

Ellise Wedge goes for the Gold

By Gari Voss

Just as with the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts have a special community based award that the girls hope to accomplish before graduating from high school. The Gold Award is present to young women who take time to assess the needs of their community then accomplish a task that will address one identified need.

Ellise Wedge has done just that. Currently a junior at Allegan High School and a student in the Early College Program at the Allegan Area Tech Center, Ellise has decided to culminate her eleven years with Allegan Girl Scout Troop 80024 by creating a special firepit in Hopkins. This will be a special place where ceremonies can be held for retired flags to be properly burned.

Why Hopkins? Though Ellise is a student and Girl Scout in Allegan, she is also a member of the Hopkins Future Farmers of America (FFA) and 4-H Club. As the reporter for these groups, she became aware that an Allegan Eagle Scout had built flag depository boxes which are located at the Allegan American Legion Hall and Allegan Fire Station #1. Hopkins had been collecting retired flags, but there was no place in Hopkins to hold the disposal ceremony.

“My project will unite Allegan County members by the remembrance and honoring of American patriotism through a flag retirement ring in the Village of Hopkins,” stated Wedge. “Not only will this retirement ring bring people together, but it will give people a place to retire their flags in the respectful and proper order since there is no place to do it in Hopkins.”

As a Girl Scout, Wedge has experienced building



Ellise Wedge is completing her Girl Scout Gold Award by creating a ceremonial firepit in Hopkins near the Veterans Memorial and Flagpole where the scouts can properly burn retired flags. The project will address a need of the Hopkins community by assisting with putting to rest the flags that have been turned in for disposal. Photo: courtesy of Ellise Wedge

community through the completion of badges, selling cookies, attending Camp Merrie Wood, learning basic life skills, and interacting with nature.

“I think that all of these opportunities, especially selling Girl Scout cookies for public speaking,” shared Wedge. “Selling and marketing a product really set me up for the skills I have today for public speaking. I’m always thankful for that along with doing camping and fun things where I hang out with my friends.”

The ceremonies at the fire ring held a special memory. “Our troop has stressed learning how to be a role model and respect people who have come before us to make life better for us. Now that we are older, we concentrate more on doing community action

project focused on providing a pit that could get the community involved in retiring those flags. I knew the project would be sustainable and have a long lasting impact which is one aspect of a Gold Award project.”

The location will be at the Hopkins Community Reformed Church. “I wanted to place it in the center of Hopkins at the Veteran’s Memorial and flagpole, but there was not enough room. So, we are putting it at the church which is right next to the park,” explained Wedge. “I wanted it to be seen so others could participate and ask questions to learn about the firepit and the ceremony.”

Once the location was identified, the planning and gathering of materials began. “Seabright Products in Hopkins is donating the fire ring and covering the engraving costs,” stated Wedge. “To protect it because it cannot be used to burn garbage or other things, there will be a cover. My fundraiser is to place pavers around the fire ring. Each paver will be engraved. People can sponsor pavers to honor someone and have them engraved in memory of people. They can include messages, and put their name or not. The profits from the sale of the pavers will be used to create the remainder of the ceremony area.”

Wedge has launched the

fundraiser for the paving bricks, the pavers can be purchased at <https://forms.gle/eC1eFKA-Kud8rVH2B9> for an 8”x 8” engraved brick or <https://forms.gle/ngdfv9YsPzdk6pvm6> for a 4”x 8” engraved brick.

As Wedge continues her education to complete her associates of arts degree with Lake Michigan College at the Allegan Tech Center, to continue her work with the Hopkins FFA and 4-H acting as chapter reporter, and to raise and show lambs and rabbits, and to share her music at Peace Lutheran Church in Otsego, she will prepare to begin the construction of the Flag

Retirement Ring in Hopkins.

The project definitely meets the requirements for a prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award – She will utilize all that she has learned in Girl Scouts to address a need in a community where the project can have a sustainable effect for others. As she states, there is a team of adults and leaders who have been instrumental in honing her skills. Now, she is on her way to successfully completing a project step-by-step that will achieve her desire to show respect and honor those who came before her to make her life better.

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION TOWNSHIP OF LEIGHTON ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LEIGHTON, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following Ordinance was adopted by the Leighton Township Board at a regular meeting held on October 8, 2025. A summary of Ordinance No. 2025-10-08 is as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-10-08: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LEIGHTON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE; TO AMEND CHAPTER 2, DEFINITIONS, TO INCLUDE NEW DEFINITIONS PERTAINING TO MOBILE FOOD VENDING AND TO AMEND CHAPTER 3, GENERAL PROVISIONS, TO ADD A NEW SECTION PERTAINING TO MOBILE FOOD VENDING.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the full text of the Leighton Township Ordinance 2025-10-08 is available at the Township Hall, 4451 12th St. Suite A, during normal business hours, or upon request from the Leighton Township Clerk.

RACHEL FENNEMA, CLERK
LEIGHTON TOWNSHIP
4451 12TH ST., SUITE A
WAYLAND, MI 49348
616-891-8238

NOTICE

Ordinance No. 260

CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY ELECTRIC FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

AN ORDINANCE, granting to CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY, its successors and assigns, the right and authority to construct, maintain and commercially use electric lines and related facilities including by not limited to towers, masts, poles, crossarms, guys, wires and transformers on, under, along, and across public places including but not limited to highways, streets, alleys, bridges, and waterways, and to conduct a local electric business in the TOWNSHIP OF VALLEY, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, for a period of thirty years.

THE TOWNSHIP OF VALLEY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. GRANT and TERM. The TOWNSHIP OF VALLEY, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, hereby grants to Consumers Energy Company, its successors and assigns, hereinafter called “Consumers” the right and authority to construct, maintain and commercially use electric lines consisting of towers, masts, plies, crossarms, guys, wires and transformers on, under, along, and across public places including but not limited to highways, streets, alleys, bridges, and waterways, and to conduct a local electric business in the TOWNSHIP OF VALLEY, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, for a period of thirty years.

SECTION 2. CONDITIONS. No public place used by Consumers shall be obstructed longer than necessary during construction or repair, and shall be restored to the same order and condition as when work was commenced. All of Consumers’ electric lines and related facilities shall be placed as not to unnecessarily interfere with the public’s use of public places. Consumers shall have the right to trim or remove trees, if necessary, in the conducting of such business.

SECTION 3. HOLD HARMLESS. Consumers shall save the Township free and harmless from all loss, costs and expense to which it may be subject by reason of the negligent construction and maintenance of the lines and related facilities hereby authorized. In case any action is commenced against the Township on account of the permission herein given, Consumers shall, upon notice, defend the Township and its representatives and hold them harmless from all loss, costs and damage arising out of such negligent construction and maintenance.

SECTION 4. EXTENSIONS. Consumers shall construct and extend its electric distribution system within said Township, and shall furnish electric service to applicants residing therein in accordance

with applicable laws, rules and regulations.

SECTION 5. FRANCHISE NOT EXCLUSIVE. The rights, power and authority herein granted, are not exclusive.

SECTION 6. RATES and CONDITIONS. Consumers shall be entitled to provide electric service to the inhabitants of the Township at the rates and pursuant to the conditions as approved by the Michigan Public Service Commission. Such rates and conditions shall be subject to review and change upon petition to the Michigan Public Service Commission.

SECTION 7. REVOCATION. The franchise granted by this ordinance is subject to revocation upon sixty (60) days written notice by either party. Upon revocation this ordinance shall be considered repealed and of no effect past, present or future.

SECTION 8. MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION JURISDICTION. Consumers remains subject to the reasonable rules and regulations of the Michigan Public Service Commission applicable to electric service in the Township and those rules and regulations preempt any term of any ordinance of the Township to the contrary.

SECTION 9. REPEALER. This ordinance, when enacted, shall repeal and supersede the provisions of any previous Consumers’ electric franchise adopted by the Township including any amendments.

SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

We certify that the foregoing Franchise Ordinance was duly enacted by the Township Board of the TOWNSHIP OF VALLEY, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, on the 9th day of December, 2025.

Township Supervisor
ATTEST:

I, Brandee Ellis, Clerk of the TOWNSHIP OF VALLEY, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the ordinance granting Consumers Energy Company, an electric franchise, was properly adopted by the Township Board of the TOWNSHIP OF VALLEY, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, and that all proceedings were regular and in accordance with all legal requirements.

Township Clerk
Dated : December 9, 2025.

TUESDAY NIGHT KARATE CLASSES
START JANUARY 13TH



Bloomington MI at the TCMC building at 201 E. Pine Street
\$85 per month, no contracts
Ages 7-12 5:30-6:30pm
Adults 7-8+pm

Beginners Welcome!

www.tjkda.com

REGISTRATION HAS STARTED!

Call/Text 269-903-5655 or email: sytekanddaves@gmail.com

Notice of Public Hearing Watson Township Planning Commission

Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to PA 110 of 2006, the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, and in accordance with Section 125.3841 of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, the Watson Township Planning Commission will hold its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Watson Township Hall located at 1895 118th Ave. Allegan, Michigan 49010. Public hearings will be held and possible action taken for the following items:

1. A request for special use permit from Taylor and Erin Bonovetz, owner of 1827 Fawnbrooke Run, also known as permanent parcel 03-23-015-006-30, to construct an accessory building larger than permitted by right within the A-2 Rural Conservation District, per Section 22.09(b) of the Watson Township Zoning Ordinance.
2. Any other business that comes properly before the Planning Commission.

If, prior to the meeting/public hearing, members of the public have certain questions or wish to provide input on any business that will be addressed at the meeting/public hearing then such persons may contact the Planning Commissioners through submission of written comments by mail or drop box to Watson Township Planning Commission, c/o Watson Township Hall, 1895 118th Avenue, Allegan, MI 49010 or by email to the Zoning Administrator at jderry@pcimi.com.

A copy of the meeting materials may be found on links on the Township’s homepage at www.watsontownship.org including all application materials. If remote access is provided subject to the Open Meetings Act, as amended, access information and instructions will be provided on the Watson Township website as addressed above.

Watson Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the meeting to individuals with disabilities upon 72 hours advanced notice to the Township. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Clerk by email, phone, or mail.

BRADY COLE, VICE CHAIR
WATSON TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION
616-706-9256