

Bonus Section!
Gardening in Michigan
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ThumbPrint News

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

APRIL 2010



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Tin Can Tourist Campers

Old-Time Traditions Revived

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

The Tin Can Tourists are an organization, according to their website www.tincantourists.com, that is “committed to the celebration of classic trailers and motor coaches through annual gatherings of owners and friends. The Tin Can Tourists is an all make and model vintage trailer and motor coach club. Its goal is to promote and preserve vintage trailers and motor coaches through gatherings and information exchange.”

Originally organized as a club in 1919 at Desoto Park in Tampa, Florida, The Tin Can Tourists

received the official state charter a year later. The stated objective was “to unite fraternally all autocampers.” They promoted clean camps, friendliness among campers, decent behavior and strived to provide wholesome entertainment for those who were camping.

Charles T. Fales was elected as the first Royal Sergeant. The main street formed by the campers in Desoto Park was called Easy Street, so Charles became known as the “Mayor



of Easy Street.”

These early tourists did not have the luxury of traveling the paved freeways and highways of today. Rather, they braved dust and mud over many

See TIN CAN TOURISTS, Page 14

Say Goodbye to Old Marysville High

By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Who is the oldest living graduate of Marysville High School? That is one of the questions that Joe Pavlov is looking to answer. Joe is the co-chairman of a committee of more than fifty persons, including school board members, teachers, administrators and interested community members, who are planning an extraordinary remembrance celebration for the current Marysville High School when it closes its doors in June after 67 years



of being a pillar of the community. Honoring the oldest graduate will be one highlight of a grand celebration that will take place at the school on June 5.

The current Marysville High School was built in 1942 after the previous high school became severely overcrowded. World War II was in

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The bells of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, located at 67055 Gratiot, have tolled for over 120 years in the city of Richmond. Their resonant sounds have become an integral part of the surrounding neighborhood. However few have been fortunate enough to know them as intimately as the father and daughter team of Roger and Stacey Bauman of Richmond.

Roger and Stacy have both been members of the congregation of St. Peter's for a good part of their lives. For the past year and a half, Stacey has been performing janitorial duties at the church. Roger has been the keeper of the bells. It is Stacey's father's commitment to keeping the bells in tip top shape and her own curiosity that ignited interest in seeing the bells up close.

Very few people have had the experience of undertaking the steep climb up into the tower to come into

personal contact with the bells. As Stacey says, "If you are scared of heights, that is not the place to be." Accompanied by her father, Stacey did just that.

Stacey's close encounter with the massive bells was an awe-inspiring and enlightening experience for her. Because of this, she wrote *The Bells of St. Peter's Lutheran Church*. In her well-written tribute, she writes as if the bells of the church are talking to the parishioners. She also photographed the bells so others could experience them as she had. Stacy also worked on a presentation to help make people more aware of the repairs that were needed to keep these historical bells protected (a project spearheaded by her father). Some of the funds for the repairs were raised.

As I read Stacey's powerful tribute to the bells of St. Peter's, I am once again reminded how faith

and religious affiliation is such a powerful force in the lives of many of the Thumb area's residents and how it is a constant for many during these difficult economic times. For those of Christian affiliations, I hope your upcoming Easter celebrations bring you peace and joy and that you will have your families there with you to create those precious future memories.

For those readers in Richmond, I hope that on Easter Sunday if you hear the bells of St. Peter's ringing once more, as they have for over 120 years, you will consider the hope and optimism that Stacey felt that day that she journeyed up to the tower with her father.

And to all readers of *ThumbPrint News*, enjoy the warming weather and time of renewal that the season of spring brings.

DIANE KODET
Editor, *ThumbPrint News*

The Bells of St. Peter's Lutheran Church

By Stacey Bauman

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

It's been 120 years since we became a part of you. For over a century we have shared so many moments of your lives. At times, we have heard the whimpering of your children as Baptismal Water pours over their tiny brows. We have looked out upon the youth as they have bowed their heads for their first communion. We have reveled in the beaming smiles of joy as your sons and daughters said their vows before God on their wedding days. Sadly, we have also shared in the pain of your cries as you lay your loved ones to rest and are seeing

them for the very last time. It makes no difference to us. Whether joy or sorrow, we will always be present. We were here before you ever came along and will remain long after you are gone. We are a constant in your life, past, present and future. We have always been here for you and maybe you just didn't realize how much or how often. We are the bells of St. Peter's Lutheran Church. We are yours, and we are a part of St. Peter's family.

As of late, we have noticed some changes going on around us. It's usually pretty quiet up here and sometimes we almost feel forgotten. Recently the man who cares for



The bells at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Richmond were purchased in 1889.

us, Roger, was up here with his daughter, Stacey, and they spent quite a bit of time with us. They gave us fresh oil, as they do every

See THE BELLS, Page 6

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A Gem in Your Own Backyard

By Allen Kodet

ThumbPrint News Publisher

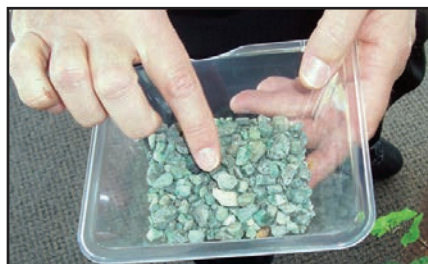
Emeralds, rubies, sapphires, opals, and other gemstones, diamonds and gold – all nature's gifts to us and the source of fascination to jewelry makers since history began. Many were discovered thousands of years ago and some only recently, such as the precious yellow emerald.

The yellow emerald is known to exist in only one location in the world today in the highlands of Brazil in South America. Yellow emeralds are in the beryl family of minerals typically grown as hexagonal crystals. Green emeralds are also in this mineral family. However, yellow emeralds have far fewer flaws than the green variety. In addition yellow emeralds will not lose their color if exposed to heat and sunlight as some beryl gemstones will do, but will always maintain their beautiful rich color.

Patrick Coughlin of Coughlin Jewelers in St. Clair is used to traveling the world for his family-owned business during the 28 years since it opened. He has personally chosen diamonds on trips to Antwerp, Belgium, South Africa and other exotic places. But hardly anything could top his recent trips to the area of Brazil where the yellow emeralds are found.

For Patrick, this was an adventure of a lifetime – and a long one at that! In addition to eight flights covering 13,000 miles, he also had to travel over 2,600 miles on winding, curving roads and horse trails through the mountains and valleys of Brazil. The area where the emeralds are found is 3,700 feet above sea level on a washed-out trail, that can only be reached on the backs of mules! The mine itself is a hand-dug hole only four feet across, but 1,200 feet deep – and Patrick was lowered down deep inside to have a personal encounter with the precious yellow emeralds.

The yellow emerald is increasing in popularity, partly because of its beauty, but also because of its rarity. Today there is only one place in the



Patrick points to rough cut green emeralds.

whole world where a person can purchase this gemstone. It is not in some exotic place half way around the world, but right in our own backyard at Coughlin Jewelers.

Recognizing the significance of the discovery of the yellow emerald, Patrick trademarked it and now is the sole owner of every single one that comes out of the mine in Brazil. Of course, he is hoping that the vein keeps producing for a long, long time. However, if it does not, the value of this gemstone will likely increase dramatically. Patrick says, "Many people are purchasing yellow emeralds while they are still affordable and not even having them mounted, as they are recognizing their investment potential." Patrick is considering selling some of the yellow emeralds to selected high end jewelry companies, but, for now, his store is the exclusive provider.

Patrick has been in the jewelry

business for 28 years, first in Detroit, then in Birmingham and finally in St. Clair. Originally called American Diamond Importers, his shop was located in the St. Clair

mall for 20 years. Recently, the new store opened at 516 S. Riverside. At that time, the name was changed to Coughlin Jewelers. The reason for the change, Patrick says, is that the original name made some customers only think of them as being involved in the diamond buying and selling business and, while that is definitely a huge part of their enterprise, they are so much more.

Patrick was happy to spend an hour with me giving me a full look at what his jewelry shop is all about – from behind the showcase. When I toured the jewelers' work room, one jeweler was working on a custom made ring with a center of aquamarine. Near him was a laser welding machine, one of only two machines in the Thumb area of Michigan. With this machine, a much more precise area can be addressed than with the older torch and flame soldering machines. With the laser machine, metals, such as gold, are actually fused together rather than welded, which results in a much

stronger bond. Another machine is a computerized engraving machine that is used to create engravings on jewelry as well as on many other objects. It is unique in that a message in a person's own handwriting can be converted to an engraving. So rare is this machine that Coughlin's actually uses it to do engraving for 40 other jewelry companies – and for companies manufacturing prosthetic legs! (By engraving the leg, it lets a doctor know the date and place that the prosthetic was purchased.)

Coughlin Jewelers makes all sizes of trophies in house. They created all of the trophies for last year's off shore races. They also can repair all makes of watches.

Another service offered by Coughlin Jewelers is jewelry cleaning. Using combinations of steam cleaning, acids and an ultrasonic cleaning machine, jewelry can be brought back to the vibrancy it once had – and at the same time it can be checked for loose settings. Patrick

recommends that this be done every six months. To encourage jewelry owners to do this, the cleaning is offered at no charge while customers wait.

Although a person who brings in jewelry for cleaning may only have to wait approximately ten minutes, he or she may well wish there was more time to spend looking around Coughlin Jewelers! In addition to a complete selection of jewelry, there are gift items for every occasion. Patrick says, "What a lot of people don't know is that there are over 8,000 items in our store with price tags of under \$100!"

Even the store itself is a gem, literally! Inside, there is a fish tank with a bottom lined in 185,000 carats of gemstones instead of the traditional rocks or sand. It is the only one like it in the world. Many of the gemstones come from jewelry that his shop has purchased from customers for the gold. "We usually can't reuse the gemstones because often times they are scratched. Instead, we use them to teach groups of children, such as the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts, about the precious stones. Once we are done, we let the kids drop them into the fish tank."

Patrick and his staff are always happy



Patrick Coughlin examines a custom made ring on which jeweler Chris Wastag is working.

to educate groups or individuals on other aspects of the jewelry business. There is a large piece of kimberlite on display. Patrick explains that this blue, green rock is very lightweight and is from South Africa. It is the kind that may contain diamonds. The rock is x-rayed to find out if indeed it does contain them and then it is broken apart. He also has rough cut green emeralds to view, as well as a finished three-point green emerald valued at \$5,000.

Although Coughlin Jewelers has jewelry in all price ranges and for all tastes, Patrick and his staff strive to work within a person's budget. Patrick says, "We never push anyone into something they can't afford. Once a person tells us what their budget is, we are going to help them get the most they can for their money. We even offer a layaway program so that the customer will not need to incur high credit card fees for a purchase if they put a small amount of cash down on it each month until it is paid for."

Coughlin Jewelers boasts quality that is top of the line, service that is next to none, and a store atmosphere that can only have been created by a family with discerning tastes. If you have never been to Coughlin Jewelers in St. Clair it is truly a gem in your own backyard to unearth! 🍀

Editor's Note: Coughlin Jewelers is hosting a book signing event with local elementary school principal John Fitzmaurice whose book is entitled Miracles for Maddie. Ten percent of store sales will be donated to Eddy Elementary PTO. Fifty percent of book sales will be donated to Rebels for a Cause in support of Make-A-Wish Foundation. The event is April 15. The fundraiser is from 3-8 p.m. and the book signing is from 5-7 p.m.

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The Bells of St. Peter's

Continued from Page 2

three months, but then they did something that no one has done in such a long time. They laid their hands on us and we felt the warmth of their touch against our cold, hard brass. They stood nearby and simply admired us. They took the time to read what was written on our sides and wrote it all down so they could share it with others. They took photos so you could finally see what we looked like up close. They even took the time to clean us up a bit and then just stood there awestruck at our beauty, size and strength. It was a moving experience for all of us up in this place where so few are able to go. It truly made us feel wanted and appreciated again.

You see, to be near us is to be closer to God. He is our guide and He put us here. We have tolled



The author of this article, Stacey Bauman, pictured here with the bells, performs janitorial duties at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Her father, Roger, is the keeper of the bells.

every weekend for His worship since 1889. We have rung so many times, that we have lost count. There have been bitter cold winters and the most humid, hot summers. We have been through the toughest of economic times, including the Great Depression. We know all about the wars and atrocities that have occurred during our stay here. Not only has there been turmoil, but there has been plenty of joy. Numerous pastors have shared God's Word and Sacraments, changing the lives of people. Teachers from all walks of life have taught children who now carry on in this very spot. Through everything, the people of this congregation have remained steadfast and strong. Look around you, this is a very dynamic group we have here. We always persevere no matter what the obstacle that lies before us. This moment is no different.

Times are tough again. Money is

short and jobs are scarce. We live during a period when there are so many distractions around us that we lose sight of what is truly important. Faith can run thin and sometimes we forget that, in the end, it is all we really have. Without it, we have nothing. It is because of your faith that we will remain, existing for generations to come. For many of you we have rung proudly for your baptism and when the time comes, we will softly toll for your funeral. When you have gone to your eternal home, we will still be here. All of you can rest in peace knowing that a member of your "family" will always be present in the lives of your future generations. We will see your great, great grandchildren get married. We will be present for all of the baptisms, the funerals, the tears and the joy. As long as there is faith among us, none of us will ever be alone.

In the end, stand tall and be proud of this church and the people who

make up this congregation. You have accomplished so many things through the years. It is no easy task to exist this long. It hasn't always been an easy road but it has always been worth it. We know you will care for us to allow us to ring for centuries to come. We are your legacy. We will make you proud and not you, nor anyone in your family will ever be alone. We have touched your lives in so many ways, as you have touched ours. In the future, all we ask is that on occasion, you take a moment to look up above. Realize that you may not see us, but we are always here to remain for the rest of your lives. We simply cannot exist without you and the faith that keeps us all strong. 🍀

Editor's note: According to Tina Kacanowski, the church historian, the congregation of St. Peter's was first organized in 1854 by German immigrants, but the founding is celebrated as being in 1872, since that year the Lutheran charter was signed as "St. Petri Evangelische Lutherische Kirche," or St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church. The current St. Peter's Church was started on May 23, 1948 and finished for the dedication on June 11, 1950. There were two other church buildings prior, one built in 1863 and one built in 1875. (The first church became a school once the 1875 church was completed.) Both of these buildings were torn down in 1949. The two bells were purchased in 1889 by the congregation at that time. They were cast by H. Stuckstede & Co. of St. Louis, Missouri and weigh 1,600 pounds. The bells tolled for only one of the pastors, Pastor Martin Wichmann, who died at the end of the church year, November 23, 1926.



The bell tower at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Richmond.

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An "Afternoon in Bavaria"

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

On Sunday, April 18, 2010, *ThumbPrint News* readers will have the chance to travel to Bavaria without having to board a plane at Detroit Metro. The German Ethnic Club "Edelweiss" will be hosting Bairischer Nachmittag, or "Afternoon in Bavaria" starting at 1:00 p.m. at the UAW Local 228, 39209 Mound Road in Sterling Heights. An afternoon of authentic Bavarian folklore, featuring music and dancing, plus delicious Bavarian food and homemade torten and sweets will be available. The seating for the entertainment is by reservation only. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and children 16 and under are free. To make reservations, call Anneliese Porter at (248) 515-4159.

Christina Winqest and her family joined the Edelweiss Club to celebrate her family's German heritage and to help keep the traditions of the Southern Bavarian region of Germany from where her ancestors came alive. Her two daughters have been active for the past ten years in dancing and playing music with the club. Rachel, who is 16, and Maria, who is 14, both play wooden recorders and flutes and perform authentic German dances wearing the "tracht", or distinctive outfit, from the Southern Bavarian region that the Edelweiss club represents. Dance practice is taken very seriously by the two and is done at the club every two weeks. They also perform with other members of the club at special events and celebrations, such as

"Afternoon in Bavaria."

Christina's mother will be helping out at the "Afternoon in Bavaria" by cooking some of the traditional foods from her native land: bread dumplings, pork roast, pastries and more. Of course there will also be imported German beers for washing everything down!

Christina's mother was born in Munich and her father was born in Romania. Her father fled to Germany to the refugee camps during World War II. He was eventually sponsored by his uncle to be able to come to America. Christina's mother had also moved to America, and it was here that the two met and fell in love at a German Dance Club.

Christina also has followed her interest in her cultural heritage by becoming the Great Lakes/ Eastern Central Regional Coordinator for the World Heritage Student Exchange Program. In ten years, she has taken 11 students into her family's home, a good majority of them from Germany. She said it has been a rewarding experience for both herself and her children. "The students from other countries are very anxious to come here to perfect their English so that when they return to their own countries and enter the work force they will be able to work in jobs where English is required."

Christina encourages other families to think about providing a temporary home for an exchange student. All that is required by the host family is to provide a bed, meals and a loving environment.



From left to right: Natalie Sandercott, Garrett Ritterhaus, Rachel Winqest, Nick Sandercott and Maria Winqest.

Students and host families go through an interview process that tries to match up the student to the best host family. If you are interested in finding more out about the World Heritage Student Exchange Program, you can reach Christina at (810) 794-2704.

Christina and her family encourage all of the readers of

ThumbPrint News to come on down to "Afternoon in Bavaria" for a fantastic afternoon of authentic German music, dance, food, beer and costumes. It is just one more opportunity for people in the Thumb area to celebrate the melting pot of cultures that makes this area so rich. 🍀

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Tim Burns

Five Questions for Determining if Direct Selling is for You

By Tim Burns

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

I've received a lot of inquiries lately from people asking about the validity of direct sales opportunities. What exactly is direct selling? A text book definition would be "the direct personal presentation, demonstration and sale of products or services to consumers." Some examples include Avon, Mary Kay, Pampered Chef and CutCo. According to recent figures from the Direct Selling Foundation, more than 15 million people in the United States are involved with direct sales opportunities, resulting in \$30.8 billion in annual sales. Nearly one-third of the sales were for personal items such as cosmetics, jewelry, skin care; and a quarter of the items sold were for home goods including cleaning products and cookware.

Getting involved with direct sales can provide the opportunity to be your own boss and work on a flexible schedule. It can also be enticing because being successful at direct selling doesn't require an educational degree or past experience, but it is important to note that it isn't for everyone. In some cases people just aren't suited and in other situations direct sales opportunities are just pyramid schemes in disguise.

When deciding whether to start a career in direct sales, keep the following five questions in mind before you invest your time and money:

Do you have what it takes to be a good salesperson? Some people are born with innate qualities for being a salesperson. They are outgoing, friendly, good public

speakers and self-motivated. For those that weren't born with these traits, they can potentially be developed and refined; however, this work isn't for the terminally shy or for people who need constant prodding to produce. Before taking the plunge, arrange to shadow a couple of successful direct sellers who can show you what it takes – every day – to be a success.

Is this a product you believe in and can sell? If you are selling a product you believe in, most of the work is already done for you. Excitement over a product or service is infectious and will grab potential customers. If you wouldn't buy the product yourself, you're going to have a very hard time selling it to others.

Do you have the proper resources for direct selling? Be wary of high upfront initiation or inventory costs. Can you afford the set-up costs? Is there a legitimate business model that if followed successfully will provide a high probability of both a return on your initial investment and making a

future profit? Also plan out other expenses that will help you succeed. A car, computer and a dedicated workspace in your home are all helpful in order to hit the ground running.

Can you trust the company?

Ask the company plenty of questions and read its literature thoroughly. Familiarize yourself with the official Code of Ethics established by the Direct Selling Association at www.dsa.org/ethics so you can identify any potential violations. Find the time to sit down with actual representatives and customers for their insight on both the company and the products. Always check companies out with your local Better Business Bureau at www.bbb.org before you invest any money.

Is it just a pyramid scheme?

Pyramid schemes will often pretend to be legitimate direct selling opportunities. The biggest red flag for a pyramid scheme is that the money making potential lies predominantly in recruiting other people, like you, to pay to join. The money is then filtered up the pyramid, so it follows that pyramid schemes often require large startup fees. 📌

Editor's Note: Tim Burns is the Public Affairs Director for the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan (www.bbb.org). Your local BBB is a non-profit organization that works to promote trust in the marketplace through consumer education, business accreditation, and dispute resolution services.

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Tall Ships Returning to the Great Lakes

By Algonac-Clay Township Historical Society

Algonac-Clay Township Historical Society is presenting Thad Koza, a renowned photographer who will speak on the 2010 Great Lakes Tall Ship Fleet at the April 27 General Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1905 Mill Street, in Algonac. The presentation will include a discussion of the fleet, ports to be visited and beautiful pictures of the ships in full sail.



Thad Koza

In 2001 the Historical Society was notified that the Tall Ships would be in the Great Lakes for the 2001 Tall Ship Challenge. When the Detroit 300 Celebration was finalized, the ships were looking for a mooring area, since they did not want to navigate the St. Clair River after dark. Algonac's waterfront was the ideal location, as it has the water depth, it is away from the shipping channel and offers easy access. Therefore, 17 Tall Ships accepted the offer to moor in Algonac.

Thad has photographed the Tall

Ships for over three decades. A native of Rhode Island, he attended the University of Michigan and Northwestern University. Thad's photographic credits include *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *OP Sail 92*, *Eurosail 93*, *Sail Toronto 1994*, *Windjammer* and *Discovery Magazine*

of Cathay Pacific Airlines. He served as a consultant for ABC-TV *Eyewitness News* and an online lecturer for several cruise lines.

Thad covered America's Sail in St. Petersburg, Florida and Festival of Sail in San Diego. In 2003 he was aboard the *Crystal Symphony* for her rendezvous with the Tall Ships in Gdynia, Poland. His photograph of *BOA Esperanca* has been made into a 45p stamp by the Irish Postal Service.

Thad's most engaging project has been the completion of the manuscript text and photograph section for books on the Tall Ships, the latest titled, *Tall Ships: The Fleet*



The Tall Ships anchored in front of Algonac's waterfront.

of the 21st Century, with over 175 colored pictures.

Thad has been a member of ASTA (America Sail Training Association) for 20 years. ASTA is an organization formed in the mid-1980s to encourage youth character building through sail training, to promote sail training to the North American public and to support education under sail. A key element on sail training is the emphasis on youth, since not less than half the onboard crew is between 15 and 25 years of age. The Algonac-Clay Township Historical Society is an Affiliate Member of ASTA, is a Hospitality Port of the Great Lakes and has hosted many Tall Ship visits since 2001. An invitation has been extended to all of the captains

to enjoy our beautiful water front and hospitality this sailing season. Algonac's City Park and Board Walk offers a great place for rest and relaxation for captains and crew alike. Among the Tall Ships we are hoping to have moored in Algonac again are the *Bluenose II*, *Europe*, *Pride of Baltimore II*, *Niagara*, and *HMS Bounty*. The *Unicorn* has scheduled a three day visit in July.

The program is open to the public starting at 6:30 p.m. and there is no charge to enjoy this informative evening. The monthly General Meeting will follow Thad's presentation. Refreshments will be offered during the break. Call (586) 214-2104, or email mg22402@yahoo.com for more information. 🌱

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When You Think Of April

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist



David Gillis and his three sisters in their Easter best in 1949

Although March introduces spring each year, it's during April when we really begin to feel it. The sun is brighter and warmer. The birds sing earlier each morning and continue into the evening. The rain is gentle, each drop encouraging the budding trees and blades of grass. Flowers begin pushing through the surface of the earth that was covered with snow just a few weeks before. It's a beautiful time of year that brings forth a restoration of life and symbolizes new beginnings with a promise of hopes fulfilled.

For Christians, April also brings the time of year when Easter is recognized. It's that special time to recognize their Savior's suffering during crucifixion and to celebrate the glory of His resurrection three days later.

Easter also provides many small children an event for brightly colored eggs, decorated baskets filled with candies, and the image of a secret visit from the most famous rabbit who ever existed.

I remember as a small boy how my sisters and I looked forward to the coming of this wonderful time of year with curiosity and happy anxiety.

My mother made sure that the biblical aspects of Easter were a part of this special time in April. On the Friday before Easter Sunday, as small children, we did not attend church services, but just knew it was an important day. We remained in the house for a solemn three-hour period.

On the following day our creativity came alive as we were allowed to become messy under controlled circumstances. This was the day when Mom boiled dozens of eggs and we all became practicing artists, using waxed pencils and food coloring. We all finished with a rainbow of colors on our hands, faces and clothing as well as some on the eggs. That night, while we slept, the anticipated visit from the Easter bunny became a reality, providing gifts of little yellow marshmallow chicks, hollow chocolate rabbits and multi-flavored jelly beans. Of course, the next morning was almost as exciting as Christmas morning, but only almost.

What was very special for me and I believe for my sisters as well, was the new wardrobe items we would all receive at this time of year. I know it was financially difficult for my parents, but, for my mother it was always important that our appearance was as she thought it should be.

My sisters all had new dresses, bonnets and those black patent-leather shoes with straps. Of course, the outfits often included small matching purses and sometimes white gloves. Mom would devote the time necessary to make sure each "little lady" had carefully braided or curled hairdos.

For me, a new suit was often in order because last year's no longer fit. My new outfit included a coordinated neck tie and a brimmed hat with a small feather in its band. I guess I was my mother's little gentleman, whether I was prepared for it or not.

Manners were important to Mom and she taught me how to tip my hat and greet ladies as they passed on the street. I was also taught that the hat was to be removed as I entered church, a practice I extended for every building I entered.

On Easter morning we always had a beautiful, well-prepared program in Sunday school. I especially remember that the songs we sang seemed to have a special sound, the stories told had greater meaning, and the church adorned with white lilies a distinctive brightness. I somehow knew that the colored eggs and basket full of candy waiting for me at home were secondary to the message received in the church that morning.

While some of the traditions I remember about this special time in April have been retained by me and the generations that followed, others have disappeared. I still remove my hat when entering a building most of the time and hollow chocolate rabbits remain one of my favorites. I believe, too, that my mother still thinks that I'm her little gentleman.

What has not changed in my life is the joy felt with the sounds and sites of the church on Easter morning. I still love the stories told, although they're the same ones I heard as a little boy. And, I remain excited about the celebration of the triumph and resurrection of my Savior. May you too have a happy and memorable Easter. 🌱

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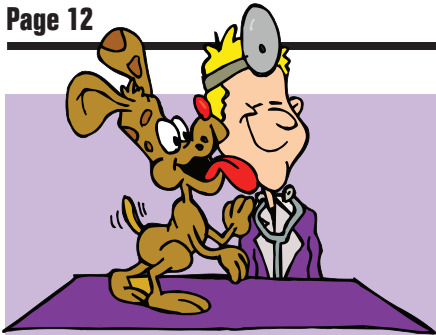
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Canine Vaccines

By Dr. DiBenedetto
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

The economy has made it difficult for some pet owners to keep up on all of their needs and responsibilities. When it comes to the health of your dog, keeping vaccines up-to-date is a primary medical need, especially if your dog comes in contact with areas frequented by other dogs such as dog parks, groomers, boarding kennels, doggy daycare centers, or even a run in the woods.

Unvaccinated dogs, raccoons, fox and coyote can all carry canine viruses. When they shed a virus in an area that your pet passes

through, your pet can catch that virus. If your pet is unvaccinated and exposed to a canine virus, your pet can catch the virus, just like people catch the flu.

For the on-going health of your dog, it is extremely important that routine vaccinations are given at regular intervals from six weeks of age throughout your pet's senior years to prevent major diseases.

The immune system of dogs is similar to that of humans. Puppies and seniors have more difficulties fighting off infections than middle-aged dogs. Therefore, it is extremely important to start vaccinations early and to assure proper levels of immunity by continuing

vaccinations throughout your dog's life to prevent major diseases.

Not all dogs need to receive all vaccinations and not all dogs will need the same vaccines throughout their lives. Your veterinarian will base your pet's vaccination protocol on your pet's individual risk of exposure that should be evaluated annually. But minimally, all dogs should be vaccinated for the core vaccines that include: canine distemper, hepatitis, parainfluenza, parvo virus and rabies. The following table lists the canine vaccines available through your veterinarian. Each virus is defined along with risk factors for exposure. If you can answer yes to



Maple Veterinary Hospital's Dr. Kelly Higgins and friend.

any of the risk of exposure criteria, then your dog should be vaccinated. You'll notice that the core vaccines have been checked "YES" since all dogs have a risk of exposure for these viruses.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CANINE VACCINATIONS Based on the risk factors indicated for each canine vaccine listed below, rate your dog's exposure risk by checking YES or NO. If you check YES to any risk factors, your dog should be vaccinated for protection.	Is My Dog At Risk?	
	YES	NO
<p>Canine Distemper – Upper Respiratory, Gastrointestinal and Liver Diseases</p> <p>DISTEMPER – A high contagious, often fatal virus that affects a dog's respiratory, gastrointestinal and nervous system.</p> <p>HEPATITIS – A viral disease that affects the liver and cells lining the blood vessels. It can be fatal in puppies and older dogs.</p> <p>PARAINFLUENZA – A viral infection that causes one form of what is often called "kennel cough." It is a highly infectious attack on the respiratory system.</p> <p>PARVO VIRUS – A common and deadly viral infection of the gastrointestinal system that often has no early visible symptoms. It strikes quickly and death can result in less than a day.</p> <p>CORONA VIRUS – A highly contagious viral infection of the gastrointestinal tract.</p> <p>RISK FACTORS: All dogs are at risk for canine distemper, upper respiratory, gastrointestinal and liver diseases that are spread by airborne viruses that can be carried into your own house on your clothes and shoes or on breezes through open windows. Your dog is also at high risk of exposure in outside areas where other dogs have been walked or exercised. Raccoons and skunks can also spread these diseases to areas where your dog can be exposed.</p> <p>FREQUENCY OF VACCINATION: Annually unless replaced by annual titer testing.</p>	Y	
<p>Rabies – A fatal viral infection of the central nervous system which is transmitted through the saliva of an affected animal and poses a serious public health threat.</p> <p>RISK FACTORS: Rabies affects ALL mammals, including humans, dogs, cats, raccoons, skunks, bats and fox. Local animal control officials have reported that rabid wild animals have been recently found in the Troy and Sterling Heights areas.</p> <p>FREQUENCY OF VACCINATION: The initial rabies vaccination is given for a period of 1 year. At the time of the first rabies booster vaccine, the duration of the vaccine resistance period becomes 3 years. From then on, rabies vaccinations are boosted every 3 years.</p> <p>LICENSING: Your veterinarian will provide you with a Certificate of Vaccination that you will need to present to the pet licensing department for your municipality. Some municipalities require licensing of both dogs and cats. Please check with the pet licensing department of your municipality to be sure of the laws governing your pets.</p>	Y	
<p>Canine BORDETELLA – A contagious bacterial infection that causes another form of what is often called "kennel cough". It is a highly infectious attack on the respiratory system.</p> <p>RISK FACTORS: Dogs that are exposed to contact with a large number of dogs in areas such as boarding kennels, grooming facilities, training facilities and dog shows are at high risk of contracting Bordetella, the bacterial form of "kennel cough". Bordetella vaccinations should be boosted annually if your dog will be a regular visitor in any of the listed environments. For one-time or infrequent visitors, Bordetella vaccinations should be given 2 weeks before needed.</p> <p>FREQUENCY OF VACCINATION: Annually if at risk of exposure.</p>		
<p>Canine LYME Disease – A debilitating bacterial infection that affects the musculoskeletal system (muscles and bones).</p> <p>RISK FACTORS: Lyme disease is spread by ticks. Lyme disease is prevalent in areas such as the Western end of the Upper Peninsula, New England, New York and Pennsylvania. There are isolated pockets in the Lower Peninsula and in other states where Lyme disease is found. Lyme disease can seriously affect humans and is spread by the same ticks that give Lyme disease to dogs.</p> <p>FREQUENCY OF VACCINATION: Annually if at risk of exposure.</p>		
<p>Canine LEPTOSPIROSIS Disease – A contagious bacterial infection of the kidneys and liver that can be fatal if not treated in the early stages of the disease.</p> <p>RISK FACTORS: Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that affects humans and dogs. It is most commonly contracted by dogs who come in contact with water that has been contaminated with the urine of an infected mouse, rat, raccoon, opossum, fox or deer. Humans can also get Leptospirosis from handling an infected animal or contaminated urine.</p> <p>FREQUENCY OF VACCINATION: Annually if at risk of exposure.</p>		

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

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A New Career in Four Weeks

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

With unemployment at an all time high in the Thumb area, many people are taking advantage of the “time off” to pursue education or training for a new career. Typically, this transition could take anywhere from one to four years to complete, so a new career in only four weeks seems almost an impossibility. Yet, that is what David and Lynne Jaraczewski offer through enrollment in their truck driving school, Coast 2 Coast.

Coast 2 Coast has locations in both Marine City and Sterling Heights. With flexible hours to work around anyone’s busy schedule and one on one training with a licensed, top of the line instructor, Coast 2 Coast makes it easy for their students to put their future in gear with a new career in obtaining a class A or B commercial driver’s license.

One of Coast 2 Coast’s expert trainers is Curt Congdon. In Dave Jaraczewski’s words, “Curt is a patient and excellent trainer. He spends quality time with every student, and helps students who have special needs. All of the students love him.”



Instructor Curt Congdon providing hands-on instruction to a student at Coast 2 Coast Truck Driving School.



With two locations and flexible hours, Coast 2 Coast can help you change careers in as little as four weeks! See their ad at bottom of this page for contact information.

Coast 2 Coast is licensed by the Michigan State Department of Transportation and is approved to accept grants from Michigan Works. Other affordable funding options with as low as 0% financing are available.

David and Lynne’s commitment to their students’ futures does not end with training them to drive a truck. They establish pre-employment for each student with the nation’s top trucking companies. These companies may grant a pre-hire and may also have tuition reimbursement. Coast 2 Coast will assist with life time job placement upon graduation, including notifications with up and coming opportunities in the trucking industry. Upon meeting the requirements of Coast 2 Coast and the state, Coast to Coast will even guarantee employment for their students.

Even with the state of the nation’s economy, the future of the trucking industry is bright with the constant need to move goods across the nation for America’s growing population. Coast 2 Coast Truck Driving School puts its students at the forefront of this trend – and, in only a short four weeks! 🌱

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Tin Can Tourists: Campers

Continued from Page 1

unpaved roads. They camped by the side of the road, heated food in tin cans over a fire or a gasoline stove and bathed in cold water. But it was an adventure they craved.

Although the first motor homes were built as special order units in 1901, it was not until 1910 that the first manufactured, mass-produced RVs (folding camping trailers) came onto the market. It was actually in 1907 when Henry Ford introduced the first Model Ts that auto camping became affordable for most Americans for the first time. (Originally auto camping was regarded as a rich man's hobby.)

The original members of The Tin Can Tourists camped mostly by rigging up their cars with folding side tents or by converting trucks to create a place to sleep in the truck bed. The arrangements were certainly nothing compared to the recreational vehicles of today. However, the warm Florida sunshine and the camaraderie of the club promised the group an easy life and good times.

The Tin Can Tourists were known for the soldered tin can they attached to their radiator caps. Initiation into the club included a secret handshake, sign and password. Their official song was "The More We Get Together".

Although Desoto Park was the wintering ground for The Tin Can

Tourists, summer get-togethers were held at various Midwest locations. Traverse City, Michigan was an important host city.

In 1924, due to locals in Tampa, Florida being concerned about their park being overrun with northerners, The Tin Can Tourists moved to Arcadia, Florida, where the community had built a park just for them. By 1932, membership estimates ranged from 30,000 to 100,000 members. Other chapters and campgrounds were established in various parts of Florida and the United States.



Tin Can Tourist Camp of Gainesville, Florida

Interestingly, Billy Graham, in *Called to Preach* says that he began his ministry preaching at a Tin Can Trailer Park. In 1938 in Tampa, he was approached to hold religious services on Sunday nights to crowds that ranged from 200 to 1,000 campers each week. He was paid a meager \$5.00 for each service but credits the first service he held there to setting his life's purpose – to be a preacher of the Gospel.

In the years following, the membership of The Tin Can Tourists began to decline due to several factors, including an economic recession in 1939 that diminished the number of trailer manufacturers and the onset of World War II. By the mid-1970s The Tin Can Tourists



Tin Can Tourists enjoyed the freedom of the open road.



Tin Can Tourists, circa 1922, car camping and sharing watermelon in the Washington, D.C. area.

were no longer in existence.

It was not until 1998 that Forrest and Jeri Bone renewed the club, using the original goals and guiding principles. The first renewal gathering was held at Camp Dearborn in Milford, Michigan. Twenty-one rigs attended. By the end of 1998, fifty members were now members of the new version of The Tin Can Tourists. Annual gatherings are now held in Michigan and Florida and members attend regional rallies at various locations throughout the United States.

Today the United States's recreational vehicle parks industry includes more than 4,000 RV parks and campgrounds with combined annual revenues of about \$2 billion. Major companies include Kampgrounds of America (KOA) and Thousand Trails. There are more than 12,000 RV-related businesses

in the U.S. with combined annual revenues of more than \$37.5 billion!

According to MARVAC (Michigan Association of Recreation Vehicles & Campgrounds), from January through the end of October, 2009, Michigan RV sales for the year totaled 8,043 units. In Michigan there are over 1,200 licensed campgrounds, which represent more than 80,000 campsites.

This year the RV industry will celebrate its 100th anniversary and this summer, Thumb area residents will have a chance to see and tour some of the vintage travel trailers owned by the current Tin Can Tourists who will be camping at Port Sanilac in Sanilac County as part of the 2nd Annual Antique Boat Show August 20 and 21. For more information about The Tin Can Tourists or if you are interested in joining the group visit their website at www.tincantourists.com. 🌱



The original members of The Tin Can Tourists camped mostly by rigging up their cars with folding side tents or by converting trucks to create a place to sleep in the truck bed.



Tin Can Tourists cooking Thanksgiving Dinner at Desoto Park in Tampa, Florida, circa 1920

Antique Travel Trailers to Join Wooden Boat Show in Port Sanilac in August



Travel trailers, such as the one above, will be camping out in Port Sanilac as part of the 2nd Annual Antique Boat Show on August 20 and 21, 2010. Tours will be available from the Tin Can Tourists who travel the world in these vintage vehicles.

The trailers draw nostalgia of the open road at a time when roads were just being developed. Their interiors are paneled in deep tones of mahogany or blonde tones of birch. They are the first versions of the recreational vehicles that double as the home-away-from-home.

Known as Tin Can Tourists, a contingency of these antique travel trailers will be an addition to the 2nd Annual Antique Boat Show at Port Sanilac on Friday and Saturday, August 20 and 21, 2010.

Last year's inaugural boat show featured the boats in the water and antique tractors on land.

"Our culture here in Port Sanilac was built on a combination of agriculture and marinas," noted show chairman, Bill Thomas. "It was a natural combination for our show to feature the recreational and work vehicles that are the roots of Port Sanilac."

Now, more recreational vehicles will be added. Up to 15 of the restored travel trailers will be featured at the 2010 boat show.

"Early tourists were drawn to our area, proof of that was the establishment of the recreational youth camps," Thomas commented. "What a great compliment to our show."

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The Tin Can Tourists is an all-make and model vintage trailer and motor coach club. They have thousands of members all over the world, camping out at various events such as the Port Sanilac Antique Boat Show.

"Because there are so many

members, we have to limit reservations to the first 12 to 15 because of power limits," added Thomas. "We are anxious to see what coaches and trailers we will have to compliment our boats."

The boat show is presented with the assistance and cooperation of the

Michigan Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society and is partially funded by the Port Sanilac Downtown Development Authority.

For information on the boat show, contact Bill Thomas at (810) 622-9931 or email at njthomas42@sbcglobal.net.

Thanks for the Memories

By Diane Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

Gertie Brooks of Almont read the article "Thanks for the Memories" in the February edition of *ThumbPrint News* and felt inspired to share some of her own memories of growing up in the Thumb area – and she has a wealth of memories to share in the 91 years she has resided here.

Although Gertie grew up in Almont, she was a frequent visitor to Port Huron, where her Grandma and Grandpa Miller lived on St. Clair Street. She remembers being picked up by Mr. Tank on Pine Grove Avenue the day after Thanksgiving one year to go to Sperry's Department Store by street car. (Mr. Tank was the conductor of the street car.) Growing up on a rural dairy farm, Gertie says, "It was a real treat for a little farm girl to go to the toy department in the basement. Grandma asked me which dolly I thought was the prettiest from those that were displayed on tiers along the wall. 'That one in the

blue dress,' I answered. The nice saleslady got her down for me to hold. Her name was Daisy. I reluctantly gave her back and Mamma took little brother Roy and me to look at little boy's toys while Grandma visited with the saleslady. But, do you know what? Santa left her under our Christmas tree that year!" Daisy still lives with one of Gertie's granddaughters.

Gertie also has fond memories of Pine Grove Park. There was a swimming pool there that she enjoyed with her brothers. She also remembers a two-story pavilion, where she would go and listen to the Salvation Army Band play. Often she would fish for pickerel along the river there with her grandfather and her big brothers.

Gertie ended up marrying a farmer in Almont and raising three children, who have graced her with seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. She even eventually moved back to her childhood home for a period



Gertie Brooks' grandfather and father watch, as her big brothers, Floyd and Murlin, fish for pickerel in Pine Grove Park in Port Huron around 1917.

of time, where so many memories remained.

On a recent trip into Port Huron to get her hearing aids from Dr. Brettschneider, Gertie decided to ride past her grandparents' home to reminisce, but was shocked to find that their home, as well as Mr. and Mrs. Tank's home, were no longer there. However, when Gertie looks back through her photo albums, her childhood comes back to life for her. Gertie says, "Thanks for the memories!" 🍀

Editor's Note: If you have your own "Thanks for the Memories" stories to share about growing up in the Thumb Area, please send them to ThumbPrint News, 8061 Marsh Rd., Clay Township, MI 48001, or email them to thumbprintnews@comcast.net. Be sure to include your phone number so we can contact you if we need more information. And don't forget, those vintage photos are great to go along with your story!

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Memoirs from The Restless Retiree

An Easter Egg Hunt - Indoors?

By Gabriel Jones

Easter egg hunts for Easter are a must for children in the family. Grandma and Grandpa have them every year. We always hold them outside.

Sometimes it would drizzle rain, but most of the time it would stop for our hunt.

Then one year, after a rain, the parents went outside to hide the eggs. In the process, our son-in-law, wearing a new Easter suit, slipped. He got up covered with mud and muttered some words that we haven't heard before. It was then that we decided that we would hold any future egg hunts in the house if the weather was wet.

This last Easter, at egg hunting time, there was a terrible rainstorm.

We decided to hold the Easter egg hunt indoors. We gathered the children in one room, while the parents went through the house hiding the eggs.

When the parents finished, we let the children go.

As the children ran through the house looking for eggs, the parents followed.

However, some of the children got ahead of the adults and this is what we heard.

"I found one egg!" *CRASH*

"I found one, too!" *CRUNCH*

"Here's another one!" *TINKLE*

"Wow! Look what I found!" *BANG!*

The children ran from room to room. The parents couldn't keep up with the children.

BANG, CRASH, RUMBLE, BOOM!

"Stop!" we all yelled!

The children froze in their tracks as the parents gathered them and brought everyone into the family room. My wife and I then walked throughout the house.

What a mess!

But, luckily... not too many things were broken.

We then joined the family as the children were displaying, one by one, how many eggs they had found. A prize was going to the child who found the most eggs. But there were also different surprises for each child as they opened their eggs – candy, pennies, and some nickels – put in by Grandma. They

all had a grand time.

In leaving, each child gave Grandma a big hug, saying what a good time they had at Grandma's house.

Afterwards, Grandma said, "It was wonderful that all of the family could get together. Everyone had a good time."

Grandpa (in a quiet voice) responds, "Next time, it'll be at Daughter's House."

Another lesson learned by The Restless Retiree. 🍌

Editor's note: Follow the adventures of the Restless Retiree every month in ThumbPrint News!

Woodland Developmental Center Students Turn Principals into "Human Hot Dogs"

By Yvette Pecha

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Staff at the Woodland Developmental Center in Marysville ensured that the Center's recent book fair that was held the first week in February promoted family participation and fun in addition to reading. One of the biggest highlights occurred the Thursday after the fair when Principal Diana Maison and Assistant Principal Brian Jex became "human hot dogs," which they had agreed to do if the book fair sale's goal was met. Equipped with goggles and other protective gear, the principals went to the Woodland gym and allowed students to slather ketchup and mustard all over them.

Woodland, a special education school, houses more than 200 students and is part of the St. Clair County Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA). It has an annual book fair every February. Books for children of all ages were available to shoppers, who included Woodland and other RESA staff, as well as parents and family members of the students.

The staff offered several special events

in conjunction with the fair, including a sock hop/ice cream social for students and families. At the Training Table Restaurant, a commercial-kitchen facility fully staffed by students, a special nacho feast was prepared for customers.

Another fair attraction was the guest reader segment. Twenty RESA employees, including Superintendent Dan DeGrow, read to students throughout the week for a half an hour each. Woodland staff presented each guest reader with a certificate of thanks.

Principal Diana Maison said students enjoyed every aspect of the fair, but were particularly delighted by the principals' hot dog stunt. "You should have seen their faces," said Maison. "Some of our quietest students were laughing hysterically and having the time of their lives."

The money raised will go toward the cost of student educational activities at the school, which serves disabled students ages three to 26 throughout St. Clair County. The Woodland Developmental Center is located at 499 Range Road in Marysville. 🍌



Assistant Principal Brian Jex and Principal Diana Maison became "Human Hot Dogs" as part of a book fair challenge at Woodland Developmental Center.

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ThumbPrint News

An imprint of places and people gardening in the Thumb of Michigan



Bonus Section

Gardening in Michigan

Pages 19-34 of this issue are dedicated to gardening in Michigan. Pull out this special section and enjoy it for months to come!



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A Fragrant Garden for All Seasons

By Foxfire Farm Greenhouses

The average person draws 23,000 breaths each day capturing at the same time the scents of the surrounding area. If you had lived in the Middle Ages, those scents might not have always been pleasant. Wealthy English nobles made sure to take a bath once every three weeks. However, those less wealthy who had to haul and heat the water, often just didn't bother. Besides, many people during that period in history believed that bathing, particularly in winter, led to chills and ultimately death by pneumonia. Body odor became so strong that many aromatic plants were used as "strewing herbs" to mask the smells. The plants were liberally strewn in beds, on floors and even in outhouses.

Today, fortunately, we can enjoy the sweet, spicy and heady fragrances of many plants simply for pleasure, instead of out of necessity. Although there may be many reasons for planting a garden – as sanctuaries, as habitats for wildlife, to attract butterflies, to provide food for the table, or to provide colorful backgrounds for entertaining – if a garden is also planned with fragrance in mind, a wonderful sensory experience occurs each time someone strolls through the garden area.

Fragrant plants can be incorporated directly into the

landscape, or for those with limited space, they can be planted in containers, window boxes or hanging baskets. The main consideration should be to create a fragrant garden for all seasons by carefully choosing a variety of plants that will offer their scents throughout spring, summer and fall.

Modern breeding has sapped the fragrance out of some garden favorites (especially with some modern roses). But there are still many choices of luscious smelling plants to include in your garden. Let's take a look at some fragrant plants and the season in which they are most likely to add welcome scents to your garden:



Lily of the Valley is a great perennial for spring fragrance.

Spring

- **Trees:** Horse Chestnut, Magnolia, Lindens
- **Shrubs:** Sweet Shrub, Flowering Quince, Daphne, Mock-Orange, Lilacs
- **Vines:** Wisteria
- **Perennials:** Lily of the Valley, Carnations, Primrose, Thyme, Violets, Clove Pinks
- **Annuals and Bulbs:** Crocus, Hyacinths, Dwarf Iris, Sweet Alyssum, Narcissus, Grape Hyacinths

Summer

- **Trees:** Catalpa, Sourwood, Fragrant Snowball, Japanese Tree Lilac
- **Shrubs:** Azalea, Butterfly Bush, Summersweet, Beautybush, Virginia Sweetspire, Old-Fashioned Roses, Yucca,



Fragrant plants and flowers can be incorporated directly into the landscape. This photo shows some of the theme gardens at the Foxfire Farm Botanical Gardens. Tours of the garden available May through October, as well as the annual garden party scheduled for July 17 (see ad on page 22).

Fragrant Sumac

- **Vines:** Akebia, Clematis, Honeysuckle
- **Perennials:** Hyssop, Lavender, Beebalm, Catmint, Garden Phlox
- **Annuals and Bulbs:** Snapdragons, Chocolate Cosmos, Sweet Pea, Stargazer Lilies, Nicotiana, Scented Geraniums

Fall

- **Trees:** Seven-son Flower
- **Shrubs:** Autumn Witch-Hazel
- **Vines:** Sweet Autumn Clematis
- **Perennials:** Russian Sage

Winter

In Michigan's climate, plants are generally dormant during the winter. Fragrant house plants can be purchased to bring garden fresh aromas to the inside of the home during this season.

In addition to the above listed plants, many herbs are ideally suited to the fragrance garden due

to their fragrant foliage. Depending on the type, some can be planted underfoot between stepping stones where people will crush the foliage and release the scent or they can be planted next to pathways where people walking will brush against the leaves and release the fragrance. A few of these herbs might be basil, rosemary, oregano, mints, lemon verbena, sage, lemon balm and southernwood.



Lavender will add fragrance to your garden in the summer months.



Some herbs can be planted underfoot between stepping stones where their fragrance will be released when stepped on.



Honeysuckle vines are most fragrant in the early summer.

Fragrance in the garden is a luxury that almost anyone can afford. It brings a smile to a person's face. It beckons someone to linger longer in the garden area to find the source of that sometimes elusive smell. It is relaxing and invigorating at the same time. With each of the thousands of breaths we take each day, we store the wonderful fragrances in our memories to enjoy long after leaving the boundaries of the garden. 🌿

Attracting Butterflies to Your Garden

By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Butterflies are perhaps the most beloved of all insects. Known in the scientific community as Lepidoptera (Latin for scaly-winged), they have been upon the earth for at least 50 million years. Paintings of butterflies adorned Egyptian tombs. Poets and writers have used this insect as a symbol of renewal. Gardeners take great pleasure in watching these colorful winged creatures fly from one flower to another in search of sweet nectar.

In order to attract more butterflies to your garden, it is necessary to create the conditions that will help butterflies to thrive. Sun, water, shelter and plant diversity are some of their most basic needs.

Butterflies are cold-blooded insects that will often start the day by warming their bodies in the sun. Your butterfly garden needs to include a spot where sunlight will reach the ground early in the day. Things such as pavement, large

rocks and exposed soil are often surfaces that will warm up early with the morning sun. Overall, your butterfly garden should have at least six hours of direct sunlight each day.

Water is also a basic need for butterflies. Much of that need can be met by nectar, dew and tree sap, but the addition of a small pond or puddling station will guarantee that their need is met.

Although butterflies need the sun, properly placed trees and shrubs provide all important shelter during stormy weather, as a roost at night, or as a hiding place from predators.

Plant diversity is essential in providing a microhabitat where a wide variety of butterflies can live and grow. Plants that grow to different heights, plants that have different blooming times and plants that have a variety of flower shapes and colors will help to create the optimum environment.

In order to get butterflies to be attracted to your garden but also to

have them stay, you will need to provide plants that they need at each of the stages in their life cycles.

The plants you will select should fall into two different categories: host plants that will provide a place for the butterflies to lay their eggs and for the caterpillars to feed and nectar plants that will provide adult butterflies with energy.

Certain types of butterflies prefer certain types of plants as the host on to which they will lay their eggs. If you are interested in attracting a particular kind of butterfly to your garden, knowledge of these preferences is vital. Also, in order for the plants to grow and thrive in your garden, plants that are right for your growing zone and for the soil conditions of your garden must be considered. A valuable resource for a list of butterflies and their preferred host plants is the website www.thebutterflysite.com.

If you are just interested in attracting a wide range of butterflies to your garden, here are some host plants that will thrive in many parts of the Thumb area: Virginia Snakeroot (*Aristolochia serpentaria*), Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*), Prickly Ash (*Zanthoxylum americanum*), Wild Black Cherry (*Prunus virginiana*), White Birch (*Betula papyrifera*), Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), Rock Cress (*Arabis perstellata*), Wild Senna (*Cassia hebecarpa*), Violets (*Viola spp.*), Pansy (*Viola tricolor*), Sunflowers (*Helianthus spp.*), Asters (*Aster spp.*), Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*), Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*), Columbine (*Aquilegia spp.*) and Wild Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*). In addition, a border that is left natural will provide many weeds and grasses that are host plants for some species of butterflies.

For adult butterflies, a wide range of flowers, both annual and perennial varieties, and flowering plants will provide the nectar they need. Some native nectar plants that can be incorporated into your butterfly garden include the following: Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), Joe-pye Weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*), Missouri Ironweed (*Veronia missurica*), Wild

Iris (*Iris versicolor*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera spp.*), Blackberry (*Rubus spp.*), Blueberry (*Vaccinium spp.*), Butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), Blue Vervain (*Verbena hastata*) and Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia spp.*).

Another vital consideration to maintaining a garden environment where butterflies will stay and flourish is avoiding the use of pesticides in or near your garden. Read the labels carefully before you use any pesticide to see which insects are targeted. Remember, caterpillars are one of the stages in the life cycle of the butterfly – they will eat the leaves of the host plants! When you see holes in the plants, don't spray with a pesticide or you will guarantee that future butterflies are being destroyed!

Butterflies, in addition to being fun to watch, provide two other valuable purposes in the landscape: they are pollinators for some plants and are an important source of food for many songbirds. Planting a garden for the butterflies will have the added value of bringing more songbirds into your yard.

Many people are so attracted to butterflies that they will purchase commercially raised species to release at special life events, such as weddings or funerals. However, this practice is actually a particularly long-lasting form of environmental pollution, according to the North American Butterfly Association. Because the species released are sometimes not native to the area or they were raised inside under unnatural conditions, there is a great possibility that they can interfere with the native populations. They compete for food sources. They may spread disease and parasites to wild populations, with devastating results. In the words of the North American Butterfly Association, "There's no need to release butterflies – they're already free!"

A more ecologically sound idea would be to create a special spot in your yard for a butterfly garden. By meeting the basic needs of these delicate, beautiful insects, you can help ensure that you and your family and friends will be able to observe them in all of their natural glory. 🌱

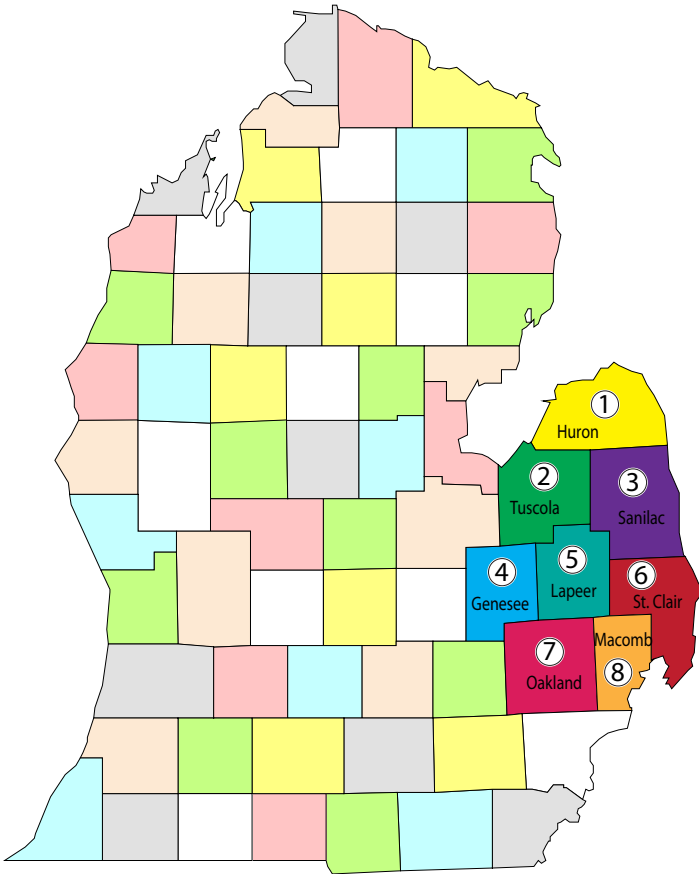
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Butterflies of the Thumb of Michigan

This chart shows some of the butterflies that have been documented in the counties covered by the *ThumbPrint News*. For a complete list, go to www.butterfliesandmoths.org where a map search can be done by each county in Michigan.



	Common Name	Scientific Name	Counties Found
	American Lady	<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>	1 4 5 6 7 8
	Baltimore	<i>Euphydryas phaeton</i>	4 5 7 8
	Black Swallowtail	<i>Papilio polyxenes</i>	1 2 4 5 6 7 8
	Cabbage White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
	Common Buckeye	<i>Junonia coenia</i>	1 5 6 7 8
	Common Checkered Skipper	<i>Pyrgus communis</i>	7 8
	Common Sootywing	<i>Pholisora catullus</i>	4 5 6 7 8
	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	<i>Papilio glaucus</i>	1 4 5 6 7 8
	Fiery Skipper	<i>Hylephia phyleus</i>	1 3 7 8
	Gray Comma	<i>Polygonia progne</i>	1 4 5 6 7 8
	Great Spangle Fritillary	<i>Speyeria Cybele</i>	1 4 5 6 7 8
	Harvester	<i>Geniseca tarquinius</i>	4 5 6 7 8
	Meadow Fritillary	<i>Boloria bellona</i>	4 5 6 7 8
	Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	1 4 5 6 7 8
	Orange Sulphur	<i>Colias eurytheme</i>	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
	Tawny Emperor	<i>Asterocampa clyton</i>	4 5 6
	Viceroy	<i>Limenitis archippus</i>	1 2 4 5 6 7 8



"Happiness is a butterfly, which when pursued, is always just beyond your grasp, but which, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you."

Nathaniel Hawthorne

The butterfly counts not months but moments, and has time enough.

Rabindranath Tagore

Planting Perennials for a Rainbow of Color

By Ralph McKinch

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

For many gardeners, when the warming days of spring melt away the last of the lingering muddy snow and the boring grayish landscape of winter's end gives hope for a rebirth of green living plants, their first thoughts turn to getting color into their landscapes fast. Hence, a trip is made to the local greenhouse for flats of annual flowers. (Annuals are flowers that grow, flower, set seed and die all within one growing season.)

Although annuals definitely have their place in landscaping, too often overlooked are the perennial flowers (those that will come back year after year, with proper care). Annuals are relatively inexpensive, compared to perennials. A whole flat of petunias

may be had for a ten-dollar bill. That tray may contain 18 to 48 plants that will easily fill-in color to a flower bed quickly. That immediate gratification is what many gardeners need. In contrast, a gallon pot of a perennial may only contain one plant and yet might cost \$7.99 each, or higher for more unusual or newly-released varieties. Some may flower the first year, but many will take until the next year to begin blooming. That is too long for some gardeners to wait.

Yet, in reality, perennials can be less expensive in the long run. Once planted and properly maintained they can grow on for many, many years without having to be replaced. Many varieties will also multiply, so that they can be divided to share with friends, to trade at plant









exchanges, or to plant in other areas of the landscape.









Another objection from some gardeners in regards to perennials is that they bloom and then, once they have faded, the garden has no color. This is generally due to a lack of understanding on the gardener's part as to the blooming period of the plants they have chosen.










Perennials can be classified in a simple way as early blooming (spring), mid-season blooming (summer) or late blooming (fall). The problem occurs when a gardener who is not educated on each variety's traits, anxiously goes into the greenhouses in late spring and, because they are thinking again of instant color, chooses all of the perennials that are currently

in the greenhouse blooming and goes home to fill up their planting beds with their treasures. It looks absolutely gorgeous – for awhile. Then, come mid-summer, these plants are all done blooming, and everything looks only green again.

What should occur when a person is wishing to transform a landscape using perennials are several different trips to the greenhouses, instead of just one power shopping trip in the spring. Wait until early summer and visit the greenhouse again, looking for varieties that are just starting to bloom. Then, in late summer, make another trip, for flowers that are just starting to show color and that will put on their major show during late summer and fall. Be sure that varieties from all three blooming periods are

Early Blooming Perennials	
	Lungwort, <i>Pulmonaria saccharata</i>
	European pasque flower, <i>Pulsatilla vulgaris</i>
	Moss Phlox, <i>Phlox subulata</i>
	Columbine, <i>Aquilegia spp.</i>
	Jupiter's Beard, <i>Centranthus ruber</i>
	Bearded Iris, <i>Iris germanica</i>
	Lupine, <i>Lupinus spp.</i>
	Speedwell, <i>Veronica penduncularis</i>

Mid-Season Blooming Perennials	
	Carpathian harebell, <i>Campanula carpatica</i>
	Snow in Summer, <i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>
	Cottage pink, <i>Dianthus plumarius</i>
	Mexican evening primrose, <i>Oenothera speciosa</i>
	Coneflower, <i>Echinacea purpurea</i>
	Shasta Daisy, <i>Leucanthemum x superbum</i>
	Oriental poppy, <i>Papaver orientale</i>
	Whirling butterflies, <i>Gaura</i>

Late Blooming Perennials	
	Oregano, <i>Origanum vulgare</i>
	Pink turtlehead, <i>Chelone lyonii</i>
	Sweet autumn clematis, <i>Clematis terniflora</i>
	Anise hyssop, <i>Agastache foeniculum</i>
	False sunflower, <i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>
	Joe-Pye weed, <i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>
	Obedient plant, <i>Physostegia virginiana</i>
	New York aster, <i>Aster novi-belgi</i>
	Kamchatka bugbane, <i>Cimicifuga simplex</i>
	Fleabane, <i>Erigeron hybrids</i>

mixed into the same planting beds. That way, each season will bring a new burst of color to the landscape – and, each will be different!

In addition, annuals can be mixed in with the perennials to add bursts of color where needed. Fall planted bulbs, such as tulips, narcissus and hyacinths can add great welcome color spots after the gray days of winter and late spring planted bulbs, such as lilies and gladioli, can perform the same function in summer gardens.

Another often overlooked way to add color to the perennial garden is by choosing varieties of plants that have foliage in colors other than green. Coralbells (Heuchera) are one kind of plant that readily comes to mind. It is currently one of the hottest sellers on nursery shelves. Due to the amazing development efforts of plant growers in North America, this plant now comes not only in varieties with common green leaves, but in varieties that are silver, streaked, copper, rust, purple and many more colors. Best of all, it is extremely versatile in the landscape, being able to be used in both shady and sunny locations.

One tip for planting your perennial garden is that most plants look better in blocks of at least three of the same kind. This will

create a more powerful area of color to which the eye will be drawn. Accent plants may be planted in singles, when there is something about their form or design that needs to be appreciated by itself.

Think of your perennial garden as an ever evolving piece of art. Observe it each season and record in a garden journal areas where more color or a different color balance may be needed. Perhaps some plants spread too rapidly and need to be given a larger area to grow. Other plants that are dwarfed by taller plants in front of them, may need to be dug and moved to a more prominent location.

Included in the chart on the left you will find some of my personal favorites for each of the three different blooming periods. By planting a variety of perennials from each period in your perennial planting bed, there will a rainbow of color to be enjoyed for years to come, from early spring, throughout the summer, and into the fall. A good gardening book on perennials or any of the numerous great sites on the Internet can provide more detailed information on the ideal growing conditions for each variety, how tall and wide each plant will get, and any special considerations. But, for now, let's start dreaming about your perennial rainbow garden! 🌱

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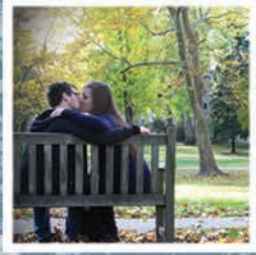
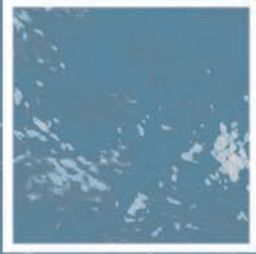
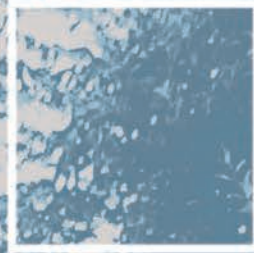
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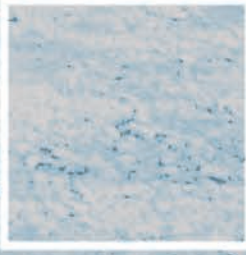
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Also on the grounds is a 9,500 sq. ft. log home. The lowest level of the home has been designed to accommodate rentals for special occasions. It is decorated in a rustic theme and has a natural stone fireplace and bar area. This area can be rented separately, or in conjunction with your garden rental.

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*The Alba Rose**The Blueberry Hill Rose**The Bonica Rose**The Canadian Explorer Rose*

You CAN Grow Roses in Michigan!

By Foxfire Farm Garden Center

Roses, with their wide variety of colors, their long blooming times and their ability to adapt themselves to a wide variety of growing conditions, have rightly won a favorite spot in the hearts of gardeners. Yet, as a garden center that sells roses and that prides itself on helping customers with their gardening problems, we probably hear more stories about roses that fail to thrive or to survive Michigan winters than about any other plants that we sell.

Roses do have a unique set of requirements, but by understanding and by meeting those needs and by choosing varieties that are best suited for our conditions and weather, you CAN successfully grow roses in Michigan.

It should be reassuring to know that roses were growing on this earth long before people were caring for them. Fossil roses, found in rock formations in Colorado and Oregon, prove that wild roses date back 40 million years. Scientists believe they originated in central Asia and spread all over the northern hemisphere. If roses have been around that long, you CAN get them to survive in your yard!

Roses can be grown in soil that is mainly clay or in ordinary or light soil. If clay, it is important that the soil is broken apart and organic matter or compost worked into it to keep it from becoming disastrously wet in winter or baked hard in summer. It is equally important to add organic matter or compost to lighter soils to provide the nutrients that roses will need to thrive.

It is only necessary to improve the texture and fertility of the soil down

about 12 inches from the surface, as this is the area where the rose feeds by means of its fibrous roots. Ideally this should be done before the roses are planted as it is much more time consuming if the roses are already in place. The sensitive root hairs need air as well as food, meaning that it is vital that efficient drainage is provided so that, as the water drains away, the air can seep in.

Roses need a pH of about 6.5 in the soil. This is slightly acid soil. Neutral soil is 7.0. Alkaline soil is above 7, acid soil is below 7. If you do not know the PH of your soil, you can purchase a soil testing kit at most garden centers or can contact the Michigan Extension Service to find out about purchasing a kit. After you take a sample of the soil in your garden, the soil is sent off to a testing lab and the results are mailed back to you. If your soil is too acid, lime can be added to the soil. If it is too alkaline, sulphur (if available) or sawdust, composted leaves, wood chips, cottonseed meal, leaf mold or peat moss can be added.

The perfect soil then for roses is about 50 percent organic matter and the rest is an equal mixture of clay, silt and sand. It has a pH of 6.5. It is light yet not too light. If you grab a handful and crush it, it stays together, but does not form a clay ball. You can physically push your fingers down into it a few inches, but not down to your elbow. When it is wet, it drains well, when it is dry it is not like concrete.

If your soil is not ideal and you don't have the time to amend it, dig a hole about two feet in diameter

and about 18 inches deep and fill it with a two cubic foot bag of nursery potting soil. Roses love to grow in that, but it can get quite expensive if you are planting a lot of roses.

Roses like sunshine. Plan to put your rose bush where it will get as much sun as possible – at least six hours of sun per day is ideal. Roses also need water. Most of the time in Michigan, roses will not get the amount of water that they need just from rain. When you do water, do so from underneath the leaves. Drops of water on the leaves can cause burning and can lead to black spot disease. Soak the earth until it is damp but not soggy. It is better to water thoroughly once a week than lightly several times in the same period. Watering should be done in the morning or at least four or five hours before dusk so that any excess moisture can be absorbed by night time.

Roses like to be kept clean. It is important to gather up withered petals and leaves and to pick off any live leaves with black spots. Black spot is a fungus disease of roses. Some rose varieties are more susceptible than others. Prevent black spot by mixing one tablespoon of baking soda with one tablespoon of liquid dish soap and one gallon of water together and spraying on the rose leaves starting as soon as the leaves unfurl and continuing once a week throughout the season.

Japanese Beetles can be particularly destructive to roses in our area. If they are not too numerous, they can be hand picked off and destroyed. There are products on the market that attract the beetles into a bag

where they cannot escape and where they eventually perish. Insecticides are also available for particularly damaging outbreaks, but always read the labels as many are damaging to beneficial insects as well, such as butterflies and honeybees.

When choosing a rose, be aware of its ultimate growing height and width. Roses do not like to be crowded and need air space to keep diseases that are caused by excess moisture under control. There are miniature roses that grow to only six to ten inches in height as well as wild roses that can reach over eight feet in height. Climbing roses can reach from only a few feet in length to well over 40 feet long.

Climbing roses can be difficult to grow in Michigan unless a hardy variety is chosen. Ramblers are one variety of climbing rose that has graced Michigan gardens for years. They have long, supple canes that respond well to training. They are long-blooming with loads of blooms and most are very fragrant. When not blooming, they cover a structure with attractive green foliage. "Seven Sisters" is a pink rambler that requires minimal care and should thrive in your Michigan garden.

Some of the easiest roses to grow are Rugosas, which come in all sizes, Albas, Canadian Explorer roses, Morden, Parkland and Pavement roses, and Meideland shrub roses. Many of the Old Garden roses are also suitable. Most Hybrid Tea roses tend to be tender and disease prone and are not a good idea for gardeners who have not had previous success growing roses in their gardens.



The Dainty Bess Rose



The Morden Rose



The Seven Sisters Rose

Beware of purchasing the inexpensive bagged roses from big box stores. Often their roots are severely chopped off, dehydrated and may have a virus – all strikes already against having the rose survive in your Michigan garden.

For more extensive information on growing roses in Michigan and a lengthier list of varieties suitable for our area, consider the book *Roses for Michigan* by Nancy Lindley and Laura Peters, published by Lone Pine Publishing. (The ISBN# is 978-1551053677.) It is a practical

and beautifully photographed guide to over 100 of their recommended roses for Michigan. In addition to what we have discussed in this article, their book also covers how to prune roses and how to protect roses over the winter so they will thrive for many years to come. The book is divided into nine sections covering species roses, hybrid teas, floribunda, grandiflora, old garden, climber and rambler, miniature, groundcover and modern shrub roses.

More than any other flower, the rose has long been a source

of fascination and inspiration for cultures around the world. The rose has captivated and enchanted man's imagination. Poets and writers from different cultures have been inspired by the beauty and fragrance of the rose. Roses have been associated with beauty, romance, perfection and love. With proper consideration to a rose bush's needs and by choosing varieties well-suited to your Michigan garden, roses CAN continue to charm you with their beauty and fragrance and to thrive in your landscape for many years to come. 🌱

Editor's note: Foxfire Farm Country Store, Floral Shop and Garden Center is located at 8061 Marsh Road in Clay Township, Michigan. From May through October, a wide variety of perennials, annuals, trees, shrubs, roses, herbs and flowering bushes are available in addition to annual flats of flowers and hanging baskets. The garden center staff would be happy to assist you with other questions you may have about gardening in our area. Foxfire Farm's website is www.herbsandflowers.net.

“Easiest” Roses to Grow in SE Michigan

By Roman Kwarcinski

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

“Easiest roses for growing” tends to be a subjective evaluation for rose enthusiasts. It is like defining beauty or love, although you can tell it when you see it. Every rose grower's list will be different, but all are beautiful, and the roses on our lists are rated highly by the American Rose Society (ARS). So I am enclosing my list and Ron Loch's easiest to grow list. We both have been members of the Detroit Rose Society for years and have exhibited roses at countless rose shows, although Ron has won many more prestigious awards. We are also Consulting Rosarians and Horticultural Rose judges accredited by the ARS.

Ron Loch's Top Ten

- Blueberry Hill (F)
- Bride's Dream (HT)
- Dainty Bess (HT)
- Elina (HT)
- Fourth of July (LCl)
- Jeanne Lajoie (MinCl)
- Nicole (F)
- Playgirl (HT)
- Outta the Blue (S)
- Veteran's Honor (HT)

Roman Kwarcinski's Top Ten

- Double Delight (HT)
- Hot Cocoa (F)
- Iceberg (F)
- Julia Child (F)
- Knock Out (S)
- Minnie Pearl (Min)
- Mister Lincoln (HT)
- Moonstone (HT)
- Olympiad (HT)
- Touch of Class (HT)

The abbreviations in the parentheses denote classification types according to the ARS.

HT = Hybrid Tea Rose

F = Floribunda

S = Shrub

Cl = Climbing Rose

Min = Miniature Rose

LCl = Large Climbing Rose

MinCl = Miniature Climbing Rose

Editor's Note: Roman Kwarcinski is also the editor of Rose Lore, the official publication of the Detroit Rose Society. Other questions about roses can be emailed to him at rosered251@yahoo.com or you may contact him at (248) 977-4045. The website of the Detroit Rose Society is www.detroitrosesociety.org and the website for the ARS is ars.org.

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Creating Beauty Care Products from the Garden's Bounty

By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

A garden full of flowers and herbs is a delight for the senses. However, being able to use the plants in additional ways, such as in cooking and in craft projects, just compounds the rewards the gardener gains for all of the hard work put into getting the plants to grow and prosper. Such is it with making herbal and floral beauty care products from the garden's bounty.

The saying, "When you look good, you feel good", is very true and, when achieved through natural means, has the added benefits of being better for your skin, usually less expensive than store bought, and many times as effective if not more effective than commercially produced products. Plus many are simple to make.

There are many books on the market about preparing your own herbal and floral beauty care products as well as dozens of recipes on the Internet. Here I have

provided a few simple projects to get you started:

Chamomile Shampoo

Ingredients:

1 handful of fresh chamomile flowers
4 tablespoons of pure soap flakes
1½ tablespoons of glycerin
(available at most drug stores and health food stores)

The Recipe:

Steep the fresh chamomile flowers in boiling water for 10 minutes. Strain and add the soap flakes to the remaining liquid. Let stand until the soap softens. Stir in the glycerin until the mixture is well blended. Pour into a bottle. Keep in a cool, dark place. Shelf life is approximately one week.

Relaxing Herbal Bath Soak

Ingredients:

2 tablespoons of comfrey leaves
2 tablespoons of blackberry or raspberry leaves
1 tablespoon of fresh lavender leaves and blossoms



Flower and herb gardens, like the one shown above at the Foxfire Farm Botanical Gardens (see ad on pages 26-27), provide much of what you need to make your own herbal and floral beauty care products.

2 tablespoons of violet leaves

2 tablespoons of oatmeal

The Recipe:

All plant material should be clean and dry. Chop the material coarsely using scissors or a blender set on the coarse setting. Combine with oatmeal and put into a small cloth bag and tie tightly shut. (Muslin is ideal.) When taking a bath, hang the bag from the water spout while the tub is filling, so that the warm water flows over it, infusing the bath water with the essences of the herbs.

Mint Degreasing Hair Rinse

Ingredients:

5 tablespoons of chopped peppermint leaves
1 pint of water
1 pint of cider vinegar

The Recipe:

Put the leaves and the water into a pan and bring to a boil. Turn down the heat, simmer for 15 minutes, remove from heat, then let the mixture sit for one hour. Strain, then add the vinegar. Use ½ pint on hair after hair has been shampooed and rinsed well with water.

Rosemary Milk Toner for the Feet

Ingredients:

1 cup of hot milk
½ cup mint leaves

6 sprigs of rosemary

2 teaspoons of peppermint extract
(available in baking and spice section of supermarket)

The Recipe:

In a pan, simmer milk, the mint and the rosemary for 15 minutes. Remove from the heat and cool. Strain, then stir in the peppermint extract. Soak a clean cloth with the mixture and apply it to the feet, wrapping it around the feet. This makes enough for one application.

When making beauty care products at home, there are some precautions that need to be followed:

- Store mixtures in tightly closed dark bottles away from light in the refrigerator.
- Store all mixtures out of the reach of children.
- Discard any products that change color or

develop an unusual odor.

• If skin irritations or allergic reactions occur with use, stop using product immediately.

Making herbal beauty care products at home can be a lot of fun and a great way to use fresh herbs and flowers from the garden. With a little creativity and knowledge of the properties of different herbs and flowers, you might end up with some unique creations of your own. 🌿



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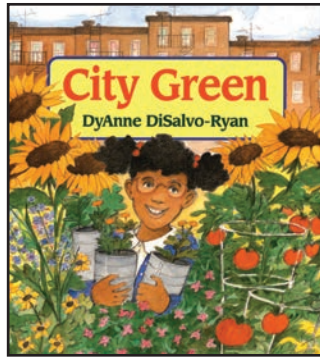
FREE DELIVERY! Place your order by 7:00 p.m. the day before delivery and reference code TPNAPR to receive free delivery . . . a \$12 value! Place your order through herbsandflowers.net or by phone at (866) 794-5108 to be eligible. Minimum order for this promotion is \$39.99. We deliver to the following counties: Genesee, Lapeer, Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair & Sanilac. Baskets and content vary depending upon availability. Baskets can be custom made to your specifications.



Get Kids into Gardening Through Books

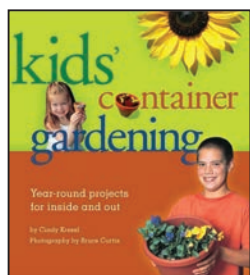
By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer



City Green, written and illustrated by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan ISBN# 9780688127862

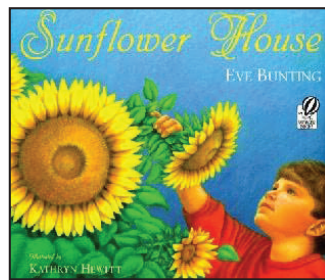
In this delightful story, a young girl works with her neighbors who want to turn an empty city lot into a garden. However, grumpy Old Man Hammer who owns the lot won't allow them to lease it. Over the course of the story he starts to change and, of course, a garden is eventually planted. It is a wonderful story not only to introduce children to the joys that can be found in gardening, but also in doing things to help your community. Recommended reading level is second through fifth grades.



Kids' Container Gardening, written by Cindy Krezel, photographs by Bruce Curtis ISBN#

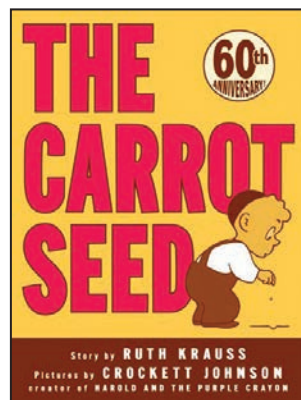
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This is a great book to get kids into gardening – even if space is limited for planting. The 17 different gardening projects, all with kids in mind, can be created in containers. The projects range from a hanging basket of vegetables to a water garden complete with fish. The photographs are inviting and simple lists of what is needed for each project are included. This would be a wonderful classroom book to have on hand during a unit on gardening or at home for rainy day fun. Recommended reading level is third through fifth grades.



Sunflower House, written by Eve Bunting, illustrated by Kathryn Hewitt ISBN# 0152004831

If you are looking for the perfect book for children to understand the concept of how a seed grows, *Sunflower House* is that book. The bright illustrations show the development of the seed from the beginning to the end and also convey the delight the young boy has in growing his own sunflower house and sharing it with others, all the while developing responsibility for caring for something that grows. Recommended reading level is pre-school through third grade.



The Carrot Seed, written by Ruth Krauss, illustrated by Crockett Johnson ISBN# 9780064432108

This book is a timeless classic that has been known and loved by children and parents for years. It is the perfect picture book. The wording is simple, the pictures vivid and in the words of the famed author, Maurice Sendak, it “springs fresh from the real world of children.” A young boy is told by his parents, competition and his big brother that his carrot will not grow. However, after persistently pulling weeds, watering and patiently taking care of the carrot seed, it grows – and it is gigantic! Recommended reading level is pre-school through second grade. 🌱

Thumb Area Gardens to Visit

Algonac/Clay Township: Foxfire Farm Botanical Gardens: 8945 Marsh Road, (810) 794-5108

Over 3,500 varieties of perennials, herbs, trees, shrubs and fruiting plants are displayed in these well laid out gardens, which are divided into 17 different themes, including a Biblical garden, a culinary garden, a tea garden, a garden of edible flowers, a children's garden, a garden of Native American Herbs and others. Restored antique farm buildings and implements line the pathways. It is a perfect setting for a garden party or wedding and the gardens can be rented for private functions. The gardens are open to the public from May through October. Tickets must be purchased at Foxfire Farm Country Store at 8061 Marsh Rd. prior to driving to the gardens, which are located two miles from the store. No tickets are sold directly at the gardens. The cost is \$5.00 per adult and there is no charge for children under age 15. Group tours and workshops, including field trips for schools, can also be arranged. The website is www.herbsandflowers.net.

Bloomfield Hills: Cranbrook House and Gardens, 380 Lone Pines Road, (248) 645-3149

In addition to an art museum, a science museum and schools, Cranbrook also has 42 landscaped acres, which include an herb garden, a rock garden, a sunken garden, a greenhouse, an oriental garden, a meadow, a bog and many perennial gardens. The gardens are open from May through October. Cranbrook's website is www.cranbrook.edu.

Burton: For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum, 2142 N. Genesee Road, (810) 789-8567

This arboretum and nature preserve includes 380 acres with seven miles of trails. The Visitor's Center is open Wednesday through Sunday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The grounds are open Wednesday through Sunday from 8 a.m. to sunset. More information is available at www.geneseecountyparks.org.

Fenton: Heavenly Scent Herb Farm, 13730 White Lake Road, (810) 629-9208

Housed in a 1910 barn that has been painted to look like three

European store fronts, the herb farm shop offers a variety of herbal gift items, as well as a greenhouse offering perennials, scented geraniums, topiaries and trellising plants. Workshops in herbal crafts are offered throughout the year. There are themed gardens to stroll through. The website is www.heavenlyscentsherbfarm.com.

Rochester: Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve, 333 N. Hill Circle, (248) 656-0999

Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve is a nonprofit environmental education organization located in the City of Rochester that provides opportunities for preschoolers, school children and adults of all ages to explore and learn about the natural world. Each year, over 30,000 people are reached through educational programs, special events and outreach programs. Their website is www.dinosaurhill.org.

Rochester: Meadow Brook Hall and Gardens, Mansion Drive and Golf View Land, Oakland University, (248) 364-6200

This 110 room mansion, part English Neo-Tudor, Elizabethan and Jacobean architecture, is now a conference center for Oakland University. Most of the gardens at Meadow Brook Hall were largely the work of Arthur Davidson, an English landscape architect, who in 1928 was commissioned to create a master plan for the estate. Today the 14 gardens and 42 urns surrounding The Hall are maintained by the volunteers of the Meadow Brook Hall Garden Club. The gardens are open year round and are free to the public. The website is www.oakland.edu/mbh/.

Royal Oak: Detroit Zoological Institute, 8450 West Ten Mile Road, (248) 398-0903

This 125 acre zoo is home to more than 1,300 varieties of animals, but also to 700 varieties of trees, shrubs and flowering plants. A fully enclosed 3,800 square foot Butterfly/Hummingbird Garden is home to hundreds of colorful butterflies and many hummingbirds. It is the largest family oriented tourist sight in Michigan, with over one million visitors per year. The website is www.detroitzoo.org.

The Plants Have Gone To Pot!

Growing Your Garden in Containers

By Foxfire Farm Garden Center and Greenhouses

Would you love to have a garden, but think that you just don't have the space? Container gardening might just be the answer for you. Even the smallest patio or porch can boast a crop of vegetables or an array of colorful flowers grown in containers.

The containers that a gardener can use can be planter boxes, wooden barrels, hanging baskets, large flower pots and even imaginative containers like old hiking boots, tires, washtubs, old bathtubs, rusty wheelbarrows, large pots and kettles. If it is weatherproof and you can put dirt in it, it is possible that it can be used as part of your container garden!

Some things that should be considered when choosing a container in which to plant are:

- Avoid containers with narrow openings.
- Cheap plastic pots deteriorate quickly in UV sunlight – terracotta pots dry out rapidly.
- Some wooden containers may be susceptible to rot – redwood and cedar are the better choices in wood.
- Treated wood should not be used for vegetables or fruits, as the chemicals used to treat the wood can leach into the soil and ultimately can be absorbed into the food products.

- Containers between 15 to 120 quarts are the ideal size for container gardening.
- The containers need to have good drainage, with at least holes of ½ inch across. If you line your containers with newspapers before adding the soil, it will help keep the soil from being lost through the holes when watering.
- Containers should be set on bricks or blocks to allow for free drainage.
- Hanging baskets can be lined with sphagnum moss to help in water retention.



The growing mixture that you choose for your containers will vary somewhat on what you choose to grow. All soils or planting mediums should drain rapidly, but retain enough moisture to keep the roots evenly moist. Compost makes an excellent potting soil. "Soil-less" potting mixtures are also great to use as they are lightweight and free from soil-borne diseases and weed seeds. Leave at least a two inch space from the soil line to the top of the pot so that you can add a layer of mulch to help with moisture retention.

There are other reasons to garden in containers, even if limited gardening space is not the issue. Some of these reasons are:



A colorful array of planted containers add beauty to an otherwise bare entrance.

- Plants in containers can help define garden spaces. Small and large sized containers can be clustered together to enclose a garden space or to frame a view.
- A mixture of planted containers can add architectural interest to your landscape.
- Containers are a forgiving and movable form of garden design.
- Containers can be used as a means of traffic control, if placed in strategic places.
- Containers filled with fragrant plants and placed near pathways provide an additional delight for the senses.
- Container gardens can be enjoyed in areas where a traditional garden would be awkward or impossible.
- Container gardens allow you to experiment with plants not otherwise hardy in your growing zone and to optimize or to control the environmental conditions that will be best for the growth of the plants you choose.
- Containers can help control the spread of plants that may otherwise get out of control in your garden – such as mint and oregano.
- Containers of beautiful flowers can soften an otherwise austere entrance or hide an eyesore in your landscape.
- Container gardens are a wonder-

ful way to introduce children to the joys of gardening.

- Ready access to containers means that pest management is easier.
- Growing edibles in containers means that you can minimize their exposure to pesticides, herbicides or other chemicals.

Let's take a look at some plants that are suitable to grow in containers. Many annual flowers (those that undergo their full life cycle in one growing season) are ideally suited for this type of gardening. Easy to care for, the major requirement will be to take note of the individual variety's lighting requirements – some do better in sun, some in partial sun and some in shade. Here are some of the recommended annuals to grow in containers:

- Ageratum
- Asters
- Bacopa
- Begonias
- Calabracchoa
- Celosia
- Coleus
- Cosmos
- Dianthus
- Gazania
- Geraniums
- Impatiens
- Lobelia
- Marigolds
- Million Bells
- Nemesia
- Nicotiana
- Osteospermum
- Pansies
- Petunias
- Phlox
- Portulaca
- Salvia
- Snapdragons
- Verbena
- Zinnias – especially the Thumbelina varieties
- Many of the "Proven Winners" varieties of annuals



Choose a variety of textures, colors and heights for the plants in your container garden.



Tomatoes, grown in container gardens on your patio, are easy to manage and harvest.

Many varieties of vegetables and herbs are also great for growing in containers – and will provide the additional enjoyment and value of putting garden fresh food on the table. Some recommended plants include:

- Basil
- Broccoli – Packman, Bonanza
- Carrots - Nantes, Gold Nugget, Little Finger, Baby Spike, Thumbelina
- Chives
- Cilantro
- Cucumber – Burpless, Liberty, Early Pik, Crispy, Salty
- Green Beans – Topcrop, Greencrop, Kentucky Wonder
- Green onions – Evergreen Bunching, Crystal Wax
- Leaf Lettuce – Buttercrunch, Salad Bowl, Romaine, Ruby and Bibb
- Parsley
- Pepper – Yolo Wonder, Canape, Jalapeno
- Radishes – Cherry Belle, Scarlet Globe and White Icicle
- Spinach
- Squash – Dixie, Gold Neck, Early Prolific Straightneck, Senator, Diplomat
- Thyme
- Tomatoes – Patio, Pixie, Tiny Tim, Saladette, Small Fry

There are even varieties of fruit that can be grown in containers, with proper considerations for their care:

- Dwarf varieties of fruit trees
- Blueberry bushes
- Strawberries

Throughout the season, your container garden will need to be fertilized. The best fertilizers to use will be either time-released or water soluble.

It is also fun to experiment with plants that are otherwise not suited for the Michigan climate, such as dwarf lemons, kiwis, gardenias, tropical plants, palms, water plants and more. These will need to be moved indoors before the first cold snap in the fall, but can add immense variety and

interest to your outside landscape while the weather is still warm.

Some of the common problems that occur in container gardening and the probable causes are:

- Plants are tall, spindly and unproductive – insufficient light.
- Plants are yellowing from the bottom and lack vigor – excessive water or low fertility.
- Plants wilt although there is sufficient water present - poor drainage and aeration.
- Margins of plants appear burnt or firing of leaves occurs – high salt content in water.
- Plants are stunted in growth or a sickly purplish color – low temperatures or low phosphate in soil.
- Holes appear in leaves or leaves are distorted in shape – insects are present.
- Plant leaves have spots, dead or dried areas, or rusty or powdery areas – plant diseases are present.

Although it is possible to over winter some plants in pots and containers outside during our Michigan winters, it is tough. You have to protect plants from wind, harsh sunlight and drying out. The biggest challenge, however, is guarding against root damage caused by rapidly fluctuating temperatures.

Obviously, you won't be trying to over winter annuals that you grew in your garden during the summer. They have completed their life cycle by the fall. However, if you experimented with perennials that are hardy in our zone, or fruit trees, or fruiting bushes, you may wish to try and get them through winter outside. The bigger the container the better will be the rule. The soil in a 15-gallon container will insulate the tender roots much better than a one-gallon container. It is not so much the cold that injures the plants, but the exposure to freezing and thawing over and over. This can cause significant injury to the plants as well as to heave the plant out of the pot.

Although you can try to over winter your container gardens outside, our personal recommendation would be that you consider container gardening in Michigan to be a unique venture each spring and summer. That will give you a chance to try the newest and most promising varieties of annuals, vegetables and herbs each growing season. Then, when fall does come around, you can scrub out your containers, put them away for winter storage, and enjoy a much needed long winter's nap. (Of course, you could consider a small windowsill herb garden for the winter months, which we will talk about next fall!)



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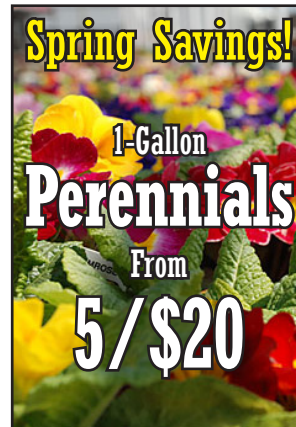
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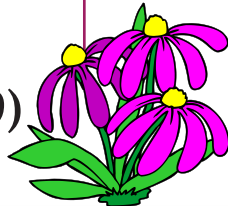
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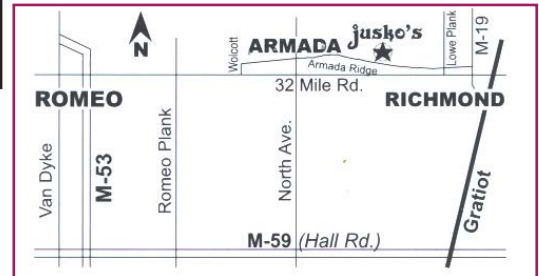
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WHO WE ARE

We are a support group for Moms with sons and daughters serving in the United States Military. All of our efforts focus on the support of each other and our children in the military.

All branches of the service are represented in our organization. We are there for one another in our joys and our sorrows, with a level of understanding that can only be found among other Moms whose children are serving or have served in the military.

WHAT WE DO

Besides the socializing and networking with other military moms that takes place at every meeting, the Michigan Military Moms initiate and participate in activities such as the following:

- Organize packaging party meetings for sending care packages to the Troops.
- Hosting guest speakers to educate us in our needs of our military children and their extended

families.

- Schedule meetings to craft items that are sent in care packages. Examples are helmet liners and cooling neck wraps and pillowcases.
- Participating in activities such as parades, luncheons and patriotic functions organized by other groups or civic organizations that support our Troops and/or Veterans of the Military.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Michigan Military Moms is in constant need of your support. To enable us to continue in our efforts, we collect donated items such as the following (non-scented items are the best):

- Toiletry items/moisturizers
- Antibacterial wipes/hand sanitizer
- Baby wipes
- Individual hotel sized shampoos, bar soap, liquid soap
- Chapstick and lip balm
- Disposable shaving razors
- Non-aerosol shaving cream

- Flip flops/shower shoes
- Athlete foot cream/powder
- Insole cushions for boots
- Hand/toe warmers
- Sunscreen and sun block – year round
- Socks, black knit hats, gloves

Food Items

- Snacks – beef jerky, granola bars, fruit cups, cereal, trail mix, peanuts, sunflower seeds, cereal bars, energy bars, pre-sweetened powdered drink mixes, Gatorade powder, candy, gum
- Tuna/chicken packs
- Non-perishable breakfast items
- Canned, ready to open (flip top) soups, spaghetti, ravioli
- Twinkies/brownies (boxed – bought from Hostess Outlet stores)

Michigan Military Moms – Macomb schedule fund raisers throughout the year to help with the cost of mailing these packages. Each package costs \$11.95. Financial contributions or

donations go directly to this cost. We are a non-profit organization.



Michigan Military Moms currently has two groups in the Thumb Area of Michigan:

- Macomb**, Romeo VFW Hall, 7045 McVicar, Romeo, MI 48065
- Troy**, St. Stephens Church, 5500 N. Adams Road, Troy, MI 48098

There will be two meetings scheduled in April of 2010:

- Sunday, April 11, 1:00 p.m., Richmond VFW Hall at 34339 32 Mile Road in Richmond
- Wednesday, April 21, 6:30 p.m., Romeo VFW Hall at 70455 McVicar Road in Romeo

For more information on Michigan Military Moms, please visit www.michiganmilitarymoms.org, email platoonangels@yahoo.com or call Kathy Millbrand at (586) 727-1680 or Veronica Dupuis at (586) 405-3103. 🌱

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A. Gary: Your car may run okay, but your engine is not operating at its full capacity. It could be numerous things, such as an emissions part failure, a vacuum leak or a broken wire. It needs to be diagnosed by a professional to ensure that the proper repair is completed.

Editor's note: Beginning this month, ThumbPrint News has a new Q&A forum for your automotive questions. Email your questions to thumbprintnews@comcast.net and they will be answered by licensed mechanics. This month's questions were answered by John and Gary from the Muffler Doctor in Marine City, located at 102 Fairbanks. Their phone number is (810) 765-3541.

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Marysville High: School Closing

Continued from Page 1

progress at the time and the War Department had to be petitioned for approval to build the new school. Present students at the time crowded into the hallway of the old school so photographs could be taken and sent along to the War Department that emphasized the overcrowding.

Approval for the new school was granted, but because of the limited availability of metal during the War, the school was mostly built of concrete. The original lockers in the school had wooden doors

that were painted green to look like metal. However, the building was still very solid – so much so that the government supported the school being built so that it could be used as a community air raid shelter.

When the current Marysville High School was built, according to Joe, no expenses were spared. It was one of the most modern schools in the area, with a pool, recreation room, auditorium and floating gymnasium floor. In fact, in the early 1950s, the Detroit Pistons used to hold their early training camp in the gym there, as it was the best in the area. Two major additions were added to

the school, the last in 1978.

Joe Pavlov has many fond memories of the school. Not only is he a 1967 graduate, but he also taught there for 30 years as an English, speech and drama teacher. While a student, Joe received the prestigious Calvin Moulton Activity Award for his participation in numerous school activities, including being the Student Council President. While doing research for the closing celebration, he only recently learned that the award was named after Calvin Moulton, a 1943 graduate of Marysville High School, who was killed while serving his country at Pearl Harbor.

Joe was also active in drama during his high school years and it was then that he had personal experiences with one of Marysville High School's biggest mysteries – The Tunnel. Generations upon generations of students talked about the tunnel – many not knowing if it was a legend or if it was fact. Joe knows for sure that it exists. He says that the tunnel goes from the back of the auditorium to the lobby. There is no lighting and it is filled with pipes. It served two purposes – as

an access to the piping, but also as a way for actors to get from the lobby to the auditorium stage without the audience being able to see them. In later years, the tunnel was shut off and was highly restricted. Yet, by the presence of years of graffiti, it is obvious that many students did find a way to enter.

Another legend says that there is an additional tunnel from the high school to the junior high, but Joe insists that story is entirely false.

Joe also witnessed many of the 14 state championships that the athletes from Marysville High School achieved during his time there.

The "Say Goodbye to Old Marysville High" closing celebration will be on June 6 from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at Marysville High School. Activities planned include: a welcoming registration in the gymnasium all day, guided or self-guided building tours, entertainment in the auditorium, a meet and greet with former classmates and teachers (with a special room set up for each decade to make it easier to find people from the past that visitors might know), a viewing of historical material and a time capsule, refreshments in the



The 1945 Marysville High School Football Team.

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cafeteria and a sale of Marysville High School memorabilia.

In addition, plans are in the works to have a special memorial room for students, teachers and others who have been associated with the school who have since passed away. An area to honor veterans is another idea on which the committee is working.

The celebration is open to everyone who has an interest, past or present in Marysville High School, whether that be as a student, a parent, an employee, an administrator, a community member or someone who is just interested in seeing the school for one last time. Anyone is also welcome to work on the committee that is planning the closing events.

At 6:00 p.m. on the same day, a pep rally will be held in the stadium to give Marysville High School its final send off. There will be speeches by teachers, the mayor, the superintendent and others. Many groups of people will be recognized, including but not limited to each graduating class, retired teachers, homecoming queens and courts from each year, and, of course that as of now elusive oldest living graduate.

To assist in funding the final celebration, 2010 calendars were created that are on sale to the public for \$10.00 each. The calendars show many nostalgic photos of Marysville High School from its beginning until 2010.

Inquiries about the closing event have been coming in from all over the United States, including Florida, Seattle and the West Coast, amongst others. However, the committee wants to make sure that no one who was ever involved with Marysville High School in any capacity and is still living will be missed. Joe Pavlov and the committee are requesting all of *ThumbPrint News* readers' help to spread the word about this extraordinary goodbye celebration. If you know of someone in the area or outside of the area who has not heard about or who has not been contacted about this closing event, please contact Joe by email at josephgpavlov@gmail.com or by phone at (810) 367-3327. You can also contact the Marysville School District at (810) 364-7731 or visit the Marysville School District website at www.marysville.k12.mi.us. (This same contact information is valid for those wishing to purchase a calendar or for those wishing to volunteer to



Students learning to sew in the Homemaking Class in 1946.

work on the committee.)

Oh, as one final culmination to the closing celebration, The Tunnel will be open for tours! (It will be lit and cleaned up and ready for visitors). In the days following the ceremonies, the infamous tunnel will forever be sealed off, as the school is demolished to make room for the playing fields of the new Marysville High School which will open in the fall of 2010 on the corner of Delaware and Huron Streets. There will be new classes and new staff members to create future memories for generations to come. Wouldn't it be neat if, when the old school is torn down and the digging starts for the new playing field, that the non-existent tunnel to the junior high school also turned out to also be real? Now that would really be another great story! 🍀



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Thumb Area Activities & Events for February 2010

If you have an activity or event in April that you would like listed in the April issue of *ThumbPrint News*, please email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by April 12, 2010. There is no charge for the listing.

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 County

Flint – April 18

"Ask the Lawyer" Community Seminar, Flint Public Library, 1026 E. Kearsley St., 6:00-7:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Genesee County Bar Association, free legal advice seminar. This month's topic is "Personal Injury Law." Must pre-register by calling (810) 232-6000 or on-line at www.gcbalaw.org.

Flint – April 25

Family Fun Day and Open House, YMCA of Greater Flint, Pierson Road Branch, 5219 West Pierson. Join us for a fun-filled afternoon! A wide variety of activities will be available along with open summer camp registration. Free for the entire family. (810) 732-9622.

Huron County

Caseville – April 3

Easter Egg Hunt, Caseville Kiwanis Club, call Marc Hill for more information at (989) 856-2247.

Pigeon – April 3

Easter Egg Hunt, Pigeon Recreation Park, 10:00 a.m. There will be lots of eggs to find with candy or a toy inside. Look closely for the golden egg to get a special prize. (989) 453-7400.

Port Austin – April 3

Easter Egg Hunt, Gallup Park, M-25 and Sand Rd. For children ages 2 through 10. Event starts at noon. For more information call (989) 738-7600.

Lapeer County

Lapeer – April 1-15

Art on the Town, Follow the Art Finder map throughout various businesses in the downtown area to discover special artwork created by the Lapeer Art Association and reflecting 4-H Program areas. Call Claudia Ferguson at (810) 667-0343.

Almont – April 10

Euchre Night, Almont Lions, 222 Water Street, 7:00 p.m. Lunch will be served midway through the tournament. Tickets are \$15.00 at the door. There will be prizes for the top 3 scores. (810) 798-9609.

Lapeer – April 16

Celebrity Autograph's Auction, Lapeer Center Building, 425 County Center St., 5:30 p.m. Items from sports stars, TV/movie stars, musicians, politicians, authors and others will be auctioned off (some silent, some live). Proceeds benefit Lapeer County 4-H. Contributions are tax deductible. To review the items list, go to www.auctionzip.com and search for "Lapeer 4-H Auction" (zip code 48446). (810) 667-0343.

Macomb County

Richmond – April 8, 9 & 10

St. Augustine Parish Hall, 68035 Main Street, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. on Friday and 9:00 a.m.-noon on Saturday. On Saturday only there will also be a bag sale. The sale is sponsored by the St. Augustine Altar Sodality. Contact Kathy at (586) 727-3666.

Memphis – April 17

Memphis Music Boosters Scrapbooking Crop, at the Jr./Sr. High Cafetorium, 34130 Bordman Rd., 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Full day fee is \$25.00, half day fee is \$13.00. Included are breakfast snacks, lunch, dinner, soft drinks and snacks. Each scrapbooker will receive plenty of scrapbooking space in a very well lit room. There are several outlets available to plug in Cricut machines too. There will be crop mules available to assist you in bringing your supplies from your car and bringing them back out at the end of the day. Raffles and grand prizes! Proceeds benefit the Memphis Music Boosters. Contact Lisa at (810) 392-3621 or (586) 405-9512.

Chesterfield – April 18

Trip to see Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat at the Crowell Opera House. This show is a rainbow ride through biblical Egypt on the wings of Andrew Lloyd Webber's uplifting music and humor, and the poetry of lyricist Tim Rice. This irresistible musical about the trials and triumphs of Joseph, Israel's favorite son, paints a picture of betrayal and hardship, prophecy and forgiveness. Lunch at the Hathaway House in Blissfield. Trip leaves from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 31100 23 Mile Rd. Proceeds benefit the church organ fund. Cost per person is \$82.00. Call Gale at (586) 949-7053 for tickets or for information.

Richmond – April 24 & 25

Richmond Goes To War at the Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society, corner of Park and Beebe Streets. This current display will be open both Saturday and Sunday and the log cabin, depot, schoolhouse and museum will be open for visitation. On Sunday, April 25 at 2:00 there will be a program that features the old Richmond auditorium and its current restoration. Everyone is welcome to visit at no charge. Call (586) 727-7773.

Oakland County

Royal Oak – April 3

Bunnyville, Detroit Zoo, 8450 West 10 Mile Road, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Presented by Meijer, this annual spring celebration features costumed characters, treats, crafts and much more! Bunnyville will feature photo stations (photos available for purchase), each with the opportunity to visit the Easter Bunny, as well as Off Broadway Productions' presentation of "The Bunny Follies," a live mini-musical for the entire family. "Two of a Kind" will perform during Bunnyville, and don't miss great games and prizes at the Funny Bunny Games Tent. Visit the Jelly Bean Jamboree to collect some great bunny prizes. (248) 541-5717.

Rochester – April 23-25

MI Earth Day Fest, downtown area. Michigan's largest Earth Day Fest will welcome an anticipated audience of 100,000 people from around Michigan, eager to learn about green and healthy living, and seeking earth-friendly alternatives in food, energy, transportation, clothing, wellness, career, home, garden, finances and more.

Farmington Hills – April 25

It's A Dog's Life, Costick Center, 11 Mile Rd., East of Middlebelt, from noon-5:00 p.m. Sponsored by Pro Plan Rally to Rescue and Michigan Pug Rescue, this event will feature vendors selling pet products, rescue organizations with dogs and cats, entertainment, refreshments and veterinary services.

St. Clair County

Algonac – April 1

Peace Concert with River Strings of St. Clair County, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair

River Dr., 6:30 p.m. Celebrating the "Season for Non-Violence." Call (810) 794-4471.

Fort Gratiot – April 6 - May 15

Habitat for Humanity Construction Workshops, Lowe's Home Improvement Center, 4200 24th Ave. Lowe's Home Improvement store has partnered with Blue Water Habitat for Humanity for the third consecutive year to offer construction workshops for Habitat volunteers. Lowe's is hosting the classes to help volunteers become familiar and comfortable with basic building techniques. Training will consist of six two-hour workshops. Each workshop will be held from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. on Tuesday evening and repeated from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. the following Saturday morning. Workshops begin on April 6 through May 15. Workshops are free and open to the public. Register by calling Lisa Beedon at (810) 985-9080, ext. 208, or email her at Lisa@bwhabitat.org. For a full schedule go to www.bwhabitat.org and click on the calendar.

Algonac – April 6

Cheap and Easy Gardening, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 6:00 p.m. Free garden lecture with Bernice Boughner, author of two books. Call (810) 794-4471.

Kimball – April 7, 14, 21 & 28

Bingo, Marysville Knights of Columbus, 4521 Ravenswood Rd., 6:30 p.m. Doors open two hours prior to the start of Bingo. Call (810) 364-6800.

Kimball – April 8

An Evening With Blue Water Habitat for Humanity, Angry Bull Steakhouse, 5078 Lapeer Rd., 6:00 p.m. This is an evening of wine tasting, dinner and theater to benefit the housing programs at Blue Water Habitat for Humanity. *The Deadly Return of the Desperate Housewives* will be performed by Werth Productions as the evening's entertainment. Tickets are \$60.00 each and can be purchased by calling (810) 985-9080 ext. 208. Reservations are needed for this event.

St. Clair – April 10

Benefit for Jim Bockstanz, St. Clair River Lanes, 525 South Riverside Ave., 7:00 p.m. RSVP to reserve a bowling spot. Availability is limited. Tickets are \$25.00 per person and are also available at the door. Included is bowling and a nacho bar. There will also be a cash bar. Tickets will be sold for raffle prizes and a 50/50 drawing. Call Charlie at (810) 637-8256 for more information.

Algonac – April 13

Genealogy Lecture, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 6:00 p.m. Free lecture with genealogist, David Irwin, featuring "British Isles Genealogy: Researching Your Scot-Irish and English Ancestry." Call (810) 794-4471.

Marine City – April 14, 15, 16 & 17

Texas Hold 'em Tournament, Marine City Rotary Club, Anita's Charity Poker Room, 341 S. Water St., 5:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. each night. Free admission. Chairman: L. B. Longeway (810) 765-8463.

Clay Township – April 15

Jimmy Buffett-Style Business Mixer, 8061 Marsh Rd., 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. All chamber and non-chamber members are invited to come and promote their businesses, while enjoying hors d'oeuvres and refreshments poolside (inside a 9,500 sq. foot log home). Wear your Hawaiian shirts and flip flops! \$15.00 per person if purchased by April 12, otherwise \$25.00. Call (810) 794-2300 for more information or for tickets. Event is sponsored by *ThumbPrint News*.

Goodells – April 16 & 17

Earth Fair, Goodells County Park, located at the center of St. Clair County in Wales Township, close to I-69 and Lapeer Road (Old M-21), just 15 minutes west of Port Huron, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on

Friday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on Saturday. Celebrate living a new environmentally-friendly life at the St. Clair County Earth Fair. We blend companies, artisans, entertainers, demonstrations, displays and hands-on activities together in an environment that's fun for the whole family. Join the thousands that attend St. Clair County's largest Earth Day celebration and discover natural alternatives in food, energy, transportation, clothing, home, garden and more! For more information call (810) 987-5306.

Algonac – April 23

So You Want to be a Ghost Hunter, Algonquin Middle School Theater, 9185 Marsh Rd., 7:00 p.m. Presented by Black River Paranormal. (featured in the March edition of *ThumbPrint News*). Tickets are \$2.00 in advance, or \$3.00 at the door. This event is a Friends of the Algonac-Clay Library Fundraiser. Call (810) 794-4471.

Marysville – April 25

March for Babies, Woodland Developmental Center, 4999 Range Rd., 5:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Please join us at the 20th Annual Community Baby Shower, "All About Me – and the Baby." Expecting a baby? Thinking of expecting? Join us for this FREE event. Call Jennifer Smith at (810) 326-2012 for more information about attending or about being a vendor. Proceeds benefit the March of Dimes.

Port Huron – April 28

St. Clair County Family History Group, Port Huron Museum, 115 Sixth St., 7:00 p.m. "Sailing to America and Castle Garden, New York" will be the program presented by Robert Brenner of San Diego, California. He will explain why German and Irish families decided to leave their homeland for America and explain how they left. He will then lead you through the process at Castle Garden Immigration Center. A \$5.00 goodwill donation is suggested. The SCCFHG welcomes guest and new members to our meetings. Anyone interested in local history or researching their family tree is encouraged to attend one of our meetings. (810) 989-0399.

Algonac – April 29

"Hemingway's Michigan", Dinner and Travelogue, McRae's Big River Grille, 9715 St. Clair River Dr., 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12.00 in advance or \$14.00 at the door. This event is a Friends of the Algonac-Clay Library Fundraiser. Call (810) 794-4471 for more information.

Sanilac County

Port Sanilac – April 12

Blue Water Shore Herb Guild, Bark Shanty Community Center, 125 Church St., 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Call Angeline Boyd. (810) 327-6480.

Sandusky – April 15

Flamingo Fling, 440 W. Sanilac. Annual "Ladies Only" fundraiser for the Eva's Place Shelter. Silent and live auction items, raffles and more. Tickets are \$25.00. Call SAVE Fundraising Chairperson, Sherri Lanctot, at (810) 648-5463.

Tuscola County

Caro – April 1

Car Seat Fitting Station, Caro Fire Department, 317 S. State St., 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Please call Jen Gezequel for an appointment or for additional information at (888) 580-5437 ext. 495.

Kingston – April 11

All You Can Eat Breakfast, Kingston VFW Post, 3719 Ross St., 8:00 a.m. until noon. Call (989) 683-2704 for more information.

Where Has Your *ThumbPrint News* Been?

Three issues ago we started a contest called “Where Has Your *ThumbPrint News* Been?” The first winner was Geri Muthler of Geri’s Gifts in New Baltimore who showed us her unique way of displaying our newspaper before she gives them out as free “gifts” to her customers. Next month brought us a real surprise when an as of yet unidentified reader sent a copy to the *Jay Leno Show* and one of the ads inside (for ABC Home and Commercial Services’ Septic Division) ended up as the focus of one of Jay’s jokes on national television! February’s edition featured our newspaper being enjoyed by the owners of the Windsurf Beach and Bar in the Caribbean island of Bonaire. This month our newspaper traveled to Mexico.

This photo shows one of the *ThumbPrint News* staff members, Keith Kodet, displaying the latest edition of the newspaper in front of the pyramid at Chichen Itza, which means “at the mouth of the well of Itza.” This is the second most visited archeological site in Mexico today, with its traces of Mayan culture. Located in the Peninsula of Yucatan, in the Yucatan State, Chichen Itza is now considered one of the seven new wonders of the world.



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. (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.

At the end of 2010, our staff will choose the grand prize winner to receive a wonderful prize from *ThumbPrint News* – and, if you are a business, we will do a feature story on your business for FREE in the January 2011 edition! 🍀

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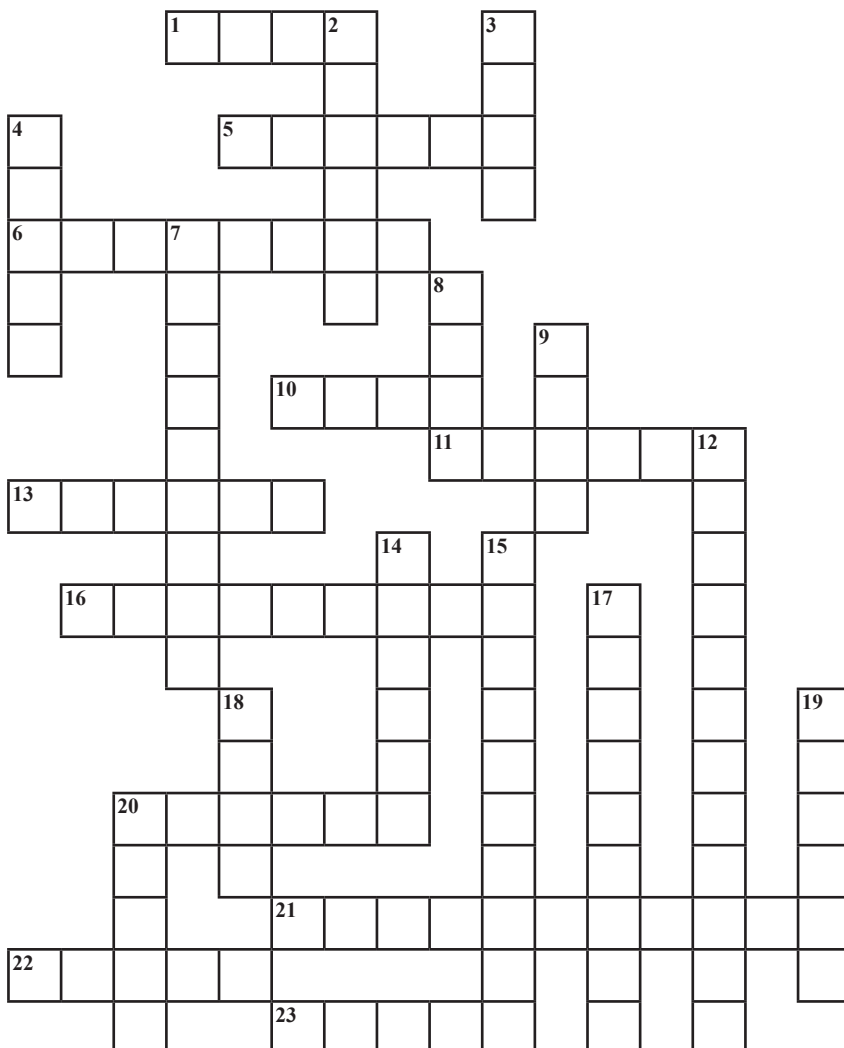
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Crossword

Easter Crossword Puzzle

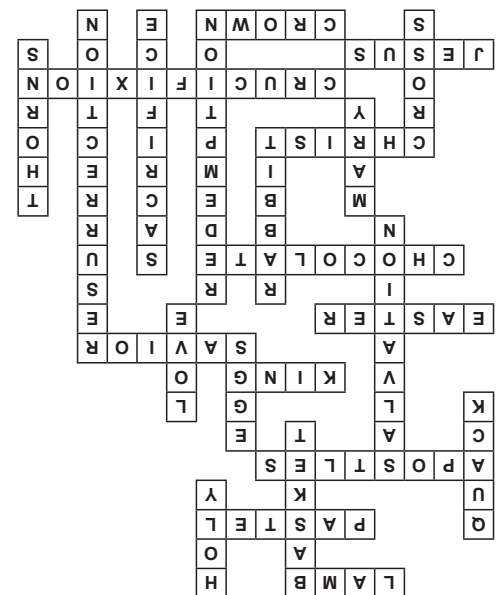


ACROSS

- 1 Young of a woolly mammal
- 5 Mix of primary color and white
- 6 One who pioneers an important reform, movement, cause or belief
- 10 Male sovereign
- 11 Jesus Christ
- 13 Important Christian religious feast
- 16 Product of tropical cacao tree
- 20 The Messiah
- 21 Religious execution
- 22 Prophet whose life teachings form the basis of Christianity
- 23 A symbol of sovereignty

DOWN

- 2 Woven container
- 3 Regarded with veneration
- 4 Fowl utterance
- 7 Social liberation and healing
- 8 First home for chickens
- 9 Ineffable feeling of attraction
- 12 Returning to life
- 14 Productive mammal
- 15 Salvation from sin
- 17 Offering of food or animals
- 18 In Latin, Maria
- 19 Sharp botanical structures
- 20 Crucifix



What Happened On This Day in History?

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

April

1. On this day in 1889, the first dish washing machine was marketed – in Chicago.

2. On this day in 1877, the first Easter egg hunt was held on the White House lawn.

3. On this day in 1933, the first airplane flight over Mt. Everest took place.

4. On this day in 1972, the first electric plant fueled by garbage began operating.

5. On this day in 1792, George Washington cast the first Presidential vote.

6. On this day in 1980, Post It Notes were introduced to consumers.

7. On this day in 1983, the oldest human skeleton, aged 80,000 years, was discovered in Egypt.

8. On this day in 1766, the first fire escape was patented – a wicker basket on a pulley and chain.

9. On this day in 1912, the Titanic left Queenstown, Ireland for New York.



10. On this day in 1825, the first hotel opened in Hawaii.



11. On this day in 1951, President Truman fired General Douglas MacArthur.

12. On this day in 1945, the U.S. liberated the Buchenwald concentration camp.

13. On this day in 1902, J. C. Penney opened his first store – in Kemmerer, Wyoming.

14. On this day in 1828, the first edition of Noah Webster's dictionary was published.

15. On this day in 1865, President Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater.



16. On this day in 1862, slavery was abolished in the District of Columbia.

17. On this day in 1704, the first successful U.S. newspaper was published in Boston by John Campbell.

18. On this day in 1909, Joan of Arc was declared a saint.

19. On this day in 1770, Captain James Cook first saw Australia.

20. On this day in 1853, Harriet Tubman started the Underground Railroad.

21. On this day in 1898, the Spanish-American War began.

22. On this day in 1876, Tchaikovsky completed his "Swan Lake" ballet.

23. On this day in 1851, Canada issued its first postage stamps.

24. On this day in 1872, Volcano Vesuvius erupted.



25. On this day in 1859, ground was broken for the Suez Canal.

26. On this day in 1984, President Reagan visited China.

27. On this day in 1937, the first U.S. social security payment was made.

28. On this day in 1855, the first veterinary college in the U.S. was incorporated in Boston.

29. On this day in 1813, rubber was patented.

30. On this day in 1952, Mr. Potato Head became the first toy to be advertised on television.



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This special event is for adults only. It will be held poolside in the 9500 sq. ft. log home of Al and Diane Kodet. Tickets can be purchased at Foxfire Farm Country Store at 8061 Marsh Road in Clay Township or by phone using any major credit card. Parking will be at Foxfire Farm and you will be shuttled to the event. To order tickets, call (810) 794-2300 and ask for Nancy or Diane.

This is a great opportunity to promote your business. Be sure to bring plenty of business cards, brochures, etc. to pass out.



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The Ups and Downs of a Family Business

By Shari Nowicki

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Little did Karen and Gary Baumgarten know that having two sons, Chuck and Jay, would start an ongoing steel fabrication dynasty. Gary Baumgarten's vocation of working in the metal stamping industry became a fascinating draw to his sons. Chuck and Jay grew up exposed to all facets of the steel fabrication industry and chose to follow in their father's footsteps. Chuck Baumgarten started working at Demmer Corporation in 1994 while he pursued his B.A. in Marketing at Michigan State University. After graduation in 2000, Chuck worked as a program manager for G&B Technologies until he and Jay decided to start KBE Precision Products in 2004. Jay Baumgarten, the younger brother, started pursuing his vocation in 1997 by also working as a program manager for G&B Technologies while pursuing his further education at Baker College and Lansing Community College.

The Baumgarten family home

was located on Lake St. Clair and boating was an intrinsic part of their upbringing. They spent many happy hours on the lake in their boat with that enjoyment carrying on with the growing families of Chuck and Jay.

In early 2004 Chuck and Jay, along with their wives and parents, were brainstorming around the kitchen table as to what to name their company. They wanted their company name to represent the quality and precision that their mission statement underscored – that is to deliver a personalized service to customers with a commitment to the highest quality, value and integrity. Their business plan is to exceed all expectations in providing competitively priced, superior quality and state-of-the-art products. They chose their company name to be KBE Precision Products – the K is for Karen, their mother and president of the company; the B is for Bridget, Chuck's wife; and the E is for Erin, Jay's wife. Family and commitment – their common bond is shared with all of them. Chuck and his wife Bridget



Dad Gary (back row) and brothers Chuck and Jay all work together in their family business.

have three daughters and Jay and Erin have two daughters. It looks like the future of KBE Precision Products will ultimately be in the hands of the female members of the family!

Today's KBE Precision Products has another division – KBE Hoist. Chuck and Jay, along with their father, Gary, as a contract consultant, and Karen, their mother, who helps with the paperwork, are sharing all those base foundations

they found such joy in – steel fabrication and boat hoists. They say, "If you can sketch it, we can build it!" as well as, "The hoist business is up and down." 🌱

Editor's note: KBE PRECISION PRODUCTS, LLC and KBE HOIST are located at 51543 Industrial Drive in New Baltimore. They can be reached at (586) 725-4200 or (586) 725-1204.



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Cupcakes Create Quite a Stir!

By Ralph McKinch

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

I always thought that a cupcake was a miniature version of a cake – something that you could easily hold in your hand and maybe didn't have quite as many calories as a big piece of gooey frosted cake. However, I found out I was wrong after a visit to Crumbs Bakery in St. Clair! There I saw the largest cupcake I had ever seen – over 8" in diameter!

"This is only one of the specialty baked goods that we offer here at Crumbs,"

stated Tammy Leenknecht, the current owner. "These cupcakes will feed 10 to 12 people. The inside is hollow and people special order them to be filled with their favorite kind of ice cream or pudding." What a unique idea for a birthday, and at only \$8.99 the giant cupcakes are a real bargain!

Another unique item at the bakery is the edible ink that is used to decorate cupcakes, cakes, cookies, or most any bakery product. Customers can download a picture or graphic off the Internet, bring it into Crumbs and they will reproduce the image in edible ink on the goodies.

Tammy purchased the business in November of 2009. She is hoping to keep it a family business, along with her husband and three daughters.

They are 20 year residents of St. Clair. The bakery offers fresh cakes, candy, cupcakes, cookies, cookie bars, fudge and brittles, in addition to deli items, such as soups, salads, and sandwiches – all homemade.

Plans for the future for Crumbs Bakery include introducing Green Mountain Fair Trade Coffees to her menu of offerings and purchasing ovens to produce their own breads and pies, which are currently available but are produced by another bakery.

Tammy is incorporating some fresh ideas into her bakery, including having a patio area where customers can enjoy a cup of tea served in real china cups along with their bakery items. The view from the shop is perfect, as it is right across from the boardwalk in St. Clair, along the beautiful St. Clair River.

Customers can watch the freighters go by while enjoying their snack or meal. Even the family dog can enjoy a visit, as Tammy places a fresh bowl of water outside of her business for her thirsty furry visitors to enjoy. (I'll bet they are secretly wishing that they could have a piece of that giant cupcake, also!) 🍪

Editor's note: Crumbs Bakery is located at 201 N. Riverside in St. Clair. The bakery's phone number is (810) 329-2786.



Tammy Leenknecht at Crumbs Bakery in St. Clair.



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ThumbPrint News Contest



Each month, *ThumbPrint News* will be printing 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. All correct answers received by the 15th of the month will be entered into a drawing for a \$25.00 gift certificate to Foxfire Farm Country Store at 8061 Marsh Road in Clay Township. The winner will be announced in the May edition as well as information about the object. The photo above is of last month's object. No one correctly

identified the object which is an antique ice cube making machine. This current machine is housed in the Knowlton Ice Museum in Port Huron, Michigan, which was one of the cover stories in our January edition.

This month we are asking the question, "What is it?" Identify the object in the photo below. Send an email to thumbprintnews@comcast.net if you think you know what this object is. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number in case you are the winner of the random drawing for a gift certificate to Foxfire Farm Country Store. Good luck!



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Are You Procrastinating on Your Taxes Because You May Owe the IRS?

By **Cindy Redmann**

Tax Consultant

Does the thought of filing your income tax cause anxiety because you're afraid you may owe and cannot afford to pay? It's better that you don't procrastinate! Knowledge about your options is the key to help diminish your fears.

Filing your tax return on time is very important and will avoid large late fees. If you are unable to pay at the time that you file the return, the penalty is only .5% each month up to a maximum of 25%. Contacting the IRS and setting up a payment plan will lower that penalty to .25%. ABC TaxSlayers will assist you in filing a Form 9465 with the tax return to make monthly payment arrangements with the IRS. Filing an extension Form 4868 provides additional time to file the return but will not avoid the late payment fees.

The penalty for filing a late return when you owe money is ten times more severe than failing to make payment with the return. If you have not filed your return, there is a 5% fee on the unpaid balance for each month or partial month past the due date. (The maximum penalty you can be charged is still 25%.)

For example: if you owed \$1,000 when you filed on time in April and were not able to pay until September, the total penalty is .5% per month and only \$25. The fee for the same amount if you filed late would be \$250! Save money and call ABC TaxSlayers to make an appointment before TIME costs you MONEY. The toll-free number is (877) 794-5678.



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Easing the Grieving Process is a Family Business

By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

The death of a loved one is one of life's most painful events. What can be almost as difficult is having to deal with the final arrangements for the deceased at a time when the grief process is just beginning. Jowett Funeral Home in Port Huron supports the family through every step of the arrangements and makes sure that those left behind have time to pay the appropriate tribute to the special memories of their beloved.

The building that is now Jowett Funeral Home was built in 1950. It has been family-owned and operated by the Jowett family since 1957. The current owner, Alan Jowett, purchased it from his father in 1986. He has worked there in various capacities (including washing windows and cutting the grass) since he was 13 years old.

Family is very important to Alan, as several accents inside the funeral home show. On the wall is a painting of Alan's father. (It bears a striking resemblance to Alan himself.) The doors inside the parlor have stained glass inserts in the shape of a J, which is a tribute to Alan's grandparents, Leo and Edith, to whom he was very close.

Alan attended St. Clair Community College and then Wayne State Mortuary School, where, after a four-year program that included classes and an apprenticeship, he passed his state exams and received his license. His two sons are pursuing studies that will allow them to continue in the family business.

When asked how the funeral home industry has changed, Alan stated

that one of the biggest differences today is in the choices people make in how they wish the remains of their loved ones to be handled. "Years ago when my father was the owner, he would perform around 350 services a year. If one of those was a cremation, that would be unusual. Today, 60% of the services we perform are cremations."

Jowett Funeral Home is one of the largest cremation suppliers in the state of Michigan, servicing most of the Thumb Area. It is a full-service funeral home, providing services such as making flight arrangements to bring a loved one's remains home from another state or country, helping to create personalized videos and DVDs for the memorial service and handling organ donation requests. They also offer free of charge funeral pre-arrangement planning for those who are still living. That way, when the time does come, the details will already have been taken care of and it will be easier for the loved ones who are left behind.

Being in the business of owning a funeral home is not always easy. As Alan says, "No two days are ever the same." However Alan, along with his compassionate staff, pride themselves in offering personal attention and all of the services that will be a source of caring and comfort to families during a difficult time in their lives. 🌱

Editor's Note: Jowett Funeral Home and Cremation Service is located at 1634 Lapeer Ave. in Port Huron. Their phone number is (810) 985-5123 and their website is www.jowettfuneraldirectors.com.



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PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT!
 Tick-borne diseases are on the rise in the United States – Lyme Disease in particular. If you live in Michigan, you likely know someone who has had Lyme Disease or another tick-borne disease... you may have had one yourself.

Health officials believe that in more than 70% of reported cases, the disease was contracted from deer ticks found on residential properties. Chipmunks, squirrels, mice and rats are more likely to harbor ticks and keep them close to your home increasing your chance of infection.

Our Tick System, designed by Bayer Environmental Science, has been shown to reduce the occurrence of ticks in your yard by nearly 80% in the first year alone! This is all done without harming wildlife. For tick management, call ABC Home & Commercial Services at (810) 794-5678.

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- bacteria may have been killed off from household chemicals (cleansers, bleach, etc.) that may require more frequent removal
- 3) Blockage or broken baffle from the outlet to the field
 - 4) A plugged filter
 - 5) The field

The field can become oversaturated due to heavy rains or poor drainage, which can cause the tank to fill back up as we are pumping it. This liquid needs to be removed for proper tank function, which will incur an additional charge. A normal working system needs only the scum and solids removed (that the anaerobic bacteria cannot consume), but the option is up to the consumer. If pumped completely, start-up bacteria should be used to help jump-start the system again. This can take a long time. A healthy system needs the billions of bacteria to consume the solids entering the tank. This keeps the tank function working properly.

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Pieces of Algonac/Clay Township History - St. Mark On-The-Sea

Submitted by The Algonac/Clay Township Historical Society

One of the oldest and most beautiful churches in Clay Township is St. Mark On-The-Sea (as it is affectionately known). It is a Catholic Church on Harsens Island that serves both residents on Harsens Island and the St. Clair Flats.

In June of 1887, land on the South Channel of the St. Clair River was purchased from William C. and Patricia A. Bennett by Peter Dederich, A. F. Fisher and Ferdinand Kuhn as a site for a church. The church would be a mission of St. Catherine's Church in Algonac, which was built in 1869. Father Gery, a French born priest from Algonac's St. Catherine's Church, became the pastor of the new church. He would meet a White Star Line boat each Sunday in Algonac and would sail to San Souci on Harsens Island where he would be met by a horse and buggy and be driven to the church to say Mass. Father Gery would stay the pastor for 27 years.

Because of the unique land features of these areas, one of the early obstacles the church had to overcome was making it possible for its members to attend services. This area is the delta of the St. Clair River. Harsens Island is an island and had farms and roads. In the past, people came to the church by horse and buggy or by walking along the river and then crossing a walking bridge to the church. People who lived on the south end lived on small islands and had only canals or the river for transportation. (Roads were not built

until the late 1930s.) In order to get to church, they would use their own boats or go by a tug which sailed up the river and picked up passengers. They were then transferred to a scow, which would be maneuvered by hand to the shore at St. Mark.

The original church seated 150 parishioners. In 1923 an addition was built that increased capacity to 250. In 1929 two side wings were added bringing the capacity to 450.

In 1935 St. Mark almost ceased to exist. The United States government responded to problems ships were having in navigating the winding South Channel of the St. Clair River and proposed to straighten it out. The area that would be affected included all of the property on which St. Mark sat. However, due to the outcry of the residents, along with the letter writing campaign of the St. Clair Flats and Harsens Island Improvement Association, the plans were subsequently abandoned. Instead the channel was dredged. St. Mark would remain standing.

Being a mission church, St. Mark in the beginning only held services from June to September. One current parishioner tells about the time when her brother in early 1937 planned to be married at St. Mark one day before the church opened for the summer. The mother of the bride provided the linens each Sunday for the services and had the double duty of cleaning the church for her daughter's wedding and to prepare it for the first Mass of the season the next day!

In November of 1974, St. Mark was raised to the status of a parish. Father Paul Lederman was assigned to be the first pastor.

Today, St. Mark remains a historic landmark on the St. Clair River. Much of the original woodwork can still be seen inside the church. Visitors today can reflect on the great hardships the original parishioners went through to attend and worship in such a scenic location. St. Mark's steeple reaches skyward with the grace and dignity of a holy place that evokes memories in the past and present residents of Harsens Island and the St. Clair Flats. 🌿



Parishioners were ferried across the South Channel to attend services at St. Mark On-The-Sea.

Editor's note: The Algonac/Clay Township Historical Society Museum is located at 1240 St. Clair River Drive in Algonac. The museum is open from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. ThumbPrint News invites other historical societies in the counties covered by this newspaper to submit

articles of interest in regards to the history of towns and people in their area's past for consideration for publication in future editions. It is the editor's goal to eventually have a monthly columnist from each of the counties. If interested, please email thumbprintnews@comcast.net or call (810) 794-2300.



The steeple of St. Marks Church.

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Cruising Alaska

By Donna Wilssens

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Alaska cruises have become one of the most popular ways to visit Alaska. Cruising Alaska is unmatched by any other destination for the sheer magnificence of its natural wonders, wild life and rich Alaska native history. Cruises feature great food, entertainment, interesting Ports of Call and fascinating tours – and you only have to unpack once!

There are a number of different cruise itineraries in Alaska offered by most cruise lines. One of the most popular is the Gulf of Alaska itinerary. These week long cruises travel between Whittier (Anchorage) and Vancouver B.C., with either a northbound or southbound itinerary.

Highlights include Glacier Bay National Park, College Fjord in Prince William Sound, and interesting port towns like Skagway, Juneau and Ketchikan. Shore excursions are available in each port, from historic railroad trips to landing on a glacier by helicopter.

After your week on an Alaska cruise, Alaska land tours can be arranged. Journey through Alaska aboard luxurious glass domed railcars to Denali National Park. You will be able to enjoy the scenery from the comfort of your seat. Watch for eagles to soar and other wildlife along the way. Once in the park, take a Tundra Wilderness Tour where you can search for moose, caribou, bear and

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dall sheep or, perhaps catch sight of Mt. McKinley's snowcapped majesty. Whatever your interests, Alaska has everything to offer. 🌿

Editor's note: Donna Wilssens is a

travel agent at St. Clair Travel, 201 N. Riverside, St. Clair, Michigan. She would be happy to work with you on planning your Alaskan cruise or other travel plans. Call (810) 329-7163 for more information.

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ABC Home & Commercial Services Spring Recommendations

Treatment for Wasps

It is now spring and the wasps are building their colonies. As cavity fillers, you have probably already noticed small nests in the light fixtures, electrical boxes, and under the deck rails. The paper nests will be numerous and will vary in size. You may also notice them stripping the top layer of unfinished wood, such as a deck or play set. They will use stripped material to make their nests. It is best to keep these surfaces hard by staining or painting to deter the wasps. Soon it will be time for the yellow jackets – many times mistaken for a wasp. Yellow jackets are a different pest altogether and require a different treatment.

Bats

Bats are interesting creatures. They are the only mammals that truly fly and are generally considered beneficial because of their appetite for insects.

Insect-feeding bats will bite and rabies may occur in 4% to 6% of some bat populations. In addition, bats harbor the bat bug, which bites humans and is very similar to the bed bug. You don't want these in your home!

Bats will remain in the same location year after year. If that location is your home, this poses health risks from both the bat guano and the urine. Also, these waste products attract other insects and contaminate your insulation, thereby causing expensive repair bills.

A few species of bats found in Michigan prefer to roost in structures and will often be seen at dusk flying in and out of attic vents and soffits. In fact, any opening 3/8 inch or larger is a suitable entrance for a bat. The best

way to get rid of bats is to exclude them from your structure while they are not in it. Since bats spend June and July raising their flightless young, those months are not the time to exclude due to the possibility of sealing babies inside and creating a potential odor problem or to force bats to enter into the main part of your home.

Exclusion for bats begins in the spring and can be done until June, starting again in August through the fall. Exclusions will be taken down in the very late fall and the opening sealed.

Bats can be difficult and they carry several disease risks, so let the professionals do your bat work. For bat removal and/or exclusion, call ABC Home & Commercial Services Animal Control Division. Remember, we are a multiservice company that you can trust!

Tree & Shrub Care

Many people take lawn and garden fertilization very seriously, but how many think about their shrubs and trees? Trees in city and suburban areas often have no source for new nutrients as little is left to decompose in the yard. Eventually, the soil becomes depleted. By the time symptoms show up, it may be too late to treat. It is simple to combat this nutrient deficiency with a "deep root feeding." Depending on the needs of the tree, feeding can be done at different times of the year. Deep root feeding in the spring will encourage tip and leaf growth and will encourage wood production. Fertilizing in the fall develops the roots.

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Swim and Dive in '55 - Do it Again in 2010

By Bill Gratopp

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

There was a dream in Algonac in the early 50s . . . build a swimming pool and teach kids how to swim . . . and there will be no more river drownings. With this idea in mind, the community began a serious undertaking to do just that. However, this project ran out of steam and, what began as a good idea, now sat idle.

The Algonac Lions stepped up to the plate and picked up where the project stopped, using the slogan "Swim and Dive in 55." It took months and months of hard work by a truly dedicated group of Lions, supported by business and community members to bring this project to fruition. When all was said and done, the kids of the community were able to learn to swim in a safe environment, drastically reducing the number of river drownings.

The pool and bathhouse remained in the hands of the Algonac Lions for the next 47 years, serving the needs of the Algonac/Clay community. In 2002, the Lions sold the property, including the pool, to the City of Algonac. The city then created a master plan for the redevelopment of the six acre field, aimed at making it a state of the art recreational facility.

One thing stood in the way – the bathhouse and pool were not handicap accessible and there was no easy way to bring them up to code. There was, however, a ray of hope when the Kellogg Foundation, through The Community Foundation of St. Clair County, supported the Access to Recreation Program in St. Clair County. As part

of this initiative, St. Clair County would see a handicap accessible tree house built on the Pine River Nature Center property, and the development of two handicap accessible kayak/canoe launches. To complete the initiative, the Algonac Pool would be given \$25,000 in matching grant money to make the pool and bathhouse accessible. The Algonac Pool would then become a training site for wet entry handicap kayakers, using specially developed kayaks by Eric Mueller of Harsens Island.

The fund raising was now the tough part, especially in a time of economic difficulty. This is where Beth Engel and myself, two local citizens, went to work. To do the project right, the bathhouse needed to be replaced completely, and the price was a staggering \$364,000! There was \$25,000 from the Community Foundation of St. Clair County's Kellogg Grant and a matching amount from the City of Algonac – but that left over \$300,000 more to complete the project. We set about searching for the needed money, looking statewide to make this project a reality.

The biggest portion came from a very prestigious grant by the 2008 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, offering to match 70% of the needed money. This, combined with \$25,000 from Clay Township, gave the project \$330,000 of the needed \$364,000. Armed with this information, we headed out into the community with what would best be described as a mission.

Now, more than two years after the Algonac pool project's inception, the majority of the money

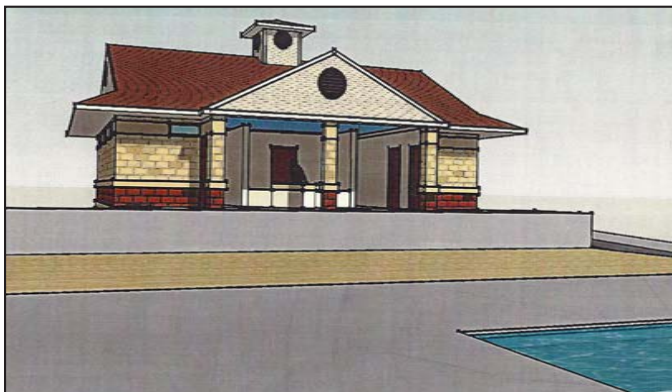


Beth Engel and Bill Gratopp worked on raising funds for the project.

is in place and the project is about to get under way. Thanks to local support by organizations such as the Community Foundation of St. Clair County, the Algonac Lions Club, the Citizens Foundation, the Youth Advisory Council, the Algonac Rotary, the Algonac Community Schools, and many more businesses and citizens of the community, the dream is almost a reality.

If all goes according to plan, by the opening of the pool this summer, the citizens of the Algonac/Clay community will have a brand new bathhouse. They will also have a state of the art facility that is handicap accessible and the only training site for the physically challenged who wish to learn the sport of kayaking. We are poised to "Do it Again in 2010."

If you would like to support this worthwhile project, please contact Beth or myself (Bill Gratopp) through the Seaway Community Bank at (810) 794-1000. 🌱



Rendering of the front of the bathhouse.



View of the back of the bathhouse.

It's Time to Act for the Health of Your Lawn!

Now is the time of year to get a jump-start on a good-looking, healthy lawn. ABC Home and Commercial Lawn Services will give you peace of mind and improve the aesthetic value of your home. The lawn services department brings 21 years of experience to you. We recommend the following program:

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- a grub control application mid-summer to help prevent serious fall damage to your lawn
- a fall application to prepare the lawn for winter and early spring green-up

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Can Your Insulation Leave You Cold?

Most people believe that insulation only keeps the cold air out of your home in winter. However, insulation is also effective during the summer helping to keep the warm air out. Air conditioners can cause expensive electrical bills in the summer. If heat is coming in, insulation is a relatively quick and easy correction to this problem if installed by an experienced technician.

ABC offers insulation services; our head technician has over 21 years of insulation experience. Take advantage of the tax credits that are still available and call today for your free estimate. Remember ABC Home & Commercial Services covers the entire Thumb of Michigan. Call us today at (810) 794-5678.

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Surviving Spouse/Widow	\$1,055



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