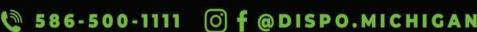




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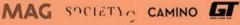












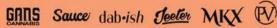






















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Recurring Events

All day (Saturday-Monday)

St. Clement Festival Parking

St. Clement of Rome Church, 343 South Main, Romeo

8 a.m. - 10 p.m. (Saturday-Sunday)

River of God Parking

230 East St. Clair Street, Romeo

8 a.m. - 6 p.m. (Thursday-Monday)

Westview Orchards Market and Tent

65075 Van Dyke, Washington Award winning donuts, flips, pies, peach products, pressed apple cider and Freestone Romeo Peaches INFO: 586-752-3123, WestviewOrchards.com

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Thursday-Saturday)

River of God Indoor Garage Sale

230 East St Clair Street, Romeo INFO: 752-2998

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Thursday-Saturday)

Thumb Area Artists' Exhibition

Presented by Romeo Guild of Art Starkweather Arts Center, 219 North Main Street, Romeo INFO: 586-752-5700 www.Starkweatherarts.com

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Saturday-Monday)

Fall Family Fun Kick Off at Westview Orchards

65075 Van Dyke, Washington INFO: www.WestviewOrchards.com

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Thursday-Saturday)

River of God Refreshments

230 East St Clair Street, Romeo INFO: 586-752-2998

10 a.m. - 6 p.m. (Saturday-Monday)

Frontier Town's Annual Labor Day Craft Show

Frontier Town, 67300 Van Dyke, Washington Free entry and free parking. Closes at 5 p.m. on Monday. INFO: 248-464-8706

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Friday-Sunday)

PAGE 4 - 2023 Romeo Peach Festival

AAUW Used Book Sale

Romeo Community Center, 361 Morton, Romeo Also open 4 p.m.-7 p.m. on Thursday. Closes at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

INFO: 810-796-2153

10 a.m. - 6 p.m. (Saturday-Sunday)

Westview Orchards Peachy Craft Show

Located at: Westview Orchards, 65075 Van Dyke at 30 Mile INFO: 586-752-3123, www.WestviewOrchards.com

10 a.m. - 9 p.m. (Thursday-Monday)

Romeo Townhall Soda Fountain

201 North Main Street, Romeo

Fresh peaches, ice cream sundaes, peach milkshakes and peach pie. Closes at 5 p.m. on Labor Day.

INFO: RomeoSodaFountain.com

11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. (Thursday-Saturday)

Juliet Chocolate Factory Peachy Palooza!

66870 Van Dyke, Washington Township INFO: www.JulietChocolateFactory.com

Noon - 6 p.m. (Friday-Saturday)

Cooling Room at Grey's Opera House (Masonic Lodge)

231 North Main, Romeo

Refreshments for purchase including pie and ice cream from Hilltop Pies. Tours available.

INFO: 312-497-5554, www.graysoperahouse.com

1 p.m. - 6 p.m. (Friday-Monday)

Westview Orchards Outdoor Winery Schoolhouse

65075 Van Dyke, Washington

Wine, hard cider, wine slushies. Closes at 4 p.m. Labor Day. INFO: 586-752-3123, www.WestviewOrchards.com

4 p.m. - 9 p.m. (Thursday-Friday)

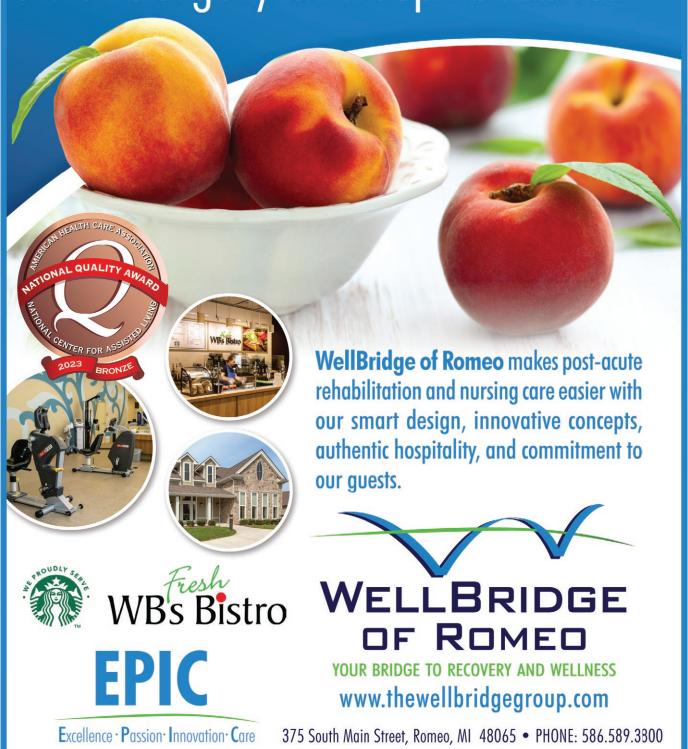
Romeo Gold Studios Block Party and All Star Performances

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CORNERS DINER

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Thursday, August 31

4 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Mid America Carnival Rides

Romeo Lions Field, 269 East Washington, Romeo \$25 Wrist Bands available in advance INFO: DiscoveringRomeo.com or Discovering Romeo App

4 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Beers Around the World and Refreshments

Romeo Lions Clubhouse, 269 East Washington, Romeo

4 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Papa Joe's Gourmet Pavilion

Romeo Lions Clubhouse, 269 East Washington, Romeo Food Truck Court - Gambino's Pizza, K-Block's BBQ, Rustic Bluebird, Chatita's Rolling Kitchen, Sushi Kabar, Motor City Hot Dogs and Coppola Wines

4:45 p.m.

Metro Electric 31st Annual Peach Festival 5K/10K Run

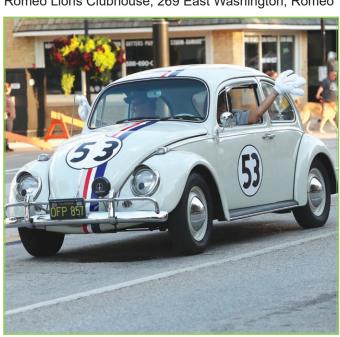
Races start at 6:45 p.m., Romeo Middle School, 11091 32 Mile. Romeo

Online register only: www.eastsideracingcompany.com INFO: rudy@startpackingtravel.com

7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

L and L Products Concert Series Live Music

Romeo Lions Clubhouse, 269 East Washington, Romeo





Friday, September 1

4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Pasta Dinner

St. Clement Church, 343 South Main Street, Romeo

4 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Mid America Carnival Rides

Romeo Lions Field, 269 East Washington, Romeo \$25 Wrist Bands available in advance

INFO: DiscoveringRomeo.com or Discovering Romeo App

4 p.m. - Midnight Papa Joes Gourmet Pavilion

Food Trucks and Wine

Romeo Lions Clubhouse, 269 East Washington, Romeo

4 p.m. - Midnight

Beers Around the World and Refreshments

Romeo Lions Clubhouse, 269 East Washington, Romeo

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Open Mic Night at Romeo Gold Studios

66780 Van Dyke, Washington, 48095

INFO: RomeoGoldStudios.com/open-mic, 372-8540



7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Wayward Wind Concert and Corn Roast

St. John Lutheran Church 246 Benjamin Street, Romeo

Cost: Outdoors if weather permits, indoors if not. Bring a lawn chair.

8 p.m. - Midnight

L and L Products Concert Series Live Music - Sunset

Boulevard - Rock

Romeo Lions Club Refreshment Fieldhouse, 269 East Washington, Romeo

Ages 21 and older. Doors open at 6 p.m. \$5 donation to enter. Music at 8 p.m.

7 p.m. - 11 p.m. (doors open 6 p.m.)

Live Music at Gray's Opera House (Masonic Temple)

Flannel Waste - Grunge - \$10

231 North Main, Romeo

Adult refreshment available, advance tickets available during the day

INFO: 586-497-5554 or www.graysoperahouse.com

6:30 p.m. (Show begins at dusk)

Peach Festival Fireworks

Crystal Diamonds Softball Complex, 14713 33 Mile, Romeo INFO: Lynne Walker, RWB Parks and Recreation, 586-752-6543 ex.1412





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Saturday, September 2

8 a.m.

2023 Peach Festival Golf Tournament

Bruce Hills Golf Course, 6771 Taft Road, Romeo Check-in 7 a.m.

INFO: golfbrucehills.com

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

KIDSFEST - A free, fun day for kids age 12 and under

Romeo Village Park

Performances by Rosco the Clown and All the World's a Stage

INFO: 586-752-6543

9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Romeo High School Wrestling Bean Bag Fundraiser

Romeo Lions Refreshment Fieldhouse, 269 East Washington, Romeo

Check-in is 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

INFO: 586-524-9481

Noon - 11 p.m.

Mid America Carnival Rides

Romeo Lions Field, 269 East Washington, Romeo \$25 Wrist Bands available in advance

INFO: DiscoveringRomeo.com or Discovering Romeo App

Noon - Midnight

Beers Around the World and Refreshments

Romeo Lions Club House, 269 East Washington, Romeo

Noon - Midnight

Papa Joes Gourmet Pavilion

Food Trucks and Wine

Romeo Lions Clubhouse, 269 East Washington, Romeo



2 p.m. - Midnight

L and L Products Concert Series Live Music

Romeo Lions Club House, 269 East Washington, Romeo

2 p.m. Casual Smile

5 p.m. Jukebox Junkies

8 p.m. The Square Pegz

4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Live Bands - Striber McVicar VFW

70455 McVicar Road, Romeo

Food and drinks available for purchase.

INFO: 752-7301

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

St John Men's Club Parking

246 Benjamin Street, Romeo

7 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.)

Live Music at Gray's Opera House (Masonic Temple)

231 North Main, Romeo

Mami Zaddy (Latin Soul) - \$10

Adult refreshment available, advance tix available during the day

INFO: 312-497-5554 or www.graysoperahouse.com



Sunday, September 3

7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Patrick L. Rinke Memorial Peach Festival Car Show

Blue Water Trucking, 14889 33 Mile Road, Romeo. Registration 7:30 a.m.-noon, awards presented 3 p.m. INFO: 586-295-9172 or cobraguy49@aol.com Registration form online at DiscoveringRomeo.com

8 a.m. - Noon

Romeo Lions Club Annual Pancake Breakfast

Romeo Lions Club House, 268 East Washington, Romeo Ages 13 and up: \$12, ages 3-12: \$8, Under age 3: free. Show your student ID and get \$1 off your meal. Mimosa and Bloody Mary Bar.

INFO: 586-764-0730

Noon - 1 p.m.

Pre - Teen Pie Eating at Gray's Opera House (Masonic Lodge)

231 North Main Street, Romeo

Ages 5-12 years Donations accepted

INFO: 312-497-5554 or www.graysoperahouse.com

Noon - 9 p.m.



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PAGE 12 - 2023 Romeo Peach Festival

St John Men's Club Parking

246 Benjamin Street, Romeo

Noon - 11 p.m.

Mid America Carnival Rides

Romeo Lions Field, 269 East Washington, Romeo \$25 Wrist Bands available in advance INFO: Discovering Romeo.com or Discovering Romeo App

Noon - Midnight

Beers Around the World and Refreshments

Romeo Lions Club House, 269 East Washington, Romeo

Noon - Midnight

Papa Joes Gourmet Pavilion

Food Trucks and Wine

Romeo Lions Clubhouse, 269 East Washington, Romeo

1 p.m. - 7 p.m.

L and L Products Concert Series Presents

Romeo Lions Clubhouse, 269 East Washington, Romeo 1-2:30 p.m. - Romeo Gold Studios House Band 2:30 p.m.-4 p.m. - Rattlewood 4-7 p.m. - Sunday Cigars and Spirits, Michele Ramo World Jazz Orchestra

7:30 p.m.

Peach Festival Night Car Cruise

Main Street in Romeo - Begins at Pleasant Street and ends at Hollister Street

Staging at Tractor Supply, 66143 Van Dyke, Washington, 48095

Staging starts at 5:30 p.m., Leave parking lot at 7 p.m. INFO: Car Cruise 586-295-9172 or cobraguy49@aol.com





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40th Annual

Peach Festival Classic

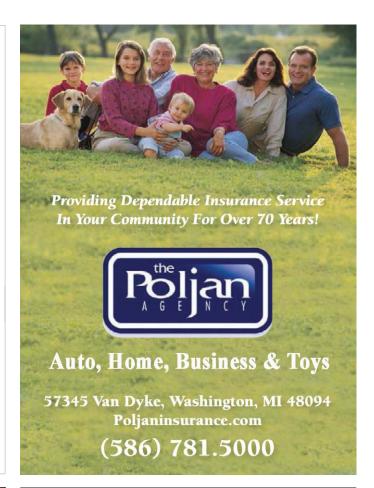
Saturday, September 2nd - 8:00 a.m. A Labor Day Weekend Tradition

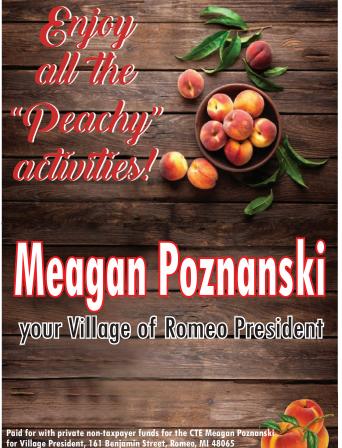
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Labor Day Monday, September 4

9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

St John Men's Club Parking

246 Benjamin Street, Romeo

10 a.m.

Children's Parade

Theme: Welcome to the Jungle!

Main Street in Downtown Romeo, Hollister Street to

Washington Street

INFO and Registration: 752-4436 kelley@rwchamber.com

Noon - ?

Mid America Carnival Rides

Romeo Lions Field, 269 East Washington, Romeo \$25 Wrist Bands available in advance INFO: Discovering Romeo.com or Discovering Romeo App

Noon - ?

Beers Around the World and Refreshments

Romeo Lions Club House, 269 East Washington, Romeo

Noon -?

Papa Joes Gourmet Pavilion

Food Trucks and Wine Romeo Lions Clubhouse, 269 East Washington, Romeo

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

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Romeo Peach Festival Hometown Parade

Main Street from Gates Street to Durham Street INFO: venetg@rwbpr.com or 586-752-6543 ex 1402

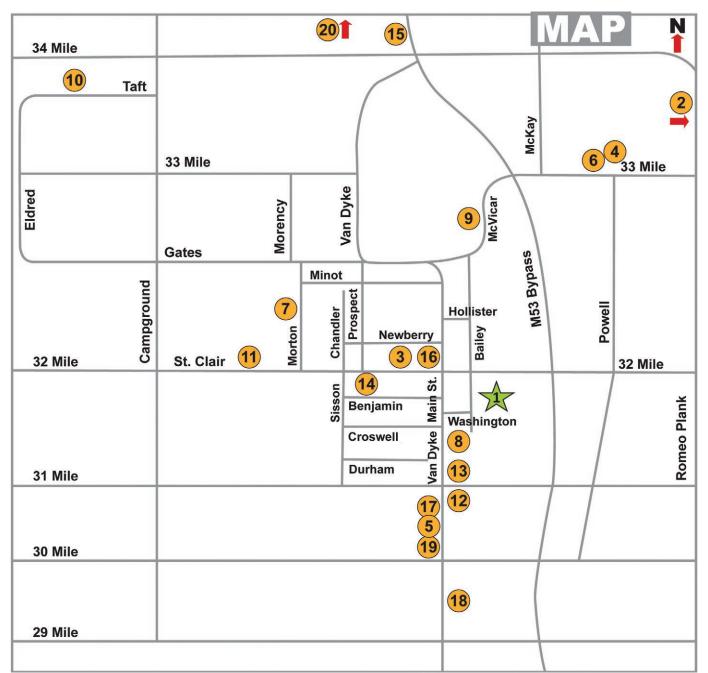
2 - 5 p.m.

L and L Products Concert Series Live Music

Romeo Lions Club House, 269 East Washington, Romeo Rattlewood



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1 Romeo Lion's Field House & Grounds

- 2 Miller Farms
- 3 Romeo Village Park
- 4 Blue Water Trucking
- **5 Tractor Supply**
- **6 Crystal Diamonds Fields**
- 7 Romeo Community Center
- & Fields
- 8 St. Clement Church
- 9 Striber-McVicar VFW Post 2052
- 10 Bruce Hills Golf Club
- 11 Romeo Middle School

- 12 Romeo Gold Studios, Juliet Chocolate Factory
- **13 Frontier Town**
- 14 St. John Lutheran Church
- 15 Northern Farm Market
- 16 Starkweather Art Center, Grey's Opera House, Romeo

Townhall Soda Fountain

- 17 Mary's Garden
- 18 Verellen Orchards
- 19 Westview Orchards, Farm & Winery
- 20 Hill Top Pies

Free SMART Shuttles

Sat, Sept. 2 and Sun, Sept. 3, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bus 1 and 2

TO: Westview Orchard, 65075 Van Dyke Avenue

TO: Frontier Town 67300 Van Dyke Avenue

TO: Shell Gas Station at NE corner of Main and St. Clair streets

TO: Romeo Community Center 361 Morton Street TO: Downtown Romeo (stop is normally outside PNC bank, at the four corners) 100 South Main Street

Sun, Sept 3, 2023, 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Rus 3

CAR SHOW to PANCAKE BREAKFAST and back START: at Car Show at Blue Water Trucking on 14889 East 33 Mile Rd

TO: Pancake Breakfast at fairgrounds, 268 East Washington Street

RETURN: Car Show at Blue Water Trucking



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Sunday, August 6 & Saturday September 16

Ava LeMire

Ava LeMire, 20, of Romeo, is the daughter of Tony and Shelley LeMire, and sister to Anthony.

She is a 2020 graduate of Romeo High School. During high school, she was involved in the National Technical Honors Society (NTHS) and Link Crew. She was awarded an NTHS stole and honor cords for having a grade point average higher than 3.0.

LeMire is a sophomore at Oakland
University where she is majoring in
elementary education and special education.
She is involved with the ABA Clinic at
Oakland University where she works with
autistic children and helps improve the lives
of the clients and their families. LeMire
earned semester honors for maintaining
a strong grade point average. Upon
graduation, she plans to obtain a position,
ideally in Romeo, as a special education
teacher in elementary schools.

Her first job was at Main's Treat Coffee House in Romeo and she has worked there for a little more than two years.

LeMire has also worked as a school age child care caregiver in several elementary schools in Romeo. Last year, she also worked at Hamilton-Parsons Elementary School as a special education paraprofessional where she said that she truly grew to love teaching more than ever.

She is also working full time at Oakland University.

PAGE 18 - 2023 Romeo Peach Festival



Ava LeMire
(Photo by Mallory Mae Photography)

This year LeMire plans on raising money to donate back to Romeo Community Schools Special Education Department.

This is because she feels as if it hits close to home and would be so lucky to be able to donate back to her community in some way.

She said that she is excited to represent the greater Romeo Community and the Romeo Peach Festival as the 2023 Michigan Peach Queen of Romeo because it has always been her dream. She said sees this opportunity as such a blessing to be the new role model to the new faces of Romeo and will fill all her peach queen duties with great pride.

Joanna Cowells

Joanna Cowells, 18, of Washington Township, is the daughter of Jason and Jessie Cowells.

She is a 2022 graduate of Stoney Creek High School in Rochester. At SCHS, she was involved in the National Honor Society and Link Crew as well as basketball and cross-country. She was awarded the Scholar of Distinction Award, two National Honor Society certificates and a varsity letter for basketball.

Cowells is a sophomore at Oakland University where she is a double major in finance and accounting where she is involved in the Business Honors Program, Oakland Accounting Student Information Society (OASIS) and Younglife. She has earned the Distinguished Scholar Award, a scholarship awarded for students with high grade point averages and SAT scores.

Cowells plans to take the certified public accountant exam upon graduation from the university.

She has also worked at Chick-fil-A for two years and she has been awarded two scholarships by the company.

Cowells said she is excited to represent the Romeo community and the Romeo Peach Festival because she loves the community and wants to give back.

She said that she is thankful for the opportunity to become more involved in the town she grew up in.



Joanna Cowells
(Photo by Mallory Mae Photography)







Mr. Peachy King David Chasney, Jr. and Lil' Miss Peach Blossom Blakely Cichocki (Submitted photos)



2023 Lil' Miss Peach Blossom

David Chasney, Jr., 5, of Bruce Township, is Mr. Peachy King 2023.

His parents are David and Stephanie Chasney. His brothers are Mason, 3, Benjamin, 2, and Cameron, 1.

He will be starting kindergarten this autumn at Amanda Moore Elementary School.

His pets are both dogs — Daisy and Racee.

He said his hobbies are riding his John Deere tractor, playing with hot wheels and construction toys as well as playing baseball and playing with his brothers.

David Chasney, Jr. Blakely Cichocki

Blakely Cichocki, 4, of Bruce Township, is Lil' Miss Peach Blossom 2023.

Her parents are Brielle and Brian Cichocki. Her brothers are Beckett, 6, and Brody, 9.

She will be enrolled in the Young Fives program this autumn at Hamilton-Parsons Elementary School.

Her pets are Hemi the Dog and Megatron the Cat. She said her hobbies are dancing and playing Barbies.



HAPPY PEACH FESTIVAL!

Stop by and see us at the Romeo Peach Festival for games, fun, and giveaways. We will have our **NEW** mobile branch on site so stop by and have a look!



Extra Credit Union has a **NEW** location at 59321 Van Dyke Road in Washington Township. We are open now so visit our Washington Township Lending Center during the following days/times:



Monday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Tuesday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Wednesday: 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Thursday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Official Grand Opening for the Lending Center will be held September 5 – 8. Follow us on Facebook for the latest information!



2023 Romeo Peach Festival Grand Marshal

Mark A. Hackel

Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel, of Macomb Township, has been chosen as the grand marshal for the 2023 Romeo Peach Festival.

He will appear in the Hometown Parade which will travel southbound on Main Street from Gates Street to Durham Street at 1:30 p.m., Labor Day, Sept. 4.

Hackel began his career with the Macomb County Sheriff's Office in 1981 as a dispatcher. Throughout the years, he worked his way up through every rank and was elected as Sheriff in November of 2000.

With the implementation of a new charter form of government, he was elected to serve as the first-ever county executive of Macomb County in 2011.

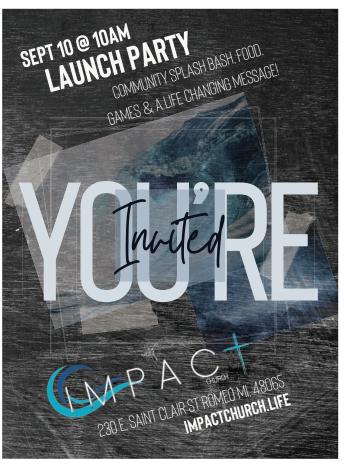
He is credited with creating an award-winning marketing and branding campaign "Make Macomb Your Home" that has raised the profile of Macomb County across the region.

Hackel also created the OneMacomb initiative focusing on multiculturalism and inclusion. He said that he is committed to providing innovative leadership for the region while delivering services citizens and businesses expect.

He is a lifelong resident of Macomb County. In his free time, he said he enjoys working out, coaching youth sports and spending time with family and friends.



Mark A. Hackel (Submitted photo)



2023 Romeo Peach Festival - PAGE 23

Fresh Peach Cobbler

This dessert is easy to make, just don't make the mistake of using more peaches than called for or you'll really have a mess in your oven. Wonderful served warm with vanilla or butter pecan ice cream.

Cook time: 45 minutes Prep time: 20 minutes

Ingredients:

- 8 large peaches, peeled, halved and sliced
- (cling free make it easier)
- 3 cup sugar, divided
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, melted
- 2 cup flour
- 4 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 1 1/2 cup milk

Directions:

In large bowl, toss peaches, 1/2 tsp. cinnamon, and 1 1/2 cups of the sugar. Set aside.



Melt butter into a 13x9 glass baking dish or pan. Use the microwave for glass dish, oven for metal pan. (Or you can melt it in a glass measuring cup and pour it into the pan.)

In another large bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, salt, 1/2 tsp. cinnamon, and 1 1/2 cups sugar until mixed. Stir in milk and vanilla until just combined. Don't over mix.

Pour batter slowly over butter evenly. Top the batter evenly with peach slices. Drizzle any leftover sugar mixture over peaches.

Bake at 375 degrees for 45-50 minutes until top is done. This recipe can be halved and make in an 8" square baking dish. Baking time and temperature is the same. Serves 8.



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Peach Jam Recipe

Perfect recipe for beginners. This peach jam recipe makes a small batch (1.5 cups). Double the recipe if you like.

Ingredients:

- 2 pounds (0.91kg) fresh ripe peaches (about 6-7 medium peaches)
- ¾ cup -1 cup white granulated sugar (depends in sweetness of peaches and your taste)
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice (½-1/2 medium lemon)

Instructions:

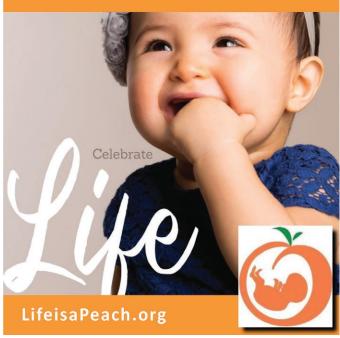
- 1. Prepare jars: Run 2-3 small jars (depending on size) through the dishwasher or washed in very hot water. You will make about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups of peach jam.
- 2. Peel and slice peaches: For easy peeling, carefully drop peaches into a pot of boiling water. Boil for 60-90 seconds. Drain water and run cold water over peaches in pot. If peaches are ripe, skins will slip off the peaches with your fingers.
- 3. Prepare peach mixture to cook: Place peaches, sugar and lemon juice in a medium pot (mixture should only take up about ½ of pot so it doesn't boil over). If you are doubling the recipe, use a large pot and cook the jam a little longer. Squish the mixture with a potato masher or your hands. Leave some chunks of peaches, if you like.
- 4. Cook peach jam: Heat mixture to mediumhigh heat and bring to a boil. Lower to medium heat (5-6 on my dial) and boil on a medium rolling boil for 17-22 minutes (depending on how loose or thick you like your marmalade), stirring occasionally to prevent scorching on the bottom. The amount of time will depend on speed of boil and size of pot. A pot with a larger bottom surface will take less time. If you have doubled the recipe, you can remove the foam if you like by scooping it out with a spoon or adding a teaspoon of butter to contain the foam.

How to tell when jam is done: Taste and adjust flavor as needed e.g. add a bit more lemon juice or sugar as you like. I sometimes add a small pinch of salt to bring out the brightness of the peaches.

5. Store the jam: Scoop jam into jars. Cool, then cover tightly and store in the fridge or freezer.

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Our Mission: To promote and foster the appreciation of the arts and artists and to support the preservation of the character and quality of life in the Historic Village of Romeo.

Peach Pie Recipe

Cook time: 45 minutes; Prep time: 30 minutes; Servings: 8-10

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup sugar, plus 2 tablespoons for top
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon
- 6 cup fresh peaches, peeled and sliced
- 1 pkg refrigerated pastry for double-crust pie
- 1 Tbsp butter

Directions:

Preheat oven to 425 degrees.

Stir together 3/4 cup sugar, flour, and cinnamon in large bowl. Add peaches and gently toss to coat.

Place one pastry in a 9-inch pie plate; dot pastry with butter. Add peach mixture. Cover with top crust. Cut slits in the top, seal, and crimp edges. Sprinkle top with remaining 2 tablespoons of sugar.

Cover edge of pie and bake 45 minutes or until crust is brown and juice begins to bubble. Remove foil for the last 15 minutes of baking.





The history of peaches in Romeo

BY LARRY SOBCZAK EDITOR

The history of peaches in the Romeo area dates back to the earliest days of Macomb County.

The earliest non-native settlers were farmers from New England seeking new opportunities in the early 19th century.

Local legend has it that Michael Bowerman built a cabin two miles south of what would become Romeo in 1813.

The legend continues that Bowerman carried a small number of peach pits from his father's farm in New York, introducing the popular fruit to Macomb County.

Bowerman, who was a War of 1812 veteran, was later able to claim the land where his cabin sat in payment for his service to his country and it eventually became Westview Orchards.

Other farmers in the 19th century enjoyed so much success that they decided to organize the Armada Fair in 1872 to celebrate their bounty.

It was not until 1880 that Michael Bowerman's son, Byron, planted 10 acres of small peach trees which gave Romeo and northern Macomb County's orchard industry a commercial start.

The sixth-generation descendants of Michael Bowerman still operate Westview Orchard to this day.

Albert G. Griggs, of Rochester, made a number of trips to Romeo and surrounding territory in 1916 and in doing so found out from Byron Bowerman and William Bristol that they had more consistent peach crops in Romeo's vicinity than was to be had in other peach PAGE 30 - 2023 Romeo Peach Festival

growing districts of the state.

This was on account of the rolling country. Peaches growing in orchards on the hill ridges mitigated the danger of frost. The hills also had heavier soil which helped prolonged the life of the trees to 15 years compared to seven to ten years in other sections of the state.

Albert G. Griggs came to Romeo in 1916 and started the Mountain View Orchards near 32 Mile and Campground roads, planting 160 acres to peaches.



1931 Peach Queen Virginia Allor (Photo credit: Romeo Community Archives)

Later, Griggs and his son Perry planted an additional 110 acres, 60 of which they sold for suburban homesites to five families who operated a company known as Romeo Community Orchards.

D. I. Oliver of Pontiac also became interested and in 1918 started the Romeo Orchards Co. by initially planting 160 acres and later adding 80 more acres.

Mr. G. W. Faulman of Detroit came to Romeo in 1923 and established the Hillcrest Orchards planting 40 acres at that time and later increased the orchard by the addition of 145 acres.

E. T. Strong, Pres. of the Buick Motor Car Company, started the East View Farm Orchards in 1926 with 10 acres, later adding 40 acres more. East View Farm Orchards were located along Van Dyke Avenue, south of 30 Mile Road.

The Edward F. Fisher Farms were started by Edward F. Fisher of "Fisher Body" fame. This enormous farm and orchard is now the site of Ford Motor Company's Michigan Proving Grounds in Bruce Township.

The 1931 Peach Festival program listed many other orchards in and around Romeo such as: Crissman Orchards in Rochester, Holly Ridge Fruit Farm, Hidden Lake Orchards, Ingleside Fruit Farm, Rush Bros. Orchards, Stoney Creek Orchards, L. C. Scott Fruit Farm, Verellen Bros., Carter's Orchards in Armada, Ed Eckley Orchards, Blackmore Orchards in Goodison, Juengel Bros. in Rochester) and Walter Bailey.

The program reported that between the larger orchards and many other smaller growers that approximately 2,000 acres of peaches orchards with an annual yield of 200,000 bushels were grown in the county.

The guide said that between 1915 and 1930, there was never a crop failure.

Growers such as the Verellen Brothers, which later became known as Verellens Orchard and Cider Mill, took advantage of an ever-increasing motoring public by opening a roadside stand in 1920 along Van Dyke Avenue after it was designated as one of the earliest state highways, M-53.

Westview followed in 1930 by opening their roadside stand after they discovered the Eastern Market in Detroit was flooded with a bumper crop of peaches and they could not sell their crop there.

The interurban streetcar, which ran from Imlay City to Detroit, passed by a string of roadside stands south of Romeo, and contributed to the sellers' potential customer base.

Area orchard growers convinced Romeo Village President Edward Jacob, also a prominent attorney, to investigate creating a festival to promote their crops.

Jacob travelled to the Michigan Cherry Festival in 1931 and decided to model a similar festival around peaches in Romeo the same year with the help of the growers.

According to David McLaughlin's 2005 book "The Romeo Peach Festival," the Rotary Club was the only service club involved in organizing the festival. The Village of Romeo did not contribute to the festival but later set aside a fund to help with some of the cost.

There were no festivals between 1942 and 1945 due to World War II.

The festival ran annually between 1946 and 2019 but was cancelled in 2020 due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

In 1951, according to McLaughlin, the Romeo Lions Club agreed to help support the Peach Festival and made some changes.



1946 Miss Romeo Shirley Wiers (Photo credit: Romeo Community Archives)



1949 Romeo Peach Queen Barbara Greene Pontiac.

(Photo credit: Romeo Community Archives)

The carnival was moved in 1956 to its present-day location at the end of East Washington Street in Romeo.

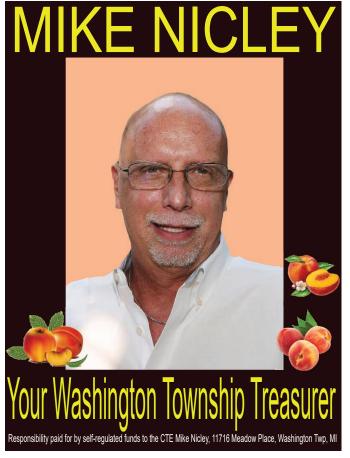
Beginning in the 1960s, area growers felt the pressures of suburbanization as well as downward price pressure from massive corporate-owned orchards and farms in the western U.S. and many have closed.

The stretch of Van Dyke Avenue between 29 Mile and 31 Mile roads, once one of the densest stretches of roadsides stands, is down to two — Westview and Verellens. Disappearing to the annals of history since the 1970s are East View, Southview, Graubner's, Bowerman's and Rapp's.

A new generation has appeared to take the place of the retired farm and orchard operations including honey growers, handmade pies bakeries and lavender growers as well as produce farmers, farm fresh dairies and Christmas tree growers.

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1951 Romeo Lions Club Peach Festival Float (Photo credit: Romeo Community Archives)



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Contact the Organizers

The Romeo Peach Festival is a collection of fun independently organized events held each year on Labor Day Weekend.

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