



Finances looking good for annual Freedom Fest

by Andie Peck
Staff Writer

Some say the Freedom Festival is the biggest and best thing to happen to Cass City all summer, and others would agree with them.

Residents from the community and beyond look forward to the festival all summer for its endless entertainment and well-known parade and fireworks.

This year's 36th annual celebration takes place July 3 through July 5 and will again feature lots of activities and events for the public to enjoy.

In order to make such a widespread and detailed festival happen, the Freedom Festival Committee relies heavily on donations from the community.

The committee begins planning the year's festival in January, with meetings just about every month, and they handle every aspect of planning, from finances to recruiting volunteers.

Carrie Luana, treasurer for the Freedom Festival Committee, said organizers are actively seeking donations.

"So far we have about 25 to 30 donations, adding up to about \$5,600," she said. "But we will continue to accept donations up until the festival starts, and donations often keep coming in until that time."

"We've got a good start," she said.

Luana and Emily Phillips, co-chair of the committee, said that while people across the community are often willing to donate what they can to help out the festival, their

biggest donations usually come from local clubs.

"The Lion's Club has always donated, and without their donation every year the festival would not be possible," Phillips said, adding that the festival also receives donations from the Gavel Club and Rolling Hills Golf Course, among others.

The biggest expense related to the celebration every year is the fireworks display, sponsored by the Cass City Lion's Club this year, and the parade. This year, the fireworks will cost about \$7,000 and the parade will cost about \$2,500.

Another big expense is always the children's area, according to Phillips. This year there will be some new water activities available for the kids to enjoy along with the other entertainment options for them. As in the past, Thumb National Bank is sponsoring the attraction.

Phillips said the biggest draw every year for the public is the parade.

"It is a time to come and support the community," Phillips said. "It is a special time of the year and everybody enjoys it."

This year's festival will feature mini-tractor pulls, a golf tournament, a beauty pageant and more.

Phillips said many people come from out of town to Cass City to participate in the festival. It's one of the biggest draws in the area each summer, she noted.

"You get a lot of people that come in to spend the weekend in town, and there are always a lot of fun things for them to do,"

she said.

Co-chair of the committee, Rick Champagne, added that events at the festival are a great way to spend time as a family. "There are a lot of chances for family

fun," he said.

Champagne also emphasized that without the support of the entire community, the festival would not be able to take place every year like it does.

Cass City's 36th Annual **FREEDOM FESTIVAL** Schedule of Events July 3-6, 2014

START - END TIMES

LOCATION

THURSDAY, JULY 3RD 2014

12:00 PM	4th of July Golf Tourney - Cash Prizes, 50/50, Hot Dogs at the turn, Steak Dinner	Rolling Hills Golf Course
1PM-5PM / 7PM-9PM	Cass City Pool - Free Swim to Public	Swimming Pool
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Tiny Sparklers Patriotic Pageant Ice Cream Social Hosted by Kevin Daley for Senate following the Pageant	6447 Main St. (Formerly VIP Salon)

FRIDAY, JULY 4TH 2014

12:00 PM	Festival Begins	
12:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Craft Show	Park
12:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Food Vendors	Park
1PM-5PM / 7PM-9PM	Cass City Pool - Free Swim to Public	Swimming Pool
12:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Petting Zoo & Pony Rides	Park
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Methodist Church Ice Cream Social	South Pavilion
6:00 PM	Classic Car Show	McDonalds
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	Music in Rotary Park	Rotary Park
7:45 PM	Cass City Car Cruise	Town
9:00 PM - 1:30 AM	Entertainment Tent - Featuring DJ/Karaoke by Mike Wilson	Rolling Hills Golf Course

SATURDAY, JULY 5TH 2014

8:00 AM	Hills & Dales Rehab 5K & 8K Race & Toddler Trot	Hills & Dales
9:30 AM	Parade Entries Meet	Garfield Street
Before Parade	Women's Life #887 Snacks - Donation (proceeds go to Baker College Scholarship Fund)	Front of Baker College
9:30 AM	Kids Parade Line-Up for Decoration Contest - Sharon Erla	Chemical Bank
10:30 AM	36th Annual Grand Parade Sponsored by: Walther Farms	Downtown
Noon - 5:00 PM	Cass City (CCRC) Airplane & Helicopter Display and Demo	Softball Field in Park
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	AAUW Kids Area Paint In	Gazebo in Park
After Parade	Gift presented by Kevin Daley for Senate to the Village of Cass City at the Gazebo.	Gazebo in Park
After Parade	Cass City Lions Club BBQ Chicken Dinner	Lion's Club Pavilion
After Parade	3-on-3 Basketball Tournament	Park
After Parade	2-Cycle Tractor Display	Park
After Parade	Excel Dance Studio Dancers	North Pavilion
After Parade - 5:00 PM	Thumb Area Tail Waggers	Park
After Parade - 8:00 PM	Kids Area - FREE Co-Sponsored by: Thumb National Bank & Local Community Donations	Park
After Parade - 7:00 PM	Cass City Pool - Free Swim to Public. Sponsored by: Reggie Ignash / Farm Bureau	Swimming Pool
After Parade - 9:00 PM	Craft Show	Park
After Parade - 9:00 PM	Petting Zoo & Pony Rides	Park
After Parade - 9:00 PM	Food Vendors	Park
3:00 PM - 9:00 PM	MT Pocket Pullers Tractor Pull	North of Park
Dusk	Grand Fireworks! Sponsored by: Cass City Lions Club	Park & School
After Fireworks - 1:30 AM	Entertainment Tent - Featuring Live Music by Trigger Happy (\$5 cover charge after 10PM)	Rolling Hills Golf Course

SUNDAY JULY 6TH 2014

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Cass City Pool - Free Swim to Public. Sponsored by: Coach Light Pharmacy	Swimming Pool
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Music in Rotary Park	Rotary Park

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Music in Rotary Park

Local bands set to perform during July 4th celebration

by Andie Peck
Staff Writer

Cass City and area residents looking for summer fun this year will have the chance to enjoy some live music, through the Music in Rotary Park summer concert series.

Those in town for the Freedom Festival will be able to catch a live show as well, as bands will play during the festival.

This year, the Fulchers, a local band that plays a variety of music, will perform at the band shell at Rotary Park Friday, July 4, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Carolyn Sorenson, coordinator for the summer concert series, said many local bands enjoy

playing at Rotary Park because there is always such a great turnout from the community.

"It is an easy venue for them to be at," Sorenson said. "Some of the bands have been with us for years."

She explained that every concert is free and open to the public, and anyone is welcome to come and listen.

New to the concert series this year is the addition of a performance on Sunday, July 6, that will feature inspirational and patriotic music from area churches and musicians. The performance will take place from 4 to 8 p.m.

Sorenson said she was glad they were able to add the extra performance this year, and she had

been hoping to do something like this for a while.

"I've been thinking about doing something like this for some time now," she said. "We try to switch it up every year. We try to keep it interesting."

The July 6 performance will be sponsored by the Freedom Festival committee, the Cass City Ministerial Association, Living Word Ministries and the village of Cass City. Revive Ministries will provide a light dinner for everyone free of charge.

Sorenson said the summer concert series began June 27 and will run every Friday night at Rotary Park through Aug. 22 — except Aug. 1, when the park will be used for Summer Mania.



LAST YEAR, Music in Rotary Park featured a variety of bands, and this year will be no different. The Fulchers, a local band that performs a variety of music, will perform on Friday during the Freedom Festival and Sunday will feature inspirational and patriotic music from area churches and musicians.



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Rolling Hills set to bring back entertainment this 4th of July

by **Andie Peck**
Staff Writer

The entertainment tent that was a big hit last year will once again be a part of the 36th annual Freedom Festival.

The tent will be located at Rolling Hills Golf Course Friday, July 4, and Saturday, July 5, starting at 9 p.m.

Friday will feature a DJ in the tent and everyone from the public is welcome. There is no cover charge.

Saturday, any age is welcome in the tent before the fireworks begin, but after the fireworks there will be a \$5 cover charge and only those ages 21 and older will be allowed in the tent.

Saturday will feature live entertainment by the local band Trigger Happy, which will be playing sets before and after the fireworks. Trigger Happy performs a variety of songs from the '80s and '90s.

Amy Lowman, event coordinator and co-owner of Rolling Hills Golf Course, said last year was the first year they have offered the entertainment tent.

"We just thought we would offer a little live entertainment as part of the festival," Lowman said. "It is something fun to do while watching the fireworks."

Lowman said many people come to the golf course to watch the fireworks Saturday night, and this helps offer a little more entertainment for before and after.

"We'll have a big area for people to talk, the clubhouse will be open and there will be plenty of areas for people to dance and have a good time," she said.

The Cass City Lions Club and Cass City Gavel Club always help out with the event, according to Lowman, who said the golf course always tries to give back to their organizations.



FIREWORKS EXPLODED in the sky over Cass City during last year's Freedom Festival to close out the weekend of patriotic celebration.

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Patriotic residents set to sparkle in pageant

by Andie Peck
Staff Writer

The people of Cass City will once again get the chance to show their patriotic pride, but this time with a little twist.

The popular Freedom Festival beauty pageant will get somewhat of a makeover this year. The pageant will now be called the "Tiny Sparklers Patriotic Pageant", according to organizers, who are hoping to encourage boys to participate.

The pageant will take place Thursday, July 3, at 6 p.m. in the VIP Fitness building.

Joey Kreeger, coordinator of the event, explained the pageant is designed to boost the festival both in terms of entertainment and boosting financial support.

"It is a fundraiser for the festival," she said. "So it costs \$5 to enter, and every dollar goes back to the festival to be used for anything they need."

Kreeger said she wants this year's pageant to feature a casual atmosphere with a focus on simply having fun.

She noted forms to register to be a contestant are available at the Cass City Municipal Building, or people can contact her.

The pageant is still in need of contestants, and

Kreeger urges anyone to get involved.

"It is a good way to show your patriotic side," said Kreeger, who pointed out the winners for the pageant will be selected after considering a variety of factors.

"It is not going to be based on beauty," she said. "But rather, for example, who wears the best red, white and blue outfit or who has the best personality."

Kreeger explained she chose to structure the pageant this way because she doesn't want to place an emphasis on the beauty of the participants. "I feel like beauty is too prevalent in pageants like this," she said. "Beauty should be from the inside out, and I want to showcase that."

Kreeger added that there is also not going to be just one winner in every category.

"Contestants will be recognized for everything from most creative outfit to best answer," she said. "Instead of there being one winner, I'd rather there be a top 10 for every category."

Kreeger has sponsored and worked at the pageant in the past, which prompted her to step up and host the event this year.

"It's fun, it's really fun," she said. "It is always great to see the contestants up there having a good time, and it's always something the community looks forward to."

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AREA CHILDREN enjoyed last year's Pageant in the Park. This year, the Tiny Sparklers Patriotic Pageant will be Thursday, July 3 at 6 p.m. allowing area residents to once again show off their patriotic pride.

Fun facts for Independence Day

by Andie Peck
Staff Writer

*The oldest continuous Independence Day celebration is the Bristol Fourth of July parade in Bristol, R.I. The town has hosted the parade every year since 1785.

*July 4 also marks a day of independence for the Philippines and Rwanda. For the Philippines, July 4 marks "Republic Day," the day that the U.S. officially recognized the nation as an independent state in 1946. However, the country has celebrated an official Independence Day on June 12, since 1962.

*Americans reportedly consume about 155 million hotdogs on Independence Day alone. However, the origins of how the hotdog came to be a popular American food remain a mystery.

*The famous Liberty Bell has not been rung since 1846, due to increasing concerns about its crack. Instead, the bell is tapped 13 times to signal for bells across the country to start ringing.

*The Fourth of July wasn't a legal federal holiday until Congress declared it to be so in 1941.

*There have been 28 versions of the United States flag to-date. The latest version, designed in 1958 to accommodate Alaska and Hawaii, was designed by a 17-year-old whose pattern won a national competition for the new flag.

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Wide variety of vendors and crafters this year

by **Andie Peck**
Staff Writer

The 36th annual Freedom Festival will include many crafters and food vendors to offer entertainment Friday and Saturday for those looking for fun between the parade and the fireworks.

Vendors and crafters will be in Cass City Recreation Park on Friday, July 4 from 12 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, July 5 from after the parade is finished until 9 p.m.

There will be about the same amount of food vendors this year

as in years past, but a few favorites from years past unfortunately will be absent due to the dates of the festival for this year.

Food vendors will include many local favorites like Fabes Family Concessions and Sunshine Concessions, as well as the always popular Lions Club chicken dinner, which will take place at the Lions Club Pavilion after the parade.

Emily Phillips, co-chair of the festival, said the committee is working to fill those open vendor spots before the festival begins.

She explained it is never an

exact science to determine how many people will be vendors each year, and sometimes it is best to just play it by ear.

"It's always a challenge," she said. "There's always other events going on, but we do the best we can."

The Freedom Festival Committee is expecting less craft vendors this year than in years past, but say that this is normal for this time and expect more still to sign up before the festival begins.

The variety of craft vendors is expected to differ, and a wide

range of options will be available to shoppers and festival-goers. They will be arranged in a flea market style, where every vendor will have different wares for purchase.

Festival committee members placed an emphasis on the fact that there will be a wide variety of vendors available to the public.

Other events happening in the park on Friday and Saturday for the festival include a petting zoo and pony rides on Friday and Saturday starting at noon, the 3-on-3 basketball tournament

beginning after the parade and the free kids' area, co-sponsored by Thumb National Bank and local community donations, beginning after the parade.

For those interested in viewing it, a complete schedule of all the Freedom Festival events is available online at ccfreedomfest.org, as well as registration forms for various aspects of the festival that are still accepting participants.

Platinum sponsors of the festival this year are the Cass City Lions Club, Rolling Hills Golf Course, Thumb Cellular, Thumb National Bank and Walther Farms.

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Freedom Festival Parade ready for another great year

by Andie Peck
Staff Writer

The Cass City Freedom Festival's main event, the parade, is ready to roll for another great year.

The parade, which as in years past will be sponsored by Walther Farms, will begin promptly at 10:30 a.m. at the west end of Cass City at the intersection of Main St. and Brooker St., one block east of McDonalds.

Tyler Perry, chairman of the parade, said this year should provide the community with another memorable parade.

"We have about 45 entries right now, which is pretty normal for

this time," he said. "I expect to get about another dozen entries last minute."

Despite being a relatively small town, Cass City is widely known in the area for their Fourth of July parade.

Perry said this is due to a variety of things, including the wonderful support from the community the Freedom Festival receives every year.

This year he expects, in addition to community floats, to see some political entries in the parade due to it being an election year.

He added that parade viewers can also expect numerous musical performers and other enter-

tainment from the parade, which should be about an hour long.

"We also have some stilt walkers and fire performers," he said.

Perry explained he has had a lot of help setting up the parade, and volunteer help is the key to making sure everything having to do with it runs smoothly.

"I've had some help setting up the parade route, and the day of the parade I'll have some help directing traffic," he said.

Perry added that the head of the parade is always reserved for certain groups from the community.

"The head of the parade is always reserved for the VFW," he said. "The marching band will also be up front playing some patriotic music, but military is always at the beginning."

Perry added that groups like the American Legion and the Ladies Auxiliary are usually at the beginning of the parade, as well.

Other than that, Perry tries to keep floats toward the front of the parade, and disperse bands so music is evenly distributed as the parade goes on.

He also tries to keep cars and tractors together, but after that the order just depends on who gets there first.

For more information about the parade, or entry forms, visit the Freedom Festival's website at www.ccfreedomfest.org.



A TALENTED JUGGLER was among those who joined the ranks of last year's successful Freedom Festival Grand Parade in Cass City Saturday morning.



A TEAM of Clydesdales was a crowd favorite during last year's Freedom Festival parade.

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M/T Pocket Pullers to add competitive edge to festival

by Andie Peck
Staff Writer

M/T Pocket Pullers, a crowd favorite tractor pulling organization, will once again return to Cass City to take part in the Freedom Festival.

Melissa Richardson, treasurer for the organization, said the event will take place Saturday, July 5 at 3 p.m. at the Cass City sledding hill.

"We've been coming to Cass City since 1999," she noted. "We've been there for years now."

The pulling event consists of quarter-scale modified tractors, as well as local lawnmowers and local UTVs and ATVs.

"We have a group that follows us that has specif-

ic tractors that they pull, but any locally based people are encouraged to join, as well. We don't want to turn away any local people," Richardson said.

She added registration is still available for the event, and those interested in participating will be able to register two hours before pulls start.

"We also ask that those participating be at the event one hour before pulls start," she said.

Richardson said the organization primarily stays within the Kingston area, or a 150 mile radius.

"We are a family-oriented group of people," she continued. "We seem to be like family. It is not just a competition."


One of the newer events this year is a kids' pull with garden tractors, available to kids 4 years old and older.



MELISSA RICHARDSON competes in the Ultra Light tractor class as part of the M/T Pocket Pullers organization. During this year's Freedom Festival, the M/T Pocket Pullers will be holding a tractor pull competition on Saturday after the parade.

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Car show set to be a blast from the past

by Andie Peck
Staff Writer

One of the staples of the Freedom Festival every year is the classic car show, where people from the community have the chance to view antique cars from all over the Thumb. According to event coordinator Jim Perry, this year should be a great show.

McDonald's on July 4, is free for those who register and people can start to register around 6 p.m.

"Every year, we get all kinds of cars, from custom, to hotrods to antique. We even get a few motorcycles," Perry said.

The car show plaque will feature Floyd McIntosh and his 1964 Mercury Comet Caliente.

Perry said the club elected to have McIntosh

on the plaque, explaining that the club holds a meeting about every month, and voted on the plaque about a month ago.

"We vote on it in our club meeting and we always try to pick a local person," he said.

During the event, Perry also draws the names of those who registered out of a hat to win prizes. These prizes are the result of donations made by local businesses.

While there is usually a cruise of the cars after the event, Perry emphasized that the show is in no way associated with it. He stated it is hard to organize a cruise and manage it effectively.

"We are not involved with the cruise at all," he said.

Perry said the majority of the cars that come

to Cass City for the show are from different towns. He estimates that less than half of the vehicles that participate in the show are from Cass City.

Many of the cars come in from Saginaw, Kinde, Bad Axe, Caro and Sandusky, and the show is free and open to the public.

Perry said, no matter how many cars participate, the show always offers members of the community the chance to get together and talk about something they love.

"They come from all over the Thumb," he said. "It's just a chance to get together and meet people that you maybe haven't seen in a year."

Perry said last year was a great year, drawing in about 100 cars to the show. He expects a similar, if not better, turnout this year.

"We've been doing this for many years, and it has grown more every year," he said.

Intern's notebook

Small town traditions make for a memorable holiday

by Andie Peck
Staff Writer

To longtime residents of Cass City, the Fourth of July has always been associated with the Freedom Festival. However, some may not know that the Freedom Festival did not have its first year until 1979. Yep, that's right. It seems pretty recent, but that first year was a banner year for the festival, drawing in roughly 15,000 people to the village. It featured a 75 unit long parade that took 50 minutes to go by, and day-long festivities that began at 7:30 a.m.

After that year, the festival became a staple of the village. People came to expect it, and I can see why. The Freedom Festival is a great way to celebrate Independence Day and truly honor what the holiday is all about.

That first year saw many of the Freedom Festival traditions being formed that everybody knows today, like tractor pulls, the tot run, live music in the park, and of course, the parade. Many of these events have persisted over the years and have helped the festival grow bigger and better. While during that first year people were not sure if the festival would be annual, they hoped it would come back for another year, and it certainly has, growing into something that draws people into the town from miles around.

So, in a sense, it seems like times haven't changed at all. Old traditions evolved and changed, and new traditions were formed, but the importance of the holiday remains the same. Celebrations like the Freedom Festival give people in towns like this a chance to spend time with family, and a chance to get out and enjoy their town. They also give them a chance to become a part of the larger history of the holiday and make a name for themselves.

And while I love to hear about all the Fourth of July celebrations that happen across the world, I think the hometown celebrations like this are what truly make the Fourth of July what it is. I haven't been in town yet for the festival, but I'm looking forward to it this year. I'm looking forward to seeing how Cass City makes the Freedom Festival a part of its history and a part of the history of the Fourth, and I have a feeling it is going to shape my idea of what the Fourth of July is, and what it means.

FLOYD McINTOSH and his 1964 Mercury Comet Caliente will be featured on the Classic Car Show plaque for this year's Freedom Festival. Last year, McIntosh was one of about 100 people to display their car at the show.



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A message worth repeating

When the last hot dog is eaten, the last event is over and Festival number 36 is history, let's remember why we celebrate. We need to be reminded that freedom still prevails and our individual freedom is the envy of people everywhere.

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Clarke Haire - Publisher Tom Montgomery - Editor
Krysta Boyce - Sales Executive Deb Severance - Composition
Andie Peck - Intern

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Festival set to hold a variety of sports

by Andie Peck Staff

There will be many different sporting attractions offered during this year's Freedom Festival in Cass City.

Whether you want to try your hand at golf or basketball, there is something for everyone.

Hills and Dales General Hospital Center for Rehabilitation Walk/Run

The 18th annual Hills and Dales General Hospital Center for Rehabilitation's 5K Run/Walk and 8K Run are slated for Saturday, July 5, at 8 a.m. This year will feature an added "Toddler Trot" for any kids 8 years and younger who want to run a half-mile course around the hospital.

Pre-registration for \$15 is available until Thursday, July 3, at 3 p.m. On-site registration, which is \$18, is from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. the morning of the race.

The race will start and finish at the Medical Arts and Rehabilitation Center and will follow a course through the village.

Trophies will be awarded to the 5K Walk, 5K Run, 8K Run overall male and female and masters male and female winners. Trophies and medals will be given to the top three places in each age division.

For early registration, go to hdghrehab.com to register online. Age groups range from 8 years old and younger to 60 years old and up. All participants receive free passes to the Cass City fitness facility and there will be raffle drawings for other prizes, as well.

Rolling Hills Golf Tournament

Other events will include the 24th annual Rolling Hills Golf Tournament, slated for Thursday,

July 3, at Rolling Hills Golf Course.

Check-in will begin at noon, with an entry fee of \$260 per team. The field is limited to the first 18 teams that register, and cash prizes will be awarded to the first three teams that place, subject to an 18 team entry.

The format for play is a four-man scramble and each four-man team must equal at least a 45 handicap with only one man an eight or under. Handicaps will be verified.

The tournament will begin with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Players can take a chance at the 50/50 raffle, as well as other games and prizes.

The entry fee includes 18 holes of play with a cart, six drink tickets, lunch at the turn and a steak dinner.

Sponsorship opportunities are available.

For more information on the event, call Amy Lowman at (989) 551-1141 or visit Rolling Hills Golf Course for an event flyer.

3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

One of the most popular events for the Freedom Festival is the 3-on-3 basketball tournament. It is set to begin at approximately noon July 5 for ages 8 to 14, and approximately 1 p.m. for ages 14 to adult.

The tournament, known as "Fire in the Sky", offers various age brackets for play ranging from as young as 8 years old to 18 years and over.

Teams for each 3-on-3 game will consist of three to four players. Teams will be grouped in similar age divisions, but based primarily on the oldest player. One point will be awarded for each basket, and the first team to reach 16 points by a margin of at least two points will win, or the team ahead after 30 minutes of play will win.

The tournament is a double elimination style event and prizes will be issued to the first and second place finishes in each event.



REGGIE IGNASH and Jamie Bulla of Farm Bureau Insurance pose with area children at the Cass City pool. Farm Bureau Insurance will be sponsoring the pool Friday and Saturday during the Freedom Festival.

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Jim WENCEL For State Representative



Dear Friends, I am pleased to announce that I am a candidate for State Representative. Our economy is improving, however, it is still very fragile to say the least. While things are better, there is much more work to be done. **My experience as an educator, administrator and vice president of a public finance company gives me the right tools to go to Lansing and hit the ground running.** In an era of term limits, it is imperative that Huron and Tuscola counties send a representative to Lansing with the **right blend of experience and integrity to help continue Michigan's turnaround.** The future of our state, children and grandchildren depend on it.

Over the next few months I will be traveling to thousands of doors, meeting and visiting with citizens in our communities. I hope that I get a chance to visit with you. In the meantime, if you have any questions about my candidacy, or want to share your thoughts on Michigan's turnaround or other issues, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jim Wencel, Candidate for State Representative
989.315.1001

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What people are saying about Jim Wencel



Jim and Lynn Abke
"I have known Jim Wencel for over 25 years. He certainly respects our senior citizens and goes out of his way to help them as he does with everyone he encounters. Jim Wencel has a very good sense of what the business and the education community needs."
-Lynn Abke, Former Owner of Thumb Office Supply



"Jim Wencel has been a strong supporter of agriculture and our kids. Working with him to develop the Agri-Science curriculum at Mayville High School and seeing first hand his leadership abilities in our local school district was a pleasure. I also enjoyed hunting pheasants with Jim. Jim has the right leadership qualities the Thumb area needs to represent us in Lansing."
-Doug Graham, retired Agriculture Teacher and FFA advisor, Mayville High School



"I met Jim Wencel when we hired him to be our high school principal in 1988. He was a respected member of our community and a very valuable asset to our school system. He supported all our programs including the Agri-Science and FFA program. I know that he will be a strong supporter of agriculture representing the Thumb in Lansing."
-Robert Steele, Former School Board President and Dairy Farmer



Jim, Rita and Children

Jim's Priorities

- ✓ Creation and retention of **GOOD PAYING JOBS**
- ✓ Coming up with a permanent solution to Michigan's **ROAD FUNDING** problem
- ✓ **REDUCING TAXES** on retirement savings
- ✓ **100% SUPPORT OF LIFE** at every stage
- ✓ Restoring funds to education along with practical reforms to **IMPROVE OUR SCHOOLS**
- ✓ Supporting our **2nd AMENDMENT FREEDOMS**
- ✓ Ensuring our state gets out of the way of our Agricultural Economy
- ✓ Coordination of funding programs which provides **SERVICES FOR OUR SENIOR CITIZENS**
- ✓ **SUPPORT FOR OUR VETERANS**

"I have known Jim Wencel for 40 years. He has been a valuable member of the Michigan Rural Healthcare Preservation board which helps manage rural hospitals in the state including the Deckerville Community Hospital. His insight into health care and his experience working in education will make him a valuable asset for the Thumb area at the state capitol."
-Dr. Gerald Schell



★Vote★
Wencel

Strong and Experienced Leadership

- ★ Married, wife Rita, four children
- ★ Former Superintendent, Bad Axe Public Schools
- ★ Former Principal, Mayville Public Schools
- ★ Former Deputy Sheriff (Marine Division)
- ★ Member, Michigan's Sheriff's Association
- ★ **Member, Michigan Farm Bureau**
- ★ Member, National Rifle Association
- ★ Member, Michigan Coalition for Responsible Gun Owners (MCGRO)
- ★ **Member, Huron County Right to Life**
- ★ **Endorsed. Michigan Right to Life**
- ★ Member, QDMA
- ★ Board of Directors for the Michigan Rural Healthcare Preservation, Inc.
- ★ **Endorsed. Michigan Association of School Administrators**
- ★ **Endorsed. Michigan Township Association PAC**
- ★ Member, Michigan Association of School Business Official
- ★ Member, Michigan School Board Association and the School Equity Caucus
- ★ Member, Rotary International, Paul Harris Fellow and former Club President
- ★ Member, Gideons International, Former Huron Camp President

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