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SHORT CUTS

See endorsements
this issue on Page 4

With absentee ballots starting to arrive in Michigan mailboxes, for many it's time to consider who to vote for in the Nov. 8 statewide General Election.

A list of candidates endorsed by the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council and its affiliated councils appears in this issue on Page 4. The list includes candidates who have requested an endorsement.

Union members are urged to research, support and vote for candidates who share the goals of organized labor.

\$2.4B battery plant eyed for Big Rapids

BIG RAPIDS – Chinese electric battery maker Gotion Inc. is planning construction of a \$2.4 billion factory near here, a plant that's expected to produce cathode and anode precursor components for a final assembly plant elsewhere in North America.

Dubbed "Project Elephant" in its application submitted to the state by The Right Place – West Michigan's economic development agency – the plant could create as many as 2,350 jobs over the next decade.

The proposed 2.2 million square-foot plant would become the largest employer in the area, surpassing Ferris State University, which has about 1,400 workers. The proximity to Ferris State was said to be a driving factor in the company's choice to place the plant in Mecosta County. The proposed 523-acre site is adjacent to the Big Rapids airport and U.S. 131.

The application said an estimated \$14 million in public infrastructure improvements would be needed to support the project. Three government boards gave unanimous approval on Sept. 26 to a 30-year property tax exemption for the plant. A request for a Renaissance Zone tax exemption will next move to the Michigan Strategic Fund's board for final approvals.

According to The Right Place, Gotion chose Michigan over six other states: Ohio, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, South Carolina and Texas.

Absentee ballots are on their way

Absentee ballots for the Nov. 8 general election are now being mailed to Michigan voters who requested them and are available in city and township clerk offices.

"Michigan citizens have options to vote, including the right to vote by mail, the right to vote early with an absentee ballot at their local clerk's office, and the right to vote at their polling place on Election Day," said Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson.

Michigan citizens voted overwhelmingly in 2018 to enshrine in the state Constitution the right to vote absentee without providing a reason. They also granted eligible citizens the right to register to vote up to and on Election Day at their local clerk's office. Citizens can also register online, at Michigan.gov/Vote, or by mail through Oct. 24.

Quotable

"I hope I can be the autumn leaf, who looked at the sky and lived. And when it was time to leave, gracefully it knew life was a gift."
—Dodinsky (1971-)



THE EXCHANGE BUILDING in Detroit is being erected unlike any other structure so far in North America – from the top down. Doing the work to erect the 16-story building on the edge of Greektown are project manager Barton Malow/LiftBuild, its subcontractors and building trades union members. At this point in construction, from last month, the 11th story is the most recent floor that has been lifted into place.

The Exchange Building is looking up

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

THE 16-STORY Exchange Building at Macomb and Brush streets in Detroit has already been topped out. During the course of 2022, Barton Malow, its subcontractors and the building trades have been busy filling in the bottom parts.

It's a completely unique way to build – with individual floors being erected at ground level and then jacked into place along a concrete structural spines to meet the floor above. The LiftBuild system that's being used by Barton Malow is the first application of its type in North America.

The 207-foot-tall building

on the edge of the Greektown district will include 153 residential rental units, 12 for-sale condominiums, ground-level office space, and retail space totaling 166,742 square feet.

Barton Malow, which acquired the Lift-Build in 2017, made its first half-million pound lift, the structure's roof, on April 30, locking it in the next day after a 10-hour process. Then work commenced on the 16th floor, in a process where the floorplates are con-

A RENDERING of the completed Exchange Building.

structed on a concrete pad at the base of the structure. Every two weeks or so, a new floor is being completed and lifted into

(Continued on Page 2)



TYING MATERIALS to a trailer leaving the Exchange Building site is Shane Sheridan of Laborers Local 1191. He's employed by Barton Malow. Behind him tradespeople are working on the 10th floor of the building, which will be raised and locked into place.

Yup, we're still building new freeways in Michigan

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

"When these lanes open we will be able to drive on U.S.-31 from the Mackinac Bridge all the way down to Lexington, Ky., and never get off the highway. You will be able to go from South Bend, Ind. to Holland, Michigan and never leave U.S.-31," said Nick Schirripa, Michigan Department of Transportation spokesman.

On Sept. 26 Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Congressman Fred Upton (R-St. Joseph) cut the rib-

bon on the near-completion of the U.S.-31 project in Berrien County – the first new freeway segment placed in Michigan in 30 years.

"The U.S.-31 freeway project has been in development for more than 40 years," said the Michigan Department of Transportation. "The objective has been to provide a 30-mile U.S.-31 freeway connection from the I-80/90 toll road in Indiana to I-94 and U.S.-31/I-196 in Michigan."

The new highway is expected to fully open in a few weeks, and

will eliminate using local roads to access I-94. It will also allow drivers a direct connection between I-94 and U.S. 31 and also link directly with the I-80/I-90 cross-country interstates in Indiana.

Money to finally complete the project came last year from the federal Infrastructure Act and state Rebuilding Michigan dollars – but insufficient funding wasn't the roadblock that kept the project from completion over the past four decades. The project was stalled because the initial pro-

posed route went through habitat of the Mitchell's Satyr butterfly, a federally protected species. The current freeway curves northwest of the butterfly habitat.

The new, direct connection between U.S.-31 and I-94 will save drivers time and the need to merge. MDOT says it will also help reduce the risk of crashes, as drivers will no longer have to navigate interchanges with local roads. Instead, they can stay on the freeway, seamlessly reaching their destination.

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"She said 'You can be anything.' That was permission to dream"

Students urged to set a course – maybe for the trades

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

DETROIT – Permission to Dream? Permission granted.

A national partnership that puts students with limited economic opportunities "on an early path to the middle class" was announced during a day-long event at two schools in the city. And building trades unions, working with the AFL-CIO, are playing a key role in the collaborative effort.

"Through the collaboration,

the AFL-CIO and our affiliated unions and partners will give students in disadvantaged communities the opportunity and support to enter paid, registered apprenticeship programs in the building and construction trades," the labor federation said.

Back-to-back events on Sept. 22 at two Detroit schools, the A. Phillip Randolph Career Technical Center and The School at Marygrove kicked off the effort. Created by the Chris Gardner Foundation, the Permission to

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PERMISSION TO DREAM founder Chris Gardner, left, takes questions from students at the A. Phillip Randolph Academy in Detroit. With him are Melissa White of North America's Building Trades Unions and Byron Osborn of IBEW Local 58.

DOL officially voids threat to union training standards

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Buh bye, IRAPs. And don't let the door hit you in... well you know.

The U.S. Department of Labor on Sept. 23 stuck a final dagger into Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs, a Trump-era proposal seen as an existential threat to decades-old building trades union apprenticeship programs.

The DOL had been proposing to replace the current apprenticeship model for construction and other industries with an anything-goes employee training system – conceived, guided and standardized by employers. (You want a journeyman title after six months of training? Why not?)

Passage of the plan would have severely watered down training standards upheld by standardized union programs that are registered with the federal government, threatening one of the pillars of the collective union-employer model.

"The Biden Administration made a major step to uphold

'Sketchy' IRAP model for employer-led training laid to rest

(union apprenticeship) protections today by getting rid of the sketchy IRAP model and refocusing on the registered model," said North America's Building Trades Unions President Sean McGarvey. "The repealing of this rule protects the integrity of the registered model."

He added: "For over 80 years, North America's Building Trades Unions have been fierce advocates for and leading practitioners in the registered apprenticeship system. "Our robust labor-management commitment to and private multibillion-dollar investment in craft training ensure workers of all backgrounds including veterans, women and minority communities, can meet the demands of our competitive industry."

The DOL on Sept. 23 officially rescinded the Industry- (Continued on Page 4)

Fluctuating building input prices go hand-in-hand with a fidgety industry

The nation's 8.3 percent inflation rate is one of the leading causes of concern for American consumers and businesses, and over the past two years higher input costs for construction industry products have been a significant cause of aggravation for contractors' project estimators.

But, maybe there's relief in sight? A slowdown in home building, brought on in part by higher interest rates, is one factor for the lower lumber prices. So too is an economy that may be slowing.

"Lumber prices have fallen to their lowest level in more than two years," the Wall Street Journal reported Sept. 27, "bringing two-by-fours back to what they cost before the pandemic building boom and pointing to a sharp slowdown in construction."

The Journal added: "Mill executives, analysts and timber consultants who gathered last week at a World Forestry Center

conference in Portland, Ore., said the lumber sector is bracing for recession, though not a severe one."

Fears of a coming economic recession are real among economists, although they're not universal. And signs that the U.S. building industry itself is slowing are hardly flashing red.

Year-to-date, total construction was 16 percent higher in the first eight months of 2022 compared to the same period of 2021, according to the Dodge Construction Network. Non-residential building starts rose 35 percent over the year, residential starts were 1 percent higher, and non-building starts were up 21 percent.

"While construction starts activity continues to be dominated by mega-projects like chip fabrication plants, the middle and lower end of the value spectrum (Continued on Page 4)

Lansing schools link with union trades to widen on-ramp for career paths

By Marty Mulcahy
Editor

LANSING – Professional trades positions will account for about 545,000 jobs in Michigan through 2026, with about 47,000 new job openings anticipated every year during that time.

Those employment numbers were issued in 2020 by the state Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity. Combine them with an aging workforce in construction and a near-constant chorus from the building industry that worker shortages are upon us – and the Lansing School District has decided to do something

about it.

"These state and national reports make a strong case for immediate action to collaborate with community partners and create career pathways that will support skilled trades education," said a proposal for an enhanced skilled trades program issued by the Lansing School District. The Lansing district's "Skilled Trades in Construction" program this year has begun to partner with organized labor-backed apprenticeship programs, to expose students to a variety of career paths with the union label.

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Viewpoints



People before profits

In an article published by Fox Business on Aug. 18, 2022, entitled "Sweetheart union deal will undermine Inflation Reduction Act's clean energy agenda," Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) Vice President of regulatory, labor and state affairs, Ben Brubeck made several odd observations and conclusions.

His op-ed seems to contain a troubling agenda or at least a global misunderstanding as to where those problems lie.

Mr. Brubeck states, "this policy is a brazen attempt to leverage federal tax policy to boost union membership." He also makes multiple references to the Davis-Bacon legislation and union apprenticeship programs. It is these comments that are at the core of Mr. Brubeck's misunderstanding.

The Davis-Bacon Act of 1931, simply put, mandates that all publicly funded work pays its contractors and subcontractors "prevailing wage." This legislation, which Mr. Brubeck takes issue with, protects workers from exploitation. It prevents employers from cutting costs by way of reducing wages below the standard of the area where the work is performed. Likewise, the "government-registered apprenticeship programs" (GRAPs) he references are programs to ensure that people performing work are well-trained and prepared with the appropriate skills and safety protocols to complete a job.

Mr. Brubeck is correct that union contractors and union workers benefit from legislation and policy that incentivizes GRAPs and the paying of prevailing wage. However, these benefits are not exclusive to the union. They are not "devastating" or exclusionary to anyone. The one aspect of his argument we can all agree on is that the construction industry needs more people. Ensuring those individuals who join our industry are well trained and paid a living wage are the logical incentives to help recruit a new generation of career construction workers.

It seems unlikely that a vice president for the ABC, an organization that claims to be built upon the foundation of "delivering work safely, ethically, and profitably" wouldn't understand that GRAPs and Davis-Bacon are assurances of ethicality and safety. Which leaves the "devastation" he references limited to "profitability."

When you look through the rhetoric of his claims, expound on the programs and requirements he dismisses, and dig deep into his comments, the ABC is upset that they can't under-pay and under-train their workforce to maximize the profitability and pad their members' profit margin.

The question then becomes, is this really a "sweetheart deal" as he calls it, or a "brazen attempt to.... Boost Union membership?" Or is it an outward requirement by President Biden to ensure well-trained and ethically compensated workers are the ones fulfilling his ambitious mandate.

All elements at issue for Mr. Brubeck and the ABC have one thing in common; they put individual workers first. The superior safety record of Union Labor? He does not want to talk about that. The job performance of union v. nonunion job sites? No, he does not bring those up either. The product and the process are not at issue.

No, Mr. Brubeck and the ABC take issue with unions prioritizing people. If nonunion construction had a history of paying fairly, ensuring safe working conditions, or adequately training their workforce then a "sweetheart deal" would be entirely unnecessary. Mr. Brubeck's comments confirm we still need safeguards to prevent putting profits over people.

Daniel Hogan
CEO
The Association of Union Constructors

The Exchange Building is looking up

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place. Two weeks ago, the 11th floor was up, and tradespeople were working below on the 10th.

The standardized process is said to be safer and more ergonomic for workers and allow for increased productivity, with virtually all processes and fixtures installed at ground level.

"The fit-out is accomplished in a fully-enclosed and conditioned space while the floors below continue to be built," Barton Malow says. "This maximizes potential savings on schedule and budget while providing a safe and productive work environment."

The Exchange is the first high-rise residential building in decades that has been erected units in the area. The building is expected to include 24/7 valet; a fitness center, and outdoor rooftop terrace, elevated finishes and nice views of the city.

The project is expected to be complete next spring.



IT WAS QUITTIN' TIME at the Exchange Building in Detroit, and we asked these plumbers to pause for a photo as they were leaving the site. They are (l-r) Skip Myers, Jeff Cushard and Brendan Budzeak. The Plumbers Local 98 members are employed by Western Mechanical.

Yup, we're still building new freeways in Michigan

(Continued from Page 1)
This three-year, \$121.5 million project began in 2020 and

Just joking

A naked woman walks into a bar, and all the patrons and the bartender looks her up and down before she takes a seat at the bar.



"Give me a shot of whiskey," she tells him.

He pauses and then goes over and pours

her the shot. She drinks that and says, "give me another shot of whiskey, and a beer chaser!" Another pause, and he serves her the whiskey and beer. She downs the whiskey and starts sipping the beer, and the bartender takes an occasional glance at her.

"What's a matter, haven't you ever seen a naked woman before?" she said.

"That I have," miss," he said. "I'm just wondering where you're keeping the money to pay for your drinks!

created 1.8 miles of new roadway.

"The story of U.S. 31 is one of persistence," Upton said. "For some 50 years it persisted as a problem and for 50 years we persisted in trying to solve it. Today after long efforts by folks in the community, state and at the federal level, we can finally celebrate the opening of this road and the end of the persistent

headaches created when it was not completed."

Said Whitmer: "After decades of delay, we are getting this critical Southwest Michigan project done without raising taxes because of Congressman Upton's efforts to pass the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and my \$3.5 billion Rebuilding Michigan Plan."

Today's trivia question: when was the last new freeway segment completed in Michigan?

Answer, via *Michigan Highways*: "I-69 was the last two-digit Interstate in Michigan to be completed. The last segments were northeast of Lansing near Perry (opened 1990-91) and southwest of Lansing between I-96 and Charlotte (completed Oct. 22, 1992)."

Workplace safety goes with dignity

By Jim Hightower

Corporate acolytes and right-wing moralists constantly preach to laboring stiff about the uplifting dignity of work.

Of course, that's "dignity" as defined and controlled by corporate elites, not by workers, and the reward for it frequently includes on-the-job injuries... and death.

Not that CEOs and well-heeled investors intend to sicken, maim, and kill thousands of laborers every year – but they certainly do put them in positions

that assure such unhappy results.

For example, they demand that farmworkers go sunrise to sunset picking crops in California's 105-degree desert heat, and that construction crews toil in the muggy, dog days of Florida summers tarring condo roofs. Low-paid, powerless workers die, but no one in the corporate hierarchy did the deed, right? Heat was the killer.

But wait, not only are aloof, air-cooled bosses the ones who knowingly subject subordinates to deadly heat, but they're also the ones who hire squads of lobbyists and lawyers to kill simple, inexpensive rules to stop these deaths – such rules as requiring ample water at work sites; ensuring paid rest breaks in cool

spaces; training on-site managers and employees to detect and react to signs of heat stress; requiring good ventilation and proper clothing; establishing emergency response procedures; fostering a safety-first culture; and imposing serious punishments for violators.

Such sensible steps have repeatedly been proposed as official workplace policy for at least the last 50 years – but intense industry lobbying has killed the adoption of all attempts to prevent what amounts to workplace murder by corporate profiteers.

Instead, the U.S. government pretends to "protect" workers by printing posters admonishing employees to beware of heat, basically telling them, "Goodbye and Good Luck."



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BUILDING MICHIGAN: Rockport HISTORY IN THE MAKING By Marty Mulcahy



AN ARTICLE IN THE 1915 *Cement and Engineering News* speaks of the new Great Lakes Stone & Lime Co. in Rockport as “one of the largest and most complete of its kind...unusually interesting on account of its enormous capacity of production and remarkable flexibility of operation.” Here, a massive, half-mile long conveyor belt stood hundreds of feet above a jetty that brought crushed stone to the loading chutes that were lowered in ships’ cargo holds.

Photo credit: Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Trail

Perhaps the Rockport State Recreation Area is, to coin a song lyric, the same as it ever was.

Located between Alpena and Rogers City, Rockport is a 4,237-acre state park located along the shore of Lake Huron in Alpena and Presque Isle counties. It is operated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and was established in 2012.

Rockport is notable for its unique, rock-strewn (of course) landscape punctuated by scattered trees and greenery, boulders, and some forest, as well as some rocky and sandy shoreline.

Perhaps it’s not too different from a description from an account of the newly erected Great Lakes Lime and Stone Co. plant published by the *Cement and Engineering News* in 1914.

“When the plant of the Great Lakes Lime and Stone Co. at Rockport, near Alpena, Mich., commences quarrying and shipping stone next month, the quantity of stone shipments from the vicinity of Alpena will be increased vastly,” the article said. “Two years ago the property where Rockport now stands was wild and barren.

“Young pine stumps and huge boulders composed the scenery. E.P. Smith, formerly a telegraph operator, and later connected with the Michigan Alkali Co, had a notion that there was some limestone in that section, and acting on a hunch went up there with drills and verified it.” Smith organized investors, started the company and became its president.

“On July 6, 1913,” according to *Visit Alpena* and the Alpena County Public Library, “the construction of The Great Lakes Stone and Lime Company began. The plant was built where Rockport State Park and Recreation Area is today. A year later, the quarry was completed, and on June 20, 1914, the first stone was shipped. Many workmen and their families lived near the factory.”

An encapsulated version of the history of the Rockport site by *Mindat*, a leading authority on rocks, minerals mines and deposits, says the Great Lakes Stone and Lime Co. only lasted eight years.

The site was “acquired in 1923 by Kelley Island Lime and Transport Co. In the 1930s, the company found poor quality product (the limestone was found to have high amounts of sulfur and phosphorus impurities) and the quarry was abandoned. The land was later sold to Northern Michigan Limestone Corp., then sold again to the Calvert Investment Co. In the 1950s. Limestone from this quarry was used as base mate-

rial to support the towers of the Straits of Mackinac suspension bridge.”

While the limestone mining operations proved to be a relatively short-lived venture at Rockport, the original infrastructure that was installed was major league.

“Stone crushers, power houses, homes for workingmen, a modern harbor that is capable of accommodating the largest freighters on the lakes and a modern dock of the ore-loading type have been built,” says the 1915 account by the *Cement and Engineering News*.

Smith, the company’s president, said of the plant: “There are two crushers, each capable of crushing 6,000 tons in 10 hours, two 60-ton conveyors which convey the stone from the crushers to the screens, where the stone is sized, large storage bins for the stone to be shipped by rail, two recovery elevators and two 40-inch belt conveyors leading from the screen hopper to the end of the dock.”

Limestone had become a highly sought-after building material, acting as foundation, fascia and ornamentation for the nascent, booming industry of erecting tall buildings. In 1915, 3.8 million net tons of the stone was shipped on the Great Lakes, and in 1918, for the first time, stone shipments exceeded grain shipments on the lakes.

By 1942, “practically all stone moved on the Great Lakes is crushed and broken limestone, largely from Michigan,” said *Michigan Limestone in the Great Lakes Stone Trade*. “During 1937 for example, almost 90 percent of the 14,429,379 net tons carried (on the Great Lakes) came from Michigan quarries. Any study of the Great Lakes stone trade thus becomes primarily a study of the trade of Michigan produced limestone.”

By comparison, in 2021, some 30 million tons of limestone were moved on the lakes. Michigan is still a

major limestone producer, led by Michigan Limestone and Chemical Co. (a.k.a. Michigan Limestone) which operates one of the world’s largest quarries in nearby Rogers City.

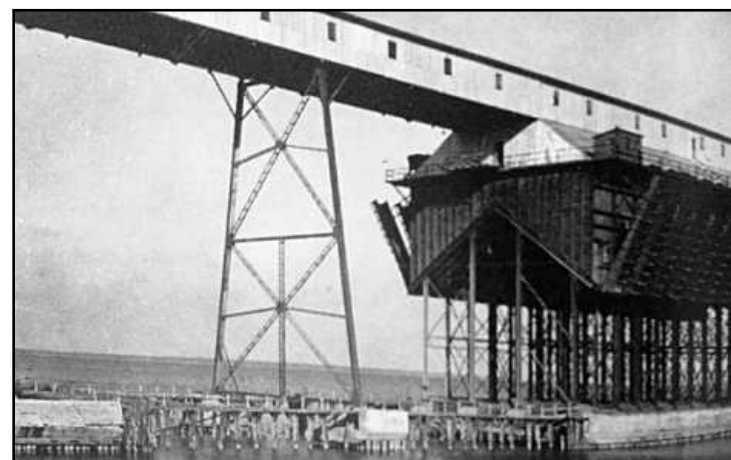
Limestone’s use as a mason’s building material was, and is, only part of its appeal. In the 1930s nearly half the stone mined was used as flux stone for iron and steel manufacturing. The stone was also used in alkali manufacturing, and as aggregate in cement making and concrete and road building. Today the stuff is also ground up and used to lower acid content in soils, as animal feed to provide calcium, and in everyday items like medicine, makeup, toothpaste, and paint.

From 1914 until the end of the 1950s the Rockport site operated as a quarry loading freighters that carried the stone to ports around the Great Lakes. Some of the stone, along with dolomite from Drummond Island, was used in the foundations of the Mackinac Bridge, which was completed in 1957 – which amounted to the last hurrah of the quarry.

The long-defunct Great Lakes Lime and Stone Co. and Rockport are inextricably tied by the landscape the firm and its successors left behind.

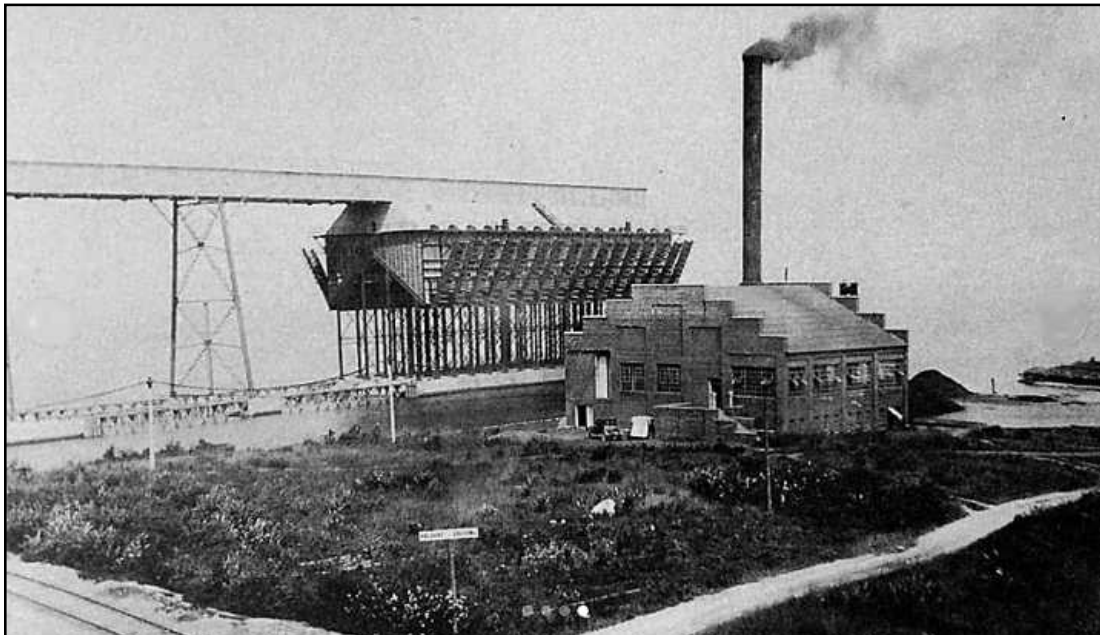
“There are very few remnants of the buildings from the time the quarry operated,” says the Alpena Public Library, “but several pieces of steel beams still remain. Today, the old quarry property is a state park, known as Rockport. It is a prime spot for outdoor and adventure enthusiasts.

“The terrain of the abandoned 300-acre limestone quarry is dotted with fossilized remnants of the Devonian Period some 400 million years ago. Rockport State Park is located right on Lake Huron, and is home to an abundance of rugged trails, some leading to sinkholes. It is also one of the Alpena area’s dark sky preserves.”



THE LOADING DOCK of the Rockport operation in the 1920s. According to *Michigan Limestone in the Great Lakes Stone Trade (1940)* “The dock is an exact duplicate of the modern ore docks recently constructed at upper lakes ports. The chutes are electrically operated and the discharge gates are operated by air. The company built a railroad of its own from Alpena to Rockport before construction work on the town site could be begun.”

Photo credit: University of Michigan



A VIEW OF THE Great Lakes Stone and Lime Co.’s loading dock and powerhouse in 1922. The dock extended into Lake Huron and was 557 feet long, 80 feet wide and 80 feet high.

Photo credit: Lost in Michigan

Students urged to set a course – maybe for the trades

(Continued from Page 1)
Dream program is intended to help put students on the path to good careers through the security of a union job.

As part of this collaboration, the AFL-CIO and its affiliated unions will give students in disadvantaged communities the support they need to enter registered apprenticeship programs in the building and construction trades.

AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Fred Redmond was on hand to help announce the event. He urged the 150 career and technical high school students present at the Randolph Center to “make a plan,” now, to map their future. “I was in the second year of junior college working in a steel mill,” said the Chicago native. “The change I made was that I got involved in a union.”

“So I hope you develop a plan about what you’re going to do when you leave this building,” Redmond said. “Some will go to a university, and we encourage that. Some of you will feel the need to learn a skill or a trade – that’s where we can talk to you about North America’s Building Trades Unions. No one has apprenticeship programs like they do – and the will help you with a plan to navigate through this thing we call life.”

Foundation founder Gardner, 68, is a Milwaukee native and a motivational speaker with a rags-to-riches back story. He grew up in an environment with a missing father and with an abusive stepfather, foster care, homelessness and poverty. He overcame his difficult childhood and went on to establish a successful brokerage, and then become a philanthropist. He had his story told in the movie, *The Pursuit of Happyness* starring Will Smith.

He said he was determined to break his family’s cycle of illiteracy, alcoholism, homelessness and physical abuse. He recalled that his mother told him “son, you can do or be anything.” “And I believed her. But it’s very important that I share what she did not say. She did not say that you can have everything. She did not say that you are guaranteed, or assured or entitled to anything. She said ‘you can be anything.’ That was permission to dream.”

He suggested that no matter what career path is chosen, students should try to be “world class at it,” not unlike the way Dr. Martin Luther King said that, “if a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.”

Gardner suggested that “in life, we should be playing chess, not checkers. Maybe everybody has a dream, everybody has a plan. But what is your Plan A? Keep your focus on your long game. This is time to do school like a boss.”

The Permission to Dream partnership will include a strong focus on ensuring that all students, especially students of color, complete their high school education. Students selected for the program will be required to maintain a certain grade point average and complete the apprenticeship readiness program set by the North America’s Building Trades Unions.

Upon graduation from the program, students will have the opportunity to be placed in a paid, registered apprenticeship with an affiliate union, along with a stipend to cover the cost of all tools and equipment required,

and will receive assistance with transportation to and from their training locations.

Asked to make a presentation to the students from a union workers’ perspective was IBEW Local 58 Business Representative Byron Osborn, who became an electrician in 2005.

“You have an opportunity in front of you, don’t take it lightly,” he said. “Do your best while you’re in school, make sure you have your plan, make sure you work your plan.

He added: “This is work that is going to pay you well. This is

work that’s going to take care of your family. This work that’s going to be with you that no one can take from you.”

Osborn said whether the job is plumber, bricklayer or electrician, the trades offer an opportunity “to make more money. Make more opportunity. Create chances for people who look like us in the neighborhoods that you come from. I implore you, if you are in this school, and you like what you’re doing, don’t lose focus. You can do this work. There’s a place for you in all this ecosystem we call construction.”



LANSING CAREER and Technical Educaiton students check out a crane set up in a parking lot by Operating Engineers Local 324. Photo by Deshon Leek

Lansing schools link with union trades to widen on-ramp for career paths

(Continued from Page 1)

The district announced last month that the current half-day CTE (career technical education) programs it offers will be expanded to full day curriculums at a full-time career education school.

“One of the things that we are learning through CTE is that the students are really receptive to the hands on learning we provide, Millsap told WILX,” said Nicole Millsap, director of the Lansing CTE. “They love the mentorships – the work-based learning opportunities. Something that more and more students are being drawn to. It’s helping them to figure out their why and what they want to do after high-school.”

Millsap said “what’s special about this is we’re starting with 9th graders, so we will be catching them earlier” than the typical programs, which usually start with 11th and 12 graders. This year 178 junior and seniors are enrolled in six different specialized programs, including the building trades. In four years, plans are to have about 300 students enrolled.

This year’s curriculum in Lansing offers a one-year skilled trades CTE at the Hill Career Center for 11th and 12th graders from three district high schools. Throughout the school year, local building trades unions are given “specialty sessions” in one- and two-week schedule blocks during three hours in the morning to explain their craft and teach about some of the tools and tricks of their trades.

“Students are given the opportunity for success through various methods of instruction, including hands-on laboratory learning,” the district said. “Students will obtain the skills, technical knowledge and work habits necessary for future success in the skilled trades pathway.”

Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council Business Representative Deshon Leek said the Greater Lansing Building Trades reps he has talked to “love the exposure” as a recruitment pipeline to the high schoolers. He said school districts in other areas of the state are looking to similarly team up with local union trades.

“You get the kids exposed to the trades and familiar with what we do, in addition to the hands-on, they’re getting taught soft skills like interviewing,” Leek said. “But the kids are also coming out with certifications like OSHA 30.” He described next year’s plan to expand the skilled trades program as more “challenging” for most of the Greater Lansing Building Trades, who will have to collaborate with the district to develop structured curricula, acquire tools and materials and arrange funding.

“Don’t waste yourself in rejection, nor bark against the bad, but chant the beauty of the good.”

– Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882)

“To have a right to do a thing is not at all the same as to be right in doing it.”

– G. K. Chesterton (1874 - 1936)

“We all have a few failures under our belt. It’s what makes us ready for the successes.”

–Randy K. Milholland

I begin to think, that a calm is not desirable in any situation in life.... “Man was made for action and for bustle too, I believe.”

–Abigail Adams (1744 - 1818),

“You talk to God, you’re religious. God talks to you, you’re psychotic.”

–Doris Egan

“Never get angry. Never make a threat. Reason with people.”

–Mario Puzo (1920 - 1999), *‘The Godfather’*

“To make pleasures pleasant, shorten them.”

–Charles Buxton

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Patrick Devlin Secretary-Treasurer Steve Claywell President

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BUILDING MICHIGAN UNION

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Local 47 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat and Frost Insulators & Allied Workers Local 47

LANSING – The next Union Meeting will be held on Friday, October 14, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. at the J.A.T.C. Training center located at 906 Terminal Rd., Lansing, MI 48933.

To combat and limit the spread of Covid-19, Local 47 encourages all members to continue to work safe, and if you feel sick contact a doctor immediately.

All members should have received a letter from our International regarding the Asbestos Exposure Scientific Study. For more information on how to participate in this study, please contact Business Manager Patrick Welch at the main Local 47 Office number: 517-708-0665

Per the Rules and Procedures:

Members must notify the office within 24 hours of being laid off or charges may be placed, you can do so by calling or texting the office at (517) 708-0665 with your layoff date and the name of the Contractor you were laid off from.

Members must notify the office before ANY overtime is worked.

Contracts are available at the Union Office or at the Union Meeting upon request.

OSHA 10: Local 47 will be offering OSHA 10 to any Active Member who is not current with the program. The course is done online, so if you wish to take the course, please contact the Local Union office with your email address and we will be more than happy to set it up for you. If you do not have a computer at home, you are welcome to come to the Local Union Office to take the course.

To ensure all Active Members and Retirees are receiving their Robo calls please make sure you have not blocked the following number: (804) 441-8365. There are several members who have the number blocked and therefore are not receiving the Robo Calls. These calls are only used for Important Notifications from the Local Union Business Manager and Funeral Notifications. If you are not receiving these calls, please contact the Local Union Office and we will double check to make sure we have the correct number in the system or if you may have blocked the number.

Local 47 has been receiving a lot of returned mail from our members. We ask that if you have a change of address or phone number to please call the Local Union Office right away so we can update your information throughout our system, TIC's, and the with the International. It is very important to make sure your contact information is always update with Local 47.

Local 47's Elections are coming up and the Nominations are being held on Friday, November 4, 2022. The Following positions terms are up for re-election:

- President
- Executive Board: 3 Positions
- JATC Trustees: 1 Position
- Pension/Welfare Trustee: 1 Position
- Market Recovery Committee: 1 Position
- Recording Secretary: 1 Position
- Sergeant-At-Arms: 1 Position
- Market Recovery Committee: 1 Position
- Union Trustee: 1 Position

Pension and Health Welfare: Joshua Kroell (989) 385-2671
Allied Workers' Local 47 Fringe Benefits Funds

6525 Centurion Drive
Lansing, MI 48917-9275
Toll Free: (800) 323-8079
Telephone: (517) 321-7502
Fax: (517) 321-7508

Joshua Kroell will be available via phone to answer any questions regarding Pension, Welfare and Vacation Funds. Joshua is the Secretary for the Pension, Welfare, and Special Benefits and can be reached by phone at (989) 385-2671, or by mail at: P.O. Box 1498, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804.

To all active members, if you have not sent in your Coordination of Benefits Form, your Spousal Form, or your Birth Certificates for your Children, no one will be covered on our insurance until these items are sent to TIC. Please call TIC immediately at (800) 323-8079 and get the above-mentioned forms into the fund ASAP and you will be reinstated retroactively

(Continued next column)



Local 25 Heat and Frost Insulators

Heat & Frost Insulators 25
SOUTHFIELD – UNION MEETING – The next scheduled Membership Meeting will be Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022 at 6 p.m. at the Union Hall, 21353 Bridge St., Southfield, MI 48033.

APPAREL: New Local 25 apparel is available at the Union Hall. New items include: knit hats and beanies, new hi-vis short and long sleeved t-shirts and hi-vis hoodies. Apparel can be viewed on the Facebook page.

MUST SAFETY MODULES: It is important to keep your MUST Safety Modules up to date. If you have Modules expiring and needing to be completed, give the Union Office a call to have the testing authorization turned on.

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES: All employment changes; hire, lay off, fire, shop change, disability, etc. must be called into the Union Hall. This is the only way to guarantee you are on the out of work list and your employment records remain current and correct.

LAY OFF/HIRE: Please be reminded, all members shall notify the Business Manager within forty-eight hours after accepting a job or upon termination of employment. Failure to report will result in an automatic fifty dollar fine.

S.U.B. FUND: Please be reminded, in order to receive a S.U.B. Fund check on Friday, all paperwork must be submitted to the Office no later than 2:00 p.m. on Thursday.

SUB FUND TIME LIMITATION: Please be reminded, per the Plan Document: Each time a participant receives a State Unemployment check, he/she must mail or deliver the receipt, check stub, or a copy of the check to the Administrator's office within thirty (30) days of receipt of said State Unemployment check. Any request for a benefit payment past the thirty (30) days will be denied per the Plan Document.

NOTICE TO ALL: When you move into the Medicare Advantage Program, your deductible balance for the year is supposed to carry over. Whatever you have paid toward your annual deductible, prior to changing over to Medicare Advantage Program, should follow you. As with any system, there can be flaws. Please keep an eye out for any charges, related to your deductible balance not being carried over, when you move into the Medicare Advantage Program. If you receive a charge that should have been covered by your deductible, please contact the Fund Office.

BENESYS: When calling the Fund Office, Benesys, please be sure to get the name of the person providing you information. Lately, we have been experiencing some incorrect information being provided to our members. In order to make sure the correct information is provided, it helps to have a name so the Union Office can call Benesys, correct the person providing incorrect information and find out why they are providing our members with incorrect information.

SICK AND INJURED: Please keep all our sick and injured members in your thoughts and prayers.

Local 47 cont'd

Remember that Auto and Motorcycle accidents are not covered by our plan. Auto and Motorcycle accidents should be covered by your personal Auto Insurance policy.

Members having questions regarding Pension and Welfare Fund please contact TIC International at the numbers below or log onto their Website: www.heatfrostlocal47benefits.org.

Please complete and return the working spousal forms to TIC. JATC Coordinator Phil Wilson (616-466-8736)

Applications are open for the Apprenticeship Program. Call the Union Office.

Under Duties of Apprenticeship, Section 5.3 part L, page 4 of the Apprenticeship Standards states, "According to the Apprenticeship Standards you are required to accurately fill out the



Local 149 Roofers & Waterproofer

Roofers Local 149

DETROIT – Attention. This paper is to serve as an official notice to the membership.

Regular Membership Meeting. The regular membership meeting is scheduled for Tues, Nov. 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Board Meeting. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tues., Oct. 25, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Vacation Checks (quarterly). The Detroit Union Hall will open at 5:00am, Friday, Oct. 14, 2022, to distribute quarterly vacation checks. The Hall will also be open from 8 until Noon, Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022, for anyone who cannot make it down Friday. Direct deposits will be in member's account Oct. 12, 2022. Detroit Members will need to contact the Union Hall if you what the check mailed.

Vacation and Holiday Check Direct Deposit. Members have the option to have their Vacation and Holiday check direct deposited in their bank account. This includes all contracted areas.

To get your Vacation check direct-deposited, members will need to complete a direct deposit agreement. The form will be available at the Detroit and Mid-Michigan Union Hall.

Midwest Apprenticeship Competition. Congratulations to the apprentices who REPRESENTED Local 149 at the Midwest Apprenticeship Competition in Chicago. The Competition was fierce this year, and All of our guys did a phenomenal job. Local 149 has a strong future with some great leaders coming through the apprenticeship!

Way to Represent Brother Anthony Kolbusz (1st year), Brother Jamie O'Neil (1st year), Brother Steve Pellrin (2nd year), Brother Justin Bender (4th year), Brother Luis Calzada-Puga (4th year), and Brother Edward Perez (4th year).

Union Dues. Make sure you pay your monthly dues before the end of every month to stay in good standing. You can pay dues at the Hall with a cash, money order, credit, or debit card. Union dues can be paid over the phone with a credit or debit card. Monthly dues can be taken out of your vacation check by filling out a form at the Hall (active Members only). The mailbox is only to be used for checks and money orders do not put cash in the mailbox. To be eligible for the International Union Burial Benefit, a member must be in continuous good standing. If you have any questions, please call the Hall at 313-961-6093

Moving. If you have a new address, please make sure to let the Union Hall know. We will take care of your account with the Union Hall that includes the Building Tradesman Paper, International Union, and Trust Fund.

Reminder. Members, please call the Hall when you see a roofing project whether it is one of our signatory companies or not.

CLEARANCE CARDS. Are you scheduled to go out of town for work in another Local's territory? Clearance cards are needed when you are sent out of town to work. Get a clearance card from the Hall and call the Local in that area to avoid fines against you.

Detroit Training Center Information. Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Detroit LU 149 members.

Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center.

If you are interested in any of these classes, contact Thomas Jaranowski or Dean Kucharski at the Training Center, 248-543-3847, to make arrangements.

Website for announcements, news, and updates
www.rooferslocal149.com

MID-MICHIGAN AREA – Clio Office

Mid-Michigan Training Center Information. Journeyworkers upgrade classes to improve your skills, your worth, and our Brotherhood/Sisterhood is available at no cost to all Mid-Michigan LU 149 members.

Dues must be current in order to enter the Training Center.

If you are interested in any of these classes, contact the Union Hall/Training Center, 810-687-1368, or midmichroofers149@gmail.com to make arrangements.

Notice. When contractors call the Union Hall for help, we need to know who is available, and have an up-to-date phone number. All Mid-Michigan Area members who are out of work need to call

the Hall at (810) 687-1368 to be put on the out of work list.

The publication above is as 10/3/2022, 2:00p.m.

*In Solidarity, Brian Gregg
Business Manager, Roofers & Waterproofer Local No.149.*



Abatement Workers Local 207

Abatement Workers Local 207

TAYLOR – There are a lot of upcoming projects slated for early fall so be prepared for work.

When you do return to work, follow all required Covid guidelines that may be in place for certain sites. Remember to call in if you are unemployed for help with future placement. Updated, working telephone numbers are necessary to help you with work placement. Do not get caught without the necessary current job site credentials.

Work in other areas of the region will be picking up in Tennessee's Virginia as well as Kentucky. Fall outages in all areas in the region are on the horizon so make sure if you can travel that you make sure to get licensed as soon as possible.

With most state agencies working from home during this pandemic filling out on-line renewals is the way to go. They are processing much quicker than traditional mail in applications. If you have any questions about on-line applications or what states, you may want to get a license for do not hesitate to call the office or my cell. If you can recommend anyone that you know can handle this work have them, call the office to get an application filled out and sent in so we can get them into the next class. You can also fill out application on our website WWW.local207.ORG

(Continued next column)



Local 169 Boilermakers

Boilermakers Local 169

ALLEN PARK – Our next membership meeting will take place on Oct. 14 at 8 pm. It will be in Area 3 at the IBEW Local 692 Hall located at 1300 West Thomas St., Bay City, MI.48706

Current Union dues for 2022 are \$52.35 in accordance with the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Constitution.

The Union Hall accepts, Visa, Mastercard, and Discover. Payments can be made both at the Union Hall and over the phone.

OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 safety training can now be taken online. Please visit our website – www.boilermakerslocal169.com for more information.

Congratulations to this year's winners of the Boilermakers Local 169, Scholarship Essay Contest. Due to the continued success of our Scholarship Golf Outing, awards have increased!

This year's first place winner of \$3,000.00 is Madeline Archer, daughter of member Sam Archer. Second place winner of

Local 207, con't

UPCOMING ASBESTOS TRAINING CLASS

Asbestos Supervisor Refresher Saturday Nov. 17, 2022. Check with the Office to ensure the classes will occur as scheduled. All classes will be held at Local 207's office @ 26453 Northline in Taylor. Classes begin promptly at 8AM and end at 4PM, followed by a Lead Awareness Update.

If you are due to expire and need one of these refreshers now, please call the Taylor Office (1-800-207-5622) to register. Class sizes are being limited due to state guidelines currently in place.

BE SAFE, WEAR YOUR MASKS, & FOLLOW THE SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES!



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Outdoors

Some TLC for Michigan's trails



VOLUNTEERS WORK to repair a trail in Allegan County in preparation for the upcoming snowmobile season.

By Jessica Holley-Roehrs
Michigan Department of
Natural Resources

Michigan Trails Week – the annual celebration that helps shine a light on the state's vast trails network and elevates Michigan's reputation as the Trails State – took place Sept. 18-25.

These eight days are a reminder to pay tribute to Michigan's extraordinary trails system, maybe by finding a new trail adventure, revisiting your favorite route, sharing a photo or memory with a friend or making it social. Follow MiStateParks on Facebook and Instagram to find ideas on how to celebrate.

You can also show your love for Michigan trails by helping keep them in the best shape for everyone to enjoy safely.

Every season brings new adventures on Michigan's trails – with almost 10,000 miles between off-road vehicle and snowmobile trails alone, plus thousands more miles of non-motorized trails. So, it follows that every season, our trails need some TLC from those who care most about not only the upcoming season, but about the long-term sustainability of the state's trails system and scramble areas.

Last spring, a large group of volunteers got together in the

St. Helen Motorsport Area in Roscommon County to give a great example of just that – showing they care through action. Paul and Melanie Mulder, partnering with ORV and snowmobile trail maintenance groups, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Adopt-a-Forest program and dedicated Jeep club volunteers, pulled off one of the most successful trail and forest cleanup events I've seen in my career with the DNR.

The Mulders, both Ferris State University employees, organized the cleanup event that brought together more than 100 Jeeps and other vehicles from at least seven different groups – all volunteers. In total, they cleaned up 31,000 pounds of trash, 208 tires and even a couple of old boats from the St. Helen trails and surrounding forest areas. The trash filled three 30-yard dumpsters donated by the DNR's Adopt-a-Forest program.

Follow-up efforts included identifying locations of more abandoned boats and getting them into a test program for recycling fiberglass boats. From trail cleanup to a future partnership with the Michigan boating industry ... who knew?

These projects and many

years of dedicated work on the ORV trails of the northeast and north-central Lower Peninsula earned the Mulders a Partners in Conservation Award. The Michigan Natural Resources Commission presents these DNR employee-nominated awards to individuals or organizations in recognition of their commitment to conservation, natural resource management and assisting the DNR in carrying out its mission.

I have had the pleasure of working out in the field with these two, and I learned firsthand about the hard work it takes to keep the trails in shape and cleaned up for the thousands of riders who enjoy those trails each season. Nice job, Paul and Melanie – we can't thank you enough!

Where to next? Beginning in September, many of Michigan's 68 snowmobile trail maintenance organizations hit the ground to clean up the trails and routes that we hope will be covered with snow in December. Why start so early, you ask? There's a lot to do!

Many miles of trail are shared with ORV users and will need to be graded one or more times before the ground freezes to ensure a smooth base for the groomers to pack the snow onto solidly.

This time of year, the major-

ity of snowmobile trails are overgrown and strewn with downed limbs, and oftentimes whole trees, that need to be cleared away. And yes, there are tires, trash and other waste. I've heard stories of mattresses, tents, refrigerators and even an old bathtub that needed to be removed from the trails, staging areas, parking lots and trailheads over the years.

But that's not all. The next step is to check each and every sign along the trail, making sure that it is still in place from last season, that it's not too faded or broken, that the pole is in good shape, and then replacing those that need it. Do you know that, in some parts of the state, every sign is put up at the beginning of the snowmobile season and then taken down at the end of the season?

In addition, when Dec. 1 rolls around, gates on private property will need to be opened, and "no trespassing" reminders will need to be posted to ensure that the property owners will allow us to use those sections of trail again in the years to come.

How can you help? What skills and talents can you bring to the trails? No matter which season or form of motorized recreation is your favorite, any time is the right time for you to volunteer a weekend of your time to the local ORV or snowmobile club where you live or where you ride.

There are 110 ORV and snowmobile trail organizations across the state, from the Keweenaw Peninsula to Allegan and everywhere in between, that could use a hand over the next several months or years.

For more information about how to contact any of the motorized trail maintenance organizations around the state, email me at HolleyJ1@Michigan.gov or find a listing of local clubs at the Michigan Snowmobile and ORV website, <https://misorva.org/>

If you're interested in non-motorized trails volunteering, contact DNR state trails coordinator Tim Novak at NovakT8@Michigan.gov or get in touch with a local nonmotorized trail organization, <https://www.michigantrails.org/>

Find more information about Michigan trails, including maps and ways to support them, at Michigan.gov/DNRTrails.

(The writer is a state motorized trails specialist, Parks and Recreation Division, MDNR)



VOLUNTEERS PUT UP a snowmobile trail marker sign. In some areas of Michigan, every sign is put up at the beginning of the snowmobile season and then taken down at the end of the season.



Introducing... the 50th anniversary deer patch

This year marks 50 years of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' deer management cooperator patch.

Brian Shaw from Spring Arbor created the winning 2022 deer patch design, which commemorates the 50th anniversary. The annual deer patch design contest is open to everyone and takes place in the spring. Artists can submit their original work showing deer or deer hunting in Michigan. The patch was first produced in 1972.

Hunters who want a patch to commemorate the deer season can purchase one online at Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses, or from the DNR Hunt Fish mobile app, for \$8 while supplies last. This is an option that has been requested over the years, particularly by hunters who had to travel longer distances to get to a deer check station.

Historically, hunters who brought their harvested deer into a DNR deer check station received a patch in exchange for the biological data collected by DNR staff. Staffed disease sample submission stations will still be open in areas where disease monitoring is taking place. Hunters harvesting a deer in those areas will receive a notification after reporting their deer harvest online.

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