

# Fowlerville NEWS & VIEWS

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Sunday, January 17, 2021

Published Weekly



These local girls are joining other Scouts from across the nation in kicking off the Cookie Season. From left, Ava Stephens, Caitlyn Wasilenski, Anya Wasilenski and Ashley Poissant. Ava and Ashley are Brownies from Troop 30382 in Fowlerville and Caitlyn and Anya are from Troop 30248 in Byron. Caitlyn is a Cadette and Anya is an Ambassador.

## Girl Scout Cookie Season kicks off bringing joy during challenging times

Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan (GSHOM) and Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) have kicked off the Cookie Season nationally, noting that during this challenging time many Girl Scouts will be selling in creative, socially distant, and contact-free ways to keep themselves and their customers safe.

"Even in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, girls are adapting their sales methods to share the joy of Girl Scout Cookies through the largest girl-led entrepreneurship program—including taking contact-free pickup and delivery orders through a new national collaboration with Grubhub," it was noted.

Thinking outside of the cookie box, girls are also using Digital Cookie, which is a contactless web-based platform, where customers can order Girl Scout Cookies online from local Girl Scouts. Through Digital Cookie, individual Girl Scouts create

unique online store-fronts where customers can shop and place cookie orders for fan favorites like Thin Mints, Tagalongs, Trefoils, and more. Shipping is available or customers can have their local Girl Scout deliver the cookies.

This allows Scouts to sell their offerings to customers beyond their local area.

The platform also has an option to donate cookies to local Hometown Heroes. "Last season, thanks to generous donations, GSHOM donated over 17,000 cookie packages and brought joy to front line heroes in hospitals, nursing homes, and COVID-19 testing centers, with hopes to exceed that number this year," Scout organizers noted.

In addition to Digital Cookie, customers can also buy Girl Scout Cookies in person from local troops. With safety precautions in place, some troops are holding "Drive-Through Cookie Booths" around town, where customers can order and

*continued on page 5*

**New Patients  
Welcome!**

**Same Day  
Emergency  
Care**



*All patients  
that come in for a  
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**COVID-19 Safety Protocol in Place.**



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Conner Street opened Lucky Clipper Barber Shop in Fowlerville on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. He is the third generation of his family to cut men’s hair, following in the footsteps of his grandfather and father.

**Owner of Lucky Clipper Barber Shop in Fowlerville continues family tradition**  
By Steve Horton

The first thing Conner Street points out is that barbering is a family tradition and that he is the third generation in his family to work in this trade.

“My grandpa was a barber and my dad currently works as a barber,” he said.

Street also followed in their footsteps when he opened his business—the Lucky Clipper Barber Shop—this past Dec. 1st in Fowlerville.

“My grandfather, Bob Street, started a barbershop in Livonia in 1969 at Six Mile and Farmington, naming it Spartans Place,” he explained.

This was in reference to the nickname for the school in the community—the Livonia Stephenson Spartans.

“My dad, Dan, who is the current owner, bought the business in 1979,” Conner noted, adding that his grandfather remained as a barber for another 15 years until retiring and moving up north to the Frankfort area.”

As for Conner, he’s been a barber for the past seven years, working with his father before recently venturing on his own.

The newly-opened shop is located at 146 N. Grand Avenue and was previously the site of Kim’s Barber Shop & Salon. That business closed last year, and the building had been vacant since mid-year.

So, how did he happen to select Fowlerville for his shop?

“I live in Cohoctah Township and was tired of making that hour-and-a-half drive one way to work and wanted to be closer to my home,” he explained. “I was lucky that this opportunity came up. I took a look at the building, and it was a perfect set-up. So, I decided to give it a try.”



Before opening the new barber shop on North Grand Avenue, Conner and his fiancé, Toni Klaus, remodeled the interior. It includes new vanities and three new barber chairs, plus a large-screen TV.

The building is owned by the Fowlerville Downtown Development Authority and, after reaching a rental agreement with the board, he remodeled the interior and finally opened the doors at the start of last month.

He credited his fiancé, Toni Klaus, with helping him fix the place up, noting that the work included repairs to the walls, fresh paint, sanding the floors, and installing new vanities and three barber chairs. There’s also a large-screen TV affixed to the back wall so that customers, waiting their turn, can watch. The TV is usually tuned to a sports channel.

“It was a very heavy remodeling,” Street pointed out. “It took me a little longer than I wanted, about three months. None of this would have been possible without Toni. She was by my side from day one, helping with the work.”

As far as his business plans, Street said the Lucky Clipper will be an old-fashioned barber shop. “I’m trying to stick with what my grandfather, dad, and I have been doing which is just men’s hair cuts. I’ve never been trained to do any women’s haircuts. No hair coloring, no hair washing. It’s a place where you come in, sit down, watch TV, and visit. It’s very family oriented as well.”

Starting a new business is challenging at any time, but doing so with the health restrictions that are in place due to the coronavirus pandemic is even more daunting.

“I’ve been slowly getting my name out into the community,” Street said. “I’ve done a little newspaper advertising along with Facebook and other social-media marketing. A number of people have seen the signs out front and the lights on as they’re driving by and decided to stop. Also, with this being my fifth-to-sixth week of being open, I’ve gotten a few customers coming back for another haircut. Which is very good.”

**Conner grew up in Brighton, attending the local schools until eighth grade** and then going to Detroit Catholic Central in Novi for high school. His mother, Nancy, is a nurse with the University of Michigan. He has an older sister, Haly, and a younger sister, Logan.

After graduating from high school in 2010, he attended college for a year, noting that he didn’t have any idea of what he wanted to do.

“I decided to take a step back and leave college rather than waste money,” Street said.

Soon after, he decided to be a barber. “I moved to East Lansing and over the next couple of years I attended classes at Lansing Barber School and worked part-time jobs. I also



Conner Street’s grandparents visited his new barber shop at Christmastime. Shown here are, from left, Bob Street, his grandfather; Toni Klaus, his fiancée; Conner Street; and Barb Street, his grandmother.

met my fiancée who was a student at Lansing Community College.”

After getting his license to cut hair, he moved into his parents’ home for a couple of years and worked with his father. But he also visited his sister, Haly, and her husband, Jack Sexton, who have a home north of Fowlerville.

“I really liked the area and wanted to buy property and have my own home, so I started looking around and found a place in Cohoctah,” he said.

Conner noted that he likes being active as opposed to sitting at a desk, looking at a computer screen. “I enjoy being a barber for that reason,” he said. “In the summertime, I golf, I hunt and fish, and we have a pair of dogs that we take for walks.”

“My fiancée and I also do a lot of things with my sister and brother-in-law,” he added. “They live about five minutes away. We have dinner with them and help them out at their place.”

Conner said that a special treat for him came during the Christmas season when his grandparents, Bob and Barb Street, visited his new shop.

“I named it Lucky Clipper Barber Shop because that was the name of my grandfather’s first shop, before he opened the place in Livonia,” Conner noted. “So, the name has some sentimental value. He’s around 90. For he and my grandmother to be able to come here, see the barber shop, and watch me cut some hair was very cool.”

*Business hours are Tuesday thru Friday 8am-6pm and Saturday 7am-12 noon. The shop is closed on Sunday and Monday. The phone number is 810-510-0113. Walk-ins only.*

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(517) 223-8760  
(517) 223-4177 Fax  
fowlervillenews@gmail.com  
www.fowlervillenewsandviews.com  
PO Box 937  
206 E. Grand River Suite 200  
Fowlerville, Michigan 48836





Andy Merchant is the new varsity baseball coach at Fowlerville High School.

### Fowlerville High School announces new varsity head baseball coach

Fowlerville High School last week announced that Andy Merchant will be the new coach of the varsity baseball team.

High School Athletic Directory Brian Osborn said that Merchant brings “a high degree of knowledge to the position and has been coaching collegiately since 2013.”

Merchant most recently was the head coach at Olivet College and prior to that stretch he built Lansing Community College into a nationally ranked program. Coach Merchant has also managed teams in the Lansing Men’s League along with serving as the hitting coach and third base coach for the Kalamazoo Growlers in the Northwoods League.

Coach Merchant has consistently challenged his student athletes to be successful academically and athletically. Osborn said, adding that numerous athletes that he mentored at LCC were successful in the classroom and on the diamond, because of this they were able to further their academic and athletic careers at four-year universities.

“Baseball is more than a game to Coach Merchant; he understands and stresses accountability, responsibility, technique, and discipline to all of his student athletes in all facets of their lives,” said Osborn. “In addition, he will emphasize the importance of teamwork, character and leadership development, along with communication skills. He is extremely dedicated and committed to maximizing a student athlete’s potential both on and off the field.”

Merchant earned a bachelor of art’s degree in business administration from Alma College in 2000. He also played four years of baseball for the Scots and in 1999 Alma won the MIAA championship. A right-handed pitcher, Merchant led the Scots in appearances during the 1999 championship season. Prior to Alma, Merchant attended Holt High School where he set the school record for strikeouts by a pitcher, a record that stood for 15 years.

“We are extremely excited to hire Andy, his energy and passion for the game is second to none,” noted Osborn. “I am confident that the knowledge and experience Coach Merchant possesses and his dedication and commitment to providing our student athletes with positive characteristic traits and skills on and off the field, will help our baseball program to continue to grow and be successful. Coach Merchant will work tirelessly to create positive relationships and teach life lessons through the game of baseball...I welcome Coach Andy Merchant to the Gladiator coaching family.”

## Caleb Jenkins Column



### Moving Forward Slowly is Still Moving Forward

I am passionate about seeking innovative solutions to the problems we face as a nation and as an individual. I do my best to consider hard questions and try to find new ways to look at issues. I think we far too often settle for the simpler answer rather than pushing ourselves to expand our bounds of comprehension. Problems are almost always multifaceted with wide and varied impacts, so while the more traditional answer sometimes ends up being the right one (or even simply the necessary one), we do ourselves a disservice by not working harder to achieve a better, innovative result.

I find it very beneficial to ask these deep questions to those around me: my family, friends, coworkers, etc. I enjoy playing devil’s advocate to test an idea to see if it has true validity and staying power. Through this process, the idea is either refined (as “iron sharpeneth iron” – Proverbs 27:17) or solidified with firmer evidence. Either way, that’s a win!

I learn so much from these conversations because I force myself to think critically about what is being discussed. I usually get to learn a new perspective and ponder the deeper elements of the topic at hand.

Recently, when having such conversations, I have frequently gotten the answer, “Well, there’s nothing we *can* do. The problem is too far along, and there is no changing course now.” I can sympathize with this sentiment because we face an evermore dire-looking future. Even if you think you have a solution, how do you implement it? How can you have a legitimate impact on the course of society? It is understandable to want to throw your hands up and just accept that people are not going to change for the better.

Our country is fractured and tearing itself apart. I would argue the societal turmoil and foundational collapse have not been as severe at any other point in our history. We have lost our identity and are passionately raging forward without real consideration of where we are charging. When the truth is stamped into oblivion any time it is suggested, how can change be effected? In such turmoil, only God can save our country. It is from Him we need to find our salvation. Individual self-reflection and self-correction are very much needed right now.

As we pray for our country, we must also keep moving forward for good. No matter how deeply we examine the problems before us, the critics may be right that any actions we take will not be enough to fix all the issues, but *despite* this, we must remember that some progress is better than no progress at all. Now is not the time to freeze. If the challenge seems insurmountable, take it one step at a time. And at the end of the day, even if we fall short of our hope, we can know we did our best and affected who we could for good. May we demonstrate perpetual forward momentum!

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Debbie Holmes  
Medicare Plan Specialist  
Livingston County



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**NEW HOURS: Monday - Friday • 8am - 5pm  
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**Due to restrictions still in place by the Health Department, we are doing carry outs only until Feb. 1st.**

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# Kreeger Elementary

## School News

**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
**School Hours:** 8:50 a.m. – 3:32 p.m.

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**NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT:**  
All pre-enrollments are done online [www.fowlervilleschools.org](http://www.fowlervilleschools.org)  
After you complete those documents please print and




*Thank you to all who have supported us in the past and who will continue to do so in the future. We wouldn't be who we are if it wasn't for you.*

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## Fowlerville High School's "ATHLETES" OF THE WEEK



### Varsity Boys Basketball

**Brendan Young** - Forward (SR) Brendan Young is in his 4th year on the varsity team. He recorded his 1,000 point last year and is on pace to end his career as the leading scorer in Fowlerville history. As a Junior he averaged 26.6 points and 10.7 rebounds. He is also one of our best defenders. Brendan is a 2 time captain and his leadership has been so important, especially during this unique off season. He has committed to play basketball next year at Madonna University. Congratulations Brendan!!

**Billy Hutchins** - Guard (SR) Billy is also entering his 4th year on the varsity team. Last year he was the 2nd leading scorer averaging 15.7 points and also pulled down 6.5 rebounds per game and added 3.1 assists per game. Billy contributes to the team in so many ways, he is also one of the best defenders and he was one of the leaders in steals too. He is one of our key ball handlers, and plays a key part in getting us all in the right spots. Congrats Billy!!

### JUD'S FOOTBALL FORECAST

<b>SATURDAY, JAN. 16</b> LA Rams <u>24</u> at Green Bay <u>20</u> Baltimore <u>27</u> at Buffalo <u>23</u> <b>LAST WEEK:</b> W - <u>4</u> L - <u>3</u>	<b>SUNDAY, JAN. 17</b> Cleveland <u>20</u> at Kansas City <u>34</u> Tampa Bay <u>30</u> at New Orleans <u>27</u> <b>SEASON:</b> W - <u>174</u> L - <u>90</u>
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Every week through the season two Fowlerville H.S. athletes will be saluted for their efforts. Athletes will be selected by the coaching staff and Athletic Dept. For that "Winning Deal" on a new or used car or truck, see Dick Scott Motor Mall.


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sign areas marked. Bring your child's original raised seal birth certificate, 2 proofs of Fowlerville Schools residency and if your child attended a school in Michigan his/her immunizations will be on the MCIR website.

\*\*\*

**CALENDAR OF KREEGER EVENTS**

1-18-21 NO SCHOOL – MLK Recess  
1-21-21 K-12 1/2 DAY OF SCHOOL  
1-21-21 Last day to register for return to Face to Face  
1-22-21 Remote Learning Day  
1-25-21 Return to Face to Face Learning  
1-29-21 NO SCHOOL Professional Development for Teachers  
2-5-21 Remote Learning Day  
2-12-21 Remote Learning Day  
2-15-21 NO SCHOOL President's Day Recess  
2-19-21 Remote Learning Day  
2-26-21 Remote Learning Day  
3-5-21 Remote Learning Day

\*\*\*

**GLADIATOR WEAR:**  
Gladiator spirit wear will be sold all year long please check out the following site for orders – [www.brideausapparel.com/fundraisers](http://www.brideausapparel.com/fundraisers).

### DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW WHAT TO DO AT DISMISSAL TIME?

\*Will your child be riding the bus home?  
\*Will your child be going to *Little Glads*?  
\*Will your child be getting picked up?

If you need to call the office for a "reminder note" for you student, please call the office before **2:50** at 517-223-6006

\*\*\*

### ONLINE STUDENTS

If you are having technical issues you can email the Tech Department at [fcstechassist@fowlervilleschools.org](mailto:fcstechassist@fowlervilleschools.org) and they will get back with you.

\*\*\*

### UPDATED COVID INFORMATION:

We have added a video from Livingston County Health Department on the Kreeger Webpage, it can also be found on the Fowlerville Community Schools main webpage. Please take a moment to check out this video for more information regarding quarantines.

\*\*\*

### 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.

# Smith Elementary

## School News

**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm  
**School Hours:** 8:50 am – 3:32 pm

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**IMPORTANT DATES:**

January 11-22 – Kindergarten NWEA testing  
January 18 – MLK Day – No School  
January 19 – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Vision Screening (See information provided below)  
January 19 – K-5<sup>th</sup> Gd Full Day of School  
January 20 – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Vision Screening (See information provided below)  
January 20 – K-5<sup>th</sup> Gd Full Day of School  
January 21 – **LAST DAY to notify school of changing pathway from virtual to face to face**  
January 21 – K-12 ½ Day (Elementary Dismissal is 12:02 pm)  
January 22- Remote Learning  
January 22-NWEA testing for Online Learners only (more info to come in January)  
January 25 – Students switching from virtual to face to face return day  
January 29 – No School – PD Day for Teachers

\*\*\*

**Vision Screening** – Livingston County Department of Public Health is providing Vision Screening on January 19<sup>th</sup> and January 20<sup>th</sup> for 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Also screened are last-year follow-ups and parent/teacher requests.  
Please call Laura at 517-223-6430 and provide your child's name and teacher if:  
You **do not** want your child screened  
You have a concern for your child and your child is **not** in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade  
(Technicians will accept parent/teacher requests on the first day of screening)  
Please call the Health Department at 517-546-9850 if you have questions regarding Vision Screening.

\*\*\*

**Online Learners-** There is one more opportunity to switch pathways from virtual to face to face this school year. The deadline to notify the office is 3:30 on January 21. The start date would then be January 25<sup>th</sup>. Please call Michelle in the office to make the switch 517-223-6440.


**Medication**–If your child requires any prescription or non-prescription medication during the school year, a parent or guardian must bring the medication in 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.

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### Girl Scout Cookie Season, continued

pick up their favorite Girl Scout cookies, without leaving their vehicles.

Through the Girl Scout Cookie Program, girls as young as five years old are continuing to embrace their entrepreneurial spirits, stay connected to their communities, and have fun learning new skills. And, the proceeds from each and every purchase stay local with the troop and its council to power Girl Scouts’ essential leadership programming.

To connect with a local Girl Scout to order cookies or to see a list of cookie booths in the area, visit [gshom.org/en/cookies/find-cookies.html](https://gshom.org/en/cookies/find-cookies.html)

Girl Scouts is more than just an after-school activity. It is a research-backed and time-tested program that encourages girls to discover, connect, and take action. Girl Scouts are more likely to develop a strong sense of self, display positive values, seek challenges, form healthy relationships, and become community problem solvers. In today’s uncertain times, girls need Girls Scouts now more than ever.

To register as a Girl Scout or volunteer, visit [gshom.org](https://gshom.org).

## Fowlerville Junior High School News

### IMPORTANT DATES:

No School--Monday Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>  
Deadline for Online Students Parent Notification--Thurs Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>  
Fundraiser Kickoff-- Monday Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>  
Online students who request will return-- Mon. Jan 25<sup>th</sup>  
1<sup>st</sup> day of Second Semester-- Monday Jan 25<sup>th</sup>

### Half Days of School

Tuesday, January 19 K-5 full day, 6-12 1/2 day--released at 10:42am  
Wednesday, January 20 K-5 full day, 6-12 1/2 day--released at 10:42am  
Thursday, January 21 K-5 full day, 6-12 1/2 day--released at 10:42am  
Friday, January 22 K-12 Remote Learning Day

### SPORTS FOR WEEK OF JAN. 18:

BBB practice at FJH has again been postponed due to executive orders from the Governor. Questions can be directed to your coach.

PARENTS & ATHLETES--STAY IN CONTACT W/ YOUR COACH.

Decision regarding COMP. CHEER will be made this week. Please be patient & cooperative as we all handle the decisions handed down by governmental officials.

Reminder: Weekly eligibility checks will begin soon for athletes. Please keep your grades up. If extra help is needed, contact your teacher.

\* \* \*

### YEARBOOK INFORMATION

Yearbooks are on sale now for the 2020-2021 school year. Order in person or online - the school has a link online to order there. They are \$32 dollars. Checks made out to Fowlerville Community Schools.

Also we have 11 yearbooks left from 2019-2020 if you did not get one. They can be purchased for \$32 from Mrs. Spisz in room D-19.

We have 21 students that are current 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th graders that have not picked up their book previously ordered. If you are one of these students or know someone that is, please contact Mrs. Spisz at [spiszm@fowlervilleschools.org](mailto:spiszm@fowlervilleschools.org). She will put your book in the Junior High Office for pick-up. Although we have put this in the paper, sent emails, and tried to distribute during virtual picture day we still have some needing to be picked up by students that may be all virtual, moved, or are homeschooling.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. Any questions, please contact Mrs. DeLuca 223-6250, [delucac@fowlervilleschools.org](mailto:delucac@fowlervilleschools.org)

### Little Glad Early Childhood Center offering private tours, enrollment

Little Glad Early Childhood Center knows that families want the best environment for their children and to be able to see the program where they are entrusting their children. To support families...Little Glad is offering Private, COVID-safe tours and enrollment.

Beginning February 16, early enrollment will start for the following:

--Free Preschool for 4 year olds-GSRP Great Start to Readiness  
--Early enrollment for 18 months to 12 year old for Fall 2021  
--Summer Fun programming for this summer beginning June 13th.

Please call 517-223-6480 or email, Lisa Leonard at [leonardl@fowlervilleschools.org](mailto:leonardl@fowlervilleschools.org) to get more information on how to have a private and safe tour of Little Glad Early Childhood Center.

## 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 25-- Semester 2 begins

Watch your emails from Mr. Lusk for school updates.  
\* \* \*

Please note the new dates also for the First Semester Exam schedule.

### First Semester Exams

Tuesday, January 19 K-5 full day, 6-12 1/2 day - exams  
Wednesday, January 20 K-5 full day, 6-12 1/2 day - exams  
Thursday, January 21 K-5 full day, 6-12 1/2 day - exams  
Friday, January 22 K-12 Remote Learning Day  
\* \* \*

Parents & Senior 2021 – Make sure to check the senior information page on the FHS website for Senior ads, pictures, cap and gown ordering and timelines.  
\* \* \*

Students and parents, the yearbook staff is hard at work creating the 2020-2021 yearbook. Order forms have been mailed to your house. You can order online or send the form back in the mail. Order early to ensure you have a yearbook. The staff is making sure that this year’s yearbook is one of a kind.  
\* \* \*

### Juniors and Seniors interested in the Co-op Program:

Are you currently working? Are you interested in finding out if you could earn high school credit while you work? You may be eligible for the high school co-op program. To learn more about the co-op program and requirements, please contact Mr. Hardenbrook: [hardenbrookj@fowlervilleschools.org](mailto:hardenbrookj@fowlervilleschools.org).

If you picked up forms last school year or have printed them out from the front page of the High School website under Co-op Information, filled out forms can also be turned into the main office.

\* \* \*

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

\* \* \*

Parents having trouble using MISTAR to view grades, e-mail questions to [connect@fowlervilleschools.org](mailto: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>

### Interact Club Needs your Help!

Needed: Non Perishable food items to stock our new Fowlerville Micro Pantry for downtown Fowlerville. Everyone lend a hand to assist the Interact Club and put food in this pantry to help our friends and neighbors out this year. Items such as Mac and Cheese....Ramen Noodles....peanut butter etc.....cereal, oatmeal, rice, noodles....items that will not freeze in the pantry at the winter temperatures. There will be a box in front of the Main Office and the Counseling Office from 1-15 thru 2-1 2021 Please help us out!

BIG SHOUT OUT TO OUR OWN FOWLERVILLE FFA Chapter for building the pantry for us!!!!

### Michigan DNR Fishing Tips—

### Targeting perch on Lake St. Clair

When anglers think of Lake St. Clair, they often think of bass or muskellunge fishing – but during the winter months, many think of it as a yellow perch destination!

There are a few techniques to target fish on the lake, including staying on the move and focusing on areas where the perch are most likely to be found. Perch on Lake St. Clair often will hang out on the vast, shallow flats as they look for smaller fish to prey on. Since structure is limited during the winter months, they’ll use the shade of the ice cover to fill in that role. Fishing these areas can often offer anglers great success with large-size fish!

Want even more tips for fishing yellow perch – and not just on Lake St. Clair? Visit the yellow perch page on the DNR website.

\* \* \*

As we reach the middle of January, ice fishing is becoming more widespread; however, caution still needs to be used. Anglers are targeting crappie, bluegills, bass, pike, and walleye.



# Change pays.

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Fowlerville, MI 48836  
Bus: 517-223-4173  
[katie.pikkarainen.rale@statefarm.com](mailto:katie.pikkarainen.rale@statefarm.com)  
8:30 to 5:30 M - F

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## Fowlerville High School CTE Student of the Week



**Alyssa Harman**

Congratulations to this week's Career Technical Education Student of the Week at Fowlerville High School, Alyssa Harman! Alyssa is taking part in the Career Ladder Nursing Program through Livingston County Early College. This is a program one must be accepted into and it entails earning fifty college credits. Starting twelfth grade year students complete all of their classes at Lansing Community College's Parker campus in Howell. Alyssa will graduate the early college program after her 13th year and will have met the requirements for Lansing Community College's nursing program, and completed her first year of nursing courses. Alyssa will have one more year of courses before she graduates with her associates degree and will be eligible to sit for the state boards to earn her RN credential.

Alyssa's favorite part of the program has been participating in the clinicals that were built into her first year of nursing class. Through these clinicals she was able to experience a typical day in different careers of interest within the healthcare field.

Alyssa's future career goals include becoming an ER nurse and then down the line transferring into a different position within the hospital. She feels this program has helped immensely in preparing her for her career goals. Alyssa discovered her love for the ER during one of her clinicals. Having the opportunity to participate in this particular clinical helped guide her in the direction she wanted to take her career. It also led her to the college courses she is currently enrolled in, which are needed to attain her career goals.

Alyssa doesn't believe she would have taken this same career path without having the opportunity to experience it ahead of time. The ER clinical was initially toward the bottom of her list of choices. Alyssa stated, "I am very happy I could use the clinicals to guide which path I wanted to go down and then have the Early College Program to further my learning into that career."

Some specific things Alyssa has learned throughout the course of this program include basic nursing skills such as checking a pulse, CPR, as well as people skills, which she stated, "Is a big part of working in the medical field." Alyssa feels this program has gone beyond preparing her for her career, as it's also prepared her for "life in general." Among other things, this program has taught her accountability and time management.

To those considering this program, Alyssa states, "This program is definitely one of the best decisions I made during my high school career. I am so far ahead of where I would have been without this program and it will make it so much easier for me in the long run and I am only taking the classes needed to move forward in my career." Congratulations once again to Alyssa Harman!

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## Pastor Tom Tarpley

### Remain Focused on the Prize

Two weeks ago, I referred to the scripture in Philippians chapter three, where Paul says, "No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us" Philippians 3:13-14.

Today, I want to focus on that scripture's theme, of remaining focused on the most important thing in life—our relationship with Jesus Christ. Paul says he is "forgetting what is behind." Meaning he is no longer going to waste time thinking and worrying about what has already occurred. Sometimes we can get so caught up in yesterday's pain and suffering until we miss numerous opportunities to break free of the pain, misery or destructive habit that has plagued our lives longer than we can remember.

**Sidebar:** I used to spend hours sitting and thinking about all the mistakes I've made in life. I could waste a whole day doing nothing but wallowing in self-pity, thinking, and rethinking about my childhood and how unhappy I was growing up. Reflecting on my life as a practicing alcoholic and drug-abusing sinner was always good for several hours of self-inflicted depression.

The only thing I accomplished during those unproductive hours of reflection was I descended deeper and deeper into a state of depression that made me hate myself even more. I don't know when I developed the character trait of self-hatred, but I can remember it has been a part of my mental DNA for as long as I can remember. **End Sidebar.**

"Forgetting the past and looking forward toward what lies ahead" is my goal for 2021. I can do nothing about anything that happened yesterday. My past is my past, so why not let it be? But my future begins now!

Think about this for a moment. The things I did in the past have all contributed to me being in the place I am in life today. If that is the case, the things I do today will determine where I will be in the future. If I waste today worrying about the past, chances are I will not be able to accomplish anything positive or productive today. The result is that tomorrow I will find myself in the same position as I am today, only a little further behind because time moves on whether we adjust and roll with it or whether we choose to sit by and watch it from behind.

Every true Christian's goal in life is to finish life in good

standing with the Father who created us. The achievement of that goal is only possible if we keep our eyes on the Prize, which is Christ Jesus, our Lord.

One of the tools I use for staying focused on Christ in addition to my daily devotion time is Celebrate Recovery (CR). As the Ministry Leader and coordinator of our weekly program, I spend a lot of time researching music, testimonies, and videos to help our CR meeting be a welcoming and exciting time when we meet together. It is incredible how God uses the pain and hurt of others to help us deal with the personal struggles we face in life.

CR has helped me to shed tons of unnecessary baggage. The baggage of self-hatred is no longer a problem because I know without a doubt that I am a child of God created in His image and also that He loves me just as I am, sin and all.

I don't have the compulsion to drink or use drugs any longer. Working through the twelve steps of recovery and the eight principles of the beatitudes as laid out for us in CR have shown me that these things are destructive habits designed to destroy me if I surrender to them. CR is also helping to address other character flaws such as co-dependency and compulsive eating and spending.

I have experienced many positive changes since becoming active in CR, but the most valuable difference is how my relationship with Jesus has grown.

I try to start each day reflecting on Principle One.

I "realize I am not God. I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my life is unmanageable."

It makes a positive difference in my day when I move through my day, acknowledging my powerlessness and affirming God's Mighty Power.

If you follow the Eight Principles listed below, you will begin to see new growth in your relationship with Jesus and also in your peace of mind.

1. **Realize** I'm not God. I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my life is unmanageable.
2. **Earnestly** believe that God exists, that I matter to Him and that He has the power to help me recover.
3. **Consciously** choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control.
4. **Openly** examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust.
5. **Voluntarily** submit to any and all changes God wants to make in my life and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects.
6. **Evaluate** all my relationships. Offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and make amends for harm I've done to others when possible, except when to do so would harm them or others.
7. **Reserve** a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in order to know God and His will for my life and to gain the power to follow His will.
8. **Yield** myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and my words.

## Meals on Wheels needs volunteer drivers in Fowlerville area

The Meals on Wheels program needs volunteers in the Fowlerville area! We would love the opportunity for you to be part of our team. This is a commitment of 1-2 hours of your time as little or as often as your schedule will allow. Once a month, once a week, temporary or on a continuous basis. **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!**

For more information please call Lucy @ 810-632-2155 or email [info@lwmmow.org](mailto:info@lwmmow.org)

## CONWAY TOWNSHIP BIDS FOR INTERIOR TOWNSHIP HALL PAINTING

Conway Township is now taking bids for the painting of the public areas of the Township Hall located at 8015 N. Fowlerville Road, Fowlerville MI 48836.

Bids will be accepted through January 19, 2021 at 3 p.m. All bids will be reviewed on January 19, 2021 at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:00 p.m. A certificate of Insurance will be required from the winning contractor.

For details, please contact the office during regular business hours, Tuesday 9 am to 3 p.m., Wednesday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 517-223-0358. If mailing bids please mail to P.O. Box 1157, Fowlerville MI 48836.

Elizabeth Whitt  
Conway Township Clerk  
(1-3 & 1-17-21 FNV)

Julie Dailey  
Iosco Township Clerk  
(1-10 & 1-17-21 FNV)

## Iosco Township Notice of Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting January 25, 2021 7:00 P.M. Iosco Township Hall 2050 Bradley Rd., Webberville, MI 48892

The Iosco Township Zoning Board of Appeals will be holding a meeting at 7:00 P.M. on January 25th, 2021 to review a petition for a zoning variance for the following:

A petition has been filed by Joseph Grech, 4625 Bradley Rd. Gregory, MI 48137, Property ID # 4709-29-401-014, for a Variance of Iosco Township's Zoning Ordinance at the property referenced above, to allow for a ground-mounted solar array in the front-yard.

The Public has the right to appear before the Zoning Board to express their views and opinions on the request. Written comments should be sent to the Township at the mailing address above, Attention: Clark Humrich, ZBA Chair.





# Savvy Senior Column

By Jim Miller

## What Caregivers Should Know About Medicare

*Dear Savvy Senior,*  
*I am the caregiver for my 81-year-old mother, who recently fell and broke her hip, and have a lot of questions about how original Medicare works and what it covers. Where can I get some help understanding this program?*  
*Overwhelmed Caregiver*

### Dear Caregiver,

Excellent question! Having a working knowledge of Medicare can help you take full advantage of the coverage and services it provides to ensure your mom receives the best care possible. Here’s what you should know.

#### Medicare Assistance

A good starting point to get familiar with Medicare is the official “Medicare & You” handbook that overviews the program. It’s mailed to all beneficiaries every fall and provides an up-to-date description of all services and benefits. You can also see it online at [Medicare.gov/medicare-and-you](https://www.medicare.gov/medicare-and-you).

If you have a particular question, you can call and visit with a Medicare customer service representative at 800-633-4227. Medicare also works closely with State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIP) to provide free health insurance counseling. To find a SHIP counselor in your area visit [ShiptaCenter.org](https://www.shiptacenter.org) or call 877-839-2675.

Caregivers also find Medicare’s secure website – [MyMedicare.gov](https://www.MyMedicare.gov) – especially useful. After setting up a personal account for your mom, you can view the details of her coverage, track recent health care claims and keep up to date on the preventive services she qualifies for.

#### Compare Tools

Medicare can also help you locate the right health care providers for your mother. At [Medicare.gov/care-compare](https://www.Medicare.gov/care-compare) you can find and compare doctors, hospitals, home health agencies, dialysis facilities, inpatient rehab facilities, long-term care hospitals and nursing homes in your mom’s area.

#### What Medicare Covers

Medicare can reduce many out-of-pocket medical expenses your mom incurs, but it doesn’t cover everything. Understanding what Medicare does and doesn’t cover can save you time and spare you frustration when navigating the caregiving maze. Here are some key points for caregivers:

Besides basic hospital and physician services (which includes telehealth services) and optional prescription drug benefits, Medicare covers home health care too. To qualify, your mom must be homebound, under a physician’s care and in need of part-time skilled nursing care or rehabilitative services like physical therapy.

Medicare also helps pay for oxygen, catheters and other medical supplies that a doctor prescribes for home use. The same is true for medically necessary equipment like oxygen machines, wheelchairs and walkers.

In addition, Medicare covers skilled care in a nursing home for limited periods – up to 100 days – following hospital stays. But it doesn’t cover long-term stays. Patients who need custodial care (room and board) must pay out of pocket unless they’re eligible for Medicaid or have private long-term care insurance.

Medicare pays for hospice care too, for someone with a terminal illness whose doctor expects to live six months or less. The hospice benefit also includes brief periods of respite care at a hospice facility, hospital or nursing home to give the patient’s caregivers an occasional rest.

Besides long-term nursing home stays, original Medicare typically doesn’t cover regular dental care or dentures, regular eye exams or eyeglasses, and hearing exams and hearing aids. Likewise, it won’t pay for nonemergency ambulance trips unless a doctor certifies they’re medically necessary.

To find out what Medicare covers, visit [Medicare.gov/coverage](https://www.Medicare.gov/coverage) and type in the test, item or service you have questions about, or download the Medicare “What’s covered” app in either the App Store or Google Play.

#### Financial Assistance

If your mom lives on a limited income, you should check whether she qualifies for help with prescription drug costs or with other Medicare-related premiums, deductibles and copayments.

For help with drug costs, visit [SSA.gov/prescriptionhelp](https://www.SSA.gov/prescriptionhelp) or contact Social Security at 800-772-1213 and ask about the “Extra Help Program.” For help with other Medicare costs, go to [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov) or call 800-633-4227 and ask about the “Medicare Savings Programs.”

## Experts treat insomnia, anxiety caused by COVID-19

By Ri’an Jackson  
Capital News Service

Sachi Tanaka says after having COVID-19 for three weeks, she experienced insomnia in a way that she never had.

“At that time, I had gotten myself into a good routine of falling asleep around 10 p.m. and waking up early,” said the 24-year-old Texas woman. “And then, all of the sudden, it was like I couldn’t fall asleep until 6 or 7 in the morning.”

Her insomnia was a nagging feeling. She tossed and turned in bed, feeling like she was at the brink of sleep, but would be interrupted by her thoughts.

Tanaka isn’t alone. COVID-19 has affected many people’s sleep, whether they’ve had the virus or not. Sleep neurologists call it “COVID-somnia,” a phenomenon where people have trouble sleeping because of the virus. And its effects can last even after the pandemic ends.

Coronavirus upended our lifestyles. Morning commutes were replaced with teleworking, which may mean less physical activity and exposure to sunlight and more screen time, said Dr. George Zureikat, a sleep medicine specialist and director of Mid Michigan Sleep Center in Grand Blanc.

That can ruin sleep by disrupting the circadian rhythm — the powerhouse of our sleep-wake cycle.

Stress induced by COVID can also result in insomnia, said Zureikat, who has seen a surge of insomnia cases since the pandemic.

COVID-19 is unlike anything many people have experienced, he said. Insomniacs may lose sleep worrying about unemployment or about contracting the virus. Some people feel trapped during lockdowns and are constantly reading news articles about overcrowded hospitals and rising death numbers.

A recent study by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine found 2.77 million Google searches for “insomnia” in the first five months of 2020 — a 58% increase compared with the same months from the previous three years. Most of those queries happened between midnight and 5 a.m., suggesting people were searching while unable to fall asleep.

Difficulties like trouble falling and staying asleep or waking up too early rose from 36% before the pandemic to 51% during it, Rebecca Robillard, a University of Ottawa professor who leads clinical sleep research at the Royal’s Institute of Mental Health Research, said in a Medpage Today article.

“If your (circadian) rhythms are thrown off, that also throws off your sleep at night time,” said Dr. Christopher Morgan, the medical director at Mercy Health Saint Mary’s Sleep Center in Grand Rapids. “Your melatonin may not be producing the right amounts at the right time, which is part of your internal rhythms in your body.”

Melatonin is the hormone that your brain produces in response to darkness. It helps time your circadian rhythms and sleep.

“Humans are social animals,” said Dr. Lila Massoumi, a professor of psychiatry at Michigan State University and chair of the American Psychiatric Association Caucus on Complementary & Integrative Psychiatry.

“We draw both strength and calm from our fellow humans. Ripping that social support away by telling us to self-isolate removes that source of strength and calm,” she said.

Unsurprisingly, those who contract the virus may also stress about their health.

Morgan said those who struggle with chronic insomnia, or insomnia experienced at least three nights a week for at least a month, may develop bad habits that can be difficult to shake.

“You have an acute

stressor, which is COVID, and you become an insomniac,” he said. “And then let’s say I still haven’t gotten a job in six months. Now, I’m sitting in bed for 10 hours a day just thinking about how terrible things are in my life, and I have insomnia.”

“So, now I start watching TV in bed because I’m awake during the night time, and I start drinking pop in the middle of the night, and I start laying in bed even longer because I think I’m not getting enough sleep. So, all these maladaptive behaviors develop.”

What’s worse, according to Mayo Clinic researchers, those who’ve had chronic insomnia report a lower quality of life than those who sleep well. Chronic insomnia may lead to anxiety or depression, slowed reaction time while driving and increased risk of long-term diseases such as heart disease.

Many professionals treat patients with cognitive behavioral therapy. It works by identifying and replacing thoughts and behaviors that create sleep problems with ones that promote healthy sleep.

“It’s just a matter of just tweaking certain habits and changing certain things,” said Rachel Freedland, a clinical social worker at Bright Spot Therapy, a counseling clinic in Farmington Hills. “If there are other mental health needs, for example, if a person already has anxiety or depression, we address those as well.”

After assessing a patient’s sleeping habits with sleep diaries and questionnaires, Freedland, who is certified in cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia, and her clients design a program that helps them sleep and wake up when they want.

Yoga and mindfulness, a type of meditation where you focus on being aware of what you’re feeling and sensing at the moment, can release feel-good hormones that alleviate anxiety and promote healthier sleep, according to Asha Ravindran, a clinical team lead at St. Mary Mercy hospital in Livonia.

“If you don’t sleep, if you’re anxious, you’re out of sync with your body,” said Ravindran, who owns Stepping Stones Wellness Center in Plymouth and conducts virtual yoga and meditation sessions with her patients.

She advises clients to create a private space where they can journal, practice yoga and meditate. This space can be as simple as the foot of the bed.

The key is to be present in the moment, Ravindran said. From yoga poses to breathing exercises, you can de-stress with strategies that help focus on the present without worrying about the past or future.



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It is the policy of Fowlerville Community Schools that the District will not discriminate in its programs, services, or activities against any person based on race, color, national origin, gender, disability, or age. Inquiries or complaints related to discrimination should be directed to the Assistant Superintendent, Board of Education Office, 7677 W. Sharpe Road, Suite A, Fowlerville, MI 48836, (517)223-6027.

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### Smith Elementary highlights ‘Classroom of the Week’

With so many events at Smith Elementary School not taking place this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the safety measures that are in place, Principal Kathy Gibson and staff are going to highlight a ‘Classroom of the Week.’ Shown here are students from the first-grade class taught by Mrs. Estrada and Mrs. Cox.

First row (from left) Keira Hanselman, Alex Pikkarainen, Koleman Bergin, Addyson Banks, Georgia Chrzanowski; Second Row (from left) Audrey Mason, Evalyn Eisele, Griffin Peterson, Owen Rose, Alana Strunk, Zach Pennala, Kc Roddenberg; Third Row (from left) Alyvia Donovan, Hannah Hoover, Dawson Bauer, Natalie Campbell, Max Bonville, William Cameron; Back row (from left) Mrs. Estrada, and Mrs. Cox. Not pictured: Makena Holbrook, Elora Brockway, Adelynn Montgomery, and Penelope Harrison.

### Fowlerville Fire Department Report

**January 7<sup>th</sup>**  
10:10 am. Mutual aid with a tanker for a structure fire on Parman Road in Ingham County, Bunker Hill Township.  
10:09 pm. Medical emergency on Little Rascal Drive in Handy Township.  
**January 8<sup>th</sup>**  
4:01 pm. Medical emergency on Iosco Ridge Drive in Iosco Township.  
**January 9<sup>th</sup>**  
3:39 pm. Medical emergency on Nicholson Road in Handy Township.  
**January 10<sup>th</sup>**  
7:04 pm. Assist to

Livingston County Ambulance in Handy Township.  
8:28 pm. Medical emergency on Hannah Jane Drive in Handy Township.  
9:40 pm. Medical emergency on Cemetery Road in Handy Township.  
10:46 pm. Medical emergency on Ann Street in the Village.  
**January 11<sup>th</sup>**  
10:43 am. Medical emergency on Sargent Road in Handy Township.  
10:54 am. Medical emergency on Ann Street in the Village.  
2:37 pm. Medical emergency on Swartz River Drive in Handy Township.  
**January 12<sup>th</sup>**  
6:12 pm. Medical emergency on Gehringer Drive in the Village.  
11:15 pm. Medical emergency on Addison Circle in the Village.  
**January 13<sup>th</sup>**  
7:28 pm. Medical emergency on North Street in the Village.



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# Howell Carnegie District Library to feature book on Flint Drinking Water Crisis for Great Michigan Read

*Note: Because of the pandemic, Michigan Humanities decided to extend the 2019-20 Great Michigan Read through the beginning of 2021 without changing the “2019-20 Great Michigan Read” title.*

Residents in the Howell area are invited to join in reading and discussing “What the Eyes Don’t See,” Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha’s riveting account of her discovery that Flint’s children were being poisoned by lead leaching into the city’s drinking water. The book is Michigan Humanities’ choice for the 2019-20 Great Michigan Read, and the Howell Carnegie District Library is partnering with Michigan Humanities to provide related programming and free books with supporting educational materials for the Howell area.

Members of the Howell community have two opportunities to participate in the Great Michigan Read through the Howell library. The monthly online Social Justice Book Club led by Library Director Holly Ward Lamb will discuss “What the Eyes Don’t See” on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 7pm. A free copy of the book and reader’s guide are available for each participating registrant to pick up through the Library’s curbside service. On Tuesday, January 26, the Howell Carnegie District Library is honored to host a live virtual conversation with Great Michigan Read author Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha and Jon King, News Director at Livingston County’s own WHMI 93.5 FM. The conversation will start at 7pm and include a Q&A session with registered participants. Questions for Dr. Hanna-Attisha can also be submitted prior to the program. Registration for both events is now open on the Library’s website, [www.howelllibrary.org](http://www.howelllibrary.org).

The Great Michigan Read aims to connect Michigan residents by deepening readers’ understanding of our state, our society, and our humanity. A statewide panel of teachers, librarians, community leaders, and book lovers selects the Great Michigan Read every two years. Shelly Hendrick Kasprzycki, Michigan Humanities president and CEO, says she hopes “What the Eyes Don’t See” will encourage Michigan citizens statewide to read, discuss, and learn from the book, and that it will increase opportunities for civil discourse on topics ranging from water quality and access to environmental injustice and the intersection of humanities and science.

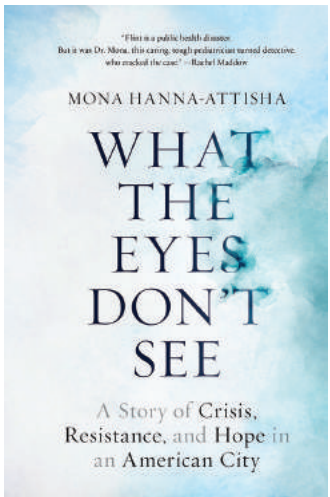
“Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha’s willingness to fight for children and tirelessly advocate for change in and beyond Michigan will have readers cheering as she follows the science and her young patients’ experiences to uncover one of the state’s worst public health catastrophes,” Kasprzycki said. Hanna-Attisha is the founder and director of the Michigan State University and Hurley Children’s Hospital Pediatric Public Health Initiative, an innovative and model public health program in Flint. Currently an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Human Development and a C.S. Mott Endowed Professor of Public Health at Michigan State University, she has been named one of Time magazine’s 100 Most Influential People in the World for her role in uncovering the Flint water crisis and leading recovery efforts. She was one of the first to question if lead was leaching from the city’s water pipes after an emergency manager switched the city’s water supply to the Flint River in 2014. She also is committed to increasing literacy in Flint and elsewhere.

Hanna-Attisha said she was honored to have “What the Eyes Don’t See” chosen for the 2019-20 Great Michigan Read, and said the concepts of place and history are critically important to her book.

“From the resistance of the Flint sit-down strikers to the reign of demagogue Charles Coughlin, Michigan’s DNA is full of history – some good and some bad and some shared and some hidden – which we must understand in order to address our present-day challenges,” said Hanna-Attisha. “Like so many Michiganders, my story is an immigrant story. It was critical to share this part of the story in this memoir because it informs how I see the world and the work that I am privileged to do.”

The 2019-20 Great Michigan Read is presented by Michigan Humanities and supported by national, statewide, and local partners, including the National Endowment for the Humanities and The Meijer Foundation.

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## About the Howell Carnegie District Library

The Howell Carnegie District Library creates opportunities that transform lives through knowledge, for every age at any stage, one exceptional experience at a time. Located at 314 West Grand River Avenue in Howell, MI, the HCDL is currently open for curbside pickup and limited access to technology, with staff available by phone, Monday-Thursday 10am-6pm and Friday-Saturday 10am-2pm. Visit us online 24/7 at [www.howelllibrary.org](http://www.howelllibrary.org).

\*\*\*

## About Michigan Humanities

Michigan Humanities inspires Michigan residents to come together in creative and freely expressed ways to deepen our understanding of ourselves and enrich our communities. In carrying out this mission, Michigan Humanities builds awareness and excitement for humanities in everyday life, achieves best practices and sustainability for all humanities programs and services in Michigan, and upholds the following key values: inclusion, diversity, and equity; discovery and understanding; authentic conversation;

respectful collaboration; and meaningful experiences. Michigan Humanities’ vision is for all people of Michigan to experience and understand the importance of humanities to enrich lives.

\*\*\*

## About the Great Michigan Read

The Great Michigan Read kicked off in 2007-08 with “The Nick Adams Stories” by Ernest Hemingway. The 2017-18 Great Michigan Read was “X: A Novel,” a fictionalized account of the early life and Michigan roots of civil rights leader Malcolm X written by Ilyasah Shabazz and Kekla Magoon. During 2017-18, a total of 295 participating organizations shared 8,000 copies of the books with readers in 59 of Michigan’s 83 counties, and Shabazz and Magoon spoke at 19 author events.

Other Great Michigan Read books include “Stealing Buddha’s Dinner,” by Bich Minh Nguyen (2009-10); “Arc of Justice,” by Kevin Boyle (2011-12); “Annie’s Ghosts,” by Steve Luxenberg (2013-2014); and “Station Eleven,” by Emily St. John Mandel (2015-16).

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## —Area Deaths—



### Edna Annette (Ridenour) Denby

February 23, 1924 – December 31, 2020

Annette was born February 23, 1924 in St. Louis, Missouri. She lived there for only a year prior to taking up a brief residency in Denver where the air was too thin for her mother to breathe. Following Denver, she spent a few years in Chicago and ultimately moved to her father's hometown of St. Johns, Michigan.

Annette spoke proudly of her hometown her entire life. She and her family would visit for Memorial Days, Mint Festivals, or even just a picnic in the park. On her father's side, Annette had deep roots in Clinton County. The Ridenour's spent a couple generations amassing a huge amount of tillable acreage. Annette's great grandfather Samuel S. Kentfield, a resident of Clinton County, enlisted and died in the Civil War. He is buried in the Chattanooga National Cemetery in Tennessee.

Annette was in the St. Johns graduating class of 1943. She then trained to be a stenographer, graduating from the Lansing Business University aka LBU. Annette began her career working for the Wise and Vanote Law firm in the Michigan National Tower downtown Lansing. She then applied to work for the State of Michigan as a stenographer, and proudly worked as the executive secretary for B. Dale Ball, director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

She met the love of her life, Wayne Denby, at Bradley's Dance Hall in Lansing. They married at the Pilgrim Congregational Church in Lansing. Annette was a lifelong member of the St. Johns Congregational Church and became a member of the Holt Presbyterian Church. Wayne and Annette moved into his home in Mason where their two children, Fred and Patti, were born. After seeing her two children off to a good start, she took a part-time job that turned into a full-time job at the Lansing Elks Lodge and worked there until retirement. They resided as a family in a new ranch-style home in Holt, where Annette continued to live and work in her garden for 50 years.

Annette spent the last 15 years in Fowlerville near both of her children. She lived independently in an apartment complex that is primarily for seniors. It had a commons area where residents played cards, put puzzles together, and would meet for a cup of coffee and maybe a donut. Annette made many new friends while she lived there and was known for her puzzle diligence and ability.

Annette's children and grandchildren were always welcome to visit or move in, and many did. There was always good cooking, card and board game playing, and nightly drinkums (cocktails). The grandkids loved the unstructured environment. Annette loved summer and a barbeque. The family is planning a barbeque this summer in remembrance of her. Friends and family will gather, and many of her favorites will be served, such as ribs, mac and cheese, rhubarb pie and of course drinkums.

Annette is survived by her brother Dart L. Ridenour of Long Beach CA, her son Fred and Cindy Denby, her daughter Patti (Denby) and Jim Keesler. Grandchildren Angela (Denby) and Dan Belanger, Brandon and Shelby Denby, Deanne (Rivera) and Ryan Wizner, Billy Rivera, Nick and Amber Kassouf, 10 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. She was especially fond of her niece Barbara Davis of Portage Michigan, who was one of her bridesmaids in 1953 and remained a close friend to the end, as well as her brother's daughters Piper, Beverly and Sharon.



### James Carl Swain

On January 5, 2021, our father, James Carl Swain, age 86, of Fowlerville, Michigan went home to be with the Lord and his family, friends, and colleagues who passed before him.

James was born in Rocky River, Ohio on October 27, 1934 to Galen Frank and Matilda Agnes (Fallon) Swain. He grew up in Rocky River, attending St. Christopher Catholic School, and later graduating from St. Ignatius High School, "Home of the fighting Wildcats".

He left Ohio to attend the University of Detroit, where he earned his Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering in June, 1958. While there, he met what would become his best friends throughout the remainder of his life. His children always knew them as Project WASH JKB (the Weidman, Averill, Swain, Hittler, Janik, Klokzik, and Burkel families).

He also played offensive/defensive tackle for the Detroit Titans football team. He loved everything about collegiate football: the spirit, the rivalries, and the great games in football history. There was not a university or its mascot that he did not know. We know because we would quiz him.

He married his first wife, Carol Jean Pitman "Blossom" on July 5, 1958. They went on to have 6 children, settled in Fowlerville in 1972, and remained married until she passed in 2006, a total of 48 years. He was a member of St. Agnes Church and all the children graduated from Fowlerville High School. He was also a member of several professional and alumni associations throughout his life.

In June of 1963, he completed his Master of Business Administration degree, married, with four small children and one on the way. He spent the next 30+ years in automotive engineering and purchasing, traveling most of the time. His final automotive work, in the early 1990s, was a low tire warning system, using prototypes in professional racing. He traveled with Corvette Racing and sometimes even worked as a pit crew member. He tracked racing algorithm specs (failure rates/speed/temperature) and attempted to find an automotive group to consider a low tire warning system as part of an automotive safety standard package for high end automobiles. He would light up when he told his stories.

A lifelong learner and semi-retired, he returned to higher education, earning an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Computer Information Systems from Oakland Community College in June, 2000. Shortly after that he accepted a position as adjunct faculty at Lansing Community College in the early 2000s. He would go on to teach or assisted as a lab tutor at Lansing Community College until December, 2020, officially retiring. While he taught, he continued to take classes, earning an Associate Degree in Applied Science – Electrical Technology in May, 2006 and an Associate Degree in Applied Science – Alternative Energy Technology in August, 2011. In his remaining days, he restated that teaching at Lansing Community College was a blessing that fulfilled him, ending his professional life on a high note.

While the loss of his first wife was significant, he found love again and married his sweetheart, Joanne (Bowden) Swain "Josee" on August 11, 2012 in Tallahassee, Florida. They would spend the next 8 years traveling between Florida and Michigan, and even traveled to Ireland and Finland, James' and Joanne's genealogical roots, respectively. In his final days, he restated that Joanne was a blessing to our family and "she added years to his life." We should all be so lucky to find that kind of love and best friendship again.

Dad loved his "Friday Night Lights" high school football, watching the "Glads in their Pads" for decades. Long after his sons stopped playing, he would still attend games, standing on the sidelines on the opposing side, and always making friends for the love of football. Eventually, he was recruited to be a part of the Fowlerville "Chain Gang", calling it the "best seat in the house." During high school playoffs, he would select a local team, and family and friends would caravan to all sorts

of destinations around the state. He would create a bracket and even head to Ford Field for the finals. He would travel back to Ohio, meeting up with old classmates to watch the St. Ignatius Wildcats in the finals and championship games.

His first love of NCAA collegiate football is the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame. It was a rite of passage to attend our first game in South Bend, Indiana to see The Fighting Irish. There were many motorhome trips and fantastic tailgates to Notre Dame, Michigan State University, and University of Michigan. He could recall and re-tell the famous games like the 1966 Michigan State University versus Notre Dame University and the big 10-10 tie. He probably would have liked to see the Irish win another National Championship before he passed. But, he thoroughly enjoyed the Notre Dame versus Clemson game; the last time we would gather to watch on November 7. He later said, "It was a good day for us," as he often said after celebrations—big and small, game days, or simple Sunday dinners.

James is survived by his wife, Joanne (Bowden) Swain; sons, Galen F. Swain, Sean P. Swain, and Terrence C. (Anne Forster) Swain; daughters Colleen N. (Palmer) Swain, Maureen E. Swain, and Meghan M (Kuch) Swain. Grandsons, Brock L. Swain, Kolton C. Swain, Lance G. Swain, Killian N. Kuch, Ayden F. Swain and Granddaughters, Natalie N. Swain, Amber C. Swain, and Rose. Great-grandchildren, Mia N. Marsden, Livia E. Marsden, and Ian R. Marsden. He also leaves behind his close extended family cousins, the Walshs and Spaydes, with whom he always said was a blessing and friendship beyond measure.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Galen Frank and Matilda Agnes, aunts/uncles/cousins, sister Nancy Seigler Swain, brother-in-law Leonard Seigler, sister Margaret Swain, his cousin Sean Fallon Walsh "Jacko", his first wife, Carol Jean Pitman, and granddaughter Tara M. Swain.

Funeral services were provided by Herrmann Funeral Home in Fowlerville, Michigan. Visitation was Monday, January 11, from 3-7pm, and the funeral took place Tuesday, January 12, at 11am. A Celebration of Life will be at a later date. We invite friends and family to share memories/tributes at <https://www.pjhermannfuneralhome.com/obituary/James-Swain>.

Donations can be made in his honor to:

St. Ignatius High School  
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or

Fowlerville Athletic Boosters  
c/o Brian Osborn  
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He will have everlasting peace, with burial in Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery – Fowlerville, Michigan, reunited with our mom.

Our dad used to sign off phone calls and voice mail messages with "We'll talk when we talk."

So, Daddy-O, we'll talk when we talk.

## Livingston County Health Dept. continues to vaccinate

### Phase 1A, prepares for Phase 1B

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) updated their vaccine priority guidance and has authorized local health departments to begin vaccinating the following groups starting Monday, January 11:

--People age 65 years or older

--Frontline, essential workers with frequent or ongoing exposure as a part of their work. This includes some, but not all essential workers previously designated in phase 1B. First responders, police officers, jail and prison staff, pre-K-12 teachers and childcare providers are included.

In Livingston County, phase 1B represents thousands of newly eligible individuals; however, vaccine supply is very limited and will not cover everyone who is eligible at this time. The Livingston County Health Department (LCHD) continues to work through phase 1A, and cannot move into phase 1B until additional vaccine is received. LCHD's limited vaccine supply is being prioritized to the most vulnerable and high-risk populations.

LCHD asks residents to please be patient, as they cannot vaccinate everyone eligible immediately. For individuals eligible under the revised guidance, scheduling information will be available on our website very soon. Please do not call or email to schedule your appointment, but rather, check the website regularly for updates at [www.livgov.com/health](http://www.livgov.com/health).

Also please remember your scheduled appointment may be weeks away depending on vaccination supply.

Individuals should first check to see if vaccination is available through their primary healthcare provider.

Individuals eligible through their employment should expect scheduling information through their employers. Updated information is available at <https://www.livgov.com/health/ph/Pages/COVID19-Vaccine.aspx>.











# Michigan Senate Report

By Lana Theis,  
22<sup>nd</sup> District

### Meets perfect attendance, voting records for 2020

Sen. Lana Theis did not miss one day of work nor a single vote last year, the senator announced last Monday.

“There is nothing I take more seriously than serving the people of Livingston and Washtenaw counties,” said Theis, R-Brighton. “The residents of this district work hard, and many of them don’t have the luxury of taking time off – especially those working on the front lines during these challenging times – and they expect the same from their lawmakers. I am proud of them and of my job, and that is why I have never missed a day of work since joining the Legislature in 2015 and have no plans of slowing down.”

Theis did not miss any of the 632 record roll call votes in 2020.

\* \* \*

### Seeks nominations for public safety officer, front-line worker, veteran of the year awards

State Sen. Lana Theis last week announced contests to honor the service of the 22nd Senate District’s public safety officers, front-line workers and veterans.

“Livingston and Washtenaw counties are blessed with dedicated public safety officers, front-line workers and veterans who serve or have served our communities with professionalism and dedication to their fellow Michiganders,” said Theis. “I am looking forward to giving these brave men and women the recognition they deserve.”

The awards, open now through Feb. 15, will recognize people from each of the following categories:

#### Public Safety Officer Awards

- Police officer
- Deputy
- Firefighter
- EMS person
- Dispatcher
- Jail officer/Corrections officer

#### Front-line Worker Awards

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Pharmacists
- Grocery employees
- Truck/Delivery drivers
- Other workers on the front lines

#### Veteran of the Year Award

- Any veteran from any era of service of any branch of the armed forces.

Nominations should be submitted by filling out a form at the following websites:

- Public Safety: <https://www.senatorlanatheis.com/public-safety-awards/>
- Front-line Workers: <https://www.senatorlanatheis.com/frontline-worker-awards/>
- Veteran of the Year: <https://www.senatorlanatheis.com/veteran-of-the-year/>

District residents wishing to submit a nomination should include their name and contact information, the nominee’s name and position, and a description of why the nominee deserves an award.

Nominations may also be submitted via email at [SenLTheis@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:SenLTheis@senate.michigan.gov) or by phone at 517-373-2420.

## Fowlerville student named to Alma College Fall 2020 Dean’s List

Alma College has released the Dean’s List for those students who achieved outstanding academic performance during the 2020 Fall Term. Students, including Jaclyn Jarvis of Fowlerville, MI, who achieve a 3.5 or better grade point average during a term, while carrying a minimum of 13 credits, at least eight of which are evaluative grades, are named to the Dean’s List.

Alma College, founded in 1886, is a four-year residential liberal arts college located in the heart of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula. A deep regard for students as individuals is fundamental to an Alma education, with small classes and many opportunities for one-on-one collaboration with dedicated faculty.

Alma’s academic programs encourage students to put the ideas and theories they discuss in the classroom to work in real world settings through internships, research, campus leadership, study abroad and service to others.



State Rep. Bob Bezotte, joined by several family members, was officially sworn into office on Wednesday by House Clerk Gary Randall.

## Rep. Bezotte sworn in for first term as state representative

Rep. Bob Bezotte of Howell was sworn in on Wednesday for his first term as a Michigan state representative by House Clerk Gary Randall. The 101<sup>st</sup> Michigan Legislature was gavelled into session following the swearing-in ceremony.

“It’s an honor to be officially sworn in to represent the good people of the 47<sup>th</sup> District,” Bezotte said. “I’m looking forward to joining the other state legislators at the Capitol in continuing the hard-work that’s been implemented from past legislators in our community.”

Rep. Bezotte, joined during the ceremony by family members, represents Michigan’s 47<sup>th</sup> House District. This

comprises the people of Livingston County, including the village of Fowlerville, townships of Conway, Cohoctah, Deerfield, Hartland, Howell, Handy, Iosco, Unadilla, Oceola, Marion, and Tyrone, the city of Howell and part of the city of Fenton.

Residents can reach Bezotte’s office at 517-373-8835 or [RobertBezotte@house.mi.gov](mailto:RobertBezotte@house.mi.gov).



# Michigan House Report

By Bob Bezotte,  
47<sup>nd</sup> District

In recognition of National Law Enforcement Day on January 9th, I would like to extend my sincere respect and gratitude for their selfless commitment to the citizens of the State of Michigan. I had the opportunity to meet with Law Enforcement at their offices in the 47<sup>th</sup> District and express appreciation for their service in person. It was great seeing everyone hard at work to protect Livingston County.

With unrest in some communities across the nation as protestors rally against police brutality and use of excessive force, I am working to let law enforcement officers know there is a silent majority who want and need their local heroes around. Law enforcement is a dangerous profession, requiring skill, preparation and rapid response at a moment’s notice. In accepting the inherent dangers and challenges that accompany this profession, they demonstrate true courage, leadership, strength of character and teamwork. Police officers are always on duty, even when they’re off.

Thank you to our Law Enforcement for their tireless efforts to ensure this state is a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family.

\* \* \*

This past Wednesday, I was sworn in for my first term as a Michigan state representative by House Clerk Gary Randall. The 101<sup>st</sup> Michigan Legislature was gavelled into session following the swearing-in ceremony.

It’s an honor to be officially sworn in to represent the good people of the 47<sup>th</sup> District. I’m looking forward to joining the other state legislators at the Capitol in continuing the hard-work that’s been implemented from past legislators in our community.

*If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at 517-373-8835 or [RobertBezotte@house.mi.gov](mailto:RobertBezotte@house.mi.gov).*

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For more information, read our pamphlet, *Your Social Security Number and Card* at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs).

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- Keep track of your earnings and verify them every year;
- Get an estimate of your future benefits if you are still working;
- Get a replacement Social Security card if you meet certain criteria and reside in these [locations](#);
- Get a letter with proof of your benefits if you currently receive them; and
- Manage your benefits:
  - Change your address or telephone number;
  - Start or change your direct deposit;
  - Get a replacement Medicare card; and
  - Get a replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S for tax season.

To find all of the services available and set up an account, go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

**Question:** I noticed that my date of birth in Social Security’s records is wrong. How do I get that corrected?

**Answer:** To change the date of birth shown on our records, take the following steps:

- Complete an *Application For A Social Security Card* (Form SS-5);
- Show us documents proving:
  - U.S. citizenship (if you have not previously established your citizenship with us);
  - Age; and
  - Identity; then
- Mail your completed application and documents to your local Social Security office.

Note that all documents must be either originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. We cannot accept photocopies or notarized copies of documents. For details on the documents, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/ss5doc](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ss5doc).

**Question:** How are my retirement benefits calculated?

**Answer:** Your Social Security benefits are based on earnings averaged over your lifetime. Your actual earnings are first adjusted or “indexed” to account for changes in average wages since the year the earnings were received. Then we calculate your average monthly indexed earnings during the 35 years in which you earned the most. We apply a formula to these earnings and arrive at your basic benefit. This is the amount you would receive at your full retirement age. You may be able to estimate your benefit by using our *Retirement Estimator*, which offers estimates based on your Social Security earnings. You can find the *Retirement Estimator* at [www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator).

BUSINESS SERVICES

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Small game hunting means big opportunity to enjoy outdoors

Looking for an excuse to get out in the winter woods? Take advantage of small game hunting seasons – including cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, fox and gray squirrel – continuing through March 31.

“Small game opportunities throughout the state give hunters the chance to experience some of the best of what Michigan’s winter has to offer,” said Adam Bump, DNR small game specialist.

Bump also suggested that anyone looking for a new destination for small game hunting should check out Michigan GEMS – the 19 grouse enhanced management sites serving as premier hunting locations throughout the northern Lower Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula. Explore these resources at [Michigan.gov/GEMS](http://Michigan.gov/GEMS).

To get started:  
--Find more information on hunting opportunities at [Michigan.gov/SmallGame](http://Michigan.gov/SmallGame). Check the 2020 Hunting Digest, available at [Michigan.gov/DNRDigests](http://Michigan.gov/DNRDigests), for season dates, bag limits and other regulations.

--Discover new hunting lands at [Michigan.gov/MiHunt](http://Michigan.gov/MiHunt). Mi-HUNT is an interactive map showing lands open to public hunting, ground cover details, nearby recreation facilities and more.

--Get your 2020 base license through Feb. 28 at [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses](http://Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses) or anywhere DNR licenses are sold.



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## Livingston County Comments

**By: Doug Helzerman,  
District 4  
Commissioner**

The Livingston County Board of Commissioners re-organizes itself at the first meeting of the year. This year that meeting happened January 4<sup>th</sup>. The meeting is called to order by the County Clerk. After setting the agenda for the meeting, the first order of business on which to vote is who will be the Chair and the Vice Chair. Once the Chair person is selected, they become the moderator of the meeting.

This year we chose Wes Nakagiri to serve as Chair and Carol Griffith to be the Vice Chair. The Chairman sets up the committee structure and assigns members, with the approval of the whole board, who will serve on the respective committees for the year.

Mr. Nakagiri has asked me to serve as chair for the Personnel Committee, as a member of the General Government Committee, and to be the commissioners' representative on the OLHSA and the Livingston County Collaborative boards.

I am pleased with the new additions to the county board. The new members have a different set of skills this term but the same commitment to serving you, the public, very well. The county's business remains in good hands.

Already this year, we have approved a three-year union contract with the 911 Dispatch union which moves their pay scale upwards and sets new work rules favorable to both employees and management. Special thanks to Jennifer Palmbo, her team, the union representatives and their team for bargaining in good faith to bring this agreement to a beneficial conclusion. The union agreed to the unanimous decision of the board not to have taxpayers cover the cost for any abortions.

Some recently raised concerns about the security of the county's cyber connections have also been addressed by us. Our IT department, under the direction of Rich Malewicz, former director, and Kris Tobbe, current director, have gone above and beyond what many other units of government do to secure their networks. Our capital improvement plan has built into it the necessary moneys needed to be always ahead of the game with regards to cyber security. Monday, we approved the contract to buy equipment and install a system that is highly secure and at the same time allows for the efficient inflow and outflow of data. It is understood that no program can give a 100% guaranteed, but we insist that Livingston hires companies with a good success rate. The people's business deserves nothing less.

Thank you for letting me have the honor of serving you for another two years. Please feel free to contact me with your questions, comments, and concerns. 517-375-4869/ [dhelzerman@livgov.com](mailto:dhelzerman@livgov.com)

## Rep. Bollin announces effort to hold state legislators more accountable

State Rep. Ann Bollin announced that the first House measures introduced for the 101st Legislature are part of a plan to improve ethical standards for all state legislators.

House Bill 4001 requires state legislators to abstain from voting on bills that could personally benefit them or their families. House Joint Resolution A is aimed at promoting bipartisanship and sound public policy during lame duck legislative sessions after elections. Both measures together show the 101st Legislature's commitment to ethics reform in 2021.

"We're getting the new legislative session off to the right start by focusing on improving government ethics and transparency," said Bollin, of Brighton Township. "These reforms will make elected officials more accountable to the people they serve."

House Bill 4001 would clearly establish that legislators shall not vote on a bill or measure if they have knowledge of a personal or professional interest. The bill defines a personal or professional interest as one that would provide a substantial benefit to the member of the Legislature, an individual or entity to whom the member of the Legislature is financially or legally obligated, or an individual or entity personally related to the member of the Legislature.

HJR A proposes an amendment to the State Constitution to require a two-thirds vote for passage of a bill during lame duck. If the resolution receives two-thirds vote from legislators in both the House and Senate, it would be placed on the ballot for a vote of the people of Michigan.



## The 100<sup>th</sup> Michigan Legislature's record on select business subsidies

**Commentary by James M. Hohman,  
Mackinac Center for Public Policy**

The 100th Michigan Legislature — which ran from 2019 to 2020 — approved the least amount of business subsidies since 2001, according to a scorecard compiled by the Mackinac Center. While lawmakers may be tempted to give state taxpayer dollars to some businesses in the name of creating jobs, the policy is ineffective, unfair to companies that don't get the handouts, and expensive for taxpayers.

There was just one addition to the scorecard during the past two years, a 2019 law to let a particular company keep collecting subsidies on a factory it purchased from a firm that was already getting them. There were some new business subsidies authorized in the state budget, but they were not included in the scorecard, since they were a small part of much larger spending bills.

All told, the \$151 million in new business subsidies authorized over the past two years is lower than the previous record low set by 2001-02 Legislature, \$224 million. Both were much lower than the \$1.8 billion authorized by the previous Legislature of 2018-19.

But these weren't the only votes taken by legislators in the past two years to play favorites with some businesses, just the ones that authorized subsidies.

Lawmakers voted to give some developers transferrable tax credits worth 25% of the amount they spend rehabbing buildings, with all deals not to exceed \$5 million per year. Developers can also cash out these credits by selling them to other firms that owe taxes. The sales are usually at a discount, meaning the buyer receives less than cost to the state treasury in foregone taxes. But since the seller does not get to collect other taxpayers' money, the law authorizing the tax credits is not included in the scorecard, which only covers votes on bills that transfer cash.

Local governments can also select certain buildings to receive property tax exemptions for up to 10 years. This favoritism was authorized for a 10-year period in 2005 but was extended in 2008, and in 2020 the 100th Legislature extended it further to 2025. While it is generally unfair to allow some property owners to be exempt from property taxes but not others, tax exemptions do not transfer money from one taxpayer to another, so the vote on extending the provision to 2025 is not included in the scorecard.

The Legislature approved one other piece of tax favoritism in 2020 that would have made the scorecard. But the bill died when, after the session was over, the governor refused to sign it. This one would have cost taxpayers \$5 million by allowing certain developers who had lost their eligibility to claim a subsidy do so anyway.

Also not gaining the governor's approval were bills that exempted certain business equipment from sales taxes and personal property taxes. Some lawmakers were concerned that these represented more special privileges for select companies. But they're not; the sales tax is only supposed to apply to final purchases, because levying it on business equipment leads to "tax pyramiding," with each provider in the supply chain paying taxes on taxes. Also, in 2014 voters endorsed getting rid of this kind of personal property taxes.

The noteworthy aspect of this Legislature is not that it amended existing programs, but rather that legislators abstained from approving others. Some of them wanted to spend \$300 million more on a program that expired in 2020, but the proposal did not get a vote in either chamber.

With this and sideways spending on existing programs, the 100th legislature showed the least enthusiasm for business subsidies of any in recent years.

*James M. Hohman is the director of fiscal policy at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. He holds a degree in economics from Northwood University in Midland, Mich. This article is reprinted with permission.*

## Asking for help when you have chronic pain; communication skills important for both sides

**By Georgina Perry,  
Michigan State University Extension**

Most of us are willing to help others, and often we will stop everything we are doing to help a friend in need. But why is it that many of us do not ask for help when we are the ones under the weather? Perhaps we think it is a sign of weakness, we do not want to be a burden or we have that "I can do it myself" mentality. If this is the case for you, remind yourself that asking for help is a sign of strength not weakness. Asking for help is not easy to do, but we all need help from time to time, especially when we live with chronic pain.

Many times, friends and family want to help people with chronic pain. Although these people care for you and your well-being, sometimes their good intentions are not what you need. If you can do something for yourself, you probably will feel better by accomplishing a specific activity. Even if it takes a little longer, you will have the satisfaction of having completed it independently. We all want to be independent for as long as we can, but it is also important to know when and how to ask and accept help.

When those that care about you ask what they can do, instead of saying "I am fine, I don't need help," or not answering at all, be honest and let them know what you need. It helps to be specific. For example, if you are still able to get the garbage together but you are not able to carry the heavy bags, perhaps you can ask someone to carry heavy bags of garbage to the end of the driveway. Try to think beyond physical help and consider social and emotional support, too. Invite a friend or loved one to take a walk with you once a week. Sometimes companionship is more helpful than people doing things for you!

Let us think about the flip side. How do you handle being the one who receives numerous requests for help? This may happen often and your friends and loved ones may assume you will always say "yes." Remember it is ok to say no. You cannot help someone all the time, but you can help anyone some of the time.

You do not want to agree to a request that you cannot follow through with. An example could be agreeing to help someone move without fully considering that moving entails lots of different steps and degrees. Ask them to clarify how they want you to help before you commit to it.

Saying "no" is a good self-management tool for all of us to practice so we do not become overwhelmed. It can help us feel better and maintain our friendships. Listening is probably the most important communication skill in managing your commitments to help or be helped.

Being a good listener involves the following:

**--Face the speaker, maintain eye contact and be attentive.** Give the speaker your undivided attention which means putting aside your cell phone, computer, television, and any other distractions.

**--Observe body language and listen to the tone of the voice.** Is there body tension or is the person struggling with their words? Observe their facial expression. Perhaps the speaker has more on their mind than what they are asking for.

**--Repeat what you heard to the person talking to you.** If the person talking to you is ill, sometimes just knowing someone is listening is what they need.

**--Listen to the feelings behind the words.** Let the person know you are hearing both the content and emotions behind what they are saying. When you respond to someone for content and emotion, they usually feel more comfortable and can continue to speak.

**--Respond by asking for more information.** Just by saying, "I don't quite understand, would you mind repeating that?" will help the person to be clearer and let them know you are listening to them.

By practicing good communication skills, whether you are the one in pain or the one providing the help you will feel better about your requests and responses as the expectations will be clearer for everyone involved.

*Updated from an original article written by Gretchen Stelter, Michigan State University Extension*

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# Fowlerville District Library News

## Upcoming Programs

All programs are intended for Fowlerville School District residents. Call (517) 223-9089 for more information, or checkout our Facebook Page.

All programs will be held virtually via Zoom, Facebook Live or YouTube unless otherwise indicated. Program descriptions, locations, and details on how to register for each program are below.

All programs require registration and is done by sending a Facebook Personal Message to the Library or by emailing to [info@fowlervillelibrary.org](mailto:info@fowlervillelibrary.org), unless otherwise indicated. Zoom invitations will be sent out the day before the program date.

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**Phone a Story and First Chapter Fridays: Available 24/7**  
**Preschool - 12<sup>th</sup> Graders -Call 517-858-2700** anytime to hear a full children’s story, or a sample of a J Fiction/Chapter

book or YA/Teen novel. Recordings are changed every two weeks.

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**MiLibraryQuest: January 1<sup>st</sup> – February 14**

**6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Graders** - An anonymous tip has come in that a thief will steal an iconic Michigan landmark on Valentine’s Day. We’re recruiting teenage private detectives to stop the heist! Figure out who the thief is and what they’re stealing to prevent the crime and you’ll be entered to win a reward. The Mi Library Quest challenge is made up of public libraries across Michigan and is supported in part by the Library of Michigan. Open to Fowlerville Teens. No registration is required. Learn more about the Quest at [milibraryquest.wixsite.com/quest1](http://milibraryquest.wixsite.com/quest1).

\*\*\*

**Dungeons and Dragons 101: Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 pm via--Zoom**

**6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Graders --** Learn all about this classic storytelling game played with friends. Face monsters, insurmountable odds, and the unknown, to become the hero you were destined to be. Registration is required and is now open.

\*\*\*

**Beyond the Book Series: The Hundred-Foot Journey: Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:30 pm via—Zoom**  
**Adults** –January’s selection in our “Life From Another Perspective Theme” for our Beyond the Book Group is *The Hundred-Foot Journey* by Richard C. Morais. Please read the book and watch the movie at home, then meet up with friends on Zoom to discuss them both. Everyone who signs up will get an opportunity to check out the movie and watch it on their own. Registration is required with a \$10 deposit and a valid email address to receive a book and a Zoom link. Registration is done in person inside or through curbside service at the Library. Books are limited and only available to one per household.

\*\*\*

**Cold Winter Warm Hearts: Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm via—Zoom**

**Adults** – Gather on Zoom for mirth and good cheer with friends to create a beautiful woolen heart ornament. Registration is required with a \$5 deposit. Supplies are limited. Kits are available for pickup starting Jan 25<sup>th</sup>.

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### FDL Response to New COVID Emergency Order

In response to Emergency Order MCL 333.2253 issued by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Fowlerville District Library will be open by **appointment only** and will continue to offer curbside service during our regular hours. The use of our curbside is encouraged. Each appointment will be limited to thirty minutes by one household at a time and can be arranged by calling or emailing the library. Masks will be required. We will also be offering print by email which can be picked up through curbside or in our Entryway. **Your first ten copies each day are FREE.** Internet is always available for patron use in our parking lot and side yard. **Please continue to use the book dropbox outside the building or leave your items in the library lobby, when available.**

#### Monday-Thursday

9:30am – 7pm

#### Friday

9:30am – 5pm

#### Saturday

10am – 2pm

### How to Use Curbside Service

**Step 1:** You can make requests: by calling the Library directly, emailing us or make your holds through the FDL’s card catalog (Max 10 items) –Not sure what you would like to read? Use our reader’s advisory at the desk, they can help! All you need is to give them a subject, author, or genre, and they will do the rest.

**Step 2:** One hour after your request has been made, please come to the Library and park in the curbside pickup designated parking located in front of the side yard.

**Step 3:** From your car, call the Library and someone will come out with your requested materials.

**Step 4:** Please present your library card or driver’s license and your materials will be given to you.

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~ Jon King, WHMI News Director

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