

THE FREELAND LIONS CLUB PROUDLY PRESENTS THE

38TH ANNUAL

Freeland

WALLEYE

FESTIVAL



APRIL 25th-28th 2024

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38TH ANNUAL FREELAND WALLEYE FESTIVAL

Schedule

★ 2024 EVENTS ★

THURSDAY APRIL 25TH

Unofficial Opening of the Community Rummage Sales

- 8am Official Opening of the Walleye Festival Welcome Center Locations
Freeland Bean & Grain 1100 East Washington Road, Freeland, MI 48623
7-Eleven 8975 Tittabawassee Road (Corner of M-47 & Tittabawassee Road)
Stop by Either Welcome Center for Shirts, Walleye Guides, Walleye Festival Info, Rummage Sale Maps, Special Merchandise, and Great In-Store Deals!
- 2pm Foam Party (ends at 6pm) at Freeland Assembly of God
- 6pm \$200 High-Stakes Texas Hold'em Tournament Registration
Burt Watson's Show Room
- 6pm Duck Race
Starts at Freeland Bridge and ends at the Memorial Park behind Taco Bell
- 7pm Best-of-the-Best \$200 High-Stakes Texas Hold'em Tournament begins
Burt Watson's Show Room
- 6pm Cornhole Tournament Registration in the Beer Tent at Burt Watson's
- 7pm Cornhole Tournament Begins in the Beer Tent at Burt Watson's

FRIDAY APRIL 26TH

- 8am Community Wide Rummage Sales Officially Open
- 9am Walleye Vendor Spaces Open (closes at 5pm)
Freeland Learning Center
- 1pm Anderson Midway Carnival Rides Open (closes at 10pm)
- 2pm Pie Slice Eating Competition at Freeland Assembly of God
- 5pm Parade Line Up Begins at Freeland Elementary School
- 6pm Walleye Festival Parade Begins
Keep your eye on the sky too. You never know what may happen!
- 6pm The Beer Tent Opens in Burt Watson's lot
- 6pm First ever Walleye Comedy Night doors open
Show starts at 6:30 (must be 21 to enter) at Burt Watson's
- 8pm The Family Tradition Band plays followed by DJ Redburn 11pm to close
Beer Tent at Burt Watson's (Tent closes at 12:30am)
- 12am Official start of the Freeland Walleye Fishing Tournament

SATURDAY APRIL 27TH

- 7am Pancake Breakfast – Hosted by Freeland Robotics (ends at 12pm)
Memorial Park Building (behind Taco Bell) \$10 per person (5 & under free!)
- 9am Kids' Trout Pond at Hayes Park starts
- 9am Walleye Vendor Spaces re-open (close at 5pm)
Freeland Learning Center
- 10am Fishing Tournament Weigh-in opens (closes at 5pm)
- 11am Anderson Midway Amusement Carnival Rides re-open (close at 10pm)
- 11am \$50 Texas Hold'em Tournament Registration opens at Burt Watson's
- 11am Phish Pong Tournament Registration opens at Burt Watson's
- 12pm Cookie Eating Contest and other neat events
at Freeland Assembly of God
- 12pm Beer Tent opens in Burt Watson's lot
- 12pm Texas Hold'em Tournament begins at Burt Watson's
- 12pm Phish Pong Tournament begins at Burt Watson's
- 6pm Casino opens at Burt Watson's **SATURDAY ONLY!**
- 7pm The Band Nameless Plays followed by DJ Redburn 11pm to close
Beer Tent at Burt Watson's (Tent closes at 12:30am)

SUNDAY APRIL 28TH

- 7am Check In & Registration for 5k/10k Run & Walk
Freeland Sports Zone
 - 8am Disc Golf Tournament Registration opens
Tittabawassee Trails at Hayes Park
 - 8am Freeland Walleye Festival Car Show Registration opens
 - 9am 2024 Walleye Festival Car Show begins (ends at 2pm)
McDonald Ford and Quick Lane
 - 10am Disc Golf Tournament begins at Tittabawassee Trails
 - 10am Final Walleye Weigh-in at Hayes Park (ends at 3pm)
 - 12pm Anderson Midway Amusement Carnival Rides open (close at 5pm)
 - 1pm Bingo at the Freeland SportsZone 5690 Midland Rd. (ends at around 4pm)
 - 3:15pm (ish) Awards for the Freeland Walleye Fishing Tournament
- #Final Day for Community Rummage Sales#



For more information on any event please visit
www.freelandwalleyefestival.com
 or The Freeland Lions Club Facebook page.

Enjoy!

DJ Services for the Weekend provided by
DJCHRISREDBURN



JOIN US AT THE

PARADE

Friday, April 26th

Starting at 6:00 pm

**Starting at Freeland Elementary
Line Up starts at 5:00 pm**

**Bring Your Family & Your Chair
COME EARLY!**

What's INSIDE

Anderson Midways Carnival Rides . . . 11	From Our President 7
Beer Tent. 33	Kid's Trout Pond. 13
Bill Bauder 63	In Memoriam. 3
Bingo. 15	Message from F.C.S.D. 11
Car, Bike & Truck Show 21	Pancake Breakfast 15
Carpooling 6	Parade. 3
Casino. 29	Parking 8
Chairman's Welcome Message 7	Phish Pong Tournament. 35
Comedy Show 5	"Rodeo Pageant" story by M.Schoen . . . 25
Cornhole Tournament. 45	Sponsor Index 4
Disc Golf 41	Tittabawassee Township Events 9
Duck Races. 10	Vendor Spaces 62
FAA Queen of Hearts Raffle. 11	Walleye Festival 5 & 10k Races 37
Freeland Lion's Club Golf Outing 23	Walleye Fishing Rules & Registration . 43

IN Memoriam

In honor our recently departed Lion

TIM "BAGS" HANER

7 years of service as a member in good standing.



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Together, we can do so much."
— Helen Keller*



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American Excavating, Inc.	6	ELGA Credit Union	62	Isabella Bank	50	Riverside Family Restaurant	36
American Gasser	20	Elite Cannabis	36	IUPAT District Council 1M Michigan	51	Roberts, Boehler & Fischer	57
Animal Alley	17	Eudici Pizza	13/58	J Dankert Powersports Golf Cart Sales	19	Safeguard Insurance Agency	26
Answer Heating and Cooling	27	Fabiano Bros	33	JP O'Sullivan Distributing	33	Saginaw Knitting Mills	47
Arnold Chiropractic	16	Family First Credit Union	10	Jack's Tree Service	18	Saginaw Valley Equine Clinic	19
ASD, Inc. (Accurate Safety Distributors)	16	Ferrell Gas	32	Journey of Grace Church	54	Saganing Eagles Casino & Resort	19
Auburn Hotel	8	Forest Edge Banquet Center	24	Katie Marie Law	34	Schauman Construction	48
Austin's Florist	11	Forward Energy	56	Kernel Burner	58	Schauman Development	48
Avery Mae Boutique	31	Frankenmuth Credit Union	59	Kinder Care	58	Schauman Rentals	48
Backwoods Blueberries	20	Frank's Great Outdoors	12	King of the Road	59	SDR Storage	28
Barnes, Chase, Davis Advertising	58	Freeland Athletic Association	11	Kloha Contracting	57	Shannon Supply	56
Barney's Bakehouse Bakery	37	Freeland Bean & Grain	38	Kluck Nursery	22	SignTec	28
Barton Woods Assisted Living	16	Freeland Community Chamber of Commerce	38	LM Satkowiak & Sons Asphalt	18	Smillie Plumbing & Heating	56
Baynes Apple Valley Farm	17	Freeland Conservation Club	39	Lady Jane's Quilt Shop	57	Smillie Storage	56
Bear's Steam Carpet Cleaner	40	Freeland Family Dentistry	39	Lake Effect Chiropractic	59	State Farm Ins. - Roger Richter & Michael Minor	49
Becki's Clean Sweep	49	Freeland Feed & Lawn	38	Leaman's Green Apple Barn	10	Stewy Cart's & Accessories	19
Beltz Mechanical Systems Heating & Cooling	22	Freeland Foot & Ankle	38	Leddy's Lawn Care & Landscaping	59	Super Cute	17
Bierlein	60	Freeland Road Self Storage	38	Linwood Beach Marina	27	Swanhaven Manor	46
Biggby Coffee	12	Freeland SportsZone	31	Little Caesar's Pizza - DCT Enterprises	18	The Dairy House	39
Brenske Construction	16	Freeland State Bank	39	Little Rascal's Child Care Center	34	The Kloha Group	57
Buck Insurance	20	Front Line Services Inc.	18	Log Cabin	33	The Other Guys Heating	46
Burgoyne Moving	18	GDM Garage Door Services	26	MBS International Airport	15	The Other Side Bar	36
Burt Watson Chevrolet	64 (BC)	GMS Quality Machining	36	McDonald Ford & QuickLane	21	TJ's On The Move	46
Camper's Choice RV Collision & Repair	11	Good Shepard Lutheran Church	62	McDonald's of Freeland	38	Townley Engineering LLC	58
Capital Granite	59	Graebner Excavating	58	McIntosh & Associates	14	TriCity Trimlight	33
Caterpillar Rentals	32	Great Lakes Home Design, LLC	52	Midland Eye Care	52	Tri County Building & Construction Trades Council	26
Cech Scales	42	Great Lakes Rehab	37	Midland Glass Co.	59	Twin Oaks Golf	23
Century 21 Realty - Michael Schauman	48	Green Stone Credit Services	56	Mid Michigan Gymnastics U.S.A.	17	U Spa Salon	17
Chaos Screen Printing	40	Griffin Equipment Rental	42	Mid-State Collision	14	UAW - Local 668	56
Church & Sons Auto Repair	20	G's Pizzeria	58	Mike's Transmission Service	60	UAW - Local 699	42
Cobblestone Homes	22	Guttertek	62	Miss Daniel's School of Dance	46	UAW - Region 1D	61
Coca-Cola Reyes Bottling	39	Hammer Restoration	14	Mister Car Wash	34	United Financial C.U.	37
Concrete Cutting Specialists	22	Hammond Drives	17	Murray Painting	53	Valley Electric Contractors	16
Culvers	49	HealthSource	27	Nice & Naughty	60	Vondette Roofing	16
Cumulus Media	40	Heiden Technology Solutions	54	Northern Concrete Pipe, Inc.	27	Walker Ideal Trophies & More	42
Cunningham Taylor Funeral Homes	49	Hi-Tech Steel Treating, Inc.	14	Operating Engineers Local 324	3	WM	50
Designer's Touch	40	Hi-Tech Testing and Balancing	42	Pat's Food Center	34	Wegner Auctioneers	19
Dick Williams Gun Shop	26	Hoffman Power Equipment	50	Paxson Oil Co (Marathon)	20	Wildfire Credit Union	30
DJ Chris Redburn	34	Hundred Acre Woods	22	Pier 7 Marina	34	Wirt Stone Dock	6
Dobis Landscaping	44			Preferred Insurance/Auto Owners	27	Wolgast Corporation	49
				Print Shop	57	World of Floors	14
				Quality Carpet Cleaning, LLC	49	WSGW (Alpha Media USA)	16
				Quality Mini Storage	18	Zazo Electric	17
				R.B. Satkowiak City Sewer Cleaners	53		
				Reimold Printing Corporation	44		

Thank You All

2024 FREELAND WALLEYE FESTIVAL

COMEDY SHOW

FRIDAY, APRIL 26TH
AT BURT WATSON CHEVROLET

featuring

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All Tickets Include Entry To The Beer Tent ★ Must Be 21+ to Enter/Attend
DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM - SHOW STARTS AT 6:30 PM

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Welcome

Hello, Freeland Walleye Festival Goers! My name is Jason Swartz, this is my 3rd year as Chairman of the Freeland Walleye Festival. I would like to personally welcome everyone back for the 38th Annual Freeland Walleye Festival and fishing tournament. Last year's festival was a huge success and I would like to thank everyone that made this possible. Your Freeland Lions Club has been working hard to organize this festival to ensure a fun and exciting event for all to enjoy over the long weekend.

The Freeland Walleye Festival is one of the first major festivals of the year around the area, specifically Freeland, and a great kick-off to the local spring and summer activities. Please reference the festival guide and FreelandWalleyeFestival.com for the complete schedule of events for the weekend. We encourage you to try and visit the events that you have never attended before.

Returning this year: the Walleye Festival Duck Races on Thursday evening, the official kick off of the weekend. After the completion of the Duck Races, the Cornhole Tournament (in the Beer Tent) begins. The "High Stakes" Texas Hold'em tournament (in the Burt Watson new car showroom) will be starting as well. Visit FreelandWalleyeFestival.com for the Bingo schedule.

Friday, the Vendors at the Freeland Learning Center will open, and the Carnival will begin. After visiting those events and the famous community wide rummage sales, we invite you to watch the Annual Walleye Festival Parade. **NEW THIS YEAR** - Comedy Night at Burt Watson Chevrolet featuring headliner comedian Heywood Banks among others, visit FreelandWalleyeFestival.com.

com for ticket information. Visit the beer tent and enjoy the music of "Family Tradition" as they will blow the roof off and DJ Redburn will cap off the evening at the beer tent with the best music you have ever heard, through closing at 12:30 a.m. Don't forget at Midnight the Walleye Fishing Tournament kicks off. (Which is why the festival exists in the first place.)

Saturday morning will kick off with a pancake breakfast (visit FreelandWalleyeFestival.com for schedule and more information). The Kids Trout Pond at Hayes Park will open at 9 a.m. The vendors at the Freeland Learning Center will be open featuring select crafts, food and treasures for sale, without the traffic issues. At noon the very popular Beer Pong (phish pong) Tournament begins at the beer tent. The Texas Hold'em Tournament will also begin. Please don't forget about the community wide rummage sales and the all-day carnival rides. If you get hungry, please stop in and see our local sponsors or try out one of the many food trucks that will be around the beer tent. At 3 p.m. the first of the weigh-ins for the Walleye Tournament begin. The band "Nameless" will be the Saturday Night entertainment in the beer tent and once again DJ Redburn will conclude the evening until 12:30 a.m. with his DJ skills.

Sunday will conclude the festival. However, not before United Financial Credit Union's Walleye Fest 5k Race, Disc Golf Tournament and now the Car and Bike Show at McDonald Ford and Quick Lane oil change. The final weigh-in and trophy presentation at Hayes Park will wrap up the busy Walleye Festival weekend. Carnival times may vary. For specific details we recommend you visit FreelandWalleyeFestival.com for up-to-date information.

In closing, the town of Freeland swells well beyond its normal capacity for Walleye Festival weekend. The best advice that I can offer is to have fun and be patient, so that we all may safely enjoy the 38th Annual Freeland Walleye Festival.

Lions' motto - "WE SERVE"

Jason Swartz

2024 Freeland Walleye Festival Chairman and Lions Club member

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello everyone and welcome to the 2024 Freeland Walleye Festival. My name is Jason Reinbold, and I am the current President of the Freeland Lions Club, the organization that has been putting on this festival for 38 years.

Planning for the festival begins in December of the previous year although ideas and updates are discussed throughout our meeting season. I would like to thank this year's Chairman (for the third consecutive year) Jason Swartz for his organization and dedication. I know the hard work that it takes to run the Walleye Festival and I appreciated it when Jason took over the duties from me. I was in charge for 2 years and ran the beer tent for the 2 years prior to that. There is so much more to it than just putting up a big tent and hoping that people show up.

Our club also puts on many other events throughout the year either as fundraisers or community benefits.

- Las Vegas Party - November
- Community Christmas Party - December
- Wild Game Dinner - February
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Golf Outing - June
- 52-Week Gun Raffle

I would like to thank everyone for coming to visit our town and our festival. The Lions Club and our local businesses are greatly appreciative. I would also like to thank all the volunteers that help us with this and every event that we put on. We are a group of around 45 active members, but it takes far more than that to put on an event of this magnitude. Also, a large thank you to our local businesses that help with sponsorships, locations and making this a great town this weekend and always.

So, what do we do with the funds raised from all of these events? Most of our fundraising stays right here to help the town and the multiple organizations within it. Our Tammy Hafer Fund helps individuals going through tough times that are in need. Other funds help with Christmas Turkeys, scholarships, the Freeland Little League, Special Olympics, the Boy Scouts, Clash for a Cure, Freeland Robotics, the April Kade Races and Freeland Youth Wrestling. On a state level we also donate to Leader Dogs for the Blind, Michigan Eye Bank and the Special Needs Clinic.

This is my 9th year with the club, and I am very honored to have been voted into the role of President. This is the best organization that I have been a part of, member's ages range from 18 to 70+ years and come from a wide variety of roles in life. Events like the Walleye Festival become a part-time job for many of our members and the weekend itself is filled with countless volunteered hours to pull it off. Thank you to my fellow Lions that are so dedicated to this town. Please enjoy all the activities that we and our town put together for the weekend. Please visit our local businesses and bring your patience, it is also one of their busiest times of the year. Enjoy yourself and thank you for coming!

If you would like to know more about the Freeland Lions Club, our events, or the programs we donate to, or maybe join us for a meeting to see if we might be a good fit for you, check us out at www.freelandlionsclub.org.

Thank you,
Freeland Lions Club President
Jason Reinbold

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TOWNSHIP Information



2024

Summer Concert Series
Hayes Park | 9200 Midland Rd | 6:30pm - 9:00pm

- June 12** Butch Palooza
Country - 6pm - 9:00pm
- June 19** Tweed & Dixie
Country
- June 26** Rebel Line
Country
- July 10** Alex McMath
Variety
- July 17** Empty Pockets
Acoustic Variety
- July 24** Stone Street Revival
70's Hits
- July 31** Pride and Joy
Feat. Jim Pagel
Blues/Rock
- August 07** Nameless
70's & 80's Hits
- August 14** Pete Woodman
Oldies Rock n' Roll

CONNECT WITH US
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SUMMER RECREATION

10AM-12PM

SAFETY DAY 6/12	DISNEY DAY 6/19
COUNTRY DAY 6/26	SPORTS DAY 7/10
BEACH DAY 7/17	SAFARI DAY 7/24

END OF SUMMER BASH
7/31

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48623

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The Wayne Glover Memorial
RUBBER DUCKY CHARITY RACE 2024

Thursday, April 25th, 2024 at 6 pm

1st Place: \$500
 2nd: \$200 3rd: \$100
 4th: \$75 5th: \$25

Tickets Cost \$5 each

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Maximum number of tickets sold is 600. If 300 tickets are not sold, the Freeland Lions Club reserves the right to convert the charity race to a 50/50 Raffle

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Queen of Hearts Progressive Raffle

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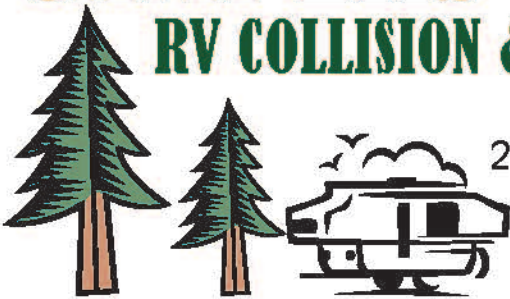
A Thank You
to the Freeland Community
from your Schools



Every day, the Freeland Schools are blessed to be able to serve an amazing group of children in an extremely supportive community. We could not do what we do without you: the parents that trust us with who they love most; a staff that works hard, loves kids, and puts student learning first; and a caring community that supports our students with their time, their tax dollars, and their cheers.

Freeland Community School District is fortunate to operate in such a supportive community.
Thank you Freeland!

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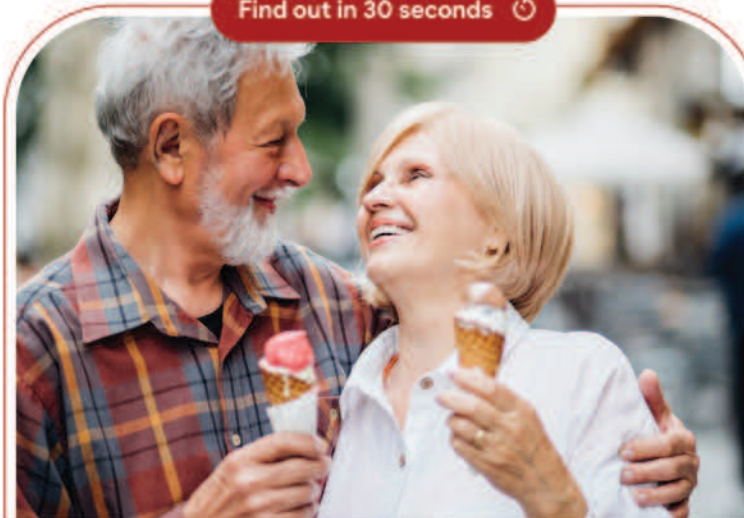
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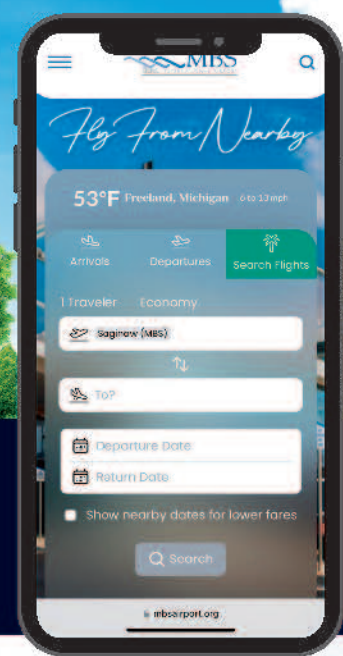


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FREELAND ROBOTICS

BINGO

Sunday April 28th, 2024
@ The Freeland SportsZone - 5690 Midland Road
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Must be 18 or Older to Play

Multiple Bingo Games!

50/50 Raffle

Sponsored by




FREELAND ROBOTICS

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday April 27th, 2024
@ The Memorial Park Building - 150 Park Street Freeland, MI. 48623
7:00 AM - 12:00 PM

\$10 for 6 years old and up
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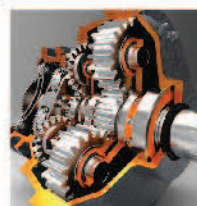
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FREELAND RODEO Beauty Pageant OF 1904 CANCELED

Yes, it's a sad day in Freeland. The eve before the big "Rodeo Extravaganza", the five contestants in the Annual Beauty Pageant were "Banned" from participating. Banned from the competition, for using "Seductive Aromas" to sway our distinguished judge's decision. The judge, our very own honorable Postmaster, Mr. Delmar Delaney, who has since been declared non-available. Reports have it, that while the festivities were getting under way on the side lot of the Freeland Hotel during the now infamous "Father Neptune's" dance segment, the judge appeared to be somewhat over taken from the fragrances exuding from our lovely pageant contestants. The good judge had gathered the gals closely around him, to demonstrate the latest dance craze sweeping the country, "The Kick-a-Poo". That's when the crowd started closing in around them, reciting old sea shanty's of encouragement. Well this carried on for a while, to the attendee's delight that is, until Mrs. Delaney arrived unannounced. When the judge looked up and saw the mother of his children glaring at him, his clothes disheveled and torn, his face became ashen. He must have felt a bit disoriented and a dizziness consumed him, apparently from those "seductive aroma's". The "mob" was too tightly crowded together for anyone to see what happened next, but as Mrs. Delaney pushed her way to the judge, a gasp arose from the array of on-lookers. Then a "hush" and some "murmurs" from all in attendance as the Judge, our Postmaster, Mr. Delmar Delaney, slumped to the ground.

Now as yet, Freeland does not have a vibrant "Fire and Rescue Team" available. However, who they do have is an Old Russian Cossack Medic recently moved to town from the homeland. His name, Vladimer Undewudnik. Not one to look for trouble, but always there when needed. He happened to be across the street at the local corral watching his sheep get neutered, when he heard the clamoring for help. He suddenly leaped to the aide of his new country's fellow man. The very next words that the pageant attendee's would hear were "Stand back you Bolsheviks, give our comrade some air! Coming from the lips of "OI Vlad", as how he would later be immortalized. The now shaken and distraught postmaster started to come around, but could hardly sit up. Someone noticed a knob at the base of his skull that must have happened when he collapsed. The good judge was having trouble putting his words together, when the Mrs. "piped up" and said "This show is over! And your little pageant is too! And you my pretty's..... (pointing a long slender finger at our contestants) I'll deal with you later!"

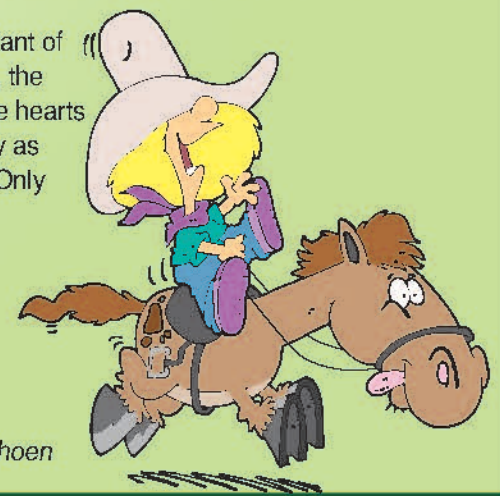
The unhappy pageant goers were dismayed to say the least. Some had already placed bets on who the lucky beauty would be. "Our first rodeo will never be the same", was being moaned throughout. Four of the five contestants were already back in the tavern imbibing free drinks for the rest of their

night, in what would later become known as "Lucky Ladies Night at Rodeichers". However, the fifth girl, Loretta Lee Beethoven, was not taking the cancellation graciously. Her voice was easily heard over the heads of everyone in attendance, that "Prudy Delila Delaney had way overstepped her authority. That pageant was mine to win!" Loretta's lack of compliance to the canceled pageant did not go unnoticed by Mrs. Delaney, who was now making her way towards Loretta Lee for a final confrontation. Mrs. Delaney was not only the Postmaster's wife, she was President of the P.T.A., Chairperson of the D.D.A., Head of Rodeo Affairs of Freeland, and Honorary Chief of the Local Indian Tribe. To say she was fed up, or even had a case of the, would be an understatement.

Had it not been for the intervention of Miss Iona Pudicaris, Chief Executive Officer of the local "Teddy Roosevelt for President" republican campaign party displaying the skills of a politician. Miss Iona cut into the raging bull-like path of Mrs. Delaney and said, "Now Delila, let's not get our bustles all in a twist. We've got a fun weekend planned with the Rodeo, and all those bodacious cowboys in those tight chaps, ridin' those big nasty horses, with sweaty manure flyin' every whichaway. Let's not spoil it!"

"As part-time bible school teachers, we've both endured Mr. Beethoven's first four clamorous juveniles in class and Mr. Beethoven's fifth daughter is even more unrestrained. Mr. Beethoven is after all, older and as deaf as a door knob. She is clearly his last installment to the human race. Can't we all just get along?" With that being said, the steam slowly stopped rolling from Delila's ears, the storm cloud over her head dispersed, from somewhere in the back, a band started playing the "KickaPoo" song. Mrs. Delaney cracked a smile that would embarrass a Cheshire cat, and broke down into an expressionistic dance that made everybody's jaw drop. The Pageant of 1904 never continued. However, the Freeland Rodeo "Rode on" in the hearts the citizens, and continues today as The Freeland Walleye Festival. Only the names have changed.

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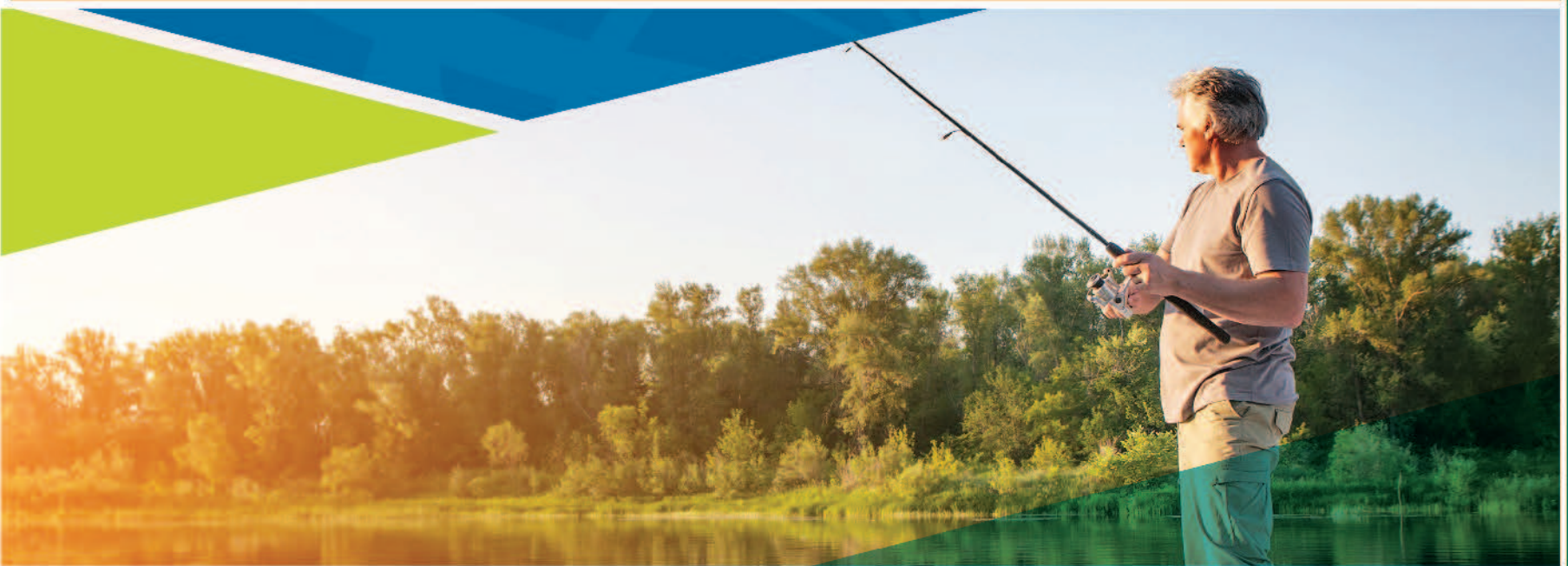


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FREELAND WALLEYE FESTIVAL

2024 TOURNAMENT RULES

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1. PARTICIPANTS & ELIGIBILITY: Participation in this tournament is open to any person with a valid Michigan Fishing License who has properly completed and signed an Official Entry Form and returned it to the Tournament Headquarters with a \$15.00 entry fee no later than Midnight on Friday, April 26th, 2024. Youth under 17 years of age may enter for \$5.00 and will qualify for only the prizes in their division. **No refund of entry fee will be made.** The Tournament Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any applications.

2. TOURNAMENT DATES & TIMES: The Tournament begins at 12:01 AM on **Saturday, April 27th, 2024** and runs thru 3:00 P.M. on **Sunday, April 28th, 2024.**

3. ELIGIBLE FISH: All fish entered in the contest must be Walleyes and must be caught under the legal rules set down by the State of Michigan. Any fish that has been tampered with or foul hooked will be disqualified at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. All entered fish must be caught on the Tournament Dates. Contestants may submit up to 4 legal fish per day.

ALL LEGAL FISHING WATERS IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN QUALIFY.

4. WEIGH-IN: Contestants must have their catches entered at the Official Weigh Station, located at: **Hayes Park, 9000 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623** during the following hours:

Saturday, April 27th, 2024 – 10:00 AM through 5:00 PM

Sunday, April 28th, 2024 – 10:00 AM through 3:00 PM

Tournament results are announced as soon as they have been verified after the 3:00 PM closing of the weigh-in.

5. PRIZE CATEGORIES: **A.** Most pounds for 8 fish (Limit of 4 fish per day). Tiebreaker will be earliest time entered. Top (15) fifteen places receive prize packages. **B.** Largest Walleye (by weight & time entered); one prize. **C.** Prizes will be awarded for the top 10 kids prizes. **D. Entrants weighing in one or more legal fish will qualify for a drawing of the remaining prize packages.**

6. GENERAL: All fish entered will have one fin clipped. All fish entered **MUST** have been caught by the person who enters them. Giving to or receiving fish from another person will be considered grounds for disqualification. After weigh-in, contestants are responsible for their own fish. Fishing competition is over at the designated times each day or when weigh-in has been completed. Only one weigh-in per day is allowed for each contestant. The top (5) five winners will submit to a polygraph test as deemed necessary by the Tournament Committee. Prizes will be withheld pending the settlement of disputes. By signing an entry form, contestants absolve the Freeland Lions Club of all connected sponsors of any and all liabilities due to injury to themselves or other during the two-day event.

Please note the Registration prices are \$15.00 for Adults and \$5.00 for kids.

7. CASH PRIZES: 1st Prize - \$1,000.00 2nd Prize - \$500.00 3rd Prize - \$250.00



38th ANNUAL FREELAND WALLEYE FESTIVAL

2024 OFFICIAL WALLEYE TOURNAMENT ENTRY FORM (Print clearly)

Name: _____ Age: _____ Check here if Youth (under age 17)

Mailing Address _____ City _____

State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal: _____ Phone Number: (____) _____

In signing this application, I hereby waive and release all other Contestants, the Host, Sponsors, and Tournament Officials from all claims of injury and/or damage incurred in connection with the Tournament. I hereby have read and agree to ALL rules & regulations of this Tournament.

Email: _____ Signature _____

Mail check or money order in the amount of \$15.00 per entry (\$5.00 for Youth) To: **(SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED!)**

Freeland Lions Club, P.O. Box 767, Freeland, MI 48623

Access and drop off Entry Forms at: Pat's Hardware, Tittabawassee Township Offices, Freeland Sports Zone,

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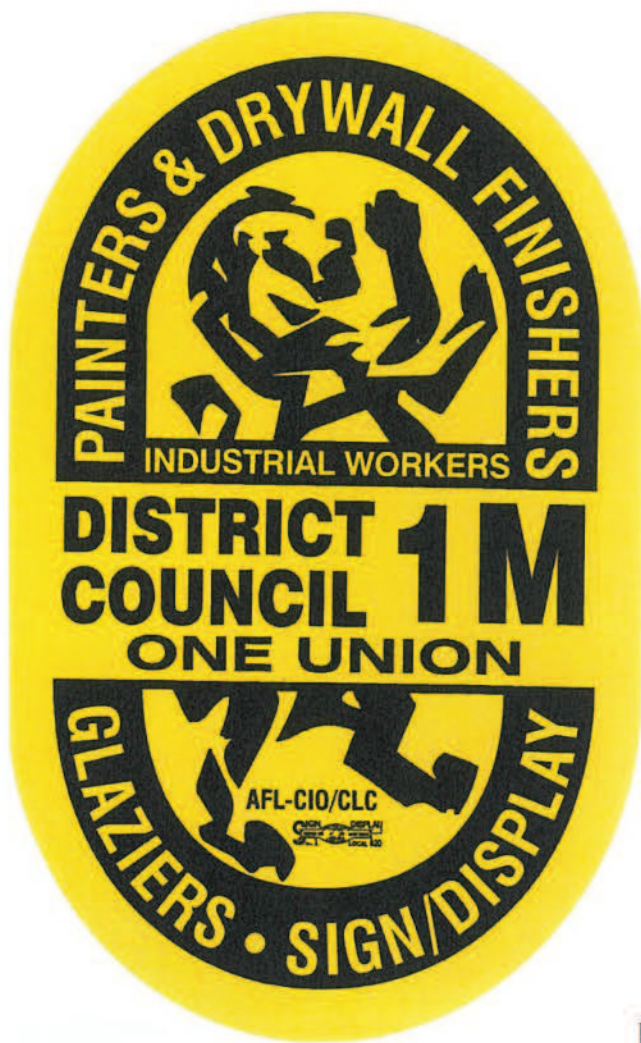
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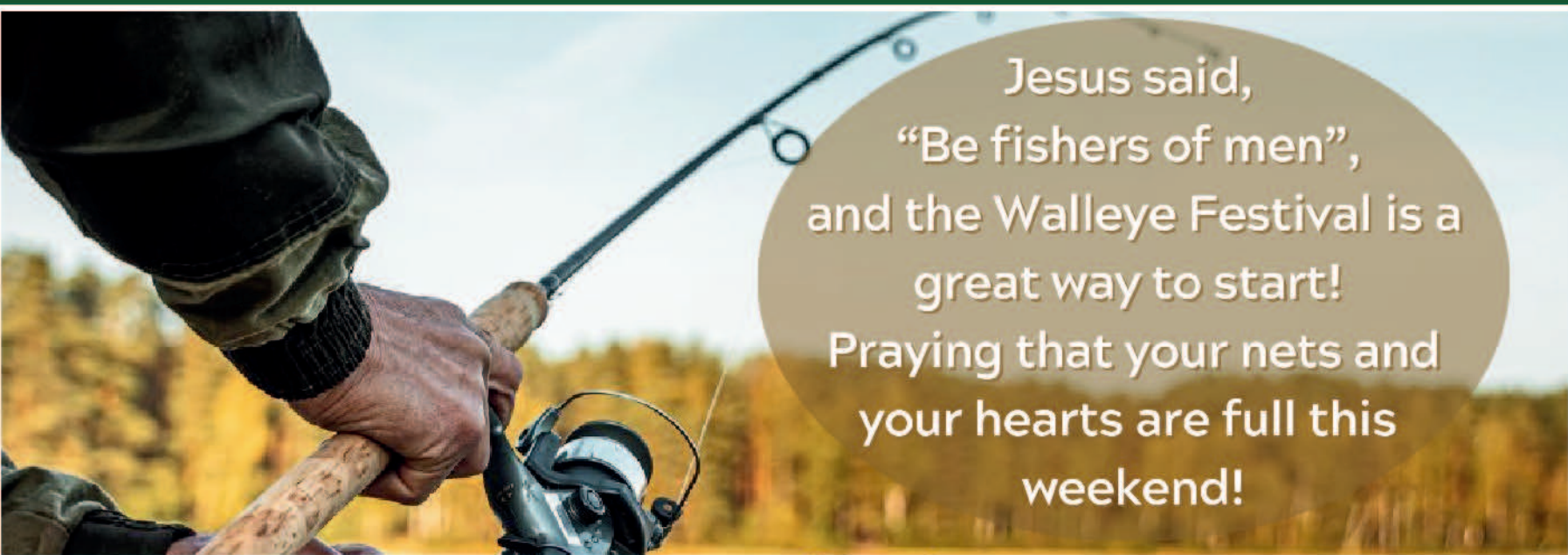
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THE FREELAND LIONS CLUB
is proud to introduce
LION BILL BAUDER
to the Freeland Community and
the Freeland Walleye Festival guests.

Bill is a second-generation Lion following his father, Lion Russ Bauder. Bill became a Lion in 2009 and is the first District Governor to serve out of Freeland in 75 years.

Bill has served as President of the Freeland Club, is a co-chair for the Food Giveaways, Walleye Festival Car Show, VA Bingo and serves on the Freeland Walleye Festival Committee.

District 11-D1 consists of the Bay-Genessee-SaginawTuscola counties. The districts are divided into three (3) regions with two (2) zones in each. The clubs in each are as follows R1-Z1: Bay City, Essexville-Hampton, Zilwaukee, Carrollton, Saginaw, GLBAS. R1-Z2: Fairgrove, Kingston, Cass City, Mayville, Millington, Caro, Vassar. R2-Z1: Auburn Williams, Freeland, Merrill, Hemlock, Shields, St. Charles. R2-Z2: Chesaning, Buena Vista, Clio, Frankenmuth, Montrose. R3-Z1: Davison, East Flint, Flint Downtown Host, Genesee, Goodrich, Otisville. R3-Z2: Fenton, Grand Blanc, Flushing, Gaines Area, Lennon, Linden, Swartz Creek.

Bill's responsibility is to visit each club within a year and have the individual clubs work together at the district level.



Bill has held a District 11-D1 Zone and Region Chair position for numerous years. Bill also is currently a board member at The Special Needs Vision Clinic.

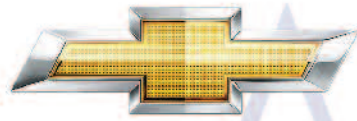
Currently, the district is working on the following projects: Service Dogs: Leader Dogs for the Blind, Leader Dog Puppy Program and Paws with a Cause. Vision/Hearing Committees: EVERSIGHT, Hearing & Speech, Radio Reading Services, Special Needs Vision Clinic, Vision Services, and White Cane. Youth Committees: All State Band, Bear Lake Camp, Leo Clubs, Peace Poster, Youth Exchange. These are just a few of the projects that the district and specific clubs work hard to raise money for. There are too many to list in just one article.

The Freeland Lions Club is very proud of Lion Bill and his accomplishments and the leadership roles inside and outside the Freeland Community.

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