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ThumbPrint News

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

AUGUST 2011



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The Dog Days of Summer Are Here

By Louise Allen
ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

We are in the midst of the “dog days of summer”, the hottest, muggiest time of the year in the Thumb of Michigan. Many folks head to the area’s plentiful beaches to cool off. Others search out a lawn chair in the shade of the largest tree in the yard. Ice cream trucks in some neighborhoods announce their arrival long before they can be seen with special music that is blared from speakers attached to their roofs. The cool treats they offer are one of summertime’s most treasured memories for young and old alike. Other people stay indoors, turning their air conditioners to the coolest setting to get some relief from the oppressive heat (and driving up their utility bill at the same time).

The “dog days of summer” generally include the dates from July 3 until August 11, according to *The Old Farmer’s Almanac*. Where, however, did the term “dog days” originate?

In ancient times, people in different part of the world looked up at the night sky, unobscured by artificial lights and smog, and saw images in the sky as they visually connected the stars together, just as a child today would manually connect the dots in a coloring book to complete a drawing. Depending on the culture, these ancient people would see images of objects,

See *DOG DAYS*, Page 16

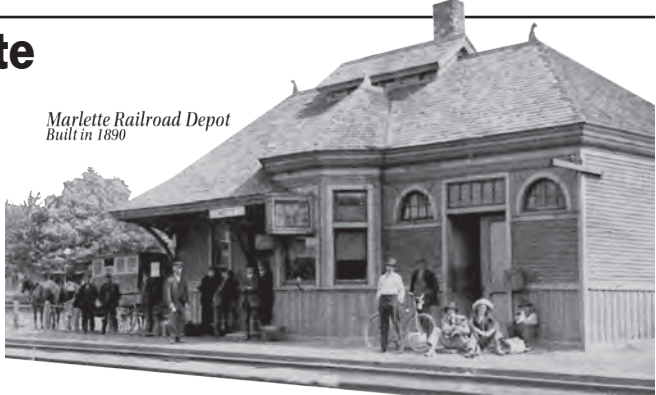
Spotlight on a Small Town – Marlette

By Ralph McKinch
ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

The City of Marlette has a land area of 1.6 square miles and lies within Marlette Township. Originally, Marlette Township was a part of Buel and Sanilac Townships. The first people to travel to this area, other than the Native Americans, were hunters and trappers. They were followed by lumbermen seeking land that was selling for only a few dollars an acre.

In the mid-19th century, settlers from Ontario, Canada came to the area now known as Marlette looking for valuable timber lands and fertile soil on which to farm. One of these families, the Marlatt’s, carved their name on a log shanty there. The family, consisting of two brothers, along with their mother, came to build a saw mill in the area. However, it was never completed and they returned to Canada. They still retain a place in Marlette’s history though, as when it came time to name the township in 1856, the county board of supervisors decided to choose “Marlette” after this non-resident family, following a committee petitioning the board to have a portion of Sanilac County set aside as a new township. Robert Stinson was the first person to purchase government land in what

See *Marlette*, Page 22



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

On July 30, 2011 family and friends will gather together to say their final good-byes to Gordon Keith Glaza and Louise Caroline (Nessen) Glaza at the Oaklawn Cemetery in Algonac, Michigan. The Glaza's will receive a 21-gun salute for both of their services in the military. Afterwards, a Celebration of Life service will honor the wonderful memories we all have of them. They are my mother and father.

I feel privileged to have had my mother and father live with my husband and myself for the past eight years. I am glad that my children and grandchildren were able to have them as part of their daily lives. I have so many memories of them both that will remain with me forever. Yes, I am sad that they are gone, but I am also at peace knowing that they are together once again. Their love transcended time and place and I am sure that they have found happiness in knowing that they will never be apart again.

My father and mother had been married for just short of 70 years when my father passed away in July of 2010. My mother managed to hang on for almost another year. She passed away in June of this year.

Seventy years is a long time to be married. It is an especially long time to remain in love. That is what my father and mother did, and it is something I hope they pass down to me in my marriage, in the current or future marriages of my children, and of my grandchildren, if marriage is in their future.

I am taking the liberty to share a letter my father wrote to my mother on April 9 of 1945. It was a personal letter, but my father gave it to me about a month before he passed away. Oh, he wasn't the kind to openly share things like that, but he did it in a subtle way, knowing that I would find

it and read it. I had asked him to let me go through his box of old photographs, so I could scan them and make sure everyone in the family who wanted copies could have them. In the box of old photos, slides and movies, were a bundle of letters – letters that were written back and forth between my mother and father for over a two year period when my parents were separated from each other while they were serving our country. I read each one and each became a story in itself – not only of the times and places where my parents were, but also of what was going on with our Nation.

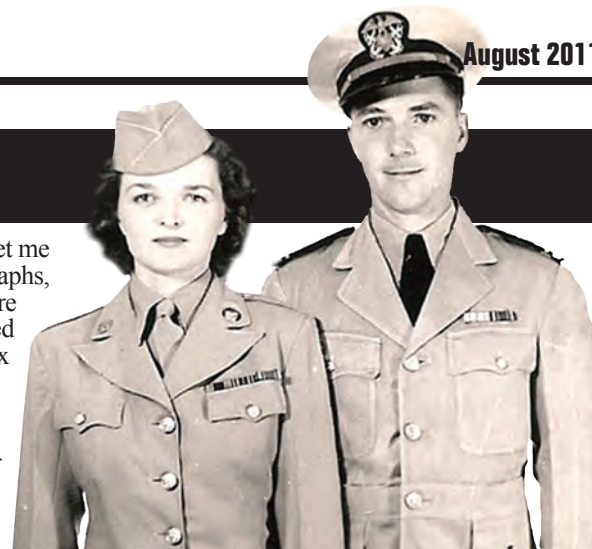
The letter was written by my father when both he and my mother were serving their country in World War II– my father in the Navy in Hawaii and my mother in the Army in the state of Washington. Not only was the turmoil of war taking its toll on the emotions of both, but also the great distance and length of time that was separating them as well. Yet, their love remained a bind that would get them through not only the war – but also through good times and rough times for almost seventy years. Here is the letter:

9 April 1945

My Darling Wife:

This evening I'm going to try to write a real letter. Time and again in the evening after a day when you have been in my thoughts constantly I have sat down to write to you but have found it impossible to express to you the things I would like you to know.

First and last I love you with all my heart and I will never cease to thank the kind and lucky providence that has made



you mine for all of our life together. I miss you terribly though darling.

When we were together we had so much and now I would be satisfied with such a little part of you – just a few minutes in the evening to talk over the events of the day, or just to hold your hand for a few moments and realize that you were near to me seems wonderful beyond all hope of ever attaining. When this is all over I never want to be away from you for one minute. I think I'll even take you to work with me and sit you on my desk so I'll be able to glance up every minute or two and see you there or reach out and touch your hand to make certain that you are near.

Better still I won't go to work at all but just spend my time with you alone. We'll hike through the woods, cook supper out over a campfire, go swimming and dancing and just sit by a fire out under the stars and dream.

Remember the nice hikes we took on that little old road up the banks of Tahquamenon Falls – the deer we saw, and how clean and fresh the whole world seems up there. Or remember the morning

See FROM THE EDITOR, Page 4

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Seventh Annual Toilet Paper Wedding Dress Contest Flushed with Talent!

By Susan Bain

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Cheap-Chic-Weddings.com announced the winner of their seventh annual Toilet Paper Wedding Dress Contest recently. Toilet paper dress entries were received and final judging took place in Boca Raton, Florida.

The Grand Prize Winner was Susan Brennan of Orchard Lake, Michigan, who entered a classically styled dress. She took home the \$1000 grand prize! Congratulations, Susan!

Susan's beautiful toilet paper gown creation was inspired by nature. She used flowers and feathers and balanced the dress with pleats on the bodice. She used four rolls of toilet paper, hot glue and packing tape.



Susan Brennan takes home the \$1000 grand prize!

Laura Gawne and partners Susan Bain and Roxie Radford, who operate the website on saving money on weddings, base the contest on the popular bridal shower game. Cheap-Chic-Weddings.com asked their readers to create wedding gowns using toilet paper, tape and/or glue. Entrants were allowed to sew as well.

"The top dresses this year showed incredible attention to detail," said Laura Gawne. Roxie Radford added, "We are always amazed at the level of talent of the contestants!"

Dresses were judged on creativity, originality, beauty and the use of toilet paper.

Photos from the contest and money saving ideas for planning your wedding can be found at www.cheap-chic-weddings.com/wedding-contest-2011.html. 🍀



FROM THE EDITOR

Continued from Page 2

we stood on the little old log bridge over the Black River after the mosquitoes had nearly eaten us up and we caught such nice trout right under the bridge. You were afraid to try to net that rainbow for me in the Sturgeon River because it was too large for the net – old Gus and his "snake-bite-preventative" – we had a lot of fun with him and he liked us too.

It was fun too the fall we took our trailer up into the north woods deer hunting. You ran around like a little red shirt with legs but you were quiet as a mouse. Remember how excited you were over that big doe you got so close to. Remember when you and E.J. and I were down in front of Spring-water beach and you were catching all the fish and poor E.J. wasn't even getting a bite. It was fun too duck hunting up by Cross Village even though it did get a little cold. You surely paddled that duck boat a long way that day.

All of the things we have done together have made you so much a part of my life that being away from you is really extremely difficult to take and still remain cheerful and do a good job.

I really hate to have you doing some of the types of work you must do where you are. Please always remain just as



you were when I left you because I love you so much just as you are.

Just stick it out Bunny knowing that I'll be coming back and then you can lean on me and I'll love looking after you from then on.

Do not worry about getting out of the service when I return because once I am back we'll get you out in a hurry and from then on we'll always be together.

Some way you seem awfully far away – actually you are – still I have so many memories locked away in my heart that by rationing them out little by little they'll last until I return. You do the same sweetheart and remember that I am really always close to you in thought, especially when you feel sort of sad and alone.

Love, Keith

I thank the readers of *ThumbPrint News* for allowing me to share something personal that is not in the traditional realm of a "Letter from the Editor." However, it is my final tribute to my parents. I will think of them often and enjoy the beautiful memories I have of them and I wish that everyone who reads their letter has the chance to share a lifetime of love with a mate, with family members or with a friend that is as powerful as the love which my parents shared. Rest in peace, Mom and Dad. I love you.

DIANE KODET

Editor, *ThumbPrint News*



On vacation with my mom and dad. I'm the wigglerworm my dad is holding still for the photo.

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Spend a lazy day with a good book in the great outdoors compliments of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Library of Michigan.

Back for a third summer, the DNR and the Library of Michigan are offering their Park & Read program at more than 400 participating libraries across the state.

While checking out a book, Park & Read allows library cardholders to "check-out" a one-day pass that waives the Recreation Passport entry fee into any Michigan state park or recreation area. This \$10 savings also provides a one-time, free access to more than 500 events taking place in state parks throughout the summer, and to make the day even more relaxing, some of the state parks are offering the loan of a hammock.

The St. Clair County Library System has been a part of the Park & Read program since its inception in 2009. This program allows library cardholders to have an inexpensive way to enjoy Michigan's natural beauty, spend time with family and friends, and exercise their mind and body. Passes are valid for seven days from checkout and can be used for one day at any one of Michigan's 98 state parks. Passes are valid for day use

only and available at all eleven library locations. The program runs through Oct. 1, 2011.

Call or visit your local branch of the St. Clair County Library System to check-out your pass or for more information on the program. 🍀

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By Keith Kodet

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

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 different 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.

August can often be one of the hottest times of the year. Thus this month we have some great questions about air conditioning.

Dear Greasy Thumb,

A few weeks ago I hit a buck (male deer) head on in a slow accident with my 1993 GMC Jimmy. I was fine and the deer ran away unharmed but his antlers broke the plastic grille. My air conditioning stopped working at the same time. Any suggestions?

Melting in Marysville

Dear Melting,

I'm glad to hear you both were okay, but you should have gotten the deer's insurance information because he damaged more than just the grille. He probably pierced a hole into the fragile aluminum air conditioning condenser that is located right behind the grille, and it let out the refrigerant. You'll have to replace the condenser and have the system recharged.

Dear Greasy Thumb,

My air conditioning doesn't seem to blow as cold as it did last year in my 2010 Cadillac Escalade. When I had it in for service they told me my cabin air filter needed replacement. I've never heard of such a thing and have had many cars over the years. Are they trying to scam me?

Confused in Commerce

Dear Confused,

No, it is not a scam. Only in the last few years, and more so on luxury models, have the manufacturers been installing filters for the heat and A/C system.

Although this is now one more item to maintain, it helps greatly with dust, pollen, and other contaminants, similar to a home forced air system. It's really quite a good idea, and I think it will become more common in the future.

Dear Greasy Thumb,

When I turn on the A/C in my Dodge truck water comes out of the bottom of the dashboard on the passenger side, even if it is not raining outside. The A/C blows cold but my carpet is getting soaked. Any ideas?

Soaked in Sterling Heights

Dear Soaked,

As air conditioners run, they condense the water in the air as a by-product. From the factory your Dodge would have a sort of plastic drip shield with a hose running outside the cab so water can drip onto the ground. Either the plastic is cracked, or the hose got disconnected or clogged. Each of these things is rather simple to fix, and then you will be safe to ride with sandals on again. 🍀



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St. Clair's Oakland Hotel



By Charles Homberg

St. Clair Historical Society

In the 1880s, the Oakland Hotel made St. Clair, Michigan a major tourist destination. Located on the St. Clair River at the southern end of the city, the Oakland was a luxury resort that appealed to the summer vacationer who might stay a week or a month, but also to the many "day-trippers" aboard the excursion boats who would disembark from the steamers to spend an afternoon at the Oakland.

The Oakland Hotel opened in 1881 with Governor Charles Crosswell heading the guest list. Over a thousand guests were registered by the hotel in its first six weeks. The owners of the hotel were Samuel Hopkins and his son, Mark Hopkins. They and Samuel's other two sons, William and Orrin, had recently inherited a fortune from Samuel's brother Mark Hopkins of San Francisco, one of the "Big Four" investors in the Central Pacific Railroad. With \$150,000 of their new found wealth they built the Oakland.

The hotel was one of the country's largest wooden structures. It was designed in the "Swiss style," which was popular at the time for summer resorts. A magnificent veranda of 465 feet in length and 12 feet in width overlooked the St. Clair River. On summer days, it provided space for sitting, reading, playing games or just watching the boats on the river. On warm evenings the hotel orchestra played and guests danced on the veranda. Another porch of 200 feet in length faced the street on the opposite

side of the hotel. Towers at each end of the building balanced the five-story center section. The lobby included a U.S. Post Office and a telegraph office. A reading room was just off the lobby. The main dining room, decorated in pink and gold, accommodated 150 guests. A smaller dining room, "the Ladies Ordinary," was next to it. Near the lobby men could frequent the billiards room and a barber shop. Men and women visited in the large parlor that stretched the width of the hotel. Many of the 115 guest rooms had marble fireplaces and an unusual amenity, closets. The hotel included many modern conveniences including two hydraulic elevators, steam heat and both gas and electric lighting. For longer stays, guests might rent one of three large cottages for \$250 for the summer season. The cottages did not have kitchens, so meals were taken in the hotel.

For entertainment, the 200-acre resort had many activities. These included various types of boating and fishing, horses for riding, tennis, bowling, golf, croquet and picnicking. It also was just a short stroll to enjoy the sights of downtown St. Clair. In the 1880s, the Cleveland Gatling Gun Battery regularly held their summer meetings at the Oakland, and the uniformed men held firing demonstrations of their Gatling guns on the front lawn.

See OAKLAND HOTEL, Page 25



Guests at the Oakland Hotel gather on the porch to enjoy the day.

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Friday, August 26

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Marine City Farmers Market Growing Strong in Third Season



Submitted by **Jacqueline Morren**
Marine City Chamber of Commerce

The Marine City Farmer's Market opened for a third season on Tuesday July 19th with nine new and seven returning vendors. New this season, the market is participating in Project Fresh and Senior Project Fresh and participation allows eligible customers to use these coupons as tender at the market. Also new, limited debit and credit purchases will be accepted at the market. "We are all very excited that the outdoor season has begun", commented Georgia Phelan, Marine City Chamber President, "after a successful indoor season and successful Berry Festival, we have a very strong following of dedicated customers."

New changes to this market season provide an improved venue. Vendor additions include Country Roots Produce Farm, Craver's Café, For the Love of June, Middle Earth Soaps, and others. "We are very proud of how hyper-local our market is and how committed our vendors are to providing fresh, quality products" remarked Jackie Morren, Market Manager, "Food from a market like ours is often healthier in that processing and preservatives are not necessary since the produce does not travel far. The food is safer and less likely to produce food born illness. Also, shoppers can meet the producers who grow and make the food, ask when it was picked, how it was grown, and ways to prepare it. Because shopping at the farmer's market supports the local economy, more money remains in our Marine City area community. Plus, even as the price of gasoline rises, no food-miles are tacked onto purchases. Last, but not least, fresh food just tastes better!"

Our goal is for the community to join their neighbors and enjoy the outdoors while shopping for our vast variety of locally grown and produced foods."

A proud member of the St. Clair County Food and Farm Trail, the market's mission is to provide a community venue where local farmers, producers, and artisans come together to provide a variety of local, fresh products directly to consumers. The market advocates healthy lifestyles, promotes entrepreneurship, and supports the local economy and its tourism efforts, by facilitating opportunities to recognize and promote the talents of local farmers and cottage artisans. Everyone at the market works together to maintain a friendly and clean market experience that enhances community ties and civic life. The aim is to provide a positive experience and a unique gathering place for the Marine City Community and surrounding areas. The market runs each Tuesday through October 11th, from 10 am until 4 pm, on Parker and High Streets, next to the Marine City Library.

Be part of the growing trend toward buying local and eating fresh by visiting the Marine City Farmer's Market. The market can be found on Localharvest.org and updates are always available on "The City of Marine City" Facebook page under "events." This Facebook page provides up-to-date information regarding market activities, as well as useful links to help you get the most from your farmer's market experience. For additional information, please contact (810)765-5165 or contact the Chamber office at (810)765-4501 or chamberoffice@marinecitychamber.net.

Top Ten Heirloom Tomatoes

By **Ralph McKinch**
ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

About this time every year, farm markets in the Thumb area are flooded with tomatoes of every shape, size, flavor and color. Some of these are labeled as being "heirloom tomatoes". What exactly does that mean?

First of all, all heirloom varieties of tomatoes are "open-pollinated" varieties, which means that a particular cultivar can be grown from seed and will come back "true to type." If the seeds of the particular variety of tomato are saved, processed properly, and stored well, next year, they can be planted and they will yield tomatoes that will look just like their parent.

Here the definition of "heirloom" gets a little cloudy, depending on with whom you are talking. "Commercial heirlooms" are open-pollinated varieties that were introduced before 1940, or tomato varieties more than 50 years in circulation. "Family heirlooms" are seeds that have been passed down for several generations through a family. "Created heirlooms" are made by crossing two known parents (either two heirlooms or an heirloom and a hybrid) and hybridizing the resulting seeds until the undesirable characteristics are eliminated and the desired characteristics are stabilized. (This can take as much as eight years or more.) Lastly, "mystery heirlooms" are varieties that are a product of natural cross-pollination of other heirloom varieties.

There are many organizations in the United States dedicated to preserving heirloom seeds, such as Seed Savers Exchange. Each year in Carmel, California, the nationally celebrated TomatoFest is held and the top ten heirloom tomatoes, according to taste and popularity are chosen.



In order to assist our readers in their selection of heirloom tomatoes from local farmers markets, we are presenting a chart on the next page of the top ten heirloom varieties of large to medium-sized tomatoes from 2010's TomatoFest that may be available in our area. If a particular variety cannot be located, the enthusiastic gardener may wish to order seeds this coming winter from one of the many heirloom tomato seed suppliers on-line and start seedlings of their own to plant out next spring.

Aficionados of heirloom tomatoes claim that they really do taste better than hybrid tomatoes, such as are most often available on your supermarket shelves. Hybrid tomatoes were bred for distance shipping, which includes such traits as having thicker skin. Some persons claim that this has been at the expense of flavor. Heirloom tomatoes have not been bio-engineered to withstand rough handling and shipping, so their skins tend to be thinner and their flesh more tender. Even if you can't find all of the top ten varieties listed on the next page, there are hundreds of heirloom varieties of tomatoes available at Thumb area farmers markets this summer. Often these tomatoes look "strange", are colored differently than those to which some people may be accustomed or may be odd in shape, but purchase a few and have your own "Tomato Taste Fest". You may just reach a new level of gastronomic delight!



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Chocolate Stripes	Very large tomato plants yield a plentiful crop of 3-4 inch, mahogany colored fruits with dark, olive green-striping and a delicious, complex, rich, sweet, earthy tomato flavor. Plants produce well into the autumn. This is a great sandwich and salad tomato.	
Italian Heirloom	Plants yield a load of 12-16 oz., beautiful, red, meaty, fat, slightly pear-shaped, tomatoes that have a rich, complex, sweet flavor that are well-balanced with good acidity. This tomato is a good choice for cooking, eating fresh or canning.	
Andrew Rahart's Jumbo Red	This New York late season heirloom beefsteak tomato has 12 to 16-ounce fruit with intensely red skin and dense flesh. This rich delicious juicy tomato has enough flavor to literally burst in your mouth. The tomato plant is of the indeterminate type.	
Dagma's Perfection	A vigorous and abundant producer of medium-sized slightly flattened, pale-yellow fruits with delicate, light red striping. The firm, juicy fruit is deliciously flavorful with hints of tropical fruit and subtle hints of lime.	
San Marzano Redorta	This tomato was named for a mountain, Pizzo Redorta, in Bergamo, Italy. This paste tomato is good enough to eat off the vine with the bonus of ending up with more tomato paste per plant than most paste tomatoes can offer.	
Sunset's Red Horizon	This outstanding heirloom tomato is a native to Southern Russia. Huge, red, 4 to 6-inch, meaty, heart-shaped fruits are borne from a big leafy plant with wispy vines. They are not only one of the first tomato varieties to produce, but produce fruit well into late fall.	
Paul Robeson	This "black" beefsteak tomato that originated in Russia is slightly flattened, round, and grows to 4-inches. Its deep, rich colors set it apart from others. Very flavorful fruits with luscious, earthy, exotic flavors have a good acid/sweet balance. It is an excellent choice for cooler growing regions.	
Homer Fike's Yellow Oxheart	This variety produces an abundant amount of distinctively beautiful, yellow-gold, heart-shaped, fruit up to 3 lb. in size. These huge fruits have meaty flesh, few seeds and a delicious fruit-sweet flavor. This one is sure to please the most discerning of palates.	
Giant Belgium	This variety was developed in Ohio and is known mostly for its size and delicious flavor. Dark pink fruit averages 2-lbs., but can get as large as 5-lbs. The fruit is meaty with few seeds and is great for cooking and canning.	
Amana Orange	This huge heirloom beefsteak tomato produces big, regular leaf plants that produce above average amounts of beautiful light-orange, irregular shaped fruits that can grow to 2-lbs. or more, with an average diameter of 5 inches. They have an excellent sweet, almost tropical fruit flavor.	

Best Ever Tomato Recipes

Gathered by Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Tomato, Cucumber and Sweet Onion Salad with Cumin Salt



Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon cumin seeds
- 1½ tablespoons coarse sea salt
- 2¼ pounds tomatoes, cored and sliced ¼ inch thick
- 1 pound cucumbers, peeled and sliced ⅛ inch thick
- 1 large sweet onion, thinly sliced
- ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

Directions:

In a skillet, toast the cumin seeds over moderately high heat until fragrant, 30 seconds; transfer to a mortar and let cool. Add the salt and grind to a coarse powder.

In a large bowl, toss the tomatoes, cucumbers, onion, oil and lemon juice. Sprinkle 2 teaspoons of the cumin salt over the salad and toss. Serve the salad on a platter.

Hint: If you use different colors of tomatoes, the salad will be especially colorful.

Fresh Tomato Bloody Marys

Ingredients:

Garnish

- 2 small celery ribs, minced
- 2 tablespoons minced onion
- 1 medium green heirloom tomato, such as a Green Zebra, minced
- ½ teaspoon finely grated lemon zest
- 1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice
- Salt



Bloody Mary

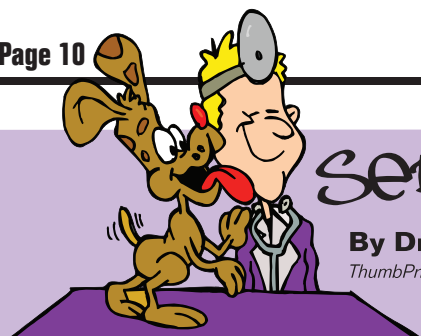
- 1½ pounds chilled red tomatoes, coarsely chopped
- ½ cup chilled vodka
- 1 cup ice cubes
- 1 teaspoon tomato paste
- ½ small red chile, seeded and coarsely chopped
- ½ teaspoon celery salt
- 4 medium celery ribs and 4 thin green chiles (optional), for serving

Directions:

Prepare the garnish first. In a bowl, toss the celery with the onion, tomato, lemon zest and juice and season with salt. Refrigerate while you make the drinks.

Make the Bloody Marys. In a blender, puree the tomatoes, vodka, ice, tomato paste, chile and celery salt; pour into glasses. Spoon the garnish on top, add a celery rib and chile to each glass and serve.

Hint: For a non-alcoholic drink, leave out the vodka



SEPARATION ANXIETY IN DOGS

By **Dr. DiBenedetto**
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Does your dog get really worked up and anxious when you are preparing to leave the house? Does he engage in inappropriate behavior only when you are separated? Does she follow you everywhere you go and immediately become distressed when you are out of sight? If so, your dog may have separation anxiety.

Dogs by nature are social animals. If given the choice they would spend all of their time with you. However, this can create a dependency on you that over time could lead to unwanted behaviors. It is estimated that nearly 10% of all dogs will suffer from some degree of separation anxiety. We may not always be able to determine the inciting cause of the anxiety. There appears to be many triggers, like changes in a family's schedule such as going back to work after being off for an extended period of time, a new baby or a child leaving home for college, a traumatic event that has occurred when your dog was alone (i.e. thunderstorms), the death of a family member or another pet in the house. A dog adopted from a shelter may have

had some previous bad experience or may not have been socialized properly at a young age. Moving to a new home can also be very upsetting to dogs as they are creatures of habit.

Separation anxiety can manifest itself in many ways. Some dogs will not leave your side when they anticipate you're getting ready to leave. They may also pace, whine, salivate, bark, vomit or refuse to eat. During your absence, your dog may engage in destructive behavior, often directed at the exits (windows and doors) or clothing or other items that have your scent. An otherwise house-trained dog may eliminate inappropriately. In severe cases, the dog may have a panic attack and hurt itself by breaking through windows or attempting to get out of a crate. All of this behavior generally occurs within the first fifteen minutes that you are gone. Regardless of what symptoms you are seeing, you should seek help for your dog as soon as possible. Your veterinarian can rule out any medical conditions that may be causing the anxiety and help to differentiate between training issues and true separation anxiety. They can also assist in determining the severity of the problem and whether you may need to seek help from a behavioral specialist.

Treating separation anxiety is not an

easy process. Depending on how long the behavior has been present it can take several months or more. The primary treatment is behavioral modification or retraining. Medication alone will not resolve separation anxiety. It can be helpful in decreasing anxiety in the initial stages of a behavioral modification program. Anti-depressant and anti-anxiety medications are the most commonly used. Pheromone therapy can also be useful for diminishing anxiety both while you are home and when you are away. The dog appeasing pheromone can be released continuously through a diffuser to help relax your dog when you are away. Treating these dogs requires a lot of patience and understanding. Disciplining an already anxious dog for the destructive behavior when you return home actually reinforces the anxiety. In next month's article I will discuss in more detail a behavioral modification program and tips on preventing separation anxiety from ever happening. 🐾

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) 586-2622 for other pet related questions.

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Melanie Duquesnel

Is Retirement in Your Future?

Having an alternate plan for retirement is becoming the norm today. With the changes in retirement rules and the fact that employees are cutting back on what they contribute to an employee's retirement, consumers now realize they must take more personal responsibility for their retirement finances. In this economy, how do you go about making sure you will have the finances needed for a secure retirement?

According to the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), fewer than half of all Americans have calculated how much they will need to save for retirement. While it's important to plan, it's also important to set realistic, achievable goals. Know your options and ask questions. Set aside time to talk with your employer about retirement plans. Your employer may offer benefits like 401(k) plans which allow for an immediate tax deduction growth on your savings.

"While earlier generations of retirees relied on employer provided pensions, today's workers will need to rely on their

own work-related and personal savings for retirement," said Melanie Duquesnel, President and CEO of the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. "That's why it's extremely important to have an alternate plan and save as much as possible."

BBB and USDOL recommend that consumers consider the following to ensure a more financially comfortable retirement:

- A penny earned is a penny saved. Start saving now and continue to stick to your savings goal. It's never too late to start saving. Make a budget and use it! Saving can be fun if you think big and realize how much it will pay off when the time comes to retire.
- Be realistic about your retirement needs. According to the USDOL, experts estimate that you will need about 70 percent of your preretirement income – lower earners, 90 percent or more – to maintain your standard of living when you stop working. The average retiree is in retirement for 20 years of their life. Plan ahead and familiarize yourself with how much you will need after factoring in Social Security and other sources of retirement income.

- Take advantage of your employer's retirement savings plans. While more and more companies are becoming less generous with retirement benefits, some still allow you to contribute to a 401(k) plan. If it's offered, participate. There may even be a chance that your employer matches a percentage of your contribution. If your employer doesn't offer a plan, consider investing in a traditional IRA or Roth IRA. You can put up to \$5,000 a year into an Individual Retirement Account (IRA); you can also contribute even more if you are 50 or older.
- Don't stir the pot. Avoid touching your retirement savings if at all possible. If you withdraw your retirement savings now, you'll lose principal and interest and you may lose tax benefits or have to pay withdrawal penalties. If you change jobs, leave your savings invested in your current retirement plan, or roll them over to an IRA or to your new employer's plan.

For more financial tips you can trust, visit <http://easternmichigan.bbb.org/bbb-news/>.

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.

A Big Thumbs Up to BILL'S BARBER SHOP

On Saturday, July 9, Bill's Barber Shop in Marine City dedicated six hours of haircutting to charity. During that six hours, they raised more than \$400 for the Old Newsboy's Children's Christmas Drive. All of the proceeds from the haircuts, and even the tips, were donated to this charity. During their Christmas in July event, they even had Santa available for photos! Hopefully Santa didn't ask for a shave!

Bill's Barber Shop is located at 135 S. Parker Road in Marine City. They are open Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. They are closed on Sunday and Monday.



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Noon to dusk **After Glow Car Show and Sock Hop**
 4:00-8:00 pm County Store – in Parish Center
 12:00-8:00 pm 50/50 Raffle
 4:00-10:00 pm Silent Auction – in Tent
 12:00-10:00 pm Food Concession – in Tent
 2:00-10:00 pm Beer & Wine sales – in Tent
 6:00-10:00 pm Music by **Moose & Da Sharks** (Oldies)
 5:00-7:30 pm Steak Out – in Tent
 (Steak, Baked Potato, Salad & Choice of Beer, Pop, or Wine. \$15 Pre-sale or \$20 at the door)
 7:30 pm Euchre Tournament – in Tent

12:30-1:30 pm
 1:30-2:30 pm
 3:00-4:00 pm
 4:00-5:00 pm

Minute to Win It – Dance Floor
Magic Show by Joe Kozlowski the Magician
Bev's Dance Studio Dance performance
The Blues Brothers Tribute Dance performance

12:00-8:00 pm
 2:00-3:00 pm

Beer & Wine sales – in Tent
The Blues Brothers Tribute
 Tim & Ray sing & act the famous tunes
 Bingo – in Gym

4:30-7:00 pm
 (Penne pasta, Marinara sauce OR meat sauce w/ Italian sausage; Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert & Beverage. \$5 children under 12, \$7 seniors, \$8 adults)

Tim & Ray sing & act the famous tunes
Pasta Dinner – in Parish Center
Ray Battani Trio – in Parish Center
 Bingo – in Gym

1:00-6:00 pm
 12:00-6:00 pm

Delicious Chicken Dinner – in Parish Center
 (Flame-Broiled Rotisserie Chicken, Corn on the Cob, Baked Potato, Cole Slaw, Dinner Roll, Dessert & Beverage. \$5 children under 12, \$8 seniors, \$9 adults)

1:00-4:00 pm

4:00-8:00 pm Music by **The Millionaires** (Swing, Jump Blues, Jazz) – in Tent
 8:00 pm RAFFLE DRAWING

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27TH

Festival Opens at Noon

12:00-8:00 pm Children's Games, Crafts – in Tent
 12:00-8:00 pm Teen Scene – in Tent
 12:00-8:00 pm County Store – in Parish Center
 12:00-8:00 pm Face Painting by Chantell
 12:00-8:00 pm 50/50 Raffles
 12:00-10:00 pm Silent Auction – in Tent
 12:00-10:00 pm Food Concession – in Tent
 12:00-10:00 pm Beer & Wine sales – in Tent
 1:00-4:00 pm Bingo – in Gym

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28TH

Festival Opens at Noon

12:00-7:00 pm Children's Games, Crafts – in Tent
 12:00-8:00 pm Teen Scene – in Tent
 12:00-8:00 pm County Store – in Parish Center
 12:00-6:00 pm Face Painting by Chantell
 12:00-6:00 pm 50/50 Raffles
 12:00-6:00 pm Silent Auction – in Tent
 12:00-6:00 pm Food Concession – in Tent
 (Bidding closes at 6:00 pm. Items must be picked up from 6:00-8:00 pm)

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RATIONING GIVES YOU YOUR FAIR SHARE

“Stop your whining; it could be worse.” How many times have we heard that from those in previous generations and thought nothing of it? After all, that’s the kind of advice our elders are supposed to offer, isn’t it?

Well, sometimes they’re right. As an example, the month of August probably has greater significance in that respect, especially for those who are in their mid-70s or older.

It was during August, 1945 when the U.S. government lifted the 3-year old ban on the consumption of certain “essential” products such as meat, butter, sugar and gasoline. It would take another year before most Americans were able to resume a normal life of purchasing these and many other products. For those who may not understand what this means, ask your parents, grandparents or possibly even your great-grandparents. Mention the word “rationing” and wait for the response.

Grandma will tell you about how shortly after the beginning of World War II the nation’s economy shifted to war-related production. A substantial number of consumer goods that were normally easy to acquire took a back seat to the military’s requirements. The war affected every American citizen in one or more ways.

The public had become angry about the shortages of many products and believed

It Could Be Worse!

By David Gillis
ThumbPrint News Columnist

that only the wealthy were being allowed to purchase them. The federal government, knowing there was a need to control supply and demand, responded in May, 1942 by implementing a national rationing program. Restricting the purchase of food and other goods would have a dramatic affect on the American way of life for most.

During this difficult period in America’s history, every family, depending on size, was issued a “Ration Book,” which contained a certain number of “stamps.” Ration stamps were treated like a form of currency. Each stamp authorized the purchase of rationed goods in the quantity and within a specific time designated. Each book guaranteed a family its fair share of goods that were made scarce by the war.

Sugar rationing took effect in May, 1943, shortly after my entry into the world. “Sugar Buying Cards” were issued after the family registered for them, normally at the local school. Coupons were distributed based on family size, and the coupon book allowed the holder to buy a specified amount. Possession of a coupon book did not, however, guarantee that sugar would be available as many Americans discovered. My mother stills tells a story about how I poured a one-pound bag of sugar into her mop pale thinking it was soap. I wonder what my father sweetened his cereal with for the remainder of the month.

Red ration stamps were issued to cover

the purchase of all meats, butter, fat, and oils, and cheese. Blue ration stamps were provided for processed foods such as soup, baby food and ketchup. They could also be used for canned fruits and vegetables,

bottled juices and dry beans. Each person was allowed a certain amount of points weekly with specific expiration dates for their use.

Rubber and gasoline were two of the first non-food commodities that were rationed by mandatory controls that limited their purchase. This, of course, had a dramatic affect on the use of automobiles.

Drivers who used their automobiles as transportation to and from work that were deemed essential to the war effort were classified differently and received additional stamps. These drivers were divided into five classifications.

Class “A” drivers were those using their cars for nonessential purposes and were allotted only three gallons of gasoline weekly. Factory workers and traveling salesmen were classified as “B,” which allowed them eight gallons of gas per week. Class “C” drivers were essential war workers, police officers, doctors and letter carriers. Class “T” included truck drivers and class “X” was reserved for politicians and others identified as “important.” The last three classifications of drivers were not subject to restrictions.

In addition to food and gasoline, rationing affected the purchase of clothing, shoes, coffee, tires, and fuel oil used for heating. Each ration coupon book had specifications and deadlines. Rationing locations were

posted in public view. If you were lucky enough to own a car and fall into one of the lettered classifications, you were additionally restricted to driving at 35 mph.

As with many other difficult periods of time, Americans adjusted. Many families planted “Victory Gardens” to supplement their need for food. Distilleries converted their production to industrial alcohol leaving many liquor store shelves empty. There were no new automobiles produced between January 1942 and July 1945 because manufacturers were building military vehicles. Almost one-third of all cigarettes made were designated for military personnel only. By war’s end, the purchase of practically every commodity was restricted except for eggs and dairy foods.

There’s more to this story, so much more. But space will not allow it to be told here. You’ll have to ask grandpa. And, oh, don’t be too surprised if he says, “Stop your whining; it could be worse.”



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Senior Moments

Hot Weather Help for Older Adults

By Stephen Novak

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

When the heat is on it's time for everyone to take extra precautions to avoid heat related illnesses and even death. Each year approximately 200 people die of heat related issues. Now is a critical time for preventing heat related health issues in older adults. Numerous studies have proven that hot weather is more likely to affect older adults, age 50 and above, than younger ones.

As we age physical changes take place and older adults lose the ability to cool down whereas younger ones have the ability to cool themselves faster. These physical changes in older adults sometimes do not allow them to even feel the heat when temperatures rise to dangerous levels. Seniors are also less likely to hydrate themselves as they do not feel thirsty at times due to the same reason.

Some seniors do not feel they are thirsty or over heated. This dangerous situation can result in significantly high levels of dehydration as their bodies have lost measurable amounts of water. Major diseases such as heart disease, diabetes and others common with seniors increase the likelihood that they will have problems when the weather is hot and humid. Some medications, along with excessive heat, can make a volatile combination that shouldn't be ignored. Consult the prescribing physician and get your questions answered.

Heat related health problems in seniors can result when the outside temperature is only in the low 90 degree range. Those caring for an older adult should always check the temperature and monitor it and their loved one closely.

Here are some basic guidelines to prevent heat related illnesses:

- Move the individual to an air conditioned room and make sure that the thermostat is set cool enough. Also make sure the unit is in good reliable working order. Fans are not enough as all they do is recirculate hot air.
- If there is no air conditioning available,



perhaps taking the senior on frequent trips to your local air conditioned shopping mall or grocery store are in order.

- No senior should ever attempt to walk even short distances during severe temperatures.
- A senior should always drink plenty of water or other clear liquid nutritional supplements. *Tip: If the senior's urine is light in color, he or she is properly hydrated. If it is a darker yellow, more hydration is required.*
- A senior should avoid caffeine and alcohol as these will dehydrate his or her body.
- Frequent cool showers, baths or sponge baths should be taken by the senior.
- A senior should always wear light colored clothing that is loose fitting and preferably cotton as it can breathe.
- If going outdoors is a must, be sure the senior wears a hat with a brim to cover the face and ears.

The best advice of all during extremely hot weather is to have the senior stay indoors in the comfort of air conditioning.

Visiting Angels, Senior Homecare By Angels can provide the extra care that may be necessary during these hot summer months. Visiting Angels provides in-home care for seniors across St. Clair and Macomb Counties with offices in St. Clair and Sterling Heights. Contact the agency in your community today. You can call 810-3ANGELS (326-4357) or visit their website www.VisitingAngels.com to setup a free consultation. 🌱

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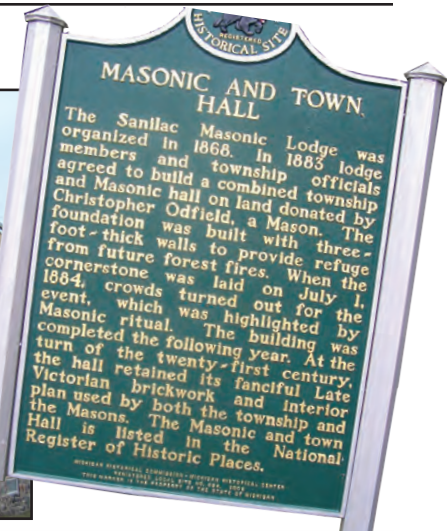
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Poetry Corner

Cycles of Life

By Terese Chopp



*I am your baby,
Please touch me!
Not just when you feed me and diaper me,
But stroke my legs, my arms, my back, my head,
Hold me close in tenderness that says...
I love you!*

*I am your teenager,
Please touch me!
Let me feel understanding come through your hands
I need to see it in your eyes,
Hear it in your voice –
Even when we disagree.
Some of me is still a child –
Please touch me!*

*I am an adult with a family of my own.
Please put your arms around me,
Mother, Father, when my heart aches
With heartaches you have known.
Now that I am a parent
I see you differently and love you more.
When you embrace your grandchildren,
Don't forget me!*

*I am your aging parent,
Please touch me!
The way my mother did when I was young.
My hair is course now and gray now,
But please stroke it.
My hand is shaky and withered now, but hold it.
Embrace my tired body,
I need and long for your strength...
Please touch me!*

Editor's Note: Terese Chopp, formerly from Marine City, Michigan, enjoyed writing and creating poetry. Her husband, James Chopp submitted this to ThumbPrint News posthumously. If you enjoy writing poetry or know someone who does, we are looking for original poems to be considered for publication in ThumbPrint News. Please email your submissions to thumbprintnews@comcast.net.

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Dec. 10, at 5pm, **Mannheim Steamroller** - Main Floor Seating, Dinner at Voyageur in St. Clair
Mar. 4, at 10am, **South Pacific** - Main Floor Seating, Lunch at Sinbad's in Detroit

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August 21st vs Indians (Sun@11am)

August 19th vs Indians (Fri@5pm)

September 4th vs White Sox (Sun@11am)

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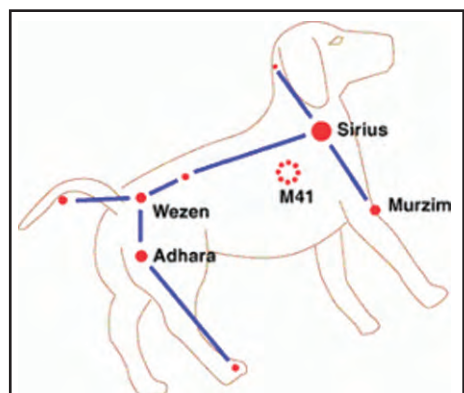
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DOG DAYS

Continued from Page 1

people, bears, a bull and other animals.

Two of these constellations appeared to be dogs to some and were named Canis Major and Canis Minor. The brightest of the stars in Canis Major (the big dog) is Sirius, which is also the brightest star in the night sky. Because of its extreme brightness, the ancient Romans thought that the earth received heat from it. In the summer, Sirius rises and sets with sun. During late July, Sirius, the “dog star,” is in conjunction with the sun and it was believed that its heat added to the heat of the sun, creating a 40 day period of hot and sultry weather that they named “dog days” after the dog star. The Romans would sacrifice a brown dog at the beginning of “dog days” to appease the rage of Sirius, which they thought caused the hot weather. (Today we know that the heat has nothing to do with the dog star, but is a direct result of the earth’s tilt.)



In 1813, according to Brady’s *Clavis Calendarium*, “dog days” were said to be an evil time “when seas boiled, wine turned sour, . . . dogs grew mad, and all creatures became languid, causing to man burning fevers, hysterics, and phrensies.” In the prologue of *Tuck Everlasting* it says, “These are strange and breathless days, the dog days, when people are led to do things they are sure to be sorry for after.”

In the United States today the “dog days of summer” have taken on an additional meaning in reference to the American stock market, as summer is typically a very slow time for the stock market and poorly performing stocks with little future potential are frequently known as “dogs.”

Because extreme heat and humidity can cause great discomfort for human beings, let’s look at some old and new ways of “keeping cool” minus the obvious use of an air conditioner. Perhaps by using a few of these techniques, the moods of people can be improved throughout the remaining few weeks of the dog days of summer.

Here are some ideas to try:

- Wear loose, lightweight cotton or linen clothing.

- Wear light colors, which reflect the heat, rather than dark colors, which absorb the heat.
 - Chill your pulse points, temples and face every hour by splashing some cold water on them.
 - Graze (eat small meals) rather than consuming a large meal all at once.
 - Fill a standard hot water bottle with ice water and use it to cool your ankles and back of your knees.
 - Bag your sheets and toss them into a freezer for an hour or two before bedtime.
 - Put a bowl of ice in front of a fan.
 - Keep a towel in the freezer and take it out and drape around the back of your neck for a quick cool down.
 - Fill a spray bottle with ice water and mist yourself occasionally.
 - Some say that a little lemon juice in ice water cools you down better than ice water alone.
 - Soak a t-shirt or hat in water and immediately put it on.
 - Soak your feet in a bucket of cold water.
 - Go to the lowest level of your house or building, as hot air rises and cool air falls.
 - Close your blinds or curtains during the day.
 - Avoid caffeine and alcohol as these will promote dehydration.
 - Avoid use of electrical heat sources, such as lamps, stoves, computers and TVs on really hot days.
 - Minty or menthol body care products, such as lotions and soaps, have cooling effects on the body.
 - Eat spicy food which increases perspiration but actually cools the body down as it evaporates.
 - Freeze a bag of chopped fruit, such as watermelon or pineapple, for a refreshing treat.
- If all else fails, go to the mall, library, church, movie theater or some other air-conditioned public building. 🌿



Finally, now that you are nice and cool – try doing our special “dog days of summer” word-find below!

Wordsearch Dog Days of Summer

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

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| AUGUST | ICECUBE | POOL | SNOWCONE | TEMPERATURE |
| BEACH | LAWCHAIR | POPSICLE | SPRINKLER | TOWEL |
| COOLER | LAZY | SHADE | SUMMERTIME | VACATION |
| FLOAT | PERSPIRATION | SIRIUS | SUNDAE | |
| HUMIDITY | PICNIC | SIZZLING | SWIMMING | |



Local residents cool off at the Clay Township Park during the “dog days” of summer.

ASK THE AUDIOLOGIST

By Lisa Bont

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

If you've ever had a comprehensive hearing test then you know that a portion of the testing consists of speech testing. In particular, I am referring to the portion where the patient is asked to repeat the last word they hear. They are usually given a phrase like "say the word _____" and are expected to say that very last word. Sometimes this testing will be done in quiet and sometimes it will be done with competing noise in the background. As a rule of thumb, this helps us to understand if the patient can put meaning to sounds they are hearing. This is particularly helpful in diagnosing the function of the auditory nerve and its ability to send a clear signal to the brain for interpretation, but can also serve as a means to help to determine how well a patient may do with hearing aids, as well. This is commonly called word recognition or speech recognition.

Some individuals will suffer a particular degree of hearing loss and maintain excellent word recognition, while others with the same degree of loss will display poor word recognition. If there is a difference in word recognition between ears then this is a sign to the audiologist to

refer to the Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) specialist. Some of the time it warrants a work up by the ENT and other times it may be nothing other than an impaired system that no longer functions as well as it should.

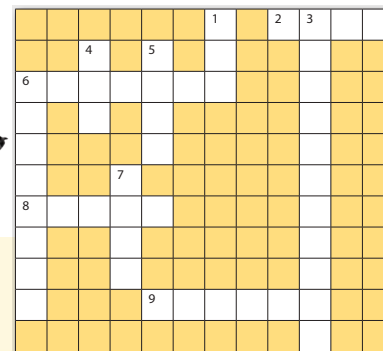
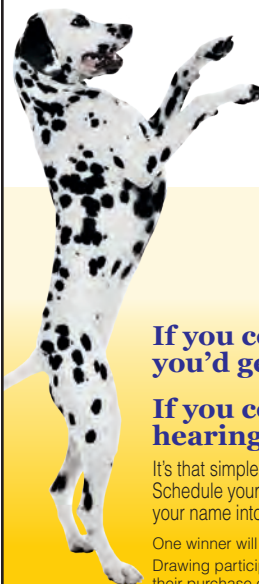
There are times when we discuss auditory processing delays as well. This is a disorder in the functioning of our central auditory structures, characterized by an impaired ability of the central nervous system to manipulate and use acoustic signals, such as difficulty understanding speech in noise and localizing to sounds. This difficulty commonly arises as we age. However, a recent study of listening skills and blindness revealed that this might not be so. Ultimately they determined that older people have the ability to improve their listening skills with intentional, motivated and dedicated practice!

In particular, those that listened to books on tape and other recorded materials with rapid speech on a regular and daily basis improved their listening skills and word recognition. If we simplify and think of our brain as a muscle then we simply need to exercise it more. The old saying, "If we don't use it we'll lose it!" applies. 🐾

Pet ownership proves to be a rewarding experience for those **over 60.**

5 reasons to consider owning a pet...

- 1. Feel appreciated.** There's nothing like being greeted with a warm welcome, whether it be a wagging tail or a gentle purr.
- 2. Get healthy.** Senior pet owners statistically require fewer doctor visits. Pet ownership has also been linked with lowering blood pressure.
- 3. Stay active.** Owning a pet often requires an increased level of physical activity. Going for walk in the park is not only great for pets, but also their owners.
- 4. Feel comforted.** Pets can be therapeutic, offering companionship and comfort during good and trying times.
- 5. Be fulfilled.** Providing care for a pet is a great way to feel fulfilled and content in life...and your pet will surely appreciate it too!



Crossword Fun!

ACROSS

2. A walk in the ____.
6. Main function of the ears
8. A reward for your pet
9. Another word for noises

DOWN

1. A man's best friend
3. An educated and trained hearing professional
4. A pet with nine lives
5. A swimming pet
6. A pet that might run on a spinning wheel
7. A cat's plaything.

If you couldn't read this, you'd get glasses.

If you couldn't hear this, you'd get a hearing aid.

It's that simple.

Schedule your appointment today. If you have a hearing loss, we'll enter your name into a drawing to win a **FREE set of hearing instruments!**

One winner will be chosen at the end of July.

Drawing participants who do not win will be offered a special incentive toward their purchase of new hearing instruments.



Why choose an Audiologist?

Audiologists hold a Masters or Doctoral degree from a university with an accredited Audiology program. They are educated and trained to prevent, identify and assess hearing disorders, as well as to provide treatment plans including hearing aids and other assistive listening devices. More than any other hearing care professional, Audiologists understand how the degree of your hearing loss affects your communication with others and your quality of life.

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"This whole experience was wonderful and it changed my life!" - Jeff W.

"I couldn't be any happier with my hearing aids, fit or service." - Ron B.

"I cannot imagine a more thorough and professional consultation! Now I want everyone to hear what I hear!" - Gayle S.

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Our provider, Lisa Bont, is a Certified Clinical Audiologist with a post-graduate Masters Degree in Audiology from Western Michigan University. She has over twenty-one years experience in the field and truly enjoys her profession. She finds great satisfaction in helping others improve their lives by providing patient focused hearing solutions. Lisa also provides diagnostic testing for the Lakeshore Ear, Nose and Throat River District office. Her affiliation with the knowledgeable specialists there allow our patients complete and comprehensive hearing care.



Lisa Bont
MA, CCC-A



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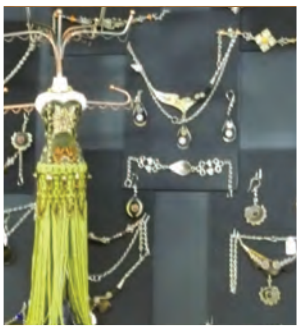
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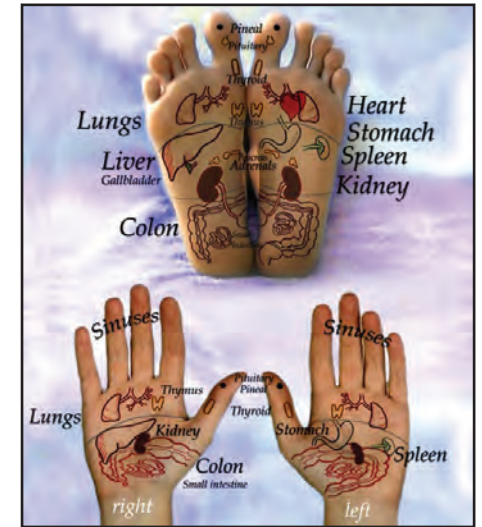
During recent renovations to the building on the northeast corner of S. Third St. and Chartier in Marine City, Michigan, when the siding was removed, this former advertisement appeared. If any of our readers know anything about the history of Hampes Market, or remember it from earlier years, please email us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net and we will follow-up with your comments in our next edition.

Reflexology

By Rennae Hardy
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Reflexology is the combination of purposeful massage and zone therapy. As an alternative healing method, reflexology involves the physical act of applying pressure to the feet, hands or ears with specific thumb, finger and hand techniques without the use of oil or lotion. Reflexology is based on a system of zones and reflex areas that are reflective of an image of the physical body represented on the feet and hands. Reflexologists believe that the bottoms of the feet contain points connected to all other parts of the body. Working with these correlating points by applying appropriate pressure via specialized massage to the feet facilitates the capacity to restore normalcy of function as well as supplying relief of pain to virtually any part of the body. Tenderness of a specific point during a reflexology session may indicate a concern in conjunction to the area of tenderness and its correlating body part. The reflexologist or practitioner can share this awareness with the recipient allowing them the opportunity for further consideration and possible additional care. An example of reflexology would be actively massaging the tops (tips) of the toes with appropriate pressure to stimulate the sinuses allowing for drainage and proper functioning.

Reflexology is not regulated in the state of Michigan. Anyone can provide this service. Interested individuals may wish to seek out a qualified massage therapist or a facility wherein their practitioners have been certified. Reflexology charts can be obtained and utilized by those who prefer their own hands-on approach. Either way, reflexology's application is relaxing and offers



a rewarding adjunct to one's over all state of well-being. Reflexology should never take the place of medical treatment when caring for serious health conditions. It is an alternative and therapeutic technique to assist in promoting wellness.

Summer is a great time to enjoy flip-flops and bare feet. This summertime ritual can also be quite punishing to our "soleful" supporters. Consider a treat for your feet, pamper your peds, plan an afternoon retreat and experience reflexology for yourself. 🌱

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.

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MONDAY AUGUST 15

8:00am Armada Fair Opens/4-H Petting Farm Opens
 12:00 Noon Carnival Opens. McDonagh's Amusements, Inc.
 5:00pm Longest Ponytail & Twins Contest (Grove Stage)
 6:00pm Opening Ceremonies (Main Arena Stage)
 Announcing: Homemaker of the Year, Youth Achiever of the Year,
 Volunteer of the Year, and 4-H King and Queen



7:00pm
Bump & Run

7:00 pm "Scraps" (Grove Stage)

TUESDAY AUGUST 16



FREE ADMISSION TO THE FAIR ON TUESDAY FOR
 ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL (with military I.D.)

8:00am Armada Fair Opens/4-H Petting Farm Opens
 12:00 Noon Carnival Opens - McDonagh's Amusements, Inc.
 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm: CHAINSAW MEN OF MICHIGAN
 Silent Auction

Watch for \$3.00 OFF Coupon in the following papers:
 Macomb Daily, Advisor / Source, Voice, and the Armada Times
 Pay one Price, \$20.00 per person, honored from 1:00pm - 11:00pm.
 Armbands sold until 9:30pm. Height Restrictions on Some Rides

2:00pm The Dance Studio (Grove Stage)

5:00pm: FREE Pizza Eating Contest (Grove Area)
 Sponsored by: **Tivoli's of Armada**

6:00pm Main Stage Center for the Arts (Grove Stage)

7:00pm **MONSTER TRUCKS** (Main Arena)

MONSTER TRUCKS

7:00PM



WEDNESDAY AUGUST 17

8:00am Armada Fair Opens
 8:00am 4-H Petting Farm Opens
 12:00 Noon Carnival Opens - McDonagh's Amusements, Inc.
\$1.00 each per ride from 12:00 Noon to 6:00pm

12:00pm-5:00pm: Children's Activities in the Grove Area
FREE Candy Scramble, FREE Face Painting, Rope Making
 Sponsored by **Armada Agricultural Society**

1:00pm Pedal Pull Registration (Grove Area)
 First 150 Children: Ages 4 - 11 • Entry Fee: \$1.00

1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm: CHAINSAW MEN OF MICHIGAN
 Silent Auction

2:00pm Pedal Pull (Grove Area)

2:00-4:00pm Balloon Characters (Grove Area)

5:00pm: **FREE Pizza Eating Contest** (Grove Area)
 Sponsored by: **Jets of Richmond**

7:00pm Entertainment Showcase - Cash Prizes! (Grove Stage)

7:00PM **DEMOLITION DERBY** (Main Arena)



7:00PM
MAIN ARENA

DEMOLITION DERBY

ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS
 Daily:
 11:30am, 1:30pm, 4:30pm, 6:30pm
 GROVE AREA



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REFRESHMENT TENT

THURSDAY AUGUST 18

8:00am
 8:00am
 9:00am
 12:00 Noon Carnival Opens

12:00pm-5:00pm: Children's Activities in the Grove Area
FREE Candy Scramble, Rope Making
 Sponsored by **Armada Agricultural Society**

12:00pm-5:00pm: Children's Activities in the Grove Area
FREE Candy Scramble, Rope Making
 Sponsored by **Armada Agricultural Society**

1:00pm
 First 150

1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm:

2:00pm

2:00-4:00pm

5:00pm: **FREE Pie Eating Contest**
 Sponsored by:

5:30pm
Annabelle Road

7:00pm Rhythm Po

7:00pm

7:00pm
Main Arena



Ride A Pay C



Fair - August 15-21, 2011



"A True Country Fair"

THURSDAY AUGUST 18

8:00am Armada Fair Opens
 8:00am 4-H Petting Farm Opens
 8:00am 4-H Dairy Day
 12:00 Noon McDonald's Amusements, Inc.

McDonagh's
 Amusements, Inc.
 Pay one Price, \$20.00 per person, honored from 1:00pm - 11:00pm.
 Height Restrictions on Some Rides

Children's Activities in the Grove Area
FREE Face Painting, Rope Making
 Sponsored by Michigan Agricultural Society

Pedal Pull Registration (Grove Area)
 Children: Ages 4 - 11 • Entry Fee: \$1.00
CHAINSAW MEN OF MICHIGAN
 Silent Auction
 Pedal Pull (Grove Area)
 Balloon Characters (Grove Area)
Watermelon Eating Contest (Grove Area)
 Sponsored by Achatz Pie Company

Figure 8 Race
 (Main Arena Stage)

Ante Dance Academy (Grove Stage)
FIGURE 8 RACE (Main Arena)



FIGURE 8 RACE

All Week One Price
Mega-Ride Pass \$50.00
 McDonagh's Amusements, Inc.

FRIDAY AUGUST 19

8:00am Armada Fair Opens
 8:00am 4-H Petting Farm Opens
 12:00 Noon Carnival Opens McDonagh's Amusements, Inc.

McDonagh's
 Amusements, Inc.
 Pay one Price, \$20.00 per person, honored from 1:00pm - 11:00pm.
 Ammbands sold until 9:30pm. Height Restrictions on Some Rides

12:00 Noon **DRAFT HORSE PULL** (Main Arena)



DRAFT HORSE PULL

12:00 noon
Main Arena

12:00pm: Children's Activities in the Grove Area
FREE Candy Scramble, FREE Face Painting, Rope Making
 Sponsored by Meijer

1:00pm Pedal Pull Registration (Grove Area)
 First 150 Children: Ages 4 - 11 • Entry Fee: \$1.00
 1:00pm RAETA Demonstrations
 Sawmill, Threshing, Antique Hay Baler. (Antique Tractor Area)
 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm: **CHAINSAW MEN OF MICHIGAN**
 Silent Auction
 2:00pm Pedal Pull (Grove Area)
 2:00-4:00pm Balloon Characters (Grove Area)

4-H AUCTIONS
 POULTRY & RABBITS (Silent) • 3:00PM
 4-H LIVESTOCK SALE • 4:00PM
 (4-H Livestock Barn #1.5)

5:00pm: **FREE Watermelon Eating Contest** (Grove Area)
 Sponsored by Blake's Orchards

8:00pm **STEEL MAGNOLIA** (Main Arena Stage)

STEEL MAGNOLIA

8:00pm
 FREE Concert with Fair Admission
 General Seating



SATURDAY AUGUST 20

8:00am Armada Fair Opens
 8:00am 4-H Petting Farm Opens
 11:00am & 4:30pm RAETA Demonstrations
 Sawmill, Threshing, Antique Hay Baler. (Antique Tractor Area)
 12:00 Noon Carnival Opens McDonagh's Amusements, Inc.
1:00pm TRACTOR & TRUCK PULL (Main Arena)
 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm: **CHAINSAW MEN OF MICHIGAN**
 Silent Auction

2:00pm Animal Fashion Show (Grove Area)

5:00pm: **FREE Corn on the Cob Eating Contest** (Grove Area)
 Sponsored by Armada Lions & Wolak Farms

6:00pm **TRACTOR & TRUCK PULL** (Main Arena)



TRUCK & TRACTOR PULL

1:00pm, 6:00pm

7:00pm Sweet Revenge (Grove Stage)

SUNDAY AUGUST 21

8:00am Armada Fair Opens
 8:00am 4-H Petting Farm Opens
 11:00am & 4:30pm RAETA Demonstrations
 Sawmill, Threshing, Antique Hay Baler. (Antique Tractor Area)
 12:00 Noon Carnival Opens McDonagh's Amusements, Inc.
 12:00 Noon Armada Community Choir (Grove Stage)
1:00pm TRACTOR & TRUCK PULL (Main Arena)
 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm: **CHAINSAW MEN OF MICHIGAN**
 Silent Auction

2:00pm "Armada Assembly of God" (Grove Stage)

4:00pm The Forester Brothers (Grove Stage)

5:00pm (Approx) Mini-Tractor Pulling (Main Arena)

6:00pm: **The Armada Fair & McDonagh's Amusements Welcomes you to LAST BLAST**
 FREE ADMISSION • FREE PARKING
 RIDES AT TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE
 (STICKERS AVAILABLE AT INFO BOOTH ONLY)
 CONTACT THE ARMADA FAIR FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



MARLETTE

Continued from Page 1

would become Marlette Township in 1854, followed closely by Timothy Smith and William Walker. Only two years later, all of the government land in Marlette was gone.

By 1858, Charles Cole's house served as the first school, with Miss Mary Ball as a teacher. Shortly after a log schoolhouse was put up on the same property and Fitch School, as it was called, became the first school in the township.

In 1859, the first frame building was erected – a barn built by George Hager Sr. The first permanent dwelling was built in 1861 by John Gilligan.

The actual village of Marlette was built on land originally owned by Benjamin Hobson on the north, Robert Wilson on the east, Charles Harwack on the west and John McGill on the northwest. Robert Wilson also has the distinction of having the first frame house built in the village.

By 1864, a township post office was established, with Gordon W. Rudd as the first post master. In 1868 the first hotel, Northern Hotel, was opened with T. H. Sheppard running the business. Other business establishments quickly followed. Some of the notable ones were:

- From 1866 to 1867, John McGill operated a sawmill. (This burned to the ground in 1868.)
- In 1872, E. W. Elsworth opened a planning mill and furniture store.
- In 1878, Kilgour and Mavis operated the Marlette Plow Factory.



Richard Lichtenfelt was the telegrapher for the Marlette railroad.



Lumbering between Marlette & Kingston, circa 1910

- In 1881, H. W. Wilson opened the Marlette Steam Elevator.
- In 1881, H. H. Pratt opened a barbershop.
- In 1881, the Marlette Bank of McGill & Company opened and was managed by Charles L. Messmore.

Many other stores became established within a short period of time thereafter and doctors, dentists and lawyers provided needed services to the villagers in Marlette. Marlette was recognized as a village in 1865 and was incorporated in 1881.

With the increased population, education became a top priority. In the book *Images*, this is what is said about Marlette schools:

In the struggle for existence, the schools of the area have come through with marked success. To be very honest, the early settlers desired far better educations for their children than they ever began to have the ability to pay for. When agricultural interests took the place of the lumbering industry in the county, more and more school districts were organized every year . . .

In 1884, the largest of the district schools (in Sanilac County) was Lexington Union. Although it may be hard to believe, Marlette and Sanilac schools were next, both having been given excellent ratings.

The northernmost and western townships of the Thumb were severely and sadly interfered with twice. Both incidents were fires . . . the Great Forest Fires of 1871 and 1881. Ten schoolhouses burned in the fires of 1871 . . . the Marlette School survived that fire . . . The second disaster occurred in September of 1881. Our county suffered greatly this time, losing 27 school-houses to fire . . . Marlette was one of them . . . Most people had no means of replacing all they had lost, let alone just the necessities, and most were left destitute.

Relief from the State Treasure for the

help of those suffering from the fires was voted in a special session of the Legislature called by the Governor, and new schools were built in all of the affected districts.

Volumes alone could be written on the terrible lost of land, buildings and lives, both human and livestock, from the two major Thumb area fires. In 1886, after the Great Fires had swept the area, the Marlette fire department was organized.

Another importance to the early settlers was their religion. In *Images*, this is what is said about Marlette's early churches:

If, as it is said, the family is the



The Center Theater in Marlette

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cornerstone of civilization, then the churches are the foundation. Religion in Sanilac County began the day the first settlement began. It is said that Godliness was a part of a pioneer's daily life, and it came with the pioneers when they entered the dense forests of Sanilac. As soon as there were sufficient listeners, a sermon was preached.

The beginnings of some of the earliest churches in Marlette were:

- 1862: First Presbyterian Church of Marlette
- 1870s: First United Methodist Church
- 1872: St. Elizabeth Catholic Church
- 1898: Bethel Church

Since 1878, the *Marlette Leader* has been reporting the news for Marlette and the surrounding area. The newspaper's early motto was: *Unsectarian in Religion, Non-Partisan in Politics, Independent in all Things.*

After the first major fire of 1871, the land was cleared making it easier for the building of railroads, which would link the Thumb area with major cities to the south. On May 12, 1879, the first 25 miles of road was opened from Port Huron to Croswell and by September 21, 1881, the stretch from Marlette to Mayville was in service. On September 13, 1884, the train carrying General Logan, who was running for the Vice Presidency of the United States, traveled this stretch at 59 miles per hour, the top speed to that date for the Port Huron and Northwestern Railroad. Many believed this railroad to be the finest narrow-gauge road in the United States at the time. The Marlette Railroad Depot was built in 1890. (In the summer of 2000, this depot qualified for naming to the State Historic Sites Registry and was restored by the joint efforts of the Marlette Historical



The Marlette Railroad Depot, built in 1890.

Society, the Marlette Area Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Development Authority and the Sanilac Economic Alliance to house the Thumb Tourism Center.)

After the two major Thumb area fires, the lumbering industry became a thing of the past. However, the fires in part helped to clear the way for industry and for agriculture. Agriculture is still an important part of Marlette's economy today, with corn, beans and sugar beets being some of the major crops that are grown. The area also has several sod farms.

In later years, Marlette took its place in industry's "hall of fame" by becoming known as the "Mobile Home Capital of the World" after Earl Swett, Charles Ballard and Paul Riedel joined together in 1953 to form the Marlette Coach Company, which later was known as Marlette Homes. A 29-foot model was the first offered by the company and fifteen workers were on the payroll. It was an overwhelming success and business tripled by the following year.



A 1954 advertisement for the Marlette Coach Company



The restored Marlette Railroad Depot today.

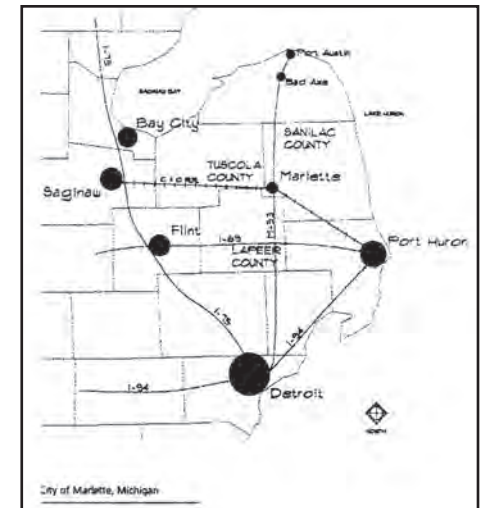
Editor's Note: Many thanks go out to Lois Johnson of Marlette, Michigan, who provided ThumbPrint News with a copy of the book Images, Millennium Edition, published by the Walsworth Publishing Company and who played a major part in the production of the book. Many photos and much of the information for this article came from Images. This article was intended only to be a "Spotlight" on Marlette, so please accept our apologies in advance that not every person, place or event in the city's history could be included.

In 1955, the business again tripled. Now 375 persons were employed producing nine different models.

With the introduction of the "double-wide" mobile home, Marlette Homes was, in 1956, now employing over a thousand people who worked in one of three of Marlette's trailer plants producing more coaches than anywhere else in the world. Earl Swett, one of the original owners, died in the late 1970s and shortly thereafter Marlette closed its trailer plants.

Marlette for many years also had the distinction of having the largest concentration of pheasants in Michigan. From all over the state, hunters and wildlife enthusiasts traveled to Marlette to hunt and to enjoy these remarkable birds. Overhunting almost destroyed the pheasant population. Today, conservationists are helping to reestablish the birds to the Marlette area.

Marlette today is a closely knit rural community with a population of a little over two thousand at the last census. It is known as "the Heart of the Thumb" because of its location in the middle of the Thumb of Michigan. 📍



1912 Main Street. The stop light today is located just south of post.

Schedule of Events

All events are at the Harbor or Harbor Park unless otherwise noted; events subject to change

Friday, August 19

• 1 pm - Registration Opens

Registration area
generously sponsored by Ford,
Lincoln, Chrysler, Jeep



• 1 pm - Pride of Michigan open for tours - The Pride of Michigan is a wooden-hulled mine sweeper crewed by Sea Cadets

• 4 pm - Miss Port Sanilac Boarding begins for the Poker Run - Enjoy a unique vantage point aboard a 60-year-old commercial fishing boat; (\$20 per person, 30 person capacity)

• 4 pm - Captains' Meeting for Poker Run - Briefing on rules at the Gazebo area

• 4:30 pm - Lake Huron Poker Run -

Maneuver your boat to collect the best poker hand from 3 points in the open water

• 6 pm - Boat Viewing - Boats are in the water and on-land, be sure to view both!

• 5-12 midnight - Beer Tent, sponsored by Uri's Waterfront Dining - Featuring Michigan microbrews, local wines, full bar

• 5-8 pm - Jennifer Vance & Jay

Williams Perform - Variety of live musical entertainment in Taste-of-Port Sanilac

• 6-10 pm - Taste of Port Sanilac Reception

sponsored by Hagerty Insurance - The Taste-of-Port Sanilac returns with delectable bites & brews! Located in front of Port Sanilac Marina

• 8 pm - Barn Theatre Live Performance - "Brothers Grim Spectacular-a-thon Children's Show" ~ Join in the fun of being seated in a real barn for live community theatre; shuttles will be available from the park to the theatre

Saturday, August 20

• 8 am - Continental Breakfast by Mary's Diner - Break into your morning with as much or as little as you like for just \$5; buffet-style

• 9 am - Registration Opens

• 9 am - Boat Viewing - Boats are in the water and on-land, be sure to view both!

• 9 am - Pride of Michigan open for tours - The Pride of Michigan is a wooden-hulled mine sweeper crewed by Sea Cadets

• 9 am - 3pm Vintage Motorcycle Displays - View classic European, Japanese, & American models, 1985 & older; motorcycles will be on a cruise from 11am to 1 pm

• 12-5 pm - Vintage Travel Trailer Displays & Tours - Ever want to travel back in time - this how to do it! Vintage travel trailers open for viewing and tours

• 11-4 pm - Miss America X - Gar Wood's Miss America X, called a "madman's dream," powered by four 1800-horsepower, 12-cylinder Packard engine; smashed the world record in 1932

• 11 am - 5 pm - Great Lakes Nautical Society Model Boat Displays - The Society returns with new boats & new displays, in the water and on land!

• 11 am - 5 pm - Antique Tractor Viewing - Bridging Port Sanilac's nautical and agricultural heritage in one event



Port Sanilac, Michigan



• 12 noon - 4 pm - Sanilac Historical Society Museum Tours - Stroll the Loop-Harrison Mansion, Church, & Village

• 12 noon - 10 pm - Entertainment & Beer Tent - Located in front of Port Sanilac Marina

• 11 am - 9 pm - Port Sanilac Lions Club Snack Wagon - Set up at the Harbor Park - Juicy hamburgers & luscious hot dogs, with all the trimmings, plus cold pop

• 1 pm - Boat Rides on the Miss Port Sanilac, sponsored by Port Sanilac Marina - Rare opportunity to boat on open water; tickets are just \$10 per person.

• 2 pm - Ballots due at the Registration Area

• 2 pm - Harbor Roar - What's louder? The boats? The tractors? Or the motorcycles?

• 4:30 pm - Awards Ceremony sponsored by Blue Water Sports Bar & Grill - A fast-paced, entertaining awards ceremony for all classes and special categories

• 7 pm - Live Music at the Harbor

• 8 pm - Barn Theatre Live Performance - Join in the fun of being seated in a real barn for live community theatre; shuttles will be available from the park to the theatre



*all events are subject to change and weather conditions

The Speedboat Capital of the World

By Joe Nugent

Algonac-Clay Historical Society

What do Algonac, Clay and Ira Township, Harsens Island and Marine City all have in common? Is it the area, the water or the people? Actually, it's all three. And it took all three to make this area "The Speedboat Capital of the World."

Fast boats in the Algonac area are a tradition going back more than 150 years when Jacob Harsen first came to the flats.

It was a long and hard trail overland to Mt. Clemens and even longer to Fort Detroit. The shortest and easiest way was by water. So, the ancestors of the present generations of the Harsens, Stewarts, Harrows and Johnsons, to name a few, encouraged the Indians to build a "mighty canoe." According to well-authenticated tradition, the craft was more than 30 feet long and its sides were so high that the Indians stood in it and reached over the gun rails to paddle. That canoe, long rotted away, was the first of Algonac's speed boats. It provided by far the fastest means of travel between Algonac, the mouth of the Clinton River and the Fort at Detroit.

Later, when the first gasoline engines were being used (the use of these engines was cumbersome as the carburetor had not yet been invented so they had a mixing valve in its place) the world turned to Algonac for speedboats. Because of his belief in the boats made in Algonac, Gar Wood was one of those who visited often. In fact, he commissioned Algonac resident Chris Smith to build the first *Miss America*.

The stories of the build of the first *Miss America* are many, but one of the favorites is about Captain Hiram Moore who tiptoed

into the doorway of the shop where *Miss America* lay in her cradle, waiting to be shipped to England. He spotted Chris Smith on his knees, stroking her bow with his hand softly saying over and over again, "You'll do, my girl, you'll do."

The story passed thru town. Men hurried home to tell their families. Women left the kitchens to find their kids and tell them. "Chris Smith says she will do. He thinks she'll win."

Chris Smith and his crew turned their attention after that to the quantity production of sleek and fast pleasure boats. Gar Wood went on and built another *Miss America*, and he even took up the task of building the boats himself.

There also have been many local young men racing the river.

From 1947 until the early 1960s, Algonac High School included a boatbuilding program for 9th thru 12th graders. Students could build a boat selected from a number of boat types as a class project. The Algonac Racing Association was formed and members raced and were awarded trophies donated by local civic organizations. The popularity of racing grew and included much of the St. Clair River Area. Listed in no particular order or age are a few of the many young river champions: Bill Welser, Dave Hagedon, Sylva Smith, Corky Korpak, Skip Baxter, Ronnie Holder, Chuck Warner, Chuck Thompson, Paul Avers, Carl Lange, Marv Marter, Alan Smith, Skip Gabler, and Keith Churill. These men and women are just a few of those that have been drawn by an invisible force to the river. They are a permanent part of the history that makes the Algonac area the speedboat capital of the world. 🌱



Frank "Skip" Baxter shows off the Soo-Z-Q, a boat built in the Algonac High School boatbuilding class, circa 1957.



Algonac Racers are awarded their trophies. From left, Carl Lang, Sylva Smith, Jim Pocklington, Bill Welser. Circa 1957

OAKLAND HOTEL

Continued from Page 7

One of the main attractions of the Oakland was the mineral baths. Connected to the south end of the hotel was a bathhouse called the St. Clair Mineral Springs, which had 35 rooms for bathing. Each room had a porcelain tub with running fresh water and both hot and cold mineral water. Turkish and plunge baths were also available. The men's and women's waiting rooms were considered very luxuriously appointed. Mineral baths were thought to be very good for one's general health, as well as a good treatment for a whole array of ailments such as rheumatism and problems with the kidneys, liver and bowels. The mineral water came from a well drilled 1,100 feet below the bathhouse. The mineral water was also considered healthful to drink because of its purity and the belief that it aided digestion. The Salutarius Natural Water Company was located on the

Oakland property and bottled the mineral water for marketing under the Salutarius label. Of course, the hotel served Salutarius water at all of its meals. The Salutarius Company outlived the hotel, and in 1929 started bottling soda water and soft drinks such as Squirt and ginger ale. It continued to produce those products until 1959. The old bottling plant is today the home of Angler Rod in St. Clair.

Early visitors to the Oakland came by steamer or train, but by 1911 the automobile was changing the way Americans traveled, and the hotel was increasingly bypassed. Lack of business caused the closing of the hotel in 1911, and in 1915 a fire damaged the building, ensuring that it would never reopen. In the early 1920s, the building was dismantled and the property subdivided. The bathhouse housed the Kanzler Lumber Company until it was destroyed in a spectacular fire in 1932. Today, Oakland Avenue in St. Clair is a reminder of this once great resort. 🌱



The main dining room, decorated in pink and gold, accommodated 150 guests.



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Thumb Area Activities & Events for August 2011

If you have an event in September that you would like listed in the September issue of *ThumbPrint News*, please email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by August 12, 2011. There is no charge for the listing.

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

Genesee County

Grand Blanc – August 6 & 7

13th Annual Art Fair, Physician's Park, Reid Rd., one block from downtown, rain or shine, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. This is a juried art show and sale. Admission and parking are free. Call (810) 695-8933.

Grand Blanc – August 28

Youth Sporting Clays Shoot, Grand Blanc Huntsman's Club, 9046 Irish Rd. Sponsored by the Genesee County Chapter of Pheasants Forever. Includes a free shoot, including targets, shells, awards, door prizes, lunch and a one year membership in Pheasants Forever for youths up to 18 years old. Provides many youngsters their first opportunity to experience sporting clays. Up to 60 applications are being accepted. To download an application, go to <http://www.geneseecountytpf.com/>.

Huron County

Port Hope – August 6

Heritage Days, Pointe aux Barques Lighthouse, Lighthouse Park, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Café, corn roast, homemade ice cream, historical displays and a tower climb, antique quilts and clothing. Several authors and an artist will be there to sign your works. Janis Stein has three books and will be there from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Robert McGreevy will be there with his new book and several prints. Jerry Roach will be there with his books to sign. Call (989) 428-3035.

White Rock – August 7

White Rock School Museum Annual Picnic, White Rock School, White Rock Rd. (M-25), noon. Activities include music, special activities, pot-luck lunch at 1:00 p.m., odds and ends sale, raffle, live auction. All are welcome. (517) 371-1400.

Caseville – August 12-21

Cheeseburger in Caseville Festival, various downtown locations. Ten full days of food, fun, games and music for all ages including a parade of fools. Go to www.casevillechamber.net for information.

Lapeer County

Imlay City – August 6

31st Annual Blueberry Festival, downtown area. A day of food, fun, entertainment, games and fireworks for the whole family to enjoy. No admission charge. (810) 724-1361.

Imlay City – August 9-13

Eastern Michigan Fair, Eastern Michigan Fairgrounds, 195 Midway St., noon-11:00 p.m. Old-fashioned country fair, featuring fun for the whole family to enjoy. Midway, tractor pull, figure 8 race, autocross bump n' run, Superman motocross, demolition derby and grandstand entertainment including Emerson Drive on Wed. night. \$15 admission includes the rides. Visit <http://fair.eastern-michiganfair.com/> or call (810) 724-4145.

Macomb County

Mt. Clemens – August 5

Friday Night Concert Series, Fountain Stage, Macomb Place, between North Walnut and Pine Streets in downtown area, 9:30 p.m.-11:00 p.m. (586) 469-4168.

New Baltimore – August 6

Sportsfest 2011, VFW Lempke-Blackwell Post 7573, 35011 23 Mile Rd., 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Free admission, fun for the whole family! Activities include a horseshoe tournament, car show, ATVs, arts and crafts fair and a Civil War reenactment. Call (586) 725-7100.

Mt. Clemens – August 7

Vaudeville at the Bijou Garden Party, Crocker House Museum, 15 Union St., 1:00 p.m. www.crockerhousemuseum.com.

New Baltimore – August 7, 14, 21 & 28

Farmers Market, downtown area, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Fresh local produce, baked goods, pasta and sauces, soaps and lotions, jams and jellies, eggs, Michigan maple syrup, plants, herbs, fresh cut flowers, artisans, wood crafts, jewelry, custom doll clothes, food, activities, entertainment and more. FREE yoga in Burke Park near the water after each market at 1:30. www.ridethewavenb.com.

Chesterfield – August 13 & 14

Civil War Days, Chesterfield Historical Society Historical Village, 47425 Sugarbush. Featuring the 8th Arkansas and the Michigan 15th Volunteer Infantry, living history encampments and battle skirmishes. www.chesterfieldhistoricalsociety.org.

New Haven – August 20

Heritage Celebration Day, downtown area, noon-11:00 p.m. There will be a beer tent, vendors, and much more – all day fun for the whole family to enjoy. From noon until 6:00 p.m. there will be a DJ and karaoke, with prizes of a 51" HD-3D TV plus two 42" flat screen TVs, and from 6:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. there will be live music. If interested in being a vendor or for information call (586) 749-7725.

Harrison Township – August 27 & 28

15th Annual Encampment of the Lac Ste. Claire Voyageurs, Metro Beach Metropark, 31300 Metropolitan Parkway, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Learn about the rich history connected with the voyageurs, coureur de bois, early settlers and military of the Great Lakes fur trade era. Demonstrations and displays of canoe building, traditional crafts and skills, trade goods and artifacts, blacksmithing, campfire cooking, cannons, weaponry and more. Music, dance, stories and lectures, and the sharing of our unique culture and history. Admission is free, park admission required. (586) 463-4332 ext. 2.

Richmond – August 28

Richmond in the Late 1800s, Richmond Historic Village, Bailey Memorial Park, corner of Beebe and Park Streets, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. The historic village will be open for everyone to enjoy – visit the log cabin, the train depot, the one room schoolhouse, and the museum display. Docents will be available for tours and to answer questions. No charge for this event. (586) 727-7773.

Oakland County

Oxford – August 6

Celebrate Oxford, downtown area, 10:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. A day of fun and activities for the whole family beginning with a pancake breakfast. Activities include Taste of Oxford, a classic car show, art and exhibit fair, business expo, kid's town, helicopter rides, side walk sales and more. www.celebrateoxford.com.

Rochester Hills – August 6 & 7

Summer Fine Art in the Village, Village of Rochester Hills Shopping Center, 104 N. Adams Rd., 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. on Saturday and noon-6:00 p.m. on Sunday. This is a fine art and fine crafts show of 100 juried artists from around the country. (248) 689-8734.

St. Clair County

East China – August 3

Vision Support Group Meeting, St. John River District Hospital, 4100 River Rd., 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Contact dailer47@live.com for more information.

Marysville – August 10

Dog Days of Summer, Marysville Park, corner of Busha Hwy. and E. Huron Blvd., 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Hosted by the Marysville Recreation Department and Companion Animal Volunteers. Event is open to dog lovers who would like to learn more about quality pet care and services available in St. Clair County. Hands on sessions to learn how to groom and trim nails. Some make and take items hosted by 4-H Teen Leaders, such as custom welcome mats and stepping stones will be available as well. Watch demonstrations on herding, agility and rally. Dog games, nail trimming for \$5, computer chipping for \$42, and an opportunity to use the agility equipment with your dog. This is also the official kick off for raising funds for a Marysville Dog Park. (810) 364-6613.

Wales Twp. – August 13

Sixth Annual Golf Outing for the Benefit of the Blue Water Community Food Depot, Leaning Tree Golf Course, 7860 Smiths Creek Rd. Check in time is 8:30 a.m., with shotgun start at 9:30 a.m. This is a four person scramble. \$75 per golfer or \$280 per foursome. Call George Jackson at (810) 985-8715.

Capac – August 14-16

"Once Upon a Treasure" Mega Rummage Sale, St. Nicholas Catholic Church, 4331 Capac Rd., noon-5:00 p.m. We are offering very affordable prices for everyone who needs school clothes for their kids, furnishings for a home, apartment or college dorm, warm clothing or blankets. Everything imaginable from antiques and collectibles, household items, toys, dishes, etc. Free admission, or pay \$1 and gain admission at 9:00 a.m. for Early Bird Bargain Hunter's Entry. Call (810) 395-2338.

East China – August 14

Ice Cream Social, Red Brick School and Museum, 696 Meisner Rd., 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Event is held in honor of its volunteers – past, present and future. Volunteers help

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Marine City – August 19

VooDoo Doctors Dance and Silent Auction, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St., 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Live performance features a variety of music, including some of the greatest songs ever recorded, from Classic Rock, Rockabilly, Country, Blues to Easy Listening. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door (suggested donation). Price includes show, dancing and refreshments and an opportunity to bid on a wide variety of items donated by local businesses and COA members. All proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit the Center. (810) 765-3523.

East China – August 24

St. Clair County History Group, 480 Margaret St., 6:00 p.m. Bring a dish to pass, and your plate, silverware and beverage. The group welcomes guests and new members. Anyone interested in local history or researching their family tree is encouraged to become a member of our group or just attend one of our programs. More information can be found on our website www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miscfgh/ or all (810) 989-0399.

Sauilac County

Brown City (Valley Center) – August 1-4
Vacation Church School, Community of Christ Church, corner of Galbraith Line Rd. and Shepherd Rd., 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Learn all about Jesus and His love for all. Activities include Scripture study, music, story time, puppet shows, snacks, outdoor games, crafts, and lots of fellowship. On Thursday, there will be a barbeque at 5:30 p.m. Ages 2 and up are welcome. (810) 679-2106.

Melvin – August 13

Seventh Annual Hog Town Run and Dinner, Melvin Tavern, 1275 Main St. Sign-up starts at 9:00 a.m., departs at noon. Registration donations are \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. Includes dinner after the run. Proceeds benefit the United Hospice Services. Dinner is upon arrival – all bikes in by 4:00 p.m., at Brown City Park, Cade Road, Brown City. Live entertainment. There will be bike games, lots of door prizes, a pig roast, burn-outs, raffles, 50/50 drawing and free rustic camping available. For more information, call (810) 656-4942. Rain day for the event is August 14.

Brown City – August 27 & 28

Valley Center Centennial, Community of Christ Church, corner of Galbraith Line Rd. and Shepherd Rd. Please join us in celebrating 100 years plus a centennial of worship and family togetherness. Apostolic guest ministry, Apostle Stassi Cramm, will present “Remembrance Thoughts of Years Gone By in the Community,” with music to tap your toes by. On Saturday there will be a brunch at 11:00 a.m. and a barbeque at 4:00 p.m. On Sunday, brunch will be at 10:00 a.m., then a 10:45 a.m. worship hour with Apostle Cramm. (810) 679-2106.

Tuscola County

Vassar – August 5-7

Annual Riverfest and Car Show, downtown area. Activities include canoe races, custom car shows, craft fair, 3-on-3 basketball tournaments, bumper boats, balloon blasts, a burnout and a parade. Fun for the family! (989) 823-2601.

Caro – August 20 & 21

Relay for Life, Tuscola County Fairgrounds, 188 Park Drive, 10:00 a.m. Proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society. Call (989)912-9790.

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DECEMBER 16-23

8th Annual History of the Christmas Tree Walk

6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Nightly

More than 50 Christmas trees, decorated with ornaments from the 1850s until the present, will be displayed inside a 9,500 sq. foot log home! Discounts given for advance ticket purchase! Discount tickets go on sale July 1, 2011 at Foxfire Farm Country Store and Floral Shop. Tickets purchased in advance are \$10 per adult and \$5 per child and are good for any night the Walk is open. Tickets are non-refundable but are transferable. Tickets can also be purchased by calling (810) 794-5108. Starting December 1, the price of tickets increases to \$12 per adult and \$6 per child. Santa Claus will be at the home on December 16, 17 and 23.




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Preserving Summer's Harvest Through Use of a Root Cellar

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

For the gardener who has spent the last several months tilling, planting, and weeding the home vegetable garden, August seems to be the month when harvesting many of those wonderful home-grown vegetables really seems to begin in earnest. The first vine-ripened tomatoes are picked from the plants and sliced to enjoy as is or in a yummy bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwich. Nothing from the supermarket seems to even remotely compare to the intense flavor. Cucumbers, zucchini and other summer squash, peppers, early cabbage, and crisp beans begin to grace the tables. This is what we've waited for all winter long!

Suddenly, by the end of August, however, if we have overestimated the amount that our own family can consume and have planted a few too many tomato or zucchini plants, there starts to be a never-ending supply that, even when we start sharing with relatives and neighbors, doesn't deplete. This is the time that the need for a serious food storage method begins.

Some people clean and chop and blanch and freeze whatever they can to savor in the upcoming cooler months of fall and winter. Fewer still turn to canning. When I was growing up, I remember my mother and grandmother spending many long hours in the kitchen using both a pressure canner and a boiling water bath to put up jar after jar of colorful vegetables, fruits and pickles. The finished products lined the

pantry shelves in every hue of the rainbow. Although it was a lot of hard work, my mother and grandmother would stand back when they were finished and admire the fruits of their labor. They were equally as proud when they could pull a jar off the shelf in mid-winter, remove the lid, and the just-picked fragrance and taste of their very own garden produce was once again available for their families to enjoy.



Freshly harvested produce ready for the root cellar

Go back a few more generations and the preferred method of food storage would have been the root cellar. Fresh produce was not available year-round as it is in supermarkets today. Refrigeration was non-existent. In some country areas, remnants of these old cellars can still be seen. Very few are still being used for their original purpose, however, which was to extend the storage life of produce harvested during the summer and fall by controlling the temperature and humidity of the storage area. Most old root cellars are now being used to store other types of non-edible objects, or are simply abandoned and left to the few crawling critters and insects that manage to get inside. Let's take a look at the early history of food preserving that is the basis for root cellars of yesterday and today.

The Native Americans, over 40,000 years ago, grew large amounts of yams and developed techniques of burying the surplus underground in order to preserve them for future use. The early great civilizations of China preserved food

by salting, pickling and adding spices. The Egyptians, who lived in a very arid environment, preserved most of their food by drying. It probably was not until about the 17th century in England when the concept of walk-in root cellars was actually begun. It was here that the combination of cool winters and high humidity contributed to the success of root cellaring.

By the time our early colonists arrived in North America they had perfected the art of root cellaring and thousands of old root cellars still dot the landscape of the countryside in the eastern halves of both America and Canada today.

On the grounds where the office of *ThumbPrint News* is located, there is one of those original old root cellars. It was built of cement, slightly below ground level, and then mounds of earth were piled on top, with a properly hooded pipe for ventilation. A double set of wooden doors, leading down old creaky steps provides access to the storage area. I imagine years ago, there were probably some sort of primitive shelves which would help keep the food products off the ground. I experimented a couple of years ago with storing bushel baskets full of apples, acorn squash and pie pumpkins in the cellar and was surprised at how well most kept all through winter until the following spring.

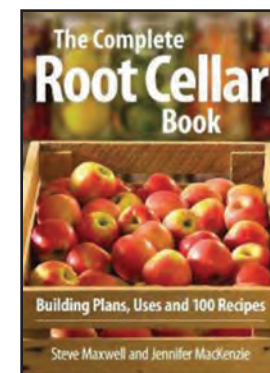
For those who are gardeners and are interested in returning to their "roots," building a root cellar can be as simple as or



Home canning, circa 1931

complicated as one wants to make it. Even those without land to devote to an outside root cellar can turn a corner of a garage or a basement into a small root cellar. A five foot by eight foot root cellar can store over 30 bushels of produce – even more by the liberal use of shelves, which can enhance the storage capacity considerably.

Since there are so many different methods of constructing a root cellar, it would be advisable to purchase or locate in your local library a good basic book on root cellars before beginning the construction process. One of the best I have seen is *The Complete Root Cellar Book: Building Plans, Uses and 100 Recipes*, written by Steve Maxwell and Jennifer MacKenzie (ISBN-10: 9780778802433). This is a 256 page paperback book that was published in 2010 by Robert Rose. It features detailed illustrated construction guides for making four different kinds of root cellars that are both functional and attractive, including even models for apartment and condo dwellers or for those folks who have their own home but who do not have a



This root cellar sits on the grounds of ThumbPrint News.



Two wooden doors help control the temperature and humidity.

See *ROOT CELLARS*, Page 32

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ROOT CELLARS

Continued from Page 31

basement. The book also includes important information on how to store specific types of produce and then tops it all off by featuring 100 recipes that call for produce that has been stored in the root cellar.

Just take a look at how long some of your freshly grown and freshly picked garden vegetables could last in a properly constructed root cellar, providing the correct temperature and humidity is maintained for each type:

• Beets	4-5 months
• Broccoli	1-2 weeks
• Brussel Sprouts	3-5 weeks
• Cabbage	(long keeper)
• Carrots	4-6 months
• Cauliflower	2-4 weeks

• Cucumbers	2-3 weeks
• Eggplant	1-2 weeks
• Kohlrabi	(long keeper)
• Onions	(long keeper)
• Sweet Potatoes	(long keeper)
• Potatoes	4-6 months
• Pumpkin	3-4 months
• Radishes	2-3 months
• Squash	4-6 months
• Tomatoes	1-2 months
• Turnips	(long keepers)

Plus, just think of all the space you will free up in your refrigerator or freezer.

There is also something comforting and satisfying in knowing that you have grown these vegetables yourself and now have a ready supply available for most of the winter months to provide healthy, delicious meals for you and your family. 🌱



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Ira Township	10127 MC Highway	Ira Township (586) 716-1371

What is a "CMA" and Why Do So Many Realtors Give Them Away?

By Scott Anderson

Realtor and ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Any time a real estate agent or company puts out marketing material – on the internet, in *Thumb Print News*, in your church bulletin, or wherever – you'll typically see something along the lines of this: "Call me for your free CMA!" Usually they spell it out – CMA stands for either Comparative Market Analysis or Competitive Market Analysis, depending on whom you ask.

So what is this, what is the purpose of it, and why are we all so eager to give them away?

Well, first of all, a CMA (whatever you decide it stands for) is a critical tool for anyone considering buying or selling a home. The basic idea is this: nobody knows what any particular home is worth, exactly, until the moment a buyer and a seller agree on a price. At that point we know what the home is worth: it's worth the price to which the buyer and the seller agreed.

Up to that time, we are guessing. That sounds bad, but that's the fact of it; nobody can predict in advance what a home will sell for. So the best thing to do is to make a well-educated guess, a guess based on as much good, factual information as possible. The CMA, properly done, leads the agent and her buyer or seller to come

to a well-informed opinion about a likely price for a home.

So how does it work? (Then we'll come to the point of why so many of us don't charge for this service.) The agent will find out as much as she can about the property involved: age, condition, size, rooms, any extra amenities (such as a fireplace) and so on. Then she will look at other homes which have sold or been for sale recently. The trick is to find similar homes in the same neighborhood; real estate is what some have described as a hyper-local business. Two identical homes two blocks from each other in the same community can have quite different values.

Then the agent produces a report (that's what the CMA actually is) comparing the subject home to the other homes. For a seller, the point is to help the seller arrive at a price at which the home might actually sell.

If you look at homes which are "for sale by owner", you often find the price is quite high compared to similar homes; this is because the owner has not sat down and taken a critical look at the housing market in his neighborhood, and is basing the price on what he hopes to get. The difficulty with that is that a home priced above market usually doesn't sell at all; if I am selling lemonade for 25 cents a cup

and you are next to me selling the same lemonade for 35 cents, I'll be busy all day and you'll be bored.

For a buyer, the CMA helps arrive at a price which is likely to be acceptable to all the parties involved: the seller, the buyer, lenders and appraisers. (The other difficulty with pricing a home above market is that if the buyer needs to borrow most of the money, the loan can fall apart when the appraiser comes to her opinion as to value and it is less than the price to which the buyer and seller have agreed.)

So, clearly, the CMA is an important tool for buyers and sellers, and I recommend you never buy or sell a home without first using this tool to form a well-educated opinion as to the value of a home. Then why are we all so eager to give them away?

Well, people think of realtors fundamentally as sales people, but that's not what we are. That's not what I am. My job isn't to sell you a house; you want what you want and the houses sell themselves, some better than others. My job is that of a consultant: to provide you with the best information pos-

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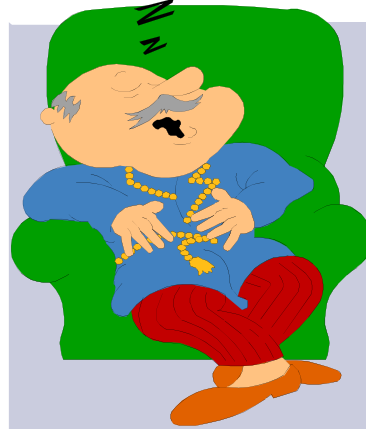
sible to help you come to the best decision for you. The CMA is just one step in the consulting process, and a good agent uses the CMA as part of the process of building a relationship with the buyer or seller. The coin of the realm in real estate is trust, and the CMA is an excellent tool to help us build trust with our buyers and sellers so they will have confidence in working with us.

If you'd like to know the best possible opinion as to the value of your home – or one you might like to purchase – call me or your favorite realtor for a CMA! Don't buy or sell without it. And as always, send your real estate questions to scott.anderson@kw.com and I will either give you the answer or get you the answer. Questions of general interest will appear in this space from time to time. 🌱

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**Memoirs from
The Restless Retiree
A Slip of Memory!**

By Gabriel Jones, ThumbPrint News Columnist

Suddenly he talks first and says something that you know nothing about. After he finishes, you attempt to relate something that you both might have experienced.

BUT NOTHING CLICKS!

Then you both wave to each other as he says goodbye and you say "take it easy."

You go home and still wonder who the other person was and where you knew him from.

You tell your wife about it and she says, "Oh yes! Sam, who we know from the Senior Center, called up and said he met you at the mall today."

"He said that you weren't very talkative. He was concerned that he did something wrong and you were mad at him for something. What was the problem? Why didn't you talk to him?"

Gabriel! Gabriel!"

Another lesson learned by The Restless Retiree. 🍀

You see someone nearby that you recognize, but somehow you can't remember his name.

"Where do I know him from," you think quietly?

Suddenly that person sees you and walks over to greet you.

He says "Hi, how have you been, haven't seen you in a while."

You answer the comment almost the same way and say:

"How have you been? What have you been doing since I last saw you?"

He answers, "nothing much, how about you?"

You find that you have to answer the same way.

Then you both stare at each other waiting for someone to start talking.

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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. All correct answers received by the 15th of the month will be



entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to Foxfire Farm Country Store at 8061 Marsh Road in Clay Township. (You can apply it toward the delivery of a floral arrangement, also.) The winner of this month's contest will be announced in the September edition as well as information about the object or place. In July's edition, we asked our readers to identify the object pictured above. No one correctly identified the object as a Victorian skirt lifter.

During the late 1800s, it was common for Victorian women to wear long and sweeping skirts. The skirt lifter was developed to protect the bottom edges of the skirt from the muddy streets of this era. The grips of the device were attached to the hem of the long skirt via a piece of cord, held by the lady who,

when necessary, was able to pull the string to avoid any offensive matter on the road. This month we are asking the question, "Where is it? Part of the building is pictured below. Identify the building and where it can be found. Send an email to thumbprintnews@comcast.net if you think you know

the answer. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number in case you are the winner of the random drawing for a gift certificate to Foxfire Farm Country Store. Good luck!



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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.
- put garbage from table waste in at any time.
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1.5 pints of crude oil are needed to produce one cartridge. In the last 6 months alone inkjet cartridge recycling has saved more than 50 million liters of oil, more than the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill in Alaska's Prince William Sound, in 1989.

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* Due to the closing of Ink & More, Foxfire Farm Country Store will be an official recycle station for Cartridge Connection. Save BIG on your ink cartridge purchases by buying recycled ink cartridges here! We also accept used cartridges for recycling. 8061 Marsh Road, Clay Township.

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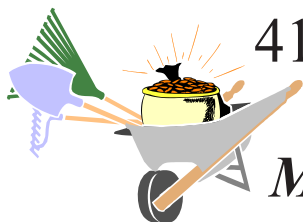
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TOMATO RECIPES

Continued from Page 9

Double Tomato Bruschetta

Ingredients:

- 6 roma (plum) tomatoes, chopped
- ½ cup sun-dried tomatoes,
packed in oil
- 3 cloves minced garlic
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- ¼ cup fresh basil, stems removed
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 French baguette
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese

Directions:

Preheat the oven on broiler setting.

In a large bowl, combine the roma tomatoes, sun-dried tomatoes, garlic, olive oil, vinegar, basil, salt, and pepper. Allow the mixture to sit for 10 minutes.

Cut the baguette into ¾-inch slices. On a baking sheet, arrange the baguette slices in a single layer. Broil for 1 to 2 minutes, until slightly brown.

Divide the tomato mixture evenly over the baguette slices. Top the slices with mozzarella cheese.

Broil for 5 minutes, or until the cheese is melted.



Homemade Tomato Soup

Ingredients

- 1 (14-ounce) can chopped tomatoes
- ¾ cup extra virgin olive oil
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 stalk celery, diced
- 1 small carrot, diced
- 1 yellow onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 tablespoons butter
- ¼ cup chopped fresh basil leaves
- ½ cup heavy cream, optional

Directions:

Preheat oven to 450°.

Strain the chopped canned tomatoes, reserving the juices, and spread onto a baking sheet, season with salt and pepper, to taste, drizzle with ¼ cup of the olive oil and roast until caramelized, about 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a saucepan, heat remaining olive oil over medium-low heat. Add the celery, carrot, onion and garlic, cook until softened, about 10 minutes. Add the roasted chopped canned tomatoes, reserved tomato juices, chicken broth, bay leaf and butter. Simmer until vegetables are very tender, about 15 to 20 minutes. Add basil and cream, if using. Puree with a hand held blender until smooth. 🍷



ThumbPrint News Celebrates both the United States' and Canada's Birthday

ThumbPrint News has been traveling the world! Not only has it been seen in many areas of the Thumb of Michigan (over 650 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), Costa Rica, Iraq, Nigeria, Belize, St. Lucia, Wales and Cuba! *ThumbPrint News* was even seen on television – on the Jay Leno Show!

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, Kristie and Dave McIndoe enjoy reading a copy of the July issue of *ThumbPrint News* in front of Bonnie Doone Manor-on-the-Beach in Grand Bend, Ontario, Canada, of which Kristie and Dave, along with Kristie's mother, are the owners.

Grand Bend, Ontario is a great town for a day trip or weekend trip from anywhere in the Thumb area. The downtown area is a short walk from the public beach and offers lots of shopping experiences, from beach wear, resort wear and gift items to gourmet foods. Ice cream stands and outdoor bars and restaurants service the beach crowd, which can become quite large in the summer, especially on weekends. On the Fourth of July weekend this year, over 30,000 people enjoyed the beach in Grand Bend, with the United States celebrating Independence Day and Canada celebrating Canada Day!

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! 📷



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