



# Blue-Barry News

## Barry County Democratic Committee

June 2023– Volume 3, Issue 6

### Olivia says, “Middleville PRIDE: This. Is. Big!”

Middleville will be hosting its very own and very first Pride event on June 10, 1-3 PM. The event is being set up by Amanda Fisk and me. This is a family-friendly event with fun for all ages. There will be games and activities for children including fun prizes. There will be multiple vendors providing resource material for various LGBTQ+ services. And there will even be a drag show at 2 PM. We are also working to fundraise for the Trevor Project (focuses on suicide prevention in LGBTQ+ youth – see [www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org)) at this event. “I’ll Be Your Rock,” an LGBTQ+ youth support group in Vermontville, has been invited to attend as well. The Barry County Democratic Committee will have a table at the event, to show support and provide information about our group. Please stop by and say hello!

For additional inquiries regarding donations, vending, and any other questions, please email me at [oliviajanebennett97@gmail.com](mailto:oliviajanebennett97@gmail.com).

**Middleville Pride**  
**Middleville Village Pavilion**  
**91 E Main St., Middleville**  
**Saturday, June 10, 2023**  
**1:00pm - 3:00pm**

Also, I am the Secretary on the Board of Directors for Chosen Family of Michigan, which is an LGBTQ+ non-profit organization. We recently had our first annual Dandelion Dinner/Gala on May 17th. Overall, we had a successful event and raised a lot of money for our nonprofit. We are a newer organization and are hoping for an even bigger turnout next year. You can learn more about us and also donate by going to <https://www.chosenfamilyofmichigan.org>

–Olivia Bennett



Hastings Girls' Night Out – we're getting some votes!



Cal Lamoreaux (ran for County Commissioner in 1980) and Chris Bush ready to wave Old Glory in the Hastings Memorial Day parade.



MDP Youth Vice Chair Austin Marsman (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) joined us in the parade!



BCDC attends May CD2 meeting. (And eats ice cream!) Mary Minnick, CD2 Chair, is on the left.



BC Dems ready to roll!

## **Next Highway Cleanup is July 15<sup>th</sup>**

The next Adopt-A-Highway work day is scheduled for July 15<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting. We'll meet at Fish Hatchery Park that morning, do our work, then head to the annual picnic (see below). Watch for announcements in emails, on Facebook, and at our monthly meeting in June for what time we'll start.

## **Annual Picnic is July 15<sup>th</sup>**

We are having our annual picnic at the big pavilion in Tyden Park on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1-5 PM. This is open to all Barry County Democrats (the committed as well as the curious) and their families! We'll have a brief business meeting (we won't have our regularly-scheduled monthly meeting in July due to the fair), but most of the time we'll be eating yummy food and visiting with each other and our guests. Please use the RSVP form [here](#) to let us know you'll be there and who and what you'll be bringing.

## **Meet Me at the Fair!**

And speaking of the fair, you can get your elephant ears starting Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. While you're there, plan on spending some time hosting our booth! We'll have canopies set up outside, our trailer will be there to store things, and we'll be inviting guests (MDP caucuses, candidates, elected officials, and others) to join us. We really need help hosting the booth – if you can spare one or more 2-hour chunks of time, that would be great! Please use the Google Form [here](#) to sign up and let us know your available days and times. (If you signed up for a timeslot at May's monthly meeting, you don't need to fill this form, unless you want to add or change times.)

## **Volunteer Appreciation: Our “Bright Light”**

For the Michigan Democratic Party Legacy Dinner, each Congressional District was asked to submit names for who in their districts deserved a District Legacy Award. Nominees were submitted by county chairs and voted on at the district meeting. While the nominee for the Barry County Democratic Committee was not selected as a CD2 awardee, that person is certainly a winner as far as we are concerned! Read the write-up below that Chris Bush, with help from Elspeth Inglis, submitted for Michele Peltier:

*Michele Peltier has been nominated to receive the MDP Legacy Award for CD2. Michele, originally from the area, moved to Barry County from the east side of the state after she and husband Ed retired. She became involved with the Barry County Democratic Committee in 2021 and soon became a fixture not only at the county party meetings but also at county, city, and school board meetings. Her interest in the workings of local government was quickly noticed, and she was soon appointed to serve on the county Planning Commission. Additionally, she wanted to understand the pulse of the county and took it upon herself to attend the Local*

*Government Accountability Forum (seen primarily as a support group for fans of Barry County’s “constitutional sheriff”), sharing news and topics from that forum with Barry County Democrats. When asked what drove her to attend so many meetings, Michele shrugged and said, “It’s fun.”*

*Not only did Michele keep her ears and eyes open, she rolled up her sleeves and got to work: she volunteered with the local United Way office to help the elderly with their taxes; she hit the pavement whenever petitions needed signatures; she became a poll worker and also served as a precinct captain at the polls; and she joined the group seeking to pass a millage proposal to make improvements at Historic Charlton Park, a major public park, historic village and museum, and event venue in the county. One of the largest roles Michele took on was spearheading a letter-writing group, addressing our legislators on important issues and publishing in local, state, and national media outlets’ editorial pages. She wrote templates so that others could use or modify her words and sign the letters themselves, thus amplifying our message. Her reputation of generating letter after letter led the MDP Rural Caucus to ask her to take charge of this effort with their members, so that letters from Democrats bombarded news outlets.*

*In late 2022/early 2023, Michele and Ed moved back to Oakland County to help her daughter with her newborn twins. While Barry County sorely misses them, we know they are right where they need to be. We hope others take to heart the words Michele shared when she was interviewed by the Hastings paper for their weekly “Bright Light” column: “I really believe people have to be involved if they’re going to live someplace. You can’t sit in isolation and do nothing or – I don’t know – things collapse.” While keeping up with her grandbabies might cause her to collapse, we feel that Michele will continue to stand tall and use her energies to promote the Democratic Party.*

The CD2 awardees were Peggy Raddatz, long-serving Secretary of the District and Manistee County, and Dallas Dean, a very dedicated fixture as District and Newaygo County Treasurer. Congratulations to all the nominees and much gratitude for your service to the Party!



# June 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1 LGBTQ+ Pride Month starts	2	3 Hastings Farmers Market, 9-1
4	5	6	7 Hastings Farmers Market, 11-4; City Band, Thornapple Plaza, 7:30 PM	8	9	10 Hastings Farmers Market, 9-1; Middleville Pride 1-3
11	12	13	14 Hastings Farmers Market, 11-4; City Band, Thornapple Plaza, 7:30 PM	15	16 Juneteenth; Hastings Friday at the Fountain, noon; Friday Nights at the Plaza, 7:30 PM	17 Nashville Car Show; Hastings Farmers Market, 9-1
18 Charlton Park Car Show (or Hastings?)	19	20	21 Hastings Farmers Market, 1-4; BCDC Mtg; Hastings City Band, Thornapple Plaza, 7:30 PM	22	23 Hastings Friday at the Fountain, noon; Friday Nights at the Plaza, 7:30 PM	24 Brew with Blue, 10 AM; Hastings Farmers Market, 9-1; Picnic for the Precincts 6 PM - ?
25	26	27	28 Hastings Farmers Market, 11-4; City Band, Thornapple Plaza, 7:30 PM	29	30 Hastings Friday at the Fountain, noon; Friday Nights at the Plaza, 7:30 PM	1
2	3	Notes				

# July 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 Hastings Farmers Market, 9-1
2	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5 Hastings Farmers Market, 11-4; Community Concert Series, Thornapple Plaza, 7:30 PM	6	7 Hastings Friday at the Fountain, noon; Friday Nights at the Plaza, 7:30 PM	8 Hastings Farmers Market, 9-1; Speaker Event (Fascism)
9	10	11	12 Hastings Farmers Market, 11-4; Community Concert Series, Thornapple Plaza, 7:30 PM	13	14 Hastings Friday at the Fountain, noon; Friday Nights at the Plaza, 7:30 PM	15 AdoptAHighway, BCDC Annual Picnic including monthly meeting; Hastings Farmers Market, 9-1
16	17 Barry Co Fair	18 Barry Co Fair	19 Barry Co Fair; Hastings Farmers Market, 11-4; Community Concert Series, Thornapple Plaza, 7:30 PM	20 Barry Co Fair	21 Barry Co Fair; Hastings Friday at the Fountain, noon; Friday Nights at the Plaza, 7:30 PM	22 Barry Co Fair; Brew with Blue, 10 AM; Hastings Farmers Market
23	24	25	26 Hastings Farmers Market, 11-4; Community Concert Series, Thornapple Plaza, 7:30 PM	27	28 Hastings Friday at the Fountain, noon; Friday Nights at the Plaza, 7:30 PM	29 Hastings Farmers Market, 9-1
30	31	Notes				

## Coming Up

Check the June and July calendar pages in this issue for opportunities to hand out Democratic Party (county, state) materials!

Saturday, June 10, 10 AM – **Second Congressional District monthly meeting** for county chairs, via Zoom. If you'd like to sit in, please contact Chris Bush.

Saturday, June 10, 1-3 PM – **Middleville PRIDE**. If you'd like to volunteer to host our booth, please contact Chris Bush.

Tuesday, June 13, 7 PM – **MDP Chairs Call**. Chris Bush will be attending and will report back on pertinent items.

Wednesday, June 21, 7-9 PM – **BC Dems monthly meeting** at Kellogg Community College Fehsenfeld Center, Room 103, in Hastings. Invited speakers are MDP Anishinaabek Caucus and MDP Youth Vice Chair. Watch for meeting notification by mid-month.

## Invite a Friend!

We encourage you to invite a friend, neighbor, coworker, or other Barry County resident to attend a Barry County Democrats meeting or event with you. Oftentimes, a face-to-face invitation results in a positive response.

## Have Something to Say?

You are welcome to submit an article or announcement to the Blue Barry News! Please contact one of the BBN Team: Chris Bush ([bushchristinarose@gmail.com](mailto:bushchristinarose@gmail.com)) or Betsy Colgan ([bacolgan@gmail.com](mailto:bacolgan@gmail.com)). Deadline for submissions is one week before the beginning of the month.

**Check our website calendar for various meetings throughout the county! You can also donate to the Barry County Democratic Party from the website!**

[www.barrycountydems.com](http://www.barrycountydems.com)

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