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Mikey & Me in Chelsea: An Update



Pictured is Mikey & Me located in Chelsea. Mikey & Me is a Foster Care Facility that recently completed their 153rd dog adoption

By Charla Hamilton
charlachelseaguardian@gmail.com

Back in the Spring of 2018, Chelsea Guardian had the pleasure of meeting and interviewing owner of Mikey & Me

continued on page 5

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Because we are in the midst of winter and a pandemic, instead of hosting Chocolate Extravaganza this year, #shopchelseamich merchants are turning their attention to Valentine's Day. They will be featuring imaginative gift ideas to make it easy to find the perfect gifts for Valentine's Day giving.

While Chelsea is a relatively small community, it has a lot to offer!! A glimpse into the types of gifts you might purchase in Chelsea includes items ranging from one-of-a-kind jewelry to functional products for your home. You can purchase furniture, rugs, lights, pillows, throw blankets, flooring, ap-

continued on page 9

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Story and photo on page 8.
Photos Courtesy of Megan Skeans.

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Chelsea City Council Meeting featured 23 Participants in Public Hearing

By Aimee Bingham Osinski
anbingham@gmail.com

The Chelsea City Council meeting took place over Zoom on Monday, February 1, 2021. It started at 7 pm. Community members were ready to speak during the public hearing. Acknowledging the massive amount of public wanting the chance to speak, a small adjustment was made to allow for a presentation by the University of Michigan Dow team regarding Solar feasibility for the community.

The Dow Sustainability Fellows did a presentation of their research and findings for placing a solar array in Chelsea. The slides detailing their findings can be found on the City of Chelsea website under the Feb. 1st meeting packet. Click on the blue link under the presentation to view the slides presented. In short, they determined the best location and provided the details and subsequent potential issues and decisions to be made, with suggestions for the City on the best way to make it happen with the best outcome for all parties.

The positive potential impact on the environment was particularly impressive. The work completed saved the city huge amounts in consulting fees making the possibility of the project more likely. The Council was able to ask the team questions. Most questions concerned the cost of maintenance. The city now has an invaluable resource should it decide to move forward with a solar array.

The meeting was opened for public participation. The entirety of community members wanting to speak were there to address the Bruce Judge review of the police complaint. Most were happy that the City Council elected to hire an independent third party to conduct a review of policy and behaviors of the Chelsea Police Department. They also felt confidence in the review provided by Bruce Judge. The summary of his review is located on the City of Chelsea website, under the Feb. 1st meeting agenda and packet. The majority of citizens speaking requested that The Council drop the charges and either let go of the

Chief of Police or that he retire. Some people shared stories that were really difficult to hear. A woman spoke of a cousin who suffered from mental illness and was shot and killed by the police at the age of 19. A boy named Kevin, who had someone else read his statement, told a story about having a gun pointed at him for trespassing. While he was trespassing, the gun seemed excessive and left a lasting impact on him. Carolyn Robbins spoke on behalf of her brother Eric. Eric was pulled over at the age of seventeen by Chelsea police for a misdemeanor. The girl explained that the police aggressively tried to pull him from his car. He got scared, drove off and crashed. He died on impact. She continued to explain that nobody notified her family for five hours and it was on Facebook before police arrived. The police stated that her brother committed suicide and it was the result of bad parenting, to the parents who have just been told their child is gone. She explained that she was afraid to

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Getting Started With Clicker Training



By Laura Perkins

For animal trainers, spring is conference season. This year our conferences are once again virtual, but you can still feel the excitement of other like-minded professionals “gathering” from around the country and even the world.

This past weekend was one of my very favorite conferences - Clicker Expo! So, I thought I would use this month's article to

share a little bit about clicker training.

First things first. A clicker is a small plastic box with a button that makes a sharp click noise when you press it. Sort of like a very loud pen clicking noise. Sometimes there is a misunderstanding that the click is an instruction for your dog to do something. This isn't quite right. The clicker is simply a communication tool to let your learner know that

they did something right and will be getting a reinforcer for that. It always comes after the behavior you like. It is useful because the noise is short, unique, and easy to replicate consistently.

When you first click your clicker, it will be meaningless to your pet. You have to give the clicker meaning by introducing it. To introduce the clicker, you can simply click and then give your pet a treat. Repeat that order several times. The clicker should come to mean “a treat is coming!”. It is really important that you are still and wait to reach for the treat until after you click the clicker. If you start to reach for the treat first, the click sound will become background noise to your pet and you'll lose the critical meaning of that sound.

This is a useful meaning because it can help us to communicate the exact moment when our pets are doing something we want

continued on page 3

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Obituaries Marjorie Jane Daniels



Chelsea, Michigan.

Age 91, passed away peacefully Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at her home, surrounded by love. She was born December 3, 1929, in Ann Arbor, the daughter of Lee & Sylvia (Williams) Ferguson.

Marjorie owned Uptown Antiques in Chelsea for many years. She and Bob were the majority owners of Chelsea Lumber. Marjorie was proud to be a farm girl who attended a one-room school house through the 8th grade. She then attended Chelsea High School, graduating in 1947. She could drive

a tractor at the age of 13. Marjorie paid for her senior year of college at EMU by raising ducks. She graduated from EMU with a degree in Art History. Marjorie was a descendant of John Williams who was the founder of Webster Township and Webster Church. She supported many charities, including the Chelsea Historical Society, Chelsea Community Foundation, the Purple Rose, Cancer Society, and the Humane Society of Huron Valley. Marjorie touched a lot of people in quiet ways. She loved the game of golf, and was very good at it. Marjo-

rie played at Inverness and at Hilton Head. She had an uncanny knack of evaluating other people's golf swing. Marjorie loved to work in the yard and created a beautiful garden. Her Washington Street home was featured on house tours for many years.

On December 21, 1950, she married Robert Daniels in Chelsea, and he preceeded her in death on September 01, 2012. Survivors include three children, Jeffrey (Kathleen), John (Donna), both of Chelsea; and Jodi Daniels of Chelsea and Mt. Pleasant, SC; 8 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Jay (Bonnie) Ferguson, and Donald (Anita) Ferguson. She was preceded in death by her sister, Thelma.

A private service has been held. Burial took place at Oak Grove Cemetery, Chelsea. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Chelsea Historical Society. Arrangements by Cole Funeral Chapel.

Getting Started With Clicker Training

▶ continued from page 2
them to do again! It is quick and clear if you develop it and use it correctly. The click should always follow the behavior you like. Some people are tempted to use the click noise to call their dog or get their attention - this will work but it isn't a good idea because it will change the meaning of the click! Instead, wait for that moment that your dog looks at you and click and treat for that check-in behavior.

Once you have introduced the clicker to your pet, you are ready to use it to teach them something new.

A fun activity to try is to keep your clicker and a few treats handy as you go about your daily routine. Try to observe your pet. When they do a behavior that you like or think is cute, click and treat! For example, when your dog gets up from a nap and does a big stretch, click and treat. If you are consistent with this, you might notice that your dog will stretch more often! Then you can give the behavior a name by saying a word right before your dog does the stretch. And don't forget to click and treat! Soon, you'll be

able to say your word for stretching and your dog will stretch for the click and treat - a fun trick!

Clicker training isn't just for tricks though. You can use it to capture behavior that you like around the house like resting while you cook or eat dinner. You can build cooperative care behaviors such as standing still while being brushed or having feet dried off. You can also teach basic obedience like walking nicely on leash, coming when called, and staying while you open a door.

Perhaps the coolest thing about clicker training is that it works with all animals. Just this weekend I've seen videos of clicker training being used with dogs, cats, donkeys,

goats, horses, and even reptiles and fish. So no matter what kind of animal you share your home with, give it a try! Grab a clicker from your local pet store, find some delicious (but small) treats for your pet, introduce the clicker and try capturing some behaviors you like!

Laura Perkins owns Laura Perkins Animal Behavior, LLC in Chelsea, MI where she provides behavior and training consulting for pet owners. She has studied animals and behavior her whole life with a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science from the University of Illinois and a Master's of Science in Behavior Analysis from the University of North Texas.

Yep we cover Chelsea

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#DropTheCharges campaign initiated

Press Release From OWOFC Chelsea

A group of concerned citizens supported by Chelsea One World One Family is launching #DropTheCharges campaign. This campaign is aimed at the Chelsea Police Department and Chelsea City Council to dismiss the civil infractions that have been issued to peaceful protesters from marches in Chelsea that occurred last summer. These citations are still being issued as recently as last week! The campaign maintains that these marches are protected public speech and that citations are being issued selectively and punitively. Further, this is the only community in our area to issue citations to peaceful protesters. This campaign is demanding an admission that mistakes were made, an accounting of police action and a way forward.

These tickets are the most visible manifestation of issues that have gripped this town since the summer. Dismissing the tickets is the first step in the process of bringing police reform and community engagement to the reform process. To assist your understanding, a brief synopsis of the issues follows:

After the murder of George Floyd, a large community rally was held in Pierce Park on June 4 as a protest against police brutality and in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. This rally joined many across the country calling for an end to racism and in protest of the killing of unarmed black citizens by police. After this large rally, a group of Chelsea youth under the heading of what was to become ARCY (Anti-Racist Chelsea Youth) led multiple marches through Chelsea to

continue this protest and call for action. These marches were held weekly and, on at least two occasions, were met with counter-protesters who were vocal and abusive in their response to the marches, blocking the marchers on one occasion and impeding traffic on Main Street with their line-up of vehicles and flags.

At the June 25 march, a white woman confronted one of the young women of color taking part in the protest. She became aggressive and punched one of the young women of color, causing physical harm. The police responded to the scene but were dismissive of the young people and did not apprehend the woman accused of assaulting the youth even though the youth was bleeding. The subsequent police attitude when the assaulted youth went to file a report was just as dismissive

and disrespectful. The youth and her mother filed a complaint about this treatment. An investigation was launched and in the process it was found that one of the investigating officers was posting blatantly racist, homophobic and misogynist memes on his Facebook page. He was suspended with pay pending an investigation and was allowed to resign. Chief Toth said publically that his use of Facebook and the attitudes of this officer were not known to him prior to this incident, though previous complaints have been filed regarding his conduct. (To further exacerbate the situation, the youth who was assaulted was issued a citation for her protesting. Pictures from her assault investigation were actually used to identify her for the purpose of issuing the citation! See below. She is working with the ACLU and the UofM Civil Rights Litigation Initiative to contest her ticket. The case against the perpetrator was finally given to the County prosecutor's office and charges

were brought against the women who assaulted the teen. That case is still pending.) At the march on July 31, the police department responded to the march by showing up in force, not to protect but to take photographs of all the protesters. There were multiple officers in cars and on foot and on the roof of City Hall taking pictures of anyone and everyone protesting.

Based on this action, a complaint was filed with the City and Chief Toth regarding this over-reaction and the intimidating intent it had on marchers exercising their constitutional rights. City Council hired an outside law firm to investigate this complaint

(on Sept 21). Meanwhile the police department used the photographs they obtained to issue citations for impeding traffic. To the best of our knowledge, no tickets were issued to any of the counter-demonstrators. The photographs of this march and subsequent marches have been used by the Police Department to continue to identify protesters and to continue to issue citations, the most recent on January 26, 2021 (over 4 months after the protest)! The marches, the assault and counter-reaction exposed serious concerns with the objectivity of the Chelsea Police Force and the divided views

continued on page 9

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Mikey & Me in Chelsea: An Update

continued from page 1
 Me in Chelsea, Daniel DePew. He graciously welcomed us in, gave us a tour of his property, and let us meet some of the dogs that were available for adoption at that time.

Since then a lot has happened at Mikey & Me. There have been many changes and a lot of growth. Daniel explains a little background information on Mikey & Me: "Mikey & Me is a Foster Care Facility operating out of my converted 120 year old dairy barn in Chelsea. We first opened the doors on December 1st of 2016." DePew got the idea for Mikey & Me after his dog Mikey passed away. "Mikey was a huge part of my life for most of his 17 years. Mikey died in 2009 at the age of 17, and on that day I promised him that I would provide care for other dogs that needed me because he had brought so much joy and perspective to my life," stat-

ed DePew. Out of this promise, Mikey & Me was born.

DePew stated that they just completed their 153rd adoption and have two more pending. "We've had an adoption every ten days, on average, for four straight years," said DePew. "We work directly with Happy Days Rescue to pull homeless dogs out of city shelters to give them a second chance at living a happy and fulfilling life (unfortunately, we don't have the capacity or resources to take in dogs that are being surrendered by their owners). We have 35+ volunteers that make our mission possible; a volunteer comes out to walk and spend time with our dogs every four hours, from 7:00 am through 7:00 pm, every day of the year (volunteers must be age 18 and above)."

Since 2018 Mikey & Me has added some additions to the facility: "We have added a large

fenced-in, outdoor play area where the dogs can be off leash to experience more freedom while playing outside," stated DePew. "One of my volunteers also created a wonderful indoor playroom and exercise area for our dogs to use during freezing cold and inclement weather. We also just had a volunteer and her husband donate a high efficiency furnace that should be in place and operating by next fall. Keeping the dogs comfortable in all seasons is important to DePew: "We've added ceiling fans throughout the kennel area to help keep the dogs cool in the summer and warm in the winter," he said.

"We make sure each dog will get lots of love, exercise, excellent care and, with the help of Happy Days Rescue, any medical treatment or training they may need to make them more adoptable (we currently have 2 residents that arrived with Heart Worm disease and we will ensure they get the medical attention they need to become healthy again).

"We don't have plans to become larger because providing one-on-one, attentive care is the most important part of our mission. (By fostering just 6-7 dogs at any given time, we keep the kennels manageable and the volunteer shifts to about two hours or less)."

DePew mentioned he is very thankful to the support from the local community of Chelsea and beyond. He explains how he involves the community and especially younger people: "We like to involve young people, which we believe is highly important for both the dogs and the younger volunteers, we will often host events to allow student groups through Anna's Kindness, Girl Scout Troops, young families, etc. to walk and spend time with our dogs which helps them become better socialized. We also arrange Meet & Greets for our homeless dogs while supporting social distancing and the use of masks at all times."

Mikey & Me currently has six dogs available for adoption:

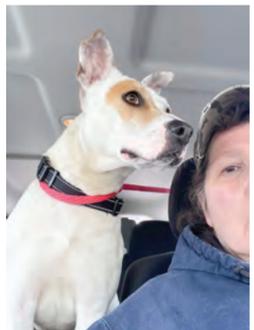
Bailey, a 3 yr. old Golden Lab mix, currently in training for fear based anxiety, 68 pounds. **Bandit**, about 12 years old, very mellow, great with other dogs and people, was living on a chain outside for 10+ years. **Bishop**, Lab mix, 10-11 months old, very sweet, doesn't bark



Bandit



Duke



Wally



Bishop



Bailey



Penny

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much, loves interacting with people, 43 pounds. **Duke**, a Husky/Shepherd mix, 11 months old, neutered, enjoys people and other dogs, 50 pounds. **Wally**, 2 years old, gentle, loving, currently being treated for Heart Worm disease, 46 pounds. **Penny**, a 5 month old Golden mix, very friendly, loves to cuddle, currently 29 pounds.

How you can help

Mikey & Me: Visitation/ Meet & Greets at Mikey & Me are scheduled by appointment only. If you see a dog posted on the Mikey & Me Facebook page that interests you, please submit an adoption application at happydaysdogandcatrescue.org to begin the process for meeting that dog. You can visit Mikey & Me's Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/Mikey-Me>.

If you would like to volunteer at Mikey & Me to help them save more homeless dogs, please send an email to danieldepew347@gmail.com.

If you would like to donate to their mission, donations can be made out to Mikey & Me and mailed to: Mikey & Me 465 S. Freer Rd. Chelsea, Mi 48118

February Events 2021

Work Out to Win! (CHE/DEX)
 Visit your center 10 times in February for a chance to win great prizes. At the end of February, if you have 10 visits, your name will be entered in our prize drawings. No registration is required. Just check in at the front desk and you're all set to start. FOR MORE INFORMATION please visit the Member Service Desk.

Valentine's Gift Card Special (CHE/DEX)
 February 1-14
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Virtual LIVE February Workshops*
Creating An Exercise Workout (CHE)
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 Ryan Watkins, Fitness Specialist, ACTION Certified Personal Trainer

The Importance of Stretching (DEX)
 Tuesday, February 23 | 5:00pm
 Nicole Swisher, Fitness Specialist, ACSM Certified Personal Trainer

Expanding Your Exercise Library (CHE)
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CHELSEA ATHLETICS



SWIM BEGINS

By Dave Merchant
dmerchant9701@yahoo.com

Chelsea swam at Adrian at the end of last week and they swam at Dundee over the weekend.

The Bulldogs have 16 guys out for

the team this year, with two very strong junior swimmers and an extremely talented freshman diver. They hope to finish in the middle of the pack in the SEC White, simply because of their size, and the

fact that their team is very young. The juniors and seniors make up only 25% of the team (4 guys total). The underclassmen far outnumber the upperclassmen.

Key swimmers

include: Parker Olk who will look to pick up where he left off last March, primarily in the 100 butterfly and 200 IM. Landen Collins plans to be a force once again this year in the 50 and 100

freestyle. Mitch Brown comes in as a freshman diver having won the middle school MIS-CA meet as both a 7th and 8th grader, winning by over 50 points last year. He looks to make a big splash this

season in both the SEC and at the division 3 level. Between Mitch and Cole Warren from Dexter the championship meet should be fun to watch.

CHELSEA EQUESTRIAN TEAM IS READY TO BEGIN



By Charla Hamilton
charlachelseaguardian@gmail.com

(Special Thank you to Megan Skeans for providing information)

The Chelsea Equestrian team is excited to begin their season. Their Round Up is beginning of March.

This is where people can come hear about the team and sign up. Practices will officially start for the Junior season in April (weather permitting). The Junior show is Father's Day weekend.

Then the seniors start practicing and

their 3 shows are September 11, 18 and 19. Depending on placing, they may go to regionals the beginning of October.

Coach Megan Skeans says last year they had roughly 12 on each team, which is big compared to most schools.

The equestrian team is looking to the community to help with fundraising: "Fundraising is vitally important to the equestrian team. We are a self-funded club sport so we don't receive any financial help from the school district. Usual-

ly we do a bottle drive and business walk to help raise money. Due to Covid, we were unable to walk the business district last year. We relied solely on the bottle drive which was tough. The money we raise goes to help pay for team registration fees with our governing body (Michigan Interscholastic Horsemanship Association), show costs (registration, stalls, camping, etc), practice equipment, and the banquet.

Without the support of the local com-

munity, we could not have a successful season," stated Megan.

Practices are held in Chelsea at the fairgrounds. All shows are in Mason at the Ingham Co. Fairgrounds. "The equestrian team is a fantastic opportunity for Chelsea students to demonstrate responsibility, develop new friendships, practice good sportsmanship and learn new skills," said Megan.

For more information regarding Chelsea Equestrian team you can visit their Facebook

page here: <https://www.facebook.com/ChelseaEquestrian>. For individuals who don't have Facebook you can contact the coaches with questions at this email address: ChelseaEquestrianTeam@gmail.com. For donations, the same email is also linked to their Paypal account where donations can be made electronically. If individuals prefer sending a check, contact the coaches at the email listed and they will send an address.

Chelsea City Council Meeting featured 23 Participants in Public Hearing

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be at the protests because she'd already raised questions about the CPD and feared retribution. A mother of mixed race children and a Black foster child became visibly emotional. She pleaded for her children to just be treated like every other child. The issues raised were police escalation, the continued holding on to surveillance of people, which the public implied felt politically motivated, and the continued issuing of citations long after the fact and how citations were issued and who was selected. People who protested all over Washtenaw County spoke and stated they worked hand in hand with other police departments to maintain safety. One woman did speak in defense of the police. The Public comments ended at 9pm.

The Bruce Judge review was next on the agenda. Bruce stated that he did not find evidence of laws being broken in his review. He also explained that the Chief was welcoming and shared information willingly. He stated the police de-

partment does have widespread support of the community. But the scope of enforcement for traffic laws, the surveillance of protestors and selection of protestors for citations should be addressed to regain trust within the community. The Council was able to ask questions. Bruce established that laws were not broken. The question of selective enforcement was big. The question of utilizing evidence from an assault investigation to issue a citation against the victim of the assault was addressed. Bruce acknowledged that it is unusual to continue to issue citations this long after the incident and that the process would normally be complete within a few days of the incident. Several council members asked if the charges could be dropped. Bruce stated that typically, yes, they can, but they would need to find out for sure from the City's attorney. He also suggested that the Chief would need to make a statement after legal proceedings are complete. Usually, it's not possible to make a public statement while

the situation works its way through court. But Bruce does believe the Chief needs to explain his actions and motives to the public. The Council opted to accept the report. And its police policy is on the agenda for the vision session next week. The Council has a big job of trying to figure out how to rebuild public trust. Their ability to impact change appears to be in a policy standpoint since everything was done in a legal manner. A resolution to carry forward poverty exemptions on home taxes passed.

It was time to hear staff reports. The community development report is available online under Feb. 1 meeting agenda and packet. Building permits were up during covid from the year prior. Perhaps the result of more people being home and having time to complete home improvement projects. WAVE is looking for board members and there are vacancies on The Human Rights Commission.

The meeting concluded at 10:30.

Laura Perkins Animal Behavior

CPDT-KA, M.S. Applied Behavior Analysis

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 309-370-8233

WINTER SPORTS ADMISSION POLICY

HIGH SCHOOL | Admission is \$6 (includes ticket fee)

Boys and Girls Bowling:

- No spectators at this time due to state-mandated limitations at bowling centers

Boys and Girls Basketball:

- Home team participants will receive 25 codes that will allow for the purchase of two tickets per code
- Visiting team AD will receive 25 codes that will allow for the purchase of two tickets per code
- The gymnasium will be cleared between each contest

Hockey:

- Home team will be allowed two admissions per athlete
- Visiting team AD will receive 25 codes that will allow for the purchase of two tickets per code

Boys Swimming, Wrestling, & Competitive Cheer:

- Home team participants will receive codes to allow for the purchase of up to two tickets per code
- Visiting team AD will receive a TBD number of codes based on how many teams are at the event

MIDDLE SCHOOL | No Admission Charge for Winter Sports

- All sports will be allowed up to 2 admissions per athlete based on venue capacity
- Coaches will facilitate sign-up for admission
- Visiting team spectators are TBD based on the number of teams or capacity at an event
- Visiting team AD will provide us a list for admission prior to the event

PLEASE NOTE:

- There will be no public sale of tickets for winter events.
- All tickets must be purchased on the GoFan Website online or via a mobile device.
- A valid code is needed in order to purchase tickets.
- You must have your ticket(s) available on your mobile device prior to entering the event.
- Screenshots are NOT allowed.

You can purchase tickets at: <https://gofan.co/app/school/M19914>

Love Local!

You can't buy Love, but you can buy Local, & it's kind of the same thing

► continued from page 1
pliances, cool beverage refrigerators, and steam de-wrinkling dryers that can make a world of difference and bring great joy!

Give a gift of fresh produce, a variety of fresh, frozen and cured meats while simultaneously supporting multiple small businesses. And yes, spring will happen, but to brighten the dark days until then, consider gardening supplies, flowers, plants, pots, and planters. And to keep everyone occupied, Chelsea has toys, puzzles, and games.

You will find clothing for all ages and bespoke jewelry. To help combat the winter blues - home decor, candles, and for that DIY person in your life- paint, and supplies. Lovely costume jewelry and accessories make great gifts too!

Because we have a bit of winter ahead of us, think about hats and gloves to keep your loved ones warm. Choose an exceptional coffee, or specialty cafe drink, or beverages, with and without alcohol! A gift of breakfast, lunch, or dinner instead of cooking!! You will find a variety of take-out menus that include quiche, bagels, burgers, quesadillas, fish & chips, BBQ, salads, soups, appetizers, sushi, cookies and desserts, and so much more! And don't forget that special Valentine's Day Dinner in the privacy of your home!

A perfect and timeless gift - BOOKS! You will find a variety of Valentine's day greeting cards, and note-

books to write love letters. Choose a unique handmade tile, find an antique or vintage gift! Great finds include sweet treats and handmade soaps and skincare products. If you still aren't sure or haven't found the perfect gift, a Gift card from your favorite Chelsea business is always in style. Check out #shopchelseamich members for more Valentine's Day gift ideas at www.shopchelseamich.com.

Remember small businesses are the heart of our community and are among the heroes of our local economy. Small businesses create jobs and growth, but are facing the challenge of a lifetime. The COVID-19 pandemic isn't just a public health emergency; it's also an economic crisis that is hitting small businesses exceptionally hard. Many local and loyal customers recognize just how important these businesses are in making Chelsea a great place to live and visit. "We have confidence in our community to rally around the local business owners - and in return, we promise a safe and enjoyable shopping experience." shared Jennifer Fairfield, owner of The Garden Mill.

The safety of everyone involved is the number one priority. All businesses are implementing CDC guidelines, social distancing, wearing masks, and providing take-out dining. Many offer online shopping, shop-by-phone, curbside pickup, and other options to make it easy and safe for you to shop local.

While you are out

and about shopping in Chelsea, celebrate Valentine's Day with a tour of Sculpture-Walk, Chelsea's outdoor sculpture gallery. Open every day, all day! Information about the sculptures and artists who created them is located at <https://chelseafestivals.com/sculpturewalk/>. If you would like to schedule a private SculptureWalk tour, please contact Visual Arts Coordinator, Crystal Scott at visualarts@chelseafestivals.com.

On February 13, another outdoor event will be hosted by the Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce. As part of Sweet Saver Saturday, the Chamber is partnering with The Lakehouse Bakery and Ugly Dog Distillery featuring fresh cookie treats! To find out more, please go to their website chelseamich.com.

"Sharing the love" is a popular theme for Valentine's Day. As you plan your Valentine's gift shopping, please note that during this very challenging season, hours vary by business; be patient, kind, and check their hours when you plan your visit.

A group of independent business owners who possess entrepreneurial spirits has joined forces and created #shopchelseamich. This collaborative team includes a network of 30+ Chelsea merchants and restaurants who have participated in and promoted Wine, Women & Shopping, Chocolate Extravaganza, and Sidewalk Sales events over the years.

#DropTheCharges campaign initiated

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of the community, even before citations were issued.

City Council reacted by passing a motion to hold (2) Listening Sessions to hear citizen concerns and to develop a Council response and to hold a subsequent Town Hall to review these concerns and remedies with the citizens.

The Listening Sessions were held over (8) hours on July 15 and September 3. The first Listening Session had been scheduled for July 13 but too many citizens tried to sign on and overwhelmed the City's

zoom account. It was rescheduled for two days later. Transcripts of these Listening Sessions are available. A Council Work Session to discuss the many issues brought up in the Listening Sessions was discussed but not actually scheduled until January 11, 2021! At that time Council simply reviewed the existing police policies and listed the training the police officers received. There was no discussion of the citizen concerns in the Listening Session or any further statement to the community to follow up the 8 hrs. of citizen comment.

All throughout the fall, community members have been speaking during Public Comment at Council meetings to keep the issue of police reform on the table. No action has been taken but the request has been made for a facilitator to help moderate the promised Town Hall and/or help Council and the community develop new policing guidelines. These have largely fallen on deaf ears. The mayor has declared that she is the only one who can conduct community meetings that involve council - though this concept has been used

successfully in other communities.

This past week, two key events occurred: First, the protesters who chose to fight their tickets (assisted by the ACLU and UofM Civil Rights Litigation Initiative team) had their first court appearance to contest the tickets. The judge is expected to make a decision on February 22. The #Drop-TheCharges campaign was launched as a response.

Second, the report prepared by Bruce Judge was released on January 28. Mr. Judge was the attorney assigned to investigate the complaint filed against the police de-

partment for their reaction to the July 31 protest. Mr. Judge solicited and received multiple citizens' comments, testimonials, photos and videos of the event in question and the subsequent marches, especially the one of Sept 4 that was also disrupted by counter-protests.

The report concluded, among several strong statements, that the response by the CPD to the protesters on July 31st was within the law, but excessive. It noted that CPD also photographed people who were not breaking the law and plan to retain those photographs indefinitely, and that they

should be destroyed. It called into question the CPD's use of photographs of the victim of an assault to later use to issue a citation. The deep division in this community was noted and the investigator is advising that there be a clear statement from Chief Toth and Mayor Johnson regarding these events, regarding the criteria used for the citations, the retention of the photographs and why citations are still being issued four months after the incident.

The City Council is due to hear from Bruce Judge and discuss the report at its meeting on February 1.



Chelsea Police Department Weekly Summary

Incident #: 21-161

Location: 200 block of Harrison Street

Date: January 25, 2021

Time: 6:09 pm

I N F O R M A - T I O N : While on routine patrol a complainant came to the Chelsea Police Department to report that they may have fallen victim to a scam. The complainant stated that they had received a phone call from a company reporting themselves to be from AT&T DirecTV and reported that they were eligible to receive a “Special offer” for one year of service, but payment would have to be made upfront. The subject was directed to go to a local retailer and purchase E Bay gift cards for the upfront cost of \$360.00. The victim was advised that this promotion was through a partnership with E Bay and that is why the gift cards had to be E Bay gift cards. After purchasing the gift cards, the victim supplied the activation numbers for the gift cards to the suspect and was given a “confirmation number”. The next day the victim grew suspicious of what had transpired and after contacting E Bay they were told that this was a scam.

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2007 GMC Half Ton	\$3,995
2009 Ford Escape <i>Locally owned</i>	\$4,995
2006 Equinox... <i>6 cyl</i>	\$5,995
2007 Ford Focus ZX3... <i>105k Miles, 2 Door</i>	\$4,495
2002 Ford Ranger Extended Cab <i>1 Owner</i>	\$5,495
2012 Dodge Journey	\$5,995
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