

# A Haunting At Hidden Hill

By Genine Hopkins

Tucked away behind Burger King and the South Sunrise Convenience Store is a driveway that leads into the woods where Hidden Hill Family Campground is located. Normally a cheerful place, for the next two weekends, October 2, 3, and 9, 10 between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., it is home not only to the campers staying there, but to a darker force; ghouls and goblins have taken over the area!

Venturing into the campground, the complete darkness overtakes the scene. At the top of the hill an eeriness sets in as witches wander around, their cackles piercing the night. Once at the top of the hill and just to the left, there is a sense of foreboding outside of the Haunted House Maze, where children line up to become a smorgasbord for the devilish ghouls waiting inside to pounce on their victims. Screams emit from the building, yet more are willing to enter and seal their fate.

Should you survive the Maze, there's a Haunted Hayride that takes its prey deep into the haunted woods surrounding the Hill. Again, the screams of those inside don't seem to deter these brave kids, like Callie St. Bernard and her brother Garrett, who escaped the Haunted Nursery, made it past the huge spider and its web to emerge with their arms and legs intact.

"That really scared me!" exclaimed Callie, who was clinging to her mother, while her brother insisted "It was great!" as they headed toward the bonfire area to enjoy the complimentary hot cider. There is also a contest for the "Best Decorated Site" at the campground as well as a pumpkin carving contest every night, where guests vote on the best pumpkin design.

Playing host to the "things that go bump in the night" is campground owner Dave Basinger and his lovely wife, Reva. Originally from Ohio and lifelong campers, five years ago, after dropping their

youngest daughter off at college, they looked at each other and decided that it would be a great idea to pursue a dream of owning their very own campground. An exhaustive internet search led them to Michigan, with its vast amount of camping opportunities, and eventually to the town of Harrison; they purchased Hidden Hill Campground in May of 2005.

Three years ago, feeling the great sense of community that Harrison is known for, they decided to stage their first Haunted Hayride, for one night only. The community response was enormous and next year the couple added the Haunted House Maze. Still drawing in very large crowds, they extended the event this year for two weekends, Friday and Saturday night each weekend. Because of the extended hours, Dave and Reva knew they would need more help, and they reached out to the Harrison Chamber of Commerce for assistance where

Tammy Carlstrom led them to their "knight in shining armor," Lori Hewitt. Lori hit the ground running, gathering over twenty family and friends for volunteer actors, morphing them into the ghouls and goblins, mad doctors and witches that roam the grounds on the weekends. Her daughter, Witch Patricia Osorio, is the guide to the Haunted Maze.

"We love Halloween!" Lori enthusiastically shouted in between checking exhibits at the Haunted Maze and finishing up last minute details with Dave, who was now a member of the Royal Court of Ghouls and preparing the "coach" which would take patrons through the Haunted Forest.

It has been said it takes a village, and Harrison Community members have rallied to the cause, much to the joy of the visitors - and to Dave and Reva.

"We couldn't have done the extended performances without Lori," Dave explained, "She has

been vital to this year's shows. She gathered props and most of our volunteers."

As with any performance, the first weekend had a few "technical difficulties," but you couldn't tell from the screams of both fear and delight emitting from the campground. Dave, Reva and Lori are hoping for better weather the next

weekend, but turnout so far has been steady despite the rain and gloom. There's a \$4.00 charge to enter the grounds, but this covers both exhibits and all the activities. If you are game for adventure and getting the daylight scared out of you, stop by the Hidden Hill Family Campground and join the family fun!

# Harrison City Council Meeting

By Genine Hopkins

On Monday, October 5, 2009, Harrison's City Council met. Some of the new business brought to the board by Steve Phelps, Harrison's DPW Superintendent included providing better driver visibility at the corner of Lansing and Grant, including reducing the slope and



placing a new retainer wall to hold the soil in place and placing a stop sign on the southbound side to make the intersection a three-way stop. The cost for this work is estimated at \$6,000 to \$7,000; a

motion was put before the council and passed.

Also on the agenda was procuring a grant of \$50,000 to improve energy efficiency at the City Building. The cost to have the

assessment prepared by the October 22, 2009 deadline would be approximately \$5,000, but the grant is 100% and the savings in energy would offset the costs. Also addressed were trying to include city street lights, replacing the lights with LED lighting; the city will assess whether or not these can be included since they are owned by Consumer's Energy.

City Council meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the City Building located at 229 E. Beech Street. You can check the meeting schedule via the City of Harrison website at [www.cityofharrison-mi.gov/](http://www.cityofharrison-mi.gov/).

# Home Heating Assistance Available Through MMCAA

Even with warmer temperatures, there is a need for deliverable home heating fuel such as LP gas, fuel oil, fire wood and others. Mid Michigan Community Action is urging households to think ahead

when it comes to heat. With the length of the heating season, many households head into spring with very low fuel levels, and as summer heats up, it becomes less of an issue.

"So many people think that assistance is only available in the colder months, Sharon Wainman, MMCAA's Outreach Services Director, said. "We want to make sure that they go into the cooler months with a full tank; we want to make sure that they do not have to spend even one cold night without heat."

Assistance may also be available to assist with past due bills. All services are subject to eligibility.

Interested families should call their county's Mid Michigan Community Action Outreach office, or visit [www.mmcaa.org](http://www.mmcaa.org) for more information. This assistance is available in Bay, Clare, Gladwin,

Mecosta, Midland and Osceola Counties.

Mid Michigan Community Action Agency is a non-profit, human services agency serving Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Mecosta, Midland and Osceola Counties since 1966.

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### STORAGE

1st Annual Birthday Party Fundraiser for the Clare County Arts Council at the Historic Doherty House 804 N. McEwan in Clare (Across from Chemical Bank) October 11 from 4 - 7 PM

- \*Tour Historic Doherty House-built 1896
- \*View Local Artist Displays
- \*Enjoy Refreshments
- \*Silent Auction & Door Prizes
- \*Listen to Local Musicians

Tickets are \$15 and Available at: \*Herrick House\*Hotel Doherty \*Maxwell's Flowers \*Surrey Township Library, Farwell \*Her Place \*Coffee Talk \*Pere Marquette District Library \*Harrison Public Library

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Clare County Treasurer will be offering Tax Reverted Real Estate at Public Auction  
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**Auction Begins at 12:00 NOON**  
Saturday, OCTOBER 17, 2009

Auction will be held at:  
**THE ATRIUM PLAZA HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER**  
9285 LAKE CITY ROAD  
HOUGHTON LAKE, MI

Registration begins at 11:00 am  
**Now Available at Clare County Treasurer's Office**  
Sale Book with maps \$20.00 / Without Maps \$5.00

[www.tax-sale.info](http://www.tax-sale.info)  
Also available by mail-Contact:  
Clare County Treasurer  
P.O. Box 564, Harrison, MI 48625  
989-539-7801

## Steve's Country Market

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989-539-3110 44 FOOT FULL SERVICE FRESH MEAT DISPLAY 3170 North Clare Ave., Harrison

Store Hours: Mon. - Sun. 8am - 8pm Bridge Card & WIC Accepted Sale Dates: October 5 - October 10, 2009

Fresh Meat & Seafood	<b>Ground Chuck Family Pack</b> \$1.99 lb.	<b>Center Cut Pork Chops</b> \$2.49 lb.	<b>Seabest Jumbo Breaded Shrimp</b> \$2.99 10 oz. ea.
	<b>Whole Boneless Pork Loins</b> \$1.99 lb.	<b>Boneless English Roast</b> \$2.49 lb.	<b>Copperwood Kitchens Roast Beef</b> \$4.49 lb.
	<b>Whole New York Strip Loins</b> \$2.99 lb.	<b>Thorn Apple Valley Bacon</b> 2/\$3 12 oz.	<b>Guggisberg Baby Swiss</b> \$4.49 lb.
Fresh Produce	<b>Whole Boneless Ribeye Loins</b> \$3.99 lb.	<b>Seabest Ocean Perch Fillets</b> \$2.99 1 lb. pkg. ea.	<b>Hard Salami</b> \$3.99 lb.
	<b>Michigan White Potatoes</b> \$1.99 10 lb. ea.	<b>Baby Carrots</b> 2/\$3 8 oz.	<b>Yoder's Sour Cream</b> 16 oz. 2/\$3.00
	<b>Fresh Asparagus</b> \$2.69 lb.	<b>Butternut or Buttercup Squash</b> 50¢ lb.	<b>Bareman's Orange Juice</b> gallon \$2.49 ea.
Grocery Savings	<b>On The Vine Red Tomatoes</b> \$1.49 lb.	<b>Dole Special Blend Salads</b> 2/\$4 10-12 oz.	<b>Pillsbury Crescent Rolls Or Cinnamon Rolls</b> 8-12.4 oz. 2/\$4
	<b>Smuckers Jelly or Jams</b> 2/\$4 12 oz.	<b>Hormel Chili</b> 2/\$3 15 oz.	<b>IGA Mac &amp; Cheese or Spiral Mac &amp; Cheese</b> 5/\$2
	<b>Brooks Chili Beans</b> 4/\$3 15.5 oz.	<b>IGA Peanut Butter</b> 2/\$3 18 oz.	<b>IGA Egg Noodles</b> 16 oz. 2/\$3
		<b>PEPSI</b> 12 pack cans 2/\$8 + deposit	<b>Hillbilly Bread</b> 2/\$3 20 oz.
		<b>COKE</b> 2 liter 99¢ + deposit	<b>STOP BY OUR FARMERS AND CRAFTERS MARKET</b> Saturday, Oct. 5 from 8am - 2pm

While Supplies Last. Not responsible for printing errors.