



Pittsfield Charter Township

6201 West Michigan Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Phone: (734) 822-3135 • Fax: (734) 944-6103

Website: www.pittsfield-mi.gov

Office of the Supervisor

March 23, 2020

The pandemic our community, state, nation, and world faces has placed us in positions unthinkable a mere week or so ago! Let us take the time to process the magnitude of what each of us is dealing with - individually, as families, and as communities. I write to ensure that as our current reality settles in and shifts from being surreal to real, that we are kind to ourselves and everyone around us. Each of us will process and deal with our social isolation, economic consequences, health anxieties, and other fallouts in individual ways depending on socio-cultural, economic, and demographic factors.

Let's be understanding of those differences and be kind and caring to everyone in our family and community. Most importantly, let us be patient and do whatever it takes to practice physical distancing to protect the well-being of ourselves, our families, and community.

It was just about 10 days ago that the State of Michigan reported its first cases of Covid-19 and I called an emergency meeting of Department Heads to outline an emergency response protocol for the continued provision of public services at a time when we may not engage normally with each other but want to ensure continued access to services by you. What, of course, none of us knew that morning of March 11th was that in a matter of 4 days we'd transition from meeting in person and going about our daily work to a situation of practicing 6' physical distancing, many working remotely, teleconferencing for group meetings, setting up decontamination centers, and deploying PPE (personal protective equipment) for emergency personnel. We were able to do all this, and more, because of our outstanding team dedicated to "Setting the Gold Standard of Public Service."

With a priority to support our emergency personnel and provide them with the tools and resources they need to be there for you when needed and to maintain the safety of our community, please know that each of us from the Pittsfield Township team continue to be available to you even though you may not see us physically, as we are all accustomed to.

The work we have done for you, over the past decade, particularly to provide for multimodal pathways, sidewalks, bike lanes and pedestrian crossings along with provision of such amenities as grocery stores, parks, restaurants, and pharmacies close to where you live will hopefully help you cope well with constraints placed on our daily lives because of the pandemic. Now more than ever, your access to these parks, paved greenways/sidewalks, and daily amenities will hopefully help maintain not just physical/mental well-being but a semblance of normalcy in our community.

It is safe to assume that many situations that we cannot perceive at this time will arise. Please know that if we, the Pittsfield Township team, can help you deal with these, don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are compiling relevant information and reaching out regularly. To stay attuned, please sign up for the Notify Me feature on the township website and/or go to: pittsfield-mi.gov/covid19

Please remember to be patient with and kind to each other. We have the resources we need, within ourselves and our community, to handle this pandemic and emerge even stronger as a community.

Mandy Grewal, Ph.D.
Supervisor

MLive

Pittsfield installing electric vehicle charging stations at township hall

By McKenna Ross - March 17, 2020



A Nissan Leaf electric car charges at a downtown Ann Arbor parking garage Feb. 14, 2020. Pittsfield Township will install two charging stations for public use this year. Ryan Stanton | The Ann Arbor News

PITTSFIELD TWP., MI -- Charging stations in Pittsfield Township will be able to charge up to four electric cars at once, the township announced Monday.

Township officials bought two EV charging stations in part with an installation rebate through DTE Energy, according to Township documents. The \$5,000 per station rebate brings the total costs to the township to \$20,585 over five years.

The stations will be installed in the next few months, according to a news release.

“It is our hope that steps such as these not only provide another eco-conscious demonstration project at Township Hall and a public service to area residents but that it will also move us in the direction of converting Pittsfield Township’s fleet to EVs to help reduce carbon emissions and further improve air quality in our community,” Township Supervisor Mandy Grewal said in a statement.

Each station has two ports and will be installed in the parking lot of the Pittsfield Township offices at 6201 W. Michigan Ave., Ann Arbor. Users must pay a minimum of \$1 and a maximum of \$10.

The Saline Post

Pittsfield Township Announces Full Closure of Administrative Buildings

March 15, 2020



(The following was issued by Pittsfield Township.)

As COVID-19 continues its aggressive spread through our community, we are revising our modified hours, announced Friday March 13th, to establish a full closure – similar to the City of Ann Arbor – of all administrative buildings to the public.

Emergency personnel (police and fire) will continue their operations uninterrupted but if the public wants to receive non-emergency services, they are requested to either visit the Township website or call into the appropriate Department for assistance.

Township employees will be working and accessible either remotely from their homes or in staggered shifts at their offices to limit inter-personal exposure in an effort to control the spread of the pandemic.

All Township events scheduled through end of April, including recreational programming, P2P and the Sustainability Forum, are being cancelled based on the Governor's recommendations.

We further recommend that all non-Township public meetings scheduled to be held at either Township Hall (6201 W. Michigan Avenue) or Community/Senior Center (701 W. Ellsworth) be cancelled through the April 6th.

For more detailed information and updates, please go to: www.pittsfield-mi.gov/covid19

We thank our community residents, businesses, and other stakeholders for their patience and cooperation as we pull together during these unprecedented times to provide for the safety and well-being of every individual.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 12, 2020

Contact: Mandy Grewal, Supervisor
grewalm@pittsfield-mi.gov, 734.822.3135

Pittsfield Charter Township Awarded Over \$1 M for Non-Motorized Project (Platt Road Greenway, Phase II)

Pittsfield Township, MI (March 12, 2020): Pittsfield Charter Township has been awarded \$1,072,747.00 in federal funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) offered in cooperation by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

This project will, for the first time, construct a 10' greenway south of Michigan Avenue in Pittsfield Township to connect thousands of area residents to the southern-most (Wall) park in our community. The first greenway Pittsfield installed, over a decade ago, was the Platt Road Greenway along Platt Road between Ellsworth and Michigan Avenue, which connects to the Township's most visited (Lillie) park. This second phase extends the 10' wide paved pathway south of Michigan along Platt Road between Michigan Avenue and Wall Park (south of Merritt Road and north of Bemis Road). It will add two mid-block crossings at Township Hall and at Wall Park with mast arm LED cross-walk illumination and Rapid Flashing Beacons.

"The first phase of the Platt Road Greenway, completed over a decade ago, was historic insofar as it was the first 10' multi-use pathway installed within a suburban setting in Washtenaw County. The second phase of the greenway, for which we have received over \$1 million in grant funding, is also historic insofar as it installs the southern-most connection to the regional B2B network and begins to establish non-motorized amenities that inter-connect a more rural landscape with a multitude of recreational (Lillie Park, Pittsfield Preserve, Woolley Park, Marsh View Meadows), cultural (Sutherland-Wilson Farmstead), public (Pittsfield Township Hall, Saline schools), and other (Farmers Market) amenities," noted Supervisor Grewal.

As Pittsfield Township continues to enhance its multi-modal network, the addition of a greenway south of Michigan Avenue by way of PRGII assists in meeting its goal of providing non-motorized amenities to the many residents in the area that are looking to age in place or reside in multi-unit housing while having access to recreational, cultural, public, commercial, and open spaces. The ultimate goal, as always, for Pittsfield Township remains to enhance the quality of life for all in our community.

For more information please contact supervisor@pittsfield-mi.gov; 734.822.3135.

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MLive

Saline students take the lead in community forum on diversity efforts

By McKenna Ross - March 10, 2020



Saline community members participate in the fourth listening session Saturday Feb. 29, 2020 at Saline Senior Center. Nicole Hester/MLive.com

SALINE, MI – More than a month after a [racist Snapchat group](#) surfaced at Saline High School, student leaders are encouraging solution-focused discussions.

Nine Saline Area Schools students presented potential options to address racism, diversity, equity and inclusion during a youth forum on Monday night. Cohosted by Pittsfield Township, which partially feeds into the school district, follows five community listening sessions. Residents there discussed how to best address inequality after the Saline area received international attention for a parent asking another why he didn't "[stay in Mexico](#)" when describing racism in the district.

"We are really using this chance we were given a couple months ago and using that to say, this is a really critical dialogue that this community needs to have, should have had, is having now," Pittsfield Township Supervisor Mandy Grewal said. "What can we do to make sure this discussion is a one-time event, that it is hard-coded into the work that's done in Saline Schools and Pittsfield Township?"

High schoolers led dialogue with residents on potential solutions, including enhanced curriculum, detailed definitions of hate speech in the student handbook, continued public engagement, stronger support networks for students of color and diversity training for all district employees.

Jenny Cantrell, a senior and president of student council, said she believes talking about solutions is the best way for the community to move forward.

"This issue has been present in our school for a long time," Cantrell said. "It was either ignored or laid underneath the surface. It was this one big event that caused people to look at it. Really, it's been an accumulation of small events that have gone unaddressed that we need to start addressing."

Others agreed. Junior Maya Abdullah said she wants to see more open conversations about diversity and racism so that students can learn about context, which could lead to empathy. Abdullah said she thought many students were unsure of whether they should, for example, utter racial slurs when reading classic American literature aloud in class, such as “To Kill a Mockingbird” and “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.”

“As a teacher, I think personally, they should’ve said ‘do not say this word, skip it over,’” Abdullah said. “And they need to explain why. A lot of kids are like, ‘I don’t see it as an issue. Why is it an issue?’ That’s where this kind of started.

“In reality, even if it’s a joke, it’s never OK to say. I think teachers could do the job, say ‘This is a very horrible thing to say and this is why.’ Kids are never going to learn unless you address these issues.”

Junior Aditya Arora said a long-term solution for the school district could be increased diversity in the community. He hopes there are enough people with diverse backgrounds that it becomes common, he said. Each person can show others different cultures.

“I just feel like having more backgrounds represented as you’re growing up influences you to be just more normalized to how the way the world works,” Arora said. “What happened brought this to light so at least we can fix it.”