

March 2026

# At A Glance

A Monthly Publication of the Fife Lake Chamber of Commerce



## INSIDE, WE ALSO TALK ABOUT:

- Recap: Winter Winners
- Feature: First Responders
- Community Connections
- Calendar: Spring Events

## It Takes A Village

A huge thank you to our 2026 Sponsors!

- Friends of the Fife Lake Public Library
- The Upper Bar & Grill
- Wade Logging
- Nathan Goffnett of Edward Jones
- Mad Swirlz Ice Cream & Eatz
- Chrissie Feike of Feike Agency
- Neal Soenksen of Edward Jones

## Welcome New Members

- Amy Bridson
- Amy Budrow
- Courtney Adams
- Debbie McCool
- Denise Berthiame
- Fife Lake Historical Society
- Jane Roesemier
- Jeff Berthiame
- Kyle Gilmour
- Marcia Eby
- Mary Anne Hempsted
- Noreen Broering
- Rainbow Jim's RV
- Tina Broering
- Tom & Joyce Freiwald
- Zen Business

**And a special thank you to our Friends of the Chamber**

Craig Bridson • Danielle Anderson • Dennis & Elizabeth Kavanagh • Gail Jones • Mary Ellen & Glen Dille • Russell Gooden • Tammie Budrow



# Community Connections



**FARM & CRAFT MARKET**  
FIFE LAKE MICHIGAN

## Market Season is Coming!

Spring is almost here, which means the Fife Lake Farm & Craft Market is right around the corner. We are currently looking for vendors and local musicians to join our weekly lineup. Whether you grow it, sew it, or sing it, we want to hear from you!

We're adding Monday evenings to our schedule!

### Market Hours:

Mondays | 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM | First Day - May 18  
Saturdays | 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM | First Day May 16

Vendor Application can be submitted online at  
<https://www.fifelakechamber.org/vendors>

### 2026 Vendor Rates:

- 2026 Rates: \$10 Daily / \$200 Full Season
- Full Season: Can be paid via credit card online at any time.
- Daily Rates: Cash or check only. Payments must be made on the day of the market or mailed in advance.

Mailing Address: Fife Lake Chamber of Commerce  
PO Box 283  
Fife Lake, MI 49633

(Please make checks payable to: Fife Lake Chamber of Commerce)

## Dinner is Served!

### Thursday Night EZ Meals

Join the Fife Lake American Legion Post 219 for their weekly community dinner!

- When: Every Thursday | 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM
- Price: \$8 (Includes dinner & dessert!)
- Location: 10283 M-186, Fife Lake
- Details: Open to the public. Takeout available.
- Note: Cash only, please! (ATM on-site for your convenience).

Follow "American Legion Post 219 Fife Lake" on Facebook for weekly menu updates!



## What is the Love Locker?

The love locker is a local place for people to donate or acquire FREE clothing, blankets, and other essentials. It is open and available at all times in the east parking lot (nearer the elementary) of the Fife Baptist Church.

The Love Locker will be hosting a Summer Swap this coming April—see events for more info!

Tuesday, **March 10** at 7:00 am - Springfield Township Meeting  
Wednesday, **March 11** at 6:00 pm - Fife Lake Public Library Board Meeting  
Thursday, **March 12** at 6:00 pm - Chamber of Commerce Meeting  
Thursday, **March 19** at 6:30 pm - Village of Fife Lake Council Meeting  
Thursday, **March 26** at 6:00 pm - Fife Lake Township Meeting

## Sun, Slush, and Big Stakes: A Derby for the Books!

We couldn't have asked for a more perfect day on the ice. With the sun shining and temperatures climbing high enough for t-shirt weather, it felt more like a beach party than a winter derby! The incredible weather brought out a massive crowd, and the fish were definitely biting.

### The 2026 Champions

The competition was as hot as the weather, but the leaderboard eventually settled on two standout performances. **Kurt Sarcka** proved his skill (and perhaps a bit of luck) by pulling in the largest overall fish of the day, a massive catch that earned him the \$1,000 grand prize. Not far behind him in the spirit of the sport, **Jack Hulwick** showed the veterans how it's done, landing the top spot in the youth division and walking away with a \$100 gift card.



## Chaos and Creativity at the Cardboard Classic

Carly's Hill saw high-speed hijinks on February 7th for the annual Cardboard Classic, where sleds ranged from duct-tape masterpieces to spectacular wrecks.

Top honors went to Rapid City's Richard, Sophia, and Bobby Lee Luark, who took **People's Choice** with "Rockets Red Glare." Dillon Yager of Manton earned **Best Wipe Out** with "Yager/Big Bear," while Audrey and Jenna Perreault of Kalkaska nabbed **Cooldest Helmet** for their "Team Rainbow Racer's Unicorn Helmet." Whether they soared or crashed, every participant put on an incredible show for the local fans.

### A Call for Future Organizers

To ensure this local tradition continues, there is a search for a volunteer or group to take over the event for next year. Anyone interested in leading the charge for 2027 is encouraged to reach out to Springfield Park & Recreation for more information.

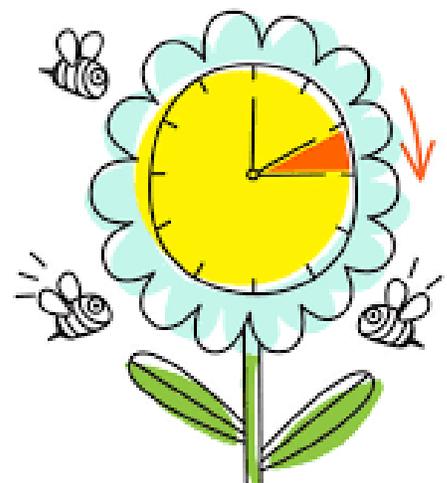
## Springing Forward: A Little History & A Big Reminder

As we prepare to "spring forward" this Sunday (March 8), it's worth looking back at why we shift the clocks in the first place. Contrary to the popular myth, it wasn't started for farmers (who actually hated the disruption to their chores!).

Daylight Saving Time was first proposed by Benjamin Franklin as a joke about saving candles, but it became a serious reality during WWI and WWII to conserve fuel and energy. Today, in Northern Michigan, it's the magical moment where the sun finally stays out past dinner time—a true "fantastic" turning point for anyone who's been hibernating all winter!

### A Life-Saving Tradition

While you're busy resetting the microwave clock and the stove, there's one tradition that's even more important: Changing your batteries. The start of Daylight Saving Time is the perfect seasonal cue to swap out the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. It's a simple five-minute task that keeps your home safe while you're tucked away



**SPRING FORWARD**  
Change Your Clocks

# Local Heroes



When we talk about the heart of a village, we often point to the local shops or the annual festivals, but the true pulse of our community is found in the men and women who keep us safe.

Our local firefighters and EMS crew are more than just first responders—they are our neighbors. They are the people we see at the grocery store, the parents we sit next to at school games, and the friends we wave to on the street. Yet, when the tones go off at 3:00 AM on a freezing Tuesday or in the middle of a Sunday dinner, they don't hesitate. They leave their warm homes and their families to run toward the situations the rest of us are trying to escape.

But their impact goes far beyond the emergency calls. Whether they are cheering on kids at the Cardboard Classic, ensuring our community events run smoothly, or simply being a steady, reassuring presence in the village, they are always "showing up." Their dedication isn't just a job; it's a profound gift of service to every person who calls Fife Lake home.

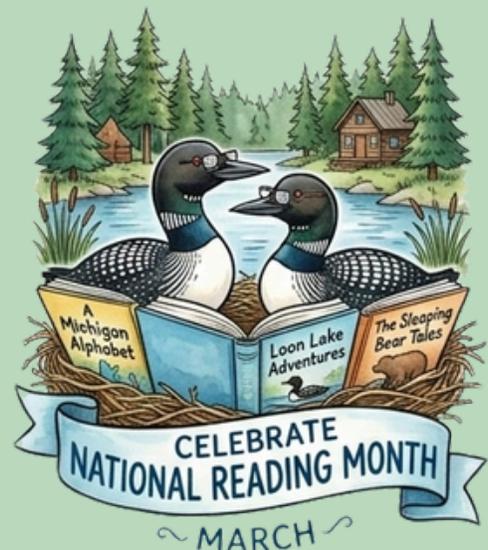
To our crew at Fife Lake/Springfield: Thank you for your bravery, your late nights, and your unwavering commitment to this community. We are a better, safer village because you're in it.

## March is National Reading Month

When the Michigan sky turns that familiar shade of gray and the weather is far too wild for the woods, it's the perfect time to vanish into a great story.

March is National Reading Month, and there's a certain kind of magic waiting behind the doors of the Fife Lake Public Library. Whether you're hunting for a legendary adventure to spark your imagination or looking for a cozy corner to keep the kids entertained while the wind howls outside, they've got you covered.

Step out of the slush and into another world. Your next great journey starts right down the street.



# COMING UP!



## Talent Show

When: Saturday, March 7 | 6:00 pm

Where: Forest Area High School

The Annual FA Music Boosters talent show will be held at Forest Area High School. Admission is \$5 and all proceeds go to support FA music boosters.

## Gift Basket Raffle

When: Saturday, March 14 | 1:00 pm

Where: The Upper bar & Grill

The friends of the Fife Lake Public Library will pick the lucky winner of a spectacular gift basket valued at \$1,100 of local goods. You do not need to be present to win!

Friends of the Fife Lake Library  
Fundraiser for the library expansion

**Fife Lake Gift Basket Raffle**  
**Value over \$1100!**

Drawing: Saturday, MARCH 14, 2026 at 1:00 pm  
The Upper Bar & Grill, Fife Lake, Michigan  
Need not be present to win.

Love Locker Project Summer Swap

**Clothing Giveaway**

April 17 & 18, 2026  
FRI 5PM-8PM SAT 8AM-5PM

## Summer Swap

When: April 17-18

Where: Evergreen Bible Baptist Church

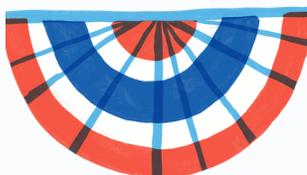
Summer clothes, gear, and accessories of all kinds. Everything is absolutely free. If you're interested in volunteering your time or donating items reach out to [LoveLockerProject@gmail.com](mailto:LoveLockerProject@gmail.com)

## Leaders Connect

When: Tuesday, April 28 | 5:30 pm

Where: Fife Lake Public Library

Expect great conversation, easygoing networking, and light refreshments to keep the energy up. We believe a stronger community starts with a simple "hello"—and everyone is welcome!



Join us for a historic three-day celebration from July 3–5 as we honor our community's traditions and our nation's 250th anniversary. Experience the ultimate Independence Day weekend featuring our signature grand parade, live music, local food, and a spectacular "Semiquincentennial" fireworks display. It's a once-in-a-lifetime milestone you won't want to miss!



If you have news or an event that you would like to appear in March's newsletter, please email us at [info@fifelakechamber.org](mailto:info@fifelakechamber.org). All information for the March newsletter must be received by Tuesday, March 31, for publication on April 1.