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Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce

**February 16, 2024**

Volume 7 Issue 7

# Chelsea Guardian

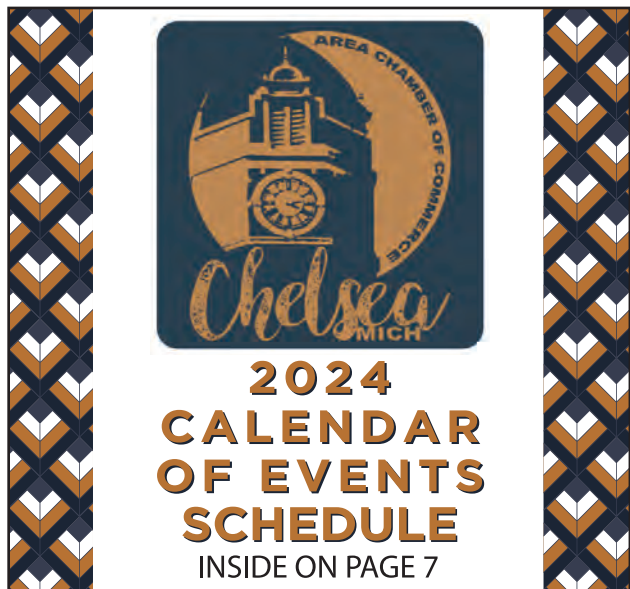
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## Kira Grifka Chelsea 2023 Citizen of the Year



Story on page 2. Photo Courtesy of Kira Grifka.



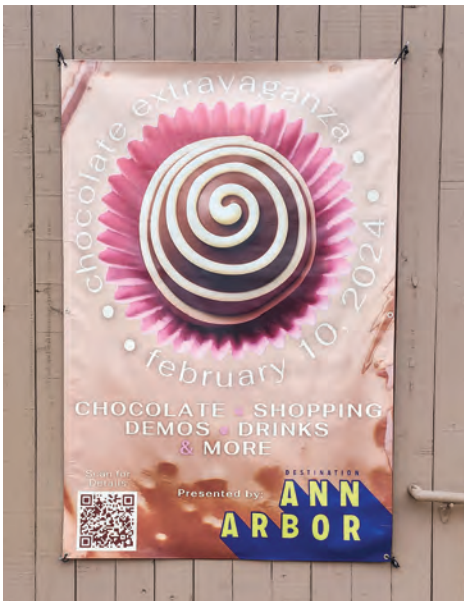
## Chelsea's Chocolate Extravaganza

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By Aimee Bingham  
anbingham@gmail.com

On February 10 2024, downtown Chelsea converted to a pink and chocolate shopping adventure. The Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce, 44 downtown locations; businesses, a Church and the library, sponsored by Destination Ann Arbor, hosted the Chocolate Extravaganza. It included; a "cocoa crawl," sales, continued on page 6

Photos By Aimee Bingham

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## State of the City – February 1, 2024

By Jane Pacheco,  
Chelsea Mayor

"It is not what you look at that matters, it is what you see." Henry David Thoreau

Last February I shared my first Mayor's State of the City address and reflected on the challenges and accomplishments of 2022. It had been a year of tremendous change. Folks were still (and still are) adjusting to the new

normal of a post pandemic world. Pent up passion for new projects, partnerships, and pathways exploded and everyone was eager to talk about big ideas.

The fast pace and forward thinking were both exciting and overwhelming. A lot of figurative "balls" had been joyfully tossed in the air and many folks were still busy building skills and establishing

relationships in new positions and within new collaborations.

2023 saw a bit of a seeling in and a lot of hard work on behalf of hundreds of engaged staff and community members. Below are a few summary details from the past year, in the same order as last year's accounting. As always, please feel free to reach out to me, staff, or continued on page 8



### 2024 Events!

**50/100 Centennial Series**

- Jan 8 ~ Merkel Furniture with Tim and George Merkel
- Mar 4 ~ Cole Funeral Chapel with Allen Cole
- May 6 ~ Chelsea Milling Company with Howdy Holmes

- Aug 5 ~ Chelsea State Bank with John Mann
- Sep 9 ~ Chelsea Lumber Company with John Daniels
- Oct 7 ~ Lane Animal Hospital with Chan Lane
- Nov 4 ~ CAHS 50th Anniversary with CAHS Board

### 2024 Tours & Gatherings

Spring & Summer ~ To be Announced!

- Fall ~ Haunted Chelsea
- December 7 ~ Holiday Home Tour
- December ~ Holiday Potluck



# Winterfest! Fun For All at Chelsea's Michigan Friends Center

**Contact Information:**  
**Michigan Friends Center**  
**Carolyn Holland**  
**(734)355-3626**  
**manager@mfcenter.org**

On Sunday, March 3, the Michigan Friends Center will be reviving its Winterfest! open house. Last held in 2019, Winterfest! is an afternoon of activities to appeal to persons of all ages

A nature scavenger hunt for kids is planned, with acoustic guitar by local musician Dale Osborn as an indoor option. The scavenger hunt will be followed by cocoa and cookies, storytelling by Ann Arbor Storyteller's Guild member Lorelle Otis, and a didgeridoo performance by the Werderitsch's, a local father and son team. If the weather is right, participants are encour-

aged to bring sleds to enjoy nearby sledding. "I think we all start to get a bit of cabin fever by late February and here is a chance to wear out the kids on an outdoor scavenger hunt, enjoy music, story telling, and the pleasure of each other's company. If you are in town, there is no better place to be!" said Pat Hopkinson, program host.

The Michigan Friends Center is a non-profit community and conference center two miles northwest of Chelsea located on the grounds of Friends Lake Community. The Center has been serving the Chelsea area for the past 30 years, offering both a facility for other groups to meet and public programs on environmental sustainability, peace and justice,

and wholistic health (including spiritual growth). "Groups of fewer than 100 find a renewed sense of connection with each other, the natural world, spirit or purpose, and even with themselves after time spent at the Center," said Carolyn Holland, Michigan Friends Center manager.

The event will be occurring from 2-5 Sunday March 3 at the Michigan Friends Center, 7748 Clark Lake Road, Chelsea, Michigan. There is no charge; donations will be cheerfully accepted. "Please preregister if you can by calling the Friends Center (734)475-1892 or email manager@mfcenter.org. If you can't, we will still be happy to see you," said Holland.



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## Kira Grifka Chelsea 2023 Citizen of the Year

► continued from page 1  
By Aimee Bingham  
anbingham@gmail.com

The Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce recently announced it's 2023 Citizen of The Year, Kira Grifka. "The award is presented to people that demonstrate, over the past year, a commitment and involvement in our community with the selfless intent to improve the quality of life for all of the citizens of Chelsea," according to the Chelsea Michigan Instagram page.

The page does not mention that Kira is the first teen to be awarded The Citizen of the Year at just 16! Kira is a sophomore at Chelsea High School.

I naturally wondered what Kira had done at such a young age to receive the honor. Kira works, attends school, and participates in a plethora of civic-minded groups including; the Diversity and Social Awareness Club, SAGA, Interact, and the Chelsea Youth Orchestra, which performs all over the Midwest and has traveled to Spain and will be leaving the country to play again in the next few years.

Aside from having an impressive resume of work within the community, Kira made a big impact on the community

in 2023, which is an integral part of getting the recognition. According to the Ann Arbor News, "A Chelsea High School student was arrested in connection with the alleged sexual assault of two other students, and police are working to identify additional victims or witnesses. Samuel Dodge Nov 2022" The assaults left an impact on Kira. She wanted to make a change. Certainly not an easy thing to do for a 15-year-old, or for anyone for that matter. Kira created SASH Chelsea, which she is currently turning into a local not-for-profit called SHAPE, which stands for Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention Education. The organization meets in the Chelsea library. Meeting topics include; Consent, stalking, Assault dynamics, healthy versus unhealthy relationships, and domestic violence. These meetings are not just for women. If we haven't learned through watching the news, young men can be victims too. Beyond the possibility of being victims, as the mother of two young men in a changing world, I felt I needed to protect them from accidentally finding themselves in trouble. This is not the same world in which I grew up and it is

wise to educate and prepare young men to not think something is innocent and wind up permanently on a list. We, as moms, can raise boys who respect themselves and women, but we may need a little help and SASH does just that. Kira also has contact posters for an SA hotline for both men and women posted at the school.

As SASH evolves into a local not-for-profit, Kira has big plans to continue with work and move the group forward. She'd like to have activities for teenagers, and fundraising nights to educate, and provide awareness and engagement for local youth. Kira has big personal plans too. She'd like to start a dual enrollment so she can graduate with an associates degree in graphic design. She'd like to travel and then go to college with a major in teaching and a minor in graphics design. Based on her amazing accomplishments as a Freshman and Sophomore, I expect big things from Kira in the future. Congratulations on a well-earned honor! To learn more about SASH and soon SHAPE visit: [https://www.instagram.com/sash\\_chelsea?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_button\\_share\\_sheet&igsh=ZDNlZDc0MzIxNw==](https://www.instagram.com/sash_chelsea?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet&igsh=ZDNlZDc0MzIxNw==).

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# Now welcoming vendor sign-ups for April 13 Chelsea Expo



Chelsea Expo is a favorite, annual community tradition that is a great venue for vendors, businesses, nonprofits, crafters and artisans to share information, wares and services. Applications to participate as a vendor in the April 13 event

are now being accepted by Chelsea Senior Center. The center coordinators the annual family-friendly, community-wide event that often draws more than 1,500 attendees. Business booths range from \$50 to \$125. There is a \$10 fee for nonprofits to

participate with limited availability, so early sign up is encouraged. A six-foot table, two chairs and free wi-fi access are provided as part of your 8x8 space. Setup is Friday afternoon or early on Saturday before the expo opens at 10:00 a.m. The event concludes at 2:00 p.m. Chelsea Expo, a free event for all ages, is held at the Washington Street Education Center and is a fund-

raiser for Chelsea Senior Center. The event offers an opportunity to engage with other community members in a friendly, accessible setting. The wildly popular bake sale is also not to be missed. Who can resist home-baked treats from amazing senior bakers? To apply for the expo or for more information, please contact Chelsea Senior Center at (734) 475-9242,

connected@chelseaseniors.org, or complete the online application via the website at [www.chelseaseniors.org](http://www.chelseaseniors.org).



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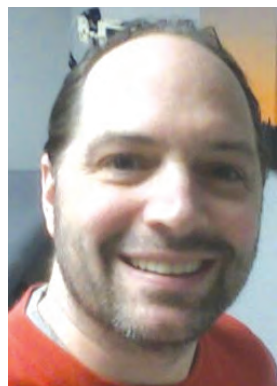




# CHELSEA ATHLETICS



## ON THE SIDELINE: SUPER BOWL, YAWNING, TAYLOR SWIFT AND GARBAGE



By Don Richter  
drichter101@comcast.net

I hate to say it, but it was garbage. What was garbage, you ask? No, not this column, though I'm sure some would argue that claim. No, not this winter weather. To the contrary, this winter

weather has been wonderful. I know, I know, I'm saying that quietly, I don't want Mother Nature to hear either. So what was garbage? Sadly, the garbage I speak of was last Sunday's Super Bowl LVIII. I know, I'm an old, fuddy-duddy, but last Sunday's big game was just so — AVERAGE. It was so BLAH. It was so PEDESTRIAN. It was so TYPICAL of the NFL this season. To me, in my humble opinion, the NFL today is a subpar product. And football is my favorite sport. It's diffi-

cult for me to say such a thing. Don't get me wrong, I was absolutely caught up in the hoopla surrounding this year's Detroit Lions team. Maybe that's why this season's Super Bowl seemed so anticlimactic. This supposedly was the year the Lions were finally going to play in the Super Bowl, right? Right? Anybody? Right? I sure thought so. I believe this season's Detroit team was better than both the San Francisco 49ers and the Kansas City Chiefs, the

two teams in this year's Super Bowl. Though the 49ers rallied to beat the Lions in the NFC Championship (one win away from the Super Bowl), I still believe Detroit was the best squad in the NFL at the end of this season. Plus, the Lions defeated the Chiefs in the first game of the year, so I'm confident Detroit could've done it again in this season's Super Bowl. But alas, none of that happened of course. After the Lions lost in the NFC title game, I vowed I wouldn't watch the Super Bowl. Of course, I caved and

tuned in. I should've listened to my initial instinct. From Reba McEntire's very good, but not soul-stirring, National Anthem to Usher's very good, but not electrifying, halftime show, I wasn't moved by either performer's effort. To Taylor Swift in the booth shots — need I say more? I actually like her and admire her success and skill, but enough is enough. Please NFL, enough. Thank you. And the Super Bowl commercials? What once used to be such a fun, anticipated, talk-about-them-at-

work-the-following-day-type event, was so, how should I say this — garbage — this season. Seriously, there was not one Super Bowl commercial this year I thought was even remotely funny, creative, unique or memorable. A total yawn fest. And that's sad. Are there no talented and imaginative people left in TV commercial land? What a disappointment. The broadcasters in the booth weren't much better. Both gentlemen should be put out to pasture. I was put to sleep listening to both of them aimlessly droned. **continued on page 9**

## CHELSEA BULLDOGS WRESTLING

### CHELSEA BULLDOGS WRESTLING TAKE 1ST PLACE AT 2024 COMSTOCK FRIDAY NIGHT INVITE!!



Photos Courtesy of Chelsea Bulldogs.

<b>From: Chelsea Bulldogs</b> (3x) 1st place @ Comstock - Victor Radu	1st-Kamren Chapman, Hunter Burk. 2nd-Lucas Racine, John Chapman, Ethan Povlich.	3rd-Evan Muchler, Massimo Culgliari, Thomas Shemwell. Additional placers: Collin Beckel, Chase	Messersmith, Donovan Fisk. <b>GO BULLDOGS!!!</b>
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### CHELSEA BULLDOGS WRESTLING TAKES 2ND PLACE AT CHARLOTTE TOURNAMENT



Photo Courtesy of Chelsea Wrestling

## WASHTENAW UNITED TOPS DIVISION, SPLITS WEEKEND CONTESTS



Washtenaw United Girls Hockey team entered this weekend's competition atop Division 2 in the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League. On Friday, January 19 they hosted an exhibition game against Division 1 leaders Grosse Pointe South. A strong defensive effort sparked Washtenaw in the first peri-

od. The entire defensive unit stepped up and goaltender Trista Tracy (Chelsea '25) blanked GPS's relentless offensive attack. The United began the 2nd period with a rush led by Dexter senior Raegen Kopitsch and continued battling hard against GPS's offensive pressure. But GPS got on the board at 9:42, followed by

another goal less than a minute later. Washtenaw finished the 2nd period and started the 3rd on the penalty kill. A clean win on the faceoff by Chelsea Senior Cecilia Henriksen in GPS's defensive zone led to a short-handed goal by Daphne Grant (Dexter '25) to bring Washtenaw within 1.

However, GPS scored a power play goal at 13:05 and then put a screened shot past Tracy at 5:19 to defeat the United 4-1. Saturday's contest saw a league matchup against the Northville Mustangs. Henriksen opened the scoring at 13:44 in the first, assisted by Grant and Abby Schroeder (Saline '26).

Juliana Marini (Saline '25) followed up with another Washtenaw goal two minutes later, with an assist to Chloe Dillen (Saline '24). In the second, Kendra Wagner (Saline '25) scored Washtenaw's third goal with assists from Rylee Kennedy (Milan '24) and Lilly Schlack (Saline '26). Next Sydney Clark (Saline

'25) banged in a goal, with another assist by Kennedy, followed by a goal from Schlack with assists to Henriksen and Kennedy. In the third, Clark scored Washtenaw's sixth goal, assisted by Schlack. Then Grant knocked in a power play goal with assists to Clark and Henriksen before Kopitsch knocked in the 8th goal, assisted by Henriksen, to end the game 8-0. It was all Washtenaw as the United outshot the Mustangs 33-3 and Goalie Tracy picked up her fifth shut-out this year in league play. Follow Washtenaw United on Facebook, Instagram, and X.





## SENIOR MOMENT: Who Doesn't Love a Good Story?



The hardy members of the Writing Memories Group at CSC gathered on a snowy Wednesday afternoon to listen to and appreciate each other's responses to prompting questions posed by the group coordinator, Jan Bernath (center front).

Submitted by Kathy Eberle

The Writing Memories Group meets at the Chelsea Senior Center on the third Wednesday of most months at 1:00 pm, to share moments from their personal histories. The only requirement to join is a love of writing and sharing memories. The current version of the group

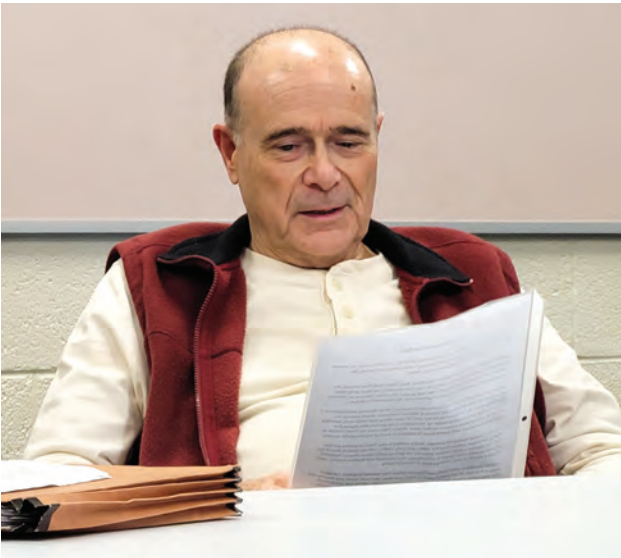
was organized by Jan Bernath in July of 2022. Cecile Bernath, Jan's mother, piloted the writing idea in the late 1970s at the Chelsea Senior Center, as a way for older citizens to reflect on their lives. Ms. Bernath originally wrote family stories that were shared within that monthly writing group. At first the stories were shared

with participants' families, then, as others heard about their writings, they shared them with friends. The Chelsea Senior Center began publishing the group's stories in their mimeographed newsletter, and some pieces were published in the Mature Michigania, a county-wide magazine. Eventually, The Detroit Free Press

and Ideals, a subscription-only magazine, published several of Cecile's pieces.

After the Covid shutdown, Jan thought there was a need for just such a supportive group. Inspired by her mother's example, she placed an invitation in the Chelsea Senior Center's monthly newsletter. A small group of writers arrived on the appointed day, ready to put pen to paper and tell their stories. The group started with 5-6 members and has expanded to an average of 10-12 writers.

Members have many reasons to write, and love to share their life experiences, both good and bad. Most of the stories are one or two pages long. A key motivation for many of them is to build a collection of personal stories to hand down to their children and descendants, so that their lives will be remembered. It helps



Dwight Johnston shares memories of his winding journey to the enjoyment of reading and writing with the CSC Writing Memories Group.

keep memories alive for posterity!

When an author reads a story to the group, they are not looking for a critique or praise, but for a connection in shared experiences. There is often lively discussion as one person's writing brings up similar memories from others in the group. At the end of each meeting, 3-4 prompts are chosen to act as inspiration for the next month's stories. Sometimes the prompts evoke completely different subjects, and writers are

free to explore those instead. There are no rules or rigid guidelines.

If you enjoy writing about and sharing your experiences, consider joining the gatherings on the third Wednesday of the month at the Chelsea Senior Center. You will find a friendly, encouraging group interested in what you have to say!

The Senior Moment feature highlights opportunities for older adults through the Chelsea Senior Center and related organizations.

## February is Heart Month

By Aimee Bingham  
anbingham@gmail.com

February is Heart Month, it's also Black History Month, but I'm only qualified to discuss Heart Month. I am qualified because at the age of 35, I had an aortic aneurysm resulting in open heart surgery and a tissue heart valve, and a stroke in my 40s. Heart Month is a month-long event of education and awareness to help draw attention to cardiovascular disease. The White House proclaimed on American Heart month 2024, "Each year, heart disease takes the lives of nearly 700,000 Americans. It is the leading cause of death in our country."

As a woman, working with the American

Heart Association on the Go Red for Women campaign each year for the past 13, I'd be slacking if I didn't hammer in the point that heart disease is the number one killer of women. According to Go Red for Women, "Heart disease is a killer that strikes more women than men, and is more deadly than all forms of cancer combined."

That's the bad news. The good news is you can change your outcome. Lifestyle plays a huge role in heart disease whether you have a family history or not. The Heart Foundation suggests 30 minutes of moderate aerobic exercise for, five days a week. Maintain a normal body weight, and follow a nu-

tritious meal plan like the Mediterranean Diet. Quit smoking or never start, this includes vaping nicotine. Avoid recreational drugs, indulging in no more than 1/2 to one alcoholic beverage per day.

One way we can make a drastic difference is by learning CPR. There is the hands-only option, which I teach and my daughter knew it by the age of two. According to the American Heart Association, "The location of Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrests (OHCA) most often occurs in homes/residences (73.4%)" Which means, if you learn it and have to use it, you'll most likely be saving someone you live with. Further, "If performed

immediately, CPR can double or triple the chance of survival from an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest." The simple act of learning can potentially save the life of

your family member.

As a survivor, a speaker for the American Heart Association and someone grateful to have the opportunity to be writing today as a part of the Chelsea community, I want to offer free training on Hands-only CPR to any

organization interested throughout the month. If you'd like more information on Heart disease check out <https://www.heart.org/>. If your company or organization would like free training email me at anbingham@gmail.com.

## Trevor Ramsey graduates from UW-Whitewater

Trevor Ramsey from Chelsea, MI, earned a degree from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater at winter commencement, held December 16, 2023.

Approximately 620 students crossed the stage to receive their degrees at the ceremony, held at Kachel Fieldhouse in the Wil-

liams Center.

Ramsey graduated with the following degree: Finance - BBA

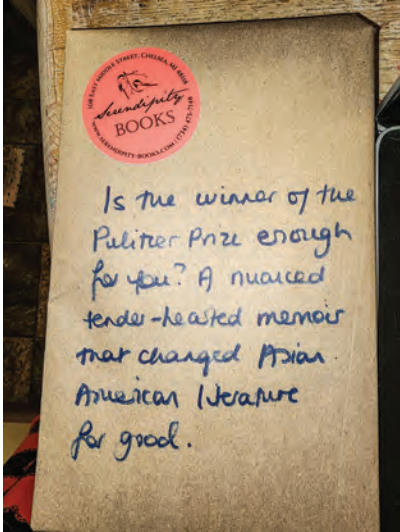
The graduating class included three international students, 64 military veterans and 141 nontraditional students, defined as undergraduate students who are 25 years of age or older. In addition, 74 self-identified

students with disabilities received degrees.

A total of 50 students participated in the university's Hired Before Graduation campaign, which celebrates students who landed a job, earned acceptance to graduate school or started their own business before commencement.



# Chelsea's Chocolate Extravaganza



► continued from page 1

demos, vender markets, and more. In my experience, The Chelsea Chamber provides a stellar service to downtown businesses. In an age when shopping need not include getting out locally and stopping store to store to check out the goods and get to know shop owners, The Chelsea Chamber is bringing community back.

I began my crawl around 1 PM. It was clear that downtown Chelsea was busy. Great news for the shops downtown in what is inevitably slow after the holiday season. I stopped first at the CACC information booth for a map detailing locations of hot cocoa, demos, and businesses participating in the gift basket giveaway. Had I arrived closer to noon, I might have received a free mug for my cocoa. But, due to

the exceptional job the Chamber is doing, the mugs were gone at the time I arrived.

I stopped at the Ugly Dog first, and have never seen it so busy. I could not drink as I was driving but it appeared that people were enjoying on-themed chocolate martinis. The back area was filled with vendors including local favorites Cakes by Kaity and other favorites. I took my time, being without a tiny human dragging me from store to store, and wandered into Bumble Dry Goods. I was charmed by the cute little animals on various items at the front of the store. A woman behind me commented that she loved the little disheveled animals. I picked a bookmark with a grey cat and mentioned it would be great for someone who is a book lover. She confessed that she works at

the library and told me she would be working on Valentine's Day. I thought, "This is one of the values of shopping local," I am meeting people within the community, and getting to purchase from my neighbors rather than another billionaires. Once I secured my purchase, a gift for my daughter in advance of Reading month I went next door to Culture Creations. The same woman was chatting with the owner, noting how wonderful the new items looked. I was going to tell her how my son enjoyed his soapstone treasures my daughter was too nervous to haggle for during her bizarre. But, she was rushing around frantically trying to ensure all the customers were tended to and received their cocoa.

I kept moving, exploring each of the shops along the way,

and basking in the kind, friendliness of all the shoppers. As I walked into Agricole a young man was holding the door for people as everyone came in and out of the store. His parents mentioned the fact that he is learning to be a gentleman, or something of that nature and I appreciated it remembering when I taught my now-grown

boys the same. As I left I overheard two ladies chatting. It's not weird, it's my job. One lady mentioned that she never has time to come to these stores. The overall feel from the conversation was that she enjoys events like these and is glad she has reasons to check out the local shops. Again, well done Chelsea Chamber on a fun creative reason to shop local. I made certain to get to the Serendipity Bookstore because my heart aches for the loss of bookstores and am committed to ensuring those left can stay. I discovered a display that said, "Go on a Blind Date," perfect for the Valentine's Day theme. Several books were displayed wrapped in brown paper. I select-

ed the one that stated "Is the winner of the Pulitzer Prize enough for you? A nuanced tender-hearted memoir that changes Asian American literature for good." Sold! I won't tell you the book it is, just in case you want a blind date but, I am thrilled and I've never read it!

The Chelsea Chocolate Extravaganza was a great way to enjoy shopping local and browse stores you've not yet browsed. If you missed the event, take some time out of your day to get downtown. You'll find wonderful neighbors and exceptionally curated goods and by shopping local you'll be helping the Charming Chelsea downtown continue to succeed.



## SAVE THE DATE! BALLET CHELSEA PRESENTS CINDERELLA April 20 & 21



**D&B Strategic Marketing**  
doris@dandbmarketing.com  
**Ballet Chelsea**  
jean@balletchelsea.org

Prepare to be swept away into a world of magic and elegance as Ballet Chelsea proudly presents its enchanting performance of Cinderella. The performances will occur on April 20 at 7 pm and April 21 at 2 pm at Chelsea High School. Tickets go on sale on March 11, 2024.

In addition to the captivating performances, Ballet Chelsea is excited to offer attendees the opportunity to experience the magic of Cinderella up close with Cinderella Teas at Ballet Chelsea Studio on April 6 and 7 at 2 pm both days. Open company rehearsals will be happening concurrently with the tea party. Everyone is invited to attend. Tickets go on sale on March 11, 2024.

Don't miss your chance to experience the magic of Ballet Chelsea's Cinderella - mark your calendars to purchase tickets on March 11 on Ballet Chelsea's Website and for the performances on April 20 and 21. Stay tuned for more information, tickets will be available on the website at [www.balletchelsea.org/tickets/](http://www.balletchelsea.org/tickets/)



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Presents

# AUTHORS IN CHELSEA




## An Evening with the Authors

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# Adult Learners Institute Announces its March Lineup



In addition to St. Patrick's Day and the first day of Spring, the month of March also provides the following intellectual stimulation, courtesy of ALI.

Walking in Our Grandfathers' Footsteps is the name of Wendy Zielen's class on March 4 when she shares stories of the men who served in one of history's most tragic catastrophes, World War I, the Great War. The stories of their courage, heroism and pain are revealed in historical records and artifacts, as well as in their personal memories.

Hank Muir asks that one refrain from dancing to the melodies of the first half of the twentieth century in his American Musical Theater classes on March 6 and 13. However, he does allow toe tapping to music from Tin Pan Alley through Bing Crosby, Judy Garland, Nat King Cole, Rock n' Roll, and even some singers we have never heard of.

Ann Beyer's March 8 class, What's Up? Wolf Ethology introduces ethology, the science of behavior, and she suggests that the behavior of wolves may explain some traits of human behavior. She has made several trips to the International Wolf Center in Ely, Minnesota, where she has learned much the relationship of these animals not only to their own habitat, but also to what they can tell us about ourselves.

We have all experienced that unexpected "hunch" that alerts us that something dangerous or harmful or possibly quite wonderful is coming at us. But when the moment passes, we tend to dismiss its significance. Beverly Fish thinks we should take that "hunch" seriously, and in her classes on March 11 and 18, Developing Your Psychic Ability and Spiritual Self, she will discuss ways in which we can enhance our intuitive abilities, not just occasionally but in our everyday lives.

Susan Nenadic's classes on March 20, April 3 and 10, Aging: Three Films Finding Joy in New Relationships, upend the notion that aging is simply a matter of rocking

chairs and pills. The three films focus on an English woman who moves to a boarding house in London, a French lady who befriends a man considered "not too bright", and an 84-year old former Mau Mau warrior from Kenya who wants to learn how to read.

Unless you are unconscious, you may find it difficult to avoid becoming at least a little distraught occasionally. Reverend Dr. Price cannot promise to remove the sources of our anxiety but his March 22 class, Decision Making and Anxiety will show how to hit the reset button when "S\*\*t happens. He advises students to bring along their questions as well as their sense of humor.

Trisha Terns' trained ear for language has allowed her to figure out how to harness thought and language to work more effectively to enhance our health, wealth and relationships. Her March 27 class, Mindfulness and the Art of Internal Language is an engaging dive into the principles of neuro-linguistics, a tool that you probably never knew existed but one that can enhance memory and provide

strategies for effective communication

Is an Electric Vehicle in Your Future? is the question explored by John Daly in this class on March 25. Most of us have to admit that we really don't know much about them. While most EV owners charge their vehicles at home, they also need public chargers. However, not all

EVs can use every public charger, and various charger types recharge EVs at different speeds. This class simplifies matters and helps you decide if, indeed, an EV is in your future.

Catalogs containing more information on these and ALI's other Winter/Spring classes, as well as the registration form are available at grocery

stores, libraries, senior centers and several churches and businesses throughout the Five Health Towns area as well as at [www.alimichigan.org](http://www.alimichigan.org).

You will find that the elimination of ALI's administration fee and the renovation of the web site have made registration for ALI's classes much simpler.

## 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**Business Breakfasts**  
Jan 11th | 7-9am  
April 11th | 7-9am  
July 11th | 7-9am  
Oct 10th | 7-9am

**Wellness After Hours**  
Jan 17th | 5-6:30pm

**Chocolate Extravaganza**  
Feb 10th

**Curling Fest**  
Feb 24th | 8-11pm

**Annual Meeting**  
March 6th | 6-8pm

**Sounds & Sights on Thursday Nights**  
June 6th-July 25th & Oct 24th  
6:30-8:30pm

**Sounds & Sights Festival**  
July 26th-27th

**Community Picnic**  
Aug 10 | Noon to 2pm

**Golf Outing**  
Sept 4th | 7:30am-3pm

**Backyard Beer Garden**  
Oct 12th | 3-10pm

**Hometown Halloween**  
October | All Month

**Wine, Women, & Shopping**  
Nov 8th & 9th

**Hometown Holiday**  
December | All Month

**Sculpture Walk**  
All Year

**Chelsea Trail Challenge**  
Feb 1st-Nov 30th

Scan the QR Code or visit [chelseamich.com/calendar/](http://chelseamich.com/calendar/) to view a full calendar of events.



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Chelsea Guardian

February 16, 2024

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# State of the City – February 1, 2024

► continued from page 1

other councilmembers for additional information.

### Main Street Park

In July, City Council approved a final development agreement with Main Street Park Alliance (MSPA) that was instrumental in MSPA receiving a \$1 million grant from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to address the environmental remediation on the site. City staff, environmental consultants, and Chelsea Parks and Recreation continues to work closely with the environmental and design teams as this new public park comes closer to fruition.

### Community Center

The Community Center Task Force and a working group of stakeholders delivered a joint recommendation report to City Council, asking council to further pursue opportunities for fiscal partnership and collaboration related to a potential intergenerational community center at the Chelsea Wellness Center (redevelopment) and/or the Trinkle/Freer site. Continued meetings with the task force, 5 Healthy Towns, the City, and the Chelsea School District worked toward a coordinated effort to make community-wide recreation offerings more cohesive and easier to access. One tangible example included a collaborative summer, pilot teen-membership, sponsored by the City, and supported by 5H and CSD that included access to both school gyms and the Wellness Center.

### Trail News

Chelsea received the Pure Michigan Trail Town designation from Michigan Department of Natural Resources in recognition of the City’s intent to “promote healthy lifestyles, conserve natural resources, and provide a catalyst for economic activity in local communities.”

Additionally, the City Council approved the designation of TimberTown Park as the official trailhead of the Border-to-Border Trail and approved a memorandum of understanding for the City to work in conjunction with Washtenaw County Parks and Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative, in a public-private partnership, to improve TimberTown Park. This exciting project, called TimberTown Reimagined, is well underway and will include improvements to the play structure, the Pathways to Renewal mosaic, and new pickleball courts.

### Public Safety/Mental Health

The council-appointed Public Safety Strategic Planning Group (SPG) began working together in November 2022, when Chief Kazyak joined the Chelsea Police Department. The SPG met throughout 2023, with support from SMART (Southeast Michigan Criminal Justice Policy Research Project), a team of facilitators from Eastern Michigan University. The SPG met throughout the year and held several public engagement sessions to provide opportunities for community members to have input and receive updates on the strategic planning process, which is projected to be completed first quarter of 2024.

Chelsea Police Department and the SPG have also been represented in a larger key stakeholder group known as the “Roundtable Group” that came together in 2023 initially to discuss possible recommended uses for the rebate funds from the Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage. A truly collaborative investigation of community needs and potential gaps brought forth recommendations from the city representatives as well as other group members from the Chelsea School District and the Chelsea School Board, 5HealthyTowns, Chelsea Hospital, Silver Maples, Chelsea Senior Center, and Chelsea District Library. The consensus recommendation centered around the possibility of a public-facing, shared community mental health coordinator.

Additional input was solicited from both Washtenaw County Community Mental Health and the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Office to align the suggested position to work within the existing resource network. The proposal is to be further defined, but the intent is for council to allocate funds this next budget year.

### City Administration

City Council welcomed Marty Colburn as our new City Manager in August, after a professional search and short interim period. Mr. Colburn brought over two dozen years of city management background in Michigan. He stepped right into an ambitious city plan with earned leadership skills and extensive experience. In November the city hosted a second annual employee and volunteer appreciation event at the historic

Chelsea Train Depot to introduce Mr. Colburn to our community.

The City received an “unmodified opinion” (the highest rating available) from Plante Moran, in the financial audit for the budget year ending June 30, 2023.

### Infrastructure

2023 was a year of study for many of our departments.

- Chelsea Light & Power, the city-owned electric company, conducted an electric rate study to evaluate the city’s electric budget, debt structure, rates, investments, capital improvement plan and operational costs.

- Council approved a water systems capacity study. A collaboration between Chelsea and Sylvan Township, the study will also explore the feasibility of a possible interconnection.

- The City received a grant to conduct a regional traffic study; assessing traffic in, around, and through our communities. Long discussed, this study will help our Planning Commission and Council with decision-making regarding future growth in our area.

### Planning/Housing

The City Council hired planning consultant firm Carlisle Wortman Associates to assess organizational recommendations for the city’s planning department and manage day to day operations. Housing continues to be a pressing conversation in our community, with leaders from the business community and the school district sharing concerns regarding affordability.

Although several housing developments made their way through different stages of the planning process including Heritage Point, The Glen at Westchester, Lincoln Pointe, and the Rockwell condominiums, none are categorized as affordable.

Conversations regarding boundary agreements, including PA425, continued with city staff and township representatives. Regional conversations got a bit of focus, as well, when the former Chelsea Area Planning Team/Dexter Area Regional Team (CAPT/DART) changed its name and formalized its monthly issue agenda in 2023. The new name is Western Washtenaw Regional Advisory Group (WW-RAG) and the group is made up of representatives from all Western Washtenaw municipalities. The group uses one meeting per quarter to focus on housing, one meeting per quarter to target transportation, and the

other meetings to discuss different regional issues and/or host county updates from commissioners and administration.

### Economic Development

In April, the City held an Economic Development Town Hall at the Chelsea District Library.

Predicated on conversations with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), the Economic Development Corporation (EDC), the Chamber of Commerce, and other community leaders, the town hall provided an outline of what resources our area has available to us and an opportunity for community members to share thoughts

about what kinds of initiatives they’d like to encourage.

The City held a number of meetings with both Washtenaw County Administration and Washtenaw County judges to discuss the proposed closure of the Chelsea Court House and the timeline and structure of services of the newly proposed Western Washtenaw Service Center. In

2023 it became more apparent that almost everything ties into economic development in one way or another: housing, trails/parks, transportation, employment, utilities. Regional partners like Ann Arbor SPARK and Michigan Municipal League (MML) con-

tinue to advocate for regional conversations about these intersectional issues.

The City initiated and maintained more collaborative conversations in 2023 than ever before, to bring as many community stakeholders into the conversations as possible. This will continue to be an intentional focus into the future.

The year went by fast, although progress sometimes feels slow. I think we accomplished a lot of good things together. Continued gratitude to the staff who make things happen and the countless community volunteers, without whom, not nearly as much would happen. Here’s to a fruitful 2024!

## Warriors Management Selected as 2023 Large Business Leadership Award Winner



Photo By RK Studios

**From: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce**

Congratulations to Warriors Management! They have been selected as the 2023 Large Business Leadership Award Winner. The Business Leadership Award is presented to a Chelsea Area Chamber of Com-

merce member who demonstrates commitment to strengthening our community and promoting a vital business environment.

Recipients have shown leadership in the following areas:

Displaying innovative ideas and services | Contributing to the

economic impact of the City of Chelsea | Providing services that meet the needs of the Chelsea area community | Enhancing the uniqueness of the community image | Demonstrating leadership in their business category | Supporting the activities of the Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce.

“On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Ambassador Club, we congratulate them for receiving the 2023 Large Business Leadership Award!”

## Eder & Diver Insurance Agency Named 2023 Small Business Leadership Award Winner



Photo Courtesy of Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce

**From: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce**

Congratulations to Eder & Diver Insurance Agency! They have been selected as the 2023 Small Business Leadership Award Winner. The Business Leadership Awards are presented to Chelsea Area Chamber of

Commerce members who demonstrate commitment to strengthening our community and promoting a vital business environment.

Recipients have shown leadership in the following areas:

Displaying innovative ideas and services | Contributing to the economic impact

of the City of Chelsea | Providing services that meet the needs of the Chelsea area community | Enhancing the uniqueness of the community image | Demonstrating leadership in their business category | Supporting the activities of the Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce.

“On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Ambassador Club, we congratulate them for receiving the 2023 Small Business Leadership Award!”



# Fundraising to Launch to Reimagine the City’s Largest Park

## Chelsea State Bank Steps up for Matching Challenge



Photo Credit: William Brown

By: Shawn Personke

TimberTown is ready to be Reimagined – with new play elements, improved infrastructure, and more – thanks to partnerships between the City of Chelsea, Huron Waterloo Pathway Initiative, and Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation.

The kick off for this unique community-wide project will be held on Feb. 20, at 6:30pm to 7:30pm, in the Chelsea District Library’s McKune Room. The “build week” is scheduled for Aug. 6 to 11, 2024. At the kickoff, community members will be able to learn more about the overall project, watch the premiere of the TimberTown Reimagined video, see the new playground designs, and sign up to volunteer.

“It’s an amazing opportunity for the Chelsea area,” said Chelsea City Manager Marty Colburn, “TimberTown Reimagined is one of two complimentary projects that are being developed in tandem and we’re excited to be

a part of these projects. They are good for the City, good for the townships, and good for our local businesses who benefit when people visit Chelsea.”

Noting the preliminary site-work, including improved water access for the Community Garden, Colburn said that the staff has been involved since initial discussions began in 2022. That’s when the City’s Park & Rec Commission was first approached by community volunteer Jeff Hardcastle.

Hardcastle, founder and former board chair of HWPI, said the idea of revamping TimberTown emerged as HWPI and B2B looked to build a trailhead in Chelsea.

“With the completion of the B2B through and north beyond TimberTown, we knew TimberTown was the ideal location,” he said.

“Trailheads can add more traffic to a site, so we realized that we needed to improve the entrance and parking,” he added.



Hardcastle said that as he began thinking through the project, he saw that the play structure needed some work, and that the park could also serve as a location for the city’s first dedicated pickleball pickleball facility.

At the same time, Chelsea Park & Rec Commission had been discussing the same concepts: how to repair the playground, where and how to add pickleball outdoor courts, and the best way to preserve and repair the Pathway to Renewal, the community art project created in 2003.

Good ideas have a synergy and energy that flows and grows and TimberTown Reimagined is no exception – Chelsea State Bank will be donating \$50,000 as a matching funds initiative.

“By investing in this project, we are investing in the longevity of our robust parks system which greatly benefits members of the Chelsea and surrounding communities,” said Joanne Rau, President & CEO

of Chelsea State Bank. “Chelsea State Bank will match up to \$50,000 of community donations raised for this project because we believe in leaving a sustainable legacy for the communities we serve,” she added.

“In fact,” Rau said, “we’ll also be encouraging our staff to volunteer during the Build Week in August. We’re going to need approximately 500 volunteers over the duration of Build Week to help paint, stain, sand, hammer and nail. We’ll need the entire community to help in some capacity.”

Gestamp, TimberTown’s neighbor, is also getting involved.

“They will be replacing all the existing wooden roofs on the play structure with metal roofs,” said Hardcastle, “and plan to have their staff volunteer during the Build week, also. Gestamp is opening up their parking areas to be used for overflow parking when there are larger events happening at TimberTown.”



The project has 5 parts: one, infrastructure such as paved parking and security lights; two, the wooden play structure that will be repaired and have many new bright and accessible play elements; three, the repair of the Pathway to Renewal; four, the addition of trailhead signage; and five, new pickleball courts.

“Chelsea Pickleball stepped up and raised the money needed to build six permanent courts at TimberTown,” said Hardcastle. “So that part of the project is essentially done.” The courts’ fencing, surface, and signage will go in this spring.”

“We’re extremely

excited about the community engagement the project is generating,” said Hardcastle. “When the community built TimberTown in 1997, it was an amazing experience and we think the re-imagining of TimberTown this summer will not only result in a wonderful ‘new’ community park, but also create a highly memorable experience for the hundreds of area volunteers who we’ll be needed to get it done.”

For more information, to donate, or to sign-up as a volunteer for build week visit: [www.TimberTownChelsea.org](http://www.TimberTownChelsea.org).

# Effective and Objective Communication within an Intimate Relationship Part Three

By: Michael J. Patterson, Namaste Family Services, Chelsea

The power of touch in an intimate conversation.

When we are angry it is natural to pull back and metaphorically put ourselves in a defensive position. This can also play out by physical actions such as crossing our arms, stepping back, or turning away. If we have suffered physical abuse this is especially relevant to the survivor. The past abuse must be known by your partner so they can understand why you pulled away. But, if you can, allow your partner to reach out and gently touch you, on either side, this can bring a calming of the discourse. Touch is extremely valuable to help foster trust and intimacy, along with allowing ourselves to feel more at ease. However many have a difficult time with touch. Men or women can avoid touch unless it is in a certain format such

as a handshake. But a gentle touch from the person you love can dissolve the anger or bitterness that may have built up between the two of you.

**Irrational Anger**

When we enter a discussion many times it starts as a conversation unless the individual has the objective to inflict emotional pain or lash out at the other. In my opinion, when we are in this state of being, we are irrational. Rarely does a solution to the argument appear. More Than likely damage to the relationship, even if it is minor, is the outcome. I know that anger can get the best of us. But we do have the power to disseminate it so that a rational discussion can take place. It takes effort on both parts. Sometimes a time out is needed so that both parties can breathe and come back in a calmer state of mind and emotions. Time outs are not to be used to come up with a way to win the argu-

ment. This defeats the reason to take a break. And can make it worse.

When you both agree to a time-out. You must also agree to a time to return to the discussion. The time out cannot be arbitrary or used to the advantage of one or the other. Again, the sole purpose is to decrease the anxiety of the conflict and come back to a rational state of mind so that the conversation can be focused, productive, and respectful.

**Being triggered by the conflict of past abuse or trauma.**

High conflict arguments can and usually do trigger events from the past of abuse, and resentments of negative past behavior by ourselves, others, or our partner. It is helpful to personally know this and also for your partner to know your history of negative emotional events. If you have a past filled with trauma or abuse, it is difficult to trust and allow yourself to be vulnerable. Yet the

essence of vulnerability is critical in a close intimate relationship. Using your partner's past or vulnerability to win the argument or hurt your partner is inexcusable. Kindness must prevail. However, holding onto the past and using this as an excuse to be angry or resentful also defeats

the purpose of intimate communication. If you feel triggered, allow yourself to acknowledge this but remember that it was in the past, not in the current discussion. If you know your partner has been triggered, be humble and validate their emotional state. If time and space are needed, then

allow it. But again, remember you must set a time to come back to resolve the conflict. IF past trauma is chronically affecting your communication or life in general, the individual therapy to work through this is important, if not critical.

## ON THE SIDELINE: SUPER BOWL, YAWNING, TAYLOR SWIFT AND GARBAGE

▶ continued from page 4  
ing on in their monotone, bored-sounding calling of the game. They weren’t awful, just not Super Bowl worthy. The only bright spot for me broadcast-wise was listening to and watching the best sideline reporter in the game today, Tracy Wolfson. She’s old-school good, professional, prepared and, ahem, if I do say so myself, easy on the eyes. Hubba, hubba.  
As for the play on the field?  
Not bad. But for a

Super Bowl, I expected better. To me, the whole vibe and feel of the game felt like a Week Nine, Thursday Night game. Nothing special, nothing worthwhile, just a regular season Week Nine contest. I didn’t feel any real excitement or tenseness normally associated with a Super Bowl game. It was so ho-hum.  
Maybe I felt unimpressed with this past Sunday’s Super Bowl because I’m older and have watched so many

big games over the years. But, I don’t know, football is football and a great game no matter when it’s played is a sight to see and feel. And this year’s Super Bowl was none of that to me.  
Get off my lawn.  
I’m old and cranky.  
My back hurts.  
My knees hurt.  
And this season’s Super Bowl broadcast/game was trash.  
And it was also without my beloved Detroit Lions.  
What garbage...



*Smash Hit “Diva Royale” by Jeff Daniels  
continues in the New Year*



The Purple Rose Theatre Company (PRTC) announces the extension of their hit comedy, "Diva Royale" by Jeff Daniels. Also, Friday matinees have been added to the weekly run. Extension tickets are on sale now. Also worth noting, there are two casts for "Diva Royale." If you have seen one cast, come back and see the other!

First staged at The Purple Rose in 2018, “Diva Royale” is an evening of side-splitting hilarity that follows three midwestern stay-at-home moms whose love for Céline Dion makes them plan a last minute trip to New York City. With the return of the original cast, this crowd pleasing comedy is guaranteed to make you laugh ‘til you cry.

This production of "Diva Royale" contains adult content and may not be suitable for children under the age of 13.

Extension performances of “Diva Royale” run from Wednesday, January 3 through Saturday, March 2, 2024. Performances Days/Times- Wednesdays 3pm, Thursdays 3pm, Fridays 3pm & 8pm, Saturdays 3pm & 8pm, and Sundays 2pm.

Directed by Jeff Daniels, Assistant Directed by Lucas Daniels, with Intimacy Director, Alexis Black,

the cast features Connor Allston (Clinton Township), Caitlin Burt (Farmington), Caitlin Cavanaugh (Manchester), Rusty Mewha (Plymouth), Rhiannon Ragland (Flint), Kristin Shields (Ann Arbor), Kate Thomsen (Portage), and Meghan VanArsdalen (Ann Arbor). Set design by Brian D. Dambacher, properties by Danna Segrest, costumes by Shelby Newport, lighting by Stephen Sakowski and Dana L. White, and sound by Robert W. Hubbard. Karen Anne George is the stage manager.

“Diva Royale” playwright and director, Jeff Daniels’ career as an actor, playwright, musician, and director, spans nearly 50 years in the industry. For his acting, Jeff has been nominated for five Golden Globes, five Emmys (winning for “Newsroom” and “Godless”) and three Tonys. He has written twenty full length plays that have world premiered at The Purple Rose. His “Onstage & Unplugged” performances have wowed audiences on The Purple Rose stage with the fundraising proceeds going directly to the PRTC. Jeff’s directing credits include the PRTC production of Lanford Wilson’s “The Hot L Baltimore” (1997) and two of his own plays,

“Boom Town” (1998) and now “Diva Royale.” On film, Jeff wrote, directed, and starred in two independent features: “Escanaba in da Moonlight” (2001) and “Super Sucker” (2002), both shot in Michigan.

The production sponsors for "Divas Royale" are Chelsea State Bank, CMRG and Secret Crisis Comics. Underwriting support for the season comes from Michigan Arts and Culture Council, National Endowment for the Arts, The Shubert Foundation, and The Matilda R. Wilson Fund. Media sponsors include JTV and Michigan Radio.

## Ticket Information

All performances will be held at The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park Street, Chelsea, Michigan 48118. The performance calendar can be found at <https://www.purplerosetheatre.org/calendar/>.

Ticket prices start at \$30 with special discounts for seniors, patrons 30 years or younger, members of the military, teachers, and groups (12+). For more information or to make reservations call (734) 433-7673 or go to <http://www.purpleorsetheatre.org>.

New to the 2023/2024 season, all PRTC productions will be staged in the round; with seating on 4 sides of the stage. This new configuration will add 40 seats to the theater space.



# Chelsea Police Department Weekly Summary

Time: 7:45 am

**INFORMATION:** While on routine patrol, officers responded to the 300 block of South Street for the report of a domestic assault. The complainant had called and reported that she had been assaulted by her husband. Upon arrival the officer was met by the complainant at the front door and she stated that she was the only person at the residence. The complainant stated that her husband had returned home and was upset regarding an is-

sue related to the house and upon returning home the complainant stated that her husband confronted her about the issue and grabbed her and assaulted her at that time. While the officer was interviewing the complainant the suspect, a 37-year-old Chelsea man returned home and entered the house. The officer escorted the suspect out of the house and finished gathering statements about what had taken place. At the conclusion of the

interviews, it was determined that enough probable cause existed to place the suspect under arrest for domestic assault. The suspect was transported to the Chelsea Police Department for booking and then transported to the Washtenaw County Jail where he would be held. The case remains open pending warrant review by the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office to determine what charges may be authorized.



# Dexter Community Orchestra Presents: “Madcat and the DCO”

If you grew up grooving to the jazzy rhythms of Dave Brubeck – or if you just enjoy catchy, tuneful music of any kind – don't miss the Dexter Community Orchestra's late-winter concert, "Madcat and the DCO," featuring popular blues harmonicist Peter "Madcat" Ruth. The concert will take place Sunday, March 3 at 4 p.m. in Dexter High School's Center for the Performing Arts.

Madcat will perform "Blues Suite for Harmonica and Orchestra" by Chris Brubeck (Dave's son), as well as some other jazz favorites. Also featured will be pianist

Shuya Zheng, winner of this year's DCO's Youth Artist Competition, who will perform the opening movement of Sergei Rachmaninoff's "Piano Concerto No. 1."

Madcat grew up in Chicago, where he took harmonica lessons from famed bluesman Big Walter Horton. There he met Chris Brubeck, and eventually joined Darius Brubeck's jazz group, playing alongside such legends as Gerry Mulligan, Paul Desmond, and Dave Brubeck himself (including at the Newport Jazz Festival). For the past 45 years, Madcat has lived in the Ann Arbor area, while performing internationally on the folk, blues,

and jazz circuits. Music Director David Schultz has assembled what is sure to be a crowd-pleasing concert for music lovers of all ages and tastes. The program includes Leonard Bernstein's lively overture to the Broadway musical "Candide," and "Ethiopia's Shadow in America" by African-American composer Florence Price.

This is a family-friendly concert, so bring the kids and grandparents! Like all DCO concerts, this event is free to the public, no ticket required. Donations to help defray the orchestra's expenses are greatly appreciated.