





# Post to collect toys for needy

Would you like to do something special for families in need this Christmas? You can partner with us to provide toys for needy children in Kent County. The Post is participating in the Toys for Tots program again this holiday season, as a drop off site for toys. Toys for Tots is a volunteer organization whose goal is to collect new, unwrapped toys for kids 0-16, and distribute them to children who would not otherwise receive a gift during the holiday season. Toys for teens are always especially needed.

Cedar Springs Wireless Zone, 4021 17 Mile Rd, and Independent Bank, 4115 17 Mile Rd, are also collecting Toys for Tots.

“We have been participating in the Toys for Tots campaign for the past four years,” said Renee Doren, general manager at Cedar Springs Wireless Zone. “The community support last year was our largest yet as we had a couple of boxes full of toys.”

Doren feels it’s important to give back to the community. “Being in a small town like Cedar Springs, there is such great community support for events like these and giving back and pulling together when needed.”

The program runs now through December 19. Just bring a new, unwrapped toy to any of the businesses mentioned. If you’d like to bring one to our office at 36 E. Maple Street in Cedar Springs, we are open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Fridays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you can’t make that time, call us to make other arrangements.

Visit <https://grand-rapids-mi.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/donate-toys.aspx> to find a drop off location near you.

Together we can make this Christmas special for many children!

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Cedar Springs Location: (616) 696-1830

Collision Only Services

13399 White Creek Ave NE | Cedar Springs | M-F: 8:00am to 5:00pm

# Rockford band marches in Macy’s parade

From the Rockford Squire

Thanksgiving 2017 was a day to remember for the Rockford High School Marching Band as the 308 member ensemble performed in the national spotlight in the 91<sup>st</sup> annual Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. Over 1,000 family members and friends of the band joined 40 chaperones to witness this once in a lifetime event.

The band had a grand send off for the Thanksgiving week as hundreds of fans lined the road leading from the school with signs, fireworks and words of encouragement. After over 12 hours on the seven coach busses, the group arrived at their destination to begin their whirlwind week of activities. History and arts were mixed as the students took in the historical sights of New York including the 9/11 Memorial, Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, Broadway show “Wicked” and the Rockette’s Holiday Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall.

Prior to the parade, the band performed a concert in Central Park and showcased for a large audience their 2017 state

PARADE - continues on page 12

The Rockford High School Marching Band performing “It’s the most wonderful time of the year” in front of Macy’s Department Store in New York during the annual Thanksgiving parade. Courtesy photo.

The Rockford High School drum line in the Macy’s Thanksgiving parade. Courtesy photo.

# Local business reports spoofing activity

By Judy Reed

If you get a phone call from a local number and the caller ID says it’s White Creek Lumber or another local business, be sure it’s them before giving out any personal information.

According to Jane Gosling, of White Creek Lumber, a customer called them recently to let them know the customer had received a phone call and the caller ID showed it as White Creek Lumber—but it wasn’t. Instead, it was someone saying it was their last chance to get a lower rate on their credit card.

The customer hung up and didn’t give out any information, which is the best thing to do, other than letting it go to voicemail.

According to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), “spoofing” occurs when a caller deliberately falsifies the information transmitted to your caller ID display to disguise their identity. Spoofing is often used as part of an attempt to trick someone into giving away valuable personal information so it can be used in fraudulent activity or sold illegally. U.S. law and FCC rules prohibit most types of spoofing.

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# Business ceases operations without customer notice

From the Better Business Bureau

Since mid-September, more than 23 people have filed complaints with the Better Business Bureau against Secure Beginnings LLC, after paying for a SafeSleep Breathable Crib Mattress, but receiving nothing. Secure Beginnings, LLC is a Michigan based business that has marketed patented “breathable” crib mattresses online and through a number of retail resellers, since 2010.

Consumers report that they placed their orders and Secure Beginnings or other retailers selling the product charged their credit cards, but they never received the merchandise. In several complaints and customer reviews, consumers say they repeatedly tried to contact the company without getting their issues resolved.

BBB has received over 40 complaints from residents in 26 states since the company opened in 2015. Through August 2017, the business was responsive to all consumer complaints. BBB has had repeated conversations with the company founder, Julie Andreae, since September 2017, when a delay in complaint resolution first became apparent.

Based in part on information provided by the founder of Secure Beginnings, Julie Andreae, BBB has now concluded that Secure Beginnings has ceased online operations. The company website <https://www.securebeginnings.com/> is no longer available. Secure Beginnings’ SafeSleep products are still carried by other retailers, such as Walmart, Overstock.com, Amazon and on EBay. Secure Beginnings claims to have no means of issuing refunds to customers who have not received purchased items. It is unclear whether manufacturer warranties will be honored on SafeSleep products, given the current operating status

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State Farm®

Good Neighbor Award

State Farm would like to recognize people in the community who are “Good Neighbors” by offering a monthly Good Neighbor Award. Citizens of Cedar Springs, and the surrounding communities can stop in to Ryanne Donahue State Farm to drop of a letter or email us to nominate people who go above and beyond to help others and contribute to our community. We will choose a person every month from our nominations to be featured in the Cedar Springs Post and to receive a gift basket from local businesses to thank them for being awesome and demonstrating the small town spirit in their everyday life.

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# Should 15 Mile and Ritchie intersection be a four-way stop?

By Judy Reed

On September 15, 2017, a young Cedar Springs mother, Meranda Baguss, 31, was killed and her twin five-year-old boys critically injured when a pickup truck ran the stop sign at Ritchie and 15 Mile and slammed into her vehicle. Since then, and even before the crash, that intersection has been a topic of complaint among residents. One person related that she recently slowed down as she reached the intersection, and witnessed another pickup truck blow through the stop sign. She was glad she slowed down, especially with having her two young grandchildren in the car. After hearing this, the Post decided to contact the Kent County Road Commission to find out if



Meranda Baguss was killed at the intersection of 15 Mile and Ritchie in September when a pickup ran the stop sign. Photo from gofundme.com.

the intersection qualified for some type of traffic control upgrade. Maura Lamoreaux, spokesperson for the Kent County Road Commission, explained how the system works. “Although it seems logical that traffic control modifications

would improve the safety of an intersection, it is not always the case. In some instances, the traffic control change serves to only alter the type of crashes that occur and can potentially increase the number or severity of accidents,” she explained. “Therefore,

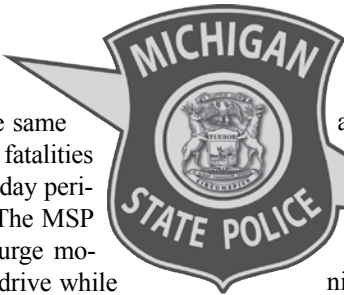
it is essential that KCRC investigates each accident thoroughly, works with law enforcement to determine causation, and follows federally-mandated warrants regarding modifications to traffic control.” Lamoreaux said that after the accident that occurred at the 15 Mile Road and Ritchie Avenue intersection in September, KCRC conducted a crash site investigation, as is procedure for crashes involving serious injury or fatality. “This investigation included performing an updated traffic study for the intersection. The study included analysis of both traffic volume and crash history to determine if specific warrants were met to modify traffic control. These warrants are

FOUR-WAY - continues on page 16

# State Police reports 10 fatalities over holiday weekend

The Michigan State Police (MSP) announced on Monday, November 27, that preliminary reports indicate 10 people lost their lives in 10 separate traffic crashes during the 2017 Thanksgiving holiday weekend, which is the same as the previous year. One of those was Christina Kent, of Cedar Springs. (See page one story.) “These numbers are preliminary and only reflect those fatalities reported to the MSP as of 11 a.m. today,” stated Spl/F/Lt. Jim Flegel, State Services Bureau. “The preliminary num-

bers show the same number of fatalities from this holiday period last year. The MSP continues to urge motorists not to drive while impaired, always use proper restraints and to make responsible driving decisions.” The 2017 Thanksgiving holiday weekend ran from 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 22, through 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 26, 2017. Operation C.A.R.E. is a nationwide



initiative aimed at reducing traffic crashes and fatalities on highways across the country. It began in 1977 as a collaborative effort between the MSP and the Indiana State Police. Today, Operation C.A.R.E. is one of the nation’s longest running traffic safety initiatives and includes state and highway patrol agencies from all 50 states, as well as some American territories, Canadian provinces, and the Virgin Islands. Beginning this year, Operation C.A.R.E. includes participation from police agencies affiliated with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) as well.

# Michigan traffic crashes come with hefty price tag

New report compares societal costs of crashes, crime  
From The Office of Highway Safety Planning

While index crimes resulted in \$622 million in monetary costs during 2015, the price tag for traffic crashes exceeded \$4.6 billion in monetary costs, according to a new report released by the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute. The study, funded by the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP), used 2015 traffic crash and index crime data to estimate dollar losses to the state and for each county. Monetary costs include medical care, future earnings, public services and property damage and loss. Non-monetary quality-of-life costs include those associated with pain, suffering and fear. When further expanded to include monetary and non-monetary quality-of-life costs, index crime costs totaled \$2.6 billion in 2015, while traffic crashes

CRASHES - continues on page 16

Traffic Crash Casualty Severity	Traffic Crash Casualties	Traffic Crash Costs
Fatal	1,011	\$8,973,020,702
Serious Injury	5,212	\$2,540,275,836
Moderate Injury	17,499	\$2,361,371,800
Minor Injury	53,354	\$3,585,405,243
Property Damage Only	423,538	\$1,841,306,849
Total	500,614	\$19,301,380,430
Average cost of traffic crash casualty		\$38,555

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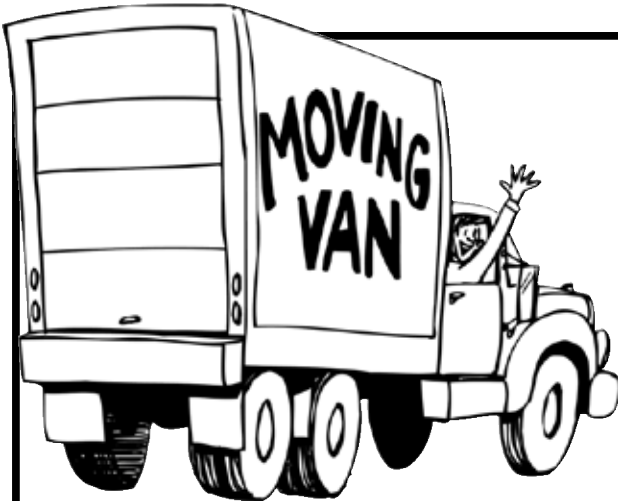


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# Church Connection

spiritual notes • announcements • memories



**Pastor Craig Carter**  
**NORTH KENT COMMUNITY CHURCH**

1480 Indian Lakes Rd. NE, Sparta

## GRATITUDE IS NOT A PLATITUDE

Platitude is a remark or a statement, especially one with a moral content, which has been used too often to be interesting or thoughtful. I find this often to be the case this time of year. With the Thanksgiving holiday having been enjoyed and Christmas around the corner, we certainly have plenty of reasons to be grateful. All too often we say to people struggling this time of year, “Look at all the things you have to be grateful for,” or “You should just be grateful for what you have!” True as these may be, it has become more of a platitude. It’s just a statement used to teach some lesson, but is not found thoughtful or beneficial to those hearing it. Gratitude, or gratefulness, flows from the presence and purpose of God. Gratitude can be difficult to express when one struggles to see purpose or God’s presence at work in their life or circumstances. So, a quick platitude about gratitude does not work.

I encourage you to do two things. Redefine for yourself what gratitude means. Then help others find this meaning also. First, what does gratitude mean to you? For me, as a

Christian, it really is a theology, a belief system. It’s understanding and recognizing God’s presence and purpose in every area of my life. It’s believing that no matter what happens in my life, God is still good! Gratitude is ultimately a way of seeing things, a certain worldview, not defined by our expectations, moods or emotions. I did not always think this way. Truthfully, before I gave my life to Christ as my savior, my life had no real purpose and meaning. All the things I sought to bring purpose and meaning in my life left me empty. I was not convinced there was a God, much less Him being good! It all changed when I realized that God was good. Gratitude is goodness, or kindness that exceeds all your expectations. Romans 5:8 says, “God demonstrates his own love (goodness) for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” He loved me and died for my sins, while I was still a sinner! So, I am convinced, now that I know him, that whatever life brings, God has my best interest in mind. He is good despite what my circumstances, moods, emotions or unmet expectations tell me. Why? Because, he has a plan and purpose in it all, therefore, I am grateful. Settle your theology about God. God is good, all the time!

Now that this is settled in your heart and life, please share it with others! Many do not see God this way. Many are burdened, stressed and discouraged because unmet expectations have defined their understanding, not of gratefulness, but of God. Therefore, a platitude will not work. Refuse to make statements about gratefulness as a platitude. Make time to understand people’s lives and situations, so that you can speak words of encouragement. Help them find a good God in the middle of it all! Help them see that although we do not understand everything, a loving, good God has a purpose that’s best for their lives. The Apostle Paul reminds us, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28 – NIV)

## Obituary




### ROYAL EUGENE COOPER

Royal Eugene “Pete” Cooper, age 89, passed away on Monday, November 27, 2017 at Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital. Pete was born March 27, 1928 in Kent City, Michigan to Roy and Doris (Rogers) Cooper and lived most of his life in the Rockford area. He worked for his dad until his fifth child was born and then drove truck for Darling & Company in Walker for many years. He retired after spending several years at Kroger Warehouse. Pete married Ruth Joslin on April 6, 1946 and they were married until her death on August 18, 2011. He was also preceded in death by his son, Donald Cooper and his daughter-in-law, Jeanne Cooper. Pete is survived by his children, Kenneth and Deb Cooper, Helen and Steve Smith, JoAnn and David Fowler, Nancy Samsel, Dale Cooper, and Nancy Sowerby (Don’s significant other); and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral Services will be at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, December 1, 2017 at the Pederson Funeral Home, 127 N. Monroe Street in Rockford with Pastor Bruce Wilson officiating. Relatives and friends may meet with the family from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home on Thursday, November 30, 2017 Interment will take place in Blythefield Memory Gardens. Memorial contributions may be given to the Tuesday Senior Music Sessions held at Rockford Ambulance or to Harvest Way in Sparta. Please visit [www.pedersonfuneralhome.com](http://www.pedersonfuneralhome.com) to share a memory or sign an online registry.

Arrangements by Pederson Funeral Home, Rockford

# Church Directory

**maranatha**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Worship 9:45 AM  
Christian Education Hour 11:15 AM  
Family Bible Hour 6:00 PM

12786 Algoma Ave  
Cedar Springs  
www.MBC-Cedar.com  
696-3560

Word of Life Clubs: Wed. 6:30 PM  
Adult Bible Study and Prayer  
Wednesdays 6:30 PM

**St. John Paul II Parish**  
*A Welcoming Catholic Church*

3110 17 Mile Road | Cedar Springs, MI | 696-3904

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00pm • Sunday Mass: 8:30am, 10:30am & 5:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturdays at 3:00 pm & Sundays at 4:00 pm

[jp2-mqa.org](http://jp2-mqa.org) | **Father Lam T. Le** | [frlle@grpriests.org](mailto:frlle@grpriests.org)

**Mary Queen of Apostles Church**  
Roman Catholic Faith Community

One W. Maple, Sand Lake | 636-5671

Mass Times: Saturdays at 5:30 pm • Sundays at 7:30 am & 9:30 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Mondays at 6:00 pm

**Father Lam T. Le** | [frlle@grpriests.org](mailto:frlle@grpriests.org)

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45**

**WORSHIP 10:45 AM and 6:00 P.M.**

**MIDWEEK SERVICE • WEDNESDAY 7:00 P.M.**

**COURTLAND-OAKFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

10295 Myers Lake Ave.-1.5 Miles South of 14 Mile Rd.

Pastor: Rev. Kim DeLong 866-4298

counc.weebly.com

**SUNDAY WORSHIP: 11 AM**

**Enhanced Fitness: 10 a.m. M/W/F**

**Pioneer Christian Reformed Church**

Services at Cedarfield Community Center  
3592 17 Mile Rd. NE (Next to Meijer)  
Phone: 696-9120  
Web: [www.pioneerCRC.org](http://www.pioneerCRC.org)  
Sunday Services: 10AM, 6PM

**Cedar Springs Christian Church**

Pastor Ryan Black: SERMONSONLINE

Non-denominational

**SUNDAYS: 10:30 A.M.**

**MONDAYS: OPEN PRAYER 7-8 PM**

340 W. Pine St. on CTA property\*  
Cedar Springs  
616.696.1180  
\*NOT affiliated with Creative Technologies Academy (CTA)

[www.cedarspringschristianchurch.org](http://www.cedarspringschristianchurch.org)

**Rockford Springs Community Church**

Pastor David Vander Meer

5815 14-Mile Rd. (3 miles east of 131) • 696-3656

[www.rockfordsprings.org](http://www.rockfordsprings.org)

**SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30AM • 5:00PM**

**Cedar Springs United Methodist Church**

140 S. Main St., PO Box K, Cedar Springs  
616-696-1140 • [www.cedarspringsumc.org](http://www.cedarspringsumc.org)  
Email: [office@cedarspringsumc.org](mailto:office@cedarspringsumc.org)

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**First Baptist Church**

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Sunday Evening Worship 6pm

Awana Wednesdays 6:30pm (Sept. - March)

Adult Bible Study Wednesdays 7:00pm

**233 S. Main Street • 616-696-1630 • [www.csfbc.com](http://www.csfbc.com)**

**Solon Center Wesleyan Church**

Senior Pastor, Rev. Chadrick Brown

**SERVICE TIME: 10 am**

[www.scwchurch.org](http://www.scwchurch.org)

**616-696-3229**

15671 Algoma Ave., Cedar Springs Just N. of 19 Mile Rd.



**HILLCREST Community Church of God**

**TO KNOW CHRIST AND MAKE HIM KNOWN**

5994 18 Mile Rd, Cedar Springs, MI 49319 616-696-9333

**Senior Pastor Kristi J. Rhodes**

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\*Wednesday - Kidzone & Grief Share 6-7:30 pm \*Thursday - Open Prayer 6-7:30 pm

**Church Connection**

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# Church Connection

spiritual notes • announcements • memories

## Memorial

**DAWN R. KELLY**  
1/30/1965-12/4/2012

They say there is a reason,  
They say time will heal.  
Neither time or reason  
Will change the way I feel.  
Gone are the days  
We used to share,  
But in my heart  
You are always there.  
The gates of memories  
Will never close.  
I miss you more than  
Anybody knows,

Love and Miss you everyday,  
Your Family

## Announcement

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TIM!**

On December 1, 1977 a then recent graduate of Cedar Springs High School, Tim Chesla, went into business. He bought his first venture, a gymnastics school in Grand Rapids. It became apparent to him that his type of business was necessary for the kids in the northern Kent County area. Almost a quarter of a century ago, he created North Star Gymnastics in Rockford. So congratulations Tim on the anniversary of 40 years in business and kudos to another successful Cedar Springs High School graduate.

You can win more friends with  
your ears than with your mouth.



...Let every man be swift to hear; slow to speak, slow to wrath.  
James 1:19b

From God's Little Instruction Book- Honor Books

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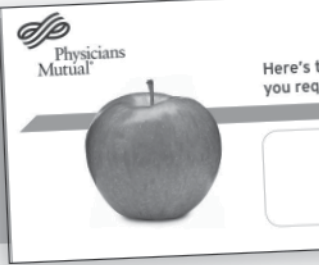
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\*Individual plan.

Product not available in MN, MT, NH, RI, VT, WA. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, NY; call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250Q); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN)  
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## VOICES / VIEWS





—

ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

—

# HOMETOWN

## Happenings

Hometown Happenings articles are a community service for non-profit agencies only. Due to popular demand for placement in this section, we can no longer run all articles. Deadline for articles is Monday at 5 p.m. This is not guaranteed space. Articles will run as space allows. Guaranteed placement is \$10, certain restrictions may apply. You now can email your Hometown Happenings to [happenings@cedarspringspost.com](mailto:happenings@cedarspringspost.com) please include name and phone number for any questions we may have.

### CS Library Fundraiser

What do you get for someone who has everything? A brick in his/her honor to put at the entry of the new Cedar Springs Library! Stop by the Library at 107 N. Main St. and check out the 129 bricks already in place. A 4x8 brick is only \$50 or get an 8x8 for \$100. For more information call the Library at 616-696-1910. #48

### 2nd Chance Christmas Tree Fundraiser

Nov. 30-Dec.3: Support 2nd Chance School by purchasing a beautiful fresh Christmas Tree. Christmas trees will be available for sale, Thursday and Friday 4-8 pm, Saturday 1-8 pm, Sunday noon-5 pm, at 2nd Chance School, 810 17 Mile Road Cedar Springs (corner of 17 Mile Road and Olin Lakes Road, 4 miles west of 131). We have scotch pine, blue spruce, black hills spruce, and balsam fir. Sizes are 3’ - 10’ tall. There are also a few 24” Frasier Fir decorated wreaths for sale. Support 2nd Chance by purchasing a Christmas tree. The school is in the building stage, which when completed, will teach troubled teens through God and the horse. If you have questions, call 293-2150. #48

### Christmas in Sand Lake

Dec. 1,2,8: **A Live Indoor Nativity – Our Free Gift to You** will be held on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 6 to 8 pm and Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1 to 3 pm at Sand Lake United Methodist Church Hall. Shepherds watching, Angels singing, Wise men searching and the Christ child. Live animals will greet you. Enjoy the refreshments and stay as long as you like. **Sand Lake Family Christmas Celebration** will be held on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:30 am to 3 pm. “Selfie” with Santa 9:30 to 11:30 at the VFW. Cookies, Crafts & Christmas Wishes. Bring your ornaments to help decorate the trees from 11 am to 3 pm. Visit the Craft Sale and Live Nativity. **Christmas Bake Sale** at Independent Bank will be Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 5 pm. The Sand Lake United Methodist Women offer homemade goodies for your Christmas gatherings or just for your sweet tooth. #48

### Animal Junction 4-H Gingerbread House Contest

Dec. 2: Animal Junction 4-H Club would like to extend an invitation to all of the Cedar Springs Community to visit the Cedar Springs Library during the week of Monday November 27<sup>th</sup> through Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon to view the wonderful confectionary creations that our 4-H members have made to kick off this years holiday season. We would like the community to vote for the gingerbread house that they like best. Winners will be announced after the Community Christmas Tree Lighting downtown Cedar

Springs on Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Each gingerbread house will also be up for sale throughout the week for our silent auction. The 4-H members are raising funds with the silent auction for their spring camp. #47,48p

### Craft Show at Resurrection Lutheran Church

Dec. 2: Resurrection Lutheran Church, 180 Northland Drive, Sand Lake, will be holding a craft show on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9 am to 2 pm. Vendors – Bake Sale – White Elephant – Book Sale. #47,48p

### Mingle with Kris Kringle

Dec. 2: Santa is coming and events are happening all day long! Make & Take Crafts and Ornaments, 9 am to noon at the CS Library. Story Time with Mrs. Clause, 2 pm at Perry’s Place. Red Hawk Cheerleaders Meet & Greet, 3 pm at the corner of Ash & Main St. Double K Petting Zoo, 4 pm at the corner of Ash & Main St. Red Hawk Choir Christmas Caroling, 4:15 pm at the corner of Ash & Main St. Kris Kringle Parade, 4:30 pm starts at the corner of Maple & Main St. Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, 4:45 pm, corner of Ash & Main St. Live Nativity Scene with Calvary Church, 4:45 pm at the corner of Ash & Main St., Bake Sale with the Ladies Auxiliary, 5 pm at the American Legion. Historical Museum Book Sale, 5 pm at the American Legion. Pictures with Kris Kringle, 5 pm at the American Legion. Write a Letter to Santa, 5 pm at the American Legion while waiting for pictures to be taken. Kris Kringle Coloring Activity, 5 pm at the American Legion while waiting for pictures to be taken. Find us on Facebook – A Cedar Springs Christmas Mingle with Kris Kringle. #47,48b

### Cookie Walk at St. Peter’s Lutheran

Dec. 2: St. Peter’s Lutheran Ladies Guild is having their Annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 310 E. Division. It begins at 9 am until the cookies are gone. Stop in and pick up your holiday cookies. Cookies are sold by the pound and you select the combination. #47,48b

### Casnovia Old School Bazaar

Dec. 2: Casnovia Old School Bazaar and Santa Day will be Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8 am to 1 pm. Craft show, Lions Club Breakfast, visits with Santa, horse drawn wagon rides, cookie decorating. Questions call 616-914-9648. #48

### All Aboooard the Bethlehem Express

Dec. 3: A FREE event filled with crafts, carols, snacks, and the Christmas story. Great for young and old, families and singles! Cedar Springs United Methodist Church, 140 S. Main St., Cedar Springs on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5 to 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. #48

### Dinner at the Legion

Dec 4: American Legion, 80 S. Main St. Cedar Springs, is hosting a Baked Chicken dinner on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, from 5 – 7 pm. Included will be mashed potatoes & gravy, stuffing, veggies, salad, roll, dessert and drink. The cost is \$9 for adults, children (15 and younger) \$4.00. Come and enjoy home cooking. Take out is available. 616-696-9160. #48p

### God’s Kitchen in Cedar Springs

Dec. 5,12,19,26: Join us for dinner every Tuesday. God’s Kitchen – Cedar Springs welcomes families from Northern Kent County and the surrounding area to a Tuesday Evening Meal. No charge – no registration required! Served from 5:30 – 6:30 pm at the St. John Paul II Parish, 3110 – 17 Mile Rd., Cedar Springs. For more information, call the Church office at 616-696-3904. #48

### Velzy Park Fundraiser

Dec. 7: Finish your Christmas shopping with appetizing gifts in useful containers, and help raise funds for Velzy Park at the same time! You are invited to enjoy this opportunity with a demonstration of unique gift giving ideas on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the Solon Township Hall, 15185 Algoma Avenue, Cedar Springs. #48,49b

### North Kent Connect Store

Your holiday shopping destination!

10075 Northland Drive NE  
Rockford, MI 49341  
[store.nkconnect.org](http://store.nkconnect.org)

Quality Items at  
Affordable Prices

Follow us on Facebook @  
North Kent Connect Store

NORTH KENT

## connect

STORE

# JOKE

## Of the Week


### Christmas jokes

One Christmas, Joe and Peter built a skating rink in the middle of a field. A shepherd leading his flock decided to take a shortcut across the rink. The sheep, however, were afraid of the ice and wouldn’t cross it. Desperate, the shepherd began tugging them to the other side. “Look at that,” remarked Peter to Joe. “That guy is trying to pull the wool over our ice!”

Q. What do you get if you cross Santa with a detective?  
A. Santa Clues!

Q: Why does Santa Claus go down the chimney on Christmas Eve?  
A: Because it soots him!

Q. What happened when Guy ate the Christmas decorations?  
A. He went down with tinsel-itis.



### This Joke of the Week is brought to you by

## CLASSIC KELLY’S

A Finer Family Restaurant and Catering

356 North Main St., Cedar Springs  
(616) 696-0620

### Christmas Open House at CS Library

Dec. 9: Come dressed in your pj’s for a time of celebration with a visit from Santa. Crafts, decorating Christmas cookies, listening to a reading of the Polar Express and a craft bazaar! Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 12 pm at the Cedar Springs Community Library, 107 N. Main St. #48

### Christmas Concert and Dance Extravaganza

Dec. 9,10: Join an annual Christmas tradition of watching local talent perform at Kent Theatre, 8 N. Main St., Cedar Springs! Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> will be the Christmas Concert from 3 to 5 pm. Bring the whole family for a fun night out listening to holiday songs. On December 10<sup>th</sup> the Annual Dance Extravaganza will start at 3 pm. Enjoy an evening of watching an amazing dance concert featuring 3 local dance schools. Admission is only \$3 per person for either event. Check out the Cedar Springs Area Chamber of Commerce’s Facebook for more information and performance lineup. #48,49b

### Adore...A Musical Celebration

Dec. 10: Join Solon Center Wesleyan Church for a special morning full of a variety of Christmas music including performances by the worship team, the children of the church, and a special Christmas ensemble. The service will be held @ 10 am on Sunday, December 10th. The church is located at 15671 Algoma Avenue, just north of 19 Mile Road. For questions please call 616-696-3229 or find us on the web @ [www.scwchurch.org](http://www.scwchurch.org). #48

### Advent Events at St. John Paul II Parish

Dec. 12,13: St. Come prepare your minds and hearts for the Advent and Christmas Season through Sacred Scripture, prayer and song at “Festival of Lessons and Carols” on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm! You won’t want to miss this beautiful evening! Advent Penance Service at 6 pm. Several priests will be available for confessions. Come prepare your souls for the coming of Christ at Christmas! Both events at St. John Paul II Parish, 3110 17 Mile Road in Cedar Springs. #48

LIVE on Stage  
R.A.T. Troupe presents



**FRI. & SAT.,  
DECEMBER 1 & 2**  
Friday @ 7:30pm  
Saturday @ 1:30pm  
& @ 7:30pm

**Tickets:**  
\$12<sup>00</sup> Adult  
\$8<sup>00</sup> 12 yrs & under

## KENT THEATRE

**616-696-SHOW(7469)**  
[www.kenttheatre.com](http://www.kenttheatre.com) 8 N. Main St., Cedar Springs

COMING SOON

KENT THEATRE  
**Annual Christmas Concert**  
DEC. 9 @ 3PM

KENT THEATRE  
**Annual Dance Extravaganza**  
DEC. 10 @ 3PM

\*PLANNED MOVIE TITLES MAY BE CHANGED BY THE DISTRIBUTOR

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# Home for the Holidays



## Stress-busting speed-cleaning tips for the holidays

(BPT) - It's no secret the holiday season can be one of the busiest and most stressful times of the year. What is one of the biggest sources of stress? It's cleaning on a deadline, especially while guests are on their way.

But with the right plan in place, even last-minute pre-entertainment cleaning can be efficient and stress-free, says Debra Johnson, Merry Maids home cleaning expert.

In an online survey conducted this spring by Toluna, more than half of respondents admitted that most of their cleaning takes place just before guests arrive. With a bit more focus, this preparation can be quick and effective, without stress. After all, the holidays shouldn't be a race against the clock. They're about spending time with loved ones.

Johnson shares the following tips to clean smarter, not harder, in the limited time you have before guests arrive.

### 1. Ready, set ... declutter

The important first step is to declutter rooms. Set a timer if needed to help you stay on track and avoid spending too much time in one room. Put things where they belong, or if they don't have a home, put them in a room or under beds where no one will see. Once the holiday season passes, you can revisit and declutter those hidden storage areas. Prioritize rooms you use most, so if you run out of time, guests won't notice an untidy area.

### 2. Only clean what guests will see

Join the more than one-third of Americans who don't bother cleaning rooms people won't see. You have enough to stress about as the host. Don't waste your precious time cleaning parts of the home no one will ever see. Simply shut doors to rooms that you want to keep private, signaling to guests not to enter. If you have family staying with you, give guest rooms a once-over, clean the bathrooms that will be used and, of course, the kitchen



and living room.

### 3. Skip the sweep

Don't spend time sweeping with a dry mop when you can vacuum instead. Vacuuming is far more efficient and faster at removing dust, dirt and other debris from the floors. Keep a portable hand-held vacuum nearby in case a big mess happens, such as a glass breaking during a party. Within seconds, the mess will be gone and you

can go back to enjoying the festivities.

### 4. Speed-clean the bathrooms

All you need to clean your bathroom quickly is a damp microfiber cloth to give every surface a quick wipe-down and a toilet brush to clean the inside walls of the toilet. To freshen it up even more, pour a half-cup of baking soda into the toilet bowl and add white vinegar along with a few drops of

your favorite essential oils. Allow the mixture to bubble for a bit and scrub with a toilet brush. Then, voila: your bathroom is clean, shiny and smelling great.

### 5. Tackle the microwave mess

You know people will want seconds well after the leftovers are put away, so use this quick tip to tackle microwave build-up: Combine lemon juice and water in a microwave-safe

bowl and run it for about two minutes. The lemon water will loosen any gunk or food in the microwave for an easy wipe down with a microfiber cloth. Now guests can reheat their leftovers in a clean microwave.

"Hosting a holiday dinner requires prep work, but if you stay on track before anyone arrives, you can spend more time actually relaxing and enjoying their company," said Johnson.

If you simply don't have any time to spare this holiday season, Merry Maids has the resources and experts to help. Find a location in your area by visiting [www.merrymaids.com](http://www.merrymaids.com).

With the cleaning under control, all that's left for you to do is to light a few candles, conquer the grocery list and, of course, enjoy your special guests.



## ALL ABOARD the Bethlehem Express!

**A FREE event of crafts, carols, snacks,  
and the Christmas story.**

*Great for young and old, families and singles!*

**Cedar Springs United Methodist Church**  
140 S. Main St., Cedar Springs  
**Sunday, Dec. 3, 5 pm – 7 pm**  
**Fellowship Hall**

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## Sand Lake Family Christmas

**Saturday, December 2nd, 2017**

**Christmas Craft Show 9:00AM-2:00PM - Resurrection Lutheran Church**  
Find that one of a kind gift. Book Sale, Raffles, and Lunch

**Visit Santa and take a "Selfie" 9:30AM-11:30AM - VFW Hall**  
Cookies, Crafts, & Christmas Wishes. Bring your own cameras or cell phones.  
Free Goodie Bag for the first 125 children.  
**Sponsored by Nelson Township/Sand Lake Library**

**"Mail Call" Free Christmas Cards 9:30AM-12:30PM - VFW Hall**  
Free postage if you are sending a card to a Military Person.

**Deck the Halls on Main Street**  
**11:00AM-2:00PM - Main Street**  
Bring an ornament from home to help decorate the trees along Main Street

**Say Happy Birthday to Jesus**  
**at the Indoor Live Nativity. 1:00-3:00PM - United Methodist Church Hall**

Experience the entire town of Bethlehem on the day Jesus was born. Shepherds watching, Soldiers registering, People peddling, Angels singing, Wise men searching, and the Christ child. Live animals will greet you. Enjoy refreshments and stay as long as you like. Want to dress up and be a part of the story? We have extra costumes.

**Shop Local Business Specials**

**Enter Gift Basket Drawing - FREE Gift Wrapping for local purchases**  
Check at each business for their Christmas Specials & Enter the Christmas Gift Basket Drawing. One entry per location so the more businesses you visit the better your chances of winning.

**Free Gift Wrapping 11:00AM-3:00PM**  
**Sand Lake Trading Company**  
Bring your locally purchased items for Free Gift Wrapping (must show the local receipt)

**WESCO - Free Small Popcorn** to all kids 12 and under (12/2 only)  
**Patsy's Hair Place - Save \$13.00 Off your Christmas Do**  
Color, Cut, Style, and Wax all for just \$56.

**Corner Hair Design & Spa - 20% off all chemical services**  
for new clients who book in December.

**Sand Lake Trading Company Something New Every day.**  
Stop in for details.

**Lunch Specials from the Eagles 11:00AM-1:00PM**  
**Warm up with a FREE Cup of Chili at the Eagles Restaurant**  
Just to warm you up and let you know our restaurant is now open to the public.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**



FAMILY FEATURES

'T is the season to pop up some holiday fun by creating a scenic winter wonderland that tastes as great as it looks.

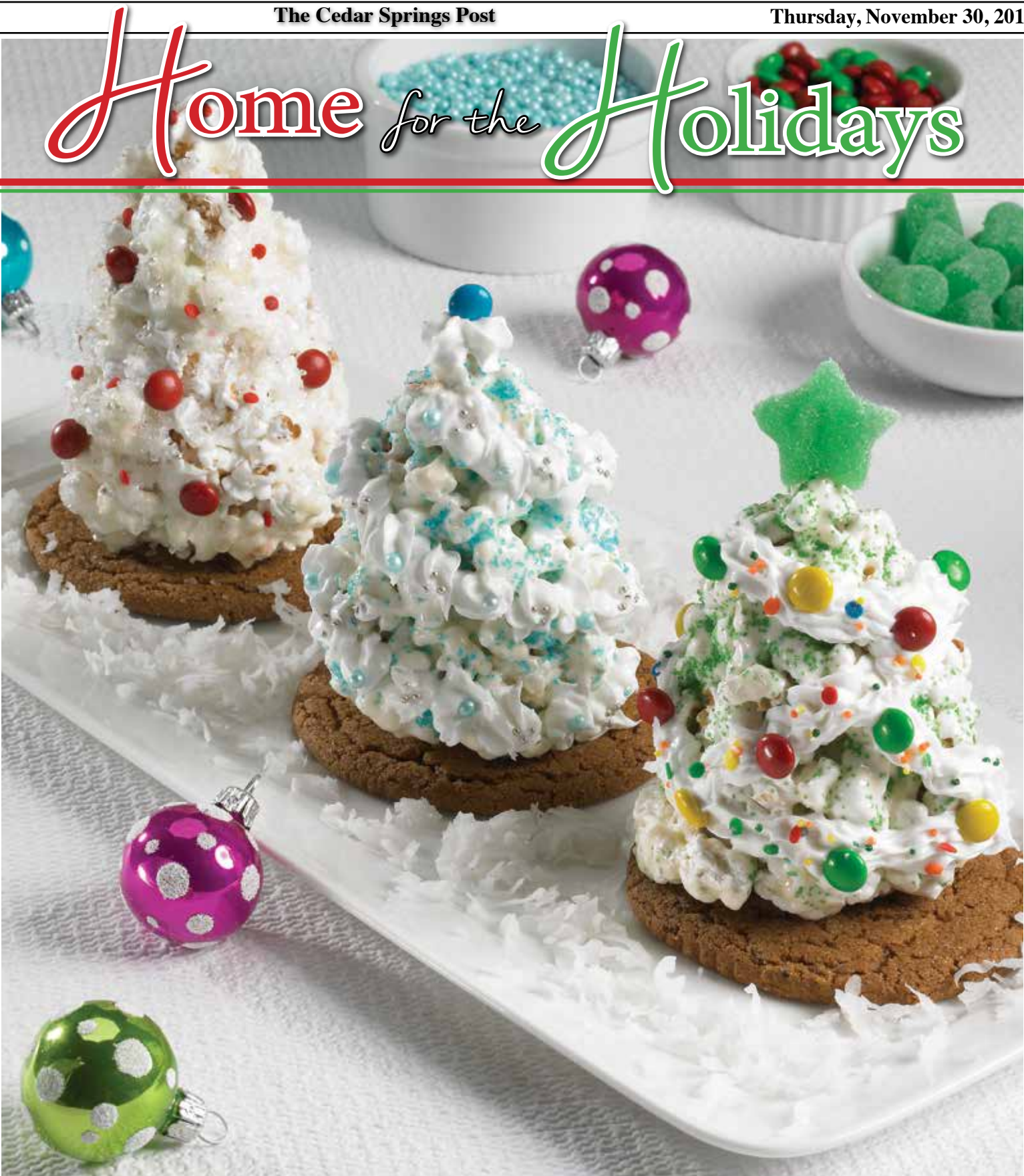
Gather the kids and make a hands-on family holiday tradition out of crafting festive, edible decorations. Popcorn is the perfect choice to pop up and eat while trimming your popcorn tree and decking out your creations. At 30 calories a cup, whole-grain, freshly popped popcorn offers a nutritious alternative to traditional holiday party nibbles. Popcorn is naturally low in fat and calories, non-GMO, gluten-free, has no artificial additives or preservatives and is sugar-free.

These clever recipes can help you make edible decor or gifts to give to friends, family and co-workers. Find more creative holiday recipes at popcorn.org.

Festive Popcorn Trees

Yield: 10 trees

- 10 cups air-popped popcorn
  - 1 bag (10 ounces) miniature marshmallows
  - 2 tablespoons butter
  - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
  - nonstick cooking spray
  - green decorating sugar
  - blue decorating sugar
  - 1 tube white frosting with decorating tip
  - small, colorful candies (such as sprinkles and miniature silver dragees)
- Place popcorn in large bowl.
- Place marshmallows and butter in medium saucepan over medium-low heat. Stir until marshmallows are melted and mixture is smooth. Remove from heat.
- Stir in vanilla extract.
- Pour mixture over popcorn in bowl. Toss well to coat popcorn evenly.
- Line baking sheet with foil.
- Spray hands with nonstick cooking spray then scoop up about 1 cup popcorn mixture.
- Shape mixture into cone, keeping base flat to form tree.
- Sprinkle tree with decorating sugars; place tree on baking sheet.
- Make nine additional trees.
- Pipe frosting on trees to make garland then decorate with sprinkles and silver dragees, as desired.
- Serving suggestion: Place each tree on sugar cookie and decorate serving tray with shredded coconut to resemble snow.
- Notes:** For best flavor and color, start recipe with unflavored white popcorn. You can make your own colored sugar by adding food coloring to sugar then stirring in bowl or shaking vigorously in sealed container. Add additional food coloring for more intense tones.



# POPPING Up a *Winter Wonderland*

## Edible, handmade holiday decor perfect for gifting

Holiday Popcorn Snowman

- Yield: 5 snowmen
- 1 package (1 pound) large marshmallows
  - 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter or margarine, plus additional
  - 1 teaspoon vanilla
  - 10 cups popped popcorn
  - sprinkles (optional)
  - licorice (optional)
  - gum drops (optional)
  - cinnamon candies (optional)
- In large saucepan, melt marshmallows and 1/4 cup butter. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla. Let stand 5 minutes.
- Pour over popcorn and stir mixture. Butter hands well and form into balls.
- Decorate with sprinkles, licorice, gum drops and cinnamon candies, as desired.



Chocolate Popcorn Reindeer

- Yield: 8 reindeer
- 8 cups unsalted, unbuttered popped popcorn
  - 2 1/2 cups mini marshmallows
  - 1/2 cup chopped dark chocolate or dark chocolate chips
  - 2 tablespoons butter or light olive oil
  - 1/4 teaspoon salt
  - 16 pretzel sticks
  - 16 eyeball candies
  - 8 red candy-coated chocolate candies
- Place popcorn in large mixing bowl.
- In saucepan set over medium heat, heat marshmallows, chocolate, butter and salt, stirring often until smooth. Toss marshmallow mixture with popcorn until well combined.
- Scoop 3/4 cup popcorn mixture into ball. Repeat with remaining mixture to make eight balls total. Place each ball in paper muffin cup liner.
- Insert pretzel stick on each side of ball to resemble antlers, attach two eyeball candies for eyes and red candy for nose. Let cool completely.
- Tip:** Eyeball candies can typically be found in baking aisles of supermarkets or bulk food stores.



Holiday Wreath Popcorn Treats

- Yield: 8 wreaths
- Nonstick cooking spray
  - 3 quarts popped popcorn
  - 4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) butter or margarine
  - 3 cups miniature marshmallows
  - 3 tablespoons lime gelatin dessert mix
  - small red candies
  - jellybeans
  - red fruit leather
- Lightly spray large mixing bowl with nonstick cooking spray and place popcorn inside.
- In medium saucepan over low heat, melt butter. Stir in marshmallows and gelatin dessert mix until marshmallows are melted and mixture is smooth. Pour over popcorn and mix until coated.
- Spray hands with cooking spray and press firmly to form into 9-inch logs then bend to form wreaths.
- Place wreaths on wax paper. Press candies and jellybeans into wreaths as decorations; cut fruit leather to make ribbon and add.
- Serve immediately or wrap individually in plastic wrap for storage. Add ribbon tie to plastic wrap as decorative closure.
- Tip:** Soak saucepan before cleaning.





# Home for the Holidays



## Letters to Santa



It's that time of year again, when kids can't wait to mail their letters to Santa! To help parents out, the Cedar Springs Post has set up a special North Pole drop box. Every year dozens of kids use our special box for express delivery to the North Pole, and we make sure Santa reads each and every one! So, if you'd like to send a letter to Santa, and maybe get it printed in the newspaper, just drop off your letter in the bright red box labeled "Santa Mail" outside our office at 36 E. Maple Street, or mail your letter to: Letters to Santa, c/o the Cedar Springs Post, PO Box 370, Cedar Springs, MI 49319.

Hurry, all letters must be in Santa's Mail box by Monday, December 18th to reach him in time for Christmas.



Dear Santa,  
I hope you have a wonderful Christmas! For Christmas this year I would like a new bicycle with gears. Thank you Santa! Merry Christmas!



## New, unwrapped gifts needed for Tree of Hope

*Donations requested by Dec. 11 to fill thrift store for neighbors in need in northern Kent County*

Everybody should be able to spread holiday cheer, regardless of income. North Kent Connect (NKC) wants to make the process of gift giving and receiving more affordable and empowering than ever before.

Through its "Tree of Hope" program, NKC is calling on individuals, organizations and businesses in the area to drop off new and unwrapped items at its Northland Drive store in Rockford. Items such as pajamas, socks, underwear, sheets, blankets, towels, winter outerwear, and boots can then be purchased by NKC's in-need clients at an extremely reduced cost. Parents will be able to shop for their children and maintain a sense of dignity while doing so.

"We need many items, particularly basic necessities, to place in our Christmas Store so our families have variety and options," said Claire Guisfredi, executive director of North Kent Connect. "Please help us Give the Gift of Dignity this holiday season." All items should be dropped off to NKC by Monday, December 11.

The Tree of Hope concept is an extension of NKC's unique "V.I.P." model where qualified clients can volunteer (V) or invest (I) their time taking special classes to earn store credits in order to purchase (P) store items. Leftover items from the Christmas Store will be later sold to the public at regular prices, with proceeds benefiting NKC's food and empowerment programs. (Toys will still be available at no cost through the "Toys for Tots" program to qualified NKC clients.)

"Programs like Tree of Hope give people a truly unique opportunity to purchase needed items with pride," said Guisfredi.

### CHRISTMAS TREES

Wreaths & Garland

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616.696.4748 | www.LRCSMI.com

fredi. "Our V.I.P. model has fast become a strongpoint for our clients, and continues to be a success not just for us, but for our entire community—throughout the holidays and all year long."

For more information, contact Cassie LaMacchia, NKC Community Engagement Coordinator, at [cassie.lamacchia@nkconnect.org](mailto:cassie.lamacchia@nkconnect.org) or 616-866-3478, ext. 355.

### ANIMAL JUNCTION 4-H CLUB

### 1st Annual GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST

Animal Junction 4-H Club would like to invite all of the Cedar Springs Community to visit the Cedar Springs Library this week through December 2nd at noon, to view the wonderful confectionary creations that our 4-H members have made. We would like the community to vote for the gingerbread house that they like best. Winners will be announced after the Community Christmas Tree Lighting downtown Cedar Springs on Sat., Dec., 2. To raise funds for the 4-H members, each gingerbread house will be up for sale in a silent auction throughout the week.

**JOIN THE REVOLUTION OF RESPONSIBILITY**

Join us for a

# Carol Sing and Christmas Tree Lighting

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 6PM

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

233 MAIN ST., CEDAR SPRINGS, MI

Start off this Christmas season with a community carol sing, a brief Christmas message, and some hot chocolate ending with the tree lighting — all on the lawn of First Baptist Church.

## Baby's First Christmas

We want to give you the opportunity to celebrate your baby's very first Christmas in a special way. The Cedar Springs POST will be featuring area newborns in "Baby's First Christmas," a special feature for babies celebrating their first Christmas.

Photos will be run at NO COST to our readers, but space is limited so get your photos in early. Deadline is Monday, December 18 by 5 p.m. and pictures with name and date of birth will appear in the December 21st issue. We cannot guarantee return of photos. Show the community your precious gift!



Photos may be dropped off at the Cedar Springs POST - 36 E. Maple St., or mailed to Baby's First Christmas, P.O. Box 370, Cedar Springs, MI 49319, or emailed to [news@cedarspringspost.com](mailto:news@cedarspringspost.com). Please include baby's name, and birth date, as well as a contact name and phone number.

Baby's First Christmas is brought to you by...

**The Cedar Springs POST**  
36 E. Maple St.  
616.696.3655

**Belinda's Cake Creations**  
Cedar Springs  
616.822.1260

**Radiating Lips by Melissa**  
LipSense Consultant  
616.799.4967

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Dear Santa,  
Please send me a stroller this Christmas.  
Thank you!

Love, David Bender (age 1)

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Paw Patrol toy.  
I love you

<3 Claire Bender (age4)



A Cedar Springs Christmas

Mingle with Kris Kringle

December 2 ♦ 9am - 8pm



Santa Clause is coming to town. “A Cedar Springs Christmas-Mingle with Kris Kringle” is an all day event

Starting at the Cedar Springs Public Library (107 N. Main St) with **Make and Take Crafts & Ornaments** (9am to 12pm), **Story Time with Mrs. Clause** at Perry’s Place llc for herbs, teas, and more... (90 N. main St. 2pm to 3pm), **Pictures Cedar Springs Cheerleaders** at the Town Christmas Tree (Corner of Main and Ash Street 3pm), **Petting Zoo and Bake Sale** by Double K Farms/Animal Junction 4H (Corner of Main and Ash Street 4pm), **Christmas Carols and music** with the Cedar Springs HS Choir at 4:15pm, **Mini Christmas Parade** (starting at the Cedar Springs Fire Dept. 4:30ish) with Santa riding in the tale on a horse drawn wagon from the Red Flannel Tree Farm, **Lighting of the Christmas Tree** (Corner of Main and Ash Street 4:45ish) **Live Nativity Scene** by Calvary Assembly of God Church right after the tree lighting, then **Mingle with Kris Kringle** afterwards at the American Legion Glen Hill Post 287. Mingle with Kris Kringle portion of the event will include **Pictures with Santa** by Kristen’s Flashback Photography, **Bake Sale** by the Ladies Auxiliary, **Historical Museum Book Sale** by the Cedar Springs Historical Museum, **Letters to Santa** with The Cedar Springs Post, **Kris Kringle Coloring Activities** with Northern Physical Therapy, **Hot Chocolate** and more...

Thank you to our sponsors Curves/Jenny Craig, Ensley Team-Five Star Real Estate Leaders, Display Pack, D&J Nails, Perry’s Place llc for herbs, teas, and more..., Northern Physical Therapy, Gorillatech’s Auto Repair, Kent Theatre, Vanderhyde Ford, Superior Transmissions, Green Acres of Cedar Springs, Sparta Chevrolet, and Workbox Staffing.

Cedar Springs Chamber of Commerce

Proudly Presents...

Kent Theatre

Christmas Concert

Featuring Local Talent

\$3 admission

3:00 - 5:00pm Saturday, December 9

8 N. Main Street

Event Sponsors :



Cedar Springs Chamber of Commerce

Proudly Presents...

Kent Theatre

Christmas Dance Extravaganza

December 10 : 3 - 5pm

\$3 admission

8 N. Main Street



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# Home for the Holidays



## More Letters to Santa



To SanTa  
FROM Tyanna Menefee

DeAr: Sata Cluss,  
I Whant a LOLs doll  
I Whant plado.  
brbIse  
baby doll.  
Can I hahv  
Nome Nome.  
Crans.  
Stamps.  
farbooks.  
toy food.  
frame: Tyanna M.

I LOVE YOU SO MUCH  
To SanTa  
FROM Lily Gunneson  
DeAr: SanTa  
These r the things I Wol  
FOR CisMS  
I Wol A LOLs Dolls.  
ANOther Toy.  
I Wol SiA CoCo Doll!  
AND A Dolls.

LOVE LILY

Santa  
I LO  
VE Y  
OU

## Tour of lights

### Tour of lights 2017

There's nothing like the warm glow of Christmas lights this time of year to give you a good dose of Christmas cheer! So pack up the kids, go for a ride, and enjoy the decorations your friends and neighbors have put up this year. We're sure you'll find a few other treasures along the way!

1. 88 N. Grant Street (Corner of Maple and Grant).
2. 65 E. Muskegon, corner of First and Muskegon Streets. The home of Larry and Audrey Young is a classic home decorated with style.
3. Downtown Cedar Springs is aglow with lights on the trees and decorations on the lampposts.
4. 427 Northland Drive, near the corner of South Street and Northland. See the 90-foot evergreen Christmas tree at the Reep family home.
5. 15581 Cedar Springs Avenue. Take Main St north to Cedar Springs Ave.

## Nativity

...continued from front page

will reenact the story. You will see shepherds watching their flocks; soldiers registering people for the census; people peddling wares; angels singing; wise men searching for the Christ child; Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus. Real live animals will greet you, and a real baby will play the part of Jesus. Visitors can also enjoy hot chocolate and cookies in the courtyard area.

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year for the event, which was originally created and put on by South Ensley and Sand Lake United Methodist Churches, and now includes cast members from many of the village churches and even some that aren't members.

"The program takes about 30 people and we love having visitors," said Sandra McConnell, who decorates and does publicity for the nativity. She said over 100 people walked through the live nativity last year, and they are hoping for more this year.

McConnell said that they got the idea for the live nativity when they saw one in Coopersville several years ago. "We went through it, and decided we wanted to do something like that," she explained. Little by little, people came forward to help to make it into the event it is today. "We've added a lot in the last four years," she added.

If there is anyone else who would like to be part of the nativity, you can call Sandra at 616-570-8713.

To see more about the nativity and Sand Lake Christmas events, see the ad on page 7.

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Cedar Springs, MI 49319

Phone: 616-696-3655  
Fax: 616-696-9010



# Parade

...continued from page 2

championship music from their show “TAO.” In addition, the listeners treated them to the Motown favorite “I Want You Back” by the Jackson-5, “Armed Forces on Parade” and the school’s fight song.

To prepare for their parade, the band had to travel two hours outside of New York City to Connecticut for rehearsal to put the finishing touches on their day in the national spotlight.

Thanksgiving morning came early with a 3:00 a.m. call time to head to Herald Square for their run through of their special performance of “It’s The Most Wonderful Time of the Year” in front of the iconic Macy’s store for broadcast by NBC. Following breakfast, the group headed to Central Park to line up for the 2.5-mile parade, which began at 9:00 a.m. and concluded at noon. They capped off the day with a celebratory dinner/dance cruise of the New York harbor with family and friends, where they were able to witness the NY skyline and Statue of Liberty lit up again the dark night sky.

The band thanks everyone for their support and encouragement that made this trip a reality.

# Spoofing

...continued from page 2

**How does spoofing work?**

Caller ID lets consumers avoid unwanted phone calls by displaying caller names and phone numbers, but the caller ID feature is sometimes manipulated by spoofer who masquerade as representatives of banks, creditors, insurance companies, or even the government.

Go to <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/spoofing-and-caller-id> and scroll down the page to where it says, “How do I file a complaint on suspected spoofing?” and click on “file a complaint.”

You can also print out the Caller ID and Spoofing guide on the same page.

The Federal Trade Commission also takes reports on spoofing. You can visit <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/#cmt&panel1-1> to file a complaint. The FTC then takes the data and compiles and publishes it each day at <https://www.ftc.gov/site-information/open-government/data-sets/do-not-call-data> to help those working on call blocking technology.

However, if you get a phone call from an 877 number that says it’s the FTC, it’s not. Don’t answer it. Scammers have also been spoofing their number. While the FTC may sometimes call you back about a report, they will not use that 877 number, and they will never ask for sensitive information, such as your bank account or social security number.

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# LEGAL NOTICES

## PUBLIC NOTICE PIERSON TOWNSHIP ACCEPTING SNOW PLOWING BIDS

Pierson Township is now accepting Snow Plowing bids for the 2017-2018 Winter Season. The bid is for plowing and salting top and back lots separately, salting and shoveling sidewalks. The address of the hall is 21156 W. Cannonsville Road, Pierson, MI 49339. A copy of Liability Insurance must be submitted with bid. Please submit all bids to Pierson Township Clerk, 21156 W. Cannonsville Road, Pierson, MI 49339. Deadline is December 5, 2017 at noon.

Dated: November 22, 2017



# BUSINESS



# PROFESSIONALS

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email: [LVisser@CruisePlanners.com](mailto:LVisser@CruisePlanners.com)  
616.263.1777

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## PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF CEDAR SPRINGS 2017 DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW

The taxpayers and property owners of the city of Cedar Springs are hereby notified that the city Board of Review shall meet for the purpose of correcting clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact as they relate to the 2017 assessment roll.

Assessment value appeals will not be heard at this time.

The December meeting of the board of review will be held at:

City Hall  
66 S Main Street  
Cedar Springs, Michigan  
Tuesday, December 12, 2017  
2pm – 4pm

Property owners seeking to apply for the principle residence exemption for their homestead should file application with the city assessor’s office prior to this meeting. Applications are available at the City Hall or online at [www.cityofcedarsprings.org](http://www.cityofcedarsprings.org)

If a taxpayer has any questions regarding this information  
Please contact the township assessing department (616)696-1330 ext. 102.

Dated: November 30, 2017 City of Cedar  
Springs Board of Review





PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
CITY OF CEDAR SPRINGS

ON PROPOSED AMENDED AND RESTATED 2017 TAX  
INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT  
PLAN FOR THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
OF CEDAR SPRINGS MICHIGAN 2017-20136

Public notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Cedar Springs, Kent County, Michigan will conduct the following public hearing at the regular meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 14th, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. local time, at 66 S. Main Cedar Springs, MI 49319 for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed Amended and Restated 2017 Tax Increment Financing Plan and Development Plan for the Downtown Development District, City of Cedar Springs, Michigan 2017-2036 (the “Plan”) of the Cedar Springs Downtown Development Authority (the “DDA”) a downtown development authority created pursuant to Act No. 197 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1975, as amended.

The City Council determined that it is necessary and in the best interest of the public to prevent property value deterioration and increase property tax valuation where possible in its business district, to eliminate the causes of that deterioration and to promote economic growth, and that an amendment to the 2006 Development and Tax Increment Plan is needed to further these interests.

The Plan updates the goals and objectives of the DDA and the estimated revenue of the DDA. The Plan also extends the term and the projects planned for the DDA. The DDA boundaries are unchanged from the 2006 Development and Tax Increment Plan.

A description of the property to which the Plan applies in relation to highways, streets, streams, or otherwise is as follows:

*The boundaries of the Cedar Springs Downtown Development Authority remain unchanged and shall be as follows:*

PART OF THE CITY OF CEDAR SPRINGS IN SECTION 25, T10N, R11W, SO-LON TOWNSHIP, KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN AND SECTION 30, T10N, R10W, NELSON TOWNSHIP, KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN, FURTHER DESCRIBED AS:

BEGINNING AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTH LINE OF MUSKEGON STREET WITH THE WEST LINE OF MAIN STREET; THENCE NORTH ALONG THE WEST LINE OF MUSKEGON STREET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF CHURCH STREET; THENCE WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF CHURCH STREET TO THE WEST LINE OF LOT 8, BLOCK 61, VILLAGE OF CEDAR SPRINGS, EXTENDED; THENCE NORTH ALONG SAID WEST LINE TO THE SOUTH LINE OF BEECH STREET; THENCE WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF BEECH STREET TO THE WEST LINE OF SECOND STREET; THENCE NORTH ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SECOND STREET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF CHERRY STREET; THENCE WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF CHERRY STREET TO THE EAST LINE OF THE West ½ OF LOT 2, BLOCK 38, VILLAGE OF CEDAR SPRINGS; THENCE SOUTH ALONG SAID EAST LINE TO THE NORTH LINE OF ASH STREET; THENCE EAST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF ASH STREET TO THE EAST LINE OF LOT 2, BLOCK 51, VILLAGE OF CEDAR SPRINGS, EXTENDED; THENCE SOUTH ALONG SAID EAST LINE TO THE SOUTH LINE OF LOT 3, BLOCK 62, VILLAGE OF CEDAR SPRINGS; THENCE WEST ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE TO THE CENTERLINE OF THIRD STREET EXTENDED; THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF THIRD STREET EXTENDED TO THE SOUTH LINE OF CHURCH STREET; THENCE WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF CHURCH STREET TO THE EAST LINE OF LOT 2, BLOCK 65, VILLAGE OF CEDAR SPRINGS, THENCE SOUTH ALONG SAID EAST LINE TO THE SOUTH LINE OF MUSKEGON STREET; THENCE WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF MUSKEGON STREET TO THE WEST LINE OF LOT 16, BLOCK 64, VILLAGE OF CEDAR SPRINGS, EXTENDED; THENCE NORTH ALONG SAID WEST LINE TO THE SOUTH LINE OF LOT 4, BLOCK 16, VIL-LAGE OF CEDAR SPRINGS; THENCE EAST ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE 33 FEET; THENCE NORTH PARALLEL WITH THE WEST LINE OF LOT 4, BLOCK 16, VILLAGE OF CEDAR SPRINGS, TO THE SOUTH LINE OF BEECH STREET; THENCE WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF BEECH STREET TO THE CENTERLINE OF SEVENTH STREET;

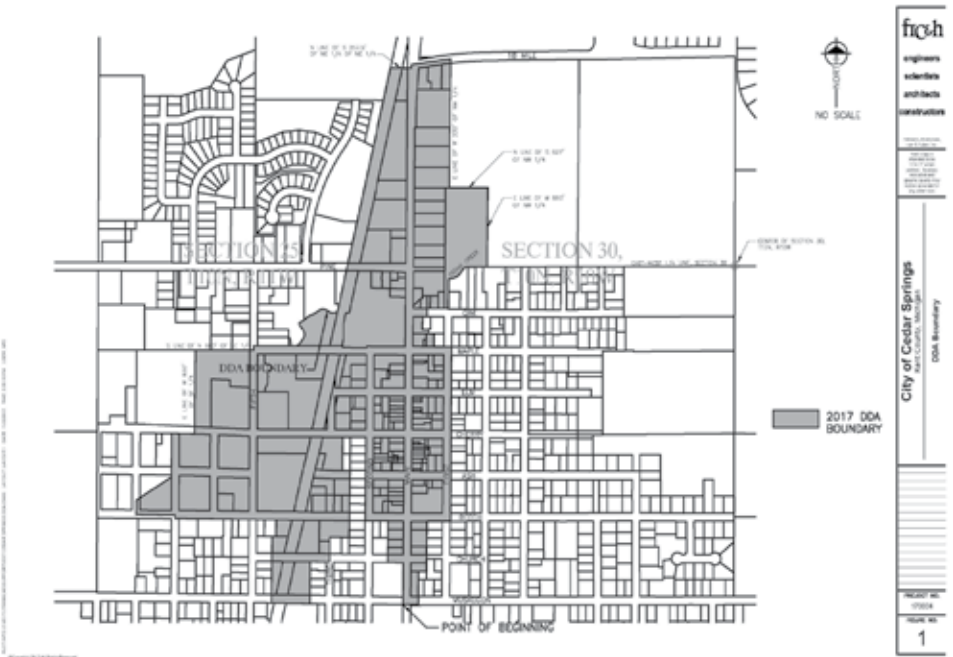
THENCE NORTH ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF SEVENTH STREET TO THE CENTERLINE OF BEECH STREET; THENCE WEST ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF BEECH STREET TO THE CENTERLINE OF EIGHTH STREET; THENCE NORTH ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF EIGHTH STREET TO THE CENTER-LINE OF CEDAR CREEK; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ALONG THE CENTER-LINE OF CEDAR CREEK TO THE WEST LINE OF SEVENTH STREET; THENCE NORTH ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SEVENTH STREET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF CHERRY STREET; THENCE EAST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF CHERRY STREET TO THE EAST LINE OF THE WEST 830 FEET OF THE SE¼ OF SEC-TION 25; THENCE NORTH ALONG SAID EAST LINE TO THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH 660 FEET OF THE SE¼ OF SECTION 25; THENCE EAST ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE TO THE CENTERLINE OF FIFTH STREET; THENCE NORTH ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF FIFTH STREET TO THE NORTH LINE OF MA-

PLE STREET; THENCE EAST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF MAPLE STREET TO THE CENTERLINE OF CEDAR CREEK; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF CEDAR CREEK TO THE WESTERLY LINE OF THE WHITE PINE TRAIL; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID WESTER-LY LINE TO THE NORTH LINE OF THE SOUTH 257.5 FEET OF THE NE¼ OF THE NE¼ OF SECTION 25, T10N, R11W; THENCE EAST ALONG SAID NORTH LINE TO THE CENTERLINE OF MAIN STREET; THENCE NORTH ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF MAIN STREET TO THE CENTERLINE OF 18 MILE ROAD; THENCE EAST ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF 18 MILE ROAD TO THE EAST LINE OF THE WEST 330 FEET OF THE NW¼ OF SECTION 30, T10N, R10W; THENCE SOUTH ALONG SAID EAST LINE TO THE NORTH LINE OF THE SOUTH 627 FEET OF THE NW¼ OF SECTION 30; THENCE EAST ALONG SAID NORTH LINE TO THE EAST LINE OF THE WEST 660 FEET OF THE NW¼ OF SECTION 30; THENCE SOUTH ALONG SAID EAST LINE TO THE EAST-West ¼ LINE OF SECTION 30; THENCE WEST ALONG SAID EAST-West ¼ LINE TO THE CENTERLINE OF CEDAR CREEK; THENCE SOUTHWESTER-LY ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF CEDAR CREEK TO THE CENTERLINE OF FIRST STREET EXTENDED; THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF FIRST STREET EXTENDED TO THE NORTH LINE OF OAK STREET;

THENCE WEST ALONG SAID NORTH LINE TO THE WEST LINE OF THE EAST 28 FEET OF LOT 11, BLOCK 4, VILLAGE OF CEDAR SPRINGS; THENCE SOUTH ALONG SAID WEST LINE TO THE SOUTH LINE OF OAK STREET; THENCE WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF OAK STREET TO A POINT 83 FEET EAST OF THE NW CORNER OF LOT 2, BLOCK 13, VILLAGE OF CE-DAR SPRINGS; THENCE SOUTH PARALLEL WITH THE EAST LINE OF SAID LOT 42 FEET; THENCE WEST PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT THREE FEET; THENCE SOUTH PARALLEL WITH THE EAST LINE OF SAID LOT 54 FEET; THENCE EAST PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT TO THE WEST LINE OF LOT 4, BLOCK 13, VILLAGE OF CEDAR SPRINGS; THENCE SOUTH ALONG SAID WEST LINE TO THE SOUTH LINE OF LOT 4, BLOCK 13, VILLAGE OF CEDAR SPRINGS; THENCE EAST ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE TO THE WEST LINE OF THE EAST 20 FEET OF LOT 6, BLOCK 13, VILLAGE OF CEDAR SPRINGS; THENCE SOUTH ALONG SAID WEST LINE TO THE NORTH LINE OF MAPLE STREET; THENCE EAST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF MAPLE STREET TO THE EAST LINE OF FIRST STREET; THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE EAST LINE OF FIRST STREET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF BEECH STREET; THENCE WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF BEECH STREET TO THE EAST LINE OF LOT 2, BLOCK 60, VILLAGE OF CE-DAR SPRINGS; THENCE SOUTH ALONG SAID EAST LINE TO THE SOUTH LINE OF LOT 2, BLOCK 68, VILLAGE OF CEDAR SPRINGS;

THENCE WEST ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE TO THE EAST LINE OF THE West ½ OF LOT 3, BLOCK 68, VILLAGE OF CEDAR SPRINGS; THENCE SOUTH ALONG SAID EAST LINE TO THE SOUTH LINE OF MUSKEGON STREET; THENCE WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF MUSKEGON STREET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

The following map describes the development area of the proposed plan in relation to highways, streets, streams and otherwise:



At the Hearing, the City Council will hear and consider any comments or writ-ten communications from the public and from jurisdictions levying taxes sub-ject to capture under the plan concerning any aspects of the Plan. All aspects for the plan will be open for discussion at the public hearing. No persons shall be displaced or need to be relocated as a part of this Plan. Maps, plats, and legal descriptions and a description for the plan are available for inspection and copies in the City Clerk’s office at City Hall, 66 S. Main Cedar Springs, Michigan 49319 during normal business hours. Persons having any questions regarding these matters are urged to attend this meeting. If you are unable to attend the public hearing, but wish to have your comments become a part of the official record of the meeting, please submit them in writing to the City Clerk at [clerk@cityofcedarsprings.org](mailto:clerk@cityofcedarsprings.org) or call 616-696-1330.

Dated: November 22, 2017



# CLASSIFIEDS

**Deadline: Monday by 5:00 p.m. • No Billing • All Classifieds Must be Pre-Paid!**  
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## The POST

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REAL ESTATE

**NOTICE:** All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Amendments Act and the Michigan Civil Rights Act, which make it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, familial status, age or marital status, or an intention to making any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial Status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate, which is in violation of the law. To report discrimination, call the Fair Housing Center at 616-451-2980. The HUD toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Household and miscellaneous items. Eric Gorney, Nicole Chatel, Andrew Kerr, Tracia Wright, Tracy Pulec, Joan Temple, Andrew Avery, Lisa Niswonger, Marrianna Wheeler, Duane Pope, Margie Dulyea, Michelle Hawley, Cheri Kwekel, and Allen Loveland

HELP WANTED

**Delivery Driver Opportunity:** White Creek Lumber & Hardware is seeking a full time employee for deliveries and yard work. Candidate must have a chauffeur's license and experience with building materials and millwork equipment. Be at least 18 years old. A Hilo license is preferred. Candidate must be available Monday thru Saturday, 7:30AM-6PM for a 40-45 hour work week. No Sunday hours. Hourly wages plus overtime; benefits and paid vacation after one year. #48b

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Humane Society of West Michigan's **PETS of the WEEK**

**Nova Lee** – American Pit Bull Terrier / Boxer Mix



I am a 2 year old dog looking for my forever home! I would do well in a routine environment with older/respectful children. I have separation anxiety and need a home that can work with me on coping strategies for when I am left alone. I do well with both male and female dogs and living with another playful dog may be helpful with my separation anxiety. I have a lot of love to

give, I just need to find the right home! If I sound like a good fit for you, please come meet me at Humane Society of West Michigan!

**Petunia** – Female Domestic Short Hair



I am a quiet 7 year old cat looking for my forever home! I would do best in a relaxed and quiet home where I could have my own space when needed. As a Silver Paws Society member (animals ages 7 years and older) by adoption fee is waived. Please come meet me at Humane Society of West Michigan!

Humane Society of West Michigan is open Tuesday-Friday 12pm-7pm and Saturday-Sunday 11am-4pm.

### HUMANE SOCIETY

For more information on the Humane Society of West Michigan, call (616) 453-8900 or visit them at 3077 Wilson NW, just ½ mile north of Three Mile Road during adoption hours or visit [www.hswestmi.org](http://www.hswestmi.org)

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(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)
(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)
(25)	25 words or less \$12.00	\$12.40	\$12.60
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\$13.60	\$13.80	\$14.00	\$14.20

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# HUNTING/OUTDOORS



**Ranger Steve's  
Nature Niche**  
By Ranger Steve Mueller

## Gift of Christmas birding

You, your family, and friends are encouraged to participate in a day with the birds. The purpose of the Christmas Bird Count held between 14 December and 5 January is for people and for birds. Frank Chapman began the annual count in 1900 as an alternative to an annual event where people killed as many birds as possible on Christmas Day to see who could shoot the most.

This year marks the 118<sup>th</sup> year for the count. It is the longest and largest existing citizen science survey. Over 40,000 people survey specified count circles each year for comradery with others interested in the gift of seeing birds and to gather population data that assists scientists. Discovering winter bird population abundance, distribution, and changes over time helps us understand bird ecology.

Some bird species are increasing while others are declining. One aspect frequently reported in the news is the change in where birds are found in winter. Several species are occupying more northerly locations as climate changes. The Christmas Bird Count supplements the Breeding Bird Surveys to provide a more complete understanding for species. Our local count is the Saturday after Christmas.

Mark December 30 to search for birds with the Grand Rapids Audubon Club (GRAC). Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center (WWC), 11715 Vergennes Rd. in Lowell, Michigan 49331. Field teams depart by 8:00 AM. Return around noon for lunch. Joan Heuvelhorst will prepare a lunch. Lunch costs \$5.00 or you can BYO. Choose to participate part or all day.

The GRAC count circle surveyed has its center at Honey Creek and 2 Mile Rds. A radius of 7.5 miles is consistent among all count circles in North, Central, and South Americas. Our group of 40 to 60 people assembles between 7:30 and 8 a.m. to divide into small survey teams. Each team surveys birds in selected portions of the count circle. Experienced observers assist with identification and help participants learn about species' nature niches. Most birding is done close to the car as teams drive specified areas. Some birders participate during the morning and others continue all day.

I compile the data and submit it to the National Audubon Society where statistical analysis is addressed over a period of months and years to discover trends and changes in bird population numbers and movements in the Americas. Participation is free but donations are welcome to support the National Audubon Program.

Wear layers of clothing so you can add or remove items to remain comfortable. Binoculars and field guides are helpful but Audubon members will share if you do not have them.

Plan on having a great time enjoying birds and bird watchers. Make new friends.

Direct inquiries to count coordinators:

Tom Leggett: (616) 249-3382, email [tomleggett@hotmail.com](mailto:tomleggett@hotmail.com) or Ranger Steve (Mueller) 616-696-1753, email [odybrook@chartermi.net](mailto:odybrook@chartermi.net).

Visit the Grand Rapids Audubon Club website ([graud.org](http://graud.org)).

Natural history questions or topic suggestions can be directed to Ranger Steve (Mueller) at [odybrook@chartermi.net](mailto:odybrook@chartermi.net) - Ody Brook Nature Sanctuary, 13010 Northland Dr. Cedar Springs, MI 49319 or call 616-696-1753.

## Campground host applications being accepted for 2018 season

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is seeking volunteer campground hosts in Michigan state parks, recreation areas and rustic state forest campgrounds for the 2018 camping season.

In exchange for 30 hours of service per week, including duties such as helping campers find their campsites, answering camper questions, planning campground activities and performing light park maintenance duties, campground hosts enjoy waived camping fees.

Both individuals and couples may apply for volunteer positions that begin as early as April and last through October. Volunteer hosts must be 18 years of age and provide their own camping equipment, food and other personal items.

"For many visitors, the camping experience wouldn't be the same without campground hosts," said Miguel Rodriguez, promotional agent for the DNR. "These dedicated volunteers engage with park visitors by helping out around the campground, answering camping and park questions and even hosting kids' crafts and fireside activities. All of



The DNR is accepting applications for volunteers to work as campground hosts in Michigan state parks and rustic state forest campgrounds during the 2018 season. It's a great way to camp for free and get a behind-the-scenes park experience.

this is accomplished while they are enjoying some of Michigan's most beautiful outdoor destinations."

Interested volunteers can click on "campground host" at [www.michigan.gov/dnrvolunteers](http://www.michigan.gov/dnrvolunteers) to learn more about the volunteer host campground program, download an application and waiver, and view a vacancy host campground report, which is updated regularly and indicates when and where hosts are needed in specific parks.

Hosts are screened and interviewed by park managers and selected based on familiarity with the state park system, camping experience, special skills, availability and knowledge of the area. Hosts must participate in a two-day host training session within the first two years of being selected as a host. The 2018 training will take place June 6-7 at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center in Roscommon.

For information, contact Miguel Rodriguez at 517-284-6127 or [rodriguez2@michigan.gov](mailto:rodriguez2@michigan.gov).

## Fishing Tip: Where to find northern pike in Michigan

From the Michigan DNR

As the temperatures continue to cool, fishing for northern pike will continue to pick up. Pike are extremely popular during the ice fishing season but are readily available throughout much of the year.

There are many notable northern pike fisheries located throughout Michigan, including on Muskegon, Portage and Manistee lakes and also Michigamme and Houghton lakes. But this species can be found in many lakes and virtually all larger rivers in the state.

Please note there are many regulations for northern pike regarding minimum size and possession limit. Be sure to read up on this species in the 2016-2017 Michigan Fishing Guide. Download a pdf of the guide at <http://www.eregulations.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/16MIFW-LR-17.pdf>.



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Notice

Four-way

Crashes

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of Secure Beginnings.

Consumers who are awaiting arrival of purchases should do the following, immediately:

If purchases were made via **credit card**, dispute the charges with your card issuer. Contact info for the issuer is generally found on the reverse of your card. Most issuers provide an online means of filing a dispute.

If purchases were made by **debit card**, you must contact your issuing bank. The process for filing a debit card dispute varies. If the debit card was used “as a credit card,” meaning without supplying your pin number, you may have additional rights. Proof of purchase will be required to open the dispute.

If purchases were made via **Paypal**, please take the following steps:

- Log in to your PayPal account.
- Go to the **Resolution Center**.
- Select the dispute you want to escalate, then click **Escalate**.
- Follow the instructions.
- Click **Escalate to a Claim**.

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defined in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) published by the Federal Highway Administration and serve as the criteria that must be fulfilled for road agencies to implement a traffic control modification. Based on the warrant study conducted, neither volume levels nor crash numbers/patterns meet warrant criteria for a traffic control modification,” she said.

Lamoreaux said that the most recent traffic counts at this intersection indicate that the volumes are about a quarter of the required volumes.

“The accident warrant in the MUTCD states that a 4-way stop may be considered if there have been 5 or more correctable accidents in a 12-month period. Correctable accidents include right-angle, right-turn, and left-turn accidents. Over the last 5-¾ years (2012-September 2017) there have been 3 correctable (angle-type) crashes; this averages to less than 1 per year,” she explained.

Lamoreaux added that there are currently “Stop Ahead” signs in each direction on Ritchie Avenue and intersection warning signs in both directions on 15 Mile Road.

The Kent County Road Commission will continue to monitor the intersection for changes that would warrant traffic control modification, she said.

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resulted in \$19.3 billion in total costs, according to the report. For index crime, these values come from jury awards for pain, suffering and lost quality of life due to physical injuries or fear. Index crimes include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft.

“This report underlines the vital role of traffic safety efforts in our state,” said Michael L. Prince, OHSP director. “Traffic crashes come with a tremendous personal toll and an enormous price tag. Using federal funds for seat belt and drunk driving patrols throughout the year helps save both the lives and the money of our state’s residents.”

The five counties with the highest crash costs are Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Kent and Genesee. Keweenaw County had the lowest crash costs.

Alcohol-involved crashes accounted for \$800 million in monetary costs and \$3.9 billion in total costs. Injury-crash involved unbuckled occupants accounted for \$500 million in monetary costs and \$2.6 billion in total costs. Crashes involving teen drivers accounted for almost \$800 million in monetary costs and \$3.2 billion in total costs. Motorcycle-involved crashes accounted for \$300 million in monetary costs and \$1.8 billion in total costs.

Researchers found that both traffic crashes and crime impose significant economic and social burdens on individuals and society through injury and loss of life, as well as property damage and loss. Efforts to reduce crashes and crime often result in competing demands for scarce public resources. Comparable and up-to-date cost data on crashes and crime contribute to informed decision making about allocation of these resources.

The first crime/crash report was generated in 1988. At that time, Michigan traffic crashes resulted in \$2.3 billion in monetary costs and \$7.1 billion in total costs. Similar studies were conducted in 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2009. The 2015 report, which includes county-by-county information, is available at [www.michigan.gov/ohsp](http://www.michigan.gov/ohsp).



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### RN Case Manager:

Needed to provide home health care to clients in Kent and Southern Montcalm County. Organizational skills and excellent communication skills are a must. We do lots of IV infusion and Wound Care services. This position does require participation in an after hours on-call rotation (would be some evenings and weekend visits during this rotation). Previous experience in the home health care field preferred but will train. **This is a full time position with benefit package included.**

### Home Health Aides/ CENA's:

Visits are available in a variety of areas in Kent and Montcalm counties. Competitive wage scale, flexible scheduling, paid time off and travel time.

## For more information please call:

**Michelle Thomas at 231-937-4514 or fax resume to 231-937-7246**

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