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# SUPERIOR NEWS

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## OHHS Falcons win Regional Championship



Courtesy photos

For the first time since 2009, the Ogemaw Heights High School Falcons football team won the Division 5 Regional Championship by beating the Saginaw Swan Valley Vikings on Saturday, Nov. 15, 34-14. On Saturday, Nov. 22, the Falcons will face Grand Rapids West Catholic in the semi-finals at 1 p.m. at Clare High School. For game updates, visit our Facebook page. If they win that game, they will be on their way to Ford Field to compete in the state championship game. Go Falcons! The OHHS varsity volleyball team also had a stellar season winning the regional championship. See more details on page 2.

## Resources available for those in need this holiday season

BY LAURA BENDER

Some members of our community struggle more than others with financial and personal crises. Many are uncomfortable asking for help. But the reality is we all have challenges. Some are tangible, like affording food, shelter, heat and light. Others are intangible, like grief, loneliness and depression. Holidays often heighten these difficulties. As a community, we can work together to ease one another's burdens. Listed below are ways you can find the help you need, either by offering

your time, talents and resources or by connecting with organizations who can ease your struggles.

*"Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others."*

-Booker T. Washington

### OGEMAW COUNTY CHRISTMAS FEAST

The Fourth Annual Ogemaw County Christmas Feast will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Ogemaw County Fairgrounds, 2300 Rifle River Trail, West Branch. All are welcome. If you know a family in

need, would like to donate, volunteer, or get more information, contact Kimberly Wangler, the event organizer, at 989-213-8663. Donations of unwrapped toys, grocery or gas gift cards, food basket items, or money to buy food for the feast may be mailed or delivered to Kimberly Wangler, 157 Boehm Rd., West Branch, 48661.

### FREE COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

Join your friends and neighbors for a free dinner of turkey, ham

RESOURCES continues on page 13 »

## Take a stroll down Candy Cane Lane

BY LAURA BENDER

Celebrate the joy, warmth and wonder of Christmas at the Candy Cane Lane Christmas Market and Festival in downtown West Branch on Dec. 13. This first annual holiday tradition will surely bring the magic and spirit of the season to life!

The event begins with a pancake breakfast at Buccilli's from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Start the day right by sharing a meal with your

neighbors before heading out to explore the fun activities throughout town. There is no cost for the breakfast sponsored by Ed and Caren Piglowski, but donations will be happily accepted to support Ed and Caren's Coats for Kids project.

At 10 a.m., vendors and merchants will be ready for you to peruse their shops in search of the perfect Christmas presents. To date, 60 vendors will be on hand

to show their wares. Local merchants will also join in the fun with Christmas specials and activities in their stores. When you visit them, remember to get your Merchant Tree stamped to make you eligible for a free gift.

Do you like candy canes? Look for yours all over town, because they will be hidden like eggs at Easter... Yum!

CANDY CANE continues on page 9 »

## Finding gratitude in the grind of life

BY PASTOR JIM WESTHEIM

Life doesn't slow down just because the calendar says it's Thanksgiving. The truth is, for many people, the "season of gratitude" often feels like another round of hurry, lists, and expectations. Between work, kids, bills, and that ever-growing to-do list, it can be hard to pause long enough to feel thankful, let alone express it.

But gratitude isn't meant to be seasonal — it's meant to be soul-shaping. It's one of the most powerful ways to rise above the crush of everyday life. Here are three ways to find gratitude even when life feels heavy, and how it can transform your daily routine.

### 1. Start with a Morning Gratitude Reset

Before reaching for your phone, take a quiet moment to list three things you're thankful for — out loud or on paper. They don't have to be profound: the smell of coffee, the sound of rain, a friend who makes you laugh, or simply the breath in your lungs. Psychologists call this "gratitude priming." It's the



PASTOR JIM WESTHEIM

act of focusing your thoughts before the world sets your mood. What it does is powerful — it trains your mind to notice blessings before burdens.

When you start your day in gratitude, stress doesn't disappear, but perspective shifts. Suddenly, the long line at the coffee shop

GRATITUDE continues on page 12 »



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With everything changing daily, if not hourly, we would advise that you call ahead to be sure the event is still scheduled.

**Ongoing**  
**Mondays – Disabled American Veterans meet** the third Monday, 5 p.m. at the VFW/American Legion Post 496 E. Houghton Ave. in West Branch. Call 989-473-3416.  
**Mondays – Rose City Lions Club meets** the second and fourth Monday, 6:30 p.m. at the Log Cabin in the Rose City Park. Call Ed 989-387-0609.  
**Mondays – (Second of each month) Coalition of Hope** 9 a.m. Meeting virtually. Suicide prevention, intervention and post-vention. Call 989-345-5571.  
**Monday – (Third of each month, April-Dec.) Ogemaw County Genealogical and Historical Society** 12:30 p.m. at the Trinity Episcopal Church, 100 E. Houghton Ave., West Branch. Call 989-701-2525.  
**Tuesdays – Kiwanis Club of West Branch meets** at noon at China Inn, 601 W. Houghton Ave. in West Branch. Call 989-345-0978.  
**Tuesdays – Rose City Area Historical Society meets** the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., April through November, except August. Meet at the Rose City Lions Club Cabin. Call Cathy 989-345-5659.  
**Tuesdays – T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) weigh in** at 1-1:30 p.m., meeting starts at 1:30-2 p.m. Ogemaw Hills Free Clinic, 2106 S. Gray Rd. in West Branch. Call Robin 989-343-0592.  
**Tuesdays – (First of each month) West Branch Creative Arts Association meeting**, 7 p.m. located at

124 N. Fourth St. in West Branch. Call 989-345-1451.  
**Tuesdays – (First of each month) West Branch Area Retail Merchants Association meeting**, 6 p.m. Held at the West Branch City Police Department. Call 989-345-5226.  
**Tuesdays – (Second of each month) Christian Motorcycle Association** 6 p.m. for food and fellowship, 7 p.m. business meeting at G’s Pizzeria, 200 W. Houghton Ave. in West Branch. Call Gary 989-343-9876.  
**Tuesdays – (Fourth of each month) Rifle River Quilt Guild** 9:30 a.m. at the K of C Hall, 601 Columbus Dr. in West Branch. The meeting will be followed by a Show and Tell, mini-classes, quilting tips, demos and time to sew. Bring your sewing machine, a project and your lunch. Any level of quilter is welcome. Call Diane 989-345-7206.  
**Tuesdays – (Third of each month) Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake.** Third Tuesday 5:30 p.m. at Café International, 4761 Sage Lake Rd. in Prescott. Call Janet 989-387-2640.  
**Tuesdays – (Second of each month) Survivors of Suicide Support Group** 6:30 p.m. Call Vicki 989-510-0911 or [info@coalitionofhope.net](mailto:info@coalitionofhope.net) for location. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-8255 or text 741741.  
**Tuesdays – (Fourth of each month) Ogemaw County Democratic Party** 5pm at China Inn downtown West Branch. Call Ken at (989) 345-1066.

**Nov 27**  
**Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner**, organized by Tom Angel,  
Thursday, Nov. 27, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Skidway Lake Chamber of Commerce.  
**Nov 28**  
**Steak Bingo**, hosted by Ogemaw County Farm Bureau, Erickson Family Agency-Farm Bureau Insurance and the West Branch Eagles, Friday, Nov. 28, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., West Branch Eagles, 4627 M-76, West Branch.  
**Nov 29**  
**Customer Appreciation Day**, Lovewell’s Corner Store, Saturday, Nov. 29, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 1005 Wiltse Rd., Lupton.  
**Dec 1**  
**Toy Drive**, sponsored by Ana’s Treasures, 511 W. Houghton Ave., West Branch. Collecting new unwrapped toys for children in foster care.  
All toys must be received by Monday, Dec. 1. The toys will be distributed at the Ana’s Annual Foster Family Christmas Party.  
**Dec 4**  
**Rose City 7th Annual Christmas Parade**, “Christmas in Toyland,” Thursday, Dec. 4, 6 p.m. Following the parade, head down to the Rose City Park for the tree

lighting, fun activities and visit with Santa.  
**Dec 6**  
**Holiday Art Walk & Wine tasting**, sponsored by the West Branch Downtown Merchants, Saturday, Dec. 6, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., downtown West Branch.  
**Sit Down Breakfast with Santa**, sponsored by the Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake, Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m. to noon, Skidway Lake Chamber of Commerce, 2777 Greenwood Rd., Skidway Lake.  
**Fourth Annual Christmas Feast**, Saturday, Dec. 6, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., Ogemaw County Fairgrounds, 2300 Rifle River Trail, West Branch.  
**Christmas Bazaar**, Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Ogemaw Heights High School, 960 S. M-33, West Branch.  
**2025 Santa Train**, sponsored by the West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce, Saturday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m. to noon, at the train tracks in downtown West Branch. Following at noon city of West

Branch Tree Lighting, 422 W. Houghton Ave., West Branch.  
**Dec 13**  
**Ugly Christmas Sweater 5K run**, sponsored by West Branch Candy Cane Lane, Saturday, Dec. 13., downtown West Branch on Houghton Avenue. Pre-register by messaging West Branch Candy Cane Lane.  
**2025 Christmas Light Parade**, hosted by the West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce, Saturday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m., downtown West Branch. The theme is Home for the Holidays. For parade entry sign-up, stop into the WBACC office or visit [www.wbacc.com](http://www.wbacc.com).  
**Candy Cane Lane Christmas Market and Festival**, Saturday, Dec. 13, all-day event, downtown West Branch. For more information and complete list of events, visit their Facebook page.  
**Blow-Up Costume Fashion Show**, sponsored by West Branch Candy Cane Lane, Saturday, Dec. 13., 2 p.m., downtown West Branch on Houghton Avenue.  
  
*To place your event in the Community Happenings, email information to [deanna@superior-news.com](mailto:deanna@superior-news.com)*

# FAITH & WORSHIP

## God is love

*“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*  
—Romans 8:37-39 NIV

God is love. And He loves us all no matter where we are in life. God’s love is unconditional. God’s love is without limit. God loves us so much and his love is so deep that nothing can change his love or stop him from loving us.

God loves us in all seasons of life. God loves us every second of everyday. God loves us. God’s love is permanent. God’s love can never fade away.

God loves us and because of his love he cares for us. God Himself his love. God is full of love.

When I am waking up it’s God loving me, God loves me in every situation and his love is always present in our lives. Even when I am not feeling well, his love is still there and yes I am not feeling well but that does not stop God from loving me, God does not want me to be in pain but his love is present to heal me of the pain. When I feel disappointed God loves me.

When I have failed God loves me. We need to start believing and accepting that God is love and he loves us deeply.  
— [www.SermonCentral.com](http://www.SermonCentral.com)

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Gladwin, MI 48624  
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Morning Worship 10:30  
[www.gladwincornerstone.com](http://www.gladwincornerstone.com)  
Pastor Scott Bradstreet

**Churchill United Methodist Church**  
501 E. State Rd.  
(corner of State and Morrison roads)  
989-685-2350  
  
Worship & Children’s  
Sunday School: 11:30 a.m.  
Rev. Helen Alford

*Calvary Baptist Church*  
235 Minzer Ct. • West Branch  
989-345-1651  
  
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. all ages  
Sunday Worship 11 a.m. • Youth Group - 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday Evening Service - 6 p.m.  
  
**WEDNESDAY**  
Youth Group - 6:30 p.m. • Awana - 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 7 p.m.  
  
Pastor Tom Teall • Youth Pastor Josh Pierce  
[www.cbcbw.org](http://www.cbcbw.org)

**Edward’s Community Church**  
4520 Greenwood Rd., West Branch  
989-345-4227  
Pastor Jon Scott  
  
Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Worship Service 11 a.m.  
(Greenwood Rd. west of S. M-30)

**Hale Methodist Church**  
*Everyone Welcome!* Pastor: Mike Tullis  
Sunday Worship - 10am; Sunday School - 11am  
  
  
**Happy Thanksgiving!!**  
“Every good and perfect gift is from above...” James 1:17  
  
201 W Main/Esmond, Hale; 989-728-9522  
FB & IG: Hale Methodist Church

**New Beginnings Lutheran Church**  
960 S. M-33, next to Ogemaw Heights High School, West Branch, MI  
Pastor Daniel Jansen  
989-836-6133  
**Sunday Service - 9 a.m.**

# OHHS volleyball team wraps up season after tight match



Courtesy photo  
Despite a valiant effort, the Ogemaw Heights High School varsity volleyball team fell short against Fremont, 13-15, in the semi-final championship match on Tuesday, Nov. 18, at Ferris State University. Congratulations on a great season, ladies. The community is very proud of you and all your accomplishments.



Ogemaw County marks Veterans Day



Ogemaw Heights High School honors veterans at an early morning assembly.

Photos by Laura Bender

**BY LAURA BENDER**

Three well-attended Veterans Day events in West Branch honored those who served in the Armed Forces with heartfelt ceremonies and the opportunity to share a meal together.

On Nov. 11, at 8:30 a.m., the entire student body gathered in the Ogemaw Heights High School gym to pay tribute to the veterans who are part of their extended families. Grandfathers, moms and dads sat center-court while the students regaled them with a program of music and

inspiration. The OHHS band, directed by Mark Anderson, played several pieces, including a medley of service songs, during which veterans stood when they heard the one for their branch. The choir, directed by Samantha Magoon, sang a captivating piece entitled "In Flanders Fields."

"Students Braden Rhine, Alaina Reetz, and Eli Smith shared inspirational readings. The first, from a speech given by Theodore



Veteran of the Year Randy Huyck speaks at the ceremony in his honor.

Roosevelt in 1910, received many nods from the veterans. It began with these words: "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the door of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena." Following the other well-received readings, the veterans enjoyed a hearty breakfast in the library accompanied by their students. Thank you to Assistant Principal Jason Pilarski for organizing this event.

At 11 a.m., the Veterans Alliance held a luncheon at Lumber Jack Lodge to honor Veteran of the Year Randy Huyck. The event began with an outdoor ceremony led by the Honor Guard, then continued indoors for presentations and a delicious meal.

During his presentation, State Representative Mike Hoadley said, "Armed Services Day is for those wearing the uniform. Memorial Day is for those who died in uniform. And today, Veterans Day, is for those who have worn the uniform... Standing here with my brothers and sisters reminds me of what being a veteran means. When we hear the National Anthem, when we recite the Pledge of Allegiance, those become sacred to a veteran, and the patriotism flows. And Taps... the echoing eerie sound of taps haunts our very soul... It is my distinct honor to be here today. With a shared commitment to the noblest ideas of our country, I join the Ogemaw County Veterans Alliance in congratulating Randy Huyck, as I present him with this State of Michigan tribute."

The following day, Heartland Hospice and the Ogemaw County Commission on Aging honored veterans who had served, some as far back as the Korean War. Heartland representative and Navy veteran Lon Cook emceed



Ogemaw County military recruiters attend Ogemaw Heights High School assembly honoring veterans.



State Representative Mike Hoadley presents Veteran of the Year Randy Huyck with a proclamation honoring his service.

VETERANS continues on page 16 »

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Ogemaw County  
**SUPERIOR NEWS**



Curator finds family histories

BY SALLY A. REA

I am really excited about getting all these phone calls from people about helping them find their information on history. I love it. I have people who I knew years ago come to the museum and I can help them.

The first person who I met with was Robert A. Code from Vicksburg, Mich., and he was looking for his ancestry from the Potts family from the lumbering days with information on his mills and lumbering days. Grace Dooley gave me information on where to look for this history in the Wilderness Chronicle with an index which told me what volume to look in.

By the time Robert got here I had pages of information to share. LuAnn Zettle is also working on the Potts family, so I shared the information I had shared with Robert, and she gave me a stack of pictures for him, and I mailed them out today. Last Friday the museum received a nice, sizeable check from Robert for my time and information.

I have also been working on the old Albert Johnson horse ranch. The finest horse ranch in northeastern Michigan located three and one-half miles west of West Branch on Pointer Hill. I am still

waiting to hear from some people on what they can tell me.

The second story is on Elizabeth (Betty Toutant) on her visit to the museum with her two daughters. The third story is on visitors from Lee's Summit, Mo., who drove all the way to West Branch to find the history of her father, Mr. Takacs, who owned the old building call the "Opera House," also known as the "Night Owle Coney" and turned it into a roller-skating rink with a fine restaurant with easy food. Plus Mrs. Takacs sold records. This was in the 1950s. Bette Jo Takacs Jones, the daughter of Mr. Takacs, could not believe her eyes that a fountain had replaced the old building, and I shared the pictures we had of the fire of the old building. Her father also owned "Cadillac Coach" at one time. These stories will come up later in the Ogemaw County Superior News. Be sure to watch for them.

I will be doing the wrap-up of Amy Gildner Fransee on the "Dig" she has been working behind on their property since 2020 of an old cabin foundation and its

surrounding area. It has been a real mystery.

Our next big venture will be the "Art Walk and Wine Tasting" Dec. 6, at the museum with Alan and Marcia Doss, our wine servers and they always dress up to entertain our guests. It runs from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and delicious wines will be shared with cheese and an assortment of crackers. Sylvia Sobo and Sally Rea will prepare them.

Our closing date is Friday, Dec. 12, at 2 p.m. We will reopen on May 21, 2026, on Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In the meantime, I will be available for helping with research or if you need to get into the building. Leave a message at the museum 989-701-2525 or call me at home 989-343-0177.

Be sure to come in and check out our RADA Cutlery, "Purple Gang" books, "Driving Tour" books, "Prescott History," three editions of the Country School" books, applications for Centennial Farms, and all of these would make great Christmas gifts.



SALLY A. REA  
HISTORIAN AND CURATOR  
OGEMAW COUNTY  
HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Cardinal Optimist Club hosts 'Breakfast with Santa'

On Saturday, Dec. 6, families can come together to share in a precious tradition of having breakfast with Santa from 10 a.m. to noon at the Skidway Lake Chamber of Commerce thanks to the Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake. Children aged 14 and under, including individuals with special needs of any age, can attend free of charge. Every child will receive a new toy, hat, mittens, hot cocoa and a Christmas craft to take home.

Of course, the highlight of the event is the opportunity for kids to share their secret holiday wishes with Santa and Mrs. Claus in front of a festively decorated Christmas backdrop. A photographer will be on hand to capture

the smiles, laughter and joy of each child when they climb on Santa's lap in this time-honored custom. Your child's photo will then be available for download free of charge after the event on our website. Once that cherished childhood memory is captured, kids are free to get messy eating a delicious breakfast.

Santa's menu will feature a kid friendly breakfast with freshly made pancakes, sausage and applesauce. Kids can choose from juice or milk to complement their


meal. Adults can purchase the same meal for \$5, if they wish.

For members of the COCOSL, breakfast with Santa is not merely another club event; it's a heartwarming tradition that reminds us of the true meaning of the holiday season - the spirit of giving, love and togetherness. We look forward to seeing you there to share in the magic of the season and build long lasting family memories.

For more information, contact Janet at 989-873-8321 or Marty at 989-873-4144.



LADONNA SCHULTZ



**OPTIMIST**  
INTERNATIONAL

### Optimist Updates

The Optimist Club of West Branch meets every Thursday morning at 7 a.m. Loggers Depot in downtown West Branch hosts our meeting and feeds us a great breakfast with many menu options to choose from. We would love to have you come and join us for breakfast and let us show you what the Optimist Club is working on next to benefit the children of our community and the world!

Beginning Oct. 1 local students can participate in the Optimist Essay Contest. Students are asked to write an essay on this year's topic: "How My Acts of Service Help Me Understand What My Community Means to Me." Local students can work



**JOE BELL**  
VICE-PRESIDENT

with their teachers to develop their essay and submit them to our club. Local winners can win up to \$500 dollars and go on to compete at the state level. State competition pays \$2,500 for first place, \$1,500 for second and \$1,000 for third places. If you have a student who may be interested in competing, please reach out to our club at Loggers Depot Thursdays or contact their teachers.

Denny Shumway is a member of both the West Branch Kiwanis

Club and our Optimist Club. He is also very active in our local food bank, working hard to help feed local families. We have discussed the fact that local hunters can donate deer to local processors. The processors participate with a State of Michigan program that pays them to process donated deer; this commercially processed venison can then be given to our local families to give them a healthy source of protein. With beef prices climbing, this can give families a huge money saving option. So please consider donating your deer this year. All that it will cost you is the price of your deer tag.

We close each meeting by reciting the Optimist Creed, part of which states: "Promise yourself to talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet!"

What a great way to approach your life. Bye for now!

## Ogemaw County Superior News

The *Ogemaw County Superior News* is published the second and fourth Saturdays of the month and distributed in West Branch, Rose City, Prescott, Lupton, Alger, Skidway Lake and Hale. It is available at newsstands for 75 cents per issue or annually for \$50.

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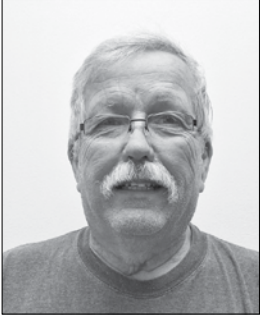
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KIWANIS OF WEST BRANCH

Gourmet Nuts are here. They are still available this year for \$25. You can buy yours at Mercantile Bank, Huron Bank, Buck's Country Cookin', or West Branch City Hall. If you want to help, come be a part of our team. The Kiwanis Club meets at noon on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at the G's Pizzeria. Anyone interested in learning about our organization is welcome to attend. If you would like to be a guest speaker to show us what you do, call Denny at 315-725-1199. We are rebuilding our club. Our president is Todd Spencer, and the secretary/treasurer is Denny Shumway. If you want to help the children of West Branch and around the world, we are here.



Kiwanis CORNER



DENNY SHUMWAY

donations. Those with special needs interested in joining our club, come on the second Wednesday of the month at noon at the First United Methodist Church on the corner of Fairview and State roads.

OGEMAW COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

We are asking for donations of food or money to help us with the influx of families. You can add to your grocery bill at Meijer Store with a card found at the checkouts or customer service. We will take donations every Wednesday of the month from 8:30 to 11 a.m. We are located in the outreach building behind the Trinity Episcopal Church, 100 E. Houghton Ave., PO Box 543, West Branch. We want to thank those that have donated. If bad weather, call ahead at 315-725-1199 to see if we are open. We are open every Wednesday from 9-11 a.m. or until we run out of food. Families can come once a month. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

FOOD TRUCK

The monthly food truck will be at the First United Methodist Church on the corner of Fairview and State roads on Dec. 12. Line-up at 9 a.m. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

AKTION CLUB

The Aktion Club continues to collect bottles and cans. You can call 315-725-1199 and make arrangements for pick up or drop off locations.

We had a slight hick up. We are handing out donations at our December meeting. The treasurer switch has been made.

We will be providing hot chocolate at the Santa Train near the West Branch Chamber building from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on Dec. 6 for



# West Branch prepares for festive Holiday Art Walk & Wine Tasting

BY PETER FABBRI

Holiday cheer will come alive in downtown West Branch on Saturday, Dec. 6, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., when the downtown merchants host its annual Holiday Art Walk & Wine Tasting. With 21 participating businesses, three local wineries, and artists from across the region, the event promises a lively evening celebrating creativity, craftsmanship and the spirit of the season.

This year the art walk arrives at an especially exciting moment for West Branch, as the newly renovated downtown continues to draw admiration. Revitalized

sidewalks, refreshed storefronts, and widened pedestrian paths make downtown fully walkable, inviting guests to take in the sights at their own pace. The area will be adorned in holiday flair, with garlands, wreaths, and twinkling lights creating a postcard-perfect backdrop for a night of exploring art and wine.

Guests will stroll from shop to shop, where local artists will transform participating businesses into pop-up galleries. Painters, woodworkers, potters, photographers, and mixed-media creators will display an array of handcrafted pieces — from festive pottery

to nature-inspired paintings and photography.

Artists will be stationed with their work, offering insights into their process, sharing stories behind their inspiration, and giving visitors the opportunity to purchase meaningful, one-of-a-kind gifts. Be sure to vote for the “People’s Choice Award” artist on the brochure punch card.

A highlight of the evening will be wine tastings provided by businesses from three local wineries: Modern Craft Winery, Rose Valley Winery, and Country Corner Winery.

Modern Craft will sample a

selection of its signature fruit-forward wines, known for bright flavors like cranberry and apple — perfect companions for holiday browsing. Rose Valley Winery will offer tastings of classic reds and whites, appealing to guests who enjoy traditional styles. Meanwhile, Country Corner Winery will present a variety of smooth, seasonal pours that capture the

warmth and flavor of winter gatherings.



PETER FABBRI

“The mix of wine and art gives the event a really festive feel,” said event visitor and returning participant, Melinda Harris of Midland. “You can admire pottery or a beautiful painting, then sample a new wine — all in the

same shop. It’s such a fun way to

ART WALK continues on page 13 »

# OHHS science program thankful for community support

BY ASHLEY DOWELL, RN  
HEALTH SCIENCE INSTRUCTOR  
OGE MAW HEIGHTS  
HIGH SCHOOL

As Thanksgiving approaches, the Ogemaw Heights High School Health Science program has much to be thankful for this year. Our students and staff would like to extend heartfelt appreciation to the local community for supporting the May 2022 bond proposal, which made significant improvements to our learning environment possible.

Thanks to the bond’s approval, Health Science students now learn in a fully renovated classroom and state-of-the-art skills lab. The upgrades include eight new hospital beds, three advanced mannequins, and a newly constructed shower area that allows students to practice safe and realistic patient care techniques.

Ogemaw Heights Career Technical Education (CTE) department provides a wide range of hands-on learning opportunities for students, offering programs in Construction Trades, Machine Tool/Machine Shop, Drafting and Design Technology, Health Science, Agriculture, Work Based Learning, and Business Management Administration with plans underway to introduce a culinary program in the near future.

Within the Health Science pathway, first-year students enroll in Medical Basics, a foundational course that introduces every major body system. Each unit covers medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, diseases



Courtesy photo

Ogemaw Heights High School Health Science students Marissa Huizar (l) and Audrey Charles practice in their Medical Basics course.

and conditions, diagnostic and treatment procedures, and related career paths. This course serves as an excellent starting point for students considering a medical career, as well as those who simply wish to better understand their own health and how to care for their bodies.

Second-year students advance to Healthcare Provider, a two-hour course that prepares them to become Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs). Students learn essential clinical skills, the importance of proper infection control,

SCIENCE continues on page 17 »

# News from the Skidway Lake area

BY APRIL HARKEY-MASON

Thanksgiving is upon us. It is a time to be thankful for all we have and who we have. It does not matter if you have hot-dogs and chips or a big turkey and all the trimmings, it is a time to be thankful. We can be thankful for waking up with a roof over your head and being kept warm as you slept. Be thankful for being able to open your door and have the choice to do whatever you want for the day. In many countries they do not have that freedom.

I have seen so many groups and organizations gathering food and gifts for the needy. Keep in mind if you’re in need of help, many others may be also. Please do not sign up for more than you need or someone else may be left with nothing. Putting it in plain terms it is OK to be needy but not greedy.

Christmas is around the corner. Let’s spread the Christmas joy all through the season. I learned when kids are grown, they have other families to spend time with as well as their own. Everything does not have to be crammed into Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. One year we planned appetizers at one friend’s house, salad at another’s, the meal at another’s and dessert at the last stop. It was fun, everyone got to show off their Christmas tree and decorations. No gifts were exchanged, just good friends visiting and sharing the Christmas love.

The New Year will follow fast after Christmas. We will all have a hard time remembering to write 2026 and not 2025. It usually

takes me the month of January to get it right. LOL. With the new year we have resolutions we can make. Some are serious and others just for fun. I try to not choose something that will set myself up for failure. I think this year

I can safely make the resolution to use less pennies. In case you have not heard, the government is not going to make them anymore. I read a report that it cost four cents to make a penny and that is the reason why.

The Mills Township, Ogemaw County new hall is well under way in the remodeling process. There will be a nice big new meeting room for the township meetings. They are scheduled to move into the new hall sometime in the spring of 2026. It is wonderful to see the progress the Mills Township Board has made. It will be something to be proud of. The November monthly meeting was moved to Nov. 18 at 6 p.m. This is just for the month of November.

I hope all you deer hunters have had some luck this season. I sure see a lot of deer hit by cars and they need thinned out in the area. Be safe and wear orange.

Remember, if you have any news to share with me, call or text 989-578-8768. Until next time, God bless.



APRIL  
HARKEY-MASON

# Ogemaw County 4-H helps youth to become “Beyond Ready”

In a world that’s changing faster than ever, young people need more than just classroom knowledge. They need confidence, resilience and real-world skills. This is the heart of the 4-H Beyond Ready initiative, a national effort to prepare ten million youth for life and work by 2030. And right here in Ogemaw County, 4-H is helping our youth rise to the

challenge.

From raising livestock to exploring archery, 4-H offers hands-on learning that builds leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. Local clubs in Ogemaw County engage youth in projects like beef and swine production, archery, STEM activities, and community service, helping them discover their passions and

develop the confidence to pursue them. With the focus on learning by doing, 4-H youth work on projects strengthened by feedback and guidance from caring, screened adult volunteers.

Beyond Ready” isn’t just about future careers, it’s about thriving today. Whether mentoring younger members, presenting at the county fair, or participating in statewide events like 4-H Exploration Days, Ogemaw youth are gaining experiences that prepare them for college, careers, and civic life. Many adults in our community are 4-H Alumni and are powerful examples of how learning new skills, overcoming

challenges and building internal resilience, and sustaining relationships have helped them in their own growth and transition to adulthood.

Research shows that 4-H youth are twice as likely to aim for leadership roles and three times more likely to serve their communities compared to their peers. That’s a powerful impact and it’s happening right here in Ogemaw County.

Want to get involved or learn more? Contact Stephanie Stephens, Ogemaw County’s 4-H Program Coordinator, at [steph544@msu.edu](mailto:steph544@msu.edu) or visit [canr.msu.edu/ogemaw/4-h](http://canr.msu.edu/ogemaw/4-h).



JULIE DARNTON  
DISTRICT DIRECTOR  
MSU EXTENSION

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Contact Kathy at  
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Ogemaw County Farm Bureau,  
Erickson Family Agency- Farm Bureau Insurance,  
& the West Branch Eagles present:

# STEAK Bingo

All Proceeds to  
Provide Healthy  
Protein to Local  
Families in Need

For More Info:  
Call the Erickson  
Family Agency  
989-345-0230

Join us at the West Branch Eagles  
4627 M-76, West Branch

- Multiple chances to win Premium Steak and other prizes!
- \$7 per set of 3 bingo cards, unlimited cards available
- Public Welcome!
- Food! Drinks! Raffles!

Nov. 28th  
6:00-9:00 pm

**MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU**

## Ana's TOY DRIVE

We are collecting new unwrapped toys for foster children! All toys must be received by 12/1/2025 Toys will be distributed at our annual Ana's Annual Foster Family Christmas Party!

**ANA'S TREASURES**  
511 W. HOUGHTON AVE WEST BRANCH  
315 S MAIN ST., STANDISH  
404 W. HOUGHTON LAKE DR., PRUDENVILLE  
989-709-6402  
www.anastreasures.org

Free community Thanksgiving dinner.  
Nov. 27th 1pm - 5pm  
or until food is gone.  
Location:  
Skidway Lake Chamber of Commerce hall.

Turkey, ham  
& all the  
fixings.

2777 E. Greenwood Road  
Skidway Lake

Volunteers needed for set up, serving, cooking , clean up what ever you can do will definitely be appreciated. Organized by Tom Angel, Call Tom to volunteer, donate, or help at 734-497-4056

Use of the hall is donated by the Skidway Lake Chamber of Commerce.

# Sue Boom and volunteer gardeners beautify Skidway Lake



**BY LAURA BENDER**

Growing up on a farm in Richmond, Mich., instilled in Sue Boom a love of gardening. Over the last few years, she has used those talents to beautify her community and develop a shared vision among its residents.

In 2022, Sue approached the Mills Township Board for permission to establish a community garden. Three years later, she returned to establish the Mills Township Beautification Committee.

“We had a successful first year,” Sue said. “We created and completed beautiful flowerbeds throughout the Skidway Lake Community. You can see them at the triangle, at Monument Hill and Chapel at the Mills Township Cemetery, at the Skidway Lake Area Chamber grounds, and at the Skidway Lake Library. I want to thank all the volunteer gardeners



Courtesy photos

for their dedication as well as all the folks who donated annuals and perennials to the cause.”

Besides the hard work of planting and maintaining multiple gardens, volunteers also held their first MDOT Adopt-a-Highway roadside clean-up in May 2025. Sue is hoping this will become an annual event.

Sue Boom is no stranger to hard work. For 34 years, she worked as a physical therapy assistant at



BEAUTIFY continues on page 9 »

# THANKSGIVING

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THANKSGIVING  
TRADITION  
AMERICA  
PARADE  
FEAST

LEFTOVERS  
THANKFUL  
PILGRIM  
INDIAN  
BAKE

CRANBERRY  
GRATEFUL  
PUMPKIN  
FAMILY  
PIE

See answers on page 11



# OHHS inducts students into National Honor Society



Courtesy photo

The Ogemaw Heights High School recently inducted new members into the National Honor Society. The students were (in alphabetical order) Nathan Andrasik, Makenzie Benjamin, Noah David, Lainey Ehinger, Irelyn Flaherty, Roman Goulette, Kaitlyn Hines, Bryce Hinkley, Corie Kanitz, Emily Kirby, Ella Krask, Demian Kuhn, Landon Kups, Hailey Laier, Conner Lambert, Eric Liang, Olivia McDaniel, Addison McQuinston, Aubrey Mendoza, Kendel Morris, Lauren Morse, Kedrick Munn, Hanna O’Neil, Hilda Potter, Kadie Pavelek, Rayleigh Ockerman, Kalena Pratt, Marcellous Rogers, Timothy Sanderson, Meaghann Schleicher, Kendra Temple, Shaelynn Thorington, Rebekah Warner, Abigail Wend, Caleb West, Ciarra Winter, Liv Winter, Jeffrey Woelkers and Kenna Wren. Congratulations to all the inductees.

## MyMichigan Medical Centers receive safety grades

The Leapfrog Group, a national watchdog for health care quality and safety transparency, has released new safety grades for hospitals. The organization assesses performance across 22 individual safety measures and calculates an overall safety score determined by a scale which they use to assign a grade.

The Fall 2025 grades for MyMichigan Health Medical Centers are as follows: MyMichigan Medical Centers in Alma and West Branch earned their fourth consecutive “A” grade; MyMichigan Medical Center Saginaw improved, also earning an “A;” the Medical Center in Alpena achieved a “B” and the Medical Center in Midland improved to a “B.” While MyMichigan Medical Center Sault maintained a “C,” this was its highest overall safety score determined by scale in recent years. No grades are calculated for the Medical Centers in Clare and Tawas where measure volumes did not meet scoring eligibility, or for critical access hospitals like the Medical Centers in Gladwin and Standish.

Leapfrog evaluates hospitals every spring and fall using a comprehensive survey to assess that hospitals are meeting rigorous safety standards. Patient experience and safety outcomes data supplied by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are also used. For the 2025 fall grade, performance predominantly from calendar years 2022 to 2024 was assessed. The average national grade is a “C.”

“We understand the new grades are a look backward where Leapfrog is measuring past performance from two or three years ago,” explained Kevin Kalchik, president of MyMichigan Medical Center Sault, where the hospital’s rates for falls and clostridium difficile infections during that time contributed to its “C” grade. “We use that information to compare to

our patient care today to confirm we have put the best practices in place here in the Sault, as well as every MyMichigan Medical Center.”

Since that time, MyMichigan Health has strengthened hospital fall-prevention practices and redesigned its clostridium difficile testing protocols for greater accuracy. “Since 2023, we have had zero falls with the significant traumathat Leapfrog measures for the grade, and we have had zero hospital-acquired clostridium difficile infections at our Medical Center,” stated Kalchik.

Lydia Watson, M.D., president and CEO, MyMichigan Health, commented on the health system’s commitment to providing safe, high-quality care. “In addition to reducing infections and complications, MyMichigan Health Medical Centers continue to score high across the many measures Leapfrog uses to assess quality of care,” said Dr. Watson. “Whether it’s nurse staffing, safe medication

SAFETY continues on page 17 »

## Local insurance agents visit WBACC



Photo courtesy of WBACC

On Wednesday, Nov. 12, the West Branch Chamber of Commerce hosted “Meet Your Local Insurance Agencies.” Visitors were able to meet with the agents, ask questions and network with others in the community. Pictured (l-r) Christi Neubecker, State Farm Insurance in Rose City, Lisa Wilkins and Tricia Reed, Creline Agency in West Branch, Nicole Mouro, Walker Agency of Michigan in West Branch, Ben Elliott, Diebold Insurance Agency in West Branch, Don Freeman and Jeff Erickson, both of Erickson Family Agency, Farm Bureau.

YOUR EVENT COULD BE ADVERTISED HERE  
CALL KATHY:  
**989-450-6163**

**National Human Trafficking  
Hotline 1-888-373-7888.**



# St. Joseph School welcomes special visitors



Courtesy photos

St. Joseph School in West Branch was proud to have recently hosted Michigan State Police Trooper Shane Noble and local veterans. Trooper Noble was in the building to share internet safety to the third through eighth grade students. School officials appreciate him for working to keep our students safe while using the internet. On Nov. 11, pictured below, the veterans were here for Veterans Day. The students and staff are grateful for their sacrifice and service to our country. The students honored the veterans by singing patriotic songs, giving them three cheers and personally thanking each of the veterans.



Ogemaw County  
**SUPERIOR NEWS**  
IS SEEKING A  
*Graphic Designer*

The Ogemaw County Superior News is seeking an experienced freelance graphic designer to join our dynamic team. Remote position.

For more information, including a detailed job description and required skills, please submit your resume and cover letter to: Publisher Deanna Surbrook at [deanna@superior-news.com](mailto:deanna@superior-news.com).



Candy Cane

« Continued from page 1



Activities for children begin at 11 a.m. with Santa in the indoor area between Kit’s and Pointer Hill. Mrs. Claus and the elves will be nearby providing a variety of holiday activities for children, from crafts to cookies to games. At 12:30, when the reindeer wake up from their nap, children of all ages are invited to pet them on the head, or scratch behind their ears. You can do this until 2:30 p.m. when they must get ready to travel. The Jolly Old Elf needs to get Mrs. Claus and the elves back to the North Pole for a quick dinner before the parade, so be aware they must leave at 3:30 p.m.

11 a.m. is also the start time for the Ugly Sweater 5K. So far, 50 runners/walkers have signed up for this preemptive strike against holiday weight gain. The race begins at the intersection of 3rd Street and Houghton Avenue. Registration is \$10. Reserve your number on the West Branch Candy Cane Lane Facebook page race post.

At noon, those who would rather ride than run, or runners ready for a rest are invited to take a free horse-drawn wagon ride. Personal sleigh rides are also available for \$5. Children can head over to Safe Haven Doula from noon until 4 p.m. to hear stories read by Christmas characters and take part in a Coloring Contest.

Performances in the event tent begin with a visit from the Grinch at 12 p.m., followed at 1 p.m. by music from the Northern Blend Chorus. At 2 p.m. get silly with a fashion show featuring people you might know wearing blow-up

Christmas costumes.

If that’s not goofy enough, make sure to stop by the RV parked curbside to watch Cousin Eddie of National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation fame empty his RV’s chemical toilet into the sewer... another Christmas tradition? LOL

The event booth will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to answer your questions. Look for your \$5 souvenir mugs and Merchant Trees there, too.

The First Annual Candy Cane Lane Christmas Market and Festival will end at 4 p.m. to ready the area for the West Branch Area Chamber of Commerce’s Christmas Light Parade at 7 p.m. The theme for this year’s parade is Home for the Holidays. Following the parade, the Chamber invites you to have S’mores with Santa at the Gathering Place and Lighted Tree.

Night owls are encouraged to keep the good cheer flowing at Loggers where at 9 p.m. West Branch’s own AMF perform what they describe as all killer, no filler, live rock music.

The Candy Cane Lane Christmas Market and Festival is being organized by four energetic women: Jody Zimmer, Criscia Kasem, Lesley Murchie and Peggy Gratton. It’s sure to be a well-attended event. Currently, their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61571576938133> has 1,400 followers and is receiving 1,000 hits per week. Thank you, ladies, for all your hard work. This is going to be great fun!

Beautify

« Continued from page 6

Ascension St. Joseph Hospital in Tawas City and as a massage therapist. A Desert Storm veteran, Sue also served in the National Guard’s 144th MP Company for ten years. The model of a get-things-done approach, Sue now channels her energy into motivating others as she works alongside them.

“The community garden had another successful year,” Sue said. “Thirteen Mills Township

gardeners grew so much produce they were able to donate the extra to the local food bank, the Library Food Corner, the senior apartments, and the roadside table. I am very thankful that we were able to provide for others as well as our own families. I look forward to seeing everyone again in the spring of 2026.”

Thanks also goes to Sue for her commitment to making Skidway Lake a beautiful place to live.

CHRISTMAS  
IN TOYLAND

7TH ANNUAL  
CHRISTMAS PARADE

DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2025  
6:00 P.M.

JOIN US AT THE ROSE  
CITY PARK, FOR OUR  
TREE LIGHTING, SANTA  
AND SOME FUN  
ACTIVITIES AFTER THE  
PARADE!

Holiday Wreaths • Kissing Balls • Grave Blankets - available soon

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EXPRESS YOUR LOVE  
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with something  
BEAUTIFUL  
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Watch for EXCITING changes  
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# Celebrate Christmas!

with 

## Faith Alive Church



*Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:*  
4:30 pm & 6:00pm

*Sunday, December 28th Services:*  
8:30 am & 10:00am **\*\*no 11:30 am service\*\***



# faith alive

Love God. Love Others. Serve the World.

Faith Alive Church 2945 Hansen Rd. West Branch • [www.faithalive.church](http://www.faithalive.church)



# YouTube

background by vecteezy.com



# West Branch woman receives award by Michigan BPW



*Photo by Nancy McLaughlin*

*Sandi Osterland of the West Branch Area Business and Professional Women's Club was the recipient of the Person of Achievement award at the Fall Board of Directors meeting in Grand Rapids on Oct. 25. Presenting Sandi (r) with the certificate is State Past President Lynn Card.*

At the Oct. 25 Fall Board of Directors meeting of the Michigan Business and Professional Women in Grand Rapids, the Person of Achievement Award was presented to Sandi Osterland of the West Branch area's club. This award is given to a BPW member in recognition of her involvement in the community, the local club and at the state level.

Sandi, a registered nurse since 1979, has been working at MyMichigan West Branch for 30 years. When she isn't wearing her nurse's hat, she is the beloved wife of her husband, Lee, and mother to four children and 10

grandchildren.

Sandi is currently the treasurer of the West Branch BPW and has also stepped up to the State level as the membership chair.

She is always willing to give a helping hand and very much puts others first before herself. In her spare time Sandi likes to do needlework, read, gardening and in the winter months you'll find her cross-country skiing or sledding. She has also been a volunteer working on the hospital's Trick or Treat Trail to help raise money.

Congratulations, Sandi, on your achievement.



*Downtown West Branch Presents*

# Holiday Art Walk & Wine Tasting

**Saturday, December 6, 2025**  
**5 - 8 p.m.**

Downtown West Branch is partnering with local artists for the perfect holiday evening. Each shop will host an area artist and their work along with wine & hors d'oeuvres. What a better way to welcome the Holidays!

# COMMEMORATIVE WINE GLASSES:

To be sold at Kit's the day of the event starting at 5 p.m.

**Presale Wine Glasses:**  
The Silver Lining from Nov. 28  
until Dec 5. Cash Only.

# Lumber Jack

## Thanksgiving Dinner

House Bread &amp; Butter • Side Salad

# Oven Roasted Turkey Breast with House Made Stuffing

## House Made Garlic Mashed Potatoes

## Turkey Gravy • Green Bean Casserole

## Cranberry Relish • Pumpkin Pie

\$17.99

## Adults

\$11.99

Kids (10 and under)

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 D F U T E D A L X A U F P F R Y U Z N R A M D B  
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*See puzzle on page 6*



# 700 Club raises funds for Michigan veterans

**BY LAURA BENDER**

The Northern Michigan 700 Club, Chapter 101, held its third annual Patriot Benefit Bash on Saturday, Nov. 8, at Ogemaw Lanes in West Branch. The club's membership is open to bowlers who have scored 700 or higher in a three-game series in league or tournament play. During the event on Saturday, several of these elite bowlers even scored perfect 300 games. While they enjoyed one another's company and another chance to compete, this gathering had an even greater purpose.

Tournament director Barry Massey said, "Our goal is to raise money to support the Michigan Wounded and Returning Warrior Program. In our first year, we raised \$1,344. Last year it was \$4,600. We hope to double that this year. We are really thankful to the many local vendors who have given us items for our silent auc-tion."

Though they didn't quite meet their goal, an amazing \$6,525 was raised this year.

The Michigan Wounded and Return-ing Warrior Program is a multi-faceted project of the Michigan Ameri-can Legion Foundation, which provides com-prehensive assistance to military families and wartime veterans in need. Through their website, veterans can apply for temporary emergency financial assistance, a short-term individual or fami-ly retreat at a Michi-gan resort, or a group PTSD retreat. The MWRWP also provides reintegration assistance for veterans and presentations on PTSD and combat trauma to



*Courtesy photo*  
**Retired Army Major Jon Turnbull was the guest speaker at the event.**



*Photo by Laura Bender*  
**The Northern Michigan 700 Club recently hosted the 'Patriot Benefit Bash' with the proceeds of the event going to the Michigan Wounded and Return-ing Warrior Program. Pictured, Tournament Director Barry Massey aims for success.**

















































































































Resources

« Continued from page 1

and all the fixings on Nov. 27, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The event, organized by Tom Angel, will be held at the Skidway Lake Chamber of Commerce Hall, 2777 E. Greenwood Rd. in Skidway Lake. Volunteers are needed for set up, serving, cooking and clean up. To donate or volunteer, call Tom at 734-497-4056. Thank you to the Skidway Lake Chamber for their donation of the hall for the event.

TOYS FOR TOTS

Last year, 535 Ogemaw County children received toys from Toys for Tots. To ensure there are enough toys to meet this year’s need, community organizations and businesses have already set up donation boxes. To contribute a new, unwrapped toy in Prescott, visit: Kimmie's Pub N Grub, Northland Area Federal Credit Union, Dollar General, Family Dollar, and the Skidway Lake Moose Lodge. In Alger, visit: Nordic Spirits and Grille. In West Branch stop by both Northland Credit Union locations, the Michigan State Police Post, Right Way Auto, Towne Club, Team Hodges, ATC Auto and Truck, Dean Arbor Ford, The Brook, Bucks Country Cookin’, Mercantile Bank, Dollar General, The Woods, Mac's Place, Northstar Tattooz, Instant Cash Advance, Culver's, and Walmart.

The VFW will be collecting Toys for Tots in front of Walmart on Nov. 29 and 30, and Dec. 6 and 7 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Toys and monetary contributions may also be donated on Dec. 6 during the visit of the Santa Train and Dec. 13 at the Candy Cane Lane Christmas Market and Festival. If you want to register your newborn through age 16 children to receive toys, you must do so by Dec. 7. Sign-up sheets are available at the West Branch DHS office both inside the lobby and outside near the door. Completed forms should be placed in the drop-box. To be eligible, you must be an Ogemaw County resident, have custody of the children you signup, and have a valid photo ID/driver’s license with your current Ogemaw County address on it. Please be aware that if you sign up with Toys for Tots, your children will not be eligible to sign up for other programs that provide toys although you may still receive food and other benefits from other organizations. Toys will be distributed at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 601 Columbus Ave., West Branch, on Thursday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you would like to volunteer with collection or distribution, call Shannon Wiley at 989-915-7609. For information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/ogemawcountytoysfortots>.

OGEMAW COUNTY HELPING HANDS

Ogemaw County Helping Hands is coordinating two programs for Christmas: Adopt a Family provides toys and clothing to meet specific requests. Holiday Food Baskets provides Christmas dinner. There are already 170 families signed up for help for Christmas, with more being added each day. Currently, seven percent have been “adopted” by a donor. Check the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/>

[groups/818838255607573](https://www.facebook.com/groups/818838255607573) to select a family to help or to make an application to request assistance. Monetary donations may also be made virtually through apps listed on that page, or by sending a check to PO Box 743, West Branch, MI 48661. If you have items to donate, they may be dropped off at 517 N. First Street, West Branch. For more information, call Emily Munsell at 989-329-2836 or Aliyah Vida at 313-920-9111.

SHOP WITH A HERO

First responders and local military members will be on hand for Shop with a Hero night at Walmart in West Branch. To register your children for the event, call the Ogemaw County Sheriff's Office at 989-345-3111. Be ready to provide their names, ages, address and phone number. You may also mail that information to: Ogemaw County Sheriff's Office, 806 W. Wright St., West Branch 48661. If you would like to donate to this project, you may do so by mail or in person. The date for Shop with a Hero is TBD.

LOVEWELLS CORNER STORE

Lovewells Santa Support System will begin signups during the store’s Customer Appreciation Event on Nov. 29. Parents may apply for presents and a food box while their children visit with Santa to present their own Christmas wish list to the jolly old elf. Parental applications will continue to be received in person at the store each day from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. until Dec. 12. Distribution will take place Dec. 18 through 20 during store hours. The Santa Support System is an all-volunteer endeavor. Monetary donations and gift purchases may be made at Lovewells Corner Store, 1005 Wiltse Rd. in Lupton. Call 989-473-2472 or visit <https://www.facebook.com/LovewellsCornerStore> for more information, to volunteer, or for a link to their Amazon wish list.

FREE FOOD:

COMMUNITY FREE FOOD GIVEAWAY

The next two Food Trucks will arrive at First United Methodist Church, at the corner of Fairview and State Rds., on Dec. 12 and Jan. 16. Line up at 9 a.m. in the parking lot to receive a box of food. Distribution for the drive-through event begins at 10 a.m. No proof of residency or income required. For more information or to donate toward a future truck, call Lisa at 989-345-0381 or visit “Free Food Give Away” on Facebook.

OGEMAW COUNTY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP FOOD PANTRY

The pantry is open on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 100 E. Houghton Ave. in West Branch. Food assistance is provided to Ogemaw County residents only. Donations may be made when the pantry is open.

OGEMAW HILLS FREE METHODIST CHURCH

The Ogemaw Hills Church Side Door Food Pantry exists to provide food and household essentials to Ogemaw County residents

in need. Clients need to present an ID and proof of residency. The food pantry is open every other Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For an appointment, please call the church office at 989-345-2260, Tuesday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The church is located at 3480 W. M-76 in West Branch. The pantry depends on volunteers and community support. To volunteer or to drop off items, call the church office. Monetary gifts can be mailed to: OHCC, Attn: Food Pantry, P.O. Box 156, West Branch, MI 48661. For more information or to make an online donation, visit <https://www.ogemawhills.org/foodpantry>.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HOLY FAMILY COUNCIL NO. 8948

Boxes of food are available for distribution to area residents on the second Wednesday of each month at Holy Family Catholic Church Klacking Creek, 402. W. Peters Rd., West Branch, MI. Those wanting to receive a box should line up in the parking lot at 11 a.m. Distribution is from noon to 1 p.m. If you would like to donate money or food for this monthly event, call Don Rozsi at 269-350-0019. The next Food Truck days are Dec. 10 and Jan. 14.

ST. FRANCIS FOOD CENTER

The food bank at 2811 Greenwood Rd. in Prescott is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information, call 989-873-4462.

EMERGENY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

SALVATION ARMY

Volunteers will ring the bell for the Salvation Army in front of Walmart multiple times in December. Please give generously. All your donations stay in Ogemaw County to assist your neighbors with year-round emergency needs. If you need help with utility bills or other concerns, visit the Salvation Army office at First United Methodist Church, 2490 State Rd., at the corner with Fairview and State Rds. Volunteer caseworkers are available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Bring an ID, the bill and your SER from DHS if needing utility assistance. For more information, call 989-345-4690.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OF WEST BRANCH

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, 3444 W M-76, West Branch, offers new and used donated items at affordable prices. They also assist county residents with emergency needs such as electric and heating bills, essential car and home repairs, medical expenses and rent. To schedule an appointment with Client Aid, call 989-345-7088. Bring an ID, the bill, your SER from DHS and a shut-off or eviction notice if you’ve received one. Store hours are Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SPECIALIZED RESOURCES:

Make a foster child’s Christmas bright! Donate a new, unwrapped toy to be distributed at Ana’s Annual Foster Family Christmas

Party. Items should be delivered to Ana’s Treasures, 511 Houghton Ave. in West Branch by Dec. 1. For more information, call 989-709-6402 or visit [www.anastrea-sures.org](http://www.anastrea-sures.org).

LIFE CHOICES RESOURCE CENTER

According to the Life Choices Resource Center, “The best gift a child can receive is a well-prepared parent.”

Hence, their mission is to provide educational, material, and holistic support for low-income pregnant families. During the holidays, Life Choices is looking for donations of new, unwrapped toys to give to families in their program. Year-round, they need diapers, wipes, gently used baby clothes and “all things baby” items and furniture. For more information, call 989-345-3909 or visit <https://chooselifecconnection.org/>.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, AMERICAN LEGION, DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

If you are a veteran who has an emergency need, contact your local veteran organizations for help. VFW Post No. 3775 West Branch 989-928-2986; American Legion Post No. 0103 West Branch 989-329-8238; American Legion Post No. 0370 Skidway 989-836-2660; Disabled American Vets Ogemaw Hills Chapter No. 73 West Branch 989-345-517. The Veterans Affairs Office, 496 E. Houghton Ave., West Branch, MI, can help find information and resources. 989-345-517.

MEDICAL RESOURCES:

OGEMAW HILLS FREE CLINIC / PERSONAL CARE CLOSET

The clinic at 2106 S. Gray Rd. in West Branch provides compassionate, no-cost care for uninsured, income-eligible adults. This includes office visits, limited prescription assistance and no-cost referrals as well as basic labs, x-rays, and EKGs provided at no cost by MyMichigan Medical Center in West Branch. The

Personal Care Closet stocks personal care items such as bandages, gauze, lancets, incontinence briefs, blue pads, mastectomy supplies, post-mastectomy bras, walkers, canes, and more. To determine eligibility or to make an appointment, call 989-345-7880 or email [freeclinic@ogemawhills.org](mailto:freeclinic@ogemawhills.org).

PETE JACKSON - COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR, WEST BRANCH REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

If a medical issue has caused a financial crisis, the Community Outreach Coordinator at West Branch Regional Medical Center may be able to assist. Pete Jackson works with uninsured and underinsured people who need help with prescriptions, medical bills and access to care through the Healthaccess program. For more information or to make an appointment, call Pete Jackson at 989-343-3608 or email [pjackson@wbrmc.org](mailto:pjackson@wbrmc.org).

EMERGENCY HOUSING

New Dawn Shelter, at 137 Commerce Court in Gladwin, provides emergency shelter for men and women.

For more information or to check available bed space, call 989-709-6089.

Lydia’s Gate, at 115 Deyarmond St. in Mio, provides emergency shelter for women and children. For more information or to check available bed space, call 989-826-5588.

Pro tip: If you must visit difficult family members over the holidays, the cost of a hotel room is worth the peace of mind and gives you a safe place to retreat.

OTHER NEEDS:

211

211 is a referral resource. If you are uncertain where to find help, text your zip code to 211 or call 800-442-7315. Information is available for the following: housing, food insecurity, legal issues, veterans support, prescriptions, substance abuse treatment, services for seniors, transportation, and emergency shelter.

Art walk

« Continued from page 5

discover what West Branch has to offer.”

Participating businesses will highlight both established and emerging local talent. Some shops will feature student work from area schools —giving young artists a meaningful showcase. The result is an artistic experience as diverse as it is personal, reflective of the region’s growing creative identity.

Local merchants anticipate the event will continue reinforcing the downtown’s growth. The revitalization project has created more inviting spaces for strolling, shopping, and gathering. Holiday décor, seasonal treats, and cheerful music will add to the festive atmosphere as visitors explore boutiques, restaurants, specialty shops, and galleries.

With a combination of art, wine, shopping, and holiday magic, the Dec. 6 Holiday Art Walk & Wine Tasting promises an evening

brimming with hometown charm and creative energy. Whether guests are seeking thoughtful holiday gifts, a fun outing with friends, or a chance to connect with local talent, the event offers something special for everyone.

Commemorative wine glasses are available this year for pre-sale, \$6 each, cash only, at The Silver Lining from Black Friday until Friday, Dec. 5, or at Kit’s beginning at 5 p.m. the day of the event.

The walk begins in the late afternoon at 5 p.m., with participating businesses clearly marked in an event brochure and walking guide for easy navigation. Visitors are encouraged to arrive ready to stroll, sample and soak in the holiday spirit woven throughout West Branch’s welcoming downtown.

We hope to see you there! Have a great holiday season!

Visit [www.WestBranchEvents.com](http://www.WestBranchEvents.com) for more info.





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As we enter the holiday season and approach the end of another remarkable year, I want to extend a thank you to our members, partners, sponsors and community for your continued support. This time of year reminds us of the importance of connection, generosity, and reflection, and I'm proud of the progress we've made together. Make time to discover and enjoy the charm of our community and explore something new. Enjoy your day!. Heather Neuhaus, IOM, BSc.



Alli Van Goethem  
Administrative Assistant



Samantha Defour  
Administrative Assistant



*Santa Train Returns*

West Branch Chamber and West Branch Visitors Bureau has partnered again with Lake States Railway to bring the Santa Train on Saturday, December 6 from 11 a.m. to noon. City of West Branch Tree Lighting at 11 a.m.

**Welcome New Chamber Members**

103 Country  
Annettes Beautiful Nails  
Burt Watson GMC  
Death Before Decaf  
NorthStar Tattooz  
Ogemaw District Library  
O'Neil Brothers Contracting  
SERVpro of Alpena  
Spotted Cow Wellness  
The Beauty Spot Esthetics  
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**Congratulations on your Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening**

Annettes Beautiful Nails, Cole's Appliance, Death Before Decaf  
Spotted Cow Wellness, The Beauty Spot Esthetics



**Christmas Light Parade**

"Home for the Holidays" Christmas Light Parade will be Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.. Entry forms can be found on the website or stopping into the office.



**FIT ASSESSMENT COMPLETE**

First Impressions Tourism Assessment was completed for West Branch through the MSU Extension. The results were shown and next will be action steps with the FIT Committee.



**Chamber Ambassadors**

Helping with a Chamber project. Chamber Ambassador is a volunteer representative who welcomes new members, attends and helps at chamber events, and helps strengthen business community connections.

Interested in learning more give us a call. Chamber Ambassador of the Year: Cyndi Egan  
Chamber Ambassadors: Kathy Collins, Kylee Johnson, Rob Romps, Lois Bergquist, Melanie Nolan, Kelli Jo Malone, Linda Decolumna and Deanna Frechette



**Learn at Lunch**

The Chamber has partnered with member Heartland Hospice to do Learn at Lunch series once a month focusing on health and wellness. October was heart healthy topic. Call the Chamber for details on the next one held monthly through December.



**Meet Your Local**

November was Meet Your Local Insurance Agency. Thank you to Christi Neubecker State Farm, Crecine Agency, Erickson Family Agency, Diebold Insurance Agency and Walker Agency of Michigan. The next one will be in January Meet Your Local Health Agencies.



November 29th



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Veterans

« Continued from page 3



the program, which included patriotic music sung by the ladies' quartet from the Northern Blend Chorus. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3775 Commander Mike Thorne presented each veteran with a flag lapel pin, a certificate and a hand-drawn thank you card made by area children. Following the ceremony, everyone enjoyed a lasagna lunch provided by the Commission on Aging.

Similar Veterans Day activities were also held across the county, including a touching ceremony at Whittemore-Prescott High School.

VFW Post 3775 Commander Mike Thorne presents Navy Veteran Jim Mayhew with a pin honoring his service.

MARSP concludes the year

The Ogemaw chapter of MARSP (Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel) recently wrapped up the year with a final lunch at China Inn and a presentation by Julie Hock of Max-Well Therapy Center.

Members learned about a wonderful program that is available to students free of charge (for more information go to [maxwelltherapycenter.org](http://maxwelltherapycenter.org).

Over the past year, the group has had guest speakers including Kimberly Wangler explaining the Ogemaw Christmas Feast, Hima Gali, of Solutions Physical Therapy, discussing the importance of staying active in their retirement years, and our 2024 grant recipients, Amy Downer and Jennifer Roznowski.

Other activities included cleaning M-33 from Peters to State roads three times throughout the year, worked at the county fair helping to prepare food for the



Courtesy photo  
Pictured (l-r) Jessica Bryant, Mike Eagan and Julie Hock of Max-Well Therapy Center.

week and enjoying their annual picnic in July.

All retired school personnel are invited to join us May 1, 2026, at China Inn at 11 a.m. and enjoy lunch, learn about MARSP and how they continue to work for their retirement benefits. Any questions, feel free to contact Julie Money at [moneyju60@gmail.com](mailto:moneyju60@gmail.com).

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# Ogemaw Heights High School swimmer competes in state tournament



*Courtesy photo*  
Swimmer Oryana Dings, a junior at Ogemaw Heights High School, will be competing in the State Tournament at the Holland Aquatic Center on Friday, Nov. 21. If she qualifies, she will compete in the State Finals on Saturday, Nov. 22. Oryana is Ogemaw's first state qualifier since 2023, after she won the 500 Freestyle and 100 Freestyle titles at the ISC Championship, while posting two runner-up finishes in relay. Best of luck, Oryana. For further updates and results, follow us on Facebook.

## Safety

« Continued from page 7

ordering and administration, or our patient safety policies and structures, we're meeting Leapfrog's high standards. We're especially proud of the improvements being made by our Medical Center in Sault Ste. Marie and in all our Medical Centers over recent years. In fact, of the 17 hospitals in Michigan that earned "A" grades, three were MyMichigan Health."

Developed under the guidance

of a national expert panel, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade system is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. The biannual Hospital Safety Grade results are based on more than 30 national performance measures and are updated each fall and spring, and the results are free to the public. Those interested in viewing the full grades may visit [www.hospitalsafetygrade.org](http://www.hospitalsafetygrade.org).

## Science

« Continued from page 5

and key safety practices. Training takes place both in the school's upgraded lab - using mannequins and peer practice — and during clinical rotations at local long-term care facilities. Ogemaw Heights partners with the Villa in West Branch and Rose City, which alternate years to provide comprehensive, hands-on experiences. These partnerships are instrumental in shaping the next generation of healthcare professionals.

Upon completing their training, students have the opportunity to take the Michigan CNA certification exam, which includes both a written and a skills assessment. A significant advantage of our new facility is its qualification as an

approved testing site, allowing state examiners to travel to Ogemaw Heights to test students on campus.

We at Ogemaw Heights are incredibly proud of our expanded learning spaces and deeply grateful for the community support that made them possible. Your investment has created an environment that encourages growth, resilience, empathy, and compassion — qualities essential to future healthcare providers.

Our students continue to impress us with their dedication, maturity, and genuine desire to care for others. Your support helps plant the seeds of their future success, and for that, we offer our sincere thanks.

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Public Hearings and Notices

CITY OF ROSE CITY  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 7, 2025

Mayor Mike Samples called the Regular Council Meeting of the City of Rose City to order at 6:00 p.m. on October 7, 2025.

Present: Mayor Mike Samples, Anthony Evans, Don Freeman, Claire Myers Scott Hamel, Ashley Herrick, Brent Hinkley

Absent: none.

Others present: Clerk Jennifer Hurley, Treasurer Carol Lee Butler, Police Chief Allen Muma, DPW Supervisor Cody Curley, Amy Hensel, Theresa Erickson, Carole Dallas, Mary Jane Schnautz, Larry Ealy, Dorothy Ealy and Dr. Sasson Tarahomi.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to approve the agenda. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mrs. Myers and seconded by Mr. Freeman to approve the Minutes for the September 16, 2025 Regular Rose City Council Meeting.

Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Evans to pay bills as presented, in the amounts of \$7,898.91 from the Common Cash Account and \$157.59 from the Sewer Account. Ayes: Mr. Evans, Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Ashley Herrick gave a Parks and Rec Committee report.

Brent Hinkley gave a Fire Board Committee report.

Claire Myers gave a Library Committee report.

Cody Curley gave a DPW report.

Allen Muma gave a Police report.

Carol Lee Butler gave a Treasurer's report.

Jenny Hurley gave a Clerk's report.

Dr. Sasson Tarahomi addressed the council.

A Motion made by Mrs. Myers and seconded by Mrs. Herrick to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

CITY OF ROSE CITY  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 21, 2025

Mayor Mike Samples called the Regular Council Meeting of the City of Rose City to order at 6:00 p.m. on October 21, 2025.

Present: Mayor Mike Samples, Anthony Evans, Don Freeman, Claire Myers Scott Hamel, Ashley Herrick, Brent Hinkley

Absent: none.

Others present: Clerk Jennifer Hurley, Treasurer Carol Lee Butler, DPW Interim Supervisor Matt Lawrence, County Commissioner Roger Mayhew Larry Humel, Chris Hennessey, Penny Payea and Dr. Sasson Tarahomi.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to approve the agenda. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Freeman and seconded by Mrs. Herrick to approve the Minutes for the October 7, 2025 Regular Rose City Council Meeting.

Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to pay bills as presented, in the amounts of \$45,011.41 from the Common Cash Account and \$0 from the Sewer Account. Ayes: Mr. Evans, Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Brent Hinkley gave a Personnel Committee report.

Roger Mayhew gave a County Commissioner's report.

Matt Lawrence gave a DPW report.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to purchase a set of blades for winter in the amount of \$1,473.78 per blade. Ayes: Mr. Hinkley, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Evans. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley seconded by Mr. Hamel for oil in the amount of \$1530.98. Ayes: Mr. Evans, Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Hamel to get needed repairs for the backhoe. Ayes: Mr. Hinkley, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Evans. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Carol Lee Butler gave a Treasurer's report.

Jenny Hurley gave a Clerk's report.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Evens to approve the new contract with Republic Services. Ayes: Mr. Evans, Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Dr. Sasson Tarahomi addressed the council.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Herrick to approve the Liability Insurance Policy, in the amount of \$58,727.00 with the increases. Ayes: Mr. Hinkley, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Evans. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Fleiss & Vanderbrink addressed the council.

A Motion made by Mr. Hamel and seconded by Mr. Hinkley to approve the Professional Service Agreement. Ayes: Mr. Evans, Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mr. Evans to approve Audit Agreement with S.O.M.E CPA's. Ayes: Mr. Hinkley, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Evans. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hinkley and seconded by Mrs. Herrick to approve the Assessor's Policy. Ayes: Mr. Evans, Mr. Freeman, Mrs. Myers, Mr. Hamel, Mrs. Herrick, Mr. Hinkley. Nays: None. Motion carried.

A Motion made by Mr. Hamel and seconded by Mr. Hinkley to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion carried.

WEST BRANCH CITY SNOW POLICY

To help people get around safely this winter, the City respectfully asks all property owners to observe the following rules:

- Keep sidewalks free of snow and ice. City crews will clean sidewalks occasionally when large quantities fall (5" and more), but PROPERTY OWNERS REMAIN RESPONSIBLE UNTIL CITY CREWS CLEAR THEM.
- Keep snow away from fire hydrants so they remain visible from all sides at all times.
- Do not pile snow on corners – this blocks views and causes accidents!
- Do not plow snow onto sidewalks, across or into City streets.
- Do not use a motor vehicle or ORV to plow snow on any City sidewalks. Your help is greatly appreciated. Snow can create problems for all of us, but if we all cooperate, we can at least deal with the problem in a safe manner. If City crews are used to correct problems, property owners will be billed for time and materials. In some cases, deliberate actions may constitute illegal activity – please report severe infractions to the City Police.





**Greetings from the North Pole!**

**To all the good little boys and girls**

Send your letters to Santa to us at the  
Ogemaw County Superior News  
and we will get them to  
Santa Claus for you.

Please put name, age and town.  
Please include photos.  
*(Please put child's name on the back of the photo)*

*Send letters to Letters to Santa*

**c/o Ogemaw County Superior News  
P.O. Box 603, West Branch, MI 48661**

*or email: [Deanna@Superior-News.com](mailto:Deanna@Superior-News.com)*

**Deadline December 5, 2025**  
We will publish the letters in the  
December 13th issue



# **Customer Appreciation Day**

## **November 29, 2025**

### **Lovewells Corner Store**

Sage Lake Rd, Lupton • **989-473-2472**

**The local store with a community heart!**

- **Free Food 10a-5p** ..
- **Free Gifts all day** ..
- **Games/Giveaways** ..
- **Bring the kids to see Santa from 12p-3p** ..



# HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS:

— Protect your family this holiday season. —

- 1. Replace Old Lights and Use Them Correctly
- 2. Be Mindful of Poisonous Plants
- 3. Practice Car Safety When Traveling
- 4. Watch Out for Online Shopping Fraud
- 5. Don't Make the Tree a Fire Hazard
- 6. Properly Secure the Tree
- 7. Don't Burn Wrapping Paper in the Fireplace
- 8. Keep the Raw Turkey Away From the Salad
- 9. Be Careful with Candles
- 10. Hang Breakable Ornaments up High

- 11. Watch out for cuts from opening gifts
- 12. Be mindful of heart attack risks
- 13. Safely pop those corks
- 14. Prevent food poisoning
- 15. Manage mental health and stress
- 16. Under share on Social Media During the Holidays
- 17. Keep a Blanket in Your Car When Shopping
- 18. Swap Your Poinsettia for a Christmas Cactus
- 19. Check the Age Limit on Toys and Gifts

**The Glass Slipper**  
989-345-4125  
[TheGlassSlipperBridalShop.com](http://TheGlassSlipperBridalShop.com)

**Steuernol & McLaren**  
989-345-0112  
[www.steuernolmclaren.com](http://www.steuernolmclaren.com)

**The Villa**  
West Branch & Rose City  
Tour Today!  
989-390-1761  
[cegan@villahc.com](mailto:cegan@villahc.com)

**Red's Property Maintenance**  
989-343-5483  
[www.RedsWB.com](http://www.RedsWB.com)

**Team Hodges**  
989-345-1022  
[www.teamhodges.com](http://www.teamhodges.com)

**Evergreen Contracting**  
989-709-6615  
481 Lucas Lane  
West Branch

**West Branch Collision**  
989-345-7230  
[www.westbranchcollision.com](http://www.westbranchcollision.com)

**Walker Agency of Michigan**  
989-345-1570  
220 M-76 • West Branch

**Rob & Bigs Moving Company**  
989-387-6713  
[www.robandbigsmoving.com](http://www.robandbigsmoving.com)

**Lehner's Collision**  
989-343-0577  
[www.lehnerscollision.com](http://www.lehnerscollision.com)

**Dean Arbour Ford**  
989-345-1590  
[www.DeanArbourFord.com](http://www.DeanArbourFord.com)

**313 Designs**  
989-343-5032  
[313DesignsWB@gmail.com](mailto:313DesignsWB@gmail.com)

**Christi Lynn Neubecker State Farm**  
989-685-3935  
[neubeckerinsurance.com](http://neubeckerinsurance.com)

**West Branch Greenhouse**  
989-345-1133  
166 Fifth St.,  
West Branch

**Morse Clark Furniture Company**  
989-345-0355  
[www.morseclark.com](http://www.morseclark.com)

**Erickson Family Agency**  
989-345-0230  
426 W. Houghton Ave.  
West Branch, MI

**Klemmers**  
989-345-2869  
2831 S. M-76  
West Branch, MI 48661

**Village Quik Lube & Auto Repair Center**  
989-345-4410  
3149 W. Houghton,  
West Branch