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# ThumbPrint News

An imprint of places and people at work and play in the Thumb of Michigan



APRIL 2012

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### Tax Time!



## Ira Township Library Has a New Guardian

By Alan Naldrett  
*ThumbPrint News* Guest Writer

If you are a tree lover you might have been alarmed at the recent decision to cut down a silver maple that had graced the front of the corner of Meldrum and Short Cut for over 150 years. In its youth, this 70 foot maple would have witnessed the interurban railroad system that went right by it. In fact, Shortcut Road was named for the old Native American trail originally there that carved a shortcut for the interurban to bypass the long way along the river to Port Huron.

This tree was also witness to the beginnings of one of the original farmer organizations in the northeast Michigan area. With many names like Ancient Order of the Gleaners,



Architectural Wheel, or Farm Bureau, the Hatch Act of 1887 established agricultural experiment stations in Michigan. Included in the act were provisions for "farmer's institutes" and other forms of education for farmers.

The original meeting place for the farmers of the area was what is now the front part of the Ira Township Library building. It was not built on a foundation, but on pilings to secure the building from potential high waters. After the building's beginnings as a farmer's center, the building was used for many years as the Ira Township meeting hall.

In 1981, the township hall moved to a

See *GUARDIAN*, Page 20



## Spotlight on the Village of New Haven

By Alan Naldrett  
*ThumbPrint News* Guest Writer

The New Haven, Michigan area in Macomb County had its first French settlers arrive in 1835 when the first land was purchased from the federal government. The settlement was originally called "New Baltimore Station" and received its first post office on January 6, 1838, with Charles B. Matthews as the postmaster. Adam Bennett was one of the chief organizers of the village in its earliest days. About 2.4 square miles, the Salt River meandered through the new settlement.

The biggest boon to the growth of the area happened in 1859 as tracks were built by the Chicago, Detroit and Canada Grand Trunk Junction Rail Road Company. By

1865, under the abbreviated name of Grand Trunk Railroad, the railroad company had built a station to handle freight and livestock shipped through the area. As the tracks were being laid, a depot was being built. With rounded windows in the Italianate style, one end of the depot served as living quarters for the station agent and his family.

In 1859, Thomas Edison, only 12 years old, got a job as a "news butch" aboard the train. He would load up in Port Huron with magazines, cigars, postcards, newspapers and snacks to sell on the train and on the platform when the train would stop. Therefore, he was a frequent visitor to the New Haven area.



Around the 1900s, mail would be loaded off the train and put on a four-wheeled cart and then transferred to a two-wheeled cart by a man named Rudolph who would then rush it to the post office.

In 1928, the train route was merged into the Grand Trunk Western route.

See *NEW HAVEN*, Page 11

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The month of April is often bleak, even though hints of the warmer weather of spring and summer tease us on a few of the days. Taxes are due by the middle of the month and it can be one of the most stressful times of the year. Perhaps then, it is appropriate that April is also National Humor Month. In fact, April of 2012 is the 36th anniversary of this little known celebration. Laughter has been proven to be therapeutic and stress-reducing.

Larry Wilde, best-selling humorist and Director of the the Carmel Institute of Humor, founded National Humor Month in 1976. According to www.larrywilde.com, it is designed "to heighten public awareness on how the joy and therapeutic value of laughter can improve health, boost morale, increase communication skills and enrich the quality of one's life." Wilde also adds, "Besides, April is the only month that begins with All Fool's Day – a day which has sanctioned frivolity and pranks ever since the 1500s."

Most of us are more familiar with calling the first day of April, "April Fool's Day," rather than "All Fool's Day." However, whatever the name, this has historically been a day for playing pranks on family, friends, co-workers and even strangers. If you need a good laugh during National Humor Month, go to www.museumofhoaxes.com to discover some of the Top 100 April Fool's Day Hoaxes of All Time. One related on that site that gave me a chuckle was:

*On April 1, 1957, the British news show Panorama broadcast a three-minute segment about a bumper spaghetti harvest in southern Switzerland. The success of the crop was attributed both to an unusually mild winter and to the "virtual disappearance of the spaghetti weevil." The audience heard Richard Dimbleby, the show's highly respected anchor, discussing the details of the spaghetti crop as they watched video footage of a Swiss family pulling pasta off spaghetti trees and placing it into baskets. The segment concluded with the assurance that, "For*



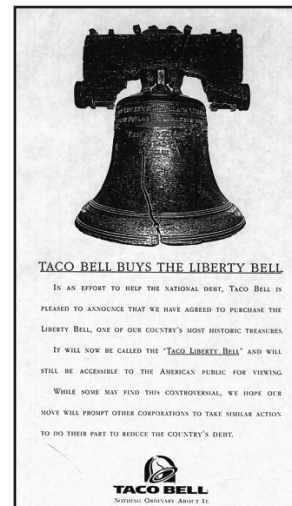
*those who love this dish, there's nothing like real, home-grown spaghetti."*

*The Swiss Spaghetti Harvest hoax generated an enormous response. Hundreds of people phoned the BBC wanting to know how they could grow their own spaghetti tree. To this query the BBC diplomatically replied, "Place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best."*

*To this day the Panorama broadcast remains one of the most famous and popular April Fool's Day hoaxes of all time. It is also believed to be the first time the medium of television was used to stage an April Fool's Day hoax.*

Or how about this one:

On April 1, 1996, a full page ad appeared in six major American newspapers (*The Philadelphia Inquirer, New York Times, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, Dallas Morning News, and USA Today*) announcing that the fast food chain Taco Bell had purchased the Liberty Bell. The full text of the ad read:



### **Taco Bell Buys the Liberty Bell**

*In an effort to help the national debt, Taco Bell is pleased to announce that we have agreed to purchase the Liberty Bell, one of our country's most historic treasures. It will now be called the "Taco Liberty Bell" and will still be accessible to the American public for viewing. While some may find this controversial, we hope our move will prompt other corporations to take similar action to do their part to reduce the country's debt.*

*In a separate press release, Taco Bell explained that the Liberty Bell would divide its time between Philadelphia and the Taco Bell headquarters in Irvine. It compared the purchase to the adoption of highways by corporations. Taco Bell argued that it was simply "going one step further by purchasing one of the country's greatest historic treasures." The company boasted, "Taco Bell's heritage and imagery have revolved around the symbolism of the bell. Now we've got the crown jewel of bells."*

This second prank also generated a huge outpouring of responses. Many people who called the Park Service or Taco Bell did not realize the announcement was a joke. However, there were many critics who did realize it was a joke, but nevertheless felt it was in bad taste.

As with all pranks and jokes, there is always a fine line between what one person thinks is acceptable and another may not. The point is, though, that laughter is good for us. I challenge all of our readers to bring more humor into their lives, not only during the month of April, but all year long. You may just start to see the world in a different light.

**DIANE KODET**  
Editor, ThumbPrint News



One night at dinner, Morgan said to his wife, "I have to admit I'm feeling much better since my operation, but I can't figure out why I got this big bump on my head."  
"Oh, that!" said his spouse. "In the middle of your operation they suddenly ran out of anesthetic."

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# EXTREME MUSTANG MAKEOVER

## Emmett, Michigan Horse Farm will Compete in Extreme Mustang Makeover 2012

By Leslie Cieplechowicz

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

**S**himmering Moon Farm, located at 12516 Foley Road in Emmett, Michigan, has been selected to compete in the Extreme Mustang Makeover on April 20-22, 2012, at the Midwest Horse Fair in Madison, Wisconsin. Trainers will have approximately 80 days to gentle a wild horse they picked up on January 27, 2012 and compete for an estimated purse of \$12,500 in prize money.

We drove to Wisconsin to pick up our mare. She is a three year old sorrel from Nevada. She made the long trip home safely. We have named her Solar Flare, or Solie for short. After her first week, she was leading on a line and lunging for us.

The mustangs competing in the Extreme Mustang Makeover challenge are mares, and the horses, who were virtually untouched prior to the January pick-up, will compete in Madison in April. They will be judged on their body condition and new skills. The trainers and mustangs will compete in a series of classes, such as in-hand obstacle course and a horse course where the horse and rider will maneuver over obstacles. The top 10 from the preliminary go-rounds will compete in freestyle finals on Sunday, April 22. All mustangs competing in the Extreme Mustang Makeover will be available for

adoption through a competitive-bid adoption on Sunday, April 22. Tickets are available at <http://midwesthorsefair.com>.

Adoption fees will be set by competitive bid. To qualify to adopt, individuals must be at least 18, with no record of animal abuse. In addition, adopters must have suitable facilities and can adopt no more than four animals. Adoption applications may be obtained and approved on site by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) during the event.

The purpose of the competition is to showcase the beauty, versatility and trainability of these rugged horses that roam freely on public lands throughout the West, where they are protected by the BLM under federal law. The BLM periodically removes excess animals from the range to ensure herd health and protect rangeland resources.

Thousands of the removed animals are then made available each year to the public for adoption. More than 3,300 wild horses have been adopted through the Mustang Heritage Foundation events and programs since 2007.

The Extreme Mustang Makeovers are made possible



Leslie (left) and Zachary Cieplechowicz with their Mustang mare, Solar Flare (Solie)

through our partnership with the BLM and the generosity of our sponsors, Dodge Ram, Western Horseman, Pfizer, Vetericyn, Roper Apparel & Footwear, Gist Silversmiths, Martin Saddlery, and Smith Brothers.

### About the Mustang Heritage Foundation

The mission of the Mustang Heritage Foundation and the goal of the Extreme Mustang Makeover events are to increase the adoption of mustangs across the country. The Mustang Heritage Foundation created the Extreme Mustang Makeover events to showcase the recognized value of mustangs through a national training competition. For more information, visit [www.mustangheritagefoundation.org](http://www.mustangheritagefoundation.org).

### About the Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for managing 258 million acres of public lands, located mostly in the west. Wild horse and burros roaming public rangelands are managed in a manner consistent with the BLM's overall multiple-use mission, as set forth in the Federal Land

Policy and Management Act of 1976. For information, visit [www.wildhorseandburrow.gov](http://www.wildhorseandburrow.gov) or call (866) 468-7826.

### About the Midwest Horse Fair

The Midwest Horse Fair is one of the top three-day horse fairs in America. Held in Madison, Wisconsin, at the Alliant Energy Center, it has been growing and going strong since 1979. In 2012, the Midwest Horse Fair will celebrate its 33rd annual event. Every year, the Midwest Horse Fair gets bigger and better and 2012 will be no different! Every performance is a unique experience as exhibitors incorporate the 2012 theme, Horse Heritage, into their demonstrations. The mission of the Midwest Horse Fair is to unite all facets of the horse industry through the premier event by focusing on education, networking and promotional opportunities and to introduce non-horse owners to the beauty and enjoyment of this magnificent animal while providing entertainment to individuals and families of all ages. Learn more at: <http://midwesthorsefair.com>.

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# At the Old Ball Game

"Take me out to the ball game, take me out with the crowd . . ."  
Oh well, you know how the rest of it goes. And, yes, it's that time of year again.

**By David Gillis**  
ThumbPrint News Columnist

In a baseball field I recently noticed kids already out playing catch. The ground was still soft from all this year's moisture and the temperature was only in the high forties, but they were there. Surely they were anticipating the beginning of another season of that all-American pastime, perhaps believing this year would bring recognition of their outstanding athletic abilities.



David Gillis in Little League

As I drove on, my thoughts journeyed back to my very first Little League game. It took place in 1952 and I was only nine years old. It wasn't difficult to remember that specific game because I was responsible for that season's first home run. But this story offers more than a simple tale of a ball hit well. Allow me to explain.

Baseball was popular for kids growing up in Algonac and Little League was just becoming an important part of it. However, my experience was limited to playing catch or participating in a game with three or four neighborhood kids. That is until a friend encouraged me to try out for a Little League team.

The community's Little League organization at that time provided four major league and six minor league teams. This layered structure allowed every boy (girls couldn't play until 1974) who wanted to play an opportunity to do so, regardless of his athletic prowess. So, I convinced my father that I needed a new baseball glove and off I went for one of two try-outs.

To say I wasn't a very good baseball player in the beginning is probably a misstatement. Actually, I was pretty bad and today would be classified as "athletically challenged." Somehow, however, I made it through the first try-out in an uneventful manner and wasn't able to attend the second. That was fine with me because I knew I'd be playing on a farm team just for signing up. That's all that was important.

Then it happened! I was selected to play for the Dodgers, one of the four major league teams. Only one of my friends, a real ballplayer, was also chosen for the upper level and all others were assigned to various farm teams.

My first thought was, "How can this be?" Did they make a mistake with my name thinking I was someone else? Possibly the coach normally wore glasses and forgot them on the day I tried out. Certainly a mistake

had been made, but I continued in a dumbfounded manner. We had two practices before the big first game and I missed one of them.

Every former Little League player remembers his first game like it was yesterday and, as I mentioned, I have a specific reason for doing so. I walked proudly in my red and white Dodger's uniform to the Lion's Field just five blocks away. I had no idea what position I might be playing and, actually, was hoping to watch the entire game from the dugout.

When I arrived at the ball diamond that day, I took a seat in the dugout and waited for instructions from the coach. I could hardly contain my exuberance of just being there, but the feeling turned to fear when I heard the coach say, "Gillis, you're playing right field." He was obviously still mistaking me for someone else.

I walked across the hard clay infield, past first base and into the grass right field. My eyes opened wide and my heart began beating fast as I heard the umpire yell, "Play ball!"

I prayed that the batter wouldn't hit the ball to me and, after two strikes, was convinced he could not. But, just as I completed that thought, I heard the crack of the wooden bat and saw the ball coming towards me. I swallowed hard and began running towards the infield to make my first major league catch. I recall hearing the crowd in the stands yelling, "Go back, go back," but didn't understand until I looked up to see the ball continuing past me, well above my head. As you now know, in my very first Little League game I was responsible for the season's first home run.

I felt humiliated that day and, though embarrassed, continued through the end of the game, which we lost by a single run. I know now the coach was a wiser man than I thought him to be because he allowed me to remain in the game.

Almost six decades later I vividly remembered that day, but for another reason. While watching an Algonac Little League game, another Gillis stood in the batter's box. My grandson Aaron, who had never hit a homerun, swung at a pitch low and outside. With the bases loaded, his bat



Aaron Gillis in Little League

connected driving the ball into the left field. The fielder waited a little too long and couldn't get the line-drive. That night another Gillis was responsible for a homerun, this time a grand-slam.

I don't remember who won that game and it really doesn't matter. And, it may not sound like poetic justice, but for me it was. The world seemed like a perfect place that day ". . . at the old ball game." 🍀

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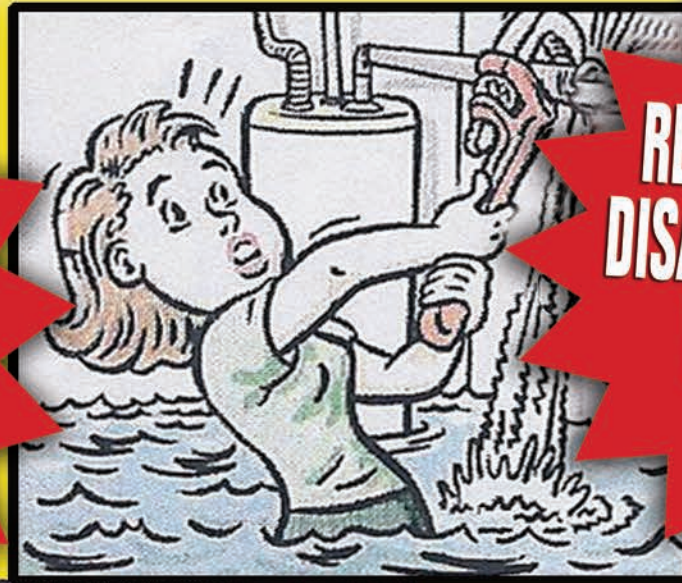
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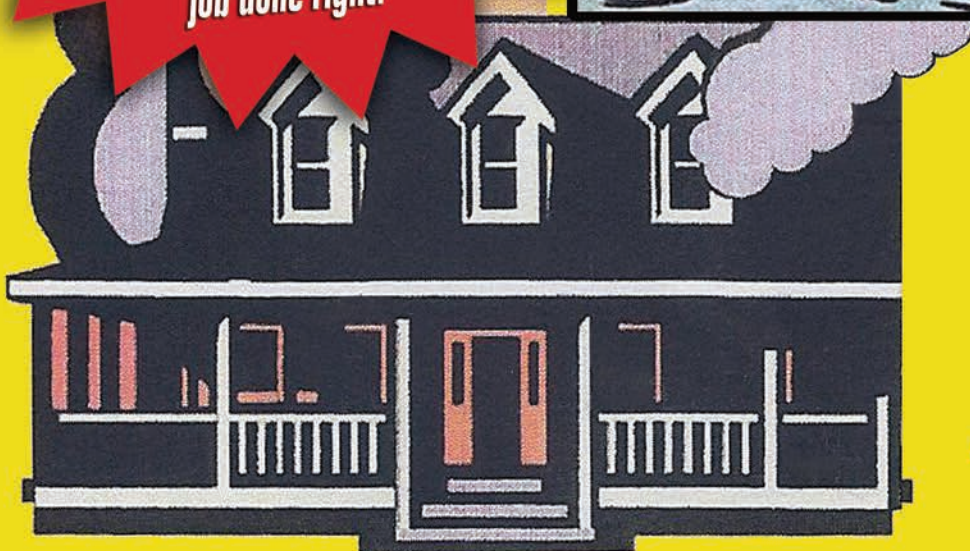
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# TOP 2012 GARDEN & LIFESTYLE TRENDS

cultivate the new good life with the power of plants

(ARA) – In today's world where news travels at the speed of now, people are searching for balance and purpose and are tapping into the power of plants to cultivate the 'new good life'.

"Plants are powerful," says Eric Liskey, deputy garden editor for *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine. "Whether it's enjoying garden-to-table meals or sharing great new plant finds, people are naturally drawn to plants."

Besides beautifying our homes and gardens, plants play a vital role in our health and well-being. They elicit powerful positive emotions, revive neighborhoods, and influence everything from what we eat to life's milestones.

"Plants are no longer a luxury, but a necessity for our lives," says Susan McCoy, trend spotter and outdoor living expert. "Plants can live without us, but we can't live without plants."

For a growing army of eco-conscious Gen X and Y's, recycling, repurposing and upcycling is now a lifestyle.

Dr. Charlie Hall, professor of horticulture at Texas A&M, says, "Gen Y's are embracing a connection with plants based on economics, environmental impact, health and wellness."

These rural and urban curators are planting home and community gardens and renewing urban spaces with an eye toward functionality and artistic design.

**Here's what McCoy and her team of Garden Media Group trend spotters see for gardening in 2012:**

**1. Urban knights.** A growing army of 'urban knights' are creating oases wherever they can find a patch of earth. They're planting shrubs, flowers, edibles and pop-up gardens on balconies, in alley ways, and on street parklets – even in abandoned buildings.

From yard sharing and raising chickens to 'step gardening' and harvesting rain water, urban knights are finding a 'new

good life' by getting grounded with the earth.

**2. Eco-scaping.** From rocks in the garden to rocks in the living room, nature's influence can be found both indoors and out.

"Borders are blurring between indoors and out as nature becomes more important in our lives," says Bobbie Schwartz, president of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers. "Many people want their gardens and their homes to be sanctuaries of tranquility, reflecting their ideal concept of nature."

Beauty and sustainability are key. Liskey says that people want the "beauty and romance" of a garden with less work. "Gardeners want easy, low-maintenance plants that give plenty of color."

"Herbs are popular as cooking shows and healthy eating habits grow," says Briscoe White, head herb farmer at The Growers Exchange. "It's easy to pot up herbs indoors and out for fresh ingredients year round." He recommends planting containers of herbs de Provence for beauty and cooking or edging a landscape border with lavender.

**3. Occupy local.** People are "occupying" local farmers markets and joining CSA's (Community Supported Agriculture) for fresh produce, plants and products.

"Farmers markets are our new backyard veggie gardens and are becoming our local grocery store," says McCoy.

According to the U.S. Dept of Agriculture, sales of "locally produced food" reached \$4.8 billion in 2008. They project that locally grown foods will generate \$7 billion in sales dominated by fruit and veggies in 2012.

**4. Conscious consumption.** According



to the 2010 Cone Survey, 83 percent of consumers still want to see more brands, products and companies that support worthy causes.

"We've finally moved from 'me' to 'we' and consider our earth and each other when we purchase," says McCoy.

**5. Water watchers.** "There is no single issue greater than water," says Dr. Hall. Recent drought and regional water restrictions are causing us to grow plants, flowers and vegetables with less water.

Soil amendments like the new SoilReef biochar are considered by many scientists to be the "black gold" for gardening. Its high carbon content and porous nature help soil retain water and nutrients, saving gardeners time and money.

Hydroponic gardening is hot, allowing plants to grow year-round in nutrient rich solutions that actually use less water.



**6. In living color.** Neon colors, pop art and color blocking are influencing

fashion on the runways and fashion in the garden. From tangerine to deep purples and soothing greens, colors are all over the landscape. Rich, gem colors create your own personal piece of paradise.

**7. Inner gardening.** Decorating our inner gardens with houseplants for better, healthier lives is now the norm. These natural oxygen machines clean indoor air while bringing life to any room.



Whether you want ferns, peace lilies or palms, bring nature in and green up your spaces. To learn more about the benefits of indoor houseplants check out [www.O2forYou.org](http://www.O2forYou.org).

**8. Techno-gardening.** With the rise of smartphone technology, consumers are able to go directly into the buying experience. According to TrendWatching, 'dealer chic' is on the rise where securing the best deal is not just accepted - it's admired.

**9. Seedlings.** From the White House to the neighborhood schools, kids are learning how to grow their own food and take care of the planet.

McCoy says we've ignored two generations of gardeners and need to get kids back to having fun growing things. She says the popularity of a fairy garden is ideal for kids and the young at heart to share the whimsical world of plants and appreciate the joy of gardening.

For a complete look at the Garden Media Group 2012 Garden Trends Report, visit [www.gardenmediagroup.com](http://www.gardenmediagroup.com).



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# LANDSCAPING THE THUMB

## April Showers Bring May Flowers

By Paul Bujak

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

The popular rhyme, which can be traced back to the mid 1500s, is the thing to say and hear around springtime. It was compiled in a collection of writings by Thomas Tusser, and was originally written as, "Sweet April Showers, Do Spring May Flowers." With plenty of meaning behind the words, the heavy rains of April provide an abundance of colorful flowers in May.

The colors of May are painted by wonderful flowers from azaleas, daffodils, dogwoods, tulips, roses, and many more. You can usually pick up these fantastic plants and trees in the early spring and get them in the ground before the blooming season begins. Let's take a look at some of the most common flowers people associate with the month of May.

**Azaleas** are ornamental flowering deciduous shrubs that are part of the rhododendron family. Having originated in Asia, the azalea is now common throughout the eastern U.S. and the pacific coast. Azaleas come in hundreds of varieties and colors. For best placement of azaleas, place near or under trees as they don't require much sun. This is the perfect time to plant your azaleas, as Michigan's typical blooming season is late spring to early summer.



**Daffodil** or Narcissus, is a mostly hardy spring-flowering bulb that is part of the amaryllis family. They



originated in Europe, North Africa and Asia. There are currently between 50 and 100 variations of daffodils. Daffodils come in many colors such as white, yellow, gold and orange. They can also vary in height, bloom time and shape. Daffodils are best planted in open areas where they can receive at least six hours of direct sunlight daily. Traditionally, daffodils bloom in April or May in the midwest. After the daffodils flower, it's best to let the leaves turn yellow before cutting them.

**Dogwoods** are a group of 30-60 species of woody plants derived from the woods of the eastern United States, China and Japan. Originally named "dog-tree," the dogwood is widely known for its beautiful explosion of colorful flowers, all year visual interest, and its ability to fill small landscape spaces with exuberant colors. They are fast growing, and flowering types bloom very young. Dogwoods can be found with different color bracts, and the colors range from white to pink to almost scarlet. The typical blooming period for the dogwood in Michigan is late March to mid-May.



By visiting a local nursery before spring, you may be able to pick up a great ornamental shrub to plant before the blooming season begins. Keep in mind to provide a quality soil when planting and provide water (whenever its not raining).

What are you waiting for? Get out there and start planting now, before the beautiful colors of spring start to fade away. 🌱

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# The *Angel* Advisor

## In Caring for Someone with Alzheimer's, Support is the Most Important Resource

By Jeffrey Johnson

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

According to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, as many as 5.1 million Americans may have Alzheimer's disease, a fatal brain disease that causes a slow decline in memory, thinking and reasoning skills. A diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease can be frightening and devastating to an individual and their loved ones, but there are some steps you can take to make it through.

While there is no cure for Alzheimer's, there are treatments and therapies that can slow the worsening of dementia symptoms and improve the quality of life for those with the disease and their caregivers. If you suspect your loved one is showing symptoms of Alzheimer's, it is extremely important to be proactive by getting them to their physician, and if a diagnosis is made, to get a care team and plan in place as soon as possible.

First, know these 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's:

**1. Memory loss that disrupts daily life:** not remembering recent events, names, where things go, and other new information.

**2. Challenges in planning or solving problems:** Signs include having trouble following a familiar recipe or keeping track of monthly bills, difficulty concentrating and taking much longer to do things than previously should be taken seriously.

**3. Difficulty completing familiar tasks at home or at work.**

**4. Confusion about time and place:** People with Alzheimer's can lose track of dates, seasons and the passage of time.

**5. Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships:** Look for difficulty reading, judging distance and determining color or contrast.

**6. New problems with words in speaking or writing:** Signs include trouble finding the appropriate words, completing sentences, and following directions and conversations.

**7. Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps:** People with Alzheimer's may put things in unusual places, or accuse others of stealing.

**8. Decreased or poor judgment when making decisions:** There may be issues with monetary scams or less attention to grooming and hygiene.

**9. Withdrawal from work or social activities.**

**10. Changes in mood or personality:** Signs include increased depression, fearfulness, anxiety or suspicion, rapid and persistent mood swings, withdrawal and disinterest in usual activities.

If your loved one is displaying any of these warning signs, it is vital to have them evaluated by a physician and screened for Alzheimer's. If a physician diagnoses Alzheimer's, the more proactive you are in making decisions regarding care, the more you can manage the disease.

**Here are a few basic steps to help if you or someone you love is diagnosed with Alzheimer's:**

**1. Educate yourself about the disease.** The more you know, the more you can be prepared. The Alzheimer's Foundation of America ([www.alzfdn.com](http://www.alzfdn.com)) and the Alzheimer's Association ([www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)) are two great resources.

**2. Take care of financial, legal and long-term care planning issues.** Discuss wishes related to future care and end-of-life issues.

**3. Employ cognitive stimulation.** Listening to music, word puzzles and memory games can help and can provide a positive experience for the patient and caregivers.

**4. Arrange respite and/or regular professional care.** When looking to hire home care help, try to find a person who has Dementia Care Professionals of America training ([www.careprofessionals.org](http://www.careprofessionals.org)) or experience with dementia care clients. Visiting Angels, for example, the nation's leading network for quality, compassionate home care, is one local home care agency that provides this training to its staff.

**5. Build a support system.** Many local hospitals and departments of aging offer free support groups, along with sites like the National Family Caregivers Association ([www.thefamilycaregiver.org/caregivingresources](http://www.thefamilycaregiver.org/caregivingresources) and [www.caring.com](http://www.caring.com)).

If you or your loved one has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's or a related dementia, know that you are not alone. For more information or to explore care options, call Visiting Angels at 810-326-4357 or visit us online at [www.VisitingAngels.com/StClair](http://www.VisitingAngels.com/StClair). 🐦

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**NEW HAVEN**

Continued from Page 1



In early 1900, mail would be loaded off the train in New Haven and put on a four-wheeled cart in route to the post office.

In 1940, in publicity for the movie *Young Tom Edison*, Mickey Rooney, who played Tom Edison in the movie, took an eight car train from Port Huron to Detroit and made various stops along the way, including the New Haven Depot, where he was greeted by over half the village. While the train was moving, Mickey Rooney, dressed as Tom Edison, walked through the train hawking newspapers, candy, etc., just as Tom had originally done.



Mickey Rooney as Young Tom Edison on the train to New Haven. Photo courtesy of The Henry Ford.

Passenger service lasted until July, 1954. The depot was then used for storage. A garage door was cut into the side to facilitate the moving of items into the depot.

In 1990, the railroad company decided that the depot had outlived its usefulness and it was slated to be torn down when a community group, Save Our Depot, Inc., was formed. Their mission was fulfilled when they purchased the depot and the 1.3 acres it was on from Grand Trunk Railroad for a charitable \$5,000 in 1997.

The Save Our Depot group raised about \$100,000 for the restoration of the depot. A majority of the money came from community development grants, with an additional \$50,000 worth of services contributed. The restoration was finished



The restored New Haven Depot is now a museum.

in spring of 2004 and the depot officially reopened on June 27, 2004, as a museum for the New Haven community. Save Our Depot evolved into the New Haven/Lenox Township Historical Society.

The depot is one of the few pre-Civil War depots surviving in Michigan, as well as being one of the few still in their original location.

The Village of New Haven was incorporated on May 3, 1869, with Benjamin L. Bates elected as the first Village President. (In Michigan, one of the main distinctions between a village and a city is that a village is ruled by a president and shares administrative duties with its township, whereas a city is separate from the township and has a mayor.) New Haven is the largest incorporated area in Lenox Township.

New Haven and its depot were connected to New Baltimore by the Romeo and Ashley Plank Road. This became the main road of New Haven. In New Baltimore, this street is now Washington Street and when it crosses the I-94 Expressway, it becomes New Haven Road. When it is within the Village of New Haven borders, it becomes Main Street. When it leaves the village boundaries, it becomes New Haven Road again. Freight would often arrive by ship to New Baltimore and then would travel along the plank road to the New Baltimore Station located in New Haven to be shipped by rail throughout the state and country.

A thriving stage coach line transported passengers to Ashley. Besides the Village of Ashley (later called New Baltimore), other fledgling communities served by the New Haven Depot included Meade, Omo and Ray Center.



The New Haven Creamery

Other early industries in the Village of New Haven included Hiram Hazelton's sawmill and general store (his sawmill would have the first telephone installed in 1885), Ephraim and Charles Fullerton's iron foundry and hardware store, a



The tallest building in this photo is the Hotel Graustark on Main Street in New Haven.



Train traveling south, from Port Huron, into the New Haven Depot

creamery, the Edwards Farm Supply and Implement Business on Division Street, and a roller place that produced flour. Other businesses included two doctors, two garages, three flour, seed, and feed businesses, and a grocery and meat shop. There were two boot and shoe stores, a harness shop, a dry goods store, a drug store, a cooper shop, two blacksmiths, a stove and tin shop, two wagon shops, a livery stable, and the Graustark Hotel. Some of the important exports of New Haven in the early days were farm products and barrel heads, these being produced in another local factory.

By 1875, New Haven had over 650 residents. The village continued to prosper as more businesses started.

In 1896, the New Haven Lumber Company was organized by a group led by Edgar M. Harris. In 1901, it was sold to F.D. Phelps, who sold it in 1904 to Henry A. Kern, the manager of the creamery. Kern added a line of paints and hardware.



The New Haven Lumber Company

See NEW HAVEN, Page 12

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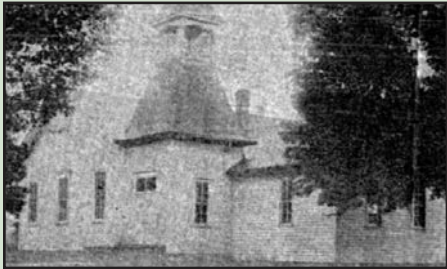
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## The Schools of New Haven

New Haven's first school was not the typical one-room schoolhouse. It had three rooms! It was located on Pasco Street in a grove of trees.

Below are some other early New Haven/Lenox Township schools.



Carl High School



Harris School on New Haven Road near Place Road



Bates School at Scheurer Road and 25 Mile Road



In this photo of the Richards School, which was on 32 Mile Road in Richmond, is Mildred Dresser, Richards School teacher in the 1930s. The school was later moved across the street into Lenox Twp., between Place and Welding and is now a residence.

Dreyer School (above) at Omo Road between 29 and 30 Mile Road, still stands today (below).



The New Haven School on Clark Street was opened on February 12, 1922 and it had all 12 grades. The first class to graduate was the class of 1924.



The Lowell/Sullivan Schoolhouse is located at 28 Mile and Gratiot and has recently been renovated.



New Haven's undefeated 1934 football team outscored its opponents 196-0. The Foundrymen (New Haven's nickname until Rockets was adopted) were coached by Edward Stiefert (back row, far right).

### NEW HAVEN

Continued from Page 11

The New Haven Milling Company was originally called the Roller Mills in 1875. In 1878 it burned to the ground and was rebuilt. A steam engine was used for power, and flour was ground between mill stones. It was owned by a few different people until around 1924 when it passed into the Neely family. They operated it under the name W.J. Neely & Sons Milling. Five generations of Neelys would run the mill.



The New Haven Farmers Elevator Company is still operating in the same location as in 1921.



The New Haven Milling Company

The Edwards Farm Supply and Implement Business was bought out by Jay Baldwin in 1902 and in 1921, it was reorganized and incorporated as the New Haven Farmers Elevator Company.

By the dawning of the twentieth century, New Haven had electricity produced in a power house located on the north side of Ann Street (back of Froh's garage) in the middle of the block. It was owned by Frank Phelps, also the owner of a Robinson Cadillac, one of the first motorcars in the village. He was given a 30 year contract on March 6, 1897, "to do all that he needed to light streets, alleys, and the grounds of the village." The dynamo was located in the back of the building, originally called the Old Power House. In the front of the building was an ice cream parlor where sodas could be bought for a nickel. Also for sale were candy and oyster stew.

Frank Phelps would use one of Thomas Edison's inventions at the power house on Saturday nights – the motion picture

projector. He would stretch a large screen between two poles and project films on it all summer long and late into the fall. He had many reels of silent films and would use another of Mr. Edison's inventions – the phonograph – to play music while the silent films played. The power house/ice cream parlor was the local meeting place.



The ice cream parlor in the front of the Old Power House on Ann Street

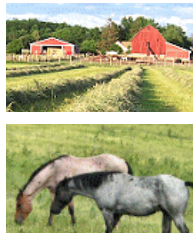
The power house was eventually sold to the St. Clair Edison Power Company and Frank Phelps continued as the caretaker. In 1920, they moved the dynamo to a new location at Main and Pescoe Streets. The generating plant consisted of one two-cylinder Westinghouse gasoline engine connected to a Thompson-Houston 650-light generator. The whole operation was mechanized by Frank so that all he had to do was go in the power plant twice a day, once to turn on the lights and then again to turn them off. His ingenuity in creating the local power grid was cited



Looking east down Main Street, circa 1900

## New Haven Farmers Elevator

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by the Detroit Edison *Synchroscope* magazine in June, 1923.

Since Frank Phelps was the movie guy also, the moving of the generator didn't signal the end of the Saturday night movies in New Haven. At the new power house, movies were projected onto a portable screen across the street from the new building. After the Clark Street High School was built, movies were projected from a booth in the auditorium while the high school orchestra would play live music.

Another early business in New Haven was the Will Funeral Home. It had its start in 1910 when William Will moved from Roseville to New Haven and began a furniture, drug and undertaking business. His wife, Myrtle, contributed her musical talent to the community by organizing and singing with the "Ladies Singing Society" and the "Loud Holler Singing School." In 1912, William built the William Will Building. In 1945, he retired and sold the funeral home to his nephew, Bert Will. In 1953, Bert Will sold the business to Forbes (Pat) Duncan who changed the name of the funeral home to the Duncan Funeral Home. Later on, it was named the Duncan-Olszewski Funeral Home.



Built in 1912, The William Will Building housed a furniture store, drug store and an undertaking business.

As most buildings were composed of wood, a fire department was formed in 1860 for the village when Village President Adam Bennett and Village Clerk J.R. Randall formulated a Fire Ordinance. On October 3, 1887, the Village purchased a hand fire engine and hose for \$270.00.

On October 2, 1914, a major fire

swept through New Haven. Discovered by two tenants of the Hotel Graustark, they sounded the alarm at 3.00 a.m. and fortunately there were no casualties other than buildings. Residents from all over Richmond, Armada, New Baltimore and Mt. Clemens responded to telegrams to help fight the fire. They saved many structures but some of the buildings lost included the Claude Tessman Barber Shop, the Sanford Dennett store, the Charles Kielblock garage, the dental office of Dr. J.W. Kline, and many residences. This gave New Haven a wake-up call to beef up its fire protection.

In 1950 a bond was issued and New Haven built its first fire station. The New Haven Fire Department has served the community for over 130 years.

A business integral to the growth of the village was the foundry located off Main Street near the railroad tracks. Due to the foundry being one of the first businesses in the area to hire African-Americans, the village had workers and their families and New Haven became one of the first municipalities in the state to have an African-American police chief as well as other notable firsts.



The New Haven Foundry

The first police station in New Haven was a small white police booth at the corner of Pasco and Main Streets.

In the early days of the village, most of the businesses were located on Main Street. Maintenance of Main Street was usually one of the main village expenses. Minutes from the council on April 5, 1887, appoints a Lamplighter for the village at an annual salary of \$7.50. Then

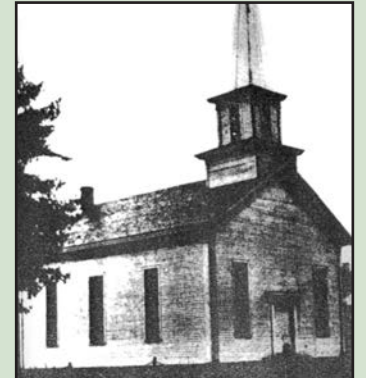
See NEW HAVEN, Page 14

## The Churches of New Haven

Early churches in New Haven included the Free Will Baptist Church which was started around 1854, the Methodist Church which started in 1861, and the First Congregational Church which started in 1868. In 1884 the German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church opened in the village.



The older Baptist church is flanked by the newer Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist Church.



The Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in 1861. The original building was on the Gratiot Turnpike.



Lutheran church and parsonage



The Lenox-New Haven Historical Society is raising money to move the old Methodist Church to the historical area on Victoria Street.



The First Congregational Church on Main Street was founded in 1868.



The Seventh-Day Adventist Church

## The Cemetery in New Haven

The Centennial Cemetery is the resting place of some of New Haven's citizens. It was founded during the nation's first centennial, by purchasing land from Sarah N. Prentiss on May 31, 1876.



Centennial Cemetery in New Haven



The years that are carved into the mausoleum attest to the age of the cemetery.

## New Haven Today



The first shopping mall in New Haven was Huck's Plaza at Clark Street and Gratiot. It was built in 1980 by Ron Huck, who had previously operated his party store/delicatessen on the site for eight years.



Due to a number of subdivisions recently built in New Haven in the 2000s, the population has grown by over two thousand residents. New businesses abound on Gratiot, including an industrial park, a McDonald's, and a farm supply store.



Much of New Haven's commercial growth is taking place along Gratiot Avenue between 26 and 27 Mile Roads (known as Clark in the village).

## Outstanding Citizens

Although it has seen many changes in the last two centuries, the biggest strength of the village has always been in its people. Besides the early pioneers mentioned, there are more modern examples of outstanding New Haven citizens. One such community leader was also the first woman on the New Haven School Board. She was a community organizer, a job coordinator and humanitarian known simply as Momma Bea (Beatrice Perry).

Others, like Marilyn Kaake and George Drake, have been the leaders in the preservation and maintenance of New Haven's history.

## NEW HAVEN

Continued from Page 13



New Haven's Main Street looking west, circa 1961

on March 6, 1897, Frank Phelps, movie projectionist, candy store and dynamo owner, got his 30 year contract to bring electricity to the village. In 1882, a contractor was hired to construct board walks for the village, using planks. On July 2, 1890, a contract was entered into by the Village Council to construct cement sidewalks.

In 1894, a newspaper published in the village was the *Weekly Star*, in 1912 there was *The People's Advocate*, and from 1919 to 1924 there was *The New Haven Star*.

In February, 1948, the New Haven Public Library was created by Village Ordinance Number 56. Serving Lenox Township also, it was first housed in the 1940s in the Lenox Township Hall with 1400 books on loan from the State of Michigan library. On April 30, 1950, the New Haven Lions dedicated a new library building located in the village at Clark and Main Street. It was built with volunteer labor, with workers pitching in on weekends and in their spare time. The library was a branch of the county library until the county library divested its branches in 1970. The building was then deeded its land by the Women's Relief Corp and became an independent library serving the village and township. In 1980, the building size was doubled, as it was again in 1994.



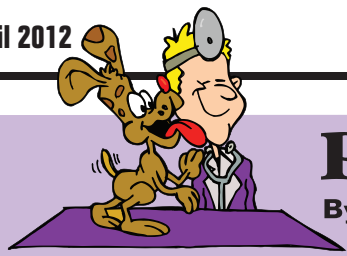
Dedication ceremony for the New Haven Public Library in 1950

As the decade of the 1980s dawned, many of the downtown structures were owned by people that no longer lived in the village. Consequently, when federal funds for renovation became available, many just took the money and did not complete the intended renovations. Now, uptown on Main Street, mainly the post office, a restaurant, and a gas station/store remain, with most of New Haven's commercial growth taking place along Gratiot Avenue between 26 and 27 Mile Roads (known as Clark in the village). 🌱

## New Haven Homes

Most of New Haven's older homes are in excellent shape. A feature that was popular in New Haven was having round cupolas extending from the main structure.





# Permethrin Toxicity in Cats

By Dr. DiBenedetto *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

Ahhhh the joys of springtime – warm temperatures, sunshine, rainbows, the grass growing again, trees and flowers starting to bloom and outdoor activities like going on walks with your dog or your kitty basking in the sun with you. But with the good weather also comes the return of those pesky insects – fleas, ticks, flies and mosquitoes.

The good news is that there are many products available, some over the counter and others sold strictly by veterinarians, that kill these pesky insects both in the environment and on our pets. There are shampoos, dips, foggers, spot-ons and sprays. The active ingredient in most of the spot-on products is pyrethrin, which is derived from the Chrysanthemum flower. Permethrins are synthetic pyrethrins that are more stable and last longer. Both the natural and the synthetic compounds work by interfering with nerve impulses, thus paralyzing and killing the parasite. Some of these products are safer than others, especially for cats. This is due to the feline liver being inefficient at metabolizing pyrethrins, thus causing toxicity with a very small amount.

Permethrin toxicity usually occurs when a dog spot-on product is applied on a cat. Cats that actively groom or engage in close

physical contact with recently treated dogs may also be at risk. The severity of the permethrin toxicity varies, with younger kittens and older sick cats being much more susceptible. The onset of clinical signs is usually within a few hours but may be delayed up to 24 hours. The diagnosis of permethrin or pyrethrin toxicity is based on physical exam findings as well as a recent history of topical flea product application. The most common signs are tremors, drooling, and loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, incoordination, hyperactivity, disorientation, vocalization, depression, difficulty breathing, and seizures. Death is also possible. Additionally, cats may flick their ears, shake their paws or have contractions or twitching of their skin.

Treatment involves eliminating any existing product from the body and controlling the clinical signs. If there has been skin exposure, bathe your cat in lukewarm water using a dishwashing detergent such as Dawn, and thoroughly rinsing the cat. Do not use hot water; this will open up the blood vessels in the skin causing more of the product to be absorbed.

If ingested, induce vomiting if the product does not contain petroleum distillates and seek veterinary attention as soon as possible.

Further treatments include hospitalization with continuous intravenous fluids, administering anticonvulsants and/or muscle relaxants to control seizures, providing a safe environment to prevent injury from the incoordination and disorientation and monitoring for hypothermia. Most pets recover from pyrethrin intoxication within 24-48 hours; recovery from permethrin toxicity may take longer. The prognosis is much better if treatment is not delayed. If your veterinary office is not available, seek treatment at an emergency veterinary hospital or contact poison control for advice on what you can do at home.

The best way to prevent toxicity to flea products is to read the labels and follow the directions. If a product is labeled “for use in dogs only,” do not use it on cats and be very cautious when using these products on dogs that share a household with cats. If you are unsure of what to use, contact your veterinarian. 🐾

*Editor's note: Dr. DiBenedetto is a veterinarian at Maple Veterinary Hospital located at 2981 Iowa in Troy, Michigan. The hospital website is: [www.MapleVeterinaryHospital.com](http://www.MapleVeterinaryHospital.com). Dr. DiBenedetto can be reached at (248) 585-2622 for other pet related questions.*



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# The Book Nook

## Fruit Gardening and Kids - A Perfect Match



By Robert D. and Cheryl J. Allen

ThumbPrint News Guest Writers

Gardening with children can be one of the most fascinating and enjoyable experiences or it can be one of the most trying. As pint-size green thumbs would rather pick than plant your posies, it's hard to keep tempers from flaring. There is a solution though, and a very sweet one at that – fruit gardening! Small fruits and berries are ideal for cultivating the interest of young gardeners, notes Stella Otto, award winning author of *the BackYard Berry Book: A hands-on guide to growing berries, brambles, and vine fruit in the home garden*. Most berry bushes and vines are large enough to keep from being trampled by exuberant feet. Yet, they are short enough to put a bountiful harvest of berries at the perfect height for junior fruit pickers. Fruit gardening is also the perfect way to get those vitamins to the picky eater, on the sly. While lots of children would just as soon pass up the broccoli or peas, few will turn down fresh blueberries or a mouth-watering pear.

A novel baby gift can find its home in the garden. As today's families struggle to get back to their roots, a symbolic family tree can be the perfect commemoration of an addition to the family. Dwarf fruit trees make the perfect heirloom. Most will start bearing fruit at four or five years of age, just as the newest gardener is at a stage when he or she will be brimming with pride over the first harvest from "my very own tree." The family fruit garden makes an excellent outdoor science lab as well. "One of my most memorable moments with my son occurred while we were visiting a local nursery," recalls Otto, also author of *the BackYard Orchardist: A complete guide to growing fruit trees in the home garden*. "As I prodded my then three and a half year old to climb down off an old apple tree and move along to another section with me, he urged me to 'come see this first. It's really cool!'"

"Indeed it was. I was treated to something I had never seen in over 15 years of fruit growing and consulting. Together, we watched as a moth emerged from its pupal case. Although my son, having regularly accompanied me on my orchard consulting visits, was fairly well versed in fruit growing, I'll never forget my amazement the moment he turned to me and said 'Wow, it's a codling moth, mom,' which indeed it was!"

Both *the BackYard Berry Book* and *the BackYard Orchardist* make ideal reference books to get children into gardening. However, adults without children will also find these invaluable resources to their successful backyard fruit growing efforts,



as the recently popularity in the sales of both of these books suggests.

Stella B. Otto, the author of both, comments: "With the economic downturn, we have seen a surge in sales that has accompanied the renewed interest in growing high value crops to ease the grocery budget. What better way to accomplish this than planting a fruit garden to enhance both the beauty of a yard and stretch the budget.

"Originally, I wrote *the BackYard Orchardist* to answer all those repeated 'how do I do it' and 'what's wrong with . . . ' questions that I was getting from backyard gardeners. Currently in its nineteenth printing, *the BackYard Orchardist* was a Benjamin Franklin Award Winner for Best First Book and was also a finalist for Best Gardening Book. *The BackYard Berry Book*, now in its fifteenth printing, has been equally as well received as *the BackYard Orchardist*. Both books have been offerings of The Garden Book Club and Rodale's Organic Gardening Book Club. The Master Gardener program and Cooperative Extension Service gardening workshops in several Michigan counties have offered them as adjunct texts to their course material as well.

"Both books are filled with hands-on experiences, acquired over my years as a backyard and commercial fruit grower, horticultural instructor, and consultant. Gardeners new to fruit growing, as well as those more experienced, have found help with questions ranging from site selection and preparation to variety selection and environmentally sensitive pest control in *the BackYard Berry Book* and *the BackYard Orchardist*. Especially in these times, enhancing the landscape by growing high value edibles can be more rewarding than ever!"

*Editor's note: the BackYard Berry Book and the BackYard Orchardist are available in local bookstores, on line, or signed copies are available directly from the new fruit gardening information resource The Backyard Fruit Gardener at www.stellaotto.com.*



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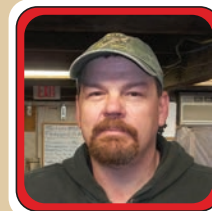
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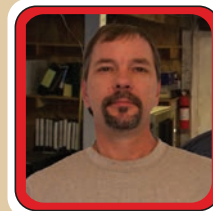
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# No “Looking” Back

By **Laura Irwin**

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Have you ever tried to navigate through your house in the dark or walk to your mailbox or neighborhood pharmacy without using your eyes? If you try one of these activities you will notice how important sound, smell and touch become. Low vision and sightless people handle these situations every day. Some obstacles can be avoided with the use of a white cane or, if you choose, a leader dog for the blind, and recent advancements in technology have added a voice-activated GPS to the list of available tools.

These small, hand-held GPS units can be worn around your neck or carried in a pocket and sport an external speaker. With one touch of a button you can ask the time of day, your current location, how far and which direction to your home, which intersection you're approaching, cross-streets you've just passed and how much battery life is available on the unit. They will not, however, tell you if a car is coming, when to step down off the curb or if there's a low-hanging branch ahead.

I had the opportunity to speak with three visually impaired people who have acquired

just such a unit. Janet Denomy and Gerald (Jerry) Clay were gifted these units through the efforts of Frances Hamlin of the St. Clair Lions Club. Frances has been a Lion since 2007 and a Puppy Raiser for Leader Dogs for the Blind for 15 years. She and her current trainee, Gus, utilized the profits from the Lion's Club hot dog cart to purchase the GPS units for Janet and Jerry. Paul Dailer received his with the aid of his veteran benefits through the Battle Creek Veterans Association, which also provided a week long training course on its usage.

According to Janet, Jerry and Paul, whom I've dubbed the “test group,” “these units are a definite step in the right direction” for enhancing independence and mobility for the visually impaired, but it's obvious the units were created by sighted individuals and perhaps not tested fully with the visually impaired prior to distribution. For example, the charging cord must be inserted with the larger side up. Well, I ask you, if you can't see, how are you supposed to match up the irregular shaped cord end with the equally irregular port in the unit?

Frances explained that these usage issues are why only two units have been purchased to date. The Lions wanted to be



From left: Jerry Clay, Paul Dailer, Frances Hamlin and Janet Denomy

sure these units were actually going to be helpful and usable for the visually impaired before investing in additional units. This “test group” keeps Frances up-to-date on their usage experiences, both positive and negative. She then relays the information to the Rochester Leader Dogs for the Blind who are in touch with the actual manufacturer. Based on the finding of the “test group” the Lions Club will determine if purchasing more units will be beneficial and are hoping to do so.

Similar units targeted specifically for the blind or visually impaired are available but are astronomically expensive. Being able to afford one on disability or social security pay would be difficult at best and insurance will not cover the cost. You can get a free GPS like our test group's unit with a leader dog like Gus from Leader Dogs for the Blind, but not just the GPS. This is just another reason why community-oriented organizations are such a valuable resource to everyone.

All three recipients have persevered in spite of their disability. Janet, who is 87, rides her three-wheel bicycle around town regularly, travels across the country to visit her children and grand children and still swims in the St. Clair River, weather permitting of course. Her visual impairment is a result of macular degeneration, meaning that she has only peripheral vision. To get an idea of what “seeing” is like for her, she suggests you hold a paper plate in front of your face, look directly at the plate, then try to get around using peripheral vision only. It's not easy.

Jerry completely lost his sight at the age of 33 due to diabetes, which caused his

retinas to detach. Instead of indulging in self-pity and inactivity, he has become the president of the Blue Water League for the Blind, teaching and promoting mobility, independence and equality for the blind and visually impaired as well as maintaining his love of camping out and offshore fishing. His disability is extremely challenging.

Paul became visually-impaired 10 years ago after a debilitating bout with Pancreatitis. After a self-proclaimed period of self-pity, he picked himself up

by the boot-straps with a fair amount of help from the Detroit Veterans Administration Hospital. He joined the R.O.M.E.O group in St. Clair (Retired Old Men Eat Out), and with their encouragement, founded the Low Vision Support Group at St. John's River District Hospital. He also became a certified small engine mechanic, took up woodworking,

making wind chimes, clocks, desktop organizers and more, which he enters in craft shows at the Detroit Veterans Administration Hospital. He compares his vision to “seeing the world through a drinking straw.” This is even harder yet.

Janet, Jerry and Paul agree that the GPS has taken some of the strain from their daily activities. They all sincerely thank the St. Clair Lions for their generous donations and want to pass the word on to all communities that money donated to your local Lions Club in the month of April goes to help the blind and visually impaired members of your own community. Every little bit helps someone in need. A big “Shout-Out Thank You” to all who have donated their time or money for the betterment of someone in need. 🐾



Gus is currently in training to be a leader dog.

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## Memoirs from The Restless Retiree

# MEN: Retirement. Time to do what you want?

By Gabriel Jones, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

Men Retirees...

Now that you're retired, you can finally do whatever you want with your new found leisure time, right.

WRONG!

We all forgot something...

Retirement now means... are you listening? I mean, are you listening very carefully? Do I have your attention?

When you were working long hours and also taking work home, it didn't leave

much time to be available for your wife.

But now, look out!

You are now available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks... need I go on?

Retirement now means that your wife has more access to your time than ever before!

Did you hear that? It's true...

Here's what happened to Gabriel just yesterday.

"Oh Gabriel!"

"Yes, dear."

"I want you to take me to a store across town. They have an item that I want that is on sale today."

"Can't you drive?"

"Yes, but I'm also returning some items and I need your help carrying in the packages."

"Alright!"

"And since we're in the neighborhood of my girlfriend, Alice, I would like to drop in and say hello. I haven't seen her in quite a while."

"But..."

"And tomorrow, Gabriel, I would like us to visit Aunt Clara. She sent me a birthday card last year. We could also meet her new husband, Uncle Harry."

"Gabriel! Gabriel, where are you going?"

"I just remembered. They have a job posting in the newspaper that I would be interested in. I'd like to apply for it."

Another lesson learned by the Restless Retiree. 🍀

## Sweet Dreams Are Made Of These

By Renae Hardy

*ThumbPrint News* Guest Writer

Dream Catchers, also known as Spider Web Charms and Sacred Hoops, are believed to trap trivial or negative dreams that float in the air in the same way a spider snares an insect in its web. Native Americans consider our dreams to be messages sent by sacred spirits and accept that the night air is saturated with dreams... both good and bad.

The dream catcher, when hung, moves freely in the air catching the dreams as they float by. The good dreams know the way and slip through the center hole sliding down off the soft feather so gently the sleeper below barely knows he is dreaming. The bad dreams, not knowing the way, become entangled in the webbing and perish with the first light of the new day.

The first dream catchers were traditionally crafted using reeds or pliable willow sticks tied together to create a circle. Today we may substitute metal rings covered with leather strips or colored yarn. The center web is made of sticky animal intestines called, "sinew." Originally, the

sinew utilized to catch the bad dreams were deer or buffalo intestines. The feather hung from the small hole in the middle of the web represents our connection between earth and the Great Spirit, as well as symbolizing breath and air, encouraging our thoughts to soar and dreams to fly.

All parts of the dream catcher hold special meaning and each one is finished in detail honoring tribal colors plus showcasing personal items while maintaining the integrity of tradition. Dream catchers are said to bless the "sleeping ones." They were placed on cradle boards by almost every Native American tribe and remind us of the eternal web of life.

Following is a poem written by an unknown author. Sweet dreams fellow weavers!



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Bad dreams become entangled

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Good dreams slip through the center hole  
While you dream upon your bed.  
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**GUARDIAN**

Continued from Page 1

new building down Meldrum Street and with the old building available, the Ira Township Public Library moved into the historic building with the very old silver maple tree in front.

The Ira Township Library is part of the St. Clair County system and opened on April 15, 1965. It was originally located on M-29 on the site of the old Kandler's Market (the one in Fair Haven, not the one in Anchorville at Church Road). When the library moved to the old township hall building, they quickly outgrew the space and in 1989 an expansion was started on the building. These additions were completed and dedicated in 1991. The silver maple tree continued to act as a sentinel guarding Ira Township Library for many years, providing shade for many outside book readers and library patrons. So it was that many patrons were disturbed when they saw the tree lose strength over the years. This included local library benefactor, Gail Zabowski, who also works as a volunteer helping with the library grounds.

She knew the tree's days were numbered and so to help preserve the memory of the tree that had witnessed the lives of so many of our forefathers, Ms. Zabowski thought this an ideal opportunity to illuminate the front of the library while still saving part of the ambience of the tree. She arranged to have Dr. Milan E. Szkipala, "The Chisel Man," use his chainsaw



skills to carve a Snowy Owl perched on a stack of books. Joining the owl are other woodland creatures carved into the remaining 22 feet of the tree.

Dr. Szkipala, who is donating part of his work to the cause, is a native of Romania, where he studied and received a diploma in fine arts and woodcarving. He came to the U.S. in 1991. His specialty is building and restoring wood-carved altars. One of the most notable woodcarving artists in the country, his work has appeared on *Fox Sports Detroit* and UPN 50 with a six foot tall wooden Stanley Cup he carved, and also on the front pages of the *Detroit Free Press* and *Detroit News*, the *Macomb Daily*, and the *Grosse Pointe News*.

The Snowy Owl, also known as the Great White Owl and the Arctic Owl, is the largest owl in North America, averaging two feet in height with a wingspan



of four to five feet. When they are first born they are pure white and both parents help with childcare. When mature, once again the adult male is pure white; females and young owlets might have some dark scalloping or spotting. Recently, the Snowy Owl has been seen in greater numbers in lower Michigan. They have even been seen as far as Texas and Hawaii. This is attributed to the previous summer's abundance of the owl's favorite food, small animals known as lemmings. As the food was more abundant, the owls were able to raise more young than usual. It is many of these young owls that are being spotted in local bird feeding areas and exciting local bird watchers. In Michigan, the owls mostly eat small mice, rabbits and voles. To many avian fans, the Snowy Owl is considered the most regal and most impressive of all the birds on the planet!

It is also appropriate to have a Snowy Owl on permanent display at the library, since one of the most popular book series of recent years, with young and old, was the Harry Potter series. In it, Harry has a Snowy Owl named Hedwig who brings him messages. So far the library owl hasn't given anyone any particular messages, just a general one of wisdom and security.

With many more of the Snowy Owls around than usual, if you see an injured owl, please do not touch it. Instead, please call the State Department of Natural Resources and they will send someone out.



Snowy Owls are federally protected and owning them requires a special permit.

Besides the big owl on top, there are a few other animals carved into the tree, including a raccoon and more owls. 🦉

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An imprint of places and people at work and play in the Thumb of Michigan

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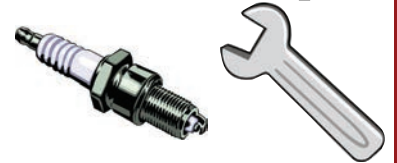


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# What Happened On This Day In History?

By Diane L. Kodet  
ThumbPrint News Editor



## Happy Easter from the ThumbPrint News!

- 1** On this day in 1889, the first dishwashing machine was marketed (Chicago).
- 2** On this day in 1877, the first Easter egg roll was held on the White House lawn.
- 3** On this day in 1966, Luna 10 orbited the Moon.
- 4** On this day in 1947, the largest group of sunspots on record was reported.
- 5** On this day in 1792, George Washington cast the first presidential veto.
- 6** On this day in 1912, the electric starter first appeared in cars.
- 7** On this day in 1933, Prohibition ended and Utah became the 38th state to ratify the 21st Amendment.
- 8** On this day in 1946, the League of Nations assembled for the last time.



- 9** On this day in 1965, the Beatles' "Ticket to Ride" was released in the United Kingdom.
- 10** On this day in 1912, the RMS Titanic set sail for its first and last voyage.
- 11** On this day in 1906, Einstein introduced his Theory of Relativity.
- 12** On this day in 1945, Harry Truman was sworn in as the 33rd president.
- 13** On this day in 1902, J C Penney opened his first store in Kemmerer, Wyoming.
- 14** On this day in 1814, Napoleon abdicated and was banished to Elba.
- 15** On this day in 1878, Harley Procter introduced Ivory Soap.
- 16** On this day in 1922, Annie Oakley set a record by breaking 100 clay targets in a row.
- 17** On this day in 1947, Jackie Robinson bunted for his first major league hit.
- 18** On this day in 1924, the first crossword puzzle book was published (Simon & Schuster).
- 19** On this day in 1965, the first all news radio station (WINS 1010 AM, New York City) began operating.



- 20** On this day in 1971, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the use of busing to achieve racial desegregation.
- 21** On this day in 1948, the first Polaroid camera was sold in the U.S.
- 22** On this day in 1876, Tchaikovsky completed his "Swan Lake" ballet.
- 23** On this day in 1968, the United Methodist Church was formed.
- 24** On this day in 1953, Winston Churchill was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.
- 25** On this day in 1938, the first seeing eye dog was used.
- 26** On this day in 1986, actor/body builder Arnold Schwarzenegger wed newscaster, Maria Shriver.



- 27** On this day in 1987, Rocky Marciano retired as an undefeated boxing champ.
- 28** On this day in 1967, Muhammad Ali refused induction into the army and was stripped of his boxing title.
- 29** On this day in 1990, wrecking cranes began tearing down the Berlin Wall at Brandenburg Gate.
- 30** On this day in 1904, the ice cream cone made its debut.



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## Thumb Area Activities & Events for April 2012

If you have an event in May that you would like listed in the May issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to [ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net](mailto:ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net) by April 12, 2012. There is no charge for the listing. Limited space is available for publishing events in this section. If it becomes necessary to eliminate some of the events that were submitted to us, we apologize. Events that were submitted earliest and non-profit events will be given the first priority.

*Editor's note: Before traveling beyond your home town to attend any of these events, please call ahead for any changes in dates or times or for any cancellations.*

### Genesee

#### Grand Blanc – April 21

**Run for Roots**, 4 Mile Run/Walk, meet at Miller Greenhouse, 6482 Perry Rd., 9:00 a.m. The original event was a celebration of Earth Day and local grassroots running, and we intend to continue that celebration. Complete Runner and the Grand Blanc Parks and Recreation have teamed as the primary sponsors and event managers. To register go to <http://www.runforroots.com/index.html>.

### Huron

#### Caseville – April 7

**Caseville Kiwanis Club Easter Egg Hunt**, Caseville School, 6609 Vine St., 11:00 a.m. Contact Mark Hill at (989) 856-2247.

### Lapeer

#### Almont – April 14

**Almont Lions Euchre Night**, Lions Hall, 222 Water St., doors open at 6:00 p.m., play starts at 7:00 p.m. There will be two sets of five games with a break between. Refreshments and lunch served during break. Generous prizes awarded to top three points holders. \$15 donation at the door. If a player brings a first time player, both play for \$10 each. Call Don at (810) 798-9609.

### Macomb

#### Eastpointe – April 1

**Afternoon Tea at the Historical Halfway Schoolhouse**, 15500 Nine Mile Rd., 2:00 p.m. This is a fundraiser and reservations are a must. Tickets \$10. Email [vbodenstedt@wowway.com](mailto:vbodenstedt@wowway.com) for reservations.

#### Mt. Clemens – April 1

**(Grand) Mother & (Grand) Daughter Easter Bonnet Tea**, Crocker House Museum, 15 Union St., 1:00 p.m. For more information visit [www.crockerhousemuseum.com](http://www.crockerhousemuseum.com).

#### Warren – April 10

**Warren Genealogy Group**, Research Center of the Historical Gallery in the Warren Community Center, 5460 Arden, 7:00 p.m. For more information visit <http://members.glis.net/whgs/>.

#### Richmond – April 12-14

**Altar Sodality Spring Rummage Sale**, St. Augustine Parish, 68035 S. Main St. Drop off April 9-11. Sale Thursday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.,

Friday 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m.-noon. Save your gently used clothing, baby items (clothing and toys), books, CD's, furniture, kitchen and home décor items, small appliances – and anything else you no longer need but someone else might use. Please, no computers, printers or TVs. (586) 727-5215 ext. 110.

#### Richmond – April 20

**Keep the Light Alive**, Richmond Community Center, Beebe Street Park, 7:00 p.m. The Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society presents a tribute to their charter members and those who worked to create and maintain the Society. This will be a great evening full of wonderful stories and an opportunity to join the Society and become a part of Keeping the Light Alive in Richmond. Call (810) 329.5797.

#### Richmond – April 27-29

**Harvey Production Show**, Richmond Community Theatre, 69619 Parker St., Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. For more information call (586) 727-9518 or visit [www.richmondtheatre.com](http://www.richmondtheatre.com).

### Oakland

#### Lake Orion – April 13 & 14

**Oakland County Quilt Guild's Quilt Celebration 2012**, Lake Orion Baptist Church, 255 E. Scripps Rd., 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. on Friday and 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Saturday. Over 200 beautiful quilts on display, Merchant's Mall, raffle quilt. Admission \$6. For more information call (586) 254-5723 or visit [www.oaklandcountyquiltguild.com](http://www.oaklandcountyquiltguild.com).

### St. Clair

#### St. Clair – April 3, 10, 17 & 24

**Bridge for All Ages and Abilities**, St. Clair Community Center, 308 S. 4th St., west door, noon-4:00 p.m. No partner or registration needed. Contact Tom at (810) 326-0121.

#### Marine City – April 4

**Ask the Lawyer**, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Please call (810) 985-5107 to schedule a 1-hour appointment with a lawyer from Lakeshore Legal Aid. You must be 60 or older to participate in this program.

#### Marine City – April 13

**Guys Night Out Dinner and Movie**, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary, doors open at 5:00 p.m., dinner served promptly at 5:30 p.m. The delicious dinner will include chili, cornbread, salad and cake followed by the movie *True Grit*. Suggested donation is \$10. For reservations call (810) 765-3523 by April 9.

#### Marine City – April 17

**St. Agatha Circle #419 Daughters of Isabella 62nd Annual Spring Luncheon – Card Party**, Knights of Columbus Hall, 6385 King Rd., 12:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Lunch includes: chicken salad, assorted fruit, nut bread, beverage and your choice of homemade pies. Donation \$10 in advance or at the door on the day of the luncheon. Call Rosemary at (810) 278-7473.

#### Port Huron – April 18

**Healthy Aging Seminar: You Are What You Eat**, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, 2601 Electric Avenue, 2:00 p.m. in the Baggot Street Cafe. Explore entertaining tips and techniques designed to provide the tools needed to make

better food choices and maintain a healthful lifestyle for seniors 55 years of age and older. Free program includes refreshments and social time. Call 1-888-MERCYME for reservations.

#### Fair Haven – April 20

**Euchre Party**, St. Peters Lutheran Church, 6745 Palms Rd., registration at 6:30 p.m., games start at 7:00 p.m. \$5 donation. Free goodies, coffee and tea – hot dogs and pop \$1 donation. Call (810) 765-8161.

#### Lakeport – April 20

**Kindergarten Round-up**, St. Edward on-the-Lake Elementary School, 6995 Lakeshore Road, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Offering small class size and a great teacher! Call (810) 385-4461 for appointment as space is limited.

#### Port Huron – April 29

**2012 Railroad Show and Swap Shop**, McMorran Place, 701 McMorran Blvd., 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Open to all exhibitors with an interest in model railroading of all scales and gauges. Also, railroad memorabilia, antiques, timetables, dining car silverware and china or any railroad items may be displayed. Reserve your table early as space is limited by calling Fred Cesefski at (810) 385-8815 between 4:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. For more information call (810) 985-6166 or visit [www.mcmorran.com](http://www.mcmorran.com).

### Sanilac

#### Lexington – April 14

**Sanilac County Safety Awareness Fair Scotch Doubles Fundraiser**, Kautzs Shore Lanes, 6840 Lakeshore Rd., 6:00 p.m. or 9:00 p.m. shifts. \$30 per couple at the door, \$25 per couple pre-pay. 50/50 drawings and raffles. A portion of the proceeds go to Brown City High School and Sanilac County Sheriff's Office – Safetyville Program. For more information or to register contact Christine at (810) 679-2692 or [udrivesafe@aol.com](mailto:udrivesafe@aol.com).

#### Sandusky – April 14 & 28

**Thumb Dance Club**, Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley St., 7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. Everyone welcome – bring finger foods and friends. \$4 for members, \$4.50 for non-members. The Natural Tones will perform on the 14th and Lighthouse 3 on the 28th. For more information call Leola at (810) 657-9349.

#### Argyle – April 21

**19th Annual Consignment Auction**, Argyle Township Park, 1 mile west of Argyle on Argyle Rd. Consignments are welcome until April 20 at 7:00 p.m. Over 1,000 potential buyers last year. Sponsored by the Argyle Township Fire Department. For more information call (989) 658-8762 or visit [www.argylefiredept.com](http://www.argylefiredept.com).

### Tuscola

#### Kingston – April 28

**Kingston Area Food Drive**, Red Zone Convenience Store, 3498 River St., 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Sponsored by Spencer Racing, the event will benefit Cans from Race Fans. Prizes, giveaways and more. Bring non-perishable food items. Food to be donated to the United Methodist Church in Kingston, which is a part of the Eastern Michigan Food Bank. For more information email [mirandacraig2003@gmail.com](mailto:mirandacraig2003@gmail.com).

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# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

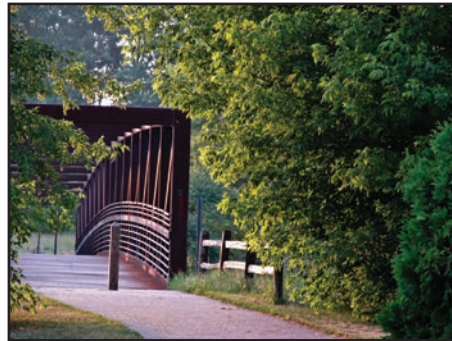
Hello Diane,

I have always had a love for nature and photography, but never really took photography seriously until last June 16th after I took a photo of the bridge at Chippewa Landing. I was sitting in my van when I snapped the photo, not really expecting much, but later when I viewed it on my computer, I was pleasantly surprised.

I loved the photo and realized I could do something with my camera. Over 10,000 photos later I'm still going strong! Many of my photos are taken right here in the Thumb, things from nature, to buildings, to lighthouses, and more!

Friends really liked my photos and encouraged me to try and sell them at craft shows and outdoor events. I followed through with their suggestions and was able to book about five shows last summer going into the fall. At every show I did manage to sell a few prints. It was obvious that people liked my work, so I decided to give my hobby a name, Missinde Imagery Art. My web site is [www.missinde.com](http://www.missinde.com).

Thanks,  
Ann-Marie Roberts  
Missinde Imagery Art



The bridge at Chippewa Landing. For more of Ann-Marie's photos, visit her website at [missinde.com](http://missinde.com).

*Editor's Note: We encourage our readers to send in photos that they have taken of interesting places, people or objects in the Thumb of Michigan and will consider them for publication in future editions, as space permits. Be sure to include your name and city so that proper credit can be given.*

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# ThumbPrint News Travels to Hawaii!

ThumbPrint News has been traveling the world! Not only has it been seen in many areas of the Thumb of Michigan (over 980 businesses in eight Thumb counties are now drop locations for the newspaper), but *ThumbPrint News* has also traveled to the states of Utah, Nevada, Georgia, California, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Alaska, Florida, North Carolina and Missouri, and to the countries of Bonaire, Mexico, Canada, Costa Rica, Iraq, Nigeria, Belize, St. Lucia, Wales, Cuba, Jamaica, Argentina, Spain and Afghanistan. *ThumbPrint News* was even seen on television on the *Tonight Show with Jay Leno*!

When we began inviting our readers to submit photos of where they have taken *ThumbPrint News*, we never expected such an overwhelming response! The newspaper has traveled to five of the seven continents so far! This month, *ThumbPrint News* traveled to Hawaii, not once, but twice! In fact, for two of our readers, the island of Maui in Hawaii became the destination for their wedding. Two other readers of *ThumbPrint News* also took the paper to Maui.

If you are a reader of *ThumbPrint News* and have taken our newspaper with you on a vacation or to an unusual place – or have done something unique with it, you may submit an email and photo to us at [thumbprintnews@comcast.net](mailto:thumbprintnews@comcast.net). (The photo should be in jpeg format.) Please tell us a little about the photo and include your name, address and phone number in case we have further questions. Please be patient as you wait for your photo to appear in *ThumbPrint News*, as we are receiving a tremendous amount of photos each month! When it does appear, we will send you a complimentary copy. 🌴

**Interesting Facts About Hawaii**

- Hawaii is the second most popular honeymoon destination; Las Vegas comes in at number one.
- There are only 12 letters in the Hawaiian alphabet: vowels A, E, I, O, U and consonants H, K, L, M, N, P and W.
- Hawaii has its own time zone (Hawaiian Standard Time).
- Hawaii is the only state in the United States that grows and produces coffee commercially.
- One third of the world's pineapple production comes from Hawaii. It is also the world leader in harvesting macadamia nuts and orchids.
- Hawaii was the 50th state admitted to the union on August 20, 1959.

The winter weather was getting to us, so we hooked up with our good friends from Sterling Heights and took some cold medicine. It was in the form of two weeks in Hawaii. As you can clearly see, it was pretty tough duty, but we stuck it out!  
Gene and Bridget Kruger Capac, MI

When Melanie and I decided to get married on Maui, we knew it was a great decision! And we were so blessed when more than 60 members of our family and close friends joined us there! The traditions observed in our Hawaiian wedding really made the event unique. The beauty of the island was only eclipsed by the radiance of my beautiful bride!  
Garrett (formerly of Lenox Twp.) and Melanie Charles

Where Has Your ThumbPrint News Been?

## IRS Offers Relief to Unemployed Workers

By **Cindy Redmann**

Tax Consultant

The IRS is offering some relief to taxpayers struggling to pay their taxes due to unemployment or a significant loss of income.

The agency said it will give certain taxpayers a six-month grace period on "failure-to-pay" penalties. Without the grace period, a taxpayer who is late paying their taxes incurs a fee of .05% of their tax bill per month, up to 25% maximum, the later they become. But now some taxpayers won't incur any fees until October 15.

Although taxpayers won't get hit with the penalty, they will still accrue interest during the six-month period and beyond until the taxes are paid. Over the course of a year that amounts to about 3% of the annual tax bill.

Taxpayers who qualify for this grace period must have been unemployed for 30 consecutive days or longer during 2011 or 2012 – up to the April 17 filing deadline this year. Self-employed taxpayers who saw their business income drop 25% or more due to the economy are also eligible.

There is an income limitation, however. For taxpayers who are filing single or head of household, income cannot exceed \$100,000, while married taxpayers filing jointly, income cannot exceed \$200,000. Those who are eligible for the relief will need to complete form 1127A. But make sure you file or send in your taxes by April 17. The penalty for late filing is much more severe.

In addition to the penalty relief, the IRS is also allowing more taxpayers to spread out payments on their tax bills. Taxpayers with bills as high as \$50,000 are now eligible for installment payments – up from a previous cap of \$25,000.

The IRS also boosted the maximum installment term to 72 months, up from 60 months. Taxpayers entering these new installment agreements are required to sign up for monthly direct debit payments. And interest is still charged on the outstanding balance.

"Our goal is to help people meet their obligations and get back on their feet financially," said IRS commissioner Doug Shulman.

ABC TaxSlayers can help you fill out these special forms. Please call 810-794-5678 to schedule your appointment.

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# It's Not Gone!

Think of all the things that go down your drain to your septic tank: grease from your kitchen sink, hair and oil from your shower and washer, body waste from your toilets. We tend to think – or not think – about what happens to all that waste. It doesn't just disappear.

Fats, oils and greases (FOGs) are put into your septic system everyday. Once they reach your septic tank, good anaerobic bacteria start to consume the waste. The FOGs not consumed by the good bacteria become solid waste. They build up at the top and bottom of your tank in the form of scum, often several inches thick. Pieces of these solids break off, and along with the liquid from your tank, go into your field. Much like plaque can clog our arteries and cause a heart attack, solids from your tank can clog your septic field and cause expensive repairs if you don't remove them.

Regular maintenance for your septic system is a must. The old saying "If it's not broke, don't fix it" is not true. Eventually your septic system or field will fail. Fields are expensive to replace.

Proper maintenance and care to your tank and filtering systems should be done on a regular basis based on your lifestyle, the number of people in the home, and usage.

Remember, we drink what we flush. Eventually, your field water enters back into the ground water. You don't want to contaminate our drinking sources. Call ABC Home & Commercial Services Septic Division at (810) 794-5678 if you have any questions about your septic system.

## NEVER

- put bleach into the system. Bleach kills the good bacteria.
- put garbage from table waste in at any time.
- put cigarette butts in the toilet. They can clog the orifices in the field.



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## ThumbPrint News Contest

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, email us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net and put "Contest" in the subject line. Be sure to include your name, phone number and full address. Of all persons submitting correct answers by the 15th of the month, one person will be randomly selected to be entered into a drawing for a gift basket valued at more than \$100 at the end of this year! On December 31, 2012 one winner will be drawn and the lucky person will be notified. In March's edition, we asked our readers to identify what the following object was:

Randomly selected from those submitting correct answers was Chris Riopelle of Lake Orion, Michigan who correctly identified the object as being an antique pharmacy tool-of-the-trade known as a pill machine (often mistakenly called a pill roller). Chris will be entered into our year end drawing for a gift basket valued at over \$100. Here are a few interesting facts



about the pill machine:

- Often constructed of a hardwood, such as walnut, with a brass mechanism, the pill machine was operated by the early pharmacist. He would slide the top paddle over the matching base, cutting the dough-like, medicinal mixture into cylindrical tubes. These tubes were then placed on a pill tile where they were measured and cut with a pill knife into sizes that provided the proper medicinal dosages for the patients.

For our April contest we are asking the question, "What is it?" Identify what the object below is and email your answer to thumbprintnews@comcast.net. Again, be sure to include your name, address and phone number in case you are correct and are entered into the random drawing for a gift basket valued over \$100 at the end of the year! Good luck!



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<b>Lexington Clinic</b>	5730 Main Street	Lexington	(810) 359-2605
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## St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Launches Better Breathers Club

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital is pleased to announce the launch of a Better Breathers Club to provide support and assistance to individuals suffering from pulmonary disease. The Better Breathers Club (BBC) at St. Joseph Mercy is sanctioned through the American Lung Association and offers members the opportunity to learn ways to better cope with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) while getting the support of others who share their struggles. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital's BBC will provide the tools needed for members to live the highest quality of life.

The BBC will include both monthly support group meetings as well as weekly access to pulmonary rehabilitation. Access to pulmonary rehabilitation services provides members an opportunity to learn to exercise and manage the disease through physical activity, self-care, breathing techniques, energy conservation, and medication usage. The pulmonary rehabilitation service will be available to patients who have obtained proper clearance from their physicians.

BBC pulmonary rehabilitation will be provided each week, Tuesdays, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; and Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m., Jessica Totty, LPN, will serve as the program's group lead. The cost for pulmonary rehabilitation is \$8 per session. Although no appointment is necessary to attend any pulmonary rehabilitation session, to take advantage of the program, all members must register in advance.

A FREE BBC Registration Fair will be held Tuesday, March 20 and again on Thursday, March 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the lower-level Rehabilitation Services Department at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, 2601 Electric Avenue, Port Huron, MI. This special event is designed to help in the registration process which includes completing necessary paperwork and touring the pulmonary rehabilitation area.

The BBC Support Group will meet the fourth Thursday of each month, from 3 to 4 p.m., in the First Floor Conference Room, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. The meetings will feature educational presentations on a wide range of relevant topics, including how COPD affects the lungs, breathing techniques, exercise, home health care and much more. The Support Group is offered free to the community. The first meeting will take place Thursday, April 26, 2012.

"Individuals suffering from COPD and other pulmonary disease, including lung cancer, often feel alone and isolated," comments Erica Gurley, Registered Respiratory Therapist and BBC program coordinator. "This program is designed to give participants an opportunity to talk with others who understand and offer services to enhance their lives while impacting their health."

To learn more about the Better Breathers Club, call St. Joseph Mercy Port Huron at 810-985-1470. You can also visit us online at: mymercy.us. To find a physician near you, call toll-free 1-888-MERCYME (1-888-637-2963).

## Sudoku *ThumbPrint News* Sudoku

	<b>1</b>						<b>2</b>	
		<b>8</b>		<b>9</b>		<b>7</b>		
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>						<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
		<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>		
		<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>		
<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>						<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>
		<b>1</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>6</b>		
	<b>2</b>						<b>9</b>	

Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square. Good Luck!

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