

Our Sixty-Eighth Issue • January 27 2024

Welcome to Our Sixty-Eighth Issue!
Thank you so much for reading all about
Buchanan's latest with us!

THE BUCHANAN CHRONICLE



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR – Cultural Arts Everywhere with Greta Pope
www.culturalartseverywhere.org

Buchanan Politics – A Couple Local Interviews

Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024 Interview with Monroe Lemay by Heather Foster, Writer "Sean is a great guy and nothing about this is personal," Monroe Lemay stated, "It's about..."



Local Royalty – Miss Michigan Maya Brings Home Talent Award

Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024 Miss Michigan Maya Schuhknecht Brings Home Talent Award from Miss America 2024 by Rebecka Hoyt, Editor Our very own,



Boy Scout Troop 541 Presents:

57th Annual
Eagle and Snake
Swiss Steak Supper

Upcoming Event - Boy Scout's 57th Annual
Swiss Steak Supper

Saturday, February 3rd, 2024
4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Issue 65 - January 27, 2024 Boy Scout Troop 541
Host 57th Annual Swiss Steak Supper Shared by Boy
Scout Troop 541 Bring the family down for family
style.

Adults \$10.00 and Children Under 12 \$5.00
- 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

You can purchase tickets in advance on Tuesday Evenings prior from
6:30 until 8:00 or at the door on the day of the dinner at the First United
Methodist Church in Buchanan.

Or contact Bill Blomka at 674-361-0258 for more information.

Note: Dinner will be held regardless of the weather.

**COME ONE, COME ALL, TO THE ANNUAL
OLD FASHIONED FLOW DAY
& PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

SECURITY APP 27, 2024
BUCHANAN SCHOOL FARM
27th Annual Flow Day and Pancake Breakfast Shared
by Buchanan Community Schools Come One, Come
All, to the Annual 'Old Fashioned...

INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING?
 Email: schoolfarms@buchananschools.com
 Phone: 269-695-8455

Upcoming Event – Polar Plunge 2024

Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024 Buchanan Police to Participate Again in Polar Plunge 2024 Submitted by Officer Brie Schmitz, Buchanan Police Department

Dear Community Partner: For 5 years, the...

Upcoming Event – Empty Bowls 2024

Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024 Empty Bowls 2024 –
Pottery Making Workshops and Empty Bowls Supper
Shared by Roti Roti Art Center of Buchanan EMPT
BOWLS WORKSHOPS Details: Try...

Local Arts – Celebrating Cydney Bridges: Miss America 2024 2nd Runner Up



Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024 Celebrating Cydney Bridges, 2nd Runner Up of the Miss America 2024 Competition. Submitted by Dr. Greta Pope, Cultural Arts Everywhere Hey there! I am thrilled to share...

Heather Writes – A Blossoming Partnership

Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024 A Blossoming Partnership by Heather Foster, Writer After seeing where they could step up their game when it comes to on-site safety, our local...

This Spring at Roti Roti Art Center – Spring 2024

Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024 A Few Spring Events at Roti Roti Art Center of Buchanan Submitted by Kim Pruitt, RRAC Executive Director Planning Events: Create Your Own Unique



Press Release – Buchanan New Member of Restoration Coalition

Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024 City of Buchanan is a New Member of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Submitted by Richard Murphy, City of Buchanan Community Development Director...



Local Business – Edgewater Automation Announces Executive Changes

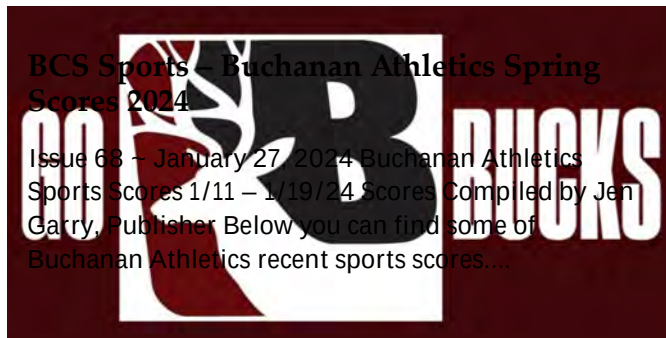


Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024 Edgewater Automation Announces Executive Changes Submitted by Julie Anderson, Edgewater Automation Communications and Media Relations St. Joseph, MI ~ January 9, 2024 Edgewater Automation,...



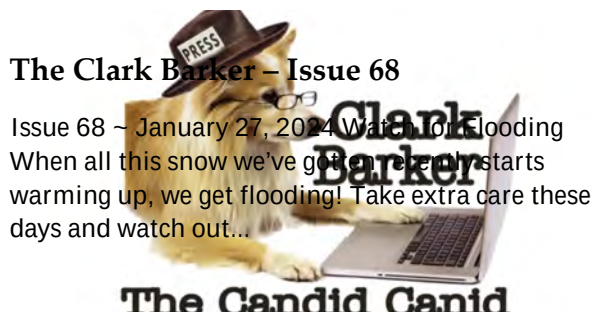
Press Release - HCU Accepting Annual Scholarship Applications

Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024 Honor Credit Union Announce Annual Teacher Award Winners 2023 Submitted by Kayla Smith, HCU Brand Coordinator Berrien Springs, MI ~ January 19, 2024 Honor...



BCS Sports - Buchanan Athletics Spring Scores 2024

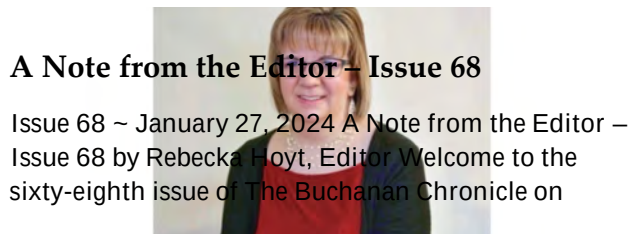
Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024 Buchanan Athletics Sports Scores 1/11 - 1/19/24 Scores Compiled by Jen Garry, Publisher Below you can find some of Buchanan Athletics recent sports scores....



The Clark Barker - Issue 68

Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024 Watch Out for Flooding When all this snow we've got here starts warming up, we get flooding! Take extra care these days and watch out...

The Candid Canid



A Note from the Editor - Issue 68

Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024 A Note from the Editor - Issue 68 by Rebecka Hoyt, Editor Welcome to the sixty-eighth issue of The Buchanan Chronicle on

maybe a...



Now That's Funny! – Issue 68

Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024 Now That's Funny! – Issue 68 by Thomas Hoyt, Writer The other day I was clearing out my driveway and sidewalk using my snowblower....

Remembering – Issue 68

Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024 Remembering – Issue 68
Buchanan Losses • 1/16 ~ 1/26 Name Age Born Died
Debra Matthews 62 July 13, 1961 January 26, 2024
Robert...



NEW Printed Editions of
The Buchanan Chronicle
- AVAILABLE NOW -
Our Printed Newspaper is at
locations all around Buchanan
for you to pick up FOR FREE
(Are they all out? Tell us or this location!)
Want to Subscribe so we
send it directly to you?
Scan this QR Code:



Our vision is to inform and connect the Buchanan
community and those surrounding us through
journalism with relevance to our readers.
www.thebuchananchronicle.com
P.O. Box 142 Buchanan, MI 49107
269-697-9874 - buchananchronicle@att.net

SPRING
EDITION
2024
AVAILABLE
SOON!!!
Subscribe to
Our NEW
Printed
Newspaper:

[Click HERE!](#)

Thanks for Reading Our *Sixty-Eighth* Issue!

*

Look for Our *Sixty-Ninth* Issue:
Saturday, February 03, 2024



Downtown Buchanan in the Snow, Photo by Rebecka Hoyt

Search Our Site:

Search

[Submit a form.](#)

Subscribe to Our Emails:

The
Buchanan
Chronicle

Buchanan Politics – A Couple Local Interviews



Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024

Interview with Monroe Lemay

by Heather Foster, Writer

"Sean is a great guy and nothing about this is personal," Monroe Lemay stated, "It's about the mismanagement of our town." Monroe is among a group of people who filed for Mayor Sean Denison's recall from office back in November. Monroe said she and her group are "the voice of the people who are not happy."

The city of Buchanan has had issues for years and now, with the situation with Ben Eldridge, "it's the straw that broke the camel's back," Monroe said, "It's not just about Ben, it's about the constant mismanagement of Buchanan, it's about a lack of leaders representing the town and people. It's their job to make decisions for ALL people, not just themselves. The 'ole boys club still exists and they are benefiting while making bad decisions."

The City of Buchanan has been inundated with negative social media comments, emails, and angry citizens at their public meetings. The townspeople are tired of things swaying one way or another, never seemingly in their favor and something has got to give. The so-called "good 'ole boys club" that Mayor Denison set out to remove, still seems to be in play, and people can tell the favoritism at the public meetings. Monroe said she's witnessed a lack of communication and transparency even between the Mayor and commissioners at the meeting, so how does this bode for the City of Buchanan?

Between the firing of Ben Eldridge, the infighting of the commissioners, and now, two recall petitions for both Mayor Sean Denison and Commissioner Dan Vigansky, the town is hoping for something to happen. These petitions have an estimated cost of \$40,000 to the town to have an emergency voting session (WSJM), but Monroe has said, "the town simply can't afford that and the signatures won't be ready by then." She plans to continue the recall petitions, get the signatures, and hope that someone will beat out the mayor come November's election. She will be starting a group on Facebook for information about the signatures, where people can get information, and plans on going door-to-door for support.

"All we want is transparency from the city. They all promised us that, even before we voted for them. However, their actions prove different. There's a balance here between power and processes, and the mayor and

commissioners can't seem to grasp that concept. The city commissioners are there to guide the city manager and with all this infighting, no one seems to be able to manage anything." We can see tensions rising at every town meeting, public posts on social media, and even some comments from commissioners made in the media.

The citizens of Buchanan are angry. Their taxes have been raised, nearly doubling in the past four years. This is the third year that Buchanan has been in the red financially and the entire city is struggling. Many have posed that the State of Michigan will step in, but Mayor Sean Denison has stated, "That story is misinformation and unequivocally untrue" ([Mayor's Memo, The Buchanan Chronicle, 11/18/2023](#)).

"This leadership isn't strong enough to protect city employees. We have a revolving door of employees, and it all stems from their mismanagement and not following the chain of command," Monroe declared, "it's almost like they want to control the flow of information to the people," and it seems this internal fighting that commissioners are focused on, prevents that transparency and information flow that the public had hoped for.

The people of Buchanan are angry. Monroe has gone as far as willing to discuss dropping the recalls with both Denison and Vigansky so the fighting ends. Still, the Commission won't budge, and surprisingly, neither will the petition groups. Both sides are standing their ground because they are tired of always being the ones who compromise, and it seems this time, they won't.

Monroe has stated that this recall process is all about wanting peace in Buchanan and changing the mismanagement of the situation. Both recalls are going forward for the November election. "We should not be going after people personally. All of these people are great. It's about the mismanagement of our town." She continues, "Don't go after people personally. Base this all on the current commission's bad decision-making."

Other News References:

<https://wsbt.com/news/local/buchanan-mayor-complaint-removal-violation-violate-charter-law-recall-petition-commissioner-step-down-rationally-insensitive-remarks-city-manager-suspension-michigan>

<https://www.leaderpub.com/2023/12/21/recall-wording-approved-for-buchanan-commissioner-mayor/>

<https://www.abc57.com/news/buchanan-recall-petitions-approved-by-county-election-commission>

<https://www.wsj.com/2023/12/18/two-recall-petitions-approved-for-buchanan-voters/>

Interview with Mayor Sean Denison

by Heather Foster, Writer

The Buchanan community has been seen as angry, overwhelmed, and looking for a change. With taxes being raised, popular summer activities being cancelled, and what seems like angry social media comments daily, Mayor Sean Denison has his work cut out for him.

Sean has a desire for Buchanan to succeed. He's happy to be a part of that team, however, he notices that changes need to be made for the better, as well. Sean pushes for an "environment of trust, transparency, and teamwork." Lately, the City of Buchanan's social media page has been inundated with negative comments about videos sharing some of the properties that the city owns that are up for sale. Comments such as "stop, no one wants this crap," and more. What they don't understand is that, "the city owned multiple lots and some of them have been sold off," said Denison, "without commercial and industrial taxes, residents have to carry the burden of higher taxes." The Mayor isn't fond of his high tax bill either, but he urges the public to understand that only by bringing in more businesses to Buchanan, will that tax hike finally take a break.

With the townspeople calling city hall a "circus", Denison stated that he's happy to educate the public on what's going on with the city. But the issue lies with, "no one shows up," when he referred to the Meet the Mayor nights he's held in the past. He's hoping to get those started again so that the public can come straight to him with questions and get the actual answers that the city will share.

The town is holding a lot of anger with recall petitions on both Mayor Denison and Commissioner Dan Vigansky, and Sean said, he isn't interested in fighting with people – he wants to be transparent, educate, and answer questions so everyone can be informed. "To see these disheartening comments, they bother me. We want people to understand that our city employees are great. They're constantly being criticized, and we try to be as encouraging as possible. They handle a lot and so do we. All we're doing is making the best decisions possible with

what we have, and we will continue to do so.”

In regards to the current petition against Vigansky, the Mayor has said that he's in full support of it. “Four of us commissioners are able to be transparent and professional and Mr. Vigansky can't do that. He has continuously shown he's not fit to be in office.” Mayor Denison, while wanting to educate the public, also invites them to come ask questions and get involved in the city, because “democracy is not a spectator sport.” I couldn't agree more. We've heard the words a thousand times – be the change you want to see in the world. Denison invites those who want to make a change to run for office.

When it comes to the recall petition against Denison, he commented, “I don't understand it. All the decisions I've made have been for the city of Buchanan and under the guidance of a lawyer, especially with the Eldridge situation. When asked about what could be done to end the fighting in town and bring more peace, the Mayor states, “people could start telling the truth for starters. People drag my name through the mud and I've always facilitated peace. And, I've always presented myself in a professional, courteous manner. Always.”

Denison also has no knowledge of any peace talks between recall petition leaders and the city. He's not interested in having recalls being shut down. Especially when it comes to Mr. Vigansky's recall, Sean says, “these people feel the way that I do, they are tired of him belittling city employees, staff, and citizens.” Mayor Denison urges people to look for the truth and not feed into the misinformation and lies from people in town who want attention. The city needs to focus on strategies to bring in new businesses, which will allow the people to have relief from the tax burdens. Denison reminds us, “all of us who are involved at the city, are involved because we want what is best for the city. We are trying to tackle very tough issues, with very few resources, and still make investments that improve our community.”

His plans for 2024 are to continue development on the city's properties that they've owned for years, even before his tenure, and try to get them sold. He also plans to continue to make the best decisions possible with his team, which includes being available for communications, sharing information, and being transparent with the public. He feels this is what is needed to help alleviate many of the issues in town and to overall, help the public understand more. Sean is focused on the city of Buchanan and how to make it successful.

If you're interested in having your questions answered, please join The City of Buchanan's next Commission meeting, held on the second and fourth Monday of the month, at 7pm. Mayor Denison can be reached via email on the city's website – cityofbuchanan.com.

Previously Published Mayor's Comments:

<https://thebuchananchronicle.com/2023/12/02/mayors-memo-11-21-comments-regarding-city-manager/>

<https://thebuchananchronicle.com/2023/11/18/mayors-memo-open-letter-from-mayor-denison/>

<https://thebuchananchronicle.com/category/buchanan/mayors-memo/>





2020 Reader's Digest Nicest City in America – Buchanan, MI!

About The City of Buchanan, MI: The City operates under the Commission–Manager form of government as prescribed by the City Charter. Under this model the City Manager is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the City, with the Buchanan City Commission's main function being legislative and setting important policies that chart the future course of Buchanan. The City Commission is made up of five (5) members who serve four (4) year terms. The Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem are selected at the first meeting in November following the City election. Current City Manager: (Interim) ~ Current Mayor: Sean Denison.

www.cityofbuchanan.com

- Typical Hours at City Hall:
 - Monday – Thursday : 9am-4pm
 - Friday : 9am-1pm

Phone: 269-695-3844

Fax: 269-695-4330

City of Buchanan

City Hall

302 N Redbud Tr

Buchanan, MI 49107

USA

Local Royalty – Miss Michigan Maya Brings Home Talent Award

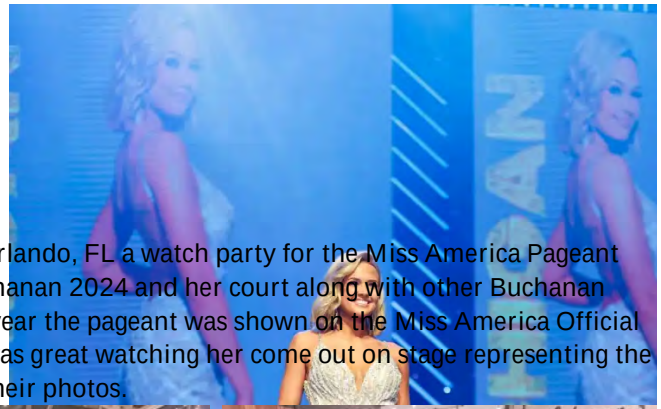
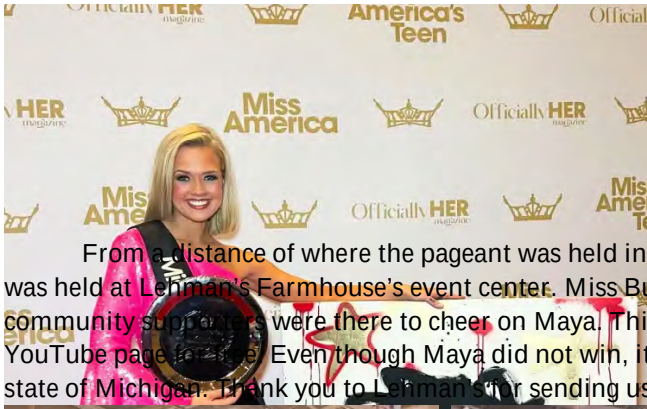


Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024

Miss Michigan Maya Schuhknecht Brings Home Talent Award from Miss America 2024

by Rebecka Hoyt, Editor

Our very own, Maya Schuhknecht (Miss Michigan 2023) participated in the Miss America Pageant on January 14, 2024 and came home with a preliminary talent award! A \$3,000 scholarship was given to her in addition to a shiny silver-etched plaque.



From a distance of where the pageant was held in Orlando, FL a watch party for the Miss America Pageant was held at Lehman's Farmhouse's event center. Miss Buchanan 2024 and her court along with other Buchanan community supporters were there to cheer on Maya. This year the pageant was shown on the Miss America Official YouTube page for the state. Even though Maya did not win, it was great watching her come out on stage representing the state of Michigan. Thank you to Lehman's for sending us their photos.



Watch Party for Maya's participation in the Miss America Pageant 2024 held at Lehman's Farmhouse, Photos shared by Debra Bonek
 Congratulations Maya! We are so proud of you and think that you did great, representing Buchanan beautifully! The Buchanan Chronicle will stay in touch with Miss Michigan to keep updated on what she's been up to and all her plans, before the next Miss Michigan is crowned in June 2024.

Read More about Maya's trip to Florida for the Miss America Pageant HERE:

<http://thebuchananchronicle.com/2024/01/13/local-royalty-buchanans-miss-michigan-maya-at-miss-america/>

Read More about Maya's journey to become Miss Michigan in our Summer 2023 interview with her HERE:

www.thebuchananchronicle.com/2023/07/08/local-royalty-buchanans-maya-schuhknecht-is-miss-michigan-2023

Read More about Maya's Fall 2023 visit to Ottawa Elementary School HERE:

www.thebuchananchronicle.com/2023/12/16/bcs-spotlight-miss-michigan-visits-ottawa-elementary-school

Miss Michigan

About Miss Michigan: The Miss Michigan competition is the pageant that selects the representative for the state of Michigan in the Miss America pageant. Michigan has won the Miss America crown on five occasions.
mmdirector@missmichigan.org

www.missmichigan.org

www.facebook.com/MissMichiganMAO



About Miss America: The Miss America Opportunity is the nation's leading provider of scholarships for

young women.

bookings@missamerica.org

www.missamerica.org

www.facebook.com/missamerica



LEHMAN'S

ORCHARD BREWERY &

FARMHOUSE

About Lehman's Farmhouse: Featuring our own craft made beers, wines, ciders, whiskey, gin and brandies along with other items brought over from Lehman's "Orchard" in Niles, Michigan. Thank you for your support of local, sustainable agriculture!

www.lehmansfarmhouse.com

lehmansfarmhouse@gmail.com

269-362-4063

204 N Redbud Tr

Buchanan, MI 49107

USA

- Typical Hours:

- Sun-Thurs ~ 1130am-8pm
 - Fri-Sat ~ 1130am-9pm
-

Upcoming Event – Boy Scout’s 57th Annual Swiss Steak Supper



Boy Scout Troop 541 Presents:
**57th Annual
Family Style
Swiss Steak Supper**

**Saturday, February 3rd, 2024
4 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.**

**At: First United Methodist Church
132 S. Oak St
Buchanan, MI 49107**

Adults \$10.00 and Children Under 12 \$5.00

“Dine in” or “Take Out”

**You can purchase tickets in advance on Tuesday Evenings prior from
6:30 until 8:00 or at the door day of dinner at the First United
Methodist Church in Buchanan.**

Or contact Bill Blumka at 574-361-0258 for more information.

Note: Dinner will be held regardless of the weather

Proceeds support Troop 541 Activities and Community Projects

Serving Swiss Steak, Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Roll, Drink & Dessert



Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024

Boy Scout Troop 541 to Host 57th Annual Swiss Steak Supper

Shared by Boy Scout Troop 541

Bring the family down for family style, all you can eat, Swiss steak, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, coleslaw, dinner rolls, beverage and desserts.

Adults – \$10 per person

Kids under 12 – \$5 per person

Can't stay to dine in with us? We offer generous take out portions as well!

The Swiss Steak Supper will hold no matter the weather! Get advance tickets from your favorite Scout or call Scoutmaster Bill Blumka at 574-361-0258 with any questions.

 Boy Scout Troop 541 Presents:
57th Annual
Family Style
Swiss Steak Supper

Proceeds support Troop 541 Activities and Community Projects

Serving Swiss Steak, Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Roll, Drink & Dessert

Saturday, February 3rd, 2024
4 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.



“Dine in” or “Take Out”

At: First United Methodist Church
132 S. Oak St
Buchanan, MI 49107

Adults \$10.00 and Children Under 12 \$5.00

You can purchase tickets in advance on Tuesday Evenings prior from
6:30 until 8:00 or at the door day of dinner at the First United
Methodist Church in Buchanan.

Or contact Bill Blumka at 574-361-0258 for more information.

Note: Dinner will be held regardless of the weather

57th Annual Boy Scout Swiss Steak Supper flyer

Event Details:

- *Who:* Boy Scout Troop 541
- *What:* 57th Annual Swiss Steak Supper
- *When:* **Saturday, February 03, 2024 ~ 4pm-6:30pm**
- *Where:* First United Methodist Church
 - 132 S Oak St, Buchanan MI 49107
- *Details:*

- Serving: Swiss Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Dinner Roll, Drink, & Dessert
- “Dine In” or “Take Out”
- Note: Dinner will be held no matter the weather.
- Tickets:
 - \$10 Adults, \$5 Children under 12
 - Get advance tickets from your favorite Scout or call Scoutmaster Bill Blumka at 574-361-0258 with any questions.



BSA Troop 541 of Buchanan, Image shared by BSA Troop 541



About Buchanan BSA: Buchanan Boy Scout Troop 541 is in the Algonquian District, which is part of the LaSalle Council, Boy Scouts of America and supports local scouting units (Packs, Troops and Crews) in Southwestern Michigan and Northern Indiana.

Troop 541 [Facebook Page](#)
[269-695-3282](#)
[Boy Scout Troop 541 meets at:](#)
[Buchanan First United Methodist Church](#)
[132 S Oak St](#)
[Buchanan, MI 49107](#)
[USA](#)

Upcoming Event – BCS Plow Day 2024



COME ONE, COME ALL, TO THE ANNUAL
**OLD FASHIONED PLOW DAY
& PANCAKE BREAKFAST**
SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024
BUCHANAN SCHOOL FARM
3588 ANDREWS ROAD
BUCHANAN, MI

We are always looking for participants with
antique farm equipment or traditional/organic
farmers who would like to be on display!

INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING?
Email: schoolfarm@buchananschools.com
Phone: 269-695-8435

WWW.BUCHANANSCHOOLS.COM/SCHOOL-FARM

Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024

Buchanan School Farm's 27th Annual Plow Day and Pancake Breakfast

Shared by Buchanan Community Schools

Come One, Come All, to the Annual Old Fashioned Plow Day & Pancake Breakfast at Buchanan School Farm,
Saturday, April 20, 2024!



2024 Plow Day flyer

- *Who:* Buchanan Community School Farm
- *What:* 27th Annual Plow Day & Pancake Breakfast
- *When:* **Saturday, April 20, 2024**
- *Where:* Buchanan School Farm
 - 3588 Andrews Road, Buchanan MI 49107
- *Details:*
 - We are always looking for participants with antique farm equipment or traditional/organic farmers who would like to be on display!
 - Interested in participating?
 - Email: schoolfarm@buchananschools.com
 - Phone: 269-695-8435
 - www.buchananschools.com/school-farm



Buchanan School Farm
www.buchananschools.com/school-farm
3588 Andrews Rd

Upcoming Event – Polar Plunge 2024



Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024

Buchanan Police to Participate Again in Polar Plunge 2024

Submitted by Officer Brie Schmitz, Buchanan Police Department

Dear Community Partner:

For 5 years, the Buchanan Police Department, in conjunction with local departments, has participated in the Polar Plunge. This program helps raise money for the Special Olympics.

"Special Olympics is a global movement that unleashes the human spirit every day around the world through the transformative power and joy of sport. Through programming in sports, health, education and community building, Special Olympics is tackling the inactivity, stigma, isolation, and injustice that people with intellectual disabilities (ID) face." Special Olympics strives to create a better world by fostering the acceptance and inclusion of all people.

This year, The Polar Plunge will take place at the Watermark Brewery in Stevensville on February 3rd, 2024. Once again, our team of plungers will jump into freezing cold water to help raise money for a good cause. Our officers are passionate about this program, and we strive to help our community. Every year, our team decides on the costumes to wear while plunging. In the past, these have included Super Man and Super Woman, Dodgeball players, Red Bud Motocross fans, and A League of Their Own. This year our team has picked the theme of Robin Williams movie characters!

Our goal for this year is to reach \$1000 in donations for the Special Olympics. All donations go directly to the Michigan Special Olympics. Please consider donating to this program and come to Watermark on February 3rd, 2024, to watch our team take the plunge!

Feel free to contact Diana Selir or myself at (269) 695-5120 if you have any questions regarding this wonderful program. Thank you for your generous support in advance! For more information [click here](#).

Sincerely,
Officer Brie Schmitz
Buchanan City Police



Buchanan City Police Department Polar Plunge 2023 Team Costumes, Photo shared by BCPD



Polar Plunge 2024 graphic

Event Details:

- *Who:* Buchanan City Police Department
- *What:* [Southwest Michigan Polar Plunge 2024](#)
- *When:* **Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 12pm**
- *Where:* Watermark Brewing Company
 - 5767 St Joseph Ave, Stevensville MI 49127
- *Details:*
 - Join us for the annual Southwest Michigan Polar Plunge taking place Feb. 3 at Watermark Brewing.
 - Registration/Check-In opens in the Patio Area of Watermark at 10 am.
 - Plunging in the PLUNGESTER takes place at 12 pm.

- The After Splash Bash in Watermark's Solarium takes place at 1:30 pm.
- Event Info Link: <https://www.classy.org/team/549374>
- Facebook Event Link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1480478515830651>



About Buchanan City Police Department: The Buchanan City Police Department's fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard life and property; to protect the innocent against deception; the weak against oppression or intimidation; the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the Constitutional Rights of all persons to liberty, equality, and justice. The Buchanan Police Department proudly serves the citizens of the City of Buchanan by providing twenty-four hour, seven days a week, full service police coverage.

EMERGENCIES DIAL 911

Non-Emergency phone: 269-695-5120, fax: 269-695-0014.

www.cityofbuchanan.com/police

dselir@cityofbuchanan.com

720 E Front St, Suite B

Buchanan, MI 49107

USA

- Hours: 24HR EMERGENCY SERVICE – 911
- Office lobby hours: Monday – Friday ~ 8am-4:30pm, except holidays.

Upcoming Event – Empty Bowls 2024



Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024

Empty Bowls 2024 – Bowl Making Workshops and Empty Bowls Supper

Shared by Roti Roti Art Center of Buchanan

EMPTY BOWLS WORKSHOPS Details:

Try your hand at clay and help feed the hungry! A Great Family Activity!!

Your bowl will be donated to the 29th Annual Buchanan EMPTY BOWLS SOUP SUPPER (see details under UPCOMING EVENTS) unless you choose to pre-purchase it and pick it up at the Supper.

All profits will be donated to the food pantry of Redbud Area Ministries (RAM) in Buchanan.

- Empty Bowls Events Details:
 - All ages welcome (min. 4 students, max. 12 for each workshop)
 - Children and Adults \$5/ bowl plus April 19th Empty Bowls Supper ticket.
 - Create a clay bowl with the assistance of our experienced instructors and return to glaze it.
 - Family, business or Scout groups (min 8) desiring a private session, should call as soon as possible to schedule.
 - REGISTRATION REQUIRED 2 DAYS PRIOR TO EACH WORKSHOP.
 - Please call us ASAP at the Center if canceling.
 - Groups and families must register every participant separately by name!

Choose ONE PAIR OF DATES by time slot, one is to make and one is to glaze.

- *Community Empty Bowls Workshops Time Slots:*
 - **10-11am** (max. 10 students)
 - Friday, March 9, 2024
 - Saturday, March 16, 2024
 - **1-2pm** (max. 10 students)

- Friday, March 9, 2024
- Saturday, March 16, 2024
- **3-4pm** (max. 10 students)
 - Friday, March 9, 2024
 - Saturday, March 16, 2024
- **4-5pm** (max. 10 students)
 - Friday, March 8, 2024
 - Saturday, March 15, 2024
- **6-7pm** (max. 10 students)
 - Friday, March 8, 2024
 - Saturday, March 15, 2024

Register for the 10-11am EMPTY BOWLS 2024 Workshop Time Slots [HERE](#) ~ Full!!

Register for the 1-2pm EMPTY BOWLS 2024 Workshop Time Slots [HERE](#)

Register for the 3-4pm EMPTY BOWLS 2024 Workshop Time Slots [HERE](#)

Register for the 4-5pm EMPTY BOWLS 2024 Workshop Time Slots [HERE](#)

Register for the 6-7pm EMPTY BOWLS 2024 Workshop Time Slots [HERE](#)

EMPTY BOWLS SUPPER Details:

The Buchanan Community Empty Bowls Soup Supper will again be hosted at Buchanan High School. Pre-registration is not required.

We hope that you will attend and purchase a hand-made ceramic bowl along with a simple soup supper and help end hunger. All profits from the supper and pre-sales, which usually exceeds \$5000, will be donated to Redbud Area Ministries' (RAM) food pantry in Buchanan.

This international philanthropic project was started in 1990 by a group of Detroit Area Public School art educators who were also potters, one of them a 1962 Buchanan High School graduate! Our local project, now 29 years old, is made possible by a partnership of the Roti Roti Art Center of Buchanan, Buchanan Community Schools, Redbud Area Ministries, and local potters, as well as the continuing generosity of local merchants, area foundations, and our caring community.

Pre-Buy Tickets to the EMPTY BOWLS 2024 Supper [HERE](#)



Image of past Empty Bowls, Shared by Roti Roti Art Center of Buchanan

Event Details:

- *Who:* Roti Roti Art Center (RRAC) of Buchanan
- *What:* Empty Bowls Soup Supper Fundraiser
- *When:* **Friday, April 19, 2024 from 4-7pm**
- *Where:* Buchanan High School
 - 401 W Chicago St, Buchanan MI 49107
- *Details:*
 - Purchase a Bowl, Fill it with Dinner, Support your local Food Pantry (Redbud Area Ministries)! Thank you for your past and continued support of this important fundraising event!!



About Roti Roti Art Center of Buchanan: The mission of the Roti Roti Art Center of Buchanan is to provide a place in our community dedicated to nurturing the arts by providing a quality educational program for all ages, as well as gallery exhibits, sales opportunities, and a gift shop that are supportive of class offerings and local artists, thereby enabling the Center to creatively enlist the power of the arts in promoting positive social change. It was founded in 2005 as the Buchanan Art Center, and renamed in 2022 as a result of an endowment from Joseph and Patricia Roti Roti.

www.rotirotiartcenter.com

- Admission is Free
- Hours:
 - Wed-Sun ~ Noon-6
 - Mon-Tue ~ Closed (Classes Only)

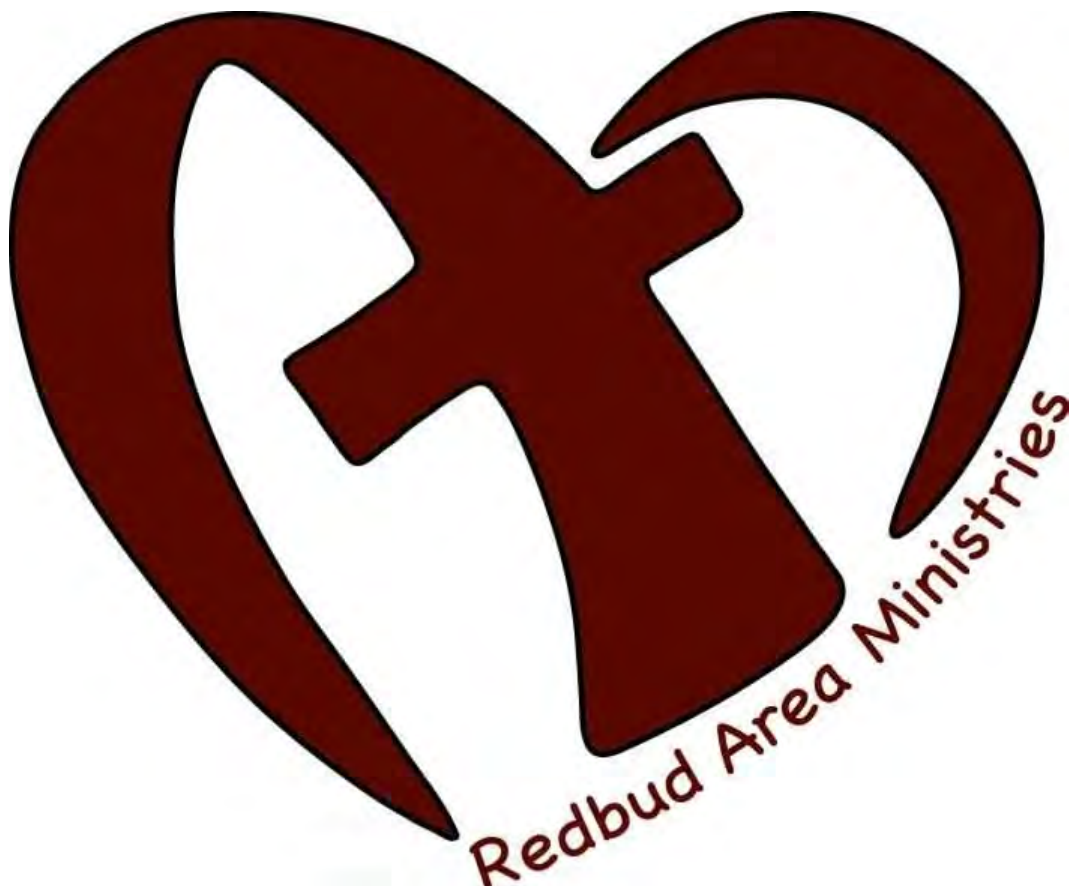
rotirotiartcenter@gmail.com

[269-697-4005](tel:269-697-4005)

[117 W. Front St.](#)

[Buchanan, MI 49107](#)

[USA](#)



About Redbud Area Ministries: RAM is an interdenominational and interracial ministry center started

to organize the churches in the Buchanan and Galien School Districts to respond to individual and family needs.
269-695-5083

redbudareaministries.weebly.com

[Redbud Area Ministries Facebook Page](#)

redbudareaministries@yahoo.com

708 Red Bud Trail N

Buchanan, MI 49107

USA



About Buchanan Community Schools: Public School system for Buchanan, Michigan area. Our vision is to develop responsible, resilient, creative citizens capable of succeeding in a global society.

www.buchananschools.com

probinson@buchananschools.com

269-695-8400

Buchanan Community Schools

Central Offices

401 W Chicago St

Buchanan, MI 49107

USA

Heather Writes – A Blossoming Partnership



Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024

A Blossoming Partnership

by Heather Foster, Writer

After seeing where they could step up their game when it comes to on-site safety, our local school district has brought back the Parent Advisory Board.

This year, the focus will be on working together with parents, school staff, and students to create an environment where our children can feel safe, validated, and important. After a rocky start to the year and realizing some of their policies weren't aligned, BCS has implemented changes, with more to come.

By bringing in parents, the Superintendent gives them the opportunity for feedback about what we see with our students, which she can then take back to her team and see what changes can be made. This partnership is coming in excellent time because many parents felt that many things were going wrong in and out of the classroom.

Buchanan's stance on bullying is clear in their handbook and they are doing their best to promote kindness, positive behaviors, and put a stop to bullying as much as possible. Though, sometimes things happen and they have to address it. This is why talking to our children regarding kind behavior, standing up for themselves, and learning to speak up about bullying is so important.

The Parent Advisory Board will also have a focus on fundraising. Our schools desperately need some updating and plans are being looked at to see where we can help, what we can do, and ultimately, what each school needs to function in the safest way possible.

With Buchanan city taxes already so high, the bond was not passed last year, which has left the school without that extra funding they needed to upgrade heating, electrical, classrooms, and more. Hopefully, with this Parent Advisory Board, we can see changes coming into play in the school, as well as with the fundraising they desperately need.



Local Arts – Celebrating Cydney Bridges: Miss America 2024 2nd Runner Up



Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024

Celebrating Cydney Bridges: A Star on the Miss America Stage

by Dr. Greta Pope, Cultural Arts Everywhere

Hey there!

I am thrilled to share a moment of immense pride and joy with you—celebrating the outstanding achievements of our very own Cydney Bridges.

As you may know, Cydney, a cherished student of The Private Music Studio family and reigning Miss Indiana 2023, recently took the Miss America 2024 stage by storm. It has been a truly rewarding experience watching her grow through the years with us, witnessing her transformation into the incredible individual she is today.



Cydney Bridges, Miss America 2024 2nd Runner Up and Student of Greta Pope, Image shared by Greta Pope

From her days as a Private Music Studio student to her shining moment at Miss America, Cydney's journey is nothing short of inspiring.

As Miss Indiana, Cydney represented her state with grace and poise, paving the way for her remarkable journey to the Miss America stage. There, she continued to shine, earning the well-deserved title of second runner-up among a group of remarkable women from across the nation.

Her success is a testament to the values of resilience, talent, and intelligence that we strive to nurture within the Private Music Studio community. We are beyond proud of Cydney's accomplishments and the inspiration she brings to us all.

If you or someone you know is interested in vocal training, please visit The Private Music Studio website to learn more. We look forward to continuing our journey of music and success together.

Here's to the melody of success, the harmony of perseverance, and the crescendo of dreams realized.

Brava, Cydney!

Warm Regards,
Dr. Greta Pope



About Dr. Greta Pope: Greta Pope is an award-winning internationally acclaimed entertainer. Greta has performed an array of styles from Jazz to Opera throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, the Far East, South Africa, and the Caribbean. Along with performing, she teaches voice lessons to students of all ages, educates aspiring singers and musicians on how to grow their profession in the music industry, hosts The Business Savvy Singer Podcast, author of Music, Money, And You...Managing the Business, and more!

www.culturalartseverywhere.org

www.gretapope.com



About Dr. Greta Pope's Private Music Studio: Whether you want to further your career in the music industry, get a head start on launching your new business, or take private voice lessons, we have a variety of courses to help you build the life you've always wanted.

[773-965-4200](tel:773-965-4200)

info@gretapope.com

privatemusicstudio.net

www.facebook.com/privatemusicstudio.net

Roti Roti Art Center – Spring 2024

This Spring at



Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024

A Few Spring Events at Roti Roti Art Center of Buchanan

Submitted by Kim Pruitt, RRAC Executive Director

Upcoming Events:

Create Your Own Unique Vision

- Minimum attendees: 4, Maximum: 12
- Bridget Verdun, Facilitator
- Saturday, **January 27th, 1-4pm ET**
 - Registration closes: Wednesday, January 25th, noon
- Fee: *\$40.80 Member, \$48 Non-members*. Fee includes all materials.

Bridget will guide participants in creating their own Vision Boards. This process is one of the best tools to begin the new year if your desire is to manifest your dreams and personal goals. Bridget has years of experience in guiding students in making these visual representations; something students will take home with them where they'll discover that their creations will continue to resonate throughout the year.

Register for the 1/27 Unique Vision Workshop [HERE](#)

Origami Workshop

- Minimum attendees: 4, Maximum: 12
- Adults. Minimum age: 16 yrs.
- Separate workshops being offered:
 - Saturdays: **February 17 & March 9, 2024**
 - Time: **1-2pm ET**

- Fee: *\$17 members, \$20 non-members*. Fee includes all materials.

Origami one-day session – During this workshop, participants will fold a number of traditional origami models. Rooted in a few different base folds, we will create flora and fauna; lilies, roses, generic flowers, birds, fish, and four-legged animals. Participants will walk away with a better understanding of how origami is done. Kinda like a basic recipe for scrambled eggs, origami is rooted in a set of guidelines, and manifested in a myriad of ways.

Register for the 2/17 Origami Workshop [HERE](#)

Register for the 3/9 Origami Workshop [HERE](#)

How to Make a Book – Bookbinding Workshop

- Minimum attendees: 4, Maximum: 12
- Adults. Minimum age: 16 yrs.
- Separate workshops being offered:
 - Saturday: **February 17 & March 9, 2024**
 - Time: **2:30-3:30pm ET**.
- Fee: *\$17 members, \$20 non-members*. Fee includes all materials.

Book-making one-day session – This one-hour hands-on workshop will guide participants in the process of making a book. Yes, you will go away to a 100% functional book after this workshop. Moreover, zero tools will be needed for the creation of your book; each book will be created using only paper. No glue. No sewing. Not even scissors.

Books are containers for data, information, and knowledge. Paper abounds. Learn how to create books from this paper, and in turn, maintain a diary, write a to-do list, or draft an American novel.

Register for the 2/17 Bookbinding Workshop [HERE](#)

Register for the 3/9 Bookbinding Workshop [HERE](#)

Make Your Own Original Mosaic Mirror

- No experience necessary.
- Adults. Minimum age: 15 yrs.
- Instructor: Greta Hurst, Tabula Rasa Mosaics
- Two Saturdays, **February 3, 10am-12pm ET & February 10, 10am-11:30am ET**
 - (Session one: create. Session two: grout & take home.)
- Fee: *\$63.75 Members, \$75 Non-members*. Fee includes all materials.

Greta will guide you to incorporate your own personal style with this ancient technique, in a two-day session. A wide selection of “bling” will be provided but feel free to bring a few small personal or found objects to create your own unique art piece on this take home, ready to hang work of art.

Register for the 2/3 or 2/10 Mosaic Mirror Class [HERE](#)

EMPTY BOWLS 2024:

Try your hand at clay and help feed the hungry! A great family activity!

- Minimum attendees: 4, Maximum: 12 (for each workshop)
- All ages welcome.
- Empty Bowls Supper: **April 19th 2024 ~ 4-7pm**
- Children and Adults: *\$5/ bowl*

Create a clay bowl (with the assistance of our experienced instructors) on one date and return to glaze it on a

second date. Choose ONE PAIR OF DATES by time slot, one to make and one to glaze.

• *Community Empty Bowls Workshops Time Slots:*

- **10-11am** (max. 10 students)
 - Friday, March 9, 2024
 - Saturday, March 16, 2024
- **1-2pm** (max. 10 students)
 - Friday, March 9, 2024
 - Saturday, March 16, 2024
- **3-4pm** (max. 10 students)
 - Friday, March 9, 2024
 - Saturday, March 16, 2024
- **4-5pm** (max. 10 students)
 - Friday, March 8, 2024
 - Saturday, March 15, 2024
- **6-7pm** (max. 10 students)
 - Friday, March 8, 2024
 - Saturday, March 15, 2024

Your bowl will be donated to the 29th Annual Buchanan EMPTY BOWLS SOUP SUPPER (See Event Info HERE) unless you choose to pre-purchase it and pick it up at the Supper.

- All profits will be donated to the food pantry of Redbud Area Ministries (RAM) in Buchanan.
- Family, business or Scout groups (min 8) desiring a private session, should call as soon as possible to schedule.
- Groups and families must register every participant separately by name!
- REGISTRATION REQUIRED 2 DAYS PRIOR TO EACH WORKSHOP.
- Please call us ASAP at the Center if canceling.

Register for the 10-11am EMPTY BOWLS 2024 Workshop Time Slots HERE ~ Full!!

Register for the 1-2pm EMPTY BOWLS 2024 Workshop Time Slots HERE

Register for the 3-4pm EMPTY BOWLS 2024 Workshop Time Slots HERE

Register for the 4-5pm EMPTY BOWLS 2024 Workshop Time Slots HERE

Register for the 6-7pm EMPTY BOWLS 2024 Workshop Time Slots HERE

Pre-Buy Tickets to the EMPTY BOWLS 2024 Supper HERE

Thank you for supporting the Buchanan Area Senior Center!



About Roti Roti Art Center of Buchanan: The mission of the Roti Roti Art Center of Buchanan is to provide a place in our community dedicated to nurturing the arts by providing a quality educational program for all ages, as well as gallery exhibits, sales opportunities, and a gift shop that are supportive of class offerings and local artists, thereby enabling the Center to creatively enlist the power of the arts in promoting positive social change. It was founded in 2005 as the Buchanan Art Center, and renamed in 2022 as a result of an endowment from Joseph and Patricia Roti Roti.

www.rotirotiartcenter.com

- Admission is Free
- Hours:
 - Wed-Sun ~ Noon-6
 - Mon-Tue ~ Closed (Classes Only)

rotirotiartcenter@gmail.com

269-697-4005

117 W. Front St.

Buchanan, MI 49107

USA

Local Business – Edgewater Automation Announces Executive Changes



Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024

Edgewater Automation Announces Executive Changes

Submitted by Julie Anderson, Edgewater Automation Communications and Media Relations

St. Joseph, MI ~ January 9, 2024

Edgewater Automation, a family owned business has announced that founder and president, Rick Blake has been named as Chief Executive Officer and Tim Tate as President.

Tim is a seasoned and highly successful leader with a deep background in industrial automation industry. In 2006, Tim joined the company as a machine builder, steadily advancing into management roles. First, in 2013, as a project manager, then, in 2015, director of manufacturing, and, since 2019, as managing director for the St. Joseph automation team.



Rick Blake and Tim Tate at Edgewater Automation, Photo provided by Edgewater Automation

“I’ve had the pleasure of working with Tim for many years, going back to when he started his path in the automation industry as an apprentice machine builder. Tim has, over many years in the business, shown himself to be a hard worker, talented manager, and natural leader. I am confident he will help Edgewater Automation thrive in the coming years,” said Rick.

On this transition, Tim Tate said, “Walking the path paved by mentors I deeply respect, I set my own goals and chased them with everything I had – commitment, focus, passion, and yes, some sacrifices. To my colleagues, I want you to feel the truth: anything is within reach. Embrace the journey of learning daily, push your limits for personal growth, and always be there for those around you, giving your absolute best.”

Tim went on to share, “As we embark on this exciting journey of strategic growth, we’re eager to invest in solutions and processes that empower our teams in Michigan and South Carolina to excel in project execution. We believe in the power of collaboration, and we’re committed to uncovering opportunities to better serve our customers.”



About Edgewater Automation: With a staff of 265, Edgewater Automation is an ISO 9001:2015–certified designer and builder of custom advanced automation equipment and manufactured structures and systems, including robotics, machine vision, motion control, automated test and data acquisition, and software control and management solutions for all manufacturing industries. With facilities in Michigan and South Carolina, Edgewater Automation is positioned to support its core customers in life sciences, automotive and commercial vehicles, consumer packaged goods (CPG), general manufacturing, electronics and battery manufacturing, and logistics.

www.edgewaterautomation.com

www.facebook.com/edgewaterautomationglobal

communications@edgewaterautomation.com
[269-983-1300](tel:269-983-1300)
[816 E 3rd St D](#)
[Buchanan, MI 49107](#)
[USA](#)

Press Release – HCU Accepting Annual Scholarship Applications



Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024

Honor Credit Union Announce Annual Teacher Award Winners 2023

Submitted by Kayla Smith, HCU Brand Coordinator

Berrien Springs, MI ~ January 19, 2024

Honor Credit Union proudly announces its 2024 Community Commitment Scholarship Program. New this year, Honor has increased its scholarship value to \$2,500, to be awarded to 12 incoming college or trade school students. Applications are accepted now through March 15, 2024.

To be eligible, the student must be a primary account holder at Honor Credit Union at the time of application and scholarship presentation, should you become a finalist. Students must complete the online application detailing their academic performance and community involvement in a short-form essay explaining how they have impacted their communities.



Scholarships Open 2024, Graphic provided by HCU

The deadline to apply for the Community Commitment Scholarship is Friday, March 15, 2024, at 11:59:59 PM. Applications must be submitted online. Any applications delivered to an Honor member center will not be considered. Winners will be contacted and announced in late April 2024. To access the application form and view the Official Rules, please visit www.honorcu.com/scholarship.

Honor is dedicated to investing in its members and their financial futures and supporting its local communities. Providing this opportunity to graduating high school seniors offers financial support as they further their education through their chosen college or trade school. Over the last several years, Honor Credit Union has awarded over 100 student scholarships and is proud to continue providing this financial assistance to our young members and future leaders.



About Honor Credit Union: Honor Credit Union is a non-profit, full-service financial institution serving over 110,000 members in 28 member center communities throughout western and northern Michigan. Providing solutions for financial success and giving back to the communities we serve remain the driving forces behind Honor Credit Union.

For more information, call 800.442.2800, or visit www.honorcu.com.

BCS Sports – Buchanan Athletics Spring Scores 2024



Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024

Buchanan Athletics Sports Scores 1/11 – 1/19/24

Scores Compiled by Jen Garry, Publisher

Below you can find some of Buchanan Athletics recent sports scores. Current sports include Girls and Boys Varsity Basketball.

Please do let us know any corrections or additions to the list. Go Bucks!

SPORT: Varsity Basketball (Girls)

Date	Time	H/A	Against	Final Score
1/18	6:30pm	Away	Dowagiac	WON 37-30

Buchanan Bucks Varsity Basketball (Girls) Recent Scores Spring 2024

SPORT: Varsity Basketball (Boys)

Date	Time	H/A	Against	Final Score
1/19	7:15pm	Home	Dowagiac	LOST 50-59
1/11	7:15pm	Home	Three Rivers	LOST 36-39

Buchanan Bucks Varsity Basketball (Boys) Recent Scores Spring 2024



GO BUCKS!

Buchanan Community Schools – Buchanan Athletics
www.buchananathletics.bigteams.com

[269-695-8403](tel:269-695-8403)
[401 W Chicago St](#)
[Buchanan, MI 49107](#)
[USA](#)

SPORTS



**Press Release – Buchanan New Member of Restoration
Coalition**



Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024

City of Buchanan is a New Member of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

Submitted by Richard Murphy, City of Buchanan Community Development Director

Buchanan, MI – January 22, 2024

The City of Buchanan announced on Monday that it is a new member of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a binational coalition of over 244 municipal and regional U.S. and Canadian mayors and local officials working to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin.

The City of Buchanan Community Development team has been working for the last several months with the team at Great Lakes and St. Lawrence in conjunction with a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to create an ecological restoration plan for the public access areas at Riverfront Park in Buchanan.



Looking downstream on the St. Joseph River in Buchanan, Photo provided by City of Buchanan

The grant will look at best practice strategies to create a healthy and thriving environment for our local residents and flora and fauna while employing best practices such as nature-based solutions. The plan will propose strategies for shoreline erosion, stormwater management, the introduction of native plant species, and the removal of invasive species, and other measures that will result in cleaner water in the St. Joseph River and Lake Michigan.

Buchanan Mayor Sean Denison said on the announcement, “We all must do our part to protect our critical natural resources, the Great Lakes, which make up 20% of the freshwater on the planet. We are thrilled to be a new member of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and look forward to implementing many of these best practices that will result in cleaner water for all,” he said.

Community Development Director Richard Murphy who is leading the effort said, “We are very happy to be included in this community of cities who are working every day to protect the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River Basin not only to preserve and enhance our quality of life and but to improve the economic well-being of the people of the region,” Murphy said.

Murphy said that the work on the Buchanan/St. Joseph Ecological Restoration Plan will continue for the next several months with opportunities for members of the public to comment and provide feedback on the plan.



2020 Reader's Digest Nicest City in America – Buchanan, MI!

About The City of Buchanan, MI: The City operates under the Commission–Manager form of government as prescribed by the City Charter. Under this model the City Manager is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the City, with the Buchanan City Commission's main function being legislative and setting important policies that chart the future course of Buchanan. The City Commission is made up of five (5) members who serve four (4) year terms. The Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem are selected at the first meeting in November following the City election. Current City Manager: (Interim) ~ Current Mayor: Sean Denison.

www.cityofbuchanan.com

- Typical Hours at City Hall:
 - Monday – Thursday : 9am-4pm
 - Friday : 9am-1pm

Phone: 269-695-3844

Fax: 269-695-4330

City of Buchanan

City Hall

302 N Redbud Tr

Buchanan, MI 49107

USA



**GREAT LAKES AND
ST. LAWRENCE**
CITIES INITIATIVE

About Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative: The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a binational coalition of over 240 U.S. and Canadian mayors and local officials working to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. The Cities Initiative and local officials integrate environmental, economic and social agendas and sustain a resource that represents approximately 20 percent of the world's surface freshwater supply, provides drinking water for 40 million people, and is the foundation upon which a strong regional economy is based.

www.glslcities.org

Phone: 312-201-4518

P.O. Box 1332
New Lenox, IL 60451
USA

The Clark Barker – Issue 68



Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024

Watch for Flooding

When all this snow we've gotten recently starts warming up, we get flooding! Take extra care these days and watch out for water over sidewalks and roads while you are out and about, as flooding can be dangerous and needs to be assessed by professionals.

Berrien County Road Department shared some tips on flooding we'd like to pass along:

If you encounter a flooded road, the public is requested to seek alternative routes until water levels resume to normal and road is inspected. Flooded roads will be reopened to thru traffic when deemed safe for use.

If you find water over the road during regular office hours, please contact the Road Department directly at 269-925-1196, Monday – Thursday from 7:00am until 4:30pm or on Fridays from 7:00am until 11:00am. If you come across a road hazard after hours, please report those directly to central dispatch at 269-983-3060 or dial 911 in an emergency. *Do not report time sensitive hazards after hours or over the weekend to Road Department offices, as that message will not be received until the office reopens.

Woof-Woof!



**Water Over Road?
Let us know!**

Call us at 269-925-1196

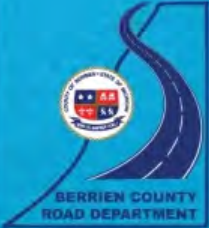
BCRD Offices are Open
Monday - Thursday from 7am - 4:30pm
Friday from 7am - 11am



If after hours please contact Central Dispatch by dialing 269-983-3060.



**For road related emergencies
call 911 immediately.**



BERRIEN COUNTY
ROAD DEPARTMENT



**ROAD
CLOSED
AHEAD**

STEER CLEAR *of* FLOODED ROADS

- Never drive on flooded roads – almost half of flood deaths happen in vehicles.
- 6 inches of water is enough to cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- If you encounter flood waters on a roadway, Turn Around, Don't Drown®.



FEMA

Do You Really Know



Board of Education Regular Meeting Agenda • 1/16/24



Board of Education Regular Meeting Agenda • 1/16/24

Agenda by Michelle Munyon, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Buchanan Community Schools



All completed Board of Education Meeting Minutes are available to read on the Buchanan Community Schools website [HERE](#).

Please note that a few highlights from the latest Buchanan Community Schools Board of Education Meeting Agenda are listed below. At the end of the agenda's highlights, click on the link to take you to more detailed minutes of that meeting.

Also, meeting minutes may not be published in each issue of The Buchanan Chronicle, but instead as they become available.

Members of the public may contact members of the school board to provide input or ask questions on any business that will come before the board. These items will also be shared with the Superintendent.

- Dr. Harvey Burnett, President – hburnett@buchananschools.com
- Ruth Writer, Vice-President – rwriter@buchananschools.com
- Kelly Laesch, Secretary – klaesch@buchananschools.com
- Chris Carlson, Treasurer – ccarlson@buchananschools.com
- Katie Berry, Trustee – kberry@buchananschools.com
- Dr. Scott Carlin, Trustee – scarlin@buchananschools.com
- Jennie Brackett, Trustee – jbrackett@buchananschools.com

Official minutes of school board meetings are stored and available for inspection in the Superintendent's Office. Meeting minutes are also posted on our district website under the Board of Education: www.buchananschools.com.

If you will be attending the meeting in person, door entrances 1, 2, and 3 will be open. During the winter months, we encourage you to park in the staff parking lot off Phelps Street and enter through entrance #3.

Upon request to Michelle Munyon, the District shall make reasonable accommodations for a person with disabilities to be able to participate in the meeting.

- **Regular Meeting ~ 1/16/2024 6:00 PM**
- **Buchanan High School Auditorium**
 - 401 W. Chicago Street
 - Buchanan, MI 49107
- **Watch the live stream: <https://youtube.com/live/vqU7QwGJJ0M?feature=share>**

Regular Meeting of the Buchanan Community Schools Board of Education • Tuesday, January 16, 2024 – 6pm

A. OPENING OF MEETING BY PRESIDENT ~ *Dr. Burnett opened the meeting at 6:04pm*

- *We welcome you to a meeting of the Buchanan Community Schools Board of Education.*
- *All regular meetings have been posted on our district website, in our central office, and in each district school building. Tonight's agenda has been posted on our website and emailed out to the BCS Board of Education Community Subscription. Our school board members receive the agenda and all supporting documents for reports and action items several days prior to this scheduled meeting, so they can review information, prepare questions or comments, and are ready to participate fully in the discussions and votes that encompass the duties of their office.*
- *This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the school district's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting.*
- ***Thank you for your support of Buchanan Community Schools!***

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL

D. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

E. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: *Dr. Burnett & Mrs. Robinson welcomed all.*

F. POINTS OF PRIDE

- I. Buchanan Bands receives an \$8,400 grant from the Berrien Community Foundation which will be used for marching band percussion equipment including new drums, stands, carriers and covers.
- II. School Board Recognition Month

G. SUPERINTENDENT/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- I. Board Updates: BHS & CTE, BMS, Moccasin, Ottawa, Athletics & BVA, Business Office, Food Service, Information Technology, Transportation, and Operations & Instructional Systems were provided respectively.
- II. Mrs. Robinson will be sharing the sinking fund and operating millage videos soon.

H. Presentations

- I. School Highlight – Mrs. Shelby Beasley, Buchanan Middle Schools Principal, presented to the board.

I. INFORMATION/REPORTS & NEW BUSINESS

J. PUBLIC COMMENT

- *Per Buchanan Community Schools bylaw 0167.3, which governs Public Comment at Board Meetings; each participant may speak once during the meeting for up to three minutes. Participants shall direct all comments to the Board and not to staff or other participants.*
- *The Board will listen, take comments and questions under advisement, and not respond at this time. I, as President, will refer questions to the superintendent for research and response in a timely manner. Please ensure your Public Comment Card includes your contact information as desired for a response. If you have specific questions for the Board that require a follow-up, please email those directly to the board president.*

K. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

I. Minutes:

- 12-11-2023 Regular Meeting
- 1-8-2024 Organizational Meeting

II. Warrants:

- Treasury & Expenditure Reports – December 2023

III. Recommendations to Hire as submitted for:

- *Recommended Employee – Title*
- Aubrey Hall – Paraprofessional (Ottawa)
- Kali Morris – Paraprofessional – GSRP Assistant Teacher (Ottawa)
- Kristin Shaner – GSRP Teacher
- Lille Spates – Substitute Custodian

IV. Employment Departures:

- *Name – Position – Date upon which wages will terminate*
- Nikki Sing-Morris – Paraprofessional (Ottawa) – 12/22/2023

L. BUCHANAN VIRTUAL ACADEMY GRADUATION CERTIFICATION

I. Buchanan Virtual Academy Students:

- Jordan McGowan
- Ella McLane
- Jamie Wesaw

M. 2024 CLOSE UP PROPOSAL FOR OVERNIGHT STUDENT TRIP

N. STUDENT HANDBOOK UPDATE

O. NEOLA BOARD POLICIES – SECOND READING

P. 2023-2024 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Q. NEOLA BOARD POLICIES – FIRST READING

R. QUESTIONS & COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS ~ *Board members spoke.*

S. NEXT BOARD MEETING: *Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 6pm*

T. ADJOURNMENT ~ 6:43 pm

Read the full minutes [HERE](#).



Buchanan Community Schools Board of Education

Mission: Educating students for life-long success in their civic, academic, physical and social/emotional lives.

Vision: To develop responsible, resilient, creative citizens capable of succeeding in a global society.

Beliefs: We Believe in providing a safe, supportive, respectful environment, opportunities for all students (options), student growth and achievement, and cooperative relationships among students, families, stakeholders and community members.

www.buchananschools.com
probinson@buchananschools.com
 269-695-8400
 Buchanan Community Schools
 Central Offices
 401 W Chicago St
 Buchanan, MI 49107

A Note from the Editor – Issue 68



Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024

A Note from the Editor – Issue 68

by Rebecka Hoyt, Editor

Welcome to the sixty-eighth issue of The Buchanan Chronicle on maybe a somewhat warmer day compared to when the last issue came out! I hope that all of you are staying safe, warm, wearing sunglasses due to many sunny days, and enjoying life as we go through this winter season. It is winter after all and having a Great Lake, Lake Michigan next to our county that loves to bring lake effect snow, and remember it also helps to keep us warm in the winter. I know, it's hard to keep that in mind when there are single digit temperatures! For those who are reading this in warmer weather, if you have not experienced some type of snow, I encourage you to visit us. There are fun things to do in the snow and also warm places to go to in Buchanan as well.

We are working on the next printed issue which will come out shortly after Spring starts in March. If you have not signed up for a paid subscription, please do so [here](#) by March 16. Your issue will come to your mailbox in an envelope so it does not get damaged in the mail sorters. For those who do subscribe through Spring 2024, you will receive a renewal notice with your issue so you can continue to get the future issues of this year.

About two weeks ago, our very own Miss Michigan Maya Schuhknecht, competed in the Miss America Pageant. She won a talent award & scholarship in the preliminary round. Maya represented the state of Michigan very well and The Buchanan Chronicle team is proud of her. Way to go Maya! We look forward to what the next six months have in store for Miss Michigan!

If you would like to submit information or events of your local club/organization, business, anniversaries/weddings, local opinions, please email them to us at: buchananchronicle@att.net Enjoy the issue and feel free to share it on your social media page or forward our email notification you received to your family/friends. Have a great weekend!

Happy Reading,
Rebecka Hoyt

The Buchanan Chronicle



Now That's Funny! – Issue 68



Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024

Now That's Funny! – Issue 68

by Thomas Hoyt, Writer

The other day I was clearing out my driveway and sidewalk using my snowblower. I was getting close to being done when I see the city plow truck coming my way. So I pause and realize this plow is throwing snow back onto the sidewalk I just cleared. Now what I thought was funny is this, I get pummeled with snow from waist down! 🌀 Soooooooooooooo I had to clear the sidewalk out again. Ah well.

Today's Dad joke: I got fired from the bank today. A woman asked me to check her balance, so I pushed her! 🌀🌀🌀

Keep laughing folks! 😊

Remembering – Issue 68



Issue 68 ~ January 27, 2024

Remembering – Issue 68

Buchanan Losses • 1/16 – 1/26

Name	Age	Born	Died
Debra Matthews	62	July 13, 1961	January 26, 2024
Robert J. Chase	67	February 27, 1956	January 24, 2024
Roberta Lou Patterson	67	January 22, 1957	January 24, 2024
James L. "Jim" Faulkner	68	June 12, 1955	January 22, 2024
Floyd E. "Gene" Lockamy Jr.	82	October 6, 1941	January 21, 2024
Elizabeth "Betty" Cornwell	93	June 30, 1930	January 20, 2024
Nancy Lee Ritchie	83	November 3, 1940	January 20, 2024
Brett Eric Pointer	55	May 15, 1968	January 18, 2024
Taylor Oren Johnson	84	January 2, 1940	January 16, 2024

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
www.hovenfunerals.com
info@hovenfunerals.com
 269-695-2363
 414 E Front St
 Buchanan, MI 49107
 USA

Starks Family Funeral Homes – Swem
www.starksfamilyfh.com/swem-chapel
 269-695-6881
 301 W Front St
 Buchanan, MI 49107
 USA

