



Chelsea Guardian

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Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce

June 21, 2024

Volume 7 Issue 25

Chelsea Guardian


Phone: 734-636-3779

guardiannewspapersmi.com



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Hamilton
Publishing



**2024
CALENDAR
OF EVENTS
SCHEDULE**
INSIDE ON PAGE 2

Chelsea High School Class of 2024: Who Do You Want to Be?



Photos By Aimee Bingham

By Aimee Bingham
anbingham@gmail.com

Each time I walk into the stadium for graduation, I'm overwhelmed. I can feel the giddy excitement

for the future, the anticipation. Beyond the exciting future, there is an unsure sorrow. You're about to be thrust into the world. Your friends from

what feels like forever will go down a different path and you will miss the casual hellos and confessionals and gossip. Your graduating class feels like

family, some you'd pick and love forever, some you'd trade. But at the end of the day, these people feel like family. It's scary to leave what **continued on page 2**

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY
AUGUST 18
Gordon Hall in Dexter



Celebrate!
Farm to Table
A benefit dinner for the 5 Healthy Towns' Farmers Markets
A FABULOUS FEAST!



Chase Nichols Named CDL Teen Volunteer of the Year!




From: Virginia
Krueger

Chelsea District Library (CDL) is proud to announce Chelsea High School student, Chase Nichols, has been named CDL's 2023 Youth Service Group (YSG) Volunteer of the Year. This award celebrates teens who demonstrate outstanding leadership and commitment while volunteering at the library. Chase was recognized by his peers at this year's YSG orientation sessions and on a new plaque hanging in

the library's TeenSpace area.

Chase is a nationally ranked chess player and approached CDL staff with the idea of running drop-in chess clinics. What started as a trial program grew to regular weekly attendance of 10-20 players. Chase sets up chess boards for people to play and provides tips and strategies on how to improve your game. Chase comes in early every Tuesday, and sets up tables and chessboards in **continued on page 8**



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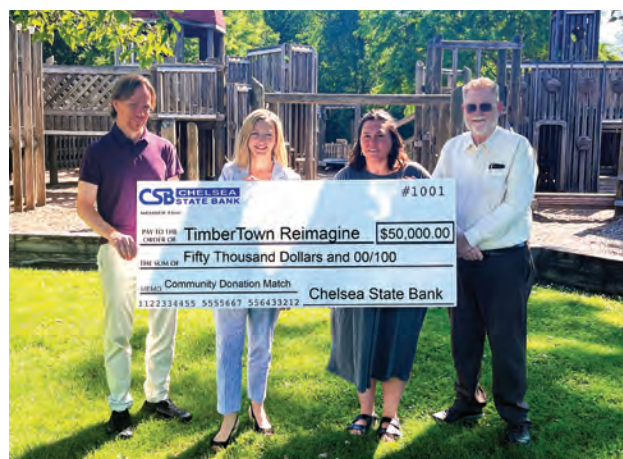
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Chelsea State Bank's President & CEO Presents \$50,000 Match to City of Chelsea For TimberTown Reimagine Project



From: Nicole Bell

Chelsea State Bank's President & CEO, Joanne Rau presented the City of Chelsea's Mayor Pacheco, Manager Colburn, and Parks & Recreation Commissioner Samuel Angus with the highly anticipated **continued on page 7**

Samuel Angus, Parks & Recreation Commission, Joanne Rau, President & CEO, Chelsea State Bank, Jane Pacheco, Mayor, City of Chelsea, Martin Colburn, City Manager, City of Chelsea

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN CHELSEA, MICHIGAN
**SOUNDS & SIGHTS
ON THURSDAY NIGHTS**

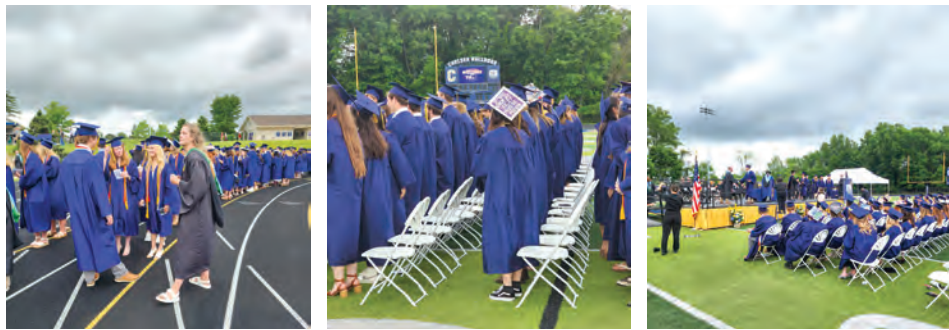
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Chelsea High School Class of 2024: Who Do You Want to Be?



► continued from page 1 you know but you're excited about; the freedom and opportunity that awaits. June 2, 2024 Chelsea graduates, will be a day you will remember for the rest of your life.

Each graduation I've attended has unrelenting heat and burning sun. But the class of 2024 received a more gentle goodbye. The skies were a little gray and cooler weather made it bearable. The rain that seemed to threaten held off. A young woman walked to her seat with the words, "If you knew my story, you'd be proud." I am. Your whole community is. Your statement made me think. I did wonder about what you went through. But I also know, through age, that everyone has a story. Some are painful and at the surface and some are hidden behind accolades and success but each person who crossed the stage with you also has a story and each of you made it despite what life threw at you. If life throws you terrible things, know you are ready to handle the bumps and bruises. You will look back and envy those girls who seemed to have it easy, but all of us struggle and they will envy the strength you learned so early

The ceremony began with HS Principal Nick Angel giving a speech comparing the class of 2024 to a tree through its many ver-

sions, from seedling to fully grown and strong with deep roots that, no matter where life takes you, come right back to Chelsea where you began. Even if you believe you'll never want to return, these memories will bring you home occasionally. He noted the dominating success of the class: the 7-peat state champs of state finance, the Boys basketball team playing at the Breslin Center in the state semi-finals, the best showing in Chelsea's history. The Girls Waterpolo team took 5th in the state, another best in school history. Chelsea Robotics won its first Impact Award. An Impact Award recognizes the team for transforming the culture and inspiring greater respect for science and technology. He noted the Theater Guild and the student newspaper. He also acknowledged the yearbook program took home the Gold Award. Dr. Angel commented on the many graduates in 24 who will receive academic and sports scholarships.

We all sat impressed, there was no doubt that the class had amassed many accomplishments. 80% of the class participated in clubs, sports, or music. The class of 2024 was also civic-minded, raising five thousand for Mott's Children's Hospital via the Dance Marathon. Dr. Angel proudly stated that the US News and World Report ranks Chelsea

Schools 32nd in the state, within the top 3% of school districts. It was Superintendent Michael Kapolka's turn to confer the graduates. He did and encouraged students to start their futures with a vision of the impact they'd like to leave on the world. Two students were asked to speak to the class and on behalf of the class. Mitchell Brown encouraged students to rephrase What do you want to be to who do you want to be? I found his speech incredibly wise for such a young man. Life isn't just about accomplishments, it's also about character and our impact on others. Thomas Ovaleson spoke next and gave his classmates and their families memories that made everyone laugh. He noted the impact of the pandemic and his personal feelings about the moment we all removed our masks, which happened to be my feelings too; naked and vulnerable.

Each class member took the stage, one to an explosion of fireworks and the audience was very proud of you, no matter your story. You've already accomplished so much and we can't wait to see what's next! Congratulations Class of 2024, and congratulations to your parents, and school district who undoubtedly worked hard to watch you mark this accomplishment.



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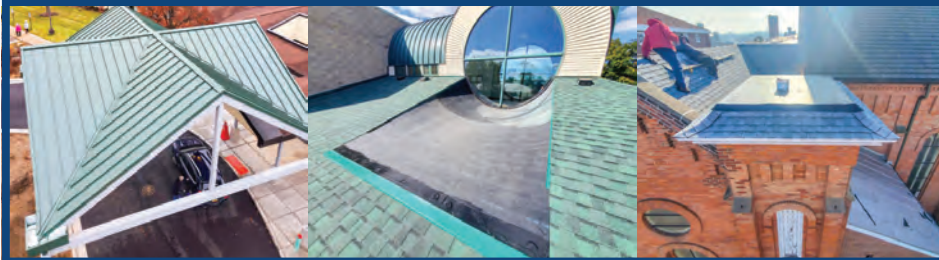
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2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Business Breakfasts

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

Wellness After Hours

Jan 17th | 5-6:30pm

**Chocolate
Extravaganza**
Feb 10th

Curling Fest
Feb 24th | 8-11pm

Annual Meeting
March 6th | 6-8pm

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

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

Community Picnic

Aug 10 | Noon to 2pm

Golf Outing

Sept 4th | 7:30am-3pm

Backyard Beer Garden
Oct 12th | 3-10pm

Hometown Halloween
October | All Month

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

Hometown Holiday
December | All Month

Sculpture Walk
All Year

Chelsea Trail Challenge
Feb 1st-Nov 30th

Scan the QR Code or visit
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to view a full calendar of events.



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Biggest Community Event of the Summer Needs You



From: Shawn Personke

Over 25 years ago, the original TimberTown play structure was built from scratch. Hundreds of volunteers of all ages came together in a barren field to raise the timbers that became Chelsea's iconic playground. It was an amazing week of community building, laughter, and hard work.

Well, perhaps you've heard. Togeth-

er, the City of Chelsea and their community partners – and people like you – will come together to reimagine TimberTown. We'll retain and repair the old, and bring in the new.

The Clocktower Lookout Tower and its ramps and cubbies will be sanded, stained, and repaired. The Jiffy Mix and apple murals will be repainted. Sightlines (so parents can track their kids better) will be improved. And then new features

will be built from colorful and long-lasting structural plastic. We'll have many ADA features, new climbing areas, new swings and slides, a "poured in place pathway," and a whole new TotTown for the 2 to 5-year-olds to explore.

But a project of this nature needs many hands to make light work. This generation's BUILD hopes to recapture the joy and satisfaction of the 1997 event. To that end, we hope you can sign up early and sign up often to lend a hand!

In a nutshell, we'll need 6 different kinds of help. Mix and Match to help us fill all the slots on our SignUp-Genius. We can also sign you up manually, if needed.

- **Food donations** – to feed and keep our volunteers energized!

- **Food setter-uppers** - you'll help get things ready to feed 60 people after their volunteer shift.

- **Build volunteers** - both "skilled" and

"laborer" - can you handle a circular saw or measure accurately? Or are you more comfortable painting, sanding, using a screwdriver, etc."

- **Childcare volunteers** - we're offering childcare during the week and we'll need people (ages 14 and up) to watch kids while their parents are helping out at TimberTown.

- **Need childcare?** We've got you covered.

- **Volunteer Organizer** - With that many volunteers, we'll need people to check in the volunteers, collect their waivers, and point them in the right direction.

Here's the link to get much more info about all of these opportunities!

August 6 to 11 is going to be an amazing week. Like the first time around in 1997, it will be a week you'll never forget. Join in! Get more info or sign up at www.timbertownchelsea.org/volunteer

Chelsea Senior Center Open House to Celebrate Bill O'Reilly Retirement



Chelsea Senior Center

After five years leading Chelsea Senior Center (CSC), Bill O'Reilly is heading to Nova Scotia on his first post-retirement adventure with wife Becky. To celebrate Bill's retirement, CSC is hosting an Open House on June 28 at 12:30 p.m.

All are welcome to the open house. Please RSVP at (734) 475-9242 to let CSC know you plan to attend to celebrate Bill's last day as Executive Director of CSC. The Open House is at 512 Washington Street, Chelsea, Michigan. The office will be closing early on June 28 at 3:00 p.m.



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CHELSEA C THANK YOU DR. NICK ANGEL

THANK YOU DR. NICK ANGEL FOR 16 YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE CSD AS THE PRINCIPAL OF BMS AND CHS! YOUR DEDICATION TO OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF HAS BEEN TRULY INSPIRING. BEST WISHES AS YOU MOVE INTO YOUR NEW ROLE AS SUPERINTENDENT WITH THE GRASS LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS! ONCE A BULLDOG, ALWAYS A BULLDOG!



CHELSEA ATHLETICS



CHELSEA BULLDOGS GIRLS TRACK & FIELD

2024 GIRLS T&F MHSAA STATE MEET SUMMARY

On Saturday (6/1), the Girls Track & Field Team, 14 athletes strong, traveled to Hamilton High School for the MHSAA DII State Championship Meet. This is the largest group we have brought to the State Meet. There were 139 teams who participated in the State Meet with weather conditions in the low 70s with a southeast wind and rain in the afternoon (heavy at times). Chelsea placed 12th overall (actually a two-way tie) out of 67 scoring teams. We were All-State in two events, specifically Leila Wells was the State Champion in the 100m hurdles and the 4x100m relay placed 3rd overall. This team handled the intensity and pressure of the State Meet with maturity and grace, resulting in personal records, season bests, school records, top placing, and memorable experiences.

Highlights

- Junior Anna Brant returned to the State Meet ranked #19 out of 24 shot put throwers. She was able to throw 36' 6.5" on her last throw, which was a 5" improvement from her Regional throw of 36' 1.5". Anna placed 13th out of 23 throwers in the State Meet. Anna has continued to improve this season on her shot put throwing and the coaches are sure she is ready to take it to the next level in the 2025 season. Anna is number two all time in the shot put for Chelsea with her throw of 38' 10.5" this season.

- Sophomore Karlie VanRemortel qualified for the first time

for the State Meet this season. She vaulted 9' 3" and placed 19th out of 26 jumpers. Karlie is 10th all time in the pole vault for Chelsea with her height of 9' 9". Karlie is a hard worker and coaches are excited to see her back next season and try for a top eight placing.

- Sophomore Lissa Krueger qualified for the first time for the State Meet this season as well. Lissa kicked off the meet for Chelsea with a PR at a height of 8' 9". Lissa finished 24th (a four-way tie) out of 26 athletes in a highly competitive field. Lissa has improved tremendously from the start of the season. I am sure she will have an itch to return to the State Meet with her teammates next season.

- The 4x800m relay team composed of Ceci Bayer (sophomore), Madison Morgan (senior), Sofia DeMea (junior), and Natalia DeMea (junior) ran their third fastest time of the season 10:05.97 and placed 18th out of 25 teams. They beat their seed by four places. Coaches are proud of this group continuing out the season and be flexible with the lineup. We wish our senior Madison Morgan all the best with continuing to compete at the next level at Lake Superior State University in running. She will be missed by the team due to the depth she provides for our distance lineups and her leadership.

- Senior Leila Wells was crowned State Champion in the 100m

hurdles with a convincing win in the finals. Leila also broke her school record in the event with a time of 14.92 FAT into a headwind. (Her previous record was 14.96 FAT.). Leila was ranked 5th heading into the meet. Leila led off the 4x100m and 4x400m relays, which also performed very well. She is going to play basketball at Virginia Tech University next year. Her impact and leadership on the team will be missed.

- Senior Carley Grabarczyk placed 9th out of 30 sprinters. Carley was ranked #13 going into the State Meet in the 100m dash and ran well going into a headwind in her semi-final race. She had a dramatic photo finish with Meghan Koss of Dearborn Divine Child who just barely out leaned her. She missed the finals (All-State honors) by a thousandths of a second. Also, Carley competed in the 200m dash and placed 12th out of 31 sprinters with a time of 25.78 seconds. (She was ranked 23rd out of 33 heading into the meet.) This was her second fastest time of the season, which is an outstanding performance due to the headwind that sprinters had on Saturday. Carley also anchored the 4x100m relay, which placed 3rd overall. Carley is a tough competitor and one of most valuable athletes on our team. We will miss her role on the team and leadership. She will be competing at the next level at Purdue University Northwest in Hammond, Indiana.

- The 4x200m re-

lay team composed of Leila Wells (senior), Aleeah Wells (a freshman), Addie Howard (a sophomore), and Teagan Hill (a freshman) were ranked 18th out of 33 teams entering the State Meet. With a strong lead off by Leila, they placed 13th out of 33 teams who competed with a time of 1:42.46 (a PR). The relay seemed to level up in their competitiveness and determination in the race. It will be fun to watch these talented younger sprinters, specifically Addie, Aleeah, and Teagan in these next two to three years. I am sure they will be hungry to return to the State Meet individually and on sprint relays.

- The 4x400m relay team composed of Addie Howard, Brinna Wenzel, Ceci Bayer, and Teagan Hill placed 23rd out of 30 teams with a time of 4:15.72 (the team's 3rd fastest time of the season). This relay team did well as a group with a long wait time to race and adjusted well with two other runners filling in. Specifically, Addie and Brinna, both sophomores have been the backbone of the relay team and continued to run fast splits, while Ceci (a sophomore) and Teagan (a freshman) were put in the lineup to fill in for Sam Bieber and Caitlyn

Ash who had conflicts on the day of the State Meet. Both girls ran well with Ceci having one of her fastest splits of the season. We look forward to these young ladies making it back to the State Meet to place in the top eight.

- The 4x100m relay composed of Leila Wells, Aleeah Wells, Teagan Hill, and Carley Grabarczyk placed 3rd overall (All-State Honors) with a time of 49.82 FAT (a new school record)! This relay was ranked 8th out of 31 schools. The two seniors, Leila and Carley, who led off and anchored, respectively, for this team and were critical in taking the relay to the next level. Aleeah and Teagan continued their role in running fast legs on the relay and helping to set up a memorable finish for this team. It is worth noting that senior Eva Dewaele was a member of this relay team earlier in the season and was unable to finish in the lineup due to a significant injury. Eva continued to cheer and support her teammates during the runup to and at the State

Meet. Her positive, supportive presence at the State Meet meant a lot to her teammates and her coaches. Her sense of sportsmanship sets her apart from others.

We ended the season in a memorable way at the State Meet given the weather, technical issues, and absent teammates for various reasons. We could not have made the achievements we did unless we had a talented and caring group of coaches and supporters in the Chelsea Track & Field program. Specifically, I would like to give a big thank to David Slusser (boys head coach), Bert Kruse (girls sprint and hurdles coach) Ryan

Houle (girls sprint and boys/girls long jump coach) James Mida (boys/girls throws coach), Shane Rodriguez (boys/girls pole vault coach), Jessical Rickli (boys/girls distance coach), Ryan Anderson (boys/girls high jump coach), Tyler Santoro (boys sprints), and Eric Beda (boys sprints). Each of these coaches cares about improving their athletes and helping the program grow and succeed. Also, a big thank you goes to Brian Boos and Alex Stacy who time and score home meets as well as other local meets we compete at. I appreciate their attention to detail and their high quality product each and every time. Also, a big thank you to Tara Thorburn and Aubree Shemwell as booster representatives for the program. Their help in so many ways continued the program success this season and helped the head coaches maneuver through some significant fundraising tasks.

Finally, a very big thank you to all the parents, administrators (i.e., Tracie Stoffer, Jason Morris, Dr. Nick Angel, and Matt Cunningham), Chelsea Boosters, and many local businesses who supported our program in various ways. Specifically, we appreciate notes, donations of time and money, writeups, photos, technical help, and general caring of our athletes. It has been a pleasure and honor to be the head coach of the Chelsea Girls Track & Field team.

CHELSEA BULLDOGS BOYS TRACK & FIELD

2024 BOYS T&F MHSAA STATE MEET SUMMARY

The Chelsea High School boys track team brought 8 individuals to the MHSAA Division 2 LP Final meet at Hamilton High School on Saturday, June 1st. The weather started off cool and windy, but at around 2:30 the rain came in and never left. The dogs scored 8 points in the meet and tied for 27th place overall. Below are the results from yesterday:

- JJ Turnbow jumped 18' 10.25 in the long jump and Nolan

Fleazar did not clear the opening height in the pole vault. These 2 seniors wrapped up their successful careers at CHS.

- The 4x800 team of Beckett Boos, Jackie Dell, Miles Dell, and Eric Cameron ran 8:28.30, a season best for this group. They placed 24th overall.

- Jacob Nelson finished his track and field career at CHS with 3 more D2 state titles in the adaptive 100, 200, and 400. Jacob's

400 performance is a new D2 state meet record in the event. Jacob concludes his track and field career as a 7 time state champion and has spearheaded the movement in Michigan for the inclusion of adaptive and ambulatory athletes at the state level of track and field.

- Connell Alford ended his storied career at CHS by competing in the 1600 and 3200. In the 1600, Connell was clipped by another athlete and fell

during the race. After assessing his injuries, Connell continued to run the race and finished 20th with a time of 4:31. After shaking off that adversity, Connell focused on placing in the 3200. In a stunning race that went right down to the wire, Connell took 2nd in the 3200 with a time of 9:07.62. It was a photo finish that was just 0.07 seconds behind the champion, Paul Moore from Pinckney. This was a personal record

for Connell and places him 2nd all time in Chelsea history in the event. Coach Slusser's Comments: The state meet is always a bittersweet event. While it is a day that we celebrate the successes of our student athletes, it is also a day when athletes move on from their CHS athletics career. It is a day where crazy things happen every year and this year was no different. We definitely encountered a fair bit of adversity

that day. We left it all out on the track, and that's all we can ask for. For Connell, Jacob, Nolan, JJ, and Jackie, I am proud to have coached them and wish them the best in their future endeavors. They have given so much to this program and I could not be more grateful. Now the work begins for the 2025 season.

Thank you to everyone who followed the team this season and supported us.

Brunch at the Nest



Photos By Aimee Bingham

By Aimee Bingham
anbingham@gmail.com

I've been to the Nest at Robin Hills Farm for Trivia Night and for Dinner. I've never attended Brunch at Robin Hills Farm. The Nest is open Thursday-Saturday 4 PM-10 PM and Sunday 10 AM-2 PM. My neighbors have been raving about a Brunch place they've tried and enjoyed so much that they want to make brunch a monthly event. The woman told me the group has to make reservations and asked if I'd like to join. It was not until Sunday, I learned the place they've been raving about was The Nest Cocktail Bar and Kitchen at Robin Hills Farm. Brunch with

friends may seem insignificant. But, with the group I attended, it is an opportunity to relax, unwind and share the pressures of day to day life. We may have appeared to be a group of middle-aged ladies hanging out together. But each of us has her battles; one is fighting brain cancer for the 2nd time, all have jobs and kids and don't often get time for themselves and the whole group is dealing with a loved one who is in liver failure. The world is heavy and to be able to gather, eat well, and be treated kindly is a big deal.

I went to enjoy a girls' day as rare as they are at my age. The girls raved about the "Bottomless Bubbles." Our server

asked us what we'd like to drink and casually mentioned, "if you're like me..." Everyone enthusiastically ordered bottomless bubbles and we started with cranberry. The Nest offers different fruit flavor options, not just the traditional orange juice mimosas. Our server was slightly surprised, "Oh I was going to say you need coffee this early." To which we laughed at our debauchery and stated, "We are not like you!" I browsed the menu and immediately found something that sounded delicious. I selected the crab, asparagus and goat cheese omelet with home fries and toast and homemade strawberry Jam. Our service was im-

peccable. She caught on quickly to the day's fun vibe and participated in our shenanigans.. She made brunch more fun.

The food came and it was not the standard frozen, heat and-serve restaurant fare found in many restaurants. My wheat toast was crunchy, and grainy and felt

less like a bagged loaf from a grocery store and more like a loaf grabbed from a local farmers' market. I make my own strawberry jelly so I was ready to critique. But it was wonderful and had an edge over Smukers. My omelet was perfection, the asparagus tasted fresh and the pairing of crab asparagus and goat cheese were flavors I was unaccustomed to but enjoyed. Portions were big and none of us joined the clean plate club.

The Nest offers wonderful food and service and I can see why my friends raved about Brunch there. We hope to be back monthly. We really appreciated how fun and friendly our

server was. She made our meal even more special and enjoyable. Thanks for telling us about your dogs and listening to our stories about ours! We would love to invite you to brunch with us next time. If you're looking for a wonderful Sunday brunch experience, I recommend The Nest. The quality of food and service will make your Sunday special and leave you smiling. To book reservations go to the website <https://www.robinhillsfarm.com/thenest-landing>. You can also see community events and browse the menu. The Nest Cocktail Bar and Kitchen is a part of Robin Hills Farm, located at 20390 M-52, in Chelsea.





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CHELSEA ATHLETICS



ON THE SIDELINE: WALNUT TREE, MOUNTAIN DEW, LOVE BOAT AND MY “MAN CARD”



By Don Richter
drichter101@comcast.net

Well, it finally happened.

I finally did it.

No, I didn't finally give up drinking pop. I'm not crazy. I need my Mountain Dew. What are you thinking?

No, I didn't give up watching reruns of the “Love Boat.” I know, here's my “man card.” Take it, just take it.

No, I didn't stop yelling at people while driving. “Stay in your lane.” “Your car has a blinker, use it.” “Slow down.” Here, I need my “man card” back, thank you.

No, what happened and what I finally did was have my HUGE walnut tree cut down, along with removing the stump.

I'm elated.

I'm ecstatic.

I'm burning up.

I knew my giant walnut tree, which dominated my front yard, shaded and cooled my house in the warm spring and summer months, but this is ridiculous. It's not even summer yet (I'm too lazy to look at my

calendar), but already my house is a sauna.

I can't imagine what it's going to be like in July and August. And, no, I don't have air conditioning. What do you think I am, made of money? Jeesh.

No, it's a fan in every room type of life for me now. I never realized how much that old walnut tree of mine cooled my house. I'm a little sad now that my “air conditioning” is gone.

But on the bright side, the tree is no longer hovering menacingly over my house and my neighbor's. It was one strong thunderstorm and high wind from toppling

over.

Plus, after almost 20 years, I no longer have to pick up thousands of baseball-sized walnuts that dropped from the tree and onto my lawn, my neighbor's lawn, the sidewalk and the street. That yearly chore was truly the bane of my existence.

I'd also like to publicly apologize to all the squirrels and chipmunks that made a living off of all the walnuts each year and used the tree as a gathering place and elevated highway. It had to be done, fellas — I'm sorry dudes.

Sadly, I still have one more HUGE walnut tree left in my

front yard. But this one is closer to the street, farther from my house and I'm told on city property. So, I guess it's the city's problem? Though I'm still going to have to pick up bags full of walnuts this fall, it might be a couple hundred instead of thousands. Traditionally, the walnut tree that remains normally, for some reason, doesn't drop as many walnuts as the tree I had cut down. I don't know the reason, but I do know that I'm okay with that fact.

I recently put down some grass seed to fill in the dirt space that now exists where the stump and tree used to be. I jumped for

joy when after about a week I noticed little blades of green grass popping up through the soil.

So, I finally did it.

It finally happened. After years of waiting, planning and saving money, I finally got it done.

I had my HUGE walnut tree cut down.

I'm patting myself on the head. I deserve it.

I'm also sweltering in my house, while guzzling a 2-liter of Mountain Dew and watching reruns of the “Love Boat.”

Yes, I know, I'm giving my “man card” back.

Can I borrow a fan...?

Writing Memories in Chelsea Senior Center's Writers' Group



young man during the open house. Another recent story shared by Steven was the happiest day in his life when he completed his honorable service in the Navy on the day he returned home from the Vietnam War.

Other stories shared during the open house included accepting the duality of living in two cultures, a substitute teacher's tangle with a troupe of second graders, the role that coffee played in a woman's life, a serendipitous ride in Karachi, Pakistan, life lessons from modeling clay, and more intriguing experiences.

Cumberworth's story revealed “a little dessert” with seduction strategies in supermarkets. Here, she shares an excerpt:

I had just come from the hair salon, so I was looking good, or at least pretty good for 60-something, and I was feeling spiffy. I'd stopped off at the HomeGoods store in search of a blender stick, sometimes called an immersion blender, to bring to my daughter for our upcoming Thanksgiving visit. Happily, the store had one and I was reading the packaging when an older, well-dressed man came up to ask me:

“What do you do with one of those things?”

“Oh, this is a wonderful tool,” I replied and then explained at some length the various soups, sauces and gravies one could make using a blender stick. He nodded wisely and stepped away while I wandered off to browse among the cocktail glasses. Suddenly, he sidled up beside me and whispered in my ear: “I spend half the year in Europe and am leaving for Germany at the end of the week. Would you like to join me?”

Stunned, I stepped back, looked in the face and waved my blender stick at him. “I'm sorry,” I said. “I can't. I have to make the gravy for my daughter's Thanksgiving dinner.”

Cumberworth has found affection and bonding in the monthly Writers' Group meet-up; a room full of former strangers “spinning yarns, weaving narrative threads into magic carpets that carry them away for a few hours in the afternoon.”

The revival of Chelsea Senior Center's Writing Memories Group is the brainchild of Jan Bernath. Bernath's mother, Cecile, was a member of the group in the late 1970s

at Chelsea Senior Center to encourage older adults to reflect on their well-lived lives. Once people began connecting again after the pandemic, the younger Bernath was inspired to establish the group again to encourage others to write down their memories and share stories of their lives.

At each monthly meeting, the group creates three writing prompts for the next gathering. Those who participate can use one of these prompts for their next shared memory or, as writing sometimes does, follow their instinct for their next story to tell.

Bernath encourages newcomers to attend the monthly meet-up, listen to others' stories and “write what you know” when ready.

At a recent meet-up, Alice shared a story about a childhood raft built with wood and barrels that resulted in a game of “bombers and submarines.” Her memory of the raft was jolted after Writers' Group participant Chica shared her story involving swimming. David read his story titled “700 dog lives” that generated laughter after a particular unplanned breeding of a childhood

dog. Typically reflecting on distant memories, “John” Chongmin Kim read his story sharing a recent experience attending the Dexter Community Orchestra event. David commented that John always has a note of empathy for others woven into his words.

Through storytelling, participants have learned from one another and learned the value of listening. It's empowering to share and, as a somewhat surprising benefit, to grow empathetically as an older adult. While every life story is unique, there are also common threads of humanity.

“By facing painful memories — my own or those of a fellow writer — we form healing bonds. I appreciate the solidarity that comes from having opened up,” says Cumberworth. “I feel known, understood, and the painful memories are made less so in the old adage that a problem shared is a problem halved.”

Chelsea Senior Center's Writing Memories Group meets on the third Wednesday of each month. No registration is necessary, and new people are always welcome.



An intriguing prompt and a definitive deadline spur a group of dedicated writers to share their memories each month in a supportive setting at Chelsea Senior Center. While some always aspired to be a writer, like Sheila Cumberworth who dreamt about being Ernest Hemingway in her youth, others are new to writing and sharing their stories. A common thread among participants is the desire

to dig deep to capture memories before they fade.

“We're a bunch of storytellers,” says Steven McCormick, an active Chelsea Senior Center participant in the Writing Memories Group. Recently, they hosted an open house “Show and Tell” for anyone to attend and listen to stories written by and shared by group members. McCormick, a Navy veteran, shared a once-in-a-lifetime road trip as a

Business Spotlight: Revel Run



Photos By Aimee Bingham.

By Aimee Bingham
anbingham@gmail.com

I'd heard about Revel Run earlier in May but had not had the opportunity to visit and learn more about the facility. I was browsing social media this weekend when someone asked about events around town for those of us in town on Memorial Day weekend. A person commented that Revel Run was hosting a Family Fun Day. It was the perfect way for me to check out the new business while providing entertainment for my family. My favorite way to review any sort of facility is to do it anonymously. Having previously worked in the restaurant industry, I am aware that a person will experience different things depending on staff and whether or not the owner knows someone will be there. I want to experience what a random average customer will experience so I can provide an honest review.

My experience and my family's, as a whole,

was magical. I walked in with zero expectations, not knowing much about Revel Run. As we pulled up to the Foxhole building, we were taken aback by its beauty. I knew that it served as a wedding venue and had a Biergarten, but that was all I knew. In the parking lot there was a BBQ food truck playing old music with Elvis sprinkled throughout the playlist. We walked outside the building on the path and the back opened up to what reminded me of a golf course. My husband smiled and noted that one of our first dates had been on this very course. He is an actual golfer, I am a sunshine and friends type. We took our daughter to the bounce houses first, a big part of the draw of family fun day. The sun was shining, and families with young children dotted the patio area. In my estimation, it was the perfect way to be an adult, young children had entertainment, adults were meeting with friends,

BBQ was being served out of a food truck and the bartenders were ready with a soda or an adult beverage. The beautiful backdrop of a still well-manicured former golf course was dotted with riding toys for toddlers, yard games like cornhole and safe (plastic?) ax throwing, and several bounce houses. After enjoying several trips through the bounce houses my daughter was ready for a glass of pop and on the way, I met a woman with a large dog. If kids like bounce houses I like large dogs so I walked over and asked to pet her. I met Zara, which is another name for princess. She was gray, tall and thin like a Greyhound, and had a gentle spirit. Her owner allowed me to pet and get to know her so I was delighted. We walked into the Biergarten through an open garage door and I noticed a man with the confidence of an owner or manager, based on my experience in the restaurant industry I sneakily took a pho-

to, attempting to be anonymous. After we ordered, my husband requested the owner's business card so I could ask follow-up questions for the article. As we walked past the guy I thought was in charge, he interrupted his meal and introduced himself to us. That is rare, owners are often peppered with salespeople and will not take the time to interrupt a meal to potentially listen to another pitch. I was caught off guard by how warm and friendly he was. I asked for a non-candid photo and he told me he needed to get his wife, who had been chasing a loose donkey, again, delightful to me. Before our arrival someone had let a donkey loose and family fun day was bolstered by cheering for either the wife or the runaway donkey. He noted that the trash needs to be changed and stated that he'd ask his grandson to do it. He elaborated that Revel Run was a family business. His daughters all helped and the grandchildren were also helping. We walked over to the woman, Darlyn, with the dog Zara and I was officially introduced to Jim's wife. She provided me with a tour of the event space upstairs and it was stunning, huge windows overlooking the beauty of the grounds exposed beams. The event space took my breath away. If I were planning a wedding, I'd want it there. I immediately thought of champagne coops, Gatsby-style, and tried to think of an event I could have there. I learned that the property was purchased in 2019 as a burned-down hole in the ground after the former golf course clubhouse caught fire and burned. The gamble on a 120-acre equestrian event space became a real gam-



Zara, Darlyn, and Jim Daratony



The Foxhole, Biergarten, event space above the Biergarten

ble when Covid hit, stalled building plans, and increased prices for building supplies astronomically. I automatically sucked my breath at getting that side of the story. It's truly amazing that the Daratony family pulled it off and amazing that they did it so beautifully. If we, as a community, supported each other and businesses during the pandemic, we should come together and support this phoenix that rose literally from the ashes. Based on the warmth and friendliness of the owners, I don't think you'll regret it. Jim and Daralyn were wonderful hosts and have

created a wonderful space within the community. To learn more about Revel Run, there is information on the website <https://www.revelrun.com/>. To see if space is available for your event fill out this form <https://www.revelrun.com/event-contact>. Hours and events at the Biergarten are listed on the website here: <https://www.revelrun.com/events>. They also have a Facebook page you can follow to learn about upcoming events <https://www.facebook.com/revelrun.events>. Revel Run is located at 555 Dancer Road in Chelsea.



Chelsea State Bank's President & CEO Presents \$50,000 Match to City of Chelsea For TimberTown Reimagine Project

► continued from page 1
pated \$50,000 community match donation for TimberTown Reimagine.

It seems like just yesterday when conversations started about enhancing the cherished TimberTown Park in the Chelsea Community. Chelsea State Bank has a deep connection to the park's original construction, and our President & CEO, Joanne Rau, was passionate about continuing

that legacy. This led to the announcement that Chelsea State Bank will match \$50,000 raised through community donations.

Along with other dedicated volunteers from both public and private sectors, Chelsea State Bank has members on the steering committee and the marketing committee. Their efforts range from engaging in social media campaigns and newspaper features to organizing

kick-off events and fundraising initiatives in the two elementary schools.

"When duty calls - you respond by agreeing to roll nearly \$3,000 in coins," said Rau. "Our team stepped up to the challenge and had fun with it. They became interested in the outcome of the student's fundraising success."

Since its launch in February 2024, these fundraising activities have gained momen-

tum and expanded. Alongside these volunteers, a fundraising committee has been proactive in securing sponsorships from local businesses for key play structure components.

Joanne Rau, President & CEO of Chelsea State Bank, expressed her amazement at the overwhelming support from local businesses. She highlighted the unique spirit of Chelsea's local businesses, emphasizing their en-

thusiasm and eagerness to back this initiative, surpassing all expectations. In addition to receiving support from local businesses, community members embraced the Picket Legacy fundraising campaign. For \$250.00 - families, individuals, and groups can purchase a fence picket made of long-lasting composite (from recycled materials) and can personalize a picket by engraving the name of their family, family

member, group, or organization for years to come engraved and on display at TimberTown for years to come.

"As we celebrate our progress, it's important to remember that we still have a journey ahead of us - to raise \$44,000+ by June 22, 2024. I'm confident that we will reach our goal, so our children's children will be able to create lasting memories like many have for the past 30 years."

Scholarship Awards Are Building Bulldog Futures!



Photos from Chelsea High School Class Night courtesy Brynara Schmidt

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Chelsea Education Foundation (CEF) presented Scholarship Awards to 2024 Graduates at Senior Class Night. At this year's May 31 event, CEF's Board members, scholarship sponsors, and volunteers congratulated Seniors and handed out \$40,300 in 41 individual scholarships. Chelsea Alumni Association, teachers, and administration were also present and participated in the honorary festivities.

Since 2001, over **1,100 scholarships** have been awarded to students with outstanding character, community service, and academics through

the Chelsea Education Foundation. This year's Scholarship awards are:

- The Joseph Piascecki Memorial Scholarship - Jackson Dell
- Chelsea Education Foundation Academic Scholarship - Addison Adams, Gabriella Basar, Marina Hinz-Johnson, Peyton Kifer, Phoebe Ledbetter, Trillian Krug, Madison Morgan, Isabella Murphy, Jenna Ouellette, Lily Paddock, Marah Putnam, Harper Williams
- Chelsea Education Foundation Community Service Scholarship - Gabriella Basar, Jackson Dell, Charlotte Diesing, Katherine Krugh, Gabe Landis, Jenna Ouellette, Eason Xiao
- Chelsea Education Foundation A.C.E. (Accounting, Computer Science, and Engineering) Scholarship -

- Evan Muchler
- The Robert W. Wagner Engineering Scholarship - Augustine Alafita
- The Judith Lynn Wagner Owens Teacher Scholarship - Megan Hayduck *former C.H.S. Graduate
- The Mary Merkel Memorial Nursing Scholarship - Gabriella Basar
- The Doris Schumacher/A. Henry Schumacher Memorial Scholarship - Avery Landis *former C.H.S. Graduate
- Female in Finance Scholarship - Lindsay Favre
- Chelsea Family Dentistry Scholarship - Madison Morgan
- The Chelsea Rod and Gun Club Scholarship - Isabella Murphy
- The Chelsea Rod and Gun Club - The David B. Steinbach Memorial Scholarship

- Award - Marah Putnam
- Chelsea Education Foundation Scholarship for Non-Traditional or Returning Students - Malcolm Keaton
- Chelsea Education Foundation Trades Scholarship - Cameron Proos
- Chelsea Education Foundation Trades Scholarship in Memory of Gary Bentley - Logan Eckhout
- The Charles and Florence Pour Memorial Aviation Scholarship - Misha McElrath
- The Joel Gentz Memorial Leadership and Service Scholarship - Mary Zoran
- The Jillean Lea Drow Memorial Scholarship - Seren Angus
- The Chelsea Education Foundation and Chelsea Alumni Association Committee President's Award - Mitchell Brown, Kiera

Crawley, Emily Gagnon, Arianne Hunter, Kyle Valik, Phuong Hong Ngoc Tao* former C.H.S. Graduate

CEF Board President Amy Forehand commented, "Chelsea Education Foundation is delighted to help students take that next step to pursue their dreams and find their place in the world. We are expanding scholarships to be as inclusive and relevant to the ever-changing world our students are navigating. Scholarships from CEF are funded through the generous support of the Chelsea community. As an all-volunteer organization, CEF can't make this happen year after year without your donations and support of our fundraising events".

CEF is currently running the **Building a Bulldog Future Fundraiser**. This fundraiser gives them the capacity to have an even more significant impact for more students and more educators. Your contribution will make a difference! Donate now <https://chelseaeducationfoundation.networkforgood.com/> to donate to CEF today.

CEF also invites all Chelsea School District alumni to visit the Chelsea Alumni Association committee website <https://chelseaalumniassociation.org/> to connect by joining our growing network and learn how to stay connected.

Chelsea Education Foundation congratulates the Class of '24 and extends its gratitude to all who donated to the 2024 Grad Year Campaign fundraiser.

Chelsea Education Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides funding for a broad spectrum of educational activities benefiting the students of the Chelsea School District. Since 1990, \$1.2 million in donations has been collected to support grants and scholarships throughout the District. Chelsea Education Foundation's mission is to enhance the District's educational experiences by financing projects beyond the District's resources and by providing scholarships to District Graduates. For more information, visit www.chelseaeducationfoundation.org.



Part of the excitement of the Sounds & Sights Festival is being right in the heart of the action!



We're searching for enthusiastic volunteers to help us create an unforgettable community experience. Whether you're a music aficionado, an art enthusiast, or love being part of something spectacular, this is your

chance to shine! We have flexible two-hour volunteer slots across many exciting events throughout the Festival: Art Market, Chalk Art Contest, Classic Car Show, KidZone, Social Commons, and the Zero Waste Initia-

tive. In a time when many local community festivals are struggling, Chelsea continues to thrive thanks to our dedicated residents, leaders, business owners, and friends like you. Your support makes all the difference!

Date: July 26th-27th, 2024
 Location: Historic Downtown Chelsea
 Volunteers will receive:

- A stylish and comfortable festival t-shirt
- Free admission to the Social Commons on your volunteer day
- The opportunity to connect and net-

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Chase Nichols Named CDL Teen Volunteer of the Year!

► **continued from page 1**
 the McKune Room, with the assistance of adult volunteer Glenn. Then, as the kids rush into the library after school, Chase arranges for them to play kids of the same or higher skill levels. He's constantly walking the room, watching games, and giving tips. Youth & Teen Librarian Stacey reflects on Chase's service, "When I was first approached about a volunteer-run chess clinics, I wasn't sure about it. But I've been pleasantly surprised and in awe of Chase's hard

work. He's built these clinics up from four kids in the booths by KidSpot, to twenty inside KidSpot, and now we have so many kids participating, we had to move them to McKune and the Reading Garden! Chase even recruited an adult volunteer to help. CDL is always looking for new YSG members who are entering seventh grade or above. If you are an interested student or parent and want to find out more about YSG volunteer opportunities at CDL, visit the library website at

chelseadistrictlibrary.org, and click on the How Do I...Become a Volunteer tab. Sign up today by filling out an application online. YSG volunteers help set up and clean up library programs, assist with running the Summer Reading Program, and support the youth & teen librarians. YSG volunteering is a great way to serve our community and meet new friends! Plus, as an added bonus, the group will finish the summer off with a fun party at Pierce Park!

Eddy Discovery Center: Kids Summer Programs



Photos By Aimee Bingham

By Aimee Bingham
anbingham@gmail.com

I took my nine-year-old to hike Waterloo this Saturday as she was already bored. We decided to see what programs they'd offer children this summer through the Discovery Center. The Discovery Center is located at 17030 Bush Rd in Chelsea. It is open 10 am-5 pm Monday through Sunday. Aside from the fabulous trails of Waterloo available for hiking, the Discovery Center offers a host of educational programs for children and adults

which are free with a recreation passport.

To encourage learning in children throughout the summer, Eddy is offering children the opportunity to earn a Jr. Rangers badge. To earn a Jr. Ranger's badge, children can request a punch card at any nature program they attend. Ask the presenter to punch the card. Children who attend three programs throughout the summer earn their Jr. Ranger Badge. The program encourages learning in a different way than school. It's

being outdoors, hands-on, and learning about nature and the ecosystem. It's a great way to keep a child's mind active and off screens during the summer. Saturday, June 22 at 2 pm The Discovery Center is hosting an event called, "Become a Jr. Ranger," probably the perfect time for children to get started earning their badge this summer.

My daughter checked out the insect backpack for our hike. One great activity for children not interested in specific classes is to select one of three

backpacks filled with equipment and information about a topic. The three options available were; insects, birds, and naturalists. My daughter selected insects, put on her vest, and found a specimen jar for collecting. She eagerly flipped rocks searching for creatures. I attempted to enjoy the sounds of nature. According to Psychology Today, "The sound of nature can improve health, decrease stress, improve mood, and enhance cognitive performance." But my daughter chose to take the time in nature to

tell me all the things her nine-year-old self thinks. I know how and more to herself so I embraced her sharing and enjoyed the moment with her. She was thrilled to find an earthworm, a bunch of ants with eggs, and a baby dragonfly. Rather than collect her findings, we opted to leave them in their homes. I left the trail knowing a lot more about the inner workings of my daughter's thoughts and she left feeling happy and relaxed after a fun adventure. I could not ask for a bet-

ter Saturday afternoon. To find program schedules at Eddy Discovery Center, there is a PDF online if you search "Eddy Discovery Center Programs. Or if you go to the Discovery Center page: <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/places/v-centers/eddy> and scroll to the bottom and click on the link to the weekly program schedule. If your group or organization is offering summer opportunities for children, I'd love to hear from you, email anbingham@gmail.com.

A Little Help Goes A Long Way

Open a new loan between May 15 & June 30 and **receive 25% of your 2024 paid interest back!***



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The Purple Rose Theatre Company to open Wild Wilderness Comedy "What Springs Forth" A World Premiere by Carey Crim



The Purple Rose Theatre Company (PRTC) announces the final production of their 33rd season, "What Springs Forth" a World Premiere comedy by playwright, Carey Crim. Tickets are on sale now.

Three middle-aged women, friends since college, embark on what was billed as a high end wellness spa retreat only to discover one of them, with the help of her new recently released from prison business partner, has changed the itinerary to a wilderness survival camp. Can their friendship survive bears, forest toilets and one another?

This production of "What Springs Forth" contains adult content and may not be suitable for children under the age of 13.

"What Springs Forth" playwright and PRTC Resident Artist, Carey Crim, has premiered the following productions at The Purple Rose: "Growing Pretty", "Wake", "Some Couples May...", "Morning After Grace", and "Never Not Once". Carey is a celebrated Eastcoast playwright and has written both short and full length

plays. She also adapted her play "Wake" into a screenplay. The feature film "Wake" has won several festival awards and is now available on Amazon Prime. For more information about Carey, visit CareyCrim.com.

Performances of "What Springs Forth" at The Purple Rose run from Friday, June 21 through Saturday, August 31, 2024. Previews, with reduced-price tickets, are available through Thursday, June 20. The press opening is Friday, June 28 at 8:00pm. Also, Thursday evening 8pm performances are back for the summer!

Directed by Kate Thomsen and Assistant Directed by K. Edmonds, the cast features Sarab Kamoo* (Lathrup Village), Sonja Marquis (Brighton), Dwandra Nickole* (Kalamazoo), and Suzi Regan* (Birmingham). Set Design by Sarah Pearline, Properties Design by Dana Segrest, Costume Design by Suzanne Young, Lighting Design by Noele Stollmack, Sound Design by Victoria Deiorio. Stefanie Din* is the Stage Manager.

*The asterisk denotes members of the

actor and stage manager union, Actors' Equity Association.

Production Sponsors for "What Springs Forth" are Giraffe Design Build, The Hamp Family, and Drs. Ying Li and Oliver Varban. Underwriting support for the season comes from Michigan Arts and Culture Council, National Endowment for the Arts, The Schubert Foundation, and The Matilda R. Wilson Fund. Media sponsors include JTV and Michigan Radio.

Ticket Information

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

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

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



Chelsea Police Department Weekly Summary

Incident #: 24-1897

Date: June 14, 2024

Location: 900 block of S. Main Street

Time: 9:14 am

INFORMATION: While on routine patrol officers responded to the 900 block of S. Main Street to take a report for a Retail Fraud that was believed to have occurred in May, but had just recently been discovered. The officers arrived on scene

and made contact with complainant who stated that they had reviewed surveillance footage and discovered that the theft of a large amount of beauty products had occurred on May 21, 2024. The complainant stated that there were at least

two unidentified female suspects that had participated in the theft. The case remains open pending further investigation into the identity of the suspects and review of the surveillance footage.

Incident #: 24-1887

Date: June 13, 2024

Location: F.A. Weber Drive X Sibley Road

Time: 9:42 am

INFORMATION: While on routine patrol an officer was dispatched to the area of F.A. Weber Drive for the report of some damage that had been discovered to an art mosaic. Upon arriv-

al the officer made contact with the complainant who stated that they had recently discovered some new damage to an art mosaic. The officer took photographs of the new damage that

was being reported and concluded that the damage had most likely been made intentionally by one or more suspects. At the time of the report there was no suspect information available.

Part of the excitement of the Sounds & Sights Festival is being right in the heart of the action!



continued from page 8 work with community leaders, volunteers,

and business owners - A chance to make a meaningful impact in

your community Don't miss out—sign up now and join us for an incredible weekend of music, art, and community spirit!

Visit our Sounds & Sights Festival page on our website (chelseamich.com), scan the QR code, or visit the link below to sign up!

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EADAE2CAAF8C70-48997961-2024?fbclid=IwZXh0bGhZWCMTAAAR3GD0GOCYybUASc4XLpx-gDBfrvrUQJfje6UjAimeo7PHu3ixfty25S-VWU_aem_ZmFrZWRIb-W15MTZieXRlcw#/

WHAT SPRINGS FORTH
A World Premiere by Carey Crim
directed by Kate Thomsen

June 21 - August 31, 2024
PurpleRoseTheatre.org
734.433.7673

CHELSEA DISTRICT LIBRARY ADVENTURE BEGINS AT YOUR LIBRARY.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR CDL'S SUMMER READING PROGRAM!

Join us June 7 from 12-2pm for the all-ages Summer Reading Program Kickoff on the Library Lawn
Read Great Stories • Complete Fun Badges • Earn Awesome Prizes

FIND ADVENTURE FOR ALL AGES AT THESE WEEKLY LIBRARY PROGRAMS:

- WILD WEDNESDAYS @ 2PM
JUNE 12-JULY 24
FOR AGES 6+
- THRILLING THURSDAYS @ 10:30AM
JUNE 13-JULY 18
FOR AGES 2-6
- TEEN SUMMER THURSDAYS @ 2PM
JUNE 13-JULY 18
FOR GRADES 6-12

Scan the code for more details and to sign up early for the Summer Reading Program

CHELSEADISTRICTLIBRARY.ORG/SRP