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ThumbPrint News

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



JANUARY 2012

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Over the Hill to the Poor House

By William S. Easton

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

The poor house (or poor farm, as they were often called) in the title of the turn of the century poem on page 25, was the destination of many destitute people for over a century of our history. That institution, sometimes euphemistically called a “county home” was an inheritance from Great Britain. As described by Dorothea Dix, an early social reformer, it was based on the common belief that it was criminal to be poor and unable to support oneself.

During the early nineteenth century, states passed laws requiring counties to create these farms – or compensate neighboring counties for accepting their indigent. The New York legislation passed in 1821 provided that the following unfortunate folks were subject to confinement to the poor farm: “Paupers, Disorderly Persons and Child Beggars.” The last named sounds like *Oliver Twist* and Charles Dickens’ own youth experiences. Although debtors and the mentally



The St. Clair County Poor Farm, pre-1914

ill were not listed, a mid-century county report included some of both. The residents were fed and housed, but expected to perform such work as they were able, raising vegetables and livestock. They were supervised by an appointed overseer.

In 1826, the Michigan territory passed similar legislation. According to a website that tracks these institutions nationally, St. Clair County had its first poor farm in the Smith Creek area.

See *THE POOR HOUSE*, Page 24

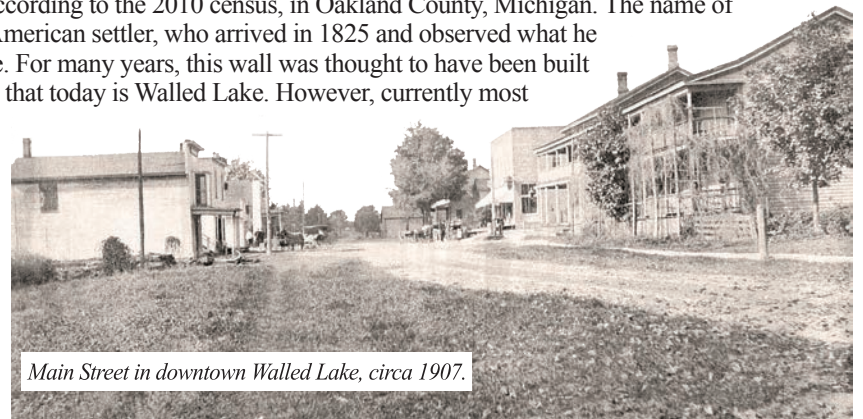
Spotlight on What Once Was a Small Town – Walled Lake

By Ralph McKinch

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Walled Lake is a small city of just under 7,000 people, according to the 2010 census, in Oakland County, Michigan. The name of the city has been credited to Walter Hewitt, the first Euro-American settler, who arrived in 1825 and observed what he thought was a stone wall along the western edge of the lake. For many years, this wall was thought to have been built by Native Americans, who were the first settlers in the area that today is Walled Lake. However, currently most geological experts believe that the “wall” was actually a formation caused by glacial activity centuries before.

Prior to 1820, Walled Lake was inhabited by the Ojibwa and Potawatomie tribes who migrated from a village that once stood where Southfield is today. These were non-hostile people who came to farm the fertile land, to fish, and to hunt the wide variety of game that was available. On the west side of the lake, a field was cleared that was used as a camping ground for as many as 500 members of a tribe at one time. This was also used to celebrate their famous Green Corn Dance in the fall, which was done to express their thankfulness



Main Street in downtown Walled Lake, circa 1907.

See *Walled Lake*, Page 13

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

*Another fresh new year is here . . .
Another year to live!
To banish worry, doubt, and fear,
To love and laugh and give!*

*This bright new year is given me
To live each day with zest . . .
To daily grow and try to be
My highest and my best!*

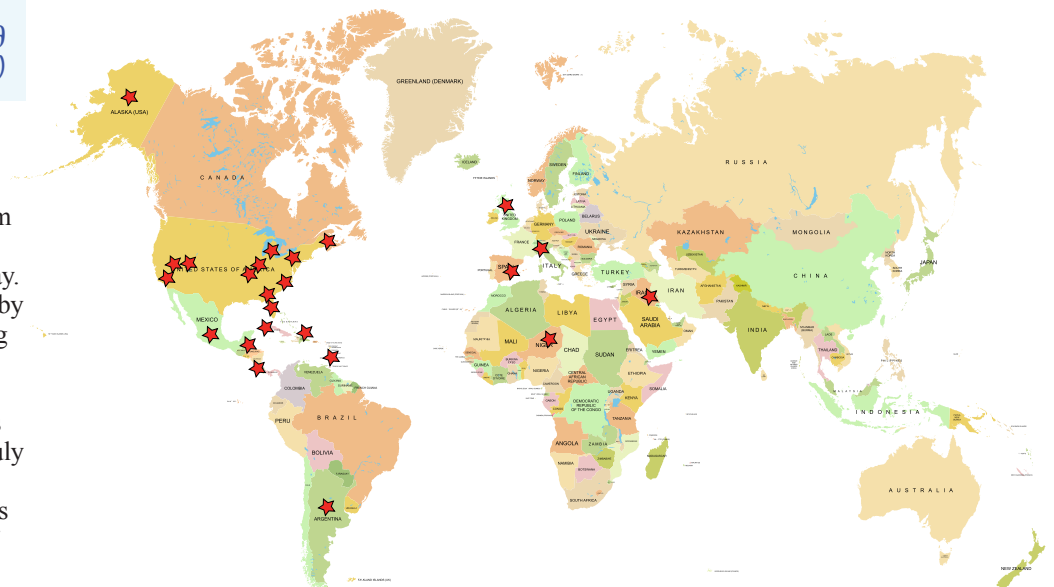
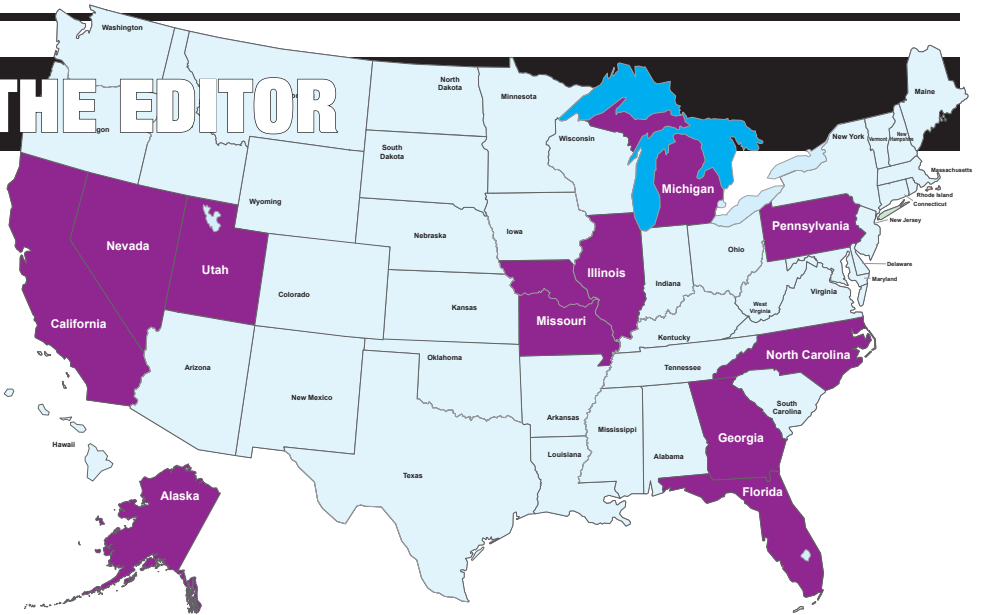
*I have the opportunity
Once more to right some wrongs,
To pray for peace, to plant a tree,
And sing more joyful songs!"*

~William Arthur Ward
(1921-1994)

William Arthur Ward is the author of *Fountains of Faith* and is also one of America's most quoted writers of inspirational verses. I like the above poem because the author is approaching the upcoming new year in such a positive way. Rather than lament how time has passed by so quickly, he is looking forward to living "each day with zest...".

Part of the reason I have enjoyed so much editing *ThumbPrint News*, since its inception in October of 2009, is that it truly has maintained its positive approach to providing our readers with quality articles that reflect the past, present and future of the people and places in this wonderful part of Michigan that we call the Thumb. As 2012 begins, *ThumbPrint News* will continue to evolve, but that basic premise of remaining upbeat and positive will not change. Our readers have let us know through their phone calls, emails, letters and comments that this is one of the things they enjoy most about *ThumbPrint News*.

Shortly after the beginning of the newspaper, we began inviting our readers to take a copy of *ThumbPrint News* with them in their travels and to send us photographs. Much to the amazement of everyone on the staff, this has generated a plethora of responses. So, I thought it would be fun to take a visual look



at exactly which states and countries *ThumbPrint News* has traveled. The two maps above show exactly that.

Now that I have taken a closer look at these maps, I have come to the realization that *ThumbPrint News* has traveled to five of the seven continents: Asia, Africa, North America, South America and Europe! Unfortunately, we have not yet made it to Australia or to Antarctica.

That gives me a great idea! I am going to make it my New Year's Resolution that, in addition to keeping a positive outlook on life as in the poem at the beginning of this letter, somehow by the time 2012 is over, we will have enticed our readers to find a

way to get *ThumbPrint News* to the two remaining continents! I am putting out that challenge to everyone. Perhaps you can't physically visit Australia or Antarctica, but put on your creative thinking caps and see if you can't find a way to get our paper to someone there and to get a photo back to us that proves where *ThumbPrint News* traveled. Which readers will be the first to make this happen?

In the meantime, have a very wonderful and positive New Year from all of the staff of *Thumbprint News!*

DIANE KODET
Editor, *ThumbPrint News*

DIANE E. XAGORARIS
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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The Inn that Grandpa Built

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist

As a young boy, while travelling with my parents from our home in Algonac to the “big city” of Port Huron, we had to pass the St. Clair Inn. I was always in awe of its architectural splendor and, as an unknowing youngster, was initially convinced it must be hundreds of years old.

As I became a little older, my mother corrected my assumption about the age of the “old inn.” She explained that my father’s father worked as a carpenter on the construction of a portion of the picturesque English Tudor Revival edifice resting on the banks of the St. Clair River. Stretching the truth a little, I recall telling some friends that my grandfather built the Inn.

As I grew older I remained in awe of the Inn, but never had the opportunity to really explore the real charm found behind the oak double front doors with leaded glass windows. It wasn’t until I

was married and visiting my family in Michigan from my home in California that I discovered the real ambience of the old inn on the river. I can still recall the first time I entered the Inn’s quaint lobby with its large beamed ceiling and worn brick floor. My discovery included exposed rough-hewn timbers in a spacious reception lounge with massive fireplaces at each end and a fantastic view of the St. Clair River with its Canadian shoreline. I could envision wealthy guests who had travelled to St. Clair by steamboat generations ago resting on the veranda during the summer months. It was shortly after my first visit to the old inn that I learned it had been recognized in the National Register of Historic Places.

It wasn’t until I decided to take my first retirement and return to my native Michigan did I learn the history of the St. Clair Inn. I became a member of the Rotary Club of St. Clair and, in learning of the club’s history, also learned that of the Inn.

The first three decades of the last century provided the entire St. Clair River area with visitors from around the world. This was a golden age of leisurely steamship travel on the blue inland waterway connecting Lake Huron with Lake St. Clair. Several majestic hotels and smaller inns could be found on its shores.

So, how does the Inn relate to the Rotary Club? Well, it’s an unusual story that began in 1924 when the local Rotarians who were seeking a permanent place to meet decided that their weekly gatherings should occur at a luxurious inn that would also



The St. Clair Inn circa 1924

serve as a community center for social and civic activity. As local businessmen, its members knew too that such a place would draw large numbers of well-to-do tourists who would also enhance local retail and business possibilities. It was at that time that members of the organization created the St. Clair Community Hotel Corporation with many of the Rotarians serving on its board of directors.

Shortly thereafter, a venture funding campaign began and an initial public stock offering provided \$180,000 in just ten days. Completion of the inn was realized within a year.

When the Inn opened for business in September 1926, it was hailed as the “most beautiful hostelry to ever grace a city.” That was quite a statement for the St. Clair area with its numerous inns and hotels. A special aspect of its construction was central air conditioning, a first for hotels in the nation. Although its construction was completed towards the end of the very popular Great Lakes luxury steamboat excursions era, the Inn remained a center for community social activity and a desirable destination for those seeking a peaceful retreat from the rest of the world.

The Inn has experienced some architectural modifications throughout the years, including the Coach Room that was added near the hotel entrance on its street side. This cozy section offered the same English Tudor charm found elsewhere in the Inn as well as decorative glass imported from Germany and a popular piano bar.

Almost a decade after the addition of the Coach Room, the River Lounge was added to the river side of the Inn and, in the mid-1980s the North Wing was constructed to provide meeting and banquet facilities.

The days are gone when pleasure cruise ships brought travelers seeking upscale rest and relaxation at the Inn. Virtually all of the 20-plus resort hotels that dotted the St. Clair River have also gone the way of the steamboats. With great difficulty during numerous changes in the economy, the St. Clair Inn has maintained its old world English Tudor charm and the ambience of perhaps a better time we may never again experience. And, throughout its 85 years, the Rotary Club still meets there weekly.

I still look in awe each time I pass the historical landmark, although I have ceased telling others that my grandfather built it. 🍀



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THE GRAPE VINE

The Impending Death of Wine Snobbery

By David White

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Americans enjoy wine. Last year, we surpassed France as the world's largest wine-consuming nation. But too often, we're intimidated by it.

Wine Enthusiast's Steve Heimoff recently wrote about the "poison" of wine snobbery "that continues to make so many Americans wary of wine." As he explained, "[Consumers] can sense it, like a 'Don't come in here, you don't belong' exclusionary velvet rope."

Fortunately, this is changing – fast. Across the country, Americans are embracing wine. For evidence, look no further than your closest Olive Garden.

With 721 locations nationwide, it's no surprise that the restaurant chain serves more than 600 million breadsticks and 165 million bowls of salad each year. But the restaurant also serves more wine than any other chain in the United States. In 2006, Olive Garden sold more than 500,000 cases of wine.

In part, Olive Garden sells so much wine because it takes education seriously. As wine economist Mike Veseth has written, "many restaurants expect that their wait staff will pick up wine knowledge – Olive Garden really works at it, by providing literally hundreds of thousands of hours of training." The restaurant also gives away free samples, where legal. In 2006, it gave away 30,000 cases of wine, which equates to 4.5 million pours.

These efforts demystify wine. It's no wonder why Veseth has described Olive Garden as "the optimistic future of American restaurant wine."

Another company – CellarTracker! – is also combatting the poison of wine snobbery.

In 2003, Eric LeVine, a Microsoft executive, built a data-management program for his wine cellar. When he showed the program to some friends, they begged him to share it. So he put the program online, where friends could track their personal inventories and share tasting notes. LeVine then decided to make his program available to everyone, for free.

Today, about 500,000 people visit CellarTracker each month, and nearly 2,000 wines are reviewed on the site each day. This means CellarTracker users review more wines in just six days than

Robert Parker, the world's most well known wine critic, reviews in an entire year.

The site isn't just used by wine junkies – about 90 percent of its visitors aren't registered. As wine writer Jeff Siegel once wrote, "this means people aren't going to CellarTracker to mark off a wine after they drink it; they're going to CellarTracker to read wine reviews written by amateurs."

This runs counter to so much of what's sacred in the wine world. We're supposed to decide what to drink based on the advice of prominent wine critics – not mere amateurs.

It's about time. Last time you visited a new restaurant, you probably logged onto Yelp before leaving. Before your last vacation, you probably spent some time perusing TripAdvisor. Book purchasers are more likely to read the reviews of amateurs on Amazon than seek the advice of *New Yorker's* literary critic.

Wine consumers are no different. We still need advice, of course, and professionals are also comfortable turning to local specialists, like the staff at Olive Garden, and knowledgeable amateurs, like CellarTracker users, for advice.

This also helps explain why neighborhood wine shops are more important than ever before. Across the country, specialty wine shops are taking off. Many don't post reviews from wine magazines, as they see scores as an impediment to interacting with consumers. So instead, they pay attention to consumer preferences, offer food-and-wine pairing advice, and steer customers toward interesting wines.

The list goes on. Hip sommeliers are also combatting wine snobbery, as are enthusiasts of local wine, from the farmers who grow the grapes to the bloggers who cover the movement.

The impending death of wine snobbery is welcome. Wine has been with us for millennia, so wine appreciation shouldn't be reserved exclusively for the connoisseurs. 🍷

Editor's Note: David White, a wine writer, is the founder and editor of Terroirist.com. His columns are housed at Wines.com, the fastest growing wine portal on the Internet.



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LISTEN UP & LAUGH

Health Benefits Are Waiting

By Mark Underwood

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Did you know a good dose of laughter can actually help your immune system and decrease stress? Have you ever wished you could let go and laugh more often at the silliness of life? It sounds easy, but it's not always possible, particularly if you're facing the ups and downs of life's challenges. If you can lighten up and be more playful, you'll give yourself the freedom to have more fun. The good news is laughing has built-in health benefits to boot.

Here's another reason to laugh. It's contagious. Have you ever wondered why some people tend to attract others? Look more closely. It may be that they laugh easily and frequently, even when they are surmounting numerous challenges connected with their health and aging.

Over 50 years of research back up the fact that positive social connections improve health outcomes and laughing is part of that equation. If you admire people who age gracefully, you may have noticed they smile easily and seem to radiate a joy for life even though they probably face an assortment of life's ups and downs.

Laughter for better health

There's no doubt about it – laughter make you feel good, but research has shown that it also helps boost immunity, relax muscles, decrease pain, ease anxiety and relieve stress. Think of laughter as “internal jogging.” Laughter causes positive changes in brain chemistry by releasing endorphins, and that brings more oxygen into the body with the deeper inhalations caused by laughing. Keep in mind laughter is more than just a temporary mood booster. It is a powerful tool that helps us find new sources of meaning and hope. It gives us strength in difficult times, and connects us to others.

Giggle like a child

Boost your mental outlook by acting like a kid again. As you age, allow laughter, humor, games and playfulness into your life. Daily humor can help you feel more relaxed, creative and joyful. Studies have shown that the average preschool child in the U.S. laughs about 400 times a day. As adults we laugh far less frequently. According to studies at Ohio State University the average adult breaks out and laughs only about 15 times a day. If you

can find a giggle in a situation, even for a few minutes, it will ease stress and help you refocus on positive things.

As you age, you may feel there are many things you can't do as well as you used to. Maybe you can't turn cartwheels like you used to, but no matter what your age, you can look for the humorous side of life. Laughter is a powerful tool. And it's free to use anywhere, anytime.

Laugh everyday because...

Most of us don't remember when we first smiled, but you were probably smiling when you were just a few weeks old. If you don't laugh out loud very often, don't despair, you can learn to laugh at any stage of life.

Look for something to laugh about everyday because you will automatically take yourself less seriously. Laughing everyday helps shift perspectives, recharge your batteries, and keeps you focused. Laughter helps you feel less anxious and sad. What's more, having a good hearty laugh at least once a day can help trigger better relationships and stronger bonds with your friends and family members. Laughing produces a high speed exchange of positive enforcement between your brain and the people around you.

Keep a “laugh kit around”

These are some ways you can treat yourself to daily doses of good humor.

- Hang out with positive “kids” of all ages – friends and family members from young to old, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.
- Surround yourself with reminders that there is a lighter side to life.
- Put a funny cartoon somewhere visible in your home where you start your day.
- Watch a funny movie or TV show.
- Play with a pet.
- Read the funnies.

Positive emotions can reduce health risks. So go ahead, create as many microseconds as possible of happiness-related chemistry. Laugh and you'll improve your physical, mental and social health. 🍀

Editor's note: Mark Underwood is a neuroscience researcher, president and co-founder of Quincy Bioscience, a biotech company located in Madison, Wisconsin focused on the discovery and development of medicines to treat age related memory loss and the diseases

of aging. Mark has been taped as an expert in the field of neuroscience for *The Wall Street Journal Morning Radio*, *CBS* and *CNN Radio* among others. Mark is also a contributor to the “*Brain Health Guide*” which highlights the research at *Quincy Bioscience* and offers practical tips to help keep health brain function in aging. More articles and tips for healthy aging can be found at www.TheGoodNewsAboutAging.com.

To get you started laughing today, *ThumbPrint News* is offering you a couple of jokes to enjoy:

Old Home

We purchased an old home in northern Michigan from two elderly sisters. Winter was fast approaching and I was concerned about the house's lack of insulation. “If they could live here all those years, so can we!” my husband confidently declared.

One January night the temperature plunged to below zero, and we woke up to find interior walls covered with frost. My husband called the sisters to ask how they had kept the house warm. After a rather brief conversation, he hung up.

“For the past 30 years,” he muttered, “they’ve gone to Florida for the winter. ☺



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- You email your son in his room to tell him that dinner is ready, and he emails you back with “What's for dinner?”
- Your daughter sells Girl Scout Cookies via her website.
- You chat several times a day with a stranger from South Africa, but you haven't spoken to your next door neighbor in years.
- Your daughter just bought a CD of all the records your college roommate used to play that you most despised.
- You check the ingredients on a can of chicken noodle soup to see if it contains Echinacea. 🍀



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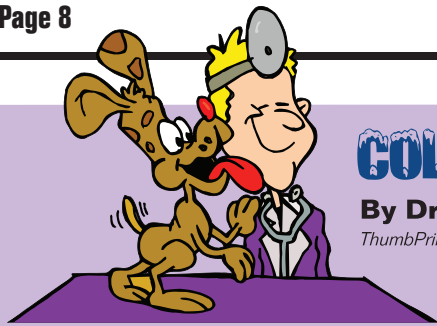
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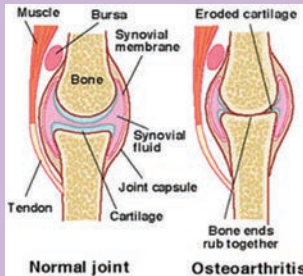
By Dr. DiBenedetto
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

It's that time of year again, winter! Freezing temperatures and snow and ice that may be pretty to look at, but if your pets suffer from chronic arthritis, winter can be a painful season.

Arthritis is an inflammatory condition affecting joints. This condition can be caused by many factors including bacterial infections, trauma, or degenerative changes that develop with aging and immune mediated diseases where the body destroys its own cells.

Degenerative arthritis, also called osteoarthritis, is the most common form we see in our pets. With aging the cartilage or cushion within a joint becomes damaged causing a cascade of events to occur that result in swelling, stiffness and pain.

Pets with osteoarthritis experience varying degrees of lameness, pain and swelling. This kind of arthritis can occur in any joint. Cold and dampness will increase pain in arthritic joints. Large-breed dogs will generally show more symptoms in the weight bearing joints, such as the hips, shoulders, elbows and knees, but cats and smaller

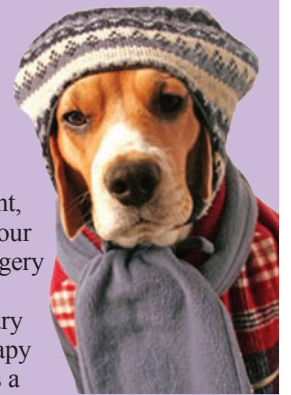


dogs are affected as well. These symptoms are generally worse in the morning and improve as the day goes on. Animals can also exhibit irritability due to the discomfort. You may notice that your pet lags behind on walks or loses interest in his regular activities and spends more time sleeping. You may notice a reluctance to climb stairs or jump up on beds or couches. Although there is no cure for osteoarthritis, it can be managed through a combination of medical treatment, environmental adaptation, diet and exercise, physical therapy, laser therapy and/or joint supplements such as glucosamine and chondroitin.

If your pet seems to have any of these symptoms for more than two weeks take him to your veterinarian for an arthritis evaluation, which will involve obtaining a medical history, doing a physical exam and possibly x-rays. In the early stages of arthritis, only soft tissues are affected and thus, the disease may not be evident on an x-ray. However, the dog's joints may be swollen and sore. If your pet is overweight, losing weight will significantly decrease stress on arthritic joints. Moderate exercise is beneficial because it helps to maintain muscle mass and preserves joint flexibility. Excessive exercise, however, is counterproductive. Once the arthritis is diagnosed and the cause is determined, a treatment plan can be formulated. For osteoarthritis, depending on the degree of pain, I will often recommend a combination of therapies. These may include anti-inflammatories for pain, glucosamine supplements to decrease further damage to the cartilage, household changes such as

using ramps for getting up on furniture or into cars; bringing litter boxes up from the basement, using orthopedic beds to keep your pets up off the cold floors or surgery for torn ligaments.

In addition, at Maple Veterinary Clinic we now have Laser Therapy available for arthritic joints. It is a non-invasive, non-painful therapy. We have been able to decrease the amount of anti-inflammatory medication being given after the laser therapy is done. The therapy consists of six initial treatments, one every other day for two weeks then one treatment every three to four months as needed. Part of my treatment plan is to include monitoring blood work. The anti-inflammatories can have adverse effects on the liver and kidneys. This is also why no human anti-inflammatories should be given without consulting your veterinarian first. One small dose of Tylenol can be fatal to cats. However with the proper treatment protocol we can make winter a non-painful season for our pets. 🐾



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

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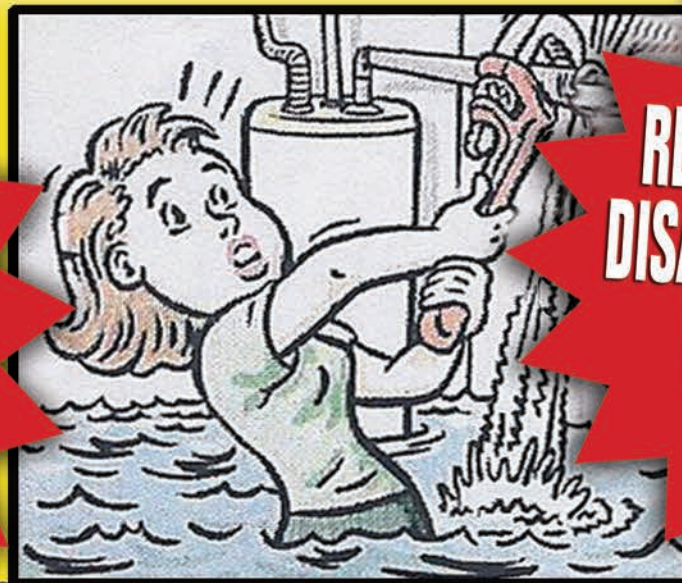
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The *Angel* Advisor

Home For The Holidays

Use your visit to tell if a loved one needs help to stay at home safely

By Jeffrey Johnson

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Are you going home for the holidays? If you are, in addition to celebrating, take a moment to make sure your older loved ones are still capable of managing their daily lives on their own. Often, older adults need some help to stay safe and healthy, but don't like to admit it.

To help determine if older people need help to stay at home, Visiting Angels, the nation's leading network for quality, compassionate home care, has developed this simple checklist:

Check their appearance:

- Are they wearing appropriate clothing?
- Is there a drastic change in their clothing choices?
- Are their clothes clean?
- Is there any inappropriate body odor that could indicate difficulty bathing, washing their hair or brushing their teeth?
- Have they made any drastic changes to their appearance – wearing more or less makeup, not wearing dentures, etc?

Appearance is an immediate clue that the activities of daily living may be becoming more difficult. It's also a potential indicator of deteriorating vision and possibly changes in mental acuity.

Take a look around the home:

- Is the refrigerator appropriately stocked?
- Is the house at its usual level of tidiness or is there a change?
- Are dishes and laundry being taken care of in a timely manner?
- Is there expired food in the pantry/refrigerator?
- Ask about meals – are they eating enough? What about water intake?
- Are medications organized or are there expired medications or bottles all over the house?

A change in housekeeping and food choices can indicate difficulty managing shopping, cleaning or cooking.

Talk about their daily routine:

- Ask about activities and friends – are they still participating in things they enjoy? Are they able to get themselves to where they want to go?
 - Ask about their doctor appointments – do they understand their medications? Have they skipped or missed appointments?
 - Check on the bills – are they paying bills on time, or is the mail being ignored?
- Giving up activities, missing appointments and ignoring the mail are all signs that an older person may need help. They are also signs of possible depression, an issue that affects older Americans at alarming rates. If you notice a change in interests or participation in activities, you may want to speak with their doctor to rule out medical issues, and look into assistance for them.

Staying in their home is typically the goal of most seniors. But the reality may be that caring for a home and managing the activities of daily living can become increasingly difficult as we age. Many older adults are afraid to admit that reality because they fear losing their independence or admitting they need help. A holiday visit represents an ideal opportunity for adult children to assess older family members' living situations and see if home care could help them.

If you're not sure if your loved ones need home care, contact Visiting Angels at (810) 326-4357 (St. Clair County) or (586) 726-6999 (Macomb County) or go to www.VisitingAngels.com. A confidential consultation may help your loved ones stay at home safely, and give you peace of mind. 🍀

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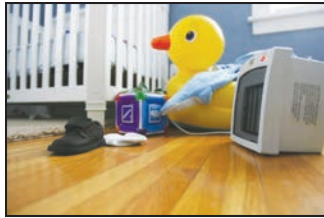
NFPA's simple tips to stay safe and warm this winter

Submitted By **Lorraine Carli**

NFPA Public Affairs Office

'Tis the season for rosy cheeks, button-down coats, and cranking up the heat. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), it's also the time of year when home fires peak, many of which are caused by heating equipment.

"Half of all home heating fires occur during December, January and February, when we are fully utilizing our heating systems," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of communications for NFPA. "The public can reduce their risk of getting left out in the cold by following NFPA's safe heating behaviors."



Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heaters.

In NFPA's report "Home Fires Involving Heating Equipment," in 2009, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 58,900 reported home structure fires, 480 civilian deaths, 1,520 civilian injuries, and \$1.1 billion in direct property damage. Stationary and portable space heaters accounted for one-third (32 percent) of reported home heating fires, but nearly 80 percent of the home heating

fire deaths, two-thirds (66 percent) of associated civilian injuries, and half (52 percent) of associated direct property damage.

Overall, fires, injuries and damages from fires involving heating equipment were all lower than in 2008 and fit into a largely level trend over the past few years. The number of deaths from heating equipment was virtually unchanged.

As temperatures begin to drop, here are some safe heating behaviors to follow:

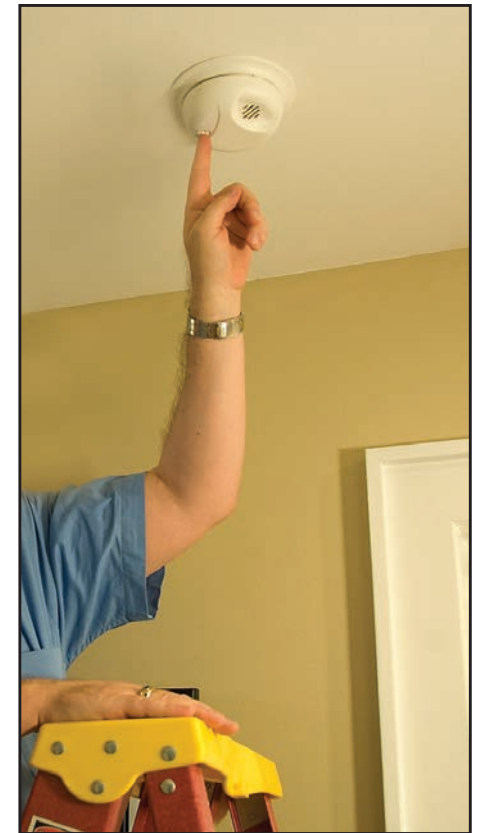
- All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.

- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel-burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms monthly.

In an effort to reduce winter fires, NFPA is partnering with the U.S. Fire Administration on a special campaign – Put a Freeze on Winter Fires. For more information, visit NFPA's website at www.nfpa.org/winter.

About the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

NFPA is a worldwide leader in fire, electrical, building, and life safety. The mission of the international nonprofit organization founded in 1896 is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by



providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education. Visit NFPA's website at www.nfpa.org for more information.

LANDSCAPING THE THUMB

Inspecting Your Winter Landscape

By **Paul Bujak**

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

It's January, and if we're so lucky, there will be mounds and mounds of snow piling up all around us. With that being said, we need to grab our heavy coat and take a trip outside. We need to check around the house for any winter storm damage caused by Mother Nature. By the way, don't forget your snow boots!

Some plants around your home may need to have some of the heavy snow removed throughout the wintertime (especially those close to the roofline of the house). Arborvitae, evergreens, and many hedges can benefit from snow removal. Evergreens are the most apt to trap snow. Removing this snow will help prevent freezing to the foliage that can cause branch damage.

Using a soft bristled whiskbroom or a push broom, lightly pull the snow to the ground. Heavy



snow should be removed immediately following the snowfall as it could freeze to the branches causing further damage. Never cut off the weighted down branches, as they may not be damaged. You can carefully tie them up to provide more support.



Gently remove snow by hand from plants such as laurels, yews, camellias, nandina and hollies. There is no need to remove every speck of snow off your plants, as the snowflakes do provide a little winter protection for the plants.

Very little can be done to prevent ice damage to your plants. You can use warm water to get rid of some of the ice. Slowly pour the warm water onto the branches in attempt to loosen the ice. If you find broken limbs, it is best to remove them so they can heal before springtime.

Even though it is cold out, we still need to get out and protect our plants so they will come back healthy in the spring.

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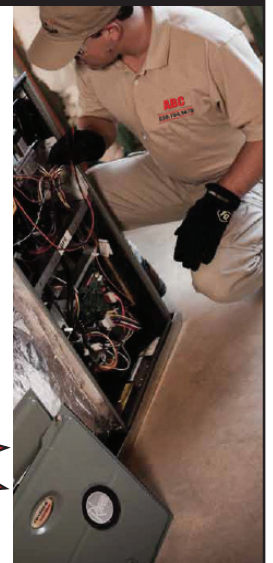
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ASK The Greasy Thumb

By Keith Kodet
ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

This month we received a semi-auto-motive question that comes with a several part response, so we are only printing one question and answer this month.

Dear Greasy Thumb:

I have been working on cars out of my driveway for years because I do not have a garage. I've been saving up and I am finally ready to build one. I work on cars almost every day. Do you have any ideas I should incorporate in my construction plans?

New Building in New Baltimore

Dear New Building,

What a great question! The best garage is always the next one because you come up with more needs and ideas! However, I can help with a few of my experiences and personal ideas.

1. Square footage: Build the largest and tallest building you can afford that the

city will allow. Space is always king. Along with that, put in the tallest and widest door(s) you can. This makes bringing in larger and/or non-running vehicles much easier.

- 2. Concrete:** Pour at least four inches, preferably six. Automotive lifts and some machinery requires thick concrete to bolt to. Also, paint, stain or seal it to help with cleanup of grease and oil spills.
- 3. Insulation and heating:** There are many types of heating systems. Go with the most efficient type for your building design. Also, heavily insulate the walls and ceiling. Purchase insulated doors.
- 4. Windows:** Windows are a thief's best friend and are usually the way tools are stolen from garages. Natural light is nice, so if you want windows, I'd recommend mounting them high or using skylights.

- However, windows add to heat loss and use up valuable wall space.
- 5. Electrical:** Put in as many 110 and 220 outlets as you are allowed.
 - 6. Air compressor:** One neat idea I've seen is a separate room or an outside lean-to for the air compressor. It helps free up shop space and cuts down greatly on noise.
 - 7. Water and sewer lines:** If your town allows, water in the building is a great asset. Also, a sewer line hook up is a great idea, even if you plan on adding a bathroom at a later time.
 - 8. Ask others:** Ask your friends and other car people for ideas you may like. You can never have enough input for a great project like this!

Editor's Note: In this section we encourage readers to write in or to email their automotive questions for our resident automobile expert to answer. Keith Kodet is a self-proclaimed car nut, who has worked for many years as a mechanic. Keith also is an avid collector of vintage and specialty automobiles and has owned over 200 cars to date. Please email your questions to thumbprintnews@comcast.net and put "Ask the Greasy Thumb" in the subject line or mail your questions to: ThumbPrint News, 8061 Marsh Road, Clay Township, MI 48001.

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WALLED LAKE

Continued from Page 1



Downtown Walled Lake, circa 1940

for bountiful harvests and their appreciation of all of their blessings of the ending year.

In July of 1820, President James Monroe authorized Congress to sell land in the Michigan territory at \$1.25 an acre. Land in Walled Lake, along with the rest of Oakland County, became easily affordable to enterprising settlers seeking a better life, many who came from New York. In addition, the lake was attractive and the soil was rich. Walter Hewitt, the man credited with naming the town, arrived from New York in June of 1825 and built a log cabin on the north edge of the lake. Once completed, he returned for his family and together they settled there. However, Walter and his family only remained a year before moving to Ypsilanti, where he was later elected to the State Legislature.

Also among the early settlers was Bela Armstrong, who arrived in 1826. He had served in the War of 1812. However, he died the following year and became the first recorded death in the village.

Others to come were Cornelius Austin, who arrived around 1828, Benjamin Hance, Henry Harrinton and William Tenny, who became one of the area's first postmasters. Tenny would carry the mail in his hat from



Walled Lake Post Office in the early 1900s

Farmington to Walled Lake. In 1830, a trading post was established for the Indians on the east shore of Walled Lake by two men, Mr. King and Mr. Prentice. The Indians traded venison, berries, moccasins and fish to the settlers in exchange for salt, potatoes, flour, pork and bread. Both Mr. King and Mr. Prentice would later marry Indian wives.

In 1831, Eliphath Hungerford arrived and planted the first apple orchard in Walled Lake.

Bill Adams, one of the early entrepreneurs, built a log store near the cemetery in 1833. One of his side-lines was distilling whiskey using water from the lake, a product much appreciated by many of the early travelers. Shortly thereafter, Bill Deuel opened a general store on the lakeshore, which came to be known as the Deuel Store. Not only did the store offer needed supplies, but it also became the village post office and a make-shift dentist office when Ben Brown later purchased the store and offered a "tooth-pulling" service.

That same year, Jesse Tuttle, who purchased the log home of Will Jarvis, turned it into an inn to provide a place for the occasional weary travel to have a place to rest. At that time, travel was very strenuous over the few Indian trails that were available. Jesse Tuttle later was responsible for the original plat of Walled Lake.

As farmers began to clear the land and plant crops in Walled Lake, there was an increased need for barrels to hold fruit, water, flour and cider. W.T. Banks arrived in 1833 and established a cooperage there.

In 1834, the village's first log school was built and Fanny Tuttle became the first teacher. This school provided the education for the village's children until 1860 when a new school was built in the middle of the village for \$789.

Hiram Barritt was a name that was familiar to the townsfolk for over 20 years, as Hiram served in various positions including those of County Surveyor, Township Clerk and Justice of the Peace. In 1845, Hiram was elected to the state legislature and was instrumental in helping to pass the law which abolished capital punishment for the crime of murder in Michigan.

In 1834, the development of Walled Lake as a village



The Walled Lake Hotel, pre-1900

escalated when a State territorial road extending from Ann Arbor to Pontiac was built and included the shores of Walled Lake. This was called Pontiac Trail. Prior to this time, supplies had to be gotten in Farmington by riding horseback through underbrush. With the opening of Pontiac Trail new businesses were attracted to Walled Lake.

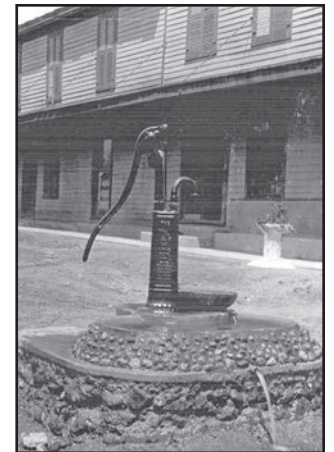
In 1840, Harmon Pettibone built the Pioneer Inn, which became both a hotel and a summer resort. The Inn was remembered for its bouncing wooden dance floor. Lumber for it had to be hauled by teams of horses from Pontiac or Farmington, so Harmon, once again the entrepreneur, built a sawmill on the north side of Walled Lake to make the construction process easier. This mill, later purchased by Jacob Moore in 1858, continued to operate for more than 25 years. The Pioneer Inn was purchased by Mr. Peabody in 1872, and the name was changed to the Peabody House. Mr. Peabody added the services of boat rental and offered fishing tackle for sale.

In 1843, the village saw its first doctor, Dr. James Hoyt, arrive. He served the people of the village with his own home remedies until 1876 when his eyesight began to fail. He would, however, remain in Walled Lake until his death in 1904. In addition to being the town's doctor, he also served as Supervisor of the Township, Township Clerk, School Inspector and State Senator.

In 1854, Bill Pennell arrived from New York and established a blacksmith shop in Walled Lake. He later began to supplement his income with the manufacturing of wagons and became a well-known businessman in the area for over 40 years.

By 1877, Walled Lake's population had grown to 400. Businesses included a general store, Mrs. Cozad's grist mill, a cider factory, a cooper shop, two blacksmiths, a sawmill, a Baptist Church and a Methodist Church.

For the first century of its existence, Walled Lake was a classic rural American community, from its town pump and oil-burning street lamps to the early businesses along one main street. Ice was harvested from the lake during the winter, when it was over two feet thick, and was hauled to storage houses and buried in sawdust for summer use. When strangers came to settle on the land, the whole village would come out for a "raising" to help the new family build their home.



The town pump stood in the center of the village for 70 plus years.

See Walled Lake, Page 15



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WALLED LAKE

Continued from Page 13

During the period from 1850 to 1860, a farmhouse built in 1833 by Mr. Foster became an important resting spot or “depot,” as it was called, along the Underground Railroad. Here, runaway slaves could have a safe haven to sleep and eat as they were making their way to freedom in Canada. Originally located on Pontiac Trail near 15 Mile Road, in 1997 it was moved to Riley Park in downtown Walled Lake to save it from demolition.



Oral histories confirm that the Foster Farmhouse was a “depot” on the Underground Railroad.

Just before the turn of the century, telephone service came to Walled Lake. A stock company was organized shortly thereafter to provide more efficient service.

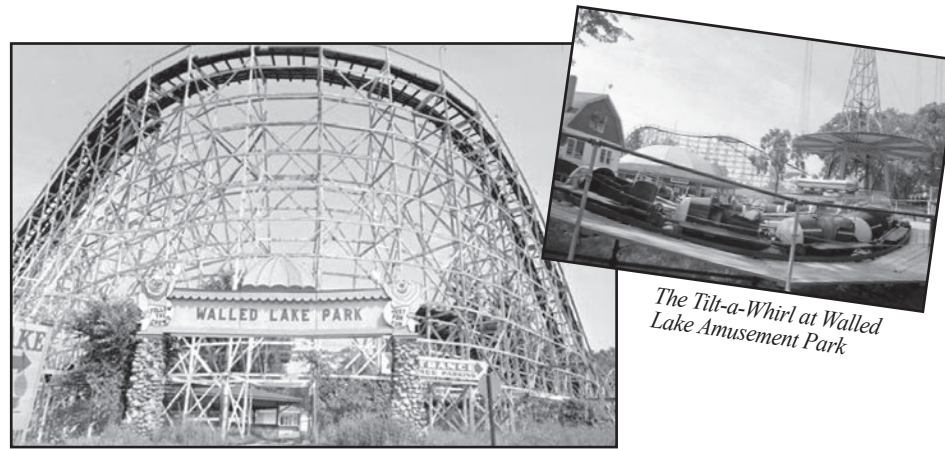
With the opening of Pontiac Trail and the development of the automobile, the picture of Walled Lake as a sleepy little town changed forever. Walled Lake, with its large lake, became quite a tourist mecca on hot Sunday afternoons for folks from the Detroit area. Bathhouses and dance pavilions were built. People bought up the land around the lake for summer cottages.

By the late 1920s, the famous Walled Lake Amusement Park had become one of the most popular destinations in all of Michigan. Starting first as a small dance hall and bathhouse at the south end of the lake, it was built by Jake and Ernest Taylor in 1919 near their general store. Soon over 1000 patrons per night were coming to the Taylor Dance Hall to hear the big bands of the era.

At the same time, Herman Czenkusch was building the Cenaqua Shores subdivision, which developed into many small 30 foot lots along the lake, prime spots for small cottages. Here, Czenkusch also built a large bathhouse and a huge, two-story wooden waterslide. Patrons would sit on a wooden toboggan and slide down into the



Fishing on Walled Lake, circa 1910



Walled Lake Amusement Park

lake. Noticing the success of the Taylor Dance Hall, and hoping to cash in on the popularity, Czenkusch built the Cenaqua Shores Dance Pavillion across the street in 1921, which was larger, fancier and also contained a restaurant and an area to show movies. When both the bathhouse and water slide burned down shortly thereafter, Czenkusch rebuilt with a bigger, fancier building.

Jake and Ernest Taylor felt the pressure of this new competition and decided to sell their bathhouse and dance hall to Louis Tolettene, who remodeled the dance hall and reopened it with the name of the Casino Shore Dance Pavillion in April of 1923.

Czenkusch, trying to stay a step ahead, raffled off a free car at the end of the season at his dance hall.

Louis Tolettene stepped up the rivalry by building the huge “New Casino” in 1925. The New Casino attracted many of the nation’s big dance bands, such as the Benny Goodman Band, the Dorsey Brothers, Red Nichols and his Five Pennies, Glenn Miller and Guy Lombardo.

This new dance hall caused the attendance at Herman Czenkusch’s dance pavilion to decrease. He decided to rent his facilities to Howard S. Stamon. However, Stamon did not have the business experience to turn it around, so Czenkusch took it back once again, made one last-ditch effort to compete with Louis Tolettene before finally leasing it to Tolettene in 1927.

Louis Tolettene controlled both dance halls and prospered for three years before Herman Czenkusch once again regained his building and converted it into a successful roller rink. Cenequa Shores also added another entertainment draw in 1929 when Fred W. Pearce built a roller coaster which was christened “The Flying Dragon.” After



Entrance to the New Casino

Pearce made a deal with Czenkusch to lease more land near the roller coaster, Pearce immediately began construction on the Walled Lake Amusement Park.

Opening on Memorial Day of 1929, Walled Lake Amusement Park was an instant success with not only “The Flying Dragon” but also other rides, such as the “Pretzel” and the “Tilt-a-Whirl.” Although misfortunes occurred in the succeeding years, such as the effects from the Great Depression, frequent injuries, Louis Tolettene’s failing health and World War II, the park and dance hall continued to flourish well into the 1950s.

In 1954, Walled Lake became a city. It could no longer be called a small town.

By the 1960s, tourism had developed around many other lakes in Michigan and



attendance at both the Casino and Park was declining. Television viewing was also responsible for the dwindling attendance. However, by changing its genre of music to fit the times, the New Casino attracted audiences for over 43 years until it was destroyed by a fire on Christmas Day in 1965. The era of the dance hall had come to an end, as it would have been too costly to rebuild. The Amusement Park fell into disrepair and at the end of the 1968 season, it also closed for good. Fifty years of dance hall and amusement park history that had put Walled Lake on the map were over.

Today, Walled Lake remains a thriving lakeside community offering small town charm with the convenience of being close to fine dining, shopping, entertainment and major expressways. 🍀

St. Clair County CMH Announces the 2012

CREATIVE ARTS CONTEST

9th Annual High School Art Contest Begins

St. Clair County Community Mental Health invites all St. Clair County, Michigan high school students to participate in its 2012 Creative Arts Contest. This year’s theme is “Empowerment Leads to Recovery.” The deadline for entry is Friday, March 2, 2012.

The National Institute for Mental Health reports that each year one in four families will be affected by mental illness. The good news is treatment is available and recovery is possible.

In observance of Mental Health Month, St. Clair County CMH sponsors a Creative Arts Contest each year in May. The goal of the contest is to share recovery-focused information with the public. This year’s contest theme, Empowerment leads to Recovery, will help educate the public about the value of empowerment for individuals with mental illnesses, developmental disabilities, and/or substance use disorders.

Any high school student is invited to participate. The student does not have to be enrolled in an art class to enter the contest.

All artwork must be the original, individual work of the entrant. No computer generated artwork will be accepted.

For more information, please contact Telly Delor at (810) 985-8900 or download the contest rules from the CMH website, www.scccmh.org.

About St. Clair County Community Mental Health

St. Clair County Community Mental Health provides public services and supports to adults with mental illnesses, children with serious emotional disturbances, individuals with developmental disabilities and persons with co-occurring substance use disorders.

For information, crisis intervention or to find out if you qualify for public services, call the Access Center at 1-888-225-4447. Support is available 24 hours-a-day, seven days a week. General information is also available at the St. Clair County Community Mental Health website, www.scccmh.org or on the agency’s Facebook page, www.facebook.com/scccmh. 🍀

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Memoirs from The Restless Retiree Dine & Dash

By Gabriel Jones, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

What is Dine and Dash, you may ask? We found out what it means the other day when we went out for breakfast.

"Gabriel, let's go out for breakfast today."

"Today? Can't you cook? It's too expensive to eat out all the time."

"Gabriel, we don't go out to eat that much and besides you can relax and read the free newspaper that they have. You'll enjoy that."

"Well, wait a minute."

(Looking through my billfold and finding a card . . .)

"Great! I've got my discount card. Let's go!"

Later, after enjoying a big meal . . .

"Gabriel, aren't you glad we went out to eat?"

"Yes, I'm glad that you suggested it."

"Are you ready to go?"

(Looking thru his pockets and wallet)

"IT'S NOT HERE!"

"What's not here?"

"The discount card. I must've left it in the car. I'll go to the car and get it while you wait for me by the front door."

"Alright, but hurry."

"Now, where did I park the car? Oh, there it is. I see it now!"

I find the card lying on the dashboard. After a long walk back to the restaurant, I see my wife standing next to a waitress by the cash register.

"I'm back. Here's my card. How much do we owe?"

The waitress said, jokingly, "You can have your wife back now. We thought you were one of those 'Dine and Dash' people who leave and don't pay their bill."

But she smiled as she took my money and punched my card.

"Come back again, and don't forget your card next time."

I looked at my wife and she had this strange look on her face as she said,

"Next time, I'll cook!"

Another lesson learned by The Restless Retiree. 🍀



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Achatz Catering and Soup partnered with The Detroit Lions to Do the Most Good in metro Detroit by collecting clean, new and gently used coats in support of the

21st annual Lions Coat Drive, benefiting The Salvation Army, on Thanksgiving Day.

Steve Achatz, owner of Achatz Catering and Soup, participated in the Lions Coat Drive this year and encouraged everyone to join with him to help keep our neighbors warm.

For more information, visit www.achatzpies.com, www.achatzsoup.com or see their ad on Page 28.

Aroma Therapy

By Rennae Hardy

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Approximately 6,000 years ago the ancient Egyptians, as well as the ancient Chinese, practiced a form of aromatherapy. The Egyptians used plants during their religious rituals believing certain scents could raise higher consciousness and/or promote a state of tranquility. Later, this belief prompted the Egyptians' refinement of aromatics in medicine, cosmetics, incense and perfumes. The Chinese utilized herbs for their aromatic properties and similarly burned fragrant woods and incense to express honor toward God. The Greeks followed by continuing the use of aromatic oils in their medicines and cosmetics.

Aromatherapy gained popularity when the Greeks took medicine into a new light 2,000 years ago. Hypocrites (400 BC), who was commonly known as the "Father of Medicine", took it upon himself to study the effects of essential oils. His conclusion was the belief that taking a daily aromatic bath plus receiving a scented massage would promote good health. The Romans built upon the knowledge provided by the Egyptians and Greeks becoming renowned for their scented baths and aromatic oil massage.

During the Nineteenth Century, scientists in Europe began researching the



effects of essential oils on bacteria in humans. Rene Maurice Gattefosse, a French chemist, began research into the healing potential of essential oils. Rene accidentally burned his hand while working in his laboratory one day. Instinctively, Rene immersed his burned hand into the closest liquid. The readily available liquid just happened to be lavender oil. Rene was impressed with the swiftness of healing, no infection and lack of visible scarring. Shortly thereafter, Rene was accredited with coining the word "aromatherapy" (*aroma = fragrance + therapy = treatment*). As a result of Rene's experiments, Dr. Jean Valet incorporated the use of essential oils in the treatment of injured soldiers during World War II with great success.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, implementing essential oils and

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aromatherapy became a major part of alternative and holistic healing across the world.

"Essence" oils are not actual oils. They are natural derivatives from the aromatic essence extracted from various parts of a plant including the stem, leaf, flower, bark, fruit and root. These oils are highly concentrated and potent. Special care should be exercised when handling and storing essential oils. Ideally, they should be kept in dark, air-tight glass bottles and preferably stored away from extreme temperature fluctuations.

Scents affect us on many levels including the spiritual. This concept is one reason behind the use of perfumes and colognes. Essential oils

can be applied similarly. They can also be placed in diffusers or lamp burners allowing for permeation of the space with healing aroma. Essential oils influence how we feel and deliver an array of therapeutic benefits. They soothe, calm, stimulate, center, refresh, balance, relax and warm, to name just a few.

Essential oils are the heart of aromatherapy, easy to obtain and simple to use. Just breathe. 🍀

Editor's Note: Rennae Hardy is the owner of Radiant Beings, 25962 Knollwood S. in Chesterfield. Rennae is a certified energy practitioner and offers many choices for alternative healing. You can contact Rennae at (586) 949-0112 or (586) 489-8611.

LIQUIDATION SALE

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Foxfire Farm Country Store and Floral Shop closed its doors at this location on December 31, 2011
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Watch for upcoming announcements about our new location opening in the spring!

Limited days and hours for Liquidation:

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Or call (810) 614-8036 to make an appointment to view remaining merchandise during other days or times.

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- Outdoor patio pots and planters
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- Books and toys
- Pet and farm animal food and supplies



- Gourmet food and snack items
- Burts Bees and other body care products
- Canning jars
- Candles and candle making supplies
- Baby gifts
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- Angels galore
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- Racks of all-occasion cards
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Remaining floral shop items all must go as well, including: vases, oasis, baskets, floral supplies, ribbon, silk flowers. Interested floral shops purchasing large lots of items may be given a larger discount.

Just in time for Valentine's Day!



Melanie Duquesnel

Stay Warm and Cozy with an Energy Efficient Plan this Winter

With a tough economy looming like the Grinch over this year's holiday season, many people are looking for ways to save money through energy efficiency. Better Business Bureau (BBB) is offering a checklist for homeowners to safely prepare their homes for the cold winter months, and perhaps save a few dollars in the process.

According to the Energy Information Administration, home heating costs are expected to rise by 10.2 percent for homeowners who rely on heating oil. Luckily, homeowners can fend off some of the rising energy costs by winterizing their home before the harshest weather takes hold.

"With the unpredictability of Mother Nature, now is the time to prepare for the winter months ahead," said Patrick Bennett, BBB Director of Community Relations. "Taking the time to winterize your home gives you the peace of mind that you will not only save money, but be energy efficient as well."

The following is a BBB home winterizing checklist for consumers to consult when preparing for the cold months ahead:

- **Furnace.** Furnaces older than 15 years might be due for a replacement. For newer furnaces, BBB recommends making sure the furnace filter is clean, the thermostat is working properly and the pilot light is functioning. Homeowners can also hire an inspector to do the job and make sure the furnace is in safe working order.
- **Chimney.** Before lighting up the fireplace, homeowners should have the chimney inspected for animals, debris and leaves that may have fallen in. BBB also recommends installing a screen over the chimney opening.
- **Gutters and ridge vents.** Gutters should be cleaned to prevent any clogs that would cause rainwater to back up and freeze, making the gutters expand and crack. The ridge vents need to be cleaned as well in order to allow the house to "breathe" correctly. Otherwise, air will stagnate and create an unhealthy environment.
- **Smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detectors.** BBB recommends testing smoke alarms and carbon monoxide



detectors and installing fresh batteries. Homeowners should consider replacing smoke alarms older than 10 years.

- **Caulking and Weather Stripping.** To prevent leaks, homeowners should inspect the caulking around windows and doors and check for cracking and peeling. In addition, BBB recommends ensuring that doors and windows shut tightly and no cold air is coming in due to worn weather stripping.
- **Seasonal equipment.** Homeowners won't need their spring and summer equipment for a few months, so BBB recommends draining the water from garden hoses and air conditioner pipes, and the gasoline from the lawnmower and other garden tools. It's also time to pull out the snow shovels and plows and ensure they are in good repair.
- **Emergency kit.** When a winter storm strikes, an emergency kit should have all essential materials in one handy place. An emergency kit should include flashlights, candles and matches, a first aid kit, bottled water, non-perishable food and a battery-powered radio. BBB recommends creating the same emergency kit for the car as well, including a couple blankets.

For more tips visit www.bbb.org.

Editor's Note: Melanie Duquesnel is the president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan, which is a non-profit organization that fights fraud and promotes ethical business practices in the local marketplace through its business accreditation, consumer education and dispute resolution programs. Contact your local BBB by calling (248) 223-9400 or by visiting www.bbb.org.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear *ThumbPrint News*:

Just thought you should know . . .

Every day we transport precious cargo. This cargo is not something we can ignore. They are your children. Some are well behaved, some not so well behaved, but every one of them special! Every one of them look to us, their bus drivers, to get them to and from school safely every day. Believe it or not we care about each and every one of them.

When they are not on the bus, we worry. Are they sick? Have they been hurt in an accident, been abused, or lost a loved one? Have they had enough to eat? What you may not realize is that we truly care about your children and to many of us, they are an extended part of our family. They are our children too while they are on our busses and it is our job and privilege to transport them to school every day.

We get to watch them grow up right before our very eyes. We laugh with them and cry with them and listen when they need someone to listen to them. We do this because we want to, not because we have to. Children are God's gift to us whether they are ours or not. We all need to work together to insure their safety. It takes a village to raise a child, as the old saying goes.

Children misbehave on the bus for any number of reasons. It may be that someone's picking on them, bullying or teasing them, or they are just having a bad day. Sometimes bus drivers have to be involved in the disciplinary actions to protect the safety of all of the children on the bus. Bus conduct reports inform the parents of their children's behavior and I would ask that parents examine all information carefully before believing everything the child might be saying. Accusations against bus drivers can be serious and can involve law enforcement being called, so it is always best to work together to discover the truth in any situation.

Did you know that every school bus driver has to go through many hours of training, on the road and off? I've been told it takes a special person to be able to handle this job. Well, I have been doing it for over 16 years and don't know why, but I still love it! I just want you to know that there are no bad kids, just bad choices that kids make and it's my job and yours to show them the right choices!

Recently we had a bus safety meeting scheduled at one of our elementary schools. An invitation to attend went home with every child and some were mailed home. How did it go? If you were one of the parents who showed up, I thank you for your support and involvement. Maybe you weren't there and wanted to be, but I do know that out of one whole elementary school, only four parents showed up. It



was unfortunate and sad that more parents weren't able to make the time to be a part of their children's lives.

As a parent myself, I truly believe that you do care. It sometimes seems as if there are not enough hours in the day. But it takes just ten minutes to tell your child that you love them and that you expect them to make good choices to ensure their safety. When you show a child that you care, all kinds of good things happen. Help them to make good choices at school, at home and out with their friends.

Children look to their parents, teachers, bus drivers, lunch aides, administrators, fellow students – all of us, to set and teach good behavior. It starts with one. Are you ready to be that one?

Teaching is not just for teachers. Parents need to share that responsibility. Step up to the plate and take responsibility for your child and his or her actions. Make safety number one! If you need help, ask for it. Don't ignore it. We want to work together in the best interests of your child and the other children on the bus. Think about the old saying, "If you're not a part of the solution, then you are a part of the problem." Join us for the safety of all children riding busses.

Cindy Anderson
East China, Michigan

Editor's note: Cindy Anderson lives in East China, Michigan and is a bus driver for the Anchor Bay Public Schools.

Greetings to *ThumbPrint News*:

This is now Friday afternoon from here in Adams County, Indiana. Well, how are all you fine folks? Hope well. That is how you would find it here. My son gave me a copy of your *ThumbPrint News*. This is the first time I remember ever seeing it. I want to enclose two dollars for a copy. Also would you let me know how much this paper is per year? I enjoyed reading it. I am Jacob I. Schwartz. We are of the Amish faith.

Thank you kindly,
Jacob I. Schwartz
Geneva, Indiana

Dear *ThumbPrint News*:

I received a copy of the *ThumbPrint News* from my husband's niece who lives in Marine City which included the article about Simon Langell. I grew up in St. Clair and have worked with the Historical Museum regarding Simon Langell.

I am sending a picture of Palmer Park I took on one of my visits to St. Clair. I hope you like it and will print it in your newspaper.

Carol Langell
Newark, Delaware

Editor's Note: Carol is referring to the article "Simon Langell: St. Clair's Shipbuilder" which ran in our November 2011 issue. Here is the photo Carol sent:



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Thumb Area Activities & Events for January 2012

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

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

Genesee

Montrose – January 14

Montrose Frozen Blueberry 5K Run/Walk, Carter Elementary School Gym, 200 Park St., 10:00 a.m. Register on-line at <http://irunflint.com/montrose-frozen-blueberry/>.

Huron

Pigeon – January 10

Farmers' Festival Meeting, Village Hall, 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. If you would be interested in sharing your time and talents to help create a fun summer event, please attend. For more information, call (989) 453-7400.

Lapeer

Almont – January 14

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

North Branch – January 22

Chili Cook-Off Contest and Luncheon, SS Peter & Paul Church-Keenan Hall, 6645 Washington, noon-2:00 p.m. First, second, third and a People's Choice Award prize for the best cooks. Entry fee is \$10 per chili entry and must be received by January 9. Proceeds will benefit Meal of Hope, local food banks and Emergency Aid. For an entry form or for questions call (810) 688-2771 or (989) 220-5835.

Macomb

Clinton Township – January 9

First of a Seven Part Series on Investor Education, Clinton-Macomb Public Library, 40900 Romeo Plank, 6:30 p.m. The first course is called Investing Fundamentals: It's as Easy as 1-2-3. It gives investors an overview of the financial markets and offers insight and common-sense concepts to avoid investing pitfalls. These programs are

non-commercial and free from sales pitches of any kind. Registration is required and begins two weeks prior to each event by calling (586) 226-5040.

Oakland

Novi – January 19-22

The Michigan Winter Dog Classic, Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave. Dog show features over 7000 dogs from more than 160 breeds recognized by the American Kennel Club, the Oakland County Kennel Club and the Livonia Kennel Club. Fun for the whole family includes Border Collie duck herding demos, Rock n' Roll Dog Shows, Weight Pull exhibitions, police K9 demonstrations and much, much more. For ticket costs and other information go to www.themichiganwinterdogclassic.com.

St. Clair

Port Huron – January 18

Laughter: It Really is the Best Medicine, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Baggot Street Café, 2601 Electric Ave., 2:00 p.m. Join Sister Kathy Wood, OP, as she explores entertaining tips and techniques designed to help seniors keep a positive mental outlook through the joy of fun and laughter while maintaining a healthful lifestyle. This free program includes refreshments and an opportunity to share social time. For more information call (810) 984-1166.

Marine City – January 19 & 20

Huge In-Door Yard Sale/Book Sale Fundraiser, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St., 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on Thursday and 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on Friday. Donations may be brought to the center Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Anyone interested in renting space to sell your own items may do so for a \$10 donation per 8' table. Please call Susan at (810) 765-3523 for more information or for reservations.

Fair Haven – January 20

Euchre Party, St. Peters Lutheran Church, 6745 Palms Rd., registration at 6:30 p.m., games start at 7:00 p.m. \$5 donation. Free goodies, coffee and tea. Hot dogs and pop \$1 donation. Cash prizes!

Lakeport – January 21 & 22

Winter Rummage Sale, St. Edward on the Lake Catholic School, 6995 Lakeshore Rd. Featured items will be children's clothing, vintage and used jewelry, household items and more! If you are a vendor or individual person with items to sell, we have a table for you to rent. Bring your collectibles, small business items, etc. Tables are limited. Call Laura at (810) 841-2807 for details and table pricing.

Port Huron – January 25

St. Clair County Family History Group, Port Huron Museum, 1115 Sixth St., 7:30 p.m. The topic this month will be a roundtable discussion on "Our Maternal

Grandmother." Attendees are asked to tell us about their mother's mother, who they were, where they were from and other interesting things. You can also bring a photo or heirloom about that grandmother. New guests are welcome. Call (810) 989-0399 for more information.

Sauilac

Lexington – January 1

New Year's Day Bike Ride, meet at Ehardt's Pharmacy & Medical Supply, 7275 Huron Ave., 10:00 a.m. Cyclists ride from Lexington to Croswell and back, a distance of 10 miles, then meet at Wimpy's Place, 7270 Huron Ave., for lunch after the ride. For more information call (810) 359-7461.

Tuscola

Caro – January 20-22

Caro 150 Winter Fest and Snowmobile Races, downtown area and Tuscola County Fairgrounds. The event kicks off Friday night with a downtown open house

featuring a magician, roaming musicians, ice carving demonstrations, horse-drawn wagon rides, snowmobiles on Main Street (these will be the actual race machines), community-wide shopping and restaurant specials, and more. On Saturday and Sunday the fun moves to the Tuscola County Fairgrounds where you'll find a warming tent with entertainment, a variety of wintertime contests, door prizes, fireworks, food and much more. In the grandstands watch the snowmobile racers fly around the track. Saturday's races feature Sprint pro, semi-pro and junior, and Vintage. On Sunday, the Kitty Kat races take place early followed by the 150 mile Enduro race. Before the big race, though, you can mingle with the racers and get up close to the snowmobiles at a meet-n-greet on the track. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the gate. Admission is \$10 for a 1-day ticket or \$15 for a weekend pass. Children 12 years old and under get in free with a paid adult admission. Call (989) 673-7424 or (810) 569-6856 for more information.

ViVon Chapter - American Business Women's Association Offers \$1,500 Scholarship

The ViVon Chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) is funding a grant through the Stephen Bufton Memorial Educational Fund (SBMEF). Eligible applicants must (1) be a



female U.S. citizen; (2) have completed 45 credit hours or more when applying for funds. Funds may be used when the applicant has completed 60 credit hours; (3) have achieved a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale; (4) be seeking a baccalaureate degree or higher; (5) be attending an institution authorized to confer degrees at the baccalaureate level or higher in the United States; (6) be sponsored by an eligible ABWA chapter/network. To apply, interested parties should send name, email address and phone number to: Claudia Cartwright at the ViVon Chapter, rcartwright91@yahoo.com.

Trustees of SBMEF serve as the selection board for this scholarship. Applications must be completed by January 31, 2012 at www.sbmf.org. The winner will be notified before July 2012. Each one-time grant is not renewable. A check will be issued jointly to the educational institution and the recipient. Funds are limited to tuition, books and fees. Additionally SBMEF offers National

Scholarships for women specific to Nursing, Business and Information Technology. For more information on these scholarship opportunities visit www.sbmf.org after January 1, 2012.

Background

ViVon Chapter of ABWA is part of a national network of businesswomen. Founded in 1949, ABWA is a 15,000 member strong association with Chapters and Express Networks nationwide, providing business skills training and networking opportunities for women of diverse occupations to enhance career advancement and personal development. ABWA has dedicated more than half a century to women's education and provided workplace skills and career development training for more than 565,000 members.

SBMEF is a charitable trust and public foundation. It has the same tax status as public schools, churches and community funds. The Fund is listed in the IRS "Cumulative List of Organizations" described in Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 – revised Oct. 31, 1974. For more information about ABWA visit www.abwa.org. 🌱

The Best of 2011 Ask the Audiologist Recap

By Lisa Bont

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

I've made a resolution for 2012. I want to commit to bigger and better community service. One of the ways I can reach out to you and the community is through this column. I have much to share with each and every one of you about hearing health, hearing aids and more. And please remember that this column is for you, and should you have a question about hearing health, just Ask the Audiologist!

I'd like to recap some of my Ask the Audiologist columns from the past year in *ThumbPrint News*. Copies of the newspaper carrying the full column are available at *ThumbPrint News* for \$2 per issue, mailed to your home. Call 810-794-2300 for information about receiving any back issues.

Do I see an Audiologist or an Audioprosthologist about my hearing issue?

Just remember, an Audiologist is a highly-educated and certified medical practitioner. Only an Audiologist is qualified to diagnose, treat, habilitate and rehabilitate someone who has a hearing loss.

The "Audioprosthologist" is a title that hearing aid dispensers, sellers, and specialists call themselves. They have a limited scope of practice whereas the Audiologist is uniquely qualified and trained to identify a wide variety of pathology and medical conditions of the hearing and balance systems.

Are those deep discounted prices I see advertised for real?

Your mother and father no doubt told you, "If it's too good to be true, then it probably isn't true!" I caution my patients that they do get what they pay for. Many such offers are for old technology, thus the reduced price. Consider that technology is changing rapidly and there is always an upgrade around the corner. And, manufacturers will not repair technology over 5 years old, or will repair it at an inflated price.

A more common practice is the "bait and switch" technique. Patients enticed in the door only to be told that the hearing aids they saw advertised will not be appropriate for their hearing loss and then a more expensive set will be offered. When you are ready to purchase a hearing aid, seek help from an Audiologist as they will look at your hearing issue from a medical standpoint.

What is the average cost of hearing aids?

The primary factor we take into consideration when you need a hearing aid is your lifestyle and daily activity levels. If an individual is highly active and in many various types of listening situations on a regular basis, then that individual would most likely benefit from a high-end or more expensive hearing aids. Others who lead quiet, more sedentary lifestyles would benefit from less expensive hearing aids.

The average cost is around \$1,500 for a basic digital hearing aid and upward to \$3,000 or more for a high-level digital hearing aid. Many programs are available to help you with financing. Your Audiologist can help direct you to these resources.

A patient once told me, "It's not the golden years, it's the rusty years!" As we all get older, our sensory systems weaken or fail. The auditory system goes through age-related changes and 30% of adults over 65 years of age have some degree of hearing loss. These types of hearing loss often impact our ability to understand speech especially when in difficult listening environments or situations. Yet many do not seek help for an average of 7 years after they initially notice their difficulty!

For those with hearing impairment, properly fitted and medically appropriate hearing aids, assistive devices for hearing the door bell, wireless alerts and devices to help the individual to hear alarms or the phone ringing will provide tremendous benefit. Just ASK THE AUDIOLOGIST! 🗣️

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Lisa Bont MA, CCC-A

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THE POOR HOUSE

Continued from Page 1

Later, it was moved to better farm land in Wales Township where it was noted for its outstanding cheese and hops production. That original use continued until 1962 when the building was converted to a county medical facility. After 30 years, it was closed down and the building was torn down in 1993. The County Parks and Recreation Department now owns the 327 acre location. There are newer buildings, one a farm implement museum, and a week long summer fair.

The same website shows similar institutions in Lapeer and Tuscola Counties. The former is now a medical facility, while the one in Caro is gone. Macomb County historians attempted unsuccessfully to save their buildings. All that remains at that location alongside the jail is a plaque that was dedicated last summer. According to a report in *The Macomb Daily*, a clergyman



The Tuscola County Poor House was located in Caro.



The Macomb County Poor Farm was located in Mt Clemens.

speaking at those ceremonies, apparently paraphrasing Scripture said, "The strength of society must be measured by how it treats the least of its members." He added that it appeared to him that Congress was neglecting that with its proposals to cut Medicaid and other social programs. The same news report described in some detail the so called "Pest House" with a dirt floor and no windows to confine those with infectious diseases.

The title poem, "Over the Hill to the Poor-House", was the work of Will Carleton from Lenawee County, Michigan. It describes the plight of an aging (70 year old) woman who had outlived a husband and then was being displaced in another man's home by a younger woman who "carried a heap of style." So the older woman's services were no longer required. In the poem she bemoans her final destination. Carleton was a nationally famous poet. Indeed, the Michigan Legislature in 1919 made his works required reading for students. The poem was made into a popular 1920 silent film and also inspired a song of the same name.

My interest in this subject dates back to my youth growing up in a county seat with a county home. I had seen a man who walked daily from there to the center of our village and asked my father his story. I was told that the man had killed another resident by pushing him out of a second story window. After serving his prison sentence, he had returned for these daily strolls. My research of newspaper archives informed me that he was a relative, first cousin of my grandfather, something that was not mentioned by my dad. Furthermore, the street on which I lived was named for his prominent family. Given the current interest in genealogy, these county farms, many of which had pauper cemeteries, should prove ripe for such research. Perhaps others will discover, as I did, a family skeleton. 🌱

Editor's note: The St. Clair County Poor Farm Cemetery is located on Lapeer Road and also on County Park Road.

It sits behind the Goodells County Park, behind the visitor center. The only way to access it is by going through the Park. It sits in a group of pine trees that you can see from the visitor center. It is enclosed with a log split rail fence. There are no headstones there. According to www.findagrave.com, the Goodells or Wales Center Poor Farm Cemetery lists the names and dates of 356 persons who are interred at this location, and could be a helpful resource for those who believe that their ancestors may be buried there.



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If long term weight loss is an ever-present and elusive goal for you, the HCG diet may be your answer. "With the HCG injection program, you can achieve your desired weight loss," said Dr. Bhanu Shah, M.D. "Daily injections burn one half to one pound a day with minimal discomfort or side effects."

Her practice focuses on women 35 and older, both pre and post-menopausal and offers OB/GYN services and anti-aging and rejuve-

nating medicine. HCG (Human Chronic Gonadotropin), produced from the placenta, is used in a variety of ways. Dr. Shah explained that on the HCG weight loss program, a person burns 3,000 to 5,000 calories a day, on average. It metabolizes fat and provides the energy required for daily activity. In addition, it suppresses appetite. "Patients Feel euphoric and under control with a limited amount of

calories consumed," said Dr. Shah. Patients follow a doctor-supervised, low calorie diet which Dr. Shah said becomes easy to follow so they are able to stay on the program for the full cycle. "If you ate 500 calories a day without HCG, you would lose weight and muscle mass. You would also lower your metabolic rate so much that you would gain the weight back as soon as you resumed your original diet. You could not maintain it for long," explained Dr.

Shah. "With HCG, you burn fat, not muscle. You won't feel hyper, jittery, or restless as with diet pills."

According to Dr. Shah, besides losing overall fat, HCG detoxes your system, lowers your blood pressure, reduces cholesterol and helps diabetes. HCG also tightens skin for less sagging after weight loss. For more information on the HCG diet, make an appointment with Dr. Shah.

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Over The Hill To The Poor-House

By Will Carleton

*Over the hill to the poor-house I'm trudging my weary way –
I, a woman of seventy, and only a trifle gray –
I, who am smart an' chipper, for all the years I've told,
As many another woman that's only half as old.*

*Over the hill to the poor-house – I can't quite make it clear!
Over the hill to the poor-house – it seems so horrid queer!
Many a step I've taken a-toilin' to and fro,
But this is a sort of journey I never thought to go.*

*What is the use of heapin' on me a pauper's shame?
Am I lazy or crazy? Am I blind or lame?
True, I am not so supple, nor yet so awful stout:
But charity ain't no favor, if one can live without.*

*I am willin' and anxious an' ready any day
To work for a decent livin', an' pay my honest way;
For I can earn my victuals, an' more too, I'll be bound,
If any body only is willin' to have me round.*

*Once I was young an' han'some – I was, upon my soul –
Once my cheeks was roses, my eyes as black as coal;
An I can't remember, in them days, of hearin' people say,
For any kind of reason, that I was in their way.*

*'Tain't no use of boastin', or talkin' over free,
But many a house an' home was open then to me
Many a han'some offer I had from likely men,
And nobody ever hinted that I was a burden then.*

*An when to John I was married, sure he was good and smart,
But he and all the neighbors would own I done my part;
For life was all before me, an' I was young an' strong,
And I worked the best that I could in tryin' to get along.*

*An so we worked together; and life was hard, but gay,
With now and then a baby for to cheer us on our way;
Till we had half a dozen, an' all growed clean an' neat,
An' went to school like other, an' had enough to eat.*

*So we worked for the child'r'n, and raised 'em every one;
Worked for 'em summer and winter, just as we ought to 've done;
Only perhaps we humored 'em, which some good folks condemn.
But every couple's child'r'n's a heap the best to them.*

*Strange how much we think of our blessed little ones! –
I'd have died for my daughters, I'd have died for my sons;
And God he made that rule of love; but when we're old and gray,
I've noticed it sometimes somehow fails to work the other way.*

*Strange, another thing: when our boys an' girls was grown,
An when, exceptin' Charley, they'd left us there alone;
When John he nearer an' nearer come, an' dearer seemed to be,
The Lord of Hosts he come one day an' took him away from me.*

*Still I was bound to struggle, an' never to cringe or fall –
Still I worked for Charley, for Charley was now my all;
And Charley was pretty good to me, with scarce a word or frown,
Till at last he went a-courtin', and brought a wife from town.*

*She was somewhat dressy, an' hadn't a pleasant smile –
She was quite conceity, and carried a heap o' style;
But if ever I tried to be friends, I did with her, I know;
But she was hard and proud, an' I couldn't make it go.*

*She had an edication, an' that was good for her;
But when she twitted me on mine, 'twas carryin' things too fur;
An' IL told her once, 'fore company (an' it almost made her sick),
That I never swallowed a grammar, or 'et 'rithmetic.*

*So 'twas only a few days before the thing was done –
They was a family of themselves, and I another one;
And a very little cottage one family will do,
But I never have seen a house that was big enough for two.*

*An' I never could speak to suit her, never could please her eye,
An' it made me independent, and then I didn't try;
But I was terribly staggered, an' felt it like a blow,
When Charley turned ag'in me, an' told me I could go.*

*I went to live with Susan, but Susan's house was small,
And she was always a-hintin' how snug it was for us all;
And what with her husband's sister, and what with child'r'n three,
'Twas easy to discover that there wasn't room for me.*

*An' then I went to Thomas, the oldest son I've got,
For Thomas's buildings'd cover the half of an acre lot;
But all the child'r'n was on me – I couldn't stand their sauce –
And Thomas said I needn't think I was comin' there to boss.*

*An' then I wrote to Rebecca, my girl who lives out West,
And to Isaac, not far from her – some twenty miles at best;
And one of em said 'twas too warm there for any one so old,
And t'other had an opinion the climate was too cold.*

*So they have shirked and slighted me, an' shifted me about –
So they have well-nigh soured me, an' wore my old heart out;
But still I've borne up pretty well, an' wasn't much put down,
Till Charley went to the poor-master, an' put me on the town.*

*Over the hill to the poor-house – my chil'r'n dear, good-by!
Many a night I've watched you when only God was nigh;
And God 'll judge between us; but I will al'ays pray
That you shall never suffer the half I do to-day.*

The following article about the Hillsdale County Poor House, the subject of the above poem, was copied in its entirety from the Hillsdale County website at <http://www.hillsdalecounty.info>.



One of the most historically significant houses in Hillsdale is a small cobblestone structure located on the outskirts of the city. The structure was built of uniform sized stones, laid in precise rows, gathered from the fields nearby. Isaac VanDenburg had employed a local stone mason to build the house in 1853. VanDenburg was not only a local tavern keeper and land owner but was also a member of the County Board of Commissioners. This group, after much discussion, voted to buy VanDenburg's farm and home in

order to house the aged or those infirm whose families no longer would care for them.

In 1854, the Greek Revival style home became the Hillsdale County Poor House. At first, only 15 "paupers" were housed here with a man and his wife to farm the acreage, maintain the house hold, and act as County Poor Farm Keepers. By 1867, with an addition extending to the back of the house, 35 were listed on the census as inmates.

The house would have remained in obscurity except for a young Hillsdale College student named Will Carleton. Carleton frequently walked about the countryside and often stopped at the Poor House. While there, he listened to the tales of sadness and woe told to him by the residents.

Graduating from college in 1869, Carleton first worked as a newspaper journalist in Hillsdale. He had been in the habit of writing poetry as a youngster. His first significant work published was "Betsy and I Are Out," a poignant tale of a divorce which was first published in the *Toledo Blade*, but then reprinted by *Harper's Weekly*. This poem was soon followed in 1872 by "Over the Hill to the Poor-House" developing the plight of the aged and those with indifferent families. This piece captured national attention and catapulted Carleton into literary prominence – a



Will Carleton



position he was to hold the rest of his life as he continued to write and to lecture from coast to coast.

The poem also awakened the nation's moral conscience to the problems of the aged. It was, perhaps, the impetus for Social Security. Even a movie based on the poem and entitled *Over the Hill*, produced by William Fox in 1922, was very popular at the time.

Because of Carleton's prolific writings (12 books of poetry) and the popular appeal of his works, Michigan conferred on him the honorary title of Poet Laureate. Carleton died in 1912 as one of the nation's respected and widely read writers and lecturers. The house and its inhabitants which prompted the poem "Over the Hill to the Poor-House" is now maintained as a museum by the Hillsdale County Historical Society. 🌱

ThumbPrint News Travels to North Carolina!

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

When we began inviting our readers to submit photos of where they have taken ThumbPrint News, we never expected such an overwhelming response! This month ThumbPrint News traveled within our own country to the state of North Carolina.

Gene and Bridget Kruger of Capac, Michigan, submitted the photo seen on the right. Thank you, Gene and Bridget!

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



It's That Taxing Time of Year Again!

By Cindy Redmann

Tax Consultant

I know people don't want to think about it. After all you just got through all the hustle and stress of Christmas, all the parties and relatives! You just made your New Year's resolutions, and I bet some of you have already broken them! So why stress out thinking about taxes? A little bit of planning could save a lot of headaches.

All those documents marked "Important Tax Information" start arriving in your mailbox in January. Do yourself a favor and get a large manila envelope for all of those tax documents. Also, include your medical bills, charitable contributions, and all other tax information. If you misplace some of them and forget to record it on your tax return, you could be in trouble. You are not the only one who got copies of these documents. The IRS has copies, too. If you keep this information in that manilla envelope, when you go to prepare your taxes in February or March, you will have most of your information in one place.

Let me tell you a little bit about myself. I've been preparing taxes for 20 years. I am registered with the IRS and I have my PTIN number. However, I work for my clients, not the IRS. This ensures that my clients get the largest legal tax refund available. I also fix past tax years' mistakes which can get you more money. I take at least 16 hours of Continuing Professional Education Credits (CPE's) in Federal and State tax instruction, including two hours of ethics, every year. I spend many, many more hours than that reading and researching tax issues to keep abreast of all of the tax law changes.

I will gladly answer any questions you may have. Please call Cindy at ABC TaxSlayers to schedule your appointment or just to ask me a question. Our phone number is (810) 794-5678.

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Clay Township

It's Not Gone!

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

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

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

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

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

NEVER

- put bleach into the system. Bleach kills the good bacteria.
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- put cigarette butts in the toilet. They can clog the orifices in the field.



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Happy New Year Word Search

S	E	I	B	A	B	N	E	W	Y	E	A	R	S	E	V	E	Y
G	C	H	A	M	P	A	G	N	E	T	Y	I	M	N	S	T	T
E	N	S	S	U	E	T	H	C	D	A	N	C	E	D	R	H	R
S	Q	I	N	F	E	T	O	O	D	M	U	A	Y	O	E	I	A
E	F	C	G	F	I	N	A	S	L	S	U	E	R	F	K	R	P
D	H	E	F	N	F	R	R	R	R	I	A	S	E	D	A	T	S
A	I	U	S	E	I	A	S	E	B	R	D	N	I	E	M	Y	K
R	B	B	T	T	E	S	M	T	I	E	S	A	F	C	E	F	R
A	M	T	A	Y	I	A	N	N	O	R	L	A	Y	E	S	I	O
P	I	S	W	L	E	V	R	O	E	F	T	E	E	M	I	R	W
N	D	E	A	R	L	E	I	N	I	H	J	V	C	B	O	S	E
D	N	E	T	R	V	O	N	T	E	T	E	A	S	E	N	T	R
A	I	S	W	I	A	A	O	R	I	N	A	S	N	R	O	H	I
Y	G	Y	E	O	B	I	T	N	T	E	I	R	R	U	K	C	F
O	H	W	I	N	E	I	T	S	S	K	S	I	O	H	A	T	S
N	T	Y	L	I	M	A	F	N	O	I	S	A	C	C	O	R	T
E	T	S	A	E	F	S	N	O	I	T	U	L	O	S	E	R	Y
S	R	E	Z	I	T	E	P	P	A	Y	F	R	I	E	N	D	S

Happy New Year!

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of a popular location for celebrating New Years Eve.

- APPETIZERS
- BABIES
- BALLOONS
- BANNERS
- BUFFET
- CELEBRATE
- CHAMPAGNE
- CONFETTI
- DANCE
- DAY ONE
- DECORATIONS
- END OF DECEMBER
- EVENTS
- FAMILY
- FATHER TIME
- FEAST
- FESTIVITIES
- FIREWORKS
- FIRST OF JANUARY
- FRIENDS

- HATS
- HOLIDAY
- HORNS
- KISS
- MIDNIGHT
- MUSIC
- NEW YEARS DAY
- NEW YEARS EVE
- NOISEMAKERS
- OCCASION
- PARADES
- PARTY
- PUNCH
- RESOLUTIONS
- SINGING
- STREAMERS
- THIRTY FIRST
- TIARAS
- WINE
- YEAR IN REVIEW

Word Search puzzle courtesy of:
Livewire Puzzles at <http://www.puzzles.ca>

January is National Soup Month

Soup's On!

By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

It's January and the winds are howling, snow is blowing, and it seems to be the perfect month for making some of those old-fashioned comfort foods that everybody loves. A great bowl of homemade soup seems to be one of those perfect meals for this time of year. Recipes for soups abound in books, on the Internet and on carefully written yellowed pieces of paper or note cards that have been handed down through the family. This month, we are printing just a sampling of some of the best that we have taste-tested that can be used as the main dish.

Slow Cooker Chicken Taco Soup

Ingredients:

- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 (16 ounce) can chili beans
- 1 (15 ounce) can black beans
- 1 (15 ounce) can whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 (8 ounce) can tomato sauce
- 1 (12 fluid ounce) can or bottle beer
- 2 (10 ounce) cans diced tomatoes with green chilies, undrained
- 1 (1.25 ounce) package taco seasoning
- 3 whole skinless, boneless chicken breasts
- shredded Cheddar cheese (optional)
- sour cream (optional)
- crushed tortilla chips (optional)



- salt to taste
- ground black pepper to taste

Directions

In a slow cooker, cook chuck roast until very tender (usually 4 to 5 hours on High, but can vary with different slow cookers). Add barley and bay leaf during the last hour of cooking. Remove meat, and chop into bite-size pieces. Discard bay leaf. Set beef, broth, and barley aside.

Heat oil in a large stock pot over medium-high heat. Sauté carrots, celery, onion, and frozen mixed vegetables until tender. Add water, beef bouillon cubes, sugar, ¼ teaspoon pepper, chopped stewed tomatoes, and beef/barley mixture. Bring to boil, reduce heat, and simmer 10 to 20 minutes. Season with additional salt and pepper to taste. Makes 10 servings.

Directions

Place the onion, chili beans, black beans, corn, tomato sauce, beer, and diced tomatoes in a slow cooker. Add taco seasoning, and stir to blend. Lay chicken breasts on top of the mixture, pressing down slightly until just covered by the other ingredients. Set slow cooker for low heat, cover, and cook for 5 hours.

Remove chicken breasts from the soup, and allow to cool long enough to be handled. Shred the chicken breasts, stir the shredded chicken back into the soup, and continue cooking for 2 hours. Serve topped with shredded Cheddar cheese, a dollop of sour cream, and crushed tortilla chips, if desired. Makes 8 servings.

World's Best Potato Soup

Ingredients

- 8 unpeeled potatoes, cubed
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 6 cubes chicken bouillon
- 1 pint half-and-half cream
- 1 pound bacon - cooked and crumbled
- 1 (10.75 ounce) can condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese



Directions

In a large stock pot combine potatoes, onions, celery, bouillon cubes and enough water to cover all ingredients. Bring to a boil and simmer on medium heat until potatoes are within 15 minutes of being finished.

Add half and half, bacon, cream of mushroom soup and stir until creamy. Add cheese and stir until completely melted. Simmer on low until potatoes are done. Makes 8 servings.

Beef Barley Vegetable Soup

Ingredients:

- 1 (3 pound) beef chuck roast
- ½ cup barley
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 3 carrots, chopped
- 3 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 (16 ounce) package frozen mixed vegetables
- 4 cups water
- 4 cubes beef bouillon cube
- 1 tablespoon white sugar
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 (28 ounce) can chopped stewed tomatoes



Steve Achatz says: **Lions won 9**, so no free soup this year! Don't shed a tear. Super Bowl challenge next year. Thank you Lions fans for your support!

January is National Soup Month!

Check out our weekly specials

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		Week 3	Buy ONE pint of soup get second pint 1/2 Off	
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ThumbPrint News Contest

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, email us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net and put "Contest" in the subject line. Be sure to include your name, phone number and full address. All persons submitting correct answers by the 15th of the month will be entered into a drawing for a gift basket valued at over \$100! On December 31, 2012 one winner will be drawn and the lucky person will be notified. In December's edition, we asked our readers to identify what the above object was. Ida Saltarelli of Armada, Michigan who correctly identified the object as being sugar cutters or nippers, will receive a \$25 gift certificate from Foxfire Farm in Clay Township.



Here are a few interesting facts about sugar nippers:

During the Victorian times, households would buy sugar in large cone-shaped loaves, or a lump could be broken off and sold by weight. However, in this form, it was hard to use in cooking and baking, unlike the granulated variety that is sold in grocery stores today. The invention of the sugar nippers solved the problem and they soon became basic household tools.

First, the large cone was cut into smaller chunks with a hammer and chisel. After that, the smaller chunks were put into the sugar nipper and the handle was depressed,

forcing the blades to cut the chunks into smaller pieces.

This was tedious work, producing lumps and crumbs that could be used in the kitchen. Sugar used for the dining room or for tea had to be clipped into neat cubes. The mistress of the house was often responsible for this job. If very fine sugar was called for in a recipe (such as the powdered sugar we can purchase today), the cook had to use a mortar and pestle, or a spice-mill to grind the sugar to the proper consistency. The whiter the sugar, the more elegant, desirable and expensive it was. In fact, refined sugar was often kept in locked boxes because it was such a prized commodity.

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



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What Happened On This Day In History?

By Diane L. Kodet
ThumbPrint News Editor

HAPPY NEW YEAR from THE THUMBPRINT NEWS!

January

1. On this day in 1622, the Papal Chancery adopted January 1 as beginning of the year (was March 25).

HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2012

2. On this day in 1776, the first revolutionary flag was displayed.



3. On this day in 1922, the first living person was identified on a U.S. coin (Thomas E. Kirby) on the Alabama Centennial half-dollar.



4. On this day in 1863, four-wheeled roller skates were patented by James Plimpton of New York.

5. On this day in 1709, sudden extreme cold killed thousands of Europeans.

6. On this day in 1930, the first diesel engine automobile trip (in a Packard sedan) was completed.

7. On this day in 1608, fire destroyed Jamestown, Virginia.

8. On this day in 1675, the first American commercial corporation was chartered (New York Fishing Company).



9. On this day in 1493, was the first sighting of manatees (by Christopher Columbus).

10. On this day in 1901, oil was discovered in Texas.



11. On this day in 1785, the Continental Congress convened in New York City.

12. On this day in 1773, the first U.S. public museum was established (Charlestown, South Carolina).



13. On this day in 1869, the Colored National Labor Union held the first black labor convention.

14. On this day in 1784, the Revolutionary War ended and Congress ratified the Treaty of Paris.

15. On this day in 1844, University of Notre Dame received its charter in Indiana.



16. On this day in 1879, January record of 13" of snow fell in New York City (broken again on January 7, 1996).



17. On this day in 1773, Captain James Cook became the first to cross the Antarctic Circle.

18. On this day in 1733, the first polar bear was exhibited in America (Boston).



19. On this day in 1952, the NFL took control of the New York Yanks.

20. On this day in 1778, the first American military court martial trial began in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

21. On this day in 1949, the first inaugural parade was televised (Harry Truman).



22. On this day in 1673, postal service between New York and Boston was inaugurated.

23. On this day in 1556, a most deadly earthquake killed 830,000 in Shensi Province, China.

24. On this day in 1861, the arsenal at Augusta, Georgia was seized by the Confederacy.

25. On this day in 1870, the soda fountain was patented by Gustavus Dows.

26. On this day in 1802, Congress passed an act calling for a U.S. Capitol library.



27. On this day in 1671, Pirate Henry Morgan landed at Panama City.

28. On this day in 1935, Iceland became the first country to legalize abortion.

29. On this day in 1845, Edgar Allen Poe's Raven was first published (in New York City).



30. On this day in 1790, the lifeboat was first tested at sea, by Mr. Greathead, the inventor.

31. On this day in 1992, sportscaster Howard Cosell retired.



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