

GH STUDENT ATHLETES SIGN COLLEGE LETTERS OF INTENT

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STOLEN VEHICLE CRASHES INTO GH TWP. HOME

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HOLIDAY SEASON

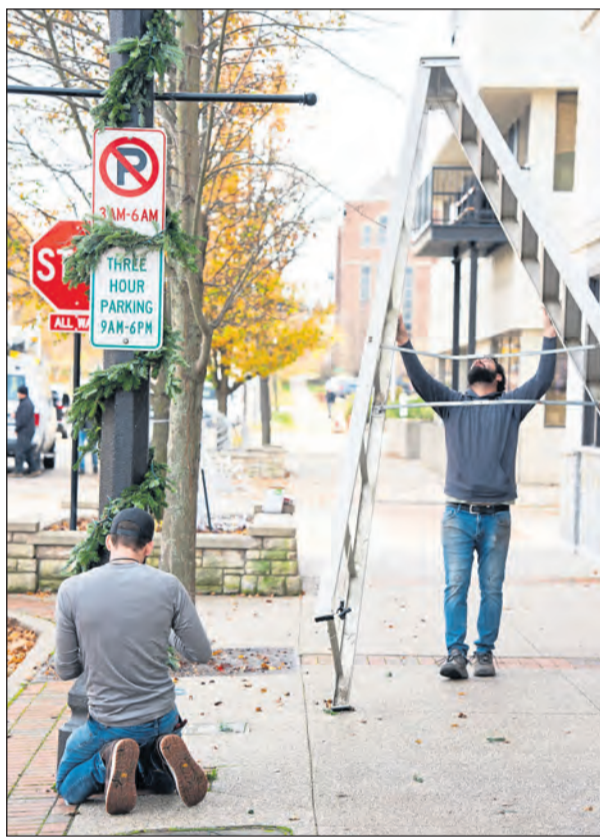
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS LIGHT UP DOWNTOWN GRAND HAVEN

RIGHT: JB Miedema wraps white lights around garland to hang up on light posts downtown Grand Haven along Washington Avenue on Monday.

Tribune photos / Addelyn Wachter



Mike Goodin and Jordan Miedema wrap garland around light posts downtown Grand Haven along Washington Avenue for the holiday season on Monday.



Mike Goodin decorates a light post on Washington Avenue with lights and garland while Jordan Miedema adjusts the ladders position on Monday.

FERRYSBURG

Beagleman's Patio is here to stay

By CARTER FRYE
Grand Haven Tribune

FERRYSBURG — The couple behind Beagleman's Patio, a free produce stand that has been at the center of a neighborhood controversy for months, received permission from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) to continue giving away their homegrown fruits and vegetables.

"It's more than us just giving out free vegetables — it's building a community," said Skip Larabel, who runs Beagleman's Patio with his wife, Nicole. "The only way that we can do that is with our community members. There's no reason why anybody should be limited on their own local produce and what they choose to do with it."

Many residents spoke at Thursday's ZBA meeting during an almost hour-long discussion on the matter, mostly in favor of keeping the establishment open.

"Beagleman's to me isn't just a roadside stand as described by the zoning board, it's a vital community resource that offers free produce, educational opportunities, and a space for neighbors to connect," said Oliver Shampine, a Grand Haven resident who recently ran for District 10's County Commissioner seat. "Skip and Nicole are not only providing fresh food to those in need, but they're also teaching valuable skills in gardening, sustainable practices, and self-reliance."

Nicole and Skip Larabel, along with their beagle, Wyatt, have offered leftover produce from their garden outside their 16814 Virginia Ave. home for the past two summers.

Things changed this fall when neighbors Dave and Julie Cook filed an official complaint with the city, which subsequently issued the Larabels a notice that they would have to close down the stand because of a zoning ordinance violation regarding roadside stands.

"We don't want to shut the stand down," said Julie Cook. "We simply want the traffic to be parked off the street, which is a city ordinance."

Those who take issue with the stand have repeatedly claimed that traffic

and parking have been a problem on the block, but the Larabels and many of the speakers at Thursday's meeting said that is not the case.

"We addressed their biggest issue, which was people parking in the street," said Nicole Larabel. "Now we just have people park in our driveway instead."

"I have never seen a traffic problem, and we're usually out there all summer long," said next-door neighbor Michelle Ploughman.

"Most of the traffic we get is foot traffic," Skip Larabel said. "We're really close to a bike path, so there's a lot of people walking."

The city received 29 formal letters in support of keeping the free produce stand open, while none were written against it.

"I've had about 80 phone calls, and every single one of them has been in support of Beagleman's," said Councilmember Mike DeWitt.

DeWitt also noted that the Department of Public Works has already inspected the interaction for visibility and safety concerns and that no issues were found.

Since ZBA members Dave Cook, Nicole Larabel, and Joe Lyons all live within 300 feet of Beagleman's and have a direct interest in the issue, the three recused themselves from the board's discussion and vote. This left only Mike DeWitt, Mason Milligan, and Heather Hawley, requiring a unanimous vote for any motion to pass.

"Obviously, I think everyone's goal here tonight is not to shut down a free produce stand," said Hawley, the Planning Commission representative on the ZBA. "The planner has given us some suggestions on how we can still let the stand be open but also conform to the ordinances we have."

After a lengthy discussion, the board unanimously agreed that the ordinance allows the Larabels to continue giving away their own produce grown on their property, but that a zoning text amendment is needed to expand the rule to allow neighbors to add their own leftovers to the stand.

Nicole Larabel hopes that

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Courtesy photo

Mr. Wyatt Beagleman watches over a freshly stocked produce cart located at 16814 Virginia Ave. in Ferrysburg.

OTTAWA COUNTY

BLP, county promote weatherization program

By ADDELYN WACHTER
Grand Haven Tribune

Grand Haven Board of Light & Power is partnering with Ottawa County Community Action Agency to inform communities of OCCAA's weatherization program.

The goal of the program is to increase energy efficiency in households. This can reduce the homeowner's utility bill and make their homes safer, warmer and more secure.

"We often find in communities like River Haven that there's just things that people aren't aware of that are simple things, that will really make a big difference," said Barb Koning, program coordinator for the OCCAA. "[This includes] caulking around windows and doors, there's usually some air leakage where ceilings meet walls. Our program will go in and really do an extensive job of that."

About 2,000 residents live in River Haven, which features more than 700 homes,



Tribune photo / Addelyn Wachter

Grand Haven Board of Light & Power partners with Ottawa County Community Action Agency to inform lower income communities of their weatherization program. The team visited River Haven on Thursday.

about of which 500 are owned. The rest are rented.

Homeowners have to qualify based on their income. If the household qualifies, then an auditor through OCCAA visits the home to assess the situation, finding things including air leakage. A work order will be then filed to the Department of Energy and a contractor will come fix the issues.

With grants, the program could spend \$8,000 to \$10,000 per household. None of that cost will be passed on to the homeowner.

"Probably two, three years ago, we started getting some funding that lets us address things outside of weatherization," Koning said. "Sometimes we'll go on a home and then we have a major plumbing leak or a roof leak, and

we can't do weatherization until that stuff is addressed. Now we have the funds to help with that. We've done several roofs in this community already, which is really great, but we'd really like to expand that. Weatherization is a big thing right now with energy conservation. There's a lot of money that they want to put into this."

With heating season starting, general inflation, and the beginning of the holiday season, bills become more expensive. OCCAA recognizes that homeowners could be spending money on other expenses if their utility bill decreases.

"Just through the clients that we've had out here, we found that there's a lot of people living on fixed incomes, and if we can find a way to reduce their energy bills, then that raises money for other things they might need," Koning said. "Right now that's a big deal because we are paying so much more for everything."

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TOMORROW'S WEATHER

HIGH
53
LOW
40
Showers

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ALONG THE LAKE SHORE

STATE NEWS

79 Michigan communities challenge state's solar, wind farm permit rules in court

By **BETH LEBLANC**
The Detroit News (TNS)

LANSING — Nearly 80 Michigan municipalities have challenged the legality of the state's processing of permitting requests for large-scale solar and wind energy facilities — a controversial policy passed by Michigan Democratic lawmakers last year that diminishes local control.

The legal appeal, filed Nov. 8 in the Michigan Court of Appeals, argues the Michigan Public Service Commission exceeded the powers granted it by the Legislature when it adopted an order Oct. 10 that governs the permitting process for solar arrays and wind turbine farms.

The Oct. 10 order did not follow the state rulemaking process and unlawfully redefined “key terms and concepts” that “violate the Legislature’s express and unambiguous intent,” the appeal said.

The Democratic-led Michigan Legislature last year passed legislation that removed local control over large-scale wind and solar projects and shifted decision making to the state via the Michigan Public Service Commission. The legislation was meant to sidestep long-debated local ordinances that, in some cases, had barred large scale renewable energy farms and made it difficult for utilities to meet state-imposed renewable energy goals.

The appeal, filed by 72 Michigan townships and seven counties, seeks a court order voiding the MPSC’s Oct. 10 order and stopping the public service commission from enforcing the new set of rules after the law takes effect Nov. 29.

The Michigan counties that joined the legal fight include Clinton, Dickinson, Ionia, Sanilac, Schoolcraft, Shiawassee and Tuscola.

The Michigan Public Service Commission, through a spokesman, said it could not comment on the appeal.

In the law passed last year, the Legislature gave the MPSC — the state’s regulator of utility and telecommunication companies — authority over creating application requirements, deciding the format and content of the notice for public meetings,

protecting confidentiality of some information and to grant or deny applications.

In order to carry out those responsibilities, the appeal argues, the MPSC was required to follow the Administrative Procedures Act because it was not merely interpreting or explaining the statute but instead establishing “the substantive standards implementing the program.”

The MPSC is able to side setup the rulemaking process when it is handling a contested case, the appeal acknowledged. But the commission’s consideration of the rules implementing the state law was not contested.

“There are no named parties and there was no opportunity for an evidentiary hearing,” the filing said. “The order is simply a rule by another name that did not go through the rulemaking process.”

The appeal also alleges the commission redefined certain phrases in the law including a CREO or “compatible renewable energy ordinance,” an affected local unit and a hybrid facility.

In the law, a community with a “compatible renewable energy ordinance” that is no more restrictive than state standards is able to keep local jurisdiction over the permitting process. But the appeal argues the commission redefined CREO to add that such an ordinance can only contain the exact requirements in state law related to setback, fencing, height and sound, “and nothing else.”

Additionally, the law refers to an “affected local unit” as a local government unit where a proposed energy facility will be located, including a county, township, city or village. But the commission redefined it, according to the appeal, “include only those local units of government that exercise zoning jurisdiction.”

The phrase “hybrid facility” is not contained, defined or addressed in the law, but the commission includes mention of it as a site where “multiple technologies are combined for siting.”

“This expansion of the PSC’s jurisdiction violates the Legislature’s intent and is not authorized by law,” the suit said.

NATIONAL HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE MONTH



Courtesy photo

Beyond the telltale tremors, stiffness and slow or involuntary movements, Parkinson’s disease can cause a slew of symptoms that impact quality of life.

Hospice for Parkinson’s enhances quality of life amid changing symptoms

By **EMMANUEL HOSPICE**

Beyond the telltale tremors, stiffness and slow or involuntary movements, Parkinson’s disease can cause a slew of symptoms that impact quality of life.

While it can vary for every person, this neurodegenerative disorder can cause everything from dementia, depression and anxiety to insomnia, hallucinations and blood pressure changes.

“It can be an ugly disease that feels so unfair to the patient and their loved ones,” says Julie Chambers, a nurse case manager with Emmanuel Hospice. “It can affect a lot of things in our daily lives that we take for granted like walking, feeding ourselves and recognizing our loved ones. We also often see social isolation and feelings of embarrassment or frustration take root as these symptoms develop.”

While medications are available to lessen symptoms, there is no cure or therapy to stop or slow the progression. Swallowing difficulties that can cause aspiration and pneumonia, as well as the risk of falling become of particular concern in the advanced stages.

With November being National Hospice and Palliative Care Month, Chambers wants to educate the community on how hospice can help with this and other life-limiting diseases. Hospice services can enhance quality of life, support caregivers and help keep patients at home.

Working in collaboration with the patient’s neurologist, Chambers says hospice can help manage Parkinson’s symptoms and provide additional support to give more peace of mind to everyone involved.

“We work closely with the neurologists sharing the goal of keeping patients comfortable,” she says. “We agree, ‘it’s not my patient, it’s our patient.’ We keep each other updated while navigating changes in the patient’s needs.”

Beyond medication management, Chambers says hospice can bring in practical items that help people with Parkinson’s be more independent and safer in their own home while receiving end-of-life care. This may include specialized walkers, Hoyer lifts, weighted utensils, bed and chair alarms, bedside commodes, fall mats and adjustable hospital beds.

Another benefit of hospice for Parkinson’s patients includes in-home support with the help of aides who can assist with activities of daily living that can become difficult like bathing, dressing, eating and using the bathroom.

People with Parkinson’s may become restless in the middle of the night or otherwise have difficulty sleeping. This can result in a potential fall and other concerns at any hour. While not all hospices offer 24-hour support, Emmanuel Hospice has a full-time extended care team of nurses who work around the clock to help answer questions over the phone and can see patients for any urgent medical needs on nights and weekends.

The nonprofit also offers complementary therapies and services that can help lessen pain and loosen muscles, such as massage therapy, acupuncture and acupuncturists. Pet visitors, volunteers and art activities are also used to bring emotional support, joy and companionship to patients who may have withdrawn from social functions as symptoms worsened. Essential oils can be used to bring peace with calming

scents and a relaxing rotation of lights.

Supporting family members who often overlook their own health and wellbeing while taking care of a seriously ill loved one is just as important to the hospice care team, Chambers says.

“We can bring in additional emotional support through our grief support team, understanding that feelings of loss start long before the patient passes away,” she says. “This helps loved ones process everything they’re going through and learn about stress reduction and self-care.”

Parkinson’s can bring on sudden and drastic health changes and sometimes severe psychosis in patients that can be distressing to the family, Chambers adds.

“In these times, I like to assure families there’s little our team hasn’t seen before. We come in calm and ready to help with any situation” she says. “Our services are designed to support the mind, body and spirit through all the changes that can come from this disease through the end of life.”

For more information, call 616-719-0919, or visit EmmanuelHospice.org.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

New stamp will honor much-beloved ‘Golden Girls’ actress

By **BRENDAN FARRINGTON**
Associated Press

The United States Postal Service might have found a way to unite a nation bitterly divided after this month’s election: It’s releasing a Betty White stamp.

The beloved actress known for roles in “The Golden Girls,” “The Mary Tyler

Moore Show,” “Boston Legal,” and others will be on a 2025 Forever stamp, USPS announced Friday.

White died in late December 2021, less than three weeks before her 100th birthday. The Postal Service hasn’t announced a release date for the stamp.

“An icon of American television, Betty White (1922–

2021) shared her wit and warmth with viewers for seven decades,” the Postal Service said in announcing the stamp, which depicts a smiling White based on a 2010 photograph by celebrity photographer Kwaku Alston. “The comedic actor, who gained younger generations of fans as she entered her 90s, was also revered as

a compassionate advocate for animals.”

Boston-based artist Dale Stephanos created the digital illustration from Alston’s photo.

“I’d love to send a letter back to my 18-year-old self with this stamp on it and tell him that everything is going to be OK,” Stephanos posted on Facebook.



AP file photo

Nearly 80 Michigan municipalities have challenged the legality of the state’s processing of permitting requests for large-scale solar and wind energy facilities.

BEAGLEMAN’S

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this leads to broader change.

“I would love to see a legal solution to this so that it’s legal for anybody to do this,” she said.

The planning commission is expected to review the amendment in January.

Although the gardening season is over and the Larabels are essentially out of produce for the season, they say that Beagleman’s will remain open as a place for members of the community to connect with one another and get seeds to assist with their own gardens next year.

“We’re always having people stop by,” said Skip Larabel. “We have a lot of regulars in the neighborhood who we’ve met and formed relationships with. It’s a lot of preparation, but we always get seeds ready for people and hand them out at no cost.

We’re always trying to at least have something available to help someone out.”

While the Larabels will continue running the Beagleman’s table in the same fashion out of their current location next summer, they are also in the process of building a completely separate, second garden.

“We do have another project we’re working on in Spring Lake Township,” said Skip Larabel. “It will be a bigger garden plot, and hopefully we’ll have the space and availability to have a bigger farm stand that would be able to handle a little more traffic. But as far as our private residence where we’re doing it right now, we have no intent on making it bigger. It’s only a 2-by-3-foot table, there’s only so much produce you can put on it.”

To stay up to date on Beagleman’s Patio, community members are encouraged to visit their Facebook page.

Contact Carter Frye at cfrye@grandhaventribune.com

WEATHERIZATION

From page A1

OCCAA staff also recognizes that asking for help isn’t always easy.

“If you can meet people where they’re at physically, it’s so much easier to get that assistance, because it could be really difficult to make that call,” Jen Brozowski, program director, said. “If we’re here, it makes things a little bit easier on the residents.”

OCCAA’s plan is to hop around to various low-income housing associations around Ottawa County and inform as many people as they can about their weatherization program.