

2021 Laingsburg Homecoming Court



Queen Candidates Front (l-r): Daisy Wilson, Leilani Johnson, Myia Brook, Lorna Strieff.
King Candidates Back row (l-r): Curtis Antcliff, Nolan Gregg, Shane Stahl, Alex Brown.
Photo by Tom Turek

Weekend Fun During Carriage Days



Chili Cook-Off Winner **BBQ Rib Winner**



Weekend Fun: (Above) Parade Marshals, Willann & Bud Casler enjoyed their carriage ride as they waved to people along the parade route on Saturday, September 11th. (Below) Sisters, Holly Hibbard and Heather Stinson won the festival chili cook-off finishing first in both the judges and people's voting. Four contestants took part in the BBQ Rib Contest, the Pit Boss Team took home the winning trophy. See pages 6&7 for more Carriage Days photos.

Photos by Deb Price

Dorman House Sold in Elsie

by Dawn D. Levey

ELSIE – The September meeting of the Elsie village council was held Tuesday, September 14, 2021. Action was taken to approve the sale of the Dorman House.

The Dorman House committee presented a recommendation to officials. It was recommended that the Dorman House be sold for \$1 to Joe and Barb Montes. The Montes presented their proposal to Village officials. The proposal outlined the timeline for moving the house, prior to winter, to a location on S. Ovid Street within the Village and their plans to clean-up the current location after the house is moved. The family plans to restore the house to its historically accurate origin. Officials approved the recommendation. It was noted that Dorothy Ornelas, trustee, abstained from voting. Mrs. Phyllis Dorman-Acre was very pleased with the council decision.

Shane Grinnell, village manager, was directed to work with the village attorney and the Montes family to develop a contract/agreement outlining the details of the sale.

In related action, officials approved through consensus, to develop the vacated site into a memorial park recognizing the branches of the US Military, EMS, police and fire. It was suggested that a pavilion be built on the site as well.

Officials took formal action to adopt Village Ordinance 174, known as the 2021 updated code and ordinance book. Copies of the updated book are available on the website and at the Village business office.

In other actions officials accepted the resignation of Officer Tahvonen who accepted a position with the Gratiot County Sheriff's Department. Grinnell and the police chief have conducted an interview to fill the patrol officer position; officials will be updated at a later date.

Grinnell updated officials about ongoing projects. He has met with the AMKO rep regarding the refinancing of the lagoon system. The details are being finalized in hopes of having a proposal prepared for the October council meeting.

Next, Grinnell presented the cost of purchasing a mini excavator and front-end loader to replace the backhoe at a cost of approximately \$150,000. He explained that it would be possible to apply for a USDA grant, 75% covered by the grant and a commitment of 25% by the village. Discussion followed. Grinnell was advised to add a trailer into the grant request. It was noted that the Village utilized the same grant to purchase the police car in 2020.

Shane Grinnell updated officials about several code enforcement violations. He then outlined the steps that have been taken to address the blight issue at 460 N. Ovid Street. The property owner has been notified with no response. A meeting was held with the Village attorney where the next steps were discussed. The attorney advised the Village could clean up the blight issues and the costs incurred would be added to the property taxes. Grinnell reported that a dumpster would be ordered and the property cleaned up.

Lastly, Grinnell updated officials on the status of the American Rescue Act Fund. The Village of Elsie is looking at receiving approximately \$109,000. The use of the funds is very restrictive. The funds cannot be used for paving roads or sidewalks. However, the funds could be used for updating the sewer and water alarm systems, and then the remaining could go toward a DPW building addition. The use of funds for this project is providing social distancing the DPW staff from the other staff. If this plan is approved it would also include making the current DPW office and storage area into a council/community room. Grinnell was directed to secure quotes for engineering prints so the proposal can be investigated further.

A representative from the Elsie Fall Festival was present to give an update on the activities planned for October 2 Festival. Signs and road closures will take place Saturday morning of the Elsie Fall Festival.

Monthly action was taken to approve the meeting agenda with the addition of adoption of ordinance 175 and the blight issue at 460 N Ovid Street; approval of the August 10, 2021 minutes, financial reports and the monthly police report. In addition, officials approved expenditures totaling \$110,927.71, noting that the increase in expenditures was due to the payment of the lift station pumps which was an insurance claim.

Meridian Weekly

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Social



Golden Anniversary for the Kurkas

Gary and Beverly Kurka of Ovid are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, September 25th. They were married at the Carland United Methodist Church and danced the night away at the Elsie Legion Hall with the Bob Hubbard Band. They have three children, Kristyn Kurka of Lapeer, Karyn (Joshua) Tuma of Ovid, and Mike Kurka of Ovid. Gary and Beverly are also extremely fortunate to have four beautiful grandchildren- Aubrey (14), Mason (11), Grace (9), and Olivia (9).

Congratulations on 50 years of standing side by side through the laughter, sorrow, joy, and tears.

Clarkson Band at Bannister UMC

submitted by Deb Smith

The Clarkson Band will be at the Bannister United Methodist Church parking lot on Sunday, September 26th at 5pm.

Bring a chair for outdoor seating (will move inside if inclement weather).

Popcorn and beverages provided.

Join us for a music filled evening of fellowship.

Free will offering.

Bannister ZCJB Lodge #225

submitted by Joanne Fornusek

The Sept. 12th meeting of ZCJB Lodge #225 was called to order by Pres. Robert Ladiski. Following the Pledge of Allegiance a moment of silence was observed and the Lord's Prayer recited in memory of Frank Mikus. Members extend prayers and sympathy to his family and friends. Correspondence included several thank you cards from Ashley teachers and students expressing appreciation for the lodge's support for the "Stuff the Bus Project". Through the efforts of United Way of Gratiot and Isabella Counties all elementary schools in the two counties were given a gift card for needed classroom supplies. A thank you was also received from the Elsie Area Foodbank for sponsoring the "Walk to End Hunger" and the donations received. Committee member Amy Fornusek reported that, thanks to over 100 participants and 35 businesses and community groups, \$7,759 was raised in cash donations and \$575 in non-perishable food items.

Ed Fornusek reported on the Fraternal Advisory Board meeting he attended at the home office in Madison, Wisconsin. He updated the members on the transition from Western Fraternal Life to Better Life Insurance.

Members voted to donate \$300 to the Ashley Fire Department Auxiliary in gratitude for all their help and support.

The lodge will hold its annual Holiday Bazaar on Oct. 30th from 9am-3pm. A luncheon of homemade soups, sandwiches and pies will be available. Czech bakery, yeast dumplings, garnet jewelry, culture products, cook books and baking sheets will be sold by ZCJB #225. Table renters will also offer a wide variety of products.

Adopt-a-Highway pick up will take place on Sept. 26th. Volunteers are asked to meet at Phillips Orchard on US 127 at 3:00pm.

Cash door prize winners were Teresa Ladiski, Katherine Hucko, and Joe Smolka. Happy birthday wishes were sung to Amy Fornusek. Get well wishes were sent to several members.

Upcoming events:

Oct. 10 regular lodge meeting 1:30 pm

Oct. 30 Holiday Bazaar 9am-3pm.

Nov. 14 Memorial service at Bannister Veterans Monument 1:00; Regular lodge meeting 1:30pm; Presentation of Toys for Tots to Gratiot County Marine Corps.

Dec. 5 Meeting 10:30 am; Potluck Dinner at noon, followed by Christmas Program

Dec. 28 Red Cross Blood Drive



Ovid Library Book Sale

The Ovid Public Library will be continuing our book sale after carriage days. We still have plenty of books to choose from. If you weren't able to make it to our sale during Carriage Days be sure to stop in and find something to read. All sales are by donation. Come and help support your local library!

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Calling All Senior Bingo Players

The Clinton County Senior Center is offering Bingo to senior citizens on Tuesdays and Fridays starting at 1:30 pm each day. The cost is \$1.50 per person and each person wins 5 prizes (most are food or personal products).

Lunch is available at noon before Bingo for a \$3.50 donation. These meals are also available for take out.

The Senior Center is located at 201 E Walker Street in St. Johns and is currently open Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays between 9 am - 3 pm. Come and enjoy good meals, play games, put together a puzzle, play Euchre or just socialize.

Any questions, please call 989-224-4257.

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DuPlain Township Proceedings

by Dawn D. Levey

DUPLAIN – The regular meeting of DuPlain Township was held Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 7:30 pm at the DuPlain Township Hall. Numerous guests were present to update officials on the status of current and future projects.

Ms. Ailie Weaver, representative of Maner Costerisan, presented the DuPlain Township audit review. The overall opinion was unmodified or a clean opinion which is the best that an entity can achieve. Currently the township is in very sound financial shape, unassigned fund balance is 93% well over the recommended threshold of 15-20%. Another indicator that DuPlain Township is in sound financial state. Under the heading of internal there was a repeat recommendation which involves the journaling of expenditures.

Dr. Mark Holley, assessor, was present to introduce Jennings West the newly appointed Ovid Township Supervisor.

Officials welcomed the Clinton County Road Commission for their annual visit Doug Stephon updated officials on the status of the 2021 road work. DuPlain Township had a substantial amount of road work completed in 2021. It was recommended that the township begin identifying the road projects being considered for 2022.

Melissa Schutt, executive director, of Clinton Transit was present to update officials on the status of the transit system. The transit authority is running more trips today than in the past. Ms. Schutt will return in a few months for a formal presentation. September 21, 2021 a 20th anniversary celebration will be held at the authority location. Schutt noted that participation increased during the pandemic and partnered with local entities to deliver meals and groceries to residents of the county. Clinton transit did not close its doors during the era of COVID which accounts for the success of the service.

The Elsie Fire Association will be writing up an authority agreement minus the power of taxation. The authority approach opens up additional grant opportunities. It was noted and questioned regarding the entities with the greater populous will have a louder voice at the table.

Kam Washburn presented the County Commissioners report. First, the COVID update for the county. New COVID cases one week ago 150, overall 8,299 confirmed cases within Clinton County; currently 96 active, 1 new hospitalization, 1 death, and 92 overall deaths. Rate of vaccination 12-15 year olds - 44.9%, 16+ 66.3%. The current sources of spread are increasing in the schools.

Next, Washburn update officials on the county approach to the American Rescue Act Funds, a consultant has been hired to oversee the federal funds, Guide House has been contracted. The rules for townships are different than those of the county. Currently infrastructure is being evaluated to utilize the funds for current and future projects. It is possible the funds could be used for the projects or part of the funds. The projects must be identified by 2024 and monies spent by 2026.

The Clinton County budget process is underway, currently the federal funds are not considered in the budget. The census data has been received and redistricting of the county is underway and should be done by the end of September.

Regarding DuPlain Township the township is expected to receive approximately \$148,000 from the American Rescue Act grant, noting that the grant application is pending.

Monthly action was taken to approve the meeting agenda, minutes of the August meeting and financial statements and reports. Officials took action to approve expenditures totaling \$23,72.33 and \$500 for Elsie Fire Association and \$11,030.



Root Doctor



Rib Joint Jokers



Wet Paint

The Bottom of the Hill Blues Festival

submitted by Ronda Liskey

One of the area's last outdoor music events of the season, The Bottom of the Hill Blues Festival will be big fun! The event takes place in the street in front of Twilligers Tavern in Laingsburg on Saturday, September 25th! The festival features a new band in the Greater Lansing region, The Rib Joint Jokers! The players in this band are some of Lansing's most loved and seasoned musicians. All have been in other popular Lansing bands, and this new configuration of talent promises to deliver fantastic music! This band's personnel: Mike Daniels, Scott Allman, Gary Day, Steve Doc Yankee, and Harry Oman! Contact Gary Day, 517- 358-2615

Also Headlining this festival: Root Doctor!

This is one of the final performances on their Farewell Tour. Root Doctor always cures what ails you! Freddie Cunningham, lead vocals, has decided to retire The Root Doctor Band at the end of this year. This is one of the last opportunities to hear this group! Root Doctor has been voted Lansing's Best Blues or Jazz Band many times over their 3 decades + lifespan, in Lansing City Pulse's Top of the Town, contest. They are well known and well loved all across the state.

For more info regarding Root Doctor, Contact: Marge Mooney 517 881-8158

Wet Paint is the name of the 3rd band visitors will enjoy at The Bottom of the Hill Blues Festival.

They will be bringing the heat with their many talented players. Tad Mullins will set the street on fire with his hard drivin' harmonica sound! All in all this will be a very satisfying day of Music and Dancin' in the street! Contact: Tad Mullins: 517 242-3275

The Schedule: 4-6 Rib Joint Jokers

6-8 Wet Paint

8-11 Root Doctor

Twilligers Tavern is located at 116 E. Grand River, Downtown Laingsburg. There will be a \$10 Admission Fee. Guests should bring a chair, and their dancing shoes! The show goes on rain or shine, if inclement weather the music will be indoors! For more information contact: Mike Putnam at Twilligers: 517 651-9911

AUCTION

Undersigned, Gratiot County will sell the following items at public auction on site at the Gratiot County Drain Commissioner's building located at 904 E. Center St. ITHACA, MICHIGAN. Or just east of the Gratiot County Court House on Center Street. Watch for auction sale direction signs. Gratiot County

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 *10:00AM*

KUBOTA TRACTOR, FORD TRUCK, TOOLS, JOHN DEERE MOWER

Kubota B2650 diesel tractor, w/ LA534 Loader & material bucket, quick front hitch 652hrs. enclosed cab, Hydrostat drive, front/rear outlets, good tires—2005 F250 superduty truck. Regular cab, 8' box, gas. 4WD, 164k miles w/ 8' Snowway front blade—2002 JD GX345 riding mower, 20HP Liquid cooled, PS, 48" deck—misc lumber—air compressor—car ramps—torch set—sewer snake unit—push mowers—boxes of floor tile & ceiling tile—Generac 8kw Guardian standby generator

FURNITURE & FURNISHINGS

Several antique oak chairs from Gratiot County Building—3 antique oak library tables from Gratiot County building—misc storage units, some from Gratiot County building—old Lawyers sign—old cast iron street lamp post—drop in sink unit—wood court room seats w/ metal frames—large qty of assorted chairs, desks, tables, file cabinets & misc furniture—metal storage units—large wood storage wardrobe cabinet—many 2 & 3 drawer file cabinets—2 row book dispenser—2 drawer legal file cabinet—3 shelf wood book case—hanging wood shelf—wood tables—5 orange chairs—3 section cabinet—wooden gun box—wall file—wooden desk—tall filing cabinet—misc. plastic containers—briefcase—wooden filer—metal letter tray—metal desk—light fixture—misc. microphones—

KITCHEN & OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Univex model M30 kitchen mixer—34x72" Stainless work table w/ undershelf—96"x68" stainless work table w/ shelves—several stainless work tables—wood lectern—Large aluminum commercial kitchen can rack—3 shelf cart on wheels—wood computer stands—lox box on wheels—wood office chair—desktop computers—Servers—network switches—multi-function printers—all-in-one PC's—Laptop computers—Fellows Shredder—Cummins Shredder—Wireless Access Point System—projector—Bunn coffee maker—ice machine—

Gratiot County Owner

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Obituaries

Paul G. Unterbrink

Paul G. Unterbrink, age 82 of Owosso passed away Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at his home.

Paul was born May 17, 1939 in Kalamazoo, Michigan the son of Lawrence and Helen (Hayhoe) Unterbrink.

He graduated from Ovid High School.

Paul was an active member of Carpenters Local Union #1004 for 50 years. He was a 3rd degree member of Knights of Columbus. He was a past member of Nocturnal Adoration. Paul also enjoyed guns, the Old Gas tractor show every year, pawn shops, animals and dogs. And he liked to see new building construction happening which meant jobs and growth in our country. Most of all he loved to spend time with his family.

He married Marsha E. (Case) Unterbrink at St. Paul's Catholic Church on July 28, 1962. Paul and Marsha were married for 59 years.

Paul worked as a carpenter, farmer, husband, and father.

Paul is survived by his wife Marsha; children, Angela (Jeff) Black, Barney (Jane) Unterbrink, Mary (Robert) Pumford, Kimberly (Michael Taylor) Unterbrink, Tad (Heather) Unterbrink, Paul (Colleen) Unterbrink, and Carrie (Jason Austgen) Unterbrink; grandchildren, Alexandria, Emily, Lillian, Paige, Parker, Jack, Grace, and many other nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his Parents, Sisters, Irene Smith and Margaret White, Brother, Leo Unterbrink.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at St. Paul's Catholic Church with Father Michael O'Brien officiating. Burial followed at Fairfield Cemetery.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Shiawassee County 4-H program and The Shiawassee County Humane Society.



Leo D. Cox

Leo D. Cox, age 87, of Ovid, MI, passed away Saturday, September 11, 2021, at Ovid Healthcare Center, Ovid, MI.

Leo was born in St. Johns, Michigan on June 5, 1934, the son of Leo E. and Doris (Nelson) Cox. On August 2, 1952 he married Mary Lou Jorae in Ovid, Michigan. Mary Lou passed away on October 23, 1997.

Leo retired from MMPA in Ovid after many years of service. He was a volunteer firefighter for the Ovid-Middlebury Fire Department for many years. He enjoyed camping, spending winters in Davenport, Florida and he was an avid Michigan State fan. Family was a big part of Leo's life and he loved spending time with them. He was a member of the Ovid Lions Club, Masonic Lodge, and the United Church of Ovid.

He is survived by daughters: Linda and Chad Spawr of Rochester, Hills, MI, Brenda Birchman of Portland, MI; sons: Dennis Cox of Ovid, MI, Lynn and Jane Cox of Laingsburg, MI, and Leo Ronald Cox of Lansing, MI; grandchildren: Ben and Jaime Cox, Alanna and Jon Cejmer, Nicole Cox, Matthew and Jessica Cox, Alexander and Katie Spawr, Ryan Spawr, Monica and Rex Rainey, Kari Birchman, and Erik and Yuii Birchman. He is also survived by great-grandchildren: Darien, Genavieve, Leila, Orian, Mason, Spencer, Easton, Arthur, Mira, one more-great granddaughter on the way and great-great-granddaughter Jaycei; one sister Evonne, many nieces and nephews, and his special friend Sharon VanGieson. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Mary Lou, infant son Nathaniel, son-in-law Lyle Birchman, and his sister Leila.

Funeral Services was held at Smith Family Funeral Homes - Houghton Chapel, Ovid, MI, at 3:00 P.M. on Saturday, September 18, 2021. Burial has taken place at Maple Grove Cemetery, Ovid, MI.

Memorials may be made to the United Church of Ovid or the American Cancer Society. Online condolences can be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes - Houghton Chapel, Ovid, Michigan.



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William Dean "Billy" Swanchara II

William Dean "Billy" Swanchara, II, age 62, of Newberry, Michigan, passed away Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at Helen Newberry Joy Hospital, Newberry, MI.

Bill was born in St. Johns, Michigan on April 1, 1959, the son of William Dean and Patricia Ann (DeGeer) Swanchara. He attended Fulton Public Schools.

Bill loved the outdoors. He spent his time hunting, fishing, trapping, and snowmobiling. He was an expert at spotting Morel mushrooms and asparagus. He liked to play horseshoes and race at Crystal Raceway. As an April Fools' Baby, he had a good sense of humor and was known for pulling pranks on family and friends. Most of all Bill loved his family.

Bill lived the last several years in Newberry with his companion, Donna Lutz. They enjoyed the outdoors and made many friends in the area.

Bill is survived by his father Bill (Clarice) Swanchara; 4 children: Will (Sandy) Swanchara, Angie (Dan) Luth, Cody Swanchara, and Colton Swanchara; 8 grandchildren, and companion Donna Lutz. He is also survived by his siblings: Patty (Dave) Mesh, Debbie Swanchara, Joe (Kristey) Swanchara, Kellie (Jay) Roll, Mary (Bob) Sali, Matt (Amanda) Barrett, and Kim (Jason) Reniewicz; and many nieces and nephews. Billy was preceded in death by his mother Pat (Max) Barrett.

Memorial Gathering will be held at the Colony School House, 5599 Maple Rd., Elsie, at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, September 25, 2021, with Pastor Mona Kindel officiating. Visitation will begin at 12:00 p.m. There will be a luncheon to follow.

Online condolences can be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.



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| <p>Middlebury United Methodist Church 8100 W. Hibbard Rd., Ovid 989-834-2573 Minister: Rev. Terry Melton</p> <p>Worship Service 10:30 a.m.</p> | <p>FAITH FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH Corner of Price & Chandler, St. Johns Pastor: John Jakus Sunday School: 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am 517-651-6210</p> | <p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 163 W. Main St., Elsie Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Watch Sunday Service on YouTube at elsiebaptist Pastor Phillip Rogers</p> |
| <p>Bannister United Methodist Church 103 Hanvey Street Pastor: Zella Daniel Sunday Worship 11:15am</p> | <p>ELSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 160 W. Main St., Elsie (989) 862-5239</p> <p>Worship Service: 9:30 a.m. Pastor: JD Paik</p> | <p>United Church of Ovid Office Hours: 9-1 Mon - Tue - Wed 9-Noon Thur • Closed Fri Sundays am: 10:45 - Hymnsing 11:00 - Worship 131 West Front Street Ovid, MI 48866 • (989) 834-5958 www.unitedchurchofovid.org or on Facebook Pastor Eugene Blair</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 8:30am, & 11:00am Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group Senior Minister: Andrew Goodrich Associate Minister: Matthew Barnum Children's Minister: Jessica Prieto www.duplainchurch.org</p> | <p>LAINGSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 210 CRUM ST. 517-651-5531 Online Service: Sundays at 10am. Facebook or Youtube Pastor Tiffany Newsom laingsburgumc@gmail.com www.laingsburgumc.org</p> | <p>St. Cyril Parish of Bannister</p> <p>Mass: Sun 10:30am, Wed. 9:00am</p> <p>Confession: Sun 11:30am</p> <p>We Welcome You to Come...</p> |

Michael A. Weiderer
September 11, 2019

We cried when you passed away, We still cry today. Although we loved you dearly, We couldn't make you stay. Two Golden hearts stopped beating, Hard working hands at rest. God broke our hearts to prove to Us he only takes the best.

Georgiana L. Weiderer
September 28, 2020

WE LOVE AND MISS YOU BOTH!! THE FAMILY

In Loving Memory

Obituaries

Richard Paul “Dick” Ehlert

Richard Paul “Dick” Ehlert, age 76, of Ovid, Michigan, passed away Thursday, September 16, 2021, at Sparrow Hospital, Lansing, Michigan.

Richard was born in Owosso, Michigan on December 16, 1944, the son of William August and Elizabeth (Kocsandy) Ehlert. On December 10, 1966 he married Bonnie Gilliland in Owosso, Michigan. Dick worked on buildings as an iron worker. He enjoyed building and farming. Dick and Bonnie established their home in Ovid in 1972; when they establish Ovid Iron and Metal. He was very dedicated to hard work and instilled that into his children. Dick was a self-made man, negativity never slowed him down, and he always achieved the goals he set for himself. Dick was a quiet giver to his community, never needing any praise, but was happy he could do it. He chose to share his lifetime achievement with his family. He was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church, Ovid, Michigan.

He is survived by his wife; Bonnie, 2 daughters: Gayla Ehlert and Mary and Lance Thompson; 3 sons: Philip Ehlert, Patrick Ehlert, and William and Whitney Ehlert; grandchildren: Richard Elwood, Christian Francis, Breann Lockwood, Liam Thompson, Logan Thompson, Gabriel Thompson, Grant Ehlert, and Ryleigh Ehlert; and great-grandson Remington Lockwood. He is also survived by his sister Evelyn Ehlert. He was predeceased by his parents, one son Gabriel Paul, and one brother William.

Funeral Services will be held at Holy Family Catholic Church, Ovid, MI, at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, with Rev. Fr. Anthony Bridges presiding. Burial will take place at Fairfield Township Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Sunday, September 19, 2021 2-8 P.M. with family present from 2-4 & 6-8 P.M. and also on Monday, September 20, 2021 from 2-8 P.M. with family present from 2-4 & 6-8 P.M. at Smith Family Funeral Homes - Houghton Chapel. Memories will be shared at the funeral home on Monday evening at 7:00 P.M.

Memorials may be made to Ovid Thanksgiving and Christmas Fund. Online condolences can be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes - Houghton Chapel, Ovid, Michigan.



Clinton County Historical Museum

submitted by Judy Hubler

The Clinton County Historical Museum is showcasing a very interesting exhibit of medical items from yesteryear, along with pictures of Doctors and Dentists. All are displayed in new room arrangements. Also visit the newest room on display...the Mid-Century kitchen.

Check it out at 106 Maple, St. Johns, MI, west of the courthouse square. Open Sunday 1 to 4 and Wednesday 2 to 6. Also see pgsmuseum.com or contact pgsmuseum@gmail.com.



John J. Winkler

John J. Winkler, age 68, of Elsie, MI passed away on September 15, 2021 at Michigan Medicine, Ann Arbor, MI, with his family at his side.

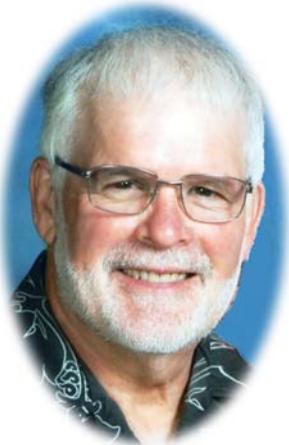
John was born in Owosso, MI on January 30, 1953, the son of Frank and Geraldine (Holechek) Winkler. He graduated from Ovid-Elsie High School with the class of 1971. John enjoyed being around family and cutting firewood.

John is survived by his wife, Loretta (Knutson) Winkler; daughter, Angela Winkler; mother, Geraldine Winkler; siblings, David Winkler, Cathy Winkler, Sherry Winkler, Suzanne (Dennis) Pierce, Ric (Jacki) Winkler, and Mary Beth Winkler; many nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, and great-great nieces and nephews; mother-in-law, Katherine Peters; brothers-in-law, Arlo (Deena) Knutson and Larry Knutson; sister-in-law, Elsie Loynes.

He was preceded in death by his infant granddaughter, Trinity Winkler; father, Frank Winkler, Sr.; brother, Frank Winkler, Jr.; sister, Theresa Winkler; brother-in-law, Robert Styczen; and his grandparents.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Cyril Catholic Church, Bannister, MI, at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 21, with Rev. Fr. Thom Kowalczyk officiating. Burial will take place at Ford Cemetery. Visitation will be held at Misiuk Funeral Home of Chesaning, MI on Monday, September 20, from 2:00-8:00 p.m. and concluding with a time of sharing memories.

Memorials can be made to WOES or St. Cyril Catholic Church. You may light a memorial candle or share a memory at misiukfuneralhome.com.



Angela Lynn Wahl

Angela Lynn Wahl, age 52 of Ovid, passed away on Sunday September 12, 2021 at her home. She was born on May 16, 1969, the daughter of Ramon & Marge (Priestely) Haddix in Shelbyville, Indiana. Angela attended schools in Atlanta, MI and received her bachelor's degree from Baker College. She was a nanny for many years and also sold Makeup. On October 16, 1993 she married Arthur R. Wahl in Corunna. She enjoyed scrapbooking, teaching and spending time gardening.

Angela is survived by her husband of 27 years, Arthur, 3 sons: Elijah, Joshua and Nehemiah, 2 sisters: Amanda (Rick) Miller of WA, Tisha (Robert) Aulaumea of WA, her brother Walt (Kathy) Haddix of Missouri and her mother of WA. Cremation has taken place and further services will be announced. Arrangements by Watkins Brothers Funeral Home, Perry Chapel. Memorials are suggested to the family. Online condolences may be sent to the family by going to www.watkinsfuneralhomes.com



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2021 Carriage Days Memories

Pedal Pull Winners



3 Year Olds: 1. Levi Hofferbert. 2. Dylan Sherman. 3. Kyler Wherry (not photo)



6 Year Olds: (l-r): 2. Jackson Hofferbert. 1. Remington Pontek. 3. Ben Hoch (not pictured).



4 Year Olds: (l-r): 3. Lucy Covert. 2. Emerson Guy. 1. Case Benjamin



7 Year Olds: l-r 3. Amelia Baese. 2. Kynleigh Brasseur. 1. Jack Covert.



5 Year Olds: (l-r): 3. Kolten Potter. 2. Kyle Galecka. 1. Easton Peru



8-10 Year Olds: (l-r): 3. Thomas Krugler. 2. Colton Guy. 1. Easton Brasseur.





A Few Pricy Words

by Deb Price

BEAUTIFUL WEEKEND: After a one year hiatus due to the pandemic, the 2021 Carriage Days Festival saw the BEST weather ever, great attendance, awesome entertainment and an overall fun filled weekend.

I know some of you were disappointed with the midway, namely the small number of rides. We were able to procure some inflatables to help fill the space. The carnival, Family Fun Tyme, graciously came to our town to fill in for the company who had been providing our midway for the past three years. They, like so many businesses have had the struggle of not having enough help. They brought to us what they could man. The foreman, Dalton along with his crew really loved our town and the people in it. They are committed to coming back next year and have promised us a midway that will not only please our committee but kids of all ages.

The Carriage Days committee would like to thank our corporate sponsors, Young Chevrolet and Modern Woodman for their generous donations. To all the businesses who put up the funds for the talented entertainment who performed over the weekend, we thank you. Thank you also to those who made the tractor pull events, chili and bbq rib contests, prettiest porch contest and car show events so successful. It truly "takes a village" within the community to pull an event like this off.

For me personally, I got my first shiner in my 69 years on this earth. I took a spill on Saturday, head met the pavement. Luckily, embarrassment was the worst injury. Thank You Stephanie Medina for your care and instruction, once again someone from the community stepping up to help.

WE Are Truly Blessed to Live Where we do... See You All Next Year....





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Dairy Den Celebrates 4th Anniversary Opening

by Karen Anderson

LAINGSBURG - The Laingsburg Dairy Den celebrated their 4th Anniversary with the support of the Laingsburg Fire Department. Present were Firefighters, First Responders and EMT and many other emergency services personnel and many volunteers and attendees at this sunny Saturday carnival-like event.

The purpose of the event was to celebrate four successful years of serving food and ice cream to the community. Owner Wendi Hogan-Krebs, opened a small ice cream shop to offer jobs to students with special needs. Her team has grown to 11 employees, and the building has expanded to 4 times its original size, along with adding a full menu of wonderful soups and sandwiches. Always smiling and excited, Kribs stated, "She just could not imagine if this business was not available for the community and her employees. It feels so right."

Prior to school opening this year she collected shelves of school supplies from customers and donors for the Laingsburg Community Schools. The Laingsburg Fire Department donated another \$200 for school supplies and presented it at the 4th Anniversary event. Volunteers from the Congregational Church distributed the school supplies to students.

Highlights of the event included some hands-on and up-close experiences by seeing the inside of the ambulances or sitting in a fire truck. Over 20 firetrucks and rescue vehicles were on display. Participants had an opportunity to meet firefighters who were on hand to answer questions.

Activities included spoon whittling, a corn hole tournament, face painting and live music and a Dunk Tank. Recruited volunteers for the Dunk Tank included: Jen West, Becky Malski, Emma Koenig, Joy Antcliff, Mrs. Hagerty, "Mean" Dean, Subway Mgr Donna, Mrs. Freeman, Jody Frank, Chief Dan DeKorte, Hanna Angst, Brian Borgman, Emma Kribs, Daisy Wilson, Kyran Tyler, Alyse Rowley, Wendi Kribs and Jarrod King. \$1500 was raised from the dunk tank donations was kept in the community to help support Greater Laingsburg Recyclers, The Tutor Connection, and Dance Angels.



When asked about the next Dairy Den sponsored event, Kribs did not hesitate, "Our next event is "Take a Ride in the BIG BANANA Car" which is a fundraiser for a children's book and "Stuff the Van" on Saturday, September 25th at 11:00am. Pay what you can. Bring a car seat if needed for your child." Eat a banana split while you are waiting for your turn to ride.

There will be a "Stuff the Van for the Laingsburg Food Bank. The Food Bank is in need of hygiene items such as soap, feminine products, TP, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, razors, ect. Please plan to contribute. For more information on the Dairy Den go to their Face Book page. Plan Saturday 25th to be in the parking lot of the Dairy Den and go inside for lunch and ice cream. The van will be available both Saturday and Sunday for donations.



Congratulations Connor



On your 10pt Buck!

Love, Grandma & Grandpa Fitzpatrick



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Sports

Marauders Squeak Past Visiting Montrose on Last Second Kick 23-22

OVID-ELSIE — Colin Fluharty connected on a 25-yard field goal with just :11 seconds left, and Ovid-Elsie had just enough to squeak past the Montrose Rams, 23-22, in MMAC football action September 10.

The final points completed a Marauder rally that improved coach Travis Long's team to 2-1 overall, 2-0 in the MMAC. The Rams (2-1, 1-1) suffered their first loss of the 2021 campaign, unable to hang onto a 22-13 lead to start the 4th quarter.

Montrose opened the scoring with :58 seconds left in the 1st quarter, when QB Monte Missentziz launched a 60-yard TD strike Owen Emmendorfer. The PAT failed, and the Rams had a 6-0 lead heading into the second stanza.

O-E grabbed an ill-fated, 13-6 lead at halftime of the see-saw contest. Eddy Evans ran it in from 7 yards out at the 7:54 mark, and Fluharty booted the PAT for a 7-6 advantage. Just a few seconds later, Axel Newell found Clay Wittenberg for a 34-yard passing TD, and after the PAT failed, the Marauders led by 7 at the intermission.

Montrose dominated the third quarter. Missentziz scored on a 5 -yard run, then found Zack O'Neal with a two-point conversion pass and the Rams led 13-13 with 4:12 remaining in the quarter. Missentziz was at it again at the 2:03 mark, lofting a 37-yard scoring pass to Aidan Bernard. Emmendorfer bulled in the two-point conversion run, and the Rams were seemingly in command at 22-13.

Ovid-Elsie dominated the fourth quarter. The comeback started with 10:30 unplayed, Newell connecting with Jacob Tomasek from 28 yards out. Fluharty booted the PAT, and it was 22-20, Montrose.

That score set up Fluharty's field goal heroics, which came with :11 seconds on the clock.

Newell was impressive taking over the QB controls, clicking on 10-of-14 passes for 172 yards and the two scores. Evans carted the ball 9 times for 51 yards and a TD. Logan Thompson followed closely with 14 touts for 49 yards.

Wittenberg led the Marauder receivers with 4 catches good for 67 yards and a TD. Tomasek snared two receptions for 39 yards and a score, while Fluharty had one catch for 34, Alex Eichenberg 1 for 10, Jacob Schaub one for 7, and Thompson 2 for 15 yards.

Missentziz also brought his "A" game, hitting 11-of-21 passes for 218 yards and two scores. Emmendorfer led MHS on the ground and in receiving: 10 carries for 35 yards, and 7 receptions for 146 yards and a touchdown.

Defensively, Long's Marauders were led by Schaub with 7 tackles, five solo; Landon Stoneman 6 stops; Fluharty 5, Wittenberg 5 and Max Spiess 4 tackles. Fluharty, Wittenberg and Tyler Bancroft all pounced on Montrose fumbles, and Thompson boasted an interception of Misszantzis.

#24 Clay Wittenberg in control of the ball for OE against Montrose Sept. 10th Photos by Marie Spiess



City of Laingsburg City Council Public Hearing

The City of Laingsburg City Council will conduct a Public Hearing on Monday, October 4, 2021 at a regular meeting of the City Council, that will be held at the LSW Emergency Services Building located at 7425 Woodbury Road, Laingsburg. The public hearing will start at 6 P.M. City Council will consider adding Ordinance 01-2021 to amend Chapter 18-Businesses by adding Article VII Mobil Food Vending. Any persons wishing to address these issues should attend the meeting in person, by counsel, by personal representative, or they may submit their concerns in writing no later than Friday October 1, 2021 at noon:

City of Laingsburg
Attn: City Clerk
PO Box 178
114 N. Woodhull Street
Laingsburg MI 48848
City Hall is barrier-free. If you need assistance contact City Offices at 517-651-5374 prior to the meeting.

Paula Willoughby
City Clerk

City of Laingsburg City Council Public Hearing

The City of Laingsburg City Council will conduct a Public Hearing on Monday, October 4, 2021 at a regular meeting of the City Council, that will be held at the LSW Emergency Services Building located at 7425 Woodbury Road, Laingsburg. The public hearing will start at 6 P.M. City Council will consider extending or eliminating the application deadline for marihuana facility licensing permits as established previously by Resolution 2008.

Any persons wishing to address these issues should attend the meeting in person, by counsel, by personal representative, or they may submit their concerns in writing no later than Friday October 1, 2021 at noon:

City of Laingsburg
Attn: City Clerk
PO Box 178
114 N. Woodhull Street
Laingsburg MI 48848
City Hall is barrier-free. If you need assistance contact City Offices at 517-651-5374 prior to the meeting.

Paula Willoughby
City Clerk

Sports



Dayshawn Bowman scores the first TD for Laingsburg at Potterville, behind the block of James Nixon.

Photo by Burg Sports

Wolfpack Gridders Square CMAC Record at 1-1 with Big Victory at Potterville

POTTERVILLE — In a contest that started with both teams bobbling the ball around, Laingsburg found its footing and went on a 41-point tear here September 10 ... while the host Vikings had no answer.

The result was a 41-8 Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC) victory for coach Brian Borgman's Wolfpack that moved them to 2-1 overall, with their first CMAC win of the season.

LHS bounced back from a 51-6 loss to Pewamo-Westphalia-Westphalia the week before, to even its CMAC mark at 1-1. Potterville fell to 0-3 after being outscored by their opponents 109 to 20 over the first three games of the 2021 campaign.

It didn't start out pretty. The Wolves turned the ball over deep in their own territory in the first quarter, and the host Vikings capitalized on a tipped-tipped-tipped pass that finally ended up in the hands of Jonah Bovee for a 12-yard touchdown. Mikey White — a 5'7" 245 lb. bruiser — punched in the two-point conversion and the Vikes led 8-0.

Those were all the points PHS could muster. The Wolfpack rallied back after repeated bobbles by the Vikes, not all resulting in turnovers, but at least costing them yardage. At 8:23 of the second quarter, Dayshawn Bowman scored first for LHS, from 2 yards out. Addison Goff boomed the PAT kick, and the visitors were within 8-7. The score was set up by a Ty Randall to Connor Hulliberger 60-yard strike.

Sophomore QB Randall ran in the Wolves' next TD from 2 yards away, with just 1:01 left in the first half, and Goff's PAT kick put Laingsburg on top for good, 14-8.

Borgman's crew was methodical in the second half. Bowman ran it in from 15 yards at 11:04 of the third quarter, and Goff's kick advanced the lead to 21-8.

Randall connected with Hayden Johnson on a 4-yard pitch-and-catch to start the fourth quarter, and Goff again boomed the PAT for a 28-8 advantage.

The last two TDs came courtesy of soph RB Jack Borgman and the Wolfpack offensive line: 18 yards with 6:34 unplayed, and just a few seconds later (5:29) on a one-yard blast. Goff finished perfect with his point-after kicks on the day.

Both teams ran about the same number of plays — LHS led 49-46 — but the results were much different. The Wolves gained 378 yards total, 274 on the ground. Randall was true on 7-of-10 passes, good for 104 yards. Bowman led the rushers with 108 yards on 13 carries, with the two TDs. Hulliberger latched onto 3 receptions for 70 yards.

After a tough start, the red-and-white defense was stout: Mitchell Yates led the way with 8 tackles, Kyle Thelen 7, Thomas Gousetis 6, Borgman 6, Jack Byrnes 6, Kyle Boettcher 6 and Michael Brooks 5, Yates, Bowman, Tyler Flynn-Lacey and Seth Sivak all bounced on Viking fumbles. Johnston nabbed the 5th Potterville turnover of the night, intercepting senior QB Spencer Fedewa.

Fitzpatrick Bags 10pt

Connor Fitzpatrick of St. Johns, a junior at Ovid-Elsie High School, shot a 10pt buck on September 12th (Grandparents Day).

He was hunting with his cousin in Portland and used a rifle.



Successful Youth Hunt

An exciting youth hunt day for 10 year old Easton Adams of Elsie, son of Chris and Kelsey Adams.

Easton shot a 7 point buck on September 11, 2021 on the property of his Grandpa Russell Klatt in Bannister.



Ashley Cross Country

by Ashleigh Shaw

The Ashley Cross Country team has had two meets to start the new season. The first meet was the Jacket invite hosted by Ithaca. Clayton Juhas finished 41st in 22:18.21, while his sister, Sharla Juhas finished 36th for the girls in 21:51.58, Jenna Wirt was next finishing 43rd in 31:11.55 and Sophia Wirt finished 53rd with a time of 35:25.64.

Ashley Cross County

Central Montcalm invited the Ashley Cross Country team to compete in their race last week. Sophomore Clayton Juhas came in 23rd with a time of 21:54.59 and fellow sophomore Sophia Wirt finished 50th in 32:14.66.

Wolfpack Soccer Team Heads Off Portland 3-1

LAINGSBURG -- Coach Natalie Elkins' Wolfpack boys varsity soccer team downed Portland at home 3-1.

The Wolves dominated with excellent possession throughout the contest.

Dylan Hulliberger had a header goal off of a corner kick from Brayden Thomas, and added another from an assist by Thomas. Miguel Fajardo drilled the second header goal of the game off a corner kick from Dylan Hulliberger.

Coach Elkins said, "Our team has been working on quick transitions out of the back. Dylan's second goal started with a pass from right back Aaron Willoughby. It is nice to see them applying what we do daily in drills on the pitch."

Wolfpack Boys Soccer Team Runs Record to 5 and 1

LAINGSBURG — The Laingsburg Wolfpack Varsity Boys soccer moved to 5-1 in 2021 with their recent wins against Portland, 3-1, and Leslie, 6-0.

Brayden Thomas assisted off a corner kick to a header by Dylan Hulliberger, and again with a through ball to Hulliberger, then got the clinching goal from a corner kick assist by Hulliberger to a header goal by Miguel Fajardo in the win over the Raiders.

Against Leslie, coach Natalie Elkins' Wolves scored a shutout win. A penalty kick by Brayden Thomas was followed by an assist from Thomas to Dylan Hulliberger, then a cross from Hulliberger to a nice low corner goal by Reece Kramer. The last goal of first half was from Connor Barrett for a low corner shot by Thomas. The 2nd half goals were both

Ashley Wins Home Opener

by Ashleigh Shaw

Caseville visited Ashley to take on the Bears in the first football game of the year. It was a hot night for opening night and the Bears were also hot, winning the game 52-6. "We came in ready to play and took it to them. We started the game with 8 players and lost our returning lineman at halftime to heat exhaustion. We still finished strong scoring twice and only letting up one on the last play of the game" exclaimed Coach Saylor.

Logan Drummond rushed 9 times for 190 yards scoring 3 touchdowns and a two-point conversion. Bailey Long rushed 13 times for 180 yards 3 touchdowns and two two-point conversions. Dillion Beebe rushed 8 times for 102 yards and two two-point conversions. Long also lead the defense with 8 solo tackles 5 assists, a sack, and a forced fumble. Beebe had 5 solo tackles 1 assist and 1 sack. Gavin Malek also had 5 solo tackles, 2 assists and 2 sacks. Drummond added 4 solo tackles and 5 assists while Logan Hardman had 2 solo tackles, 3 assists and an interception.

"I am very proud of these young men to have the heart and determination to fight out manned and come out on top of the football game" boasted Coach Saylor.

Bears Lose on the Road

Ashley traveled to Akron Fairgrove for the second game of the season and this time came up short losing 36-14. "We didn't tackle well, we didn't open any holes, we struggled to pass and catch, and we ran to the wrong holes at times, things just didn't go well" said Coach Saylor.

Offensively Logan Drummond went 2/10 from the quarterback position for 55 yards and an interception, Dillion Beebe had one catch for 49 yards and Bailey Long had a catch for 6 yards. Drummond also rushed for 101 yards on 15 carries scoring 2 touchdowns and a two-point conversion. Bailey Long rushed 12 times for 27 yards.

Drummond also lead the defense with 10 solo tackles and 11 assists, Dillan Beebe also had 10 solo tackles, 7 assists and a sack. Long had 9 solo tackles and 9 assists and Gavin Malek had 2 solo tackles, 6 assists and a fumble recovery.

"We'll get back to the drawing board to try to decipher a great Morrice team coming in" said Coach Saylor.

Ashley Football Loses to Strong Morrice Team

The Bears battled a tough Morrice team last Friday with the Orioles winning 58-0. "We cam in knowing that this was a tough team that will no doubt contend for a state title and we're not there yet. I told my boys to give each play 110% and I think for the most part they did" said Coach Saylor.

Once again for the Ashley Logan Drummond let the Bears in rushing carrying the ball 11 times for 32 yards, Bailey Long had 18 carries for 10 yards and Dillan Beebe had 4 carries for 3 yards.

Drummond led as well on the defensive end with 5 solo tackles, 2 assists and a caused fumble, Beebe had 3 solo tackles, 1 assist and a fumble recovery, Long had 3 solo tackles, and two assists and Jon Snider had 3 solo tackles, 1 assist and 1 sack.

For special teams Drummond also had 5 kickoff returns for 68 yards, 9 punts for 226 yards with 1 blocked and Gavin Male had 1 kickoff for 40 yards.

"We'll keep building, growing and learning from each mistake and hopefully before too long we can be where Morrice's program is. We'll go back to practice knowing how good we have to be to compete at the higher levels and welcome in a Bear Lake team that's going to be tough and need our full attention" expressed Coach Saylor.



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Notice of non-compliance received: No receipt at destination, unclaimed
Settlement date to resolve non-compliance dispute: 2020-09-02
Public notice of sale or other disposition-FIRST NOTICE: 2021-09-12
Public notice of sale or other disposition-SECOND NOTICE: 2021-09-19
Newspaper contracted to publish notice to the public: The Weekly
Contents of the unit will be removed: 2020-09-27
Description of unit contents: Miscellaneous items with or without personal or familial value. Some items may or may not be in individual containers.
Owner/manager actions: All items will be sold and/or discarded. Upon removal of all items the unit will be restored to a functional, safe condition, making this unit available to other prospective tenants.
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Estate of Bruce Lloyd Bolender
Date of birth: 10/13/1959
TO ALL CREDITORS: *NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Bruce Lloyd Bolender, died 07/27/2021. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Brenda L. McTavish, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 100 E. State St., Ste 4300, Saint Johns, MI 48879 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice. 09/19/2021
Brenda L. McTavish,
Personal Representative
5699 Starwood Ct.
Westlake Village, CA 91362

AUCTION

Estate and Real Estate Auction Saturday, September 25, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. 28 W. Bradford Rd., Midland, MI 48640. Dozers; Excavators; Trailers; Vehicles; Semi Tractors; Garage/Outdoor Items. Details at www.FurloAuction.com 989-835-1581. CPM

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Home Improvement



Safety First When Clearing Land

New homeowners often see their homes as blank canvases. Looking at a home as a blank canvas is typically associated with its interior, but it also can apply to landscaping.

Homes are empty of furniture and decorative items like photos and art on the walls when new homeowners move in. That makes it easy to see the interior of a home as a blank canvas. But that's not always so easy in the garden or the yard, where brush, overgrown plants or trees and other eyesores might have been left behind by the previous owners. A landscape must be cleared out before it can be seen as a blank canvas. Though clearing land may seem like a straightforward process, no one knows what lies beneath overgrowth or neglected areas of a yard or garden. Do-it-yourselfers can typically clear land on their own, but some safety strategies should be kept in mind to ensure the process goes smoothly.

- Wear appropriate PPE. Personal protective equipment should be worn when clearing land. The appropriate PPE when clearing land includes attire and other gear that many homeowners likely already have on hand. A long-sleeve shirt, puncture proof pants and gloves and slip-resistant work boots should be worn when clearing land. Homeowners also may want to invest in a hard hat if they will be cutting branches off of trees or cutting trees down. A face shield also may be a good bet depending on the scale and potential dangers of the project.

- Contact your utility company. Overhead power and telephone lines are visible to the naked eye, and homeowners should be conscious of those lines as they cut any high branches. But underground lines are not visible, and that can make clearing land dangerous. Homeowners are urged to contact their utility companies before they begin to clear any land so they can determine if any underground lines are beneath areas they intend to clear out.

- Get a lay of the land. Carefully inspect the area to be cleared prior to starting the project. Inspections can reveal the density of any vegetation that may need to be removed and reveal if there are any harmful plants like poison ivy growing. Many DIYers can remove small trees on their own, but a professional tree service may be necessary for large trees or those located close to the house. Homeowners won't want to cut down a tree, even a small one, if it can potentially fall onto the house. In addition, homeowners who are unfamiliar with chippers or stump grinders may be better off hiring a tree service to clear trees.

- Don't go it alone. No one should clear land alone. Even small projects are best tackled by at least two people. Should someone get injured during the project, the presence of another person ensures someone can immediately call for help. In addition, clearing land can be more difficult than it appears, and having at least two people to pull old shrubs or carry tree branches reduces the risk of injury.

Safety should be the utmost priority as homeowners prepare to clear land on their properties.

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Home Improvement



Signs it is Time to Overhaul Your Kitchen

Remodeling a kitchen adds value to a home. Remodeling Magazine's "Cost vs. Value Report" indicates mid-range kitchen remodels cost about \$66,000, and homeowners can expect to recover about 60 to 80 percent of that cost at resale.

Homeowners may wonder if remodeling their kitchens is worth the investment. But homeowners should not just consider cost, but also the current conditions of their kitchens when deciding if a renovation project is the right move to make. These signs indicate it may be time to renovate a kitchen.

- Breakers are triggered: If the lights go dark from a tripped circuit breaker every time you try to microwave and run the toaster oven at the same time, your wiring is likely not up to the task of handling the workload and could be out of date. A kitchen remodel will assess wiring load needs and an electric overhaul may be necessary.

- Lack of storage: One of the biggest hassles homeowners encounter in their kitchens is a lack of storage space. If making a meal involves a Jenga-like stacking and rearranging of kitchen tools, or if an avalanche occurs whenever you search for an item, you might need more storage. A carefully planned redesign can achieve this, even in a smaller kitchen.

- Outdated appliances: Even if your appliances are not avocado green or mustard yellow relics of the 1970s, they might still need to be replaced. According to CRD Design, appliances are only expected to last around 10 to 15 years. If appliances have become unsafe or energy hogs, it could be time for a remodel.

- Family is expanding (or shrinking): Kitchens often are the heart of a home. They need to meet the needs of the family that resides in that home. A remodel can add space as needed. On the flip side, when a couple becomes empty nesters, kitchens can be redesigned and downsized to reflect their new needs and desires, such as the addition of a wine chiller or espresso station.

- Poor lighting: Task lighting is essential in a kitchen, but older homes may not be equipped with lighting where it's most needed. A carefully designed remodel can improve lighting with under-cabinet lights, pendants, overhead lighting, and even natural light to make the space attractive and more functional.

- Frequent run-ins: The notion that you can have too many cooks in the kitchen refers to having too many people trying to pitch in or offer their opinions. However, it also can apply to when too many people are gathering in a small space. Redesigning a kitchen can improve the efficiency of a space and make the room feel larger.

- Aesthetic appeal: Many kitchen remodels have been inspired by unsightly kitchens. Cosmetic changes can lead to big improvements.

Kitchen renovations can add instant appeal and help address issues that tend to plague outdated rooms.



Did You Know?

Leaves that fall from trees can be a marvel to behold. But leaves can stain exterior surfaces when they eventually settle on vehicles, concrete driveways, patios, and other surfaces, become wet and/or are not cleaned away in a timely fashion. Leaf stains are caused by tannins in the leaves. The pigments can be absorbed by porous materials like concrete and leave stains behind. While these stains may wash away over time, homeowners may prefer a faster way to get rid of unsightly stains. To remove moderate leaf stains, mix oxygen bleach with hot water and apply to stains using a scrub brush. Dark stains may require a tougher cleanser, such as one that contains trisodium phosphate. Some homeowners find success using a pressure washer to clean away leaf stains, while others rely on commercial leaf-stain removers.



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