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# ThumbPrint News

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

JANUARY 2011

## Inside This Issue

**PAGE 6** Time is Ticking Away



**PAGE 9** Area Transportation



**PAGE 12** Adopt Some Memories



## Winter Backyard Birding in Michigan

By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer



With winter weather in full swing in January in Michigan, many of the fine feathered friends of spring, summer and fall are no longer around to be seen. Many have journeyed south to areas that can sustain their nutritional needs throughout the winter. However, for backyard bird enthusiasts, there are plenty of birds that do stay around during the colder weather and can be a continued source of enjoyment, provided their basic needs are met.

Although nuts, seeds, berries and insects – all of which are foods for different kinds of birds – can still be found in winter, it can be quite difficult for birds that remain in Michigan during bouts of severe weather. Backyard bird

feeding can make that chore a lot easier on the little creatures. They also need extra fat in their diets during colder weather to help them stay warm. Peanut butter can provide that extra fat when mixed in with birdseed.

It is important that once you start feeding birds in the winter that you continue to keep the feeders full. Although most birds that remain in Michigan in the winter are quite resourceful in finding their own food, they may become more dependent on your bird feeders once they have become used to the supplemental feeding, especially during severe blizzards or ice storms. Also, the feeders may attract a greater number of birds to an area than natural food sources alone in the area



would support.

If you are planning a winter vacation, make sure that you are still providing for your feathered friends while you are gone by asking someone to replenish the feeders a couple of times during the

See *BIRDING*, Page 18

## Spotlight on a Small Town: Casco

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

Casco is a small unincorporated community in the south central part of Casco Township in St. Clair County. Casco Township as of the 2000 census had a population of 4,747.

Native Americans inhabited this area before the white settlers began arriving in the mid-1830s, many of German nationality. The township was organized in 1849 with William Hart as the Supervisor. The name of the township is most often accredited to Captain John Clarke who arrived here from Casco, Maine. From 1854 until 1907, a post office operated in Casco.

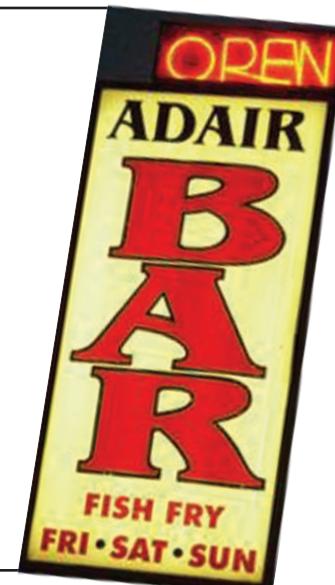
Reviewing a 1859 plat map of Casco

Township shows that one of the biggest land owners was Francis Palms, who was the owner of 23 sections. The *New York Times* on November 25, 1886, published this obituary of Francis Palms:

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See *Casco*, Page 27



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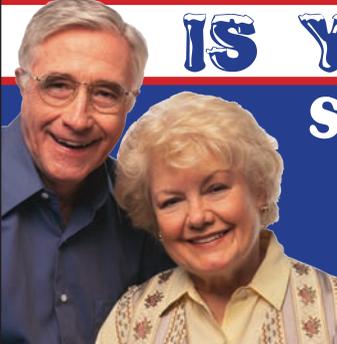
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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Happy New Year to all the readers of *ThumbPrint News*! It has been more than a full year since we first started publication – and what a year it has been! We have learned so much from the telephone calls, emails and letters from our admirers – and critics. Each comment and suggestion we take very seriously. We know that, as much as we try, we can never satisfy every single reader. But your correspondence and phone calls help us to gauge the pulse of what our readers like – and want to see more of. My New Year's resolution as editor is to continue to provide an upbeat, positive newspaper that reflects on the places and people at work and at play in the Thumb of Michigan, both in the present and in the past. I am asking our readers to continue to submit articles that will inspire, that will educate and that will entertain others.

Speaking of New Year's resolutions, I was surfing the Internet for some of the more popular ones that are made at this time of year. They include such things as spending more time with family members, choosing more healthy lifestyles, reducing debts, vowing to help others more and learning new things. However, why do we think of these things most often at this time of year when all of them are such positive goals to strive for on a daily basis?

Part of the reason has to do with tradition. The beginning of making New Year's resolutions goes back to 153 B.C. when Janus, a mythical king of early Rome, was placed at the head of the calendar. Janus is always depicted as having two faces, one that could look back on the past and one that could look ahead to the future. Janus became the symbol for making resolutions and many Romans made this the time to forgive their enemies and also to exchange gifts. The month of January was named after Janus. Today many people continue to give the beginning of January special importance as a time of new beginnings – a time to make positive changes that will make their

own lives or the lives of others better.

As an individual, not just as editor of *ThumbPrint News*, I also like to think about my personal resolutions for the New Year. Many times, when I am in a contemplative mood, I turn to others who have previously put their thoughts into words more profoundly than I ever could. Today, I found several quotations about resolutions that did just that:

*"Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man."*  
Benjamin Franklin

That pretty much sums up why any resolution is made, doesn't it?

*"One resolution I have made, and try always to keep, is this: To rise above the little things."*  
John Burroughs

That is something I personally would like to improve upon this year – being more mellow and not letting the little things in life cause me stress. Losing a loved one this year caused me to ponder on what really matters most everyday and I hope that I will continue to keep that thought in my mind during days when everything seems to go crazy all at once.

*"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them*

*ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."*  
Edith Lovejoy Pierce

Now that is profound – and humbling at the same time. If I think about what the quote is really saying it is up to only me to write my autobiography for this coming year. I and only I will choose how to respond to each thing that happens in my life each minute of every day. I want the pages to be filled with love and laughter – and excitement and adventure. Most of all, I want the last chapter in the book to be a happy ending this year.

Last of all, this quote just says it all. It is a message to me, to you, to our villages, towns and cities. It is a message to our schools, to employees and employers. It is a message to politicians, to our President, and to the leaders of every nation. It calls for change, but in a positive way. I like this quote best of all:

*"Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right."*  
Oprah Winfrey

Once again, Happy New Year to you all – and I hope you make resolutions you will keep this year!

**DIANE KODET**  
Editor, *ThumbPrint News*

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maintain it for long," explained Dr. Shah. "With HCG, you burn fat, not muscle. You won't feel hyper, jittery, or restless as with diet pills." According to Dr. Shah, besides losing overall fat, HCG detoxes your system, lowers your blood pressure, reduces cholesterol and helps diabetes. HCG also tightens skin for less sagging after weight loss. For more information on the HCG diet, make an appointment with Dr. Shah.

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# Yes, My Ancestors Were Passengers on the *Mayflower!*

## ThumbPrint News Article, "Were Your Ancestors Passengers on the *Mayflower?*" brings a flood of response from our readers

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

In our November, 2010 edition of *ThumbPrint News*, one of our cover stories was "Were Your Ancestors Passengers on the *Mayflower?*" We were hoping to share with our readers the joys some of our staff has had with the fascinating hobby of genealogical research. We ended our article with inviting our readers to submit their stories of successfully tracing their own roots back to the *Mayflower*. We received a flood of responses and are printing a few here for your enjoyment!

## Two Women Journey Back to the *Mayflower*

Submitted by Christine Rowley, Vice President of Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society and Patricia Hendrickson, Editor of *The Historian*, the newsletter of the Richmond Historical Society

Most people think that the *Mayflower* story began in 1620. But for two women, the journey back to the *Mayflower* began in 2006. That's the year that Patricia (McIntosh) Hendrickson, who was working on her Claggett family line, contacted the children of William Arthur Rowley to see if they would be willing to share their family stories as they were also connected to Richard and Frances (Day) Claggett who settled in Lenox Township in the early 1830s. Neither of these women knew where this connection would take them or how exciting the journey they were to embark on would become.

Christine Rowley and her siblings, who all live in Richmond, met in February 2006 to discuss the letter they had received from a "cousin" who lived in Nevada and decided to let Christine handle the matter. Following a year of emails, phone calls, and exchanges of photos and documents, Patricia and Christine decided it was time to meet. Pat traveled to Ohio and then to Michigan to meet those who descended from the early settlers. With no motels in Richmond, Christine invited Patricia to stay with her at her home. Those days confirmed that the connection between the two women went further than just photos, documents and common ancestors.

Christine, who had recently retired from teaching high school in Romeo, and Patricia, who had retired from Macy's, joined together to work on the Claggett-Rowley genealogy and their activities expanded with their memberships in the Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society where Christine now serves as the society's vice president and Pat as the editor of the *RAHGS Historian*.

An old Rowley family Bible listed many Rowley names with births, marriages and deaths. Then a reconnection with more distant cousins in Texas produced a packet of letters written in the 1850s and 1860s by the sisters of James Rowley, who in 1860 had married Frances Elizabeth Claggett. The names in those letters agreed with the names in the Bible and brought to light more information on the Rowley line. As Patricia began to work with Christine on sorting out the details, the line moved back in time and, with connections made on Ancestry.com and details confirmed through many outside sources, the Rowley line had gone back to Henry Rowley who, with his wife Sarah Palmer and children (including Moses Rowley), arrived in New England in 1632. More research revealed that Moses Rowley (1627-1705) married Elizabeth Fuller (1626-1735) on April 22, 1652 in Barnstable, Massachusetts. Christine's connection to the *Mayflower* was confirmed when it was discovered that Elizabeth Fuller's grandparents were

*Mayflower* passengers, Edward Robert Fuller (1575-1620) and his wife, Ann Hopkins Fuller (1581-1621) through their son Matthew Fuller.

Patricia called Christine when the connection was confirmed with online records found on the *Mayflower* Society website. It was amazing to see that the line from Christine Rowley to Edward Fuller had been an all male Rowley line back to Elizabeth's parents, Matthew Fuller and Frances Lyde Fuller. They thought it would be an easy line to prove for membership in the *Mayflower* Society when Christine received the approval of her initial application with the Society providing a proven first five generations from the *Mayflower* passenger. As they began to sort through the documents on hand to "prove" each generational connection, they found they were missing the documentation that securely connected Christine's 4x great grandfather to her 5x great grandfather. There were many family trees on the internet that showed this connection but no one had the proof. But Patricia was not discouraged and with Christine's encouragement began to dig into the "facts" as shown on those trees. What was discovered was that most researchers listed Judah's death in Tioga Center, Oswego Co, New York. Looking at historic New York county maps, checking census records and reading through history books, they discovered



Christine Rowley and Patricia Hendrickson trace their *Mayflower* roots

that Judah had lived and probably died in Tioga Co, New York, near Owego.

In 2010, Christine, Patricia and Christine's niece, Angela, took a road trip to New York in search of the Rowley ancestors. While documents, cemetery records and tombstones were located for several of the early Rowleys, information regarding Judah was not found. Not to be discouraged, they returned to searching the internet where new information is being digitized every day.

Late one night in July 2010, with a renewed membership to New England Historic Genealogical Society and using that group's website, NewEnglandAncestors.org, Patricia typed in Judah Rowley's name and came across a probate record in a database titled "Wills, Administrations and Guardianships in NY State, 1787-1835", which included a will in Chenango Co, New York, that read: "Transcribed Wills, pages 7-9 produced at Town

See *MAYFLOWER*, Page 23

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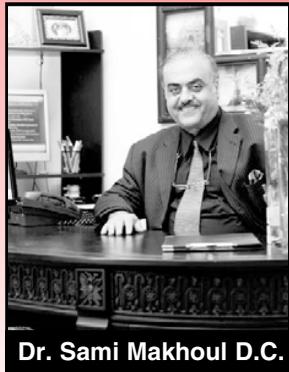
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## Tick-tock, Tick-tock

By Louise Allen

ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Second by second, time marches on, as precise and as predictable as any event in our universe. Whether we are working, playing, eating or sleeping, time inevitably continues to pass as each activity, whether menial or memorable, is in the process of being completed.

Yet, depending on what that activity is, time can seem to slow down to almost a halt or to speed by so fast that one is left wondering what just happened.

I am one of those people who makes plans for a vacation a year in advance. The vacation is usually in January, as that is the month where I finally have enough time to take a few deep breaths and relax after the hectic holiday season. By October or November of each year, it seems like January will never come. The days seem longer than 24 hours and the weeks seem longer than seven days.

Yet, once my two-week vacation is underway, it ends all too quickly. I swear that the days shorten to only about 13 hours and that the weeks are approximately four days long.

During that same span of my vacation there is someone else in the world who, because of his or her unique set of circumstances, is experiencing time as if it was happening in slow motion. But, for both of us, the exact same amount of seconds, minutes and days pass in exactly the same precise amount of time.

No matter where we turn today, time stares us in the face. Our computers display proudly the hours and minutes in the day, our cell-phones automatically change to the correct time, even when crossing into another time zone. There are wall clocks, wrist watches, alarm clocks, timers, time clocks, clocks in cars – it is nearly impossible to not know or to not be able to find out in a few seconds what the correct time is.

Have you ever thought about how if you study the history of time-telling, our world is so drastically different than

it was in ancient times? Go far enough back and the only sense humans had of time was relative to when the sun rose and set and when the seasons changed. As early as 16th century B.C., people were telling the time with the sun using primitive sundials. However, that tool was useless as the darkness of night settled in or on cloudy days.

Some ingenious inventors thought of water clocks and hourglasses, which would not be dependent on the sun to cast a shadow and that would work 24 hours a day. Mechanical clocks did not surface until the late 1300s. Pendulum clocks came next in 1581 as a result of the keen observations of Galileo, then only a 17 year old young man. Soon the manufacture of clocks became a thriving industry. Every town had to have its own town clock, which was placed in the town center or other important meeting spot. Town clocks were considered the official displays of the time, whether they were accurate or not.

Accuracy improved again during the 1920s with the use of quartz crystals in timekeeping pieces. By the mid-1900s, atomic clocks had been built that were so accurate that they were off by only one second every 300 million years. Town clocks often fell into disrepair, being too unreliable for the highly time-conscious technological society that evolved.

Today, however, in many towns and cities across the nation, town clocks are making a come-back. Some are original clocks that are being meticulously restored by historical societies for nostalgic reasons and others are newer versions that appeal to those looking for something to remind them of the past when time seemed to move a little slower.

The staff of *ThumbPrint News* thought that the New Year would be a great time to take a look at some of those wonderful town clocks that can still be found across the Thumb of Michigan. Although certainly not the only town clocks that can be found in our area, these are representative of those we found in our travels. How many do you recognize? 🌱



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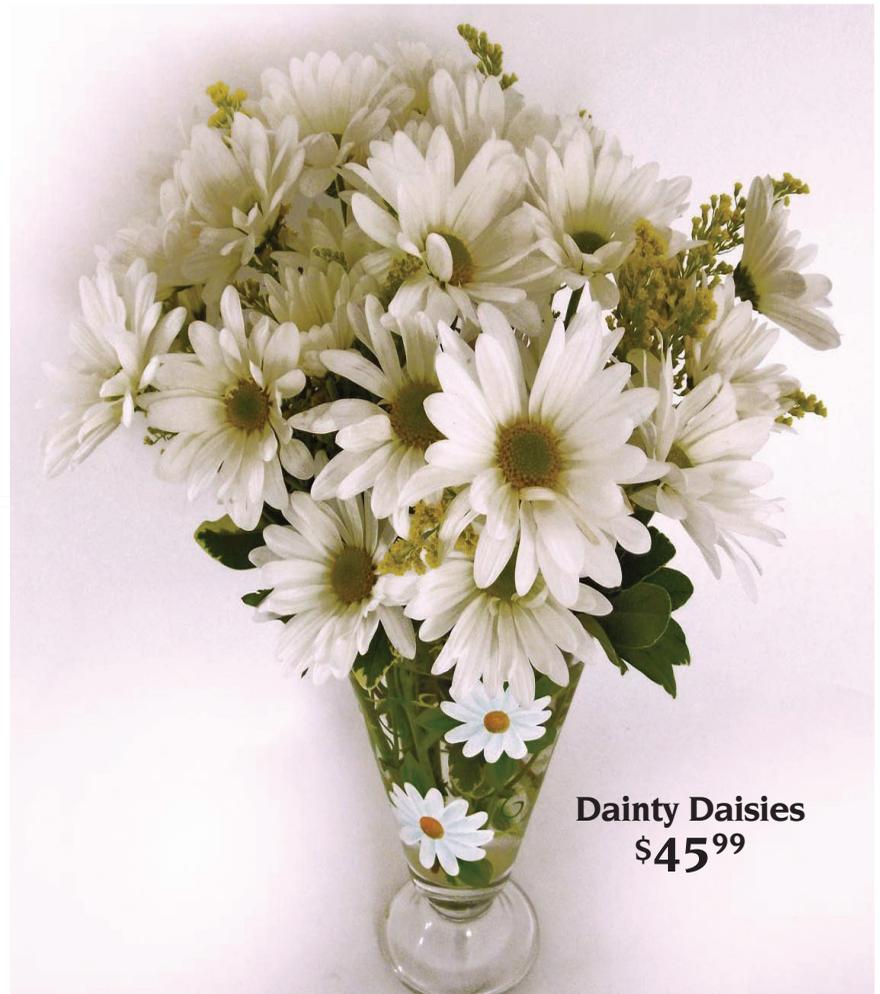
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# Wow! What a Difference in Only 200 Years!

By Joe Nugent

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

I had just worked the last shift for the Algonac/Clay Historical Society Museum for the year. Business had been slow and I had plenty of time to do a little research on travel to this area when it was just being settled. We take so much for granted today when we just jump in to the car and head to Detroit or to the Port Huron area to shop. Travel was a lot different two hundred years ago!

I was looking for information on names of the roads in the area and became engrossed on travel in the early 1800s. My grandmother had told us tales of traveling from Marine City to East Detroit (I-94 and Eight Mile area today) to visit relatives and it was a three day ordeal. First, they were up before dawn to take care of the animals, then came the time to hitch the horses to the wagon for a long ride over dirt roads. Finally, reaching her cousins at almost dusk, they would spend the next day visiting and then would reverse the process the third day to return home again.

There were no cars or busses at that time, and spots that could hardly even be called roads. Today, we would call them mere dirt paths. In 1833, the Gratiot Turnpike (or Military Road) from Detroit to Fort Gratiot (Port Huron) was finally completed. Roads from towns all along the river were gradually built to the "Turnpike."

The Grand Trunk Railroad was built between Port Huron and Detroit. When residents of the area wanted to go to "the city" on the train, they would have to be driven by horse and buggy, or sleigh in the winter, to the Chesterfield station (the Gratiot and 23 Mile Road area today). Later, in the 1800s, there was the additional option of traveling by passenger

steamships to points north or south on the St. Clair River and beyond. Some of the well known steamers were the *Tashmoo*, the *Wauketa* and the *Owana*.

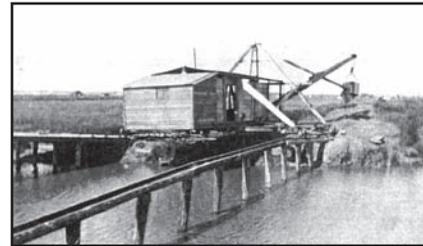
In the late 1800s, the Detroit Urban Railroad system became one of the most extensive in the country. They added numerous spurs to the main trunk line, and at its height, within a 75 mile radius of Detroit, it served 159 communities in Michigan and Canada. The Detroit and Port Huron Shore Line Railway ran from Detroit through Mount Clemens, Chesterfield, New Baltimore, Anchorville, Fair Haven, Algonac, Marine City, St. Clair and Marysville, ending at Port Huron. An additional spur line was added between Anchorville directly to Marine City. It was called the "Shortcut" and ran where Shortcut Road is now.

The next spur was from Perch Point Stop along the northern boundary of St. Johns Marsh, then turned at the eastern edge of the marsh and headed south to exit at M-29 (designated M-27 at that time) and the St. Clair River. The stops from Anchorville to Algonac were Bay View, Fair Haven, Rose, Mills, Perch Point, Crockerville, Dyke, Pearl Beach, Pointe Tremble, Randolph, Nook, Pointe DuChene and Algonac. This spur continued along the river, stopping at North Algonac, Oak Grove, Harrow, Roberts Landing, Evansmore and Cherry Beach and then back to Marine City.

Roads improved, but they still had to go around the marsh. In November of 1882, Albert Miller and Company of Bay City bought 1,400 acres of the marsh land in Clay, known as the Pointe Tremble Prairie, and made a dyke around the entire tract with the idea of reclaiming the land for agricultural purposes. Mr.



Clark, of Detroit, had the contract for building the dyke at a cost of \$9,000. Two dredges were used, working in opposite directions. Additional dredging and shoring of the dyke started in 1915, with finishing touches in 1921 of rocks and stone that were delivered by boat to the docks just below Pearl Beach.



The roadway along the dyke was finally opened on June 27th, 1924. It was said by H. H. Townsend, the President of the Village of Algonac, at the dedication that, without the efforts of James W. Gilbert, the road would never have been completed. Toastmasters were Roy T. Gilbert and J. Lee Barrett of Detroit and boating fame. Many speeches were made, one notable one by Chris Smith (of Chris Craft), who stated that a sign should be erected at the far end of the road by Gratiot directing travelers to Algonac. Chris further stated that he would pay the

major part of it. A final topping of cement was added to the road in 1926.

The marsh area itself has seen many changes. After Albert Miller and Company purchased the swamp and dug the first dyke, they farmed the entire 1,400 acres. When the St. John family purchased it, they turned it into an 18-hole golf course. When the war came, the government requested that the area be cultivated and sugar beets planted, as sugar in wartime is an essential commodity. Following the war, it was attempted to return the land to a golf course. However at a cost of \$2,000 per hole, the cost became prohibitive after just nine holes were completed and the project was abandoned.

The Lake St. Clair Advisory Committee eventually raised and donated \$25,000 to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to purchase a portion of the land, turning the area into a refuge for fish and wildlife, which is now maintained as the St. John's Marsh, a part of the St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area. Fish, fowl and wildlife are now regular visitors to this area. 🌱



Postcard from 1907 depicting the Tashmoo



## Chesterfield

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## Old Friends & New Beginnings

**By David Gillis**

*ThumbPrint News Columnist*

January is the month that accommodates resolution and an opportunity to look back to see what, if anything, you would like to do differently in the future. Normally, my list is quite extensive. The problem is, as I grow older, the past seems to extend over such a long period of time while the future appears to be so abbreviated.

As the aging process takes hold, there seems to be an anxiety to accomplish a variety of things I thought I should have over those rapidly passing years that are now behind me. An example is the renewal of old friendships, an opportunity recently presented to me.

A few weeks ago, as I returned from my mailbox, I noticed among the many catalogues and billing statements an envelope with a simple marking in the upper left corner. It said, "AHS Class of '61 – 50 Years."

I opened the oddly marked envelope and removed its contents. Enclosed was an announcement with a heading that gave notice of the upcoming Algonac High School fifty-year class reunion. Following a "Dear Classmate" greeting, the correspondence continued by reminding me that it has been almost 50 years since I closed the book on my high school days and embarked on a new journey.

As I stood there trying to forget just how many years have passed since I walked across the stage to receive a high school diploma, five decades of life flashed through my mind. I recalled military service, higher education, a business career, several relocations, marriage, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and retirement. I really didn't want to think about all that has happened in what seems like such a short period of time. But, the notice was correct. It's been one-half century. How could that be?

The announcement went on to state that we had met after 10 years, 20 years and again on the 25th anniversary of our graduation. Because of relocations and other circumstances, I was not one of the "we." I was unable to experience the gradual change in my classmates' appearance and life situations. Now, I was presented with an opportunity

to catch-up and see all of that at one time at our 50th class reunion in July.

My imagination envisioned being able to reconnect with people who I might not even recognize. Some may have gained weight and most will now have wrinkles. A few will have failing eye sight and arthritic knees as well as other indications of aging. I don't know if I'm ready for that. That's not how I remember the class of 1961.

I thought about the guys who may now be bald and of those lucky enough to have retained some hair, but now find that its color is grey or white. Some will have divorced and remarried. Many will have adult children who now have families of their own. I wonder how many of these fellow classmates have been able to cope with these life-changing experiences.

Then, as reality set in, I thought to myself, "But wait!" All of the differences I anticipate finding among those who walked across the stage with me at graduation I have already seen. They are in the mirror I look into each morning.

So, what's the outcome of my thinking process and why am I sharing it with you? Well, simply put, it provides a different outlook on life as it really is.

When I attend the planned mid-year event marking 50 years of new beginnings, greater challenges and varied experiences, I will be seeking to renew personal relationships with old friends. It won't matter what they look like or what they have done.

What will matter are those carefree things that once were fun and made us laugh. Of importance is what we positively shared as classmates and how that has added to our individual character. This will simply be an opportunity to reminisce, to hug, and to cry and laugh with old friends.

Yes, this new year will provide an opportunity to fully experience new beginnings with old friends. And, for those who remember, it too offers a realization that the higher we climb, the broader the view. 🌱

*Editor's note: When David attends his 50 year reunion next July, we certainly hope that he will share some pictures and perspectives on that memorable occasion with our ThumbPrint News readers.*



Melanie Duquesnel

## Winterize Your Home to Keep Heating Costs Down

### BBB Offers Cold Weather Home Preparation Tips

As colder weather moves into Michigan, many local homeowners are turning on their home-heating systems for the first time in many months. According to the Energy Information Administration, home-heating costs this winter are expected to rise by 3 percent compared to last year. BBB reminds homeowners that protecting your home before the harshest weather takes hold can save money in the long term.

BBB offers the following checklist for consumers to consult when preparing for the cold months ahead:

- **Furnace.** Have your unit inspected to make sure it is in safe, working order. Additionally, check to see that the furnace filter is clean, the thermostat is accurate and the pilot light is functioning.
- **Heating ducts.** According to the Department of Energy, a home with central heating can lose up to 60 percent of its heated air before that air reaches the vents. This occurs if ductwork is not well-connected, improperly insulated or if air travels through unheated spaces.
- **Fireplace.** Using your fireplace can keep you from running the heater as often, but make sure the flue is closed when it is not in use. This will keep cold drafts out of your home. If you notice a leak, have your chimney inspected or purchase a screen to cover your fireplace.
- **Gutters and outside pipes.** If freezing temperatures are forecasted, wrap outside pipes and clear your gutters to prevent possible cracking. Any clogs or excess water will expand as they freeze.

• **Caulking and weather stripping.** According to the EarthWorks Group, the average home has air leaks that amount to nine square feet. Inspect the caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors for cracking and peeling. If you can feel air coming in, it also means heat is getting out.

BBB reminds consumers that most of these steps can be done inexpensively and can help prevent spending hundreds, or sometimes thousands, of dollars in repairs.

To check the reliability of a company and find trustworthy businesses, visit [www.easternmichiganbbb.org](http://www.easternmichiganbbb.org).

**About Better Business Bureau**  
The Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan is a non-profit organization with the purpose of assisting in the protection of consumers and businesses from fraud and unethical business practices in the local marketplace. In addition to its recognized dispute resolution services, BBB maintains reliability reports on the customer service history of more than 80,000 local businesses and provides consumer education materials on numerous topics. BBB provides its services free to the public and its service territory stretches across Eastern Michigan from Ann Arbor through Metropolitan Detroit, Lansing, Flint, upward to Alpena, and covers the entire Upper Peninsula of the state. Visit [www.easternmichigan.bbb.org](http://www.easternmichigan.bbb.org) for more information.

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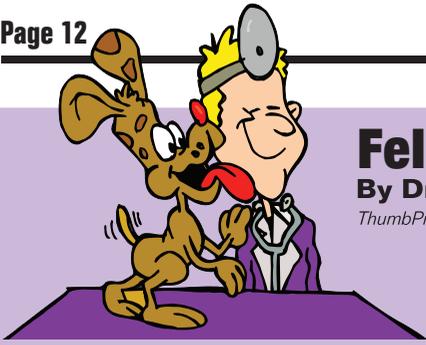
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## Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease

By Dr. DiBenedetto

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (FLUTD) is a grouping of multiple conditions that affect the bladder and urethra of cats. Diet, environment, weight and age all affect a cat's susceptibility to the syndrome. Some of the conditions associated with FLUTD include urinary tract infections (UTI), bladder stones, urethral blockage and Interstitial Cystitis. These conditions can all cause several common symptoms like straining to urinate, inappropriate urination outside of the litter box (due to pain with urination), blood in the urine, increased frequency of urination but decreased amount of urine and UTI's. These symptoms are by far the number one reason cats are surrendered to shelters and pounds.

Feline Interstitial Cystitis (FIC) is becoming the most commonly diagnosed condition in cats with FLUTD. FIC is usually a diagnosis of exclusion, meaning if all other tests are negative, the cat is considered to have FIC. The causes of FIC are not certain; one theory is that the protective barrier lining the bladder is deficient in glycosaminoglycans. This in turn makes the bladder wall more fragile and prone to damage. This particular condition seems to wax and wane. Recent

research has led to identifying stress as a factor thought to cause symptoms of FIC in cats. Even in the best of homes, a cat may be stressed by boredom from being inside or having to deal with other animals within the household. The research suggests that Multimodal Environmental Modification (MEMO) has been effective in treating some cats with interstitial cystitis, leading to improvement or resolution of clinical symptoms in many cases. MEMO includes making changes in the cat's physical environment and diet as well as instituting changes in the way the cat interacts with family members and other pets within the household. Litter box knowledge, such as providing an adequate number of litter boxes (usually one more than the number of cats in the household) and making sure the boxes are kept clean and in a quiet place for your cat is very important as well.

Urolithiasis, or bladder stones, are a collection of minerals that form stone like structures in the urinary tracts of cats. These can typically be diagnosed with an x-ray or ultrasound. Treatment varies depending on the minerals that make up the stones. Most cats will have one of two types of stones, struvite or calcium oxalate. Struvite stones can be dissolved using special prescription diets. These stones are becoming less common as more commercially available cat foods are now formulated

to reduce the formation of these stones. On the other hand, calcium oxalate stones cannot be dissolved with diet changes and surgery is often the suggested course of treatment. However, there are special prescription diets that can help to prevent further calcium oxalate stones from forming.

Urethral obstruction is the most serious condition related to urinary tract disease in cats. This occurs when a build up of material, including crystals, cells and mucous, collect in the urethra, preventing the passage of urine. Male cats are at much greater risk because they have a long narrow urethra as compared to female cats. Any cat suspected of having a urethral obstruction must be seen by a veterinarian immediately. Once the urethra is blocked and urine is retained in the bladder, the kidneys will become affected. Within a short period, the kidneys are no longer able to remove toxins from the blood and maintain a proper balance of fluids and electrolytes in the body. This imbalance can cause heart failure and can result in death in 24 to 48 hours. Treatment typically involves sedation to pass a urinary catheter to relieve the blockage, and intravenous fluids to re-hydrate and restore proper electrolyte balances. In rare cases cats with urinary blockages may benefit from a surgical procedure called a perineal urethrostomy (PU). The surgery opens the narrowest portion of the urethra, so that further blockages will be prevented.

Urinary tract infections, also referred to as bacterial cystitis, are relatively rare in cats. This can be diagnosed with a urinalysis and sometimes a urine culture. Many times the UTI is secondary to the inflammation and irritation to the lining of the bladder. Antibiotics are prescribed if a bacterial infection is present. FLUTD is a very frustrating disease for both veterinarians and owners. Treating FLUTD is difficult if we are unable to find a specific cause. So if your cat is exhibiting any signs of FLUTD, he/she should be seen by your veterinarian so that diagnostic tests can be run to help identify a cause. If no cause is identified then Interstitial Cystitis is diagnosed. The next step is the most difficult. Trying to determine what environmental changes are needed is trial and error at first. There are also mood modifying medications and pheromone sprays and diffusers that can help to decrease your cat's stress. All of these factors put together can decrease the frequency of flare-ups, but to date there is no actual cure for this disease. Therefore, be patient and work with your veterinarian. Follow up exams and feedback about how your cat's protocol is working is essential to a good outcome. 🐾

*Editor's note: Dr. DiBenedetto is a veterinarian at Maple Veterinary Hospital located at 2981 Iowa in Troy, Michigan. The hospital website is: [www.MapleVeterinaryHospital.com](http://www.MapleVeterinaryHospital.com). Dr. DiBenedetto can be reached at (248) 586-2622 for other pet related questions.*

## BLUE WATER AREA HUMANE SOCIETY INTRODUCES ITSELF



In 1887, a group of concerned individuals joined forces in an effort to ensure humane treatment of animals in St. Clair County.

Today, your Blue Water Area Humane Society, a full service organization, is still a donation supported partnership of people working together to ensure responsible care for and respectful treatment of companion animals in St. Clair County and the surrounding area.

Blue Water Area Humane Society is a "No Time Limit" shelter where no animal is refused admittance and

all animals in adoption stay with us until adopted. St. Clair County policy however, does require that all 'stray' dogs must go to Animal Control. However, we do accept stray cats. While in our care, all animals are vaccinated and wormed. Dogs are tested for heartworm. Cats are tested for FELV & FIV. Cats and dogs are treated for fleas/ear mites if necessary. All known medical and dental problems are cared for and all animals 4 months and up (most kittens when they are 3 lbs. and up) are neutered before leaving Blue Water Area Humane Society.

We are active in our community; we are the only organization in St. Clair County to provide an annual Low-Cost Vaccination Clinic for limited income families and the only organization in St. Clair County to help address pet over-population through our Spay & Neuter Voucher Program for limited income families. Our "free to all"

Education Programs inform and educate the community regarding pet health, care and safety issues. To date we have spoken to more than 30,000 students.

We are a "companion animal welfare" organization, not an "animal rights" group. We spend no money "lobbying" for anything. Nor do we take a stand for or against hunting, fishing, etc.

We are a 501(c)(3) organization and are funded by donations only. We do not receive any monies from governmental agencies or other humane societies.

The mission of your Blue Water Area Humane Society is to care for companion animals whose families can no longer care for them, to adopt them into permanent, loving homes and to end, through spaying and neutering, the horrific pet over-population problem (particularly among cats) which exists in St. Clair County. 🐾

*The Blue Water Area Humane Society*

*is located at 6266 Lapeer Rd., Clyde, MI 48049, (2 miles west of Wadhams Rd.). You can email them at [bluewaterareahs@comcast.net](mailto:bluewaterareahs@comcast.net) or visit [www.bluewaterareahs.petfinder.org](http://www.bluewaterareahs.petfinder.org) for more information. Their phone number is 810 897-4357, and their hours are: Tues. thru Fri., 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, Sat., 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. They are closed on Sundays and Mondays.*



*Many pets, like Gypsy and Gavin, are available for adoption at the Blue Water Area Humane Society.*

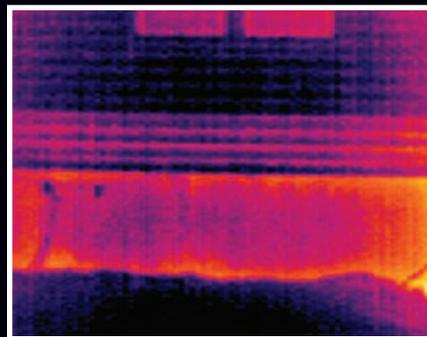
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## Memoirs from The Restless Retiree Microwave! Are You Boxed Out?

By Gabriel Jones

ThumbPrint News Columnist

*Boxed Out? What does it mean?  
Well, let me explain . . .*

When a person reaches retirement age, the majority of retirees do not want to spend the time and effort to cook all meals. They want to relax and enjoy food prepared by others.

*Oh, yes.* There are exceptions. There is always the person who continues to delight others, by cooking for them. But these retirees are *rare!*

Generally speaking, retirees (with limited resources) have found that they can buy many microwave meals in the grocery store at fantastic prices – frozen boxes that contain inexpensive microwave meals.

The frozen food companies know that they have a bonanza. They keep coming out with many different varieties. How can retirees turn down

these microwave meals at such low prices – ten boxes for ten dollars, or other brand boxes at 88¢ cents each?

That is to say that a husband and wife can eat a meal for \$1.76.

*Wow! However . . .*

Retirees then get “boxed” out. All at once you can hear them say:

*“I can’t eat another microwave meal! “I’ve got to eat something else!”*

*Ok!* Now there are two choices . . .

Cook something yourself or go out to a restaurant.

What do you think they will do?

“Oh, Gabriel.”

“Yes, dear.”

“I’m going out to lunch with the girls. I left a microwave dinner on the table for you. See you later . . .”

Another lesson learned by The Restless Retiree. 🍷



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This vintage photo was emailed to us by one of our ThumbPrint News readers. It shows ice harvesting on Anchor Bay around the turn of the century.

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If a tank is pumped completely out, you are removing all the good liquid, and in less than a week, the tank will be filled again from standard household use (shower, toilet, laundry, dishes, etc.). The state of Michigan estimates that a person will use 60 gallons per person per day. If a four person household uses 240 gallons a day multiplied by seven days, that equals 1,640 gallons. A tank will, on average, fill back up in less than one week. Only a small amount of liquid goes to the field each day. The rest remains constantly in the tank and holds the good anaerobic bacteria that continually eat the solid waste.

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  - 4) A plugged filter
  - 5) The field

The field can become oversaturated due to heavy rains or poor drainage, which can cause the tank to fill back up as we are pumping it. This liquid needs to be removed for proper tank function, which will incur an additional charge. A normal working system needs only the scum and solids removed (that the anaerobic bacteria cannot consume), but the option is up to the consumer. If pumped completely, start-up bacteria should be used to help jump-start the system again. This can take a long time. A healthy system needs the billions of bacteria to consume the solids entering the tank. This keeps the tank function working properly. Call ABC Septic Services at (810) 794-5678 during business hours. After hours, call (810) 614-8034 or (810) 533-4003.

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# RAHGS Celebrates 20 Years of Commitment, Preservation and Growth

By The Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society

On January 3, 1990, the Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society held its first official meeting at the Richmond Library. The minutes read as follows:

*"Following the introduction of those in attendance, copies of the society's by-laws and constitution were distributed and discussed.*

*"The following members volunteered for office:*

President	George J. Fealko
Vice Pres	Laurel Emerson
Director	Larry Kondek
Director	Nikki Lennox
Director	Harold Volkenant
Treasurer	Ellen Vanderbeke
Secretary	Ursula Adamson

*"Members having expressed interest in committee work were as follows:*

*Publication Committee: Doris Fuerstenau, Donna Bartell, Kathi Miller, Ursula Adamson.*

*Library Committee: Ellen Vanderbeke*

*Historic Sites: Larry Kondek, Justin Stover, Donna Cockerell, George Seguen, Charlotte Pierzynski."*

In October of 1990, the first edition of the Society's newsletter was published by Donna Cockerill. Agenda items

included the \$4500 needed to move the school building.

By March 1993, the society had grown to 47 members. In April 1993 the TIFA committee had awarded the society a budget fund of \$20,000, part of which would pay for the moving of the schoolhouse. In the June 1993 newsletter, members were informed that the depot was on the foundation, new siding was to be installed, doors and windows repaired. The group also acquired a small rail car which rests on a short amount of rails which has been dubbed the Richmond Short Line Railroad.

On February 16, 1994, the school house, donated by James McKiernan in 1990, was moved to its new home in Bailey Park. Over the years it has been painted, had foundation work done, received new windows and a stove and stove pipe.

In August 1997, the *Macomb Daily* reported on the moving of the Donley log cabin from Lenox Township to its historical park resting place. George Fealko, president of the society said the log cabin continues development of the section augmenting the one-room schoolhouse and the train station



previously moved there. Al Collins, a member of the society, was quoted, saying, "It's just amazing, looking at those log beams, and thinking about how those pioneers crafted a home like this."

The following comes from an article published by *The Voice* on April 5, 2000, as the historical society celebrated ten years of accomplishments:

"When the founding members of the Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society started moving old buildings to an open parcel of land in downtown Richmond, they said people thought they were crazy. But now, after establishing a historical park and reaching their tenth anniversary as a local organization, the only crazy ones are those who haven't reaped the benefits of the group's hard work. When the group formed in 1990, about 20 members led by current president George Fealko, saw a need for the preservation of the city of Richmond's history."

In 2000 the Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society received The Michigan Recreation and Park Association Community Service Award for outstanding commitment and service to the community. The group was the only historical society to take such an award.

Also in 2000, Al Collins designed a brick pathway that would feature benches, lighting and a diagonal brick path from one corner to the other on the vacant lot next to the schoolhouse. The path was to offer a special opportunity to residents to purchase brick pavers for the walk, engraved with a name, business or memorial. Over the years, as the village grew, the park has been redesigned and several Boy Scouts have taken on the project of re-placing the bricks. A walk down the pathway today reveals

a treasure trove of names, businesses, organizations and memorials.

In 2003, the Century Newspapers donated the *Richmond Review* to the society for preservation. The Society continues to work on this project.

The gardens in the village, especially the ones surrounding the cabin, have lovingly evolved over the years under the care of Jan and Al Collins. There is even a vegetable and herb garden out the back door of the log cabin.

Over the years, the school house served as a museum for the society. However, by 2007, the group saw a need for a new building, and according to an article in *The Voice* on June 13, 2007, George Fealko, president of the historical society, said, "Let the school building just be a school." The new building was to be constructed to look like an old blacksmith's building on the outside but the inside would contain a basement, a showroom area, an attic, a workroom and a handicap-accessible restroom.

The society continues to honor their mission statement by continuing to preserve the local history and helping members and non-members connect with the past. Programs are scheduled throughout the year and an Annual Meeting Dinner is held each December. The membership is growing with some area students beginning to show an interest. If you are not currently a part of this wonderful organization, come check us out . . . the area is rich in history just waiting to be discovered, preserved and shared. 🌱

*For more information, contact the Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society, PO Box 68, Richmond, MI 48062.*

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# Ask the Audiologist

**By Lisa Bont**

*ThumbPrint News Guest Writer*

News reports are reporting the prevalence of diabetes in the U.S. and the rise in recorded cases. According to the Center for Disease Control, roughly 24 million people in the United States are affected. Six million people are thought to be undiagnosed! Diabetes is a chronic disease that does not allow our body to produce or to use the hormone insulin properly. Therefore, our body has difficulty converting the sugar and starches into energy for daily function and this results in high levels of sugar in our blood.

Health-related diabetic issues are multiple and the most common are:

- neuropathy due to nerve damage
- blindness due to retinal damage
- heart disease or stroke due to high blood pressure, lack of activity, high cholesterol and kidney disease.

The large number of individuals suffering from diabetic-related health issues rarely link their hearing difficulties to this disease. Studies

have shown a direct correlation between diabetes and hearing loss. Logically, we know that the potential nerve damage associated with diabetes can affect the nerve and blood vessels of the inner ear. We also know that the type of hearing loss diabetics often suffer is a high frequency sensorineural hearing loss. This is a nerve-related hearing loss that can only be corrected through the use of hearing aids.

The diabetic individual is often referred on to have annual vision screenings, but rarely, if at all, are they referred for a hearing screening. If you are a diabetic, it is imperative that you have a baseline hearing evaluation by a licensed audiologist. Contact Lisa Bont at Advanced Audiology Services in Marysville or Dr. Joseph Belanger at Lakeshore ENT River District. Don't wait for communication difficulties to arise before seeking professional help! Statistics reveal that hearing loss leads to a poorer quality of life, so why wait? Start the New Year with better hearing! 🍀

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**Printer installation, troubleshooting or cleaning**

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**Hardware Installation**

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**BIRDING:** Backyard Birds

Continued from Page 1

week or by purchasing larger capacity feeders that will need refilling less often.

It is also important that birds have a daily water source for both drinking and bathing. There are great products on the market that can be used in traditional or non-traditional bird baths to keep the water from freezing.

Some birds that do remain in Michigan during winter include the northern cardinal, the American goldfinch, the blue jay, the downy woodpecker, the black-capped chickadee and the mourning dove.



There are even some birds that can only be seen in Michigan during the winter, as they migrate from Canada once their nesting season is through. These include some dark-eyed juncos, red-breasted nuthatches, pine siskins, redpoles, crossbills and snow buntings.

According to *Bird Watcher's Digest*, these are the top ten foods for winter bird feeding:

- Black-oil sunflower seed
- Peanuts
- Suet
- Good mixed seed
- Nyjer/thistle seed
- Safflower
- Cracked corn
- Mealworms
- Fruit
- Homemade bird treats

By providing a variety of foods at your winter bird feeding stations, you will be most likely to attract a wider range of birds that will add to your bird watching enjoyment. The chart on the right provides some basic understanding of the preferences of different types of birds you might see in your backyard this winter. 🌱

# Feeding the Birds of Michigan's Winters

**Northern Cardinal**

Northern Cardinals eat mainly seeds and fruit, supplementing these with insects. Cardinals eat many kinds of birdseed, particularly black oil sunflower seed.

*Female Northern Cardinal***American Goldfinch**

Almost any kind of bird feeder may attract American Goldfinches, including hopper, platform, and hanging feeders, and these birds don't mind feeders that sway in the wind.



They are even happy to feed on the ground below feeders, eating spilled seeds. Sunflower seed and nyjer are among their favorites.

*Female American Goldfinch***Blue Jay**

Blue Jays prefer tray feeders or hopper feeders on a post rather than hanging feeders. Food preferences include peanuts, sunflower seeds and suet. Blue Jays often take drinks from birdbaths.

*Male and female Blue Jays are similar in color***Downy Woodpecker**

Downy woodpeckers prefer suet feeders, but are also fond of black oil sunflower seeds, millet, peanuts and chunky peanut butter.

*Female Downy Woodpecker***Black-Capped Chickadee**

Chickadees are one of the easiest birds to attract to feeders, preferring suet, sunflower seeds and peanuts. They don't mind using tiny hanging feeders that swing in the wind and also readily visit window feeders.

*Male and female Black-Capped Chickadees are indistinguishable.***Mourning Dove**

Scatter seeds, particularly millet, on the ground or on platform feeders to attract mourning doves. Keep your cats inside – birds that spend much of their time on the ground are particularly vulnerable to prowling cats.

*Male and female Mourning Doves are similar in color; however the male is slightly larger in size.***Dark-eyed Junco**

Dark-eyed Juncos will eat seeds from a platform or hopper style feeder. Their favorite seeds are millet and smaller bits of corn and sunflower that get scattered on the ground from the feeders above.

*Female juncos resemble males, but tend to be a little browner overall, with less contrast between the gray hood and brown body.*

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**



Red-breasted nuthatches are easily attracted to backyard feeders. They particularly like large seeds like sunflower and peanuts, as well as suet and peanut butter.



*Female nuthatches are less colorful than the males, with a more washed-out rust color on the belly.*

**Pine Siskin**



Pine siskins forage in trees, shrubs and weeds. They mainly eat seeds, plant parts and some insects. At feeders, they seem to prefer nyger (thistle) and sometimes will eat black-oil sunflower seeds.



*Female Pine Siskins are similar to the male, but their yellow feathers are more washed out*

**Redpoll**



Redpolls prefer very small seeds, such as birch, willow, alder, grasses and weeds.



*Female Redpolls differ from males in showing only a small amount of red on the cap and very little, if any, on the breast.*

**Crossbill**



Crossbills like to hang onto pinecones and extract the seeds with their oddly-shaped bills. Crossbills feed in flocks and will take grit and salt from roads.



*Female Crossbills are uniformly olive or grayish, with a greenish or greenish yellow chest and rump.*

**Snow Bunting**



Snow buntings feed mainly in flocks on weed and grass seeds and any insects that they can uncover.



*A female Snow Bunting has wingtips that are brownish black, with much dark across leading edge of wings. Her head is grayish in color, with indistinct dusky streaking.*

**Letter to the Editor**

**By Linda Baker**

East China Township Historical Commission member

The Red Brick School open houses enjoyed an increased attendance this year due to the wonderful publicity provided by *ThumbPrint News* and other newspapers. On behalf of the East China Township Historical Commission, I would like to thank them and township webmaster, Sandy Smith. A big thank you also goes to those responsible for our interesting programs. The River Strings of St. Clair County treated visitors to old-time music played on mountain dulcimers, guitar, banjo, mandolin and bass. Suzanne Frantz discussed how East China and St. Clair residents helped slaves obtain their freedom via the Underground Railroad. Joan DeRue displayed vintage quilts and explained how they were used as Underground Railroad signals. Additionally, Jean Bastian shared her experiences playing trombone in World War II all-girl bands. Throughout the year, vintage lunch boxes were also featured.

June 12, 2011, will be our next scheduled event. In the meantime, consider using our charming 1872 schoolhouse for your meetings, special gathering or wedding. For more information, to schedule a tour or for genealogy research, call 810.765.8879 or visit [www.eastchinatownship.org](http://www.eastchinatownship.org) and click on Red Brick School. 🌱



**KIDS KORNERS**



**Homemade Bird Treat Recipes (to make with Mom or Dad)**



## Suet Cupcakes

**Ingredients**

1 pound chopped suet	1 cup peanut butter
1 cup mixed birdseed	1 cup rolled oats
1 cup yellow cornmeal	1 cup sunflower seeds

Melt the suet over a low flame and stir in the ingredients until they are coated in suet. Spoon into a cupcake tin and chill until the suet is hardened. Place in suet feeder and hang outside.





## Bird Cake

**Ingredients**

2 cups bread crumbs	1 cup sugar
3 un-cored apples, chopped	1 small jar of peanut butter
1 cup raisins	½ cup flour
½ cup unsalted nuts	¼ cup cornmeal
½ pound ground suet	

Mix all ingredients together to form a stiff mixture. Press into pine cones or form into balls. Put balls into mesh bags. Hang pine cones and balls outdoors. Freeze leftover mixture.





**By Kathryn Seestedt**

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Your editor has very kindly invited me to contribute some writings to the publication, *ThumbPrint News*. I propose to base my columns on my love of books, but they will all be tied to local history and folklore.

Some of these books are out of print, some of them are very rare and collectible, some were never published. Whichever kind of book I review, I hope my comments will lead you to the library, to "used" book stores or perhaps to the Internet.

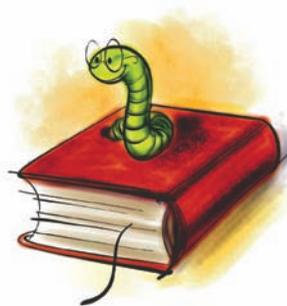
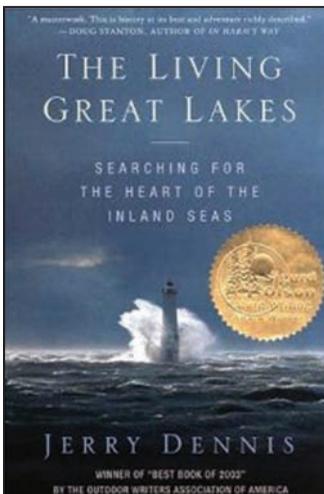
The title this month is *The Living Great Lakes* by Jerry Dennis, which was published in 2003 in a paperback edition. It is 296 pages long, including an index, and also includes 16 pages of black and white illustrations. I have read many books about the Great Lakes, but this book has been the most enjoyable. The author provides little-known facts,

all pertaining to water in general and to the Great Lakes in particular.

This is a non-fiction book, but it has an exciting "story line." The author has joined the crew whose assignment it is to deliver to its new owner a 100 foot schooner, with two 60 foot masts, displacing 74 tons. Jerry shares his impression of this handsome vessel as he boards it in Traverse City, Michigan. The four-week voyage includes Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, the Erie Canal and the Hudson River, Long Island Sound and thence to Maine. Chapter nine is devoted to the St. Clair and the Detroit Rivers, which are rightly called "straits."

The story is a page-turner in every sense of the word. There is something in it for everyone – for the philosopher who meditates on the wonders and strengths of water, for the boater whose love is for the deck beneath his feet and for the hobbyist who yearns to know more about this area of our continent.

*Editor's note:* The Living Great Lakes is currently available from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or may also be available from your local bookstore. The locator number is ISBN-10: 0312331037.



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PLACE Jan 4 In Birch Run Jan 5 In Caro Jan 7 In Sandusky



# What Happened On This Day in History?

By Diane L. Kodet

ThumbPrint News Editor

## January

**1.** On this day in 1673, regular mail delivery began between New York and Boston.



**2.** On this day in 1776, the first revolutionary flag was displayed.

**3.** On this day in 1888, the first wax drinking straw was patented, by Marvin C. Stone in Washington D.C.

**4.** On this day in 1493, Columbus left the new world on return from his first voyage.

**5.** On this day in 1875, President Grant sent federal troops to Vicksburg, Mississippi.

**6.** On this day in 1759, George Washington married Martha Dandridge Custis.



**7.** On this day in 1608, fire destroyed Jamestown, Virginia.

**8.** On this day in 1806, Lewis and Clark found a skeleton of a 105' blue whale in Oregon.



**9.** On this day in 1811, the first Women's Golf Tournament was held.



**10.** On this day in 1901, oil was discovered in Texas.

**11.** On this day in 1759, the first American life insurance company was incorporated, in Philadelphia.

**12.** On this day in 1896, the first X-ray photo in the U.S. was taken by Dr. Henry Smith of Davidson, North Carolina.



**13.** On this day in 1785, John Walter published the first issue of *London Times*.

**14.** On this day in 1690, the clarinet was invented, in Nuremberg, Germany.

**15.** On this day in 1797, the first top hat was worn by John Etherington of London.



**16.** On this day in 1868, the refrigerator car was patented by William Davis, a fish dealer in Detroit.

**17.** On this day in 1821, Mexico permitted Moses Austin and 300 U.S. families to settle in Texas.

**18.** On this day in 1644, the first UFO sighting in America took place by perplexed pilgrims in Boston.

**19.** On this day in 1903, the first regular transatlantic radio broadcast between the U.S. and England took place.



**20.** On this day in 1841, China ceded Hong Kong to the British.

**21.** On this day in 1908, a New York City regulation made it illegal for a woman to smoke in public.



**22.** On this day in 1814, the first Knights Templar grand encampment in the U.S. was held (in New York City).

**23.** On this day in 1556, a deadly earthquake killed 830,000 people in Shensi Province, China.

**24.** On this day in 1901, the first games were played in baseball's American League.

**25.** On this day in 1870, the soda fountain was patented by Gustavus Dows.

**26.** On this day in 1802, Congress passed an act calling for a U.S. Capitol library.

**27.** On this day in 1888, the National Geographic Society was organized in Washington, D.C.

**28.** On this day in 1613, Galileo may have unknowingly viewed the undiscovered planet, Neptune.

**29.** On this day in 1845, Edgar Allen Poe's "Raven" was first published.



**30.** On this day in 1790, the lifeboat was first tested at sea, by Mr. Greathead, the inventor.

**31.** On this day in 1863, the first black Civil War regiment, South Carolina Volunteers, were mustered into the U.S. army.

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**MAYFLOWER: Ancestors**

Continued from Page 4

of Oxford, Co Tioga 5 Jul. 1795 and granted to Ezra Rowley, Amos Rowley and Joel Rowley, exrs." Knowing that those men were Jesse's siblings, Patricia continued to read: "Will Judah Rowley of Newton yeoman – to Gemimah my wife all household furniture and 1/3 of my real estate during time she remains my widow – to my son Jesse . . ." There it was! The will location had been discovered and the connection confirmed that Jesse was the son of Judah. Christine called Chenango and Tioga Counties, but no one was familiar with books that contained wills from that time period. One county had a *Book B* but no *Book A*.

In October 2010, Patricia travelled to Salt Lake City to view microfilm at the Family History Library. There, on microfilm #819,856, she located *Book A* which contained the Wills filed with the Surrogates Court in Chenango Co., New York. This showed that Judah had been living in Oxford, Tioga County at the time of his death in 1795. Further research showed that Chenango was carved from Tioga County in 1798 and the town of Oxford was then a part of Chenango County. Now they knew why no documents for Judah Rowley had been located in Tioga County.

Christine's line was now complete and fully documented from herself back to the *Mayflower* passenger, Edward Fuller. But research showed that there may have been other lines back from Christine to the *Mayflower* and continued research confirmed that Christine did indeed have six lines back to *Mayflower* passengers Edward Fuller and Richard Warren. After days of work on a spreadsheet, Christine now has a color-coded chart showing her impressive *Mayflower* lineage.

Christine is submitting the following Rowley line to the Mayflower Society:

- Christine Rowley
- William Arthur Rowley (1912-2005)
- William Lucius Rowley (1874-1960)
- James Monroe Rowley (1835-1900)
- Jeremiah Rowley (1799-1878)
- Jesse Warren Rowley (1763-1846)
- Judah Rowley (1738-1795)
- Jonathan Rowley (1703-1772)
- Moses Rowley Jr (1654-1735)
- Elizabeth Fuller (1626-1714)
- Matthew Fuller (1603-1678)
- Edward Robert Fuller (1575-1620)
- and Ann Hopkins Fuller (1581-1621)

While Patricia was helping Christine, firm up her *Mayflower* line, she was curious about her own *Mayflower* connections. While working on some of her Revolutionary War ancestors, she came across information on her 7x great grandmother which confirmed that her 8x great grandmother was Hannah

Rogers (1644-1704). Records showed that Hannah Rogers and husband John Tisdale had been lifelong residents of Massachusetts in villages just south of Boston and west of Plymouth. Knowing that a Thomas Rogers had also been a passenger on the *Mayflower*, it made sense to track Hannah Rogers. It was not long before the light shown on Hannah's parents: John Rogers (1614-1692) and Anna Churchman Rogers (1617-1673). A revisit to the Mayflower Society website and acquisition of the book *Mayflower Families* Vol 19, proved that John's father was Thomas Rogers. Rogers was a passenger on the *Mayflower*, bringing with him his son, Joseph, and leaving his wife, Alice Cosford Rogers, and son, John, in Holland. John Rogers apparently came over a few years later, possibly after the death of his mother in Holland.

Patricia submitted her application to the Mayflower Society and was also informed that the society has proven the first five generations. A check of her files showed her that she also had all the documentation except for the connection of her 5th Great Grandfather, Justus Stephens (1738-1808), to his wife, Bathsheba Wilbor (1741-1803), and then proof of the birth of their son, John Squire Stephens, in 1766 and his marriage to Anna Woodworth (1755-1859).

On the October, 2010 trip to Salt Lake City which yielded the will of Judah Rowley, Patricia found the marriage record of Justus Stephens and Bathsheba Wilbor and the baptism record of their child, Squire Stephens. History books published in the 1880s confirmed that John Squire Stephens, husband of Anna Woodworth, never came home from the War of 1812 and was presumed to have been killed. Those same books show that John Squire Stephens was the father of Abner Woodworth Stephens, who settled in Lenox in 1836.

On her *Mayflower* application, Patricia's line contains more maternal ancestors and changes in surnames:

- Patricia Jo (McIntosh) Hendrickson
- Fern Marie (Claggett) McIntosh
- Clarence Stanley Claggett (1888-1967)
- Sidney S. Claggett (1860-1933)
- Mary Jane (Stephens) Claggett (1829-1912)
- Abner Woodworth Stephens (1801-1882)
- John Squire Stephens (1766-1812)
- Justus Stephens (1738-1808)
- Joseph Stephens (1704-1776)
- Remember Tisdale (1675-1711)
- Hannah Rogers (1644-1704)
- John Rogers (1606-1692)
- Thomas Rogers (1572-1621)

The journey to the *Mayflower* now seems complete for cousins Christine

Rowley and Patricia Hendrickson, but they can't help but wonder what the next journey will be, where it will take them, and what they will discover.

**Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan Press Release, Oct. 22, 2010***(reprinted by permission of Mrs. Jean Raymo)*

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan is proud to announce that Mrs. Jean Ann Raymo of Lexington, Michigan, has successfully completed the necessary documentation of her ancestry to qualify for membership in the *Society of Mayflower Descendants*. She was able to link her heritage to passenger John Howland, who arrived in the harbor near Plymouth, Massachusetts, on the *Mayflower* ship in November 1620.

Mr. Howland of the *Mayflower* was one of the adult male passengers that signed the immortal *Mayflower Compact* on the 11th of November (Old Style) 1620. They had come to settle in a new land and to found a new home and government, for the benefit of themselves and their posterity. Their struggles and hardships, which in the first year after their landing carried off one-half of their number, necessitated years of continued bravery and fortitude against innumerable trials of the severest kind. Their acts and example have been instrumental in the establishment of Civil and Religious Liberty throughout the land. Therefore, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants was formed by lineage descendants of that band of pilgrims;

- To preserve their memory, their records, their history, and all facts relating to them, their ancestors, and their prosperity;
- To cherish and maintain the ideals and



*Mayflower in Plymouth Harbor, by William Halsall, 1882*

- institutions of American freedom;
- To transmit the spirit, the purity of purpose, and steadfastness of the Pilgrim Fathers, and
- To secure united effort to discover and publish original matter, and to authenticate, preserve and mark historical spots made memorable by Pilgrim association.

If you have information and/or documentation that leads you to believe you may be directly descended from a passenger on the *Mayflower* voyage of 1620 that terminated on the shores of New England at Plymouth, you may be eligible to join the Society. For further information on the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan, please call Beverly Poole, Holton, Michigan, at 231-821-2483, or visit our website at [www.michmayflower.org](http://www.michmayflower.org). <http://www.TheMayflowerSociety.com>.

*We also received an email from Dale Meyers of Peck who caught the error that Francis and John Cook were left off of the list of those who had been officially documented as having come over on the Mayflower. We did some research and he was correct! Thank you for catching the omission!*

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- ✓ HVAC
- ✓ Pest Control




# ThumbPrint News Contest

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, email us at [thumbprintnews@comcast.net](mailto:thumbprintnews@comcast.net) and put "Contest" in the subject line. All correct answers received by the 15th of the month will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to Foxfire Farm Country Store at 8061 Marsh Road in Clay Township (you can apply it toward the delivery of a floral arrangement, also). The winner will be announced in the February edition as well as information about the object or place. In December's edition, we asked our readers to identify where they could find the object pictured below. The winner of our drawing was Mary Boury of Forestville who correctly identified the object as being a pot strainer used to empty liquid out of a stock pot or a pan full of boiling pasta or vegetables. Mary commented in her email, "My mom had one just like it. I wish I still had it. It worked great!" Mary will receive a \$25 gift certificate from Foxfire Farm in Algonac.

This month we are asking the question, "Where is it?" Identify where the object in the photo below is located in the Thumb area. Send an email to [thumbprintnews@comcast.net](mailto:thumbprintnews@comcast.net) if you think you know the answer. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number in case you are the winner of the random drawing for a gift certificate to Foxfire Farm Country Store. Good luck!



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<b>Lexington Clinic</b>	5730 Main Street	Lexington	(810) 359-2605
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**Achatz SOUP AND CATERING**  
**FREE SOUP!**

**Steve Achatz says: Detroit Lions did not make it to the playoffs, so soup is the payoff!**

Stop by January 11 from 10:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Choose one 12-oz cup of Chicken Noodle, Navy Bean or Beef Barley (one per person, once a day)

**January is National Soup Month!**  
 Check out our weekly specials

Week 1	First 25 customers get pints of soup for only <b>99¢</b> <small>Daily after 10:30 a.m. Limit 2.</small>	Week 1
Week 2	<b>FREE</b> Bread Bowls with hot soup purchase <small>Limit: one bread bowl per customer</small>	Week 2
Week 3	Buy <b>ONE</b> pint of soup get second pint <b>1/2 Off</b>	Week 3
Week 4	<b>FAMILY SPECIAL!</b> Gallon of soup & rolls for \$17.50 <small>24 hour notice required</small>	Week 4

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**SPOTLIGHT: Casco**

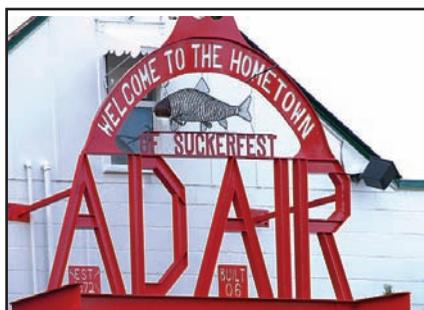
Continued from Page 1



his father being at the time a Commissary in the French Army. The family came to Detroit in 1833. After serving in responsible positions in one or two large business houses, Mr. Palms in 1846 started out for himself, and made a daring investment for those times, buying 40,000 acres of land from the Government in St. Clair and Macomb Counties within 30 miles of Detroit. These tracts, carefully selected, he sold to actual settlers in small parcels, and from the profits thus realized laid the foundation for his subsequent fortune. A man of great sagacity and good judgment, his subsequent investments were uniformly good and in the same line. He early bought piece lands of the Government and realized immense sums by their appreciation in value during the past 20 years. He held several hundred thousand acres of choice tracts in this State and Wisconsin at his death. He was

President of the Peoples' Savings Bank, the largest institution of its kind in this city, of the Michigan Stove Company, of the Michigan Fire Insurance Company, and was interested in quite a large number of minor business enterprises in this city. He was one of the original incorporators of the Detroit, Mackinaw and Marquette Railroad, Vulcan Furnace, and the Peninsular Land Company (Limited), in all of which he held a large amount of stock. He was also a large holder in the reorganization of the first named railroad that has been perfected in the past few weeks. The amount of this wealth is variously estimated at from \$7,000,000 to \$12,000,000. He was a devout Catholic. He leaves two children, a son, Francis F., and a daughter, Clothilde, who has been brought into most unpleasant prominence in connection with the persistent attention of Senator Jones, of Florida.

A popular hangout in the Casco area is the Adair Bar, located at 8033 Saint Clair Highway. Well-known for its all-you-can eat fish dinners on Friday and Saturday nights and its home cooked chicken dinners on Sundays, there is often a wait for seating. The family friendly atmosphere attracts visitors from surrounding areas. In April of each year, the Adair Bar is also one of the major sponsors of the Sucker Fest, a colorful festival that includes an entire weekend of activities, complete with a parade and entertainment. The festival attracts a wide variety of locals and out-of-towners. Money and food collected during the festival helps to support the Port Huron Salvation Army. The Sucker Fest is truly a unique rural event unlike any other!



**Casco Business Gives Back to Community**



Achatz Soup and Catering owner Steve Achatz has been in the food industry for over 35 years. He began working weekends as a teenager at his parents catering business, then ventured out with his own restaurant for 16 years, and now, his passion for creating quality, handmade products has turned into some of the most delicious soups you can buy. You can be assured if a product has the Achatz name attached, it is fresh, delicious and created with the customer in mind.

For the past several years, Steve has posed an interesting challenge. Truly a die-hard Detroit Lions fan, Steve has made the offer that if the Lions don't make the playoffs, he will give away

free soup. Well, bad news for the Lions is good news for you. As the Lions will not make the playoffs again this year, the free soup giveaway is slated for Tuesday, January 11. However, this year there is a twist. For every cup of soup that is given away, Achatz Soup and Catering will donate a portion of what the soup would cost to the Salvation Army. When asked why he does this, Steve stated "I enjoy giving back to the community. I had heard that the Salvation Army was struggling to reach their donation goals, so I thought this would be a great way to help."

If you would like to get in on the free soup offer, visit Achatz Soup and Catering (see our ad on Page 26) on Tuesday, January 11 between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. They are located at 8111 St. Clair Highway in Casco (one mile off of I-94 in downtown Adair).

*Achatz (Ack-Its) Nobody Can Pronounce It Right*

An article on the history of Casco would not be complete without a history of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, located at 5322 Palms Road, which has been an integral part of that community since its very beginnings. In 2010, St. Paul's celebrated its 152th anniversary.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church had its beginnings in 1857, though at that time it was known as Swan Creek Church. Dr. Sigmond Fritzchel, a Detroit pastor, was traveling to Marine City and stopped at the homestead of August Leich. During a subsequent conversation with August, Dr. Fritzchel learned that the many German settlers in the area desired to worship in the same manner as they were accustomed to in Germany. Dr. Fritzchel agreed to minister to the people of the area.

The first service was held in the local school house, which was located on the corner of present day Springborn and Palms Road. The crowds that gathered forced many future parishioners to move outside into the school yard. According to the brochure created for the 150th anniversary of St. Paul's, a tree stump in the school yard became the first pulpit, alter, lectern and baptismal fountain of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Shortly after that first service, the same Francis Palms mentioned on the left donated several acres of his holdings for the grounds of a church building. In 1858, a small log structure became the first church, with Pastor Peter Brand leading the congregation. In September of 1858, the congregation became St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Casco Township.

In 1864, a second church building was built, but remained bare and unfinished for awhile due to the high building costs. By 1880, approximately 200 families belonged to the parish, a large portion of German heritage. In 1883 when a 600 pound bell was purchased for the church steeple, it was rung three times daily just as was the European custom in the old country, a custom that continued until 1958. The present church building was constructed in 1912. Today, St. Paul's Lutheran Church remains an integral part of the Casco Township community.



The old wood church – built in 1864

- ◆ 1858: Pastor received \$60, 375 lbs. of flour, 105 lbs. of meat, 32 bushels of potatoes, 28 lbs. of butter and 32 dozen eggs each year.
- ◆ 1864: Second church building cost \$1,821.14.
- ◆ 1874: First organ was installed for a price of \$350.
- ◆ 1880: Congregation agreed to hire a school teacher for \$200 a year.
- ◆ 1883: A 600 lb. bell was purchased and hung in the steeple. If a family wished for the bell to be rung for special occasions, a \$5 charge was required.
- ◆ 1884: New parsonage built for \$1,190.70.
- ◆ 1888: New pipe organ installed for \$575, under half the cost of the new parsonage!



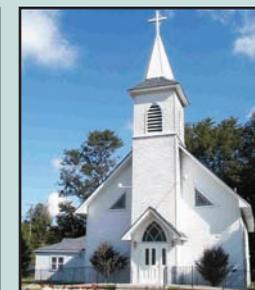
Wood parsonage – built for \$1,190.70 in 1884

Two other churches that continue to play important roles in the religious history of Casco are St. James

United Church of Christ on 9008 Meisner and St. Matthew United Church at 8052 Chapin Avenue. St. Matthew's parish began in 1899 and the services were originally conducted in German. At that time it was called the First German Evangelical Church of Adair.



St. James United Church of Christ located at 9008 Meisner



St. Matthew United Church at 8052 Chapin Avenue

## Thumb Area Activities & Events for January 2011

If you have an event in February that you would like listed in the February issue of *ThumbPrint News*, please email it to [ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net](mailto:ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net) by January 12, 2010. There is no charge for the listing.

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

### Genesee County

#### Flint – January 13

**Ask the Lawyer Free Community Seminar**, Flint Public Library, 1026 E. Kearsley St., 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Topic is "Taxes, Identifying and Addressing Tax Issues in Multiple Legal Contexts." Seminar is presented by the Genesee County Bar Association. Space is limited. Please register by calling GCBA at (810) 232-6000 or registering online at [www.gcbalaw.org](http://www.gcbalaw.org).

### Huron County

#### Port Austin – January

**Polar Bear Dip**, Port Austin State Harbor, 1:00 p.m. Be a real trooper. Registration begins at noon or you can pre-register by calling the Chamber office at (989) 738-7600. Registration is \$10 and you get a free long-sleeved Polar Dip T-shirt and a certificate proving that you braved the icy waters of Lake Huron. PLUS, you'll have something to brag about to your family and friends!

### Lapeer County

#### Almont – January 8

**Almont Lions' Euchre Night**, Almont Lions Hall, 222 Water St., doors open at 6:00 p.m. and play starts at 7:00 p.m. There will be two sets of five games each with a break in between. Refreshments and lunch will be served during the break. Generous prizes are awarded to the top three points holders. There will be a \$15 donation at the door. Euchre Night is held the second Saturday of each month. For further information call Don at (810) 798-9609.

### Macomb County

#### Chesterfield – January 15

**Radiant Beings Psychic and Wellness Fair**, Radiant Beings in the Applegrove Plaza, 25962 Knollwood S., 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Enjoy readers, reflexology, ionic foot baths, reiki and more. The cost is \$3 per person and there will be door prizes. Call (586) 949-0112.

#### Mt. Clemens – January 30

**Lake St. Clair Walleye Association's Annual 2011 Ice Fishing Event**, Metro Beach Metropark, 31300 Metro Parkway, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Registration and event is located at the Metro Beach Day Sail Launch near the Surfside Shelter (with heated restrooms). Children can learn to ice fish free! All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Refreshments and prizes are available. Taxi service onto the ice is provided. Call Mark Tews at (586) 557-3767.

### Oakland County

#### Birmingham – January 8

**Little Christmas Tea**, John West Hunter House, Birmingham Historical Museum and Park, 556 West Maple, 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. or 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. A light tea of scones, sweets and a variety of teas will be served. All ages are welcome. The cost is \$10 and a reservation is required by December 30, 2010. For more information call (248) 530-1928.

#### Birmingham – January 15-June 11

**A Lifetime of Cameras Exhibit**, Birmingham Historical Museum and Park, 556 West Maple Road. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for seniors, students and Birmingham Historical Society members. Call (248) 530-1928 or email [museum@ci.birmingham.mi.us](mailto:museum@ci.birmingham.mi.us).

### St. Clair County

#### East China – January 5

**Blind and Low Vision Support Group**, St. John River District Hospital, 4100 River Rd., 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Family

and drivers are welcomed to stay. For more information call Charles Paul Dailer at (810) 329-5172.

#### Algonac – January 11-February 5

**Artist of the Month – Cody Lynn Davidson**, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr. Cody was born in Algonac and graduated from Marine City High School and is continuing her education at Oakland University to become a fine arts and English teacher. Her artwork is on display during the dates stated. Call (810) 794-4471.

#### Algonac – January 13

**Friends of the Algonac-Clay Library Fundraiser, Hemingway's Paris and How to Home Exchange**, McRae's Big River Grille, 9715 St. Clair River Dr., doors open at 5:45 p.m. The event is presented by Michael Artman. The suggested donation is \$14 per person. There are pre-ticket sales only through Wednesday, January 12 at the Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., (cash or check please). Price includes dinner, non-alcoholic beverage, gratuity and the show. There are four entrees to choose from. There will be a travelogue presentation following dinner. For more information call (810) 794-4471.

#### Algonac – January 18

**Free Genealogy Lecture**, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 6:00 p.m. The topic of today's lecture is "British Isles Genealogy: Researching Your Scots-Irish and English Ancestry." Lecture is presented by professional genealogist, David Irwin. David may be contacted at (248) 481-8214.

#### Fair Haven – January 19

**Make Your Own Super Bowl T-Shirt**, Ira Township Library, 7013 Meldrum Rd., 2:00 p.m. Join us for the second annual Super Bowl t-shirt party. We supply the shirt and decorating materials and you bring your creative ideas! Ages 12-18 are welcome and registration is requested. Call (586) 725-9081.

#### Marine City – January 21

**The Last of Sherlock Holmes, Classmates Reunion and The Insurance Adjuster**, Washington Life Center, 403 N. Mary St., 6:30 p.m. Join us for this wonderful production and enjoy a spaghetti dinner

with the show. Tickets are \$10.00 (non-refundable) and will not be sold after Wednesday, January 19. To purchase tickets or for more information, call (810) 765-3523.

#### Marine City – January 22

**Fancy Nancy Fancy Party**, Marine City Library, 300 S. Parker, 11:00 a.m. Get fancy with feather boas and princess crowns! Hair braiding and nail painting are optional! Ages 0-12 are welcome to attend. Registration is requested. For information call (810) 765-5233.

#### Algonac – January 26

**March of Dimes Jail and Bail Fundraiser**, McRae's Big River Grille, 9715 St. Clair River Drive, noon until 9:00 p.m. Jail and Bail will receive 15% of the total bill. For additional information, contact Patty and Pam Allen at [allentwins@sbcglobal.net](mailto:allentwins@sbcglobal.net) or call the March of Dimes office at (810) 982-0177.

#### Port Huron – January 26

**St. Clair County Family History Group**, Port Huron Museum, 115 Sixth St., 7:30 p.m. This month's topic will be "Let's Help Each Other Extend Our Ancestor Charts". Guests and new members are welcome. Call (810) 989-0399.

### Sanilac County

#### Lexington – January 1

**New Years Day Bike Ride**, Ehardt's Parking Lot, 7275 Huron Ave., 10:00 a.m. For more information call (810) 359-7461.

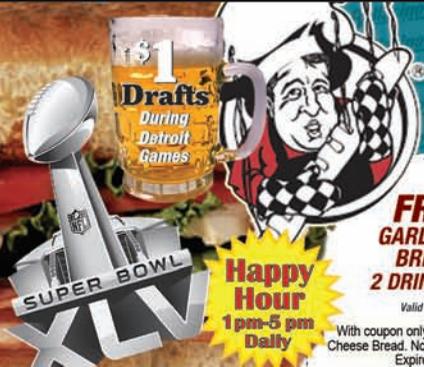
### Tuscola County

#### Caro – January 21-23

**Caro 150 Winter Fest & Snowmobile Races**, Tuscola County Fairgrounds. Enjoy the sights and sounds of professional snowmobile racing with the excitement of a hometown winter festival. Live entertainment, community-wide shopping and restaurant specials, winter-themed contests, door prizes, fireworks and more. For more information and a schedule of events go to [www.carowinterfest.com](http://www.carowinterfest.com).

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# Inspecting Your Home

With winter upon us and heating fuel costs being what they are, let's talk about **heat loss** concerns. Basically, **heat loss** is how fast the heat you create in your home escapes to the outside. Many times there are areas in your home, unknown to you, that are pouring or sucking your precious heat to the outside. If you have a basic understanding or know where the potential heat leaks are, you can save money and be more comfortable. I will never forget one relatively new house that I was inspecting in the dead of winter and on a day when we were having a blizzard. My standard policy is to walk around the perimeter two to three times so that I collect my facts and observations. Well, after walking around this house only one time and walking through two to three foot snow drifts, my nose was ready to fall off. I jumped back into the vehicle to warm up. When I went back out, I saw something that I had never seen before or since. At the rear of the house, right next to the poured concrete foundation wall was an area where the snow and ice was melted, green grass was visible and there were actually tiny blue flowers growing. I couldn't believe it! This was the ultimate example of "heat loss." With freezing temperatures and blowing snow, there was enough heat escaping the house to allow vegetation to grow! Did you know that approximately 70% of all heat loss goes up through your attic and roof, approximately 21% is through windows or doors and only approximately 9% is through walls? Realizing the above, you should research the following:



By Mitchell J. Kuffa Jr.  
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

1. Since the great amount of heat loss is up through the roof, how much insulation do you have in your attic? Many older houses do not have any insulation. For years, 6" of blanket Fiberglass was the standard. Today, 12-18" (depending on the type of insulation used) is common. Just realize that if you add insulation you typically have to increase ventilation. The insulation should be evenly spread, not shoved into the overhangs and preferably should be done by a professional. Adding attic insulation is one of the fastest home improvement pay backs available. You will be surprised at the difference inside your house.
2. Do your windows have insulated glass or at least reasonably efficient storm windows? Upgrading windows can be relatively expensive (if you decide to do them all at once), but making sure that they close properly, seal when shut and fit tightly should be the minimum. Sealing the interior perimeter of a window with "rope caulking" is easy, inexpensive and can be removed when the weather warms up. A foam adhesive weather strip can be easily installed around doors. Storm doors are also important and must seal around the perimeter and close properly.
3. Has the exterior of the house been caulked recently? Any hole or penetration should be sealed (such as gas lines, electrical cables, a/c lines, hose faucets, dryer vents, etc.). Go down into the basement and pack pieces of insulation between the floor joists, running along the top of the foundation wall.
4. Do your fireplaces have functional dampers that can be securely closed when not in use? An opened fireplace damper draws large amounts of heat right up the chimney and outside. Many of the older fireplaces don't even have dampers because fireplaces of that era were the main source of heat. Dampers can be added relatively easily and economically at the top of the chimney if necessary.
5. Does your furnace run efficiently and how much life is left? Your average gas forced air furnace has a life expectancy of approximately 20 years. However, furnaces have now become available that are much more efficient. If your old furnace is still functioning properly (per a licensed heating contractor), at least install one of those new computerized type thermostats that can raise/lower your heat automatically when you're not home, in the evening, etc. And make sure your filter is clean! A clean filter dramatically increases the efficiency of your furnace.
6. Do you have higher than average ceilings in areas? These ceilings are attractive, but trap hot air near the top where it cannot be appreciated. In these types of areas, large ceiling fans are many times helpful in moving the air around and helping to make for a warmer environment near the floor.
7. Is there any wall insulation? This area has the lowest heat loss of the areas mentioned, but did allow those flowers to grow next to the foundation in the home I mentioned inspecting earlier in the article. Adding insulation to wood frame walls can be somewhat costly compared to other insulation improvements that you could make. At the least walk around the exterior of your house and plug any holes or cracks that you see. Seal around electrical outlets and switches located at the outside walls, seal around outside light fixtures, perimeters of doors and windows and replace any dried and cracked caulking. Taking into consideration the above, if conscientiously addressed, you can save yourself a lot of money as it relates to **heat loss** after a long, cold winter. 🍀

Mitchell Kuffa Jr. is a licensed builder who performs private home inspections. All questions or correspondence should be directed to Mitchell at [InspectionsbyMJK@comcast.net](mailto:InspectionsbyMJK@comcast.net) or by calling (810) 329-4052. Mitchell's website is [Inspectionsbymjkuffa.com](http://Inspectionsbymjkuffa.com).

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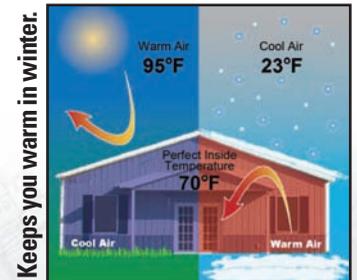
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Wordsearch **It's Snowing!**

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**New Year's Toasts**



*May the clouds in your life form only a background for a lovely sunset.*

*May the friends of our youth be the companions of our old age.*

*As you slide down the banisters of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way.*

*The Lord gives us our relatives. Thank God we can choose our friends.*

*May we live to learn well, and learn to live well. May we live as long as we want and never want as long as we live.*

*May all your troubles during the coming year be as short as your New Year's resolutions.*

*May the hinges of friendship never rust, nor the wings of love lose a feather.*

*May you be as strong as the tables you dance upon, the drinks you mix, and the friends you have.*

## Where Has Your *ThumbPrint News* Been?

*ThumbPrint News* has been traveling the world! Not only has it been seen in many areas of the Thumb (over 540 businesses in eight Thumb counties are now drop locations for the newspaper), but *ThumbPrint News* has been seen on television, in Bonaire, in Mexico, in Utah, in Nevada, in Georgia, in California, in Illinois, in Pennsylvania and in Alaska!

This month, Marlene Batts of Clinton Township sent us a photo taken of her enjoying the *ThumbPrint News* while traveling on the *Atlantic Vision* ferry from North Sydney, Nova Scotia to PortAux Basques, Newfoundland in Canada with her husband, Peter, last fall. The photo she sent to us is on the right.

If you are a reader of *ThumbPrint News* and have taken our newspaper with you on a vacation or to an unusual place – or have done something unique with it, you may submit an email and photo to us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net. (The photo should be in jpeg format.) Please tell us a little about the photo and include your name, address and phone number in case we have further questions.

At the end of 2011, our staff will choose the grand prize winner to receive a wonderful prize from *ThumbPrint News*. Our 2010 winner was Steve Osobka from Mount Clemens, Michigan, who will be receiving a great prize from *ThumbPrint News*. 🍀



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## A New Payroll Tax Holiday

**By Cindy Redmann**  
 Tax Consultant

As we all know, Congress has been battling for weeks on Capitol Hill about the expiring Bush and Obama tax cuts and what to do about them. President Obama met with Republican leaders to reach a compromise and they came up with a package of tax cuts. The main part of the plan is to keep all the tax brackets where they are right now for the next two years. That means no tax increases for 2011 and 2012.

By the time you read this, a decision might have already been made. Although nothing is official yet, another component of that plan is to cut the worker's share of social security by 2% for 2011. Social Security is funded by a 6.2% payroll tax on the first \$106,800 earned by a worker. Employers match the tax. Obama's plan is to reduce the worker's share to 4.2%, but the employer's rate would remain at 6.2%.

This would replace Obama's "Making Work Pay" credit of \$400 for single and \$800 for married filers, which ends December 31, 2011. A worker would have to make \$20,000 in wages for the social security payroll tax cut to equal the \$400 "Making Work Pay" tax credit and a couple would have to make \$40,000. Workers making \$50,000 in wages would get a \$1,000 tax cut, while those making \$100,000 would get a \$2,000 tax cut, up to the maximum tax credit of \$2,136 for wages earned of \$106,800 or more.

The proposal requires the Treasury Department to replenish Social Security with other government funds, which would have to be borrowed.

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# SNOW ANGELS

**By Diane L. Kodet**  
*ThumbPrint News Editor*

I think often on a winter day about all of the activities I enjoyed as a child playing outside in the new-fallen snow. The best thing, of course, was to be the very first person outside after a major snowfall – before any human or animal could spoil the pristine beauty. Being the very first to make footprints in the snow was just such a delight. However, I think the activity I enjoyed and remember the most, was making snow angels. If you have children or grandchildren, the next time we get a fresh snowfall, if you haven't already taught them how to make snow angels, please take them outside and help create a memory that will last forever for them as well. As a tribute to those memories, we are reprinting the lyrics to a popular song by Olivia Newton-John, "Angels in the Snow".

*When the twilight hour is sparkling  
And the city's all aglow  
Come with me my darling  
To the place we love to go  
When the frost's upon the window  
There's a tingle in your toes  
To the fields of virgin white  
For angels in the snow  
Lying on the frozen ground  
Arms go up and legs go down  
How it looks so perfect I don't know  
With the snowflakes all around  
It feels like heaven's reaching down  
To tell us here on earth we're not alone  
As the rooftops glisten  
And your cheeks turn to rose  
We will lie in wonder making angels in the snow  
With the snowflakes all around  
It feels like heaven's reaching down  
Telling us that we are not alone  
The silver moon is shining  
On the winter world below  
How she'll smile to see us  
Waving our hellos  
And as each season passes  
I will watch as your wings grow  
I'll always think of you this way  
My angel in the snow*





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**\*While Supplies Last, See Sales Associate for Details.**

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**Veterans Benefit:** The Aid and Attendance Improved Pension Benefit (AA) is available to veterans or their surviving spouses if they have a need for assistance with an activity of daily living while residing either in their home, assisted living or nursing home. A single veteran applying for AA could be eligible for \$1,632 per month, a married veteran could be eligible for \$1,949 per month and the surviving spouse of a veteran could be eligible for a \$1,055 per month.

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