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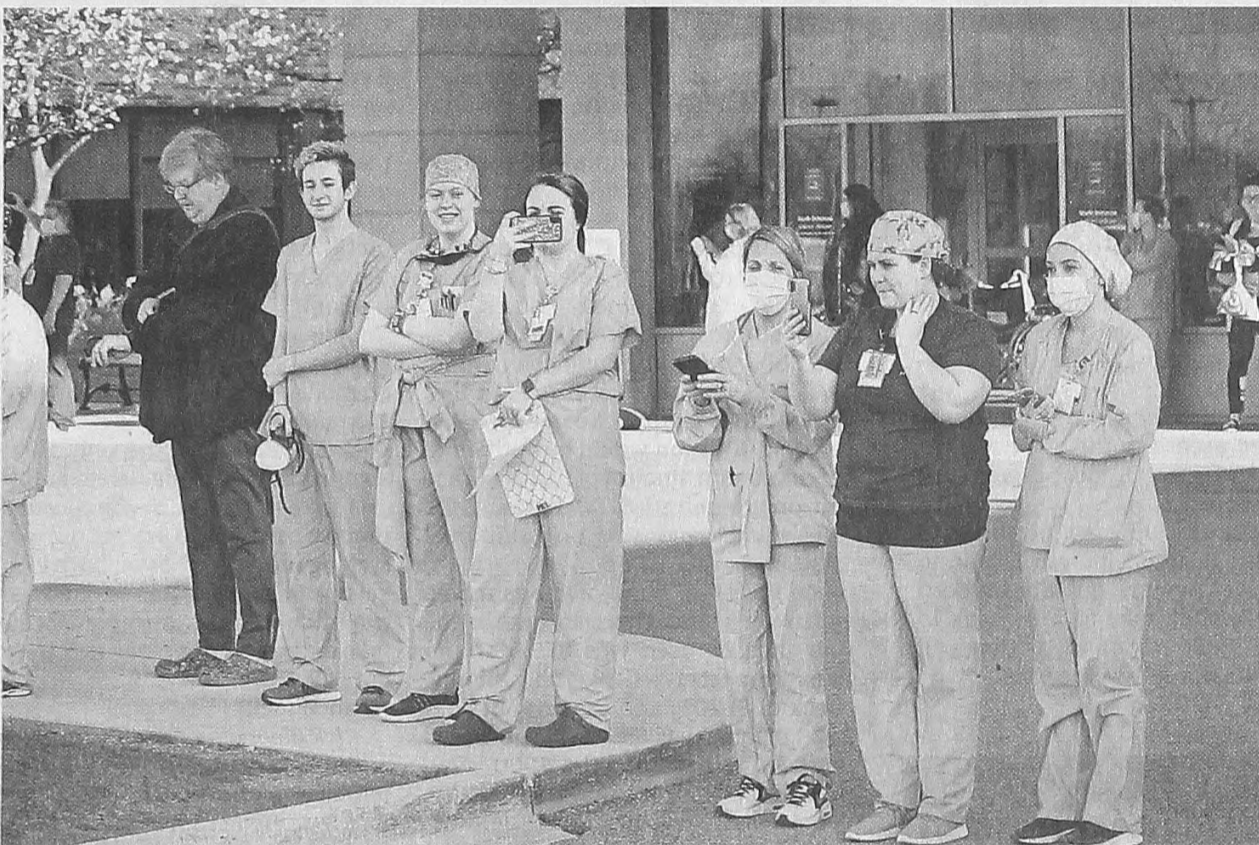
# OBSERVER

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020 ■ HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC IN MICHIGAN

### First responders honor hospital workers in solidarity drive



St. Mary Mercy personnel gather in front of the Livonia facility on April 16 to enjoy a parade given for them – organized by first responders from Wayne and Oakland counties. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## PRAISE FOR THOSE ON FRONT LINES

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

As Michigan battles the coronavirus pandemic, health care professionals are under an immense amount of pressure as they work to save lives in difficult work environments.

To recognize that work, first responders from around Wayne and Oakland counties participated in a solidarity drive at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia on April 16.

Many of those people at hospitals have the same worries and concerns that everybody else in the world has, but they face it every single day,” said Dave Heavener, Livonia fire chief. “We want to reach out to those staff members and let them know that they’re not in this alone and we’re all going to get through this together. We just want to make sure that they know they have our support.”

Police and fire personnel from Livonia, Westland,

See PRAISE, Page 4A



Members of the Livonia Fire Department salute at the hospital during the playing of the national anthem.

“We just want to make sure that they know they have our support.”

Dave Heavener, Livonia fire chief

### It was ‘very, very scary’ fighting COVID-19

Wayne County’s first virus patient tells story

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Paul DeWyse was sitting in a hospital bed in Ann Arbor March 10 when Gov. Gretchen Whitmer told Michiganders the coronavirus had made its way to the mitten state. Two cases had been confirmed, and one of them was a Wayne County man in his 50s.



DeWyse

“I’m like, ‘She’s talking about me. Holy cow,’” he said. DeWyse, a Livonia resident, wasn’t just one of the state’s first COVID-19 cases. He also was at high risk having received a double lung transplant a few years ago.

See PATIENT, Page 4A

### Plymouth Twp. OKs lawn care business to work

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Plymouth Township is going against the grain, so to speak, when it comes to allowing lawn care businesses to work during the coronavirus epidemic.

Citing a township ordinance that requires residents to maintain lawns and keep weeds in check, supervisor Kurt Heise has deemed certain professional landscaping services as essential functions, making them immune from police enforcement despite Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s executive order banning the practice.

See LAWN CARE, Page 4A

## Advocate who lost mom, friend now helps others

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A Livonia woman’s advocacy for those trapped in the wake of suicide includes music, laughter, dancing and funny memes.

“I don’t want to burn myself out. I want to keep going,” said Katie Hardy, founder of Six Feet Over, a nonprofit working to prevent and help heal suicide-stricken families, and Suck It!

### About this series

Suicide has long been a subject most people avoid talking about publicly, yet suicides in metro Detroit counties have increased in recent years.

This is the fourth in a series of stories examining the topic.

Suicide, which handles the group’s outreach activities.

“We don’t do research on our own. I don’t ever expect people to come to me. I try to go to them. The unconventional,

novel aspect of what we do and who we are (is) we are just people hanging out, very wearable. We try to make suicide

See ADVOCATE, Page 6A



Katie Hardy began the anti-suicide advocacy program Six Feet Over after the suicide death of her mother in 2003. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



# Accused killer of missing woman has new attorney

**Susan Vela** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A new attorney is defending Floyd Galloway Jr., a former Berkley resident accused of killing a woman missing since late 2016.

Ellen K. Michaels is the new lead counsel, replacing William Mitchell III and Sharon Clark Woodside. Michaels' name is on a "sealed appeal with the Michigan Court of Appeals regarding Galloway's case thus far.

The 33-year-old Galloway is a state prison inmate who pleaded guilty to a Hines Park sexual assault that happened a few months before Danielle Stislicki, 28, of Farmington Hills, went missing on Dec. 2, 2016.

"Floyd is going to get a great defense. We're taking a very aggressive approach," said Michaels, a well-established criminal defense attorney. "We are fighting this every step of the way."

She said the case isn't as straightforward as it may seem. It's unusual, she said, that a homicide conviction is being pursued when Stislicki remains missing.

Also, she questioned why the state

attorney general – not Oakland County – is prosecuting the case.

Jaimie Powell Horowitz, a homicide and sexual assault prosecutor now running for a 45th District Court judge seat, has been leading the prosecution in court.

"It certainly makes me wonder," said Michaels of those handling – and not handling – Galloway's case. "I'm excited to be on the case and I'm excited to fight the charges with my client."

Galloway was a guard at the MetLife offices in Southfield, where Stislicki worked before she went missing.

According to preliminary examination testimony, co-workers saw them in the parking lot and then driving away together in Stislicki's vehicle that last day she communicated with loved ones.

Forensic experts shared data showing cell phones for both Galloway and Stislicki were near Galloway's Berkley home in the hours after they apparently left the parking lot.

The 47th District Court's Judge James Brady ruled there was enough evidence for an Oakland County Circuit Court trial. Galloway was scheduled for that trial to begin this week but that is delayed because of the appeal.

# Middlebelt Road in Farmington Hills to close for two months

**Shelby Tankersley** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A section of Middlebelt Road in Farmington Hills stretching about a mile will close on April 27 for two months.

The Road Commission for Oakland County approved Consumers Energy to close Middlebelt between 9 Mile Road and Grayfield Drive for a gas main replacement. Grayfield is just south of the intersection with 10 Mile Road.

The road commission expects the stretch to open again June 29.

Middlebelt sees about 15,400 vehicles everyday under typical circumstances, according to the road commission.

While businesses and residents who need access to the affected area will be able to get it, most drivers will take a detour.

The detour will take northbound drivers on Middlebelt from 9 Mile to Grand River Avenue, go onto Orchard Lake Road then take 10 Mile back to Middlebelt. Southbound drivers will take the detour in reverse order.

# What you need to know about stimulus checks



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom  
Guest columnist

Over the last couple of weeks, I've received a number of questions regarding the government's stimulus check, which the Internal Revenue Service has just started depositing in people's accounts. I thought I would answer some of those questions here.

There were a number of questions regarding how the IRS determines how much your stimulus check would be and how it is handled for tax purposes.

The first thing to know is that the stimulus check is not considered taxable income to you. Therefore, when you file your 2020 tax return, you do not have to report the amount you received in your stimulus check.

Second, the IRS determines the amount of your stimulus check based upon your 2019 tax return, or if you have not filed your 2019 tax return, your 2018 tax return.

Because the way the law is written, the stimulus check you receive is actually structured as a credit toward your 2020 taxes. Therefore, it is possible that when you file your 2020 tax return in 2021 you potentially receive an additional stimulus amount. This would happen if it turns out your 2020 income was lower than the tax year the IRS used to determine your stimulus check.

For example, if the IRS used your 2018 tax return to determine your stimulus check amount, and in that year your adjusted gross income was \$85,000, your stimulus check would be \$700. However, if it turns out that your adjusted gross income in 2020 was \$75,000, you would be entitled to the maximum amount of \$1,200. Since you only received \$700 initially, the IRS would send you an additional \$500.

On the other hand, if the numbers were reversed and your income in the year the IRS used was \$75,000 and thus, you received the full stimulus check of \$1,200, and it turns out your 2020 income was \$85,000, you would not have to pay back the \$500, even though you were only entitled to \$700.

I also had a few questions regarding whether your stimulus check is protected from debt collectors or credi-

tors. The simple answer is no, there is no special protection in the law that would prevent creditors from seizing this money. In fact, the law specifically mentions that if individuals are past due on their child support, the Treasury Department is legally allowed to seize a stimulus payment to cover child support. Under the law, there are no exceptions to this provision even for financial hardship.

In addition, if your stimulus payment is directly deposited to a bank where you owe money, the bank can seize all or part of your stimulus check to payback the back debt. The law also does not provide any provisions from private debt collectors potentially garnishing your account. Of course, in order to garnish an account the creditor must have an outstanding judgment against you.

If you're worried about creditors seizing your stimulus money or you have not yet received your payment, you can request the IRS to send you a paper check and then you can cash that check as opposed to depositing it. To request a paper check, you need to go [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov) and click on "Get My Payment." On the other hand, if you've already received the amount, you can immediately withdraw it before creditors can seize it.

Some readers mentioned they received a postcard with a password and were told to use that to access their payment online. Thankfully, these readers were questioning whether it was legitimate or not. As I told these people, without question, it's a scam and they need to ignore the card. The IRS will not contact you for your bank account information or to request other personal information.

Scam artists are out in force and we all must be extra aware. If you receive an email claiming that in order to get your stimulus check you need to click on a link, my advice is, the only thing you should click on is the delete button.

Just a reminder how important it is that we continue to protect ourselves by staying home, and if you have to go out, keep your social distance. These are extraordinary times and we do have to take extraordinary measures to protect ourselves.

Good luck!

*Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](https://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please email Rick at [rick@bloomassetmanagement.com](mailto:rick@bloomassetmanagement.com).*

# Work starts on Cherry Hill Road

**Ed Wright** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Canton Township's banged-up Cherry Hill Road will be receiving some tender loving care from the Wayne County Road Commission starting this week.

Cherry Hill will be resurfaced and widened from Canton Center to Haggerty roads. But the starting date, which has already been delayed from April 13, could be delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a spokesperson for the road commission said.

Construction barrels have been placed along the sides of the road. In the first phase of the project, westbound traffic will be maintained on Cherry Hill while eastbound traffic will be detoured to Beck Road, eastbound

Ford Road and then to southbound Lotz Road.

Once work is completed on the eastbound lanes, the detour route will be reversed to allow eastbound traffic to be maintained. Westbound traffic to be detoured to Lotz Road, westbound on Ford Road and then northbound on Beck Road.

All detour routes will be clearly posted with the appropriate signs. Flaggers will be present to direct traffic as needed during construction.

Please use caution when driving through work zones, the road commission said. Reduced speeds and load restrictions will be posted.

This is a Wayne County project and all questions should be directed to 888-ROAD-CREW. For up-to-date information on all road construction projects taking place in Canton please follow us on Facebook.

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# Milford man dies in crash on I-275

**Susan Vela** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A 37-year-old Milford man died instantly early Monday morning after he drove off Interstate 275 in Plymouth Township and struck the rear of an idled semitrailer.

Michigan State Police troopers said the parked semitrailer had its hazard lights activated on the right shoulder of the northbound lanes near the Ann Arbor Road interchange.

The semitrailer's driver was not injured in the crash that happened at about 2 a.m.

An investigation continues.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at [svela@hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com) or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Reader wants freedom back

I cannot live like this all summer. My residence is not a jail.

In Michigan I fear government more than the virus.

The “stay home, stay safe” message makes sense for a few days or weeks maximum.

Rather than “flattening the curve” and dragging this agony all summer and into the fall, if medical facilities and staff need to be beefed up let’s create reserve capacity and get them whatever tools they need.

Government cannot protect us from everything. We assume risks every time we drive, ride an airplane or engage in sports. The virus statistics do not justify a panic; more people are dying of cancer and heart disease every day than from the virus.

So what’s the risk?

Based on some recent studies, there is a 25% to 50% chance I will not have noticeable symptoms. (I may have already been exposed and recovered without my knowledge.)

When I do get the virus and have a cough or other symptoms, as with most I likely will not need to go to the hospital. In a short time I can get on with life knowing I’ve overcome the virus.

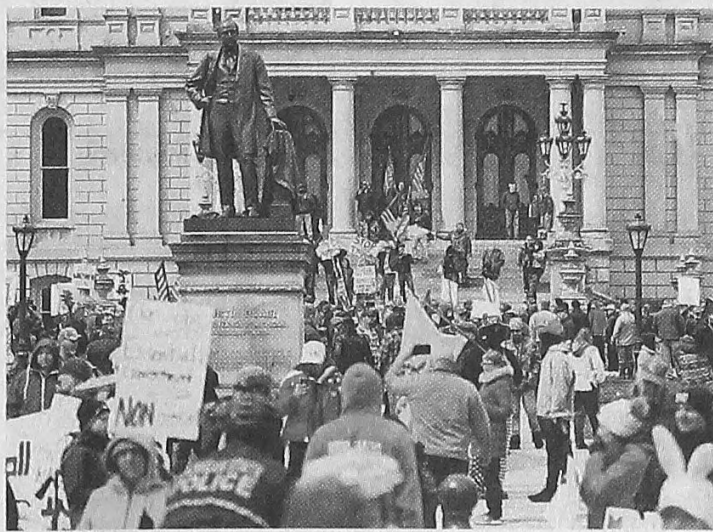
If I’m one of the few unlucky people who need hospitalization, the hydroxy-chloroquine drug seems to have a high success rate in curing patients quickly.

If that doesn’t work, hospitals should soon have plenty of supplies and ventilators to treat me. With no major pre-existing conditions, my likelihood of death is minimal.

If I do die, as a committed Christian I have the joy of being in heaven versus the tyranny of living in Michigan.

I will not give up my whole summer out of fear. I want to enjoy life, enjoy summer fun and be with friends without fear of a \$1,000 fine or jail time if I congregate with another family or neighbor. My son is banned from visiting his girlfriend. My other son with autism cannot mentally survive much longer isolated in one place with no structured activity.

I’m 70 and want to enjoy my remaining years. People in communist North Korea may have more freedom than Michiganders. The government logic to restrict freedom may never end. Re-



strictions could go on all summer and be reinstated the next time a virus comes along.

Just as our ancestors came to America for freedom, perhaps our family will be forced to move to another state where civil liberties are respected.

**Kenneth Howse**  
*Livonia*

## Concerns with protest

Like so many in the Huron Valley community, we know people who have lost loved ones to COVID-19 and have numerous friends in the healthcare field who are going to work each day, putting their own health and the health of their families at risk. We are grateful for what they and other essential workers are doing to keep us going.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has had to make some tough decisions, none of which are politically popular. We believe she has made these decisions based on the scientific data available and the advice of medical experts. She has put people before politics.

Unfortunately, our State Rep. Matt Maddock and his wife Meshawn, a leader in 11th District Republican Party, have used the pandemic to promote their political agenda. The rally April 15 was not about opening up businesses as they would lead us to believe. It was a political stunt that put people’s lives in danger, complete with President Donald Trump and confederate flags, swastikas and AK-47s.

This shameful display disrespects

health care workers, the sick and those who have lost their lives to this virus. As the Maddocks celebrate the national press they received for Michigan, the rest of us grieve, because we know we are better than this.

**Robert and Sherri Masson**  
*Milford*

## Whitmer shows leadership

What is leadership? A leader looks at data collected by experts and makes decisions for the common good. During a pandemic, the common good means saving lives.

From the beginning Gov. Gretchen Whitmer recognized the economic hardships and sacrifices people would have to make in order to flatten the curve. Asking Michiganders to give up their daily routines, miss family traditions and take a hit financially was not a stand that could be considered politically popular by any calculation, but she made it.

That’s leadership. She prioritized human life. She, along with other governors, realize what President Donald Trump, Rep. Matt Maddock and his wife do not. It’s not about political party or ideology. It’s not about rallying your base and taking advantage of a crisis to gain political capital. It’s about saving the lives of those people who drive our economy. The economy will recover; the loss of life cannot be reversed.

**Allison Rose**  
*Milford*

## Protest concerns misplaced

No one should have to choose between putting food on their table and keeping their family safe from a deadly virus. On April 15, Meshawn Maddock organized a protest against Michigan’s coronavirus protective measures, but the protest was misplaced.

The problem is less about easing restrictions and opening the economy, and more about wage disparity. People who could work remotely or had the ability to set aside a safety net are managing. Yet, over half of Americans live paycheck to paycheck.

Michigan’s household income has fallen dramatically, from 9.7% above the national median in 1999 to currently 5% below. The governor has a tough job in leveling restrictions that will safely open our economy as fast as possible.

Instead of contributing to the spread of the virus, Rep. Matt Maddock would best serve his constituents by pushing measures (expedite unemployment benefits, promised relief funds, and small business assistance) which would allow people to stay safe and weather this crisis.

**Nancy and Paul Czech**  
*Wolverine Lake*

## Vote against protest supporters

Reps. Matt Maddock (R-44, Milford) and Julie Alexander (R-64, Jackson), and Sen. Tom Barrett (R-24, Shiawassee, Ingram) undermined the health of the people of Michigan by encouraging, promoting and participating in the plan to block traffic in Lansing. What they really did was block the front line and essential workers in the city from doing their job. The rest of the city was staying home and staying healthy.

These politicians have entrenched themselves in a deep political ideology so it doesn’t occur to them that the real people they are effecting is the first responders, the essential workers and health officials in Lansing. They were thoughtless about targeting a single Michigan city in their hysteria to politicize our predicament, evidence they are isolated and unresponsive to the people of Michigan.

They should be heartily voted out.  
**Constance Lippert**  
*Milford*

# Jail inmates sue over housing conditions

**Susan Vela** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Some civil rights and racial justice groups have banded together to help Oakland County Jail inmates sue the sheriff over housing conditions amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attempting to release more medically vulnerable inmates, the complaint filed in U.S. District Court names Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard; Curtis Childs, his corrective services commander; and Oakland County.

Attorneys from Advancement Project, American Civil Liberties Union, Civil Rights Corps and some local law offices are backing five named inmates and others similarly situated, in the class-action suit that Undersheriff Mike McCabe claimed is frivolous.

“I am 42 years old. ... I suffer from hypertension, cardiac disease and obesity. I had a mild heart attack in 2015, and I still experience chest pains from time to time,” said Michael Cameron, one of the inmate plaintiffs, in a statement that was part of the announcement about the litigation. “I am terrified that if I catch the coronavirus, I will not be able to fight it off. I worry about dying in the hospital with no family around me. I worry about who will protect my son.”

The complaint – approximately 70 pages, without exhibits – highlights inmates who are suffering from ailments that include bronchitis, sleep apnea, hypertension, obesity and cardiac disease.



**Cameron**

Cameron, 42, has been in the Oakland County Jail since January, according to county inmate information, with probation, contempt of court and narcotics-related issues.

According to the lawyers, their complaints and concerns include close sleeping quarters, unnecessary waits for medical treatment, a lack of soap and other cleaning supplies and not enough safeguards against COVID-19 infections.

“An outbreak in the jail is imminent and will cause death and devastation to countless lives,” the complaint said. “Starkly, in the midst of a public health crisis, the people currently confined at the jail have no adequate safeguards against the severe threat of this novel coronavirus.”

“All they ask is to be treated humanely while they are in Oakland County’s custody during this perilous time.”

The groups backing Oakland County Jail inmates have filed similar complaints in Miami and St. Louis. More liti-

gation is expected.

Bouchard and Childs could not be reached for comment. Responding for them, McCabe was not pleased.

“This is one of the biggest piece-of-crap lawsuits I’ve ever seen in my career,” the veteran law enforcer said. “The sheriff does not release people from jail. Judges release people from jail. This is beyond belief. I’m very confident this lawsuit is ultimately going to be dismissed.”

He said the allegations are “without foundation” and boasted that the Pontiac campus’ three jailing facilities are known for their cleanliness and healthcare.

Inmates are getting screened for COVID-19 upon entering the jail and tested when symptoms arise. On April 17, 31 had tested positive and were being quarantined.

The Oakland County Jail, though, was not designed for inmates to stay

6 feet apart.

The sheriff’s personnel have been submitting names of nonviolent inmates, some with serious medical conditions, to Oakland County judges for early release. Most on a 165-name list have been let go.

Wayne County’s jailing facilities housed at least 900 inmates on April 13, compared to about 1,600 in March 2019.

Pageant Atterberry, spokeswoman for the Wayne County Sheriff’s Office, said the county has been releasing non-violent inmates and using tethers to keep track of them.

McCabe and Atterberry confirmed that Oakland and Wayne county jails have issued masks to both inmates and jail employees.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.

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## City of Plymouth Zoning Board of Appeals Notice Thursday, May 7, 2020 – 7:00 p.m. City Hall Commission Chambers

201 S. Main Street Plymouth, Michigan 48170  
Website: www.plymouthmi.gov Phone: (734) 453-1234 ext. 232

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following:

Z20-03 Non-Use Variance Request for 480 Sunset  
Side yard setback  
Zoned: R-1, Single-Family Residential  
Applicant: Jeff Burch

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator  
201 S. Main Street  
Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 234

## Patient

Continued from Page 1A

### Getting sick

"It was very, very scary," he said. "Because of my immune system, I was at high risk and I just knew it was going to be a rough road ahead. Of course I was in isolation and quarantine, so I had nobody even to talk to about it. I would call my wife obviously, but she had already brought me through two years of a transplant and being by my side. I was getting back to being a healthy person, and now this."

Because of his job as a sales manager, DeWyse travels domestically a lot. At the time of his diagnosis, he had recently been to Texas and Washington, D.C. But he's not sure travel is how he contracted COVID-19.

"I'm already very, very careful with everything I do," he said. "For three years now I've been wearing a mask on the airplane, in the airport, in the hospital, in doctor offices. I haven't shook hands with anyone for three years."

**"It came on very quickly, within several hours, and from that point I decided right then and there, I wasn't thinking coronavirus by any means."**

Paul DeWyse

came back positive.

"First patient in the state, first patient at Michigan Medicine, and of all things he happened to be a lung transplant patient," said Dr. Dennis Lyu, an M.D. who treated DeWyse.

### Getting treated

During DeWyse's 10-day hospital stay, he battled what Lyu said was a relatively mild case of the virus. Had he not been the first patient or a lung transplant recipient, the hospital might have not admitted him at all.

"He had respiratory symptoms with cough but he didn't really have too much shortness of breath," Lyu said. "His main symptoms were flu-like symptoms of fever, aches. He clearly was on the mild end of sick patients."

DeWyse remembers having five or six difficult days with bad body aches, but he never needed a ventilator or intense care. After the first week or so, DeWyse said he felt better and the virus would come back in waves.

"I went for a day or two feeling totally normal, well as normal as you could be at that point, and then like two days later: boom," he said. "All the symptoms came back."

Lyu said Michigan Medicine had been preparing, but faced a "learning curve."

### Wayne County's first

While DeWyse, his wife and two of his three daughters battled coronavirus, they also had to cope with being one of Michigan's first households with the virus. When the Hometown Life and other outlets wrote stories about "the man from Wayne County," readers wanted to know as much as they could about who he was and where he had been.

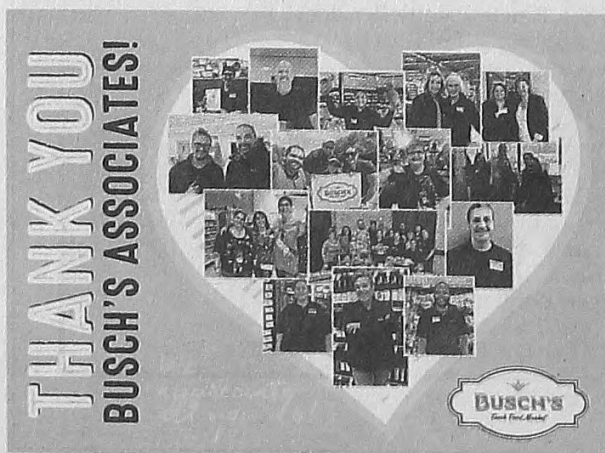
"I was afraid they were going to find out who I was," DeWyse said. "Some news reporters found out the intersection of where I live, they found a picture of my work place and put that on the news. I was a little taken aback by all that ... The reporters were outside the hospital trying to find out who I was."

While comments on social media made the family nervous, DeWyse said their friends, family and neighbors were generous with food, supplies and prayers.

Now that he and his family are healthy again, DeWyse said he hopes social distancing measures will soon make the coronavirus a thing of the past.

"I think the social distancing thing is great," he said. "I think Gov. Whitmer is right on the target for what she's doing for our state. I mean, we have to be all together as one big group of people and fight this thing together."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby\_tankk.



## Livonia manufacturer making face masks for first responders

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Coronavirus has changed what AlphaUSA, a Livonia-based fastener company, makes. Workers there have stopped making nuts and bolts and started making personal protective equipment.

Staff donated some of that PPE on April 13 to Livonia police, fire and health care workers. Livonia Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan and Police Chief Curtis Caid came by the facility on Glendale Avenue to pick up face shields.

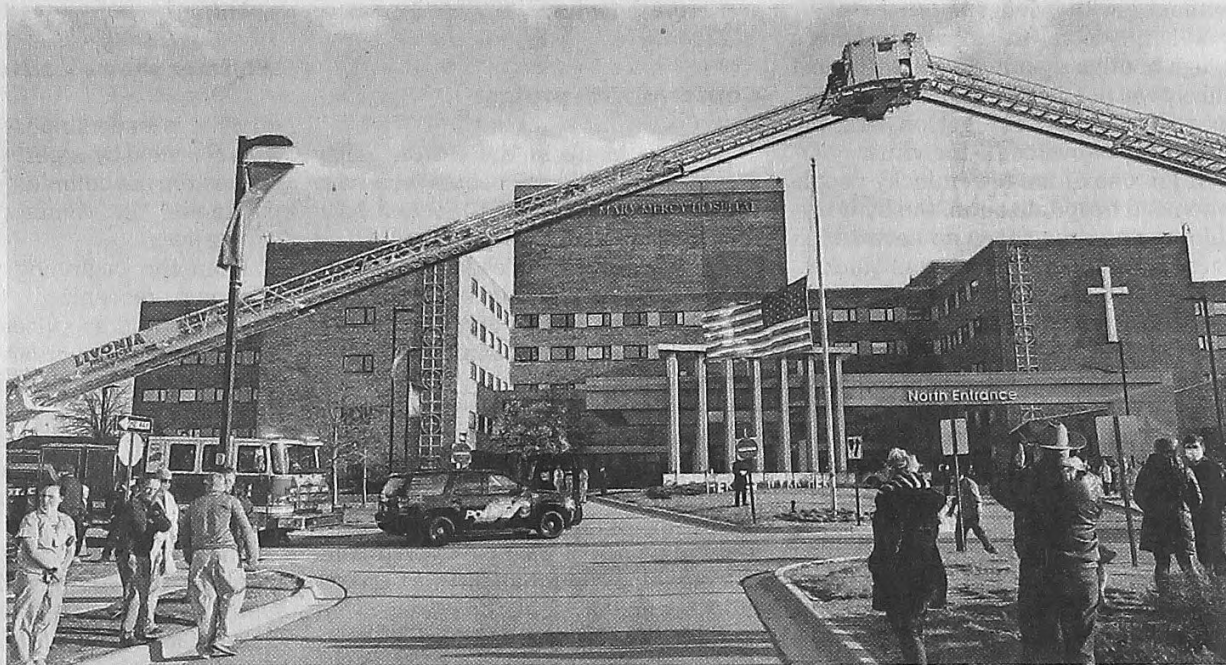
"Thank you so much," Brosnan said in a news release. "This means a lot to have a company like AlphaUSA stepping up. You are not just problem solvers, your heart is really in this and we thank you."

At least five Livonia police officers have tested positive for the virus or become symptomatic.

AlphaUSA hopes to donate around 5,000 face shields to local first responders as communities try to flatten the curve of new coronavirus cases. AlphaUSA is trying to prioritize Livonia and surrounding communities.

"It's been an incredible team effort," David Lawrence, senior vice president and chief administrative officer for AlphaUSA, said in a news release. "This happened because of the full support of our employees, community, and ownership family."

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby\_tankk.



Police and fire personnel from Livonia, Westland, Wayne, Redford, Canton, Plymouth, Northville and Novi drove to St. Mary Mercy's campus, lights flashing and sirens off, to show support for the health care workers at the Livonia hospital. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Praise

Continued from Page 1A

Wayne, Redford, Canton, Plymouth, Northville and Novi drove to St. Mary Mercy's campus, lights flashing and sirens off, to show support. "The Star-Spangled Banner" was played as well.

"There's always been that sense of unity between the fire, police departments and us working in the hospital. We all come together to walk alongside our community in times of sickness and fear like we're experiencing right now," said Nick Nickolopoulos, a veteran and the chief nursing officer and vice president of patient care for the hospital. "We couldn't do it without them and I hope they all know how much we appreciate them out there."

Similar drives have happened at hospitals in Farmington Hills, Taylor and West Bloomfield as people rally around health care workers.

"There's been a growing effort throughout communities to acknowledge hospital staff," Heavener said. "In the EMS world in general, we happen to have a very long-standing relationship with hospitals, and especially St. Mary's hospital because they're right in the center of our city."

Nickolopoulos said though working in a hospital is incredibly stressful right now, he's proud of the St. Mary Mercy team.

"I'm not sure I have the words to describe the pride I feel to be part of this team here in the St. Mary's family," he said. "To be a registered nurse alongside these, I can't say anything but heroes ... is something I've been amazed with."

Nickolopoulos said it's difficult work, but work everyone knows needs to be done.



Cathy Brandy holds a supportive sign for the workers at St. Mary Mercy.

"They're tired, they're weary," he said. "But they keep their spirits up."

As health care workers keep up the good fight, Heavener hopes solidarity drives and other signs of unity remind people that everyone is living through this historic time together.

"It is really important that everybody remembers we are all in this together and, by showing support together, it'll just make it that much easier for us all to get through it," he said.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby\_tankk.

## Lawn care

Continued from Page 1A

Heise listed three reasons for his decision:

- The township maintains a grass & weed ordinance that is currently in effect and is binding on all homes and businesses within the Township; failure to abide by this ordinance carries with it financial and administrative penalties;

- The township has a public health and safety interest in maintaining clean and well-kept properties, free of vermin, insects, mosquitoes and debris; this also lessens the health burden on residents with seasonal allergies, asthma, and similar conditions;

- The township has a public health and safety interest in seeing that senior citizens and other vulnerable adults with health or physical limitations can maintain their properties without exposing themselves to physical harm or health risks.

Heise asserted that this decision applies only to grass and weed maintenance and cutting, which includes activities such as lawn mowing, edging, fertilizer application to grass, trees, and bushes, and irrigation system seasonal start-ups and required maintenance.

It does not apply to other nonessential landscaping services, including but not limited to: mulch

application, brick paving, water features/fountains or other primarily decorative outdoor services.

"It is expected that landscaping service providers will adhere to CDC guidelines for COVID-19 distancing requirements and other best practices that pertain to their industry," Heise said. "This guidance document may be recalled based on changes in conditions or non-compliance by the landscape operators or their employees."

At least one lawn-care company, Contender's Tree and Lawn Specialist, Inc., has filed a lawsuit against Whitmer, alleging the executive order violates the company's rights and privileges under the United States Constitution's Fifth and 14th amendments.

In addition to stating that the company can perform its job while observing social distancing standards, the lawsuit also claims that "the busiest time of year is the spring and summer when various pesticide and disease control chemical applications are essential to control the spread of potentially dangerous tree and plant diseases and invasive insects."

"Timing is crucial for the application of these chemicals. Any delay beyond the first weeks of April may prevent the ability to control dangerous tree and plant diseases and invasive insects."

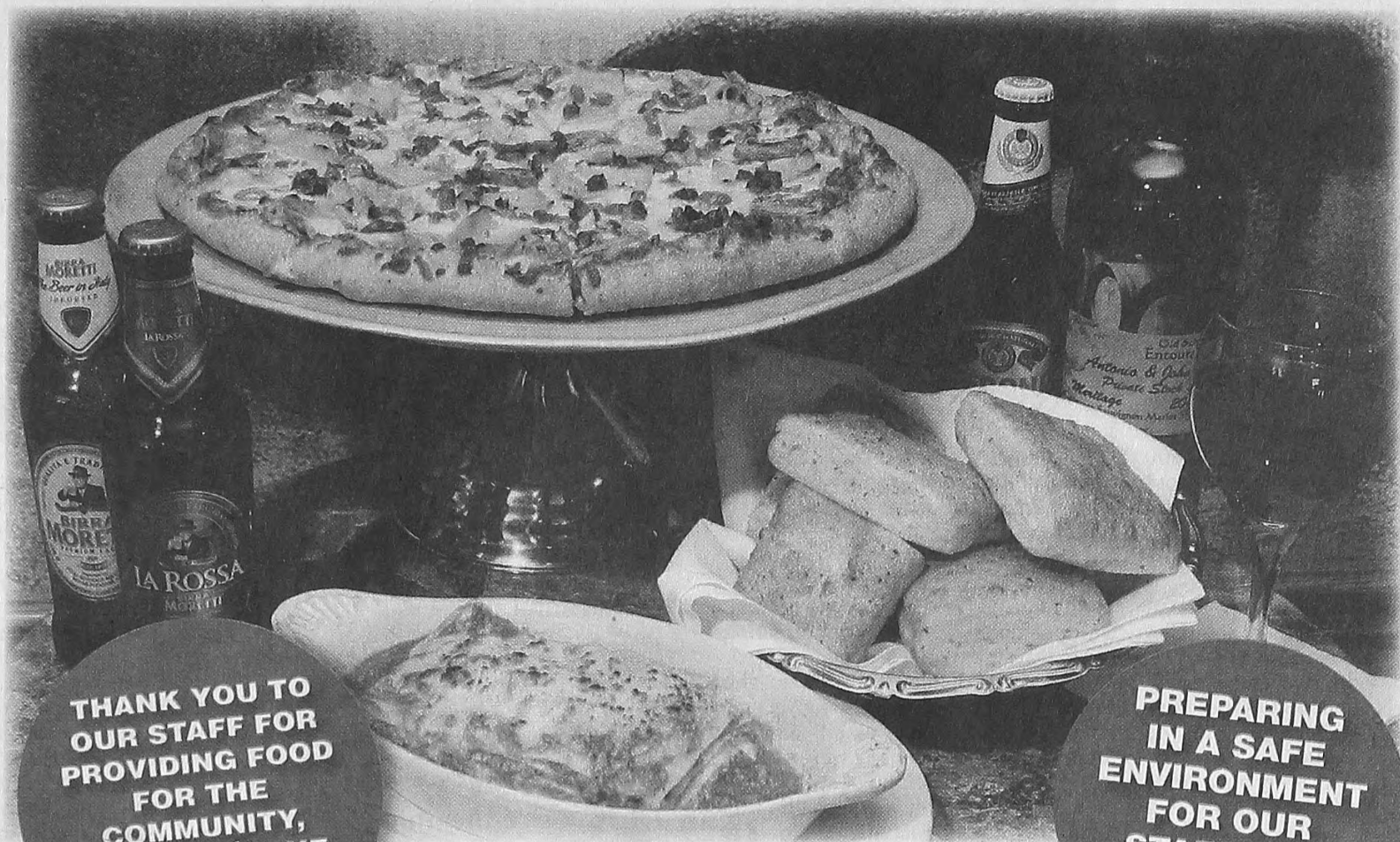
Calls to the Michigan Attorney General's office were not returned.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at [ewright@hometownlife.com](mailto:ewright@hometownlife.com) or 517-375-1113.

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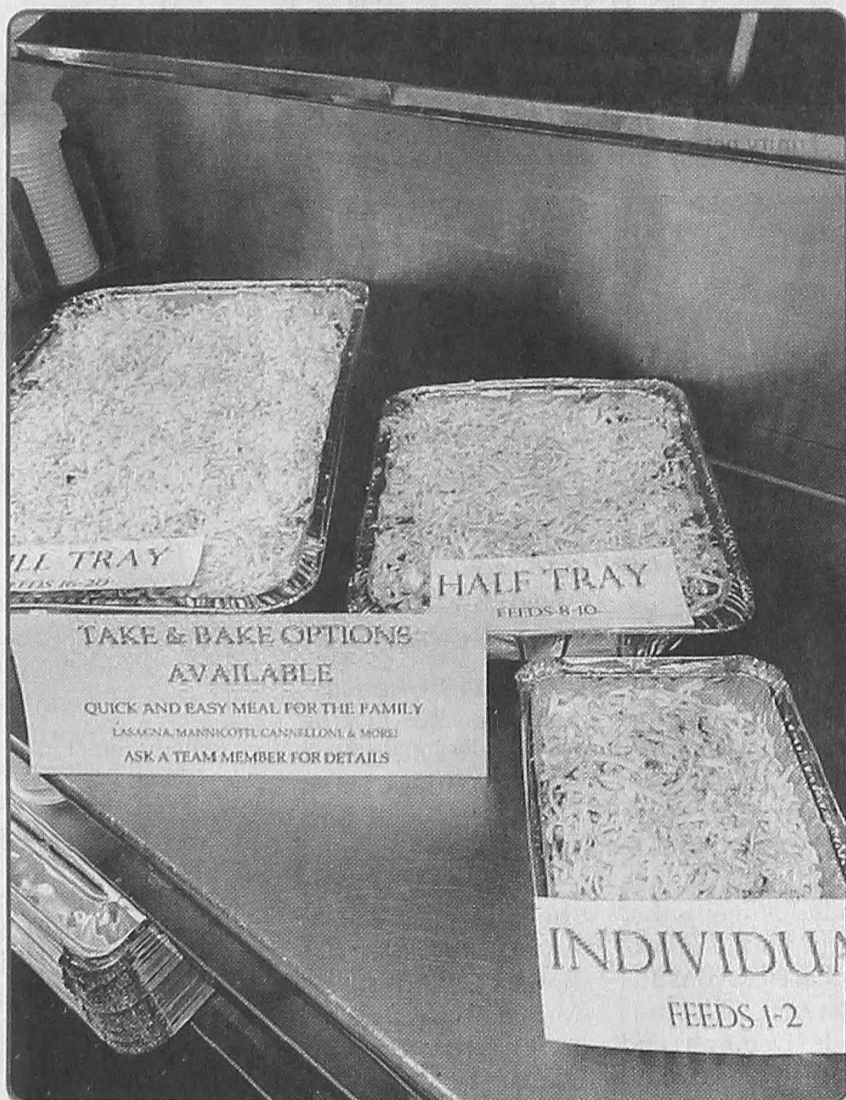
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## Advocate

Continued from Page 1A

prevention cool."

Her work started small: a Facebook page, a home office, events and T-shirts. Now, she manages a Detroit Core City headquarters with, if any, a few assistants.

"There's a huge hole in the area," she said. "There's support groups and there's walks and there's research and that's pretty much it. We're the only nonprofit in the U.S. (that) helps families after a loss when it comes to financial help.

"We help with funerals, biohazardous cleanup, unpaid time off work, memorial services, urns ... anything to do with loss."

She has come to trust some experts and is reaching about 10,000 to 15,000 people a year with information about available resources, crisis lines, and other helpful avenues.

Hardy presents her groups at more than 180 events a year.

Since its official 2013 debut, Six Feet Over has financially helped about 30 families – nine of them in 2019.

Hardy said today's average assistance amount is about \$3,000 per family. A flyer on her Facebook page puts the average closer to \$5,000.

"We gave \$180 to a family once. That brought it all down," she said, breaking into laughter.

Her five-year plan is to have chapters throughout the state. She'd like to go national.

They're intense goals for someone whose exposure to suicide and mental illness began with her mother, Kathy Simpson,

Hardy grew up near Joy and Middlebelt roads in Westland and remembers her mother as a "smoking, drinking lady" who, like her daughter, loved to work, loved to be busy and loved to get stuff done.

But she was diagnosed with manic depression when her children were young.

Hardy said her mother was "phenomenal" when she was OK. But that



Photos of Kathy Simpson are arranged on a table at Katie Hardy's Livonia home. Simpson, Hardy's mother, died by suicide in 2003.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

wasn't most days. The majority of time, Hardy remembers her mother targeting her in ways many females are targeted.

"It was mostly how awful I was," she said. "I was too fat. I was too ugly. I was too dumb. I was never going to do anything with my life. Nobody was ever going to love me. That kind of stuff."

"I think, for her, it was how she was taught to parent. Also, mental illness is just weird. And sometimes people target one particular person. It's really strange like that."

The family officially wrecked in 2003. Her father gave up on his marriage, leaving his wife in February 2003.

Her brother left for the Coast Guard. "Then it was just my mom and I in the house," Hardy said. "That was oil and water. I wasn't happy."

At about 20 years of age, she moved to Denver, where family lived and the happening myths of literary hero Jack Kerouac thrived.

By the end of that year, her father would call to say her mother died. It would take a few days before someone finally told her it was by suicide.



One of Hardy's favorite photos of her mother.

Hardy is grateful society is opening up about those who take their own lives.

When her mom died, the funeral director suggested telling people that she had a heart attack and changing the obituary language so no one would know.

"He did not want it to be talked about at all," Hardy said. "That's changed over time. Now it's seen as this is something that's important. It needs to be documented. It's not embarrassing. It's a way that people die."

"We just need to do better at supporting people."

Her mom's birthday is in April she expected to shed a tear or two.

She offers this advice to others:

"Find your people. I was 20 when my mom died. I was not the support group kind of person. But I leaned on people. They let me lean. They let me talk about the yucky stuff and share my emotions and didn't get freaked out by it."

"Find those people who would let you talk. Keep talking about your person. Use their name. You can tell funny stories about them. You don't have to forget about them."

"You also don't need to glorify them as a person. Remember it all. Bring it all on. I think, for me, most importantly, don't let anybody tell you it's time to stop grieving."

Contact reporter Susan Vela at [svela@hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com) or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.

## Grand River, 14 Mile road work ready to start

Both projects expected to commence April 27

Shelby Tankersley [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

'Tis the season.

The City of Farmington Hills will spend the spring and summer focusing on road work to two major roads: Grand River Avenue and 14 Mile Road. Both projects are expected to start April 27.

Here's what each project will entail:

### Grand River Avenue

In the half-mile or so between the intersections with 10 Mile and Haggerty roads, the city is going to rip up 3½ inches of the road for replacement. The work is expected to end in late July.

"We're going to do what's called a mill and overlay project," said Karen Mondora, the city's director of public services. "So they're going to remove a couple of inches of asphalt and then replace it."

Aside from road work, the city will complete some curb repair as well. Due to the nature of the work, Mondora said a detour shouldn't be necessary. When all is said and done, the project will cost about \$770,000.

"Traffic will be maintained in both directions," Mondora said. "There might be some flag control at certain periods of time. People are encouraged to find an alternate route for the safety of the

**"People are encouraged to find an alternate route for the safety of the workers if they can."**

**Karen Mondora**  
Farmington Hills director of public services

workers if they can."

### 14 Mile Road

In the stretch between Middlebelt and Inkster, 14 Mile will see some improvements. The city plans to improve the center lane, create better drainage and reduce the "severity" of the curb in some places.

As part of the \$2.9 million project, expected to finish by Labor Day, the city plans to add bike lanes as well.

"We have wide enough shoulders that we can add them without significant impact to the existing roadway," Mondora said.

Unlike the Grand River project, drivers down 14 Mile will need to take a detour via 13 Mile Road. Mondora said residents of the affected area and first responders, of course, will still be able to get through.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at [stankersle@hometownlife.com](mailto:stankersle@hometownlife.com) or 248-305-0448. Follow her on Twitter @shelby\_tankk.

## Man hit trying to secure dog on I-96

Susan Vela [Hometownlife.com](http://Hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

A Livonia man was critically injured by a vehicle Sunday afternoon after he tried to save a dog running loose on westbound Interstate 96 in Detroit.

Michigan State Police troopers said on Twitter they were dispatched to the Livernois interchange around 3:40 p.m. because of an injury crash.

Preliminary reports indicate the Livonia driver left his vehicle to secure the dog. A vehicle struck the dog. Another

vehicle struck the driver.

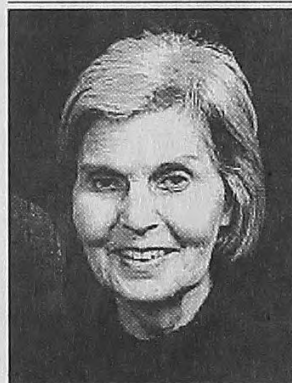
Other drivers attempted CPR, which troopers continued upon arrival. The Livonia man had a pulse and was breathing prior to being transported to the hospital.

Troopers are asking witnesses to call 313-237-2450 if they have information about the vehicles involved.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at [svela@hometownlife.com](mailto:svela@hometownlife.com) or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susanvela.

## Obituaries

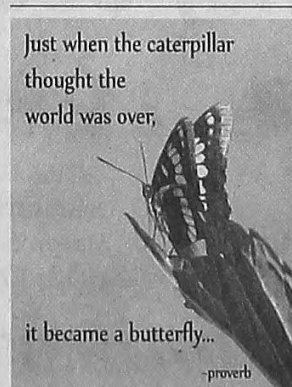
To place an ad, call 586-826-7171 or visit [mideathnotices.com/place.php](http://mideathnotices.com/place.php)



**Sally Louise Chenevert Barnds**

**BIRMINGHAM** - Sally Louise Chenevert Barnds, age 82, of Birmingham, Michigan, passed away on Good Friday, April 10, 2020. Beloved wife of Jack Barnds, loving mother of James Barnds (Cheryl), Patrick Barnds (Kirsten), Thomas Barnds (Deborah) and Mary Beth Barnds Grabel (Todd), and their 11 grandchildren who live in Michigan, Maryland, California. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at a later date. Memorials appreciated to Christ Child Society or Angels' Place.

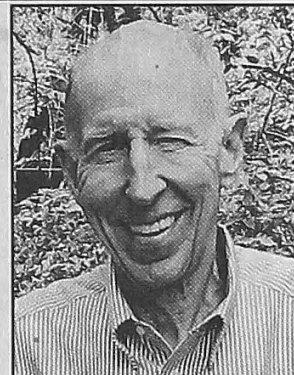
Obituary & condolences: [lynchfuneraldirectors.com](http://lynchfuneraldirectors.com)



**Evelyn V. "Lennie" Bowser**

**CANTON** - April 16, 2020 age 90. Loving mother of Charlene (Robert) Briggs, James (Dita) Bowser & Lori (Gordon) Nader. Proud grandmother of Matthew Briggs, Christopher & Cassandra Bowser and Mitchell & Mason Nader. Dear sister of Edward Searles, Barbara Searles and the late Vivian Pringle and Marilyn Sackett. Lennie was the author of the Plymouth Heritage Cook Book and was an entrepreneur owning several businesses. She was the past secretary of the Plymouth Kiwanis Breakfast Club. Arrangements were entrusted to the Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, Ann Arbor Rd. W., and (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. Memorial contributions may be made to MI Kiwanis Foundation. To share a memory, please visit [vermeulenfh.com](http://vermeulenfh.com)

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**John Bradford Hubert II**

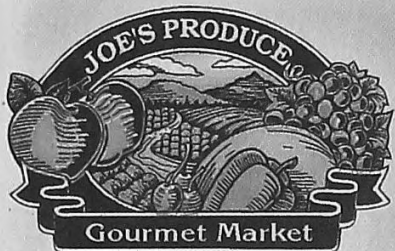
**BEVERLY HILLS, MI** - John Bradford (Brad) Hubert of Beverly Hills, MI, passed away on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at the age of 83 after a brief battle with COVID-19 and pneumonia.

Brad is survived by his wife Pat of 61 years, of Beverly Hills; their children Linda Denecke of Cincinnati, OH, Jennie (Vince) Notarantonio of Royal Oak, MI, Dan (Heather) Hubert of Dexter, MI, and 7 grandchildren.

Please leave a message of comfort for Brad's family at 1-877-231-7900, or sign his guest book at [www.borekjenning.com](http://www.borekjenning.com).

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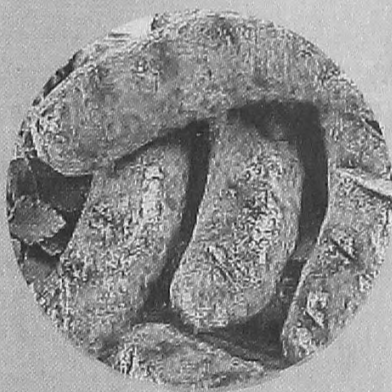
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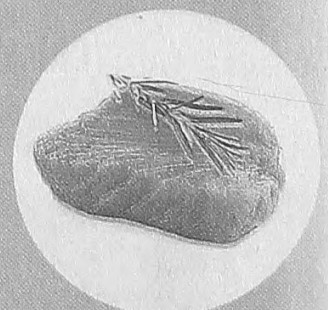
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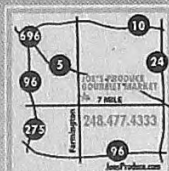
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Milton  
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*Save \$1.00*

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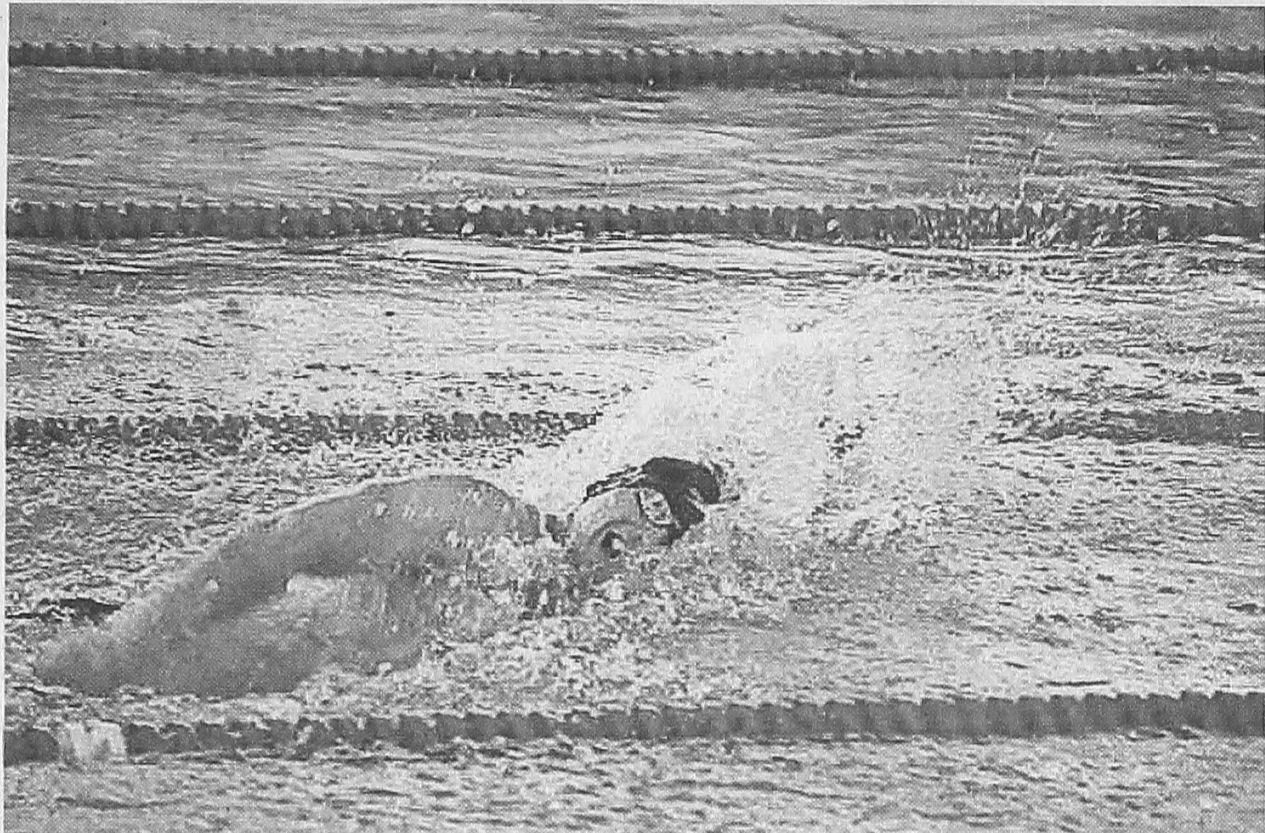
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# Sports



After qualifying for this year's swimming state finals – which ended up being canceled – Zane Peecher said will try and shave nine seconds off his 500-yard freestyle time for 2021. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ZANE PEECHER

## DREAM DELAYED

Livonia Stevenson's Zane Peecher qualifies for swim state finals – before coronavirus canceled event

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com | USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

Zane Peecher was nervous for his first individual state meet. ■ The Livonia Stevenson junior swimmer made it his goal in his third year with the Spartans to make the state cut in the 500-yard freestyle. When he did this season, at the KLAA boys conference meet on Feb. 27, Peecher became the only swimmer in Livonia high schools to earn a spot in the state meet. ■ On March 12, Stevenson coach Jeff Shoemaker was preparing for a one-on-one practice with his state-bound swimmer before his phone started to blow up. One day before the state meet began at Oakland University, the Michigan High School Athletic Association postponed – and later canceled – all winter postseason events due to the coronavirus pandemic.

By the time Peecher entered the locker room, he had already heard the news.

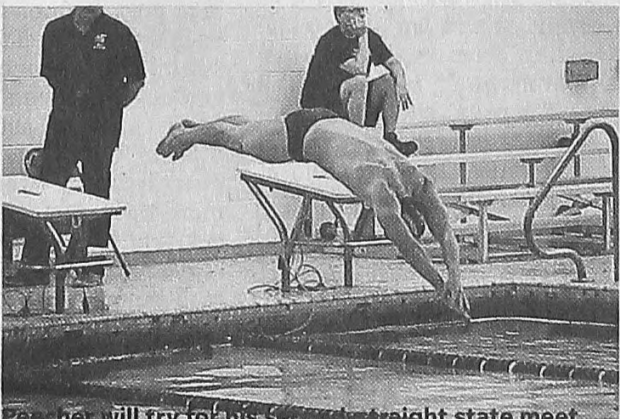
"He was like, 'Oh well, oh well,'" Shoemaker said. "But you know how a kid is, his reaction will be to blow it off, but deep down inside, he's pissed."

To Peecher, anger and frustration were not the first feelings that came to mind. It was relief, relief from the nervousness that plagued him as he approached the next day's meet.

But as reality sunk in, the confidence that brought him to the attempt at the pinnacle high school swim meet returned.

"I thought I could really do something," Peecher said. Peecher, though, has already made a major impact in his third season at Stevenson.

Prior to the start of the year, Peecher was named the



Peecher will try for his second straight state meet next season after the MHSAA canceled the winter postseason.

See PEECHER, Page 3B

## CC swim seeks closure to season

Team had chance to secure first state title before meet called off

Andrew Vaillencourt Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

The day before the Michigan state swim meet was scheduled to take place, swim teams around the state received bad news: the state finals were canceled due to the coronavirus outbreak.

The news was especially disappointing for the Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks, who had a chance to secure the school's first-ever state title in the sport after finishing as the runner-up last year by a mere .06 seconds to West Ottawa.

CC was considered the favorite by many, led by senior captains Mario McDonald and Conor Brownell.

"We would've won and there's no one can convince me otherwise," Catholic Central coach Jessica Stoddard said. "After losing by .06 and losing to West Ottawa, (Ann Arbor) Pioneer had a great team and Ottawa had a great team, but there's nothing that would've stopped these guys this year, nothing."

Stoddard is in her third year as the CC coach. Her teams finished seventh and second in the state in her first two seasons. Her first reaction to the finals being postponed was disappointment that there wasn't a way to get the meet in, given it was just a day away.

"After it was announced we had our last practice at the pool and the kids swam," Stoddard said. "I sat on deck for like an hour and half after everyone left and just cried because it was so much. As a coach, we give up so much from our family and our lives in general, it made me so sad we didn't get that

See CC SWIM, Page 2B

"We would've won and there's no one can convince me otherwise. ... There's nothing that would've stopped these guys this year, nothing."

Jessica Stoddard, Catholic Central coach

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# CC swim

Continued from Page 1B

closure.”  
McDonald, who will swim at Ohio State next year, was one of four seniors on CC’s team.

“It was really just heartbreaking because we’d come so far. We were ready to take it back. It was really hard to hear that,” McDonald said. “I was more heartbroken that it was just over and I’d never be swimming with my team again. The weekend before was my last time and I didn’t even know it.”

Once school was canceled officially for the rest of the year, both Stoddard and McDonald knew the season was likely over as well.

CC started off the season with a loss to West Ottawa, a result Stoddard says really woke the team up. They had a lot of work to do if they wanted to become state champions.

From there, the Shamrocks continued to improve, and by March were clearly the at the top of their game.

The loss of state final times will especially hurt the team’s juniors who are in the midst of being recruited.

“For the juniors especially this is heartbreaking because they were the ones that needed to get recruited and needed that meet more than anyone,” McDonald said. “It puts them behind in the big scheme of recruiting because a lot of states already had their state meets before things got canceled.”

That junior class was Stoddard’s first as the school’s coach. They, along with this year’s seniors, have helped bring the Shamrocks to new heights. Stoddard gives much of that credit to her captains.

“Conor and Mario are two of our captains and those guys have been really the reason we’ve gotten to where we are, their leadership, their examples,” Stoddard said.

They won’t be able to lead CC to a state title in 2021, but told the younger members of the team that there’s nothing stopping them from achieving that goal.

It doesn’t take away the pain of losing the state meet, but at least for McDonald, he’s confident he knows what the outcome would have been.

“I’m positive we would’ve won,” McDonald said. “After what happened last year I know what my team would have done that weekend would’ve been nothing short of remarkable.”

## Meet the CC state team

The Shamrocks seniors and members of the state team didn’t get their final meet, but we’ve put together a list of those team members with a comment from Stoddard on each swimmer:

### Mario McDonald, Senior

■ Stats: 5-time All-State, 8-time All-American (can’t be all state this year or he would have been nine, as you earn it at the state meet but did earn five All-American honors this season 50/100 free and 200 Medley Relay and 200/400 freestyle relays).

■ Mario will be swimming at The Ohio State University next season. He is also a team Captain. Was a No. 1 seed in all four of his events going into the 2020 state meet: 50 and 100 freestyle and the 200/400 freestyle relays. He is also the current team record holder in all four, and league record holder in the 50/100 free and 400 freestyle relay. He also won all four of his events at the Oakland county meet and broke the county record in the 100 freestyle.

■ “Mario has only been swimming year round for 3 years. His potential is nowhere near reached. I am sad for him because he didn’t get a meet this year that he was rested for to really let it loose and see what he could do. State meet was his meet and my heart broke for him because that was where he was going to rewrite the record books with his teammates. Mario swims for his brothers and always puts them first in everything he did this season. It gives me peace that he will be continuing his swimming career and that I will get to see him swim in college, but his what he leaves behind is bigger than a state championship. He leaves behind what CC swim and dive is and the standard that we all strive for.”

### Conor Brownell, Senior

■ Stats: 7-time All-State, 5-time All-American (can’t be all state this year or he would have been 11-time, 4-time All-American this year). This year he was all American in all three relays (200 medley, 200 freestyle, 400 freestyle) and 100 butterfly. He was ranked 1st in the 100 fly and 200 and 400 yard freestyle relays going into the meet and was 4th in the 200 freestyle. He will be swimming at Oakland University next fall. He is the team record holder in the 100 butterfly and 200/400 freestyle relays. He is also a league record holder in the 100 fly 200



The Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks had a chance to secure the school’s first-ever state title in the sport after finishing as the runner-up last year. COURTESY OF JESSICA STODDARD

“I was more heartbroken that it was just over and I’d never be swimming with my team again. The weekend before was my last time and I didn’t even know it.”

Mario McDonald, senior on Catholic Central’s swim team

and 400 freestyle relays. Conor won three events at Oakland counties.

■ “Conor is a 2-year captain. The only other person in the history of the program to be a captain as a junior was Jack Walsh, who went on to be an All-American and team captain at Stanford University. Just like Mario, he has been a very important part of raising the standard of this program. Conor sacrificed individual swims his sophomore year to swim all three relays helping the team earn all state in all three events. That year were were the only team to have all three relays in the top eight. I am sad for Conor because he was swimming times from a push that were faster than his seed time in the 200 freestyle going into the state meet. Conor always puts the team first and always does what is best for the whole before what is best for himself. He deserved a different ending but I am so proud of all he has done. I will never forget his 100 butterfly from the Catholic League meet where he dropped almost two seconds, went automatic All-American and broke Jack Walsh’s league and team record at CC. I am so happy I can see him swim in college, that will make the pain a little less for me.”

### Brian Hussey, Senior

■ “Brian was one of our three senior captains. Brian was All-State and All-American last season in the 200 freestyle relay. He was All-State as well in the 200 medley relay and a state finalist in the 200 IM. This year Brian broke the team record in the 200/400 freestyle relay and was an All American in both. He was a part of the 200 and 400 free relays that won leagues. He qualified for states in over five events but this season Brian was a team player swimming so many events for the team and where we needed for success. Brian was going to be a very important part of our state team. We pulled him from two individual events and were going to use him in three relays. The psych sheet wasn’t reflective of him in all three relays but he was putting up times that would final at states at practice. His 50 butterfly time at practice would have finale in the 50 free, that’s how fast he was swimming. He was swimming out of his mind. Brian is not swimming on in college but I want him to know how much it meant to me and his teammates that kept pushing through, even though it was hard. I know Brian is going to go on and do something amazing with his life and I am excited for the adventures he’s about to go on.”

### August Thielking, Senior

■ “August was an assistant captain this year and was a three event finalist at states last year. This season he was slated to swim the 200 IM and 100 back at states. He would have been top eight in the state in the 100 back. He didn’t swim the 100 back at our league meet to help us score points in the 500. He won the 200 IM at league meet. August was all state last year in the 200 medley relay. August will go on to swim at Kalamazoo College next year and will be one of the best swimmers on the team. I know he will be successful in the pool and in the classroom.”

### Christian Dunaitis, Junior

■ “Christian is a 2-time state finalist

for CC and 3-time state qualifier. He improved so much this season and was going to have the meet of his life. I am so proud of all he has been through this season from the death of his grandfather to coming backing and going best times at counties. I know he will be an integral part of the team next season and I can’t wait to see what his senior year brings. He worked so hard every single day in and out of the pool and his attention to detail was outstanding. I know he would have been all state in the 100 breast.”

### Joey Dombkowski, Junior

■ “Joey was having the season of his life this past year. Going best times, breaking a minute in the 100 breast and improving almost every time he swam. He was going some pretty crazy times at practice, faster than his meet times. Joey was on the 200 medley relay that was All-American this season, the seed time for the medley again was not reflective of the time we went earlier in the season to strategically be beside the fastest team at prelims so I knew if we needed to move any of our swimmers around for finals. Joey is going to be a beast next year. I want him to know how proud I am of him, and even though it was disappointing that we will finish this next season. He is very quiet but very loud with how hard he works and how fast he swims. Joey is a three-year state qualifier and would have been all state in the medley relay as well as 100 breaststroke.”

### Matthew Kozma, Junior

■ “Kozma did not swim his events at leagues. He always likes to swim his off events the week before. This bums me out like Conor because he would have just blown up his times at states. He was going times at practice I have never seen him post before. Kozma would have been top two in all four of the events he swam. He was one of only two ninth graders three years ago to be All-State as a freshman. Last season he was All-State in four events bringing his total to five All-States (would have been four more this year). He was All-American last year in the 400 free relay, and this season in the Medley and 400 free relay so 3-time All-American. Kozma’s work ethic is incredible, in the pool and in the classroom. He is so competitive and I love throwing challenges at him because he rises to all of them. I know what he will do next year and I am so happy to have him one more season. He is the current team record holder in the 400 freestyle relay. Kozma is an outstanding leader and really gave his all this season, I know it will pay off next year.”

### Sean Egan, Junior

■ “Sean qualified for his first states in the 50 freestyle and was slated to swim prelims for the 200 freestyle relay to allow Dallas to get enough rest for the 100 back. Dallas was going to swim it at finals as there was more time with awards. Sean worked so hard for the team and again like all of my juniors, I’m so happy he will be back next year to help finish the goal we set for ourselves three years ago. Sad for Sean as he was hoping to make the CC baseball team this year, he was working so hard on both. Sean should have snuck into top 16

in the 50.”

### James Lindenberg, Junior

■ “James just missed qualifying last year and was so excited to make the team this year at league finals in the 100 free. We didn’t completely rest James for leagues, just enough to cut. He would have been so fast at states and we were hoping to get him into top 16 like Sean. He’s been a tremendous team player this year swimming whatever we need him at meets for the best interest of the team.”

### Dallas Fisher, Junior

■ “Dallas is one of our most versatile swimmers on the team. He state cut in multiple events and was a state qualifier the past three years and state finalist last year. This year he was All-American in the 200 freestyle relay and broke the team record. He was also Oakland County Champ in the 200 medley relay. Dallas kind of flew under the radar in some of his events because of the talent we have, but there is no doubt in my mind he would have went 1-2 with Conor in the 100 butterfly. Dallas is going to make a run at a lot of records next year and really help lead our team to an amazing 2021 state finals.”

### Kilian Bishop, Sophomore

■ “Kilian made his first state team this year in the 100 back and just really swam out of his mind. He was injured pretty early in the season and we didn’t even think he would finish the season. We swam at Ottawa and most of our meets without him. He would have dropped so much time at states and for sure scored points. I am so proud of how he overcame that obstacle and how positive he was through it all. I know he is going to be a huge part of our teams success in the years to come and know he’s going to come back and be a force to be reckoned with next year.”

### Nolan Gresens, Sophomore

■ “Nolan is a second year state qualifier and had an early season injury that set us back a little but he was coming back and would have been on fire at state meet. He overcame so much and has really used this experience as a positive for next season. Nolan was on the Oakland County winning 200 medley relay and qualified for states in three events this season. His 100 fly was his best event but I know come next season, he will step into the freestyle relays nicely.”

### Alex Lampi, Sophomore

■ “Alex was such a nice surprise. He didn’t swim last year, and not only did this year, but qualified for states and would have been top 16. Alex really came into his own and I am so happy and blessed he decided to swim for us this year. In the off season our focus with him will be his second event and obviously contributing to the relays. The sky is the limit for Alex.”

### Jason Per, Freshman

■ “Jason was just incredible. Never dove before and made states ... as a freshman.” He is part of our awesome freshman squad in diving and I know he would have scored this year and will only continue to improve. Watching him dive was breathtaking. His feel for the water, it was incredible. I’m so happy and blessed that he did this and I really can not wait to see him tear it up next year.”

Contact reporter Andrew Vaillien-court at [avaiilienc@hometownlife.com](mailto:avaiilienc@hometownlife.com) or 810-923-0659. Follow him on Twitter @AndrewVcourt. Send story ideas to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).

# Novi brings life to community with flip of switch



**Colin Gay**  
Columnist  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICH.

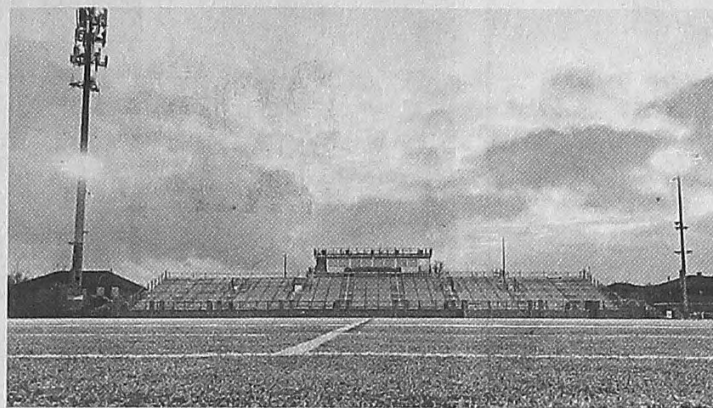
Turn on the lights at the football and soccer fields each night at 8:20 p.m. – 20:20 in military time – for 20 minutes to honor the senior class. The idea seemed like a no-brainer for Novi athletic director Brian Gordon.

Honestly, he felt it was the least he could do. Gordon saw the emotions from the class of 2020, watching as their final year evaporated in an instant due to the coronavirus pandemic. Why not give the students, the teachers, the community, 20 minutes of normalcy for what would have been the remainder of the school year. Twenty minutes of what could have been.

The Novi High School football field seemed like it had been waiting for this moment for the entire day.

The gate was open. The field was pristine with soccer goals on each side – lacrosse goals placed in front of it.

The field was expectant. It was waiting for more than one gate to be open, for people from all around the community to flood into the stands, to watch high school sports, something we all took for granted.



**Novi High School turns its football field lights on for 20 minutes each night to honor the senior class, whose final year was cut short because of COVID-19.**

COLIN GAY/  
HOMETOWNLIFE  
.COM

And when the lights turned on, life sprung upon the school again.

It didn't matter about the empty parking lot or the sidewalks that had not been walked on in weeks. It didn't matter that the majority of the Novi community, like the rest of the state of Michigan, remained in their homes Friday night, observing the "stay-at-home" order Gov. Gretchen Whitmer declared for the remainder of the month of April.

No matter the circumstance on this cloudy spring night in April, the field was ready to go.

But 20 minutes later, the escape ended. The lights turned off. The parking lot, the football field, the high school building, it all became dark again.

Reality set back in.

It was a quick reminder of the world we live in. Schools are empty. Roads are empty. The world is not even close to being the same as it was not that long ago.

Just over a month ago, athletic teams across the state were preparing to perform under these lights, on these very Friday nights. Instead, after 20 minutes, the lights were shut off.

For the 2020 senior class, those athletes that will not touch their high school fields and courts again, their lights were shut off prematurely. Usually wins and losses determine that for a team – the players controlling their team's destiny and how long they play for.

This time, though, the end was out of their control.

Gordon did not come up with this idea to honor the senior class. He said that he got it from the athletic department in Royal Oak, who apparently got it from a group of schools from Texas.

The Novi athletic director said he would love to see this trend spread around the region, saying that schools in Pinckney and in Clarkston, even smaller colleges in the state have adopted this nightly ritual.

The lights themselves are not going to bring the spring season back. It's not going to decide which high schools would have gotten state titles in ice hockey or girls basketball, in baseball or girls soccer.

But for 20 minutes, Novi sends a message.

Through just a simple flip of a switch – or in Gordon's case, a push of a button on a phone app – he reminds the community of the good times and what could have been.

It's a reminder that the lights will remain on for longer than 20 minutes soon.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).

## Peecher

Continued from Page 1B

captain of the team, something that is not normal for a team with multiple state runner-up finishes in its history and two All-American seniors last season.

Despite being younger than the normal captain, Shoemaker thought Peecher's commitment was what he needed this year, saying that the junior brought extra fortitude with him into the role from his time spent on the football field in the fall.

As a captain, Peecher is not a yeller. He leads by example, giving the occasional message to the team to

boost morale.

"Not a speech, but like, 'All right, boys. This is going to be a tough set, but it's going to make us better,'" Peecher said. "And then dive right into the young stuff."

Peecher, personally, saw himself in the best shape of his life heading into the state finals.

At the KLAA Boys Conference Meet, he set personal bests in five of the six races he participated in, setting KLAA records in both the preliminary and final rounds of the 100-yard freestyle. Peecher placed fifth in the finals at 500-yard freestyle and eighth in the 50-yard freestyle, according to College Swimming.

Shoemaker said that his goal for Peecher in his first state meet was to

shave off a few seconds on his 500-yard freestyle and place in the top-16.

However, Shoemaker's main goal for his junior swimmer was for him to become familiar with the size and magnitude of the state meet.

"As long as you are introduced to it and you can see it and you become accustomed to it," Shoemaker said, "then when you go the next time, you have a little bit of background."

"For a lot of kids, they are there to perform for one meet. It's more than crucial for them to see it, to have been there, to get the jitters out, look at the crowd, look at the big venue: state meet, the pinnacle of the season."

Transitioning into his senior season, Peecher's goal is to be all-state, to shave nine seconds off his 500-yard freestyle

time and finish in the top eight at the state finals in 2021.

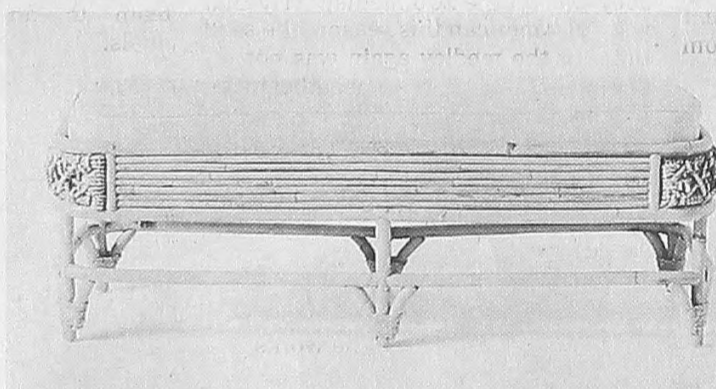
It's something he believes is 100% achievable, working during the football season to lift, gaining strength that he hopes will help him ahead of his final high school swim season.

To Shoemaker, who expects Peecher to be right back to where he is now as a senior, he approaches this year's state finals, or lack of one, as a building block. It's something he will encourage Peecher with.

"You know what, we got shafted last year, so this year, you have one shot. This is it," Shoemaker said to Peecher. "The past is done. There is nothing you can do about it. Now, you got your senior year."

"Last shot. This is it right here."

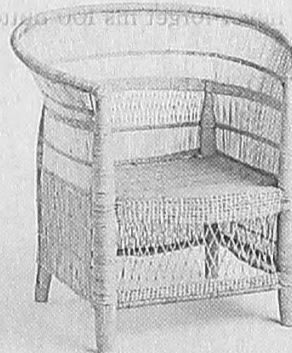
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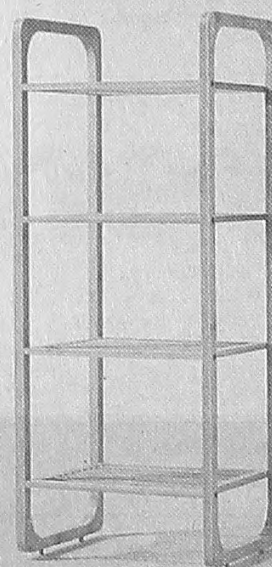
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Decorate your space in furniture that features reclaimed wood and sustainably sourced materials. These finds are environmentally friendly, stylish and functional.



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This reclaimed barnwood modern end table by Welwick Designs can be used as a side table or nightstand. \$100 at [homedepot.com](http://homedepot.com).

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**EQUIPMENT:** Equipment shown may require additional fees. Touchscreen pictured requires additional charge of \$299. Vanishing sensors cost an additional \$159 each. **GIFT CARD:** \$100 Visa Gift Card fulfilled by Protect Your Home through third-party provider, Meell, upon installation of a security system and execution of monitoring contract. \$4.95 shipping and handling fee, gift cards can take up to 8 weeks to arrive after following the Meell redemption process. **BASIC SYSTEM:** \$99 Installation, 36-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$27.99 per month (\$1007.64). 24-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$27.99 per month (\$671.76) for California. Offer applies to homeowners only. Basic system requires landline phone. Offer valid for new ADT Authorized Premier Provider customers only and not on purchases from ADT LLC. Cannot be combined with any other offer. The \$27.99 Offer does not include Quality Service Plan (QSP), ADT's Extended Limited Warranty, **ADT Pulse:** ADT Pulse Interactive Solutions Services ("ADT Pulse"), which help you manage your home environment and family lifestyle, require the purchase and/or activation of an ADT alarm system with monitored burglary service and a compatible computer, cell phone or PDA with Internet, and email access. These ADT Pulse services do not cover the operation or maintenance of any household equipment/systems that are connected to the ADT Pulse equipment. All ADT Pulse services are not available with the various levels of ADT Pulse. All ADT Pulse services may not be available in all geographic areas. You may be required to pay additional charges to purchase equipment required to utilize the ADT Pulse features you desire. **ADT Pulse + VIDEO:** ADT Pulse + Video installation is an additional \$299. 36-month monitoring contract required from ADT Pulse + Video: \$58.99 per month, (\$2123.64), including Quality Service Plan (QSP). Doorbell camera may not be available in all areas. **GENERAL:** For all offers, the form of payment must be by credit card or electronic charge to your checking or savings account, satisfactory credit history is required and termination fee applies. Certain packages require approved landline phone. Local permit fees may be required. Certain restrictions may apply. Additional monitoring fees required for some services. For example: Burglary, Fire, Carbon Monoxide and Emergency Alert monitoring requires purchase and/or activation of an ADT security system with monitored Burglary, Fire, Carbon Monoxide and Emergency Alert devices and are an additional charge. Additional equipment may be purchased for an additional charge. Additional charges may apply in areas that require guard response service for municipal alarm verification. Prices subject to change. Prices may vary by market. Some insurance companies offer discounts on Homeowner's Insurance. Please consult your insurance company. Photos are for illustrative purposes only and may not reflect the exact product/service actually provided. **Licenses:** AL-21-00104, AR-CMPY-0001725, AZ-ROC27517, CA-ACC06320, CT-ELC-0193944-L5, DC-EMS902653, DC-602516000016, DE-07-202, FL-EC13003427, GA-LVA205395, IA-AS-0206, ID-ELE-SJ-39191, IL-127-001042, IN-C-P-D, Reg. No. - 19-08088, City of Indianapolis: LAC-000165, KY-City of Louisville: 483, LA-F1914, LA-F1915, LA-F1082, MA-1335C, MD-107-1626, NE-LMS0017362, NE-360205773, NH-1508607, MO-City of St. Louis: CCR4354, St. Louis County: 100184, MS-15007958, MT-PPS-ELS-LIC-247, NC-25310-SP-F-A/V, NC-1622-CSA, NE-14451, NJ Burger Alarm Lic. # NJ-348F0002800, NY-353336, NY-006858, City of Las Vegas: 3000008296, NY-Licensed by the N.Y.S. Department of State (UDF020003765), WY-11000028645, OH-53891445, City of Cincinnati: ACB6, OK-AC1048, OR-170997, Pennsylvania Home Improvement Contractor Registration Number: PA022999, RI-3582, RI-7508, SC-BAC5630, SD- 1025-7001-ET, TN-1520, TX-B13734, ACR-3452, UT-6422596-6501, VA-115120, VT-ES-2382(C), WA-602588894/ECPROTEHYH34RS, WI-City of Milwaukee: PAS-0002966, WV-WV042433, WY-LV-G-21499

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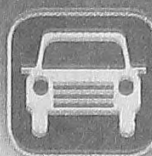

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4	6	5	1	9	3	7	2	8
9	3	1	8	7	2	4	5	6
2	8	7	4	6	5	3	9	1
3	9	2	6	4	1	5	8	7
7	4	6	5	3	8	9	1	2
5	1	8	9	2	7	6	4	3
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1	5	9	7	8	6	2	3	4
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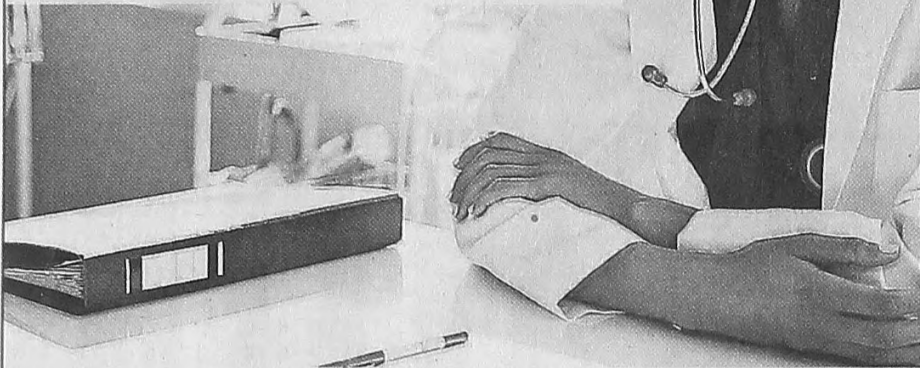


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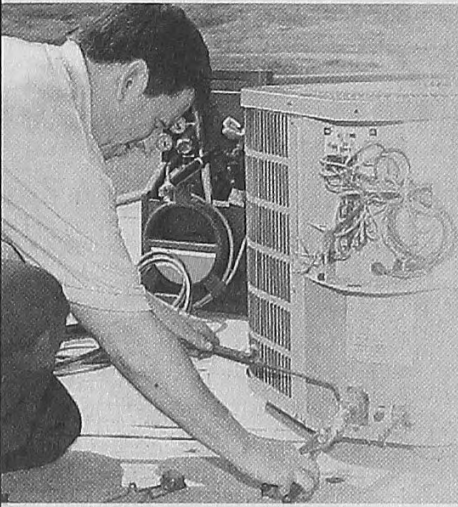
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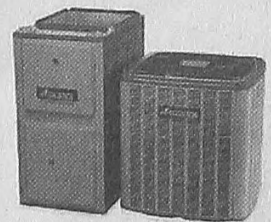


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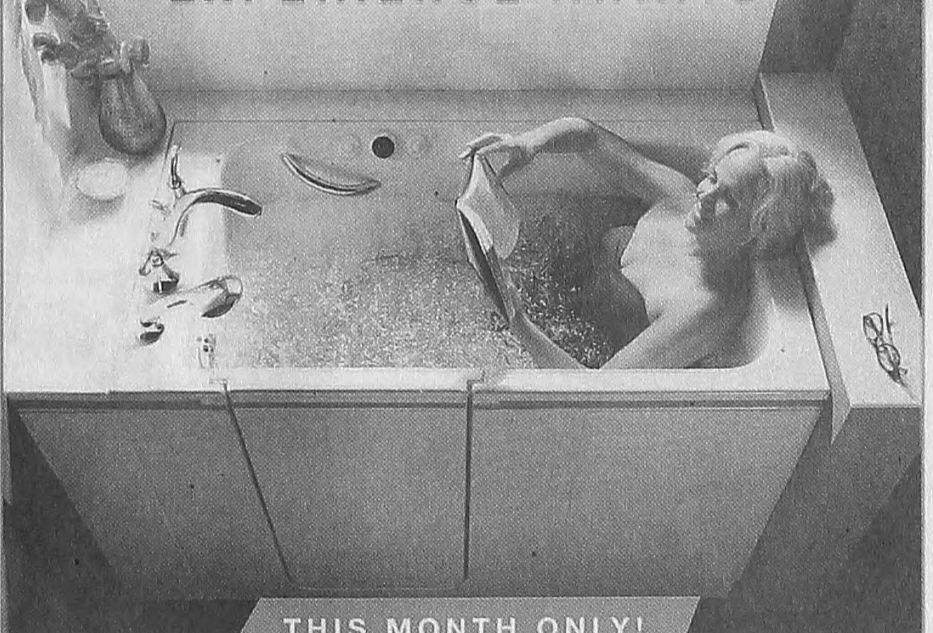
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