



2025 - Volume 61 Number 4

The Michigander

"Family Fun Through Camping in Michigan"



2026 Campout Announcements

March 23-29, Retiree Rally, Mineola, TX
 May 15-17, State Spring, St. Louis, MI
 May 22-25, Gladwin Fairgrounds, Gladwin, MI
 July 5-11, Campvention, Huron, SD
 September 4-7, Evart, MI
 September 8-11, Retiree Rally, St. Louis, MI
 September 11-13, State Fall, St. Louis, MI
 September 25-27, Blue Water, Imlay City, MI

Note: click on the blue link for registration forms; web version.

<https://mifcrv.org/calendar/default.htm>

Registration forms are published in the electronic edition posted on our website: www.mifcrv.org, *Calendar of Events*
 Please support the many activities scheduled for 2024.

Editor's Note: Please submit campout registrations (Word preferred) by email: kkurburski@gmail.com
 Be sure to include **DOCUMENTATION** for any pictures or clipart.

Michigander DEADLINE DATES

DEADLINES for submitting articles to the Michigander:

December 20 for the January issue

March 20 for the April issue

June 20 for the July issue

September 20 for the October issue

You can start **TODAY** by sending articles to kkurburski@gmail.com

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(Electronic version only)	

The Michigander
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Editor's note: Please check your Michigander Subscription

EXPIRATION DATE

Send corrections to:

kkurburski@gmail.com

(Only if you are a subscriber for a Mailed copy)

The Michigander Subscription

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Michigan State Association of NCHA/FCRV and send to:

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For full color Michigander visit:

<http://www.mifcrv.org/Michigander/default.htm>



Join us on Facebook.com/ Michigan Family Campers and RV'ers

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/349029098472615/>

The Michigander

The **Michigander** is the official publication of the **Michigan State Association of Family Campers and RVers** published four times per year. The opinions expressed in **The Michigander** are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the opinion of NCHA/FCRV or MSA.

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President's Message

Fellow Campers,

The D.A.S.A.T. presentation at this year's Fall State Campout was about fraud and scams. So, I thought it appropriate to talk about scam emails that directly affect members of MSA.

These emails purportedly are sent by an officer of MSA. For example, I've gotten numerous such emails supposedly from Pete Schaub when he was President, and a few supposedly from Marci McIntoch as State Director. I've recently learned that others have recently gotten such emails supposedly from me, now that I am President.

The content of such emails can take on many different forms. Often, they say that there is an expense that needs to be paid, so could you please pay it via Paypal, Venmo, or Zelle and you'll get reimbursed. Sometimes they'll say that there is a need to purchase gift cards for something. Occasionally they'll have a very benign sounding message, such as "can we discuss something." My understanding is that the latter scam emails are fishing for a response, and, if they get one, then they'll follow up with a more detailed scam attempt. Usually, the details in these scam emails are somewhat vague, but I received one scam email that specifically mentioned MSA and Dave Mull in his role as Treasurer.

While I don't know this for certain, I suspect that scammers are getting our names and email addresses from them being in *The Michigander*, which is available online for anyone to see. Now that I am listed as President, I anticipate that in the future many scam emails will be sent out supposedly from me, just as many were previously sent out supposedly from Pete when he was President. Anyone whose email is listed in *The Michigander* (which includes all MSA officers and program directors) could potentially receive such emails.

Hopefully everyone is savvy enough to recognize these emails as scam attempts. But as scammers get more sophisticated, it might get harder to distinguish between scam and legitimate emails. If you have any question about the legitimacy of an email supposedly received from someone in MSA, you should contact that person not by replying to the email, but by calling them or by forwarding the email to the person (or sending a separate email), typing in their email address from *The Michigander* to ensure that it goes to that person and not to a scammer.

Stay safe,
Brian Fuller
MSA President

State Directors News

Our camping season is coming to an end and this year was quite the season! The highlight was certainly Campvention in Lebanon, Tennessee. It was the best National campout since I was a teen (which is very high praise). Geoff and I volunteered with the teens. If you want to see a highlight reel, check out our video on YouTube @MIFCRV. Some changes this year, like the open day for tours and the group hospitality event, look like they'll continue into next year. Speaking of next year, we're headed to Huron, South Dakota! If you're interested in Campvention, I encourage you to check out Camping Today (available on FCRV.org) and/or join the Facebook group called 2026 Family Campers & RVers Campvention. Registration is open and they're planning another epic event. A quick shout out to all of the Michigan campers that made our Hospitality table a success! Thank you, Brian, Marybeth, Wanda, Ric, Dave & Kathy!

When you're thinking about future Campventions, start thinking about 2027. We're scheduled to return to Canada in two years and while the grounds haven't been set yet, the expectation is that it will be very close to Michigan. This gives us a unique opportunity to help out our neighbors to the north. They have a small group and have asked for help from the surrounding states. Having been on the committee for 4 out of the last 5 year, I can tell you that volunteering is a rewarding way to spend your week (or less). There are committees for almost everything and you can put your talents to work in many different ways. If you're considering volunteering, but are unsure, please give me a call, drop me an email or send me a text. I can help you figure things out.

We all know that FCRV is changing as the years pass, but so is the world around us. One way that we're looking to get back to our roots is to focus on Wildlife and Conservation. For 2026, FCRV is shaping Campvention around more than just a gathering. It is about purpose. We will be partnering with Friends of Maga Ta Hohpi and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, turning the year into a celebration of conservation, outdoor education, and the joy of connecting families with nature. Friends of Maga Ta-Hohpi is a cooperating association with the Huron Wetland Management District of USFWS. Their mission is to promote environmental education, increase public knowledge of the value of the prairie pothole ecosystem, and create partnerships that protect natural resources for future generations. It's an exciting year to get involved! As a state, I would encourage us to get involved in our local wildlife and conservation organizations. One of the easiest ways to partner with other organizations is to apply for Wildlife Grants through FCRV, but we can do so much more! If you have ideas on how to partner with other organizations, get in touch with me. Let's see how much good we can do!

Lastly, we passed a sheet around at the Fall Campout for the 2026 Spring and Fall campouts, if you weren't there, but would like to help out, let me know.

There are a lot of ways to get involved in our State Association and FCRV Nationals. I hope you'll take the opportunity to join in new ways!

Keep on rollin'
Marci

MSA State Fall 2025 in St. Louis, MI



Photo Credit: Geoff Stringer

Campout Updates

The 2025 Blue Water Mixer was wonderful! We had Bingo Friday evening, a pancake and sausage breakfast Saturday morning, then a soup lunch.

In the afternoon Barb Blankenship put together a rotation of games (13 different games to try, i.e. shooting cups with a Nerf gun, throwing Velcro balls at a target, drop a ball into a cup from you waist, etc.).

The evening program was a sing-along with Don Lumley on the guitar, followed with a short meeting. After the meeting, we had a wonderful game of Bean Bag Baseball.

The Praise Gang Puppeteers held the Church Service on Sunday. With almost all of the campout attendees in attendance.

The theme for the 2026 Blue Water Mixer is “New Beginnings”.

Dates are September 26-27, 2026, please put this on your calendar and plan to be there.

Looking forward to seeing all of you there.



State Fall 2025

- CONSERVATION PROJECT
- ROAD RALLY
- MICHIGAN TRIVIA
- PRAISE GANG PUPPETS



Photo Credit: Angie Shaneyfeldt, Liz Kurburski, Marci McIntosh

Charlevoix Campout 2025



Photos courtesy of: Brian Fuller



- 10 units present
- Scavenger hunt of the community
- Stone finding and craft
- Potlucks





Grace Carey

Scholarship News



Natalie Carey

We are delighted to announce we have two (2) Scholarship winners this year. Grace and Natalie Carey. The sisters along with their parents are active members of FCRV and Nature's Nuts Chapter 291.

Grace Carey is attending Ball State University in Indiana majoring in biology and pre-medicine to pursue a medical degree specializing in anesthesiology or sports medicine. Recently, she completed a minor educational degree in Spanish as she feels it will help communicating with patients. Congratulations and best of luck in all your endeavors Grace!

Natalie Carey is pursuing a nursing degree at Oakland University. Growing up she was inspired by stories of resilience and compassionate healthcare workers in her family. It became more personal when she watched knowledgeable, empathetic nurses take care of family members at their toughest times. We wish you all the best in the future Natalie.

It's never too early to start thinking about next year's scholarship application. Some of the requirements to be eligible to apply for a Scholarship: the applicant **or** applicant's parents must attend at least one (1) Michigan FCRV campout this year and camped/stayed overnight one night. The qualifying campouts are: MSA State Spring or MSA State Fall campout.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Teens living at home planning to attend college or a trade school, upon turning 20 years of age, will need to request a 20-year-old honorary membership from the Michigan State Director to apply for a free membership. To be eligible for a National or Michigan FCRV scholarship, you must be a **member in good standing**. (See policy below)

Scholarship applications are available on the MSA website, www.mifcrv.org. Be sure to apply for a national scholarship; the contact information is at the bottom of the Michigan scholarship application. For questions contact: Jane Thornton, Scholarship Director 2084 Madsen Rd. – Saginaw, MI 48601 Ph. 989-777-5958 E-mail: scholarship@mifcrv.org.

Jane Thornton, Scholarship Director

POLICY-TWENTY YEAR OLD HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

1. Any single child of an FCRV member in good standing, may at the age of 20, request of the State/Provincial Director that his/her name be placed on the 20 year old honorary membership list. The name, address, and birth date of the 20 year old will be provided to the national office through the State/Provincial Directors.
2. FCRV will extend the membership of a single child through the age of 24 if that individual is in the military or a student in college or technical school. **This extension ceases upon leaving college, release from the military, marriage, or lack of application to the State/Provincial Director EACH year for a membership extension.** At the end of the extension period the member must pay for a renewal at the going rate.



Chaplain's Corner

Fall is upon us, and Winter will soon follow, then Spring will come, and the world will have a new beginning! God has given us all things for us to enjoy, so I am praying that you all have a Fabulous Fall and a Wonderful Winter. Remember to love one another and to love your enemies no matter how hard that may be! Until we are all back together again at State Spring, may God bless and keep you!

Revelation 21:5(KJV)

⁵And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.



STATE FALL AWARDS



SCHOLARSHIP



MICHIGAN STATE ASSOCIATION 60TH



EARLY RISERS



ROAM'N OAKS



Recipe Corner

Source: Unknown



White Chicken Chili

Ingredients:

1 small diced yellow onion
1 T. olive oil
2 cloves garlic minced
14 oz chicken broth
1 can diced green chilies
1.5 tsp. cumin
0.5 tsp. paprika
0.5 tsp. oregano
0.5 tsp. ground coriander
0.25 tsp. cayenne pepper
Salt and Pepper to taste
8 oz. package cream cheese
1.25 cups fresh or frozen corn
2 cans cannellini beans
2.5 cups shredded or cut up chicken

Toppings

Fresh Cilantro
Sour cream
Shredded Cheese
Tortilla Chips



Source: istock

DASAT

Hello Everyone,

Camping season has come to a close by the time this Michigander edition is sent out. Sad to see the end to this season. The Retiree and Fall Campouts were great this year I'm glad we were able to attend both of them.

I kind of had a touch of writer's block for this article. While finishing the hand railings on the steps to our deck I got to thinking about Home Safety. With fall arriving I'm sure there's a couple projects around home we're all trying to finish before the weather changes. So, let's review some home safety information, the below suggestions are a brief listing of home safety ideas.

Home Safety

1. Make sure your home escape routes are clear of clutter and furniture. Don't forget escape routes in your garage, pole barn, out buildings and your RV. Include your meeting place as well.
2. Check your doors and windows, do they open, close, latch and lock properly. Is there easy access to them if you have to use them for an escape route.
3. Keep your stairways open and free of clutter to prevent slip, trip, and fall injuries.
4. Keep outdoor pathways like exterior entrances, garage doorways, approaches, driveways, sidewalks, and other pathways clear and free of debris, toys and other trip hazards. Also keep these areas well illuminated with available yard lighting, landscape lights and other outdoor lighting.
5. Purchase or build a family first aid kit.
6. Have an emergency contact list ready and available and not just on your cellphone. That way friends, neighbors, and relatives may assist in contacting someone if the need arises. List should include name, address and phone numbers of emergency contacts, doctors, pharmacy, poison control etc.
7. Check fire/smoke/CO2 alarms, and fire extinguishers are properly located and in correct working order. Change the batteries when you change your clocks.
8. Are your woodstoves, pellet stoves, fireplaces, furnaces, and other heating sources, including chimneys inspected, clean and filters changed.
9. Fuel for BBQ grills, lawn garden equipment, recreation vehicles, etc. properly stored.
10. Do you have a Go Bag/Bug out Bag/ Evacuation Bag ready to go at a moment's notice. Also do you have a checklist to accompany your bags, so you don't forget anything. Include a bag or kit for your children and pets.

Home Safety for Children

1. Cover electrical outlets.
2. Secure toxic substances, medications, cleaning products, lawn and garden products etc. out of reach of children and pets by storing them in a safe, secure location.

3. Use stairway safety gates to limit access to certain areas of your home for small children, such as stairways, balconies, kitchens etc.
4. Manage your trash receptacles, use locking lids/covers to keep children and pets from gaining access to trash.
5. Do your children know their address and emergency contact information and 911.
6. Know where everyone is before moving vehicles and equipment in your driveway and yard to prevent personal injury.
7. Keep firearms and ammunition secured and out of reach of children.
8. Assure house plants are non-toxic to children and pets.
9. Keep plastic bags, plastic wrapping materials and small items out of reach of children to avoid suffocation, choking and other health hazards.

Home Safety for Pets

1. Have contact list for veterinarians, emergency pet clinics, pharmacy's, pet supply stores, evacuation shelters that accept pets, pet kennels.
2. Cover or secure electrical cords to prevent pets from playing with them and chewing on them.
3. Provide a secure, comfortable space for your pets to retreat to.
4. Keep decorations (birthday, holiday, etc.) and other small objects away from pets to prevent choking hazards.
5. Purchase or build a pet first aid kit.

Some of these safety suggestions may overlap categories but they're still important to know. If you're interested there is more safety information you can check out on numerous online sites. Below are just a few.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Your insurance company | 5. American Red Cross |
| 2. Ready.gov | 6. National Institute on Aging |
| 3. National Safety Council | 7. Humane Society |
| 4. SafeKids.org | 8. Do 1 Thing |

Wishing you all safe travels, Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year. See you all in the spring.

Respectfully

Tom Lewis

State of Michigan DASAT Director

tcl_butch@yahoo.com

989-640-1181

Blue Water Mixer 2026

We would like to invite you to our 2026 Blue Water Mixer at the Imlay City Fair Grounds.

The theme is "**New Beginnings**".

Our Mixer is under the direction of **NEW** people.

Due to the passing of Joyce Williams, and John, Rocky & Don Lumley's health, they have stepped down. We are very thankful for all their years of hard work for putting on this Mixer. Plus, the years as members of FCRV. We thank you!

We have decided to put our feet in the water and will try our best to see if we can keep our Mixer going. So, Ron O'Dell & Barb Blankenship are going to team together and co-chair the Mixer.

It will be a "NEW BEGINNING" for the two of us.

So first off, be patient, we are learning a lot. We have full plates already and never took on this adventure. So, if things are different (not quite correct) or something has been forgotten, "we apologize" in advance.

We are going to have our camp out the last weekend in Sept. as usual. SEPT 25 - 27, 2026 with early arrivals on Sept 24.

If you are a first-time camper at our Mixer and have never camped at our Mixer in the past, (State Sponsored Camp outs do not count as mixer) we are offering a first timers, new Beginnings discount for all FIRST TIMERS.

We are having :

FRIDAY

- Card Bingo, quarter per game.

SATURDAY

- Pancake breakfast with Sausage (Only Butter & syrup, and for pancakes) extras are BYO
- Soup Lunch
- Family games
- Potluck Dinner – Ham will be provided, please bring a dish to pass and table service.
- Evening program

SUNDAY

- Praise Gang Puppeteer church service

We will see if we have more fun events added but at this early stage of the game, we have a NEW BEGINNING.

Ron O'Dell and Barb Blankenship would love to see you joining us and helping us see our Mixer survive.

We hope that our Canadian friends come back and join us. We missed seeing you this year.

Pre-registration	\$10.00
Camping fee	\$40.00
Fri. & Sat. Registration & Camping Fee:	\$50.00
Early arrivals 9-24,2026	\$20.00 extra.

Discounts for First time Camping with us:

If you are not a FCRV member you get a discount of \$10 to find out who we are. You are also eligible to get 6 months free membership to the Family Campers & RVers.

First time Mixer attendees get a \$10 discount.

Invite a first-time attendee and if they come for the weekend, you get a \$5.00 discount. Hope all of you join us and earn some discounts!

**54th FCRV INTERNATIONAL RETIREE RALLY****Mineola Civic Center****Circle the Wagons in Mineola****1150 N Newsom Street, Mineola, TX 75773****Rally Dates: March 23 – March 29, 2026****Early Days: March 20th - March 22nd****Please complete the following: (Please Print)**

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse/Other _____

Address _____ City _____ St/Pr _____ Code _____

Mailing Address of Other: _____ # of People In Unit _____

Cell Phone #1 _____ Cell Phone #2 _____

Email Address _____

Confirmation Send By: Pdf _____ Word _____ Mailed: _____

Mailing Address If Different From Above: _____

Registering For Camping: On Grounds _____ Off Grounds _____ Camp Pass _____Is this your first retiree rally? **Yes** _____ **No** _____ Are you a veteran? **Yes** _____ **No** _____**Special Needs:** Must have on file with the registrar: License registration including handicap Plate, or handicap placard. This area is reserved for wheelchairs, walkers, or those with limited mobility.**REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE MARCH 1, 2026 DEADLINE.**Registrations received after March 1st or registering at the gate will incur an additional \$35 fee.**Early Days:** Early days fee of \$45 per night per unit will be collected by the treasurer at the registration desk.**Included In The Fee:** Full Hook-Ups, (30/50 Amp), Ice Cream Social, 2 Dinners, Entertainment, and a lot of fun.

	Early Registration	At gate
2 People In Unit	\$350	\$385
1 Person In Unit	\$320	\$355

Camp Pass Staying In Unit On Grounds as 2nd Family In Unit or Staying off grounds:

2 People	\$110
1 Person	\$ 80

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FCRV/NCHA RETIREE RALLY**Mail to:** Mildred Pauwels, P.O. Box 193, Dana, N.C. 28724**NO CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED****Refunds:** All but \$35 will be refunded if cancellation notice is received two weeks prior to the rally. After the rally deadline of March 1, 2026, only the camping fee will be refunded. A refund requested after the rally starts will be made after the rally has ended.**I Would Like To Volunteer For:**

FOR REGISTRAR ONLY

REG# _____

CK# _____

CASH _____

AMT _____

**FAMILY CAMPERS & RVers 2026 CAMPVENTION****"Where The Flock Gathers"****July 5 - 11, 2026****South Dakota State Fairgrounds
1060 3rd Street SW, Huron, SD 57350****REGISTRATION:**

Welcome to Campvention 2026. Everyone must complete a registration form, including second families and camp day passes. Submit payment with the completed form. All funds shall be in US currency, including checks and money orders. There will be room for you if you decide to come at the last minute. Simply bring this registration form with you.

****Refund policy:** If you are unable to attend, all except \$30 will be refunded AFTER the conclusion of 2026 Campvention.

Registration deadline May 15th - Pay before December 31, 2025, to receive a \$25 discount (\$340.00).

	<u>Registration</u>	<u>At Gate</u>
One Family in the Unit	\$365.00	\$400.00
Extra Family in the Unit (separate pay)	\$185.00	\$205.00
Week Drive-in Day Pass (July 5 - 11)	\$200.00	\$215.00
Drive-in Day Pass (per day)	\$35.00	\$40.00

Early Bird Days: July 3 and 4 @ \$35/night (pay upon arrival – cash/check) The gates will be open Friday at 12 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Is this your first Campvention?: _____ Are you an FCRV Member?: _____ Member #: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Spouse/Guest: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN YOUR UNIT:

Adults: _____ Teens: _____ Youth: 9 – 12 _____ Youth: 5 – 8 _____ Total number of people in Unit: _____

****Please list the names and ages of all youth and teens on the back of this form.**

CAMPVENTION PARKING: (There will be no special needs sites available at the gate.)

Check if you are requesting a special needs site: _____ (Valid Handicap parking proof must be presented upon arrival.)

Please note the LENGTH of camping rig behind type:

Motorhome _____ 5th Wheel _____ Travel Trailer _____ Pop-Up _____ Number of slide outs _____

Electricity: 30 amp _____ 50 amp _____ (50 amp is limited. Handicap first. Then first come, first served.)

****Bring extension cords. Water available. Bring hoses and Y connectors.**

CAMPVENTION HELP: Would you like to help with event(s)? Staff will follow up with a contact if yes: Yes _____ No _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FCRV Campvention 2026

Mail checks and completed forms to:

FCRV Campvention 2026

137 Crandon Blvd.

Cheektowaga, NY 14225

For inquiries please call 316-830-2115
or 701-400-1322.

Confirmations will be sent via Email.

Please allow a month for processing.



NEW BEGINNINGS

Blue Water District FCRV

September 25-27, 2026

NAME _____

PHONE () - Email address (please print) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

Go Green - your mail back can be sent to your email address. Please check one: I prefer _____ Email _____ US Mail _____

Chapter _____ Chapter # _____

Type of unit _____ length of unit _____ # of slide outs _____

of famil: Adults _____ Teens _____ Double Digits _____ Youth _____ Pets _____

Eastern Michigan Fairgrounds - 2 Blocks North of I-69
Imlay City, MI 48444
Please use West Entrance on S. Almont Ave.

Mail payment with registration form to:

Barb Blankenship
5910 Evans Road
Capac, MI 48014

Pre-registration \$10.00
Camping fee \$40.00
Fri. & Sat. Registration & Camping Fee: \$50.00
Early arrivals 9-24,2026 \$20.00 extra.

Please Make Checks payable to:

BLUE WATER DISTRICT MIXER

Pre-Registration Deadline September 11, 2026

Total amount enclosed _____ Check number _____

****Canadian Registrations WE CANNOT ACCEPT CANADIAN CHECKS, PLEASE EMAIL REGISTRATION TO:**

Barb Blankenship, BlueWaterMixer@tpmch.net

Any Questions call, text or email:

Email: BlueWaterMixer@tpmch.net

Barb Blankenship
5910 Evans Road
Capac, MI 48014

PHONE: (810) 310-0370

or

(Please leave a message
with your Name & contact information)

Ron O'Dell
7065 Mowerson Road
Melvin, MI 48454-9711
PHONE: (734) 800-5810

A FREE WEEKEND WILL BE DRAWN FROM THE REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED BEFORE AUGUST 14, 2026

* Do you prefer to NOT to be parked by someone with pets: DO NOT Park me by pets _____ does not matter _____
_____ Handicap parking, we understand we will not be parked with our chapter. A valid state handicap certificate, license or doctors certificate is required.