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Four Generations of Laingsburg Family Meet to Dedicate, Honor Memory of 'Slug' Ginther

LAINGSBURG -- Sit down. Relax. Take a load off.

While you're doing it, remember and reminisce about one of this community's true, unsung heroes.

Four generations of the Ginther family convened Saturday, June 13 to dedicate a Laingsburg Lions Club bench, in the memory of iconic Lions member Duane "Slug" Ginther.



(Front, L to R) Glenna (Wolfrom) Ginther, Duane's widow and daughter Gwen; (back row) daughter Gayla and son David. Another daughter, Diane (Ginther) Nowlin, passed away July 5, 2022.

The bench has been placed in front of a popular downtown social district business, The Dairy Den, an ice creamery that just happens to be owned by the late Slug Ginther's granddaughter, Stacey. For those familiar with Laingsburg history, the bench is also adjacent to the former Ginther's Foodland storefront -- where Slug grew up in the family business.

Remarkably, Slug gave 61 years of service to the Laingsburg Lions, most notably serving as treasurer for 18 years until 1987, and closing out his tenure as a board member from 2017-19. He was a two-time Lion of the Year, in 1975 and 1998. Incredibly, he was noted for perfect attendance from the years 1965 through 2018.

He and his beloved wife, Glenna, were Laingsburg Lions Club Springtime Festival King and Queen in 2009.

One key contribution of that era's Lions Club: fencing provided around the community. "Slug was a key member of our Lions Club fence committee," says current Lions secretary Terry Fraidenburg. "From 1967 through the late 1990's, the Lions constructed fencing around all the athletic fields and tennis courts in Laingsburg. Slug was always there digging holes, laying the poles, stringing and tightening the fence."

Another longtime Lions project was providing wooden benches at athletic fields, parks and other respites around the community. Most recently, the Laingsburg Lions have embarked on a recycled plastic project, collecting several thousands of pounds of shopping bags and other medium-gauge plastic materials that is processed through local Meijer stores. That effort is rewarded with plastic benches fabricated from the recycled plastic.



Glenna Ginther, Slug's beloved wife and widow, is pictured on the bench dedicated to her husband's memory. Note the signage on top and bottom.

Benches dedicated to late Lion stalwarts like Larry Sparkes, Clyde Stanlake and Keith Townsend are some latest examples seen around town.

Slug Ginther, like many other Laingsburg Lions who went on before him, was dedicated to the club's simple motto: "We Serve."

Duane L. "Slug" Ginther, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away peacefully on October 10, 2023, at home in Laingsburg.

EARLY DEADLINE
WILL BE WEDNESDAY,
JULY 1ST BY NOON
NEXT WEEK
FOR NEWS AND ADS



A Note from the O-E Superintendent

Mark Horak
mark.horak@ovidelsie.org.

Dear Ovid-Elsie Community,

At Ovid-Elsie Area Schools, we are committed to transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of public funds. As we prepare for the 2026-2027 school year, I would like to provide an update regarding the district's financial outlook and the steps we are taking to ensure a strong future for our students and community.

At this time, the district is projecting a budget deficit of approximately $500,000 for the upcoming school year. As a result, we anticipate using a portion of our fund balance to continue supporting student programming, educational opportunities, and district operations. While this projected deficit is larger than we originally anticipated, our district remains in a stable financial position.

A fund balance is similar to a savings account. It provides financial stability, helps districts manage unexpected expenses, and allows for strategic investments when needed. Ovid-Elsie has worked diligently to build and maintain a healthy fund balance, and utilizing a portion of those reserves to support students during challenging financial periods is one of its intended purposes.

Several factors have contributed to this projected deficit. Like many school districts across Michigan, Ovid-Elsie has experienced a steady decline in enrollment. Over the past 15 years, enrollment has decreased from approximately 1,826 students to approximately 1,255 students. Because state funding is largely based on student enrollment, fewer students result in less revenue for the district. In addition, uncertainty surrounding state funding continues to create challenges for long-term financial planning.

In response, we are actively reviewing all areas of district operations to identify efficiencies, reduce expenditures where possible, and maximize available grant and categorical funding sources. We are also utilizing attrition and thoughtful staffing decisions to help manage costs while minimizing impacts on students and classrooms.

While these financial realities present challenges, they

continued on page 5

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Social

United Church of Ovid Free Food Items

submitted by Sue Casler

UCO Bus Stop food distribution is a new mission. There is a need for children who receive free breakfast and lunch during the school year, but when school is not in session, kids may be missing these meals. On Wednesdays during the Summer Break from school, families may come to the United Church of Ovid parking lot (corner of Gratiot and Clinton streets) at 3:00 pm and we will provide 5 days' worth of packaged breakfast/lunch food items to each child while supplies last.

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Elsie Lions Club American Red Cross Blood Drive

submitted by Doug Sturgis

Donate blood with the American Red Cross and receive a ticket to a Cedar Fair theme park of your choice. Between June 29 - July 12, you may also receive a Red Cross Looney Tunes T-shirt!

The Elsie Lions Club is joining with American Red Cross, hosting a community blood drive on July 6, 2026 from 12:00 to 4:45 at the Elsie United Methodist Church in Elsie.

For more information on how to make an appointment to donate, sign up online at redcrossblood.org with sponsor code "Elsie" or call 517-256-4585

The Elsie Lions Club is committed to strengthening our community and helping meet hospital and patient needs through blood donations, said Lion Douglas Sturgis. "This blood drive is our way of giving staff, colleagues and neighbors an opportunity to help save lives."

Blood is a perishable product that can only come from volunteer blood donors. With someone in the U.S. needing blood every two seconds, blood products must be constantly replenished, according to the Red Cross.

"We urge community members to donate blood and help ensure that patients in local hospitals have a supply of blood ready and waiting before an emergency occurs. There's no better feeling than knowing that your blood donation may give someone a second chance at life."

The Elsie event continues to be a popular choice for donors in the area. Schedule today, don't miss this opportunity to make a difference. Throughout the (2026) year, several other events are already planned to provide you with the opportunity to donate regularly to the American Red Cross.

According to the Red Cross, donors with all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, A negative and B negative.

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submitted by Sue Casler



At Rainforest Falls, kids explore the nature of God—discovering who God is and how much he loves them! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies, and test out sciency-fun experiments they'll never forget. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with a Canopy Closing that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned.

Plan to Join Us!!
United Church of Ovid, 131 W. Front St.
Week of July 13 – July 17
9am-12noon (registration 8:45 am)
Ages 3 (toilet trained) – entering 6th grade

If you would like to pre-register or for more information contact The United Church of Ovid, at 989-834-5958, office hours are Monday. thru Thursday. from 9am – 12noon.

Class of 1976 Class Reunion

submitted by Daniel Quine

The Class of 1976 50th Class Reunion will be held on Saturday July 11 Noon until ? at the Colony Rd School House and Friendship Park, 5599 Maple Rd, Colony MI 48831. Cost to attend: Free

Let's have a cookout style gathering at the schoolhouse and later socialize in the park. Silent Auction. Proceeds to O-E Scholarship fund. Plan on fun and games!

RSVP by June 30, 2026.

Also this weekend: Fri Night: Pre-event meet up at some local establishment TBA

Saturday: Class Reunion

Sunday: All Class Reunion, location TBA

Contact Dan Quine to confirm attendance and your plus one quinedaniel07@gmail.com or Voice/Text (517) 614-4650


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2026 Elsie Dairy Festival • Memories











The 2026 Elsie Dairy Festival is in the books. The committees choice to change the festival from July to June offered many new things for event goers to enjoy. From the ice-cream eating contest, the family trivia night, the family karaoke, the live auction and a "Vows with the Cow" Wedding, festival goers enjoyed it all. The thought process of the committee was to come up with ideas where the public could get involved and participate rather than just observing.

The Lions Club food tent was busy all three days. The kids day, pedal pull and Dairy Dash were also a hit again this year. The return of the 3on3 basketball was also a welcomed return event. The committee has posted a Survey on their Elsie Dairy Festival Facebook page, take a look and give the committee your feedback.



















Photos by Elsie Dairy Festival Committee, Dawn Levey

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Obituaries

Betty Lou Lover



Betty Lou Lover, age 86, of Bannister, MI, passed away Saturday, June 20, 2026, surrounded by her family.

Betty was born in Bannister, MI on November 8, 1939, she was the daughter of Eugene and Nellie (Blount) Lover. Betty attended Lansing Community College where she earned a degree in nursing. She worked as a registered nurse for many years before going back to school to earn a bachelor's degree in accounting from Baker College. Betty became an accountant, and worked as one until her retirement.

In her younger years, Betty and her brother, Raymond, would pack up their car and take random road trips throughout the country. As she got older, Betty found comfort in staying home and watching game shows with her family. Betty was a lifelong member of Oakley Community Church, and loved her church family.

She is survived by her nieces: Tina (Danny Cook) Mills, Lucy (Chuck) Hazzard, and Nellie Cox; nephew Gerald (Robin) Hammond Jr; and many great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents Eugene and Nellie; and her siblings: Arthur, Franklin, Richard, Eugene, Raymond, Charles, Margaret, and Barbara.

Funeral Services was held at Smith Family Funeral Homes Elsie, MI, with Pastor Cal Emerson officiating. Burial will take place at Ford Cemetery, Elba Twp., MI.

Memorials may be made to the Oakley Community Church. Online condolences may be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.



Stanley William Plesko



Stanley William Plesko, age 81, of St. Johns, formerly of Ashley, MI, passed away Friday, June 19, 2026, surrounded by his family at his home.

Stan was born in St. Johns, Michigan on September 17, 1944, the son of Steve and Katerina (Dudash) Plesko. Stan married Mary Lou Patterson on February 7, 1963, in Ithaca, MI and they were blessed with 63 years of marriage.

Stan owned and operated Plesko Excavating for 40 years. He also spent 40 years preparing graves at Ford Cemetery. Stan was a volunteer fireman, a member of the Ashley School Board, an Elba Township Board member and drove bus for Ashley Schools for many years. Stan was a classic car enthusiast and enjoyed attending car shows with his 59 Ford Fairlane Galaxy and 60 Ford Thunderbird.

He was a very dedicated and devoted family man. He loved polka music and dancing, treasure hunting with yearly trips to Shipshewana. He will be remembered for his willingness to help anyone in need. He will always be known as "Stan the Man". He was a member of the Bannister United Methodist Church.

He is survived by his wife Mary Lou Plesko, his daughters: Cindy (Tom) Bernath, Jodi (Kevin) Baese, and Jamie (Curley) Grant; his grandchildren: Cayden (Shelby) Baese, Madison Baese, Grayson Grant, Piper Grant, Marcell (Sparkles) Grant, and Montez Grant; and great-grandchildren: Landen, Logan and Marcell Jr. Grant. He is also survived by his brother John (Deb) Plesko, sister-in-law Ann Plesko and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, siblings: Mike (Agnes), Steve (Ann), Ed (Blanche), Milan, Tony (Greta), Helen (Bud) Mason, and Irene (Bill) Kunik, father and mother-in-law Gordon and Lucille Patterson, in-laws: Joan (Larry) Abrey and Jeannie (Phil) West.

Funeral Services was held at Smith Family Funeral Homes Elsie, MI, on Friday, June 26, 2026, with Pastor Zella Daniel officiating. Burial has taken place at Riverside Cemetery, Elsie, MI.

Memorials may be made to WOES Polka Palace. Online condolences can be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.

Ralph Soliz, Jr.



Ralph Soliz, Jr., age 85, of Elsie, MI, passed away Saturday, June 20, 2026, at Memorial Healthcare, Owosso, MI.

Ralph was born in Elsa, TX on March 31, 1941, the son of Rafael Soliz and Silberia (Villareal) Soliz. He married Barbara Jean "Barb" Noble, on August 22, 1959, in Ovid, MI. They were blessed with 65 years of marriage; prior to her passing on March 2, 2025. He retired from Johnson Control in Owosso after 30 years of service, and later drove school bus for Dean Transportation.

Ralph enjoyed farming, fishing, camping, and time outdoors. He spent many years coaching little league in Elsie and participated several years preaching in the Clinton County Jail to Spanish speaking men. Most of all he loved spending time with his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and horses. He attended Fenmore Baptist Church.

He is survived by his children: Lisa (Neil) Criner of Elsie, MI; Tim (Michele) Soliz of Tucson, AZ; Steve (Susan) Soliz of St. Johns, MI; and Rebecca Soliz of Ovid, MI; his grandchildren: Jennifer (Eric) Zuniga, Amy Jo (JC) Stoll, Matthew (Michelle) Criner, Rachael Soliz, Philip Soliz, Travis (Maria) Soliz, Nick LaPrell, Jason (Jodie) LaPrell, Jeannine LaPrell, Samantha (Evan) Bucher, Samantha (Robby) Dobski, Sabreena Soliz, Mikaylah Poli, Justin Poli, and Alaina & Joshua Poli. He is also survived by 29 great-grandchildren, and 6 great-great grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister Angie Longoria of Ovid, MI; his brother Rudy (Helen) Soliz of Houston, TX; sisters-in-law: Rosemary Soliz of Branson, MO; and Maria Rosas of St. Johns, MI. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Barbara, his daughter Laura Soliz, 3 brothers and 2 sisters.

Funeral Services were held at Smith Family Funeral Homes - Houghton Chapel, Ovid, MI, on Friday, June 26, 2026, with his brother Rudy Soliz officiating. Burial has taken place at Maple Grove Cemetery, Ovid, MI.

Memorials may be made to the family to help cover final expenses. 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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Laingsburg United Methodist Church
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Worship Service: 10:30am
Pastor:
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Bannister United Methodist Church
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Pastor: Zella Daniel
Sunday Worship 11:15am

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Worship Service 9:00 a.m.

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160 W. Main St., Elsi e(989) 862-5239
Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.
Pastor: JD Paik

Obituaries

Carol Louise Seidel



Carol Louise Seidel, age 82, of Ovid, MI, passed away Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at University of Michigan Health-Sparrow, Lansing, MI.

Carol was born in Bannister, Michigan on August 4, 1943, the daughter of Clarence and Margaret (Morris) Cook. She graduated from Elsie High School, with the class of 1961. Carol married George Seidel on February 6, 1971, at the St. Johns Lutheran Church.

Carol drove school bus for Ovid-Elsie Area Schools for 28 years and subbed for several years. She enjoyed bowling and gardening. She loved time with her family and especially enjoyed doting on her grandchildren. She was a lifetime member of St. Johns Lutheran Church, St. Johns, MI where she was active in the church choir.

She is survived by her husband George Seidel; her children: Steve and Heather Seidel, Chris and Vikki Seidel, and Marie and Brandon French; her grandchildren: Nicholas Seidel, Dylan Seidel, Lincoln Seidel, Harrison Seidel, and Sadie Seidel. She is also survived by her siblings: Janet Krull, Bill and Linda Cook, Sue Doten, Randy and Kelly Cook, Danny and Tina Cook, and David and Cindy Cook. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and brothers: Howard and Bob Cook.

Funeral Services was be held at St. Johns Lutheran Church, St. Johns, MI, on Friday, June 26, 2026, with Pastor Jim Pearl officiating.

Memorials may be made to St. Johns Lutheran Church. Online condolences can be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes - Osgood Chapel, St. Johns, Michigan.

Heidi Joanne Wells



Heidi Joanne Wells, age 51, of Ovid, MI, passed away Saturday, June 20, 2026, at Ovid Healthcare Senior Care Home, Ovid, MI.

Heidi was born in Owosso, MI on May 7, 1975, the daughter of Robert Rudolph and Joanne Marie (Griggs) Porubsky. She graduated from Ovid-Elsie High School, with the class of 1993.

Heidi was very crafty. She had an eye for quilting and loved to color in adult coloring books. Since she was a child, Heidi collected stuffed animals and Jeff Gordon memorabilia. More than anything, she enjoyed spending time with her son, watching pro-wrestling tournaments, and movies.

Heidi was a selfless person, and would give anyone the shirt off of her back. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

She is survived by her mother Joanne Porubsky; her son Robert L. Porubsky; her brothers: Gene Porubsky, and Matt Porubsky; her sister Deb (Mike) Coleman; nieces: Kristy (Bruce) Fry and Tabitha (Casey) Barrett; great-nieces: Kaitlyn Fry and Brianne Fry; and great-nephews Kaden Fry, Gunnar Barrett, and Gavin Barrett. Heidi was preceded in death by her father Robert R. Porubsky, and brother Andrew W. Porubsky.

Per Heidi's wishes, cremation has taken place, and there will be no services held.

Memorials may be made to the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). Online condolences can be sent to www.smithfamilyfuneralhomes.com. The family is being served by Smith Family Funeral Homes, Elsie, Michigan.

St. Johns Lions Club Garage Sale

submitted by Cheryl Hickey

Are you looking to score some good deals while helping people in the community? If so, stop by the St. Johns Lions Club Garage Sale! It will be held from 9 am to 6 pm on Friday, July 10 and from 9 am to 1 pm on Saturday, July 11 at 803 Randy Lane in St. Johns.

There will be a huge variety of items, including toys & games, housewares, books, albums and CDs, small appliances, craft supplies, home decor, sporting goods, new handmade jewelry and much more! It is a win-win for all, as proceeds benefit community projects!

Editorial

A Note....continued from front

also create opportunities. They provide an opportunity to carefully examine how we deliver programs and services, evaluate the use of our facilities, explore innovative approaches to meeting student needs, and ensure that our resources are aligned with the priorities of our community. Through this process, we can position Ovid-Elsie Area Schools to remain strong, sustainable, and responsive to the needs of future generations.

The district's recently adopted Strategic Plan is helping guide these conversations. Throughout the planning process, students, parents, staff, and community members shared valuable feedback regarding what they value most about Ovid-Elsie Schools. As we consider future opportunities and potential efficiencies, that feedback will continue to serve as an important foundation for our decision-making.

In the coming months, we will be seeking additional input from our community. We believe that meaningful stakeholder engagement is essential as we explore future opportunities and plan for the long-term success of the district. We encourage community members, parents, staff, and students to participate in these conversations when opportunities arise.

Even after utilizing a portion of our fund balance, we anticipate maintaining reserves that remain above the Board of Education's established fund balance goal, providing the district with a solid financial foundation moving forward.

Our focus remains unchanged: providing excellent educational opportunities for our students, supporting our staff, and being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. We are committed to keeping our community informed as we navigate these challenges and opportunities together.

Thank you for your continued support of Ovid-Elsie Area Schools and for the trust you place in us each day.

Sincerely, Mark Horak

NOTICE! Ovid High School Class of 1966

The Ovid High School Class of 1966 (the last of the Romans) cordially invite all to the 60th Class Reunion being held at the Main Bar & Grill on September 9th from 2-5 p.m.

All previous high school graduates and friends are asked to attend.

For further information call Bill Nemanis (517) 290-1339.

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Members of the Class of "1962" celebrated their "64th" Class Reunion on the 18th of June at Main Street Cafe in St. Johns.

We had a nice turn out also with alot of reminiscing.

Looking forward to our next one in the coming year.



JULY 10TH - 11TH - 12TH

Ovid

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GLR Recycling Drives

submitted by Ellen Link



You may be on vacation but we won't be—the GLR will hold its recycling drives as usual on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (July 7 and 21), 4-6 p.m., and 2nd and 4th Saturdays (July 11 and 25), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. They are open to everyone. Donations are accepted but not required; there are, however, fees for TVs and monitors.

Residents of Shiawassee County should be aware that the county's Hazardous Household Waste Collection will be held on Saturday, July 18, 9 am to 1 pm, on Chippewa Trail—just north of VG's; no appointment is necessary. Visit their website (https://shiawasseechd.net/household-hazardous-waste/) for guidelines and lists of what they will and won't accept. It's a great chance to get rid of bad stuff.

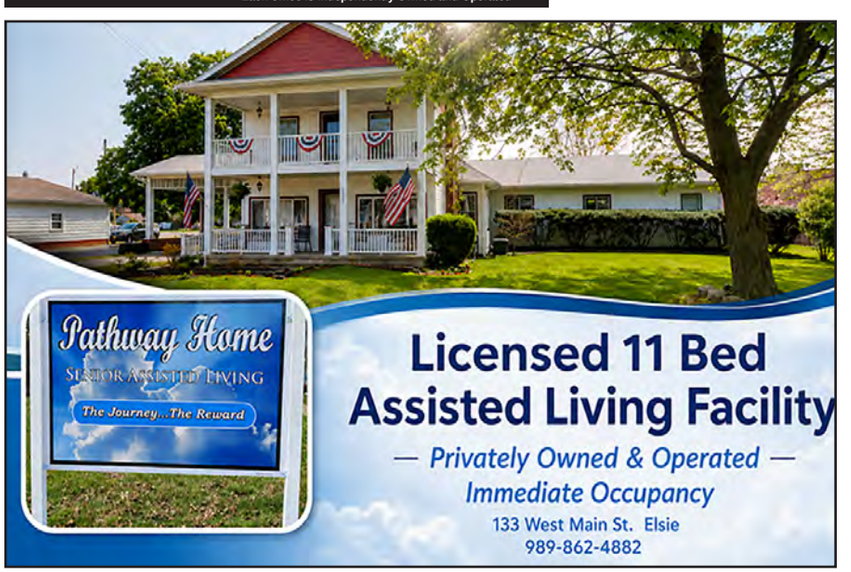
Don't miss out on Lansing's ScrapFest 16, taking place in Old Town on Friday, July 10, 5-9 pm and Saturday, July 11, 11am-7pm. Numerous artists create amazing works from scrap metal they scrounge from Friedland and everyone gets to vote on the winners. There are lots of booth artists, a Refashion Show, and more. It's a must-see!

Summertime and the livin' is easy…maybe too easy? Opting for eating out instead of cooking at home, picking up a cold beverage (in a plastic container) instead of lugging along your own refillable. The choices we make have consequences, so: Stash some reusable take-out containers in your car right now so you can avoid bringing home or having to trash additional plastic containers. And plan to take along a reusable water bottle or coffee mug when you'll be out—for example, to Laingsburg's zero-waste Pancake Breakfast on July 25—to reduce the number of plastics left over from the event. Besides, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council, choosing tap water over bottled water is the best of many ways to protect yourself and our planet from microplastics.

Finally, we've received a number of queries lately about whether or not we're still collecting denim and the answer, regrettably, is no. The arrangement with our original vendor proved untenable and we haven't been able to find another. Several recyclers have researched this on their own and discovered that some clothing stores will accept old jeans. We'll summarize the possibilities and provide that information soon.

Questions, comments, ideas? Call Terry or Ellen Link at (517) 651-2005 or Beth Lange at 651-6437.





Sports

Marauder Girls Soccer Program Lands a Bumper Crop of 9 Postseason Honorees

OVID-ELSIE -- The Marauders' outstanding girls soccer program has landed another bumper crop of post-season honorees.

Coach Jerome White's team has reached the point it doesn't rebuild -- it just reloads.

Nine Lady Marauders continue the team's remarkable legacy of success, after completing a 2026 season by advancing to the MHSAA Regionals with a 16-8 overall record, claiming another District Championship in the process. They eventually lost to state champion Harbor Springs in the Regional Final.

O-E's postseason honorees were led by McKenzie Keck, a midfield/forward, feted at First Team All-State, All-Region, All-District, First Team All-Conference. McKenzie completed her O-E career with 29 goals and 19 assists during her senior season.

Joining Keck as 2026 postseason award winners were:

• Madalynn Bushard (sophomore forward)— Second Team All-State, All-Region, All-District, First Team All-Conference with

30 goals, 10 assists.

• Dannika Campbell (senior defensive midfielder— Honorable Mention All-State, All-Region, All-District, First Team All-Conference (2025 Dream Team). "Dannika had a position change this year, played holding-mid and was injured for half of the season and couldn't play," said coach White. "Still, she was outstanding when on the field." Dannika scored 4 goals and 6 assists.

• Kendal Tokar (sophomore center back) — Honorable Mention All-State, All-Region, All-District. "In my opinion, far and away the best defender I saw in person or on film all season," explained coach White. Kendal scored 1 goal and 4 assists.

• Jaedyn Palus (sophomore forward / wingback)— All-Region, All-District, First Team All-Conference with 19 goals and 16 assists.

• Sarah Newman (goalkeeper)— All-Region, All-District, First Team All-Conference with 11.5 shutouts and 70 saves.

• Claire Fruchey (sophomore infielder)— All-District, First Team All-Conference with 9 goals and 17 assists.

• Lilian Bates (senior midfielder)— All-District, Second Team All-Conference with 5 goals and 5 assists.

• Kaela Campbell (sophomore, left CB)— All-District, Second Team All-Conference with 1 goal and 2 assists.

In addition, Marauder standouts earning Honorable Mention plaudits were Alyson Moore (All-MMAC, All-District), Audrianna Henning (All-District) and Ava Kremer (All-District).


McKenzie Keck


Madalynn Bushard


Dannika Campbell


Kendal Tokar


Jaedyn Palus


Sarah Newman

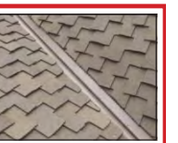

Claire Fruchey

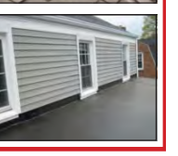

Lilian Bates


Kaela Campbell

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*** DEADLINE - AUGUST 1 2026 ***

Sports

Ashley Bears Will Be Joined by New MSAC Entry in 2026-27

ASHLEY — The Ashley Bears will be joined by a new member entry for the 2026-27 school year.

The Morrice Area Schools announced in a press release that beginning with the upcoming school year, Morrice will be a member of the (now) 11-team Mid-State Activities Conference (MSAC).

The Orioles have concluded their membership in the Genesee Area Conference.

According to the press release, the decision was made after "thoughtful consideration of what is best for Morrice's students, programs and community as they continue to grow and strengthen opportunities for student-athletes and extracurricular participants."

"We are grateful for the relationships and experiences we have shared with the schools of the GAC," said Morrice Superintendent Daniel Nolen in the presser. "At the same time, we are excited for the future and the opportunities that membership in the MSAC will provide for our students and programs. We look forward to building new rivalries, relationships and traditions while continuing to represent Morrice with pride."

Teams that Ashley and Morrice will compete against in the MSAC include Fulton, Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart, Vestaburg, Blanchard Montabella, Carson City-Crystal, Coleman, Breckenridge, Merrill and St. Charles.

More information regarding schedules and conference alignment will be shared as details become available.



Moolenaar Office Now Accepting Internship Applications

The office of Congressman John Moolenaar is currently accepting applications for internship positions available in Caledonia, Clare, and Washington, D.C.

The internship program is open to college students and recent graduates who are interested in learning more about our nation's legislative process and the day-to-day operations of a Congressional office. Opportunities are available beginning in September 2026 in all three offices.

Internship responsibilities in Moolenaar's Caledonia and Clare offices include helping constituents when they need assistance with federal agencies, attending district events and meetings, answering phones, and monitoring the latest news developments throughout the district.

Intern responsibilities in Washington, D.C. include conducting tours of the U.S. Capitol, researching federal legislation and assisting legislative staff. Interns will also have the opportunity to attend legislative briefings and hearings on Capitol Hill.

Applicants are asked to provide a cover letter, resume, and any specific legislative issues or areas of interest. Applications should be submitted by the close of business on

Friday, July 24, 2026. College credits are available per school requirements.

For more information and to apply for an internship, visit Moolenaar.House.gov/internships.

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Editorial



A Little Common Sense

by Crystal Mitchell

Oh drat, can't seem to keep on top of my intentions… The road is paved but still can be a rocky mess. I had the joyful experience of spending a couple of days with my great granddaughter, Isabella a tween on the edge of becoming a teenager. On the way home yesterday she gave me a numeric rating on her experience. At first I thought that she had given me a four out of ten which was alarming to me… How had I become such a stick in the mud? Isabella explained that I got a four out of five when she was helping at the shop but that she did enjoy making a cake...worked her too hard. I got a four point five out of five when we weren't at the shop. Which was no doubt due to getting to choose what and when to eat… Of course it could also be due to the time that we played 'go fish' and kings' corners until ten thirty in the evening (we got up at five in the morning). After the first day at the shop she came home and took a three hour nap and thanked me for keeping her busy so that she didn't become bored. Somewhere along the way I showed her how to cast on stitches and knit. Purling didn't work out very well.

I started out the week with unloading my vehicle at the shop on Sunday morning. By then there was space to park out front (most of the carnival vehicles were missing and finally had free access to our front door). During the 'Dairy Days' the street had become a parking lot. I had seven totes to carry in plus three gallons of milk and dry goods to into the shop and into the fridge or onto the shelves. I then went to church with a cake and a couple of quick breads for our after church gathering. They go well with the coffee and conversation. When I got home I had to finish switching the contents of the market set-up from my pickup to my car. I just unloaded them on Tuesday morning after I picked up our order from GFS in Lansing. I no longer pick up the fifty pounds of flour and sugar, Diane and Brent carry them from the car trunk to the back of the shop.

I almost forgot that I picked up a bunch of Vtech toddler toys, floor puzzles, and books from Sandy on the south side of Lansing. I got them home on Monday and reboxed them and put them into the truck. I also filled a couple of five gallon pails with top soil to fill up a tire to grow potatoes. Noah came over and lifted the dirt into the back of the truck. And of course I managed to spill one of the full buckets while driving up to Elwell. I then grabbed some of the plants that I had ready to transplant and helped transplant them in Ryan's garden. That's about all that I have accomplished in the last few days. May God bless you with perseverance, it is really amazing how much we accomplish without realizing it. Laugh and smile a lot, enjoy life even if you only rate a four point five.

Crystal Mitchell©©2026

Ice Cream Social

The Carland Methodist Church will host an Ice Cream Social on Sunday, June 28th from 1pm-4pm. All are welcome, the church is located at the Corner of Carland and Juddville Roads. A Free will donation will be collected.

Holiday Hours at the Ovid Public Library

The Ovid Public Library will be closed on July 3 and July 4 for the 4th of July holiday. We will reopen on Monday, July 6 at 10:00.

Carriage Days is coming soon. Be sure to come to the library for our book sale that will be taking place during Carriage Days. The sale will run Friday, July 10 9-4 and Saturday, July 11 9-1. We have lots of books as well as DVD's, puzzles and other goodies so make sure to visit. All sales are by donation so please help support your local library!

Laingsburg Movies in the Park Series Runs Through August 12

LAINGSBURG -- Family fun is the focal point as the Laingsburg Downtown Development Authority (DDA) returns its popular "Movies in the Park" series this summer.

Family-friendly showings under the stars will feature a new movie each week. Bring your blanket, bug spray and a few dollars to purchase concessions. The movies begin at dusk at the McClintock Park Amphitheater. Concessions will be available at the pavilion.

The movies run each Wednesday starting at dusk. This summer's lineup includes:

-- July 8th "Hamilton": The original Broadway production of the award-winning musical that tells the story of Alexander Hamilton, first secretary of the treasury, blending hip-hop, jazz, R&B and Broadway styles, filmed from the Richard Rogers Theater in New York.

-- July 15th "Elemental": Computer animation. In a city where fire, water, land and air residents live together, a fiery young woman and a go-with-the-flow guy discover something elemental: how much they actually have in common.

-- July 22nd "IF": Bea, a 12-year-old girl, moves into her grandmother's apartment in New York while her father undergoes heart surgery. She discovers a hidden world of imaginary friends, or IFs, and embarks on a journey of friendship and adventure.

-- July 27th "Goat": Computer animation. A little goat named Will gets the chance of a lifetime to join the pros and play roarball, a high-intensity, full-contact sport dominated by the fastest and fiercest animals.

-- August 5th "Guardians of the Galaxy": Brash space adventurer Peter Quill finds himself the quarry of relentless bounty hunters after he steals an orb coveted by Ronan, a powerful villain. To evade Ronan, Quill is forced into an uneasy truce with four disparate misfits: gun-toting Rocket Raccoon, treelike-humanoid Groot, enigmatic Gamora, and vengeance-driven Drax the Destroyer.

-- August 12th "Super Mario Galaxy Movie": Computer animation. Returning to the Mushroom Kingdom, Mario, Luigi, and Yoshi help the sisters, Toads, and Lumas rebuild Peach's castle. Fox sends the Bowsers to prison before heading home to his universe.

Music in the Park Series Returns Through August 13

LAINGSBURG -- Join the fun with the Laingsburg Business and Community Association (LBCA) as they present "Music In The Park" at the McClintock Park Pavilion / Amphitheater on summer Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m.

The Music in the Park committee has introduced an amazing line up this year. The 2026 Summer Series will be on Thursday nights ending on August 13th. The LBCA will host a community market and food vendors will be on hand. If event has to be moved due to weather they will let you know on the LBCA Facebook page.

This summer's lineup includes:

-- July 9: Scott and Marcy Westenberg from 6 to 7 p.m., and the Universe Band from 7 to 9 p.m., sponsored by Tyler Heating & Cooling.

-- July 16: Dan Laird from 6 to 7 p.m., and the Sandra Faye Band from 7 to 9 p.m., sponsored by Holton Concrete.

-- July 23: New Creation from 6 to 7 p.m., and the Sudden Impact Band from 7 to 9 p.m., sponsored by Rathbun Public Relations and Better Done Disposal.

-- July 30: Aaron Manbeck from 6 to 7 p.m., and Oxymorons from 7 to 9 p.m., sponsored by The Clothesline and Wirostek Lighting.

-- August 6: Carl Pawluk from 6 to 7 p.m., and Cooper Johnson from 7 to 9 p.m. sponsored by the Laingsburg DDA and Lake Trust Credit Union.

-- August 13: Double Dose from 6 to 7 p.m., and the Electric Flower Co. from 7 to 9 p.m., sponsored by the Laingsburg Lions Club.

CLINTON COUNTY LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CLINTON
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S ESTATE

Estate of
CHRISTOPHER GENE HATFIELD
Date of Birth: February 26, 1967
Died on: May 7, 2026
TO ALL CREDITORS:
The decedent,
CHRISTOPHER GENE HATFIELD
Died on April 18, 2026.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Audrey Hatfield, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 100 East State Street, Suite 4300, St. Johns, MI 48879 and the personal representative within four months after the date of publication.

Audrey Hatfield
216 W. Williams St. #2
Ovid, MI 48866
(989) 413-3805

(06/28)

The Meridian Weekly



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Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Clinton County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on JULY 29, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Vicki Lee Jewell, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Countrywide Bank, N.A., its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated September 19, 2006 and recorded October 9, 2006 in Instrument Number 5107245 Clinton County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Seventy-Three Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-Four and 89/100 Dollars ($73,524.89).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Clinton County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on JULY 29, 2026.
Said premises are located in the City of DeWitt, Clinton County Michigan, and are described as: Lot 221, Assessor's Plat of City of DeWitt-North, City of DeWitt, Clinton County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof as recorded in Liber 8 of Plats, Page 1, Clinton County Records.
302 E Main St, Dewitt, Michigan 48820
The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption.
Dated: June 28, 2026
File No. 26-005936
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(06-28)(07-19)

CITY OF OVID
PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST NOTICE
For The
August 4, 2026 Primary

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the August Primary Election has been scheduled for Thursday, July 2, 2026 at 4:00 pm. in the City Council Chamber located at 114 E. Front Street, Ovid.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to determine that the programs and the Election Equipment being used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner prescribed by the law.

Applications for absentee ballots are available at the clerk's office or online at the Michigan Voter Information Center at https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us

Susan Tomasek Swan, Clerk
City of Ovid
114 E. Front St., Ovid, Mi
989-834-5550

6/28/26

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
LAINGSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 BUDGET

The Board of Trustees of the Laingsburg Public Library will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget on July 6, 2026, at 7 p.m. at the Council Chambers, located at the Laingsburg City Hall, 114 S. Woodhull Rd., Laingsburg, Michigan 48848.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments from the public regarding the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Laingsburg Public Library and may also be obtained by contacting the Library Director.

Written comments may be submitted to the Laingsburg Public Library prior to the hearing and will be included in the public record.

All interested persons are invited to attend and provide comments.

Laingsburg Public Library Board of Trustees

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CLINTON COUNTY LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CLINTON
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S TRUST AND ESTATE

SUSAN Y. WOOD LIVING TRUST
Dated August 21, 2019
Date of Birth: May 20, 1947
TO ALL CREDITORS:
The decedent, SUSAN Y. WOOD, who lived at 8404 Country Farm Lane, Laingsburg, MI 48848
Died June 9, 2026.
The decedent, Grantor, established the SUSAN Y. WOOD LIVING TRUST, dated AUGUST 21, 2019.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate and trust will be forever barred unless presented to WILLIAM G. FARMER, Trustee and Nominated Personal Representative of the Estate, at 8404 Country Farm Lane, Laingsburg, MI 48848, (517) 896-4498 or the Attorney for Trustee at 30500 Van Dyke, Suite 100, Warren, MI 48093, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Trustee/Nominated Personal Representative: William G. Farmer
8404 Country Farm Lane
Laingsburg, MI 48848
(517) 796-4498

Attorney for Trustee/Nominated Personal Representative: Law Offices of Benjamin T. Vader
Benjamin T. Vader, esq.
30500 Van Dyke Ave., STE. 100
Warren, MI. 48093
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(06/28)


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ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC, MAY BE DEEMED A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, GA 30004 ph:470-321-7112 Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in CLINTON County, starting promptly at 10:00 A.M on July 22, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information: Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): NORMAN P. BLAKELY. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by NORMAN P. BLAKELY to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS MORTGAGEE, AS NOMINEE FOR UNION HOME MORTGAGE CORP., for a mortgage dated December 09, 2016, and recorded on December 12, 2016, as Instrument Number 5248581 in the Clinton County Register of Deeds. Said mortgage was assigned through mesne assignments to NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE, LLC, now operating as ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE, LLC, as documented by an assignment dated January 19, 2023, and recorded on January 19, 2023, as Instrument Number 5332360 in the CLINTON County Register of Deeds, on which Mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $89,729.44. Under the power of sale contained in said Mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the Circuit Court within CLINTON County, Michigan on July 22, 2026 at 10:00 A.M. Said premises are located in the city of WESTPHALIA in CLINTON County, Michigan and are described as: THE LAND REFERRED TO IN THIS DOCUMENT, SITUATED IN THE VILLAGE OF WESTPHALIA, COUNTY OF CLINTON, STATE OF MICHIGAN DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING 76.5 FEET NORTH OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 5 IN BLOCK 8, VILLAGE OF WESTPHALIA, CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 1 OF PLATS, PAGE 22, CLINTON COUNTY RECORDS; RUNNING THENCE EAST 223 FEET; THENCE NORTH 118.16 FEET; THENCE WEST 223 FEET; THENCE SOUTH TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. Property Address: 311 S WESTPHALIA STREET, WESTPHALIA, MI 48894 Tax ID No. 161-000-008-005-00 The redemption period shall be Six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If this property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the Mortgage sale or to the Mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE, LLC Mortgagee/Assignee June 21, 2026 ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC Attorney for Mortgagee/Assignee 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450 Alpharetta, GA 30004 Telephone: 470-321-7112 Facsimile: 404-393-1425 Service Email: MIFCLTeam@raslg.com

(06-21)(07-12)


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ELSIE: Elsie American Legion Hall Rental. 220 S. Ovid, St., Elsie. Call for more information 989-494-6987. 1538 EOW

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Michigan Self-Service Storage Facility Act (MCL 570.525), Jim's Lockers, located at 7061 N US 27, St. Johns, MI, 48879 will sell at public auction the personal property stored in the following units to satisfy an owner's lien.
The sale will take close on 7/11/2026 at 11:00 AM online at StorageTreasures.com.

Units to be sold:
Unit #44: Zoe Mikel Foster – TV, Speakers, Gun case, sports clothes, camo case
Unit #54: Daniel Shane Young – General inventory, e.g., Household goods, boxes, TV
Unit #50: Ashley Grinnell – Air compressor, fishing poles, guns, misc. items
Unit #60: Ashley Grinnell – Bogs boots, dresser, furniture, misc. Items, dog crate

Terms of Sale: All sales are final and sold "as-is" to the highest bidder. Payment terms are subject to the online auction platform rules (Cash/Credit). Purchased goods must be completely removed within 48 hours of the auction's close. Jim's Lockers reserves the right to withdraw any unit from the sale or cancel the auction at any time prior to the close of bidding.

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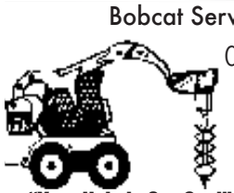
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Meridian Community Band Presents Their Musical Tribute to Our Nation's 250th Celebration in St. Johns Concert

ubmitted by Bill Tennant

Are you looking for a way to start your celebration of this, our country's special 250th birthday? We have just the event for you… a good old fashion Band Concert!

On Wednesday, July 1st, the Meridian Community Band will be presenting a wonderful outdoor concert that evening starting at 7:00 in the William E. Tennant Performance Shell in the beautiful St. Johns City Park. Featured will be a program filled with marches, patriotic numbers, the music of Broadway, and more.

"What a great way to start our Fourth of July celebration in this very special year," says Bill Tennant, committee chair for the concert series. "The Meridian Community Band has put this special concert together featuring mostly patriotic favorites including the Stars and Stripes Forever and the Armed Forces Salute. We're hoping that people will include this concert as part of their celebration plans."

The MCB has been a well-established band in the Greater Lansing area for many years. Founded in 1978, this all-volunteer member group has been enriching the cultural vibrancy of mid-Michigan with their enjoyable programing ever since.

There are some members in the band with St. Johns connections, including the director Michael Scholes, who is a band director at the St Johns Middle School. Michael has both his Bachelors and Master's degrees from Michigan State University. He can be seen conducting some of the pep bands at MSU games as well as being active in the mid-Michigan area playing trumpet for various groups and events.

The Concert in the Park series is co-sponsored by the Clinton County Arts Council and the City of St. Johns. There are 11 other businesses and organizations who are season sponsors this year. We are highlighting the St. Johns Rotary Club for their sponsorship at



this concert. We are grateful to the them for the many things they do in our community and for their wonderful support of our concert series.

Bring a chair or blanket – visit the Lion's Club Food Trailer - the concert takes place rain or shine. The concert is free, but donations are greatly appreciated and needed to support the series each year. We do pass the buckets at intermission.

So, set your GPS to 801 W Park St, and enjoy an evening of music as we celebrate our country's 250th birthday! The CCAC receives funding from the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.



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