



Retired & Senior Volunteer Programs
of Ingham, Eaton & Clinton Counties
2400 Pattengill Avenue, Lansing, MI 48910
517 887-6116

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2026



From the Desk of Carol Wood, Executive Director

Donations are an essential part of our ability to provide services throughout the Tri-County Area. We are grateful for the many generous partnerships across our region and would like to take this opportunity to thank the following organizations:

Italian American Club of Lansing was founded in 1935 by Italian immigrants who were deeply grateful for the opportunities afforded to them in their adopted country and fiercely proud of their heritage. Each October, the organization hosts its Italian Dinner Night, with proceeds donated to community organizations. In October 2025, RSVP was honored to be among the recipients of that generosity.

IAFF Local 421 (International Association of Fire Fighters) members are committed to serving and protecting the Lansing, Michigan community. With over 95% membership participation, Local 421 is the second-largest local in the MPFFU, with nearly 200 active, dues-paying members. Lansing firefighters respond to more than 25,000 calls annually, operating out of 6 stations with 6 engines, 2 ladder trucks, 5 medic units, and 1 battalion chief staffed daily.

UA Local 333 – Plumbers, Pipefitters & HVAC Mechanics proudly represents workers throughout the Lansing, Battle Creek, and Jackson areas, including Plumbers, Pipefitters, Steamfitters, Welders, and HVAC Service Technicians across Mid-Michigan.

IBEW Local 352 (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) was originally organized in 1903 and became a signatory to the Lansing Board of Water and Light in 1913. Today, Local 352 has approximately 452 members, including Lansing Board of Water and Light employees and DTE Energy Services employees in the Lansing area.

IBEW Local 665 (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) was founded in Lansing in 1926 by ten area electricians. Since then, the local has grown considerably, training some of the most skilled electricians and communication technicians in the Midwest.



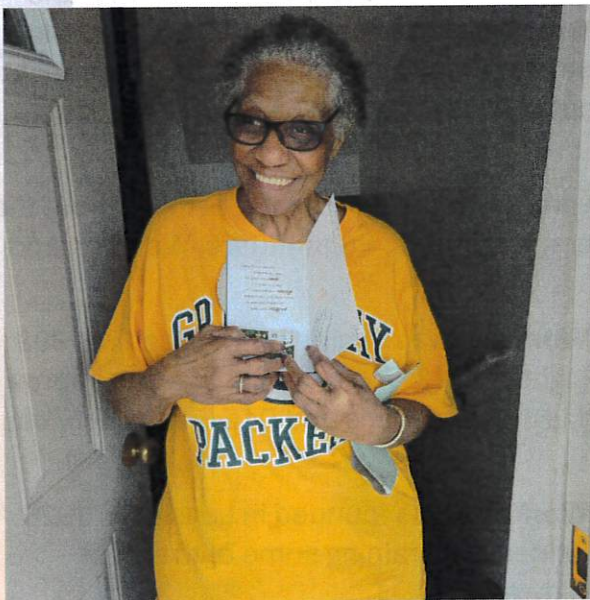
Birthday Wishes



Barbara Richardson celebrated her 92nd Birthday. Barbara has been a fixture at the Capital Region International Airport for 23 years. She has greeted visitors with a warm smile and a helpful hand.



Wishing Dawn Mercer a Happy 90th Birthday. Dawn is RSVP Caring Hearts volunteer. She has been volunteering since 2013.



Happy 86th Birthday to Doris Hale. Doris is a RSVP Caring Hearts volunteer. She is part of the Caring Hearts group. Knitting and crocheting hats, scarves, and blankets for others in our community. Doris has been serving for five years.



Karen Crampo is celebrating her 85th Birthday. Karen is a RSVP River Trail Patrol Volunteer. She has been volunteering for the last two years.

Retiring Volunteers



Robin Payton with Governor Whitmer

“I was a recent transplant from New York City (as I moved to the Lansing area that February to be near my 2 grandchildren), when RSVP made a presentation to the residents at my senior adult apartment building in the spring/summer of 2023. I was immediately impressed and interested in the program. However, at the time of this presentation, I was still fully employed in NYC with a social service agency working a monthly schedule that consisted of 3 weeks of remote work and 1 week back in my NYC office. I retired approximately 1 year later, effective September 5, 2024, and followed through with my verbal commitment to contact the RSVP program.

I contacted the RSVP office, completed the application/orientation process on September 26, 2024, and selected the Foster Grandparent program as the program that best suited my interests and personality. I always wanted to work at a school, but never pursued this passion. On October 2, 2024, I began my assignment at Gier Park Elementary School library. While I was excited at this second chance to achieve a lifelong passion, I was also nervous. Am I too old? Am I too inexperienced? Am I going to add support to my assigned teacher/children? Am I going to be able to accomplish the expectations of the RSVP organization?

I am elated to share that my nerves and doubtfulness have subsided and transformed into one of the most positive and fulfilling life experiences. Starting with the RSVP outreach efforts to potential senior adults, which not only informed me that this resource was available, but it also tapped into my self-awareness that I still had a valuable service to offer. Secondly, the RSVP staff maintained and provided consistent training, support, assessments, and personal growth opportunities through monthly participants' meetings, including informative sessions/group activities, emails and mailings, and written materials. Lastly, the regular meetings with the other dedicated senior volunteers offered me such a sense of belonging to a group that possessed an abundance of wealth or wisdom and life experiences that they are more than happy to share.

I enjoyed my 2 years as a Foster Grandmother working at the Gier Park Elementary School. My volunteering in the school provided me with the satisfaction that I am part of a worthwhile resource to make schools better, and to offer the children additional support to enhance their learning as well as their confidence. I am very grateful to RSVP for this amazing volunteering experience. As I prepare to leave Lansing, Michigan, to rejoin my family in Utah, I take with me this priceless foundation to my next volunteer position. Best Wishes, Robin K Payton Grandma Library/Gym”

Chicken-Bacon-Ranch Pasta Salad



Yields: 8 serving
 Prep Time: 10 minutes
 Total Time: 25 minutes
 Cal/Serv: 455

Ingredients

Carrot Cake Bread

- Cooking spray
- 1 1/4 cups (150 g.) all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 3 large eggs
- 1 cup (200 g.) granulated sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 2 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 2 cups finely grated carrots (from about 4 medium)
- 1/2 cup golden raisins
- 1/2 cup toasted chopped pecans

Frosting

- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 2 Tbsp. unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup (115 g.) confectioners' sugar, sifted
- 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 1/4 tsp. kosher salt

Ingredients

- Kosher salt
- 1 lb. gemelli or penne
- 1 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 4 slices bacon, cooked, crumbled (about 1/2 cup)
- 1/2 cup ranch dressing
- 2 Tbsp. thinly sliced chives

Directions

Step 1: In a large pot of boiling salted water, cook gemelli, stirring occasionally, until al dente according to package directions. Drain and transfer to a large bowl.

Step 2: Meanwhile, in a large skillet over medium-high heat, heat oil. Season chicken with salt and pepper and cook, turning half-way through, until an instant-read thermometer inserted into thickest part registers 165°, 5 to 8 minutes per side, depending on thickness. Transfer to a cutting board, let rest for 10 minutes, then cut into 1" pieces.

Step 3: To bowl, add chicken, bacon, and ranch and toss until combined; season with salt and pepper. Top with chives.



Step 1 Arrange a rack in the center of the oven; preheat to 350°. Grease a 9" x 5" loaf pan with cooking spray, then line it with parchment.

Step 2: In a medium bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, cinnamon, ginger, salt, and nutmeg.

Step 3: In a large bowl, whisk eggs and granulated sugar until light

and fluffy. While whisking, slowly pour in oil until well combined, then whisk in vanilla. Stir dry ingredients into egg mixture until just combined. Fold in carrots, raisins, and pecans. Pour batter into prepared pan.

Step 4: Bake bread until a tester inserted into the center comes out clean, about 1 hour 10 minutes. Let cool slightly in pan, then turn out onto a wire rack and let cool completely.

Frosting

Step 1: In a large bowl, using a handheld mixer on medium-high speed, beat cream cheese and butter until smooth. Add confectioners' sugar, vanilla, and salt and beat until smooth.

Step 2: Spread frosting over the loaf. Sprinkle with pecans.

Welcome Summer!

ROLLERCOASTER
 SUNGLASSES
 HOOLAHOOPS
 THEMEPARK
 SUNSCREEN
 SNOWCONES
 SPRINKLER
 POPSICLES
 FLIPFLOPS
 FIREWORKS
 FIREFLIES
 VACATION
 SWIMMING
 JUMPROPE
 ICECREAM
 COOKOUTS
 CARNIVAL
 SANDALS
 PICNICS
 PARTIES
 PARADES
 FISHING
 CAMPING
 SPLASH
 MOVIES
 AUGUST
 BIKES
 BEACH
 POOL
 JUNE
 JULY
 FUN



Q W G J U M P R O P E G I N R W I F U M E P P G
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NEW VOLUNTEERS

Woodlands of Dewitt Caring Hearts Group

We welcome Woodlands of Dewitt a comprehensive senior community that offers a wholesome living alternative for elders who need care, or independence with minimal care.



Welcome—Dawn



Welcome—Marilyn

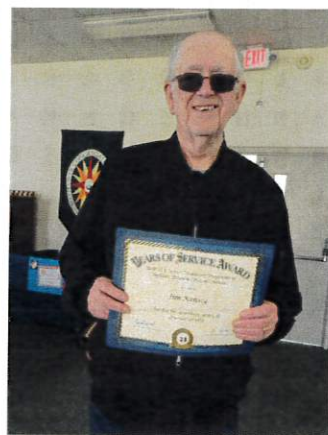


Welcome—Carol

Welcome—Sally



Retiring Volunteers



Jim Kenny—Retiring RSVP River Trail Patrol

We wish to thank Jim Kenny for his 23 years of service with the RSVP River Trail Patrol.

CLASSROOM FOSTER GRANDPAARENTS

Here is what are partners stations are saying:

100% say that the (Classroom) Foster Grandparent assigned to them has had a positive impact on the children.

100% answered either Very satisfied or Satisfied with their assigned Grandparent.

100% answered either Excellent or Good that the Grandparent understands individuals with special needs or at risk.

Below are examples of comments made by the teachers:

Mr. Love is an extraordinary classroom grandparent volunteer who consistently goes above and beyond in supporting our students and school community. From the moment he walks into the room, he brings a warm, encouraging presence that helps students feel valued and confident. He takes the time to truly connect with them—asking about their interests, listening to their stories, and building meaningful relationships that foster both trust and respect. What makes Mr. Love especially remarkable is his genuine desire to relate to students. He meets them where they are, whether that's through conversation, shared laughter, or even a friendly game. One memorable highlight was when he brought in Yahtzee to teach the class—students were not only engaged and excited, but they were also learning important skills without even realizing it. Moments like these show his creativity and dedication to making learning enjoyable. Mr. Love is also incredibly flexible and dependable. No matter what unexpected changes arise in a school day—whether it's a tornado drill, a shift in the testing schedule, or other last-minute adjustments—he adapts with patience and positivity. His willingness to pivot ensures that he remains a steady and supportive presence for both students and staff. Beyond the classroom, Mr. Love shows his commitment by attending school events such as our Halloween parade and band concert, cheering on students, and celebrating their accomplishments. We are especially excited that he will be joining us for our upcoming Lugnuts game, which is sure to be another meaningful experience for our class. In every way, Mr. Love exemplifies kindness, dedication, and enthusiasm. He is not just a volunteer—he is a valued member of our classroom family, and his impact on our students is truly lasting.

Mr. May is used to a traditional classroom, but he didn't let that stop him. He encourages students to participate and has made a great impression on one particular student, who makes sure he speaks to Mr. May every time he's there. I've noticed an improvement in this student's behavior and work completion.

Cynthia Smith has been a calm, gentle, and supportive presence in the classroom and a generous helper to the teacher. And once Cynthia let her classroom teacher know about her past interest in art, she was asked to come up with and prepare art projects for the students to do on Fridays. Cynthia even supplied many of the elements needed for the projects. The students responded very positively,

You too can volunteer as a Foster Grandparent in a classroom. Just pick up the phone and call our office at 517 887-6116. You are never too old to make a difference in young persons life.



NEED TO BORROW A TOOL?
 Call the Capital Area Housing Partnership at 517-332-4663.



**SERVICES AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD WELLNESS
 CENTER**

Offers in-person support by referring community residents to resources that cater to you health and well-being. We can help you with:

- **Health Insurance**
- **Healthcare enrollment**
- **Housing Resources**
- **Food Resources**
- **Transportation Resources**
- **And more!**

517 881-3392 or 517 881-0967

RSVP MISSION

Connecting adults 55+ in meaningful service opportunities that strengthen communities and improve the lives of the volunteer and those they serve.

**Retired & Senior
 Volunteer Program**
 2400 Pattengill Ave.
 Lansing, MI 48910

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 Fax: 517-887-7313
www.rsvp-lansing.com

Office Hours:
 Monday - Friday
 8:30am - 4:00pm