

Our Seventh Issue • June 19 2021

Welcome to Our Seventh Issue!

Thank you so much for reading all about
Buchanan's latest!

THE BUCHANAN CHRONICLE

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Buchanan Sports – Softball Escort

Softball Escort into Town June 15 2021 by Editor &
Photographer Rebecka Hoyt The Buchanan High School
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June 15, 2021 at...

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Buchanan City Government – Meet the Manager

Pathways to Progress by Jan Wiezorek Six months on the
job, Buchanan City Manager Heather Grace discusses
potential economic growth and challenges with The
Buchanan Chronicle. Every week Buchanan City...

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Buchanan History – Issue 07

History's Backyard—and More—in Buchanan by Jan
Wiezorek Summer is a perfect time for lying on a
hammock under a sprawling maple—in your own
backyard. And if you've ever walked along...

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Buchanan Farmers' Market : Meet the Market – Issue 07

Up and Coming Young Vendors Submitted by Ashley Hanson The market boasts youth entrepreneurs, and with the second introduction of Farmers' Market vendors, I will highlight 2 up and coming...

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Local Family – Father's Day

Dad's Day Questions by Buchanan Chronicle Team In honor of Father's Day (6/20/2021) we asked The Buchanan Chronicle team four questions about dads. All of our hard working men teammates...

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Hello from the Buchanan District Library Summer Reading Program Returns – Tails & Tales – June 7th-July 24th It's not too late to sign-up for our awesome Summer Reading Program!...

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by Jan Wiezorek Leap of Faith Former Buchanan Mayor and Korean War Veteran Doyle Vergon took his second

tandem parachute jump last month, this time in Dallas.
He also will...

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Police Points – Officer Brie’s Tips

Water Safety Tips Officer Brie – Buchanan City Police
Department Good Morning Buchanan! I have 10 tips for
water safety this month! These tips should be applied
when swimming in...

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Police Points – Call Log Issue 07

Police Call Log : 5/25 – 6/7 Buchanan City Police
Department Description Total Calls of Type Sex Offenses
1 Larceny 1 Larceny – Theft from Motor Vehicle 0 UDAA
(Motor...

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The Clark Barker – Issue 07

Pet Summer Safety My humans saw an informative
Facebook post from The State of Michigan Police
Department earlier this month for pet emergency
preparedness. You never know when an emergency...

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A Note from the Publisher – Issue 07

by Jen Garry, Publisher The Buchanan Chronicle
Summer Break During this summer holiday our team will also be taking a short break. Instead of our next issue being on July...

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Mayor's Memo – Thank You

Thank You! by Mayor Sean Denison I wanted to send out a few thank you notes for this edition of the Mayor's Memo. If I somehow forgot to mention anyone...

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Nature Notes – Summer Solstice

Summer Solstice Returns by Jill McDonald At last the season of summer is upon us! According to almanac.com, summer officially begins this year on Sunday, June 20 at 11:32 pm...

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Community Press Release – Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce

River of Life Yoga Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Buchanan, MI – June 19, 2021 Submitted by Karol Behrle on behalf of the Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce RIVER...

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Community Press Release – Honor Credit Union

Honor Credit Union Announces Tracy Sanders as VP of Operations Berrien Springs, MI – June 7, 2021 Honor Credit Union is thrilled to announce the internal promotion of Tracy Sanders....

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Community Press Release – DAR

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Rebecca Dewey Chapter Three Oaks, MI – June 25&26, 2021 Rebecca Dewey Chapter, NSDAR, invites you to participate in the Good Citizen Yard...

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Buchanan Area Senior Center hosts Community Shredding Event and Blood Drive July 10 2021 Buchanan, MI – July 10, 2021 Community Shredding Event and Blood Drive at the Buchanan Area...

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Past Event – Common Concert Series

Musical Notes of Summer Concert Series are Back! by Editor & Photographer Rebecka Hoyt After a year without summer concerts, the South Shore Concert Band brought some great music to...

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Now That's Funny! – Issue 07

by Thomas Hoyt Every year around Memorial Day weekend is the time to plant flowers for the summer. Whether planting petunias, geraniums, or marigolds, in hanging baskets or pots you...

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Community Press Release – Honor Credit Union

Honor Credit Union Community Commitment Scholarship Winners Announced Berrien Springs, MI – June 8, 2021 Honor Credit Union is proud to support local, outstanding high school seniors with the annual...

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Remembering – Issue 07

Buchanan Losses • 6/2-6/18 Name Age Born Died Aileen Marjorie Handley 93 June 18, 1927 June 4, 2021 Jerome "Jerry" Fortney 72 February 23, 1949 June 4, 2021 Roger Lynn...

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Homeschooling Spotlight – Gallery

Homeschooling Spotlight by Editor Rebecka Hoyt with Photos submitted by Ashley Hanson As the school year comes to a close, we decided to include our local homeschooling students in this...

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Movie Showtimes – 06/24/21

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June 18, 2021

Thanks for Reading Our *Seventh* Issue!

*

Look for Our *Eighth* Issue:

July 17, 2021

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Herd on the Street – Issue 07

by Jan Wiezorek

Leap of Faith

Former Buchanan Mayor and Korean War Veteran Doyle Vergon took his second tandem parachute jump last month, this time in Dallas. He also will be included in a documentary film that features veterans.



Doyle Vergon lands with a big smile. Photograph courtesy of Doyle Vergon.

"It's a real honor to be asked," Vergon says. As he jumped from the plane, a separate film crew jumped as well to capture Vergon's thrilling, freefall trip, parachute opening and successful landing.



Doyle Vergon parachutes and lands with a big smile. Photograph courtesy of Doyle Vergon.

Recently, Vergon has been donating his time repairing and painting curbs at American Legion Ralph Rumbaugh Post 51 on Front Street.

Three Galleries Full

For the first time since the pandemic began, the Buchanan Art Center is filled with art in its three galleries, says BAC Executive Director Danielle Wilborn. A June 6 reception featured “Celebrating the St. Joe,” with paintings that focus on the St. Joseph River.



Pottery from the Darlene Clevenger Collection. Photograph by Jan Wiezorek.

Another BAC highlight—“Art for Art: Paying It Forward”—is a display of paintings and pottery from the collection of Darlene Clevenger. Proceeds from the sale of work in Clevenger’s collection will help to support art programs for children through BAC and Redbud Area Ministries.



South Bend on the St. Joe, by Linda Fritschner. Photograph by Jan Wiezorek.

Also, BHS graduate and emerging artist Jordan Bauer is showcasing her whimsical works at BAC. She will soon attend the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design.



Gallery-goers at the Buchanan Art Center. Photograph by Jan Wiezorek.

BAC's summer concert series begins June 27 with a program by local young musicians. An All Members' Show of art is set for July and August. Call 269-697-4005 for details.

Crafts from Cousins

Look for crafts and fabric work from cousins Barbara Ferris and Jan Ferris. They display their oven mitts, soup cozies, banners, felt pillows, gnomes, aprons and more on most Saturday mornings at the Buchanan Farmers' Market.



Jan Ferris displays her work. Photograph by Jan Wieszorek.

“I bring a few things and sit with my cousin,” says Buchanan resident Jan Ferris. “It gives me an outlet to sell some of the items I make and to visit with people at the market.”



Barbara Ferris at the Buchanan Farmers' Market. Photograph by Jan Wieszorek

Jan Ferris enjoys creating “gathering aprons” from vintage tablecloths. The aprons contain pouches that are handy for gathering fruit and vegetables in the garden.

Buchanan Sports – Softball Escort



June 15 Escort photo from Buchanan City Fire Department [Facebook](#)

Softball Escort into Town June 15 2021

by Editor & Photographer Rebecka Hoyt

The Buchanan High School girls Softball team was escorted into town on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 8:45pm with the City of Buchanan Fire Department and Buchanan City Police Department. It started at Harding's going west on Front Street to the high school with the sirens blaring and lights on. The team was in the bed of the pickup truck and their families followed. They were greeted by young and older Buchanan citizens (or I should say, "The Herd") with decorated signs, cheers, waves and hollars! Even Superintendent Patricia Robinson showed up as well. My family and I went down there and I did a Facebook LIVE video that you can view on our [Facebook Page](#). It was quite an exciting time for me and at the end of the video, I almost lost it when I said "GO BUCKS!" It was a happy tear moment!



Buchanan businesses decorated windows, Photos by Rebecka Hoyt

Area businesses decorated their windows to cheer on the team before they left town on Tuesday. The Buchanan Chronicle wants to congratulate the Softball team on qualifying for the semi-state final at Michigan State University (MSU) at 3pm this Friday (June 18), and 5pm this Thursday (June 19) for the Baseball team at MSU. IF Softball wins on Friday, they will play for the MHSAA State Championship at 5:30pm on Saturday, June 19. IF Baseball wins on Thursday, they will play for the MHSAA State Championship at 11:30am on Saturday, June 19. GO BUCKS!

Buchanan City Government – Meet the Manager



Pathways to Progress

by Jan Wiezorek

Six months on the job, Buchanan City Manager Heather Grace discusses potential economic growth and challenges with The Buchanan Chronicle.



Buchanan City Manager Heather Grace. Photograph by Jan Wiezorek.

Every week Buchanan City Manager Heather Grace says she and her staff get phone calls from businesses hoping to move to Buchanan. During the pandemic, people explored opportunities locally, she says, and “saw a beautiful gem of a community” right here.

While it's premature to announce any new businesses coming to Buchanan, Grace and Community Development Director Rich Murphy are talking to a handful of restaurant, shop and business owners about opening up in the city.

Grace is hopeful that new opportunities and jobs will be forthcoming in the months ahead. “I feel very encouraged by everything we’re seeing and the amount of interest” that, she says, will help to put Buchanan on the map.

She says she has also met with a number of Front Street business owners since taking on her new position six months ago. Grace assumed the role formerly held by Bill Marx, who retired in January.

Economic Development Toolkit

Now, Grace and city commissioners are researching a variety of state programs to help bolster the city's economic development.

For example, a Main Street program, offered by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, could provide grants and financial incentives to companies choosing to move to Buchanan.

Grace says commissioners will consider an economic development toolkit of programs once the new fiscal year budget is approved. The new fiscal year begins July 1. Financial incentives for prospective businesses may include façade improvement grants, tax abatement and small-business incubation. The latter provides a shared space where entrepreneurs can work together, she says.

DDA's Loose Ends

With a new job come new challenges. Grace says one challenge is tying up loose ends after the dissolution of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) in 2020, before her arrival.

Attorney Scott Dienes of Barnes & Thornburg has been retained to ensure "all the assets are wound up and dealt with in an appropriate way. It's relatively rare to dissolve a DDA in Michigan," Grace says. "There's not a lot of legal precedent for the correct way to do that. So we engaged special counsel to make sure we're doing that in a way that satisfies the state statutes that apply to tax-increment financing and the DDA."

At a May 24 city commission meeting, Dienes referred to the former DDA's "murky recordkeeping," but he thought there would be "no fault to city or staff" over the matter. Further opinions are forthcoming.

And since the DDA is the body that issues liquor licenses in the downtown—and the city is unable to issue new licenses itself—she says, "We're trying to find other avenues to get in more restaurants." Other replacements for the DDA could feature a principal shopping district program or a corridor improvement authority that may "help us accomplish the same goals" as those of a DDA. But Grace says the Main Street program, to her knowledge, can't issue liquor licenses, either.

Reinstate the DDA?

So, some Buchananites want to discuss reinstating the DDA, Grace adds. "There's been talk about that from folks wondering if that's a path forward. That's not out of the question," she says. "Some folks in the community want to have that conversation. I feel we should never take an economic development [option] off the table completely until we have a conversation about it."

Technological Concerns

Technology is another challenge Grace faces. The city plans to work with a yet-to-be-named IT company to update city software and hardware. Some missing records and computer codes have been a problem, she says.

"We don't have access to all of our IDs and passwords right now," she says. "We're not able to access everything we think we should. So we don't know what digital files are out there that we're not able to access, and that's part of the problem. We're trying to transition to a new tech company so we can have better access." She doesn't know whether there existed any document shredding by a previous administration, and she adds, "I don't think it's anything like that."

News to Know

Grace also reports that . . .

- The \$9 million wastewater treatment plant project is on schedule, with a possible June 22 completion, and fully functional in July.
- **Mike Baker** is the interim director of public works.
- Outside bistro seating, benches and ample trash receptacles are part of the new Social District plan.
- After the new fiscal year begins in July, the city will aim at resurfacing the basketball court at Ravish Park.
- The Buchanan Area Recreation Board is also discussing plans for new equipment at Kathryn Park near Moccasin Elementary School.

Buchanan's Heart, Charm

Grace was raised in West Branch, about five hours north of Buchanan. She has a law degree from Western Michigan University-Thomas M. Cooley Law School and practiced law as a Michigan Court of Appeals attorney. She says her background definitely helps her trouble-shoot potential problems and implement solutions.

Away from work, Grace is a Buchanan resident who says that she's "a big family person." Her daughter Faith just turned 3, and son Lowan, 9, studies at Moccasin School.

Grace believes future success for Buchanan means keeping its small-town charm and heart.

"From what I can tell," she says, "the heart of Buchanan is a friendly community that is safe and feels like the place where you and your family want to stay—generation after generation."



Heather Grace on the job. Photograph by Jan Wiezorek.

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USA

Buchanan History – Issue 07



CHAS-S-BLACK-DEWEY-ST-HOME.

Historic photo of house at 106 W Dewey Ave ca. 1880, Photo from Buchanan District Library Historic Collection.

History's Backyard—and More—in Buchanan

by Jan Wieszorek

Summer is a perfect time for lying on a hammock under a sprawling maple—in your own backyard.

And if you've ever walked along Buchanan's historic West and North Neighborhoods, you may have noticed just how wonderful, rich and lush many of those deep backyards really are.

Deep lots have always been an important part of Buchanan's history. The first lots for sale in the city were laid out along Main and Front streets by mill owner and real-estate speculator John Hamilton, in 1842. The lots were three surveyor's chains deep, or 198 feet—with no alleys.

Volunteer Archivist Peter Lysy, with the Buchanan District Library, has a stereoscopic view from the 1870s that looks west from Front Street. Here and there, the viewer can see the tops of many large, backyard barns, graced with a distinctive cupola.

The backyard barn would have been used by the family as a home for the horse. Lysy says that some backyards would have contained a carriage house as well.

A large backyard was also a useful space for keeping the family chickens. (Some neighbors still have them today!) And Lysy wonders if a family way back then might have had a hog, too. That's another reason for a large yard that affords distance from the family home. "You would want your barn away from the house because of the

smell,” Lysy says.

The backyard also could have been the site of an orchard and kitchen garden, Lysy suggests, for growing fruit, potatoes, vegetables and herbs. Some households also purchased a small parcel of 10 or 20 acres outside of Buchanan to grow their own produce and sell it. Some early plat maps show such small acreage plots, he says.

About Main Street

Getting back to plat-maker John Hamilton: His plat of Buchanan (from Front Street north to Third Street) shows Main Street as the widest street—and it still is among the widest streets in the city today. Main Street was designed to be the main thoroughfare that, Lysy says, “points” directly to Mill Alley and the mill that John Hamilton and Andrew Day owned (the predecessor to the Pears Mill).

Main Street is not as wide beyond Third Street, though, perhaps because that section of the street was never part of the original plat that Hamilton designed.

And rather than laying out the city along the St. Joseph River, which one might think would be preferable, Hamilton chose to plat Buchanan’s streets near McCoy’s Creek, the millrace—and his own mill—to obvious entrepreneurial benefit. Also, both Hamilton and Day owned much of the land south of Front Street, and they were happy to sell parcels of it.

In 1862, there was a fire at Day & Hamilton’s original 1840 mill—well over half the town was destroyed. So, thereafter, the city was rebuilt and grew, with Front Street becoming the place for business owners to reestablish themselves. Main Street, it seems, became somewhat less important.

Altered Over Time

Both the millrace and McCoy’s Creek have been essential to Buchanan’s growth. But while the path of the millrace has been consistent over the years, Lysy says, McCoy’s Creek has been altered over time. For example, a portion of the municipal parking lot behind Red Bud Trail was once a boggy area where the creek made a winding turn.

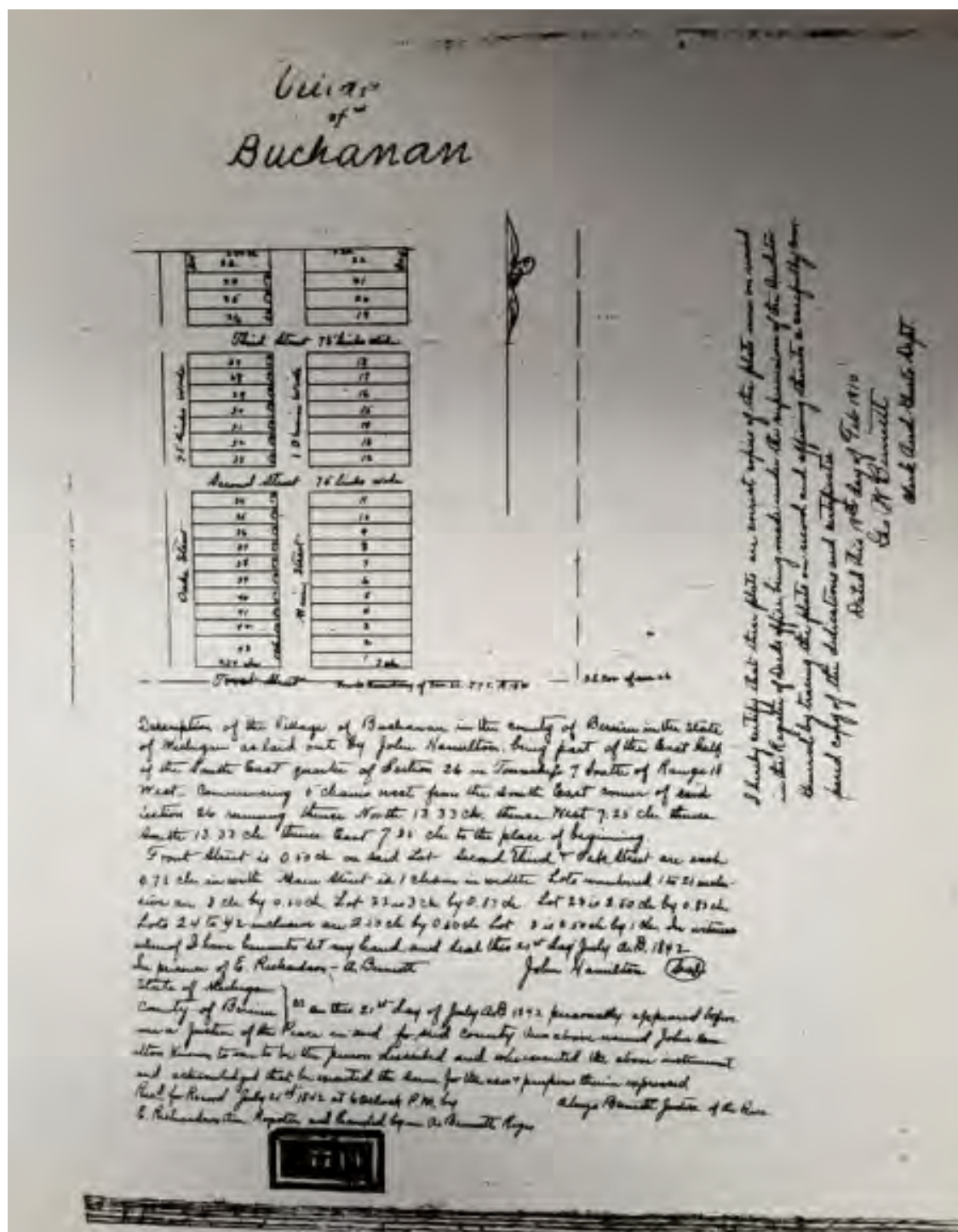
And the terrain near Niagara Mills on McCoy’s Creek (behind Buchanan City Hall) originally had a more gradual slope. But Clark Equipment later filled and leveled the land on both sides of the creek. That explains why the former mill area is hilly along the creek today.

Resources for You

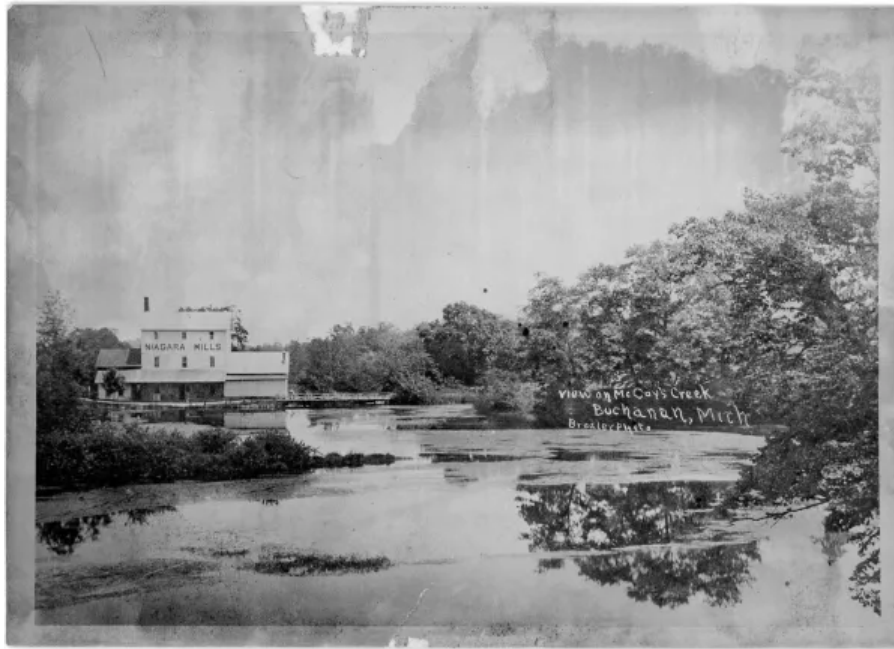
If you haven’t read about Buchanan’s mill history lately, take a look at the graphic, billboard mural on West Smith Street at McCoy’s Creek Trail.

The Buchanan District Library’s Local History Room also has many resources for lovers of Buchanan. To make an appointment, call 269-695-3681 or visit buchananlibrary.org.

And Redbud Hardware sells books on Buchanan’s early history. Take a look.



Photocopy of an original plat map of Buchanan by John Hamilton, Photograph by Jan Wieszorek.



Niagara Mills on McCoy Creek, 1910, Bradley photographer, Photograph courtesy of the Buchanan District Library.



Buchanan's mill history mural on West Smith Street at McCoy Creek Trail, Photograph by Jan Wiezorek.

Buchanan Farmers' Market : Meet the Market – Issue 07



Hunter and Aleah at their booths; Photos submitted by Ashley Hanson

Up and Coming Young Vendors

Submitted by Ashley Hanson

The market boasts youth entrepreneurs, and with the second introduction of Farmers' Market vendors, I will highlight 2 up and coming young vendors: Hunter, 11, and his sister, Aleah, 13. They are the 2 older siblings of a brood of 5. They own and operate H&A Farms. A small egg enterprise on the outskirts of town. Operated by Hunter and his siblings, but mainly Hunter.

Hunter and Aleah bring their wares to market weekly. Hunter of course brings eggs of varying colors and

sizes. He has recently advanced his business from eggs to chickens of egg laying age. Aleah crochets saddles and bridles for toy horses, mainly American Girl Doll Horses, but not only that. She has a variety of colors and sizes as well.

I have come to know Hunter more this market season. He really won my heart the first market day. I lost 40 dollars and could not purchase eggs and all my other market needs, mind you, the first market of the season, you know I had tons to buy. Hunter spent the entire rest of the day helping me look for my money. At the end of the day, no money was found, he gave me eggs anyways to take home. He has ever since helped me every week bring out and put away the Big Blue Blocks for play time during market time. Hunter has told me all about his flock and we compare chicken stories weekly. He is already a great businessman and is very professional yet compassionate at such a young age.

Both, Hunter and Aleah, have many talents for children. Their mother, Stacie Rothrock, has instilled a wonderful work ethic in them already. Stacie homeschools all 4 of the kids. She says market days are mini vacations, as she leaves the little ones with Dad while she takes the older kids to work to sell their goods at the Buchanan Farmers' Market.

To meet Hunter and Aleah come down to the market Saturdays 8am – 1pm and pick up some amazing eggs and one of a kind hand made saddles. Located at the Commons, 122 Days Avenue. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the fun, we have an entire Saturday geared towards youth entrepreneurs, August 14. Check out the market Facebook page for more information on this event and others.





Local Family – Father's Day



Father Tom Hoyt with daughter Julie Hoyt march with American Heritage Girls in the Buchanan Memorial Day Parade, Photo by Rebecka Hoyt

Dad's Day Questions

by Buchanan Chronicle Team

In honor of Father's Day (6/20/2021) we asked The Buchanan Chronicle team four questions about dads. All of our hard working men teammates also happen to be fathers and our hard working women teammates have fathers, so sit back, relax, and enjoy getting to know more about our team as you read through their answers.

1. What is your favorite thing about being a dad? (Girls, What is your favorite thing about your dad?)

- Tom: I get to spoil my daughter.
- Jill: My dad always supported my love of nature! He assisted and allowed part of our yard to be tilled so we could grow a wildflower garden, where my early days of insect and wildflower ID began. We built bird houses and feeders together. And I especially have many years of fond memories raising monarch caterpillars into butterflies together. He even mowed around wild milkweed that grew in the middle of our lawn. I'll always cherish those times!
- Rebecka: My favorite thing about my dad is that he loves to tell his hunting stories over and over again. I never get tired of hearing them. When I was still living at home, we would take rides to look for deer, and we always started out at the gas station first for a small treat of chocolate covered cherries that they sold individually. My other sisters would get a Kit Kat bar when they sang the Kit Kat song! He also makes the BEST bonfires!
- Jen: My dad's sense of humor is the best, he's all about telling stories to get others to laugh. One of our favorite things to do is watch silly movies, we have so much fun together!

2. What are some things you wish someone had told you before becoming a dad? (any specific advice you wish someone would have shared?) [Girls, skip this question.]

- Tom: When changing a diaper, watch out for squirts!

3. Are there things you have discovered that you do that your dad did? Good or bad? (Doesn't have to be related to how you parent.) [Girls, answer the same question.]

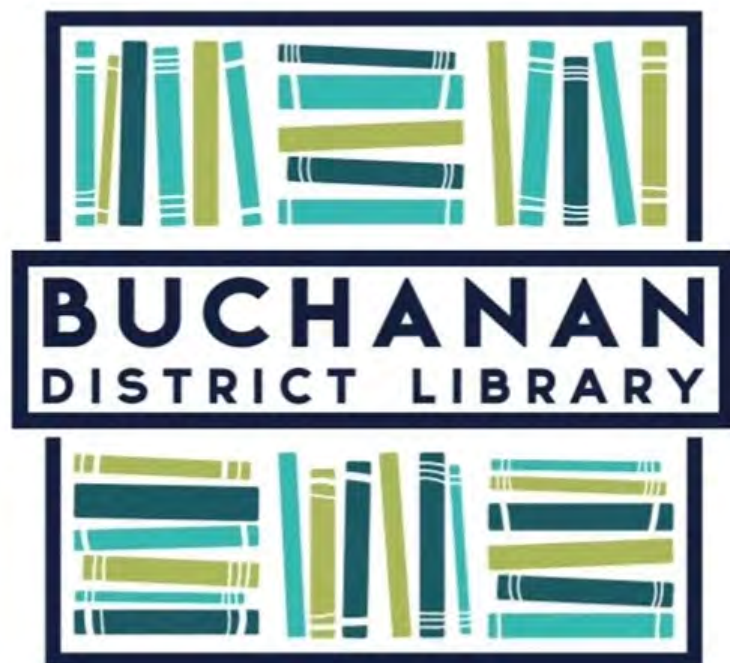
- Tom: Ooooooooooh...I find myself saying, "Does this belong here? Then put it away."
- Jill: In the past year, I've realized I've been taking my glasses off when reading, as I can see better. I never understood how he could see better with his glasses off and now I do, as I'm older and wiser than in my youth. Also I very much enjoy just sitting outside and listening to nature and feeling the peace, without necessarily doing anything else.
- Rebecka: I took interest in golf and started using his golf clubs after he got a new set. He would always say, "Drive careful. Watch for deer." Because of where we lived, it was common to see deer on the roads, and then I hit one with my first car while coming home late at night from work. And now I say the same thing! Also, to call around and get rates when you have to fix something on the car/house.
- Jen: My sense of humor comes from my dad and I love to make others happy and laugh like him.

4. Are there ways that you wish you were like your dad? (Girls, answer the same question)

- Tom: Maybe being more handy.
- Jill: I'd like to learn to grill like my dad, as he truly enjoyed making great steaks outdoors.
- Rebecka: I would like to get a better golf score! He grills a lot and is good at it. I would like to try to grill more often.
- Jen: My dad is the least judgmental person I've met and I could definitely benefit from being even more like him in that way.

From all of us at The Buchanan Chronicle to all of our readers out there, we hope you have a most relaxing and memorable Father's Day this year!

Buchanan District Library – June 2021



Hello from the Buchanan District Library





Summer Reading Program Returns – Tails & Tales – June 7th-July 24th It's not too late to sign-up for our awesome Summer Reading Program! The first check-in is June 14th to receive tickets and prizes! For every 60 minutes you read, you will receive a ticket that you can redeem each week for a prize, or save them up for a bigger prize. Set your own reading goal and participate in exciting challenges each week to earn extra tickets. Register online with Wandoo Reader or in-person at the library.



Story Time on the Common Stage will be on Wednesdays, June 16–July 28. Come hear stories, sing, and dance! Great for ages up to 6 years old!



Stop, Lunch, & Listen returns Thursdays, June 17–July 29 on the Common Stage. Next week: join us for a summertime favorite —Nelson and his Wild Safari! July will bring more fun, with David VanDyke (7/1), Drummunity (7/8), the Buchanan Art Center (7/15), Spray Day (7/22), and we'll end the SRP with our own BDL Olympics and Awards on July 29!



MEET THE
**ECHO DOG
TRAINING CLUB**
with the Buchanan District Library!

TUESDAY
June 29 at 10:00am
AT 457 POST ROAD
CORNER OF POST & BAKERTOWN

Rain date: Tuesday, July 6, at 10:00am



**FRIDAY,
JULY 9TH**
2:00 PM

FOSSIL FUN

SIGN UP AT THE LIBRARY



**SUMMER READING
CHALK & BUBBLES!**

FRIDAYS
JUNE 25 & JULY 16



On Tuesday, June 29, at 10:00am is our first POP-UP Program at the Echo Dog Training Club on the corner of Bakertown and Post Rd. Grab your chairs and join us at the club to watch the dogs do agility, have cart-training, and more! Then on Friday, July 9, at 2:00pm, join us at the library for Fossil Fun with Mrs. C (Darlene Clevenger)! Chalk & Bubbles on the Common Stage will take place on Fridays June 25 and July 16 at 3:00pm.

MESSY SCIENCE



WEDNESDAYS
2:00–3:00PM
JULY 7–28



MIDDLE SCHOOL BOOKCLUB

with the Buchanan District Library

FRIDAYS
June 25–July 23
AT 11:00AM

Be sure to register online for Middle School Book Club, Messy Science, and the new Kids Ukulele Class!

Please check our website and Facebook page for updates. Programs may be cancelled or rescheduled due to weather.

UKULELE CLUB FOR KIDS!

Tuesdays at 2:00pm
July 6 through August 10
Ukulele provided by the Library!
This session will take place in person, OUTSIDE on the Common.

Tails and Tales

Adult Summer Reading

Read 5 books, earn a free book, and be entered to win one of these prizes! Top readers earn prizes too!

Adult Summer Reading Program: Stop in the library to sign-up or register online! Read 5 books and get a book free and a chance to win a prize.



One Book One Buchanan: Join us in our community-wide read of the book *Caste: The Origins of our Discontent* by Pulitzer Prize winner Isabel Wilkerson. From her website: "Caste invites us to discover the inner workings of an American hierarchy that goes far beyond the confines of race, class, or gender. A book steeped in empathy and insight, *Caste* explores, through layered analysis and stories of real people, the structure of an unspoken system of human ranking and reveals how our lives are still restricted by what divided us centuries ago."

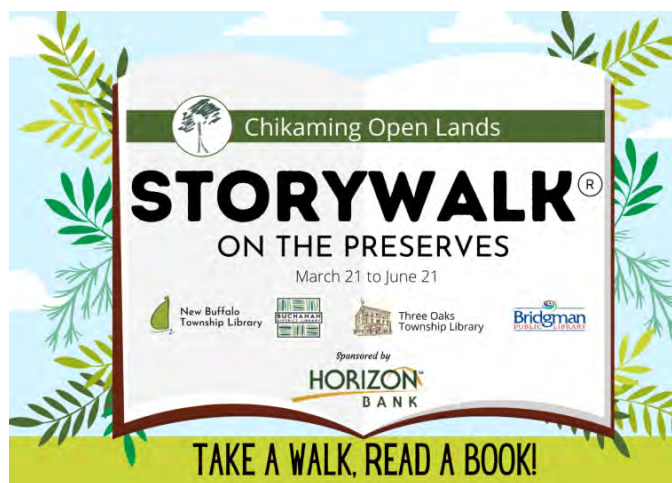
In partnership with One Buchanan and the Buchanan Art Center, we are pleased to offer this new program. Buchanan District Library was among 11 Michigan libraries to be awarded a national grant to fund initiatives that enable libraries to lead community engagement efforts in their communities.

A community-wide discussion of the book will take place on Wednesday, September 1, on the Common Stage. Register on our website for your copy of the book, or stop in the library to register in person.



New t-shirt designs are here! Need a gift for someone on Father's Day? How about a book and a t-shirt! Choose one of our new designs or stick to our classic design, then find a book or two at our book sale located in the library! T-shirts are made to order at Impressive Lettering.

Order using the following form (or call us, or stop by the library). <https://forms.gle/nMZUrgmZwWtXruPA>



StoryWalk on the Preserves: Join Chikaming Open Lands and local libraries for a StoryWalk on the Preserves! We are excited to partner with Bridgman Public Library, Buchanan District Library, New Buffalo Township Library, and Three Oaks Township Library to bring fun-filled family friendly story books at four COL preserves starting Sunday, March 21st to Monday, June 21st! Go to one (or all!) of the following preserves for a fun family story to enjoy sponsored by a different local library: Burns Prairie Preserve, Jens Jensen Preserve, Robinson Woods Preserve, Turtle Creek Preserve.

Thank you for being part of the Buchanan District Library!

About Buchanan District Library Our mission is to provide quality material, superior programming and exceptional services delivered with care and integrity to meet the needs of our diverse community.

Buchanan District Library

269.695.3681

Contact: Sarah Gault, Community Outreach Coordinator

www.buchananlibrary.org

s.gault@buchananlibrary.com

128 E Front St, Buchanan, MI 49107

USA

Nature Notes – Summer Solstice



Summer Solstice Returns

by Jill McDonald

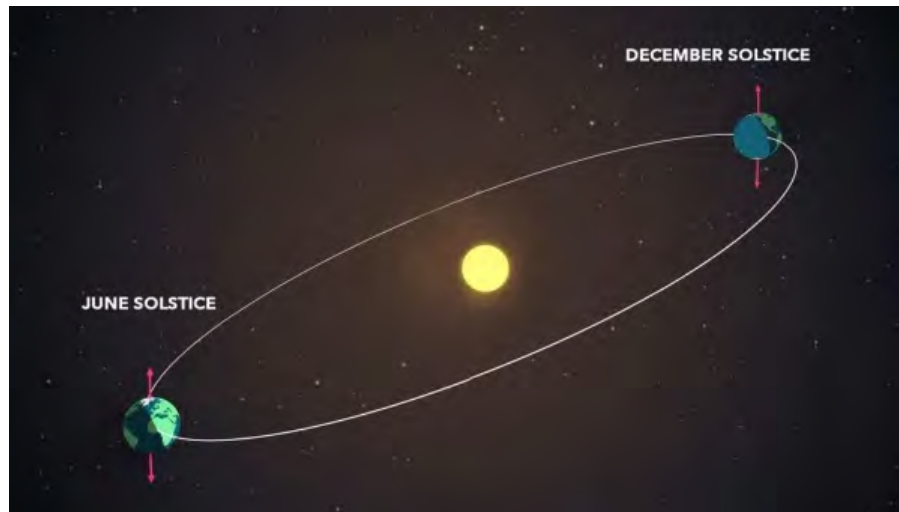


Image: https://blogs.nasa.gov/Watch_the_Skies/tag/summer-solstice/

At last the season of summer is upon us! According to [almanac.com](https://www.almanac.com/), summer officially begins this year on Sunday, June 20 at 11:32 pm EDT in the Northern hemisphere!

The Earth will arrive at the point in its orbit where the North Pole is at its maximum tilt (about 23.5 degrees) toward the sun at that official time, resulting in the longest day (length of sunlight hours) and shortest night of the calendar year. The northern hemisphere receives sunlight at the most direct angle of the year on the Summer solstice.

According to astronomers, the seasonal dates on our calendars are based on the position of the Earth in relation to the sun. These dates therefore fluctuate slightly each year and are considered astronomical seasons.

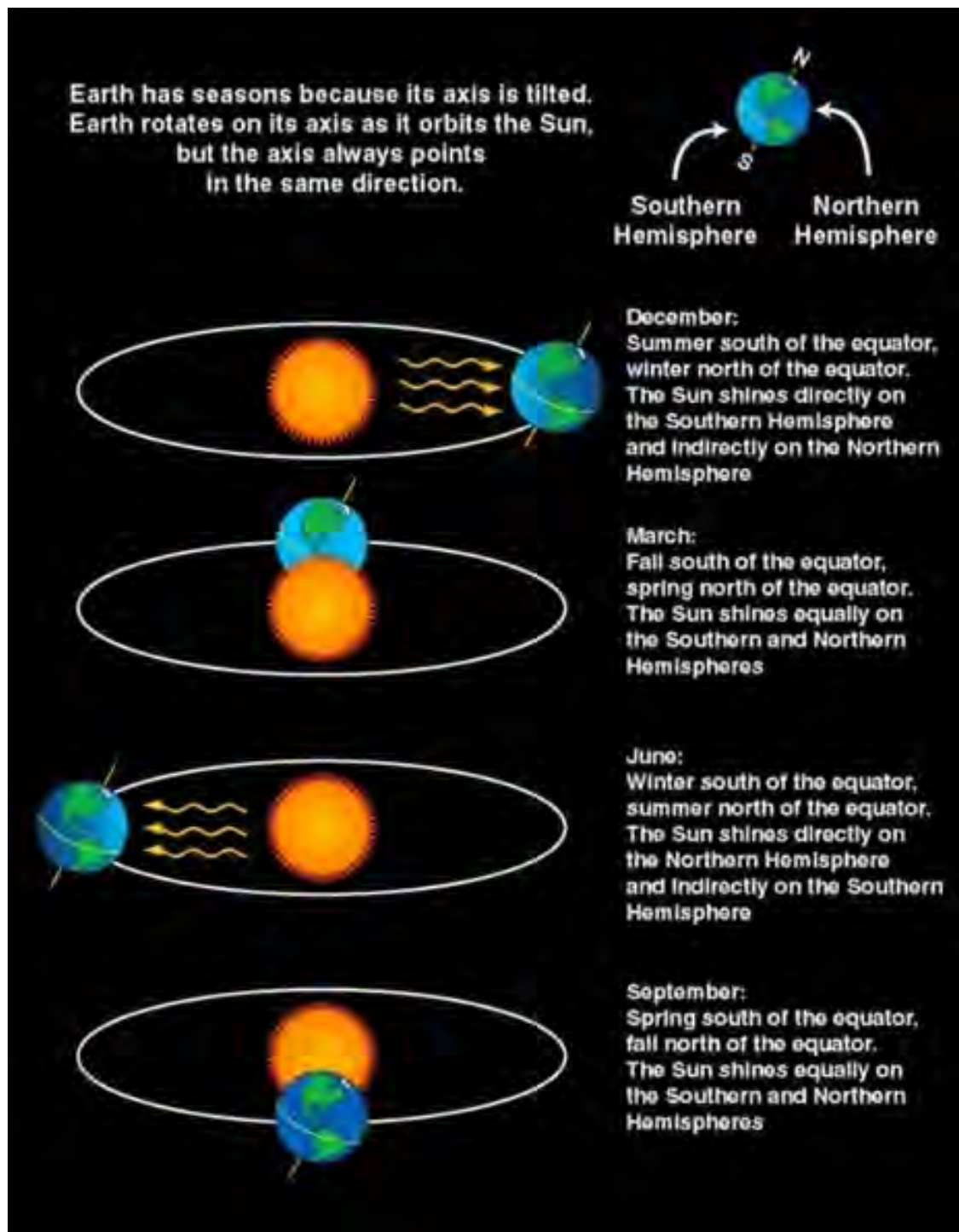


Image: https://blogs.nasa.gov/Watch_the_Skies/tag/summer-solstice/

On the other hand, meteorologists observe seasons based on the annual temperature cycle, grouped into three-month increments. June 1st is always the first day of meteorological summer.

Whichever date you choose to celebrate the change of the season, summer definitely will officially be here either way very soon!

There are countless joys among nature to savor during the summer! Here's highlighting some of my favorites:

- warm temperatures
- active wildlife and birds

- beautiful flowers and gardening
- seeing butterflies and hummingbirds
- trees canopied with leaves
- crickets' and katydids' music at night
- cicadas buzzing during the day (soon)

Summer is such an amazing season! Enjoy this time of year and create some wonderful memories. Here's a few fun outdoor ideas:

- enjoy a day or evening at the beach
- enjoy a sunrise or sunset
- hike on a trail
- have a picnic
- read a book outdoors
- relax in a hammock
- make a campfire
- roast marshmallows
- stargaze
- blow bubbles
- draw with sidewalk chalk

Let summer inspire you to have fun!

Albert Camus once said, "In the depth of winter, I finally realized that within me lies an invincible summer." Let the joys and memories of summer recharge you and stay with you throughout the year. May you each enjoy summer in whatever ways bring you the most joy! Happy Summer Solstice!



Backyard Petunia, Photo by Jen Garry

Jill K. McDonald is a freelance nature & travel educator, writer, photographer, and speaker. She can be reached by email at jillmcdonaldjkm123@gmail.com or connect with her on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/naturetravelerjillmcdonald.

Community Press Release – Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce



River of Life Yoga Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Buchanan, MI – June 19, 2021

Submitted by Karol Behrle on behalf of the Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce

RIVER OF LIFE YOGA is celebrating with an open house and ribbon cutting on Saturday morning, June 19th. Light refreshments will be served. Ulrike McCarty, sole owner, is very excited to open her new yoga studio that has been in the works for 6 months now located at 113 Main Street. The open house begins at 10:00am and ends at 2:00pm with a ribbon cutting by the Buchanan Chamber of Commerce at 10:30am.

OPEN HOUSE

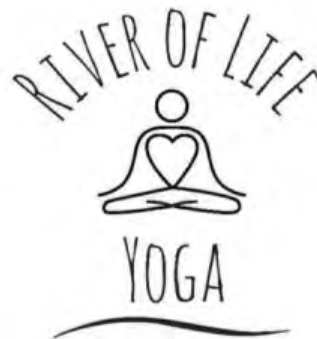
SATURDAY, JUNE 19TH

10AM-2PM

113 MAIN STREET BUCHANAN



RIBBON
CUTTING
@ 10:30 AM



A BREATH IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

- MEET THE TEAM
- TOUR THE STUDIO
- ENTER RAFFLE FOR FREE PASSES
- PURCHASE DISCOUNTED CLASS PASSES
- LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

As a small Yoga Studio in Buchanan, we offer small group classes in a more intimate setting to provide a safe environment, giving you the support you need to develop your own yoga practice. Private one-on-one sessions provide you with a practice geared towards your own needs and wants 😊

River of Life Yoga

269-695-1171

www.riveroflifeyoga.com

ulrike@riveroflifeyoga.com

113 E Main St

Buchanan, MI 49107

USA

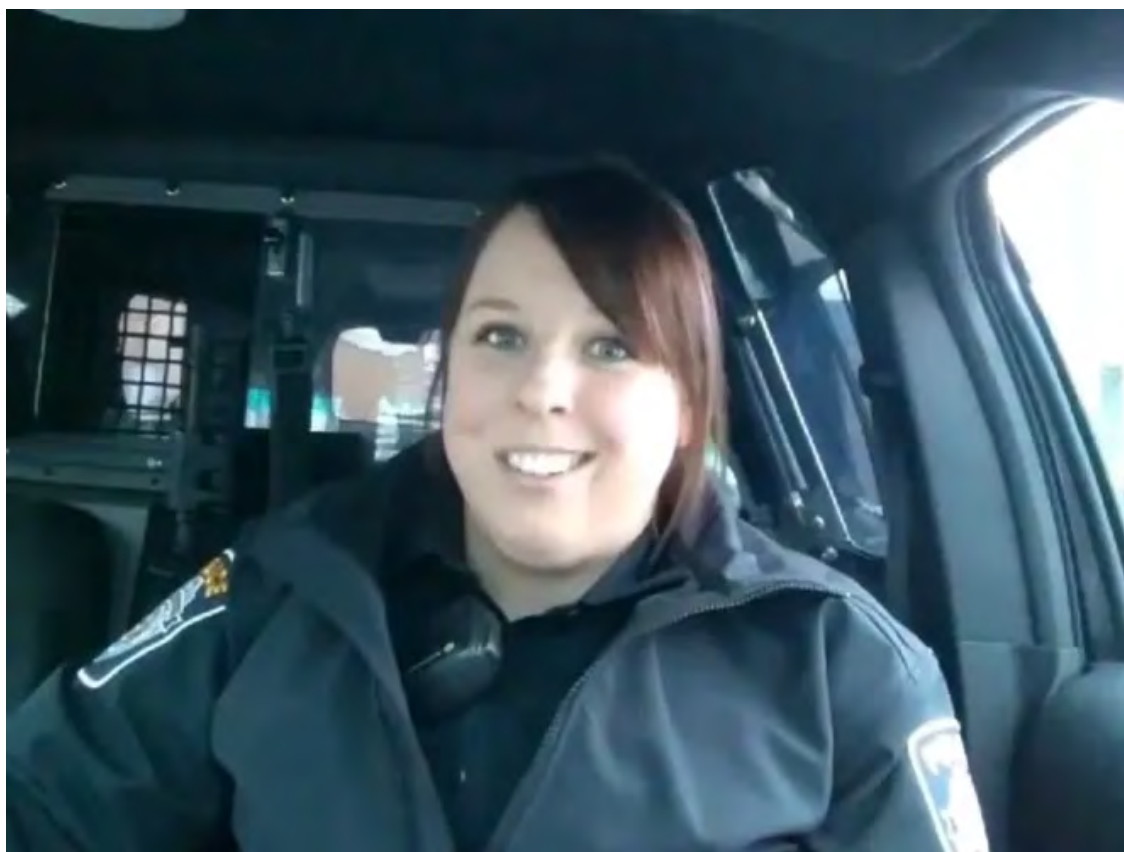


The Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce provides leadership in promoting the spirit of community through increased communication and cooperation within businesses, organizations, and individuals, in order to enhance growth, prosperity and the quality of life in the Buchanan area.

Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce
269-695-3291
www.buchanan.mi.us
324 Dewey St, Ste 202
P.O. Box 127
Buchanan, MI 49107
USA



Police Points – Officer Brie’s Tips



Officer Brie, Buchanan City Police Department, Photo still from video on BCPD Facebook

Water Safety Tips

Officer Brie – Buchanan City Police Department

Good Morning Buchanan! I have 10 tips for water safety this month! These tips should be applied when swimming in any body of water including pools, rivers, creeks, ponds, lakes, etc.

Special Note: Please remember to respect Lake Michigan. As a lifeguard on Lake Michigan for 6 years, I watched people ignore both rip current signs/warnings and signs/warnings not to jump off piers and jetties. PLEASE read the signs and listen to the experts when they say not to jump or swim. This could save your life.

1. NEVER leave children unattended in or near water whether it be at the Lake, at home, or the community pool. Even if there is a lifeguard present!
2. Learn how to swim, or teach your children how to swim. There are many pools in our area that offer swimming lessons for any age.
3. Teach your children to stay away from drains. Children can get their hair, limbs, jewelry, or bathing suits stuck in drains.
4. If you or your child do not know how to swim, please use a life jacket that fits. (A life jacket that fits you or your child is VERY important).
5. Always jump into the water feet first and DO NOT jump off of piers, jetties, or rock formations. This is VERY dangerous and can lead to serious injury or death.
6. Never swim alone!
7. Stay within designated swimming areas.
8. Install proper barriers, alarms, and covers around your pool or hot tub if you have children. Also keep in mind that children can find ways into or around these barriers, so always refer to number 1.
9. Take a CPR/ AED course. The possibility of an emergency is always present, make sure you are prepared for it because it could save a life!
10. Always make safety your number one priority!

Like us on Facebook for more tips of the week and don't forget to share this information with your friends and family. You can contact us at (269) 695-5120 or Berrien County Dispatch at (866) 630-7679. Please dial 911 for emergencies.

Stay awesome, stay safe. 😊

~Officer Brie



Police Points – Call Log Issue 07



Police Chief Tim Ganus

Police Call Log : 5/25 – 6/7

Buchanan City Police Department

Description	Total Calls of Type
Sex Offenses	1
Larceny	1
Larceny – Theft from Motor Vehicle	0
UDAA (Motor Vehicle Theft)	0
Aggravated Assault	0
Non-Aggravated/Domestic Violence	4
Weapons Offense	0
Burglary/Unlawful Entry	2
Intimidation/Stalking	2
Forgery/Counterfeiting	0
Retail Fraud Complaint	1
Damage to Property	1
Liquor Violations	0
Obstruction	0
Disorderly Conduct	1
Public Peace / Other	9
OUIL	0
Driving Law Violations	0
Health and Safety	1
Trespass	1
Juvenile Complaints	0
Private Property Damage/PI Accidents	1
Abandoned Vehicle	0
Accidental Fire	0
Property Checks	2
Alarms	3
Civil	7
Suspicious Situations	8
Lost/Found Property	5

Description	Total Calls of Type
Natural Death	3
Suicide	0
Medical Assist	20
General Assist	42
Ordinance Violations	11
Missing Person	0

Total Calls 5/25 – 6/7 : 125



Police Points

The Clark Barker – Issue 07





Pet Summer Safety

My humans saw an informative [Facebook post](#) from The State of Michigan Police Department earlier this month for pet emergency preparedness. You never know when an emergency will happen.

This is what they had to say: "Stock up your pet's emergency preparedness kit with items such as food, medicine and medical records, collar with ID tags, pet carrier and first aid kit."

You can also download a pet emergency preparedness kit checklist at: [Checklist for Pets](#). I think that this is a very good idea for my canine and feline friend's humans to have!

Stay safe! "Woof, Woof!"

A Note from the Publisher – Issue 07



by Jen Garry, Publisher

The Buchanan Chronicle Summer Break

During this summer holiday our team will also be taking a short break. Instead of our next issue being on July 3, we will take a quick break and resume with our next issue out on July 17 2021.

Keep looking for more content as we will have more to share during our little break. This will also give us more time to come up with some more great articles to read.

If you have any thoughts, questions, comments, or ideas for The Buchanan Chronicle we'd love to hear them; you can message [our Facebook page](#), contact us through [our website](#), or email us directly [here](#).

Thanks again for reading and engaging in our Buchanan Community with us!

The Buchanan Chronicle



Mayor's Memo – Thank You



Thank You!

by Mayor Sean Denison

I wanted to send out a few thank you notes for this edition of the Mayor's Memo. If I somehow forgot to mention anyone – please know that your contributions are appreciated.

Thank you to the American Legion for the Veterans banners gracing our downtown and to the DPW for getting them installed before the parade.

Thank you to Chuck Falkenstein for the incredibly beautiful planters and to the Garden Club and numerous citizen volunteers for planting flowers throughout the community, they are beautiful.

Thank you to our City Fire Department for cleaning up and mulching at Firehouse Park, it too looks incredible.

Thank you to the Historic Preservation Society and its group of dedicated volunteers who keep Pears Mill in such an amazing condition. This is such a valuable asset for the community and your work does not go unnoticed!

Thank you to Ashley Hanson for your work at the Farmers Market and the buzz that you have created on Saturday mornings. Keep up the good work!

Thank you to all the folks that have worked to schedule an awesome lineup of events at the Common this Summer! We are blessed to have such an incredible venue, and we appreciate all of your efforts to bring us quality entertainment throughout the summer season.

Thank you to our City Administration. They have been working many long hours to get us where we need and want to be. We appreciate all that you do and the sacrifices that you make.

Thank you to the Scarecrow Charities, the Chamber of Commerce, The Tree Friends, and all the others who truly do make Life Better Here!

Thank you, see you around town,
Sean Denison, Mayor
sdenison@cityofbuchanan.com
Buchanan City Hall
302 N Redbud Trail
Buchanan, MI 49107
USA



Mayor Sean Denison, Spring 2021, Photo submitted by Sean Denison

Now That's Funny! – Issue 07



by Thomas Hoyt

Every year around Memorial Day weekend is the time to plant flowers for the summer. Whether planting petunias, geraniums, or marigolds, in hanging baskets or pots you need potting soil to do so. Yeah, you need to buy dirt. The funny part is when you think you have got enough dirt, you do not. Even funnier is when you think you have enough flowers, you have more. All part of the fun of gardening I suppose. I happened to have enough dirt at first, but after I was done planting in all the usual spots I had flowers left over to plant. So, I did not have enough dirt after all. LOL!

Keep laughing folks! 😊

Community Press Release – Honor Credit Union



HONOR[®]

CREDIT UNION

Honor Credit Union Community Commitment Scholarship Winners Announced

Berrien Springs, MI – June 8, 2021



Honor Credit Union is proud to support local, outstanding high school seniors with the annual Honor Credit Union Community Commitment Scholarship. Twenty- three students throughout Michigan received \$1,000 to be used towards furthering their education. Reinforcing Honor Credit Union's dedication to supporting the local community, emphasizing extracurricular activities and what that means for applicants was included in the scholarship essay.

The following students exemplify community commitment and are positive role models for their community

service and academic success:

Jenna Andersen – Berrien Springs High School
Jacklyn Alsbro – Berrien Springs High School
Kady Roberts – Buchanan High School
Morgan Granzow – Bridgman High School
Kimberly Spaulding – Coloma High School
Ethan Makowski – Decatur High School
Erica Nash – Dowagiac Union High School
Sarah Stovern – Dowagiac Union High School
Keira Canfield – Homeschool
Emma Nowak – Hackett Catholic Prep
Mackenzie Malette – Gwinn High School
Josephine Valima – Super Central High School
Kaitlyn Stemm – Lakeshore High School
Katelyn Lammi – Negaunee High School
Sydney Skarbek – Niles High School
Alexandra Goodwin – Otsego High School
Charlee Bowers – Paw Paw High School
Jayley Streeter – Plainwell High School
Kelsey Mainstone – Quincy High School
Courtney Koch – St. Joseph High School
Jessica Ford – South Haven High School
Rachel Bowers – Union City High School
Grace Weckwerth – Watervliet Senior High School

While this year held some uncertainties on whether school award ceremonies would be held, Honor team members thought outside the box to find other creative ways to present to recipients. One winner was even surprised in a “Publishers Clearing House” style presentation. Accompanied with a live video stream, balloons, and a large check, Honor’s Northern Michigan Regional Manager, Jamie Gollakner, arranged to surprise his scholarship winner at their home.

“Although, unlike Publishers Clearing House, we aren’t giving \$1000.00 every week for life, receiving the Community Commitment Scholarship is the start of building the foundation for future leaders,” commented Gollakner, “By being involved in our communities, these students are helping to make their community a better place.”

Honor Credit Union is proud to serve more than 91,000 members across the state of Michigan. Providing solutions for financial success and giving back to the communities it serves remains the driving forces behind Honor Credit Union. For more information, call 800.442.2800, or visit www.honorcu.com.

Remembering – Issue 07



Buchanan Losses • 6/2-6/18

Name	Age	Born	Died
Aileen Marjorie Handley	93	June 18, 1927	June 4, 2021
Jerome "Jerry" Fortney	72	February 23, 1949	June 4, 2021
Roger Lynn "Fuzzy" Gray	67	May 23, 1954	June 2, 2021

We wish to respectfully honor the memory of anyone we lose in the Buchanan community. Please do let us know any corrections or additions to the list.

Hoven Funeral Home <http://www.hovenfunerals.com> info@hovenfunerals.com
[269-695-2363](tel:269-695-2363)
[414 E Front St](#)
[Buchanan, MI 49107](#)
[USA](#)

Starks Family Funeral Homes – Swem Chapel <http://www.starksfamilyfh.com/swem-chapel>
[269-695-6881](tel:269-695-6881)
[301 W Front St](#)
[Buchanan, MI 49107](#)
[USA](#)

Community Press Release – Honor Credit Union



HONOR[®]

CREDIT UNION

Honor Credit Union Announces Tracy Sanders as VP of Operations

Berrien Springs, MI – June 7, 2021

Honor Credit Union is thrilled to announce the internal promotion of Tracy Sanders. Formerly serving as Assistant Vice President of Operations, Sanders recently accepted the role of VP of Operations.

Tracy Sanders resides, in Stevensville, Michigan. She and her husband, Rob, have four grown children who live throughout the Southwest Michigan area. Sanders loves volunteering, especially within Lakeshore schools and the Stevensville community. She also enjoys donating time to the United Way, Relay for Life, and Summit Financial Wellness organizations. In addition, she and her husband love to renovate their old farmhouse as well as spend time with their two dogs, Tucker and Beau.

Sanders graduated from Lakeshore High School and attended Lake Michigan College. She has been a member of Team Honor for over 35 years and has fulfilled various roles and responsibilities. Throughout the years, Sanders has held positions ranging from Teller to Controller until most recently being named the Assistant Vice President of Operations in 2020.

As the VP of Operations, Sanders will continue to be a vital leader of the Honor team. She will focus on the future of payments, daily operations of products, processes, loan servicing, and facilities. "I am passionate about helping people and that is first and foremost my goal in this position. This involves giving great service and experiences while providing the technology and tools our team and members need to live their best lives," said Sanders.

"I love what I do every day and have a passion for people and their stories. Helping our members achieve their goals is what drives me to do more," commented Sanders.

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Community Press Release – DAR



National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Rebecca Dewey Chapter

Three Oaks, MI – June 25&26, 2021

Rebecca Dewey Chapter, NSDAR, invites you to participate in the Good Citizen Yard Sale. All funds to support the Chapters efforts in scholarships and education, veteran's aid and women's issues. It will take place at 6284 Shanghai Road near Hochberger Road just north of Eau Claire, MI. It will be open from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on June 25th and 26th.

About the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Rebecca Dewey Chapter

Chapter History – The Rebecca Dewey Chapter, NSDAR, Three Oaks, Michigan, was organized July 9, 1909, with a membership of seventeen. It was chartered December 21, 1909, with fourteen members. Since Three Oaks had secured the Dewey Cannon at the close of the Spanish-American War, it was decided to name the Chapter after Admiral Dewey's great grandmother. Rebecca Dewey Chapter NSDAR currently has 30 Members.

Dewey Cannon – This cannon, captured in the Spanish-American War by Admiral Dewey, was presented to Three Oaks when its citizens raised \$1,400 for a memorial to the men of the battleship Maine. This was the largest contribution, per capita, of any community in the nation. "Three Oaks Against the World," a local paper proudly boasted. This park was dedicated October 17, 1899, by President William McKinley, and others. Presentation of the cannon took place on June 28, 1900. Guest of honor was Helen Miller Gould, called the Spanish-American War's "Florence Nightingale." Thousands of people were in attendance on each occasion.

<http://www.dar.org>

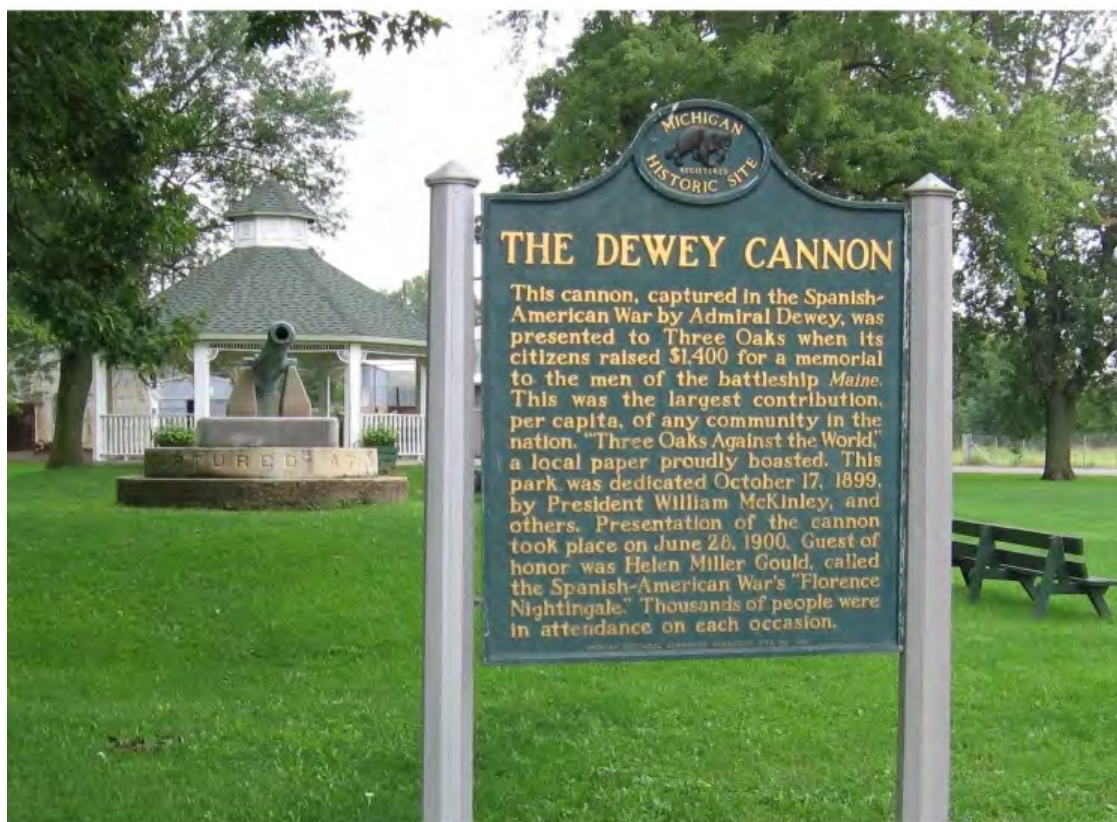
National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Rebecca Dewey Chapter

Contact: Kathleen Avery Alton, Chapter Regent

<http://www.dewey.michdar.net>

rebecca.deweyto@gmail.com

Three Oaks, MI 49128



Historic Marker "The Dewey Cannon", Three Oaks, MI

Buchanan Area Senior Center – July 2021



Buchanan Area Senior Center hosts Community Shredding Event and Blood Drive July 10 2021

Buchanan, MI – July 10, 2021

Community Shredding Event and Blood Drive at the Buchanan Area Senior Center, 810 Ryneerson St., Buchanan.

On Saturday, July 10, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Integra shredding: Please have all boxed/bagged documents to be shredded in the trunk or in the hatchback.

Schedule your blood donation online at www.GiveBloodNow.com and the sponsor code is BASC.



Buchanan Area Senior Center
<http://www.thebasc.org>
810 Ryneerson St
Buchanan, MI 49107
269-695-7119

Past Event – Common Concert Series



SUMMER 2021 | CONCERT SCHEDULE

JUNE 25TH **THE CAROL KING TRIBUTE**

JULY 9TH **WAY DOWN WANDERERS**

JULY 16TH **THE AGORN 9TH ANNUAL
SINGER SONGWRITER
COMPETITION**

**AUGUST 13TH
+ 14TH** **CHIPPEWAPALOOZA
ON THE COMMON**

AUGUST 20TH **KELLER WILLIAMS**

SEPTEMBER 17TH **THE TOONA'S**

SEPTEMBER 25TH **QUITE FRANK LEE**

ALSO JOIN US FOR THE FREE THURSDAY NIGHT CONCERTS EVERY WEEK AT 7PM

CONCERTS ON THE COMMON ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY THESE PARTNERS

Michigan Gateway
community foundation

LOGISTICK

inovateus
SOLAR™

BUCHANAN
Life is better here.

fernwood

GRETA POPE
Landscape

AEP AMERICAN
ELECTRIC
POWER

RIVER ST JOE

BUCHANAN
DISTRICT LIBRARY

DDM
EVENTS

HONOR
CREDIT UNION
Come Be Part of It!

Souldier

THOMAS JULY ANTIQUE

Redbud Hardware

SUPPORT CONCERTS ON THE COMMON BY DONATING AT [MGCF.ORG/#GIVEALWAYS](https://mgcf.org/#GIVEALWAYS)

Musical Notes of Summer Concert Series are Back!

by Editor & Photographer Rebecka Hoyt

After a year without summer concerts, the South Shore Concert Band brought some great music to Buchanan at the Common on Thursday, June 10, 2021! The bright and hot sun greeted the good-size crowd as everyone had been waiting a long time for some good entertainment.



Southshore Concert Band plays in Buchanan for their June 10 Common Concert, Photo by Rebecka Hoyt

The band is under the direction of Dale Reuss. A variety of music from Star Wars, The Wizard of Oz, The Blues Brothers, marches by John Philip Sousa and their well-known song by frequent South Shore Concert Band listeners the Armed Forces Salute.



Tom Hoyt rocks the saxophone at the June 10 Southshore Concert Band Common Concert, Photo by Rebecka Hoyt

In order to keep concerts coming to the Common, a raffle was held for a \$25 Subway gift card.



Editor Rebecka with daughter Julie listening to a June 10 Southshore Concert Band Common Concert, Photo by Rebecka Hoyt

Here are the rest of the Thursday night 2021 Summer Concert Series. They are held at the Buchanan Common, Thursdays at 7 P.M.

- June 17: Work in Progress Reloaded (enjoy your favorite country, blues and rock-n-roll)
- June 24: Blue Shoes (wide variety of tunes from swing to rock)
- July 1: Backsliders (acoustic arrangements of popular songs)
- July 8: 3 Shots (formerly Gypsy Red – country, classic rock & 3-part harmony)
- July 15: Red Deluxe Band (mix of rock, country, blues)
- July 22: Chippewa Project (mix of music from 60's to present)

- July 29: Past Time (sounds of the 50's & 60's; Billy Shelton (Godfather of Do Wop) as guest vocalist)
- August 5: The Dean Allrick Trio (music from The Great American Songbook)
- August 12: Lake Effect Jazz Big Band (blend of traditional & contemporary jazz big band music)

Also don't forget to check out the 2021 Stop, Lunch, & Listen that is held at the Buchanan Common Stage on Thursdays, from Noon to 1 P.M., June 17 – July 29. This is a free summer program for children sponsored by the Buchanan District Library and the City of Buchanan.

About Buchanan Common: The Common is Buchanan's very own outdoor amphitheatre. Sitting in the heart of historic Buchanan, it sets us apart from other local communities as something unique and special. All summer long the Common plays host to many events: from our Saturday Morning Farmers' Market to Stop, Lunch, & Listen to our classic Thursday Night Town Concerts to our Last Saturdays on the Common Concert Series. In the future we look forward to expanding our offerings to live theater and outdoor movies. The best part of the Common, all of the events held here are FREE to the public and just another way we remind residents and show visitors how great Buchanan truly is. Hopefully you can grab a blanket, bring a picnic and enjoy some live entertainment in the warm summer air.

Buchanan Common

<http://www.buchanancommon.wordpress.com>

Bordered by S Oak St, Roe St, & Days Ave

Buchanan, MI 49107

Homeschooling Spotlight – Gallery

Homeschooling Spotlight

by Editor Rebecka Hoyt with Photos submitted by Ashley Hanson

As the school year comes to a close, we decided to include our local homeschooling students in this spotlight as well. They will also be included in the student spotlight rotation when school starts back up this fall. I asked Ashley Hanson all about how homeschooling has been going for the last 2 years for her and her son, AJ via e-mail.

Ashley and AJ started homeschooling during AJ's 5th grade year. They are planning to go as long as they can up through graduating. "We plan on homeschooling until we can't anymore...for whatever reason...AJ wants a change, or I can't manage teaching him higher level education...hopefully, we can kick it til graduation," states Ashley. I have wondered about what kids think about homeschooling. AJ likes most of it. Ashley says, "We unschool, so it's a more lax style of learning. He kind of directs the day. I come up with things I want to go over and he decides what we learn and when...for the most part. We don't stop learning for summer. He doesn't love that part, but he sleeps till 10 most days and gets to stay up pretty much as late as he wants."



AJ smiles as he is stream clearing at McCoy Creek. Photo submitted by Ashley Hanson.

AJ has quite a social life of friends that he has met through homeschooling that are all around the world, but he has also kept in touch with his friends from BCS. They were a part of the Berrien Springs Partnership for homeschooling. "He could take classes, such as voice class, for free through the program. He has taken archery, cooking, electronic music...there are many possibilities. Kids can take up to 4 classes/semester. We chose only one last year because things were still virtual, and we don't do virtual well," stated Ashley.

One thing that comes to my mind about homeschooling is what and how should you teach your children? The Hanson's don't use a curriculum, and instead they "Unschool, which means take what you learned about school and forget that. Think about how you learn new things...you get books, or find videos, or do the thing you want to learn more about. Well, that's how we learn too. AJ wanted to know about healing crystals this year...we visited rock

shops across Michiana, talked to people in the field, watched videos, read books, bought crystals...this lead to other alternative healing practices...he now sages his room when he feels like he needs a cleansing, he puts his amethyst and lavender by his bed because he learned from experiences that they help him be calm. Project based learning, YouTube videos, documentaries, books, current age appropriate magazines...that's our "curriculum", explains Ashley.



AJ in the process of dissecting a starfish. Photo submitted by Ashley Hanson.

As with anything in life, homeschooling can be challenging. Their biggest challenge: "we spend too much time together. We love each other, but I am his teacher, co worker, best friend (so he says, most days)...it's a lot of time with ANYONE...we're learning to take more breaks from one another. He gets plenty of social time so we don't drive each other TOO crazy," says Ashley.

They don't stick with schedules as those can be overwhelming for them. But Ashley does set due dates for certain projects/chores. Although, they do "chill and just BE...EVERYDAY," Ashley states.

When I asked what are the pros and cons, if any, of homeschooling Ashley said, "pros...I get to decide exactly what my child learns, I do not send my kid to be molded by someone else for hours a day. Cons...I don't send my kid away for hours a day." To homeschool AJ, it was not a challenging decision for her. She said that "middle school was changing my child...it was making him feel like he needed to conform to be popular and it was killing his free spirit. BEST PARENTING DECISION EVER."



AJ & Ashley working together at Bucktown Nutrition. Photo submitted by Ashley Hanson.

I wanted to know what things that AJ and her liked/disliked about homeschooling. Ashley answered for the both of them with, "being able to go with the flow. We do what we want and it's great. THE FREEDOM is the best part. The freedom can be a con sometimes too...keeping up some type of regiment just make sure we are continually learning and working towards the end goal of making AJ be as well adjusted as he can possibly be as an adult...not sure I know too many well adjusted adults, but I am going to try my best."

They also go on field trips. "We go to the zoo, nature preserves, the movies. It also depends on what they're learning..we go where the lesson(s) take us. Last year we went to Washington DC," answered Ashley. Their favorite subjects are science and geography/culture. Writing and reading is the least favorite.



Picking out a recipe from our Eat To Explore recipe book while at the Concert on the River in Niles. Photo submitted by Ashley Hanson.

I asked Ashley what is something that you want our community to know about homeschooling and anything else that you want to add? "School is the least effective way to learn things in my opinion. Nobody learns by force or on some predetermined time frame. Learning organically as things happen and when the learner is ready...that's how we learn. Otherwise we are only memorizing things we probably don't really care about, and ultimately will forget after being tested on the material. We do not test or have grades...those are both arbitrary tools to see what the individual knows or has retained the given information. I am around AJ as he is learning...I do not need to test him. Life is a test enough. When we require a test or a book report...that learning has just become a chore."

* The above discussed is independent homeschooling and is not associated with Buchanan Community Schools.

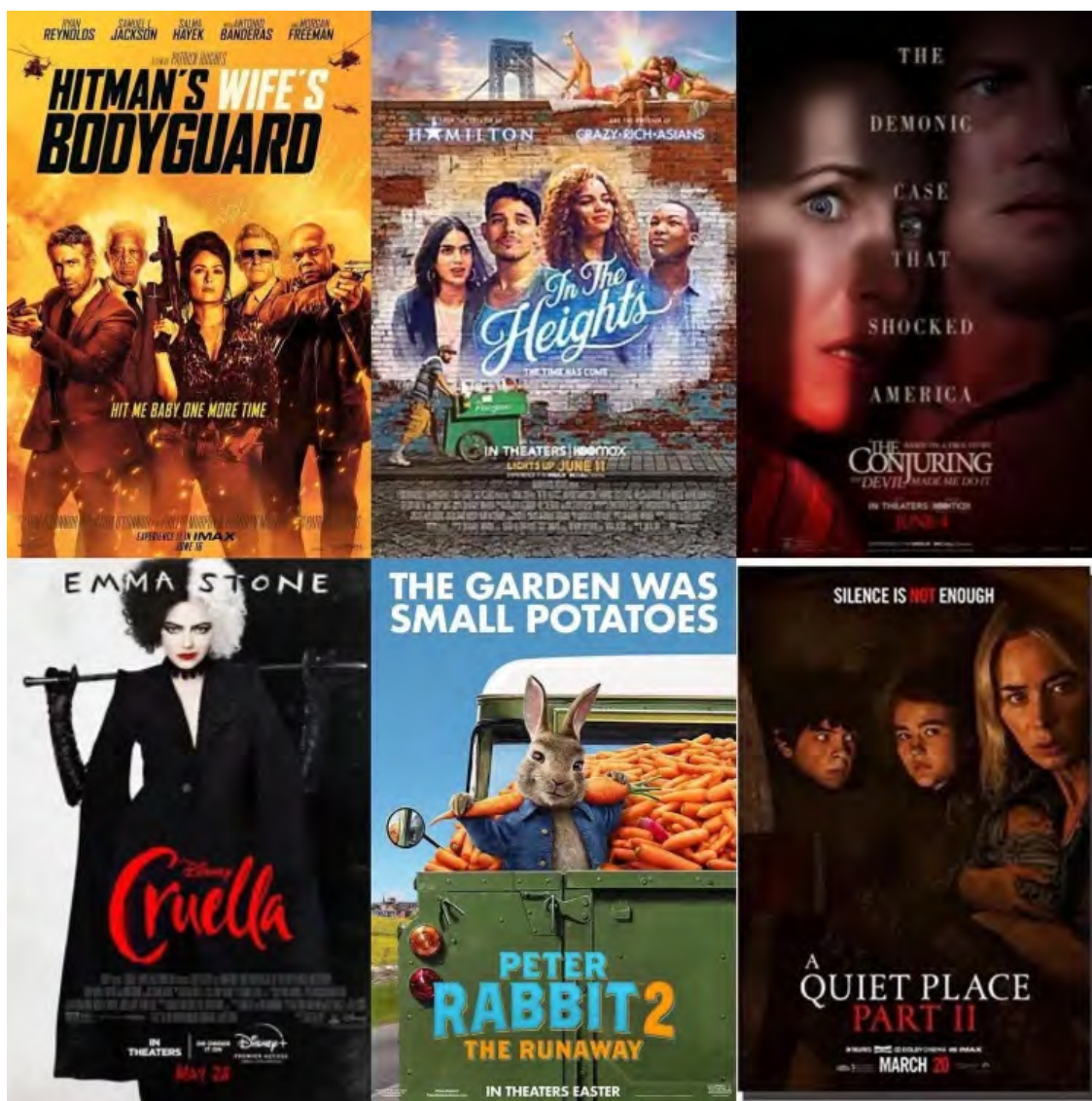
If there are other homeschoolers in Buchanan, please send a message through our [Facebook page](#) or [an email to The Buchanan Chronicle](#) as we would like to include you in our schools rotation!

Movie Showtimes – 06/24/21



Wonderland Cinema • 6/18-6/24

Movie	Rating	Times
The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It	R	1:30, 4:00, 7:15, 9:45
Cruella	PG13	12:15, 3:30, 6:30, 9:20
The Hitman’s Wife’s Bodyguard	R	1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30
In the Heights	PG13	12:15, 3:15, 6:30, 9:35
Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway	PG	12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 8:45
A Quiet Place Part II	PG13	12:15, 2:45, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45



Wonderland Cinema
 269-683-1112
 402 N Front St
 Niles, MI 49120
 USA

Moore Movie Bucket Policy:

- Moore Movie Bucket Policy
- Monday-Wednesday each bucket fill is \$0.75
- Thursday is FREE popcorn with bucket and ticket purchase
- Buckets are NOT allowed Friday-Sunday
- Refillable plastic Bucket costs \$3.00

Monday - Wednesday

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with your ticket
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**Sorry,
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Friday - Sunday**

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A promotional poster for Moore Theatres. The background is a diagonal split of red and yellow. A film strip with the Moore Theatres logo runs diagonally across the bottom left. A large white bucket of popcorn is in the foreground on the right. The text is in bold, sans-serif fonts.

Ticket Pricing:

Matinees – All shows before 5:00 PM

Forenoon: \$2.50 (before 12pm)

Afternoon: \$4.00 (12pm to 5:00pm)

Evening – All shows 5:00 PM and after

All tickets: \$5.00

Monday Special 2 Tickets for: \$8.00

* Showtimes subject to change without notice, please click [here](#) to check the Wonderland website for latest showtimes and ticket pricing. *



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