



**Chelsea Guardian**

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Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce

April 12, 2024

Volume 7 Issue 15

# Chelsea Guardian

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Hamilton  
Publishing



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

## The Purple Rose Presents: The Antichrist Cometh



Story and more photos on page 7. Photos By Aimee Bingham.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
SUNDAY  
AUGUST 18  
Gordon Hall in Dexter



QR Code

*Celebrate!*  
**Farm to Table**  
A benefit dinner for the 5 Healthy Towns' Farmers Markets  
A FABULOUS FEAST!

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



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

*new moon neuro*  
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Wade Rouse (Viola Shipman)

For event details, visit:  
MidwestLiteraryWalk.org



## Chelsea Senior Center's Read & Seed: Sow Much Fun



Story and more photos on page 9.

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www.chelseahistory.org



### 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

# 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 disciplines. 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."



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**You're Invited to a Musical Celebration**



Chelsea Hospital is proud to present Americana Music  
Featuring Chelsea's own  
**The MacDonald Brothers**  
Sunday, April 21, 2024  
2 to 3 p.m.  
Chelsea Hospital Main Entrance Atrium

All community members – especially our neighbors at the Chelsea Senior Center – are invited to join us for this **FREE** event. The performance will celebrate Chelsea Hospital's 50+ year history of partnership with our community, and will also bring comfort, hope and entertainment to all who join us.

*This is the first of a three-part Spring Music Series  
Join us again on  
Sunday, May 19 and Sunday, June 9, 2024  
for more from local musicians*

[ChelseaHospital.org](http://ChelseaHospital.org)



## 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



<p><b>Business Breakfasts</b> Jan 11th   7-9am April 11th   7-9am July 11th   7-9am Oct 10th   7-9am</p> <p><b>Wellness After Hours</b> Jan 17th   5-6:30pm</p> <p><b>Chocolate Extravaganza</b> Feb 10th</p> <p><b>Curling Fest</b> Feb 24th   8-11pm</p> <p><b>Annual Meeting</b> March 6th   6-8pm</p> <p><b>Sounds &amp; Sights on Thursday Nights</b> June 6th-July 25th &amp; Oct 24th 6:30-8:30pm</p> <p><b>Sounds &amp; Sights Festival</b> July 26th-27th</p>	<p><b>Community Picnic</b> Aug 10   Noon to 2pm</p> <p><b>Golf Outing</b> Sept 4th   7:30am-3pm</p> <p><b>Backyard Beer Garden</b> Oct 12th   3-10pm</p> <p><b>Hometown Halloween</b> October   All Month</p> <p><b>Wine, Women, &amp; Shopping</b> Nov 8th &amp; 9th</p> <p><b>Hometown Holiday</b> December   All Month</p> <p><b>Sculpture Walk</b> All Year</p> <p><b>Chelsea Trail Challenge</b> Feb 1st-Nov 30th</p>
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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 making 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 technolo-

gy 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 Niño or climate change caused a dip in syrup collection. We headed to the Sugar House for the final leg of the

**continued on page 9**

## Savings in Chelsea

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Hard work, good work and creating  
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the keys to community success.



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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.

## CHELSEA BULLDOGS BOYS TRACK & FIELD

# BRIGHTON SCRIMMAGE 2024



The Chelsea Bulldogs Boys Track and Field team traveled to Brighton High School for a scrimmage against the Brighton Bulldogs on Thursday, April 4th. It was a cold meet with intermittent rain and freezing rain. The

meet was called off early due to a scheduling conflict that prevented the 200 meter dash, 3200 meter run, and 4x400 meter relays from being run. The boys team turned in some solid early season performances and performed well in their

events. Highlights Include: • Connell Alford and Jackie Dell took 1st and 2nd place in the 800 both running 2:05 in the event. • The 4x100 relay team of Regan Plank, Ethan Collins, Luke Cavanaugh, and Gib-

son Ichesco tied for first in a photo finish. • The long jump crew of JJ Turnbow, Thomas Shemwell, Luke Cavanaugh, and Gibson Ichesco had a great day. Turnbow jumped 19 feet, 8.5 inches and the rest jumped over 17 feet. • Auden Howard took 2nd in the shot put with a throw of 37 feet, 6.5 inches. The thrower crew also took 2nd and 3rd place in the discus with Carl Peterson and Chase

Maihofer throwing over 90 feet. • Freshman Quinton Carradine took 2nd in the 110 high hurdles, this was his first high school track meet! He also led the team in high jump with a 5 feet, 4 inches jump. • Regan Plank took 2nd in the 100 M dash with a time of 11.51. Coach Slusser's Comments: We always try to get in a "dress rehearsal" type of meet before we begin our league schedule. This was a great opportunity for us to execute in

the field events, practice relay handoffs, and to get a feel of the organization of high school meets for our younger athletes. We accomplished what we needed to do and got our list of what we need to improve on. We're hosting Adrian on Tuesday for our first SEC dual meet. They are the defending regional champions and we lost to them in a great dual last year. We need to get better in many areas, but I'm excited to see how we compete against a strong squad at our own track.

Vintage Market Chelsea, MI

*Finders* KEEPERS  
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# Grand Finale Spring Market

Sunday May 19 • 10am-4pm  
Chelsea Fairgrounds

Location: Chelsea Community Fairgrounds  
20501 W Old US Hwy 12, Chelsea, MI 48118



Get Ready for our BIGGEST spring event of the year !! 175 vendors, live music, food trucks and snack vendors offering an amazing Shopping Experience on May 19th!

### Event Details:

- Indoor + outdoor event
- Early Bird admission: (10am-11am) \$15
- General admission: (11-4pm) \$5 cash

# Chelsea Senior Center: Spotlight on April Events



Ease the Day adult day program while building a support network. CSC Ease the Day program staff and volunteers will be on hand to engage and encourage loved ones for an hour or so in another room. There is no cost to participate in either program; however, donations are always welcome. Pre-registration is required for respite care. To register, please contact CSC by phone or email.



Chelsea Senior Center's calendar of activities, programs and services features more than 200 opportunities every month for members and the community at large to explore. In April? There are even more activities to experience.

The annual Chelsea Expo on April 13, a family-friendly, free community event for all ages, features local businesses, nonprofits, crafters and artisans. Arrive hungry to enjoy the "best-ever" bake sale, which is not to be missed. Homemade fresh-baked treats will be for sale to benefit Chelsea Senior Center (CSC). Chelsea School District will also offer

lunch and snack options for sale in the cafeteria. Expo hours are 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

New in April is Chelsea Senior Center's "Moment for Me: A Caregiver Support Group. Starting April 10 at 11:00 a.m., Moment for Me will be every other Wednesday and facilitated by Ginnie Hartman, MA, Licensed Professional Counselor. The group is open to family caregivers who need a break and can benefit from the support of others with similar changes in their lives. Caregivers are welcome to bring their loved ones who will benefit from the safe and nurturing environment of CSC's

On April 17 at 1:00 p.m., you are invited to the "Show and Tell: Writing Memories" Open House to hear stories written by members of our monthly Writers Group. Enjoy listening and get inspired to join the group each month to work on your own stories.

A special theatrical performance called Solo Acts hits the stage at the Washington Street Education Center auditorium on April 18 at 1:00 p.m. This theatrical compilation and community conversation combines storytelling and theatre to illuminate the complexity, challenges, opportunities and vis-

**continued on page 8**

2024 PLEASANTREES

# 420 BINGO

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## HAPPENING NOW UNTIL 4/20 AT PLEASANTREES!

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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. Leading 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 Ballet 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 dancers 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 Wed. 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/>.



## Have Children Entering Preschool or Kindergarten? Hearing and Vision Screening is Mandatory

*Schedule for free at the Health Department*

### Washtenaw County Health Department



**Beth Ann Hamilton**  
Communications  
Coordinator  
Washtenaw County  
Health Department  
734-294-4301  
hamiltone@washtenaw.org

All children starting kindergarten or preschool must have their hearing and vision tested before starting school. The Washtenaw County Health Department offers free office appointments for hearing and vision screenings for children entering school in the fall. Appointments are currently available

from May until August 2024. Call 734-544-6786 to schedule.

“Young children and their parents may not realize if they have a hearing or vision problem,” says Deborah Thompson, Lead Hearing & Vision Technician at the Washtenaw County Health Department.

“Undiagnosed hearing and vision problems can be serious barriers to learning and development. Our goal is to identify problems early to make sure kids have all the tools they need

to hear, see, and learn before school starts.”

Hearing and vision screening is required by the Michigan Public Health Code. Parents will be asked for proof of screening before their children enter kindergarten or head start. Once a child is in school, the Washtenaw County Health Department continues free in-school screenings on a regular basis.

Vision screening includes testing for visual acuity, farsightedness, ability to use two eyes together and symptoms of eye prob-

lems. Hearing screenings are done with an audiometer and other equipment based on the child's needs.

In 2023, our team provided 40,746 hearing and vision screenings. Learn more about the Washtenaw County Health Department Hearing and Vision Program at [bit.ly/WCHDseehear](http://bit.ly/WCHDseehear).

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 preven-

All children entering kindergarten or head start must complete hearing and vision tests.

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Hearing and vision screening is required by the Michigan public health code. You will be asked for proof before entering school.

tion and protection programs.

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frequent social media updates (@wcpublihealth) and sends regular email updates; sign up at <http://bit.ly/WCHD555>.

SOLAR ECLIPSE  
PROGRESSION IN  
PHOTOS:  
MICHIGAN 2024

SOLAR ECLIPSE  
APRIL 8, 2024

Photo By: Chrissy Fitch

# The Purple Rose Presents: The Antichrist Cometh



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

Friday, March 29, 8 pm, I had two tickets waiting for me at the box office at The Purple Rose Theater. As has become my tradition, I did not research what play I'd be watching. I enjoy not knowing the story ahead of time. When I grabbed the playbill, I snorted down a little laugh. It's Good Friday and my friends

have been posting scripture on Social Media all month. The AntiChrist Cometh, opening on Good Friday seemed like the sardonic humor I enjoy.

The set is still in the round as it was for Diva Royale. The set appeared to be a living room. Without giving away spoilers, John, played by Ryan Patrick Welsh, is excited about a visit from his college friend and his girl-



friend. John and his wife Lili appear to be a typical 30-something couple without children. His friend Duncan and his new fiance Fiona arrive at the door at an untimely, but funny moment. Fiona, a highly religious nurse tries to ease into a ready-made friendship with the group. The friction is there immediately, in a tale as old as time Fiona feels uncomfortable with her Fiance's friend from his old life. Everyone has grown and changed but John is the friend that gets your husband blackout

drunk and thinks that it might be good to skip the sports bar in favor of a seedy topless club off 8 Mile. I liked John as the play opened but as it continued, he started to make me nervous. The kind of guy you'd make sure never caught you anywhere alone.

Duncan, played by Ryan Carlson, a resident artist at the Purple Rose, gave the show the comedy it needed. He knows exactly when and how to utter a line. So, when an audience, a little nervous about laughing at a topic, that could potentially offend,

laughs so hard, the very sprayed hair in front of you moves in a puff with your breath. You, relax and realize even in this divided country nobody is going to be mad at you for laughing because they're laughing too. I was able to relax and be transported without fear into the story. All the actors did just that, transporting me into the story. I'd probably want to be friends with Lili and I'd accidentally drop an F-bomb around Fiona so we'd both cringe and I'd apologize ashamed.

When I read the playwright, David MacGregor also wrote the Sherlock Holmes series, I was not surprised. The Sherlock Holmes plays were smart in a way I enjoy. Lili says a line about Jesus being all-knowing and, therefore Judas Iscariot could not have betrayed him. I was not the only audience member to turn to someone and say, "ahh," as I thought, "Good point!" Lili is one of

those smart people who could win in court, even a settled, established case like Judas betrayed Jesus. I enjoy a different angle and perspective. The play is a funny way to navigate what feels like dangerous waters in this day and age and provides the levity we all need. It is superbly acted with a majority of newcomers taking the stage and is a great night out. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.purplerosetheatre.org/>. The Purple Rose is celebrating 33 years, founded in 1991! According to the Purple Rose, "The Purple Rose Theatre Company is a creative home for theatre artists to define our collective Midwestern voice." It is a place for emerging talent and seasoned professionals to learn more about and to practice their craft; a place for patrons of the arts to laugh, cry, and perhaps even learn something new." Having this level of talent in your backyard is a gift.

## UNITED WAY FOR SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN ANNOUNCES WASHTENAW COUNTY IMPACT GRANTEES

*Basic Needs and Racial Equity Fund dollars to significantly impact organizations across the area*

United Way for Southeastern Michigan is proud to announce the Washtenaw County 2024 Racial Equity Fund and Basic Needs grant recipients. Both opportunities are designed to address immediate needs within the community at a time when many are struggling to make ends meet and grow their impact to create more equitable communities. The total amount of the awarded funds is \$225,000 to address Basic Needs and \$200,000 for the Racial Equity Fund.

These grants, along with other strategic investments, continue United Way's longstanding commitment to families in Washtenaw County in ways that help families become stable and ensure children have the support they need to thrive and succeed.

United Way for Southeastern Michigan's ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained, Employed) report tells us that 39 percent of households across the state struggle to meet their most basic needs, like childcare, utilities, and food. In Washtenaw County, the number is even higher at 39.6 percent. This is a 35 percent increase since the previous ALICE Report in 2021 and the largest percentage increase in Michigan.

### 2024 Washtenaw Responsive Basic Needs Grants

The Washtenaw Basic Needs grant was de-

signed to provide rapid flexible funding to help organizations meet the increased demand for emergency food, homeless services and Medicaid enrollment support following the end of pandemic-era relief programs and a spike in need during the winter months. Through a competitive process, non-profit organizations were invited to apply for funding ranging from \$15,000 to \$40,000 for a six-month grant period.

This investment in local services is more important than ever given the stark increase in the number of households in Washtenaw County living below the ALICE survival threshold and these targeted investments will enable core service organizations to help more individuals and families in Washtenaw County meet their immediate basic needs including food, housing, and health while building toward long-term stability.

"These grants demonstrate United Way's longstanding commitment to families in Washtenaw County and address the strain that rising costs and the end of many pandemic-era supports have put on household budgets," Emily Mueller, Basic needs director, United Way for Southeastern Michigan. "We are proud to support these organizations as they work to help individuals and families get out of crisis and stay

out."

Here is a list of Basic Needs grantees with links to their websites:

- Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County - Work to help people live safe, meaningful and independent lives, in a more just community.

- Faith in Action - Provide essential support to alleviate the effects of hunger and poverty for those in Dexter, Chelsea, and surrounding communities.

- Food Gatherers - Rescue local food and leverage state and national food resources for hunger relief.

- Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County, Inc. - Provide programs and services ranging from older adult caregiving to immigrant resettlement and career services.

- Shelter Association of Washtenaw County - Work with a diverse range of people struggling with homelessness, including first-time homelessness, veterans, domestic violence survivors, and people battling substance abuse and/or mental health issues.

- SOS Community Services - Provide integrated services to homeless families, children and youth working to move them from homelessness to self-sufficiency and permanent, stable housing.

- Washtenaw Health Plan dba Washtenaw Health Project - Work to ensure Washtenaw County residents

of all backgrounds and circumstances have the healthcare coverage they need.

"As the cost-of-living soars, we have seen a record number of households visiting our pantry in 2024 and families on the shelter waitlist continue to wait months for housing," said Rhonda Weathers, executive director, SOS Community Service. "We are so thankful for United Way's support for families in our community who are struggling."

### Racial Equity Fund

The Racial Equity Fund looks to provide financial support and technical assistance to BIPOC-led organizations through operational unrestricted grants. The goal is to promote authentic inclusion and fair access to resources and opportunities for everyone, empowering individuals to flourish and reach their full potential. Funded projects strive to eliminate racial disparities and foster more equitable communities across Southeastern Michigan.

Racial Equity Fund grantees:

- A Servant's Heart - Faith-based organization working to bring people together not to just talk about our biggest problems — but to solve them.

- Care-Based Safety - Promotes life-affirming care, prevent conflict, collaborate with community partners, and establish a culture of safety in Washtenaw

County.

- Michigan Prison Doula Initiative - Provides childbirth education and birth doula support to incarcerated people.

- Survivors Speak - Works to give the voices back to those who have been unjustly silenced.

- Youth Arts Alliance - Provides healing centered arts workshops to young people across Michigan

- Our Village (The Regents of the University of Michigan as fiduciary

- Mexiquenses Unidos de Michigan - Actively looks beyond what can be accomplished not just for immigrant communities, but in all phases of decision-making affecting their health, educational, and community outcomes.

The Fund, developed by a diverse and inclusive team of community members during the Summer of 2021 and updated in Summer 2023 to include input from Washtenaw County, focuses on the real-life experiences of communities.

"We are so excited to expand our DEI efforts in Washtenaw County. The investments made through our Racial Equity Fund help to address systemic issues, strengthen the resilience and capacity of organizations disproportionately affected by social and economic disparities and in turn, help to build a future where everyone has

an equal opportunity to thrive," said Tonya Adair, chief development, diversity & engagement officer.

This winter, the fund has made \$200,000 available in grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000 directly for organizations with BIPOC executive leadership. In total, 49 organizations across the region have been awarded grants since 2022.

A list of all 49 Racial Equity Fund Grantees can be found at <https://unitedwaysem.org/about-us/equity-and-inclusion/racial-equity-fund/racial-equity-fund-recipients/>.

"The United Way for Southeastern Michigan Racial Equity Fund has provided Michigan Prison Doula Initiatives an unprecedented and unbelievable opportunity to support those who support so many," says Tedda Hughes, executive director, Michigan Doula Initiative. "Because of this grant, MPDI will, at long last, be able to offer doula-centered and chosen self-care to caregivers who have worked in the field for decades, never expecting care in return. Thank you to everyone at United Way of Southeastern Michigan, from the bottom of our hearts".

For more information on the Racial Equity Fund, please visit our website [UnitedWaySEM.org/RacialEquityFund](https://UnitedWaySEM.org/RacialEquityFund)

# Adult Learners Institute Announces its April Schedule



April showers bring...more exciting ALI classes. During the pandemic, three talented musicians, Catherine Ellis, Bob Elkins and Alma Muxlow, came together to explore music that not only entertains but can also provide a soothing space for refreshing the mind and spirit. Their **In-Person and Zoom** class, **Relax and Restore** on April 8, will offer acoustic music that, combined with gentle breathing and relaxation tech-

niques, should restore a sense of calm to body and mind.

In his three **In Person** classes, **Change in American Art: Luminists and Tonalists: America's Search for Transcendental Paradise** on April 5, 12 and 19, Edwin Hoffman will argue that although the period following the Civil War was dark, it was not entirely pessimistic. American artists reflected a unique creativity that reflected acceptance not only of the wrenching burden of our heritage but also of our emergence as a global power. Painters such as John Frederick Kensett and Thomas Wilmer Dewing and sculptors such as Theo Alice Ruggles Kitson

created works that suggest what might be a typically American achievement – the unending search for a transcendental paradise.

No, Charlie Taylor's two **In Person and Zoom** classes on the **Art and Craft of Fly Fishing** on April 17 and 24 are not about catching flies. This is an ancient craft that has been highly refined over many generations. The class will look at all kinds of fly-fishing gear including the kinds of rods, lines, and reels that allow for long accurate casts, and playing with strong fish in such a way that they don't get away. A few casting techniques will be demonstrated

along with a look at Kirk Wallace Johnson's book, *The Feather Thief* on the craft of tying.

"He who sings, prays twice." From the chants of Buddhist monks, to the cantor of a Jewish rabbi, to the qazals of Muslim Sufis, and the hymns of medieval monks and Martin Luther, devotion to God has elicited some of the earliest and, arguably, most beautiful music in human history. In his first **ALI In Person and Zoom** classes, **Music from the Early Church** on April 11, 18 and 25, Pastor Pezzica of Chelsea's Our Savior Lutheran Church will describe the genealogies of many of the hymns we now sing in

church.

In her two **In Person** classes on April 22 and 29, Elizabeth Thoburn who has visited many of the archeological sites she discusses, will be **Looking Again at Ancient Monuments** as she explores the ancient palace of Knossos associated with Theseus and the Minotaur, and at the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem from which the Prophet Mohammed ascended into Heaven.

Prison is hard. For the one in three American adults who have a criminal record, getting free is often just as hard. Concerns about safety, housing, education, getting a job, dealing with criminal background checks,

trauma and simple safety – all these, and more hurdles impact their path forward. Kathie Gourlay and Carolyn Madden are passionate about criminal justice reform and in their **In Person and Zoom** classes on April 30 and May 7, they will discuss the perils of **Re-entering Society with a Criminal Record**.

Catalogs containing more information on these and ALI's other Winter/Spring classes, as well as the registration form are available at grocery stores, libraries, senior centers and several churches and businesses throughout the Five Health Towns area as well as at [www.alimichigan.org](http://www.alimichigan.org).

## Chelsea Senior Center: Spotlight on April Events

► continued from page 5  
bility of solo agers. This is a free event. Register with CSC to reserve your seat.

As a prelude to the Midwest Literary Walk, on April 19 at 12:30 p.m., Author Roz Chast, a New Yorker cartoonist and memoirist, will be at Chelsea Senior Center for

a reading, Q&A, and book signing of her comic memoir, *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant*. Copies of the book will be available for sale onsite by Serendipity Books. All attendees will be entered into a drawing to win a free signed book courtesy of Chelsea District

Library. Register with CSC to reserve your seat.

Additionally, this month's Travel Trips include an overnight adventure to Kentucky for the Ark Encounter on April 23-24. Looking ahead, May's outing is to a Detroit Tigers game, followed by overnight getaways

in June to Mackinac Island for the Lilac Festival and Cornell's Turkeyville Dinner Theatre to see Escanaba in Da Moonlight. June's day trip is to the Kelsey Museum. Each travel outing has an associated cost.

These events are available to our members and the commu-

nity. For participation and access to Chelsea Senior Center's 200 activities every month, there is a \$25 annual membership fee. Please note that scholarships are always available to cover the membership fee.

Chelsea Senior Center (CSC) is a 501c3 nonprofit orga-

nization 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.

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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 organiza-

tions 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, old-

er 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."

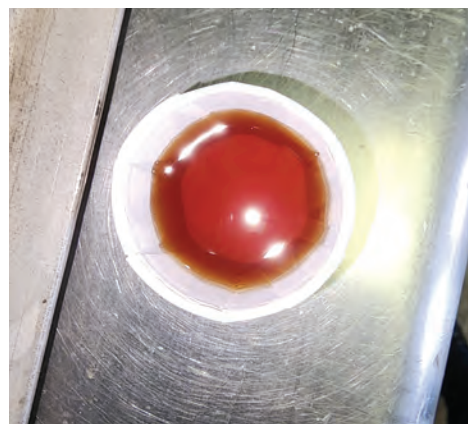
Contact Chelsea Senior Center at (734) 475-9242 or [connected@chelseaseniors.org](mailto:connected@chelseaseniors.org) to reserve your

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).

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## H&H Sugarbush Maple Open House



continued from page 3 tour. Michelle's husband Kirk 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 pro-

cess 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 doing 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.

## Chelsea Senior Center's Read & Seed: Sow Much Fun



continued from page 1



Chelsea Senior Center's annual two-day Read & Seed event with Chelsea Preschool was another memorable success for connecting generations. Many senior center volunteers look forward to participating each year.

"My favorite part

was watching the kids pull radishes up and seeing the expressions on their faces," says Allison Rullman, manager of the Trinh Pifer Intergenerational Garden. "It was like they discovered a treasure."

During Read & Seed, preschoolers and Chelsea Senior Center (CSC) volunteers participated in two activities. In the cafeteria, senior volunteers read

garden books to the young ones.

"I had a blast," shares Jean Dunn, a longtime CSC volunteer. Dunn has volunteered for Read and Seed since its inception. "The kids are so energetic, yet they listen so well. We talked about vegetables; which ones they love and which ones they don't. We talked about fussy eating. It was so

much fun." In the garden hoop house, preschoolers planted seeds of carrot, radish, kale, nasturtium and more in raised beds under the guidance of senior center volunteers. The preschoolers also admired the verdant beds of strawberry vines and blossoms and experienced the joy of pulling up leaves to see the whole radish pop from the soil. "I am always so thrilled to see the energy and excitement of the young folks scattering, covering and watering seeds," says longtime CSC volunteer Charlotte Wyche. "This year was especially exciting because

they could touch, smell and taste kale and radish."

Many of the children gave the "thumbs up" on flavor for these early-growing bitter garden vegetables, the seeds of which had been planted last fall and in February by garden volunteers. Rullman is already planning to plant more rows of radishes for next year's Read & Seed, since the "big radish reveal" was a clear hit with the preschoolers.

In just a few weeks, the preschoolers will return to the hoop house to admire the seedling growth. Sharing the Washington Street Education Cen-

ter's campus, the two organizations connecting for intergenerational experiences has been a favorite tradition. Volunteers are always welcome and needed in the Trinh Pifer Intergenerational Garden. Contact CSC to volunteer.

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# Humane Society of Huron Valley adopts groundbreaking treatment, Achieves 100% survival rate



Shelby, a 3-month-old puppy with parvo, was treated at HSHV, and adopted March 2024

Puppies who get Parvovirus have, on average, about a 9% survival rate. But at Ann Arbor's Humane Society of Huron Valley (HSHV) right now, their survival rate is 100%.

The Humane Society of Huron Valley (HSHV) recently implemented a groundbreaking advancement in the treatment of Parvovirus (parvo), a highly contagious viral illness that affects dogs, particularly puppies.

"Parvo is a deadly disease that sends animal shelters and families alike into terror. Having to euthanize baby dogs or watch them die from this devastating disease takes a toll on everyone," says Tanya Hilgendorf, HSHV's CEO. "So for years, we've been putting in the time and expense to treat them with round-the-clock, labor intensive care. And even that hasn't been 100% successful, sadly. So we are thrilled with what

we're experiencing with this new treatment by Elanco."

Elanco's Canine Parvovirus Monoclonal Antibody (CPMA) treatment received a conditional license by the USDA in May 2023, and HSHV ordered it in June. It's currently the only treatment available for parvo and can be given to dogs and puppies at least eight weeks old who test positive.

"Largely due to the implementation of this single-dose intravenous drug and treatment protocol," says Dr. Courtney White, Vice President of Veterinary Medicine at HSHV, "we are thrilled to report that we have a 100% survival rate for parvo cases in 2024. It's not inexpensive, but when one considers the cost of 24/7 care, with fluids, feedings, medications, and support—not to mention the emotional toll for an unpredictable outcome—the cost of this new treatment

seems worth it."

Parvovirus is a devastating disease that primarily targets the gastrointestinal tract of dogs, causing severe vomiting, diarrhea, dehydration, and in many cases, death, especially among unvaccinated adults and puppies. Parvo is highly contagious and remains a significant concern for animal shelters across the country, with outbreaks posing a substantial threat to dogs.

"This new treatment offers so much new hope; since this treatment began, we've helped 11 puppies who've had parvo, and they're all thankfully alive and well today," Hilgendorf says. "While 11 may not seem like a lot compared to the thousands we take in, we believe each individual is worth saving."

"We are so grateful to the donors, volunteers and staff who make this possible, keeping our shelter at the forefront of innovation in helping animals in their people," Hilgendorf adds. "The implementation of this groundbreaking treatment reflects our unwavering commitment to safeguard the well-being of animals in our care, mitigate infectious diseases, and improve overall outcomes for all."

For more information about the Humane Society of Huron Valley and its programs, please visit [hshv.org](http://hshv.org).



## Chelsea Police Department Weekly Summary

Incident #: 24-1052

Date: April 1, 2024

Location: 700 block of S. Main Street

Time: 2:38 pm

**INFORMATION:** While on routine patrol an officer met with the complainant in the 700 block of S. Main Street. The complainant stated that sometime between 7:00 am and 12:55 pm the complainant's wallet had gone missing. The complainant went on to say that she re-

ceived a text notification at 12:55 pm requesting authorization for a credit card purchase at an electronics retailer. The complainant stated that she contacted her financial institution and declined the charge. The complainant stated that a short time later

she was notified that a second identical charge attempt had been made using one of her other credit cards. At the time of the report, it was not believed that there had been any successful purchases using the stolen credit cards and there had not been any monetary loss.

Incident #: 24-1056

Date: April 1, 2024

Location: 600 block of S. Main Street

Time: 6:27 pm

**INFORMATION:** While on routine patrol an officer was assigned an identity theft complaint from a complainant who had come into the Chelsea Police Department lobby. The complainant stated that they had recently been notified by a collection

agency that they owed a large amount of money stemming from an unpaid utility bill in Texas. The complainant stated that they had lived in Chelsea for decades and had never lived in Texas. At the time of the report there was no further infor-

mation available on the identity of the suspect who had reportedly opened up the original account. The case was closed pending any further investigative leads on the identity of the suspect.

Incident #: 24-1067

Date: April 2, 2024

Location: 1100 block of S. Main Street

Time: 5:15 pm

**INFORMATION:** While on routine patrol an officer was dispatched to the 1100 block of S. Main Street for the report of a retail fraud complaint. Upon arrival the officer met with the complainant who stated that a male subject had come into

the business and while shopping, the suspect had placed a power tool set in the cart. The complainant stated that the suspect then began pushing the cart towards the exit and then grabbed the tool set out of the cart and quickly left the store.

The complainant stated that the suspect was observed getting into a maroon in color Chrysler or Dodge minivan. The case remains open pending further investigation into the identity of the suspect.

Incident #: 24-1068

Date: April 2, 2024

Location: 1400 block of Auston Lane

Time: 7:56 pm

**INFORMATION:** While on routine patrol an officer responded to the 1400 block of Auston Lane for the report of a fraud complaint. Upon arrival the officer met with the complainant who stated that he had been communicating


with a person online for an extended period of time. The complainant stated that he had been asked to send a large amount of money to a family member of the person he had been communicating with. The complainant stated that he sent the


money using Apple Pay and then suddenly the complainant was no longer able to reach any of the parties involved. The case remains open pending further investigation into the identity of the suspect.

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