

NEWS

# St. Clair County news briefs: Blue Water SandFest a success; road work, more



The Blue Water SandFest celebrated 10 years of creating lakeshore memories in Port Huron Aug. 2 to 4. (Courtesy of Blue Water Sand Fest/Facebook)



By **EMILY PAULING** | epauling@medianewsgroup.com | The Voice



## Blue Water SandFest sees success

The Blue Water SandFest celebrated 10 years of creating lakeshore memories in Port Huron Aug. 2 to 4.

Master and advanced amateur sand sculptors from around North America gathered at the event, which took place at the Fort Gratiot Light Station County Park in Port Huron. The public had three days to view the sculptures as they progress from piles of sand to works of art.

In a recent newsletter, Friends of the Fort Gratiot Light Station said \$30,000 was raised that will be available for restoration and renovation projects at the Fort Gratiot Light Station County Park, and that visitors came from 35 states and 11 countries.

There were 22 sculptors, 17 entertainment acts, 185 volunteer shifts and dozens of sponsors and friends who made the event possible, the group said.

In the amateur competition, Emalyn Knight took first place in the youth category with “M&M Man.” In the family group category, the Kenyon family took first place with “60’s Lighthouse,” the Yergin family took second place with “Beach Brawl” and the Dennison family took third place with “Hammerhead Shark.” In the adult solo category, Misti Fritz took first place with “Garfield,” Shana Clemons took second place with “Mushroom Hollow” and Justin Houle took third place with “Godzilla.”

In the singles competition, Brendan Schafer took first place with “A Starry Night in Michigan,” Dottie Willison took second place, sculptor’s choice and people’s choice with “Don’t Worry Be Hippie” and Bob May took third place with “Monkey See, Monkey Do.”

In the doubles competition, Mitch Guerrero and Mark Mangia took first place and sculptor’s choice with “Cracked Pot City, Home of the Mice” and

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Next year's event will take place from Aug. 1 to 3, 2025. For more information, visit [bluewatersandfest.com](http://bluewatersandfest.com) or [facebook.com/bluewatersandfest](https://facebook.com/bluewatersandfest).

## Road work underway

Area motorists will see a handful of road and intermittent lane closures this week as various projects are completed throughout St. Clair County.

All projects are weather dependent. Here's a look at what's ahead:

- Casco Township: Palms Road between Lindsey and Puttygut roads will have a one-day closure during the week of Aug. 26 due to a crossroad culvert replacement.
  - Casco Township: Palms Road between Springborn and Meisner roads will be closed during the week of Aug. 26 due to asphalt patching.
  - China Township: Indian Trail between Puttygut Road and St. Clair Highway will have a one-day closure during the week of Aug. 26 due to a crossroad culvert replacement.
  - Clay Township: Bluebill Road Bridge off of Dyke Road will be restricted to one lane due to a superstructure replacement project. The closure will run through Oct. 4.
  - Columbus Township: Big Hand Road between Kronner and Stoddard roads will have intermittent lane closures during the week of Aug. 26 due to a ditching project in the area.
  - Cottrellville Township, Marine City: M-29 between Chartier and Broadbridge roads will have intermittent lane closures throughout the week of Aug. 26 due to seal patching/tar and stonework.
  - Marysville: M-25 between Gratiot and Ravenswood roads will have intermittent lane closures during the week of Aug. 26 due to tar and stone application.
  - Riley Township: Belle River Road from the Memphis city limits to Boardman Road will be closed during the week of Aug. 26 due to
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- Riley Township: Miller Road between Bordman and Hough roads will have intermittent lane closures during the week of Aug. 26 due to a ditching project in the area.
- St. Clair Township: Gratiot Road between Rattle Run and Wadhams roads will be closed from Aug. 26 to Sept. 2 for resurfacing work.
- St. Clair Township: The Range and Yankee roads intersection will be partially closed for the construction of a roundabout. Yankee Road west of Range Road will be closed for about three weeks and Range Road will be maintained southbound only for the duration. Project completion is expected in early September.

## **Book sale set at Port Huron library**

The Friends of the St. Clair County Library will host a book sale at the garage in the main library, located at 210 McMorran Blvd. in Port Huron.

The sale will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 6 and 7. A members-only sale will take place from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 5

There will be books, DVDs and CDs for everyone — children, teens and adults, fiction and nonfiction, a flyer for the event states. All proceeds from the sale will go to support library programs for the community.

For more information, call 810-987-7323 or visit [stclaircountylibrary.org](http://stclaircountylibrary.org).

## **EM-SBN accepting applications for grant award program**

The Eastern Michigan Small Business Network is accepting applications for consideration for its 2024 Small Business Grant Award Program.

The application period is Aug. 27 to Sept. 24.

The 2024 Small Business Grant Award Program will provide awards of up to \$20,000 to eligible small businesses in the six-county region to support their growth and development. Most grant awards will be in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range.

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No more than \$213,158 in total grants will be awarded in the 2024 round. A second round of grants will also be awarded in 2025. Applications will be scored based upon responses. The applications with the highest scores in each of the six counties will be awarded funds.

The EM-SBN received a Small Business Support Hub grant award from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to help launch and grow small businesses in Shiawassee, Lapeer, Tuscola, Huron, Sanilac and St. Clair counties. The program utilizes a portion of the state's American Rescue Plan funding.

EM-SBN expands Michigan Small Business Development Center services, coaching and mentoring, access to capital, and provides intense counseling and assistance for up to 40 small business clients per year through the region's Entrepreneurial Cohort Program.

"We are pleased to present such an amazing funding opportunity to our Region 6 communities," Economic Development Alliance CEO and Eastern Michigan Small Business Hub grant Administrator Dan Casey said, in a release. "As we all know, capital is essential to growing businesses. These funds also will help businesses that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19."

The grant award announcement will be made Oct. 15.

"The 2024 Small Business grant program is being administered by the Economic Development Alliance of St. Clair County," the release states. "The EDA is working closely with participating Region 6 partners and key partners such as the MI-SBDC to successfully promote and administer this grant opportunity."

For more information about the EM-SBN, as well as the grant, visit [easternmichigansmallbusinessnetwork.com](http://easternmichigansmallbusinessnetwork.com).

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