



JULY 2026

# 4-H Family News



Lapeer County

**Happy 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday to America!**



July 2026 is a wonderful moment to pause and appreciate the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. This year's 4th of July is especially meaningful, We are celebrating the semiquincentennial, or the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration Of Independence. This historic document was a powerful letter sent to the King of England by the leaders of the thirteen colonies. In it, they declared that the colonies were now free and independent, and no longer under British Rule. Thomas Jefferson drafted the document, and the continental Congress officially approved it on July 4, 1776.

## Dates to Remember for July 2026

**Dino Discovery Day Camp | July 8-10 | 8:30 am-5:00 pm | Camp Lael**

**Butterfly Buddies | Tuesdays, June 30-August 4th | 10:30 am-11:30 am | Imlay City Butterfly Garden on 3<sup>rd</sup>. Street**

**Fossil Hunt Expedition Day | July 24th | 1pm | Almont Public Library**

**Eastern Michigan State Fair | July 26<sup>th</sup>-August 1st | Eastern Michigan State Fairgrounds**

Watch for details about the Lapeer County

4-H Fall Open House September 23, 2026



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# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready through the fair experience*



**Beyond Ready**

The fair experience is more than a showcase; it's a powerful opportunity to prepare youth to be Beyond Ready for life. Through exhibiting their projects, interacting with judges and engaging with the public, young people practice real-world skills such as communication, responsibility, problem-solving and professionalism.

When volunteers create intentional learning moments, like encouraging youth to reflect on project growth, prepare for interviews or take leadership roles in their clubs, youth deepen their understanding and strengthen skills that extend far beyond the fairgrounds. Every fair interaction becomes a stepping stone toward future readiness.

Is your club helping youth make those connections and see how fair experiences prepare them for what comes next?

#BeyondReady

**July 13-15: Michigan 4-H Dairy Days**

*Farm Bureau Pavilion, Lansing*

Join 4-H members from around Michigan July 13-15 at the Farm Bureau Pavilion for Michigan 4-H Youth Dairy Days! Dairy Days is part of Michigan Dairy Expo, a celebration of dairy farmers and dairy cattle in the Great Lakes State.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-michigan-4-h-youth-dairy-days](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-michigan-4-h-youth-dairy-days)

**July 16: Water Day**

*Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing*

Come cool off from the summer heat and have fun in the garden with water. Play water games, do water art and explore all things fun about water. Come ready to get wet!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/water-day](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/water-day)

**July 20-21: Saginaw Bay Fish Camp**

*Haithco Park, Saginaw*

This two-day camp will teach youth to fish and protect our Great Lakes. All campers receive a fishing rod with a reel, tackle box, t-shirt and snacks. Learn about knot-tying, tackle crafting, casting, aquatic ecology, angler ethics and more! Open to 4-H members ages 8-13. Registration deadline is July 10.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-saginaw-bay-4-h-fish-camp](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-saginaw-bay-4-h-fish-camp)

**July 23: Bug Day at the Children's Gardens**

*Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing*

Join for a tribute to insects in the gardens. Collect, observe and even make bugs! The MSU Bug House will also be on site with their collections of insects from all over the world.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/bug-day](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/bug-day)

**July 27: 4-H Garden Adventures Summer Camp**

*The Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park, Traverse City*

Youth ages 7-12- are invited to join this camp for fun adventures in nature, nurturing resilience, kindness, community and creativity as they explore sustainability and growth through an engaging, hands-on approach.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-garden-adventures-summer-camp-2026](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-garden-adventures-summer-camp-2026)

**July 30: Bubble Day at the Children's Gardens**

*Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing*

Come celebrate summer vacation at the garden with bubbles! Youth will paint, eat and even make music with bubbles.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/bubble-day](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/bubble-day)





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## Join the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase!

MSU Extension is thrilled to partner again in 2026 with the [Michigan State Fair](#) on an exciting program for Michigan youth: the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase. This statewide showcase provides a virtual platform for youth across Michigan to exhibit their work in all project areas and apply for up to \$1,000 in scholarships. Any Michigan youth ages 5-19 is encouraged to participate; 4-H membership is not required.

There is no cost to participate and youth may engage in as many classes as they wish by [submitting project photos and videos](#). **Be sure to submit your entries by the registration deadline of August 7 at 5 p.m.** Project evaluation will occur before the start of the Michigan State Fair so that winners can be announced at the event. Learn more, find helpful resources and registration links at [www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/).



## 2026 MSF 4-H & Youth Showcase Business Pitch Contest

Got a business idea? Whether your business is already running, just getting started or still an idea, we want to hear your pitch! Enter the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase and share your entrepreneurial skills in a two-minute video!

Entries will be judged on creativity, communication, understanding of the target audience, and overall presentation skills. Winners in each age division will receive gift card prizes (\$75, \$50, \$25) sponsored by Michigan State University Federal Credit Union and be recognized through Michigan 4-H communications and social media. For more information, visit Department 73 of the fair book at [www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/).

## 2026 MSF 4-H & Youth Showcase Michigan 4-H License Plate Promotion Contest

Michigan youth ages 8–19 are invited to enter the Michigan 4-H License Plate Promotion Contest as part of the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase! Create a short video and/or design a poster, flyer or graphic that encourages others to purchase the Michigan 4-H license plate and you could win. Prizes will be awarded and winners will be featured on Michigan 4-H social media channels. Put your creativity to work and help spread the word about 4-H across Michigan! For more information, visit Department 73 of the fair book at: [www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/).

## New scholarships for Michigan 4-H'ers!

The Michigan 4-H Foundation is pleased to offer new scholarship opportunities to Michigan 4-H members for fall 2026. Nearly \$30,000 in post-secondary 4-H scholarships are available for the 2026–2027 academic year to high school seniors or incoming college freshmen. Youth must have participated in 4-H for three or more years.

These scholarships are made possible through generous support from 4-H alumni, retirees and friends of 4-H. Apply by September 1 at [mi4hfdtn.org/scholarship](http://mi4hfdtn.org/scholarship).





# COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fourth of July Office Closure.....Date: July 3, 2026

2026 4-H State Horse Show Registration  
Deadline.....Date: July 15,  
2026

Dino Discover Day Camp.....Date: July 8-  
10,2026

Butterfly Buddies.....Date: June 30-  
August 4<sup>th</sup>, Tuesdays

Fossil Hunt Expedition .....Date: July 24, 2026

Eastern Michigan State  
Fair.....Date: July 27-Aug 1

## August 2026

2026 Michigan 4-H State Horse Show  
.....Date: August 13-  
16,2026

Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual  
Showcase.....Date: June 30-  
August 7, 2026

Lapeer County Council  
Meeting.....Date: Augst 17, 2026

## Get Involved in Shaping the Lapeer County 4-H Program!

We're looking for passionate people (parents, adult volunteers, and youth members) to join our committees and help plan and organize 4-H events. More committee members = more amazing opportunities for our youth! If you're ready to make an impact and keep our program thriving, reach out to Sarah or Debbie, or stop by at one of the committee meetings listed above. Let's make great things happen together!





# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Fred the Bear Found His “Furever” Home



### Fred the Bear Found His “Furever” Home

In the fall of 2025 Fred joined the MSU Extension staff as a donation for the 2026 4-H Annual Fundraiser Auction. Upon learning how well Fred fit into our office, Jim Novak of The Bells Event Center, Almont and host to the Auction bought Fred and then generously donated him to our office.

We are “furever” grateful for this kind gesture and we welcome everyone to stop by and meet Fred the Bells Bear. He would be happy to share information about 4-H and MSU Extension activities. Pictured: Cheryl Hall, Sarah Griffin, Julia Simon, Debbie Studebaker, Becky Henne, Rae Haskins, Dyle Henning

## Meet Tonya!

We’re thrilled to welcome Tonya Walton as the new Lapeer County 4-H Secretary! Tonya joined us on June 22, 2026, and she’s already bringing great energy to the office.

Tonya loves kayaking, riding 4-wheelers, and exploring the outdoors — so she fits right in with our adventurous 4-H spirit.

She’ll be in the office Monday–Friday, 8:30 AM–4:30 PM, and you can reach her at 810-667-0341 or [tonya.walton@affiliate.msu.edu](mailto:tonya.walton@affiliate.msu.edu).

## National Ice Cream Day

This year, National Ice Cream Day falls on July 19th!

🍦 A Little History:

President Ronald Reagan officially declared National Ice Cream Day in 1984. Ice cream has been enjoyed for centuries—Thomas Jefferson even served it at the White House in 1802. In earlier times, ice cream was rare and difficult to make, so it was considered a luxury. Only royalty and wealthy people could afford it.

🎉 How to Celebrate:

Host an ice cream party at home with a variety of flavors, toppings, sauces, and cones. Organize a blindfolded taste test where guests guess different ice cream flavors. Create a DIY ice cream bar with fruit, candy, caramel, whipped cream, and more.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS:**  
Find and circle the  
vocabulary words  
in the grid. Look  
for them in all  
directions including  
backwards and  
diagonally.

# Ice Cream

## Word Search



L	Q	O	J	W	H	I	P	P	E	D	C	R	E	A	M	A	F	I	D	Z
Y	R	R	E	H	C	N	G	Q	G	J	Y	D	Z	X	J	Y	D	F	E	B
K	M	V	A	W	U	U	R	F	O	F	S	C	T	G	J	N	F	U	C	A
A	V	P	D	Q	Q	J	Q	H	B	G	T	J	O	B	F	N	W	R	O	B
N	E	E	I	H	T	O	O	M	S	I	N	G	P	L	R	I	M	A	L	T
R	T	X	Z	V	N	U	S	U	L	T	C	K	P	H	E	K	D	G	R	F
E	A	Z	G	M	L	W	Q	P	I	Y	E	L	I	O	E	S	R	J	W	S
U	L	P	M	T	B	T	S	A	I	A	V	V	N	T	Z	O	U	V	I	H
S	O	O	R	O	Q	M	F	N	S	P	I	F	G	F	E	R	D	Q	R	A
P	C	N	O	N	D	R	F	R	B	F	T	U	V	U	R	B	M	R	O	K
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N	C	G	W	B	W	A	K	W	B	D	W	P	X	E	W	A	B	H	B	K
X	W	G	M	F	N	S	A	I	C	Y	O	A	O	V	H	S	K	S	F	W
C	A	E	S	A	Q	X	R	Y	N	O	Q	O	B	L	C	F	M	E	Y	A
G	T	R	G	I	Q	T	F	A	C	I	S	L	S	P	G	O	E	M	L	U
W	E	T	N	F	H	V	L	S	T	R	A	W	U	Y	B	N	A	L	V	M
T	X	V	R	D	A	P	O	A	N	A	M	R	N	S	O	E	I	O	P	L
Y	G	A	A	Q	R	J	A	U	I	Q	Y	C	D	C	T	N	G	N	U	E
T	R	Y	G	H	L	X	T	S	P	S	U	G	A	B	A	M	M	G	P	M
G	U	M	Q	W	R	S	N	D	T	P	H	W	E	V	M	H	L	N	B	P

- |           |           |          |               |
|-----------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| BANANA    | CUP       | PARFAIT  | STRAW         |
| BIRTHDAY  | FLOAT     | SCOOP    | SUNDAE        |
| BOOTH     | FREEZER   | SHAKE    | SYRUP         |
| CAKE      | HOT FUDGE | SMOOTHIE | TOPPING       |
| CHERRY    | MALT      | SORBET   | VANILLA       |
| CHOCOLATE | NAPKIN    | SPLIT    | WHIPPED CREAM |
| CONE      | NUTS      | SPOON    |               |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

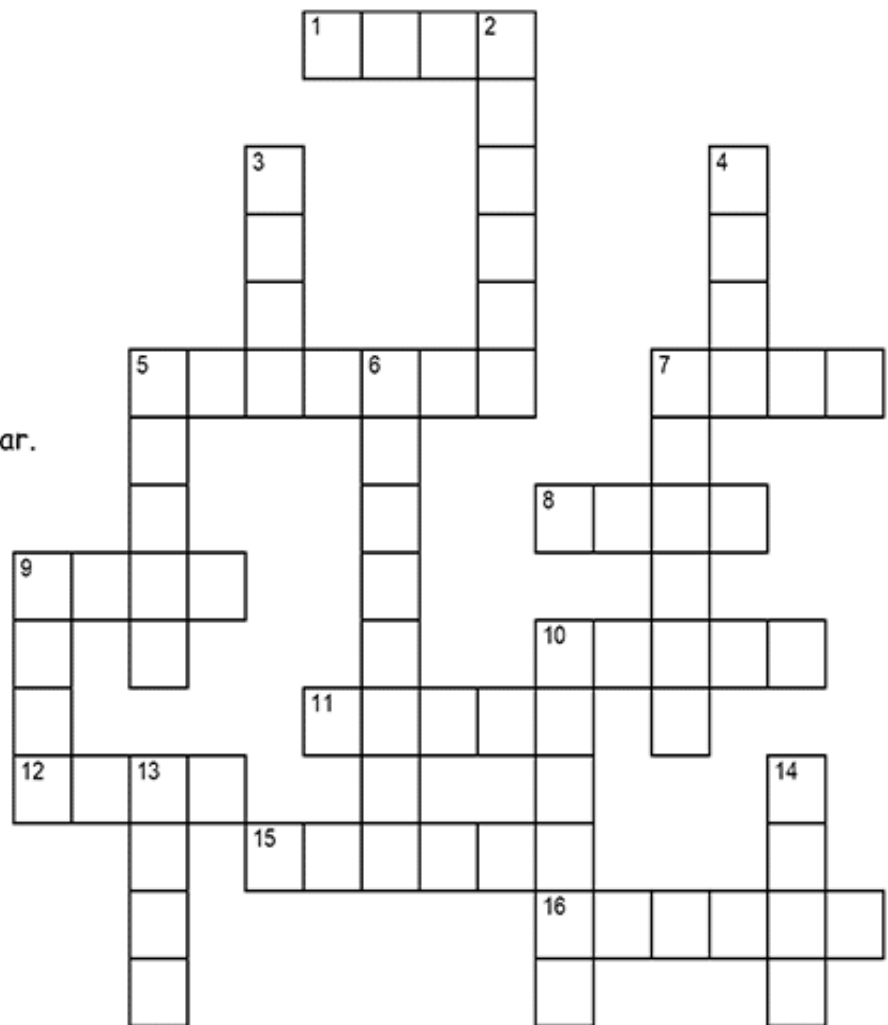


Across

- 1. Grains on the beach.
- 5. Living in a tent.
- 7. It warms you up.
- 8. Two wheeled transportation.
- 9. Comes with a shovel.
- 10. Full of daylight.
- 11. A sandy shore.
- 12. Area of inland water.
- 15. Warmest 3 months of the year.
- 16. Top for warm weather.

Down

- 2. Plunging into the water.
- 3. Move through the water.
- 4. Summer hazard.
- 5. House in the woods.
- 6. Frozen treat.
- 7. Trail walking.
- 9. A place to swim
- 10. Pants for hot weather.
- 13. Toy for a windy day.
- 14. Mildly hot.



**Word Bank**

BEACH, BIKE, CABIN, CAMPING, DIVING, FIRE, HEAT, HIKING, ICE CREAM, KITE, LAKE, PAIL, POOL, SAND, SHORTS, SUMMER, SUNNY, SWIM, T-SHIRT, WARM



# WELCOME...

## Lapeer County Clubs

- Burnside Busy Bees - Brown City/North Branch; Crafts, Expressive Arts, Cake Decorating, Sewing
- Busy Beavers - Deerfield Twp; Rabbits, Veterinary Science, Leadership, Community Service
- Camp Counselors - Lapeer; Safety, Camping, Physical & Outdoor Education, Crafts (Must be 12 or older and willing to volunteer as a counselor at Summer Camp)
- Dyna-Mutts - Imlay City; Dogs
- Flying Hooves - Attica; Horse and Pony, Horseless, Leisure Education, Life Skills, Veterinary Science, Animal Evaluation
- Hot Shots - (March -August) Imlay City; Shooting Sports \*Member must be 8 years old by January 1st of the program year they are enrolling for\*
- Lucky Lambers - Columbiaville; Sheep
- North Branch Finishline Livestock - North Branch; Swine, Feeder Beef, Rabbits, Sheep, Goats, Poultry, Veterinary Science, Meat Judging
- North Branch 4-H - North Branch; Crafts, Sewing, Foods, Cake Decorating
- Tails N' Bales - Clifford; Goats
- Woodland Walkers - Deerfield Twp; Outdoor Recreation/Education; Environmental Science, Wildlife, Crafts, Expressive Arts, Pocket Pets



**Beyond Ready**

## Michigan 4-H Foundation Scholarships

AWARDS UP TO \$10,000 AVAILABLE!

Application Deadline: **SEPT. 1, 2026**

Apply at: [mi4hfdtn.org/scholarship](http://mi4hfdtn.org/scholarship)

**MICHIGAN 4-H FOUNDATION**

**APPLY NOW!**

**SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY:**

- ✓ High school senior or incoming college freshman.
- ✓ Michigan 4-H member for 3+ years.
- ✓ Outstanding 4-H achievement, variety of experiences, including leadership & community service.
- ✓ Letter of recommendation from MSU Extension 4-H staff member.



# FOSSIL HUNT EXPEDITION DAY

UNLEASH THE EXPLORER IN YOU!

This **FREE event** is perfect for children aged 6 and older. Give your young explorer the chance to dig, discover, and learn like a real paleontologist. This interactive workshop turns ancient history into an exciting, hands-on adventure.



**JULY**  
**24**

**FRIDAY, JULY**  
**24, 2026**  
**@ 1PM**

To secure your spot, register to  
**DESIRAE SALSWEDDEL**  
**DSALSWEDDEL@ADLMI.ORG**

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



Almont  
District  
Library



# Lapeer County 4-H



## Butterfly Buddies

6 week program for youth ages 5-10 to explore nature through movement, mindfulness, and creativity.

Tuesdays, 10:30 - 11:30am

June 30 - August 4

Imlay City Butterfly Garden on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street



Pre-Register Online at:  
<https://bit.ly/butterflybuddies>  
Or call (810)667-0341

LEAF eligible participants will receive a \$30 deposit into their LEAF account.



Lapeer County 4-H  
1800 Imlay City Rd.  
Lapeer, MI, 48446

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



# 4-H Family News

Lapeer County



Learn more about how you can grow with Lapeer County 4-H!

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/lapeer/lapeer\\_county\\_4\\_h/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/lapeer/lapeer_county_4_h/)



**Beyond  
Ready**

Facebook: @LapeerCounty4H