

Lakeview Area News

Northern Montcalm and Southern Mecosta Counties' News Source

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At our office we have several books by local authors that were at Marilyn's Boutique. Authors are: Frank A. Silva, Jeanie M. Cline and Charles "Chuck" Troutman, J. V. Hensley, Wendi Bear, Jeanie Cline, Gale Dalton, Peggy Losey, Jeremy A. Harper, Madison Meadows, Irene Baron and Temple Kinyon.

Fall Forecast

Thu Sunny, high 63. Calm wind becoming SSE after 6 mph in the afternoon.

Thu Night A 40 percent chance of showers after 2am. Mostly cloudy, low 46.

Fri A 30 percent chance of showers before 8am. Mostly cloudy, high 67.

Fri Night A chance of showers after 2am. Mostly cloudy, low 53.

Sat Showers likely, mainly after 8am. Mostly cloudy, high 69.

Sat Night A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, low 47.

Sun Showers likely. Mostly cloudy, high 57.

Sun Night A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, low 41.

Mon Mostly sunny, high 57.



Award Winning Credit Union Expands To Remus



Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting at the new Remus branch

By Cindy Havens

The name says it all. Community First Federal Credit Union is all about community. And they have the award to prove it. Voted "2025 Outstanding Credit Union of the Year" by the MCUL, Community First Federal Credit Union has much to be proud of. The Michigan Credit Union League & Affiliates (MCUL) presents the statewide award just once a year. And this year it was awarded to our own local Community First Credit Union. CEO Tim Rasmussen talked about the award. "It's a tremendous honor and well-deserved reward for our staff and their innovative ideas to serve our members," he

said. On the MCUL website, the award is described as an "Outstanding Medium-Asset-Size Credit Union. Community First FCU provided \$23,500 in financial assistance to 98 families, expanded financial literacy programs and introduced emergency savings initiatives to support members in times of need." Award winners were formally recognized at the 2025 Annual Convention & Exposition this past June. The MCUL Awards celebrate the highest accomplishments of the Michigan credit union community over the past year. Awards recognize industry innovation, chapter effectiveness, community leadership and many other accomplishments.

When asked about the opening of the Remus branch, Rasmussen said he was excited about being able to serve their members up in the northeast corridor of their service area, which covers Montcalm and Mecosta counties. The Remus branch grand opening on September 17 made it the fifth branch for Community First Credit Union. The other branches are Lakeview, Howard City, Trufant and Morley. The ribbon-cutting ceremony in Remus was attended by Community First employees from other branches, as well as members of the Remus Downtown Development Authority (DDA). After photos were taken outside, people moved inside for a look around and

a nice offering of refreshments. The fact that the building was once a car repair shop and garage, was not lost on those who designed the new Remus branch. They have an old-fashioned gas pump standing in the lobby. It's a nice reminder to locals who remember when it was Baumann's Garage, and more recently, Wellings. Photos on the walls hark back to an earlier time and happy memories for many who still live in the Remus area.

Manager of the newly opened Remus branch, Jennifer Frayre discussed how the credit union gets involved with helping the local community. "We're involved throughout the community," she explained. "We do lots of vol-

unteering with food drives and food pantries. We donate to local schools, we just did popcorn bags and we work concession stands." As Remus branch manager and financial coach, Frayre has two full-time employees right now. She went on to say that there are employees who may come to work in the Remus branch, on an as-needed basis, i.e. accounting, mortgages, etc. As we walked through the new building, it was difficult to imagine that it had ever been a car repair garage. The glassed-in offices and the lobby area make for a nice welcoming atmosphere. Some of the credit union services offered include health savings accounts, minor and adult accounts as well as a wide variety of specialty and business accounts. They also offer a Penny Program. This is a terrific way to start kids off on a lifetime savings habit. Children can be signed up at birth and take advantage of the program until they are eighteen. Categories include age 0 - 4 Pup Savers, ages 5 - 8 Fox Friends, ages 9 - 12 when they become "Penny's Pals" and ages 13 - 17 "Penny's Pack." Stop in and ask about all the great services offered by your local Community First Credit Union. You can reach them at: www.cffcu.biz or email: memberservices@cffcu.biz or telephone: 989-352-6031. And be sure to check out the helpful staff at the newest location in Remus.

The New Amish/Mennonite School

By Marian Stockwell

It is finished, and it even includes a baseball diamond and a few solar panels. A great collaboration between the Amish and Mennonite communities in the Vestaburg/Riverdale area. They outgrew their local schoolhouse and with combined fundraisers and work, they built a new school, which has about twenty-five students. Their former school holds about the same number. It is a growing community as more move to Montcalm County from a variety of states. My husband and I caught (pun intended) one of the students' baseball games during their lunch recess. It was fun watching. The team combined boys and girls, and the girls were just as good as the boys. I was invited to come in and tour the new school, which I did

October 13th. Being a former teacher, I was impressed at how well the different aged students worked together, helping each other, and the older girls correcting some of the young one's assignments, or helping them. They sang for me a beautiful song in harmony, very special.

There is a yearly fundraiser in the fall and now a spring fundraiser as well, maybe since they now have two schools to run. Some of the local Amish/Mennonite stands and places of business will have fliers out, so stop in and ask for a flier, or if they might know the date of the next fundraiser/auction for the school.

Hospitality would be the best way to describe our experience. We were greeted by many with welcomes, and thank you's, just for attending the luncheon and the auction afterward. Many offers of



assistance, whether to carry my coffee since my hands were full, to offering coffee refills by coming around to

each table. There were almost as many English as there were Amish/Mennonite

families, all enjoying themselves.

(continued on page 2)

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