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# GRAND HAVEN

Neighbors

NOVEMBER 2023



WE GET TO LIVE  
WHERE OTHER  
PEOPLE VACATION

Photo Credit: Liz Suzano

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December 15 .....	January
January 15 .....	February
February 15.....	March
March 15 .....	April
April 15.....	May
May 15 .....	June
June 15.....	July
July 15 .....	August
August 15.....	September
September 15 .....	October
October 15 .....	November
November 15 .....	December

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Dear Residents,

Full disclosure - I am a trivia geek and I love great quotes. Please share your favorites!

Here are some interesting facts I discovered about November:

- Believed to derive from 'novem' Latin for the number nine, for it was originally the ninth month on the Roman calendar.
- In 1863, Abraham Lincoln, declared the last Thursday of November to be a National Day of Thanksgiving.
- November begins on the same day of the week as March every year and also February except in leap years.
- November in the Northern Hemisphere is the seasonal equivalent to May in the Southern Hemisphere.
- Around November 17, the Leonids meteor shower reaches its peak.

And a quote:



This publication comes to you courtesy of the local businesses you see in these pages. Please support them as they make it possible for this beautiful magazine to arrive at your door each month.

Dawn Wolfe  
Publisher



RESIDENT FEATURE



# We get to live where other people vacation

By: Megan Tobin

How do Southern-Indiana transplants end up living in Grand Haven knowing no one and leaving behind their family and friends? Simply because they wanted to.

Deanna Girardot-Hublard vacationed in West Michigan throughout her childhood, first from Fort Wayne and then from Southern Indiana. Her parents own property in Silver Lake and the Girardot family spent every summer living up north creating what is now four generations of memories. A foundation of appreciation for West Michigan settled into Deanna and after years of sharing her love of the Mitten State with her husband and daughter, decided to call Grand Haven 'home' instead of just 'vacation.'

Deanna was born in Fort Wayne but grew up in New Albany, Indiana, close to the Ohio River and Louisville, Kentucky. She and her now husband, Kyle Hublard, attended the same high school but they didn't actually meet until they connected years later on Match.com. They discovered they both went to the same high school and knew a lot of the same people. Their paths simply never crossed previously.

"In fact, I already knew his mother through a friend of mine," said Deanna Girardot-Hublard. "That definitely made 'meeting his mother' a lot easier with its ironic twist."

Deanna knew early on and passionately that she wanted to be an interior designer and

at 18, started on her path to building her career. She attended Sullivan College based out of Louisville, Kentucky and graduated in 1998. After the birth of their daughter, Nora, Deanna launched her own business to have the flexibility to stay home with Nora while Kyle was working for himself as well. Kyle graduated from Herron Art in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1997. He is an Interior Trim



Carpenter and is in the process of obtaining his Michigan Builders license.

Deanna introduced Kyle to the West Michigan Lakeshore and he fell in love just as much. In the back of their minds, they always wanted to live in Michigan.

The seeds of consideration really began sprouting five years ago and the opportunity started to unfold.

Their thoughtful consideration of where to live in West Michigan came to fruition this past summer but it took several years of planning.

"Literally, all of our travels over the last five years have been to Michigan exploring its potential for our dream move," said Deanna.

The Southern-Indiana transplants searched towns along the lakeshore, wanting nothing that reminded them too much of Indiana, and then they really discovered Grand Haven.

"We spent Spring Break here, exploring the town," said Deanna. "We were walking down Washington Street, visiting The Bookman, and eating at Morning Star Cafe."

Deanna and Kyle wanted a change in climate, scenery, and access to their preferred lifestyle activities, and they feel they hit the jackpot.

"We made such a bold and dramatic change," said Deanna. "We are relieved and grateful for the warmth, openness, and inviting atmosphere here."

"People ask why we moved here," said Deanna, "and we tell them because we wanted to!"

Deanna and Kyle now are both self-employed and building up their clientele. Between Deanna's interior design business ([tranquilinteriorsllc.com](http://tranquilinteriorsllc.com)) and Kyle's interior trim carpentry, there is some overlap and working together on projects.

They are also keeping busy with their 1950's style ranch.

Finding a house in recent years has not always been easy, especially if you are searching six hours away. They were traveling to Michigan almost every weekend to look at houses and sometimes, a house would be pending before they could even arrive.

Finding the house they live in now really was just perfect timing. They were able to see





the house and fell in love with the Tennessee sandstone chimney, architecture, and corner windows, although shortly after, it was already pending. Luckily for Deanna and Kyle, it came back on the market a week later, giving them just enough time to think about it and the opportunity to put in an offer.

“It absolutely is a fixer-upper and by the time we’re done renovating, we will have touched every surface in the house,” said Deanna. “Currently, we’ve completed putting our personal touches on the basement family room and are in the planning phase for the primary bathroom, followed by the kitchen.”

Besides having great architecture, the home also checked off other boxes that were important to Deanna and Kyle like a larger yard, proximity to Pottawattomie Park, Hofma Park, and the bike path connecting them to the beach.

“As a family, we like being outside on the bike path, hiking, camping, and Kyle enjoys

snowboarding and skateboarding,” said Deanna. “Nora is your typical active kid with an insatiable appetite for books, especially Harry Potter and The Lord of the Rings series.”

They have three animals: Saacha, a two-year-old German Shepherd; Brutus, a one-year-old Olde English Bulldog; and Thunder, a 12-year-old cat.

While Kyle loves to bake, Deanna taught herself how to crochet in 2020 and hasn’t stopped, sharing her projects with friends and family. They all love experiencing new restaurants as self-proclaimed foodies, and their favorite food is pizza. Their favorite restaurants right now are The Village Baker in Spring Lake, The Unicorn Tavern, and Cumin Kitchen.

Even with all the hard work of moving out of state and completely renovating their home, things keep coming up that reinforce the fact that this town is where Deanna, Kyle, and Nora are meant to be.

“At this point, I’m loving exploring everything and driving around town giddy realizing this is where I get to live,” said Deanna. “We get to live where other people vacation.”

Deanna says she is collecting friends and loves meeting new people, even at the gas station.

Deanna and Kyle are enjoying their new neighbors and are amazed at the similar ages of the kids and the adults.

“Our neighbors have had us over for dinner, the kids are playing together after school, and we’re catching up with each other over the weekends,” said Deanna. “We’re excited to be hosting a friendsgiving to show our thanks for their hospitality.”

Deanna’s special message to the community is that she “commends everyone for being so open and welcoming.”

“I’m looking forward to seeing familiar faces at the grocery store or whenever I go out,” said Deanna. “So please, if you recognize us, come up and introduce yourself.”



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## COMMUNITY CONTENT



## Securing the Digital Frontier: Understanding Cybersecurity and Its Necessity

By: Dan Heimler



In an era where digital innovation reigns supreme, the term “cybersecurity” has become a buzzword, often used but not always fully understood. Cybersecurity is not just a concern for technology enthusiasts or IT professionals; it is a critical aspect of our modern lives, shaping how we interact, work, and safeguard our personal information in the digital age. In this article, we will unravel the mystery of cybersecurity, exploring what it entails and why it’s crucial to protect against cyber threats.

### What is Cybersecurity?

At its core, cybersecurity encompasses a set of practices, technologies, and strategies designed to safeguard digital systems, networks, and data from unauthorized access, breaches, and malicious activities. It is the digital defense mechanism that shields our online presence and ensures the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of sensitive information.

### The Pillars of Cybersecurity

**Confidentiality:** Cybersecurity measures ensure that sensitive information remains confidential and accessible only to authorized individuals. This means that your private data, such as personal records or financial information, should not fall into the wrong hands.

**Integrity:** Cybersecurity also maintains the integrity of data, meaning that it remains accurate and unaltered. It protects against data tampering or manipulation by unauthorized entities.

**Availability:** A critical aspect of cybersecurity is ensuring that data and digital resources are available when needed. Cyberattacks can disrupt services and render systems inaccessible, which can have dire consequences for businesses and individuals alike.

**Authentication and Authorization:** These processes verify the identity of users and grant access based on their privileges. Authentication ensures that users are who they claim to be, while authorization defines what actions they are allowed to perform.

**Network Security:** This facet focuses on securing the connections between devices and systems, preventing unauthorized access and data interception. Firewalls, encryption, and intrusion detection systems are common tools in this domain.

**Vulnerability Management:** Cybersecurity professionals continuously assess and address vulnerabilities in systems and software to prevent potential exploits by cybercriminals.

### Why is Cybersecurity Important?

Cybersecurity is not merely an optional layer of protection; it is a fundamental necessity in the digital age. Here are some compelling reasons why cybersecurity is of vital importance:

**Protecting Personal Information:** In an era of digital transactions and online interactions, individuals share a treasure trove of personal information online. Without cybersecurity, this data is vulnerable to theft, leading to identity theft, financial loss, and personal invasion.

**Safeguarding Businesses:** For organizations, cybersecurity is the cornerstone of success. A breach can result in financial losses, damage to reputation, and even legal consequences. By securing their digital assets, businesses ensure their longevity and trustworthiness.

**National Security:** Cyberattacks can extend beyond individual targets to pose threats to national security. Government agencies, critical infrastructure, and military systems rely on robust cybersecurity to protect against cyber threats that could compromise a nation’s sovereignty and safety.

**Economic Stability:** The global economy is increasingly dependent on digital systems. Cyberattacks can disrupt financial markets, supply chains, and economic stability. Adequate cybersecurity safeguards economic prosperity.

**Personal Privacy:** We live in a world where our every move is digitally tracked. Cybersecurity helps protect our personal privacy by preventing unauthorized surveillance and data breaches.

**Intellectual Property Protection:** In a digital economy, intellectual property is a valuable asset. Cybersecurity measures guard against theft of trade secrets, patents, and copyrighted materials.

**Preventing Cybercrime:** Cybercriminals constantly evolve their tactics, seeking to exploit vulnerabilities. Effective cybersecurity measures help deter and mitigate cybercrime, making it a less lucrative endeavor.

**Global Connectivity:** The Internet connects people and organizations worldwide. Cybersecurity ensures that this connectivity remains a force for good, fostering global communication and cooperation.

In conclusion, cybersecurity is not a luxury but a necessity in our digitally connected world. It is the digital shield that protects our personal information, secures businesses and upholds national security. Understanding the pillars of cybersecurity and its importance is the first step toward building a safer digital future. Embracing cybersecurity is not just a matter of choice; it’s a responsibility that each of us shares in this digital age. So, let us all do our part in fortifying the digital frontier against the ever-present cyber threats.





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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## NOV &amp; DEC 2023

**TUES., NOV. 14****Play n Learn Group****@ Grand Haven Loutit Library**

Join us for story time, music, and educational play activities. Each family receives a free book! Intended for families of children ages birth to 5. Information on child development and reading readiness will be available for parents and caregivers.

**Time:** 11:15AM - 12:15PM**Cost:** Free**THURS., NOV. 16****Soup For All****@ St. Patrick's-St. Anthony's, GH**

Join us in the fight to prevent homelessness in our immediate community. Enjoy a soup buffet from local restaurants including bread, cookies, and coffee!

**Time:** 11:30AM - 1:00PM**Cost:** \$15**FRI., NOV. 17****Light Night Holiday Shopping Open House****@ Downtown Grand Haven**

Celebrate the beginning of the holidays in downtown Grand Haven, MI with the lighting of the holiday decorations!

**Time:** 6:00PM**Cost:** Free**SAT., NOV. 25****Small Business Saturday****@ Grand Haven Main Street**

Shop 'til you drop in Downtown and Centertown.

**Time:** 8:00AM**SAT., DEC. 2****Jingle Bell Parade****@ Central Park, Grand Haven**

Join us for the Annual Jingle Bell Parade presented by the Chamber of Commerce! Holiday fun for the whole family.

**Time:** 6:00PM**Cost:** Free**FRI., DEC. 8****Luminary Event****@ Hemlock Crossing County Park**

Join us for this year's annual Holiday Luminary Event as the Nature Center is transformed into a beautiful winter wonderland. There is no charge for attending, so bring your families and enjoy this magical evening! Hot cider, cookies, and candy canes will be waiting.

**Time:** 5PM-7PM**Cost:** Free**SAT., DEC. 9****Happy Elves Craft Show****@ White Pines Middle School****Time:** 9AM**Cost:** Free**SAT., DEC. 9****Cookie Crawl****@ Downtown Muskegon**

After you purchase your tin, you'll arrive on the day of the event at the Muskegon Farmers Market. You'll get your first cookie and a map to follow. Then, you'll crawl around town collecting cookies from each business and filling up your tin!

**Time:** 10AM - 8PM**Cost:** \$25/tin

Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/downtown-muskegon-cookie-crawl>

**SUN., DEC. 10****Merchants and Makers Very Merry Market****@ Trillium Events**

Join us for our 6th annual Very Merry Market! We have 55 amazing makers with items for everyone on your holiday list! Music by Plain Jane Glory and Food by Trillium Events. Please bring food items to donate.

**Time:** 11AM - 5PM**Cost:** \$3 at the door, children are free**SUN., DEC. 17****The Polar Express - Free Family Movie****@ The Frauenthal Center****Time:** 3:00PM**Cost:** Free





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CHARITY SPOTLIGHT

# The People Center is for Everyone

By: Stacey Ruwe



There is a little building (and a few other houses) that we drive past all of the time on M-104 in Spring Lake. The sign out by the road says “The People Center” but how many actually know what this amazing organization does – or even that it is an organization at all?

The People Center has been there since 1996 – yes, almost 30 years! While they have expanded their services over the years, one thing has remained the same – their mission. This amazing organization provides food, clothing, transitional housing and helps to connect people going through uncertainty with other resources to help them move forward with dignity.

When you drive down the driveway to the little gray building, it is hard to imagine the impact such a small place can make – but trust me they do! Last month alone they provided food and clothing to over 2000 people. Amazing!

Their clothing pantry is one unlike any other I have seen – they collect for the whole family and really appreciate business attire so they can provide dress clothing for job interviews and such to people who are working to get themselves back on their feet. It is a small pantry with a big impact. They are currently looking for bedding items, NEW underwear and socks, hats, mittens, and snow pants just to name a few.

As for their food pantry – they did a major expansion of that program several years ago and it is like a small grocery store. Fully stocked with great options for everyone. You can donate cleaning supplies, dry goods

(think cereal, pasta, etc.), canned goods, and other food and hygiene products. These items make a huge impact without much effort on your part. Trust me – they matter to those people in need.

The little gray building is not their only building – they have several other buildings to help people with transitional housing as they get back on their feet. You have probably driven past them a thousand times without actually realizing that is what they are for – right here in our own community. They currently have 6 apartments that are used for transitional housing, so if you know someone in need of this, have them call the office and talk to the staff person to get started.

Our community is so supportive of ALL of our residents and organizations, like The People Center, and is the key to making sure those going through hard times have a place to turn for help – no matter if they need groceries for their kids, a couple outfits for job interviews or more. Just think about it – this little organization started as one small building with one apartment and has grown to what it is today because of the support of us, our friends, and neighbors. We truly live in a wonderful community!

So next time you are cleaning out your closets or maybe even the pantry – think of The People Center and give them a call at 616-844-6710 or check out their website at [thepeoplecenter.org](http://thepeoplecenter.org). They can tell you what items are most needed at that time and also give you other ways you can help their mission. Watch their sign out by the road – they post items that they are in major need of or if there is something specific.

**KEVIN JARCHOW** *Wealth Manager*



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# Real Estate Stats


By: Stacey Ruwe | Realtor, Ruwe Homes

## REAL ESTATE SPOTLIGHT

	SEP 2023	SEP 2022	
Average List Price	\$638,320	\$563,569	
Average Sales Price	\$470,782	\$360,041	
Average Days on Market	40	20	
<b>LISTINGS:</b>			
New	31	48	-35.40%
Active	82	94	-12.80%
Pending	29	44	-34.10%
Sold	40	48	-16.70%

Best Version Media does not guarantee the accuracy of the statistical data on this page. The data does not represent the listings of any one agent or agency but represents the activity of the real estate community in the area. Any real estate agent's ad appearing in the magazine is separate from the statistical data provided which is in no way a part of their advertisement. Data extracted from Multiple Listing Service. Properties listed above are a collective total of sold market statistics and include single-family, condominium, and multi-family properties.

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## COMMUNITY CONTENT

# Diabetes and Hearing Loss

By: Dr. Kim Keessen



November is diabetes awareness month! This is a good time to talk about the relationship between diabetes and hearing loss. Hearing loss is a lesser known complication of diabetes, so this is very important information to have especially if you do have diabetes or prediabetes.

Diabetes is incredibly common. According to the CDC about 1 in 10 Americans have diabetes and 1 in 3 have prediabetes. Both diabetes and prediabetes increase your risk of hearing loss. In fact, diabetes doubles your risk of hearing loss compared to those who do not have diabetes. Prediabetes increases your risk by a third.

Many understand that diabetes affects your whole body. When it comes to the ear and hearing, researchers believe that diabetes may damage the nerves and small blood vessels in the inner ear eventually causing hearing loss. This is a gradual process that can happen over many years so the individual with diabetes may not recognize that hearing loss is occurring. So it is crucial that people with diabetes have an audiologist on their care team. The CDC recommends those with diabetes have their hearing checked annually.

If a hearing loss is detected, then treatment with hearing aids can begin at an early stage which may decrease your risk of complications of hearing loss such as social isolation, depression, and dementia.

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NOURISH & FLOURISH

# White Chicken Chili

By Tammy Cross

Tammy Cross is an Optavia Coach and can be reached at [tammycross123@gmail.com](mailto:tammycross123@gmail.com).

SERVES 4



## INGREDIENTS:

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 2 1/4 LBS BONELESS SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST OR CAN CHICKEN CHOPPED | 2 TSP CUMIN                     |
| 1 TBSP OLIVE OIL  | 1 TSP CORIANDER                 |
| 1 CUP GREEN ONIONS DICED  | 3 CUP CHICKEN BROTH             |
| 1 CUP RED BELL PEPPERS CHOPPED                                    | 1 CUP WATER                     |
| 1/4 CUP JALAPEÑO PEPPER DICED                                     | 2 (7) OZ MILD GREEN CHILIES     |
| 3 SMALL GARLIC CLOVES MINCED                                      | 3 TBSP UNSWEETENED COCONUT MILK |
| 1/2 TSP SALT  | 1 SMALL CILANTRO HALVED         |

## HERES WHAT TO DO:

- 1— Chop the chicken and veggies (save some green onions to top each serving if you choose). Then place a large pot over medium-high heat. Add the oil, onions, peppers (remove the seeds), Jalapeño (remove the seeds) and garlic. Sauté for 5 minutes.
- 2— Add the chicken, salt and spices. Sauté another 5 to 8 minutes, until chicken is nearly cooked through. Add the broth, green chilies, and coconut milk. Bring to a boil. Lower the heat and simmer for 20 minutes.
- 3— Serve topped with green onions and cilantro if you choose.



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**BUSINESS PROFILE**

# Floor Coverings International of Grand Rapids and the Lakeshore

By: Megan Tobin

Erick and Sharee Hatfield took over Floor Coverings International of Grand Rapids about 5 years ago and recently expanded into the West Michigan Lakeshore. Connecting with clients in their own homes, FCI is a locally owned family business with over 160 five-star reviews on Google.

FCI brings the personal connection to your doorstep with their Mobile Flooring Showrooms.

“We’re not happy until you’re happy,” said Erick Hatfield. “Home improvement can be stressful so we partner together with our clients and help them identify multiple options and solutions to meet their design and budget.”

Their Mobile Flooring Showroom brings samples directly to the home or business so the client can see what products look like in their own setting.

This is a unique advantage that FCI Grand Rapids has over its competitors.

Their flooring experts will measure, assess, provide expertise, and identify multiple options and solutions.

“We carry all major national brands and have products for every budget and design,” said Erick.

Another benefit to supporting a local, family owned business and communicating directly with the owners is that you will be working with highly-motivated professionals. FCI Grand Rapids works with licensed and insured installers. They only use a select crew of proven installers that have been working with FCI Grand Rapids for several years.



To streamline the process and build the trust required with a project of this magnitude, FCI Grand Rapids provides a quote onsite during their free consultation. This quote includes everything required to get the job done right.

Erick and Sharee are operating this company together as a husband and wife duo. Sharee is the Office Manager and handles day to day operations while Erick oversees Sales and Marketing.

“We have our days but honestly, we really enjoy working together,” said Sharee Hatfield of working with Erick. “We’ve learned that as much hard work as we put into the business, we also have to keep the fun and laughter in there too.”

FCI of Grand Rapids and the Lakeshore is committed to customer service and transparency; two things that Erick and Sharee saw missing in home improvement contractors.

“We love our community,” said Sharee. “Our goal is to serve our local customers and for them to feel they are taken care of.”

Erick and Sharee have three children: their oldest is married and lives in Brooklyn, NY, their middle lives in Chicago, and their youngest is a junior at MSU. Their favorite times spent all together at their lake house in South Haven.

To schedule your free in-home consultation and learn more about Floor Coverings International, please visit their website: [www.grandrapids.floorcoveringsinternational.com](http://www.grandrapids.floorcoveringsinternational.com).

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