Owosso Residential Development Moves Forward After Hearing
by Karen Mead-Elford, co-editor

In late May, the Owosso Planning Commission held a hearing to review a rezoning request for 2.373 acres on N. Washington and Wesley streets. Anna Owens and Tom Cook, the property owners, wished to change the zoning from RM-1 Multiple-Family Residential District-Low Rise to RM-1 Multiple Family Residential District-Low Rise with Planned Unit Development (PUD) overlay. Owens and Cook, under Bailey Park Homes, had developed a plan to bring a 14-unit, single-family residential development to Owosso — supplying some needed middle-class housing to a community in the midst of a housing shortage.

Forward to Tuesday, Sept. 8, and the Owosso City Council conducted a second hearing (virtually) on the potential residential development after city staff had identified an earlier oversight where notices were not sent to nearby Owosso Charter Township property owners. The city decided these property owners fairly needed the opportunity to voice any concerns, and another hearing was then scheduled.

Along with the city mistake, a number of Owosso residents submitted a petition over concerns identified as “insufficient sewer/drainage/water runoff capacity, disruption of the ecosystem and wildlife, inadequate infrastructure for both construction traffic and future vehicular/pedestrian traffic and activity.” The property owners stated further concerns on overdevelopment and property value decrease. A letter of opposition by a property owner was also submitted to the city.

The proposed development is conceptually fresh to Owosso. The Washington Park Smart Homes Development proposal states it would create a “new neighborhood with traditional Owosso characteristics: housing for a range of families, pedestrian accessibility, green spaces, and recreation opportunities for children.” The idea is the development would be “designed with sustainability as a guiding principle. The purposeful, compact placement of the residential units on the site provides a more efficient use of the land compared to traditional single-family developments.” The thought is to create a contemporary neighborhood within a neighborhood, utilizing modern, energy-efficient construction techniques, and fostering a sense of community.

continued on page 2

Durand Clock Tower Repairs Completed

The repairs of the Sandula Clock Tower in downtown Durand have recently been completed. The project was sponsored by the Durand Rotary Club and completed by local contractor Eric Cleveland. The city of Durand is also supporting the restoration.

The repairs included installation of a new metal roof and the replacement of damaged wood. The clock faces were cleaned and painted as needed. Mr. Cleveland added LED lights around the top of the tower with more than 30 color options, which will be changed for different events and seasons.

The rotary club is currently evaluating the sound system that plays music from the tower and is expecting the system may need to be replaced. Some other minor repairs are planned in the lobby of the tower as well.

The Durand Rotary Club appreciates the generous community response to the club’s efforts to maintain and preserve the Sandula Clock Tower for the future. A fundraising campaign has generated more than $12,000 in contributions for the repairs, and donations are still being accepted. Donors of $500 or more will be recognized on a plaque at the clock tower. Checks can still be mailed to Durand Rotary Club, P.O. Box 531, Durand, MI 48429.

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*Annual Percentage Rate (APR) and terms may vary depending upon credit qualifications, age of collateral, and a minimum of $500.00 Direct Deposit with AutoPay set up from a Dort Financial Credit Union checking account. Approximate monthly payment would be $17.53 per $1,000 borrowed at 1.99% APR for 60 months or $17.64 per $1,000 borrowed at 2.24% APR for 60 months. Business loans do not qualify. Programs, rates, terms and conditions are subject to change without notice.

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Election Workers Needed in Shiawassee County

by Karen Mead-Elford, co-editor

The upcoming Tuesday, Nov. 3 election is not far off and Shiawassee County Clerk Caroline Wilson and city of Owosso Clerk Amy Kirkland have both shared that election inspectors are needed. So, what is an election inspector? Think – election worker. In Michigan, election workers are called election inspectors. Not only is being an election inspector a service to the community, but it is also a paid position, though the rate of pay does vary a bit according to employment location.

The best method of becoming an election inspector is to contact your local clerk at the township or municipality where you live. Clerks are looking for individuals who enjoy working with the public, are somewhat comfortable with computers and want to give back to the community. A training process is involved in becoming an election inspector.

Inspector duties generally include greeting voters, resolving any possible voter issues, issuing ballots, managing room flow, assisting voters with handicap accessibility and helping voters with ballot tabulation. On Election Day, inspectors and coordinating staff/precinct members will work the entire day from 6 a.m. until the polls close and paperwork is complete. Two 1-hour meal breaks are offered.

According to Wilson, the upcoming election will have a number of training dates. She is currently coordinating those dates and times and they will be announced. She shared that party affiliation must be identified prior to becoming an election inspector, though obviously party does not factor into Election Day duties. An election inspector must be a registered voter.

Wilson also explained that COVID-19 precautions, in compliance with the CDC, are planned and will be in place on Election Day. Gloves, masks and sanitizer will be available. Masks are not mandatory but are strongly suggested.

Other staffing positions involve lunch workers (to cover breaks/breaks), AM/PM workers (staffing a polling location either in the morning or evening) and Absent Voter Counting Board (AVCB) inspectors. AVCB inspectors work to count all absentee ballots and duties include opening AV envelopes, checking signatures, keeping an accurate tally of all ballots received/_counted, tabulating ballots and other assorted tasks. AVCB inspectors are sequestered and cannot leave until the polls close.

Wilson and Kirkland have confirmed a large increase in absentee ballot applications and are expecting an increase in tabulating these votes.

The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. for all elections in Michigan. Clerks are encouraging voters to be patient and practice social distancing.

Some Election Day basics for in-person voters includes a prohibition on election-related clothing or materials at the polls (including buttons, fliers and stickers), a limited basis for camera use that does permit “ballot selfies” only while in the voting booth – and voter ID is required.

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Durand Implements New Regulations Allowing On-Street Golf Carts and ORVs

The Durand City Council has adopted a new city ordinance permitting the use of off-road vehicles (ORVs) on city streets. The ORV ordinance follows a recently adopted resolution to also permit the use of golf carts on city streets. The new golf cart regulations took effect on Aug. 3, and the new ORV ordinance will go into effect on Tuesday, Sept. 15.

Operation of golf carts and ORVs both come with certain regulations, including the presence of lights, mirrors and other safety features on all applicable vehicles. Golf carts are prohibited from travelling in excess of 15 miles per hour, and ORVs must not exceed 25 miles per hour on any street. All other traffic rules still apply to drivers of golf carts and ORVs. ORVs must be registered with the Secretary of State for on-road use, but golf cart drivers may contact Durand City Hall at (989) 288-3113 or complete the Golf Cart Vehicle Information Form on the City website. Providing basic ownership information is required in order to operate a golf cart locally. The Durand Police Department will enforce traffic and operator violations in accordance with city ordinance.

Durand Mayor Deb Doyle shared, “The decision to allow on-street golf carts and ORVs comes in response to a growing number of requests from local residents. We are excited to try something new, and encourage residents to stay safe!”

The new regulations apply to all streets within the city of Durand jurisdiction. ORVs were already permitted on Shiawassee County roads but remain prohibited on state or federal roads, such as M-71.

To learn more about operator rules and regulations, please visit the city of Durand website at www.durandmi.com. The On-Street ORV Ordinance and On-Street Golf Cart Resolution are also available in their full text format on the city website.

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Owosso Residential Development

A number of property owners expressed their thoughts during the Tuesday hearing. Some of the major concerns discussed highlighted the potential for an “overdevelopment” of the small parcel with too many homes in a tight location, that the houses might appear identical and not in keeping with neighboring homes, increased traffic flow and road wear-and-tear, infrastructural problems, flooding and storm water runoff, and a small forested area where deer, a fox and a falcon have been seen. Concerns about water and flooding seemed to be the top issue, as there have been ongoing problems with water in the neighborhood.

Several area property owners also stated they were in favor of the development. Travis Yakin shared, “The point isn’t to turn a quick buck, the point is to provide some necessary housing that we need … I have faith this will be well executed.” Another resident, Allie Caverson, said she would prefer to see the development within the city limits and not on the outskirts of town, where people wouldn’t be connected to city assets.

SEDP President/CEO Justin Horvath stated he thinks the new development will only elevate the property value of surrounding homes, while bringing new residents into the community.

Owens and Cook shared that it was feasible for them to build an apartment building on the property, since it is already zoned for apartments. So by building only 14 units, they were actually suggesting far less habitation. They shared the property was surveyed and they recognize the drainage and flooding concerns, which will be dealt with as the project progresses.

Owens explained that they had come to recognize the nationwide crisis with middle-income families no longer being able to afford nice housing and they wanted to be able to offer that in Owosso. “We want kids to go to school here. We want people to live here. We want people to be part of this great city,” she said.

Council voted unanimously for the project. The next step in the process is the site plan and because this is a PUD project, it will have to come back to council for approval again.
Pathways Adult Education Announces Return-to-School Plans

Pathways Adult Education is excited to announce plans to return to school. Pathways will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, with no on-site lunch. Pathways will also follow the Owosso Public Schools calendar.

Baker College has various protocols in place to ensure the health and safety of students and staff. Students, employees, and all visitors will be required to wear face masks at all times in all campus buildings. Students who were enrolled last year were allowed to return on Tuesday, Sept. 8. Potential new students who are interested in finding out more about the Pathways program, how to earn a high school diploma or how to pass the GED are invited to call (989) 729-3620 to register for Pathways’ free informational workshop on Monday, Sept. 21.

Pathways anticipates re-opening the GED Testing Center later in September. For updates, go to Pathways’ social media page, “Pathways Adult Education at Baker College in Owosso.” Go to www.ged.com to see when dates become available, how to study and how to sign up and pay for the tests with a debit or credit card. Any further questions can be directed to Karen Wagner at Karen.wagner@baker.edu or (989) 729-3620.

PFCU Employees Provide Donation to Homeless Angels

Employees at PFCU have come together to provide a $4,234 donation to the Homeless Angels. PFCU employees put together a formal program to collect weekly donation monies in exchange for a casual dress Friday, or jeans day Friday. With over 90 percent participation from the staff of over 180 employees, the staff has been able to pool together quarterly donations consistently over $1,000. Each quarter the staff internally votes on various local community groups or organizations, and Homeless Angels was selected to receive PFCU’s second quarter donation. The check presentation to the Homeless Angels took place on Wednesday, Sept. 9 at PFCU’s Lansing office.

At Homeless Angels, their mission is to rebuild and restore faith in humanity through innovative ideas, programs and events to create real change for people that are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

PFCU was established in 1947 and is a Michigan financial cooperative credit union with headquarters located in Portland, MI. PFCU has 12 locations between Caledonia and Flint, with over 50,000 members and over 180 employees. PFCU is dedicated to improving members’ lives and the communities in which they serve. To find out more, visit www.pfcu4me.com.

Treasury: Digital Signatures Permitted on Paper Forms

In an effort to protect health and safety, the Michigan Department of Treasury reminds taxpayers and tax professionals that use digital signatures is allowed on forms, even those forms that cannot be filed electronically.

The use of digital signatures assists in reducing in-person contact and lessens the risk to taxpayers and tax professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing both groups to work remotely and to file forms timely.

“Our main priority during the COVID-19 pandemic is to protect the health and safety of Michiganders, which includes taxpayers and tax professionals,” State Treasurer Rachael Eubanks said. “Permitting our paper forms to be signed digitally lessens the risk of in-person contact. We continue to work with taxpayers and tax professionals with filing requirements during this uncertain time.”

The state of Michigan’s individual income tax return, corporate income tax return and sales, use and withholding tax return already use an electronic signature when filed electronically. Each year, more than 80 percent of Michigan’s individual income tax returns are filed electronically.

Some forms used by taxpayers and tax professionals are typically printed, signed and mailed to the state Treasury Department. These forms are downloaded from Treasury’s website or obtained by tax professionals.

The Michigan Department of Treasury does not specify which digital signature product or method tax professionals must use. There are several commercial products available.

Individuals with questions should contact Treasury through the Treasury Self-Service website. Businesses with questions should implement available self-service options using Michigan Treasury Online. To learn more about Michigan’s forms, go to www.michigan.gov/treasuryforms.

Letters to the Editor

Independent Editor,

The United States military draft ended in 1973. Since then every American serving in our armed services was, and still is, doing so voluntarily. Our smaller, more streamlined military (the Council on Foreign Relations estimates membership at one half of one percent of our population) means that fewer American families currently have sons, daughters and siblings serving, with the result that fewer families are being directly affected by their absence from the breakfast table.

My generation (I am in my 70s) may be the last to have served, with the result that fewer families are being directly affected by their absence from the breakfast table.

In my case, for example, my grandfather fought in France during WWI. My uncles and many friends of my family fought in WWII and Korea. My cousins, classmates and friends spent far too many years fighting in Vietnam. My son dedicated 30 years of his life to active Army service with lengthy deployments, including those to Iraq.

My son’s daughter, my granddaughter, is an Army Reservist and when/if called up will be serving in the exact same war that has so affected my son (her father) and many, too many other dedicated men and women.

So my message to the occupant of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave in Washington, D.C. is this: I am among the millions who take your contemptuous disparagement of the brave protectors of my country, past and present, seriously and yes, personally. Your cavalier attitude toward the very human price that was and is today being paid by my family and friends, alive or dead, is unworthy of any American citizen, least of all of an elected official devoid of empathy, gratitude or respect.

Are you worthy of their respect? Of ours? Of mine?

Kathy Oland, Durand

Independent Editor,

Suckers ...

Company K and M headed out of the trees and into a gently upward sloping wheat field at about 5 p.m. In the face of German machine gun fire, they would take their objective Hill 192. Through the night of June 6, 1918, so many of these soldiers were killed or wounded that at first it was thought their companies had been destroyed. The next morning it was reported that there had been 27 killed and 225 wounded.

My grandfather was a member of Company K, 23rd Infantry, 2nd Division and was machine gunned that night, ending his time at the front. My grandfather was not a “loser,” nor were the 251 other men who fought and died or were wounded with him that night during the battle of Belleau Wood. In 2019, I was fortunate to visit my father’s battlefield just South of the Belleau Wood. Anyone who visits the hallowed grounds of the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery or spends time with any combat veteran, and like me has never served in the military, cannot help but “hold their manhoods cheap.”

If someone thinks our veterans are “losers” and “suckers,” how do you think that person feels about you if you are not rich, attractive, popular, metropolitan, etc? The only “suckers” are those who would vote for a man who falsely claims to be the Treasury Self-Service website. Businesses with questions should implement available self-service options using Michigan Treasury Online. To learn more about Michigan’s forms, go to www.michigan.gov/treasuryforms.

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PerryFest is Saturday

PerryFest 2020 will be Saturday, Sept. 19 at Perry City Hall, 203 W. Polly Street. However, the annual event is limited to three outdoor activities, including the annual classic car show, the bike (motorcycle) show and the community-wide yard sale.

Alex’s Lemonade Stand will also be open at the E. Polly/N. Main intersection. The lemonade stand is held annually during PerryFest to help fight childhood cancer.

Alex’s Lemonade Stand will be held at City Hall. Registration will be from 10 to 11:30 a.m., and there will be five first place trophies, including: Stock, Modified Stock, Custom Antique and People’s Choice. Registration is $10 per bike (ride-in only). Trophy presentation will begin at 2 p.m.

A 50/50 raffle will be held to benefit the Perry VFW/AMVETS Christmas for Kids Project.

To pre-register or for more information, contact Daisyse, 517-819-2581.

The annual community-wide yard sale will be held throughout the city of Perry and surrounding areas from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18 through Sunday, Sept. 20. A sale site map will be available at City Hall, on the city’s website and social media pages, the local library, Carl’s Market and Darling Hardware, plus all sale locations.

For more information about this year’s events, contact Stu Jackson, Stu Jackson, (517) 675-6908 or Jackson.Stu@gmail.com or Daisyse (bike/motorcycle show) at (517) 819-2581 or Daisyse@guiltygirlz.org or Larry Crawford of Owosso.

“Have a Great Time Doing It

Love God, Love People
Follow Jesus Christ

How vain it is to sit down to write when you have not stood up to live.”

~ Henry David Thoreau
Gov. Whitmer: DeVos Should Do Right by Our Kids, Waive High-Stakes Assessment Requirements

Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently released the following statement after U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos notified State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice that states will not receive any waivers to the federal requirement to administer statewide summative assessments for the 2020-2021 school year:

“From forcing high-stakes testing on our young children during a global pandemic to trying to strip dollars away from schools in need of critical funding, Betsy DeVos has proven time and again that she doesn’t share our priorities for protecting and improving public education. This virus has had an unprecedented impact on our kids, and forcing them to take these assessments during a time when families everywhere are working around the clock to stay safe is cruel. Betsy DeVos should do the right thing and waive these requirements for our kids. Students, educators, and families everywhere deserve leaders in Washington who will help them succeed. I will continue to work closely with districts and educators across the state to ensure our kids can get a great education as we fight the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Rep. Frederick Health Care Initiatives Advance

Two initiatives related to healthcare services introduced by Rep. Ben Frederick were considered in House legislative committees this week.

The first bill, House Bill 4908, would help encourage career advancement and retention of talent within the ranks of Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) in Michigan’s nursing homes. Under the proposal, CNAs would be able to pursue a Medication Aide certification to assist in administering basic ongoing medication needs to nursing home patients under the supervision of a Registered Nurse (RN) or Licensed Nurse Practitioner (LPN).

Medication aides would be required to have served in that capacity for more than 2,000 hours, meet rigorous training standards, and complete nationally recognized coursework to ensure patient safety. More than 20 other states presently provide medication aides with recognition.

“The change in Michigan law will help address longstanding workforce shortages and turnover which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic,” Frederick said. “It will also provide CNAs with a pathway to grow professionally in their careers which will mean higher pay, expanded training and duties and a higher likelihood of continuing toward a nursing degree.”

Frederick also noted that medication aide programs have resulted in improved medication error rates in other states while freeing up nurses for more mainline care. The bill was approved by the House Ways and Means Committee and now moves to be considered by the full House.

The second bill, House Bill 5446, would help make dental health care specialists more accessible to the public by recognizing additional dental specialties in Michigan’s Public Health Code. Including dental public health, oral and maxillofacial radiology, and dental anesthesiology in the list of specialty trainings through which a dentist may receive a health profession specialty field license, ensures these qualified professionals are recognized formally for their training specialization.

“This legislation ultimately allows other dentists to more easily find specialists when referring their patients for necessary oral health procedures and examinations and helps patients in underserved areas,” Frederick said.

NRMI Presents 11th Annual Bike Tour

As fall begins to arrive and thoughts turn to cooler temperatures, football, harvest festivals, Halloween and the colors changes, COVID-19 is still limiting our ability to enjoy events we normally associate with fall in Michigan. However, it is not yet time to put the bicycles away for another season. What better way to enjoy a beautiful fall day in Michigan, continuing to stay safe by social distancing and following safe health practices, than to tour the countryside under two-wheel power?

The 11th annual Ride for the Rails: The Iron Horse Tour, sponsored by the National Railroad Memorial, Inc. (NRMI), will be held rain or shine on Saturday, Sept. 19.

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The Ride for the Rails: The Iron Horse Tour, sponsored by the National Railroad Memorial, Inc. (NRMI), will be held rain or shine on Saturday, Sept. 19. The tour is a wonderful recreational ride through scenic Shiawassee County. All proceeds raised will be used to help preserve the rail treasures of Iron Horse Park, a short-term project undertaken by NRMI.

Registration is at 8 a.m. outside at Iron Horse Park in downtown Durand (next to Durand’s iron horse – Engine 5632) on Sept. 19. The park is located next to the Durand Fire Hall on Clinton Street in Durand.

All riders will leave by 10 a.m. There will be 16-, 32-, 56- and 100-mile routes available with maps, marked routes and designated rest stops provided. Sag vehicles will be on all routes until about 4 p.m. The ride costs $20 per person or $45 per family (three or more in a group) on the day of the event.

Of course, the ride will be conducted in accordance with the governor’s executive orders, keeping everyone safe from COVID-19. NRMI is a member of the League of Michigan Bicyclists and participates in their $1 a ride program. Contact NRMI to request more information and registration materials via email, at janbro1@charter.net, or by calling (989) 249-3603.

The National Railroad Memorial, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation organized as a 501(C)(3). The group’s mission is to honor the men and women of the railroad industry by educating the public as to the importance of their roles in our nation’s past, present, and future. NRMI is partnering with the city of Durand to honor these individuals by building a national railroad memorial as the centerpiece of Diamond District Park in downtown Durand.

State of Emergency Extended

Governor Gretchen Whitmer took further action recently to protect the health and safety of Michiganders by extending the State of Emergency until Oct. 1, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. Executive Order 2020-177 will allow the state to continue to mobilize resources and take the reasonable and necessary steps to protect Michiganders and their families.

“Last week, Michigan surpassed 100,000 cases and families continue to lose loved ones to COVID-19. With over 6,500 deaths, the virus continues to threaten the lives of Michiganders every day. COVID-19 is a novel virus with many unknowns, but we do know that it is widespread, it is easily transmitted and its effects can be fatal. We must continue to take this seriously and do everything we can to protect ourselves and all Michiganders from COVID-19,” said Gov. Whitmer. “By extending the state of emergency, we can continue the crucial work needed to save lives. Since March, I have been committed to using every tool at my disposal to protect families, frontline workers and our economy from the threat of COVID-19. I urge Michiganders to do their part by wearing a mask, practicing physical distancing and staying safe and smart.”

In early August, every region in Michigan saw an uptick in new cases, which recently put Michigan past the 100,000 COVID-19 cases mark. The state’s percent positivity remains below the national average: in Michigan, 3.3 percent of all COVID-19 tests administered were positive.
The Shiawassee Arts Center (SAC) will be featuring a new exhibit of work by artists Linda Beeman of Owosso with Lynita Shimizu of Ashford, CT, members of the Shiawassee Artists’ Guild and Pooh Stevenson of Owosso. The exhibit, which opened Wednesday, Sept. 9 and runs through Thursday, Nov. 8, is sponsored in honor of the William Burk Family. The public is welcome to attend the reception with the artists to enjoy good food and drinks on Sunday, Oct. 25 from 1 to 3 p.m. Members will receive 20 percent off one featured artist item during the opening reception only.

Friends for over a decade, artists Linda Beeman and Lynita Shimizu combine their love of Mokuhanga (Japanese woodblock print) in this exciting exhibit. Beeman says that the spiritual connection that she finds in the creation of her work is deeply personal and important. Her thoughts are toward peace, reclamation and protection. The emotional, physical and spiritual energy she uses to create a print somehow becomes embedded within it to reveal the heart and spirit of a location. Although Shimizu’s subject matter varies, her goal remains to create images with strength, spirit and clarity. In a world of challenges, the process of creating a woodblock print provides a peaceful and safe haven. She is so grateful to be a woodblock printmaker and hopes some of the joy this brings her, touches others.

The Shiawassee Artists’ Guild is a group of mid-Michigan artists working in varied art media: painting in oils, acrylics, mixed media, watercolors and pastels, drawing, pen and ink, photography, printmaking, pottery, ceramic sculpture, jewelry making, collage – the list goes on. This year’s exhibit, “Doors and Windows,” will feature thirteen SAG artists – Debbie Auble, Dan Chrenka, Marie Gougeon, Linda Justice, Jann Lardie, Susan McGuire, Regina Moskal, Sue Newcom, Nancy Parrish, Linda Ruehle, Jennifer Ross, Pooh Stevenson (right) is a photographer participating in the new SAC exhibit in downtown Owosso. Stevenson prefers working with natural light and her subject matter is often directly connected to rural life – particularly farming and gardening. She also enjoys working with portraiture.

LYNITA SHIMIZU of Ashford, CT, is a longtime friend of Beeman and a passionately talented Mokuhanga artist, as well. This print, called “Joy In the Mountains,” highlights Shimizu’s ability to create layers of texture in her works, along with a geometric aesthetic. If the viewer looks closely, the word “Joy” can be found, tucked inside the landscape.

POOH STEVENSON

For PerryFest info, log onto www.perry.mi.us (follow PerryFest link), call 517-625-6155 Ext. 235 or email events@perry.mi.us.

Voluntary Parade Ride: Noon $10 per bike – Ride-In Only
Bike Judging: 2pm followed with trophy presentation
To preregister or for more info, contact Daisey, 517-819-2581
Vendor Space Available $15 for 10’x10’ Space
Vendors Please Email Daisey@guiltygirlzrc.org

City Hall Festival Grounds
 Registration: 10-11:30am
203 W. Polly St.
2740 W. Lansing Rd., Perry
517-625-4278
ELSESSERAUTO.COM

The Shiawassee Arts Center (SAC) will be featuring a new exhibit of work by artists Linda Beeman of Owosso with Lynita Shimizu of Ashford, CT, members of the Shiawassee Artists’ Guild and Pooh Stevenson of Owosso. The exhibit, which opened Wednesday, Sept. 9 and runs through Thursday, Nov. 8, is sponsored in honor of the William Burk Family. The public is welcome to attend the reception with the artists to enjoy good food and drinks on Sunday, Oct. 25 from 1 to 3 p.m. Members will receive 20 percent off one featured artist item during the opening reception only.

Friends for over a decade, artists Linda Beeman and Lynita Shimizu combine their love of Mokuhanga (Japanese woodblock print) in this exciting exhibit. Beeman says that the spiritual connection that she finds in the creation of her work is deeply personal and important. Her thoughts are toward peace, reclamation and protection. The emotional, physical and spiritual energy she uses to create a print somehow becomes embedded within it to reveal the heart and spirit of a location. Although Shimizu’s subject matter varies, her goal remains to create images with strength, spirit and clarity. In a world of challenges, the process of creating a woodblock print provides a peaceful and safe haven. She is so grateful to be a woodblock printmaker and hopes some of the joy this brings her, touches others.

The Shiawassee Artists’ Guild is a group of mid-Michigan artists working in varied art media: painting in oils, acrylics, mixed media, watercolors and pastels, drawing, pen and ink, photography, printmaking, pottery, ceramic sculpture, jewelry making, collage – the list goes on. This year’s exhibit, “Doors and Windows,” will feature thirteen SAG artists – Debbie Auble, Dan Chrenka, Marie Gougeon, Linda Justice, Jann Lardie, Susan McGuire, Regina Moskal, Sue Newcom, Nancy Parrish, Linda Ruehle, Jennifer Ross, Pooh Stevenson (right) is a photographer participating in the new SAC exhibit in downtown Owosso. Stevenson prefers working with natural light and her subject matter is often directly connected to rural life – particularly farming and gardening. She also enjoys working with portraiture.

LINDA BEEMAN of Owosso is one of the featured artists at the new Shiawassee Arts Center (SAC) exhibit that opened earlier in the week. Beeman specializes in creating Mokuhanga prints – a centuries old Japanese woodblock print method. Beeman has a flair for capturing the fundamental impact of natural subject matter in her pieces, demonstrating a passion for the environment and a respect for the natural world. Her work has a tactile element as well, sometimes including raw paper edges as part of the design.

(Independent Photos/Karen Mead-Elford)
MEMBERS OF THE SHAIAWASSEE ARTISTS’ Guild (SAG) are well represented in the new SAC exhibit. Shown with some of their pieces are Jennifer Ross, Jann Lardie and Regina Moskal. (Independent Photos/Karen Mead-Elford)

SAC Offers Exciting  Continued from Page 6
Linda VanCise and Barbara Walworth.

Pooh Stevenson specializes in natural light, fine art photography, dramatic light portrait work and natural styled images. Her photography journey began with a Minolta 35mm film camera in college, switching to digital in 2007. What began as a project in documenting the farm season has become a passion in capturing the simple beauty and physical complexity of her farm life. Stevenson’s art is about seeing the natural world around her, in the tiny details of a robin’s nest to the vast expanse of a cloud filled garlic field.

The Shiawassee Arts Center, located at 206 Curwood Castle Dr. in Owosso, is open Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. The arts center features the artwork of local and statewide artists in eight galleries including the Frieseke Gallery and a specialty gift shop. The public is welcome and there is no admission charge. SAC, which is celebrating its 48th anniversary in 2020, is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to encourage participation and appreciation of the arts. For more information, call (989) 723-8354 or visit www.shiawasseearts.org.
Independent Editor,

Two years ago, I took a giant leap in my life and decided to once again be DNA tested. The last time was in 2005 at U of M by my employer health insurance and I was never given the results. This time, I used my own money and started with FTDNA. Results came back that I was 99 percent European and no trace of African blood. I was six months behind. I started to look at the results again. A cousin contacted me and this was when I became interested in what I saw. This prompted me for my full MTDNA. It came back that I’m from the Iberian Peninsula and my haplogroup is H1b6. Some things I can’t write about as each person will have a different journey.

My second great-grandfather, George Albert Huntoon, and his wife, Jennie Herrick, are buried in Middletown Township Cemetery. As my family knew nothing but that he owned all of the land in the township and it was sold, I had to know what happened in the past. Jennie Herrick’s parents were Nathan Herrick (1819-1886) and Sylvia Doane. The Herrick family was known here in Owosso. But contacting the Herrick genealogist was a different matter. The family branch of Herrick who I contacted and met with was Nathan Herrick’s mother is Marianne Kingsley. The Kingsleys and Herricks had willed the land to the family to never be sold, but somehow it was. When my grandfather George Albert Huntoon died in 1925, the land was sold.

Continued on Page 9

VILLAGE OF GAINEs

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 SYNOPSIS

Council Members Present: Emily Alexander, Christopher Crawford, Carol Erickson, Barbara Ferris, Diane Nowak, President Samuel Stiff, Clerk Vicky Sandlin

Absent: Melissa Neal

The following actions were taken:

• Approval of August 12, 2020 Regular Council Meeting minutes

TOWNSHIP OF WOODHULL

Meadows are recorded

3715 Beard Rd., Perry MI 48872, Shiawassee County, MI

September 2, 2020

Opening

The regular meeting of the Woodhull Township was called to order at 7 p.m. on September 2, 2020 at Woodhull Town Hall by Supervisor Nickols.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Roll Call

Supervisor Nickols, Clerk Winans, Treasurer Slee, Trustee Betts and Trustee Jelenek were present.

Declarations of Conflicts

The minutes were presented and motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes August 5, 2020 – Trustee Jelenek moved and supported by Trustee Betts to approve the minutes for the month of August 5, 2020. All ayes. Motion carried.

Board Comments and Reports

• Treasurer Slee – Financial Report: Slee reported financial update for the month of August 2020, there was a .322% 111-260E General Savings, $190,731.94 in General Checking, and $274,234.31 in Specific Tax Account, $37,633.96 in Park Authority Millage Fund, $75,699.62 in Cemetery Fund. 3 CD’s totaling $218,885.51. Subject to audit.

• Clerk Winans – Clerk Winans’s office hours have changed a bit to 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Monday to Thursday and afternoons by appointment. The November General Election is fast approaching and our office is accepting absentee voting applications. Absentee ballots will be sent out around September 26 once our office receives them. We have a high turnout of absentee voters, we will be looking to hire 2-3 election assistants to help our office with the extra workload. An election commission meeting will be held once more information is available.

• Committee Reports:

Roll call. No update.

Supervisor Nickols – Supervisor Nickols moved and supported by Trustee Betts to approve the agenda with additions to decision items 9-11. Bank Depository and 9-1 Budget Amendment for Education Expenses. All ayes. Motion carried.

Call to Public was opened at 7:23 p.m.; closed at 7:31 p.m.

Approval of the bills in the amount of $2,339.47 using checks #’s 27173 thru 27186.

Trustee Betts moved and Trustee Jelenek supported to pay the Sept. 2020 bills as presented. Roll call vote was taken. Nickols, yes; Slee, no; Betts, yes; Jelenek, yes; Winans, yes; Motion carried.

Approval Laptop Agreement:

Trustee Jelenek moved and supported by Trustee Betts to approve the laptop agreement between Woodhull Town and the employee using the laptop computer. Roll call vote taken. Jelenek, yes; Winans, yes; Betts, yes; Nickols, yes; Slee, no. Motion carried.

Approval verbiage change on Electronic Communications Policy:

Trustee Jelenek moved and supported by Clerk Winans to change the verbiage on the Electronic Communications policy to include both the Supervisor and Clerk for password safekeeping. All ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer Slee – Presentation from Supervisor Nickols and Clerk Winans: Supervisor Nickols moved and supported by Clerk Winans to recommend the adoption of FOIA email fee of $5.00

Roll call vote taken. Nickols, yes; Slee, no; Betts, yes; Jelenek, yes; Winans, yes; Motion carried.

Roll call vote taken. Nickols, yes; Slee, no; Betts, yes; Jelenek, yes; Winans, yes; Motion carried.

Approval for renewal of ambulance assessment:

Roll call vote taken. Nickols, yes; Slee, no; Betts, yes; Jelenek, yes; Winans, yes; Motion carried.

Roll call vote taken. Nickols, yes; Slee, no; Betts, yes; Jelenek, yes; Winans, yes; Motion carried.

Approval Laptop Agreement:

Clerk Winans moved and Treasurer Slee supported to approve certification of the L-4029.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Bank Depository:

Trustee Jelenek moved and supported by Trustee Betts the Bank Depository Designation Resolution. All ayes. Motion carried.

Budget Amendment:

Trustee Jelenek moved and supported by Trustee Betts the budget to bid of $2,550.00 for B&SA training. Roll call vote taken. Nickols, yes; Betts, yes; Jelenek, yes; Slee, yes; Winans, yes; Nickols, yes; Slee, yes; Betts, yes; Jelenek, yes; Winans, yes; Motion carried.

Supervisor Nickols moved and Trustee Jelenek supported the Cost Center move of $3,000.00 from 101-265-975 to 101-253-960 for training to be completed in September. Roll call vote taken. Betts, yes; Slee, yes; Jelenek, yes; Winans, yes; Motion carried.

Meeting date and time to spread levy for ambulance assessment: Supervisor Nickols moved and Trustee Jelenek supported the October 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. meeting to spread the levy for the ambulance assessment.

Roll call vote taken. Nickols, yes; Slee, yes; Betts, yes; Jelenek, yes; Winans, yes; Motion carried.

Roll call vote taken. Nickols, yes; Slee, yes; Betts, yes; Jelenek, yes; Winans, yes; Motion carried.

L-4029 tax rate form - approve certification: Clerk Winans moved and Treasurer Slee supported to approve certification of the L-4029.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Adjournment at 8:35 pm.

Call to Public was opened at 8:41 p.m. and closed at 8:54 p.m.

Public Comments:

Clerk Winans, yes; Slee, no; Betts, yes; Jelenek, yes; Winans, yes; Motion carried.

Public Comment for request of MTA pages and Attorney response of FOIA fee with pictures of documents taken by resident.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Sandy Winans, Clerk

Approved

TOWNSHIP OF WOODHULL

Call to Public was opened at 8:41 p.m. and closed at 8:54 p.m.

Public Comments:

Clerk Winans, yes; Slee, no; Betts, yes; Jelenek, yes; Winans, yes; Motion carried.

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Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Sandy Winans, Clerk

Approved
Letters to the Editor  Continued from Page 8

This family branch is one of the branches that connect to nearly everyone and to every piece of history. But wait, I have a southern branch also. This branch started in Virginia at the founding of the United States. These family lines are harder to find. My tree is on Ancestry.com as the Bethel Family Tree that is linked to my DNA.

With my dad’s permission, I had his DNA tested and he is 100 percent European. It confirms his Czech heritage and one of the oldest DNA lines that exist.

Please have your DNA tested to see if we are related. Do it for your country. Do it for Alfred Day Hershey, as he was honored here in Owosso.

Teresa Skaryd, Owosso

Independent Editor.

The Arc of Mid-Michigan is a nonprofit organization that has been serving individuals with developmental disabilities and their families for 64 years in Shiawassee County. 2020 has shown us how strong our community is, and has given us many reasons for which we are very thankful.

The Arc of Mid-Michigan would like to express our gratitude towards Matt Vondrasek and Paul Davis Restoration for much needed restoration and water damage work at Tobey House, with developmental disabilities to live in their own apartment in Shiawassee County. 2020 has been a year where The Arc Mid-Michigan exists - for The Arc.

In addition, we launched a can drive fundraiser during the summer of 2020, and were so grateful to have so many individuals in the community, along with so many businesses participate. We raised $7980. We want to thank the United Way, Main Beverage, The Knights of Columbus, Curwood Storage and A-1 Mobile Storage for helping to make it such a success, and all of the individuals who came out to help sort cans and bottles during the three-month fundraiser.

We would like to thank the Cook Family Foundation, The Capital Area Community Foundation, Shiawassee Community Foundation, Genesee United Way, Delta Dental and all of the local businesses and families who have helped to keep us open during this difficult time. The Arc Mid-Michigan is an essential business and we have remained open, but we could not have done it without the support of so many community partners not only from Shiawassee County but from surrounding areas.

The organization has changed all of our programs to virtual options, so we are still offering options to our participants, they just look different. We appreciate the support we have received throughout the year from our fantastic community, and the flexibility shown by our members. The Arc Mid-Michigan exists - for The Arc.

The Arc of Mid-Michigan

CITY OF DURAND

AMENDMENTS TO CODE OF ORDINANCES
ORDINANCE NO. 2020-08-03

AN ORDNANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF DURAND, MICHIGAN BY ADDING ARTICLE V – ORY TO CHAPTER 74, AND DEFINE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS WITHIN THE CODE TO BE MUNICIPAL CIVIL INFRACTIONS. SHORT TITLE; PURPOSES; AMENDMENTS; EFFECTIVE DATE.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DURAND HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Short Title. This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the “On-Street ORY Ordinance”.

Purpose. The purpose of this Ordinance is to create Article V of Chapter 74 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Durand. This new Article is adopted for the purpose of authorizing and regulating the operation of Off Road Vehicles (ORYs) on the roads and highways of the City of Durand, and for the purpose of providing penalties for the violation thereof.

Amendments. The code of the City of Durand is here amended to include:

ARTICLE V – ORY

DIVISION 1 - GENERALLY

Section 74-200 – Definitions

Section 74-201 - Operating Rules.

Section 74-202 – Careless or Reckless Operation

Section 74-203 – License Requirement

Section 74-204 – Notice of Accident

Section 74-205 – Penalties

Effective Date. This Ordinance and the rules, provisions, orders and matters established and adopted hereby shall take effect and be in full force and effect fifteen (15) days from and after the date of its final passage and adoption.

The city council held a special meeting of the Durand City Council held on August 31, 2020.

Lisa David, City Clerk

NOTICE OF AMBULANCE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT

To all residents & property owners of Woodhull Township, Shiawassee County: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT ON October 7, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., there will be a PUBLIC HEARING at the Woodhull Township Hall located at 7315 W. Beard Rd, Perry, MI, to consider the renewal of the Ambulance Special Assessment for all of Woodhull Township District and to consider cost and expense estimates of the ambulance service to defray the costs thereof by Special Assessment against residential households and businesses within said areas in Woodhull Township. Written objections may be filed with said Board at or prior to the time of hearing as well as any revisions, corrections, amendments and/or suggestions. All interested persons are invited to be present and submit comments.

Sandy Winans, Woodhull Twp Clerk

State of Emergency  Continued from Page 5

whereas nationally it was 6.1 percent. Additionally, Michigan has a considerably lower percent positivity than surrounding states.

The science continues to show that this virus can affect everyone, including children. In fact, in an alarming trend, both nationwide and here in Michigan, younger people have constituted a growing share of new cases. In order to protect public health, everyone must continue to do their part to fight COVID-19 by wearing a mask, staying physically distant and limiting large social gatherings under the governor's orders.

COVID-19 is widespread, easily transmitted by airborne particles and potentially fatal. That lethal combination, along with ongoing uncertainty about how to defeat it, means that the health, economic and social harms of the COVID-19 pandemic remain severe and affect every corner of this state. The COVID-19 pandemic therefore constitutes a statewide emergency and disaster.

Two Free Live Concerts!

Dave & Daphne

Sponsored by Owosso First Church of God

Saturday, Sept. 12 • 7 p.m.

“Classic Country/Pop Songs”

Mitchell Amphitheater • Owosso

Bring a Chair or Blanket

Sunday, Sept. 13 • 10:30 a.m.

“God’s Country & Gospel Music”

Owosso First Church of God

2100 N. M-52, Owosso

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Matthew Grubb, Agent

1026 E. Main Street

Owosso, MI 48867

Bus: 989-725-8300

matt.grubb.hqba@statefarm.com

State Farm

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Sandy Winans, Woodhull Twp Clerk
075 Garage Sales
COMMUNITY WIDE YARD Sales in the City of Perry Sept. 18th-20th 9 AM-5 PM Sale Maps Available at All Sale Locations.

076 Moving Sales
MOVING SALE
1000 E. King, Corunna Sept. 17-18 9am-4pm Paddle boat, treadmill, complete household. 810-348-4208 Cash Only.

105 Auctions
2 ESTATES
P. Kerslake & H. Burns ONLINE AUCTION
Fully furnished Garden Apartment & Home featuring New Furniture, Bedroom sets, Extend-a-matic Table, 1800s Pump Organ, Shirley Temple doll, Antiques, Silver Tea set, China, Crystal. More! PREVIEW: Sat., Sept. 12, 11:00am-3:00pm Grosse Pointe Farms 810.266.6474 BID ONLINE Sept. 10-14 NarhiAUCTIONS.com.

110 Building / Home Imp.
BRAD’S HOME IMPROVEMENT
• Roofing
• Siding
• Decks
• Licensed & Insured
• FREE ESTIMATES
For all of your Home Improvement needs. 989-725-2975

125 Trees / Stump Service
DRIMBY’S TREE SERVICES 989-666-3620 YouTube “Living Our American Dream #114”. Check out our video!

127 Trees / Stump Service
RPL FORESTRY

165 Misc. Services

170 Help Wanted
SUPERIOR PAINTING & DRYWALL 25 Years Experience FREE ESTIMATES Robert Gos 989-288-5307

170 Help Wanted
BLAINE TRASH REMOVAL House clean outs, pole barns, garages, yard work, estates, commercial buildings, mobile homes. Plus tear down of small buildings & mobile homes. We do all the work! Call Jay (517) 980-0468.

170 Help Wanted
AUTOMOTIVE MACHINE SHOP
Full Time Help Wanted. Apply at Reichert Engines 203 S. Gould St. Owosso, MI Bring resume with references NO phone calls.

170 Help Wanted
FULL TIME NURSE AIDS WANTED to work with the elderly. Med passers starting at $15.00/hr. Direct care giver starting at $12/hr. 401K with employer match. For more information call 517-625-5650, ext. 3.

170 Help Wanted
LAWN FOREMAN LANDMARK Landscapes is looking for a Lawn foreman and crew members in both our Landscaping and Lawn divisions. Starting rate is $14 per hour or based on experience. Full time positions, paid vacation and sick time, with opportunity to grow within our business. We are willing to train the right individuals. Please call: LandMark Landscapes Inc. 9576 Old M-78 Haslett 48840 517-339-7577

Place Your Garage Sale in our classifieds section.

"Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"
~ Mary Oliver

Our advertisers bring this issue of The Independent to you!
The Shiawassee Family YMCA is excited to announce that we will open the doors to our members back to the facility,” said CEO Laura Archer. “Our team is eager to see your smiling faces once again and have been working incredibly hard to make sure we provide you with the most care and precautions possible as you prepare to re-join us.

“We have been closed for 181 days and while we have continued to serve the community through blood drives, food distribution and more, we can’t wait to welcome our members back to the facility,” said CEO Laura Archer. “Our team is eager to see your smiling faces once again and have been working incredibly hard to make sure we provide you with the most care and precautions possible as you prepare to re-join us.

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“Submitting Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor may be hand delivered to the Independent Newsgroup at 1907 W. M-21, Owosso (approx. ¼ mile west of Cleveland Ave.) or mailed to 112 W. Clinton St., Durand 48429. Letters may also be emailed at news@owossoindependent.com.

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