

November 7, 2023


Dear Ms. Lavey
Village President

Please accept this letter as my resignation as Accountant/Treasurer for the Village of Pinckney. I am grateful for the opportunity you had provided for me, but I have decided that it is time I retire.

My last full-time day will be Thursday, December 28th. However, if you have not found a replacement or require training, I am available to work on a part-time basis (up to 58 hrs/month) for as long as you need.

Again, thank you for the time I have spent at the Village.

Respectfully,



Beverly Harris

CC: Village Clerk

‘Different does not mean less’



Ethan Lambert, now 5, poses for a photo with his mother, Kassondra, and father, William. Ethan has KIF1A Associated Neurological Disorder, also known as KAND. PROVIDED BY KASSONDRA LAMBERT

Pinckney mom has a message for her community

Cassandra Lybrink

Livingston Daily

USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

PINCKNEY — When Ethan Lambert was a toddler, his parents noticed he was missing developmental milestones.

Born happy and healthy in March 2018, Ethan wasn't walking or crawling by his first birthday. He wasn't talking, either.

A couple of weeks ago, Ethan and his wheelchair were loaded onto a Pinckney

Community Schools bus. As her son pulled away, Kassondra Lambert heard a man yell from his car, which had been stuck behind the bus. “We’re getting going somewhere now, aren’t we?”

It was like a bucket of ice water had been dumped over her head. And it was far from the first time.

Ethan has KIF1A Associated Neurological Disorder, also known as KAND. It’s a rare genetic illness that’s both progressive and degenerative. There’s no treatment and no cure. And there’s no

way of knowing how long Ethan has.

But that hasn’t stopped his parents from moving forward. Ethan, now five, spent two years in Early Childhood Special Education in Howell Public Schools before starting kindergarten in a general education classroom in his Pinckney hometown.

“He’s mainstreamed, so he’s the only kiddo that looks like him in his class, so now we’re learning how to

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Mom

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navigate the very open conversation about his disability," Lambert said. "For the other kids to see this iPad he has and his special accommodations and his wheelchair ... we're also navigating that with other community members, which has been eye-opening."

And not in a good way.

"When people have something to say, sometimes it's just pure ignorance that I can handle for the most part," Lambert said. "But sometimes I'm so taken aback, I don't know how to handle it. When Ethan was four, we were staying in a hotel near my hometown and my husband, my son and I stepped into the elevator with this grown man and his son, who was maybe six or seven.

"He started making small talk and made comments about volunteering with Special Olympics and how he used to be involved in that community. Somehow, that turned into him looking at me and saying, 'I hate to ask this, but what's wrong with him?' And I, in that moment, was able to squeak out, 'There's nothing wrong with him.' I remember feeling, in that moment, this sense of panic, because I wanted to protect Ethan from what he just heard and saw."

Ethan, who communicates with the aid of his iPad, still understands what's being said around him. Lambert was shocked that wasn't clear.

"I felt this sense of rage, because how dare you say anything is wrong with another human?" she said. "And then I feel a level of disgust because people don't understand why it's not appropriate to ask about people's medical history, why it's not appropriate to point something like that out.

"I think people forget we're not that far away from when humans were institutionalized for being physically different or needing a wheelchair or having mental health issues. We really aren't that far from our own humanity."

Lambert tries to look on the bright side, enjoying the best things about her son. The way he's gleeful and happy and silly. The way he's ignorant to the grief of the world. The way he doesn't understand he's being excluded.

"No one else knows the path of their own kid, and we don't ever imagine



Ethan Lambert, then 3, plays on a swing with his mother, Kassondra Lambert, at their Pinckney home in September 2021.

GILLIS BENEDICT/LIVINGSTON DAILY

them as addicts or getting in a car accident ... or any of the life-altering things that can happen," Lambert said. "And while Ethan's journey is so different, his end goal is no different. It's certainly changed the way I look at life."

But sometimes, particularly when she's advocating for her child, time feels of the essence. For years now, Lambert, who lives adjacent to Pinckney High School, has felt there should be a sidewalk along her street. It would make loading onto the bus easier for Ethan.

Dexter-Pinckney Road isn't slow-going, either. The number of times a car has sped past her child's bus, Lambert said, is astounding. She's talked to the county, to her son's teacher, to his support team at school, to the superintendent.

"I struggle because, if the solution was easy, it would've been solved," she said. "I think it could be solved by restructuring the road, turning the area



Ethan Lambert, now 5, poses for a photo outside. Ethan is a kindergartener at Pinckney Community Schools.

PROVIDED BY KASSONDRA LAMBERT

into a school zone, reducing the speed limit."

But those things take time.

"It takes a long time to make change," Lambert said. "And time has never been on our side."

But while official action is slow going, Lambert said, there are things her neighbors and fellow residents can do now. For starters, being patient.

"I think, in general, humans have gotten really bad at being bored. We're really busy and we're always going and we're always on and it's really difficult to be patient. But it's OK to sit in your car for a few minutes, waiting for the bus, waiting for a train, waiting for your food."

As for the man in the elevator?

"Realize you're talking to another human," she said. "People are not less than one another."

She smiles as, in the midst of the hurt, she recalls her son's unwavering happiness.

"Different does not mean less."

— *Cassandra Lybrink is the local editor of The Livingston Daily. Contact her at clybrink@livingstondaily.com. Follow her on Twitter @CassLybrink.*

LIVINGSTON COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT'S MOST



WANTED



CRAM THE CRUISER FOOD DRIVE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Suspects include non-perishables, canned goods, and household paper products.

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to apprehend the above suspects and place them in your shopping cart, secure them in your vehicle and transport them to a waiting patrol car at your local participating food store. A law enforcement agency will be there to take the suspects in to custody and transport them to local shelters and food banks.

Participating Stores:

Kroger (Howell, Hamburg, Brighton & Hartland)

Aldi (Howell, Brighton)

Walmart (Howell & Fowlerville)

Busch's Fresh Food Market (Pinckney)



Village of Pinckney
IT Committee
Monday, November 6, 2023, 5:00 pm
Minutes

The IT Committee met in the Conference Room at Village Hall.

Present were T. Kinczkowski, L. Lavey, J. Spencer; Absent B. Matson

Agenda:

1. Preliminary Review of IT Services RFP respondents

Committee members present opened RFP proposals and began to review them. Proposals were checked for items specified as required in the RFP.

Several proposals met most requirements. These will undergo further review and representatives of the companies will be contacted for further information.

Adjourned: ~6:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by L. Lavey