



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

May 4, 2020

A few days ago, Governor Whitmer extended the StayHomeStaySafe Executive Order through May 28th. She did so in the midst of public protests and outcry by some because she understands that her job is not to be swayed by the views of a vociferous minority but to serve all residents. She has a vision to keep our communities safe, despite the detractors, and she will not waiver from it.

That is what leadership looks like: outlining a vision and delivering on it even though there will be those that try to leverage your decisions for other purposes. As your Supervisor, that has been my philosophy: to outline a vision, in partnership with you, and deliver on it. In fact, as I compiled the spring edition of the Pittsfield Post this past week, I read the note I wrote to you in the very first edition of the bi-annual newsletter, a decade ago.

The note states that “I see the role of township government as being more than reactive. Indeed, I believe it is essential for leadership to outline a vision for the future of our community. A vision that guides our advocacy efforts to place Pittsfield Township as a leading engine of economic and environmental prosperity in the region. To that end, I am working aggressively on economic development strategies, forging partnerships to maximize efficiencies, developing a non-motorized network, and identifying eco-friendly initiatives. I have also initiated a 12-18 month process of public outreach and engagement for the purpose of producing a new master plan for Pittsfield Township. This newsletter marks the beginning of a fresh chapter in our local government with leadership that is passionate about improving the quality of life for all township residents.”
(<http://www.pittsfield-mi.gov/post>)

That 12-18 month process culminated in the adoption of the 2010 Pittsfield Master Plan, which envisioned striking a balance between development and preservation so we may have a strong economic base to weather economic downturns such as what we were experiencing then (the Great Recession) and what we are facing now (the Great Pandemic) while, at the same time, pursuing policies that hard-code “sustainability into the DNA of [Pittsfield Township’s] work processes and products.” (<http://www.pittsfield-mi.gov/masterplan>)

So, as we deal with the multitude of emotional, physical, and financial ramifications of the pandemic for ourselves, as individuals and families, and for our communities, please rest assured that your support of our work over the past decade has allowed us to deliver for you a local government that is both financially strong (with a AA+ bond rating) and committed to continually improving on the quality of life for all, not just some. Even though this vision and commitment requires us to, sometimes, make tough decisions and take criticism of our work from a few, we will continue to approach the tough decisions in a thoughtful and deliberative manner and we will RISE to the challenges that come our way, in partnership with you, so we may deliver on a blueprint for **Respectful, Inclusive, and Sustainable Equity** in Pittsfield Township.

As all of us partner with our Governor to deliver on her vision to StayHomeStaySafe to SaveLives, please remember to be patient and kind with yourselves and each other.

Mandy Grewal, Ph.D.

Gongwer News Service

Supreme Court Reverses on Local Medical Marijuana Zoning Ordinances

The Supreme Court on Monday reversed two lower court opinions regarding a township's right to specify where medical marijuana can be grown and require a caregiver to obtain a permit before cultivating their crops.

In a unanimous opinion authored by Justice Richard Bernstein, the Supreme Court held that the Kent County Circuit Court and the Court of Appeals erred when it decided *DeRuiter v. Byron Township* (MSC Docket No. [158311](#)) in favor of the plaintiff, Christie DeRuiter.

Justices reversed the opinion and remanded the matter back to the trial court for further proceedings.

Ms. DeRuiter is a registered medical marijuana patient and caregiver who sued Byron Township because the township's marijuana zoning ordinance required her to obtain a permit and grow her crops in a residentially zoned area.

The crops in question were being grown by Ms. DeRuiter in a commercially zoned building rented in the township.

Byron Township countersued, but the lower courts both opined that Byron Township's ordinance was in direct conflict with the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act. The township appealed and oral arguments on the matter were heard by the Supreme Court in October 2019.

Mr. Bernstein wrote that, under the conflict-preemption doctrine, the MMMA does not nullify a municipality's authority to regulate land use so long as it does not prohibit or penalize the cultivation of medical marijuana or impose regulations that are unreasonably inconsistent with established state law.

The MMMA requires primary caregivers to keep their plants in an enclosed, locked facility. Mr. Bernstein noted that an enclosed, locked facility can be found anywhere on various types of property, so the township's limitations were not in conflict with duly established law.

Regarding the permitting process, which includes a fee, Mr. Bernstein wrote the township was not in conflict with the MMMA because it did not effectively prohibit the medical use of marijuana.

"That is, while a local ordinance is preempted when it bans an activity that is authorized and regulated by state law, a local governmental unit may add to the conditions in a statute as long as the additional requirements do not contradict the requirements set forth in the statute," Mr. Bernstein wrote. "In this case, the township's ordinance allowed for the medical use of marijuana by a registered primary caregiver but placed limitations on where the caregiver could cultivate marijuana within the township. The ordinance's geographical restriction added to and complemented the limitations imposed by the MMMA; it did not directly conflict with the MMMA."

Further, Mr. Bernstein wrote that the township's ordinance "did not directly conflict with the MMMA because the ordinance did not effectively prohibit the medical use of marijuana, and DeRuiter did not argue that the requirements for obtaining a permit were so unreasonable as to create a conflict."

Empowering Michigan

Pittsfield Township takes renewable energy into its own hands

By Dana Blankenship - April 29, 2020

Reducing your carbon footprint is easier than you might think – and Pittsfield Township is putting that initiative to the test. The town just outside of Ann Arbor has implemented a number of green initiatives over the last ten years, outlined a sustainability blueprint for the next five years and is now embracing renewable energy through two major initiatives.

Earlier in April, Pittsfield Township Supervisor's Office rolled out a "[MIGreenPower Challenge](#)" designed to position Pittsfield Township as the first community in Southeast Michigan to acquire most of its energy from renewable resources.

[MIGreenPower](#) is DTE Energy's voluntary renewable energy program that empowers customers to participate in DTE's large-scale wind and solar projects. Interested customers choose how much of their home's or business' electricity use they want to attribute to renewable energy, which in turn fuels renewable energy development in Michigan. The program is a flexible and affordable way to reduce your carbon footprint; some households can enroll for as little as \$1 a month.

Since the program's inception in 2017, more than 12,000 residential customers enrolled in MIGreenPower have reduced carbon dioxide emissions by more than 45,000 metric tons, the greenhouse gas equivalent of taking approximately 10,000 cars off the road for one year. The program has also seen success among Michigan's most well-known companies; General Motors recently [increased their participation](#) in MIGreenPower to source more than 800,000 megawatt-hours (MWh) of Michigan-made clean energy. By 2023, all of GM's DTE-supplied electrical load will be offset through solar and wind energy.

Pittsfield Township is also partnering with DTE and the City of Ann Arbor to explore the development of a nearly 24 megawatt (MW) solar park at Ellsworth and Stone School roads in Pittsfield, and the area abutting Ann Arbor's Wheeler Service Center. This solar park would allow Pittsfield Township to rely on solar to meet all its municipal energy needs.

Additionally, Pittsfield Township is the first community in Washtenaw County to avail itself of DTE's [Charging Forward](#) incentive. The township will receive a total rebate of \$10,000 for installing two dual-port Level 2 chargers, for a total of four ports at its Administration campus.

"Partnering with our residents and businesses is how we like to undertake our work in Pittsfield Township. So, it is only natural for us to reach out to them as we all, together, work to improve our community's water, air, and soil quality," said Mandy Grewal, Pittsfield Township Supervisor. "Encouraging our residents and businesses to enroll in the MIGreenPower program is in line with our community's sustainability blueprint as we transition from fossil fuel to renewable sources of energy."

MIGreenPower is open to all DTE electric customers interested in reducing their carbon footprint. To learn more or enroll, visit migreenpower.com or call 855.613.4445.



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Office of the Supervisor

April 27, 2020

April 22nd marked the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. As is well known, on that day in 1970, about 20 million people in the U.S. took part in demonstrations, marches, and environmental cleanups. What is less well-known is that a few weeks earlier, on March 11th, about 1,000 people gathered at University of Michigan's Quad for a mock trial of a 1959 Ford highlighting the role of automobiles in contributing toward pollution and socio-economic divisions (Smithsonian Magazine, April 2020).

In fact, even 50 years later, the role of the automobile remains secondary in mainstream public discourse about promoting sustainability with predominant significance attributed to trees and open space preservation. This has resulted in outcomes such as a doubling of developed land use (i.e., sprawl) in the State of Michigan, over these 50 years, even though our population reminds roughly the same. This sprawled development pattern supports a dependence on automobiles, which are one of the largest contributors to air pollution, and has created physical barriers between economically vibrant and distressed communities, with the current pandemic highlighting these stark divisions.

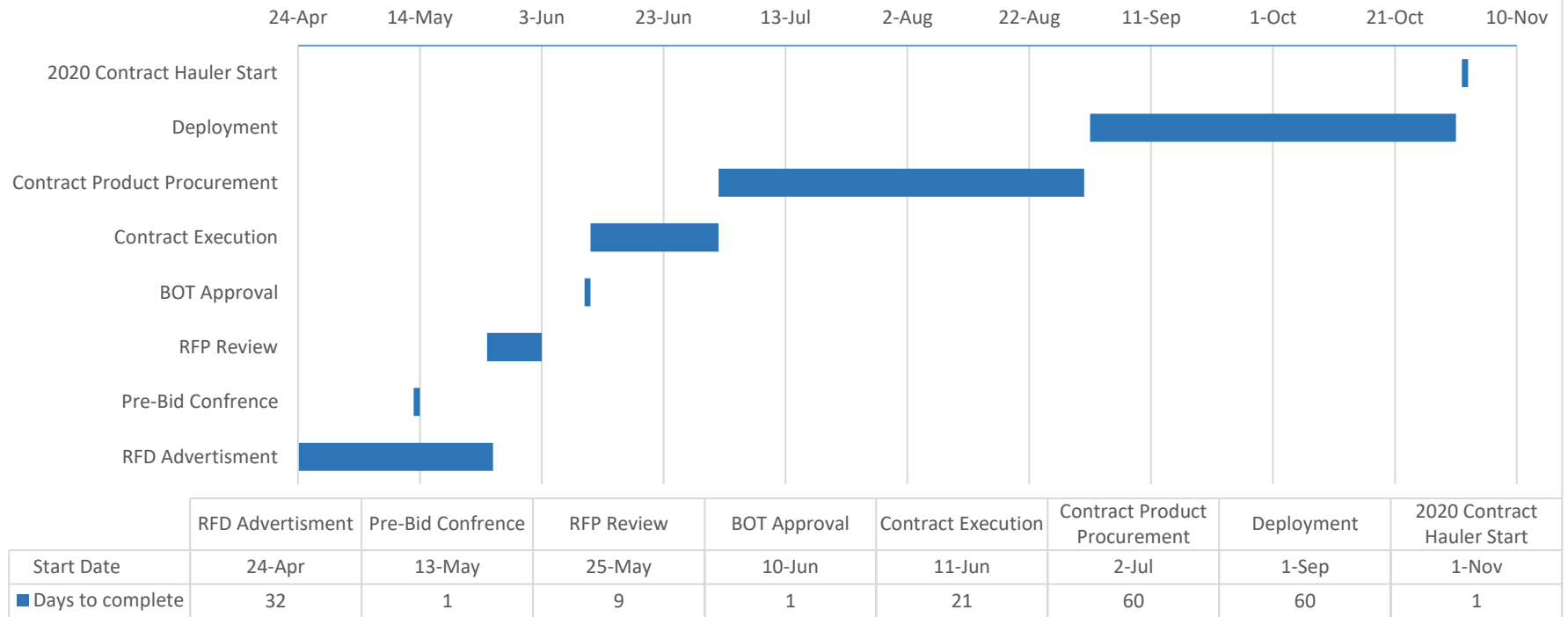
Over the past decade, our administration has continually promoted equitable sustainability. In the past, these decisions have ranged from facing resistance to the cutting of some trees to facilitate construction of, what is now, a vast, award-winning, greenway and non-motorized network that has contributed to reduced reliance on automobiles. We also faced resistance for infill projects that required taking down berms; but because of these projects, today, many of you in Pittsfield Township have amenities such as pharmacies, groceries, and restaurants within walking/biking distance of where you live. As such, our focus is on both green space preservation and, equally, on promoting multi-modal access that supports local, self-reliance. These outcomes, stemming from an overall commitment to sustainability, are serving our community well during the pandemic crisis. In fact, the greenways, sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, neighborhood parks, and retail centers with multi-modal access are a result of this 10-year focus.

Last Wednesday, we continued this approach by relying on a carbon footprint study that calculated the impact of two development options through carbon sequestration of trees, open space preservation, and degree of reliance on automobiles. The first choice was to retain the entirety of an existing conservation easement that runs through the middle of properties zoned for development; and the other was to retain the majority of the existing conservation easement plus expand it by 125% onto an adjacent, larger location in order to accommodate for multi-modal features. The carbon footprint study concluded that the latter option, even after calculating for the loss of a few trees would, in the long-term, provide for not only better air and soil quality but also equity since it provides for amenities such as a health care facility close to residential areas which will be accessible by walking, biking, and transit from neighborhoods and also from the existing adjacent retail areas.

It is our hope that as we take this deliberative, complex approach, we may provide for a blueprint that promotes not just sustainability but one that is inclusive and respectful of all members of our community as we RISE to the challenge of building a stronger, more unified Pittsfield Township!

Mandy Grewal, Ph.D.

2020 RUBBISH HAULER CONTRACT SCHEDULE



**Project information**

Project name: Solid Waste and Recycling Services

Project owner: Pittsfield Charter Township

Project location: Pittsfield Township, Michigan

Contract number:

Project description:

Provide for the collection and disposal of residential solid waste and recycling services throughout the Township.

Special instructions:

Bids are being solicited only from responsible and established bidders known to be experienced and regularly engaged in the work of solid waste collection and recycling services. Bidders will be required to provide satisfactory evidence that they possess the necessary capital, equipment, personnel, and experience to do the work.

The Township will receive sealed bids at the Township Clerk's Office, 6201 W. Michigan Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48176. Sealed bids must be submitted on the bid forms furnished by the Township. Bids shall be submitted in sealed envelopes and plainly marked "SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING BID - PITTSFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP".

Project estimate:

Project categories: Waste Management Facilities

Contact information

Contact name: Billy Weirich, Interim Utilities Director

Contact phone: 734-822-2106

Contact email: utilitiesemail@pittsfield-mi.gov

Bid information

Bid open: 2020-05-26 11:00 AM

Location of bid opening: Pittsfield Charter Township Administration Building, 6201 W. Michigan Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Link to bid documents:

Plan holder's list:

How to obtain additional bid documents:

Bid forms and specifications are on file for the inspection of bidders at the Pittsfield Township Offices, 6201 W. Michigan Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48108, copies may be obtained by qualified bidders.

Documents available starting: 2020-04-28 10:00 AM

Document fee:

Pre-bid meeting: 2020-05-13 10:00 AM

Meeting location: Pittsfield Charter Township Administration Building, 6201 W. Michigan Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Deposit information

Deposit: 10% of bid amount

Wages:

Additional information

Comments:

The pre-bid conference is mandatory. At this time, bidders will be allowed to ask any questions that may be necessary.

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Office of the Supervisor

April 20, 2020

This was the week we were scheduled to host events at Township Hall marking the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. The Sustainability Committee began planning for the April 22nd Forum (now cancelled) last fall. The Forum was intended to inform and engage community members to further the original mission of Earth Day: To diversify, educate, and activate by engaging you to promote our community's sustainability goals around Energy & Climate; Environment & Waste Management; Agriculture & Local Food Access; Infrastructure; Transportation; and Infill Practices.

While the pandemic prevents us from convening physically, it provides us with a unique opportunity to self-reflect on how we - as individuals, groups, communities, regions, and nations - can find ways to re-enter our physical spaces that promotes fiscal, socio-cultural, and ecological sustainability. It gives many of us the time to reflect on what we can do, post-pandemic, that contributes to creating an equitable community foundation with a commitment to improving water, air, and soil quality. The last time we, at Pittsfield Township, undertook this type of reflection, engagement, and prioritization was during the depths of Great Recession (2009-2011), when we made a conscious decision to take the time to outline a positive vision for our community that was not reactive but, rather, proactive in defining "...a commitment to create a coherent and comprehensive development and preservation pattern that will result in practical, productive, and sustainable growth and conservation in Pittsfield Charter Township." (Master Plan)

That process laid the foundation for much of the work we have accomplished in Pittsfield Township over the past decade including: establishment of a robust multi-modal transportation network; providing for localized self-reliance through the Farmers Market and inter-connected spaces that allow for easy access to daily amenities, recreation, local government, restaurants, and, jobs; environmentally responsible waste management; and an investment in green infrastructure. For a comprehensive overview of our work, over the past decade, on sustainability, including the A-Z list, please go to: <http://www.pittsfield-mi.gov/sustainability>

As we commemorate the 50th Earth Day and prepare ourselves to push even further on our sustainability goals, we are asking such questions as: What can we do to incentivize investment in and use of renewable technologies that reduces our reliance on fossil fuels and other pollutants, including plastics? How can we improve upon our model of localized, self-reliance to provide for enhanced access to local food, recreation, jobs, and affordable housing? The Sustainability Blueprint, adopted by the Pittsfield Township Board of Trustees last month, sets an aggressive timeline of five years to deliver on initiatives that address these questions through: aggressive preservation of green spaces; implementing local solutions for more expansive recycling and composting; more expansive green infrastructure projects; defining 'green' building standards; and investing in renewable energy.

In the end, we must not dwell upon what the pandemic is hindering us from doing but, rather, on what historic opportunities- and consequently responsibilities - lie before us so we may manifest a more **R**espectful, **I**nclusive, **S**ustainable, and **E**quitable future for our community. Let's RISE up to this challenge and deliver on a stronger, more unified Pittsfield Township!

Mandy Grewal, Ph.D.

MLive

Pittsfield Twp. to grant \$50K in emergency relief to small businesses

By McKenna Ross - April 20, 2020

PITTSFIELD TWP., MI -- Small businesses in Pittsfield Township can receive up to \$5,000 in grants for short-term relief during the coronavirus pandemic, township leaders announced Friday.

Emergency relief grants are available for businesses in Pittsfield Township of 50 employees or less as a way to help the local economy that has been hit hard by the far-reaching impact of COVID-19. Non-essential businesses have been closed for about a month during the state's 'stay home' order and the funds are meant to help cover day-to-day operating expenses such as payroll or financial losses, according to a news release.

"Our priority is to help as many businesses as possible, especially those whose staff are at immediate risk," according to the news release.

The Pittsfield Township Board of Trustees unanimously approved a \$50,000 contribution to the Washtenaw Small Business Emergency Relief Fund, earmarked for Pittsfield businesses, at its meeting on April 8. Applicants must be based in Pittsfield Township and demonstrate financial need. Eligible businesses must provide a budget and its most recent tax return.

Applications are [open online until 5 p.m.](#) on Friday, April 24.

Home-based businesses are eligible for up to \$1,000. Businesses with 10 employees or less can receive up to \$2,500 and businesses with 50 employees or less can receive up to \$5,000.

"With the second largest tax base in Washtenaw County, Pittsfield Township's small businesses are an engine of economic vitality for our region," Township Supervisor Mandy Grewal said in a statement. "As such, it is incumbent upon us to support them during this unprecedented global disruption so we may enhance equity and come out of it as a stronger and more unified community."