

## STATE TOURNAMENT ACTION APPROACHES

SEE SPORTS, PAGE B1

## TEACHER OF THE WEEK: MIKAELA DUER

SEE STORY, PAGE A6

### GRAND HAVEN

## City Council approves many agenda items

By **ADDELYN WACHTER**  
Grand Haven Tribune

Grand Haven's City Council approved many items on its agenda Monday.

Dairy Creme in downtown Grand Haven is being sold to Norm's Ice Cream on the city's east side, while locations of each soft serve and hard serve ice cream shop will remain.

All council members approved a license agreement between the city and Norm's Dairy Creme with the term beginning March 1, 2025 and ending 10 years later.

The next order of business involved an approval for a new HVAC system for the Department of Public Safety.

The current HVAC system that has been in place since 2015 has been having issues for the past few years. Given that the system should have lasted anywhere from 15 to 20 years, a new system was requested.

They have found that the current system is not ideal for the city's climate.

The current system's warranty expires in 2025 and they will see and uptick

in maintenance costs, so this would be the time to switch, according to Dana Kollewehr, Deputy Public Works Director.

To bring costs down, there are a couple things that would be done differently.

"The major area that we see right now is on temperature controls for the building," John Rumour, principal at Ignite Design, said. "The building includes a digital control system so that you can see it from your phone so that city staff can see and maintain that facility remotely. Talking with the contractors that are doing a little bit of work in the building now ... there are a couple things that we could reuse as part of that system."

City Council unanimously approved using \$850,000 from the capital budget to pay for the new HVAC unit.

Council also approved Sluka Field Renovations Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Agreement for Sluka Field improvements. The grant will allow for new dugouts, new fencing around the park, and new bleachers.



Tribune file photo / Addelyn Wachter

Grand Haven City Council approved several items during their regular meeting on Monday, Oct. 7.

### WEATHER

## BLP line crew heads to Florida to aid in hurricane response

By **TRIBUNE STAFF**

The Grand Haven Board of Light & Power (BLP) has deployed a line crew to respond to requests for mutual aid in the eventual aftermath of Hurricane Milton.

The BLP line crew joins five other Michigan municipal electric line crews to travel and assist Florida recovery efforts from the subsequent effects of the hurricane.

The crews left early Monday morning so that they could minimize the response time following Hurricane Milton, which is projected to make landfall Wednesday.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Florida," said Rob Shelley, BLP general manager. "Mutual aid is such a critical resource for utilities, and we are honored to assist in the eventual recovery efforts."

Mutual aid is an emergency response arrangement in



SHELLEY

which utilities both receive and give assistance for power restoration following a disaster. When an electric system is damaged beyond the capabilities of the local electric utility, a call for assistance from other utilities is requested. The requesting utility specifies the best estimate of skilled utility workers, equipment, and materials it needs. Other utilities not affected by the damage then respond with what they can offer.

"The dedication of our workforce extends beyond our local community," Shelley said. "We wish our crew members safe travels and thank them for their willingness to assist the people of Florida who are still recovering from the aftermath of Hurricane Helene."

### PUBLIC SAFETY



Tribune photos / Carter Frye

Operation Lifesaver State Coordinator Curtis Stewart holds up an example of the Emergency Notification Systems sign that exists at railroad crossings across the country.

## All aboard for railroad safety

By **CARTER FRYE**  
Grand Haven Tribune

Operation Lifesaver joined Rep. Hillary Scholten (D-Grand Rapids) and other local officials at the Coopersville-Marne train station Friday to discuss railroad safety.

Operation Lifesaver is a national non-profit education program that focuses on preventing crashes at railroad crossings. Curtis Stewart, the state coordinator for the organization in Michigan, says that their mission is to keep people safe around trains.

"Any tragedy on the tracks is preventable because that 4 feet, 8.5 inches that you'll be between if a train's coming is the most dangerous place you will be in the world," Stewart said. "So, that's why we tell everybody to stay off, stay away, and stay safe."

Railway officials at the event made sure to highlight the first and most important



Rep. Hillary Scholten (sixth from right), Deputy Ryan Tottingham (fifth from right), Curtis Stewart (third from right), and Tim Rogers (second from right) pose with other local safety and railroad officials.

thing to do if there is an emergency on the tracks: find the blue sign.

The blue Emergency Notification System signs are posted at almost every railroad crossing in the country. They include the phone

number of the local railroad and a number that corresponds with the crossing. When the system is used, safety officials can more quickly locate the incident and respond to it.

"The blue sign is one of

the most important things that occur on the crossing that could possibly save your life," said Stewart. "If you get stalled and see it, always use it."

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### FERRYSBURG

## Residents clash over free produce stand

By **CARTER FRYE**  
Grand Haven Tribune

FERRYSBURG — Residents spoke out at Monday's city council meeting both in support and against a free produce stand that has started to gain popularity.

Beagleman's Patio is a free produce stand started by Nicole and Jason Larabell at their Ferrysburg home at 16814 Virginia Ave. as a way to connect with their neighbors and give away food grown in their backyard.

"We do this all to build a community that is aware of, and supports agriculture," Nicole Larabell said at the meeting. "We believe in the need for plants to be given away and we rally to save farmland in our communities."

While some spoke at pub-



Tribune photo / Carter Frye

Councilmember Jake Stearley joined the council earlier this year, taking Mayor Richard Carlson's vacated seat.

lic comment with praise for the stand and what it does for the community, a couple of her neighbors said they have filed complaints with the city, taking issue with the zoning ordinances it violates and the safety hazards it creates.

"I hope people understand that our issue is not the act of giving away free produce," said Julie Cook. "Our concern is the congestion and safety hazards created from an improperly run produce stand that really just doesn't have the bandwidth for it."

Our street is not equipped to handle that much traffic."

The Larabells say that both their Ferrysburg home and their new garden in Spring Lake Township were inspected by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and were found to be in compliance with their guidelines. However, City Manager Craig Bessinger said that a determination has been made that the residence is in violation of a zoning ordinance and that if the Larabells would like to appeal the decision, they may do so with the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Multiple members of City Council acknowledged what the Larabells are doing to foster community, but want to find a compromise.

"I applaud you, and I ap-

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### TOMORROW'S WEATHER

HIGH 66 | LOW 39  
Sunny

### TOP 3 STORIES AT GRANDHAVENTRIBUNE.COM

- 1 Off The Chain celebrates opening
- 2 Trinity Health Urgent Care in Grand Haven reopens
- 3 Tricia Suchecki is the Tribune's Teacher of the Week

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