

Lakeview Area News

Northern Montcalm and Southern Mecosta Counties' News Source

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Trick or Treating in Lakeview will be on Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m.

Don't forget that daylight saving time ends November 3rd. Set your clocks back one hour.

Early voting is going on now and continues until Election Day, November 5th. Let your voice be heard.

Fall Forecast

Thu Showers. High 69. Southwest wind around 18 mph, with gusts as high as 32 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%.

Thu Night Showers likely before 2am. Mostly cloudy, low 37. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Fri Mostly sunny, high 50.

Fri Night Mostly clear, low 28.

Sat Mostly sunny, high 55.

Sat Night A chance of showers after 2am. Mostly cloudy, low 38.

Sun Showers likely. Mostly cloudy, high 59.

Sun Night Showers likely. Cloudy, low 45.

Mon Showers. Mostly cloudy, high 61.



LACF Dinner: A Night to Remember

By Linda Huckins

The Lakeview Area Community Fund (LACF) held its 23rd annual community dinner last Tuesday, October 22nd, in the Lakeview High School cafeteria. Approximately 100 people attended the event and enjoyed an evening of good conversation, delicious food, interesting speakers, and a few surprises.

The dinner is free to the community each year thanks to corporate sponsors. This year's corporate sponsors were Advance Wealth Management Service Corp., Community First Federal Credit Union, Corewell Health, Mercantile Bank, and Montcalm Community College.

Vickie Rader provided dinner music on the keyboard, setting the perfect atmosphere for mingling and enjoying hor d'oeuvres.

Dr. Andy Padden acted as the evening's master of ceremonies. Before beginning the program, Padden asked Dallas Lincoln and Ken Rader to unveil LACF's new logo. This was the first time the public got to see the new logo.

Padden then welcomed everyone and introduced retired pastor Rev. Stephen Charnley who gave the invocation. That was followed by a buffet dinner. Special thanks goes to Lori Leishman and her team from Chartwells Food Service who cooked and served the delicious meal.

The dinner acts as the LACF Committee's monthly meeting so some business was conducted. LACF Treasurer Tim Rasmussen gave the financial report. Rasmussen is CEO / President of Community First Federal Credit Union.

Rasmussen said that the 46 funds in LACF total over \$2.3 million.

"We had just over 14% return on investments year to date through September 2024," he said.

LACF uses the interest earned on investments to provide scholarships for local graduating high school seniors and to bestow grants to area non-profits who have enhanced the quality of life in the Lakeview community. The scholarships were given out at May's awards ceremony held at Lakeview High School. The grants were announced toward the end of the program.

Total gifts year to date in 2024 equal \$58,346.

Next up was a LACF scholarship recipient, Olivia Davidson, who is attending Ferris State University. She expressed her gratitude to LACF for her scholarship saying that it made a big difference in her life and took away some of the financial pressure of going to college.

"LACF made a positive difference in my life and I am eternally grateful," she said.

Davidson's advice to high school students is to take the initiative and fill out the scholarship applications.

The next speaker was one of LACF's founding members, Dallas Lincoln. He announced that this year LACF has one new fund that is fully endowed and two that are growing their endowment under the "Under Construction" program. In order for a fund to be fully endowed, it has to reach \$10,000.

The new fund is the Wildcat P.R.I.D.E. Fund. This endowment has been set up by the Wildcat P.R.I.D.E. Board to help



Rev. Stephen Charnley accepting the LACF Quality of Life Award from last year's recipients, Dr. Jim and Sue Draper

make their program sustainable into the future. Christine Winter and Michele Outman talked about the new fund saying that it has taken 14 years but the fund will help young people get active and stay healthy. It will fund, among other things, the P.R.I.D.E. Runfest, the Turkey Trot, a scholarship and more.

"We have one endowment being built in the memory of Richard Goedge," Lincoln said. "And the family of Kyle Hamlin is in the process of determining the best use of memorials at Kyle's passing. They want to make sure that the type of fund they will endow most completely represents Kyle as

an educator and a wonderful human being."

There were two guest speakers that took the podium to talk about what is happening in the community from their perspective.

First up was Lakeview Community Schools Superintendent Kelly Nielsen. She told attendees that there are 1004 students in Lakeview schools split between three buildings. The elementary school covers pre-K through 3rd grade; the middle school has grades 4-7, and the high school services grades 8-12. There are 108 staff members.

Nielsen talked about how the bond money from 2022 was used in the

schools. With a slide presentation, she showed how the elementary school's parent pickup and drop off loop was created and has been much appreciated.

She talked about how the middle school and high school buildings were getting old and needed many upgrades. These included mechanical, electrical, and technological upgrades plus new flooring, painting, furniture, and new restrooms. The middle school also got a new HVAC system plus a re-vamping of the stairwells, classrooms, workrooms, and digital and interactive technology upgrades.

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Cheddar Fest 2024 Marks Fortieth Anniversary for Farm Country Cheese House

By Bethel Larsen

A decorated cake graced the food counter outside Farm Country Cheese House on Saturday, October 26, celebrating forty years since Tom and Judy Hoskins first opened the cheese-making operation. Since purchasing the business in 2018, dairy nutritionist and farmer Andrew Arens and his wife Nicki have expanded some features and changed a few others. One notable innovation is the annual production of Christmas Cheddar—six thousand delicious, labor-intensive pounds of it, according to Andrew—that alone is

worth a trip down Kendaiville Road southeast of Lakeview and a good reason to celebrate with the Cheddar Fest that welcomes visitors the last Saturday in October.

Though cake provided a celebratory element and cheese was prominently featured in the lunch menu—fried cheese curds, mac'n'cheese and grilled mac'n'cheese sandwiches being featured items along with hot dogs and tomato soup—trays filled with freshly-made doughnuts of several kinds, fresh cider, and hot coffee were also offered.

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Guests enjoyed a cheese-centric lunch menu at Cheddar Fest on Saturday.

Straw
\$5.50
a bale

Pine Shavings
\$6.49

15th Annual Bird Seed Sale!
October 24th - Nov. 9th

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Homemade Doughnuts in the Garden Center
Nov. 2, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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