

Viewpoints

Mike's Musings

Michael Wilcox, Publisher/Editor

A day in the life of yours truly

The dog days of summer are definitely upon us. It really is the in-between time where vacations are usually finished and school has yet to start. As a profusive planner, I spend many of my nights trying to come up with a game plan for the following day, and with COVID leering down upon us and the heat of summer dragging on, I struggle to fill my non-work days.

Here was last Sunday's routine:

-I do the usual- shower, coffee and bagel, watch a ½ hour of television.

-I clean-up around the house. I throw my clothes in the washer/dryer.

-I take a break and watch the chickens run around the yard. My chickens are a great source of entertainment- that's how boring my life has become.

-I get in my car and drive around the block a couple of times looking for anything unusual. Of course I see nothing- no vagrants, no deer, no creatures of any type.

-I pace up and down, wondering what to do next. Hmm it's noon so I crack a beer and take a walk through my yard again looking for something unusual. Again, nothing stands out.

-I sit down and look through my emails and Facebook on my phone. I get perturbed because someone thinks they know

what political persuasion I am and are calling me out on it. Just a few minutes later I answer the company phone and am getting chewed out for being a liberal- the opposite of what the emailer accused me of being.

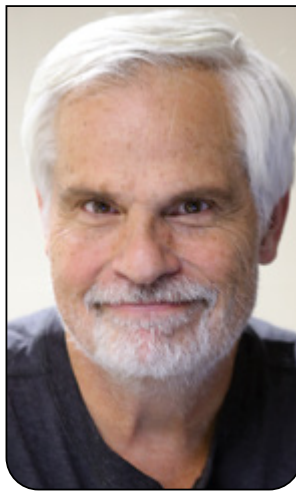
-I decide to calm down by reading a book. It is James Patterson's semi-biographical take on Jeffrey Epstein. Reading it only upsets me more. To think this guy took advantage of hundreds of underage teens makes me sick.

-I decide to take my frustrations out on the concrete basketball court. I shoot for about 10 minutes which is enough to work up a sweat and call it a day. I feel much better now, but still am bored.

-I again look out at the chickens. Their stupidity provides a calming affect for me. I decide to crack another beer, and browse Facebook again. This time no one is chewing me out.

-It's now dinner time. I could run in to town, but on second thought sitting at a restaurant isn't all that pleasant with the face mask rules and social distancing. Thus I decide to throw a TV dinner in the microwave and enjoy my home-cooked meal.

-My microwave timer isn't always accurate. This time, unfortunately it burnt my home-cooked turkey pot pie. I had to toss it in



the garbage and try again. The second time was the charm.

-After dinner I figured it was time for a good movie. I selected Al Pacino's classic, "Scarface." I figured the 3 plus hour epic would kill enough time where I would either fall asleep while watching it, or shortly thereafter. I went through the various prompts to get the movie on my streaming service only to have the TV screen covered with a series of vertical lines. I figured they would go away at some point but that wasn't the case. I watched the first half of the movie, like I was in the late 1950's when those lines frequented our television sets. Finally I couldn't take it anymore and shut the movie off.

That's my typical day off when COVID and the dog days of August permeate my ability to schedule anything meaningful. Hopefully you have figured out how to fill your off days better than I.

Pat's Bits & Pieces

Pat Maurer, Review Correspondent

Hustle, hustle, the move is on

I am never, never, ever moving again.

As I write this and other articles for this issue, in between articles Jack and I are frantically packing stuff for our move to Stevenson Lake Road, and by the time you read this we will be (somewhat) settled in with daughter Lisa and son-in-law Terry where we will have our home base for the next eight weeks or so.

OMG, looking around as I write this, I just can't believe how much "stuff" we still have, even after a huge garage sale last August and giving several loads of clothes, dishes and other goodies I've hoarded over the years to charity. And there's still more frustrating 'weeding out' and packing to do. Yesterday I threw out a garbage bag full of old clothes, some, I hate to admit, were from the 80s and a few even older than that. I have no idea why I kept them.

A few days ago, we gave away 20 or 30 coffee cups we have collected over the years and I've been slowly clearing out the china cabinet, which won't be going to the new place. It's too big as is our dining room table, so we will be selling those and a few more pieces of furniture including this old desk that was once buddy Al's from the old office. It's great for all my "stuff," but again, much too large for the new place.

I'm still trying to decide what to do with a couple of huge jade plants that were given to me by Ed White when he closed White's Nursery years ago and a snake plant given to me by a former secretary that came with us from Concord when we moved here in 1983. I don't think there's any way they will fit in the new place which is about half the size of our place, (oops, not ours any more) out here on the Tobacco. We are going from around 2,200 feet down to 1,054...less than half the space and four fewer rooms.

I've always been one of those people who hangs on to stuff they might want...someday. I blame my folks for that bad habit. They went through the Great Depression, losing their home and all their furnishings. Dad never got over it and he never had a loan on our home either, an impossibility in this day and age. Their home wasn't much but it was free and clear. Their life-long belief was 'hang on to it, fix it up and use it again.'

We never managed to fix much up or use it again, I'm afraid, we just kept it "in case." Now we are paying for that.

Besides paperwork and still downsizing and purging the junk around here, then there was all of the paperwork of our 'closing'



Friday and all of the paperwork for ordering our new place, which we will be doing this Friday, I hope.

To top that off we have to shut off utilities get our new phone (same number) working and forward the mail to the new address by this weekend and pay off all the bills we have accumulated. And let everyone know what the new address is, the list goes on and on...

I can't believe we have done this five times before and it still doesn't get any easier.

In fact, it's a lot harder in your 70s than it was in your 20s, or 30s or even 40s!

Enough complaining I guess. That won't get the stuff done.

By the time you read this we will be heading out for a much-needed long weekend away. We are headed for Gun Lake to visit, eat and go for boat rides with Jack's brother Brent and his wife Cathy, who are heading up here in a couple of days to help us move stuff too. They are wonderful people to have in our family...

May I walk with you?

By Daniel Fachting, Ph.D.

MAKING SENSE

Like you, I'm trying to make sense out of all the stuff that is happening in the world today. We live in a country that people from around the world want to move to, come to study in our universities, get better jobs and way of life, and enjoy our freedoms. Never before in the world have so many had all they needed for food, shelter, clothing, medical care, and education. Never before in the world have so many people making a good living. Never before has overt racism been eradicated to the extent it has today. Anyone can go to any school, eat in any restaurant, live in any neighborhood, or work in any kind of job. Anyone can attend any church of their choosing, or shop in any store, and go to any emergency room.

We don't have a perfect system and there is still much work to be done to achieve social justice, and while we have come a long way, we still have a long way to go. Part of our success is due to the Judeo-Christian ethic and morality that most of us were raised with. All throughout history the

Church has taught charity. That we ought to feed the poor, house the homeless, clothe the naked and share the earth's goods has been our ethic. The Church has encouraged us to educate, provide health care, and support families in distress. How many of our colleges and universities, hospitals, and charitable organizations have religious names, because they either reflected Christian values or were instituted by Christians? All throughout history men and women have dedicated their entire lives to ministering to others in their need. Much our Christian ethic is so woven into the fiber of our psyche that we live it without being conscious of it.

At the same time, we abort (kill) around a million babies each year. Most of them are black and other minorities. Talk about racism! At the same time peaceful protests often become violent. A great many children are born to single parents, lacking the love of both parents. There appear to be few limits on sexual morality. More people are unhappy.

Perhaps the greatest



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tragedy of all is that many of us are trying to make a perfect world without the help of Jesus and the Christian ethic. We seem to think that we can do this by ourselves without the guidance of the Bible, the Church, and the Holy Spirit. As such we are doomed to fail. Our appetites for greater wealth, perfection, and happiness will never be satisfied. The first great commandment is love God and the second to love our neighbor. While loving our neighbor is good, it will never be done well if we don't love God first. Rather, our love will be shallow as we put ourselves first.

"May the Lord bless and keep you. May he let his face shine upon you and give you his peace."

on the Review Facebook page, "What was done for these large animal's fair kids was AMAZING work that deserves to have an accurate well written article..."

I couldn't agree more, and again, I apologize to the MMJLA, who worked hard to put this event together in such a short time frame, and to the youngsters who deserve a lot of recognition for their hard work raising these animals for a Clare County Fair that didn't happen this year due to the pandemic.

One hundred seventy-seven (177) animals were auctioned off during the successful event, which was organized by an amazing team of volunteers who just formed the MMJLA July 30th after the Clare County Fair was cancelled. Ninety-eight (98) youngsters participated in the event and there were approximately 160 bidders during the auction.

The MMJLA team said, a "Big thanks to all the parents, volunteers and businesses that donated."

Letters to the Editor

Thanks for the Moses article

Dear Editor,

We want to say how much we enjoyed the article and great pictures of the Moses family.

Our mother, Rose, who is 97 years old, loved reading and laughing about the good time everyone seemed to have celebrating Kala Moses retirement. Especially, the homemade ice cream and the many motorcycles.

Happy retirement Kala!

Nancy A. Temelko

Barker column is anti-Trump

Dear Editor

Joe Biden has dementia and I can't serve. I am always dismayed to read Rev. Robert Barker paid column. You need to rename it Trump Trashing. What church does he go to? I am sure he prays and worships Satan. It has Trump in 99% of "An Alternate View" Satan. You receive money from him, but you should stop. Mr. Robert Barker is not religious except that he worships the devil.

Dianne Brewer

When Federal Funding Shortcomings Hit Home, Students and Families Become Vulnerable

To say that our reality has changed since the coronavirus outbreak began would be a drastic understatement from those who work to close equity gaps and ensure positive outcomes for all our children, youth and families. A more pressing fact has been the lack of sufficient action from Congress and the White House to meet the needs of this moment, as we plan to return to school.

With resurging positive cases, including in hotspots here in Michigan, states continue a great balancing act — working to ensure safety and well-being of residents, reopen schools, and support students as they catch up and move ahead. But here's the kicker: Michigan cannot afford to shoulder the cost alone without additional federal funding. Without significant, additional federal relief dollars, the state's budget crisis will land on the backs of the most vulnerable who are least able to recover.

Michigan is facing major financial worries. The state's leadership recently agreed to fill an estimated \$2.2 billion shortfall in the current year's budget, ending in September, with a mixture of spending cuts, remaining federal coronavirus relief money, and \$350 million from the state's "rainy day" fund. But looming ahead is another \$2 billion budget hole for the fiscal year starting October 1. At the same time, core issues affecting the health, safety, and well-being of Michigan's residents, and therefore our state's medical, economic, and educational recovery from this crisis, have not subsided but grown more severe.

In these difficult times, and as Congress is poised to act on a new federal relief package, programs that deserve additional federal support not less include Clare Pioneer High School

and Adult Education. The school houses both an alternative high school for teens, 15-19 years old, who are unable to attend or complete their education in a traditional high school, and a center for those 18 and older wanting to earn a high school diploma or GED. Adult education, as we know, is a vital resource for the county providing a stable place for essential services, clear communication and direction. The help offered to community members in acquiring a high school diploma or GED certificate changes lives, opening doors to employment opportunities that were previously closed.

The pandemic has underscored the need to advance educational and workforce development systems. Unemployment is a major worry for many families and the need for more education and training rises to the forefront. Families enrolled in adult education programs are also better positioned to help their own school-age children with their studies, providing a multi-generational benefit. On the alternative education side, we know that behavioral and emotional problems tied to COVID can result in additional teens needing an alternative setting to complete high school, requiring additional accommodations and financial support.

Community needs become more acute in a crisis. Eliminating, even reducing federal funding, would have a catastrophic impact on these programs. Recently Clare Pioneer High School was a pioneer through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), though an appeal later reversed the decision. In evaluating the budget implications of lost federal funds, it appeared that a necessary response would entail forced cuts to the

teaching staff and/or eliminating valuable evening and weekend tutoring sessions. For future years, the school board may not consider offering adult education to the community if given such financial restraints.

As we plan ahead, it will be important to also address the communications shortcomings in rural areas such as Clare County and the challenges it creates when students and families are asked to learn at a distance. Virtual learning cannot occur without broadband availability and access to devices; moreover, many families can ill afford the service fees, leaving them unable to participate. For now, Pioneer is making available portable DVD players for students to listen to staff-prepared video lectures. However, it's clear that educational inequities in underserved areas must be addressed locally, at the state level, and with federal help.

Over the past few months, there has been an outcry from both sides of the aisle for additional federal support due to the pandemic. This is not a problem that local communities, or even the state alone, can fix without federal support. Today our leaders have a moral imperative to make tough funding decisions that do not adversely impact program closures, service delivery, and an equitable distribution of resources that sustain our residents. Let's make this time different.

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The Clare County Review
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