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Chelsea Holiday Traditions Underway

Story and more photos on page 2. Photos by Aimee Bingham.

BALLET CHELSEA'S MAGICAL NUTCRACKER PERFORMANCE

Photos courtesy Michael Bessom Photography

Let the holiday season begin. Step into the Land of Sweets with Ballet Chelsea's 28th Annual Nutcracker - the perfect festive outing for families and friends. Ballet Chelsea is collaborating once again with the Jackson Symphony Orchestra at the Potter Center, December 12–14. Make the day extra sweet with the

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Chelsea Senior Center and Chelsea Area Fire Authority Collaborate to Keep Seniors Safe at Home

Chelsea Senior Center
Thriving in 2025 & Celebrating 60 years!

For many older adults, staying in their own home safely and independently is a top priority. Thanks to a collaboration between Chelsea Senior Center (CSC) and the Chelsea Area Fire Authority

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Chelsea Holiday Traditions Underway

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By Aimee Bingham Osinski
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Dec 5th was the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony in Pierce Park. The Hometown Holiday Light Parade followed on Saturday, Dec 6th. If you missed these cherished traditions, there are plenty of holiday traditions ongoing. The Lightpole display and contest is a fun Hometown Holidays tradition and can be viewed from the warmth of your car driving through town. Children can mail letters to Santa in Palmer Commons, and the Santa Paws Pet Photo booth is at Lane Animal Hospital. The Gingerbread house display is at 102 E. Middle, and Palmer auto service is accepting unwrapped gifts until noon on Dec 12 to be distributed locally through Faith in Action. Events for Hometown Holiday can be found here https://chelseamich.com/hometown-holiday/. This week, Ballet Chelsea is gearing up for its 28th year of performing The Nutcracker. The Ballet Chelsea version of the Nutcracker is performed at The Potter Center at Jackson College and is performed with The Jackson Symphony Orchestra, a choir, professional ballerinas, and students of Ballet Chelsea.

Students of Ballet Chelsea have been making their rounds, visiting local schools, senior centers, and the Chelsea District Library, to get the word out about their performances. Last week, dancers wowed patrons of CDL's story time. The young attendees wil surely want to attend the time-honored Sugar Plum Tea, which takes place on Sunday, Dec 14th at the Potter Center. Children will be provided copious treats, a craft and the magic of the Land of Sweet before the show on Sunday.

Ballet Chelsea will perform on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Tickets are still available and can be purchased online at https://balletchelsea.org/tickets/.

Indigenous Perspectives on National Parks and Public Lands

Photo by Aimee Bingham

By Aimee Bingham
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Wednesday Nov. 19th 2025, the Chelsea District Library hosted a discussion and learning opportunity for Library patrons. Dr. Kyle Whyte, Dr. Whyte is a George Willis Pack Professor in the School for Environment and Sustainability and University Diversity and Social Transformation Professor at The University of Michigan. He is founding Faculty Director of the Tishman Center for Social Justice and the Environment, Principal Investigator of the new Environmental Justice + Humanities Hub, co-Principal Investigator of the Global Center for Climate Change and Transboundary Waters, Faculty Associate of Native American Studies, Principal Investigator of the Secretariat for the Pathways Alliance for Change and Transformation, STRIDE Committee member, affiliate Professor of Philosophy, and Senior Fellow in the Michigan Society of Fellows. His list of accolades, previous work and research are too long to list. But, he is an impressive scholar, educator, and environmental activist. The McKune room was packed.

When Dr. Whyte began speaking, I felt myself get uncomfortable. I'm going to be as honest as possible and face judgment with the hope that if you feel the same way, you will learn, as I did during his discussion. He explained that when the US initiated the effort to preserve National Parks, people were removed from their land. I didn't know that. Naïve, yes, and blissfully unaware. I know historically the US has removed people from their land. I know this act was violent and tragic for the people removed. I was uncomfortable because I feared he was going to tell the audience that the ethically right thing to do is to give back the land. I am admittedly selfish and don't want to lose our national park access. Initially, I was uncomfortable with the discussion. I know, I know, how incredibly selfish to want to keep something that is stolen from the rightful owners.

Dr. Whyte defined the term Indigenous. Native Americans are indigenous, but there are indigenous people all over the world. Indigenous people had their own form of government but a new regime stepped in and removed their right to govern themselves. Often, these people were not represented in the new government. Often they were exposed to horrific human rights violations. Aborigines in Australia, for example, could not vote and were forced into unpaid labor. Dr. Whyte asserted that indigenous people are historically more successful at meeting the goals of the National Parks with fewer resources. He used the Menominee tribe in Wisconsin. It owns and manages the Menominee Forest. It is a 230,000-acre forest and has been managed by the tribe for 160 years. It is a well-known example of sustainable forestry world-wide. He then brought up the Sault St, Marie Tribe in Michigan. 20% are subsistence farmers but the tribe has the smallest land base. They make no decisions on habitats and the habitats are declining. He suggested the Hiawatha National Forest should be a part of their land base and the tribe should have a voice in how it's managed.

What I learned from Dr. Whyte, through example after example, was that allowing Indigenous people a say in how lands dedicated to conservation is managed produces a better outcome at a lower cost. He also alleviated my fears that I would not be able to enjoy the National Parks if its management was not handled as it is today. Conservation, to indigenous people, does not mean removing people from the land. He detailed a legal fight between loggers and the First Nations of Vancouver Island. The First Nations won the legal battle. Vancouver Island is still a tourist destination and offers a rich educational experience to visitors. Visitors are only asked to be respectful of the culture and heritage of the area. Peru's Potato Park is one such area and Peru is the only nation in the world hitting what the Worldwatch Institute calls "the sustainability sweet spot," balancing both high levels of human development with environmentally sustainable levels of resource consumption. Unlike my initial fear, allowing Indigenous cultures to manage conservation areas does not mean losing the ability to visit. It means reducing costs associated with conservation and increasing protections for the areas.

SCIO TOWNSHIP COMPLETES LAND PRESERVATION PROJECT

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The Scio Township Land Preservation Program recently closed on a conservation easement purchase from Carol Fletcher. The property is nearly 16 acres in size with frontage on the east side of Zeeb Rd. north of Scio Church Rd. Most of the property is agricultural and it includes an historic house and barn. The conservation easement ensures that the land will never be developed but it remains in private ownership and is not open to the public.

Carol and Robert Fletcher (aka "Fletch") purchased their farm in 1978. Their primary motivation was that their children had been taking riding lessons and wanted a place to have their own horses. Carol and Fletch had spent time on farms as children and had good memories of those times.

The Fletchers are only the second owners of the farm. It had been started by the Aprill family in the 1800s, so was a centennial farm when the Fletchers purchased it. Unfortunately it had once been much larger, but the last April to own it had gradually sold off pieces of land so this was what remained. Fortunately it contained the house plus all of the barns and outbuildings, so it still functions well as a farm.

It greatly troubled both of them to see so much farmland disappearing. In addition their children all have an enduring fondness and closeness to the farm. Therefore, Carol views the conservation easement as the best way to maintain the "jewel" with which they were blessed.

Conservation easements are permanent deed restrictions on the use of a property. Purchasing easements costs less than buying the property and keeps the property on the tax rolls and contributing to the local economy. Scio Township's dedicated land preservation millage provided the entire purchase price for this conservation easement purchase.

Scio Township's land preservation program is funded by a dedicated millage which voters passed initially in 2004 and renewed twice, all by large margins. The Township has attracted over $12 million of matching funds from other sources, a rate of over $1.5 to $1 of its own. With this project the Township program has been involved in protecting 1,735 acres, with more projects set to close in the coming months.

BALLET CHELSEA'S MAGICAL NUTCRACKER PERFORMANCE

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Sugar Plum Tea on December 14. Limited seats, reserve your tickets today!

Make it a holiday tradition—get your tickets now! For more information, visit www.balletchelsea.org/tickets/. **December 12 at 7 pm, December 13 at 12 pm and 5 pm, and December 14 at 2 pm, Sugar Plum Tea at 12 pm on December 14.** Don't miss out on this festive experience! www.balletchelsea.org/tickets/.

As a nonprofit, Chelsea's mission transcends the stage, aiming to shape resilient individuals through impeccable 501(c)(3) Ballet training and performance artistry while giving back to the community through the transformative power of arts education and outreach.

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A Brief Stop: Chelsea Senior Center Helping Seniors Live with Confidence

A Brief Stop: Chelsea Senior Center Helping Seniors Live with Confidence

For many older adults, a trip to the store is not as simple as it once was. Limited mobility, caregiving demands, fixed incomes, or unreliable transportation can turn even the most essential errands into real hurdles. Beginning December 2, the Chelsea Senior Center is stepping up to quietly and respectfully help with the kind of neighborly care that has long defined the organization.

The Chelsea Senior Center's newest initiative, A Brief Stop, is a discreet personal needs closet offering adult briefs, pads, and related care products to area seniors. The goal is simple, explains Jennifer Smith, CSC Executive Director: "We want to meet needs with dignity and ensure that seniors can go about their daily lives with confidence, comfort, and one less worry."

Located inside the Chelsea Senior Center at 512 Washington Street, A Brief Stop is designed to supplement regular needs and be a discreet, easily accessible, frequently available space.

Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., A Brief Stop welcomes all area seniors. Membership at the Senior Center is not required. Visitors provide basic information, and while supplies are free of charge, reasonable limits are in place to ensure that as many seniors as possible can benefit each week. Donations of products and financial support will help keep the shelves stocked, and volunteers play a central role in creating a warm, welcoming, respectful environment.

Staff and volunteers emphasize privacy, kindness, and the belief that no one should have to choose between personal comfort and daily connection with family, friends, and community.

Chelsea Senior Center is already looking beyond its doors, planning outreach to homebound seniors starting with their current Meals on Wheels recipients and caregivers who regularly visit the building.

A Brief Stop is the latest expansion of Chelsea Community Senior Services (C2S2), launched by Chelsea Senior Center in 2013 as a grassroots partnership focused on helping older adults age safely and independently in their own homes. "All that we offer through the Chelsea Senior Center seeks to support our community members as they age," says Executive Director Jennifer Smith, "allowing seniors to live safely, independently, in a familiar environment regardless of age, income, or ability, and to live each day as they choose." Today, C2S2 continues to be at the core of Chelsea Senior Center's mission.

That mission now includes a robust array of services: the Senior Nutrition Program which includes home-delivered meals as well as onsite senior café meals, blood pressure checks, a notary public, paper shredding services, Secretary of State Mobile Office appointments, technology support, mending services, caregiver respite, transportation to and from doctor's appointments, and tax preparation assistance in addition to Chelsea Senior Center's regular offerings such as support groups, fitness and movement classes, enrichment programs, and countless opportunities to socialize and stay engaged.

The launch of A Brief Stop is made possible thanks to recent funding from the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, allocated to the Chelsea Senior Center and 10 other senior centers. Collected through the county's Older Persons Millage, these funds empower each center to meet the unique needs of its community and to continue being the "trusted boots on the ground" serving local seniors.

With careful planning and a strong track record of financial stewardship, the Chelsea Senior Center is able to put these funds to work immediately in ways that make an immediate, meaningful difference. A Brief Stop is the first of many new initiatives to come.

Keeping A Brief Stop running smoothly depends on the community. Volunteer hours are flexible and meaningful. For more information about services, volunteering, or donations, contact the Chelsea Senior Center at 734-475-9242.

A Brief Stop is more than a closet of products, it's a continuation of Chelsea Senior Center's commitment to helping all of us can age with dignity, connection, and confidence.

Aging Services Organization Names Two New Executive Directors

Russell, Shores Advance to Lead Brio Living Services' Flagship Communities

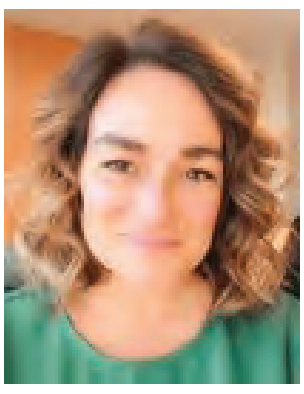
Brio LIVING SERVICES

Brio Living Services recently announced the promotion of two of its team members to executive positions at its flagship communities, following the retirement this month of Cheryl VanBemden, Executive Director of Brio's Porter Hills Village and Green House® Homes in Grand Rapids. VanBemden has served in leadership roles at Porter Hills, now Brio Living Services, for more than twenty years.

Kathy Russell, who has served Brio's Chelsea-area communities since 2018, most recently as Executive Director of Chelsea Retirement Community (CRC), The Pines, and The Cedars of Dexter, will take on the role of Executive Director at Porter Hills Village and the Green House Homes, effective December 1.

"I have a genuine passion for serving older adults and ensuring their lives are filled with purpose, dignity, and joy," said Russell. "I am eager to contribute my skills and dedication to the residents and team members of Porter Hills Village and the Green House Homes."

Jennifer Shores has served Chelsea Retirement Community (CRC) for six years, as Director of Nursing and, most recently, as Nursing Home Administrator for CRC's Kresge Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center. She has been promoted to the position of Executive Director for CRC, The Pines, and The Cedars of Dexter vacated by Russell.



Shores, who has worked in the field of aging services for the past two decades, said, "I found my passion through combining nursing and administration to be able to oversee and ensure that we encompass all aspects of resident life with a holistic approach. I am re-

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Chelsea Senior Center and Chelsea Area Fire Authority Collaborate to Keep Seniors Safe at Home

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(CAFA), that goal is more attainable for seniors throughout the Chelsea area.

As part of Chelsea Community Senior Services (C2S2), a Chelsea Senior Center program, two simple but life-saving tools - emergency lock boxes and highly visible reflective address signs - are again available to local seniors.

One of the biggest challenges first responders face during emergency calls is gaining quick access to a home when a resident cannot answer the door. The lock box initiative solves that problem.

Each lock box securely holds a house key provided by the senior. In an emergency, CAFA personnel can retrieve the key using a code to which they have sole access, allowing them to enter the home immediately without breaking down doors or causing costly damage.

"This is about removing barriers to care," said Jennifer Smith, Chelsea Senior Center Executive Director. "Minutes matter in an emergency, and this program helps ensure first responders can reach someone as quickly and safely as possible."

To participate, seniors simply complete a form at the Chelsea Senior Center and bring it to the Chelsea Area Fire Authority at 200 W. Middle St. in Chelsea. CAFA installs the lock box at no charge for seniors who live within its service area, which includes the City of Chelsea, the Townships of Lima, Lyndon, and Sylvan, and a portion of Dexter Township.

The second safety initiative focuses on making homes easier to find in emergencies. CAFA, through the Chelsea Fire Fighters Local 1889, offers customized reflective address signs designed to be highly visible at all hours.

"These signs may seem simple, but they can make a tremendous difference when seconds count," said Jon Van Hoek, Chelsea Senior Center Assistant Director. "Being able to quickly locate the right home can save critical time during emergencies."

The reflective signs are available in green or blue with white or gold numbers. Seniors can fill out the necessary paperwork at the Chelsea Senior Center and take it to CAFA, who will create the sign. Homeowners then install the sign themselves. Reflective signs are available regardless of where the senior lives.

Thanks to funding from Washtenaw County's Older Persons Millage, Chelsea Senior Center covers the cost of lock boxes and reflective signs for seniors 60 and older.

"These tools offer peace of mind for our citizens and our firefighters knowing we can readily locate an address and gain access to the home without undue force, all in optimum time," said Fire Chief Robert Arbini. "If you have a lock box and need to change the key, a quick call to the fire station at 734-475-8755 will get you scheduled with the on-duty firefighters who will take care of replacing the old key with the new one."

Together, CSC and CAFA are demonstrating how community partnerships can deliver simple solutions with powerful impact. By combining emergency services expertise with senior support resources, the two organizations are helping older adults stay safely in their homes while giving families greater peace of mind.

Seniors or family members interested in either program can call the Chelsea Senior Center at 734-475-9242 or stop by 512 Washington Street, Chelsea, for more information and to access forms.

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

Dreaming About Playing College Sports?

For Middle and High School Girls - and the Families Who Cheer Them On
Join us for an honest, inspiring conversation designed just for you.

We're gathering a panel of current female college athletes (and their moms) to share what the journey has really been like—what they loved, what surprised them, and what they wish someone had told them before recruiting, committing, competing, and even transferring. You'll hear stories from athletes at a variety of school divisions, plus practical guidance from a mental-health professional who understands the pressures student athletes face.

We chose this holiday time frame so our college athletes could be home to talk with you in person. It's the perfect opportunity for girls in middle or high school (and the women in their lives) to get real insight into the world of college sports.

This program is hosted by The Sky, a women-owned, small, local business dedicated to empowering women and girls to pursue their goals with passion and integrity. Explore more of our offerings at linktr.ee/excitethesky.

- Date & Time: Sunday, December 21, 2025 · 1:30–3:00 pm
- Location: MOVE Wellness — 3780 Jackson Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103
- Registration: $30 for two people · Space is limited
- Register here: dreamingaboutplayingcollegesports.eventbrite.com

Aging Services Organization Names Two New Executive Directors

Russell, Shores Advance to Lead Brio Living Services' Flagship Communities

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ally looking forward to continuing to grow with an amazing organization and being able to touch and support the entire community within CRC, The Cedars of Dexter, and The Pines."

Nicole Maag, Brio's Chief of Residential Services, said, "At Brio, we are dedicated to growing and preparing leaders for advancement. Jennifer's continued dedication to excellence and growth in leadership has positioned her well for this next step. She will be a wonderful addition to the residential leadership team."

Russell, who helped oversee the construction and renovations at CRC's Kresge Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, completed in 2021, "brings her expertise to Porter Hills Village, currently undergoing its own major transformation to better serve older adults in West Michigan," Maag said. "We are excited to have Kathy move to Porter Hills Village and the Green House Homes. Her many years of experience and her deep dedication to the mission of Brio Living Services will serve these communities well."

Maag shared her gratitude for VanBemden as well: "Cheryl has been a cornerstone of both Porter Hills Village and the Green House Homes for many years. She led the charge in resident-directed care by opening the Green House Homes as its administrator and then went on to accomplish countless other initiatives which have directly benefited the older adults we serve. Her dedication to residents, team members, and families will leave a lasting legacy, one which we are incredibly grateful for."

Learn more about Brio Living Services at MyBrio.org.

December Events

Fitness Assessment Campaign (CHE/DEX)
Dec. 1-31
Submit assessments by Dec. 31 and receive a complimentary guest pass. Upon completion, be entered to win a prize.

Gift of Health (CHE)
Nov. 24-Dec. 24
Purchase a gift card for a loved one. Grant them access to enjoy membership or other services at the Chelsea Wellness Center. Make your purchase to receive a complimentary small gift.

Pelvic Floor Health (CHE)
Tuesday, Dec. 16 | 11:00am-12:00pm | FREE
Take control of your pelvic health through this one-hour workshop. Discover how to cope with symptoms, prevent issues and understand how the body functions.

Athletic Performance Training Workshop for Teens and Parents (CHE)
Thursday, Dec. 4 and 11 | 5:00pm-6:00pm
Ages 12-17 and parents | WC Conference Room
Workshop valuable training methods to reduce sports injuries. Teens on the field, court or track can uncover their athletic potential while staying safe.

Swim and Gym (DEX)
Sundays, Dec. 7 and 28 | 12:30pm-2:15pm

For more information, please visit the Member Service Desk.

Beginner Pickleball (DEX)
Tuesdays and Thursdays, Dec. 9-18
10:00am-11:00am | Mem $60, Non-Mem $64
Learn the fundamentals of pickleball in this beginner level course.

Family Swim (CHE)
Sunday, Dec. 21 | 12:30pm-2:15pm
Jump and splash into lasting memories with your family.

Kids in Motion Punch Pass (CHE/DEX)
Dec. 18–Jan. 8 | Ages 6 months-11 years
5 visits = $25 pass, 10 visits = $50 pass
Winter Break Fun at the Wellness Center! Bring your kids to release their energy and creativity at our Wellness Center with our exclusive Kids in Motion Punch Passes. Designed to keep them active, engaged, and having a blast.

Winter Break Youth Pass (CHE/DEX/STK)
Dec. 22-Jan. 2 | Ages 12-17
$20 per week (CHE/DEX), $11 per week (STK)

HOLIDAY HOURS
Christmas Eve:
CHE/DEX 5:00am-12:00pm / **STK** 5:30am-1:00pm
Kids in Motion CLOSED
Christmas Day: CLOSED
New Year's Eve:
CHE/DEX 5:00am-5:00pm / **STK** 5:30am-1:00pm
Kids in Motion 8:00am-12:30pm
New Year's Day: CLOSED

COMING SOON

LES MILLS BODYPUMP HEAVY™ (CHE)
Friday, Jan. 9 | 5:30pm
BODYPUMP™ is an ongoing strength course for over 30 years. Tune in and elevate your vitality with our LES MILLS™ experts. This course is an energizing and challenging space for all trainers. Boost your confidence and settle into your desired pace.

Grief Release Yoga (CHE)
Monday, Jan. 12

CHELSEA WELLNESS CENTER
DEXTER WELLNESS CENTER
STOCKBRIDGE WELLNESS CENTER

CHE–39045

The Design of JD's Stage Bistro


Rendering of the Restaurant looking East


Event Space Lobby (to the Newsroom)


Entrance to the Event Space Lobby from the Stage floor

The announcement of JD's Stage Bistro marked the realization of a long-held dream for Tannin Property Group and a significant investment in the future of downtown Chelsea. Today, the team is sharing a deeper look at how that vision is taking shape at 117-½ South Main Street. This update invites the community further into the creative process through the perspective of lead designer **Aaron Vermeulen, AIA.**

"Bringing a twenty-year-old dream to life involves imagination and the careful shaping of physical space. It all started with an old door on Main Street. I pictured a marquee overhead, its exposed bulbs glowing like the theaters of a century ago. I knew it would take an entire team, from a meticulous door maker to a supportive community with a shared vision, to make this project possible.

Partnering with Jeff Daniels, our goal is simple: **evoke old memories to create new ones**, using design that honors Chelsea's past while setting the stage for exceptional music."

The entrance reflects this intention. A handcrafted cherry wood door is inlaid with stained-glass imagery of an olive in a martini glass, a playful symbol of gatherings to come. At the same time, an Art Deco-inspired marquee announces artists and community events, anchoring the new venue to Main Street's historic charm.

"From the moment guests step inside, we want them to feel transported."

A shimmering 1920s-style chandelier sets the tone. A staircase leads down to the stage lobby, where the building opens up into two defining spaces: the stage room and the bistro.

The **stage room** is designed to feel intimate, moody, and cinematic. A corner stage, vintage cocktail bar, and cabaret-style seating create the atmosphere of a classic listening room. Stone walls pay tribute to Chelsea's history, while Edison phonograph horns are repurposed as lighting, a nod to early sound innovation. A hidden green room and additional backstage seating offer memorable experiences for artists and special guests.

The **bistro** is intentionally bright and open, anchored by a custom wood-fired oven and a main kitchen framed by dramatic mahogany doors salvaged from the Waldorf Astoria in New York City, a detail tying world-class hospitality to Chelsea's local charm. Folding glass doors extend the space to a screened-in patio, supported by an ancillary kitchen and three bars designed to serve diners, concertgoers, and private events.

Unique vaulted rooms throughout the venue create opportunities for gatherings of all kinds. The largest, known as **the Newsroom**, features a wine vault, private bar, chandeliers, and adaptive lighting, an ideal backdrop for celebrations or corporate events. Above the vaults and beneath the stage room, utilities have been fully integrated to preserve clean lines and uninterrupted sightlines throughout.

Another distinct space, **Vinyl Lounge**, offers a secluded lounge designed for unfiltered, pure-vinyl listening, a testament to the project's commitment to music in its most authentic form.

Art and storytelling will run through every space. JD's Stage Bistro will showcase a growing collection of Chelsea historical artifacts, music memorabilia, and tributes to Jeff Daniels's career, all woven together to celebrate the town, its people, and its creative spirit.

"What began as an idea behind an old Main Street door is becoming a fully realized experience. Every design decision reflects Chelsea's history, character, and the community we love." —Aaron Vermeulen, AIA.

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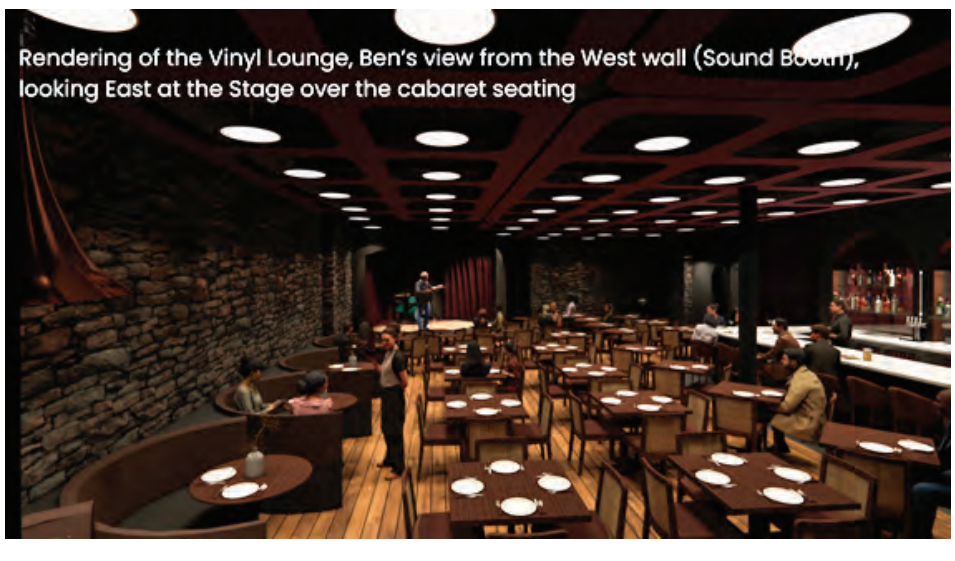
Rendering of the Vinyl Lounge, Ben's view from the West wall (Sound Booth), looking East at the Stage over the cabaret seating

Chelsea Police Department Weekly Summary

Incident #: 25-4626

Date: December 2, 2025

Location: 1200 block of S. Main Street

Time: 8:23 pm

INFORMATION: While on routine patrol an officer was dispatched to the 1200 block of S. Main Street for the report of a retail fraud that had taken place earlier in the evening. Upon arrival the officer met with the complainant who stated that at 4:34 pm the suspect, later identified as a 54-year-old Howell woman had been observed leaving the premises with merchandise and failing to pay for the items. The complainant stated that he reviewed video surveillance footage of the suspect shopping and concealing items within her backpack and clothing. The complainant stated that the suspect proceeded to pay for some items but did not pay for the items that she had concealed and then left the premises. The complainant stated that he had reviewed additional camera footage of the suspect and found that on November 11, 2025 at 6:38 pm, the suspect was observed on camera committing a similar method of retail fraud. The officer attempted to contact the suspect by telephone but was unsuccessful and received no answer. The case remains open pending warrant submission and review by the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office.

Incident #: 25-4601

Date: December 1, 2025

Location: 100 block of W. Middle Street

Time: 10:53 am

INFORMATION: While on routine patrol an officer was dispatched to the 100 block of W. Middle Street for the report of a retail fraud that was believed to have occurred sometime between Monday, November 24th and Wednesday, November 26th. The complainant stated that recently it had been discovered that two Santa figurines, both approximately 30" tall had been taken. The complainant stated that there were no signs of forced entry into the building and there was no record of the items being purchased by a patron of the business. At the time of the report there was no further information available on the identity of the suspect(s).