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Hamilton Publishing

Featured Listing of the Week



Move in ready Bridgetown Condo for carefree living in the heart of Chelsea! Main floor with open layout offers attractive easy care flooring in kitchen, living and dining with door wall to private rear deck. Oak kitchen with snack bar and stainless appliances overlooks the living areas. Convenient main floor half bath too.

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Celebrating Chelsea High School Graduating Class of 2020



Photos By Kitty Golding

By Charla Hamilton charlachelseguardian@gmail.com
In the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Chelsea High School Senior Class of 2020 unfortunately isn't going to have the opportunity to graduate as normal. Kitty Golding owner of Kitty & Company recently had the idea to honor the graduating class in a special way. **continued on page 6**



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— Tami Bonnell, CEO, EXIT Realty Corp. International

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CHELSEA AREA FESTIVALS & EVENTS 2020 SUMMER SEASON UPDATES



The Chelsea Area Festivals & Events (CAFE) Committee has been carefully considering the next steps for the 2020 summer series of events. The CAFE Committee has been closely following the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on our **continued on page 7**



INTERIOR DESIGN
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Local Bank Assists Small Business with PPP to Make Emergency Ventilators



Member FDIC

From Teresa Beegle

During the global pandemic, Chelsea State Bank was able to assist R. M. Wright Company to quickly secure a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan to help the Company produce much needed ven-

tilators working with neighboring Ford Motor Company. When Chelsea State Bank first promoted the financial institution as the local community bank that helps families and small businesses to dream global and borrow local – they never imagined it would one day apply to a global pandemic. Today, R. M. Wright Company, a small business operating in Farmington Hills, with 26

employees, is not only dreaming globally, they are helping to build ventilators during a global pandemic...while securing a loan from their community bank. R. M. Wright Company is considered a critical infrastructure business and therefore able to remain open during Michigan's stay-at-home order and take on their largest project ever since owning the 80-year-old company **continued on page 8**

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MAY 6 "BEAUTIFUL" BROADWAY SHOW
1ST 12 ROWS...AT FISHER THEATRE

MAY 8 CAROL KING "TRIBUTE"
WITH ZEHNDER'S MEAL IN FRANKENMUTH

MAY 17 FLOWER DAY-EASTERN MARKET IN DETROIT

MAY 23-26 GRAND HOTEL-MACKINAW ISLAND

JUNE, JULY & AUGUST 10-22...ALASKA

JUNE 2 SHIPSEWANA SHOPS...OR...FLEA MARKET

JUNE 14 TIGERS VS TORONTO IN DETROIT

JUNE 18 "AINT MISBEHAVIN'" & SCHULARS LUNCH

JUNE 22-25 MISSISSIPPI RIVER CRUISE

JUNE 27 - JULY 4 CAPE COD & MORE

JULY 9 "MEET THE FORDS"
FORD ROUGE FACTORY, LUNCH AT ANDIAMO'S

JULY 8-10 STRATFORD FESTIVAL

JULY 29 "MAN OF LA MANCHE" & LUNCH GARDEN SIDE
...FLOWERS & HUMMINGBIRDS

SEPT 8-19 NATIONAL PARKS

SEPT 16 "ROCKIN OLDIES" AT ZEHNDER'S

SEPT 21-23 THE ARK & CREATION MUSEUM

AUG 19 NATIONAL QUILT SHOW

AUG 20 SAUGATUCK...SIDEWALK SALE

...LUNCH & CRUISE

AUGUST 22-28...NEW YORK

AUG 25-28 HOLMES COUNTY OHIO "AMISH"

OCT 1 "3 MEN & A TENOR" ZENDERS LUNCH

OCTOBER 3-11...NEW ENGLAND

OCTOBER 14-20...WASHINGTON D.C.

APRIL 17-24 2021 SOUTHERN CHARM,
SAVANNAH & MORE

WE PICK UP IN CHELSEA & ANN ARBOR



Humane Society of Huron Valley

Humane Society of Huron Valley Pets of the Week!

Adopt a Pet-of-the-Week this week, and get 10% off your adoption fee!



**The Ann Arbor's 107one
Pet-of-the-Week is Rosa**
Patience is a virtue with Rosa, and believe us...she's worth it! This shy and gentle girl is looking for a loving adopter who is willing to give her time to open up in her new home. Once comfortable, Rosa is such an affectionate cat and loves to come out for lap time! If you are looking for a mellow, quiet and all-around wonderful kitty who will curl up next to you on the couch while you read or watch your favorite movie, then you should meet Rosa! Call 734-662-5585 to schedule a visit today!



**The WTKA Top-Dog-of-the-Week
is Pierre**
Who's a good boy? That's right Pierre, you are! This youngster is smart, friendly and eager to learn. Pierre has made great strides with force-free, positive-reinforcement training from his foster family, and he will need an experienced dog owner who is willing to continue these techniques to teach him how to be calm around other people and dogs. Although he is very energetic, Pierre is now quick to calm down and loves to curl up next to you for naps. He will be an amazing companion for the right person!



**The W4 Country
Pet-of-the-Week is Ash**
Who is the stunning gent wearing the tuxedo, you ask? This is none other than the devilishly handsome kitty Ash, who is ready to woo a forever family with his good looks and refined purrsonality. Ash may be dignified but is also impeccably sweet, and adores a good ear scratch. Also, although he looks confident, he can be a bit nervous at first in new surroundings - just give him some time to find his footing, and he'll be swaggering around your home in no time! If you have a quiet home for this gentleman, with no children under 5, he is ready to meet you today!



**The Lucy Ann Lance Show
Pet-of-the-Week is Miss Sadie**
Who is the stunning gent wearing the tuxedo, you ask? This is none other than the devilishly handsome kitty Ash, who is ready to woo a forever family with his good looks and refined purrsonality. Ash may be dignified but is also impeccably sweet, and adores a good ear scratch. Also, although he looks confident, he can be a bit nervous at first in new surroundings - just give him some time to find his footing, and he'll be swaggering around your home in no time! If you have a quiet home for this gentleman, with no children under 5, he is ready to meet you today!

For more information call: 734-662-5585 or visit www.hshv.org

Faith in Action postpones Annual Fundraiser slated for April 25



Faith in Action sincerely appreciates the community's ongoing support. We take the health and safety of our community seriously and have decided the best course of action is to postpone our Annual Fundraiser Dinner and Auction in compliance with Govern-

nor Whitmer's state of emergency declaration and the state's suspension of gatherings. We will assess options and communicate our plan at a future date.

We appreciate everyone's understanding during these extraordinary times. FIA continues to provide services to our community. Food Gatherers, our primary food pantry supplier, is operating on a normal delivery schedule. We have

limited our staff to those required to provide essential services. Our hours of operation have changed to Monday and Wednesday 11-7 and Tuesday and Thursday 9-4. We are closed Friday for restocking and sanitizing. The Dexter Pantry has closed temporarily and Dexter clients can get food at the Chelsea pantry with expanded hours.

All food shoppers are asked to call Faith in Action at 734-475-3305 before coming

in to place food orders with staff. People who need emergency financial assistance are also asked to call.

We have closed our clothing room and are not accepting clothing or household donations but are still accepting food donations when the office is open. Leave donations outside the front doors and call to notify staff at 734-475-3305. If needed,

receipts can be sent later so leave a note with contact information inside the bag.

FIA will continue to support our existing clients and are proactively planning to meet the needs of new clients, as the effects of the Covid-19 virus unfold. If you need help, FIA provides confidential and compassionate services in an atmosphere of respect and

dignity for those living in Dexter, Chelsea and surrounding communities. Please contact us at 734-475-3305.

We appreciate your continued support and desire to assist those in our community. Monetary contributions are important at this time and can be made online at www.faithinaction1.org

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CHS Principal Mike Kapolka Joins Board of Directors for MASSP

Statement from MASSP (Special Thank You to Julie Helber for Providing Information)

The Chelsea School District is very proud of Chelsea High School Principal Mike Kapolka as he joins the Board of Directors for MASSP. He will be a great asset to the organization. His involvement on the frontlines of the organization will benefit the school district in numerous ways.

The polls closed on Friday for MASSP's 2020-21 Board of Directors election process. This year's group of candidates were all exceptional administrators and we want to thank them for taking the initiative to run for a position. We appreciate the support of all members who took the time to vote for their representatives, thank you for your engagement. MASSP is proud to announce the results of the 2020 Board of Directors election by welcoming new and returning Board members.

MASSP's bylaws allow members to serve up to (2) three year terms and to serve (1) additional three year term on the Executive Board if elected (for a total of three terms). Any person appointed to fill a vacancy on the

Board of Directors for a period greater than one half of a term shall be considered to serve one term in that position.

Election results are as follows:

President - Elect: Nina Davis, Principal, L'Anse Creuse Middle School - East

Region 8: Michael Kapolka, Principal, Chelsea High School

Region 9: Thomas Lietz, Principal, Utica High School

Region 11: Lisa Phillips, Principal, Cass Technical High School

Region 12: Dr. Lara Dixon, Principal, Troy Athens High School

Assistant Principal East: Sophia Lafayette, Assistant Principal, Walled Lake Northern High School

Middle Level Central: Shawna Grou-

lx, Principal, Anna M. Thurston Middle School in St. Charles

When Nina Davis, MASSP's new President-Elect, was informed of her new position she said, "I have really enjoyed being a member of the MASSP Board of Directors and strongly believe in the great work of the association. It will be an honor to serve as President and to represent the amazing building level leaders in our state." We are excited for Nina's leadership on our executive board. In addition to President-Elect Davis the Board welcomes two additional new members: Dr. Lara Dixon from Troy Athens High School and Mike Kapolka from Chelsea High School.



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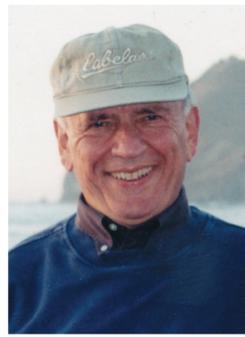


Updated Community Events List Coming Soon

If you have any Community Events you would like listed here please email charlachelseaguardian@gmail.com

Obituaries

John William (Jack) Merkel



John William (Jack) Merkel, age 90, died Sunday April 19, 2020 at Silver Maples Retirement Community, in Chelsea, MI with family present. He was born in Chelsea, MI on December 23, 1929, one of four siblings and son of Mary Estelle Young and Ferdinand W. Merkel. Following graduation from Chelsea High School (class of 1947), he studied Business at Ferris State University and then Philosophy and Theology at Assumption College (now University of Windsor).

He met the love of his life, MaryAnn Gabel, on a blind date in Ann Arbor, and they were married on September 13, 1952. Shortly thereafter, he was called to military service in the Korean War, where he saw combat in the 7th Division as a 2nd Lieutenant infantry platoon leader. Returning from service in 1954, Jack joined his father and uncle in business at Merkel Brothers Hardware Store, and he

and MaryAnn built a home in Chelsea where they raised five sons and were active community members for the next 67 years.

In 1956, Jack's brother and future business partner, Bob Merkel, joined the business. For 56 years, they grew and evolved the business into the present-day Merkel Furniture and Carpet One which is now owned and operated by Jack's son and grandson, along with Bob's son.

Jack understood the importance of service in the community. He served as Village President and as a member of the Chelsea Planning Commission. His service on boards of directors included the Chelsea Library, Chelsea United Way Chelsea Chamber of Commerce, Chelsea Community Hospital, Chelsea State Bank, and Silver Maples. He and MaryAnn were lifelong members of St. Mary Church, where Jack read at Sunday mass for 53 years.

Jack was honored with the "Citizen of the Year" award for his leadership of a Chelsea Village Council committee to upgrade and strengthen Chelsea's government from village to home rule city, a difficult, complicated, and litigious process that lasted over ten years. Following this he led the committee that wrote Chelsea's home rule city charter.

Jack enjoyed reading, travel, theatre, music and loved playing bridge. He could often be found on the tennis courts, golf course, or ski slopes all of which he enjoyed until late in his life. He especially enjoyed the many trips to the family deer camp in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan with his brother, sons, grandchildren and friends.

He is survived by his sons, John, Tim (Anne), Dan (Candace), Matt (Elise), and Richard (Christine); his grandchildren, Brian, George, Charlie, Daniel, Molly, Lauren, Lucy, Helen, and Thomas, and great-grandchildren, Gunnar and Baz. He is also survived by brothers, Robert (Barbara), and Patrick (Sandra), sister-in-law, Jane, and many nieces and nephews. Jack was predeceased by his wife, MaryAnn, his sister, Gertrude (Dot), and daughter-in-law, Sayra.

Visitation and Memorial Service will take place at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Faith In Action and Saint Louis Center. Arrangements by Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home, Chelsea.

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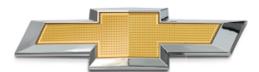
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American 1 Credit Union Celebrates 70 Years

From Maggie Wise

April 21, 2020 marks 70 years in business for American 1 Credit Union.

"Our long-standing history in Jackson County allows us to continue making a lasting impact on the community that helped make us who we are today," said Martha Fuerstenau, President/CEO of American 1. "American 1 and our Board of Directors are dedicated to the members we serve, and we look forward to another 70 years of service to our

members and community with the mission of creating financial wellness through personal everyday banking."

Founded 1950 in Jackson, MI, American 1 first began as the Jackson Co-Op Federal Credit Union, as a service provided to members of Jackson Co-Op Services. Jackson Co-Op Federal Credit Union was originally located at the local United Rubber Workers Hall 185 on a part-time basis, beginning with 47 members and three full-time

employees in its first year.

Later the credit union purchased a small house on Chapin Street in 1951, and a vacant church on Pearl Street in 1962. Needing more office space to accommodate its growing membership, the credit union bought the McCourtie dealership on Michigan Ave. in Jackson and established our current Home Office location. By 1964, Jackson Co-Op Federal Credit Union had acquired over 5,000 members, and even

sold "Co-Op appliances" until 1974. The credit union soon established branches in Battle Creek, Hillsdale, Lenawee, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties.

In 1987, Jackson Co-op Federal Credit Union officially changed its name to American 1 Federal Credit Union. And in October 2011, to continue its strong growth, American 1 became a state chartered credit union and adopted its current name, American 1 Credit Union.

To this day, American 1 puts community

first through sponsorships, donations, major gifts, and volunteer efforts.

In 2019 American 1 gave more than \$1 million to 255 organizations in Jackson, Lenawee, Hillsdale, Wayne, Washtenaw, and Calhoun counties. Some of the most notable giving was \$600,000 to the Jackson YMCA toward their capital campaign and \$250,000 to Spring

Arbor University for The Arena Sponsored by American 1 Credit Union. An additional \$151,287 in funding was gifted to area non-profit organizations including Hot Air Jubilee, Talons Out Honor Flight, Bright Walls, and many more.

Today American 1 Credit Union serves over 57,000 members with branches in Jackson, Washtenaw, Hillsdale, Calhoun, Lenawee, and Wayne counties. American 1 is proud to serve the members of their communities by creating financial wellness through personal everyday banking.

Savings in Chelsea

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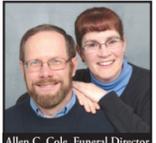
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Mission Statement:
Hard work, good work and creating and fostering great relationships are the keys to community success.



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Things to do in Chelsea

Shopping:
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Chelsea Hometown Pharmacy
Heydlauff's Inc. • Jewelry Set in Stone
La Jolla Fine Jewelry • La Maison
Moran's Consignment
Chelsea Farmers Supply
Mule Skinner Boots • The Garden Mill
Vintage Barn Boutique
Vogel's & Foster's • Wines on Main
The Potting Shed • Violet & Moss
Chelsea Antiques • Brown Basset
Country Cabin

Dining:
Chelsea Alehouse Brewery
Chelsea Big Boy • China Garden
Cleary's Pub • Common Grill
Cottage Inn • Jet's Pizza
Los Tres Amigos • Mike's Deli
Seitz's Tavern • Smokehouse 52
Thompson's Pizza • Zou Zou's
Arctic Breakaway • Valiant Bar & Grill
Ugly Dog Distillery

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CHELSEA ATHLETICS



CHELSEA BULLDOGS SPORTS SCHEDULES ALL SPRING SPORTS ARE CANCELLED AT THIS TIME

ON THE SIDELINE:

NFL DRAFT, LESS CROWDED STORES, BAD DRIVERS AND A PUNTER



By Don Richter
drichter101@comcast.net

Day 35 of quarantine.

I think it's Day 35 -- I don't know, I've lost track of time.

I need everything to get back to normal, sort of.

I need to watch sports.

Let me repeat that -- I need to watch sports.

One more time.

I need to watch sports.

The NFL draft is this week. I swear, it'll be "must-see-TV" for me. I'm rolling out the recliner, ordering a pizza and settling in to watch something, anything, related to current athletics.

Speaking of this week's draft, the Detroit Lions have the third pick overall. If history is to be repeated, the Lions will mess up this normally "can't-miss" pick. If Detroit selects an offensive player, meaning a running back, quarterback, tight end, lineman or wide receiver with the third pick, I swear I'll drive down to Allen Park where the Lions' headquarters are located and stop practicing social distancing, if you know what

I mean?

If Detroit trades the pick for a spot further down in the first round and possible additional selections in the later rounds, I might moan and roll my eyes a little, but I'll stay seated in my recliner and wait and see what happens later in the draft.

If the Lions pick a defensive player with the third pick -- any defensive player at any position -- I will be ecstatic. I might even struggle to get out of my recliner and do a dance in front of the TV. Though the dance would be brief as the process of just raising up out of my recliner tucks me out nowadays.

My luck, though, Detroit will take a punter with the first pick. I know it's coming. I've already prepared myself for it. The car is all gassed up and ready to go. Allen Park isn't that far away. If I have no expectations, no high hopes, then my Lions draft-day-dreams can't be crushed, right? It's a defensive measure and an attempt at self-preservation I've learned to cultivate throughout all my years of being a loyal, yet, consistently frustrated Detroit football fan.

But every year, a small flicker of hope, no matter how hard I try to snuff it out, burns brightly inside of me as the NFL draft nears. I know, I'm such a schmuck. I can't help it. I've been a Detroit Lions fan my entire life.

Here's to a Lions draft this week heavy on the defensive side of the football.

On a completely different note, while the quarantine is bothersome, I must admit, a part of me actually enjoys an interesting side effect of the stay-at-home mandate.

The pace of daily life has slowed dramatically out in the real world. I have a job outside of this column-writing-gig that is deemed "essential" by the powers that be. I'm the type of person that doesn't like a huge crowd, whether it's in the grocery store, hardware store or on our area roads. And, by golly, what do you know, but the grocery store -- at least when I go (which I'm not telling the time or day, because it's been wonderfully bereft of crowds) -- has actually been an enjoyable experience for me. I loathe grocery shopping. But nowadays, at least when I've decided to shop, it's been the stuff of dreams for me. Slow paced, wide, empty aisles, no wait at the cash register, in and out, no trouble at all.

And more than anything, it's been pure bliss on area roads. It's how I always hoped it would be. Light traffic -- on both surface streets and freeways -- and fewer unskilled, out-of-control drivers. People even seem more polite and calmer behind the wheel. I'm seeing a lot more turn

signals being used and fewer tailgaters and rude and aggressive idiots, err, I mean, adults behind the wheel nowadays. I must admit -- I kinda' like it.

A part of me wants the quarantine and stay-at-home mandate to end, but when I actually stop and think about it, daily life is pretty good out there with fewer mouth-breathers, err, I mean, mature, well-mannered adults clogging up area streets and freeways and stores

and innumerable other places. It's like how with the quarantine and the stoppage of so many industrial complexes from producing their wares, pollution has lessened dramatically. The air quality throughout the world, it seems, has improved. That's kinda' how it is locally, especially on the roads (I have to drive all over the county each and every day for my "essential" job). The "pollution" which had previously dirtied and stained and made

miserable driving on local roads and freeways now seems to be drastically diminished since the quarantine took effect.

Day 35 of quarantine.

Bring sports back and I'm good.

"With the third pick of the 2020 NFL draft, the Detroit Lions select punter..."

I knew it wouldn't last.

At least the drive to Allen Park will be enjoyable...



Special Announcement from Chelsea Athletics

The Michigan High School Athletic Association has made the decision to cancel spring sports for the remainder of the school year. The Chelsea Athletic Department supports this decision for the safety and wellness of our students. Spring sports coaches will be reaching out to their athletes in the near future with more information.

BRAD BUSH, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

CHELSEA HIGH SCHOOL BULLDOGS ALL-DECADE TEAM

103	Jacob Jacobussy (2018)
112	Ben Doll (2011)
119	Nick Bleise (2015)
125	Nick Matusko (2018)
130	Andrew Nold (2010)
135	Corbyn Munson (2018)
140	Dakota Cooley (2010)
145	Steve Bleise (2014)
152	Mitchell Reynolds (2020)
160	Gus Reynolds (2017)
171	Dan Wisnewski (2014)
189	Michael Hovater (2013)
215	Travis Ostrowski (2010)
285	Josiah Fitch (2020)

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The Day the Music Survived

By Aimee Bingham Osinski
anbingham@gmail.com

In the midst of a pandemic, watching the Earth pick off person after person in some sort of horrific Margaret atwood novel come to life, it is the arts that are sustaining me in my safe, warm comfortable prison. I don't want to complain. I have food, heat, and enough meds to keep me alive. I have toilet paper and hand sanitizer. I'm grateful for my safe little shelter and realize how lucky I am. But there's a melancholy with the uncertainty and trapped feeling. I'm wondering how many of us will be okay. Wondering what little local businesses will survive. It's a mentally stressful time. I'd like to ignore the news and the ugly possibilities and just hang out with my friends. Since I can't, I'm finding solace in things I previously did not have access to.

"Bye Bye Miss American Pie" hit the pop charts prior to my birth. It came on the radio occasionally when I was a very young girl. Even prior to school, I knew the lyrics were describing a loss, a change in life that would never go back. I did not understand what it was, but I got the feeling of loss the song described. In my life, the tragedy of

9/11 accurately details the massive shift. The loss of always feeling safe at home, one minute the world was one way, the next, it was gone. I think the song describes the uncertainty of the future after the pandemic. Which ones of us will be left? What will our economy look like? Will our children run together at BBQs on the 4th? Will we feel safe next to each other again? Will we hug new friends? Will everything return to normal? Will the yellow bus rumble down my street and pick my daughter up for kindergarten next fall? This pandemic feels like the end of life the way we used to know it. I am at home watching from a safe distance and helpless to do anything about it. So we're singing:

Bye, bye Miss American pie

Drove my chevy to the levy and the gas was cheap but we had no place to go

And those good old moms were drinking wine and white claw

Saying this will be the day you kids push me straight over the edge and we all die

This will be the day we all die.

As my walls continue to inch closer day by day, I find reprieve knowing each evening

Melissa Ethridge will provide me with an in-

timate front row seat to a Facebook live concert from her house. I know for about twenty minutes each night, the walls won't feel so close. The Met is also playing nightly Met Opera Streams, with the hopes, "to brighten the lives of audience members even while our stage is dark." My five year old is suddenly an opera fan, who knew? And the Kennedy Center is live streaming Couch concerts. On the website it states, "It is in times like these that we need artists the most. We've lined up talented artists to perform their work and help us inspire, grieve, heal, and move forward as a nation." My musical friends are doing the same. I have several friends who are live streaming their painting sessions. And though I'm not going to learn, it's nice to watch and not think about my friends fighting for their lives or nurses weeping at it all. The music and the arts are alive and helping keep me sane. Thank you to all the talent out there who are willing to share. You are my lifeline to a world I feel like I'm losing. As long as the music doesn't die, I feel like we can come out of this and find our way back.

*Inspired by American pie, by Don McLean.



Chelsea Police Department Weekly Summary

Incident #: 20-1019

Location: 500 block of Wilkinson St.

Date: April 17, 2020

Time: 12:14 am

INFORMATION: While on routine patrol officers were dispatched to the 500 block of Wilkinson Street for a stalking complaint. The caller reported that a subject in a Ford F-150 pickup truck had pulled into his driveway and began activating the horn multiple times and yelling out the window. The complainant stated that he believed the person in the pickup truck was

a 54-year-old Dexter woman who at one time the caller had a personal relationship with. The complainant stated that the suspect has on several occasions made unsolicited contacts with him and he had advised her that he did not wish to speak to her any longer and had told her not to come to his property. The suspect was gone from the location prior to the officer's arrival. A letter

was drafted by the responding officer and was sent to the suspect advising her not to return to the premises or have any further unsolicited contact with the complainant. Any further contact would be treated as harassment and/or stalking type behavior and would be forwarded on to the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's office for review.

Celebrating Chelsea High School Graduating Class of 2020



continued from page 1

Kitty decided to create collages of senior portraits in her windows at her Kitty & Company location.

Kitty stated: "This idea started personally as I have a senior at CHS this year. I brainstormed about ideas to bring recognition and honor to this graduating class (in light of the fact that all the traditional recognitions and end of year events have been cancelled).

In the past, I've used my windows to promote artists in our

community. This inspired me to highlight the senior class of 2020 as a whole in my studio Main Street windows.. an art collage if you will. I thought that we senior parents would find connectivity and healing by showcasing all of our seniors together...I believe from the parent response, it has done that.

I hope the seniors have enjoyed seeing it and know this community is here for them, praying for them, and believing for much success in their fu-

tures! Thank you to all who helped make this work! The parents, Mr. Kapolka-CHS Principal, Gretchen Steele-Secretary to Principal at CHS, and to Chelsea Print and Graphics for printing the photos."

Kitty said the senior photo collages will be in her studio windows into June. Kitty & Company is located at 114 North Main Street, Suites 5 & 6 in Chelsea. Good luck and best wishes to the graduating class of 2020.

EXIT REALTY CORP. INTERNATIONAL HAS PLEDGED
\$5,500,000
TO CHARITY

A portion of every transaction fee received by EXIT Realty Corp. International is applied to its charitable fund. Through the Spirit of EXIT Dollar-for-Dollar Matching Program, EXIT offices and members can raise money for local, approved, registered charities and apply to EXIT's head office to have those funds matched from the company's pledged pool of funds.

To date, EXIT Realty Corp. International has pledged more than \$5,500,000 to charity. We have sponsored 20 Habitat for Humanity home builds in Canada and the U.S., and participated in a community revitalization project and the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project. In addition, we have pledged hundreds of thousands of dollars to benefit those hardest hit by Hurricane Irma and tropical storm, Harvey. Find out more at www.exitrealty.com/spirit.

"Many of our members work tirelessly to raise funds for charity in their communities. We believe that by matching the funds they raise, we can have an even greater impact than ever before. The Spirit of EXIT Dollar-for-Dollar Matching Program allows EXIT to touch more lives."

— Tami Bonnell, CEO, EXIT Realty Corp. International

We are now virtually meeting with agents old and new, with a heart for their community and a team spirit to work with our EXIT Family. We are currently doing Online Interviews and would like to speak with you about EXIT REALTY 1ST. Also, our agents are standing by TODAY to talk to clients about their real estate needs.

We are here for you! Because even when we are alone
#WEARETOGETHER. Call today 734-627-1400

MORE THAN
\$5.5 MILLION
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Easter Festivities at St. Louis Center



To foster the joy of the Easter season, Amanda Bentley, Direct Care Worker, helped the ladies of Our Lady of Providence Hall decorate eggs at St. Louis Center and The Easter bunny left baskets for the men living in Fr. Guanella Hall.



Photos By Amanda Bentley



we are privileged to serve," says President and CEO, Steve Fetyko. "Providing a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment for older adults and our care team is our top priority."

UMRC & Porter Hills announces that, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization is continuing to hire a variety of team members to provide care and support for the older adults it serves at locations across Michigan.

Openings include caregivers, such as certified nurse assistants (CNAs), nurses, and resident care assistants; dining and dietary; housekeeping and environmental services; and other professional positions.

"At a time when other businesses and organizations are

closing or restricting their hours due to COVID-19, UMRC & Porter Hills is growing to provide outstanding care and services for older adults and families," says Michelle Baldwin Henderson, UMRC & Porter Hills Chief Human Resources Officer. "Since February, we have hired 93 new team members for our locations stretching from shore to shore, and we continue to grow."

"Throughout our combined 160 years of experience, UMRC & Porter Hills has always focused on the health and well-being of the older adults

UMRC & Porter Hills is also safeguarding the health and well-being of its caregiving and frontline team members and their families, says Fetyko. "We are proudly committed to going above and beyond to ensure extra protections and supports for our 'healthcare heroes' who do so much to provide quality care for older adults."

To learn more about career opportunities at Porter Hills, e-mail: LoveYourCareer@porterhills.org

For opportunities with UMRC, e-mail: LoveYourCareer@umrc.com

CHELSEA AREA FESTIVALS & EVENTS 2020 SUMMER SEASON UPDATES



continued from page 1
community and came to the very difficult decision to cancel this year's Sounds & Sights on Thursday Nights, (June 4 through August 13) and the Sounds and Sights Summer Festival (July 24-25). The SculptureWalk Chelsea and Hometown Holiday events will continue as planned.

"As part of our consideration, we realized that there are too many what-ifs associated with any go-forward plan. Safety is the most important criteria in our decision-making process, we don't want

to risk the safety and health of volunteers, vendors, participants, and guests in any situation that we don't have answers for today," said Craig Common, CAFE President.

Chelsea is a resilient close-knit community that will work through COVID-19 challenges. CAFE continues to remain steadfast in its mission to promote quality performing and visual arts throughout the year. Looking to the future, Common commented, "We are starting to imagine what comes next and are looking

forward to the opportunity to bring quality music and visual arts safely back to the streets of Chelsea. And we are excited about moving forward with SculptureWalk Chelsea and Hometown Holiday."

CAFE sincerely appreciates everyone's contribution, passion, and support - all things that make Chelsea a very special place to live, visit and work.

For additional information visit www.chelseafestivals.com or email media@chelseafestivals.com



Due to increased isolation, our residents need cards and letters to brighten their day!

**Send cards to:
Chelsea Retirement Community
805 W Middle St.
Chelsea, MI 48118**



Local Bank Assists Small Business with PPP to Make Emergency Ventilators

► **continued from page 1** – supplying ventilator parts for Ford Motor Company.

“Since we are an essential business and we have continued to stay open and work, we were available to assist Ford Motor Company and GE Healthcare with their efforts to build ventilators to aid in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic,” said R. M. Wright Company President and Chief Operating Officer Michael A. Hamzey, Jr. “Ford and GE have committed to the federal government that they will build 50,000 ventilators in 100 days, beginning this week (April 13). We provided two different products for the ventilator they are manufacturing at the Ford plant in Ypsilanti, resulting in a multi-million-dollar order for our company...and it couldn't have come at a better time.”

The newly enacted federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provided a variety of additional emergency relief programs for consumers and businesses, including the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) guaranteed through the Small Business Administration (SBA).

Chelsea State Bank is an authorized lender by the SBA to administer the PPP. The first PPP authorized up to \$349 billion in forgivable loans to small businesses, nonprofits, veterans' organizations and tribal concerns to pay their employees during the COVID-19 crisis. Sole proprietors and self-employed individuals are eligible as well. Loan terms are the same for everyone. A second round of funding is expected later in April.

“The positive impact of the Payroll Protection Program on our company cannot be overstated,” said Hamzey. “The opportunity to be involved in this order would have been missed if we were unable to remain open or if we had to lay off some of our employees due to payroll concerns. Ford is a valuable customer to us and several of our employees have played important roles in making sure the short delivery window is met so the ventilators will be made on time and lives can be saved. We began personally delivering the product to the Ypsilanti plant last Friday (April 10) and we will maintain these deliveries for the next few months.”

Chelsea State Bank was one of the financial institutions actively working to operationalize the programs as quickly as possible to assist customers in max-

imizing their relief under the Act's provisions. Chelsea State Bank began accepting applications for small businesses on April 3, and sole proprietors and self-employed on April 10. The SBA stopped accepting applications the morning of April 16.

“In a very short period of time, our commercial lenders and support teams were able to complete – in an astounding display of teamwork, dedication and long hours – over 175 Paycheck Protection Program loans with a total value of over \$30 million dollars,” said Chelsea State Bank President Joanne Rau. “We accepted applications until the SBA closed down the application site. These are funds brought into our communities to keep businesses running during these difficult times. We were grateful to help our small businesses.”

Ford Motor Company took on the challenge to quickly pull resources from all over the global company to make ventilators in Michigan. Since these machines are very complex, Ford chose to make the model AE device, which is an older model that will work for COVID-19 patients. Ford chose this model because it is simple, portable and scalable – allowing them to get the units into hospitals quickly.

When Ford started looking for manufacturers to produce the ventilators, R. M. Wright Company came up as an exclusive distributor for Michigan for one of the products used in the design. With a relationship already in place with Ford and other manufacturers, and a neighbor to the Ford Ypsilanti plant, R. M. Wright Company became involved.

“This simple ventilator still has approximately 354 parts,” said Hamzey. “We are helping to make an older model because it's a third of the cost of the current model, and it can be made in a shorter amount of time.”

With a workforce of 26 employees, the R. M. Wright Company was able to ramp up quickly because of the investment they have made in their software, explained Hamzey. “We have the ability to handle the variety of volumes that we experience throughout a year. We are lean by design and the software we use is extremely distributor oriented.”

RM Wright Company is a family owned business. Chief Executive Officer Michael K. Hamzey, Sr., bought the company from the original family in 1987. At almost 80 years old,

Hamzey, Sr. is still active in the business. In 2000, Michael A. Hamzey, Jr., left his law practice of 15 years to join his father in the company, starting with inside sales and moving into his current position as President. Hamzey Jr., graduated from the Detroit College of Law, now Michigan State University College of Law, a private law school in East Lansing, Michigan affiliated with Michigan State University. In addition to father and son, there are three other family members currently working at the company.

Having worked with many large banks over the years, the R. M. Wright Company decided it was time to look for a bank with a more personal approach to banking. “We'd been with larger banks – which is where my father met Mary Lee Penney before she joined Chelsea State Bank,” said Hamzey, Jr. “My father and I started to feel like it was time to change banks because we just weren't getting a warm and fuzzy feeling from our previous banker. We've been with Chelsea State Bank for almost 10 years now. Steve Saules is our commercial lender and we feel comfortable with him because he understands us and our business. We also feel very much appreciated by Chelsea State Bank.”

R. M. Wright Company prides itself on keeping morale up during these uncertain times. Regular communication with staff about the company's financial position is key, along with providing lunches and regular emails showing their support and appreciation for their employees.

“Our staff knows this is a significant project for us, and it came at a critical time – along with the PPP,” concluded Hamzey, Jr. “We are grateful to Chelsea State Bank and Ford Motor Company for this opportunity. These are uncertain times and there is no benchmark or roadmap. We are taking it day by day. We want to do the best for our employees and help get them through this rough time.”

In addition to promoting the bank as the local community bank that helps families and small businesses dream global and borrow local, Chelsea State Bank also wants consumers to know they are locally grown since 1897.

“As a local community bank for over 120 years, the health and safety of our families and businesses have always been top priorities for us,” said Chelsea State Bank CEO John Mann. “When the PPP

52 weeks of design

Kitty & Company



Starkey Family

Photo submitted by Beth Starkey

By Kitty Golding

Kitty & Company has been conducting a series of short interviews with Chelsea Residents and will continue to publish them for the period of one year. We have enjoyed learning about the differing personalities and design styles in our community and hope you have as well. Stay tuned and follow us each week – we look forward to introducing you to more Chelsea Individuals in the future weeks- it may just be YOU! This week we introduce you to **BETH STARKEY.**

What is your profession and for how long?

I work in the Business and HR departments at the Chelsea School District for 10+ years.

Your family members:

Todd (husband), Tanner, Cameron and Quinn (sons).

When did you move to Chelsea? Where did you live prior to this?

I moved to Chelsea in 1976 from Westland, MI

What do you love about where you currently live?

I love the small town feel and knowing people when you walk down the streets.

If you could have a second home anywhere, where would it be?

The southwest, maybe Arizona.

People think of me

as organized but I am really a list maker.

What three words describe your style?

I'm not sure I have style!!!!

As you think about the home in which you grew up, what elements did you like and do you think you have incorporated some of them in your own home?

I grew up in a more traditional home. I think I'm opposite of that. I like contemporary with clean lines...but not ultra-modern contemporary.

What is one trend in design you do NOT like?

Raised sink bowls in bathrooms.

Have you ever built a new home or remodeled an existing one?

Both, we built in 2004 and we are currently remodeling our master bathroom and master closet.

What is the one biggest interior design issue you struggle with?

Use of space and traffic flow.

Have you ever sought professional help with the interior design of your home - if so, what did you find most helpful?

Yes, we did – we received help in the creative use of space.

Which room in your home gets the most use? Please give any explanation as well.

Kitchen, we are always gathering there with family and friends.

If you were moving and could only pick one item from your home to keep, which would it be?

The paintings my children have created.

Name an item you purchased for your home that you regret buying:

A small chair for the bedroom to use when watching TV.

No room is complete without:

Pictures of family.

I tend to be: a minimalist by nature.

What are you currently doing to pass the time during the COVID-19 State shutdown?

I am working in my yard and trying to complete projects that I've had on my list for a while.

A few of your favorite things!

Historical Place You Have Visited- 9/11 Memorial.

Movie - Shawshank Redemption.

Scent - Lavender.

Favorite Song, Artist or style of Music- John Mayer.

Favorite TV show - Friends.

Favorite Meal - Salmon, couscous and asparagus.

Favorite Travel Destination On Your Bucket List- Hawaii.

Favorite Things to Collect - Nativity Scenes.

Color - Green.

Hobbies - Puzzles.

Pets? - we have none.

Kitty's note: Beth and I met through the schools. Our boys played football together, so we both were united in yelling from the stands. I know of Beth as an organized and detailed person who loves her family and life. And, contrary to her comment above of not having a style, she – I think embraces a casual, comfortable and clean style that is welcoming to all.



was announced, we were buried with applications and chose to focus on our smallest customers first because that's where we felt the need was greatest and we didn't want them overlooked. We want all of our customers to know we are here to help them. Because we are smaller and

more nimble, we can act quickly, proactively, and decisively. We are hoping a second wave of funding is approved soon.”

About R.M. Wright Company

The R.M. Wright Company has forged an unsurpassed legacy of achievement through-

out the automation and fluid power industry since 1940. We remain steadfast and determined to be identified by our valued customers we serve as the premier distributor of MRO and OEM pneumatics, safety, electronic controls, and accessories. Visit www.rmwrightco.com.