THE SUN AND NEWS
Your Hometown Newspaper Serving the Middleville, Caledonia and Gaines Township Areas
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GAINES TWP. PLANS FREE OUTDOOR MOVIE
PAGE 8



GUNFIRE IN GAINES: Two separate shooting incidents reported in Cutlerville on consecutive days

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

The normally peaceful community of Cutlerville was rattled by the sound of gunfire in two separate shooting incidents on back-to-back days, according to police reports.

The first shooting occurred around 1 p.m. on Monday, July 21, in the 6700 block of Madison Avenue at Summer Shores Drive.

Kent County Sheriff's Office deputies reportedly responded to complaints of a loud argument taking place inside a home in the subdivision north of 68th Street. After arriving on the scene, deputies stated they found a man and a woman dead from "an apparent shooting."

KCSO St. Scott Dietrich, while at the scene, said the shooting was being investigated as a homicide, with a strong possibility that it may have been a murder-suicide.

Autopsy results and identifications of the two individuals were released Thursday morning. A KCSO release states the investigation determined a domestic argument between 52-year-old Troy Blacer of Gaines Township and his girlfriend, 43-year-old Elizabeth Weber, also of Gaines Township, led to the shooting.

The Kent County Medical Examiner's Office conducted autopsies on Blacer and Weber and determined that Weber died as a result of several gunshot wounds. Blacer was found to have died from a single gunshot wound.

Investigators say Blacer fatally shot Weber before taking his own life.

Neighbors, who asked for anonymity, said Blacer

See **GUNFIRE** on 3

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Youngsters both try to engulf and evade the spray from the TTES fire truck during the TK Community Library Water Fun Spray Day at the high school in Middleville Tuesday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Sprayer and sprayees soaked at annual library event

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The honking fire engine drew cheers as it came along Bender Road in front of the Thornapple Kellogg School and Community Library towards the south parking lot at the high school.

The kids already knew what was coming.

The library hosted its annual summer Water Fun Spray Day with the Thornapple Township Fire Department Tuesday, with firefighter Zack Cronk spraying down a group of young readers. Those youngsters did their best to dodge the spray from the fire hose at times and did their best to draw his fire at others.

Cronk got to participate in the event for the first time as a member of the Thornapple Township Emergency Services along with Lt. Mike Powell, firefighter/EMT Cassandra Vugtezeen from TTES and special guest Kelsey Gnuse from the Saranac

Fire engine honking horn up Bender as it closed in on the parking lot.

"I was just available for it, so I signed up for it. I didn't think I'd get this soaked," Cronk said.

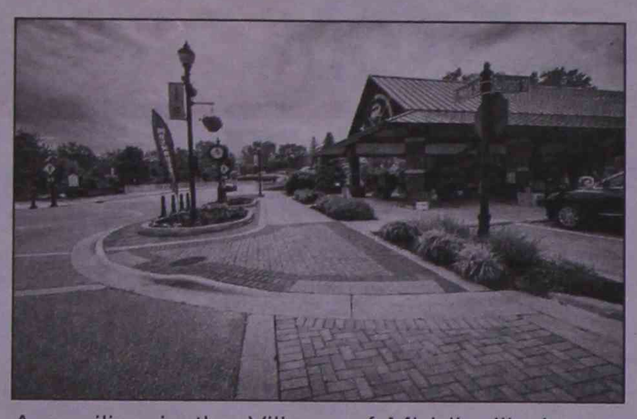
"This is pretty great, getting out in the community, spraying down the kids and making sure they have a good time."

Powell admitted that Cronk might have been drenched a bit by "issues" with the extra water cannon firing

See **EVENT** on 2

Deadline set for Middleville survey on five-year rec plan

Karen Turko-Ebright
Staff Writer



A pavilion in the Village of Middleville is one of several projects that have been facilitated through the creation of a local recreation plan. The deadline to fill out a survey to again update the five-year plan is slated for Aug 15.

Every time the Thornapple Area Parks and Recreation officials update a local five-year recreation plan, they reach out to the community through a survey.

And, this time, a deadline of Aug. 15 has been set for community members to submit completed surveys.

Paper copies of the survey are reportedly available at both village and township halls in Middleville, according to TAPRC chairperson Catherine Getty.

The survey may also be filled out online at surveymonkey.com/r/TAPRCParks2025. A link to the survey may be accessed through the TAPRC Facebook page.

"We put yard signs with a QR code at trail heads on the Paul Henry Thornapple Trail, as well as at all the parks in the Village of Middleville," Getty added.

TAPRC was established in 2000 through a joint agreement involving Thornapple Kellogg Schools, the Village of Middleville and Thornapple Township to help plan for park and recreation resources in the Middleville area, said Getty, who joined the TAPRC board in 2002.

"On Aug. 1, we will be at the Middleville River Bank Music Series at the amphitheater next to the pavilion to get more community information on how they want to see our green spaces developed or improved on our parks and things like that," said Makenzi Peters, TAPRC vice chairperson.

"The five-year renewal by TAPRC to update the recreation plan must be filed with the State of Michigan to be eligible for state grants," Getty added. "It gives us the opportunity to update that to make sure we're in alignment with what the people in the community want to see done.

"The real value of that five-year rec plan is to our entities so that they are eligible to apply for those grants."

According to Getty, there are several projects that have been facilitated through the creation of the recreation plan, including a pavilion that hosts a local farmers market, a trail from Main Street to Crane Road, and the property that Thornapple Township purchased for the trail that extends almost two miles north from Crane Road to Stimson Road – to name a few.

"That was the most recent improvement, so that would not have been possible without having a qualifying rec plan that is filed in the State of Michigan," Getty said.

Peters added community members have also participated at TAPRC booths set up at recent

See **PLAN** on 9

EVENT

Continued from Page 1

from atop Thornapple Township Engine 51.

Youngsters cooled off in the spray, jumped in mud puddles and capped off the half-hour session with freezer pops passed out by the library staff.

The TK Community Library summer hours continue to be 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The library will host an ice cream social Tuesday, July 29 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., in the middle of its prize week for summer readers.



Youngsters are blasted with spray from firefighter Zack Cronk during the annual TK Community Library Water Fun Spray Day in Middleville Tuesday.





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1351 N. M-43 Hwy.
Hastings, MI 49058
Phone: 269-945-9554
www.sunandnews.com

CONTACT US

Editor: Molly Macleod
mmacleod@mihomepaper.com

Sports: Brett Bremer
bbremer@mihomepaper.com

Advertising Manager: Chris Silverman
csilverman@mihomepaper.com

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Kent County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to a home in Cutlerville on Monday afternoon, July 21, later reporting a woman and a man were discovered dead inside. **Photo courtesy Kent County Sheriff's Office**

GUNFIRE

Continued from Page 1

and Weber had been dating for several years and lived in the home together.

Reportedly, a 9-1-1 phone call notifying police of the situation came from someone who was inside the home around the time of the alleged shooting.

Dietrich described the incident as a "horrible situation" for all those involved, including the neighbors and deputies who responded to the residence.

The KCSO Detective Bureau and Crime Scene Unit are investigating the motive for the double shooting.

The second incident in Cutlerville reportedly occurred around 9 a.m. Tuesday, July 22, at a home on Fontenelle Street, off Division Avenue, about two blocks south of 68th Street.

KCSO deputies reportedly responded to a complaint of a 66-year-old man allegedly threatening neighbors with a gun. The suspect's name had not been released at the time of publication on Thursday.

At a briefing Tuesday, Undersheriff Bryan Muir said the man allegedly pointed a gun at deputies when they arrived on the scene. A police tactical team was then summoned and Michigan State Police troopers, as well as officers from the Kentwood and Wyoming police departments, also responded.

"After some time, the man came back out armed and crawled underneath part of the home," Dietrich said. "He fired several shots, putting both deputies and neighbors at risk.

"Two deputies fired their weapons in return," he added. "The man was struck by gunfire and taken to the hospital by ambulance, where he remains in critical condition."

The two deputies involved in the incident Tuesday were placed on paid administrative leave, which reportedly is standard procedure after an officer-involved shooting.

Because KCSO deputies were involved in the exchange of gunfire, an outside police department, Wyoming Public Safety, was requested to handle the follow-up investigation.

Inaugural 'Taste of Gaines' festival on tap Sept. 26 outside township hall

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

A first-time community event in Gaines Township on Sept. 26 will highlight local restaurants and other businesses.

The festival is being hosted by the township, the Gaines Chamber of Commerce and the Kent County Sheriff's Office, and is slated for 5-8 p.m. on the lawn and field adjacent to the township hall on Kalamazoo Ave.

Chamber vice president April Moayyer, chairperson for the Taste of Gaines, pitched the idea for the festival to township trustees at their meeting Monday, July 14. The festival will be open to the public and free to attend.

"Our goal is to have at least 20 restaurants with (vendor) tents, where you can go around and sample small (food) bites," Moayyer said. "There will be plenty of activities and inflatables for the kids. And, hot-air balloon rides. There also will be a beer-and-wine garden, and a DJ."

In addition, organizers said festival-goers can expect to see the KCSO's tactical team truck, a 50/50 raffle and enjoy various giveaways.

"We're excited to bring together local businesses, law enforcement and our township team to celebrate community pride and create meaningful connections," Moayyer said.

The township board voted unanimously to approve the Taste of Gaines event and provide up to $10,000 to cover expenses. The vote was OK'd on condition that township attorney Clifford Bloom first give his opinion on the legality of spending township funds on such a festival.

Trustee Rob DeWaard requested Township Manager Rod Weersing get a clearer interpretation of a Michigan law, which reportedly allows local governments to spend public funds so long as an event provides a general benefit to a significant portion of the public, from Bloom.

"It is their opinion that the township funding the Taste of Gaines event would be a permissible municipal expense," Weersing said, after later hearing back from the township attorney.

Weersing added the event will benefit the community at-large, and is not a direct donation to a particular business.

"There are going to be some family activities at the event," he said. "But, also, it's going to show them what's available within the township. And, hopefully, generate some additional business for our township restaurants."

The first 6-0 vote, with one member absent, at the board's July 14 meeting authorized township officials to provide $10,000 to help pay for such items as tents, tables, balloon rides, marketing, vendor support and logistics.

Township officials said they were hoping to recapture the funding via sponsorship fees, with any expenses not covered by the sponsorship fees being paid out of the township's general fund.

Sponsorship opportunities are available by contacting Moayyer at aprilmoayyerrealestate.com or by visiting the Gaines Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.

See **TASTE** on 5

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Obituaries

Mariva Ruth Phillips

Mariva Ruth Phillips (née Palmer), affectionately known as Mick, passed away peacefully on September 5, 2024, in Poway, CA, at the age of 87. Born on November 5, 1937, in Grand Rapids, MI, she lived a life marked by devotion to her family and her faith.

Mariva graduated from Ottawa High School and spent her early years fostering a warm and nurturing home. Outside of the home, she worked at the Thornapple Kellogg High School Library, at Hudson's hair salon, and at Sunset Waste, where she was known for her teamwork, quick wit, and care for her coworkers.

A loving and supportive wife and mother, Mariva was the life of the party, always ready to make everyone laugh while equally prepared to listen and empathize. She taught Sunday School at the First Assembly of God in Grandville, MI, and shared the love and kindness of Jesus with all around her.

Her hobbies included spending time with family and friends, visiting Lake Michigan or the ocean, reading, sewing, and caring for her pets.



Mariva was preceded in death by her husband, Gilbert Phillips, and daughter, Amy Phillips.

She is survived by her sons, Michael Schierbeek and his wife Judyne, Jefferson Schierbeek and his wife Su Addison, Jaimie Schierbeek and his wife Julie; daughters, Michele Keeler and her husband Michael, Alisa DeBorde and her husband David; 13 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, all of whom will miss her deeply.

An informal open invitation graveside service for family, friends, and acquaintances who wish to honor Mariva's remarkable life and legacy is scheduled for 10 a.m. August 9, 2025 at Mount Hope Cemetery in Middleville.

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MIDDLEVILLE TOPS 546

The July 21 meeting opened with roll call and the secretary's report. There are now three fish in the fishbowl.

Virginia's program was from the May/June TOPS magazine titled "Mixing it Up." A recipe developer gave10 tips on how to improvise new dishes. 1. Bend, but don't break the rules for cooking or baking. Follow kitchen rules. 2. Replace ingredients but not the quantities, especially in baking. 3. Replace similar ingredients. A green for a green, poultry for poultry. 4. Same rule for spices. 5. Go without an ingredient if you don't have it, unless it is the star of the show. 6. Easy does it. You can always add to but can't take away. Taste as you go. 7. Research online. Look for a specific recipe or search for what ingredients you are thinking of using. 8. Pretend you are on a cooking show. See what you have available in the house and make a meal. 9. Add more veggies. You may need more spices but the taste won't change. 10. Relax and have fun. It's not the end of the world if it doesn't come out. Listen to your taste buds.

Chapter members continued the contest by filling in one dot for each one-tenth of a pound lost.

Linda won the Ha-Ha Box.

The meeting ended with marching in place as the group recited the TOPS pledge.

TOPS, a weight-loss support group, meets every Monday at Lincoln Meadows in Middleville. Weigh-in is from 3:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m., followed immediately by the meeting. Press the white buzzer for entry.

The chapter is looking for anyone interested in a group that supports weight-loss journeys without shame.

Anyone with questions may call Virginia, 269-908-8036, or Maryellen, 616-318-3545. The first meeting is free.

Sheriff's office hosts annual 'South Kent Night Out' on Aug. 5

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

Hundreds of people turn out every year for the "South Kent National Night Out" in Gaines Township, and the Kent County Sheriff's Office is expecting another big crowd for this year's free event Tuesday, Aug. 5.

For the fourth consecutive year, the event will be at the parking lots outside South Christian High School, 7979 Kalamazoo Ave SE in Byron Center, and will run from 4:30-7:30 p.m.

"It's a really important and exciting event because it brings the community together, and the community gets to share their concerns with first responders, law enforcement, firefighters, EMS," KCSO Sgt. Jeff Bylsma said, the community policing officer for Gaines Township.

"It's a fantastic event," added Township Manager Rod Weersing. "There's lots of participation from entities in the community, and it's a huge draw of people within the community to get out and see what's going on with the Kent County Sheriff's Office, the fire department and other groups in the area."

According to Wikipedia, the first community Night Out event was held in the suburbs of Philadelphia, PA, in 1984 and later became a nationwide event designed to raise awareness about crime prevention and strengthen partnerships between communities and police departments. Neighborhood watch groups, drug prevention and other anti-crime programs are often highlighted.

The KCSO has been hosting the local event since 2010, with the event including displays of local police and fire department vehicles, along with military and road commission vehicles.



As in the past, various specialized police units will be on display at the South Kent Night Out event on Aug. 5.
File photo by James Gemmell

According to organizers, food and information booths will be set up and there will be various family activities, such as kids' games and free goodies. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and other agencies will have representatives on hand, as well.

There also will be an Aero Med helicopter demonstration, if the weather permits.

"They all get together to bond with one another and just create a stronger relationship and have fun doing it," Bylsma said.

The KCSO also will be hosting a National Night Out event at the Mary Free Bed YMCA in Grand Rapids at the same time.

Legal advice offered at no cost to Barry County seniors

The Legal Services of South Central Michigan-Battle Creek office will conduct in-person interviews for legal advice and possible representation, without charge, to interested Barry County seniors this month.

Those who wish to speak with an attorney should visit the Barry County Commission on Aging, 320 W. Woodlawn Ave. in Hastings, between 10 a.m. and noon on Wednesday, Aug. 6.

Legal Services of South Central Michigan-Battle Creek office is a nonprofit organization that provides legal assistance, representation and education to low-income people in Calhoun and Branch counties and seniors in Barry, Branch, Calhoun and St. Joseph counties. The advice and counsel is funded primarily by the Area Agency on Aging Region 3B through the Michigan Aging and Adult Services Agency under the Older Americans Act of 1965. — *MM*

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TASTE

Continued from Page 3

"It's really just a great way to highlight Gaines and all the great stuff we have going on here," Moayyer added.

A second unanimous roll-call vote gave the township supervisor, treasurer and clerk authority to review the application for event liquor licenses and provide a recommendation to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission for approval.

Normally, such recommendations are reportedly made by the full board but board members agreed that designating three elected officials would streamline the process.

Only beer and wine will be sold at the inaugural Taste of Gaines.

"We're so excited and blessed for the Gaines Chamber of Commerce and Gaines Charter Township to partner in this awesome Taste of Gaines community event," stated Gaines Chamber Executive Director Barb Nauta.

"We hope to see all of our Gaines chamber businesses and community families at the event, whether they have a booth or are volunteering," Nauta said. "We know that this will be a huge success with (Moayyer's) leadership."

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Concert series caps July with Time Sawyer performance

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Area music fans really showed up to support the Caledonia Concert Series as the band Time Sawyer performed at the Caledonia Community Green Amphitheater Tuesday for the final show of July.

It was as if the crowd, one of the largest yet this summer, was taking the band's advice even before hearing guitarist and lead singer Sam Tayloe sing "you best get down to livin' before livin' gets you down" on a warm, sunny evening.

Time Sawyer is a four-piece band based out of Charlotte, NC. Jordan Nelson on drums, Court Wynter on bass and Justin Clyde Williams on electric guitar took the stage with Tayloe Tuesday, after a quick little acoustic set by Williams.

Honoring Irish traditional music, On the Lash opened the show. That foursome released its first album, "Fireside" in April, and drew glowing reviews from Tuesday's emcee Josh Rose.

Time Sawyer's latest full-length release is 2024's "Honest Effort."

The band paid a bit of a tribute to rock 'n' roll legend Ozzy Osbourne who passed away Tuesday while sticking to its folk-rock style.

"One of Time Sawyer's goals has always been for listeners to feel a sense of

See **CONCERT** on 7



Jake Clyde Williams sings one of a handful of his own acoustic tunes before hoping on the electric guitar to play with the headliner Time Sawyer Tuesday during the Caledonia Concert Series.

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Sam Tayloe sings as Time Sawyer bandmate Court Wynter plays the stand-up bass behind him during the Caledonia Concert Series show Tuesday at the Caledonia Community Green Amphitheater. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

CONCERT

Continued from Page 6

community and connection during the show, and then to keep it with them, long after the music ends," Jody Mace shared in the band's biography on its website.

The show was made possible with support from Henny's Yarn Shop as each week local sponsors help bring traveling acts through the park that are typically playing much larger (or at least more expensive) venues and festivals.

The Caledonia Concert Series is taking a Tuesday evening off in the week ahead. The Soul Syndicate will perform Aug. 5 and then the summer season wraps up at the Caledonia Green Aug 12 with a performance by Ashes & Arrows. Opening acts begin at 6 p.m. and headliners typically start their set around 7 p.m. each Tuesday.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS
June 09, 2025

The Gaines Charter Township Board held a regular meeting on Monday, June 09, 2025, and took the following actions.

1. Reviewed the Consent Agenda.
2. Approved the Meeting Agenda
3. Discussed the 2024 annual financial audit
4. Discussed changes to the ordinance for issuing permits for multi-family developments
5. Set a public hearing for July 14, 2025 for the rezoning request from Koetje Builders.
6. Set a public hearing for July 14, 2025 for the rezoning request from Continental Properties.
7. Approved the Prairie Wolf Station Water and Sewer Contract #2.
8. Approved the purchase of Modus election software.
9. Established September 19, 2025 as Prisoner of War / Missing in Action Recognition Day.
10. Approved the Assessing Department conference expense.
11. Approved the Gaines Charter Township Fire Department conference request.
12. Approved the special event liquor license for the Grand Rapids Swing Dance fundraiser on September 06, 2025.
13. Approved the personnel committee recommendation to allow staff to post an additional electrical / building inspector position.
14. Approved the Supervisor to hire a graphic design firm or individual not to exceed $20,000 to rebrand Gaines Charter Township.
15. Entered close session to discuss a personnel committee matter at 7:48 pm.
16. Entered open session at 8:24 pm.
17. Approved the Gaines Charter Township Personnel Committee recommendation to move township manager, Rod Weersing contract to a rolling 1 year contract, to add 1 year of severance to a maximum of 12 months for each year of service being retroactive to the first year of service, and to raise the level of pay by 5% retroactive to February 27, 2025
18. Adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

A complete copy of the minutes of these meetings and any resolutions or ordinances adopted at the meeting are on file and available for review at the Gaines Charter Township office, 8555 Kalamazoo Avenue SE, Caledonia, Michigan 49316. Ordinances, meeting schedules, meeting minutes, and other Township information are also available at www.gainestownship.org.
Michael Brew
Gaines Charter Township Clerk

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THORNAPPLE TOWNSHIP BOARD
200 E MAIN ST. MIDDLEVILLE, MI 49333
SYNOPSIS OF MEETING MINUTES
Monday, June 9, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with six members present.
Items approved:
1. Printed Agenda approved as presented.
2. Consent Agenda approved as amended.
3. Approved trail maintenance at a cost not to exceed $4,000.00.
4. Approved Resolution 09-2025 amending the Township's 457 Plan.
Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.
Prepared by Deputy Clerk
Brenda Hess
Approved by Township Supervisor, Eric Schaefer.
Copies of the meeting minutes are available upon request from the Township Clerk or by visiting https://thornapple-twp.org/meeting-minutes/ Office hours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

THORNAPPLE TOWNSHIP BOARD
200 E MAIN ST.
MIDDLEVILLE, MI 49333
SYNOPSIS OF MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 14, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with six members present.
Items approved:
1. Printed Agenda approved as presented.
2. Consent Agenda approved as presented.
3. Approved the referral of request for Election Coordinator to the personnel committee.
4. Approved request for trail maintenance contract.
5. Approved request for training shirts for EMT School.
Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.
Prepared by Deputy Clerk
Brenda Hess.
Approved by Township Supervisor, Eric Schaefer.
Copies of the meeting minutes are available upon request from the Township Clerk or by visiting https://thornapple-twp.org/meeting-minutes/ Office hours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.



This file photo shows residents gathering for the annual free outdoor movie on the lawn next to the Gaines Township Hall facing the adjacent Prairie Wolf Park. **Photo by James Gemmell**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CALEDONIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the July 2, 2025 Township Board of Trustees Meeting that were approved on July 16, 2025, are posted at the Township Offices at 8196 Broadmoor Ave., and on the website at www.caledoniatownship.org.

Village of Middleville
COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the July 8, 2025 Regular Council Meeting, that were approved on July 22, 2025, are posted at the Village Hall at 100 E Main Street and on the website at www.villageofmiddleville.org.

'Dog Man' movie to run on inflatable screen outside Gaines Township Hall

James Gemmell
Contributing Writer

A 2025 animated superhero comedy will be up on the big screen during the annual "Movie in the Park" outside the Gaines Charter Township Hall on Friday, Aug. 22.

The choice for the 10th annual event, with this year's movie set to run 89 minutes, was produced by DreamWorks Animation. Peter Hastings provides the voice for Dog Man, who is a hybrid between a dog and a police officer.

The movie starts at 8:30 p.m. on the east side of the township hall on Kalamazoo Avenue. But the festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. on the lawn facing the adjacent Prairie Wolf Park.

As always, there will be food trucks, Gaines Township Fire Department and Kent County Sheriff's Office vehicles and displays, as well as games and children's activities.

The Movie in the Park, which is provided free of charge, is sponsored by the township and hosted in collaboration with the Gaines Chamber of Commerce and the township branch of the Kentwood District Library.

"A great community event," Township Manager Rod Weersing said. "It brings the community in for a family-friendly event with vendors, local businesses, food trucks and a movie for the kids. A fantastic event. It's a very low-key night that utilizes some great space at the township office."

Township Treasurer Laurie Lemke said this year's movie was suggested by library officials.

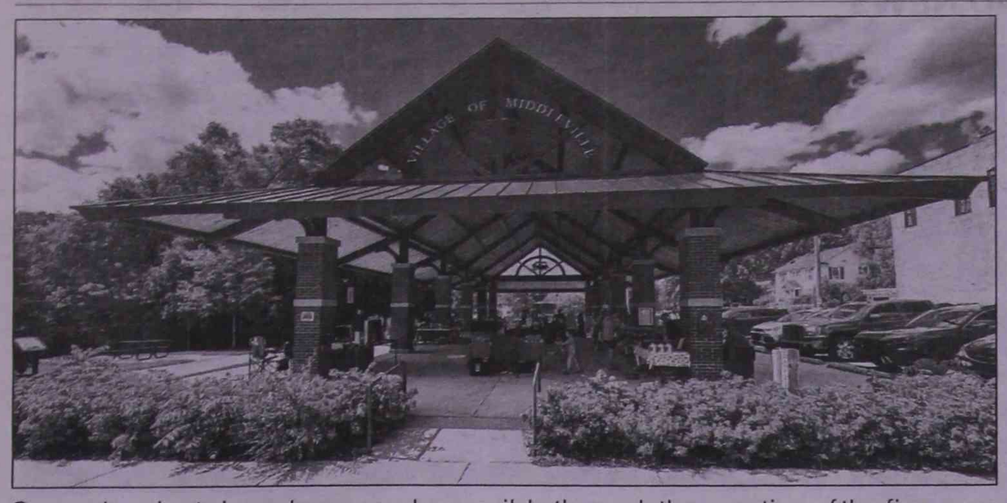
"It's based on a very popular children's book," Lemke added. "We're also going to have some pre-games and kids' activities."

Swan Orthodontics in Gaines Township is sponsoring Disney characters, who will be making an appearance at the event.

"That was very popular with the kids last year," Lemke said. "So, it'll be a fun time for kids of all ages. Bring your lawn chair or your blanket. We're looking to have a good crowd again this year."

At least 200 people typically attend the event. In case of rain, Lemke said the movie will be canceled with no makeup date.

"Luckily, we've only had to cancel one time," she added.



Several projects have been made possible through the creation of the five-year recreation plan for the Middleville area, including a pavilion in the Village of Middleville where a farmers market is held. The deadline to fill out a survey to update the plan is slated for Aug 15. **Photos by Kassandra Clark**

PLAN

Continued from Page 2

local events. Many picked up flyers with information and a QR code to fill out the TAPRC survey.

"It's a big deal every five years," she said. "It's a huge effort that we all help support.

"We do hire a consultant ... to make sure we do everything correctly and to help us in the effort because we're all volunteers."

In the fall, a joint meeting is scheduled to include the TKS Board of Education, Thornapple Township Board of Trustees, Middleville Village Council and the Thornapple Parks and Recreation Commission.

The joint meeting is set to discuss the community input that the TAPRC received through the survey process, as well as other efforts, and is still currently being collected.

Peters said defining the role of the TAPRC going forward will also be discussed at the joint meeting.

"Our thought process is we'll be the initiation of getting capital improvement plans completed based on that five-year rec plan, as well as assisting in grants or fundraising campaigns," she said. "We feel our focus will be going forward into the future."

The meeting is scheduled to start at 6 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 22, in the upstairs conference room at the Thornapple Emergency Services Building in Middleville.

For more information, individuals may contact Getty by calling 269-953-3151 or via email at catherine.getty33@gmail.com.

IRVING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS
July 15th, 2025

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm at 3425 Wing Rd. Hastings, Michigan 49058

Present: Lydy, Stout, Brummel, and Nagel. Absent: Buehler

Agenda approved with changes

Approved June 17th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Approved to pay bills in the amount of $280,876.09

Chief Jordan gave update on Birch Fire Ambulance Service

Approved Freeport Fire Contract and payment of $82,500.00

Approved to start process for Special Assessments for Applewine Rd and Gorton Rd paving Engle Rd Natural Beauty Designation discussed, residents asked to obtain petition signatures

Upcoming Meeting dates: July 24th, 2025, 5pm (Board of Review), August 19, 2025, 7pm (Township Board Meeting)

Adjourn 7:37pm

Full minutes are available at Irvingtownship.org or at 3425 Wing Rd, Hastings, MI 49058.

Prepared by Irving Township Deputy Clerk, Shelly Lake.

Attested to by Supervisor, Dan Lydy.

VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA
COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE
AND SUMMARY OF THE REGULATORY EFFECT THEREOF

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on July 14, 2025, the Village Council of the Village of Caledonia adopted an ordinance that amends Chapter 15 of the Village Code. The principal provision of these ordinances are summarized as follows:

Section 1 of the Ordinance amends Chapter 15 of the Village Code, which addresses the compensation of Village officers. The following is a summary of the amendments to Chapter 15 of the Village Code ("Chapter 15"):

Section 2 of Chapter 15 was amended to provide that the Village President shall receive a fee for his or her attendance at each regular and special meeting of the Village Council, in an amount determined annually by resolution of the Village Council, in addition to receiving an annual salary as compensation for the performance of the duties of the Village President.

Section 5 of Chapter 15 was amended to provide that the Village President and Village Trustees shall not receive compensation other than the compensation included in Chapter 15 during their terms of office, unless other compensation is approved by resolution of the Village Council.

Section 6 of Chapter 15 was amended to clarify that the term "other Village officers," as used in Section 6 of Chapter 15, does not include the Village President and Village Trustees.

Section 2 of the Ordinance provides that the Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon this publication.

A complete copy of the Ordinance is on file and may be inspected or purchased at the office of the Village Clerk, Village of Caledonia, 250 S. Maple Street, Caledonia, Michigan, during Village office hours.

Dated: July 23, 2025

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Township of Yankee Springs, Barry County, Michigan

TO THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF YANKEE SPRINGS IN BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that as a result of petitions of property owners within the township signed by the record owners of land whose area or footage constitutes more than 50 percent of the total area or footage of the hereinafter described Payne Ridge Drive special assessment district and the township board of the Township of Yankee Springs proposes to make road improvements consisting of installing 1.5 inches of base course asphalt compacted, and installation of 1.5 inches of surface asphalt compacted. The area of roadway is approximately 21,276 square feet. And to create a special assessment for the recovery of the costs thereof by special assessment against the properties benefited therein.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the district within which the foregoing improvements are proposed to be constructed and within which the costs thereof is proposed to be assessed is more particularly described as including the following parcel numbers:

08-16-017-021-00	08-16-017-021-30	08-16-017-021-20
08-16-017-021-10	08-16-017-012-00	08-16-017-013-00
08-16-017-014-00	08-16-017-015-00	08-16-017-016-00
08-16-017-017-00	08-16-017-018-00	08-16-017-019-00
08-16-017-020-00	08-16-017-022-00	08-16-017-023-00
08-16-017-024-00	08-16-017-037-00	08-16-017-026-00
08-16-017-027-00		

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board has received engineering plans showing the improvements and an estimate of the costs of such construction in the approximate amount of $52,000, has placed them on file with the township clerk, and has passed a resolution tentatively declaring its intention to make the improvement and to create the special assessment district. The township board has also tentatively found the petitions to be in compliance with statutory requirements.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that said plans, estimate of costs, proposed special assessment district and petitions may be examined at the office of the township clerk from the date of this notice through the date of the public hearing and may be examined at such public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a public hearing on the petitions, plans, district and estimate of costs will be held at the Yankee Springs Township hall at 284 N. Briggs Road, Middleville, Michigan, commencing at 6 o'clock p.m. on August 14 2025.

At the hearing, the board will consider any written objections to any of the foregoing matters filed with the board at or before the hearing as well as any revisions, corrections, amendments, or changes to the plans, estimates and costs or special assessment district.

All interested persons are invited to be present at the hearing and to submit any comments they may have.

Township clerk signature: Tom Hopkins
Township address: 284 N. Briggs Road
Middleville, Michigan 49333



Emma Geukes of Thornapple Kellogg Schools received the Travis Wenger 4-H Scholarship. Back row is (L/R) Tyler Wenger (holding Miles Wenger), Stephanie Wenger, Phil Wenger, Emma Geukes (recipient), Becky Wenger. Front row is (L/R) Macy Wenger and Madilynn Wenger. **Courtesy photos**

Trio of Barry County 4-H members receive scholarship awards

A trio of Barry County seniors received scholarship awards through the Barry Community Foundation to help them pursue post-secondary opportunities, thanks in part to their dedication to the county's 4-H program.

"The Barry Community Foundation and the Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation, along with their donors, are very proud to support students who participate in our county's 4-H

Continued on next page

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Continued from previous page

program," said Annie Halle, Barry Community Foundation chief operating officer. "Barry County 4-H has had a rich history and instills the type of dedication, leadership, and engagement skills that our youth need to be successful."

Those receiving scholarship awards included:

Emma Geukes of Thornapple Kellogg Schools received the Travis Wenger 4-H Scholarship.

Geukes has participated in 4-H for nine years, showing both lambs and pigs. She will be pursuing a degree in supply chain management at Grand Valley State University in the fall.

Another TKS graduate, Charlotte Dykstra, received the Jane Morris 4-H Scholarship.

Dykstra has shown market steers, breeding rabbits, dairy cattle and market lambs at the Barry County 4-H for 12 years. She plans to attend Western Michigan University this fall to begin pursuing a degree in pediatric speech.

The Gordon and Carolyn Worth Scholarship was awarded to Isabel Gee of Hastings Area Schools.

According to an announcement on the scholarship awards, Gee has participated in the Barry County 4-H in the open class exhibition, which included baking, sewing and crocheting. She reportedly plans to attend the University of Michigan in the fall to begin pursuing an engineering degree.

The Barry Community Foundation continues to offer various kinds of scholarships to a wide range of students, with applications for scholarships to be awarded next year available to students online starting on Dec. 1.

For more information on the Barry Community Foundation or the scholarship awards, persons may contact Halle by calling 269-945-0526. — *DM*



Another TKS graduate, Charlotte Dykstra, received the Jane Morris 4-H Scholarship. (L/R) Annie Halle and Charlotte Dykstra.

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GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

At a regular meeting of the **Gaines Charter Township Board** of Trustees, held Monday, July 14, 2025, at the Township Hall located at 8555 Kalamazoo Ave., SE, Caledonia, MI 49316, the Board of Trustees was asked to consider an amendment to the Gaines Charter Township Zoning Ordinance as provided for in Chapter 32 thereof by amending Section 22-136, Building permits, Section (B). Said section (Section 22-136, Building permits, Section (B)) thereof, restricts all early starts, including multifamily structures.

The proposed text amendment to Section 22-136, Building permits, Section (B), will allow multi-family early starts.

The Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing at their regularly scheduled August 11, 2025 meeting to consider an amendment to the Gaines Charter Township Zoning Ordinance as provided for in Chapter 32 thereof by amending Section 22-136, Building permits, Section (B).

A true copy of the proposed ordinance amending the Gaines Charter Township Zoning Ordinance as provided for in Chapter 32 thereof, Section 22-136, Building permits, Section (B), can be obtained at the Clerk's office during normal business hours (8:30am-5:00PM Mon-Fri).

Michael A. Brew
Gaines Charter Township Clerk

GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Gaines Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing to consider the following request:

Summary of Request: Request for a 40-foot dimensional variance to reduce the street side yard setback of the northern property line from 60 feet to 20 feet to construct a 3,400 square foot residential accessory building in the A-RR zoning district.

Property Address: 9720 Hanna Lake Avenue SE, Caledonia, MI 49316

Parcel Number: 41-22-26-320-002

Applicant: Jeremy Boot

Date and Time of Hearing: August 13th, 2025, at 7:00 PM

Location of Hearing: Gaines Charter Township Offices, Board Room
8555 Kalamazoo Avenue SE, Caledonia, MI 49316

Any interested party may appear and be heard on said proposal. Information related to this request may be inspected during regular business hours Monday through Friday, at the Planning Department window located in the Gaines Charter Township Offices or contact Dan Wells at (616) 980-6188 or dan.wells@gainestownship.org. To be entered into the public record, signed written comments must be received by 5 PM on August 13th, 2025.

Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations should contact info@gainestownship.org or (616) 698-6640 one week prior to the meeting to request mobility, visual or any other assistance.

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