

Our Seventy-Second Issue • March 23, 2024

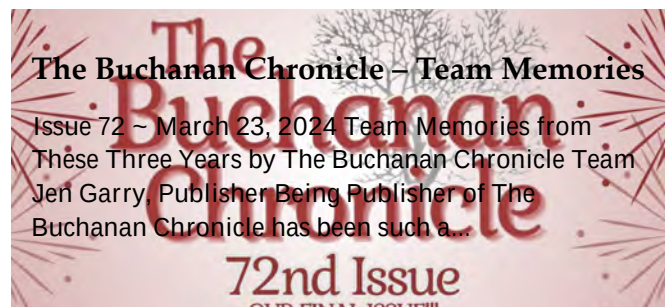
**Welcome to Our Seventy-Second Issue – OUR
FINAL ISSUE!!!**

Thank you so much for reading all about
Buchanan's latest with us since 2021!

THE BUCHANAN CHRONICLE

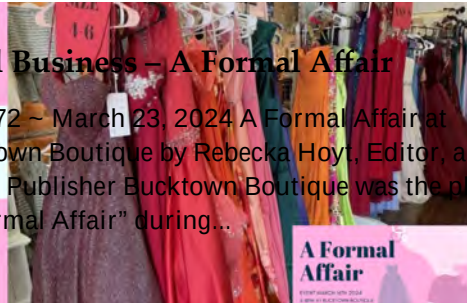


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www.culturalartseverywhere.org



Local Business – A Formal Affair

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Local Clubs – FIRST Robotics Competition

Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024 FIRST Robotics Competition in Michigan District Berden Springs High School Event Presented by Edgewater Automation of 2024 Written by Thomas & Julie Hoyt, Photos...



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Cultural Arts Everywhere
POSITIVELY IMPACTING
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Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024 Elevating Community Spirit: The Cultural Arts Everywhere Journey Through Creativity by Dr. Greta Pope, Cultural Arts Everywhere Cultural Arts Everywhere continues to stand as...

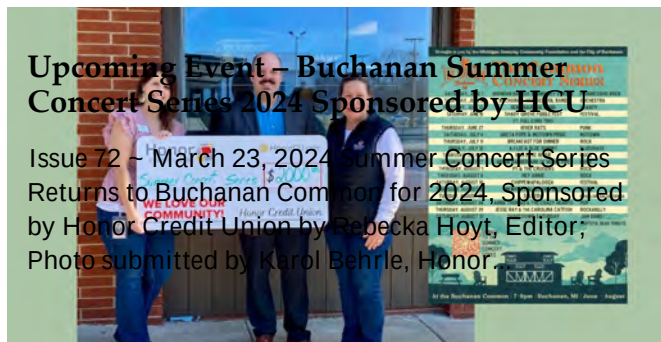
Current Event – Buchanan Restaurant Week 2024

Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024 Annual Buchanan Restaurant Week 2024 is Happening Now Shared by Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce The Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to...



Upcoming Event – Buchanan Summer Concert Series 2024 Sponsored by HCU

Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024 Summer Concert Series Returns to Buchanan Common for 2024, Sponsored by Honor Credit Union by Rebecca Hoyt, Editor, Photo submitted by Karol Behrle, Honor.



Upcoming Event – Buchanan's Easter Egg Hunt 2024

Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024 Buchanan's Annual Easter Egg Hunt 2024 at Buchanan Common Shared by City of Buchanan Join us for Buchanan's Annual Easter Egg Hunt 2024 at...



Upcoming Event – Buchanan's 16th Annual Chili Walk 2024



Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024 Buchanan's 16th Annual Chili Walk 2024 with Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce Shared by Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce Buchanan's 16th Annual Chili Walk...

Upcoming Event – LGBTQ+ Rights Forum with One Buchanan, OutCenter

Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024 LGBTQ+ MI Civil Rights Forum at Buchanan Area Senior Center with One Buchanan and OutCenter SWMI Shared by Adam Burck, BASC Executive Director One...

Upcoming Event – BCS Plow Day 2024

Issue 72 ~ March 23, 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...

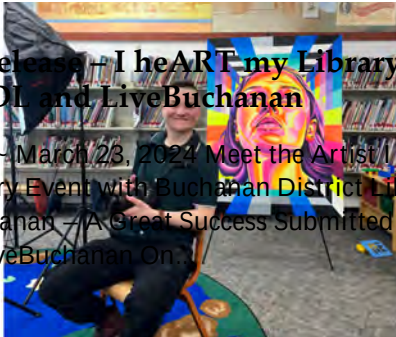
Upcoming Event – Free Kinship Care Program at BASC

Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024 Free Kinship Care Educational Program at BASC Submitted by Diana Smuda, BASC Program Coordinator Learn more on the importance of Kinship Care at a...



Press Release – I heART my Library Event with BDL and LiveBuchanan

Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024 Meet the Artist / I heART my library Event with Buchanan District Library and LiveBuchanan ~ A Great Success Submitted by Ashley Regar, LiveBuchanan On...



Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024 Southshore Concert Band Announces Spring Performance 2024 Submitted by Jan Street, Public Relations Chairperson, Southshore Concert Band Southshore Concert Band, with Conductor Dale L....

BCS Press Releases – Recent Awards and Honors

Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024 Erin Kratky of BMS Receives 2024 Teacher Award Press Release March 14, 2024 by Buchanan Community Schools Buchanan Community Schools proudly announces that

BCS Spotlight – Latest School News

Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024 A Final Update from Our KidSight Vision Screenings Submitted by Alice Krings, Buchanan-Galien Lions Club. On the mornings of March 5th and 6th...

Mayor's Memo – Just the beginning...

Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024 Just the beginning... by Mayor Sean Denison I am sad to hear the news that the Buchanan Chronicle will be wrapping up production. The...

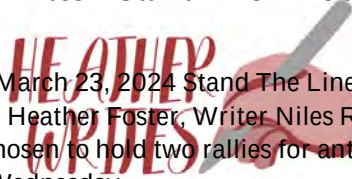
The Clark Barker – Issue 72

Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024 It's Time to Say Goodbye
Well, I have been in 72 issues and in the 4 printed
issues. I hope you and your furry...



Heather Writes – Stand The Line and End Bullying

Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024 Stand The Line and End
Bullying by Heather Foster, Writer Niles Riverfront
Park was chosen to hold two rallies for anti-bullying
efforts on Wednesday,...



Thanks for Reading Our *Seventy-Second* Issue!
~ **OUR FINAL ISSUE!!!** ~

*Thank you for reading Buchanan's local news with us
since 2021!*



Early Spring 2024 in Buchanan, Photo by Rebecka Hoyt

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The Buchanan Chronicle

Local Business – A Formal Affair



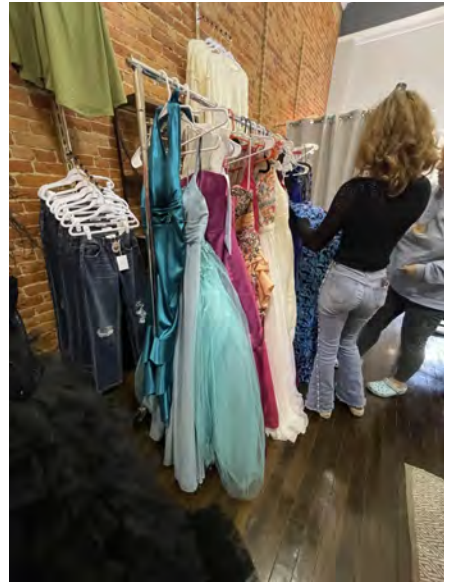
Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024

A Formal Affair at Bucktown Boutique

by Rebecka Hoyt, Editor, and Jen Garry, Publisher

Bucktown Boutique was the place for “A Formal Affair” during the Saturday evening of March 16, 2024 where Berrien County high school girls were invited to pick out a formal dress to borrow for their 2024 prom. Anna Smith, secretary at Buchanan High School came up with this idea after she helped a student in the past who thought they wouldn’t be able to go to a dance because of the money for a dress. Anna then hooked her up with a dress and said, “I love to help people and I want to continue doing this in the future.” Twelve girls from Berrien Springs, Brandywine, Buchanan and Watervliet signed up for certain time frames so it wouldn’t be too busy in the store and the amount of dressing rooms available.

Bucktown Boutique hosted the private event after their regular business hours where Anna brought in many dresses of all colors and sizes, designs and styles. In addition to the dresses, the girls received a goodie bag they could put hair and makeup accessories in, and also pick some shoes out. There was something for everyone. A makeup artist was there to give anyone a makeup tutorial and the girls entered a drawing that included gift certificates for spray tans, nail and hair services and a makeup tutorial. Anna stated, “they are getting the experience of coming in and picking out the dress, shoes, makeup, jewelry.” As the girls tried on the dresses some surprised themselves thinking that they wouldn’t walk out with a different color from what they came in thinking about what to get. After finding the dress their smiles were ear to ear. No photos were taken of the girls in their dresses so they can have the opportunity to show it themselves to their friends and family when their prom happens.



The variety of dresses ranged from simple to sparkly sequins, bright and bold colors, animal print, velvet, fluffy/feathered, ball gown style, etc..... If the girls couldn't find what they wanted, that was okay and still partake in everything that was offered. As the dresses are borrowed, they will be turned back in and Anna will get them dry cleaned herself and save for next year. As time goes on, she will sort through the dresses and take out the ones that are not in style anymore and perhaps "take them to a flea market as others like to make things out of other things from flea markets, and the money I get from that will be put back into this account to provide for the event. I want to make it a non-profit as it is not affiliated with the school but a reach out event to the girls in Berrien County. I don't want financial reasons to be why girls cannot get a dress and come to a dance, and with me as a single mom, I totally understand that as I went to four proms and borrowed all of my dresses and didn't want to put the financial burden on my family. Now I chaperon the proms and I love seeing the kids dressed to the nines and having fun."

said Anna excitedly.

Dresses were turned into Bucktown Boutique as well as to Anna at Buchanan High School. She has a total of almost 200 dresses but couldn't bring all of them with her, "each one was looked over for stains and the condition they are in, and the response was tenfold from the community, and I will do this event for as long as I can," said Anna. Katie Schau of Bucktown Boutique said, "I hope the public continues giving in the future."



Sponsors and Donors for this event were: On Base Productions, Beauty Bar 201, Kellie Jerue, Betty Day Boutique LLC, Buchanan Floral Co, Tans Down Under, Forest Moon Collective – for makeup by Stephanie, Seth and Jessica Elliott, Mary Kay, Katie Filley, Krista Greaves; The Filley Family, Seth and Jessica Elliot and Kellie Jerue; Flowers by Anna, Oh My LLC, and Luminous Hair Spa Suites.

The Buchanan Chronicle would like to wish all of the girls to have a memorable and fun time at your prom

this year! And may the Buchanan community continue to give like you always have when there is a call, you always answer.



About Bucktown Boutique: Clothing & Gift Boutique Located inside Impressive Lettering In Downtown Buchanan, MI.

Hours: T/W/F ~ 11am-4pm; Th ~ 12-5pm; Sat ~ 10am-2pm; Su/M ~ Closed

bucktownboutique@gmail.com

www.bucktownboutique.com

www.facebook.com/bucktownboutique

[269-695-2755](tel:269-695-2755)

[109 E Front St](#)

[Buchanan, MI 49107](#)

[USA](#)

Local Clubs – Buchanan Girl Scout Troop, Part 2



Buchanan Girl Scout Troop: Doing and Achieving, Part 2

Submitted by Susan Ruth

At the end of Part 1, the Girl Scouts had left high school and daily get-togethers behind. They promised to stay in touch and meet at least once a year. See Figure 1: The 1938 Reunion.



Figure 1: The 1938 Reunion source: Helen Wells Swartz's photograph album, Local History Room, Buchanan District Library

Marjorie Sparks graduated from Western State Normal School (now Western Michigan University). In 1923, she married B. LeRoy Gilbert, a landscape architect who shared her appreciation of the natural world. Marjorie and her family lived on Austin Lake outside Kalamazoo, instilling a love of nature and adventure in their children, Bil and Susan, well-known outdoor writers. After LeRoy's death, Marjorie joined the Peace Corps and served in India. Marjorie's grandson donated her high school diary and photographs to the Buchanan District Library, a valuable resource for the Girl Scouts story.

Allene Arney and Dode Peck graduated a year later. Allene was the first treasurer of the Buckteens and never missed a Buckteen reunion. She applied her organizational skills in a local insurance office as well as in her church. Allene, who never married, is in nearly every Girl Scout reunion photograph.

Dode attended three colleges. Although she never received a degree, she was self-educated. In her early 20s, she wrote for the Berrien County Record and the South Bend Tribune. She also began a lifetime of exploring the world, continuing after marrying George Schumacker at the age of 31 and moving to Cleveland. They traveled often and were as comfortable in a Canadian fishing lodge as on a luxury liner. Dode and George had a son and daughter and loved sharing photos and letters of their adventures—often on hotel or ship stationery—with their grandchildren.

Mildred Merritt moved to Niles at the end of the 1915-1916 school year, where she met Aloysius (Candy) Laskoske, an assistant to the Michigan Central trainmaster. After their marriage in 1926, they moved often. They eventually settled in Bronxville, New York where Candy retired as Vice President-Operations for the New York Central Railroad. Candy had a private railroad car that he would hitch to the train traveling west to Niles. Mildred hosted one Girl Scout reunion in the private car and another in New York during the 1964-65 New York World's

Fair.

Leta Boyer, Daisy Richards, and Helen Wells all graduated in 1919. That would have been Esther Frederickson's year as well, but there is no graduation record. She married Lawrence Cook in the summer of 1919. Esther and her husband operated Cook Grocery in Galien for 25 years. A grandson recalls stocking the shelves when he was a teenager. She served on the Galien library school board and also joined the Mothers of World War II after her two sons fought in that war. She eventually became the organization's national Sergeant-at-Arms.

Leta Boyer graduated from Western State Normal School and returned to Buchanan to teach. A year later, she joined an architectural firm, a good match for her interests. She had been voted the sign painter by the Girl Scout troop in her teens and demonstrated her artistic skills through a wide range of arts. Leta was 30 years old when she married Clarence Delwin Kent. Her first child died at birth. She later had two sons. Leta's younger son and the wife of her older son generously shared stories and photos about Leta and the Girl Scouts.

Daisy Richards graduated from the University of Illinois at Champlain and returned to Berrien County to teach high school English at St. Joseph High School. Daisy married Roy Geibe Hill in 1926, an attorney from Springfield, Illinois. The couple had two sons. Both of Leta's sons recall visits to see Daisy and Roy. Daisy often returned to Buchanan for reunions and is pictured in the 1980 reunion photograph two years before she passed away.

The final Girl Scout and 1919 graduate was Helen Wells. She was Treasurer of the Girl Scouts and graduated from the University of Michigan in mathematics. Helen taught high school mathematics in Plymouth, Michigan, for years while maintaining her ties to the Buchanan area. At the age of 42, she married Ira Swartz, a local farmer, and they moved to her family's centennial farm south of Buchanan. Helen's only child, a baby girl, died the day she was born. Helen later returned to teaching at Howe School. Helen and Ira loved the great outdoors and traveled as far as Alaska in their camper. Helen often hosted the annual Girl Scout reunion, and the 1980 and final 1982 reunion were held at Helen's home. See Figure 2: The 1980 Reunion.



Figure 2: The 1980 Reunion source: Leta Boyer Kent's photograph album

All eight Girl Scouts epitomized doing and achieving. They were remarkable women hiding in plain sight. They also demonstrated the joy of lifelong friendships by sharing childhood memories, laughing at the good times, and leaning on each other in times of sadness.



A Note from the Editor & Publisher – Issue 72



Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024

A Bittersweet Farewell

by Rebecka Hoyt, Editor & Jen Garry, Publisher

Note from the Editor:

As weather changes, so do things in Buchanan like new businesses are in the middle of construction and others are opening. We hope that you will be able to visit these places and encourage them in their success as well as still frequenting current businesses here in town. Also, don't forget you can check out items from the Buchanan District Library "Library of Things" like yard tools, kitchen accessories, games, etc..... You can also rent items from Redbud Hardware.

We have a special and fun Easter/Spring section in the middle of the print issue that is coming out next week. See if you can find a certain item, and the first person to call us before April 5, 2024 will win a \$10 gift card to Union Coffee House & Cafe. We will send out an email to our subscriber list as well as announcing the winner on our Facebook page in a Facebook LIVE video after the winner has been contacted.

As you may already know, due to monetary funds, this issue will be the LAST ONE you will be reading from

us. This was not a decision we took lightly. As of today, we are ceasing publication of The Buchanan Chronicle. Subscribers who have paid subscriptions for the June and September 2024 issues will get a refund as well as our sponsors who are in the middle of their sponsor package. We will keep our website www.thebuchananchronicle.com for some time if you want to peruse it and read up on past articles/events. We may also occasionally highlight an event that is coming up on our Facebook page/website. I want to thank you for your support and reading this issue and all the other ones before it. However, the time has come for us to be open to newer things in our lives as we go about in the future. Again, thank you to you and our all-volunteer team from the bottom of our hearts. If you see us out and about in Buchanan, feel free to say "Hi!" Also, thank you to Eco Owl Press for producing great printed issues and labels for us. If you need any printing needs, reach out to them as they are a great husband and wife team!

Enjoy the issue and may God bless you,
Rebecka Hoyt

Note from the Publisher:

Yes, its true!!! After three years of bringing Buchanan's local news to our community, The Buchanan Chronicle is ceasing publication after this final Online Issue 72 – March 23, 2024 and our final Printed Edition – Spring 2024!

It has been our pleasure getting to know all of you through interviews, public interactions at events, communications from our readers far and wide, comments on Facebook, and so so so much more! We had an amazing run and accomplished all we set out to achieve – and now we're so excited to be moving forward with new chapters in each of our lives!

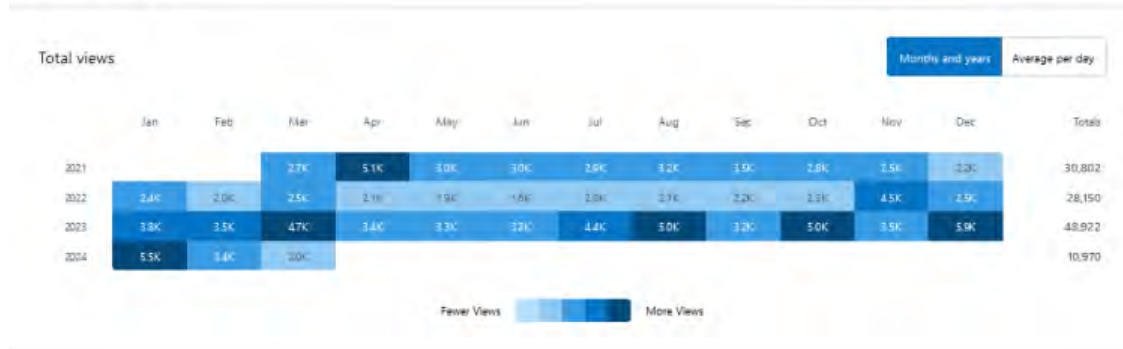
We had a bittersweet realization recently that its time to move on to new things; financially our business was at a turning point, either we find significant funding to continue our work (and pay ourselves to support our families) or we find what new endeavors are in store for each of us as we explore our career and family options. These three years our leadership and team have worked hard without pay, selflessly volunteering their time and talents to benefit their community, funding our efforts with our own money and giving up time with our families – absolutely well worth doing, but after a time as life goes on, the ebb and flow of life takes us in new directions.

We appreciate our readers so much, thank you for following our publications and reading all about Buchanan's latest news with us these three years! We will have published 72 issues online and 4 printed editions, completing 3 years in business as The Buchanan Chronicle – and we're so proud of all we have accomplished! Thank you for reading along and for all the support we have received from our Buchanan Community! And please make sure say hi to any of our team when you see us around town, and fill us in on your news – we're still personally interested, and we won't be publishing it to the public anymore so you can tell us all the details!

It has been our absolute pleasure and privilege to bring you Buchanan's latest news and local stories for these last three years! Thank you to each and every reader, all those who sponsored, donated, and advertised with us, and to everyone who shared and talked about our stories and articles – together all of you have made our efforts possible, without you we could not accomplished all we have, THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH, EVERYONE!!!!

~ Jen Garry

All-time insights



The Buchanan Chronicle All-Time Total Website Views

~ The Buchanan Chronicle Website View Stats All-Time:

- Total Website Views: **118,863**
- Total Website Views by Year:
 - 2021 – **30,763**
 - 2022 – **28,145**
 - 2023 – **48,925**
 - 2024 – **11,064**
- Recent Issues Views:
 - Issue 70 (February 24, 2024) Views: **1,428**
 - Issue 71 (March 09, 2024) Views: **1,700**
- Total Articles Written: **1,523**
- Total Words Published: **913,355**

~ The Buchanan Chronicle Subscriber All-Time Stats:

- WordPress Stats
 - Subscribers: **115**
 - Total Visitors to Website: **48,917**
 - Views per Visitor on Website: **2.7**
- Facebook Stats
 - Followers: **2,001** (Top Reach: 11.4K)
 - Likes: **1,562**
 - Link Clicks: **18,391**
- Instagram Followers: **265**
- Email Subscribers: **139**
- Printed Editions
 - Current Subscribers: **18**
 - All-Time Subscribers: **25**

Thanks again for reading and engaging in our Buchanan Community with us since 2021!

The Buchanan Chronicle



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Thank you all so much for reading
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community and those surrounding us through
publications with relevant topics that matter.

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269.697.9874 ~ buchananchronicle@att.net

The Buchanan Chronicle

Local Arts – Elevating Community Spirit with CAE



Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024

Elevating Community Spirit: The Cultural Arts Everywhere Journey Through Creativity

by Dr. Greta Pope, Cultural Arts Everywhere

Cultural Arts Everywhere continues to stand as a dynamic force in Buchanan, Michigan, championing the transformative influence of the arts.

Rooted in the belief that art has the power to empower, uplift, and unite, this organization has swiftly become a vital part of the community fabric. With a mission to showcase, educate, and advocate for the arts, Cultural Arts Everywhere unlocks the boundless potential within individuals, fostering creativity and self-trust. Through diverse artistic experiences, they enrich lives, fostering a future filled with purpose and possibility for residents of all ages.

Over the past year, Cultural Arts Everywhere has made a significant impact in Buchanan, Michigan, with a series of engaging events and activities tailored to diverse audiences. These events have brought together community members of all ages to celebrate the arts and explore their creative potential. Some notable past events include:

- Sing! Sing! Sing! for Kids at The Buchanan Library: A delightful and interactive musical experience designed to ignite the passion for singing in our youngest community members.
- Sing! Sing! Sing! for Seniors at The Buchanan Area Senior Center: An inclusive program that bridges generations through the joy of song, bringing smiles and harmony to our cherished seniors.
- The Many Health Benefits of Singing Masterclass at The Buchanan Area Senior Center: Exploring the physical, mental, and emotional wellness that singing can bring into the community.
- MOTOWN Pride of the Motor City Concert at The Buchanan Common: Where audiences enjoy the soulful melodies of Motown as they pay tribute to the Motor City's musical legacy.
- Christmas in Buchanan Song: A heartwarming celebration of the holiday spirit, uniting the Buchanan community through the joy of song. Cultural Arts Everywhere donated the Christmas in Buchanan musical arrangement for the Buchanan High School Marching Band to play as they marched in the Buchanan Holiday Parade.

- Holiday Sing! at The Buchanan Area Senior Center (December 5, 6, 7): Celebrate the magic of the holiday season through song, spreading warmth and cheer to all.
- “Patience and Persistence” presentation for the entire faculty and student body at Buchanan High School designed to encourage students to pursue their interests, while understanding that success takes time. Anything worth having is worth working hard for.

As Cultural Arts Everywhere looks ahead to 2024, they have an exciting lineup of events planned to continue enriching the community with art and creativity. Here are some of the upcoming events:

- Female Composers, Band Leaders and Songwriters of the 20th Century! (Women’s History Month Programming throughout March 2024): Celebrating the contributions of women in music and honoring their legacy. Online access for schools, colleges, and organizations.
- The Many Health Benefits of Singing (June 12, 2024, Buchanan MI): Exploring the therapeutic effects of singing on physical, mental, and emotional well-being.
- Tell Your Own Story (June 19, 2024, Buchanan MI): Empowering individuals to share their unique narratives through creative expression.
- Creative Writing for Kids (June 19, 2024, Buchanan MI): Inspiring young writers to explore their imagination and develop their storytelling skills.
- Sing Sing Sing for Kids (June 25-27, 2024, Buchanan MI): A fun and interactive singing workshop for children, fostering a love for music from an early age.
- Sing Sing Sing for Seniors: Salute to the Stars and Stripes (June 25-27, 2024, Buchanan MI): Honoring veterans and celebrating patriotic songs with our senior community members.
- Blooming in Miniature (July 7, 2024, Buchanan MI): A hands-on workshop exploring the art of miniature gardening and floral design.
- Smart Phone Film Making (July 23-25, 2024, Buchanan MI): A creative workshop teaching participants how to tell compelling stories through smartphone filmmaking.
- MOTOWN...Pride of the Motor City (July 6, 2024, Buchanan MI): A musical tribute to the legendary Motown sound, celebrating the rich musical heritage of Detroit.
- Mock Trial for Teens (July 2024, Buchanan MI): An interactive educational experience introducing teens to the legal system through a simulated trial.
- Sing Sing Sing for Seniors ... Great American Songbook (August 13-15, 2024, Buchanan MI): A nostalgic journey through classic American songs, bringing joy to seniors in our community.
- Samba Basics 101 for Seniors (August 19, 2024, Buchanan MI): An introduction to the vibrant rhythms and movements of Brazilian samba dance for seniors.
- Samba on the Common (August 20, 2024, Buchanan Common, Buchanan MI): A lively outdoor dance event celebrating the spirit of samba with the entire community.
- Dueling Generations Music Slam (October 5, 2024, Buchanan MI): A unique musical showcase featuring performers from different age groups, bridging generational divides through music.
- Holiday Sing for Seniors (December 3-5, 2024, Buchanan MI): Spreading holiday cheer with festive songs and performances for seniors in our community.

“As we enter a new year, we look forward to the many events in Buchanan and are thrilled to continue our mission of empowering individuals through the transformative power of the arts. Each event represents a unique opportunity to foster creativity, connection, and community engagement, furthering our commitment to enriching lives and unlocking potential.” – Dr. Greta Pope, Executive Director of Cultural Arts Everywhere.

Cultural Arts Everywhere extends its reach beyond Buchanan, MI, with events like the “Celebration of The Arts” at the Orlando Museum of Art, highlighting regional artistic talent. Additionally, they present “Mr. Kelly’s with the Marshall Vente Trio” at the Newberry Library in Chicago, a musical homage to the famed Chicago jazz club. These endeavors demonstrate the organization’s commitment to promoting creativity and cultural enrichment on a broader scale, fostering connections, and celebrating artistic expression across different communities.

This last Fall, Cultural Arts Everywhere received a grant from The Michigan Gateway Community Foundation to support their work with Youth and Seniors in south Berrien and Cass Counties. With the invaluable support of The Michigan Gateway Community Foundation, Cultural Arts Everywhere aims to expand its reach,

enrich lives, and foster a deep appreciation for the arts among youth and seniors in south Berrien and Cass Counties.

Let's celebrate the arts, embracing creativity, and building a brighter future for all through Cultural Arts Everywhere. For more information and to stay updated on Cultural Arts Everywhere upcoming events, visit www.culturalartseverywhere.org and follow them on social media.



Cultural Arts *Everywhere*

POSITIVELY IMPACTING
COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE ARTS

Cultural Arts Everywhere is a not-for-profit arts incubator for collaborative projects in the areas of Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Film Arts, Literary Arts, Language Arts, and Culinary Arts.

Learn more and support the arts by visiting
www.culturalartseverywhere.org.





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.

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Local Clubs – FIRST Robotics Competition



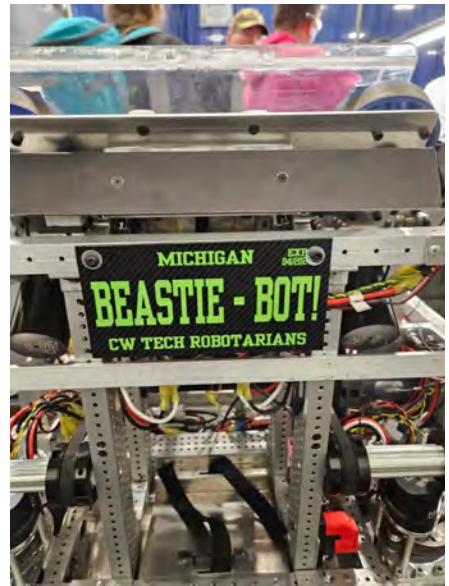
Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024

FIRST Robotics Competition in Michigan District Berrien Springs High School Event Presented by Edgewater Automation of 2024

Written by Thomas & Julie Hoyt, Photos by Rebecka Hoyt & Thomas Hoyt

It was a marathon of activity! Any FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) event is like this, always moving along. As a mentor/volunteer with the CW TECH Robotarians Team #2959, there certainly was not any boring moment. After unloading the trailer and setting up our pit area, it was time to get down to business. I spent time along with the Data Collection team who are responsible for taking photos of all the teams' robots, interviewing all of the different teams to gather information such as robot dimensions (LxW), robot weight, and drive system. Then we sit in the stands to not only cheer on our team 2959, but to observe all of the other robots in the field. In an event, there are qualification matches, enough so that every team can be in the same alliance with every other team. So the Data Collection team simply observed the Red Alliance teams. Much walking is done at an event to either go collect data, use the bathroom, go get a snack and a drink, and walk around the pit to collect as many buttons from the other teams as I can get. Sometimes there is a delay between matches and when that happens the DJ will play a song like YMCA or Cha-Cha Slide. This is when a flood of students rush down to the floor to dance along with the music!

After the first day of qualification matches, the Drive Team and Data Collection Team have a conference to review all of the data collected and form a plan of which other teams would our team choose if/when we get to be an alliance captain. The top 8 teams become alliance captains for the playoff matches. Our team 2959 finished the qualification matches at rank five!



FIRST Robotics Competition 2024, Photos by Thomas Hoyt

The last day of the event was just as exciting. As our team finished in the top five, we got to be an alliance captain and choose which other teams to be in our playoff alliance. We chose Eddies Circuit Team #9208 as our first pick, then 2Paw Robotics Team #5462 as our second pick. The playoffs are double elimination. We were Alliance four and started our playoff matches with match two in the upper bracket. We won that match and advanced to match seven, which we lost. We then advanced to match nine in the lower bracket, which we did win and advanced to match twelve. There are thirteen matches total before the final match. Unfortunately, we did not win match twelve.

I'm still very happy with how our team 2959 did at this event. If we do just as well at the FIM District event at Grand Valley State University, we ought to qualify for state championships!

It was a system of trial and error! Any FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) event is like this, always moving along. As a student on CW TECH Robotarians Team 2959, there was certainly no boring moment at all. After unloading the trailer (which was easy) AND setting up our pit area (which was a little tricky), it was time to get down to business. I spent time with our Data Collection Team, who are responsible for taking photos of all the teams' robots, interviewing all of the different teams to gather information such as robot dimensions (height & weight), drive system and such. Then, we sit in the stands, to not only cheer on our team, but to observe all of the other robots in the field.



FIRST Robotics Competition 2024, Photos by Thomas Hoyt

In an FRC event, there are qualification matches. Depending on how many teams are attending the event, that will conclude the number of matches to play so each team will get to be with another team every time. At Berrien Springs, thirty-four teams attended, giving each team to play twelve times in qualification matches. After the qualification matches are done, alliance selections are picked. The teams ranked one to eight are called Alliance Captains. From there, those captains pick two other teams to be part of their alliance. We simply just took turns observing the red alliance. TOO much walking is done at an event to either go collect data, use the bathroom, go get a snack and a drink, or walk around the pit to collect as many buttons from the other teams as you can get. Sometimes there is a delay between matches and when that happens the DJ will play a song like "YMCA", or "Sweet Caroline." When this happens, a stampede of students will rush down and dance.

After the first day of qualification matches, the main students of the Drive Team and the Data Team have a conference to review all of the data that has been collected, and form a plan of which other teams our team would be choosing if/when we get to be an alliance captain. Those top eight teams that are locked in become alliance captains for the playoff matches. Our team finished the qualification matches at rank five!



The last day of the event was just as exciting. As our team finished in the top five, we got to be an alliance captain and choose which other teams to be in the alliance with us. We chose to pick Eddies Circuit 9208 first, then 2Paw Robotics 5462 as our second pick. The playoffs are basically double elimination. To start, we were Alliance four and were placed in match two of the upper bracket. We won that match then advanced to match seven in that same upper bracket, which we unfortunately lost. We then advanced to match nine in the lower bracket, which we did amazing in thanks to our robot pilot who's the best of the seasoned vets. (we obviously won), and advanced to match twelve. Unfortunately, we did not win the match as we were up against Lance-a-Bot (4237), The Dragons (302), and The FEDS (201). It all depends on who we are up against and who we are in an alliance with. You may have a good team but a bad alliance. An example would be if your team has done this rodeo multiple times before but you're with two rookie teams. Now, if you're a rookie team but with two season vet teams, then you'll most likely

have a good match.

I'm extremely happy with how our team did at the event. If we do just as well at the FiM District Event at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) or even better, we should (WILL!!!!) qualify for state championship (we will. We know it!!) [Here](#) is the link to our team's "[The Blue Alliance](#)" page!



About FIRST Robotics: Founded in 1989 by inventor Dean Kamen, FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a global nonprofit (501(c)(3)) organization that prepares young people for the future through a suite of inclusive, team-based robotics programs for ages 4-18 (PreK-12). Our programs are suitable for schools or structured afterschool activities and receive support from a vast network of volunteers, educators, and sponsor/donors, including over 200 Fortune 500 companies. Because our programs are More Than Robots®, FIRST participants are guided by a signature set of Core Values to conduct research, fundraise, design, build, and showcase their achievements. Our thrilling, sports-like challenges build their self-confidence and collaborative problem-solving skills and have a proven and lasting impact on STEM learning and interest. Our participants and alumni gain access to education and career discovery opportunities, connections to exclusive scholarships and employers, and a place in the FIRST community for life.

www.firstinspires.org

Upcoming Event – Buchanan’s 16th Annual Chili Walk 2024



Buchanan's 16th Annual Chili Walk 2024 with Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce

Shared by Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce

Buchanan's 16th Annual Chili Walk Sponsored by the Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Sturgis Bank – Niles Banking Center

The Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for the best chili walk in the area. Buchanan may be a small town, but we do it big when it comes to serving chili! On Thursday, April 11, 2024, local businesses and organizations will standoff to see who has the best chili in Buchanan. The public is encouraged to participate in the sampling, and each attendee may vote for their favorite chili and team with the most spirit.



Buchanan's 16th Annual Chili Walk with BACC flyer

There will be a FIVE DOLLAR; \$5.00 charge for each participant/spoon. A portion of the money will again go to a local non-profit organization. This year we have chosen to partner with The Tin Shop Theater and our non-profit organization. This year's Chili Walk will once again be held downtown in a progressive fashion, with Lehman's Farmhouse being the start and endpoint.

The event will occur Thursday, April 11th, 2024, from 5:00 pm to 6:45 pm. Spoon sales will begin at 4:45 pm, and the awards presentation will start at 7:30 pm, both at Lehman's Farmhouse. The deadline to register is 3/24/2024. There will be three award categories – Judges' Choice, People's Choice, and Spirit award. Contestants and visitors are encouraged to participate with spirit. This year's theme is the arts to collaborate with The Tin Shop Theater.

Each contestant will be matched up with a local business to showcase their chili and place of business. Visitors will go from spot to spot to sample and mingle. Downtown Buchanan businesses are invited to share their spaces and allow the community to get to know them better. Many businesses will offer promotional items and sales for visitors of the chili walk.

Coming back this year will entail teaming up with Buchanan businesses, Kombi Keg SW Michigan, and Sturgis Bank and Trust – Niles Banking Center. Kombi Keg SW Michigan will have a few tasty flavors of lemonade for sale, and Sturgis Bank and Trust – Niles Banking Center will sponsor our Chill Zone with music provided by DPM Events. Look for the festive van located at the intersection of Main and Front St. and chill while enjoying music, cornhole, and conversation.

If you're up to the test of taking on the town, join us for the 2024 Buchanan Chili Walk. Teams are signing up now. If you have any questions about the contest, please get in touch with the Buchanan Area Chamber's Chili Walk

Chairman, Kyle Zelmer, at kzelmer@moveyourhorizon.com or by calling/texting 574-302-7111.

Event Details:

- Who: *City of Buchanan and Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce*
- What: 2024 Annual Chili Walk
- When: **Thursday, April 11, 2024 ~ 5pm**
- Where:
 - Chili to Taste Throughout Downtown Buchanan MI
 - Begins at Lehman's Farmhouse
 - 204 N Redbud Tr, Buchanan MI



About Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce: Since 1960, the Chamber has promoted a spirit of community in order to enhance the growth, prosperity, and quality of life in the Buchanan area. Life truly is better here!

www.buchananareachamber.com

269-695-3291

324 E. Dewey St.

Suite 202

Buchanan, MI 49107

USA



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.

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

Current Event – Buchanan Restaurant Week 2024



The poster for Buchanan Restaurant Week 2024 features a red header with the event title and dates. Below the header, a list of participating restaurants is displayed in two columns. The Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce logo is on either side of the list.

BUCHANAN RESTAURANT WEEK 2024
MARCH 18-24, 2024

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

- BUCKTOWN NUTRITION
- CAFE ITALIANO AT THE SWEET SHOP
- CAMERON'S RESTAURANT
- DOGSLINGER
- FIFTEEN-2-TWELVE
- GARY Z'S SUB SHOP
- GUSTAVSEN CAFE
- HICKORY CREEK WINERY
- JD'S FAMILY DINER
- LEHMAN'S BREWERY & FARMHOUSE
- MCCOY CREEK TAVERN
- MCDONALD'S
- MILANO'S PIZZA
- ORCHARD HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
- PIZZA HUT
- RAY & AL'S
- RIVER SAINT JOE
- TABOR HILL WINERY
- TASTY CHEN'S RESTAURANT
- UNION COFFEE HOUSE & CAFE

Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024

Annual Buchanan Restaurant Week 2024 is Happening Now

Shared by Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce

The Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to unveil the highly anticipated 2024 Restaurant

Week, showcasing the vibrant culinary scene of our community. Running from March 18th to March 24th, this extravaganza promises a delectable array of flavors and experiences for food enthusiasts and families alike.

We're excited to celebrate the diverse culinary talents once again in Buchanan. This year's Restaurant Week offers a unique opportunity for residents and visitors to explore our local dining scene while supporting our fantastic restaurants.

Participating restaurants are offering special menus, and promotions throughout the week, providing an ideal opportunity for patrons to indulge in exceptional cuisine and discover new favorites. From cozy cafes to upscale dining establishments, Buchanan has something to satisfy every palate.

Continue to watch our Facebook as we announce the specials of our hometown restaurants.

For more information about Buchanan's 2024 Restaurant Week, please contact Kyle Zelmer at 574-302-7111 or via email at kzelmer@moveyourhorizon.com or visit us online at www.buchananareachamber.com.

Don't miss out on this savory celebration of our community's culinary excellence!

BUCHANAN RESTAURANT WEEK 2024



MARCH 18-24, 2024



PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

• BUCKTOWN NUTRITION	• MCCOY CREEK TAVERN
• CAFE ITALIANO AT THE SWEET SHOP	• MCDONALD'S
• CAMERON'S RESTAURANT	• MILANO'S PIZZA
• DOGSLINGER	• ORCHARD HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
• FIFTEEN-2-TWELVE	• PIZZA HUT
• GARY Z'S SUB SHOP	• RAY & AL'S
• GUSTAVSEN CAFE	• RIVER SAINT JOE
• HICKORY CREEK WINERY	• TABOR HILL WINERY
• JD'S FAMILY DINER	• TASTY CHEN'S RESTAURANT
• LEHMAN'S BREWERY & FARMHOUSE	• UNION COFFEE HOUSE & CAFE

Event Details:

- *Who:* City of Buchanan and Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce
- *What:* [Annual Buchanan Restaurant Week 2024](#)
- *When:* **March 18 – March 24, 2024**
- *Where:* City of Buchanan MI
- *Details:* Enjoy specials and deals throughout the week at participating restaurants around Buchanan, supporting our local businesses.



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

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www.cityofbuchanan.com

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Phone: 269-695-384; Fax: 269-695-4330

City of Buchanan

City Hall

302 N Redbud Tr

Buchanan, MI 49107

USA



About Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce: Since 1960, the Chamber has promoted a spirit of community in order to enhance the growth, prosperity, and quality of life in the Buchanan area. Life truly is better here!

Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce Membership Annual Dues:

Citizen Supporter/Individual: \$50

Non-Profit Organization: \$100

Single Owner Business/Sole Proprietorship: \$150

Regular Business: \$200; \$4/employee

www.buchananareachamber.com

269-695-3291

324 E. Dewey St.

Suite 202

Buchanan, MI 49107

USA

Upcoming Event – Buchanan Summer Concert Series 2024 Sponsored by HCU



Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024

Summer Concert Series Returns to Buchanan Common for 2024, Sponsored by Honor Credit Union

by Rebecka Hoyt, Editor; Photo submitted by Karol Behrle, Honor Credit Union Community Development Officer

"We are thrilled to be working with amazing community partners, like Honor Credit Union, to bring free and equitable music to Buchanan. The Common is such a special venue that creates cultural experiences for all walks of life. This season is our most ambitious to date with nationally touring acts like Brendan Bayliss, Brian Vander Ark and AJ Lee & Blue Summit. We also will have three festivals; Shady Grove Fiddle Festival, Chippewapalooza and cap off our year with a community favorite of Shakedown Saturday presented by The Happy Campers. Our hope is that these shows help provide valuable economic opportunities for local businesses, provide financial support for the non profit community, and continue to fulfill our promise of creating a caring, vibrant community," stated

Michael Rowland.



Honor Credit Union's Buchanan Member Center Manager Christy Layman and Community Development Officer Karol Behrle, presented Michael Rowland of Buchanan Summer Concert Series with a very nice \$2,000.00 sponsorship in the afternoon of Monday, February 26, 2024, Photo provided by HCU

Honor Credit Union's Karol Behrle states, "Honor Credit Union loves to support our local community events including these live outdoor concerts at the Buchanan Commons. Honor will be present at two concerts this summer: Thursday, August 15 for Newport Blues Project (Blues) and Saturday, July 27 for Brian Vander Ark of Verve Pipe (Rock). Stop by the Honor tent to meet the Buchanan team members and grab some fun swag."

The Buchanan Summer Concert Series starts Saturday, June 1, 2024 with Brendan Bayliss of Umphrey's McGee from 7pm – 9pm on the Buchanan Common stage. Concerts throughout the summer season are on Thursdays and Saturdays, so be sure to check the schedule, print it out and hang on your fridge!

Brought to you by the Michigan Gateway Community Foundation and the City of Buchanan



The Common CONCERT SERIES

SATURDAY, JUNE 1	BRENDAN BAYLISS OF UMPHREY'S MCGEE	PROGRESSIVE ROCK
THURSDAY, JUNE 6	BUCHANAN HIGH SCHOOL BAND	ORCHESTRA
THURSDAY, JUNE 13	BEN TRAVERSE BAND	SHANTY
SATURDAY, JUNE 15	SHADY GROVE FIDDLE FEST	FESTIVAL
	FT. FULL CORD TRIO	
THURSDAY, JUNE 27	RIVER RATS	PUNK
SATURDAY, JULY 6	GRETA POPE & MOTOWN PRIDE	MOTOWN
THURSDAY, JULY 11	BREAKFAST FOR DINNER	ROCK
FRIDAY, JULY 12	AJ LEE & BLUE SUMMIT	BLUEGRASS
THURSDAY, JULY 18	VAN DYKE REVUE	ROCK
SATURDAY, JULY 27	BRIAN VANDER ARK OF VERVE PIPE	ROCK
THURSDAY, AUGUST 1	PT & THE CRUISERS	ROCK
THURSDAY, AUGUST 8	HEY ANNIE	ROCK
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10	CHIPPEWAPALOOZA	FESTIVAL
THURSDAY, AUGUST 15	NEWPORT BLUES PROJECT	BLUES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 20	SALSERA	BRAZILIAN SALSA/SAMBA
SATURDAY, AUGUST 24	ABBIE THOMAS & THE CRAZY HEARTS	POP
THURSDAY, AUGUST 29	JESSE RAY & THE CAROLINA CATFISH	ROCKABILLY
SATURDAY, AUGUST 31	SHAKEDOWN SATURDAY	JAM BAND - GRATEFUL DEAD TRIBUTE



DONATE
TO THE
SUMMER
CONCERT
SERIES



At the Buchanan Common | 7-9pm | Buchanan, MI | June - August

Buchanan Summer Concert Series 2024 flyer

Event Details:

- **Who:** Buchanan Common, brought to you by Michigan Gateway Community Foundation and sponsored by Honor Credit Union
- **What:** [The Common Concert Series 2024](#)
- **When:** **18 Summer Nights, June through August 2024, mostly Thursday / Saturday 7-9pm**
- **Where:** Buchanan Common, 122 Days Ave, Buchanan MI
- **Details:**

Concert Date	Concert Performer	Concert Genre
June 1, Saturday	BRENDAN BAYLISS, OF UMPHREY'S MCGEE	PROGRESSIVE ROCK
June 6, Thursday	BUCHANAN HIGH SCHOOL BAND	ORCHESTRA
June 13, Thursday	BEN TRAVERSE BAND	SHANTY
June 15, Saturday	SHADY GROVE FIDDLE FEST, FT. FULL CORD TRIO	FESTIVAL
June 27, Thursday	RIVER RATS	PUNK
July 6, Saturday	GRETA POPE & MOTOWN PRIDE	MOTOWN
July 11, Thursday	BREAKFAST FOR DINNER	ROCK
July 12, Friday	AJ LEE & BLUE SUMMIT	BLUEGRASS
July 18, Thursday	VAN DYKE REVUE	ROCK
July 27, Saturday	BRIAN VANDER ARK, OF VERVE PIPE	ROCK
August 1, Thursday	PT & THE CRUISERS	ROCK
August 8, Thursday	HEY ANNIE	ROCK
August 10, Saturday	CHIPPEWAPALOOZA	FESTIVAL
August 15, Thursday	NEWPORT BLUES PROJECT	BLUES
August 20, Tuesday	SALSERA	BRAZILIAN SALSA/SAMBA
August 24, Saturday	ABBIE THOMAS & THE CRAZY HEARTS	POP
August 29, Thursday	JESSE RAY & THE CAROLINA CATFISH	ROCKABILLY
August 31, Saturday	SHAKEDOWN SATURDAY, GRATEFUL DEAD TRIBUTE	JAM BAND



About The Common: The Common is Buchanan's very own outdoor amphitheater. Sitting in the heart of Downtown, it's an ideal spot to stretch out on the lawn and enjoy a play or concert. The common is host to several music concerts during the summer months. Whether you enjoy jazz, country, bluegrass or rock & roll, the Common has something to suit everyone's musical tastes. Stop by on a lunch-hour break when you get a chance and enjoy one of the "Stop, Lunch & Listen" plays put on during the noon-hour throughout the summer.

www.facebook.com/TheCommonConcertSeries

www.cityofbuchanan.com/community/page/common

122 Days Ave

Buchanan, MI 49107

USA



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.

Upcoming Event – Buchanan's Easter Egg Hunt 2024



Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024

Buchanan's Annual Easter Egg Hunt 2024 at Buchanan Common

Shared by City of Buchanan

Join us for Buchanan's Annual Easter Egg Hunt 2024 at Buchanan Common!
Saturday, March 30th @ 11am SHARP – Be sure to get there early!!

- Rain, Snow, or Sunshine: Please Dress for the Weather.
- There will be prizes for each age group and a visit from the Easter Bunny!
 - Age Groups: 3&Under, 4-5yrs, 6-7yrs, 8&Above.
 - All age groups will start together.
- Thanks to the Buchanan High School Leo Club for sponsoring this event.

Buchanan's Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 30th
Starting 11:00 A.M.

At

Buchanan Common

Rain, Snow or Sunshine Please Dress for the Weather



*Prizes in each age group!
Visit from the Easter Bunny!*

Age Groups:

3 and under, 4-5 years old,
6-7 years old, 8 and above

All Age Groups will start together

Sponsored by: Buchanan High School Leo Club





About The Common: The Common is Buchanan's very own outdoor amphitheater. Sitting in the heart of Downtown, it's an ideal spot to stretch out on the lawn and enjoy a play or concert. The common is host to several music concerts during the summer months. Whether you enjoy jazz, country, bluegrass or rock & roll, the Common has something to suit everyone's musical tastes. Stop by on a lunch-hour break when you get a chance and enjoy one of the "Stop, Lunch & Listen" plays put on during the noon-hour throughout the summer.

www.facebook.com/TheCommonConcertSeries

www.cityofbuchanan.com/community/page/common

[122 Days Ave](#)

[Buchanan, MI 49107](#)

[USA](#)



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

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- Typical Hours at City Hall:
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• Friday : 9am-1pm
Phone: 269-695-3844
Fax: 269-695-4330
City of Buchanan
City Hall
302 N Redbud Tr
Buchanan, MI 49107
USA

Upcoming Event – BCS Plow Day 2024



Buchanan
CommunitySchools

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 72 ~ March 23, 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 – Free Kinship Care Program at BASC

This Month at



Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024

Free Kinship Care Educational Program at BASC

Submitted by Diana Smuda, BASC Program Coordinator

Learn more on the importance of Kinship Care at a FREE educational program located at the Buchanan Area Senior Center on Tuesday, April 11 at 6:30 pm. Meg Killips of Region IV Area Agency on Aging will share more information regarding what and who the Region IV Area Agency on Aging are, along with how they can support you and your family.

Come learn about Kinship Care and resources that can help!

Event Details:

- *Who:* Buchanan Area Senior Center and Region IV Area Agency on Aging
- *What:* Free Kinship Care Educational Program
- *When:* **Tuesday, April 11, 2024 ~ 6:30pm**
- *Where:* Buchanan Area Senior Center
 - 810 Rynearson St, Buchanan, MI
- *Details:*
 - Call 269-695-7119 to reserve your seat.



About Buchanan Area Senior Center: Buchanan Area Senior Center provides a complete facility, a friendly and efficient staff, and active volunteers that enhance the quality of life of seniors in our community. We offer programs and services designed to promote physical, social, and mental well-being, including exercise, recreation, and crafts, as well as Senior Nutrition Services, food commodities, and a Senior Community Garden.

diana@thebasc.org, Diana Smuda – Program Coordinator
adam@thebasc.org, Adam Burck – Executive Director
[269-695-7119](tel:269-695-7119) (phone).
[269-695-2901](tel:269-695-2901) (fax).
[810 Ryneerson St](#)
[Buchanan, MI 49107](#)
[USA](#)

Upcoming Event – BACC 2024 Golf Outing



Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024

Annual Golf Outing 2024 with Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce

Shared by Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce

Please join us for the Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce's Annual Spring Golf Outing at Orchard Hills Country Club on Monday, May 20th!

We are proud to welcome Sturgis Bank as our Flagship Sponsor this year!

Registration begins at noon, shotgun start at 1pm.

- Team = \$400 (4 players + Includes company logo on tee box signage)
- Also consider our GOLF HOLE SPONSORSHIP opportunity, starting at \$100!
- Mulligans = \$20/team
- "String" for putting distance = \$20/team
- Closest to the Pin contest and Longest Drive contest
- "Fastest Hole" contest, sponsored by Lowery's
- Box Lunch Provided, sponsored by Country Heritage Credit Union
- Cart Fee Included, sponsored by Stark's Family Funeral Home
- Putting Contest, sponsored by Honor Credit Union
- "Tutu Hole" – sponsored by Strugis Bank
- Golf Outing Winners receive a complimentary foursome at Orchard Hills CC!



BACC Annual Golf Outing flyer

Event Details:

- *Who:* Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce
- *What:* 2024 Annual Golf Outing, with sponsor Sturgis Bank
- *When:* **Monday, May 20, 2024**
 - Registration: 12pm, Start Time: 1pm
- *Where:* Orchard Hills Country Club
 - 2841 Niles-Buchanan Rd, Buchanan MI

* Please note this will be the only golf outing with the Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce for 2024.



About Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce: Since 1960, the Chamber has promoted a spirit of community in order to enhance the growth, prosperity, and quality of life in the Buchanan area. Life truly is better here!

www.buchananareachamber.com

269-695-3291

324 E. Dewey St.

Suite 202

Buchanan, MI 49107

USA



About Orchard Hills Country Club: Orchard Hills is a quiet, private country club in Buchanan, Michigan, tucked away on the banks of the St. Joseph River. Established in 1915, this country club has entertained families of members and guests for over a century. For families looking to enjoy challenging golf, quality dining, breathtaking views of the river, or simply relaxing by the pool, Orchard Hills provides a perfect getaway from the stress of everyday life.

www.facebook.com/orchardhillsgc

www.orchardhillsgc.com

clubhouse@orchardhillsgc.com

269.695.5722

Upcoming Event – LGBTQ+ Rights Forum with One Buchanan, OutCenter

LGBTQ+ Civil Rights Forum



Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024

LGBTQ+ MI Civil Rights Forum at Buchanan Area Senior Center with One Buchanan and OutCenter SWMI

Shared by Adam Burck, BASC Executive Director

One Buchanan and OutCenter Southwest Michigan are presenting a forum on the state of LGBTQ+ civil rights in Michigan on Saturday, April 6, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Buchanan Area Senior Center, 810 Rynearson Street, Buchanan, Michigan. Registration is required and admission is free.

Featured speakers for this forum are Jay Kaplan, LGBTQ+ Rights Project Staff Attorney with ACLU of Michigan, and Emme Zanotti, Director of Advocacy & Civic Engagement with Equality Michigan. Together, Jay and Emme possess more than 40 years of experience working on behalf of and advocating for LGBTQ+ people. Joining the conversation is MaryJo Schnell, Executive Director of OutCenter Southwest Michigan, who will provide local insights and perspectives from her 10-year tenure at OutCenter.

This forum will be a conversation with Ms. Zanotti, Mr. Kaplan, and Ms. Schnell, and Adam Burck, One Buchanan's representative, will be the morning's moderator.

Recent advances of LGBTQ+ rights in Michigan will be discussed along with an overview of what is at stake in the 2024 elections. In addition, the panel will discuss the importance of local elections including public school boards, county commissions, public libraries and appointments to governmental agencies such as public health departments, etc.

"We are thrilled to present this forum highlighting recent advances in LGBTQ+ civil rights protections in Michigan and how we can all help ensure continued progress towards full equity for the LGBTQ+ community in Michigan. We, the people living in Southwest Michigan, can play an important role through advocacy and elections," says Adam Burck of One Buchanan.

The forum will conclude with an update on significant voting rights advancements in Michigan, where to get information about elections, how to contact and engage with local candidates and elected officials, how to make your voice known, and a call out about voting down ballot. Questions and comments from the audience are encouraged.

Registration is required and admission is free. Please register [here](#). The facility is accessible to people of all

abilities.



Event Details:

- *Who:* One Buchanan and OutCenter Southwest Michigan
- *What:* Michigan LGBTQ+ Civil Rights Forum
- *When:* **Saturday, April 6, 2024 ~ 11am-12:30pm**
- *Where:* Buchanan Area Senior Center
 - 810 Rynearson St, Buchanan, MI
- *Details:*
 - Forum on the state of LGBTQ+ civil rights in Michigan.
 - Registration is required. Admission is free.



About One Buchanan: One Buchanan started in 2016 as a grass roots community organization focused on diversity and inclusion issues and was subsequently adopted by the City of Buchanan as a City Board. One Buchanan Vision is to be the catalyst to create an inclusive community which values and celebrates our diversity so together we can thrive. One Buchanan Mission is to promote awareness of our rich diversity through education, activities and programs that strengthen an inclusive community. One Buchanan Core Beliefs include valuing our diversity of race, culture, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical ability, mental ability, age, socioeconomic status, and housing status; believing in a community that provides equitable resources and opportunities; believing that through listening with empathy we are able to connect and understand our diverse perspectives; and to promote a sense of belonging through acknowledging and celebrating our differences.

www.facebook.com/weareonebuchanan

One Buchanan Board Member Deborah Hendrix: 313-460-0660

weareonebuchanan@gmail.com

Buchanan, MI 49107

USA



About OutCenter Southwest Michigan: OutCenter SWMI provides support services and resources to LGBTQ+ people, their families, and allies. We also work to create change in Southwest Michigan through initiatives based on education and strong strategic partnerships. OutCenter embraces both the work of charity and the work of change – responding to the needs of LGBTQ+ people and their families, helping to make sense of the world we live in now, and mapping the way toward a more equitable, diverse and inclusive future. Visit outcenter.org for more information.

info@outcenter.org

maryjoschnell@outcenter.org, MaryJo Schnell – Executive Director

[269.934-5633](tel:269.934.5633)

[132 Water Street](#)

[Benton Harbor, MI 49022](#)

[USA](#)



About Buchanan Area Senior Center: Buchanan Area Senior Center provides a complete facility, a friendly and efficient staff, and active volunteers that enhance the quality of life of seniors in our community. We offer programs and services designed to promote physical, social, and mental well-being, including exercise, recreation, and crafts, as well as Senior Nutrition Services, food commodities, and a Senior Community Garden.

diana@thebasc.org, Diana Smuda – Program Coordinator

adam@thebasc.org, Adam Burck – Executive Director

269-695-7119 (phone)
269-695-2901 (fax)
810 Rynearson St
Buchanan, MI 49107
USA

Press Release – SAM “Dueling Divas” Free Concert

The School of American Music in Partnership with
The Pokagon Fund & the Episcopal Church of the Mediator
Present Free Family Concert

“Dueling Divas”
Singing jazz, musical theater, and classical

Carrie VanDenburgh, Singer
Rebecca Selvidge, Singer
Maggie Martin, Pianist

March 17, 2024 3:00 PM EDT

Episcopal Church of the Mediator
14280 Red Arrow Hwy, Harbert, MI 49115

Free Admission * Donations Welcome
Food item donation requested for Neighbor by Neighbor
Info at <https://www.schoolofamericanmusic.com/>

SCHOOL OF AMERICAN MUSIC
THE POKAGON FUND
Welcome

Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024

“Dueling Divas” Free Family Concert Enjoyed by All

Submitted by Donna Mitchell, School of American Music Executive Director

The School of American Music (SAM) free family concert “Dueling Divas”, featuring sopranos Rebecca Derbas-Selvidge and Carrie VanDenburgh accompanied by pianist Maggie Martin, was enjoyed by more than 120 people. The concert took place on March 17, 2024, at the Episcopal Church of the Mediator in Harbert, Mich. The music spanned jazz, musical theater, and classical. Some of the songs performed were “Anything You Can Do”, “Sull’aria”, “Skylark”, “Happy Days/Get Happy”, “Can’t Help Lovin’ That Man”, and “Route 66” as well as selections from opera and the classical repertoire. The concert was followed by a standing ovation and calls for an encore, which the divas satisfied with a wistful, harmonized version of “Danny Boy.”

The School of American Music in Partnership with
The Pokagon Fund & the Episcopal Church of the Mediator
Present Free Family Concert

“Dueling Divas”

Singing jazz, musical theater, and classical



Carrie VanDenburgh, Singer



Rebecca Selvidge, Singer



Maggie Martin, Pianist

Sunday, March 17, 2024 3:00 PM EDT

**Episcopal Church of the Mediator
14280 Red Arrow Hwy, Harbert, MI 49115**

***Free Admission * Donations Welcome
Food item donation requested for Neighbor by Neighbor
Info at <https://www.schoolofamericanmusic.com/>***



"Dueling Divas" Free Family Concert with School of American Music flyer, Event Link [HERE](#)

The next free family concert is April 28, 2024, featuring tenors Matthew Daniel, Joseph Fosselman, and Cameo Humes from the Lyric Opera of Chicago. They will be accompanied by pianist Lisa Kristina. It will be held at 3:00 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Mediator, Harbert, Mich.

The SAM Family Concert Series is in its sixth season and is made possible by a grant from the Pokagon Fund and donations to the non-profit School of American Music. This is the first of three free family concerts this year. For more information, please contact SAM at 269-409-1191 or schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com or visit [School of American Music on Facebook](https://www.schoolofamericanmusic.com/) or the website <https://www.schoolofamericanmusic.com/>.



About School of American Music: The School of American Music was founded by D. Garth Taylor to serve as a music resource in Michiana. Currently serving as President of SAM, Taylor has been joined over the years by Executive Director, Donna M. Mitchell and a full Board of Directors. Their mission is to provide education, performance, and audience opportunities in music and the related arts in the Southwest Michigan area. The School of American Music, located in Three Oaks, Michigan, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The school provides education, performance, and audience opportunities in music and the related arts in the Southwest Michigan area.

www.schoolofamericanmusic.com

www.facebook.com/SchoolofAmericanMusic

schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com

[269-409-1191](tel:269-409-1191)

[3 N Elm St](#)

[Three Oaks, MI 49128](#)

[USA](#)

Press Release – Southshore Concert Band Spring Performance 2024



Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024

Southshore Concert Band Announces Spring Performance 2024

Submitted by Jan Street, Public Relations Chairperson, Southshore Concert Band

Southshore Concert Band, with Conductor Dale L. Reuss, performs its 32nd annual spring concert entitled *Places to Go; People to See; Things to Do* on Sunday, April 21, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

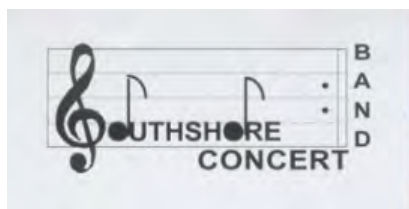
Highlights of this performance, featuring guest artist and Bridgman native, Bill Skiba, trumpet soloist, will include themes and melodies from the United States and around the world.....from Margaritaville to the rolling hills of Ireland, to Spain, Italy, France and the desert sands of Arabia, all the way back to Las Vegas (unless Godzilla gobbles it up first).

Mr. Skiba will be performing *Carnival of Venice* arranged by Erik W.G. Leidzen. He will be joined by Dale Reuss and Mindy Burns to play the famous trumpet trio *Bugler's Holiday* by Leroy Anderson. The band will perform *Jimmy Buffett in Concert* arranged by Elliot Del Borgo, *Harlequin* by Clare Grundman, *Bora Bora* by Scott Boerma, *Arabian Sandscapes* by Rossano Galante and *Godzilla Eats Las Vegas* by Eric Whitacre in addition to a few other selections as the concert takes us through several more countries.

Join us at the Mendel Center Mainstage theatre on the campus of Lake Michigan College...you've got *Places to Go, People to See and Things to do* on April 21, 2024. Southshore Concert Band's performances are free to the public.

Event Details:

- *Who:* Southshore Concert Band
- *What:* Spring Performance 2024 – “Places to Go; People to See; Things to Do”
- *When:* **Sunday, April 21, 2024 – 2pm**
- *Where:* Mendel Center Mainstage, Lake Michigan College
 - 1100 Yore Ave, Benton Harbor MI 49022



About The Southshore Concert Band: The Southshore Concert Band was formed in 1992 to provide an opportunity for Berrien County adults to use their musical skills formed in high school and college on a volunteer basis for personal enjoyment. The band membership has grown over the years to include members from northern Indiana as well as other southwest Michigan counties. Membership includes a broad range of professional careers- retired band teachers, current teachers, engineers, accountants, social workers, computer consultants -all playing together to share their common passion for music.

The band provides free concerts at various locations in southwest Michigan during the year. Regular concerts include Winter and Spring concerts at the Lake Michigan College Mendel Center. Additional concerts such as a Halloween Concert, Veteran's Day Let's We Forget Concert, a collaborative concert with the Pokagon Band of the Potawatomie, and a Pops Concert add wide variety to our seasons. A "Big Band" was also created from members of the Southshore Concert Band to showcase sounds from a great musical time period. Annual summer concerts are played in local community parks and band shells.

The Southshore Concert Band was founded and is conducted by Dale Reuss. The band has a membership of approximately 75 adults. Rehearsals are at Lake Michigan College every Thursday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. during the regular season (except holidays). We welcome new members! If you are interested in joining, please email Dale Reuss at southshoreconcertband@gmail.com. A brief audition will be required.

The organization achieved 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation status in February, 1999. The band relies on member's dues, grants and public donations to fund its activities. The organization receives no public funds.

Contact: Dale Reuss, Director

www.southshoreconcertband.com

southshoreconcertband@gmail.com

Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor, MI

P.O. Box 939

Bridgman, MI 49106

USA

Press Release – I heART my Library Event with BDL and LiveBuchanan



Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024

Meet the Artist I heART my Library Event with Buchanan District Library and LiveBuchanan – A Great Success

Submitted by Ashley Regal, LiveBuchanan

On March 13th, from 4-6 pm, the Buchanan District Library, in collaboration with LiveBuchanan, welcomed local children and families to a special event aimed at fostering community engagement and participation in the upcoming mural project. Held at the library located in downtown Buchanan, the event was a resounding success, drawing over eighty enthusiastic children eager to be part of the initiative.

The event, which featured South Bend artist Alex Ann Allen, provided attendees with the opportunity to meet the talented muralist who will be spearheading the creation of vibrant murals on the Days Avenue side of the library building later this year. Participants also had the chance to have their photos taken for two distinct purposes: to contribute to the "I HeART My Library" campaign and to serve as references for the paintings themselves. The project, which has been in progress for over a year, represents a collaborative effort between six different nonprofits, including the city of Buchanan, LiveBuchanan, Buchanan District Library, Roti Roti Art Center, Michigan Gateway Community Foundation, and the Berrien Community Foundation. This remarkable level of cohesion underscores the shared vision and commitment to enhancing arts and culture within the community.



"We are proud of the collective effort put forth by all organizations involved in this project," remarked Ashley Regal, Executive Director of LiveBuchanan. "The overwhelming participation at the event speaks volumes about the community's dedication to promoting creativity and fostering a sense of belonging among our residents."

As part of the initiative, every child who participated in the event will have a special poster created featuring their photo alongside what they "heART" about the library. Furthermore, a select few will be chosen to be featured in the murals themselves, serving as vibrant representations of Buchanan's library-loving youth.



Meet the Artist: Alex Ann Allen event graphic

“This project is already a success as far as I’m concerned,” remarked Regal, “To have eighty children visit the library and think about what they loved about it is a really special thing.”

To learn more about the “I HeART My Library” campaign and the mural project, visit the Buchanan District Library website at https://www.buchananlibrary.org/programs/i_heart_my_library.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Ashley Regal

About LiveBuchanan: LiveBuchanan is Buchanan’s downtown economic development team dedicated to revitalizing and enhancing the cultural, social, and economic aspects of the community. Through innovative projects and collaborations, LiveBuchanan strives to create a vibrant and inclusive downtown experience for residents and visitors alike.

Meg Paulette-Perez

About Buchanan District Library: The Buchanan District Library’s mission is to enrich your life and empower our community. We believe the library enhances our community through the principles of unity, respect, inclusion, optimism, and curiosity, and exists to connect people to information, resources, services, and one another.



About LiveBuchanan: LiveBuchanan is Buchanan’s downtown economic development team dedicated to revitalizing and enhancing the cultural, social, and economic aspects of the community. Through innovative projects and collaborations, LiveBuchanan strives to create a vibrant and inclusive downtown experience for residents and visitors alike.

ashley@livebuchanan.com

www.livebuchanan.com

www.facebook.com/LiveBuchananMI



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.

Contact: Meg Paulette, Director

www.buchananlibrary.org

m.paulette@buchananlibrary.com

[269.695.3681](tel:269.695.3681)

[128 E Front St](#)

[Buchanan, MI 49107](#)

[USA](#)



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](#)

Press Release – FoBCT Trail on Track



Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024

Friends of Berrien County Trails – Marquette Greenway Trail On Track!

Submitted by Marcy Hamilton, Friends of Berrien County Trails

A groundbreaking celebration will be held for the first phase of the Marquette Greenway in Michigan on Wednesday, April 3, 11:30am at Smith and Mechanic Streets in downtown New Buffalo, MI. The first scoop of dirt will be removed at the soon to be trailhead which is the eastern terminus of the Marquette Greenway, a 58-mile hiking and biking trail that will soon connect downtown New Buffalo to east Chicago at Calumet Park. Speakers and dignitaries will make presentations at the event. More can be learned at www.berrientrails.org/marquettegw.asp.



Marquette Greenway Trail, Image shared by FoBCT

The Marquette Greenway Trail was first introduced in 2005 and was established as a priority by the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission in 2009 and again in 2017. The tri-state trail will connect five (5) counties with fifteen (15) municipalities, one National Park, one state park and almost 200,000 people living

within 1.5 miles of the trail along the southern shore of Lake Michigan.

Volunteers with the Friends of Harbor Country Trails (now the Friends of Berrien County Trails) with early support from the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, Abonmarche (consulting firm based in Benton Harbor, MI) and The Pokagon Fund started planning the route for the 4-mile Michigan portion of the trail in 2016. This is the first segment to be built in Michigan, with 24 miles already built in Illinois and Indiana.

Getting to construction in Michigan has been a nine-year journey in which many volunteers have spent countless hours planning, coordinating, building partnerships and fundraising. Marcy Hamilton with the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission says “many challenges have been overcome to get to this major milestone.” An easement from Amtrak had to be secured by New Buffalo Township to make room for the trail along US12. Over \$5.6 million for phase 1 has been secured from federal and state grants, The Pokagon Fund, New Buffalo Township, New Buffalo City and over 200 private/family foundations and community members. Lastly, when the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) let the project in late 2023, the bids came in over the estimated cost and fortunately, MDOT Transportation Alternatives Program awarded Berrien County an additional \$1,118,636 in funding to help close the gap.

This first phase in Michigan will include a trailhead with parking, a picnic area and a bike repair station at the trailhead at Smith and Mechanic and a 10-foot-wide paved path along US12 from Willard Street to the railroad crossing at Grand Beach Road. Kalin Construction is the contractor and Abonmarche is the engineering firm overseeing Phase 1 construction which is expected to be completed by the end of 2024. The second phase in Michigan will continue the 10-foot-wide paved path along Grand Beach Road to the Indiana/Michigan state line and is expected to be completed by the end of 2025.

Gary Wood, president of Friends of Harbor Country Trails, a citizen-based nonprofit seeking to connect Berrien County to a network of trails (pedestrian, biking, and waterways), says “we will continue to work to connect the Marquette Greenway up the Lake Michigan coastline and one day hope to connect to the Mackinac Bridge.”



About Friends of Berrien County Trails: FoBCT is a Michigan registered 501(c)(3) non-profit focused on trail development. The organization was formerly The Friends of Harbor Country Trails, but in December of 2019 we changed our name and expanded our reach county-wide to become The Friends of Berrien County Trails. The goals of the FoBCT are to identify trail needs, help with funding development, advocating for trails, and educating the public about how trails benefit our community. For more information, visit www.berrientrails.org.

Contact: Marcy Hamilton
hamiltonm@swmpc.org
[269-339-0797](tel:269-339-0797)

BCS Press Releases – Recent Awards and Honors



Buchanan
CommunitySchools



Buchanan
CommunitySchools

Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024

Erin Kratky of BMS Receives 2024 Teacher Award

Press Release March 14, 2024 by Buchanan Community Schools

Buchanan Community Schools proudly announces that Erin Kratky, Technology Teacher at Buchanan Middle School, has been honored with the 2024 MACUL Innovative Teacher Award by the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL), a leading non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the effective use of educational technology. Mrs. Kratky was recognized for her exemplary work on March 14 during the MACUL conference held in Grand Rapids, a premier event for educators and technology enthusiasts to explore the latest advancements and best practices in educational technology.



BMS Technology teacher Erin Kratky receives MACUL Innovative Teacher Award, Photo provided by BCS.

Erin Kratky's passion for teaching and commitment to innovation in a resource-limited and outdated computer lab have earned her the prestigious MACUL Innovative Teacher Award. The Awards Committee recognized Mrs. Kratky as an exemplary middle school technology teacher whose enthusiasm has significantly impacted her students.

Mrs. Kratky's classroom is a hub of technological creativity, where she actively embraces new technologies such as Spheros and VR headsets, incorporating them seamlessly into her curriculum. Her innovative teaching approach fosters an environment where students are not just taught but encouraged to experiment, develop their skills, and prepare for future opportunities.

The MACUL organization, established in 1975, aims to support and lead the effective use of educational technology in the education community. The Innovative Teacher Award is bestowed upon a PK-12 classroom teacher who effectively integrates technology to enhance teaching and learning in a Michigan classroom.

"Since joining Buchanan Middle School, Mrs. Kratky has transformed the educational experience for her students. Beyond traditional typing and Microsoft Office Skills, her curriculum includes engaging activities such as using Canva for creative projects and collaborating with English teachers to teach proper research and citation methods. Students particularly enjoy coding with Sphero robots, creating stop-motion videos with StikBot Studio 2.0, and exploring diverse careers and global locations through VR headsets. Her dedication to providing an enriching and technologically advanced educational experience, even in the face of limited resources, is truly commendable. Mrs. Kratky's innovative approach aligns seamlessly with our commitment to fostering a passion for learning at Buchanan Middle School," Superintendent Patricia Robinson and Buchanan Middle School Principal Shelby Beasley.

Buchanan Community Schools congratulates Erin Kratky on this well-deserved recognition and applauds her dedication to fostering innovation in education. We are proud to have her as a valuable member of our team, shaping the future of our students through her unwavering commitment to excellence.

"Speaking Up With Women" Event Honors Superintendent Patricia Robinson

Press Release March 08, 2024 by Buchanan Community Schools

The "Speaking Up With Women" event held on March 7, 2024 at the Howard Performing Arts Center on the

campus of Andrews University, aims to celebrate and empower women in the region. This event showcased inspiring women leaders from diverse backgrounds, and among the distinguished honorees, Patricia “Trish” Robinson, Superintendent of Buchanan Community Schools, has been recognized for her outstanding leadership and community service.



Patricia Robinson, Superintendent of BCS receives “Speaking Up With Women” honor award with BCS School Board and Faculty, Photo provided by BCS.

Trish has been an exemplary educator and leader, making significant contributions to the field of education. Serving as the Superintendent of Buchanan Community Schools for the past four years, she has not only demonstrated a commitment to academic excellence, but also has etched her name in history as the first African American to hold this position in the district.

With a career spanning 27 years in education, Trish’s passion lies in fostering the development of early learners. Armed with a Master’s Degree in Educational Technology and a second Master’s in School Administration with a specialized focus on Early Childhood, she brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her role.

As Superintendent, Trish leverages her extensive background to build strong relationships within the community. She prioritizes the support of all staff members, ensuring they have the necessary tools and resources to create a positive and enriching learning environment for students. Her leadership style is characterized by inclusivity, collaboration, and a genuine dedication to the growth and well-being of everyone in the educational community.

In addition to her role as Superintendent, Trish serves on several community organizations, including the Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce Board, Michigan Gateway Community Foundation Board, Buchanan Area Fund Board, Buchanan Promise Board, One Buchanan Board, and the Buchanan Community Schools Foundation.

The Buchanan Community Schools Board of Education is honored to acknowledge Superintendent Patricia Robinson’s outstanding dedication to the community. The award she has received is a testament to her commitment to education, equity, and the betterment of the educational experience for students and educators alike. Her tireless efforts and leadership qualities have not only enriched the educational experience for students but have also inspired her colleagues and community members.



About Buchanan Community Schools: Public School system for Buchanan, Michigan area.

www.buchananschools.com

probinson@buchananschools.com

[269-695-8400](tel:269-695-8400)

[Buchanan Community Schools](#)

[Central Offices](#)

[401 W Chicago St](#)

[Buchanan, MI 49107](#)

[USA](#)

BCS Spotlight – Latest School News



Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024

A Final Update from Our Schools

KidSight Vision Screenings

Submitted by Alice Kring, Buchanan-Galien Lions Club

On the mornings of March 5th and 6th the Project KidSight Team assisted by Buchanan Lions Mark Nixon, Jeff Welsh, Alice Kring, Mark Skene, Dianne Ross and Mark Tumbleson screened all students in the Buchanan Community Schools.

The team screened 1,274 students at four different school locations ending up with a total of 123 referrals. The Buchanan Schools and students had nothing but praise for the organization and efficiency of the PKS team. Several teachers and principals sent emails in support of the PKS Team and of hope to have them return in the future.



Project KidSight Vision Screenings with BCS, Photos submitted by Alice Kring

Ottawa Elementary Update

Submitted by Stacy Denison, Ottawa Principal

On behalf of Ottawa Elementary School, we would like to extend a special thank you to the Buchanan-Galien Lions Club for visiting our schools and providing free vision screening through Project KidSight. Your visit at Ottawa Elementary was amazing and well organized! It was such an easy and comfortable process for even our youngest students. The information provided to families was invaluable. Thank you for your partnership and making a difference in the lives of our students and community!

Moccasin Elementary School Update

Submitted by Michael Babcock, Moccasin Principal

March is Reading Month

Moccasin has had great fun this month while participating in fun reading activities and dress up days. For example, students have read in the dark with a flashlight, teamed up to read with other grade level classrooms, and we have had countless parents and community members read in our classrooms.

Moccasin Food Drive

Last week, Moccasin students donated nearly 1400 food and laundry items to Redbud Area Ministries (RAM). We want to thank our families for your generous donations and for supporting the Buchanan community. Go Bucks!

Leap Day Fun

Mrs. Staup's 2nd grade class enjoyed February 29th by participating in an activity where students measured how far their toy frog hopped around. Great Job to all!!!

Little Miss Niles 2024

Congratulations to Harper Jones, our new Little Miss Niles 2024! We are very excited for Harper as she was able to travel around the county, meet lots of new people, and represent her community. Moccasin wishes Harper continued success!!!



Recent Happenings at Moccasin, Photos provided by Michael Babcock, Moccasin Elementary Principal

Buchanan Middle School Update

Shared by Buchanan Community Schools

4th Graders have been busy tapping trees out at Life Action Camp to collect sap for maple syrup!

5th Grade Art students have been working on Bean Art that will be displayed at Portage Road Hacienda in March!



Lately at Buchanan Middle School, Photos shared by BCS

Buchanan High School Update

Submitted by Alice Kring, Buchanan-Galien Lions Club

For the past 81 years, the Buchanan-Galien Lions have honored Buchanan High School Senior Athletes. On March 7th, the tradition continued. Lion President Mark Nixon served as MC for the evening. Athletes, Coaches, Leo's and Lions gathered at the Buchanan Senior Center and enjoyed a meal together.

Each athlete then shared their future plans and guest speaker BHS Alumni Alex Gordon spoke to all attending. Alex, BHS class of 2004, shared how his family, sports and living in Buchanan impacted his journey in obtaining his Business Economics Degree from Grand Valley State and a Law Degree from Loyola University Chicago. He currently resides with his family in Niles and is a Corporate Attorney at Barnes & Thornburg in South Bend, IN.

Lion Mark Tumbleson then challenged the athletes regarding the next phase of their life and encouraged them to consider becoming a Lion and serving in whatever community they end up settling down in the future. Congratulations to our soon to be graduates and on your accomplishments and making Buchanan proud of you. We wish you the best of luck in the next phase of your education, your career choices and your future success. Remember always- "Once a Buck- always a Buck"

#GOBUCKS





About Ottawa Elementary School: Ottawa Elementary School is an Early Childhood Center. Our Mission: Nurturing hearts, Developing minds, Inspiring dreams. Our Vision: Growing Little BUCKS – Be responsible, Understand and use learning, Creative thinkers and problem solvers, Kind to others, Self-reliant.

www.buchananschools.com

sdenison@buchananschools.com

[269-695-8409](tel:269-695-8409)

[109 Ottawa St](#)

[Buchanan, MI 49107](#)

[USA](#)



About Moccasin Elementary School: Welcome to Moccasin! Our Vision is to create a safe and positive learning environment where students will achieve grade level proficiency skills. We serve students in grades 2 through 4. Please contact the school office at 269-695-8408 for any of your questions or needs.

www.buchananschools.com

mbabcock@buchananschools.com

269-695-8408

410 Moccasin St

Buchanan, MI 49107

USA



About Buchanan Middle School: Welcome to Buchanan Middle School, the home of the Jr. Herd! "Committed to Care, Striving for excellence" The staff, students and parents of Buchanan Middle School are committed to providing challenging learning experiences in a safe and supportive environment that promotes self-esteem, self-motivation and respect for others.

www.buchananschools.com

sbeasley@buchananschools.com

[269-695-8406](tel:269-695-8406)

[610 W 4th St](#)

[Buchanan, MI 49107](#)

[USA](#)



About Buchanan High School: Welcome to Buchanan High School where we prepare students for life-long success by developing responsible, resilient, creative citizens capable of succeeding in a global society. At Buchanan High School we believe our graduates will be adaptable, lifelong learners, productive problem solvers, effective life managers, confident communicators, and responsible global citizens.

www.buchananschools.com

bpruett@buchananschools.com

269-695-8403

401 W Chicago St

Buchanan, MI 49107

USA

The Clark Barker – Issue 72



Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024

It's Time to Say Goodbye

Well, I have been in 72 issues and in the 4 printed issues. I hope you and your furry friends have enjoyed reading my short little reminders. I have been told you can look back at them on the website if you have not read them. I want to encourage you to do so and it won't take long as each of them are about a half-page.

However, thank you so much for reading my short reminders along with the rest of The Buchanan Chronicle articles, watching the LIVE Facebook videos they did on our Facebook page, seeing them at the Buchanan Farmers' Market and donating/subscribing to a printed issue, and also for saying hi to them as they do interviews at local businesses and events.

Well, it's been a good time with The Buchanan Chronicle and the times I interrupted the team meetings with my barking moments – I appreciate it and I know that you understand! One final friendly reminder: remember to pick up after your pet does their business outside. May I see you in the future on the sidewalk or at the dog park. But now it's time for me to sign off and say goodbye!

Woof-Woof!



Heather Writes – Stand The Line and End Bullying



Stand The Line and End Bullying

by Heather Foster, Writer

Niles Riverfront Park was chosen to hold two rallies for anti-bullying efforts on Wednesday, March 13, 2024. After a horrendous video was leaked online of a small child being attacked by an older student on a Niles bus, parents are irate.

During the rally, stories were shared from schools in Niles and surrounding towns about how their children have been harassed, attacked, threatened, and in one case, sexually assaulted, all while under the supposed care of educators. These parents said that schools failed in their responses to the situation and in one case, swept it under the rug for more than a year.

The parents in Niles understand the situation on the bus wasn't at the fault of the Niles school district, but what they are holding Niles District at fault for, was their response. All week they've put out statements saying they've handled the situation accordingly, when the father of the victim said, it couldn't be further from the truth.

Parents stood in front of a news camera telling heartbreaking stories with their children and onlookers couldn't help but cry with them. Frustration brought up parents from Elkhart and surrounding areas to ask, "Why does this happen? Why are these kids not being watched? Why is the school system and the bus garage (First Student) not taking accountability for what happened?"

Other parents shared how their teenage children have considered suicide as a way to get the bullying to stop. I met with four parents who said their children had either thought about or had tried to take their own lives within the past few years because of bullying. All of them said if the schools had taken a heavier-handed approach to fully stop the bullying as their handbook says they should've, they felt their child would've been better supported and wouldn't have gone as far as considering suicide.

Bullying can happen anywhere, at any time, and parents continue to ask themselves, why? What is it about treating someone else, adult or child, so badly? What can we as parents and citizens do to end the bullying happening across our schools?

At the end of the rally, a teenage girl and another mom stood in the middle of the painted concrete at the riverfront amphitheater and said "Stand the line if you want bullying to stop." After my children were bullied this year, I found myself standing with these parents in solidarity with one goal: stop the bullying.

The outrage with the situation in Niles has gone viral, showing the video of the attack in other countries. Social media has blown up with anger and frustration, and an overall feeling of dread for people to read the sad stories of others. Many people respond with anger at the situation, those involved, and others, further sparking the flame at a society tired of bullying. This situation in Niles has shown us that so many people suffer each day from bullying and it's not right. No one should suffer at the hands or words of another, especially children.

For our last article on bullying, my heart can only hope that the readers will join us in "standing the line" in solidarity for support of anti-bullying efforts everywhere.

For more information on the rally, please visit Parents Against Bullying at Buchanan Community Schools Facebook page, among the different groups surrounding the Niles area on Facebook. Parents Against Bullying at Buchanan Community Schools: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552606200726>



Mayor's Memo – Just the beginning...



Issue 72 ~ March 23, 2024

Just the beginning...

by Mayor Sean Denison

I am sad to hear the news that the Buchanan Chronicle will be wrapping up production. The Chronicle team had a great run and was extremely helpful in keeping the citizens of Buchanan informed. Thank you for all the hard work you have put in.

I think it is important for me to use my last Mayor's Memo to address an issue that recently caused unnecessary pain and brought negative attention to our community. Over the last several months, individuals at public meetings, on social media and other platforms, have made false claims about the financial condition of the City of Buchanan by stating that the city was millions of dollars in debt and on the verge of a state takeover. I wanted to take a moment to refute those claims, address that falsehood and update you on our true financial health. At our March 1, 2024 commission meeting we were presented with the results of our annual audit by Brian Hake of the Kruggel Lawton accounting firm. Mr. Hake gave the city a clean bill of financial health with an unmodified opinion, which he said was the highest opinion a government entity can get.

It is equally important to point out there are no plans for the state to take over our city. Per the WMUK news article written by Michael Symonds on December 13, 2023: "The Michigan Department of Treasury confirms that no takeover of Buchanan is in the offing. Spokesman Ron Leix said Buchanan is in good standing with the treasury."

See Link to December 13, 2023, WMUK news article: <https://www.wmuk.org/wmuk-news/2023-12-13/michigans-department-of-treasury-says-it-has-no-plans-to-take-over-buchanan>

The city commission, administration and staff are working very hard to keep Buchanan running efficiently, to spur economic development and to ensure affordability and high quality of life for future generations. If you have any questions regarding any of those topics, I urge you to stop in at city hall or reach out to one of your city commissioners.

While it is disappointing that the paper is shuttering, our city is just beginning to blossom. There has been a 30% increase in investments in our community between 2021- 2023. We've seen significant investment and expansion from established businesses and the creation of over 15 new businesses, helping to create over 165 new jobs. Public projects that have been in the planning stages for years are getting ready to start, including the expansion of the McCoy Creek Trail and our downtown infrastructure project. I am excited for the future, and all the great things to come.

See you around town,
Sean Denison, Mayor



Mayor Sean Denison, Photo submitted by City of Buchanan

Mayor's 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.

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



The Buchanan Chronicle