



Pittsfield Charter Township

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Office of the Supervisor

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Inclusive & Respectful Community Service to Honor Our Heroes

Each year Memorial Day is a somber moment of remembrance in honor of those that have made the ultimate sacrifice in order to deliver on the promise of the American Dream. While not perfect, this Dream is a vision and promise for which so many Americans have given their lives.

As we live through this Great Pandemic, the debt we owe our military personnel and all the other everyday heroes, ranging from health care and grocery store workers to utility and service sector workers, is mounting each day and is incalculable. Honoring the memory of those that have and continue to sacrifice their lives for our country and communities is underscored and highlighted, this year especially, because of the pandemic crisis. Everyone from public school teachers to delivery service workers has showcased examples of reframing their roles to make sure children, seniors, and other vulnerable members in their neighborhood or community are taken care of.

If our intent is to realize the American Dream not just for ourselves but our communities, we must use this moment in time to reframe each of our roles if for nothing else than to honor the memory of those that have and are making the ultimate sacrifice for that dream and vision.

We hope that our efforts and work in providing for a respectful and inclusive community in Pittsfield Township that promotes equitable sustainability is our way to honor this memory and keep the American Dream alive. As such, we are continually challenging ourselves to identify creative ways to enhance public services to you. For example, we established the Farmers Market in 2013 despite opposition that a suburban location would not support such an initiative. Since then, we've implemented creative ways to not just sustain the Market but make it a vibrant community space.

In that spirit, this year we are providing for a vibrant, visual aesthetic by lining access roads to the Market with artwork and colorful pictures from our parks and preserved open spaces to welcome you as you drive in for your curb-side, no-contact pick-up. You will be transported, as you pop your truck and wait for your order, to previous market days through a collage of photographs placed at each parking spot and if you roll down your windows, you will be surrounded by the soothing sound of music being played by a local musician. This is our creative attempt, during the pandemic, to provide you with a space that reminds you of community, hope, vibrancy, and belonging.

Of course, the underlying mission of the Farmers Market remains to support local farmers and provide you with access to healthy and local food. In fact, we are hoping to bring online, in 2021/2022, a program that will allow local farmers to lease about 100 acres of farmland, about a mile south of the Market location at Township Hall. Our vision is that these local farmers will provide a hyper-local and sustainable source of healthy, organic produce to the Farmers Market in years to come and help us strengthen, post-pandemic, localized, self-reliance in Pittsfield Township.

We hope you will continue to support the Market, opening this week, and consider reframing your engagement with our community as each of us considers creative ways to contribute to and improve upon the American Dream in honor of those that have and continue to make the ultimate sacrifice.

Mandy Grewal, Ph.D.
