



Sarah Rautio: MSU Extension Master Gardener State Leader



Starting September 15, Dr. Sarah Rautio will be working out of the MSU Extension office in the County Building, 203 E Cayuga, Bellaire.

The MSU Extension site notes that Dr. Sarah Rautio is the state leader of the MSU Extension Master Gardener

Program®, providing administrative support to the MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Team and its 2,000 MSU Extension Master Gardener volunteers.

She also administers Foundations of Gardening, a research-based 10-week gardening course for those who want to apply to the MSU Extension Master Gardener Program or anyone else interested in the course.

Sarah has a B.S. and M.S. in Biology from Oakland University and a PhD. in Fisheries and Wildlife from Michigan State University. Her specialties include beginner vegetable growing, ecosystem approaches to gardening, gardening with wildlife, and water/garden relationships.

In her spare time, Sarah enjoys seeking out unique plants across the world, hiking, cooking, and spending time with her four children and their ever-growing collection of dogs.

Lake Level Sensors Installed

Four Hyfi lake level sensors were recently installed on the Chain of Lakes, one each at the following locations; the Bridge Street culvert in Ellsworth, Morhmann Bridge, the trestle bridge on Bellaire's walking path, and the Elk Rapids Hydrodam. Sensors on each of the Chain's lakes are planned.

The sensors will assist the Operator of Dams and engineers in designing and making improvements to lake levels



Lake level sensor near the Bellaire Dam

throughout the Elk River Chain of Lakes Watershed. Live online sensor data will be available to the public soon.

The sensors are precise solar-powered measuring devices. Any tampering of the sensors are likely to result in expensive recalibration. For more information on the system, check out <https://www.hyfi.io/>

Update: Proposed Public Safety Center

On November 4, Antrim County voters will be voting on a new Public Safety Center.

- **No new taxes:** the vote is to approve bonding only. No new taxes will appear on tax bills if voters say yes.
- If the measure fails, the project will not move forward.
- If the vote is approved, the Center will be smaller and less expensive than proposed in 2024.

Additional information regarding the Public Safety Center and the November ballot question will be available soon.

If you have questions about the Center or the November vote, please contact countyadmin@antrimcountymi.gov or 231-533-6265.

Sheep-scapade

In late July, after eight weeks and numerous attempts, two escaped Jacob sheep were apprehended thanks to some community-minded folks and Antrim County Animal Control.

Two local volunteers set up their livestock trailer to corral the sheep. Rene Feindt and her dogs Pic and Jack, along with her friend Deanna, proceeded to track down the sheep, but



Animal Control Officer Bertinelli with one of the fugitives.

the notorious pair had other ideas and decided to go for a quick dip in Intermediate Lake.

However, this turned out to be a plus because humans can move through water faster than sheep can swim.

After a few hours and some very soggy clothes, the two fugitives were captured. They were taken to a farm, and six days later, one of the sheep had a little lamb.

Barnes Park: Temporarily Closed Starting Sept. 11

All of Barnes Park will be closed for approximately three weeks for a much-needed repaving project. To keep everyone safe, **day use and camping will be closed** during the repaving.

The project is scheduled to start Thursday, September 11 with a completion date no later than Tuesday, September 30. The park will reopen for fall day use and camping ahead of the 5th Annual Halloween-at-the-Park weekend, 10/4 to 10/6, and the Veteran & Family Campout, 10/9 to 10/13.