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ThumbPrint News

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



MARCH 2013



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Spotlight on a Small Town - Cherry Beach

By **Katheryn Seestedt**

Former *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

“Cherry Beach” is a part of a larger and well-loved area known as “The River District”, which stretches the length of the St. Clair River from the Blue Water Bridge at Port Huron to the delta known as the “Flats”, some 18 miles downstream from Lake Huron. The waters pour out of this, the second largest of the Great Lakes, over treacherous rapids, creating a current of four to five miles per hour, and these waters placidly enter Lake St. Clair through a series of marshy channels.

The near-by healing waters were sought by the earliest Indians, the first of who appeared in Michigan about 6,000 years ago. It is known that the River District very early became a gathering place for these woodland culture tribes. In recent years,

See *CHERRY BEACH*, Page 8



Editor's Note: Katheryn Seestedt, formerly of Cherry Beach, wrote several columns for ThumbPrint News in its early years on history related to the Marine City area. Katheryn had discussed with me an article she had previously written in 1977 on Cherry Beach that she was going to send me to reproduce in ThumbPrint News. However, Katheryn unfortunately passed away before that happened. I was fortunate enough after much searching to be able to find a copy of her article, originally entitled “The History of Cherry Beach”, from the Clark Memorial Library. As the article, according to them, is in the Public Domain, I am reprinting it here for the enjoyment and education of our readers. The only changes I have made are in spelling and grammar and I have eliminated certain sections to make the article a length that could be used in one issue. Enjoy!

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EVERY SPRING IT BLOOMS

By **Robert L. Christensen**

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Meet the victim of one of affluent America's diseases! I became infected while a teenager and the symptoms have waxed and waned like malaria, flaring up every spring. It is that time, when sap starts to flow, new growth appears, and young men become interested in style in whatever form it appears. True to form, this spring saw a recurrence of my infection.

My malady is “car fever”. It began at age 16 with the acquisition of my first driver's license. It was temporarily cured with the

exchange of \$125, money earned picking potatoes, for a 1937 Ford. This Ford had an 85 horsepower V-8 engine in the “60” body. Before long it sported the usual teenage accessories as well as a hand-painted ivory interior on the dash, door frames, and other metal parts. It also had mechanical brakes, which were of little value in winter conditions.

I remember one incident



See *EVERY SPRING*, Page 4

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

As I sit here on an extension of my kitchen countertop which is just the perfect size for my laptop and papers and articles on which I am working, I take a break from my first cup of morning coffee and look out the two windows nearby. It is only about 8:30 a.m., but the sun is shiny brightly, and not a wisp of a cloud is in the sky. There is a very soft wind blowing the fronds of the triple foxtail palm outside on the front lawn. I see also a group of seven long legged white birds methodically pecking at my lawn for any tasty insect morsels they can find for their breakfast.

As I look around inside the house, I see a sign saying, "Paradise is a State of Mind", a clock that reads, "It's Five O'clock Somewhere", and flip flops lined up by the front door. If you are reading this paper in March in Michigan, I am sure you have already figured out that I am not in Michigan as this column is being written.

I am, in fact, at my second home in Sarasota, Florida. I used to call it my "vacation home", but it really has become in a little over a year more of a second home. I love the area – the beaches, the vegetation, the weather, the easy accessibility to many restaurants, parks, gardens, museums and more. I especially enjoy what seems to be a slower pace to life.

I am amazed as well by the number of people I have met here who are from Michigan – especially the numbers who count their main home to be in the Thumb of Michigan. I have made some great new friends here among the snowbirds, as they call them here in Florida.

Snowbird -watching, to year-round Floridians, is almost a sport, much like bird-watching. The binoculars come out and snowbirds begin trickling in after January to the area's beaches and restaurants and continue to multiply one hundred fold as the peak season continues. Jokes abound about "snowbirds", but can you really tell a difference?

Well, I don't know about everyone else, but I would say that my husband and I probably do fit the part and are able to

be picked out by the natives! (Technically, we aren't snowbirds, as we don't spend the whole winter here, but rather go back and forth from here to our Michigan home all year long.) One tell-tale sign is the fact that our apparel of choice becomes shorts, shirts and sandals every single day – even on those rare Florida days when it drops down to

the 40's at night and the low 60's in the daytime. The other day we stopped at a yard sale at a native's home, dressed as described above, and the family holding the sale were all dressed in winter parkas and mittens and, of course, long pants. They looked at each other and mouthed, "snowbirds".

Another tell-tale sign of us being a snowbird is on our many weekly visits to Siesta Key Beach (voted the #1 beach in the U.S.) In January and February on a mid-70's day, a couple thousand people will be at the beach. There is barely room to park – in fact you may not get a parking place if you arrive after 10:00 a.m. Once you walk down to the water's edge past hundreds of sunbathers, lawn chairs and colorful beach umbrellas, across pure white sand that is as soft as powdered sugar, you will notice something unusual. Only a handful of people are actually swimming in the water. Most are just about up to their ankles. Those actually swimming – you guessed it – are snowbirds. Heck, we think 70 degree water is ok, compared to the temperature of the Great Lakes, except maybe in August. (One small confession, however, is that my husband, who loves to metal detect in the water, does wear a wet-suit if the water drops to 65 degrees or



Snowman created from the pure white sands at Siesta Key, Florida, during the Sand Castle Competition

below!)

One advantage to braving the cooler waters this time of year is that those treasures of the ocean floor, the sand dollars, are just waiting to be gathered – and there aren't many brave souls willing to get out deep enough to do so. I had the good luck of gathering 450 sand dollars in just one day alone.

Yes, I love Florida. But I love Michigan too, so that is why I plan on calling both places home for some time into the future. Having met so many great snowbirds from the Thumb area while we are here, and even some who migrated from Michigan and now stay here year round, I have decided that there is a real need for us "Michiganders" to stay connected while we are "Floridians". I am proposing that we now start calling ourselves "Thumb Birds", to distinguish ourselves from the other snow birds from other states or other parts of Michigan.

If you are a Thumb Bird and you spend part of the year in Florida, why not join our Thumb Bird email list? The purpose of this list will be to communicate with each other about things to do and see, events to

See *FROM THE EDITOR*, Page 18

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EVERY SPRING IT BLOOMS

Continued from Page 1

quite clearly. We had a class field trip scheduled and I was to connect with the bus at a highway intersection near my home. The outside temperature was well below freezing but the '37 started with no problem. As I neared that intersection the bus was leaving. I sped in hot pursuit intending to make contact at the next pick-up point, which was the parking lot of a country store. I was gaining and was tucked in just behind the bus as it turned into the parking lot. I made the swing too. And continued to swing, because my mechanical brakes were frozen solid with the ice and slush on the brake cables! I unintentionally made a "moonshiner's turn" in the parking lot, around the school bus, barely missing some parked cars and a couple of innocent bystanders. Luckily, no one was hurt and no vehicles were damaged. The sole casualty was my ego as I was royally roasted by all who witnessed this performance.

I will refrain from telling of all my experiences with the '37. Suffice to say, as with all things mechanical, she declined with the passage of time. Besides spring had come! I turned her in on a '41 Plymouth that had been "rebuilt". All went well for awhile, but toward the end of summer suspicious noises were coming from under the hood. The local mechanic indicated exploratory surgery was needed. After her head was removed and her pan dropped, my mechanic gave me the sad news – her rods had been put in backwards, her bearings were badly deteriorated, and her crank was no better. He advised that her engine was beyond repair and he could put in a "good" used engine in exchange for a moderate amount of cash. So we did that. The "good" used engine lasted about 5,000 miles before it too, expired. I now felt quite experienced in automotive innards and decided that any fool could work on cars (because many did). I proceeded to prove myself a fool also.

I really only had one foolish problem – I did not have what is called a torque wrench. This kind of wrench is used in tightening nuts on bolts. If not tightened

according to "specs", the nuts can come loose and really mess up things. I tightened the rod cap bolts by my best guess of what was tight enough. It was not! Reassembled, the car ran like a champ – for about five miles. Then horrible noises came from the engine and before I could cut the ignition there was one solid bang and everything stopped.

I hauled the hulk to the local blacksmith who repaired tractors, etc. He took it apart and found a connecting rod that resembled cupid's bow. He proceeded to straighten it with a sledge hammer on his anvil, reassembled the engine, and gave me some sound (if unethical) advice. His advice: "Tow the car to within a mile of a car dealer, start it up and drive it into the dealer's lot, and then trade it for another car on the spot." I took his advice with moral misgivings, but never heard what happened with the next owner.

Thus, that spring, the Plymouth was traded for a '48 Dodge. This car was a maroon four-door with "Fluid Drive". I was a high school senior and it wasn't a convertible, but it did have lots of chrome, a great radio, a sun visor and it was red! The Dodge and I got along well together for two years of college, until one well-remembered night. I was cruising home from a date, and glanced over to see what was happening at the "Winking Pup", a local bistro of a certain reputation. When my attention returned to the road it was just in time to see, in increasing detail, the rear end of the car in front of me, which had stopped. The Dodge's front end dipped as I hit the brakes so that the rear bumper of the car ahead pretty much destroyed the front end of the Dodge above her bumper. The other car, a Buick, had hardly more than a scratch on the rear bumper. Nobody was hurt, I received a ticket, and my morals were probably improved.

A friend helped me get the Dodge home the next day and also helped me scour junk yards for replacement bodywork. We finally found the appropriate grill, headlights and fenders for \$35. We tore off the damages and bolted on the replacement. Now the car was a two-tone with a blue front quarter and a maroon body. She also now had the annoying habit of engaging the fan with the radiator if

one needed to stop quickly. I later learned that was probably due to defective motor mounts resulting from the accident. But she still ran and got me back and forth.

Spring came and a Ford was in my future again. The Dodge went to a little old lady school teacher who never drove faster than 25 miles an hour and hopefully never had to stop quick. I became the owner of a 1950 Ford. This car gave me 20,000 miles and two years before I had to rebuild its engine. I'd learned along the way more about "miking", torqueing, honing, reaming, etc. and really did manage to do a respectable job of engine rebuilding this time. It went off to graduate school with me and carried me on several cross-country trips. I particularly remember a trip from Delaware to Michigan one Christmas. I had a car full of football players going

home to Western Pennsylvania. We were in a blinding snowstorm on the Pennsylvania Turnpike and I pulled out to pass a trailer truck on one of the long uphill mountain stretches. I had a feeling something was not right as I had to keep steering left as we moved beside the truck. My suspicion was confirmed when I saw the reflective markers of the road edge going by my left elbow! I hit the brakes and slid over to the right behind the truck. Not realizing it in the poor visibility, I had been trying to pass a truck that was passing another truck. Two of the football players offered to "have a talk" with the truck driver if I could catch him. Being somewhat shaken, I declined.

All told the '50 Ford gave me another 20,000 miles after I reworked it. However, it now needed ball joints. More

See EVERY SPRING, Page 14

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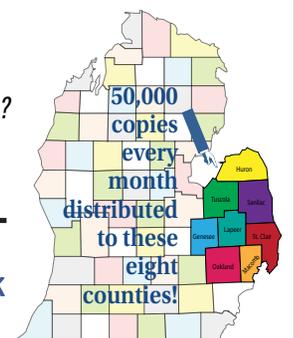


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The Angel Advisor

Senior Homecare Company Moves to Port Huron

Visiting Angels, one of the nation's fastest growing providers of assisted living services for seniors, has moved its local franchise from the city of St. Clair to Port Huron. The new location, owned and operated by Stephen and Tara Novak RN, provides non-medical senior homecare to help elderly and older adults to continue to live in their homes. The new Visiting Angels location is located at 1530 Pine Grove Ave. in Suite 7, right across from Chicken in the Rough.

This agency has been open since September 2008 in the Riverside Plaza in St. Clair. "St. Clair is a beautiful city and I'm glad we had the experience to work there, but I believe Port Huron is where we should be now," says Stephen Novak. "We will be closer to many of our referral sources, caregivers and the families we serve. I believe Port Huron is in an upswing and I want Visiting Angels to be part of it", added Novak.

Theresa Knapp, the Client Care Manager and long-time City resident, is the key employee for Visiting Angels Port Huron. Theresa has a Bachelors of Business Administration and a Masters Degree in Human Resources Management from Baker College. "Theresa has worked for Visiting Angels for four years and is the first person our caregivers and care recipients encounter and I wouldn't want it any other way. She has a wealth of knowledge and an engaging personality



that puts everyone at ease", says Novak. "The elderly is the fastest growing segment of the American population, with over one out of every eight Americans

now over the age of 65," says Novak. "At the same time, working families have less time to spend caring for their aging parents, which has created a real crisis in America. Visiting Angels solves that problem by providing non-medical senior care in the home, of either the elderly client or the family who cares for the parent. In that respect, we do serve as angels, helping with basic chores, personal

hygiene, meal preparation, shopping and companionship and providing a respite for family care givers."

Nationwide, there are well over 400 Visiting Angel franchises, with more to open during 2013. "I was attracted to the business by the opportunity to do something good for others," says Tara Novak. "Our job is to lessen the burden of our clients, provide their families with peace of mind, and provide a way to let Mom or Dad continue to live in the home they have grown to love over the years."

Visiting Angel's services are customized specifically to the needs of our families. To learn more about Visiting Angels please call us at 810-966-CARE (810-966-2273) or go to www.VisitingAngels.com. We are also on facebook at Visiting Angels Port Huron! 🍷

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THROUGH Laura's LENS

By Laura Smith
ThumbPrint News Columnist

Spirit Photographs

Spirits, ghosts, angels or demons manifest in photos as mist that looks like cigarette smoke, orbs, and outlines of people or light streaks. Spirits and ghosts are people who do not pass over after death. Angels may appear as a white misty outline with a face. Demons are evil entities that utilize portals to enter our third dimensional world. The reason spirits manifest in photos is because the dimension the spirits are in is vibrating at a faster rate than our third dimensional world.



The photos featured show spirit orbs and my aura. Auras are our energy field around our body. The photo above is from New Year's Eve in New Orleans. The other below is at the Chicago Science and Industry museum by the German U-boat (notice the white globes in the photo).



I have had spirits manifest in photographs from paying jobs. At one wedding when I was still shooting 400 ASA film, the bride's grandmother had passed away two weeks before. The bride lamented how her grandmother had wanted to be at the wedding. During the recession I took a full body close up of the bride and groom. When the print came back from the processors there was a white mist outline of a woman that blocked out the bride.

When I showed the couple the photo, I explained that that white mist was probably the bride's grandmother. The

bride said that she had felt her grandmother's spirit at both the church and the reception. The bride was glad to have that photo.

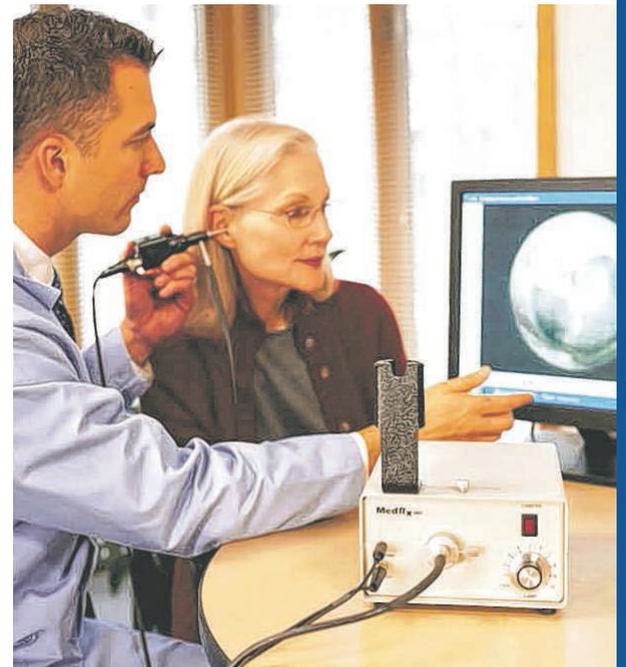
To take spirit photography, use a digital camera with flash or a camera with at least 400 ASA film and flash. The places to take photos where spirits may linger are haunted houses, schools, grave yards, old theaters or museums. I always thank the spirits for allowing me to take photos. I do not invite spirits to show their selves to avoid undesirable spirits attaching to me or following me home. Then that requires my bringing out the sage wand to clear my space and that is an entirely different subject area. If I am at someone's home where a passed over family member is still lingering, I have the family member call them forth. Again, I thank the spirits for allowing me to photograph them. 🍀

Laura Smith lives in New Baltimore, Michigan, and is a professional photographer who started her business back in 1990. Laura will be offering tips to photographers of all skill levels – from beginners to professionals. Laura's website is www.photographyplusbylaura.com.



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CHERRY BEACH

Continued from Page 1

archeological “digs” have begun to reveal much of this ancient culture, including burial grounds. Families whose ancestors were pioneers in our area all have traditional tales to tell of Indian encampments, visits from (mostly) friendly Indians, etc. The Walpole Island Indian Reservation is the last vestige of Indian life in this vicinity.

Perhaps not commonly known is the fact that Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac came downstream on the St. Clair River to reach the straits between Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie, where he established the city of Detroit (French for “the straits”). Our river saw, too, the ill-fated up-bound voyage of the Griffon, a small sailing vessel built by the explorer, Robert sieur de LaSalle to transport the furs which he expected to collect while exploring western waters. It was the first sailing ship to travel west of Niagara Falls. The little ship passed through the St. Clair River in August, 1679, but it disappeared in Lake Michigan later that year, never completing its maiden voyage.

Following this period of exploration, there began the slow but steadily increasing movement of settlers into the River District. History records show that among the first white settlers were members of the Cottrell family. They took up land near a “relief station” which had been maintained by the French voyageurs at “La Belle Riviere”.

History students will recall that Detroit was largely a French settlement. More and more of these pioneers sought farmlands outside the confining stockade of the rapidly growing village on the Detroit River. They found game to provide meat for their tables and soon discovered that the cleared areas provided fertile vegetable and fruit-growing land. In fact, a certain strain of French pear tree soon predominated in the small orchards. The original land grants from the government for private claims (in the early 19th century) were for the typical long, narrow “French” strip farms. A narrow river frontage provided access to river transportation. This was an absolute essential, since the overland trails were impassible most of the year. In order to provide enough acres to fulfill the needs of the family, the farmer bought far inland, to some well-known landmark. In the case of the farms south of Marine City, this landmark was “the marsh”.

Cherry Beach has been formed from parts of two private claims, namely: # 186 and # 308. Private claim # 186 was acquired from the government in 1808 by George Cottrell, the second of several generations of that name to live in this area, and consisted of approximately 1,000 acres. The original George Cottrell

had acquired the land from the Chippewa Indians about 1781. The southerly four acres of “Cherry Beach” descend from this “Claim”.

There are conflicting stories regarding the second George Cottrell, but the one accepted by the family, as witnessed by testimony in their private papers, says that he was the blood son of our original George Cottrell, an Englishman by birth, who had come to America as an army officer. His son, George, survived an Indian massacre in Pennsylvania, but was held by the tribes for several years. The father later re-discovered this son and was convinced that he was in truth his natural son, and raised him as such, and made him his heir. Whatever the truth of his origins, the second George Cottrell, in 1781, married Cecelia Curtis, and by 1808 found himself in the River District and acquired the land on the St. Clair River where he raised his two sons, George and Henry. All of the early Cottrells are said to have taken French wives. The several branches of this family have remained in St. Clair County, acquiring further parcels of land, and to this day, the descendants own river front property.

From the Cottrell family came the name of our Township — Cottrellville. It was originally a “four-corners” village, but after the organization of the territory of Michigan into counties and townships on March 18, 1823, it became a township, and remains so to this day. Cottrellville included the area now known as Clay Township until 1828, at which time the residents of that area petitioned to have a separate government. Cherry Beach is a subdivision in Cottrellville Township and is subject to all the rules and regulations of the township form of government.

The second private claim from which Cherry Beach was carved was # 308, a parcel of about 300 acres. The northerly approximately 8 acres of our subdivision originally came from this claim, which was granted by the United States government to Jean Baptiste Daunay in 1808. Of this French family little is known, but a study of old abstracts of title indicate that much of their claim ultimately passed into the hands of the Cottrell family.

It is interesting to note that the same George Cottrell who held Private Claim # 186 made a gift of one-half acre of land at the River’s edge, provided that the owner of the south border of his claim also donated land, the joint gift to be used as a Catholic church site and adjoining cemetery. Mass had previously been said in the Cottrell home. This land was deeded to one Edward Fenwick, Bishop, and his successors of Cincinnati, Ohio. This church was a log building and was the first church to be built in St. Clair County. The land was deeded in 1828, but within a few years the church was washed away



Early Pasha Photo shows the interurban in Algonac, Michigan, before it continues on through Cherry Beach.

by high water. Though this church and graveyard were not located directly on property now occupied by Cherry Beach Subdivision, the historical significance cannot be overlooked. The church was known as St. Felicity, and was located just north of Avalon Beach, near the mouth of the stream which empties into the St. Clair River in that vicinity. A rectory was also built by the Cottrell family at this location; and a bell which was especially ordered from France was presented by them to the congregation, and is still among the artifacts of the Holy Cross Parish. This first log rectory was also used as a classroom for the boys and girls of the neighborhood.

By the last one-quarter of the nineteenth century outward pressures from the now-industrialized city of Detroit began to be felt in our area. On March 3, 1891, Louis B. Littlefield acquired 8 1/2 acres of claim # 308 for the sum of \$3,500.00. The southerly four acres of what was to become Cherry Beach Subdivision passed from the heirs of the Cottrell family to Louis Littlefield on March 17, 1892, for the sum of \$2,000.00. This parcel became the southerly one-third of Cherry Beach. The establishment of “Cherry Beach Littlefield’s Subdivision” was recorded

on April 30, 1892, at which time the streets were named for the owner (Louis, Little and Field Streets) and dedicated to the use of the public. These streets, together with First Street, are now under the jurisdiction of the St. Clair County Road Commission. The total original investment was \$5,500.00 for 122 acres. The 1975 valuation for tax purposes was \$1,068,800.00.

One of Mr. Littlefield’s first projects for the resort development was to dredge out the “canal” and to improve the “Island”. For this work he hired a Mr. Smith who brought his farm team with loads of stone and clay to fill the Island. The same team worked the stone boat which deepened the canal. Mr. Smith also planted the row of horse chestnut trees (Buckeyes) which still beautify our park. Early pictures show that a small stream ran down through the park, thus forming the sandy beach area. Mr. Littlefield built foot-bridges across the stream to accommodate the residents. Apparently this stream was later diverted into the stream which now runs into the St. Clair River above Avalon Beach. Who was this Louis B. Littlefield whose name is so familiar to us and to whom we owe the

See CHERRY BEACH, Page 17



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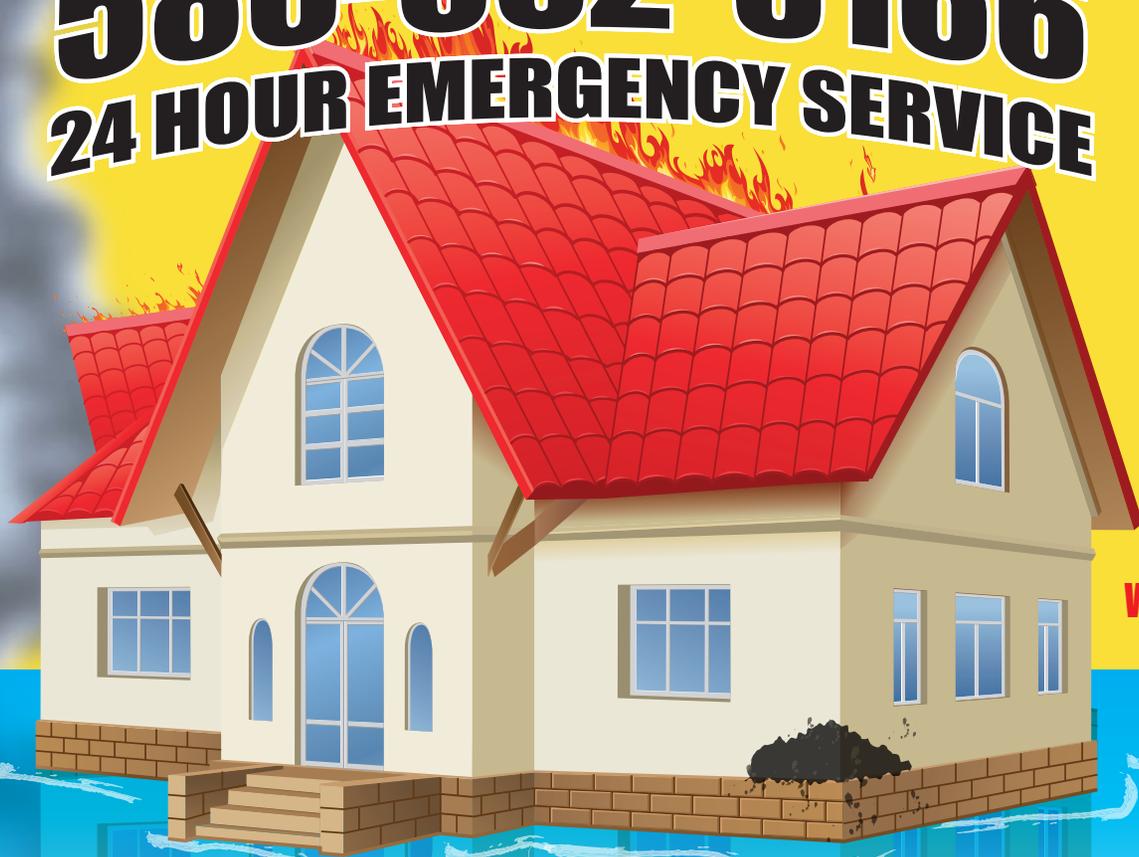
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Carpenter ants are also polymorphic, meaning that they have many different sizes. This means that the ants in the colony range in size from larger workers (who forage outside the colony) to smaller workers (who work



primarily inside the colony). Just because you see a black ant that is smaller does not mean it isn't a carpenter ant. With any species of ant, treatment at this time is crucial, as the ants have begun foraging for food for their young. If you see ants of any sort moving in and around your home, call ABC Home & Commercial Services at (810) 794-5678 for pricing on a proper ant control program.

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We are giving the readers one more chance to answer the question below for March.

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LANDSCAPING THE THUMB

- A Perfect Time for Planting -

By Paul Bujak
ThumbPrint News Staff Writer

Finally! Spring is just a hop, skip and jump around the corner. This is the perfect time of year to spruce up your yard with a new tree. Tree planting in the spring works best because it allows the trees to get established earlier and survive during the hot summer months.

Why plant a tree? Why not? Trees not only give a natural and inviting color to your yard but also help the environment. They help clean the environment of carbon dioxide, which in turn keeps the air healthy.

Let's start by deciding what tree to plant and where to plant it. If you are looking to add some color to your landscape, I recommend a cherry, dogwood, crabapple or magnolia. These trees provide an abundance of color during the spring months. All types of trees benefit by planting in the spring. Take a tour of your local nursery and pick out a tree that best suits your landscaping needs.



Now that you have that perfect tree picked out, it's time to plant! Here are a few tips to help you on your way:

• **Prepare.** Larger trees have burlap around the root of the tree; you can leave this on or cut it off, as the tree will grow right through the sack. For smaller trees, remove the root ball container by either pulling out the tree or cutting the plastic with scissors.

• **Dig your hole.** Start by digging a hole two to three times bigger than the size of the root ball. This larger hole will provide ample room for aligning and straightening your tree.



• **Provide nutrients.** Mix in some quality peat, compost or manure to help the tree establish itself.



• **Water.** Grab your hose and soak up the soil

mix with a few gallons of water .

• **Place your tree.** Insert your tree into the hole and align the top of the rootball with the top of the ground line. You may need to move some dirt to the bottom of the hole to adjust.

• **Fill the hole.** Using the left over soil mix, pack the dirt around the tree with your hands until the tree is firmly planted in the ground. Water the tree again with one gallon of water for every six inches of tree height.



• **Mulch.** Cover the planting hole with a few inches of mulch. Mulching helps retain moisture and keep weeds from growing.

• **Stake the tree.** Gather three wooden stakes, string and three small pieces of hose. Tie string around each stake and run it through the hose to go around the trunk of the tree and then tighten. This helps the tree grow straight. The stakes can be removed after one year.



• **Keep watered.** I recommend watering your newly planted tree for at least two weeks on a weekly basis. Providing the tree with ample water helps establish the new root system.

By following these simple steps, you will be able to enjoy your newly planted addition to your landscape for years to come! 🌱

**He who plants a tree,
plants a hope.**

- Lucy Larcom

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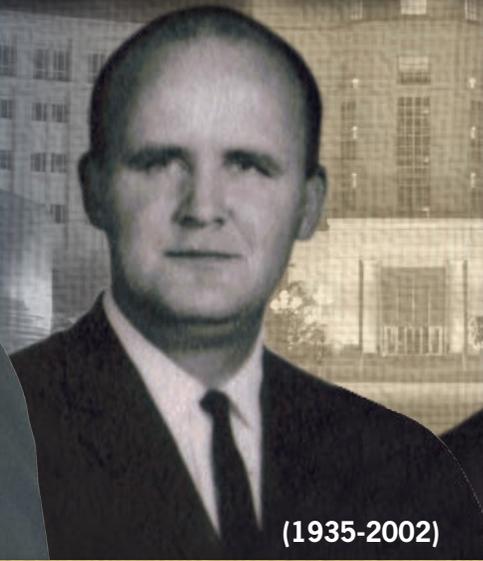
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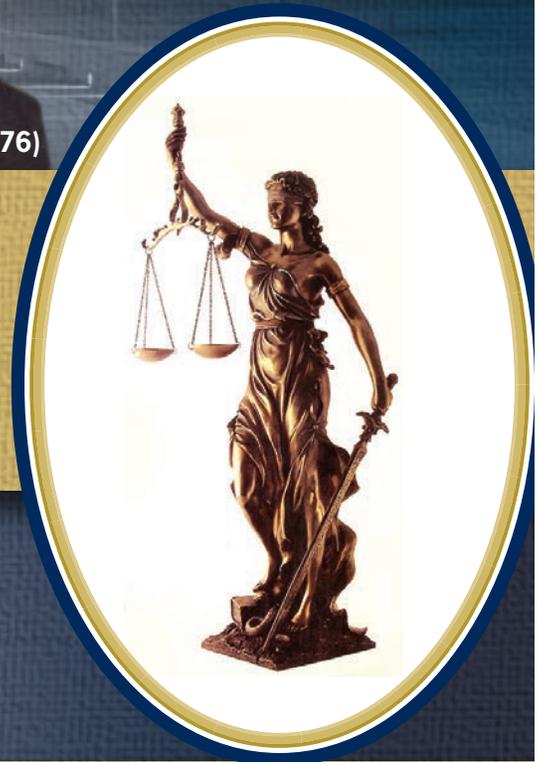
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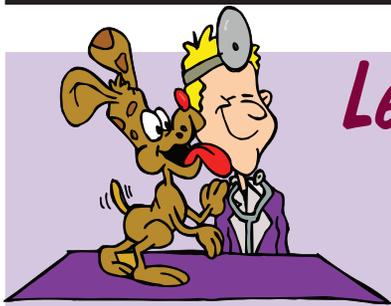
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See my article on page 18 of this issue!



Leptospirosis Disease in Dogs

By Dr. DiBenedetto *ThumbPrint News* Columnist

Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection that can be seen in many mammals including humans. The disease is more common in dogs and livestock and very rare in cats. Wild animals such as raccoons, skunks and rodents seem to be primary carriers, but do not show signs of illness from the bacteria. The *Leptospira* bacteria have multiple strains or serovars, some causing mild disease while others cause significant kidney and liver damage. The *Leptospira* bacteria are spread through urine and can survive in high moisture conditions for up to six months in the environment. Any stagnant water, mud puddles, heavy rain/flooded areas or water saturated soil can harbor the bacteria. Drying and freezing temperatures do kill the bacteria. Dogs that are exposed to contaminated water, wild animals and their urine are at a greater risk.

Here in southeastern Michigan many cities are having problems with rat

infestations, which seem to be contributing to the rise in the amount of leptospirosis we are seeing. The bacteria can enter the body by drinking from a contaminated water supply, but it can also enter through a cut or wound in the skin. Once in the body the bacteria invade many tissues. Your dog's immune system is able to clear the infection from most tissues, but the bacteria have learned to "hide out" in the kidneys (where it can be shed for several months in the urine). The bacteria can cause significant damage to the kidneys during this time.

Signs, symptoms and severity of the disease depend on not only which strain but what organs are affected. The kidneys and liver are the hardest hit organs. If failure occurs in both organs, the prognosis for recovery is much worse. Symptoms can vary from fever and loss of appetite to vomiting, diarrhea, urinating excessively, joint pain or stiffness and jaundice or yellowing of the eyes and skin. Aggressive fluid therapy, antibiotics and medications to control any vomiting or diarrhea is the treatment of choice. *Leptospira* bacteria are sensitive to penicillin, erythromycin

and tetracycline antibiotics. Antibiotics need to be given for 30 days to help decrease the shedding of the bacteria in your pet's urine. During this time it is very important to wear gloves anytime you handle your dog's urine and limit exposure to young children or anyone with a weak immune system.

Preventing Leptospirosis can be done in two ways, by vaccinating your pet and decreasing exposure to contaminated water and wildlife. The vaccine will protect your dog against four of the most prevalent serovars, but not all of the strains. Initially the vaccine is a series of two injections given two to four weeks apart. This will give short term protection and needs to be boosted yearly. Rodent control measures, like not leaving any food outside and keeping garbage cans closed tightly, can reduce exposure to infection.

The key to successful treatment and recovery is seeking medical attention as soon as your dog shows any signs of illness. 🐾

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.

Dr. DiBenedetto can be reached at (248) 585-2622 for other pet related questions.

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Sound Therapy/ BioSonic Repatterning

By Rennae Hardy
ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

Everything in the universe carries its own vibration, each with its own specific, natural frequency, including ourselves. The systems within our body have their own cycles, rhythm and pulse. Discrepancies within these cycles may become visible as emotional, physical or mental imbalances. Our physical bodies are predominately composed of at least 70% water. Water is the medium through which all tasks of the body are preformed, and our body contains millions of smaller components called cells. Every cell in our body acts as a sound resonator, making our bodies excellent conductors of sound vibration.

Sound Therapy is an effective method of healing. Healing vibrations stimulate and balance the body's subtle Meridian and Chakra systems, reconnecting us with the natural rhythms, as well as balancing our body-mind-spirit. We routinely experience this without consciously thinking about it when we "listen" to birds singing, the waves washing unto the shore at the beach, the crackling of a campfire, etc. Natural healing vibrations such as these relax our

minds and allow our body to respond in healthy ways.

Similar to adjusting a piano, our body can be tuned to achieve optimal physical balance. Tuning forks are calibrated at a specific frequency to address different areas of healing and consciousness development. BioSonic Repatterning, developed by John Beaulieu, N.D., Ph.D., is a holistic method of healing using tuning forks based on the sonic ratios inherent in nature. Activating the tuning forks by tapping them produces pure musical intervals based on precise mathematical proportions known as the Pythagorean tunings. Listening to these intervals create an archetypal resonance, resulting in a physical, as well as psychic, repatterning of our mind, bodies and spirit. On a physical level, this takes place within the inner ear by stimulation



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of the cochlea and semi-circular canals.

In listening to the sound produced by the tuning forks, our nervous system attunes to the pitch in much the same way a piano is tuned. The vestibular system, by way of the semi-circular canals, repropotions our body through a process of cellular memory correlating to the natural ratios of the tuning forks.

Sound Therapy is a powerful healing force and valuable adjunct to other methods of alternative treatment. BioSonic Repatterning will instantaneously alter your body's biochemistry, bringing your nervous system, muscle tone and organs into harmonic balance. Benefits generally

experienced include deep relaxation, reduction of stress, alleviation of muscle tension, feelings of centeredness, increased circulation, and access to higher levels of consciousness.

Reclaim your natural rhythm, reset your own pulse, "listen" ... take advantage of nature's healing sounds and when you're out of sync ... get a "Tune Up"! 🐾

Editor's Note: Rennae Hardy is the owner of Radiant Beings, 25962 Knollwood S. in Chesterfield. Rennae is a certified energy practitioner and offers many choices for alternative healing. Contact Rennae at (586) 949-0112 or (586) 489-8611.

EVERY SPRING

Continued from Page 4

significantly, spring had come again. I had a buyer who wanted the '50 Ford even after I told him about the front end problem, so I sold it for \$200. Another friend had just bought a new car and had his '53 Dodge for sale and I bought it for \$225. It too had a potential problem. He had been told that the compression on one cylinder was weak and might cause a problem at some point. Sure enough, a couple of months later I heard a muffled bang and a rattling noise that went from the front to the rear of the vehicle and a regular "miss" could be heard from the engine. I drove on to my friendly mechanic and he confirmed the diagnosis. A piston had blown and the tinkling noise was the piston rings going out the exhaust.

After repair the '53 Dodge joined me in marriage. I with a girl and the Dodge with a '59 Volkswagen. We moved to North Carolina with possessions piled in two cars in pursuit of a Ph.D. We soon confirmed that two cannot live as cheaply as one, especially when supporting two cars and minimal income. Somebody had to go!

The VW won our affections because she was only a year old and was parsimonious. It was the '53 Dodge that was deemed redundant. She was parked in the drive for a few weeks until I found a fellow student who needed a car to move his family across the country. He was a veteran of a kibbutz and had learned to drive on army vehicles. The test drive was truly a test for both the '53 Dodge and her hopeful seller. He got behind the wheel and off we went. He came close to setting a record 0 to 60 acceleration for four-door sedans with six cylinders and fluid drive. Then he began the second test which resembled

the evasive actions needed to miss bullets, bombs, or shell holes in the road. This was followed by an emergency braking test. When I got back up from under the dash I asked what he was doing. "Just checking the steering and brakes", he said. The '53 Dodge satisfactorily passed the test and joined the Israelites on the trek to Harvard. I sincerely hoped that she would serve them well for the rest of their time in the U.S.

Our '59 VW Bug was pampered and petted throughout her time with us. As the time neared for graduation and another move we analyzed our situation. We had accumulated a few possessions, a new baby, and a cat, and it was evident that our VW Bug could not contain what we had to move. So we purchased "Babe the Blue Beast" - a VW Kombi van. She possessed what seemed like acres of interior space, a 40 horsepower engine, and the ability to attain 60 miles an hour on a 30 degree downhill grade and a 40 mile per hour tailwind. This was fine for the flat North Carolina Piedmont, but we had not anticipated what she could do going uphill as we traveled to our destination in New England! We were often in second gear and we found that provisions for interior heat were grossly inadequate.

A year went by and we had full-time jobs and a small home in suburbia. Relative affluence began to be felt and a second car became a mental necessity. Having formed some regard for VW's (why? I don't know in retrospect), we bought another VW Bug (1958), rather used, but after all, they never wear out (and they go in snow)! I got it because my job at the time involved travel around the state for which I would get a mileage allowance. This one must have been born in a grove of yellow citrus fruit. After innumerable and continuing repair bills, we agreed it had to go.

Sales were slow. While waiting for an eager buyer I fell in thrall to "Polly Peugeot". She was an enigma! While comfortable and relatively powerful, she stranded me on the highway far from home twice. Once with a broken water hose and once with a fan that inexplicably actually fell off - once on a holiday weekend and once on the Massachusetts' Turnpike.

While the repair parts were not expensive, the related costs of towing were. The '58 VW still did not sell and I became wary of turnpikes. So we decided (in the spring of course) to see if we could turn two lemons into orange juice. I was successful in trading both the '59 VW and the Peugeot

for a "sports car", a '58 MG. This car was fun, and relatively trouble free while we owned it. It had two idiosyncrasies of interest. First it had an insatiable appetite for oil - not in the crankcase but in the two carburetor dashpots! The second foible was its affinity for water puddles (NOT). If, during a rain, we hit a mud-puddle, the MG would hiccup and die a strangled death. One then stepped out in ankle deep water and pushed the MG to the side of the road so that her saturate distributor could dry out. (That part of her electrical system had been placed on the bottom side of the engine, convenient for shorting out from water splashing up from the tire.) It must never rain in quantity in the part of England she came from. We do learn! I solved the problem by tying a plastic bag around her distributor.

This inspiration came to me while having the experience of diapering a baby and fitting rubber pants over the leaky bottom. I felt like Edison!

Spring came and the fever returned. The MG was sold and a Rambler came home. It was nearly new with only 14,000



steadfastly did her duty by my wife and brood. In turn, said wife protected her from my car trading and took her for her periodic maintenance. But "Babe" had the annoying problem (to me) of needing a new exhaust system and valve job every 10,000 miles. I intensified my campaign for replacement by reminding my helpmate that Babe was impractical, slow, rusty, and her medical bills were increasing.

All that did little good until one night when I was making some minor repair to Babe and lifted up the floor mat in the front passenger area. What I saw caused me to call my wife to view what was hidden under the mat. A yawning crack was revealed and the driveway showed through. It was apparent that the floorboard was nearly rusted through. Further inspection showed that other areas of the van's floor were similarly infected. That did it! The kids sat over there and she had visions of one dropping out forever. It was chilling to me as well - had I seen it sooner



See EVERY SPRING, Page 16



Think small.

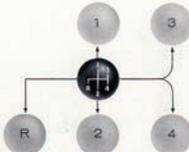
Our little car isn't so much of a novelty any more. A couple of dozen college kids don't try to squeeze inside it. The guy at the gas station doesn't ask where the gas goes. Nobody even stares at our shape. In fact, some people who drive our little

river don't even think 22 miles to the gallon is going any great guns. Or using five pints of oil instead of five quarts. Or never needing oil-freeze. Or racking up 40,000 miles on a set of tires. That's because, once you get used to

some of our economies, you don't even think about them any more. Except when you squeeze into a small parking spot. Or renew your small insurance. Or pay a small repair bill. Or trade in your old VW for a new one. Think it over.



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A 75-year Old Americana Icon

By David Gillis

ThumbPrint News Columnist

For someone who loves to eat, it's difficult to remember a food I didn't really care for. However, I can recall sitting at the kitchen table sometime in my early childhood staring at something resting between my mashed potatoes and green peas. What the heck was it?

It looked a little like ham, but not really. It didn't smell like anything else and when cut it wasn't like any other kind of meat. Oh my gosh! What was it my mother was insisting I eat?

I would learn later that this all too often addition to our dinner menu was called "Spam", which was a combination of the words spice and ham. I also learned to at least tolerate this staple from Mom's pantry. After all, it really did have pork and ham as ingredients along with salt, water, potato starch and sodium nitrite. Yummy.

I recall watching my mother prepare this disguised meat product for various meals. She would open the odd-shaped can with a small key that was attached. Once removed you quickly noticed that the meat, which took the shape of the can, was covered with what I called slime. Actually, it was a gelatinous glaze that formed when the meat stock cooled. But, for a kid who was searching for a reason for it not to be edible, it was still slime.

Unlike many other foods, Spam could become almost anything you wanted it to be to "enhance" any meal. Certainly, as the centerpiece of the day's main meal it almost looked like real meat. You could cover it with cheese or drown it in ketchup. For breakfast it became Spam and eggs or you could use it to ruin an omelet. For a special diversion you could chop it into little squares and hide it in a salad. Or, as a substitute for a hamburger, it could be placed in a bun and smothered with mustard and onions. Gee, I wonder if there's a market for McSpamburgers?

I'm confident that I am not the first to make fun of this 75-year old Americana icon. This mystery meat is part of our nation's history dating back to 1937 when the Hormel Company created it and

found it becoming a popular and much needed staple during World War II. It served our soldiers and sailors very well when "real" meat was not available. And, because basic food rationing was necessary back home, Spam often became the only meat available.

Today, Spam has become a part of pop-culture and even folklore. It remains very popular in the State of Hawaii, which I am told has the highest consumption rate per capita. Spam is now sold in more than 40 countries.

I have discovered in my research of Spam that it is now offered in many varieties. You can find it on the shelves of your local supermarket identified as Spam Classic, the same mystery meat I first experienced as a kid. But, if you look hard, you'll find Spam Lite, Spam Low Sodium, Spam Hot & Spicy, Hickory Smoked Flavored Spam and Spam with Cheese.

Should you not be satisfied with this selection, you may discover Spam Spread if you prefer a spreadable texture for your sandwich or even Spam Oven-Roasted Turkey with 100% turkey meat for those seeking something a little healthier.

Expand your thinking and check out the recipe exchange on the official Spam website. There's no end to the ways to use this iconic mystery meat. Spam can be baked, fried, grilled or, since it is pre-cooked, even eaten cold as it comes from the can. Allow me here to offer another "yummy."

There are several reasons I became a vegetarian a number of years ago and Spam may very well have been one of them. However, it brings back memories of a day when life seemed easier even when Mom said, "Clean up your plate" and you knew she meant business. 🌱



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Family Features

Warm Halibut Potato Salad

Prep time:
15 minutes
Cook time:
15 minutes
Servings: 6

Boil potatoes in salted water just until tender; drain and cool slightly. Slice potatoes in 1/4-inch-thick rounds.

Meanwhile, rinse any ice glaze from frozen halibut under cold water; pat dry with paper towel.

Heat heavy nonstick skillet over medium-high heat.

Brush both sides of halibut with olive oil. Place in heated skillet and cook, uncovered, about 3 to 4 minutes, until browned. Shake pan occasionally to keep from sticking.

Turn halibut over; season with pepper and dried dill. Cover pan tightly and reduce heat to medium. Cook an additional 6 to 8 minutes for frozen halibut, or 3 to 4 minutes for fresh/thawed fish. Cook just until fish is opaque throughout. Break into large chunks (removing skin, if any).

Mix parsley, celery, red pepper, orange segments, fresh dill, and seasoning salt together in large bowl. Add potatoes to celery mixture; stir.

For dressing, sauté green onions in olive oil. Add orange juice and Dijon; whisk. While warm, pour dressing over salad. Add halibut chunks and mix gently.

To serve, portion a handful of arugula onto plates; top with halibut potato salad.

Cook's Tip: If using canned mandarins, omit orange juice and use the juice in the can.

1 pound small white or red new potatoes

4 Alaska halibut fillets (4 to 6 ounces each), fresh, thawed or frozen

1 tablespoon olive oil

Pepper, to taste

1 teaspoon dried dill

2 tablespoons parsley, chopped

1 cup celery, chopped

1/2 cup red bell pepper, chopped

1 cup fresh (or canned) mandarin orange segments

1 tablespoon fresh dill, chopped

1/2 teaspoon seasoning salt

1 package (5 ounces) arugula

Dressing:

1/2 cup green onions, sliced

2 tablespoons olive oil

1/2 cup orange juice

2 tablespoons Dijon mustard

EVERY SPRING

Continued from Page 14

I might have been able to hit the spring sales at the car dealers. Yesterday, I sold "Babe" to a student (no children) who intends to use her as a camping vehicle. He put a wooden board over the holes. Spring is over, but the fever is still here. First thing tomorrow I'm going to Honest John's lot, then I'll drop by Best Buy Bill's, and after lunch I'll.....

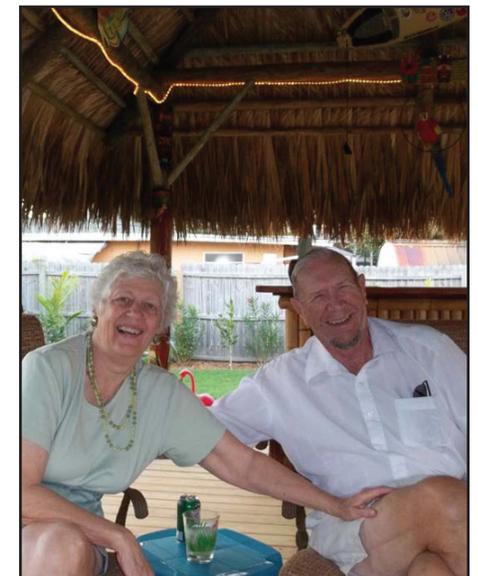
Bob has this to say about the above article: "This essay was written nearly 40 years ago and that many springs have seen the fever flare. My lifetime car list is now at 54 and it ain't over yet! There are also more stories - I should tell you about the Toyota that was run over by a farmer's manure spreader!

"P.S. The student who bought "Babe" remains a friend and kept her going for another 10 years, rust and all."

Editor's note: Bob, as we previously stated in our January issue, discovered ThumbPrint News in Bradenton, Florida, where another "snowbird" reader, Evie Stieler, had placed a copy after she was done reading it, and where Bob and his wife, Carol, now reside. Bob grew up in Michigan and had contacted us about first submitting an article in the January 2013 edition. While spending time in

January of 2013 at our vacation home in Sarasota, Florida, I had the privilege of getting together with Bob and Carol and talking all things "Michigan". Both were delightful individuals.

This is now Bob's third article and he assures me that he has many more to share with ThumbPrint News' readers in future additions. We can hardly wait! (And, his wife, Carol, a published gardening expert, may have an article or two to submit in the future as well.)



Carol and Bob Christensen visit with Allen and Diane Kodet in Sarasota in January of 2013 to talk about all things "Michigan".

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CHERRY BEACH

Continued from Page 8

existence of our pleasant subdivision? He was an active politician in Detroit and Wayne County affairs.

We know that Littlefield came to Detroit at the close of his service in the Civil War and that in addition to his work in the secret societies, he owned several trotting horses and considerable real estate. Perhaps we can assume that he had the personality of a promoter as well as of a politician, to have visualized the possibilities of developing a resort on the St. Clair River. At the time he bought the property, there were probably not more than two farm dwellings on the parcel, the remainder of the land being under cultivation for general farming and orchards. In fact the orchard is mentioned in the old abstracts as early as 1852, and very early Cherry Beach pictures show fruit trees among the cottages. It seems safe to assume that the resort took its name from a cherry orchard. The last cherry tree of the old orchard was cut down about 1955, a venerable giant of a tree which offered the finest tree climbing to the

children of the cottagers.

Undoubtedly Mr. Littlefield had access as a city and county official to information regarding property trends and transportation developments which would affect the areas surrounding Detroit. The attraction of the River itself, as well as the popularity of the already established health resorts in Mt. Clemens and St. Clair was obvious. In Marine City, the Colonial Hotel which at that time stood at the corner of Union and Water Streets, specialized in mineral baths, under the supervision of its builder, Dr. R. B. Baird.

A Rapid Railway from Detroit to Mt. Clemens had begun operation in 1895, and was extended to Port Huron via Algonac in 1899, with the "Limiteds" following a cut-off from Anchorville to Marine City, running along a route now known as Short Cut Road, reaching the St. Clair River (M-29) at a point near the present 72nd District Court Building. From a promotional pamphlet published in 1899 by the Detroit and River St. Clair Railway and titled, "Along the Line", we quote the following: "Many beautiful places where weary mankind can find rest and repose, where the wan, pinched and pale-faced children

from the crowded cities can, in a few short summer weeks, regain their health and color and become rejuvenated again; where the society belle, worn out by the demands of the social set can with a few weeks' rest, gaze into the mirror-like waters of the Lake and River St. Clair and see her beauty reflected back enriched and enshrined with a loveliness which only the great healer "Nature" can give. St. Clair, Marine City, Algonac, Port Huron and Mt. Clemens all contain wonderful mineral springs . . . the 'Panorama Route' is the largest interurban railroad in the United States, having as it does a distance of seventy-three miles from Detroit to Port Huron."

Such words probably explain much of the vision which Littlefield must have had for the area. An old newspaper clipping shows the Cherry Beach entrance — a wooden arch over Little Street — with the interurban waiting-shed opposite on M-29. Several of our old-timers have shared their recollections of the weekly trip out from Detroit for a weekend at Cherry Beach. Suitcases and picnic baskets were carried aboard by all the members of the family from youngest to oldest. Most of the travelers boarded the cars on Gratiot Avenue, either living in that east-side area or having made the connection from cross-town streetcars. This interurban service ended in 1931, after which the tracks were used by the Algonac Transit Company as a connector line between the Chris Craft plant in Algonac and the Port Huron and Detroit Railway tracks at Marine City.

After 1900 the very famous excursion steamer *Tashmoo* of the White Star Line provided daily service between Detroit and Port Huron from May 1 to November 1 of each year, with many stops along the way to pick up and discharge passengers. She had scheduled stops at such well-known resorts on Harsens Island as the Idle Hour and Joe Bedore's, as well as at San Souci, where picnickers came to enjoy the delights of the amusement park known as "Tashmoo Park." As far as can be determined, no stop was scheduled for

Cherry Beach, but our subdivision was a "flag stop", the boat stopping on signal at a large dock which sported the very same roof that is so familiar today. The *Tashmoo* left Detroit daily at 9:15 a.m. and reached Port Huron at 2:40 p.m. The return trip left Port Huron at 3:45 p.m. and docked at Detroit at 8:40 p.m. By 1922 she was celebrating some 65,000 safe landings. The round-trip excursion was a wonderful twelve-hour trip on the waters of the Detroit River, Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River. This service continued until 1936, when the *Tashmoo* went aground near Amherstburg, Ontario, early in the season, and sank after all passengers had been helped ashore.

Louis B. Littlefield died in 1900, and his widow sold the subdivision to John C. McDonald on July 1, 1909. Mr. McDonald had previously acquired some of the single lots from private owners. After again bringing the whole parcel under one ownership, he was then able to dedicate the "easements" and front "park" for use by the property owners, with the stipulation that these areas be maintained for that purpose alone. This act was recorded on May 21, 1910. Mary McDonald, daughter of John C. McDonald, married William Lightbody, who later became the proprietor of the "Hotel" at 405 Field Street. Here, after the dinner hour, the young people gathered for dancing and music. Meals were also served by the Orslunds at 432 Little Street. Fred McDonald, a son of the subdivision owner, built and lived in the house at 405 Little Street. Mr. Lightbody advertised his establishment as follows:

"Announcing the opening of Cherry Beach Inn: a most attractive summer resort, on the beautiful St. Clair River, 2 miles south of Marine City or 40 miles north of Detroit. It is located at Cherry Beach with its spacious grounds, shaded lawns and prices that are right. Here, too, you may purchase or rent a furnished cottage for a month or for the season, at reasonable rates. Cherry Beach is a fine place to relax and to enjoy bathing,



The steamer *Tashmoo* leaves the dock in Detroit in this vintage photo.

See *CHERRY BEACH*, Page 20

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FROM THE EDITOR

Continued from Page 2

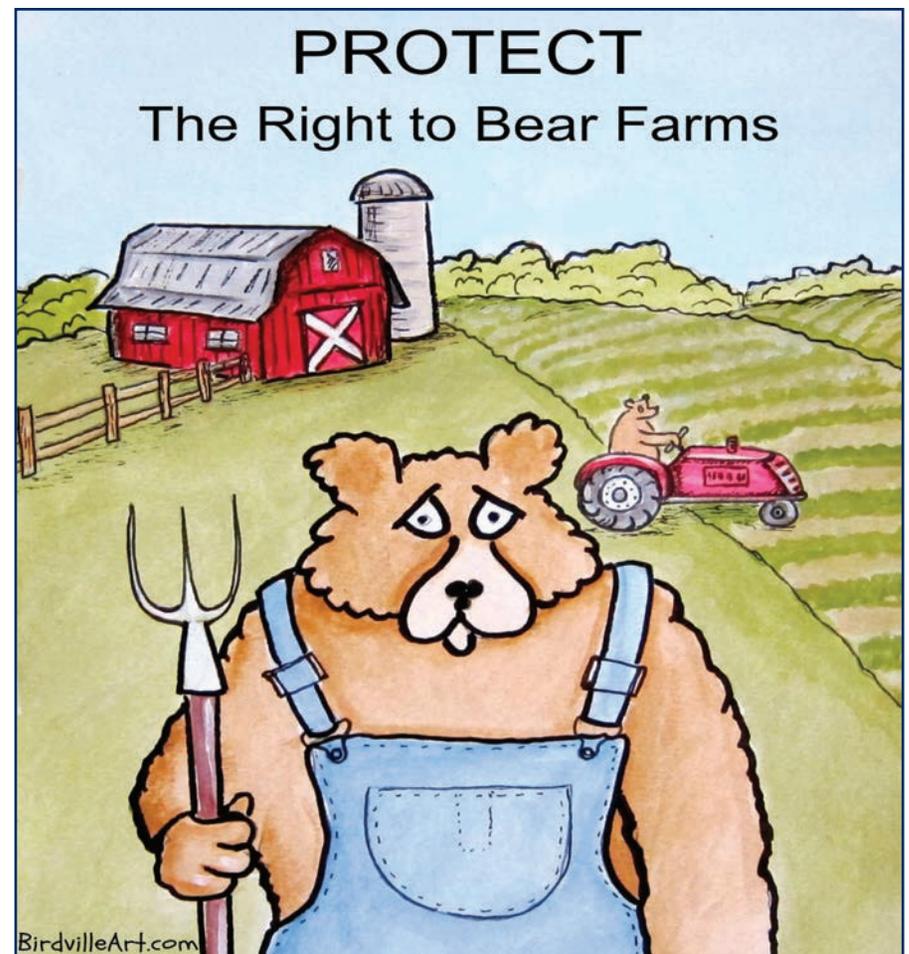
attend, recommendations for restaurants, hotels, etc. and just to share interesting highlights of our Florida experiences. The only requirements to be on this list will be that you live or have lived in the areas served by *ThumbPrint News* and that you now either spend part or all of the year in Florida. Please send your first and last name, your mailing address and phone number in both Michigan and Florida and your email to thumbprintnews@comcast.net and put "Thumb Birds" in the subject line. Alternately, you can mail that information to me at Diane Kodet, *ThumbPrint News*, 8061 Marsh Rd., Algonac, Michigan, 48001. I assure



you that none of your information will be shared with anyone else without your permission. Hopefully, the Thumb Bird group can include enough people who may wish to get together sometime in the future – and, if you are in the Sarasota area when I am, let me know. I will send you an invitation to join us for a few drinks and hors d'oeuvres under our backyard tiki hut while we talk about Florida and Michigan stuff!



If you live in or have lived in the Thumb of Michigan and now spend part or all of the year in Florida, join our Thumb Bird group by emailing thumbprintnews@comcast.net. (See details in the Letter from the Editor).



Cartoon courtesy of artist and humorist, Richard Lamson, creator of BirdvilleArt.com (copyright, all rights reserved)

JOE KNOWS

ESTATE PLANNING AND REAL ESTATE

**By Joseph McKoan***ThumbPrint News* Columnist

When contemplating your Estate Plan, most will have to address the real property issue.

Depending upon how and to whom you want the real property transferred upon your death dictates the type of deed to use. For example, a grantor under a warranty deed remains liable for title defects even after subsequent transfers unless the chain of title is broken. A quitclaim deed contains no warranties, which translates to the grantor assuming no liabilities for defects in title.

There are many types of deeds to consider when planning your estate. There are life estates and enhanced life estates to name a couple. All are different and used for specific purposes. A simple life estate may be satisfactory for one person while an enhanced life estate fits another's wishes. You must be cautious when

transferring real property in relation to your estate plan.

Also, be aware of the large differences between the terms within a deed, as in: "Tenants in Common"; "Joint Tenants with Full Rights of Survivorship"; and "Joint Tenants". All have different results upon death of an owner.

No one wants to pay unnecessary property transfer tax or have found that they have uncapped their tax assessment because they failed to perform their due diligence.

It is imperative that when one wishes to transfer property to an heir or beneficiary in conjunction with their Estate Plan that they seek appropriate counsel and guidance in order to achieve their specific goals and wishes. 🍀

Attorney Joseph McKoan can be contacted by telephone at (810) 794-9379, or email Joe at JMcKoan@mckoanlaw.com.

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 and put "Contest" in the subject line. Be sure to include your name, phone number and full address. Of all persons submitting correct answers by the 15th of the month, one person will be randomly selected to be entered into a drawing for a gift basket valued at over \$100 at the end of this year! On December 31, 2013, one winner will be drawn and the lucky person will be notified.

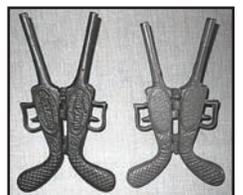
In February's edition, we asked our readers to identify the object pictured on the right:



Randomly selected from those submitting correct answers was Jack Oliver of Brown City, Michigan, who correctly identified the object as an antique boot jack. Jack will be entered into our year end drawing for a gift basket valued at over \$100.

The boot jack is a useful device used to remove boots. Between 1852 and 1995 inventors in over 37 states patented 239

unique styles of boot jacks, which attest to the fact that boot jacks remain as an art form that survived to the present day. (This unique set of boot jacks, shaped as pistols, is just one of the many designs that were patented.)



For our March contest we are asking the question, "What is it?" Identify what the object below is. Email your answer to thumbprintnews@comcast.net. Again, be sure to include your name, address and phone number in case you are correct and are entered in the random drawing at the end of the year for a gift basket valued at over \$100. Good luck!





Memoirs from The Restless Retiree

SENIORS ARE A RUGGED BUNCH!

By Gabriel Jones, ThumbPrint News Columnist

Yes, seniors are a rugged bunch. Especially when you think of their backgrounds - how they grew up.

Most have lived through the various war years - World War II, Korean War, Viet Nam, etc. You name the war - and they survived.

The young men of those days were involved in the war efforts, leaving women behind to take their place in the job fields. (Creating strong women!)

They also remember when there weren't any TVs, cell phones, computers, etc.

BUT, there were other things that made them strong.

In their youth - **THEY WERE ALWAYS "OUTDOORS"!**

You couldn't keep youngsters indoors at that time.

Yes, the only time they spent indoors was when it was raining and they probably played Monopoly on a covered porch.

How did they communicate with each other to start the day?

A youngster would walk down the street in front of his friend's house and yell out, "**JOEY, COME OUT TO PLAY!**"

He didn't use a telephone or cell phone to communicate with his friend; he simply walked over to his friend's

house and yelled his friend's name as he approached.

This would continue from one house to another, until the youngsters had a group to play.

What and how did they play?

"Jump Rope" and "Hop Scotch" were played mostly by girls on the sidewalks.

"Kick the Can" was "Soccer" played in the alleys behind the homes using a tin can instead of a ball.

"Step Baseball" was played on the steep steps of a house. The batter (so-called) would stand on the sidewalk in front of the steep steps and throw a tennis ball against the steps, and try to run to

first base before the opposing players could field the ball and throw him out.

"Touch Football" was played in the street (not much traffic in the neighborhoods then). Parked cars were a hazard, however, when running or catching a pass. (Oh, yes, there was a playground nearby, but you had to take your chances that the field wasn't taken over by others before you got there.)

Yes! Those were great times and that's why....

TODAY'S SENIORS ARE A RUGGED BUNCH!!

Another lesson learned by The Restless Retiree. 🐾



Spring has sprung

"The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created spring." - Bern Williams

"Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush." - Doug Larson

Spring officially begins with the vernal equinox at 7:02 a.m. (EDT) on March 20, 2013, in the Northern Hemisphere, according to the *Farmer's Almanac*. The word "equinox" is derived from the Latin words meaning "equal night". Days and nights are supposed to be approximately equal in length everywhere and the sun rises and sets due east and west.

However, the hours for day and night are not exactly equal and this is how George Greenstein, former astrologer for the *Farmer's Almanac*, explains the slight difference:

"There are two reasons. First, light rays from the sun are bent by the earth's atmosphere. (This is why the sun appears

squashed when it sets.) They are bent in such a way that we are actually able to see the sun before it rises and after it sets. The second reason is that daytime begins the moment any part of the sun is over the horizon, and it is not over until the last part of the sun has set. If the sun was to shrink to a star-like point and we lived in a world without air, the spring and fall equinoxes would truly have 'equal nights.'"

Yes, even though the cold winds of winter try their hardest to hang on, spring is most assuredly coming. While you wait anxiously and patiently for the warmer weather, try your hand at this springtime word find:

The words in the following puzzle may be horizontal, diagonal or vertical. Good luck!

- | | | | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| birth | clouds | groundhog | rainbow | spring |
| blossoms | daffodils | growth | raincoat | sunshine |
| bluebirds | earthworms | happiness | renewal | thunderstorms |
| breeze | equinox | ladybugs | robins | tulips |
| buds | flowers | melting | sky | umbrella |
| bugs | frogs | rain | slush | warm |

U	F	P	X	V	B	P	K	Z	M	R	O	B	I	N	S	I	F	K	L	O
L	S	J	H	N	O	Z	G	O	H	D	N	U	O	R	G	U	G	H	S	V
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S	B	A	A	K	O	H	M	B	F	Q	A	T	D	C	G	O	O	E	M	Z
P	G	C	F	S	N	T	X	S	A	H	Q	H	V	J	L	B	Z	E	S	N
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N	A	N	D	B	Q	B	E	W	D	S	V	D	S	R	I	S	U	O	A	U
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Q	P	W	L	A	S	F	B	L	T	U	A	R	G	S	R	R	N	O	C	I
J	I	A	S	K	K	O	H	F	W	B	Q	S	U	P	S	I	I	Z	O	P
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Q	E	T	X	P	H	S	K	Y	R	D	K	O	V	P	O	E	S	H	V	V
C	S	S	Y	V	H	P	T	Y	G	A	D	R	Z	B	S	U	N	H	O	O
P	S	A	L	L	E	R	B	M	U	L	L	M	E	J	S	L	U	V	U	V
N	J	S	H	R	D	D	R	I	N	M	W	S	J	I	O	B	S	Z	F	B
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Cherry Beach provided the perfect vantage point to view Miss America X.

CHERRY BEACH

Continued from Page 17

boating, fishing and healthful, refreshing breezes. For reservations write to William Lightbody, Cherry Beach, Marine City, Mich.”

The brochure from which the above is quoted is undated. It gave Mr. Lightbody's address as 1689 Atkinson Ave., Detroit, Mich. At about this same time, we think, a pamphlet was circulated by John C. McDonald, extolling the attractions at Cherry Beach and including several pictures of the resort. From this leaflet we quote the following:

“AS AN INVESTMENT OR FOR YOUR OWN ENJOYMENT AND COMFORT, BUY A SUMMER HOME AT CHERRY BEACH.

“How would you like to have a summer home right on the banks of the St. Clair River — a pretty and comfortable cottage with shade trees all around it, a well-kept lawn, beautiful flower gardens and your own vegetable patch? Especially if it were in a private location where our neighbors were all of the right sort.

“Cherry Beach is the ideal location for such a home. The property was purchased by a well-known citizen some years ago and laid out in lots for summer residence purposes. The subdivision is divided by four broad streets and has a magnificent grove of shade trees across its entire frontage, right on the river bank. An elegant, clean sandy beach provides safe bathing for children as well as adults.

“There is no better point along the river for fishing than the vicinity of Cherry Beach.

“A large dining hall has been built for the convenience of the cottagers.

“No swamps or marsh land in the vicinity. This means not only a healthful location but also freedom from annoyance by mosquitos.

“Many cottages on the premises are now occupied by their owners and others may be rented for the season or purchased.

“The lots are all 125 feet deep and excepting a few facing the river, have a frontage of 50 feet.

“An especially low price has been placed on these lots by the present owner and,

if desired, houses will be built to suit the purchaser for cash or on easy payments.

“Cherry Beach is reached from Detroit by the Rapid Railway, hourly service, and the Star Line boats land at Algonac and Marine City. Cherry Beach is between these two towns. The property is more valuable now than the price asked for it and it is sure to command a higher price later on. So the man who buys a summer home at Cherry Beach is making an investment that will bring him big returns for his money, even if he did not wish to retain the property for his own use.

“Prompt action is necessary as only a few houses and lots remain to be sold.”

By about 1915, there were a good number of summer house at Cherry Beach, many available for rental. Several families who bought property here between 1915 and 1920 are still represented by the older or by succeeding generations. Since those first days, very little advertising has been done. The advantages of the area are passed by word of mouth among friends and relatives. Several examples exist of more than one member of a family acquiring Cherry Beach property — cousins, brothers, in-laws, etc. all coming to share the traditions of Cherry Beach.

A favorite recollection of some of the older residents is the year when Cherry Beach provided an ideal observation point for the Harmsworth Race in which *Miss America X*, built by Gar Wood, was the winner. Everyone had many visitors that day! Another fine memory is the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1969, an event which was marked by the visit of the British royal yacht *Britannia* to the Great Lakes, with Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip aboard. Our shores were lined with visitors that day, too.

Changes in shipping through the years are obvious. We have passed from the days of sail, through the time when steam tugs pulled the sailing vessels in groups through the Port Huron Rapids and down the River, through the days of steam packets carrying both passengers and package freight, through the days of steam excursion boats such as the *Tashmoo*, and also through the days of scheduled passenger boats such as the *Juniata*, and the *Tionesta* and

Octorara, which were known as the three sisters. The D. and C. boats, *Eastern States* and *Western States* were followed by the *Georgian Bay Lines' North American* and *South American*. The *South American* was the last passenger boat of American registry on the Great Lakes, making its last voyages in 1967.

From the time of the dedication of the “park” and “easements” to the use of home-owners of the Cherry Beach Subdivision, it has been necessary for the home-owners to band together for the purpose of properly maintaining this land. At first this was a very informal arrangement, but questions arose as to the liability of individual property owners; and an attempt was made to incorporate in 1936. This new Corporation was dissolved after one year, and an ordinary home-owners' group carried on until the Cherry Beach Association was organized in 1951, as an association of resort home-owners, with the stated purpose of improving “the welfare of Cherry Beach Subdivision and the lot owners thereof.” There was the considerable park and dock area to be maintained for the use of residents, as well as the need to present a united front to governmental agencies. The first meeting of the Association was held on September 1, 1951, at the Cherry Beach School, 7234 Riverside Road, Marine City, Michigan.

During the 1950s, the Cherry Beach

“family” enjoyed an annual spring party at the Hospitality Room of Stroh's Brewery in Detroit. Several members being employees of Stroh's, this plan was easily arranged. The affair provided an informal opportunity to renew Cherry Beach acquaintances, share the “news” and set one's sights in the direction of the next summer season. Another custom that began about this time was the annual farewell party for residents and guests on Labor Day weekend. Beer, corn-on-the-cob, baked beans and hot dogs were featured. The annual raffle was held separately. In 1957, games for all ages were conducted for the first time at the Labor Day party. A children's parade on Labor Day weekend became the custom, the children dressing in assorted costumes; and a diminutive “King” and “Queen” led the parade in an elaborate float. Some adults joined the costumed parade, to the amusement of all the spectators. By 1965 the farewell party had been discontinued, and only the children's party was held. This now has become history.

What is “Cherry Beach?” It is a family place — a place more “home” than the city home — a place of moonlight on the water, early morning fishermen, children's voices at the sandy beach, the sounds of late swimmers on a hot summer night, card games on the porch, and picnics on the “Island” — between the ferries. 🌿

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What Happened On This Day in History?

MARCH

By Diane L. Kodet
ThumbPrint News Editor

- 1 On this day in 1790, the first U.S. census was authorized.
- 2 On this day in 1923, *Time* magazine debuted.
- 3 On this day in 1812, the U.S. passed the first foreign aid bill (aided Venezuela earthquake victims).
- 4 On this day in 1865, President Lincoln was inaugurated for his second term as president.
- 5 On this day in 1923, the first old age pension plans in the U.S. were established by Montana and Nevada.
- 6 On this day in 1899, Aspirin was patented by Felix Hoffmann.
- 7 On this day in 1918, President Wilson authorized the U.S. Army's Distinguished Service Medal.
- 8 On this day in 1894, New York passed the first state dog license law.
- 9 On this day in 1942, construction of the Alaska Highway began.
- 10 On this day in 1876, the first telephone call was made (Alexander Graham Bell to Thomas Watson).
- 11 On this day in 1888, the Great blizzard of '88 struck the northeast U.S.
- 12 On this day in 1664, the first naturalization act in the American colonies was passed.
- 13 On this day in 1884, the U.S. adopted Standard Time.
- 14 On this day in 1900, U.S. currency went on the gold standard.
- 15 On this day in 1892, New York State unveiled an automatic ballot booth (voting machine).
- 16 On this day in 1881, the Barnum & Bailey Circus debuted.
- 17 On this day in 1868, the postage stamp canceling machine patent was issued.
- 18 On this day in 1870, the first U.S. National Wildlife Preserve was established (Lake Meritt in Oakland, California).
- 19 On this day in 1917, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the eight hour work day for railroad employees.
- 20 On this day in 1933, Dachau, the first concentration camp, was completed.
- 21 On this day in 1935, Persia was officially renamed Iran.
- 22 On this day in 1903, Niagara Falls ran out of water because of a drought.
- 23 On this day in 1891, the first jazz concert was held at Carnegie Hall.
- 24 On this day in 1930, the planet Pluto was named.
- 25 On this day in 1863, the first Army Medal of Honor was awarded.
- 26 On this day in 1916, the Birdman of Alcatraz received solitary confinement.
- 27 On this day in 1914, the first successful blood transfusion took place (in Brussels, Belgium).
- 28 On this day in 1922, the first microfilm device was introduced.
- 29 On this day in 1936, Nazi propaganda claimed 99% of Germans voted for Nazi candidates.
- 30 On this day in 1932, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic.
- 31 On this day in 1995, a Federal judge ordered an injunction to end the baseball strike.

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Thumb Area Activities & Events for March 2013

If you have an event in April that you would like listed in the April issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net by March 12, 2013. There is no charge for the listing. Limited space is available for publishing events in this section. If it becomes necessary to eliminate some submitted events, we apologize. Events that were submitted earliest and non-profit events will be given the first priority.

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

Flint – March 14

Ask the Lawyer “FREE” Community Seminar, Flint Public Library, 1026 E. Kearsley St., 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Tonight’s topic is “Driver’s License Restoration and Responsibility”. Please call (810) 232-6012 or go to www.gcbalaw.org for more information or to register.

Huron

Bax Axe – March 23

Yard & Garden Expo, Knights of Columbus Hall, 1038 S. Van Dyke (M-53), 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Open to the public, \$1 per adult, children under 12 free. Sponsored by Huron County Master Gardeners. For more information call Marie at (989) 859-1294.

Capeer

Almont – March 9

Almont Lions Euchre Night, Lions Hall, 222 Water St., doors open at 6:00 p.m., play starts at 7:00 p.m. There will be two sets of five games with a break in between. Refreshments and lunch will be served during the break. Generous prizes are awarded to the top three points holders. \$15 donation. If a player brings a first time player, both play for \$10 each. For further information call Don at (810) 798-9609.

Macomb

Chesterfield – March 7

A Little Bit of History, Chesterfield Twp. Public Library, 50560 Patricia St., 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Cindy Donahue, historian of Macomb County, will present “Bath Houses of Mt. Clemens”. She will explain how around 1873 mineral waters were discovered in Mt. Clemens and, because of the reputed healing powers of the water, many bath houses sprung up around the city, causing Mt. Clemens to be known as “Bath City USA”. For more information call (586)598-4900.

Ray – March 10

Red Cross Blood Drive, St. Francis-St.

Maximilian Church, 62811 New Haven Rd., 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Bring picture ID; must be 17 or older, or 16 with parental permission. Child care available. Call for appointment – (586) 749-5140, or just drop in. Help save a life. You’ll be glad you did.

New Haven – March 16

New Haven Lions Club Euchre Night, Lions Hall, 57882 Lutes, doors open at 6:30 p.m., play starts at 7:00 p.m. \$12 per person, includes a light dinner and beverages are available. Prizes are awarded to the top 3 places. Contact Lion Andy for more information at (810) 543-0951.

Richmond – March 16

St. Patrick’s Day Brunch with the Builders Club, Richmond Community Center, 36164 Festival Dr., 10:00 a.m. Seniors, join us for this FREE brunch. Space is limited and tickets are required, so don’t delay. Pick up your ticket at the Community Center today. Coffee, tea, juice, eggs, sausage, doughnuts, bagels and more. The Builders Club is a Kiwanis-sponsored club for Middle School children. For more information contact the Richmond Community Center at (586) 727-3064.

Shelby Township – March 22

Wine Tasting Around the World Fundraiser, Hamlin Pub, 55076 Van Dyke, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. \$30 per ticket. Tickets include wine tasting, hors d’oeuvres and a special surprise and are available at Hamlin Pub, 25 Mile and Van Dyke or 22 and Hayes locations and will benefit Wigs 4 Kids Wellness Center and Salon in St. Clair Shores. For more information call Keli at (586)596-1425 or Kathy at (586) 453-1756.

Chesterfield – March 23

Holistic-Wellness-Psychic Fair, Radiant Beings, 25962 Knollwood S., 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. \$5 admission, free raffle. Call (586) 949-0112 for more information.

Oakland

Troy – March 2

Astrology and Psychic Fair, Troy Masonic Center, 1032 Hartland Dr., 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Astrology, psychic readings available all day. Psychics, astrologer, tarot, clairvoyant. Admission \$5, readings \$20 (15 minutes), \$30 (full reading). Rich Milostan, astrologer. For more information call (248) 528-2610.

St. Clair

Algonac – March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

Senior Movie Day, Algonac-Clay Library, 2011 St. Clair River Dr., 10:00 a.m. Watch a great movie every Friday

morning with your peers. Call or stop by the library for movie titles. (810) 794-4471.

Marysville – March 2

Family Movie Matinee, Marysville Library, 1175 Delaware, 10:00 a.m. Bring your family for some popcorn and a movie. Watch a film about a young boy headed for big things, but first he has to survive the scariest, most humiliating experience of any kid’s life – middle school! Registration requested. (810) 364-9493.

St. Clair – March 2

Introduction to Juggling, St. Clair Library, 310 S. Second St., 11:30 a.m. Make your own juggling balls and learn the beginning steps to keeping them in the air. Ages 7 – 12. Call (810) 329-3951 for more information.

Port Huron – March 6

Artists Create Group, 1219 Military, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. For all adult artists, pick your favorite medium, pack your bag and hike into the studio to enjoy an evening with other artists and create. \$2 suggested donation to offset coffee and doughnuts fund. First Wednesday of each month. For more information call (810) 984-2787.

Capac – March 7 & 21

Kid Kreations, Capac Library, 111 N. Main, 4:30 p.m. Bring your friends to hear some great stories and to do a fun craft. Registration recommended. (810) 395-7000.

Kimball – March 7

Computer Class: E-Mail II, Kimball Township Library, 1955 N. Allen Rd., 6:00 p.m. You will learn how to open your inbox, reply to messages, delete messages and spam. Registration required. (810) 982-9171.

Lakeport – March 9

Lego Block Party, Burtchville Twp. Library, 7097 Second St., 1:00 p.m. Bring your natural engineering ability and creativity. Hundreds of LEGOs to choose from. Ages 4 – 12. Registration requested. (810) 385-8550.

Memphis – March 9

Wine Tasting Fundraiser, Sage Creek Winery, 80890 Main St., 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Light appetizers will be served. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Sage Creek Winery and are \$15 each. Must be 21 or older to attend. Limited seating. Fundraiser to help cover funeral expenses for Jessica DeShon. Women’s Life Insurance Society will match up to \$500 raised. For more information call (810) 392-5136.

Memphis – March 11

Ceramic Tile with Studio 1219, Memphis Library, 34830 Potter St., 5:30 p.m. Brian Westrick will instruct on different techniques of painting tile. Once the tile is painted, it will be fired at Studio 1219. Adults. Registration requested. (810) 392-2980.

Yale – March 12

Advanced Couponing, Yale Library, 2 Jones St., 5:00 p.m. Discover how to use smart phones apps and websites that will refund you money for signing up to their sites. Learn how to find online coupon codes, additional websites to print more coupons from and how to stack coupons at local stores. Call (810) 387-2940 for more information.

Port Huron – March 13

6th Annual Irish Tea Benefit, Port Huron Mercy Hospital, Baggott Street Cafe, 1221 Pine Grove Ave., 2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. The tea, held during Celtic Fest Week, is designed to celebrate Sisters of Mercy Foundress Sister Catherine McAuley and is hosted by the Daughters of Isabella Circle #419 of Marine City and #452 of Emmett. Funds raised will benefit the People’s Clinic for Better Health. Call Darlene at (810) 384-1786.

Marine City – March 14

LEGO Mania, Marine City Library, 300 S. Parker, 6:30 p.m. Using our LEGOs and special theme, plus your imagination, come compete in our monthly LEGO challenge. “People’s Choice” winner will receive a gift card. (810) 765-5233.

Fair Haven – March 15

Euchre Party, St. Peter Lutheran Church, 6745 Palms Rd., registration at 6:30 p.m., games start at 7:00 p.m. \$5 donation, free goodies, coffee and tea. Cash prizes. Hot dogs and pop \$1 donation. For more information call (810) 765-8161.

Fair Haven – March 18

Astronomy Night, Ira Township Library, 7013 Meldrum Rd., 7:00 p.m. (weather permitting). Observe the Moon and Jupiter through a telescope and binoculars. Call (586) 725-9081 for more information.

Kimball – March 23

Art & Craft Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 4521 Ravenswood, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. In addition to the arts and crafts, there will be a bake sale and a used book sale. Sponsored by the Marysville Knights of Columbus Council #9526 Ladies Auxiliary. Proceeds used for local charities. Crafters are wanted. For more information call Judy at (810) 650-5419 or Joan at (810) 364-4635.



Port Huron – March 27

St. Clair County Family History Group, Port Huron Museum, 1115 Sixth St., 7:30 p.m. Marcella Walker will be speaking. She is an impersonator of Michelle Obama. Anyone interested in local history or researching their family tree may visit our programs as a guest or become a new member of the group. For more information, see our website: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miscclfhg/> or call (810) 989-0399.

Emmett – March 29

The Living Stations - The Cross and the Light, Detroit Music Hall. A charter bus will be leaving from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Emmett for the evening show at 8:00 p.m. The show and bus are \$47 per person and are first come, first serve. For questions and reservations, call Kris at (810) 395-2338.

Port Huron – March 29

Max & Ruby Party, Port Huron Library, 210 McMorrان Blvd., 10:00 a.m. Hop over to the library for a fun bunny party. We will listen to a Max & Ruby story, make a pair of bunny ears to take home and participate in even more Max & Ruby activities. Please register. Ages 5 and under. (810) 987-7323 ext. 132 or 130.

Sanilac

Sandusky – March 9 & 23

Thumb Dance Club, Sandusky Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley St., 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Everyone welcome – bring finger foods (for 9:00 p.m.) and friends! Admission \$5 for members and \$6 for non-members; \$10 membership per year. On March 9 we will be entertained by Melody Magic. Prior beginning at 6:00 p.m. will be a potluck (Club provides chicken). This is our St. Patrick's Day Dance. On March 23, Dick Hedrich will entertain us. For more information call Leola at (810) 657-9349 or Dorothy at (810) 404-4250.

Tuscola

Caro – March 15

Ducks Unlimited Tuscola County Dinner, Knights of Columbus Hall, 903 Ryan Rd., doors open at 5:30 p.m., event from 6:00 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. Tickets are \$45 general admission and \$250 for a sponsor. (Sponsor includes framed DU print, 1 dinner ticket and entry into a sponsor only drawing with a 1 in 10 chance of winning a gun valued at over \$400!) For more information call Mike at (989) 550 – 9955.

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ThumbPrint News Travels to South Carolina Once Again!

ThumbPrint News has been traveling the world! Not only has it been seen in many areas of the Thumb of Michigan (over 980 businesses in eight Thumb counties are now drop locations for the newspaper), but readers have also taken ThumbPrint News with them to many different states and countries (listed on the right on the bulletin board). ThumbPrint News was even seen on television on the *Tonight Show with Jay Leno* and at Walt Disney World in Florida with several of the Disney characters!

When we began inviting our readers to submit photos of where they have taken ThumbPrint News, we never expected such an overwhelming response! The newspaper has even traveled to all of the seven continents.

This month's photo shows ThumbPrint News traveling once again to the state of South Carolina, this time with Jodi and Cindy Platzer of Lakeport, Michigan, who are shown below holding a copy of ThumbPrint News in the town of Hilton Head Island.

If you are a reader of ThumbPrint News and have taken our newspaper with you on a vacation or to an unusual place – or if you have been able to get a famous person or character to be photographed with our paper, you may submit an email and photo to us at thumbprintnews@comcast.net (jpeg format preferred). Please tell us a little about the photo and include your name, address and phone number. Please be patient as you wait for your photo to appear in ThumbPrint News. When it does appear, we will send you a complimentary edition. There are many places where ThumbPrint News has not yet been – and lots of famous people to track down. Who will be the next person to help us in our quest? 🍀

Where Has Your ThumbPrint News Been?

Hilton Head Island is a resort town located on an island of the same name in Beaufort County, South Carolina, 20 miles north of Savannah, Georgia, and 95 miles south of Charleston. The island gets its name from Captain William Hilton. Wikipedia gives this brief history:

In 1663 Captain Hilton identified a headland near the entrance to Port Royal Sound, which he named "Hilton's Head" after himself. The island features 12 miles of beachfront on the Atlantic Ocean and is a popular vacation destination. The year-round population was 37,099 at the 2010 census, although during the peak of summer vacation season the population can swell to 275,000. The island has a rich history that started with seasonal occupation by Native Americans thousands of years ago, and continued with European exploration and the Sea Island cotton trade.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Lapeer County MSU Extension welcomes Kathy George as the new 4-H Program Coordinator. Kathy brings over 18 years' experience in corporate event management to the 4-H Youth Development program serving Lapeer County. She will be working with 4-H staff managing, planning and coordinating the diverse programs, such as: Spring Achievement (March 16th), 4-H Celebrity and Live Auction (April 12-13), and educational workshops and events for Lapeer residents. Kathy will provide leadership to the many great 4-H clubs in Lapeer County, including community service clubs, cake decorating, livestock, and shooting sports, just to name a few. We are excited to have Kathy join the MSU Extension team and wish her great success in enhancing the lives of Lapeer County's youth.



lives of Lapeer County's youth.

Kathy George
4-H Program Coordinator
MSU Extension
1800 Imlay City Road, Ste. 1
Lapeer, MI 48446
Phone: 810-667-0343
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Email: george92@anr.msu.edu
Website: www.msue.msu.edu/lapeer

Brenda Patrick
MSU Extension Office Manager
Lapeer

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ThumbPrint News

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Wanted to Buy**MOTORCYCLES WANTED**

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Michigan is on the Move!

Submitted by Phil Pavlov, Michigan State Senator, District 25

Dear Michigander:

I am excited about the progress we are making to help put Michigan back on track. I would like to share with you our continuing work to help energize the state economy and create the right climate for job growth.



Phil Pavlov

Michigan added more than 120,000 jobs in the last two years and our population grew in 2012—for the first time in seven years! Yet we have a long way to go to reclaim the jobs lost from 2000 to 2010. I look forward to new opportunities to help move Michigan forward so our children and grandchildren can find good-paying jobs right here at home. Along with efforts to strengthen the economy, I also want to let you know about other issues, from our work to protect Michigan's children to supporting local governments.

Michigan Senate approves tax reform to help create jobs

Michigan lost nearly half of its manufacturing jobs from 2000 to 2010. To move forward, we have to remove archaic barriers to job creation and economic growth. I voted to phase out the industrial personal property tax—a tax businesses pay year after year on items like machinery and equipment. In particular, the tax has proven to be a powerful disincentive to many manufacturers to invest or expand in Michigan. The PPT, as it is known, will begin to be phased out over 10 years starting in 2013. Small businesses with industrial and commercial property less than \$40,000 will be exempt from local taxes.

The tax reform protects local governments and schools from revenue loss. Local governments will not see a decrease in revenue for emergency services such as police, fire or ambulance. Current public school debt millages and ISD special and vocational education millages are protected as well. Revenue outside of essential public services will be reimbursed at 80 percent if approved by voters in a statewide vote in August 2014.

New law to help resolve local financial emergencies and protect taxpayers

Strong communities are vital to a strong Michigan. A new Senate plan will help cities and school districts sinking under debt. PA 436 of 2012 (SB 865, which I sponsored) provides local officials with more options to fix their financial troubles.

Under the new law, municipalities and schools are given the power to decide among four options in dealing with their operating deficit or insolvency: a consent agreement; an emergency manager; binding arbitration; or Chapter 9 bankruptcy.

Whatever option is chosen, the goal is to restore financial stability and local control. By incorporating more local input and accountability, the plan resolves concerns about the prior "emergency manager" law voiced by voters in November.

Michigan Senate protects kids

These new laws will help protect the health and safety of Michigan's children:

- **Kelsey's Law** Young, inexperienced drivers under 20 years old make up the highest proportion of distracted drivers involved in fatal crashes. PA 592 of 2012 (SB 756) prohibits young drivers, those with a Level 1 or 2 graduated license, from using cell phones while behind the wheel. The law is a primary offense, meaning a driver can be pulled over and ticketed for this alone.

- **Erin's Law** Childhood should be a time of innocence. Yet too many children are sexually abused by age 18, most often by someone they know. PAs 593-595 of 2012 (SBs 1112-1114) protect Michigan's children by educating and encouraging them to speak up, and making sure parents, teachers, and others have the training to spot warning signs and report incidents.

- **Concussion Awareness** When a young athlete steps on the playing field or on the court, their health must come first. PA 342 and PA 343 of 2012 (SB 1122 and HB 5697) require youth sports groups, including schools, to adopt a concussion awareness program. An athlete suspected of having a concussion must be immediately removed from physical activity and can't return until cleared to play by a health professional.

It is an honor to be your voice in Lansing. I welcome your questions, concerns and ideas on the issues important to you and your family. By working together, we will ensure we are building a better Michigan. You can contact my office by visiting www.SenatorPhilPavlov.com or toll free at 866.305.2125. 🇺🇸





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Jay DeBOYER

ST. CLAIR COUNTY CLERK/REGISTER



SPOTLIGHT ON ST. CLAIR COUNTY'S DEDICATION TO U.S. VETERANS

In 2012 the St. Clair County Clerk's Office, under the direction of Jay DeBoyer and in cooperation with the St. Clair County Veterans' Affairs Office, implemented a Veterans' Identification Program with great success and appreciation from local veterans. The intent of this program is to provide local veterans with a simple, easy to carry identification card that they may present to local businesses that may offer some type of benefit to veterans. These benefits are a simple way for us to say thank you for the sacrifice and dedication of our veterans.

During the process of structuring this program I realized that locally there is not a single source location or data base

that would allow a local veteran to find businesses that may offer them a benefit as a veteran. As well, I discovered the tremendous service that is provided via the Office of Veterans' Affairs of St. Clair County under the direction of Debra Worden.

The Veterans' Affairs Office can investigate and advise regarding issues between many agencies (local, state and federal) and veterans and their families.

They can prepare and forward data, information and status to requesting

agencies and claimants. They can assess, analyze and inform veterans about specific entitlements and how they would apply for them. Veterans' Affairs can facilitate, schedule and coordinate transportation to VA Medical Facilities (partnered with the Disabled American Veterans' Transportation Network). The department can also identify potential local, state and federal agencies that may assist a claimant with other programs outside of our scope of services, in efforts to link clients to other services as well. They can provide financial emergency relief for eligible veterans and family members when determined to be experiencing a temporary financial crisis by means of Michigan Veterans' Trust Fund and Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Fund.



There are many options available to veterans, but the need still exists for additional services. The goal for 2013 from the St. Clair County Clerk's Office is to continue to work in conjunction with Veterans' Affairs and

begin to compile a list of businesses in the St. Clair County area that are

willing to provide some form of benefit directly to veterans and their families. We will establish a list that can be viewed via the St. Clair County website. Certainly this list will be ever changing. Our mission has already begun by scheduling time with local Chambers of Commerce and both encouraging and explaining to the local business person the value and the benefit that comes with supporting the veterans of our community.

The price that our veterans have paid to provide us the freedoms we so well enjoy is worth our efforts to do these types of things to show our appreciation. I believe our first president put it best when he said, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by our nation."

- George Washington

Veteran Identification Cards available at:

Jay DeBoyer, St. Clair County Clerk
201 McMorran Blvd.
Suite 1100
Port Huron, MI 48060



It's Not Gone!

Think of all the things that go down your drain to your septic tank: grease from your kitchen sink, hair and oil from your shower and washer, body waste from your toilets. We tend to think – or not think – about what happens to all that waste. It doesn't just disappear.

Fats, oils and greases (FOGs) are put into your septic system everyday. Once they reach your septic tank, good anaerobic bacteria start to consume the waste. The FOGs not consumed by the good bacteria become solid waste. They build up at the top and bottom of your tank in the form of scum, often several inches thick. Pieces of these solids break off, and along with the liquid from your tank, go into your field. Much like plaque can clog our arteries and cause a heart attack, solids from your tank can clog your septic field and cause expensive repairs if you don't remove them.

Regular maintenance for your septic system is a must. The old saying "If it's not broke, don't fix it" is not true. Eventually your septic system or field will fail. Fields are expensive to replace.

Proper maintenance and care to your

tank and filtering systems should be done on a regular basis based on your lifestyle, the number of people in the home, and usage.

Remember, we drink what we flush. Eventually, your field water enters back into the ground water. You don't want to contaminate our drinking sources. Call ABC Home & Commercial Services Septic Division at (810) 794-5678 if you have any questions about your septic system.

NEVER

- put bleach into the system. Bleach kills the good bacteria.
- put garbage from table waste in at any time.
- put cigarette butts in the toilet. They can clog the orifices in the field.



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