

Kickoff time!

School pride, bragging rights on the line as another season kicks off on the gridiron



Exponent photographer Paul Snyder snapped this exuberant entrance by the Grass Lake Warriors in their game against Madison as another football season begins.

Golden Eagles, Pirates roll as high school football returns

Columbia Central 67, Melvindale Academy 0



Golden Eagle Julian Boardman, #1, and his Golden Eagle teammates ran up and down the field on Melvindale Academy for a blowout win in their season opener.

**Story and photos
By Paul Snyder**

The Columbia Central Golden Eagles opened their 2026 season with a crushing 67-0 win over the Melvindale Academy Gators last Thursday night at Columbia Central. Coach Dylan Zaborowski's Eagles dominated on both sides of the ball.

Bauston Pilaczynski got the Eagles rolling with a 52-yard touchdown run on the second offensive play of the game. The Gators answered with their only real scoring threat of game when they battled their way down to the Columbia 23-yard line. That's when Liam McMurtry picked up a Gator fumble and raced 77 yards to paydirt that put the Eagles up 14-0 with 6:49 left in the first quarter.

Columbia would add two more scores in the quarter as Sammy Truax connected with Elias Losey on a 13-yard touchdown pass and Julian Boardman scored from nine yards out just before the end of the quarter for a 28-0 lead.

The Eagles continued with four touchdowns in the second quarter as Truax hit Trent Troyer with a 15-yard touchdown pass and Dylan

Penix with a 25-yard score. Pilaczynski then ran in for his second touchdown from 25 yards out and Boardman matched with his second touchdown from 20 yards out for a 54-0 score at halftime.

Warren Foster added another Eagle touchdown in the third quarter on his only carry of the night, racing 40 yards for a score. Columbia Central would add one more touchdown to round out their scoring.

Truax was 4-6 passing for 65 yards with three touchdown passes.

Pilaczynski led the Eagles' ground game with 82 yards on three carries and two touchdowns and Boardman rushed for 52 yards on just three carries.

Liam McMurtry led the Eagle shutout on defense with 13 tackles, two fumble recoveries, and forced a third fumble, while Blake Sherwood contributed seven tackles.

The Eagles travel to Michigan Center on Thursday to take on the 1-0 Cardinals who defeated the Onsted Wildcats 55-32 last Thursday.

Napoleon 46, Montague 35

The Napoleon Pirates opened their 2026 Season Friday night with a 46-35 win over the Montague Wildcats at Napoleon.

The Pirates used a tough ground game, rushing for over 350 yards on the day, led by Jayden Servis with 18 carries for 134 yards, Nolan Kirsch with 104 yards on 15 carries and three touchdowns, and Carson Warner with 82 yards on 11 attempts and one touchdown. Ashton Warner and Jayce Dotson added a rushing touchdown apiece.

Ashton Warner led the Pirates' defense with seven tackles followed by Casper Di Fiori with four. Carson Warner added a fumble recovery.

The Pirates will go on the road this week opening Cascades Conference play at Grass Lake Thursday night against the 0-1 Warriors who fell to Adrian Madison 43-34 in their opener last Friday.

Adrian Madison 43, Grass Lake 34

Three second half turnovers proved costly to the Grass Lake Warriors as they fell to the Adrian Madison Trojans 43-34 in their season

See *Football* page B3

On the soccer field...



Columbia Central High School soccer player Eddie Genyk, right, battles with Michigan Center player Alessandro Tamponi for the soccer ball during a game last week at MCHS.

Columbia Central gets past Michigan Center

**Photo, story by Jeff Steers
Exponent special writer**

Greyson Schiel was the star player for Columbia Central High School soccer against Michigan Center.

The sophomore scored two goal in the final 15 minutes of the game giving CCHS a 4-3 win in Cascades Conference action.

Here are scores and highlights from high school soccer last week.

Columbia Central 4, Michigan Center 3: Columbia Central scored 18 second before the first half on a goal by Eli Hawley. Both team tallied three goals apiece in the final 40 minutes of a wild contest. Michigan Center took the lead on a pair of penalty kicks in the second half. Greyson Schiel scored two goals for CCHS in the final 15 minutes for the win. Brady Howard scored two goals in the second half for MCHS and Alessandro Tamponi added the other. Cayne Hays had 20 saves in net for MCHS.

Grass Lake 8, Leslie 0: After being shut out in a three-game tournament over the week-end, the flood gates broke out for Grass Lake in the Cascades Conference battle. Ethan Larsen scored his first and second varsity goal in the win. Goals were also scored by Ben Jones, Gunnar Harbottle, Grayson Moser, Dylan Allen, Grayson McCurry, and Emmanuel Kongste. Larson and Lucas Heselshwerdt also dished two assists in the contest.

Ida 1, Columbia Central 0: The Golden Eagles fell on the road in non-conference action. CCHS is now 2-3 on the season.

Clinton 6, Onsted 1: The Wildcats were tied with Clinton after 10 minutes when lightning suspended the game. The ensuing rain made for tough conditions on the field. The game was eventually called due to darkness.

FALL CLASSES start Aug. 31

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Exponent high school sports schedules Aug. 31 – Sept. 4



Football
Sept. 3 Addison at Manchester 7 p.m.
Columbia at Michigan Center 7 p.m.
Napoleon at Grass Lake 7 p.m.
Hudson at Onsted 7 p.m.
H-H at Vandercook Lake 7 p.m.

Volleyball
Sept. 1 Addison at Napoleon 6:30 p.m.
Manchester at Columbia 6:30 p.m.
Grass Lake at Jonesville 6:30 p.m.
Onsted at Clinton 4 p.m.
Vandercook Lake at MC 6 p.m.
Sept. 3 Addison at Tecumseh 5 p.m.
Sept. 4 Napoleon at Mt. Morris 8:30 a.m.

Cross Country
Sept. 1 Kuenner Invitational 4:30 p.m.
Sept. 2 Hillsdale Invitational 5 p.m.
Sept. 3 Onsted at Trenton Inv. 4 p.m.

Boys Soccer
Aug. 31 GL at Columbia 5:30 p.m.
Will Carleton at Onsted 5:30 p.m.
Sept. 2 MC at Grass Lake 5:30 p.m.
Onsted at Blissfield 5:30 p.m.
Sept. 3 GLat Plymouth Christ. 4:30 p.m.
Dansville at Onsted 5:30 p.m.

Girls Golf
Aug. 31 Cascades Jamboree at Gauss' 1 p.m.
Green Valley 1 p.m.
LCAA at Hillsdale 1 p.m.
Sept. 1 Cascades Jamboree at Arbor Hills 1 p.m.
Sept. 2 LCAA Jamboree at Devils Lake 3 p.m.

Boys Tennis
Aug. 31 Columbia at Parkside 4 p.m.
Sept. 1 Bronson at Columbia 4:30 p.m.
Sept. 3 Tecumseh at Columbia 4 p.m.

Down to the wire!



Alex Hunt, right, of Onsted High School battles a Hanover-Horton runner for 25th place – and the final medal – last week at the Meckley's Cross Country Invitational.

Onsted places fifth at Meckley Invitational

Girls Cross Country
Meckley's Invitational: Onsted High School finished fifth with 100 points – one point behind fourth place. Three runners earned medals at Meckley's Flavor Fruit Farms in an invitational becoming popular with area teams. Stylar Ross finished ninth in 22 minutes, 30 seconds, teammate Izabel Raglow was 14th in 23:58, and Jaelyn Gwinner snared the last medal with a 25th-place finish in 25:35. Gibraltar Carlson won the event with 40 points, Western was second scoring 54, Hanover-Horton finished third with 80 points, and Quincy finished fourth.

Boys Cross Country
Meckley's Invitational: Onsted High School finished fifth in the invitational hosted by Hanover-Horton. HHHS edged Western 31-39, Gibraltar Carlson was third scoring 73, and Quincy placed fourth with 119 points. Onsted finished with 138

points at the meet run between the apple trees at Meckley's Flavor Fruit Farms. Nicklas Homes fin-

ished 24th (19:17) and Alex Hunt was 25th (19:24) earning top-25 medals.

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Burnette notches ace at Devil's Lake Golf Course

On August 13, Ron Burnette got a hole-in-one at the Devil's Lake Golf Course. It was Hole 5, a par 3. The yardage was 148; he used a 7-iron club, and the ball was a Maxfly Soft. The witnesses were Richard Deller of Osseo, Gordi Welch, Mich., and John LuBahr, Mich.

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The American Legion Post #315 Auxiliary hosted their Annual Golf Outing, with proceeds benefiting the post honor guard. The honor guard plays an important role in honoring and remembering local veterans at special events and funerals. Their dedication ensures that those who served our country receive the respect and final tribute they deserve. Pictured above are (left to right) Geno Davenport, Brad Klein, Denny Vesceluis and Kirk Falk. Photo courtesy Julie Davenport.

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Football scores . . . continued from page B1

opener at Grass Lake.

The Warriors started strong with Mathew Thompkins picking off a Trojan pass on the second play of the game and returning it 53 yards for a touchdown. Then Gage Salts capped off a seven-play, 72-yard drive going 10 yards for a Warrior touchdown and a 12-0 lead with 5:48 left in the first quarter.

Madison came right back with a 55-yard touchdown pass to get back in the game at 12-6.

The Warriors answered with Thompkins going in from a yard out on the second play of the second quarter, capping off a 75-yard drive to go back up 12, 18-6.

Madison took advantage of a bad Warrior punt deep in Grass Lake territory at the Warrior 14 and scored on the first play from scrimmage, adding an extra point to make it 18-13.

Madison took the lead in the third quarter with an 89-yard drive on their first possession of the second half to go up 19-18.

Grass Lake attempted to answer, driving to the Madison 37, before a fumble was run back for another Trojan touchdown. With the extra point, Madison led 26-18.

The Warriors fumbled and lost the ball on the ensuing kick-off at their own 14-yard line. Their defense was able to keep the Trojans out of the end zone, but Madison added a field goal to go up 29-18.

Grass Lake refused to quit, marching 80 yards in the final two minutes of the third quarter, with Kaline Wescott going the final five yards on a quarterback keeper. Following a two-point conversion, the Warriors were back within three (29-26) going into the fourth quarter.

However, Madison scored the first two touchdowns of the fourth quarter and was able to put the game out of reach.



Caden Olsosky (2) of Addison High School attempts to stop a Perry ball carrier during a home game last Thursday. PHOTO BY JEFF STEERS/EXPONENT

Michigan Center 55 Onsted 32

The Onsted Wildcats put up 32 points in their season opener last Thursday but it wasn't enough as the Michigan Center Cardinals spoiled Joe Gillies head coaching debut as his Wildcats fell to the Cardinals 55-32.

Connor Kish rushed for 197 yards on 19 carries to lead Onsted, scoring two Wildcat touchdowns from five and 11 yards out. Nathan Riggs added a score for the Wildcats on a five-yard run.

Quarterback Jacob Ohlman was 5-8 passing for 79 yards, connecting with Carter Gillelan for touchdown passes of 30 and 10 yards.

Michigan Center quarterback Tre Collins was too much for the Wildcats, as he was involved in all eight of the Cardinals' touchdowns, throwing for 317 yards and six touchdown passes and running for two more that included an electrifying 80-yard run to start the game.

Kish led the Wildcats' defense with 10 tackles and Colton Chamberlain contributed six tackles.

Onsted opens LCAA conference play this Thursday when they host the Hudson Tigers, the defending LCAA champs and 2025 MHSAA Division 8 state runner-up.

Perry 42 Addison 12

Addison trailed 16-0 after the first quarter against Perry and could not catch them in a 42-12 non-conference loss in their opening game of the 2026 football season. The loss spoiled the head coaching debut of Casey Ruthenberg.

Addison began a comeback as Landin Leffew scored the first touchdown of the season for the Panthers midway through the second quarter. Michael Beard completed a 45-yard pass near the end of the second quarter and scored on a short run for the Panthers. Addison trimmed to margin to 20-12 at halftime.

The Panthers were scoreless in the second half of the contest.

Beard finished with 10 carries for 82 yards and one score for Addison. Logan Jewell ran for 43 yards and Caden Olsosky added 42 yards on 11 carries.

The Panthers begin Cascades Conference play this Thursday at Manchester beginning at 7 p.m.

Pirates win Onsted Quads

Columbia sweeps Napoleon

Onsted Quads results

**Story and photos
By Paul Snyder**

The Napoleon Lady Pirates went 3-0 at the Onsted Quads last Monday (Aug. 24), defeating Cascades Conference rival Manchester Lady Dutch 25-18 and 25-15, the Sand Creek Aggies 25-19 and 25-23, and the host Onsted Lady Wildcats, 25-19 and 25-19.

Clair Beer spiked 26 kills, Jenna Yob tallied 31 assists, and Hallie Duvall contributed 26 digs to lead the Pirates.

The host Onsted Lady Wildcats went 2-1 for the night, defeating Sand Creek and Manchester. Hadley Ross and Kayla Gerken had 14 kills apiece to lead the Lady Cats. Alana Ramsey chipped in with 11 kills. Ava Deland compiled 31 assists and 10 digs, and Grace Teske was a perfect 29-29 serving with three aces, while adding 19 digs and 18 assists.

Columbia Central vs. Napoleon

The Columbia Central Lady Eagles took down their



Pirate senior Jenna Yob and her teammates won the Onsted Quads last Monday, but came up short against Columbia Central on Wednesday.

ing the Vandercook Lake Jayhawks 25-14, 25-8, and 25-20 last Wednesday at Addison.

Hailey Marsee had 15 assists, seven kills, seven digs, and three aces to pace the Panthers. Emma Tison tallied 10 kills, three aces, and four digs. Emie Clark contributed 10 digs, six aces, four kills, and two assists. Maddie McNett added 10 digs and two aces to help the Addison cause.

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Addison vs. Vandercook Lake

The Addison Lady Panthers opened their Cascades Conference season sweep-

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CLASS OF 1976 LOOKING FOR CLASSMATES

Columbia Central High School Class of 1976 will be honoring its 50-Year Reunion on September 11-12. It's not too late. For more information, contact eaglescc1976@gmail.com or call/text Terry Earley at 517-206-7269. Please feel free to inform us if you can help locate the following classmates: Cindy Adams, Cathy Andres, Alan Bignell, Dan Brewington, Steve Fridd, Beth Leathers Powers, Mike McGuire, Mindy Reed, Marie Rowland, Bill Sumner, and Cindy Surbrook. Looking forward to seeing you there!

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The mower may be viewed at the Cambridge Township Police Station at 8958 M-50. You may contact the cemetery sexton with questions at 517-605-0359.

Bids will be opened at the township board meeting on September 9, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.

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Liberty Township public hearing

Notice is hereby given that on Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 7:00 pm, the Liberty Township Planning Commission will host a public hearing at Liberty Township Hall located at 101 W. Liberty Road, Clarklake, MI 49234, regarding a Conditional Use Permit for Kent and Tahny Iowry, 12201 Sutfin Rd., Horton, MI 49246, for the operation of a bakery/store on ParcelID #000-18-32-226-001-00 and a wedding chapel on ParcelID #000-18-29-477-001-01. Also on the agenda is a public hearing regarding the Pines at Round Lake, a site condominium development consisting of 7 units on 13 JI, acres with 4 units bordering Steve's Scenic Drive and 3 units bordering Morton Rd.

Debbie Jacobson,
Clerk

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PUZZLE TIME!

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg August 30, 2026

ACROSS

- 1 "This wager MUST be honored!"
11 2022 Best Picture winner
15 Party with wireless headphones
16 "Rush Hour" star Jackie
17 "That's fine, just this once"
18 DJed, say
19 Texas landmark
20 Fat used to make masa for tamales
22 Game with +4 cards
23 12/24 and 12/31
26 Not nice
28 Content-creating group with charity soccer matches
31 Bargain
32 Homer's cry
33 Something maintained daily in a certain social media app
37 Gather, as a fortune
40 Singer featured on "Titanium"
41 "The Light We Carry" author Michelle
42 Megadeth superfans, e.g.
45 Plop down

- 46 Orange ____ tea
47 Sagged
50 Boxers' treatment centers?
52 Strategic jigsaw piece
53 Apt rhyme for "Pooh"
54 Wicked
56 Renter's contract
60 ____ kids (Gen Alpha children, slangily)
62 Breathing condition caused by digital communication
65 Otherwise
66 Conditioning without air conditioning
67 Hockey juke
68 "Get in line, folks!"

DOWN

- 1 South Korea's continent
2 Duck's beak
3 "Charlie's Angels" star Balinska
4 Collaborated, with "up"
5 More than crushing
6 Mo. city near Ill.
7 Preferring queerplatonic relationships, for short
8 Sob
9 French water brand
10 Groups of four

- 11 Adds to an email
12 "You can't be serious!"
13 Intimidate
14 Talk on and on about crosswords to, say
21 Because of
24 Ambulance initials
25 "The Sixth"
27 Clothing
28 "Can you believe them?!"
29 "This is kind of a difficult question ..."
30 Nymph that's an anagram of "Diana"
32 Hydroelectric construction
34 San Diego baseball player
35 Within
36 Kit ____ bar

- 38 Upscale retailer that left Chicago in 2026
39 What "m" stands for in $y = mx + b$
43 Job dismissal
44 Grass for purchase
48 Great Plains tribe
49 Eye stealthily
50 Snooped
51 "America's Got Talent" judge Cowell
55 Tardy
57 Prefix meaning "against"
58 "... or so it would ____"
59 Comfort
61 Ruby of "A Raisin in the Sun"
63 Hoppy brew, for short
64 Exciting, in 2010s slang

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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UNIVERSAL
Sudoku Puzzle

				1	8			
	3		9			1		2
1					7		6	
							9	4
		1		3		8		
3	2							
	7		8					6
2		8			6		1	
			5	4				

Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Today's puzzle solution

8	2	2	8	7	9	6	1	9
8	1	9	9	6	2	8	7	2
9	7	6	1	2	8	8	2	9
1	9	9	6	8	7	2	2	8
2	2	8	9	8	9	1	6	7
7	6	8	2	2	1	9	9	8
6	9	7	7	9	8	2	8	1
2	8	1	7	9	6	9	8	2
9	8	2	8	1	2	7	9	6

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

8/30

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8/30

Themeless Sunday 197 by Zachary Edward-Brown

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14
15											16			
17											18			
19							20			21		22		
			23		24	25		26			27			
	28	29					30		31					
32					33			34				35	36	
37			38	39		40				41				
42					43				44			45		
	46					47				48	49			
50						51		52						
53				54			55			56		57	58	59
60			61		62			63	64					
65					66									
67					68									

ON SALE NOW

AT ALL LIGHTNING QUICK GAS-N-GO LOCATIONS



COMPLETE 2026
HIGH SCHOOL
FOOTBALL
PREVIEW
OF SOUTHEAST
MICHIGAN

AT ALL LIGHTNING QUICK
GAS-N-GO
LOCATIONS
&
THE EXPONENT
160 S. MAIN ST.
BROOKLYN

Columbia Charter Township fire report

August 12

Assist other agency: Brooklyn Road, Napoleon Township; Calhoun Road, Hillsdale; **Fire:** Clark Lake Road; **Rescue:** East Mill Pond Drive;

August 13

Fire: Sheridan Street/Irwin Street; **Rescue:** Case Road; Constitution Avenue;

August 14

Rescue: East Mill Pond Drive; Barbara Drive; East Lowry Street; Jefferson Road/Ocean Beach Road; North Drive;

August 15

Rescue: Donald Street; North Main Street;

August 16

Rescue: Jefferson Road; Constitution Avenue;

August 17

Rescue: Constitution Avenue;

August 18

Rescue: Hawthorne Drive; Andover Lane;

August 19

Rescue: Palo Alto Drive;

August 20

Rescue: North Main Street; Claremont Circle; Lane Street; Marshall Street; **Fire:** Somerset Drive;

August 21

Rescue: Camelot Court;

August 22

Rescue: Hewitt Road; Tecumseh Street; Broad Street; Thompson Court;

August 23

Rescue: North Lake Road (2); Camelot Court; Somerset Drive;

August 24

Rescue: Crego Road; Turk Road; **Fire:** Nevel Cove; North Shore Drive;

August 25

Rescue: Andover Lane; **Fire:** Julian Street/ Chicago Street;

August 26

Rescue: Hewitt Road.

CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT HEARING
VANIMAN ISLAND DRIVE

4x2

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: a public hearing to renew the VANIMAN ISLAND DRIVE ROAD MAINTENANCE special assessment district will be held at 6:40 P.M. on Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at the Cambridge Township Hall, 9990 W. M-50, Onsted, Michigan.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE: that the district within which the improvements are to be made and within which the costs thereof is proposed to be assessed is more particularly described as: the plat of Vaniman Island, section 18 and section 19, Cambridge Township, Lenawee County, Michigan-ALL PARCELS WITHIN THE ABOVE NAMED SUBDIVISION.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE: that the said plans and special assessment district may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk from the date of this notice until and including the date of the public hearing hereon and may be further examined at such public hearing. This special assessment for the maintenance of Vaniman Island Drive is proposed to run for a period of five (5) years beginning with 2026.

Any written comments for or against this action will be received at the Cambridge Township office, 9990 W. M-50, Box 417, Onsted, Michigan 49265 up to and including the time of the public hearing.

Rick W. Richardson, Clerk
Cambridge Township

CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TO CONFIRM SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL
VANIMAN ISLAND DRIVE MAINTENANCE DISTRICT

4x2

A public hearing will be held on the 9th day of September, 2026 at 6:40 P.M. or any adjourned date thereof, at the Cambridge Township hall, 9990 W. M-50, Onsted, Michigan for the purpose of hearing comments or objections to the confirmation of the Special Assessment Roll for the Special Assessment District known as the VANIMAN ISLAND DRIVE ROAD MAINTENANCE DISTRICT.

The amount of funding and the cost to each parcel (expected to be \$60.00) is available for examination at the Cambridge Township office during regular business hours (8:00 A.M. to noon and 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.-Monday through Friday) beginning August 28, 2026.

APPEARANCE AND PROTEST AT THIS HEARING TO CONFIRM THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO APPEAL THE AMOUNT OF THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT TO THE STATE TAX TRIBUNAL.

Any owner or party in interest, or his or her agent (with the owners written permission), may appear in person at the hearing to protest the Special Assessment, or you may file a protest by letter in which event personal appearance is not required. Any protest by letter must be received at the Cambridge Township office no later than the conclusion of the scheduled hearing and should be addressed to: Cambridge Township Clerk, 9990 W. M-50, Box 417, Onsted, Michigan 49265.

Rick W. Richardson, Clerk
Cambridge Township

CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TO CONFIRM SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL
LITTLE STONEY LAKE RD. MAINTENANCE DISTRICT

4x2

A public hearing will be held on the 9th day of September at 6:50 P.M. or any adjourned date thereof, at the Cambridge Township hall, 9990 W. M-50, Onsted, Michigan for the purpose of hearing comments or objections to the confirmation of the Special Assessment Roll for the Special Assessment District known as the LITTLE STONY LAKE ROAD MAINTENANCE special assessment district.

The amount of funding and the cost to each parcel (expected to be \$100.00) is available for examination at the Cambridge Township office during regular business hours (8:00 A.M. to Noon and 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.-Monday through Friday) beginning August 28, 2026.

APPEARANCE AND PROTEST AT THIS HEARING TO CONFIRM THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO APPEAL THE AMOUNT OF THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT TO THE STATE TAX TRIBUNAL.

Any owner or party in interest, or his or her agent (with the owners written permission), may appear in person at the hearing to protest the Special Assessment, or you may file a protest by letter in which event personal appearance is not required. Any protest by letter must be received at the Cambridge Township office no later than the conclusion of the scheduled hearing and should be addressed to: Cambridge Township Clerk, 9990 W. M-50, Box 417, Onsted, Michigan 49265.

Rick W. Richardson, Clerk
Cambridge Township

CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT HEARING
LITTLE STONEY LAKE RD.

4x2

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: a public hearing to establish the LITTLE STONY LAKE ROAD MAINTENANCE special assessment district will be held at 6:50 P.M. on Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at the Cambridge Township Hall, 9990 W. M-50, Onsted, Michigan.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE: that the district within which the improvements are to be made and within which the costs thereof are proposed to be assessed is more particularly described as: the supervisor's plat of Little Stony Lake, sections 8 & 17 Cambridge Township, Lenawee County, Michigan-ALL PARCELS WITHIN THE ABOVE NAMED SUBDIVISION (except lots #34 through #37, and #43 through #57), as well as parcel number CA0-108-3300-00, section 8, Cambridge Township, Lenawee County, Michigan.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE: that the said plans and special assessment district may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk from the date of this notice until and including the date of the public hearing hereon and may be further examined at such public hearing. This special assessment for the maintenance of what is commonly known as Little Stony Lake Road (shown on the plat as: Oak Grove Drive and Shadbolt Lane) is proposed to run for a period of five (5) years beginning with 2026.

Any written comments for or against this action will be received at the Cambridge Township office, 9990 W. M-50, Box 417, Onsted, Michigan 49265 up to and including the time of the public hearing.

Rick W. Richardson, Clerk
Cambridge Township

CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT HEARING
OAK HILLS DRIVE MAINTENANCE DISTRICT

4x2

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: a public hearing to renew the OAK HILLS DRIVE MAINTENANCE special assessment district will be held at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at the Cambridge Township Hall, 9990 W. M-50, Onsted, Michigan.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE: that the district within which the improvements are to be made and within which the costs thereof are proposed to be assessed is more particularly described as: plats of Oak Hills, Addition to Oak Hills, Pate Subdivision, and Willow Grove Subdivision, Sections 17 and 20, Cambridge Township, Lenawee County, Michigan: ALL PARCELS WITHIN THE ABOVE NAMED SUBDIVISIONS, as well as the following unplatted parcel in Section 20, Cambridge Township: CA0-120-1400-00.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE: that the said plans and special assessment district may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk from the date of this notice until and including the date of the public hearing hereon and may be further examined at such public hearing. This special assessment for the maintenance of Oak Hills Drive, Hillcrest Drive, Park Lane and Willow Court is proposed to run for a period of five (5) years beginning in 2026.

Any written comments for or against this action will be received at the Cambridge Township office, 9990 W. M-50, Box 417, Onsted, Michigan 49265 up to and including the time of the public hearing.

Rick W. Richardson, Clerk
Cambridge Township

CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TO CONFIRM SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL
OAK HILLS DRIVE MAINTENANCE DISTRICT

4x2

A public hearing will be held on the 9th day of September, 2026 at 6:30 P.M. or any adjourned date thereof, at the Cambridge Township hall, 9990 W. M-50, Onsted, Michigan for the purpose of hearing comments or objections to the confirmation of the Special Assessment Roll for the Special Assessment District known as the OAK HILLS DRIVE MAINTENANCE special assessment district.

The amount of funding and the cost to each parcel (expected to be \$270.00) is available for examination at the Cambridge Township office during regular business hours (8:00 A.M. to Noon & 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.-Monday through Friday) beginning August 28, 2026.

APPEARANCE AND PROTEST AT THIS HEARING TO CONFIRM THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO APPEAL THE AMOUNT OF THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT TO THE STATE TAX TRIBUNAL.

Any owner or party in interest, or his or her agent (with the owners written permission), may appear in person at the hearing to protest the Special Assessment, or you may file a protest by letter in which event personal appearance is not required. Any protest by letter must be received at the Cambridge Township office no later than the conclusion of the scheduled hearing and should be addressed to: Cambridge Township Clerk, 9990 W. M-50, Box 417, Onsted, Michigan 49265.

Rick W. Richardson, Clerk
Cambridge Township

LEONI TOWNSHIP

LEONI TOWNSHIP - JACKSON COUNTY, MI

5

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at a Leoni Board of Trustees meeting held on August 11,2026 at 913 Fifth St. Michigan Center, MI 49254, Chapter 42-358 was adopted by a 7 Aye vote.

Sec. 42-358. Fences

(a) *Intent and Purpose.*
This Section is established to regulate the installation, placement, and maintenance of fencing on all real property within the Township. The standards herein are designed to uphold a balance between individual property rights, public safety, and the personal privacy of residents, while acknowledging the distinct geographic and aesthetic requirements of both Waterfront and Non-Waterfront Parcels.

(b) *For any district in or bordering an R-1, R-4, and RM district:*
Height and Placement Regulations
1. Fences in side or rear yard. Fences constructed within a side or rear yard shall not exceed higher than six feet as measured from the surface of the ground.
2. Waterfront Yard (Front Yard): No fence, wall, hedge, shrubs or trees shall exceed 36 inches in height within any required front yard facing the water (measured from the surface of the ground).
3. Waterfront Approved Materials: Fences in waterfront yards or side yards must be of an "open" construction to ensure visibility. Approved styles include, but are not limited to:
• Wrought iron or ornamental aluminum.
• Split-rail.
• Chain link.
4. Property Line Constraints: Fences situated along any property line of a Waterfront lot shall not exceed a maximum height of 48 inches, except as provided in the privacy exception below.

(c) *Visibility and Public Safety.*
No fence, wall, or hedge shall be installed or maintained in a manner that interferes with the visibility of motorists or pedestrians using a driveway or public roadway.

(d) *Waterfront Privacy Fencing Exceptions.* (Pre-Existing Conditions)
Notwithstanding the height limits in subsection (b), privacy fencing may be permitted under the following unique circumstances:
1. Proximity Rule: Where an existing home is located less than 15 feet from an adjacent housing structure, a privacy fence may be allowed to provide a buffer between the dwellings. This rule applies only if the home's length is at a minimum of 50 percent of the length of the adjacent home located within that 15-foot proximity.
2. Height Limit: Such privacy fencing shall not exceed a maximum height of six (6) feet.
3. Length Limitation: The length of the privacy fence shall not extend beyond the edge of the primary home structure (e.g., it may only run alongside the house and must terminate at the rear and front building lines).

(e) *Waterfront Deck Guardrail / Fencing and View Preservation*
1. General Safety Requirement.
Any deck, porch, or raised floor surface located more than 30 inches above the finished grade or floor

(below) shall be protected by a guardrail. Such guardrail shall not exceed the maximum height of 36 inches, measured vertically from the walking surface to the top of the rail.
2. View Preservation Waterfront Lots.
To maintain the scenic character and shared water views of neighboring residential waterfront properties, the following transparency standards shall apply to deck guardrail and fencing:
(a) Transparency Standard: Non-obscuring materials are required for all guardrails and fencing on decks elevated over 30 inches within a designated waterfront yard.
(f) *Permitted Non-Obscuring Materials:* Guardrails and fencing on decks elevated over 30 inches; owners shall utilize "non-obscuring" high-transparency materials. Approved materials include, but are not limited to:
• Tempered glass panels.
• Wrought iron or thin-profile metal balusters.
• Thin-profile cable railing systems.
(g) *Fences Construction:* Fences constructed of pallets, scrap wood, plywood, particle board, sheet metal, corrugated metal, plastic sheeting, tarps, fabric, construction debris, tires, or similar salvaged materials are prohibited. All fences shall be constructed of materials specifically manufactured or commonly recognized for fencing purposes and shall be maintained in good repair.
(h) *Prohibited types of fences.* No fences shall contain electric current, an electric charge or barbs.
(i) *AG districts.* Electric or barbed fences shall be permitted, except where an AG district abuts an R-1, R-2, RN and RNF residential district.
(j) *Electrical substations and gas regulator stations.* Electrical substations and/or gas regulator stations shall be provided with an enclosing fence or wall at least six feet high and adequate to obstruct the view and passage of persons or materials.
(k) *Zoning permit.* No person shall erect, install, construct, or relocate any fence upon any parcel without obtaining a Zoning Permit from the Zoning Administrator. The permit application shall be accompanied by a site plan depicting the location, height and type of fencing material to be used.
(l) *Maintenance and Repair Exemptions.* A Zoning Permit is not required for the routine maintenance or repair of a legally established fence, provided that such work is confined to the existing fence line and the original footprint. Any deviation from the established location or extent of the fence shall be considered new construction and require a permit.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE: that Section 42-153 (c) (15) Ordinance Amendment will be effective on the 9th day after the publication date. A copy of the full ordinance may be inspected and obtained at Leoni Township Office of the Clerk, at 913 Fifth Street, Michigan Center, MI 49254.

Cindy Norris
LEONI TOWNSHIP CLERK

NAPOLEON TOWNSHIP

Notice of First Public Hearing on the Special Assessment Roll for Lakeview Ave
Napoleon Township, Jackson County, Michigan

4X2

TO THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF NAPOLEON TOWNSHIP, JACKSON COUNTY, MICHIGAN, OWNERS OF LAND WITHIN THE LAKEVIEW AVE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSON:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that as a result of the petition of property owners within the township signed by the record owners of land whose road frontage constitutes more than 50 percent of the total road frontage of the hereinafter described Lakeview Ave Special Assessment District (the Special Assessment District), the Township Board of Napoleon Township has determined to make certain public improvements consisting of road improvements on that portion of Lakeview Avenue which is within Napoleon Township (The Improvements) and to create a special assessment for the recovery of the cost thereof by special assessment against the properties benefited therein.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the assessing officer has further reported that the assessment roll sets forth the relative portion of the cost of said improvement which is to be levied in the form of a special assessment against each benefit lot and parcel of land in the Special Assessment District.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Special Assessment District within which the foregoing Improvements are proposed to be assessed is more particularly described as follows:

126-15-19-378-001-08	124-15-19-376-001-00	124-15-19-376-014-00
124-15-19-351-003-01	124-15-19-376-002-00	124-15-19-376-015-01
124-15-19-351-003-02	124-15-19-376-003-00	126-15-19-378-001-03
124-15-19-351-002-02	124-15-19-376-004-01	126-15-19-378-001-05
124-15-19-351-002-04	124-15-19-377-001-01	124-15-19-377-002-01
124-15-19-351-004-00	124-15-19-376-005-00	124-15-19-377-002-02
124-15-19-351-005-01	124-15-19-376-006-00	124-15-19-377-003-00
124-15-19-351-006-00	124-15-19-376-007-01	125-15-19-355-001-01
124-15-19-351-007-00	124-15-19-376-008-02	125-15-19-355-001-02
124-15-19-351-008-02	124-15-19-376-009-00	126-15-19-354-002-00
124-15-19-351-008-01	124-15-19-376-010-00	126-15-19-354-001-00
124-15-19-353-001-01	124-15-19-376-011-00	126-15-19-355-003-00
124-15-19-351-009-00	124-15-19-376-012-00	126-15-19-355-004-00
124-15-19-353-003-00	124-15-19-376-013-00	126-15-19-355-005-00

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the township board has received plans showing the improvements and an estimate of the costs and has placed them on file with the township clerk from the date of this notice through the date of the public hearing and may be examined at such public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a public hearing on the petitions, plans, Special Assessment District, and estimate of costs will be held at the Napoleon Township Hall, 6755 Brooklyn Road, Napoleon, Michigan, commencing at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2026.

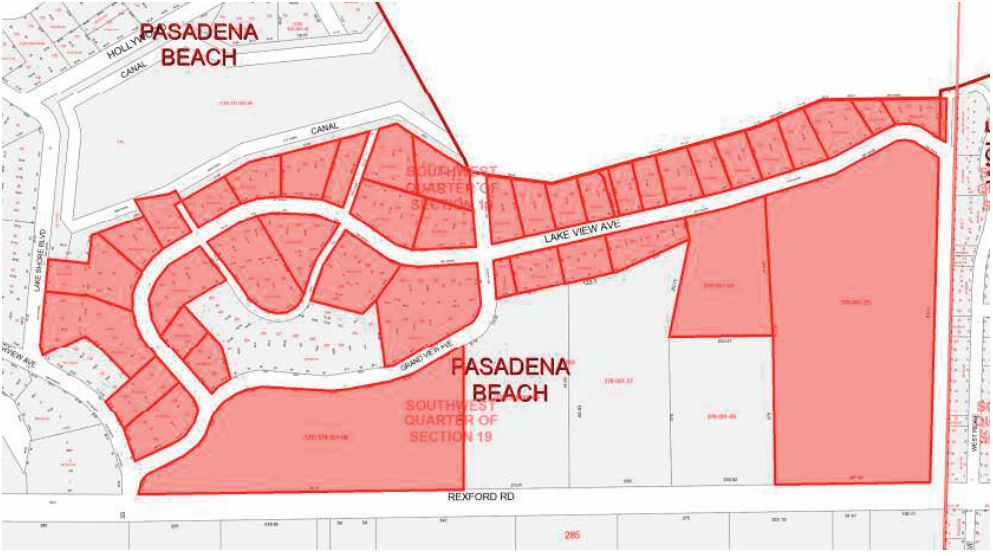
PROPERTY SHALL NOT BE ADDED TO THE PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT AND THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE OF COST SHALL NOT BE INCREASED BY MORE THAN 10 PERCENT WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Periodic re-determinations of the costs of the improvement may be necessary, without a change in the Special Assessment District, and in that event, such re-determinations may be made by the township board without further notice to record owners or parties in interest in the lands in the Special Assessment District, in accordance with the provisions of Public Act 188 of 1954.

At the hearing, the township board will consider any written objections to any of the foregoing matters filed with the board on or before the hearing as well as revisions, corrections, amendments, or changes to the plans, estimates, and cost of the Special Assessment District.

All interested persons are invited to be present at the hearing and to submit any comments they may have.

Napoleon Township
Traci Spring, Clerk
6755 Brooklyn Road
Post Office Box 385
Napoleon, MI 49261
(517) 536-8694



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160 S. Main St.

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Outdoor Living

Invasive species: A few things to know

Officials are asking residents to keep an eye out in order to help manage these destructive invasive species



The spotted lanternfly, left, the hemlock woolly adelgid, center, and beech leaf disease (right) all threaten area trees. Residents are being asked to become familiar with each invasive and report any findings to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Photos courtesy Michigan Department of Natural Resources.



It was recently reported that an invasive weed, Mile-a-minute weed, was discovered in Jackson County and that it has vines that can grow up to six inches per day, or 25 feet in six to eight weeks! Predictably, it can quickly choke out many native plants, and that is a problem. This not only hurts the environment, but can be financially harmful as well.

Yet, there are other invasive plant species that were introduced by people that can not only compete with native species but can cause significant harm when coming in contact with them. I am talking about wild parsnip and giant hogweed.

Wild parsnip, which is native and found in Europe and Western Asia, was first introduced into Virginia by early English and French colonists as early as 1609 as an edible root vegetable. Its tap root was valued as a food crop rich in vitamins and nutrients. After a while, the wild parsnip

spread, as seeds were blown by the wind, and by 1838 it was discovered in Michigan. Wild parsnip can grow up to five feet tall and has hollow, grooved stems. It has flat-topped clusters of small leaves with sharply toothed, mitten-shaped leaflets.

Food was important, especially for the early colonists, and many felt at the time it was a good idea to eat it. Unfortunately, there is a problem with wild parsnip: if you break a stem or leaf and its sap gets on your skin, it can cause burns when exposed to sunlight by creating what is known as phytophotodermatitis. These painful blisters can cause your skin to be sensitive to light for months and, in some cases, up to two years! If exposed, you should immediately wash with soap and water and wash any clothes as well.

To get rid of wild parsnip, wear heavy, protective clothing, waterproof gloves, long sleeves, and pants to prevent

exposure to the skin. You can treat it with 2 4-D glyphosate or clopyralid early in the spring. Do NOT use a weed-whacker, as this could fling the sap onto your skin or eyes. The plant can be dug out about two inches below the taproot. Place the seeds in a clear plastic bag and let it sit out in the sun for at least a week to kill the seeds. Never burn it, as that can get into your eyes and lungs.

Giant hogweed is another plant found in parts of Europe and Eurasia. It was brought to parts of Ontario, Canada, in the early 1900s to serve as an ornamental garden showpiece. People thought it looked pretty! Eventually, the seeds escaped these gardens by floating in streams or hitchhiking on farm equipment.

Giant hogweed was first discovered in Michigan in 1991 in Ingham County, and has since spread to many neighboring counties, including Jackson County. It's called giant hogweed because it can grow up to 20 feet tall! It has white umbrella-shaped flowers that are more than two feet wide. Its stems can be up to 15 feet long and are green with purple splotches and visible white, coarse hairs.

While pretty, the entire plant is toxic: the stems, leaves, roots, flowers, and seeds. If you are exposed, wash immediately with soap and water and keep out of sunlight for at least 48 hours to stop its phototoxic reaction. Do not pop the blisters; rather, use topical steroid cream or seek medical attention if a rash pops up.

To eliminate the giant hogweed, apply glyphosate herbicide in the spring to kill it. Wear protective clothing and safety glasses. If it gets into your eyes, it can cause temporary or even permanent blindness. Dig out the root and place the plant and root in biodegradable bags, especially the seeds. Wash clothes afterwards as well. Again, never burn it, or you could damage your lungs and potentially go into anaphylactic shock if you breathe in the smoke.

By the way, a couple of years ago, a nice lady in Clarklake had a giant hogweed plant in her yard that caused nasty rashes on her arms. Unfortunately, these invasive plants are here, but with a little knowledge, we can avoid a painful experience. The lesson from all this, of course, is we should not import non-native plants!



A giant hogweed, which can cause blindness. Photo courtesy Lucas Kendall.



Broad flat-topped umbels 2-6 inches wide with clusters of small 5-petaled yellow flowers from wild parsnip. Blooms June to late August. Courtesy Minnesota department of Agriculture.

A killer of trees: The Asian longhorned beetle

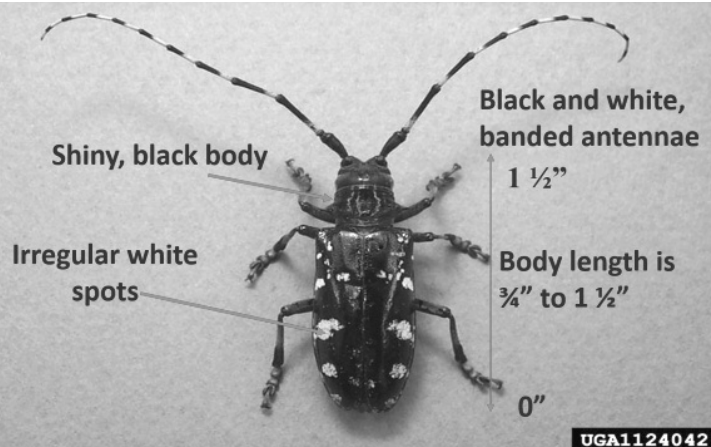


Photo courtesy of USDA APHIS PPQ

From staff reports

Michigan’s Invasive Species Program and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service are asking the public to look for and report signs of the invasive Asian longhorned beetle.

Each year, APHIS declares August as Tree Check Month

because this is the most likely time to see the beetle and the damage it causes to trees. Though beetle sightings are less common, everyone can help look for signs of this destructive beetle by checking trees on their property and in their community for damage.

An adult Asian longhorned beetle crawls on a branch near

a round, dime-sized exit hole.

The Asian longhorned beetle, or ALB for short, is a non-native, wood-boring beetle considered invasive in North America because it attacks at least 12 types of hardwood trees, including maples, elms, horse chestnuts, birches and willows. There are no effective predators or diseases in North America to keep ALB populations in check.

The adult female beetle will chew a small depression in the bark to deposit each of her up to 90 eggs. Upon hatching, the larvae eat their way into the tree’s heartwood, leaving tunnels that damage the tree. The next summer, usually around August, they bore round exit holes and emerge as adults to mate and start the cycle again.

Why be concerned?

Because so many types of trees can be affected and infestation is fatal, managing the beetle means removing both

infested and at-risk trees.

What is being done?

USDA APHIS has a goal of eliminating Asian longhorned beetle from the U.S. Its ALB program has eradicated infestations in Illinois; Boston, Massachusetts; New Jersey; Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, Staten Island and Islip in New York; and a portion of East Fork State Park and Stonelick and Monroe townships in Ohio. Work continues in other infested areas of Massachusetts, New York, Ohio and South Carolina.

You can help by looking for the beetle and its damage in hardwood trees in your area.

Look for signs

The adult beetle has markings that are easy to recognize:

- A shiny, black body with white spots. Its body is about 1 to 1.5 inches long.
- Black and white antennae that are longer than its body.
- Six legs with feet that can appear bluish.

Note that the white-spotted pine sawyer, a Michigan native, is similar in appearance; however, the pine sawyer is brown to black, not shiny and has a telltale white spot between its head and the top of its wing covers.

For a comparison and more information on look-alike insects, visit Michigan.gov/ALB.

Signs that a tree might be infested include:

- Round exit holes about the diameter of a pencil found in tree trunks and branches.
- Shallow, oval or round scars in the bark, where the adult beetle chewed an egg-laying site.
- Material that looks like wood shavings lying on the ground around the tree or in the branches.
- Dead branches or limbs falling from an otherwise healthy-looking tree.

If you think you found a bee-

tle or tree damage, report it by calling the ALB hotline at 866-702-9938 or submitting an online report through the ALB webpage. Try to photograph the beetle or tree damage. If you can, capture the beetle in a durable container and freeze it. This helps preserve the insect for identification.

Don't move firewood

ALB doesn't move far on its own, but it can and has hitchhiked to new areas in untreated firewood. When traveling, leave firewood at home and purchase what you need locally or choose certified, heat-treated firewood to help prevent this destructive pest from showing up at your favorite places.

For more information about ALB, call the USDA at 866-702-9938 or visit APHIS.USDA.gov/Plant-Pests-Diseases/ALB.



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Onsted Trap Club - a success in the making

“Everywhere I go, people are excited, saying they wish we would’ve had it back in the day.”

Jared Thomson
Onsted Trap Club coach

Fall sign-up for the Onsted Trap Club is currently open but closes Sept. 7. It is open for students in sixth grade or ages 12 to 18 who have completed a hunter safety course or the U.S.A. Clay Target League safety training course.

By Michelle McLemore
Staff writer

Forty years ago, some kids knew about guns and shooting sports while others didn’t have a clue, as they had no family which would, or could, teach them. Jared Thomson, with the help of assistant coaches Shane Schmidt and Cory Bates, are changing that for students at Onsted in 2026.

Last year Thomson presented the idea of a trap club to the schoolboard, he said, and after their lawyer looked over everything, they voted it in unanimously. Their first season was in the spring of this year.

“It took off a lot bigger than we expected,” Thomson laughed. Thirty-one youths and their parents showed for the first informational meeting.

“I was not expecting that,” he admitted. “We ended up with 13 high schoolers and 10 middle schoolers. It was wild. Of those, two were middle school girls and three were high school girls. It was a heck of a turn out.”

Thomson explained further: “Probably 90% of kids had never shot a clay pigeon before this spring. They had no idea how to shoot a full-size shot gun. By the time they were done, they knew what to do. We’d call their name and they’d go do their thing.”

Fall sign-up for the club is currently open but closes Sept. 7. It is open for students in sixth grade or ages 12 to 18 who have completed a hunter safety course or the U.S.A. Clay Target League safety training course. Each student must also have their own 12 or 20 gauge shotgun to participate. Tournaments do require a specific barrel length, so new members should check with the coach for details before the first practice on Sept. 14.

Similar to other sports programs, there is a \$50 fee due the first day of practice to help cover club needs. Sponsorships also assist in covering club necessities; the club now has 17 sponsors. An additional \$40 fee must be paid to the league for clay target scoring at the time of registration online at claytargetscor-

ing.com/ams/.

“Everywhere I go, people are excited, saying they wish we would’ve had it back in the day,” Thomson shared. Due to the overwhelming support, sponsors raised about \$10,000 to pay for range time, clay pigeons, ammo, ear and eye protection, and shooting pouches to hold shells.

“This fall we are partnering with the American Legion post (Durkee-Seeger Post 550) for a 10-gun raffle,” he said. “That will set us up nicely for next spring. We’d like to have new team jerseys and some better things for the kids.”

Thomson noted his gratitude for the Lenawee Conservation League in Adrian for their willingness to provide the home practice field for the Wildcats.

So what is a practice like? Naturally, Thomson shared, “The first couple practices we cover a lot of safety aspects because that’s our number one priority. We have kids walk through each of the five stations and do a dummy round where they practice how to hold the gun. We grill them on their apparel – what is appropriate. We also work on certain positional stances and how to rotate through lines – all this for the first few weeks.”

The coaches also break down the guns to show the differences “to learn the various applications they serve and how shotgun shell variety looks.”

Thomson continued, “We did shoot, but we wanted to make sure they knew what they were doing.”

Fall season students have big shoes to step into. “I really couldn’t ask for a better group of kids, Thomson shared. “The parents were also amazing bringing food every week and offering more help than we could handle.”

Each practice, students shoot 50 clay pigeons in two sets of 25. They go up in a squad – shoot five sets of five – then they rotate another squad in.

Thomson said the fall season focuses on “primarily practice, trying out new guns and techniques – keeping



Coach Jared Thomson looks on from far right as members of the Onsted Wildcat Trap Club practice during the spring of 2026 in the club's inaugural season. PHOTO COURTESY ONSTED TRAP CLUB PARENTS

them shooting for the spring league. They can still win medals and things by building scores for local competitions.”

Spring season had five weeks of competition including state and nationals. He mentioned, proudly, that one of the girl students placed second in their division at state.

One important presence and mentor from the league that Thomson noted is nearly 91-year-old Gene Merx. In addition to being in charge of the trap field, Merx supplied a lot of hotdogs and chips for the students. But more importantly, it is the relationship-building and wisdom Merx shared with students of all ages.

Thomson shared, “Gene always says, ‘If you’re looking to become a professional, go somewhere else. This is about making friends, practicing safe gun skills, and having fun.’” The young coach whole heartedly agrees. “That’s what we’re about. And we all just happen to like guns. I wish I’d met him when I was a kid.”

The Wildcat practices seemed to breathe new life into the club as well, Thomson noted. “Kids help clean up afterwards, picking up shells and broken clays. Family members are going there shooting as well and helping the club – it’s full circle.”

Thomson summed up the opportunity: “This gives a different avenue for kids who don’t play sports or for something to do opposite their sport season.” Gun awareness, skill, responsibility, community, competition, and fun – sounds like a good way to spend a few hours each week.

For more information, call Coach Thomson at 231-420-6855.

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