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of 2020!!**
SEE PAGE 10

June 5, 2020

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Tracy Van den Bergh: Third Candidate for Washtenaw County Circuit Court Judge



Tracy Van den Bergh • Photo Courtesy of Tracy Van den Bergh

By Aimee Bingham Osinski
anbingham@gmail.com

I had the pleasure of interviewing the third candidate for Washtenaw County Circuit Court Judge, Tracy Van den Bergh.

I started my interview asking Tracy why she decided to run. Tracy explained that

becoming a judge has been a goal of hers for some time. Tracy also explained that she previously worked for legal aid and was concerned with equal access to justice issues. She feels that as a judge she can help level the playing field in an appropriate way by helping provide

equal access. Tracy is very excited about the family court docket. She points to her experience as a clinical social worker, and provides me with a brief education of the courts.

Tracy explains that Family Court, in Michigan, is considered a

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Big Decisions at 3 Hour City Council Meeting

By Aimee Bingham Osinski
anbingham@gmail.com

City Council had a lot to discuss, from legal changes, to road design, and a celebration of seniors. Some major decisions were made, including the vote on the sale of property to Avalon Housing for the planned Hilltop Manor Development.

There was discussion regarding new efforts to help businesses reopen at lower capacity, including outdoor seating for restaurants. The consensus is that the City

Council wants to do whatever it can to help businesses survive, with one major caveat; the plans need to be equitable. It seems the best approach is to work with the businesses in town and try to ensure nobody feels harmed by some parking being converted to outdoor seating.

An additional item was added to the agenda: a vote on a car procession of seniors, Sunday May 31st.

Two public hearings took place. The first, regarding the land sale to DTE, had

no public comments. The second item, with a public hearing, the sale of property to Avalon Housing, as you might expect, came with plenty of comments from the public. Both sides of the issue were represented. During the hearing, a blip in technology happened. A slight flash appeared on screen and several members of the Zoom, including City Council members were no longer on the Zoom. As we waited for City Council

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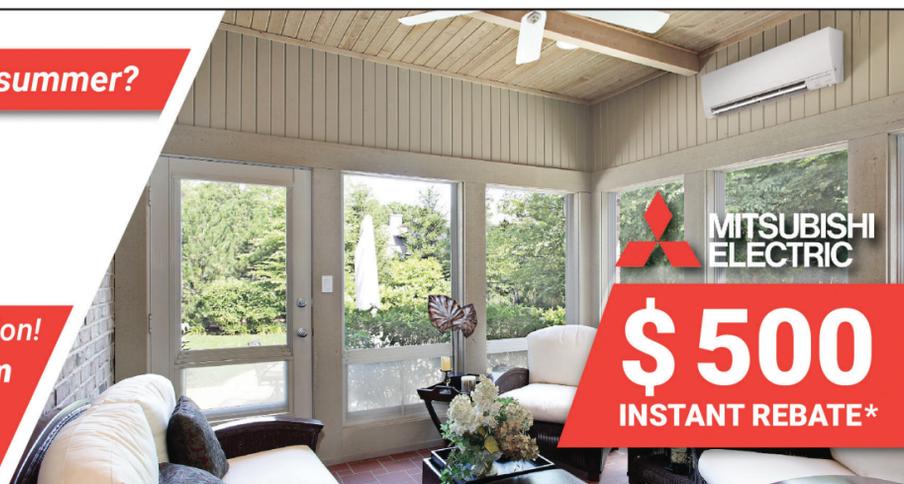
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Governor Whitmer Rescinds Safer at Home Order

From Washtenaw County Health Department

On Monday June 1, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed Executive Order 2020-110, rescinding her Safer at Home order and is moving the entire state to phase four of the MI Safe Start Plan.

The governor's order will allow retailers to reopen on June 4 and restaurants to reopen on June 8, both subject to capacity limits. Day camps for chil-

dren will likewise be permitted to open on June 8. Effective immediately, groups of 100 or less will be allowed gather outdoors with social distancing. Office work that is not capable of being performed remotely can resume. And in-home services, including housecleaning services, can resume operations. Subject to local regulation, gyms and fitness centers may conduct outdoor classes, practices, training sessions,

or games, provided that coaches, spectators, and participants maintain six feet of distance from one another during these activities.

Michiganers must continue to wear facial coverings when in enclosed public spaces and should continue precautions to protect themselves, their loved ones, and the community. And they should continue to work from home to the maximum extent possible.

Update from Dexter A&W

Exciting News Alert!!!

Beginning June 1 we are transitioning back to our carhop service and are closing our drive-thru. We will still be doing carryout orders only and credit card only payments. We are so thankful for the support from our awesome customers during the past months as we navigated thru the pan-

demic and an extreme staffing shortage. We ask that you continue to be patient with us as we begin offering carhop service. While we have increased our staffing levels we are still not at our usual summer levels. Our team is filled with amazing members who want to ensure their own safety as well as yours when dining at our restaurant. We ask that you consider

wearing a mask when placing and receiving your order! Last week we opened our patio to guests so that after receiving their order they could sit outside. We ask that you clean your table after use with the provided sanitizer and to follow the states orders on social distancing. We look forward to serving you soon!

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JUNE 27 - JULY 4 CAPE COD & MORE	AUGUST 22-28....NEW YORK
JULY 9 "MEET THE FORDS" FORD ROUGE FACTORY, LUNCH AT ANDIAMO'S	AUG 25-28 HOLMES COUNTY OHIO "AMISH"
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Humane Society of Huron Valley

Humane Society of Huron Valley Pets of the Week!

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

<p>The Ann Arbor's 107One Pet-of-the-Week is Ginger Hey there! My name is Ginger. I am a pretty lady looking for a forever home with my bestie, Fred. Fred and I are very attached to each other and I have a very hard time if he isn't by my side! When meeting new people, I am pretty timid. I do really like yummy treats (my favorite is bacon), and when I start to feel more comfortable with you, I am very sweet. I will need help boosting my confidence, and I would benefit from professional help from a trainer or behaviorist. Due to my shy nature, I need to live in a low traffic home with no young children. Fred and I need time and patience in our new home. If you are willing to give us all the TLC you could possibly provide, we will come around and make a great addition to your home!</p>	<p>The WTKA Top-Dog-of-the-Week is Fred Hello! My name is Fred. I am a very handsome boy and I am in love with my gal pal, Ginger. We must go home together because we are very bonded, and love each other. When meeting new people, I can be kind of shy. I will need help building my confidence, and I might need some professional help from a behaviorist. I really love treats, and if you offer me some yummy snacks, I will start to warm up to you. Because I am shy and nervous, I would really appreciate living in a quiet home with older children who can respect my boundaries. With your help, love, and patience, Ginger and I will make great companions! We just really need time to come out of our shells!</p>
<p>The W4 Country Pet-of-the-Week is Pickle Meet Pickle! This feisty feline is looking for a forever home that can keep him busy. He's very social and confident and has no trouble asking for what he wants, whether it be attention, playtime, or food! He likes to be at the center of activity and will supervise all your daily activities to ensure everything is getting done to proper feline standards. Pickle is a fun and silly boy who is sure to keep you entertained with his shenanigans.</p>	<p>The Lucy Ann Lance Show Pet-of-the-Week is Rebel Say hello to Rebel! He's got a spicy name, but this handsome guy is actually very calm and laid-back. Although he may have lived outdoors for quite some time, Rebel is enjoying the luxuries of a quiet life - warm bed, regular food, and gentle attention when he asks for it. He can be pretty shy when meeting new people, but once he is comfortable he will saunter over and ask for head scratches. If you have a quiet home and are looking for a cat to match, this gorgeous fellow might be the perfect friend for you!</p>

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

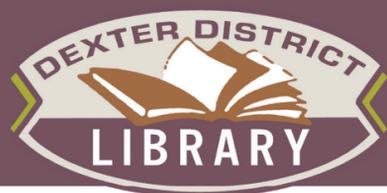
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Dexter District Library 2020 Spring Events for Kids, Tweens and Teens

COVID-19 Closure FAQ & Resources

Library Now Fully Closed through June 12

- Just ahead of the Memorial Day weekend, Governor Whitmer issued a new Executive Order (EO 2020-96) which extended statewide 'Stay Home, Stay Safe' orders through June 12. In issuing this order ahead of the Memorial Day weekend, the Governor did relax some restrictions on areas in northern Michigan and for certain types of businesses. However, the order continues prohibitions on providing all but critical, government in-person services (Section VII.) This even applies to areas of the State which have seen relaxation of commerce. Unfortunately, the order precludes the Library for providing any direct, in-person services. According to the State's MI Safe Start Plan, Michigan has been divided into eight regions, which will be monitored for COVID-19 progression. Washtenaw County falls into Region 1, along with the counties of Genesee, Lapeer, Livingston, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Saint Clair and Wayne counties. Due to the prevalence of COVID-19 cases in Wayne County, it is expected that our region will see restrictions on movement and service continue to be tighter than other regions of the State. The Library continues to prepare a reopening plan to ensure that when restrictions are lifted, we will be able to resume lending materials in a manner that is safe for both our staff and the general public.
- On May 7, 2020, Governor Whitmer extended the statewide "Stay Home" order by issuing Executive Order 2020-77. This order continues closure of public libraries through May 28 and provides more consistency with previous Executive Orders (see below.) With the current order, the Library is not allowed to bring staff back into the Library to prepare to restore services. As we move forward through this crisis, we continue to monitor our options. The Library's drop boxes remain closed and we still cannot accept donations of materials. We continue to work with the staff at our library cooperative (The Library Network) to adjust due dates for items previously borrowed as well as extend borrower card expiration dates. Rest assured, no fines will accrue for the duration of this crisis. The Library will follow the State's MI Safe Start Plan and restore some form of in-person services when possible. We continue to expand our digital services and have increased borrowing limits for our hoopla and Kanopy services. If you do not have a Dexter District Library borrower's card, our online application process is quick, easy and can get you started borrowing materials while sheltering. On behalf of the staff and Board, we hope you and your family remain healthy and well.
- On April 24, Governor Whitmer extended the 'Stay Home' order with Executive Order 2020-59, which allowed some restoration of business activities. While there was a curbside service caveat for some businesses, the order was reviewed by the Library's attorney along with the Library of Michigan legal staff. Their interpretation of the order was that Section 6, outlining limitations on governmental activities, precluded resumption of any in-person service by public libraries to the general public. This requires our current posture of being closed to the public and relying on digital services to continue through May 15. We continue to prepare for the time when we can resume services. While we do not know for certain what form that will take, the Library is developing several scenarios to adapt to environmental conditions and provide a safe experience for the public as well as safe working conditions for our staff. Please continue to monitor our website for new information as it becomes available.
- If you returned any Library items between Friday, 3/13/2020 and early Wednesday AM, 3/18/2020 – those items have been placed in a quarantine and will continue to show on your account until they've been checked back in.
 - These same items may be showing as overdue, lost or as fines on your account. You will not be fined for any items returned during this period. All of the fines will be erased when the items get checked in.
 - Our outdoor return boxes are now locked. Please keep all materials at home for the time being. No overdue fines will be assessed during this period.
 - All library cards that had recently expired or were going to expire soon have had expiration dates extended.
 - Don't have a library card? Click here to apply for one.
 - Online registration is only available to residents of the Dexter School District. If you reside outside our service area, please check with your home library about getting a card.
 - The Wi-Fi signal at the Library is available 24/7. Most devices get a strong signal in our parking lot and (when the weather is nice) for the benches along Alpine Street as well as the terrace area in Mill Creek Park North.

COVID-19 Health & Informational Resources

University of Michigan's COVID-19 Information Page
<http://careguides.med.umich.edu/coronavirus>

Non-partisan news and information resource with Michigan focused information, including COVID-19 impact articles
<https://www.bridgemi.com>

Dexter Wellness Center page on Group Exercises
<https://www.dexterwellness.org/services/group-exercise/>

Directory of Online Tools that have been made available for free
<https://dexter.lib.mi.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID-19-Partner-Content.pdf>

Washtenaw County's Health Department page on COVID-19
<https://www.washtenaw.org/3095/COVID-19>

State of Michigan's Page on COVID-19
<https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus>

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow
<https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/coronavirus>

U.S. Senator Gary Peters
<https://www.peters.senate.gov/coronavirus>

U.S. Representative Tim Walberg
<https://walberg.house.gov/coronavirus>

CDC Covid site
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

MDHHS Interim Recommendations for COVID-19 Community Mitigation Strategies
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/MDHHS_Interim_Recommendations_for_COVID-19_final_683589_7.pdf

Big Decisions at 3 Hour City Council Meeting

continued from page 1 members to be able to rejoin the Zoom, the Fire Chief let us know the cause of the disruption, a transformer fire. After several impassioned speeches for and against, The City Council voted unanimously to approve the sale.

The council continued its discussion of Third and Broad reconstruction project design. Cost estimates for different suggestions the council gave the week pri-

or, were detailed. Due to lack of agreement on the best design options, there will be continued work and discussion within the council prior to finalizing plans and moving forward.

With a strong encouragement from council to maintain safe social distancing, council voted in favor of a DCS senior procession, which took place at 2pm Sunday May 31st. It was moving to hear the parents of seniors express

gratitude for the ability to celebrate their seniors. As the mom of a junior in high school, I empathize with the parents. I'm hoping my son will be able to have a senior year and graduation. I cannot imagine how disappointing this has been for the class of 2020 and their parents. The senior procession is a little so-lace and a safe way to celebrate and honor Dexter Seniors.

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- Musical Theatre Company -

The Encore
- Musical Theatre Company -

To our very Dear Encore Friends, Family and Supporters,

As we continue to closely monitor updates regarding the ongoing efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19, it is at this time that The Encore Musical Theatre Company has to make some difficult decisions. Out of concern for the health, safety and well-being of our actors, staff and our community, The Encore Musical Theatre Company is shutting down until further notice. This means that all Encore rehearsals, productions and public event are currently suspended.

We will, of course, notify you as soon as possible of any changes as they become available, and will update as soon as possible regarding our current schedule and upcoming events. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this challenging and unpredictable time, when your commitment to The Encore is especially meaningful.

We look forward to seeing you back at The Encore Musical Theatre soon! In the meantime, please take good care of yourself, your family and your friends.

Dan, Paul and Anne
Founders
The Encore Musical Theatre Company

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ON THE SIDELINE:

LAWNCARE, BILLY RAY CYRUS, GOPHERS AND CARL SPACKLER



By Don Richter
drichter101@comcast.net

I need a break.

From COVID-19 issues, to social distancing, to protests, to riots, to wearing masks, to Murder Hornets, to no sports, to no haircuts and on and on and on.

Though, I must say, my "Billy Ray Cyrus" hairstyle is literally growing on me -- especially in the back. Talk about your "business in the front and party in the back"-type of hairstyle. Well, I actually have no business going on in front anymore, that ship sailed years ago, but I've definitely got a "rager" of a celebration going on behind my cranium at the moment. Please don't play the song "Achy Breaky Heart" anywhere near me right now. I might have to cut a rug "Billy Ray Cyrus"-style (kids, Google it).

I need a break.

I need to think about something else.

Let's see, hmmm... how about lawn care?



Bill Murray's character of "Carl Spackler" battled a gopher throughout the movie "Caddyshack"

Anybody?

You know, mowing the lawn.

Anybody?

Cutting the grass.

Well, in my case, stirring up dirt.

I so envy those people whose grass is perfectly manicured. A lawn that looks like a green carpet is my dream. Sadly, my grass, err, lack of grass, is my nightmare.

I tell my neighbor I have more ants and weeds on my lawn than grass.

I just can't win.

For a few years, I religiously used Scott's four-step lawn care system. Easter, Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day. Those were the days I put down my Scott's fertilizer, weed controller, bug repellent

and "food" for the grass during the colder winter months. Surprisingly, it worked well. For a couple springs and summers, I had a thick, healthy, green lawn. I received compliments and kudos from neighbors and strangers alike during those halcyon lawn care years.

I loved my lawn.

I enjoyed the green grass. Sadly, so did the moles. Or were they gophers? I'll never know. I just can never have nice things -- at least for very long. That's just my life.

I have no idea where they came from, but after a short, sweet couple of years of lawn bliss, the moles arrived and ruined "green carpet." One night I went

to bed with a perfect, much-admired lawn, only to awaken the next morning to a hilly, barren, spongy, "Caddyshack"-type lawn.

I immediately went into "Carl Spackler" mode and was determined to rid my lawn of the moles/gophers. Two strategically placed underground rods (solar-powered) that pulsed a supposed irritating and bothersome noise that only moles/gophers could hear, did the job after one season. I wanted a non-lethal solution to my problem. I'm a peaceful, "let's all just coexist"-type of guy.

But the damage had been done. My once beautiful, healthy, green lawn was now a WWI no-man's land



Billy Ray Cyrus had one of the best looking mullets back in the day

of dirt hills, up-raised tunnels, dried, yellow grass and my sad, pathetic broken dreams.

Since then, my lawn has recovered. But I'm hesitant to use my Scott's four-step anymore. I don't want to make it too perfect, for fear of attracting moles/gophers again.

I'll take the ants and weeds for the moment and be glad. I tell people my lawn is like a Monet painting. It looks good from afar, but the closer you get,

the stranger, odder and less attractive it looks.

Oh well. I guess there are worse problems in the world right now, right?

I'll keep working on my lawn and be happy.

But this hair of mine?

Oh my "Achy Breaky Heart."

Cue the band. Play the song. Find the YouTube video.

I need to dance -- Billy Ray Cyrus-style.

Break over...

ADD THIS NUMBER TO YOUR PHONE... 734-544-3050



By: Erin Spanier

CARES ACCESS NUMBER FOR MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE, AND TREATMENT SERVICES

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734-544-3050

DEXTER
Thur • 8:30 AM - 5 PM
7089 Dexter-Ann Arbor Road
734-544-3050

MANCHESTER
Tues • 8:30 AM - 5 PM
912 City Road in the lower level of
the Village of Manchester Building
734-544-3050

WHITMORE LAKE
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Coming soon
734-544-3050

.....
Millage-funded staff are being placed throughout the county to support residents. Current placements and those in advanced stages of development are listed below." SIDE NOTE: We are confirming if Manchester has approved this so may be able to add location and hours. More info soon.

JACKSON COUNTY

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One number, 734-544-3050, should be added to address books all across the county. It's the CARES access number for mental health and substance use treatment services offered by Washtenaw County Community Mental Health.

The number may be needed at 3:00 a.m on a Monday, during kickoff on Homecoming weekend, or 6:00 p.m. on a Sunday. In fact, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year--the phones at Washtenaw County Community Mental Health are staffed and CARES social workers, therapists, peer-specialists, and psychiatrists are on standby to offer Crisis response services, Access to mental health services, Resource connections, Engagement with community partners, and Support for individual needs.

Middle and high school teachers should have kids take out their phones and program it in during math class. Anyone who's lost a loved one, struggled with addiction, or experienced mental health challenges and had difficulty finding help should post it on the fridge right now.

These staff aren't exclusively for residents with severe needs or critical emergencies; they're for everyone, in every one of the county's townships. That wasn't always the case.

Washtenaw County Community Mental Health, like community mental health agencies all across the state, has been contending with major state funding reductions that don't even come close to covering the cost of mandated services.

On the Cover: Jenn Fenn and Leslie Turner, clinical case workers at Washtenaw County Community Mental Health, are two of the CARES team members who support residents in Chelsea, Dexter, and Manchester.

Jackson County passed a similar millage in the spring of 2017 and opened a Crisis R&R facility just 15 months later. The living room-style facility is open five days a week for anyone in crisis and staff are there to welcome guests on arrival and connect them to a broad range of resources including counseling, housing, food, and more"

For several years, those cuts led to diminished services, but, thanks to the eight-year Public Safety and Mental Health Millage which was passed by Washtenaw County voters last fall by a two to one margin, Washtenaw County Community Mental Health administrators began to extend services to more residents, all across the county.

As we write this, only eight months since Washtenaw County millage dollars first became available, the list of services is long and growing. And, the list of success stories is following suit.

Residents have been referred to community psychologists for short-term counseling to contend with a loss. They've been able to access enough prescribed medicines to cover until they could get to see their doctors. They've gotten same-day appointments with behavioral health specialists and primary care providers; help filling out insurance, housing, and food applications; advice from peers with lived experience; and rides to necessary appointments. In sum, we provide dozens of different support services at little or no cost to clients.

"Millage-funded staff expansions have allowed Washtenaw County Community Mental Health to respond to 800 more crisis service requests in the first six months of 2019--from January to June--than the agency did during the same time frame last year, and we've received 250 referrals in a two month period for other services," says Program Administrator Melisa Tasker. "It's been such an honor to speak with and serve residents all across the county and we're looking forward to announcing many more program and system improvements in the years ahead."

Where do Washtenaw County residents go to get these services? To Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor, of course, but also to rural sites across the county.

Through agreements with local organizations Washtenaw County Community Mental Health administrators are placing staff at external facilities with no cost to taxpayers. Residents are now getting free and low-cost assistance for mental health and substance use needs in Chelsea and Dexter. Soon, residents will be able to meet with community mental health staff in Manchester and Whitmore Lake as well.

According to Chelsea Police Chief Ed Toth, "Thirty years ago, you might deal with a mental health crisis a few times a year. Now it's a weekly situation. We're a small agency here, usually a couple of people covering a shift and that's all. But every time I've called the CARES hotline, the response team has been super for us."

To learn more about current and planned millage-funded public safety and mental health services for Washtenaw County residents, visit Washtenaw.org/2806/Public-Safety-and-Mental-Health-Millage.



Deborah Lawson



Jill Anderson



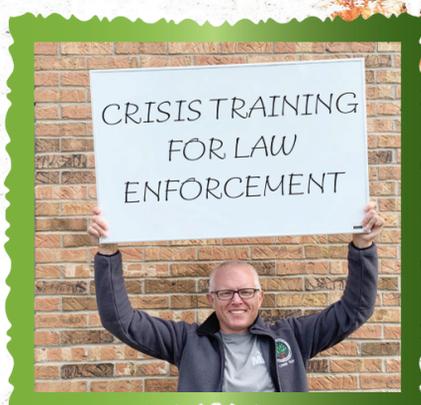
Valerie Bass



Nikki Muraca



Karen Halman



Shad Jordan



Meredith Perry

American 1 Reopens all Branches by Appointment Only

From Maggie Wise

In an email to its members, American 1 Credit Union announced the reopening of all branches, by appointment only, starting Monday, June 1.

"The safety of our staff and members is our number one priority. We have taken proper precautions to ensure we can conduct business safely and efficiently within our branches," said James Allen, Chief Member Experience Officer at American 1. "Face-to-face interaction with our members is important to us. We value each member and take pride in the relationships we have built."

Appointments are only available for Mem-

ber Service appointments at this time. This includes services such as opening a new loan or account, requesting a new debit or credit card, investigating suspected fraud on an account, or notary services. To schedule an appointment, visit american1cu.org/appointment or call (888) 213-2848. In addition to requiring an appointment, American 1 is implementing additional safety precautions:

- Face masks are required in all branches
- No guests are permitted
- No public restrooms are available
- Distance of at least six feet from others must be maintained

If American 1 members still prefer not to go into the branch, the majority of essential banking services can be done remotely through American 1's Online Banking, Mobile App (with mobile check deposit), their 24-hour Contact Center, and other self-service options.

Established in 1950, American 1 Credit Union today serves over 58,000 members with branches in Jackson, Washtenaw, Hillsdale, Calhoun, Lenawee, and Wayne counties. American 1 is proud to serve the members of their communities by creating financial wellness through personal everyday banking.

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Tracy Van den Bergh: Third Candidate for Washtenaw County Circuit Court Judge

► continued from page 1
 rite of passage for all new judges. She detailed why the idea is problematic. A judge in Family Court should be helping to stabilize the family, even a broken one. A child does not age out until 18 or 19 depending on high school graduation age. Under the current system and judges leaving family court after a few years, a family is likely to face several judges before a child ages out. Those judges have no idea of the case history and will need to learn the history. Tracy added that family law judges are often first responders in traumatic situations. Many judges elected to the position have no experience with the emotional issues that lead a family to dissolve. Prior to becoming an attorney Tracy worked as a clinical social worker and holds a masters degree in social work. Tracy worked in a hospital evaluating child abuse cases and with sexual assault victims. A lot of issues she addressed as a social worker are the same types that will appear in family court. Many judges and lawyers are not trained on these issues. Tracy's training is extensive. Tracy spent twelve years working in family law with vulnerable populations. "So I'm passionate about helping families. Problem solving approaches for stabilizing families - stable parents benefit the child. My mental health background and law background make me uniquely qualified to address the issues."

Tracy's endorsement read like a who's who of judges and

elect officials including; Hon. Megan Cavanaugh, Justice Michigan Supreme Court, Hn. Carol Kuhnke Chief Judge Washtenaw Circuit Court, Hon Timothy Connors, Judge Washtenaw Circuit Court, and many, many more judges. She is also endorsed by several current and former Ann Arbor City Council and Ypsilanti City Council members: Ypsilanti Mayor Pro-tem Nicole Brown, Former State Rep Pam Byrnes and Jim Toy community activist. Rather than write out a list from her website, I encourage you to take a look for yourself at tracyforjudge.com.

During my interview with Tracy, I noticed she has plans and ideas to improve the family court. She is aware of the problems faced by family court judges and the families they serve and has ideas she'd like to implement to address the issues. Tracy worked in legal services and explained she spent a lot of the time in that position, not only addressing the legal needs of her clients, but also addressing social work issues. A coworker wanted to return to school for social work and mentioned that she'd like to do her internship at legal services. Tracy thought that was a great idea and started working with Eastern Michigan University. Ultimately, Tracy became a field supervisor for social work interns at legal services. Tracy believes this is something that can and should be done in the courts. She discussed people falling behind on Child Support Pay-

ments. She discussed a Problem Solving Court option. Currently with child support, the way it's addressed is loss of driver's license and possibly jail. Jail is counterintuitive to getting support paid, but is a good option for people who just don't want to pay. Tracy's Problem Solving Option idea is an opt in program. If a parent has problems keeping a job and paying, the court would work with DHS, the person struggling to pay would have to comply with the guidelines and work toward job and child support stability. This model has been established in another state. In its first year, it collected three million in additional support for children. Tracy concluded with the statement, "Rising Tides lift all boats."

Similar to the previous candidates, Tracy's campaign has changed under COVID-19. The plan to meet people and knock doors is not going to happen. Her focus has shifted to social media. She is shifting to issues that are helpful during COVID-19. She wants to provide concrete information, "You can't campaign without thinking about access to the court during COVID-19." She added that public services and people in power are going to lead us out of this crisis.

As I have with the two other candidates, I asked her a question submitted by my son. The timeliness, given the state of our country today was important. My son gave me a list, which I asked in order of the interviews. I had no way of knowing what would happen

between receiving the list and asking all of his questions.

"Why do you want to be a judge /active participant in a system that disproportionately jails POC/Black people who are then forced into indentured servitude (California fighting fires, NY calls for Bloomberg, Hand sanitizer) How do you feel about the use of restorative justice rather than punishment?"

I suspected from the very first question, that this one would be in her wheelhouse. I felt a little less guilty for handing her what I thought was the toughest of my son's questions.

"The only way to change is from within. She discussed a change in police training in New Orleans she'd just learned about. Part of officer training is that you have 100% loyalty to your fellow officer. Part of that loyalty can mean not publicly questioning behavior. New Orleans is now training officers that allowing a fellow officer to get too rough is not being loyal. They have codes they can say, to remind an officer of what they are doing. The change in police brutality must come from within." Tracy mentioned that, that wasn't really the question, but given the state of our country today is something on everyone's mind.

She said as a judge, she has the power to enact change for the people who appear in her court. She said, "You have to be aware of the bias in the system. The justice you get often depends on who you are and money." If she sees a defendant without a

high paid attorney offering a plea that she doesn't feel he wants to give, she does not have to take the plea. Tracy added that she can ask questions and attempt to level the playing field. That within her court it doesn't have to be who has the best lawyer. It can be what is the best decision. "We all have implicit bias. Social work taught her to examine her feelings and understand why she's having them. Tracy plans to pull on her social work training to examine the decisions she makes. People should not lose their children because they're poor. When she worked for legal services, she stayed in

public service working from the inside to change the system and uses the privilege she had to level the playing field.

Tracy Van den Bergh stood out in the interview, for her creative plans to address issues within the court. She said repeatedly throughout the interview, how excited she was to work to problem solve. Given the number of unique ideas she proposed during the interview, I have complete faith that she will look for ways to help families through potentially traumatic times and create stable environments for the children and families that appear in her court.

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Chris Osinski announces Bid for Jackson County Commissioner for District 2

Tired of politics as usual and seeing a real need for change in an area full of potential, Chris was inspired to run for County Commissioner after researching what county commissioners do, or should do. Chris realized there is an ability to impact change within the community as a county commissioner. County commissioners oversee the use of the Sheriff's depart-

ment. Alarmed with the nightly shootings in Jackson last summer and wanting to take his daughter out to enjoy the beautiful parks, bike trails and businesses downtown, but feeling concerned with the level of crime, Chris started to think it was an issue that had not been tackled and needs to be.

"Success at anything will always come down to this:

Focus and effort, and we control both." -Dwayne Johnson

Is it absurd to think one person can solve all the problems the city faces? Sure. But, with renewed vigor and the willingness to dig in and work, the possibility for positive change is higher. If we work to address the causes and look for available funding options, one motivated person can impact change.

Chris moved to Grass Lake in 2005. Without a silver spoon, Chris spent most of his time working two jobs to support his family. But, with a lifelong interest in politics and concern for his daughter's future, he knows now is the time to do something and get to work before things get worse. Jackson County has incredible parks and is home to beautiful

cities, villages and townships. Addressing issues at the core will create a positive spiral. Chris believes people should not go to Ann Arbor or Lansing to dine and shop or enjoy outdoor recreation. He sees the County Commissioner position as one with great potential to make a positive impact on the lives of everyday citizens. He hasn't seen that work being done. So he de-

cidied it's time to do it himself.

Chris Osinski is a hard working dad. He is running for Jackson County Commissioner to represent District 2 comprising the village of Grass Lake and the townships of Waterloo, Henrietta and a portion of Leoni. Running to impact positive change for the community.



AUGUST 14 & 15 2020
FRIDAY & SATURDAY

ARTISTS CRAFTERS & FREE ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, August 14

Main Stage Gazebo
12 - 3 PM School of Rock
4 - 7 PM Pajamas (Jazz/Blues)
8 - 11 PM Kari Holmes (Country)

Mill Creek Park
11 AM - 12 PM Kevin S. Devine (Children's Music)
12:30 - 1:30 PM Janet Marie & m'Archibald in Imagine That
2 - 3 PM Leslie Science Center
4 - 5 PM Colors the Clown

Saturday, August 15

10 AM | *Dexter Daze Parade*

Main Stage Gazebo
11 AM - 12:30 PM Brown, Faulk, Groth (Acoustic Americana)
1 - 3 PM From Grace (Modern Country/Soft Rock)
4 - 7 PM Surfs Zup (Instrumental Surf Guitar)
8 - 11 PM Dance Floor Crush (Top 40/Funk Dance Music)

Mill Creek Park
12 - 1 PM Kevin Devine
2 - 3 PM Yo Yo Zeemo
4 - 5 PM Bacchanal Promotions (Circus Sideshow)

10 PM | *Dexter Daze Fireworks*

Festival Activities

Monument Park
Art & Business Booths Open
Friday 10 AM - 8 PM
Saturday 10 AM - 6 PM

Mill Creek Park
Friday & Saturday
11 AM - 6 PM | Bounce Houses, Bungee Trampoline & More!
Children's Train Ride Sat. only 11 AM - 6 PM

Social Tent
Friday & Saturday 1 PM - 11 PM

Chalk the Block
Saturday 9 AM - 3 PM

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Congrats DHS Class of 2020!



Class Flower:
Forget Me Not

Class Color:
Blue

Class Song:
Life is a Highway by Rascal Flatts

Class Motto:
**Create the Future,
Celebrate the Past**

Alexander Adams
Joshua Aker
Tess Alekseev
Edward Anderson
Nathaniel Anderson
Aden Angus
Henrik Ansen
Austin Babut
Adonis Bairactaris
Liam Baird
Brendan Balas
Michael Baker II
Erin Baldwin
Ellen Barnes
Griffin Bartscht
Matthew Bauersfeld
Trevor Bazzy
Trevor Beck
Theodore Belecciu
Finnegan Bell
Kiana Bellikka
Annaleisa Bergeson
Andrew Biggert
Alina Birchmeier
Benjamin Birdsall
Kevin Blanchard
Troy Blanchard
Jack Blodgett
Austin Bockrath
Nathan Boff
Lauren Boydston
Emma Bradley
Tyler Bradshaw
Hamdan Bready
Amanda Bregnhardt
Madeline Brenton
William Buller
Vincente Burgos
Elijah Burin
Allison Burke
Kyle Burke
Erin Burns
Brendan Busdeker
Sydney Bussineau
Kylie Cabana
Ethan Cameron
Maddison Carey
Hayden Carr
Sarah Carreon
Richard Chesbrough
Paige Chrisner
Jacob Clemens
Evan Colby
Aja Collazo
Mya Connolly
Molly Corcoran
Remy Crawford
Adriana Davis
Carlie Davis
Kaitlin Delacy
Benjamin Delduca
Pablo Demerath
Jordan Dicks
Ashley Dinsdale
Debora Dobrei
Daniella Donado Meader
Samantha Dorian
Aleksandra Dornoff
Dallin Dunn
Hoa Duong
Jackson Durant
Taylor Durliat
Joanna Dziech
Julie Early
Bryce Easterday
Jared Enciso

Jack Evans
Jake Fazioli
Trevor Feeman
Antwan Ficklen
Timothy Fierek
Olivia Fitzgerald
Kevin Flaherty
Nathan Fleck
Katharine Flynn
Wyatt Flynn
Taylor Forshee
John Fraser
Andrew Friedman
Alyssa Frost
Mackenzie Gabriel-Lazette
Matthew Gaechter
Valeria Gaechter
Eva Gaetino
Ana Garza
Angela Garza
Adam Gasiorek
Chase Geimer
Lucinda Gleespen
Ian Goetz
Mackenzie Gordon
Quincy Gough
James Grant
Sophia Grant
John Gray III
Adia Gray
Joshua Gray
Shane Greenfield
Kathryn Grossman
Kieran Grossman
Jake Hamilton
Natalie Haney
Ashley Haralson
Daniel Harding
Llewellyn Harsch
Samuel Harshe
Aidan Helsel
Alexa Hendricks
Hannah Hicks
Jonah Hill
Justin Hoehn
Teaghan Holman
Kaitlin Holt
Cooper Howatt
Jasper Howell
Owen Huard
Amanda Hubert
Benica Iima
Rhett Jacobs
Noah Jaimez
Owen James
Andrew Johnson
Natalie Johnson
Laura Jones
Patrick Kaercher
Jacob Kapusansky
Megan Kempf
Brady Keough
Indra Kilts
Harrison Kim
Simon Kim
Caitlin Kimmel
Masanari Kimura
Sophia King
Justin Kinzel
Carolyn Klein
Nathan Kniesteadt
Paige Komaromi
Florentine Kranz
Tyler Kusnier
Quinn LaFontaine
Gabrielle Lamb

Emily Lance
Cameron Landers
Nathan Larson
Owen Laverty
Anna Lehr
Jessica Lei
Melissa Lewis
Noah Lewis
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