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ONLINE COUPONS

## Traffic snarls Milford Crossings development

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Traffic issues are backing up the Crossings at Milford development. The Milford Township Planning Commission unanimously postponed action on the development during its Jan. 28 meeting after a public hearing and nearly four hours of discussion.

The major snarl is resolution of traffic issues at Interstate 96, Milford Road and Pontiac Trail, which developer Adriano Paciocco of Triumph Building Company said are "not our fault" nor of Kensington Ridge, a proposed Pulte Homes development that would be across Milford Road. Instead, the long-standing traffic issues are "caused by all Milford Township residents."

"Why can't the government, residents, and us as developers work together to create a state-of-the-art corridor/intersection funded by all to improve this intersection instead of talking what Kensington and we are doing to improve?" Paciocco asked. "I'm willing to participate in this program, why can't we move forward in that direction?"

The commissioners agreed that traffic was "the major hold-up" as Paciocco said, but also had other issues they wanted addressed once a conceptual plan is brought back to the commission. Those issues include setbacks, lighting, landscaping and further details on the commercial portion of the project.

See DEVELOPMENT, Page 6A



The new main building at Lakeshore Park in Novi is nearing completion. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Lakeshore Park reopens after \$5 million renovation

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The winter air is chilly, but the re-opening of Lakeshore Park in Novi is expected to be warmly received.

"In times of COVID, we know how much people want to use the park and all outside aspects of the park are open as of today," Jeff Muck, director of parks, recreation and cultural services, said. "... people need this. They are desperate to get outdoors, in any conditions of weather. They need a mental and physical break, that's why it was so important to get the park open."

The pandemic slowed the park's much-anticipated \$5 million renovations, which began in 2019.

Among the improvements: a new 6,200-square-foot community building; a paved parking lot; new park shelter and play structure, new pathways, new seating areas, renovations to the beach to prevent erosion and more.

An old cinder block building without an HVAC system that formerly housed camp programs was demolished to make way for the new, spacious community building that will be capable of

See PARK, Page 6A



Bike racks at the renovated park complex bear the City of Novi's logo.

## Northville extends downtown street closures until 2022

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The party keeping streets in downtown Northville closed just got renewed for another year.

The city council authorized the continued closure of Main Street and North Center Street for outdoor dining and a social district through April 30, 2022. The continued closure, which originally was scheduled to end March 1, will allow for continued outdoor seating and strolling space in the downtown area, a change first made at the beginning of last summer to help businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The decision to extend the district another year allows for businesses to recoup any expenses incurred with the outdoor activities. The council also has the ability to modify the arrangements as needed, depending on if the situation calls for it.

"We know we have to be flexible. Things might change at the end of this 12 months," Mayor Brian Turnbull said. "Could we go longer? Yeah, but we will do an approval on a yearly basis or every six months in the future. We can't project what's going to happen 3-4 years down the road."

"The year gives, I believe, the retailers and the restaurateurs the chance to go after their investment and have some return on that."

Downtown Development Authority Director Lori Ward said surveys were sent out in January to better gauge what the future of the road closures should look like. About 2,600 responses were recorded, a tally she called "phenomenal."

When considering to extend the road closures, Ward told the city council they needed to keep in mind other activities typically taking place downtown would need to have adjustments made, as there would be limited space

See CLOSURES, Page 8A

## South Lyon goes to 4 days in-person school

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Nearly a year after COVID-19 upended school in Michigan, all South Lyon secondary students will have the option to be back in school four days a week starting Monday.

By March 8, high school and middle school students who are in the hybrid

plan are all expected to be back to four days per week in-person instruction.

The recommendation by Superintendent Steve Archibald to increase face-to-face instruction for secondary students was approved by the school board Tuesday in a 6-1 vote. Trustee Bridget McDonnell, who expressed concerns over the lack of social distancing as classrooms fill again from the 50 per-

cent capacity they have been in, voted no.

The board received dozens of written and called-in comments from parents, teachers and students that they read aloud during the meeting, and which were all over the map in sentiment.

See SCHOOL, Page 6A

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**BUSCH'S**

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# How to pick mortgage plans as a first-time homebuyer



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom  
Guest columnist

## Dear Rick:

My wife and I have been renting an apartment since we got married three years ago. Because interest rates are low, we think now might be the right time to buy.

First of all, what type of mortgage should we get? Does it make sense to use an adjustable-rate mortgage?

Secondly, I'm not sure how to handle the down payment. With the price of homes that we're thinking of, I don't think we will be able to come up with the 20 percent down payment. We don't want to have to pay PMI if we don't have to. Any suggestions?

Todd

## Dear Todd:

I think it's important to first understand the differences between an adjustable-rate and a fixed-rate mortgage. In a fixed-rate mortgage, the interest rate is permanently set for the life of the mortgage at the time you close on the mortgage. With an adjustable-rate

mortgage, the mortgage rate is fixed for the first five years.

Typically, when you use an adjustable-rate mortgage, you receive a slightly lower interest rate in comparison to a traditional fixed rate mortgage.

If you plan on being in the home more than five to 10 years, then it would make sense to get a fixed-rate mortgage. On the other hand, if you knew you were going to be in this house for five years or less, then an adjustable rate may make sense.

With regards to not having the 20 percent to put down, I don't blame you for trying to avoid the private mortgage

insurance.

Look for a mortgage that does not require a 20 percent down payment. If you are a veteran, you also may qualify for a VA loan with zero percent down. Many lenders are willing to eliminate the PMI in exchange for a slightly higher mortgage interest rate.

Pay attention to the fees and costs. Whether you are refinancing your home or getting your very first mortgage, it is important to understand all the costs.

Good luck.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. Email Rick your questions at [rick@bloomadvisors.com](mailto:rick@bloomadvisors.com).

## hometownlife.com

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## Paczki Day arrives Tuesday at bakeries

**David Veselenak** Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

It doesn't matter whether you're Polish: Paczki Day is for everyone.

While the holiday arrives a little earlier this year, some places already have brought out the wonderful little cannonballs.

One such place is Villa Bakery at 6237 Middlebelt in Garden City, which began selling paczki in January. Candy VanLue, whose family owns the bakery, began crafting three kinds of paczki early on: custard, cheesecake and strawberry cheesecake.

"It just brings more people in, the variety," she said. "It gets people excited."

The cheesecake varieties won't be on the shelves at the bakery for the actual holiday, but many traditional flavors will be, including strawberry, apple, prune and lemon.

Paczki Day, also known as Fat Tuesday or Shrove Tuesday, marks the day before the beginning of Lent, a season



**Villa Bakery's Candy VanLue brings out a tray of paczki to begin filling them.**  
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

of reflection and preparation many Christians observe leading up to Easter. The season is known historically for being a time to not indulge in fatty foods. Thus, paczki were made before Lent to use up sugar and butter. They become a staple in the region this time of year.

Lori Arnold, a manager at the South Lyon Village Bakery at 222 S. Lafayette, said their shop has had customers interested in pre-ordering paczki since mid-January.

"We will go (Tuesday) until we can't go anymore," she said. "We should have paczki. I've never run out."

Many shops have urged customers to pre-order, especially given the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing, which could cause issues with the lines known to form outside bakeries on Paczki Day.

VanLue said the Garden City bakery expects to make about 12,000 paczki by the time the season is done. That includes the cannoli paczki created at the shop, the most popular variety they sell. Packed full of cannoli cream, dipped in chocolate chips and drizzled with powdered sugar, the cannoli paczki has become a popular option combining Polish and Italian cuisine.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, VanLue said the demand for paczki remains just as high as it has been in previous years. There's no real issue obtaining supplies as a result of the pandemic, either, she said.

Arnold said while she anticipates big sales at the South Lyon Village Bakery, they don't expect to see the larger corporate orders come down as they have in previous years.

She's planning to sell more half-dozen and dozen boxes as opposed to mul-

## Where to buy paczki

### Milford

Milford Baking Co., 408 N Main St.  
Matti's Fresh Market, 965 Summit

### Highland Township

Looney Baker, 2948 E. Highland

### South Lyon

South Lyon Village Bakery, 222 S. Lafayette

### Northville Township

Rumi's Passion Gluten Free Bakery, 41106 Five Mile  
Cantoro's Italian Market, 15550 N. Haggerty

### Livonia

GM Paris Bakery, 28418 Joy  
Heritage Bakery, 37458 Five Mile  
Looney Baker, 13931 Farmington  
Livonia Italian Bakery & Cafe, 33615 Seven Mile  
So Delish, 33825 Five Mile

### Redford Township

Donutown, 25580 Five Mile  
DeMaggio's Italian Bakery and Pizza, 25861 W. Six Mile

### Plymouth

Westborn Market, 860 Penniman Ave.

### Garden City

Villa Bakery, 6237 Middlebelt

### Westland

Le Cakery Bake Shop, 844 N. Wayne

### Farmington Hills

Bake Station Too, 29581 Orchard Lake

### Farmington

Sunflour Bakehaus, 33250 Grand River Ave.

multiple dozens to individuals supplying the tasty treats to offices as in years past. The bakery offers curbside pickup for customers not wanting to come inside the store.

Despite all the changes bakeries and other businesses have faced in the last year, she said getting ready for Paczki Day and seeing all the customers looking for them is still special.

"It's a fun time of year, we look forward to it," Arnold said. "We like seeing everybody."

## ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT - 2019 BOND ATHLETICS BID PACKAGE NO. 2

**Project Description:** The Novi Community School District's Board of Education is accepting bids to provide construction related work at Novi Middle School (49000 W. 11 Mile Road, Novi, MI 48374). Proposed work includes site work, asphalt, fencing, and acrylic tennis court surface.

**Architect & Project Contact:** Foresite Design, Inc.  
3269 Coolidge Highway  
Berkley, MI 48072 (248) 547-7757  
[Michael.Sims@foresitedesign.com](mailto:Michael.Sims@foresitedesign.com)

**Questions addressed ONLY to Foresite Design during Bidding Period. Failure to follow instruction may lead to rejection of Bid.**

**Bid Documents:** Bid Documents including Bid Forms may be obtained directly from Foresite Design. Please email Christy O'Berry at [christy@foresitedesign.com](mailto:christy@foresitedesign.com) for access. Bid Documents may also be obtained from local plan rooms (GRBX, CAM, etc.). **Bid Documents will be available on or after February 11, 2021.**

**Non-Mandatory Prebid Walk-Through:** There will not be a prebid walk-through. If bidders require a site visit, they shall contact Michael Sims at (248) 547-7757 to make arrangements.

**Bid Due Date:** Friday, February 26, 2021 at 2:00 P.M. EST  
All bidders are to submit bids electronically via email to e-Builder at the email address noted below. If any bidder is unable to submit bids electronically, they shall contact Kevin Donnelly at 586-703-1044 for alternative arrangements.

**Email Submission Address:** [Novi2020AthleticsBP2@docs.e-builder.net](mailto:Novi2020AthleticsBP2@docs.e-builder.net)

**Public Bid Opening:** Bids are due electronically and will be timestamped at the required date/time to the attention of Greg McIntyre. At the time the bid packages are due, all bids will be opened and read aloud remotely via Microsoft Teams starting on **Friday, February 26, 2021 at 2:15 P.M. EST.** Meeting URL: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

**The Board of Education will not open, consider, nor accept a bid received after the date and time specified. All late bid proposals will be returned to the bidder unopened.**

**Bid Bond:** A Bid Bond executed by a Treasury listed surety company acceptable to the Novi Community School District or a cashier's check in the amount of at least 5% of the sum of the proposal shall be submitted with Bid. Bid bonds shall be submitted electronically with the bid submission, if a cashier's check is provided submit a photocopy with bid submission followed by hard copy if requested. All proposals shall be firm for a period of sixty (60) days.

**Labor and Material & Performance Bond:** Successful bidders whose proposals are \$50,000 or more will be required to furnish satisfactory Performance and Payments Bonds by a Treasury listed surety in the amount of 100% of their bid. The cost of Bond(s) shall be included in each proposal.

**Nonexempt:** This project is a non-prevailing wage project and is not tax exempt for State sales tax and/or use tax. All materials and supplies incorporated and used in construction of the work and becoming a permanent part of this project will not be exempt from State Sales Tax and/or Use Tax. All required Sales Tax/Use Tax shall be included in the bid price.

**Disclosure Statements:** Bids shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the Owner and any employee of bidder and any member of the Board of Education or the superintendent. Additionally, bids shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement for the **Iran Economic Sanctions Act Affidavit of Compliance**. Bids not accompanied with these sworn and notarized statements will not be accepted by the Board.

**Contract Award:** The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids in whole or in part and waive any informality or irregularity therein, or to award the Contract to other than the low bidder, in its sole discretion. The Novi Community School District reserves the right to accept the bid which in its opinion, is in the best interest of the Owner.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF NORTHVILLE

The City of Northville Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing on March 3, 2021 at 7:00p.m. to receive public input on the following request in regard to the City of Northville Zoning Ordinance:

1. A variance request for the floor area ratio (FAR) ordinance for three lots zoned R-2, Second Density Residential District, located at 711 N. Center St., lot numbers 48-22-34-377-007 (southern lot - L1), 48-22-34-377-006 (middle lot - L2), and 48-22-34-377-005 (northern lot - L3). The three lots are part of a proposed three-lot residential development where the applicant would like to build a duplex building on each lot. The applicant is seeking a 0.24 FAR variance for lot L1, a 0.28 FAR variance for Lot L2, and 0.23 FAR variance for lot L3 from the requirement of Section 15.01 of the Zoning Ordinance, which allows for a maximum 0.36 FAR on a lot with a duplex building.

## Meeting Location and Participation

The meeting will be held via video conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic and in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Members of the public body and members of the public participating electronically will be considered present at the meeting and may participate as if physically present at the meeting. The following is a link to attend the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81131904728>. US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656, Webinar ID: 811 3190 4728

Those needing assistance or accommodations should contact the City Manager's office at 248-449-9905. Log in instructions, information about electronic meetings, and a user guide can be found at: <https://www.ci.northville.mi.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=118958634&pageId=13505489#zoning>. OR from the main Home page, click on the Government tab, Agendas and Minutes, and scroll to the Board of Zoning Appeals section of the webpage.

## Application Review and Written Comments

The variance application is available for review at [www.ci.northville.mi.us](https://www.ci.northville.mi.us). From the Home Page, click Services, Building and Planning, Board of Zoning Appeals.

Written comments to the BZA pertaining to the proposed variance request must be submitted by 4:30pm March 2, 2021 to City of Northville Municipal Building, City Clerk, 215 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167, or use the City Hall drop box, or emailed to [dmassa@ci.northville.mi.us](mailto:dmassa@ci.northville.mi.us).

**DOMINIC SILVESTRI, CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**



# Chick-fil-A opens in Northville Township

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Mary Lauria and Natalie Katsaros couldn't wait to be one of the first cars to order from the newest metro Detroit area Chick-fil-A.

The Madonna University students arrived at the restaurant off Haggerty Road at 3 a.m. Jan. 28, several hours before it opened at 6:30 a.m., armed with blankets and hand warmers to fight off the cold temperatures as they waited.

"It's an experience," said Katsaros, who currently live on campus at the Livonia university but calls Clarkston home. "We can tell people we were the first people here."

The women were one car of many that lined up early to experience the fast food chicken restaurant's newest shop. The Georgia-based chain of eateries known for its chicken products has slowly begun opening shop in the metro Detroit area, drawing massive crowds.

The restaurant, first proposed before the township's planning commission in the spring of 2019, is ran by operator Phil Whitsel, a Michigan native who's relocated to the area to run the restaurant.

Whitsel formerly worked in the shopping center in-

dusty, spending time in places such as the Grand Traverse Mall in Traverse City and the Birch Run Premium Outlets shopping center in Saginaw County.

He was attracted to the Chick-fil-A model and left to join the company, working in Illinois. He was later selected for the Northville Township location and was ecstatic to return to Michigan and be closer to family.

He said guests looking to experience Chick-fil-A, especially for the first time, can expect quality product and quality service from his team members, which number about 150.

"We're working hard to get people to choose to dine with us," he said. "When they do, we're going to win them over with our hospitality."

One guest who got in line early Thursday was Novi resident Daniel Valentine. A former Chick-fil-A employee himself, he wanted to get up early for breakfast at the new location.

He said he's visited the Novi restaurant on Novi Road about a dozen times since it opened last summer but was excited for the new location since it'll be closer to his house.

Having this new one will hopefully ease the pressure on the Novi location and reduce wait times, which can extend as long as an hour the times he's visited.

He said he hopes the company continues to expand,

including adding one in the city.

"I think it'll balance it out," Valentine said. "I really hope to see one in Detroit one day. But I'm excited to see this one, too."

The restaurant chain is best known for its chicken sandwiches, but offers other items such as chicken nuggets, wraps, breakfast items and lemonade. It has opened locations in the Grand Rapids and Lansing markets the last several years and has recently begun to creep into metro Detroit.

In addition to the Northville Township and Novi locations, Chick-fil-A operates restaurants in Allen Park and Shelby Township, the latter of which also opened Thursday. Plans are currently in the works to open a restaurant later this year at Plymouth and Middlebelt roads in Livonia, and another is tentatively planned along Ford Road in Canton Township.

Whitsel said the plan is for the restaurant to remain a drive-thru only for the foreseeable future. Customers looking to order can queue up at the restaurant, which has staff help guide traffic flow during its busiest hours. Those planning on ordering are advised to bring some patience as crowds are expected during the restaurant's "honeymoon period."

The restaurant is currently open 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and is closed on Sundays.

## Lottery awaits call from \$1B ticket winner in Novi

Susan Bromley  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH

If a group of teachers won the \$1 billion Mega Millions jackpot, as has been rumored on social media, it certainly wasn't immediately apparent in educator absences from local districts.

The winning ticket was purchased at a Novi Kroger on Jan. 22, but Novi Schools Communications Director George Sipple said there had been no change in attendance patterns for any staff and a change was not anticipated.

"We've heard the rumors like everybody else in the community," he said. "While it would be fantastic if a group of teachers or other staff from Novi Community School District won the lottery, we have no reason to believe the rumors are true."

Northville Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources David Rodgers said he was not aware of any information related to the lottery.

In Huron Valley, officials reported that absences early in the week were "a little high, but fairly average."

"Wouldn't it be great if, in the middle of a pandemic, a group of educators won one of the largest prizes in lottery history?" Superintendent Paul Salah asked. "...I have no insider knowledge of the identity of the winner but I'm hopeful that many charitable organizations benefit as a result."

South Lyon officials could not be reached for comment.

Ultimately, Jake Harris and his colleagues at the Michigan Lottery office will be the first to know who the real \$1 billion Mega Millions jackpot winner is, and they were

still awaiting the call.

"Part of what is fun about it for us is it's a random game of chance, you never know when it will hit or when they will come forward," Harris, a communications specialist with the Michigan Lottery for the last 6 years, said.

The difference is the lottery officials don't get the payday. But someone out there who bought a ticket at the Kroger, 47650 Grand River in Novi, has a ticket printed with the winning numbers: 4-26-42-50-60 and Mega Ball 24. After 37 drawings without an overall winner, that someone finally struck it really rich Jan. 22.

That person or persons has until Jan. 22, 2022, to claim the jackpot, the third largest in U.S. history.

sbromley@hometownlife.com

## Downsized Plymouth Ice Festival returns this weekend

Ed Wright  
Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICH

Below-freezing temperatures are expected for this weekend's 2021 Plymouth Ice Festival, which is the best news organizers of the long-running event can hear after last year's festival was dampened by rain and warm weather, and this year's extravaganza was delayed and downsized by the coronavirus pandemic.

Downtown Plymouth is expected to be buzzing Friday through Sunday as 65 ice-carving displays will be strategically scattered in front

of businesses to promote social-distancing.

Each of the carvings will be single block-size and there will be no live ice-carving competitions that usually feature multiple blocks of ice as one way to limit crowd gathering.

"We encourage everyone visiting downtown Plymouth to wear a mask at all times and maintain six-foot social distances," the Ice Festival's website stated. "We hope (visitors) will enjoy and embrace this year's version ... and sincerely thank you for your loyal support."

One of the highlights of this year's festival is a

bingo game hosted by the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority. Bingo cards can be accessed on the DDA website and participants can fill their cards by visiting local businesses during the weekend.

Once a player gets a bingo — a horizontal, vertical or diagonal line filled — they can take a photo of their board and email it to dda@plymouthmi.gov to enter in the contest drawing. Players can also win a grand prize if they accumulate the most stickers on their card.

Unlike in past years, there will be no ice sculptures on display in Kellogg Park.

### NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT PTSLU21-0003

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the representative for **Servman LLC** is requesting a **Temporary Special Land Use Permit** in accordance with 7.6.2 of the Novi Zoning Ordinance for temporary parking/vehicle storage for parcel **50-22-16-176-019**, North of Grand River Ave and East of Beck Road from **February 25, 2021 through February 25, 2022**. The properties are zoned OST (Office Service Technology) and the use is contrary to 3.27 of the Novi Zoning Ordinance.

A public hearing can be requested by any property owner whose property is located within 300 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for a temporary special land use permit.

A public hearing will be held electronically over ZOOM at **10:00am on February 25, 2021** as authorized under the open meetings act, mcl 15.261, et seq., as amended. All written comments or requests for a link to participate in the meeting remotely should be directed to **koppermann@cityofnovi.org** and must be received prior to end of business **February 24, 2021**.

### CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF MEETING OF MARCH 2021 BOARD OF REVIEW

Notice is hereby given that the March Board of Review shall convene for the Organizational Meeting at **9:00 a.m. EST, Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021** in the **Event Quarter Room/Civic Center** at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road for the purpose of reviewing and correcting the assessment roll. Appointments are not taken at this meeting.

Notice is further given that the **second session of the Board of Review will meet for the purpose of hearing and considering assessment appeals in the Event Quarter Room at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road on March 8, 9 and 10, 2021.**

If you or your representative want to appeal in person, you are strongly encouraged to come into the assessing department on or before **5:00 p.m. EST, Friday, March 5, 2021** in order to schedule an appointment to ensure your time before the Board of Review. Appearances before the Board of Review are limited to five (5) minutes or less. Petitions are available at the Assessor's Office or at **www.cityofnovi.org**.

**NO APPOINTMENTS WILL BE GIVEN UNTIL A PETITION IS RECEIVED BY THE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT.**

Written Appeals: Letters of protest will be accepted on or before **3:00 p.m. EST, Tuesday, March 9, 2021**. Postmarks will not be considered. When submitting a letter of protest for the Board of Review consideration, you must attach a completed petition along with any supporting information.

All agents protesting values on property other than their own **MUST HAVE** written authorization from each property owner they are representing.

Persons on fixed or limited income may be eligible for a reduction in property taxes due to poverty. Applications are available at the Assessing Department, or at **www.cityofnovi.org**. Any questions should be directed to the Assessing Department at (248) 347-0485.

#### BOARD OF REVIEW SCHEDULE

**Monday, March 8, 2021 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Event Quarter Room**  
**Tuesday, March 9, 2021 - 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Event Quarter Room**  
**Wednesday, March 10, 2021 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Event Quarter Room**

Located in the Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road Novi, MI 48375.

In accordance with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, January 22, 2021 Gatherings and Face Mask Order, face masks are required.

Courtney Hanson  
CITY CLERK

Publish: February 11, 18, & 25, 2021

## Kroger donates commission from sale of \$1B lotto ticket

Miriam Marini  
Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

After selling the record-setting Mega Millions ticket in January, Kroger announced it will be donating the \$50,000 ticket commission to the Food Bank Council of Michigan.

While the lucky winner of the \$1.05 billion jackpot has yet to step forward and claim their prize, Kroger has decided to spread its luck to Michiganders in need. As part of its Zero Hunger Zero Waste program, which aims to end hunger by donating 3 billion meals by 2025, the grocery chain will aid local food banks with the commission.

"I applaud Kroger for their generous donation and continued commitment to feeding those in the communities they serve," Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said in the release announcing the donation. "During these tough times, it has been incredible to see the ways in which our communities can come together to ensure that nobody goes without. If we continue to find ways to support each other, I truly believe that each month of this year

will be better than the next."

With thousands of retailers in Michigan selling lottery tickets, the golden ticket was sold at a Kroger in Novi located at 47650 Grand River Ave. Jan. 22. The lucky player managed to beat the odds and snag the third-largest lottery jackpot ever won in the United States of

\$1.05 billion.

The Food Bank Council of Michigan is a network of regional food banks working to tackle hunger across the state and increase emergency food resources. The donation comes as food banks and pantries are under strain as needs have increased during the pandemic.

Notice of Annual Return is hereby given by John R. Cloud, President of Northville Amateur Athletic Association, which has been designated as a private foundation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, that the Foundation's Annual Return (Form 990-PF) is available for inspection at 16928 Yellowstone Dr., Northville, MI 48168 (Phone: 248-924-2325) during regular business hours by any citizen upon request made within 180 days of this Notice. This Notice is published pursuant to, and in compliance with, the requirements of Section 6104(d) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Published: February-11, 2021





# Novi OKs full-time in-person learning with caveats

Susan Bromley [hometownlife.com](mailto:hometownlife.com)  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi's elementary-aged students will return to full five days per week in-person instruction by Feb. 22 if COVID-19 community case counts remain the same as today or continue to decline over the next two weeks.

Secondary students could be back as early as March 2 with the same full-time schedule if numbers decline. The return dates for both groups of students, and whether they remain in five days per week instruction, are determined by a new metrics plan the board approved Thursday. The district uses two sets of hard numbers, one for primary students and one for secondary, to determine when increased face-to-face instruction is safe.

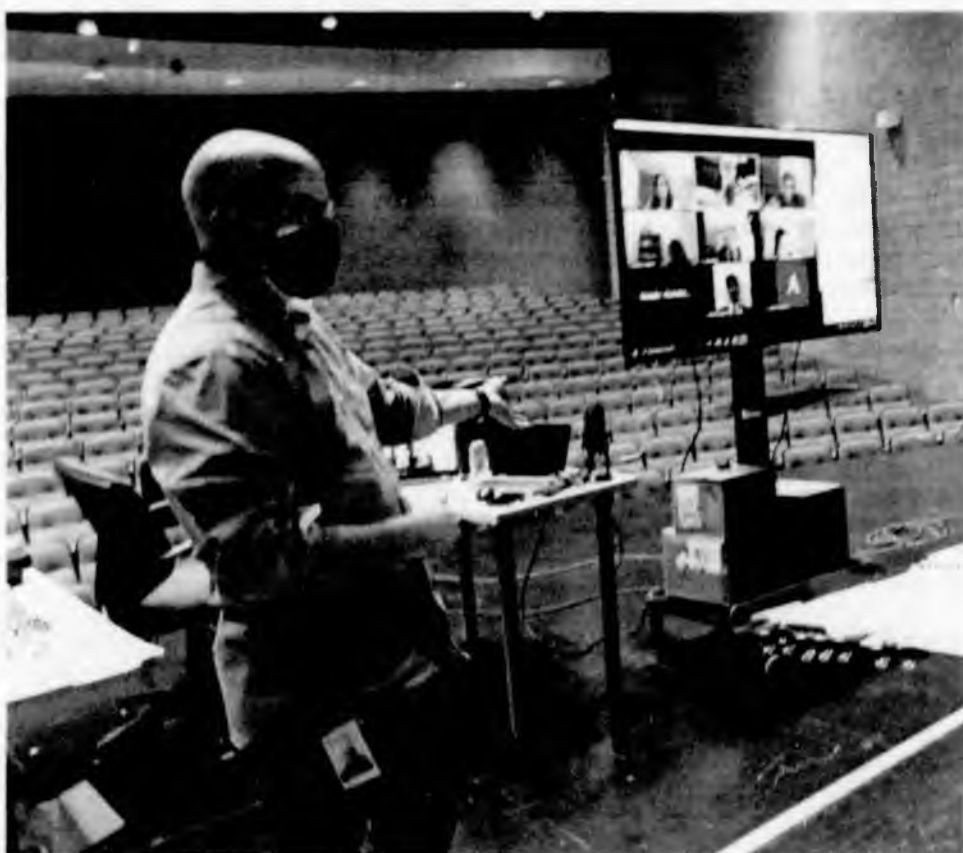
"Grades 7-12, haven't met the threshold yet, and we haven't started the clock ticking," Superintendent Steve Matthews said. "Now that the numbers are going down, it's time to bring back our hybrid students safely and we have a good plan on how to do that."

Matthews brought several recommendations to the board with COVID-19 case thresholds determined after reviewing data including spikes in numbers this school year, resulting quarantine numbers, and discussions with an Oakland County epidemiologist.

Ultimately, the board approved in a 6-1 vote that K-6 students can be in school 5 days per week when COVID-19 cases per 10,000 residents within the school district boundaries are at or below 30 for three consecutive weeks; the case count average of the three Novi zip codes is below 55 for the same amount of time; and the 14-day average for cases throughout the county are 200 or below for three consecutive weeks.

Numbers that would trigger a retreat from full-time in-person instruction include COVID-19 cases rising above 45 per 10,000 school district residents for three consecutive weeks; a case count average for the three Novi zip codes at or above 75 for three weeks; and case counts in the county above 275 for the same period.

In a second 6-1 vote, the board approved the 5-day plan for 7-12 grade students, which is dependent on COVID-19



Matthew Diroff leads in-person band class at Novi High School while other students attend remotely via livestream Oct. 8. SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

case counts per 10,000 district residents at or below 20 for three consecutive weeks; a case count average of the three Novi zip codes at or below 40 for the same time period; and at or below 140 for all of the county for three weeks.

Secondary students would remain 5 days per week unless case counts rose to 40 or above per 10,000 district residents for three weeks; the zip code threshold was at or above 60 for three weeks; and/or the case count for the county was above 225 for three weeks in a row.

Trustee Tom Smith was the sole no vote on each plan, although he agreed he was pleased to see numbers attached to a determination on 5 days of face-to-face instruction, saying it was "awesome to have clear metrics."

"No one can accuse you of moving the goalposts," he said. "I'm not supporting either recommendation tonight because I think the kids should have been back already, but it's great we at least

have some of it in place now."

Novi has consistently been in a 2-day per week hybrid plan since the first day of the new school year, avoiding high case counts and quarantines that have forced other districts into completely remote learning.

Their plan won them praise early on in the fall as other districts struggled to get in-person learning started or continued, but has also drawn discontent as other districts increased face-to-face instruction. Huron Valley and South Lyon, for example, have recently approved 4-days per week instruction. Both districts are keeping Wednesdays as a remote day, citing extra cleaning, as well as a planning day for teachers.

Matthews said he believes a five-day plan will be best for Novi.

"In my view, if we're coming back, we might as well do five days," he said. "It's a good routine for students, it gives parents the certainty of five days a week, they don't have to search for childcare,

and I have confidence we can do deep disinfecting with the custodial staff during the week and don't need an extra day of cleaning. There was some planning in there, but we will ensure teachers get the time they need and we'll work together to create a good learning environment."

Vice President Paul Cook, who pushed for the metrics, and "not just picking an arbitrary date" for a return to full-time school, said he will follow the data to the end.

"We are trying to draw a line in the sand, or in the concrete, and live with it," he said. "I don't want them in and out of school, we go in person, then it spikes and we're back to hybrid. I want to get them in face-to-face and to keep them face-to-face. By putting the bar higher, it should keep them in school more."

Trustee Bobbie Murphy recognized a concern that was shared by administrators, as well as some parents who voiced support for remaining in the 2-day per week hybrid model: Six feet of social distancing will be a challenge with nearly half of the student population returning to five days per week (the 55% of students in fully virtual school will remain that way for the balance of the year).

"All along, we said we want kids back in school," she said. "I am concerned about classroom sizes, and I am really hoping, am cautiously optimistic that this creative team will continue to be creative about how we space kids. We don't want 26 kids in a class with a teacher that is not vaccinated."

Murphy, who said she recently got her first COVID-19 vaccination appointment, said she is hopeful that teachers will get theirs soon, alleviating anxiety levels and giving safety to the educators who she said have been fabulous.

Matthews said the Novi Education Association reports that as of Thursday less than 200 of 420 district teachers received their first dose, but he believed that number will jump as the Oakland County Health Division prioritizes educators, and that will have a positive impact, "improving teacher confidence."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at [sbromley@hometownlife.com](mailto:sbromley@hometownlife.com) or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.

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# The Michigan Elder Law Reporter™

FEBRUARY 2021

31 Years Serving Michigan Seniors

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 2.1

MIDDLE CLASS MICHIGAN!

DID YOU THINK 2020 WAS OVER?

## You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet... 2020'S WORST IS COMING!

FIGHT BACK... GET IT DONE IN TWENTY-ONE

**"THE ONLY THING WE HAVE TO FEAR..."**

Is COVID paranoia worse than COVID itself? Little Napoleon governors and bureaucrats stumble about. Spewing contradictory decrees. Each more intrusive, more insulting than the last. Still stoking fear. Hysteria. Cruelty. Tears of care and concern. Nonstop demands for more trillions of dollars. Pet projects and government bailouts. "Trust us!" they say. You remember they also say: "Never let a crisis go to waste."

What about us, the middle-class? We were distracted. Who to believe? Routine health care... neglected. Essential LifePlanning™ put off until...? Now who suffers unnecessary disease and disability? Nursing home poverty? Who loses? Who is their chump? You (again). Whose pockets are they picking? Yours (again).

Wake up. Smell the coffee. Act. We have been here before.

WWII, KOREA, BAY OF PIGS, CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS, VIET NAM, COUNTERCULTURE, WATERGATE, STAGFLATION, RUST BELT, MALAISE, OIL CRISIS, SAVINGS & LOAN DEBACLE

Think back. Reflect for a moment on your life. Crisis after so-called crisis. Disaster after hyped-up disaster. And yet here we are. In the world that you, the Middle Class, built. A world with less war. Less hunger. Less disease. More freedom. More prosperity. More opportunity. Than ever.

And you did that. Was it easy? Of course not. Nothing worthwhile comes cheap. As C.S. Lewis wrote: "if you do one good deed your reward usually is to be set to do another and harder and better one."

**DARKEST BEFORE THE DAWN**

And so with COVID. As always, more bad stuff is ahead. But never forget. You are winning. Again. As you always will. Persevering with good cheer. Putting in the overtime. Ignoring the self-seeking merchants of doom. Triumph over tribulation. You win a lot because you have won a lot. By doing the work. Want proof? Read on...

**COVID CASES PEAKED A MONTH AGO  
INFECTIONS ARE PLUMMETING**

Did you know new infections peaked January 7? A full month ago. Did you know new cases are down 45%? So says Reuters.com. Want more "official" "government" information? Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data show January 8 as the peak. New cases down 63%. See for yourself: [https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#trends\\_dailytrendsases](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#trends_dailytrendsases). Did you think it was getting worse?



Gee, I wonder who benefits... Closed churches. Bankrupt businesses. Masks. Double masks. Tension rising. Frustration growing. Why are you not told the truth? Who benefits?

**HYSTERICAL HYPE CRUSHES CARE**

Millions of Americans avoided routine and emergency medical treatment and screenings in 2020. The Imperial Governor of California panicked. Locked down the peasants. Cervical cancer screenings collapse by over 80%. (Check it out: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7004a1.htm>). Meanwhile, "health" executives and lobbyists trash the rules. They treated the Imperial Governor to a swinging birthday shindig. At California's most expensive restaurant (pricey!). Then lied about it. Of course. Rules are for the little people.

Over 40% of your fellow Americans refused routine screening tests and emergency treatment last year. What does that mean? More cancer, more disability, more early death. Isn't it obvious? Fewer prostate exams mean more prostate cancer, uncontrolled incontinence, avoidable erectile dysfunction. Mammograms (I am told) are not pleasant. But better than mastectomy, radiation, and chemo. Disfigurement. Death.

Can it get worse? Sure! The same CDC report (your tax dollars at work: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6936a4.htm>) shows caregivers are THREE TIMES more likely to neglect their own health. For fear of endangering their loved ones.

**MIDDLE CLASS AMERICA PAYS. AS ALWAYS, IN BLOOD AND TREASURE**

Middle Class America, naturally, picks up the tab. Pays the butcher's bill for irresponsible COVID hype. Taxes. Disease. Nursing Home Poverty. Death. Do you think the politicians and rich folks gave up their health care? Who got it right? Career politicians? Health care officials? Government bureaucrats? Smooth celebrities and TV personalities? Or a loud-mouthed, obnoxious, blowhard. Who managed to kick the pharmaceutical industry and federal bureaucracy into producing, testing, and delivering several safe and effective vaccines in a few months rather than years. Maybe obvious answers are not always correct.

**GET IT DONE IN TWENTY-ONE  
ESSENTIAL LIFEPLANNING™**

Regular folks get around to estate planning when something happens. Could be a birthday... 60, 70, 80(!)...

Retirement. Family member death. Unavoidable long-term care. Conventional plan failure. Probate Court. Cottage lost. Business gone. Family farm sold off acre by acre. Maybe a newspaper article. Or something on radio or TV. Ordinary people need a trigger.

Last year people like you gave up 40 to 80% of the medical care they needed. Same with estate planning. You had other things on your mind. And you were locked down too. The fact is most regular folks who would normally plan, in 2020, did not. The consequences will be severe. Unless you act.

**FIGHT BACK. SECURE YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY****LIFEPLANNING™ IS ESSENTIAL**

A deadly, unknown, foreign virus has killed hundreds of thousands of older folks. That is bad enough. Wise precautions advocated by brave, first-line health care workers are perverted into fearmongering by greedy grifters. Time to wake up. Time to make up for 2020's lost opportunities. We have lost one year. Let's not lose another.

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**HOW MUCH MORE TIME DO YOU HAVE?  
WHY WASTE A MINUTE?**

Can we agree? You do not have to settle for institutional care. You can get help at home. You earned it. You paid for it. Your family could use the help you paid for. Other hard-working folks like you are getting the benefits. Benefits they earned. Just like you.

**YOUR LIFE IS A STORY OF SUCCESS...  
KEEP IT THAT WAY!**

You have faced down troubles before. COVID is just one more damn thing. An obstacle to overcome. A challenge to confront. An invisible enemy to defeat. You can do it. You have done it before. Do it again.

The bigger they come, the harder they fall. No such thing as disaster, only an opportunity to excel.

Life is a series of challenges. Most are minor. Small things you handle with competence and grace. But occasionally, you get an opportunity to excel. This is that moment. We shall succeed. LifePlanning™ is a toolbox. Use it. Win. Find out how at a Workshop. Webinar. Live or Recorded event.

**GET ANSWERS NOW.****1-800-317-2812****COVID Emergency Expansion is over... you missed it! But the PACE Program goes on...****Why should your family miss out on the current opportunity? Don't miss this chance again!****KEEP PICKING UP THE P.A.C.E.! GOOD NEWS FOR MIDDLE CLASS SECURITY**

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Dozens of other families made the call. Folks just like you, except they picked up the phone. Their loved ones will be getting needed care. At home.

All with no co-pays, donut holes, or out of pocket expenses. Keep your income.

Many other families are already taking advantage of the PACE benefits. Why not you? The call is free, the information is free, the results can be priceless.

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SIMPLE QUESTIONS

THAT NOBODY ASKS UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE.

## WHAT LAUNDRY SOAP DO YOU USE?

THINGS EVERYBODY TAKES FOR GRANTED... BUT SHOULDN'T

What do you wash your clothes with? Tide? Whisk? Gain? All? Do you use Downy Fabric Softener? Snuggle? Throw those Bounce sheets into the dryer?

Is there anything nicer than fresh clean clothes, scented with your favorite laundry soap, still warm from the dryer? One of life's little joys. A joy you take for granted. But.

What if you could not take such a simple thing for granted? What if you had to rely on others?

How DOES A NURSING HOME CLEAN YOUR CLOTHES?

Forget about spring freshness, lemony scents, or hints of lavender. Your clothes are going into a big machine, set on hot, hot, hot.

As Marilyn Fleming, laundry expert, states: "contaminated textiles and fabrics contain blood, stool, urine, vomit, and other dangerous contaminants [which] pose a risk to your patients..." "When handled inappropriately and not washed properly, bacteria, viruses, and ectoparasites can spread from these contaminated textiles, causing

serious complications..." <https://unimac.com/news/guidelines-for-laundry-in-nursing-homes-and-long-term-care-facilities>

It is comforting that they use industrial strength detergents, isn't it? Detergents that "specifically target biological soiling substances like blood and feces." <https://www.ndgwayindustries.com/commercial-laundry-detergent-hospitals/>

So much for summertime smells...

DO YOU THINK YOU ARE WEARING YOUR OWN SHIRT? DRESS? UNDERWEAR?

Some places do a better job than others. A few sew labels inside. Most use indelible markers. But the aides are busy. There is a lot going on! And soon, the bleached, boiled clothes you are wearing could have come from anywhere or anyone.

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You send your laundry out. Sheets. Pillow cases. Blankets. Housecoat. Bathrobe. Socks. Underwear. Tee shirts. All of it. Because you can afford it. Because a little lemony freshness goes a long way.

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Sixty minutes to clean clothes. Your own clothes. Because you earned it. Avoid Nursing Home Poverty. Thousands of middle-class families benefit. Why not yours?

**GOT QUESTIONS? GET ANSWERS!**

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## Park

Continued from Page 1A

hosting 100 kids for Camp Lakeshore this summer. The popular program offers sports, arts and crafts, swimming, hiking and more for elementary-aged children and Muck encouraged parents to sign up their kids when registration opens, March 1, to avoid missing out.

The community building will host a variety of programs from Parks and Recreation as well as the Novi Library once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

A new pavilion is built to accommodate large groups again, with updated electrical and a whole new look.

Also new is Lakeshore's playground with unique features including a "we-go-round," a merry-go-round accessible to children in wheelchairs, and a swing

that allows parent to sit face-to-face with a child, facilitating interactive play.

Some of the less flashy, infrastructure improvements are still some of the most exciting to Muck, including a paved parking lot instead of gravel and new paths that focus on keeping foot traffic separate from motor vehicles, improving safety and accessibility.

There are still much to come this spring, including landscaping, another coat of asphalt and a library kiosk which Muck said is "basically a vending machine for library materials."

But the majority of the park is ready to be enjoyed now, cold weather or not.

"It's been a long road and we appreciate everyone who has supported project and been patient with closure," Muck said. "We're ready to see everyone back in the park."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.



The new pavilion at Novi's renovated Lakeshore Park complex is built to accommodate large groups. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Development

Continued from Page 1A

The Crossings of Milford was first pitched during a meeting last September as a mixed use development on 35 acres at the northeast corner of Milford Road and Pontiac Trail.

During a December meeting, developers proposed a reduction in housing from the original 195 apartment units to 175. The commercial development suggests five units in the front of the property, which could include fast food restaurants with and without drive-thru windows, a bank and gas station.

Residents expressed disapproval, much as they had at previous meetings, citing increased traffic around an already congested area, a loss of the rural feel of the community, as well as an increased burden on police, fire and schools, as well as water and sewer infrastructure.

The commissioners shared some of those concerns, but also noted the project was smaller than what it is zoned for, and does not carry with it a big box store as had been proposed in years past.

The 33,000 square feet of retail space, however, was a disappointment to some who wanted a large commercial



The Crossings at Milford is a proposed development at Milford and Pontiac Trail that would include 195 apartment units such as these. COURTESY OF PEA GROUP

aspect to the development and lower density on residential. Paciocco said he would not be averse to increasing the size of the commercial should a retailer come forward seeking a larger use.

Commissioners Jim Mallon and Neil DeVries expressed some concern for the gas station proposed; Mallon saying he would prefer to see its location limited to either the far north or south ends rather than in the middle, and DeVries said he would rather not see one at all.

Commissioner Myles Davis said for him, the project "lives and dies on traf-

fic."

He said he had spoken with the Road Commission for Oakland County about a traffic circle, which the entity favors, but the Michigan Department of Transportation would have "a big vote" due to its proximity to I-96.

The commissioners also wanted assurances of a traffic signal alignment with Kensington Ridge, a proposed 895-unit Pulte housing development on 335 acres on the west side of Milford Road stretching south from Maple Road to nearly I-96. The commission will hold a

public hearing on the Kensington Ridge proposal at its Feb. 25 meeting.

Paciocco said he was willing to commit to a traffic light aligning with Kensington Ridge, working with the other developer to fund it if the developments are put in simultaneously, or would pay for it himself if the Crossings of Milford goes in first.

He said he would not agree to not sell a commercial pod to a gas station, however and said he needed flexibility on pods to allow drive-up or drive-through units in accordance with zoning ordinances in place when the commercial space sells.

Davis maintained he would be a no vote on the development, which Paciocco called unfair.

"We are willing to participate as landowners to create a phenomenal intersection and corridor, but we should not be penalized because of that intersection and my little piece of land," he said.

He did get some words of encouragement.

"The concept plan is great, I love the mixed use with residential and commercial," Commissioner Julie Ryszka said, noting that traffic issues will be up to the road commission and MDOT. "It will look great and it's a great option to what it could be."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com.

## School

Continued from Page 1A

### From mental health to continuity of learning

"Mental health has been ignored for too long," said Kelly Darty in advocating for a return to 4 days.

"My middle schooler is suffering from all angles," Michelle Youngblood said.

"Isolation is hurting our kids," Lindsay Adkins agreed.

"I want kids full time in school immediately," Tory Showek said. "It's criminal. How can you explain not having 4-day face-to-face learning, without incident. If you are afraid of them bringing it home, then take precautions... Kids are rotting away in their rooms, I agree 100 percent."

"Children's mental health matters, they need to be in-person school and around their friends and actually learn something," Kristen Campbell said. "It's

downright sad no one is taking into consideration their mental health. Get our kids back to school. Let us be heard, this isn't fair."

Lauren Bockin urged the board to put kids back in school five days a week as "students are suffering and parents are losing their jobs."

But there was also plenty of opposition to changing the current 2-days per week model.

"Going in-person 100 percent is a terrible idea," student Kaden Sleek said. "What are the benefits? We've gotten used to virtual and cramming 30 students in a room during a pandemic is bad."

"It's a bad idea in every aspect," Carter Sleek, a student at South Lyon East High School, said, adding that many of his classmates aren't following the current safety protocols and are wearing their masks incorrectly. "50 percent appeases all students. The 100 percent plan completely disregards people who want to be virtual. You're only appeasing those with the loudest voice, but they don't speak for all."

Chris Costa, a South Lyon teacher, said full face-to-face instruction would mean losing the ability for continuity of learning.

"Google meets won't be the expectation," he said. "Prepare for a larger number of students who need to be quarantined and lose live instruction. In my 22 years of teaching, consistency and routine is the key to students' success. I urge you not to return to full instruction."

Juliann Sleek, the mother of two secondary students in the district, said the teachers may be vaccinated by March against COVID-19, but the students would not be.

"I've learned a lot over the last year how selfish people are," she said. "There will be close to 8,000 in the district at risk unnecessarily (with an increase in face-to-face instruction). I want nothing more than kids to be in school... The vaccine is here and we can take a moment and allow everyone who wants to get vaccinated and then we can go back."

### District plans mitigation efforts

Archibald said he had received "numerous" comments over the last several weeks, with all seeming to recognize the benefits of maximized in-person instruction, but differing in their opinions of how and when. His recommendation to increase to 4-days per week will continue to follow mitigation strategies to decrease the spread of COVID-19, and will also add some, including plexiglass dividers, recognizing that "in many cases, there will be no more than three feet between students seated."

"Obviously, as neighboring districts have observed, an increase in attendance means an increase in quarantines," he acknowledged. "The proposal we bring forth tonight balances as best we can the concerns and provides a transition period over the next two school weeks."

The board ultimately approved an extension to "the transition period" to March 8. While secondary students in the hybrid plan can opt to return to school 4 days per week starting Monday, all students in the hybrid plan won't be expected to return for the full 4 days for another month. The extension allows the board to evaluate the changes made now at its March 2 meeting, and adjust if necessary.

Wednesdays will continue to be a remote day for all students, not only for cleaning purposes, but also for teachers to have meetings that on in-class instruction days would have required substitutes, and to allow quarantined students to have live streamed instruction from teachers.

With the exception of McDowell, who recently toured schools and said "it was concerning to see what three feet of distance means," board members expressed support for the increase in face-to-face instruction, albeit with some reservations and appeared to be looking at the move as a leap of faith.

Treasurer Dan Schwegler noted that there would likely be a higher number of students in quarantine and expressed concern over those students getting a comparable education to what they receive now.

Vice President Eric Kennedy said his concerns remain the same, perhaps amplified now that he revealed COVID-19 "has run through my house" with himself, his wife (a teacher in the district) and his daughter all testing positive and at various stages of quarantine.

"My concerns are still class sizes, spacing and our availability to keep buildings staffed continually," he said, with his comments punctuated by a steady cough. "Yes, I'm hesitant being in quarantine and feeling like crap the last two weeks, but with continued support and diligence from students, staff, families and administrators... this is the right step to be diligent. Before I cough up a lung, I'll be done."

Trustee Martin Leftwich, who said he teaches in another district that has successfully been in-person five days per week, expressed confidence in the South Lyon plan while acknowledging it was an incredibly emotional and difficult decision.

"To the community, teachers, fellow board members: I could not support a plan like this if I didn't live it every day," Leftwich said. "I teach in a district where I am with classes 5 days a week, and it's important to support the mask-wearing, plexiglass, whatever makes that teacher safer in that room makes them better. Nothing can replace face to face teaching... If I didn't think it could be done safely, I wouldn't support it. It's time to move forward."

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com or 517-281-2412. Twitter: @SusanBromley10.

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A man runs past some of the warming huts that line Center Street in Northville on Feb. 2 for its Heat in the Streets program. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## Closures

Continued from Page 1A

to hold them with the roads shut down.

"We need to take into consideration that will be really almost impossible to hold special events downtown given the lack of available space going forward," she said.

The city first closed the roads down in June as restaurant dining rooms and retail shops were permitted to reopen after a several-month shutdown ordered by the state in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many cities, Northville included, began looking at ways to

bring people out to support local business in a comfortable fashion, and the closure of the roads was just one way the city did that.

Since that initial road closure, the street has completely transformed: in addition to table and chairs sitting in the middle of the road ready for hungry diners, several heated shelters — called "Heat in the Street" — have been erected for dining during the coldest of months for use. The city continues to designate the area as a social district dubbed "The Twist," which allows guests to purchase alcoholic beverages from local restaurants and enjoy them outside in the downtown area.

Councilwoman Barbara Moroski-

Browne said she wondered if possibly extending it a bit longer to see how such a closure would work once vaccines have rolled out and COVID-19 is under control. She said it's clear the district works well in the summer during a pandemic, as seen last year, and said it's hopeful the number of COVID-19 cases will drop significantly by the time the fall and winter arrives later this year.

Having an extra summer of non-pandemic closures, she said, could be something worth examining.

"I think with grace, we'll get a period of several months next winter when we're not in this pandemic. We've got a winter to see how winter works, hopefully," Moroski-Browne said. "I don't

think it gives us a summer of how this plays out with street closures."

Mayor Pro Tem Marilyn Price said the warmer temperatures and attraction of outdoor dining even before the pandemic appears to indicate having additional closures for outdoor events will be successful in the summer, regardless of the status of the pandemic.

"We know that summer in a pandemic was an incredible success. It's hard to not imagine it not being a success in the summer," she said. "We know people come downtown."

Contact reporter David Veselenak at [dveselenak@hometownlife.com](mailto:dveselenak@hometownlife.com) or 734-678-6728. Follow him on Twitter @davidveselenak.

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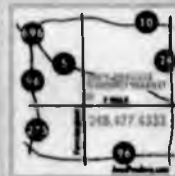


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## Northville RB Saunders to play for Ohio State

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Cayden Saunders was always following in his father's footsteps.

He grew up in NFL locker rooms — his father Cedric a former vice president of football operations with the Detroit Lions — interacting with players at games, training camps and practices. He lis-

tened to his father's stories of his days playing football at Ohio State.

For Cayden, this was the next step. He knew he wanted to reach that level as a player himself.

"At that point, he realized he wanted something bigger," Cedric Saunders said. "He started saying, 'Dad, I'm going to go to Ohio State and play ball like you.'"

"I'm like, 'All right, it's going to take a

lot of hard work to get there.'"

Next season, Cayden Saunders will play for Ohio State, committing to the Buckeyes as a preferred walk-on running back in the 2021 class.

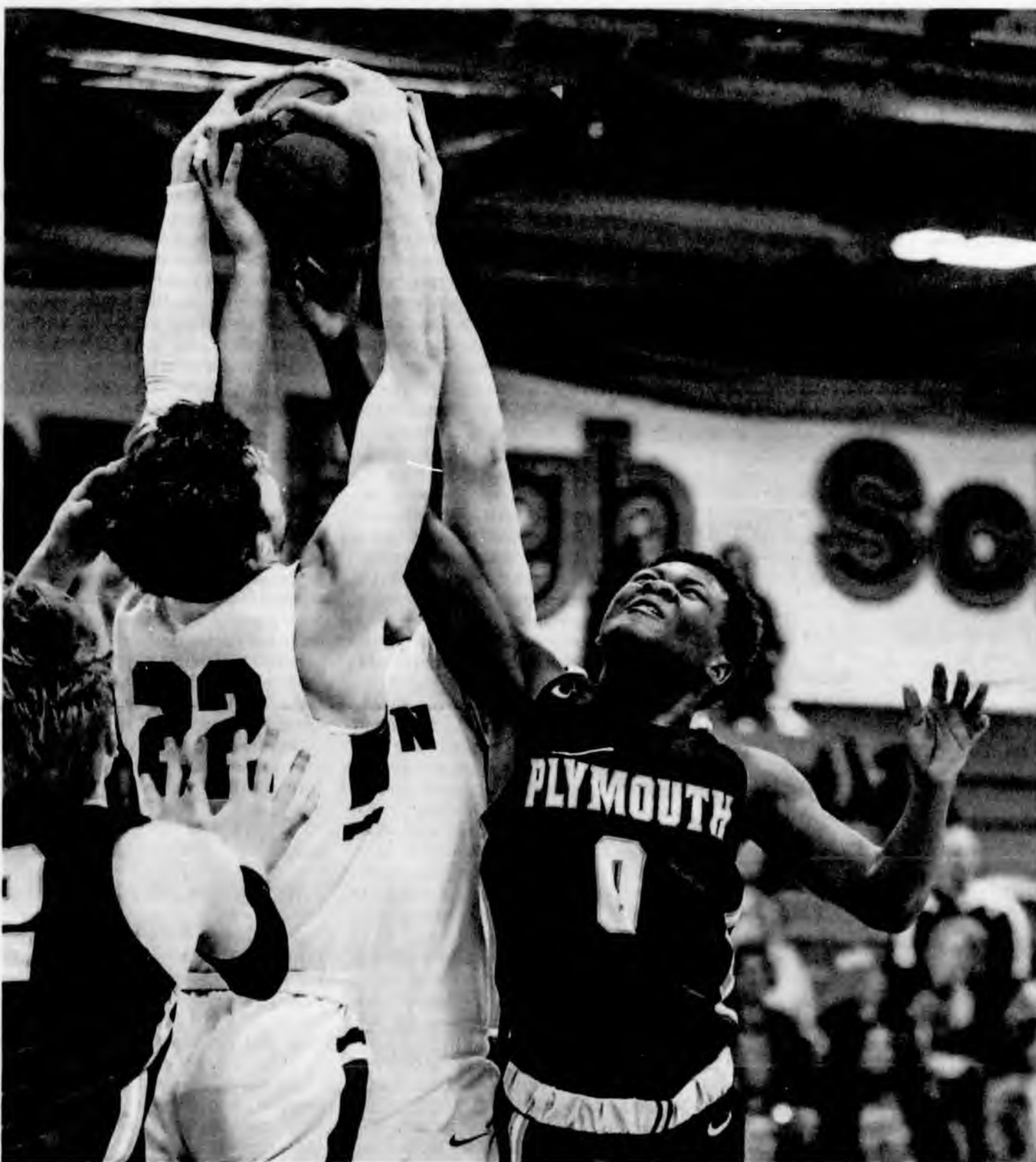
But based on his father's experience, based on what he has seen in college football and the NFL, his path to Columbus was not the same as many in his position.

## Focus on the mental game

Growing up, the Saunders family had a rule: Cayden had to be at least 14 years old and 100 pounds before he could start playing tackle football. In his times in scouting and personnel departments in the NFL, Cedric Saunders felt his son

See SAUNDERS, Page 5B

## BOYS BASKETBALL



Senior Brandon Craddieth will play a major role for Plymouth this season. MICHAEL VASILNEK/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

## What to watch for this season in the LVC

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

High school basketball is back.

After months of uncertainty surrounding the 2020-21 winter season, basketball teams got the go-ahead from the state to start the season Monday.

This season, the district playoffs will be held March 23, 25 and 27; the regional round will be held March 30 and April 1; and the state quarterfinals, semifinals and finals are scheduled for April 6, 8 and 10.

Here's how Hometown Life's four teams in the Lakes Valley Conference look ahead of the 2021 season.

## Milford

**Head coach:** Dave Gilbert, eighth season

**2019-20 season:** 5-15, seventh in LVC, 33-30 loss to Walled Lake Northern in district semifinal

**Key players:** Senior Trevor Leigh, senior Eric Elizando, sophomore Sam Lewis

**What to expect:** While the 2020 season didn't end the way Milford wanted, head coach Dave Gilbert was relieved to have that sense of closure.

"We had that moment where we gave it everything we had, we fought back double-digits against Northern in the district semi," Gilbert said. "Our kids left it all out there on the court and we fell a bucket short."

Gilbert brings back a group in 2021 that remembers that game well: a senior-heavy group that knows his system, represents, what he calls, that "Milford mentality."

"Just the fact that the kids know our system, right, and know our program and what we are all about, having those kids that have been through that varsity experience, it's absolutely an advantage," he said.

Allowing an average of 51.6 points per game a season ago, Gilbert said defense will be the staple of Milford basketball in 2021. Through the uncertain start to the season, he said defense will be about attitude and effort, showing up from the first game no matter how much time the team had to prepare prior.

If we are going to have any success, I think that's one of the things that can carry over," Gilbert said. "I expect our defense, not pick up where we left off, but truly be one of those things that our kids know and truly understand

See LVC, Page 2B

## What to expect from KLAA West

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

High school basketball is back.

After months of uncertainty surrounding the 2020-21 winter season, basketball teams got the go-ahead from the state to start its season Monday.

This season, the district round will be held March 23, 25 and 27; the regional round will be March 30 and April 1; and the state quarterfinals, semifinals and finals are scheduled for April 6, 8 and 10.

Here's how Hometown Life's teams in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association West division look ahead of the 2021 season.

## Canton

**Head coach:** Jimmy Reddy, 12th season

**2019-20 season:** 15-7, third in KLAA West, unplayed district final against Northville

**Key players:** Junior Cole Vickers, junior Amare Reed, junior Lake McIntosh, senior Bruce Warmann, senior Nate Herberholz

**What to expect:** Canton will look much different than the 2019-20 team that won 15 games and ended its season with an incomplete district final.

The Chiefs have five returning varsity players, including two juniors — Cole

Vickers, a KLAA All-Conference player last year, and Lake McIntosh, an All-KLAA honorable mention — who played a lot of minutes for head coach Jimmy Reddy's team last season.

"Those guys will be ready to go," Reddy said. "Those guys play a lot of ball and they got a good feel. I'm not worried about those guys."

After Vickers and McIntosh, along with fellow junior forward Amare Reed, Canton's roster is filled with players without consistent playing time at the varsity level.

Senior Nate Herberholtz, one of

See KLAA, Page 2B





## LVC

Continued from Page 18

where the offense will take a little bit more time... see the offense more evolve through the game experience."

### South Lyon East

**Head coach:** Ron Levin, eighth season

**2019-20 season:** 15-7, third in LVC, unplayed district final against Ann Arbor Skyline

**Key players:** Senior Bryce Bird, senior Adam Trent, senior Christian Dimitriou, senior Drake Willenborg, senior Zander Desentz

**What to expect:** Compared to other teams around the state, South Lyon East head coach Ron Levin feels his team is in a good spot.

Heading into 2021, he has eight players who have gone through a season together, whoknow what South Lyon East basketball is about and that can pick up where they left off in 2020: an unplayed district final against Ann Arbor Skyline.

With this group, including five seniors and three third-season varsity players, Levin said there are no worries about developing team chemistry.

"The familiarity is there," Levin said. "They play together, they know how each other works and functions, they know how to play for me and what I expect from them."

Senior guard Bryce Bird will run the point for the Cougars, coming into his final season already holding the school record for assists after earning a spot on the All-Conference team a year ago. Along with seniors Christian Dimitriou, Drake Willenborg and Zander Desentz — an LVC All-Conference honorable mention — Levin says senior Adam Trent will play a big role, like he already has during the extended and uncertain offseason.

"Kids look up to him," Levin said of



South Lyon's Lucas Doty has not played since his sophomore year after sitting out the 2019-20 season due to an injury. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Trent. "He's almost like a coach on the floor. He's been really instrumental at keeping the kids together through all these shutdowns and keeping guys focused and organizing things for guys to stay active, whether it be Zoom calls or workouts. He's been very important."

### South Lyon

**Head coach:** Troy Weidman, fourth season

**2019-20 season:** 10-11, fifth in LVC, 51-48 loss to South Lyon East in district semifinal

**Key players:** Senior Lucas Doty, junior Quinn Fracassi, senior Julien Neer,

senior Max Peters, junior Logan Doty

**What to expect:** South Lyon head coach Troy Weidman is just grateful for a chance to play.

"It's just been a given to go play league, go play games, go play in a state tournament the way we do," Weidman said. "That's not the case anymore."

Last season, winning 10-of-21 games, the Lions were third in the Lakes Valley Conference in offense, averaging 55 points per game. Due to the lack of contact practices heading into the season, the head coach said offensive and defensive play calling is harder and more accelerated.

But Weidman thinks, especially this

season, that this year is not about him. The players will be the ones defining the success.

"I believe this year, those teams that are player-led teams that are really tight as a team — tight meaning they really like each other and hold each other accountable — are going to be the teams that are really going to be successful," Weidman said.

Weidman feels senior Lucas Doty will play a major role in that. Returning from an injury that sidelined him all of his junior season, Doty was the co-MVP his sophomore year. Weidman expects Doty to battle with his brother Logan, a junior, to be the best defensive player on the team.

South Lyon will also have junior Quinn Fracassi returning, who Weidman describes as a "special shooter" after averaging 16 points per game in 2019-20.

### Lakeland

**Head coach:** Ron Thompson, fourth season

**2019-20 season:** 15-6, second in LVC, unplayed district final against Walled Lake Northern

**Key players:** Junior Caleb Zurek

**What to expect:** In 2019-20, Lakeland did not get a chance at closure.

After a 60-43 win against Walled Lake Western in the district semifinal, the Eagles awaited a district final against Walled Lake Northern before the season was canceled.

Heading into 2021 without its two LVC All-Conference players from a season ago in Austin Boughton and David Jabiro, Thompson, in his fourth season as head coach, will have to rely on junior Caleb Zurek, who was named an honorable mention all-conference selection.

A season ago, the Eagles averaged 58.8 points per game, scoring under 50 points only once — a 44-33 win against Walled Lake Western.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com).

## KLAA

Continued from Page 18

three seniors on the roster including Bruce Warmann, has done a great job of helping his Canton teammates stay on top of things throughout the pandemic, Reddy said, and has developed as a leader.

"He was a super quiet kid for us as a junior last year," Reddy said. "Actually a really good baseball guy — he's going to play college baseball somewhere — but he's really been vocal, which has really been helpful for our senior class."

But with this new group, Reddy is focused on helping them look forward and not back at what could have been at the district final against Northville. He wants his team to have a chance to write their own legacy at Canton, believing that the best is yet to come.

"There's really no playbook for this," Reddy said. "We're going to try and navigate this as a staff and keep preaching to our guys, 'Attitude, attitude,' because you are just going to have to be ready for anything, the next guy's going to be ready to step in."

"You are just going to have to roll with the punches."

### Northville

**Head coach:** Todd Sander, 13th season

**2019-20 season:** 18-4, second in KLAA West, unplayed district final against Canton

**Key players:** Senior Brett Rudolph, senior Jake Willerer, senior Jacob Eyler, senior Jack Huddy

**What to expect:** Normally, Northville head coach Todd Sander is used to seeing his team every day. But after two months of virtual coaching, reconnecting in person for outdoor conditioning workouts he sensed a few differences.

"I think a couple of them are a few inches taller than when we were last in the gym together in November," Sander said.

Heading into the 2021 season, Sander's seven returners have not forgotten how their season ended last March: in an unplayed district final against Canton that was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But Sander's focus is on them putting their own stamp on Northville's history.

To the Mustangs, it starts with their seven seniors, including guard Jake Willerer, who Sander said has experienced big moments on the basketball court and the baseball field; Jacob Eyler, who transferred back to Northville from Detroit Catholic Central; and Jack Huddy, the tallest player on the roster at 6-foot-7.

But Sander expects Brett Rudolph to



Northville head coach Todd Sander said he expects Brett Rudolph to take a step up in 2021. TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

play a major role in the team's success when it's all said and done.

Last year, the Northville staff asked him to learn almost every position as a junior, filling in where he could despite taking a dip in scoring due to the weapons the Mustangs had.

"We asked him to do a lot: we asked him to defend and sometimes he was defending a big and sometimes he was defending on the perimeter," Sander said. "He turned into a great rebounder."

"This year, we need him to take a big step forward, which I'm confident he will because in a lot of ways, he has the most experience, he's the most familiar with us and a lot of our stuff is going to go through him."

### Novi

**Head coach:** Chris Housey, third season

**2019-20 season:** 7-14, 45-25 loss to Northville in district semifinals

**Key players:** Senior Bryce Lubin, senior Aiden Shires, senior Anish Gogineni, junior Danny Groechel

**What to expect:** Adversity is nothing new for Novi basketball.

A season ago, younger players were forced to step up when injuries plagued the Wildcats starting lineup. To head coach Chris Housey, it was a chance to see them step up and fill rolls.

"They did well. There was a bit of a learning curve with those guys, but now, those guys that got the experience because of those injuries, they are back, they are here this year and kind of know they have that background, they have that foundation that they got last year

and they can build on it," Housey said.

Novi will have six returning players to the 2021 team: one junior and five seniors, including senior guard Bryce Lubin, who started most of the season at point guard, Aiden Shires, Anish Gogineni and Danny Gretchel, who came up halfway through last season and filled in at point guard.

Housey said his seniors have taken initiative and ownership of this team, stepping up and organizing offseason pickup games at local parks, making sure the players are in good enough shape for the upcoming season.

This season, more than any other, Housey said success is going to come down to energy and effort, despite the carry-over of offensive and defensive schemes used from the varsity team down to the junior-varsity team.

However, especially at the beginning of the season, deficiencies and shortcomings in terms of the game plan, Housey said, can be overcome by hard work.

"The season is going to be different than any other with the fact that it's going to be a sprint," Housey said. "We're not going to be able to do a lot of the nuanced things we have done. We're going to have to review our basic systems and rely on the guys' intelligence and basketball IQ and energy and effort."

### Plymouth

**Head coach:** Mike Soukup, 12th season

**2019-20 season:** 10-11, sixth in KLAA West, 48-39 loss to Northville in first round

**Key players:** Senior Brandon Cradith; junior Jason Stewart

**What to expect:** Heading into his 12th season as the head coach, at Plymouth, Mike Soukup has had to adjust on the fly.

Despite having an idea of what he had to work with heading into the 2021 season — participating with his team in a fall league — Soukup still has questions heading into his season.

But Soukup thinks that having seven players return from last season's team will help ease the transition into this uncertain 2021 campaign.

"Returning players, especially returning players who saw significant time, will have a leg up, at least in the beginning," Soukup said. "I expect it to be messy and somewhat unorganized for all. It will be an interesting challenge to see how you balance practice with game management, with fatigue management."

"We hope that guys who played significant minutes last year can kind of hold the ship early, keep on course as we navigate the first third of the season and see where we can make changes on the fly. We are going to lean on those guys

heavy, especially in the start of the year."

With both Matt MacLellan and Jacob Smith graduating, Soukup hopes that senior Brandon Cradith and junior Jason Stewart will be those kind of players early, but knows that anything can happen over the course of the season.

"Everybody is playing better at the end of the year, but the evolution process that takes place and how, oftentimes, that Plan A that you came up with in November ends up being Plan D when you get to the middle of February," Soukup said.

### Salem

**Head coach:** Ryan Nummertguth, first season

**2019-20 season:** 6-15, eighth in KLAA West, 66-51 loss to Canton in district semifinal

**Key players:** Senior Charlie Argust, senior Tanner Locke, senior Chris Kovacs, junior Ashton Wheeler

**What to expect:** Having been coaching at Salem since 2004, serving as an assistant coach under Bob Brodie since 2014, Ryan Nummertguth is slowly taking things over.

With Brodie still on staff, Nummertguth takes the reins as the head coach at Salem, leading the charge with nine seniors and one junior returning from last year's team.

Prior to their varsity season together last year, none of the now-seniors has any varsity experience, but developed chemistry on and off the court, learning the lessons of being such a young team last year.

"We didn't have the record that we thought we deserved or we should have. We lost a lot of games — probably four, five games — in the last three minutes of the game," Nummertguth said. "We just couldn't get over that hump."

"I think some of that had to do with experience and youth, but we want to take those lessons we learned and use them this year to now, those close games, be on the other end of them."

Along with seniors Charlie Argust, what Nummertguth calls an "old-school basketball player," and Tanner Locke, senior Chris Kovacs will take the lead at point, replacing Ryan Len, who graduated last year as an All-KLAA team member and lead the team in scoring, assists and steals.

Ashton Wheeler, a junior, also will try and continue his momentum from last season, with ummertguth crediting his development after joining the team from junior-varsity four games into the 2019-20 season.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17. Send game results and stats to [Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com](mailto:Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com).



## Winter contact sports are back: Here's what we know

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

After 20 days of non-contact practices and months of uncertainty regarding the upcoming season, winter contact sports have been given the go-ahead to start their seasons.

In a press conference Thursday, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Chief Medical Executive Joneigh Khaldun and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director Elizabeth Hertel announced that basketball, wrestling, hockey and competitive cheer teams may start contact practices and competition Monday, ending a ban that started Nov. 18.

"I know these past months have been tough for all of us, and I know they have been hard on student athletes, who have been missing a sense of connection and belonging, as well as many other attributes that playing sports provides," Whitmer said. "I appreciate the passion of our young athletes and the desire they have to get back into the game they love."

Here's what contact winter sports will look like in 2021:

According to the latest epidemic order, in-person contact practices and competition may begin Monday with masks worn at all times.

However, in situations where masks are not compatible, teams may compete in person without them if there are heightened safety protocols, including consistent testing regimens. With sports that are outdoors and where athletes maintain proper social distancing, masks are not required.

According to the latest order, spectators will be limited to two per athlete.

Hertel encouraged winter contact sports teams to continue with consistent COVID-19 testing.

Between Nov. 15 and Feb. 1, the number of daily new cases from around the state has decreased 72%, while the positive test rate has dropped to 5.10%.

Michigan joins 38 other states around the country that already started winter contact sports including border states Ohio, Indiana and Wisconsin; each have been participating in basket-



The Mercy High School bench rises to applaud their basketball teammates on the court. HOMETOWNLIFE.COM FILE

ball, wrestling, hockey and competitive cheer since Dec. 1.

In December, fall teams remaining in the football, volleyball, and girls swim and dive postseason participated in a rapid testing program headed by the MDHHS three times per week. As of Jan. 19, 99.8% of those tests came back negative with nearly 30,000 rapid tests taken.

"We'll continue to watch the numbers, we'll continue to watch our cases, but we do think there is a way for athletes to be able to participate in the safest way possible," Khaldun said.

Whitmer said she knows that this has been hard on student athletes who have been missing a sense of connection and belonging and appreciates the desire they have to get back into the game they love.

However, this decision was based on, "following the science," not the demonstrations in response to the previous ban of contact practices and competitions.

"Here in Michigan, we all love sports. It's a part of our DNA, and throughout this time we have been watching our numbers closely to make sure we do achieve forward progress and we are continued to make it possible for students to get back into in-person learning as well."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17

## Winter teams celebrate return of contact sports

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

When Livonia Stevenson head hockey coach David Mitchell found out that winter contact sports would be allowed to start competing Monday, it was like being a parent on Christmas Day.

"You feel great when you are a kid on Christmas, but when you see your own kids go through it," Mitchell said, "when you have those little kids running down the stairs and you can't wait to video them and watch them running, that's how I feel."

After Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Department of Health and Human Services gave the OK on Thursday, the Michigan High School Athletic Association put the dates into place: allowing hockey and basketball teams to start playing games Monday, while scheduling the competitive cheer and wrestling seasons to start Feb. 12.

"As excited as we were to get fall restarted to be able to finish, we are probably more excited because of these four winter teams," MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said.

Tournament dates for each of the contact winter sports will remain the same as was released Jan. 14. With this, spring dates, Uyl said, should not be affected too much.

Detroit Catholic Central basketball coach Brandon Sinawi has seen his players develop over the course of individual skill training. He said his players were consistent and diligent because they never wavered in their confidence that they would be able to have some semblance of a season.

### New wrestling rules

Since Nov. 18, John Glenn head coach Bill Polk said the wrestling community has been collectively "holding its breath."

For the past three months, Polk's message to his players has been to control what they can control, stay in the best possible shape they can be in

and not to worry about anything going on outside of their team's circle.

Heading into 2021, Polk's group will get a chance to show what it can do, but it will be a bit different.

Wrestlers will be required by the MHSAA to perform rapid testing ahead of each competition. With this, competitors will not wear masks during bouts, but will have to in every other setting, including practices.

If there is a positive case within a wrestling program, Uyl said, contact tracing would be put into place, which could quarantine anywhere from a group of players to an entire team.

For basketball and hockey teams, masks will be required at all times. Masks will be required for cheer as well at all times except for performances on the mat.

### All they wanted was a chance

With a season secured, Wayne Memorial head girls basketball coach Jarvis Mitchell admitted that fear and doubt of a season happening did enter his mind over the past few weeks.

To him, it was unlike other pauses: watching other things across the state open up, but still being kept away from the ice. To him, it felt exclusive.

Across the state, coaches, players and families bonded, highlighting sports' ability to be an escape for athletes and coaches alike.

To him, the connection was the silver lining.

"Sometimes as a coach, straight up I'll tell you: It gets lonely as a head coach. You see that there are programs from everywhere ... all up and down the state," Mitchell said. "We just were all pulling for the same thing. Man, in today's world, in society, that's just not happening as much as it should."

Through the waiting, basketball players, hockey players, cheerleaders and wrestlers will get a chance to show what they can do, something they have been waiting for for months.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Twitter: @ColinGay17

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## Hartland's Carlile among Hobey Baker nominees

**Bill Khan**  
Livingston Daily  
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The best shot blockers in hockey are both fearless and have perfected the technique of getting in front of pucks without coming away worse for wear.

"I wish I knew that technique," Declan Carlile of Hartland said.

OK, well, at least he's got the fearless part down.

Blocking shots is far from glamorous, and quite possibly hazardous for a player's health, but it's one of the key elements that have allowed Carlile to become one of the best players in college hockey in a relatively short time.

Carlile, a sophomore defenseman at Merrimack College in Massachusetts, is among 50 players nominated for the Hobey Baker Award, college hockey's equivalent of the Heisman Trophy.

Among the recent winners are NHL stars Johnny Gaudreau, Jack Eichel and Cale Makar.

"I was a little surprised, but at the same time it was a cool honor," Carlile said. "For me, it's just something that I couldn't have done without everyone on my team. It's just a reflection of our program and how that works."

"Honestly, I didn't expect it this early in my career. It's an honor I take pride in. It kind of sprung up on me and surprised me, and it was definitely a good surprise."

After missing Merrimack's first four games due to COVID protocol, Carlile has emerged as one of the top defensemen in Hockey East. He has one goal and two assists in three games, leading the team with a plus-3 rating.

With 24 blocked shots, his average of three per game leads Hockey East and ranks second in the nation to Colorado College defenseman Zach Berzolla's rate of 3.25.

"I love the feeling of blocking a shot and everyone on the bench getting up," Carlile said. "It helps the team. It's been a part of my game. It doesn't always feel great, but it's definitely worth it in the end."

Carlile made the Hockey East All-Rookie team last year, leading all Merrimack freshmen in scoring with four goals and 18 assists. His 22 points were



**Declan Carlile of Hartland, a sophomore defenseman at Merrimack College, is among 50 nominees for the Hobey Baker Award as college hockey's top player.** COURTESY OF MERRIMACK COLLEGE ATHLETICS

three shy of the school record for a freshman defenseman. His 67 blocked shots led Hockey East.

"My first year, it was just kind of getting used to the speed and pace of the game," Carlile said. "This year, it's more about bringing that speed and being more used to the games."

"I'm getting my footwork together more, just thinking about it and focusing a lot in practice. I'm a lefthanded D

and play the right side, so I'm getting more comfortable on that side, being

able to pivot and use my stick and things like that."

Carlie attended Hartland High School in ninth grade before leaving for two years at Culver Military Academy in Indiana. As a senior, he moved to Wellington, Ontario, to play in the Ontario Junior Hockey League. He had 39 points in 54 regular-season games, helping to lead the Wellington Dukes to the Canadian Junior A championship.

He played for Lincoln and Muskegon in the United States Hockey League in

2018-19

Carlile went into the 2018 NHL Entry Draft ranked No. 176 among North American forwards. He hasn't been drafted, which doesn't necessarily derail his NHL dreams.

"I thought maybe it would happen last year, but it didn't," Carlile said. "At the end of the day, it's just going to motivate me more. Being a college free agent is kind of a good play these days. I have my options open for me. I think it's a good road to go down."



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## Saunders

Continued from Page 1B

did not need the physical aspect of the game before he mastered the mental part.

So Cedric opened up the playbook, showing him different positions and what they meant to the other positions on the field, using flag football as a training tool to experience playing the offense he saw on paper.

When Cayden Saunders joined the freshman team at Northville, he was relatively inexperienced with full-contact football and needed time to find his place.

"I was actually a wide receiver at the time," he said. "I came in... and through the games and the practices and the types of adversity that we faced, it taught me to push through and push myself harder into something that I never knew I had."

When Northville head football coach Matt Ladach first met Saunders, he knew the athlete could be successful at any position he played. Ladach moved him from wide receiver to running back to the other side of the ball: playing outside linebacker and cornerback, giving Saunders a different way to develop his offensive game.

Ladach saw a smart, quick and explosive football player at his disposal. And he had a football player who knew where he wanted to be when he graduated.

"Cayden knew that his goal was to go to a Division 1 school," Ladach said. "From day one, Cayden wanted to go to a big school, even if it meant that he was going to turn down financial assistance to go to a school where he wanted to go."

Even with the goal of big-time football, Saunders focused on the Mustangs, wanting to change the trajectory of the team that won only a third of its games 2017-19.

Northville finished the 2020 season at 5-3: its best record since 2016, finishing in second place behind Canton in the KLA West.

"We knew we had to make a change this year," Saunders said. "Just me being a senior this year, I wanted to be a part of that leadership group that would lead this group to where we ended up this year, so I'm very proud of that."



Cayden Saunders will follow in his father's footsteps at Ohio State.

COURTESY OF CAYDEN SAUNDERS

### Challenges await

All Saunders wanted was a chance. He wanted a chance to shine at a high-level Division 1 program, accumulating preferred walk-on offers from Michigan, Michigan State, Cincinnati and Vanderbilt.

As for Ohio State, the coaching staff liked his speed and agility, his explosive tendencies in the backfield for Northville — the same message Ladach got from Ohio State defensive coordinator Kerry Coombs, who was in charge of Saunders' recruitment.

In the end, Ohio State had a spot,

Saunders had the talent and the scholarship that paid for his college for four years.

Saunders had his shot. He had his dream.

"I was in shock," Saunders said. "I was excited because I realized everything I had worked for, it was finally being realized. I was finally going to get an opportunity at the next level to continue."

Having coached Saunders for the past two years, Ladach knows the Northville senior will be successful based on the teammate, the friend and the athlete he has been for the

Mustangs.

"I'm not going to tell you he's going to be the starting tailback at Ohio State, I'm not going to tell you he's never going to see the field," Ladach said. "Cayden will be a meaningful contributor for that program, and he will be happy doing it. That's why he's been such a pleasure to coach."

Cedric Saunders knows what lies ahead for his son. He knows the running back room Cayden is joining: Master Teague, Miyan Williams and Demario McCall return to the offense along with five-star recruit TreVeyon Henderson from the 2021 recruiting class.

But Cayden's father is confident, thinking he could have fresher legs based on the path to football he led his son on.

"He hasn't taken as much of a pounding as he would have if he started a little bit earlier," Cedric Saunders said. "I think his growth within the game is still to come as far as that physical part."

"I think over the next year or two we're really going to see who Cayden is going to be as a football player, both physically and mentally. He's going to be challenged when he gets there, which I like about it."

Cayden Saunders knows he will be challenged. But even though his dream has been achieved, he is not satisfied.

"You can never stop working hard and you can never be satisfied with where you are at," the senior running back said. "That way you always have something motivating you, keep pushing, be better than you already are. Even if you already think you're good, you can always be better."

Cedric Saunders — still active in football as the vice president of football operations at Goal Line Football, representing coaches and players including former Ohio State quarterback Dwayne Haskins — is satisfied. He is content. He has already started visualizing those tailgates outside Ohio Stadium, going to games consistently, cheering on his son where they cheered on his alma mater before he even started tackle football.

Cedric Saunders can't wait to be a part of Cayden Saunders', his son's journey at Ohio State.

"I've had my journey," Cedric Saunders said. "Now it's his journey."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at [cgay@hometownlife.com](mailto:cgay@hometownlife.com) or 248-330-6710. Send game results and stats to [LivSports@hometownlife.com](mailto:LivSports@hometownlife.com).

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## Northville Township mourns leader who pushed to transform closed prison, state hospital

Former Northville Township Manager Marvin "Chip" Snider, who oversaw the fast-growing community's township hall for nearly two decades after serving as police chief, died Jan. 27 of complications from a fall. Snider was 70.

Snider retired in 2019 after serving the township for 29 years, a period when its population soared from about 17,000 in 1990 to more than 32,000 last year.

During Snider's tenure, Northville Township became synonymous with new subdivisions of upscale homes and flocks of affluent newcomers. About 67% of township adults possess at least a bachelor's degree and their median household income was \$114,000 last year, according to SEMCOG.

"He was a great colleague and a great friend," said Northville Supervisor Mark Abbo, recalling that "we would ride motorcycles together, smoke cigars together."

Snider was a strong leader, in large part because "his background was as a Marine — he served in Vietnam," Abbo said. Still, Snider encouraged participation in township decisions by residents, business leaders and community groups, he said.

Although it has an elected supervisor, Northville is the rare Michigan township that also has a full-time manager handling day-to-day operations. As its manager, Snider pushed for demolition of two state institutions — the Scott Correctional Facility, a prison at 5 Mile and Beck; and Northville Regional Psychiatric Hospital, built in the 1950s. At its opening, the hospital was said to be one of the nation's most advanced treatment centers for severe mental illness, but half a century later it was a vacant eyesore.

With Snider as township manager, the community pushed hard to have both sites redeveloped. In 2010, Snider famously said that the township "has been an institutional dumping ground over the last 50 years for the state of Michigan." He strongly advocated nurturing commercial projects at the sites, aiming to diversify



Former Northville Township Manager Marvin "Chip" Snider, 70, died Jan. 27.

COURTESY OF NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP

fy the township's tax base beyond its long dependence on residential property.

The 53-acre prison site, purchased by the township for \$1 in 2012, is now called Village at Northville, and it boasts a hotel, condominiums, townhouses and single-family housing, with "retail coming," Northville Township Manager Todd Mutchler said. The development "is about 70% built out," Mutchler said.

The grounds of the former psychiatric hospital, which closed in 2003, have become Legacy Park with hundreds of acres transformed into walking and mountain-bike trails, he said. The township purchased a large portion of the old hospital campus from a real estate firm after voters in 2009 approved a \$23.5-million bond, a proposal that Snider championed. The township's master plan committee is discussing whether remaining acreage at the hospital site should also become parkland or should be developed, Mutchler said.

Snider began his career as a police officer in Milan and Farmington Hills, rose rapidly through the ranks and joined Northville Township as its police chief in 1990. According to a township news release, Snider in 1993 "restructured the Northville Township Police and Fire Departments to a nominally consolidated Public Safety Department (that) centralized budget development, increased coordination of Public Safety planning, and optimized knowledge and skills of public safety personnel."

The release also said that Snider "hand-picked his successor" — Mutchler — who is both the township manager and its director of public safety.

"He genuinely cared for and respected his team, and he embraced his role as my mentor and friend," Mutchler said Wednesday.

Snider held a doctoral degree in clinical psychology and a master's degree in public administration. He was a graduate of the FBI National Academy. Snider, who lived in Canton Township, is survived by his wife, Diana, and their two children.

## Cicadas ready to make some noise again after 17 years

Keith Matheny and Georgea Kovanis

Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

It's an underground movement now, but it will be all the buzz this spring and summer.

This year will mark the reemergence after 17 years of Brood X, or the Great Eastern Brood, of periodical cicadas — those large, winged, kind of scary-looking but mostly harmless flying insects known for their almost deafening buzz.

"The end of May through June, it can get pretty loud — if you are in an area where they are numerous, there can be hundreds of thousands, or millions, of them," said Howard Russell, an entomologist (insect scientist) at Michigan State University.

Unlike greenish, annual cicadas, periodical cicadas are known for their black bodies and bold, red eyes. Their mass, in-unison emergence every 17 years is one of nature's great mysteries.

But the bugs haven't been in hibernation since their last mass appearance in 2004.

"They are always there, that's what people don't realize," said John Cooley, an entomologist at the University of Connecticut who studies periodical cicadas.

The cicadas live underground in wingless nymph form, about a foot or 2 down, feeding on sap from tree roots — "and that's where they feed for 17 years," Russell said.

Most cicadas — the ones Michiganders hear buzzing every summer — don't have fixed periods of development like this. When they reach adulthood, away they go, as individuals or small groups.

But with periodical cicadas, after 17 years underground, on just the right spring day, when soil temperatures reach 64 degrees, the nymphs, all together, burrow their way to the surface and make their mass emergence, Russell said.

"They climb up on the nearest thing they can find, and molt for the final time," he said. "At that time, they are white — their exoskeleton hasn't hardened yet. That takes five or six days. Then the adult is ready to look for a mate."

Why they aren't triggered to do this in, say, the 15th or 16th spring isn't fully understood.

"No one knows what mechanism they use to trigger their mass emergence," Russell said.

From underground, periodical cicadas have some method of counting the number of times deciduous trees — the kind that lose their leaves in the winter — regrow their leaves, Cooley said.

"The cicadas come out after the 'right' number," he said. "Whatever the specific change is, the cicadas can detect that."

The bugs will even, in unison, postpone their emergence for a day or two if the weather is rainy or otherwise uncooperative, he said.

### The invasion will hit 15 states

One of the largest broods of periodical cicadas in the nation, Brood X will emerge this spring in 15 states: Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, as well as Washington D.C.

In Michigan, Brood X only reaches into southern counties of the Lower Peninsula, particularly in southeast Michigan. Washtenaw and Hillsdale counties have been past hot spots.

"You can draw a line across the state at about Ann Arbor, and below that is as far as they get anywhere," Cooley said.

That telltale buzzing noise are the males up in trees, trying to attract a female. Michigan tends to get only one cicada species of the three that make up Brood X and it's the quietest of the three, Cooley said.

"If you go along the Wabash River Valley, on the Illinois-Indiana border, they have all three species there at the same time," he said. "The noise is just head-splitting."

After mating, female periodical cicadas will lay eggs in soft, new twigs, using a sharp organ called an ovipositor to cut into the branches and place her fertilized eggs inside. This can kill young branches, making the periodical cicada swarm more harmful for tree nurseries and orchards.

"You can't spray enough pesticide to kill them all without also wiping out everything else in the environment," Cooley said.

The solution is to put nets or bags over trees for the period of time the cicadas are active, until around the start of July, he said.

Laid eggs hatch in six to 10 weeks, with the tiny nymphs falling to the ground, burrowing in, and starting the 17-year cycle again.

Aside from being loud — their sound is a cross between a buzz and a rattle — the cicadas really won't do any major damage. They aren't drawn indoors. They don't bite.

"While they may cause cosmetic damage to trees when laying their eggs, cicadas actually provide a number of benefits to nature," Jim Fredericks, chief entomologist for the National Pest Management Association, said in a statement.

### And you can eat them, too

If you're so inclined, cicadas can even make a low-fat, high-protein snack.

Dried cicadas provide a crunch with a nutty, earthy taste, according to those who've tried it. In their softer form, before their exoskeletons harden, others say the cicadas are shrimp-like. A group at the University of Maryland even published a periodical cicada cookbook entitled Cicada-licious, featuring recipes for dishes such as Cicada Dumplings, Emergence Cookies and El Chirper tacos.

## Obituaries

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

### Warren R. "Jack" Furry

LINDEN - Furry, Warren R. "Jack" - Age 77, of Linden, died Saturday, January 30, 2021. Per the family's request cremation has taken place and a private service will be held at a later date. Those desiring may make contributions to St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.



Jack was born April 29, 1943 in Johnstown, PA, the son of Cletus and Irene (Carbaugh) Furry. He was a 1963 graduate of Johnstown High School in Johnstown, PA. He married Rosann V. Ciaravella August 31, 1963 in Johnstown, PA. He had resided in Linden since 1994 coming from Milford. Jack retired in 1999 from Ford Motor Company in Wixom as a Engineer. He also owned and operated J and R Antiques, Hair Establishment, J & R Video, and Summit Cafe all in Milford and The Linden Hotel in Linden. He was a member of the Milford Police Auxiliary from 1971-1977 and had also drove ambulances.

Surviving are: his wife of 57 years, Rosann; daughters, Karen (David) Stroud of Fenton and Sharon Flowers of Linden; granddaughters, Courtney, Taylor, and Skylar Stroud of Fenton and Hailey and Hannah Flowers of Linden; brother, Robert Furry of Florida; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Michael Furry; and sisters, Shirley Furry and Doris Richie. Tributes may be shared at [www.sharpfuneralhomes.com](http://www.sharpfuneralhomes.com).



### Barbara Gross

Barbara Gross passed away quietly at the Willows of Howell on February 1, 2021, at the age of 96. Beloved wife of John (2005) for 63 years. Loving mother of John (Carol) Gross, Colleen (Robert) 2009 Schwartz and the late Sally Askew (2017). Devoted grandmother of Stephen (Charla Jo) Finley, Wendy Duley, Jeffery (Jill) Grzywinski and Heidi (Mark) Collins. Proud great grandmother of 8.

She loved cooking for her family and her garden, especially her irises, and was a kind soul to all she met.

Services will be held privately. Memorials to Bellowood Animal Rescue at [www.bellowoodrescue.com](http://www.bellowoodrescue.com).

For more information, please visit [LynchandSonsMilford.com](http://LynchandSonsMilford.com) or call 248-684-6645.



### Wilma Marie Faust

FENTON - Age 73, of Fenton, died Wednesday, February 3, 2021. She is now in the loving arms of her husband. A funeral Mass will be celebrated 11 AM Monday February, 8th at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 830 S. Lafayette St., South Lyon, MI. Father Stan Tokarski officiating. Burial to follow South Lyon Cemetery. Visitation 10:30AM until time of Mass. Arrangements provided by Sharp Funeral Homes, Miller Road Chapel, 8138 Miller Road Swartz Creek. Wilma was born February 18, 1947, in Pontiac, the daughter of Benhard and Minnie Ann (Regardt) Hacker. She married Thomas Faust on Oct. 18, 1969 in Detroit. Wilma enjoyed crafting, crocheting especially spending time with her grandchildren. Surviving are: Heidi Faust, George (Sonya) Lucas, Eva and Nicholas Faust, Renee Faust, Sydney Klauza, Alexa Klauza and forever loved Ashley and Brooke Faurot many siblings, nieces and nephews. Tributes may be shared at [www.sharpfuneralhomes.com](http://www.sharpfuneralhomes.com).





# Pandemic pushing people back outdoors

Keith Matheny Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic — or more likely because of it — Michigan residents took to the woods and water in a big way in 2020.

Hunters, anglers, off-road vehicle riders and trail users all got out there in unprecedented numbers for recent times — in some cases turning around years of slumping participation numbers:

- The total number of unique customers for fishing licenses increased more than 9% in 2020 over the previous year. And it wasn't just the usual suspects. New fishing license customers were up 41% year over year, according to Michigan Department of Natural Resources data. Female fishing license customers were up 21%.

- Hunting saw a similar resurgence: Deer-hunting license sales rose 5.5% in 2020 over the previous year. Waterfowl hunting licenses jumped 40%. New hunters obtaining licenses increased more than 47% in 2020 over the year before.

The deer hunting numbers may have been most surprising, as a slow, steady decline in hunter participation has occurred every year since their 1996 peak, as baby boomers who've driven the numbers for decades begin to age out of hunting, and fewer numbers of younger hunters are there to take their place.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on work, school and typical social gathering activities almost certainly drove the turnaround, said Chad Stewart, a deer management specialist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

"If there's one silver lining from everything we've gone through this past year, people seem to have gotten out and found their love for the outdoors again," he said.

"People have more time now. Maybe they haven't been traveling as much, or been working as much, for various reasons."

It's more than just a feel-good story for the DNR — it's vital to its bottom line. The agency's nearly \$470 million annual budget — its work on wildlife management, habitat creation and preservation, parks and recreation and more — comes mostly from license and user fees from hunters, anglers, ORV users and other outdoor recreators.

Hunting was a big part of Zane Goucher's youth, when he pursued whitetail deer and ruffed grouse in the Maine woods with his father. He eventually drifted away from the sport but last fall returned after a 22-year absence, inspired by the coronavirus outbreak.



Dominic McFadden, 7, and his mother, Lynnea McFadden, fish at the Raft in Fair Haven. KIRTHMON F. DOZIER/DETROIT FREE PRESS

**"If there's one silver lining from everything we've gone through this past year, people seem to have gotten out and found their love for the outdoors again."**

**Chad Stewart**  
A deer management specialist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

"I'd been meaning to get back into it and just never did," said Goucher, now a resident of Grand Ledge, who hunted with his 12-year-old daughter Annabelle in Michigan's firearm deer season in mid-November.

Lifestyle changes forced by the pandemic, especially online schooling for his four children, "gave me that boost to make it happen."

"They were getting a lot more screen time than normal, so this was a way to get them outside," he said. For his part, "it's a reawakening — kind of gets me back to my roots."

Despite the hardships COVID-19 brought for many, it appears new people

are getting into fishing because they want to, not because they need to for food, said Dustin Isenhoff, a specialist in the DNR's Marketing and Outreach Division.

Based on responses to DNR surveys, "the largest portion (of new anglers) were out there just wanting to go fishing for the activity's sake, not necessarily to supplement their diet," he said.

Sarah Schank, 23, of Royal Oak, said she has been fishing "since I was 5 years old with little Barbie fishing poles." With the coronavirus pandemic switching the West Bloomfield School District where she works to virtual learning last year, she said she found it easier to get away after work from home on more fishing trips with her boyfriend.

"COVID definitely helped me get out more, and learn more about fishing," she said. "Now I'd like to learn how to fly-fish, ice-fish, and do it all year round."

The reconnection with Michigan's outdoors amid coronavirus extended beyond hunting and fishing. DNR data shows off-road vehicle license sales jumped almost 31% in 2020 over the previous year, with trail use up nearly 49%. State park lodging nights increased 29% over the previous year, and park lodging reservations were up 38%.

"People were going out and using public lands, boat ramps," Isenhoff said.

State and national surveys show one of the main reasons people cite for stopping participation in hunting, fishing or other outdoor activities is a lack of time, he said.

"More things compete for time," Isenhoff said. "Outdoor activities have become increasingly niche — it's not just bike-riding anymore it's fat-tire biking, mountain biking, road biking. People have more options, and there are more options every day."

"I think what we saw with the pandemic was a reshuffling. Some of those things people typically turned to to pre-occupy their time weren't available. Folks didn't feel comfortable doing some of the things they had done in the past."

The DNR doesn't want to let a happy surprise from a lousy situation go to waste. Its marketing and outreach division personnel are strategizing on how to keep the momentum going on hunting, fishing and outdoor activity.

"It would be great if we could get back to some sort of normal in 2021, but keep that rekindled love for the outdoors that people seemed to rediscover last year," Stewart said.

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# How to find a job

## Even if you aren't looking

ZipRecruiter.com

According to a TopResume.com survey, 70% of currently employed workers are also open to new opportunities. It makes sense, since switching to a new employer can often lead to a salary increase of 10% to 20%.

If you're currently working and not actively looking for your next opportunity, it can nevertheless be beneficial to monitor the job market passively and allow yourself to be found by employers and recruiters who may be interested in you.

Here are a few steps you can take right now to put yourself in the best position.

### 1. Think about what you've been working on

Most people only update their resume every few years, when they are actively seeking a role. At that

point, it can be hard to remember the details of your accomplishments and the numbers to back them up. Take some time now to think about your work highlights over the past six to 12 months, while they're still fresh in your mind.

Doing this while you're still in that role means you have access to your work calendar, email and documents to help jog your memory, and the ability to reach out to internal teams for any metrics that can help bolster your story.

### 2. Connect with your contacts

Don't wait until you need something to start making connections in your network. Use sites like LinkedIn to find people at your current job, as well as colleagues from past roles, to maintain or kick-start relationships. Once you have connected, your updates will show up in their newsfeeds and you can comment on theirs, keeping you top

FREPIK/MCN

of mind. They may be in the middle of a search to fill a role for which you would be perfect. Or there could be an opportunity for you to help them out with something. Either way, you never know where a friendly check-in could lead.

### 3. Maintain your current contacts

You probably have past colleagues with whom you've connected across social media sites like LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram. And while it feels like you've kept up with them by seeing their updates, you likely haven't actually connected in a while. Now's the time.

Reaching out to existing connections is a great way to get a different perspective about your industry from someone outside

of your company. Chances are that at least a couple of them have tested the job market lately and can share their experiences with you. They may know about better opportunities elsewhere, or can confirm that you are in a great position where you are.

### 4. Find out what you are worth

Have a look at the job descriptions for your current role at other companies to get a sense of how in-demand your skills are, and to check if you are being paid at the level you should be. You can start by searching your title on ZipRecruiter to see what other companies are offering, or by looking at listings in the Careers section of companies that are similar to the one where you work.

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