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Volume XXXV No. 2

Sunday, January 13, 2019

Published Weekly



Preparing for the 'Warm-up the Winter' Benefit are, from left, Rick Collins, the Grand Knight of the local K of C; Katherine Janego of Love Inc.; Mariann Brown of St. Agnes Christian Services; and Nelson Cypher, the chair of the event and a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Chili Cook-off & Euchre Tournament planned at St. Agnes Catholic Jan. 19

A combination chili cook-off and euchre tournament is planned at St. Agnes Catholic Church this Saturday, Jan. 19.

The fundraiser is being called "Warm-up the Winter" Benefit and earnings will go to assist area residents with winter utility bills through Love Inc. and St. Agnes Christian Services.

The Chili Cook-off begins at 5 p.m. with those attending getting to sample the different entries and vote on their favorite. The meal includes a complimentary hot dog, salad and desserts, along with the chili. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. There'll also be a 50/50 raffle.

Registration for the euchre tournament is at 6:30 p.m., with play starting at 7 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person and cash prizes will be awarded.

The event is sponsored by the St. Agnes Knights of Columbus 8605.

Upcoming Programs at the Fowlerville District Library

All Programs are intended for Fowlerville School District residents only unless otherwise stated.

Registration usually opens 2 weeks prior to the event.

Follow us on Facebook & www.fowlervillelibrary.org.

Phone: 517-223-9089

Winter Gear for Those in Need. Check out the winter gear decorating our Christmas tree inside the Library! If you or your family is in need of warm attire for winter, please feel free to take what you need. Items donated by a Fowlerville “Small Group” of the 2|42 Community Church.

Cardio Drumming - Tuesdays at 7pm

Adults. Increase your physical literacy with a fun workout from instructor Kim Griffes. Please remember to bring water and wear comfortable clothes. Spaces are limited to 20 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. **There is a small cash-only fee for this class of \$6 if you bring your own equipment or \$8 to rent a ball, bucket, and drumsticks. Drop-in class.*

Winnie the Pooh Day - Wednesday, January 16th at 5:30-6:30pm

Families. Join us at the library to celebrate A. A. Milne’s birthday, the creator of Winnie the Pooh! We will read a Winnie the Pooh story and play birthday party games! **Space is limited. Register in person to attend. Registration begins January 2nd. Preference will be given to families with children first, and registration will open to adults and teens the day of the program.*

Internet Basics - Thursday, January 17th at 1:30pm

Adults. Join instructor Dan Urbane of Central Michigan Consulting in the Library’s computer lab to learn all about the World Wide Web, how to navigate a web browser such as Internet Explorer, how to use a search engine such as Google, and explore the Library’s website. **Limited to 10 participants. Register in person to attend. Registration begins January 3rd and includes a \$5 cash deposit.*

Soup Swap - Thursday, January 17th at 7pm

Adults. Celebrate National Soup Month at the Library! Bring a pot of your favorite homemade soup, stew, or chili and the recipe to share, and we will provide mugs and recipes books to take home with you! You will get the opportunity to try everyone’s delicious soups. Outlets will be available for slow cookers, and copies of your recipe can be made at the Library free of charge. Please bring enough soup for 22 people to sample. **Space is limited. Register in person to attend. Registration begins January 3rd and includes a refundable \$5 cash deposit.*

Yoga with Erin - Fridays at 9:30am

Adults. Join Erin, co-owner of *SoulShine Yoga* for weekly

sessions at the Library. Yoga is accessible for adults of all ages through modifications. Please remember to bring water to drink and your own mat to practice on. **Spaces are limited to a first come-first served basis. There is a small \$5 cash-only fee for this class. Drop-ins are welcome.*

Late Night at the Library - Saturday, January 26th at 8pm—8am Sunday, January 27th

Adults. Join us for the very first adult overnight event at the Library! We have loads of activities planned including a steampunk mystery game, history show-and-tell, crafts, movies, and more! You are not obligated to stay the entire night, so come and stay as long as you want, have fun meeting new people, and make fun crafts to take home with you! Snacks and beverages will be provided throughout the night. See staff for more details. **Space is limited. Register in person to attend. Registration begins January 12th and includes a refundable \$5 cash deposit.*

Beyond the Book: The Book Thief - Thursday, February 7th at 7pm

Adults. Featuring a book and its film adaptation. Movie will begin at 7pm followed by discussion. Movie-style refreshments will be served. **Register in person to participate. Registration begins January 17th. Books will be given while supplies last.*

Duct Tape Roses - Friday, February 8th at 5-7pm

Teens 6th-12th Grade. Learn how to make a duct tape rose at this fun craft workshop at the Library! We’ll have a variety of fun duct tape colors and patterns for you to choose from. You can make one for yourself or to give to a friend. **Registration is required and includes a 2018-2019 signed Program Permission Form. Registration begins January 25th. Register by February 6th to attend.*

Livingston Acoustic Music Society holding jam session on Jan. 19

The Livingston Acoustic Music Society (LAMS) Jam Sessions are open to interested musicians, singers and listeners. We include many different instruments, styles of music and levels from beginners to accomplished.

Location: Fowlerville Church of the Nazarene’s Fellowship Hall, in the strip mall just south of the I-96 (overpass) bridge on Fowlerville Rd. We are a fun, no obligation, family friendly, music sharing, relaxed, informal group. Open to the public. For information: <https://www.facebook.com/LivingstonJAM/>

Or, come to our next LAMS Jam Session: Saturday, Jan. 19. Starts at 7 p.m.

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Jan. 24, 25, 26th: 10 am-5 pm

January Events!

Jan.19th @ 6:30 Ladies Night Out/Clothing Exchange!
January 26th @1:00 pm-Watercolor Painting Class!

For complete info, or to sign up for a class, visit us on Facebook, or call 517-295-8174

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Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. *Closed*

Fowlerville Junior High School News

IMPORTANT DATES:
No School-- Mon. Jan. 21st
½ day of school-Exams - Thurs. Jan. 17 & Fri. Jan. 18th
Spring Count Day-- Wed. Feb. 13th
Presidents Day Recess-No School - Fri. Feb. 22-Monday. Feb. 25

* * *

SPORTS FOR WEEK OF JAN. 14:
GBB practice: Mon-Wed 7th-2:30-4:30-8th-4:30-6:30;
Tues-Thurs: 7th-2:30-3:50 & 8th-4:00-6:00
Thurs & Fri (1/2 days of school - 7th- 1-3 & 8th-11-1
WRESTLING PRACTICE: 2:30-4:15-FHS Wrestling Room
Mon-Tues: COMPETITIVE CHEER practice
FJH is pleased to welcome coaches for the athletic teams currently active:
7th GBB--Brent Goulding
8th GBB -Michele Quigley

7-8 CCH- Holli Sweet
6-7-8 WRESTLING-Craig Zube
FJH is a member of the MID-MICHIGAN MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC LEAGUE. At all times, good sportsmanlike behavior is expected of players, coaches, fans, & officials. Expect to pay admission at all athletic events.

* * *

LET IT SNOW
The club is open to 5th through 12th grade students. We ski/board at Mt. Brighton every Wednesday beginning in January 9th and throughout the month of February. For further information, please contact Ms. DeLuca 517-223-6250 or delucac@fowlervilleschools.org

* * *

YEARBOOKS ON SALE
Yearbooks are now on sale. Don't delay and order today! See Mrs. Spisz in room D-13 or order online at <https://www.balfour.com/shop/yearbook?smi=107958> The cost is \$32 and there is an option to donate a book to those in need.
Personalized yearbook orders are due by March 1. Final sales are March 8th

* * *

GENTLY USED BOOK SALE
Please consider donating your gently-used books to the Fowlerville Junior High Gently-used Book Sale. Books that are appropriate for teens/young adults, on down to elementary and preschool are acceptable. Other good donation considerations would be magazines, comics, how-to books, dictionaries and cookbooks. Please do not send in adult books, as our primary audience for the sale will be the junior high students.
Books may be dropped off in the office or your child may bring them to his or her 7th or 8th grade ELA teacher. We will collect books now- February 14th. The proceeds will be used to further our literary needs in our classrooms- replacing and purchasing new books, writing and reading supplies, journals, etc.
Any questions please contact Katie Bowling- 7th ELA teacher at bowlingk@fowlervilleschools.org

Fowlerville Fire Department Report
Thursday, January 3rd, at 11:43 a.m. the department assisted at a medical emergency on Gregory Road in Handy Township.
A medical emergency on Alans Drive in Handy Township was reported at 1:38 a.m., Friday, January 4th. The department was dispatched to a medical emergency on Wallace Road in Handy Township at 1:43 a.m. and at 5:22 a.m. responded to a medical emergency on Oak Street in the Village.
Personnel assisted at a medical emergency on Grand River Ave. in Handy Township at 9:45 a.m., Saturday, January 5th. A dispatch to a medical emergency on Trotters Lane in Handy Township was received at 1:30 p.m. At 4:03 p.m. the department responded to a medical emergency on Walnut Street in the Village. Firefighters investigated a reported explosion on Alans Drive in Handy Township at 9:57 p.m.
Sunday, January 6th, at 12:06 a.m. the department was called to a medical emergency on Weller Road in Iosco Township. A medical emergency on Van Riper Road in the Village was reported at 3:29 a.m., and at 12:45 p.m. firefighters were called to a chimney fire on Lange Road in Iosco Township. The department was dispatched to standby at a medical emergency on Lamoreaux Road in Iosco Township at 7:26 p.m.
Personnel assisted EMS on Grandshire Blvd. in the Village at 5:20 a.m., Monday, January 7th. A medical emergency on S. Grand Ave. in the Village was reported at 11:40 a.m. and at 4:34 p.m. the department was dispatched to a medical emergency on Cedar River Drive in the Village.
Firefighters were called to standby at down power lines on Crofoot Road in Iosco Township at 9:54 p.m. Wednesday, January 9th, at 1:20 a.m. the department was called to a medical emergency on Garden Lane in the Village.

**IOSCO TOWNSHIP WINTER
PROPERTY TAX BILLS**

Winter 2018 property tax bills may be paid at First National Bank, Fowlerville branch only. The address is 760 South Grand Avenue, Fowlerville. Payments will be accepted from December 1st, 2018 to February 14th, 2019. Please include the lower portion of your bill with payment.

The Treasurer's office will be open Saturday, Dec. 29th from 9am to 11am, Feb. 14th from 9am to 5pm, Feb. 28th from 9am to 5pm, in addition to Thursdays from 1pm to 5pm. The hall is located at 2050 Bradley Road. You may also mail your payment, drop it in the drop box at the hall, or pay online at www.ioscotwp.com

Amanda Bonnville,
Iosco Treasurer
(12-2-18 & 1-13-19 FNV)

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Pastor Tom Tarpley

A Case for God’s Existence

“The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, their deeds are vile” (Psalm 14:1a).

More and more I run into people who either don’t believe in God or if they do believe in Him, they have issues with Him being silent in the midst of all the catastrophic and civil unrest that is taking place in our world and country. They can’t see how a loving and caring God would allow so much pain and suffering to be perpetrated against His people without intervening.

I pray that God will use me to help anyone who reads my column, who believes that God does not exist, to see the truth about God and the love He has for all of us. Even those who do not believe in Him.

First of all, everything that is happening in the world today was foretold in the Holy Scriptures. By His divine power, inspired men as far back as Moses to write down warnings as well as instructions as to what pleases God, so we have no excuse for not living according to His will. Later on as man continued to rebel and turn away from God, He sent His Son here to live, teach and set the example for living as God desires us to live.

In Deuteronomy chapter six, it says that God saw that men were evil. “The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time (6:5).” So God wiped the earth clean by sending the great flood, which destroyed everyone but Noah and his family.

Since that time, God has given us prophets, teachers, and preachers to help us see things His way. But we (mankind) have refused to follow God’s plan for us and have chosen to make our own way in life. We have elected to ignore what it says in scripture; we have neglected spending time in the honest seeking of a relationship with God.

Although we were all created in the image of God, to live in community with God and one another, we have surrendered our loyalty to God in exchange for the satisfaction for living to please ourselves. The things that God views as important are low on our priority lists.

Therefore, as it says in Romans 1:26-29 NLT: “That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved. Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, He abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. Their lives became full

of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip.”

What is happening today is not new. It has been going on since the very first sin was committed in the Garden of Eden. That does not mean that God does not exist; what it means is that God is allowing us to reap the consequences of our sinful behavior and actions.

When we were created, we were given “free will.” That means we have the freedom to make choices as to how we will live our lives. We were created with a soul and a body. These two parts of our anatomy have been at war since Eve and Adam committed the first sin. The flesh has longed to rule the spirit. The spirit is neglected because of our desire to satisfy our flesh. The flesh suffers because, without a connection to the spirit, it feels incomplete. Therefore, the flesh is constantly seeking after something it can never obtain, aside from developing a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit of God. No matter how much we acquire in life, it is all meaningless if we do not know and have an intimate personal relationship with Jesus.

Unfortunately for us, freedom of choice sometimes carries with it some consequences that might seem unfair for those of us who are affected by someone else’s poor choices. For instance, if I choose to drive my car into a group of people standing on the street corner praying, simply because I disagree with what they’re doing, I am exercising my right and freedom to act as I want, but the consequences for those on the corner could be physical harm or even death.

God does not intervene or snatch us out of harm’s way every time we find ourselves in danger. He doesn’t dangle us like puppets on a string. If this was the case, then we would not have free will.

The definition of free will is the ability to act and choose without any constraints. It is the freedom of humans to make choices that are not determined by prior causes or by divine intervention.

I know life would be a lot simpler if God were the type of god who would save us every time we were about to get into trouble. If He was a god who always answered our prayers the way we wanted, if He was a god who never allowed anything bad to happen to good people and always punished those who are wicked, yes, life would be a lot less complicated. But, on the other hand, there would have been no reason for Jesus to die on our behalf.

Jesus paid the price for our sins, now it is up to us to demonstrate to Him and the world exactly how much we appreciate what He did for us. We do this by showing our love for God by loving one another as He loves us (John 13:34-35).

God does exist. He is as real as you and me. You may think He is unfair or uncaring, but remember this, He sent His Son to earth to save us and we murdered Him along with many of the other prophets who tried to help us see through the web of darkness that sin created to blind us.

Turn to Him and ask Him to help you see the truth. He will.

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MLS 218062814 \$950,000

SWARTZ CREEK SCHOOLS



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MLS 218065501 \$209,900

WILLIAMSTON SCHOOLS



This historic 2 bedroom, 2 bath home has original woodwork throughout. As you enter you'll notice the original hardwood floors in the Foyer along with the french doors & beautiful fireplace in the living room. Close to schools & shopping.
MLS 219001319 \$139,900

FOWLERVILLE SCHOOLS



Come & check out this great colonial in the sought after Red Cedar Crossing subdivision. This 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home backs up to the woods. Open floor plan, spacious kitchen with island & maple cabinets & master suite with walk in closet.
MLS 218113904 \$195,000

FOWLERVILLE SCHOOLS



CUSTOM-CUSTOM-CUSTOM!! Why build when this gorgeous home offers upgrades that include a Chef's Kitchen with stainless steel & glass back-splash, master suite with stone shower and the split floor plan is great for entertaining.
MLS 218106866 \$329,899

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MLS 218080220 \$140,000

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Fowlerville High School News

OFFICE HOURS

Administration Office	7:00 a.m.– 3:30 p.m.
Counseling Office	6:30 a.m.– 2:30 p.m.
Building opens	6:45 a.m.

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES TO NOTE:

Jan 15	Senior pictures due
Jan 16	Full day exams 1 & 2
Jan 17	½ day exams 3 & 4
Jan 18	½ day exams 5 & 6 End of Semester 1
Jan 21	Holiday break
Jan 23	Semester 2 begins
Jan 29	Vision screening 9th grade

Doors at FHS will be open at 6:45 a.m. on school days. After school hours if your student is not participating in a sport, math lab, credit recovery or meeting with a teacher they should make arrangements to leave the building by 3 p.m.

Starting second semester, parents will receive phone notifications regarding their Fowlerville High School when the student has been tardy for the 3rd, 6th and 9th time to any of their classes. This call will explain that the next tardy to that class will result in a disciplinary consequence being assigned.

Livingston County Department of Public Health is providing Vision Screening on January 29th, for students in grade 9. Also screened are last-year follow-ups and parent/teacher requests. Please email Mr. Lusk at luskb@fowlervilleschools.org and provide your child's name if you do not want your child screened or if you have a concern for your child and your child is not in above grades. Technicians will accept parent/teacher requests on the day of screening. Please call the Health Department at (517) 546-9850 if you have questions regarding Vision Screening.



Jud Scott

Oct. 1. That's the first day an applicant can complete the form for the upcoming academic year. While deadlines vary for each school, awards are often granted on a first-come, first-served basis with some colleges having their own deadlines for scholarship consideration. Go to FAFSA.gov to complete your FAFSA today!

Be sure to order your award winning yearbook so you do not miss out on this years' memories. Yearbooks will be \$65.00 until 3/08/19. You can order at www.balfour.com or see the school's website for an order form to customize your book.

The Youth Activation Committee (YAC) is a group of student leaders with and without intellectual disabilities that work to promote inclusion. YAC students strategize and plan school wide games and activities. The YAC educates, motivates and activates youth to become agents of change in their communities through advocacy for respect, inclusion and acceptance for all people. We just finished up our bowling season and are starting basketball for December/January. The FHS YAC meets every Wednesday after school 2:15-3:15. See Mrs. Connor if you are interested in joining or if you would like to help our students with basketball practice.

German students at Fowlerville High School are traveling to Germany in June 2020. We are raising money to offer a full, half, and partial scholarship to three lucky travelers. Please considering donating to the Scholarships for Germany fund at <https://goo.gl/XP6TcJ>

Ordering Transcripts (Michigan eTranscripts) please visit the Fowlerville High School website for more information.

Parents having trouble using Zangle to view grades, e-mail questions to connect@fowlervilleschools.org

School Mission: Focus on every student, every day.
School Vision: Empower students to be productive citizens in a global society

FHS announcements: <https://goo.gl/VxuWJC>
FHS Twitter: <https://twitter.com/FHSGlads>
FHS YouTube channel: <https://goo.gl/iaJC3H>

Fowlerville Varsity Boys Basketball Team loses to Lansing Catholic

The Fowlerville Varsity Boys Basketball Team lost a non-league game to Lansing Catholic last Tuesday night by a score of 79-53. Brendan Young led the Glads with 20 points and 10 rebounds. Josh DuFore added 14 points, and Geoffrey Knaggs had 8 points and 11 rebounds. The Glads are now 6-4 overall and 1-2 in league play. They were at home against Mason this past Friday, Jan. 11 (past the newspaper deadline). They host Eaton Rapids this coming Tuesday in a non-conference game and travel to St. Johns for a CAAC Red Division contest this Friday.


Plans underway for Annual Fowlerville Alumni Banquet on Saturday, June 8

The Fowlerville High School Alumni Committee has begun organizing for the 126th Annual Banquet on Saturday, June 8, 2019. It was once again be held at the high school cafeteria. Any class planning to get-together before the banquet, please call Cinday (Ruttman) Krebs at 517-223-8747 for information.

Dick Scott

MOTOR MALL

Fowlerville High School's "ATHLETES" OF THE WEEK



Gymnastics

Bekah Leonard - is a junior that competes for the Fowlerville Byron Pinckney Perry co-op gymnastics team. She recently placed second all around at her last meet, won the floor exercise and helped her team win their first dual of the season. Bekah is such a hard worker and is able to balance gymnastics, school, competitive dance and coaching. She is a wonderful role model to the younger gymnasts. We are proud of you Bekah!

Hannah Ray - Hannah is a freshman that competes for the Fowlerville Byron Pinckney Perry co-op gymnastics team. She continues to excel this season constantly improving her scores each and every meet. In her last meet competing against Bloomfield Hills she qualified for regionals on vault and floor. She placed 5th on vault and 6th on floor. She has an amazing work ethic, always smiling and constantly keeps her team feeling positive. Great job Hannah, we are super proud!

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 12	SUNDAY, JANUARY 13
Indianapolis <u>31</u> at Kansas City <u>30</u>	LA Chargers <u>20</u> at New England <u>24</u>
Dallas <u>24</u> at LA Rams <u>31</u>	Philadelphia <u>20</u> at New Orleans <u>30</u>

LAST WEEK: W - 1 L - 4 **SEASON:** W - 185 L - 105

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Jimmy Kodet, who played last season for Valdosta State University and is a 2013 Williamston High School graduate, has signed a contract to play for a professional basketball team in Frankfort, Germany during the next three months.

Area basketball player signs contract to play for professional team in Germany
By Steve Horton

Thus far, the past few months have been great ones for Jimmy Kodet. A 2013 graduate of Williamston High School, Kodet graduated from Valdosta State University this past July 18 with a dual major in criminal justice and psychology. Earlier in the year, as a member of the school’s basketball team, he was named all-conference honorable and first-team for defense.

The university, located in southern Georgia, is a NCAA Division II school and belongs to the Gulf Southern Conference. Its nickname is the ‘Blazers’.

Ten days after receiving his diploma, another milestone occurred when Jimmy and his wife, Ashley, were married. The couple subsequently set up housekeeping with Kodet splitting time between his parents’ hardware stores in Fowlerville and Williamston and Ashley working at Lansing’s Sparrow Hospital in the oncology department.

Since then he’s been attempting to secure a contract to play professional basketball in Europe. “Initially, it looked like I might be signed with a team to play in the Greece-Cyprus league, but that didn’t work out,” said Kodet. “Then two days ago (Jan. 3) my agent called and told me a team in Frankfort, Germany was offering a contract.”

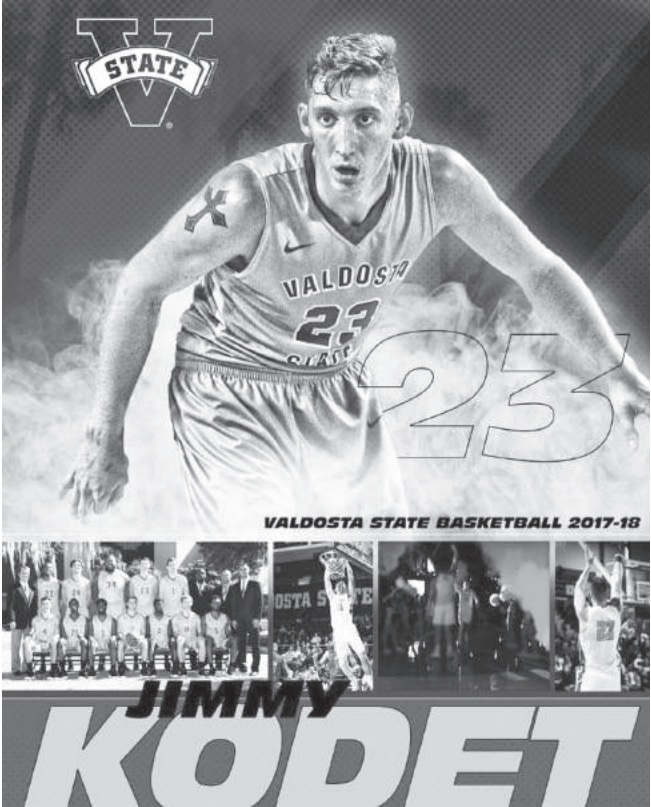
In whirlwind fashion, he accepted the offer and flew to that European country this past Monday (Jan. 7). “I will be playing against teams from around Europe,” he said. “The competition is at the Division A level and is comparable to the G League in this country.”

Kodet will play a three-month schedule with the final game on April 17. A small forward at 6-foot 8-inches in college, he said the German team plans to use him as a center-forward and take advantage of his prowess at hitting three-point shots. “With their style of offense, they plan to stretch out the floor and have me shoot from behind the arc,” he explained.

Kodet played three years on Williamston High’s varsity, starting in the 2010-11 season and earned All-Conference honors for two of those years. “Our team also won the conference title twice during that time,” he noted.

He also was a member of the Hornet track & field team and holds the school record in the high jump at 6-foot 8¾-inches set in his senior (2013) year.

After graduating from high school, Kodet attended Lansing Community College for two years and played on that school’s basketball team before transferring to Valdosta State.



Playing pro basketball has been a goal and one of the reasons he chose that university. “The college has had 13 kids reach the pros in the past 10 years,” Kodet pointed out. “The coach asks us right at the start ‘Do you want to play pro or just get your degree?’ If you say ‘pro’, which I did, then he puts you on that track and helps you contact an agent.”

His parents are Jeff and Robin Kodet and Jimmy has two older brothers and a younger brother. He worked at the Williamston Hardware while in high school and during college and also has assisted at Kodet’s Hardware in Fowlerville after that store was opened a couple of years ago. He continued working at the two stores since graduating from college in hopes of playing pro basketball this winter.

Once he finishes his three months in Europe, Kodet said he’ll likely return to the family business to see if he can secure another contract either here (in the United States) or in Europe. Eventually, though, he plans to utilize his criminal justice degree and “possibly go into police work.”

Whether or not this chance to play keeps him in pro basketball, Kodet sees it as an opportunity to gain additional knowledge that could be used for coaching or training—two other future ambitions he has.

As for now and in the coming weeks, there is simply playing basketball at this next level and the realization of a ‘dream come true’.

“My parents have always pushed us to reach our dreams and goals,” Kodet said. “When I walked in the door and told them I was a pro athlete, we all shed a few tears.”

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Dr. Hank Vaupel, the Republican lawmaker from Fowlerville who represents the 47th District in the Michigan House of Representatives, was among the 110 members of that chamber who took their oaths of office last Wednesday.

Michigan Legislature opens 100th session last Wednesday at Capitol
By Steve Horton

The Michigan Legislature opened its 100th session last Wednesday at the state capitol. The two-year session began after 110 members of the House of Representatives and 38 members of the State Senate took their oaths of office. A record 53 of the members are women.

Each of the legislators was allowed to have guests with them on the floor. Most of them brought members of their family, close friends, or members of their staff. Other guests of the lawmakers witnessed the event in the gallery of each of the chambers.

In the House, members elected a new Speaker of the House, Lee Chatfield, along with the Speaker Pro Tempore and Clerk. Chatfield, a Republican from Levering who represents the 107th District located in the northern tip of the Lower Peninsula, then gave an address to his colleagues.

For the past eight years, the Republican majority in the Legislature has worked with a Republican governor. However, the election of Gretchen Whitmer, a Democrat, means Michigan has a divided government for the first time since 2009-10.

Whitmer, in her inaugural address on New Year’s morning, called for a co-operative approach to solving the state’s problems and meeting its challenges, using the theme of “Building Bridges.”

Chatfield in his speech echoed that goal, pledging “This House will not be obstructionists,” adding that “This House will work with Senate Majority Leader (Mike) Shirkey and our legislative counterparts in the Senate. We will stand by our principles and also work alongside our governor and



Dr. Hank Vaupel talked with former Lt. Governor Brian Calley prior to the opening of the Legislative Session. Calley was accompanying his wife, Julie Calley, the Republican representative for the 87th District. Brian was recently hired to serve as the president of the Small Business Association of Michigan.



Last Wednesday marked the start of the 100th Session of the Michigan Legislature, with most of them taking place in the current State Capitol. Here is a shot from the third floor.

the administration. For though we are in different political parties, the success of Governor Whitmer means the success of the State of Michigan. And I will work every single day for that success, because that’s what the people of Michign deserve.”

Chatfield also told his colleagues that “without compromise on policy our state government cannot operate.”

To illustrate his stated commitment to a co-operative approach, less than an hour after making this statement, he was joined on the House floor with new Attorney General Dana Nessel, a Democrat, to announce a bipartisan set of bills dealing with criminal justice reform, specifically civil asset forfeiture, as the first priority of the year.

Also present for the announcement were Democratic Leader Christine Greig (D-Farmington) along with Representative David LaGrand (D-Grand Rapids) and Representative Jason Wentworth (R-Clare)

Nessel, voicing her support for the bills, said: “I strongly support the concept that the forfeiture of civilian assets to a law enforcement agency require a criminal conviction. I appreciate the fact that Speaker Chatfield has made this issue the subject of the first two bills introduced in the House this legislative session. I am pleased to stand by his side to reinforce the powerful bipartisan support this issue garnered in the House during the last session and the strong bipartisan support it continues to deserve. I look forward to working closely with Speaker Chatfield, the members of the House, and my legal team in the Attorney General’s office to make certain that the language of the bills properly protects the residents of the state of Michigan against actions that violate their right to due process under the law.”

A complete text of Chatfield’s address accompanies this article.



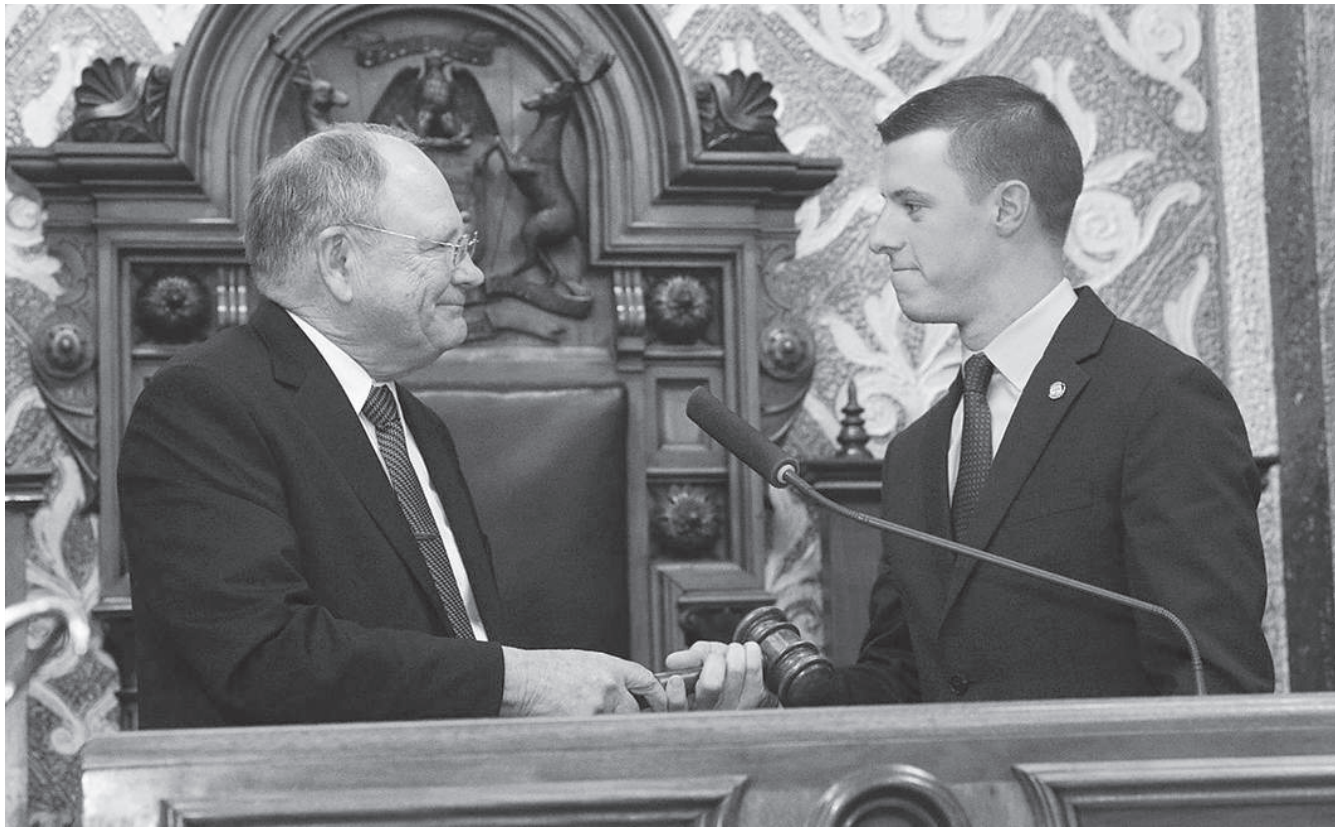
Caleb Jenkins, a Fowlerville resident who works at the Capitol as a member of the House Republican Caucus Services, was assisting new lawmakers and their guests as they entered the House chamber.



Ann Bollin was among the new lawmakers sworn into office last Wednesday at the State Capitol. Bollin, a Republican from Brighton, is the representative for the 42nd District of the State House. The district covers the Brighton, Pinckney, and Genoa Township part of Livingston County.



Kara Hope was sworn in as representative for the 67th House District for the 2019-2020 legislative session. The swearing-in ceremony marked the formal opening of Michigan’s 100th Legislature. In response, Rep. Hope issued the following statement: “Michiganders deserve leadership that is committed to fighting for their futures. I’m ready to join my colleagues to ensure that our schools and infrastructure are properly funded, our natural resources are protected, and that everyone has access to the healthcare they need to live a long and healthy life.” Her district includes southern and eastern Ingham County, including the Webberville area and the City of Williamston.



Michigan House Clerk Gary Randall, left, handed the gavel to Lee Chatfield after he was elected by a unanimous vote to be the next Speaker of the House. Randall had been re-elected to serve as clerk, a post he's held since 1974.

New Speaker of the Michigan House calls for bipartisanship & compromise

Lee Chatfield, the recently-elected Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives gave the following address to his colleagues and others after being sworn into office during the opening session of the 100th Legislature last Wednesday. Chatfield, a Republican from Levering, is beginning his third two-year term as the representative for the 107th District which covers the area in the northern tip of the Lower Peninsula.

“Thank you, colleagues, for entrusting me with this responsibility – By God’s grace and with good counsel I will perform this role to the absolute best of my ability and will always strive to be honest about the process and fair with each member.

I begin with a simple principle, one that we all should commit to, and live by, for as long as we serve. That it is our responsibility to be the voice of the people we represent.

Whatever success we have, we all know it starts at home with our families. I would like to thank from the bottom of my heart, my wife, Stephanie, and our five children for their understanding, support and love; but also a thank you to every spouse and all the family and friends in this chamber that sacrificed so much to make this day possible for each of us. Unfortunately today, politics can be ugly; but you stood with us through the entire process, and for that we owe you a debt of gratitude. Colleagues, please join me in thanking our families and friends in attendance today.

We should also pause, reflect and thank Almighty God, not only for the blessings of freedom that He’s bestowed upon our nation and state, but for the privilege of serving within

Howell couple attend opening of Legislature’s new session



Kevin and Beth Shopshire of Howell attended the opening of the Legislative session. Kevin is legislative aide for Rep. Leslie Love, the Democratic lawmaker who represents the 10th District.

this institution and having the opportunity and responsibility to work for the people of this great state.

Colleagues, as we embark on the beginning of this historic 100th Legislature, I believe it is altogether fitting and proper that we should offer our appreciation to those who have come before us and paved the way for our service. We should acknowledge their devotion to the institution that we now serve and for the accomplishments achieved under their tenure. We are blessed this afternoon to have eight former Speakers of the House present with us, representing far more than any party or creed, but rather so many combined years of dedication to our state and this chamber. Will our special guests please rise, and colleagues, will you join me in welcoming these former Speakers back to the Michigan House of Representatives.

Members – throughout the last year, we all put in countless hours and traveled many miles across our districts to earn the support of our neighbors and with the hope to serve in this very body. But today marks a new journey. The campaign trail has ended, and now it’s time to begin the much more important and difficult task of governing.

The State of Michigan has made incredible strides over these past eight years, and our local communities and families are all better off for it. You can see it, and feel it, all around us. That can-do spirit that was always an integral part of the Michigan way of life is back. Our schools, our economy, even our state government, all stand on much firmer foundations than they did just a decade ago. That is something to be proud of. But there is still much more we can, and need, to do to keep this state moving in the right direction. The people we represent are not only asking for it, they deserve it.

We must ensure that the infrastructure of our state is efficiently and effectively funded and with the proper oversight channels in place that can guarantee safe roads and clean drinking water. As a Great Lakes state, no one should be denied good roads and clean water, and no student in our state should have to worry when they use the drinking fountain at school. The time for pointing fingers and assigning blame is over. It’s now time we shoulder the responsibility, work collaboratively and find solutions.

The state of Michigan also ranks dead last among all states in government transparency, but this House will put an end to this dark-age in Michigan politics. It is well past time we turn the page and begin a new chapter of accountability and openness to the people we serve. This chamber has led in a strong, bipartisan fashion on this reform in the past, and this chamber will step up and lead on this issue again. And we won’t stop until we get it done. The people have the right to know the truth about what their government is doing, and we have the responsibility to tell them the truth.

Additional improvements are still needed to reform our criminal justice system to ensure we’re providing real opportunities for those re-entering our society and that we are not over-criminalizing our citizens.

And the time has finally come for us to thoughtfully, yet diligently, address what I believe to be the single largest issue holding back our state and saddling hard-working families and seniors with burdensome costs. As the automotive state, it is unacceptable that we pay the most in the country for car insurance. The solution cannot be dictated by the insurance industry, and the solution cannot be dictated by health care executives. The simple truth is that any real solution must make car insurance more affordable and meet the needs of drivers all across our state, no matter where they live. From Detroit to Dowgiac, and from Kalamazoo to the Keweenaw,

the people we represent deserve relief – and we will deliver it.

We’re from Michigan, which means we find ways to get things done. So let’s roll up our sleeves and get to work for the people of our state.

I have a question for everyone sitting here in this Chamber. How do we successfully tackle these issues and solve the challenges facing our constituents without addressing the more systematic problem of extreme partisanship that is plaguing (Washington) DC and our institutions nationwide? How do we move the state forward without a willingness to cooperate with one another? In his farewell address to the nation, President Washington warned of the dangers of party and believed that the name American should always exalt the just pride of patriotism, for though we had - and even still have - shades of difference, we have much more that brings us together.

Political parties didn’t build this country, and political parties won’t keep it together. What made our nation great and brought favor upon it was a mutual belief in the founding principles of our Declaration of Independence that state, “We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men.”

It was our driving belief that the policies of our state and nation should not conflict with Natural Law or Revealed Law, and this agreement in philosophy led to necessary compromises on policy.

To be clear, I am not saying we will not have our differences. Of course we will. And I will never, nor should any other member, compromise the principles upon which you ran for office; nor should you shy away from speaking through conviction of your sincerely held beliefs. But without any element of compromise on policies, our state government cannot operate.

Without compromise, our schools will not be funded. Without compromise, our roads will not be fixed; and without compromise, car insurance will never be affordable. But compromise is a two-way street where every representative seeks to participate in the process and doesn’t obstruct merely for political gain or self-promotion. We must be more dedicated, whether in the majority or the minority, to legislate by sound policy rather than social media posts and press releases. We don’t just have an opportunity to do this; we have a duty.

We are not Washington, D.C., and let’s ensure we don’t become it. While they’re plagued with an inability to cooperate and be civil with one another, we will show them how to lead. Members, it’s not unreasonable to disagree from time to time, but it is reasonable that we treat one another, whether in the legislature or administration, with respect at all times.

This House will not be obstructionists. This House will work with Senate Majority Leader Shirkey and our legislative counterparts in the Senate. We will stand by our principles and also work alongside our governor and the administration. For though we are in different political parties, the success of Governor Whitmer means the success of the state of Michigan. And I will work every single day for that success, because that’s what the people of Michigan deserve.

It was President Kennedy who said, “The rights of man come from the hand of God, not the generosity of the state.” Well, that same God has given us a unique opportunity today. Let us not become so enamored with our new positions of influence that we forget this basic truth and ignore those whom we serve. We must be willing to listen, learn and deliver meaningful results for the people we represent.

May each of us be thankful to serve in this Capitol. We live in the greatest nation on the Earth, and may we remember that each day when we stand with our hands over hearts, pledge allegiance to that flag and thank God for the blessings of freedom and the chance to live under the red, white and blue. May we remember those who have come before us, and through humble service, allow their legacy to live on. The people of our state deserve a government that works for them and operates efficiently. We can deliver these results. We will deliver these results.

As an eighth-generation northern Michigan resident, it’s an absolute honor having the opportunity to wake up every morning and work for the people of Michigan. Across this state are the streets we rode our bikes on. These are the towns we played sports in. These are the lakes we swam in and the rivers we fished in. Michigan is our home, and anything that will improve the lives of those that we serve, we will fight for every single day. Because ultimately, whether Republican or Democrat, we’re all on Team Michigan in this House.

Partisanship should only have its place on Election Day, and we should leave it at the door when we enter this chamber. It’s time to govern.

May God bless you, this House chamber, the state of Michigan and the United States of America. Thank you.

More coverage on next page



Michigan House Report

By Dr. Hank Vaupel,
47nd District

On Wednesday, the House of Representatives held its opening ceremonies, which included my colleagues and I being ceremoniously sworn into office on the House floor. Michigan State Supreme Court Justice Mary McCormack administered the oath for my third and final term as your state representative, and it was an honor to have Steve and Dawn Horton, owners of the ‘Fowlerville News & Views’ join me at the rostrum for the oath. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you for the last four years, and I promise to work hard this final term to the last day.

With the previous session now behind us, I am proud to say I finished my second term with a perfect voting record. That means I was present and participated in all 1,554 roll call votes during the 2017-2018 session. This is something very important to me since I take seriously the responsibility to be your voice in Lansing and do my best to serve effectively and faithfully.

I am pleased to report my office was able to return \$11,200 of my 2018 office budget. At the beginning of each year, every legislator is appropriated a certain budget with which to operate his or her office in Lansing. This includes staff, supplies, and costs for communication and mailings to assist and respond to constituents. Each legislator is responsible to budget his or her own office costs accordingly. Government is expected to make wise decisions with taxpayers’ money, and I feel it is necessary to be fiscally responsible even within my own office.

January 9 is Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, and I am taking the opportunity to recognize our local and county law enforcement with state tributes. They deserve our respect and appreciation every day for all the sacrifices they make to keep us safe, and this is a small way for me to say thanks. I hope you take some time to thank our law enforcement for everything they do.

Thank you to everyone who attended the ceremony last Friday at the John E. LaBelle Public Safety Complex as state Sen. Lana Theis, state Rep. Ann Bollin, and myself were sworn into office as our county’s legislators. Over the next two years, I will continue doing my best to represent the interests of the entire 47th District.

I am dedicated to remaining accessible to you, so in 2019, I will continue my regular district office hours schedule of every third Friday of the month. To start the year, please join me Friday, January 18 at the following times and locations:

- 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Fowlerville Farms, 941 S. Grand Ave. in Fowlerville;
- 4 to 5 p.m. at Biggby Coffee, 11325 W. Highland Road in Hartland; and
- 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at All Star Coney Island, 934 Michigan Ave. in Howell.

As always, I look forward to seeing you and hearing your thoughts!

If you have any ideas, comments or questions for my office, please do not hesitate to call us at 517-373-8835 or send an email to HankVaupel@house.mi.gov. We are happy to hear from you!

Crossroads UMC offering first Swiss steak dinner on Jan. 26

Crossroads United Methodist Church will offer the first in its 2019 winter series of Swiss steak dinners for the public Saturday, January 26. Doors open at 4 p.m. and remain open as long as supplies last. The church is at the corner of Haslett and Zimmer roads east of Haslett and north of Williamston.

The dinner menu includes Swiss steak with mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetables, cole slaw, rolls, dessert and beverages. Cost is \$9 for adults, with children under 10 free. Take outs are available.

At the dinner two names will be drawn for free dinners at the next event February 23. For more details, please find the church on Facebook, call 517/655-1466, email at office.umccrossroads@gmail.com, or see the church website, www.umccrossroads.com.

State Rep. Hank Vaupel is ceremoniously sworn into office by Michigan State Supreme Court Justice Mary McCormack. Steve and Dawn Horton join him at the rostrum.



Lana Theis sworn in as new State Senator last week

On Tuesday, January 9th, State Senator Lana Theis was sworn in as Senator of the 22nd district during a ceremony at the state Capitol. Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Stephen J. Markman administered the oath of office. Theis was joined in the Senate chamber for the occasion by her husband Sam Theis, daughter Gabrielle Theis, mother Sharon Tieman, father Duane “Dew” Weldon, stepmother Marge Weldon, and staff members.

Senator Lana Theis will represent the 22nd State Senate District which contains all of Livingston along with western Washtenaw county including the townships of Bridgewater, Dexter, Freedom, Lima, Lodi, Lyndon, Manchester, Northfield, Saline, Scio, Sharon, Sylvan, Webster; and the cities of Chelsea and Dexter.

“My team and I are excited for the opportunity to continue serving residents in Livingston and Washtenaw counties,” said Theis, R-Brighton. “Our office is open and we welcome constituents to reach out with any questions, concerns or ideas they may have regarding issues impacting their lives, our communities and the state.

“We also welcome those visiting the Capitol to stop by our office. It is an honor to serve the 22nd District and I look forward to what we can accomplish together over the next four years.”

On January 3rd, the Senate Majority Leader announced that Senator Theis will chair the Senate Insurance and Banking Committee as well as the Senate Education Committee. The senator’s additional committee assignments are still to be assigned by the Senate Majority Leader. Previously, Senator Theis served two terms in the state House of Representatives, from 2015-2018 representing eastern Livingston County.

Theis graduated from California State University, Fullerton with a bachelor’s degree in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. She and her husband Sam have two children and one grandchild, and they reside in Brighton.

Theis said she has assembled a team of experienced staff with ties to the district who are eager to serve district residents.

Meghan Reckling will serve as the Chief of Staff to Senator Theis. Mrs. Reckling lives in Handy Twp. and has been with the senator since she was first elected State Representative in 2015. John Forest will serve as Legislative Director. Theresa Grace will serve as Constituent Relations Director. Grace served as the Office Administrator for Senator Joe Hune from 2013 until 2018. And Sharon Lollo from Ocoola Twp. will serve as Scheduler and Special Projects Manager for the senator.

The senator’s office is in the Senate’s Binsfeld Office Building, Suite 7400, located at 201 Townsend Street in Lansing. Residents may contact the senator by phone at (517) 373-2420, via email at SenLTheis@senate.michigan.gov, and by U.S. mail at Senator Lana Theis. P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909.



Theis was joined in the Senate chamber for the occasion by her husband Sam Theis, daughter Gabrielle Theis, mom Sharon Tieman, dad Duane “Dew” Weldon, stepmother Marge Weldon, and staff members Meghan Reckling, John Forest, Theresa Grace, and Sharon Lollo.

Consumers Energy provides \$10 Million to help families with winter heating bills

Up to 7,000 Households Can Get Assistance Through CARE Program

Consumers Energy announced last week that it has now contributed \$10 million to help customers in need to pay their energy bills -- part of the energy provider’s ongoing efforts this winter to help Michigan residents stay safe and warm.

“Our Triple Bottom Line commitment to people, the planet and Michigan’s prosperity means that we’re looking out for the people we serve, particularly those who face hardship,” said Patti Poppe, Consumers Energy’s president and chief executive officer. “We’re pleased that we can provide help for thousands of Michigan families to ensure they have the power they need during another cold winter.”

Consumers Energy provided \$8 million to help eligible customers with energy bills in December, in addition to a \$2 million contribution in October.

Together, the money will help up to 7,000 households enter Consumers Energy’s CARE program or facilitate them receiving additional aid to pay energy bills. The CARE program allows customers to get on a path to self-sufficiency by providing an affordable payment plan with monthly credits and gradual forgiveness of past-due balances to reward on-time payments. Participants also qualify for energy-saving tools, including free in-home energy efficiency upgrades.

The company has been sharing information with customers this winter about how to reduce energy use and find available assistance in their communities to help with bills. Natural gas use for Consumers Energy’s residential customers was more than 20 percent higher in November 2018, compared to the previous year, due to colder-than-normal temperatures.

Consumers Energy encourages people who are facing hardship with energy bills or other needs to call 2-1-1, a free service in all Michigan counties that connects people with resources to help in their community.

Those who call 2-1-1 can be referred to one of the eight nonprofit organizations that are receiving the \$10 million of financial support from Consumers Energy. They are United Way of Jackson County, True North Community Services, The Salvation Army, The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW), Michigan Community Action Agency, The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the Archdiocese of Detroit, United Way for Southeastern Michigan, and Michigan Veterans Trust Fund.

“We want the people who we serve – our friends and neighbors – to know help is available now,” Poppe said.



5th Generation of families welcomed

The Windish, Kottong, Nolte and Brady families welcomed the 5th generation to our families on Thursday, November 15th! Brooklyn Windish was born to Chelcey and Caleb Windish at 9:31pm on Opening Day of Deer season. Pictured above from L-R are Chelcey Kottong Windish, Brooklyn Windish (8 days old), Jane Nolte (99 years young), Diana Nolte Brady, and Becky Brady Kottong. Pictured at right is Brooklyn Windish. We are so blessed to welcome Brooklyn and to be able to share her Grandparents, Great-Grandparents and Great Great- Grandma! *Photo by Tammy Walker Photography.*



Love & Logic Parent Workshop starts this week; 4-week class offered

Family Impact Centers and the Parent/Teacher groups from Smith and Kreeger Elementary Schools are again partnering to bring another session of *Becoming a Love and Logic Parent* to our area. This highly effective 4-week class will be held from 6:01 – 8:01p.m. at Smith Elementary School beginning on Thursday, January 17th and ending on Thursday, February 7th. Topics for each week's session are as follows:

Jan. 17– Putting an End to Arguing, Back Talk and Begging

Jan. 24– Teaching Responsibility Without Losing Their Love

Jan. 31– Setting Limits Without Waging War & Avoiding Power Struggles

Feb. 7– Guiding Kids to Own and Solve Their Own Problems & Teaching Kids to Complete Chores Without Reminders

Cost for the workbook is \$10, and scholarships are available. For more information or to register, please contact Barb at Family Impact Centers (517-223-4428) or Pete Wedesky at either Smith Elementary (517-223-6460) or Kreeger Elementary (517-223-6360).

Whether you wish you could feel more confident as a parent or you feel pretty good but want to see how you stack up with other parents, plan on attending this workshop. You will leave each week with practical skills that can be put to use immediately. And you will find that parenting can really be a lot less stressful!

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Fowlerville High students have works on display at MSUFCU Art Show

It's that time again for the MSUFCU Art Show and Competition. This year Fowlerville High has some talented young artists and the public is urged to vote for their artworks and support them. Their art will be on display at the MSUFCU Headquarters on West Road in East Lansing. The show will start Wednesday, January 23, thru Thursday, February 28. The exhibition is open Monday thru Thursday 9 -5:30, Friday 9-6 and Saturday 9-3.

If you would like to join us at the VIP Reception, it will be Wednesday, January 23, from 6-8 pm. You may also vote for their artwork at MSUFCUart.com starting January 23.

This show also awards cash prizes from \$300 for first place to \$25 for an Honorable Mention.

From left are Gabrielle Heiser, Landen Blixt, Tori Trites, Willow Yon, Kaylah Turner and Anna Crider. Not pictured are Julianna Sitarski and Ava Yon.



Fowlerville business borrowing artwork from FHS students for rotating exhibit

Thanks to Mari at the Asahi Kasei Plastics in Fowlerville for asking to borrow artwork from students at Fowlerville High School and have a rotating art exhibit at their corporation. These are the fine young students whose artwork was selected to be on display for the next three months. Mari states that the employees love the artwork and can't wait to see the next rotation. From left to right are: Savannah Chandler, Landen Blixt, Emma Hancock, and Willow Yon. Not pictured is Kaylah Turner.

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Willow Yon selected as Fowlerville High ‘Artist of the Month’ for January

The Fowlerville High School Art Department is pleased to announce Willow Yon as its next ‘Artist of the Month’. Willow is a senior taking AP Art Class this year, and she is rocking it! She has always liked creating art, even at an early age with crayons and paper. She even drew on her parents’ walls with markers! She has taken all the art classes she could in elementary, junior high, and high school. Her favorite medium is sharpie and ball point pen.

Willow has been in many shows, including: Got Art Show, MSUFCU Competition, Scholarship Alert and several held at the school. She has been active during high school, participating in the Dance Team, Maria’s School of Dance, and volunteering at our Feast of the Arts. Willow would like to continue her artist dream in college. She would like to go into Industrial Design at Kendall or Western Michigan. Stop by the office and check out her self portrait with more eyes.

Pancake Supper being served at Howell Masonic Temple on Jan. 25

Howell Commandry No. 28 is serving a Pancake Supper on Friday, Jan. 25, from 5 till 8pm at the Howell Masonic Temple, located at 401 W. Grand River in Howell. Adults are \$5, Children \$3, under 5 are free. The proceeds are going to be donated to youth groups. The menu will include pancakes, eggs, sausage, and more with ice cream for dessert.



Fowlerville student selected as ‘Artist of the Month’ for district library

The Fowlerville High School Art Department would like to introduce you to Landen Blixt. His artwork was selected for the ‘Artist of the Month’ for the Fowlerville District Library. His work will be on display at the library during January. Landen is a freshman at the high school this year, but is one of the most talented artists at the school. This is his interpretation of a surrealism picture.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS LIVINGSTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

To all residents of the Livingston Conservation District, notice is hereby given that on the 25th day of March, 2019, between the hours of 6:30pm and 9:00pm, at the Marion Township Hall, 2877 W. Coon Lake Rd in Howell, Michigan, an annual meeting and director’s election will be held. On the 8th day of February, 2019, being forty-five (45) days prior to the date of the annual meeting, absentee ballots are available for voting in this election by writing to or calling the Conservation District Office at PO Box 916, Fowlerville, MI 48836 or phone (517) 548-1553.

Notice is also hereby given to all residents who are desiring to run for Conservation District Director in this election: petitions signed by at least five (5) residents of the Conservation District must be filed at the Conservation District Office on or before January 24, 2019, being sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting. Residents are individuals of legal age who can demonstrate residency in the Conservation District via one (1) piece of identification.

Debra M. Holmes
Secretary of the Board of Directors
Livingston Conservation District
(1-13-19 FNV)

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Here is the winning entry created by Redinger Steel Erectors. Shown in the photo, from left, are ‘The Grinch’ John Walters, along with Lindsey Redinger and Tara Walters. The photo was taken by Parker Walters.

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Debbie Holmes
Medicare Plan Specialist
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Three winners of
Fowlerville’s ‘Best
Holiday Spirit
2018’ Contest
announced

The Village of Fowlerville Council announced the three winners of Best Holiday Spirit 2018 Contest during the regular council meeting last Monday (Jan. 7). The Village of Fowlerville Council and Staff thank all the participants for their creativity, community support, and patience with Michigan’s finicky winter weather. This being the first online voting experience for such a contest in the Village, it was exciting right up until the close of the contest! There were 17 businesses that participated in the contest.

Please warmly congratulate and recognize the following three winners who received the most cumulative public votes:



Shown here, from left, is Josh Redinger, Lindsey Redinger and Tara Walters.

- First Place: Redinger Steel Erectors
- Second Place: Keller Williams Realty Co.
- Third Place: Fowlerville Dental Center

The Salvation Army still working
on Christmas Campaign Goal

The Salvation Army’s Christmas Campaign is its largest fund-raising effort each year and these donations support the following years programs. The campaign’s fundraising goal for the 2018 season is \$385,000.00 which is to be raised from November 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019. To date, the campaign has not yet hit their goal, having reached only \$266,000. This leaves The Salvation Army currently falling more than \$100,000 short of their much-needed goal.

The Christmas fund-raiser helps The Salvation Army of Livingston County with services such as shelter and utility assistance. It also helps with Pathway of Hope; a program that mentors, councils and educates families along with providing connections to resources and services putting them on the path to regain self-sufficiency.

“Due to national agreements our bell ringing season was delayed by two and a half weeks. During these two weeks we bring in \$30,000 to \$40,000.” Says Major Prezza Morrison “People start thinking about their Christmas donations early when they see us ringing. Therefore the delayed start made a huge impact on our overall budget.” Major Morrison also says “We want to meet people’s needs to their fullest so that they can get back on their feet, however without the funds we may not be able to do that to the extend we have been able to.”

With only three weeks remaining, The Salvation Army of Livingston County is reaching out to the community for help. Donations can still be made several ways:

- Online at www.SalvationArmyLivingston.org
- Via US mail – P.O. Box 647, Howell MI 48844
- Dropped off at the Corps- 503 Lake Street, Howell, MI 48844
- By texting HopeLC to 41444

Monetary donations may be brought in to: The Salvation Army; 503 Lake Street; Howell, MI 48844 during business hours Monday- Friday 9:00 am-5:00 pm. To learn more about what The Salvation Army of Livingston County does please visit www.SalvationArmyLivingston.org or call April Dertian at 517-295-4344.

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Upcoming Events at St. Agnes Catholic Church

St. Agnes office hours:Monday thru Thursday 9am-4pm; Friday 9am-1pm. For a full schedule of events, visit our website at <http://stagnesmi.weconnect.com> and click on the ‘Parish Calendar’ tab.

*****Sunday Mass Schedule:** Saturday 4:30pm. Sunday 8:30am and 11:00am.

*****Weekday Mass Schedule:**Let your 2019 resolution be to get closer to God through prayer! Wednesday evening at 6:30pm, Thursday and Friday morning at 8:00am. Please Note: There will be Communion Services instead of Masses the week of January 21.

*****Weekday Communion Service Schedule:**NEW TIME THIS MONTH - Monday and Tuesday morning at 8:00am in the Chapel.

*****Adoration:** Thank Jesus for the blessings in your life! Monday 6:30pm, Tuesday 6:00pm, and Wednesday 7:00pm.

*****Intercessory Prayer Group:** Tuesdays 9:30am in the Chapel. Praise Jesus!

*****His Merciful Heart Prayer Group:** Tuesday evening at 7:30pm in RE 6. Bless His Holy Name!

*****Fit Club:** Is your New Year resolution to lose weight and/or get fit? Free workout class, open to anyone who desires to add more fitness to their life. Upcoming dates: 7:00-8:00pm January 14, 15, 21, 22. Classes meet in LPC A/B. Did I mention it was FREE?!

*****Mom’s Support Group:** Meets in RE 7/8 from 4:15-5:30pm on 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.

*****Reconciliation:** Get yourself right with God. Wednesdays 7:00pm-8:00pm; Saturdays 2:45-3:45pm.

*****Morning Bible Study:** Wednesdays 10:00-11:30am in LPC A/B.

*****Men’s Bible Study:** *NEW DAY AND TIME!* Meets 1st and 3rd *SATURDAY* of the month*9:00am* in LPC Youth Room.

*****Rosary Warriors:** Thursdays10:00am in the Chapel.

*****Welcome Table:** Thursday evenings at 6:00pm in our LPC. Great home cooking!

*****Chili Cookoff and Euchre Tournament:** January 19 in our LPC-Gym. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #8605. Mild, Medium, Hot, and Blazing!Cookoff begins at 5:00pm. Euchre Tournament registration at 6:30pm.Would you like to compete or need more info? Contact Nelson Cypher (517-294-6366). Put some ‘Cayenne & Cards’ into this chilly January!

*****Blood Drive:** January 21 from 12:30pm-6:30pm in our LPC.

*****K of C Texas Holdem:** January 26 AND February 2 from 6:30-11pm in Higgins Hall.

*****Casino Bus Trip:** Firekeeper’s Casino in Battle Creek January 29. \$35 includes round trip bus transportation, \$20 free slot play and \$5 to use toward dining, slot play or gift shop. Indulge in a free hot breakfast beginning at 9:00am in our LPC prior to leaving. Departure at 10:00am. Anticipated return at 5:30pm. Call the parish office for more info or to reserve your seat!

*****Feast of St Agnes:** Sunday, January 20
St. Agnes Catholic Church, 855 East Grand River Avenue Fowlerville - Phone: 517-223-8684.

IOSCO TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING ANNUAL FOWLerville RECREATION PROGRAM MEETING JANUARY 23RD, 2019

The Annual Multi-Townships’ Fowlerville Recreation Program Meeting will be held on January 23rd, 2019, at 7:00PM in the Media Center of Fowerville High School. The purpose of the will be a review of the proposed 2019 budget, the state of current activities, and other matters of mutual interest may be discussed. A quorum of members of the Iosco Township Board is expected to be in attendance. The Public is welcome to attend.

Dan Delmerico
Iosco Township Clerk
(1-13-19 FNV)

Smith Elementary School News

IMPORTANT DATES:

January 14 through 25 – Kindergarten NWEA Testing
January 16 – Math Night 5:00 – 7:00 pm
January 17 – Love & Logic 6-8 Call Mr. Wedesky for more information
January 18 – Early Dismissal (12:02 pm)
January 21 – NO SCHOOL
January 25 – PTC Popcorn (50 cents per bag)
February 13 – Student Count Day!
February 22 thru 25 – NO SCHOOL (President’s Day Recess)
February 26 – School Resumes
February 26 & 27 – 1st Grade Vision Screening by LCHD
February 28 – 1st Grade Vision Re-Screening by LCHD
* * *

LCHD Vision Screening 1st Grade - The Livingston County Health Department will be at H.T. Smith to vision screen all of our 1st grade students along with any requested referrals. If you do not want your child to have a vision screening done please contact the office before February 26th at 517-223-6430.
* * *

Please do not park in the drop-off (Kiss & Go) lane in front of the school. This lane is to be used for parents to drop off their children and move ahead so the next car can do a drop-off.
* * *

Medication–If your child requires any prescription or non-prescription medication during the school year, a parent or guardian must bring it to the Smith Office to drop it off and complete the necessary paperwork. **School Board Policy states that children are not allowed to transport medication.**
* * *

FYI- Each school building in the Fowlerville Community School District has a Child Study Team / Response to Intervention process in place, which is a vehicle for staff members to review student performance, concerns, and collaboratively develop interventions. If you have concerns about your child’s development and are interested in more information on special services, contact his/her building Principal.
* * *

There are Preschool Openings for the 2018-2019 school year! -Livingston Educational Service Agency Early Childhood Programs continue to enroll for the 2018-2019 school year. There are many 4-year-old openings in the Fowlerville program located at Munn Early Childhood building. Head Start and Great Start Readiness Programs offer no cost/low cost preschool to income eligible or children “at risk” who qualify under federal and state guidelines.Families meeting eligibility guidelines have access to learning opportunities, health and wellness, social and disability services, and other community resources. Children of all abilities are encouraged to apply.To find out more information about applying and to see if you are eligible, call 517-548-2100 or go to www.LivingstonESA.org.

SYNOPSIS PROPOSED IOSCO TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES December 20th, 2018

Supervisor Miller called the meeting to order at 8:00PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Clerk Delmerico, Trustee Parker and Trustee Van-Houten present. Treasurer Bonnville absent. Also present was Anne Allen, Township Assessor & Zoning Administrator, and John Harris, Township Attorney. Also present was Ken Recker, Livingston County Deputy Drain Commissioner, and several Township residents.

Motion to approve the Agenda.

There was no response to the 1st Call to the Public.

Motion to adopt the proposed Board Minutes of November 15th, 2018, as corrected.

Motion to pay \$40,081.46 in township bills.

Heard the Assessor’s and Planning Commission’s and zoning Administrator’s reports.

Heard a presentation by Ken Recker about the new Livingston #29 Drain, including history, engineering, necessity, and cost of the drain. After a discussion by the Board, and hearing comments about this from public members present, Delmerico made a Motion that the Township’s At-Large portion, \$269,500.00 of the assessment for Drain #29 shall be paid inn full in a lump sum payment when requested by the Livingston County Drain Commission. Miller seconded the Motion. Roll Call vote, AA, MC. The interest payment saved by paying upfront instead of over 20 years will be a little over \$160,000

Motion to approve Iosco General Ordinance #8: Op-Outing Out Commercial Marijuana Establishments. Roll Call vote, AA, MC. The Ordinance will take effect 30 days after publication.

There will be a Township Recreation Plan Public Hearing, before the regular Board meeting on January 17th, 2019, at 8:00PM.

The Public was heard from during the 2nd Call to the Public.

Motion to Adjourn at 9:38PM.

Respectfully Submitted by
Dan Delmerico
Iosco Township Clerk
(1-13-19 FNV)

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2002 CHEVROLET AVALANCHE QUAD CAB 4X4 AUTO, POWER L/W, AC, CD, CRUISE, 242K, RUNS GOOD, HAS RUST SPOT ON FRAME (PATCH WORK PRIOR TO US OWNING THE TRUCK)	\$2500

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Caleb Jenkins Column



Beyond a Resolution

As the early Americans took notice of the tide of Revolutionary War headed their way, they smiled at the chance to ‘stick it’ to the British who had mistreated them for too long. No doubt, thoughts of revenge, liberation, and battlefield glory all floated through their heads. At first glance, a War for Independence probably seemed like a reasonable idea. Emotions were high, and in that moment, no obstacle would deter the will of the American patriot. They were prepared to “pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty,” as President John F. Kennedy would one day say of his fellow Americans.

And then, the war began. The excitement grew silent. Alexis de Tocqueville did an excellent job describing this shift in *Democracy in America*. The ideas of freedom, liberty, and taking a stand against England all sounded like great ideas to those in 1700s America, but supposition has a way of tricking us into a false comfortability with reality. The truth was that the war with England was long, bloody, painful, embarrassing, and strenuous. The temporary exhilaration was gone, replaced by hopelessness and defeat. When they realized how unlikely it actually was to defeat England and how much they would have to sacrifice to even try, Americans decided it wasn’t worth it. They abandoned the cause and descended into willful ignorance, trying to forget their nation was even at war.

That’s the truth of what happened during the Revolutionary War. But thank goodness, that’s not the rest of the story. Yes, Americans by and large gave up, but there was a small group spread throughout the young nation who refused to yield. Their thoughts and goals weren’t controlled by emotion. They understood the sacrifice, and they didn’t shy away from it. When they were slammed by the severe hardships of war, they didn’t turn away. They dug their proverbial trenches and braced themselves for the long road ahead. That small minority of the American population defied the apathy of the masses and went beyond a resolution.

Major decisions in our lives are often made without ever considering the long-term price to be paid. We may even have legitimate reasons for wanting to do what we’re about to do, but we rely wholly on the idealistic element of the decision. We neglect asking ourselves the practical questions. When trouble comes, we back down because we were not prepared to face hardship. The majority of early Americans were fair-weather independence fighters. They could all make a bunch of noise about freedom and the future of America, but when the storms came, they returned to their former lives. Thank goodness there were a few great Americans who were willing to withstand the trial to help bring us the greatest nation in the history of the world.

Greatness is only achieved when you press beyond the resolution. Are you willing to go the distance?

Williamston Theatre to feature mystery “To Quiet The Quiet” starting Jan. 24

Williamston Theatre, located at 122 S. Putnam Street in downtown Williamston starts the new year with the World Premiere of *To Quiet The Quiet* by Christy Hall. Performances begin Thursday, January 24 and run through Sunday, February 24. Tickets are now on sale.

Having suffered great loss and heartbreak in her life, Kathy, now middle-aged and alone, is a woman on the edge. Haunted by her past, and her own personal demons, Kathy seems to be losing the battle against her thoughts, her words, and her fears. The one man who can help Kathy may prove to be just as powerless against her. *To Quiet The Quiet*, a new mystery play, will keep you riveted through its deepest, darkest secrets. Contains adult content and language.

Performances will run on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at eight o’clock and Sunday afternoons at two o’clock. Starting February 2nd three o’clock performance will be added to the remaining Saturdays of the run. The first four performances of *To Quiet The Quiet*, January 24 - 27, are Preview performances where audience members will have the opportunity to take part in the process of creating a show by participating in a talkback session with the director following each performance.

The Official Opening Night is Friday, February 1 and the Conversation Sunday for *To Quiet The Quiet* is Sunday, February 17.



Bezotte announces candidacy for State Rep. 47th District in 2020

Livingston County Commissioner Bob Bezotte announced last week that he will run for Michigan State Representative in the 47th District in the 2020 campaign. The seat is now held by State Rep. Hank Vaupel, who is term-limited at the end of the current legislative term.

Bezotte, in his announcement, said that he looks forward to continuing to serve the residents of Livingston County, and says his two years as commissioner and twelve years as Livingston County Sheriff has provided him “with the experience needed to effectively represent the 47th District.”

“I have spent most of my adult life serving the citizens in Livingston County,” said Bezotte. “I have the knowledge, skills and ability to continue the good work of Rep. Hank Vaupel. As State Rep. for the 47th District, I will continue to put the needs of our residents first.”

A Vietnam Veteran, Bezotte lives with his wife of 46 years, Sheila, and their Bouvier, Shelby, in Marion Township. The couple have three daughters and eight grandchildren.

Bezotte says he will continue his work as a Commissioner for the duration of his term. If elected, he intends to focus on roads, insurance reform, law enforcement improvement and veterans’ issues.

“I spent 33 years working to keep Livingston County residents safe and secure, beginning as a road patrol deputy, and ending as Sheriff,” Bezotte said. “I am excited to go to Lansing, where I will be able to have a greater impact on issues facing our residents.”

Letter to the Editor

IT’S NOT THE MONEY, OR EVEN THE AMOUNT; IT’S THE SWAMP!

It has become painfully obvious that the left-wing Democrats, and some Republicans as well, in Congress, care nothing for the rush of drugs coming into this country and finding their way to our children. They care little about the criminals invading our country, the safety of our men and women (our Citizens), or the attacks on our border patrol. They don’t even care about the abuse of women and children at the southern border (which a wall would go a long way to stopping by discouraging caravans). They are happy to continue paying to support illegal aliens who sneak across into our country, and why not? It is our money they are spending.

They only care about preventing our President from succeeding, trying to negate the results of the 2016 election, and stopping President Trump from keeping this crucial promise to America. I mean, when have they ever restrained themselves from anything they wanted to do because it was too expensive? That’s why Nancy Pelosi wants to end the cap on the National debt. When have they ever agreed to. . . dare I say it. . . Balance the Budget? (What a notion!) The inconsequential \$5 billion, relatively speaking, that the president has asked for is a drop in their bucket---they waste much greater amounts on non-essential government endeavors, whether or not they are successful. It is not the money.

How have we elected these people who do not desire American sovereignty? As Ronald Reagan wisely said, “If we don’t have borders, we don’t have a country.” The most effective protection is a wall, and it will still be there after the end of President Trump’s administration. This is why they don’t want it.

Nancy Pelosi and friends, Wake up, Grow up, and Give Up! And then Shut up, and Put up---the wall!

Sandra Helzerman



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SITE IMPROVEMENT

Fowlerville Community School District will receive firm prime contractor bids for the labor, materials, equipment, and all other services to complete the Fowlerville Site Improvement project located within the school district. The renovations work will be performed at Fowlerville Junior High School and Fowlerville High School Athletics.

The bidding documents consist of plans and specifications as prepared by Mielock Associates, Inc., 114 Rayson Street, Suite 2C, Northville, MI 48167. Documents may be downloaded from Pipeline Suites. Contact Evan Jacobs or Shawn Debo at the George W. Auch Company 248-334-2000 if you need assistance viewing or obtaining documents from Pipeline Suites. A copy of the documents will also be available for review at the offices of the George W. Auch Co., 65 University Drive, Pontiac, MI 48342, (248)-334-2000, on or after Monday January 7th, 2019.

A Pre-Bid meeting will be held at the Fowlerville Junior High School Media Center, located at 7677 Sharpe Road, Fowlerville, MI 48836 on Tuesday January 15th, 2018 at 3:00PM. Site visits will follow the pre-bid meeting.

The envelope bearing your proposal must identify your company, the proposal being bid and addressed to the attention of Wayne Roedel, Superintendent, Fowlerville Community Schools, 7677 Sharpe Road, Suite A, Fowlerville, MI 48836. Bids must be delivered no later than Tuesday January 22nd, 2019 at 12:00 noon, to Fowlerville Community School District at the address noted above or the George W. Auch Company. Each proposal must be submitted on the forms furnished by the construction manager and must be completed in full. Each proposal shall be sealed in an opaque envelope and marked with the name of the bidder. A bid bond executed by a **U.S. Treasury listed surety company** acceptable to the owner, or a cashier's check in the amount of at least 5% of the sum of the proposal payable to Fowlerville Community Schools shall be submitted with each proposal in excess of **\$24,459.00**. All proposals shall be firm for a period of sixty (60) days.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at a meeting convened at the Fowlerville Junior High School Media Center located at 7677 Sharpe Road, Fowlerville, MI 48836 starting at Tuesday January 22nd, 2019 at 3:00PM.

Successful bidders whose proposals are \$50,000 or more will be required to furnish a Satisfactory Performance and Payment Bond in the amount of 100% of their bid. The cost of the Bond shall be included in each proposal.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids in whole or in part and to waive any informalities therein. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept that bid which in its opinion, is in the best interest of the Owner.

Sheila Burkhardt
Secretary Board of Education
Fowlerville Community Schools
(1-13-19 FNV)

Rep. Vaupel's revamped mental health bill, other legislation signed into law

State Rep. Hank Vaupel's plan to improve Michigan's Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Law is now state law.

AOT has come to be known as Kevin's Law, named for University of Michigan graduate student, Kevin Heisinger, who was tragically attacked and murdered by a paranoid schizophrenic who stopped taking his medication. The assailant's family tried for days to get him help, prior to the tragic incident, but had no legal way to do so.

Kevin's Law was intended to be a pre-emptive option for patients who need assistance, but has been under-utilized and was not living up to its full potential. Vaupel's new plan updates and improves on this existing statute to ensure mental illness is addressed earlier to prevent homelessness, dangerous behavior and incarceration.

"Early intervention is not only better for individuals in crisis, it also reduces the state's hospital and incarceration costs, saving Michigan taxpayer dollars," said Vaupel, who chaired the House Health Policy Committee last term. "I'm confident it's what's best for Michigan."

In addition to Vaupel's House Bill 5810, now Public Act 593 of 2018, several other mental health bills have been signed into law at the end of December as a result of the House C.A.R.E.S. Mental Health Task Force, which he co-chaired last term.

Public Acts 594 and 595 allow guardians to provide consent for mental health treatment and PA 657 creates a statewide database of available inpatient psychiatric beds to ensure every person experiencing mental health crisis has a place to go when seeking treatment.

Vaupel, of Fowlerville, says he's proud of what the task force and the Health Policy Committee were able to accomplish over the past two years, and is optimistic about the work they will continue to do throughout the 2019-2020 legislative term.

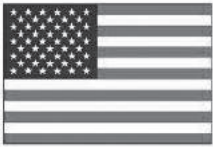
"We must continue to work to eliminate the stigma attached to mental illness and do all we can to improve access to care for those in need," Vaupel said.

Rep. Vaupel posts perfect voting record during just-completed 2017-18 session

State Rep. Hank Vaupel finished his second term in the Michigan House of Representatives with a perfect voting record, taking part in all 1,554 roll call votes during the 2017-2018 session.

"The people of Livingston County elected me to be their voice in Lansing," Rep. Vaupel said. "I take that responsibility very seriously and believe it is important to be present and participate in every vote. Over the next two years, I will continue working hard to represent the interests of the 47th District."

Rep. Vaupel is currently serving his third two-year term in the House.



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Mary Nelson Schneider

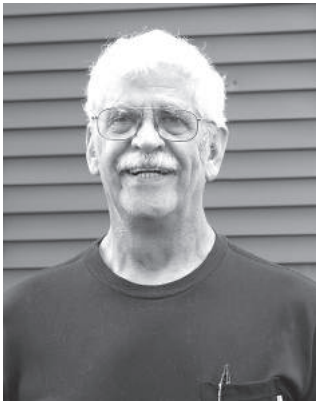
Mary Nelson Schneider of Fowlerville, Michigan ended her journey on Earth on January the 3rd, 2019, leaving the world undoubtedly a better place—she was 86 years young. Mary Nelson Fenton was born August 15, 1932 in Detroit, Michigan to Betty Proctor Nelson and John Charles Fenton. She entered the University of Michigan at the remarkable age of 16, graduated with a degree in Psychology and remained a steadfast and loyal fan of the Michigan Wolverines. Forever Go Blue, Mom! She joined the Detroit Police Department, serving in the Women's Division and later married fellow police officer and detective Harold Maloney, who preceded her in death.

She is the beloved and selfless matriarch of the Maloney clan. Mary had ten children: Kathleen, Susan, Michael, Maureen, Bridget, Peggy, Danny, Patty, Sharon, and Brian and each felt lucky to be one of the ten. She was the wittiest and wisest person in the room, the apple of our eye, and undeniably the center of our whole universe. There is a hole left in each of our hearts with her passing.

On January 8, 1983, Mary became Mrs. Louie Schneider; this is where the second act tells the great love story of our family tree as the branches stretched and grew. With Louie came Dean and Glenda-- together they became 12. As the newlyweds settled into their golden years, so did Mary enjoy the riches of becoming a grandmother and great-grandmother, many times over. Mary and Louie loved spending time with all of their family, and with each other. Their enthusiasm for each other was infectious. Their devotion to one another was plain to see, and we were lucky to learn how to love that way.

Mary is preceded in death by her son, Danny Maloney; her daughter, Peggy Maloney; and her sister Sally Graham. Mary is survived by her husband of 36 years, Louie F. Schneider; her brother, Bill Fenton (Jean); her children, Kathleen Kane (Tom), Susan Brennan, Michael Maloney (Tracy), Maureen Maloney, Bridget Moore, Patty Opuda (Kevin), Sharon Robertson, and Brian Maloney; her step-children, Glenda Vaughn and Dean Schneider (Sherry); and dozens of adoring grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Visitation was at Herrmann Funeral Home in Fowlerville on January 7, 2019, 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm. The funeral service took place on January 8, 2019 at 10:00 am at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Fowlerville. Please leave the family a condolence at pjherrmannfuneralhome.com.



Tom Breningstall Column

Button, button, who's got the button?

Button, button, who's got the button, is a children's game played in a large group of kids. Grown-ups can play too. If you do not know the game, it goes something like this... Players form a circle and extend their hands out in front of themselves making both hands into a fist. The "It" person has one button in their hands and is in the middle of the circle. "It" walks around the circle and touches the hands of each person in the circle, pretending to place the button in all of their hands. Then the next "It" person changes places with the first "It" person and has to guess who in the circle is holding the one button. Each player gets a chance to be "It" as the game goes along, trying to find the button. The game was played like that or in some variation and in this game a button has a simple purpose.

At first the button, many centuries ago, was just a decoration on clothing worn like a brooch or pin and as time passed, some very smart person, whose name has been lost in time, invented the button's much needed partner, the button hole. A button and buttonhole became a needed combination to hold pants up and shirts closed. And, as they say, the rest is history.

Now look around and all you see are what has become known as buttons. They are everywhere and very few have anything to do with holding clothes together and pants up, even though buttons still serve that very much-needed purpose in our daily lives. Look at a computer keyboard. Around seventy keys are also called buttons. Now why are these buttons also called keys, they look nothing like car keys or house keys? Cell phones have buttons that don't look like buttons. You have to tap or swipe the screen to activate what it is the button is going to do.

Microwave ovens have dozens of buttons. I ask why so many buttons and what do they have to do, just to heat up water for instant coffee?

Automobile dashboards have more buttons than some early airplanes. In some of the newer cars and trucks I have owned over the last twenty-five years, I never knew what some of the buttons on the dashboard did. Or the buttons on the center and overhead console, they could have been important and I never knew.

Buttons just seem to be everywhere we look and buttons seem to know what their jobs are and they do their jobs very well, if you push the right button that is. People for years have been pushing the wrong buttons. The thing is, if the world ever loses electric power and battery power all of those electronic buttons will become useless and buttons and buttonholes will once again rule the world. Just think about it when it comes down to it, what is more important in the world than having your pants held up by one button and one buttonhole.

Just one more thought; if Republicans were buttons and Democrats were button holes and if they could work together, maybe the pants of the government would stop falling down.

Rep. Slotkin sworn in to represent Michigan's 8th District in Congress

Rep. Elissa Slotkin was officially sworn in to represent Michigan's 8th District in Congress on Thursday, Jan 3. She took the oath of office on the floor of the House of Representatives with the other members.

"I am deeply grateful that the people of the 8th District have honored me with their confidence and their vote," said Slotkin. "Our mission is to get to work on the issues that matter to the people of this district: giving every family access to healthcare they can afford, making sure every Michigan family has access to clean water, and about returning a sense of integrity and decency to our politics."

She's shown here with members of her family that attended the event at the nation's capitol. The 8th District includes Livingston County. Slotkin, a Democrat, defeated the incumbent Congressman, Mike Bishop, in the November General Election.

* * *

Rep. Slotkin announces she'll donate salary during government shutdown

Rep. Elissa Slotkin announced last Friday (Jan. 4), the day after being sworn-in as a member of the U.S. House, that she will donate her salary during the federal government shutdown.

She released a statement, which reads in part: "I fundamentally disagree with the policy that allows Members of Congress to receive a salary during the government shutdown while Federal workers continue to go without pay. Until it re-opens I will donate my salary."

Rep. Slotkin indicated that she will give the money to The Alzheimer's Association.

* * *

Local swearing-in ceremony being held this Sunday, Jan. 13, at Lansing Center

While Rep. Elissa Slotkin, the newly-elected representative for Michigan's 8th District, has already taken her oath of office in Washington, D.C. and has begun work, she is holding a local swearing-in ceremony this Sunday, Jan. 13, in Lansing.

Residents of the 8th District have been invited to attend the event at the Lansing Center, located at 333 E. Michigan Ave. Doors will be open for the public at 12 noon. Along with Livingston County, the 8th District includes part of Ingham County and the northern half of Oakland County. Slotkin will be joined by community leaders.



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Savvy Senior Column

By Jim Miller

Have You Checked Your Social Security Statement for Errors?

Dear Savvy Senior,

I’ve heard that Social Security sometimes makes mistakes on our earnings record, which can reduce our monthly retirement benefits. How can I make sure this doesn’t happen to me?

Paranoid Paul

Dear Paul,

Mistakes in the Social Security earnings record are actually fairly common. Your Social Security benefits are based on your highest 35 years of earnings history. So, if your earnings for any particular year are underreported, it will reduce your benefits.

These errors typically occur because your employer either reported your earnings incorrectly or reported your earnings using the wrong name or Social Security number. Or if you got married or divorced and changed your name but did not report the change to Social Security.

Check Your Statement

The best way to keep an eye on your benefits and avoid any possible mistakes is to carefully review your Social Security statement every year. To do this, go to [SSA.gov/myaccount](https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount)

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and then print your statement out on paper.

If you’re age 60 or older and not yet receiving benefits and don’t have a My Social Security account online, your statement will actually be mailed to you about three months before your birthday.

Your Social Security statement lists your earnings record for each year of employment and estimates the benefits you and your family may receive as a result of those earnings.

Once you get your statement, take some time to verify its accuracy by comparing the earnings listed on your statement with your own tax records or W-2 statements. You have to correct errors within 3 years, 3 months and 15 days following the year of the mistake. If you happen to spot a discrepancy within that time limit, follow these steps.

First, call your nearest Social Security office (see [SSA.gov/locator](https://www.ssa.gov/locator) or call 800-772-1213 to get the number) to report the error. Some corrections can be made over the phone, or you may need to schedule an appointment and go in with copies of your W-2 forms or tax returns to prove the mistake, or you can mail it in.

If you suspect a discrepancy but don’t have backup records, the Social Security Administration (SSA) may be able to use your employment information to search its records and correct mistakes. If the SSA can’t locate your records, you’ll need to contact the employer to obtain a copy of your W-2 for the year in question.

Once your earnings record is corrected, Social Security will send you a confirming letter. If you don’t receive the confirmation within three months, contact them again, and double-check the correction by making sure it appears on your Social Security statement.

If corrections aren’t made on your statement start an appeals process (see [SSA.gov/pubs/EN-05-10041.pdf](https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10041.pdf)).

Other Mistakes

Social Security earnings miscalculations can also happen if there’s a mistake in your current mailing address that the IRS has on file for you. Check your federal tax returns for this possible error, especially if you’ve moved recently.

To correct your address, contact the IRS at 800-829-3676 and ask them to mail you the “Change of Address” form 8822, or print it off at [IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8822.pdf](https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8822.pdf), fill it out and mail it back to the address on the form.

Other factors that can cause mistakes are if your name or date of birth in the SSA records isn’t the same as it appears in the IRS files. So double-check your Social Security statement for these possible mishaps, and if you find an error call the 800-772-1213 and ask for Form SS-5, “Application for a Social Security Card,” and submit it with the correct information. The form can also be downloaded at [SSA.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf](https://www.ssa.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf).

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior; P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of “The Savvy Senior” book.

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NOTICE OF SALE

A liquidation sale will be held on January 22 at 10am to dispense of the items stored in the following units:

Unit H-173 Anita Baker

This sale is subject to cancellation without notice.



By Beth Lowe, Director

Upcoming Adult Event to be held Jan. 26th

At the Fowlerville District Library, we have been asked a lot of questions about the upcoming Adult program, Late Night at the Library on Saturday, January 26th 8pm to Sunday, January 27th 8am. I would like to share some details about this debut event for adults. For this event, adults are defined as being of at least 18 years old and graduated from high school or the equivalent.

First, I'd like to define steampunk and a Break Out Room. One definition of **steampunk** is "a genre of science fiction that has a historical setting and typically features steam-powered machinery rather than advanced technology." Another definition is "a style of design and fashion that combines historical elements with anachronistic technological features inspired by science fiction." However, don't let the science fiction genre put you off attending this event. It is the inspiration of the event, we are focusing heavily on the historical element over the course of the evening.

One of the activities that we have designed for your pleasure is a **Breakout Experience** also known as an Escape Room. Instead of utilizing only one room, we provide an experience that incorporates many areas of the Library. For those unfamiliar with breakout rooms, they are "fully-immersive real-life timed games in which small groups of participants are given a series of riddles, puzzles and clues in order to find a way out of an actual chamber, usually within an hour."

Our experience is designed by our own Audrey Glass. Miss Audrey designed our experience to orient patrons to our Historical Collection, the Card Catalog, and our Adult Book Collection. I can share with you that these types of experiences are a lot of fun! I have done several Breakout Rooms and I can't wait to see Audrey's game played out in our new library!

Our flyer in the Library, on our website, www.fowlervillelibrary.org, and our #fowlervillelibraryFacebook event give you a taste of the evening's entertainment. Here is a juicy portion of what to expect as the evening progresses.

Starting at 8pm, we will enjoy getting to know one another with a Historical Show-and-Tell. What is a Historical Show-and-Tell? It is a patron suggested activity that involves bringing one historical item related to Fowlerville or our community that you have at home and sharing it with the group. We know that there are some interesting treasures stored in basements and attics that others would love to look at and know more about. Patrons bring items in and share them with me all the time!

At 9pm, the Breakout Experience begins. Using the clues provided, teams will have one hour(ish) to "escape the Library"! The experience doesn't end until every team is successful. All teams that finish within an hour has extra bragging right!

After the Breakout, you will have time to utilize the Library's Historical Collection with the assistance of Audrey Glass, our Historical Liaison, until midnight. You will also have the opportunity to do personalized genealogy research with our Director, Beth Lowe, accessing the Library's Digital Archives and Ancestry.com.

Other activities will include two steampunk crafts, led by our Program coordinator, Jen MacGillis, two steampunk-style movies like the Robert Downey Jr. version of Sherlock Holmes, games related to our historical/steampunk theme and a speed puzzle challenge.

At midnight, we will serve pizza and beverages. During the movies, movie-style refreshments will be offered. At 2am, we will enjoy more snacks and soft beverages. Tea and coffee will be available all night. **Alcohol will not be provided or allowed to be brought into the Library.*

What to bring? Comfy clothes are a must. Personal snacks are allowed. If you are planning to sleep over, a blanket or sleeping bag and pillow is needed. You might want to bring music and earbuds. You are welcome to bring any crafting projects that you want to work on. If you think of anything else you want to bring, ask us! The answer is probably a "YES".

Over the years, I've had many adults ask if we'd plan an overnight adult event like we do for the teens. The idea is to allow you either to learn some new skills and meet people or to provide our adult patrons the ability to complete a research project in one stretch. Enjoying the Library overnight is a fun experience. I have been involved with every overnight we have ever held and look forward to seeing you there!

Ultimately, all attendees of this event are adults and as adults you are welcome to choose from our choices or to

do what you'd like. This event is designed to have planned group activities until midnight. After that, if you want to read a book by the fire or work on knitting with friends, do your own research in our databases, any other library related activity instead of our planned group activities or go home, feel free to do so.

*Spaces are limited. Register in person to attend. Registration includes a \$5 cash deposit. Registration begins Saturday, January 12th.

Kreeger Elementary School News

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16TH - KPTN Meeting at 9:30am. Check in Office for meeting place. Welcome to all parents/guardians who would like to know more about events & all that's happening at their students school.

* * *

1-17-19: LOVE & LOGIC PARENT WORKSHOP
1-18-19: ½ DAY OF SCHOOL 12:02 DISMISSAL
1-21-19: NO SCHOOL
1-24-19: LOVE & LOGIC PARENT WORKSHOP
1-31-19: LOVE & LOGIC PARENT WORKSHOP
2-7-19: LOVE & LOGIC PARENT WORKSHOP
2-14-19: 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. -REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PARENT MEETING
2-15-19: 8:00 – 9:00 A.M. – REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PARENT MEETING
2-18 THRU 2-21: 5TH GRADE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CLASS
2-22 THRU 2-25: NO SCHOOL PRESIDENTS' DAY RECESS
3-1-19: END OF 2ND TRIMESTER
3-7-19: ½ DAY OF SCHOOL - DISMISSAL AT 12:02 P.M.
PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES 1:00-4:00 AND 5:00 – 7:30
3-8-19: ½ DAY OF SCHOOL – DISMISSAL AT 12:02 P.M.
3-25 THRU 3-29: SPRING BREAK RECESS

* * *

LOVE & LOGIC PARENT WORKSHOP

Family Impact Centers and the Parent/Teacher groups from Smith and Kreeger Elementary Schools are again partnering to bring another session of *Becoming a Love and Logic Parent* to our area. This highly effective 4-week class will be held from 6:01 – 8:01p.m. at Smith Elementary School beginning on Thursday, January 17th and ending on Thursday, February 7th. Topics for each week's session are as follows:

Jan. 17– Putting an End to Arguing, Back Talk and Begging

Jan. 24– Teaching Responsibility Without Losing Their Love

Jan. 31– Setting Limits Without Waging War & Avoiding Power Struggles

Feb. 7– Guiding Kids to Own and Solve Their Own Problems & Teaching Kids to Complete Chores Without Reminders

Cost for the workbook is \$10, and scholarships are available. For more information or to register, please contact Barb at Family Impact Centers (517-223-4428) or Pete Wedesky at either Smith Elementary (517-223-6460) or Kreeger Elementary (517-223-6360).

Whether you wish you could feel more confident as a parent or you feel pretty good but want to see how you stack up with other parents, plan on attending this workshop. You will leave each week with practical skills that can be put to use immediately. And you will find that parenting can really be a lot less stressful!

League of Women Voters holding public forum on PFAs at Howell Library

The League of Women Voters of Ann Arbor, Brighton/Howell unit is pleased to announce its next public forum— *What is PFAs and What are the Health Implications?* The gathering is scheduled for Wednesday, January 23, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the Howell Carnegie Library's Meabon Room.

The guest speaker is Steven C. Brown, PhD trained and 45-year experienced analytical and bio-analytical chemist with a strong background in physical chemistry, and metabolism of xenobiotics (like PFAS and other synthetic compounds). This is an educational forum to provide Livingston County residents more information on this important topic, and to provide an opportunity to ask questions.

“Fowlerville News & Views” Neighborhood Classifieds

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The 8th Annual Maison Z. Wilkinson Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser

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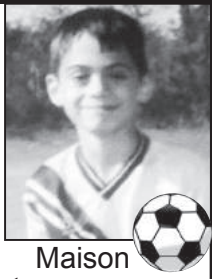
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January 26th, Saturday • 10-11:30am
February 2nd, Saturday • 10-11:30am
February 9th, Saturday • 10-11:30am
February 20th, Wednesday • 2:30-4pm
February 23rd, Saturday • 10-11:30am
February 24th, Sunday • 10-11:30am
March 2nd, Saturday • 10-11:30am
March 3rd, Sunday • 10-11:30am
March 9th, Saturday • 10-11:30am
March 10th, Sunday • 10-11:30am

*Then we will take in items on Friday, March 15th from 2pm until 10pm at Fowlerville Jr High as we will be there setting up for the sale the following day Saturday, March 16th 9am-3pm ONE DAY ONLY EVENT!!!!

Everything is sold by donations as well (there are a few exceptions on some items, those will be priced) everything will be negotiable!!! If you have any questions please contact me at 517-304-3976 call, text or inbox me. Amy Jo Wright Jarvis at 517-223-6225 for any questions.



Maison

GARAGE SALE & FUNDRAISER DAY

Saturday, March 16th • 9:00am - 3:00pm
Fowlerville Junior High School Gym*
COME ONE, COME ALL
Huge Garage Sale! • 50/50 Raffle!
Bake Sale & Concessions!

Join us for a day of fun and bargain hunting, while supporting a worthy cause. The Maison Z. Wilkinson Memorial Scholarship Fund supports local students graduating from our own Fowlerville High School every year. Monetary Donations are also welcome. Sponsored by the Friends of Rachel group.

Please keep watching for more posts, updates, information in Fowlerville News and Views as we get closer to drop off dates and events!

* FJHS is located at 7677 Sharpe Rd., within the Fowlerville Community Schools complex, between Kreeger Elementary and Fowlerville High School.



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Right to Life announces upcoming contests for teens and young adults

Right to Life of Livingston County is sponsoring three contests for local teens and young adults. In all three contests – oratory, essay, and infographic design – participants will present original material about prolife issues.

Oratory and essay contestants must be in grades 9 – 12. There are two age divisions for the infographic contest: ages 13-17 and 18-22.

Prizes for the oratory contest are: \$300, first place, \$200, second place, and \$100, third place. Essay contest winners: \$200 for first place, \$100 for second, and \$50 for third. Infographic prizes: \$300 for ages 13-17 and \$500 for ages 19-22.

All winners will have their work promoted in various Right to Life publications, both in print and online.

Registration deadlines:
Oratory contest - March 11, 2019,
Essay contest – April 5, 2019,
Infographic contest July 5, 2019.

For complete instructions and registration information, please visit <http://www.righttolifelivingston.org/> or call 810-227-5788.



Fowlerville Masonic Lodge donates \$300 to Family Impact Centers

Family Impact Centers Executive Director Barbara Dine recently received a check from Fowlerville’s Masonic Lodge 164. Martin J. Wyatt, a local Livingston County Realtor and member of the Freemasons, was honored to make the presentation.

Dine, on behalf of the Centers, expressed her appreciation for the \$300 donation. The Family Impact Center is located directly across from the Fowlerville High School and has helped 2,671 unduplicated families since October 2018.

Wyatt said that the local Freemasons are proud to have taken part in charitable actions within the community since 1865.

ORDINANCE NO. 471

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF FOWL-
ERVILLE, MICHIGAN AMENDING THE FOWLerville VILLAGE CODE OF
ORDINANCES BY AMENDING CHAPTER 30, ARTICLE II, DIVISION 2, EN-
TITLED TAX INCREMENT FINANCE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT PLAN,
SECTIONS 30-61 & 30-62**

The Village of Fowlerville ordains:

Section 1. Chapter 30, Community Development, Article II, Downtown Develop-
ment Authority, Division 2, Tax Increment Finance and Downtown Development
Plan, Sec. 30-61, entitled “Findings and Declarations,” of the Code of Ordinances,
Village of Fowlerville, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 30-61. Findings and Declarations.

(a) For the purpose of this Division, the Fowlerville Village Council finds and
determines the following:

- (1) A Tax Increment Finance and Downtown Development Plan for a development area within the downtown district established pursuant to Act 197 and pursuant to Division 1 of this Article was prepared by the Fowlerville Village Downtown Development Authority and was adopted by the Village pursuant to Ordinance No. 283, and previously amended by Ordinance Nos. 300, 351, 366, 377, 395, 399, 404 414, 418, 431, 446, and 453.
- (2) The 2018 Tax Increment Finance and Downtown Development Plan Amendments have been recommended by the Downtown Development Authority.
- (3) An opportunity was provided for the Tax Increment Finance and Downtown Development Plan Amendments to be reviewed with the other area taxing authorities, including the Livingston County, the Township of Handy, and the District Library.
- (4) A public hearing thereon was held before the Village Council on Monday, for November 26, 2018, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Village Hall, 213 South Grand, Fowlerville, Michigan.
- (5) Notice of the public hearing was given in accordance with Section 18 of Public Act No. 197 of 1975 [MCL 125.1668]
- (6) The Village Council has carefully considered the 2018 Tax Increment Finance and Downtown Development Plan Amendments, the statements and ideas expressed at the public hearing, and the recommendations received by Council, and the modifications suggested by Council members.

(b) The Village Council declares that:

- (1) The Tax Increment Finance and Downtown Development Plan, as amended, constitute a public purpose.
- (2) The Tax Increment Finance and Downtown Development Plan, as amended, meet the requirements set forth in sections 14 and 15 of Public Act No. 197 of 1975 (MCL 125.1664, 125.1665, as amended).
- (3) The Tax Increment Finance and Downtown Development Plan, as amended, meet the requirement set forth in section 17(2) of Public Act No. 197 of 1975 [MCL 125.1667(2)].
- (4) Both the Tax Increment Finance and Downtown Development Plan, as amended, meet all other requirements as set forth in Act 197 of 1975.
- (5) The proposed method of financing the development, as amended, is feasible, and the authority has the ability to arrange the financing.
- (6) The development, as amended, is reasonable and necessary to carry out the purposes of Act 197 of 1975.
- (7) The Development Plan, as amended, is in reasonable accord with the master plan of the Village.

- (8) Public services such as fire and police protection and utilities are or will be adequate to service the project area, as amended.
- (9) Changes in zoning, streets, intersections, and utilities are reasonably necessary for the project, as amended, and for the Village.
- (10) The Tax Increment Finance and Downtown Development Plan, as amended, have been recommended by both the Downtown Development Authority and the Authority representatives have been consulted as to modifications made by the Village Council.

Section 2. Chapter 30, Community Development, Article II, Downtown Develop-
ment Authority, Division 2, Tax Increment Finance and Downtown Development
Plan, Sec. 30-62 of the Code of Ordinances, Village of Fowlerville, entitled “Ap-
proval and Adoption,” is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 30-62. Approval and Adoption.

The Fowlerville Downtown Development Authority Tax Increment Finance and
Downtown Development Plan for the development area within the downtown dis-
trict established pursuant to Act 197 of 1975, as initially adopted through Fowler-
ville Ordinance No. 283, and previously amended by Fowlerville Ordinance Nos.
300, 351, 366, 377, 395, 399, 404, 414, 418, 431, 446 and 453, as further amend-
ed by revisions incorporated in the “2018 Tax Increment Finance and Downtown
Development Plan Amendments” prepared by John L. Gormley, Esq., attorney for
the Downtown Development Authority, and as approved by the Downtown Devel-
opment Authority at its meeting of October 27, 2018, and as submitted to the Vil-
lage Council, are hereby approved and adopted by the Fowlerville Village Council.

Section 3. Repealer Clause. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict
herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance
full force and effect.

Section 4. Savings Clause. This Ordinance shall in no manner affect pending
litigation, either civil or criminal, founded or growing out of any Ordinance, Resolu-
tion, Order or parts thereof, hereby repealed.

Section 5. Validity and Severability. Should any portion of this Ordinance be
found invalid for any reason, such a holding shall not be construed as affecting the
validity of the remaining portions of the Ordinance.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be effective twenty (20) days
after its passage, or from and after its publication, whichever is later.

Carol Hill, Village President
Kathryn M. Arledge, Village Clerk

REVIEWED FOR FORM:
David G. Stoker, Village Attorney

Village Council Member Bell, offered the foregoing Ordinance, and moved its
adoption. The motion was seconded by Village Council Member Heath, and upon
being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Carol K. Hill, President	Aye
Jerry Bell, Trustee	Nay
Kathryn Heath, President Pro Tem	Aye
Mary Helfmann, Trustee	Aye
James Mayhew, Trustee	Aye
Jane Mills, Trustee	Aye
Scott Schultheis, Trustee	Aye

The President thereupon declared this Ordinance approved and adopted by the
Village Council of the Village of Fowlerville this 26th day of November, 2018.

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of Ordi-
nance No. 471 adopted by the Village Council of the Village of Fowlerville, County
of Livingston, Michigan, at a regular meeting held on Monday, November 26, 2018.

Kathryn M. Arledge, Village Clerk
(1-13-19 FNV)

Fowlerville High brass quintet performs holiday music at homes of three ladies

Five members of the Fowlerville High School Band provided some Christmas cheer this past holiday season when they performed at the homes of three different area ladies. A brass quintet consisting of Robby Bilyk, Emily Conn, Ryan Kargel, Jacob King, and Bryson Scott did the entertaining, while the ladies hosting them were Peggy Morgan, Vondel Huck and Connie Phibbs.

Bonnie Phibbs (Peggy's daughter and Connie's daughter-in-law) had approached high school band director Bill Vlieg, wondering if any high school students might be interested in playing holiday music for a few elderly residents.

"He was enthusiastic about the idea and told me he had been looking for ways the school's music department could reach out to the larger community," she said.

Bonnie pointed out that the kids volunteered their time to do this, that Mr. Vlieg was present at all three performances, and the young musicians seemed to be excited about the chance to play. She added that each concert lasted over a half hour.



Shown here with Connie Phibbs at her home were, from left, front row, Emily Coon and Jacob King; and back row, Ryan Kargel, Bryson Scott, and Robby Bilyk.

"The quintet is comprised of our top brass players in our advanced wind ensemble," said Vlieg. "We meet every Wednesday morning at 6:40 and rehearse music ranging from traditional quintet literature to arrangements of popular songs. This is a group that we hope will continue to serve as ambassadors of our program both this year and in coming years."

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Gordon Munsell thanked for longtime service on Fowlerville Fair Board

By Steve Horton

Gordon Munsell was thanked for his longtime service on the Fowlerville Fair Board during a gathering on Dec. 13. Munsell, who is 73 and a local resident, has served on the board for two different stints—from 1984 to 1997 as an elected member and since 2008 as the 4-H representative. "Altogether, it's been nearly 24 years," said Munsell.

Robert Redinger, the president of the board, presented Munsell with a crystal clock as a 'thank you' gift.

"I was the vice president of the board for two years and have been the building and grounds superintendent for a long time," he said.

"Making sure stuff gets where it's supposed to be and, if needed, fixing it" was how Munsell described his overall duties as a superintendent. The "stuff" he refers to includes setting up such necessities as spectator bleachers, livestock stalls and cages, and the PA systems used during judging, moving picnic tables to designated locations, cleaning up the grounds and barns before and during the fair, painting, putting up tents, and much more.

That overall task was even more challenging years ago when the fair put on the country music concerts. "Most of what I do now is in the back of the grounds where the barns are and dealing with 4-H activities," he noted. "But back then we were upfront, setting up the entertainment stage in front of the Grandstand and also helping unload and then re-load the sound system and other equipment for the performer's stage crew."

Munsell has, in addition, taken part in several of the improvement projects. These range from building the small-animal barn to revamping the milk station into the Robb Dairy Barn as a place to not only milk cows and goats, but also to spotlight the history of the area's milk industry to building the livestock judging pavilion that provides protection from rain and sun.

In addition, Munsell was the 4-H Goat Superintendent for 30 years. "I finally gave it up last year," he noted, adding that part of the job involved hiring a judge and clerk.

Munsell's lengthy participation in the fair actually began over 62 years ago. "I was ten years old and a new member of

4-H when I brought a beef cow to the fair," he pointed out.

Gordon grew up on the family farm located on Mason Road, about five miles southwest of Fowlerville. "My grandfather, Arthur, bought the original 80-acre farm in 1905," he said. "He added 40 acres, then my parents—Robert and Elnora—added another 120 acres."

He is the oldest of four children. His brother, Art, passed away a few years ago, and there's his sister, Catherine and brother, Frank. "The three of us have pooled our resources to buy neighboring land when it's available and we now have 1,400 acres," he noted. "We had dairy cattle up until 2000 and now raise various crops: hay, shell corn, oats, sunflowers, and pumpkins. We also have a farm market as well as greenhouses where we raise and sell bedding plants, bird seed, the corn, and pumpkins."

It was through his involvement in 4-H and the fair that he met his future wife, Teena, who had come to the community as the new 4-H agent.

As the agent, Teena worked with the 4-H Service Club. This group included young adults who had been in 4-H. They did community service projects, sponsored the dances at the fair, and socialized. Gordon, who had graduated from Howell High School in 1963 and was working on the family farm, was a member. And, having met, they began dating.

She would soon learn that being with Gordon Munsell met being at the local fair. "After I'd first met her and it was during fair week, she said to me 'Don't you ever go home?'"

The couple, married in 1969, have five, grown children: Mike, Molly, Mary, Martha, and Matt. When the oldest children became old enough to join 4-H, the Munsells started the Kounty Klover Kids Club and have remained leaders since then. "We started with three members and were up to nearly 40 members at one time," he said. "At present, there are 26 kids which is more manageable."

The children and ten grandchildren live nearby. "Mary is in Byron, but the rest of them reside within two miles of the farm," he noted. "Matt has Munsell Poultry Processing which



Gordon Munsell, at left, received a crystal clock from Robert Redinger, the president of the Fowlerville Fair Board, as a 'thank you' gift for his years as a board member.

is on Mason Road."

Along with his involvements with the fair and 4-H, and being a fulltime farmer, Munsell is also a trustee on the Handy Township Board—a post he's held since being elected ten years ago.

As for his service on the fair board, Gordon joked (when asked) that his most memorable moment is that "there's been a lot of work," but added, "I guess if I didn't enjoy doing it and being part of the fair, I wouldn't have been involved for so long."

Reflecting on his tenure as a fair board member, Munsell pointed to the various improvements that have occurred over the years. "We've accomplished a lot," he said. "And it's nice to be part of an event that so many people have fun at and in helping contribute to the community."

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