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SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2021 | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Westland may buy former Marshall school

Elementary would be turned into recreation center

Shelby Tankersley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Westland is considering turning one of the city's unused schools into a 120,000-square-foot recreation center. Mayor Bill Wild said Marshall Upper

Elementary, which the Wayne-Westland school district closed last year, has potential to become a recreation, senior and community space.

"I think it would just be dynamite if we could use it for a recreation center," he said. "It's centrally located right in

the middle of the city, and I think it could really be a great addition to the city's assets."

Presently, the city offers some recreational opportunities through its senior center, but it does not have a separate recreation center.

On Feb. 22, city council approved a resolution that would give the city a 120-day due diligence period to see if Mar-

shall, at 35100 Bayview St., would make a good recreation center. Wayne-Westland's school board, which next meets March 22, also needs to approve the resolution before it takes effect.

Wild said the city and school district would negotiate a selling or lease price for the property after the due diligence

See **SCHOOL**, Page 4A



Ashlyn McCaan, a bartender at Sean O'Callaghan's, pulls a pint of Guinness at the Irish pub in Plymouth on March 4. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Irish pubs prepare for slightly toned down St. Patrick's Day

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

That Guinness might taste just a little bit sweeter this year for St. Patrick's Day for those heading to the pub.

Nearly one year to the day restaurant dining rooms were first ordered closed in Michigan near the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year marks the first St. Paddy's Day in two years that can be celebrated in the pub.

But despite most pubs being open, it's not going to feel the same way as it did before 2020. Restrictions on indoor dining meant to curtail the spread of the coronavirus mean the Irish pubs won't be as packed as they usually are in mid-March.

Frank Grisa, owner of O'Malley's Irish Pub in Livonia, said he's happy to have St. Patrick's Day return but wishes

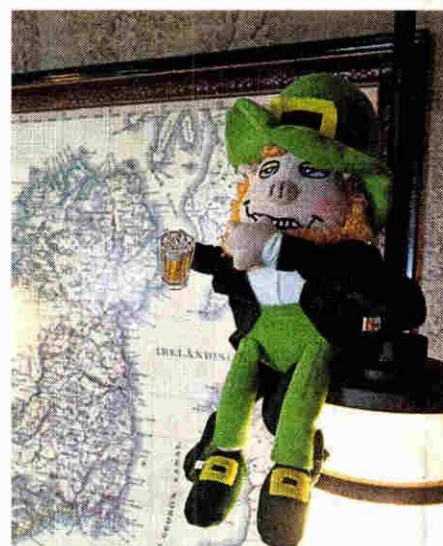
it could look like some of the parties he's thrown in the past, which included plenty of live music, outdoor tents and visits from local Irish dance schools.

"We can't do what we usually do," said Grisa, who owns the restaurant on the southwest corner of Five Mile and Farmington. "Two years ago, in the 17 hours we were open we ran 2,800 people."

The thousands who typically visit during the day each year will be significantly curtailed at O'Malley's this year: with capacity set at 50% by the state Department of Health and Human Services as of March 5, the interior of the bar can fit around 60 people.

The owners at Sean O'Callaghan's Pub in downtown Plymouth are hoping to have a unique celebration, depending

See **PUBS**, Page 2A



A little leprechaun perches near a map of Ireland at O'Malley's Irish pub in Livonia.

Redford Union voters to decide on \$59M bond

The Board of Education for the Redford Union School District unanimously approved a resolution to place a bond proposal on the May 4 ballot.

The \$59.2 million bond proposal will address critical infrastructure needs and make improvements to aging educational facilities across the district. The proposed bond comes at a zero tax rate increase to the community.

If approved, funding from the bond will be used to address the district's aging and inefficient buildings and create future cost savings. The bond will also make essential updates to school buildings and related systems, including replacing ceilings and flooring, upgrading HVAC systems for improved heating and cooling capabilities and air quality, replacing doors and windows, and renovating classroom areas.

Other areas included are safety and security upgrades, common space

See **BOND**, Page 6A

Shake Shack eyes location in Livonia

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Haggerty Road corridor straddling Livonia and Northville Township could get a lot busier in the coming months.

The Livonia Planning Commission narrowly recommended approval of a waiver use during its virtual meeting March 9 of a proposed Shake Shack located at Seven Mile and Haggerty. The restaurant would occupy land that formerly featured Romano's Macaroni Grill, a structure that was built in 1993 and closed last year after the spring shutdown of indoor dining at restaurants.

"We're really excited to be in the City of Livonia," Allison Palmadesso, a senior design manager for the New

See **SHAKE SHACK**, Page 2A



Pubs

Continued from Page 1A

on several factors. The bar at 821 Penniman applied to hold a St. Patrick's Day outdoor event at the Plymouth Gathering, the covered shelter space next to the Penn Theatre. Pub owner Sam Khashan applied to the city for a permit to allow for a single-day event for the holiday, something the city commission approved in early March. Approval from the state was still required, something that had not yet happened as of March 8.

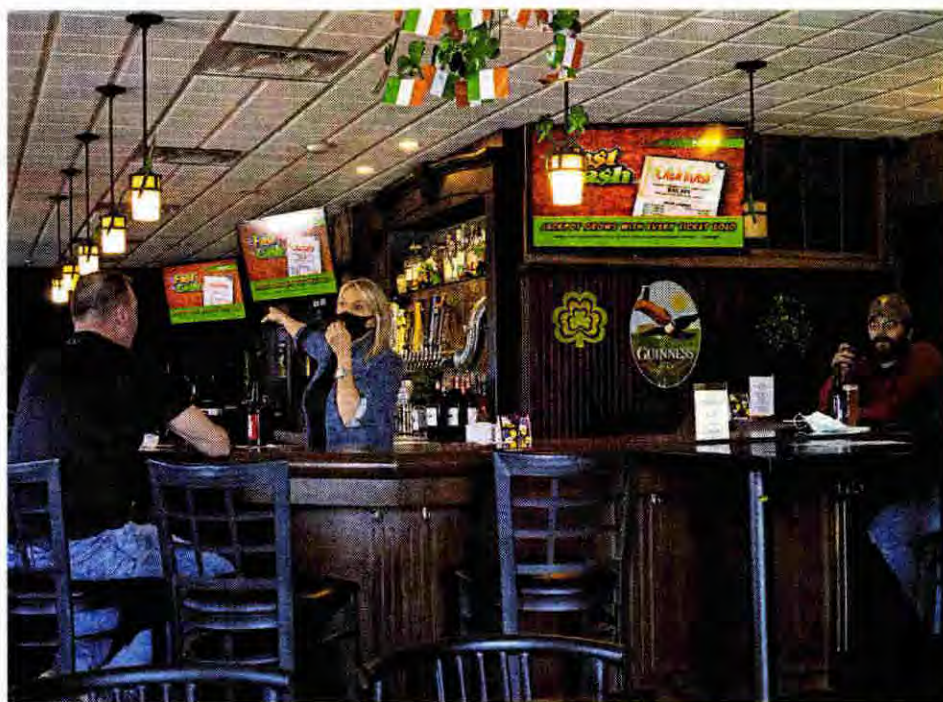
"Within the restaurant, we're going to do our regular menu," he said. "If we get the gathering place, it would be a limited menu with some traditional Irish stuff like corned beef and cabbage and reubens."

Khashan said if it's approved by the state, the space will be limited to 100 people, far below the outdoor limit currently set by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, which is 300 people.

A different look, feel

The celebrations come after a rough year for bars and restaurants. Many have closed permanently, affected by lengthy shutdowns that shuttered dining rooms for nearly half of the last year, forcing restaurants to convert to a take-out-only model. Restaurant dining rooms were ordered closed by the state to help slow the spread of COVID-19, a disease that has infected about 600,000 people and killed more than 15,000 people. They remained shuttered last year from March 16 — one day before St. Patrick's Day, leaving pubs scrambling to sell all the food they ordered for the holiday — to early June, and were closed again in mid-November before reopening again in February. During those times dining rooms have been open the last year, they've operated at a reduced capacity.

Planning has become a challenge, especially in light of the shift from allowing 25% capacity to 50% capacity, made by the state earlier this month. Having St. Patrick's Day celebrations with 25% capacity was difficult to swing, but more people allowed has allowed owners such as Khashan more options to plan



O'Malley's Irish pub in Livonia already is decked out in Irish-themed decorations in preparation for St. Patrick's Day customers. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

something, he said.

That includes having live music, something Khashan said he wasn't originally planning on but now wants to do at the Plymouth pub since more people will be allowed in.

"When we were only allowed 45 people, it would be really hard to have a band in here," he said. "Now with the change, I'm trying to scramble to find a band."

For Mitch Black, owner of Dick O'Dow's in downtown Birmingham, having live music just isn't in the cards this year. To make room in the front of the pub for the acts to play, he would need to remove tables, which would only allow a few dozen people in the front to enjoy it.

Couple that with some of the musical acts he typically brings to the restaurant at 160 W. Maple being older individuals not comfortable playing in public right now and he's decided to forgo live music for the first time on St. Patrick's Day at the pub in more than 20 years.

"We're just not going to put people in that position," Black said.

Instead, he's hoping to bring people in throughout the week to mark the holiday instead of just March 17, offering corned beef and shepherd's pie beginning the weekend prior. The bar will

open at 7 a.m. March 17 for breakfast and seating will be available outside, both in front of the restaurant and in back.

Grisa said earlier this month he's also trying to figure out music: he said he typically begins planning for St. Patrick's Day at O'Malley's after the first of the year. This year, he didn't do any extended planning beforehand, not knowing what would be allowed by the state.

He said he hopes to clear off part of his stage — which has become a storage space for the tables and chairs he's not allowed to use due to capacity limits — and book a small musical act, though there was no exact word in early March as to who that would be.

The additional tent that's usually up in the parking lot, Grisa said, will also not go up this year. Given how much goes into setting it up, including heaters and other amenities, Grisa said it wasn't worth the gamble to try and do this year.

"We just decided to not do it," he said. "We just can't guess with that kind of money."

Keeping at capacity

There's one thing Grisa has invested in this year he hadn't planned on: a handheld tally counter for use at the

door. Given the attention Irish pubs get on St. Patrick's Day, Grisa said he expects state inspectors will visit the bar that day to count heads and make sure they aren't over.

An employee will most likely stand at the door to make sure the bar doesn't go over capacity, an issue Grisa said he's heard about at plenty of bars across the state during the last year.

"It's a crazy day. There's just a lot of people going out partying and not concerned about the rules and that kind of thing," he said. "I'm responsible, regardless of how I feel about it."

A tent will be up at The Weal Inn in Highland Township, said employee Erica O'Connor. She said the bar at 2933 E. Highland near Duck Lake Road will serve up plenty of Irish fare.

"We'll have our corned beef and cabbage," she said. "We'll also have beef stew."

She said she knows it will look a little different than previous years, but said she hopes to see plenty of people hoping to celebrate.

"We're obviously hoping to see a ton of people," O'Connor said.

Despite not having the usual party Dick O'Dow's usually has, having the bar open for the holiday this year for St. Patrick's Day marks another step forward. He said the bar has gotten plenty of phone calls inquiring about

"For us, the biggest key is it's a starting to return to normalcy," Black said. "Getting some of the traditions we've ad for so many years to come back to again."

"It's definitely a great sign, it really is."

Grisa said they'll bring out plenty of traditional food that day, including corned beef and cabbage, during their opening hours, which will begin at 8 a.m. and run until they have to close, which is currently at 11 p.m., per state order.

Regardless of the restrictions no matter how much Grisa isn't a fan, it's a special day at the pub at Five Mile and Farmington. And he's determined to keep it that way.

"I'm excited for St. Patrick's Day. I'm Irish. I'm always excited for it," Grisa said. "I guess we'll be celebrating it a little bit more in our hearts than our livers."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Twitter: @davidveselenak.

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Shake Shack

Continued from Page 1A

York City-based chain, said during the planning commission meeting. "Shake Shack really thinks of itself not only as fast-casual but we actually refer to ourselves as fine-casual dining, and we really strive to make all of our restaurants a true community gathering place for the communities we go into."

If approved, the restaurant would occupy roughly the same footprint as the former Romano's Macaroni Grill building, though a new structure would be erected in its place and the old building demolished. The eatery would have space for dine-in both inside and outside, as well as drive-thru lanes for those ordering to-go.

In addition to the restaurant, a second structure is proposed on the eastern portion of the lot that's currently occupied by parking lot. A facility for a yet-to-be-determined bank would also be constructed on the site.

Shake Shack launched in 2001 in

New York and has seen plenty of growth worldwide. It serves up fare such as burgers, hot dogs, french fries and milkshakes. If approved, it would join four other Shake Shacks currently open in Michigan: one in Ann Arbor, one in Detroit and two in Troy.

Issues surrounding traffic expected to flock to the site appeared to be a big reason for the close vote. The approval came with a 4-3 vote; several commissioners commented on issues surrounding the dangerous intersection and what bringing a concept like Shake Shack to that corner could cause when it comes to accidents.

Commissioner Peter Ventura, who voted no on the approval, said he frequents the nearby Home Depot in Northville Township across the street from the proposal regularly and said adding such a business could lead to serious incidents, especially for those looking to turn across traffic.

"The likelihood of anybody exiting this Macaroni Grill site and getting into the left turn lane to go south on Haggerty Road is going to be highly problematic," he said. "That's going to create a very dangerous situation. That's my opinion."

Julie Kroll, a traffic engineer with

Farmington Hills-based Fleis & Vandenberg working on the project, said in speaking with Wayne County — which controls both Seven Mile and Haggerty Road — they would work to restrict certain turns out of the parking during rush hour to help alleviate some of those traffic problems.

"During the off peak periods, there's less traffic that would be conflicting," she said.

A proposal to create a sharing agreement with the nearby private road owned by the Pentagon Entertainment Complex was attempted, but no deal was ever made, said Eric Williams, a design engineer with Detroit-based Stonefield Engineering & Design who is working on the project.

Commissioner David Bongero, another "no" vote on the project, agreed with Ventura regarding the traffic. He said he was at the same Home Depot on a recent weekend day and said had he not been a little "aggressive" in turning out, he would have sat waiting a long time trying to get onto the road.

"In front of me was an elderly driver, and they were very apprehensive to make the move," he said.

The project proposal now goes to the Livonia City Council.

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CITY OF LIVONIA PUBLIC NOTICE

AGENDA ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MARCH 30, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.

Due to COVID-19, Zoning Board of Appeals meeting will be virtual via ZOOM and NOT be held in the City Hall Auditorium

Connect on ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83492514379>
or phone at (312) 626-6799, ID: 834 9251 4379

To participate, use the 'Raise Hand' button on Zoom or press *9 on your phone to be called on.

APPEAL CASE NO. 2021-03-10: Michael Malinowski, 1515 Aberdeen, Canton, MI 48187, seeking to erect a new single-family dwelling upon property located on the **west side of Fairlane (15235), between Five Mile and Lyndon**, resulting in deficient lot depth.

APPEAL CASE NO. 2021-03-11: Michael Malinowski, 1515 Aberdeen, Canton, MI 48187, seeking to erect a new single-family dwelling upon property located on the **west side of Fairlane (15251), between Five Mile and Lyndon**, resulting in deficient lot depth.

APPEAL CASE NO. 2021-03-12: Michael Malinowski, 1515 Aberdeen, Canton, MI 48187, seeking to erect a new single-family dwelling upon property located on the **west side of Fairlane (15273), between Five Mile and Lyndon**, resulting in deficient lot depth.

APPEAL CASE NO. 2021-03-13: Michael Malinowski, 1515 Aberdeen, Canton, MI 48187, seeking to erect a new single-family dwelling upon property located on the **west side of Fairlane (15287), between Five Mile and Lyndon**, resulting in deficient lot depth.

Public Comments may be sent to the Zoning Board of Appeals Office at 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, MI 48154 – all comments must include name, address and signature.

In accordance with Title II of the American with Disabilities Act as it pertains to access to Public Meetings, the Zoning Board of Appeals Office of the City of Livonia upon adequate notice, will make reasonable accommodations for persons with special needs. Please call (734) 466-2259 if you need assistance.

Publish: March 14, 2021

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SURVIVOR

Livonia man with lung transplant among state's first COVID-19 cases

Kristen Jordan Shamus Detroit Free Press | USA TODAY NETWORK

Paul DeWyse bounded down the steps at Detroit's Hart Plaza Saturday with ease, smiled broadly and took in the warm March sun, grateful to be alive.

He wasn't sure he'd survive long enough to see this day — one year since the coronavirus pandemic devastated the state, the nation and the world, taking the lives of 15,666 Michiganders and more than half a million Americans, and one year since he contracted the virus himself.

A lung transplant survivor, DeWyse, 58, of Livonia had one of Michigan's first two confirmed cases of coronavirus and was the first COVID-19 patient to be hospitalized at Michigan Medicine, the academic medical center of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

"I thought I was going to die because the only thing I knew ... about COVID was that people in China that had compromised immune systems were dying," said DeWyse, a father of three.

"I was crying. I was emotionally a wreck, and so was my wife. And she couldn't even come and see me, you know? I mean, it was very, very emotional."

Hours after he was told he tested positive for the mysterious new virus sweeping the globe, leaving sickness, death and shutdowns in its wake, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced a state of emergency on live television.

It was surreal, DeWyse said.

"Here I was, sitting my hospital bed, watching ... Gretchen on TV talking about me," he said. "There were reporters outside, ... I could see them out my window, and they were all trying to figure out who I was."

Whitmer addressed the state just before the 11 p.m. news broadcasts, hours after the polls closed for the presidential primary election. Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, the state's chief medical executive, sat by her side, offering details about Michigan's first two confirmed cases.

"We're taking every step that we can to mitigate the virus spread and keep Michiganders safe," Whitmer said that night, urging people to wash their hands, touch their faces less often, stop shaking hands and cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze.

It was before face masks became de rigueur. It was before scientists fully understood the disease's primary mode of transmission was through the air.

The date was March 10, 2020. And it was on that day DeWyse became known as "a Wayne County resident with a history of domestic travel" in news reports.

He and an Oakland County woman who had traveled internationally were among the first 68 Michiganders who had been tested for the virus; they just happened to get the first positive results.

At that stage of the epidemic — it hadn't yet been deemed a pandemic — tests were in such short supply that state health officials only had the capacity to test between 375 and 400 people in a state of nearly 10 million. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines strictly limited the criteria for who should qualify for COVID-19 testing.

With such little surveillance in early March, DeWyse's case was just one example of what was likely widespread community transmission of the virus going undetected in the state and the nation.

He and his family were overwhelmed and afraid.

"We were actually more scared he was going to die when we got the call that he had COVID than when he got his transplant surgery," said his daughter



Paul DeWyse, 58, was the first COVID-19 patient at the University of Michigan hospital in Ann Arbor in March 2020. DeWyse was especially vulnerable because he underwent a double lung transplant in 2018.

ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Megan DeWyse, 24.

Her father needed the transplant because he has a rare genetic condition called alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency that began attacking his lungs when he was in his late 30s. By the time he had his transplant in February 2018, his lungs were functioning at about 15% capacity, he said.

"I was on oxygen, and all that stuff, so I was barely getting by," DeWyse said. "I thought I was going to have to go on disability very soon, but luckily, it all worked out."

Three days after surgeons transplanted healthy, 29-year-old lungs into his body, DeWyse was up and walking. He was allowed to go home two weeks after surgery and within a few months, he was well enough to do things he couldn't do in the 20 prior years when his lungs were failing.

He started to ride his mountain bike, take long walks with his dog, Jazz, and play golf and racquetball and pickleball.

DeWyse hoped the transplant would give him more time with his wife, Marci, and their three daughters, Megan, Molly and Afton. He dreamed that one day he'd walk them down the aisle at their weddings. He dreamed of having grandchildren.

But COVID-19 threatened to snatch it all away.

'A 99.9% chance you don't have it'

In the weeks leading up to his COVID-19 infection, DeWyse, who is vice president of corporate development for Alloya Corporate Federal Credit Union, flew out of state twice.

In late February 2020, he was one of about 5,000 people at the annual Governmental Affairs Conference hosted by the Credit Union National Association in Washington, D.C.

"A lot of people after that convention — 75 that we know of — said they came back with what they call 'the GAC crud,'" DeWyse said.

"So 75 people came back and they were very sick, but ... they never got tested for COVID or anything. But I did, and it was COVID. So who knows? It could have been one of those spreader events and people didn't even know it."

DeWyse said he traveled to Texas, too, for work, but said it's impossible to know whether he caught the virus at the convention, on a plane, or just living life when a deadly pathogen was circulating undetected.

"It could have been at the grocery store," he said.

He woke up on the morning of March 9, 2020, and felt fine. DeWyse said he went to a dentist's appointment and

then to work at his office in Southfield. A few hours later, a feeling of malaise washed over him.

"I just started feeling really weird and my stomach started hurting and I had a headache and then it just kept progressing really quickly," DeWyse said.

He began to vomit and spiked a fever. "Then all the other symptoms hit me. I had chills and body aches. I had a headache really bad, and I had diarrhea. I had every flu symptom there was."

At that stage of the coronavirus outbreak, the CDC was advising Americans that the primary symptoms of COVID-19 were chest pain, shortness of breath and coughing.

It was such a new virus, health officials were learning on the fly, and still didn't know exactly what its hallmarks might be. And because DeWyse didn't have those three complaints, he didn't think he could possibly have novel coronavirus.

Flu? Probably. COVID-19? No way.

"I never, ever once thought I had COVID," he said. "Not once."

Still, DeWyse called his doctor to report the symptoms and went to the hospital.

"That's with any transplant patient," he said, "anything you've got going, you just call your doctor and say you're on your way to emergency and they pretty much admit you no matter what."

Doctors first tested him for influenza, but the result was negative. DeWyse was shocked.

"I thought it was flu, just really bad flu," he said.

The World Health Organization had begun to report that some people with COVID-19 also complained of fatigue, aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat and diarrhea.

"The nurse said, 'Well, we're going to test you for this thing called COVID-19. But, you know, there's a 99.9% chance you don't have it,'" DeWyse said.

"They put me in isolation that same day, before they even knew. The next day, they told me. The doctor came in. My nurse was in the room and told me I had COVID-19, and I just freaked out."

"I was the first one at U-M hospital to have COVID," he said. "And the doctors didn't even know what to do. The nurses didn't even know what to do. ... Even though they knew it was coming, it ... just kind of hit and they were like, 'OK, here we are. Here's our first patient.'"

"They didn't know how to treat a person with COVID, let alone a person with a double lung transplant with COVID."

DeWyse takes a slew of medications to intentionally suppress his immune system to prevent his body from rejecting his transplanted lungs, but those are the very same medicines that he knew could hamper his body's ability to fight a coronavirus infection.

"I had my whole pulmonologist team working with me, working with all the other doctors," DeWyse said, doing all they could to save his life. "It was three different sets of people trying to work on a plan behind the scenes for me."

Marci DeWyse, 53, who hadn't left her husband's side when he had his lung transplant two years earlier, suddenly found herself shut out from the hospital.

He was in isolation, infectious. And she was required to quarantine while test results were pending. It meant she couldn't hold Paul DeWyse's hand or talk to him face-to-face.

They communicated via a glowing screen, him in a hospital bed, her in quarantine in their Livonia home.

In the weeks and months that would follow, their experience would go on to be repeated by millions of other families around the nation as hospitals clamped down on visitors to prevent the spread of the virus, and critically ill patients began to die without loved ones at their bedsides.

"I would just pray every night and every morning," Marci DeWyse said.

Guilt and blessings

The day after Paul DeWyse got his diagnosis, the WHO declared the global coronavirus outbreak had reached pandemic level.

As the virus known continued its grim march across the world at an ever-faster clip, life as the DeWyse family knew it spiraled out of control.

"All these things are on the news — like big stuff — was happening because they thought that they might have been exposed to us in some way," Marci DeWyse said.

Concerts and sporting events were canceled. Businesses shut down or sent workers home to work remotely. Universities switched to online learning. Schools closed and disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer and toilet paper flew off store shelves.

"They shut down our whole building," Paul DeWyse said of the 20-story tower where he works in Southfield.

One of the schools that closed was in Dearborn, where Megan DeWyse teaches children with autism in grades one through three.

"My school shut down first ... because of me, because I had COVID. I told my principal that (my dad) was getting tested," she said. When his test came back positive, "the superintendent shut down our school."

"And then the next week, they shut down all the other schools. But all of my students were texting me like, 'Was it you?' And the parents were like, 'Was it anybody that was around my kid?' And I felt so guilty, you know?"

Though she did go on to test positive for the virus, too, no COVID-19 cases at the school were linked to her, she said.

"It was really scary. I felt so bad," Megan DeWyse said.

Afton DeWyse, 26, lives in Grand Rapids, and wasn't exposed to the virus when her father was diagnosed in March 2020. She didn't have to quarantine and wouldn't go on to contract the COVID-19 until months later. But quarantine rules meant the youngest DeWyse sister, Molly, 21, couldn't vote in her first presidential primary election.

She told her friends she was quarantining as a precaution because the odds were so slim that her dad had the virus. But when the news broke that one of the two first cases in Michigan was a middle-aged Wayne County man, and her friends asked whether it was him, Molly DeWyse couldn't bring herself to say, 'yes.'

"I was just like, 'Oh, no. We're still waiting on his results,' because I didn't ... know how it was going to turn out," she said.

Social media didn't help a situation already steeped in worry, guilt, and shame.

"There were people on Facebook throwing shade about our family, not knowing it was our family, saying, 'Don't they know how to wash their hands?' because we were the first cases in Michigan," Marci DeWyse said. "They found out where he worked."

Then she started getting sick, too.

"I was actually scared for myself," she said.

On March 18, when Paul DeWyse had recovered enough to be discharged from the hospital, his wife was too sick to bring him home. Marci DeWyse was bedridden at that point. The virus had stolen her breath and her ability to taste and smell.

Her husband, she said, "snapped back better than I did, actually. ... He had those young fresh lungs."

Megan DeWyse also tested positive and temporarily lost her sense of taste and smell. One year later, those senses continue to elude Molly DeWyse, who also got a positive test result.

As for Paul DeWyse: "I'm a survivor," he said, with his family surrounding him along the Detroit riverfront.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD
NOTICE OF BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD
DURING THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 23, 2021

The Redford Township Board of Trustees will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed township budget for the fiscal year 2021-2022, via Zoom on March 23rd, 2021, at 6:30pm.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be the subject of this hearing.

Due to covid restrictions and building closure, a copy of the budget is available for public inspection on the township website redfordtwp.com.

I hereby certify the Redford Township Board will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 23rd, at 6:30 pm, via Zoom, and that public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to Act No. 267, Public Act of Michigan, 1976, including in the case of a special or rescheduled meeting notice by publication or posting at least eighteen hours prior to the time set for the meeting. This meeting is open to all members of the public under the Michigan Open Meetings Act 2410.02.

GARTH J. CHRISTIE, MMC, Clerk
 Charter Township of Redford

Publish: March 14, 2021

City of Livonia - 02-22-2021 1,915th Regular Meeting Synopsis

Present: Jolly, Toy, Bahr, White, McCullough, Donovic and McIntyre. Absent: None

#42-21 Approved minutes of the 1,914th Regular Meeting of the Council held 2-8-21.

#43-21 Referring the subject matter of creating an ordinance or strengthening current ordinance related to animal protection in extreme climate conditions. Audience Communication Several audience members commented on changing the animal ordinance and on the continuing limitations and closures of City buildings.

#44-21 Approved reappointment of Lynda Scheel to LBRA.

#45-21 Approved reappointment of Jack Engebretson to LBRA.

#46-21 Approved reappointment of Steven Vandette to LBRA.

#47-21 Authorizing purchase of 5 Power Load Ambulance Cot Loading Systems for LFD.

#48-21 Approved additional appropriation and expenditure for installation of Pressure Reducing Valve at 8 Mile and Newburgh.

#49-21 Approved Intergovernmental Agreement between Livonia and Great Lakes Water Authority for road improvements on westbound Schoolcraft and installation of water main.

#50-21 Approved final allocation of costs for the 2020 Sidewalk Program. (Contract 20-G)

#51-21 Approved one year extension of 2020 Lane Line Marking Program.

#52-21 Approved sidewalk locations for installation or replacement for the 2021 Sidewalk Repair Program.

Second reading and adoption of ordinance amendment to Section 31.04 of Article XXXI of Ordinance No. 543.

#53-21 Authorizing City of Livonia to engage in the AARP/WHO Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Network.

#54-21 Authorizing Jack E. Kirksey Rec Center to honor Silver Sneaker Matinee Membership Program.

#55-21 Accepting various gifts and cash donations to the Jack E. Kirksey Recreation Center.

Audience Communication None.
Meeting Adjourned at 8:33 p.m.
Full text of the official minutes is available in the Office of the City Clerk.
Susan M. Nash, Livonia City Clerk

Publish: March 14, 2021

As districts taught virtually, Plymouth charter school kept students in building

Ed Wright HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

A young girl wearing a colorful mask skipped gleefully down a hallway at Ivywood Classical Academy one morning last week, unknowingly serving as a symbol for an upbeat vibe that flows through the Plymouth Township charter school during a year-long pandemic.

Since September — its second year of operation — Ivywood has managed to figure out a way to hold full time face-to-face learning for its kindergarten through sixth-grade students with just a trace of COVID-19 positivity, boosting the mental and physical health of its students, students' parents and staff, staff say.

"I think it's great what we've been able to do; I love it," Ivywood Principal Stephanie Kooiker (pronounced "quaker") said. "There's so much more to school than academics. The social/emotional well-being of the children is so important. And all of the staff enjoy seeing how happy the kids are."

"Our students have been able to do so many great things this year that many kids have missed out on. Things like a fall celebration, pumpkin carving, holiday celebrations in December, exchanging Valentines — little things that mean so much."

Ivywood's relative success in bringing a near-normal learning environment to its students is the result of thorough planning, teamwork and an all-in attitude from everyone involved, Kooiker said.

Ivywood, which has 300 students, has had 10 reported COVID-19 cases through March 1. Ivywood students have been learning in a full-day, five-days-a-week model since school opened in September, although students only attend half-days on Fridays so that staff can use the afternoons for meetings and planning.

In comparison, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools K-5 students learned in a hybrid or fully-virtually model from September through March 1. Plymouth-Canton sixth-grade students were fully virtual until the last week of January.

"I think the key has been having a plan from the beginning and sticking with it," Kooiker said. "We've been very upfront with our families about our plans and everybody has stuck to the plan."

"One of the most important things is that our families have done a fantastic job of keeping their kids home if there's even a remote chance they're sick. I feel that's why we've had so few COVID



Ivywood Classical Academy teacher Richard Bruce teaches math class March 4.
PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



Ivywood Classical Academy principal Stephanie Kooiker talks about her K-6 Plymouth Township charter school.

cases and when there have been some, we've been able to contain them.

"We've had zero cases of pink eye, zero cases of the flu — things you normally see in social settings like school. In years past, if a student had a slight cold, sometimes the parents would send them to school and say, 'Just try to make it through the day.' That's not the case now."

According to the district's website, Ivywood had 10 total cases of COVID-19 at the school during the current school year. Six of those cases came in early February.

The price of near-normalcy has re-

quired sacrifice, Kooiker added. Students stay with their classmates throughout each school day — class sizes average from 25 to 28 students, she said — whether they're in their regular homeroom, in the lunch room or at recess.

A strictly-enforced regimen means there is never more than one class of students in the hallways, on the playground or in the lunchroom at one time at Ivywood.

"For instance, we have kindergarten students who have never seen kids in the other kindergarten classes," Kooiker said. "And we have siblings in different grades that never see each other — not even passing in the hallway — throughout the entire school day."

"It's tough because you want the students to be able to meet peers in other classes, but the children have adapted well. We're hoping we can loosen things up at least a little bit by next school year."

Kooiker heaped praise on the school's 40-member staff, who have been asked to do much more than teach this school year.

"Our teachers want to teach in an in-person model, so that's huge," said Kooiker. "If that wasn't the case, they might not be as willing, obviously, to not only come in every day, but also to do

the extra things we're asking them to do like cleaning their rooms multiple times a day. They're doing everything that needs to be done to make this successful and safe."

First grade teacher Amanda Adkins said bringing normalcy to her students has been a rewarding experience.

"Honestly, every day is like a regular school day, except for the accommodations for the masks and distancing," Adkins said. "We're able to implement our curriculum really well."

"We clean our classrooms whenever our students leave the class and everyone has been great about wearing masks and distancing. I've felt incredibly safe since day one."

Strict adherence to the school's safety-first plans has been key to avoiding numerous positive COVID-19 cases and widespread quarantining, asserted sixth grade teacher Isaac Warchol.

"Like all of the other staff members, I've gone through gallons of disinfectant and hundreds of containers of disinfecting wipes to keep this school clean," Warchol said. "Everyone has been incredibly vigilant to the plan."

"We're dealing with kids so, of course, there are some who aren't big fans of wearing masks all day and social distancing, but they've been great. They're getting used to it because, unfortunately, it's the way of the world now."

Ivywood's plan kicked in March 13, 2020, the day schools across Michigan shut down for what was at the time expected to be a two- or three-week hiatus once the initial cases of COVID-19 started popping up in the state.

"On March 13, 2020, we had all of the students pack up all of their belongings and we made sure they all had devices so that they could learn remotely for, at the time, we thought would be a couple-week period," Kooiker recounted.

When the 2020-21 school year started, Ivywood did not offer a fully-virtual option to families, Kooiker explained.

"Ivywood is a classical school with a very traditional, back-to-basics foundation, so we don't use laptops or computers to teach," she said. "The teacher is in front of the room, desks are lined up in rows and students don't use iPads or computers. It's a very low-technology format. Having a virtual option doesn't align with our method of teaching."

Ivywood Classical Academy's plan is to add one grade every year until it eventually offers grades kindergarten through 12th.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at ewright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113.

School

Continued from Page 1A

period concludes.

If the district sells the building to the city, it could save upwards of \$1 million in demolition costs, which the school district planned to do. The property is not currently listed for sale.

Marshall already has a large gymnasium and a track as well as baseball, football and tennis facilities. Wild said the city could also use the building's

theater and band rooms.

"There's lots of assets there for recreational activities already," he said. "A lot of recreation centers now are geared around classes, so with the way a school is set up there could be a lot of classes."

The building does not have pool, and Wild plans to gauge the community's interest in adding one. Community outreach will likely include surveys or a town hall.

Wild said a new recreation center could ease the burden on the city's senior center. The mayor said the center is well-utilized and seniors would likely

benefit from the larger recreational space the Marshall building would provide.

"We're bursting at the seams there," Wild said. "We have more seniors than space. This building would give us a chance to offer more activities to them."

The mayor expects Marshall could be similar to The Hawk in Farmington Hills. Farmington Hills turned the three-story building formerly used as Harrison High School into a recreation, arts and community building.

Contact reporter Shelby Tankersley at stankersle@hometownlife.com.



Westland's Marshall Upper Elementary school. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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Obituaries

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Sally Read Bacon

Sally was born in Detroit on April 23, 1927, and died in Troy, MI on February 14, 2021. After graduating from Grosse Pointe High School in 1944, Sally earned the degree of Associate in Arts in fashion design from Stephens College in Columbia, MO. Subsequently she attended a wedding where another guest coaxed his extremely shy brother to ask Sally out on a date. This date turned into a courtship and on July 8, 1950, Sally and Alexander John Bacon were wed. The marriage lasted 48 years until Al's death in 1998. One of her favorite places was their vacation home in Harbor Springs where she loved sitting on the beach watching the sunset. Sally was active in her church, Kirk in the Hills in Bloomfield Hills, making cancer pads with the Ladies of the Kirk for many years. She was a nurturer, booster, educator, adventurer and artisan. In short, she worked tirelessly to help her children and grandchildren become their best selves. Surviving Sally are son Alexander John Bacon Jr. (Jennifer) of Troy, MI; daughter Pamela Bacon Cabot (Jon) of Sunset, SC and grandsons Alexander John Bacon III, Daniel Bayless Bacon and Stephen Read Uffelman. Because of COVID 19 the memorial service will be planned for a later date. Memorials may be given to the Karmanos Cancer Foundation or Heart to Heart Hospice Foundation.



**Florence R. Merz
(nee Fleer)**

Age 90, March 3, 2021. Beloved wife of the late Robert "Bob" Merz. Dear mother of Carol (the late Ron Campbell) Sim-Campbell, Robert (Susan Schroeter) Merz, Lisa (Jeff) Toenniges, and Jim (Alice) Merz. Cherished grandmother of 7. Loving sister of the late Robert H. Fleer. Private Services will be held.

Obituary and condolences at lynchfuneraldirectors.com

James Stasevich, Jr.

September 10, 1930 to March 3, 2021

James Stasevich, Jr. was born September 10, 1930 in Detroit, Michigan. The son of Belarusian immigrants, Jim grew up in Detroit and graduated from Cooley High School in 1948. He attended Wayne State University where he participated on the fencing team and received a Master of Arts in History. He served his country in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1954.

Jim wed Katharine Rank on November 5, 1960, leading to the blessing of four children. Jim and Kathy made their home in Detroit for many years before becoming long-time residents of Livonia, MI.

He tirelessly worked for the Detroit Board of Education/Public Schools for over 40 years, serving as a teacher, counselor, and administrator. He closed his career in 1997 as an Assistant Principal for Henry Ford High School in Detroit, where he served in that position for close to 20 years.

Jim was also a radio broadcaster for WMZK, "The Station of the Nations" from 1973 to 1983. During this time he hosted the "Russian Hour," a show highlighting Russian culture, music, and the arts.

He was dedicated to his faith as a reader for many years while a member of Ss. Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Detroit.

Jim delighted in his family and friends. His kind spirit will remain in the lives of all who knew him. He quietly departed from this life on March 3, 2021. He is survived by Katharine, his wife of over 60 years; sons Nicholas (Nancy), Andrew, Stephen (Christen), and Peter (Becky). He was the loving grandfather of Alexander, Michael, Mary Katharine, Anna, James and Jack Stasevich. He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Melania Stasevich; sister Lydia Marcum and grandson Matthew Stasevich.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the following charities of your choice in memory of James: Orthodox Detroit Outreach, the Greater Michigan Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, or the Autism Alliance of Michigan.

The following link can be used to view and add both memories and pictures, as well as view service and viewing details: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/livonia-mi/james-stasevich-10084678>



Kathleen Ann "Connie" Barnett

WAYNE - Kathleen Ann "Connie" (née Moore) Barnett, died Sunday, February 28, 2021.

She was preceded in death by her war-time sweetheart, husband Bruce Warren Barnett; her brother-in-law, Jack Barnett; her beloved parents, Agnes "Molly" (née Yuchas) Moore and Leo Anthony Moore; her brother, William "Billy" Moore; her sister, Joanne Strausbough; her daughter, Carole Barnett Stopper; her son-in-law, John Barnett Stopper; and her son, Bruce Barnett.

Surviving are her daughter, Diane Barnett Gordon of Roseburg, OR; her granddaughter, Jesse "Julia" (née Gordon) Orton (Chandler) of Oregon; her daughter-in-law, Maureen McCarthy of Edenton, NC; her niece, Sue; nephews, Marty and Phil and their families; and her treasured neighbors and friends.

Mrs. Barnett worked at Countryside Dairy ice cream bar in her teen years, attended St. Mary's of Wayne for eight years, and graduated from Wayne High School in 1944. During the war, she worked for Ford Motor Company on the assembly line. Connie and Bruce Barnett, of North Carolina, had a war-time romance and were married in 1945. After her husband's death, she worked in the housekeeping department of Annapolis Hospital until her retirement.

After retirement Connie enjoyed traveling to Florida and North Carolina every year to visit relatives. She was a life-long member of St. Mary's Church in Wayne, a member of the Ladies Sodality, and was on a bowling league for years with St. Mary's. She was Den Mother for Bruce's Cub Scout Troop, and was a roommother for all her three children in their school classrooms. Connie lived in Wayne for 77 years until she moved to The Village of Westland in 2003 where she made many good friends. She worked once a week in the Village Store, and was the usher at the twice monthly Catholic Mass in the Village Chapel. In 2017 Connie moved to Elizabeth City Health and Rehabilitation nursing home to be closer to family. Connie had a gift for friendship that when she made a friend, they were friends for a lifetime.

Due to Covid-19 concerns, a service of Remembrance and Interment of Ashes will be held at a future date in Wayne, Michigan. Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, 735 Virginia Road, Edenton, is assisting the family with arrangements, and online condolences may be made to them by visiting www.millerfhc.com.





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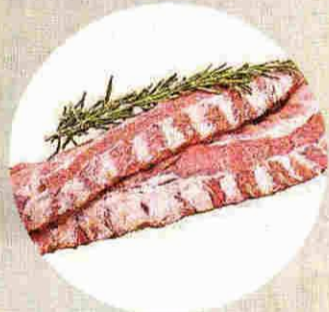
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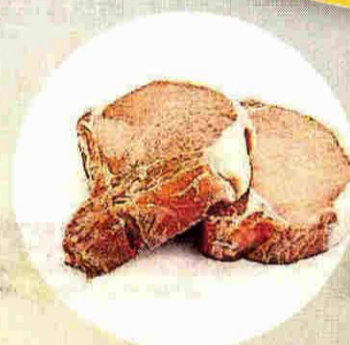
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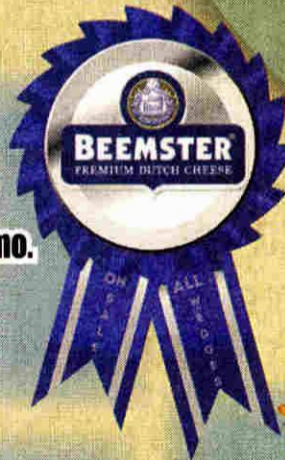
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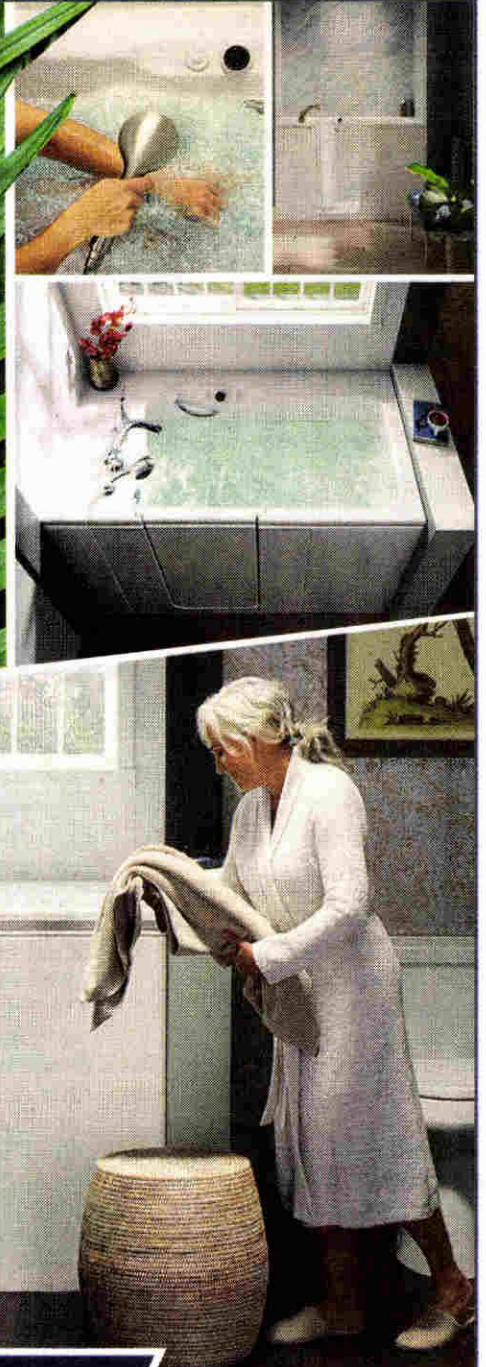
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