



PHOTO COURTESY APRIL MESSER

Get ready for July 4

It is time for anyone wishing to participate in local parades to get their floats ready. In Brooklyn, several events will be going on throughout the day, including a car show in downtown Brooklyn immediately following the July 4 parade. At that parade, April Messer Photography along with ERA Reardon Realty will be offering free patriotic photos to parade goers (sample above). We will be detailing events in the coming weeks, as well as highlighting the effort by a group to revive a Brooklyn Independence Day tradition.



Two killed in separate crashes

Jackson woman dies in M-50, M-52 intersection crash

By John Hummer

A 52-year-old Jackson woman was killed last week in a crash with a semi-trailer at the intersection of M-50 and M-52 in Tecumseh Township.

On Wednesday, June 10, at approximately 1 p.m., Lenawee County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to the intersection of M-50 and M-52 for a serious injury crash. Their initial investigation indicated that a white 2006 Sterling semi-trailer was stopped at a red light and waiting to turn right onto M-50 from M-52. The driver, a 34-year-old male from Adrian, began to turn right when east-bound traffic was clear.

As the semi finished its turn, an orange 2017 Chevrolet Cruze approached the intersection traveling eastbound. Witnesses on scene stated the Chevrolet Cruze was traveling at a very high rate of speed, and traffic was clear when the semi began its turn. The Cruze crashed into the rear of the semi on M-50 just east of the intersection. The driver of the semi was uninjured. The driver of the Chevrolet Cruze was transported to Promedica Hickman Hospital in Adrian, where she died from injuries sustained in the crash.

The sheriff's office reported that the driver of the semi was wearing his seatbelt and that alcohol or drugs did not appear to be a factor. The driver of the Chevrolet Cruze was not wearing her seatbelt, and it is unknown at this time whether alcohol or drugs were a factor. Next of kin were notified for the driver of the Cruze.

The Lenawee County Accident Investigation Team responded to the scene, and the incident remains under investigation.

Storm downs tree, causes single-vehicle U.S. 127 fatality

A driver of a vehicle was killed, and three passengers suffered injuries in a single-vehicle crash on U.S. 127 in Hillsdale County's Wheatland Township in the early morning hours last Friday.

On June 12, 2026, at approximately 12:45 a.m., troopers from the Michigan State Police Jackson Post were dispatched to the intersection of Meridian Road (U.S. 127) and Hoxie Road for a single-car crash with injuries. Preliminary investigation determined that due to hazardous weather conditions, a tree fell, blocking the roadway as severe thunderstorms came through the area that night.

Police say a 2010 Dodge Ram being driven by a 21-year-old from Hillsdale, was traveling south on Meridian Road and struck the downed tree. The driver sustained fatal injuries. Three other passengers in the vehicle sustained non-life-threatening injuries and were transported to Henry Ford Jackson Hospital.

Police note that alcohol or drugs do not appear to be a factor in the crash. The investigation is still ongoing.



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TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2026

Re-routing a river



This aerial view shows how the River Raisin currently flows up to the Old Irish Mill/Brooklyn Dam after the former mill pond had been drawn down. PHOTO COURTESY OF PROJECT TEAM

Officials are set to move River Raisin around pond dam

Concrete structure of dam will remain in place, but will no longer serve a purpose for water movement

Story and photos
By John Hummer
Editor

After nearly five years of studies, meetings, and obtaining the necessary permits surrounding the fate of the Old Irish Mill dam, aka the Brooklyn Dam, heavy equipment will be brought in to the project site in July to re-route the River Raisin from flowing through the dam to going around it, so there will no longer be an active dam. The concrete structure of the dam will remain in place, but it will no longer serve a purpose for water movement.

Professionally, the work is titled the *Upper River Raisin Watershed Restoration and Connectivity Project*. The overall project also incorporates a smaller project, the Nooney Dam Fish Passage Project, on Vineyard Lake.

"Mobilization of equipment will happen Monday, July 13th," stated Chris Freiburger, project coordinator for the project with Niswander Environmental, the project's lead contractor. "We are anticipating no more than two months to do the project — have it wrapped up by the beginning of September at the latest. That will be the portion from the Mill Street bridge going upstream. The bridge portion can't happen till next calendar year. We'll put a rock structure below the bridge, because there's a small dam there now, so we have to drop [the river] down."

Freiburger also said discussions are taking place with adjacent property owners

and plans are being finalized for a natural rock arch rapids for fish passage below Nooney Dam, the outlet of Vineyard Lake. "We're not going to touch the dam — it's the lake level control structure for Vineyard Lake," he said. "The rapids will extend about 80 feet downstream from the dam. Fish will actually be able to swim to get over the top of the dam. Once they get past that dam, it opens up 44 miles of river and 14 lakes upstream." Freiburger said that part of the project is slated for completion in 2027.

In conjunction with the Upper River Raisin (URR) project, the replacement of the Mill Street bridge in front of the Old Irish Mill is slated to begin in February of 2027.

Last Thursday, the public was invited to a Community Informational Open House hosted jointly by the River Raisin Watershed Council and the Village of Brooklyn. The RRRWC is the fiduciary for the URR project.

"I'm happy to see so many people who came, asked questions, and were involved in understanding what is going to happen, why, and when," said Village President Stella Roberts, who lives near the project site. "Once people are in the know of how it's going to impact them, then they're going to be much happier dealing with any concerns they have."

The open house had project leaders discuss, provide updates, and answer questions on the anticipated construction

See *rerouting river* page 3



Christina Losee, project manager with Starlit Solutions, points out to an open house attendee where the river currently runs in the area near the Old Irish Mill in the background of the picture. Losee was instrumental in processing the permits for the project. PHOTO BY JOHN HUMMER

Kidnapping plot Conviction of Jackson County man vacated

Under Michigan law, kidnapping is not considered a 'violent felony'



Morrison

By Julie Riddle

A Jackson County court case involving the 2020 plotted kidnapping of Governor Gretchen Whitmer has ruffled feathers and set precedent for courts across Michigan to follow.

Joseph Morrison, of Jackson County, was found guilty in 2022 of supporting terrorist acts by participating in a plot to kidnap Whitmer. Last week, the Michigan Court of Appeals overthrew that decision, sending Morrison back to court for a new trial.

The appellate court's decision hinged on the state's legal definition of the charge of kidnapping. As it stands today, Michigan law does not consider kidnapping a violent felony. According to the Court of Appeals, that means that even if Morrison recruited and trained members to carry out a kidnapping plot — including one that could become violent — he can't be found guilty of supporting terrorist acts because terrorism, legally, must include violence.

Unlike most Court of Appeals opinions, the Morrison opinion will be published, meaning that it can be used by local courts across the state in making decisions in the future.

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel released a statement lambasting the Court of Appeals decision, declaring in part, "For the panel to declare that kidnapping is not a violent felony strains all legal credibility and insults the intelligence of every person in this State. The Court twists itself into a knot using legal and linguistic gymnastics in order to liberate dangerous criminals using convoluted definitions of the crimes upon which they were convicted."

Nessel's office will appeal the Court of Appeals decision, she said in her statement.

Morrison's October 2020 arrest followed that of Adam Fox and Barry Croft, Jr., the federally convicted ringleaders of the kidnapping plot. Morrison, his father-in-law Pete Musico, and Paul Bellar, of rural southwest Oakland County, were arrested in Jackson County and accused of recruiting and training to support Fox and Croft's plot.

Morrison, now 32, created a "Wolverine Watchmen" Facebook page in November 2019, identifying it as a militia group with himself as the group's unit commander. He instructed those interested in joining the group on secretive measures to hide their communications and indicated that he was in Michigan, living under Whitmer's "tyranny," and that he was "fixing to change all that."

An informant who had infiltrated the Watchmen recorded tactical field training exercises at Morrison's property south of Munith as well as rallies at the state capitol and surveillance of Whitmer's residence. The informant believed the Watchmen intended to attack or kill police officers and state politicians in their homes.

At the conclusion of a two-plus week trial, Jackson County jury found Morrison guilty of all charges. He was sentenced to serve at least four years each for gang-membership felonies and providing material support for terrorist acts and two years for possessing a firearm while committing a felony.

Morrison first appealed to the local court, saying kidnapping did not constitute the "violent felony" required by the language of his charges. The court rejected this argument, noting that the kidnapping plan included the possibility of killing Whitmer, which fit the description of a violent felony.

In his appeal to Michigan's higher court, Morrison again said the kidnapping planned by Fox and Croft's group didn't substantiate terrorism-related charges for Morrison.

The Court of Appeals agreed. Michigan's legal definition of kidnapping includes restricting or confining a person for purposes such as holding them for ran-

See *Kidnapping 'not violent'* page 2

‘It’s a sickness we caught’

Pilots gather in Napoleon



Some members of the Michigan Antique Enthusiasts gathered for a photo before their Napoleon Café luncheon: Back row, left to right include Tom Wottreng of Paw Paw, Ray Krom of Brighton, Brian VanWagner of Napoleon, and Tim Sparks of Jackson; In front are Miles Bowen of Brighton, Dave Gubert of St. John, Mark Smokovitz of Tecumseh, and Lloyd Dunlap of Brighton.



Dave Gubert flew his Great Lakes biplane from St. Johns. Gubert enjoys performing aerobatics in his plane.

Story & Photos
By Michelle McLemore
Staff writer

Members of the Michigan Antique Enthusiasts flew into Napoleon Airport on Wednesday, June 10, for a luncheon. President Mark Smokovitz of Tecumseh welcomed the aviators before they walked and carpooled to the Napoleon Café.

Smokovitz explained that the group has been meeting for about 40 years, and they have fly-in meetups a few times each year. For most of the members, he continued, “aviation is not their profession. They are hobbyists — it’s a sickness we all caught.” He added, “Most of us eat hot dogs and beans so we can [afford to] do this.”

Thirty pilots were anticipated to arrive between eleven a.m. and noon. Smokovitz welcomed a few new members to the event.

‘Communication key goal’

Onsted council explores options

By Michelle McLemore
Staff writer

Clear, concise, and civil communication with the community was an expressed ongoing goal of the Onsted Village Council to assist with projects. The June 8 meeting made progress on a park use agreement with the Onsted Committee Recreation Committee, on how to proceed with the Safe Routes to School initiative, and on increasing water education and effective water management for the village.

Regarding the ongoing attempt to clarify and define the OCRC’s rights and responsibilities for Onsted Park usage, there was much discussion. President Robert Schafer briefly outlined that the council’s attorney had drawn up a contract which was then shared with the OCRC, who “sent it back with additions and/or changes. Some of which the attorney thought was contrary to the best interest of the village.”

Volunteer Audrey Harris explained, “The way the contract was originally written, it didn’t protect the interests of the OCRC and left them liable outside of their season use.”

Christi Garrett, current OCRC president, emphasized,

“It’d be nice if we could come to an agreement that works for everyone. Our baseball group is ready to take care of things. We are parents who are passionate about our kids and community. We’re not trying to be shady.”

Board member Keri Jeffords noted, “I want to forge [an agreement] in writing so it is beneficial for both sides and then turn it over to the Onsted Park Committee. I want the backbiting and Facebook stuff to stop. I want us to work together.” Members of OCRC have agreed to look through a simplified agreement drawn up by trustees Shannon Kropp and Keri Jeffords.

Regarding the Safe School’s Initiative to revise walkways to the Middle School, Marty Hubbard shared that progress has been “paused” due to unknowns. Sewer locations, water main replacements, storm water concerns, repaving costs, and finding mutually beneficial timing between the council and the school for work along Slee Road are points of concern. The need for another meeting with school personnel, Cambridge police, and the council was noted.

DPW Superintendent Ken

Rowe shared that he would continue offering Water Treatment Plant open houses. Trustee Kropp shared that she attended one of the tours: “It was informative. Ken helped me understand the costs and all the components. It’s not as simple as people think it is.”

President Schafer added, “We are only required to post water counts once a year, but starting last month, we are posting every month to show chlorine levels. I created a book that is on the table, so everyone is welcome to come in and review it.”

The first new business action item approved the purchase of an online chlorine analyzer not to exceed \$15,000. The continuous analysis of “updates every two minutes” allows for quicker adjustments, noted Rowe. “It will function similar to an insulin pump” furthered Trustee Shannon Kropp. President Schafer noted, “We are shopping to bring it underneath this total like we did with the laptops.” It was also noted that the updates can be used for the state reports.

A second action item passed an approximate 5% wage increase for Ken Rowe based on the approved motion

in February that as Rowe attained new certification, the money paid to outside contractors for the relevant work would transfer to Rowe’s salary. Schafer explained the percentage proposed was what the council paid out last year for others’ licensing.

Sally Hazen and Arin Krol were both appointed to the Park Committee and the council agreed to close Main Street for the Onsted Classic Car Show on August 14.

All are welcome to attend upcoming water plant open houses July 16 and August 13 from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 7879 Onsted highway. Onsted’s Water Treatment Plant is a Limited Treatment facility. Topics will cover water quality, village wells, current water distribution, plans for the future, and any related questions a guest might have.

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Kidnapping ‘not violent’ from page 1

som or reward or using them as a shield or hostage. However, it makes no reference to use of force. A separate law, unlawful imprisonment, does include the use of force to restrain or confine someone, but Morrison was not charged with that crime.

The definition of terrorist acts in Michigan law requires that the actors commit a violent felony. At one time, kidnapping fell under that definition, but a change to the language of the kidnapping law in 2006 removed references to violent actions.

“Indeed, kidnapping may be dangerous to human life,” the appellate court acknowledged. Nevertheless, “under the plain language of the statutes as

they currently exist, kidnapping is not an act of terrorism” — removing the argument that underpinned the state’s charges against Morrison.

While the kidnapping plot included conversations about violent actions, the Court of Appeals said based on the pure language of the law it had no choice but to reverse Morrison’s conviction “regardless of defendant’s guilt or innocence.”

The appellate court vacated Morrison’s conviction and returned his case to the local court, where he may be tried again.

Musico and Bellar also appealed their convictions, with oral argument scheduled before the Court of Appeals in

July.

Of the eight men charged by the state related to the plot, only the Jackson County defendants were found guilty by a jury. An Antrim County jury declared three alleged conspirators not guilty. Two other defendants accepted plea deals.

Of those charged federally, two were found not guilty and two accepted plea deals. A jury found Fox and Croft guilty of conspiring to kidnap and to use a weapon of mass destruction. They were sentenced to 16 and 19 years, respectively.

The Attorney General’s office also named but did not charge 16 other people as co-conspirators.

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Rerouting river . . . continued from page 1

schedule for both the URR project and the Mill Street bridge replacement.

"Essentially, the excavator sets in one spot, they dig a channel and turn around and drop [the sediment] – that all becomes part of the floodplain and they'll grade that out," explained Freiburger. "So, no sediment is getting hauled off-site at all. Everything is going to stay completely onsite where it is," he noted, adding, however, "As part of any dam removal project, you're going to have sediment movement downstream." However, he stressed that the minimal amount of sediment (about 2,500 cubic yards) that moved downstream when the impoundment (mill pond) was drawn down is nowhere near what would be released (about 40,000 cubic yards) if the current dam failed. Freiburger added that there were no contaminants found in the sediment samples when it was tested.

"Once the channel is restored, we'll be seeding [around it] with native seed mix, straw, and a coir coconut fabric goes down to hold everything in place," he stated.

Niswander Environmental, via the River Raisin Watershed Council (the project administrator/fiduciary), obtained a joint permit for the project through the State of Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), consisting of a Part 301, Part 303, and Part 315 permits. Part 301 covers inland lakes and streams – for this project, the River Raisin, and Kedron Drain; the Part 303 permit is for wetlands – the impoundment now, after the drawdown, is all wetlands surrounding the river; and the Part 315 permit is a dam safety permit.

"We are excited for it to get started," said Christina Losee, project manager with Starlit Solutions, who was instrumental in obtaining the permits for the project. "They are going to start digging out the embankment – the earthen part next to the dam – so that they're ready to reconnect the river. That's actually going to connect 44 more miles of aquatic organism passage [downstream]. A lot more fish are going to be

"We're really excited to get this connected and open up that habitat."

Christina Losee,
project manager



Todd Losee, president of Niswander Environmental, points out project work plans to nearby property owner Peggy Hudson. PHOTO BY JOHN HUMMER

able to swim through and have more connectivity to their habitat. This reach of the River Raisin is called a 'high gradient reach' – which only five percent of the watershed has – so that's really good habitat for a lot of aquatic organisms, including several species of fish, mussels, and wetland plants. We're really excited to get this connected and open up that habitat."

Losee said the River Raisin has more than 60 dams on it (including some small ones), hence the 44-mile limit on the amount of habitat opened up to aquatic organisms.

"One of the reasons for some of the funding was to restore some federally threatened mussel habitat," said Todd Losee, president of Niswander Environmental. "We didn't find any federally threatened mussels, but we did find some state-threatened mussels. We are trying to restore and make more of that type of habitat." In the early phases of the project, some mussels were moved to upstream locations to protect them from construction work. "The mussels that we moved are going to stay where they're at now. We'll be watching that and hopefully get some more established."

Dan Ross, owner of the dam and the Old Irish Mill (the former Ford plant), was at the open house. "Once the river restoration project is complete, people are going to see that it won't look vastly different than it does now," he said.

He noted that he is happy most of the work will be completed before the next phase begins at the Old Irish Mill. "Right now, we're just trying to line up funding for it. I have a

tenant now for every space in the building." Ross completed a 5,000 square-foot renovation three years ago that now houses the Irish Hill chamber and Hydrobudz, a cannabis retail shop. The remainder of the space to be renovated is 25,000 square feet.

What a nearby property owner thinks about the project

Not everyone is excited about the project, particularly property owner Peggy Hudson, who lives on Mill Street just down the road from the Old Irish Mill. Her parents have lived there since 1958, where she grew up; she has owned the home since 2013.

"It's always been a family home – I'm not happy," she stated. "I don't want to live there right now. It's been three years of nothing but weeds – it's all weeds and muck. You can't walk down there." Hudson showed a picture of the past with a couple of sunsets on the former mill pond. "I have no more sunsets – I can't even see the river – I can't see any water right now. It's a teeny, tiny stream about 20 feet wide. There are no ducks anymore. Every kind of migratory duck you can think of would end up there (on the former mill pond), because it was an open river in the winter. I had wood ducks nesting in the trees in my yard. They're gone. No turtles, no frogs. It's all gone."

"Now I have these junky willow trees growing out there, and they're totally blocking everything out there. And now I have cattails because it's so mucky. Now I'm talking about making a boardwalk to get to the river so I can see it."

Hudson does, however, see

a positive aspect. "Now, it's not going to flood, probably. If we ever have a 100-year flood, it won't be a problem," she says. "I understand why [Old Irish Mill owner Dan Ross] did it. I get it. But I'm not happy. It's really disappointing. But I get it."

Mill Street bridge update

"We're still in limbo on an exact start date," said Village Manager Matt Swartzlander on the replacement of the Mill Street bridge. "The tentative start of demolition is February of 2027, with completion by late April, early May. He is hoping to know more specific details in the next month or so, after federal and state permits are finalized."

Jon Moxey, senior project manager with Fleis & Vandenberg, the project company engineer, said they will be going from a three-barrel (three-tube spans) cover to a clear span bridge. "We're trying to keep a little bit of the masonry look," he explained. "It's got the small masonry on the head walls – we're trying to incorporate some of that look into the concrete. We're trying to keep the look as similar as we can, but it's going to be a modern bridge. The load limits won't be an issue anymore. The channel will get realigned right underneath it."

"One important thing is that there will be a sidewalk – that's not there today – on the south side of the bridge. So, that's going to be a nice improvement."

Swartzlander said the plan of the village's Walkability Committee is to eventually connect that sidewalk with the other sidewalks nearby in the village.



Dan Ross, right, owner of the dam and the Old Irish Mill, explains to an open house attendee what he plans to do next with the facility. PHOTO BY JOHN HUMMER

In pictures

Way to go, Warriors!

The Grass Lake girls magical season fell just short in their quest to win two state titles in a row, but they gave their fans and families the ride of a lifetime.



Paul Snyder caught the Grass Lake Warrior softball team in action at the state finals and semifinals.

Story and photos
By Paul Snyder
The Grass Lake Lady Warriors' hopes of back-to-back state championships came up short as they fell to the Ravenna Bulldogs 4-2 in the Division 3 championship game Saturday at Secchia Stadium on the Michigan State University Campus. Ravenna is in Muskegon County near Lake Michigan.

Grass Lake faced tough pitching from Bulldog left-hander Natalie Rosel who allowed the Warriors two runs on only four hits, walking two and striking out 11.

Grass Lake got on the scoreboard early with a run in the first inning when Makenzie Hilberer walked with two outs and Morgan Conrad connected with a double off the center field fence driving in Hilberer.

Ravenna scored all four of their runs in the third inning on four hits, a walk, and a Warrior error.

The Warriors threatened in the bottom of the seventh inning when Conrad led off with a single, Kennedy Collins drew a walk, and with one out Mikayla Jurek drove home a run with a single to center field. But Rosel was able to get Addalynn Hensen to ground out to second and Kayleigh Hilberer to strike out to end the game.

"We ran out of magic," said GLHS Softball Coach Roger Cook. "If you look up at the board going into the seventh inning they had 10 hits and we had three. It is hard to win games like that. I am proud of the girls. They are the greatest kids. They left their mark for Grass Lake (softball). Hats off to Ravenna – they are hard hitting and very disciplined. [Rosel] had a great off-speed pitch to keep us unbalanced."

The Warriors, who finished with the season 36-6, lose just three seniors – Addalynn

Hensen, Leilah Smith, and Morgan Conrad – for next year's run at another championship for Grass Lake.

Division 3 semifinals
Grass Lake 3, Ewart 2

The Warrior earned their return trip to the Division 3 championship game with a 3-2 win over the previously unbeaten Ewart Wildcatsy June 12 in the state semifinals at Secchia Stadium on the campus of Michigan State University. Ewart came into the game with a perfect 40-0 record.

Morgan Conrad singled in the third inning. Ava Hampton was then inserted as a pinch-runner for Conrad and scored on a double off the center field fence from Mikayla Jurek to give Grass Lake an early 1-0 lead.

Ewart tied the game in the bottom of the third on a solo home run.

The Warriors retook the lead in the fifth as Chloe Hollifield delivered a big two-out, two-run single, scoring Leilah Smith and Ava Hampton for a 3-1 lead.

The Bulldogs answered in the bottom of the fifth, scoring one run with two outs on a walk and a single. Ewart threatened again in the bottom of the seventh when a Bulldog reached base on a Warrior error followed by an intentional walk with one out. But Conrad was able to get one batter on a fly out to left and another to ground into a fielder's choice for the final out to move on to the championship.

Conrad had two of the Warriors' six hits in the game. Leilah Smith, Makenzie Hilberer, Mikayla Jurek, and Chloe Hollifield all had one hit apiece.

Conrad went the distance for Grass Lake, surrendering just two Wildcat runs on six hits and two walks, striking out three.



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Friends of Walker Tavern seeking volunteers

The Friends of Walker Tavern are looking for volunteers who love history, community, and patriotism to help bring America's 250th celebration to life in the Irish Hills.

They are hosting an information meeting on Saturday, June 20, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hewitt House within Cambridge Junction Historic State Park, Brooklyn. Call Laurie Perkins at 517-260-1946 by June 18; lunch is included.

Upcoming events include: Farm & Craft Market, Sunday, July 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Patriotic music with the Jacktown Ukulele Band, Thursday, July 9, from 6 to 8 p.m.; Lost Arts Fair & Walker Taver Farm & Craft Market, Sunday, August 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; historic baseball, Saturday, August 29, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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A blossoming community
Brightening up the village

**By John Hummer
Editor**

All sectors of the community are helping to brighten up Brooklyn by planting flowers along the village's main commercial corridor. Organized by the Village of Brooklyn, the 2026 Adopt-A-Planter Program brings together businesses, organizations, and residents to install flowers and plants in planters along Main Street.

A summer tradition since 2009, the Adopt-A-Planter Program is a way for the community to get involved in Brooklyn's beautification and make Main Street more welcoming to residents and visitors. This year, the community sponsored 26 planters.

Local businesses, organizations, and residents donated flowers and planted them along Main Street in late May. Sponsors are encouraged to maintain the planters while the village's Department of Public Works provides regular watering. The planters are judged in late June, and the top three planters will be announced on the Village of Brooklyn's social media platforms and in the Exponent. The first-place participant will get their name engraved on a trophy, which they can hold for one year.



Ava Brighton, floral tech at Angel's Floral Creations, helps maintain the flowers in the planter in front of the flower shop on Main Street in downtown Brooklyn as part of the village's Adopt-A-Planter Program. PHOTO COURTESY VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN

2026 Adopt-A-Planter Program participants

- WellWise Services
- Poppa's Place
- Lakeside Custom Printing
- Come to Your Effin Senses
- Phyllis Pittman
- Edward Jones
- Financial Advisors
- Girl Scout Troup #60387
- Swiss Swirl
- Heart O' The Lakes
- Women's Club
- Dawn Burmeister
- Patrone's Day Spa
- Pinetree Antique Mall
- Carol Moran
- Betsy Currie
- Sweet Caroline's Clothing Boutique
- Shady's Tap Room
- Village Peddler Gift Shoppe
- Abie Baldwin and Taylor Aue
- The Morris W. Smith Agency
- Donna Howard
- Val Herr
- The Fugate family
- Angel's Floral Creations
- Skiff Lake Bible Church
- Terri Staub Clark

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It's YOUR Business

**By Cindy Hubbell, President/CEO
Irish Hills Regional
Chamber of Commerce
517-592-8907 • www.irishhills.com**



Wristbands are available at IrishHills.com for the Irish Hills Lake & Home Tour taking place on June 20, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. We have five lakes on our tour this year: Lake Columbia, Clark Lake, Devils Lake, Evans Lake, and Lake Somerset. Thank you to our presenting sponsor **Home Builders Association of Jackson, Hillsdale, and Lenawee**. For more details, see below or call 517-592-8907.

Downtown Brooklyn is holding its annual Ladies Luau on Thursday, June 18, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Join the Downtown businesses for shopping, sipping, laughing, and giveaways. Luau attire is not required but encouraged. For questions, contact **Kelsey's Boutique and Gifts** at 517-592-5032.

Camp Liberty is holding its Summer Fundraiser Golf Outing and Family Fun Day on Saturday, June 20, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Gauci Golf Resort. Call Melinda at 517-206-8633 with any questions.

The **Brooklyn Big Boy Car Shows** are back every Wednesday, from 5 to 8 p.m. (weather permitting). Enjoy food, music, a live DJ, driver prizes, and more.

Michigan Works! Southeast, in partnership with Jackson College, invites you to attend the Race to Talent event, which is an opportunity to celebrate and learn from Jackson County employers leading the way with Registered Apprenticeship Programs. This event takes place on Thursday, June 18, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Go to <https://events.resultsathand.com/mwa/4274/> for details.

Celebrate summer with the **Home Builders Association of Jackson, Hillsdale & Lenawee** at a high-energy night at **Chateau Aeronautique Winery**. Enjoy live music, free food and drinks, and a great crowd from across Jackson, Hillsdale, and Lenawee as we mark one year as a tri-county association. This event takes place on Thursday, June 18, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Cherry Creek Cellars is holding its Wheels & Wine Car Show on June 20, from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m., featuring class prizes, live music, food trucks, café, beverages, and views. Cars interested in participating are encouraged to pre-register; all makes and models welcome.

Join the **Village of Brooklyn** on Thursday, June 25, for an evening of music, art, local vendors, and more. Art in the Park will take place every fourth Thursday until September from 5 to 9 p.m.

The **Irish Hills Eagles** is offering a bus trip to the Detroit Tigers' ballgame on Saturday, June 27, from 1 to 6 p.m. The trip to the game leaves the Irish Hills Eagles parking lot at 11 a.m. For tickets, call 517-403-0107.

For more Irish Hills Happenings, including bike nights, live music, specials, and more, please visit the community calendar at IrishHills.com.

The Irish Hills Lake & Home Tour

The Irish Hills Regional Chamber of Commerce is hosting its Five Lakes. Five Unique Experiences on Saturday, June 20, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The last boat will leave at 4:30 p.m.

Not all lake life looks the same — and that's exactly what makes the Irish Hills so special. From lively all-sports lakes filled with summer energy to peaceful waterfront escapes tucked into nature, each lake throughout the Irish Hills offers its own unique experience and sense of community.

The 2026 Irish Hills Lake & Home Tour invites guests to explore five incredible lakes by pontoon and experience firsthand what makes each one different. Whether you're dreaming of a year-round lakefront home, searching for the perfect summer getaway, or simply exploring the area, this event offers a one-of-a-kind opportunity to discover which lake lifestyle feels right for you.

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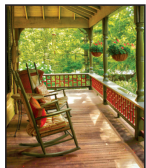
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Things that go bump in the night

Shiverrees, charivaries, and newlyweds



Attic & Hearth

~A Look Back~

By Michelle A. McLemore





Above, left: Tin cans and shoes were often tied to the back of a newlywed's car to draw attention to the big event. Right: In 1912, groom Billy Ost passed out cigars to friends and village neighbors who came calling in charivari style on his honeymoon night. Excerpt courtesy of the Daily Telegram.

Wedding and Charivari.
A quiet wedding was celebrated at the parsonage Thursday evening, when Mrs. Lena Onsted and Isaac Newton were united in marriage by Elder Cloud. The young men obtained the secret and a charivari party met at the home of the bride. They were invited in, and soon left.

As June is one of the most popular months to marry, let's ponder interesting wedding customs.

Most of you have seen in movies (or real-life moments) in which newlyweds drive away with the car's bumper dragging shoes and tin cans. This custom grew out of a more raucous practice dating back to the 16th century. Loud announcements are believed to have arrived in Michigan with the early French fur traders, while the Irish and other cultures introduced them to the southeastern colonies.

It's helpful to understand that early weddings for common folk were often very small. Sometimes it was immediate family only, and the ceremony may have taken place at the bride's parents' home with just a basic meal.

A "shivaree" was, in essence, the neighbors, friends, and extended villagers showing their approval — or disapproval — for the match. Sometime during the wedding night, often with the intent of arriving after the couple had gone to bed, a large group would sneak up to the house and begin making as much noise as possible. Guns were shot off; pots and pans were clanged. Yelling and a general hullabaloo were made to wake the couple and scare off any evil spirit or bad luck that might try to attack them.

The clamor would continue until the couple came forth and offered the crowd hospitality: food, drink, cigars, and so forth. The word's origin is thought to come from the French word "charivarie," meaning "a mock serenade for newlyweds."

Sometimes, however, the crowds were invasive and burst into homes to pull the couple from their bed and jostle them around. At some point, some cultures threw shoes at the newlyweds as a blessing for safe journeys together. Perhaps that is where tying the shoes to car

bumpers evolved? (Less of a chance of bruising or concussions that way.)

In the 19th and 20th centuries, early newspapers record charivaries in Michigan and around the nation. In May 1901, an unfortunate event marred the honeymoon kickoff of Frank Berry and his bride

In some accounts, if someone married too soon, or married someone considered "too young," charivari crowds were known to hang dead possums or skunks outside the newlyweds' front door or even truss up the couple and ride them on rails several miles outside of town as a communal humiliation or humbling deliverance.

in Minard's Mills, just northwest of Jackson. Apparently, the bride was the widow of William Whitehouse, who had died only five weeks prior.

The evening of the wedding, a crowd gathered about the house for a charivari. Berry opened the door and fired six shots out the door to dispel the crowd. One shot hit and ultimately killed, 21-year-old Archie Whitehouse (presumed to be a relative of the bride's former husband). Was the crowd angry about the fast remarriage? Were their yells more threatening than cheerful?

In some accounts, if someone married too soon, or married someone considered "too young," charivari crowds were known to hang dead possums or skunks outside the newlyweds' front door or even truss up the couple and ride them on rails several miles outside of town as a communal humiliation or humbling deliverance.

Other times, crowds celebrated with a true love couple that others couldn't accept. In Prescott, Michigan, in 1901, Miss Edith O. Greenfield, "an exceptionally pretty" 25-year-old former schoolteacher, married Henry Williams, "a colored painter who was born a slave 48 years ago on a plantation in Virginia." The news article related that Miss Greenfield terminated her contract to teach in the fall and refused all attempts of persuasion to "make her discard the negro." A noisy charivari took place immediately after the nuptial ceremony.

Closer to home, in October of 1912, we find Onsted participating in the custom. The Telegram relayed, "The boys gave Billy Ost and his bride a charivari last Thursday night. All were friendly, and Billy came out and treated everyone to cigars."

The tradition was still alive in 1914 when, in January, Lena Onsted and Isaac Newton married at the parsonage in Onsted on a quiet Thursday evening. However, "The young men [of the village] obtained the secret, and a charivari party met at the home of the bride. They were invited in and soon left."

Though the carousing loud crowds were often young men, occasionally, all-female groups had a go at it. In 1901, a group of females woke up Mr. and Mrs. Alf Fox near Adrian with tin pans, horns, and cow bells. The ladies had heard that a delivery of tutti frutti had arrived and came seeking it. The Foxes invited them in, served them tutti frutti and cake, and "a very pleasant evening was passed."

Occasionally, however, couples preferred their privacy and attempted to leave town before anyone had heard of their marriage. In 1918, Lloyd Toower (who was the bride's brother and an upstanding merchant in Corunna, Mich.) aided his sister and new husband Alvah Bemis in avoiding a charivari party. When the young men of the town heard they had been cheated out of free food, drink, and merriment, they abducted Toower, tied a rope around his neck, threw him in a car, and abandoned him five miles down the road. Toower sued them for \$5,000.

For most of the nation, the tradition subsided into the dark sometime during the somberness of World War I.

If you have photos, scrapbooks, postcards, or other historical items that may be shared, we would love to see them. Contact The Exponent office to arrange a time or email unique photos with any information you have about the content to exponeews@theexponent.com. In the subject line, please note for "Attic & Hearth" or "For Michelle" and include your name and contact information in the message.



Engagement traditions called for news articles about engagements, wedding descriptions, wedding night surprises, honeymoon plans, and anniversary notices. In this engagement announcement, Miss Besse Irene Murphy announces her betrothal to Robert L. Fransted of Napoleon. Newspaper clipping courtesy of the Lacy family collection.

Marriage licenses

Cierra Sowle, Jackson County clerk, reports the following recent recorded marriage licenses:

Collin David Poynter, Jackson, and Alize Raelyn Tripp, Jackson; Gavin Danile Serafin, Horton, and Lana Joy Gilliland, Horton; Charles Joseph Selby, Macomb, and Brenda Kay Jones, Jackson; Kristin Michelle Black and Aubrie Antonetti Blackburn, Jackson; Amberlee Danielle Swift and Ethan Carlton Smith, Jackson; Mackenzy Marie Wenzlick, Clarklake, and Tanner Schott Napierala, Muskegon; Melinda Kay Williams and Lavoski Raymond Baker, Jackson; Alexandra Grace Carmody and Baily Thomas Anderson; Michael Thomas Morrissey and Catlin Marie Milkinson, Jackson; Mercedes Leeann Myers, Jackson, and John Paul Yarbrough, Cement City; Gerrit L. Dumond, Jackson, and April Nicole Kral, Jackson; Destinie Jean Lazarus and Alexandra Michael Robb, Albion; Donald Alvan Allison and Yolanda Elizabeth Draffen, Jackson;

Stephanie Marie Vowler and Marcellus Allen Holsey, Jackson; Joshua Rodney LaGow and Jennifer Marie Hewitt, Jackson; Margaret Sharon Horosko, Concord, and Richard Alan Sandtveit, Gowen; Daniel David Manners, Jackson, and Linda Sue Carris, Jackson; Jocelyn Alejandra Corona Perez, Jackson, and Erick Giovanni Ventura Vargas, Jackson; Cindi Leigh Dooley, Grass Lake, and Rodney Alan Fowler, Plymouth; Roxanne June Marshall, Jackson, and Rodney Lee Marshall, Hanover; Shanell Le Trie Hodder and Cheyenne Terri Fox, Jackson; Aaron Jay Wyckoff and Sarah Jean Patterson, Jackson; Emily Anne Webb and Scott Christopher Cross, Jackson; Hope Elizabeth Phelps and Joseeph Airik Taylor, Jackson;

Columbia Charter Township fire report

June 4
Property Security: Hyde Road (2); **Peace Officer:** Kelley Road; **Suspicious Situation:** North Parker Street, Woodstock Township; South Main Street; **General Non-Criminal:** Hewitt Road; North Shore Drive; Riverside Road; **Personal Welfare:** Southern Shores Drive; **Assault:** County Line Road; **Larceny:** County Line Road; North Main Street; **Found Property:** Hyde Road; **Civil Dispute:** Utopia Drive; **Disorderly:** Eagle Point Drive; **Field Contact:** North Main Street;

June 5
Property Security: Hyde Road (2); **Accident:** Hyde Road/North Lake Road; **Suspicious Situation:** Crego Road; **Warrants:** Jefferson Road;

June 6
Personal Welfare: Aberdeen Drive; Hewitt Road (2); South

Main Street; **Property Security:** Hyde Road (2); **General Non-Criminal:** Oakwood Beach Drive; **Animal Complaint:** Daugherty Road;

June 7
Property Security: Hyde Road (2); **Accident:** South Meridian Road/Jefferson Road; **Parking:** Hyde Road; **General Non-Criminal:** Ferris Drive; Ashton Ridge Drive, Blackman Township; **Found Property:** Brooklyn Road;

June 8
Property Security: Daugherty Road; Mill Street; Hyde Road (2); **Larceny:** Ocean Beach Road; Jefferson Road; **Motorist Assist:** Jefferson Road/Hyde Road; **Peace Officer:** Marshall Street; **Accident:** Cement City Road/Cement City Road; Jefferson Road; **Suspicious Situation:** Hayes Road; **General**

Assist: Jefferson Road; **Disorderly:** Castlewood Drive/Wesch Road; **Parking:** Hyde Road; **Traffic Hazard:** Clark Lake Road/Reed Road; **General Non-Criminal:** Jefferson Road; Hewitt Road/Cement City Road;

June 9
General Non-Criminal: North Lake Road; Jefferson Road; North Shore Drive; **Accident:** Brooklyn Road/Palmer Road; **Property Security:** Hyde Road (2); Monroe Street; **Alarm:** Hawthorne Drive; **Animal Complaint:** North Parker Street/Irvin Street, Woodstock Township; **Breaking & Entering:** Clark Lake Road; **Accident:** South Main Street; **Field Contact:** Jackson/Cary;

June 10
Property Security: Clark Lake Road; Hyde Road (2); **Alarm:** Constitution Avenue (2); Chicago Street (2); **Suspi-**

cious Situation: South Main Street; **Personal Welfare:** Imperial Court; Chicago Street; **Field Contact:** Kelley Road; **Traffic Hazard:** Taylor Road;

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Obituaries

Betty Lou Carr

Betty Lou Carr, 75, of Brooklyn, Mich., passed away on June 8, 2026. A celebration of Betty's life will be held at a later date. Betty was born on October 11, 1950, in Rector, Ark., to Paul and



Betty Lou Carr

Lou (Eagle) McClune. Betty married the love of her life, Keith, on April 3, 1981, in Jackson, Mich. She will be remembered as an avid sports enthusiast who participated in many sports, including softball, bowling, and darts. She also loved traveling, camping,

and spending time at their cabin up north in Cadillac. Betty will be greatly missed by her husband, Keith, of 45 years; her children, Kelli (John) Partin, Timothy (Brandy) Strassburg; grandchildren, Samantha, Bobby, Tim, Jeff, Josh, and Fred; and her special niece, Christa Brown. She was preceded in death by her son,

Fred; her parents, Paul and Lou McClune; her sisters, Patricia and Doris; and her brothers, Paul and Bob. Memorial contributions are suggested to the American Breast Cancer Foundation. Please leave a message of comfort for Betty's family or sign her guestbook at www.EinederFuneralHomes.com.

Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Life for George F. Hill will be held on Saturday, June 20, at St. Rita's Church, Clarklake, Mich. George passed away on April 10 at the age of 92. The Celebration of Life Mass will begin at 11 a.m., and the visitation is at 10 a.m. He would love to see the church filled with flowers.



George F. Hill
January 30,
1934, to April
10, 2026

Martha R. Farrell

Martha Ruth Farrell, 92, of Brooklyn, Mich., passed away on Friday, May 29, 2026, at Henry Ford Hospice Home, Jackson. Martha's family and friends will gather on Friday, June 26, 2026, from 10 to 11 a.m. at Eineder Funeral Homes – Brooklyn Chapel. Her funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. and officiated by Chaplain Bart Hall. Burial of ashes will follow the service at Highland Cemetery, Brooklyn. You are encouraged to wear your favorite Detroit Tigers apparel. She was born on November 14, 1933, in Brooklyn, Mich., to Shirley and Gladah



Martha R. Farrell

(Ellis) English. Martha married the love of her life, the late Leonard Farrell, on April 1, 1951, in Brooklyn, Mich. They were childhood sweethearts who celebrated 70 years together before his passing. Martha will be remembered as a great cook and baker, especially known for her pies. She is a Brooklyn High School graduate, class of 1951. She worked for the Brooklyn Exponent for many years as a lady's columnist. Martha was a longtime supporter and president of Re-

bekah's Lodge. She also attended monthly card parties and was a member of the Jefferson Book Club. Martha had a fun personality and passed that along to her daughters, along with her cooking techniques. She was a 50-year member of the Brooklyn Presbyterian Church. She enjoyed spending time with her family camping at Silver Lake Campgrounds, and she was a huge Detroit Tigers fan. After retirement she and Leonard moved to Florida, and she remained active in the community there as well. Martha will be missed by all who knew and loved her. Martha is survived by her children, Shirley (Michael)

Doty, Julia Farrell, and Sarah Kaplan; grandchildren, Valerie (Steve) Ferency, Matthew (Sara) McCutcheon, and Geoffrey (Emily) McCutcheon; great-grandchildren, Melody and Lyric Ferency, Shanea and Elijah McCutcheon, Emma and Harry McCutcheon. She was preceded in death by her parents, Shirley and Gladah; husband, Leonard, and her sister, Doris Silkworth. Memorial contributions are suggested to a charity of your choice. Please leave a message of comfort for Martha's family or sign her guestbook at www.EinederFuneralHomes.com.

Sandra Lee Neigebauer

Sandra Lee Neigebauer, 85, of Fort Wayne, Ind., formerly of Jackson, Mich., passed away on June 6, 2026. Sandra's family and friends will gather from 11 to 1 p.m., Monday, June 15, 2026, at Eineder Funeral Homes – Michigan Center Chapel. Her funeral service will immediately follow, at 1 p.m., with Pastor Jeff Sheeks serving as celebrant. Sandra was born on August 13, 1940, in Jackson, Mich., to John Alexander and Grace Josephine (Greaige) MacKenzie. She married Doran Hildebrand and, in their 26 years of



Sandra Neigebauer

marriage, had six children. Later, Sandra married the late Charles Neigebauer. She will be remembered as a caring and nurturing wife, mother, sister, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend. Sandra was in the medical field for many years. She proudly served the people of her community in the Jackson area, owning and operating a care home in Michigan Center. When she relocated to Churubusco, Indiana, she, and Charles "Dale" bought a 5-acre

lot, including a stable with three horses at the Eel River Campground, where they spent over 15 years, meeting and enjoying friendships with several of the returning campers. Sandra was very social and had several close friends she had spent time with. She had a fierce love for her two dogs, Nikki and Oreo. Sandra loved to play card games, especially 500 Rummy with her daughter Tara. But Sandra's greatest joy in life was spending time with her family at gatherings and visits, which she always said were never enough. Sandra will be greatly missed by her children, Brian (

Lorelei) Hildebrand. Phil (Sue) Hildebrand, Erin (Amy) Hildebrand, Tara (Jeff) Storch, Daryl (Rudy Lopez) Hildebrand; 24 grandchildren; and 43 great-grandchildren; many special friends and her beloved dogs, Nikki and Oreo. She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Grace MacKenzie; her husband, Charles; her son, Eric Hildebrand; an infant brother, Gregory; her brother, John MacKenzie; and her sister, Jacqueline Lewis. Please leave a message of comfort for Sandra's family or sign her guestbook at www.EinederFuneralHomes.com.

Norman Gerald Weatherwax

Norman "Joe" Gerald Weatherwax, 97, of Cement City, Mich., passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, June 10, 2026. Joe was born on August 21, 1928, in Cement City, Mich., to his parents, Wayne and Mary Weatherwax. He graduated from Cement City High School in 1946. He then attended Jackson Junior College before continuing his education at Western Michigan University. Joe was drafted into the United States Army and served in Arlington as a Second Lieutenant in war traffic



Norm Weatherwax

analysis. He was honorably discharged in 1951. He worked for International Harvester, Clark Equipment, and later served as an office manager for Firestone in Adrian. In 1958, Joe returned to the family farm, where he worked until his retirement in 2001. Joe married Joyce Young in 1954, and together they raised five children. He is survived by his children, Jill, Jeff, Jan, Julie, and Jim; grandchildren, Brandon, Delaney, Elaine, Charlie, Kaylyn, Tony, Kimberly, Scott, Brid-

get, Cody, and Samantha; and great-grandchildren, Markese, Quincy, Maddie, Evie, Connor, Orrin IV, Koa, Quincy, Isabella, and Avianna. Joe's true loves were his wife, Joyce, his children, his horses, and sports. He rode horses on the farm throughout his life and continued to support the girls with their show horses until recently. He loved baseball and, at one point as a young man, played on three teams at the same time. Basketball was also his favorite sport. Joe especially enjoyed watching his grandchildren participate in sports and activities, including Brandon in hockey, Kaylyn, Kimberly, and

Markese in basketball, Tony in golf, Scott in basketball, and Elaine in dance. He also enjoyed playing euchre with his wife and, later, with family during holiday gatherings. The family euchre parties became a cherished tradition. Joe wanted his children to experience everything life had to offer, including snowmobiling, snow skiing, water skiing, motorcycle riding and racing, skating, horse showing, boating, baseball, and softball. Joe will be laid to rest with his beloved wife at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, June 15, 2026, at East Liberty Cemetery in Clarklake, Mich.

Columbia Charter Township fire report

May 30
Rescue: North Constitution Avenue; North Main Street/Monroe Street; Wamplers Lake Road; Tecumseh Street; **Fire:** Ocean Beach Road/Riverside Road;

May 31
Rescue: Palmer Road; **Fire:** Southern Shores Drive;

June 1
Rescue: West Lowry Drive; Jackson Street; Constitution Avenue; **Assist other agency:** Sauk Trail, Hillsdale Co.;

June 2
Rescue: Constitution Avenue;

June 3
Rescue: Woodward Avenue; Jefferson Road; Case Road; Ashley Court;

June 4
Rescue: East Princess Drive; North Shore Drive; **Fire:** Riverside Road;

June 5
Rescue: Ernest Street; Riviera Drive; Hyde Road/North Lake Road; **Fire:** Cement City Road;

June 6
Rescue: Marshall Street; Oakwood Beach Drive; West Mill Pond Drive; Constitution Avenue;

June 7
Rescue: Ferris Drive; South Main Street; Brooklyn Road;

June 8
Rescue: Jefferson Road/Hyde Road; Lakeview Drive; Brooklyn Road; Hewitt Road/Cement City Road; **Fire:** Clark Lake Road/Reed Road; Riviera Drive;

June 9
Rescue: North Lake Road; South Main Street; Hyde Road; Wamplers Lake Road; North Shore Drive

June 10
Rescue: Constitution Avenue; Kelley Road; Taylor Road;

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ENTERTAINMENT

Devils Lake Summer Festival returns for second year

By JACKIE KOCH
Meadowbrook Media

The second annual Devils Lake Summer Festival will take place Saturday, June 20, in the village of Manitou Beach, 110 Devils Lake Highway, continuing the event that was created in 2025.

According to Michele Henson, chair of the new summer festival board, the Land and Lake Ladies Club was looking for a project to support the Manitou Beach community when they heard that the Devils Lake Arts Festival was going to cancel last year's event because they lost out on a grant to fund the festival.

"And so we said, hey, what if we do a summer festival without the fine artists, and still have crafters, vendors, kids' activities, the whole thing," she said.



Tami Frye from Seriously Funny Biz paints the face of John Henson at last year's inaugural Devils Lake Summer Festival.

They did just that, and this year they have included around a dozen fine artists along with 50 crafters and vendors.

The event, which will run from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., will include face painting, a balloon artist, carnival games, pony rides, 11 raffle baskets all worth over \$150, and live music throughout the day by Brian Brickley and the Martindales, a Southern soul band.

There will be yard games for adults, free popcorn, ice cream, and the food trucks Brenda's Little Taste of Texas, Hannah's Hawaiian Shaved Ice and Sips & Sweets.

The Devils Lake Summer Festival operates as a fundraiser for projects of the Land and Lake Ladies Club. The club serves the Manitou Beach area by providing a veterans' lunch, family and senior citizen

support with monthly distribution of toiletries and food, and a Christmas angel tree for children's gifts. They also give five scholarships to high school students each year, among other projects.

"We also support the Kiwanis with their holiday gift baskets and providing items for that, so we have a ton of projects that we do to support people around the community. Part of this fundraising through our festival is to support those activities, as well as providing just a wonderful day for the community to get together and enjoy one another, and the amazing village that is now here," said Henson.

Some of the money raised through sponsorships and raffles will go back to the festival, but the rest will be used to support the community. So far the club has raised \$9,000 from sponsorships.

Henson said the event will be open to all. "And there's no cover charge. It's free. All the games are free. We're just thrilled to have people come and enjoy it," she said. "It's on the first day of summer. What better way to kick off lake life?"

For more details on the festival, visit manitoubeachmichigan.com or the Land and Lake Ladies Club on Facebook.

Toledo Artists' Club brings back Festival of the Arts

By JACKIE KOCH
Meadowbrook Media

The Toledo Artists' Club (TAC) has been part of promoting the arts in Northwest Ohio for more than 80 years, beginning with the Outdoor Art Jubilee in 1941. Later, the club established the Rose Garden Arts Festival in 1966 in downtown Toledo in partnership with the Toledo Department of Forestry, relocating to Crosby Park in the 1970s, where it became known as The Toledo Festival of the Arts. Eventually Crosby Park was renamed the Toledo Botanical Garden and the event was changed to become the Crosby Festival of the Arts.

When organizers for the Crosby Festival decided to move that event to the fall of 2026 at a different location, TAC members worked to reestablish the Toledo Festival of the Arts, returning to its roots by focusing on local and regional artists. The revived festival will take place Saturday, June 27, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, June 28, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at Toledo Botanical Garden.

In addition to booths showing the work of more than 150 artists, TAC will host a special historical retrospective featuring the work of notable Toledo artists in its gallery at the Toledo Botanical Garden during the festival. There will be plein air painters throughout the gardens and visitors to the festival will be able to watch their process and discuss their work.

TAC board member Donlyn Meyers said the festival will be free to enter, a change that will allow attendees to focus on using their funds to support the artists who sell their creations.



Rex Russell, who is part of the Toledo Artists' Club, will be one of the artists this year.

Access to the festival will take place at the 5434 W. Bancroft St. entrance, instead of the north side Elmer Drive entrance, Meyers said. The festival will be on the south side of the gardens, but attendees are welcome to explore the gardens as well as the artist buildings and the home of the Toledo Artists Club. There will be parking on site.

"It's going to be a little different this year, but we hope just as much fun," said Meyers. "We hope people come and wander around and view the artist village and watch the artists working on their plein air pieces. We have incredibly high-quality artists exhibiting."

Rounding out the festival will be acoustic musicians and several food trucks to give festivalgoers sustenance for prolonged browsing.

For more information on the Toledo Festival of the Arts, visit toledoartistclub.com.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The splash pad at Jackson's Sparks Park is part of the experience offered during visits to The Cascades.

Music, water, color and community at The Cascades

By JACKIE KOCH
Meadowbrook Media

Music lovers and those looking for unique summer entertainment can drive an hour or less from most locations in Lenawee County to experience The Cascades in Jackson's Sparks Foundation County Park, located at 1401 S. Brown St.

The Cascades is a colorfully lit, man-made waterfall that operates Wednesdays from 6-11 p.m. and Thursdays through Sundays from 8-11 p.m. One of the most awe-inspiring features of The Cascades is that the lights and fountains change patterns in direct response to prerecorded or live music – but this description does not compare to seeing the fountains and waterfalls in person.

Each Wednesday night through the summer, family night shows take place that include music and/or a special theme, with fireworks at dusk three times each summer. In addition, the park offers live music each Saturday night in the Cascades Rotary Community Bandshell.

The Cascades has been a fixture in the Jackson community for more than 90 years and is the city's most famous landmark. The falls were first displayed to the public on May 10, 1932. They measure 500 feet long, with a vertical height of 64 feet and a total width of 90 feet. There are six fountains, 16 falls including 11 that are illuminated, thousands of LED lights, and a 2,000-gallon-per-minute water pump, according to the mijackson.org website. There are 126 steps along each side of the falls – the walkway passes 11 pools of water that are 30 feet by 90 feet.

Upcoming Saturday night concerts in the bandshell at 7 p.m. include, on June 20, local musicians John Louis Good and the Rose City Troubadours performing Americana, folk, rockabilly and country music.

On Saturday, June 27, The Ramblers will entertain, playing a mix of '50s, '60s, '70s and '80s rock and country music. All Saturday concerts are free to attend.

Families who want to take advantage of the Wednesday night entertainment can look forward to Science Night on June 24, or Disney and Karen Kidder & The Alibi Band

on July 1. Admission for family nights is \$15 for up to eight family members.

Fireworks admission on the remaining dates of Friday, July 3, and Saturday, Sept. 5, is \$8 per person; \$6 for senior citizens and children ages 4-12; and free for children 3 and younger. All family night shows and fireworks start at 6:30 p.m.

Parks Event Manager Jacey Hutchins said there are playgrounds, picnic shelters, walking trails and pickleball courts within the park that are free to use.

In addition to regularly scheduled activities, the park will host its third annual Crafts & Market at the Cascades from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, June 27. The market will feature the work of local artists and artisans with handcrafted and handmade items, musical entertainment, a food truck and more.

Sparks Park will also host a Palooza at the Falls event on Friday, July 10. "This is an event we have every year targeted more toward the adults in our community, and we will have live music, yard games and a beer tent in the falls area," Hutchins said. Admission to the palooza is \$5.

A Dog Days of Summer event will take place on Thursday, July 23. "From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. people come in and they can bring their dogs. This is the third year we're doing it, and it's starting to become a favorite event," said Hutchins. "We're going to try to do it once a month this summer and get people to bring their dogs out." The cost is \$2 per human; dogs are admitted to the splash pad for free. There will be another Dog Days event on Aug. 20.

Entry to the falls area is \$5 for those ages 13 and older, \$3 for ages 4 to 12, and \$4 for senior citizens ages 65 and up. There is no entry fee for the remaining portions of the park except for the splash pad, which costs \$2 for ages 4 and older – free for those 3 and under. The splash pad is open seven days a week – 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on all days except for Wednesdays when it stays open until 9 p.m., and Sundays from noon-6 p.m.

To stay up to date on happenings at The Cascades and Sparks Foundation County Park, visit the Cascades Park Facebook page, the Jackson County Parks Facebook page or mijackson.org.

HIDDEN LAKE gardens

NEW WORLD ORCHIDS EXPO

JUNE 20-21
9am - 4:30pm

From dramatic blooms to delicate miniatures, orchids reveal an incredible range of forms, colors, and fragrances. Whether you're a longtime orchid enthusiast or simply curious, this exhibition offers an inspiring look at plants that blend artistry, science, and wonder.

SCAN THE QR CODE for full details

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- Orchids representing a wide range of species, sizes, and native regions.
- Opportunities to observe unique forms, colors, and growth habits up close.
- Educational insights into what makes orchids so diverse and captivating.
- Orchids will be available for purchase.
- Expert advice from New World Orchids owner, **Dr. Kristen Uthus**.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Orchids 101: What They Are and How to Grow Them

1:00 PM
This introductory presentation by Dr. Kristen Uthus explores the fundamentals of orchid care while showcasing a variety of unique orchids beyond the commonly seen Phalaenopsis. Perfect for beginners and curious plant lovers alike.

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

EXPONENT Classifieds

ESTATE/MOVING SALES

Estate & Moving Sale – Household items, antiques, collectibles, clothing, and more; June 19, 20, 21, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 9 am – 6 pm, 11632 Wheaton Road, Cement City. #46

Hoarders Delight Estate Sale

4605 Palmer Hwy., Briton, Mich., 49229, June 17 to June 19, 9 am to 5 pm, and June 20, 9 am to noon. House and Barn are Full! Avon Dealer Inventory Sell Off. Tons of Brand New Items, New Costume Jewelry (NO GOLD), All Appliances Sell, Antiques, Depression Glass, Mobility Scooter (Like New), Vintage Tupperware, Lots of Canning Jars, New Holiday Décor, New Linens, Vintage Clothing, Snowbabies, Lots of Books, 10x12 Barn Style Shed, Wilton Bullet Vise, Cutting Torches, Horizontal Bandsaw, Blacksmith Vise, Clawfoot Bath Twp and the list keeps going! Don't Miss This 4 Day Sale! 75% off on Saturday! Saling Supreme Liquidations! 46

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FAX (517) 536-0110 46 x2

Norvell Township is seeking a township resident interested in serving on the Norvell Township Board to fill a vacated Township Trustee position. This position will have a term ending on November 20, 2028.

If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please send a letter of interest and resume to Sharon Pero, Norvell Township Clerk, 300 Mill Road, Brooklyn, MI 49230.

The letter of interest and resume must be received by Monday, July 1, 2026, at noon (12:00). Resumes may be delivered in person (the office is open Mondays and Wednesdays 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Tuesdays 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.), by mail at the address listed above or via email to Clerk@norvelltwp-mi.gov.

Interviews will be held at a Special Meeting on Monday, July 6, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Norvell Township Hall. A decision will be made at the meeting.

Any questions, please contact Norvell Township Clerk, Sharon Pero, at (517) 536-4370, Ext. 102.

Sharon Pero
Norvell Township Clerk

WOODSTOCK TOWNSHIP ACCURACY TEST

Woodstock Township
6486 Devils Lake Hwy
Addison, MI. 49220
Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that a Public Accuracy Test for Woodstock Township will be conducted at 11 am Monday July 13, 2026 at the Township Hall 6486 Devils Lake Hwy, Addison, MI.

The test shall be conducted in the manner prescribed by rules promulgated by the Secretary of State pursuant to the administrative procedures' act of 1969 Act. No 306 of the Public Acts of 1909, being sections 24.201 to 24.328 of Michigan Compiled Laws.

This accuracy test is held to test the programs to be used in processing ballots for the Primary Election to be held on Tuesday August 4, 2026. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Ashley Wilson
Woodstock Township Clerk 46

LEONI TOWNSHIP

LEONI TOWNSHIP OFFICE
913 FIFTH ST
MICHIGAN CENTER MI 49254
517-764-4694 PHONE 46

NOTICE

The Leoni Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing, Monday, July 6, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. in the Leoni Township Meeting Hall, 913 Fifth St., Michigan Center, Michigan, 49254. This meeting will be held in person.

000-14-09-158-001-01
309 Gilmore Court
Laurie Nelsom Variance

Purpose of hearing: Variance

Legal Description: LOT 12 CONOVER SUBDIVISION

Cindy Norris,
Clerk

LEONI TOWNSHIP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LEONI TOWNSHIP OF LEONI, AND THE COUNTY OF JACKSON. 46

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the Leoni Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on amending the AG Special Land Use for a Conditional Use Permit and the amendment of the Fencing Ordinance. The hearing will be held on July 1, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Township Hall at 913 5th Street, Michigan Center, Michigan.

Cindy Norris
Clerk

NORVELL TOWNSHIP ZBA

NOTICE OF HEARING

NORVELL TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS The Norvell Township Board of Appeals will meet on Wednesday, July 1, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Offices, 300 Mill Road, Norvell MI to hear the request of Zack Kulpinski for a 2'6" front yard variance to the home at 11650 Lawrence Road. Interested parties can also provide written comments by forwarding them to Attention: Zoning Appeal Board prior to scheduled meeting date.

Martin Taylor,
Zoning Administrator 46

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COLUMBIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DISTRICT JACKSON, LENAWE, WASHTENAW AND HILLSDALE COUNTIES, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF A Public Hearing On Proposal Columbia School District 2024/2025 Budget

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 22, 2026, at 5:00 o'clock p.m., at the Columbia Community Room, Brooklyn, Michigan the Board of Education of Columbia School District will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2026/2027 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2026/2027 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed property tax millage rate is available for public inspection June 17th – 19th between 12pm and 3pm at Columbia School District Administration Office, 11775 Hewitt Road, Brooklyn, MI 49230.

This notice is given by order of the Columbia School District Board of Education.

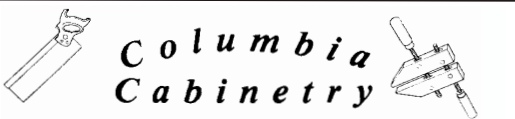
Secretary,
Tiffany Flinn 46

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VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN

ORDINANCE NO. 2026.06.05
An ordinance to amend ordinance Section 62-726 Definition of Multi Family Housing

46

Amendment to **Section 62-726** on recommendation by the Village Planning Commission as approved at a regular meeting on May 18, 2026.

Section **62-726** is amended in its entirety to read as follows:

(1) *Multiple-family dwelling* means a structure, containing multiple dwelling units, designed for or occupied by two or more families with separate housekeeping and cooking facilities for each, such as, but not limited to, town homes, triplex or quadplex.

On a motion by Village Council member Davis, seconded by Village Council member Hicks, the Village of Brooklyn, County of Jackson, State of Michigan, by a majority vote of the Village Council, hereby adopts Sections 62.726 of Chapter 62 of the Municipal Code of Ordinances and to be effective upon the publication in the newspaper.

YEAS: Trustee Bach, Trustee Bliven, Trustee Davis, Trustee Hicks, Trustee Robinson, President Roberts

NAYS: None

ABSENT / ABSTAIN: Trustee R. Kay

Ordinance declared adopted on June 8, 2026.

Estella Roberts

Estella Roberts, Village President
Village of Brooklyn

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION AND PUBLICATION
I, Whitney Harbowy, the Clerk of the Village of Brooklyn certify that the foregoing ordinance is a true and correct copy of the ordinance enacted by the Village Council of the Village of Brooklyn on June 8, 2026 which shall be published in the Brooklyn Exponent, a newspaper of general circulation in the Village of Brooklyn on June 16, 2026.

Whitney Harbowy

Whitney Harbowy, Village Clerk
Village of Brooklyn

VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN

ORDINANCE NO. 2026.06.06
An ordinance for the addition of ordinance Section 18-115 - 18-125 - INTERNATIONALPROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE

46

Addition of ordinance to Section 18-115 - 18-125 on recommendation by the Village Planning Commission as approved at a regular meeting on May 18, 2026.

Section is added in its entirety to read as follows:

ARTICLE VII. IPMC Code

Sec. 18-115. Adoption of the International Property Maintenance Code.

The International Property Maintenance Code, 2024 edition, as published by the International Code Council, be and hereby is adopted as the Property Maintenance Code of the Village of Brooklyn, in the State of Michigan for the purpose of regulating and governing the conditions and maintenance of all property, buildings and structures; by providing the standards for supplied utilities and facilities and other physical things and conditions essential to ensure that structures are safe, sanitary and fit for occupation and use; providing for the issuance of permits and collection of fees therefor; and each and all of the regulations, provisions, penalties, conditions and terms of said property maintenance code on file in the office of the village clerk are hereby referred to, adopted, and made a part hereof, as if fully set out in this article, with the additions, insertions, deletions and changes prescribed.

Sec. 18-116. Enforcing agent.
The village hereby designates the village manager, or designee, as the enforcing agency to discharge the responsibilities of the village code.

Sec. 18-117. Fees.
Fees shall be set by the Village Council. See Sec. 2-29 Schedule of Civil Fines or Costs

Sec. 18-118. Amendments
The Village Council, upon recommendation of the Planning Commission, shall amend or remove any section of the International Property Maintenance Code as needed to meet the needs of the community. Amendments shall be shown within this section.

Editor's note(s)-See editor's note to § 18-23.

Secs. 18-120-18-125. Reserved

On a motion by Village Council member Davis, seconded by Village Council member Robinson, the Village of Brooklyn, County of Jackson, State of Michigan, by a majority vote of the Village Council, hereby adopts Sections 18.115 - 18.125 of Chapter 18 of the Municipal Code of Ordinances and to be effective upon the publication in the newspaper.

YEAS: Trustee Bliven, Trustee Robinson, Trustee Hicks, Trustee Bach, Trustee Davis, President Roberts

NAYS:None

ABSENT / ABSTAIN: Trustee R. Kay

Ordinance declared adopted on June 8, 2026.

Estella Roberts

Estella Roberts, Village President
Village of Brooklyn

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION AND PUBLICATION
I, Whitney Harbowy, the Clerk of the Village of Brooklyn certify that the foregoing ordinance is a true and correct copy of the ordinance enacted by the Village Council of the Village of Brooklyn on June 8, 2026 which shall be published in the Brooklyn Exponent, a newspaper of general circulation in the Village of Brooklyn on June 16, 2026.

Whitney Harbowy

Whitney Harbowy, Village Clerk
Village of Brooklyn

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg June 14, 2026

ACROSS

- 1 Peninsula that borders Gaza
6 Watery castle defense
10 There are 2.2 in a kg.
13 "Tell me when it's over!"
15 ___ package (present for a college student)
16 "You can do so much better"
17 "No need to tell me what happened"
18 "In Dark Trees" musician
19 Ballet leap
20 Baker's protective wear
22 Fabulous
24 General idea
25 Item for a student in a hall
26 Recline
28 Time period
30 Ryan Reynolds' mobile company
31 Snazzy wheels
34 Cling to an unlikely but desired outcome
36 Beyond happy
37 Nickname for Johannes
38 ___ al-Adha (Muslim festival)

- 39 Abbreviated eBay concession
40 Like diamonds
41 The Phantom of the Opera
43 Self-defense discipline
46 Discourage over!"
48 Fast-casual Mediterranean chain
49 Fast food chain with a colonel
52 Global septet
53 "To reiterate ..."
56 Soccer great Mia
57 Fruity, low-alcohol beverage
58 Otherwise
59 Makes fun of, with "on"
60 Not those
DOWN
1 Sunny-___ up
2 Cultural symbol
3 Prefix meaning "billionth"
4 Morsel for an echidna
5 "Don't take that so seriously!"
6 Dull finish
7 Aquatic mammal such as Sam in "Zootopia+"
8 Knee tear site, for short
9 Not us
10 Eleventh hour

- 11 What some people see when they look over their shoulders
12 Mend with a needle and thread
14 What a disheveled willow seemingly does
15 Wells Fargo competitor, informally
21 "So they tell me (eye roll)"
22 Not as silly
23 Towheaded
25 Unrealistic aspirations
27 U.S. tax collectors
29 Exist
30 Make it in Hollywood!
31 Give the go-ahead
32 Easy dessert?
33 Admonition to a greedy child

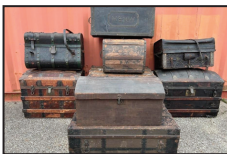
- 34 Garden tool
35 British slang for "mouth," or a soft lump
40 Devastating destruction
42 Possible answer to "Who's there?"
44 Getting 100% on
45 Assigns stars to
47 Greeting from a sexy lion on Halloween
49 "South Park" character
50 Broflovski
51 Enemies
52 Seller of seashells, in a tongue twister
54 "Chandelier" singer
55 "Silly me!"

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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VILLAGE OF GRASS LAKE DDA
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DDA Executive Director

at the offices of: Village of Grass Lake
119 N. Lake Street
P. O. Box 737
Grass Lake, Michigan 49240

until: 2:00 p.m. (Local Time)
Thursday, July 9, 2026

at which time and place Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The Contract documents may be examined on or after June 10, 2026 at the offices of: Ripstra & Scheppelman, Inc., 2535 Spring Arbor Road, Jackson, MI

Electronic copies of the contract documents may be obtained on or after June 10, 2026 by submitting an email request to Jack L. Ripstra at: jack@ripstra-scheppelman.com

Electronic copies of the plans may be obtained on or after June 10, 2026 on the DDA website at:
<https://grasslakedowntownmi.gov/contract-services/>.

Mitzi Koors
Executive Director
Village of Grass Lake DDA
m.koors@villageofgrasslake.com

NORVELL TOWNSHIP

NORVELL TOWNSHIP
JACKSON COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF RESOLUTION 2026-06

46

Notice is also hereby given that the Township Board for Norvell Township, Jackson County, Michigan approved resolution 2026-06 to impose a temporary moratorium on the issuance of permits, licenses, or approvals for data centers. The moratorium will last 12 months or until the township adopts regulations regarding Data Centers and those regulations go into effect.

A copy of the full resolution may be inspected or purchased at the Township Offices (300 Mill Road, Brooklyn, MI 49230). The resolution shall become effective 7 days after the notice is published.

Sharon Pero
Norvell Township Clerk

Norvell Township Board Adoption: June 8, 2026
Publication Date: June 16, 2026
Effective Date: June 23, 2026

6/14 Themeless Sunday 188 by Adrian Johnson and Alexandra Doumani

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NAPOLEON TOWNSHIP

Notice	46
The Napoleon Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing July 8th, 2026 at 6 p.m. at the Township Hall 6755 Brooklyn Rd, Napoleon, MI 49261.	
At this time all interested parties will be heard on the request of James Bush of 8099 Fairview Ct. Jackson, MI 49201 to allow an 18' Reduction in the Residential setback of 50' from waterfront to replace and expand the width of the existing covered porch. All other setbacks are in compliance. Roof Setback to be 32' from waterfront.	
Napoleon Township Office is open Monday thru Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during which time the Zoning Ordinance / Zoning Map may be examined. Written comments regarding the above matter may be directed to the Township or by calling (517) 536-8694 Extension 208. Napoleon Township will provide any necessary or reasonable auxiliary aids at the meeting for persons with disabilities, upon ten (10) days' written notice to the Township, Jane Gallant, Zoning Administrator.	
Jane Gallant, Zoning Administrator	

ROME TOWNSHIP

ROME TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ADOPTION	46
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at a regular meeting of the Rome Township Board, held on June 11, 2026, the Township Board adopted a Resolution Imposing a Temporary Moratorium on the Review and Issuance of Applications, Permits, Rezoning, Licenses, or Approvals Related to Data Centers (the "Resolution") within the Township. The Resolution takes effect on the date of publication of this Notice, and is available for inspection at the Township's website, http://www.rometownship.org , or in person at the Township Hall, 9344 Forrester Road, Adrian, MI 49221, by appointment. Please contact the Township Clerk, Robin Robertson, at (517) 605-5163 to make an appointment. Copies may be obtained for a reasonable charge. The following is a summary of the Resolution's effect.	
SUMMARY OF THE RESOLUTION'S EFFECT	
The resolution imposes a temporary moratorium on accepting, processing, or approving any applications, permits, rezoning, licenses, or other approvals for new, existing, or proposed data centers within the Township. The purpose of the moratorium is to allow the Township sufficient time to study, review, and consider amendments to the Township's Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance concerning data center uses, including potential impacts on public health, safety, and welfare.	
The moratorium is effective for a period of twelve (12) months. The Township Board may extend the moratorium for an additional period not to exceed six (6) months if it determines that more time is needed to complete the review or amendment process.	

COLUMBIA CHARTER TOWNSHIP

COLUMBIA CHARTER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS THURSDAY JULY 2, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M.	
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Columbia Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on July 2, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Columbia Charter Township Hall at 8500 Jefferson Road, Brooklyn, MI 49230, to consider the following variance requests:	
Variance 26-006 Owner/Applicant: Domenick Forgione / TAG Towers Location: Vacant at Corner of Jefferson Rd. & Hayes Rd. Clarklake, MI (Tax ID#: 000-19-21-252-001-00) Request: Variance application to permit a new wireless communications tower on an approximately 1.2-acre parcel. The tower is proposed to be setback 67.5-foot from the west front property line, and setback 109-foot from the east rear property line. The Columbia Charter Township Zoning Ordinance requires a 100-foot setback from all property lines, and 200-foot setback from all properties zoned for single-family or two-family dwellings, Article 7: Section 7.27.	
Variance 26-007 Owner/Applicant: Patrick & Amie Pelham Location: 117 Paula Drive Brooklyn, MI 49230 (Tax ID #: 000-19-22-428-032-00) Request: Variance application to permit an addition to the existing single-story single-family dwelling on an approximately 12,545-square foot property. The proposed addition is two-stories, with a garage on the main floor. The addition will be setback 9-foot from the west front property line, requiring a 16-foot variance, and setback 9-foot, 2-inches from the north side property line, requiring a 10-inch variance. The Columbia Charter Township Zoning Ordinance requires a 25-foot front yard setback and a 10-foot side yard setback, Article 3: Table 3-4.	
Information associated with the scheduled Public Hearing is available for public review at the Columbia Charter Township office during the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays. Comments will be heard from the public at the hearing, or you can submit comments in writing to the: Columbia Township Zoning Board of Appeals, 8500 Jefferson Road, Brooklyn, MI 49230. All written comments will be entered into the public record and should be received by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the scheduled hearing date. Columbia Charter Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the public hearing to individuals with special needs upon five (5) days' notice to the Township Clerk (517)-592-2000.	
Cathy Hulburt, Columbia Charter Township Clerk	
46	

VILLAGE OF ADDISON

RESOLUTION TO SET ADDISON VILLAGE 2026 MILLAGE RATES Village of Addison, Lenawee County Resolution Number 2026-02	
WHEREAS, the Village Council of the Village of Addison wishes to establish property tax millage rates to support the fiscal year 2026-2027 budget;	
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the following millage rates to be set as follows: Operating Tax Millage rate to be 8.0 mills and Village Street Tax millage rate 0.90 mills taking effect simultaneously.	
Motion made by Andrew Snow, supported by Cary Jo Snyder-Milosh. Roll Call Vote: Barbara Barnes: Yes; Brian Kent: No; Cary Jo Snyder-Milosh: Yes; Jeff Burke: Yes; Andrew Snow: Yes	
Motion passed by a roll-call vote of 4 to 1 on this 1st day of June 2026.	
CERTIFICATE I, Robin Hurley, the duly appointed Clerk of the Village of Addison, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Village Council by a roll call vote at a regular meeting of the Board held on June 1, 2026, at which meeting a quorum was present; and that this resolution was ordered to take effect July 1, 2026	
Robin Hurley, Village Clerk	
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LIBERTY TOWNSHIP SYNOPSIS

June 9, 2026 roll call of members; Smith, Jacobson, Hubbard, Garver and Vincent. The following Synopsis of Liberty Township Regular Board meeting of items have a motion and support: Approve agenda as presented, approve minutes of Regular Board meeting of May, 2026 as presented, approval of consensus agenda of departmental reports as presented. Payment of expenses in the amount of \$39,449.48 for May 2026 approved with a roll call. Motion was made and supported to approve Budget for 2026-27 and Budget Resolution Amending Budget. Motion approved with a roll call 5 yes. A complete set of minutes are available during regular office hours.	
Debbie Jacobson, Liberty Township Clerk	
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COLUMBIA CHARTER TOWNSHIP • ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION COLUMBIA CHARTER TOWNSHIP JACKSON COUNTY, MICHIGAN	46
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Columbia Charter Township Board has introduced a Short-Term Rental Ordinance, a general ordinance. The ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the Township Board on Monday, May 18, 2026, at 7:00 pm at the Columbia Charter Township Hall, located at 8500 Jefferson Road, Brooklyn, MI 49230. The Township Board will be conducting a first reading of the Ordinance at their meeting on Monday, June 15, 2026. The ordinance language proposed is below:	
Columbia Charter Township Ordains: Section 1: Purpose and Findings The Columbia Charter Township Board finds and declares as follows: A. The Township considers the current residential, lake living, and agricultural character of the community paramount to the welfare of the community. B. The transitory nature of occupants of Short-Term Rentals can be inconsistent with the historical residential, lake living, and agricultural character of the community. C. It is the intent of the Columbia Charter Township Short-Term Rental Ordinance to make the Short-Term Rental activity permitted by this ordinance consistent with the existing traditional residential uses in the community. D. Short-Term Rentals provide a community benefit by expanding the type of lodging facilities available and assisting owners of Short-Term Rentals by providing revenue to help offset costs. E. The Township has received concerns involving excessive noise, disorderly conduct, overcrowding, traffic, keyholing, congestion and parking at Short-Term Rental properties, as well as the potential loss of neighborhood character due to the number of Short-Term Rentals in the township. F. The provisions of this ordinance are necessary to prevent the continued burden placed upon county and township services and impacts on residential neighborhoods posed by Short-Term Rental homes. G. The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare of the persons and property (MCL 41.181, et seq., MCL 42.15, Mich Const 1963 Art 7, Sec 22) within Columbia Charter Township.	
The Township ordains: Section 2: Applicability A. This Ordinance applies to Columbia Charter Township outside the limits of the Village of Brooklyn and the Village of Cement City and applies to all properties unless otherwise stated herein. B. This Ordinance does not apply to the following: these uses are regulated by the Columbia Charter Township Zoning Ordinance: 1. Legally permitted Bed & Breakfasts. 2. Legally permitted and/or legally non-conforming motels, hotels, or resorts. 3. Legally permitted and/or legally non-conforming Marinas. 4. Adult Foster Care Facilities, Nursing Homes, or Senior Living Facilities. 5. Other uses permitted in the Commercial Zoning Districts. C. All requirements, regulations and standards imposed by this Ordinance are intended to apply in addition to any other applicable requirements, regulations and standards imposed elsewhere in other ordinances of the Township, including the Columbia Charter Township Zoning Ordinance. D. This Ordinance does not affect additional or more-restrictive requirements placed on the use of property (or a portion thereof) imposed by deeds, restrictive covenants, association rules, regulations, by-laws, rental agreements, etc.	
Section 3: Definitions Unless otherwise specified herein, the terms used in this ordinance shall be defined as follows: Bedroom: A separate room with a door, closet, and window that is used or intended to be used specifically for sleeping purposes. A bedroom must be a habitable space not Less than seventy (70) square feet, not less than seven (7) feet in one dimension, not located in an attic or basement without egress meeting standards in applicable building, residential and fire codes, and not a room by design intended to serve another purpose such as a kitchen, dining area, den, family rooms or living rooms. Dwelling Unit: A group of rooms located within a building and forming a single habitable unit having facilities which are used or intended to be used for sleeping, cooking, eating, and bathing purposes. Local 24-Hour Contact Person: A local property manager, owner, or agent of the owner, who is available to respond to tenant and neighborhood questions or concern and authorized by the owner to take remedial action and respond to any violation of this ordinance. Occupant: An individual at least 24 months of age who is living in, sleeping in, or otherwise having possession of a space. An individual present in a dwelling unit during the term of a short-term rental shall be presumed to be an occupant unless circumstances clearly indicate that the individual is visiting between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. and is not an overnight guest. Owner: The person or entity that holds legal or equitable title to the property (or portion thereof) used as a Short-Term Rental. Designated Parking Space: A designated parking area legally available to the dwelling unit for parking of a motorized vehicle or trailer, meeting the standards contained in this ordinance, and meeting any state or local ordinance or traffic control order. Short-Term Rental: A dwelling or portion of a dwelling unit that is available for use or is used for accommodations or lodging of guests, paying a fee or other compensation, for a period less than 28 consecutive days. However, the lawful rental of the following shall not be considered Short-Term Rentals: bed and breakfast establishments, motels, resorts, campgrounds, transitional houses operated by a charitable organization, group homes such as nursing homes and adult-foster-care homes, substance-abuse rehabilitation clinics, mental-health facilities, and other similar healthcare related facilities. Section 4: Short-Term Rental Permit Prior to establishing a short-term rental operation, the property owner shall obtain a written Short-Term Rental Permit from the Columbia Charter Township Zoning Administrator. In order to obtain the permit, the property owner shall submit the following information on an application provided by the Township. It shall be a violation of this Ordinance to operate or advertise	
a Short-Term Rental in Columbia Charter Township without a Short-Term Rental Permit, unless exempted herein. A. Application Information: 1. Applicant contact information (property owner or local agent). 2. Owner information (if different from applicant). 3. Address of dwelling unit to be utilized as a short-term rental unit. 4. Number of bedrooms within the short-term rental for which the permit is being sought. 5. Number of occupied floors (Finished floors available to renters). 6. Number of off-street parking spaces available for the short-term rental. 7. Maximum number of occupants the applicant intends to occupy the short-term rental. 8. Length of typical rental term. 9. A written statement certifying that each bedroom has a working smoke alarm, working carbon monoxide meter on each floor, and that the owner or local agent will ensure that these devices are in proper working order every 90 days. 10. Floor Plan: Layout of rental unit, each bedroom, bed within and size, location of doors/exits, location of fire extinguishers, location of smoke detectors, location of carbon monoxide detectors. 11. Plot Plan: Property lines, location of parking spaces, main entrance to rental unit. 12. Copy of comprehensive rental dwelling insurance policy with coverage of at least \$1,000,000. 13. A statement certifying that the applicant consents to inspections by Columbia Charter Township or a designee of the Township upon request. 14. Additional information as may be required by the Zoning Administrator. B. Short-Term Rental Permits will be issued by calendar year, with Short-Term Rental Permits expiring on December 31st each year. C. The renewal of an active, compliant Short-Term Rental Permit will be guaranteed if the completed renewal application is received on or before February 28th. D. The Columbia Charter Township Board shall, by Resolution, adopt a fee for the Short-Term Rental Permit, and may amend the fee by Resolution. E. A separate Short-Term Rental Permit is required for each Short-Term Rental. F. The Short-Term Rental Permit shall only be issued to the Owner of the property and cannot be transferred to another Owner or Property. The Short-Term Rental Permit is not transferable and does not run with the Property Ownership. G. The Columbia Charter Township Zoning Administrator, and/or other persons designated by the Columbia Charter Township Board, shall be authorized to issue Short-Term Rental Permits under this Ordinance.	
Section 5: Short-Term Rental Standards All Short-Term Rentals shall meet the following standards: A. Annual Short-Term Rental Permit approval required. All short-term rentals must obtain an approved Short-Term Rental Permit prior to the use of a structure as a short-term rental. The Short-Term Rental Permit is valid, unless there is a change in ownership of the property. B. No single property owner, ownership group or entity; or an individual with any stake in an ownership group or entity, can own more than four properties used for short-term rentals within the Township. C. Maximum occupancy of two persons per bedroom plus two additional persons per floor level with living space. Ten-person maximum occupancy per unit. D. Only one (1) dwelling unit per parcel may be permitted for use as a STR. E. All parking associated with a STR shall meet the following standards: 1. One off-street/on-site parking space is required per bedroom. 2. Parking shall be on an improved stable area such as a driveway, garage, or stable surface legally available to the dwelling unit. 3. No vehicle shall be parked closer than three (3) feet from any edge line (white outer lane line) of a public road, or, in the absence of an edge line, fourteen (14) feet from the centerline of a public road. In the case of a private road or easement, no vehicle shall be parked closer than three (3) feet from the edge of the private road. This standard does not supersede any applicable winter parking requirements. 4. Parking shall meet all state or local ordinances or traffic control orders, including winter overnight parking regulations on public roads, as enforced by the state, county, or local law enforcement. F. No recreation vehicles, boats, travel trailers, or tents shall be used as a part of a STR. G. No exterior refuse storage facilities beyond what might normally be used for a single-family dwelling is allowed. Trash must be contained in properly sealed receptacles. There must be no overflow that will be attractive to vermin. H. Special events, outdoor events, lawn parties, weddings or similar activities are not allowed on site for more than the number of permitted occupants. I. A local agent shall be designated. The local agent may be the property owner or a person designated by the property owner, and shall be available 24 hours a day while the unit is rented out. The local agent shall be within 60 minutes of the short-term rental unit when the unit is rented. J. The following information must be provided to potential renters within the welcome documents and must be posted at the site and on advertisement for the STR: 1. Local Agents name and contact information. 2. Maximum number of people allowed to occupy the structure. 3. The Short-Term Rental Permit approved by the Township for operating the STR. 4. The required quiet hours between 10:00 PM and 7:00 AM. Noise during quiet hours must be limited to that which does not disturb the quiet, comfort or repose of a reasonable person of normal sensitivities. The regulations of the Anti-Noise and Public Nuisance Ordinance shall apply. 5. No recreation vehicles, boats, travel trailers, or tents shall be used as a part of a short-term rental. 6. A plan of the property that shows property lines, building, and parking spaces with a statement about trespassing on neighboring sites. 7. Emergency evacuation plan in each sleeping area and bedroom. 8. An address sign clearly legible at night from the road. 9. Information about garbage pick-up. K. Short-Term Rentals must possess all of the following: 1. At least two working fire extinguishers with a diagram, prominently displayed, showing	
the location of each unit. 2. Operational smoke detectors on each level of the home and in each bedroom, which must be tested at least every 90 days to ensure that they are properly functioning. 3. At least one operational and approved carbon monoxide device of the type described in MCL 125.1504 on each level of the home, which must be tested at least every 90 days to ensure proper functioning. L. Short-Term Rentals must have insurance written that allows rental exposure and has a liability policy of a minimum of \$1,000,000. The Owner shall provide to the Township confirmation of the existence of the insurance each time the Short-Term Rental is registered or renewed with the Township. M. Short-Term Rentals must have weekly scheduled on-site trash service. N. The township ordinance enforcement officer may inspect the property to ensure continuing compliance with the Short-Term Rental Permit and township ordinances, and in addition, the enforcement officer may impose reasonable conditions on a permit issued under this section which are necessary to ensure compliance. O. Property owner is responsible for behavior of rental occupants and their guests.	
Section 6: Exceptions and Exemptions A dwelling unit does not need a short-term rental permit as required in this Ordinance when the occupancy of the dwelling unit occurs under the following circumstances: A. Family occupancy: Any member of a family (and that family member's guests) may occupy a dwelling as long as any other member of that family is the owner of the dwelling or dwelling unit. Family occupancy also exempts guest houses similarly separate dwelling units located on the same premises as the owner's domicile, when occupied by family guests, exchange students, visiting clergy, medical caregivers, and child care givers, without compensation to the owner. B. House-sitting: During the temporary absence of the owner and owner's family the owner may permit non-owner occupancy of the premises, without compensation to the owner, without a short-term rental permit. C. Dwelling sales: Occupancy by a prior owner after the sale of a dwelling under a rental agreement, or D. Estate representative: Occupancy by a personal representative, trustee, or guardian of the estate and his family, with or without compensation. Section 7: Administration, Violation and Administrative Penalties A. The following conduct is a violation of the Short-Term Rental Ordinance: 1. Any advertising, rental, or leasing of a short-term rental without first having obtained a Short-Term Rental Permit. 2. Failure by the Owner and/or Occupants to comply with the Short-Term Rental Standards section of this Ordinance. 3. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this Ordinance. 4. Any false or misleading information supplied in the application process. B. The penalties for violations specified in Section 7 (A) above are as follows: 1. First Violation: The first violation in a calendar year shall result in a Notice of Violation which may be verbal and/or written. 2. Second Violation: The second violation in the same calendar year shall result in a municipal civil infraction punishable by a fine of not less than two hundred fifty (\$250) dollars nor more than five hundred (\$500) dollars. All owners, regardless of their interest in the property, may be responsible for the civil infraction citation. The Township Zoning Administrator and/or other officials designated as the authorized officials to issue municipal civil infraction citations directing alleged violators of this Ordinance to appear in court. Each day the violation remains may be a separate offense. 3. A third violation within the same calendar year shall be subject to a municipal civil infraction punishable by a fine of not less than twice the amount of any previous fine but not more than one thousand (\$1,000) dollars, and the permit shall be revoked. An owner may reapply for a permit no sooner than twelve (12) months after revocation of a permit. 4. The township has authority to revoke the Short-Term Rental Permit for three (3) or more repeated violations in a consecutive 6-month period. C. A violation of this Ordinance shall be a nuisance per se. The Township shall have the right to commence a civil action to enforce compliance with this Ordinance. D. Nothing in this Ordinance shall prevent any person who has suffered damages or alleges to have suffered damage to person or property for a violation of this Ordinance from seeking relief in a court or competent jurisdiction against the Owner of the Short-Term Rental. E. The Columbia Charter Township Zoning Administrator and/or other persons designated by the Columbia Charter Township Board are authorized to issue all permits under this Ordinance and are also authorized to issue civil infraction violation notices and/or civil infraction citations for violations of this Ordinance. F. Any person who makes a knowingly false report of violations of this Ordinance will be subject to prosecution under MCL 750.411a.	
Section 8: Severability If any section, clause, or provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, said declaration shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid. Section 9: Effective Date A Notice of Adoption of this Ordinance shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the Township, and the Ordinance will become effective and enforced thirty (30) days after publication.	
A complete copy of the Short-Term Rental Ordinance is available at the office of the Township Clerk at 8500 Jefferson Road, Brooklyn, MI 49230 on regular business days during regular business hours, or by appointment, and has been posted on the Township's website at https://twp.columbia.mi.us/ .	
Cathy Hulburt, Columbia Charter Township Clerk	
46	



The Back Page

Opinion • By Matt Schepeler

Sorry, I’m not buying the claim that climate change is killing the fireflies

I like fireflies. Every year I sit on my deck after dark and watch them flicker on and off as they look for love in my back yard. I bring this up because I’m being told that there are less and less fireflies in the world...and, to be honest, that might be a fair assessment. It seems when I was younger, there were more of the glowing beetles floating about, which we used to catch and put in jars or, being boys, smear on our pants and arms just to watch them glow. Bug guts were never so much fun. The most fireflies I ever saw in one place was in Okinawa. There was a field lining the jungle behind our barracks that would glow with thousands of thousands, and probably millions, of them. It was such a stunning sight that I will never forget it. It may even be one of the memories that flashes before my eyes on my deathbed before I head off to the Great Beyond. It was that striking.

So...who doesn't like fireflies? And who doesn't have at least one fond memory of them? With the understanding that many people have an emotional attachment of one sort or another to fireflies, several news articles announced last week that fireflies are about to disappear from the planet, and the reason, each and every one boldly claims, is due in large part to climate change. Oh, sure, pesticides *might* have *something* to do with it, they say. Also, light pollution and habitat loss might also play a part, but invariably, the real culprit — the real SOB behind our beloved lightning bugs' disappearance — is climate change. That's just the way it is, say the experts. It always comes back to that, doesn't it? The problem is that a lot of people distrust that claim, to the point they roll their eyes whenever someone voices it.

It is not that these skeptics don't see there are likely fewer fireflies. It is not even that they believe the climate never changes. The climate changes constantly, and it seems likely that mankind affects it to lesser or greater degrees. We should strive to understand our role in it, most thinking people agree. That is good stewardship. But in this day and age of agenda-pushing, many have come to distrust much of what they hear, and any message, good or bad, gets muddled: • They distrust the people who claim to be experts, and they distrust the people who fund them. • As a result, they distrust the conclusions they eventually reach, sadly, even when those conclusions come from solid scientific research. • They especially distrust the government to do the right thing with their findings. What causes such skepticism?

It wasn't always this way. I remember in 1972 when DDT was banned in the United States. Scientists told us then that the chemical altered birds' calcium metabolism, causing them to lay eggs with shells so thin that they would crack under the weight of the mother during incubation. This reproductive failure brought the bald eagle to the brink of extinction. There was no public outcry when they banned DDT. We still trusted the science, the media, and even the government, at least in measured amounts. Remember, this was during the Vietnam era, when trust of government and media was at an all-time low. It is much lower, it seems, now. Fortunately, the DDT ban worked. While some claim DDT is still affecting birds to this day, one cannot deny that eagles have made a stunning comeback, and banning the chemical was the right thing to do.

Thank goodness for sound science! Yet I'm willing to bet that if what happened to the birds in the late 1960's and early 70's was happening today, there would be universal consensus from the experts telling us that climate change was a big part of the problem, while man-made chemicals likely play a secondary role in it...much as they are claiming about the waning firefly population. So...what to believe? That is the question of the day, isn't it? It seems that the most pervasive problem to come from the information explosion and looming Artificial Intelligence Era is going to be how to know what is true, and what to do with it. It is just another thing to think about this summer while you are sitting on the deck, enjoying the fireflies while wondering about their future...and ours.

Village of Brooklyn 2026 Façade Improvement Grant Program launched



Victorian Village on Main Street, owned by Kraig Hardcastle, got a fresh paint job thanks to a façade improvement grant received in 2025.

Story and photo By John Hummer Editor Businesses in Brooklyn's main commercial corridor have an opportunity to enhance the look of their buildings. The Village of Brooklyn has launched the 2026 Façade Improvement Grant Program, using \$5,000 from the Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) to help businesses within the CIA boundaries improve the public-facing exteriors of their properties. The 2026 application period officially launched Monday, June 8, and will be open until Friday, July 31, 2026. Only businesses located within the CIA boundaries are eligible for funding. The CIA incorporates



Dimick

properties along the Main Street and Wampers Lake Road commercial corridors. A corridor boundary map is available on the village website, villageof-brooklyn.com. The program grants local businesses the funds needed to do exterior improvements, such as paint, signage, awnings, windows, and brick, contributing to the overall visual appeal and economic vitality of the village. Applications are available on the village website and at the Village Hall, 121 N. Main Street. The CIA Board will review applications and announce selected grant recipients later this summer. Selected businesses are eligible to receive up to \$1,000 each to make these improve-

ments and have until Monday, May 31, 2027, to complete the grant-funded work. The CIA Board is continuing the Façade Improvement Grant Program this year after a successful funding cycle in 2025. "Last year, the CIA helped seven businesses improve their properties, assisting business owners with replacing window advertisements, improving signage, repairing brick storefronts, and painting exteriors," said Brooklyn's Community and Economic Development Director Aaron Dimick. For questions about the program, contact Aaron Dimick at aarond@villageofbrooklyn.com or call 517-592-2591.

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Township adopts moratorium on data centers

By John Hummer Editor

Haystead

Curtis

At its June 8 meeting, the Norvell Township board unanimously adopted a resolution imposing a temporary moratorium on data centers. The resolution was to be published within seven days of its adoption and become effective immediately following publication. "The planning commission suggested putting a moratorium in place, the resolution was drafted, and then we passed it," stated Township Supervisor Andrew Haystead. "It's a one-year moratorium as our planner (Scott Pacheco) and the planning commission work on creating an updated ordinance for data centers." The resolution defines a data center as "a structure that principally houses information technology infrastructure and equipment for building, running, and delivering applications and for the storage of digital data, including, without limitation, cryptocurrency, mining, and artificial intelligence. The resolution reads, in part, "A moratorium is hereby imposed on the review or issuance of any and all applications, permits, rezonings, licenses, or approvals in the township for data centers, so long as this resolution is in effect." The resolution notes that the moratorium shall remain in effect for 12 months following the effective date of the resolution. In other business, the board appointed Terri Curtis as a township trustee to fill the vacant seat from when Haystead was appointed supervisor recently to replace Bill Sutherland, who resigned on April 30. "I have been on the planning

commission for the last year, and I saw a lot of what was going on in our township — we've had a lot of good improvements," Curtis said, when asked why she became a trustee candidate. "It was very interesting to learn more about the township, our ordinances, and how it all works together, and how our township is moving forward. So, when the opportunity came about, it just sounded like the right kind of fit for me." Curtis said she has lived in Norvell Township for over 50 years. "My husband's family has been in the township since the early 1900s," she said. "His great-grandfather came over from England and settled here. So, we have an establishment in the community, and I just really enjoy learning more about our township and feel like it's important to help direct those decisions on how the township moves forward." A graduate of Napoleon High School, Curtis had an extensive career as a senior account clerk and administrative clerk with the Jackson County Health Department and as a computer operator/helpdesk support technician with Jacobson's Stores. The board will need to appoint a second trustee in July to fill the vacancy left by the June 2 passing of former trustee Paul Francis.