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The Beer Grotto



Photos By Aimee Bingham Osinski

By Aimee Bingham Osinski
anbingham@gmail.com

I listened to the owner of The Beer Grotto speak at the City Council meeting on the importance of the council approving the social district plan. He explained that his restaurant would not survive COVID without it. I've been trying to support small businesses within Dexter as much as possible during the pandemic. I'd not yet visited or reviewed The Beer Grotto. I decided, after hearing his request for help, to visit.

Before heading to lunch, I went to the website, <https://www.dextergrotto.com/>. I was pleasantly sur-

prised to find specials being offered. The specials are listed as 12 days of discounts, BOGO crowslers and meal specials. My husband and I opted for the couple's bundle. 1 app, 2 mains, and 2 crowslers for \$35. A great deal for a date night. But, I was bringing one of the beers home to my adult son, so we added a main.

We've all had a difficult time during Covid19. But my son, an evacuated Peace Corps volunteer, has been hit particularly hard. He was out of a job, midway through during the lockdown. To make things worse, several days ago, one of his friends

from the PC passed away suddenly. He's been struggling with grief since.

"For a moment, or a second, the pinched expressions of the cynical, world-weary, throat-cutting, miserable bastards we've all had to become disappears when we're confronted with something as simple as a plate of food." Anthony Bourdain

I brought my son a Cuban and a crowsler of IPA and suddenly, he was smiling and enjoying the meal with me. For a moment in front of a delicious meal, joy was back. He said his Cuban was of the most delicious he's ever had. Everyone enjoyed the appetizer I chose, the spicy feta. My husband, who isn't even a huge fan of feta thought it was really good. We split the steak quesadilla and the Cuban. Both were excellent. The steak had a really great smoky flavor, which I was not expecting and my Cuban was better than even the one I had in Florida. I was surprised. The portion size was big enough that we could not finish our food.

I would tell you about the service, which was great. But, I am biased as I knew the bartender. She **continued on page 2**

Dexter City Council Meeting December 14

By Aimee Bingham Osinski
anbingham@gmail.com

The City Council meeting began with the standard roll and approval of meeting minutes. Alex Gilbert caught a typo and Jamie Griffin caught a date mistake and a mistake in how she voted. Those were added as amendments to the minutes and the minutes were approved.

Pre-arranged participation, Dana Queen Farmer's Market Manager; Dana showed slides of the website and logo design. Facebook has 600 followers, Instagram has 800 followers and she is sending

emails to over 800 people per month. Started the market later, with no activities, and no Tuesday markets. Many adjustments to keep everyone safe. Tried a pick-up option but it did not work out well. Managed to secure a satellite SNAP reader so the market can take food assistance. They also have a grant for double up food bucks making the market more accessible to a wider market. Average the prior year over 400 people. Last year per day it was over 500, even with Covid, even with the request for one person per family to attend.

Dana is now a certified farmer's market manager. Dana would like to finish the logo, make new signs, t-shirts, and she'd like to remove bushes to make additional room and make the market more visible. She would like a banner across alpine street and flags. Dana noted the market can accept credit cards and will generate more revenue. And after it's safer, she'd like to do billboards. Dana would like to set up a system so that vendors can utilize credit cards. Paul Cousins noted that Dana did a great job under the **continued on page 3**



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Dexter Guardian Says Thank You

By Charla Hamilton
(charlacheaguardian@gmail.com),
Editor
& Tom Hamilton
(tomchelseaguardian@gmail.com),
Publisher
Chelsea Guardian

Dexter Guardian unnoticed and we appreciate you greatly. Thank you for your continued support of Dexter Guardian. Warmest wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season!



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 charlacheaguardian@gmail.com

The Beer Grotto



continued from page 1
even came out to the car to say hello. A simple reminder that by patronizing local businesses, you are helping your friends and neighbors survive. I cannot wait for things to return to normal so I can sit down at the bar after a

city council meeting, order the spicy feta appetizer and a beer before heading home. Until you can, I encourage you to enjoy a single bundle or a couples bundle. Or grab a gift certificate to use when things are normal. Do not forget to tip. The peo-

ple serving your food rely upon tips to support their family, even when you can't sit at the bar and chat. The experience was different, but it brought my family smiles and joy still. My son called it a comfort. It was a comfort to see him smiling and happy.



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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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HOLIDAY DINNER OFFERINGS

Beef Dinner Package (per person) \$19 • Whole Roasted Beef Tenderloin, spice rubbed and slow cooked, sliced and served with garlic mashed potatoes, creamy brussels sprouts with smoked bacon and grilled butternut squash with maple glaze, green peppercorn brown sauce

Duck Dinner Package (per person) • \$19 Boneless half roasted duck, served with garlic mashed potatoes, creamy brussels sprouts with onions and smoked bacon and grilled butternut squash with maple glaze. Traverse city cherry sauce on the side.

Spiral Ham Dinner Package (per person) • \$17 Traditional Spiral cut ham served with garlic mashed potatoes, creamy brussels sprouts with onions and smoked bacon and grilled butternut squash with maple glaze.

Spice Seared Salmon Dinner Package (per person) • \$17 Fresh Salmon Fillet seasoned with a spice rub and pan seared, served with garlic mashed potatoes, creamy brussels sprouts with onions and smoked bacon and grilled butternut squash with maple glaze. Lemon crab sauce with fresh dill on the side.

Plant Based Dinner Package (per person) \$16 • Italian Style Vegetable Crepe assorted vegetables seasoned and sautéed, wrapped in a thin slice of eggplant, served with a cranberry-quinoa rice pilaf, oven roasted cauliflower and grilled butternut squash. served with tomato arrabiata sauce.

THIS MEAL IS VEGAN & GLUTEN FREE

Additional Offerings

Scalloped Potatoes \$12 • Thin sliced potatoes and onions cooked in a cream sauce with white cheddar baked golden brown (serves 4-6)

Glazed Sweet Potatoes \$12 • Oven roasted whole sweet potatoes, sliced and topped with a bourbon barrel maple syrup and toasted pecans ready to warm up and enjoy! (serves 4-6)

Moveable Feast Fall Salad \$12 • Assorted greens topped with tri-color carrot threads, dried cranberries, candied pecans and maple cranberry vinaigrette (serves 4-6)

Farmers Market Salad \$12 • Romaine and mixed greens with onion, cucumber, tomato, peppers and sunflower seeds choice of smoked tomato ranch or Balsamic Dressing (serves 4-6)

Green Bean Casserole \$12 • Fresh Green Beans in a traditional mushroom cream sauce topped with fried onions (serves 4-6)

Dinner Rolls with Butter \$0.30

Holiday Cranberry Relish with Apples (Pint) \$6

ALSO AVAILABLE: ASSORTED FRESH MADE DESSERTS, BEER & WINE

Dexter City Council Meeting December 14

► continued from page 1 conditions and kept everyone safe. He wanted to know if there is anything we can do more to attract more vendors? Paul would like to know what the council can do as the council or as individuals. Dana had no issues with people having to wear a mask and was very grateful to the public. Accepting credit cards should be very helpful in attracting vendors. Dana had 19 spaces and in October was completely full. But under normal conditions, she would have enough space to house many more vendors.

Item E was the approval of the agenda. The agenda was approved.

Item F was a public hearing on the Amendment to the general code on pet ownership. Nobody wanted to speak on the issue.

Jamie Griffin moved to approve the amendment to the pet ownership ordinance. Residents don't have to obtain special land use approval. The zoning ordinance would be tweaked to address kennel owners. Residents would be exempt from the requirements that would be required for kennel owners. Zach Michels pointed out some changes that need to be made to the language. Mike Auerbach agreed and stated that he would not be opposed to postponing until slight changes are made to the language. Jamie Griffin noted some additional changes that need to be made. Paul made a motion to bring the motion back in January with the suggested changes made. The motion carried.

Item G was non arranged participation. There was none.

Three communications but no comments were made from the council on them.

Dan, running half staff and trying to get everything done on the day to day. The leaves came down quickly and there's been very little snow so the DPW is doing okay. Jamie asked about the well trucks her family saw at the park. One well gets pulled and cleaned. It's a part of the preventative maintenance done each year. Hoping to have the road back open after the water main break, taking a wait and see approach to be sure not to cause additional problems. Dan is hoping to get to the twisted fish back in the park this week. He's struggling with time due to being half staff.

Michelle Aniol and Jamie Griffin asked about the desire to have a council member on the zoning subcommit-

tee. Michelle did get an inquiry about a medical marijuana caregiving facility. Michelle is working with the city attorney on it.

Zach notified the council that Cap-Dart has adopted their schedule.

Justin Breyer gave the City Manager report. Mill Creek Park slope project looking for bids on the project. About to move forward with bringing in an administrative assistant and there is an issue with beavers in a tributary, but DNR does not allow for live capture and relocation. So Justin is trying to figure out what to do.

Mayor's reports wished everyone a safe, happy holiday season. The mayor wanted to recommend Rob Toth to the economic development committee. He wants to create a City manager search committee. We will dig into that in January. Wants to thank everyone involved in getting the luminary kits put together. A goal setting meeting will be set for a Saturday in January. Up next was the approval of the consent agenda. The motion passed.

New Business L1, amendment to council rules. Justin made some edits based on the last meeting. Zach Michels sent over additional notes today. Jamie agrees that disclosures should be on the agenda. Paul, Julie, and Zach prefer not to push off decisions to discussions. Donna suggested that this be dealt with during goal setting because so many changes need to be addressed. Donna made the motion to address goal setting, Michels seconded it. Motion passed

Justin Breyer discussed merging the parks and recs commission with the tree board. The tree board has met about 3 times in the past two years. Thinking that it would be better to have a more active committee to take over responsibilities. There are a few issues to be addressed, a name, and what to do with the current members, whether they will be added to the parks and rec committee. There are two non-parks and rec tree board members. One member is no longer able to do it. One member would love to be included on the parks and rec board. Justin will work to draft the language. Zach Michels preference would be to have more participation and leave as is. He is concerned that the tree board and parks and rec combined board will only focus on trees in the parks. Justin will

work on it and bring it back to the Jan 11th meeting. Zach suggested that Justin asks the parks and rec commission about a name.

Zach Michels made a motion to update social district and commons boundaries. Michelle Aniol spoke on updates on the liquor control commission. But, two businesses are not contiguous and would be left out. However, Michelle is working on a way to address the rules of the Liquor Control Commission. Jamie Griffin brought a map of Kalamazoo. But Michelle stated she is trying to find a way to help the businesses while minimizing the discomfort. Michelle is working very hard to protect the businesses without having a bunch of people walking around Dexter carrying open alcohol on the sidewalks. People need to be respectful of other people in the community. Jamie Griffin did research on social districting and current outdoor seating. Jamie is concerned and wants to learn the public's opinion on this change. Jamie is concerned that the council is picking winners and losers. Jamie suggested what she thinks is a more equitable solution to what is on the table. Paul Cousins is struggling to digest everything and is concerned about restaurants surviving this. Paul wants to help in every way possible. Paul does not want to lose two more restaurants in this town. Marie noted that taxes are not raised with new assessments. The city is just collecting accurate information. Zach wanted to know if the council could change its mind in the future. Michelle said yes it's possible but the businesses have paid to get permits, so not without impacting the businesses. Motion passed with Griffin voting no.

L-4 consideration to the zoning amendments commercial kennels. Zach motioned to postpone until the first meeting in Jan. Passed

L-5 adopt the text amendment to the ordinance for outdoor service areas. Remove outdoor seating as a special use. Establish a set of general regulations. The planning commission held a public hearing and voted unanimously. Michelle does not recommend an increase in the cost of applying for a permit until after Covid is over and the economy is more stable. The mayor asked some questions and Michelle requested a postponement to address the issues and bring it back next month. Don-

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Friday, December 25

Curbside pick-up between noon and 1 p.m.

at the Chelsea Senior Center (512 Washington St., Chelsea)

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na moved to postpone until the staff is ready. Zach made a suggestion for language to help Michelle address the issue. Motion passed.

L-6 Directing the DAFD to prepare a revised needs assessment. Zach made a motion to request the DAFD for new needs assessment and return that document for city council review. Paul seconded the motion. Zach noted the process has been difficult. Zach stated that a needs assessment is dated. Zach would like to hear from Chief Smith if this is useful. Chief Smith stated the last report was 2018. Chief Smith thinks updating it is a good idea and he could have something for the next council meeting. Wa Hubbard stated that she does not feel prepared without having several things take place prior. She does not feel she's had enough time to use her best judgment on what's best for the community. Zach pointed out that this is just requesting the document, not something to vote upon. Wa is not certain this is the best way to get a needs assessment. The Mayor feels like this might be reasonable to put on the goal-setting

session conversation. Jamie feels like there is a lot of catching up to do but she is fine supporting this tonight and does not have an issue with a needs assessment. Zach mentioned that postponing won't bring better information and that it can be revisited and expanded upon in the future. Wa is more comfortable with that clarification. The chief added that this assessment is just a facilities needs assessment to continue providing the same services it does now. Paul Cousins just thinks we need to move forward. Zach clarified that this is a space needs assessment. Motion passed.

L-7 consideration of the creation of the Fire Station Steering Committee Zach moves to change this to a discussion item Motion passed. Zach explained the idea behind a steering committee. Jamie thinks this is something to discuss at the goal-setting meeting. The mayor feels it's premature to discuss. Wa needs more information and would like to hold off on setting this up. Donna agrees it should be in goal setting as well. Paul states that every delay to the Firehall costs us more money. Paul stated this

is a crisis of money besides time. We need to move forward as fast as we can. Paul is happy to make motions and move this forward as fast as possible. Jamie would also like to see forward movement on this. The mayor is going to make sure this is a topic for goal setting. Jamie suggested creating this as a topic for a work session.

Paul Cousins stated that he appreciated the comments about the community garden. Paul hopes that we can work on this as soon as possible.

Zach Michels, is asking the student reps for ideas to make this experience better for student reps.

Alex will work with Bella to provide suggestions and happy holidays.

Bella suggested creating a social media for posting about Dexter's success as an idea for Zach Michel's previous request about how to celebrate Dexter students' success.

Each council member wished everyone happy holidays and to be safe. Jamie Griffin tried to help everyone with Zoom.

Council went into a closed session.

Dexter's Brook Gillum Wins Excellence in Education Award

From Hope Vestergaard
The Dexter Community School District is pleased to announce that Beacon Elementary kindergarten teacher Brook Gillum has been honored with the

Excellence in Education award from the Michigan Lottery. The Excellence in Education awards were established in 2014 to recognize outstanding public school educa-

tors across Michigan. Criteria for the award include excellence, dedication, inspiration, effectiveness, and leadership. Weekly honorees receive a plaque, a \$1500 cash prize, and

a \$500 grant for their classroom. One of the weekly winners will be selected as Educator of the Year and receive a \$10,000 cash prize. Each weekly winner is also featured in an



Photo Courtesy of Dexter Community Schools
evening news segment on the Lottery's media partner stations. The interview with Mrs. Gillum will air in Grand Rapids (FOX 47) and Lansing (FOX 17) on Tuesday, December 15th, and on Detroit's WXYZ Channel 7 and WNEM-TV (Saginaw) on Thursday, December 17.

Gillum was nominated by the family of former students, who cited the commitment and love she shows for each student. They said, "Since kindergarten can be very difficult, [Mrs. Gillum] offers her students a special feeling of security and is very patient and kind to each and every one. She helps build their confidence and gives so much to all of the students in her classroom."

Gillum says she fell in love with early childhood education when she took a part-

and love she shows **continued on page 6**

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"> Be at least 15 years old Swim 300 yards, continuously demonstrating breath control and rhythmic breathing. Candidates may swim using the front crawl, breaststroke or a combination of both. Tread water for 2 minutes, using only the legs. <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"> December 19: 8:00am—1:00pm @ Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings Rd., Whitmore Lake, MI 48189 & 2:00pm—6:00pm @ Whitmore Lake Pool, 7430 Whitmore Lake Rd, Whitmore Lake, MI 48189. Prerequisite testing will take place at the pool this date. December 20: 11:30am—6:00pm @ Whitmore Lake Pool. December 21: 9:00am—10:15am @ Independence Lake Park & 10:30am—4:00pm @ Whitmore Lake Pool.

Cost for training: \$225

Register at parksonline.ewashtenaw.org

Questions; contact Julie at 734-881-7406; shonerj@washtenaw.org or sigdaj@washtenaw.org

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Savings in Dexter

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Letter to the Editor: Dexter Senior Center

As this holiday season approaches, I am awed at how our community comes together and supports each other in this time of great need. We are so special, taking loving care of our preschoolers, creating the best schools for our students and providing wonderful recreational opportunities for our healthy adult population. We take care of our own here in the Dexter community..... or do we?

Our most vulnerable citizens, our seniors have contributed to the community over the years. Yet, because of physical limitations many are not able to enjoy the recreational opportunities afforded others. Many are socially isolated and lonely without family or friends nearby and are not able to enjoy stimulating socialization with peers or exercise appropriate to their needs.

To address these challenges, senior centers have become a community focal point and one of the most widely used

services among older adults in the country. They are often the heart of a community. This is especially needed in rural communities where isolation and loneliness can contribute to a decline in health and well-being. Active participation is essential to quality of life, enhancing social connectedness, and reducing risk of depression and cognitive decline.

Services for seniors are provided by the Dexter Senior Center and are conducted in one room in the Copeland School (now owned by Encore Theater). This limits the activities that ideally would take place there. Services needing privacy such as foot care, consultations, medical support are conducted in this same one room. This current location doesn't remotely meet the needs of our seniors and is now a temporary space as the Encore Theater expands its services and programs. It is projected that the senior population is growing at

an annual rate of 3.4% further challenging space needs.

The Dexter Senior Center desperately needs community support to meet the needs of our seniors. Most of the seniors who have used the current senior center come from the City of Dexter, Scio Township, Dexter Township and Webster Township. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a dedicated senior center? This is common in most other communities in Michigan. We can certainly do better in this community. We have been blessed. Let's have a conversation with our public officials on how this can be achieved.

"The quality of a society, I would say of a civilization, is judged by how well older people are treated and the place reserved for them in community life. Whoever makes room for the elderly makes room for life. Whoever welcomes the elderly welcomes life." Pope Benedict XVI

Joanne Westman

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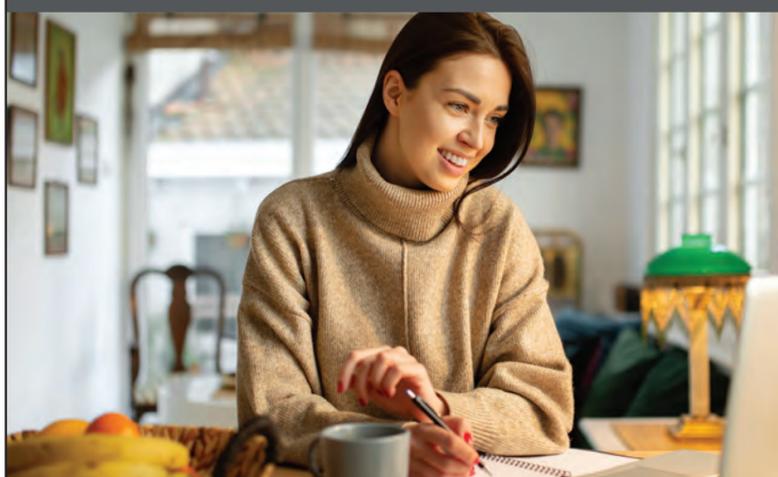
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Dexter Girl Scout Troop 40626 Giving Back



Photos By Kari Stroschein

From Kari Stroschein Junior Girl Scout Troop 40626 can't be stopped during a pandemic! In keeping with their tradition of helping a family in need, "together" the troop dug through their own closets and collections and gathered

used toys, books and games to donate to the Michigan Foster Care Closet in Ann Arbor. Items were safely collected with contactless porch pick up. These items will be available for foster care children and families within the area.

Typically Troop 40626 meets and shops for a family in need with money they earn from Girl Scout cookie sales. Due to the restrictions on meeting in groups, this was their way to help others.

Dexter Girl Scouts helping to make the Holiday Season Bright

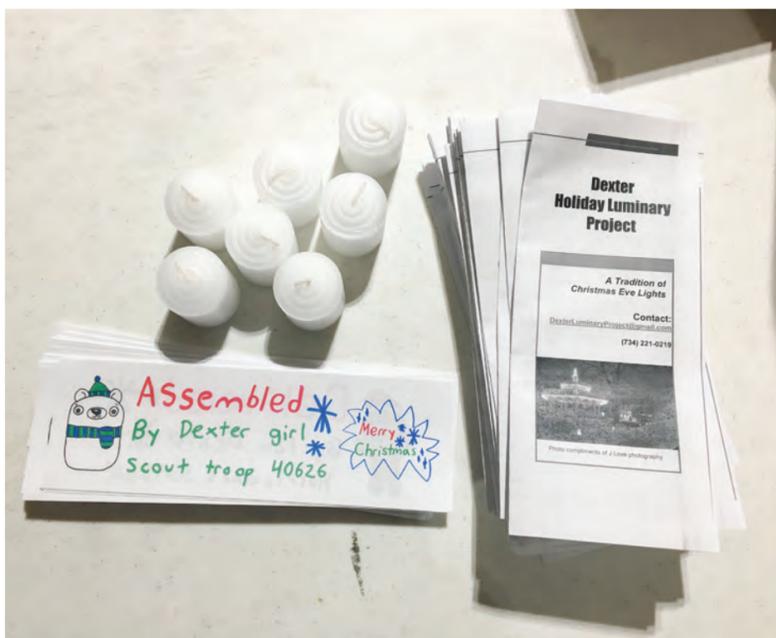


Photos By Kari Stroschein

From Kari Stroschein Tabitha L. and Rachel P. are 5th grade Junior Girl Scouts from Troop 40626 in Dexter. They worked

together (safely) to assemble 75 bags to deliver to residents of Westridge in Dexter for the city's annual Holiday Luminary Project.

Each kit contains a bag of sand, five candles and five luminary bags. Kits are delivered to residents doorsteps for the project.



Dexter's Brook Gillum Wins Excellence in Education Award

continued from page 4 time job in at a preschool at age 18. She earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education and elementary education from Eastern Michigan University and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Western Governors University. She has been an educator for eleven years, the last five at Beacon Elementary. Asked to describe her favorite part of being an educator, Gillum said, "Kindergartners are full of life and excitement for learning and I feed off their energy," said Gillum. "2020 has been challenging but being with

the kindergartners each day has helped me see things through a new perspective and find happiness during the hard times. I look forward to seeing them every day." Beacon Principal Ryan Bruder shared the following: "Popping into Mrs. Brook Gillum's classroom, it is not uncommon to hear from her a silly voice, a fun song, a playful laugh, or a heartfelt, 'I love you.' Mrs. Gillum radiates positivity, warmth, and kindness. One might think that being a Home-Based (100% virtual) instructor this year would change the feeling of her classroom,

but I can assure you, it is just as fun, loving, and silly as ever! In education, relationships are the foundation of a successful teacher and a successful classroom. Mrs. Gillum's greatest strength is her ability to build relationships with students. Mrs. Gillum has dedicated herself to becoming an exceptional educator. Mrs. Gillum solicits and applies feedback and learning from students, colleagues, families, and administrators. We are extremely fortunate to have Mrs. Gillum as part of the Beacon and Dexter Community!"

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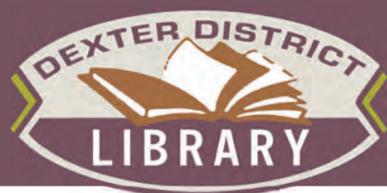
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Dexter District Library 2020 Fall & Winter Events for Kids, Tweens and Teens



Upcoming Fall Events at Dexter District Library

Friday, 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.

Thursday, December 24

Friday, December 25

Library is Closed

Monday, December 28 from 2:00 to 3:30 pm

Let's Make Tamales!

Join "Fresh Food is Fun" virtually to make authentic Mexican tamales from start to finish. Recipe and ingredients list will be emailed to participants prior to the class. Geared for grades 4 through adult but everyone is welcome. A fun evening for the whole family, registration is required. Zoom details will be emailed prior to the program.

Wednesday, December 30 at 11:00 am

Winter Music with "The Music Lady"

Bev Meyer "The Music Lady" returns to the Library to present a family fun hour of music, dancing and sing-alongs. Join us on Zoom as we celebrate the winter months and all the fun experiences we enjoy. Registration is required on our website.

Thursday, December 31

Friday, January 1

Library is Closed

January 1 through 24

Winter Photo Contest for Teens

Local teens in grades 6 through 12 are invited to submit a photo for a chance to win a gift card. Photos will be judged in three categories: Winter, Dexter and Family/-Friends. Entrants are limited to one picture in each category. Complete contest details will be emailed to registered participants. Photographs will be displayed on the DDL Teen Services webpage and in the Library's Teen Zone. Winners will be announced on January 28.

Ask Tracy

YOUR REAL ESTATE QUESTIONS



Selling during the holidays, good or bad idea?

Dear Tracy,

Due to a job transfer, I am driving over an hour to work every day. I am ready to sell now and would like to purchase something closer to work, sooner than later. All of my friends are telling me to wait until spring to put my house on the market. What should I do?

John K.

Dear John,

Selling your home during the holidays can actually have advantages, depending on the current real estate market and your lifestyle. Currently, in our area, there are more buyers and less available homes, plus interest rates continue to be favorable. This means we are experiencing a seller's market.

During the holidays, current sellers

see much less competition generally because many sellers do wait until Spring to list their homes for sale.

Less buyers looking during this time might mean less inconvenience. It is likely you will have fewer showing requests. The Lookie-Loos and less motivated buyers tend to be out in the warmer months. The holiday season and winter months can be

an advantage for sellers with hard-to-sell homes. For example, homes that need updating, or are located on busy roads, may see more interest with less competition.

December and January's active buyers tend to be serious and are often motivated to find a home quickly. These buyers have far fewer choices and may be more flexible with their requirements. If your home is in their price range and checks some of their boxes, they might be more apt to make an offer when provided with fewer choices.

Some disadvantages are that this

time of year people are cooking, baking, inviting friends or family over and it can be difficult to keep the house ready to show... sometimes with a short notice.

A few tips for selling during the holidays:

1) Don't over-do decorations or block important features. If your home is small or filled with books and collectables, the decorations will only make your home appear more crowded. Instead of decorating, add holiday touches, such as a festive centerpiece to the table.

2) This time of year gives you an opportunity to showcase your home as a warm cozy environment, turn up the heat and play soft music.

3) Make sure your sidewalks and driveway are kept clear of snow and ice.

4) Try to accommodate all reasonable showing requests. Each request is a valuable opportunity to sell your home. If you turn away a buyer, they might find something else before they even have a chance to see your

home.

My recommendation for you - if you are ready to sell now, why wait?

Lenders and appraisers are not experiencing extended delays during this time. As a result, most transactions are closing in reasonable amount of time. Good news for Michigan home buyers and sellers!

All indicators point to a robust real estate market this year. Interest rates continue to fall and are at a record low. I encourage anyone planning to buy or sell a property to first consult with a local Realtor who knows the local market. Your Realtor will listen to your goals and guide you expertly through the process of buying or selling a home within the time period that works best for you.

Tracy Rose is an Associate Broker with over 30 years of residential and commercial Real Estate experience. Do you have a question about Real Estate? Send it to Tracy at ask@tracy-rose.net.

DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



Monday, December 7th, there were two Board of Education meetings. At 5pm, there was a special meeting scheduled to conduct the formal evaluation of Superintendent Dr. Christopher Timmis. The evaluation discussion was done in closed session. When the Board returned to open session, they approved his evaluation as "highly effective". Board President Dr. Julie Schumaker thanked Dr. Timmis for his leadership, especially during this challenging year, stating that Dexter Schools has continued to make significant progress in all goal areas by creatively addressing the needs of our students.

At the regular (7pm) meeting, much talk centered on the pandemic. During his update, Dr. Timmis displayed slides from the District's COVID-19 Dashboard (available on the DCS website). He shared that when students are learning remotely, the District does not receive as frequent updates on student health issues as when they are in person. Based on the data collected so far, DCS currently has 17 students and 4 staff who have tested positive for COVID-19*. The infection rate has been trending down, but new data will be forthcoming on Tuesday.

In Washtenaw

County, cases have jumped from 0.2% to 7% for school-aged children in November and December. In the 48130 ZIP code, there are now 97 cases over the last two weeks; ages 0-9 at 4%, and ages 10-17 at 11%. COVID-19 cases in the county have reached a critical level, with a current positivity rate of 7.5%. Dr. Timmis stated that the highest risk level according to MDHHS is over 150 cases per million. Our area is roughly 360 cases per million, well above the highest risk category, which prompted the pause of in-person learning. In addition, before the pause, the District was approaching the point of not having enough staff available to keep the buildings open. Student attendance interaction rates at Dexter have been in the 98-99% range, the goal being an interaction rate of 75%. Before the pause, there was a COVID-19 outbreak in a special education room, which resulted in that program returning to remote learning.

Following Dr. Timmis's update, Board President Julie Schumaker thanked outgoing Trustees Jason Gold and Barbara Read for their service to the students and community of Dexter Schools.

Student Representative Aidan Naughton shared that Dex-

ter High School has changed their remote schedule to increase each class times by 15 minutes.

No community members asked to speak during the first opportunity for public participation, and the meeting moved to approve the hiring of two new teachers: Kasey Straub for a math position at Mill Creek Middle School, and Kylie Busdeker for a 4th grade teaching position at Wylie Elementary.

Discussion then turned to the 2020-2021 November budget amendment. The memo and documents prepared by CFO Sharon Raschke were reviewed in depth and recommended for approval to the BOE by the Finance Committee on December 2nd. Due to changes in staffing and other variations due to COVID-19, Dr. Timmis said the District is projected to be about \$76,000 revenue under expense, which is much better than the previously projected \$1.9M. The District received an unexpected \$1.2M in August (one-time federal funding), which significantly offset the projected shortfall. Dr. Schumaker noted the amended budget includes a \$65 increase per pupil from the state foundational allowance. The Board voted unanimously to accept the DCS November bud-

get amendment.

The Board next authorized the Superintendent to sign a wetlands easement required for the construction of the twin turf fields. That had originally been authorized almost a year ago but COVID disruptions left it unfinished so this was merely a matter of form.

The Board also approved the purchase of seven 77-passenger buses and one 54-passenger special needs bus from Midwest Transit, after DCS applied for and received a 2020 EGLE Fuel Transformation Program Volkswagen State Mitigation Trust Grant. This grant funds 25% of the cost toward replacing eight preidentified "dirty diesel" buses.

Next, the Board considered an additional opportunity for Schools of Choice mid-year applications. With families transitions happening due to COVID-19 (change in income, living situations, etc.), the district has had many requests to enroll non-resident students. Many of these are current Dexter students who are moving out of the District temporarily due to COVID-19. Dexter Schools lost 240 students this year for a variety of pandemic-related reasons, mostly K-2 students whose parents indicated that once the pandemic is over they will be returning to DCS. After

discussion, the Board unanimously approved offering at least two spots for the IB Programme (one student each from grades 9 and 10) plus a minimum of one student in each grade from Young Five through eighth grade, as well as at least one spot for the Virtual School and at least one spot for the Early Middle College for the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year.

Moving to the reconfirmation of the instructional delivery model required by the state, the Board discussed return-to-school dates subject to infection rates and case numbers. For Y5-6, most board members concurred that January 4th seemed too tight of a turnaround after the winter break for both families and staff, and recommended that Y5-6 return on January 11th.

Dr. Timmis noted that bringing the middle and high school students back to the buildings on the same day as the younger grades would likely create a logistical challenge with busing. He also asked whether it was wise to bring older grades back the week of January 18th, when there is no school that Monday due to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and half days that same week.

The board approved the following extended learning plan: Jenkins and GSRP classrooms will

remain in person with safety protocols, Y5-6 will remain remote through January 8th, and middle and high school students will stay remote until the rate of daily infections declines or through mid-January. At that point, hybrid students will begin to be phased back to in-person instruction. The high school will begin Workday Wednesdays for students identified by staff as being at risk of not earning semester 1 credit as soon as permitted by MDHHS. Special needs, ELL and other special population students will remain remote until January as well.

DCS periodically updates policies based on changes in law, regulations, or as needed. This evening, the Board unanimously approved the following policies: 2266 (Title IX sexual harassment), 4362.01 (threatening behavior toward staff members), 5610 (emergency removal, suspension & expulsion), 5611 (due process rights), and 7440 (facility security), previously approved for first reading on November 16, 2020.

A second batch of policies (bylaws) returned for approval. At its June 29, 2020 meeting, the Board of Education reviewed and approved for first reading revisions to bylaws 0143.1 (public expression of board members), 0144.2

continued on page 10



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Finish last minute shopping in Dexter!

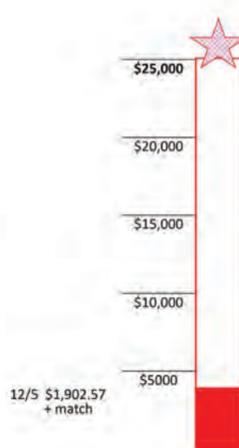


From Dexter Area Historical Society Area Museum, 3343 Inverness in Dexter, MI!!! We still have a nice selection of gifts for everyone! Including ornaments, hand knitted hats and shawls, soft toys, holiday decorations, jams and more ! Many items were handmade by the Museum Guild. We will be open from 10am till 3:00pm on Saturday the 19th.

Holiday Campaign in Support of Gordon Hall

Holiday Campaign in Support of Gordon Hall

Progress 12/5/20



From Dexter Area Historical Society DAHS has launched a campaign to raise \$25,000 in support of further renovation of Gordon Hall. All gifts received through the end of January 2021

will be matched up to \$10,000. When you commit, you will join in partnership with DAHS in fulfilling the vision of restoring Gordon Hall to its original glory and transforming it into Washtenaw County's premier historic home and Dexter's cultural center and community gathering place. You can donate securely online by selecting DONATE on the DAHS website: www.dexterhistory.org.

DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



▶ continued from page 8 (board member ethics), 0155 committees), 0161 (parliamentary procedures), 0167.3 (public participation), 0168.1 (open meeting minutes), 0168.3 (committee meetings), and policy 9120 (communications with the general public). At that time, the Board asked for legal review of the bylaws. That happened immediately following the meeting but this batch of bylaws fell off the radar with COVID-19 distractions. The attorney's suggested changes to policies 0155, 0167.3, and 0168.3 were incorporated into this evening's packet. On policy 0143.1, the Board decided to change the word "must" in the sentence, "News releases, articles or interviews with the media which reflect on the policies of the Board or practices of the School District must be cleared with the Board President," to the word "should." Board members discussed policy 0155, which says the Board committees are advisory in nature and "not a public body for the purposes of the Open Meeting Act." Dr. Timmis explained that the language was to clarify meeting issues that had been frequently discussed over the past year or two. Committee meetings will still include public participation and require minutes as noted in other bylaws. Dr. Schumaker noted that these bylaws had been approved by the Board pending legal counsel at the June meeting and these versions have been reviewed by

legal counsel. These bylaws were approved as well. A final discussion centered around Trustee Mara Greatorex's interest in running for the MASB Board of Directors. After a brief discussion in which Trustee Greatorex expressed her enthusiasm to represent the District in this position, Dr. Schumaker moved the item to action and called for a Board vote to support Greatorex's nomination. The motion passed. No one spoke during the second opportunity for public participation. This was Trustee Gold's and Trustee Read's last meeting. During Board comments, Jason Gold expressed his gratitude for his membership on the Board, saying he was looking forward to continuing to support Dexter Schools. Barbara Read also thanked the community for electing her in 2012, and said that she has greatly enjoyed her time on the Board. Elise Bruderly and Mara Greatorex expressed their gratitude for the Board's support of board member education, after attending the MASB conference over the weekend. They also thanked Trustees Gold and Read for their service to Dexter Schools. The next Dexter Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 11th at 7:00 p.m. *UPDATE: As of December 8, 2020, 23 students and 6 staff have tested positive for COVID-19.

Help support your hometown paper during these difficult times. As we recover from the Covid shutdowns we are hoping we can count on you to support the Guardian.

Please donate \$2 or \$5 per month by mailing a check to P.O Box 576 Chelsea, MI 48118 or by paypal at tomchelseaguardian@gmail.com