



PERIODICAL Postage Paid (USP #7435501)

Volume 41 Number 11

NOVEMBER 1, 2023

Sydney, Nova Scotia A Town Seeking Hope

By Danielle Phillips

Have you ever found yourself aching for with hope? When you are so sure something good is just around the corner that despite the current situation, you endure and keep on going. I sometimes even finish my day smiling, knowing that tomorrow's hopes will appear. That is how I found Sydney, Nova Scotia a harbor town aching with hope.

Sydney is located on the northeast corner of Cape Breton Island. We had left the port of Halifax in sunny warm weather and arrived the next day in Sydney, having caught the tail end of the tropical storm Lee. Exiting the ship at Liberty Pier, the rain was coming down hard. But, if you turned your back, your face could stay dry because the rain was literally coming at us from the side! After a discussion of whether to weather the weather, Nancy Noreen and I decided we would walk into town.

Sydney is old, founded in 1785, incorporated in 1904 and dissolved in 1995. The largest employer, Sydney Steel Corporation closed in 2001. The discovery of a toxic orange substance oozing into basements only added to the decay and decline of this port town. The cold storm fit well with Sydney's history.

In between the blasts of rain, Nancy and I meandered our way around the city. We enjoyed visiting the world's largest Fiddle, a craft show at the local legion hall, the local historical museum, and various souvenir and shoe stores. Our final stop was the beautiful St. George's church. At each location, the people were warm and welcoming, sharing stories and hospitality with everyone.

The local historical society is located in the 120 year old dark brown brick building that was

originally the home to the Bank of Montreal. Full of artifacts from Sydney's past, the Society operates a large historical database of records. Sydney was a key entry port for many immigrants.

Having remembered that my grandmother emigrated from Germany through Canada in 1903 to meet up with my grandfather who already settled in Michigan, I had to see if there was a connection. The archivist discovered a passenger on a ship in 1903 matching my grandmother's name bringing several small children into the country. I knew my aunt was three years old and my uncle was a baby and sure enough those ages matched with the passenger list. But then, who was the 5-year-old passenger associated with my grandmother's name? Time to start my own genealogy research, I think.

Our walk back to the ship took us past St. George's Anglican Church.



Doors were open, so we went in. The volunteers were dressed in 1700 period clothes and presented the history of the church in a theatric-



cal manner. There were photos of the Queen Mum visiting the church and Prince Charles and Queen Camilla. You see, St. George's is an official place of worship for members of the Royal Family and maintains a Royal Pew. The town celebrated King Charles coronation with their own royal music and service, video tapping the event and sending it off to the King and Queen. They received a lovely portrait as a gift from His Royal Highness in return.

Two memorial tablets hang in the back of St. George's, depicting the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles Creed. In the early days, hymnals were not plentiful so parishioners would recite from the memorial tablets. The words are etched in real gold on black wooden frames. If you read carefully, there is a misspelled word in the Creed. Because of the cost of gold, no one wanted to correct the error, so the parishioners and the Royal Family read "Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ."

As we walked back to the ship, we talked about how the city was preserving its past, energizing it with stories, Gaelic music and delightful volunteers. Sydney residents are aching with hope. Hope that the tourism to this beautiful island will bring back the youth that fled 50 years ago. Hope that holding onto their traditions will touch the soul who is longing for a slower pace of life. I am so glad we braved the storm and stepped off the boat to discover such a place aching for the greatness that tomorrow brings.



From "Hear"... ...and There



DJ Reyburn Umps the World's Series

By Tom Noreen

DJ Reyburn was one of this year's Major League Baseball's World Series umpires. He called balls and strikes from the plate for Game 1 between the



Arizona Diamondbacks and the Texas Rangers. He also will call for left and right fields plus 1st, 2nd and 3rd bases. If it goes to 7 games, he will be the reserve.

DJ got his start at DeWitt High School. While at DeWitt, the team won three State Championships. He then played baseball at Hope College from 1996-99. In 2000, DJ attended the umpire school in Florida. He began as an umpire in the Midwest League in 2002 and was hired as a full time MLB umpire in 2014.

He is married to **Cherie**. They have 3 children and live in Nashville, TN. He is the son of Kris and Teri (Covell) Reyburn who are 1971 and 1972 graduates of Cedar Springs High School.

The Bugle, LLC is edited and published monthly by Colonel Tom Noreen, USA Retired.

Periodical postage paid: USP #743-5501. **Postmaster send address changes to: The Bugle, 6960 Becker St NE, Cedar Springs, MI 49319.**

Telephone 616.696.5186 or Email TomNoreen@aol.com regarding submittal of news items, subscription rates, and/or advertisements.

Sand Lake Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Press release

It's getting to be that time again for our community Thanksgiving Dinner. It will be on Thanksgiving Day from 12 noon until 2 PM at the old VFW Hall on Main Street.



Ways you can be part of our 2nd annual Friendsgiving event ..

- donate items
- bake/cook items
- set up/cleanup crew
- serve

For more information on the dinner and how you can help, contact **Victoria Martinez** at the Hub Coffee Shop.

Education Foundation Awards Grants

By Tom Noreen

In October, the Cedar Springs Education Foundation awarded four grants to teachers in the Cedar Springs Public Schools to enhance learning in their classrooms.

Brittania Bonsall and Rhonda Bellamy: Grant to purchase books and hands on materials that enhance each of the Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) knowledge units. CKLA builds students' knowledge and vocabulary in literature, history, geography, and science. Cedar Trails

Bernadette Jacobson: Grant to purchase flexible seating to create a more flexible seating environment so students can flourish and move around the



**Cedar Springs
Education Foundation
Happy Thanksgiving!**

room in a way that meets their needs. Cedar Trails

Emily Strunk: Goal of Project Hello is to foster a nurturing and inclusive educational environment by creating and distributing floral arrangements to classrooms throughout our school community to create a holistic and inclusive learning environment. Beach

Christine Dykema: This project will enhance the quality of life for our students through the implementation of flexible seating options within our classrooms. Cedar View Elementary School is dedicated to fostering an environment where students not only receive a quality education but also feel comfortable and engaged throughout their learning journey. Cedar View

November Movies at the Kent Theatre

Movies

- 3-5 *Gran Turismo*
10-12 *Yogi Bear**
17-19 *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves**
24-26 *Planes, Trains, & Automobiles**

*Free Movies

Movie Times:

Fri: 6 PM
Sat: 3 and 6 PM
Sun: 3 PM

Movie tickets: \$3

Stage Productions

- 9 Dec-Annual Kent Theatre Christmas Show: Music at 3 PM. \$5
- 10 Dec-Annual Kent Theatre Christmas Show: Dance Part 1 at 3 PM. \$5
- 10 Dec-Annual Kent Theatre Christmas Show: Dance Part 2 at 5:30 PM. \$5

Movie titles may be changed by the movie distributor. Check Kent Theatre Facebook page for current information.

Moving?

Please send us your change of address so that delivery of your Bugle will not be delayed.



CS Women's Club

By Kathy Raudenbush

The Cedar Springs Women's Club had its regular meeting on Thursday, October 5. They met at noon, and the hostess committee provided the members with many delicious appetizers and desserts.

The Community Focus and Program were both centered on the Scouting program in Cedar Springs. There were two speakers. They were **Logan Redes** and **Tom Noreen**.

Logan is a sophomore at Cedar Springs Public Schools where he is an Honor Student and is active in sports. He has earned many badges and awards in his years in scouting. He has almost completed the work on his Eagle Scout Project, which is to replace the bleachers and signage at the CS Junior Baseball League field on Shaner Avenue. He has raised more than \$32,000, has replaced the bleachers, and is just waiting to complete the signs.

Tom Noreen is the Cedar Springs Rotary Club's Charter Organizational Representative for both Troop 222 and Cub Scout Pack 3220. He provided information on the Scouting program in Cedar including the fact that there are currently one active troop, and that Scouting started in Cedar Springs in 1946. He also told us that there are opportunities in scouting during a scout's entire lifetime.

Both presentations were informative and enjoyable.

The CS Women's Club meets on the first Thursday of each month at noon at the Cedar Fields Community Building. Prospective members must attend two meetings and then may apply to join. All women are welcome to join this service organization.



Rotary Chicken Dinner

By Tom Noreen

The Cedar Springs Rotary Club would like everyone who purchased a dinner. Your support raised \$3,000, which will be used to support community programs and activities in the coming year.

North Kent Connect Hygiene Pantry Restock

By Tom Noreen

The Cedar Springs Rotary Club is collecting hygiene items for North Kent Connect from now until December 1. They have collection barrels at City Hall, ChoiceOne Bank, Creative Technologies Academy, and the Cedar Springs Public Library.

Key items in short supply are:

Laundry Detergent
Shampoo/Conditioner
Bar Soap/Body Wash
Hand Soap/Deodorant
Toilet Paper/Shaving Products

If you'd prefer to give money, send a check to the CS Rotary, PO Box 73, CS 49319

Events at O'Flynn's

By Amanda Litz

Get ready for an extraordinary encounter with award-winning wildlife photographer and ArtPrize sensation, **Frank S. Renberg**! Join us at O'Flynn's Art Gallery & Craft Shoppe on Saturday, November 4, 2023, from 11 AM to 5 PM, for an immersive experience that celebrates the mesmerizing beauty of nature.

For the third year in a row, Frank will be gracing our gallery with his stunning wildlife photography, captivating the senses and igniting the imagination. His breathtaking pieces will be on display and available for purchase, offering you a chance to own a piece of the wild, captured through the lens of a true master.

But that's not all! Frank's wife will be whipping up a delectable array of snacks and treats, ensuring your taste buds are just as delighted as your eyes. As you immerse yourself in the world of wildlife, there will also be ample opportunity for questions and answers with the artist himself.

Save the date, November 4, and prepare to be captivated. This is an experience no art enthusiast or nature lover should miss. Join us at O'Flynn's Art Gallery & Craft Shoppe for a day of art, inspiration, and the magic of the wild!

Frank S. Renberg is a Rockford based nature and wildlife photographer.

Young Entrepreneur's Day

Join us on Saturday, November 18, 2023, from 11 AM to 5 PM for a celebration of our talented local youth entrepreneurs!

- Shop Local, Impact Global: Discover unique, handcrafted treasures brought to you by our community's future leaders. Support local families and nurture the entrepreneurial spirit in young hearts!
- See Tomorrow's Leaders in Action: Watch these young innovators showcase their talents and demonstrate their crafts. It's not just a market; it's an inspiring glimpse into the future!
- Exciting Door Prizes Await!
- Explore a Variety of Booths: From handmade jewelry to original artworks,

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**Wreath Making**

December 9 at 1 PM

Use a handmade grapevine wreath – or make your own - to decorate and take home. We'll have a variety of ribbons, natural trimmings and holiday ornaments to choose from. There will also be a raffle and a Christmas Yard Sale. Wreath and Trimmings - \$20 nonmembers/\$15 members

2024 Calendars from our spring art show are available!

Hours of Operation

The Interpretive Center is open on the weekends. The grounds are open every day from dawn to dusk. Please take the opportunity to enjoy nature at its best!

Camp Lily's Retreat Center

This is the perfect rental for any occasion. There is a separate entrance on 20 Mile Rd. The building has a full kitchen, main meeting room seats up to 75, two bedrooms with bunk beds, bathrooms, and shower room. There is also a pavilion with electric and a camping area with fire pits and access to the Nature Center's 135 acres and 12 miles of trails.

Contact us at:

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O'Flynn's (Continued from page 3)

our young entrepreneurs offer something for everyone.

□ Witness Live Demonstrations: Be amazed by the skills and creativity of our young vendors.

O'Flynn's has a variety of fun and unique classes to enjoy in November as well, including Paint Therapy and Teen Paint Therapy, Homeschool Art Program, Kid's Improv, Resin Pour Class, Beginner's Stained Glass Workshop, Cricut Class, Paint Party, and our new Make & Take Salve Workshop!

To find days, times, and ticket links for classes and events, please go to O'Flynn's Events Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/OFlynnGalleryandShoppe/events>

Another note, O'Flynn's is available for business and personal rentals Mondays, Tuesdays and Sundays, for more info: <https://oflynnsshoppe.com/room-rental>.

City of Cedar Springs and Solon Township Attempt to Forge New Agreement for Library Services

Press Release

The City of Cedar Springs continues their dedicated efforts to secure a renewed agreement for library services for both City residents and Solon Township residents.

The Cedar Springs Public Library traces its roots back to 1936 when it was established as a village library, via a voted millage. In 1959, it transitioned to a city library, signifying its growth and importance within the community as the village evolved into a city. Throughout the years, the library has received funding from various sources, including city general funds, city dedicated library millages, and collaborative contracts with Solon Township.

The relationship between Cedar Springs and Solon Township began in 1985 when a formal contract for Library Services was approved by the City. The history of this library collaboration took a significant turn in 1999. At that time, the City entered into an agreement with Solon Township for library services, providing the Township with the authority to appoint three out of the seven library board members.

Over the years, several revisions were made to the agreement, with slight updates in 1992, 2001, 2005, and 2017. In the early 2000s, both communities endeavored to create a joint district library. The City passed the millage request fulfilling half of the required steps to start a joint district library. Unfortunately, Solon Township residents did not approve the required millage to bring this initiative to fruition, defeating the pursuit of a shared joint district library.

The road to partnership between Cedar Springs and Solon Township has been tumultuous. Disagreements over board representation, responsibilities, funding, and operational procedures have been reported in numerous news articles spanning the entirety of the joint endeavor.

In March of 2022, the Cedar Springs Library Board recognized the need to increase funding for the library. The library board requested that the City increase the library millage to the maximum amount as permitted by law. The increase made the inequity in the contributions of City residents versus Solon Township residents obvious. As of December 2022, the City was paying approximately \$30.14 per resident and Solon Township was paying approximately \$12.82 per resident.

The City approached Solon Township in December of 2022, with a request to increase funding through the established Library Services Agreement from 2017. The request was to ensure the library's continued success in its newly donated building. Unfortunately, the request went unanswered. The Library did not have the necessary resources to continue to grow for what the community needed. The

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Library (Continued from page 4)

budget was often very slim and didn't allow for much in the way of added services. Additionally, many programs and services had been historically sustained through donations and in-kind services. Including the City of Cedar Springs providing unpaid services for accounts payables/receivables, liability/property insurance coordination, library staff health insurance/benefits, payroll, and auditing services.

As it became clear that Solon Township was not willing to provide increased funding, the City had no choice but to initiate the cancellation of the existing agreement, aiming to negotiate a more equitable solution for both communities and ensure the success of the Cedar Springs Community Library. The six-month notice of contract cancellation was provided per the existing contract on April 13, 2023. Solon Township, however, delayed any response for several months.

With their first response on June 28, 2023, Solon Township provided a counter proposal. The primary point of contention was Solon Township's claim to three board seats. The City of Cedar Springs acknowledged this claim and, on September 5, 2023, offered a revised contract to Solon Township giving Solon Township 3 board seats as they requested. On September 6, 2023, Solon Township requested a 90-day extension to the contract cancellation. In a bid to find a timely resolution, the City of Cedar Springs agreed to a 30-day extension, pushing the deadline to November 13, 2023.

Solon Township's most recent contract proposal dated October 10,

2023, introduced the idea of allocating the tie-breaking board seat to the community providing the most funding. Concerns over this newest proposal are vast including:

- The latest proposal contradicts Solon Township's statement on June 28th, 2023 that the joint library board should be comprised of four members from the City and three from the Township.

- Solon Township does not have the ability to join any library cooperative because they do not have dedicated library millage. The City of Cedar Spring's dedicated library millage enables the library to be a member of Lakeland Library Cooperative.

- Despite incurring costs, the City has provided in-kind services for the library including accounts payables/receivables, liability/property insurance coordination, library staff health insurance/benefits, payroll, and library auditing services. This collaboration saves the library tens of thousands of dollars annually.

- The Solon Township proposal perpetuates the longstanding "tug of war" over the library by possibly modifying the composition of the board every two years.

On October 12, 2023, The City of Cedar Springs has reaffirmed its commitment to partnership and co-operation by signing a contract and awaits Solon Township's signature for a board comprising four city residents and three township residents. After the proposed three year graduated increase for Solon Township, the proposed contract will bring the estimated per person annual cost to approximately \$36.46 per person for City residents and

\$35.98 per person for Solon Township Residents (based on 2023 Taxable Values). The hope is that both communities can reach a mutually agreeable solution before the upcoming November 13, 2023 deadline.

A copy of the most recent contract offered from the City of Cedar Springs can be found at: https://cityofcedarsprings.org/2023/10/16/city-of-cedar-springs-and-solon-township-attempt-to-forge-new-agreement-for-library-services/fbclid=IwAR0gkmpH0W78jomGE9i9TXgiU4v_Wq3LZhqw7ArG25XrwWf m-mrdHJ7LcQ

Make Your Voice Heard CS Public Library Future

By Tom Noreen

City Council Member **Rose Powell** asked me to encourage the residents of Solon Township to attend the Township Board meeting on November 13 at 7:30 PM. This is the cutoff date for the existing service contract that Solon Township has with the Cedar Springs Public Library. It is also the date the Solon Township Board must either approve or reject the new service contract. After that date, Solon Township residents will not be able to use any library in Kent County if the Board does not approve the new contract.

If you are concerned about your library access, then please attend and bring a friend. Cedar Springs residents are welcome to attend, too. This is an open meeting everyone is encouraged to participate in Township business.

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Our Town

I Thank God for My Humble Beginnings

By John Gunnell

The economic circumstance for most families in and around Cedar Springs during the 1930s and 1940s was that of "Abject Poverty." Being honest with ourselves, most of us my age came into a world whose hope rested with "God's mercy and his unconditional love for us" and our being given the chance to rise above our economic circumstances with two parents who loved their children and looked upon their offspring as their "gift from God" to be molded and treasured so that they too would live their lives recognizing God's perpetual love.

Getting back to my title for this writing I felt responsible to further explain myself. Being poor today in many American homes, means lacking only material possessions but far more sadly being ignored is to our lives without seeing the "forest for trees." Several years back another awakening for me came about when the song "Feelings" somehow escaped the crudeness and denial of today's world. Its lyrics not only penetrated the music world but put this boy in the mood to realize that we all can chose to be God's children or like the chickens "pick up crap for eternity."

Many Americans remember the story about the king and his accumulation of gold only for himself. He felt no joy in his life like he observed in his servants. One day he asked his servants "what caused them to be so joyful?" The servants seemed puzzled by the king's question but finally the "lowliest servant" answered, "Our joy is because our king allows us to serve his majesty." The king's only response was that of a "broad smile" appearing on his face to his servants. Being wise, the king felt the joy of his servants, which caused him to treat all his subjects with kindness from that day on and for perpetuity. Magically the king found joy for the first time

and became known far and wide as the "Benevolent King."

Being "poor" in most American minds of today means only lacking the "where with all" to accumulate more and more and more material possessions. Americans have become so infatuated with "getting more things" inspired by the "baseless opinions of a trendy society" that we are slow to rediscover the truth and how to once again to say "No" and mean it to these baseless opinions of a trendy society. The very God authored these values we grew up believing in. The goodness of God is "anything but trendy" and relies upon the strong, steadfast courage of Americans who rely upon their own heart of hearts to live their lives in the truth with God in control.

Growing up in America today gives us "numerous economic safety nets" that have also become "counter-productive" in relying on our government to do our thinking for us; thereby, squelching what little rugged individualism that remains and our "sense of pride" in what we once felt through our own "sense of freedom to choose."

In this final paragraph I'll lighten up a bit by sharing my pride in my tomatoes that I grow each summer. I put in 200 plants that usually produce enough tomatoes for **Camilla, Fred, Father Jim Chelech** and our family and friends to "can" enough for the year. Growing tomatoes and canning them reminds me of my mother, "God bless her soul," who quietly still encourages me each year to keep putting that many plants, which pleasures me because the many people who enjoy

them. She is the other one still enjoying keeping an eye on them, too.

Cedar Springs Community Food Pantry

By Sarah Zachow

Have you ever heard of the Cedar Springs Community Food Pantry (CSCFP)? The pantry has been around for many years. It started out in a closet in the lower level of the Cedar Springs United Methodist Church as a way to help out members of the Church in their time of need. Over the years it not only outgrew the closet it also became not just a church pantry, but a community pantry. While still housed in the church, it is now a separate nonprofit organization that serves close to 100 families each month. As a support pantry for North Kent Connect all families served are referred to us by them.


Here are several ways you can help us serve the members of our community that have food insecurity:

- The Meijer "Simply Give" campaign supporting the Cedar Springs Community Food Pantry runs through Dec 31 at the Cedar Springs Meijer. December 16 is a double match day where every \$10 "simply give" card purchased becomes tripled. Purchase a card the next time you shop.

- Although, we had been able to give a Thanksgiving turkey to every family that wanted one for the past couple of years, we will not be able to do that this year. But if you want to donate one – we will gladly pass it on to a family that needs it.

- Are you a hunter, but don't use all your venison? The CSCFP will be glad to accept it, as long as it has been processed in a licensed shop. All year long I have had people ask if

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Bugles are available at Copies Plus and the Cedar Chest

Bond (Continued from page 8)

we had venison. Venison donated will help us spend less in the store and still provide protein. Barb's Deer Processing on 1709 10 Mile Road NE a couple miles west of US 131 is on the Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger list for low cost or free processing. Phone: 616-887-7876,

- When was the last time you rotated your cupboards? Is there something in them you purchased two of and did not really like, and know you will never eat the other? We can use any nonperishable foods that are within or close to the "best by date". Many things are still good beyond the "best by date." We will be glad to take those items you don't want. Thank you for your help.

- As we are completely funded by caring people like you, we can always use financial donations. Our address is Cedar Springs Community Food Pantry, PO Box 484, Cedar Springs, MI 49319.

The CSCFP is open Monday to Thursday from 9 -11 AM. Stop by and check us out sometime.

Cedar Springs Community Food Pantry Board Chairperson, **Sarah Zachow**

CSHS Marching Red Hawks

Competes at Ford Field

By Tom Noreen

The Cedar Springs Marching Red Hawks will compete at the Michigan Competing Band Association Finals on November 4 at Ford Field in Flight Field at 5:04 PM. To get there, the band competed in three scored events and a final qualifying competition at Jenison. Go Red Hawks!

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Kent County to Activate Operation Green Light in November to Honor Veterans

Press Release

Kent County Veterans Services will be activating Operation Green Light in early November to honor veterans ahead of the Veterans Day holiday.

During the week of November 6-12, area businesses and residents are being asked to replace outdoor lights with green bulbs to help support military veterans and to raise awareness about the resources available to them through the Kent County Veterans Services. Now in its second year, Operation Green Light is a national initiative of the National Association of Counties and the National Association of County Veteran's Service Officers.

Kent County Veterans Services connects veterans and their families to earned benefits. These benefits may include emergency funds for unforeseen circumstances like rental assistance, utility payments, food grants, disability, spousal or dependent benefits, burial assistance, and more. Operation Green Light sheds light on these programs to aid veterans and their families in finding the programs that best fit their needs.

"We are excited to continue our success from the previous year when numerous businesses and residents actively participated," said Martha Burkett, Director of Kent County Veterans Services. "In this year's initiative, our aim extends beyond illuminating urban land-

marks; we extend a challenge to individuals across every corner of the county to participate."

In the weeks leading up to the initiative, Kent County Veterans Services invites businesses and residents to make a meaningful contribution by:

- Using green light bulbs for their homes and businesses,
- Visiting accesskent.com/greenlight for a toolkit of resources to promote the cause, and
- Rallying friends, family, and networks to join this initiative, together illuminating Kent County in a vibrant show of support for our veterans.

The weeklong observation ends with the annual Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, November 11 in downtown Grand Rapids. The parade starts at 10 AM on Division Avenue under the I-196 overpass. From there, the parade will continue south to Fulton and then east to Veterans Memorial Park where it ends with a Ceremony of Remembrance.

Please join Kent County Veterans Services in shining a green light of hope and support for the more than 28,000 veterans who call Kent County home.

Letter from the Editor

If you would like to write articles for *The Bugle*, please let me know. In particular, it would be nice to have some new contributors to Fur-Feathers-Scales. I've run out of articles. It would also be great if more groups/civic organizations would provide an update on their activities and the difference they make in our community. I know there are a number of folks that have traveled to some interesting places and done some unique things. So, please consider sharing.

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Nelson Township Library June Events

By Bethany Metivier

Fall is coming to a close with less sunlight, more clouds and an abundance of rainy weather. The library is cozy and warm inside and we're very thankful for all of the warmth the people who visit bring with them with their smiles and hearts.

On Nov. 7, Kent County residents in the Kent District Library service area will be asked to consider a new rate of 1.1 mills, which reflects a reduction of 10.9% off KDL's current millage rate of 1.2355 mills. If approved, taxpayers will see immediate savings as the KDL Board has committed to lowering the millage rate effective Jan. 1, 2024, even though the current millage doesn't expire until Dec. 31, 2024. Visit kdl.org/millage to find out more information. Check out kdl.org/millage-rate-calculator/ to find out what the proposed millage would mean for you.

Storytime has ended for fall! The last Rhyme Time for the fall season is Friday, November 3 at 10:30 AM for our youngest patrons and their caretakers. Especially for these patrons in November, there will be a Teddy Bear Checkup on Tuesday, November 14 at 10:30 AM. Children should bring a favorite stuffed animal to be doctor for during the event!

For school-age children, there is a KDL Lab experience coming up on Saturday, November 11 at 10 AM. We will have an Architecture Adventure with MagnaTiles!

For ages 5 to 17, we are hosting some Kid Zone crafting programs on Saturdays, November 4 and 18 at 10 AM. We'll be making Gummy Bear Pendants and fall special crafts with wood and other materials, respectively.

On Monday, November 13 at 6:30 PM we will be hosting our quarterly Friends of the Library meeting. If you would like to be more involved in the future of the library in Sand Lake, please join us for the meeting.

Adults are invited to hear from **Lisa Judi**, founder of Grand Rapids Scanner Calls on Wednesday, November 15 at 6:30 PM. This event, *Just This 24:*

Mental Health Support for Family and Friends, is focused on both raising awareness and learning how to support people struggling around you.

Adults are invited to our book club discussion of *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by **Betty Smith** on Tuesday, November 21 at 1:30 PM. Come share your thoughts!

We are so grateful for the presence of all of our patrons in our lives and in our library. Thank you for each and every visit- it means the world to us librarians to provide this space for you and to see everyone using it!

Cedar Springs Library August Events

By Cassie Hall

Help the Cedar Springs Public Library and decorate their trees! Bring in an ornament November 27 - December 22 and get entered into a raffle for a prize. Ornaments can be bought or homemade; you supply all materials and costs. All ages can participate, get as creative as you want!

Join the Cedar Springs Public Library staff and *Pete the Cat* for a Holiday Party on Saturday, December 2 from 9 AM-12 PM! All ages are welcome and everything will be free. Come watch a *Pete the Cat* Storytime (multiple times), take a picture with Santa, eat cookies and hot cocoa, participate in an Ugly Sweater iSpy, do a craft and more.

Workbox Staffing Honors Local West Michigan Resident with Employee of the Year Award

Press Release

Workbox Staffing, an industrial staffing firm that has been a pillar in the staffing scene in Grand Rapids for over 25 years, recently announced **Sean McClellan** of Cedar Springs as the 2023 Employee of the Year Award recipient. This coveted annual award is extra special because it is based on nominations from Workbox Employees, and

Sean quickly made a hugely positive impression. Sean was submitted for consideration because in spite of several personal health challenges he faces, he never let that get him down and managed to overcome every hurdle in his way to becoming a thriving individual in the workplace.

Sean first came to Workbox Staffing hoping to find meaningful, long-term work that would accommodate his needs and help him achieve his goals. After being placed in the position of Machine Operator, Sean made such a positive impact through his hard work, dedication and perseverance that the company adapted to Sean's needs in order to support his growth and help him thrive in their environment.

Sean has been a stand-out employee throughout 2023. Sean exemplifies the can-do attitude of Workbox Staffing and combines great work ethic with superior character. His story will inspire other local workers to utilize staffing services to overcome barriers in employment and help support their career goals. Due to Sean's hard work and dedication, we are excited to share that he was hired in as a permanent employee with our client two months ago. We are so happy that we were able to help him find the perfect fit and are looking forward to his continued success.

When asked, "Why is this award important to Workbox Staffing and the clients and workers they serve?" **Jessica Bazzett**, Recruiting Manager for our Cedar Springs office stated, "This award is so special to me and my office because it is a testament to the strong relationships we build every day with our workers. We listen, we advocate, and work to find the right job that will fit them best! We want our workers to succeed more than anything at their jobs, and it is always a bonus when those smart placements turn into a career for someone. The goal is to always find our workers something that best fits their needs and to ultimately be hired into that company. That is exactly what

(Continued on page 9)

Versiti Blood Report September

CS Public Library

Goal 29
Donors 24
Collected 21
Potential Lives Saved: 58

First Time Donors

Brennan Kelley

Milestones

Rochelle Baldwin 4 gal
Justin Chambers 1 gal
Joan Conant 2 gal

The next drive will be Tuesday,
November 21 from 12:30 to 7 PM.

Courtland-Oakfield UMC

Goal 15
Donors 21
Collected 22
Potential Lives Saved: 56

First Time Donors

Brenda Baty
Thomas Baty

Milestones

Debra Caverley 1 gal
Karen Noreen 2 gal
Russell Platte 9 gal
Jennifer Schumaker 2 gal

The next drive will be Sunday,
January 7 from 8 AM to Noon.

SL Resurrection Lutheran

The next drive will be Monday,
December 8 from 2 to 6:30 PM.

St John Paul II Catholic Church

The next drive will be Thursday,
December 7 from 2-6 PM

All prospective donors can register
at donor.michigan.versiti.org.



Edward Jones Holiday Drives

By Kameron Olsen

Food Drive

Now until November 16

Our goal is 3,250 pounds. We accept unexpired, non-perishable canned and boxed foods. All donations will go to the Cedar Springs Community Food Pantry.

Toys for Tots

The 2023 Toys for Tots campaign will run through December. Please feel free to drop off new, unwrapped toys until that time.

We cannot accept cash donations for either the food drive or Toys for Tots. Please contact the organization directly, if you prefer to make a monetary donation. Please do not leave donations outside.

We are happy to accept all donations Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:25 AM and 5:15PM. We are located at 4027 17 Mile Road, Cedar Springs next to Nonno's Pizza.

Mobile Food Pantry

By Tom Noreen

The next Feeding America Mobile Food Pantry will be on November 27, 2023, at the Cedar Springs Fire barn on the corner of Elm and 2nd Streets. Registrations begin at 4:30 PM and distributions begin at 5 PM. If you'd like to help, arrive at 4 PM to unload the truck and set up the line. Everyone is welcome to use the Mobile Food Pantry.

The Mobile Food Pantry is now locally sponsored by the Cedar Springs Rotary Club. Volunteer coordinators are **ChrisAnn Lilly** (31chrisan@gmail.com) and **Keri Splitstone** (keri.splitstone@gmail.com). If you would like to know more about volunteering, please contact either Keri or ChrisAnn. If you'd like to make a donation to help support this needed event, please contact **Tom Noreen** at 616-696-5186.



Workbox (Continued from page 8)

happened with Sean, and we are just so happy for him and hope that this award and gift helps to facilitate continued success. Giving this award to Sean specifically, reminds us that we are helping to change people's lives just as much as they are changing ours."

Workbox Staffing is honored to recognize Sean McClellan as the 2023 Employee of the Year and to continue striving to find job-seekers solutions that will provide long-term stability in the West Michigan workforce.

Upcoming Holiday Events

Press Release

Saturday December 2

- 9 AM to noon Library (see article on page)
- 2 PM Christmas Storytime at Perry's Place
- 4 PM Christmas Parade line up by White Pine Staging Area and Elm Street
- 4:30 PM Parade starting at Cherry Street by White Pine Trail heading east to Main Street then on Main Street goes North to Maple and Ends at the Christmas Tree in the Heart of Cedar Springs.
- Tree lighting ceremony directly after parade.
- Pictures with Santa at the library directly after.

- Dec 9 and 10 Annual Christmas Show and Dance (see *Events at the Kent* on page 2)

- Dec 7, 14, 21 A Cedar Springs Christmas "Carriage Rides and Mingle & Shop Late Nights"

- Cedar's New Year's Springing Eve Ball Drop



61 N. Main Street
Cedar Springs, MI

We Buy, Sell &
Consign

M-F 10 A-M-6 PM

Sat 10 A-M-4 PM

616-696-3876

cedarchestshop@gmail.com

Red Flannel Factor Distributor



The Meeting Minder



- ◆ **American Legion Women's Auxiliary** meets at 7 PM on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Legion Hall.
- ◆ **Boy Scouts** meet at 6:30-8 PM at the Scout Hut in Morley Park on Tuesdays during the school year.
- ◆ **Cedar Rock BNI** meets 7-8:30 AM every Wednesday morning at the Algoma Township Offices. For more information, please call 616.874.1116.
- ◆ **Cedar Springs Area Chamber of Commerce** meets the third Friday of the month at 8:30 AM at Perry's Kin of Hope.
- ◆ **Cedar Springs City Council** meets at 7 PM at City Hall on the 2nd Thursday of the month.
- ◆ **Cedar Springs Community Players** meets at 9 AM on the 2nd Saturday at Wendys.
- ◆ **Cedar Springs Education Foundation** meets at 7 PM on January 10 in the Hilltop Admin Annex.
- ◆ **Cedar Springs Garden Club** meets 7 PM on the 2nd Monday, at the Cedar Springs Library.
- ◆ **Cedar Springs Historical Society Museum** in Morley Park is open Wednesdays from 10 AM to 5 PM. Call 616-696-3335.
- ◆ **Cedar Springs Library Board** meets on the fourth Monday of every month at 7 PM at the CS Public Library.
- ◆ **Cedar Springs Lions Club** meets at 6:30 PM at the Brewery on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.
- ◆ **Cedar Springs Public Schools Board of Education** meets at 6:45 PM on the second Monday at the Hilltop Board Room. Other additional meetings are scheduled as needed, call 696-1204 for updates.

- ◆ **Cedar Springs Rotary Club** Check our website at cedarspringsrotary.org for our schedule. We meet the third Tuesday at the CS Brewery at 5:30 PM.
- ◆ **Cedar Springs Theatre Association** meets the last Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM at the Kent Theatre.
- ◆ **Cedar Springs Women's Club** meets at noon on the 1st Thursday in the Cedarfield clubhouse.
- ◆ **CS Community Building Development Team (CBDT)** meets in the community room of the library. Check their website for times and dates.
- ◆ **En-Gedi Board** meets by Zoom quarterly on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.
- ◆ **Men and Ladies of Honor** meet each Thursday after school at Red Hawk Elementary.
- ◆ **Nelson Twp Board** meet at 5 PM on the 2nd Tuesday at the township hall.
- ◆ **North Kent Community Enrichment Board** meets at 6 PM the first Monday at the North Kent Community Enrichment office in Hilltop.
- ◆ **Red Flannel Festival Committee** meets at 6:30 PM on the 3rd Tuesday at the Red Flannel Festival Office at 18 S. Main.
- ◆ **Sons of the American Legion** meets at 6:30 PM on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Legion Hall.
- ◆ **Solon Twp Board** meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd Monday at township halls
- ◆ **Sons of the American Legion** hosts Bingo at 6 PM each Tuesday night at the American Legion Hall in Cedar Springs.
- ◆ **Spencer Twp Board** meets at 7:30 PM on the 3rd Tuesday at the township hall.
- ◆ **Versiti Blood Center of Michigan draw** is from 12:30 PM to 7 PM on the 3rd Tuesday at the CS Community Library



Health Snip-it

Finishing our conversation about collagen supplementation...some of you may remember a time when making your own chicken broth was a common occurrence, where chicken bones and scraps were slowly boiled in water with a bit of vinegar added to pull the nutrients from the bones into the broth. If you noticed the consistency of the broth after it was cooled, you would note the gelatinous property of it. That was part of the collagen from the chicken cartilage. With store-bought chicken broth, there is no gelatinous property to it...it is simply flavored water. When we stopped making our own broth, we lost out of an EXCELLENT source of collagen for us, as well! Perhaps you may have even seen chicken feet (cleaned) boiled down for making collagen rich broth. [While traveling in Taiwan many years ago, I noticed that a common food in Taipei was roasted chicken feet! People would walk down the street nibbling on them, like people do with a turkey drumstick at amusement parks or from food trucks.] While eating collagen doesn't actually directly create more collagen for us, it does provide an additional source of protein that breaks down into the amino acids necessary to create our own. [A good reason to start making your own broth!] There is a concern with supplementing with collagen (the powdered, packaged kind you find in health food stores), however. Too much collagen in a day can actually lead to a deficit in tryptophan, and a decrease in tryptophan results in lower serotonin levels. This can lead to feelings of anxiety, irritability and depression. When we began supplementing with collagen powder, to add more protein to our shakes in the

(Continued on page 12)

Meeting Minder

Not all organizations update their schedule so please contact the organization to see if the meetings will happen.

To post a meeting time, please call 696-5186 or email tomnoren@aol.com.



13603 Northland Dr. NE
Cedar Springs, MI 49319
616.696.1410
Kevin & Janet Pike

Obituaries

Broersma, Dorothy "Dottie" L., age 64 of Sand Lake died Monday, October 16, 2023 at her home surrounded by her family. She was born May 28, 1959 in Farmville, VA the daughter of David and Inamae (DeKorne) Skutt Jr. Dottie enjoyed collecting rocks, being in nature, gardening, sewing, quilting and crafting. She is survived by her husband of 12 years, Richard; children, Billy (Amy) Smith, Kelly (Lucas) Brinks, Angela (Mike) Losinger, Tyler (Lehanna) Smith, Kris (Bob) Ford, Melissa (Paul) Slauter; 12 grandchildren; siblings, David (Christie) Skutt, Roger (Tesa) Skutt, Joanna (Bill) Tippet. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Hosmer, Robert C., age 85 of Ensley Township, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Monday, October 9. He was born August 20, 1938 in Grand Rapids, MI the son of Calvin and Edith (Williams) Hosmer. A good Christian man, Robert loved his God and family above everything else. Not being materialistic, he never worried about money unless his wife shorted him on cash. His solution was to sell a few homemade pens. Loving wood-working, he made many pens and bowls, mostly giving them away as gifts. Red Pine Bible Church was his second family where he served on the church board for 24 years. He retired from Knape & Vogt Mfg. after 34 years of service. He enjoyed fishing and hunting when he didn't fall asleep under a tree. He loved traveling and camping, cowboy movies and the Three Stooges. A good husband, father and friend of everyone, he will be greatly missed, but we know he is with Christ in Heaven now and free from the disabilities he endured for the last few years of his long life. Surviving are his wife of 62 years, Joyce (Crabb); sons, Martin (Sandra) Hosmer, Alan Hosmer; siblings, Calvin (Judy) Hosmer, Russell (Barbara) Hosmer, Bernice Horter, Beatrice Eastman, Marcia (Larry) Hill, Karen (Jim) Wilk; sister-in-law, Beckie Hosmer. He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Belinda; siblings, Garry Hosmer and Dorothy Cooper.

Lehnert, Donald Anthony, age 73 of Ensley Township died Sunday, October 8, 2023. Don was born at the family farm in Ensley on July 7, 1950 the son of Edgar and Evelyn (Zimmer) Lehnert. He was a life-long dairy farmer and later beef farmer. Don was an avid gardener and rock collector. Surviving are his sons, Donovan (Crystal Ehrke) Lehnert, Dustin (Sierra) Lehnert. He was preceded in death by his parents, siblings, Richard Lehnert, Elaine Pietrzyk.

Mack, Dolores Christie, age 82 of Sparta, passed away peacefully at her home on Friday, October 13, 2023. Dolores was born March 14, 1941 in Sparta, MI the sixth of seven children to Carl and Marie (Cotton) Pope. She married Clinton J. Mack on April 2, 1966 in Grand Rapids, MI. Dolores loved to dance. She enjoyed traveling in her RV and camping. Most of all, she cherished time spent with her family. Surviving are her children, James Mack, Jeffrey (Laura) Mack, Julie Mack; stepchildren, Scott Mack, Michele (Dan) VanderWal. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Clinton; brothers, Ken Pope, Keith Pope; sisters, Joyce Hanna, Joan Curtis, Yvonne Adams.

Ridgeway, Brenda J., age 67 of Sand Lake, died Tuesday, October 2, 2023 at her home. She was born January 1, 1956 in Lakeview, MI the daughter of the late Lester and Mary (Reed) Ridgeway. She had a successful career in security system sales and had a smile that would light up the room. No one could tell a story like she could. Brenda was a member of the Grand Rapids Optimist Club and a founding member of the Tri-County Eagles Auxiliary. She enjoyed writing stories, poems, reading and sitting by her pool. Surviving are her daughter, Jennifer Merlington; brothers, Gordon (Patty) Ridgeway, Ridge Ridgeway; sister, Kay Ridgeway.

Male, Gary G., age 79 of Cedar Springs, passed away Friday, Octo-

ber 6, 2023 at his home. He was born February 21, 1944 in Grand Rapids, MI the son of Orton and Evelyn (Sheler) Male. Gary was a retired locomotive engineer with C&O Railroad, Grand Rapids, MI and Amtrak, Richmond, VA. He retired from the Navy Reserves (Seabees) with 20 years of service. Surviving are his wife of 60 years, Lorena (Wiggins); children, Dan (Heather) Male, Debra (Brian) Kubacki, Darlene Male, Donna (Rick) Cotten; grandchildren, Kindi (Adam) Smith, Brandy (Mike) Yancey, Steven "Keith" Norvell, Brianna (Dan) Krieter, Felisha (Mike) Coblenz, Fernon (Chris) Klein, Fallon (Kevin) Richardson, Fenessa (Dakotah) Dada, MavRick (Aubree) Cotten, Elayna Male, Nathan Male, Olivia Male, Alea Male; 22 great grandchildren with 3 more on the way; sister, Helen (John) Tate; brother, Art (Karen) Male; sisters-in-law, Marilyn Hale, Suzane (Richard) Willis; nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Jim Male; many other family members.

Townes, James E., age 72 of Cedar Springs, died Friday, September 29, 2023. He was born May 27, 1951 in Grand Rapids, MI the son of the late Robert and Anna (Seaborn) Townes. Jim's passion was hunting and fishing with his friends and family. He enjoyed playing and watching sports, gardening and visiting with his friends. He loved his kids and grandkids. Surviving are his children, Jamie (Greg) Boshoven, Jennifer (Shawn) Siminski, Jill Townes, James Townes II; grandchildren, Chase, Christian, Madison, Phoenix, Kennedy, Emma, James III; step grandchildren, Kise-waa, Ayden; siblings, Christine Segard, Victoria Cooper, Larry (Elaine) Townes, Cheryl (Gordon) Pratt, Susanne (Rodney) Mosher, Paul (Tami) Townes; many nieces and nephews.

Deadlines for Contributions...

Please have your input submitted by the 20th of the month prior to publication. Send to tomnoren@aol.com or call 616.696.5186. We would like to hear from you!

Obits (Continued from page 11)

VOTE November 7 Non-Homestead Millage Renewal

Press Release

- ♦ The Millage is part of our annual operating school funding
- ♦ Homeowners pay nothing
- ♦ Failure to renew will result in a more than \$3 million reduction to state funding at CSPS
- ♦ The Non-Homestead millage supports yearly educational programming. Revenues are assumed to be collected as part of the per-pupil Foundation Allowance formula by the state
- ♦ This is not a new millage but renews the existing millage



Korea's Project Soldier Honors Basil Ringer

By Tom Noreen

Basil Ringer is a Korean War veteran who was drafted in the Army in 1952. He served a machine gunner. Like many veterans, Basil does not like to talk about his service. His daughter, **Janice DeGraft** said when asked about the worst thing about his time in Korea, he said, "When I got there." What was the best, he said, "When I left."

Basil's son, **Steve**, teaches at the Cedar Springs High School and recently hosted a Korean exchange student. When she found out that Steve's dad was a Korean War veteran, she said her dad was part of a group called Project Soldier. She told her dad and earlier this fall a group from the organization arranged a meeting with him and other veterans. At the meeting they thanked him for his service, interviewed him, took some pictures and presented him with a medal and the pictures they took. The group's mission is "to document the legacy of Korean War veterans, note it into history and pass it on to the next generation. Ultimately, remembering and honoring the legacy of Korean War veterans is essential for ensuring that their sacrifices are not forgotten."



Basil was born on Veteran's Day in 1932. After the war, he married **Betty Kubitz** and they had six children: **Janice, Karen, Doug, Steve, Bruce** and **Chris**.

Kent District Library to Ask Voters for Millage Re- newal at Lower Rate

Press Release

On November 7, 2023, residents in the Kent District Library service area will vote on a reduced operating millage. KDL is proposing a 10.9% operating millage reduction

If residents vote "yes," the existing millage will be renewed for 15 years at a rate that is 10.9% lower. If residents vote "no," the current millage will expire. Without millage funding, KDL will be forced to close its doors.

KDL serves 27 municipalities through a network of 20 branches. Residents in those municipalities pay a portion of their property taxes to support KDL, which makes them

eligible for a library card that gives them access to our physical and digital collections. Each KDL branch functions as a community library that serves the unique needs of its community while simultaneously enjoying the economies of scale that come from being part of a larger district library, which has greater buying power.

The proposed Kent District Library operating millage of 1.1 mills is a 10.9% reduction from the current millage rate and is estimated to:

- ♦ Save residents \$3.1 million dollars annually.
- ♦ Save residents a total of \$46.5 million over the 15-year span of the millage.

Kent District Library is able to lower its millage because we are part of a thriving and growing community where new taxable real estate has produced more revenue. This enables us to take the step of reducing the millage, which is a tax reduction for property owners.

The reduced millage will allow KDL to continue offering our current slate of programs and services – and to add new materials, programs, events and services as we have always done.

Snip-It (Continued from page 10)

morning, we didn't know this bit of information. At first we didn't notice any side effects. However, over the course of a week or so, I noticed that I had feelings of anxiety that I had never experienced before, and my normally happy husband was irritable and quick tempered. Once I learned this fact about collagen supplementation, we ceased taking the product, and didn't resume until the company that we represent came up with their own collagen product, years later, with the proper balance of amino acids so that there wouldn't be any negative effect on our neurotransmitters. (We take it regularly, with no ill effects.) So, eat collagen from your own bone broth, or consume it from a trusted source!

To your health!

Cindy Patin
Natural Health Advisor
616-696-6121



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Schmeckt Gut!