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The Dexter Forum: Full of Important Information for Residents

By Aimee Bingham Osinski
anbingham@gmail.com

The Dexter Forum is a place for the community to gather information on issues in and around Dexter. It is also an opportunity for community members to ask questions. Last Saturday's meeting was full of

important information for community members.

Heidi Patel, president of the newly merged Education Foundation of Dexter and Excellence for Dexter Students informed us that the group is still active in distributing grants during Covid. She explained that the group is trying to document its history and could use help from founding members and early Board members. If you were around in the 1980s and helped organize the group, they would love to hear from you. You can email to get in contact here: info@efdexter.org.

Viki Paulissen spoke about the redistricting process from the League of Women Voters. Given the importance and timeliness of the information, I've provided a full article with more details regarding the information.

Karen Roberts discussed the work being done regarding planning and zoning. There is a proposed

move from use-based zoning to form-based. The difference is parts of downtown might be commercial. But the commercial may be in a house. The reason behind the potential change is if the worst happens and an entire area burns, the look of the town remains the same after a rebuild.

The President of the Dexter Chamber of Commerce, Qualia Pant stopped by to discuss an event that would have happened prior to publication, a meet the board event. If you are interested in staying up to date on events by the Chamber, the website is here: <https://www.dexterchamber.org/>.

Paul Cousins made an announcement regarding Dexter Daze.. It is the fiftieth anniversary of the event and the committee has decided to move the event out of the city this year. There was a struggle to come up with a plan that was comfortable for the council to approve safety-wise. And the

Dexter Daze committee was understandably frustrated by the additional stressors of Covid. The Council and the committee could not reach an agreement to move forward so the committee could secure funding and the committee could not provide enough answers on safety measures so the Council could feel safe approving. It is an unusual situation with the uncertainty of Covid and not an enviable position for either side. It sounds like Dexter Daze will move forward elsewhere. But nobody at the meeting was in the know about the new location. The decision was another loss caused by Covid19 we are collectively experiencing. I think everyone felt a bit deflated by the news.

Paul Cousins also gave us an update on his wife's health. She has recovered from her stroke enough to be released from the hospital and into a care facility where she is undergoing daily

continued on page 2

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Cadette Girl Scout Troop 40500 adopts a family for Easter



By Charla Hamilton
charlachelseaguardian@gmail.com

The Michigan Foster Care Closet put out a sign up to adopt families for Easter this year instead of their usual Easter event. Stated troop leader Alicia Jensen: "Our troop, Cadette (7th graders) 40500, adopted one of the families. The girls each donated Easter basket fillers, stuffed 72 eggs, and used money they earned from cookie sales to buy the basket, eggs, and candy.

Pictured is Ella Jensen with the completed basket before the troop dropped it off at the Michigan Foster Care Closet. Photo Courtesy of Alicia Jensen.



Check out the new Mitten Kid website at www.mittenkid.com

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Everesting Challenge: Why is surviving sexual assault like climbing a mountain?

From: Deborah Kern

April is Sexual Assault Awareness month and to support survivors and bring awareness to the violence in our own community, three bikers will attempt the Everesting Challenge – climbing the height of Mt. Everest by riding the tallest hill in Ann Arbor 300 times in one day.

In a lifetime, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men will experience sexual violence, and yet just 23% report the violence to the police. Surviving sexual violence is like climbing a mountain. It takes strength and courage, and yes, there will be setbacks and obstacles. However, with support survivors can find the hope they need to find their footing again.

SafeHouse Center Executive Director, Barbara Niess-May, and board members John Huber and William Holmes will at-

tempt this challenge on Saturday, April 10, 2021. The event is being sponsored by Jiffy Mixes. You can support the three bikers and, most of all, survivors in our community by making a pledge at www.safehousecenter.org/everesting.

Sexual assault survivors struggle with a wide range of emotions that make coming forward difficult: fear of revictimization, retaliation, distortion of allegations, inadequate access to health care, and generally not being believed are the most common reasons. Join us to bring awareness and help change the systems and attitudes that allow violence to continue.

More information about the challenge and how you can help can be found at: www.safehousecenter.org/everesting

Note: The rain

dates for this event is on, Sunday, April 11th, or if need be in May (TBD).

I n f o r m a t i o n about SafeHouse Center: SafeHouse Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation in Washtenaw County, Michigan. We are a social change and social service organization dedicated to ending gender-based violence. We provide 24-hour response to survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence and we work to educate our communities about what they can do to end domestic/dating violence and sexual assault. If you are in danger or would like more information about domestic/dating violence and sexual assault, please call our 24-hour helpline at 734-995-5444.

If you would like more information, please call Deborah Kern at 734-973-0242 x273.



Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt

March 27 @ 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Older kids will love the extra challenge of this special nighttime egg hunt. Kids will search for eggs in different themed areas. Bring a basket or bag and flashlight to help search for the eggs. This is an entirely outdoor event.

A maximum of ten people will be assigned to each starting time at registration. Each household will start their egg hunt at slightly staggered times within their registered start time. All adults and children must be registered. Please arrive on time to your time slot, we may not be able to accommodate late arrivals and we are unable to accept walk-ins. Social distancing and face coverings are required.

Children ages 8 - 12.

Time: 8 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Cost: \$6 per child, \$6 per adult

Location: Hudson Mills Metropark, Activity Center

Pre-registration is required by March 26 at 4 p.m.

Pre-register online by calling 734-426-8211.

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

The Dexter Forum: Full of Important Information for Residents

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therapy treatments, to regain what she lost from the stroke. Paul explained that the therapy sessions are exhausting. As a stroke survivor, I know needing rest af-

ter therapy is normal and a part of brain healing. It sounds as though Pat is improving and the news is good. I am sure the family appreciates your continued prayers, if you are the

praying sort, for her recovery. Paul did say they do not need more food. They are well-fed and cared for as of now. He expressed his gratitude for the community support.

Yard Waste Pick Up to Resume in Dexter

From City of Dexter
Waste Management will be resuming yard waste pick up on Monday, April 5, 2021. Please do not put yard waste to the curb until this collection date.

On trash days, the City's field staff have noticed a number of trash and recycling totes put out to the curb facing the

wrong way. Waste Management's trucks use an automated collection arm to collect the trash and recycle totes. To accommodate this, totes need to be separated from each other and placed away from trees and parked vehicles. The totes should also be facing so that the lid opens on the road side (if someone was

standing in the road, they could open the toter).

Additional information on trash, recycling, and yard waste may be found on the City's website at: https://www.dextermi.gov/government/departments_and_services/trash_recycling_and_yard_waste.

Spring Programs



From Dexter Community Education

We've opened registration for several spring programs recently, including: Boater Safety, Girls 6th-8th Lacrosse, Soccer (2 age groups) and Girls K-5 Lacrosse. We're also planning additional springtime programs including Field Hockey (3 age groups), Flag Football and Tennis and will add them asap. Visit the link for more info

or registration and enter your key word in the search window <https://dexterschools.ce.eleyo.com/>.

Dexter Guardian

CLASSIFIED Help Wanted

CNC Machinist Wanted: Advanced Industries, Inc. in Chelsea is looking for experienced CNC Machinists. Must have experience in holding tight tolerances in high precision, short run production work.

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Menu Offerings

Beef Dinner Option \$19 per person

Whole roasted beef tenderloin, sliced served with potato onion torte, grilled asparagus, ratatouille vegetables and green peppercorn sauce on the side

Spiral Ham Dinner Option \$18 per person

Thick slices of traditional smoked ham with potato onion torte, grilled asparagus, ratatouille vegetables and honey pineapple glaze on the side

Plant Based Dinner Option \$17 per person

Southwest Style Vegetable Crepe assorted vegetables seasoned and sautéed, wrapped in a thin slice of eggplant, served with an Aztec quinoa rice pilaf with pumpkin seeds, black beans and corn. Also, oven roasted cauliflower and grilled Asparagus and Enchilada sauce (on the side).

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(Please forward this to your friends, your support is greatly appreciated)

To view our full menu and place your order
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or call (734) 428-9526 ext 11

Long-Time CEO of the 5 Healthy Towns Foundation Announces Her Retirement

Having led the foundation since its inception, CEO Amy Heydlauff is enthusiastic about this opportunity for 5 Healthy Towns Foundation to evolve.



From: Matt Pegouskie

On March 22nd, 5 Healthy Towns Foundation (5HF) announced that its first Chief Executive Officer, Amy Heydlauff, will retire in July 2021.

5HF is a community-wellness foundation that serves the Michigan school districts of Chelsea, Dexter, Grass Lake, Manchester, and Stockbridge with a mission to cultivate personal and community wellness. They currently oversee three wellness centers, support five wellness coalitions with 90+ members, and collaborate closely with One Big Thing partners to strengthen connection, engagement, optimism, and resilience in the region.

Amy has served as 5HF's CEO since its founding in 2009, and her retirement will bring to a close a remarkable clinical and administrative nursing career.

"Serving the five healthy towns has been my dream job — I can't even call it a job. My time in these communities stands out as my most satisfying work over decades of satisfying work. So many of you have been part of our accomplishments. I will leave as I came in — overwhelmed by the goodness of the people engaged with 5HF."

Amy will stay

plenty busy, even in retirement. She has long-standing connections in the healthcare and non-profit industries and hopes to continue to be an asset in those sectors. She's especially looking forward to opportunities with more limited scope and carving out time to attend to her languishing hobbies (hiking, water sports, gardening, writing, and connecting with the important people in her life).

"Amy has had a significant impact on health and wellness in our five local communities. She created a culture focusing on wellness, community building, and prevention. The quality of life in our five towns has and will continue to be positively impacted by Amy's commitment to our communities' well-being. We are so grateful for her leadership and dedication," said Sally DeVol, 5HF Board Chair.

As CEO, Amy ensured that the foundation prioritized engaging the region's people in the foundation's work and increasing recognition that the foundation's available funds and other assets are a community resource.

During her tenure, 5HF expanded their wellness center footprint and their annual wellness center scholarship giving to \$50,000. It invested approximately \$800,000 in each of the five communities, including infrastructure projects like trails, sports fields, greenhouses, and playgrounds, and programs like

cooking classes, pre-school education and SRSly support. In all, they've funded approximately 190 projects and programs through the wellness coalitions.

Under Amy's leadership, the foundation also started Connected, the twice-yearly magazine delivered directly to every service area mailbox. The magazine focuses on the wellness work being done in the five towns and features many of the people contributing to wellness efforts.

Recently, 5FH initiated One Big Thing, a major, mental health collaboration with Michigan Medicine's Department of Family Medicine, St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea, Washtenaw County Community Mental Health, and local coalition members.

"I've benefited from enthusiastic support of our mission by successive Boards of Directors and our small but extremely hard-working staff. Our community members and organizational partners also brought significant value to our work. I can't wait to see what comes of the transition and resulting organizational evolution."

The Board of Directors will oversee the process of choosing Amy's successor and has partnered with Michigan-based firm, HR Collaborative, to conduct a national search for its next chief executive.

To learn more about 5HF's work, programs, and initiatives, <https://www.5healthytowns.org/>

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Washtenaw County Health Department Vaccination Update

Starting March 22
MDHHS is moving forward with vaccination of:

- 50+** Everyone 50 years or older
- 16+** People aged 16 and up who have disabilities and/or medical conditions and their caregiver family members and guardians

Starting April 5:

- 16+** All people aged 16 and up who were not previously eligible

Vaccinations are ongoing for the previous groups.

Even with COVID-19 vaccinations, MDHHS urges everyone to continue to practice preventative measures such as properly wearing masks, social distancing and frequent handwashing to reduce the spread of the virus.

MDHHS For further information regarding priorities and scheduling a vaccine appointment, visit: Michigan.gov/COVID19

March Events

National Nutrition Month Food Drive*

March 1-15 • (CHE/DEX)

Help support Faith in Action's food bank program this month. Pick up a food list in the lobby and drop off your food items by March 15.

March Enrollment Special: Spark your own luck!

March 16-18 • (CHE/DEX/STK)

Become a member at Chelsea or Dexter for only \$17 down or Stockbridge for \$0 down.

Virtual LIVE March Workshops*

Fitness Trackers (CHE)

Thomas O'Neill, Fitness Specialist | Wednesday, March 3 | 7:00pm

Fitness trackers have become a big part of the fitness world. Thomas will explain the benefits and limitations technology has in the current fitness realm. Learn about different fitness apps and devices available to track your workouts.

Exercise During Pregnancy (DEX)

Lauren Yoder, Fitness Supervisor and NETA Certified Personal Trainer

Monday, March 29 | 11:00am

Join us to learn the benefits of remaining physically active during pregnancy. Exercises will be demonstrated to help you better understand what strength and stretching exercises to incorporate each trimester.

*Registration Required. Virtual workshop registration opens 5 days in advance of workshop.

*Community Welcome.

Members can register via member self-service portal or at the Member Service Desk. Non-members must register at the hosting center by calling 734-214-0220 (CHE) or 734-580-2500 (DEX).



From: Susan Ringler Cerniglia, MPH

Statewide vaccine eligibility expanded on Monday March 22, and Washtenaw County Health Department is also beginning a new scheduling process. The new process will allow online, self-scheduling for the mass vaccination sites in Ypsilanti and Chelsea. As before, the Health Department will provide phone scheduling for those who need it. Individuals already on the Health Department waiting list will be offered appointments before scheduling begins for those who are eligible starting today. For those eligible starting today, limited appointments are available for online scheduling, and these will be for appoint-

ments in early April.

Other providers, including pharmacies and the new FEMA/State of Michigan Ford Field site, continue to offer vaccine appointments. Pharmacies receive vaccine supplies directly from the federal government and may have more appointments available than local health departments.

"We are thrilled vaccine supplies are starting to improve for us as well as other providers. We also recognize there are still challenges," says Jimena Loveluck, MSW, health officer with Washtenaw County Health Department. "Statewide prioritization and limited supplies have not allowed us to reach all of our essential workers and higher-risk commu-

nity members, and we continue implementing strategies to increase access and strengthen equitable distribution."

The Health Department is now including those essential workers under 1B that have not been previously eligible under state guidance. This includes grocery store workers, restaurant workers, veterinarians, and other essential workers. As appointments become available, these workers are now eligible to schedule. Remember available appointments are based on vaccine supplies, and it may take weeks to schedule an appointment.

Local vaccination efforts will continue to include commu-

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Savings in Dexter

Dexter Guardian

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Mission Statement:

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

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Because of you, we are serving those most at risk in our community.

If you or someone you know needs help, support or most importantly hope, call our free and confidential helpline at **734-995-5444**.



4100 Clark Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Washtenaw County Health Department Vaccination Update

continued from page 4
pop-up vaccination clinics to make vaccine more accessible, especially where impact of COVID-19 has been most severe or disproportionate. Community pop-ups will be scheduled with community partners and leaders and as appropriate for the planned site and population.

Expanded state-wide eligibility

Starting Monday, March 22, all adults 50 and older, as well as individuals 16 and older with disabilities or medical conditions and their caregiver family members and guardians are eligible for COVID-19 vacci-

nation under Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) prioritization guidelines. This includes individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

On April 5, everyone 16 and older will be eligible to be vaccinated per MDHHS priority guidance. This represents an enormous increase in Washtenaw County individuals who will be eligible for vaccination.

New Health Department scheduling The new on-line self-scheduling process (available at <https://bit.ly/vax->

wchd) will allow individuals to make appointments for upcoming clinics as they become available. New appointments will be added at least weekly or as existing appointments are cancelled. There is no longer a request process or waitlist for appointments.

If you schedule an appointment but find another option or cannot make it, please remember to cancel so someone else can schedule. If no appointments are available, please check back. As before, anyone not able to schedule online can call our main phone number (734-544-6700) for assistance.

Any resident 65 years old or older who has not yet received a vaccination is encouraged to call 734-544-6700 and leave a voicemail or email L-wchdcontact@washtenaw.org so we can schedule them for an appointment as soon as possible. Over 74% of Washtenaw County seniors 65 years or older have received

at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine (Michigan Care Improvement Registry as of 3/16/2021).

The Health Department is committed to efficiently and equitably vaccinating Washtenaw County community members. We will continue to organize community pop-up vaccine clinics with partner organizations and community leaders and vaccinate

homebound individuals with our Nurse on the Run team.

Vaccine appointments may also be available through local health providers or pharmacies including Meijer, Rite Aid, and, soon, Kroger. A regularly updated list of COVID-19 vaccine providers in Washtenaw County can be found on our website.

Helpful links:

Health Department COVID-19 Vaccine Page

Additional options for scheduling COVID-19 vaccination

Vaccination Data: Who is being vaccinated in Washtenaw County?

Vaccine Priority Guidance from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)

Dexter Guardian

CLASSIFIED

Titans Trash is hiring a route driver

MUST BE reliable able to self manage, work in all kinds of weather and have a clean cdl class b endorsement, mechanical ability is a huge plus anyone interested call Kim Barker at 517-315-9621, serious inquiries only. We can discuss details at that time, but must be able to pass a drug test and have references

BATTER UP!



**2021 Dexter Little League Spring Season
Registration is OPEN!**
www.dexterlittleleague.com



DEXTER ATHLETICS



ON THE SIDELINE: GILLIGAN'S ISLAND AND THE ULTIMATE QUESTION - GINGER OR MARY ANN (OR MRS. HOWELL?)?



By Don Richter
drichter101@comcast.net

There are a lot of decisions to be made in life.

Some decisions are important and some not-so-much.

There are choices every day from the mundane to the exciting.

Should I buy pears or apples?

Should I wear boxers or tighty-whities?

Sometimes there are choices that are harder and make one pause and ponder.

Should I vote Republican or Democrat?

To be or not to be? Of course, that is the question.

Pepsi or Coke? That one always furrows my brow and makes me go, "Hmmm..."

This past weekend, however, I was taken back to my youth and to questions and decisions I deliberated about during those years. This past weekend, while passed out on my recliner in a large pepperoni and sausage pizza coma,



Ginger (left) and Mary Ann were characters played by actresses Tina Louise and Dawn Wells, respectively, on the 1960s-era comedy TV show "Gilligan's Island."

crumbs scattered about my torn T-shirt, I was suddenly roused out of my slumber by a passing ambulance, siren blaring. With pizza box and empty Pepsi cans (yes, that was my choice this past weekend) tumbling air-bound off the tray next to my recliner, I snapped to attention knocking myself and everything else around me senseless. As the ambulance roared down the street past my house, the siren slowly diminished in sound as calmness returned to my household.

As I gathered myself and picked up the scattered pop cans and pizza box, I heard a familiar sound on my TV -- a catchy song from my youth I hadn't heard in years, but have never forgotten. "Just sit right back and you'll hear a tale, a tale of a fateful trip, that started from this tropic port, aboard this tiny ship..."

Yes, I had some-

how stumbled upon the MeTV channel and the 1960s-era comedy show "Gilligan's Island" before dozing off on my recliner. I didn't even know I had the MeTV channel. In my cable package, MeTV is somewhere up into the 300's, a place I rarely venture, channel-surfing-wise. I don't have the patience to keep clicking that high into the channel universe.

Of course, like anyone who grew up in the 1970s and '80s like I did, "Gilligan's Island" was a must-watch TV show. Though only appearing from 1964 through 1967, the program has practically run every year since in TV syndication. So hearing that old familiar theme song, it certainly was a trip down memory lane. I watched two straight episodes -- and loved them both. I hate to sound like an old man yelling at the kids to get off my lawn, but acting and writing was just better back in those days. It's such a hokey show, on a hokey fake set, but the actors are so talented and the writing so kitschy and campy fun, it still works, at least for me, even today.

I found myself laughing and chuckling the entire time during both episodes. I even made an audible "awww" when MeTV started showing episodes of "M.A.S.H." instead of "Gilligan's

Island," though I love "M.A.S.H."

Anyhow, watching "Gilligan's Island" last weekend brought back to life one of my most important and thought about decisions/choices I had to make as a young man growing up during the '70s and '80s. Yes, the ultimate choice -- Ginger or Mary Ann? Who was prettier? Who was more beautiful? More desirable? Tina Louise was the actress who played Ginger, while actress Dawn Wells portrayed Mary Ann.

I know, I know, I know, it's impossible to choose. Believe me, I get it. I've been down that rabbit-hole too many times myself. When I was a youth growing up, I must admit, I was on "Team Ginger." She kinda' did it for me back then. The sexy, baby-talk voice, the slinky, sequined, glittery outfits, the long eyelashes and sultry walk, the young me was

drooling. However, it's funny, but by the time I had graduated college and began my journey into the adult working world, I slowly began to drift toward "Team Mary Ann." I can't exactly pinpoint the moment it happened, but there definitely was a change in taste and in what I found attractive by that time in my life. The wholesome, more innocent, perky prettiness of Mary Ann has now won me over forever. Sorry, Ginger -- you had a good run.

I don't think there is a more important decision, at least for a young man -- or even a middle-aged man like myself (yes, I'm still calling myself middle-aged, though I have an AARP card, the 50s are the new 40s, right?) -- than the question of Ginger or Mary Ann.

Ladies, I'm sorry, you're probably shaking your collective heads. I guess this is just a "guy thing." I guarantee you

every guy who's of age and grew up during those years like I did, has pondered that question -- Ginger or Mary Ann? -- at least once or a million times in his life.

So, Ginger or Mary Ann? Who would you choose?

It's the ultimate decision in life, isn't it, fellas?

Though, I must admit -- and it kinda' makes me a little angry -- Mrs. Howell wasn't looking too shabby as I watched "Gilligan's Island." The actress who played Mrs. Howell or "Lovey" as her husband on the show (Mr. Howell) affectionately called her, Natalie Schafer, was closer to my age now when she played the role, than Tina Louise and Dawn Wells were during the show's run.

So maybe I should change the question.

Ginger or Mary Ann -- or Mrs. Howell? Ugh.

I'm getting old...

DEXTER BOYS BASKETBALL

DREADS WIN

By Dave Merchant
dmerchant9701@yahoo.com

Dexter beats Chelsea with a 13-3 finish and 62-46 win over rival Chelsea. The coaches put the clipboards down and focused on the details of the game.

Colin Parachek was unbelievable again and dominated both sides of the floor throughout the night and finished with 23 points and most likely double digit rebounds mixed with some steals. Cal Bavin-

eau was a great floor leader and did a great job breaking down their defense and added 19 points. Evan Haroldson added 10 points as well.

DREADS ARE SUCCESSFUL

By Dave Merchant
dmerchant9701@yahoo.com

What a game! Both teams came out strong, then seemed to settle in and they led by 16 at the half. All the credit goes to Brighton as they really stepped up defensively in the second half and were able to tie it up with less than a minute left. Ty Rychener was able to dive on a loose ball

and secure possession to call a timeout with 22 seconds left. Subbed Brennan Parachek in the game, gained composure in the huddle and executed some great basketball on the final play. The Dreads went ball screen with Cal Bavin and Colin Parachek on the wing, 2 players went with Colin and one stayed with Cal...Brennan

was able to replace the roll and Cal found him for the final shot and the win at 52-49. That shot would not have been possible if it hadn't been for Ty Rychener diving on the loose ball. "We're thankful to be able to be in the gym tomorrow and get back to work," said head coach Jason Rushton.

DEXTER GIRLS BASKETBALL

DEXTER WINS

By Dave Merchant
dmerchant9701@yahoo.com

The lady Dreads extended their season

with a win over a familiar foe.

The locals dropped Pinckney 68-27. Alana

Babut had 20 points in the win. Three other players for Dexter had 10 points or more.

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Humane Society of Huron Valley Pets of the Week!

Adopt a Pet-of-the-Week this week, and get 10% off your adoption fee!

The Ann Arbor's 107one Pet-of-the-Week is Kash



Kash is a big boy looking for a dog-savvy family who can give him a great home! Kash can be a little shy around new people at first, so he'll need someone who can go very slow with him. His adopter must also continue Kash's daily training, and provide him with structure and a routine. Kash will thrive in a home with adults only and no other animals, where he can get tons of mental enrichment and physical exercise! If his world is designed for his success, he does well and would make a wonderful fur friend - but Kash is the type of dog who needs you to adapt to his needs rather than him easily fitting into any lifestyle. If you have experience with large dogs and you've been doing looking a new steadfast companion, please consider Kash!

The WTKA Top-Dog-of-the-Week is Howie



Being a dog at a shelter can be a scary place - all of the once familiar things and beloved caregivers are suddenly replaced by strangers and a strange place. Dogs like Howie need a calm, reassuring environment in order to thrive. Watching Howie gain confidence will become one of the things you most look forward for in your day. Come fall in love with our sensitive and shy soul Howie!

The W4 Country Pet-of-the-Week is Outlaw



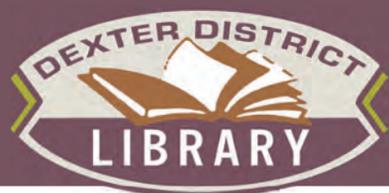
Meet Outlaw! Older dogs like him have been around the block and already learned what it takes to get along with others and become part of a pack. They'll be part of your family in no time, and Outlaw will be forever grateful that you saved his life. He enjoys play time, long walks around town, cuddling and simply being next to you. Come and fall in love today with senior Outlaw!

The Lucy Ann Lance Show Pet-of-the-Week is Rory



Older, laid-back cats can make the best companions, and that is certainly the case with Rory! She is a sweet older kitty who likes to relax and get her beauty sleep. How else can she keep such a luxurious golden mane? She has been kind of nervous with us, but does respond well to gentle attention. Due to her shy nature, she will need to go into a quiet home with no younger children. Once Rory is comfortable with you, she will sit on your lap or curl up on a soft blanket for a cat nap!

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



Dexter District Library 2021 Spring Events for Kids, Tweens and Teens



Upcoming Spring Events at Dexter District Library

Bi-weekly on Wednesdays at 4:30 pm, April 14 to May 12

Club Create

Kids in grades K through 2 are invited to join us on Facebook, every other Wednesday at 4:30 pm. Ms. Krista will share fun challenges, activities and craft ideas that you can try at home. She will also highlight a few new chapter books and readers. Everyone is welcome.

Dates: April 14, April 28, May 12.

Bi-weekly Thursdays at 11:00 am, March 11 to May 20

Preschool Super Stories

Kids ages five and younger are invited to join Ms. Krista on our DDL Facebook page every other Thursday at 11:00 am. Ms. Krista will read a longer picture book and share an activity related to the book. Everyone is welcome. Dates: March 11, March 25, April 8, April 22, May 6, May 20

Tuesdays, March 23 to May 18 at 10:30 am

Virtual Spring Story Times

Spring Story Times for ages five and under will be offered on Tuesdays at 10:30 am on our DDL Facebook page from March 23 to May 18. Everyone is welcome to join Ms. Krista for a fun morning of picture, pop-up and interactive books, flannel-board stories, songs, puppets, finger plays and other activities that encourage a love of reading to your child. Registration is not required.

Friday, March 26 to Saturday, April 3

Boredom Buster: Catapults for Teens & Tweens

Make three types of catapults and test them against each other to see which one can launch different objects the farthest. Supplies (except glue/glue gun) will be provided along with instructions on how to make your catapults, links to videos, and a list of books to check out to make more cool stuff. Teens and tweens in grades 5 through 8 may register on our website beginning February 22. Full details will be emailed to registered participants.

Thursday, April 15 at 4:30 pm

All Star Readers

All Star Readers Book Club for grades 3 and 4 will meet again on Thursday, April 15 from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Registration is required and begins on Thursday, March 18. The book we will be discussing is Because of the Rabbit by Cynthia Lord. Books will be available for pick up when you register. Join us for a fun, lively afternoon with Ms. Krista leading our discussion, everyone is welcome. A link to our Zoom meeting room and a password will be sent to you prior to April 15.

Citizens Are Encouraged to Participate in the Redistricting Process

By Aimee Bingham Osinski
anbingham@gmail.com

Vicki Paulissen from the league of women voters stopped by the Dexter Forum to help inform the public about opportunities to make voices heard in the state redistricting process. This is new for everyone in Michigan and it is important the public is aware of their rights and opportunities to participate.

A big opportunity to have your voice heard is the portion for community interest groups to gather and voice opinions. A community interest group has a common bond that would be reasonably impacted by the legislation. There are some important definitions to be noted in the process. The interest group must be contiguous. In this area, a potential example of a community interest group could be farmers. There are some

interest groups that are not permitted under the law. Race cannot be a community interest group. However, and this part seemed to be confusing for several of us in the Forum meeting, ethnicity can be. People of Middle Eastern descent in Dearborn can potentially form a community interest group. A political party cannot be a community interest group. Support for a particular candidate cannot be a community interest group.

The question is, what impact do these groups have on redistricting? A group can request that their group not be divided in the redistricting process. A group can also impart that there should be a division between groups. The dairy farmers may not want to be grouped with the marijuana growers. Battle Creek is requesting that it be grouped with Kalamazoo but not Grand

Rapids. The impact of having your group represented is political power at the voting booth. Missing the opportunity to present your opinion and desire may result in a weakened voice in elections. This is an opportunity to ensure your voice is heard. It is the first time Michigan citizens have been granted this type of opportunity. So, it is important that it be utilized.

So, if you have created a group and want to be certain that your group's voice is heard, the next step in the process is to plan to attend one of the upcoming sixteen town hall meetings which will be posted on the redistricting website. Prepare a two-minute verbal presentation and written testimony to state your case regarding where lines should be drawn to best benefit your group. This is a lot of information to fully grasp and commu-

nity interest group presentations will happen in May and June. But, thankfully, the League of Women voters is working hard to ensure everyone is aware of their rights. Vicki will be presenting at the Chelsea Forum on April 10th, if you have any questions or feel confused. Michigan's redistricting website will provide the meeting schedule: https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_91141---,00.html. The email address for the redistricting is Redistricting@Michigan.gov. The League of Women Voters website is a great source of information: <https://my.lwv.org/michigan/ann-arbor-area>. Vicki is more than happy to help voters understand and will gladly answer your

questions over email: v_paulissen@yahoo.com. I've consistently heard voters frustrated and feeling as though their vote doesn't count. This opportunity is a chance to ensure that your vote does and your voice is heard. Do not miss the chance.

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City of Dexter Seeking Candidates for City Council

From: City of Dexter

The City of Dexter is seeking candidates interested in serving as a City Council Member.

The City of Dexter has been notified that a Dexter City Council Member position will be vacated on March 31, 2021. City Council is required by City Charter to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term, which ends in November of 2022.

The City Council Member position is a non-partisan position, and candidates must meet the following qualifications to hold City Office:

- Must be a resident of the City of Dexter for a mini-

mum of one year.

- Must be at least 18 years of age.

Interested candidates are asked to provide a Letter of Intent, which includes the candidate's name, address, contact information, and a description of their interest in the position. Letters of Intent should be submitted to Justin Breyer, Interim City Manager no later than 4:00pm on Friday, April 2, 2021. Applications may be submitted by e-mail to Jbreyer@Dexter.mi.gov, or mail/drop-off at 8123 Main St., 2nd Floor, Dexter, MI 48130.



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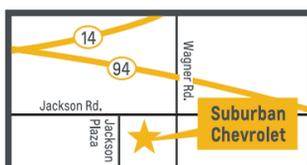
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