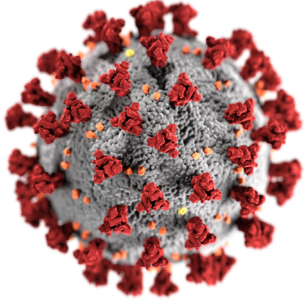


Operation Gridlock



page 12

Lowell history



page 8

"Memories of West Michigan" from Italy



Next week!

50¢



Saluting a few local heroes and essential workers

There are dozens of people in Lowell still at work, mostly in the service industry. We highlighted a few of them on pages 6 and 7.



Pictured: Lowell police chief Steve Bukala and detective Gordy Lauren

April 20 city council meeting report

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting, once again over the Internet via "Zoom," on Monday, April 20. The meeting was approximately 41 minutes long, and the council discussed street repairs and a generous gift they received.

The city received a gift from a resident who passed away. Cheryl Ann Staal, formerly of 738 High St., willed her \$78,749 estate to the city. Some of the funds could be used for future retirement healthcare of city employees, the council will discuss this further once the city budget is settled, and an amount will go to a memorial for George and Esther Staal.

"There are no exclusions as to what the city could do with the proceeds," city manager Michael Burns wrote in an April 17 interoffice memorandum. "I have spoken with the executor, and we are looking at placing a bench at one of our parks to memorialize [the Staal family]."

The council voted to approve a \$386,149.785 bid from USA Earthworks in Martin, MI, who will repave several city streets this summer. The project will include Howard St., Suffolk St., Elizabeth St. and Riverside Dr. The council also approved \$37,900 for Williams & Works, who will provide the engineering and

administration services for the project.

City councilor Cliff Yankovich updated the council about the Lowell Chamber of Commerce. The Lowell Expo was canceled several weeks ago, the Lowell Farmers Market will open later than normal, the first three Sizzlin' Summer Concerts were rescheduled to start later in the summer.

"Things are kind of scary for them," Yankovich said. "Frankly, at this point they're really not sure what's going to happen with Riverwalk [Festival], which is the biggest fundraiser for the Chamber all year."

Lowell city council's next regular meeting is scheduled to take place at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, May 4. The council is also supposed to meet with the public during a "Coffee with the Council" event at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce building on the Riverwalk from 8 am until 10 am on Saturday, May 2. Of course, because of the coronavirus, those dates, times or locations will probably change.

To watch city council, board and commission meetings from the past few years, look for the "City of Lowell" or "Lowell Light and Power" channels on YouTube or visit archive.org.



Lowell public works director Dan Czarnecki

Local crafters making face masks available

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Local crafters, including Theresa Mundt, Sharon McDermott and Laura Leasure, have been sewing face masks for anybody who needs them. Mundt said she was nearing the 300 mask mark when she discussed the project on Thursday, April 16.

"Well, I just volunteered myself to do it," Mundt said. "I like to quilt, and I had all this extra material of different kinds and colors. I also found a bunch of elastic, and I've just been going to town!"

Mundt said that Flat River Outreach Ministries took 50 of the masks and distributed them at a nursing home in Grand Rapids, and 50 more went to a second nursing

home. She also said that a group at Impact Church is also making face masks for people.

Mundt's masks are available to anybody

who wants one. To facilitate this, contact her on Facebook or by telephone, her number is on page 35 of the current Lowell Area Directory.



Republicans seek to repeal 1945 emergency powers act

Republican legislators in both chambers introduced bills Thursday repealing one of the state's two laws giving the governor the ability to suspend state laws during periods of emergency.

Sen. Tom Barrett (R-Charlotte) said Michigan's 1945 law was written to address instances of rioting and acts of violence, which is also addressed in the new 1976 law, and no longer needs to be on the books.

Barrett's SB 0857 and Rep. Jason Wentworth's (R-Farwell) identical HB 5713 come as the governor has used the 1945 law to argue that she doesn't necessarily need the legislature to extend her emergency orders 28 days, as is required in the 1976 law.

Barrett isn't addressing that point. He said it's unnecessary for the state to have two laws when the new 1976 law is more thorough

and could apply to acts of violence and riots, as well.

"It's an important check on any type of power that could be absorbed by the executive branch," Barrett said. "We have a separations of powers that should be respected by the other branches of government."

Wentworth, the House's speaker pro tem and presumed next Republican leader of the House, is of a similar mind.

"The 1945 act obviously is the ending of World War II. There was a need for that act at that time based on a lot of geographical concerns with convening a legislature in war time," Wentworth explained. "The governor needed at that point certain powers. It is old. It is ambiguous. The 1976 act is an emergency management act that gives different authority to the governor for emergency purposes. I think getting rid of the 1945 act makes sense. That way there is no confusion when the

governor points to one or the other."

Nonetheless, the bills are apparently dead on arrival. When asked if the governor would sign such bills, deputy press secretary Robert Leddy responded simply, "No, Gov. Whitmer will not sign a bill that would diminish her ability to protect citizens of this state from a deadly disease that has already killed thousands of people in Michigan."

The bills are two of 14 bills introduced in the House and the Senate Thursday that address the governor's emergency powers in a time of disaster and other spinoff issues related to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Barrett's SB 0858 and Rep. Jason Sheppard's (R-Lambertville) HB 5708 would reduce the time the legislature would need to extend an emergency order from 28 days to 14.

"There's a lot of people in our state, based on

constituent calls, emails, that want the legislature to be more involved in the process of these types of disaster declarations, emergency declarations. I think that is important. That's really what the guidelines are we're trying to adjust, so that we have a little more say in the situation as we go forward," Sheppard explained.

HB 5711, by Rep. Brandt Iden (R-Oshemo Twp.), as written simply removes the description of the governor's powers from the 1945 law, but he explained he's intending it to be a vehicle bill.

"This starts a discussion," Iden said. "I think that there are a number of members within my caucus who think that we need to take a second look at this. See which powers the governor should have, how long should she have those powers for. I sense that there is some frustration not only among the caucus but amongst the general public as well. I think that

what I'm in a position to do is [have that conversation] when we return to session with some sort of normalcy."

HB 5707 and HB 5706, by Rep. Steven Johnson (R-Wayland) along with Barrett's SB 0859 and SB 0860 would allow guns and ammunition sales to continue during emergency orders. Back in 2006, the emergency powers law was amended to read that police could not confiscate people's guns during emergencies.

HB 5709 and HB 5710, also by Sheppard, would change the penalties for violating an executive order. Now a misdemeanor, violations could instead be counted as civil infractions with fines of up to \$250. A company, organization or other entity could be fined up to \$5,000.

Iden also introduced HB 5712, which he said is a vehicle bill to address the Unemployment Insurance Agency situation.

"Unfortunately, the governor put us in this state and she wasn't prepared to take on all these claims, but when you shut the economy down, that is exactly what happens," Iden said. "Certainly, these are unprecedented times and I understand that, but we need to do a better job. We've let the citizens of Michigan down when it comes to them getting their benefits. I feel like I have let my people down when I can't respond."

HB 5704, by Rep. Jeff Yaroch (R-Richmond), would address who gets notified when a patient tests positive for COVID-19. It would include police, firefighters and EMS personnel.

HB 5705, also by Yaroch, would require local governments to reduce taxes on second homes in proportion to the length of time the owner could not use the property due to the travel restrictions in the governor's executive orders.

Law enforcement and other court-related COVID-19 news

The Michigan Supreme Court Thursday adopted an order to support the ongoing federal moratorium on

evictions and foreclosures in which the tenant is in a covered housing program or the mortgage is federally

backed.

The order requires that there be a clear verification that any eviction or foreclosure filing is in compliance with the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, which imposed the 120-day moratorium.

Federal environmental rules need to be enforced during the COVID-19 pandemic to safeguard citizens' health from airborne pollution and not suspended as they are now, wrote

Attorney General Dana Nessel in a letter [https://ag.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2020_0415_final_ag_letter_on_epa_enforcement_discretion_policy_signed.pdf] signed by 13 other attorneys general.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency significantly scaled back enforcement of environmental rules March 26 in response to the global pandemic. The AGs say that's short-sighted if a "polluter's noncompliance

presents an imminent threat to public health or the environment."

Nessel Thursday sent a cease-and-desist letter to the company that runs the iconic Jeffersonian Apartments at 9000 E. Jefferson Ave. in Detroit after the company allegedly threatened to evict 80 mostly elderly tenants for being behind on rent.

The Governor issued a previous executive order prohibiting evictions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Attorney General's office issued subpoenas [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/ag/EM_General_14th_Circuit_Order_for_Subpoena_687397_7.pdf] against a Muskegon business for reportedly selling face masks, including N-95 masks, but never giving customers the product.

The AG's office is looking for records [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/ag/Ex_Parte_Petition_-_EM_General_687401_7.pdf] to shed some light on the practices of EM General LLC.

The company "is likely" in violation of the Michigan Consumer Protection Act, the AG's office alleges. Muskegon County Circuit Judge William Marietti granted the petition

Supreme Court Chief Justice Bridget M. McCormack Thursday urged state and local governments to apply for \$24 million in emergency federal COVID-19 response money [https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/bja-2020-18553.pdf] to address issues with prisons, jails and juvenile detention centers.

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that the Lowell Planning-Citizens Advisory Commission will hold a public hearing at Lowell City Hall, located at 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 on Monday, May 11, 2020, at 7:00 PM. The subject of the hearing will be:

Proposed Adult Use Marihuana Establishment at 2264 W. Main Street

An application has been submitted by Rair Properties for an adult use marihuana establishment (a marihuana retailer) at 2264 W. Main Street SE (PPN 41-20-03-385-013). Adult use marihuana establishments are permitted in the C-3 zoning district only with special land use approval from the Planning Commission.

Copies of application and the City's Zoning Ordinance are available for public viewing during regular business hours at Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan. Written comments will be received until the night of the hearing.

The City will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon three (3) days' notice to the City Clerk. Individuals who require such services should contact the City at the address listed above or by telephone at 616-897-8457.



Respectfully,
Susan Ullery
Lowell City Clerk

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RSQE expects \$2.6B fall off in 2020 state \$ from pandemic

Economists who advise state officials on projected revenue numbers are forecasting an ugly couple of years for state government following this quarter's COVID-19 induced economic crash.

For 2020, the Research Seminar on Quantitative Economics at the University of Michigan is forecasting that the state will see a 15.9 percent dip in General Fund revenues (\$1.7 billion) and a 4 percent dip in the state's School Aid Fund (\$550 million).

Combined, those changes represent a \$2.6 billion fall off for the year.

The RSQE team which addressed a Southeastern Michigan Council of Government webinar Tuesday, is also forecasting these low levels of revenue to persist through 2021 and, to a degree, 2022.

For 2021, they are forecasting only modest 1.5 percent General Fund growth over 2020 levels. The School Aid Fund is expected to grow 1.1 percent. Revenues are expected to begin rebounding strongly in 2022.

The drop off in revenue is in large part to what the economists expect to be a second quarter decline in employment of 26 percent

or 1.16 million jobs. Jobs are expected to be added back in June with much of the job loss recovered by the end of 2021.

2019 personal income levels. "Total aggregate wages will decline by \$1.1 billion," Ehrlich said. "Unemployment benefits

that whether withholding occurs on jobless benefits is at the discretion of the unemployed worker and roughly half generally defer paying taxes on the benefits.

The RSQE is also noting that the federal stimulus checks of \$1,200 per person are estimated to bring into the state a total of \$8 billion.

A key part of the RSQE analysis relies on COVID models that suggest Michigan has already passed the "apex point." The economists believe that while the state has passed the apex, that apex still lies ahead for the country as a whole.

Danii Manaenkov,

RSQE's U.S. forecasting specialist, argued that while the federal stimulus actions to date were rapid and large, more has to be done.

For example, he argued the Paycheck Protection Program is the most important component of the federal action, but at \$360 billion it is about \$200 billion too light to cover all eligible US small businesses.

He also notes that to date there is no federal funding to help mitigate the loss of revenues that states and local units of government are sure to feel. To cover that, he argued the federal government would need to provide \$500 billion in aid.

Estimating the Impact on Michigan Payroll Employment

- > Approximately 49% of Michigan workers are essential (federal guidance and Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order)
- > Approximately 33% of Michigan workers can perform jobs remotely (Dingel and Neiman 2020)
- > Accounting for overlap with essential workers, about 65.6% of workers currently able to do their jobs
- > Additional 500,000 workers out of work because of decline in demand ("second round effects")
- > Approximately 740,000 workers not working but continue to be paid
 - * Using sick or vacation leave, covered by Paycheck Protection Program, large firms avoiding layoffs
- > Second quarter payroll employment declines by 1,160,000 jobs (26 percent)
 - * Reflects improvement beginning in June

RSQE: April 2020

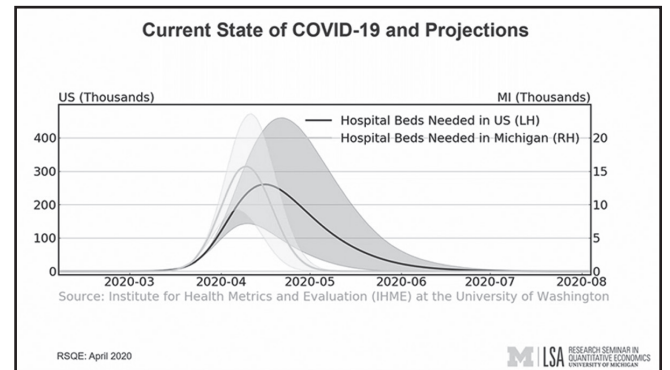
According to RSQE Director Gabriel Ehrlich, Michigan's total aggregate wages are expected to decline by \$1.1 billion due to the pandemic. However, he noted that if all eligible workers sought and obtained the federally expanded Unemployment Insurance benefits that were included in the stimulus package, Michigan's total personal income for the year would come out at 98 percent of

will increase by \$1.03 billion."

While that 98 percent figure is pegged on full participation, RSQE is forecasting that only 75 percent of eligible laid off Michigan workers will apply for unemployment meaning that there will be a fall of personal income, but not as steep as it could have been. While the higher UI benefits are taxable and could help state and local governments, Ehrlich noted

RSQE Forecast – State Revenues by Fiscal Year (Millions of Dollars)				
	Actual		Forecast	
	2019	2020	2021	2022
GFGP revenue	11,126	9,361	9,505	10,484
(% change)	(1.6)	(-15.9)	(1.5)	(10.3)
Earmarked state SAF revenue	13,561	13,014	13,160	14,024
(% change)	(1.7)	(-4.0)	(1.1)	(6.6)
Combined change from Feb'20 forecast	0	-2,624	-3,167	-2,165
(% change)	(0.0)	(-10.5)	(-12.3)	(-8.1)

RSQE: April 2020



Seven tips on how to manage the anxieties of being in a relationship

Some people get anxious or stressed out in being in a relationship. This can cause a lot of problems and can prevent you from having a happy and satisfying relationship. Here are some suggestions on what to do when your relationships cause you a lot of stress and anxiety.

1. **Make the Best of Your Situation:** Regardless of your situation, the key is to be happy whether you are alone or you are in a relationship. Focus on how you can improve your current situation instead of worrying about what you do not have.

2. **There Are All Kinds of Relationships:** Being in a relationship with someone doesn't mean that you have to marry the person. There are all kinds of relationships such as friendships, dating relationships, and marriages. Determine the type of relationships that

make you feel comfortable and then find someone that has the same interests as you do.

3. **Develop Friendships:** It is important to spend time with your friends when you are in relationship. Spending all of your free time with one person could cause problems in your relationship. Do not overwhelm your partner by spending all of your time with them.

4. **Do Not Assume Anything:** Some people will tend to get upset and make assumptions regarding their relationship when things go wrong. It is important to always talk to your partner if you have any concerns and worries. Communication is very important in being in a successful relationship.


5. **Learn from Your Mistakes in Your Past Relationships:** It takes practice and a lot of effort

to maintain a successful relationship. Try to learn from your previous relationships and don't make the same mistakes in your current one. Making an effort on improving your relationship skills will benefit you in the long run.

6. **Be a Team Player:** It is important to learn to work with your partner. Being in a relationship is like being part of a team. Each person must do his or her own part. One person can't do everything. Getting into the habit of helping each other will help improve your relationship.


7. **Talk to a Counselor:** If you still have trouble in dealing with the stress and fears of a relationship, then talk to a counselor. A counselor can provide helpful advice on how to handle the fears and anxieties of being in a relationship.

Stan Popovich is the author of "A Layman's Guide to Managing Fear Using Psychology, Christianity and Non Resistant Methods." For more information, go to Stan's website, managingfear.com.



by Stan Popovich

Managing Fear



LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 20-207240-DE

Estate of
DAVID ALAN JESPERSEN,
Date of birth 12/25/1946

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, David Alan Jespersen, died on/about 1/24/2020.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against

the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Jason Jespersen, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 2500, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

April 15, 2020

Karen S. McFadden (P-57043)
403 W. Main Belding, MI 48809
616-794-1220

Jason Jespersen
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Live the Life You Want Signs your depression needs treatment

by Melissa Spino MA LLPC CDMS
Life Transitions Therapy LLC

Depression is a serious illness that many individuals live with to various degrees. Some people may not even realize they have depression. They may just feel off, not like their normal self. If you have depression, it's not your fault. Depression is an illness that with proper treatment can have you feeling better and, on your way, to living your life again. There are differing degrees of depression.

• Mild Depression - typically does not require professional assistance. These feelings can often be alleviated by meditation, mindfulness, exercise, being outdoors, light therapy (like the one used for people that have SAD), spending time with people you enjoy being

around, and doing things you enjoy.

• Moderate Depression - can interfere with daily life and often requires professional assistance.

• Severe Depression - can be life threatening and requires immediate intervention such as therapy and medication.

When depression begins to negatively affect your life, such as your daily functioning, it is time to get assistance. For instance, having difficulty getting to work each day or not wanting to be around others (if this is abnormal for you) are signs that you may need to seek assistance.

Here are some additional signs that it's time to seek help:

• Thoughts of suicide - Please get help immediately.

Call the National Suicide Prevention line at 1-800-273-TALK/1-800-273-8255 or 911

• Feeling consistently sad or worthless

• Wanting to isolate yourself from others when you are normally a social individual

• Feeling helpless or hopeless

• Feelings of guilt or shame

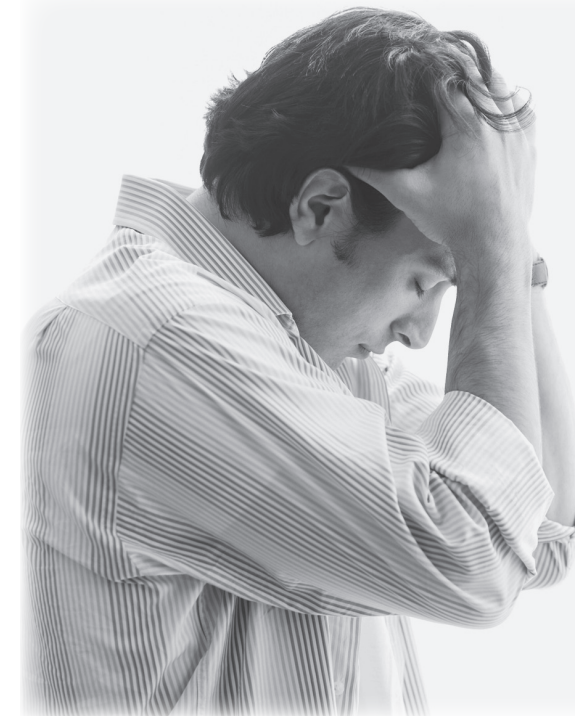
• Having difficulty getting out of bed or taking care of yourself

• Extreme anger, irritability, or impatience

• Extreme change in eating habits (eating more or less than normal)

If you notice these signs contact a counselor/therapist that specializes in mood disorders and/or a doctor qualified to diagnose depression. I also have a free depression-screening tool at <https://lifetransitiontherapy.biz/> You are not alone, help is available.

Please note that this article and/or depression-screening tool is not a diagnosis. Only a licensed therapist/counselor or a qualified doctor can accurately diagnose depression after meeting with you. Many therapists and doctors are offering video conferencing during this time of social distancing so you can still receive needed care. If you experience a mental health crisis be sure to call 911.



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viewpoint

to the editor

State guidelines for COVID-19 and protests

Dear Editor:

I feel broadcast media are not reporting how a large portion of Michigan residents see this issue, and instead have given too much attention to those who are objecting, those who show up with boats in tow and guns slung over shoulders in Lansing. I say this as both a boat owner and as a gun owner with multiple guns. [...] I don't think we are all that unusual in our values. Or at least I didn't until I saw people in the news on TV and in the gas station around town feeling their right to fish is greater than my right to keep my dad and all of our elderly family members with us as long as we can. [...] I'd really like to know why it's okay for others to risk making me ill as I do the shopping and errands, why it's worth it to them to risk my time with my dad and promote his early demise. What did we do to them, besides help their community? This community that so supported the Pink Arrow efforts really needs to look at itself. That effort is about dealing with the hardships in life for many, not just making a fun fuss every fall in pink T-shirts and giving from excess.

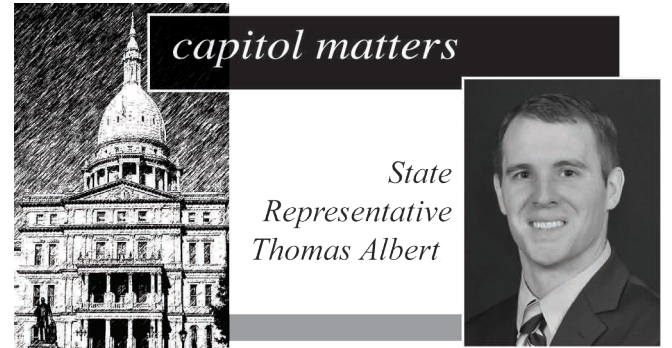
I do not think we who share these values are well represented by the media. Instead, those who cause so much public commotion have received enough attention they feel empowered to pull their nonsense again this week. I'd like to know what they are giving to our state and country and world. I quit sewing face masks to sit down to write this and

will return to same when I am done here. I am angry, too, and I'd like to be heard as well. Of course we have to fight this virus as Gov. Whitmer has required. We have no other tools to do so. And I would never block hospital entrances until police have to get employees in and out, honk my horn for hours, fill public roads so residents can't drive on them and expose others to a potentially deadly virus to be heard. I find all of those behaviors abhorrent, absolutely abhorrent.

Where do we see [coverage] about those of us who support [Gov. Whitmer] in the media? Are we being heard? Apparently these disruptive folks, as well as the state senator interviewed [on TV] yesterday who supports them, do not feel our opinions count, simply because we do not make a spectacle. Nope, we quietly sew masks, choose one person or maybe multiple households to grocery shop for once a week, share from our pantries and freezers with those in need and care for our elderly and little ones. We are too busy doing "real things" to seek attention. If we can't do what we normally do for pay, we find things that simply need doing and people who have needs to help, whether it's convenient or not, whether we are reimbursed or not, whether it's for our own family members or someone we may not know. We encourage all we come in contact with, thanking the gas station attendants and grocery and hardware clerks who take risks so we can keep households going. We try to buy some takeout food every week, on limited income, to support local restaurants. Yep, we are too busy to whine about not being able to use our boats and would never intimidate others with our guns.

I am tired of hearing about the "disrupters" like they are the bulk of us. Where were they when I was scrubbing down a bathroom and shower so my son-in-law could disinfect himself before he enters his home after an ER shift? Are they helping my husband put a new floor in a

To the editor, continued, page 10



April update: COVID-19 response can both protect health and freedoms

The year 2020 will be most remembered for the crisis which personally impacted every American. These are certainly trying times and I will be the first to agree that the health of our residents must remain our top priority. But we also have to ask ourselves how we are going to move forward.

I strongly believe that we can continue to slow the spread of COVID-19 while also easing some restrictions and steadily reopening our state. We need to focus on safely returning back to normal life or we will never recover from this.

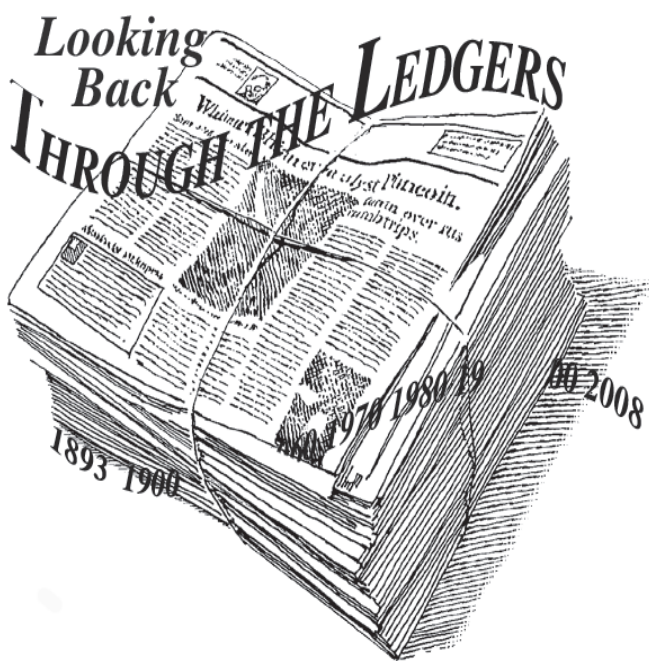
To start, we are doing ourselves a disservice by having a single set of rules for the entire state. We cannot continue treating every area the same regardless of the number of positive cases. Early on, I began

advocating for regionally tailored guidelines and I believe that could be our best step forward.

We must also allow businesses that can operate safely to do so to the greatest extent possible. To accomplish this, we need to depart from our essential vs. nonessential approach to a safe vs. unsafe approach. Many industries like lawn care and garden centers can resume work safely without even having to change how they normally operate. Other industries, like manufacturing and construction, can make reasonable changes to operations to adhere to recommended guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control.

I am confident that we can instill common-sense

Capitol Matters, continued, page 10



125 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 26, 1895

For the second time last week, the fire bell rang its alarm early Saturday morning, on account of fire in the house of Joseph H. Adams. The department responded quite promptly and the damage was comparatively small, the household goods having been removed were not injured. The property was insured in the "Home," S.P. Hicks agent, and the loss was satisfactorily adjusted at \$75 on Monday.

Frank Loomis of Grattan Center, was arrested last week Thursday at his home by Deputy Sheriff VanWestenbrugge on a capias sworn out by Ambrose Jenks, who says that Loomis has damaged his reputation to the extent of \$5,000 by "false, scandalous and defamatory words," in reference to

twenty-four sheep stolen from Arthur Byrnes. Part of the accusation was made in the trial of a suit brought by Byrnes before Justice Weeks at Grattan for the recovery of the sheep. Loomis was released on a \$500 bond.

Clarence Walker, claiming to hail from Grand Rapids, who has been peddling medicine about town, got too much alcohol and opium aboard Tuesday night and became so hilarious that the officers found it necessary to escort him gently but forcibly to the parlors of the city lodging house. Next morning he was taken before Justice Hicks, and pleading poverty and remorse, was let off on suspended sentence.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 29, 1920

It looks as if the automobile industry gone mad would be satisfied with nothing less than the earth with a fence around it. With other industries and public utilities threatened with a shut-down for lack of coal, whole trains of coal cars are being used to ship pleasure automobiles. We note that a member of the Michigan Public Utilities commission declares that the practice must stop; and we hope that they get the barn door locked before all the rest of the horses are stolen.

Three Lowell boys, Roger Springett, Morris Peckham and Lewis Morse, were the happy captors of a whopping big catfish Saturday. It weighed 23 ½ pounds and required the combined skill and strength of the three lads to land. They brought their catch to town, had their pictures "took" and sold the fish for \$5.00 to a farmer, who had just sold a bushel of potatoes, we guess. No wonder he felt rich. But those boys, it will take some tall persuading to keep them

Looking back, continued, page 11

We love to hear from you!

The Lowell Ledger welcomes letters to the editor from readers, but there are a few conditions that must be met before they will be published.

The requirements are:

- All letters must be signed by the writer, with address and phone number provided for verification. All that will be printed is the writer's name and community of residence. We do not publish anonymous letters, and names will be withheld at the editor's discretion for compelling reasons only.
- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- All letters are subject to editing for style, grammar and sense.
- Letters that serve as testimonials for or criticisms of businesses will not be accepted.
- Letters serving the function of "cards of thanks" will not be accepted unless there is a compelling public interest, which will be determined by the editor.
- Letters that include attacks of a personal nature will not be published or will be edited heavily.
- "Crossfire" letters between the same two people on one issue will be limited to one for each writer.
- In an effort to keep opinions varied, there is a limit of one letter per person per month.
- We prefer letters to be printed legibly or typed, double-spaced.

Local heroes keep town going during pandemic



Sweet Seasons Bakery: Annelise Dlouhy

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The coronavirus pandemic has put the spotlight on essential workers that most people take for granted and don't think about: the service industry.

When interviewed or photographed for this story, nearly every single one of them seemed surprised by the concept and declared, "I am not a hero!" However, these are the people who are on

society's front lines, risking exposure to COVID-19 day after day, who hand us our coffee before work in the morning, who deliver our letters and packages, who make sure the gas pumps are available, who stock the grocery store shelves with toilet paper and don't put any aside for themselves.

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, 71 percent of all payroll employees in the US are employed in the service industry. These jobs usually provide low wages, no insurance benefits, little opportunity for advancement, and one can be fired at any time for any reason. Additionally, according to statistics from the Pew Research Center, only 10.5 percent of all American workers belong to a labor union and thus have very little, if any, input into what happens to them at work each day.

Here in Lowell, many stores and restaurants remain open, although with modified staffing and hours.

"For safety reasons, we can't have customers in the store, so we really miss seeing everyone," said Sweet Seasons Bakery co-owner Annelise Dlouhy. "We're operating at about half our staff right now, and we also cut our hours to a shorter, busier period. We

are bringing orders out to people so there is limited personal contact, and we're doing cards instead of cash to minimize our handling of cash. We're doing okay, but it's not as [busy] as it was before."

Mynt Fusion Bistro, 800 W. Main, has reduced their hours and staffing, but the menu has not changed and they are still open for take-out.

"We have really seen this community come together," said Mynt Fusion co-owner Leng Yang. "Everybody was friendly before, but they're super friendly now! Kind words, encouragement, all positive stuff. That is very

hopeful for us. We haven't laid anybody off, but some have chosen not to come to work because of social distancing."

Yang said they are taking great pains to make sure the restaurant is spotlessly clean.

"We are taking all the precautions," Yang said. "We have masks, we have sanitizers, we're wiping things down the pens and stuff like that."

Biggy Coffee, 11826 Fulton, currently has one or two staff members on site to serve their drive-through customers. The owner said the company isn't considering doing hazard pay, time and a half

or anything like that yet, but staff said that tipping has gone through the roof.

"We have less business, but tips are probably double what we normally get," said store manager Sabrina Meyers. "You can tell the community is really supportive of those of us that are still working."

Because all special events and parties have been cancelled for the immediate future, there is not a demand for catering services, so a local caterer has found a way to both stay busy and help somebody out during the crisis.

"There is no business because everything is on



Marathon Gas: Trenia Hunter and Autumn Schmidt

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that the Lowell Planning-Citizens Advisory Commission will hold a public hearing at Lowell City Hall, located at 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 on Monday, May 11, 2020, at 7:00 PM. The subject of the hearing will be:

Proposed Adult Use Marihuana Establishment at 1425 W. Main Street

An application has been submitted by Visio Clara LLC for an adult use marihuana establishment (a marihuana retailer) at 1425 W. Main Street SE (PPN 41-20-03-452-004). Adult use marihuana establishments are permitted in the C-3 zoning district only with special land use approval from the Planning Commission.

Copies of application and the City's Zoning Ordinance are available for public viewing during regular business hours at Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan. Written comments will be received until the night of the hearing.

The City will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon three (3) days' notice to the City Clerk. Individuals who require such services should contact the City at the address listed above or by telephone at 616-897-8457.



Respectfully,
Susan Ullery
Lowell City Clerk

SPRING IS IN THE AIR!



From spring sports and events to spring cleaning, you'll need to **Get a subscription to the Ledger** to stay informed and to advertise!

Call 616.897.9261

hold," said Julie Dykhouse, owner of Miss P's Catering. "I have been sad watching seniors have to cancel their open houses and all the fun things I get to do like weddings and whatnot. I'm just taking it month by month like everybody else. I think we'll be okay, but it'd be nice if business picked up a little bit. I have to have one job coming up, they've asked me and the Lowell Rotary to help with the field training at the hospitals. The Rotary is going to help fund it and I'm going to do the food. We'll be taking meals to three of the local hospitals next week: to Blodgett, St. Mary's and Metro."

Dykhouse said she would enjoy catering lunches for any local businesses who want to treat their employees, call 616-437-2006 for details.

"Just remember to smile if you can, be good to each other and treat each other well," Dlouhy said.

"Hang in there and spend as much time with your loved ones as you can," Yang said. "We are so thankful to be here in Lowell. We thank everybody who's been coming in."

Local heroes keep town going during pandemic



Admiral Gas: Kendra Brown



Gary's Country Meats: John Stormzand and Aaron Laux



Bernard's Ace Hardware: Joseph Hancock, Matt Mayer and Sharon Miller



Biggy Coffee: Sabrina Meyers, Sydney Bauer and owner Austin Palmer



NEWSPAPERS HAVE YOUR BACK.

We are grateful for those who have our back in this important time. The list is long, but we want to thank our first responders and front-line workers.

Especially in critical times, **newspapers have your back.** COVID-19 is a national story that is impacting you at home and at work. Your local newspaper is keeping you informed with current events in your neighborhood and is bringing communities together in these challenging times.

From the actions your local government is taking, to lists of local stores that are delivering and tips on what to do while you're at home, your local newspaper is committed to bringing you the news you need, when you need it.

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

*Support your local newspaper.
Subscribe in print or online.*



the **ledger**
105 N. Broadway, Lowell
897-9261

America's Newspapers is a national association supporting journalism and healthy newspapers in our local communities. Find out more at www.newspapers.org or follow us on Twitter @newspapersorg or on Facebook @americasnewspapers.

Yep

we cover Life



Kristin Johnson-VanderBie & Mark Johnson
6151 28th St. SE, Ste. 10, Grand Rapids
(616) 940-8181
MarkJohnsonAgency.com

HEALTH

M METRO HEALTH

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

Johnathan G. Meier, D.O. Laura E. Kass, PA-C
 Wayne A. Christenson, D.O. Kaili M. Walker, PA-C
 Tracy L. Lixie, D.O. Alexandria Clum, PA-C
 Catherine S. Smith, NP-C

ABCs of Lowell history

The Lowell Area Historical Museum introduces a new weekly feature to explore local history. During this time of closed museums, we still want to be able to share our area's history with you.

D is for Dairy

Lowell has had many dairies over the years. Dairy operators delivered fresh milk to customer's homes every day or two. During this time of renewed home delivery of groceries this article looks back at Highland Hill and Downtown Dairies.



Highland Hill Dairy with the Cameron family.

Highland Hill Dairy

Highland Hill Dairy was located at 1115 East Main Street at Lowell's eastern edge on top of the hill. Neil Cameron purchased the land around 1908 from

N.B. Blaine who had lived there the previous 52 years. Cameron came to Lowell in 1898 from Ontario, Canada. He worked as a saw man at

the Lowell Cutter Company for 16 years, beginning his dairy operation about 1910. In 1914, Cameron retired from the Cutter Factory to operate a retail dairy business full time.

Arie Leeman came to Lowell in 1929 and applied for a job at Highland Hill in response to a newspaper ad. He started work immediately. At that time, there were five dairies serving Lowell - Highland Hill, Melody Farms, Ryder's, Fuss' and Speerstra's.

empty milk bottles on the porch and dropped order tickets into one of the empties so Leeman would know what kind and how many bottles of milk to leave that day. (Each quart of milk had about 1/2 a cup of cream on top because it was not homogenized at that time.) Lehman often let neighborhood kids ride the milk route with him. Lehman retired April 1, 1977 marking the end of home milk deliveries in this area.

Downtown Dairy

Neil Cameron died in 1934 and Leeman bought the operation in 1945. Until the early 1950's, the staff milked their own cows and did their own processing. Lehman delivered milk to homes every other day. Calendars were printed with red and blue days. Some customers received their milk on red days and some on blue days. He had route books labeled West Side and East Side. He delivered to the West Side one day and East Side the next. Customers put their

Downtown Dairy was owned by the Winton Wilcox family. They kept good Guernsey cows while they were in the dairy business. Downtown Dairy was first located on Riverside Drive at the back of where Springrove Variety is currently. Downtown Dairy later moved its location to West Main Street to the building next to the Strand Theater. The milk cans were brought into the back along the driveway next to the Strand.

happy birthday



APRIL 22

Mallorie VanDerWarf, Tim Hill, Mackenzie Hacker.

APRIL 26

Marsha Ray, Casey Brown, Bonnie Baird, Audrey Bailey, Jonathan Christiansen, Brad Brzezniak.

APRIL 23

Nathan Roudabush, Jonathan Dixon, Karen Merriman, Nicole Cummings, Brandon Short.

APRIL 27

Janice Ryder, Dennis Pretzel, Debbie Burrows, Ashlyn Karp.

APRIL 24

Gary Goff, Trevor Foss, Nichole Hoag, Don Shaffer, Logan Propst.

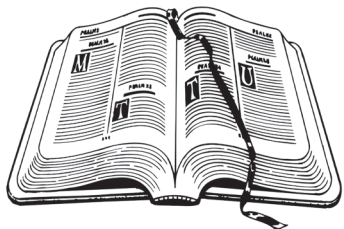
APRIL 28

Terese Brown, Timmy Vezino, Shawna Austin, Kattie Hildenbrand, Beth Weston.

APRIL 25

Bonnie Weststrate.

area churches



CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL
 897-7060
 Pastor Ryan Landt
 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI
 Morning Worship..... 10:00 AM
 Sunday School..... 11:20 AM
 Evening Worship.....6:00 PM
 Nursery available at both services
 Barrier-Free

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
 103 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)
 Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21
Access Services at
www.goodshepherdlowell.org
 Left hand side, click on Sermons, etc.
 Joseph Fremer, Pastor **897-8307**
 All facilities are wheelchair accessible

St. Mary Catholic Church
 402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820
 Website: www.stmarylowell.com
 Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am
 Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm
 Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm
 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN TO ADULTS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 865 Lincoln Lake SE • lowellucc.org
 Pastor Alyssa Anten
 Worship Service - Sundays 10 AM
 Open Table (No-cost meal) - Thursdays 5 - 7 PM
Open & Affirming • LGBTQ+ Inclusive
 616-897-5906

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL
 CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES
2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)
 897-7168 • www.fbclowell.org
 Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor
 Pastor Andrew Bolkom • Pastor of Discipleship
 Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries
SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9:30 AM (Nursery provided)
LIFE GROUPS.....11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
Awana (K-5 during school year) **Wednesday, 6:15 PM**

LOWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 discover. grow. share
 621 E. Main Street
 897-5938
 www.lowellumc.com • Barrier Free Entrance
WORSHIP
 9 AM - Traditional • 11 AM - Contemporary
 Kid's Crew 11:15 AM
 Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

Thank You

The family of Clinton E Hunt would like to express a very heartfelt Thank You to the first responders of Lowell and Kent County.

To the 911 operator, thank you for your calm directions.

To Rockford Ambulance EMT's, thank you for the care and concern that was shone for our father, (grandfather, great-grandfather), and for the attention you gave Layla, his buddy.

To Lowell Rescue/Fire Chief Ron VanOverbeek, thank you for your support, it was needed. There is nothing better during emotional stress than to have someone say we'll help you through this.

To Kent County Sheriff Officer Brown, thank you, thank you. For your professionalism, your guidance and care.

And last, to Roth/Gerst. Thank you for the dignity you showed for him.

Individually you were wonderful, but together, you were an awesome group.

Bless you,
 The family of Clinton E Hunt

office hours:
Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Fri. 8 a.m. - noon
closed Sat. & Sun.

classifieds

for sale

2 BLACK MALE MINI REX OTTER RABBITS - 2 years old. Come with papers. Asking \$125 for both. House/cage & food included. If interested call 616-987-6294.

EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE AND VALUE - Requires less wood & provides more heat. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge OUT-DOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today! 616-554-8669. SOS Property Maintenance LLC, 6950 Hammond Ave, Caledonia. We are your local sales, service & parts dealer! TFN

REACH OVER 100,000 AREA HOMES - with our Marketplace! One call & one payment, only \$40! Includes 20 words & 1 black & white photo. Only items for sale please. Perfect place to advertise a vehicle or camper for sale! The ad runs in the Lowell Buyer's Guide & News, Hastings Reminder, Marshall Advisor/Chronicle & Battle Creek Shopper News. Call 897-9555, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com or stop by 105 N. Broadway for more info.

USED TIRES - Call with size, 616-292-7649/616-295-8820. Rob's Auto - thanks! TFN

NEW DEADLINE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BUYER'S GUIDE & NEWS - Ads must now be in by noon on Thursday.

help wanted

TRAILER MECHANIC WANTED - Position available for a trailer mechanic. Job responsibilities include maintaining a fleet of flatbed and dump trailers by completing preventative maintenance requirements, aluminum & steel welding & fabricating, paint & electrical, and keeping records. Candidate should be capable of operating various types of heavy equipment. CDL not required. Some experience or education required. 40 hrs/week plus overtime and full benefits. Please apply in person at Timpson Transport; 3175 Segwun Ave. Lowell, MI 49331 Monday-Friday from 8 am - 5 pm. Or email resume to Info@TimpsonTransport.com or fax to 616-897-5905.

TRUCK DRIVERS WANTED - Multiple positions available for truck drivers. Must have Class A CDL and clear driving record. Hauling sand, topsoil and other similar products. Lowboy, dump, flatbed and heavy equipment experience preferred. Progressive pay scale, bonuses, and full benefits including health, 401k with match, and life insurance. Dental & vision also available. Apply in person at Timpson Transport; 3175 Segwun Ave. Lowell, MI 49331. Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm. Or email resume to Info@TimpsonTransport.com or fax to (616) 897-5905.

for rent

WE DO BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING LAW - Equal Housing Opportunity. It is illegal to discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin in the sale or rental of housing or residential lots; in the advertising the sale or rental of housing, in the financing of housing. Anyone who feels he or she has been discriminated against may file a complaint of housing discrimination: 1-800-669-9777 (toll free) 1-800-927-9275 (TTY).

PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of 196. Call for specials 558-2900. TFN

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3116 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.VFW8303.org. All Vets Coffee Hour the 3rd Thursday of each month at Keiser's. Bring a friend. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303. TFN EOW

misc.

ALTOAMERICAN LEGION - No dinners or breakfasts until reopen.

DIRECTV - Switch and Save! \$39.99/month. Select All-Included Package. 155 Channels. 1000s of Shows/Movies On Demand. FREE Genie HD DVR Upgrade. Premium movie channels, FREE for 3 mos! Call 1-855-293-4417

services

TWO BROTHERS AUTO SERVICE - 5400 Ivan Rd., Saranac, 616-642-9180. 30 years experience, state certified, licensed & insured. Hours Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm. Dave Traver head mechanic.

services

NOREEN K. MYERS, ATTORNEY AT LAW - Compassionate, experienced, effective legal representation. Specialties include: wills & trusts, work related injuries, employment discrimination. 307 E. Main, Lowell, 897-5460.

PROFESSIONAL TREE CLIMBER NEEDS WORK - Call Dan, 616-970-3832.

DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENDED OR REVOKED? - Don't get sucked into \$100-\$300 evaluation fees...I NEVER charge for your record evaluation & consultation! Driver's license RESTORATION: \$3500 incl. all filing fees AND FREE consultation & evaluation of your case. Have a question? Call Attorney Martin Mead (616) 235-0330.

services

NEED A DUMPSTER? - Dumpster rental, 10-20 yards. Mention this ad for \$10 to \$20 off. Call or text Doug for estimates at 616-295-6640. TFN

SEAMLESS GUTTER - Bleam Eavestrouthing. Free estimates, 50 colors, leaf guards. Since 1959. Choose the experience! (616) 765-3333 or 1-877-945-RAIN. www.bleameaves.com

STUMP GRINDING - Call Dan for free estimate, 616-970-3832.

WORK WANTED - Double D's Tree & Handyman Service. 40' & 70' bucket truck, tree trimming & removal, gutter cleaning, window washing, power washing, buildings, barns, homes, decks, etc. Insured. Call Dave Delinsky, 616-212-3008. Free estimates. TFN

services

BUSINESS CARDS - Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

wanted

I WANT TO BUY - a refrigerator, stove, washer & dryer. Have cash. Call 517-204-0600. TFN

FREON WANTED: We pay CASH for cylinders and cans. R12 R500 R11 R113 R114. Convenient. Certified Professionals. Call 312-500-8266 or visit RefrigerantFinders.com

NEW DEADLINE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BUYER'S GUIDE & NEWS - Ads must now be in by noon on Thursday.

NEWSPAPERS

Outperform Direct Mail in Michigan

the lowell ledger



Michiganians depend on newspapers for advertising inserts²

Newspapers are the preferred source of coupons over direct mail.

Michigan consumers prefer to receive advertising inserts in printed newspapers - higher than those who prefer to receive them through direct mail²

82% of consumers use coupons received through newspaper inserts¹

33% of Michigan adults prefer receiving coupons from direct mail.²

Michigan adults make more purchases as the result of newspaper ads than direct mail.²

79% Eight in 10 newspaper readers took action as a result of reading a newspaper ad in the past 30 days⁴

17.2% of adults made a purchase in the past 90 days as the result of a direct mail flyer⁵

Direct mail lacks the effective reach of newspaper advertising.

86% of adults look at newspaper inserts to get the best deals³

72% of Michigan adults never bought anything as the result of a direct mail piece²

50% of Michigan adults did not buy anything as the result of a direct mail piece in the past year²

P
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- CATALOGS
- FLIERS/COUPONS
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- POST CARDS
- BUSINESS CARDS
- ENVELOPES
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LOWELL LITHO

The buyers guide
"The People Paper"

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Lowell

Sources: ¹2K17 Valassis Coupon Intelligence Report; ²2017 Release 2 Nielsen Scarborough Report. Copyright 2018 Scarborough Research. All rights reserved; ³Triad/Coda Ventures Insert Study; ⁴NAA; ⁵Pulse of America 2018

obituaries

KELLEY

Leo Guy Kelley Sr., born September 25, 1940, of Lowell passed away Sunday, April 19, 2020. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Elaine Maxine Kelley; daughter, Deborah Kay Kelley; sons, Leo Guy (Debra) Kelley Jr., Ty William Kelley, Christopher John Kelley, Carl Richard (Almena) Kelley, Jody Kim Kelley; several grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great grandchildren (great grandson, Cameron Lee Fasset, was his best buddy.); sister, Donna (Jim) Anderson; brothers, Gordon (Marcia) Kelley, Raymond (Helen)



Kelley; several nieces and nephews; and 2 adopted children, Ron Carpenter and Evelyn Carpenter. Leo was preceded in death by his grandparents; parents; 4 sisters; and 5 brothers; also, his best friend, Joe Helms. He was a wonderful, loving, and caring husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend to many people. Leo loved to be around family, going to the casino, playing cards and Yahtzee. He was always a very hard worker. Leo will be missed by many and will always be in our hearts. Special thanks to Carl and Almena Rabbers for the care of our father for the last 2 weeks of his life. Visitation will be held Thursday, April 23rd from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331. A private burial will be held by the family. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to help with funeral expenses.

 ROTH
GERST
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

In Loving Memory

FORD, ASHLEY
1/10/1990 - 4/16/2018



You left us with so many wonderful memories to hold in our hearts forever. We miss you every day.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

The Settlor, Clinton E. Hunt, DOB 1/25/1925, who lived at 12421 Foreman St., Lowell, MI 49331 died on April 1, 2020. There is no representative of the settlor's estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Hunt Family Revocable Living Trust dated August 17, 2006, will be forever barred unless presented

to Lori J. Nowak, Successor Trustee, within four months after the date of publication.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

April 17, 2020

Mary L. Benedict, PC
Attorney for Successor Trustee
4519 Cascade Rd SE,
Ste 14
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-942-0020

Lori Nowak
230 Montcalm Ave SE
Lowell, MI 49331

LACIC

Albert Lacic of Lowell Township passed away on March 8, 2020. He was born on the west side of Grand Rapids and later moved to Lowell with his parents and siblings. He served in the Army during WWII as an MP in Hawaii and was a welder at Jervis/Alloy Tech for the majority of his career. He married Dot Hanes in 1949. They celebrated 70 years of marriage in May 2019. Dot preceded him in death on October 14, 2019. Together, Albert and Dot built their home in Lowell Township where they raised their five children and resided until they passed away. They enjoyed their yard, garden and the many different varieties of flowers Dot planted and so lovingly cared for. After retirement they spent several months each year traveling the United States in their "little red camper". In addition to their 5 children they were blessed with 13 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. A private family memorial will be held for both Albert and Dot and will fittingly be held at the home they so lovingly built, raised their family and enjoyed during the many years of their retirement.

Capitol Matters, continued

protections and additional safety protocols, while still allowing our businesses to operate. Countless people across my district have told me that they are ready to get back work and at the end of the day, I believe people are smart enough to weigh their own risk and make smart choices.

Over the past month, I have had thousands of constituents reach out to my office and a common theme keeps coming up. Constituents want to know how the governor can get away with violating their constitutionally protected rights. I have the same concern. For instance, the government telling someone they cannot access a second home they pay taxes on or use a motorboat raises constitutional red flags. Government imposed restrictions on personal liberty must be narrowly

focused, reasonable and serve a compelling public health benefit. Some of Governor Whitmer's orders do not seem to fit these criteria. There is now a case filed in federal court over the stay-at-home-order and we will see how the order holds up over time.

The governor's emergency powers are set to expire on April 30, and I am committed to making sure that any type of response past April 30 addresses our constitutional concerns and offers a clear path to getting people back to work. I know the path forward is not going to be easy, but rest assured I am listening and taking your concerns to heart. We have many challenges yet to come, but we will work together to recover from this crisis.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The Gerald B. and Nancy L. Ayers Living Trust, dated November 11, 2015

Gerald B. Ayers Date of Birth: 1/14/1933
Nancy L. Ayers Date of Birth: 4/10/1937

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Your interest in the Trust may be barred or affected by the following:

The decedents Gerald B. and Nancy L. Ayers whose last known address was 9489 Summit Ave., Rockford, Michigan 49341, died on 6/22/2018 and 3/3/2020 respectively.

The decedents were the Grantors of The Gerald B. and Nancy L. Ayers Living Trust. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Trust will be forever barred unless presented to Trustee Karen S. McFadden, 403 W. Main, Belding, MI 48809, within four (4) months of the date of the publication of this Notice.

Notice is further given that the Trust will be thereafter assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to its assets.

Karen S. McFadden
(P-57043)
403 W. Main
Belding, MI 48809

To the editor, continued

20-year-old motor home in case he wants to move into it instead of risking our family's health? Do they have children who are on the front line in this pandemic? Have they ever held a dying person because their family couldn't get there in time or comforted a family as they held their dying person? Have they cleaned a dead body to present it for the family to see or done CPR past when they felt they could stand, let alone function? I really want to know what these folks have given of themselves.

I am all for freedom of speech for real issues, and the state's economy is a real issue. But one cannot shout "fire" in a theater and evade responsibility. Saying what we think of state mandates - blocking hospital entrances, hauling boats to Lansing and not using personal spacing and masks to limit the spread of the virus - is little different to a health care professional than shouting "fire." Personal freedom should not come at the cost of someone else's safety.

So please, how about paying attention to those of us who support Gov Whitmer, our first responders and those on the front lines in this battle. How about telling the truth about the rates of increase in Kent and Ionia counties? I am ashamed of what happened in Lansing last week, and now they might try again this week. What are these protesters doing to support their communities, medically or in other ways like food donations? Why do they think they need to bring boats and guns, what do they have to do with "I want to go back to work." I'd like to know why they think their income matters more than the survival of their neighbors. I am tired of them making news like they [are entitled] to get what they want. Me and mine don't think we deserve anything more or less than the safe community we all seek in these hard times. Broadcast news should do a better job of presenting these facts.

Michelle Kendall
Lowell resident

Lawsuit revving up against motorboat ban

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs organization is taking Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to court over the motorboat prohibition provision in her latest stay-at-home order triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The MUCC is taking action after a vote from its executive board and consulting with an attorney. The complaint is expected to be filed soon, according to the MUCC in a press release Thursday night.

According to the state's COVID-19 website, where it explains why the order prohibits the use of motorboats, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources "has received many reports about heavy use of boat launches across the state and the subsequent congregation of people at these launches in violation of social distancing requirements, and in a manner that threatens public health."

The MUCC press release said "its members fully understand the

risks that areas like the Detroit River, Tippy Dam and Saginaw Bay boat launches have posed" and said they "support measures to mitigate risks in these highly-frequented locations."

Yet, the MUCC said in its email these are "only a few small examples of the thousands of public and private accesses we have throughout Michigan that are infrequently visited by people with motorboats and could be vital to Michiganders' mental health and well-being during this time."

The state's COVID-19 website said that people who use motorboats, Jet Skis or similar watercraft "typically need to procure secondary services for their craft, such as parts and gasoline, that could unnecessarily increase contact with others and spread disease."

The website notes that kayaking, canoeing and sailing are still allowed.

Looking Back, continued

away from the noble Grand for awhile, until they learn that catches like that are not made every day. Make a note of it in your diaries boys. It may never happen again.

A charge that Robert A. Murdock, a dredging contractor, had asked his help in landing the contract and had offered to give him 10 per cent of his profits on the contract, was made by County Drain Commissioner Robert B. Patterson Tuesday afternoon in testifying in the suit brought against him and Henry Balhof, president of the Woolman Constructon company, by the townships of Bowne and Lowell. The object of the suit began yesterday in circuit court, before Judge McDonald is to force the re-letting of the contract for the Pratt Lake drain and the Kilgus branch. Awarded to Balhof's company, although another contractor had underbid his firm.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 26, 1945

R. Bruce Tower of Fallasburg received a notice from the war department last week that his brother, S. Sgt. Donald P. Tower, received on April 9, a penetrating knee wound and was showing normal improvement. The last word his brother had received from Sgt. Tower was written somewhere in Germany on March 6.

It has come to the attention of the American Legion service officer that a few so-called "pension attorneys" practicing in Washington, D. C., have been mailing literature announcing their services to widows and dependent parents of deceased veterans. The printed note indicates that information regarding the death of the service man has been obtained from the casualty list. The approach is made in a way to encourage the widow of claimant to designate the attorney (for a named fee) as her agent in prosecuting her claims for death pension and insurance.

The whole community was saddened by the news, last Thursday, that Sergeant Lloyd J. Kerekes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Kerekes, had sacrificed his life in the service of his country. Details of the tragedy came to the family in a letter from another son, Lieut. Carl Kerekes, who was serving in another company of the same regiment and was called immediately to his brother's side.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 30, 1970

An advisory public hearing will be called for May 25 during the monthly meeting of the Lowell Planning Commission to discuss a 142-unit mobile home park proposed for construction in the City of Lowell. The commission indicated at Monday night's monthly

meeting that the plan, as presented by developer Doug Dok, appeared to have merit.

The "new look" of the Lowell Chamber of Commerce, which is spearheading a drive to revive the appearance of the city's Main Street, will be unveiled this Friday with an open house at the chamber's new office. Located at 101 West Main (adjacent to Christiansen's), the office will be open between 1 pm and 8 pm. Members of the C. of C. Board of Directors will be on hand to explain the function of the office and plans for the future.

Dawn Marie Phillips of Lowell captured the coveted grand champion twirler award while competing in a National Open Twirling Contest in Kinde, Michigan over the weekend. Competing in solo twirling, junior two baton, fancy strutting and military strutting, she gained first place awards.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 26, 1995

Lowell's Board of Education called a special meeting Monday night to make a purpose-rich announcement. "Tonight's special meeting has been called so we can bring to an end our superintendent search," board president Marcia Wilcox said. That was followed by a unanimous vote to hire Robert Slotterback as the next superintendent of Lowell Schools. He is officially scheduled to begin his new role on July 1. Wilcox said he is expected to visit the district during the months of May and June.

Lowell High School junior Heather Young will join some of the best and brightest juniors in Michigan at Albion College for the week-long program called Operation Bentley. From May 21 through May 27, Young and other juniors will experience leadership at the city and state government levels.

Developers hoping to build an industrial facility in Vergennes Township now have a better idea of what is and isn't allowed in the area. The Vergennes Township Board amended its industrial ordinance in order to better define what type of industries will be allowed in the township.

Anxiety, finances most common concern for callers to suicide

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, anxiety and finances are two of the most common concerns for callers reaching out to Michigan's mental health experts and suicide crisis hotlines.

Ashley Womble, head of communications at the nationwide Crisis Text Line, said her organization has seen between 47 percent and 116 percent more conversations with texters "depending on the day."

The majority, 77 percent, say they are experiencing "stress and anxiety due to the coronavirus," but the good news is the organization has crisis counselors and supervisors throughout the country who are able to assist each texter, she said.

"We're definitely seeing in our data that financial issues are a major concern, as well as school closing," said Womble, author of "Everything Is Going to Be OK."

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention reports that on average, one person dies by suicide every six hours in Michigan and that more than four times as many people died by suicide in 2017 than in alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes.

AFSP statistics show suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United

States, and 48,344 people died by suicide in 2018 with another 1.4 million attempting suicide in the same year.

Jody Nelson, coordinator at Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties, said CMH hasn't seen an uptick in calls, but people are "just adjusting to everything and figuring out what the world is going to look like" in light of the coronavirus.

There are, however, concerns about how some people will get medications, he noted.

"I would anticipate we'll get more calls over the next couple weeks," Nelson, who also works with the coalition Tri-County Lifesavers, said. "What we've done now is providing service via telehealth."

Prior to coronavirus, CMH met face-to-face with clients, but in light of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's executive orders, including staying home, CMH has switched to telehealth, which allows people to communicate over the phone.

CMH is not closed, however.

Nelson said residents in crisis are encouraged to visit their local CMH office. Everyone is screened. They are questioned about possible coronavirus

symptoms, and protocols are in place for the safety of staff and visitors.

"We're not turning anyone away," he said. "We're adapting our services to accommodate the governor's orders."

Crisis Text Line, a nonprofit that offers confidential, free emergency text-based counseling, monitors the frequency of certain words and ideas in text conversations, which helps provide a way to pinpoint what might ail Americans.

Womble said one in five texters mention coronavirus during a conversation along with other words, such as isolation. Talking about close relations and identifying supports help reduce feelings of anxiety, she noted, and both family and mom are in the top 20 most helpful words.

Feelings of isolation may increase depending on the duration of the coronavirus pandemic, which can be particularly acute for those with severe depression, experts said.

Womble said Crisis Text Line anticipates a three-wave pattern in texters with the first coming now as people settle in to day-to-day living under the Governor's executive orders, including staying home.

The "second wave," she said, likely will be callers dealing with consequences

from the quarantine, such as loss of income and employment, or those whose issues focus on substance abuse or domestic violence, and the third wave is those managing the loss of loved ones to COVID-19.

To those with loved ones facing a crisis, the experts encourage communication, ask someone with a history of suicide how he or she is feeling and whether their triggers are present.

"Staying connected is important and it's challenging as we deal with social distancing," Nelson said. "I think it's important people know when helping people who have a history of suicidal thoughts or actions, it's important to ask them, 'How have you been feeling' and refer them to emergency services."

To find help:
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-8255

Community Mental Health's adult crisis line: 517-346-8460

Community Mental Health's child emergency line: 517-346-8008

Crisis Text Line: text "CRISIS" to 741741

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR STATE SENATORS & REPRESENTATIVES

US Sen. Debbie Stabenow
Senate Office Building
731 Hart
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-4822
stabenow.senate.gov

US Sen. Gary C. Peters
Senate Office Building
724 Hart
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-6221
peters.senate.gov

US Rep. Justin Amash
House Office Building
114 Cannon
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3831
amash.house.gov

Mich. Sen. Winnie Brinks
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1801
senwbrinks@senate.michigan.gov
senatedems.com/brinks

Mich. Rep. Thomas A. Albert
N-1190 House Office Building
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-0846
thomas@votealbert.com
gophouse.org/representatives/westmi/albert

Businesses demonstrate against “stay at home” orders

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Between 3,000 and 4,000 people are estimated to have taken part in the all day “Operation Gridlock” protest in Lansing on Wednesday, April 15, including some local businesses. The protest was organized by the Michigan Conservative Coalition and co-hosted by the Michigan Freedom Fund. The protest was against Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s “stay at home” executive orders, created to slow the spread of coronavirus.

April 16, 2020

Dear Governor Whitmer;

Your message to the people of the state last Monday regarding the importance of the Stay Home Stay Safe directive could not have been more appropriate. I also appreciated the statements indicating how seriously you are also taking the “phase-in of our economy” concern because businesses throughout the state cannot last much longer.

As we begin to contain this deadly virus it’s imperative that you also help this state economy to get back on track as soon as possible. Few of us have received any of the support dollars that the federal government has promised and the state, too, is suffering due to substantial declines in tax revenues. That’s why you should start in early May to help business and industry avoid what will become the worst recession in American history.

As governor, you will decide when to cautiously re-start our economic engine with one foot on the brake to guard against a resurgence of the Covid-19 virus, but I believe the threat has been greatly diminished thanks to how our population has responded. During the 1918 Spanish Flu, there was no internet, no television and no way to get out the message out quickly on the importance of social distancing, wearing masks and distancing ourselves from other people. More than 500,000 people perished during that pandemic.

Within days of the warnings about this pandemic, citizens got the message that their lives could be in danger if they didn’t stay-at-home and follow the guidelines set by medical professionals. Now, more than two months later, it’s time to carefully set the wheels in motion, setting reasonable guidelines so that we can turn on the engines of our economy.

With each passing day, thousands of businesses, restaurants and industrial owners look to you to give them the lifeline they need. Failure to move early in May will only deepen the threat of a long lasting turndown that will close up Main Streets across the state dig greater crevices in the emotional and mental states of families locked in their homes with little hope that tomorrow will be a better day. We will look back on these days as some of the worst days in our lives when we were unable to attend a family or a friend’s funeral. Or we couldn’t be there when a family member was dying in the hospital or needed surgery that wasn’t considered necessary.

Your aggressive isolation strategy is saving lives – thank you -- but we also have to evaluate the continuing damage the policy is inflicting on the economy and the families that depend on it. The “putting lives ahead of business,” as you’ve stated, is a delicate balance to keep but, if we work together, we can have both!

Think about it governor, every time we get into a car, an airplane or even walk across the street we risk our lives. We deal with threats and work to minimize the possibility of experiencing them every day. Nearly 1.32 million people are killed in car accidents every year; an additional 20 to 30 million people are injured or disabled. Yet, we still drive and still concentrate on making travel safer. In 2019, an estimated 1.7 million new cases of cancer were diagnosed in the U.S, and more than 600,000 died due to the disease. So we are all threatened by something in our lives yet we continue to study and to discover new ways to reduce those deaths.

Now, it’s our time to get back to the work of saving lives, saving businesses, and saving our economy. Putting this off beyond the April 30 deadline will impact every person in our state now and for years to come.

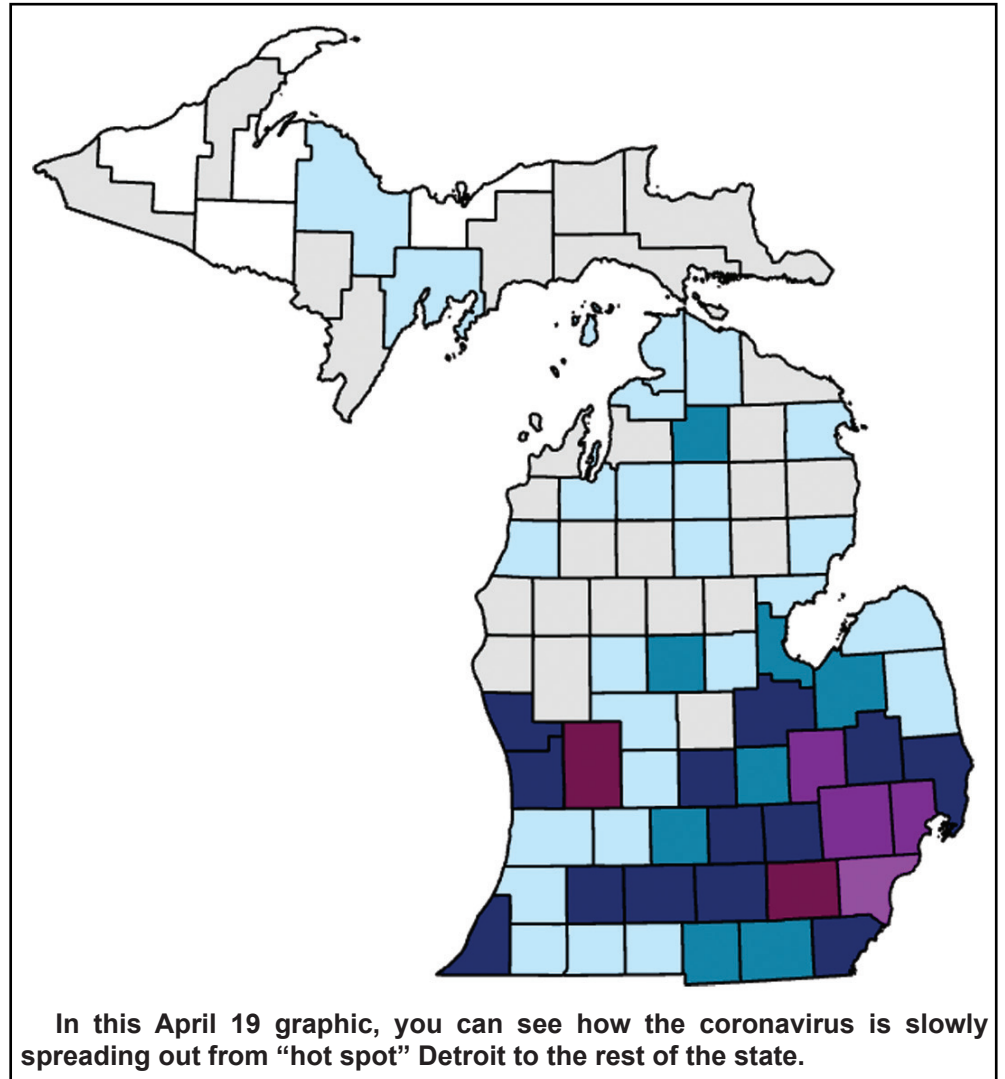
We know the threat; we know how important it is to follow the guidelines of medical experts. Now it’s time for you, governor, to trust that we will do everything we can to make this work. The campaign slogan says it best, “We’re in this together” and together we can make this work.

It’s time to get back to work.

Fred Jacobs, CEO J-AD Graphics
Hastings, MI

If you share the sentiments expressed in this letter and would like to add your feelings to the governor, send her this column or your own note of concern at:

Send to: **Gretchen Whitmer, Governor
State of Michigan
PO Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909**



In this April 19 graphic, you can see how the coronavirus is slowly spreading out from “hot spot” Detroit to the rest of the state.

Many of the protesters were small business owners or employees whose firms were not deemed essential and therefore were forced to close during the pandemic. Others were upset because they are not allowed to purchase gardening supplies from big box stores, use their motor boats or travel to their vacation cottages up north. Some felt that, because they live in a rural area, the pandemic would not effect them so they should be allowed to pursue business as usual. Others said that if they were not personally sick, they should not be forced to change their routine.

When the protest was first announced, it was described as people protesting from inside of their vehicles. However, during the event, hundreds of the participants left their vehicles and congregated together much closer than six feet away, many without any protective equipment whatsoever.

“I was really disappointed to see people congregating [and] not wearing masks,” Gov. Whitmer said during a press conference. “We know that this rally endangered people.”

Many also blocked entire sections of the city by parking large industrial vehicles in the middle of the street.

“While many people

stayed in their cars to protest at the Capitol, some gridlock protesters went further and took their frustrations out on the entire city of Lansing by including our downtown, neighborhoods and corridors,” Lansing Mayor Andy Schor said in a press release. “Some also left their cars and engaged in outside protesting (as protected by the First Amendment) but refused to socially distance and follow CDC recommendations as required in the executive order. Demonstrators not practicing social distancing put the safety of Lansing residents, first responders and their respective communities at risk.”

One of the local business owners who attended agreed to discuss the subject, but only off the record. Since last week, they have been the target of threats, trolling, bad reviews not based in reality and general nastiness.

“I never left my car,” the local business owner said. “98 to 99 percent of the people that went were very safe.”

The local business owner said they attended the protest because of the economic effects of the “stay home, stay safe” orders.

“I’m not getting unemployment and I didn’t get a small business

loan,” the local business owner said “I’m scraping by with what’s in the bottom of my checking account to pay the lights, the heat and all that.”

The local business owner also took exception to Gov. Whitmer’s statements after the event.

“The governor keeps repeating that the hospital was blocked off,” the local business owner said. “Well, according to the Lansing State Journal, it was not.”

Although the hospital’s entrances and exits were clear, congested streets in the area did cause delays during a shift change at Sparrow Hospital. Their spokesman John Foren said that some staff members had to stay at work longer to care for patients until their relief could find their way around the protesters.

Michigan currently has the third highest number of coronavirus cases in the nation, and Detroit has been named a “hot spot” by US Surgeon General Jerome Adams.

“I know that people are angry and that’s okay,” Gov. Whitmer said during a press conference. “If you want to take it out and send it my way, if it makes you feel better that’s fine. I support your right to free speech and I respect your opinions. I just urge you. Don’t put yourself at risk and don’t put others at risk either.”