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Church scraps plan for regional school

Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

The Archdiocese of Detroit has scrapped plans to create a regional Catholic school in western Wayne County. Plans to open Divine Mercy Regional School were dismissed earlier this month because enrollment numbers

didn't reach targeted numbers, according to a letter to parents posted on the school's Facebook site March 16. The Archdiocese was planning to close three schools in the area — St. Genevieve in Livonia, St. Raphael in Garden City and St. Damian in Westland — and combine them into one regional K-8 school for the

2016-17 school year. A fourth school, at St. Robert Bellarmine in Redford, was closed last year. Opening the new regional school was dependent on getting some 250 students to enroll. Enrollment fell far short of that when only about 75 students registered. "We needed to get to (250) ...

we didn't make that," said Rev. Richard Alieart, pastor at St. Robert Bellarmine. "It's not so much that it was a hard decision ... we had to be realistic. We hoped we could get (to 250) with a late surge, but we didn't make it." Alieart was one of four priests — including Most Reverend Francis Reiss of St.

Theodore of Canterbury, Rev. Fr. Simeon Iber of St. Thomas the Apostle and Rev. Howard Vogan of St. Genevieve — to sign the letter posted to Facebook. "While tremendous efforts to establish the regional school were made by many, and sig-

See SCHOOL, Page A2

Cutting the ribbon to officially open the Wayne County Health Center in Wayne are Wayne County Executive Warren Evans (left); Dr. Mouhanad Hammami, director of the Department Health, Veterans and Community Wellness; Wayne County Commissioner Al Haidous, D-Wayne; and Dr. Mert Aksu, dean of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry.

Expanded county health center opens

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

When it comes to health care in Wayne County, the numbers speak for themselves — the county is ranked 82nd of 82 counties in the state and is home to 25 percent of all Michigan's uninsured population. "There is a tremendous need for people to be able to get medical, dental and mental healthcare," said Wayne County Executive Warren Evans at the ribbon-cutting for the new Wayne Health Center, aimed

at improving local healthcare access. Located at 33030 Van Born in Wayne, the 25,000-square-foot center has been transformed into a full-service, federally-qualified health center with eight remodeled exam rooms thanks to a \$700,000 grant from the federal Department of Health and Human Services. Participants in the Women, Infants and Children program will have increased access to care with the number of evaluation rooms going from two to

four allowing increased access to care. The facility's dental suite will expand the number dentistry stations from three to five later this spring. The new health center will deliver an expanded level of services that include immunizations, behavioral health, nutrition, counseling, pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology and WIC. The primary service area for the center is residents in the cities of Wayne, Westland, Romulus and Inkster where Evans noted there is only one

primary care doctor for every 4,100 residents. But the services are available to anyone and not limited by residency. "We're rated as worst for healthcare in the state. I don't care how you crunch the data, we're still at the bottom," Evans said. "How do we address it when communities don't have the money they should. We need to pool our resources and talents. We're looking for a new model." The expanded center is the

See CENTER, Page A2

Wayne firefighter raises funds for lifesaving equipment

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Thanks to a fundraising campaign organized by a firefighter, the Wayne firefighters will soon have new jaws of life extraction device. That means an upcoming fundraiser will address other equipment needs at the Wayne Fire Station. "Four months ago I started on a mission for a jaws of life. We've exceeded that," Wayne-Westland Fire Capt. Fred Gilstorf said. "It will arrive in 30-45 days. There will be one or two weeks for training, then it will be in service." Initially, Gilstorf set about fundraising by contacting local businesses for donations to raise \$27,000. "I went to 175 businesses. I have overwhelmingly positive results — 55 businesses donated," he said. The businesses that supported the fundraising effort ranged from large corporations like Jetway and Wayne Industries to local businesses like Wayne Dairy Queen and 7 Star Liquor Store. Due to Wayne's ongoing financial difficulties, Gilstorf estimated it had been five years since there had been any money for equipment replacement. Although sharing a chief and operationally merged with the Westland Fire Department, each department has its own budget and is responsible for its own equipment. "Now we can move on to other needs with the fundraiser," he said. Resident Bernadette and Alfred Brock along with Sammy Willingham have organized a fundraiser to buy equipment for the Wayne firefighters on Saturday, April 16. There are two parts to the Saving Lives is Their Mission, Saving Their Equipment is Our Fund-Raiser event. Held at Wayne Bowl, 36900 Michigan Ave., Wayne, the event

Gilstorf

Salon marks 30 years; owner: 'very blessed'

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Melanie Groves, owner of Style Masters salon in Garden City, loves her customers. "We've been very blessed here," said Milford resident Groves as she cut Larry Galbraith's hair. "We have some great clients, great stylists. It's a great team. This has been a great area. I've never had any issues at all." Groves is marking her 30th year in business at 32669 Warren Road, on the southeast corner of Venoy, and also tips her hat to her business neighbors and their stability. She

grew up in Westland. "I think you do have to follow it (your dream), you definitely do," she said. "Give it a chance." The stylish and airy salon has seven chairs, and serves women, men and children. Haircuts, perms, styling and coloring are available. Customer Galbraith, a Canton resident and retired educator, said, "I've been coming here for 25 years. It's just a friendly place to be, kind of like the Cheers (TV show). I am a very satisfied customer," added Galbraith, who visits

Renee Mosher speaks with a client.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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SALON

Continued from Page A1

every other week.

Danielle Clark of Ypsilanti Township is a stylist in her 26th year at Style Masters. "I like working with the clients most and I like working with the group," Clark said as she cut a customer's hair. "We have a real family here."

Receptionist Renee Mosher noted Style Masters carries the Aveda product line, including shampoos and conditioners, and uses Aveda for coloring.

"We always go off the old Cheers show," echoed Mosher. "We say we're the place where everybody knows your name. Extremely friendly. We talk across the room. We can get in a nice group conversation."

Mosher's been on the job two years, following the elimination of her

former position elsewhere. "Now I'm just having fun," she said with a smile.

Hours at Style Masters are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. The business is closed Sunday, Monday and Wednesday.

It can be reached at 734-422-6420, and appointments are preferred although walk-ins are also taken. Style Masters is on Facebook and Instagram and has a website at www.stylemastersalon.net.

"I'm a people person," said Mosher, a Wayne resident. "We just love making everybody's day."

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SCHOOL

Continued from Page A1

nificant resources were put forth by all our parishes, Divine Mercy Regional School fell short of an enrollment commitment that would have made the school financially possible," the letter read, in part.

Some parents in the neighborhoods served by the four schools believe the archdiocese should have known they weren't going to get to 250 students because parents were voicing concerns about the location — Divine Mercy was going to be housed at St. Raphael, near Merriman and Ford — and leadership.

Parents said archdio-

"They should have known this wasn't going to happen when people voiced their concerns from the beginning,"

TABITHA KELLY, parent of St. Damian students

cese officials told them they had "full confidence" the school would open.

"They should have known this wasn't going to happen when people voiced their concerns from the beginning," said Tabitha Kelly, whose kids attend St. Damian. "They

(said) they expected 250 kids, and we had no idea where they were getting their numbers."

Neither Brian M. Dougherty, Superintendent in the Office of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Detroit, nor Ann Tonissen, principal at St. Genevieve who was slated to be Divine Mercy's principal, could be reached for comment.

The decision to scrap the regional school leaves students scrambling for options. There are schools in the area — Cabrini in Dearborn and St. Michael in Livonia among them.

"We are blessed and encouraged that, within a reasonable driving radius of our St. Raphael campus and your homes, there are quality options

for your children to continue a Christ-centered education in Catholic schools," the priests wrote in their letter.

Kelly said she and other parents are worried about timing. She said Catholic schools generally handle registration much earlier in the year. Instead, Kelly said, she'll put her children in the Livonia Public Schools system.

"(The archdiocese) is making this announcement very late in the game," Kelly said. "We're very fortunate we have (LPS) to fall back on. We're very happy with our decision."

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FUNDS

Continued from Page A1

beings with a kids glow bowl 12:30-2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person. There will be a bake

sale and a variety of raffles geared toward children.

Adult bowling is 8-11 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person, and there will be a silent auction. Donations are being accepted. There is an event

Facebook page for more information about the event.

Cash donations can be mailed to: the Wayne-Westland Fire Department, Attn: Capt. Gilstorff, 3355 Wayne Road, Wayne, Michigan 48184.

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CENTER

Continued from Page A1

result of a partnership, Evans said, not just with the communities of Wayne County but also with Beaumont Health, the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry and the county Department of Health, Veterans and Community Wellness.

"Our residents will greatly benefit from these new partnerships," Evans said. "Now it's more convenient for residents to receive the health services they need and deserve. For example, when you visit this center, physicians and health care professionals from the Family Medicine program of Beaumont Hospital-Wayne are working side by side with Wayne County's public health

nurses."

Under what is termed "No Wrong Door," the goal is to provide the needed health care in one location and also seek out people who may not be aware that they qualify for programs, according to Dr. Mouhanad Hammami, director of the Department Health, Veterans and Community Wellness.

"There are significant uninsured and underinsured people. The Affordable Care Act has gone a long way to addressing that but there are still underserved people," Hammami said. "They don't know that they qualify for ACA."

If the center needs to refer someone to another facility, Hammami said that care will be provided on the same income-based sliding scale as the center uses. "If they are low income, they will pay a nominal fee and that is often waived," he said.

Along with public service announcements,

fliers and other informational venues, Hammami said that health center staff will also work to glean what health care needs people have when they come in for an immunization, for example.

"Our front desk personnel will do screening. Someone might be applying for a (health department) permit. The staff will ask if there is a child in the family or a veteran," Hammami said. "We will rely on word-of-mouth. When they come in for WIC, we'll ask if they have a primary care physician."

The remodeled dental area isn't expected to be completed for another 3-4 weeks and will feature five dental chairs donated by UDM Dental School, whose students will provide care.

"We understand that dentistry is an important part of health. You will not be healthy without a health mouth," said Dr. Mert Aksu, dean of the UDM School of Dentistry.

"You have a better outcome with a clean mouth."

A number of public officials attended the ribbon-cutting including Wayne County Commissioner Al Haidous, D-Wayne, who was recognized by Hammami for his support of the project.

"I'm so proud to see this event in Wayne, the heart of Wayne County. It will provide many important services," Haidous said. "For many years, Wayne County was business as usual. Change is difficult. You need strong leadership. Change had to be implemented as quick as possible."

Haidous credited Evans with working to make changes to benefit residents, like the health center, without worrying about the political impact.

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Man sought for Macy's theft, assault

Westland Police have released photos of a man wanted for shoplifting and assaulting a loss prevention officer at the Westland Macy's store.

On March 11, police said the man shown in photographs was inside the Macy's store, 35000 Warren Road, at the Westland Shopping Center. The suspect walked out of the store with a large amount of clothing, according to police.

When confronted in the parking lot by a loss prevention officer, the suspect struck her and dropped the clothing, fleeing to a black newer model Jeep. The loss prevention officer was not seriously injured.

The suspect was accompanied by a white female, a child and an infant. He is described as a white male, approximately 40 years old, 5 feet, 10 inches and estimated to weigh 300 pounds. He was believed to be bald, but the witness was unsure as he was wearing a hat.

Anyone who can assist police in identifying the suspect is asked to contact the Westland Police Department at 734-722-9600 or Sgt. Chris Gazdecki at 734-467-3250.



This man is wanted in connection with a shoplifting and assault incident at the Macy's at Westland Shopping Center.

POLICE BRIEFS

Redford police reportedly apprehended a man in the 14700 block of Lennane Street near Graham following a high-speed chase in the early morning hours of Monday.

A township officer was on patrol shortly before 1 a.m. on Graham when he spotted a vehicle ahead of him speeding. Police reports estimated that the man's vehicle, a black Chevy Monte Carlo, was traveling at 39 miles per hour on the residential street, some 14 miles per hour over the speed limit.

An officer attempted to stop the vehicle but the driver sped off. A pursuit followed and speeds of 50 mph were reached, according to police reports. The suspect, whom police described as a black male with his hair in dreadlocks, exited the Monte Carlo on Elba Street and fled on foot through several backyards.

The officer gave pursuit and spotted a screen removed from a back window on a house on Lennane. The suspect was given permission to search the home and found the suspect, who was arrested without incident.

Shots fired

An argument overall a basketball game led to shots being fired into the air and a Redford resident being threatened, police said.

The incident occurred March 20 at approximately 7:46 p.m. in the 26900 block of Southwestern Highway near Sioux Street. After the argument a suspect, who police described as a black male, returned to the home in an older model burgundy Honda Civic. The suspect tried to fight the Redford resident after exiting the vehicle, but left again a short time later, according to the report.

The suspect reportedly returned for a second time with what police believe is a handgun. After exchanging words, the suspect fired the gun in the air, police said. The suspect then fled the scene without further incident.

Cars stolen

A pair of automobiles were reported stolen to Redford police from separate locations on Monday.

A vehicle was stolen from the driveway of a home in the 14200 block of Beech Daly Road sometime between 6:30 p.m. March 20 and 3 p.m. Monday. Reports said broken glass was found in the driveway where the vehicle had been parked.

A second car was reported stolen from a home in the 12000 block of Columbia Street. The homeowner allowed her brother to borrow the vehicle.

Compiled by Scott Daniel from Redford Township police reports.



The Sgt. Romanowski VFW Post on Joy in Westland has been approved for reuse as a church.

Church plans move to former VFW hall

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

A rezoning and special land use to allow a church to take over a former VFW Post building has been approved by the Westland City Council.

The proposed House of Faith International Ministries Church would be located at 28945 Joy, east of Middlebelt. It had been the home of the Sgt. Romanowski VFW Post 6896.

On the 1.7-acre parcel is a 7,800-square-foot hall, which would become home to the church. The property was zoned CB-3 general commercial business and the rezoning was to CB-1 low intensity commercial.

"The rezoning is requested to facilitate reuse of the hall as a church," Westland Planning/Building Director Bruce Thompson said. "CB-1 is the only commercial zoning that lists religious institutions and that is as a special land use."

No one answers the phone at the post and it was unclear when the hall closed its doors. Located on the south side of Joy facing Livonia, the Sgt. Romanowski VFW Post 6896 was originally located at McGraw and Lonyo in Detroit before it relocated to Westland. Thompson noted that in 2008 the city had approved plans for additions to the post building but those were never constructed.

The church will be required to install a 6-foot tall vinyl fence along the south property line of the property.

The Rev. David Kwame Mensah reported House of Faith has churches in Columbus, Ohio; New Jersey; New York; and Atlanta, Ga. Their local church is currently located in Livonia at Stark and Plymouth.

An executive summary submitted with the rezoning and special land use requests note the proposed church campus will include House of Faith International Ministries Church and three outreach programs: House of Faith Literacy Institute, Together for Good Global Initiative and Meet A Need Outreach Services.

Programs planned for the building will include adult and family English as a Second Language, a food pantry, cultural awareness programs, addiction counseling and intervention, along with support for missions to other countries, especially Africa.

The church had earlier presented a proposal to the city to purchase the former Hawthorne Valley property. The purchase price offered wasn't near the appraised price of the former banquet hall/restaurant/golf course and wasn't acted upon by the city council.

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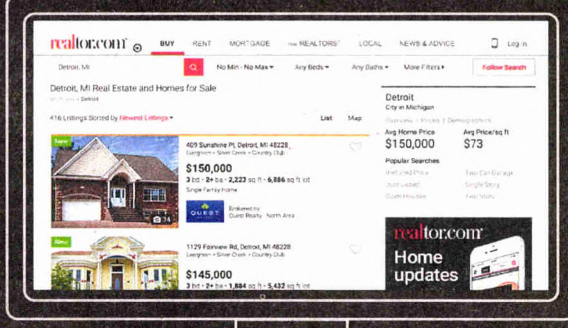
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Hayes Elementary rolls out the red carpet

Hayes Elementary School rolled out the red carpet this week to celebrate its first Leadership Day.

The student-driven event invited members of the community to visit the school to see first-hand how Hayes Huskies are becoming leaders.

Hayes is one of several schools throughout LPS that is a Leader in Me school. Staff and students are focusing on the 7 Habits of Highly Successful People, as established by Stephen Covey.

The Leader in Me program allows students to become leaders in school and in their daily lives, by emphasizing taking responsibility for one's self, setting goals for improvement, tracking progress and more.

In 2012, staff at Hayes read Covey's book, *The Leader in Me*, and began training during the 2013-14 school year and also in October 2014. Mission statements were written and the 7 Habits were soon incorporated into the school culture.

"This year, we rolled out the red carpet," said Principal Theresa O'Brien, adding that the timing was perfect because the school was completely renovated over the summer of 2015, as a result of the voter-approved bond issue.

Guests were treated to an up-close look at the Leader in Me initiatives, including data walls and data notebooks, which track students' progress in their school work.

The 7 Habits:

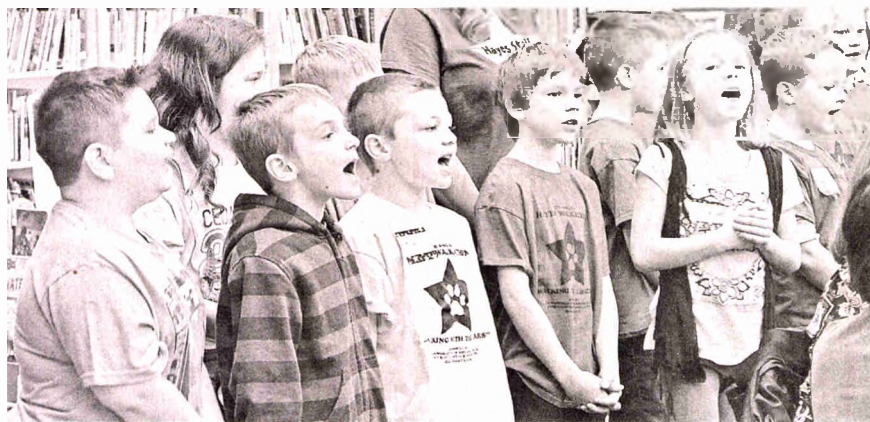
- » Be Proactive (You're in charge)
- » Begin with the end in mind (Have a plan)
- » Put first things first (Work first, then play)
- » Think win-win (Everyone can win)
- » Seek first to understand, then to be understood (Listen before you talk)



Hayes second-graders gathered to sing songs about the Leader in Me program.



Hayes Principal Theresa O'Brien talks about the school's journey through the Leader in Me process to a group of community members.



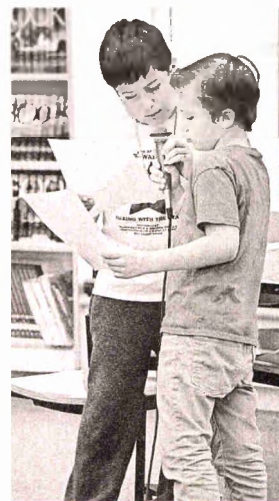
Joey Zgheib (from left), Jordan Laskey, Mikey Lenhardt, Colton Holbert, Madison Terry and Mavrik Farr sing the "Be Proactive" song.

- » Synergize (Together is better)
- » Sharpen the saw (Take

care of yourself)

Other Leader in Me schools in LPS are Cooper Upper Elementary, Cleveland Elementary,

Garfield Elementary, Emerson Middle School, Kennedy Elementary and Randolph Elementary.



Abdo Amad and Carsen Beeney share the microphone, as they explain different aspects of the Leader in Me program at Hayes.

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General

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Healthcare-Dental

MEDICAL BILLER
with interest in medical office management. Troy, 5+ yrs. billing exp required with ICD-9/ICD-10 and CPT exp. Knowledge of PQRS, MU, PCMH preferred. Email resume to: devanshkhmed@gmail.com

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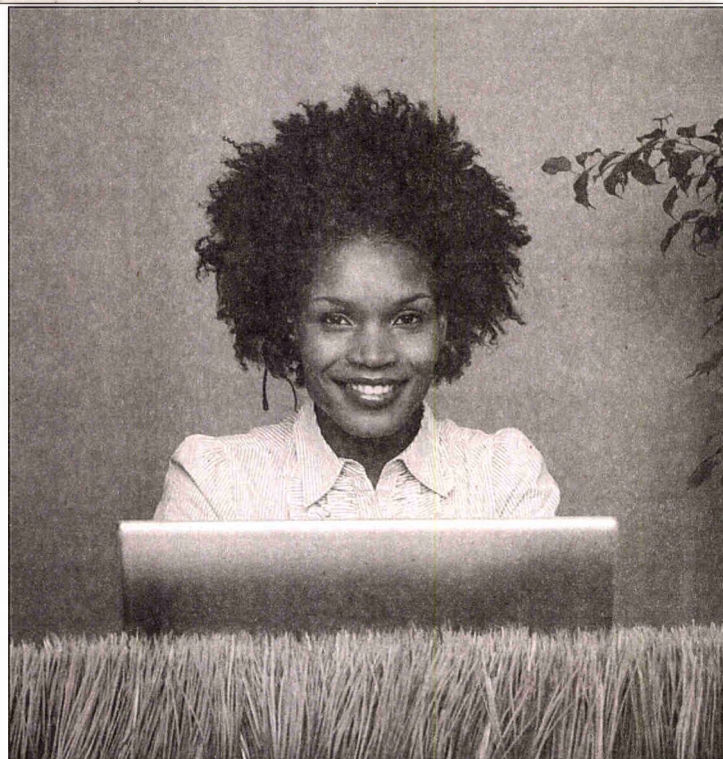
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Farmington
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Huntington Woods
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Plans approved for changes at auto dealer, apartments

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Two projects aimed at making improvements at existing Westland businesses were approved by the council recently.

First, a revised site plan was approved for Todd Wenzel Buick GMC on Ford just east of Wayne Road.

"There have been a series of additions and improvements to the building," Westland Planning/Building Director Bruce Thompson said. "This is the easterly building — the new car portion — that is to be improved."

Plans call for exterior renovations of the dealership, including removing the existing overhang so it can be re-clad with an aluminum composite material to match the existing facade along the showroom portion of the building.

There will be four new overhead doors, which Thompson said would accommodate moving vehicles in and out of the

showroom, along with all new windows being installed.

Additionally, plans call for installation of a prefabricated entry element as well as updated aluminum trim and painting of existing materials in a black-and-white color scheme.

A site plan for proposed additions at Greenwood Villa apartments, an 11-story building is located at the northwest corner of Nankin Boulevard and Central City Parkway. There are also garden apartments at the complex.

Plans call for the construction of a 3,336-square-foot community room addition to the south side of the building; a 1,209-square-foot maintenance garage northeast of the existing building; a new 680-square-foot pavilion east of the building; and a replacement canopy at the north entrance to the building.

"The petitioner indicated they don't have a large room currently for community gatherings,"

Thompson said. "This will allow them to provide additional services."

The property is 4.982 acres. Thompson said even with the additions to the property and some changes to the parking lot, the site parking would continue to exceed the minimum required number of spaces.

Property owner Greenwood Villa Dividend Housing LLC indicated that the project represented an additional investment to the overall site in the amount of \$42,000 per unit.

"We've got a couple of pretty impressive investments with Greenwood Villa. That's an over \$10 million project investment in the building," Westland Mayor William Wild said. "The GMC Buick dealership has a new owner and we're excited about the investment — that's over \$10 million also."

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Drew Phelan, 3, and brother William Phelan, 5, wear their bunny masks made at the bunny brunch craft workshop.

Bunny Brunch brings smiles

Even with Easter coming a smidge early this year, there are plenty of Livonia residents getting into the springtime spirit.

While Easter Day comes today, many came out last weekend to celebrate a little early with a Livonia favorite event.

Livonia's annual Bunny Brunch took place last weekend, attracting families to the senior center to spend some time with the Easter Bunny. Children took part in crafts, activities and spent some time sitting on the lap of the bunny.

Wayne Police department hires new officer

LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Wayne's newest police officer was recently sworn in.

Will Mattis, 25, is a graduate of the Washtenaw County Police Academy and has a degree in criminology from Eastern Michigan University.

"I had part-time jobs. I was always going to school. Most of my life I didn't know what I wanted to do," Mattis said. "I started taking criminology classes. I found I liked it and stuck with it."

Originally from



Mattiag

Brooklyn, Michigan, Mattis said he had interviewed with several departments before being offered the position with the Wayne Police Department.

"I'm excited. I find it interesting. I've been studying crime and hearing about what the job entails," said Mattis on his first day. "I had part-time jobs that were repetitive. I'm doing something meaningful —

that's a nice change."

The hiring of Mattis puts the police department staffing at 23 officers — one less than full staffing under the budget — with an officer set to retire in April.

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The Livonia Public Schools Board of Education, Livonia, Michigan, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for the purchase of:

Pavement Replacement - (3) Sites Bid for the 2015-2016 School Year
(See Attached Specifications)

Request for Proposal (RFP) documents can be obtained at the Livonia Public School Website, www.livoniapublicschools.org under the section titled DISTRICT Purchasing Bids, 2015-2016 school year, open bids OR Buy4Michigan Website, www.buy4michigan.com. Please feel free to include additional pages of information if necessary. For bids to be considered they must meet or exceed all specifications herein.

Sealed bids marked **Pavement Replacement - (3) Three Sites** will be received until **12:00 p.m.** on the **6th day of April, 2016**, in the **Business Office at the Board of Education complex, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan**. Mailed bids should be sent to the attention of Nick Armelagos, Administrator of Finance, Livonia Public Schools, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan, 48154. **Livonia Public Schools is not liable for any delivery or postal delays.**

The Bid Opening will take place at **12:30 p.m.**, on the **6th day of April, 2016**, at the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education Complex, at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read. No bids will be accepted after the date and time specified and will not be opened. Oral, telephone, fax or electronic mail bids are invalid and will not receive consideration.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting has been scheduled for **March 30, 2016, at 11:00 a.m.** starting at Riley Upper Elementary, 15555 Henry Ruff, Livonia, MI, proceeding to; Kennedy Elementary, 14201 Hubbard, Livonia, MI; Hayes Elementary, 30600 Louise, Westland, MI.

All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement of disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner and any employee of the bidder and any member of the Livonia Board of Education, the Livonia Public Schools Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, any member of the Wayne RESA Board of Education or the Superintendent of Wayne RESA. **No bid shall be accepted that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.**

All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized Affidavit of Compliance – Iran Economic Sanctions Act. **No bid shall be accepted that does not include this sworn and notarized statement.**

All bids must be accompanied by the Equal Opportunity Statement. **No bid shall be accepted that does not include this statement.**

All bids must include a Treasury listed bid bond or certified check made payable to Livonia Public Schools for not less than five percent (5%) of the contract for each bid over \$23,230.00 and must be submitted with the bid forms furnished with specification.

All bids must be submitted on the forms provided in the bid packet and all sheets must be returned for the bid. All proposals shall remain firm for a period of ninety (90) days.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in whole or in part: to award to other than the low bidder; to waive any irregularities and/or informalities; and in general to make awards in any manner deemed to be in the best interests of the district, including awarding by line item, with rationale to support such a decision. Livonia Public Schools local preference resolution will be followed for all proposals.

Prices bid are to be **F.O.B. Destination**. All purchases are to be exempt from all taxes, including state and federal taxes. Exemption certificates will be furnished upon request.

Any bid submitted will be binding for ninety (90) days subsequent to the date of the bid submission. All bids must be submitted on the attached bid form and signed by the bidder. Two (2) signed copies of the bid package are to be addressed to the attention of:

Nick Armelagos
Administrator of Finance
Livonia Public Schools
15125 Farmington Road
Livonia, MI 48154-5474

"Pavement Replacement - (3) Sites Bid"

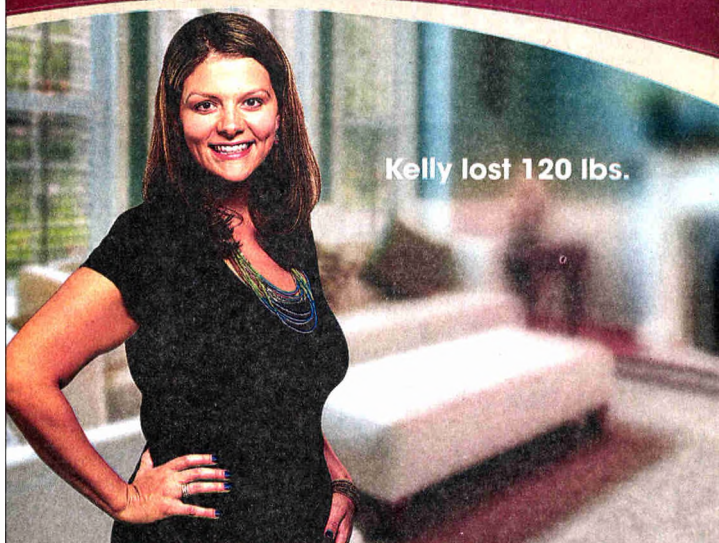
One (1) copy of the bid package should be retained for your files.

Any questions regarding bid specifications should be referred to Harry Lau, Administrator of Facilities and Operations, hlau@livoniapublicschools.org. 734.744.2511, between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. EST.

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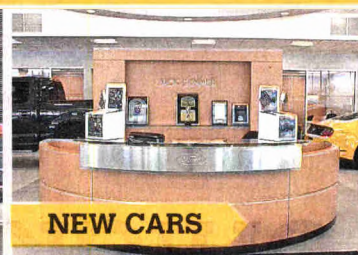
February 4 • March 3 • April 7
6 to 7:30 p.m.

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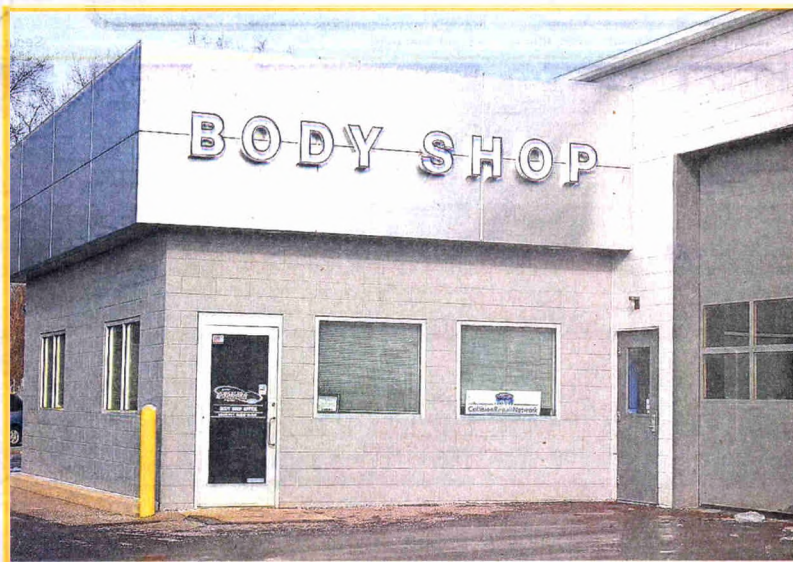
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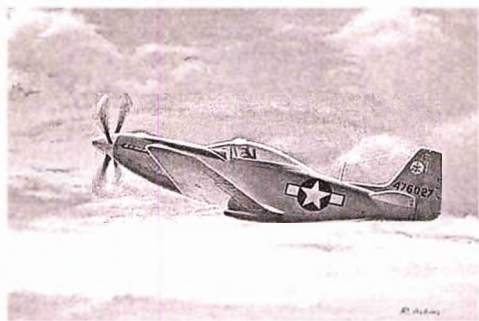
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Aviation art highlighted at Three Cities meeting



Painter Robert Aikins, who specializes in aviation art, will be the speaker at Three Cities Art Club meeting Monday, April 4.

Aviation art will be the topic Monday, April 4, when the Three Cities Art Club meeting features local artist Robert Aikins, who specializes in airplane paintings.

Aikins credits his father, a World War I flyer, with inspiring his early interest in aviation. Building model airplanes grew into designing and building model cars for Aikins. This led him to the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles and a career spanning 35 years designing cars and

trucks for the Ford Motor Company.

After retiring as chief designer, Aikins returned to his love of aviation and started oil painting in 2001. His work covers all phases of aviation history with over 180 paintings completed to date. He is an Artist Member of the American Society of Aviation Artist with work exhibited at the National Naval Aviation Museum, the San Diego Air & Space Museum, the Gallery at BWI Airport, the Kalamazoo Air Zoo

and the National Museum of the Mighty Eight Air Force. His website is <http://aikinsaviationart.com/>

The public is welcome to attend this free event held 7-9 p.m. on Monday, April 4 in a meeting room in the lower level of Canton Township Hall, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, south of Cherry Hill. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information about this event, contact Marilyn Meredith at 313-231-3939 or mari-

lynmeredith@wow-way.com.

To learn more about the art club, visit www.threecitiesartclub.org. The club has an ongoing exhibition at the Gallery at Westland City Hall, open whenever city hall is open.

The club's fourth annual Call For Artists Exhibition at the William P. Faust Library of Westland Library will run from Friday through Sunday, April 8-10 with a reception from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, April 10.

Plymouth-Canton student journalist testifies in Senate

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, welcomed testimony Tuesday from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park student Chris Robbins in a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing.

Robbins spoke on Senate Bill 848, which addresses press freedom for student journalists.

SB 848, known as the Student Free Press and Civics Readiness Act, is co-sponsored by Colbeck and would allow students greater decision-making power in determining which articles are published and disseminated, provided the articles don't violate federal or state laws, are libelous or slanderous, or incite danger.

"I would like to thank Chris Robbins and other



Robbins

while honing their journalism skills on behalf of our communities," Colbeck said. "Student journalists across the state face barriers in their ability to exercise responsibility for determining the news, opinion, feature and advertising content of school-sponsored media and this bill would give them more freedom to make these decisions."

Robbins, who works on the Plymouth-Canton student newspaper The Perspective, said he has

learned a lot about his community by serving as a student journalist under the exceptional tutelage of his journalism teacher, Leola Gee, and that freedom of expression is essential for allowing a student to best engage in the journalism process.

"Making coverage decisions, being a part of a team that works together and learning how to be an effective writer are crucial experiences that are best learned in a newspaper setting where students control the content," Robbins said.

SB 848 was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee and has been referred to the full Senate, where it awaits further consideration.

Celebrating five generations

Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

The joy in Margaret Swanson's voice is proof of the happiness she feels as her great-grandchildren start their own families.

Gabriel, now almost 2 months old, arrived with his mom, great-granddaughter Elizabeth, at Swanson's Canton home recently to meet his great-great-grandmother.

"They all came in with the baby. It's wonderful! To tell the truth, I didn't think I'd live that long," the 85-year-old Swanson said of meeting her first great-great-grandson.

But there's more on the way. She just re-



BILL BRESLER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Margaret Swanson holds her great-great-grandson, 2-month-old Gabriel Greene. Clockwise from lower left, great-granddaughter Elizabeth Greene, Gabriel's mom; grandson Craig Swanson Jr.; and son Craig Swanson.

ceived news that another "great" in Florida is on

his or her way.

And who can't get enough of a newborn baby? Swanson is making the trip to North Carolina soon to see Gabriel again. "I want to see that baby," she said.

Swanson intends to stay around to see her family grow. "I've got my own teeth," she said. "I go to Curves four days a week. If I could stay out of the fridge, I'd be much better."

But Swanson, a widow - her husband was Donald - also bowls, golfs and plays cards.

With the arrival of the fifth generation, Swanson doesn't have any real plans to leave a diary of sorts for the newcomers. "Well, we talk a lot," she said. "I hope they remember what I tell them."



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND INITIAL PROPOSED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES AND PROPOSED USE OF FUNDS

The Charter Township of Redford will be submitting to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) a One-Year Action Plan for FY 2016-2017 AND our Five-Year Consolidated Plan FY 2016-2020. Title I of the National Affordable Housing Act established the requirement that municipalities who apply for direct assistance under certain HUD programs have an approved housing strategy.

The 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan is the Charter Township of Redford's five year strategic plan for community/economic development, housing services and special needs projects funded through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The 2016-2017 Action Plan serves as the annual application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for CDBG funds and details activities and programs to be funded during the 2016-2017 Program Year.

The 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan serves as the basis for describing the need for proposed projects and contain as assessment of the Township's housing, homeless, special needs populations, community development, economic development, and community services needs as well as prioritization of those needs.

A public hearing will be held for the purpose of receiving suggestions, proposals and ideas from interested citizens concerning the proposed use of Federal Housing and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the Consolidated Plan and Action Plan.

The Charter Township of Redford expects to receive \$818,153 plus \$249,847 in program income during the 2016 Federal fiscal year. The public hearing will take place at the following time and location:

April 5, 2016
5:00 P.M.

Redford Township Community Center
12121 Hemingway
Redford, Michigan 48239

The Redford Township Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Development will also be holding a meeting to make recommendations to the Township Board of Trustees on proposed spending of block grant funds as they relate to Redford Township's Consolidated Plan.

The following objectives and general range of activities takes into consideration the eligible community development needs of the Charter Township of Redford.

COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES:

1. Increase the supply of standard, affordable housing through the rehabilitation of existing housing units and, if appropriate, the construction of new units.
2. Support fair housing efforts that provide accessibility to all housing options for all Redford Township residents.
3. Promote home ownership opportunities in Redford Township.
4. Develop fund mechanisms for the disposition of acquired foreclosed and abandoned residential units.
5. Improve, preserve and expand the affordable housing stock within Redford Township.

The following range of activities will be proposed for the FY 2016-2017 funding submission:

NSA-1 (The area between Curtis St. & Eight Mile Rd., Inkster Rd. & Five Points St.):

Acquisition of Property - Blight (LMA)
Neighborhood Watch
Park Improvements
Site Clearance - Blight (LMA)

NSA-2 Generally the area between Puritan St. & Graham St.; Norborne St. & Telegraph Rd.):

Acquisition of Property - Blight (LMA)
Neighborhood Watch
Park Improvements
Site Clearance - Blight (LMA)

NSA-3 (Generally the area between Plymouth Rd. & the CSX Railway; Inkster Rd. & Telegraph Rd.):

Acquisition of Property - Blight (LMA)
Neighborhood Watch
Park Improvements
Senior Center Improvements
Site Clearance - Blight (LMA)

NON-NSA/TOWNSHIP-WIDE:

Acquisition of Property - Blight (SBS)
Dial A Ride
Housing Rehabilitation
Park Improvements
Programming for Seniors & Disabled persons
Redford Interfaith
Sidewalk Improvements
Site Clearance - Blight (SBS)
SNAP II Program
Street Paving - Section 108 Loan
Youth Services

The Consolidated Plan and Action Plan will be made available for those interested citizens who are unable to attend the public hearings, please submit written views and proposals to the Community Development Department at 12121 Hemingway, Redford, MI 48239. Comments must be received by 4:00 P.M. on April 5, 2016.

GARTH J. CHRISTIE, CMC
Redford Township Clerk

CITY OF LIVONIA PUBLIC NOTICE

AGENDA

Zoning Board of Appeals

April 12, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.

Livonia City Hall - Auditorium (1st Floor)
33000 Civic Center Drive
Livonia, MI
(734) 466 2259

APPEAL CASE 2016-04-25: Roxanne and Keith Sadowski, north side of Munger (31032) between Merriman and East End, seeking to maintain a dog run with four (4) foot tall chain link fencing, resulting in excess area, and deficient east side yard setback.

APPEAL CASE 2016-04-26: Shelden Center, LLC, 24255 13 Mile Road, Ste. 220, Bingham Farms, MI 48025, on behalf of Lessee JCD 519, LLC (Jimmy Johns), 19369 Fairlane Court, Livonia, MI 48152, seeking to erect three (3) wall signs (north, east and west elevations) on a proposed single story restaurant building on property located on the south side of Plymouth (33161) between Farmington and Woodring, resulting in excess number of wall signs, wall sign area and three (3) directional signs which are excess in area.

APPEAL CASE 2016-04-28: Gasiorek, Morgan, Greco, McCauley & Kotzian, P.C., Attorneys and Counselors, 30500 Northwestern Hwy., Ste. 425, Farmington Hills, MI 48334, on behalf of Lessee O Chi Reflexology Spa, 37700 Six Mile, Ste. H-640, Livonia, MI 48152, seeking to appeal, pursuant to Zoning Ordinance, Section 21.06(1), an allegedly erroneous decision of the Building Official, revoking O Chi Reflexology Spa's certificate of occupancy and denying a certificate of occupancy for Oriental Chi Acupuncture on property located on the north side of six Mile (37700), between Newburgh and Laurel Park.

Public Comments may be sent to the Zoning Board of Appeals Office at 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, MI 48154 - all comments must include name, address and signature.

NO. 2996

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 020 AND 040 OF TITLE 2, CHAPTER 76 (LIBRARY COMMISSION) OF THE LIVONIA CODE OF ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED.

THE CITY OF LIVONIA ORDAINS:

Section 1. Section 020 of Title 2, Chapter 76 of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

2.76.020 - Organization and officers -- Rules for procedure -- Powers and duties.

The Commission members shall, immediately after their appointment, meet and organize by the election of one (1) of the number as president, and by the election of such other officers as they may deem necessary. The Commission may meet once each month for the transaction of business. The chair may call a special meeting of the Commission with the prior written approval of the Library Director or the Library Director's designee. A majority of the members appointed to the Commission shall constitute a quorum in the transaction of business. The Commission shall make and adopt such bylaws, rules and regulations governing their procedure, for their own guidance and for the government of the library and reading room, as may be expedient. The powers and duties of the Commission shall be exercised and performed, as herein provided, and in conformity with the City Charter and the general ordinances of the City, as follows:

A. The Commission shall review upon preparation and submission by the Library Director and thereafter present and recommend the annual budget of the library to the Mayor. The Commission shall also monitor the expenditure of all funds approved and provided for in the library budget.

B. The Commission shall prepare or have prepared and present to the Mayor an annual report concerning library activities. It shall also review and approve programs and policies recommended by the Library Director.

C. The Commission shall recommend short-range and long-range plans for the growth and improvement of the libraries. In this regard, the Commission shall recommend policies to the Mayor which will best implement those plans.

D. In the event of a vacancy in the position of Library Director, the Commission shall, upon preparation and submission of an eligibility list by the Civil Service Commission, make its recommendation to the Mayor with respect to the appointment to be made by the Mayor.

E. The Commission shall promote interest in and encourage citizen participation in the use and operation of libraries.

Section 2. Section 040 of Title 2, Chapter 76 of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

2.76.040 - Library employees subject to civil service. The Library Director and all other personnel employed in the library and reading room shall be subject to civil service and part of the classified service.

Section 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this ordinance full force and effect.

Section 4. Should any portion of this ordinance be held invalid for any reason, such holding shall not be construed as affecting the validity of any of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

The above ordinance was passed at the regular meeting of the Council of the City of Livonia held Wednesday, March 9, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

Susan M. Nash, City Clerk

The foregoing ordinance was authenticated by me on this 10th day of March, 2016.

Dennis K. Wright, Mayor

Donald L. Knapp, Jr., City Attorney
Dated: March 10, 2016

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Wish you were here



Judy and Frank Zbikowski of Livonia took their great-grandson, Jayden Evans, vacationing to their timeshare in Freeport, Bahamas, earlier this month. And, of course, they took their Livonia Observer with them.

SUBMITTED

Spring bazaar

St. John's Episcopal Church hosts its Spring Bazaar 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 2, at the church, 555 S. Wayne Road.

The event features arts, crafts, baked goods, etc., with lunch available. For more information, call 734-721-5023 Monday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m..

Mom2Mom sales

» The Garden City High School Mom2Mom Sale is 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 23, at the high school, 6500 Middlebelt. Sellers and shoppers will get deals on new and gently used baby and kids' clothes as well as toys, games, DVDs, books, strollers, bikes, swings, bouncers, etc.

There will be more than 85 tables, a large item area, concessions and a bake sale. Admission is \$1 (\$2 for early bird at 8:30 a.m.). Tables are \$25 for an 8-foot table/chair including standard rack space (you provide rack).

For more information, including the table agreement, go to www.facebook.com/gcmom2momsale or send an email to gcmom2momsale@hotmail.com.

» St. Edith/St Colette hosts a Mom2Mom sale 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 9, featuring 74 tables of great deals on gently used maternity, baby and children's items.

St. Edith Church is at 15089 Newburgh in Livonia. Admission is \$2 from 8:30-9 a.m.; \$1 from 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information, email m2msale@stecmops.org.

Gone With the Wind

Join local *Gone With the Wind* expert Kathleen Marcaccio as she shares insights about this legendary novel and film in a presentation 6:30

p.m. Wednesday, April 6, at the Wayne Public Library. Learn about author Margaret Mitchell, her real-life inspiration for Rhett Butler, and other intriguing background information.

Marcaccio's presentation also includes a trove of GWTW memorabilia.

To register for this free program, call the library at 734-721-7821, or visit the Adult Services Desk.

Casino trip

The Wayne Rotary sponsors a trip to Motor City Casino at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 4.

Pick-up is at the Wayne District Court on Sims. Cost is \$35 (you get \$30 back in slot play). The trip is a fundraiser for Wayne Rotary. For more information, contact Trish Hampton, 734-890-6934.

Rainforest show

On Tuesday, April 5, Hayes Elementary School in Westland will be transformed into a tropical rainforest.

The show, *Live on Stage, The Rainforest*, strives to make the audience feel like they're right in the middle of the tropical rainforest with the sounds and sights of the Amazon region. The show will include see exotic birds, kinkajous, monkeys and snakes.

This comedy animal show will only be at Hayes Elementary School starts at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and available at the door. Hayes Elementary is at 30600 Louise in Westland.

Happily ever after

The Alexander Blue House at Greenmead hosts "Happily Ever After," a chance to reminisce about weddings, showcase vintage gowns and photos 7-9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 14.

Visitors will begin at the decorated Historic Newburg Church for a presentation, followed by

the "reception" at the Alexander Blue House for hors d'oeuvres, sparkling beverages, wedding cake and coffee.

Advance tickets are \$15, available at the Greenmead office, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All tickets are non-refundable and first-come, first-serve. No walk-ins. Tickets will be sold through Monday, April 11. All proceeds benefit the preservation of Greenmead Historical Park.

Kindergarten readiness

The South Redford School District Shear Kindergarten Readiness Program offers children who reside in South Redford and will be 4 years of age by Sept. 1 an opportunity to experience quality learning activities which foster development as the children grow toward kindergarten.

Classes meet Monday through Thursday, morning or afternoon for three-hour sessions. This

is a tuition-free program (with the exception of a one-time material fee of \$75).

Registration takes place in the preschool room on Friday, April 22, from 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.. The preschool room is located in the Shear Early Childhood Center at 26141 Schoolcraft (Use the second parking lot south of Schoolcraft on Berwyn).

For more information, contact the Student Services Dept. at 313-535-4000, Ext. 1028 or go to srpreschool.weebly.com.

1,000 books

Families are invited to join the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program at the Livonia Public Library. It's a nationwide challenge that encourages parents and caregivers to regularly

read aloud to their children. By reading just one book a night, families can reach the 1,000-book goal in three years and provide their children essential early literacy skills.

The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program is available to all families with children between the ages of birth and five years. Registration is open. For more information, call the library at 734-466-2493 or visit www.livoniapubliclibrary.org. This program is free of charge.

Dr. Seuss selfie

The Redford Township District Library hosts a "Dr. Seuss Selfie Contest" in March.

Kids can take a picture of themselves with something that represents the world of Dr.

Seuss, perhaps a stuffed animal, a T-shirt they own, a drawing they did and have the picture on display in the library for the month of March.

The most creative entry will receive a prize chosen especially for them. For more information, contact the youth/teen services department at the library, 313-531-5960, ext. 117.

Maltese Bingo

The Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc., presents "Shamrock Bingo" Mondays and Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m., at 33111 Plymouth Road in Livonia.

The MABSI is donating 50 percent of its proceeds from its fundraising bingo nights to help www.flintkids.org throughout March.

For more information, call 248-557-2000.

NRA Foundation Event

The Western Wayne County Conservation Association hosts its eighth annual Friends of the NRA banquet Friday, May 6, at the Hellenic Center, 36375 Joy in Westland.

Doors open at 5 p.m. to view prizes and silent auction for the Western Wayne County Conservation Association's eighth annual Friends of the NRA Banquet. Games start at 6 p.m., with a sit-down dinner served at 7 p.m., followed by a live auction. Banquet tickets are \$40 each and include entry in a drawing to win a .22 caliber rifle. Sponsorship and shooter packages also are available.

Contact Nancy Garneau at 734-259-3341 or Bob Haviland at 734-516-7921.

CITY OF WESTLAND
INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by City of Westland - Jefferson Barns Community Center, located at 32150 Dorsey, Westland, MI 48186, on **April 11th, 2016 @ 10:00am.** (no exceptions will be made for late filings) for the following:

JEFFERSON BARN'S COMMUNITY CENTER - AUTOMATIC DOOR OPERATORS

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office or at www.CityofWestland.com. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

This project is a federally funded; Davis Bacon Prevailing wages will apply.

Published: March 27, 2016

Devin J. Adams
City Controller
LC-000027851 3/27

CITY OF LIVONIA - 03/09/2016 REGULAR MEETING SYNOPSIS

Present: Bahr, Meakin, Kritzman, Jolly, White and McIntyre
Absent: Brosnan

#78-16 Approving the minutes of meeting held on 2/17/16. Items were received and filed.

Public Hearings Announced - submitted by Livonia Office Center, to rezone the property located at 28200 Seven Mile Road, from OS (Office Services) to C-1 (Local Business).
PETITION 2016-01-06-01 submitted by the City Planning Commission, proposing to amend Section 11.03 of Article XI, C-2 District Regulations, to allow indoor, climate-controlled self-storage facilities as a waiver. Items were received and filed.

#79-16 Approving the appointment of Brian C. Kahn as Director of Emergency Preparedness
#80-16 Approving a modification to the compensation plan for Police Captains overtime.

#81-16 Authorize the purchase of police vehicles.

#82-16 Accept the bid and authorize the sale of City-owned at 12411 Arcola.

#83-16 Authorize the expansion of the Microsoft Enterprise Licensing Agreement

#84-16 Authorize the final budget adjustments for the Fiscal Year 2015 budget.

#85-16 Refer the matter of sending newly elected officials to an informational training session to the Finance, Budget and Technology Committee.

#86-16 Accept bids of Ellsworth Industries, Inc., Freeport Supply Co., StoneCo of Michigan, and Calo & Sons Construction, for aggregates (road gravel, slag and stone) for the 2016 calendar year.

#87-16 Accept bid of B & J Parking Lot Maintenance, For completing all street sweeping required for the City's 2016-2019 Leaf Pickup program.

#88-16 Accept bid of G & M Enterprises, LTD., for completing all street sweeping required for the City's 2016-2019 routine supplemental street sweeping program.

#89-16 Accept the bid of Spartan Distributors for one Toro Groundsmaster 3505-D.

#90-16 Accept the quote from Etna supply company, for a three-year contract for supplying the Public Service Division (Water Maintenance section) with water meters and supplies through March 31, 2018.

#91-16 Authorize the purchase of a replacement loader from Southeastern Equipment,

#92-16 Establish 06/20/16 at 8:00 p.m. as the date for Council to adopt a resolution placing special assessments on properties whose owners have not paid charges connected with the 2015 Sidewalk Program.

#93-16 Approve Petition 2012-04-02-10, submitted by Pelagos Enterprises Inc., to extend the use of a Class C liquor license to the new owners and extend the operating hours from 11:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

#94-16 Approve Petition 2015-09-08-13, submitted by Michigan Fuel Properties, L.L.C., Inc., to remodel the exterior of the existing commercial center (Mid-8 Plaza), located at 29107-29131 Eight Mile Road, subject to conditions.

First Reading was given to an ordinance amending section 14 of the Zoning Map.

Second Reading was given to an ordinance amending sections 020 and 040, Title 2, Chapter 76 of Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended.

At the direction of the Chair, Item No. 19 was removed from the Agenda

#95-16 Accept the bid of SME, for performing all work required for the Clements Circle Pool Restoration Project.

#96-16 Refer to the administration, an amendment to the City of Livonia retiree health and disability benefits plan.

#97-16 Refer the request to enter into a 3 year agreement with CGI Communications, Inc., to the Economic Development, Community Outreach and Strategic Planning Committee.

#98-16 Refer the subject of Wi-Fi in City Parks to the Capital Improvement, Natural Resources and Waste Management Committee.

#99-16 Determining to hold a Public Hearing to determine the assessment roll to include LED lighting for Richfield Park Estates Site Condominiums.

#100-16 Retiring Special Assessment District No. 424, and establishing a new Special Assessment District to contain the two out lots located at 9284 and 9885 Richfield in the assessment.

#101-16 Approve Petition 2015-12-01-13 submitted by Michigan Property Group, L.L.C., to rezone the property at 28900 Schoolcraft Road, subject to conditions.

First Reading was given to an ordinance amending section 14 of the zoning map.

#102-16 Approving a waiver of the City's Noise Ordinance for O'Malley's Bar & Grill.

#103-16 Authorize the Department of Law to resolve the claims on behalf of John Kozma and Wendy Kozma, as co-guardians of Jodi Renee Kozma.

#104-16 Approve placing a proposed Public Safety Millage on the August 2016 Primary Election ballot.

#105-16 Approve placing a proposed Supplemental Millage for cultural and senior services on the August 2016 Primary Election.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Full text of the official minutes available in the Office of the City Clerk.

Susan M. Nash
Livonia City Clerk

Published: March 27, 2016

LC-000027851 3/28/16

For Immediate Release

Klassa, Swaggerty & Associates ACHIEVES
AMERIPRISE PRIVATE WEALTH ADVISOR STATUS

Livonia, Michigan — March — Klassa, Swaggerty & Associates has become an Ameriprise Financial Private Wealth Advisory Practice.

Klassa, Swaggerty & Associates, with an office in Livonia, Michigan is among the 12 percent of approximately 10,000* Ameriprise financial advisors to achieve this status.

Ameriprise Private Wealth Advisors provide personalized client service and are dedicated to meeting the complex and unique financial needs of their clients. To become eligible for this status, advisors must be experienced in providing comprehensive financial planning and advice, complete specialized training and achieve superior business results.

As Ameriprise Private Wealth Advisors, Our Team is focused on providing advice and financial solutions for clients with high asset levels. We are knowledgeable on a variety of topics and strategies including retirement, tax and estate planning, insurance and asset management. Klassa, Swaggerty & Associates is located at 37677 Pembroke Avenue, Livonia, Michigan 48152. We can be reached at 734-432-6490 or via www.ameripriseadvisors.com/michael.k.klassa/myteam/.

At Ameriprise Financial, we have been helping people feel confident about their financial future for over 120 years. With outstanding asset management, advisory and insurance capabilities and a nationwide network of 10,000 financial advisors, we have the strength and expertise to serve the full range of individual and institutional investors' financial needs. For more information, visit ameriprise.com or Michael.k.klassa@ampf.com.

*Ameriprise Financial Fourth Quarter 2015 Statistical Supplement.
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Middle school robotics team prepares for April competition

Scott Daniel
Staff Writer

For the past several months, Cassidy Howard, Celia Alcalá and Mariyan Simmons have worked like mad scientists transforming parts and bits of programming into a living, almost breathing organism aimed at slaying the competition in a few weeks.

Move over Frankenstein. It's nearly time for "Frankenrover" to take center stage.

As part of South Redford's Pierce Middle School robotics team, the trio is making last-minute adjustments and design modifications each Wednesday after school. About a dozen "Brexterz," as the team has dubbed itself, will compete in the Lego Robotics qualifying tournament at the University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy on April 8.

"He's like our pet dog," said Alcalá, a sixth-grader. "We've put in so much time and effort on our own ... I think he will do well at the competition."

The robotics program at Pierce is in its third year. An equal number of sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders participate and the Brexterz have just as many girls as boys.

"Robotics is awesome," Howard said. "When they said I could join, I was so excited."

Science teacher Jeff Roth, a 19-year veteran of Pierce, guides the team. Students returning to the program helped him pick from among 80 applicants to join the Brexterz.

"We only had room for six new students," Roth said. "I wanted to make sure we had good chemistry."

Each season, a new challenge is issued for all Michigan middle-school teams, with this year's theme being golf. Teams must build a robot that will putt four separate golf balls into four separate holes within two minutes.

"That's the hard



Pierce Middle School eighth-grader Animan Manchanda works on his Lego robotics creation.

TOM BEAUDOIN



Pierce Middle Lego Robotics team members Cassidy Howard, Celia Alcalá and Mariyan Simmons put the finishing touches on their robot for the state competition to be held April 8 at Lawrence Tech.

TOM BEAUDOIN

part," eighth-grader Animan Manchanda said of the time constraint. He is partnering with his brother, Aman, to build a robot. The duo didn't fare well at a warm up competition last month. "We were not fully ready. Our design wasn't perfect."

The biggest problem for the Manchandas was their putter — a wooden, plank-like "club" — not striking the ball with enough force to get it into the hole. The brothers have ditched large tires for smaller ones that bring the putter closer to the ground,

allowing for better contact.

At a recent practice, Aman fiddled with the design while Animan worked on programming. During the competition, each robot is placed on a table that's approximately 3 feet wide and 6 feet long. Robots must be able to find their way around the table to each ball before knocking them in. Because students aren't allowed to drive the robots remotely, they must be programmed to handle each task independently.

"My brother is the

smart one," Aman said, "he does the programming. I just do the architecture."

Pierce will be competing against schools like Northville and Grosse Pointe. Roth said competition has gotten tougher each year. While he is there to guide during practices, often setting an agenda to maximize productivity; students are encouraged to work out design and programming problems on their own.

"The kids this year are trying to do it themselves," Roth said. "Our groups are relying on math to get the job done."

Each group within the Brexterz has to earn the right to advance to the Michigan Championship, which will be held April 30 at Lawrence Tech. Winning would be great, but eighth-grader Brandon Talley enjoys the process as much as anything.

"I like building the robots," he said. "Everyone gets the same programming. But you can put your own creative touch on the robot when you're building it."

sdaniel@hometownlife.com
734-672-5026



WLND

Westland Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik (left) accepts a donation to the Police Explorers program from the owners of the Hibachi Grill — Ming Zeng, Tony Weng, Phoebe Weng and Sophie Weng — joined by Westland Mayor William Wild.

Restaurant owners support Explorers

The owners of a local restaurant recently made a donation to support the Westland Police Explorers program.

Hibachi Grill owner Tony Weng donated \$500 to the program, which introduces young people to different aspects of police operations. The donation will help fund the Police Explorers trip to Alpena for a competition against Police Explor-

ers from around the state.

"He (Weng) contacted the police department and wanted to give something back to the community that has been so great to them," Westland Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik said. "We appreciate this generous donation."

The Hibachi Grill is located at 6539 N. Wayne Road, north of Hunter, in Westland.

Learn to spot dangerous weather at Skywarn class

Greg Mullin
Staff Writer

When severe weather arrives, having more eyes in the sky can prevent tragedies.

That's the mindset behind the Skywarn Spotter class set for 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 30, at the Southfield Public Library auditorium, 26300 Evergreen Road.

"Having spotters on the ground actually saves lives and the more people that we can get trained, the safer the community will be," said William Johns, director of the Southfield Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Division.

Johns and his department are teaming with the National Weather Service and the Oakland County Homeland Security Division to conduct the free Skywarn Spotter

training, where participants learn to detect the early warning signs of impending severe weather, especially tornadoes, and how to relay that information to the National Weather Service.

Oakland County Homeland Security Division Manager Ted Quisenberry said weather-detecting equipment is advanced, but the human element remains vital.

Leading up to Severe Weather Awareness Week, April 10-16, Skywarn classes are being held in seven Oakland County towns.

For more information, go to oak.gov/homelandsecurity and then click on the Skywarn logo or call Oakland County Homeland Security at 248-858-5300.

gmullin@hometownlife.com
Download our free apps for iPhone, iPad or Android!

Abandoned vehicle auction: Saturday April 2, 2016 12pm Sparks Auto and Towing, 34043 Ford Road, Westland MI

1. 1990	Toyota	JT2ST88P9L0009289
2. 2008	GMC	1GKFC13578R199932
3. 2000	Acura	19UUA5660YA014527
4. 1999	Chevrolet	3GKEC16R4XG542267
5. 2006	KIA	KNAGE124165029599
6. 2002	Mitsubishi	4A3AA36G42E052161
7. 1999	Buick	1C4HP52K1X1405494
8. 1998	Cadillac	1G6KE54Y9WU745356
9. 1993	Chrysler	2C3EL56F5PH533784
10. 1998	Lexus	JT88F28GXW0131569
11. 1996	Ford	1FASP11J1TW155973
12. 2004	Dodge	1B3ES56C84D552179
13. 2002	Cadillac	1G6DM57W630116007
14. 2001	Ford	2FMZA52451BA45691
15. 1989	Mercury	2MEBM75F5KX718276
16. 2006	Chevrolet	2G1WM15K269373868
17. 1994	Mercury	2MELM75W5RX628253
18. 2005	Dodge	1B3ES56C85D125540
19. 1999	Chevrolet	1GNFK16K3RJ430722
20. 2010	Nissan	1N4BL2EP1AC118405
21. 2007	Chevrolet	3GNDA13D57S547133
22. 1998	Mercedes	WDBJH82F5WX007084
23. 2002	Chevrolet	1GNDU03E42D162777
24. 1998	Ford	3FAKP1135WR216430

Published: March 27, 2016

LO-000026496 3x3



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD NOTICE OF CLOSE OF REGISTRATION SPECIAL ELECTION CLARENCEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT MILLAGE PROPOSAL BUILDING & SITE SINKING FUND TAX LEVY

ELECTORS ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a special election regarding a Millage Proposal for a Building & Site Sinking Fund Tax Levy for the Clarenceville School District will be held in the Charter Township of Redford, Wayne County, MI, on Tuesday, May 3, 2016.

Notice is hereby given that electors who wish to vote in the special election regarding the School Operating Millage proposal must be registered no later than Monday, April 4, 2016.

If you are not currently registered to vote or have changed your address, you may register to vote in the Clerk's office in the Redford Township Hall, 15145 Beech Daly Road, during the hours of 8:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday or at any Secretary of State office.

GARTH J. CHRISTIE, MMC
CLERK, CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF REDFORD

Published: March 27, 2016

LO-000026774 3x3

ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR BIDS

CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 2016 OVERHEAD DOOR REPLACEMENT

Sealed bids will be received at the Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154 until 2:00 P.M., local time on Tuesday, April 19th, 2016 at which time the RFB's will be secured by the City Clerk. Each bid shall be recorded together with the name of the vendor. Bids shall be in accordance with the requirements of this notice in order to be deemed "responsive." Late bids will be returned unopened.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held in the West Conference Room at the Department of Public Works Building, 12973 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan (734) 466-2655 at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, April 5th, 2016. Bids will not be accepted from those firms who do not attend.

Instructions and specifications may be obtained by registering with the Michigan Inter-Governmental Trade Network (MITN) at www.mitn.info

All Addendums will be posted on the MITN website. Any information not obtained from the MITN website should not be relied upon. Each response to the bid must be provided to the City of Livonia electronically in Adobe (PDF) format. Faxed bids in response to this request will not be accepted.

All bids shall be sealed in envelopes, plainly marked with: CITY OF LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 2016 OVERHEAD DOOR REPLACEMENT, name of vendor and shall be addressed to the City Clerk, City of Livonia, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia, Michigan 48154.

No vendor may withdraw their bid within 120 calendar days after the date set for opening thereof.

The City of Livonia reserves the right to reject or accept any or all bids in whole or in part and waive any irregularities therein. Acceptance of any bid does not constitute a binding agreement until a written Contract is signed by both parties.

Douglas Moore
Superintendent, DPW

Dennis K. Wright
Mayor

Published: March 27, 2016

LO-0000276574 3x3

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RESTAURANT
PIZZERIA

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"SLICE FOR LIFE"
Monday, April 4, 2016

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DETROIT'S ORIGINAL
**GLUTEN-FREE
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Multi-Grain Crust
A "thinner" crust featuring 9 grains
Try the Antioxidant, Kale Lovers or Tuscan Vegan today!

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•Farmington Hills 248-855-4600 •Auburn Hills 248-276-9040 •Dearborn 313-562-5900
•Pointe Plaza 313-884-7400 •Bloomfield 248-645-0300 •Royal Oak 248-549-8000

•Shelby Township 45841 Hayes Rd. (corner of Lakeside Blvd.) 586-566-1233
•NOVI 44225 W. 12 Mile Rd. @ Fountain Walk 248-675-0881

Join our Email Club at www.buddyspizza.com!

\$3.00 OFF 8 Square Pizza **\$2.00 OFF Family Sized Salad** **\$1.00 OFF 4 Square Pizza** **10% OFF Pasta, Salad or Veggie Tray**

One coupon per person, per visit, per table. Not valid with any other discount or coupon. Exp. 4/30/16 O&E

Kids flock to marshmallow drop

Like swallows to Capistrano, thousands of kids converged Friday on Nankin Mills in Westland, hoping to grab a piece of Easter heaven.

They were there for the 32nd annual Marshmallow Drop, during which more than 20,000 marshmallows were dropped from the sky. The children raced around gathering the marshmallows, which were redeemable for prizes.

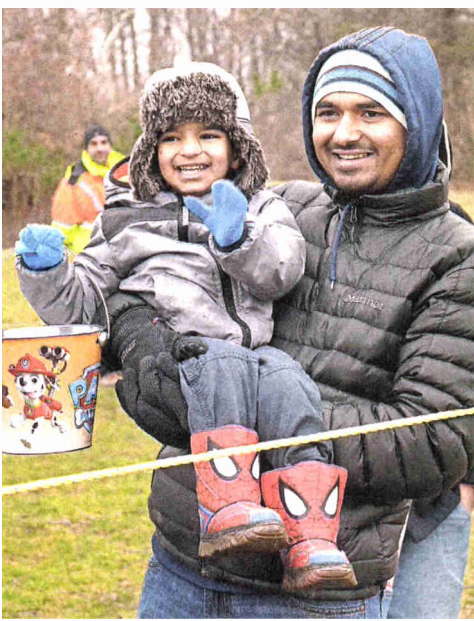
"Wayne County's Marshmallow Drop has been a cherished family tradition for 32 years," Wayne County Executive Warren Evans said. "The Marshmallow Drop kicks off a highly anticipated season of fun activities for our Parks Division ... it really is an exciting time for the entire family to enjoy."



Delores Durkin and 2-year-old Amelia Broten had a successful hunt. They are from Westland.



The helicopter drops the marshmallows and the race is on.



Two-year-old Naveen Sangha and his dad Mandeep Sangha spot the Easter Bunny hopping down the muddy trail. They are from Westland.



Shaun Williams and daughter Brenna Williams, 2, greet the Easter Bunny.



Nanette Poster and granddaughter Mackenzie Poster hunt for marshmallows. They are from Garden City.



Two-year-old Andrew Sladewski shows off the spoils of the hunt. Andrew came to the marshmallow drop with mom and dad, Krysten and Brian Sladewski. They are from Northville.



Heavy rains Thursday flooded the field and created lots of mud.

CITY OF WESTLAND
INVITATION TO BID

The City of Westland requests sealed proposals for administration of the **First Time Homebuyer Program**, due **April 7, 2016, 3:00 p.m.** Proposals should be submitted to the Department of Housing & Community Development, 32150 Dorsey Road, Westland, Michigan 48186, on or before the due date.

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Department of Housing and Community Development, 32150 Dorsey Road, or at www.cityofwestland.com. Please direct questions pertaining to specifications to Joanne Campbell, Director at (734) 713.3711 or jcampbell@cityofwestland.com. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Joanne Campbell, Director
Westland Observer
March 27, 2016

Published: March 27, 2016

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CITY OF GARDEN CITY, MICHIGAN						
PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN						
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - MONDAY, MAY 2, 2016 at 7:00PM						
	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	TOTAL
TOTALS BY FUND						
General Fund/Public Safety	2,413,500	1,318,150	1,391,800	1,123,000	156,000	6,402,450
Major Streets	387,000	375,000	375,000	375,000	-	1,512,000
Local Streets	1,213,000	1,165,000	1,165,000	1,165,000	1,165,000	5,873,000
Cable/PEG Fees	23,000	15,000	-	-	-	38,000
Water/Sewer Fund	1,510,000	920,000	1,035,000	1,280,000	1,280,000	6,025,000
DDA	502,000	185,000	285,000	70,000	120,000	1,162,500
	6,049,000	3,978,150	4,251,800	4,013,000	2,721,000	21,012,950
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Published: March 27, 2016						

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SPORTS

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HIGH SCHOOL GOLF PREVIEW

Spartans replenish golf lineup

Replacing nine seniors
job No. 1 for Stevenson

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The Livonia Stevenson boys golf team will be defending its City Tournament title in a few weeks with a nearly all-new cast of players.

Although the Spartans lost nine seniors to graduation — including lone Division 1 regional individual qualifier Noah Pappalardo, and consistent contributors Hyder Mansour and Dom Rea — the program's cupboard isn't bare thanks to the return of a solid nucleus of experience



Jakacki

golfers. "Even though we lost nine seniors, we have seven returning players, which is a little unusual," said second-year head coach Curtis Hay, who retired as the head pro at West Bloomfield's Twin Beach Country Club in 2012 after a 30-year tenure there.

"The thing about our team last year was that we had several players whose average score was within one stroke of one another. No one really separated themselves."

Hay admitted it's been tough to get a handle on this year's crop of Spartans due to limited on-course playing

See GOLF, Page B2

McDonald thriving at Hillsdale

Former Livonia Stevenson baseball star Chris McDonald is excelling as a senior at Hillsdale College.



McDonald

McDonald, a starting corner infielder and relief pitcher for the Chargers, set the school's single-season saves record earlier this month when he chalked up his eighth save in just 16 games.

The 6-foot-6 slugger has also clouted three home runs, six doubles and one triple at the dish, while knocking in 17 runs and hitting .349.

In 8½ innings on the mound, McDonald has sculpted a 1.04 earned-run average while allowing just four hits.

GC volleyball coach needed

The Garden City High School volleyball program is searching for a junior varsity head coach.

For more information or to submit a resume, contact Garden City High School athletic director Rob Phillips at 734-762-8363 or philir@gardencityschools.com.

Stevenson pom clinic

The Livonia Stevenson varsity pompon program will host a clinic Saturday, April 9, for students who are currently in grades 1-11.

The clinic will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Stevenson field house. Check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m.

The clinic fee of \$30 includes a light snack and T-shirt for clinic participants.

The clinic will be instructed by members of the Stevenson coaching staff and current pom athletes.

For more information, contact Stevenson varsity pom coach Shaylyn Sikorski at stevensonvarsity-pom@gmail.com or 248-880-1881.

AAU hoops tryouts

Tryouts for the Livonia Commodores 16/17U AAU girls basketball team will be held March 29 and March 31 at St. Damian parish, which is located at 30055 Joy Road in Westland.

The tryouts will run 7-9 p.m. each night 7-9.

The Commodores' season will run from early April through early June. Players who try out must have an AAU membership card and copy of their birth certificate.

Questions can be directed to Dante Ufferman, who can be reached at daufferman@hotmail.com or 734-837-6173.

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL PREVIEW



JOHN KEMSKI / EXPRESS PHOTO
Sophomore Sarah Mesack is expected to handle the bulk of the pitching duties for Livonia Stevenson this spring.

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Spartans handling coaching transition well

Coaching changes are never easy — or at least as easy as Livonia Stevenson's softball team is making it look.

Calling the shots this season for the Spartans will be first-year head coach Kevin Hanni-

gan, who takes over for Mike Reilly after two years as the program's junior-varsity coach.

Thanks to a receptive roster of players who are eyeing a return to glory for the pro-

gram, the switch in mentors has gone as smoothly as Hannigan could have hoped.

"The transition has gone really well," said Hannigan, who is starting his 15th year as a high school softball coach (he

also coached at Dearborn Heights Crestwood for several years in addition to coaching travel softball). "The girls have really bought into the new style I'm bringing. Our winter conditioning went great; there have been no com-

See SPARTANS, Page B2

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK & FIELD PREVIEW

Talented Chargers reload, thirst for more gold after excellent 2015

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Coming off a 2015 season that was saturated in gold, Livonia Churchill's boys track-and-field team is determined to add to its recent laurels, not rest on them.

Entering his 22nd year as the Chargers' head coach, Rick Austin will be mentoring a 2016 team whose appetite for victory is strong and relentless.

The Chargers swept through their 2015 KLAA South dual-meet schedule with

a 5-0 record. They also won the talent-rich Observerland Relays, the Livonia City Track & Field Invitational, and the Kensington Conference meet before earning a second-place finish at the MHSAA Region 4 Championship Meet.

While the team's graduation

losses were plentiful — last year's senior class included big-time point-earners Jon Alessandrini, Ryan Bragiel, Matt Cohan and Tim Dulin, to name a few — the current roster is locked and loaded to

See CHARGERS, Page B2

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HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL PREVIEW

Thurston on right track under Gray

If pitching improves, Eagles will show promise

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Will a Shepard help lead Redford Thurston's softball team to the promised land (or at least a .500 record)?

Eagles second-year head coach Scott Gray is hoping so. The addition of senior Kiana Shepard to a line-up that won roughly "a handful of games" last spring can only help, said Gray, whose team returns a solid nucleus of contributors, including star sophomore hitter Ivory Mamo.

"It looks like Kiana has some pitching talent, even though she's never pitched before, so we're hopeful she can help us there," said Gray. "She's also a super utility player — someone we can put in the infield and outfield."

The Eagles displayed growth during Gray's first season at the helm — a trend he would like to see continue in the weeks ahead.

"With 10 returners and five newcomers, we hope to sneak up on some teams," Gray said. "Last year I feel we set the tone with solid improvement from start to finish. There were many more positive moves that we made last season."

"I hope that we can build on the groundwork that was laid last season. I am also hoping that by adding a new (assistant coaching) staff, we will increase our chances for success."

Gray will be joined this season by first-year assistants (and former Eagle softball standouts) Amanda Roach and Bre Taylor.

"Their experience will definitely help the team," he said. "With Amanda and Bre coaching the bases, it will free me up to stay on the bench and teach the girls about the fundamentals and strategize as the games play out."

The return of the sweet-swinging Mamo will also help the Eagles' cause. Mamo was a pitcher's nightmare in the middle of the Thurston line-up last spring.

"She hit over .700 last year and she never strikes out," said Gray. "Ivory and Chelsea Williams (the team's returning starting shortstop) will give a nice one-two punch at the top of the order. We have a couple freshmen who really have some pop in their bat as well."

Until Shepard fully refines her pitching mechanics, the Eagles will rely on senior Rachel Pegouske, and juniors Laura Rouseau and Sydney Taylor to shine in the circle.

Pegouske Rouseau can also play second baseman, while Taylor is a dependable first baseman.

Among those slotted to patrol the outfield for Thurston will be juniors Ronay Peguies and Angel Williams (giving the Eagles an Angel in the outfield).

Junior Gillian Drake can play pretty much every position except pitcher, with catcher among her top spots on the diamond.

The team's contingent of talented underclassmen includes sophomore Dorothy Rittenger, and freshmen Andrielle Davis, Devan Robinson, Kailey Beal and Mikyla Hinz.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER PREVIEW

COUGARS HUNGRY FOR SUCCESS

Rebuilt Garden City should be WWAC title contender

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Embarking on a season of LWL (Life Without Lindsay) for the first time in four seasons, Garden City's girls soccer team has re-made itself into a cohesive and dangerous contingent.

Even though former four-year varsity star Lindsay Yankasky has departed to extend her pitch career as a freshman at the University of Illinois Purdue Fort Wayne, the Cougars' lineup is still formidable thanks to a 20-player roster that is balanced and experienced.

"This is an all-around deep team and it's a smart team," said Garden City head coach Jeff Szygula, who also calls the shots for the school's boys soccer program. "We're not great in any one area, but we're not weak at any position, either. Without Lindsay this season, I think it creates an opportunity for other girls to step up."

Szygula noted that his team's high IQ includes both on- and off-the-field smarts. "We've been all-state all-academic for the past three seasons (minimum 3.3 grade-point average), which is something the girls take pride in," Szygula said. "The classroom intelligence carries over to the soccer field in that they pick up on things quickly."

Garden City placed fifth in the competitive Western Wayne Athletic Conference standings last spring. The Cougars capped their season with a run to the Dearborn High-hosted Division 1 district tournament championship game before losing to the Pioneers, 2-1.

Four players who performed at high levels during that stretch return as captains: juniors Skyler Clendening and Angie Dimopoulos; and seniors Chelsea Booker and Alyssa Hurley.

"Chelsea is a three-year varsity player who will start in the midfield, but is able to play many different positions," said Szygula. "She's a very smart player and she works hard."

"Alyssa is a two-year varsity player who will start at an outside mid position. She has



Pictured (from left) are Garden City soccer captains Skyler Clendening, Angie Dimopoulos, Alyssa Hurley and Chelsea Booker.



Garden City sophomore Claire Konopatzki advances the ball downfield during a Wednesday afternoon practice.

very good vision and is a good passer.

"Skyler, who will play mostly center-back, has one of the best throw-ins around. She can throw it from the sideline to the far post if we need her to. She will handle most of our set pieces. She works hard and has an incredible passion for the game."

"Angie is a three-year varsity player and a center-mid. She's a year-round player and it shows. Her field vision is outstanding and she has a great passion for the game. Angie has great ball-handling skills; I expect her to get a ton of assists this season."

Anchoring the Cougars' defense will be returning starting goal-keeper Tatum Spears, a junior who got her first taste of varsity action as a freshman in the team's district-championship victory over Crestwood in 2014.

"Tatum has a lot of athletic ability," Szygula noted. "She's really improved at coming out

and challenging forwards on breakaways."

Backing up Spears will be junior Brooke Collins, whose primary roles will be as one of the team's leading goal scorers.

The Cougars' back line is strong and dependable. Joining Clendening in the back will be sophomore Claire Konopatzki and seniors Samantha Schwesing and Hayley Jacobi.

"Claire is fast, strong and she's able to man-mark the opponents' best scorer if we need her to," said Szygula. "Samantha is a strong player who can challenge forwards; she has a nice right foot, too."

Garden City's midfield is deep and talented. Its mainstays will be Booker, Cassie Leleniewski, Sydney Baker, Tracy June, Alyssa Metcalf, Molly Borg and Alexis Horvath, who can also fall back and help on defense.

"Cassie is a very strong player who wins a lot of balls for us in the mid-field," said Szygula. "She's very good at winning the ball, settling it and getting it upfield to the forwards."

"Alexis is our only predominantly left-footed player. She has a good feel for the game, especially for a freshman." Joining Collins up top will be sophomore Ashley Hahn and freshman Kaitlyn Boven-siepe, both of whom have the capability to score double-digit goals.

Szygula is hoping to get key sophomore Alex Sherlock back from an injury toward the latter part of the season.

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CHARGERS

Continued from Page B1

add more hardware to the school's trophy case.

"Our team did an excellent job in week one of setting the tone for a successful season," observed Austin. "Carrington Smith, Brendan Meakin and Michael Grabda are providing terrific leadership so far. The coaching staff have had to re-stock the shelves as many of our scorers off of our 2015 championship team have graduated."

"Our immediate strength lies with our throwers as we return Demarco McKinney, Austin Simpson and Grabda. Carrington Smith will lead an exciting group of young sprinters in Rocco Parrelly, Jeremiah Roberts, Antonio Alexander and Jerron Hampton. Our mid-distance, which was our backbone last season, will continue to perform dynamically. Brendan Meakin will lead Josh Momeyer, Dash Dobar, and Frank LaFave in the four-by-800 relay, which has an opportunity to run faster than our eight-minute group in 2015."

"Taji Chappell will lead a rebuilding of our hurdle group, and Josh Mussen and Trevor Kornaga will lead a much-improved distance crew."

"I'm really looking forward to our progress this



Returning middle-distance standout Dash Dobar (right, handing the baton to graduated senior Matt Cohan during a meet last season) is expected to be among the points leaders of a talented Churchill track-and-field team this spring.

season as we could be more talented than our 2015 championship season."

Among the Chargers additional returnee standouts include pole-vaulter Ethan Burke, sprinter Jamal Allen and thrower Austin Simpson.

Austin listed hurdler Dakota Travis-Gilmore, sprinters Kevin Colangelo and Corey Fuller, and thrower Vionte Springfield among the team's most-promising newcomers.

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SPARTANS

Continued from Page B1

plaints.

"A big reason for the off-season success was the work put in by Cori Wilson, one of our senior captains. She did a great job of helping to coordinate a lot of the winter workouts."

Following an injury-plagued 2015 season during which the Spartans' logo could have been a red cross, Hannigan is keeping his fingers crossed that his team picture doubles as a picture of health.

"This team is pretty young — we have just three seniors — but it has a great work ethic; it's just going to come down to whether we can stay healthy," he said.

In addition to providing priceless off-the-field leadership, Wilson will also be a key component on the diamond. The Schoolcraft College softball commit offers a reliable glove at third base and a potent bat at the plate.

"Cori is one of those players who goes hard every play," Hannigan said. "The other girls see how hard she plays and it rubs off on them."

The return of a healthy Alyssa Zahra will be a huge benefit for the Spartans. A senior, Zahra is expected to handle the bulk of the all-important catching duties.

"Alyssa is healthy, which is great," said Hannigan. "She's

a lot like Cori in that she's a go-getter. She brings a really good bat to our line-up."

The team's third senior is Delaney Rowader, who will provide stellar defensive skills to the Spartans' contingent of outfielders.

Sophomore Sarah Mesack has earned the title of No. 1 pitcher for Stevenson after proving during her freshman season that she can handle the pressure that accompanies the role.

Also ready to provide depth in the circle are sophomore Elizabeth McCann and freshman Erin Tobin.

The Spartans' starting middle infield is solid, to say the least. Junior shortstop Natalie Bradford has "a cannon for an arm," Hannigan said, and second baseman Madi Maurier is a three-year starter, so there are few scenarios she hasn't faced.

First base features a battle between two emerging standouts: juniors Kelly Newman and Megan Gronau.

"Kelly was one of our leading players on the junior varsity last season; she has tremendous power at the plate," Hannigan said. "Megan also has tremendous power at the plate."

The outfield is still a work in progress with several players competing hard for starting spots.

Stevenson will open its season the week after Spring Break with a game at cross-town rival Livonia Franklin.

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Wetmore pitching in at Wayne State



John Glenn High School
Westland, Michigan

Former Westland John Glenn baseball standout Brendan Wetmore, pictured during his letter of intent signing with his parents (Jason and Jaclyn), siblings and Rockets head coach Lawrence Scheffer, is pitching for the Wayne State University baseball team. The Rockets' Offensive MVP and Cy Young Award winner as a senior, Wetmore earned a spot on Wayne State's Coaches All-Academic team during his first semester at WSU.

GOLF

Continued from Page B1

time.

"We haven't been able to play a lot due to the weather," he said. "In fact, we just finished tryouts this week, so it's tough to say exactly who will be No. 1."

A pair of seniors — Ben Zammit and Jon McDonald — are vying for the honor of being the team's early-season ace, Hay said.

"They're both lefties and

they're both long hitters," Hay said, when asked about the senior duo.

Sophomore Connor Jackacki — who is one of several hockey-playing golfers on Stevenson's roster — has also looked good early on.

"Connor has been shooting consistently under 40 early on, which is good for a sophomore and good for this time of year," said Hay.

The Spartans will defend their city title April 15 at Idylwyld Golf Course.

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COLLEGE SWIMMING

Arakelians help Queens claim D2 title

Former Stevenson student-athletes excelling in Carolina

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

The vast swimming talents of Livonia siblings Nicholas and Caroline Arakelian are making waves on the national collegiate stage.

On March 12 in Indianapolis, the former Livonia Stevenson standouts helped the Queens University of Charlotte (N.C.) men's and women's swimming-and-diving teams repeat as NCAA Division II champions.

The Royals' women's team piled up 567 points to out-distance runner-up Wingate (364.5) while the Queens men's contingent was crowned after racking up 449 points to hold off runner-up Lindenwood.

Nicholas Arakelian was instrumental in the men's team success, winning the 400-yard individual medley with a time of 3 minutes, 44.63 seconds, which was just off the school record in the event.

Arakelian also joined forces with Dion Dreesens, Ben Taylor and Parker Cook-Weeks to lead the Royals to a victory (and national record) in the 800 freestyle relay. The quartet covered the half-mile distance in



Livonia Stevenson graduates Nicholas and Carline Arekelian played pivotal roles in helping the Queens of Charlotte men's and women's swimming-and-diving teams win Division 2 titles.

3:23.62.

Caroline Arakelian was a pivotal part on two gold-medal relay teams.

She teamed with Patricia Castro-Ortega, Josefina Lorda-Taylor and McKenzie Stevens to help the Royals

earn first-place points in the 800 freestyle with a time of 7:16.21.

Caroline Arakelian added to her bountiful day by helping the Royals' 400 free relay team touch first. Castro-Ortega, Kyrie Dobson and Shelly Prayson also contributed to the triumph.

The women's side of the 800 yard freestyle relay also produced a first place finish touching with a 7:16.21 from Castro-Ortega, Caroline Arakelian, Josefina Lorda-Taylor, and McKenzie Stevens, respectively. The women would add a first place swim in the 400 yard freestyle relay. Castro-Ortega, Kyrie Dobson, C. Arakelian, and Shelly Prayson, respectively, put together the fastest performance of the night for a time

The men's 800 yard freestyle relay would set a new national record as Dreesens, Ben Taylor, N. Arakelian, and Parker Cook-Weeks, respectively, reached the wall in a time of 3:23.62.

"To win back-to-back championships, in a very difficult field, is an amazing feeling," Queens head coach Jeff Dugdale said. "Our women showed an incredible maturity in their win, leading from the first event on. The men only had three return from last year's (national) team, thus we had to trust our system and know that it would come together in the end."

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HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL PREVIEW



Pictured (from left) are Joe Gagnon, Tommie Lewis, Jackson Allison and Bob Miller.

TOM BEAUDOIN

PRIMED TO POUNCE

Well-stocked Panthers jelling under Miller

Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Feeding off a two-year wave of positive momentum that has included long-awaited division championships and 20-win seasons, Redford Union's baseball team is chomping at the bit to hear the words "Play ball!" this spring.

Under the guidance of veteran head coach Bob Miller, the Panthers sculpted one of the school's best seasons in decades in 2015, going 20-7 and winning the Western Wayne Athletic Conference Red Division.

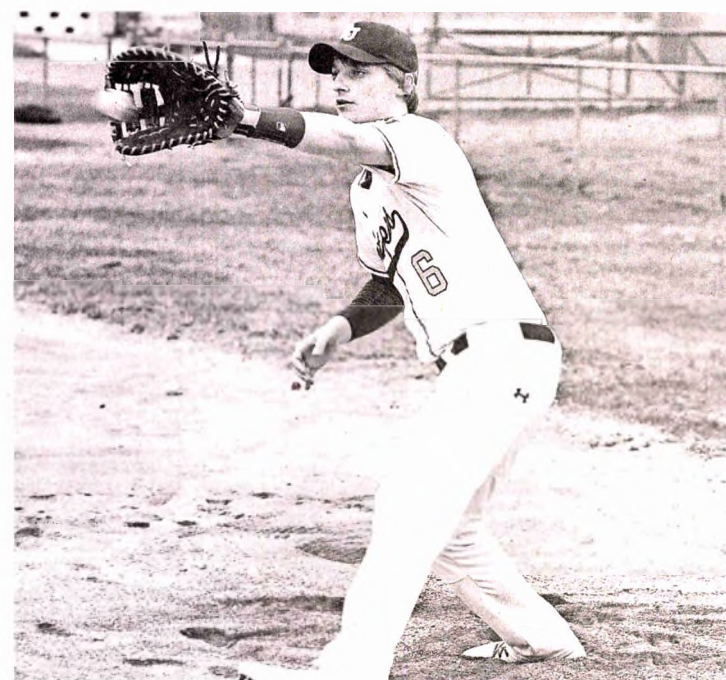
RU's roster is loaded with six returning starters and an abundance of juniors who will be playing on varsity for the third straight year.

"I like this team's attitude, experience and poise," Miller said. "It's a hard-working team, too. Our juniors aren't young kids any more, so they have high expectations for the team and themselves."

Due to a number of factors, including its recent success, the RU will shift over to the WWAC Blue Division beginning this spring, joining top-notch teams like Belleville, Garden City, Dearborn High and Dearborn Edsel Ford.

Thanks to a quartet of talented captains — senior Tommie Lewis and juniors Jacob Gagnon, Brandon Pratt and Jackson Allison — the promotion should go smoothly for the Panthers.

The 6-foot-1, 205-pound Gagnon has established himself as the team's No. 1 pitcher thanks to a powerful fastball, deceptive curveball and bulldog-like demeanor on the mound.



Redford Union first baseman Nick Laidler looks the ball into his mitt during Wednesday's practice.

TOM BEAUDOIN

"Jacob is a tough kid with a great arm and he has a future at the next level," Miller raved. "He'll also open the season as our No. 3 hitter, so I expect a solid all-around season from him."

Pratt, the Panthers' starting center-fielder, is rebounding nicely from off-

season knee issues.

"Brandon is our lead-off hitter; he's really shown a lot of growth at the plate," Miller said. "He's had to go through a lot of rehab for his knee, but he's done it with a great attitude that will allow him to return within a couple of weeks."

Lewis is slotted to handle the second base and pitch key innings.

"Tommie is in terrific shape and has shown great improvement from last season to this season," Miller said. "He can turn a double play as well as anyone in the league."

Allison is a tough-as-nails catcher who has all the tools necessary for greatness behind the dish.

"Jackson is a big, strong kid with a good arm and quick release," Miller said. "I'm counting on a big season from him. He's the kind of kid who wants to catch every game."

The Panthers pitching staff will also be bolstered by the return of junior Brendan Kerkhof and senior Steven Davis.

"Brendan will be in the mix for the rotation and he'll play a lot of infield as well," Miller said. "Steven is fighting for the No. 2 pitching spot in the rotation and he'll play right field when he's not on the mound."

The all-important shortstop position will be handled nicely by sophomore Tyler Collard, who has gained 20 pounds of muscle since last season, Miller noted. Collard is slotted to begin the season RU's No. 2 hitter.

A new-comer to the starting line-up is 6-1 third baseman Jacob Bowles, a junior. Senior Nick Laidler is the team's No. 1 first baseman, although senior Matt Lind will also see time there when he's not playing left field.

"Matt is a great kid," said Miller. "He's never missed a single practice or a conditioning workout. He's has a high IQ and high grade-point average."

The list of key reserves for the Panthers includes seniors Dave Nordstrom, AJ Parks and Josh Council; and junior Bobby Dixon.

ewright@hometownlife.com

Birchler Brothers fight famine with annual event

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The Birchlers — five brothers and graduates of Brother Rice High School — will bring a new twist to their annual concert for hunger relief next month in Plymouth.

For the first time in nine years, Jammin' to End Famine will include a new band with no Birchler family ties. The Hibros and TJ will feature James Higdon, an engineering teacher at Brother Rice, on bass, his brother and professional guitarist, Paco Higdon, and drummer TJ Hyland.

"Although not a Birchler in name, we do consider him a 'brother' as he teaches at our alma mater," said Tom Birchler of Livonia, who performs in the band The Paisley Fogg with his brothers Keith and Dave.

Birchler hopes the new band will expand Jammin's audience, drawing students, their families and friends from Brother Rice in Bloomfield Hills. For the past three years, the school has partnered with the Birchlers on a portion of the annual event. The concert raises funds to buy the components of nutritious rice-soy casseroles that are distributed to hungry families locally and overseas by Oak Park-based Kids Against Hunger Coalition. Brother Rice students parcel the ingredients into individual packages during a community service day in the fall.

"It's a good service project to do. They love us coming in," Birchler said. "But I've never been able to get the Brother Rice community to come to the (concert) fundraiser."

He hopes Higdon's band will make a difference.

Higdon, who worked alongside his students at the packaging event last year, said Hibros and TJ will perform a mix of original tunes and cover songs at the concert.

"We're all over the place, from The Killers to Motorhead to Red Hot Chili Peppers," he said.

Pizza and music

Jammin' to End Famine 2016 starts at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 9, at the Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks Lodge, 41700 Ann Arbor Road. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students, available at the door or by contacting Tom Birchler at tombirchler1@gmail.com or by calling 248-722-1820.

Free pizza, salad and a cash bar will fuel visitors as they dance the night away. Jim Birchler of Ann Arbor will emcee. The Grunyons, an a cappella vocal jazz group that includes John Birchler of Plymouth, will open the show.

"We do a lot of different things, from standards from the jazz age to more current music. We'll have a few new things ready for Jammin'," John Birchler said.

The Paisley Fogg, a rock band that focuses on tunes from the 1960s, may surprise



The Paisley Fogg performs at Jammin' to End Famine 2015. The band will be back for this year's event on April 9, in Plymouth.



Boxes of food are loaded into the Kids Against Hunger Coalition trailer at Brother Rice High School.



An assembly line of students measures and packages meal components.



John Birchler (left) of Plymouth and Michael Burwell of Milford, the executive director of Kids Against Hunger Coalition, pitch in at the Brother Rice packaging event.

concert-going fans of National Public Radio.

"We may pull out an original my brother Keith wrote. He's a big fan of NPR reporter Joanna Kakissis. He wrote a love song to her," Tom Birchler noted. "Kiss Kisses Joanna."

Birchler's sons, Mark Warren and Mike Birchler, both of Livonia, will combine their efforts into a single band this year called Close Enough, playing classic 1980s-90s rock and funk.

Jammin' to End Famine has raised approximately \$39,000 over eight years and packaged thousands of meals for Kids Against Hunger Coalition.

"We're really hoping to take it to the next level. It is unlimited what we can do. We have an unlimited workforce," Birchler said.

Leaving a legacy

The brothers plan to dedicate the show to Kids Against Hunger Coalition founder and CEO Donald Burwell, a Southfield resident who died this week.

Mike Burwell of Milford, who has been executive director of the organization since 2008, said his father had Ph.D. degrees in education and theology, and a passion for helping others use their talents and improve their lives.

"My dad was a true servant. He was a good communicator and manager of people. And I think he prayed and believed in what God was telling him to the point that it was the law," Burwell said. "One of the reasons my dad started doing Kids Against Hunger Coalition was a passage in Matthew 25."

A portion of the Bible pas-

sage reads: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you came to visit me ... whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters, you did for me."

"The is what he based his whole Kids Against Hunger Coalition ministry on," Burwell said, adding that his father often read the Scripture at the start of packaging events in churches.

Burwell said his father's vision was to extend packaging events to all school districts in Michigan. The Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth nudged him toward his goal when it donated a truck and trailer in 2005, allowing the organization to go

mobile.

"Instead of people having to pack up and bring a bus load of kids to a warehouse, we're able to go into the community where people live. Most schools and churches have a room to accommodate our equipment," he said, adding "it's easy for people to go somewhere they know and package meals and feel good about themselves."

Since the Kiwanis Club's initial donation, the organization has added eight trailers and five trucks, enabling it to package at several venues in one day.

"From 1998 to 2004 my dad packaged 150,000 meals. From 2004 to the present, 18 million."

For more about Burwell's organization, visit kidsagainsthungercoalition.com.

sdargay@hometownlife.com

Girls' night out funds ShapeDown scholarships in Canton

Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Giving Hope, Women's Giving Circle will make it easier for local families to afford weight management classes offered by St. Joseph Mercy Health System this summer.

"Our mission at Giving Hope is to support women and children of our community. Through Giving Hope we can affect change in our community," said Nancy Eggenberger, a member of the planning committee for the fund's upcoming annual signature event. "We've given out all kinds of grants."

Money raised at "Giving Our All for Family, Fun and Fitness" on Wednesday, April 13, will fund scholarships for St. Joseph Mercy Health System's ShapeDown classes in Canton.

The "girls' night out" event runs from 6:30-9 p.m. at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center, 8768 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. It will include food, a cash bar, shopping, fashions and a raffle of items such as spa certificates, a 24-inch flat-screen television, wine parties and more. Cost is \$35. Pre-registration is required. Visit cantonfoundation.org.

Free orientation sessions for ShapeDown are set for

6:30 p.m. May 5, June 2 and June 21, at St. Joe's Canton Health Building, 1600 S. Canton Center Road. Classes will run from 6:15-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 12-Aug. 30. Cost is \$400 for the eight-week series.

"We bill insurance and we always have scholarships," said Beth Darnell, ShapeDown coordinator. The Giving Hope contribution will put the program within reach of more local families.

Food, exercise, behavior

Darnell said St. Joseph Mercy Health System has offered the course for 23 years, mostly in Ann Arbor. It expanded the program to Livingston County two years ago and wrapped up a pilot program in Canton last week.

"It's a three-prong program ... nutrition, exercise and behavioral change," she said. "We do hands-on cooking with the children and the kids love that. We find that so many more kids taste what they make themselves. A hallmark of the program is active participation."

"The same is true of exercise. We don't have the kids do anything we wouldn't ask the parents to do. We do a lot of fun, family activities. It's great to see parents doing the hula hoop or running down the



Sabrina and Laurie Lanker took the ShapeDown weight management course. Sabrina, 16, now volunteers for the classes and Laurie says she and her daughter are closer than ever.

hallway."

The classes take a family approach to lifestyle changes and weight management. Parents attend sessions with their children, ages 6-18 and learn to switch from a "food police" role to a coaching role, allowing their children to take more responsibility for making good health decisions. While youngsters build their self-esteem, parents learn positive role modeling techniques.

"We're working with kids to improve habits and it's lifestyle change, not putting a child on a diet."

Darnell said a research study three years ago showed that 70 percent of youngsters involved in the program reduced their body mass index (BMI) over 10 weeks.

Families are encouraged to read food labels, increase fruits and vegetables, remove junk food from their home. They're taught how to make lifestyle adjustments if they're taking medications that cause weight gain.

Family bond

"I think part of the success of the program is that the

child and parents decide to do this together as a family," Darnell said. "They are pulling together and that means the family's whole culture can change at home."

Laurie Lanker of Pinckney said she and her daughter, Sabrina, 16, are "closer than ever" after taking the course.

"We ran a 5K together. We went for a hike on Mother's Day instead of going out to eat. We learned how to celebrate without food, and get away from food being a reward," Lanker said.

Sabrina enjoyed the program so much, she returned to volunteer as a teen mentor.

"I like working with the program teachers. They're fun," Sabrina said. "I help with the physical activity, cooking lessons and talk to the kids about my experience. I like working with kids because my dream is to be a special education teacher. I wanted to be here for the kids because I struggled with being healthy growing up and I want them to be as healthy as they can be."

For more about the ShapeDown program, visit stjoesan-narbor.org/shapedown.

sdargay@hometownlife.com

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Birmingham resident builds screech owl nesting boxes

Jay Grossman
Staff Writer

The Eastern Screech Owls of Southeast Michigan have Oz Forrester to thank for their new homes along the Rouge River.

The Birmingham resident built some owl nesting boxes and located them along a chip trail that runs next to the river. He also refurbished some of the older nesting boxes along the trail that were starting to look a bit worn down.

"I've volunteered with Friends of the Rouge for a long time and I love to hike these trails," Forrester said. "This is just my way of helping out. I think we now have seven boxes along the trail."

The owls only weigh a few ounces and will normally seek an old dead tree to turn into a habitat. They'll find a suitable hole in the tree and make a home.

"But we're so tidy today that nobody leaves dead trees around," Forrester said.

A pair of DPS workers from the city of Birmingham helped install the nesting boxes. They're about 12-15 feet off the ground.

Forrester said he knows the boxes work because he installed one in his backyard, only to discover five little screech owls right as they were about to leave the nest.

"I had an extra one and I put it in a tree in our backyard and saw five owls as they fledged one night," he said. "So we know they're around."

jgrossman@hometownlife.com
586-826-7030
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Oz Forrester, left, built new homes along the Rouge River for the Eastern Screech Owl.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Women to Work offers job searching assistance

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

The Women to Work program of Southfield-based JVS helps women re-enter or enter the workforce.

"This is a program that's intended for women who have not worked substantially recently," said Judy Richmond, JVS Women to Work coordinator. The program, also open to men, is offered free of charge.

An informational meeting will be held 9-11 a.m. Tuesday, April 26, at the JVS offices, 29699 Southfield Road in Southfield. Those who plan to attend should call Richmond at 248-233-4232 to register in advance.

Women to Work offers help with resumes, job interviewing, networking, stress management, social media and job search strategies.

"The program is popular because people find success as a result of attending," said Richmond, noting they also keep their employment.

The program's current session is set to begin Tuesday, May 3, at the JVS Southfield office. It will continue to meet two mornings a week 9 a.m. to noon through Wednesday, June 1.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com
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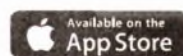


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Make-A-Wish Michigan honors top volunteers, supporters

Make-A-Wish Michigan recently honored individuals, corporate partners, organizations and groups at the organization's Southeast Michigan Donor and Volunteer Appreciation Event held in Novi on March. The following local supporters were recognized for their generosity and dedication to the Make-A-Wish mission of granting wishes to Michigan children with life-threatening medical conditions:

Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, Canton: St. Joseph Mercy received the Outstanding Corporate Partner Award for supporting Make-A-Wish Michigan since 2012. Saint Joseph

Mercy Health System's sponsorship of the organization's largest fundraiser – the Wish-A-Mile Bicycle Tour – has totaled \$110,000 during that time. Not only does the organization sponsor WAM, but they also have a team consisting of employees, family members and friends who ride in the event. Through team fundraising, Team Joe's has raised nearly a quarter of a million dollars to help grant wishes for Michigan children with life-threatening medical conditions.

Steven Cook, Milford: Cook received the Strength Award, which recognizes a top group or external fundraising

initiative each year for Make-A-Wish Michigan. He was honored for an inspiring fundraising effort he completed this past fall. Steve set out to raise funds for Make-A-Wish Michigan by pursuing a month-long summit of Ama Dablam in Nepal that stands at 22,349 feet. Ultimately, he raised more than \$37,000 to help make wishes come true for Michigan kids.

Lauren Singer, Bloomfield Hills: Singer was honored as the Volunteer of the Year, which recognizes an individual who, through involvement in many facets of the organization, provides exemplary volunteer leadership and ser-

vice to our mission. Singer has been a Make-A-Wish Michigan volunteer since 2014, serving as a wish-granting volunteer for seven children in two years. As a third-year medical student at Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, she has introduced her school community to Make-A-Wish Michigan by organizing a volunteer training with fellow students.

Gordon Chevrolet, Garden City: The dealership received a Shining Star Award for being a generous supporter since 2003. Last year alone, Gordon Chevrolet provided \$24,000 in support to help bring hope,

strength and joy to Michigan wish kids. They have sponsored the organization's Walk For Wishes® - Southeast Michigan and Wish Ball - Southeast Michigan as well as radiothons to help raise critical funds. In total, they have provided more than \$100,000 in support over the years.

YouthQuest, Flint: received the Joy Award, which recognizes a student, school or youth group for their outstanding efforts to support wish children. This after-school program first started participating in the Macy's Believe Campaign four years ago when they wrote 7,500 letters. For every letter

to Santa dropped off at a Macy's store during the holiday season, Macy's donates \$1 to Make-A-Wish nationwide. By engaging their community – schools, community groups, local businesses and religious groups – in their letter-writing campaign, they nearly doubled that goal and dropped off 41,000 letters to help grant wishes in 2015.

ThreeShing Star Awards went to: American Red Cross of Washtenaw County in Ann Arbor; Cystic Fibrosis Center at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor; and Ken Kavanaugh, of West Bloomfield.

Peace group to discuss military-industrial complex

Citizens for Peace will discuss the history of the military-industrial complex at its next meeting, 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, Livonia.

Guest speaker Francis Shor, history professor emeritus at Wayne State University, will examine the origins and development of the military-industrial complex from World War II until today.

Shor is the author of three books. The latest is "Dying Empire: U. S. Imperialism and Global Resistance." His other publications, covering a broad range of topics in 20th-century U. S. and global history, have appeared in scholarly jour-



SUBMITTED
Fran Shor will speak about the military-industrial complex at the next meeting of Citizens for Peace, in Livonia.

nals and popular online journals. In addition to his academic work, he has been a long-time peace and justice activist, serving on the boards of Peace Action and Michigan Coalition for

Human Rights. The meeting is free. For more information call 734-425-0079, or go to www.citizens4peace.com

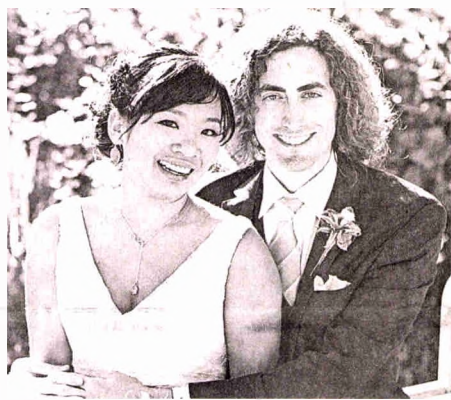
SONNANSTINE-KANGWANKIJ

Adam Sonnanstine and Amy Kangwankij were married Aug. 29, 2015 at Fort Mason in San Francisco, Calif.

The groom is the son of Alan and Kathy Sonnanstine of Canton. The bride is the daughter of Laddawan and Wasit Kangwankij of Los Angeles, Calif.

Adam is a graduate of Plymouth Salem High School and both are graduates of the University of Michigan.

They will make their home in San Francisco, Calif.



JASMINE LEE PHOTOGRAPHY
Amy Kangwankij and Adam Sonnanstine on their wedding day

WEDDING

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Deadlines: Friday, 4:00 p.m. for Sunday papers • Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. for Thursday papers
Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

BEAUDOIN



BETTY M. age 76, passed away peacefully March 19, 2016 at Angela Hospice in Livonia with her daughter Beverly and son-in-law Robert Yurk at her side. She was born January 17, 1940 in Little Rock, Arkansas to Jesse and May (Williams) Couch. After moving to Michigan she attended high school in Detroit. Betty didn't accumulate accolades and wealth in the traditional sense, but she led a rich life in other ways. She lived her life for others always putting family and friends ahead of herself concerned about others and their wellbeing. She was an avid bingo player and in addition to playing multiple cards of her own she could point out to others numbers they had missed. She enjoyed cooking and gardening. Betty was also not afraid to speak her mind and tell you exactly what she thought, and to make her point often she would punctuate her ideas with a well-placed expletive now and then. She is survived by her daughter Beverly Yurk and sons Joe, Thomas and Jeffrey; 10 grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; and her brother Daniel. Betty was preceded in death by her son Leo; parents; sisters Louise and Marilyn; and brother Shelby. Cremation has taken place and a private memorial service is planned for a later date. In lieu of flowers memorials can be made in Betty's name to Angela Hospice.

OTTO



ROSE MARIE of Plymouth, age 78, passed away March 20, 2016. Born to Walter and Hildegard on November 12, 1937. Survived by her husband Charles Otto, their three loving children: Edward Otto, Jennifer (Glenn) Nuss, and four grandchildren: Truth, Freedom, Noah, and Tessa and her two sisters Elenore (Dr. Thomas) Moore, and Gertrude Kieseewetter. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Schrader-Howell Funeral Home. Memorials may be made to Great Lakes Hospice and Alzheimer's Association. To share a memory and view full obituary please visit schrader-howell.com

SMITH

LINDA of Northville, MI, died March 13, 2016. She was born March 10, 1939, in Ironton, Ohio. She is survived by her loving husband of 60 years, Robert H. Smith Sr.; seven children; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Linda was preceded in death by her daughter, Lisa Ann Smith, in 2006. Services were held at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth. She is buried at Rural Hill Cemetery in Northville. The family requests donations to be made to the Transverse Myelitis Association and Praise Baptist Church.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

NORM ZAWISLAK

July 14, 1946 - March 28, 2006
It has been 10 years since you left us. We miss you and think about you everyday. Love, your family, Joanie, Jeff, Andrea (Matt), Michelle (Biff), Brian (JoAnne), grandchildren, Miranda, Emily, Colton, Rooney, Julia, Anna, Jocelyn, Brynn, Mia, and Lev.



MARCH BIBLE PROPHECY SERIES

Time/Date: 7:15 p.m., beginning March 28

Location: Metropolitan School Gymnasium, 15585 N. Haggerty, Plymouth

Details: An in-depth Bible prophecy series called Unlocking Revelation will examine prophecies of Scripture. Go to www.UnlockRevelation.com to see all locations and pre-register and receive a free Bible Prophecy DVD on the first night. Snacks will be served

Contact: www.UnlockRevelation.com

EASTER SERVICE

Time/Date: Easter services 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Sunday, March 27

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills

Contact: 248-553-3380

EASTER SERVICE

Time/Date: Easter service, 10 a.m., March 27

Location: Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: A continental breakfast follows the Easter service

Contact: 734-421-1760; office@unityoflivonia.org

EASTER SERVICE

Time/Date: Easter worship, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. and egg hunt at 9:15 a.m., Sunday, March 27

Location: First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills

Details: Brunch will be served between the two services on Easter

Contact: 248-474-6170; farmington-pres.org

EASTER SERVICE

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m. March 27

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City

Details: An Easter breakfast also will be held at 9 a.m., followed by an egg hunt at 9:30 a.m.

Contact: 734-427-3660

EASTER WEEK

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m. worship, Sunday, March 27

Location: Warren Road Church, 33445 Warren Road, Westland

Details: Breakfast kicks off Easter morning at 9 a.m., followed by the worship service

Contact: 734-458-7301

EASTER SERVICE

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m. service on March 27

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: Free Easter breakfast from 8-9:15 a.m. All visitors will receive a free DVD, "My Son, My Savior."

Contact: 313-532-8655; 734-968-3523

PILGRIMAGE

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday, March 30

Location: Carpool to the Divine Mercy Center in Clinton Township from St. John Neumann parish office, 44800 Warren Road, Canton.

Details: Cost is \$10 and includes tour and lunch. Deadline to register is March 23.

Contact: Janet Gilbo at jgilbo@wowway.com or Sharlene Borke at sharborke@gmail.com

SUNRISE EASTER SERVICE

Time/Date: 7:15 a.m. Sunday, March 27

Location: Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merri-

man, Livonia

Details: Service will be held outdoors except in extreme weather conditions. Coffee and refreshments will be served after the service. An Easter breakfast will start at 9 a.m.

Contact: Mary at 248-471-1322

VESPERS

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, through April 17

Location: St. Mary the Pro-

RELIGION CALENDAR

Church, 26375 W. Chicago Road, Redford, April 10; and St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, 2160 Maple, Troy, April 17

Details: Members of the Clergy Brotherhood of St. John Chrysostom of Metropolitan Detroit will conduct the services. An inter-Orthodox chorus will sing the responses

Contact: Olga Liskivsky at 248-252-8184; Olga-liss0910@gmail.com

APRIL CONCERT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Sunday, April 3

Location: Trinity Episcopal Church, 28660 LaMuera, Farmington Hills

Details: Benefit concert for Farmington Neighborhood House features Wayne State University's Motor City Cabaret. A free will offering and canned goods will be collected

Contact: 248-474-2860; trinityfarmingtonghills.org

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 16

Location: St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic Church, Bloomfield Hills, 2215 Opdyke, Bloomfield Hills

Details: Features Aeolian Chorale, Carlos Seise, tenor, Quinto Milito, baritone, Timothy L. Huth, ars musica doctoris organ, John Sittard, conductor. Presented by the church and Friends of the Opera of Michigan. Free will offering will be accepted

Contact: 248-644-5460

DEVOTIONS, SWIECONKA

Time/Date: Starting at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, April 3

Location: St. Colette Catholic Church, 17600 Newburgh, just north of Six Mile, Livonia

Details: 12:30 p.m. Mass, 1:20 p.m. exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 1:45-3 p.m. silent adoration and Sacrament of Reconciliation, 3 p.m. praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and a spiritual talk, 3:30 p.m. benediction; followed by Swieconka Polish Easter meal at 4 p.m.

Menu includes ham, kielbasa, potato salad, blessed hard-boiled eggs, beet horseradish, rye bread, butter lambs, salad, babka, lazy perogi, beets, cheesecake and beverages. Cost is \$15 per person. Meals must be paid in advance. Send a check or money order payable to WSDPAHS, to Laurie A. Gomulka, 32040 Grand River Ave., Unit #47, Farmington, MI 48336. Include number of attendees. Must be received by March 26.

Contact: 855-POLONIA; detroit-polonia.org

MOM-TO-MOM SALE

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 23

Location: Connection Church, 3855 S. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Shop 100 tables of mom- and child-related items. Strollers welcome after 10:30 a.m. Admission \$2

Contact: 734-397-1777

ONGOING CLASSES/STUDY

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: Scripture study

Contact: 313-534-9000

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. second and fourth Thursday, through May

Location: 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Gary Michuta, author and Catholic apologist, leads a study of Isaiah. Bring your own Bible

Contact: 734-261-1455, ext 200 or on line at www.livoniast-michael.org

Faith Community Wesleyan

Time/Date: 4-5 p.m. every Saturday

Location: 14560 Merri-

man, Livonia

Details: This informal class includes fellowship, discussion and question and answers. All ages welcome. Bibles available if you don't have one

Contact: pastor Tom Hazelwood at 734-765-5476

EXERCISE

Time/Date: 6:45-7:45 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday

Location: Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia

Details: Instructor Wendy Motta, a seven-year Zumba practitioner, teaches Zumba through drop-in classes. Each costs \$3. Participants should bring water, a towel and wear athletic shoes. For more information, email Motta through zumba.com

Contact: 313-408-3364

FAMILY MEAL

Time/Date: 5-6 p.m. every Thursday

Location: Salvation Army, 27500 Shiawassee, Farmington Hills

Details: Free meal

Contact: 248-477-1153, Ext. 12

HEALING SERVICE

Time/Date: Arabic service, 3-4 p.m. first Tuesday of the month; English service, 3-4 p.m. third Tuesday of the month

Location: The Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of Saint Mary, 18100 Merriman, Livonia

Details: The service includes prayers of petition and intercession, hymns, Scripture readings and the anointing of the sick. Offertory candles are available for a free will offering in the vestibule of the church.

Contact: Rev. George Shalhoub at 734-422-0010 or email Stacey Badeen at sbadeen@tbosm.com

MOMS

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. second Tuesday, September-May

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners

Contact: Ethanief Defoe at 248-227-6617 and Jody Fleszar at 734-658-2463

Dunning Park Bible Chapel

Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays

Location: 24800 W. Chicago Road, Redford

Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.

Contact: Amy at 313-937-3084 or Kristen at 734-542-0767

PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday

Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service, which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service.

Contact: 313-563-0162

PRAYER

St. Edith Church

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday

Location: Parish office, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia

Details: Group meets for singing, praying and short teaching. Fellowship with snacks follows

Contact: Parish office at 734-464-1223

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday

Location: 7000 N. Sheldon, Canton

Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed.

Contact: 734-459-3333 for additional information

RECYCLING

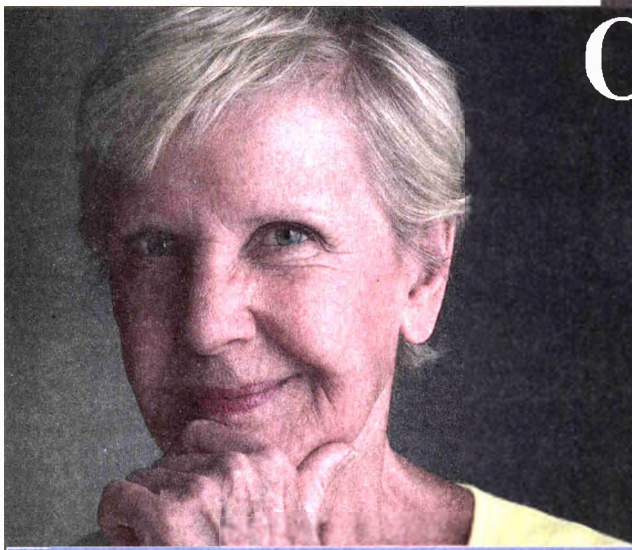
RISEN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. third Saturday of the month

Location: 46250 Ann Arbor Road, between Sheldon and Beck roads, Plymouth

Details: Recycle your cell phones, laser cartridges, inkjet cartridges, laptops, iPods, iPads, tablets, eReaders on the third Saturday of each month. Use the doors on east side of church.

Contact: Lynn Hapman at 734-466-9023



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Livonia Campus
VisTaTech Center**

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Featured Guest Speakers



9:20 -10:15

*Maurice Cox, RN, CCE-MT-P/IC and
Michelle Moccia DNP, ANP-BC, CCRN
St. Mary Mercy Livonia
Healthcare Decisions*



10:30 - 11:25

Rick Bloom, J.D., CPA

*Bloom Asset
Management
Everything you Need
to Know about Estate
Planning*



11:40 - 12:35

*Dr. Sol Cogan, D.C.
President and CEO*

*HealthQuest
Management, Inc.
New Technology in
Pain Relief*

Demonstrations and Workshops

9:00 – 9:30

*Schoolcraft College
Facts, Figures and Warning signs of
Alzheimer's Disease and other
Dementias*

The Elder Care Firm

*How to protect yourself and loved
ones from long-term care costs*

Botsford Commons

*Why men don't listen and women
can't read maps*

12: 30 - 1:00 p.m.

*Schoolcraft College
Exercise for Easing Arthritic Pain*

Senior Helpers

Age in Place

*Michigan Department of State
Safe Drivers Smart Options:
Keys to Lifelong Mobility*

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