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# ThumbPrint News

An imprint of places and people at work and play in the Thumb of Michigan



Wishes you **good health, prosperity and joy in the coming year.** JANUARY 2019

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Rita MacDonald gives us:



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Robert C. Brenner gives us:



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Alan Naldrett gives us:



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# Spotlight On Southfield Native Tragedy Ends Ford's Flying Car Innovation

By David Odziana, *ThumbPrint News* Staff Writer and Field Reporter

Following the first successful flight of an airplane performed by the fearless Wright Brothers, the entire country soon became infatuated with flying – even Henry Ford couldn't overlook the astonishing feat and all its potential.

A few years after the famous flight, Henry Ford helped his son Edsel and a few friends construct a small plane with a single wing that was powered by the engines installed in the Model T.



*Ford Flivver aircraft 1927*

Henry had been fascinated by flight since the early 1900s, but the project with his son only lasted a short while. It came to an

abrupt end after their small plane was involved in a crash. By 1915, Ford had already sold one million Model T's to the public, so when the United States began fighting in WWI, he had the means to help produce war-time needs for the military. Ford did his part by using his factory to construct Liberty engines used in aircrafts, as well as a motor to power the Kettering's Bug torpedo – however, the war ended before all the kinks could be worked out on the bomb.

Due to the high demand for machines capable of flight at the time, Ford quickly recognized the potential impact the new form of transportation had on the future. Shortly after the war ended, Ford became a shareholder in Stout Model Airplane Company in 1923. Just two years later, Ford purchased the company and changed the name to Ford Airplane Manufacturing

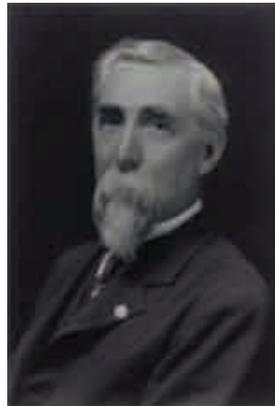
See *SOUTHFIELD* Page 20

## THE MOTOR CITY'S FORGOTTEN TRAILBLAZER

By David Odziana, *ThumbPrint News* Staff Writer and Field Reporter

During the late 1800s, when cars began the transition from a farfetched concept into a life-changing form of transportation, certain figures had a substantial effect on the industry. Men, such as Henry Ford, the Dodge Brothers and Gottlieb Daimler, have gone down in history as automotive pioneers; but one man, who was very influential around the same time, rarely gets the recognition he deserves.

As a young man, Henry Martyn Leland began working as an apprentice in a machine shop in the 1860s. By 1890, Leland had established his own company, known as Leland, Faulconer & Norton, which was later changed to Leland & Faulconer. The



*Henry M. Leland 1843-1932*

company was well-respected for constructing engines for boats and industrial uses, as well as bicycle gears of the highest quality – up until this time the business never built anything for automobiles, but that would soon change. Shortly after the birth of the business, his son Wilfred joined him in the venture and the father-son duo soon became industry experts in the science of mass production. In 1900, the founder of the Olds Vehicle Company (eventually renamed Oldsmobile), Ransom Eli Olds, contracted Leland's company to make transmissions for Olds, despite the fact that they'd never made the particular part previously.

See *TRAILBLAZER* Page 8

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# LETTER from a GUEST EDITOR

Submitted by Malinda Lieske, (810) 985-6136, Blue Water New Horizons Music, 2700 Pine Grove Ave., Suite 42, Port Huron, MI 48060

You asked for a story, so I would like to do one about a wonderful organization called New Horizons Music.

In 1991, Dr. Roy Ernst from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, founded the New Horizons Music program. In its beginning, it focused mainly on people 50 and older, providing an entry point to these adults who now had time to pursue an instrument they may have played in high school or college before life got in the way or for people who had no prior musical experience, but later developed an interest – the current criteria is that the person just needs to be out of high school.

Our Port Huron program began when Dave Teeple, from Port Huron Music Center, took Pat and Peg Dempsey to Palm Springs, California, to hear a New Horizons' music group. Pat, who had 30 years experience teaching in the Port Huron area, got the ball rolling with our area's New Horizon Band. The program in the Port Huron area was the first in Michigan, beginning in 1998, with eight members varying from beginners to advanced beginners. We would sometimes play during intermission for the SC4 band. We performed a lot of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" type music back then. MaryLou Kammer, of *The Times Herald*, did a story on us at that time, prompting other papers to follow suit, and as a result we began to grow. We currently have 70 members ranging from 20 to 90 years old, with a few of them being original members.

We are now known as the Blue Water New Horizons Swing Band, "Sentimental Journey" and the Blue Water Double Brass Quintet, directed by Jim Chubb. The Blue Water New Horizons Small Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra are directed by Carl Gippert.

We laughingly like to say "you don't hear the monotonous sounds of perfection at our concerts" because we are at all different skill levels. The camaraderie is wonderful and we have gone through a lot together, yet still remain strong, and that is so important.

Among the three bands and two orchestras, we play a wide variety of music from Sousa to Beethoven, '50s, '60s and '70s music, rock, show tunes, pop standards and military. Rehearsals are every Thursday evening from 6:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Port Huron Music Center, Suite 42. Classes are available on Mondays for beginners from 10:00 a.m. to noon, but other arrangements can be made. String class is on Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

We have obtained 501c3 status. Everyone is welcome to come and listen and we would love to have interested people join us. You can also make arrangements for us to perform at your event.

For more information call Malinda at (810) 985-6136 or contact the Music Center at (810) 984-5081. 🎵

-Malinda Lieske



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WHOOPS,  
WE GOOFED!

One of our dedicated readers noticed that there were three errors on page 17 of the December 2018 edition of *ThumbPrint News*. The errors were in the regular feature "What Happened on this Day in History?": the dates of the month and the days of the week did not correspond correctly, the fact on the 30<sup>th</sup> was incorrect and the 31<sup>st</sup> was missing.

The facts listed on the 1<sup>st</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup> were accurate. However, the fact for the 30<sup>th</sup> should have read: *On this day in 1965, Ferdinand E. Marcos is sworn in as the Philippine Republic's 6<sup>th</sup> president.* The fact for the 31<sup>th</sup> should have read: *On this day in 1930, brewery heir Adolphus Busch is kidnapped.*

We apologize for any confusion this may have caused; we're only human! If you ever spot any errors, call us at (810) 794-2300 to let us know. Thanks for reading!

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- 8:00am-11:00am.....Boy Scout Troop 211 Pancake Breakfast
- 8:00am.....Big Tent Opens
- 9:00am.....Winterfest Charity Run/Walk
- 11:00am.....Ice Carving with Artist Stephanie Szymanski
- 11:00am-4:00pm.....Children's Adventure Theatre, Scavenger Hunt  
Princess Caroline & Balloon Artists
- 2:00pm.....Cornhole Tournament
- 6:00pm.....Chili Cook-Off
- 7:00pm.....Entertainment by Crewsade
- 12:00am.....Big Tent Closes

**Sunday 1/27 Free Admission**

- Call for Time.....Fishing Tournament
- 11:00am-3:00pm.....Entertainment by Momford & Sons
- 1:30pm.....Veteran's Dedication @ the Flag
- 1:45pm.....Artist of the Year Award - Alexis Sunderman  
T-Shirt Contest
- 2:00pm.....Polar Bear Plunge
- 3:00pm-6:00pm.....Entertainment by DJ Top Dog
- 4:00pm.....Polar Bear Plunge Awards
- 5:00pm.....Ice Fishing Contest Awards
- 6:00pm.....Big Tent Closes

# EPISCLERITIS

By **Dr. DiBenedetto**, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

Episcleritis is believed to be an immune-mediated inflammatory disease of the episcleral layer of the eye. The episclera is a thin layer of tissue that lies between the conjunctiva (the tissue that lines the eyelids) and the tough connective tissue layer that forms the white of the eye, called the sclera. Episcleritis can be focal (confined to a limited area) with marked nodules or diffuse (widespread) involving the entire eye. It can affect just one eye or both and can be seen in both dogs and cats. This condition is typically benign, but it is possible for the inflammation to spread to other parts of the eye, like the conjunctiva or the cornea.

A diagnosis of episcleritis is usually made based on clinical appearance, medical history and a complete ocular exam to rule out other causes for the inflammation. A complete ocular exam includes a Schirmer tear test to look for decreased tear production, a fluorescein staining to rule out any ulcerations on the cornea, tonometry to measure the pressures in the eyes and a deeper look into the eye to evaluate the back of the eye, called the retina, for any abnormalities. A complete blood count, biochemistry profile and urinalysis are indicated to rule out any systemic disease causing the redness. Sometimes referral to a veterinary ophthalmologist can also be indicated to confirm the diagnosis and consult on a treatment plan.

Both forms of episcleritis require long term treatment to control the inflammation. Different pets may require different forms of treatment, as well as in some cases using a combination of multiple treatments to control the symptoms. Treatments include topical steroid drops placed in the eyes for both forms, steroid injections, which can be given under the conjunctiva next to a nodule, or cryotherapy for the nodular form. The diffuse form may require not only topical steroid eye drops, but oral steroids as well to control any inflammation that may have progressed to other parts of the eye. A newer treatment with oral medications that have had beneficial effects on immune-mediated skin diseases are thought to be effective, although, at this time no clinical studies have been done on these medications. Administering all medications as directed by your veterinarian and returning for follow up exams is very important for this disease. Numerous recheck visits may be necessary in order to monitor the response of the eye to treatment, to make modifications in treatments and to monitor for side effects from the medications. If diagnosed early and consistent therapy is administered, most cases of episcleritis can be well controlled. It may take three to eight weeks or sometimes months to see a significant improvement with treatment. If treatment is stopped too soon, this disease has a high tendency to flare up and with each flare up the treatment seems less effective.



Photo courtesy of isosphere @FreeDigitalPhoto.com



Diffuse form



Focal/Nodular form

*Editor's note: Dr. DiBenedetto is a veterinarian at Maple Veterinary Hospital located at 2981 Iowa in Troy, Michigan. The hospital website is [www.mvhvet.com](http://www.mvhvet.com). For other pet-related questions, you can reach Dr. DiBenedetto at (248) 585-2622.*

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# Focus on Hospice

## DOCTOR HOUSE CALL SERVICES AVAILABLE

Contributed by Faith Jaciuk, Community Liaison for Grace Hospice, Marysville, Michigan

A hundred years ago, it was not uncommon for a physician to make house calls. The doctor would show up to care for a patient in their home and often accepted bartered goods, such as eggs, produce or livestock, as a means of payment.

Fast forward to the present day and there is a growing segment of healthcare, known as home-based primary care, where physicians are again seeing patients in the comfort of their houses. However, today, the fee for services is now covered by Medicare, Medicaid or commercial insurance plans.

Many patients are cared for at home and no longer make visits to their family doctors or specialists if they are elderly and their health is declining. Some are not physically able to leave their homes and others simply prefer to have the doctor come to them because the effort to keep regular office appointments can be very taxing. Many hospice patients are in this category.

Whatever the reason, under certain circumstances, primary medical care can be provided in a non-traditional setting. The physician is usually accompanied by a medical assistant or nurse, and services offered at home are very similar to what is commonly done at the doctor's office. This includes blood draws, X-rays, EKGs and ultrasounds, when appropriate.

Individuals with a functional deficit or multiple chronic diseases may be a candidate for non-traditional physician services.

The same is true for people with limited support systems and a history of non-compliance.

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*Editors Note: The content of this article is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be legal or medical advice.*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I appreciated Rita MacDonald's article in the December 2018 edition, as my sister is a dialysis RN in Indiana.

Over the years, she has shared stories and challenges, many of which have been exasperating and frustrating. Understaffing, decisions made by management that bring no relief to the staff, but rather increase workload, unending paperwork and poor health care benefits for her and her family are some of those issues. Regardless of where a nurse works, pay should be a substantial minimum for each nursing degree. The entire profession is underpaid, overworked and oftentimes under-respected by doctors. I could never do that job and have great admiration and reverence for those who do. I will be sending Rita's article to my sister to share in their sisterhood. Thank you.

– Michelle Kouri

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# Patient to Nurse Wisdom

By Rita MacDonald, ThumbPrint News Columnist

For the past few weeks, I've thought about what I would do differently this year. I stopped making resolutions in 2010, and instead had fun checking activities off of my life's bucket list, and attempting to learn some important life lessons along the way. This year, aside from the yearly usual "making health a priority" goal, I could think of nothing exciting or meaningful to plan.

I was home alone this New Year's Eve – first time ever since becoming an "empty nester." I thought for SURE I'd have thought of a list of at least 10 things to do differently in 2019, but it was almost 9:00 p.m., and I couldn't think of ANYTHING! So, I took a bubble bath. That's right. I took a bubble bath. As I laid there covered in bubbles, I began thinking back at everything that took place last year, and the numerous changes that have rearranged all of my life's circumstances into new things. Goodness – that's a story of its own...but buried deep in those bubbles, for some reason, I remembered some insightful words a very elderly patient shared with me. I laugh about them often, because they were so cute; but that night, I thought the words could become a piece of priceless wisdom to pass on; perhaps that's what needs to be this year's theme – wisdom.

Nora was my only patient that day, making it possible for me to spend quality time with her, to help her with dinner and enjoy some conversation – at HER pace. She was never ever in a hurry. Nora's dinner came, and as I cut up her meat, salted her potatoes and stirred some cream and sugar into her coffee, she told me about her life. She was proud of her children, and she smiled ear-to-ear at the mere mention of her grandchildren. I finally leaned in while Nora was eating her dinner and enjoying my company, and I asked her a question. "Nora? If you could, at age 92, share just ONE

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piece of wisdom with this 51-year-old mom, what would it be?"

Nora stopped chewing. She put down her fork and looked at me very seriously. She seemed to be thinking quite intently when she answered, "I have to think about that for a little while." She picked her fork back up and continued eating, but paused every few minutes to verbalize a "Hmmm, let me think... Just one piece of advice, huh? Hmmm.".

Several minutes passed, and I thought that Nora had forgotten my request for some 92-year-old wisdom, so I reminded her gently, "Nora, have you thought of any wisdom you could share with me?" Just then, Nora picked up her fork again, used her napkin to wipe her face, smiled at me and answered, "Yes, dear. I did." "What is it, Nora?" I asked. And she answered, "Please dear, could you pass me the chocolate cake?" I chuckled, smiled back at Nora, and passed her the chocolate cake.

I'm going to take Nora's advice for the rest of this year. I'm going to move at her pace. I'm going to enjoy the little things in life. I'm going to savor every bite, every moment, every loved one. I'm going to look people in their eyes, intently, purposefully and kindly. I'm going to smile as big as Nora, and I'm going to do it often. I'm also going to occasionally indulge in some chocolate cake.

Thanks for the priceless wisdom, Nora! 🍫

# Bill MacDonald

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**TRAILBLAZER** Even though they lacked experience with transmissions, the product they produced was said to be so well constructed that the parts were transposable from vehicle to vehicle.

Continued from Page 1 By 1901, the Lelands were fully emerged in the newly-formed automotive industry. After a fire broke out at the Oldsmobile factory, which destroyed their engine production division, they called on Leland & Faulconer to construct the engines, as well as the transmissions, for the car company. Although most engines were designed in the same way at the time, the L&F products were said to be much more powerful because they were constructed with parts that fit together better than others. After some research, the Lelands and their engineers discovered that after a few small changes, they could make the engine three times more powerful without increasing cost – after presenting the new engine, dubbed “Little Hercules”, to the business manager, it was shot down because they said it would be too expensive.

In August of 1902, before Henry Ford became a successful name in the automotive industry, he ran into trouble with a group of investors. They called upon Leland to appraise Ford’s facility. After looking over the factory building and equipment, Leland advised against liquidating the business. He thought it would be the perfect location to produce the “Little Hercules” engine for a cheaper price than he was able to for Oldsmobile. By the end of the month, the Ford building became the Cadillac Automobile Company, following a suggestion from Leland to name it after the founder of Detroit, Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac. While the business came to be because of Leland’s assessment of the factory, he was only a minor shareholder, as well as the director of the company – he continued his position at L&F, who was responsible for producing the transmissions, engines and steering gears for Cadillac.

Production on the first Cadillac began in the fall of 1902, making its public debut at the annual auto show in New York the following year. By 1906, Cadillac had become the best-selling auto brand in the country, with 12,212 vehicles purchased between 1903 and 1906. While they were not fast vehicles (with a top speed around 30 mph), they were much more reliable than many other cars available at the time. In 1905, Leland’s business partner, Robert Faulconer, was bought out of L&F, which was then consolidated to create Cadillac Motor Car Company. Henry Leland became the general manager and president, while his son Wilfred’s official title became assistant treasurer – while not an official duty, he did have a more vital role of keeping his father’s working relationships intact. While Henry worked well with his own engineers, he was said to be harsh on his suppliers when they were unable to meet his steep quality standards. Henry’s perfectionism put Cadillac above the other automakers, earning the company the Dewar Trophy, a distinguished award given in Britain. Cadillac’s team put on a spectacle to show the audience the versatility of the cars, in which technicians took three cars apart, scrambled the parts together and rebuilt them with just simple hand tools.

With the company experiencing great success by 1909, Cadillac caught the attention of Billy Durant, who recently made acquisitions throughout the automotive industry, establishing General Motors. Durant showed interest in purchasing the Cadillac Motor Company, and because the automotive business was still uncertain at the time, Leland was more than willing to sell. Wilfred Leland was in charge of handling the negotiating process because he was said to be very skilled in the operation. The two

eventually agreed on a sum of money and by July of 1909, Cadillac was sold to General Motors for \$4.5 million – nearly \$125 million today. The Lelands remained involved in Cadillac for some time, which by 1910 was one of the only financially profitable divisions of General Motors. With the Buick division alone \$8 million in debt, Durant took Wilfred with him to try and convince investors to back the company. Even though Durant failed to get the backing, Wilfred was able to persuade the bankers to loan GM \$15 million, which saved the company from bankruptcy. Because the father and son duo rescued the business from a terrible demise, they were tasked with reorganizing other branches of GM to match that of Cadillac. In the end, it seems they were being punished, with the GM board increasing their workload while cutting their salaries in half.

Despite Wilfred and Henry now making much less money, and Henry nearing 70 years old, they remained employed by GM. It is said the sole reason Henry stayed with the company was because he had a true passion for educating anyone who was willing to listen to what he had learned throughout his long career – he often held workshops to educate workers on all the techniques that helped him in automotive production, which earned him the nickname the *Grand Old Man of Detroit*. Up until the first decade of the 1900s, cars needed to be hand-cranked in order to start the engine. While it not only required a certain level of strength, it could also be dangerous. After the death of a man due to a mishap with a hand crank, Leland set his sights on creating a safer way to start automobiles. His engineering crew came up with a design, but it still had issues, so it was suggested that they reach out to Charles Kettering, who had recently invented a small electric motor used for cash registers. The next day, Kettering arrived at the Cadillac plant, and after looking over their design, he agreed to improve on it. In August of 1911, Cadillac announced its innovative self starter, which removed the need to hand-crank the engine to start it. Almost immediately after the announcement, rumors began swirling around the automotive world claiming it was terrible and untrustworthy, and it had the ability to attract lightning which would electrocute the driver. Financial backers even questioned the need for such a product because hand cranks were good enough for every other car manufacturer. Henry responded saying, “There always was and there always will be conflict between good and good enough. It is easy to get cooperation for mediocre work, but one must sweat blood for a chance to produce a superior product.” Leland and Cadillac were awarded yet another Dewar Trophy for the innovation.

With a push from the public for more powerful engines, Henry and Wilfred began working on a secret engine in 1913. Wilfred came up with an idea to combine two four-cylinder engines to make an eight-cylinder engine. Work began immediately, and in order to keep the idea safe, they rented space in the Dime Bank Building in Detroit and hired D. McCall White, a British engineer. In September of 1914, the public was made aware that Cadillac now had a V-8 motor in production. While many people claimed they wouldn’t be fixable and would bring more issues because of the extra cylinders, 22 automakers adopted the use of the bigger engine by 1918 – one of the Cadillac V-8 engines was put on display at the Smithsonian Institute because of the breakthrough innovation.

When the United States became involved in WWI in 1917, Wilfred rushed to Billy Durant and suggested they use their newly-constructed facility on Clarke Avenue to manufacture items needed by the military. After Durant informed Wilfred that General Motors would have nothing to do with military production, Wilfred passed the news on to his father. Infuriated at his unwillingness to help the country, the Lelands immediately quit their positions. The father-son duo promptly began inquiring for investors and engineers, many of which came from Cadillac, to form a new company. After securing contracts from the government, the new business acquired nearly \$11 million in loans to construct a new building and began producing Liberty engines for the military to use in their aircrafts – while many people suggested naming the new company after Leland, he decided to call it Lincoln Motor Company because he greatly admired President Lincoln. While the



1902 Cadillac (contributed by Eddaido)



That the structural strength of the Cadillac is much greater than ordinary service requires is shown in the fact that this machine was the only one found to stand the strain of “Leaping the Gap,” as pictured above. Either the axles or frame of all other machines tried bent under the heavy impact. With the

**CADILLAC**

Runabout shown (a regular stock car) the performer is making repeated trips without the slightest damage to his machine.

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1906 Cadillac Ad



1915 Cadillac V8 engine (contributed by Eddaido)



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 10 p.m. - 1 a.m. 6+3 Raffle Ticket Sales  
 10 p.m. - 1 a.m. 50/50 Raffles  
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 Magician & Face Painting  
 12 p.m., 1:30 p.m., EXOTIC ZOO (\$2 admission)  
 3 p.m., & 4:30 p.m. featuring Eurasian Eagle-Owl & much more!  
 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. Meet the Super Heroes



Buzz Light Year, Woody, Moana  
 3 Incredibles plus our Regulars



Free Snow Rides (weather permitting)

After 2 p.m.

Fishing Contest Entries  
 (Pre-registration required)

6 p.m.

Doors Close for Nightly Entertainment  
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Buzz Light Year, Woody, Moana  
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Free Snow Rides (weather permitting)

12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Full Bar & 50/50 Raffles

2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

6+3 Gun Raffle DRAWING

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3<sup>RD</sup>: KIMBER MICRO 9MM FIBER OPTIC SIGHTS

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 present to  
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\*\* Must have a clean record to buy ticket \*\*

original government contract was for 6,000 engines, an extension was signed on July 31, 1918, which increased that number to 9,000, with the opportunity to order another 8,000 if needed.

After the war ended, the War Department revoked their contract with Lincoln after only 6,500 of the guaranteed 9,000 were produced. This left the Lelands, along with their 6,000 employees, in a tough spot – there was no work for the thousands of employees and the company was left with a massive facility and no product to make. What made matters even worse for them was the fact that they paid over \$4 million in taxes to the government in 1918, which put them deep in debt. At 76 years old, many of Henry's family members assumed he would now finally retire, but he had different plans. After meeting with his son and a few other directors, it was decided that Lincoln would go into car production. Within just three hours of the company's stock becoming available to the public, \$6,500,000 in stocks were sold. The car boasted the powerful V-8 engine that was the brainchild of Wilfred, as well as claiming to have engine parts machined to 1/10<sup>th</sup> the diameter of a human hair.

While Henry claimed that the Lincoln was better than the Cadillac he built, the economy following the war was feeble. With the 1921 Lincoln Model L now available to the public, the goal was to sell 6,000 cars in 1920. The sad reality was the luxury automobile market wasn't a high priority to many families, which resulted in only 700 vehicles being sold all year and many people canceling their orders because of the recession. To add insult to injury, Lincoln was served by the government for \$5.7 million in war profit taxes at the same time the company was trying to survive the tough times. While the claims were said to be a mistake, the company representatives still had to spend time in Washington with government officials while they reviewed Lincoln's records. Once everything was straightened out with the government, Wilfred traveled to New York to meet with a banker who was willing to consider giving the business a \$10 million loan.

Just as Wilfred arrived in New York, he received a call from his office in Detroit revealing the company just got another notice from the government for \$4.5 million due in taxes. The Lelands were too truthful to deceive anyone, so when the meeting began, Wilfred revealed the tax notice – the meeting was adjourned

before it even began. While the government did eventually admit that it was once again a mistake, it was too late for Lincoln. On February 4, 1922, an auction was held to sell the car company and all its assets, but with an estimated \$30 million invested, very few people had the means to even consider the purchase. Once the bidding started, a man quickly raised his hand putting in an offer for \$8 million on behalf of Henry Ford. The father and son team retired from the automotive industry after their company sold, but Henry remained positive that Lincoln was going to be successful. It wasn't long before Lincoln became the most profitable division of Ford Motor Company. The automaker was a favorite of President Coolidge, being used to transport numerous presidents, celebrities and members of the royal families since the 1920s.

After Henry was hospitalized in the beginning of 1932, at Detroit's Grace Hospital because of a kidney disease, his health slowly began to fade. At the age of 89 years old, Henry Leland passed away on March 26, 1932, with his son by his side. While Henry did so much for the city of Detroit and the automotive industry, his namesake isn't one found very frequently. He was responsible for building reliable engines for Oldsmobile, which was the first automobile built in the Motor City, as well as the first mass-



Henry Leland's Detroit home  
 (contributed by Quindetroit)

produced vehicle in the world. He was a loved and well-respected man around the world and was responsible for the creation of organizations, such as the National Foundries Association and the American Institute of Weights and Measures – he also served as the president of the Society of Automotive Engineers, a position he was reelected to for five years. Henry Leland, who was known as *Detroit's Best Citizen*, as well as the *Grand Old Man of Detroit*, created two thriving luxury car companies including Cadillac, which is now the city's oldest automotive producer in Detroit. 🇺🇸



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Don Alcorn, GRI and Barbara Alcorn, GRI

## MARKET MATTERS

Predictions? If it's anything like the stock market of late, we could be in for an interesting ride in 2019 in the real estate market as well.

We still have a significant inventory gap in the home resale market, particularly below the \$300,000 price point, which steadily performed as a Seller's market in 2018. A seller's market is characterized by superior demand for the available supply.

The \$300,000 to \$500,000 price range has been a more balanced market with buyer demand roughly in line with the supply of homes available.

Over \$500,000 continues to be more of a buyers' market.

The rate of home price appreciation is expected to slow in the new year and some predict prices have peaked or will soon peak.

And it appears that the Federal Reserve may take a pause in hiking interest rates, adding some additional stability to the mortgage market with mortgage interest rates settling in at around the 5% level. That, coupled with rising wages, will be helpful to buyers who have stalled in their home searches.

According to the National Association of Home Builders' Housing Trends Report poll, buyers say the biggest delays that are stretching out their home search is they can't find a home at an affordable price (49%), followed by not being able to find a home with the desired features they want (40%) or in their ideal neighborhood (38%). 21% of buyers lament continuing to get outbid whenever they make an offer.

\*\*\*

## HOME REMODELING IDEAS THAT CAN PAY OFF IN 2019

Some home remodeling projects pay off more than others. The following are based on *Remodeling* magazine's more recent cost vs. value report.

- **Garage Door Replacement** took over the top spot, recouping more than 98% of the cost.
- Replacing a band of your home's vinyl siding with **Manufactured Stone Veneer** is next, with a 97% return on investment.
- Next, **Steel Entry Door Replacement** is another winner, with a 91% cost recoupment. What they all also have in common is immediate improvement in the curb appeal of your house, the first thing that Buyers see when they come to view your home

Also, popular and effective are:

- **Wood Deck Additions** that can provide the sense of an outdoor room and additional living space.
- **Siding and Vinyl Window Replacement** also are estimated to return 74-76% of their investment, in addition to cost-saving energy improvements.
- **Kitchen and Bath Remodels** continue to be popular and can return 70% value on resale. They also can be the difference to Buyers in deciding on your house versus another!



*Editor's Note: Don and Barbara Alcorn are Realtors® serving St. Clair, Oakland, Macomb Counties and the Grosse Pointes, and are part of an international network of realtors. They are affiliated with Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel, the #1 Coldwell Banker in Michigan. You can reach Don and Barbara at (810) 278-6654 or (810) 278-6655 or [dalcorn@cbwm.com](mailto:dalcorn@cbwm.com) or [balcorn@cbwm.com](mailto:balcorn@cbwm.com).*



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68						69				70				
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**ACROSS**

- Sans-\_\_\_\_, font option
- Fly hangout?
- Toothy tool
- Lickety-split
- Lennon's wife
- Jolly one
- Climber's spike
- FEMA provisions, e.g.
- Early anesthetic
- \*Laser or LED at the supermarket register
- \*Advantageous grocery display
- Male or female
- Show off
- Blue
- \*Type of a grocerant
- Same as torsi
- Kind of sandwich
- Transversus abdominis location
- "The Voice" concern
- Sunrise in Spain
- Civil wrongs
- \_\_\_\_d'Ivoire
- Tarzan's swing
- Fork prong
- Shaped like Humpty Dumpty
- Brain teaser
- Viper's tooth
- Santa's helper
- Miniature whirlpool
- Miner's bounty
- \*Salad bar \_\_\_\_ guard
- \*Perimeter aisle at the market
- Make dim
- Make a pigeon sound
- Corruptible
- Rotary files
- \*Supermarket circulars
- Same as #45 Down
- Ke\$ha's 2012 hit
- Thus far
- #28 Across purchase

**DOWN**

- Depletes
- Colossal
- "Pro" follower
- Desktop pictures
- Tiny fox with large ears
- Wild swine
- American cuckoo
- Barrel racing meet
- Campus military org.
- Turkish honorific
- What hoarders do
- Make a mistake
- Cow's favorite grass?
- Dead-on
- Peanut isn't this
- Scare stiff
- \*Weights and Measures inspector's concern
- Make or break bet
- Persian Gulf port
- \*Sales per square \_\_\_\_
- Puerto \_\_\_\_
- Range in the kitchen
- Based on number 8
- \* \_\_\_\_ life
- \*"More \_\_\_\_ for your buck!"
- Tallest volcano in Europe
- Mister in Madrid
- Arabian chieftains
- Wood-shaping tool
- Show submission
- Tooth trouble
- Organ swelling
- Undesirable location
- Infamous Roman
- Garner wages
- Well-mannered Emily
- \*U in SKU
- \*Grocery carrier
- Additional
- British public service broadcaster
- Keats' poem

## HOLIDAY "What the Heck?"

By Laura Irwin, *ThumbPrint News* Staff Writer

During all the preparations and celebrations throughout the holidays, there are times when we just have to say, "What the Heck?". Here is my "WTH" from the most recent holiday season.

The U.S. Post Office wanted \$40 to mail a six-pound package, sized at 17" x 12" x 7", to Colorado. My response: "What the Heck?" and "Oh Heck No!" I refused to ship it, thinking to eliminate some of the items to make it smaller and lighter. Then, a friend reminded me of flat rate boxes, graciously provided free-of-charge by the USPS. With some ingenuitive repacking and much squishing, I was able to get the shipping price reduced to \$18.90. Still a lot, but much better than \$40.

Funny thing though, the box I was originally using had been shipped to me with some online purchases — weighing over six pounds— and a shipping cost of only \$9.95. Hmmm. Again, "WTH?!"

If you have a "What the Heck?" you would like to share, holiday or otherwise, we'd love to hear it. Go ahead, put "pen to paper", so to speak, and email it to us at [thumbprintnews@comcast.net](mailto:thumbprintnews@comcast.net), (Word document or PDF preferred). You can also add a picture (.jpg format), if you like. If using the computer is not your thing, send it to us via snail mail to the address listed on page 2 of the paper. (Hopefully, it'll be cheaper than my package!) Please include what city you're from and a phone number with the submission. We'll contact you upon receipt to let you know when your information will be included in the paper. We look forward to hearing from you.

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While our space shuttle astronauts were circling the globe, they were busy photographing the surface of our planet. They had the ability to look down through the atmosphere and see the land and seas in high resolution reality. And Michigan was of great interest to them.

Today, we have satellites that perform the same function as they pass over our state (or our state passes under them). What they expose is a land covered by green vegetation – forests – our pride and joy.

State planners wisely set aside land for use by Michigan residents for hunting and fishing. They called these “state game areas” (SGA) and “state wildlife areas” (SWA), and there are plenty of them in our Thumb, as shown in Figure 1 to the right.

Listed to the right are the 22 state game areas encompassing 63,179 acres and 36,401 acres in the six state wildlife areas in or adjacent to the Thumb (Macomb County).

The largest state game area in the Thumb is Deford SGA in Tuscola County encompassing 10,390 acres. The smallest is Brookfield Township State Game Area No. 2 with 40 acres up in Huron County.

The largest state wildlife area is St. Clair Flats SWA with 25,555 acres. The smallest is Quanicassee SWA with 1,922 acres; however the Salt River Marsh State Wildlife Area just west of St. Clair County in Macomb County has just 54 acres.

There are 219 designated swamps in the state of Michigan. Five of these are in the Thumb – Middle Grounds in Huron County, Bear Swamp in Lapeer County, Haney Marsh in Tuscola County, Quanicassee Marsh in Tuscola County and Middle Ground in St. Clair County. Wild rice (*Zizania aquatica*) grows in abundance in these swamps. Early settlers subsisted on corn, fish, wild fruits, game animals, maple sugar, rice, squash and wild rice. Food was plentiful.

#### A River Flows Through It

Waterways (rivers, creeks, ditches, drains, marshes and swamps) are usually associated with the state game and wildlife areas. Each of these protected lands has water in or adjacent to it. Even the small, 40-acre St. Clair County State Game Area by Rattle Run and Wadhams Roads has the Pine River meandering through it.

Other protected land areas include state and county parks. The state game and wildlife areas and the state and county parks provide plenty of habitation for large and small animals. They also provide migration paths that let animals follow food supplies and sources of water.

As I studied the topography, I found migration paths that led from the top of Michigan's Thumb down into lower Michigan and on through Ohio into Kentucky – a distance of over 500 miles. As my study moved down the state, I found Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area (SRA), Highland SRA, Proud Lake SRA and Kensington Metropark Nature Center in Oakland County. Livingston County has Indian Lakes SRA, Brighton SRA, Gregory SGA and Chelsea SGA. Washtenaw County has the large Waterloo SRA. These protected areas continue the migration topology down into Ohio, with its own large areas of woods, swamps, and marshes.

#### About the Shapes of Some Game Areas

During the life of the protected lands in Michigan, the owners of adjacent properties sometimes fell into financial distress and their ownership came into jeopardy. Just like the aftermath of the devastating fires of 1871, when thousands of acres of woodland burned, discouraged owners abandoned their property leaving it to revert back to state ownership. Other lands were repossessed by the state for failure to pay taxes. Many of these abandoned parcels were added to existing game and wildlife areas, resulting in the jagged boundaries we see on maps today.

We Michiganders love our woods, our lakes and even our swamps. I'm proud to see the state tenaciously holding protected areas for everyone to enjoy. So be proud of your state. It's a wonderful place to live. 🌲

*Editor's note: Robert Brenner is a local author and graduate of St. Clair High School. He is currently conducting research on Bigfoot sightings in the Thumb and is the author of Bigfoot Encounters in Michigan's Thumb. He can be reached at rcbwrits@gmail.com.*

#### The State Game Areas in the Thumb:

Almer Township State Game Area (mini) in Tuscola County (160 acres)  
 Brookfield Township No.1 State Game Area (mini) in Huron County (204 acres)  
 Brookfield Township No.2 State Game Area (mini) in Huron County (40 acres)  
 Cass City State Game Area in Tuscola County (1,203 acres)  
 Chesterfield Township State Game Area (mini) in Macomb County (136 acres)  
 Columbia Township State Game Area (mini) in Tuscola County (208 acres)  
 Deford State Game Area in Tuscola County (10,390 acres)  
 Denmark Township State Game Area (mini) in Tuscola County (95 acres)  
 Elmwood Township State Game Area (mini) in Tuscola County (271 acres)  
 Flynn State Game Area (mini) in Huron and Tuscola Counties (264 acres)

Gagetown State Game Area in Huron and Tuscola Counties (1,371 acres)

Lapeer State Game Area in Lapeer County (8,534 acres)

Minden City State Game Area in Sanilac County (7,852 acres)

Oliver Township State Game Area (mini) in Huron County (130 acres)

Port Huron State Game Area in St. Clair County (6,673 acres)

Rush Lake State Game Area in Huron County (2,166 acres)

Sandusky State Game Area (1,478.6 acres)

Sanilac State Game Area in Sanilac County (1,560 acres)

St. Clair Township State Game Area (mini) in Macomb County (110 acres)  
 Tuscola State Game Area in Tuscola County (9,259 acres)  
 Vassar State Game Area in Tuscola County (3,379 acres)  
 Verona State Game Area in Huron County (7,695 acres)

#### The State Wildlife Areas in the Thumb:

Fish Point State Wildlife Area in Tuscola County (4,075 acres)  
 Quanicassee State Wildlife Area in Bay and Tuscola Counties (1,922 acres)  
 Salt River Marsh State Wildlife Area (mini) in Macomb County (54 acres)  
 St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area in St. Clair County (25,555 acres)  
 St. Johns Marsh State Wildlife Area in St. Clair County (2,482 acres)  
 Wildfowl Bay State Wildlife Area in Huron County (2,313 acres)

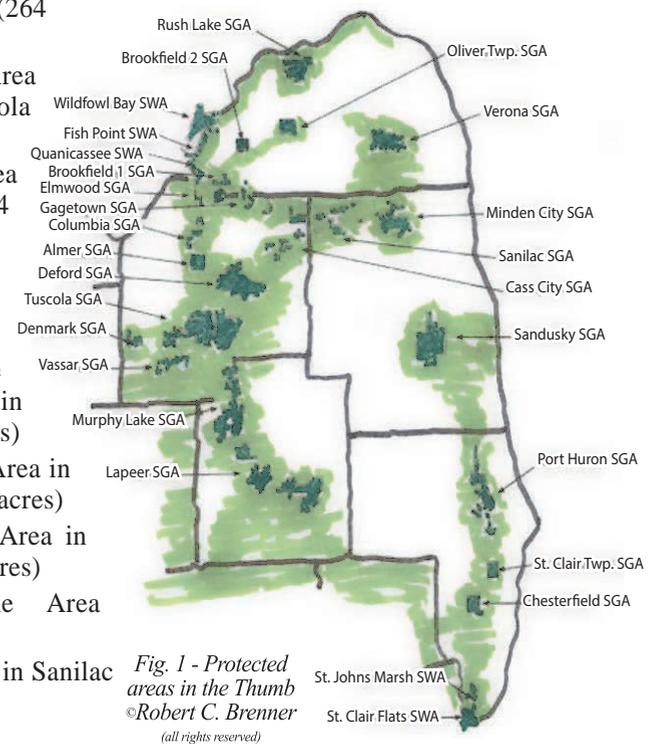


Fig. 1 - Protected areas in the Thumb  
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**HERE'S TO A Harmonious NEW YEAR**

By Patricia Cosner Kubic, *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

The New Year is a blank slate. Well, almost blank. Ok, well hardly blank at all because most calendars are covered in ink listing the typical requirements of work and kids' schedules, and a laundry pile that

automatically replenishes itself. But, if you are lucky, there are a few chunks of "white time" when you can actually choose how you want to spend it.

I've noticed how rare that free time is while listening to some of my friends, specifically some of my mom friends. Just hearing their answers about what's new is exhausting; they include a son's tennis lessons and football practice, a daughter's swim meets and music rehearsals, keeping the dog on his schedule, not to mention a husband's 60-hour work week plus travel.

I know it can be hard to turn down enticing opportunities for your kids and yourself. But given that free time is about to be put on the "endangered" list, maybe use this January to critically consider the impact of adding another activity to your household's schedule.

Ask yourself: "Will this new activity add to my home's harmony?" Or, just as important... "Will the activity reduce the harmony?" Yes, it would be a great experience if your kid got to join the marching band. But what would driving her to/from practices and rehearsals, as well as fundraising, do to that precious blank time?

Free time is so rare. We assume that we'll have more of it when the proposal is done, when the Girl Scout cookie sale is over or the bedroom is finally painted. But the truth is, we always seem to be running in a perpetual "project mode". Maybe being still is scary and that's why we keep our calendars full. Perhaps admitting we have free time has become embarrassing, given how people display their calendars on social media.

But have you ever noticed how super busy people can have an edge to them – sometimes coming across as unhappy? If they are so excited about their list, why aren't they happier? Maybe it's because they jumped into taking French lessons, without really thinking about the time requirements. Interestingly, I have a few brave friends who quietly talk about over-committing their time.

And that very courageous confession yields proof that asking the harmony question might be a smart idea. If we determine there is, indeed, room in the day, then we can go head-first into the new adventure. But if there isn't enough space on the calendar, and we sign up anyway, then we'll be sending out texts from Regretville.

And that uneasy feeling, I think, can be said for stuff too. Do we really need 20 pairs of sneakers, six bikes or a variety of kitchen gadgets that excel at dust gathering? Do those extra items add to our life or just cause irritation because a closet is so overfilled it's hard to close the door? Yes, we need things to get through the day. And, I'm first to admit, the extra stuff is fun! I love seasonal linens, scrapbooking toys and I have no interest in discussing my addiction to summer sandals, but the truth is I have room for those things. It's when we cannot smoothly close a closet that maybe we should stop before we buy and ask if the item will bring us a little happiness or just be something we would trip over in a month.

So, during this fresh new year, instead of dragging out the over-used resolution question, maybe thinking about your harmony is something to mull over. Are there too many things on your calendar that are clogging up one day after another? How would it feel if you didn't need to use your hip to close your closets and drawers? Remember, musicians aren't the only ones who can write harmonies; who knows, by springtime you might find your days just flowing along!

You can reach Patricia at [pckubic@gmail.com](mailto:pckubic@gmail.com).



**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR ARMCHAIR WORLD TRAVELERS!**

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR READERS WHO, IN THE LAST NINE YEARS, HAVE TAKEN US TO ALL FIFTY UNITED STATES AND ALL SEVEN CONTINENTS!

FOR 2019, WE'RE ADDING AN **ADDITIONAL CHALLENGE** FOR ALL OF OUR READERS!

Who can be the first to submit a photo of yourself and a famous person holding ThumbPrint News?  
(Please try to find a famous person who many of our readers will recognize!)

The first person to submit a real photo (not a Photoshopped version) will win a **\$25 gift certificate to Foxfire Fixin's Restaurant** in Marine City, Michigan.

*ThumbPrint News Staff*

TRAVEL PHOTOS ARE STILL WELCOME, so if you plan a trip for business or pleasure, please consider taking a copy of *ThumbPrint News* with you and photographing it with yourself in front of a point of interest for that location. Please submit good quality .jpeg photo(s) to [ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net](mailto:ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net) and include a paragraph about your trip. When your photo or photos appear in the paper, we will be sure to send you a complimentary copy. Please be sure to include your full name and address with your submission.

On a recent trip to Disney World, Ken Schmidt of Ira Township had his picture taken with celebrity chef Jet Tila at the Epcot International Food & Wine Festival.

Chef Tila has been on *Chopped*, *Iron Chef*, *Guy's Grocery Games*, and *Cutthroat Kitchen*.

Ken is Vice President of ABC Home and Commercial Services and all around Mr. Fix-it for our family of companies.

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# Vocabulary Voyage

## WISHING YOU A SALUBRIOUS NEW YEAR FULL OF ADLUBESCENCE!

By **Laura Irwin**, ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

We continue our quest for new words to increase our vocabulary. Why? A good vocabulary makes communication simpler and allows us to be better understood.

In the words of Henry Ford, "Anyone who keeps learning stays young."

**salubrious** [sa·lu·bri·ous]  
An adjective meaning health-giving, healthy, (of a place) pleasant; not run-down.  
Ex: Many people prefer the salubrious exercise of swimming. First known use: 1547, from Latin salubris; akin to salvus safe, healthy

**adlubescence** [ad·lu·bes·cence]  
A noun meaning pleasure, delight. Ex: It's important to have some adlubescence in your life. Origin: Early 17<sup>th</sup> century, from post-classical Latin adlubescencia from classical Latin adlubescere

**pulchritudinous** [pul·chri·tud·i·nous]  
An adjective meaning beautiful. Ex: The sparkling water of the rippling river is simply pulchritudinous. Origin: 15<sup>th</sup> century, Middle English, from Latin pulchritudin-, pulchritudo, from pulchr-, pulcher beautiful

**philocalist** [phil·o·ca·list]  
A noun meaning a lover of beautiful things. Ex: If you are a philocalist, you must love all these pulchritudinous words. Origin: Ancient Greek: φιλοκαλία "love of the beautiful, the good", from φιλία philia "love" and κάλλος kallos "beauty"

**voluptuary** [vo·lup·tu·ary]  
A noun meaning a person devoted to luxury and sensual pleasure.  
Ex: We despise and abhor the bully, the brawler, the oppressor, whether in private or public life, but we despise no less the coward and the voluptuary.  
Origin: Early 17<sup>th</sup> century, from Latin volupt(u)arius, from voluptas 'pleasure'.

**YOUR WORDS ARE WELCOME!** If you have suggestions, please email the word(s) and meaning(s) to thumbprintnews@comcast.net, along with your first and last name and the city of your residence, or mail them to us at the address located on page 2 of the paper. Without all the requested information, we will be unable to use your submission.

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**SOUTHFIELD** Division. While much younger than Ford, a Southfield resident by the name of Harry Joseph Brooks also became mesmerized by flight when he witnessed the Wright Brothers at a local fair at just nine years old. This would become a life-changing event for Brooks, who began taking flying lessons at a local airstrip shortly after. He started spending more and more time around planes, which eventually led to him crossing paths with Henry Ford – his father met Ford previously while playing the violin at local halls and hotels. After meeting a few more times, and Ford paying more attention each time he saw the young man, Ford offered Harry a job at one of his factories.

By the early 1920s, Ford had numerous types of airplanes in the works, including a personal aircraft with an interesting specification – it must fit in his office. Due to Brooks' interest in aviation, it wasn't long before Ford moved him from the automotive section of his company to work on aircraft development. The idea was essentially a flying car that could be used on the road, as well as in the air. Otto Koppen was put in charge of designing the project, which came to be known as the Ford Flivver. Brooks worked with Koppen throughout the process and the final product came in at just 350 pounds empty. The single seat plane was just short of 15½ feet long with a wingspan of nearly 23 feet made of spruce and ash and covered with metal tubing and fabric. Powered by a 35 horsepower, three-cylinder engine, it was said to be able to reach speeds of 100 mph, but it was never specified if that was in the air or on the ground. In order to operate on the ground like a vehicle, a rudder that the driver could steer was added, along with a rear wheel equipped with brakes – flaps were also designed on the rear to allow for quick takeoffs in areas with limited space.

Ford was fully invested in the future of air travel by 1925, and purchased numerous aircrafts in order to establish the world's very first regularly scheduled airport. He went on to construct the world's first modern airport in Dearborn, with a \$4 million price tag, which was equipped with a hotel, restaurant, concrete runways and a dirigible mooring mast. April 13, 1925, marked the first successful air delivery when a plane left Ford Airport and landed in Chicago – the *New York Times* ran an article stating *commercial aviation on a regular schedule began in America today*. With the first Flivver prototype finished, Ford turned to Harry Brooks, who despite only being in his early 20s at the time, had already become one of the top test pilots at the company and good friends with Ford.

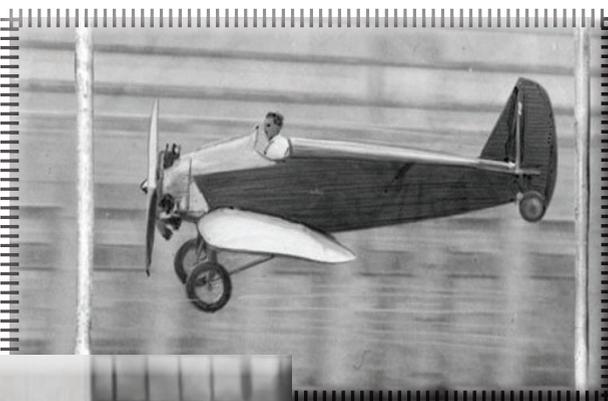
The Ford Flivver was revealed to the public for the first time on Henry's 63<sup>rd</sup> birthday at the Ford National Reliability Air Tour on July 30, 1926 – after the plane was unveiled, Ford announced it would be mass-produced as soon as all the kinks were worked out of the engine. When the first prototype of the Flivver was finished, Brooks was put in charge of testing the aircraft. In order to show the public how versatile the flying car was, he drove it everywhere. Not only did he use the Flivver to commute to work from Southfield, the plane also made other appearances that started a great deal of talk around the area. On one occasion, after Brooks realized he would be late to give a speech at Northwood Inn near Woodward Avenue, he decided to land the Flivver right in front of the hotel – *Brooksie*, as he was referred to by Ford, was ticketed by police, but Henry covered the fine. Other stories of the time when he was testing the Flivver included landing on a local golf course and driving up to the first hole to tee off, as well as racing Gar Wood's *Miss America V* during the Harmsworth Trophy Races that were held on the Detroit River.

In an attempt to draw attention to the new personal aircraft, Henry Ford invited Charles Lindbergh to fly the Flivver himself on August 11, 1927 – Lindbergh was the only other person aside from Brooks to fly the small plane. Although Ford

Harry J. Brooks



Brooks piloting the first Ford Flivver in 1927



was never interested in flying himself, Lindbergh was able to convince him to take a ride in the *Spirit of St. Louis*. While Henry was said to express how much he enjoyed the trip, he never flew again. Ford continued to exhibit the capabilities of the Flivver, which resulted in having Brooks attempt a non-stop flight from Detroit to Miami. While they were now on the third prototype of the Flivver, Henry reminded Brooks to look out for himself and not to worry about the plane because, unlike Harry, the aircraft was replaceable.

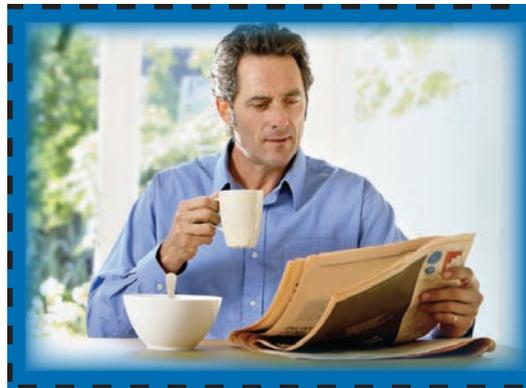
His first attempt at breaking the long distance record for light planes took place in January of 1928. Brooks made it as far as North Carolina before ice formation on the wings caused him to land the plane.

About a month later, he was ready to attempt the trip again, and while he was able to set a new record by flying over 900 miles to Titusville, Florida, Brooks was forced to land because of a gas line leak and a damaged propeller. After repairing the Flivver, Brooks set out to finish the last leg of his trip from Titusville to Miami, which was a short plane ride away. After a few hours passed and there was no sign of Brooks and his plane, people began to worry.

The following day the Flivver was spotted less than a mile off the coast of Melbourne, Florida, partially sticking out of the water – eyewitnesses reported seeing a small aircraft crash into the water around sundown the night prior. While it is said that Brooks' wallet and a few other personal items washed up on shore a couple weeks later, his body was never found. Many reports vary as to what happened leading up to the tragedy; although the cause was apparently investigated, accounts differ as to where this took place and exactly what caused the wreck. Some sources claim that a rudder wire snapped, which caused him to lose steering control, while others state the fuel tank vents became plugged, resulting in engine failure. Harry Brooks was just 26 years old when he passed away, but in his short life he was able to achieve a great deal of respect in the aviation world – so much so that Henry Ford viewed him as a son, which is explained on a plaque at the Henry Ford Museum. Even Charles Lindbergh trusted his ability so much that he allowed Brooks to fly his mother from Dearborn to Mexico City.



While Henry Ford told numerous publications that, despite the catastrophe, he would continue to produce the Flivver, he never made the personal aircraft a priority again. While some believe the economy killed the idea because the country would soon experience a depression, people close to him believe the reason was more personal. Harold Hicks, a chief aircraft engineer at Ford, remembered Brooks *as a very levelheaded fellow, but also daring*. Hicks recalled Ford being extremely grief stricken following the death of Brooks – a conversation regarding the Flivver engine expressed this sadness: “After Brooks’ death, late one night Henry Ford came through the laboratory on his way home. I stopped him and said, ‘Mr. Ford, do you want anything more done on the development of this two-cylinder engine?’ He said, ‘Well, what’s it good for?’ I said, ‘Well, it’s good for a Flivver plane.’ He said, ‘What are they good for?’” Other employees claimed Henry didn’t want to produce something that could easily cause the loss of life. 🌱



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# JANUARY

## WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY?

**1** On this day in 1698, the Abenaki Indians and the Massachusetts colonists sign a treaty halting hostilities between the two.

**2** On this day in 1906, Willis Carrier receives a U.S. patent for the world's first air conditioner.

**3** On this day in 1910, the Social Democratic Congress in Germany demands universal suffrage.

**4** On this day in 1902, France offers to sell their Nicaraguan Canal rights to the United States.



**5** On this day in 1920, GOP women demand equal representation at the Republican National Convention in June.

**6** On this day in 1958, Moscow announces a reduction in its armed forces by 300,000.

**7** On this day in 1782, the 1st U.S. commercial bank, Bank of America, opens in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**8** On this day in 1978, Harvey Milk becomes the 1st openly gay person elected to public office in California.

**9** On this day in 1908, Count Zeppelin announces plans for his airship to carry 100 passengers.

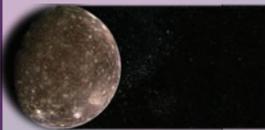


**10** On this day in 1911, the 1st photograph is taken from an airplane in the U.S.

**11** On this day in 1934, the German police raid the homes of dissident clergy in Berlin.

**12** On this day in 1973, Yassar Arafat is re-elected as head of the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

**13** On this day in 1610, Galileo Galilei discovers Callisto, the 4th satellite of Jupiter.



**14** On this day in 1917, a Provisional Parliament is established in Poland.

**15** On this day in 1919, peasants in Central Russia rise against the Bolsheviks.

**16** On this day in 1865, General William T. Sherman begins a march through the Carolinas.

**17** On this day in 1963, Soviet leader Khrushchev visits the Berlin Wall.

**18** On this day in 1991, Iraq starts firing SCUD missiles at Israeli cities.



**19** On this day in 1915, French engineer, chemist and inventor Georges Claude patents the neon lighting tube.

**20** On this day in 1908, the Sullivan Ordinance bars women from smoking in public facilities in the United States.

**21** On this day in 1915, Kiwanis Int'l. is founded in Detroit.



**22** On this day in 1946, U.S. President Harry Truman sets up the Central Intelligence Agency.

**23** On this day in 2018, 12 camels were disqualified from a camel beauty contest in Saudi Arabia after their owners used Botox on their lips.

**24** On this day in 1951, Indian leader Nehru demands that the UN name Peking as an aggressor in Korea.

**25** On this day in 1945, Grand Rapids becomes the 1st U.S. city to fluoridate its water.



**26** On this day in 1964, 84 people are arrested in a segregation protest in Atlanta.

**27** On this day in 1916, President Woodrow Wilson opens the Preparedness Program.

**28** On this day in 1813, Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* is published by Thomas Egerton in the United Kingdom.

**29** On this day in 1945, actor Tom Selleck is born in Detroit.



**30** On this day in 1931, the United States awards civil government to the Virgin Islands.

**31** On this day in 1981, Lech Walesa announces an accord in Poland, giving Saturdays off to laborers.



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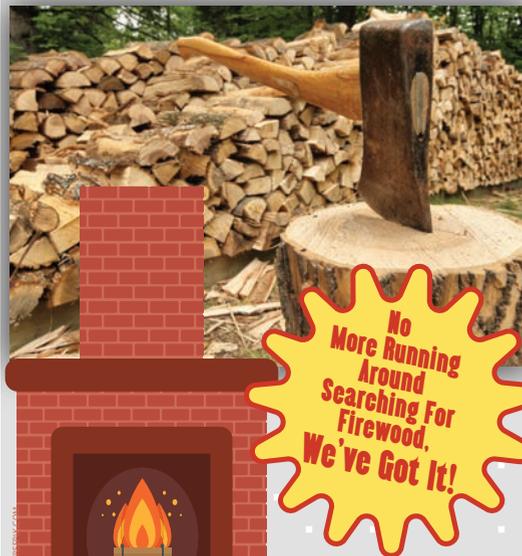
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# MOUSE TROUBLE

## PESTERING PROBLEMS

Informational Tips and Advice on Common Household Pests  
from Nicole Szymczak, President, ABC Home & Commercial Services

Happy New Year, *ThumbPrint* readers! Now that the holidays have passed, the beauty and wonder of the winter fades to something a little more frigid. Staying cozy indoors becomes a top priority for most people. But people aren't the only ones looking to keep warm this season! Critters of all types are in need of food, comfort and shelter, and unfortunately for us, our homes are the most appealing option. Out of the many critters we'd most like to see stay out in the cold, mice usually top the list. They are sneaky little guys and have the ability to get inside through the smallest of openings – I'm talking ¼ of an inch in diameter. Making sure your house is completely sealed up of all voids and cracks that small is nearly impossible. This means the mice will be getting in, but there are other ways to deal with them.

Now, you may be thinking, "So what? What's the big deal if I spot one little mouse?" Well, chances are it isn't just one. Mice breed year-round and reproduce very quickly! These creatures can be very destructive. They will target and chew on books, clothes, items stored in boxes, pictures that are irreplaceable and more. Electrical fires have also been known to start due to mice chewing on electrical wires.

While being worried of a potential infestation, it is also important to be concerned about your health. Mice can carry and spread diseases to people and pets. Some of the diseases they are capable of transmitting are salmonella food poisoning, rickettsial pox, meningitis and leptospirosis. Diseases can be transmitted through bites, contaminated food and mouse droppings. Irreplaceable possessions are not the only thing they're after; mice will eat and contaminate any food they can find – whether it's out or stored away. It is vital to throw away any food that you suspect has been contaminated.

Mice will go after food left on counters, on dirty dishes in the sink and even food in our beloved pets' bowls! Once you are aware that you have a mouse infestation, there are several precautions you can take to help eliminate the problem. Make sure dirty dishes are washed and not left out overnight, take out your garbage every night and put it in a sealed garbage can and pick up and put away or empty pet food bowls before dark. Mice have poor vision and are color blind. They rely heavily on their other senses, including sense of smell to find food; leaving food out overnight is an open invitation! Keep all the food in your cupboards in tightly sealed containers and vacuum regularly. Mice are nocturnal, meaning night time is when they are most likely actively foraging for food, and seeing mice during the day can be an indication of a severe infestation. Nesting locations vary, with a few of their favorites being in attics and crawl spaces.

Mice eat up to 20 times a day and produce about 70 droppings a day per mouse. With a severe mouse infestation, you will have hundreds of new droppings in your home on a daily basis. Sanitation is very critical! Keeping your home free of food sources and clutter will increase the effectiveness of baiting and trapping. Cleaning up droppings on a daily basis also allow you to see if your infestation is getting better or worse with your treatment program. Proper sanitation and daily cleaning decreases the chances of disease transmittal.

Call ABC Home & Commercial Services now to evict these unwanted visitors! Our wildlife technicians will inspect your home and design a specialized treatment plan for you. From the attic to the crawl space and outside too, our technicians will do the dirty work for you. The sooner you begin the treatment process the better. Remember, there's never just one. Call now to schedule your appointment at (810)794-5678. 🐹

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# COTTAGE LIVING

By Pamela Grey-Pugliese, *ThumbPrint* News Columnist

Sliding into a brand new year, the same feelings and thoughts creep into my mind the same as every new year in the past; I declare that this year will be better and even more prosperous! I vow to stick to my New Year's resolutions, if I make any at all. I may plan on saving more money, spending less, eating cleaner, being kinder to everyone, without judgement, and being fearless of what may lie ahead in this coming year in general. While these are all great goals to strive for, life is hectic enough without any additional stress or pressure on us, if we don't live a perfect life in sync with our self-expectations.

I believe we all hope and expect 2019 to be the best year yet, and that's great – not that it won't be, but didn't we all say that in January of 2018? And why wouldn't we say these things and set these goals in the summer instead of January? Do we even remember what our resolutions were come the warm summer days of July? This time of year, with its determinations and sometimes unrealistic expectations we have of ourselves and others, can put undue pressure on us as individuals. We end up just frustrating ourselves, if we don't do exactly what we planned, and if something doesn't go exactly how we thought it would.

We need to reflect on last year's accomplishments and notice just how far we have come in the past 12 months and realize just how productive we really were. We should give ourselves a little praise and be proud of what we have achieved so far.

We can learn a lot from the Laws of Nature regarding stress-free living in our lives. The cycle of life and earth, with its changing seasons, isn't under any pressure with ticking clocks to bloom on time or a schedule to change temperatures on a specific date or time; it just happens naturally year after year. In spring, Mother Earth renews herself, the grass turns green, the trees bud almost on a warm-weather cue, and the migratory birds always come back to their summer places of last year. There really is a time for every season and purpose.

While my cottage sits in its hibernation state until late April, my weekend trips to the Thumb may be a little limited. But instead of getting frustrated with the delay in the warm weather, I'll have to reflect on the laws of the universe and nature itself and know that everything unfolds in its own time, the way it is meant to be. In the meantime, I will continue to strive to be my best in 2019, but I will also be okay when I do forget my resolutions for a day or two or three; I'll just get back on track the next day and strive for my new goals. Everything will fall into place as it should. No pressure here.

Happy 2019, *ThumbPrint* News readers! 🐹

# JANUARY

## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

If you have an event in February that you would like listed in the February issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to [ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net](mailto:ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net) by January 12, 2019. There is no charge for the listing. Limited space is available for publishing events in this section. If it becomes necessary to eliminate some of the events that were submitted to us, we apologize. Events that were submitted earliest and non-profit events will be given the first priority.

*Editor's note: Before traveling beyond your hometown to attend any of these events, please call ahead for any changes in dates or times or for any cancellations.*

### GENESEE

No events were submitted for Genesee County this month.

### HURON

No events were submitted for Huron County this month.

### LAPEER

**Imlay City – January 6  
Sunday Breakfast – Imlay City Eagles**, 170 Almont St., 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (while supplies last). We will also have a 50/50 drawing and a raffle, with proceeds going to cancer and Alzheimer/dementia charities. Pancake breakfast includes 4 pancakes, 2 pieces of ham, a Danish and coffee, juice or milk. \$7 for ages 11 to adult, \$4 for ages 6 – 10, children 5 and under are free. For more information email Betty at [cbmason2007@hotmail.com](mailto:cbmason2007@hotmail.com).

#### Lapeer – January 6, 13, 20 & 27

**Lapeer Center Flea Market**, 425 County Center St., 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Open every Sunday, with up to 75 booths inside and outside, selling a huge variety of items to the public. No admission charge. For more information call (810) 664-2109.

### MACOMB

#### Washington Twp. – January 2, 9 & 16

**Confident Communicators Toastmasters Club**, Washington Township offices in the upstairs boardroom, 57900 Van Dyke (between 26 Mile Rd. and West), 8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. 1<sup>st</sup> three visits are free. For more information contact Kim at (586) 933-3286.

#### Richmond – January 11, 12 & 13

**Richmond Community Theatre Presents**, *Bandit Invincible*, a play written by John Salsido, based on a book by the same name that is centered around Butch Cassidy. Friday

and Saturday shows are at 8:00 p.m., Sunday show is at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 cash at the door on a first come basis. A portion of the proceeds go to a local women's shelter. RCT is located at 69619 Parker St. For questions, please call (586) 727-9518 visit our website at [www.richmondtheatre.com](http://www.richmondtheatre.com).

**New Baltimore – January 12  
New Baltimore Lions Club's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**, Cedar Glen Golf Course, 36860 25 Mile Rd. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., sit down dinner at 7:00 p.m. Music by Bayside Jazz, dancing, cash bar and guest speakers. Donation of \$25 per person. Purchase tickets from a New Baltimore Lion or at Curves New Baltimore. Please RSVP by January 7. For more information call Judy at (586) 212-3036.

**Richmond – January 14 & 15  
Auditions for Richmond Community Theatre**, 69619 Parker St., at 7:00 p.m. Auditions are for the play *Barefoot in the Park*, a play by Neil Simon. Performances will be March 8, 9, 10 and 15, 16, 17, 2019. For more information visit our website at [www.richmondtheatre.com](http://www.richmondtheatre.com), email [artisticdirector@rhchmondtheatre.com](mailto:artisticdirector@rhchmondtheatre.com) or call (586) 727-9518.

#### New Baltimore – January 25, 26 & 27

**New Baltimore Lions Winterfest 2019**, downtown New Baltimore. 5:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. on Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. on Saturday and 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Sunday. Cornhole and fishing tournaments, prizes, ice carving, a polar bear plunge and more! For more information visit [newbaltimorelions.com](http://newbaltimorelions.com) or call Judy at (586) 212-3036.

### OAKLAND

No events were submitted for Oakland County this month.

### ST. CLAIR

**All of St. Clair County All Year Long**

**Woman's Life Chapter 855's Bottle and Can Drive**. Funds support those in need as we continue to fight hunger and homelessness in our community. Make a difference today by donating! For a drop-off point or a pick up for large donations call (810) 392-5136.

**Port Huron – January 1 – 31  
Coin Drive**, Blue Water Pregnancy Center, 1211 Griswold St. Collect all your spare change during January and drop off at the Center. Proceeds to benefit Blue Water Pregnancy Center (non-profit charity) for helping pregnant teens with free services. For more information email Jessica at [office@bluewaterbabies.org](mailto:office@bluewaterbabies.org) or call her at (810) 985-6328.

#### Capac – January 4, 11, 18 & 25

**Family Storytime**, Capac Library, 111 N. Main, 10:00 a.m. Enjoy stories, songs and crafts, with a mix of poems, puppets, finger plays and movement activities that promote literacy. For more information call (810) 395-7000.

#### Yale – January 7

**Senior Craft**, Yale Library, 2 Jones St., 10:30 a.m. Come and join us for a craft and lots of fun! Registration requested, but not required. For more information call (810) 387-2940.

#### Fair Haven – January 8

**Hooks and Needles**, Ira Township Library, 7013 Meldrum Rd., 2:00 p.m. On the second Tuesday of each month, needlework crafters bring your craft to work on and share. You're sure to have an enjoyable afternoon visiting us here in Ira, making new friends and seeing new creations as well. For more information call (586) 725-9081.

**Algonac – January 9 & 29  
Grown-Up Coloring Club**, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 6:00 p.m. Are you a "grown-up" seeking to "release your inner child" or do you just need a relaxing, creative way to burn off stress? Join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday and last Tuesday of the month as we color for fun! Supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring your own coloring books! Drop in anytime

between 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Come when you can – stay as long as you like! For more information call (810) 794-4471.

**Port Huron – January 9  
History Hounds: America's First Female Flier – Harriet Quimby**, Port Huron Library, 210 McMorran Blvd., 7:00 p.m. Michigan native, Harriet Quimby, gained fame as America's first woman pilot. She was also a drama critic for **Leslie's Illustrated Weekly**, a motion picture screenwriter and actress, a stage actress and a spokesperson for Vin Fiz grape soda. Learn about the rise and fall of this little-known legend. For more information call (810) 987-7323 ext. 124.

**Port Huron – January 9  
Divorce Care**, Colonial Woods Missionary Church, 1101 Military St., 6:45 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. This is a special weekly seminar for those who are separated or divorced. It goes through March 13, 2019, and child care is provided. To register or for more information call the Counseling Center at (810) 984-5575.

**Casco Twp. – January 11, 12 & 13  
63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Winter Festival**, Perch Point Conservation Club, 7930 Meisner Rd. 4:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. on Friday, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 a.m. on Saturday and 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. We will have an Exotic Zoo on Saturday and Sunday, a 6+3 gun raffle, bottle and can drive, live entertainment on Saturday night with prepaid ticket, kid zone and more. For the full schedule and pricing, visit [perchpoint.org](http://perchpoint.org) or call (810) 765-4966.

**Marysville – January 11 & 25  
Get Together with Games**, Marysville Library, 1175 Delaware, 10:00 a.m. Do you have cabin fever? Bring a friend, drop in and join others! Play Yahtzee, Scrabble, a card game or work on a jigsaw puzzle. For more information call (810) 364-9483.

**St. Clair – January 12  
Euchre Tournament**, St. Clair Masonic Temple, 1800 St. Clair Hwy.,

doors open at 1:00 p.m., play begins at 1:30 p.m. Public is welcome. Admission \$10 per person. Door prizes and 50/50 drawing. Refreshments are provided.

For more information call Diane at (586) 337-2729.

**Marine City – January 14**  
**Friends of the Marine City Library**, 300 S. Parker, 6:00 p.m. Become a part of your community library and discuss plans for the future. For more information call (810) 765-5233.

**Kimball – January 17**  
**Book Chat with Annie**, Kimball Township Library, 1955 N. Allen Rd., 1:00 p.m. Join avid reader and retired bookseller Annie O'Donnell to share favorite winter reads. For more information call (810) 395-7000.

**Kimball – January 18**  
**Spaghetti Dinner**, New Life Christian Academy, 5517 Griswold Rd. Two seatings available: 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. All you can eat! Tickets at the school – now ready for purchase! Adults \$10, students \$7 and four years and under free. For more information call (810) 367-3770 ext. 100.

**Memphis – January 19**  
**Winter Wonderland Wine Tasting**, 34758 Pratt Rd., 7:00 p.m. Presented by Memphis Lions and Sage Creek Winery. \$15 or \$25 for a couple. Door prizes and lots of fun. For more information call Judy at (810) 392-5065.

**Port Huron Twp. – January 19**  
**Blue Water Area Humane Society's 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Low Cost Vaccination Clinic**, 4100 Griswold, 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. This is meant for low-income families and individuals. Dogs: Rabies, Distemper and Parvo – \$5 each for two dogs, \$10 for each additional dog. Cats: Rabies and RCP – \$5 each for two cats, \$10 for each additional cat. Dog licenses will not be on sale. Microchipping available for \$15. Must be a resident of St. Clair County, have picture ID, current proof of income and meet low-income guidelines. Call Blue Water Area Humane Society at (810) 987-4357 for more information.

**Marine City – January 22 & 23**  
**Auditions for Algonac Community Theatre**, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St., 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Auditions are for the play *The Women* written by Clare Boothe Luce and is a comedy with a large, all-women cast. It is a commentary on their lives and friendships, from superficial to heartfelt, some romantic rivalry and toxic relationships as well, with comedic characters and witty dialog. For more information email Mary at mandsadkins@gmail.com.

**Lakeport – January 23**  
**Read the Book and Watch the Movie**, Burtchville Township Library, 7097 Second St., 1:00 p.m. Read the book *Nights in Rodanthe* by Nicholas Sparks and watch the movie (PG-13). Participate in engaging conversation about the differences from the book to the movie. Popcorn and beverages will be provided. All ages of adults welcome. Registration is requested by calling (810) 385-8550.

**Memphis – January 23**  
**Rosie the Riveter**, Memphis Library, 34830 Potter St., 1:00 p.m. Join us as special guest Donnaleen Lanktree of the American Rosie the Riveter Association presents "They were Rosies". They worked as riveters, buckers, sanders, welders, bus drivers, parachute folders, shipyard workers, assembly line workers, Red Cross volunteers and so much more. A light lunch will be provided by the Friends of the Library. For more information call (810) 392-2980.

**Marysville – January 24**  
**St. Clair County Family History Group**, Marysville Library, 1175 Delaware Ave., 6:00 p.m. The meeting will begin with our program "What did you find out about your family during the holidays?" This will be followed by our business meeting. Light refreshments will be served. Anyone interested in local history or researching their family history is welcome to attend as a guest or may become a member. For more information send an email to grannyfran21@sbcglobal.net.

## SANILAC

**Sandusky – January 12 & 26**  
**Thumb Dance Club**, Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley St., 7:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m., with a meal break at 8:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Cost is \$7 for non-members. You are asked to bring a snack to share. On January 12, entertainment provided by Melody Magic, with slow dancing, square dancing and line dancing and a monthly birthday cake. On January 26, entertainment provided by Lighthouse Three, with slow dancing, square dancing and line dancing, as usual. There will also be "Line Dancing with Carol", who will teach some new line dancing steps and a pulled pork dinner. For more information call Nancy at (586) 663-5306.

## TUSCOLA

No events were submitted for Tuscola County this month.

## WAYNE

No events were submitted for Wayne County this month.

# THUMBPRINT NEWS CONTEST

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object, person or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, go to our website [www.thumbprintnews.com](http://www.thumbprintnews.com) and enter your answer. Of all persons submitting the correct answer by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, one person will be randomly selected to be entered into a drawing for a wonderful surprise gift at the end of the year!

On December 16, 2018, we randomly chose from the monthly winners; see below to find out who it was. For the new year, we will draw one lucky winner on December 16, 2019, out of all our monthly winners.



For our January contest, we are asking our readers to identify who the famous person shown below is as a child.



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- Automatic Reset
- Automatic Restart
- Automatic Resume
- Automatic Pause
- Automatic Play
- Automatic Stop
- Automatic Eject
- Automatic Close
- Automatic Open
- Automatic Lock
- Automatic Unlock
- Automatic Hide
- Automatic Show
- Automatic Hide
- Automatic Show

Remember, visit our website [www.thumbprintnews.com](http://www.thumbprintnews.com) if you know the answer. **Good luck!**

**Congratulations to Dave Loersch, of Chesterfield Township, Michigan. He is our 2018 winner!**

Of the 12 monthly winners, Dave was randomly selected and has won a \$40 gift certificate to Foxfire Fixin's restaurant in Marine City, Michigan!

For more information on the restaurant, visit [www.FoxfireFixins.com](http://www.FoxfireFixins.com) or turn to pages 14 and 15 in this issue.

**Native American Words of Wisdom**

Brought to you by Foxfire Fixin's

"MAY THE STARS CARRY YOUR SADNESS AWAY, MAY THE FLOWERS FILL YOUR HEART WITH BEAUTY, MAY HOPE FOREVER WIPE AWAY YOUR TEARS, AND, ABOVE ALL, MAY SILENCE MAKE YOU STRONG."

- Chief Dan George  
1899-1981

Born Geswanouth Slahood  
Tsilie-Waututh Nation  
Vancouver, B.C., Canada



## 4-H SPIN CLUB: THEATRICAL ACTING

Lapeer County 4-H SPIN Club is introducing a new theatre program teaching youth the fundamentals of acting. The SPIN Club runs for three Saturdays from January 26<sup>th</sup> thru February 9<sup>th</sup>, at the Michigan State University Extension Building from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., 1800 Inlay City Rd., Suite 1, Lapeer, MI 48446.

The Acting program is for ages 9-19! Come learn different acting tips and games. Perform using all of your body and facial expressions. All levels of acting experience are welcome to join. There is a participation fee of \$20 per youth or \$60 per family with three or more children. For more information or an application please contact Spin Club Coordinator, Brandon Kreiner, at the Michigan State University Extension Office, (810) 667-0343.

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Melanie Duquesnel

## RESOLUTIONS

The new year is here, and with that comes new resolutions. Many of those resolutions include working off those extra pounds we may have gained indulging in all the delicious treats the holidays bring.

While nutrition is a large part of any weight loss journey, deciding to join a credible gym is also important. Before you go, do your research.

Sometimes those New Year resolutions are the extra motivation we need to get our health back in check. For many consumers, better health begins with choosing a gym. Don't just sign up for the first gym you see. It's important to know what you're signing up for before signing any contracts.

**BBB® offers these tips to help you get the most out of your gym membership.**  
**Determine your fitness goals.** Determining your goals in advance will help you select a facility that is most appropriate for you. It's also a good idea to check with your physician before embarking on a new fitness regiment, especially if you have a medical condition.

**Figure out your priorities.** What is most important to you? Will a convenient location and extended hours help you stick to your fitness plan? Will a variety of equipment or classes keep you motivated? Do you work out while traveling and prefer a chain with numerous outlets? Determine your top priorities before you start shopping around.

**Check bbb.org.** BBB has Business Profiles on more than 15,000 health clubs, fitness centers and gyms. Read what previous customers have to say and see how the businesses respond to complaints. This information may help you narrow down the list of gyms you want to tour in person.

**Take a tour.** Make sure the gym has the equipment, classes and trainers you need or expect. Pay attention to things that are important to you, whether it's the cleanliness of the showers or the availability of Wi-Fi. Ask questions and make sure you understand all the rules. Ask about busy times, wait times for equipment, whether classes require pre-registration, availability and cost of trainers, etc.

**Ask about free trials.** Gyms often give a one-week free pass for potential members; this is a great way to see if the gym is a good fit for you. Try the gym at different times to see how crowded it is and whether there is a wait for certain equipment. Check out classes if they are offered.

**Don't feel coerced.** Do not give in to high-pressure sales tactics to join right away. A reputable gym will give you enough time to read the contract thoroughly, tour the facilities, do some research and make an informed decision.

**Calculate the true costs.** Gyms often use special introductory offers to encourage new members, but the price could go up more than you budgeted once the initial period is over. Make sure you understand what the regular monthly fees will be and what they include.

**Understand the terms.** Read the contract carefully before signing. Make sure that all verbal promises made by the salesperson are in writing. What matters is the document you sign, so don't just take a salesperson's word for it. What happens if you move or the gym goes out of business? Will your membership renew automatically at the end of the term? Can you get out of the contract altogether and under what circumstances? These are all important questions that you should have answers for in writing.

With a little "heavy lifting" in the beginning, your real workouts should prove to be productive and satisfying. Need assistance to find that credible gym or fitness center? Visit [bbb.org](http://bbb.org) or call (866) 788-5706. 🇺🇸

*Editor's note: Melanie Duquesnel is the president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau serving Eastern Michigan & the Upper Peninsula, which is a non-profit organization that fights fraud and promotes ethical business practices in the local marketplace through its business accreditation, consumer education and dispute resolution programs. Contact your local BBB by calling (248) 223-9400 or by visiting [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org).*

# ICC PLAQUE DEDICATION

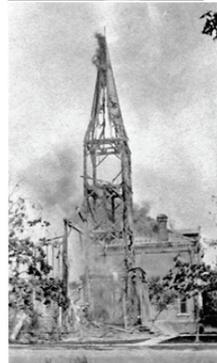


**By Alan Naldrett,** *ThumbPrint News Contributor*

It was 1679, and the Cherokee Indians in the area were no doubt curious about a large ship stopping in the nearby river long enough for a robed man to place a cross on the shore. The ship sailed on.

The man was Father Hennepin (pictured to the left), and the ship was the *Griffin*, the property of French explorer Robert LaSalle. By 1845, the land had become more settled by French settlers and the land where Father Hennepin planted the cross was now the property of Stephen Rose.

Rose deeded the property to the Catholic Church, who built a wooden church named the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church. (The church's name was changed to St. Mary's for several years, and then in 1953 the original name was restored.)



*The church fire of 1917*

On Sunday, August 26, 1917, a disastrous fire destroyed the church, rectory, convent and school that had been built on the site. Undeterred by the catastrophe, the parish rebuilt a larger, more fire-resistant edifice and dedicated it the following year, in 1918.

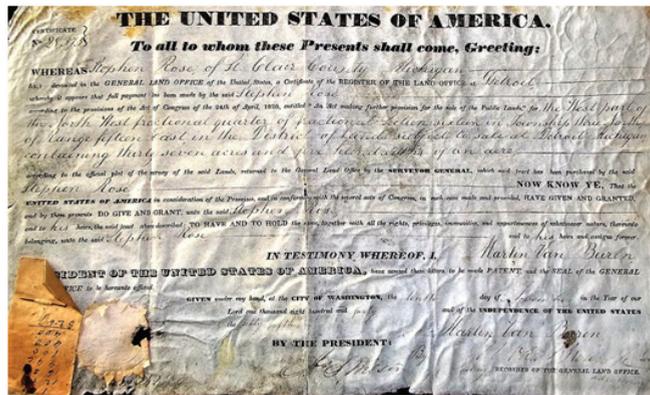
One-hundred years later, on Sunday, October 14, 2018, a Michigan historical plaque was unveiled commemorating the rich history of Immaculate Conception. This includes the bell, with 70 of the original parishioners' names inscribed on it, the grotto created for the 100-year anniversary and more.

In attendance at the recent dedication was the Archbishop of Detroit, Ira Township native, the Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron. Speakers and honored attendees included pastor Father Joe Esper; Ira Township Supervisor Jim Endres Jr.; Michigan Historical Commissioner, Laura Ashlee; and Eagle Scout Flag pole project leader, Jeff Wooten and his son Reece.

Over 100 people attended the ceremony and most went to a reception held afterwards. An arrangement of historical photos, documents and factual histories were displayed there by parishioner Carol Gawel. Gail Zabowski contributed the original deed of Stephen Rose to the church.

The impetus and legwork for the plaque was headed by Paul Torney of the church's Cemetery Committee. Also, at the ceremony, a flagpole initiated by Reece Wooten for his Eagle Scout certification was dedicated.

The plaque was installed by Knights of Columbus Au Lac Council members, Joe Whitenight, Ron Vigneron, Dave Furtah, Stan Sommers and Bob DeBusschere, the Director of Maintenance and Cemeteries. The late Anthony "Buff" DeWalls, his wife Dolores and their family made notable contributions for the plaque and were honored with a plaque of their own.



*Actual deed used to transfer the church property from Stephen Rose to the church, donated by Gail Zabowski at the ceremony*

Side one reads:

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

*In the 1830's numerous Catholic settlers immigrated to the Anchor Bay area. Having no formal church, the settlers were intermittently pastored by missionary clergymen. In 1847, Etienne (Stephen) Rose and his two sons constructed a wooden church on this property. Two years later, the Roses deeded a portion of their land to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Detroit for the purpose of developing a parish. In 1853 the diocese sent the Reverend Charles A. Chambille to be the first official pastor, and the Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary was founded.*

*In addition to an ornate wooden church, the parish constructed a school, a cemetery and a rectory.*

Side two reads:

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

*Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary thrived under a number of pastors until 1917, when fire destroyed the original wooden church, the school, and the rectory. The pastor at that time, Father James Downey, oversaw the reconstruction of all three buildings. Albert, Etienne (Stephen) Rose's great-grandson, was the contractor. By 1918 the present church and the school were in use. The new brick church featured a cruciform floor plan. In 1921 the church bell was cast and engraved with the names of seventy donors. In 1953 church members hauled stones from local farms to build a grotto, to celebrate, the one hundredth anniversary of the parish's founding.*



*Getting ready to unveil the plaque in Ira Township*



*Pictured from left to right: Eagle Scout Reece Wooten, Father Joe Esper, Archbishop Allen Vigneron, Michigan Historical Commissioner Laura Ashlee, Paul Torney and Jeff Wooten*



*Besides the flagpole, Reece also added bricks paved with names of local veterans, as well as the priests of Immaculate Conception.*



*Reece Wooten, with his parents, Colleen and Jeff, at the dedication ceremony. Reece provided a new flagpole and honorary paver bricks as a project for his Eagle Scout designation for Troop 211.*

*All pictures contributed by Paul Torney*

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