The Basics of Four Years of Shiawassee County Audit Delinquencies
by Karen Mead-Ellford, co-editor

Shiawassee County received a delinquency notice in August from the Michigan Department of Treasury primarily because the 2019 audit had not been submitted in time.

The county has established a history of late audits for four consecutive years, starting in 2016. County finance and audit information is available on the website at www.shiawassee.net through 2018 for reference and review.

An audit is a formal examination of financial statements to compare accurate representations of transactions—and though there are different types of audits, the county uses an external auditing source. For the 2019 delinquent audit, the county used Rehmann, the same accounting source used by the city of Owosso, for comparison, though municipal and county budgets do differ.

The 2019 audit deadline was originally June 30. It was extended to the end of July. The second July deadline was not met. Chairman Jeremy Root had not responded to an email request by Thursday press day.

The 2019 audit deadline was originally set up to address the delinquent audit. The Shiawassee County Board of Commissioners will meet for committee meetings starting Monday, Oct. 19 with the board meeting on Thursday, Oct. 22. Agendas are generally available on the website the Friday prior.

A review of recent Shiawassee County audits discloses a number of similar (from year-to-year) noncompliance and deficiency issues. These issues have cost the county roughly a half million dollars, paid to an outside accounting firm, for a clean up process. Along with the noncompliance/deficiency problems show weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting—or issues to GAAP (generally accepted accounting principles). All government agencies are required to offer financial statements in accordance with GAAP. However, as stated within county auditing reports, “The County did not identify certain adjustments that were necessary for the financial statements to be presented in accordance with GAAP.”

The outcome being, financial information was “initially misstated by amounts that were deemed to be quantitatively material to most opinion units. Correcting entries were subsequently posted by management to the County’s records and the appropriate balances are presented in the audited financial statements.” It has been recommended to the county for an individual review of year-end balances in the general ledger minus one seat change when Commissioner John Horvath (District 2-D) died in March 2019.

Shiawassee County has been late completing the county audit for four consecutive years, Shiawassee County Coordinator Dr. Brian Boggs responded for a request for information via email and was receptive to a phone call discussion.

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Our schools as laid out in the bipartisan safe school reopening

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County public health departments are already in regular con-

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long" and "what comes next" as citizens look to plan and take
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To meet this latter goal, there will be a critical ongoing re-
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and possess long-standing relationships with community part-

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From early July. This has

and other nonprofit and community partners. I have spoken
with representatives from many of these entities and they are
ready to help in any way possible in providing ongoing support
to ensure safe and sensible practices based on the best available
public health data.

We have the testing capacity and contact tracing ability needed
to quickly identify and contain outbreaks. We also have needed
protective equipment inventories and robust hospital capacity
throughout mid-Michigan. We must remain prudent and keep the
needs of vulnerable people at the forefront of our minds. I will be
an active and constructive voice in this process as I push to see our communities
further empowered to help keep people safe in the days ahead.

Ben Frederick, State Representative, 85th District

MDHHS Issues Emergency Order Requiring
Schools to Issue Public Notification of
Probable and Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
Director Robert Gordon issued an emergency order requiring
K-12 schools to provide public notice to the school community
about probable and confirmed cases of COVID-19 within 24 hours.

The order requires local health departments to notify
schools within 24 hours of learning of a probable or con-

confirmed school-associated case of COVID-19. Upon notifica-
tion, schools must provide public notification on a highly vis-

and individuals can take to prevent transmission.

“Recent outbreaks throughout the country demonstrate that
COVID-19 can spread quickly in the school setting,” said
Gordon. “Timely communication from schools to parents,
guardians, students, teachers, staff and other persons affiliat-
ed with schools enables members of the school community
to take measures to prevent spread of the virus.”

In addition to the public notice, local health departments
will continue to provide direct notification to individuals
who are, or are suspected of, being a close contact of school-
associated case.

This order goes into effect on Monday, Oct. 12. Information
about school outbreaks is available at Michigan.gov/
Coronavirus.

Owosso Poll Workers Still Needed

Owosso is still in need of poll workers. As of Monday, Oct. 5, the city of Owosso had received 2,600 absentee ballots
and is expecting far more prior to Election Day. Only 1,900
total absentee ballots were submitted in 2018.

If interested in serving as a poll worker for the city of Owosso,
please contact Owosso City Hall for details. Polls will be open
on Tuesday, Nov. 3 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. for all elections
in Michigan.

County Offices Closed for Columbus Day

Shiawassee County Clerk Caroline Wilson has announced
that the Shiawassee County Courthouse and all county offices
will be closed on Monday, Oct. 12 in observance of Columbus
Day. Offices will resume regular business hours on Tuesday,
Oct. 13, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Offices in the Courthouse include 35th Judicial Circuit
Court, Friend of the Court, County Clerk, Register of Deeds,
Equalization and Treasurer.

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MARK DAVID LATUNSKI, 51, of Bennington Township, was found competent to stand trial on Monday, Oct. 5 in 66th District Court by the Honorable Ward Clarkson. The defendant was arrested on Dec. 28, 2019 for the murder of Kevin Bacon, 25, of Swartz Creek. Bacon was found deceased by police in the early morning hours of Dec. 28 at the defendant’s residence, 703 W. Tyrrell Rd. in Bennington Township, located between Gale and Morrice roads.

The defendant has been charged with one felony count of open murder, which carries a maximum sentence of life in prison with no parole, and one felony count of mutilating a dead body, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and/or a $5,000 fine.

The defendant entered a not guilty plea by reason of insanity in January and was deemed unfit to stand trial in February. He was initially housed in the Shiawassee County Jail before being transferred to the Michigan Center for Forensic Psychiatry in York Charter Township, south of Ann Arbor, in July. The defendant was moved to the state psychiatric facility for treatment to regain competency.

Democratic Candidate for 85th District Rep Announces Endorsements

Andrea Kelly Garrison, Democratic candidate for State Representative in District 85 (Shiawassee and Saginaw counties), has announced her endorsements for the State Representative position to date.

Ms. Kelly Garrison has been endorsed by the following political officers (past and present): Jennifer Granholm, Michigan’s 47th governor; Jim Blanchard, Michigan’s 45th governor; Bob King, former UAW president; Michelle Deatrich, chair, DNC Council on the Environment and Climate Crisis; Bus Spaniola, former State Representative for 85th District; and Saginaw and Shiawassee Democratic parties.

The member and organizational endorsements Ms. Kelly Garrison has received include: UAW Region 1D; I.B.E.W. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Local #557 of Saginaw County; Local #948 of Shiawassee County; Michigan Nurses Association; Michigan Rural Caucus; American Federation of Teachers of Michigan (AFT); Michigan Education Association (MEA); Planned Parenthood of Michigan; Michigan’s Progressive Our Revolution.

And most recently, Ms. Kelly Garrison has been endorsed by current U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, who said, “I strongly support Andrea’s candidacy for State Representative. Her perspective is important as a community and economic development leader. Her business background and passion for the environment will make her a strong representative for Shiawassee and Saginaw counties.”

For more information, contact Andrea Kelly Garrison at (734) 255-7768 or at www.pivotback.com/endorsements.

Letters to the Editor

Independent Editor,
The Middlebury Township Board is about as underhanded as you can get. Not too many people attend the meetings, so they think they can do as they please. Why does the supervisor let the board dictate to him how things should be run? This “Harper Valley PTA” syndrome they have is shameful.

Here’s the reason some people are so upset. A good and decent man, Gary Kiger, was on the primary ballot to run for trustee. He’s been on the board for a while. Dick Semans, another trustee, resigned because he was moving and put an ad in the paper to state that people should not vote for him because he was leaving. Well, guess what? Our friend, Gary Kiger, got left off the ballot for November and Dick Semans is on the ballot. Someone gave the wrong information to the county clerk and I don’t believe it was an accident. So, Middlebury Township, please vote in Gary Kiger for trustee and not Mr. Semans.

Middlebury Township, the dirty little games you’re playing will get you into trouble. Can you afford that?

Sincerely,
Wynoma Chalker, Owosso

Independent Editor,
The undersigned Woodhull Township residents support the re-election of Kay Nichols for Woodhull Township Supervisor.

Kay has worked very hard for the township and has had transparency for the position. She has been available to the taxpayers and led a board that has worked together to improve roads, had new technology brought to the offices and made improvements in the hall and annex. Her leadership has preserved financial resources and written policies to bring responsible governance.

She currently serves on the Shiawassee County 911 Board and has served on other county boards including the health board for 10 years, the zoning board of appeals for eight years and a county commissioner.

And she is running as a Democrat, so remember you can “split your ballot in November.”

Sincerely,
Sandy Winans, Tom Jelenek, Rick Betts, Maggie Galilei, Carol Maize, Judith A. Raymond, Pamela S. Wagner and Janis K. Carr

YMCA to Hold Drive-Thru Food Distribution

The Shiawassee Family YMCA, in conjunction with the Greater Lansing Food Bank, will host a drive-thru mobile food distribution for all Shiawassee County residents on Saturday, Oct. 17. Vehicles can begin lining up for registration at 8 a.m., and distribution will be from 9 to 11 a.m. (or until food is distributed). The Shiawassee County YMCA is located at 515 W. Main St. in Owosso.

This food distribution is open to anyone living in Shiawassee County who is experiencing financial hardship and is in need of food, especially due to the pandemic, families/individuals who have recently lost jobs and senior citizens on fixed incomes.

Participants must bring proof of residency – either a government-issued ID or mail with a current address. Those picking up food are asked to please stay in their vehicle for registration and food distribution. Food will be placed in the trunk/hatchback, so please make room. Restrooms will not be available. Anyone with any symptoms of COVID-19 is asked please
The following information was provided directly from the individual candidates running for Owosso City Council. Information was edited for clarity. All candidates running were contacted.

**Mike Cline**

Mike Cline has announced he is running for Owosso City Council “for many reasons.” He has worked and lived in the city all of his life and believes “Owosso is going down hill. Example: just look at the Matthew’s Building. Is this what we want people to see who want to buy our homes or shop in the downtown? Look at the houses that have couches between the curb and sidewalk. This is a result of city hall/city council not doing their jobs. City hall is broken and I am the one who will fix it then.”

Cline explained he thinks when it comes to jobs, the city has Justin Horvath of SEDP and city of Owosso tax payers are paying a special tax to pay his salary. “My specialty will be to resolve citizens complaints, whether they call me or come to a council meeting – their questions and issues will get resolved. I will always vote no on any tax rate increases and will never approve to put something in your neighborhood that I would not want mine. The four years I served previously on council between 2004 and 2009, I was the council member to never be late or miss a meeting. I would appreciate your vote.”

**Richard Leviitski III**

Richard Leviitski III is running for Owosso City Council. He shared via email he has “been a citizen of Owosso his whole life, growing up “out past the Sunoco tanks” on M-21. His first employment positions were in Owosso, and once he left, he was eager to return.

He has been involved in community organizations such as the downtown Owosso Masonic Lodge.

“When the opportunity arose for me to help the people of Owosso by representing them on city council, I stepped forward. It’s something I’ve been talking about for a while and I figured I could probably put my money where my mouth is. Beyond that, I think I can do a halfway decent job,” Leviitski stated. “There’s a saying that goes around a lot of the old military and survivalist types, “Rule 303,” doesn’t have a pretty origin, but it basically boils down to “if I have the means to do something, then I have the responsibility to.”

“I believe that I can do a good job helping the people of Owosso, and therefore, I have the responsibility to,” he said.

**Susan J. Osika**

Susan J. Osika is running for Owosso City Council. Osika is 64. Her government experience includes serving as Owosso Mayor Pro Tem from 2016 to present, serving as a board member on Owosso Main Street/DDA, a commissioner on the Owosso Historical Commission, a member of Owosso Main Street Promotions and a sub-committee member with Owosso streetscape and beautification.

Osika is retired after 40 years of working in the business and nonprofit sector. She is a Corunna High School graduate with a Bachelor of Business Administration from Baker College. She shared, “My candidacy is based on a foundation of civic engagement. Throughout my career, I have focused on positions that support and promote our community. I learned early on that my success is tied to the success of others. Finding ways to partner with other organizations, through volunteerism or promotion, leads to success for all. I present my proven record of leadership, fiscal responsibility, problem solving, and years of council experience, as qualifications for consideration. I have been honored to serve as a Council Member for the City of Owosso. If relected, I look forward to facing new challenges while continuing the meaningful work of the City.”

“The survival of Owosso businesses is a major concern,” she said. “Not unlike other communities, the COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll. We must come together as a community to not only support our local businesses, but become ambassadors promoting our local commerce.”

**Robert J. Teich, Jr.**

Robert J. Teich, Jr. is running for Owosso City Council. He has previously been a city council member. Teich is 68, married to Kathy for 39 years and has three children that all attended Owosso Public Schools. He is a 1971 Owosso High Graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management from Olivet College. He is currently employed with CECO Environmental as the Regional Sales Manager. He and his wife own a business: The Storage Shed. Teich is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Owosso, Kiwanis Village (KVO) Board President, Shiawassee District Library Board Secretary and serves on the Owosso Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA).

“Owosso is in need of more housing, to grow the tax base and attract new businesses, which I will push for if elected,” said Teich.

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**The SafeCenter Plans**

Continued from Page 1

general donations have been down since the onset of COVID, and that’s a trend that’s kind of happening all over,” she shared. “Paper towels, cleaning supplies, paper products, personal need items – donations in general are down. We’ve had to limit any donations of personal belongings just because we don’t know where they are coming from and it’s too risky for my staff and clients. But household products, we need all of that. Then also, we need money.”

As many local nonprofits are aware, fundraising during a pandemic is extremely difficult. Since October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Gottschalk is eager to reach out to the public in a two-fold effort – creating a conscious awareness of domestic violence within the local community and also to ask the community for needed support. She is hopeful people will participate in the upcoming telethon fundraising effort. If people want to donate earlier, that is also welcome.

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**FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

**District 2 ★ City of Owosso**

Speak with Vulnerability - Listen with Compassion - Respond with Grace

As a resident of Owosso for the past seven years, the Executive Director of the Owosso Historical Commission for five years, and a former employee of the City of Owosso, I have completely immersed myself in the business of this community as an ambassador and a cheerleader.

**Accomplishments & Boards in the 2nd District:**

- The passage of a 1/2 million-dollar millage for Owosso Museums & Parks
- Major renovations of Owosso’s four museums
- $35,000 restoration of the 14 oil paintings in Curwood Castle
- Created a 501(c)3 non-profit – “Castle City Museums-The Owosso Historical Collection”
- Co-founded a 10-week music, arts and farmers market festival – “Castle Nights”
- With Downtown Owosso Farmers Market, co-founded the Moonlight Market
- Increased visitors at Curwood Castle and other museums by 300%
- Increased giving to the Owosso Historical Commission by 400%
- 2017 Owosso Main Street Volunteer of the Year Award
- Permanently opened and curated the Comstock Cabin and the Woodard Paymaster Bldg.
- Curated 5 major Historical Exhibitions
- Partnered with over 20 organizations & non-profits in Owosso
- Five years – Downtown Owosso Farmers Market Board
- Five years – Cook Family Foundation Nonprofit Capacity Building Program
- Four years – Shiawassee Convention and Visitor’s Bureau Board
- Four years – Ex Officio on the Downtown Owosso Main Street Board
- Two years – Owosso Amphitheater Board
- Two years – St. John’s Food Pantry Board

I have done a great deal of community service and listening over the past seven years and have developed a vision of how the 2nd District and our various Shiawassee County communities should work.
Garden Lane.

Honorable Mentions for July include the homes of Brad Martin, 340 Oak Park Drive; dentists who maintain their home and yard, thus generating “Perry Pride.”

The focus of the residential award is to recognize the excellence of residents who maintain their home and yard, thus generating “Perry Pride.”

Councilmember Mindy Galbavi (left) nominated and presented a commemorative plaque and gift certificates from Darling Hardware to the Middletons during the meeting.

Their names are also engraved on a larger plaque that is displayed in the Perry City Hall lobby.

The Agnew’s posted a request via Facebook asking for 250 more likes, in an attempt to reach a following of 6,000. They shared that since the 6,000 mark was met, they would follow through with the donated signs to the airport. The request was made in four days.

Shown on Wednesday, Oct. 7 at the Owosso Community Airport in front of one of the new signs is (left) Cory and Mark Agnew and OCA Airport Manager Garry Csapos. (Independent Photo/Karen Mead-Elford)

**Veterans Day Parade Hosted in Durand**

The 2020 Shiawassee County Veterans Day Parade will be hosted in downtown Durand. The city of Durand is extending an invitation to interested organizations to join them in celebrating and honoring veterans during the annual parade.

The parade will take place on Veterans Day (November 11) with step-off at 6 p.m. Parade staging will take place at the access road at Durand High School. Participants may park in the school lot. Line-up will begin at 5:15 p.m. and all participants should be in line by 5:30 p.m. to ensure a timely step-off.

To ensure a space in the parade, please contact the Durand City Clerk for an application. Immediately following the parade, the city of Durand Parks and Recreation Commission, along with the Reed-Raymond Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars will host a short ceremony to honor those men and women who serve or have previously served in the United States armed forces. Ceremonies will take place at Veterans Memorial Park at the intersection of Oakland and Saginaw Street.

Due to the evolving nature of the pandemic, this event may be subject to cancellation. The city of Durand Parks and Recreation Board will make a final determination whether any changes are necessary at the Wednesday, Oct. 14 meeting.

**Dewey’s Trading Post**

Mon.-Sat. 8am-7pm, Closed Sunday

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Prices Good for week of Oct. 12-17, 2020

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<tr>
<td>Koegel’s Pickled Bologna or Red Hots</td>
<td>$11.99/Jar</td>
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<td>Choice T-Bone Steaks</td>
<td>$7.99 lb.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boneless Pork Sirloin Chops</td>
<td>$1.99 lb.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whole “Select” New York Strips</td>
<td>$4.99 lb.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choice Boneless Chuck Roast</td>
<td>$4.49 lb.</td>
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<td>Fresh Breaded Pork Cutlets</td>
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<td>Fresh Whole Chicken Fryers</td>
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<td>Smoked Beef Salami</td>
<td>$4.99 lb.</td>
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<td>Boneless Rolled Pork Sirloin Roast</td>
<td>$1.99 lb.</td>
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<td>Fresh Brats</td>
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<td>Boneless Chuck Steak</td>
<td>$4.99 lb.</td>
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<td>OUR OWN Fresh Brats</td>
<td>$4.99 lb.</td>
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<td>3 Kinds Smoked Beef Salami</td>
<td>$4.99 lb.</td>
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<td>Fiesta Cheddar</td>
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<td>Beer-N-Cheddar</td>
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<td>OJ &amp; Sugar</td>
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<td>9 DIFFERENT MEAT BUNDLES “AVAILABLE”</td>
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<td><em>24 Hour Notice</em></td>
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<td>Equal Dollar Substitutions - Vacuum Packed For Your Family Size</td>
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**Stop In & Check Out Our “WIDE” Selection of Bulk Food Items**

From Snacks, Candies, Spices, Baking Supplies & Pastas

**Bulk Flour & Sugar 10% OFF**

Stop by and see our WEEKLY Specials!
Robert E. Heldreth II, 70, of Owosso, passed Monday, Oct. 5. There are no events scheduled.

Joseph G. Pierce, 70, of Corunna, passed Monday, Oct. 5. There will be no services at this time.

Bill W. Holtiﬁeld, 82, of Swartz Creek, passed Monday, Oct. 5. Graveside services were Friday, Oct. 9.

Jeanne M. (Miller) Alaga, 57, of Owosso, passed Tuesday, Oct. 6. A Mass of Christian burial will be at 11 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 10 at Holy Family Catholic Church, Ovid.

Births

A boy was born on Monday, Sept. 28 to Makayla Mills and Kierfer Dankert of Owosso.

A boy was born on Monday, Oct. 5 at 2:27 p.m. to Collin and Emily (Galabai) Demankowski of Owosso.

SOS Offering Priority License, ID Appointments

Secretary of State (SOS) Jocelyn Benson has announced that branch ofﬁces would offer priority driver’s license and state ID appointments from Monday, Oct. 5, through Monday, Nov. 2. The priority appointments, which will be available from 3 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, are for Michigan resi- dents who need to get a ﬁrst-time license or ID, replace (because of loss) a license or ID, or correct (because of a name change or other change) a license or ID.

To make an appointment, visit michigan.gov/SOS or call (888) 767-6424.

“These appointments will ensure customers get the new or replacement driver’s license or state ID they may need as soon as possible,” Benson said. “Prioritizing these appointments is another way we are ensuring continued service to Michigan residents during this pandemic.”

In addition to the priority appointment timeslots, accidents also can complete these ﬁrst-time, replacement or correction transactions, and other limited types of transactions, continued on Page 7

Death Notices

The following information was updated Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 7.

Gerald E. Richmond, 84, of Chesaning, passed Monday, Sept. 28. Funeral services will be at 3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 10 at Trinity United Methodist Church, Chesaning.

Elizabeth M. Rugg, 85, of Portage, formerly of Perry, passed Tuesday, Sept. 29. Graveside services were Tuesday, Oct. 6.

David “Mike” M. Lowe, 72, of Clarkston, Owosso and Georgia, passed Tuesday, Sept. 29. Funeral services were Monday, Oct. 5.

Nancy Buckton, 78, of Owosso, passed Wednesday, Sept. 30. Funeral services were Saturday, Oct. 3.

Esther L. Smith, 72, of Corunna, passed Wednesday, Sept. 30. Funeral services were Tuesday, Oct. 6.

Lorettta M. (Conley) Locke, 67, of Brant, passed Wednesday, Sept. 30. A Memorial Mass will be announced later.

Arthur J. Schroeder, 85, of Chesaning, passed Wednesday, Sept. 30. Memorial services will be at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 10 at Zion Lutheran Church, Chesaning.

Joseph Gary Pierce

Age 70, of Corunna passed away Monday, Oct. 5, 2020 at his home.

There will be no services at this time.

Joseph was born Sept. 9, 1950 in Grand Rapids, the son of Joseph Pierce and Rosemary (Thiebout) Becker. He graduated from Rockford High School. Joseph was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed being active, bike riding, ﬁshing, making things and ﬁxing things. Most of all, he looked forward to time spent with his children and grandchildren. Joseph will be remembered by his loved ones for his positive attitude, constant laugh and for seeing the bright side of any situation. Joseph loved driving bus locally and loved all of his bus kids. He also worked through the years driving truck and as a mechanic.

Joseph is survived by his children Brian Pierce, Jody Pierce and Beth Ann Pierce; grandchildren Stone and Levi Pierce, Macy and Avery Pierce, Henry, Marcus, Johnny, Lux and Saylor Schultz. He was predeceased by his parents Rosemary and William Becker and Joseph Pierce.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at Nelson-House.com.

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There will be no services at this time.

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Online condolences may be sent to the family at Nelson-House.com.
RESpite Volunteers of Shiawassee received some welcome assistance from DayStarr Communications when a group of employee/volunteers held a DayStarr Give Back Day. The volunteers helped with yard projects and clean up at the Respite location on W. King Street in Owosso and also two homes in Corunna.

The DayStarr volunteers were also helping at other nonprofits, including the Voices for Children Advocacy Center Shiawassee, DeVries Nature Conservancy, the SafeCenter and the Shiawassee Family YMCA.

SOS Offering

Continued from Page 6 using the next-day and advance appointment categories available through the online appointment system.

Each individual must make a separate appointment to ensure enough time is allotted for service. Appointments aren’t transferable to another customer. Duplicate appointments will be canceled.

MEMBERS OF THE Chesaning Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors celebrated the opening of Top Coat Nail Studio, a brand new business in Chesaning located at 805 W. Broad St., Unit 2. Owner Mariah Going was assisted by her family in formally launching the new business with a traditional Chamber ribbon-cutting on Monday, Oct. 5.

Going is also planning a grand opening celebration on Saturday, Oct. 17 at 3 p.m. featuring door prizes, vendors and treats. Top Coat Nail Studio is a full-service nail salon boasting two luxurious massage chairs for a relaxing pedicure experience. For more information or to make an appointment, call (989) 323-2279.

Showed during the ribbon-cutting is (from left): Jessie Stewart, Chamber board secretary; Kaiden O’Connor; Mariah Going and her father, Steve Castanon, sister, Randi O’Connor, and grandparents, Mickey and Dan Trevino; along with Greg Bruff, Chamber board president.

(Courtesy Photo)
HOMECOMING WEEK
October 19-23, 2020
Theme: COVID

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

10/5 (Mon) - Top 20 voting for senior court candidates, Top 5 vote for 9th – 11th. All voting is online.

10/7 (Wed) - Top 10 (5 girls & 5 boys) voting for senior court candidates & final Prince/Princess for 9th - 11th.

10/19 (Mon) - Powder Puff game at 6:00pm. Cost - $3.00.

10/22 (Thurs) - High School Band will perform on the football field. Senior band members will be honored.

10/19-22 (Mon - Thurs) - Spirit Week will include school dress-up days & lunch-time activities for students.

DRESS UP DAYS:

Monday 10/19 - Quarantine Day (Pajama Day)

Tuesday 10/20 - Zoom Meeting Day – (Dress up like you are in a Zoom Meeting- dress attire on top, sweats on bottom)

Wednesday 10/21 - Class Color Day (Dress based on your class color, wear your homecoming shirt)

*Colors: 12th: Red, 11th: Baby Blue, 10th: Light Orange, 9th: Yellow and Staff: Navy

Thursday 10/22 - Blue/White Day

Oct 19 - 21 - Hall Decorating for all classes (Class sponsors are the contact persons for this activity).

9th grade: Mrs. Knapp
10th grade: Mrs. Lach
11th grade: Mr. Winslow and Mrs. Bocek
12th grade: Mrs. Majorana

Class Sponsors are in charge of hall decorations. Students will sign up each day (only 8 students per day).

Decorating will take place from 2:00 - 4:00pm unless directed otherwise by class sponsor. All Executive Orders MUST be followed: social distancing & face coverings required.

10/19 - Court lunch - invited for attendance: seniors court members, student government advisor, principal, and senior class sponsor, along with court members of grades 9th - 11th

10/23 - Crowning of the Homecoming 2020 Queen & King during 1/2 time of the football game!

10/23 – Parade at 5:00pm - All Executive Orders MUST be followed: social distancing, face coverings required and no throwing of candy or any items from vehicles. Parade will consist of our Marching Railroaders, sports teams, and Homecoming Court. Parade line up starts at 4:30pm on the west side of HS, on the access drive by the bowling alley.

The student government would like to invite everyone to participate in some way during Homecoming Week. The students have worked very hard to make this year successful especially during the pandemic and trying to keep as many Homecoming traditions as possible. Also, please cheer on our hard working football team and cheerleaders from home to beat the Montrose Rams this year on Friday, October 23rd.

View from home link: https://www.nflhsnetwork.com/associations/mhsaa-mi.

GO RAILROADERS!!!

THEY DID IT AGAIN!! After a very rough start, these ladies settled down and finished strong to make the State Finals for the second year in a row! Down 16 strokes with 4 holes to go, the ladies came on strong to take the final qualifying spot by 5 strokes! Emme Lantis finished 2nd overall with an 88. Maddie Raley finished 8th overall with a 99. Olivia Holek finished with a 107 and Kennedy Pawloski added a 110 to round out the scoring. In a region with 4 schools ranked in the top 10 in the state, Durand managed to finish in 3rd to move on! Great job, Ladies!

**Athletic Director**

Hello Railroaders! This is Bryan Carpenter, Durand Area Schools Athletic Director, reporting on fall sports. Despite a great deal of Covid-related delays and confusion in the beginning, the dust has now settled and our athletic programs are full steam ahead.

Varsity girls’ golf is playing lights out, led by Emme Lantis. Emme has medaled in multiple matches, broken both personal and school records, and won the Dick’s Sporting Goods Invitational. She has also been named Athlete of the Week by the Argus Press. The team also won the league tournament and finished the regular season 7-0. The varsity football team has left the station strongly and is off to a phenomenal 3-0 start against conference opponents Byron, Mt. Morris, and Lakeville. Coach Winbigger has prepared this team well and they are getting ready for a big contest with Chesaning Friday night.

Our overall participation is very strong this season. We are one of two schools in the MMAC to field teams in all available sports. The varsity boys’ soccer team has good numbers and is competing tough. Varsity, JV and freshman girls’ volleyball teams have played an extremely tough schedule and have been competitive in every game. Cross Country and boys tennis are programs on the rise as well, we are happy to have both teams competing and growing. These teams have young athletes and the youth on both teams will help build their programs in the near future.

We have great community support, growing youth athletic programs, competitive middle school teams, and our athletes are working hard at all levels. We are proud of our current success and look forward to continuous improvement in the future. Until next time, it is always better to be blue!

Bryan Carpenter
Durand Athletic Director
The plaques were cleaned from Oct. 1 through Dec. 23. The public was invited to stop in, enjoy some pie from Joe-Lee’s Crosswind Café, visit with Dale Spencer from Dale Spencer Racing, tour the airport on a hayride and have some outdoor fall fun.

New toys were being collected for Toys for Tots. The 2020 Toys for Tots campaign runs from Oct. 1 through Dec. 23.

The Owosso Community Airport is located in Caledonia Township, east of downtown Owosso. Joe-Lee’s Crosswind Café is situated on Airport Drive. The Owosso Community Airport is located in Caledonia Township, east of downtown Owosso.

The event was open to all Shiawassee County residents at no cost. Only a proof of residency was required.

Drug & Laboratory Disposal, Inc. (DLD) will properly dispose of the hazardous materials.

The event was required.

The event was open to all Shiawassee County residents at no cost. Only a proof of residency was required.

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THE SHIAWASSEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT hosted a household hazardous waste collection event Saturday morning, Oct. 3 on Chippewa Trail, just north of Owosso.

Collected items included oil-based paint, varnishes, cleaning solvents, pesticides, weed killers, household batteries and more.

Shown on Saturday morning are Nichole Bruner and Heather Poling from DLD, along with Steve Alworden from the Shiawassee County Health Department.

The event was open to all Shiawassee County residents at no cost. Only a proof of residency was required.

Drug & Laboratory Disposal, Inc. (DLD) will properly dispose of the hazardous materials.

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FOR THE 4TH YEAR IN A ROW, THE SHIAWASSEE COUNTY FINANCIAL AUDIT IS LATE AND FILLED WITH DELINQUENCIES...AGAIN!

Every year the County Commissioners must submit to the taxpayers an audit of the county finances. This audit is a critical indicator of the county's financial health and determines that taxpayer money is being effectively, professionally and legally managed.

The audit is a financial roadmap for the commissioners, the various county departments and the taxpayers, to confirm and validate that the commissioners are taking care of YOUR TAX MONEY!

DUE ON JUNE 1, THE 2019 AUDIT HAS STILL NOT BEEN COMPLETED! THIS HAS JEOPARDIZED OUR STATE REVENUE SHARING.

OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS, THE COUNTY COMMISSION HAS UNNECESSARILY PAID OVER 1/2 A MILLION DOLLARS FOR “AUDIT PREPARATION” TO COMPENSATE FOR THEIR LACK OF FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT.

These deficiencies and material weaknesses, documented over the past four years, include:

- Failure to implement bank reconciliations and journal entries; in other words, failure to balance the county check book in a timely fashion. This creates a situation where the commissioners are not tracking or approving budgets or expenditures of your tax dollars.
- Noncompliance with GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles)
- Bank accounts not under control of the county treasurer
- Delinquent in providing critical financial information in a timely manner
- Lack of formal written policies
- Jeopardizing the County Revenue Sharing from the State

This Complete Financial Disregard and Negligence by the Current Board of Commissioners Needs to End.

ELEVATE LONG OVERDUE TRUST
INSTITUTE COMPLETE FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

IT IS TIME TO ELECT FINANCIALLY CONSERVATIVE DEMOCRATS TO MAINTAIN AND UPHOLD THE FINANCIAL SOLVENCY OF THE COUNTY.

IT IS TIME FOR A NEW DEMOCRATIC SLATE OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO:

- Bring back fiscal responsibility
- Balance and approve the monthly county checkbook
- Implement full compliance with GAAP
- Regain control of the county bank accounts
- On a monthly basis, responsibly track and approve critical financial information
- Implement state and federally mandated policies and procedures
- Preserve the counties state revenue sharing

We Respect The Dignity of Public Service

Check the facts for yourself at https://www.shiawassee.net/Administration/Audit-Documents.aspx

Paid for the Shiawassee County Democratic Party, PO Box 634, Owosso, MI 48867.
SHIAWASEE COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING
The Shiawassee County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on October 28, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. within the County Board of Commissioners’ meeting room located on the first floor of the Surbeck Building, 201 N. Shiawassee Street, Corunna, MI 48817. The following has been scheduled for review and consideration of approval:
NEW BUSINESS:
Application Request #PSUP20-08
Applicant – Assembly Solar LLC; Bryan Martin
Owner – Van Gilder Properties, LLC
Site Location – 1020 E. Crock Rd., Lennon, MI 48449
Tax ID #008-02-100-003; Section 2, Venice Township
Request – Special use permit and site plan review amendment request to allow the construction of a permanent operations and maintenance building and permanent storage building.
Ordinance Reference – 4-3.78, Solar Energy Systems & 14.12, Amendment to Site Plan
Other items of business may be handled if deemed necessary. Questions about the hearing or to review the applications, contact the Community Development Department, 201 N. Shiawassee St., 3rd Floor, Corunna, MI. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. – Noon and 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

DURAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 21, 2020
Minutes of the regular meeting of the Durand City Council held on Monday, September 21, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the City of Durand Fire Station. Mayor Doyle called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
Present: Brian Boggs, Jeff Brands, Connie Cobbey, Mayor Deb Doyle, Rich Folaron, John Matejowski, Ken McDonough Absent: None
Carried: Folaron moved, Kobley supported to approve the agenda with the addition of item I.
Moved: Carried 7-0

Moving City Hall
Folaron moved, Cobley supported to name the Holmes Street sidewalk for the term commencing October 1, 2020.
Carried: Folaron moved, Cobley supported to name the Holmes Street sidewalk for the term commencing October 1, 2020.
Carried: Folaron moved, Cobbey supported to name the Holmes Street retention pond the Slocle Wildlands Pond. Carried: Folaron moved, Cobbey supported to approve the invoice for concrete repairs in the amount of $5,400.00 from Keystone Concrete. Carried: Folaron moved, Matejowski supported to approve Change Order #5 with Eastern Asphalt in the amount of $1,218.00 for the 2019 Street Improvement Project. Carried: Folaron moved, McDonough supported to approve Pay Application #8 with Eastern Asphalt in the amount of $93,085.26 for the 2019 Street Improvement Project. Carried: Brands moved to approve the purchase of a Freightliner salt truck through the MiDeal program and finance $175,473.00 through Mercedes-Benz Financial Services USA LLC. Carried: Brands moved, McDonald supported to adopt the 2020-2021 Fee Schedule Resolution. Carried: Discussion: Trick-or-Treat. It was the consensus of the Council to maintain what is written in the books regarding the hours of Trick-or-Treating. Many years ago the Council established the hours to be October 31st from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Carried: Boggs moved, McDonough supported to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Building Service with the City of Linden. Carried: Mayor Doyle adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

The Independent  ~ Sunday, Oct. 11, 2020  ~ 11

Activities & Events

Note: The Independent Newspapers is not responsible for changes in dates/times or cancellations. Information is submitted through individual organizations.

LENNON
It’s a Curbside Turkey Dinner!
Lennon United Methodist Church
Thursday, Oct. 22, 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
1014 Oak St., Lennon
Take-outs only
Call (800) 621-3676 to place your order or order at the door when you arrive.
$10 per adult, $5 for children, $5 under free

DEISLER ELECTRIC, INC.
In Business Since 1962
We Now Offer A Full Line
Of Automatic Generators
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Visit our website: www.DeislerElectric.com

Memorial Healthcare
Auxiliary Online Linen Sale
Thursday, Oct. 1 through Thursday, Oct. 15
1200 Series bed sheet sizes twin to California king
3 sets for $120, individual sizes start at $30
Email MHCAuxiliary@gmail.com for an order form.

BURNS & MCDONNELL SELECTED TO PERFORM COUNTY PLANNING WORK
Shiawassee County has contracted with Burns & McDonnell for planning services to be conducted on a planned supersite in the city of Durand and Vernon Township. The property has been assembled for industrial development, and this work will create a master plan for development of the property.
The project is being funded in its entirety by a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) as a part of the Michigan Site Readiness Improvement Program. As part of the program, the MEDC will provide grant funding to a community or other public entity to assist with the development or enhancement of industrial sites to make them more competitive during the site selection process.
“We received a number of strong submissions for this work, and Burns & McDonnell brings a unique combination of expertise in site evaluation, planning, utility and railroad considerations,” said Shiawassee County Coordinator Dr. Brian Boggs.
“We are thankful to have the support of the MEDC on this project, which will help us prepare a premier site in the State of Michigan,” said Justin Horvath, President/CEO of the Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership.

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Durand City Council Candidates

The following information was provided directly from the individual candidates running for Durand City Council.
Information was edited for clarity. All candidates running were contacted.

Dr. Brian Boggs
Dr. Brian Boggs is running for Durand City Council (Precinct 1) because of “my strong leadership skills in public finance and governance. I have 17 years of experience on the Durand City Council in leadership roles. Also, as a professor, I teach people how to be city managers, county administrators, and school superintendent across the state. It is a combination of my experience in Durand, but also my professional expertise that allows me to advance Durand. Further, as the County Administrator, I am able to work closely at multiple levels of government to serve our community.”

Boggs shared he has worked to “build and improve Durand while maintaining our small-town feel. The City has received over $8.5 million in grant funding that has been used for reconstructing the downtown, local streets, and economic development (including re-developing the old junior high into Sycamore House and bringing SageLink headquarters to Durand). We have reconstructed 43 local streets and have a detailed plan for repaving the remaining streets. With the $10 million rural development infrastructure project, we have eliminated a great deal of flooding, installed miles of new sanitary sewer, water, and storm sewer pipes, and reconstructed several local streets.”

Durand is faced with three challenges, according to Boggs: “First, continuing to manage the multi-million-dollar finances and debt of the city while continuing to provide key services to the community. Second, continuing to have a robust street reconstruction plan. Third, continuing economic development in the City to create jobs in the area while developing a strong tax base to lower residential taxes and water/sewer rates.”

Jeff Brands
Jeff Brands is running for re-election to the Durand City Council (Precinct 2). He is 59 years old and a 33-year resident of Durand. He has been married for 33 years with two, grown children: Morgan and Cameron.

“I’ve been a councilman for the past 11 years,” Brand shared. “I’ve been a planning commissioner for 18 years and also on the parks board for the last six years. Some volunteers and I light up the downtown with Christmas lights every year. I have also designed, installed and maintained the landscaping in the downtown area. I’m proud to say that since I have been on council, the city has invested nearly $25 million in infrastructure and street improvements.”

“I don’t do the things I do for any type of recognition; I do it for the love of our city and making Durand the best it can be. I like helping people when they have questions regarding what’s going on in the city or why something was or wasn’t done,” he offered.

“My goals for Durand are to improve our parks facilities, installing accessibility for all. Also, continue our infrastructure and street improvements, and make our city more walkable and bike friendly,” said Brands. “I will continue to pour my heart and soul into making improvements, and make our city more walkable and bike friendly,”

Matthew Grubb, Agent
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Owosso, MI 48867
Bus: 989-725-8300
matt.grubb.hqba@statefarm.com
www.statefarm.com

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The Basics of Four Years

Continued from Page 1

approval process so that they are in place before the next audit. The County will assure these written policies that are put in place are in compliance with Uniform Guide.” The board of commissioners voted Herendeen in unanimously in February 2018. Prior to the commissioners had been picking up the slack since county coordinator/administrator T.J. Clark was fired in 2014 for improper use of county funds.

Herendeen was replaced by Dr. Brian Boggs on Thursday, April 16, 2020 during a virtual meeting. The commissioners voted to immediately terminate Herendeen in a 5 to 2 margin. Commissioners Jeremy Root, Brandon Marks, Gary Holzhauer and Cindy Garber voted for Herendeen’s removal. Commissioners Marlene Webster and John Plowman opposed the decision.

Dr. Brian Boggs has worked as associate director of the Office of K-12 Outreach, an adjunct professor of educational administration in the College of Education and affiliate member of the Master of Public Policy program at Michigan State University, among other administrative and teaching positions. In a recent phone call, Boggs explained he has been in communication with the Michigan Department of Treasury, sharing that Shiawassee County, with regard to the 2019 delinquent audit notice, is not the only county “having some of these issues.” Boggs stated that Rehmann, the auditing company, was shut down for a nine-week period during quarantine, so during that time, work on the audit had stopped. Boggs said the firm did not start working remotely until after the nine-week period and they are still continuing to work from home — lending to a delay in the 2019 audit.

Boggs explained the county had to continuously pull information and feed it to Rehmann, though the county bid with Rehman states they would utilize the Bank Secrecy Act system (BSA), a database system they apparently did not have access to while working from home.

Boggs also mentioned he will soon have the new budget available for the commissioners to review. The county budget is mostly formulated from projected revenues, which are based on taxes. Most government agencies/organizations operated within a conservatively based budget — meaning projected revenues are kept tight. He wants to have at least a preliminary budget to the board in October.

Along with Boggs replacing Herendeen, Julie Sorenson was appointed treasurer in late 2019. The previous treasurer, Thomas Dwyer, had retired.

The Home Office
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23 Years of Experience. The Results Speak for Themselves!
Durand City Council Candidates

Continued from Page 12

for a few small businesses. Our rail system is another asset for industrial development. We have too many hurdles for new businesses, large and small. Other communities such as Morrice and Perry are continuing to grow, yet we haven’t? Why does our industrial park only have weeds, beans and corn growing in them?”

Hildebrandt would prefer to “start a new path in the right direction that brings Durand back to life.”

John Matejewski

John Matejewski is running for re-election for Durand City Council (Precinct 2). In 2015, when he first became a member of the city council, he shared in a recent email he “could see the changes they had made and the direction they were headed, and I wanted to be a part of those changes and that direction. Now, five years later, I see more changes and a new direction in which we are headed.”

“We have started making some great street and infrastructure improvements and these improvements will continue until all the streets in the city are upgraded and/or are repaired, and sewer, storm and waterlines are repaired and/or replaced,” he stated. “These are a few of the things we are working on at this time and I want to continue working towards achieving these goals.”

Matejewski explained, “I would like to work together on getting a developer to come into Durand and build new homes on the available city owned lots. We need more housing. I would also like to continue working with the RR to eventually get all the tracks in town repaired. I will continue working on the growth of Durand, eg: housing and new businesses. As we have more businesses, the people in town have more say than just a city council themselves making decisions for people.”

In an email, O’Connor said his “biggest concern is I want more accountability for what the counselor has done.” He would also like to see more interest in other parts of town “versus just downtown itself to make everything more appealing to everybody in town.”

His thinking is that residents “could then take pride in where they live.”

O’Connor is a discharged Navy veteran and married with two children. Both of his children went to Durand High School. He lives in Durand and feels connected to Durand and thinks officers and employees should also live in Durand.

Patrick O’Connor

Patrick O’Connor is running for Durand City Council (Precinct 2). O’Connor has lived in Durand for 17 years and “would like to have the people in town more say than just a city council themselves making decisions for people.”

In an email, O’Connor said his “biggest concern is I want more accountability for what the counselor has done.” He would also like to see more interest in other parts of town “versus just downtown itself to make everything more appealing to everybody in town.” His thinking is that residents “could then take pride in where they live.”

O’Connor is a discharged Navy veteran and married with two children. Both of his children went to Durand High School. He lives in Durand and feels connected to Durand and thinks officers and employees should also live in Durand.

Matt Schaefer

Matt Schaefer is running for Durand City Council “because I have a passion for public service and I want to improve the way our town runs and make it a better place to live. I have re-alized the problems facing our city: declining city services, local businesses leaving or closing down, and inefficient use of our tax dollars. I believe I have the knowledge and skills to fix these issues and fight for you to make positive changes in our city government, and the fact is, we need a change.”

“Most of our City Council has served for decades and very little positive has been done in those years. Just in my time on the parks and recreation committee, I have pushed for positive resources for our residents such as a community garden, improvements to the parks and a dog park. Additionally, I have been involved with the city for years through the fire department, serving the local EMS agency and working for DPW.” Schaefer stated.

“If I am elected to City Council, I will focus my priorities on improving city services, providing resources for local businesses so that we can revive the downtown area, and most importantly, improving our local infrastructure. Currently, the city consistently takes the lowest bid on every project and piece of equipment and this leads to predictably low quality result. This is something that we need to change. We need to do projects correctly, the first time. I want to change that and make Durand a better place for all of us to live,” he said.

J ohn M a t e j e w s k i  i s  r u n n i n g  f o r  r e - e l e c t i o n  f o r  D u r a n d  C i t y Council (Precinct 2). In 2015, when he first became a member of the city council, he shared in a recent email he “could see the changes they had made and the direction they were headed, and I wanted to be a part of those changes and that direction. Now, five years later, I see more changes and a new direction in which we are headed.”

“We have started making some great street and infrastructure improvements and these improvements will continue until all the streets in the city are upgraded and/or are repaired, and sewer, storm and waterlines are repaired and/or replaced,” he stated. “These are a few of the things we are working on at this time and I want to continue working towards achieving these goals.”

Matejewski explained, “I would like to work together on getting a developer to come into Durand and build new homes on the available city owned lots. We need more housing. I would also like to continue working with the RR to eventually get all the tracks in town repaired. I will continue working on the growth of Durand, eg: housing and new businesses. As we have more businesses, the people in town have more say than just a city council themselves making decisions for people.”

In an email, O’Connor said his “biggest concern is I want more accountability for what the counselor has done.” He would also like to see more interest in other parts of town “versus just downtown itself to make everything more appealing to everybody in town.” His thinking is that residents “could then take pride in where they live.”

O’Connor is a discharged Navy veteran and married with two children. Both of his children went to Durand High School. He lives in Durand and feels connected to Durand and thinks officers and employees should also live in Durand.

Matt Schaefer

Matt Schaefer is running for Durand City Council “because I have a passion for public service and I want to improve the way our town runs and make it a better place to live. I have re-alized the problems facing our city: declining city services, local businesses leaving or closing down, and inefficient use of our tax dollars. I believe I have the knowledge and skills to fix these issues and fight for you to make positive changes in our city government, and the fact is, we need a change.”

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Memorial Healthcare is a strong advocate for improving the health of the communities we serve. To assist in these efforts, we are pleased to offer the community a convenient drive-through flu vaccine clinic. This clinic is open to anyone, 5 years of age and up.

No registration or appointment needed.

DATE: Saturday, October 17
TIME: 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
LOCATION: Memorial Healthcare Foundation Drive-Thru Site
1637 W. Main Street (M-21), Owosso
COST: There is no cost for the flu vaccine for most insurance plans. Memorial Healthcare will offer the vaccine for a self-pay fee of $35 for those who are uninsured or underinsured. If individuals are unable to pay this fee, the Memorial Healthcare Foundation will cover the cost.

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