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Charlevoix County News

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MARCH 26, 2020



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Temporary requirement to suspend activities that are not necessary to sustain or protect life

To combat the spread of COVID-19 in Michigan, Governor Whitmer signed the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order. For at least the next three weeks, all Michigan businesses and operations must temporarily suspend in-person operations that are not necessary to sustain or protect life, and all Michiganders must stay in their homes unless they're a part of that critical infrastructure workforce, engaged in an outdoor activity, or performing tasks necessary to the health and safety of themselves or their family, like going to

the hospital or grocery store.

YOU CAN:

- Go to the grocery store or pick up take-out food.
- Go to the pharmacy to pick up a needed prescription.
- Engage in outdoor activities like walking, hiking, running, biking.
- Go to the hospital or secure any care necessary to address a medical emergency or to preserve your health or the health of a loved one.
- Fill your car with gas.
- Return to Michigan to a

home or place of residence from outside the State.

- Leave the State for a home or residence elsewhere.
- Walk your pets and take them to the veterinarian for needed medical care.

YOU MAY NOT:

- Leave the home to work unless your employer designates you as a critical infrastructure worker.
- Participate in any public gatherings.
- Visit someone in the hospital, nursing home, or

See **ACTIVITIES SUSPENDED** - Page 3A



To combat the spread of COVID-19 in Michigan, Governor Whitmer signed the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order. State of Michigan website photo.

Restaurant and Retail services and hours during Coronavirus shutdown in Charlevoix County

Faced with a state-ordered moratorium on dine-in service, many local restaurants and food providers are offering enhanced take-out, curbside pickup and delivery options. Also, many retail businesses have limited hours and services. This list was compiled from area businesses and chamber of commerces.

BOYNE CITY

FAMILY FARE. Introducing reserved hours for older adults, pregnant women and immunocompromised store guests Effective Thursday, March 18, SpartanNash is setting aside time twice per week for store guests most at risk of contracting coronavirus (COVID-19), including older adults, pregnant women and immunocompromised individuals. Reserved hours will be every Tuesday and Thursday from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

CAFE SANTE has rewritten their menu reducing prices. We are offering our new S-Car-Go curbside pick-up. Visit us online or please call your order in and we will be happy to deliver to your car upon arrival. "Kick it to the

Curb Happy Hour" from 3-5 p.m. featuring \$5 shrimp cocktail, \$5 meatballs, \$5 pan pizza, \$5 Bavarian Pretzel, and 1/2 off beer and wine to go. Updated hours are 3 to 9 p.m. 231-582-8800.

BARREL BACK - Open 7 days in Walloon Lake Village for curbside pick-up from 8:30 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Prepaid curbside service is available. Please call ahead to place your order and call when you arrive. We are happy to bring your food out to you. Website with menu. 231-535-6000.

BC PIZZA has always had take-out, drive-through and delivery service - and that continues now that their dining room has closed. You can order by phone during their hours of 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday, and 12 to 10 p.m. on Sunday. Pickup service is available from their location at 1191 Highway M75 South. (The downtown location on North Lake Street is closed for now.) Their name says "pizza," but their menu also includes pasta, subs,

wraps, salads, appetizers, burritos, quesadillas and desserts. Menu. 231-582-2288.

BOYNE CITY BAKERY - Take-out available. Call about curbside service or delivery options if you cannot leave home, specials for school-aged children, call about bulk orders for freezing at home. The back entrance to the bakery will be closed until further notice. 231.497.6060.

BOYNE CITY TAPROOM has a new Weekend Take-out Menu. Please place orders by 3pm on Friday or Saturday. Order pick-up is available between 5-6pm each day. Call (231) 675-3306 or message our Facebook Page to place your order. Dinner for 4 is only \$45 - choose one entrée per order, includes family-style garden or Caesar Salad and four double chocolate chip cookies. \$10 Growler fills and \$15 bottles of wine.

BOYNE COUNTRY PROVISIONS - All of our retail products and deli prepared food to go is available for normal retail purchase and carry-out. Both Provisions Wet Goods and Provisions

Wine Market & Deli are open for business as usual with normal operating hours. (The Wine Lounge is currently closed and the menu is not available for carry-out or delivery.) Announcing free home delivery to zip code 49712. Call in an order of \$50 or more, and we'll deliver it for free from 3 to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday. There is a \$5 delivery charge for purchases below this amount. Delivery options include spirits, craft beer, wine, specialty foods, deli meals, etc. Customers purchasing age-restricted items will be required to show valid ID upon delivery. Chef Russell and our dedicated deli staff are working hard to ensure our "Grab & Go" food offerings are kept in stock. We will also begin offering Pepperoni & Cheese Take 'N Bake pizzas daily. Check Facebook for updates. 231-582-2151.

HOPPY HOUND Coffee and Dog Bakery - Now offering curbside service and opening at 7am to fill your coffee needs. \$2 20-oz. coffee all month long. We are open 7am-5pm. Medical staff and first respon-

See **SERVICES** - Page 6A

Health Department reports COVID-19 case from Charlevoix County

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is reporting a presumptive positive case of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in a resident of Charlevoix County who has a history associated with international travel. The individual, an adult female, is isolated and recuperating at a residence.

The Health Department has been working with her to identify and contact anyone potentially exposed. Any additional information and guidance will be announced as soon as possible at nwhealth.org or at the Health Department's Facebook Page. Medical Director, Dr. Josh Meyerson shared, "We hope that this individual has a swift recovery. As we see additional cases, it's important to remember that everyone in our community has a role to play in slowing community spread."

We continue to encourage our community members to practice prevention strategies to reduce the spread of germs and protect everyone's health. There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

- To prevent the spread of COVID-19, people should:
- Wash their hands.
 - Stay home when sick.
 - Avoid close contact with sick people.
 - Avoid touching their face.
 - Disinfect commonly touched surfaces.
 - Avoid shaking hands.
 - Follow suggested guidelines for social distancing.
- For social distancing, we recommend the following:
- Keep six feet between yourself and others when possible.
 - Avoid public places at their busiest times.
 - Work from home when possible.
 - Cancel gatherings of more than 50 people as required by

See **CHARLEVOIX CASE** - Page 3A

Subscribe to the Charlevoix County News
Distributed to Boyne City, East Jordan, Charlevoix, Boyne Falls, Walloon Lake, Ellsworth and Atwood.

friendly & positive news and sports covering all of Charlevoix County

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East Jordan Family Health Center helping protect our communities

Health Centers across the country are revising their "Infectious Disease Protocols" daily due to the pandemic of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The East Jordan Family Health Center, with locations in East Jordan and Bellaire, has been working with area hospitals, health departments, LabCorp and other health centers to combat the spread of the virus while protecting their patients and staff.

Some of the ways your health providers are being proactive include, screening all visitors and patients upon arrival, rescheduling routine check-ups and promoting telephone-based visits. Medications are being filled promptly and patients are being advised to use the drive thru pharmacy locations in Bellaire and East Jordan. Over the counter medicines including cold, flu and vitamins are also available through the drive thru and the pharmacy provides a

mail order service for those unable to leave their home. Contact the pharmacy regarding any medication concerns.

All these protocols are based on CDC recommendations to help mitigate the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Prevention is KEY and the health center is continually cleaning and sanitizing exam rooms, lobbies and frequently touched surfaces.

If you believe you have symptoms related to the

Coronavirus, please call your health provider to determine the next steps. Symptoms include cough, shortness of breath, and fever. A person is at additional risk when they've been exposed to known COVID-19 persons. It is important to stay home to prevent further exposure to our community until directed otherwise by your provider.

Everyone can help prevent the spread of coronavirus and other infectious diseases by practicing everyday pre-

vention including frequent hand washing for at least 20 seconds, staying home when sick, covering coughs and sneezes with the crook of the elbow, and not touching the eyes, mouth or the nose.

The East Jordan Family Health Center is working continuously to support our community during this time. If you have questions regarding the Coronavirus, visit our website at www.ejfhc.org for up to date information along with additional services pro-

vided at both the Bellaire and East Jordan locations. Working together, we can limit the impact of the virus on our community.

East Jordan Family Health Center – (231) 536-2206

Bellaire Family Health Center – (231) 533-8649

Check out our website for information regarding Covid-19 – www.ejfhc.org/2019-novel-coronavirus/

BC Schools providing food for students on pick-up basis

BC Schools Boyne City Public Schools have arranged for food to be provided to all students under the age of 18 during this extended school closure. The food that will be provided will be on a pick-up basis. There are no "eat-in" options due to the order of the governor to close schools to help minimize the spread of COVID-19. This week's dates for free meals will be Wednesday, March 18, and Friday, March 20, located in the back entrance of Boyne City High School near the bus garage from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Other dates will be announced.

Manna Food Bags can be picked up on Fridays from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. for previously eligible students. This includes pre-school children. Pick-up will be at the high school back entrance doors closest to the bus garage.

Questions can be directed to Food Service Director Layna Krell at 231-439-8148 or lkrell@boyne.k12.mi.us.

CHARLEVOIX COVID CASE

FROM PG. 1A

Michigan law. However, it is recommended gatherings not exceed 10 people.

- Limit travel. The Health Department is working to share updates and essential information through our website at nwhealth.org/covid19 or at the Health Department's Facebook Page.

ACTIVITIES SUSPENDED

FROM PG. 1A

other residential care facilities (with limited exceptions).
- Go to the mall or to restaurants.

BUSINESSES THAT REMAIN OPEN FOR IN-PERSON WORK MUST TAKE AGGRESSIVE STEPS TO MINIMIZE THE VIRUS'S SPREAD. THEY MUST:

- Promote remote work to the fullest extent possible.
- Restrict the number of workers present in-person on the job.
- Keep employees at least six feet from one another to the maximum extent possible and enabling social distancing for customers who are standing in line.
- Any other social distancing practices and mitigation measures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at

Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus. For those who have questions about the state's actions to mitigate the spread of coronavirus, please call the COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-535-6136 between 8AM - 5PM daily.

St. Michael Academy's Grace Broz places 3rd in regional spelling bee



Grace Broz, you make us P-R-O-U-D! St. Michael Academy, 7th grader, Grace Broz finished in 3rd place over the weekend in the Grand Traverse Regional Spelling Bee. Grace (far right) competed with 45 students from the 7-county area. Stiff competition.. It was first place winner, Cecilia Balog's second year to take first and 2nd place winner Autumn Reeves, won the Spelling Bee in 2018. Congratulations, Grace. Well done! Courtesy photo

NCMC moves to virtual learning and postpone commencement

North Central Michigan College announced that its Petoskey campus and Cheboygan and Gaylord centers will be closed beginning March 20 through April 19. All classes, including online classes, labs and clinicals, at all campus locations (Petoskey, Gaylord and Cheboygan) will be delivered via remote instructional methods effective April 6 through the end of the semester.

Through May 8, all campus events are canceled. Commencement and Nurse Pinning, previously scheduled for May 8, are postponed. Students who fulfill degree requirements for the Winter 2020 semester will have the credential posted to their transcripts by May 22, which can be used as proof that a degree was earned. Diplomas will be distributed by mail at a date to be determined.

The Residence Hall will be closed through the end of winter semester. Individual appointments may be made for students to retrieve their belongings. Additional information will be sent to Residence Hall students regarding a credit on their account for the weeks they cannot return to their

"Our faculty and staff are committed to walking through this unprecedented situation alongside our students and community, and I'm convinced that we will all emerge stronger and more resilient as a result."

- Dr. David Roland Finley, president of North

rooms. These students will receive a detailed email within the next two weeks. "These were not easy decisions to make, but we are taking every precaution to ensure the safety of our campus community," said Dr. David Roland Finley, president of North Central. "Although the college's physical locations will be closed, we will still be working to deliver the best possible educational experience to our students. Our faculty and staff are committed to walking through this unprecedented situation alongside our students and community, and I'm convinced that we will all emerge stronger and more resilient as a result."

Registration for summer and fall semesters is underway and will continue despite the campus closure. The Financial Aid department and academic advisors will communicate via phone and email to help students register for classes

and apply for scholarships. "We are making plans for summer and fall semesters, and we encourage students to do the same," said Renee DeYoung, vice president of Student Affairs. "We want our students to prioritize their physical and mental health during this time, but we also want them to prioritize their educational goals to remain on track for completion."

A Student Emergency Fund is available to meet students' emergency needs. Students who are experiencing a financial hardship that is threatening the success of their education are encouraged to apply for this assistance. Students with questions should contact Renee DeYoung at rdeyoung@ncmich.edu.

The Campus Cupboard, the college's food pantry for current North Central students, will remain open as a resource for students who might be experiencing food insecurity, however order

pickup will be on Fridays from 2-4 p.m. only. Orders received throughout the week and by noon on Fridays will be available for pickup during the designated pickup time. Students with questions should call 231-348-6605. All calls will be returned.

North Central is continually monitoring and evaluating college operations based on the latest information and recommendations from local, state and national health experts and officials regarding mitigating the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

To streamline communications moving forward, the North Central website will be the vehicle for all Coronavirus (COVID-19) updates. The college will keep the public informed as this issue evolves, working to respond in ways that ensure the health, safety and well-being of our college community.

MiCareerQuest career exploration event for students canceled

We regret to inform that due to COVID-19 concerns, we have decided to cancel MiCareerQuest Northeast for 2020.

With the uncertainty of what the next weeks will bring, we feel this decision is in the best interests of the health of the community, the exhibitors, and the students. The event, scheduled for May 21, was to be held at the Industrial Arts Institute. Over 2,200 middle & high school students from over 24 schools in the region had registered to attend.

MiCareerQuest is a unique, hands-on career exploration event aimed at middle and high school students, where students can participate in interactive exhibits exploring careers in healthcare, technology, construction, and manufacturing. In 2019, over 1,000 northeast Michigan students participated. The purpose of the event is to inspire and direct young people to viable careers in high-demand occupations across the region and help address the need for future talent in these industries.

While it is unfortunate that we need to cancel the event this year, we know this is in the best interests of the community, as we continue to try to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the region.

The 2021 MiCareerQuest Northeast is scheduled for Thursday, May 20, 2021.

MSU Extension offers online "Stress Less with Mindfulness"

Stress Less with Mindfulness introduces participants to the experience and practice of mindfulness, with a goal of reducing stress. Research has shown that practicing mindfulness is effective in reducing stress-related symptoms such as worry, depression and physical tension, and may be helpful in managing chronic conditions.

The program covers mindful breathing, mindful movement, mindful eating, physical processes in the brain and body, and mindful laughter. Registration is required for the online 5 session class and there are 2 classes being offered. The first one is March 30-April 3 from 9 - 10am and the other one is March 30 - April 3 from 3 - 4pm.

To register go to: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/stresslesswithmindfulnessnonlinemarch23a/>

Statement of Charlevoix County Prosecuting Attorney Allen Telgenhof Regarding "Stay Home, Be Safe"

BY ALLEN TELGENHOF

In light of Governor Whitmer's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order of this morning and the actions of Charlevoix County Administration to close the county building, I have directed my co-workers at the Charlevoix County Prosecuting Attorney's Office to stay home

until April 13. As our office performs essential services such as issuing warrants on criminal complaints and attending court hearings involving incarcerated individuals, I will continue to work myself during this time frame. I can be reached at (231) 547-7207 or by e-mail at telgenhofa@charlevoixcounty.org.

Assistant prosecuting attorneys and our victim advocate will be also available on an as-needed basis to assist police officers and victims during this time. We stand together with law enforcement to keep our county safe during this difficult time.

I hope that all citizens of Charlevoix County will take

this executive order very seriously during this critical period. By limiting our contact with others, we can flatten the curve and decrease the demand that will be placed on our health care system.

The best thing that we can do to fight this virus is to stay home and stay safe.

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News Briefs

ONLINE AT WWW.CHARLEVOIXCOUNTYNEWS.COM

BOYNE CITY

GRUB CLUB LUNCHEON
POSTPONED. Originally scheduled for March 26.

BOYNE CITY

COMMUNITY EGG HUNT
CANCELLED. Originally scheduled for April 4.

EAST JORDAN

CHAMBER BUSINESS AFTER HOURS
CANCELLED. Originally scheduled for April 8.

EAST JORDAN

LIONS CLUB EASTER FUN & GAMES
CANCELLED. Originally scheduled for April 11.

CHARLEVOIX

EASTER EGG HUNT
MAY BE CANCELLED, PLEASE CHECK FOR UPDATES ON CHAMBER WEB SITE LISTED BELOW. April 11, 2pm, East Park. Face painting, Twister Joe balloon artist, Easter Bunny and more. Easter Bunny Luncheon at Stafford's Weathervane from 11am-1:30pm. Easter crafts from 11am-1:30pm at Charlevoix Circle of Arts. Details at www.charlevoix.org

HARBOR SPRINGS

EASTER EGG HUNT
CANCELLED. Originally scheduled for April 11.

CHARLEVOIX, EMMET & ANTRIM COUNTIES

PROJECT CONNECT EVENT POSTPONED, Originally scheduled for April 15. Info at projectconnect123.com.

PETOSKEY

LUNCHEON LECTURE: BEETHOVEN AND THE ODE TO JOY
CANCELLED. Originally scheduled for April 17

EAST JORDAN

MISS EAST JORDAN SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT
April 18, 7pm, Community Auditorium. Tickets will go on sale soon and can be purchased from any contestant or at the door if there are any left.

PETOSKEY

NORTHERN LAKE ECONOMIC ALLIANCE ANNUAL LUNCH
POSTPONED. Originally scheduled for April 24. NLEA home page; www.northernlakes.net.

EAST JORDAN

14TH ANNUAL ROTARY CLUB VARIETY SHOW
CANCELLED. Originally scheduled for April 24 & 25.

BOYNE CITY

TASTE OF BOYNE/RESTAURANT WEEK
CANCELLED. Originally scheduled for April 24th through May 3rd.

ELK RAPIDS

CONSTITUTION BOOT CAMP
April 25, 8:45am-3pm, Amvets Post 114, 410 Bridge St. Do you really know what the Constitution says? What basic principle did the Founding Fathers base the

Pavilion work makes progress

SUBMITTED BY **BOYNE CITY MANAGER MICHAEL CAIN**

While lots of people have been saying recently, "Doesn't that just top it all?" construction in Boyne City actually does. Work on the Boyne City's Veterans Park Pavilion's expansion and conversion into a year round community facility reached a new high point with the installation of cupolas on the Pavilion's new covered picnic shelters.

The Kroondyk Construction crew topped it all on March 19 by raising and putting finishing touches on twin cupolas. The cupolas are graced with copper roofs to tie into the copper roof elements located on top of the nearby lighthouse at the Boyne City Municipal Marina.

Like most of the Pavilion project the cupolas and their roofing were created by local craftsmen. Dan Adkison who created the lighthouse's copper roof back in the 1990's was recruited to build the new cupola roofs and their ornamentation. The result, when completed, will be a blending of the best of the design of the nearby lighthouse and recently constructed City Facilities building.

The next major change for the Pavilion project will be the unwrapping of the rest of the picnic shelters structures which have been enclosed over the

winter months to allow the contractors to set the brickwork, siding and other materials out of the elements. In addition to the picnic shelters, the Pavilion, set for completion in April, will sport new glass overhead doors to enclose the main gathering space, a heating system to keep it warm and usable all year round, a new commercial kitchen, a new exterior accessible restroom (for a total of five restrooms), new storage areas, a fire suppression system and more.

The work is being financed by local contributions, the Boyne City Farmers Market, the Boyne City Main Street program, the City of Boyne City, a grant from the USDA-RB for kitchen equipment and through a grant of up to \$408,415 from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

When completed the Pavilion will be open for use by the public or portions of it will be able to be reserved for special events. Starting with the fall 2020 season the Pavilion will also be the future winter home of the successful Boyne City Farmer's Market Indoor Market.

For more information regarding the Boyne City Pavilion project people can contact Boyne City City Manager Michael Cain at 231.582.0377 or online at mcain@boyncity.com.

May 3, 7pm, East Jordan High School. 30th Annual Spring Concert.

BOYNE CITY

FARMERS MARKET
CANCELLED THROUGH THE END OF MARCH. Saturdays, 8am - Noon. The market has moved indoors to the lobby of Boyne City Hall. Packed full of beautiful produce, greens, homemade goodies and so much more. The Market is also working with the support of Blissfest and Grain Train to continue to provide talented local musicians for your listening pleasure as you shop. For more information on the market, visit the Boyne City Farmers Market Facebook page or email farmersmarket@boyncity.com

NORTHERN LOWER MICHIGAN

NMC OFFERS PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR GRADUATING HOME SENIOR

Presidential Scholarships are offered for full tuition (up to 20 contact hours per semester) and mandatory fees for four consecutive semesters (fall and winter only). Field study fees are not included. Scholarship recipients must register for the fall semester immediately following their spring high school graduation. This is a competitive scholarship. To be considered, a student shall: Complete an online Application for Admission to North Central by April 1 of his/her graduation year. Have a minimum 3.5 overall high school grade point average (include a high school transcript complete through the nominee's seventh semester). Submit a recommendation letter that addresses his/her academic potential and leadership qualities. Submit a statement that addresses academic and career goals and how North Central will help to meet those goals.

Submit ACT/SAT scores (below are the qualifying scores): ACT score of 18 or above in English and a Reading score of 21 or above; SAT (test prior to April 2016) score of 430 or above in English and a score of 450 or above in Reading;

SAT (test starting April 2016) two-digit score of 25 or above in both English and Reading; SAT (test starting April 2016) three-digit score of 500 or above in English/Reading/Writing (ERW). All documentation must be received no later than April 13, 2020. Appli-



The Kroondyk Construction crew puts finishing touches on the pavilion cupulas on March 19. Courtesy photo



The result, when completed, will be a blending of the best of the design of the nearby lighthouse and recently constructed City Facilities building. Courtesy photo

cose Level, Body Mass Index Score, Muscle and Fat Percentages, and a Blood Pressure Reading. No fasting is required. However, if you are fasting and LDL and Triglyceride reading can also be obtained. Cost for the service is \$15. Hemoglobin A1C Levels can also be done for known or borderline diabetics for an additional \$10. Participants will receive all test results at the time of the screening and a "Know Your Numbers" log to track progress. A Registered Nurse will adapt health consultation and educational materials to individual results. Walk-ins only, no appointment required.

- Full Body Toning Exercise Class, every Thursday from 5:30-6:30pm. The first class is free as are all yoga and strength training classes. If you enjoy your first class, low-cost punch cards available and are good for any of our classes. Call (231) 437-3482 for more information or email chx-wellness@mhc.net to have our calendar emailed to you monthly.

BOYNE CITY

FREE COFFEE, DOUGHNUTS & LUNCH FOR VETERANS

The community of Boyne City will be hosting a free social gathering for all veterans from 9 to 11 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Boyne Area Senior Center. Coffee and doughnuts will be donated by supportive area businesses. The senior center will also offer free lunches to all veterans on the fourth Tuesday of the month, starting in January. The senior center is located at 411 E. Division St.

CHARLEVOIX

Hospice of Northwest Michigan invites you to join our Monthly adult grief, loss & bereavement support group, which takes place the 2nd Sunday of each month from 4-5pm at the First Baptist Church, 6781 M66 North. This program is open to anyone in our community looking for assistance in their grief process and is facilitated by Rev. David Behling. There is no charge to attend. Please feel free to call Hospice at 231-547-7659 to register or for more information.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN

Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan provides counseling and support services at no cost to survivors of domestic abuse, sexual assault, child abuse, child sexual assault and adults molested when they were children. Support services include crisis counseling, individual counseling, support groups, trauma therapy (EMDR), play therapy for children, safety planning, advocacy and resources/referrals. If you or someone you care about has been a victim of crime, contact the WRCNM's main office at (231) 347-0067.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN

Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan offers free playgroups for children 0-60 months and their preschool-age siblings. Playgroups help you learn about your child's developmental stages, learn new children's games/activities and share parenting concerns/experiences with other parents and the playgroup facilitator. Playgroups are held in various northern Michigan communities. For current playgroup locations/times, visit www.wrcnm.org or call (231) 347-0067.

BOYNE CITY

BOYNE DISTRICT LIBRARY PROGRAMS

- Toddler Tales & Tunes every Monday at 10am and Preschool Storytime every Tuesday at 10am. Check website for any date changes. No registration is required.

- Yoga with Reb Andrews 9am every Monday, 8 week sessions/\$5 per week

- Tai Chi every Wednesday, 9am advanced class, cost is \$5 per session

- The Boyne District Library Book Club meets at 7pm. Information at www.boynelibrary.org.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS AVAILABLE

Applications are now being accepted. This cycle will focus on requests from eligible nonprofit partners for county-wide projects, arts and culture, veterans, urgent needs, health and wellness, and substance abuse projects or programs. Applications are due by Friday, May 1, 2020. The Community Foundation welcomes inquiries about applying for grants anytime at 231-536-2440.

EAST JORDAN

OPEN DOOR CHRISTIAN COFFEE HOUSE

Features gospel music on the first and third Saturdays of the month starting at 7pm. East Jordan Senior Center, 951 Mill Street. Everyone welcome. Free coffee and snacks with a small charge for pizza and water.

BOYNE CITY

KINDER CLOSET

At Christ Lutheran Church is open from 10am to noon on the second Saturday of every month. Free baby items are provided, including diapers; wipes; clothes and more, for any Charlevoix County parent with a newborn to 24 month-old-child. Christ Lutheran Church is located at 1250 Boyne Avenue in Boyne City. For more information, call 231-582-9301.

CHARLEVOIX

WELLNESS WORKSHOPS

Held at Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital Wellness Workshop, 411 Bridge Street. Call (231) 437-3482 for more information.

- Hatha Yoga, every Monday and Friday 7:30-8:30am. The yoga sequences, along with breath work and relaxation techniques will assist in building strength, stamina, flexibility, balance, and increasing body awareness. The use of props, blocks, or blankets make poses easily modified to suit the individual. All levels of fitness are welcome and modifications will be provided as needed. The class is taught by Lisa Hepner is a licensed physical therapist assistant with Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital.

- Wellness Wednesday, every Wednesday from 8am-11am. Health screens include: Total Cholesterol, HDL, TC/HDL Ratio, Glu-

CHARLEVOIX/EMMET COUNTIES

HESTIA WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE GRANTS

The Hestia Women's Giving Circle is welcoming applications for its annual grant cycle. Application deadline is May 1, 2020. Grants will be announced by May 31 and awarded in mid-June. The Giving Circle is a donor-advised fund of the Charlevoix County Community Foundation (c3f). Organizations applying for grants must have 501(c)3 non-profit status, be a school or government agency, or have a fiscal agent with non-profit status. Potential applicants should go to www.hestiacircle.org, then the Grants page where they can access the online application.

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Charlevoix and Emmet County Courts implement emergency measures

The four courts serving Charlevoix and Emmet Counties have undertaken emergency operation measures in an effort to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus and reduce the risk posed to the public, court staff, and others.

On March 18, the 90th District Court for Charlevoix and Emmet Counties, the 7th Probate District Court for Charlevoix and Emmet Counties, and the 33rd Circuit Court for Charlevoix County entered Local Administrative Orders closing the courts from March 19 through April 10. The 57th Circuit Court for Emmet County is closed through March 27. The court closures and reduction in services will be closely monitored and extended if public health concerns warrant further restrictions.

All courts will process emergency matters and conduct emergency hearings. To the extent possible, court filings and hearings will be accomplished using electronic communications.

For information regarding how to seek emergency relief, please visit the courts' websites, all of which are accessible through the website for the county in which the court is located. You may also contact the courts via telephone or email, as the courts will continue to be staffed. Court forms are available on the State Court Administrative Office's website, <https://courts.michigan.gov/administration/scao/forms/pages/search-for-a-form.aspx>.

The courts may be reached as follows:

90th District Court
- Charlevoix County: (231) 547-7227
- Emmet County: (231) 1750

7th Probate District Court
- Charlevoix County: (231) 547-7214
- Emmet County: (231) 348-1764

33rd Circuit Court for Charlevoix County: (231) 547-7243

57th Circuit Court for Emmet County: (231) 348-1741

County Transit eliminates fares and adds delivery service



In these times of unprecedented uncertainty, Charlevoix County Transit continues to work hard to provide necessary services for the county residents. On Thursday, they announced that in addition to eliminating passenger fares, Transit will be adding additional services to assist our county residents who need assistance getting food and other essential supplies. Delivery of groceries, food pantry,

and meals ordered from the senior centers will begin immediately. To arrange for delivery, please call at least one day in advance to allow for scheduling; same-day requests for delivery will be scheduled based on appointment availability. For grocery and meals that require payment, the items must be paid for before Transit will pick up and deliver. In an effort to continue to

promote COVID-19 mitigation practices, Charlevoix County Transit encourages all riders to consider using public transit for essential travel only (medical, grocery shopping, work). We have increased our cleaning and disinfecting of vehicles to provide as safe of an environment as possible. For additional information, contact the dispatch office at 231.582.6900.

Mackinac Bridge Authority not accepting cash at toll booths

In accordance with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' recommendations designed to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Mackinac Bridge Authority (MBA) will not accept cash transactions. The policy began on March 21.

Until further notice, Mackinac Bridge customers will need to pay with a credit or debit card, or use a MacPass card or windshield sticker. The MBA and toll staff will be encouraging transition to non-cash payments for the next few days until cash is no longer accepted.

"We realize this change may be an inconvenience for many of our customers, but eliminating the handling of cash between drivers and our employees is one more way we can help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus," said MBA Executive Secretary Kim Nowack. "We'll reevaluate this policy as the situation evolves."

If drivers wish to pay with credit or debit cards, the toll collector will hold the credit card device out to the driver so they can insert their card. Drivers will not need to hand their cards to the toll collector.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- Why is the Mackinac Bridge Authority (MBA) temporarily halting cash payments amid the COVID-19 outbreak? This temporary measure to stop the exchange of cash may help to protect MBA toll staff as well as the customers they service. Paying with cash and requiring change being handed back to a customer creates additional contact

points that are unnecessary as we work to practice social distancing.

- What can customers do to reduce their risk while making payment at a bridge crossing? Customers are being encouraged to reduce their contact with toll staff by paying with credit/debit cards or a MacPass device. If drivers wish to pay with credit or debit cards, the toll collector will hold the credit card device out to the driver so they can insert their card. Drivers will not need to hand their cards to the toll collector.

While paying with a credit/debit card does not create a touchless payment, it does reduce the contagion potentially exchanged during payment between both the customer and the toll

staff. In accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations, customers are also encouraged to increase their hand washing and avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth.

- Is there an option to eliminate any contact between the customer and the toll staff? The MBA offers a pre-paid toll account called MacPass that uses a windshield-mounted sticker that is scanned when passing through the toll booths at the bridge, requiring no contact with toll staff. More information on the MacPass, and how to open an account, is available at <https://MacPass.MackinacBridge.org/Login>.

- What can customers do if they reach the toll booth and

do not have a credit/debit card or MacPass? Toll collectors will provide instructions for payment for customers who only have cash available. The move to eliminate cash is a precautionary measure to reduce person-to-person contact and is not intended to completely eliminate travel, especially when deemed necessary.

So far this month, about 64 percent of customers have paid the bridge tolls with cash, 7 percent with credit/debit cards, and 29 percent with MacPass cards or windshield stickers. Frequent users of the bridge may wish to open a MacPass account at <https://MacPass.MackinacBridge.org/Login>.

The MBA previously an-

nounced suspension of its driver assistance program and snowmobile, passenger and bicyclist transportation programs as part of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The state is taking proactive steps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Michigan. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in reducing the coronavirus risk.

Customer questions can be directed to the MBA at 906-643-7600 or visit the MBA website at www.MackinacBridge.org.

For current and up-to-date information regarding the coronavirus, visit <http://www.Michigan.gov/Coronavirus> or <http://www.CDC.gov/Coronavirus>.



In accordance with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' recommendations designed to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Mackinac Bridge Authority (MBA) will not accept cash transactions. Photo by Jim Akans

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Consumers Energy Foundation grant to support most vulnerable affected by COVID-19

The Consumers Energy Foundation is supporting two statewide organizations with a \$500,000 contribution to help enhance critical services for Michigan children, vulnerable seniors and those who may need assistance in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"For many, the coronavirus pandemic is more than just a disruption to daily life. Families with kids who are food insecure, the elderly and those who live paycheck to paycheck are especially vulnerable. With schools and businesses closed and many grocery store shelves left bare, local nonprofits are playing a critical role in helping those in need. Consumers Energy is privileged to provide additional support to these key organizations that will support numerous vital services to help those most affected," said Brandon Hofmeister, president of the Consumers Energy Foundation.

The Food Bank Council of Michigan and the Michigan Association of United Ways will each receive \$250,000, Hofmeister said.

The Food Bank Council of Michigan will distribute its \$250,000 contribution to its regional food bank network to fill gaps where schools are unable to provide food for children, vulnerable seniors and the anticipated growing need that will surface as more people cannot work due to COVID-19 but still need food for their families. "Nothing of significance ever happens alone. Times like these mean we not only should but must come together," said Phil Knight, executive director of the Food Bank Council of Michigan. "A friend is someone who walks in when the rest of the world walks out. Consumers Energy walked in big time." The Michigan Association of United Ways (MAUW) will share the funding with United Way organizations lo-

cated in Consumers Energy service areas that have set up or are deploying emergency response activities in local communities. Many United Ways are partnering with community foundations and other local funding sources to address needs related to COVID-19, including support for the 2-1-1 system, ensuring the needs of vulnerable populations are met, and helping provide sustainability to nonprofits so the organizations can continue addressing basic needs.

"Michigan families know that in times of crisis and uncertainty, United Way will be there to support them, and this crisis is no different. United Ways across Michigan are mobilizing financial and human capital, leveraging public-private partnerships, and working in unison with Michigan 2-1-1 to provide vital information and resources to support ALICE families – those who are working, but struggling to

make ends meet, and protect the most vulnerable in our communities. Now and always, United Ways are doing what we do best – coordinating community partners, responding to emerging needs, and adapting our role to best serve all Michigan residents," said Michael Larson, president and CEO of Michigan Association of United Ways.

Consumers Energy has also enhanced its Matching Gifts Program focusing on matching employee contributions to food banks/pantries, homeless shelters, community foundations and the United Way. Through May 31, 2020, donations from CMS and Consumers Energy employees will be matched without restriction.

Earlier this week, Consumers Energy also announced the suspension of shut-offs for non-pay for low-income and senior cus-

tomers through April 5, 2020, with the possibility of adjusting that timeframe depending on the spread and severity of COVID-19. Senior citizens and qualified low-income customers already enrolled in the Winter Protection Program have extended end dates through May 3, 2020.

The Consumers Energy Foundation is the charitable arm of Consumers Energy, Michigan's largest energy provider. The foundation enables communities to thrive and grow by investing in what's most important to Michigan — its people, our planet and Michigan's prosperity. In 2019, the Consumers Energy Foundation, Consumers Energy, its employees and retirees contributed more than \$11.5 million to Michigan nonprofits. For more information about the Consumers Energy Foundation, visit www.ConsumersEnergy.com/foundation.

