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November 21, 2020

Moody on The Market



Moody Tom Alti and Larry

Coyle are living proof that ongoing innovation is critical to survival. The two are part

ners in the **Benton Harbor**-based company **TGA Recording Company** which is marking its **50th Anniversary** year in this bizarre year of 2020. Rather than rest on their laurels, enjoy a little cake and champagne and maybe wait for their phone to ring for one of their myriad services, the two are embarking on a new venture to add to the stable of offerings their 50-year old company brings to the table for other businesses all across the region.

TGA Recording, anchored in the Urbandale Industrial Park on the outskirts of the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport, is now offering 360 Virtual Tour creation for real estate and other businesses. You can see examples of 360 Virtual Tours at: www.tgarecording.com/360 Virtual Tours.html. Coyle, who serves as President of TGA Recording, says, "We are a Zillow Certified Photographer, and you can find our profile in the Zillow Photographer Directory." He goes on to explain, "We provide 3D Home tours of real estate listed on Zillow, which is important, because homes with Zillow 3D tours sold 10-percent faster on average and were 22-percent more likely to sell in the first 30 days compared to homes without a Zillow 3D tour." Recent Zillow Trends Reports indicates further support for that success, telling us: Over half of Millennial home buyers wish more listings had 3D tours available when house hunting," and adding, "77-percent of sellers find it very important that their agent use a virtual tour to market their home." Coyle says that TGA Recording is also a Google Street View Trusted Photographer and can provide 360 Virtual Tours to help improve your business listing on the Google platform. TGA founder Tom Alti says, "Virtual tours give your audience a visual idea of what your business looks like before they even visit your actual location, and that makes for a huge first impression in what can be a deciding factor on whether or not they would like your services." Google itself suggests multiple good reasons that a broad range of businesses consider 360-degree virtual tours to be the latest and greatest marketing tool, listing these benefits that accrue when you hire a Google Trusted Photographer according to a Street View Study: Virtual tours help your prospective customers get to know, like, and trust you - quickly...People feel more comfortable when they visit in

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Continued on page 10



Arthur Havlicek, President, SMR Chamber

A Critical Time in the Fight.

As everyone now knows, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), under the direction of Governor Gretchen Whitmer, has issued a new Emergency Order enacting a three-week "pause" targeting indoor social gatherings and other group activities in an effort to curb rapidly rising COVID-19 infection rates. This should not come as a surprise as Michigan's case numbers have skyrocketed beyond any point we have seen in this crisis. The seven-day rolling average of positive cases in Michigan has increased over the past three weeks to 6,965 per day. For context, Michigan averaged

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Page 2 November 21 2020 **Arthur** Continued from cover

150 cases per day in mid-June and our previous peak was 1,600 cases per day in April.

Positivity rates, hospitalization rates, and hospital capacity all prove to be grim statistics as well. Michigan is seeing its highest test positivity rates since late April, at 14.25 percent, the number of hospitalizations has increased over 300 percent in the last thirty days, and several hospitals in Michigan reported being at capacity while more than a dozen others reported being over 90 percent capacity.

In Berrien County alone, we have seen cases rise nine-and-a-half fold since October. Case counts are now doubling every 10 to 14 days and our health care system predicts exceeding surge capacity within the next two to three weeks if these trends do not reverse.

To curb the spread, the MDHHS order tried to target locations and activities that have either seen higher concentrations of outbreaks or have a higher potential for community spread. Now, I will not minimize the need for a drastic course correction in our fight against the virus. However, as the *Voice for Business*, our Chamber must matter-of-factly address the potential economic impact these decisions will have.

Thankfully, this order is far more targeted than others we've seen this year. Hair salons, gyms, pools, retail stores, childcare centers, and preschool through eighth grade (subject to local control) have all been allowed to remain open. There is no stay-at-home order, and we've moved away from the essential vs. non-essential distinctions. Decisions like allowing K-8 to remain open and high schools being closed can be linked to data directly indicating a higher concentration of outbreaks and that approach should be appreciated. Unfortunately, it is not all good news. Theaters, movie theatres, stadiums, arenas, bowling centers, ice skating rinks, indoor water parks, bingo halls, casinos, arcades, and group exercise classes have all been shut down. While these settings did not have many (or any) outbreaks, they are deemed higher-risk and were thus shut down anyway. This will be devastating since many of them, like movie theatres, had only just gotten the greenlight to re-open in October.

Also devastating will be the impact on our already struggling bars and restaurants. Keep in mind, they've been limited to 50% capacity since they re-opened in June. With the slower winter season fast approaching, and outdoor seating no longer an option, any chance at making meaningful progress towards the black has just been swept off the table. To make matters worse, there is no federal stimulus money to help these businesses this time – nor is there the expanded unemployment benefit for the thousands of workers about to be laid off for the holidays. Industry leaders fear this may force another 6,000 Michigan restaurants out of business by spring.

With all of this in mind, I'm asking you to join me in two very important endeavors as we head into the holiday season. First, **please do** *everything* you can to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and minimize the impact this pandemic is having on families and our local businesses. Wear masks, limit gatherings, maintain social distancing, and sanitize hands and surfaces. Second, please continue to support our local businesses by ordering takeout meals, buying local gift cards, and shopping local for presents. The next three weeks will be a critical time in the fight against the virus and in the fight for small business solvency. We already bent the curve once. Together, we can do it again.

Read more at www.MailMaxOnline.com

Michigan's Great Southwest Michigan's Great Southwest MailMax is a publication of Far Ahead Advertising, Inc. 202 Plaza Drive, Benton Harbor, MI 49022 (269) 934-7522 FAX: 269-934-3297 publisher@MailMaxOnline.com www.MailMaxOnline.com www.facebook.com/eMailMax



Thankful for Social Distancing Photo by Robin Neumann

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Shopping locally is now more crucial than ever

The importance of shopping locally has been emphasized with increasing urgency in recent years. Events like **Small Business Saturday** have brought some much-needed attention to the importance of shopping local, which is even more crucial now as so many small businesses try to survive the pandemic.

A poll from the trade group the National Federation of Independent Business reported that about half of all the businesses in the survey reported a 25 percent drop in sales since the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, and roughly one in five businesses have seen sales decline by more than 50 percent. If the economic climate does not radically improve, 20 percent of small businesses won't survive.

According to NBC News, small businesses employ 60 million people in the United States,

almost half of the nation's private-sector employees. In addition, small businesses generate tax revenues that help communities by funding schools, maintaining parks and contributing to public safety programs. However, based on research from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, even before COVID-19 spread across the world, only 20 percent of healthy small businesses had sufficient cash reserves to continue to operate if they experienced a revenue loss for two months.

Individuals looking for everything from clothing to home improvement services to office supplies can look to small businesses to fill those needs.

• Look for small businesses for any and all of your shopping needs. Chances are items sold by big box retailers also are sold by small business-

es. When the options are the same or similar, purchase from a small business instead of its big box competitor.

• Readily provide recommendations of small businesses with which you have done business. Too often people are quick to complain about places that have failed them, but those same people don't think to say kind words about companies that went above and beyond. Share great experiences on social media or through word of mouth.

• Talk to small businesses owners first if you have an issue. It's tempting to go directly to social media to complain about something, but such complaints can have a dire impact. Always take issues to the manager or business owner first to see if a resolution can be reached. A manager may not be aware of an issue at all. Give small businesses a chance to make it right before taking things public.If you own a small business, rely on other small businesses to fulfill your needs. Order

small businesses to fulfill your needs. Order supplies from fellow small business owners, seek the help of local financial advisors and tax professionals and use local suppliers and delivery personnel.

Small businesses have experienced unprecedented setbacks due to COVID-19. By supporting small businesses, communities can help them regain stable footing.



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Residents of Southwest Michigan are often encouraged to support local businesses by looking to these firms to fill their needs. Small businesses are not just integral parts of communities, employing millions across the country, they also are operations that fund the very communities they service.

Efforts to promote shopping local appear to be working. According to the Commonwealth Financial Group, over the last several years there has been a shift in consumer purchasing behavior marked by a preference among consumers to support locally owned shops and stores over big-box retailers and even online shopping.

The following are some key reasons why shopping locally not only benefits small busi-

ness owners, but also the communities they call home and the customers they serve:

• More money stays in the community: According to the American Independent Business Alliance, for every \$100 spent at a local business, \$68 remains in the community. Conversely, only 43 percent of every \$100 spent at a chain retailer stays in the community.

• Job creation: The Business Alliance for Local Living Economies says local businesses create the majority of economic growth. They employ millions of Americans by creating roughly two-thirds of private sector jobs. Local business owners also tend to hire people who represent the demographics of the communities where the business is located, which may include historically underserved populations. • **Diversity of products:** Local stores tend to diversify their products and services to meet the needs of the local communities, whereas chain stores often stock their shelves based on national demands.

• **Personalized service:** A small business owner may be more inclined to go to great lengths to make customers happy because the longterm success of the business depends on customers becoming repeat customers.

• **Personal connection:** Knowing the people behind a business facilitates a connection not easily achieved with other companies. Customers may celebrate when a favorite business succeeds and look to spread the word about that business because they feel like they played a positive role in its success. Shopping locally has gained momentum and is fueled by the many advantages to supporting local businesses.

On Facebook, you can find the Chamber's *Buy Local Berrien!* group where you can find even more local shopping ideas.

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The advantages to shopping locally



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The wife got her new work computer delivered to the house yesterday. She was not AT ALL amused this morning when she found me using it to write this column.

See, the computer

I've written columns on for the last 10+ years is now, according to my math, 10+ years old, and it's starting to act all glitchy, hinky and sclerotic – everything I ask it to do it does sooooooo slooooooowly!!

So I decided I'd just quick-like whip out a new column on the wife's new, fast machine. But she said – get this! – "Why don't you figure out how to make the old (she didn't mention "and slooooooow") computer run faster?" (Full disclosure: She said this after initially saying "Get your dadgum* mitts OFF my new computer!!!")

(*She may have used a word other than "dadgum.")

So now I'm sitting in front of the oooooooold slooooooow computer, trying to figure out how to figure out if I'm capable of figuring out what's making it so pokey.

I determined to start investigating possible causes for the gummed-up works. That lasted about 58 seconds. Because I got distracted.

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StayingStout Through Computer ProblemsThe wife got her
work computerBecause I began combing through all the folders
I've created over the years in my email account.
Which have nothing to do with how fast my com-
puter operates. It only led to quite a few "WhatItem: I h.
Images." It do
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the heck?" moments: Item: I have at least 95 different folders in which I've apparently stored e-mails since I first figured out the wonderful benefits of creating folders to store e-mails. Once upon a time, I created a folder labeled "Beer Stuff." One of the e-mails it contains is a "welcome" message from Beeradvocate.com. I appear to have created an "account" on this website in January 2008. I guess I could go wander around the site and see if my "account" is still active - the website is. In fact, as I write, its homepage has a list of "Trending Beers," topped by a brew from Kentucky Breakfast Stout called Maple Mackinac Fudge. (It's mid-morning, and, like a Hobbit, I'm feeling peckish for a second breakfast, and finding a "Breakfast Stout" sounds intriguing; but, sorry, beer that tastes like Maple Mackinac Fudge?!?!? -- YUUUCCCKKK!!!)

Item: I have a folder labeled "Column Stuff." From September, 2006 to January, 2019, I stored 54 e-mails in it. Most of them appear to be ideas for columns. I bet you hope some of them are funny, or interesting, or at least a tiny bit more funny or interesting than this column. I hope so too! Item: I have a folder that I named "Cool Images." It doesn't contain very many messages but there's one with the subject line "Guinness Gaelic ad." I appear to have mailed it to myself. There's actually no message, just an attachment: A photo of an old-school pub sign, picturing a tall pint of Guinness stout and the Gaelic phrase "Is fearroe (then a word consisting of Gaelic letters I can't find on this old, slow computer) Guinness."

I don't know why I mailed myself this photo. But I'm sure it's not just a sign – it's a SIGN! I WILL figure out what's wrong with this dadgum computer!! I just need to fortify myself with a stout!! I'm thinking Maple Mackinac Fudge.

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Forgiveness

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The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.... He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. Psalm 103:8,10

As the story goes, a king was in the process of taking over the throne. As part is not to get even with us for breaking his of taking over, he made a list of all his friends and his enemies. He placed a mark in front of the name of everyone who had tried to keep him from becoming king. When those whose names were placed a cross by each of our names. The marked heard about the list, they were cross assures us that he loves us! Through terrified. They were convinced that their the cross, God proclaims, "You don't days on this earth were numbered because the king would certainly take revenge and do so soon.

fore each of their names was a cross. It was put there by the king to remind him for taking my sins to the cross! Thank of the love that Christ had shown to him you, Jesus, for dying for them! In your and the love he needed to show to others-especially his enemies.

The king had taken to heart the truth expressed in Psalm 103:10. "The LORD does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities."

God does not seek revenge. His goal commandments. He doesn't treat us as we deserve. Instead of getting even and making us pay for our sins, God punished Jesus, his Son. In effect, God have to be afraid! I've forgiven you!"

Prayer: Dear Lord, I join the psalmist in praising you for not treating me as Then they learned that the mark be- I deserve. In your love and compassion, you have forgiven my sins. Thank you name, dear Lord, I pray. Amen.

> Submitted by:Pastor Glenn T. Rosenbaum Administrative Pastor Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Joseph Originated by: www.What AboutJesus.com Read more at www.MailMaxOnline.com



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 \star Disability Compensation benefits for prior conditions, diseases or injuries that occurred in service or many years later as a result of service (e.g. Agent Orange Exposure, Camp Lejeune Contaminated Water, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder - combat or personal trauma) to name a few.

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★ Non-Service Connected Veterans Pension and Survivors Pension benefits (House Bound as well as Aid and Attendance) for low income veterans over age 65 or prior to age 65 that are disabled and have at least one day of wartime service (additional means tested restrictions apply).

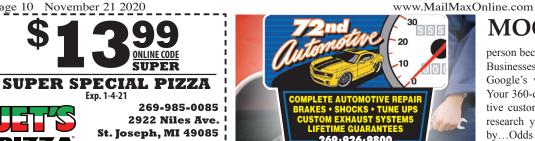
 \star Free transportation at designated stops for veterans enrolled in the VA Health Benefits Program to the VA Medical Center in Battle Creek and the VA Health Care Center in Mishawaka.

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MOODY Continued from Cover person because they already know what to expect... Businesses get an automatic boost in ranking on Google's various platforms (in many markets)... Your 360-degree virtual tour will work for prospective customers, no matter what device they use to research your business before calling or stopping by...Odds are good that your competitors aren't using a virtual tour in their marketing...yet...When searching for businesses, consumers use mapping products 44-percent of the time...Listings with photos and a virtual tour are twice as likely to generate interest...On average, 41-percent of such place searches result in an on-site visit. Covle says that TGA Recording includes additional features and interactivity with their 360 Virtual Tours for your own website such as hotspots that link to more information or video files, audio that plays when entering or leaving a panorama, and automatic guided tours that operate on their own until people interact with them. He says, "We can also offer live video meetings within 360 Virtual Tours that allow a person to join in a live presentation of a tour from their computer, similar to a Zoom meeting, with live video of each person on top of being able to interact with the 360 Virtual Tour." TGA Recording Company, launched in 1970, is a video production service in Michigan's Great Southwest that specializes in promotional and training videos and complete service manual production. Alti says, "We offer video production that tells your story on time and on budget." The firm uses Adobe editing software for their video editing service. Audio production can be performed in TGA's professional audio recording studio or on location. They also provide sound reinforcements for all measure of meetings and gatherings. TGA also offers full-scale video duplication services including the likes of: USB duplication ... CD duplication...DVD duplication with photo quality on-disc printing ... Plus, DVD video anti-copy and retail ready overwrap services are available for those marketing such products in volume for retail markets or online sales. Additionally, the TGA team can convert VHS tapes to DVD or digital video files (.mp4) for use in your computer and for uploading to social media channels. To learn more about the company that has been providing professional sound and video for many companies, organizations, events and beyond, you can visit their website at: www.tgarecording.com. You can also call TGA at 269-926-7581.

Lots of people have been hoping for the proverbial "V"-shaped recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, but the man with his eye on the numbers and his ear to the ground in our region says the recovery for the West Michigan Industrial Economy might come to resemble something more akin to a "lopsided W-shaped" recovery. Professor Brian Long, Director of Supply Chain Management Research at Grand Valley State University tracks the numbers monthly on the state of the West Michigan Industrial Economy through a comprehensive survey of manufacturers and related businesses across the region. In his report for October, just released, Dr. Long says, "Albeit slower than we would like, the West Michigan recovery from the 2020 Covid-19 recession continues on track and it therefore may be consistent with what is now being called a 'V-shaped' recovery." Long says that according to his data collected in the third and fourth weeks of October, his closely watched New Orders Index, the index of business improvement. came in at +16, virtually unchanged from September's rate of +18. The Production index, which is termed "output" by many economists, rebounded nicely to +29, up from September's +20. Meanwhile, activity in the purchasing offices, Long's Purchasing Index, came in at +12, essentially unchanged from +14, and he says, "Just like last month, the overall mood of our survey participants remains widely mixed. Like most recessions, both capital equipment and office furniture manufacturers activity are weak, but automotive parts producers appear to have turned the corner. Firms that were



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designated 'essential' were never impacted by the ment market, Professor Long says, "Although most recession. However, if our statistics turn negative in the next few months, the new economic dip may result in a 'W-shaped' recovery." Turning the spotlight on the automotive sector, Professor Long tells us, "The good news for the West Michigan economy is that the recovery for the automotive industry remains on track, even though the recovery path has been erratic. Automotive News reports that October year-over-year sales for sedans at Ford were down an astounding 45-percent, but SUV sales rose by 9.4-percent. Many other nameplates have continued the practice of doing only quarterly releases. However, Cox Automotive estimates the Seasonally Adjusted Annualized Rate of sales (SAAR) in October to be 15.7 million to 16.4 million units. Hence, despite recurring parts shortages at many assembly plants, the worst may be over." For those automakers still reporting monthly data, Toyota sales rose 8.8-percent, Subaru added 10.6-percent, Hyundai-Kia gained 5.1-percent, but sales at Honda fell by 3.4-percent. Eric Lyman, chief industry analyst for ALG suggests: "The auto industry recovery is absolutely striking. We clawed back more new car sales each month since sales bottomed out in April and are now seeing year-over-year new car retail sales growth for two consecutive months. This is a phenomenal outcome for the industry, as inventory is starting to rebound and demand remains high. There are positive signals that the recovery will sustain." Turning his attention to the employ-

industrial firms have now reopened by observing various combinations of face masks and social distancing, the unemployment rate for most of Michigan remains at about twice the level of two vears ago. Paradoxically, some firms have announced layoffs while others are again begging for qualified people to fill open positions." For the West Michigan October survey, the Employment Index retreated to -2 from +9. At the state level, Michigan's DTMB October 22nd unemployment report for September reported that the seasonally adjusted state-wide unemployment rate fell modestly to 8.5-percent from 8.7-percent. Looking at industrial inflation indicators, Dr. Long contends, "Ordinarily, the recent uptick in industrial inflation would be regarded by some analysts as a sign that the industrial economy was recovering from the recession. However, our Lead Times Index came in at a 16-year high of +44, up sharply from September's +25. As many segments of the industrial economy continue to reestablish continuity in their supply chains, some shortages have driven prices higher for a few key commodities such as steel, paper, corrugated, and aluminum." Working to forecast the future, Dr. Long says, "As parts of the economy continue to reopen, confidence in business growth around the world continues to improve, at least for now. In the JPM October survey, business confi-

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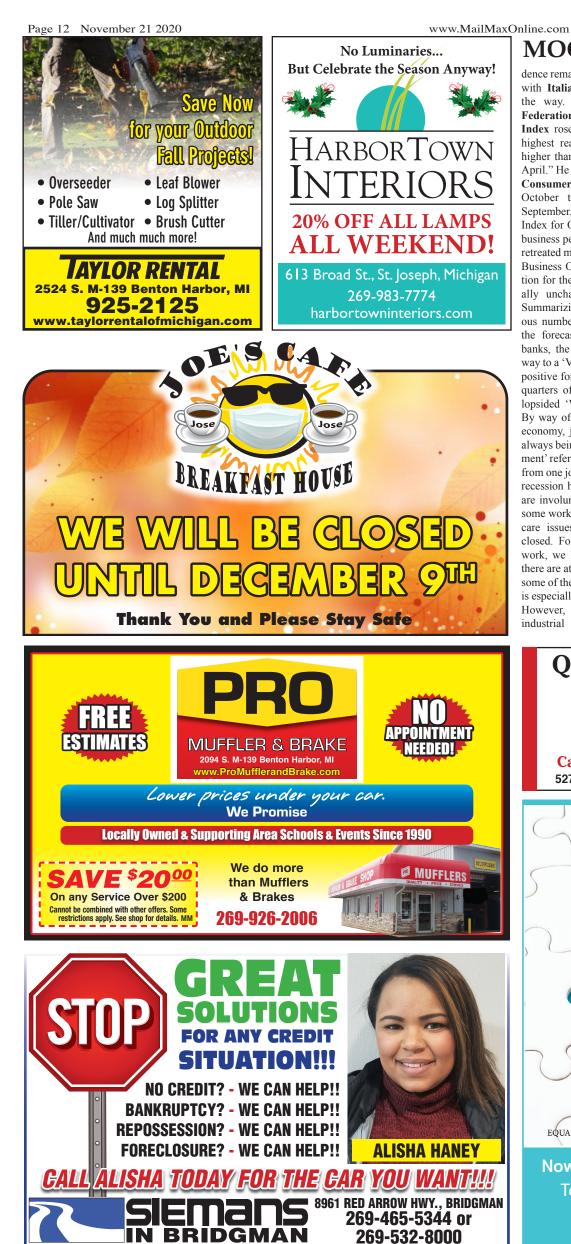
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MOODY Continued from page 11 dence remained positive for a fifth successive month with Italian and German manufacturers leading the way. At the national level, the National Federation of Independent Business Optimism Index rose 3.8 points to 104.0 in September, the highest reading since February, and considerably higher than the seven-year low of 90.9 reported in April." He goes on to note, "The Conference Board

Consumer Confidence Index declined slightly in October to 100.9 after increasing sharply in September. Our local Short-Term Business Outlook Index for October, which asks local firms about the business perception for the next three to six months, retreated modestly to +14 from +20. The Long-Term Business Outlook Index, which queries the perception for the next three to five years, remained virtually unchanged at +37, up slightly from +36. Summarizing his thoughts after laying out the various numbers, Professor Long says, "According to the forecasts from the various Federal Reserve banks, the national economy appears to be on its way to a 'V-shaped' recovery. The GDP forecasts are positive for the fourth quarter as well as for all four quarters of 2021. However, for West Michigan, a lopsided 'W-shaped' recovery looks more likely.' By way of explanation, Long says, "In any market economy, jobs are always being lost, and jobs are always being gained. The term 'frictional unemployment' refers to the time lag between workers moving from one job to the next. We know that the Covid-19 recession has resulted in job losses, some of which are involuntary and permanent. We also know that some workers did not return to work because of day care issues brought on by schools that are still closed. For those displaced workers now seeking work, we know from our survey respondents that there are at least some job openings that may absorb some of these frictionally unemployed workers. This is especially true for our automotive parts producers. However, it is doubtful that the West Michigan industrial economy can soon absorb all of the

recently-unemployed workers. Hence, a lopsided "W-shaped" recovery is most likely." Further explaining his rationale, Dr. Long says, "In addition to industrial unemployment, significant West Michigan unemployment has come from the recreation and hospitality industries. It is doubtful that all of these jobs will come back anytime soon. The same is true for the food service industry. Many restaurants have been forced to permanently close, but many fast-food outlets are setting sales records. America is not going on a diet, so it will take time for the supply chains to shift to hire workers to meet the new demand. For West Michigan, all of this will take time '

That's it for this week, folks. Please keep your favorite local restaurant, diner, winery, and beyond in mind as you traverse the next several weeks when they are forced to resort to take-out and curbside service. Also consider tipping generously in this difficult time. As you shop for holiday gifts, try to shop locally at every opportunity to help assure that the local business community survives in this critical time of year. See you Saturday right here in MailMax, and online 24/7 at www.MoodyOnTheMarket.com.

Pat Moody Morning Radio Personality WSJM Radio moody@wsjm.com (269) 925-1111 Read more at www.MailMaxOnline.com







to lcrawford@sturgisbank.com or contact our Human Resource Department at (269) 659-6632. MailMax for Michigan's Great Southwest www.MailMaxOnline.com November 21, 2020 Page 13

1

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Dave Says Save up to get out of the rust bucket

Dear Dave,

I let my fiancée use my car to get back and forth to work, and it has a lot of miles on it and a few mechanical issues. The money we've put into the car to fix the issues is about the same or more than the car is actually worth. We just started your plan a couple of months ago, and we've almost got a beginner emergency fund saved up. We also have very little consumer debt to pay off. I'm afraid, though, if we get into a second \$1,000 to \$2,000 car, we'll just experience the same kinds of issues and it will turn into another money pit. I bring home about \$5,000 a month, and she works part-time and goes to school. How do you think we should handle things?

Thaddeus

Dear Thaddeus,

Well, if you're serious about following the plan, you don't really have a choice right now. But you're bringing home a nice paycheck, man. You ought to be able to buy a better \$1,500 to \$2,000 car with cash in a month or so, just to give you some relief. Then, stick some money aside each month until spring and get something that's a big step up in the \$5,000 to \$6,000 range. Listen, I don't want anyone driving around in a rust bucket longer than they have to. And it sounds like you really need to get up out of the junk. But if you do some research and buy wisely, you can get a good year or two out of a \$1,500 car. The car may not look like much, but you're not trying to catch a girl's eye. You've already got a fiancée. If you find an old Honda or Toyota that's still mechanically sound—and yes, they're out there—it'll get you by while you save up for something a lot better.

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But remember, you and your fiancée don't need to own anything together until you're married. The kind of arrangement you have now can cause real problems. If you guys get married and combine your resources and dreams, it'll be better for everyone relationally and financially. You're playing house already, so you might as well go ahead and get married and combine your lives on every level.

It's time to paint or get off the ladder, dude! -Dave

* Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Dave Ramsey Show, heard by more than 16 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions.

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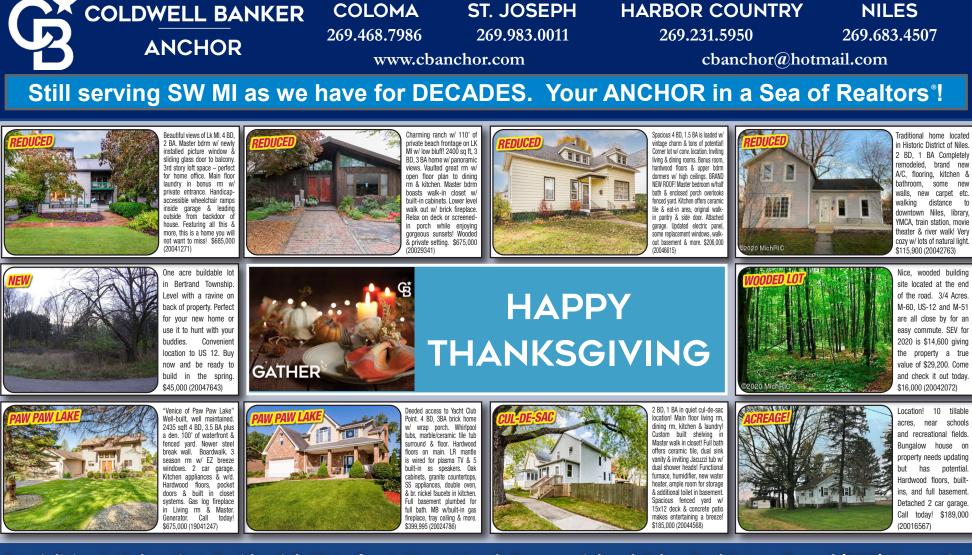
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4 BR, 2 bath, 2,570 sq. ft.

· Living room w/fireplace, hardwood floors

• St. Joseph \$239,900. VW - (20040041)

• 5 BR. 3.5 bath. 3.306 sq. ft., 2.5 acres

• Vicksburg \$479,900. DJ - (20042055)

Living room w/fireplace, hardwood floors

· Kitchen w/quartz counter & SS appls, finished basement

Master suite w/sitting area & fireplace, heated out building

NEWLY LISTED!

· 6 BR, 4 bath, 3,356 sq. ft., waterfront on 1.7 acres

• Berrien Springs \$399,000. DJ - (20039886)

Private St. Joseph River frontage, living room w/fireplace

Brazilian hardwood floors, kitchen w/granite counter tops

. Finished LL w/2 BRs. bath & kitchen, insulated pole barn

NEWLY LISTED!

• 4 BR, 4.5 bath, 4,137 sq. ft., chalet-style custom built

HIGH DEMAND LOT

Kitchen w/granite, living room w/stone fireplace

4-season room overlooking waterfall & fish pond

Solar heated indoor swimming pool, huge deck

Stevensville \$849,000. JS - (20034628)

Hideaway at Harbor Shores

Near Jack Nicklaus Signature Gold Course
 Private community clubhouse, pool & more

Lot is ready for you to build your dream home
 Benton Twp., \$45,900. RG – (20002504)

5 BB 2.5 bath 4.125 sq. ft. main floor laundry

• St. Joseph \$629,900. LP - (20015494)

Living room w/fireplace, Brazilian cherry floors

· Eat-in chef's kitchen w/SS appls, main floor master suite

· Finished basement w/rec room & theater, covered back patio

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Spacious eat-in kitchen w/plenty of storage space
 Walk out LL w/kitchen, family room, bedroom & bath

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- 4 BR. 3.5 bath. 2.760 sq. ft., 1 acre lot Open concept, bamboo floors, formal dining room
- Kitchen w/SS appls., main floor laundry
 Full walk-out finished basement, deck w/hot tub, firepit Coloma \$285,000, DG - (20047192)

PRICE REDUCED



- 3 BR. 2.5 bath 1.762 sq. ft. brick ranch
- · Living room w/ fireplace, refinished hardwood floors · Completely remodeled kitchen w/SS appls & center island Remodeled bathrooms, fenced backvard w/hot tub & firepit
- Berrien Springs \$209,000. DJ (20044812)



- 3 BR, 2.5 bath, 3,045 sq. ft., views of Christie Lake
- Spacious rooms throughout, vaulted ceilings, fireplace · Eat-in kitchen, formal dining room, main floor laundry
- · Partially finished basement, partially covered back deck
- Decatur \$249,000, DG (20041433)



- 3 BR, 3 bath, 2,551 sq. ft., ravine views
- Hardwood floors, updated main bathroom
- · Large family room, kitchen w/updated appliances Corner lot, parking for up to 4 cars, fenced-in backvard St. Joseph \$219,900. LP - (20036110)



- 3 BR, 1.5 bath, 1,658 sq. ft., on Diamond Lake Over 76' of water frontage, open floor plan
 Eat-in kitchen, formal living room w/fireplace
- 2 detached two-stall garages, deck
 Cassopolis \$375,000. JL (20033508)



- 2 BR. 2 bath. 1.268 sq. ft "Wisteria" floor plan or select many others
- · Check out this new neighborhood
- Base pricing depending on plan
- Benton Twp., \$192,390. DS (19055526)



- · 2 acres of prime land to build on Near Lake MI, farms, vineyards, wineries · Wooded and private Near LMC, easy access to I-94
- Benton Harbor \$50,000. ML (20036021)



- 4 BR, 2.5 bath, 2,366 sq. ft., 1.13 acres, wooded ravine lot · Living room w/fireplace, main floor laundry, updated baths
- · Updated kitchen w/quartz countertops, cabinetry & appls 4-season room w/fireplace, large mudroom, covered patio
- St. Joseph \$284,999, VZ (20043541)



- 3 BR, 2 bath, 1,770 sq. ft., close to Silver Beach Views of Lake MI, hardwood floors, solid wood trim
- Kitchen w/SS appls & solid cabinets
- Fenced back patio, storage shed, 2 parking spaces
- St. Joseph \$529,900. LP (20033115)



- 5 BR, 3 full, 2 half bath, 5,876 sq. ft., 5.4 acres
- Custom built on Christiana Creek, screened in sunroom · Living room w/stone fireplace, main floor master suite
- Finished LL walkout to patio, heated pole barn Edwardsburg, \$724,900. JL - (20039161)



- 5 BR. 4 bath rehabbed farmhouse. 3.8 acres Spacious kitchen w/breakfast nook, hardwood flooring
- Third level option for guest quarters w/bath & kitchenette
- Huge main floor laundry room, wrap around porch,
 Coloma \$799,900. MN (20019674)



- Distinguished 6 BR 4.5 bath waterfront home 112 ft. of lake frontage, private dock & boat lift
- Custom designed kitchen, formal living & dining room
 Stone fireplace, 3-season room, finished walk-out LL • Berrien Springs \$895,000. MN - (19039717)

• 2 BR, 1 bath, 1,020 sq. ft 1/2 acre wooded lot, needs some TLC · Spacious rooms, lots of natural light • 2-car detached garage, main floor laundry Buchanan \$74,900. VW - (20039205)



- 3 BR. 3 bath. 3.472 sq. ft., 3.19 acre wooded lot
- · Family room w/fireplace & skylights. 3-season room Open eat-in kitchen w/island & SS appls, mail floor laundry
- 2 new furnaces new A/C, new roof, beautifully landscaped • St. Joseph \$375,000. LP - (20032867)



- Two-unit investment property Each unit 2 BR, 1 bath, 935 sq. ft.
- Shared laundry in basement, rear parking Separate electric service for each unit
- St. Joseph \$139,900. DS (20036911)



• 5 BR, 5.5 bath, 5,548 sq. ft., Reserve at Knollwood Completely remodeled, two-story great room w/fireplace Gourmet kitchen w/SS appls. & granite countertops Main floor master suite, finished walk-out LL • Niles \$775,000. JL - (20038223



 4 BR. 4.5 baths. 5191 sq. ft., finished basement Exquisite home with deeded Lake ML access • Top of the line Chef's kitchen w/granite & SS appls 2-story great room w/fireplace, main floor master suite St. Joseph \$749,900. ML - (19008825)



 3 BB 3.5 bath 4.656 sq. ft. The Beserve at Knollwood. Gourmet island kitchen w/Ayres cabinets, Corian countertops Main floor master suite w/shower, whirloool tub, double vanity · Main floor laundry, finished LL walk out, water views Niles \$820.000, JL - (20024088)



- 3 BR, 1 full, 2 half bath, 1,644 sq, ft., 8.4 acres Exposed wood beams, new floors throughout · Open concept, spacious kitchen w/lots of storage space Attached insulated pole barn, back deck
- Lawrence, \$229,900, AK (20046361)

PRICE REDUCED



- 2 BR, 1 bath, 1,213 sq. ft.
- Great investment or vacation home Spacious living room, dining room
- 1-car attached garage, full basement
- St. Joseph \$129,900. DJ (20042039)



· 2 BR, 2.5 bath, 1,993 sq. ft., solid limestone ranch Spacious living room w/fireplace

- Hardwood floors. enclosed porch
- Fenced backvard, patio Niles \$109,900. VW - (20034500)





- 5 BR, 3 full/2 half baths, 5,213 sq. ft., 2 acres
- Open concept great room w/oak built-in shelving, fireplace
- Newly updated kitchen w/island & breakfast nook Main floor master suite, finished LL, in-ground swimming pool
- Niles \$535,000. JL (20034912)



- New construction 3 BR. 2.5 bath home
- "Iris" floor plan or select many others Check out this new neighborhood
- Base pricing depending on plan
 Benton Harbor \$194,590. DS (19055516)





 2 BR. 2.5 bath. 1.611 sq. ft. Lighthouse Point Condo · Lake MI views from all rooms, open floor plan

Hardwood floors, gas fireplace, kitchen w/granite
 Gated security, swimming pool, hot tub, clubhouse

• St. Joseph \$974,000. JS - (19032865)



November is Adopt a Senior Pet month? Statistically, senior pets spend more time in shelters or with rescues than other homeless pets, and sadly, they also have the

highest euthanasia rate. Some seniors live out the rest of their lives in shelters. Yet the benefits of adopting an older pet are many. They are usually calmer and more settled, easier to handle, may be housetrained, and what you see is what you get. You don't have to worry about that cute little puppy, that looked like he would be maybe 25 lbs. full grown, turning into an 80 lb. dog. While an older pet may have some health issues, the truth is they also "know" that they've been rescued and will repay you many times over with their love and devotion. With excellent vet care available today, pets are able to live much longer than in years past, so if you're thinking of adding a new pet to your family, please consider adopting an older one. For tips on caring for a senior

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The Pet Corner

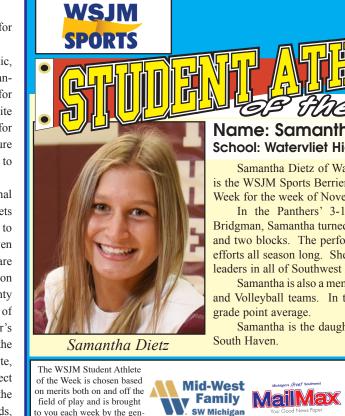
Did you know that dog, visit www.petcentral.chewy.com. And for senior cats, aspca.org.

> Because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, Animal Aid of Southwestern Michigan has canceled their traditional Christmas Open House for the first time in 30 years. Check their website www.animalaidswmi.com or Facebook page for ideas on how you can still help, and for future plans for an online auction, as well as how to purchase catnip pillows and other gift items.

> Also because of the pandemic, many animal shelters and rescues are overflowing with pets right now and are feeling the effect of having to cancel fundraisers. It makes any donations even more crucial and all, no matter how small, are greatly appreciated. United Federal Credit Union is collecting supplies at their Berrien County locations, to be donated to the Humane Society of Southwestern Michigan. A list of the shelter's current and ongoing needs can be found on the HSSM Facebook page. Also, visit their website, www.humanesocietyswm.org, for tons of project ideas and items you can make at home for the shelter pets. From cat toys to rice heating pads, there are lots of ways for even children to help. Perhaps a few of the projects would be good things to work on during lockdown time. Remember, too, that an easy way to help is when stores offer BOGO for pet foods. Buy one for your own pet and donate the free item.

> In these uncertain times, it is easy to let down our guard and become less attentive for many reasons. As a result, pets can easily go missing when a gate or door is left open, and they think it's a good idea to have an adventure in the great outdoors. While it's never a good idea for pets to go wandering on their own, it's especially dangerous in the winter time with fewer hours of daylight and dropping temperatures. Please keep a close eye on your pets so they don't end up among the missing. Stay safe. Stay well. Be thankful for the pets in our lives.

Read more at www.MailMaxOnline.com





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Blue Star Mothers Chapter 177 will continue to: SUPPORT THE TROOPS. Let's Make Christmas Special! Due to Coronavirus, the BSM WILL NOT be holding our 18th annual Christmas Open House... Instead, we are sending prepaid Military Gift Cards and Christmas Stockings filled with treats to service men and women. You may make a monetary donation to: Blue Star Mothers Chapter 177. PO BOX 176. Stevensville, MI 49127. Your

donation will defray the cost of cards, treats, and postage! THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! For further information, please contact Marie: 269-519-8974 or 269-925-4123. Jane: 269-468-5182. Email: Charles BaldwinBSM@yahoo.com

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State Street Antiques Closing Sale. 417 State Street. St. Joe. Many items half off. Everything priced to sell. Cash only. Hours: Noon-4PM Daily. Closed Tuesdays.

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HOLIDAY SALE Harbert Antique Mall 11am-6pm Black Friday Nov 27, Saturday Nov 28, Sunday Nov 29 Up to 50% off Consignment and many dealer items. 13887 Red Arrow Hwy, Harbert, MI 49115.

AUCTIONS

Farm Equipment & Tools ONLINE AUCTION Byron 48418. Int 300 w/loader (stuck). 3pt. Equipment, 16' Trailer, Forge, Shop & Hand Tools. 810.266.6474 Bid November 26 - 30 at Narhi-AUCTIONS.com

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AUCTIONS

Farm & Hunting Land Auction Bank Foreclosure Online Only BigBearAuctionsLLC. Hibid.com 83 acres of land offered in 3 separate parcels. Buy 1 or buy all 3. Farm Land w/ Pivot Irrigation Wooded Parcels with Christiana Creek Access, Buildable Land ** View Maps at BigBearAuction Company. Com Call Aimee Glassman, Southwest Real Estate for Bidding Instructions 269-501-9732 * Jerry Glassman, Big Bear Auctions.

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LEGAL NOTICE. The contents of the following storage unit at Dunes Self Storage 11087 Red Arrow Hwy., Bridgman MI 49106. 269-465-5555. Described as furniture, clothing, household items, etc. will be disposed of unless certified total payment is received prior to December 14, 2020. #37 New Haven Construction/Walter Kissel.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order 2020-154, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' recommendations designed to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), and the Governor's electronic

conferencing technology to meet and conduct business, the Bridgman Zoning Board of Appeals will hold two public hearings for two separate variance requests on Thursday. December 10.

2020 beginning at 6:30 p.m. remotely by means of electronic conferencing. There will be no physical meeting location, all persons attending the meeting must do so remotely through electronic

means. Please visit the city's website: www.bridgman.org for more information on how to

attend the meeting. The first variance request is made by Immanuel

Lutheran Church. The petitioner is seeking a dimensional variance to update (enlarge) their

existing sign. This variance request pertains to the City of Bridgman Zoning Ordinance 6.16 Ground Signs, 6.17 Sign Type Dimensional Requirements and Table 6.02. This property is located at 9650 N. Church Street, Bridgman, MI 49106 with the following tax code: 11-56-0018-0053-00-1 and is zoned Downtown Edge District, "DE" article 2.13.

The second variance request is made by Mr. Nathan Wolf. The petitioner is seeking a 2' dimensional variance along the east side of his garage. This variance request pertains to the City of Bridg-

man Zoning Ordinance 7.02 Accessory Uses, Buildings, and Structures. This property is located at 9593 Maplewood Avenue, Bridgman, MI 49106 with the following tax code: 11-56-4850-0029-00-9 and is zoned Residential Central District, "RC" Article 2.08.

This meeting is an open meeting. The notice is posted in compliance with the Open Meeting Act, Public Act 267 of 1976 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids should contact the City Clerk by writing or calling the following: Allyson Holm, City Clerk (269)465-5144, P.O. Box 366, Bridgman, MI 49106.

Notice is also given that the application or petition describing the action or relief being sought is available on the city's website: www.bridgman.org.



SYNOPSIS OF LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP **BOARD MEETING** October 20, 2020 Electronic Meeting Via Zoom, per Governor Whitmer's Order

Meeting called to order 7:00 p.m. Present: Gast, Payne, Clark Mensinger, Heyn, and Wilk. Stine absent.

Agenda stands as presented.

Motion to approve September 15, 2020 meeting minutes. Roll Call Vote: Gast yes; Payne yes; Clark yes; Heyn yes; Mensinger yes; Wilk yes. Motion carried.

Motion to pay September bills in the amount of \$482,716.16. Roll Call Vote: Gast yes; Payne yes; Clark yes; Heyn yes; Mensinger yes; Wilk yes. Motion carried.

Three Guests attended via ZOOM. To hear the recorded meeting access the attached link via zoom:

LINK: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ B60gOLQnDJEI2m19t_pIDyT9XK-KIE18peCybs6CNNZ-cCGHLo88s1fmcRUmUpNt.3KBHhfe-hAuGMw88

PASSWORD: q2AK9cX#

Motion to increase both the water and sewer rates with a 5% increase in 2021, and a 3% increase for both water and sewer rates for the next five (5) years. The increase will take place the first water and sewer billing cycle in 2021. Roll Call Vote: John Gast, Supervisor Yes; Gloria Payne, Clerk

Yes; Robert Clark, Treasurer Yes; John Wilk, Trustee Yes; Nancy Mensinger, Trustee Yes; and Pat Heyn, Trustee Yes. Six yes, motion carried Motion to renew the Priority Health Insurance coverage, which reflects a 6.4% increase. Roll Call

Vote: John Gast, Supervisor Yes; Gloria Payne, Clerk Yes; Robert Clark, Treasurer Yes; John Wilk, Trustee Yes; Nancy Mensinger, Trustee

Yes; and Pat Heyn, Trustee Yes. Six yes, motion carried

Motion to approve paying EMC \$63,023.00 for liability insurance, a 1.4% increase in coverage. Roll Call Vote: John Gast, Supervisor Yes; Gloria Payne, Clerk Yes; Robert Clark, Treasurer Yes; John Wilk, Trustee Yes; Nancy Mensinger, Trustee Yes; and Pat Heyn, Trustee Yes. Six yes, motion carried.

Motion to approve purchase of the Grasshopper Model 725DT for \$16,905.84 with \$6,180.00 snow blower attachments and implements, for a total of \$23,085.84. Roll Call Vote: John Gast, Supervisor Yes; Gloria Payne, Clerk Yes; Robert Clark, Treasurer Yes; John Wilk, Trustee Yes; Nancy

Mensinger, Trustee Yes; and Pat Heyn, Trustee Yes. Six yes, motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan.

Lake Charter Township Planning Commission is scheduled for November 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Charter Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan. Lake Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals is scheduled for November 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Charter Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan. Lake Charter Township Hall Offices will be closed November 11, 2020 in Observance of Veteran's Dav.

Meeting adjourned 7:50 p.m.

Lake Charter Township website: www.lake-township.org

A complete set of minutes may be obtained from the Lake Charter Township Clerk

Call and check to see if Lake Charter Township Hall Offices are open to the public.

If they are, Please be prepared to be masked when conducting business

You may continue to use the red drop box outside the Ambulance bay.

We now have a black drop box in front of the Township Hall Doors.

Call the office for an appointment. Conduct what business you can online. Page 26 November 21 2020

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