



**Chelsea Guardian**  
is a proud member of the  
Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce

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# Chelsea Guardian

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Hamilton  
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**2024  
CALENDAR  
OF EVENTS  
SCHEDULE**  
INSIDE ON PAGE 2

## Ballet Chelsea Provides Opportunities for the Community to View Cinderella



Story and more photos on page 6. Photos By Aimee Bingham.

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AUGUST 18  
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Story and more photos on page 5

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### 2024 Events!

**50/100 Centennial Series**  
Jan 8 ~ Merkel Furniture with Tim and George Merkel  
Mar 4 ~ Cole Funeral Chapel with Allen Cole  
May 6 ~ Chelsea Milling Company with Howdy Holmes

Aug 5 ~ Chelsea State Bank with John Mann  
Sep 9 ~ Chelsea Lumber Company with John Daniels  
Oct 7 ~ Lane Animal Hospital with Chan Lane  
Nov 4 ~ CAHS 50th Anniversary with CAHS Board

**2024 Tours & Gatherings**  
Spring & Summer ~ To be Announced!

Fall ~ Haunted Chelsea  
December 7 ~ Holiday Home Tour  
December ~ Holiday Potluck



# BALLET CHELSEA PRESENTS CINDERELLA April 20 & 21



**D&B Strategic Marketing**  
 doris@dandbmarketing.com  
**Ballet Chelsea**  
 jean@balletchelsea.org

Prepare to be swept away into a world of magic and elegance as Ballet Chelsea proudly presents its enchanting performance of Cinderella. The performances will occur on April 20 at 7 pm and April 21 at 2 pm at Chelsea High School. Tickets go on sale March 11, 2024.

In addition to the captivating performances, Ballet Chelsea is excited to offer the opportunity to experience the magic of Cinderella up close with Cinderella Teas at the Ballet Chelsea Studio on April 6 and 7 at 2 pm both days. Open company rehearsals will be happening concurrently with the tea party. Everyone is invited. Tickets for the Cinderella Tea also go on sale on March 11, 2024.

This classic fairytale comes to life through

the artistry and skill of Ballet Chelsea's talented Artistic Director, Michelle Quenon, and dancers. Audiences of all ages will enjoy a spellbinding journey through the beloved story of Cinderella, where dreams really do come true. With stunning choreography, dazzling costumes, and an enchanting musical score, this production promises to captivate hearts and inspire imaginations.

Cinderella, a timeless tale of hope, kindness, and the triumph of love over adversity follows the story of a young girl who, despite facing hardship and mistreatment, remains resilient and true to herself. With the help of a fairy godmother, Cinderella's ordinary world transforms into a realm of magic and possibility.

"We are thrilled to bring the enchanting story of Cinderella to life on stage," said Michelle Quenon, Artistic Director of

Ballet Chelsea. "This timeless tale resonates with audiences of all ages, reminding us of the power of kindness, courage, and the belief that anything is possible. With our talented dancers and creative team, we have crafted a production that is sure to delight and inspire."

Don't miss your chance to experience the magic of Ballet Chelsea's Cinderella. Performance dates April 20 at 7 pm and April 21 at 2 pm at the Chelsea High School. And Cinderella Tea April 5 and 6, 2 pm both days, at Ballet Chelsea Studio. Tickets will be available online on March 11 at [www.balletchelsea.org/tickets/](http://www.balletchelsea.org/tickets/).

For more information about Ballet Chelsea and its upcoming performances and classes, visit Ballet Chelsea's website, [www.balletchelsea.org](http://www.balletchelsea.org).

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, Ballet Chelsea's mission transcends the stage, aiming to shape resilient individuals through impeccable training and performance artistry while giving back to the community through the transformative power of arts education and outreach. visit [www.balletchelsea.org](http://www.balletchelsea.org).



Photo courtesy of Bessom Photography



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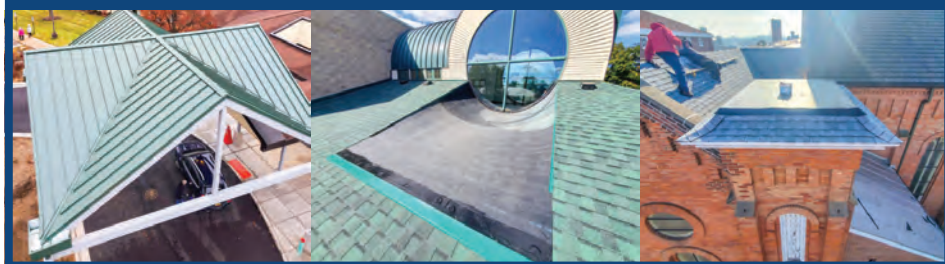
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## 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**Business Breakfasts**  
 Jan 11th | 7-9am  
 April 11th | 7-9am  
 July 11th | 7-9am  
 Oct 10th | 7-9am

**Wellness After Hours**  
 Jan 17th | 5-6:30pm

**Chocolate Extravaganza**  
 Feb 10th

**Curling Fest**  
 Feb 24th | 8-11pm

**Annual Meeting**  
 March 6th | 6-8pm

**Sounds & Sight on Thursday Nights**  
 June 6th-July 25th & Oct 24th  
 6:30-8:30pm

**Sounds & Sight Festival**  
 July 26th-27th

**Community Picnic**  
 Aug 10 | Noon to 2pm

**Golf Outing**  
 Sept 4th | 7:30am-3pm

**Backyard Beer Garden**  
 Oct 12th | 3-10pm

**Hometown Halloween**  
 October | All Month

**Wine, Women, & Shopping**  
 Nov 8th & 9th

**Hometown Holiday**  
 December | All Month

**Sculpture Walk**  
 All Year

**Chelsea Trail Challenge**  
 Feb 1st-Nov 30th

Scan the QR Code or visit [chelseamich.com/calendar/](http://chelseamich.com/calendar/) to view a full calendar of events.



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# H&H Sugarbush Maple Open House



Photos By Aimee Bingham



By Aimee Bingham  
anbingham@gmail.com

Just beyond the proving grounds is a long driveway, a tent sat just to the right of the driveway. I was unsure what to expect. I know it's maple syrup season in Michigan, my one tree is tapped in the back-yard and I've attended the Old Time Maple Sugar Festival at Waterloo. But, H&H sells syrup everywhere, so I expected their process did not include stirring sap over an open fire until it finally boils down. I imagined the process was more factory like,

so I was unsure what I would see on the tour.

The tour started with the wife. I either did not catch her name as I joined after introductions were made or I missed it during the stream of questions from a precocious seven-year-old on the tour. I later learned her name is Michelle and she is a teacher, which made her role as tour guide with such an enthusiastic learner, perfect. His curiosity made it so I did not have to ask a single question and learned more about maple syrup than I ever have, in spite of mak-

ing my own each year. She walked us out to the tapped trees. H&H tapped about 600 this year. They've done more in the past but she explained that this is a family business and more was overwhelming. The property and farm has been in the family for over 100 years, but the family turned to syrup about 17 years ago, when their oldest child was just a toddler. H&H taps sugar maples, red maples and silver maples. The natural forest where the trees are tapped has plastic or silicone tubing running

throughout, but the sap flows underground these days to a little pump house. We learn that the sap is considered the blood of the tree and as long as we don't drill our taps too deep, the wound will close and heal. Much to the chagrin of the young curious person, we don't tap seven-year-old trees, just as we don't allow seven-year-olds to donate blood. At the little pump shed, we learned that there's an app to ensure lines have not been nibbled by squirrels and that technology does play a role in

larger productions. A daughter, somewhere in her teens, showed me early on that much like the farming children I grew up with, she did not share her parents enthusiasm for the family business but she still did her part to make it successful. Things change, but they also stay the same.

H&H tapped their tree around February first and started boiling sap around the tenth.

After multiple seventy degree days, Michelle explained that the sap traveled up the tree to feed what would soon be leaves and had stopped running. H&H collected about half its usual syrup for the year. El Ninio or climate change caused a dip in syrup collection. We headed to the Sugar House for the final leg of the tour. Michelle's husband Kirk

**continued on page 9**

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# CHELSEA ATHLETICS



## CHELSEA BULLDOGS BOYS TRACK & FIELD

# 2024 BOYS T&F SEC INDOOR MEET SUMMARY

The Chelsea Bulldogs Boys Track and Field team opened up its season at the SEC

Indoor Invitational at Ypsilanti Lincoln on Thursday, March 21st 2024. This meet is a large invitational with teams from the SEC Red and White Division, one of the best track and field conferences in the state of Michigan. There were no team scores kept at this meet, but the top 8 performers in each event were awarded medals. The Bulldogs brought a young squad and competed hard against larger schools, placing in many events.

Coach Slusser's comments: Going into

this meet, our goals as a team were to establish some solid early season marks, compete with schools in our division of the SEC, and get out healthy. We did all of those things and set ourselves up to have a competitive season. In meets like this, we try to limit the amount of events that guys compete in so that we avoid overuse injuries and develop focus. Our guys learned that we have work to do, but all of our goals for the season are within our grasp if we work hard in practice and commit ourselves to getting better every day. Most importantly, I was pleased with how

well the team balanced being competitive and having fun. I'm excited for the rest of the season.

Highlights:

- JJ Turnbow placed 2nd in the long jump with a 19' 1.25" jump.
- The 4x800 relay team of Connell Alford, Jackie Dell, Owen Thorburn, and Brant Maley took 3rd in the event with a time of 8:36, a solid time for this beginning of the season. Connell also took 5th in the 1600.
- The 4x200 and 4x400 meter relay teams both took 6th in their respective events in a tough field.
- Nolan Flezsar

jumped 11' in the pole vault and tied for 7th place.

- Beckett Boos, less than a week removed from being in the basketball state semi-finals, ran a blazing 53.78 in the open 400 and placed 7th.
- Drew Weinberg placed 8th in the 200 meter dash with a time of 24.31. This was Drew's first track meet!
- Wyeth Angus posted a huge PR in the 3200.

The team will take a break this week during spring break, but will be back in action on Thursday, April 4th at the Parma Quad at Parma Western High School.

## CHELSEA BULLDOGS COLLEGE SIGNINGS



From: Tracie Stoffer

### Carley Grabarczyk Purdue Northwest Track and Field

Parents: Rebecca and Justin Grabarczyk

## CHELSEA BULLDOGS GIRLS TRACK & FIELD

# 2024 GIRLS T&F SEC INDOOR MEET SUMMARY

On March 21st, the Girls High School Track & Field team competed very well at the first meet of the season, SEC Indoor Meet held at Lincoln Athletic Building (LAB). The following SEC teams were represented:

Adrian, Bedford,

Chelsea, Dexter, Jackson, Monroe, Pinckney, Pioneer, Saline, Skyline, Tecumseh, Ypsilanti Community, and Ypsilanti Lincoln.

Chelsea had a strong team showing, earning 19 medals in 14 events contested.

Carley Grabarczyk led the day with two

first place finishes in the 60m dash with a time of 7.95, a school record, and the 200m dash with a time of 26.62, which places her 9th all-time in the event for Chelsea. Other significant highlights, Leila Wells placed 1st in the 60m hurdles with a time of

9.31, which is a school record, and Anna Brant placed first in the shot put with a throw of 35' 8.25", which places her 6th all-time for Chelsea.

Other notable performances include India Barney placing 2nd in the 300m hurdles with a time of 53.74

and the 4x400 Relay team comprised of Addie Howard, Brinna Wenzel, Caitlyn Ash, and Teagan Hill placing 3rd overall with a time of 4:17.18, one of the fastest indoor times in school history.

We have a roster of 48 athletes, the biggest

in school history, led by 12 seniors. Hopefully, we will continue improving each week and use our depth and experience to help score against teams. Our next meet is at Parma-Western High School on Thursday, April 4th.

# Jordan Braman Inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

Jordan Braman of Chelsea, Michigan, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Braman was initiated at University of Lynchburg.

Braman is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and

alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may

also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disci-

plines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

Chelsea Guardian

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Offering 10-12 hours per week at \$20 per hour. Send resume to Adult Learners Institute, P.O. Box 134, Chelsea, MI 48118 or to info@alimichigan.org. For more information, call 734-292-5540 and leave a message.





▶ continued from page 1

The Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce has already begun planning for the summer's best free community event, Sounds & Sights on Thursday Nights! Live auditions were recently held at Ugly Dog Distillery and were open to the public for a summer fun, sneak peak.

Sounds & Sights on Thursday Nights will run for eight weeks, every Thursday evening, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in June and July. There will be 11 stages this year, located all through historic downtown Chelsea, from Palmer Commons to the Rumpus Room. There will also be a special Hometown Halloween edition of Sounds & Sights on Thursday Nights on Oct 24th, 2024.



Attendees can expect to experience an eclectic and exciting range of "Sounds" and "Sights." This year will see music ranging from Classic Rock, Blues, Jazz, Singer Songwriters, Country, Hip Hop, and the return of the Alt-Rock Stage. Don't forget to check out the Whoa Silent Disco happening at the Glazier Building, kid performers at CDL's Katie's Corner, chalk art at Palmer Commons, a new sculpture selfie contest, and cornhole on West Middle each week.

Sounds & Sights on Thursday Nights is now a rain or shine event! With the help of our many great businesses, we have alternate locations for any performances that can be moved indoors when necessary due to weather. So don't worry about any dark clouds, we'll be here!

The Sounds & Sights Festival will close the season with a two-day event, happening July 26 and 27. Attendees can expect all their favorite festival events, such as the Classic Car Show,

Art Market, Chalk Art Contest, KidZone, TeenZone, Farmers Market, and Sidewalk Sales.

This year's social tent will be relocated and reinvigorated! Food and live music will move to the Palmer Commons - or Social Commons - for Festival weekend. And the musical lineup for the weekend follows a decades theme.

The Social Commons will open Friday at 6pm (\$10 cash entry) and music will begin at 7pm with Magic Bus - The Songs... the Look...the Feel of the Woodstock Era. And the Square Pegz will close the night, dancing away with the tunes of the 80s.

Saturday continues to rock with music throughout the afternoon (Noon-5pm FREE admission) featuring Fox&Hare, Scotty Karate, Bret Maynard, and Blaine Luis. Starting at 6pm, the Social Commons will reopen (\$10 cash cover) and music will continue on the main stage starting with the 90s musical styling of Project 90. And the



CRASHERZ return to close out the night with all your favorite dance tunes from 2k to current!

None of this would be possible without the support and generosity of so many, like our 2024 Presenting Sponsor Rick Taylor | Reinhart Realtors. A sponsor since the event's inception, he became the presenting sponsor in 2018.

"He has been a huge supporter of Sounds & Sights for years, and we truly appreciate all he does. These events are not possible without people like Rick, and he is a constant reminder of how one person can make such a huge difference," said Terris Ahrens, Executive Director of the Chamber.

"The Chelsea community benefits greatly from Sounds & Sights. Visitors from near and far get an opportunity to meet the residents, business owners, and experience the arts in many shapes and forms," Taylor said, adding, "I only play a very small role in this beautiful thing we call Sounds & Sights.

I want to thank the Chelsea Chamber for their innovative thinking and passion, and for making Sounds & Sights a destination for its local residents and visitors alike."

If you see him out and about his summer, make sure to tell him thanks for helping to make Sounds & Sights possible.

These events have a major impact on the economic development of Chelsea, and align perfectly with the Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce's mission to maintain Chelsea as the premier place to live, work, and recreate. So, gather your

friends and family, and join us this summer for what is always an inspiring, unique, and all around fun time!

View the following links or visit Chelsea-Mich.com for information regarding Sounds & Sights on Thursday Nights, the Sounds & Sights Festival, and all things Chelsea!

Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce | 222 S. Main St. Suite B. Chelsea, MI 48118

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## Washtenaw County Health Department Shares Community Health Assessment and Identified Health Priorities

*Community health improvement efforts will focus on mental health, access to health care, and access to healthy food*



Washtenaw County Health Department

Beth Ann Hamilton, MS  
Communications  
Coordinator  
734-294-4301  
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The Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) is proud to share that the countywide Community Health Assessment (CHA) has been completed. Typically conducted every five years, the CHA helps the Health Department document our community's health needs so we can work to address them together with partners and community through collaborative planning and activities.

"Our CHA was a collective effort that would not have been possible without the help of community organizations and community members who

share our commitment to improve health and quality of life," says Jimena Loveluck, MSW, health officer.

"The 2023 CHA is a prime example of the value these community partnerships bring to local public health work in Washtenaw County. We look forward to acting on what we learned through our CHA to improve health for everyone in our county."

In addition to providing a roadmap for future Health Department activities, this assessment can also be used by community groups and members working to improve health in Washtenaw. Everyone is welcome to see the findings from our CHA and follow the development of our Community

Health Improvement Plan on our Health for All website: <https://healthforallwashtenaw.org/cha>

### CHA Process

The CHA pulls together existing health data with perspectives from community members and partners. Community input was collected through surveys, one-on-one interviews, focus groups, and windshield tours (assessments of physical spaces throughout the county). All of this helps the Health Department and partners better understand the factors that make it easier or more difficult for our community members to live their healthiest lives.

"Our Health Department's approach to this process is really rooted in our commitment to health equity," says Dayna Brimley, MPH, com-

**continued on page 6**



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# Ballet Chelsea Provides Opportunities for the Community to View Cinderella



► continued from page 1  
By Aimee Bingham  
anbingham@gmail.com

Dancers from Ballet Chelsea performed several dances from their Spring presentation of Cinderella at The Grass Lake Senior Center on March 20th. Ballet Chelsea will perform Cinderella April 20-21 2024 at Chelsea High School. Lead-

ing up to the performance, snippets can be watched throughout the area. Dancers also performed at the Chelsea Retirement Community on March 21. Dancers will be at Silver Maples on April 1st, the Chelsea Library on April 4, The Ann Arbor Senior Center on April 5, The Saline Senior Center

on April 5, and the Cedars of Dexter on April 8th.

Ballet Chelsea will host a Cinderella Tea in the ballet studio. Much like the Sugar Plum tea that previously took place just before the Nutcracker in Chelsea Commons, the Cinderella Tea will be in the Ballet Studio. According to the Bal-

let Chelsea website:

Ballet Chelsea is thrilled to announce our first Cinderella Tea at Ballet Chelsea Studio. Perfect for kids and parents of all ages. Come watch the company rehearse, and enjoy a catered tea party with treats, followed by a character meet & greet, fun crafts, and more!

Proceeds from the event will go to the scholarship fund and help continue the adaptive dance program provided by Ballet Chelsea.

The adaptive dance program provides dance and movement classes for folks of all ages and abilities across Washtenaw County. Ballet Chelsea is likely offering classes through adaptive dance at all the senior centers at which they performed. Ballet Chelsea provides a senior exercise class at the Gras Lake Senior Center for a \$1 donation. Beyond seniors, the adaptive dance program brings movement into special needs classrooms. The Grass Lake Senior Center was filled for the Cinderella performance, it included local seniors and a homeschool group. Everyone was able to watch a portion of the Ballet. After the danc-

ers finished, audience members were able to ask questions. One of the audience members wanted to know the odds of a dancer leaving Ballet Chelsea as a professional dancer. While becoming a professional has a lot of variables, just as becoming a professional basketball player does, the odds seem incredibly high. One of the stars of Cinderella, Mathieu Dehoom, who plays The Prince, was a student at Chelsea Schools before he left to start his career as a professional dancer at seventeen. He is now back teaching and dancing at Ballet Chelsea. One of the performers on Wednesday is in the Professional training program at Ballet Chelsea. Another audience member wanted to know how many classes the dancers took. The youngest stated four and the Professional training dancer said 10, which got an audible reaction from the audience. It takes passion and dedication to perform at a professional level. You can view the results of the quality of the studio and the passion of the students at Cinderella on April 20th and April 21st. Or you can attend the Cinderella Tea on April 6th or April 7th. Tickets can be purchased <https://balletchelsea.org/tickets/>.



## Washtenaw County Health Department Shares Community Health Assessment and Identified Health Priorities

*Community health improvement efforts will focus on mental health, access to health care, and access to healthy food*

► continued from page 5  
community health analyst. "Conducting a CHA is a huge lift that would not have been possible without the passion and commitment of our community members and organizations. We're grateful for each person who shared their expertise and experience with us, and we are eager to get to work putting this collective learning into action."

Learn more about the methodology behind our CHA: <https://www.healthforallwashtenaw.org/tiles/index/display?alias=-Methodology>

**Community Health Improvement**

**Plan (CHIP)**

Following the CHA, the next step was to prioritize three health topics that the Health Department will focus on for the next five years as part of our Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). A complete list of health needs that emerged through the CHA is available here.

In November 2023, we hosted a State of Our Health event convening community members and partners. Following a presentation of findings from the CHA, attendees participated in a prioritization scoring activity to select the three

priority health needs to focus the CHIP. We also conducted five smaller group sessions with additional community members who also participated in the prioritization scoring activity.

We then reviewed results from all the scoring activities and identified three priority areas for the 2024 CHIP: mental health, access to health care, and access to healthy food.

"The importance of mental health services access and support continually came up as we spoke with community members during our CHA," says Loveluck. "Our community

recognizes that mental health is an essential part of wellbeing, and we're ready to work together to improve mental health for our Washtenaw neighbors."

"Access to health care and healthy food are essential to the overall health of our county," says Brimley. "The next part of our process is all about putting actionable goals in place to make real improvements in each of these priority areas - together."

See more about each of these health priorities: mental health, access to health care, and access to healthy food.

Workgroups for

each of these areas are currently being formed. Each workgroup will draft a set of goals and action plans to improve the priority areas in Washtenaw County (summer 2024) and then implement those action plans (fall 2024 through 2027).

**Health for All Washtenaw**

Health for All (<https://www.healthforallwashtenaw.org/>) is the digital home for community health improvement work in Washtenaw County. Follow along there or join our Health Department email list (<http://bit.ly/WCHD555>) for updates as the CHIP progresses.

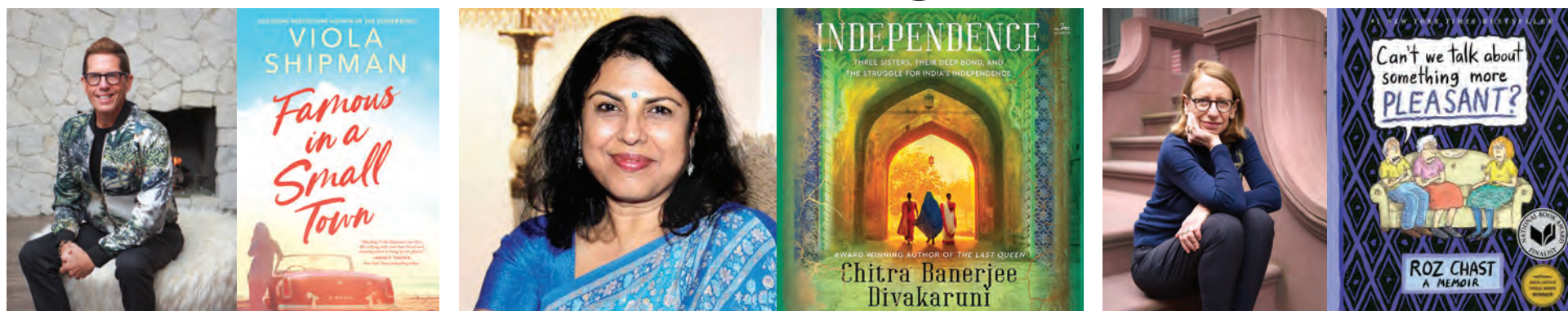
**Washtenaw County Health Department**

The Washtenaw County Health Department promotes health and works to prevent disease and injury in our community. Our mission is to assure, in partnership with the community, the conditions necessary for people to live healthy lives through prevention and protection programs.

Visit us at [washtenaw.org/health](http://washtenaw.org/health) or call 734-544-6700. The Health Department also provides frequent social media updates (@wcpubhealth) and sends regular email updates; sign up at <http://bit.ly/WCHD555>.



# Nationally recognized, award-winning authors are coming to Chelsea!



## MIDWEST LITERARY WALK

**AUTHOR:** Laura Brown, Adult Services Librarian  
**CONTACT:** Virginia Krueger, Head of Marketing  
**PHONE:** 734-475-8732 x229  
**E-MAIL:** vkrueger@chelseadistrictlibrary.org

Chelsea District Library (CDL) is thrilled to announce the 16th Annual Midwest Literary Walk lineup featuring Memoirist & New Yorker Cartoonist Roz Chast, American Book Award Author and Poet Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, and 2023 Michigan Notable

Book Award Author Wade Rouse (Viola Shipman). Each year, Chelsea's amazing literary event showcases award-winning authors from around the country at historic venues throughout downtown Chelsea. The Walk will take place from 1-5pm on Saturday, April 20. It includes author talks, book signings, and is free and open to the public.

At 1pm New York Times bestselling author Roz Chast opens the Walk at Main Street Church, 320 N. Main St., Chelsea. Chast is perhaps

most well known for her work for The New Yorker, including covers and cartoons published consistently from 1978 to today. She is also the author of more than a dozen books, including Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant? and her latest, I Must Be Dreaming. Chast is a National Books Critic Circle Award winner, a National Book Award finalist, and a recipient of a Reuben Award and a Heinz Award among many others.

Dr. Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni continues the Walk at 2:30pm. at First Congregational Church of Chelsea, 121 E. Middle St., Chelsea. Divakaruni is the author of more than 20 books, including Mistress of Spices, Oleander Girl, Before We Visit the Goddess, The

Last Queen, and her most recent novel, Independence. With her novels and her poetry, Divakaruni captures contemporary life in America and India as well as history, and mythology. She has received an American Book Award, a PEN Josephine Miles award, a Premio Scanno (also known as the Italian Nobel) award, a Light of India award, and an Allen Ginsberg poetry among many others. Two of her novels, The Mistress of Spices and Ammar Maa, have been made into films.

The Walk concludes at 4pm at Chelsea First United Methodist Church, 128 Park St., Chelsea, with Wade Rouse, internationally bestselling author of fiction and memoir. Rouse writes under both his given name, and un-

der Viola Shipman, a pen name inspired by his grandmother and meant to honor poor Ozarks seamstress whose sacrifices changed his family's life and inspire his fiction. Rouse's books have been NBC's Today Show Must-Reads, Michigan Notable Books of the Year, featured in the Washington Post and USA Today, chosen three times as Indie Next Picks by the nation's independent booksellers, and selected as part of the American Library Association's inaugural "Rainbow List."

Books will be available for purchase at each location courtesy of Serendipity Books and time will be reserved for book signings following each author session. For more information about this year's Midwest Literary Walk

visit [midwestliterary-walk.org](http://midwestliterary-walk.org).

This year's event is sponsored by the Friends of Chelsea District Library and in partnership with Chelsea Chamber of Commerce and Serendipity Books.

About Us: Chelsea District Library (CDL) is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to engage, inspire, and equip through evolving services and resources. CDL currently serves 16,126 residents in the Chelsea library district—City of Chelsea, Lyndon and Sylvan Townships, and the portions of Lima and Dexter Townships within the Chelsea School District. For more information visit [chelseadistrictlibrary.org](http://chelseadistrictlibrary.org).

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# Free April 18 theatrical event on solo aging at Chelsea Senior Center



In many ways, people who are aging on their own have experiences that are different from those who are aging while surrounded by family members. For the last three years, a group from Eastern Michigan University (EMU) has been exploring issues and concerns unique to

solo aging. The result is the production of Solo Acts, a Limelight theatrical performance that combines storytelling and theatre to illuminate the complexity, challenges, opportunities and visibility of solo agers. The Chelsea Senior Center is excited to bring Solo Acts to Chelsea on April 18. Solo agers, community groups, city and township leaders,

area senior centers and faith organizations are encouraged to attend. Decky Alexander, founder of Limelight, and Professor of Drama/Theatre and Director of Academic Engagement Programs at EMU, created Solo Acts along with Limelight associate artists. Solo Acts emphasizes that a solo ager may include those with loved ones

in geographical locations beyond a quick driving distance, older adults living with someone with Alzheimer's or dementia or in nursing care, or solo agers living separate lives in the same home. "The objective of Solo Acts is to make those who feel invisible, feel visible," says Alexander. "This is a theatrical performance of affirmation

that your voices are heard. Our intention is to facilitate change in communities with awareness of the challenges of solo aging."

This performance highlights individual authentic experiences from culturally, economically and racially distinct solo agers interviewed across Michigan and Western New York.

Sharon Cramer, Ph.D., SUNY Distinguished Professor Emerita, responded to the call for personal stories when Alexander first sought adults experiencing solo aging. Now, Cramer performs her story as a featured vignette in the acts in New York.

"The post-show discussion is an elevated conversation for those of us who are solos – either by choice or by chance," says Cramer. "We do not want your pity or for you to feel like we're living a less than fulfilling life. The opportunity to share my story to educate others is amazing."

Contact Chelsea Senior Center at (734) 475-9242 or connect-

ed@chelseaseniors.org to reserve your seat for the free 1:00 pm April 18 event held at 512 Washington Street in the George Prizing Auditorium.

Solo Acts was conceived in 2021 with funding from the Ralph C. Wilson Foundation. It first premiered in 2022 in Detroit and Buffalo, New York. With funding from the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, Solo Acts has expanded its reach to Washtenaw County. For more information about Solo Acts, please visit: [limelight-live.org/solo-acts](http://limelight-live.org/solo-acts).

Chelsea Senior Center (CSC) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization in Chelsea, Michigan. Its mission is to enhance the quality of life and well-being for area seniors and their families. Chelsea Senior Center is located at 512 Washington Street. Contact CSC at [connected@chelseaseniors.org](mailto:connected@chelseaseniors.org) or (734) 475-9242.

## IF YOU LIKE THE NEW SUIT... YOU'LL LOVE THE NEW STORE



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IT IS ILLEGAL TO DRIVE A MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MARIHUANA. FOR USE BY INDIVIDUALS 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER OR REGISTERED QUALIFYING PATIENTS ONLY. KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN. WARNING: USE BY PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING WOMEN, OR BY WOMEN PLANNING TO BECOME PREGNANT, MAY RESULT IN FETAL INJURY, PRETERM BIRTH, LOW BIRTH WEIGHT, OR DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS FOR THE CHILD.



# The Purple Rose Theatre Company's Spring Production is Devilishly Funny

*A World Premiere comedy, by David MacGregor, "The Antichrist Cometh" opens in March*

The Purple Rose Theatre Company (PRTC) announces the second production of their 33rd season, "The Antichrist Cometh" by beloved playwright, David MacGregor. Tickets are on sale now.

"The Antichrist Cometh" is a comedy about a happily married man who discovers that he might be the Antichrist. Will he be able to enjoy a small dinner party with his loving wife, former college roommate, and his roommate's devoutly religious fiancée? Or will their home-cooked meal usher in the Apocalypse?

This production of "The Antichrist Cometh" contains adult content and may not be suitable for children under the age of 13.

"The Antichrist Cometh" playwright and PRTC Resident Artist, David MacGregor, to premiere his ninth play and tenth production at The Purple Rose. Previous plays include: "The Late Great Henry Boyle" (2006), "Vino Veritas" (2008), "Gravity" (2010), "Consider the Oyster" (2011), "Just Desserts" (2014), "Vino Veritas" (2017), "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Elusive Ear" (2018), "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé" (2019), and "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Ghost Machine" (2022). A Detroit native and Michigan State University graduate, David is an accomplished playwright, novelist and screenwriter. His work has been published by Dramatic Publishing, Playscripts, Smith

& Kraus, Applause, Heuer Publishing, and Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW). For more information about David, visit david-macgregor.com.

Performances of "The Antichrist Cometh" at The Purple Rose run from Friday, March 22 through Saturday, May 25, 2024. Previews, with reduced-price tickets, are available through Thursday, March 28. The press opening is Friday, March 29 at 8:00pm.

Directed by Rhannon Ragland, the cast features Ryan Carlson\* (Grass Lake), Hope Shangle\* (Dexter), Ryan Patrick Welsh\* (Okemos), and Ashley Wickett\* (Bloomfield Hills). Set Design by Sarah Pearline, Properties Design by Dana Segrest, Costume Design by Marley Boone, Lighting Design by Matt Taylor, Sound Design by Matthew Tibbs, with Intimacy Direction and Fight Choreography by Alexis Black. Bill Carlton\* is the Stage Manager.

\*The asterisk denotes members of the actor and stage manager union, Actors' Equity Association.

Production Sponsors for "The Antichrist Cometh" are The Charles Craves Family and Rick Taylor Real Estate. Underwriting support for the season comes from Michigan Arts and Culture Council, National Endowment for the Arts, The Shubert Foundation, and The Matilda R. Wilson Fund. Media sponsors include JTV and Michigan Radio.

**Ticket Information**

All performances will be held at The

Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park Street, Chelsea, Michigan 48118. The performance calendar can be found <https://www.purplerosetheatre.org/calendar/>.

Ticket prices start at \$30 with special discounts for seniors, patrons 30 years or younger, members of the military, teachers, and groups (12+). For more information or to make reservations call (734) 433-7673 or go to [www.purplerosetheatre.org](http://www.purplerosetheatre.org).

New to the 2023/2024 season, all PRTC productions will be staged in the round, with seating on 4 sides of the stage. This new configuration will add 40 seats to the theater space.

**About The Purple Rose Theatre Company**

Founded in 1991 by actor, director, playwright, musician, and Chelsea native Jeff Daniels, The Purple Rose Theatre Company is a creative home for original American plays. At the PRTC, patrons experience an intimate encounter with live theatre.

The Purple Rose also provides preview talk-backs, free play readings, and ticket donations to local fundraisers. It commissions new work from established and early-career playwrights. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit professional theatre, the PRTC operates under a Small Professional Theatre agreement with the Actors' Equity Association.

For more information contact PRTC Managing Director, Katie Hubbard at (734) 433-7782 x 116, [khubbard@purplerosetheatre.org](mailto:khubbard@purplerosetheatre.org).



## Chelsea Police Department Weekly Summary

**Incident #: 24-838**

**Date: March 12, 2024**

**Location: 1500 block of S. Main Street**

**Time: 8:00 am**

**INFORMATION:** While on routine patrol officers responded to the 1500 block of S. Main Street for the report of a forcible burglary to a business. Upon arrival the officers met with the complainant who stated that when they had arrived and opened the business, the employee

had found an exterior window that had been broken out. A check of the building was made and no one was found inside the building. A review of the building surveillance footage revealed that multiple suspects had entered the property through the broken window earlier in the morning,

no suspect information is available for release at this time. The complainant checked the property and at the time of the report could not confirm whether anything had been taken. The case remains open pending further investigation into the identity of the suspects.

## H&H Sugarbush Maple Open House



► **continued from page 3** took over in the Sugar House. Unlike my one bucket boil process, the sap is pumped into the sugar house where it first undergoes a reverse osmosis process similar to what many homes have installed to take impurities out of water. But this takes water out of sap. Once that process is complete the sap is pumped into a big machine where more water is removed and the sap is cooked to the right temperature and consistency. The sap is first run through a filter so the maple sand," can be removed, which is a crystallized sugar that is a part of the cooking process. The sap is then stored in large food safe barrels prior to the bottling process.

The seven-year-old, noticing the steam coming out of the top of the cooker, began to grill Kirk on his fire safety. He wanted to know where his extinguisher was and what he would do if there was a fire. I could see a pleased look

cross Kirk's face as he showed off his extinguisher and seemed to relish in the fire safety concerns of the child. Kirk explained that if a fire broke out, he would leave and dial 911. He explained that he is a firefighter outside his syrup production and he would be safe first. I like to encourage people to shop local because local money spent is returned to the community. I learned first hand the truth in my words when do-

ing research for the article. Michelle and Kirk's oldest daughter, who is away at college, was my daughter's favorite dancer at Ballet Chelsea due to a shared scene in the Nutcracker. When you buy from H&H Sugarbush you are supporting your local community and neighbors. You can purchase maple syrup from H&H Sugarbush directly at <https://www.hhsugarbush.com/> or through local retailers.

**THE ANTICHRIST COMETH**  
A WORLD PREMIERE BY DAVID MACGREGOR  
DIRECTED BY RHIANNON RAGLAND  
March 22 - May 25, 2024  
PurpleRoseTheatre.org  
734.433.7673

**Collage Concert**  
April 6, 2024  
7:00 p.m.  
Chelsea High School  
740 N. Freer Rd., Chelsea, MI  
Presented by the Chelsea Music Boosters & Chelsea High School Music Department  
Chelsea High School's annual Collage Concert showcases all the very best vocal and instrumental talent our school district has to offer, in a seamless collage of performances. All six curricular performance groups from band, orchestra, and choir, plus extracurricular ensembles, and select soloists and ensembles are represented. All proceeds benefit the Chelsea Music Boosters and its mission to enrich music education in the Chelsea School District.  
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and  
via GoFan (search "Chelsea Bulldogs Music")  
or at the door  
\$15 adults | \$10 students/seniors