed my steps and trimmed out three small trees.....Diane and William both helped me to dig out a section of the north deck garden. That quack grass is horrible, I had a rough time getting through the grass and the roots.....I felt inadequate.

Connie left us and the rest of us played Monopoly because William had talked us all into doing it. William hasn't lost a game in over thirty years.....he is a very aggressive player. Luck was with us; he not only lost but was the first player to be ousted. Yes, we all played against him. Diane was so tickled about his loss that she wrote it on her calendar and then sent out some photos. We all enjoyed the game and the company.....laughter filled the air.

So today I was taking the great clumps of weeds that had dried off and wacked them on the bottom of the wagon. Because the bottom of the wagon is a steel mesh the dirt became granular as it sifted through and formed a pile. All of the roots stayed on top of the mesh and I picked the roots out and tossed them into the burn pile. Finally I was able to plant four Hostas, Lavender, Silvia, and a new Sedum. I still have a butterfly bush, Daylilies, and a few other plants to get into the ground. Then Deb stopped by at noon to pick up some sweet pepper plants.....I started some from last year's crop and have a plethora of yellow, orange and red.

While working on the flowers I kept hearing a great deal of buzzing but at first couldn't find the source. Then Zach let out a whoop and started racing to the house. "Look Grandma, the bees are falling out of the trees". Not quite what was happening, I looked up and viewed the swarm of bees hanging in my Maple tree. It only lasted about three hours but it did hold our interest. I tried getting in touch with Ken but he must have been out in the fields so no one was able to capitalize on the new swarm.

I also received the estimate to install a new furnace, which will be propane...I've already found someone to use the fuel oil from the old furnace. Now I only need to find a way to move the empty barrel and cradle so that I can get them sold and out of the way. Also, I need to get with my co-op to find out how to get a large propane tank out here installed and filled. Money, money, money.....sure wish I had some more. I also have to make everyone understand where the drain field and septic tank are located so that they are not damaged. Life is good.

Yesterday morning my neighbor ladies and I made a run up to the Clare Amish Hardware to pick up our canning supplies. Since it was expected to be in the nineties I'm glad that Barb supplied the transportation.....her air conditioning is top notch. Julie was the driver and I was the navigator....we had a wonderful time.

And then I got caught in the downpour Wednesday as I helped Diane put her chickens into their coop. It was a riot.....the youngsters had figured out how to get out of the coop but not how to reverse the process. They were soaked and we got soaked as we caught and passed them through into their coop. Diane and I both now rain soft hair.....

May your life experiences be filled with gleeful moments where you are navigating and enjoying those unexpected events. Connect with others and enjoy God's blessings. Have a great week and use your common sense. Bless you.

Crystal Mitchell ©2020

MDARD Announces Public Input Opportunity for 2021 Rule Development Fund Grants Guidelines

submitted by Jessy Sielski

LANSING—The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development today announced a public input opportunity for the Rural Development Fund Grants Program.

To ensure effective program priorities, MDARD is requesting public input by emailing comments to mda-grants@michigan.gov by Thursday, July 2, 2020.

The grant funds, established by Public Act 411 of 2012, are aimed to promote the sustainability of land-based industries (food and agriculture; forestry; mining, oil and gas production; and tourism). Currently established priorities include infrastructure development, workforce training, business development, and rural capacity building that benefits rural communi-

ties.

Currently, eligible counties include those with a population no greater than 60,000 residents or micropolitan statistical areas. Preference is given to projects in Marquette County.

All interested parties may visit www.michigan.gov/mdard-grants for more information about Rural Development Fund grants and to review the 2020 guidelines. Please submit all public comments to mda-grants@michigan.gov by 5:00 p.m. on July 2, 2020, with the subject line "2020 Rural Development Public Comment." The input received will be considered when developing final grant guidelines for 2021.



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Home Improvement

Container Gardening Tips

Gardening is beneficial in various ways. The AARP states that some of the health perks associated with gardening include improved mood, increased vitamin D levels (which benefits bones and immune system) and reduced risk of dementia. In addition, if gardening efforts include growing herbs, fruits and vegetables, it can be a cost-effective way to eat healthy.



For gardeners without sufficient space or for those with mobility issues, container gardening can be an ideal way to grow everything from flowers to vegetables. Better Homes & Gardens says most plants

are not fussy about the containers in which they grow so long as some of their basic needs are met. This means watering correctly for the type of plant, and ensuring sufficient drainage.

The following are some other ways container gardening efforts can prove successful.

- Watch water. Planet Natural Research Center says plants with thin leaves typically need ample water, and plants with thick leaves need less. Use this as a guideline to gauge water needs.

- Size correctly. Plants should be sized to the container. Consider dwarf varieties of certain plants if your containers are small.

- Choose the right soil. Fill containers with a commercial potting soil rather than soil from the garden. Garden soil can dry into a solid mass, while commercial mixtures have amendments like peat moss, vermiculite, compost, and other ingredients to help with soil texture and moisture retention.

- Mix it up. When planting containers of flowers and other greenery, Good Housekeeping says to include "a thriller, a spiller and a filler" as a good rule of thumb. The thriller is the focal point, the spiller a trailing plant, and a filler has smaller leaves or flowers to add bulk and color.

- Poke holes. Drainage holes are essential so that soil will not become waterlogged. Holes don't need to be large, but there should be enough of them so that excess water can drain out readily.

- Select the right container material. Container materials may be affected by gardeners' budgets, personal taste and other factors. For those who live in hot climates, selecting a light-colored container can help prevent further soil heat absorption.

Container gardening is a healthy and enjoyable activity that can pay dividends in various ways.



3 Perennial Gardening Pointers

Gardening is an engaging hobby that can provide a host of benefits, some of which may surprise even the most devoted gardeners. For example, the Harvard Medical School notes that just 30 minutes of gardening activities burns 135 calories, making gardening a fun and simple way to incorporate more exercise into your daily routine. In addition, scientists have long proven that gardening releases the hormones serotonin and dopamine in the brain, each of which are associated with improved mood.

Perennial gardens can be especially attractive to seasoned gardeners and novices. Perennials are plants that come back year after year, and committing to a perennial garden can ensure people stick with gardening for the long haul, reaping all of the rewards that come with making such a commitment.

Before planting a perennial garden, those new to gardening may want to consider these three tips.

1. Make a plan.

A perennial garden comes back year after year, which means any mistakes you make when planting are likely to haunt you year after year as well. Factors like space and location must be considered before planting. Many gardeners utilize garden planning applications like GrowVeg to make the process of planning a garden simpler and more organized. Such applications can be especially useful for novices.

2. Consider aesthetics.

Gardens can be awe-inspiring, especially when gardeners consider aesthetics prior to planting. The DIY Network advises gardeners to consider scale before choosing which perennials to plant. Tall plants and wide beds tend to look best outside large homes, while short plants in small beds tend to look better outside small homes.

3. Work with a professional.

Local garden centers can be excellent resources when planning perennial gardens. Representatives at such businesses can offer tips on native plants, which will be more likely to thrive year after year than non-natives. Such representatives also can help you choose the right plants based on the amount of sunlight the plants will likely get after being planted. Each of these factors can be easily overlooked by people without much gardening experience.

Perennial gardens can provide years of joy and inspiration, especially when gardeners give ample attention to certain details prior to planting.

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Avoiding Ticks & Mosquito Bites

submitted by Grace Czubachowski

As summer quickly approaches and we begin to spend more time outside, it is important to protect yourself against ticks and mosquito-borne diseases. Take precautions when walking your dog, camping, gardening, or hunting when you are in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas.

After coming indoors, check your clothing and animals for ticks. Ticks may be carried into your home on your clothing or through your pet. If you find a tick, they should be removed. If you need to wash your clothes, do so in hot water or tumble dry your clothes for at least 10 minutes to kill ticks. Showering within two hours of coming indoors can reduce the risk of Lyme Disease and other tickborne diseases.

Shiawassee County residents can take simple, everyday precautions to protect themselves against vector-borne illnesses that can be transmitted through mosquito and tick bites by doing the following:

- Use an EPA-approved insect repellent: When outdoors, use insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535 or oil of lemon eucalyptus on exposed skin and/or clothing. Always follow the directions on the package.

- Wear protective clothing: Wear long sleeves and pants when weather permits.

- Keep mosquitoes from laying eggs near you: Mosquitoes can lay eggs even in small amounts of standing water. Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water from flower pots, bird baths, kid's toys/pools, and tires.

- Landscape for tick prevention: Keep the grass mowed, remove leaf litter, brush and weeds at the edge of the lawn.

- Perform regular tick checks: Ticks can attach to any part of the human body, but prefer body creases and areas with hair such as the groin, armpit, ankle and scalp. Be sure to check yourself, your kids, and pets for ticks after spending time outdoors.

Submit a tick or "tick pic" to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to have an expert help identify what kinds of ticks you find or download "The Tick App" to show you how to avoid ticks and tick-borne diseases. Find more information about emerging vector-borne illnesses at www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases.



Improve Comfort When Dining Outdoors

Warm weather entices people to enjoy long hours outside basking in the sun or relaxing on balmy evenings. Many of the activities people once reserved for indoors when temperatures were chilly, including dining, are moved outside as the weather warms.

Even though outdoor dining can be quite enjoyable, certain factors need to be considered to ensure that each experience is as pleasurable as possible. This means focusing on comfort whenever meals are taken out-of-doors.

Address insects

Insects are equal opportunity invaders. Once they smell sweet or savory food items, they quickly descend for an easy bite. This means extra steps are necessary to dissuade insects from coming by. Invest in citronella candles, which can be placed around the patio to repel flying bugs. Clean up crumbs and spills promptly. Bees and wasps can be lured away with sweet traps placed around the perimeter of the property.

Offer shade

Too much sun can make outdoor meals less enjoyable. A patio umbrella, pergola or canopy can cut down on glare and make the dining area more comfortable. Check to see that the shade source can be adjusted to guard against the sun as it moves across the sky.

Dress up seating

Just because furniture is made for outside doesn't mean it has to be uncomfortable. Many companies now produce very durable and attractive outdoor furniture. Weather-resistant fabrics mean rain or sunlight will not age items too quickly.

Reusable place settings

If you frequently dine outdoors, you may want to dine in style. Instead of disposable paper or plastic place settings, invest in colorful, durable, reusable plastic dishes, glasses and flatware, which will not break if dropped and can hold up to a dishwasher when it is time to clean up.

Create the right ambiance

Invest in outdoor lighting, candles and hidden speakers to pipe in music and create ambiance. Install privacy screens and foliage to establish a nice nook for outdoor dining.

Outdoor dining areas can be improved with some easy modifications to existing spaces.

Home Improvement



Did You Know?

When planning spring landscapes, homeowners should always group plants with similar water needs together. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, grouping plants with similar water needs together helps to conserve water, which can be an especially useful strategy if or when drought restrictions go into effect in summer.

Homeowners also can embrace additional strategies to landscape with water conservation in mind. For example, aerating soil helps to improve water flow to plants' roots and reduces water runoff, helping to ensure that plants get all of the water they need while reducing the likelihood that homeowners will have to use excessive amounts of water to keep plants healthy. In addition, using low-water-using types of grass can help homeowners who live in areas prone to drought conserve water while still maintaining lush, green lawns.



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DuPlain Township Proceedings

by Dawn D. Levey

ELSIE - The regular meeting of the DuPlain Township Board was held Wednesday, June 10, 2020. The teleconference meeting was highlighted by the appointment of election inspectors for the August 4, 2020 primary and the impacts of COVID in the township and county.

Monthly action was taken to approve the agenda; the minutes of the May 9 special meeting and the May 13, 2020 regular meeting; and the financial reports. Further action was taken to amend the budget by transferring \$581.84 from unallocated balance to line item 01977 - Computer Maintenance and approving expenditures totaling \$3,910.10.

Richard Bates, township clerk, requested that the following election inspectors be approved for the August 4, 2020 Primary Election: Phyllis Moore (chair); John Lalonde, Kathleen Pattison, JoAnn Fogarty, Emelie Schoch and Lynette Miller. In addition, that the following election inspectors be appointed to the Receiving Board for the August 4, 2020 Primary election Phyllis Moore and JoAnn Fogarty. Officials approved the recommendations.

Bates also commented that preparation for the 2020 election cycle is ever changing due to COVID and other changes in election law.

COVID-19 is having an impact on the way business is conducted across the board. Amy Bowen, treasurer, due to COVID, requested that a drop-box be installed at the township hall for tax-collection. All members were in agreement and authorized that up to \$200 be utilized for the purchase and installation of the box.

Dr. Mark Holley, township assessor, reported that due to a recent executive order and a belief that due process did not take place regarding the March Board of Review a day will be scheduled in July. It was noted that Duplain Township had completed the Board of Review prior to COVID-19 quarantine

orders. A July Board of Review is slated for July 21, 2020, 10:30-11:30 pm, DuPlain Township Hall.

Kam Washburn, County Commissioner, reported that COVID has reinvented how the county does business, as well. The tracking of the of COVID-19 has been going on for 91 days. The Clinton County Emergency Operations Center, reported that there were 145 positive cases in Clinton County, and 11 deaths. Emergency protocols were implemented for the court house, jail and Emergency Center as outlined by the Governor's office. All employees were sent home except essential services, all were on paid administrative leave. Also, instituted a daily EOC meeting, until this week, now meetings are taking place three-days per week. All departments remained COVID free. The County has entered the virtual world. The courthouse opened up Monday, June 8, 2020, there is a strict procedure in place that adheres to the Governor's guidelines before entering the Court House

Hard decisions were made and continue to be made. The Clinton County fair grounds are closed until the end of the year; 4-H Youth Fair has been cancelled. Motz Park is open for use and is being utilized, bathroom facilities are sanitized regularly. Intense sanitizing is taking place at the courthouse and the jail.

Next, Washburn, gave a 911 update the bond sales will take place the week of June 22. He noted that Clinton County has an excellent bond rating.

He noted that challenges are continuous as parts of the county government are reopened. For example, jury selection completed virtually, additionally, due process for the court system for the accused to face the accuser, in a safe manner.

In other actions officials approved a voluntary contribution to Michigan Township Association legal fees in the amount of \$36.56. Levey reported that the township received a \$375.07 dividend check from the Michigan Township Participating Plan.



Laingsburg Board of Education

submitted by Krissy Pratt

Laingsburg Community Schools Board of Education will conduct a regular meeting on Wednesday, June 17, 2020. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm in the Middle School Media Center.

The major tentative agenda items for this meeting include the following: 2019-20 Budget Update, 2020-21 Budget Proposal, 2020-21 Board of Education Calendar, 2020 Tax Levy L-4029 Resolution, Legislative Update, District Staffing Update, Bond Design Finance Update, August Sinking Fund, Proposal Update, MHSAA 2020-21 Membership Resolution, 2020-21 General Fund Operating Loan, 2020-21 State Aid Note Resolution and any other business that may properly come before the board.

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Editorial continued from page 5



Have a Question for Andy?
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Is it too Soon to go Back to “Normal” Activities?

Dear Andy,

Do you think it is too soon to send everyone back to work and open public spaces and restaurants? I am still afraid for my family, myself, and others to go out into public and think I am going to be immune to the COVID 19 virus. I miss going shopping, to church, to the beach and have cancelled 2 planned vacations during this time for continued distancing. I feel safe at home but have anxiety attacks when I go to the grocery store. Lately, everyone seems to be letting their guard down and I am concerned that we are going to have a second wave due to people not continuing to be careful or taking precautions. Is it too soon to go back to our normal activities?

Scared

Dear Scared,

No one is immune to the Novel Coronavirus. This virus is scary because there is no evidence that if having it once, you could be immune to contracting the virus again. This virus is scary because there is no specific cure or a vaccine to prevent it. But, there is no doubt in my mind there will be a cure and a vaccine developed soon. I have been following the CDC progress in development and it appears they are closer to finding a vaccine by testing antibodies from patients who have survived.

Just last week, Robert Redfield, CDC Director addressed the same question you are asking. Each state is making determinations as the numbers drop in their state. Each state continues to have a Coronavirus Hot Spots. According to the New York Times, Michigan is #22 on the list with the Hot Spot in Wayne County, with 21,570 cases. Detroit was hit hardest in the past 3 months, however as of Tuesday this past week, the Detroit News reported less than 500 Statewide with current data announcing 245 in critical care and 150 on ventilators.

As people are going back to work slowly and going to restaurants, golf courses and churches it is imperative to follow Michigan guidelines and the recommendations from our Michigan Health Department. People are still instructed to wear a mask and disinfect your homes, wash your hands, and limit the places and the number of people you come in contact with when you are out grocery shopping or involved in outdoor activities. Churches are going back, asking people to sit with their immediate family with space and personal contact 6 feet apart and to wear a mask with only 100 in each group.

My husband and I went out to dinner for our anniversary this week. It was our first sit down experience since Friday March 13, 2020. We wore a mask into the restaurant and when we left. Other guests were seated at least 10 feet apart. Greeters and wait staff wore masks and served us with a smile underneath. The restaurant was clean and appropriate precautions were taken. I felt liberated. We could hear the music with less people in the room. It was nice to be out and we had wonderful service. Everyone followed the restaurant guidelines, waiting 6 feet apart. Respectful to each other's space. I felt safe.

My advice...stay home as much as you can until we have a cure or zero new cases. Follow the recommended guideline; wear a mask and understand that not everyone agrees with taking precautions so use disinfectants where others have had contact. I would recommend being careful and until mandatory testing is available or a vaccine is developed, we will not be ready to reopen 100 % safely or be back to “normal”. We will make it through this together. So, take a deep breath and relax. Anxiety comes from worry and worry is a misuse of your imagination.

Andy @ask_andy@aol.com



Religious Thoughts

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

Forgiveness

How do you feel when you are wrongly accused?
 How do you feel when people talk bad about you to others?
 When you're the item of gossip?
 How would you like to react?
 When you're at the center of slander, gossip, what is your recourse or plan of action?

The first thing that we should do is to cry out to God for help. When we have been treated unfairly or unjustly, God is the first Place where we should turn. To God is where we should pour out our hearts. Giving Him all of our hurt, pain and frustration.

From there, we can pray for God to come to our aid to either make the person stop sinning against us or to protect us or remove us from harm.

While different circumstances call for different courses of action, for the Christian there is always at least one thing that we are to do- forgive.

How are we to forgive? Here are 4 basic steps-

1. Remember that it's biblical. God is the one telling us to do this. If we take the Bible seriously as God's Word, then we are going to make an effort to forgive and, where we can, reconcile with the other person.

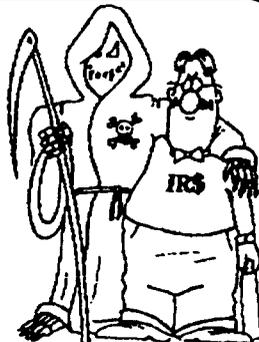
2. See your sin in the light of God's holiness. We are to always forgive because God has forgiven us the debt of our sins against Himself. Our debts to one another pale in comparison to our debt before the Lord. When people sin against us, the wounds they create are serious and they hurt, but they can never measure up to the pain we have caused God for all of our sins.

3. Ask God for strength. Sometimes forgiveness, true forgiveness, can only come from God helping us to do so. Don't be afraid to ask Him for strength and help.

4. Lastly, after having asked God for help against those who hurt us, for them to stop the hurting and for us to have the strength and ability to forgive, at the end of the day, we focus on God and rejoice in Him. We give God thanks. Thanks for working in our situation for good and thanks again for forgiving us all of our sins, even when we weren't worthy of it.

As Romans 5:8 says, “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (NIV)

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CITY OF OVID SYNOPSIS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING May 28, 2020

You may acquire a copy of the full set of minutes at the Municipal Building located at 114 E. Front Street, Ovid.

Mayor Lasher, explained that due to the pandemic and the Stay Safe order by the Governor we once again will be conducting the Special Council meeting, practicing social distancing and via teleconference.

Mayor Lasher opened the special meeting at 7:00 p.m. He led the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Lasher asked that the Clerk take roll call.

PRESENT: Ms. Perrien, Mr. Brown, Mr. Lasher Mr. Williams Miss. Mr. Zwick (by phone), Miss Hibbard and Mr. Ordiway (by phone).

ABSENT: None

EXOFFIOS: Liza Kusnier – Treasurer and Josefina Medina - Clerk

VISITORS: None and no one attended the teleconference other than the two Council members.

Mayor Lasher explained that we will be discussing the information on the millage rate for the 2020 summer tax collection and the utility billing special assessment.

Treasurer Kusnier presented her report. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Williams to accept the Treasurer's report as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mayor Lasher read resolution 2020-07. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Williams to adopt resolution 2020-07 as read. Roll call was taken as follows; YEAS: Ms. Perrien, Miss Hibbard, Mr. Brown, Mr. Williams, Mr. Zwick (by phone), Mr. Ordiway (by phone) and Mr. Lasher.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

The resolution will be published in its entirety in the Weekly.

2. Mayor Lasher asked that resolution 2020-08 be stipulated that it was read into record. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Mr. Williams to adopt resolution 2020-08 as read. Roll call was taken as follows: YEAS: Miss Hibbard, Mr. Williams, Mr. Brown, Mr. Zwick (by phone), Mr. Ordiway (by phone), Ms. Perrien, and Mr. Lasher.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

The resolution will be published in its entirety in the Weekly.

3. Discussion was held on changing the date for the regularly, scheduled meeting for June. A motion was made by Mr. Brown, second by Miss Hibbard to change council meeting from the 8th of June to the 15th of June so that we can conduct the public hearing for the Truth in Taxation before the regular meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Lasher closed meeting at 7:32 pm.

*Josefina Medina, Clerk
 City of Ovid*

Elsie Food Bank

The Elsie Area Food Bank has experienced double to triple activity since the COVID-19 outbreak.

Distribution days are Monday and Wednesday beginning at 8am til 9:30am or until all have been served. Free produce days are the first Tuesday and 3rd Thursday of each month. Food for the Elsie Area Food Bank mainly comes from the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

To make a donation to the Elsie Area Food Bank, please send a check or money order to them at PO Box 311, Elsie MI 48831. The food bank is located at 225 N. Ovid Street in Elsie (across the street from the Elsie American Legion Post 502). For more information call (989)388-8717.

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Editorial

Father's Day Turkey

This weekend a very good friend of the Weekly Sportsman, Brian Began, will be celebrating Father's Day with his family by dining on a recently harvested wild turkey. Most families may have a cookout with steaks and or burgers but the Began family will share not only food but also a hunting experience. As Brian and his father Bill prepare the turkey on the grill this weekend it will complete a hunter's pursuit that started in November during firearm gun season.

This last year's deer season for Brian was not as successful in terms of antlers and inches when compared to the previous season. But he did spend some nice time in the out of doors and hours watching wild turkeys wander around the woods and fields. Little did he know that his "deer hunting" was actually serving as beneficial pre-season turkey scouting. A few months later in March he hit the woods again and searched for fresh sign and set up a trail cam which in time showed numerous toms and jakes wandering around the back corner of the farm. Several pics from the trail cam indicated activity from several jakes and a very, very large tom.



The Weekly Sportsman

by Dan McMaster
theweklysportsman@meridianweekly.com

Here is the hunt in Brian's own words...

"I arrived maybe an hour early to put my decoys out and get set up in my blind. Using my old box call I yelped which I was not sure if it sounded right, I tried getting tips from youtube videos but those guys make everything sound more complicated than it is, so my advice is it's best to probably ignore them. Early on I heard some gobbling somewhere in the distance behind me. It was likely several hundred yards away, so I did my best to call it in. Around 7:30 two hens had walked up in front of my blind and hung out for the duration of my hunt. They did give me some distance by walking out no more than 25-30 yds. I made a mistake that could've cost me when at 7:56 my phone started vibrating as I thought I turned off notifications and thought to myself ****. Reaching into my pocket I fixed the problem. Though at 7:50 I started hearing gobbling again, this time from a different corner of the property thinking it was going to walk over, and maybe around the time of my cell incident I heard the gobbling again



from behind me and this time it was getting louder, a few seconds would go by and get louder as I could start hearing the approach as I got my gun in position and out of the corner of my eye this big Tom comes strutting out heading to the hens. He made a slight turn giving me a clear shot and BANG! A perfect shot to the neck/head at 8:05 from about 12 yds. Just as I was about to fire out of the corner of my eye I saw maybe 2 toms behind him who ran off as I fired while the hens just casually walked off. I look forward to turkey hunting again in the fall."

Brian did his homework and spent many hours last fall and this spring scouting. Scouting is probably the most beneficial preparation for bagging a turkey, especially a very large tom. While this tom was quite large and when dressed weighed over 22 lbs but it fell just short of making the CBM record book by about 1/4 of an inch because of a ground down spur. Brian could really care less as he told the Weekly Sportsman he was "very happy with it." Hats off to Brian for sharing part of the experience with his father and family on this special weekend.

-WS

Sports

Wolfpack Fall Sports Practices Underway for 2020 Season

LAINGSBURG -- Great news for fans of Wolfpack athletics.

Things are getting ... well, somewhat back to normal ... in the middle of a COVID-19 pandemic that canceled the prep spring sports seasons.

LHS athletic director Jason Dykstra announced last week that summer training camps for the 2020 fall sports season are open on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Sessions will be held at Laingsburg Middle School, outside from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. for varsity athletes, and 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. for sub-varsity teams.



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