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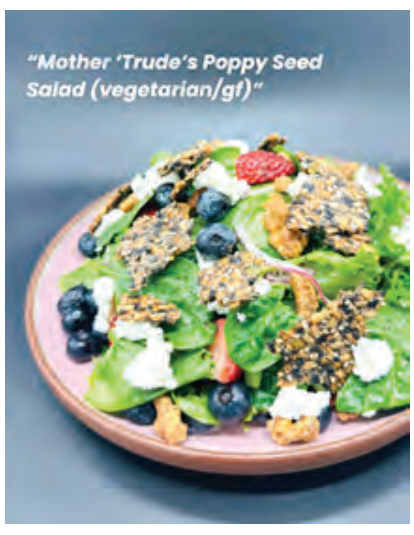
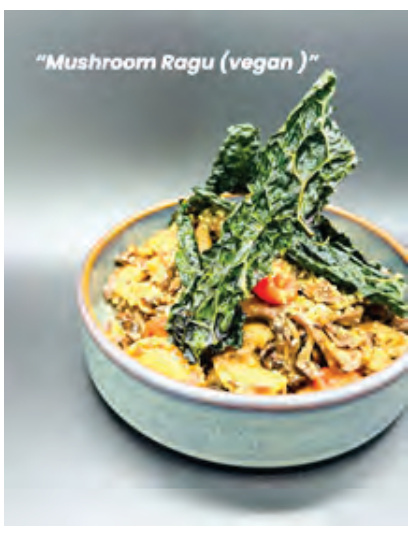
JD's Stage Bistro Unites Food, Music, and Community in a One-of-a-Kind Chelsea Experience





Executive Chef Nate Wegryn

Following the initial announcement of **JD's Stage Bistro**, the vision for Chelsea's newest destination continues to take shape, seamlessly blending exceptional food, live music, and unforgettable shared experiences.

At JD's Stage Bistro, dining and entertainment are inseparable. Designed as both a restaurant and an intimate performance venue, the space reflects a belief that hospitality is about more than a great meal—it's about how people feel from the moment they walk in. Guests will enjoy thoughtfully prepared food alongside live music and performance programming that carries the energy of the stage throughout the evening.

The culinary philosophy guiding JD's Stage Bistro is rooted in simplicity, quality, and approachability, values shaped by Executive Chef Nate Wegryn. Raised on Ann Arbor's west side and spending formative years in Chelsea through travel hockey with the Chelsea Chiefs, his connection to the community runs deep. Early memories of post-game dinners at Thompson's Pizza and family meals at The Common Grill left a lasting impression, reinforced by a well-loved cookbook inscription from Craig Common: *"Keep it simple."* That mindset continues to guide his philosophy on food today.

After studying

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Culture Creations Hosts 5th Annual Bazaar

By Aimee Bingham
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A Bazaar, according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, is a market (as in the Middle East) consisting of rows of shops or stalls selling miscellaneous goods. Culture Creations is located at 118 S. Main St. Chelsea. It is a shop that brings the world to Chelsea. Items in the shop are curated from different parts of the world; jewelry, games, bags, and household goods not typically seen in a Costco or Meijer. The past five January's it has hosted a bazaar as a way to refresh inventory and allows shoppers to haggle for items as is done in bazaars around the world. Those of you that yard sale, understand the art of the haggle.

I went in, looking for a Korean game I'd seen advertised on Facebook. I thought it might be fun to learn a new game when we join our neighbors for game night. I browsed for a bit taking in all the unique items not offered in most American stores, helped myself to some cookies being offered by the checkout and found the game. I also found a display of bags that caught my interest. After some back and forth debate in my head, I decided to see what price I could get for both. I'm not great at the art of haggling. But, it's a once per year sale so I figured I'd give it a shot. The total for the game and the bag was $33.00 originally. I asked the shop clerk if they'd take $10. She looked at me like I was crazy. I felt crazy and almost laughed and apologized. But I tried to stay serious. She offered another number

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Culture Creations Hosts 5th Annual Bazaar

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and we continued to negotiate until she told me her best and final offer was $20.00. Now, if I were actually better and more confident at haggling I may have pushed harder. But, a $13.00 discount seemed pretty good to me so I agreed. I paid and found that the shop owner was handling the sales tax because in a real bazaar there are no sales taxes and I left feeling like I'd just won something. I got a card game and a bag for less than the price tag on the bag! That was fun!

As I was shopping, I eavesdropped on conversation around me. The clerk manning the register and negotiations talked about future trips. Later in 2026, they might be looking for wares to sell in Columbia. The clerk expressed trepidation with travel and the current state of the world. Those of us shopping agreed. It may be a scary adventure with the upheaval of Venezuela right next door. Truth be told, I'd be a little frightened to travel to Columbia regardless. But this is why Culture Creations always has such unique items, a fearless love of travel and adventure.

If you missed the opportunity to haggle at the 5th annual Culture Creations Bazaar, you can visit the shop at 118 Main St Sun-Th 12- 5pm, Fri 12-6pm, Sat 10-6pm. Or you can shop online at their website https://www.culturecreationsgifts.com/. Don't miss the travel blog under the more drop down menu. It hasn't been updated in a while, but hopefully we will get to hear the first hand adventures of the owner soon.

Cities Initiative Awarded $1.28 Million to Advance Three Critical Coastal Protection Projects

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative announced today that it has been awarded $1.28 million from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) to advance engineering and design for three shoreline restoration and public resilience projects in member communities throughout the Great Lakes region.

The funding will bring three coastal projects in Michigan and Minnesota to shovel-ready status, positioning each community to begin construction. Together, these projects will restore more than 16 acres of habitat across over one mile of shoreline, protect vulnerable infrastructure, and enhance public access to some of the region's most valued waterfronts.

The initiative will engage more than 35 local and regional leaders, including mayors, engineers, state and federal agencies, and will mobilize local volunteers in native planting and stewardship efforts during implementation. Once built, the projects will help protect drinking water infrastructure, parks, public recreation spaces, cultural landmarks, and vital fish and wildlife habitat threatened by erosion, storm damage, pollution, and hardened shorelines.

"Coastal resilience requires sustained, strategic investment, and this funding helps communitiestake the critical next step toward construction," said Mayor Ryan Sorenson of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, Co-Chair of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. "These projects show what's possible when federal partners, local leaders, and technical experts work together to deliver practical solutions that protect people, ecosystems, and the infrastructure our communities rely on every day."

Cheboygan Downtown Riverwalk and Greenway (Cheboygan, MI)

This project will replace failing timber dock walls with a vegetated, habitat-rich shoreline that reduces erosion and flooding while protecting public safety and vulnerable utility infrastructure along Cheboygan's downtown riverfront. The grant will allow the City of Cheboygan to advance a critical waterfront revitalization and resilience project at one of the community's most important public access points, strengthening ecological health and supporting the city's economic and cultural core.

"Securing this support is a major step forward for Cheboygan," said Mayor Brett A. Mallory of Cheboygan, Michigan. "This investment will strengthen critical infrastructure by restoring natural shoreline habitats while preserving the heart of our downtown for future generations. We're grateful to our partners and proud to be part of a regional effort to build stronger, more resilient communities."

Agate Bay Shoreline Revitalization Project (Two Harbors, MN)

This project will convert a hazardous, eroding shoreline into a resilient living shoreline that reduces wave energy, improves water quality, and stabilizes Agate Bay's northern shoreline. By restoring native habitat and managing stormwater runoff, the project enhances coastal security while protecting a culturally significant and highly used public waterfront.

"Agate Bay has been at the center of our community for more than a century, as a working waterfront, a tourism anchor, and a place where people come together," said Mayor Lew Conner of Two Harbors. "But years of patchwork fixes and worn-down shoreline protection have left the area unstable and unsafe, with erosion and crumbling concrete threatening the lake and the vitality of this important space. This project gives Two Harbors a stronger, more practical solution by rebuilding the shoreline in a safer, more natural way that can stand up to changing conditions. Protecting Agate Bay isn't just about fixing a shoreline, it's about preserving the heart of our community and ensuring it remains a vibrant, welcoming place for generations to come."

The Cities Initiative's coastal programs are made possible through the generous support of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and a collaboration with NOAA through the Initiative for Resilient Great Lakes Coasts. Each project was developed in partnership with its local government and community with support from technical partners at LimnoTech and Dewberry.

About the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a multinational coalition of municipal and Indigenous government executives representing communities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region who are working to promote economic prosperity in our communities and protect our fresh water for the benefit of current and future generations. With more than 400 communities represented, the Cities Initiative is leading the way in advancing the environmental, economic, and social health of the region by addressing issues impacting its residents.

For more information, please contact:

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Chelsea Guardian

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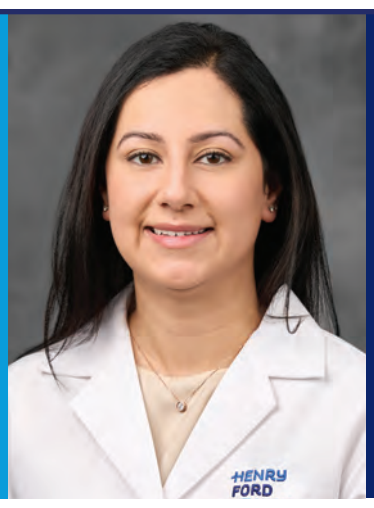
Mission Statement:
Hard work, good work and creating and fostering great relationships are the keys to community success.



SPONSORED CONTENT

Want to be happier? Try adopting these habits for better health.

Dr. Kanika Khindria, Primary Care Physician at Henry Ford Medical Center – Chelsea

We're all looking for the secret potion that will help us live healthier, happier lives – the job, relationships and life experiences that will bring us joy. But what if achieving real happiness requires a conscious effort?

Happiness is actually the result of choices we make every day. If you're hoping to cultivate more happiness in your daily life, these 10 strategies can help.

1. See your doctor

Paying a yearly visit to your primary care physician is critical to your overall health and happiness. In addition to covering preventive screening exams, your doctor can help you identify risk factors such as diet, smoking and inactivity that can negatively affect your happiness level.

2. Get enough sleep

When you're sleep deprived, your mood is likely to take a nosedive. Sleep is critical for both body and mind to function optimally. Studies show that people who get eight to nine hours of sleep are healthier, happier and more productive. To create the best conditions for your mind and body to reset, practice good sleep hygiene: Go to sleep and wake up at the same times each day (even on weekends). Keep your bedroom cool, dark and quiet, and power down devices two hours before bedtime.

3. Eat a savory breakfast

After several hours without food, eating a satisfying breakfast can put a spring in your step and set you up for a happier day. Avoid sweets and fats for the first meal of the day and opt for protein-rich smoothies, oatmeal and eggs. These foods break down more slowly and help you feel more energized.

4. Get moving

Being physically active can help keep your weight in check, reduce disease risk, strengthen bones and muscles, and improve your ability to do everyday tasks. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends 30 minutes of exercise, five days each week, including things like brisk walking, biking, tennis, gardening and swimming. For a greater boost, get your exercise fix outdoors. Studies show that spending time in nature releases feel-good hormones.

5. Forge connections

Research suggests that building meaningful relationships is a major predictor of happiness. Loneliness is linked to stress, anxiety and depression, as well as heart disease, insomnia and cognitive impairment.

6. Have fun

Carve out time for play and laughter. Create a happy songs playlist, watch comedies and spend time with friends who make you laugh out loud. Enjoyable activities release a flood of chemicals that boost mood and reduce stress.

7. Cultivate gratitude

Expressing gratitude, even to yourself, is a simple and powerful way to feel better about yourself and the world around you. A few ideas: Name three or more things you're grateful for each day, handwrite a thank you card to someone you appreciate and meditate on your feelings of gratitude.

8. Watch the self-talk

It's not uncommon to play your worst moments on a loop in your mind. You might find yourself saying some variation of 'I'm so stupid! Why did I do that?' One way to flip the script: Think about what you might say to a friend or colleague and use that line with yourself. 'You're a bright person ... you'll do better next time.'

9. Minimize screen time

Whether it's watching TV, surfing the Internet or scrolling through social media, screen time can be draining. Limit usage to no more than 30 minutes each day outside of school and work activities. Social media is especially good at hijacking happiness. Mindlessly scrolling through people's perfect pictures has been shown to increase feelings of depression and anxiety—especially for teenagers.

10. Volunteer

Being altruistic makes people happy. It's linked to areas of the brain leading to contentment. Merely promising to be more generous is enough to create changes in the brain that make us happier. And it does society good, too. Make time to volunteer or donate gently used items to people in need.

February Events

MyFitRx® Savings
Feb. 1-28
Receive up to 25% off any MyFitRx pathway.

Valentine's Gift Card Special (CHE/DEX)
Feb. 1-14
Purchase a gift card that will be placed in a small gift bag with chocolates.

Intro to Rowing (DEX)
Mondays, Feb. 2-March 9 | 10:00am-10:30am and 10:30am-11:00am | $125 Members, $140 Non-Members
Join a beginner-friendly class to learn the basics of rowing and improve your form. This class is also open to seasoned rowers who are looking to refine their technique. No class Feb. 23.

Beginner Pickleball (DEX)
Tuesdays and Thursdays, Feb. 3-12 | 10:00am-11:00am | $60 Members, $64 Non-Members
Join a beginner-friendly class and learn how to improve your pickleball form.

National Wear Red Day (CHE/DEX)
Friday, Feb. 6
Members who wear red will be entered to win one of two center gift cards.

Swim and Gym (DEX)
Sundays, Feb. 8 and Feb. 22 | 12:30pm-2:15pm

Grief Release Yoga (CHE)
Monday, Feb. 9 | 6:00pm-7:00pm | FREE
This special yoga class will include gentle poses in a meditative environment. Whether you are carrying past or recent grief, you are welcome to attend. Feel free to bring a small photo or token of remembrance to place near your mat.

Valentine's Day: Bring a Buddy (CHE/DEX)
Saturday, Feb. 14| FREE
Standard guest policies apply. Members must accompany their buddy.

Family Swim (CHE)
Sunday, Feb. 15 | 12:30pm-2:15pm
Parents must accompany their children in this class.

Heart Month Open House (CHE/DEX)
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 10:00am-12:00pm and 4:00pm-6:00pm (CHE) | Wednesday, Feb. 18, 10:00am-12:00pm and 4:00pm-6:00pm (DEX)
Attend our Heart Month Open House. Take advantage of our $25 membership offer with 25% off MyFitRx.

Heart Health Lecture (CHE/DEX)
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 10:30am-11:30am (CHE) | Wednesday, Feb. 18, 5:00pm-6:00pm (DEX)
Join us for an empowering educational session led by Dr. Dori Tamagne. Learn how exercise supports heart health and overall wellness at every stage of life. Gain practical knowledge designed to help you move toward a healthier you.

Pelvic Floor Health (CHE)
Tuesdays, Feb. 17-March 10 | 1:00pm | $84 Members, $92 Non-Members
Join fitness specialist Lis Cordeiro for an informational workshop on pelvic floor health. Gain helpful insights into dealing with symptoms, preventing challenges, and better understanding your body to help you take control of your pelvic health.

Healthy Bones Osteo Pilates (CHE)
Thursdays, Feb. 19-March 19 | 9:30am-10:45am and 10:45am-12:00pm | FREE for Members, $95 Non-Members
Support your bones in this gentle yet effective Pilates class that is designed specifically for individuals with osteopenia and osteoporosis.

Athletic Performance Workshop (CHE)
Mondays, Feb. 23-March 16 | 6:00pm
$84 Members, $92 Non-Members
Discover your athletic potential with fitness specialist Omar Elreedi in this dynamic workshop designed for teens ages 12–17 and their parents.

Aqua Board (DEX)
Mondays, Feb. 23-March 16 | 4:00pm-5:00pm

Circuit Aqua Board
Tuesdays, Feb. 24-March 17 | 11:45am-12:45pm
$104 Members, $112 Non-Members
Join a swim class that emphasizes strength, balance, and mobility.

Tai Chi Form (DEX)
Mondays, Feb. 23-March 23 | 5:30pm-7:00pm
Discover the gentle, flowing practice of Tai Chi in a class designed for all levels. Through slow, intentional movements, you'll build balance and mobility while learning traditional Tai Chi forms step by step. This class is offered in two five-week sessions. Registration is required.

Dance Cardio Event (DEX)
Friday, Feb. 27 | 6:00pm-7:30pm
Get ready to kick up your heels for a high-energy dance cardio event benefiting the American Heart Association. Our instructors will lead you through an unforgettable evening of music, movement, and community spirit. Donate $15 to receive a free T-shirt, with proceeds going to the AHA. Registration is required.

COMING SOON:

Game On (DEX)
Wednesdays, March 4-April 15 | 4:15pm-5:00pm

Grief Release Yoga
Monday, March 9
This special yoga class will include gentle poses in a meditative environment. Whether you are carrying past or recent grief, you are welcome to attend. Feel free to bring a small photo or token of remembrance to place near your mat.

St. Patrick's Day Indoor Triathlon
Sunday, March 15 | 9:00am

Pelvic Floor Health
Tuesdays, March 24-April 14
Join fitness specialist Lis Cordeiro for an informational workshop on pelvic floor health. Gain helpful insights into dealing with symptoms, preventing challenges, and better understanding your body to help you take control of your pelvic health.

For more information, please visit the Member Service Desk, or call 734-214-0220 (CHE), 734-580-2500 (DEX).

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DEXTER WELLNESS CENTER
STOCKBRIDGE WELLNESS CENTER

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CHELSEA BULLDOGS SPORTS

CHS BULLDOGS COLLEGE SIGNINGS

JD's Stage Bistro Unites Food, Music, and Community in a One-of-a-Kind Chelsea Experience

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business at the University of Alabama, exposure to Southern food culture sparked a more profound passion for cooking. Back in Michigan, he trained in respected kitchens, including Zingerman's Bakehouse, before earning a culinary arts degree from Oakland Community College. His experience includes working under ACF Certified Master Chef Drew Sayes, being part of the opening team at The Dixboro Project under Michelin-starred Chef Louis Maldonado, and, most recently, opening Echelon Kitchen and Bar as Executive Sous Chef in early 2025.

JD's Stage Bistro will showcase a custom-made wood-fired oven designed and built by Marra Forni, which will be positioned as the visual and operational heart of the dining room. Offerings will include sourdough-hybrid Neapolitan-style pizzas, house-made pastas with vegan and gluten-free options, and locally raised steaks cooked on a 1,000+ degree steakhouse broiler. Seasonal produce will guide menu changes, complemented by sustainably sourced freshwater and saltwater fish and shellfish from Motor City Seafood in Detroit and Fortune Fish & Gourmet in Chicago.

Classic steakhouse flavors will be paired with playful cocktails, elevated sides, and personal touches—including Daniels family recipes like *Mother Trude's Poppy Seed Salad*, honoring Jeff Daniels' grandmother Gertrude Daniels.

Music and performance are central to the experience. Live shows and curated programming will extend the energy of the stage into the dining room, creating nights that feel immersive, vibrant, and uniquely Chelsea.

Ultimately, JD's Stage Bistro is envisioned as both a *destination* and a *neighborhood gathering place*, equally suited for a family's pizza night with young children, a pre-show dinner, or an anniversary celebration with live music and a fabulous bottle of wine. With a commitment to community involvement, education, and charitable giving, JD's Stage Bistro aims to be a place where people come together—around food, music, and shared moments worth remembering.

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Chelsea Police Department Weekly Summary

Incident #: 26-208

Date: January 17, 2026

Location: 1200 block of S. Main Street

Time: 2:10 pm

INFORMATION: While on routine patrol an officer was dispatched to meet with a complainant regarding a malicious destruction of property complaint. The complainant stated that over the last six months the complainant's vehicle has been damaged or "keyed" on three separate occasions. The complainant went on to tell the officer that the most recent incident occurred on January 17th, when her vehicle was parked in the 1200 block of S. Main Street in Chelsea. The officer observed the complainant's vehicle and found there to be three large vertical lines on the rear of the vehicle, the officer noted that the marks appeared to have been made with a "key or a jagged instrument". At the time of the report there was no suspect information available.

Incident #: 26-0000117

Date: January 9, 2026

Location: 1600 block of S. Main Street

Time: 2:50 pm

INFORMATION: While on routine patrol an officer stopped a vehicle for a routine traffic violation. The officer made contact with the driver and requested the driver to produce her driver's license and vehicle registration and insurance. The driver provided the officer with a Michigan identification card and stated that she did not possess a valid driver's license. The officer confirmed the driver's status and asked her to step out of the vehicle. Due to there not being a valid driver present to operate the vehicle; a tow truck was requested so that the vehicle could be impounded. Prior to impounding the vehicle, an inventory search was conducted and a white crystal substance, suspected of being methamphetamine, was located in the passenger compartment of the vehicle. Additional searching of the vehicle located two syringes with an unknown substance, and suspected narcotic paraphernalia. The suspect, identified as a 34-year-old Jackson woman was placed under arrest and transported to the Chelsea Police Department for processing. The case remains open pending laboratory analysis by the Michigan State Police Crime Lab and warrant review by the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office.