



Local law enforcement agencies, including the Michigan State Police Lakeview Post, the Montcalm County Sheriff's Office and the Ionia County Sheriff's Office, are not actively looking for violators of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order. No traffic stops are being done in response to the executive order, according to local police. — Submitted photos | Michigan State Police

## Local police focusing on education over citations

Law enforcement officials dispel rumors regarding governor's executive order

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Gov. Gretchen Whitmer may have ordered Michigan residents to "stay safe, stay home" for the

foreseeable future, but local police agencies are not actively seeking out offenders of the executive order.

Officers are instead working to educate people as the need arises.

Michigan State Police Lakeview Post Lt. Commander Kevin Sweeney said his troopers, who cover Gratiot, Ionia and Montcalm counties, are not making a point to look for executive order violators.

"There are no traffic stops being conducted targeting this

behavior or checkpoints being done," he said.

Sweeney said troopers are responding to complaints regarding possible violations of non-essential businesses being open. He said they have only investigated one manufacturing-type business to date.

"We start by giving the violator a warning, then come back a few days later to make sure the violation/behavior has been corrected,

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## Sharing the light



Lakeview resident Shannon Fryover holds up a sign reading "Praying for you" to show her support to staff at Spectrum Health Kelsey Hospital in Lakeview during Tuesday evening's "Lakeview Light in the Darkness" parade, organized to "share the light" and let nursing home residents know the community is thinking of them during this uncertain time of COVID-19. — DN Photo | Cory Smith

## Lakeview parade brings light to darkness for local seniors

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LAKEVIEW — Sitting outside Spectrum Health Kelsey Hospital within her parked car with a flashlight in hand, Lakeview resident April Phillips was hopeful that even for a brief moment, her grandmother might know she was there.

"Grandma Alberta Norton, my Grandma ... I'm hoping she can see this," she said as she then waved her light back and forth.

Phillips and her friend Sheila Sturgeon were two of more than 100 Lakeview-area residents who came together Tuesday evening by parking dozens of vehicles around the hospital's rehabilitation and nursing center, an idea brought forth by Emergency Department Nurse Brianna Kosla-Rosenberger, titled the "Lakeview Light in the Darkness" parade.

Because of concerns over the spread of COVID-19, currently no visitors are allowed in-

side nursing homes throughout Michigan.

So as a loudspeaker from a Lakeview Police Department cruiser played a song, people waved lights from their cars — using flashlights and cell phones out of doors, windows and sunroofs — and held up signs with messages of support, including Kosla-Rosenberger's daughter, Paislee, 7, as hers read "Praying with you!"

Following the event at the hospital, Lakeview police and fire departments led the parade onto Paden Road for residents of the Lakeview Terrace Assisted Living Home to see the display of encouragement from the community, and then onto Lake House Assisted Living.

Kosla-Rosenberger was stunned at the number of people who came out to participate. She said she and her husband estimated 75 to 100 vehicles throughout the parade.

"When I had this placed on my heart, I thought 20 to 30 cars would be so amazing. It was so much more than I could have imagined, and I know it

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Spectrum Health United and Kelsey Hospitals CT/X-Ray Technologist Ashley Doerr, left, and Registered Nurse Laura Tanning hold their phones in the air with flashlights turned on to show their support outside Kelsey Hospital Tuesday evening during the parade. — DN Photo | Cory Smith



Lakeview residents Sheila Sturgeon, left, and April Phillips wave lights while sporting a car-side banner reading "We love you" as the duo showed their support to Phillips' grandmother, Alberta Norton, a resident at the Spectrum Health Kelsey Hospital Rehabilitation and Nursing Center. — DN Photo | Cory Smith



Paislee Rosenberg, 7, of Lakeview, holds up a sign that reads "Praying with you!" to show her support to those at Spectrum Health Kelsey Hospital. — DN Photo | Cory Smith



Children and adults alike use their cell phones as flashlights to "share the light." — DN Photo | Cory Smith

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## Magical eggs cost big bucks

Seven bucks. That's what I just paid for a dozen eggs.

Eggs, man! Twelve of 'em. For seven dollars. That's nearly 60 cents per egg.

But I was glad to get them. In the entire mega-grocery, there were only two cartons of eggs left. Hoarders made off with the rest.

These are, apparently, "special" eggs, produced by magical chickens that spend their lives in climate-controlled, satin-lined coops into which Celine Dion music and the scent of jasmine is pumped 24/7. Each chicken is lovingly rocked to sleep each night by a member of the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleading squad and read daily affirmations each morning by Morgan Freeman, live and in person.

That's according to the printing on the carton, which looks as if it were painted by a team made up of Andy Warhol, Matisse and at least one high school art student with a nice set of colored pencils.

OK, maybe I'm exaggerating a bit. But only a bit.

The packaging does state that the eggs are "certified humane," though it doesn't say who handles the certification process. The packaging also claims each chicken is "raised and handled," and tended by hand on "small, family farms."

The packaging goes on to say that these are "ethical eggs," though I'm not certain how an egg can be ethical. Does it not cheat on its income tax form? Does it wear to cluck the truth and nothing but the truth when called to testify in court? Does it help old ladies cross the street? (Which might explain once and for all why the chicken crossed the road.)

None of this is adequately clarified on the carton that can double as a ready-to-frame country print. Fortunately, there's a lot more information on the inside of the carton, including a small (chicken-sized) newspaper. I swear I'm not making this up. These folks want to make sure you get your seven bucks worth, baby.

According to the "Vital Times, Vol. 12, Issue 2," all the "girls" are happy on the farm; each is allotted 108 square feet per girl. Each has "private time" each morning after "a nutritious breakfast" — and again, I swear I'm not even embellishing a little bit here.

The lead Vital Times article goes on to describe the rest of a typical chicken day: sitting in the shade, roaming amongst the wildflowers and, yes, "spa time." Spa. Time. For chickens.

Did I mention already I'm not making this up?

This issue's "Bird of the Month" (of course there is) is Zealous Zena, who spends a lot of time viewing her "pasture paradise." The mini-newspaper even features a comic strip depicting two hens, one of whom "couldn't give a cluck." That's the punchline of the comic, whose creator seems unlikely to usurp Bill Watterson, the guy who did "Calvin and Hobbes."

Naturally, there's also a website where egg-lovers (those willing to pony up the seven bucks, at least) may take a virtual 360-degree tour of the farm.

Sigh. Look, before all you PETA readers flip out and send me hate mail for not caring enough about farm fowl, let me say this: I raised chickens myself for a couple of years. The Lovely Mrs. Taylor and I had a dozen of them at the old house in the country.

We treated them more like pets than farm animals. No, that's not true; what we treated them like was children. They lived in a coop that was only slightly nicer than our house, had free access to acres of surrounding meadowland and woods and were fed (in addition to their chicken feed) a diet of our healthiest leftovers.

Mrs. T even made them corn popsicles to eat on days when the temperatures soared. They had their own swimming pool. Really.

They were spoiled rotten. They were also good layers, producing copious amounts of eggs every morning, more than we could begin to eat ourselves.

I gave the extras to my neighbor Ron, who is into body-building and eats like a dozen eggs a day. I never once thought of charging him seven bucks for that dozen. I was just happy to be rid of them.

And now, thanks to the idiot hoarders — who will receive no mercy from me in this column or elsewhere — I'm paying big bucks for what I once got free!

I wish I still had those chickens. I could trade the eggs for toilet paper.

# THE JUMP



Dozens of cars make their way down Lincoln Avenue in downtown Lakeview during Tuesday evening's "Lakeview Light in the Darkness" parade, organized to "share the light" and let nursing home residents know the community is thinking of them during this uncertain time of COVID-19. — DN Photo | Cory Smith

## Lakeview parade brings light to darkness for seniors

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touched so many hearts last night," she said. "Our community is amazing and I'm so thankful for everyone who came out."

The idea for the parade came to Kosla-Rosenberger after she watched videos on Facebook of similar events. Those were mostly recognizing healthcare workers working long hours, but she wanted to go further. She wanted to let the seniors at the rehab and nursing center and at other senior residences in the community that they were being remembered, too.

Not only are residents not allowed

face-to-face visits, like everyone else maintaining social distancing they haven't been able to gather, go to the community room to share meals or to play games together. Staff is doing their best to keep up residents' spirits by spending time with residents one on one, offering Skype visits and phone calls with loved ones, and playing games at a distance like hallway bingo, said Kathy Lobert, nurse manager of the rehab and nursing center. But residents are missing seeing people from the outside. The parade meant a lot to them.

"The staff loved it and so did the residents. I've heard nothing but positive feedback from everybody," Lobert said.

"They were just happy to see people out there who cared about them."

That was the whole idea behind the parade: to let residents know that, just because they can't have visitors right now doesn't mean the community isn't still there for them," said Kosla-Rosenberger.

"The residents see the movement of the light and it will let them know there is light in this dark time and we're all thinking about them and praying for them," she said. "Honestly, too, I think it's going to be amazing for the community to see everybody come together. We're all in this together, we'll get through it and we're thinking about everybody."



At left, children shine lights with flashlights while emerging from the sunroofs of cars during the parade. At left, a man shines a light with a flashlight while parked across from Spectrum Health Kelsey Hospital in downtown Lakeview during the parade. — DN Photos | Cory Smith



## Essential vs. non-essential jobs

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online sales and by shipping from its stores and distribution centers, so keeping its storefronts open to the public was unnecessary.

- **Is construction allowed?** Yes, in some forms, but not if it's considered cosmetic or non-emergency. "Construction is allowed in limited forms, including construction to maintain and improve roads, bridges, telecommunications infrastructure and public health infrastructure," Nessel said. "Construction workers may also undertake projects that are necessary to maintain and improve the safety, sanitation and essential operations of a resident."

- **Are landscaping, lawn care, tree service, irrigation and related outdoor maintenance allowed?** No, unless it's considered necessary to improve the safety, sanitation and essential operations of a residence.

- **Are hardware stores allowed to stay open?** Yes, but they must implement social distancing practices.
- **Are tobacco shops, cigar bars, vape shops and hookah lounges allowed to remain open?** No.

- **Should employers notify their employees that someone they worked with has tested positive for COVID-19?** Yes, but they shouldn't include names or any personal details.

- **Can an employer send an employee home if they display possible symptoms of COVID-19 (such as a fever, coughing or shortness of breath)?** Yes.

- **Can a health department disclose that someone in a residence has tested positive for COVID-19 to help first responders stay safe?** Yes, the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) allows certain entities like health departments to disclose information like this in certain circumstances.
- **What is being done to protect inmates in the Michigan Department of Corrections?**

partment of Corrections?

Nessel admitted protecting individuals from COVID-19 in a correctional facility presents unique challenges. She said Michigan prisons have implemented screening protocols to help keep anyone who is sick or could be sick out of prison — including requiring a temperature check of all MDOC employees who are reporting to work.

Nessel said prisons have also undertaken aggressive cleaning measures, reduced the number of inmates who can be in gatherings (such as during class or while eating meals), stopped all internal transfers between prisons to reduce the possibility of exposure, and created three makeshift hospitals to care for any inmates who may test positive.

Nessel noted that Gov. Gretchen Whitmer also signed a temporary order last Sunday suspending all prison inmate transfers. The order also implemented other precautions.

- **"Can we please reopen golf courses? We can play golf while practicing social distancing."**

Nessel provided a tongue-in-cheek response to this question.

"We've gotten this question a lot — like a whole lot," she said. "Obviously, many of you are concerned about the impact COVID-19 may have on your golf handicap. If your game is anything like mine, this temporary break won't really matter much, you'll still be terrible at golf when you get back onto the greens."

Nessel noted that the concern with golf courses has to do with employees, not golfers, as employees aren't considered essential workers and therefore aren't present to do their job, which includes cleaning portions of the golf course.

"Please stick to practicing on the putting greens at your house, rather than the ones on the course," Nessel said. "You'll protect the public, and no one but the members of your family will know how really bad at golf you are."

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