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December 11, 2020

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## EMMA EXCELS IN SWIMMING & SOFTBALL



Photo By Mary Kerkes

By Dave Merchant  
dmerchant9701@yahoo.com

Dexter High School has some talented athletes. Senior Emma Sortor is part of that group. She is great at varsity swimming and varsity softball.

She has been in Varsity swimming (since freshman year, also a co-captain) and in varsity softball (since freshman year).

“Throughout my years of high school swimming, my biggest personal goal was to get a state cut in the 100-yard butterfly,” Emma said. “This year, because of the shortened season and limited practices, we only had three state qualifiers heading into the SEC championship meet: fellow senior

captains, Charlotte Schultz, Hailee Waters, and Lauren Witte. However, at the meet, we were able to qualify three more girls, including junior backstroker Maddy Matos and freshman breaststroker Delaney Parker. In addition, I made my first ever state qualifying time in the 100-yard butterfly.”

“The best part about achieving a state cut was the excitement afterward; hearing my lifelong teammates and coaches cheer is something I’ll never forget,” she said. “The SEC meet is one of the most special parts about swimming; the months of hard work pay off as girls accomplish their biggest goals at this championship meet. It is heartwarming to watch a teammate’s reaction once they see that they’ve made their goal. This year, Dexter won the SEC White championship for the 23rd consecutive year.”

In softball as a freshman, it was very exciting to find out that seven of us freshmen had made the DHS varsity team. Spots on the varsity team were at a premium, as the JV program was discontinued that year.

“My classmates and I had played many years of travel softball together; our previously developed friendships contributed to our success that

season and the following years,” she said. “Though I didn’t play much at the start of my freshman season, I worked very hard at practice and eventually secured a starting spot in the district playoff games. We are all looking forward to the upcoming season after missing last year due to COVID.”

Dreads are successful and swimming is one of those caveats.

“On both the high school women’s swimming and softball teams, the girls have known each other for many years,” she said. “On the Dexter varsity softball team, many of the upperclassmen played on the same travel team (Hurricanes Fastpitch coached by Dave Niswonger) from the age of 9 until about 13. This initiated our bond, which has contributed to the camaraderie of the team and our success in high school softball. Similarly, many of the girls on the DHS swim team began their swimming careers at Ann Arbor Country Club or Dexter Community Aquatic Club starting at around age 7. Swimming side-by-side all these years has allowed us to celebrate our successes and help one another through the tougher times. Furthermore, the swim team is dis-

## Dexter Forum

By Aimee Bingham Osinski  
anbingham@gmail.com

The Dexter Forum held a meeting over zoom this Saturday. As we collectively settle into a second round of Covid, the Dexter Forum is adjusting as well. When we met in person, pre-pandemic, people chatted before and after the meeting. On my way out the door, people would get my attention to inform me about an upcoming event within the community. Many of my story ideas were born after the Dexter Forum. It was a time for unmoderated communication and

information sharing with neighbors. As the pandemic drags on, the forum is adjusting its meeting slightly. The zoom will open slightly early, prior to the meeting, and will stay open after the meeting to replace those in person neighborly chats. It’s not the same, but it’s a nice opportunity to find out from your neighbors what’s happening in the community. It is a nice addition to the zoom while we wait for it to be safe to be in person again.

The first item up for discussion is a bill making its way

through the lame duck session. Senate Bill 431, removes local oversight of mining operations. Rod Anderson, a moderator of the Chelsea forum, discussed the issue. It’s been a big issue for Chelsea in the past, due to the number of trucks rolling through. It’s currently a big issue in Grass Lake, due to refusal to adhere to rules and close proximity to newer drivers at the high school. There have been ongoing efforts locally to prevent mines from happening. Removing local over-

continued on page 8

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**Dexter Light Festival**  
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*Light up the Town!*

As the businesses spread some *Shine and Goy* downtown join them by creating a *Light Festival* around town on Saturday December 12!

If you live within the Dexter town area and would like to be added to the list of homes who plan to display some beautiful outdoor lights please email [dexterdazeinfo@gmail.com](mailto:dexterdazeinfo@gmail.com).

Follow Dexter Daze on Facebook or on our website as our Dexter Daze Light Festival unfolds and to download a map for your Light Festival Tour Enjoyment!

[www.dexterdaze.org](http://www.dexterdaze.org) [www.facebook.com/DexterDaze](https://www.facebook.com/DexterDaze)

# UMRC & Porter Hills Announce New Mission, Vision and Guiding Beliefs Statements

*Affiliated Organization Aligns As One, Serving Older Adults Across Michigan*



From Lisa French

United Methodist Retirement Communities (UMRC) and Porter Hills, which affiliated under shared governance and leadership in March 2019, has announced new mission, vision, and guiding beliefs statements as the organization works to more closely align as one in providing exceptional care and services to older adults across Michigan.

UMRC & Porter Hills leadership and corporate board members have been working on ways to align the organization since its affiliation eighteen months ago and, more recently, have sought ways to coordinate efforts and identify efficiencies, a goal that has been heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to President and CEO of UMRC & Porter Hills, Steve Fetyko.

“The trust and comfort level of our teams and board members has grown immensely through this time of COVID-19,” said Fetyko. “We have learned how much we rely on each other to fulfill our mission and how much stronger we are when we work as one. Committees comprised of members from each board have come together to

guide and streamline our policies and practices into one cohesive playbook.”

New mission, vision, and guiding beliefs statements were a focus of these efforts. “I am delighted that our work has included the thoughtful development of these new statements that reflect and encompass the innovation, inclusiveness, and compassion of our combined organization as we empower all people to age well – at any and every age,” said Fetyko. “This includes the older adults we serve through our traditional continuum of care, Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), home healthcare, affordable senior living, and more; as well as their families. It also includes our dedicated team members, board members, and volunteers, at every level within our organization, who make UMRC & Porter Hills such a warm and welcoming place to live and work.”

**Mission Statement:** Welcoming all, partnering together, enriching lives.

**Vision Statement:** A world in which all are empowered to age well.

**Our Guiding Beliefs:** Based on our founding principles, and guided by the teachings of our faith-based heritage, we believe in...

**Integrity:** We perform our responsibilities ethically, honestly, and with deep compassion, authenticity, and upright character.

**Wellness:** In partnership with our team members, we attend to mind, body, and spiritual wellness, as well as the independence, engagement, and joy for all we serve.

**Inclusiveness:** We welcome all, regardless of faith, national origin, or any aspect of human diversity, and want all who live, work, and receive services with us to feel welcomed, embraced, and invited to participate.

**Stewardship:** We are accountable for responsibly managing the resources entrusted to us.

**Excellence:** We seek to excel in all we do through a passionate commitment to continually improve every element of what we do, as individuals and as an organization.

**Community:** We recognize it takes compassionate, skilled team members, and engaged residents, participants, families, vendors, and volunteers to deliver on the promise of our Mission every day. We value their contributions and fully support their growth and continued partnership.

For more information, visit [umrc.com](http://umrc.com) or [porterhills.org](http://porterhills.org).

# Dexter BOE Meeting December 7

By Aimee Bingham Osinski [anbingham@gmail.com](mailto:anbingham@gmail.com)

Minutes approved and the amended agenda approved.

Dr. Timmis thanked trustees Read and Gold for their service to the board while giving his report. 17 positive students, 4 confirmed staff. Cases with kids have bumped up. It keeps trending up. 97 cases in the Dexter zip code. Cases in the critical level according to the CDC. The local health department is struggling to keep up with contact tracing. Board discussion based on the data.

Dr. Schumaker thanked both trustees Gold and Read for serving on the board.

No public comment.

Hire for Mill Creek for Math and

teacher at Wylie elementary school. Approved.

Action items: 2020-2021 budget amendment. Changes in revenue and expense are extensive. The budget is much more favorable than anticipated in June. The budget passed.

Wetlands easement was up next, twin turfs wetlands mitigation, authorizing the superintendent to sign. Approved.

Bus purchase request. Dexter received a grant to purchase buses. Seven, 77 passenger buses and one 54 passenger bus for special needs students. Approved.

Schools of choice for the second semester. Dexter has not traditionally done school of choice in the middle of the year.

But so many requests. Dr. Timmis explained that they don't allow so many students that Dexter would need to add a section. Approved

Reconfirm learning plan. Pre-kindergarten in person with safety protocols. Elementary hybrid remote learning until when? Jan 4th or Jan 11th.

Middle and high school Jan 4th or 11th or end of the semester? These are the questions the board needs to answer. The board seems to think that the 11th is the best option for young 5s through 6th. Dr. Timmis is hesitant about bringing everyone in on the same day. Barbara Read thinks exams should be taken in person. Dick Lundy and Ian Gold both think the



# January 23, 2021 Dexter Ice Fest Ice Sculptures will be on display in Monument Park and downtown Dexter

If you have any Community Events you would like listed here please email [charlachelseaguardian@gmail.com](mailto:charlachelseaguardian@gmail.com)

# Journey Through a Living Nativity

**Fri. & Sat.  
Dec. 18 & 19 • 6-8 pm**

Experience the Christmas Story with your family, from the comfort and safety of your car. Drive through our campus to see and hear the story unfold. Real animals will be featured. Children will have an activity to do, and will receive a gift at the end of the journey.

**You are invited to join us on campus for this FREE event.**

## Christmas Worship Services Schedule

- Wed., December 23 – 7:00 pm: Worship Band, candlelight
- Thurs., December 24 – 5:00 pm: Family Worship
- 6:00 pm: Christmas Hymn Sing Outdoors
- 7:00 pm: Traditional with Choir, candlelight
- 9:00 pm: Worship Band, candlelight



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decision needs to be held off to look at staffing levels. Julie Schumaker would like to bring middle school students back as soon as possible. Barbara Read stated she wants the kids back as soon as possible. Meeting Jan 11th and will need to reconfirm the learning plan. The problem is the numbers change weekly and daily. The Board likes bringing the kids back as soon as possible but, it's hard to predict how

the numbers will be in January. The decision, no sooner than January 8th for middle and high school. Approved.

Policies for second reading and final approval. Approved.

Bi-laws and policies from June for second reading. Sought out a review by the legal counsel. The Board reviewed the by-laws. Barbara Read had concern with wording limiting freedom of speech and she

pointed out that the word “must” needed to be, “should.” Julie Schumaker agreed that the wording should be changed.

Barbara Read also had concerns and wanted to be sure committees would not be changed to closed meetings. The Board is trying to clarify what is advisory and what is not. Committees are only an advisory and not a governing body, required to adhere to the open meetings **continued on page 4**

# The Real Estate Corner

By: Michelle Elie, Realtor, GRI  
Charles Reinhart Realtors  
734-637-6376  
michelleelie912@gmail.com

As we've seen over most of the summer and fall, November sales figures continue to be substantially greater than those last year. Normally this time of year is very slow in real estate, but currently, the demand continues to be great, and the supply is low.

Currently there are only 60 homes on the market in Dexter which is the lowest number of the year. The low inventory makes buying a new home a chal-

## November Summary

Here's the 2020 November Dexter Real Estate recap:

	2020
Number of new listings	14
Average list price	372,220
Number of sales	29
Average sale price	449,839

	2019
Number of new listings	12
Average list price	351,788
Number of sales	13
Average sale price	425,575

lenge as there are still plenty of other buyers out there, creating competition. It's still a good time to list even though the holidays are just around the corner. I invite you to reach out to me if I can be of

any assistance to you if you're considering entering the market.

Wishing you and yours a healthy, happy, holiday season. Stay safe out there.

# Reinhart

REALTORS

The data used in these articles is obtained from the Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors MLS

## Fine Arts Fun Learning Center



Photos By Sharon Broyles

**From Sharon Broyles**

What motivated you to create this? Children have always been precious to me, so much that I earned a Master's in Education as an avenue to help them discover their world in fun and creative ways.

Since experience has lead me to teach preschool, kindergarten and first grade for many years, I decided to create a classroom in my home to continue this career. Having a limit of 4 students, ages 4, 5, and 6, this would allow much more opportunity to follow the children's interest and still stay on track with common core academic

steps. Because of wonderful learning materials I've gathered through the years and more that I've recently purchased to complete a prepared classroom, I am ready to welcome the children into this journey. This will also be a way to share my current profession of music instruction/performance and experience of teaching art and sign language. My experience has been in public and private schools as well as and homeschool groups and tutoring. Designing curriculums throughout the years has allowed me to tailor each step to each child's interest, ability and needs.

Children need in-person communication and learning. This will be a way to share my gifts and help parents with the education of their children during and beyond this tricky Covid time.

A bit of background: While teaching academics in a public school, a side career snuck up on me after attending a dulcimer festival in Ewart, MI. I followed the encouragement of others to begin public performances and leading workshops at several music festivals in several states for many years. Following this ambition, FINE ARTS FUN LEARNING CENTER was developed as a personal business and now has a new branch of service for teaching academics in a private setting. Currently, I continue teaching students local and in several states. Most students are learning the hammered dulcimer, mountain dulcimer and others have taken beginning classes in ukulele, guitar and

continued on page 10

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## Free Christmas Meal

Members of our community who are unable to afford a Christmas meal are invited for a free meal provided by St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea. Due to the pandemic, we are unable to gather this year, but meals will be available by drive-thru pick-up at the Chelsea Senior Center between noon and 1 p.m.

Friday, December 25

Curbside pick-up between noon and 1 p.m.  
at the Chelsea Senior Center (512 Washington St., Chelsea)

Registration is required. Please call the Chelsea Senior Center at 734-475-9242 to register by December 21.

Caring Together

80150 R 9/20 S

## State Police Seeks Participants for National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest

Contact: Ms. Jolene Hardesty  
517-582-1154

The Michigan State Police (MSP) Missing Children's Clearinghouse invites fifth grade students statewide to participate in the 2021 National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest. The annual contest creates an opportunity to promote child safety while discussing the issue of missing and/or exploited children. There are almost 700 missing children in Michigan currently.

Michigan's top winning artist will have a shot at the national contest, which includes a free trip

to Washington D.C. and their artwork featured as the National Missing Children's Day poster. Artists from Michigan have won the national contest in 2015 and 2018.

Contest rules are as follows:

- Applicants must be in the fifth grade.
- Original artwork should reflect the theme "Bringing Our Missing Children Home" and the phrase must appear somewhere on the poster.
- Digitally produced images, collages, cut-outs, and stamping will not be

eligible for consideration.

• The finished poster must measure 8½ x 14 inches.

The poster must be submitted with a complete application, which includes a description of the artwork and a brief biography of the artist, either written or typed. Submissions must be postmarked by Friday, Jan. 29, 2021, and must be mailed to: Michigan State Police Missing Children's Clearinghouse

Attn: Ms. Jolene Hardesty  
7150 Harris Drive  
Dimondale, MI 48821

# Lifeguarding Class & Re-Certification

From Dexter Community Education

Our friends at Independence Lake County Park are teaching a lifeguarding class and

a re-certification class at the Whitmore Lake HS pool beginning Dec 19. Full course fee is \$225 and re-cert is only \$100. Our pub-

lic pools, water parks and beaches WILL eventually reopen and lifeguarding jobs are plentiful and typically offer premium pay. If

you need more information or would like to register for either class, contact Julie Shoner at shonerj@washtenaw.org.

# Dexter BOE Meeting December 7

continued from page 2 act. Motion passed 5-1 with trustee Read dissenting.

MASB board of directors. Mara Greatorax would like to be a candidate to be nominated. It's a discussion item. The region includes Milan, Manchester, Ann Arbor, and Saline. The Board of directors represents the region and makes policy recommendations. Dr. Schumaker wanted to know how the Board would feel about moving it to an action item. It became an action item and was approved.

No public partici-

pation. No committee updates.

Board comments: Jason Gold grateful for the opportunity to serve the schools. Trustee Brudery thanked the district and the board for the opportunity to take classes.

Trustee Read thanked the community for the opportunity to serve. Trustee Greatorax thanked the board for the opportunity to take classes. Thanks to trustees Gold and Read for their service. The meeting adjourned.

Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation is offering

## LIFEGUARD TRAINING

### December 19 — 21, 2020

The Lifeguarding course will provide lifeguard participants with the knowledge and skills to prevent, recognize and respond to aquatic emergencies and to provide care for breathing and cardiac emergencies, injuries and sudden illnesses until emergency medical services (EMS) personnel take over. Upon successful completion participants will receive American Red Cross certificate for Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED which is valid for 2 years. A portion of this course must be completed online. **Must attend all dates and times, complete and pass prerequisites testing, online portion and written exam to receive certification.**

Course Prerequisites:	Class information:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Be at least 15 years old</li> <li>◆ Swim 300 yards, continuously demonstrating breath control and rhythmic breathing. Candidates may swim using the front crawl, breaststroke or a combination of both.</li> <li>◆ Tread water for 2 minutes, using only the legs.</li> </ul> <p>Complete a timed brick retrieval event: within 1 minute, 40 seconds: swim 20 yards. Surface dive, to a depth of 12 feet to retrieve a 10-pound object. Return to the surface and swim back to the starting point with both hands holding the object and keeping the face at or near the surface. Exit the water without using a ladder or steps.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>December 19:</b> 8:00am—1:00pm @ Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings Rd., Whitmore Lake, MI 48189 &amp; 2:00pm—6:00pm @ Whitmore Lake Pool, 7430 Whitmore Lake Rd, Whitmore Lake, MI 48189. <b>Prerequisite testing will take place at the pool this date.</b></li> <li>◆ <b>December 20:</b> 11:30am—6:00pm @ Whitmore Lake Pool.</li> <li>◆ <b>December 21:</b> 9:00am—10:15am @ Independence Lake Park &amp; 10:30am—4:00pm @ Whitmore Lake Pool.</li> </ul>

Cost for training: \$225

Register at [parksonline.ewashtenaw.org](http://parksonline.ewashtenaw.org)

Questions; contact Julie at 734-881-7406; [shonerj@washtenaw.org](mailto:shonerj@washtenaw.org) or [sigdaj@washtenaw.org](mailto:sigdaj@washtenaw.org)

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

# Savings in Dexter

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# Statewide Pause to Curb COVID-19 Cases Extended until December 20

COVID-19  
**PAUSE TO SAVE LIVES**

Open	Not open
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two-household gathering (high precautions)*</li> <li>Small outdoor gatherings (25 people)</li> <li>Retail</li> <li>Preschool through 8th grade (local district choice)</li> <li>Childcare</li> <li>Manufacturing, construction, other work that is impossible to do remotely, including technical education</li> <li>Public transit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hair salons, barber shops, other personal services</li> <li>Gyms, ice rinks, and pools (for individual exercise)</li> <li>Restaurants and bars (outdoor dining, takeout, and delivery)</li> <li>Professional sports** (without spectators)</li> <li>Parks and outdoor recreation</li> <li>Funerals (25 people)</li> <li>Health care</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Colleges and universities (in-person learning)</li> <li>Workplaces, when work can be done from home</li> <li>Restaurants and bars (indoor dining)</li> <li>Organized sports, except professional sports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theaters, movie theaters, stadiums, arenas</li> <li>Bowling centers, trampoline parks, indoor water parks</li> <li>Bingo halls, casinos, arcades</li> <li>Group fitness classes</li> </ul>

For more information about the order, visit [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus). Questions or concerns can be emailed to [COVID19@michigan.gov](mailto:COVID19@michigan.gov).

\*See Social Gathering Guidance. \*\*Includes a limited number of NCAA sports.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

In order to curb cases of COVID-19 in Michigan, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services extended the statewide pause to December 20th.

The science is settled — the best way to slow the spread is to double down on wearing masks, social distancing, and limiting indoor gatherings where people are most

at risk to contract COVID-19.

Hope is on the horizon, but right now we have to stay focused on protecting our families and our frontline workers so we can eradicate this virus once and for all.

You can read some of the research and data connecting COVID-19 and indoor dining below.

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6936a5.htm>

Researchers from Northwestern and Stanford: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2923-3>

Jeonbuk National University Medical School: <https://zeynep.substack.com/p/small-data-big-implications>.

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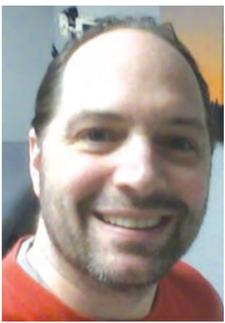
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# DEXTER ATHLETICS



## ON THE SIDELINE: BOB TALBERT, THE PARANORMAL, NEWSPAPER COLUMNS AND ALIENS



By Don Richter  
drichter101@comcast.net

"Readers always write."

That's not my quote, but a line from one of my favorite columnists when I was growing up. During those early years of my love affair with newspapers, getting up in the morning and reading the Detroit Free Press and the Detroit News was as much a routine for me as pouring the milk into my cereal bowl.

As I've grown older, looking back, I'm thankful my parents subscribed to both newspapers, along with our local hometown newspaper and multiple other magazines and tabloids. There was always reading material scattered throughout every room in the house, it seemed.

Bob Talbert was my favorite columnist

during my growing up years and even into my college years. Talbert worked at the Free Press from the late 1960s into the 1990s. One of the highlights of his columns for me was when he would devote an entire page to comments he'd received from readers throughout the week. There would be "Tracy from South Haven" sharing her thoughts or musings, along with "Tom from Royal Oak" and "Linda from Lapeer" and so on and so forth for the entire column. To begin that type of column, Talbert's first line would always be -- "Readers always write."

While I enjoyed Talbert's column, my middle sister (I have three older sisters) was obsessed with him. She would read his column religiously, quote his one-liners and even bought his book. So one can imagine the hysteria that occurred in our home the day the "Readers always write" column appeared and "Jan from Westland" was one of the readers sharing her thoughts and concerns on Talbert's page. "Jan" is my middle sister, in

case you missed it. I don't think I've ever heard such a high-pitched squeal in my life the morning my sister saw her name and comments in Talbert's column. I'm still a little hard of hearing in my left ear from the scream. That morning was the first of many times my sister would write to Talbert and each time he would put her comments in his column. To this day, my sister is still proud of that fact.

Anyhow, now that I'm older, I have a column of my own. I'm kinda like Bob Talbert in a way, right? I know, not so much. In my dreams, right? But I recently had a "Reader who wrote" moment. Notice it was only one "reader." They dropped me a message asking if I was ever going to write again about all the paranormal, ghost-ish, spooky-type things that have happened to me while living in Dexter and Chelsea these past 20 years. Last year, I wrote a series of columns on my experiences with the paranormal and odd-type moments I've had in the area over the

years. I actually did receive quite a few messages and comments (at least for me) from readers after writing those columns.

To answer the reader's question, I'm sure I'll once again write a column or two regarding my paranormal experiences -- I just don't know when. Since those columns have run, however, I've had many other ghost-ish and weird moments locally and throughout the state in the past year or so. Heck, one of those scary and strange occurrences happened at Cleary's Pub in Chelsea last year before 2020 happened.

To make a long story short, in the summer last year, I was dating a woman who was into the paranormal and all things extraterrestrial -- I mean, like, really into it. Like, alien-abducted, visits from "lizard people" and encounters with "the Greys" her entire life -- into it. But, hey, what can I say, I'm into chicks like that (err, I mean, women like that, sorry). Anyhow, it was a few dates into our relationship and I decided to take her to Cleary's for my favorite fish and chips and a beer. A few beers into the date and we're deep into her alien abduction stories -- and yes, I believed them -- who am I to judge? -- plus, the stories were fascinating -- and by this time, Cleary's was emptying out a bit and slowing down. There were only a few people left in the place. It was dark. It was nighttime. The bar seemed eerily quiet. She was in the process of telling me how the "Greys" (the typical grey smallish, thin alien-looking creatures with big heads and even bigger, darker eyes) terrified



An alien (the Greys) similar to this one was part of a recent paranormal-type experience for this columnist.

her. How they've been visiting her since she was a young girl. She said they seemed to follow her wherever she went. She felt she couldn't get away from them. I could sense the concern in her voice and the fear as she told me story after story of her encounters with the "Greys." At the table we were sitting at, my back was to the bar, while she was facing it. In the middle of one of her "Grey" stories she suddenly stopped. Her eyes got bigger and wider. She suddenly looked drained and confused. "Oh my God," she whispered to me. "I can't believe it. Look behind you."

I turned around and sitting at the bar on a stool right next to our table (despite there being a complete row of empty stools at the now basically empty pub) was a random guy with a ball cap on backwards, similar to how a baseball catcher would wear their hat. That's not unusual, of course. But what was strange and what frightened the woman I was with to her core -- and gave me the chills because she was so scared -- was that on his backward-turned ball cap was a giant "Grey" alien head with big, black bulging eyes staring right back at our table. What are the odds of that happening? Of all the caps to wear. I laugh about it now, but at the time, it was a bit startling, I

must admit. To have been talking about the "Greys" all night and then to see a random dude sitting next to us in a ball cap with an alien face on it, it's dark black, bulging eyes looking right at us, was kinda freaky to say the least. We exited the pub pretty quickly after that incident.

Anyhow, dear "reader" who wrote, that's one somewhat weird, odd moment that's happened to me recently. I'll have to tell you about the playground "merry-go-round-thing" that was spinning by itself in an empty park on a calm, no-wind-type-of-day for multiple minutes as I stood and watched from afar earlier this summer. Or the strange white feathers I find everywhere in random, unusual places inside all different kinds of buildings, or the hair pins I've been seeing for years (I'm a guy, I don't use hair pins) that pop up out of the blue in the strangest of places or the fact that I'm constantly seeing the numbers 444 everywhere...I could go on and on.

Until next time. Thank you, Mr. Talbert for all the years of enjoyment your columns brought me -- and my sister.

Your creative spirit is sorely missed.

As is your unique viewpoint of the world. "Readers always write..."

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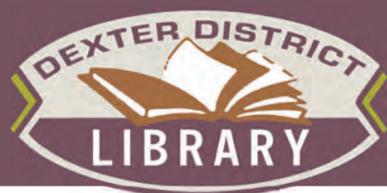
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## Dexter District Library 2020 Fall & Winter Events for Kids, Tweens and Teens



### Upcoming Fall Events at Dexter District Library

**Friday, November 27 to Saturday, December 5**

**DIY Holiday Cards for Teens & Tweens**

Get in the holiday spirit with your own card making kit. Kit includes everything you'll need to get creative at home including a variety of supplies and design ideas, along with craft materials to make an ornament. Teens and tweens in grades 5 through 12 may register on our website until November 24.

**Thursday, December 10 to Wednesday, December 16**

**Holiday Decorations Craft Kits**

Holiday craft kits for grades K through 5 will be available from December 10 to December 16. Call from the Library parking lot and we'll deliver them to our outside table or you can pick them up inside. Registration is required on our website beginning Monday, November 23.

**Saturday, December 12 at 11:00 am**

**DIY Shaker Cards Using Cricut**

Follow along as Mollie teaches you how to make a winter-themed card using your Cricut® machine. Geared for grades 5 through adult, shaker cards are simple to make and can easily be modified for all occasions. Registration is required on our DDL website. Zoom details will be emailed prior to the program.

**Tuesday, December 15 at 10:30 am**

**Winter/Holiday Story Time**

Join Ms. Krista on our facebook page for a fun morning of picture books, flannel-board stories, songs, finger plays and other activities celebrating winter and the holidays. Geared for ages six and under but everyone is welcome.

**Thursday, December 17**

**All Star Readers**

All Star Readers Book Club for grades 3 and 4 will meet again on Thursday, December 17 from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Registration is required and begins on Thursday, November 19. The book we will be discussing is Stargazing by Jen Wang. Books will be available for pick up when you register. Join us for a 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 December 17.

**Friday, December 18 at 11:00 am**

**Richard Paul's Ho Ho Holiday Show**

Comedy, music, puppets and some holiday magic for the entire family. Puppets include: Frosty the Snowman, Rodney the Rat and Mrs. Clause. Songs include Frosty the Snowman, Ho Ho Twist and a funky version of Oh Christmas Tree. Registration is required on our DDL website, everyone is welcome.

**Saturday, December 19 to Saturday, January 2**

**Winter Break Activity Bags**

Kids of all ages are invited to pick up a bag full of fun crafts and activities to keep them busy during winter break. Bags will be available while supplies last, registration is not required. Limit five bags per family.

# Dexter Forum

▶ continued from page 1 sight removes local autonomy over the community.

Julie Schumaker, of the Dexter Community Foundation, spoke about the foundation. She introduced a video that was made due to Covid19 preventing their Fall event. To watch the video, go to the Dexter Community Foundation's page at: <https://www.aaacf.org/Impact-Initiatives/Washtenaw-Impact/Dexter-Community-Fund>. You can learn about grant priorities and how to give. You can also sign up for the newsletter to stay updated on the fund's activities.

Ryan Henyard has created a guide to local giving. If you nor-

mally volunteer and donate during the holiday season, this guide will provide ideas for you during Covid19, if you aren't sure what you can do or how to do it right now. He's made the guide and artwork available for anyone to use and share with the hopes that other communities will take advantage of the work and create giving guides. The guide can be accessed here: <https://www.henyard.com/giving>.

Caryl Burke discussed Senate Bill 54, that seeks to restore historic preservation credits that were lost during the last recession. She stated the credits are vital to helping preserve the character and charm of downtown areas.

She also reminded the community that Christmas photos can be taken on the porch of Gordon Hall, which is beautifully decorated.

Finally, we learned that the Miller Rd. project is on hold until next year. It will remain closed until next year. We were informed that an unnamed utility company got a late start and that is the reason it is incomplete.

The next forum will meet over zoom on Dec 19th, at 8:30 am. For a little unmoderated chat, jump on a little early, around 8:15 or stay late to visit with community members. To receive a link to the forum zoom, email [RepHansen@aol.com](mailto:RepHansen@aol.com).

# EMMA EXCELS IN SWIMMING & SOFTBALL

▶ continued from page 1 tinguishable by our undeniable work ethic, as many girls continue to find safe opportunities to continue training during the latest COVID "pause". We are very hopeful that our state meet will happen."

Her favorite class is IB Biology. Emma has a 4.078 GPA.

College years will be here soon. "Although I don't plan to play either sport at a college varsity level, I'm going to focus on academics in the hopes of pursuing a career in healthcare," she added. "I've enjoyed every minute of my sports and I am interested in continuing swim or softball at the club level." She plans to attend college to major in biology and ultimately receive a doctorate in healthcare.

Her parents are Patrick Sortor and Jennifer Sortor and her brother is Dominic Sortor. Dominic (11th grade) is a multisport athlete who has participated in varsity tennis

and varsity golf.

She has many hobbies. She broadened her horizons with golf and participated in a junior league for the past 5 years.

During the quarantine, she started her own custom painted shoe business: "Tattoos For Shoes". She has participated in USA swimming for the past 8 years and has played travel softball for Hurricanes Fastpitch for the past 8 years.

"The girls in the Dexter class of 2021 are particularly athletic and many of my good friends are continuing their sports at a high level in college," she said. "We are very supportive of one another and celebrate each other's successes."

Accomplishments include:

Swimming: All SEC White Conference 100-yard butterfly (2017, 2018, 2020), SEC White Conference champion in 100-yard butterfly (2020).

National Honor Society Officer (Secretary).

Scholar Athlete in softball and swimming.

Advice for younger athletes is strong. "When things seem to be headed in the wrong direction, be persistent, and let your struggles ignite a fire within," she said. "Let your teammates motivate you, and motivate them in return. Most importantly, be genuinely happy when others accomplish their goals."

Quotes from Cory Bergen head Dexter girls' swim coach regarding Emma:

"She made an individual state cut for the first time this year at the SEC meet after being so close the past few years. She's a co-captain this year and a great kid who has also been on the varsity softball team since her freshman year. It's hard to be a multisport athlete and have one of them be swimming (because of the specialized sport and time commitment), but she's done it."

# Help a Veteran



Photos Courtesy of Shop Dexter

From Shop Dexter

SEARCHING FOR THOSE WILLING TO HELP A VETERAN THIS YEAR: It has been a privilege and honor for me the last 10 years to work with the Veterans at the VA Hospital here in Ann Arbor during the holiday season. It's that time of year again where we will

be honoring the Vets and their families who have served and sacrificed and are at the VA Hospital or the families at the Fisher House. For the last 10 years we were able to hold a wide range of fundraising events to help cover the costs of helping these families. This year things have dramatically changed but

our mission remains steadfast. Some have suggested that maybe the best thing to do is to cancel this year because of Covid, plus the new rules we now must follow, and work toward next year. NOT ON OUR WATCH. We are asking those of you who can to please consider helping in any amount possible to

# MHSAA Statement Update

Statement from MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl, following December 7 extension of MDHHS Pause:

"We realize the crisis our medical caregivers and first responders are navigating and understand the need to continue the pause. However, the MHSAA had

provided a detailed plan to both Governor Whitmer and MDHHS that would have completed fall tournaments with no spectators as safely as possible during the month of December along with allowing winter sport practices to resume.

While we are disappointed in today's

announcement, we will continue to look forward as we remain committed to play three sports seasons to their conclusion. The MHSAA Representative Council will meet on Wednesday of this week to chart out another plan for finishing Fall and restarting Winter."





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# Fine Arts Fun Learning Center



▶ continued from page 3

In the past we've had enjoyed jams, workshops and group performances for the public. Celtic, waltzes, fiddle tunes, and hymns are just a few of the many types of music covered. The students have ranged in age from 3 to... well... actually over 100 (during interaction performances with those in health care facilities)! As much as I enjoy all ages, I am eager to begin academic classes for the very young back into my career.

How do you describe this new learning option? This option will be a homeschool-style setting open to the public for ages 4, 5, and 6. It is designed to help children gain skills to enter first grade with confidence and ability. Reading, math, handwriting, and language subjects will be the focus with art, music sign language scheduled in and I'm sure smiles and laughter will be a part of each lesson.

Happiness helps learning! Science and community subjects will be covered intermittently. With my style of teaching, though the children may be different ages and working with different learning styles, they will always have what they need when they need it to take their personal next step in the learning process of exploration. This allows for constant personalized attention and encouragement to their needed growth areas and discovering strengths and abilities as well.

Gaining personal and group communication skills, learning how to manage disappointments and share kindness as they interact often with others

is a highlight of the course. Here, answers to their questions are explored through conversation, drawing, painting, building, drama, and writing with flexibility in the curriculum in order to nurture their curiosities. Along with this approach, the Michigan kindergarten common core will be followed. At Before classes begin, a professional evaluation will be set up at no cost. Throughout the year, an ongoing evaluation will be maintained and at an end of the year evaluation will also be conducted. Parent conferences will be set as needed and a private FaceBook page will be available for communication about highlights of the day. Because I can now follow my own time frame of teaching, I will enjoy enriching the lessons in creative ways to advance the child's learning in good timing. Class time is from 9 am - 1 pm throughout the school days which follow the Chelsea School District calendar. In the summer weeks, watch for children's summer day camps of music, mountain dulcimer (instruments provided), drawing and other art forms.

What is your experience? I have gained a Master's in Education and have taught mainly preschool through 1st grade most of my career. Sign language, private art classes and tutoring for upper elementary and Junior High are subjects I've taught as well. Public schools in the Indianapolis area has been my main experience. A favorite position was a Reading Specialist for lower elementary.

Music instrument instruction has been the main areas of instruction in the last

several years.

What can parents expect to see in the end? A comparison of the pre and post evaluations will be discussed as well as suggestions for moving forward. Students will show significant advancement in reading, language, math, communication, self-management skills according to each child's

ability and according to their full or part-time enrollment.

What steps are taken to enroll?

1) You are invited to request an in-depth detailed information Parent Handbook that would answer many questions is available by email. Feel free to contact me for a conversation. 2) After reading

the Parent's Handbook, parents can request an appointment for an Open House to meet each other, answer questions, and have a tour of the classroom. 3) Once parents decide this is what they want for their child/children, they are welcomed submit the forms included in the Parent's Handbook. 4) Once accepted into the program, a date is set so I can give a professional evaluation before the student begins at no cost. 5) A waiting will be established if needed.

What is the tuition? Tuition is very competitive with the private preschools in Ann Arbor and

surrounding areas. I would be happy to talk with anyone about details. I currently have openings for new students young and not so young for hammered dulcimer, mountain dulcimer, ukulele, mandolin, guitar and beginning piano. Class is limited to 4 children at any one time.

Both full and part time slots are available.

Fine Arts Fun Learning Center is located at 525 McKinley Street in Chelsea. For more information please visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Fine-Arts-Fun-Learning-Center-academic-fine-arts-classes-for-children](http://www.facebook.com/Fine-Arts-Fun-Learning-Center-academic-fine-arts-classes-for-children).

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