

Chelsea Guardian

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Publishing

Featured Listing of the Week

Dexter Schools
30 Acre Country Estate in Ann Arbor, minutes from town offers privacy & serenity. Tudor style house, designed by Northville architect Walt Melonio, similar to former 3.5M model home at Bellagio Estates. Breathtaking views of wildlife habitat through huge windows throughout. Numerous energy efficient & environmentally friendly features. Foyer, gallery hall, dining room & master bath all present unique granite heated flooring from Africa. Stunning Brazilian cherry walls & staircase.
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Chelsea State Bank Helps Chelsea Senior Center with PPP Loan



CSC Staff preparing Meals on Wheels. Left to right: Jennifer, Marylee, Bill, Mackenzie, Meredith, Emily.

From Teresa Beegle

During the coronavirus pandemic, Chelsea State Bank is able to assist many local small businesses with their Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans. The Chelsea Senior Center, a small, nonprofit business, is one such business that was able to take advantage of a PPP loan and keep many of their programs active, while

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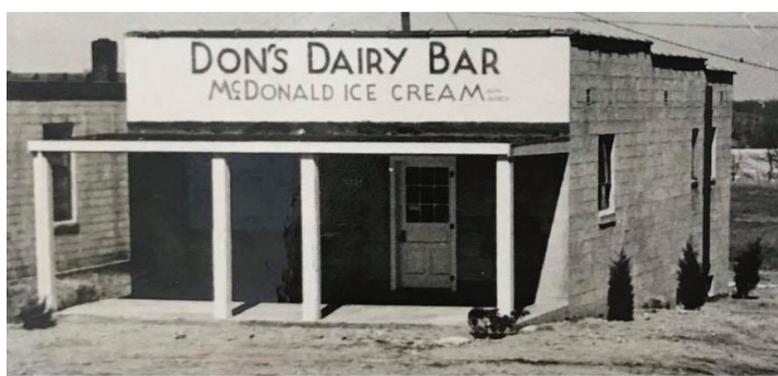
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— Tami Bonnell, CEO, EXIT Realty Corp. International

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Aunt Ellie and the Amazing Don's Dairy Bar



Don's Dairy Bar on North Territorial Rd. North Lake in the far background.

Photos courtesy of Cindy Reynolds Perelman, Ellie and Don's daughter

By Wendy Gilbert Gronbeck

In the 1950s, you could get a cheeseburger, a home permanent,

and tap-dancing lessons all in one place. That place was Don's Dairy Bar on North Territorial Road, north of Chelsea.

It sat across the street from Inverness Golf Course and next door to The Inverness Inn. Don's was built by my

dad, Jack Gilbert, and my uncle, Don Reynolds and operated by my aunt, Eleanor Gilbert Reynolds.

Don's Dairy Bar could have been the set for Happy Days with its red bar stools and the menu painted on the wall over the counter. There was a pinball machine in one corner and a jukebox at the end of the bar. Ellie was known for her cooking, her dry wit, and her gregarious, fun-loving nature (un-

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Amid COVID-19 response, St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea receives "A" grade for patient safety



From Bobby Maldonado

Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades, which assigns A, B, C, D and F letter grades to hospitals nationally for patient safety, announced that St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea has received an "A" ranking on its All Spring 2020 scorecard. Amid its re-

sponse to COVID-19, St. Joe's Chelsea was awarded an "A" for its commitment to keeping patients safe and meeting the highest safety standards in the United States.

Safety is a core value and a top priority for St. Joe's Chelsea. As part of its COVID-19 response, the hospital has a vigorous screening process in place at all points of entry. All colleagues and visitors are also required

to wear face masks while inside the facility. These safeguards ensure that all patients can safely seek medical care within the facility, including for any urgent and emergent needs within the Emergency Department.

"As our clinical teams respond to new challenges presented by COVID-19, they have remained focused on their jobs and doing all the lit-

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Amid COVID-19 response, St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea receives "A" grade for patient safety

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The things necessary to deliver the safest, highest quality care possible for patients," said Nancy Graebner, president and CEO of St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea. "While we know COVID-19 concerns are high, the community should rest assured that our hospital is among the safest in the nation for anyone requiring care."

Developed under the guidance of a national Expert Panel, the Leapfrog Hospital

Safety Grade uses 28 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign grades to more than 2,600 U.S. acute-care hospitals twice per year. The Hospital Safety Grade's methodology is peer-reviewed and fully transparent, and the results are free to the public.

In addition to St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea, the following Trinity Health Michigan hospitals also received "A" rankings on their Spring 2020

scorecards: St. Joseph Mercy Livingston, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland, Mercy Health Saint Mary's, and Mercy Health Hackley Campus. Michigan Medicine, a joint venture partner of St. Joe's Chelsea, also received an "A" ranking.

To see St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea's full grade details, learn how employers can help, and access patient tips for staying safe in the hospital, please visit hospital-safetygrade.org

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JUNE 14 TIGERS VS TORONTO IN DETROIT
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The Ann Arbor's 107one Pet-of-the-Week is Miss Sadie
Miss Sadie is cute as a button, from her big of ears to her little white muzzle. She is a smart youngster and has been in basic manners training at 107one. She loves activities that get her brain working, like scent detection exercises or clicker training. With an experienced adopter who continues these positive reinforcement-based exercises, Sadie could really become a star! In addition to an active mind, this cutie has lots of energy - whether it's hiking, going for runs, or zooming around the play yard. Miss Sadie can't wait to get out and do it! If you have an active family with children over 12, Miss Sadie may be the one for you!

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. Pierre will do best in a home without cats, small dogs or small mammals. 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 Miss Kitty
Miss Kitty is ready to waltz right into your life! Well, she doesn't really waltz...what Miss Kitty really loves to do is lay down, especially if it's in your arms! She'll let you cradle her for eternity, soothing you with a purring lullaby. You'll never find a more affectionate cat. Miss Kitty asks only for a calm home, without small children - because while she adores attention, she also likes to be handled with care.

The Lucy Ann Lance Show Pet-of-the-Week is Simba
Will you be Simba's cheerleader? He needs to find his confidence, but when he does, he's the star of the show. This sweetie loves to cuddle, so don't be shy about flattering him and making him feel like the prince he is! Simba is also very playful and athletic, and would be happiest in a home with plenty of places to jump and climb. Laser pointers, wand toys, mice, pipe cleaners...he likes all kinds of toys, especially when you switch them out to keep things interesting. If you can't wait to hang out with this sweet guy, and have a home without dogs or children under 5, come meet Simba today!

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

Aunt Ellie and the Amazing Don's Dairy Bar

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less you trumped her ace at the Euchre game which was always in progress at the corner table.)

My sister and I loved to spend our afternoons at the Dairy Bar. To us, it was like Disneyland with free French fries and sodas for Ellie's nieces. She'd always slip us a nickel for a pinball game. When business was slow, Aunt Ellie gave permanents to neighborhood ladies at the tables near the back. It was a bring-your-own perm arrangement, but Ellie applied them without charge. When you walked into the café, you'd see truck drivers at the counter with huge plates of burgers and fries and at the back tables, the smiling faces of neighborhood ladies with plastic curling rods protruding from their heads. While Ellie applied chemicals that dripped onto the towels wrapped around their shoulders, they enjoyed toasted tuna sandwiches, chips, and pickles. The air was scented with a strange combination of ammonia from the home perms and onion rings in the deep-fat fryer.

On Tuesday afternoons, the potato chip



delivery man came by, and he and Aunt Ellie gave tap dancing lessons to kids in the neighborhood. The smaller kids tapped away on top of the tables. Seven decades later, both my sister, Judy Gilbert Preville, and I remember all the steps to Five Foot Two and East Side West Side. Golfers would putt-out on the ninth hole at Inverness Golf Course and then cross North Territorial for a stop at the Dairy Bar. If they were lucky, they could get a piece of pie made by Bessie Russell, Ellie's good friend who lived at Wild Goose Lake. In the evenings, counselors from the Detroit "TB Camp" canoed across North Lake for a chocolate soda heaped with whipped cream.

Don's Dairy Bar was a café, beauty salon, and dance studio with a little counseling and card playing on the side. It worked because

the food was sumptuous and delicious, and Aunt Ellie was friendly and funny. North Lake native, David Knisely, remembers that "Ellie was there to greet you and had a way of lifting your spirits. To her, everyone was special, and her sincere joy in seeing you was as delicious as the ice cream. What a sanctuary!"

Even if there had been strict regulations in those days, I'm quite sure no health inspector could have written up a believable report. Had he tried, Aunt Ellie would have slipped him a banana split and had him tapping his feet before he could take out a pencil. He'd have been lucky to escape without a new hairdo.



Chelsea State Bank Helps Chelsea Senior Center with PPP Loan

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adding new activities, even with stay-at-home orders.

The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides 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 Payroll Protection Program,” explained Chelsea State Bank President Joanne Rau. “During April, our commercial lenders and support teams were able to complete over 300 PPP loans with a total value of over \$40 million dollars. This was a very short period of time to complete both rounds of PPP funding. Because of their tireless efforts, we were able to provide quick turnaround while making the process as easy as possible for our customers.”

The Chelsea Senior Center has been serving the community for over 40 years. With over 1,000 members, the staff of seven (two full-time and five part-time) didn't miss a beat when Governor Gretchen Whitmer's stay-at-home order went into place.

In a typical month, the Chelsea Senior Center will have over 250 activities for the seniors in the Chelsea community area to participate in and keep active. Today, those activities are still robust – just a little different. And because the Chelsea Senior Center was able to receive a PPP loan, they are able to keep their staff on the payroll so they can provide many other resources and activities for their seniors in spite of their doors currently being closed.

The Chelsea Senior Center now has numerous activities online for seniors to explore. They also have a Zoom account for various group meetings, including their Ukulele Group and Happy Hours – sessions where seniors can interact. The Center makes hundreds of wellness calls each month to make sure seniors are alright and to check if they need anything. They also send out emails and greeting cards to make contact with their members. The Center

has a full website of activities and resources for seniors.

“Normally we have a very vibrant center going five days a week,” said Chelsea Senior Center Executive Director Bill O'Reilly. “On March 13 we shut down all inside activities except the Meals on Wheels program. We are still preparing and delivering Meals on Wheels. It's funny, it almost feels busier now than when we were open and having all our original activities. From the inside it's hard to tell we are closed to the public because we are so busy.”

Promoting fellowship is a vital purpose of the Chelsea Senior Center and therefore meals are important activities. When the Center is open there is a Daily Senior Café where a hot meal is served at noon for a small donation. For those seniors who are homebound and unable to join in the senior cafe lunch, Meals on Wheels will deliver a hot meal Monday through Friday and frozen meals for the weekend. However, because of the stay-at-home order, the Chelsea Senior Center is now delivering Meals on Wheels on Mondays and Thursdays with frozen meals for the other five days.

“Meals on Wheels is a big part of what we do,” explained O'Reilly. “Normally we would have volunteers help with the Meals on Wheels program, but we realized it wasn't safe to have volunteers continue at this time, so our staff pitched in and we actually do all the meal prep. There is a school district cook who prepares the meals, and the staff and I wash all the fruit and get the meals together and deliver to about 100 seniors in the area. This number is actually increasing as more seniors become homebound.”

“Because these folks are homebound, we normally check in on them when we deliver meals during the week. However to keep our seniors and our staff safe we do have to limit the interaction that we have with our homebound folks. So for everybody's sake we had to scale back our deliveries to two days a week instead of five.”

Chelsea Senior Center Board of Directors Treasurer Ken Gietzen and Chelsea Senior Center Book-

keeper Marylee Fuchs simultaneously presented the PPP loan option to O'Reilly, and together they contacted Chelsea State Bank.

“We reached out to Chelsea State Bank and they immediately jumped onboard to help us,” said O'Reilly. “Our Commercial Loan Officer Jim Wolfington immediately got us through the process and even the Bank President Joanne Rau was calling to check and monitor our progress. It was remarkable. We started the process on a Wednesday and by the following Monday we had the funds in our account.”

“When one of my counterparts at another local town's senior center asked if we had looked into the program, I told her we already have our funds. They are with a larger bank and they were just sent forms and haven't heard anything since. It definitely reinforces that we are partnering with the right people here in Chelsea.”

“We all pitched in to help our business customers,” said Rau. “It's rewarding to know these funds are brought into our communities to keep our local businesses running during these difficult times. This is what community banking is all about and I am so proud of our Chelsea State Bank team.”

Chelsea State Bank and the Chelsea Senior Center have a lot in common. They are both locally grown to support the communities they serve. Chelsea State Bank has been serving individuals, families, farmers and small businesses for over 120 years. With two branch offices in Chelsea and one in Dexter, Chelsea State Bank's lobbies are open by appointment while offering full-service banking from their drive-thru windows. In addition, the Bank offers online banking and mobile banking where customers can open checking accounts, apply for loans and deposit checks – all electronically.

The Chelsea Senior Center has been serving the seniors in the area for over 40 years. The Center is promoted as the place for the young at heart. Fun, learning and resources for seniors and their families. While the Chelsea Senior Center business offices remain open, the Center is closed to visitors for the foreseeable future



Updated Community Events List Coming Soon

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

due to the Coronavirus situation. They are available by phone and e-mail for needed services.

“Banking with a local community bank means everything, especially during times like today,” said O'Reilly. “We always knew it was a strong partnership, but during these times it really hits home. The way they treated us and just really made it a priority to help us out showed their personal commitment to the seniors in our community.”

“Chelsea State Bank knew our business and the services we offer to the community. They understand how our seniors depend on us and how important it is to keep going during these uncertain times. Because of our PPP loan, we are able to keep our full payroll and pay our rent – our center is within the old high school, so our rent helps the community, too! It's a win win.”

Moving to Chelsea five years ago, O'Reilly became the Executive

Director of the Chelsea Senior Center a little over a year ago. He has a strong business background and a true entrepreneurial spirit. With a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from George Washington University, Washington, D.C., he has started and sold two businesses, managed a few businesses for profit and nonprofit and has sat on many nonprofit boards over the years. Most recently, the O'Reilly's started a genealogy business 10 years ago working remotely with hundreds of clients around the world. O'Reilly's wife now manages the business.

“Our Board of Directors and our staff are all well aware of how Chelsea State Bank has really been our guiding light though all this and it is just the latest in a very long string of actions Chelsea State Bank has done for this community we are happy to call home,” concluded O'Reilly. “Once again, thank you to the Chelsea State Bank

team from the entire Chelsea Senior Center team!”

O'Reilly is also president of the Chelsea Historical Society, secretary for the Chelsea Downtown Development Authority (DDA), and a volunteer for a number of other activities in Chelsea.

“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 was first announced, as well as the second round of funding, we were buried with applications. We 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.”

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ON THE SIDELINE: MOMENT OF ZEN, GAS PRICES, MCDONALD'S AND MURDER HORNETS



By Don Richter
drichter101@comcast.net

Day 53 of quarantine.

Or so, I think it is. Everything is a bit of a blur right now.

I'm starting to hallucinate -- I'm seeing things that can't be true.

Take for instance my late night trip to the Speedway gas station in Chelsea last week.

When I'm not carousing around as "column-writer-extraordinaire," I actually have what the government and the powers-that-be consider an "essential" job. I've always thought my late night job was important, but to be called "essential," well, I think I now need a raise.

Anyway, as part of my "essential" job I have to drive all over Washtenaw County and the surrounding area each and every night. So, as one might expect, I spend a lot of time in area gas stations

-- and in late night McDonald's. It's pretty sad when I can tell anyone who's interested which area 24-hour/late night McDonald's consistently has the best service, the quickest preparation, the most polite workers and the freshest food. I can also tell anyone who's interested, which all-night McDonald's has the most unprofessional staff, the rudest employees, the longest wait and the coldest french fries. My fellow late night colleagues and I could write a book, like a Triple A four-diamond-type pamphlet, about each McDonald's throughout the county.

It's also really depressing (or is it a good thing?), that I know the personal history and stories for a lot of the longtime workers at area McDonald's. When you see the same late night managers as they rotate around to area restaurants and they greet you like a long lost friend or you are truly concerned for "Linda's" son and if he was able to get into his first choice for college or if the drama of "Cynthia's" divorce is finally coming to a close or if "Brandon" decided to take

your advice and just save and get four new tires, instead of buying cheap, bald tires, you know you're spending way too many nights in McDonald's drive-thru lanes. Instead of the "Real Housewives of Orange County," I could develop a better show about the "Real Drive-Thru Workers of Washtenaw County." Mmmm... let me call my agent.

I must say, though, and I'm not being biased, but Chelsea's 24-hour/late night McDonald's is truly consistently one of the best in the area when it comes to politeness, service and food quality. And believe me, I've been there at every imaginable hour of the night and in the early mornings. Those Golden Arches are a wonderful site and a beacon of good-tidings at 3 or 4 in the morning after a long, difficult "essential" shift.

Wow, did I ever get off topic. Anyhow, back to area gas stations, more specifically 24-hour Speedway stations. Like the late night McDonald's, my colleagues and I know where all the late-night gas stations are located throughout Washtenaw County, as well.

And last week at Chelsea's 24-hour Speedway station, I had a moment of zen experience.

I don't know what a "zen experience" really means, but it sounded cool, so I went with it. I consider a zen moment as an aha experience or an amazing incident that gives you a whole new perspective of life.

I had my "moment of zen" last week at Chelsea's Speedway (hey, "Adam" -- yes I know all of the late night crew at Chelsea's Speedway) when I

pulled into the station with my gas gauge on "E." And not just on "E" but on "E" where I could actually see the orange bar the "E" sits on "E." Anyhow, I gave "Adam" a twenty-dollar bill and went back out to pump my gas. To my surprise, and my "moment of zen," my twenty bucks filled up my tank. Normally, my twenty bucks would get me to a little past half on an empty tank. Gas prices at \$1.50 or so is such a "zen experience" for a late-night worker/driver like

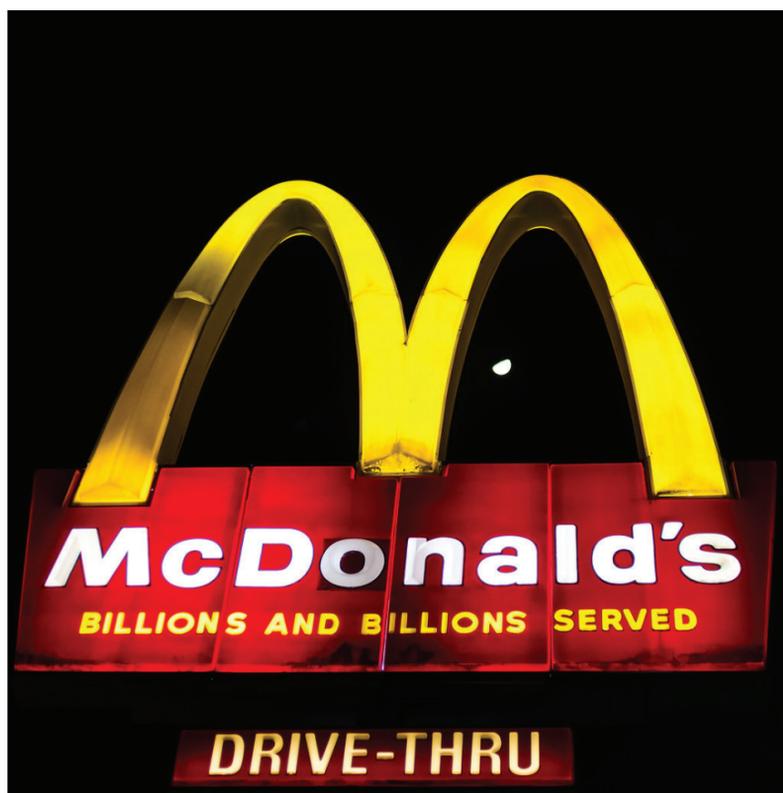
myself. Seriously, why can't gas prices always be this affordable? Last week, I finally felt like my twenty bucks had value. My twenty bucks that night at Speedway had value equal to the effort and hard work I put in each and every night at my job. It was an odd feeling. I was pleased, but also a bit angry and annoyed. My twenty bucks should ALWAYS have that type of value. Something's wrong when handing over a twenty dollar bill feels like a **continued on page 10**



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



The brightly lit golden arches of area McDonald's are a constant beacon for this columnist during his late night job.

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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Stk. # K08272

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ADD THIS NUMBER TO YOUR PHONE... 734-544-3050



By: Erin Spanier

CARES ACCESS NUMBER FOR MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE, AND TREATMENT SERVICES

WASHTENAW COUNTY

CHELSEA
FRI • 8:30 AM - 5 PM
350 North Main Street, Suite 150
734-544-3050

DEXTER
Thur • 8:30 AM - 5 PM
7089 Dexter-Ann Arbor Road
734-544-3050

MANCHESTER
Tues • 8:30 AM - 5 PM
912 City Road in the lower level of
the Village of Manchester Building
734-544-3050

WHITMORE LAKE
Tue and Thur • 8:30 AM - 5 PM
Coming soon
734-544-3050

.....
Millage-funded staff are being placed throughout the county to support residents. Current placements and those in advanced stages of development are listed below." SIDE NOTE: We are confirming if Manchester has approved this so may be able to add location and hours. More info soon.

JACKSON COUNTY

JACKSON
M - F • 10 AM - 7 PM
1200 NORTH WEST AVE.
800-544-3050

One number, 734-544-3050, should be added to address books all across the county. It's the CARES access number for mental health and substance use treatment services offered by Washtenaw County Community Mental Health.

The number may be needed at 3:00 a.m. on a Monday, during kickoff on Homecoming weekend, or 6:00 p.m. on a Sunday. In fact, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year--the phones at Washtenaw County Community Mental Health are staffed and CARES social workers, therapists, peer-specialists, and psychiatrists are on standby to offer Crisis response services, Access to mental health services, Resource connections, Engagement with community partners, and Support for individual needs.

Middle and high school teachers should have kids take out their phones and program it in during math class. Anyone who's lost a loved one, struggled with addiction, or experienced mental health challenges and had difficulty finding help should post it on the fridge right now.

These staff aren't exclusively for residents with severe needs or critical emergencies; they're for everyone, in every one of the county's townships. That wasn't always the case.

Washtenaw County Community Mental Health, like community mental health agencies all across the state, has been contending with major state funding reductions that don't even come close to covering the cost of mandated services.

On the Cover: Jenn Fenn and Leslie Turner, clinical case workers at Washtenaw County Community Mental Health, are two of the CARES team members who support residents in Chelsea, Dexter, and Manchester.

Jackson County passed a similar millage in the spring of 2017 and opened a Crisis R&R facility just 15 months later. The living room-style facility is open five days a week for anyone in crisis and staff are there to welcome guests on arrival and connect them to a broad range of resources including counseling, housing, food, and more"

For several years, those cuts led to diminished services, but, thanks to the eight-year Public Safety and Mental Health Millage which was passed by Washtenaw County voters last fall by a two to one margin, Washtenaw County Community Mental Health administrators began to extend services to more residents, all across the county.

As we write this, only eight months since Washtenaw County millage dollars first became available, the list of services is long and growing. And, the list of success stories is following suit.

Residents have been referred to community psychologists for short-term counseling to contend with a loss. They've been able to access enough prescribed medicines to cover until they could get to see their doctors. They've gotten same-day appointments with behavioral health specialists and primary care providers; help filling out insurance, housing, and food applications; advice from peers with lived experience; and rides to necessary appointments. In sum, we provide dozens of different support services at little or no cost to clients.

"Millage-funded staff expansions have allowed Washtenaw County Community Mental Health to respond to 800 more crisis service requests in the first six months of 2019--from January to June--than the agency did during the same time frame last year, and we've received 250 referrals in a two month period for other services," says Program Administrator Melisa Tasker. "It's been such an honor to speak with and serve residents all across the county and we're looking forward to announcing many more program and system improvements in the years ahead."

Where do Washtenaw County residents go to get these services? To Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor, of course, but also to rural sites across the county.

Through agreements with local organizations Washtenaw County Community Mental Health administrators are placing staff at external facilities with no cost to taxpayers. Residents are now getting free and low-cost assistance for mental health and substance use needs in Chelsea and Dexter. Soon, residents will be able to meet with community mental health staff in Manchester and Whitmore Lake as well.

According to Chelsea Police Chief Ed Toth, "Thirty years ago, you might deal with a mental health crisis a few times a year. Now it's a weekly situation. We're a small agency here, usually a couple of people covering a shift and that's all. But every time I've called the CARES hotline, the response team has been super for us."

To learn more about current and planned millage-funded public safety and mental health services for Washtenaw County residents, visit Washtenaw.org/2806/Public-Safety-and-Mental-Health-Millage.



Deborah Lawson



Jill Anderson



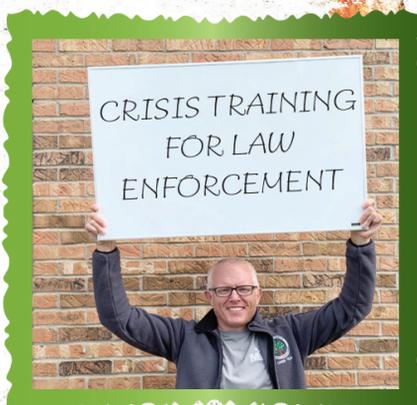
Valerie Bass



Nikki Muraca



Karen Halman



Shad Jordan



Meredith Perry

The Real Estate Corner

By: Michelle Elie,
Realtor, GRI
Charles Reinhart
Realtors

734-637-6376
michelleelie912@gmail.com

Kind of a crazy month, huh? As I write this, the COVID numbers are on the decline, and the "new normal" is on the horizon. Real Estate has been given the green light to start back effective 5/9, and we are ready to list and sell! All buyers and agents will be required to wear a mask when entering any home for sale, and sellers will be instructed to leave all the lights on and doors open so no one needs to touch anything during the showings. I'll be providing hand sanitizer at all my listings, and I'm sure most agents will do the same. Every action will be taken to insure safety as we start back to work.

Not surprising that

April Summary

Here's the 2020 April Chelsea Real Estate recap:

	2020	2019
Number of new listings	11	33
Average list price	419,155	468,373
Number of homes sold	21	19
Average sale price	306,025	379,239

the numbers for April are way out of whack compared to last year. Typically April is one of the busiest months for listings, with those closings happening in May and June. All things considered, April was a decent month. Here's the numbers;

What is most striking to me is the number of sales were higher in 2020 compared to 2019. That speaks for the strength of the market coming in to the pandemic. Many

buyers are writing offers on homes sight unseen, basing their decisions upon the video walk throughs and pictures on the listings. Again, this indicates a very strong market.

In summary, get out there and look at houses. Be safe, use appropriate precautions, and take advantage of the growing inventory. Sellers, get your house on the market- there's so much pent up activity getting ready to burst!

Reinhart

REALTORS

The data used in these articles is obtained from the Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors ML

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Chelsea Police Department Weekly Summary

No news to report

EXIT REALTY CORP. INTERNATIONAL HAS PLEDGED
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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

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ON THE SIDELINE: MOMENT OF ZEN, GAS PRICES, MCDONALD'S AND MURDER HORNETS



The "Murder Hornet" has recently been spotted in the Pacific Northwest.

► continued from page 5
value of five bucks.

Anyhow, financial knowledge and how the all mighty dollar works in our economy is way above my pay grade, but it was a good feeling pumping my gas last week and filling my tank. I felt a sense of pride I haven't felt in a long time. A sense that all the difficult, thankless work I do every night had meaning and value -- since my hard-earned cash finally, at least for one night at the gas pump, had value equal to my effort. Funny how those two things can go hand-in-hand.

Finally, on a com-

pletely different note I have two words for you -- "Murder Hornets." Say what? Yes, my worst nightmare has come true. Darn you, Asia. Don't worry Chelsea people, those nasty things won't bother anyone in this town. Why, you ask? Because I'm a "wasp/hornet" magnet. There truly is only one thing that makes me shriek and cower like a little child in a corner and that's an aggressive, loud-buzzing, unpredictable wasp/hornet. I would leave Usain Bolt in my dust if I encountered one of those winged monsters.

So, of course,

for the longest time, wasps/hornets would randomly show up unannounced in my house. Even in winter, I'd be startled awake to the deep-throated, loud, buzzing sound of an angry wasp/hornet smashing into windows and ceilings all throughout my house.

How they entered my house all those years (I changed my locks multiple times), I'll never know. So anyhow, don't worry Chelsea residents, I'm already in the "Murder Hornets" cross hairs. They're currently all sharpening their stingers in anticipation of their arrival to

my house. You're all safe from their wrath. I guarantee you, there's already a "Wanted Poster" with my ugly mug plastered across it haphazardly thumb-tacked to the walls of multiple underground lairs forming throughout the Pacific Northwest right now.

I'm building my bunker as we speak.

Wait, bunker's are normally underground, right? Don't the "Murder Hornets" nest underground?

Why did I do that?

Welp, it was nice knowing y'all.

Day 53 of quarantine.

I gone...

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During Older Americans Month in May:

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- 'Like' UMRC on Facebook, read our blog posts, and share our stories!
- Send notes or cards to our residents and team members to show you care!

For more information, visit
umrc.com/umrc-foundation



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805 West Middle Street, Chelsea, MI 48118



By Kitty Golding

Kitty & Company will be conducting a series of short interviews with Chelsea Residents for 52 weeks, bringing to light differing personalities and design styles in our community. Perhaps you will meet someone new through these weekly interviews or perhaps it will be YOU! Stay tuned and follow us each week – we now introduce you to **Mr. Todd Kauranen**.

What is your profession and for how long? Industrial Design.

When did you move to Chelsea? Where did you live prior to this? My wife and I moved here in March of 1997. We lived in a small pop up camper inside a barn while we were building our first home. Before this we rented a 25 foot by 25 foot house for the first five years of our marriage in order to save our money to buy the land for our new home.

What do you love about where you currently live? I love living rurally because we are free from most of the distractions of the world. Our property allows for many genuine honest tasks that are therapeutic in nature, such as harvesting all our own firewood, gardening, raising chickens and hunting game.

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

What three words describe your style? Innovative, Analytical, Nonconformist

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 the 70's in Hartland MI. The small hometown community is probably the biggest common denominator.

Who most influenced your design styles? I think what has most influenced my design styles come from heroes in the movies I like, culture and real life. The attributes that I admire in these influences trickle into my choices in

fashion, art, products etc.

What are you most inspired by in your design/decor?

- 1. Nature:** Textures.
- 2. Travel:** Rich colors and patinas.
- 3. History:** 1920's through early 1940's Cars, Fashion, the Italian futurists.
- 4. Urban Culture:** BANSKY, raw industrial.
- 5. Other:** Subtle tension with superb proportions.

When entering your home, how do you want it to feel? I want it to feel like a refuge from the world that exemplifies who we are as a family.

What is one trend in design you do NOT like? Trends themselves, carve your own path!

Have you stayed true to a design style throughout the years, or have you fluctuated in your tastes? We have stayed fairly steady and really only have changed colors.

Which room in your home gets the most use? Please give any explanation as well: The kitchen / It is where the food is!

Is there any design choice you regret when you built your home? I would like to replace the wrap around porch ceiling with a wood ceiling and install some fans.

If you are a pet owner, has that influenced your choices in design? We do have animals, but I haven't made decisions based on them. My only annoyance is that our dog lets himself out and I would like to have a metal plate around the

door handle as it is all scratched up.

If you were moving and could only pick one item from your home to keep, which would it be and why? I would pick the cherry cabinet I made for my wife to put in our foyer, because I wouldn't want to build it again.

If you were given \$1,000 to buy a new piece of art, what would it be? More than likely a modern abstract with bold lines and colors.

No room is complete without: good lighting.

I tend to be- a minimalist by nature.

What are you currently doing to pass the time during the COVID-19 State shutdown? Getting ready for the growing season and the coming winter.

A few of your favorite things!

Movie: Pursuit of Happiness.

Historical Place You Have Visited: Tivoli, in Italy.

Scent: Basi.

Season: Fall.

Song, Artist or style of Music: Hauser.

Food: Italian.

Bucket List Travel Destination: Finland.

Museum: The Louvre.

Item on a bookshelf: Miniature Radio Flyer Wagon.

Color: Black.

Design Style: Clean and Dark.

Hobbies: Land management.

Tree or plant: I prefer hickory for its strength.

Pets?: Dog person all the way. We do have cats but they



All photos submitted by Todd Kauranen

are not allowed in the house.

Kitty's note: I met Todd (and his wife) a long time ago – around 16 years ago at church. Todd has a creative talent that never stops – from furniture design and build, to product de-

sign/create and sell, pieces of artwork to woodworking (see the stair case photo that he designed and built for his home). Our boys have become the best of friends. Todd inspired my son to raise chickens, and taught my boys on

occasion, when they were visiting, various drawing techniques. There was always learning through life, happening at the Kauranen Homestead. I also have enjoyed their home and their style. It is beautifully REAL.



Kauranen Homestead

Better Luck Next Time



By Dave Merchant
dmerchant9701@yahoo.com

Life throws a lot of unexpected things to those who are not always prepared for them. It seems some things are good for the people and some things you have to shake your head and just wonder what is happening.

This is a hard time for older people as well as 2020 Chelsea seniors.

Death is a hard thing to handle, but so is missing out on some of the best mo-

ments of your life.

Graduation and Prom are very big deals.

This is the first time this has ever happened in the history of the world.

It seems that the Class of 2020 has had some very rough bumps in the road. No sports since March.

The Winter Sports never got to finish. Spring Sports never got started.

Who knows, maybe they will learn and become stronger for this.

Congrats to all the graduates who are going to further their education. Kudos to those playing sports.

The senior Chelsea Bulldogs are a special group who deserve to be recog-

nized.

Life does not make things easy and no one wants to be the first class for this to happen.

Stay physically fit, keep your mind sharp, and remember you are all special.

From beginning to end, you are all heroes. So keep your head high, be glad for all of the teachers, coaches, and administrators you have had. They helped build and shape your lives.

Practice social distancing, use your smart attitudes and common sense.

Stay safe and be the best person you can be.



Staircase designed and built by Todd