TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026

VOTER GUIDE



Learn a little about local candidates inside

Homecoming time



We have recorded the sights and sounds from area homecoming celebrations - see inside

Pedestrian killed after being struck by auto on U.S. 12

WOODSTOCK TWP. — Michigan State Police troopers are investigating the death of a pedestrian who was struck by a vehicle Thursday on U.S. 12.

The collision between the vehicle and pedestrian happened at approximately 12:30 a.m. on U.S. 12 near Briggs Highway in Woodstock Township, a press release from the Michigan State Police Monroe post said. The preliminary, on-scene investigation showed the pedestrian was walking in the roadway at the time of the crash.

The pedestrian, a 50-year-old man from Addison, was pronounced deceased upon first responders' arrival, the release said. The driver of the vehicle, a 48-year-old woman from Jonesville, was not injured.

Police did not release the names of the pedestrian or driver.

U.S. 12 was shut down for several hours while troopers conducted an on-scene investigation of the crash, the release said. Alcohol is not believed to be a factor in this incident.

Troopers were assisted on scene by the Lenawee County Sheriff's Office and the Addison Fire Department.

This incident remains under investigation by the state police's Monroe post. Anyone having information about the incident is asked to contact Trooper Veronica Steinman at 734-242-3500.

Meeting planned to discuss immigration

The Jackson County Immigrant Coalition (JCIC) will host an event titled Immigration: The Changing Landscape, on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026, from 6 to 8 p.m. The free event is being held at City Center, 145 W. Cortland St. in Jackson.

The forum will examine how the immigration landscape has changed over the past year and a half and how those changes have affected Jackson County's immigrant community. The forum will bring together people from several areas of the community, including healthcare, education, immigration law, public policy, immigrant communities and advocacy.

Panelists will discuss what has changed in their fields, how those changes have affected immigrant families and communities, and what community members can do to provide meaningful support. Nonprofit executive Jacob Inosencio will serve as moderator, guiding the discussion and community Q&A.

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Pumpkin Quest



These were all the winners of the costume contests at Pumpkin Quest. Prizes went to the best overall, scariest, trendiest, cutest (the baby!), most creative, and several community favorites. PHOTO BY JOHN HUMMER

Fall fun in the village

It was another perfect Pumpkin Quest this past Saturday in Brooklyn. The weather couldn't have been better as hundreds of children and their parents and grandparents came out to take in the day's activities. The event was sponsored the Kiwanis Club of Brooklyn.

The event included many games and activities, including the annual Halloween costume parade and judging, many games and activities for kids, the popular pumpkin smash put on by Angel's Floral Creations, and of course the opportunity for all children to take home a pumpkin. The Star Theatre lobby was also open for people to get a sneak peak at work being done.

Debbie Stewart, Kiwanis Club of Brooklyn's chairperson of Pumpkin Quest, was very happy with how everything turned out. "We've had a great turnout today and it pretty much went off without a hitch," she noted. "This whole thing is all about the kids and giving back to the community. All proceeds collected today from donations for the pumpkins to the hot dogs sold go to benefit the Brooklyn Food Pantry. I want to thank everybody that participated."

Kiwanis Treasurer Mark Holbert added, "We're proud to bring all the people to downtown Brooklyn to support our local businesses."



Pumpkin Quest was about fun for kids but it served another purpose as well: collecting donations for the Brooklyn Food Pantry. This kind family helped fill the BFP box on the village boulevard. Front, from left: Madison Grundeman, 7, and Shawn Grundeman, 5. Back, from left: Stephany Grundeman (mom) and Rylie Grundeman, 12.

Columbia Charter Township

One-year moratorium in effect for data centers

Heart O' The Lakes church new parking lot approved



Columbia Township Supervisor Barry Marsh makes a point while discussing data centers.

Story, photo by John Hummer
Editor

Columbia Charter Township recently became another local unit of government to take action on data centers. Its board unanimously approved a temporary one-year moratorium at its Sept. 21 meeting which became effective Sept. 29 upon it being published in the Exponent.

The Norvell Township board also approved a resolution establishing a temporary moratorium on applications for power generation facilities at its Aug. 17 meeting.

In a memo to the township board, Brittany Stein, township planning and zoning manager, wrote, "In efforts to protect the public health, safety and general welfare of property owners and residents of the township, this will be a general/board/police power ordinance until Zoning Ordinance amendment language is considered by the township for adoption for properly setting regulations on the use of data centers in Columbia Township. The draft ordinance has been reviewed by the township zoning manager and township legal counsel."

The moratorium adopted is "on the acceptance and/or processing of any applications for a data center. The temporary moratorium is in effect for twelve (12) months following the adoption of this ordinance by the township board, or until the effective date of any amended or new township ordinances or regulations addressing data centers are effective, whichever date occurs first."

Before this moratorium expires, the township board may extend the temporary moratorium by resolution as appropriate to allow sufficient time to complete amendments or additions to its ordinances and regulations.

"We passed it at the recommendation of our zoning professional, Brittany Stein," stated Township Supervisor Barry Marsh. "We took her recommendation on being proactive rather than reactive in preparing for that type of possibility to come to Columbia Charter Township. Our goal was to make sure we addressed it in a moratorium until we have more information so that we can ensure that we protect the rights and health and safety of the community.

"That will give our zoning professional time to develop proper language and present the board with options in the future," Marsh continued. "Some of it will be based on litigation and court cases as well. We don't want to be the community that spends taxpayers' money to be involved in a case that sets precedent at a statewide level. We'd rather kind of follow the work of others so that we can be careful with our finances."

In other business, the board unanimously approved a site plan and special land use permit amendment for Heart O' The Lakes church for a new parking lot for church use to provide additional parking onsite. Both the township's zoning board of appeals and planning commission approved the request for the new 17,586 square-foot parking lot to add 54 parking spaces onsite within the front yard of the church at meetings prior to the board meeting.

The board also approved a wet well relining recommendation from township Municipal Services Director Mike Trout for township sewer lift station wet wells. In doing so, the board approved a proposal from JK of Michigan to perform the necessary work to reline the Hayes Road Lift Station in the amount of $50,900.00 plus $36,000.00 for bypass pumping for a total of $86.900, and a proposal from Advanced Rehabilitation Technologies in the amount of $66.313.00 for the work proposed for the Hewitt Road Station.

Meet the candidates

Six candidates are vying for three seats on the Napoleon Commmunity School Board of Education

Compiled by
John Hummer, editor

The Napoleon Community Schools board has three six-year term board positions on the Nov. 3 ballot. There are six candidates running for the three seats.



Nicholas Aniol

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Nicholas Aniol

Hometown (where candidate currently lives): Napoleon

Describe your qualifications and experience for this office.

Since graduating from Napoleon in 2013, I've spent nearly a decade working in public education, directly with students and their families to ensure success, safety, and engagement. I've held various responsibilities, from leading assessment initiatives and overseeing building operations to drafting emergency protocols and managing budgets. Additionally, I have earned a Master of Educational Leadership degree and served on a board representing other educators and administrators. I am confident this combination of experiences would allow me to be a unique asset to our district. I'm well-prepared to support our district in achieving strategic outcomes, serving as a steward of tax dollars, and appropriately advocating for the best interests of our students and their families.

Explain your reasons for running for office.

I cannot think of an effort more worthy of my time and energy than improving the education, experience, and opportunities available for the children in our district. I am deeply passionate about public education and the foundation it provides; I am similarly committed to this community. Napoleon is where I was raised, where I met my wife, and where I chose to return and purchase a home. My platform as a candidate is simple: student wellness improves achievement, engaged teachers are more effective, and community input builds confidence in our district. If elected, my priority is to provide a student-focused, well-rounded education that provides students with the preparation to be life-, career-, and college-ready by graduation.

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

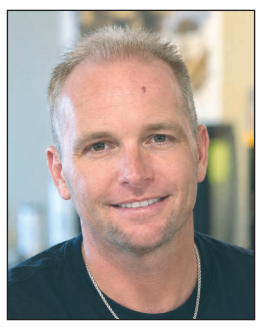
In the coming years, Napoleon Community Schools will encounter challenges that are both familiar and unforeseen. NCS will continue to address nationwide concerns on a local level: foundational academic proficiency, staff retention, and, most importantly, school and student safety. As a board member, I am confident in my ability to anticipate these challenges, critically assess options, and guide our district in identifying remedies that safeguard and improve our district. I will rely on my experience working in education, request additional data and community input, and continually evaluate the impact our schools provide.

Tell us about your family.

My wife, Madison Lane, and I were both raised in Napoleon and are proud graduates of Napoleon Community Schools. We've been together for 11 years and recently returned home to be closer to family, including my two younger siblings, Jayden and Marlena Ballnik, who also attended Napoleon.

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

I love spending time outdoors with my wife: a lake day, competing in a 50-mile bike race, or taking a grand road trip to visit our national parks, of which we've visited 33! Spoiling our five-year-old Pomeranian, Poppy, also takes up a lot of our spare time.



Tim Barker

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Tim Barker

Hometown (where candidate currently lives): Napoleon

Describe your qualifications and experience for this office.

I am a local business owner, husband, father of three boys, and an active member of the Napoleon community. Owning and operating Michigan Center Heating & Cooling has taught me the importance of fiscal responsibility, accountability, planning, problem-solving, and making difficult decisions while working within a budget.

More importantly, I am a parent with children in this district and have a direct, long-term interest in the quality and direction of Napoleon Community Schools. I believe a school board member should be willing to ask difficult questions, carefully examine how taxpayer dollars are being spent, listen to parents, teachers, staff, and community members, and make decisions based on what best serves our students.

I am not running because I believe I already have every answer. I am running because I am willing to do the work, research the issues, listen to different perspectives, ask questions, and insist on transparency before making important decisions.

Explain your reasons for running for office.

I am running because I believe Napoleon Community Schools can be stronger, more transparent, and more accountable to the community it serves.

I have found myself asking more questions about district spending, outside professional and consulting costs, academic performance, communication with parents, and how major decisions are made. Taxpayers should be able to clearly understand where their money is going and why. Parents should know their concerns are being heard, and board members should independently examine the information and recommendations brought before them.

I also believe healthy disagreement is important. A school board should not simply approve what is placed in front of it. Board members have a responsibility to ask questions, request supporting information, consider alternatives, and explain their decisions publicly.

Ultimately, my family has a significant investment in this community. I want Napoleon to be a district where families are proud to send their children to and a place where great teachers want to come, stay, and build their careers.

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

My priorities are academic achievement, fiscal accountability, transparency, teacher retention, and rebuilding trust between the district and community.

We need to objectively examine student performance to determine where we are succeeding and where improvement is needed. Decisions involving curriculum, staffing, programs, and resources should be connected to measurable student outcomes.

I also want a thorough examination of district spending, particularly administrative expenses, outside consultants, professional services, and legal expenses. We need to identify where we may be unnecessarily bleeding money and ask whether those dollars could have a greater impact elsewhere.

Fiscal responsibility isn't simply about spending less; it's about spending wisely. If we can identify unnecessary expenditures and create sustainable savings, I will advocate for reinvesting those dollars into the people who have the greatest daily impact on our students: our teachers and staff. I want us to seriously explore meaningful teacher raises and retention bonuses that reward experienced educators and help keep great teachers in Napoleon.

Transparency must also go beyond meeting minimum requirements. Important financial and academic information should be easy for taxpayers to find and understand, and board members should publicly ask questions and explain significant decisions.

Finally, I want parents, teachers, staff, and community members to know that disagreement is not disrespect. Questions should be welcomed, teachers should feel valued, information should be accessible, and decisions should be able to withstand public scrutiny.

Tell us about your family.

My wife, Kelsea, and I have three sons: Jaxon, Brock, and Barrett. Our family is very close, and much of our time revolves around our kids, their activities, and the Napoleon community. Having three young children gives me a very personal and long-term interest in the success of Napoleon Community Schools.

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

Most of my spare time is spent with my family. I enjoy coaching and playing baseball with my boys, snowboarding, bow hunting, and spending time outdoors. As a family, we enjoy traveling, Michigan summers, the Great Lakes, and simply being together as much as possible.



Kody Naylor

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Kody N. Naylor

Hometown (where candidate currently lives): Napoleon (Brooklyn address)

Describe your qualifications and experience for this office.

Napoleon has been a meaningful part of my life for many years. I am a proud graduate of Napoleon Community Schools, and I was honored to be inducted into the Napoleon Athletic Hall of Fame. My connection to Napoleon has continued throughout my adult life through coaching within the school community, and today, my children are proud Napoleon students.

Having experienced Napoleon as a student, athlete, coach, employee, and parent, I have seen our school community from many different perspectives. I understand the impact a strong school system can have on students and families because I have experienced it firsthand. I also bring previous school board experience to the position.

I had the opportunity to serve on the Manchester school board, where I gained valuable experience working with administrators, staff, families, and fellow board members on issues that directly affect students and the school community. That experience taught me the importance of listening, asking questions, working collaboratively, and making thoughtful decisions with the long-term interests of students and the district in mind.

Explain your reasons for running for office.

My commitment to serving others extends beyond our schools. In 2014, I was honored to be named Jackson County Civilian of the Year. That recognition was especially meaningful to me because it reflected the importance I place on giving back and being involved in the community I call home.

Now, with my own children attending Napoleon, I feel a strong desire to give back to the community and school district that have played such an important role in my life. I want to use the experiences I have gained as a former student, Hall of Fame athlete, coach, employee, parent, community member, and former school board member to contribute in a meaningful way. I care deeply about Napoleon Community Schools and the people who make the district special.

I believe our students deserve the opportunity to grow, participate, and succeed in a school community they are proud to call their own. It would be an honor to serve Napoleon once again, this time as a parent and community member, giving back to the school district that helped shape me.

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

One of the most important challenges I want to address is finding the right balance between running an effective, financially responsible school district and doing what is best for our students and community.

A balanced budget is essential to the long-term health of the district, but I do not believe we should make decisions simply for the purpose of building a surplus at the expense of our students. Every budgetary decision should be carefully evaluated based on how it impacts our students, staff, families, and the long-term sustainability of the district.

I want to help ensure that we are making thoughtful, responsible financial decisions while continuing to prioritize the educational opportunities and resources our students need to succeed. Ultimately, our goal should be a financially healthy district that is also providing the best possible experience and education for the students we serve.

Tell us about your family.

My wife, Tracey, and I have been married for 22 years, and together we have three daughters: a junior, a sophomore, and a seventh grader. We also have many nieces and nephews who attend school within the district. Our girls are actively involved in sports both within Napoleon and outside, giving our family a strong connection to the school district and the broader community. We are proud to be a part of the Napoleon community and have a personal investment in seeing our schools and students thrive.

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

Candidate chose not to answer this optional question.

Continued on next page

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Napoleon candidates continued from page 2



Kaitlynn Panak

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Kaitlynn Panak

Hometown (where candidate currently lives): Napoleon

Describe your qualifications and experience for this office.

I am a 2008 graduate of Napoleon Community Schools and a parent of three children currently attending the district, with one in elementary school, one in middle school, and one in high school. Professionally, I am a licensed clinical social worker with a master's degree in social work. I own a private mental health practice and teach undergraduate and graduate-level courses as an adjunct professor at Spring Arbor University. I also serve on the board of The Willow House, a local nonprofit organization.

These roles have strengthened my ability to listen, consider different perspectives, collaborate, navigate difficult conversations, and balance empathy with accountability. I would bring those skills to the board while remaining committed to learning, asking thoughtful questions, and making informed decisions based on the needs of the district as a whole.

Explain your reasons for running for office.

Napoleon is home. I was raised here, graduated from Napoleon, and am now raising my own children here. I care deeply about this community, value the education and experiences our schools provide, and believe I have something meaningful to contribute.

For me, running for the board is an opportunity to serve a community that has been an important part of my life and my family's life. I would bring my own experiences and perspective to the table while also recognizing there is much to learn from those already doing the work.

One of the values I was raised with is that when you take on a responsibility, you show up ready to contribute. Concerns and questions are an important part of good leadership, but so are ideas, collaboration, and a willingness to put in some elbow grease. That is the standard I would set for myself as a board member: listen, learn, contribute, and be willing to do the work.

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

I believe our most important challenges include maintaining academic excellence amid limited resources, supporting school safety and student well-being, valuing and retaining quality staff, and ensuring the systems we rely on are effective and sustainable.

Academic achievement should remain at the center of our work, while recognizing that students learn best when they feel safe and supported. I also believe support and accountability can coexist; we can care about individual circumstances while maintaining clear and consistent expectations.

I would approach these challenges by listening to students, families, staff, administration, and fellow board members; examining data and available resources; and asking whether our solutions are practical, measurable, and sustainable. Especially when resources are limited, we need systems that continue to function effectively rather than depending too heavily on any one individual or short-term solution.

Tell us about your family.

My husband, Zack, and I are raising our three children in the Napoleon community. With children currently in elementary, middle, and high school, our family gets to experience many different parts of the district at once. Much of our family life revolves around school activities, sports, 4-H, animals, and whatever adventure our kids have us next!

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

I enjoy reading, gardening, canning, baking sourdough, thrifting vintage decor, and spending time with family and friends. Our family is active in 4-H, so there is usually an animal – or several – requiring attention. I also love finding creative projects around our home and spending time outside whenever Michigan weather cooperates.



Tim Raftery

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Tim Raftery

Hometown (where candidate currently lives): Napoleon Township

Describe your qualifications and experience for this office.

I bring a fresh perspective informed by my MBA and private-sector background, focusing on accountability, measurable outcomes, and fiscal discipline. My wife's career as a lifelong high school teacher and coach gives me valuable, firsthand insight into the education system from a staff perspective. Additionally, as a parent of four children in our district, I am deeply invested in our community's success and committed to providing the best possible education for all students.

Explain your reasons for running for office.

I am running because I believe every student in Napoleon Community Schools deserves access to a safe, rigorous, and well-supported educational experience. My primary goal is to ensure long-term stability for our local community by fostering an environment of strong accountability, transparent communication, and continuous improvement. By prioritizing student achievement and ensuring our classrooms receive the necessary funding and resources, we can help all students reach their full potential and prepare our district for sustainable, long-term success.

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

Right now, my main focus is guiding our district through the final two years of our current strategic plan while preparing for our next steps. I want to ensure we listen closely to parents, teachers, and community members as we plan for the future. Additionally, if state funding becomes tight, I will work hard to protect our classroom resources and limit spending cuts strictly to administrative costs and outside vendor contracts so our students stay safe and supported.

Tell us about your family.

My wife, Sallie, grew up in Napoleon and graduated from Napoleon Community Schools, where she now teaches high school mathematics and coaches volleyball. After living in a few different cities following college, we chose to make Napoleon our home. We are blessed with four children, all currently attending Napoleon Community Schools, and it has been a joy watching them grow up in this district. Outside of school and community activities, we love spending vacation time with my extended family in Wisconsin and North Carolina and taking trips to the Upper Peninsula.

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

Most nights and weekends, you will find me cheering on our kids at their various school and athletic events. I enjoy staying active with basketball, volleyball, and golf. In my quiet time, you can usually find me with a good book, enjoying a movie, or spending quality time with my family. I also take great pride in giving back to higher education by currently serving as president of the Alumni Board for Trine University, my undergraduate alma mater.

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Kelly Truchan

Hometown (where candidate currently lives): Napoleon

Describe your qualifications and experience for this office.

I was raised in Napoleon and graduated as a proud pirate – along with my husband, Jay. The foundation of my education, the one that shaped my career and who I am today, began in Napoleon Schools. I am now a doctorate-prepared healthcare provider and a graduate-level professor at a university. Strong public education has been central to my entire professional path. Additionally, as a parent of a student in our school system, I'm deeply invested in the protection and future of our students.



Kelly Truchan

I am honored to be a current member of multiple district committees. My faithful attendance at school board meetings throughout the past two years reflects my deep commitment and passion for our school district. It was with the encouragement of numerous community members that I decided to step forward and run for one of the open seats on the Napoleon school board.

Explain your reasons for running for office.

My decision to run for the Napoleon Community Schools Board of Education comes from a place of deep pride, responsibility, and long-standing connection to this community. Napoleon Community Schools has helped shape my life, my career, and my values, and now my child is experiencing that same foundation. I want to help ensure that every student has access to a safe, supportive, and high-quality educational environment.

Through my committee work and regular attendance at board meetings, I've gained a clear understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our district. Over time, many community members encouraged me to step forward, recognizing my dedication and the perspective I bring as a healthcare provider, educator, and parent. Their encouragement, combined with my own commitment to serving our students and staff, led me to run for one of the open seats on the Napoleon Community Schools Board of Education.

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

One of the most important challenges facing schools today is protecting students'

Continued on next page













Communications

Public execution 'a barbaric promotion of a culture of death'

The Adrian Dominican Sisters join with other Catholic leaders, including the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in strongly opposing the sensationalistic public viewing of a firing squad execution of the man convicted of the Fort Hood, Texas, mass shooting. The horrific assault in 2009 took the lives of 13 women and men, injuring 32 others, both soldiers and civilians.

As Catholic Sisters, we reverence life and our hearts ache at the taking of any human life. We have long rejected the death penalty believing, as Pope Leo XIV recently stated, that the common good can be "safeguarded and the requirements of justice can be met without recourse to capital punishment." We see the death penalty as "an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person,"as Pope Leo states. It is the ultimate act of dehumanization.

We are horrified by the Trump Administration's recent announcement that it would carry out the execution by firing squad and open it to public viewing by livestream. While the actions of a mass murderer can never be condoned, the decision to publicly livestream the execution "is a barbaric promotion of a culture of death."

We call on the Trump Administration to retract their intention to carry out this barbaric act. We vehemently oppose the use of public media and social media to broadcast, distribute, or sensationalize the execution of any person, as LCWR states.

We join the USCCB in asserting that "The word of God exhorts us: 'do not repay anyone evil for evil' (Romans 12:17). The public execution — even of one who has done grave harm — will only further undermine the moral fabric of our nation and be a blight on the conscience of its people."

We pray the Trump Administration will see the danger and reverse its decision.

General Council
Adrian Dominican Sisters

Napoleon school candidates from page 3

health and safety, both physically and emotionally. As a healthcare provider, I see how stress, anxiety, social pressures, and health concerns directly affect a child's ability to learn. Students need environments where they feel secure, supported, and connected. I would support proven practices that strengthen mental health resources, promote early identification of concerns, and ensure students have access to trusted resources. I also believe in strong safety procedures, clear communication, and proactive prevention. My clinical background helps me understand how health issues present in children and adolescents, and I would work to ensure our district continues prioritizing student well-being in every decision.

Tell us about your family.

My family is deeply connected to Napoleon. My husband is a fellow Napoleon graduate, and our son is currently a student in the district. As a family, we are wholeheartedly committed to the well-being of our schools and the broader community we're proud to call home.

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

In my spare time, I cherish spending time with my beloved family, as they are truly the center of my life. I also enjoy reading, which has always been a source of learning, enrichment, and relaxation for me. Additionally, I am passionate about donating my time to Camp Liberty, a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity that supports veterans, first responders, and their families. Contributing to their mission is deeply meaningful to me, and it reflects my commitment to service both inside and outside our school community.

INVITATION TO BID

Invitation to bid on the Columbia School District Bid Package No. 2.

Project Description: Installation of protective foul ball netting system for five baseball/softball fields and electrical GFI dual power outlets to each dugout.

Bid Categories:
Athletic Equipment
Electrical
Bidders may bid both bid categories. Bidders may also offer a voluntary alternate to combine both bid categories.
An optional on-site Pre-Bid Meeting will be hosted on October 14th, 2026, at 1:00 PM.

Bids will be due electronically via Building Connected on October 28, 2026, at 1:00 PM.

We are using Building Connected to easily collect and manage bids. Using Building Connected is free. If you do not already have an account, all you will need to do is create a password to access this project and related documents.

Please download documents from the Project Files section and submit questions/RFIs and bids through Building Connected. Questions/RFIs pertaining to the project can easily be submitted through the Messages section.

If you have any questions on how to use Building Connected, please contact Building Connected's Support at support@buildingconnected.com.

Bid security in the form of bonds are required to be submitted with all proposals. Bid security in the form of a certified check is acceptable bid security only for proposal less than $50,000.

Prevailing Wages and reporting requirements are required for this project. The applicable prevailing wage rate information issued for this project is referenced in Section 00 3132, Information Provided to Bidders and must be considered when preparing your proposal(s). Contractors and subcontractors that employ construction mechanics must register annually with the Wage and Hour Division before bidding on or working on any State Project. Contractors and subcontractors can follow the registration instructions provided on the Michigan LEO Prevailing Wage website: (https://www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/ber/wage-and-hour/prevailing-wage).

Be prepared to provide your registration number on the bid proposal form and to the Construction Manager prior to or at the post-bid interview. Additional information is available in Section 00 2113 Instruction to Bidders.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to accept other than a low bid, and to waive informalities, irregularities and/or errors in proposals, which they feel is in their best interest.

Granger Construction Company is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. We strongly encourage all minority and women owned companies to participate and will be glad to assist this effort in any way possible. Please contact us to discuss these opportunities.

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Bidders will be able to discover this project on Bid Board and join from the Granger Construction Company Public Plan Room. On Wednesday, October 7th, 2026.

11X2

Election 2026

Onsted village council features two races

Compiled by
Michelle McLemore
Staff writer

Two races for the Village of Onsted will be on the Nov. 3 ballot. There are three candidates running for the Onsted Village Council president position, a two-year term. Two are current council trustees and one is a prior council president.

For the Onsted Village Board of Trustees At-large positions, five candidates are competing for three positions, which are four-year terms each.

One trustee position to fill a partial term ending Dec. 1, 2028, has no registered candidates to run.

Onsted Village President candidates
Name as it will appear on the ballot: Shannon Kropp

Hometown (where candidate currently lives): Onsted



Shannon Kropp

Describe your qualifications and experience for this office.

For the past 16 years, I've owned and operated a medical billing company which I started from the ground up. Every day, my team and I work to resolve any issues that arise between insurance companies, practitioners, and patients with the utmost respect and excellence, and we won't stop until the issue is resolved.

I'm not afraid of asking questions and seeking guidance. When our new village clerk and treasurer asked for assistance in their jobs, I offered the help/expertise I could, as well as making calls for them and connecting them with other local clerks/treasurers.

Prior to starting my company in 2010, I worked within the construction industry as a credit manager for two separate building material suppliers, which taught me about finance. I was a recreational league adult softball coach, a junior varsity girls' volleyball coach, swimming instructor at the YMCA, and a church youth leader. Being a coach, an instructor, and a youth leader helped me to learn leadership and teambuilding skills as well as conflict resolution.

Explain your reasons for running for office.

Onsted is a great community. I care about this village, its residents, and the businesses. I want to see them thrive now and for future generations. The decisions we are making today will affect our tomorrow. We are seeing some of the ripple effects of the decisions (or lack of decisions) made in the past. Sometimes having a fresh pair of eyes looking at things helps to bring new ideas and perspectives.

I'd rather put actions to my words than sit on the sidelines and do nothing. Our community needs someone who leads by example. I will not ask others to do something that I am not willing to do myself. When I see a problem, I look for solutions and try to get others involved in being a part of the solution rather than a part of the problem.

I will not make promises that I cannot keep. I may not have all the answers or haven't been a part of the village council for long, but in the short time I've been on the council, I've worked toward resolving conflicts within the community. People want to be heard. One of my gifts is being able to work with people of all ages.

I try to be as inclusive as possible. Not everything is suitable for everyone, but the decisions that the president (and council) are charged with making ultimately need to benefit the community as a whole.

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

The biggest challenge will be to get the council and the community to work together as a collaborative. As president, I will be one of seven council members, and we will handle each situation as it comes – one issue at a time. Most issues cannot be solved (fixed) overnight (immediately).

Communication is key. Unfortunately, we live in a world where people are more likely to turn to social media (like Facebook) to get answers and to vent frustrations. While I understand why people turn to social media, that is not always the best way of accomplishing things. I'd like to see more residents attending and participating in council meetings and becoming involved in some of the committees.

Budgeting: The cost of "everything" is increasing and funding is tight. So, stretching every dollar is essential while retaining staff, maintaining equipment, and preparing for future expenditures (repairs, replacements, upgrades, etc.).

Onsted Schools: My hope is to see the village council as well as the school board working together. Students are the future.

Tell us about your family.

The only close family I have is my mother, who lives with me.

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

Most of my time is spent running my business. But I enjoy going for long drives in the country, spending time with family and friends, and exploring new places and going on adventures. I'm a member of the Tecumseh Community Choir. I enjoy going to community events, volunteering for various events, and supporting my family, friends, and neighbors with their endeavors.

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Sam Lafata

Hometown (where candidate currently lives): Onsted

Describe your qualifications and experience for this office.

I bring extensive experience serving the Village of Onsted and a strong understanding of the responsibilities and challenges facing our community. I previously served six years as village president following eight years on the planning commission and two years as a village trustee.

During my time as village president, I worked closely with the village council, staff, residents, and surrounding municipalities. One of the largest infrastructure projects in the village's history was completed during my tenure – the new water system and water main replacement project. This required careful planning, financial oversight, cooperation, and a commitment to completing the project for our residents.

We also improved the village park with the support of local organizations and community members and brought back community events that had been discontinued, helping restore important traditions and community spirit.

Improving efficiency was another priority. Approximately 70% of the village's roads were repaved during my tenure, using primarily state funding to improve road conditions and safety.

I also worked closely with our police and fire departments, Cambridge Township, and other community partners. My planning commission experience provided valuable knowledge of development, regulations, and future planning.

My experience encompasses in-



Sam Lafata

frastructure, public safety, planning, budgeting, and daily village operations. I believe in accessibility, open communication, collaboration, and responsible decisions focused on Onsted's long-term interests.

Explain your reasons for running for office.

I am running for village president because I believe important work remains to be done for the residents of Onsted, and I want to continue the progress achieved through years of hard work and collaboration.

My priority is to ensure the village government operates efficiently, responsibly, and with careful attention to the tax dollars and fees paid by our residents. In challenging financial times, we must continually look for ways to control costs, eliminate unnecessary spending, improve efficiency, and make sound long-term decisions.

I am committed to being accessible to residents, listening to their concerns, and working collaboratively with village officials, employees, and community members. My goal is to help ensure that Onsted remains financially responsible while maintaining the services and quality of life our residents value.

I believe responsible leadership means listening, communicating openly, using resources wisely, and making decisions with both today's needs and Onsted's future in mind.

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

One of my strengths is bringing people together. I believe in building relationships, listening to different perspectives, and bringing together the knowledge, experience, and skills needed to accomplish difficult tasks.

One of my priorities is improving the efficiency of our water and sewer operations while controlling costs for residents. We should continually look for ways to operate these systems more efficiently, reduce expenses, and plan responsibly for future infrastructure needs. I believe we should begin developing a comprehensive plan for the next phase of our water improvement project, including additional water main replacements in areas experiencing ongoing infrastructure concerns.

I would work with qualified engineers, contractors, state agencies, and grant professionals to evaluate our needs, develop cost-effective projects, and pursue available funding opportunities. The village council would play an important role in establishing priorities and making informed decisions about future investments.

I also believe Onsted has opportunities for responsible growth. Exploring appropriate property and potential future housing developments could expand our tax base, provide additional housing, and strengthen the village while preserving the character of our community.

My approach is simple: bring people together, use available resources wisely, control costs, address infrastructure needs, and plan responsibly for Onsted's future.

Tell us about your family.

Candidate chose not to answer this optional question.

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

Candidate chose not to answer this optional question.



Steve Muth

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Steve Muth

Hometown (where candidate currently lives): Onsted

Describe your qualifications and experience for this office.

I am a current trustee on the village council, a current member and vice president of the Onsted Downtown Development Authority, as well a member of the Lenawee County Economic Development Corporation, Brownfield Authority, and Lenawee County Hospital Finance Authority. I also have 30 years of corporate experience and over 10 years as a sole proprietor.

As vice president of the Onsted DDA, I am assisting the president and council as they go through the

Continued on next page



Obituary



Michael Myers

Michael Lester Myers

Michael Lester Myers, 72, of Cement City, Mich., passed away on September 26, 2026. He was born on April 5, 1954, in Jackson, Mich., to Ken Myers and Wilma Myers. He married Lynda Myers (Kendall) on August 5, 1986, after a 12-year relationship. Michael worked for Xact Products, Elco Textron, and Mid America Machine, never leaving the same building. He retired at 67 years old. He loved motocross racing, farming, horse racing, hunting, fishing, golfing, and spending time with family and friends.

Michael is survived by his wife, Lynda Myers, and daughter Brenda Holt. Brothers are Dan (Joy) Myers and Dean Myers. Grandkids Paige Webb (Kyle), Zachary Nieto (Melissa), and Lucas Gomez (Olivia). Great-grandkids, Malachi, Olyvia, Connor, Lorelai, Deegan, Gwen, Ander, Macie, and Josie. He is preceded in death by Ken Myers, Wilma Sutton, and Brother Mark Myers. Celebration of Life will be held at The Fraternal Order of Eagles, Brooklyn, Mich., on October 31 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Village of Onsted candidates from page 4

grant program for the State of Michigan "Safe Routes to Schools." We aim to submit an application that could provide funding for up to $900,000 to the village in order to build or provide improvements to sidewalks, curbs and other infrastructure to the pathways to the school from the village. This would come at little cost to the village as we move forward. The DDA has just authorized the purchase of a small camera system so that we can evaluate the condition of the sewer pipe around the school as well as other areas of the village when needed. This will allow us to make better decisions so that we can evaluate the condition and status of the pipes moving forward.

Explain your reasons for running for office.

Having lived previously in Oakland, Ingham and Kalamazoo counties and outside the State for some years, when relocating back to my home state, I selected Onsted over some 30 other communities in the state of Michigan. I chose Onsted because I loved the schools and the small-town charm of this little village. I am a constant advocate for all things and activities in Onsted. I am currently going door to door to chat with residents to ask them about their concerns and thoughts about living in the village. You may see some of my signs (repurposed from my previous campaign) in the yards of some of my supporters. I love this village and am deeply committed to making this a better place to live and work for everybody.

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

I am a fiscal conservative. I am aware that the issue of cost is a concern to everyone in the village. My primary objective would be to run the village operations as efficiently as possible while providing services that add value. If elected, I will be available to the residents for their questions and suggestions on making the village a better place to live.

I am unlikely to respond to anonymous critical comments of me or the village generally. I am happy to engage in productive conversations about improving the village but it is my belief that the negative comments from anonymous sources want to damage the reputation of the village and/or others without accountability. I don't think that this is helpful to the village or anyone else. I also find that anonymous comments are often not true or hyper-exaggerations in order to harm a person's reputation.

Tell us about your family.

I have three grown children (two boys and a girl). My youngest son still lives with me. My daughter is married with a baby girl in Adrian. My other son lives in Grand Rapids. All three attended Onsted Schools.

I am divorced (horrible experience) but am currently engaged to a wonderful woman and am excited to be married within a year.

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

I am 64 years old and in excellent health. In my spare time (I don't have much), I try to garden and work on the yard. I play golf but haven't been able to find time this year unfortunately. I also volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. I substitute teach at Onsted Schools as needed and am a tour guide in Southeast Michigan. Additionally, I served as a board member and vice president of the Friends of Cambridge Junction Walker Tavern State Historic Park. You may see me running through the village as I usually run 5K every day through the park and back to my house.

Onsted village trustee candidates

There are five candidates vying for three positions. One candidate, Charles Hunt, did not return his questionnaire or send a photo to the Exponent.

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Jay A. Best
Candidate chose not to provide photo.

Hometown (where candidate currently lives): Onsted

Describe your qualifications and experience for this office.

I have served on the Onsted council before and want to bring my experience back to the council since we are replacing five members. Also, I have 30 years of experience in public works and in municipal operations, 20 plus years in Onsted, and almost 10 years in Hudson, Mich.

Explain your reasons for running for office.

We are replacing a large number of council members and want to help the community bring some experience to the table. I want to help, if I can and, if elected, will do all I can to improve our community.

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

I believe we have a great foundation in the village and limited funds; we tend to get overwhelmed with the number of challenges on the council. I personally would like to create a "hit list" so to speak and focus on resolving the items on the list. As we do, then drop it off the list and add the next item.

Also, agenda items for the council need to have a detailed description of the item, and the reason for the item to be discussed so the council can do its due diligence to research the item and be fully informed before the meeting to make an educated decision with more information.

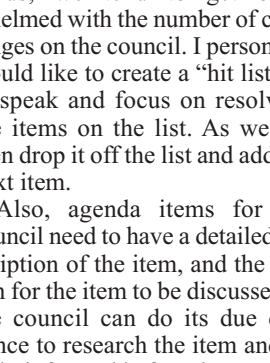
Also, we need to reach out and engage the businesses and the residents with input on direction. We work for them and having their input is vital to making informed decisions for the direction of the village.

Tell us about your family.

My wife and I just celebrated 32 years of marriage. I have one daughter, Mikaila; a son-in-law, Thomas, and two grandchildren: TJ who is five and a new granddaughter, Juliette, who is four weeks old. I also have two four-legged family members: Larry, our French bulldog, and Charley, our 8-month-old black lab.

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

I am building a 1975 Ford truck. I enjoy working in the yard, and we spend time camping in the summer. I used to be an avid bow hunter and love the outdoors. I enjoy helping people and have always tried to pay it forward through helping neighbors.


Jenette Kruger

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Jennette Kruger
Candidate chose not to provide photo.

Hometown (where candidate currently lives): Onsted

Describe your qualifications and experience for this office.

I've never sat on council before but have been involved with council meetings for the past three years. I want to be a voice for the businesses and the residences to help to improve our village with communication and forward thinking.

After graduating from high school I went to barber college; a year later, I passed the state board for barbering and received my barber license. I've been barbering now for 40 years; these last ten years I've been here in this community of Onsted running a business, South Main Street Barber Shop, formally Bush Wackers Barber Shop. I love the small community.

Explain your reasons for running for office.

Being self-employed most of my adult life and the last 10 years running a business in the village, I want to work to bring positive changes to the village.

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

I feel we need to work with the businesses and residences to bring feedback to the council so we can make better informed decisions to better the village. Thank you! I hope I have your vote.

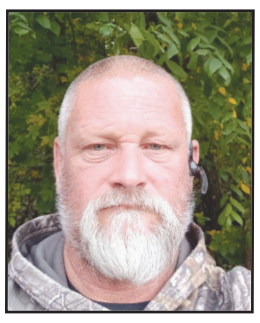
Tell us about your family.
Candidate chose not to answer this optional question.

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

In my spare time I like working on crafts and sometimes I try to go to craft shows to sell them.

When I'm not working on them, I'm out walking my dog (Lily). She's been my rescue for almost three years. She comes to work with me every day and everybody is so wonderful and kind to her. Some bring in treats for her.

I also enjoy spending time with family, hunting, fishing, golfing, riding my motorcycle and helping in the community.


Mike Robotham

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Mike Robotham

Hometown (where candidate currently lives): Onsted

Describe your qualifications and experience for this office.

I am finishing a four-year term as a trustee on the village council where I learned a lot. I understand the details involved in the business. I'm a go-getter. As a trustee, I picked up things when responsibilities got dumped in my lap. I have served on the infrastructure, personnel, and hiring committees. I try to make all the meetings unless something unusual comes up.

I am dedicated and reliable. I have been a milk hauler driving a semi for Steve Robinson for 12 years.

Explain your reasons for running for office.

I'd like to see our community do a little bit better. We have the potential and we have a good community that just needs a little bit of guidance. I'd like to see a little bit more happening in the town than what's going on now.

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

I am trying to get the community to come together maybe with more social things like winter bonfire, coffee, cocoa, donuts or cookies – snow mounds. A snowy night. Right now there is no structure for a Halloween parade. We need more interactions with the community like when sports teams do well. I'd like to get the school involved.

I really want to get rid of anonymous people on the FB garbage – it's a pet peeve. I think a lot of people would back me on that one. I am trying to accept that people won't put their name out there. If their name was there, then I could go to them one on one or invite them in to talk one on one. Unfortunately, there's no real way to stopping anonymous posters. I want to hear their concerns but they could be handled a lot better.

Tell us about your family.

My parents live out by the antique tractor museum/club. My sister is a deputy sheriff. My brother works for Adrian Township Fire Department.

We believe in honesty – honesty goes a long way in my book.

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

My wife and I like to hop on the motorcycle to ride. We have bike nights to meet up with friends, go up north, and do bike rides for fundraisers for things that affect people's lives. I do what I can to help out and raise a little bit of money for them.

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Mike Slick
Candidate chose not to provide photo.

Hometown (where candidate currently lives): Onsted

Describe your qualifications and experience for this office.

I have been in this position for the last four years. Between Onsted and Jackson, I have worked in public works for 26 years. I have a lot of knowledge when it comes to day-to-day operations. I have a good personality and enjoy listening to the village residents.

Explain your reasons for running for office.

To help make our village successful and a happy place to live.

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

I will continue working on issues with the cost of the water bills and making it fair for all households. I would like to see water meters looked into more, so each house is charged for the water they only use.

There is also outdated equipment. I'd like to come up with a plan to replace equipment without breaking the bank.

Tell us about your family.
Candidate chose not to answer this optional question.

What are your hobbies and/or interests in your spare time?
Candidate chose not to answer this optional question.

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It's *YOUR* Business

By Cindy Hubbell, President/CEO
Irish Hills Regional Chamber of Commerce
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Witches Night Out is back in **Downtown Brooklyn** on Thursday, October 15, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Grab your friends and wear your best witch attire. Enjoy shopping, laughing, sipping, and spooky cheer. Any questions, Call **Kelsey's Boutique and Gifts** at 517-592-5032.

Join **Well Wise Services Area Agency on Aging** for Silver Sneakers Yoga in their lower-level Fitness Room Mondays and Thursdays from 1 to 2 pm, and Fridays from 10:30 to 11:30 am. For more information, call 517-592-1974 or email livingwellprograms@wellwiseservices.org.

The **Irish Hills Eagles** hold All You Can Eat Breakfast on Sundays from 8 am to noon. This is open to the public, costing only $9.00 for adults and $4 for kids.

Mystery Hill presents Horror at the Hill for the month of October on the 23, 24 and 31. Join Nathan for the Darkside of Circus Sideshow, Haunted Tours, and Halloween at the Hill. These are ticketed events. Find more info on Facebook.

The **Hospice of Lenawee** offers Good Grief, a free, drop-in support group for widows and widowers who experienced loss earlier in life. This support group takes place on the second Tuesday of the month from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at Hospice of Lenawee. A children's grief group will be offered at the same time. All are welcome.

Wilcox Lawn and Landscape is holding a Gourd Cornucopia Class on Wednesday, October 14, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. for $50 per person, all supplies included. Go to wilcoxlawnandlandscaping.com.

Hidden Lake Gardens is holding a Fall Fruit & Foliage Bonsai Exhibition on Saturday, October 17 and Sunday, October 18 from 9 to 5. Experience the beauty of autumn through the art of bonsai. For details, visit hiddenlakegardens.msu.edu.

Bowman Chevrolet of Clinton is holding their annual Trunk or Treat on Thursday, October 22, from 5 to 7 p.m. Enjoy food trucks, live music, donuts & cider, and more. If you are interested in decorating a trunk and handing out treats, email Emme at ecoleman@bowmanauto.com.

NewGen CDJR of Clinton's Trunk or Treat is back on Thursday, October 22, from 5 to 7 p.m. Enjoy tons of candy, a food truck, Misfit Jeepers, decorated trunks, costumes, and more. Everyone is welcome.

Jerry's Pub and Restaurant are holding their Halloween Party on Saturday, October 24, featuring the band Lead Foot.

Columbia School District is holding its Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 25 from 3 to 5 pm at the High School. Enjoy free cider & donuts, food trucks, music, and 150 free pumpkins for the kids. There will also be a drop-off for the **Brooklyn Food Pantry.**

Find more Irish Hills events at IrishHills.com.

Cemetery tour planned



The Grass Lake Area Historical Society will hold free Maple Grove (West) Cemetery walks on three upcoming days.

During the tour, family sites that will be highlighted include the following: Boland, Burtch, Cadwell, Capron, Currier (a War of 1812 vet), Dwelle, Francisco, Hudler, Lockwood, Ordway, Pease, Price, Robinson, Roosa, Smith, Taylor, Walker, and Woodward.

On Friday, October 23, the tour will begin at 1 p.m. Saturday, October 24, the tour will begin at 4 p.m., and on Sunday, October 25, it will commence at 1 p.m. Though the event is free, donations are appreciated, and they will support the Coe House Museum.

For more information and to make a reservation, contact Linda Hutchinson at 517-403-3805 or email LMHUTCH48@gmail.com. Other dates may be arranged for small groups.

Photo: James Currier, one of five War of 1812 veterans, will be a stop on the cemetery walk. Photo courtesy Linda Hutchinson.

Grass Lake school board race

Three candidates are vying for two seats in Grass Lake

Compiled by John Hummer Editor

The Grass Lake Community Schools board has two six-year term board positions on the Nov. 3 ballot. There are three people running for the two seats. Only one candidate - Shari Hein - replied to our request for information.



Shari Hein

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Shari Hein

Hometown (where candidate currently lives): Grass Lake

Describe your qualifications and experience for this office.

I am in my sixth year of service as a Grass Lake school board member and my second year serving as vice president. I am also in my second year of service on the Jackson County ISD school board, where I currently serve as secretary. On both boards, I have actively participated in the search and selection of new superintendents following the retirement of their predecessors.

In Grass Lake, I also played an active role in planning and successfully passing a $41.9 million bond proposal in May 2026. This experience has given me a firsthand understanding of the planning, decision-making, and fiscal responsibility required to manage a significant investment in our schools. I believe this experience will help me shepherd Grass Lake Community Schools through the responsible stewardship, use, and allocation of the bond funds entrusted to the district by our community.

Explain your reasons for running for office.

I feel that after six years of service, I am just hitting my stride as a school board member. Like many novice board members, I came into this role without professional experience in public education. To become the best school board member I could be, I dedicated many hours outside of regular board meetings to professional development through educational organizations, training opportunities, and networking with other school board members.

Now, as a seasoned board member, I bring not only experience and institutional knowledge, but also a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our schools. I have developed strong relationships with fellow board members, the superintendent and community stakeholders, allowing me to make informed decisions that place students first. I especially value the time I spend with our students and community members – listening to their needs, understanding their hopes and concerns, and sharing the many wonderful plans, accomplishments, and opportunities at Grass Lake Community Schools. These connections keep me grounded in the reason I serve and help me be a more informed and effective advocate for our students, staff, and community.

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

One of our biggest challenges right now is the fiscally responsible execution of our newly approved school bond. We spent many hours listening to our students, staff, and community to understand what was needed and wanted for the future of our district. That input helped shape a master plan designed to carry Grass Lake Community Schools forward for years to come.

With limited bond funds, projects were carefully prioritized based on the needs identified through that process and the resources available. We face the added challenge of aging facilities while experiencing a somewhat unique situation of a growing student population. Balancing these needs requires thoughtful planning, careful oversight, and responsible stewardship of every dollar.

In a volatile economy, we must remain focused on maximizing the value of our bond investment while addressing the needs of our students, staff, and community. My goal is to help ensure that we fulfill the commitments made to our community while making sound financial decisions that position our district for continued success well into the future.

Tell us about your family.

My husband Marty and I have lived our entire marriage in Grass Lake. Our son Benjamin graduated from Grass Lake in 2026 and is currently attending Albion College. Our son Martin graduated from Michigan Center in 2026 also where he was an ISD special education student. He currently attends the ISD Young Adult Program and Central Campus.

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

With two recent graduates, I am just rediscovering spare time. I graduated from the School of Natural Resources at the University of Michigan and spend as much time as possible outdoors – hiking, birdwatching and gardening. When Michigan weather keeps me inside, I am an avid reader and board game player.

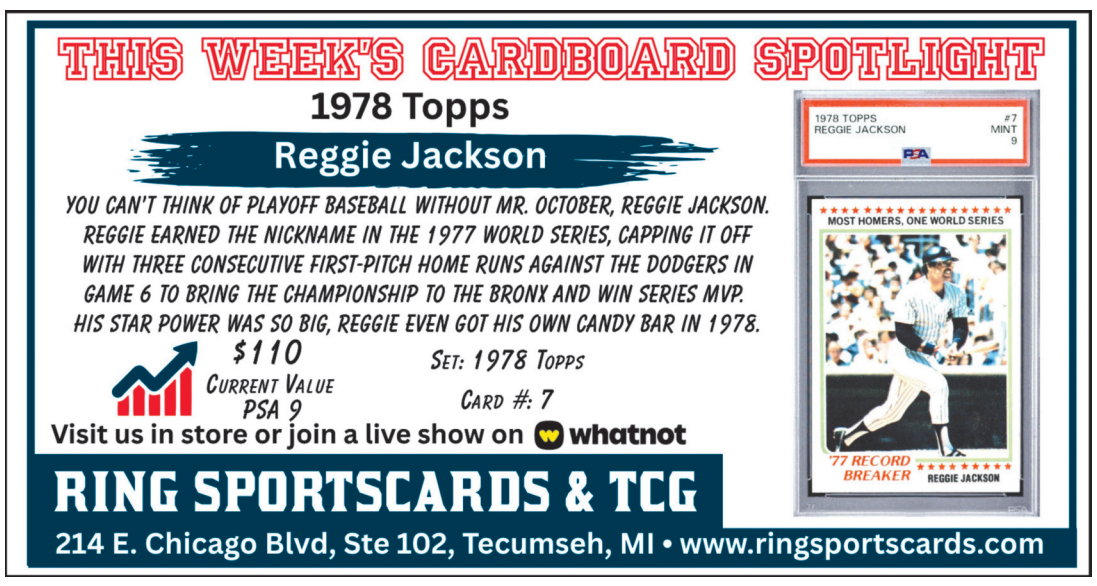
Name as it will appear on the ballot: Chris Maynard
Candidate did not return questionnaire or send photo.

Name as it will appear on the ballot: Nancy Riske
Candidate did not return questionnaire or send photo.











Cross country results



Above: Nicklas Holmes of Onsted High School finished 22nd at the Hudson Invitational earning a medal for his efforts.

Napoleon girls, Grass Lake boys second at Cascades XC jamborees

Napoleon girls and Grass Lake boys finished second in their respective Cascades Conference jamborees last week.

The Pirates finished second in the Cascades Conference South Division jamboree at Addison.

Grass Lake was second to Leslie at the North Division jamboree at Leslie High School.

Here are results from a busy week of cross country action.

Girls Cross Country

Cascades South at Addison: Napoleon was second (46) and Hanover-Horton place third (48) at Addison High School. Maisey Toteff won another jamboree for HHHS (19:58), Avery Haynes of Columbia Central was second (20:49), Brynlee Swihart of Hanover-Horton was third (21:09), and Ayva Berkeypile of Napoleon finished sixth overall (21:46). Madisyn Lindemann of Napoleon was seventh (21:53) and teammate Aubrey Weber finished eighth (22:01).

Cascades North at Leslie: Grass Lake finished second to Leslie in the jamboree at Leslie High School. The Blackhawks took four of the top five spots in the event. Avery Jones of Grass Lake was third (21:14) and teammate Makenzie Hilberer finished eighth (21:56).

LCAA at Dundee: Onsted High School finished third overall as a team with 92 points. Stylar Ross was fifth individually running 22:22.

Portage Invitational: In the Division 3 race, Lumen Christi finished second to Lansing Catholic, Hanover-Horton was 15th, and Grass Lake placed 25th. Samantha Schroeder finished second in 18:27. Maisey Toteff of Hanover-Horton was 11th overall (19:21) and Lilly Kimble of Lumen Christi finished 20th (20:01). Grass Lake runner Makenzie Hilberer finished 91st in 22:13.

Hudson Invitational: Concord High School won the title in Division 4 defeating Leslie 38-49. Audrey Pyle of Concord won the event (20:37), Haley Stimer placed third (21:13), and Audrey Rinehart was fifth (21:22). Ellie Woodring of Addison finished 29th (24:05). Avery Haynes of Columbia Central High School was third overall in the D-3 race and Stylar Ross of Onsted was 19th (22:19). Onsted finished 13th in the Division 3 race.

Boys Cross Country

Cascades South at Addison: Hanover-Horton defeated Jonesville 21-24, Napoleon was third (90), Addison placed fourth (116), and Columbia Central finished fifth (121). HHHS took four of the top six spots led by Cooper Flick (16:15) and Chad Tyson (16:41) who finished second and third, respectively. Blake Fish of Napoleon was 12th (17:54), teammate Devin Hilliker placed 15th (18:52), Tony Gudakunst of Addison was 16th (18:53), his teammate Connor Evans was right behind him (18:59), and Eli Fassett of Columbia Central finished 18th (19:01).

Cascades North at Leslie: Grass Lake finished second with 43 points. Connor Boteler of Grass Lake was second running 17:20, teammate Grady McDaniel was seventh in 18:52, and David Arbogast of Vandercook Lake was ninth with a time of 19:21.

LCAA at Dundee: Onsted High School finished seventh with 189 points at Dundee. Niklas Holmes of Onsted placed 12th in the 5K event in 19 minutes, 9 seconds.

Portage Invitational: Hanover-Horton defeated Hart 134 – 146 at the Portage Invitational in the Division 3 race. Lumen Christi finished 12th (371) and Grass Lake finished 26th (702) in the 39-team invitational. Cooper Flick of Hanover-Horton finished fifth (15:42) and teammate Chad Tyson was eighth (16:01). Connor Boteler of Grass Lake was 45th with a time of 16:51.

Hudson Invitational: Concord finished seventh (157) and Addison was 11th (281) in the Division 4 race. Columbia Central finished 13th (337) in the Division 3 race and Onsted was 14th (349). Nicklas Holmes of Onsted finished 22nd in 18:11.







Soccer results



Columbia Central High School defender Greyson Schiel kicks the soccer ball down the field during a non-conference game against Western last week.

Photo, story by Jeff Steers
Exponent special writer

Win or go home now exists in high school soccer action.

District play begins this week for Exponent area teams playing at home or at Milan High School in the Michigan High School Athletic Association's district soccer tournament.

Grass Lake and Columbia Central host district games this week and with wins could play one another for a third time this season in the district semifinal.

Both teams won once in the series as CCHS defeated Grass Lake early in the season and the Warriors administered the only conference loss to CCHS in a later Cascades Conference contest.

Here are scores and highlights from soccer action last week.

Western 3, Columbia Central 1: The Panthers earned a home win on senior night against CCHS.

Onsted 7, Hillsdale 2: Aarone Santuari scored the first three goals of the game for Onsted. Brix Bumpus also scored two goals for Onsted in the first half and one in the second. Carson Formsma earned the win in goal for Onsted.

Hillsdale Academy 3, Columbia Central 0: The Golden Eagles were blanked at home on senior night. Hillsdale Academy is ranked No. 9 in Division 4 according to the MHSAA ranking.

Tecumseh 5, Grass Lake 1: The Warriors lost on the road in non-conference action Wednesday night.

Dundee 3, Onsted 0: The Wildcats lost in LCAA soccer action.

Onsted 5, Dundee 3: The Wildcats won the LCAA game in a back-to-back series game. Arrone Santuari scored a hat trick as Onsted erased a 2-0 deficit in the contest. Logan Sierra-Daweritz scored his first career goal and Nico Candela scored once for Onsted.

Division 3 District Soccer at Milan (semifinal and final)

Oct 14 Dundee at Milan
5 p.m.

Onsted at Grass Lake
5:30 p.m.

Oct. 15 Michigan Center at Columbia Central
5 p.m.

Oct 19 Clinton vs. Milan
4:30 p.m.

OHS/GL winner vs. MC/CCHS winner (at Milan) 4:30 p.m.

Oct. 21 District final at Milan 4:30 p.m.





Pirates win M-50 rivalry game in rout

Napoleon running game is impressive in victory



Above: It was the Napoleon Pirates show last Friday evening at their homecoming game as their football team came in fired up to beat their archrival Columbia Central. Below, right, Zavior Skog ran wild on the Golden Eagles.

Story and photos By Paul Snyder

Napoleon 50, Columbia Central 15

The Napoleon Pirates ran over the Columbia Central Golden Eagles with a 50-15 homecoming win Friday night at Napoleon to safeguard the Little Brown Jug for an eighth connective year.

Coach Derek Shell's Pirates rushed for over 500 yards for the third time this season led by senior running back Zavior Skog who ran for 250 yards and scored four touchdowns in the second half. The Pirates combined to finish with a new school record of 411 yards rushing for the night.

Bauston Pilaczynski got Columbia Central off to a fast start returning the opening kickoff 80 yards for a touchdown and a quick 7-0 lead following the extra point kick. But the Pirates answered with a quick scoring drive as Ashton Warner scampered in from six yards out. Jayden Servis ran in the two-point conversion to take an 8-7 lead midway through the first quarter. On the Pirates' next possession, Servis scored from nine yards out with less than a minute to go in the first quarter to put Napoleon 14-7. They would never look back.

With less than three minutes to go before halftime, Napoleon Quarterback Isaac Caroffino connected with Warner on a rare 12-yard touchdown pass. With another successful two-point run by Servis, the Pirates led 22-7 at halftime.

Skog opened the second half with his first touchdown of the night – a 12-yard run followed by a two-point conversion midway through the third quarter to put Napoleon up 30-7. On the ensuing squib kick-off near the sideline, the Eagles failed to field the ball and after the Pirates recovered the loose football at the Columbia 19-yard line. Skog scored again four plays later from five yards out. With another two-point conversion, the Napoleon was in control 38-7.

Skog added two more touchdowns in the fourth quarter, breaking free for an 85-yard score run early in the stanza and capped off the night racing for a 43-yard touchdown.



Casper Di Fiori and Ashton Warner, with nine tackles apiece, led the Pirate defense that kept Columbia Central out of the end zone till the final three minutes of the game. The Eagles were able to put together a seven-play, 66-yard drive with Pilaczynski going the final five yards to paydirt. Quarterback Sammy Truax connected with Elias Losey for the two-point conversion.

Napoleon, now 6-1 on the season, will travel to Leslie this Friday to take on the Blackhawks (4-3) in the Cascades north-south conference crossover contest. Columbia Central (5-2) will travel to Michigan Center to take on the Cardinals (3-4) who they defeated earlier this season (Sept. 3) 34-14.

Michigan Center 22 Grass Lake 14

The Grass Lake Warriors fell to the Michigan Center Cardinals 22-14 Friday night at Michigan Center to fall to 1-6 on the season.

Warrior running back Gage Salts ran for 102 yards on 24 carries, scoring one touchdown. Quarterback Wesley Reul rushed for 15 yards on six carries, scoring one touchdown on the ground while connecting on 10 of 19 passes for 170 yards. Will Ford made five of those receptions for 130 yards, Salts had two catches for 24 yards, and Braden Snyr grabbed two receptions for 12 yards.

The Warriors will host the Jonesville Comets (3-4) this Friday in the Cascades annual north-south crossover contest.

Jonesville 30 Addison 14

The Addison Panthers slipped to 1-6 on the season Friday night falling to the Jonesville Comets 30-14 at Addison.

Michael Beard scored two touchdowns on the night and Caden Olsofsky was successful with a two-point conversion run for Addison's 14 points. Running back Landin Leffew had runs of 10, 12, and 25 yards for the Panthers.

The Panthers will travel to Vandercook Lake this Friday in the Cascades Conference crossover game to take on the Jayhawks (2-5) who they defeated earlier this season (Sept. 18) at home 36-27.

Adrian Madison 45 Onsted 0

The Onsted Wildcats were shut out for the third time this season, falling to the Adrian Madison Trojans (6-1) 45-0 Friday night at Adrian Madison.

The Wildcats were held to eight first downs and 132 yards total offense –all on the ground – led by Connor Kish who had 84 yards on 23 carries.

The Wildcats, now 1-6 on the season, will travel to Dundee this Friday to take on the Vikings (1-6).

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