## Napoleon homecoming



PHOTO BY JOHN HUMMER



PHOTO BY PAUL SNYDER



PHOTO BY JOHN HUMMER

**Above, left: Napoleon Homecoming Senior Court representative Haven Marker definitely hit the jackpot for "best ride" in the Homecoming Parade as she rode through the streets of Napoleon in this beautiful horse carriage. Her court partner, Carson Warner, could not be present in the carriage as he was preparing for the big game against Columbia Central. Middle: Napoleon seniors Sophia Davison and Davis Tallman were crowned Homecoming queen and king this past Friday during halftime of the Napoleon-Columbia Central football game. At right, Napoleon Homecoming Senior Court representative Lexi Beyer waves to the crowd during the Homecoming Parade with her cardboard cutout court partner Richie Crane who was prepping for the homecoming football game and could not join her in-person in the parade.**

# Meet the candidates

*Three candidates seek two board positions in Vandercook*

**Compiled by John Hummer**

*The Vandercook Lake Public Schools school board has two, six-year term board positions on the Nov. 3 ballot. There are three candidates running for the two seats. There is also one partial term position, ending 12/31/2030, for which there is only one candidate on the ballot, Amanda L. Curtis.*

### Bryen L. Clark

*Candidate did not return questionnaire or send photo.*



### Tim Keyes

**Name as it will appear on the ballot:** Tim Keyes

**Hometown (where candidate currently lives):** Vandercook Lake/Summit Twp.

**Describe your qualifications and experience for this office.**

Experience in managing large budgets and personnel across multiple industries such as retail and food manufacturing. Collaborating across different groups to improve operations, people and processes.

**Explain your reasons for running for office.**

I want to be able to give back to the community. I found myself offering feedback to the district but that was the end of my involvement. I had a great mentor that always said you get one point for talking about something and nine points for doing it.

**What are the most important challenges you wish to address, and how do you propose to address them?**

Enrollment is declining across the district, county and state. Push to be proactive about things we have no control over but affect day to day operations.

**Tell us about your family.**

Married to wife Sharon and have four children – Mykenzie, 21; Alyvia, 18; Ayden, 16; and Jacob, 12.

**What are your hobbies and/or interests in your spare time?**

Spare time consists of our kids various sporting activities, athletic boosters and yard work.



### Delinda Woods

**Name as it will appear on the ballot:** Delinda Woods

**Hometown (where candidate currently lives):** Vandercook Lake

**Describe your qualifications and experience for this office.**

I have been involved with Vandercook Lake Schools and the community for many years and have an intense desire to help students succeed. To make decisions, I am at many school and community events/activities so I can hear (and listen) to what people have to say.

During my tenure on the school board, I have taken advantage of Michigan Association of School Board classes and conferences to increase my knowledge of school issues. I currently hold a Master Board Member Award in addition to a Community Relations Specialty Award and Finance Certification Specialty Award.

**Explain your reasons for running for office.**

I believe in Vandercook Lake Public Schools and the great things we have done and will continue to do. I want to be a part of the team that helps the students we are privileged to educate become successful citizens.

**What are the most important challenges you wish to address, and how do you propose to address them?**

Budget and enrollment are some of the biggest challenges we are facing. Continuing to promote our successes with the great staff we have is a top priority. I will continue to address these things by building staff morale, student confidence, thinking outside of the box and working together as a school board.

**Tell us about your family.**

I have two children and six grandchildren; all graduates of Vandercook Lake Schools. They have all gone on to do successful things in their lives with families of their own.

**What are your hobbies and/or interests in your spare time?**

In my free time, I enjoy doing jigsaw puzzles, loving on my cats, spending time with family and friends, traveling to Disney World and going to Vandercook activities/events.

I am involved in my church and enjoy the different things offered there, including Bible Study groups, community service and fellowship.



**The cutest fox you'll ever see, Olivia McEldowney, 5, needs help from her "GG", Dawn Morse of Brooklyn, to hold up that monster of a pumpkin.** PHOTO BY JOHN HUMMER










# HOMECOMING TIME!

## Taking a look at local districts' homecoming festivities



## Vandercook Royalty

**Left: Vandercook Lake High School Homecoming Royalty include, front, from left: Mercedes Lusby, freshman; Ava Adams, sophomore; Elizabeth Bushinski, junior; and seniors Kaelyn Anderson and Kiley Hays. Back, from left: Johnny Rink, freshman; Marco Ybanez, sophomore; Carter Pardun, junior; and seniors Evin Elsass, DJ Bramlett, Zane Crum, and Michah Crenshaw. Not pictured: Secilia Combs and Madelyn Riske, both seniors. PHOTO BY JOHN HUMMER**

## Columbia parade




**The class of 2029 (!) was well-represented during the homecoming parade.**

## Addison King, Queen




**Addison High School Fall Homecoming King and Queen Michael Beard and Kylie Morris. Photo courtesy Misty Beard.**



**The Columbia Central High School flag corps was in lock step as they marched in their recent Homecoming Parade. Marching alongside them (foreground) is CCHS Band/Choir Director Anthony Stout.** PHOTO BY JOHN HUMMER




**Where is a cop when you need one? Right here! Columbia Charter Township Chief of Police Jay Niles, left, smiles along with Village of Brooklyn DPW Director Dennis Spitler. The two men coordinated shifting traffic during the Columbia homecoming parade.**

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# Meet the candidates

## *Four candidates are vying for three seats on the Onsted School District Board of Education*

**Compiled by**
**Michelle McLemore**
**Staff writer**

*The Onsted School Board has three, six-year term board positions on the Nov. 3 ballot. There are four people running for the three seats.*



**Thomas Allor Jr.**

**Name as it will appear on the ballot:** Thomas Allor Jr.

**Hometown (where candidate currently lives):** Onsted

**Describe your qualifications and experience for this office.**

My qualifications for the school board come down to a unique mix of hands-on experience: I know what happens inside a classroom, I know how to run a business, and I know how local government operates. As a retired educator, I spent over 20 years serving our schools as a math/science/business teacher, a vice principal, and a guidance counselor. This means I don't just talk about school policy from a distance – I have lived it.

I know what it looks like when a lesson plan clicks for a student, I know how hard our teachers work every single day, and I understand the practical support staff need from leadership to succeed. I also started and ran my own tutoring company, where we focused specifically on helping rural students catch up and build confidence in their schoolwork.

Beyond the classroom, I bring solid administrative skills that will help me protect your tax dollars. I currently serve as the deputy clerk for Cambridge Township. I know how public budgets work, and I understand the heavy responsibility of being accountable to the community.

Finally, my enlistment in the U.S. Navy gave me a lifelong foundation of discipline, teamwork, and personal accountability. As an exchange student to the Netherlands, and later as a volunteer coordinator for Youth for Understanding, showed me firsthand how much a child's life is enriched when they learn to appreciate different cultures and new perspectives.

**Explain your reasons for running for office.**

I love our community, and I believe that great local schools are the heartbeat of a strong town. I want to make sure Onsted Schools provides a truly excellent education that gives every single student the tools, confidence, and character they need to build a bright future.

I want to be a balanced, common-sense voice on the board that bridges the gap between the administration and the community. I want to build a culture of genuine respect where parents are treated as true partners in their child's education, where teachers feel deeply valued and supported, and where taxpayers can trust that their money is being spent wisely. I want Onsted to be a destination district – the kind of place where top-tier teachers want to work and where families are excited to send their children.

**What are the most important challenges you wish to address, and how do you propose to address them?**

Making sure every student genuinely succeeds academically, rebuilding absolute trust and transparency with our community, and making our district a place where the very best teachers want to stay and build their careers are key.

We need to identify exactly where students are struggling and step in with solid mentoring and practical support before they fall behind. At the same time, we need to keep our classrooms engaging and challenging so our high-achieving students can truly take off.

Second, we must restore total openness and transparency. Parents and voters should never feel left in the dark about what is being taught in our classrooms or how their tax dollars are being spent. I will advocate for clear, easy-to-understand communication. I want our community to know about major policy decisions, curriculum changes, and budget updates well before they are voted on. Taxpayers deserve to see that their money is going directly into the classroom to support our students and teachers, not into administrative bloat.

Finally, we have to take care of our teachers so they can take care of our kids. To keep great educators in Onsted, we need to foster an environment where they feel safe, respected, and equipped to do their jobs. When we take care of our teachers and keep our families involved, Onsted will become the premier choice for education in our region.

**Tell us about your family.**

Married to my lovely wife, Teri. (We just celebrated our 12th anniversary.) My two sisters and I are life-long educators. Janet was a special education teacher for the deaf and Micki was an elementary teacher as well as a principal. We believe strongly in giving back; it is what drove us to become educators.

**What are your hobbies and/or interests in your spare time?**

I love growing fresh vegetables and fruits. I play Bridge in Adrian/Brooklyn, often with my wife, as well as travel. We love meeting new people/cultures and we simply can't wait for the next adventure.



**Alaina Ellison**

**Name as it will appear on the ballot:** Alaina Ellison

**Hometown (where candidate currently lives):** Onsted

**Describe your qualifications and experience for this office.**

I have spent 22 years in public education as a special education teacher, assistant principal, curriculum director, middle school principal, and special education supervisor. I currently serve as a special education supervisor with the Jackson County Intermediate School District. I also served as principal of Onsted Middle School for nearly 10 years which gave me firsthand knowledge of our students, staff, families, programs and community.

I hold an education specialist degree in educational leadership, teaching certifications in learning disabilities and psychology, and administrator certifications for both building-level and central-office leadership.

Throughout my career, I have worked with budgets, curriculum, personnel, student services, school safety, special education law, labor agreements, policy implementation and family engagement. I understand the difference between the board's governance role and the superintendent's responsibility for daily operations. I would bring practical experience, careful preparation, strong policy knowledge and a willingness to ask thoughtful questions before making decisions.

**Explain your reasons for running for office.**

I am running because Onsted is more than a school district to me. I graduated from Onsted in 1998, my family's roots in the community span five generations, and I had the privilege of serving its students and families for nearly a decade as middle school principal. I believe the community deserves board members who listen, ask questions, examine the facts and explain how decisions are made. I would bring an experienced, independent and student-centered perspective to the board.

My goal is not to manage day-to-day operations or advance a personal agenda. It is to help ensure that the board governs transparently, uses public resources responsibly, holds itself and district leadership accountable, and gives the community a meaningful voice in the future of its schools.

**What are the most important challenges you wish to address, and how do you propose to address them?**

The most important challenges I see are maintaining financial stability while protecting educational quality, improving student achievement, recruiting and retaining excellent employees, and strengthening trust between the district and the community.

I would address these challenges by helping the board establish clear, measurable goals and requiring regular public reports on progress. Budget decisions should be based on multi-year projections, transparent priorities and a careful review of whether programs and expenditures are producing meaningful results for students. Academic decisions should be guided by reliable data while recognizing that students need different levels of support, intervention and enrichment.

The board should also make staff retention a priority by examining working conditions, available support, leadership practices and opportunities for professional growth. Finally, trust is built when decisions are explained, questions are welcomed, and community members have genuine opportunities to be heard. A board member cannot solve these issues alone. Progress requires the full board to work collaboratively with the superintendent while maintaining clear expectations, appropriate oversight and accountability.

**Tell us about your family.**

I am married, and my husband serves as a special education director in Lenawee County. Together, we have three sons, three adult stepchildren, and six grandchildren. Three of our grandchildren attend Onsted Community Schools. Our oldest son attends the University of Michigan, and our 10-year-old twins are in fifth grade. In 2025, we moved in with my mother so we could help care for her and maintain her home.

**What are your hobbies and/or interests in your spare time?**

I enjoy reading, traveling, crocheting (Woobles), and spending time with my family. I especially enjoy playing with my twins, attending their activities, and cheering on my oldest son at the University of Michigan. I also enjoy music, movies, Halloween, and small creative projects that give me an opportunity to slow down and recharge.



**Anthony Jewell**

**Name as it will appear on the ballot:** Anthony Jewell

**Hometown (where candidate currently lives):** Onsted

**Describe your qualifications and experience for this office.**

I've been involved in a few large projects that involved working as a team. I believe that will help me in working with the board members and keeping the school headed in a positive direction.

I have two kids in Onsted Schools and have a family business in Onsted. Making sure the school excels is a priority of mine.

**Explain your reasons for running for office.**

I decided to run for the school board after attending every meeting I could possibly make it to over the past year. I would talk with many community members and employees at the school. If they had questions or concerns, I would bring those to the meeting and try to get answers for them. I want to continue to be someone the community feels comfortable asking questions or bringing concerns to.

I graduated from Onsted in 2007, and I have two kids in the school now. I want to make sure Onsted continues to be a great place for kids to go for all types of education.

**What are the most important challenges you wish to address, and how do you propose to address them?**

Communication and transparency. I will continue to be open to questions and do everything I can to help get the information the community is looking for.

**Tell us about your family.**

I'm married and we have two kids: a 1st and 4th grader at Onsted.

**What are your hobbies and/or interests in your spare time?**

I enjoy spending time outdoors with my family and friends.

## Dave Van Brunt

*(Candidate chose not to provide photo.)*

**Name as it will appear on the ballot:** Dave Van Brunt

**Hometown (where candidate currently lives):** Onsted

**Describe your qualifications and experience for this office.**

I have served on the Onsted School Board for the past 12 years. I was born and raised in the Onsted community. Besides myself, I have had four children go through the Onsted Community Schools system. I am a lifelong farmer and have also owned and operated businesses in the Lenawee County area for 35 years now.

I understand the trials and tribulations that it takes to maintain a business through the tough times and the good times while also allowing it to grow while overcoming the natural obstacles that occur.

**Explain your reasons for running for office.**

I would like to remain on the board to see through the tough economical time that we have been encountering for the past couple of years. We have worked very hard to get the district moving in a positive direction. The district has come a long way towards that, and I want to see it through, and also make sure we do not go backwards.

**What are the most important challenges you wish to address, and how do you propose to address them?**

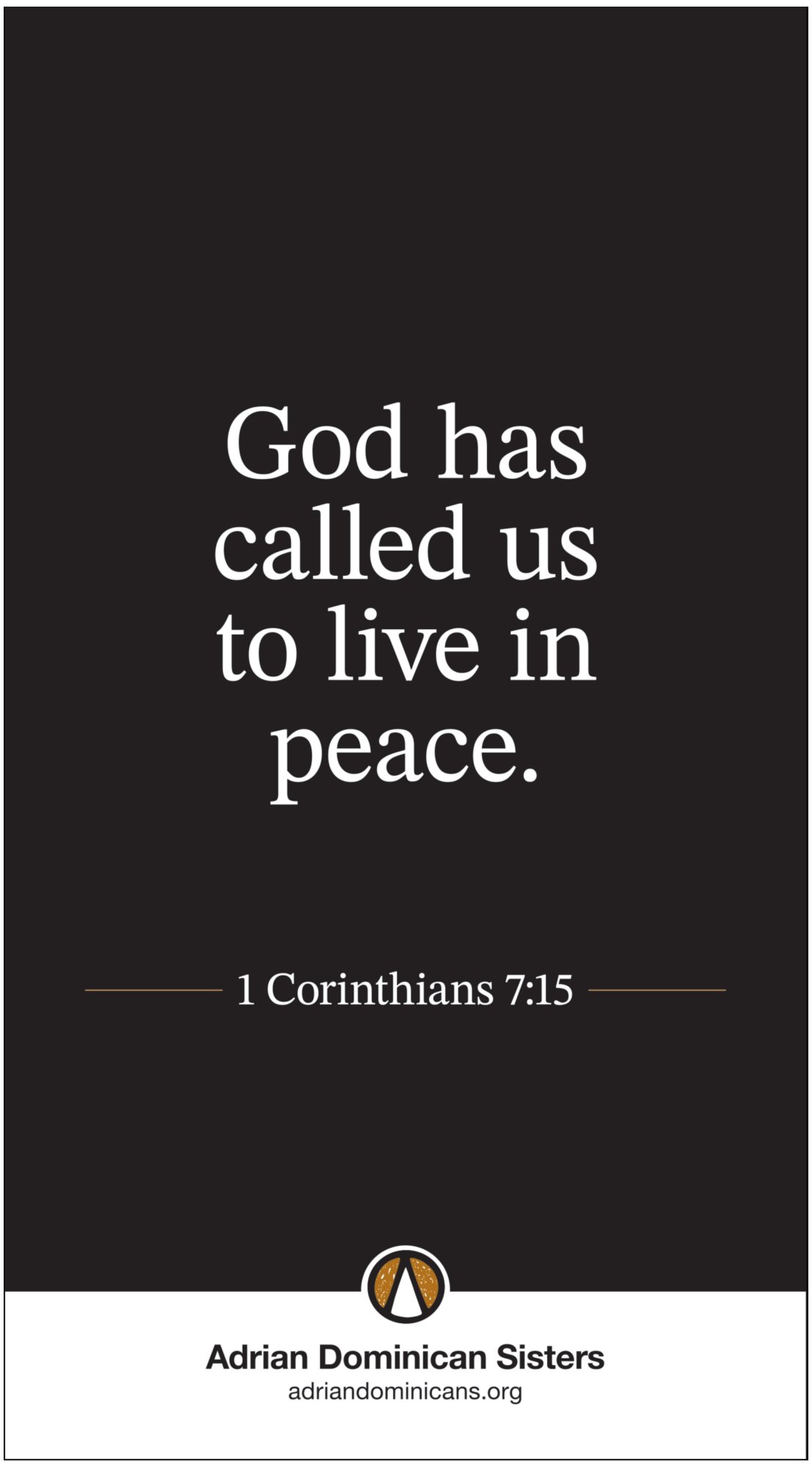
Getting our students educated in a safe environment and allowing them all the opportunities they deserve, and need, in this ever changing world. The education system continues to be outpaced by cost and social changes. The only way to address these issues is to look straight into them and take them on – not to push them to the side and hope they will get better. While doing this, we need to make sure what is best for the students and that is the only agenda we should have.

**Tell us about your family.**

I am a proud member of the Onsted community. My wife and I have raised four children here which are proud graduates of Onsted Community Schools. It is our home and always will be.

**What are your hobbies and/or interests in your spare time?**

*Candidate chose not to answer this optional question.*



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## HELP WANTED

Administrative assistant needed at local funeral home serving three locations. Looking for professional part-time administrator who has a minimum of four years of administrative experience, computer literacy is necessary, willingness to learn, be a team player, people oriented, must be able to multitask and prioritize tasks. No calls, please submit resumes to: Jeff@EinederFuneralHomes.com tf

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## SCRAP TIRE COLLECTION/FALL CLEANUP

**Scrap Tire Collection and Fall Cleanup Event**
**at Napoleon Township Hall**
**(Free of Charge to Residents)** 11

**Date: Saturday, October 17, 2026, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**
**Location: Napoleon Township Office Parking Lot**
**(6755 Brooklyn Rd, Napoleon, MI)**
**Eligible Residents: Open to residents of Napoleon, Norvell, and Grass Lake Townships.**
**Volunteers will be onsite to assist anyone needing help.**

### Scrap Tire Collection

**Courtesy of Jackson County Conservation District EGLE Grant**
**Accepted: ONLY passenger vehicle tires or smaller.**
**Not Accepted: Tires from tractors, semis, large trucks, heavy equipment**

### Fall Cleanup

**Courtesy of Josh's Dumpsters**
**Josh's Dumpsters will be onsite to dispose of miscellaneous trash:**
**Accepted: Normal household trash, furniture, appliances, electronics, metal**
**Not Accepted: Fuel, oil, paint, vehicle batteries, hazardous materials, leaves, brush, grass clippings, rocks or concrete**

## NAPOLEON TOWNSHIP

**Notice**
The Napoleon Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing November 11th, 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 ATM Sandbeach, LLC (represented by Jeff Kirkpatrick) 5486 SandBeach, Grass Lake, Mi 49201 to allow a 20X12 Pergola on lakeside of home to be added to an existing Cement Patio 32ft from the waterline. R-1 zoning requires 50 ft. All other setbacks comply.
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.**
11

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** 10
**DECEDENT'S ESTATE**
**STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT**
**COUNTY OF JACKSON**
**312 S. JACKSON ST., JACKSON MI 49201**
**(517) 788-4290**
**Hon. Jennifer M. Kelly FILE NO. 26-824-DE**

Estate of **Rhonda Marie Liles,** deceased, born 08/19/1945
**Notice to creditors:** The decedent, Rhonda Marie Liles**,** died 05/18/2026. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate, will be forever barred unless presented to Richard L. Liles, Jr., personal representative, or to both the probate court at 312 S. Jackson Street, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

**Ryan L. Phillips P73731**
**180 W. Michigan Ave., Suite 906**
**Jackson, MI 49201**
**517-796-3907**

**Richard L. Liles, Jr.**
**10591 Darrel Dr.**
**Hanover, MI 49241**
**360-972-4524**

## VILLAGE OF GRASS LAKE

**Village of Grass Lake** 11
**119 N. Lake St., Grass Lake, MI 49240**
**(517) 522-4550**
**SYNOPSIS OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

The Grass Lake Village Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 7:00 PM at the Village Hall.

Present: President David Keener, President Pro Tempore Jane Fitzgerald, Council Member Monica Stevenson, Council Member Cindy Popovitch, Council Member Jennifer Stanton, and Council Member Gina Lammers. Absent: Council Member Wes Shemwell; Staff Present: Village Manager Sabrina Edgar, Village Treasurer Julie Muszynski, Village Utility Billing Specialist Cheryl Vicory, VillageDPW Supervisor Paul Lammers, Village Clerk Jennifer Keener, and DDA Executive Director Mitzi Koors. Public: Ron Bladen & JoeDeBoe.

**Items Approved:**
1. Amended agenda for September 15, 20262.
2. Motion to approve minutes from September 1, 2026.3.
3. Motion to approve disbursements for September 15, 2026 totaling $136,492.23.4.
4. Motion to adopt the budget amendments as presented.
5. Motion to approve the CDBG Homeowner Rehabilitation Program client complaint procedure and dispute resolution policy.
6. Motion to appoint Trudi Whitley as the Interim Treasurer for the remainder of the 2027 fiscal year or the position has a viablereplacement hired.
7. Motion to resolve that the Village of Grass Lake Council recommends the application form Asher Creek LLC for a Development District Licenses to be located at 121 East Michigan Ave., be considered for approval by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission with NewClass C License issued under MCL 436.1521(a)(1)(b).

**Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.**

Prepared by Clerk Jennifer Keener.Approved by Village President David KeenerComplete Copies of the meeting minutes are available at www.villageofgrasslake.com or upon request from the Village Clerk. Office Hours are9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday – Thursday, closed between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted**
**byJennifer Keener**
**Village of Grass Lake, Clerk**

## CARS WANTED

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## HEED HELP?

**Alzheimer's Support Group meeting**- at Brooklyn Presbyterian Church every 3rd Wednesday from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. for more info call 517-999-300 4. 25tf

**JACKSON AL-ANON MEETING –** Mon. & Fri. 10:30 a.m. First Presbyterian Church, 743 W. Michigan Ave. 937-9500 for more info. tf

**IF YOU WANT TO DRINK** that's your business. If you would like to stop, please call 517-789-8883. AA Jackson area, local intergroup.tf*

**Springville Church AA –** Mondays 1 p.m. at Springville Methodist Church, Springville Hwy. & M-50.tf*

**Irish Hills AA Meeting,** 10341 Springville Hwy., Onsted on Wednesdays & Saturdays at 8 p.m.

## VILLAGE OF GRASS LAKE

**Village of Grass Lake Credit/Debit Card Policy Resolution**
**2026-10-06-1** 11

WHEREAS, Public Act 266 of 1995 authorizes a municipality to be a party to a credit card arrangement if the governing body has adopted by resolution a written policy governing the control and use of credit/debit cards, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Grass Lake Village Council deems that it is in the best interest of the Village to make certain financial transactions by using a credit/debit card as described in the Act,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following policy shall govern the use of credit/debit cards for the Village of Grass Lake:

**VILLAGE OF GRASS LAKE CREDIT/DEBIT CARD POLICY**

PURPOSE: This policy is adopted in accordance with Public Act 266 of 1995 which requires that all municipalities have a written policy authorizing the use of credit/debit cards to purchase goods and services for the official business of the municipality.
1. The Village Council shall approve all credit/debit card applications.
2. The Clerk is responsible for issuing, accounting for, monitoring and retrieving. The Village Council oversees compliance with the Village's credit/debit card policy.
3. Village credit/debit cards may be used only to conduct official business on behalf of the Village and shall be used in compliance with all other applicable purchasing policies and in compliance with budget policies by authorized personnel that include Village Officers, delegated Officials, Departmental Supervisors or employees for the purchase of goods or services for official business of the Village.
4. Those who use a credit/debit card shall submit to the Village Clerk and Village Treasurer documentation, i.e. receipts detailing the goods or services purchased denoting the cost thereof, the date of . ~ purchase and the official business for which it was purchased. This documentation shall be approved and submitted within ten (10) business days.
5. The individual using the credit/debit card is responsible for its protection and custody and shall immediately notify the Village Clerk & Village Manager if the card is lost, stolen. The notification may take place verbally, by phone text, email or written fonnat.
6. When not in use, credit/debit cards shall be secured in the Village Clerks/Treasurer's office and removal of a card from the safe must be logged on the centralized credit card VOID provided by the Village Manager or Village Clerk.Village credit cards must be logged upon their return with expense receipts for any expenditures made as defined in step 4.
7. Any official or employee issued a card shall return the card upon the termination of their employment or service to the Village Manager or Village Clerk.
8. The Village Manager or Village Clerk shall maintain a list of credit cards owned by the Village of Grass Lake.
9. Any balance including interest due on an extension of credit under the credit/debit card arrangement shall be paid for within 60 days of the initial statement date.
10. Generally accepted internal accounting controls and the Clerk's department payment procedures will be utilized to allocate expenses to the appropriate cost centers and funds and to monitor the usage of credit/debit cards.

The Village Manager & Staff are responsible for ensuring adherence to this policy, with oversight by the Financial Committee and the Village Council.

I hereby certify that the following resolution was adopted by the Village Council of the Village of Grass Lake at a regular meeting held on 10/06/2026.
Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Absent: 1
Resolution No. 2026-10-06-1 DECLARED ADOPTED.

**David Keener**
**President**
**Village of Grass Lake**

## WOODSTOCK TOWNSHIP

**Zoning Board of Appeals, Public Hearing** 11
**Date Posted 10/8/26**

Woodstock Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a 7pm Hearing on Tuesday, Nov. 10th, 2026 at 6486 Devils Lake Hwy.
Purpose of the Hearing is to review Application for Appeal at 7570 Reger Ave WD0-655-0010-00. House addition. Requesting a 1.5 ft. Variance on the side setback

Michael Holmes- ZBA Chair for this Hearing

Copies of documents are available for review at 6486 Devils Lake Hwy.
Any written comments relating to these meetings can be forwarded to:
**Woodstock Township**
**Attn. Zoning Board of Appeals**
**6486 Devils Lake Hwy Addison, MI 49220**
**Or emailed to woodstocktownshipzoning@gmail.com**

**Matthew SeGraves,**
**Zoning-Ordinance Administrator**

## COLUMBIA CHARTER TOWNSHIP

**SYNOPSIS** 11
**COLUMBIA CHARTER TOWNSHIP**
**September 21, 2026**

The regular meeting of September 21, 2026, Supervisor Marsh called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the pledge to the flag and invocation. Members present: Beamish, Tackett, Hulburt, Calhoun, Church, Deland, Marsh. There was public comment from Zack Kanaan Sr. There was motion and support to amend the agenda. There was motion and support to approve the agenda as amended. There was motion and support to approve the consent agenda. There was motion and support to approve the accounts payable in the amount of $458,338.35. There was discussion on fund balance policy amendments and citizen guidelines for special assessment districts. There was motion and support and a roll call vote to approve the Data center temporary moratorium. There was motion and support to approve the wet well re-lining recommendation. There was motion and support and a roll call vote to approve the Resolution No. 1 Clarklake paving special assessment district. There was motion and support and a roll call vote to approve the resolution to amend Holiday 2 special assessments. There was motion and support to approve the Safe Routes to School maintenance agreement. There was motion and support to approve the site plan and special land use for the HOTL Church parking lot project. There was motion and support and a roll call vote to enter closed session. There was motion and support and a roll call vote to come out of closed session. There was final Board comment from Treasurer Calhoun. There was motion and support to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**
**Cathy Hulburt, Township Clerk**

## NAPOLEON TOWNSHIP

**Notice of Fall Cleanup, Napoleon Township Oak Grove Cemetery**

The week of October 26th Napoleon Township will be doing fall cleanup at Oak Grove Cemetery. If you wish to keep any decorations that are on a grave site, please have them removed by Sunday, October 25. All broken items, including urns, flower pots, figurines, and lawn ornaments will be discarded. All faded plastic flowers will be discarded and unplanted urns will be cleaned out. Please do not put new decorations or wreaths out until Sunday, November 1. Questions? Call the township office at 517-536-8694 or see the cemetery ordinance at napoleontownship.us.

**Traci Spring,**
**Clerk**
11

## LAND AUCTIONS




10,11,12

## LEONI TOWNSHIP

**NOT I CE** 11

The Leoni Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing, Wednesday, November 4, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. in the Leoni Township Meeting Hall, 913 Fifth St., Michigan Center, Michigan, 49254.

**000-14-06-151-001-01**
**975 S. Dettman**
**Mouhammed El-Khatib Conditional Use**

Purpose of hearing: Conditional Use

Legal Description: BEG AT W 1/4 POST OF SEC 6 TH N 803.25 FT TO A PT FOR PL OF BEG OF THIS DESCN TH CONTINUING N 348.21 FT TO THE S LN OF N 74A OF NWFRL 1/4OF SD SEC TH S 89DEG 57'40"E 1981.43 FT TO A PT 264 FT W OF N&S 1/4 LN TH S 01DEG 11'30"E 677.84 FT TO N LN OF S 25A OF SD NWFRL 1/4 TH N 89DEG 47'30"W 1753.54 FT TH N 176.48 FT TH N 89DEG 02'45"E 54.29 FT TH N 152 FT TH S 89DEG 02'45"W 296.32 FT TO BEG. SEC 6 T3S R1E 28A

**Cindy Norris,**
**Clerk**

## VILLAGE OF CEMENT CITY

**Notice of Public Hearing**
**A Special Public Hearing will be held to discuss the approval of the resolution vacating the alleys located between lots, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159 and 170 in the Village of Cement City.**

**Citizens are invited to attend.**
10 **October 23, 2026 - 7:00 p.m. - Village Hall**

GRAPHICS Exponent 160 S. Main St.
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# PUZZLE TIME!

## Universal Crossword

*Edited by David Steinberg October 11, 2026*

**ACROSS**
**1** Real pickle
**5** "Frozen" reindeer who "speaks" through Kristoff
**9** Stock market debut
**12** Lightweight fabric
**13** Informal "Arrivederci!"
**14** Spinning toy
**15** Subway workers
**18** Unburdens
**19** "Woohoo ___ bamboo" (message on some Southwest Airlines in-flight cups)
**20** Leave alone
**21** Home for Babe or Wilbur
**22** Blast ___ the past
**24** Bit inside a pumpkin
**25** Not at all balanced
**29** Disneyland's ___ Street, U.S.A.
**31** "The Sound of Music" characters
**32** "Sorta"
**33** Purple yam
**34** Considerably
**39** Cash-only bar convenience
**40** National Back to School Mo.
**41** It might require a Band-Aid
**42** Our sun is one
**44** Wishes for
**47** Obligation
**49** Raylan's dad in "Justified"
**50** Sci-fi saucer
**53** Shaq's surname
**55** ___ up (absorb)
**56** Snow mover
**57** Place to sit?
**60** Golf hole number
**61** Nothing
**62** Moving giant
**63** QB's successes
**64** "I love ___ for you"
**65** Short golf stroke

**DOWN**
**1** "Behave"
**2** Concludes
**3** Make a scrunchie, maybe
**4** Tests for ripeness, say
**5** Thought experiment in which thinking outside the box isn't helpful?
**6** By means of
**7** ___ Grey tea
**8** Minutes, perhaps
**9** "What a perfect day"
**10** Food that might be THC-infused
**11** Photo ___ (media events)
**12** Milk, in French
**15** They might observe a ditch day: Abbr.
**16** Former Missouri representative Bush
**17** Couple
**23** Flat-topped hill
**26** U-turn from SSW
**27** Ballpark fig.
**28** Package delivery company
**30** Once known as
**31** "Decent try!"
**34** The first word of 34-Across, in Spanish
**35** Possessed
**36** Vibe
**37** iPhone platform
**38** Number of players in Sky Team or 7 Wonders Duel
**43** Felt regret about
**45** Spiky succulent
**46** Cleans, as a spill
**48** "Little ___ Nick" (Christmas song)
**51** Play a trick on
**52** "The ___ Who Was Afraid of the Dark" (kids' book about a nocturnal bird)
**54** One of Rachel's sisters in "The Poisonwood Bible"
**56** Baby ___ (fashion brand whose name is a pun)
**57** Choose
**58** It doesn't stand for "no dishing allowed"
**59** "Wicked: For Good" director Jon M. ___

### PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | T | A | R | E | S | ■ | O | W | E | ■ | N | E | S | T |
| P | O | W | E | R | L | I | N | E | S | ■ | A | X | I | S |
| I | I | M | A | G | I | N | E | S | O | ■ | S | O | D | A |
| E | T | A | L | ■ | T | E | N | T | ■ | H | A | T | E | R |
| L | Y | N | D | A | ■ | S | O | C | I | A | L | I | Q | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | E | M | T | ■ | T | O | S | S | ■ | C | U | P |
| W | A | S | A | B | I | P | E | A | S | ■ | E | P | E | E |
| O | U | T | L | I | N | E | ■ | S | U | C | C | E | S | S |
| R | T | E | ■ | ■ | S | T | A | T | E | M | O | T | T | O |
| M | O | P | ■ | V | E | E | R | ■ | D | O | H | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | L | A | V | A | L | A | M | P | ■ | N | O | B | E | L |
| C | O | S | E | C | ■ | C | P | A | S | ■ | R | E | L | O |
| H | A | I | R | ■ | C | H | I | L | I | C | R | I | S | P |
| A | N | D | S | ■ | L | E | T | S | B | O | O | G | I | E |
| I | S | E | E | ■ | E | R | S | ■ | S | P | R | E | E | S |

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## Doug's Sudoku

### UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

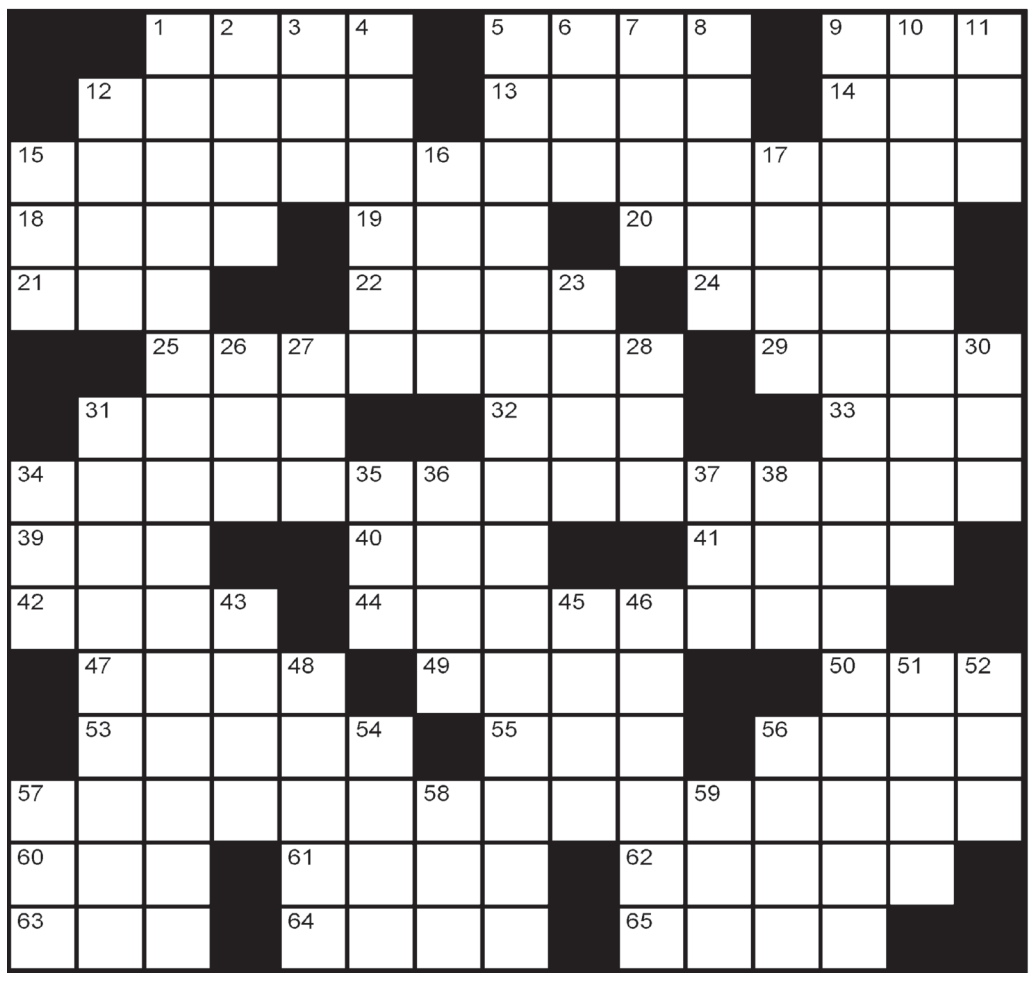
10/11

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**Today's puzzle solution**

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

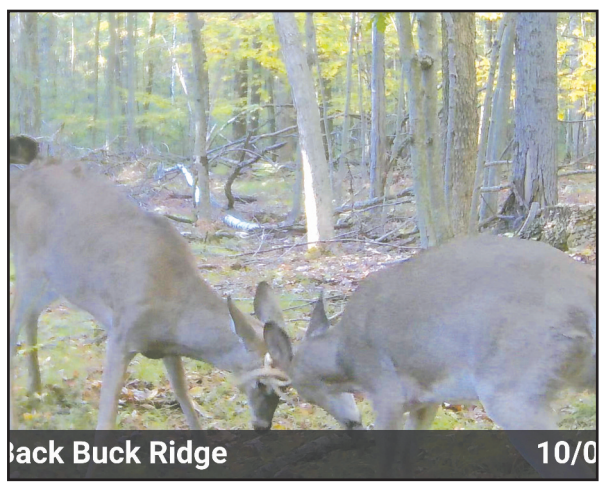
10/11 **Fall 2026 Themeless Week, Puzzle 7** *by Amie Walker*



# Outdoor Living




## Let the rut begin!




**These two young bucks were caught sparring with one another on my trail camera.**

It's now officially autumn; the leaves are turning those crimson red and bright yellow. The days are getting shorter and the air is often cool and crisp with low humidity. I love it!

If you are a hunter, especially a deer hunter, you are excited about the fact that deer archery or bow season has begun. One of the things that makes hunting extra special in the early part of the season is when the bucks experience a phenomenon that occurs this time of the year known as the pre-rut.

So what exactly is this "pre-rut" anyway? During the summer months, bucks will form male groups where they will often hang out together. When fall arrives and the days are shorter, there is less sunlight, which triggers a surge in testosterone in the male deer or bucks. During this time the bucks start to spar with one another. This is usually low intensity, often playful fighting where the bucks test each other's strength, establish dominance and hierarchy before the actual breeding season takes place. It also helps to build up strength in their necks and shoulder muscles.

Deer hunters have learned to take advantage of this pre-rut by utilizing what is known as "rattling." This is where a hunter may take a pair of antlers and rack them together several times to create a sound similar to when two bucks are sparring. This is one of the best times of the year for rattling because this sound can call in a curious or even territorial buck. Most hunters use antlers from a smaller buck such as a four point buck that they acquired from previous hunts. Incidentally, you can buy artificial planks that sound very similar to the sound of two antler racks clashing together, but I personally have always used old antlers myself. It does work! Several years ago I brought in two different bucks by rattling.

It happened around 9 a.m. one cool morning while deer hunting, and I hadn't seen hide nor hair of a deer that morning. I was sitting motionless for more than two hours when I started to rattle. At first I didn't see anything, but all of a sudden I heard the sound of a twig snapping directly behind my ladder stand. Then something startled me: a loud, clanking sound that came from directly behind me. I slowly turned around, and right below me about 10 yards from my ladder stand were two bucks fighting! I watched them for what seemed like minutes but it was only seconds, and I sat there with my jaw wide open just watching them with astonishment until I snapped out of it and thought to myself "Hey, I am supposed to be shooting one of them!"

One buck was a five point and the other buck was a six pointer. I spun around nice and easy and started to raise my bow to shoot when as if on que they both stopped fighting and looked straight up at me. I froze! I could hear my heart pounding, and I started to shake like a leaf on a tree. I waited for what seemed like an eternity for them to look away.

They suddenly broke off the fight, and I raised my bow and let loose an arrow towards the six points' heart. I hit it a little high, waited 30 minutes before tracking it and after an exhaustive four-hour search, I finally found my buck. It had circled back and we initially walked right by it before one of the guys found it. Yep, that was exciting, and I will never forget it.

What's even more exciting is when the full rut hits and the bucks are chasing the does everywhere and around the clock. During this time a buck will hardly eat or sleep and can lose up to 40 pounds of muscle in pursuit of mating with a doe.

But that's nature — and it's a heck of a way to lose weight!

## Teaching the next generation



**Wonder-garten leader Sarah Cripe reads a story about water to an attentive group Wednesday, October 14.**

**"When children are able to observe changes in nature and thrive outside at all times of the year, they grow more capable of handling other adversity that comes their way."**

**Sarah Cripe**
**Designer and leader of Wonder-garten**



**Everett Stebbins of Brooklyn carefully pours water from a bowl with mom Laura's reinforcement.**



**Above: Daisy Bearman of Brooklyn focuses on funneling water from one container to another. Below, Sarah Cripe combines her love of nature with her love of children.**



# Gone huckleberrying!

## *'Wonder-garten' teaches children in - and about - nature*

**Story & Photos by Michelle McLemore**

Henry David Thoreau, mostly known as a writer, naturalist, and philosopher, also taught school briefly. His preferred educational format was to take his students huckleberrying. As they walked and gathered berries, curiosity prompted questions which lead the teaching of the day. Sarah Cripe, designer and leader of Wonder-garten, a program being held at Divine Pine in Brooklyn, leads youth experiences based on similar principles.

A group of children 18 months to 8 years of age meet one day a week for play-based learning from 10 a.m. to noon. Cripe explained, "Our theme this season is 'Focus' and we tap into the benefits of outdoor learning to both stimulate and calm the senses (which is ideal for focusing)."

"At the start of a session the group discovers an envelope with an invitation to explore an aspect that nurtures the course theme. Together they wonder about how they could explore the prompt in play. Then, with the prompt, they go off to build skills to nurture resilience, relationships, and a deeper love for nature," Cripes noted. "Each child can take that invitational play prompt to do many different things with it."

The prompt for Wednesday, October 7, was water. Children individually, and at times with others, explored the sensory attributes of water by carefully pouring it, feeling it on their skin, making nature-based soup, and exploring its potential in multiple other ways. That day there were 16 youth present: 13 enrolled and three younger siblings (18 months or younger).

Cripe shared, "This class is heavily inspired by Forest Schools in the UK. I follow the Tinkergarten curriculum founded by Meghan and Brian Fitzgerald." She noted the Fitzgeralds seek to address the drastic decline in outside exposure and its negative effects on children in modern life.

Another facet that makes this experience unique is that parents or guardians accompany their children for the duration of each class. "It provides a great setting for parents to visit with others, to get outside themselves, and to learn more about how children learn," Cripe explained. She further noted parents often reflect they benefit as much as their children.

One parent from last winter's class told Cripe they "loved painting the sky and of course we had a blast building a bridge across a ditch and rolling in the mud." Another observed, "Being outside made it feel lower stimulation than other playgroups we've done. Loved the balance of meeting for music and exploring. And the large age range is so nice."

Cripe has taught Wonder-garten courses the past 14 seasons. She had eight seasons in Jackson at MaCready Nature Reserve and Watkins Lake State Park & County Preserve and six seasons in Manchester at Earthwell. She is thrilled to be hosting in the Irish Hills this year.

A few highlights from prior seasons that stand out for Cripe included when children painted with natural materials, solved problems like how to free ice worms (yarn) from frozen shapes, made shelters for animal friends, used simple machines, learned about and mimicked wildlife, and made looms with yarn and items found in nature.

Cripe has seen children "blossom…some beginning as onlookers or in parallel play and build close friendships as they gain confidence in themselves and their classroom. Beyond confidence, they build focus, empathy, executive function skills, creativity, communication, all of which contribute to joy and strength in overcoming challenges."

The long-term benefits are character strength building. Cripe noted, "When children are able to observe changes in nature and thrive outside at all times of the year, they grow more capable of handling other adversity that comes their way."

When asked about bad weather, Cripe explained, "We subscribe to the Scandinavian belief that there is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing. Most weather can be enjoyed, comfortably with the right protective gear. Breathable layers, waterproof shoes/waders. Our winter class is shorter, but movement helps to keep everyone warm and comfortable! That said, if there are dangerously low temps or lightning, excessive winds, unsafe air days: we reschedule."

Cripe is CPR and first aid certified and brings to the courses a degreed background in Early Childhood Education. That is on top of her own parenting experience of two boys, ages seven and 12, now in regular school.

Wonder-garten is a clear explanation for the parent/child experience with Cripe and it works year-round unlike "huckleberrying." Still, Cripe noted, "Thoreau understood that it's an essential and innate aspect of childhood to be curious, to want to be free, to feel the connection to the earth under their feet and all around. Children thrive in these spaces that both calm and stimulate. As modern life evolves, we become more and more disconnected from the land that sustains us. That disconnect is not only unfortunate for the future stewardship of our planet, it's detrimental to our physical and mental health."

Still, Cripe notes, "It's not too late for older kids—studies show a modest increase (15-20 minutes or more) of time spent in nature boosts mood, reduces cortisol, and lowers anxiety." For teenagers—as well as adults—those sound like definite worthwhile benefits.

Cripe takes the words of poet Nicolette Sowder to heart:

*May we raise children // who love the unloved // things-the dandelion, the worms and spiderlings…. And when they're grown // & someone has to speak for those // who have no voice // may they draw upon that // wilder bond…and be the ones.*

The six week Wonder-garten experience costs $210 with a sibling discount of $140. Cripes provides all the discovery materials but encourages guardians to bring snacks and water for the attendees. To learn more about Wonder-garten, or enroll in Cripe's winter class, contact her at (812)-322-6978.

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