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History of Traditions
INFO ON PAGE 15

ThumbPrint News

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



JANUARY 2024

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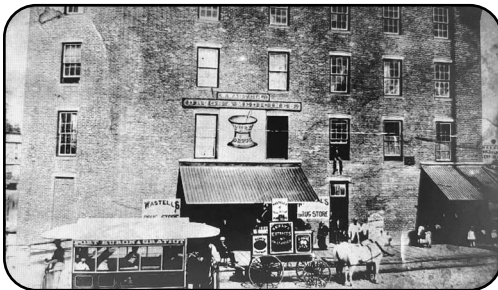
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Port Huron Streetcar Era

By Derek Smith
ThumbPrint News Contributor

The first “streetcar” service in Port Huron began in 1867. It was a horse-drawn affair, four horses pulling a sizeable and cumbersome stagecoach, owned by William Pitt Edison, older brother of Thomas Edison.



Port Huron and Gratiot Railway Company

The coach traveled through Pine Grove Park to the downtown business community from the old Grand Trunk Station, where the Double Tree Inn is today and where the Egyptian Portland Cement Company was located under the Bluewater Bridge.

William Pitt Edison, Gordon Williams, Gage E. Cooper, managers of the Grand Trunk Shops; William Wastrell, a druggist; John Hibbard, mill owner; John Miller, banker; and James Moffat would form the Port Huron and Gratiot Railway Company (PH&G). On January 31, 1866, Congress passed an act giving the company a right of way through the Gratiot Military Reservation. They would also obtain a franchise from the City of Port Huron to operate their cars on Huron Avenue. The bulky stagecoach was replaced in the next few years with two beautiful trolley cars William Pitt Edison had purchased in Philadelphia.

With the replacement of the stagecoaches, new rails were laid for the recently acquired cars. The trolleys were even outfitted with heaters, much to the enjoyment of Port Huron’s winter travelers. William Edison’s mother would make fancy window curtains and sew properly padded cushions for the seats. For summer travelers, Edison installed brass railings on the roofs of the cars so passengers could ride on top, enjoying the

breezes and the beautiful scenery of the river. The public was amazed by these palatial streetcars. The cars enjoyed a reputation of wonder and amazement both locally and throughout many other cities in America.

The business was brisk, and three smaller cars were purchased to meet customer demands. In 1867, the streetcar line was built from the Fort Gratiot station, through Pine Grove Park to Huron Avenue, Huron to River, and later extending to Pine Street. In 1872, they received a franchise to extend south on Military to Griswold and down Griswold to the Chicago and Lake Huron Railroad Station.

The line, its speed regulated on any given day by the willingness of the horses to donate their energies to such a task, proved popular. Daytime fares were 10 cents, and evening passenger fees increased to 25 cents.

In 1873, a rival streetcar company called the City Railroad was formed.

The company was granted a franchise for service from the Grand Trunk Station, west on Michigan, to Stone, to Pine Grove, to Erie Street over the Black River to 7th, to



Port Huron streetcar – Grand Trunk and Military Street circa 1875

See STREETCAR Page 8

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Website: www.ThumbPrintNews.com

Editorial Team & Newspaper Staff:

Bethany Wolf

Editorial & Graphic Designer

Laura Irwin

Editorial, Staff Writer & Graphic Designer

E.J. Tipper

Staff Writer

Advertising Team:

Scott Zimmer, (586) 524-2562

Teri Barkhouse (Schutz), (586) 453-4508

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Congratulations to our 2023 TPN Contest Winner!

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THUMBPRINT NEWS CONTEST

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object, person or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, go to www.thumbprintnews.com and enter your answer. Of all persons submitting the correct answer by the 12th of the month, one person will be randomly selected to be entered into a drawing for a Foxfire Fixin's gift certificate the end of the year! On December 13, 2024 one winner will be drawn out of all the monthly winners and that lucky person will be notified via email, and we'll share the winner's name in our January 2025 issue.

For our December 2023 contest, we asked our readers to identify what is pictured to the right and what it is a part of. Of the correct entries, Aaron Allen of St. Clair, Michigan, was randomly chosen as December's winner. Aaron correctly identified this to be a Woodlite headlight.

These headlights were standard on Ruxtons, Jordans, Cord Auburns, Packards, Stutzes and a few other cars. They were created by William G. Wood and patented in 1928. He designed them to project light farther down the road than traditional headlights.

The general consensus on these headlights was they looked super cool and cat-like but fell short when it came to superior, long-distance lighting compared to the standard counterparts. The cost today for a fully restored pair of these headlights is somewhere around \$3,500.



1930 Ruxton, photo credit: Jim Culp on flickr.com
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For our January 2024 contest, we are asking our readers to identify what is pictured to the right and what it is used for. If you think you know, visit our website, www.thumbprintnews.com, to answer.

GOOD LUCK AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Native American Words of Wisdom

Brought to you by Foxfire Fixin's Restaurant

**"Most of us do not look as
handsome to others as we
do to ourselves."**

~ Assiniboine



Original photo credit: F.A. Rinehart © 1898 from wikimedia commons. creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0

The Assiniboine peoples are similar to the Nakota Sioux. Their name comes from the Anishinaabe word that translates to "cooks by the use of stones." The name they call themselves is "Nakoda".

In the 1650s they lived between Lake Superior and Hudson Bay near Lake Alimibeg. The Assiniboine became important trading partners with the Hudson Bay Company and the North West Company, but were eventually pushed out of the forests of Minnesota onto the plains by a rival tribe, the Ojibway, who had acquired guns from their French allies.

By the late 18th century they had acquired guns, ammo and horses of their own, becoming a more powerful tribe. However, by 1890, their numbers had diminished from 10,000 to about 2,600 due to European infectious diseases, with smallpox being the worst. Today, their population is about 3,500, spread out between Canada and the United States.

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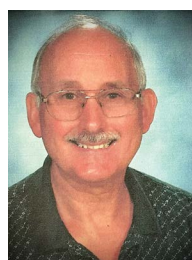
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ALWAYS ON MY MIND



Let the New Age of Discovery Begin

By **Bob Jones**, *ThumbPrint News Columnist*

Upon retiring, one finds more time sequestered in one's abode, at least when not out cavorting with long-lost friends and acquaintances, and catching up on those "always wanting to do" projects.

Certainly, for the male retiree, the art of finding creative outlets to occupy one's time domestically becomes an enduring challenge.

If married, those "honey-do" lists can be daunting if followed explicitly. Those fix-up duties become chores and the mind goes numb after completing one or two of these tasks. Simple jobs, like reactivating the disposal, washing clothes, vacuuming, dusting, making beds and even cleaning bathrooms, one can handle quite routinely while dreaming of basking oneself on a remote and sandy beach in Tahiti. Pleasurable dreaming becomes a necessity while performing these simple tasks.

The male retiree can, if mutually agreed to with their spouse, begin to become a culinary aficionado, dabbling endlessly between boxed gourmet meals to from-scratch, creative, "gosh, this tastes exquisite", one-of-a-kind happenings.

The bigger domestic jobs may require more of a task analysis approach, breaking down the job into many smaller components. When retired, one can more readily ruminate among many approaches before tackling the major painting or decorating projects. Deciding on the color scheme, the many hues and shades, just the right metal – copper, brass, nickel-plated – for these decorative touches now seems mind-boggling. Several trips to the area hardware, domestic makeover shops now become a necessity with so much time to decide and so many choices to make.

Alas, a title for this new position seems appropriate. There's always the good old "king of the castle", but I think we can come up with something better... let's see. Does "keeper of the domestic estate" seem too full-blown? How about "male maintainer of the manor" – alliterative but missing the urgent edge of this deserved new position? How about "domestic captain" – maintaining the quality of life within the sacred walls of the almighty abode? I suppose any one of these can work...which do you like best?

In conclusion, this change of life requires adjusting to the surrounding conditions, including having more time for serious discussions to be made, and more varieties of nuts and bolts to choose from in the marketplace.

These retiring ways require a new kind of road map to lead the way. New neurons and synapses are required to negotiate the many hazards on this newfound journey. The mind boggles with the choices the retiree is faced with each day.

Trudge on, we say, to new heights. We males are self-taught in this unique journey. Learn to be patient, pursue the quiet pathways, and revel in the light of new discoveries. Let the new age of discovery begin. 🌱



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WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? IT'S JUST A FLAG

By David Gillis, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

As you enter a public school classroom today you will notice an American Flag in full view and, to that, you may say, “So what?” Well, for many years before September 2013, it wasn’t required to be there, and students rarely were offered the opportunity to say the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. For all students in school today, it seems it has always been there. It’s been a decade or more since I have given this subject much thought, but I feel it’s time again.

I believe it was a positive move by the Michigan legislature to re-establish by law something that took far too long to accomplish. The law that took effect more than a decade ago required public schools to provide students an opportunity each day to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, although they are not compelled to say it. The law also mandates that the United States Flag be displayed in each classroom or at a site where attending students may say the Pledge. Personally, I believe it is a privilege, but this was a step in the right direction.

Some may think that the entire event was not of any real significance, not a big deal. But there is more to just mounting the nation’s iconic symbol on the wall and allowing a few students to recite a pledge some of the other students don’t even know. How many students today, or even their parents, know how and when that red, white, and blue banner was given birth?

Since this is January, it is an opportune time to recognize again it was on January 1, 1776, during the American Revolution that George Washington unveiled the “Grand Union Flag”, the actual first national flag in the United States of America. That was the same day that the Continental Army, under a Congressional resolution, was placed under General Washington’s control. Coincidentally, January 1 was the birthday of Betsy Ross, a seamstress credited with being one of the originators of the first Stars and Stripes. I believe that’s a pretty big deal.



Also known as the “Congress Flag” or the “Continental Colors”, the Grand Union Flag had the same 13 red and white stripes it has today. However, in the upper left quarter, in place of the stars we see today, was the British flag composed of the St. George’s Cross for England and the St. Andrew’s Cross for Scotland. As some will recognize from history, those who raised that standard believed they were fighting for their freedoms as British citizens against a German Hanoverian king. They

called themselves Patriots on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

It was that banner the Continental Congress met under when it approved the Declaration of Independence. It was the same banner that General George Washington led his army under, and that John Paul Jones placed on the first ship of the United States Navy. It represented the freedoms of property rights, liberty of conscience, representative taxation and self-government that finally became the ideals set to paper in the old courthouse in Philadelphia as we moved to separate ourselves from English rule. The Grand Union Flag eventually gave way to the “stars and stripes” we recognize today as the promise of prosperity, freedom and a self-governing people.

For more than 200 years, the American Flag was the symbol of our nation’s strength and unity. It was a solid source of pride and inspiration for millions of Americans. They learned about this prominent icon in our nation’s history as students in our public schools. Then, this unique symbol of Americanism seemed to just fade away from the walls of our educational institutions.

Over the past few decades, we have watched as our national flag of the United States was burned and trampled both at home and abroad, by our own citizens, as well as others, who did not support our country and wanted to make a point. We have watched as athletes and entertainers misused their notoriety to disparage the national iconic symbol. It has always been difficult for me to make any sense of the disrespectful actions of our own citizens who decided to make this choice. Did they not consider how many of our grandparents, parents and siblings sacrificed their lives defending the right to free speech they used in making that decision?

Fortunately, now, in public schools throughout the State of Michigan, our children have an opportunity to understand each day, if only someone encourages them to do so. That, of course, is the parents’ responsibility. In our classrooms, kids stand for a time when they may recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. For most, these may be new experiences.

During most of our life as a country, the United States Flag was the most respected and recognized iconic representation of our nation. It stood for everything important like the U.S. Constitution and our individual liberties introduced in our Declaration of Independence. Even the stars, stripes and colors that are now seen on it stood for the heavens, rays of light, robustness, purity, innocence, valor, vigilance, perseverance and justice. Now, I truly believe that is a very big deal. It is a wonderful gift that inspires us to just say, “God Bless America.” 🇺🇸



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FOMO or JOMO You Choose!

By Patricia Cosner Kubic

ThumbPrint News Columnist

January can be pretty intriguing, especially this year, with the words "Lions" and "playoffs" hopefully being used in the same sentence. *(Disclaimer: I'm writing this in early December while they're at 9-3 which leaves me feeling pretty confident that the Lions will play ball in mid-January.)* Most everyone loves having a clean slate. It feels like it's an opportunity to tackle a whole host of things that got pushed aside last year. But here's an unlikely and possibly new idea: why not let those activities stay on the sideline? Why not make 2024 the Year of JOMO? Why not, indeed?

Most everybody has heard of **FOMO**: *Fear of Missing Out*. And, if you've never heard that term before, chances are excellent that you have felt it. The most popular place to catch FOMO is any social media portal. And it doesn't take much. A quick post about someone going to a concert and suddenly you feel like watching HGTV reruns sums up your life. A few shots of a new electric vehicle on Instagram from a second cousin you haven't talked to in a decade, and you notice your shoulders slouching the next time you start your car.

I've contracted many cases of FOMO. Typically my trigger is when someone posts a picture about a party or a group outing at a restaurant. I go right back to high school when I never, and I mean never, got invited to a party.

I felt so left out. And those feelings are so easily triggered when I see a group of people, most of whom I've never met, with big laughing faces, drinks and dinner plates with just a few bites left on them. And the really whacked-out thing is that I don't know most of these people! I started to feel lonely because I wasn't out on the town with strangers. Then I feel guilty that I'm not happy that my friend, the one person I know in the pic, had a fun night out. Please tell me I'm not alone on this one!

FOMO may be talked about casually, but the truth is there are studies that prove that FOMO reduces our well-being. According to ScienceDirect, "FOMO involves experiencing anxiety and other negative emotions because of a concern that somehow other people are having more fun, living a better life or having better experiences than you are. Comparing ourselves to people who appear better off than we are on some personal quality, experience or ability can provide hope and inspiration to drive self-improvement. But for some people, these upward social comparisons can fuel FOMO by highlighting what we are lacking and instead prompt negative self-evaluations, which negatively impact well-being." All that because somebody renovated their bathroom.

Thankfully, there is a way out, and it might be an effective way to start the new year: **JOMO**: *Joy of Missing Out*. It is the opposite of FOMO because you feel relief and joy, perhaps because that party, new car or trip is absent from your life. What? Yup, the idea is a head-turner. The concept suggests that we look around and feel satisfied with things and our situation despite not being invited to the cool kid's party.

While JOMO is a very new concept, one event resulted in the idea getting some traction. On October 4, 2021, Meta had a temporary meltdown, causing Facebook and Instagram to go offline for six hours. Researchers jumped on this unusual circumstance and did a survey. While many people were stressed about losing access to social media, others felt relieved about being disconnected, lighter even.

The other point I learned about while researching JOMO is the concept of "time poverty". It takes zero web searching to realize that we only have so much time in a day, or even a new year, to do what we want. And let's face it, many things we do are not choices: laundry, grocery shopping, making meals, and if you have a kid under age 25, there are countless emails and texts arranging activities. Once all that is done, our time allotment is practically in its own recession. Part of leaning into JOMO is realizing that most of us live in "time poverty", and making meaningful use of that precious remaining time should not include worrying about what other people are doing or buying.

JOMO might just be another way to find gratitude, which, of course, is essential, but it is an elevated version of appreciation since it requires a lot of intention because the negative feelings caused by FOMO happen so frequently. So, each time it happens, we have a decision to face: Which "MO" fulfills me? Picking joy seems like the best way to spend time this January and all through 2024. 🍀

You can reach Patricia at pckubic@gmail.com.



CLARITY IN HEALTH

Here we are once again starting a brand new year! Seeing as how crazy the last few years have been, we wanted to once again remind readers the importance of clarity! If one were to get an eye exam and be told that they have 20/20 vision, they are considered to have perfect vision and see with great clarity. These exams are important and conducted routinely on an annual basis by most people, because let's be frank, life would be much different without the ability to see the world around us. But what about hearing with great clarity? Isn't the ability to hear the world around us clearly just as important as seeing it?

Hearing exams aren't prioritized as much as eye exams or overall annual physicals, but they should be, considering that hearing loss is being linked to more and more health conditions that affect the overall well-being of an individual. Most people are unaware that when we hear, sound waves travel from the outer ear, through the middle ear into the inner ear, where the vibrations stimulate thousands of tiny hair cells. These tiny hair cells in our inner ear send electrical signals to the auditory nerve, which is connected to the center of the brain, where the electrical impulses are perceived by the brain as sound. The brain translates the impulses into sounds that we know and understand. What this means is that there is a direct link between the ability or inability to hear and the brain.

By getting a regular hearing exam, you can stay abreast of not only your hearing health, but your overall health. Untreated hearing loss has been directly linked to cognitive decline, dementia, Alzheimer's and an increased risk of falling. One main goal when treating hearing loss is to keep the brain active and engaged and by treating hearing loss in its early stages, you can lessen your chances of developing further health problems down the line. This and every year, let's be clear where we stand in all matters of our health, because if we don't have our health, nothing else we have matters!

SOME EARLY WARNING SIGNS OF HEARING LOSS INCLUDE:

- 1 You experience ringing in your ears.
- 2 You have been told you speak too loudly.
- 3 Your family complains that you play the radio or TV too loud.
- 4 You often ask people to repeat themselves.
- 5 You have trouble understanding all the words in a conversation.
- 6 You have difficulty understanding a conversation in a large group or crowd.
- 7 You find yourself reading people's lips in order to understand the conversation.
- 8 You find yourself saying "huh" or "what" a lot in conversations.
- 9 You find that communicating over the phone is difficult.
- 10 You complain that people mumble or talk too fast.

Editorial note: Beltone Skoric Hearing Aid Center has been serving the hearing-impaired community in Michigan for over 30 years. They have made it their mission to educate about the negative effects of untreated hearing loss. For more information, please visit their website www.beltoneskorichearing.com or call to schedule a free hearing exam at one of their 38 locations: (810) 356-0559.

LIONS OF THE THUMB

Highlighting the Algonac Lions Club

By **Bob Marrow**, member of the Algonac Lions Club

The Algonac Lions Club has been serving the community for over 83 years, since 1940. During the early years, the Club's main focus was on building a recreation complex and clubhouse for the use of the community. Using the clubhouse as an operational base, they started with the construction of the Lions Field and Pool in the '40s and '50s. Leader Dogs for the Blind was also in its early stages of development at the time, and the Club began making significant donations to that organization and has continued to do so to this day. Lions have made eye exams, glasses and hospital equipment available to those in need free of charge. They have always tried to be first and foremost with assistance in community and family emergencies. Scholarships are made available each year to deserving students in the community. The clubhouse is also



a recognized community center, a designated emergency shelter and is used for banquets, weddings, funerals, showers, vaccinations and blood drives. It is used throughout the year by many other organizations for their meetings and fundraisers as well.

Algonac Lions generate their operating revenues from a variety of sources. Several annual fundraisers bring in most of the revenue, such as shrimp and steak dinners, Club rentals, the yearly raffle and the Pickerel Tournament that the Algonac Lions Club has hosted each summer for 83 years. Various other fundraising activities take place based on community needs and requests. Lions Club is a non-profit, as well as a 501c3 charitable organization that can accept tax-deductible contributions. They are a member of the St. Clair Community Foundation and use accumulated funds from their account to help finance charitable contributions and make improvements to Club-owned and sponsored facilities.



Editorial note: This article was written by Bob Marrow, who is celebrating his 50th year as an Algonac Lion. The idea for this new column came from the Lions Club Thumb District 11 D-2 Governor James White, with the goal of highlighting our area's Lions Clubs. Visit www.11-d2lions.org to learn more about your local Lions.



LIONS SHOUTOUT

We are proud to announce Wes Waggester has been awarded the S.A. Dodge Award for 2024. This award is the highest honor given by the Lions Clubs of Michigan.

Wes is humble and kind and has served the Almont Lions, as well as our District and State Lions, for many years. We all thank and congratulate Wes!



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BBB BUSINESS BONUS 10 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR YOUR SMALL BUSINESS

Scaling and sustainability will continue to be the main focus for any small business owner. There are many ways to achieve revenue growth, attract top talent, instill a healthy culture, delight customers and so much more. Better Business Bureau® (BBB) serving Eastern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula advises that 2024 is going to be a very competitive year for small businesses. Having a game plan of what you need to accomplish will be critical to your success. Here are 10 Business Resolutions for a Successful 2024!

1. Continue building a strong digital footprint – Aside from having a website, ensure you build a solid content marketing strategy that will help you create valuable content

- pieces that will drive engagement and sales.
- 2. Promote your business consistently** – Rather than waiting for the holidays to push larger promotions, find ways that you can creatively promote your business throughout the year. This ensures that you stay top of mind for your target customers. 62% of consumers share online deals with friends, exposing your brand to a broader audience.
- 3. Personalize the entire buyer journey** – The days of communicating “at” your target audience, hoping they will buy from you, are now a thing of the past. Know that 71% of consumers feel frustrated when a shopping experience is impersonal. Therefore, personalize the buyer journey by offering products/services based on your customers’ purchase behavior and complementary items they can also consider.
- 4. Embrace an effective technology stack** – From social media to email marketing, know that every piece of technology you leverage to communicate with your customers must

See *BBB BUSINESS BONUS* Page 16

	<p>1 On this day in 630, the Prophet Muhammad sets out with an army of 10,000 strong to conquer Mecca.</p>	<p>2 On this day in 1990, actor Alan Hale Jr., known for playing Skipper on <i>Gilligan's Island</i>, dies at 68.</p>	<p>3 On this day in 1977, Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs incorporate Apple Computer, Inc.</p>	<p>4 On this day in 1936, <i>Billboard</i> magazine publishes its first music hit parade.</p>	<p>5 On this day in 1949, U.S. President Truman labels his administration the “Fair Deal” in his State of the Union address.</p>	<p>6 On this day in 1987, astronomers at the University of California believe they have witnessed the birth of a giant galaxy 12 billion light years away.</p>
<p>7 On this day in 1714, the typewriter is patented by Englishman Henry Mill, but the machine may never have been built.</p>	<p>8 On this day in 2016, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto announces the recapture of drug lord Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán, six months after he escaped prison.</p>	<p>9 On this day in 1839, Louis Daguerre announces his daguerreotype photographic process to the French Academy of Science.</p>	<p>10 On this day in 49 BCE, Julius Caesar defies the Roman Senate and crosses the Rubicon, uttering “<i>alea iacta est</i>”, signaling the start of the civil war which would lead to his appointment as Roman dictator for life.</p>	<p>11 On this day in 1964, the first government report warning that smoking may be hazardous is released by U.S. Surgeon General Luther Terry.</p>	<p>12 On this day in 1966, the TV show <i>Batman</i>, starring Adam West, Burt Ward and Cesar Romero, debuts on ABC.</p>	<p>13 On this day in 1972, Bernice Gera wins anti-discrimination case against the National Baseball Congress, initiated March 15, 1971, to be allowed to umpire.</p>
<p>14 On this day in 1951, the first NFL Pro Bowl is held at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.</p>	<p>15 On this day in 1559, Elizabeth I is crowned Queen of England in Westminster Abbey.</p>	<p>16 On this day in 1605, the first edition of <i>El ingenioso hidalgo Don Quijote de la Mancha</i> (<i>Book One of Don Quixote</i>) by Miguel de Cervantes is published in Madrid.</p>	<p>17 On this day in 1920, the U.S. enters into the prohibition of alcohol at midnight as a result of the 18th Amendment.</p>	<p>18 On this day in 1591, King Naresuan of Siam kills Crown Prince Minchit Sra of Burma in single combat. Date is now observed as Royal Thai Armed Forces Day.</p>	<p>19 On this day in 1883, the first electric lighting system employing overhead wires, built by Thomas Edison, begins service at Roselle, New Jersey.</p>	<p>20 On this day in 1971, Tamla Records releases Marvin Gaye’s single “What’s Going On” about police brutality.</p>
<p>21 On this day in 1991, CBS News correspondent Bob Simon and four of his TV crew are captured and imprisoned by Iraq for 40 days in the Persian Gulf.</p>	<p>22 On this day in 1908, Katie Mulcahey is arrested and fined \$5 for lighting a cigarette, violating the 1-day old “Sullivan Ordinance” banning women from smoking in public.</p>	<p>23 On this day in 1978, Sweden becomes the first country to outlaw aerosol sprays, due to their harmful effect on the Earth’s ozone layer.</p>	<p>24 On this day in 1972, Japanese Sergeant Shoichi Yokoi is found hiding in a Guam jungle, where he had been since the end of WWII.</p>	<p>25 On this day in 1924, the first Winter Olympic Games open in Chamonix, France.</p>	<p>26 On this day in 1482, the first printed edition of the Pentateuch, the Hebrew Bible, appears in Bologna, Italy, with vowel-signs and accents.</p>	<p>27 On this day in 1832, Lewis Carroll, author of <i>Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland</i>, is born in Daresbury, United Kingdom.</p>
<p>28 On this day in 1985, the charity single “We Are the World” is recorded by Michael Jackson, Lionel Richie, Quincy Jones, Bruce Springsteen, Stevie Wonder and more as the supergroup USA for Africa.</p>	<p>29 On this day in 1886, Karl Benz receives the first patent for a gas-fueled car.</p>	<p>30 On this day in 1661, Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, is ritually executed for regicide despite having been dead for two years.</p>	<p>31 On this day in 2015, 17-year-old Lydia Ko of New Zealand becomes the youngest golfer in men’s or women’s golf history to be ranked No. 1 in the world.</p>	<p>WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS <i>January</i> DAY IN HISTORY?</p>		

Editorial note: This calendar’s purpose is to provide entertainment for our readers and to mention lesser-known historical events. We are aware that there also may be well-known events that have happened on these days, and not listing them does not indicate that we are unaware of their importance.

STREETCARS

Continued from Page 1

Griswold, and the southern city limits. They were also granted the right to construct a curved track at Stone and Michigan Streets.

Its competitor, Port Huron and Gratiot Railway Company, secured a franchise to extend its line on Stone Street to Pine Street, east to Forest, and south on that street to the railroad property. It removed its tracks in Pine Grove Park.

In 1874, the City Railway franchise was amended to allow it a rail on Michigan, Stone Street and down Pine Grove. It would then travel to Superior Street, Superior to Broad, to Huron Avenue, Huron to Butler (now Grand River), and east to the St. Clair River. The track, coming from the north, met Huron Avenue. There, it also met a third track, which the Port Huron and Gratiot Railway were building on the west side of its first two tracks. At this juncture, work was halted, and PH&G sued the City Railroad. Lawsuits, injunctions and legal controversies would ensue, reaching the Michigan Supreme Court.

These two rival companies would battle each other in court over the next few years, a legal war that fetched thousands of dollars from their wallets and took up much of the court's time.

The impasse finally ended in 1877, when a new company was formed, the "Port Huron Railway" company, with a capitalization of \$50,000.

The new company acquired the rights of the two old franchises and removed any track no longer needed. It would construct a new line from Grand Trunk Station, west on Michigan to Stone Street, south on Stone to Pine Grove, following Huron Avenue, down that street to Military and Griswold Streets, and east to the Port Huron and Lake Michigan Station.

In 1883, the new company applied to the city for a 30-year franchise, which also included extensions and changes to the existing line. Those changes included a track on Elk Street, instead of Stone, and a rail on Court Street east from Military to the Port Huron and Northwestern Railway Station. The village of Fort Gratiot gave the company permission to build on Elk and Elmwood.

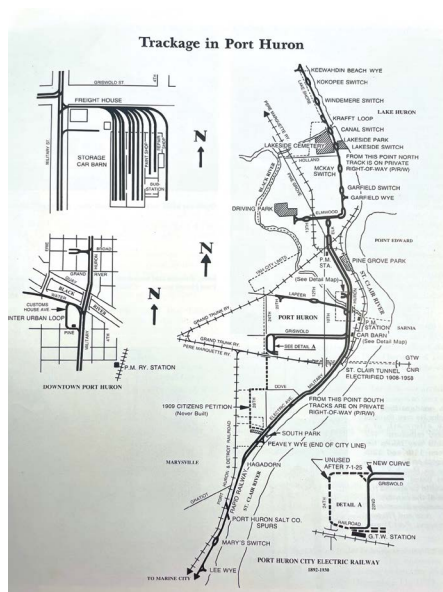
They also requested permission to run electric cars over the lines, although, at that time, no electric streetcars were known to operate anywhere in North America.

In 1885, John F. Talbot, H.F. Talbot and H.L. Talbot were the first to promote an electric rail system in Port Huron. Their interest in such a venture peaked after seeing a primitive electric rail system in Windsor, Ontario. The city of Muskegon, Michigan, claimed they had the first streetcar lines in Michigan, and the third in the United States, to be entirely dependent on electricity as their mode of power. The year was 1892.

Historians in the City of Port Huron take exception to this statement, as Port Huron was the second city in America to exhibit a continuous use of electricity in a streetcar system, starting in October of 1886.

In 1885, the Port Huron Electric Railway was organized, taking over the Port Huron Railway Company. Along with the Talbot brothers, S.L. Ballentine, Albert Dixon, C.A. Ward and W.F. Botsford would partner in the new venture.

The new company signed a mortgage for \$36,000, and all old mortgages were paid off. The Talbots would serve as the officers and management for the new venture. They gained approval from the City of Port Huron to run electric streetcars and got to work on electrifying the system immediately. The old streetcar system proved poorly constructed, and most of the equipment had been poorly maintained and in



an ailing state. It would prove to be an expensive and monumental task to correct all the known issues and the many unknown problems that cropped up as each day passed. Poles were installed on both sides of the trolley routes, and wires were strung for the cars.

A 60-horsepower dynamo to furnish the power was installed in a flour mill owned by W.F. Botsford. The mill was located on the riverbank in Pine Grove Park. Horses would be used as a backup, as there existed some trepidation of a break in a wire or an electrical disconnection that would cause the rail system to fail. The crossing of the Military Street Bridge proved to be a significant hurdle. There had never been a swing bridge in the United States designed for traffic that included an electric streetcar system.

The Van Depeole Manufacturing Company of Chicago built the Port Huron Electric Railway, and the first electrically driven car was set on the tracks on October 8, 1886.

By the end of that year, Port Huron boasted the first electrically operated streetcar system in Michigan and the second in the United States. Scranton, Pennsylvania, was the only other city in the United States that had successfully built and equipped a streetcar line with electricity. Its operation was also in the year 1886.

The Port Huron Electric Railway would be the first electrically operated streetcar system to illuminate its cars using electricity, the first to traverse a moveable bridge, and the first to "request permission" to use electric power in its franchise at a time when there was no commercial electric railway in the world.



Car going to the Beaches and Tunnel Depot, Conductor William Delres and Jack Neal are two of the men in the photo, circa 1896

The first electric cars were called "dinkies", a reflection of their tiny length. Most were no more than 12 to 15 feet long and carried a mere eight passengers, who occupied seats on the sides of the car.

Its 7-horsepower motor was in the car's center and was driven from that location. This area proved visually problematic for the motorman, trying to avoid obstacles along the route.

The new company rebuilt the entire road and extended the tracks down Military to Lapeer Avenue and farther up Gratiot. In 1886, plans were in place to extend the line out the Lakeshore Road to the cemeteries and beaches. After several legal obstructions, work would be completed, and access by rail to Port Huron's northerly resorts and graveyards would be complete.

The most significant change included moving the original power plant into the City Electric Light facility, where a more reliable power source existed.

In 1892, the Port Huron Electric Railway, owned by the Talbot brothers and their business partners, would sell their interests to City Electric Railway Company. The company's principals included Albert Dixon, Fred J. Dixon and W.L. Jenks. The new company completely rebuilt the system, purchasing better equipment and more powerful dynamos, costing nearly \$150,000.



St Clair Tunnel, circa 1894




After completing the first St. Clair Tunnel in 1891, one of that day's most remarkable engineering feats, Grand Trunk officials sought a streetcar connection to that tunnel. The City Electric Railway was tasked with installing modern equipment and extending the line to the Tunnel Station. The Depot line was built on Griswold to 24th, south to the station, and returning to Griswold on 22nd. The track was then laid down Military Avenue to the city's southern boundaries. In 1894, the Lapeer Street line was opened and would be the last trackage installed in the City of Port Huron. The old Grand Trunk station was moved

See *STREETCAR* Page 19

HERE COMES 2024!! New Year's Resolutions for Your Pets

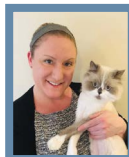
By Dr. Elizabeth Gray, ThumbPrint News Columnist

The new year is a time for fresh starts for everyone, including your cat or dog! Pick a few small changes to improve your pet's life and positively impact the entire household at the same time. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- 1. Get More Exercise.** This is one of the most common resolutions, so why not include your pets this year? Most dogs enjoy a walk and are eager to get outside, even when we think it's too cold. Make your dog your new walking buddy! Accountability is one of the best ways to make a resolution stick. Commit to taking your furry friend for a walk and don't let him down! Getting your cat to exercise can be a bit more of a challenge. If your cat spends their days napping, start with just a few minutes of play to get them moving.
- 2. Brush Up on Dental Health.** We all know pets have teeth, but did you know that they can benefit from a dental hygiene routine too? Dog and cat-specific toothbrushes and kinds of toothpaste are widely available. Introducing brushing can be a slow process, don't rush it. Try using flavored toothpaste to make it a little easier. If brushing isn't an option, several dental treats and rinses are also available. Be sure to check out next month's article for more information about pet dental health. 
- 3. Microchips – Does Your Pet Have a Microchip?** If so, now is a good time to confirm the information is correct. Have you moved? Did your phone number change? Up-to-date microchip records ensure the fastest return of your pet in the event they go missing. No microchip? No problem! Your veterinarian can help you with the simple process. It is a quick procedure that can usually be done at a routine wellness exam. 
- 4. Medical Record Updating.** Are vaccines and other medical treatments for your pet up to date? Can you easily and quickly locate the information? Make sure all needed information is in one location. In the event of an unexpected boarding stay or illness, you will be well prepared.
- 5. Start an Emergency Fund.** No one wants to think of their pet getting sick or needing emergency care. Take the time now to prepare for the unexpected. There are several options that can help in the event of unexpected costs. One option is pet insurance. Another is that you could set aside money every month to give you not only an emergency fund but also peace of mind by the end of 2024.
- 6. Refresh Toys and Supplies.** How long has it been since food storage and treat containers were emptied and washed? How about food and water dishes? Take the time to refresh your pet's daily routine. Stainless steel bowls are best for food and water. Toys can harbor bacteria and should be washed routinely. Look at your pet's collection and remove toys that are overly loved. Maybe it's time to find your dog a new "baby". Cats love to play with new toys too. Reboot their toy collection and get going on that exercise resolution at the same time.
- 7. Help Those Less Fortunate.** You can make a difference with donations of your time or with needed supplies. The Blue Water Humane Society has a wish list of supplies on their website. Here are a few examples: laundry soap, dog toys and chews, cat toys, blankets and towels. The next time you replace bath towels, consider donating your old ones. You can also visit their website to see the full wish list that also includes a link for online shopping. Another option to help those less fortunate is donating to the St. Clair County Animal Control. Their website includes a link for monetary donations. All donations made to SCC Animal Control are used for the medical care and other benefit of dogs and cats. 

Here's to a bright and beautiful 2024 for us all!

Editorial note: Dr. Gray serves the St. Clair County area with In The Pink Mobile Veterinary Services. She is based out of Goodells, Michigan. To reach out to Dr. Gray, please call (810) 985-3011 or visit her website at inthepinkpetcare.com.





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THUMBPRINT NEWS PET PHOTO CHALLENGE

We are featuring Kiki and her sister Sophie, sent in by their mom, Desiree of Cottrellville, MI



These are my girls, Kiki & Sophie!

Kiki (9 years old) is the smaller pug, in the orange and white sweaters, and Sophie (3 years old) has the purple harness. We rescued both of them from weird situations and are so happy we did! They are both loving and sweet and enjoy coming to work with me at my men's hair shop. The girls enjoy long walks, naps, staying nice and warm while reading TPN!

Thank you, Desiree, for sharing Kiki & Sophie with us!

YOU CAN VIEW OUR ENTIRE MENAGERIE AT www.bit.ly/TPNPETS (make sure you type the link in with all uppercase letters)

JOIN THE FUN! How to submit: *Please submit good quality .jpeg photo(s) of your pet or another animal posing with our paper to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net. Include a few sentences about your pet(s). When your photo(s) appear in the paper, we will be sure to send you a complimentary copy, so please include your full name and address with your submission. Submissions can also be mailed to: TPN Travels, 8061 Marsh Rd., Clay, MI 48001.

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PAPER DOLL MAGIC

Oh, What Fun We Had!!!

By Theresa Nielsen, ThumbPrint News Columnist

I remember back when I was a young girl, I loved playing with paper dolls. I was always nervous to cut them apart, but I knew I had to in order to play with them. Paper dolls are two-dimensional figures drawn or printed onto paper. They came with dresses, hats, coats, etc. that you would cut out and attach to the doll with little folded tabs. Paper dolls were popular during the 19th century and into the mid-20th century. Paper dolls were flat, but they had such an appeal that provided a lifetime of enjoyment.

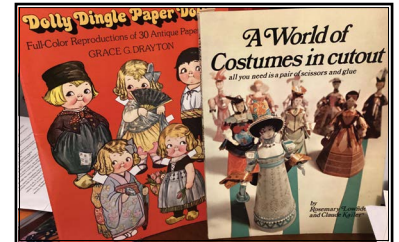
I would imagine my eight-year-old self as the one dressed up in one of those fancy, glamorous outfits of the paper dolls. My sisters and I would spend hours playing and talking with those dolls until my mom would call me downstairs to help her fix dinner or take care of one of my siblings. When that happened, I would hurry to put away all my dolls and their accompanying outfits, wanting to keep them safe from the less-supervised younger ones. When I was able to return to playing with them, it seemed those younger siblings were also interested if only to look. But I resisted those sticky fingers. One of my favorite characters was Dolly Dingle and her trip around the world. The book even included her little white cat and her dogs. No wonder I love animals so much.

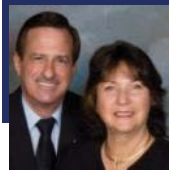
Paper dolls have existed as long as there have been creative people and paper to apply those images. I liked the fact that my sisters and I had different paper doll characters, we would try to interchange each other's outfits. Unlike today's culture, I wanted to stay a little girl forever and dream of a paper doll life. Thoughts and dreams that included those fancy dolls dressed up in the Victorian clothing of those days. But alas, I had to grow up. Was it possible that's how I fell in love with sewing at an early age? Could it be I wanted to make those clothes to wear or dress up my own dolls? I only have a few sets of paper dolls in my collection, but the dolls I make are dressed in pearls and furs and sometimes they have a pet.

I recently asked my younger sister about paper dolls. She was only seven when I moved away from home, so I didn't know if she played with the same kind of dolls. She said that yes, she did have them too, and they were her favorites! I told her how much I loved them and now there is paper doll fabric to enjoy. Memories of my childhood and playing with paper dolls remind me of happy times I'll cherish forever. Yes, I'm all grown up now, and I am still dreaming. 🌈



Editorial note: To read more of Theresa's writing, you can find her books about growing up sewing in a small town on Amazon and Barnes & Noble's website. To reach Theresa, you can email her at catbirdinn@sbcglobal.net.





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MARKET MATTERS



It's a New Year! Out with the old, in with the new? No, more likely, it will be more of the same (low inventory and high interest rates), but hopefully we will see improvement on both counts.

Since the beginning of 2022, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) raised the federal funds rate eleven times to its current target range of 5¼-5½%, as of November 2023. The last rate hike was July 26, 2023, followed by no increases at the September 20, 2023, November 1, 2023 and December 13, 2023 meetings.

Residential mortgage interest rates continue to fluctuate between 7½-8½% for 30-year fixed mortgage loans, and 6½-7½% for 15-year fixed mortgage loans continuing, along with inflation, the squeeze on home affordability. Residential and condo prices continued to hold steady and/or increased slightly in 2023 compared to 2022.

While inflation has not gone down, the rate of increase of inflation has moderated and there are varying expert predictions as to whether the Fed will begin to reduce the Fed funds rate in 2024, if/as we approach their 2% inflation target.

There are varying economist predictions that we will see between two and six 25-basis-point Fed funds reductions in 2024, based on expectations regarding the inflation rate and unemployment. What we don't see factored into these predictions is the ongoing impact of continued excessive government deficit spending. The sooner the government puts its financial house in order, the sooner we'll see real improvements in home affordability.

Buyers and sellers will be better able to manage the residential real estate market in 2024, given a combination of lower mortgage rates and more inventory. First-time buyers may need to moderate their initial purchase *needs versus wants* in order to get their foot in the door. But we believe, tried and true, there is still a strong desire to own a piece of the American Dream.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



WHAT'S IN STORE IN '24?



Home-design website Houzz (houzz.com) forecasts styles we may see in 2024 including:

Blended Backsplashes – instead of selecting one material for your backsplash, consider incorporating two or more different complementary materials to add color and texture to your design.

Appliance Garages – are making a comeback too – and on a larger scale. They are a combination of convenience and decluttering.

Warm Neutrals – this trend continues to increase in popularity beyond the kitchen and throughout the home. The neutral tones create a warm and cozy feeling, which is definitely “in” in 2024. 🌿

Editorial note: Don and Barbara Alcorn are Realtors® serving St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland Counties, as well as the Grosse Pointes. Part of an international network of Realtors®, they are affiliated with Coldwell Banker Realty in Michigan, one of the nation's largest and most successful real estate brokerages. You can reach them at (810) 278-6655, donald.alcorn@cbrealty.com or barbara.alcorn@cbrealty.com.



eat the frog first!

By Rita MacDonald, ThumbPrint News Columnist

It is still December as I write this article for January... and as 2023 comes to a close I've realized that I still haven't done that one dreaded thing on my to-do list.

That THING that I've been moving over each week to NEXT week's to-do list for far too many weeks. But now I'm running out of weeks, and I'm down to just days! I should just eat the doggone frog and get it done, right?

Aaaarrrrrgggghhhhh! I don't want to!

"Eat the frog first," was my daily motto at a former job, it made days so much easier, giving me something to look forward to pretty early in the day when I'd tackle the biggest projects (the frogs) first thing in the morning. Well, if only I'd have eaten this particular frog before now...

But I haven't. I haven't eaten that stupid frog.

December is nearly done for me, and already passed for all of you reading this in January 2024, I'm staring at my calendar, noticing how much I've already gotten done this month.

I took a three-week class at church, my friend Mike came with me, and I made a new good friend, Kathy. I went to my first "oatmeal party" with Deb, and packed gifts for kids in rural Michigan, went Christmas caroling with my friends, entered my first chili cook-off (and lost), enjoyed a special day with Lyla, went to the Woodside Nativity event with Rory, Holly, all the kids, Beema, and Holly's folks, saw Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith in concert, had dinner at Camp

Ti with Emily, dinner at the Copper Kettle with Reyne, another dinner at Coney with Terri, dinner with Nancy & Bert on a cold Friday night and got to sit by their fireplace, got to see my friend Lynn, landed a sweet new gig doing something I love, and I'm only a little more than halfway through the month. There are lots of parties and get-togethers in the coming days, and yes, there's also that TIME I should carve out for that dreaded frog...

But in the meantime... I'm going to thumb through my 2023 prayer binder so I can be reminded of the people and circumstances I've prayed for this last year, and see how God has remained faithful even when I've been a nitwit. I will set some 2024 goals and reflect on all I've learned (or failed to learn) in 2023. And I'm going to eat that...that...that stupid FROG!

Yuck!

But it needs to be done. The longer I put it off, the worse it seems to get. I promise I'll eat it before the end of the year...I will! And I think that moving into 2024, I need to make this my renewed motto – eat the frog first! It makes for a much easier time with less dread.

So, here's to an injury-free, illness-free, bad news-free 2024! I encourage you to try my motto out over these new 366 days we all have ahead of us! Eat YOUR frogs first! Go get 'em!

"Eat a LIVE FROG FIRST THING IN THE MORNING AND NOTHING WORSE WILL HAPPEN TO YOU THE REST OF THE DAY." – Mark Twain





Informational Tips and Advice on Common Household Pests
from Nicole Szymczak, President, ABC Bees

Did you know that it only takes one bed bug to start a heavy infestation? I know, I know, just hearing the words bed and bug together makes your skin crawl, right? Bed bug infestations are on the rise, and I want you to be prepared!

Most people assume that bed bugs are a sign of filth, but this is not true at all. You can clean everyday to have a spotless home and still end up with bed bugs. They can be picked up from numerous places and are known for their hitchhiking skills. If you encounter one in a movie theater, restaurant, hotel, hospital, public transportation, clothes dressing rooms, or just about anywhere, chances are it will hitch a ride home with you. And that one can turn into another one and another one until suddenly your home and furniture are filled with these pesky creatures.

So, what should you be looking for? Bed bugs are dark brown to red in color (usually after they have had a blood meal) with wide, flat bodies. They will undergo gradual metamorphosis – meaning they molt and change several times between being born and growing into an adult. Fully grown bed bugs can be 1/4 inch long, but the egg and nymph stages are smaller and harder to spot. Bed bugs will generally survive by getting blood meals from hosts, and they prefer humans, but will feed off other vertebrates if needed, such as cats, dogs and even mice. Unfortunately, it's important to note that bed bugs can live up to one year without a blood meal. It is possible for bed bugs to harbor human diseases, but there is no proof that they can transmit these diseases.

Most people aren't even aware they even have a problem until it's too late. Bed bugs are nocturnal and their bites are almost completely painless, as to not alert the host to their presence. They have completely adapted to living with humans. Their flat bodies allow them to hide in the smallest of places, like bed frames, dressers, wallboards, door frames, behind outlet covers, etc. As long as the bed bug has a host to feed off every night, they have no reason to leave your bedroom or sleeping area. They hide out around the bed during the day and then come out to feed at night.

As I stated before, bed bugs are not a sign of a dirty house or bad housekeeping habits. However, once you have an infestation, cleaning daily is extremely important. You must eliminate harborage and egg-laying areas. Bed bugs lay eggs multiple times each day. Under ideal conditions (temperature, humidity, etc.), eggs will hatch in about two weeks. Regularly vacuuming and keeping your home free of clutter will be the key during the treatment process. If you can vacuum up and dispose of the eggs before they hatch, you can greatly reduce the number of adult bugs inside your home.

If you suspect you have a bed bug infestation, the first thing you should do is call a professional and have your home inspected to make sure that the bug you're seeing really is a bed bug. Another bug, called a bat bug, looks almost identical to the bed bug. Bat bugs are found on and feed on bats. If an attic is infested with bats and bat bugs, there is a chance these bugs can make their way into the living space and feed on humans or pets. They can easily be mistaken for bed bugs.

After it is confirmed that you do have bed bugs, the treatment process should begin as soon as possible. Bed bugs are very hard to eliminate and it make take several treatments. Due to the nature of the bugs and the different life stages they go through, treatment will require diligence and thoroughness. ABC Bees, a division of ABC Home & Commercial Services, has been treating bed bugs for over 15 years. Our experienced technicians know where to look for and how to spot these frustrating bugs. They know what treatment options work best and will work with you every step of the way to guarantee the best possible outcome. Call ABC Bees now at (810) 794-5678 to schedule an inspection and get your treatment plan started today! 🐛

Nocturnal, parasitic, blood-feeding insects that prefer human blood.

We're Talking BED BUGS

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They keep their food source within crawling distance, whether that's your bed, sofa, recliner, or behind loose wallpaper, any dark crevice will do.



IF You Suspect Bed Bugs Give Us A Call!

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Vocabulary Voyage

Compiled By Laura Irwin, ThumbPrint News Staff

"I like to listen. I have learned a great deal from listening carefully. Most people never listen." – Ernest Hemingway

faith | 'fāth

A noun meaning 1a: allegiance to duty or a person: LOYALTY, 1b: fidelity to one's promises; sincerity of intentions. 2a: belief and trust in and loyalty to God, 2b: firm belief in something which cannot be proven, complete trust, 3: something that is believed with especially strong conviction. First known use: 13th century from Middle English, borrowed from Anglo-French which traces back to Latin *fides* – trust, guarantee, sincerity, loyalty. Ex: *Just because things get tough, doesn't mean you should lose faith in [your dreams]; [the Lord]; [humanity].*

humility hu·mil·i·ty | /hyoo'mil ədē/

A noun meaning freedom from pride or arrogance : a modest opinion or estimate of one's own importance : the quality or state of being humble. First known use: 14th century, both humility and humble originate in the Latin word *humilis*, meaning "low". Ex: *Two good ways to practice humility is to admit your mistakes and to actively listen without speaking to those who have different points of view.*

perseverance per-se-ver-ance ,pər-sə-'vir-ən(t)s

A noun meaning : continuing to do something despite difficulties, failure, opposition or delays in success : STEADFASTNESS. First known use: 14th century from Middle English from Anglo-French from Latin *perseverantia* meaning persisting in a course of action despite opposition. Ex: *Success or failure often comes down to perseverance.*

A good vocabulary is a powerful tool, making communication simpler. Readers can contribute to our learning journey by submitting underused, misused or uncommon words they've discovered to thumbprintnews@comcast.net. Your name will be credited as the contributor.



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DIMENSION ONE SPAS



By Pamela Lynn Hayes, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

Here we are, a new fresh year to face with so much potential and of course, hope! The holidays of 2023 are behind us and there is something that just feels different about a fresh new year, other than the passage of time. We all have goals, new visions and changes we want to make to improve our lives even more.

I'm not a fan of the cold winter weather in Michigan, but I have to say, this year is a bit different for a few reasons, and I'm just enjoying this serene time right now.

I've written so much about my love for the Thumb area for over 10 years now, and I've always shared my desire to move farther north, away from the city, for some time. Well, my family and I reached our goal. We are closer to the cottage area but far

enough away so it still feels like we can go even farther north and enjoy the cottage-living life. And of course, I am even closer to my lovely Lake Huron! I have the absolute best of both worlds. I am no longer a city girl, and it feels amazing! As the old-fashioned saying goes, "The heart wants, what the heart wants!"

I have more of nature's beautiful grounding benefits available to me now and the overall energy and vibe is better when you get out of the city. The traffic is easier to maneuver around town in and of course, the small-town feeling cannot be beaten! I may have resisted it slightly at first. But now I ask myself, why didn't we do this sooner? This year kicked off to be the best year ever in a very, very long time. Negative people and

environments are long gone, and life is fresh and enjoyable now. It's amazing what you think is normal and just a way of life, but when you step out of that "normal" perspective, you see it for what it really is, in most instances, toxic.

I will still always cherish my little cabin and will never sell my little piece of heaven; it's just been a little neglected these past few months as our move was finalized. But soon the dust will settle, and spring will arrive, and it will be time for another fresh new season of Michigan warm weather. Until then, let's enjoy this downtime and settle into the winter as we all have a busy spring to look forward to, which will be here soon enough. This is the first January I have looked forward to in many, many years of living in Michigan. I can truly say there is an underlying positive truth to the cliché statement of a "fresh start for the new year"! I have certainly found it and without much effort which makes it even better. 🌱

*Happy 2024 ThumbPrint
News Readers!*

Email Pamela at pammypoo123@icloud.com.

NOTES FROM OUR READERS

Dear *ThumbPrint News*,

I have my own story of a horse farm in the 1950s. My grandparents lived on 26 Mile Road, between I-94 and County Line Road in what was then New Baltimore but is now Lenox.

Across the road, on the east side, there was a farm owned by Mr. and Mrs. Klaehammer (not sure if I spelled it correctly). They were already quite elderly and may not have been farming much anymore.

They had two horses, Doc and Dolly, siblings. They were dark chestnut and grazed in a large fenced field. We kids were told early on that they were not riding horses, but work horses.

They were friendly enough and if we came to the fence, they would amble over and take grass from our hands. Eventually, one of them died and the other pined away soon after from grief.

Reading Nelson Werderman's story, I was struck by how close geographically the two farms were – both using "horsepower" in the 1950s. I, like Mr. Werderman, am 77 years old and enjoy those memories that make up the tapestry of my childhood. Sincere Regards, Dottie Baillargeon, Warren, MI

Thank you, Dottie, for sharing your childhood memories of 'horsefarming' with us. Sometimes it's amazing how small the world can be. Happy New Year! Sincerely, TPN Staff

Dear Rita and *ThumbPrint News*,

What a beautiful Christmas article, Rita. You captured so much truth and relayed it to us all. Being lonely, especially at Christmas, is no joking matter. Minds remember and hearts cannot help but hurt. I know, being a 92-year-old man with no family and

not even a living relative. Thank the Lord for faithful friends.

May I make a meaningful suggestion – especially to the young? In its way it has to do with being lonely, or very much can. Be mindful of your parents. Be courteous, spend quality time with them and be understanding. You will miss them when they are gone. Yes, you will!

Thank you, Rita, for your concluding words. It was that night in Bethlehem when angels sang and a baby was born that the world was turned end to end. Meaning, truth and faith were born and our Saviour entered our lives. It is Jesus who will offer true joy and real peace. Accept him and the grace of God will ensure you that every season will be a season for celebration because the reason for every season is the One who created them, Jesus, Lord, Saviour, and the best friend you can ever have.

Sincerely, William Farris, Port Huron, MI

Thank you, William, for letting us know how much you connected with Rita's story and for your sage advice to the younger generations. We have forward your written letter on to Rita, who loves to get mail. Happy New Year! Sincerely TPN Staff

ThumbPrint News,

Enjoyed the article on "12 Days of Christmas".

Must admit I was irreverently singing along with the *John Denver and the Muppets: A Christmas Together* special from 1979. Best part was Miss Piggy's "5 Golden.....Rings. Ba dum dum dum". Visit bit.ly/DenverandMuppets if you'd like to watch the John Denver Muppet rendition of the song.

Regards, Dave Loersch, Chesterfield Twp., MI

Dave, we're glad you enjoyed the December cover article on the "12 Days of Christmas". Of course, we had to watch the video and it brought a chuckle to us and wasn't John Denver just so young then. Thanks for the fun. Happy New Year! Sincerely, TPN Staff



**Building Bridges & Understanding
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FIVE RESOLUTIONS FOR A FRAUD-FREE YEAR

The perseverance of scammers utilizing online purchasing continues to be one of the top scams causing people to lose money and personal information. Better Business Bureau® (BBB) serving Eastern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula has been tracking types of scams for many years and online purchase scams have hit the top of the list for the last two years. As such, BBB recommends adding a few precautionary steps to your New Year's resolution list to go along with any weight loss or financial goals you may have for 2024, to remain fraud-free.

- 1) **I resolve to be cautious with email.** Be wary of unsolicited emails from a person or company. Remember, scammers can make emails look like they are from a legitimate business, government agency or reputable organization (even BBB!). Never click on links or open attachments in unsolicited emails
- 2) **I resolve never to send money to strangers.** If you haven't met a person face-to-face, don't send them money. This is especially true if the person asks you to transfer funds using a pre-paid debit card or CashApp. Money sent to strangers in this way is untraceable, and once it is sent, there is no getting the money back. Scammers will try to trick you into panicking – so before making a move, think the situation through. Don't fall for it!
- 3) **I resolve to do research before making online payments or purchases.** Research the retailer before entering payment information when shopping online or if asked to pay online. Ask: is this a person or business I know and trust? Do they have a working customer service number? Where is the company physically located? Would I be making payments through a secure server (<https://...com>)? Have I checked to see if others have complained?
- 4) **I resolve to use my best judgment when sharing my personal information.** Sharing sensitive personal information with scammers opens the door to identity theft. Never share financial information, birthdate, address, Social Security/Social Insurance number or Medicare number with an unsolicited caller.
- 5) **I resolve to be social media smart.** Use privacy settings on social media and only connect with people you know. Be careful about including personal information in your profile, and never reveal your address or other sensitive information – even in a “fun” quiz. Scammers may use this information to make themselves pass as friends or relatives and earn your trust. Also, be careful when buying products you see on social media. BBB Scam Tracker has received thousands of complaints about misleading Facebook and Instagram ads.

Need more information? To learn more about scams, go to BBB.org/ScamTips. For more information, check out BBB.org/AvoidScams. If this scam has targeted you, help others avoid the same problem by reporting your experience at BBB.org/ScamTracker.



Editorial note: Melanie Duquesnel is the president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau serving Eastern Michigan & the Upper Peninsula, 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 bbb.org.



History of Traditions

Here in the United States, we celebrate New Year's on the date that was established by Pope Gregory XIII of the Roman Catholic Church in February of 1582, which was when he also enacted the Gregorian calendar. Before the transition, New Year's Day was commonly observed on March 25th, aka the spring solstice and the celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary. Once the Pope's date change of 1582 became official, France, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Spain jumped right on board but several countries took their time adapting to the change. Scotland adapted in 1660, Germany and Denmark in 1700, England in 1752, China in 1912 and Russia in 1918. Turkey was the last to switch in 1927.

As far as resolutions go, some historians believe the Babylonians of 4,000 years ago started the custom. During their 12-day religious festival of Akitu in mid-to-late March, they made promises to their gods to pay debts and return items they had borrowed, in hopes of being favored by them.

Today, of the approximately 45% of people who make resolutions, only about 8% of people are successful.

The most common song associated with New Year's Eve is “Auld Lang Syne” which translates to “old long since” and refers to remembering times gone by for old times' sake. The phrase first appeared in print in the 17th century in a Scottish poem by Sir Robert Ayton and was put to music by Scottish composer and lyricist, Robert Burns in 1788.

On New Year's Eve, in Scotland the wish is “Happy Hogmanay!” Hogmanay traces its origins back to the celebration of the winter solstice among the Vikings with wild parties in late December.

One way to have a Happy New Year is to quit worrying about trying to please everyone. I'm sure you can think of a few more. Happy New Year TPN Readers!

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS TO START THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT



- Take a walk in nature
- Drink plenty of water
- Buy a new bed pillow
- Schedule time for yourself
- Write a 101 life-goal list
- Get more sleep or take a nap
- Verbally express appreciation to others
- Spend extra time with your best friend
- Tell one person you love them, each day
- Log off social media at least one hour before bed
- Quit worrying about trying to please everyone
- Improve your food choices one day a week (or more)

**PRESS
RELEASE**

All good things must come to an end...if you haven't already heard, after 25 wonderful years, Springrove Variety, the old-fashioned “dime store”, is set to close in March of this year as Rod Wells, the store's manager is retiring. There has been an overwhelming outpouring of kindness and support shown for the store, the manager and the staff from customers. The store has been a staple in the community, and it will be a big change for the city of Marysville.

Be sure to stop in over the next two months! Springrove Variety is located at 2311 Gratiot Blvd. in Marysville and can be reached by calling (810) 364-3933.

BBB BUSINESS BONUS

Continued from Page 7

- effectively impact your business goals.
- 5. Reduce costs** – Save money wherever you can do so without compromising quality. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, roughly one-third of small businesses fail because the owner runs out of money. Reducing cost doesn't mean that you focus merely on just overhead. There are various ways you can cut back spending while pushing for growth.
 - 6. Have a positive workplace culture** – Your employees are the lifeblood of your company. Every day, they contribute to the success of your business by supporting its mission. However, the most crucial role that your employees play is in shaping your firm's culture. From the quality of the people you hire to the loyalty of your consumers, corporate culture is critical to practically every facet of your business's long-term success. In fact, according to a study by Duke University, more than 94% of executives stated that a distinct business culture is important to business success.
 - 7. Push customer reviews** – Reputation can mean everything, especially for a small business owner trying to attract and retain customers. Approximately 81% of consumers say they must trust a brand before buying a product or service. You want to tell customers that your business is trustworthy, ethical and transparent – and what better way to illustrate that story than through online customer reviews?
 - 8. Exercise transparency** – Operating with transparency builds relationships that turn curious browsers into buyers and buyers into raving fans. Approximately 85% of Americans report standing by a business during a brand crisis if the company has a transparent history. Always be transparent, from admitting missteps and correcting them to inviting your customers to engage with you online and through social media. Authentic interaction with your clients goes a long way to building customer trust.
 - 9. Be purpose-driven** – By understanding what is most important to your customers, you can leverage their values within your company collateral, which can further illustrate that you're not just a "for-profit" company, but you care about your community. In other words, you are a purpose-driven company pushing for a larger impact than just making sales. According to a Cone/Porter Novelli study, 66% of consumers are willing to switch from their regular product to a new one from a purpose-driven company. Share moments on social media, and don't be shy to show how your brand is committed to helping make a difference.
 - 10. Establish trust** – Building trust is crucial to earning your customers' confidence in your company. When making a purchase, buyers have many options at their disposal. Customers have been able to be more attentive when picking which brands to support because of this accessibility. The best method to increase client loyalty and assure your company's success is to build a company based on trust and integrity. Giving your business a step up over the competition is always something to desire; aiming for BBB Accreditation is a valuable way to do this. Accreditation requires the utmost trustworthiness, customer respect and integrity, which can help your business stand out – especially during a pandemic. As small business owners venture into 2024, know that keeping your customers top of mind by aligning your growth initiatives to personalize the purchase journey will foster revenue while building more awareness for your business.

Trust and transparency matter more now than ever before. In a market saturated with companies competing for customers, BBB Accreditation gives consumers confidence that they are dealing with an ethical and vetted business. 🌱



Editorial note: Thanks for reading this bonus article from Melanie Duquesnel at BBB. Read their main article for this month on page 15. Contact your local BBB by calling (248) 223-9400 or by visiting bbb.org.

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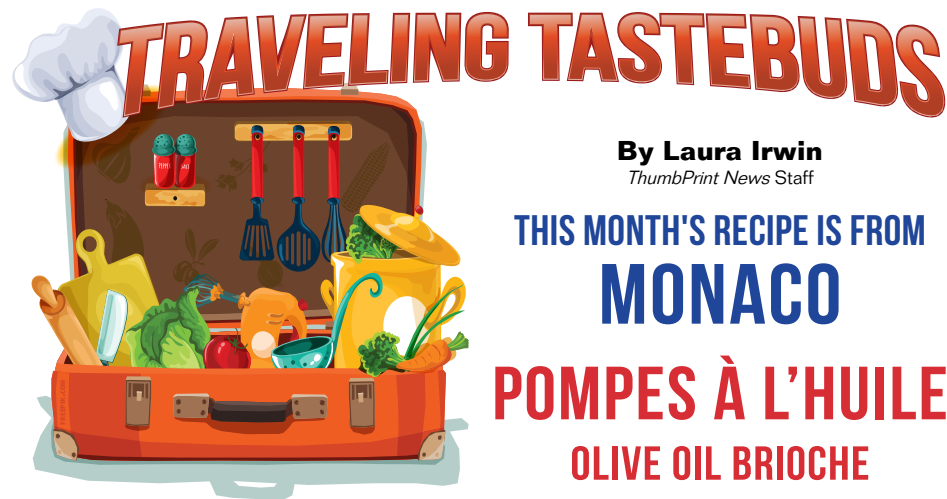
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By Laura Irwin
ThumbPrint News Staff

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE IS FROM
MONACO

POMPES À L'HUILE OLIVE OIL BRIOCHE

To ring in the new year, we sampling a dessert from the definitive lap of luxury, Monaco, where one in three people are millionaires. This French bread is part of the Christmas 13 Desserts tradition that originated in Provence, France. Monaco, which sits between both France and Italy, adopted the heritage. The main meal of the season takes place before midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and includes, roast goose, foie gras, oysters and champagne, followed by 13 choices for dessert which represent Jesus and the 12 apostles.

The 13 desserts include traditional foods like dried fruits, nuts, fresh fruit, nougat and *pompes à l'huile* which is a sweet cake (brioche) made with orange flower water and olive oil. The name translates to "oil pump". The bread dates back to the 1600s when, at the end of the harvest, olive oil farmers would put flour into the bottom of the empty vats to soak up all remaining oil. They then took the olive oil-soaked flour to the village baker who made it into a flatbread. Thus, the name.

Things you may or may not know about Monaco:

- It's smaller than Central Park in NYC and is the second smallest country in the world, next to Vatican City, and as of 2021, was the most densely populated country in the world with over 63,000 people per m².
- It was initially inhabited by Greeks in 6 BCE, who called it Monoikos.
- There is a temple dedicated to Hercules who is said to have passed through.
- The Grimaldi family has ruled the country since Francesco Grimaldi captured Monaco in 1297.
- Although Monaco has four world-famous casinos, residents are banned from gambling in the country.
- If you want to buy a house, get ready to shell out over \$4,000 per square foot.
- Monaco has zero poverty.
- There are over 12,000 millionaires per square mile in Monaco.
- The sovereign city-state of Monaco has one police person per 100 residents and prosecution usually involves maximum penalties. They don't take kindly to criminals.
- If you were born there, you are a true Monégasqu, but only 21% of the population can claim that distinction.
- Prince Ranier III became the ruler in 1949, and in 1956, he married American actress Grace Patricia Kelly. She was killed in a car accident in 1982.
- The most expensive street in the world, Avenue Princesse Grace, is in Monaco, where property averages \$17,750 per square foot.



Avenue Princesse Grace viewed from the Monte Carlo Bay Hotel & Resort at the France-Monaco border. Photo credit: Panoramio – V&A Dudush, Wikipeda creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/



View of Port Hercules, Monaco
Photo credit: Uhooepd, Wikipeda creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/

INGREDIENTS - YEAST VERSION

- ⅔ cup + 1 Tbsp water
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 Tbsp orange blossom water*
- 1 tsp ground anise
- zest from 1 orange
- 3 Tbsp orange juice
- ½ cup + 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 3¾ cups bread flour
- 1 packet (2¼ tsp) instant dry yeast

*substitutes for orange blossom water:
½ Tbsp orange bitters, 2 Tbsp triple sec,
1:1 orange juice, 1:1 almond or vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS

1. Just before mixing your dough, put a portion of the recipe's water warmed up in a small bowl with the yeast and a pinch of sugar. Let the yeast dissolve and foam up.
2. In a medium bowl (ideally with a pouring spout), measure out the remaining water, sugar, orange blossom water, salt and ground anise.
3. While the sugar and salt begin dissolving, zest and juice the orange, straining out seeds and pulp.
4. Stir a bit and then add the oil.
5. In the bowl of a stand mixer, add your flour and yeast mixture.
6. Add the orange mixture to your stand mixer bowl and begin mixing using the dough hook attachment.
7. Mix 5-8 minutes, on low speed and then low-medium. Pause once early on to scrape down the sides of the bowl. The dough should be smooth and only slightly sticky to the touch toward the end of mixing.
8. If you don't have a stand mixer, mix by hand or with a spatula, and then slap and fold the dough for gluten development.

FIRST RISE

Transfer the dough to a lightly oiled bowl. Cover and let rise in a warm place (ideally at temps in the low 80s) until about doubled. About 3½ hours.



Monte Carlo Casino



What I was hoping for

My brioche fail

SHAPING

Scrape the dough onto your countertop. There's no need to flour or oil it. Divide the dough in two pieces and roll them into balls.

Cover the dough balls with a large piece of plastic wrap and let them rest for about 20 minutes.

Prepare a large baking sheet with parchment paper. Using a rolling pin, roll the dough balls into circles about 8 inches in diameter and ½ inch thick.

Transfer the circles to the parchment paper, and make cuts in the dough as if it were pie but without reaching the center or the edges. Open the cuts a bit with your tool (spatula) or your fingers.

FINAL PROOF

Cover the dough with your sheet of plastic wrap and let it rise in a warm place until puffy, almost twice as tall, about 1½ hours.

BAKING

Preheat your oven to 400°F with a shelf in the center position.

Bake the *pompe à l'huile* for 16-18 minutes or until the internal temp is over 200°F. If your fermentation times were long, the color of the breads may be lighter despite the interior being cooked through.

Lightly brush the breads with olive oil to help them stay soft longer.

Let the pompe à l'huile cool on a rack for about 20 minutes, then sprinkle powdered sugar on them if desired.

The breads can be wrapped for storage, and softened through reheating in the microwave for 10-15 seconds.

Author's note: I tried substituting the bread flour for whisked gluten free flour. The result was disappointing. The bread did not rise, even after 4½ hours. I baked it and the flavor reflects the ingredients nicely but the texture has zero fluff or softness.

If you have an international recipe you would like to submit
send it to thumbprintnews@comcast.net

STREETCARS

Continued from Page 8

from Fort Gratiot to the tunnel entrance area. The City Electric Railway was connected to the Rapid Railway in 1900, using the Port Huron, St Clair, Marine City Railway Company. The Rapid Railway ran between Detroit and Mt Clemens. In 1899, the name of this line was changed to the Detroit and Port Huron Shoreline Railway. The City Electric Railroad would be taken over by the



City Electric baggage car, circa 1897



Streetcar Depot Beaches



Gratiot and Elmwood Intersection



Another veteran motorman with 29 years of service, William Netter Sr. stands in front of his Port Huron streetcar in November of 1929. The car is sporting the name "Tunnel Depot". William is carrying a metal coin dispenser, which I am sure he had long ago mastered its workings and correct allotment of change.

The Detroit United Railway in 1901. The City Electric Railway would retain its name but not ownership.

At the turn of the century, the City Electric Railway had reached a maximum track mileage of 12 miles, supported by a population in Port Huron of 15,000. The four lines consisted of the Depot-Garfield, the Lapeer-South Park, the Beaches and Elmwood.

In 1921, to cut costs, the streetcar company wanted to eliminate a two-man car operation, and the City Electric Railroad asked the city to approve a one-man car operation. As a bargaining chip, the company would purchase new equipment. On January 12, 1921, 12 new single-truck Birneys arrived and were ride-tested by city officials on the Depot-Garfield line a few days later. However, after testing, the city and the mayor felt the one-man system would congest the streets and violate the company's franchise. As a result, two of the new Birneys were sent to Mt. Clemens, and the remaining ten went to Pontiac.

In April of 1921, the voters rejected an increase of the 5-cent fare to seven cents, the first increase the company had requested since 1889.

In 1924, the company attempted to run one-man cars on specific routes; however, the city's police chief halted this operation by blocking the tracks with his patrol car. After a four-day standoff, rail service was restored with half of the system one-man cars and the other half operating two-man cars. In October of 1924, a vote was taken to decide whether to have a 7-cent fee on two-man cars or a 5-cent fee on one-man cars. The one-man car won out.

In 1926, streetcar fares would be increased to 7 cents, four tickets for 25 cents, or 17 fares for a dollar. This 2-cent increase was long overdue and did little to ease the financial burdens of the streetcar system.

Port Huron's traveling public was using the bus system on a more regular basis, and as new highways were built and existing roads improved, the use of automobiles became more widespread. As the ridership on the streetcar system declined, the city commissioners proposed, effective April 16, 1929, a 90-day trial, with the streetcar fare going to 10 cents for a single ticket. If the operation proved

successful, City Electric Railway pledged to make improvements, including eight new cars.

The answer given to City Electric was not a positive one, as ticket sales had fallen 30% by June 17, 1929. The Great Depression, which began with the stock market collapse on October 29, 1929, further exacerbated the financial situation.

Eastern Michigan Railways, which acquired the Detroit Urban Railroad in 1928, announced the termination of the streetcar service effective January 24, 1930. The announcement was made in a letter from W.G. Fitzpatrick, attorney for Security Trust, the receiver for the Rapid Railway organization, to Port Huron Mayor Fred J. Kemp.

On the morning of January 28, 1930, the last two cars operating returned to the barns at 1:01 a.m. Motorman John Elliott, a 25-year veteran, parked his streetcar for its final time. On board were passengers Charles Kaen and George Morrow. They had the distinction of being the first passengers to ride on a motorcar in Port Huron back in 1886. In the other car was John McGahran, a 28-year veteran of the electric streetcar company, where he was employed as a conductor. He entered streetcar service as a motorman on June 27, 1907. John was the final passenger to disembark from that last streetcar in the early morning of January 28.

Six of the company's cars were immediately stored in Mt. Clemens. A short while later, the remaining 13 cars from Port Huron were also sent to Mt. Clemens. The streetcar industry in Port Huron began its journey on October 8, 1866, and ended its service with its last car permanently parked in its barn on January 28, 1930.

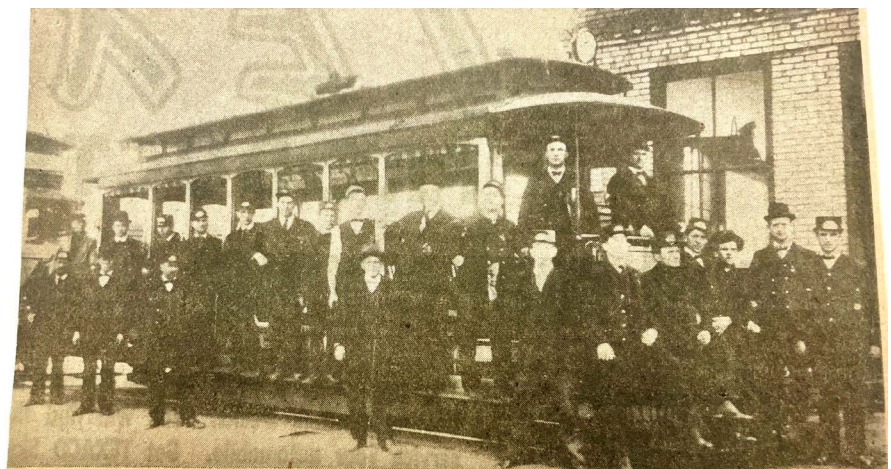
Having been the nation's second electrically operated streetcar system, Port Huron can be proud of its remarkable citizenry. Those engineers, risk-takers, dreamers, railway workers, skilled tradespeople, investors and many others who challenged the unknown with great determination, always holding the belief that failure would never be an option. 🇺🇸



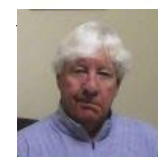
Tunnel Station Port Huron, circa 1905



Streetcar Barns and Office at Military and Griswold



HERE IS a copy of a picture owned by Robert Ashley, 1526 Bartlett road, and believed taken in the spring of 1904 at the Detroit United Railway barns, Griswold and Military streets, now the office site of Wyeth and Harman, architects. Mr. Ashley is at the controls. Identification of all the people in the picture was not possible but it is believed that the following persons are shown: William Collins, Bide Robeson, William Stoutenberg, Bert Brown, George Cox, Fred Lowery, Charles Schumde, George Cowan, Henry Nern, Robert Conn, Ray Rabideau, George Crackel, Jack Elliott and Ott Leik.



Editorial note: Derek Smith moved to Port Huron in 1987, from Sarnia, Ontario. You can read Derek's full bio and other articles he has written by visiting bluewaterhealthyliving.com/author/dereksmith/.



If you have an event in February that you would like listed in the February issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by January 12, 2024. There is no charge for the listing. Limited space is available for publishing events in this section. If it becomes necessary to eliminate some of the events that were submitted to us, we apologize. Events that were submitted earliest and non-profit events will be given the first priority.

Editorial note: Before traveling beyond your hometown to attend any of these events, please call ahead for any changes in dates or times or for any cancellations.

GENESEE

January 9 – Burton
Flint Genealogical Society Meeting, Burton Senior Center, 3410 S. Grand Traverse, 7:00 p.m. Join us for our monthly meeting! There is no charge and all who are interested in genealogy are welcome! If you have any questions, we have knowledgeable people available to help. For more info visit flintgenealogy.org.

LAPEER

January 7, 14, 21 & 28
Lapeer
Sunday Flea Market, The Lapeer Center Building, 425 County Center St., 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. We have 50 booths inside and outside selling a huge variety of items to the public. This long-running community event is sponsored by The Lapeer Center Building, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization for over 70 years. We do still have space available if you'd like to participate! For more info email lapeercenter@charter.net or call (810) 664-2109.

January 16 – Lapeer
ServSafe Training for Manager Certification, Lapeer County MSU Extension office, 1800 Imlay City Rd., 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Join us to become ServSafe certified! The classes cover: control time and temperature when handling food, ensuring proper personal hygiene, preventing cross contamination, as well as proper cleaning and sanitizing. \$75. For more info and to register for this event visit events.anr.msu.edu/LapeerServSafeJan2024/ or call (810) 667-0341.

MACOMB

All Month Long
All of Macomb County
Woman's Life Chapter 855 Bottles and Cans Drive, helping those in need in our community. Make a difference today by donating. For larger donations, we have a pickup service. Call (810) 392-5136 for pickup or drop off places in Memphis and Richmond.

January 7 – Warren
Toy & Comic Show, Warren Elks Lodge #2292, 25950 Schoenherr Rd. (between 10 and 11 Mile Rds.), 9:00

a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Calling all collectors! Come out to buy, sell and trade. We'll have so many things to check out! \$3, kids free! For more info call Jacquie at (586) 329-8213 or email jpellegrino567@comcast.net.

January 5 & 19 – Memphis
Fried Cod Dinner, Memphis American Legion Post 566, 34330 Bordman Rd., 3:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., for both eat in or pick up (if picking up, you'll need to call ahead and set up a pick-up time). Join us for our Fried Cod Dinner twice this month! Adult dinners are \$15 each and includes 9 oz. of fried cod, five sides and a dessert! Children (ages 6-12) dinners are \$7 and include 6 oz. of fried cod and smaller side portions. Children 5 and under eat free with paid adult, eat in only. We guarantee you will not go hungry! We will be taking calls beginning at noon on dinner days. Call early for the best choices on desserts (which are limited!). For more info call and leave a message for Mary Beth at (810) 392-3237.

January 5, 12, 19 & 26
Memphis
Friday Night Euchre, Memphis American Legion Post 566, 34330 Bordman Rd., doors open at 6:30 p.m., start time is 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$10. For more info call and leave a message for Mary Beth at (810) 392-3237.

January 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31
Memphis
Wednesday Night Bingo, Memphis American Legion Post 566, 34330 Bordman Rd., 5:30 p.m. – 9:15 p.m., games start at 6:30 p.m. Concession stand available, light dinner served at 7:30 p.m. for a small charge. For more info call and leave a message for Mary Beth at (810) 392-3237.

January 8 & 9 – Ray Twp.
Toddler Time on the Farm!
 Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm Center, Greenhouse, 65775 Wolcott Rd., 11:30 a.m. Calling anyone with 0 to 5-year-olds in the area! Join the Ray Township Public Library at the Wolcott Mill Metropark this month! Miss Mary will be reading *The Wonky Donkey* by Craig Smith, then we'll play pin the tail on the donkey, have a dance party with bubbles before going to meet Baron,

the miniature donkey. This event is free, though a Metropark parking pass or \$10 daily parking fee is required to park on the property. You can get a Metropark pass for free with your library card by visiting miactivitypass.org. If you'd like to learn more about this event or other library events, visit raylibrary.org or call (586) 749-7130.

January 16 – Richmond
Woman's Life Chapter 855 Meeting, Lois Wagner Library, 35200 Division Rd., 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. We are a friendly group of women who enjoy doing charitable acts for those in need in the community. We are looking for new members to help us in our cause. For questions, please call (586) 872-3867.

January 16 – Romeo
Symphonia Chorale Spring 2024 Season Auditions, St. John Lutheran Church, 246 Benjamin St., 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Are you looking to show off your singing talent? Have you considered joining the Symphonia Chorale? Now is the time! We're recruiting new singers/members for the spring 2024 season. We meet on Tuesday evenings and our first show is in the spring. This is a non-audition, non-profit organization that strives for excellence in performance and repertoire. For more info visit our website (hopefully to be up and working in January) symphoniachorale.com or email mcintyrejkm@yahoo.com.

January 16 – February 10
Roseville
There's SNOW Better Time to READ, Roseville Library, 29777 Gratiot Ave. The Winter Reading Challenge is back for 2024 and open to all ages. Read five books or for five hours during the challenge dates to earn a prize and an entry into the drawing for a grand prize. Track your reading using READSqured or get paper entries at the library. For more info and a full list of library events, visit rosevillelibrary.org/wordpress/programs-events or call (586) 445-5407.

January 23 – Roseville
Pewabic Detroit's Pottery, Roseville Library, 29777 Gratiot Ave., 2:00 p.m. Explore the images from the Pewabic Pottery archives as you are guided through over a century of handcrafting pottery and tiles in Detroit. No registration required. For more info and a full list of library events, visit rosevillelibrary.org/wordpress/programs-events or call (586) 445-5407.

January 26 – Roseville
Family Nerf War, Roseville Library, 29777 Gratiot Ave., 5:30 p.m. Prepare to be active as you dodge and fire while trying to help your team win in this fun after-hours event! Food and supplies will be provided. Registration opens

January 5. For more info and a full list of library events, visit rosevillelibrary.org/wordpress/programs-events or call (586) 445-5407.

OAKLAND

January 5, 12, 19 & 26 – Oxford
Friday Fish Fry, American Legion Post 108, 130 E. Draher Rd., noon – 8:00 p.m. Average cost is \$12/person. We have walleye, cod and shrimp, combo plates and have carry out available. Every Friday! Building is sanitized daily. For more info call (248) 628-9081.

ST. CLAIR

All Month Long – Port Huron
Diaper Drive by the St. Clair County Health Department's Maternal and Infant Health Program (MIHP), drop off point St. Clair County Health Department, 3415 28th St., during their regular business hours: Monday 10:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. or Tuesday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Donations of new packages of baby diapers (all sizes), including baby wipes, rash creams or baby hygiene items are being requested. 100% of donations will be given to eligible MIHP participants. Monetary donations can also be made via St. Clair County Treasurer's PayPal at paypal.com/paypalme/sccmitreasurer. For more info or to schedule a donation pick-up, call (810) 987-4903.

January 1-12 – Capac
SPARK! Places of Innovation: A Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit, Capac Library, 111 N. Main St., during library hours. Come view this collection that features stories gathered from diverse communities across the nation. For more info or a full list of library events, visit stclaircountylibrary.org/events and select your local library or call (810) 395-7000.

January 2 – Algonac
Woman's Life Chapter 883 Meeting, Church of Christ, 1601 St. Clair River Dr., 6:00 p.m. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month. Everyone is welcome, and we're always looking for new members. For more info contact Paula (810) 278-4466, (810) 794-9641 or paulaburgess@comcast.net.

January 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26 & 30 – St. Clair
Play Bridge, St. Clair Community Center, 308 S. 5th St., noon – 3:00 p.m. Join us to play this fun card game. On Tuesdays we play party bridge-style, no experienced needed, and on Fridays we play duplicate-style, experienced players only. No partner needed. On Tuesdays \$1 and on Fridays \$5. For more info, to register or for on-going free bridge lessons, contact Tom at (810) 326-0121 or tjbroyles@aol.com.

January 3 – Columbus
St. Clair Kennel Club General Meeting, T's Rockin Roadhouse, 8826 Gratiot Ave., 6:00 p.m. We meet the first Wednesday of the month at an area restaurant. Come to see what we're all about! For more info email stclairkennelclub@gmail.com or visit our website stclairkc.org.

January 3 – Port Huron
The St. Clair County Retirees' Association Meeting, Council on Aging Senior Center, third floor, 600 Grand River Ave., doors open at 11:30 a.m., lunch is served at noon. Cost is \$5. For more info email scra917@gmail.com.

January 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31
Marine City
Play Bridge, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Join us to play this fun card game, alternates weekly duplicate and party bridge-style. You MUST pre-register! No experienced needed for party bridge-style, experienced players only for duplicate-style. No partner needed. Cost \$2. For more info, to register or for on-going free bridge lessons, contact Tom at (810) 326-0121 or tjbroyles@aol.com.

January 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31
Marysville
Knights of Columbus #9526 Wednesday Bingo, Knight Club, 1195 Gratiot Blvd., 6:20 p.m. start time. (Doors open 2 hours prior.) For more info call (810) 364-6800.

January 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31
Port Huron
Progressive Bingo, Charles A. Hammond American Legion Auxiliary Unit #8, 1026 6th St., play begins at 6:00 p.m. (doors will be open at 4:00 p.m.). Join us every Wednesday evening for Bingo! License #A22694. Proceeds to benefit the Auxiliary's charities. Open to the public. For more info call (810) 982-9553.

January 4, 11, 18 & 25
Port Huron
Cornhole Tournament, Charles A. Hammond American Legion Auxiliary Unit #8, 1026 6th St., 7:00 p.m.

Join us every Thursday evening to play some cornhole! \$5 to play. Open to the public and all levels of experience are welcome. For more info call (810) 982-9553.

January 4, 11, 18 & 25
St. Clair
Play Bridge, Voyageur Restaurant, 252 S. Riverside Ave., noon – 3:00 p.m. Join us to play this fun card game after meeting for lunch for just-for-fun bridge, no experienced needed. No partner needed. No cost. For more info, to register or for on-going free bridge lessons, contact Tom at (810) 326-0121 or tjbroyles@aol.com.

January 5 – Smiths Creek
Fish Fry, American Legion Post 525, 7150 Smiths Creek Rd., 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. First Friday of every month! Cost is \$11 for adults and \$5 for 12 and under. For more info call (810) 367-6351.

January 5, 12, 19 & 26
Port Huron
Euchre, Charles A. Hammond American Legion Auxiliary Unit #8, 1026 6th St., 1:00 p.m. Join us every Friday afternoon for this fun card game! \$5 to play. Open to the public. For more info call (810) 982-9553.

January 6 – St. Clair
Euchre Tournament Hosted by Cornell Marysville Chapter #93 OES, St. Clair Masonic Temple, 1800 St. Clair Hwy., doors open at 12:30 p.m., play starts at 1:00 p.m. This event is open to the public and admission is \$10/person. There will be refreshments, door prizes and a 50/50 drawing in addition to the euchre tournament. Don't miss out on this fun event! For more information call Diane at (586) 337-2729.

January 7 & 21 – Casco
Euchre Tournament, St. James United Church of Christ Basement, 9008 Meisner Rd., play starts at 6:30 p.m. Join us on the first and third Saturdays of the month for lots of fun where laughter is pretty much a guarantee! Cost is \$10 per person and euchres are 25¢ each. For more info call (586) 727-1623.

January 8, 15, 22 & 29
Port Huron
Play Bridge, Council on Aging, 600 Grand River Ave., noon – 3:30 p.m. Join us to play this fun card game, duplicate-style, experienced players only. No partner needed. Cost \$5. For more info, to register or for on-going free bridge lessons, contact Tom at (810) 326-0121 or tjbroyles@aol.com.

January 8, 15, 22 & 29
Port Huron
Play Bridge, Palmer Park Recreation Center, 2829 Armour St., 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Join us to play this fun card game, party bridge-style, no experienced needed. No partner needed. Cost \$1. For more info, to register or for on-going free bridge lessons, contact Tom at (810) 326-0121 or tjbroyles@aol.com.

January 14 – Port Huron
One in Christ – MLK Community Service, Restoration Christian Community Church, 3201 Gratiot Ave., 3:00 p.m. Join Operation Transformation for this service held in honor of MLK Day. For more info call (810) 966-8660 or visit optrans.org.

January 14 – Smiths Creek
Smiths Creek Masonic Lodge Monthly Breakfast, Smiths Creek Masonic Lodge #498, 335 Henry St. (across the street from the Pink Elephant), 8:00 a.m. – noon. Join us every second Sunday of the month for breakfast. We'll have eggs, bacon, potatoes, French toast, pancakes (both plain and blueberry), along with coffee, orange juice, white and chocolate milk. AYCE for only \$10 per adult and \$5 for children under 12. For more info email clintonsharrard@comcast.net.

January 18 – Marysville
An Evening of Music with Flamenco & Classical Guitarist Mert Sela, Marysville Library, 1175 Delaware, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Join us as Turkey-born guitarist, Mert Sela, teaches his technique and mesmerizes the audience with his artistry. Please register in advance. For more info or a full list of library events, visit stclaircountylibrary.org/events and

select your local library or call (810) 364-9493.

January 21 – Port Huron
AYCE Breakfast, Port Huron Masonic Lodge #58, 927 St., Port Huron, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Join us every third Sunday of the month for our All You Can Eat Breakfast. We'll have choice of eggs, pancakes, sausage, bacon, potatoes, amazing coffee, as well as juice and water. Cost is \$12 for adults, with a discount for veterans, service members and seniors. For more info call (810) 982-5044.

January 29 – Port Huron
Port Huron Elks Lodge #343's 58th Consecutive Blood Drive, Port Huron Elks Lodge #343, 3292 Beach Rd., noon – 6:00 p.m. We have been supporting the American Red Cross for 10 years, and have collected over 230 gallons of blood. To make an appointment, please call (800) RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go to RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code: porthuronelks343. For more info email elks343@comcast.net or call (810) 982-8531.

SANILAC

January 1 & 2 – Port Sanilac
Lighted Christmas Trail, Sanilac County Historic Village & Museum, 228 S. Ridge St., 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Brighten your new year with a stroll through the festive historic village and trails at the Museum while it's beautifully lighted! This is a FREE event, but your donations for the electric bill are greatly appreciated! For more information call (810) 622-9946.

January 13 & 27 – Peck
Thumb Dance Club & Euchre, St. John Catholic Church's Carmen Banquet Hall, 5335 Sandusky Rd., 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Let's start the New Year out dancing! Please join us for fun, fellowship and live music for only \$5. We'll be enjoying a potluck dinner at 3:00 p.m., a snack or a dish to pass is encouraged. This is a smoke and alcohol-free environment. All ages are welcome! For more info call (810) 310-2715.

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