



Pittsfield Charter Township

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Office of the Supervisor

Gratitude & Resilience

Typically, November in Pittsfield Township is a month of expressing gratitude and thanks - to the over 100 local government Pittsfield employees that work extremely hard each day to deliver the Gold Standard of Public Service; to the many volunteer residents that serve on Township Boards/Commissions/Committees to help make our community a better place for everyone; and, of course, at a personal level, to our friends and family as we gather together to celebrate Thanksgiving.

As with everything else this year, these traditions that define the month of November will look and feel different as the pandemic counts surge once again! As such, I'd like to write this month about co-joining our need/desire to express gratitude and spend time with friends/family with the need, in 2020, to be not just resilient but emotionally resilient. Pandemic fatigue combined with the inability, for many of us, to connect with family/friends requires a different type of mental strength than the one we conjured up in the early months of the pandemic.

As we enter the colder months without the comfort of long-standing traditions, we must discover a deeper and longer-term source of mental strength that fuels our emotional resilience. For me, that source derives from being part of the Pittsfield community where we have established strong bonds of mutual trust. Some might say it is because Pittsfield has some of the most diverse land uses, housing stock, business sector, and demographics in Washtenaw County. With this, we have learned the basic truth: each of us doesn't have to look the same, vote the same, dress the same, etc., for us to trust that we will all pitch in to make our community a safe and welcoming place for everyone.

Working from that basic and common premise of trust, each one of us has contributed, in our own way, to making Pittsfield home; where we feel safe, welcome, and included. Over the last decade, we have built and earned that trust with each other by: transitioning from a community that historically had a reputation for racial profiling to one where we haven't had a single incident despite major upheavals both regionally and nationally. We've also provided public transit access to most residents with a focus on the most vulnerable without adding a monetary burden on anyone; provided local, healthy food options, especially to the food insecure; invested in infrastructure to provide safe drinking water for all, especially in the oldest residential neighborhoods; improved road conditions in a geographically equitable manner; expanded our housing stock to include multi-unit dwellings; and, most importantly, inculcated a culture of inclusivity and respect for all in Pittsfield Township.

So, let's give gratitude for and derive our resilience from the community that we have built together on the foundation of mutual trust. We are all in this together and will come out of it a more sustainable and equitable community by continuing to trust and work with - not against - each other. Most recent examples of this work are outlined in the fall Pittsfield Post. If you haven't received it due to ongoing postal delays, please check it out at: <https://www.pittsfield-mi.gov/post>

Thank you for your trust and for partnering with each other and Pittsfield Township's local government as we continually work together to enhance the quality of life for all in our community. Let's keep this focus and trust and use it to fuel our emotional resilience while expressing our gratitude in more virtual and unique ways this year. As always, remember to be kind and patient with yourselves and each other. Happy Thanksgiving!!

MLive

Elderly couple killed by car while crossing street in Pittsfield Township

By Nathan Clark – November 17, 2020

WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI – An elderly couple crossing the street at a cross walk in Pittsfield Township were killed Monday evening when they were hit by a car, police said.

Donald Schneider, 92, and Virginia Schneider, 93, of Pittsfield Township, died Nov. 16, when the couple were hit by a car while crossing Packard Street near Dalton Drive east of Ann Arbor, according to the Pittsfield Township Police Department.

Rescue crews were called to the area at about 6:08 p.m. where they found the pair had been hit in the crosswalk by a car going west on Packard Street, police said.

The couple was pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver of the vehicle that hit them, a 35-year-old Ypsilanti woman, remained at the scene and cooperated with investigators, police said.

The initial investigation indicates the driver had the right of way and was released after questioning, police said.

The area was closed for about six hours while police investigated the scene.

The crash remains under investigation. Anyone who witnessed the crash, or has information about the incident, is asked to contact the Pittsfield Township Police Department at 734-822-4911.

MLive

Cayman Chemical expanding footprint with \$20M forensics, research facility in Ann Arbor area

By Dana Afana – November 16, 2020

ANN ARBOR, MI -- A chemical company responsible for medicines, forensics and other various services is expanding its footprint with a large addition to its Pittsfield Township facility.

Pittsfield Township-based [Cayman Chemical](#) is building a \$20-million, 66,000-square-foot research and development facility at 1108 E. Ellsworth Road to spread out existing and new employees on its campus by the end of 2021, said President Kirk Maxey, who established the company in 1980 as he was starting medical school at the University of Michigan.

"We're convinced that companies like this are an important part of the response to the (coronavirus) pandemic, in general," Maxey said. "We're a biomedical research, biochemical generic drug and service company. We basically do science."

The company makes generic medicines and has a growing forensics unit that analyzes elements sent from the police, such as a powder from a scene, to determine what it contains. Cayman also works with novel psychoactive drugs and companies within the big pharma industry trying to make new drugs, Maxey said.

Cayman employs about 300 people, including 150 onsite scientists. The company plans to hire about 15 additional employees through the first quarter of 2021, Maxey said. The development will open up more space for employees, including a floor dedicated to the forensics unit and another for the services department.

"We're getting a lot of COVID-related services business so the services business definitely needs space," Maxey said. "We have a good antibody assay ... we can measure COVID antibodies...we've got a lot of COVID biochemistry going on."

Maxey aspires to work with University of Michigan Hospital researchers to look into a trial study with Cayman using Flolan, which is typically used in patients with pulmonary hypertension.

"It's an anti-platelet drug. It breaks up platelet clots," and dilates vessels, Maxey said.

Maxey theorizes medications such as Flolan could potentially be a treatment option to increase blood flow in various critical COVID-19 patients, who have difficulty getting oxygen due to narrowing or constriction of the blood vessels in their lungs.

"It would help with the adverse vascular and thrombotic events," Maxey said.

The company supplies scientists across the world with biochemicals, assay kits, antibodies and recombinant proteins, according to its website. Cayman has a large [digital catalog](#) of products for customers and a section dedicated to [COVID-19 research](#).

Company scientists are experts in medicinal chemistry, structure-based drug design, complex multi-step organic synthesis, analytical chemistry, sample analysis and custom assay development, according to the website.